


THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE



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EDITOR'S NOTES

STIMULUS PACKAGE

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

This morning, like most Sundays, I sipped coffee to the harmonious reverberations of the Rockefeller Chapel carillon. On any given day in the neighborhood, UChicago Medicine helicopters chuff overhead, while on the ground an ever-growing flotilla of campus shuttles squeak to their stops and rev again. This time of year, birds sing and leaves rustle under the scampering of that alternate school mascot, *Sciurus carolinensis* (aka the eastern gray squirrel).

Two features in this issue got me thinking about signature sounds of UChicago, past and present. "Some Drum" (page 36) recounts a tragicomic chapter in the century-plus-long life of the world's largest drum, with its singular boom. And "Sounds Reborn" (page 40) traces the continuing story of the UChicago Folk Festival, from opening bagpipes to closing applause, and a bit of the lore attached to it.

What sounds, sights, smells, textures, or tastes serve as your own Proustian reminders of the University? You may find some evoked in this very issue: delicate pages in an aging book, or the heft of a whole stack lugged to a Regenstein carrel. Period costumes at a University Theater performance, or the hairspray cloud hanging backstage. The buzz and toastiness of coffee being ground and brewed in a campus hangout, or buttery flakes of Medici pastry. A ska and soul band playing in a basement, or Bach emanating from a neighboring dorm room.

Look for those within, then reach out to let us know what sensory memory moves you at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

Fitting tributes

As this issue went to press, the UChicago community came together to celebrate **John W. Boyer**, AM'69, PhD'75, who will take on a new role at the University after more than three decades leading—and transforming—the College. So profound is the native South Sider's influence on the institution and its students that Mayor **Lori Lightfoot**, JD'89, declared Friday, April 21, 2023, to be John W. Boyer Day in Chicago.

Three days later, word came that the University's new Paris center will be the John W. Boyer Center in Paris, named for its greatest champion. Boyer, a premier historian of the Habsburg Empire and of the University of Chicago, spoke to the *Magazine* for "Peerless" (page 32). Joining all who made the Chicago and Paris tributes possible, we thank him, for everything. ♦

SPRING 2023

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My favorite things 6/28

Kettles

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens,
Curling my fingers in warm woolen mittens,
Riding down hill on my big brother's bike -

By 6

These are a few of the things that I like.

My favorite things

Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes,
Snowflakes that fall on my nose and eyelashes,

Icy cold water right out of a well,
Tunes that I hear on an old carousel.

Bright copper kettles and crisp apple strudels,
Cream colored ponies and schnitzel with noodles,

Wading a river and flying a kite,

Waking at morning and sleeping at night,

Winter playthings
Sleigh bells

On the cover

The 2023 University of Chicago Folk Festival added a fresh chapter to a long tradition with performers like East Tennessee's Po' Ramblin' Boys, featuring Jasper Lorentzen on upright bass. For a history of the fest, see "Sounds Reborn," page 40. Photography by Jason Smith.

Revise and revise again

Early drafts of Oscar Hammerstein's lyrics to "My Favorite Things" are among **Carla D. Hayden's** (AM'77, PhD'87) favorite things held by the Library of Congress, which she has led since 2016. See "Librarian for the People," page 24.

Features

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Librarian for the people *By Dylan Walsh, AB'05*

Under the leadership of **Carla D. Hayden**, AM'77, PhD'87, a revered institution is connecting Americans with their country through its treasures. Plus: "A Few of Her Favorite Things."

32

Peerless *By Carrie Golus, AB'91, AM'93*

Reflections from **John W. Boyer**, AM'69, PhD'75, on three decades leading the College.

36

Some drum *By Chandler A. Calderon*

In 1938 Big Bertha answered the Big Apple's call.

40

Sounds reborn *By Hannah Edgar, AB'18*

How the University of Chicago Folk Festival built its own tradition. Plus: "The Bob Dylan Mystery."

48

Love letters from Paris *By Carrie Golus, AB'91, AM'93*

For 50 years Janet Flanner, EX 1914 (1892–1978), shared her witty, sharp observations of Europe with *New Yorker* readers.



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Research and news
in brief



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Peer Review

What alumni are
thinking and doing

LETTERS

Chandra close encounters

The tribute to Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar in the Winter/23 *Magazine* (“It Was Written in the Stars”) brings to mind a memorable encounter I had with Chandra. He occupied one of the four corner offices on the upper floor of the original Laboratory for Astrophysics and Space Research. The others were occupied by Eugene Parker, Peter Meyer, and John Simpson.

What a quartet! Simpson and Meyer were experimental physicists at the dawn of the space age, probing the atmosphere and beyond. Chandra and Parker, both pioneering theoretical physicists, have space vehicles named after them: the Chandra X-ray Observatory and the Parker Solar Probe. Chandra predicted black holes; Parker predicted the solar wind.

Simpson gave me a part-time job as a first-year student helping Edward Stone, SM’59, PhD’64, who became the project scientist for the Voyager probes and director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. (Marty Israel, SB’62, introduced me to Simpson.)

Leaving for home one day, I found Chandra standing beside his new Oldsmobile looking vexed. The battery was dead, again. I offered him a ride. He gladly accepted. He lived at the recently built luxury apartment complex at 4800 South Lake Shore Drive with commanding views of Lake Michigan and the Chicago skyline, an in-house grocery store, and a doorman. My car, the first I owned, was a 1953 Ford just purchased for \$20 from J. J. O’Gallagher, SM’62, PhD’67, a doctoral student of Simpson’s. The car looked pretty decrepit. We pulled up to the entryway at 4800 and the doorman wrinkled his nose. But he opened the passenger door and did a double take upon recognizing Chandra. “Oh, good evening, Doctor,” he intoned as he held the door open. Chandra, ever



the complete gentleman, came by my lab desk the next day to say thank you.

Roger Taft, SB’65, SM’68

LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Congratulations on livening and brightening up an always great magazine. Really enjoying this issue (Winter/23) as I page through the articles between cleanup tasks from Hurricane Ian (I live in the epicenter of the hurricane’s damage).

I worked at the U of C Press in the book division’s design department, starting with a May Project internship in my senior year of high school and then part time the following year (my gap year). I then worked for three years in the journals division’s design department.

Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar lived in the same building as my parents (5825 South Dorchester Avenue) for several years starting in the mid-1970s. He was a lovely gentleman, and one of three Nobelists in that building at the time, the others being Milton Friedman, AM’33 (pleasant), and Saul Bellow, EX’39 (taciturn).

Janet Gottlieb Sailian, LAB’70

FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA

Deobfuscating the obvious

A key aspect of the wonderful article about Professor Douglas W. Diamond’s

Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics (“A Cut Above,” Winter/23) is the point that the subject matter he won for—that is, transforming “the way we think about banking”—is written in such a way that “the average central banker who is not an economic theorist can understand it.” One might even say that in the best sense, that involves describing some activities and behaviors that sound almost obvious when understood. And that is the true genius of it.

In that sense, Diamond follows in the traditions set by UChicagoans Milton Friedman, AM’33, with his statement of the permanent income hypothesis, and George Stigler, PhD’38, with his development of the survivor technique. Both were absolute geniuses at looking at a complex economic phenomenon and explaining it to the real world in such a way that it had a sort of obviousness to it. But that, of course, was only after they had explained it.

So congratulations to Professor Diamond, and let us use his example to remember how long this kind of thinking has distinguished economics at Chicago.

Richard West, MBA’63, PhD’64

EUGENE, OREGON

Misinformative

Your article covering the Illinois statute on the availability of high school courses covering “misinformation” was devoid of any examples of instances of “misinformation” that would be covered in such a course (“Critical Consumers,” Winter/23). This is presumably because the authors knew that they could maintain at least a pretense of legitimacy as long as they remained completely abstract, which would disappear as soon as they started listing such instances.

These would predictably list very questionable items from the right and ignore the lengthening list of blatant items from the left. The U of C has enjoyed a reputation for integrity at least a little bit above the low standard set by other universities.

Unfortunately, this reputation was undermined by last year's conference on "disinformation." [In April 2022, the University's nonpartisan Institute of Politics and the Atlantic hosted the conference "Disinformation and the Erosion of Democracy" to explore the spread of disinformation and strategies to respond to it.—Ed.] The bare-faced dishonesty of this conference did not go unnoticed in the real world: as noted by one acute observer, given the participants, it was like asking Bonnie and Clyde about how to reduce bank robberies. Everyone realizes, whether they admit it or not, that the misinformation campaign is a cover for censorship.

Douglas Wood, MBA'75
NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Back to basics

Illinois has a new "media literacy law" that seems to unnecessarily complicate things, as usual. How about a simple and basic class called Critical Thinking, or would that just be too simple?

Lee Stensaker, MBA'79
LAKEWAY, TEXAS

An education in action

I received my master's in English language and literature in 1997. Professor Kenneth Warren taught one of my classes, and in it I read a work by Pauline Hopkins called *Of One Blood; or, The Hidden Self*. This work, in addition to other American realist authors I read in undergraduate school, helped me to envision the common person as a hero worth being inspired by.

I got the latest *University of Chicago Magazine* and read the piece by Laura Demanski, AM'94, on Professor Warren's keynote speech for Humanities Day ("Humanities Day, Recapped, Winter/23). I love the sentence "Writers in the

realist tradition ... have aspired to a 'super vision' describing life at all levels of society and the connections between levels."

As I reflect on my career trajectory, I can see the impact that my studies of English literature have had on my worldview. Like the realist authors, I exalt the common person to the level of hero, because I recognize the sacrifices worker bees make to contribute to society in making sure needs, wishes, and wants get met for other common people, who also, in turn, help make the society run.

This worldview brings me joy as I serve the community patrons at our public library. And, just as I did in my papers, drawing connections between sections of a text, or between texts, I draw connections between people and the ways they can help one another.

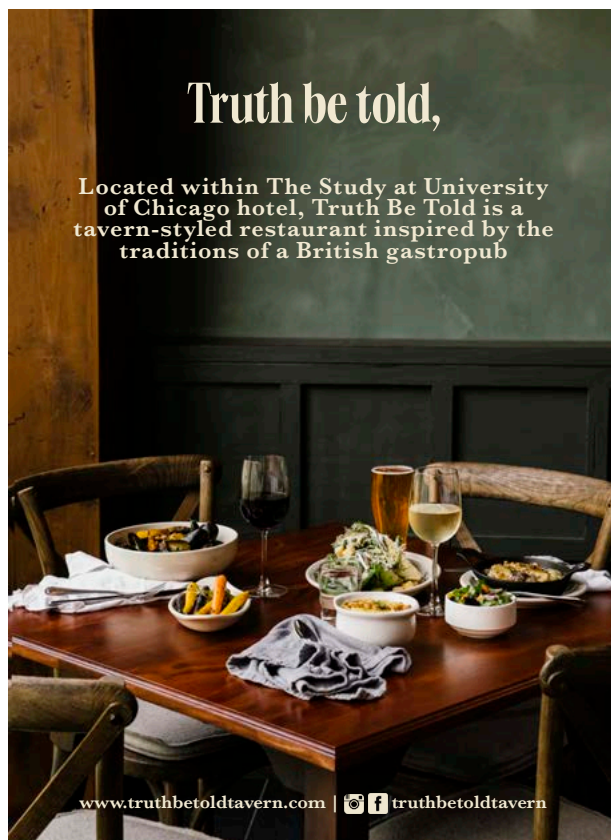
Never before in my life have I seen how my academic studies informed and shaped my professional career. I thank the University and Professor Warren for an exceptional education.

Dina (Mannino) Schuldner, AM'97
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA





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

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We drove from Anchorage, Alaska, four times with two cats and a dog.

SM'77, PhD'79). Our standard order: a Garbage Pizza, followed by a dessert called Vaguely Reminiscent. The latter—a delightful frozen coffee mousse in a chocolate cookie crumb crust—fortified us for the walk home.

Timothy G. Buchman, SB'74, SM'74, PhD'78, MD'80

ATLANTA

I went to the U of C to get my MFA in painting, studying in the Committee on Visual Arts (COVA, now the Department of Visual Arts, DOVA) as a mom, dragging along two school-age children and an early telecommuting husband. We drove from Anchorage, Alaska, four times with two cats and a dog. Our son Nicholas Bundy, AB'96, had graduated from the University a few years earlier. We lived in the grad dorms where the children's hospital now resides. We ate pizza and burgers at the Medici at least once a week. We loved sitting in the balcony eating jalapeño poppers. Husband David and I returned in February 2020, a few weeks before COVID hit, and had a burger for lunch—alas, poppers were off the menu.

Jean Bundy, MFA'02

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

The best bills

The cover of the Fall/22 *University of Chicago Magazine*, featuring the Cobb billboard, reminded me of one of the best UChicago lectures I ever heard, maybe the best ever. I have applied it and referred to it many times in my long life. It is super accurate.

Morton Grodzins was the lecturer. His lecture, as I recall it, was not part of a course but a stand-alone event.

The subject was how to tell if a university is any good. After discarding several tests, Grodzins hit the ball out of the park, so to speak, with the billboard test. Of course, the University of Chicago's billboards scored highest, and Cobb's billboard the very highest.

Some universities have no billboards at all. They are always among the worst.

William Josephson, AB'52

NEW YORK CITY



John W. Boyeriana

I've never met Dean John W. Boyer, AM'69, PhD'75, though I've always enjoyed reading his monographs on College history ("Pipe Dream," *Alumni News*, Fall/22). I do, however, have one story that indirectly connects me to him. In 2004, when my son was visiting colleges, we toured the University of Rochester and chatted with a dean (whose name I can't recall). I mentioned in the course of the conversation that I had graduated from UChicago, and the dean told me that Boyer had sent his daughters to the University of Rochester. That information caught my attention and made me even more favorably disposed to Rochester as a promising option for my son. I doubt the connection to Dean Boyer impressed my son, but he did end up enrolling there and had a very positive experience as a linguistics major, which put him on the path to his current career as a successful computational linguist.

Ilene Kantrov, AB'70

LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

In the rainy summer of 1980, we gathered around the great table in a Harper

seminar room and John W. Boyer took us through the Greeks to the ancien régime. It may have been one of his early assignments; he was given only two sections, the third being taught by a Marxist fellow who took us through the revolutions. Professor Boyer was methodical and composed, sitting placidly at the great table. The Marxist paced around and sat on the table, smoking. I have been forever grateful to have been at the great table with Boyer and carry today a fascination with and love for history.

Mark Breithaupt, AB'80

WAILUKU, HAWAII

Geography renaissance

Social sciences dean Amanda Woodward recently announced the creation of the Committee on Environment, Geography, and Urbanization (CEGU), a program with more than 30 associated faculty, extensive undergraduate course offerings, and the promise of a CEGU doctoral certificate. This is a solid step toward recapturing what the University once enjoyed.

UChicago established the nation's first geography department with graduate studies in 1902–03. Rosenwald Hall was completed in 1915 for the department, as the faces and names on the building attest. Initially the faculty were the famous geologist Rollin Salisbury and the geographer John Paul Goode. Goode was a leader in cartographic research and developed the interrupted Goode homolosine projection, used today as—unlike the Mercator projection—it does not distort sizes. Goode's student Henry Leppard, PhD'28, became part of the University's faculty and created the educational *Goode's World Atlas*, still published by Rand McNally.

The department continued to develop and expand the discipline of geographic research. In the 1960s the faculty was an outstanding collection of pioneers: Gilbert White, LAB'28, SB'32, SM'34, PhD'42, flood plain management; Wesley Calef, PhD'48, geomorphology; Norton Ginsburg, AB'41, AM'47, PhD'49, Asian cultural geography; Chauncy Harris, PhD'40, Russian cultural geography; Harold Mayer,

PhD'43, urban geography; Marvin Mikesell, cultural geography; and Brian Berry, statistical modeling and analysis. It was regarded as one of the best geography departments globally.

With budgetary pressures on small departments, several of the faculty retired or moved to other universities. The geography department was removed from Rosenwald Hall. In 1986 it was eliminated and replaced by the Committee on Geographic Studies. Soon after, the committee no longer supported graduate training.

I confess that I received my three degrees from the University's geography department. I hope that the University will continue and expand support for CEGU and soon anoint it as a full geography department with a wide range of courses, students, and research as we once had.

Philip Lankford, AB'67, AM'68, PhD'71
CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

Of cards and comps

Recently I opened one of those boxes that lurk in the backs of closets or in attics for years, decades: personal time capsules. Among the browned and musty contents of the box, I found an envelope addressed to me from the U of C Board of Examiners, postmarked Chicago, August 3, 1956.

Inside were two punched Hollerith cards and a booklet titled "Diagnostic Reports on Comprehensive Examinations Spring, 1956." It was explained that "the cards and this booklet represent an attempt to report in some detail your performance on certain of the comprehensive examinations."

Who among you, reading this letter, remember comps? Is it only we who attended the University in the '40s and '50s who remember these tests of memory, determination, and endurance?

The two cards in the envelope were marked Hum III and Soc III. The booklet explained that the punched rectangular holes in the cards were the autopsies of my performance on those exams, telling me how I had done, from Very Good to Very Poor, on the 11 sections of each exam. The booklet was the decoder ring, telling me what I had been tested on: Knowledge of the

subject, Comprehension, Application, Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation.

For those who unfortunately missed out, the comprehensive exams were given at the end of the year for the required College courses. The three-hour Hum III and Soc III comps included essay and multiple-choice questions—lots of multiple-choice questions. The grade on the comp was the grade for the course for the whole year. Quarterly exams, essays, homework, and wisdom and passion shown at the classroom roundtable discussions all counted for nothing. Give it your best shot.

What do you think? Were these truly the good ol' days, as I believe they were? Or were comps just an aberration of the times, annual sweatshops dreamed up by sadistic faculty? One thing for sure: I wish I had known about that little booklet before I took comps!

Edmund Becker, SB'58, PhD'63
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

Correcting the record

In "Doc at 90" (Winter/23) we noted the incorrect release year for the film *Do the Right Thing*. It should have been 1989. We regret the error and appreciate those who called it to our attention.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

MEMENTO MORI

It is generally with some dread that, upon receiving your magazine each quarter, I turn to the department called Deaths appearing as a regular feature in the *Magazine*. "No news is good news" is the line that comes to mind each time as I peek at the list, daring myself to scan the column with the horrendous possibility that I might some day find the name of one of the many people who were dear to me when I was at the University of Chicago.

Recently, however, I have become aware that there is an even more disconcerting possibility associated with the department: as alarming as it would be to see a friend's name on that list, it would probably be worse to see my own name on it. I have noticed that this type of incident has occurred more than once, as noted for example in the correction that appeared in the current issue of the *Magazine*: "Through an error Susan Pearlman Kagan, EX'49, was reported deceased in the Winter/88 issue. She lives in New York City."

It was suggested to me by another University of Chicago graduate that perhaps this is one way to force from underground those alumni whom you have been unable to locate during your fund drives. The ploy: you print the news that the graduate has died, and when they recover from the shock of reading the news, they are quick to notify you that they are alive and living in Anytown, USA.

The other possibility is that people are sending in false information as a malicious prank. In the event that I should become the object of such a "joke," I am writing to let you know that I am alive and well, and my address appears on the upper right-hand corner of this letter. Should I die, my family has been instructed that the *University of Chicago Magazine* will be the first to be notified. As an added precaution, I will be sending under separate cover a Code Word that they will send as well.

Cathy G. Lipper, AM'78
VOL. 82, NO. 1, SEPTEMBER 1989

Short sleeves. Long tradition.



Since 1907 the *University of Chicago Magazine* has woven together the worldwide UChicago community. Will you help us keep this thread going and at the same time add some new threads to your closet?

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UCHICAGO JOURNAL

RESEARCH AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL WORLD

This 1851 object offering a miniaturized view of London's Great Exhibition was featured in the library's recent exhibition "But Is It a Book?" (Is it? Cast your vote: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.)



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ISAC*

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*Fungus
among us*



A fresh chapter begins: Following the April 4 reveal of its new name, the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures began displaying the moniker and matching logo on updated signage.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Introducing the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures

The Oriental Institute renames itself, but its mission remains the same.

