

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE



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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE

JULY–AUG 2014
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At Alumni Weekend
this June, a tiny
Maroon got a tiny
pennant—and a ride.





Internal affairs

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

Volume 106, Number 6, July–Aug 2014

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Each June brings a Monday morning when two College students appear at the *Magazine's* offices for their first day as summer interns. They walk into a whirlwind. Inevitably, the start date falls during deadline week, when the whole staff is rushing about, headless-chicken-like, to get the July–Aug issue done. New blood in, new issue out—almost.

Associate editors **Lydialyle Gibson** and **Jason Kelly**, who run the intern program, plan ahead to ensure the newcomers have reporting and writing to dive into while the rest of us hunker down with proofing and production. But first impressions count, and they get a glimpse of us at our most manic: editing after the time for editing has passed, crowdsourcing puns for headlines, double-checking facts, running from color printer to proofreader's desk to designer's. Laughing a lot and not-quite-crying a little. What must they think of us?

Historically they've been unfazed, or tactful. This year's interns, **Minna Jaffery**, '15, and **Kathryn Vandervalk**, '16, are no exception. They're doing a wonderful job of acting as if the people around them are acting completely normal. We really appreciate it.

Minna is an English and Near Eastern languages and cultures double major who grew up in the Middle East. This summer she's catching up on classic novels that weren't assigned in her Bahrain high school—*The Catcher in the Rye*, *Slaughterhouse-Five*, and *Lolita*, for instance—and reading contemporary Middle Eastern fiction for her BA thesis. She loves F. Scott Fitzgerald and London, where she studied last autumn quarter.



Kathryn came to the College from New Jersey, drawn by the Core curriculum. She's majoring in English and performance studies, with mock trial and theater for extracurriculars, and gives campus tours for the admissions office. Growing up near New York City, she saw a lot of Broadway plays and admires Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* above all.

Look for Minna's and Kathryn's work in future print issues and on our website, mag.uchicago.edu. Their stories will appear there regularly this summer as they help us provide fresh UChicago intelligence between mailings.

The Jeff Metcalf Internship Program, which has sponsored the *Magazine's* interns since 1997, reached a milestone this year: 1,000 positions designated for students in the College (see "Summer Jobs Report," page 15). Through alumni support, the Metcalfs offer UChicago students meaningful work and, unlike many internships of similar substance, meaningful pay. As part of the program from way back, we raise a glass to Career Advancement for reaching their grand—or we will, as soon as we get our heads back. ♦

LETTERS

Good reads

Have read through the May–June/14 issue of the alumni magazine three times already, and maybe three more times might “do it.” Shared several of the articles with friends and relatives. Being

Being introduced to the poetry of Maureen McLane, PhD’97, was sufficient, right there.

introduced to the poetry of Maureen McLane, PhD’97, was sufficient, right there (“What to Make of It”). Hope you and the staff keep up the good work.

Received an MBA degree in 1955 in the business school downtown and

regretted not being on campus. Am now retired at age 91 and one of the lucky ones with no serious disability. My wife has fared as well.

Patrick J. Colombo, MBA’55
CLARENDON HILLS, ILLINOIS

Spirited away

Abbie Reese’s (MFA’13) article “Ordered Lives” in the May–June/14 edition was quite an eye-opener to a very different world than any of us probably has ever had a glimpse of.

Here is quite an admirable combination of transcendence, visualization, commitment, and self-reflection that is hard to imagine that any human being can sustain in a cloistered, monastic environment over time and still have

the stamina and interest in carrying out the daily chores on their property.

Although there are ascetic monks and priests from