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

In April the OI announced it will now be called the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, West Asia and North Africa—a decision that came after a multiyear process with input from faculty, staff, donors, and external scholars. The change, says interim

ISAC director **Theo van den Hout**, opens a new era in the institute's history by dispensing with a name many found misleading. His comments have been edited and condensed.

How did the decision to change the name come about?

It goes back to my predecessor, Chris Woods, who was director of the OI from 2017 to 2021. He was the one who said in a faculty meeting in June 2020, "I think we should change the name." There were two main reasons to do so. Most people nowadays, including myself, associate the Orient first and foremost with the Far East—China, Japan, et cetera—which is not at all where we focus. Added to that is the fact that the word *oriental* has taken on, for many people, a pejorative connotation.

I remember that meeting vividly, because I was surprised that almost everyone immediately said, "You're

right. It's time to change." We took a vote, and overwhelmingly, we decided the name should be changed.

What happened from there?

As one of Chris's last acts as director, and one of my first, we decided we needed a committee to explore all the issues involved. We knew it would be a historic change after, at the time, 101 years of the OI.

The committee was the broadest the OI had ever convened: It included our own faculty, staff, students, members of our advisory council, and faculty from Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations who study Arabic, Turkish, and Persian. It was chaired by one of our Assyriology professors, **Hervé Reculeau**. He and the committee did a great job.

They canvassed not only our direct constituents but also departments and divisions—such as the Divinity School,

Photography by Jason Smith



The institute's new logo was inspired by the lotus flower—a motif found throughout its building and collections.

classics, art history, anthropology—that we have regular contact with. They asked our international colleagues and peers for suggestions and opinions. They did a detailed inventory of possible objections and advantages and had some suggestions for names. This work culminated in a hefty report.

Tell us about the new name.

We had a few faculty meetings to talk about it and chose “the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, West Asia and North Africa.” For us, West Asia includes Iran, or even farther east. North Africa applies to Egypt, Libya, and Sudan, where we have worked. The name is much more descriptive and accurate.

What are the logistics of the change?

After we decided on the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, West Asia and North Africa, I formed a working group of faculty and staff in communications, IT, and the museum to inventory what would be affected. What issues did we have to think of?

For example, archaeologists were worried about what would happen if they needed a new permit in a country where they already worked—or if they wanted to extend an existing permit and suddenly there was nothing called the OI. So we talked with the Office of Legal Counsel about that risk.

We had to update our website and signage throughout the building and the rest of campus. We also worked with UChicago Creative on a beautiful new logo, polling all sorts of stakeholders to ask what design captured our work best. The ultimate winner involved the lotus flower, and we're happy with that.

Will the institute's work change?

It's the same people working in the same building, and our mission remains the same: promoting knowledge of the history of West Asia and North Africa. This is the University of Chicago, so there is rigorous inquiry within academia, but an important part of our work is informing the wider public through our museum, lectures, and youth and family programming.

What do you hope the new name will make possible?

I hope it will result in attracting a wider audience so that people will immediately know what they're coming for. We have an amazing collection—the largest collection of Near Eastern antiquities in the country. Yet I fear we are one of those hidden gems in Chicago. It would be nice if we could become more well known, attract more visitors to the museum, and thereby fulfill the second part of our mission—informing the wider public—better. I hope the new name will help make us more recognizable.

What's been the reaction to the change and the new name so far?

It was pretty unanimous within the halls of this building that it is a good name. When we shared the news publicly in March that we were changing our name, in general, most people said it's a good thing to do. Some will consider it cancel culture or “woke.” But we think it's the right thing to do. We are as passionate as ever about what we do and what our mission is. Change can be good, and this is a good change. ♦

QUICK STUDY

ALLERGIES

Gut reaction

Certain gut bacteria can help protect against food allergies by blocking antigens, such as those found in milk or peanuts, from entering the bloodstream. A study led by UChicago immunologist **Cathryn Nagler**, published online December 22 in *Nature Biomedical Engineering*, found that delivering the chemical butyrate, produced by a certain type of gut bacteria, directly to the intestines of mice with a peanut allergy reduced their allergic response. The delivery also allowed the beneficial bacteria that make the chemical to flourish. But the solution couldn't be just to make a butyrate pill; the chemical has a foul odor and taste and gets absorbed in the stomach before it can reach the intestines, where it's needed. So Nagler teamed up with UChicago molecular engineer **Jeffrey Hubbell** to design polymers called micelles to carry a payload of butyrate to the intestines before releasing it. This technology could put once-deadly snacks back on the menu.

—M. S. ♦



Film directors Julie Dash (left) and Barbara McCullough speak at a celebration of the 1976 Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts.

CINEMA

Lasting images

Cinephiles look back on the first-ever Black women's film festival.

BY ELIZABETH STATION

In 1976—when *Rocky* became the year's highest-grossing movie and *Taxi Driver* garnered top honors (and boos) at Cannes—a group of Black feminist artists made a different mark on American film history. At the Women's Interart Center in New York City, they mounted the Sojourner Truth Festival of the Arts, a weeklong event now recognized as the first-ever Black women's film festival.

Some 47 years later, at the Logan Center for the Arts, scholars, students, and filmmakers—including many who were present at the 1976 gathering—came together to explore and celebrate the festival's legacy. The

March symposium capped off a Winter Quarter course on Black women's filmmaking of the 1970s to '90s taught by **Allyson Nadia Field**, associate professor in cinema and media studies and the College. The event also concluded a nine-week series, free and open to the public, of groundbreaking films by Black women.

Field, who directs the Film Studies Center, co-organized the four-day symposium with University of Iowa film scholar Hayley O'Malley, South Side Projections' Michael W. Phillips Jr., Sisters in Cinema founder Yvonne Welbon, and filmmaker Monica Freeman, who curated the films at the original festival.

O'Malley's research helped light the flame for this year's gathering. In a 2022 article in *Feminist Media Histories*, she cites the Sojourner Truth Festival as a "foundational moment for Black feminist film culture," even though the event was long overlooked and never repeated. The 1976 program featured film, visual art, live performances, and readings, revealing the cross-disciplinary networks that influ-

enced Black feminist artmaking at the time. The festival celebrated emerging filmmakers' work, while making "a radical call for the kinds of sociopolitical and institutional changes necessary for a Black women's film culture to thrive," O'Malley writes.

In her research, O'Malley also discovered that archival records and participants' memories of the event were spotty. Films and videos by at least 16 Black women directors were screened at the festival, but none had been released in mainstream theaters. Some were student projects, and all were independently produced and difficult to find.

Bringing some of the festival's founding mothers to Chicago was partly an attempt to reconstruct history. Michele Wallace, a symposium keynote speaker, was just 24 when she co-organized the Sojourner Truth Festival with her mother, the artist Faith Ringgold; Freeman; poet Patricia Spears Jones; and writer **Margo Jefferson**, LAB'64. But "from surviving materials, it would be difficult to piece together, even for me, what happened

Photography by Natasha Moustache

at the festival,” said Wallace, now an emeritus professor at City University of New York.

At the original festival, Ringgold shared her first multimedia performance piece, *The Wake and Resurrection of the Bicentennial Negro*; writers Audre Lorde and Alice Walker almost certainly read their poetry. Ntozake Shange attended, just before her play *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf* opened at New York City’s Public Theater. Shange may have exhibited a video, but the documentation and O’Malley’s interviews don’t confirm that.

Legacy, memory, and film preservation thus surfaced as critical themes at the UChicago symposium. And experts filled the room—the more than 60 invited speakers included veteran directors who spoke about the struggle to make, fund, and distribute films that would tell Black women’s stories.

Among the speakers was Julie Dash, whose 1991 film *Daughters of the Dust* was the first feature film by a Black woman to have a general theatrical release. Documentarian Madeline Anderson, now 95, addressed attendees via Zoom after a screening of her film *I Am Somebody* (1970), which chronicles a strike by Black women hospital workers in civil rights-era South Carolina. Revered as a trailblazer, Anderson received a prerecorded video tribute from director Ava DuVernay, who—from a busy film set in Delhi—praised her for inspiring a new generation of socially committed filmmakers and producers.

The message from a powerful industry player like DuVernay generated a buzz, but so did the symposium’s opening night showcase of work by lesser-known directors. *Back Inside Herself* (1984), a four-minute visual poem by S. Pearl Sharp, delivered a manifesto on independence and identity. *Killing Time* (1979), a darkly funny student film by Fronza Woods, elicited belly laughs. Cauleen Smith’s 1992 *Chronicles of a Lying Spirit* (by Kelly Gabron) drew sustained applause for its call to action: “The only way I’m gonna get on TV is to make my own goddamn tapes

and play them for myself, my sisters, my brothers. We will be seen, and we will be heard.”

In the half century since the Sojourner Truth Festival, much has changed. The artists, audience, and organizers for that event hailed mostly from New York City. And curating the festival was a challenge, Freeman remembered: “In 1976 you found what was out there, and there were very few films out there.”

By contrast, the 2023 symposium drew hundreds of online and in-person participants from around the globe. For her course, Field assigned nearly 80 films, along with a healthy dollop of readings on filmmaking, literary production, and feminist thought. Students introduced and wrote program notes for film screenings and staffed the symposium, soaking up wisdom from their elders along the way.

Today, film and media studies programs abound and smartphones have put a camera in everyone’s pocket, but pioneer filmmakers had limited access to training and equipment. “It never occurred to most of us that we could even be behind the camera,” said writer, producer, and director Carol Munday Lawrence during a roundtable conversation. “You learned by doing.”

Many women said that over time, they found mentors in each other and built community by supporting each other’s work, despite the obstacles. Reflecting that ethos, the symposium sometimes had the feel of a family reunion, and personal stories mingled with academic discussion. “Stay quiet,” joked one scholar on the dais. “Old Black folks are talking.”

During the symposium, participants paid special attention to a clip from a 1979 interview with Julie Dash as she explained why Black women’s stories matter and why she wanted to keep making films: “What we have to say is so personal and so very different, that there’s no way that anyone else can say it.” In the darkened Logan Center screening room, an unmistakable murmur of agreement rippled across the crowd. ♦

W. R. HARPER’S INDEX

UCHICAGO GIVING DAY 2023

Number of donors

5,830

Number of gifts

7,133

Dollars raised

13,381,966

Number of school, scholarship,
community, and program
funds that received gifts

140+

Countries from which gifts
were received

39

Continents from which gifts
were received

7

Miles between Chicago
and farthest donor (near
Melbourne, Australia)

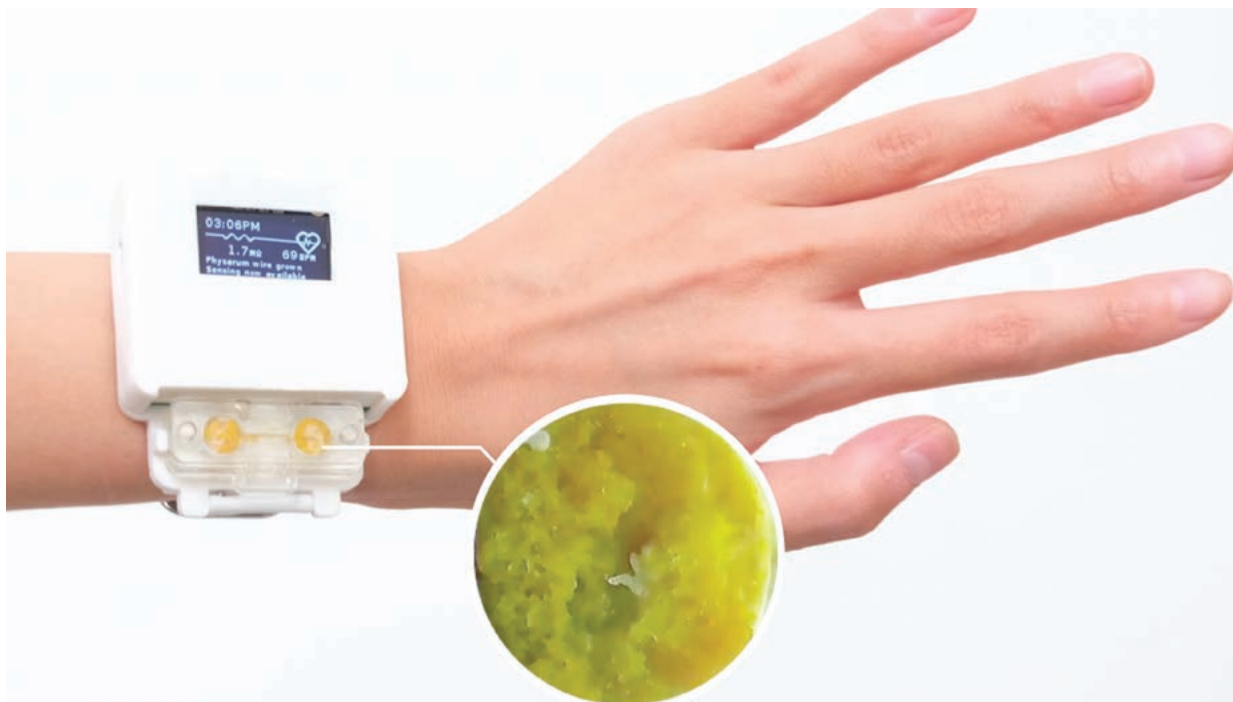
9,662

Milkshakes given out during
Giving Day Shake Day

550+

UChicago Giving Days since
the first in 2015

8



It's alive! The Human Computer Integration Lab's novel smartwatch is activated by an organism called *Physarum polycephalum*.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Connect with slime mold

A living smartwatch tracks the bond between people and their devices.

BY MAUREEN SEARCY

Do you have a smartphone in your pocket or a smartwatch on your wrist? For many of us, our devices are constant companions—only to be ditched when a newer model is released. In 2021 a record 63 million tons of electronic waste were discarded worldwide, of which only 17 percent was recycled. But what if we developed emotional relationships with our devices like we do with our pets, wondered **Jasmine Lu**. Would we be so quick to abandon them?

Lu is a computer science PhD student in assistant professor **Pedro Lopes's** Human Computer Integra-

tion Lab, which focuses on engineering interactive devices that integrate directly with a user's body. Lopes's research is a more immersive take on human-computer interaction, a field that explores the interfaces between people and technologies.

To probe the potential for a more caring bond with our electronics, Lu designed a smartwatch integrated with a living organism: a slime mold. The device, which tells time and monitors heart rate, works only when the slime mold is healthy. The wearer must care for the device, like a living Tamagotchi—the Japanese virtual pets popular in the '90s. Lu didn't set out to reimagine the egg-like toy, but after creating the slime mold watch, she recognized the similarities to her childhood virtual pet. She would feed it in the morning and bring it to school, hooked on her belt loop, she says. "I treasured it."

Why a slime mold? Despite the name, it's not like other types of mold, explains Lu. Slime molds are now known to be part of the protist kingdom—a diverse collection of mostly single-celled organisms distinct from

fungi, plants, animals, and bacteria. The species *Physarum polycephalum* was chosen because it can rapidly grow toward food sources, which is how it is able, curiously, to solve mazes. Nicknamed "the blob," the species is also resilient, able to go dormant when starved and to be revived even years later.

The slime mold lives in a transparent enclosure on the watch, and the wearer must give it oats and water on a regular schedule. When properly cared for, the slime mold will grow across a channel to reach oats on the other side of the enclosure, forming a living wire that conducts electricity and activates the device. (Electricity travels through the slime mold, but the current is low enough that the team didn't observe any harm to its body; it continued to thrive, says Lu.)

The two-week study involved five participants and was split into phases: "caring" and "neglect." Throughout the process, the participants kept a diary of the care they provided, the slime mold's condition, and their own reflections. They were interviewed after each phase.

For the caring phase, they were asked to wear the watch for as much

Photo courtesy Jasmine Lu

All participants noted a sense of connection with the watch, and four described it as a little friend or pet. One named her slime mold Jeff

of the day as possible, watering the slime mold twice a day and feeding it oats every other day. All participants noted a sense of connection with the watch, and four described it as a little friend or pet. One named her slime mold Jeff. (The participants sometimes talked about the slime mold as a separate entity rather than part of the device, something Lu and Lopes hope to change with an updated design.)

One woman was reminded that her device had a life-form inside by its earthy smell and associated the healthy slime mold's bright yellow color with happiness. Another linked the watch's needs to her own: whenever she ate, she would check the slime mold. Yet another recounted how she was sick during part of the care phase, and her partner fed her oatmeal. "She started calling me her slime," wrote the participant, because "we were eating the same stuff."

The participants were then told to withhold water and food. Unsurprisingly, all five mentioned how much easier the second phase was; they felt relieved and disconnected. But each participant also felt sad or guilty while neglecting their slime mold. One woman who had eagerly shown off her living watch felt anxious about having to explain the slime mold's neglected state. While the dried-out slime mold was technically dormant, many participants referred to it as dead.

The team collected the watches after the experiment, but in the exit interview, they asked hypothetically, "How would you dispose of the watch?" Responses included: toss the watch and keep the slime mold; sell

it; and give it to a friend. "If you really couldn't take care of a pet anymore," said one of the participants, "you would try to rehome it."

All participants identified as women, which was not a deliberate experimental design choice. Lu speculates there may have been some self-selection—many women grew up with toys where "caretaking is the central modality that they're expected to engage with." Tamagotchis were aggressively marketed toward girls, and four of the five participants happened to have direct experience with virtual pets. But "it was a small set of people," says Lopes, "so you can't generalize too much." In the future, says Lu, "it would be interesting to explore this from a gendered perspective."

Of course, slime mold watches will likely never catch on like Tamagotchis, nor was Lu suggesting with this research that biological devices are the practical solution to e-waste. Rather, exploring interactions between people and their living technology might teach engineers how to center a sense of care in their interactive designs. If engineers could make it easier to repair rather than replace devices, for instance, people with less computing or electronics literacy "might feel more empowered," says Lu—more comfortable learning how devices work and exactly what they're doing.

Lopes compares repairing your own device to people learning to bake bread during the pandemic. You could buy a mass-produced loaf at the store, "but folks are discovering some deeper connection by making their own." You could buy the latest iPhone, but if you repair or upgrade the one you already have, it's no longer the sole creation of Apple, says Lopes. In some ways, "it becomes partly yours."

Consumer devices "are made so that you trash them, instead of engaging with them," Lu told UChicago Computer Science News. "So I definitely think there is a design takeaway of focusing on this aspect of caring for devices instead of just consuming them." ♦

QUICK STUDY

SOCIOLOGY

Poverty costs

Growing up in a low-income neighborhood has been associated with lapses in child development, which can emerge as early as six months—well before children start school. But it's not clear exactly how neighborhood poverty leads to these gaps. A study led by UChicago sociologist **Geoffrey Wodtke**, published online November 30 in *Science Advances*, investigated whether early exposure to air pollution—which disproportionately affects lower-income areas—plays a role. The team analyzed data from a national sample of American infants matched with their estimated exposure to more than 50 air pollutants monitored by the EPA that are known or suspected to harm the central nervous system. They found that about a third of the decline in cognitive abilities associated with neighborhood poverty could be attributed to increased exposure to air toxins in infancy. The research suggests that improving environmental health may promote better outcomes for children.

—M. S. ♦



Colin Kaepernick talks with students following his book launch event with coauthor Eve L. Ewing, AB'08, at Kenwood Academy.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Picture this

My Very Own Library brings an author and icon to a neighborhood school.

BY CARRIE GOLUS, AB'91, AM'93

“During this event we are not allowing any pictures,” Karen Calloway, principal of Hyde Park’s Kenwood Academy, announces to the middle schoolers gathered in the auditorium. “I know. I’m sorry.” Calloway, who’s wearing a Kenwood Broncos sweatshirt, manages to sound firm, warm, and enthusiastic at the same time. “We expect that you—all will listen with your ears and your eyes,” she says, and be respectful, “as you have been already this morning.”

This is no ordinary assembly. It’s a book launch event with activist and former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick and his coauthor **Eve L.**

Ewing, AB’08, associate professor in the Department of Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity. *Colin Kaepernick: Change the Game* (Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic, 2023), their graphic novel with art by Orlando Caicedo, is aimed at readers 12 and up. It focuses on Kaepernick’s senior year in high school, when he felt pressured to play baseball—and to fit in with his adoptive White family.

Change the Game is Kaepernick’s second autobiographical children’s book. Last year he published a picture book, *I Color Myself Different* (Scholastic, 2022), which became a *New York Times* bestseller. Ewing’s many publishing credits—including a middle-grade novel and the Ironheart and Champions series for Marvel Comics.

As well as students from Kenwood Academy’s middle school, the audience includes groups from Chicago’s Kozminski Elementary, Shoesmith Elementary, and the UChicago Charter Woodlawn Campus, with other students watching via Zoom from around

the country. The in-person attendees all received a copy of *Change the Game* courtesy of Scholastic and My Very Own Library, UChicago’s literacy initiative, which provides books to students in public elementary schools.

UChicago assumed leadership of My Very Own Library in 2019. Since the program’s 2011 founding, it has given more than two million books to students in Chicago and other American cities as well as in the Dominican Republic. My Very Own Library also has a YouTube channel with authors, including Ewing, reading their work.

Calloway introduces the two emcees: ninth grader Josie Singleton and senior Isaac Saffold—a football player and future presidential scholar at Drake University, Calloway notes with pride.

Singleton’s first question, directed at both Kaepernick and Ewing, is about “your hair journey from when you were younger.”

In the book, hair is an important signifier of culture and belonging. The cover illustration, for example, shows a

Photography by Tari Michelle

short-haired teenage Kaepernick holding a baseball and a catcher's mitt. But the shadow he casts is of a grown man in bulky shoulder pads, holding a football and a helmet, with natural hair: "the magnificent 'fro," Ewing describes it, as Kaepernick laughs.

The first chapter centers on Kaepernick's desire to grow his hair, to his parents' frustration. "And I'm getting cornrows," 15-year-old Kaepernick asserts as he storms out of the kitchen. His mother turns to his father: "He's getting *what* rolls?"

Wearing his hair the way he wanted "was part of embracing my culture," Kaepernick tells his young listeners. "Embracing *our* culture." In *Change the Game*, he and Ewing wanted to underscore that "we don't have to subscribe to Eurocentric or White beauty standards," he says. "How your hair grows out of your head is beautiful."

Saffold has a few sports questions. How did it feel to get your first Division I offer? he asks. "I don't remember," Kaepernick answers, smiling. He was heavily recruited for baseball but had no interest.

Two weeks before final signing day, he was called out of class. It was the University of Nevada's head football coach on the school phone: "We want you to come play football, ... but you have to commit to not playing baseball," Kaepernick recalls. "And I was like, 'Done.'" Ewing has heard this

story before—it's how the final chapter ends—but breaks into laughter anyway.

After Singleton and Saffold have asked all their questions, a screen at the back of the stage lights up: students attending remotely have questions too. What was your first experience with racial inequality? a young man from Newark, New Jersey, wants to know.

"This is me putting my professor hat on," Ewing says, gesturing as if she is putting on an invisible hat. "Our first experiences with racial inequality happen before we're born." The design of cities, the availability of jobs and transportation, the quality of schools and health care—all are defined by inequality. "When we say 'systemic racism,' that's what that means.

"But in terms of what I actually remember," she continues, "I was called the N-word for the first time when I was maybe 6." She was riding her bike; a White woman "who was struggling with mental illness" yelled at her. Ewing didn't know what the word meant. Decades later, as a doctoral student, she had a near-identical experience in Harvard Square. A woman "called me the N-word, and she called me a cockroach," Ewing says matter-of-factly. "It's not fair that we should have to deal with that."

Perhaps because of his upbringing as a transracial adoptee—*Change the Game* chronicles numerous painful moments of unintended parental clue-

lessness—Kaepernick can't remember a first moment. "Oftentimes when we're younger, we might not even know," he says. "But we know it feels wrong."

"How many of y'all have faced racism?" he asks the audience. Around the auditorium, children raise their hands. "And to Eve's point," he says, "those of you who don't have your hands up, you've faced racism. You just may not exactly know how it's affected you yet."

What inspires you to create books that empower Black people? a young man from UChicago Charter Woodlawn asks. "Because I love us," Kaepernick says, to thunderous applause.

"In education we say a book can be a mirror or a window," Ewing says: it can reflect your own experience or show you someone else's. While *Change the Game* tells Kaepernick's story—being an athlete and an adoptee—many parts are universal, like having a first crush and standing up to your parents. "The things that bring us together are so much more powerful than the things that tear us apart," Ewing says.

At the end, Calloway returns to the stage to talk up Kenwood's basketball champions and its spelling bee winner—and, to the audience's amazement, relents on the picture ban.

Kaepernick makes his way to the edge of the stage. He shakes the hands of middle schoolers and middle-aged schoolteachers alike. He smiles in selfie after selfie. ♦

CHEMISTRY

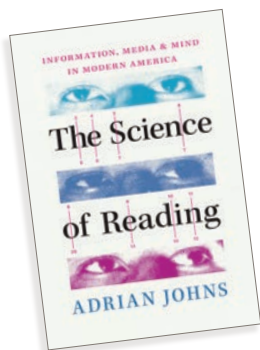
QUICK STUDY

Fueled by nature

Plants efficiently convert water and carbon dioxide into sugar using the power of the sun, offering a model for how humans can create our own energy sources—and maybe one day replace fossil fuels. But nature's complex machinery isn't easy to copy, and sugar can't meet our energy needs. A team led by UChicago chemist **Wenbin Lin** has brought us one step closer to a viable energy alternative by developing an artificial photosynthesis system that creates methane and is exponentially more productive than previous artificial systems. Described in a paper published online November 10 in *Nature Catalysis*, the "artificial enzyme" that drives the reengineered photosynthesis is based on crystalline compounds called metal-organic frameworks arranged in a single layer to maximize surface area where the chemical reaction occurs. Then the team made their artificial enzyme more like natural enzymes than previous designs did by adding amino acids, which increases the efficiency of the photosynthesis.—M. S. ♦

Fresh ink

A selection of recent books by UChicago faculty members.



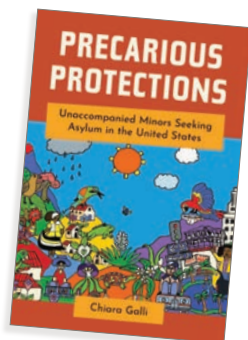
The Science of Reading: Information, Media, and Mind in Modern America

University of Chicago Press

By **Adrian Johns**

Allan Grant Maclear Professor of History, of the Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, and in the College

In 1908 the psychologist Edmund Burke Huey wrote that reading “has become the most striking and important artificial activity to which the human race has ever been moulded.” Huey was one of the earliest scholars seeking to understand what happens in the mind when we learn to read—a question scientists are still exploring today. In *The Science of Reading*, **Adrian Johns** chronicles the efforts of 20th-century experimentalists to study literacy and the still-raging “reading wars” over pedagogy, revealing yet unsettled questions about science and culture.—S. A.



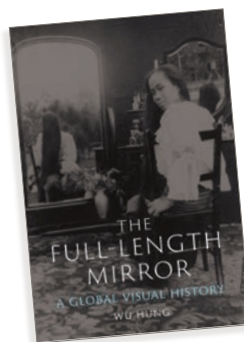
Precarious Protections: Unaccompanied Minors Seeking Asylum in the United States

University of California Press

By **Chiara Galli**

Assistant Professor of Comparative Human Development

Since 2009 more than three-quarters of a million unaccompanied minors have arrived at the US-Mexico border, many seeking asylum from countries plagued by violence and instability. Despite laws that promise to protect them, these children struggle to navigate the complex bureaucracies of the immigration system and prove their legal claims. *Precarious Protections* draws on **Chiara Galli**’s six-year ethnography of young migrants and their attorneys to disrupt common narratives about asylum seekers, who are typically portrayed as either frauds or helpless innocents. She also sheds light on the asylum process itself, which fails to recognize the wide array of risks youths face in their home countries.—S. A.



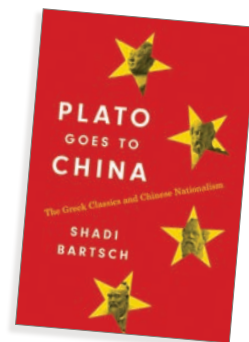
The Full-Length Mirror: A Global Visual History

Reaktion Books

By **Wu Hung**

Harrie A. Vanderstappen Distinguished Service Professor of Art History and in the College

While the ancient Greeks, Romans, and Chinese attempted to build large reflective devices, the first full-length mirrors as we know them date back to 17th-century Europe. **Wu Hung**’s illustrated history shows how large mirrors crisscrossed the globe and gave viewers new perspectives on their visual environments. Regarded by the Greco-Romans as possessing supernatural powers, large mirrors later came to be viewed as a means of discovering the self. The book begins with a detailed history of these “alluring objects,” as Wu Hung calls them, before shifting to an investigation of full-length mirror portraiture, a popular 19th-century artistic form, and the use of mirrors in the work of Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray.—S. A.



Plato Goes to China: The Greek Classics and Chinese Nationalism

Princeton University Press

By **Shadi Bartsch**

Helen A. Regenstein Distinguished Service Professor of Classics and in the Program in Gender Studies

What do the Greek classics mean to Chinese readers? The answer to that question has changed dramatically since 1989, writes **Shadi Bartsch**. In the 19th century, Chinese scholars read Greek philosophy in hopes of understanding or even emulating aspects of Western democracy. But after the Tiananmen Square protests, interpretations of the Greek classics took on a new character, with the works of thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, and Thucydides harnessed to support government interests and critique the West. By understanding these readings, Bartsch contends, we can learn more about both contemporary China and the continued relevance of the classics.—S. A.

COFFEE BREAK



Photography by Jason Smith

As campus life returns to its pre-COVID rhythms, the student-run coffee shops have been abuzz with patrons in search of their morning, afternoon, or even evening (hey, we don't judge) buzz. Here, a hardworking barista at Grounds of Being (colloquially, "the Div School coffee shop") froths up the perfect treat to accompany nonfrothy reading. What was your favorite coffee shop at UChicago, and what was your regular order? Did you ever order the "Cobb Mocha" off the secret menu? Let us know: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.—S. A. ♦

QUICK STUDY

ASTRONOMY

Star chart

In an instant, roughly 13.8 billion years ago, all matter in the universe sprang forth and spread out in an explosive expansion. The extremely hot, dense matter cooled and clumped together—into planets, stars, galaxies—as the universe expanded, a process that is still happening. By mapping matter today, cosmologists can study the evolution of the universe. A recent analysis combining data from the Dark Energy Survey Collaboration, which maps distant galaxies, and the South Pole Telescope Collaboration, which searches for leftover radiation from the big bang, has produced one of the most precise maps of the universe to date. The new map shows that matter isn't as "clumpy" as cosmologists would expect based on current models, suggesting there may be something missing from how they think the universe is evolving. The project involved more than 150 researchers, several from UChicago and Fermilab, and was published online as a three-article set January 31 in *Physical Review D*.—M. S. ♦

For the record

PROVOST BAICKER

Katherine Baicker, the Emmett Dedmon Professor at the Harris School of Public Policy, became the 15th provost of the University of Chicago on March 20. An expert in the economic analysis of health care policy, Baicker oversaw Harris as it increased its tenure-track faculty, strengthened areas such as energy and environmental policy and urban policy, and introduced curricular innovation across multiple degrees. A leader in diversity and inclusion efforts, as dean she launched a process that resulted in Harris Public Policy's Diversity and Inclusion Roadmap.

Baicker succeeded Provost **Ka Yee C. Lee**, who transitioned into the role of executive vice president for strategic initiatives.

Ethan Bueno de Mesquita, AB'96, the Sydney Stein Professor at the Harris School of Public Policy, was appointed interim dean of the school effective March 1. Bueno de Mesquita, whose research focuses on applications of game theory to political phenomena, joined the University in 2007 and had served as a deputy dean at Harris since 2011.

DEAN HALE

Melina E. Hale, PhD'98, the William Rainey Harper Professor in the Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy and the College and a vice provost of the University, will be the next dean of the College, effective July 1. A neuroscientist with interest in biomechanics, Hale joined the University faculty in 2002 and has provided support and guidance to academic centers and institutes as vice provost. As dean she will oversee a strategic vision for the College's next chapter, playing a crucial role in upholding and advancing the University's and the College's fundamental values, including freedom of expression. Hale will succeed **John W. Boyer**, AM'69, PhD'75, the Martin A. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of History, who has served as dean of the College since 1992 and will become

senior advisor to the president. (Read an interview with Boyer on page 32.)

CHEMISTRY LAUREATE

Chuan He, who shares the Wolf Prize in Chemistry 2023 with two other chemists, was honored for his discovery of reversible RNA methylation and its role in gene expression. Awarded by the Israeli-based Wolf Foundation, the annual prize honors the greatest achievements in agriculture, chemistry, mathematics, physics, medicine, and the arts. The John T. Wilson Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, He helped open a new field in biology known as epitranscriptomics.

A LEADER FOR ARD

Armin Afsahi was appointed vice president of Alumni Relations and Development, effective April 1. Previously at Harvard University, Afsahi served as associate vice president of alumni affairs and development and dean of development for the faculty of arts and sciences. He was responsible for a global development team of nearly 200 professionals that generated more than \$500 million annually. Afsahi has also held senior roles at the University of California, San Diego; Georgetown University; and the University of Denver. At UChicago he will lead all aspects of fundraising strategy and activity, alumni engagement, and management of the alumni relations and development team.

COMMUNITY CONDUIT

Christian Mitchell, AB'08, the deputy governor for public safety, infrastructure,

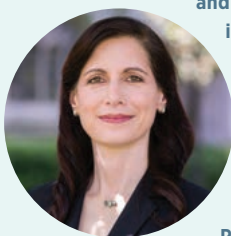
environment, and energy under Illinois Governor J. B. Pritzker, was named vice president for civic engagement at UChicago beginning April 1. As a deputy governor, Mitchell managed multiple state agencies, including the Departments of Transportation, Military Affairs, and Innovation and Technology. He also led several complex statewide initiatives, including the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act for equity-based renewable energy. In his new role, Mitchell will be responsible for fostering University-wide partnerships with the South Side as well as with the University's Chicago-based stakeholders.

IMMUNOENGINEER

Melody Swartz, the William B. Ogden Professor at the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering and cofounder of the Chicago Immunoengineering Innovation Center, has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering. Her research investigates lymphatic transport and immunobiology, informing novel approaches for cancer immunotherapy and vaccination. Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to engineering research, practice, or education, particularly as it relates to developing fields of technology or advancements in traditional fields of engineering. Election to the academy is among the highest professional distinctions for engineers. Swartz will be formally inducted in October.

COMPUTING FELLOW

Neubauer Professor of Computer Science **Heather Zheng** has been elected as a fellow of the Association of Computing Machinery, the largest and most prestigious society of computing professionals. Zheng, who codirects the SAND Lab (Security, Algorithms, Networking and Data), was recognized for her work in wireless networking and mobile computing. She has led or co-led projects to develop protection against facial recognition models and eavesdropping smart devices, as well as to expose security vulnerabilities from Internet of Things devices and Wi-Fi transmissions.





INTERVIEW

Cryptic kingdom

Matthew Nelsen, PhD'14, explores the mysteries of fungi.

BY MAUREEN SEARCY

Scientists have formally described about 120,000 species of fungus. There might be millions more out there, but fungi are largely hidden. When you think about fungi, you might picture showy mushrooms, but those are just the fungal version of fruit, sprouting when it's time to reproduce. Most of the time, fungi live underground or inside logs. At the Field Museum, mycologist and evolutionary biologist **Matthew Nelsen**, PhD'14, is working to bring these obscure organisms to light. His comments have been edited and condensed.

A fungus is not an animal, and it's not a plant. What is it?

Its own thing! It's its own kingdom. But yeah, it's like, where do these go? They're not running around like animals; they generally seem to just sit there like plants. Here at the Field Museum, I'm in the botany section, but when we look at DNA evidence, we can see that fungi and animals are each other's sister groups, essentially. In the mycological community, there's a big push to recognize fungi as another

dimension of biodiversity, especially in the context of conservation.

The video games and television series *The Last of Us* ascribe the apocalypse to an unspecified "zombie" fungus called *Cordyceps*. Does this help or harm fungi's reputation?

I'm torn. I really like that it's popularizing fungi and getting people's attention, but it's unfortunate that it's from a detrimental perspective. I hope that we can still leverage that to draw people in to learn what's real and what's fiction.

Zombie-ant fungus—*Ophiocordyceps unilateralis*—which inspired *The Last of Us*, is real. How does it work?

It's thought that the spores land on an ant and the fungus grows through its exoskeleton. Eventually it spreads through the ant's body, decomposing it from the inside, and the insect starts acting strangely. It might convulse or wander randomly.

Ultimately the fungus exhausts its

food supply and will need to move on. So it makes the ant climb up a small shrub, pinch onto a big leaf vein with its mandibles, and hang upside down, where it dies. A long fungus stalk grows out of its head, and the spores rain down on other ants below. This has been going on for at least 48 million years. There's a fossil leaf with these bite marks in it.

Can zombie-ant fungus infect humans?

We're very warm, and a lot of these fungi can't survive in environments that hot for that long. Our body temperature proves to be a barrier for a lot of fungi.

What fungal infections pose the most danger to us?

I'm not a medical mycologist, but I know of a few nasty ones, like *Candida auris*, which has been going around hospitals quite a lot. *Coccidioides* and *Pneumocystis* aren't good—they get in your lungs. Less aggressive ones like athlete's foot, ringworm, or nail fungus aren't super terrible.

But they take forever to treat. Why is it so hard to cure fungal infections in humans?

Because we share a lot of biochemical similarities with fungi. When we're trying to kill a fungal cell, we need to make sure we're not killing our own as well. We're far less similar to bacteria.

Why don't more people study fungi?

They're not as endearing as things with big eyes and lots of fur. I grew up kind of thinking fungi were gross. It varies across cultures around the world, but a lot of folks probably feel like I did. That's something I'm trying my best to change. ♦



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LIBRARIAN FOR THE PEOPLE

Under the leadership of Carla D. Hayden, AM'77, PhD'87, a revered institution is connecting Americans with their country through its treasures.

BY DYLAN WALSH, AB'05

In the fall of 2016, **Carla D. Hayden** had just been confirmed as the 14th librarian of Congress—the first woman and the first African American to hold the position. Hayden, AM'77, PhD'87, was wandering the stacks in the James Madison Memorial Building, familiarizing herself with the vast collections under her charge (at that time, more than 164 million items). Books in hundreds of languages;

the papers of Rosa Parks, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sigmund Freud, 23 presidents, and 36 Supreme Court justices; the world's largest comic book collection alongside Ralph Ellison's and Thomas Jefferson's personal libraries. A lock of Walt Whitman's hair, a map used by Lewis and Clark on their westward expedition, the palm print of Amelia Earhart. It is almost easier to name what the library does not contain than what it does.

As Hayden walked the aisles, taking in a bit of this and a bit of that, she arrived at a set of boxes labeled "Frederick Douglass." She got chills. Hayden reveres Douglass. His life, perhaps more than any other, testifies to the power of books and the life-giving force of literacy. She quotes him often: "Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." Hayden asked the curator serving as her guide if she could have a look. Of course, the curator

Photography by James Kegley



said. Hayden pulled a random file from one of the boxes and marveled at what she had found.

She was holding the same paper that Douglass had held 151 years before, that had rested on his desk under his hand as he recorded some of his thoughts on the death of Abraham Lincoln. She recalls seeing where Douglass had used the word “assassinated” and crossed it out. Then, darker, he had written the word “killed,” but that, too, he crossed out.

**IT IS ALMOST
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He next tested the word “murdered.” He must have thought that fitting, as it remained. From the hard-scratched ink on the page, this man’s thoughts and emotions leapt from the depths of history and touched Hayden. “When you see a piece of writing in the person’s own hand,” she says, “you can almost feel it, like electricity.”

A five-decade career in librarianship has made Hayden familiar with these “pinch-me moments.” She has

experienced plenty herself and seen others quickened by the discovery of certain books or historical objects. Now at the helm of the world's largest library, she wants to share these moments with everyone in the country.

"The effort to open up the institution and its collections to the general public has been at the heart of what Carla's doing," says David Ferriero, who, as head of the National Archives, worked closely with Hayden until his retirement in April 2022. Hayden has poured resources into digitization. She seeks to draw children and teenagers and people of color to a place that, historically, has expended little effort attracting or welcoming them. She is trying, above all, to bring the library into people's lives, highlighting its role as a keeper and shaper of America's prismatic story.

To this end, Hayden joined Twitter her first day on the job. Posting as @LibnOfCongress, she uses the platform to turn the library inside out, to spread its wonders, and, like any clever user of social media, to get attention. When classically trained flutist turned pop star Lizzo came through Washington for a September 27 concert, Hayden tweeted an invitation for her to visit the library and view its flute collection (the world's largest), and even play a few notes on James Madison's crystal flute. Lizzo's response came within a day: "IM COMING CARLA! AND IM PLAYIN THAT CRYSTAL FLUTE!!!!"

So Lizzo showed up. She played the flute in a masterfully choreographed press event. As cameras recorded the musician performing in the elegantly pillared and arched Great Hall of the



THANK YOU TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS FOR PRESERVING OUR HISTORY AND MAKING HISTORY FREAKING COOL.

library's Thomas Jefferson Building, Hayden could not shake a vision of the instrument falling, shattering on the marble floor. (This did not come to pass.)

The next night, the crystal flute was escorted by three Capitol police officers to the Capital One Arena. It was handed to Lizzo onstage where between songs, in bejeweled combat boots and a sequined bodysuit, she gingerly carried it to the microphone. She played a long, trembling note that concluded with a look of shock: Lizzo, mouth wide open, awed by the instrument's ethereal ring. She played a second trilling note. She twerked. The audience roared.

The flute returned to the library, Lizzo to the microphone. "Thank you to the Library of Congress for preserving our history and making history freaking cool," she said. She looked across the shadowed sea of 20,000 faces all looking back at her. "History is freaking cool, you guys."

Hayden was raised by music. Her father, a violinist, started the strings department at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee. Her mother was a classically trained pianist who taught music at the local elementary school. Hayden would sit under her mother's piano and play as her parents rehearsed tunes together. She remembers afternoons as a young child, an only child, in the heat of faculty housing, the exuberant brass and percussion of FAMU's marching band drifting through the window.

In 1957, when Hayden was five years old, her father moved the family to New York City, where he joined Nat and Cannonball Adderley on the local jazz circuit. Hayden embraced the city. She visited museums with her mother. She toured the United Nations with her school. At night, only seven or eight years old, she visited Birdland and sat in the front row drinking Shirley Temples a handsbreadth from some of the world's greatest musicians. She became friendly with Miles Davis.

And yet musicality passed Hayden by. She was drawn to books. As her parents could look at sheet music and hear a tune, Hayden could look at printed pages and hear a voice. She would surround herself with books at the counter of the candy shop after school. Books, Hayden has said, were like a pacifier.

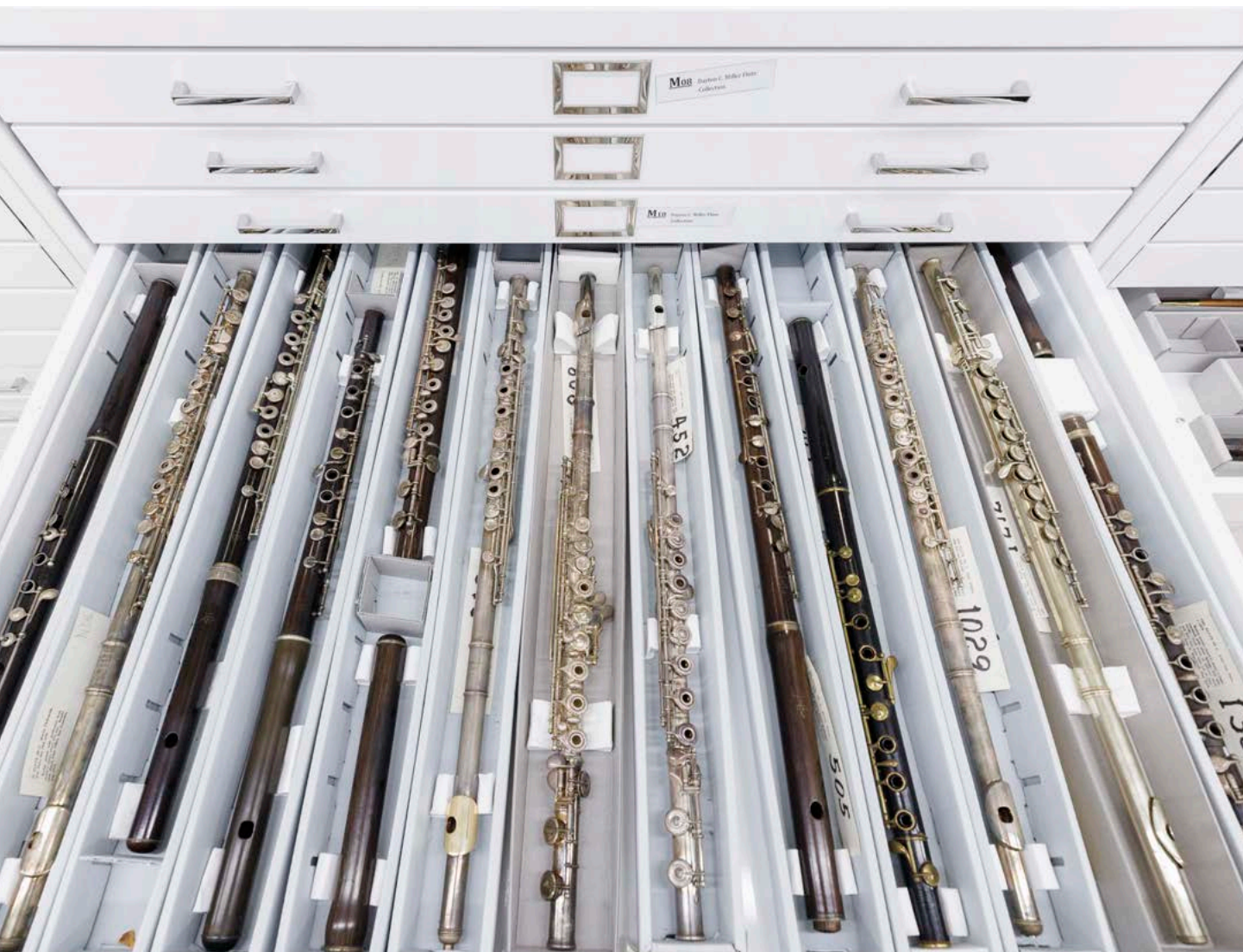
It never occurred to her, though, to become a librarian. She majored in political science and history at Roosevelt University in Chicago, where she had moved with her mother at the age of 10 after her parents divorced.

Classical flutist turned pop star Lizzo gingerly plays a few notes on James Madison's crystal flute during a September 2022 visit to the Library of Congress. Hayden invited her to visit the flute collection via Twitter.

Upon graduation, unsure whether to pursue a law degree or a master's in social work, Hayden applied to jobs as she tried to make up her mind. When she wasn't interviewing, she would retreat to the central branch of the Chicago Public Library downtown. It was there one day that she ran into a college classmate who asked if she was applying for one of the open library positions. They're hiring anybody, he told her. Enticing.

Hayden was assigned as a library associate to a storefront branch on 79th Street. It was 1973. She knew nothing about being a librarian except the stereotype—glasses, hair in a bun, spinster, demure. Her first day she walked in and found, instead, her new colleague Judy Zucker, a White woman in jeans with an afro sitting on the floor reading books to a group of autistic Black children. "She was just really cool," Hayden says.

The experience resonated profoundly with Hayden, recalling scenes from her youth. With the move to New York, Hayden's mother had begun a career as a social worker that continued in Chicago, where she was employed with the City of Chicago's Department of Human Services. Hayden would attend community meetings with her mother and sit in the back of the room focusing half on her homework and half on the desperation of those in





Among the contents of Abraham Lincoln's pockets the night of his assassination were two pairs of glasses, this one hand-repaired with a short length of string. For more Library of Congress holdings that fascinate Hayden, see "A Few of Her Favorite Things" below and "Revise and Revise Again," page 2.

attendance: people aggrieved by a lack of housing or food or by the insufficiency of their schools or by the prevalence of gangs and violence on their blocks. Her mother provided simple resources, such as directing them to city departments that might be able to help.

This was the work of service, and a desire to perform this same work took root in Hayden. Years later, shortly before she was nominated to be librarian of Congress, Hayden was asked in an interview how she would like to be remembered. She responded without hesitation: "As someone who tried to help."

As she watched Zucker reading to children in the storefront branch, she realized the potential held within every library. The vocation, in her eyes, opened beyond its quotidian lending role and became a quiet engine

of betterment in the world, a source of water and light for undernourished communities.

It didn't hurt that the workplace was full of books.

The Library of Congress employs roughly 3,000 people and operates with a budget of more than \$800 million. It houses the US Copyright Office and serves as the main research arm for members of Congress. It is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution. To lead the library is to lead a large, balkanized bureaucracy that is accountable to political personalities and full of employees who have worked there for decades. Change does not come easily; Hayden's career has proven to be good training for the job.

Inspired by Zucker, Hayden applied to the University of Chicago for her master's degree. She continued working in the public li-

brary system during her studies, even as she went on to pursue doctoral research in children's literature; her dissertation focused on how museums serve children. After completing her PhD in 1987, five years before the University's Graduate Library School closed, she was hired to teach library science at the University of Pittsburgh. Four years later she was recruited to her first leadership role, as head of the Chicago Public Library, which was completing construction of a new main branch downtown.

With that job, "Carla walked into an extremely difficult diplomatic environment," says James Grossman, executive director of the American Historical Association, who, at the time, sat on the council overseeing the new library's development. The building had been commissioned by Mayor Harold Washington, Chicago's first Black mayor, in July 1987. Mayor Washington died a few months later, and the project became not only about

A FEW OF HER FAVORITE THINGS

The Library of Congress holds more than 173 million items. In addition to Frederick Douglass's papers, a handful of these are especially meaningful to Carla D. Hayden, AM'77, PhD'87.



creating a library but about crafting a monument to Washington's life. When Hayden arrived in Chicago in 1991, Mayor Richard M. Daley had been voted into his second term, and relations between his administration and the council members who wanted to preserve Washington's legacy were, to put it lightly, strained. "Distrust remained very potent and very visible, barely beneath the surface," Grossman says.

Hayden still got things done. Despite swaggering egos and political feuds, she kept city administrators and library council members focused on the work of completing the library. Doors opened in October 1991. "I should also say that everybody in that room liked Carla," Grossman says. "That is not an insignificant accomplishment."

Effectiveness and charm are two traits widely acknowledged by those who know Hayden. "She is a constellation of talent, determination, grace, and

experience," says **Betsy Hearne**, AM'68, PhD'85, who served on her dissertation committee at UChicago. Hayden is soft-spoken, often reaching to touch those she knows on the upper arm in a warm, familial gesture. And she possesses a preternatural willpower, seemingly always capable of closing the gap between a vision and its realization.

She left Chicago after just two years, poached by Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library. The Pratt system is famous among librarians. It was one of the first free public libraries in the country and has a long history of inclusivity. It set a model that Andrew Carnegie followed when building his network of libraries. But the Pratt had fallen into decline, as Baltimore's industrial base hollowed and its population contracted. The main library, an architectural marvel in its day, was a faded light. "The grand lady had fallen into disrepair, and it was like, c'mon," Hayden says.

So she started cleaning. With staff,

she swept floors, updated bookshelves, moved furniture. She uncovered an iconic window and its grillwork on the building's second floor. And then began the difficult work of both reviving and updating an institution where circulation, employee morale, and funding had all slipped.

Within a year, one of her colleagues was quoted in the *Baltimore Sun* describing Hayden's leadership as "somewhere between excellent and magnificent." During her second year at the Pratt, she was named Librarian of the Year by *Library Journal*. The Pratt became the first library in Maryland to offer free internet access. Then she introduced other innovations: lawyers visited neighborhood branches to advise on civil legal issues and record expungement. The library reached out to social workers at the University of Maryland, who began offering services in library branches in 2017. In food deserts, the library took grocery orders and had

The contents of Abraham Lincoln's pockets on April 14, 1865, the night of his assassination.

These 27 items include two pairs of spectacles, one mended with a piece of string; an ivory pocketknife; a watch fob of rare gold-flecked quartz; an Irish linen handkerchief with "A. Lincoln" embroidered in red cross-stitch; a brown leather wallet; and, in the wallet, eight press clippings.

Rosa Parks's papers, including a document she wrote by hand after her arrest in 1955.

In cursive, Parks writes, "I had been pushed around for all my life ~~becau~~ and felt at this moment that I couldn't take it any more. When I asked the policeman why we were had to be pushed around? He said he didn't know. 'The law is the law. You are under arrest.' I ~~acta~~ I went [with?] I didn't resist."

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SHE KNOWS THAT OUR COUNTRY EMERGED AND CONTINUES TO CREATE ITSELF THROUGH A VAST TAPESTRY OF EFFORTS, MOST INVISIBLE, AND THAT WE ARE BETTER FOR RECOGNIZING THIS FACT.

the food delivered to the local branch.

As a trained children's librarian, Hayden reinvigorated the library's youth services. She created a fairy tale festival where kids dressed up and listened to stories and ate cupcakes. Hayden appeared as the queen. ("Why not? You get to be queen for a day.") She brought in dogs to sit as the audience for children practicing their reading. ("They're so forgiving.") She unveiled a library "First Card" for those 6 and under and established the Book Buggy, which carried educational materials to day cares and facilities for new mothers around the city.

More times than she could count, she had seen libraries change a child's life. She had seen them *save* a child's life. "I saw it happen at the Whitney Young branch in Chicago," Hayden says. "I saw it happen all the time in Baltimore."

After more than 20 years guiding Baltimore's Pratt system, Hayden captured national attention in April 2015, when Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old Black man, was arrested and sustained fatal injuries to his spine during police transport. Baltimore came to a boil. The

day of Gray's funeral, peaceful protests turned to violence, and Hayden called Melanie Townsend Diggs, then manager of the Pratt's Pennsylvania Avenue branch. Hayden had a question: A crowd was approaching the library. What was the plan?

Townsend Diggs locked the doors and turned out the lights. She had security officers dress down to plain clothes. Several cars and a CVS across the street were set ablaze. The staff and patrons filed unnoticed out a side door. Another question: What happens tomorrow?

Townsend Diggs and her staff discussed it with Hayden and decided to keep the library open. I'll be there too, Hayden told them, and she arrived the next morning carrying fruit, flowers, coffee, Danish, cups, plates, and water. She praised the staff for their courage. Patrons went about their business. A man applied for a job and landed an interview. Great groups of children entered, many hungry, as the schools where they ate breakfast and lunch were closed. Food donations rolled in; tutors showed up. Reporters arrived to charge their phones. What was this place? It

was a refuge, a lifeline, not just a building for lending books—although Hayden will never downplay the importance of lending books, of giving people the information they need or want when they need or want it.

There is a picture of Hayden from that day, near legendary within the library world. It shows her at the front door of the Pennsylvania Avenue branch posting an "open" sign on the front door. She is recognized and celebrated throughout Baltimore for revitalizing the Pratt during 23 years of leadership and, more broadly, for her service to the city. She is regularly described as a "rock star," which pairs unexpectedly with "librarian." "She brought life in and reached out and included the world," says Mary Pat Clarke, who served for years on the Baltimore City Council. And then the White House called.

Hayden was already part of a team consulting with the Obama administration about the Library of Congress's technology

Hayden is the first African American and the first woman to lead the Library of Congress, but not the first UChicagoan in the role. Daniel J. Boorstin, a UChicago history professor for 25 years, went on to serve as the 12th librarian of Congress from 1975 to 1987.

investments when the White House personnel division got in touch. They asked if she would like to “consider being considered” to lead the Library of Congress. There is no higher perch for a librarian, but she hesitated.

More than anything, Hayden loved the profession of librarianship as an act of service. She sees the provision of information as a utility, akin to electricity. “The place of the cure of the soul,” read the inscription above the shelves in the Library of Alexandria. In the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, inmates took solace in a secreted copy of Thomas Mann’s *The Magic Mountain*. “It comforted me in my despair; it told me that I was not alone,” one prisoner recalled. How, Hayden wondered, could an institution as large, as physically and psychologically distant as the Library of Congress, touch individuals so deeply?

This was the same question that President Barack Obama asked during her interview. He wanted to know how she would connect the country to itself through the library’s treasures. Today she has many answers to that question. Hayden speaks, for example, of a moment standing beside a young girl at the Pratt’s Pennsylvania Avenue branch, looking out the window as protests flared. What’s the matter? the girl asked. Why is everyone so upset? Hayden wishes she could have immediately responded by pulling up a scanned version of Rosa Parks’s papers—specifically, a note Parks wrote recalling her anger at a White boy during an encounter from when she was about the girl’s age. Not an answer, but a connection.

Despite being the first African American to become librarian of Congress, Hayden speaks little in public about the country’s relationship with race. But this relationship has affected

her life: She grew up hearing from her mother about the Whites-only water fountains that were still around when Hayden was a toddler in Tallahassee. As a young girl, she came across a family photo of her teenaged uncle in a casket; the public story was suicide, but she learned he’d been shot by a White shop owner because the shop owner’s daughter found him attractive. And when she was 18 years old, Hayden went to a Jackson 5 concert in Chicago’s Bridgeport neighborhood; she and her friends were chased to the doors of the music venue by a group of White junior high kids.

“What’s so powerful about Carla—what I just love, to be honest—is her ability to be fearless and strategic, to recognize that part of the job of institutions like ours is to be the glue that holds the country together,” says Lonnie Bunch III, the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. “But you can’t [do that] if you don’t illuminate the dark corners.”

Hayden is deeply versed in the omissions and misremembrances of our national myth. She is aware of how the passage of time and repetition of stories can deify a person. She knows that our country emerged and continues to create itself through a vast tapestry of efforts, most invisible, and that we are better for recognizing this fact. At the Library of Congress she highlights the long toil of suffragettes, the sung and unsung heroes of the civil rights movement, and artists who shaped their work around the social and political challenges of their time. She launched an initiative that gives grants to people working to document historically underrepresented cultures and traditions. “Her tenure,” says Bunch, “is helping to change the nation by helping it remember all aspects of history.”

At her swearing-in ceremony on September 14, 2016, Hayden chose to

recite her oath with a hand on Lincoln’s Bible. She was stepping up to direct the country’s great emblem of knowledge as a descendant of people who were legally punished with lashes and amputations if they were caught learning to read.

To prepare her speech, she began to research every law forbidding an enslaved person’s pathway to literacy. She decided she would enumerate these laws at the ceremony, one by one, state by state. Her mother suggested this approach might be something of a downer at an otherwise joyous occasion.

At the podium, Hayden opted for a brief summary of the issue. She highlighted the distance between the historical sufferings of people who looked like her and the moment everybody was there to celebrate. The room, filled with friends and colleagues, burst into applause.

As librarian of Congress, she has now become both a representative and a narrator of our country’s progress. “History is a long haul,” she says. “Times we’re going through now, yes, they’re kind of rough, but there have been other rough times, and look at what’s happened and where we’ve come.”

Hayden still lives in Baltimore. On the days she commutes to Washington by train, she reads. The day of her confirmation vote, as the Senate tallied its yeas and nays, librarians held watch parties to learn the outcome, but Hayden, too anxious, went home with her mother and waited. In the early afternoon, the 51st vote came in, nudging her into the new job. A Black woman was declared the 14th librarian of Congress. A hard rain was falling as she and her mother held hands and stood in Hayden’s solarium, absorbing the moment’s significance. Her mother said to her: “Those are the tears of your ancestors.” The rain, in sheets, blurred the world before them. ♦

THE COLLEGE

PEERLESS

*Reflections from John W. Boyer, AM'69, PhD'75,
on three decades leading the College.*

BY CARRIE GOLUS, AB'91, AM'93

In July **John W. Boyer**, AM'69, PhD'75, the College's longest-serving dean, will become senior advisor to UChicago president **Paul Alivisatos**, AB'81. Boyer's responsibilities will include advising on the University's international strategy, global education and fundraising, and the support of programs involving public

discourse, academic freedom, and the history of higher education. Boyer will continue to teach in the College.

In a conversation with the *Magazine*, Boyer discussed his 31-year tenure as dean, his 1,100-page book on the Habsburg Empire, and how it feels to be UChicago famous.

This interview has been edited and condensed.

When you became dean, what was the best advice you received?

Mrs. Gray¹ said, "I'm offering you the deanship, but it's really like a college presidency." That was an explanation but also a piece of advice. The College deanship is more public facing than a typical deanship, involving a huge amount of work with the community, a lot of fundraising, a focus on student life, and, you could say, public intellectual work. These are not things that academic deans normally do.

Candidly, I've been offered other college presidencies over the years, and I've said, thank you very much, but I'm already president of a college.

What was the worst advice?

In the 1990s we were engaged in a complicated attempt to reimagine the curriculum—basically to reduce the size of the Common Core to make room for free electives and eventually double majors and minors. The goal was not to degrade or weaken the Core, but it was very controversial.

I started with a series of faculty retreats in 1994 and '95. The final vote took place in '98. Five long years. Faculty saying, over my dead body. Well, you're still alive.

A number of people told me, this is going on for too long. There was pressure to do something. A dean is powerful, but not that powerful. And sometimes one has to go slowly and carefully and deliberately—I'd say cunningly. A lot of people along the way either said it was hopeless or do it right away and be done with it. And both were unwise advice that I didn't follow.

Robert Hutchins² used to say, a lot of people can start things; the question is how to make them last. If you do things in a reckless way, it can damage the institution. The irony is that Hutchins was pretty reckless, but there was a side of him that was reflective.

Photography by Jean Lachat

John W. Boyer, AM'69, PhD'75, the Martin A. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of History, has served an unprecedented six terms as dean of the College.

Looking back on the Sturm und Drang of the '90s, it was great fun, but I wouldn't want to do it again.

What did alumni think about changing the Core?

After we had announced some of the changes, I was told there were some New York alumni who wanted to meet. I got to the Hilton at eight in the morning. I thought I was going to some small room. It was the ballroom. I walk in and there are 200 people glaring.

Then it began: Dean Boyer, is it true you're going to ruin the University? Is it true you're going to destroy the Core? It was like being in a 12-foot hole and I had to climb out of it, using whatever rhetorical skills I had. At the end—well, I was able to leave the room.

I talked about my experiences as a young faculty member joining the Western Civ staff, working with Jock Weintraub, AB'49, AM'52, PhD'57, and Eric Cochrane and Keith Baker.³ These were great teachers, many of whom had won the Quantrell Award.⁴ I had even met Christian Mackauer,⁵ who was revered by older alums. I told the alumni I learned much more going to Western Civ staff meetings than I had in graduate school.

So by invoking history—and this was long before I ever started to write the history of the University⁶—I was able to persuade them that I understood the special quality of the place. Which is somewhat mythic, but universities need myths. They need stories about themselves. This is a place that is replete with a proud self-identity. By invoking my own humble personal history, I was able to reassure people.

What did students think?

In 1999, after we passed the new curriculum, we told current students they could choose to opt in to the new or keep the old. The new curriculum had

more electives and a smaller Core, and 96 percent of students opted in. It was like a Roosevelt landslide. We didn't do it to make the students happy, but it did.

What sacrifices or compromises did you make as dean?

For any dean, department chair, or provost, the days are filled with compromises, and that's probably a good thing. The to and fro of negotiations sharpens things.

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In your 31-year tenure, what accomplishments are you most proud of?

The first decade of my deanship was preoccupied with curricular reforms. Without the changes we made to consolidate the Core, the other changes could not have happened. The vote we took in March 1998 on the new curriculum—which had taken five years of my life—was enormously important. If I had just stopped there, I would feel I had made a contribution.

Once that happened, we wanted to have a large, thriving College—returning to the size of the College in the 1920s and '30s. There had been a collapse of enrollment, which I wrote about in my book.

The next two decades I devoted to

other issues: rebuilding admissions, changing the conditions of housing, creating career services and study abroad programs, establishing the Paris center. This all began in '98 and '99. But I couldn't move on any of these other things when the curriculum reforms were so big.

What were the biggest surprises of your deanship?

I'm not sure it was a surprise—as an historian, I know how difficult it is to engineer and sustain institutional change—but this is a tough place. Larry Kimpton⁷ once said, all kinds of people have tried to monkey around with this place, and it's defeated all of them. In fact, it didn't happen to Kimpton. He effected a lot of change.

What have you enjoyed the most?

The opportunity to meet different kinds of people. It's like being mayor of a small town. You get up in the morning, you don't quite know what's going to happen, but something's going to happen. It's a series of Henry Jamesian moments. The vast panorama of human nature unfolding.

Do you keep a journal about all this?

No. I just published a big book,⁸ and I used many different diaries, for which I'm very grateful. But diaries are complicated. They purport to be an accurate record of the events of the individual writing the diary, but often they are not. They can also be rewritten later. Diaries are like autobiographies—complicated literary documents. So I never wanted to do that.

When you were growing up, did you ever imagine you would become a dean?

I don't think anybody—my gosh, I hope not—is born to become a university administrator.

It started because Mrs. Gray asked

me to become collegiate master of the Social Sciences Division after I had been involved with some administrative work in the history department. I guess I didn't screw that up too badly, because she asked me to be dean.

How did you get interested in history?

That's a wonderful question. How does anybody become what they grow up to be?

In the grocery store there used to be encyclopedias you could buy, one volume at a time, for 50 cents. My mother would buy them, and I would read them—open up “A” and start reading about anthropology or ants or aggression.

This is not Diderot and the *Encyclopédie*—but it is. It's a way of entering into the world of the Enlightenment, understanding humanity through the accomplishments of previous generations. The great books for working-class people, next to the frozen foods and the potato chips.

I grew up in the old Pullman neighborhood,⁹ where George Pullman had created a public library—now part of the Chicago Public Library. It was a wonderful building that looked and smelled and felt like a 19th-century library. I remember going there as a kid and just wanting to stay.

What are your thoughts on liberal arts education, at a time when its value is being called into question?

I understand that students—and especially parents—are worried about career outcomes. Those pressures are real. A degree in economics or computer science does lead to very happy outcomes, defined in material terms. Whether it leads to happiness in general is a different question.

Because so much of the Core is humanistically oriented, we have not had to sacrifice a commitment to the humanities. We have reaffirmed it.



And again, because of the reforms, we opened up space for minors and double majors. Students might major in computer science, but they can minor in German or art history.

Universities must resist the pressure to professionalize and vocationalize their curricula—falling prey to the winds of public culture. And they must protect themselves against political pressures, such as the notion that people who are studying certain subjects are a threat.

The adverse winds are strong against knowledge for its own sake. But the nation needs people who can think for themselves, and who understand that knowledge for its own sake is also knowledge for the sake of others.

I remain a guarded optimist. Certainly UChicago and other universities in our peer group are determined to defend the liberal arts, come what may.

How does it feel to have finished the Habsburg book?

My editor at Oxford would very patiently, every few years, write me an email: “John, how's the book coming?”

I agreed to do it in 1989 or '90. But I was sidelined by my monographs and my book on University history.

I got into Austrian history because I originally wanted to do American history. If you're going to do European history, the closest thing to America is the world of the Habsburgs: this multinational, multireligious, multiethnic, multiracial empire.

There are also parallels between what the Habsburg leaders were trying to do and what UChicago leaders were trying to do. In some ways, my two books share a logic: How do you sustain a complex institution with deep, self-regarding values and identities?

Here's some advice for *Magazine* readers: If you ever have the idea of writing two books at once, forget it. Give it up.

How did you keep the enormous amount of material in your histories straight in your mind?

I tell my students, when you're writing a book, you're like a sculptor working with clay. You start with a huge pile of clay on the table and take stuff away.

Photography by Jean Lachat

For three decades-plus, Boyer has presided over the ceremonial and everyday life of the College, whose enrollment more than doubled under his watch.

As the author of a 700-page book¹⁰ and a 1,100-page book,¹¹ you could say, that's someone who didn't follow his own advice. Both of those books could have been twice as long, though.

Do you have a set writing practice?

I come into my own late at night. I'm a 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. person. When I'm totally exhausted and can't think anymore, it's time to sleep.

What's your next 1,000-page book?

First I'll be revising the University of Chicago history to take it through the Robert J. Zimmer¹² administration.

I also have a contract with Princeton University Press to write a book on religion and politics in modern Europe from the French Revolution to the present that will take in Britain, France, Italy, Germany, and Austria-Hungary.

You're a familiar figure on campus and in Hyde Park. How did you become UChicago famous?

When I started as dean, I didn't know anything about housing. So I began to visit the dorms. I think the students wondered, who is this guy asking about the food, or why the elevators in the Shoreland¹³ don't work, or why there's this particular odor in Broadview¹⁴ that never goes away? And then I was also the guy who rides a bike everywhere, like something out of a 1930s British novel.

You are very tolerant of student culture. When you were flash mobbed, you danced along. You posed with a paper mustache on Dean Boyer Appreciation Day.

This comes back to the Habsburgs. The world of the Habsburgs was a world of pronounced, intense visuality. When I was elected to the Academy of Sciences in Vienna some years ago, there was a great ceremony with flowers, a Mozart quartet, speeches in a baroque

hall. A friend had been elected to one of the German academies, and he said, in Germany, they send you a letter.

I've always thought that the Austrian way of visual culture, theatrical culture, serves the University well. University leaders should be public figures. It softens the boundaries and creates a unified culture.

Sometimes it seems like you have 7,000 grandchildren.

It's better to have 7,000 grandchildren than 7,000 children. It's a nice analogy, because I'm not their parent. I've never viewed the College as being in loco parentis. A grandparent doesn't offer strangulating control, but genial and sympathetic support. ♦



Notes

- 1 Hanna Holborn Gray, the Harry Pratt Judson Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of History, was the first and so far the only woman to serve as president of the University (1978–93). Her preferred form of address as president was Mrs. Gray.
- 2 Robert Maynard Hutchins served as president (1929–45) and later chancellor of the University (1945–51). He established the New Plan, which admitted students without a high school diploma, and popularized the study of the great books.
- 3 Karl Joachim “Jock” Weintraub, Eric Cochrane, and Keith Baker, legendary history professors.
- 4 The Llewellyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, given annually since 1938.
- 5 Christian Mackauer, one of the architects of the Western Civilization sequence.
- 6 *The University of Chicago: A History* (University of Chicago Press, 2015).
- 7 Lawrence Kimpton, president of the University (1951–60).
- 8 *Austria 1867–1955* (Oxford University Press, 2022).
- 9 A neighborhood on the far South Side of Chicago, founded as a company town by George Pullman, who designed and manufactured the Pullman sleeping car.
- 10 *The University of Chicago: A History*.
- 11 *Austria 1867–1955*.
- 12 Robert J. Zimmer, president of the University (2006–21) and chancellor of the University (2021–22).
- 13 Shoreland Hall, 5454 South Shore Drive, built as the Shoreland Hotel in 1926, was converted into a residence hall in 1976; President Paul Alivisatos lived there as an undergrad. It closed in 2009.
- 14 Broadview Hall, 5540 South Hyde Park Boulevard, was another converted hotel. It closed in 2016.

ET CETERA

SOME DRUM

*In 1938 Big Bertha answered
the Big Apple's call.*

BY CHANDLER A. CALDERON



At more than eight feet in diameter, the world's largest bass drum was long the pride of the University of Chicago marching band. Nicknamed Big Bertha after the German World War I howitzer, the drum joined the band in 1922, along with 100 other instruments donated by Carl D. Greenleaf, SB 1899, president of musical instrument manufacturer C. G. Conn Ltd.

Mounted on airplane tires, Big Bertha was wheeled around the football field by six band members.

She traveled the country with the band, was tested for radioactivity after being housed under the west stands of Stagg Field through World War II, and served as an advertising prop for the John Philip Sousa biopic *Stars and Stripes Forever* (1952). The University of Texas purchased Bertha in 1954 for one dollar, and she has been the “Sweetheart

of the Longhorn Band” ever since. (Though a few daring Maroons smuggled her back to Chicago in the late '50s for a “we want football” rally.)

Years before relocating to Austin, Bertha visited New York City in March 1938. Her famed resonance had caught the attention of Arturo Toscanini, who was preparing to conduct Verdi's *Requiem* with the NBC Symphony Orchestra. Join in her New York adventure on the following pages. ♦



IF I CAN MAKE IT THERE

The star of the show turned down a ride on the 20th-Century Limited, the train's cars not offering sufficient space for such a spectacular drum. Bertha opted instead for a special flat car towed by the Liberty Limited. After a slight delay, she set off on the overnight trip to the East Coast.

EN ROUTE

"Big Bertha reached New York this morning, glanced upward for a brief moment to see if the skyscrapers were really taller than she, and rolled straight into the welcoming arms of Arturo Toscanini," crowed the *Daily Maroon*. Under ample supervision, Bertha boarded the truck that would hurry her to Carnegie Hall for the show.





THE ONLY DRUM FOR THE JOB

It wasn't easy to convince Arturo Toscanini, just retired after a decade with the New York Philharmonic, to conduct a new orchestra for radio broadcasts, but NBC succeeded. The NBC Symphony Orchestra debuted in 1937, with Toscanini at its head. He went on to spend 17 years at NBC. For the second-to-last performance of the orchestra's premiere season, none other than the largest bass drum in the world could provide the final thunderclap in Verdi's Requiem.





ALL FOR NAUGHT

“An NBC headache,” this magazine recalled in 1945. “Bertha staged a sitdown strike at the entrance to Carnegie Hall and refused to enter without removal of a wall.” Apparently Toscanini’s request was too tall an order. With Bertha unable to fit through the stage doors, NBC had a Connecticut American Legion drum do the honors. Realizing she wasn’t a big fan of classical music anyway (she likewise refused to enter Mandel Hall each year for the UChicago band’s formal concert), Bertha returned home, happy to be reunited with Staggy Field and properly topped hot dogs.





SOUNDS REBORN

How the University of Chicago Folk Festival built its own tradition.

BY HANNAH EDGAR, AB'18

Every University of Chicago Folk Festival begins with bagpipes. What better way to inaugurate a weekend of traditional music—from a Cajun band to Mexican *son huasteco* to Bulgarian *gadulka* and back again—than the University's own musical tradition? For many of us, our time on campus was bookended by the instrument's droning wail.

Bagpipes are among only a few common denominators of the Folk Festival's programming over its 63 years. That's by design. The Folklore Society (the registered student organization that has always run the festival) typically considers any generationally transmitted music fair game. In other words, authentic folk music—not the contemporary genre of the same name that's usually associated with acoustic instrumentals and singer-songwriters.

Beyond that, how, exactly, the festival defines “traditional music” is hotly debated among Folklore Society members. Every Wednesday night, both students and older community members—affectionately called “geezers”—huddle in a

closet-sized meeting room in the basement of Ida Noyes Hall to discuss exactly that.

“There's a lot of disagreement, even amongst our alumni members. But it's always a fun challenge to draw an epistemology of what the Folk Fest is,” says Folklore Society copresident **Jack Cramer**, Class of 2023, a fourth-year music and philosophy major.

To understand the Folk Festival's traditionalist platform, one must understand the context of the first festival in 1961 and, before it, of the Folklore Society, founded in 1953. Still before that, during the New Deal, commercially available folk song recordings—produced by folklorists like John and Alan Lomax and distributed by labels such as Folkways Records—introduced hyper-regional musical traditions to broader audiences.

What began as preservation initiatives kicked off a full-blown movement. Musicians like Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Muddy Waters, Lead Belly, and Burl Ives became cult figures, and urban areas created spaces for performing and hearing those folk traditions. The Gate of Horn, the

Photography by Jason Smith



Acts of Folk Fests past (clockwise from top left): Studs Terkel, PhB'32, JD'34, introduces Almeda Riddle and "Uncle Absie" Morrison in 1963; Bessie Jones and Mississippi Fred McDowell perform the same year; Maybelle Carter plays with the New Lost City Ramblers in 1964; Junior Wells and his band in 1966.

A FOLK FESTIVAL GLOSSARY

wingding (n.) ('wiŋ-,diŋ)

A communal performance of folk music, in which attendees are invited to play their instruments and/or sing.

hootenanny (n.) ('hü-tə-,na-nē)

A variety performance in which participants play for an audience.

geezer (n.) ('gē-zər)

A non-undergraduate member of the Folklore Society.
Not derogatory.

very first venue in the United States devoted solely to folk music, opened in Chicago in 1956; Old Town School of Folk Music followed less than a year later.

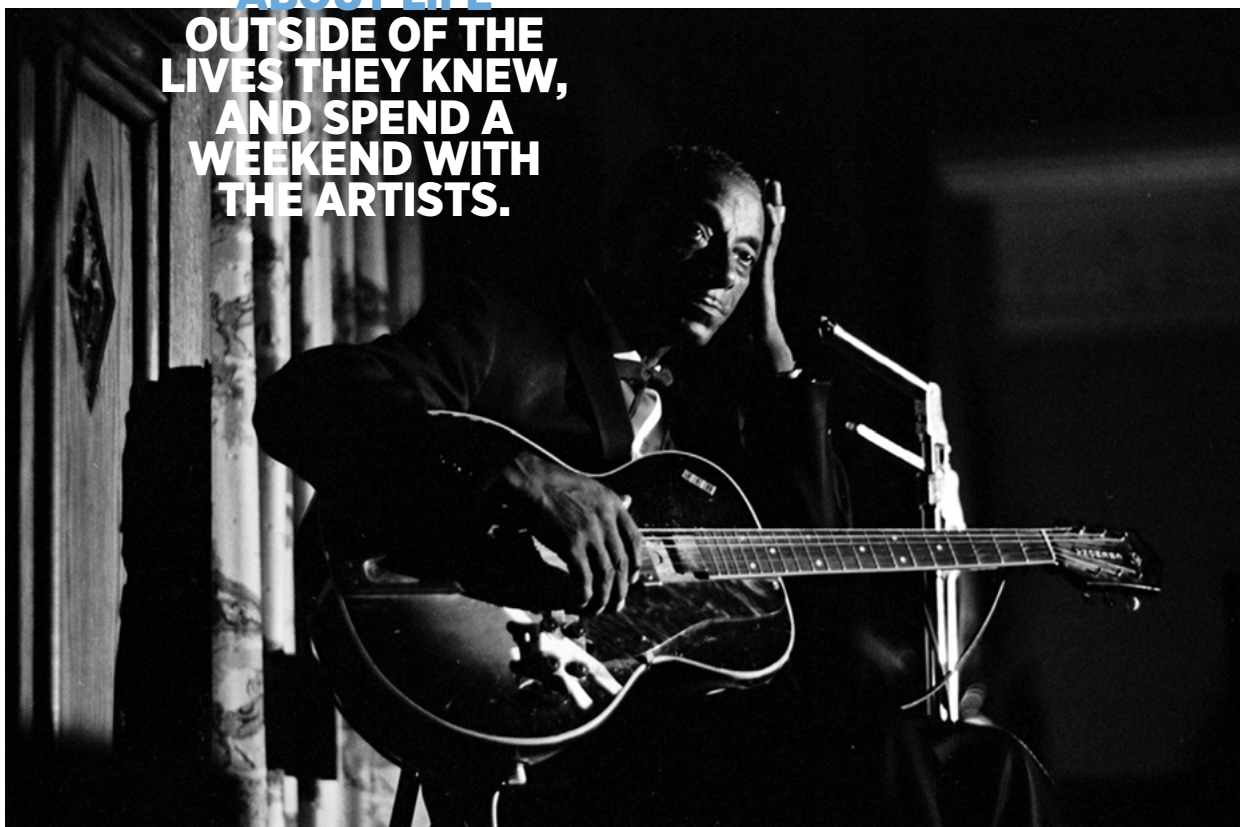
The folk movement's most eager adherents were young people—particularly urban, highly educated, middle- and upper-class White people. Jaded by the postwar industrial boom, many in this cohort latched onto folk music as a symbol of a halcyon, anticonsumerist past. College towns and campuses became hubs for folk music, creating a so-called coffeehouse circuit for performers.

Hyde Park was no exception. Hootenannies sprouted up on and off campus, and the Fret Shop, a guitar store that rotated through a few locations in Hyde Park in the 1960s, was a popular haunt for anyone who wanted to show off their chops or learn a lick or two. By 1960 the University of Chicago Folklore Society was the campus's largest student organization, coordinating sprawling jam sessions and occasional concerts featuring luminaries like Odetta, Bob Gibson, Peggy Seeger, and the New Lost City Ramblers. Starkey Duncan Jr., PhD'65, a professor in the psychology

THESE STUDENTS JUST WANTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LIFE

OUTSIDE OF THE LIVES THEY KNEW, AND SPEND A WEEKEND WITH THE ARTISTS.

Hill country blues singer and guitarist Mississippi Fred McDowell performed in the festival after Bob Kass, AB'62, traveled to McDowell's home to invite him, a common tactic in the fest's early days.



department, served as the Folklore Society's longtime faculty adviser.

However, as folk music itself commodified, hardline folkies advocated for a narrower definition that judged musicians on yardsticks of "authenticity." Among those hardliners was 1960–61 Folklore Society president Mike Fleischer, LAB'52, EX'63. Enrolling in school after a stint in the Navy, where he was a disc jockey, Fleischer was several years older than his peers and had little patience for pop culture, telling the *Chicago Tribune* in a festival preview feature that he'd "[thrown] a shoe at his own TV screen eight months ago and doesn't intend to have it fixed." Fleischer also opined that he wasn't interested in making the UChicago Folk Festival "a commercial showcase for folk singers working a night club bill, ... [as] so-called folk festivals in other cities have turned into"—a thinly veiled jab at the Newport Folk Festival.

With the counsel of Old Town School of Folk Music cofounder Dawn Greening, Fleischer became a crucial conduit to the lively folk scene in Greenwich Village and

cemented the UChicago Folk Festival's relationship with the New Lost City Ramblers, who would headline the first festival and many thereafter.

Fleischer "was gregarious, almost hyper—he had a very active mind," recalls **David Gedalecia**, EX'64. "He always wanted to get something done."

The first Folk Festival's commitment to authenticity also inspired its basic format, still in place today: performances in Mandel Hall by night, workshops in Ida Noyes by day. At the workshops attendees come face-to-face with musicians, learning tunes and technical tricks of the trade on their own instruments. The only meaningful changes to this formula are that the festival is now two days long instead of three and that it has been live streamed for the past three years thanks to a gift from **D. Garth Taylor**, AM'73, PhD'78, founder of the School of American Music in Three Oaks, Michigan.

The collegiality animating the Folk Fest was not only a reaction to commercial mega festivals like Newport but also truer to the spirit of many folk traditions themselves. "These students just wanted to learn more about life out-

If you know anything about the University of Chicago Folk Festival, you've likely heard lore about its most famous headliner—who wasn't: Bob Dylan.

Eyewitnesses agree on a couple of key details. Dylan certainly passed through Hyde Park in the weeks leading up to the first Folk Festival, materializing at jams in the New Dorm (later Woodward Court) and the Fret Shop. At the time, Dylan was a round-faced 19-year-old still introducing himself as Bobby Zimmerman. Biographers place his visit in late December 1960, following up on an invitation from Kevin Krown, EX'64, a student in the College he'd met that summer in Denver.

Sources also agree on another awkward detail: the Dylan they knew was musically forgettable. Late history professor Moishe Postone remembered him as "just a bad Woody Guthrie imitator." **Nina Helstein**, LAB'60, AB'64, AM'75, PhD'95, more or less agrees. "He wasn't Bob Dylan then. He was a guy that came by and played a lot of Woody Guthrie music."

Associate professor of music **Steven Rings**, whose book *Sounding Bob Dylan: Music in the Imperfect Tense* is forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press, says those contemporary accounts square with Dylan's then-consuming Guthrie obsession and with the various backstories he fabricated while playing the Greenwich Village circuit in the early 1960s. There and in Chicago, he took on the moniker "Bob Dylan" and claimed he was the son of New Mexican cattle ranchers.

If Dylan's goal was to impress folk sophisticates in college towns, he didn't always succeed. **Paul Levy**, AB'63, remembers Dylan playing for a student committee affiliated with the Folk Festival, likely vying for a spotlight in the Sunday afternoon hootenanny featuring "local Chicago folksingers." Levy cast the deciding vote not to invite Dylan to play.

"It must have been that he showed up hungry and homeless. ... I had the impression he was a completely lost soul," Levy remembers. As a consolation prize, Levy and his roommate agreed to let Dylan sleep in the cupboard of their

53rd Street apartment for a few days.

"There's no question he was already super ambitious. I think a lot of the folk revivalists were turned off by that," Rings says. "In Minneapolis, the Dinkytown folk purists had a lot of contempt for him ... like, 'Oh, this guy, you know, he thinks that he's the first one who's ever heard Woody Guthrie.'"

It's unclear exactly how long Dylan was in Hyde Park. He arrived in New York City either on or by January 24, 1961. Krown and Mark Eastman, AB'62, joined him there, though whether they traveled there together or separately is, like most things Dylan related, unclear.

What also remains foggy is whether Dylan wheeled back to Chicago to attend the Folk Festival as a spectator in February, as some attest he did—including second-ever festival chair Mike Michaels, EX'61, who shared his encounters with Dylan in a 2012 *University of Chicago Magazine* essay. **David Gedalecia**, EX'64, corroborated Michaels's recollections. He remembers playing the February 3 reception in Ida Noyes with Michaels when he noticed someone "bobbing and bouncing" to the music.

"He listened to us for, I don't know, 45 minutes or more. I said [to Mike], 'Who was that guy?' and he says, 'Bob Dylan. He does a lot of Guthrie songs, plays guitar, writes some of his own songs.' And I said something like, 'Oh, that's cool,' and we kept playing. It didn't make any impression," Gedalecia recalls.

But Rings thinks it's a stretch that Dylan backtracked to Chicago to attend the first Folk Festival so soon after arriving in New York. "Dylan's life has been picked over, and picked over, and picked over. It's surprising to me that there wouldn't be any record of that. Every car ride this guy took is documented."

That said, no surviving documents or bookings irrefutably place Dylan in New

York that weekend either. The earliest recording of him there can be sourced to undated living room performances in New Jersey, possibly made at Krown's urging in February or March 1961.

The *Magazine* does have a tantalizing clue of its own, previously unacknowledged by Dylan biographers: a close-up of a harmonica- and guitar-slinging



THE BOB DYLAN MYSTERY

youngster who's a dead ringer for little Bobby Zimmerman, apparently snapped during a student wingding at the first Folk Festival. Rings believes the photo "absolutely" depicts Dylan, an identification further corroborated by Levy and Gedalecia.

Dylan, ever elusive, offers no clarification himself. His only memoir, *Chronicles: Volume One* (Simon and Schuster, 2004), simply says he drove to New York in a four-door sedan, tearing "straight out of Chicago—clearing the hell out of there." Given Dylan's own track record with biographical accuracy, we'll likely never know the truth. (And no, Dylan did not respond to our requests for comment.) ♦



side of the lives they knew, and spend a weekend with the artists,” says journalist Mark Guarino, whose book *Country and Midwestern: Chicago in the History of Country Music and the Folk Revival* was published by the University of Chicago Press in April.

In part, the festival’s format—combining performances with intimate opportunities to learn from and even jam with artists—was a response to the extractive, often impersonal nature of the same albums that kindled the folk revival. Some of the artists documented on those folk anthologies—almost always rural and/or working class—never heard from labels again after putting out recordings. Many artists only learned they had a massive following through their invitation to the festival.

“The artists were known by these students but forgotten by the people who had recorded them,” Guarino says. When multi-instrumentalist Bill Monroe performed at the 1963 festival, he had “thought no one really cared about him, but suddenly, he was surrounded by all these young people who really liked him.” Country blues singer and guitarist Mississippi John Hurt “was living in poverty in the Jim Crow

South, but he performed in ... all these places and got to enjoy the last couple of years of his life before he died. A lot of artists’ lives were made better by that festival.”

Because of the musicians’ relative obscurity, locating desired headliners wasn’t always easy. In preparation for chairing the third annual Folk Festival, **Bob Kass**, AB’62, pored over Folkways anthologies and hand-picked artists he thought deserved a solo spotlight. In the summer of 1962, he dropped off blues guitarist **Elvin Bishop**, EX’64, at home in Tulsa, Oklahoma, before continuing on to small towns in the South to find folk singers Almeda Riddle and Mississippi Fred McDowell. The next hurdle was convincing them to perform.

Riddle “was afraid to come as a woman, alone, to Chicago, but she agreed to come if [fellow Arkansas folk musician] Jimmie Driftwood would also be there,” Kass recalls. “And when [I visited Fred McDowell], you know, this was 1962 Mississippi. He was definitely nervous. He didn’t invite me into his house.”

Photography by Jason Smith

Some 2023 festival performers (opposite, clockwise from top left): Cajun band Balfa Toujours; Mexican *son huasteco* violinist Juan Rivera and band; Ohio River Valley–based Barnes and Vlietstra; and Bulgarian duo Donka and Nikolay Kolev. This page: Tennessee’s Po’ Ramblin’ Boys.

MANY ARTISTS ONLY LEARNED THEY HAD A MASSIVE FOLLOWING THROUGH THEIR INVITATION TO THE FESTIVAL.



The integrationist ideals undergirding the folk revival took on heightened significance in Hyde Park, then in the throes of urban renewal. In collaboration with the University, the federal government had redeveloped racially integrated Hyde Park and other neighborhoods on the South Side, clearing out tenement housing. The redevelopment functionally displaced many of Hyde Park’s Black residents and razed some commercial strips, including a building once occupied by the Fret Shop.

“The South Side was a very thriving place before urban renewal. It was like a big, nice, Southern city—a lot of Black-owned businesses and hundreds of blues clubs,” Bishop says.

Already hooked on the blues as a teenager in Oklahoma, he’d listed Northwestern University and the University of Chicago as his first-choice schools. He ended up at the latter, enrolling in the College on a National Merit Scholarship. Campus was just within reach of Chicago’s greatest blues clubs. Working off recommendations from campus cafeteria workers, he saw Muddy Waters and his band—James Cotton, Otis Spann, Willie “Big Eyes” Smith, and Pat Hare—his first week in Chicago.

That week Bishop also met someone who would change the trajectory of his life: Paul Butterfield, LAB’60. Butterfield and his circle—including guitarist **Nick Gravenites**, EX’60; keyboardist **Mark Naftalin**, AB’64 (Class of 1965); folk superfan and lifelong Hyde Parker **Nina Helstein**, LAB’60, AB’64, AM’75, PhD’95; and guitarist Mike Bloomfield (not a student or a Hyde Parker, but part of the neighborhood’s musical milieu)—were among the few young White people game to explore the South Side’s blues clubs. At places like Pepper’s (43rd and Vincennes) and Theresa’s (48th and Indiana) they saw Muddy Waters, Howlin’ Wolf, Buddy Guy, and others. Butterfield, Bishop, Gravenites, and Naftalin took what they’d heard and played at campus “twist parties,” attended by students and young South Siders.

Likewise, the UChicago Folk Festival has showcased various strains of the blues—a folk tradition itself integral to Chicago—since its inception. Post-1960s festival planners made more conspicuous efforts to expand beyond American folk, though that remains the festival’s bread and butter. Most years you can count on catching bluegrass, old-time, and Cajun acts, the last of these thanks to connections with

WE CALLED THE TIME OF THE FIRST FESTIVAL THE FOLK REVIVAL. SO MAYBE THAT MAKES THIS THE FOLK REVIVAL REVIVAL.

Following tradition, the 2023 UChicago Folk Festival held workshops on Saturday afternoon, where audience members learned from the performers in spaces throughout Ida Noyes Hall.



longtime festival supporters.

The first festival appearance by a Cajun group coincided with a miraculous chapter in Folk Festival history. The seventh annual festival had the misfortune of falling a day after the 1967 Chicago blizzard, which dumped nearly two feet of snow on the region in a single evening. The city completely shut down—but not the Folk Festival. The then president of the Folklore Society, **Mark Greenberg**, AB'67, AM'70, convened an emergency meeting the next morning to discuss whether to call off the festival, which was slated to begin that night. They agreed to move forward.

With some creative thinking and a whole lot of dumb luck, the festival went off with a shuffled schedule and only a few substitutions. Buddy Guy and his band made their way on foot to Hyde Park to play a Friday night set. The next day, bluegrass duo Flatt and Scruggs managed to get to Mandel Hall after negotiating a special landing at Meigs Field, the only airfield open in the city. (Scruggs, it turns out, was a licensed pilot.)

And Greenberg says a troupe including the great Cajun fiddler Dewey Balfa—whose daughter Christine headlined the 2023 festival with her band—made it there by sheer

force of will, driving from Mamou, Louisiana, “straight through that damn storm.” By the time the weekend was over, a folklorist panel was the sole event that had to be canceled outright.

“It was the only thing happening. For a weekend, we had a monopoly on entertainment in Chicago,” Greenberg remembers.

C OVID-19 was the other force majeure that interrupted the Folk Festival's normal proceedings, but the festival wasn't canceled; it went virtual in 2021 and piloted a hybrid format in 2022. Helstein says any fears about the efficacy of a virtual festival were dispelled when she saw the artists perform. “Because it was online, artists could perform all over the world, in the regions where their music came from,” Helstein says. “It was incredibly special.”

That made the in-person 2023 Folk Festival something of a homecoming. Society copresidents Cramer and **Nick Rommel**, Class of 2024, a third-year history major, were not only helping the proceedings but also attending their first

Photography by Jason Smith



Photography by Jason Smith

in-person fest since matriculating at UChicago. “You spend months planning an event you have only a nebulous concept of,” says **Eli Haber**, AB’22, copresident of the society during both years affected by COVID. “But that’s what has kept people putting on this event for 60-plus years.”

After COVID restrictions lifted on campus, Cramer and Rommel say, student attendance at both society meetings and Ida Noyes contra dances spiked to levels unseen in more than a decade. “I think a lot of people in the years below us are really, really hungry for RSO involvement. They’re excited to get out and do things,” Cramer explains.

Geezers have taken notice too. In recent years, Helstein says she has counted attendees from her perch in the upper level of Mandel Hall. To her delight, at the 2023 fest she found it easier to count the number of empty seats.

“We called the time of the first festival the folk revival. So maybe that makes this the folk revival revival,” she says.

For those who lived through those early festivals, though, the folk revival never really ended. Helstein is the longest-running attendee and volunteer in Folk Festival history. Kass lives in Hyde Park too, having retired from

the Laboratory Schools in 2015. Before his death in 2004, Mike Fleischer had gone on to helm Flying Fish and Folk Era Records, two influential Chicagoland folk music labels. Mark Greenberg works in folk music as a musician, educator, writer, and media producer based in Montpelier, Vermont. And if you’re lucky, you can catch Elvin Bishop, Mark Naftalin, and Nick Gravenites doing what they do best, albeit usually on stages closer to home: Naftalin in Westport, Connecticut, and Bishop and Gravenites in the San Francisco Bay Area.

As for today’s Folklore Society? After each year’s festival, members take just one week off to congratulate themselves on a job well done. The next Wednesday, they’re back at it again, imagining the timeless sounds next year’s festival might bring. ♦

Hannah Edgar, AB’18, is a Chicago-based freelance writer.



READ ABOUT THE WRITER’S PERFECT DAY AT THE 2023 FOLK FESTIVAL AT [MAG.UCHICAGO.EDU/2023FOLK](https://mag.uchicago.edu/2023folk).

LEGACY

LOVE LETTERS FROM PARIS

For 50 years Janet Flanner, EX 1914 (1892–1978), shared her witty, sharp observations of Europe with New Yorker readers.

BY CARRIE GOLUS, AB'91, AM'93



Janet Flanner, EX 1914, longed to write fiction. An Indiana girl, well brought up, she had abandoned her husband in New York and fled to Europe with her lover, the writer Solita Solano.

The couple settled in Paris, where they lived in a modest hotel on the Left Bank (apartments were so scarce that hotels were cheaper, and both women detested housework). In the morning they breakfasted at the café Les Deux Magots; in the afternoon they worked on their novels; in the evening they drank and chatted with expatriate American friends, among them Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Djuna Barnes, and Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas.

Flanner described her glamorous new life in letters to friends back in America. One friend, Jane Grant, showed the witty, gossipy letters to her husband, Harold Ross. Flanner, she suggested, should be the Paris correspondent for their new, struggling humor magazine. Ross agreed, offering Flanner \$35 (about \$600 today) for a letter every two weeks—a generous sum in Paris between the wars. Ross specified he had no interest in what Flanner thought. He wanted to know what the French were thinking.

Flanner's first letter from Paris appeared in the October 10, 1925, *New Yorker* with the byline Genêt; at the time, everything in the magazine ran under pseudonyms. She had thought Ross might choose "Flâneuse," the feminine form of *flâneur*. "Genêt" was probably based on her first name and intended to obscure her gender; she never knew exactly why Ross chose it.

A breezy digest of current happenings—a bank clerk strike, a lecture series by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a popular new nightclub called the Florida—Flanner's first letter

set the tone for her regular dispatches over the next five decades. Flanner's writing was defined by her wit and sharp observations, as well as the lack of the first-person pronoun: "You're safer with *one* or *it*," she once said. "I is like a fortissimo. It's too loud."

Beginning in the 1950s, as more and more of Flanner's *New Yorker* pieces were published in book form, the literary world took notice of her as a writer, not just a foreign correspondent. An anthology of her postwar writing, *Paris Journal, 1944–1965* (Gollancz, 1966), won the 1966 National Book Award in arts and letters.

With the exception of the war years and occasional travel, Flanner remained in Paris, always living in hotels, always writing for the *New Yorker*, for the next 50 years. She considered Ross to be her inventor; in return, her arch, knowing, witty tone came to define that of the *New Yorker*.

Flanner, the second of three daughters, was born March 13, 1892, in Indianapolis. As an adult, she claimed her father was in real estate; he had investments, but his primary occupation was co-owner of the mortuary Flanner and Buchanan.

The Flanners were an artsy, cultured family. Her mother had hoped to be an actress, and she continued to write and produce plays after her marriage. She wanted Janet to become an actress as well, "but of course I was peculiar-looking," Flanner recalled in an interview with her friend Mary McCarthy. "I suffered so at the sight of my nose. ... I just shuddered at this beak." In 1910 the entire family went to live in Germany for several months. Janet Flanner, then 17, fell in love with Europe and dreamed of returning.

At 20, when she entered the University of Chicago, Flanner already had a gray streak in her hair. She embraced the

For half a century, *New Yorker* readers got their Paris news via dispatches from Genêt, the pen name of Janet Flanner, EX 1914.

social whirl wholeheartedly, keeping schoolwork at arm's length; only the writing courses taught by novelist Robert Morss Lovett held her interest. "I was a very poor student. Such a pity," she told McCarthy. At her dormitory, Green Hall, "they did object to my coming in so often at 3 in the morning. I was mad on dancing." Flanner lasted two years until, as she told McCarthy, "I was requested to leave." (A passionate affair with a woman gym teacher may have had something to do with it.)

Back in Indiana, she reviewed vaudeville and burlesque shows for the *Indianapolis Star*; within a year she had her own bylined column. She kept in touch with college friends, including William Lane Rehm, PhB 1914, who occasionally came to Indianapolis to see her. During a visit in 1918, Rehm and Flanner suddenly decided to marry. At a time when young men were being sent to fight in the Great War, last-minute marriages were not uncommon—and Flanner, despite her newspaper job, was desperate to get out of Indianapolis.

The couple settled into a small apartment in Greenwich Village and quickly made friends in literary and artistic circles. She wrote satirical poems and occasionally published articles and stories; he worked as a bank clerk and painted in the evenings. But the marriage was not a success: Flanner felt "so at sea in my disappointment in not being in love as I had been with women."

Less than a year into her marriage, she met Solita Solano, drama editor of the *New York Tribune*. Solano had lived in China, Japan, and the Philippines, and spoke Spanish and Italian. When *National Geographic* sent her on assignment to Europe, she asked Flanner to come too. Flanner was torn; Solano insisted. They departed in the summer of 1921.

The two traveled throughout Greece, then visited Constantinople, Rome, Florence, Dresden, and Berlin, searching for somewhere to call home. By 1923 they had arrived in Paris—"I wanted Beauty, with a capital B," Flanner explained—settling in an oddly shaped room on the fourth floor of the Hôtel Saint-Germain-des-Prés. They remained there for 16 years.

Flanner took twice-weekly lessons to polish her schoolbook French; in a few months, she spoke fluently with a Parisian accent. She had her graying hair bobbed with bangs.

In cosmopolitan Paris, Flanner and Solano could live together without social censure. Although Flanner was dedicated to Solano, the relationship was nonmonogamous from the start. When asked, Solano once observed that Janet still lived with her—when she remembered to come home.

In the autumn of 1925 Flanner submitted her first letter to the *New Yorker*. She quickly established a routine: she read the daily Paris newspapers—at least eight when she first began—clipping items that caught her interest, which she would then follow up on. She credited the French papers, as well as Ross, for teaching her how to write.

When composing her letter—a process she often found painful—she remained in her hotel room for up to 48 hours at a time, pecking out her copy with two fingers, always with cigarettes nearby. She took her finished copy to the Gare Saint-Lazare, where the French post office had a special desk that sent mail on the fast ship to New York. Often, she heard nothing until her letter was in print.

Like the other aspiring American novelists and artists who crowded into Paris, Flanner and Solano wanted to become famous as quickly as possible. In 1926 Flanner published her first (and only) novel, *The Cubical City* (G. P. Putnam's Sons), a roman à clef about her family and her struggle to love a man the way she loved women. Reviews were mixed. She was amused by one that compared her to John Dos Passos and Sherwood Anderson, calling her writing "too masculine" to be measured against that of women writers.

Flanner started a second family-centric novel with the working title "A State of Bliss," calculating she could finish it in months if she wrote 4,000 words a day—but she didn't. She had thought the *New Yorker* job would underwrite her career as a novelist, but she increasingly realized that her *New Yorker* writing was her career. When *The Cubical City* was reissued decades later as a "lost" work of American fiction, Flanner added a blunt afterword: "I am not a first-class fiction writer as this reprinted first novel shows. Writing fiction is not my gift."

Instead, Flanner began contributing profiles. A *New Yorker* profile, a 3,600-word essay on an individual, was usually assigned to a writer who knew the subject personally. Flanner published her first—signed "Hippolyta," after the queen of the Amazons—on modern dancer Isadora Duncan in 1927. Despite the new byline, the copy, with its wry, cosmopolitan tone, was indisputably Flanner: "The clergy, hearing of (though supposedly without ever seeing) her bare calf, denounced it as violently as if it had been golden."

Even more successful was her 1935 profile of England's Queen Mary, grandmother of Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II). Denied any official information, Flanner patched together a deeply personal article based on information from English journalists, royal dressmakers, and other tradespeople. Ross's opinion: "Superb."

**Like the other
aspiring
American
novelists and
artists who
crowded into
Paris, Flanner
and Solano
wanted to
become famous
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possible.**



Flanner and Hemingway enjoy a drink—one for him, two for her—circa 1944. Both served as US Army war correspondents during the liberation of Paris.

Not all readers appreciated Flanner's obsessive attention to quotidian detail. Hemingway, a close friend, was appalled by her 1937 article on bullfighting, which included a long description of a matador's complicated clothing and noted that after the fight bull meat was available at the local butcher. "Listen, Jan," he told her over drinks at the Deux Magots, "if a journalistic prize is ever given for the worst sports writer of the western world, I'm going to see you get it, pal."

In the 1930s, as the mood in Europe darkened, Flanner's letters grew more serious. The *New Yorker* had been born apolitical, but politics was unavoidable.

Flanner produced a three-part profile of Hitler in 1936, based on sources close to him, as her Queen Mary profile had been. She read *Mein Kampf* in French—although the book was illegal in France—and skewered its ideas in print. As was typical, her piece poked fun at the Führer's quirks: he was a teetotaler and vegetarian in a country of beer and sausages, she pointed out. When the story was collected in *An American in Paris: Profile of an Interlude Between Two Wars* (Hamish Hamilton, 1940), Flanner added a note that its only value was as a period piece from a time when Europe, at its peril, considered Hitler a joke.

Flanner and Solano departed for New York soon after the Nazis invaded Poland. Flanner had no interest in war reporting: send "a writer who is male, young, fighting-minded," she advised the *New Yorker*. For five years, as war decimated Europe, Flanner did not return to her beloved Paris.

When the war in Europe was nearly over, Flanner did go to England as a war correspondent. She traveled the continent wherever she could, heartbroken at the extent of the devastation. The full horrors of the Nazi concentration camps were first beginning to be known: "This is beyond imagination," she wrote to Solano, after she toured Buchenwald with a man who had survived it.

Her first postwar Paris letter ran in December 1944 under her usual pseudonym. Its tone was so angry, editor William

Shawn rewrote the letter to soften it and changed her "we" to "I." Flanner was not sure whether she wanted to stay or leave; in middle age, she had lost faith in the world. Paris was no longer her Paris.

She covered the Nuremberg trials for the *New Yorker*, describing stomach-turning films and snapshots, taken by the Nazis themselves, of what they had done to other human beings. Almost as astonishing to Flanner: the defendants' cowardice and disloyalty to their cause. The 22 Nazis on trial, she observed, "helped put millions of people to death, quickly or slowly, by torture, murder,

or starvation. But not one of them seemed to want to die for the thing they killed the millions for." In 1948 Flanner was named a knight of the Légion d'Honneur, a token of gratitude for her writing since her return to France.

After the war, Flanner's personal life was complicated. In New York she had Natalia Murray, an Italian broadcaster, whose partnership had become the central relationship in her life. In France she had another American woman, Noel Murphy, a friend and lover since before the war. Flanner also remained close with Solita Solano.

Murray pleaded with her to give up her Paris post so they could be together in New York, away from her old attachments and independent way of life. Flanner seriously considered it, even tendering—but then rescinding—her resignation. "You complain that I have three wives," she wrote to Murray, "and the truth is, as you know, that I also have a husband, *The New Yorker*."

In 1949 Flanner moved into the Hôtel Continental, on the rue de Castiglione near the Tuileries gardens; from her small balcony, she could look out over the city. Here she lived alone, "like a monk," as she described it, for the next 20 years. She loved her writer's life, with no distractions, no responsibilities, and room service. In the afternoons, she often held court in the hotel's cocktail bar.

At times Flanner was nostalgic for the Paris of the Lost Generation. "The uglification of Paris," she wrote in the *New Yorker*, "the most famously beautiful city of relatively modern Europe, goes on apace, and more is being carefully planned." Even its beautiful language was being corrupted by American slang. Flanner detested all slang, including "okay."

In one of her final Paris letters, which ran in September 1975, Flanner reminisced about the long-ago days of her youth, sitting "on the broad, hospitable terrace of the Deux Magots café." From there she had watched the brides and grooms outside the church opposite "with vagrant curiosity"—the same way she observed everything in Paris. ♦

PEER REVIEW

WHAT ALUMNI ARE THINKING AND DOING

REFRESH MY MEMORY

Undergrads connect over jukebox tunes and soda pop in an Ida Noyes Hall social room in 1944. Opened in 1916 as an athletic, cultural, and recreational club for women on campus, Ida Noyes Hall quickly became a hub for all students.

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A SELECTION OF ALUMNI WHOSE NAMES ARE IN THE NEWS

ALGER AWARD

Y. Michele Kang, AB'83, is one of 13 recipients of a 2023 Horatio Alger Award, which recognizes individuals who have succeeded in the face of adversity and who are committed to education and philanthropy. Kang emigrated from South Korea to study economics at UChicago, overcoming language and cultural barriers to excel in the male-dominated field, where she focused on emerging technology. After surviving breast cancer, she started her own company, Cognosante, in 2008 to expand access to health care and improve health equity. In 2022 she became the first woman of color to own a National Women's Soccer League team, the Washington Spirit. Kang also supports organizations that aid veterans and their caretakers in recognition of the US soldiers who helped defend her home country during the Korean War.

SAFETY FIRST

Frances Oldham Kelsey, PhD'38, MD'50 (1914–2015), is the eponymous subject of a forthcoming book, *Frances Oldham Kelsey, the FDA, and the Battle Against Thalidomide* (Oxford University Press, 2024) by Cheryl Krasnick Warsh. Kelsey, a pharmacologist and physician, is best known for her work at the Food and Drug Administration, where in September 1960 (during her first month on the job) she refused to approve the drug thalidomide without extensive safety testing. The connection between thalidomide and birth defects was confirmed about 14 months later by two doctors—one in Germany and one in Australia. Kelsey's advocacy spurred landmark reform in FDA approval protocols. Incorporating interviews with family, colleagues, and Kelsey herself, Warsh's book explains the popular reaction to Kelsey's battle against thalidomide within the context of the Cold War.

BROAD-MINDED

Chris Lammers, JD'79, COO emeritus and senior executive adviser at CableLabs, was inducted into the Cable Hall of Fame in September 2022 for



PAGE TO SCREEN

Geoff Manaugh's (AM'01) 2017 short story "Ernest" was adapted into the movie *We Have a Ghost* (2023). Ernest (David Harbour) is a ghost that Kevin's family discovers haunting their suburban Chicago home. The family becomes an overnight sensation when their videos of Ernest go viral. Amid the media attention, Kevin (Jahi Di'Allo Winston) gets to know Ernest, working to understand the ghost's past but inviting CIA scrutiny in the process. The PG-13 film, which also stars Anthony Mackie (pictured in the center), Tig Notaro, and Jennifer Coolidge, was released by Netflix in February.

his leadership and innovation in the industry. In 1985 Lammers transitioned from a law partnership to a role at Western Communications, becoming its CEO in 1993. In 1997 he joined CableLabs as COO, leading the corporation through a period of growth after its release of new broadband technology. Lammers continues to work on special projects with CableLabs and serves on the board of the Emma Bowen Foundation, which helps young people of color begin their careers in the media and technology industry.

SECURITY GUARD

Chuck Brooks, AM'81, has been named Cybersecurity Person of the Year 2022 by the information security industry publication the *Cyber Express* for excellence in his field. Brooks teaches in Georgetown University's graduate applied intelligence and cybersecurity programs and is president of Brooks Consulting International, which specializes in strategy and branding for

tech companies. He is a member of the *Washington Post's* Cybersecurity 202 Network and a visiting editor at *Homeland Security Today*. During President George W. Bush's administration, Brooks served in the Department of Homeland Security as the first legislative director of the Science and Technology Directorate.

LICENSE TO LEAD

Alexi Giannoulias, EX'98, began his first term as Illinois secretary of state on January 9, 2023. Giannoulias served as Illinois state treasurer from 2007 to 2011, making history as the youngest official to win a statewide election in Illinois when he took on the position at age 30. He is a former chair of the Illinois Community College System and has served on the boards of the Chicago Public Library, Cara Collective, Feed Chicago, One Million Degrees, and the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center.

—Chandler A. Calderon and
Maureen Searcy

RELEASES

ALUMNI BOOKS, FILMS, AND RECORDINGS



GOING UNDERGROUND: RACE, SPACE, AND THE SUBTERRANEAN IN THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY UNITED STATES

By Lara Langer Cohen, AB'99; Duke University Press, 2023

The metaphor of the underground—an image of clandestine, subversive activity—was popularized in newspaper coverage of the Underground Railroad in the 1840s. Bringing together a variety of 19th-century American texts—Black radical manifestos, anarchist periodicals, sensational city mystery novels, sex-magic manuals, secret society initiation rites—**Lara Langer Cohen** reveals the layers that the image of the underground contained at the time. This expanded notion of the underground, she suggests, can help us imagine new worldviews and modes of political activity today.

INTO THE JUNGLE! A BOY'S COMIC STRIP HISTORY OF WORLD WAR II

By Michael Kugler, PhD'94, and Jimmy Kugler; University Press of Mississippi, 2023

What can we learn from an adolescent's retelling of World War II? Historian **Michael Kugler** teases out the influences underlying comics that his father, Jimmy, drew as a small-town Nebraska teen in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Drawing on wartime propaganda, news coverage,

radio programming, and movies, Jimmy depicts the Pacific War as a brutal struggle between “Frogs” and “Toads.” Kugler shows how Jimmy developed his voice and rebelled against the moral expectations placed on young people at the time through his unexpected interpretation of history.

AMERICAN MERMAID

By Julia Langbein, AM'07, PhD'14; Doubleday, 2023

High school English teacher Penelope Schleeman quits her job and moves to Los Angeles to write the screenplay of her best-selling novel, *American Mermaid*. **Julia Langbein's** debut novel alternates between satirical depictions of Penny's time among Hollywood “somebodies” and excerpts from her book. As Penny struggles to maintain artistic control over her work, the lines between reality and the fictional world she created begin to blur.

LEARNING TO SAVE THE WORLD: GLOBAL HEALTH PEDAGOGIES AND FANTASIES OF TRANSFORMATION IN BOTSWANA

By Betsey Behr Brada, AM'05, PhD'11; Cornell University Press, 2023

In the early 2000s, Botswana had the highest prevalence rate of HIV in the world. The US government responded

with a program that it claimed provided treatment to tens of thousands—a claim denied by personnel on the ground. Working “as global health's most ardent critic and its most ambivalent friend,” anthropologist **Betsey Behr Brada** examines the United States' involvement in Botswana to understand how global health alters relationships and power dynamics. At the heart of Brada's work lies an ethical question: Is global health a social justice movement or a guise for neocolonialism?

BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE: HOW LIBERTARIAN PHILOSOPHY WAS CORRUPTED BY DELUSION AND GREED

By Andrew Koppelman, AB'79; St. Martin's Press, 2022

What some Americans understand libertarianism to be—a way of thinking that led to firefighters in South Fulton, Tennessee, watching a house burn after the owner failed to pay his annual fee to the fire department—is a corrupted form of the ideology, argues **Andrew Koppelman**. A professor of constitutional law, Koppelman aims to show readers what this understanding of libertarianism gets wrong and how moderate libertarianism may be the best means of realizing ideals of both the right and the left.

—Chandler A. Calderon

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

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.



In the cards: An employee flips through the library's first card catalog in this ca. 1893 photograph. The University's library opened in 1892 and spent its first decade in a temporary one-story building that also housed the gymnasium and the University's press. Hutchinson Courtyard occupies that site today. What was the most surprising book you discovered at the library? Share your stories from the stacks with us at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

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



Your witches that go by land, by air, and by sea: Linda (Libera) Pinney, AB'58, and castmates get ready for a November 1955 University Theater performance of *The Crucible*. Maroon writer Judy (Podore) Ward, AB'58, gave the play a measured review, calling it "powerful and dramatic, in spite of an occasional stiffness in its presentation." Did you pal around backstage during any theater productions on campus? Were you a card-carrying member of the Communist Party? Send your confessions to uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

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We get groovin' when the sun goes down: Recent alumni let it all hang out at the 1967 Reunion Fling. What Alumni Weekend experiences had your hearts a-thumpin'? Contact us, no matter where you are, no matter how far, at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

Photography by Stanley Karter, EX'66; UChicago Photographic Archive, apf3-02045, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library



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Whirlwind visit: On October 19, 1977, Prince Charles (King Charles III as of September 2022) spent four hours at UChicago. The bells of Rockefeller Chapel announced the prince's arrival outside Ida Noyes Hall. He joined 230 students for beef tenderloin at the Cloister Club, considered student protesters' "Free Ireland" signs, led a discussion on King George III at Burton Judson Courts, admired the scanning electron microscope laboratory, and sipped tea at Swift Hall. Laura Naujokas Stern, AB'80, shared her memory of the event: "I was fortunate to be selected as a student for a luncheon. He had asked for a diverse group of students. ... I like to tell friends and family that I had lunch with Prince Charles. Quite a memory from my college days." The King's coronation is scheduled to take place May 6. Did you cross paths with a VIP during your U of C days? Regale us with your tale at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

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Urban legend: Irving Spergel (second from right), the George Herbert Jones Professor Emeritus in the School of Social Service Administration, speaks with colleagues in 1984. Working at UChicago for nearly half a century, Spergel, who died in 2010, dedicated his career to understanding the complex causes of gang violence and developing a holistic, community-focused response that became known as the Spergel model. Share your memories of Irving Spergel with us at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

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Jamb session: Members of ska and soul band the Adjusters strike a pose in 1996. After their first show, held in a UChicago basement, the group went on to release three studio albums. Over the years, the band's personnel included Jessica Basta, AB'95; Matthew Rudd, SM'96; Jason Packer, SB'97; Clayton Harper, AB'98; Ben Getting, AB'98; Nick Dempsey, AB'98, AM'02, PhD'08; Matt Parker, AM'98, PhD'05; Daraka Kenric Larimore-Hall, AB'99; Joan Axthelm, AB'99; Raphael Leib, EX'99; Tom Howe, AB'00, SM'07; Julien Headley, AB'03; and Josh Thurston-Milgrom, AB'08. Were you there when the Adjusters got their start? We want to hear about it: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

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My cuppa runneth over: Friends spill the tea during a midcentury International House fête. Founder Harry Edmonds (with funding from John D. Rockefeller Jr.) established three International Houses in the United States and one in Paris to provide scholars from around the world with a space to live and learn together and a forum for conversations on global issues. For 90 years, International House at the University of Chicago has done both. Did you live in I-House or attend an event there? Share your I-House memories with us at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

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DEATHS

FACULTY AND STAFF

Albert Madansky, AB'52, SM'55, PhD'58, the H. G. B. Alexander Professor Emeritus of Business Administration, died December 8 in Chicago. He was 88. As a mathematician at the RAND Corporation during the Cold War, he coauthored a report that recommended a system to require coded safety locks on nuclear weapons and the approval of at least two people to launch a nuclear attack; versions of this system are still in use today. Madansky joined the Chicago Booth faculty in 1974, serving in roles such as associate dean for PhD studies and deputy dean for faculty. His many publications include *Foundations of Econometrics* (1976) and *Prescriptions for Working Statisticians* (1988). A frequent participant in UChicago Hillel's annual Latke-Hamantash Debate, Madansky brought his problem-solving skills and sense of humor to discussing three of his passions: scholarship, Judaism, and food. He is survived by his wife, **Paula (Barkan) Madansky**, AB'59; four children, including **Susan Groner**, MBA'85, and **Michele Madansky**, MBA'90, PhD'99; three stepchildren, including **Deborah Halzman**, MBA'88; 13 grandchildren, including **Noa Ohcana**, SB'18; and a great-grandchild.

Norman Lebovitz, SM'57, PhD'61, professor emeritus of mathematics, died December 28 in New Buffalo, MI. He was 87. Lebovitz joined the faculty in 1963 as a founding member of the applied mathematics program, which he chaired for many years. He earned his doctorate in physics under astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, with whom he collaborated for decades. Lebovitz was known for his work on the fluid mechanics of rotating stars and self-gravitating masses, and for developing and applying mathematical methods to problems of geophysical and astrophysical fluid dynamics. Beginning in 1985, he participated in the summer program on geophysical fluid dynamics at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He published more than 70 scientific papers and edited two books; in 2012 he was elected a fellow of the American Physical Society. He is survived by his wife, **Ruth Lebovitz**, AM'67; sons **David Lebovitz**, LAB'93, PhD'19, and **Michael Lebovitz**, LAB'98; and four grandchildren.

Erik Shirokoff, associate professor in astronomy and astrophysics, died January 26 in Chicago of complications resulting from a fall. He was 43. A senior member of the Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics, Shirokoff specialized in developing instruments to pick up faint signals from the early ages of the universe. He joined the UChicago faculty in 2014. He published more than 100 papers and received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award in 2016. As a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, Shirokoff helped build the

first detectors for the South Pole Telescope, which he later spent an Antarctic winter operating. His detectors are deployed in the Tomographic Ionized Carbon Intensity Mapping Experiment at the Arizona Radio Observatory as well as in instruments to be installed in the South Pole Telescope and the Large Millimeter Telescope in Mexico. Survivors include his spouse, **Alanna S. Radlo-Dzur**, AM'16; and his parents.

1940s

Lenore S. Clark, PhD'47, of Lake Bluff, IL, died December 15. She was 96. Clark was professor emerita of bibliography in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma (OU), from which she earned her master's degree in library science. In 22 years at OU, Clark served as assistant to the dean for collection development, humanities librarian, and director of acquisitions at the Bizzell Memorial Library. While working full time and raising four children, she completed a master's in art history and a doctorate in American studies, publishing her dissertation on 20th-century art critic Forbes Watson. She is survived by two daughters, two sons, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Margaret C. Warne Nelson, SM'47, AM'50, died July 26 in Alexandria, VA. She was 99. A graduate of Oberlin College, Nelson earned degrees in anthropology and zoology at UChicago. After earning a PhD in sociology at American University, Nelson taught at George Washington University. She served as a staff associate at the American Association of University Women, writing for the group's publications and lecturing around the country. She was also active with the Arlington County League of Women Voters. She is survived by a son, a sister, and three grandchildren.

William Fonger, SB'48, SM'50, PhD'53, died October 3 in Milton, DE. He was 97. Born in Chicago, Fonger served in the US Navy. After attending UChicago, he moved to Princeton, NJ, and worked at RCA Labs in the David Sarnoff Research Center until 1987. He is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Isaac Sandroff "Sandy" Goldman, LAB'48, AB'51, JD'54, of Chicago, died December 12. He was 90. Goldman's career in investment management spanned more than six decades, beginning at Stein Roe & Farnham, where he worked from 1959 to 1981 and became a partner. He later established Goldman Asset Management and in 2010 joined Front Barnett Associates as a senior portfolio manager and member of the investment committee. His volunteer activities included serving as a commissioner of the Chicago Housing Authority, a trustee of the City Colleges of Chicago and the Peggy Notebaert

Nature Museum, and a board member of the Smart Museum of Art. Goldman is survived by his wife, **Jennifer Goldman**, CER'96; one child; and four grandchildren.

1950s

Paul Taxey, AB'50, AM'54, SB'56, of Dallas, died January 15. He was 91. Born in Chicago, Taxey attended Marshall High School and studied biology, philosophy, and education at UChicago. He spent more than 40 years teaching biological sciences at the University of Illinois Chicago. Survivors include three children and five grandchildren.

Fred Matthies, MD'53, died November 16 in Portland, OR. He was 95. Matthies practiced family medicine in Utah and pediatrics in Michigan; he spent most of his career in Carson, CA, training residents at the Family Health Center, a clinic serving lower-income patients. Keenly interested in astronomy, he witnessed two full solar eclipses, an appearance of Halley's Comet, and a transit of Venus. Survivors include his wife, Susan; two daughters; three sons; a brother; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Edwin Stickney, MD'54, died December 23 in Billings, MT. He was 95. Stickney served in the US Army during the Korean War and graduated from Macalester College before attending medical school. A family physician, he practiced in Broadus and later Miles City, MT. After earning his pilot's license, he often flew between towns to see patients. He played organ, piano, and other instruments; directed church choirs; and sang tenor in many musical groups throughout his life. He was an active Democrat who served as president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Montana and supported many local nonprofit organizations. Survivors include three children, a brother, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

James O'Donoghue, MBA'55, of Wilbraham, MA, died December 17. He was 92. O'Donoghue served in the US Army as a special agent in the Counter Intelligence Corps. After business school, he became a branch manager for the Friden division of Singer Inc. in Springfield, MA, supervising sales and service of early computer products. Later he launched an independent computer service bureau, was national sales manager for Transcom Inc., and established O'Donoghue Associates, which sold barcode systems, printers, and software to New England businesses. Survivors include his wife, Rosemary; two daughters; a stepson; and two granddaughters.

Joyce Allen Springer, AB'56, of Chatsworth, CA, died January 16. She was 86. After raising her children, Springer pursued a career in the business world, eventually working as a risk manager at Sears Savings Bank; after it closed, she joined Farmers Insurance as

an agent. Retiring in 1996, she volunteered for many years with Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic. She is survived by a daughter and a son.

Michael Kavanaugh, AB'58, died August 17 in Estill County, KY. He was 91. Kavanaugh explored philosophy and wisdom traditions from around the world throughout his life. He was committed to helping those in recovery from addiction, teaching self-awareness grounded in meditation. He is survived by his wife, Ann Siudmak.

Charles "Herb" Kelty, AB'58, SB'62, died December 18 in Mountain View, CA. He was 89. Kelty worked as an engineer for multiple companies, including North American Aviation and Litton, before founding his own business, Exotec, which made custom plastic and rubber parts. He settled in Palo Alto, CA, in 1977. He is survived by three sons, two grandchildren, and his girlfriend.

1960s

Dorothy Cooperman Kavka, AB'62, of Evanston, IL, died December 15. She was 82. Kavka studied English literature at the College and the University of Wisconsin and taught English in Chicago public high schools before taking time off to raise her children. Later, after working as an editor at McDougal Littell in Evanston, Kavka launched a newsletter publishing business from her sunporch. It grew into Evanston Publishing, a company she ran until her retirement. She was also a visual artist who exhibited her drawings in gallery shows. Kavka is survived by her husband, **Steve Kavka**, SB'61 (Class of 1962), MD'65; three children, including **Amy Kavka**, AB'88; and five grandchildren.

G. Gerald Fross, AM'63, died December 27 in Scottsdale, AZ. He was 85. With his graduate degree in social work, Fross worked in real estate development. He also served in the US Army reserves. A lover of sports—he played golf and basketball—he was a member of the Cadillac Car Club of Scottsdale. He is survived by his partner, Gail Connerty.

Peggy S. Rampersad, AM'63, PhD'78, CER'98, of Fredericksburg, VA, died January 20, 2022. She was 89. A student of UChicago sociologist Edward Shils, Rampersad wrote her dissertation on conflict and power structures in universities. An academic administrator, she worked in UChicago's economics department during a 12-year period when five professors became Nobel laureates. Retiring in 1995, she completed the Basic Program of Liberal Education at the Graham School. A bench outside International House has been dedicated in Rampersad's memory. Her husband, Oliver R. Rampersad, PhB'46, SM'54, PhD'61, died in 1994. She is survived by a daughter, **Gita Rampersad**, LAB'87.

Karen Honeycutt, AB'64, of New York City, died November 14. She was 80. A history major in the College, Honeycutt earned a PhD in modern German history from

Columbia University and a JD from New York Law School. After retiring from her career as a labor lawyer, she became an accomplished underwater photographer. She is survived by two sisters, including **Susan Clark**, AB'66, AM'73.

James Fullinwider, AB'66, died January 2 in St. Louis. He was 78. With a PhD in history from Washington University in St. Louis, Fullinwider taught at Saint Louis Priory School for eight years before joining Monsanto as a speechwriter. A passionate reader of biographies as well as works on history and world cultures, he loved to travel—especially to Spain and Italy—and lived briefly in Hong Kong. Fullinwider loved holiday family get-togethers, along with cooking, camping, fishing, sampling multicultural cuisine, and listening to the symphony. He is survived by his wife, Marguerite "Midge" Fischer; two daughters; a sister; a brother; two stepchildren; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

William Koelsch, PhD'66, of San Diego, died November 5. He was 89. After earning his bachelor's degree from Bucknell University, he served in the US Army Transportation Corps; an oral history of his service is online at the Library of Congress. Joining the geography faculty of Clark University in 1967, Koelsch was one of the first educators to teach about the gay liberation movement and the AIDS epidemic. A longtime LGBTQ activist, Koelsch wrote a column during the 1970s and '80s for *Gay Community News* under the pseudonym "A. Nolder Gay"; papers related to his activism are held at the ONE Archives at the University of Southern California Libraries. His many publications include *Clark University, 1887–1987: A Narrative History* (1987). He is survived by his partner, Joseph Dennison.

Alan Lieberman, AB'66, died August 27 in San Francisco. He was 77. Lieberman worked in the public interest sector throughout his five-decade career as an attorney. A graduate of New York University School of Law, Lieberman worked for legal services programs in Chicago, Micronesia, and Chico, CA, before joining the Legal Services Corporation in Washington, DC. As a California deputy attorney general, he contributed to the state's tobacco and alcohol litigation efforts. Lieberman was active with the world peace organization Servas for decades; he was also an accomplished musician who played piano and guitar. Survivors include his wife, Debbie; three children; two brothers; and seven grandchildren.

Ralph Berlovitz, EX'67, of Minneapolis, died October 24, 2021. He was 74. A photographer in Minnesota, Berlovitz operated the Victorian Photographer studio and an old-time State Fair photo booth. He was also a sailor, saxophonist, and world traveler. Survivors include two sisters.

Gary G. Christoph, SM'69, PhD'71, died July 3, 2021, in Columbia, MD. He was 76. Graduating from Caltech and UChicago with degrees in chemistry and chemical physics, Christoph held academic and re-

search appointments at Caltech, Ohio State University, 3M Corporation, and Los Alamos National Laboratory. As an operating systems engineer for Cray Supercomputers, Christoph specialized in network security. He brought his information technology and health care expertise to leadership roles in the federal government—at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the National Institutes of Health—and several private companies. Christoph was also a private pilot and butterfly collector. He is survived by his wife, Christine; a daughter; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Sherwin Pakin, MBA'69, of Chicago, died December 14. He was 84. Pakin studied industrial engineering and mathematics at the Illinois Institute of Technology before earning an MBA. After working at IBM for many years, he joined his wife in creating Sandra Pakin and Associates, a computer documentation consultancy. Pakin served on the board of Light Opera Works (now Music Theater Works) and as president of the Independent Computer Consultants Association. He loved the opera, music, and writing songs and stories for his family. He is survived by his wife, Sandra; two children; and four grandchildren.

Deanna Dragunas Bennett, AB'67, died February 22 in Palm Harbor, FL. She was 77. With master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin and Harvard Kennedy School, Bennett supported the US military for 32 years through positions in computing and research and development, receiving two Meritorious Civilian Service Awards. The author of several books, short stories, and articles, Bennett enjoyed helping aspiring writers and volunteering with Palm Harbor's East Lake Community Library. She likewise dedicated much of her time to the UChicago alumni community, serving as president of the Alumni Club of Mid-Florida for 11 years and as the Class of 1967's Alumni News correspondent for this magazine for 25 years. She received the Alumni Service Award in 2005. Survivors include her sister.

1970s

Thomas Cook, AM'70, PhD'75, of Franklin Lakes, NJ, died November 8. He was 76. In his early work as an anthropologist, Cook specialized in stone tool analysis. After leaving research archaeology, he established a career in document control at various pharmaceutical companies, retiring from Sanofi in 2016. Cook served as a scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts and was an active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where he taught Bible classes and served as a Stephen Minister and an elder. He is survived by his wife, Karen Ann Holm, and two children.

Stephen A. Canders, JD'72, of Kennebunk, ME, died October 18. He was 75. Canders was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Colby College who lived from one end of Maine to the other, in Washburn, Augusta, and Kennebunk. He practiced law for his entire career, spending part of it as general counsel for the

Finance Authority of Maine. He is survived by his wife, Joan Cook; a daughter; three sons; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Lee Schlesinger, AB'72 (Class of 1970), AM'74, PhD'86, of Ann Arbor, MI, died September 1. He was 74. The Vietnam War and events of 1968 disrupted Schlesinger's path to a bachelor's degree, and he dropped out of the College to serve in the Peace Corps in Apshinge, a village in Maharashtra, India. Returning to UChicago to complete his studies in social anthropology, Schlesinger focused his research on generations of families in Apshinge. He did research and taught at various institutions, including the University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, and the Center for Transcultural Studies in Chicago. Schlesinger was active in seminars, conferences, and study groups on topics such as Jewish theology and ancient Greek philosophy. He is survived by his wife, Lisa Klopfer, and two sisters.

Roger T. Brice, JD'73, died January 2 in Chicago. He was 74. With a lifelong interest in labor and employment law, Brice spent 26 years as a partner at Dentons US LLP and its predecessor firms. Previously, he was a partner or associate at several Chicago law firms and an attorney with the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, DC. Brice served on the board of directors and as pro bono counsel for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago for 25 years; in retirement, he volunteered at Catholic Charities legal aid clinics and led the Villa Neighborhood Association. Survivors include his wife, Carol; three children, including **Caitlin Marie Brice**, AB'00, and **Emily Elisabeth Brice**, AB'06; and five grandchildren.

Quent Gillard, PhD'75, of Bend, OR, died November 15. He was 75. Born in Germany during the Allied occupation, Gillard came to UChicago to pursue graduate studies in urban economic geography. After several years in academe, he focused his career on environmental consulting for military projects. He also was active in the Bend-Mount Bachelor Rotary Club. Gillard is survived by his wife, Linda; a daughter; a son; a sister; and four grandchildren.

Richard Scanlon, EX'76, died January 1 in Chicago. He was 68. Scanlon's professional life included bartending at Jimmy's Woodlawn Tap, commodities trading at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and accounting at Powell's Books. A sports fan, especially of New England teams, he enjoyed photography, his dogs, and anything having to do with numbers. Scanlon is survived by his wife, Lynn Siegel; two sisters; and a brother.

Arthur Leon Beamon, JD'72, of Washington, DC, died February 10, 2022. He was 79. 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. (*This notice corrects information in the Winter/23 issue.*—Ed.)

1980s

James E. Ford, PhD'81, of Salt Lake City, died November 25. He was 79. An English professor, Ford spent his academic career at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and Brigham Young University. His scholarship focused on the philosophical foundations of critical theory. He was passionate about music and theater and was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. With his second wife, Ariel Bybee, an opera singer and a voice professor, Ford created dozens of programs combining music and literature, which the couple performed in venues around the world. Survivors include six children, a sister, and 14 grandchildren.

Helen MacIsaac, EX'81, died December 11 in Washington, DC, of cancer. She was 63. MacIsaac held senior roles in corporate development, finance, and marketing, leading start-up and social enterprise ventures in Europe and the United States. After completing her undergraduate work at Barnard College and a business degree at New York University, she joined the first cohort of the MBA Enterprise Corps in 1991, with postings in Slovenia and Hungary. MacIsaac went on to executive roles at Sara Lee Corporation, the Global Good Fund, and HipSilver, among others, and consulted for AARP Services Inc. She is survived by her husband, Eric Kuhn; a sister; and two brothers.

1990s

Spencer Allen, MBA'93, died July 18 in Laguna Niguel, CA. He was 55. A Pomona College and Chicago Booth graduate, he had a successful career in finance, holding leadership positions at Hyundai Capital America, Capital One, and HSBC, among others. Survivors include two sons, his parents, and a brother.

Jolyon Ticer-Wurr, AM'96, PhD'14, of Chicago, died December 12 following a medical procedure. He was 63. Ticer-Wurr served for 12 years as a resident head in UChicago's undergraduate housing system. During his graduate studies in sociology, he participated in and coordinated the department's Urban Workshop and worked on the Comparative Neighborhood Study. His dissertation focused on "Dover," a pseudonymous Chicago neighborhood with a growing Latino population. Ticer-Wurr later taught courses around the city and did research and consulting in the educational and political spheres. He coauthored the entry "Chicago Studied: Social Scientists and Their City" for *The Encyclopedia of Chicago* (2005).

Survivors include his wife, LaShanda, and two children.

2000s

Mark W. Zieg, MBA'03, of Winchester, MA, died November 5. He was 56. Following undergraduate studies in German and chemistry, Zieg specialized in international business at Chicago Booth and went on to work with a number of pharmaceutical companies. During his graduate business school years, he often piloted his Cessna 172 to Meigs Field in downtown Chicago. Zieg loved to play violin, piano, and ukulele; travel; hike; camp; sail; and surf. He is survived by his partner, Andrea Lohmann de Araujo; a daughter; a son; his mother; and two brothers.

Megan O'Reilly Hayes Mahoney, AB'05, of Emporia, KS, died January 15 of sarcoma. She was 40. Mahoney was an associate professor and librarian at Emporia State University (ESU) in Kansas. She studied English in the College and later completed a master's degree in library and information science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She and her husband were active members of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Parish in Emporia, assisting with marriage preparation and teaching natural family planning, and at the Diddy Catholic Campus Center at ESU. She is survived by her husband, Tom; three children; and her father.

2010s

Joe K. Gardner, AB'13, died suddenly September 18 in Los Angeles. He was 31. At the College he majored in sociology and tutored students on Chicago's South Side through the Neighborhood Schools Program. An advocate for broader access to higher education, Gardner got a job after graduation helping first-generation students complete their college applications. Moving to California in 2014, he joined the nonprofit organization College Track in Oakland and later in Los Angeles, mentoring hundreds of students as they earned bachelor's degrees. Gardner was an athlete who loved biking and being outdoors. He is survived by his partner, Farah Noor; his parents; his stepmother; and two brothers, including **David Gardner**, AB'04.

Anastasia Golovashkina, AB'15, of Boston, died July 18 of brain cancer. She was 28. Golovashkina studied economics and public policy at the College. Active in the UChicago Democrats, she was a columnist and reporter for the *Chicago Maroon*. After graduation she served as the social media director for Elizabeth Warren's 2020 presidential campaign and as a senior director at Trilogity Interactive, a digital consulting firm. In an op-ed published by *Elle* magazine in 2021, she shared her experience with glioblastoma and implored President Joe Biden to push ahead with federal efforts to cure cancer. Survivors include her mother.

THE UCHICAGOAN

Santa Ono

AB'84

*Questions for the immunologist
and 15th president of
the University of Michigan.*



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

I really love the power of movies. Bringing together screenwriting, cinematography, and music to tell stories and to evoke both emotions and thought would have been an attractive profession.

What do you love that everyone else hates?

There are quite a few Coldplay haters in the world. I love their music and that Chris Martin, Jonny Buckland, Guy Berryman, and Will Champion met at University College London. I was also at UCL when their debut album *Parachutes* was all the rage.

What was the last book you finished?

I've just read *The View from the Helm* by James Duderstadt, the 11th president of the University of Michigan. It was great preparation for the start of my own term as Michigan's president.

What was the last book you recommended to a friend?

I often recommend **Hanna Holborn Gray's** *An Academic Life: A Memoir*. It tells the story of life in academia and the challenges of leading a major university. Together with Duderstadt's book, her memoir should be required reading for anyone interested in academic administration.

What was the last book you put down before you finished it?

I rushed to buy *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom because it involves interactions between a student and a dying college professor. I had expected pearls of wisdom about the meaning of life, but it was devoid of any such content. I put the book down halfway through.

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

The best piece of advice I ever received was from UChicago biochemistry professor Herbert C. Friedmann, PhD'58. He said, "Santa, the most important advice I have for you is to pursue your dreams and to be courageous. Don't give a damn if people think you are crazy. Everyone working at the cutting edge is considered to be crazy by those doing incremental research."



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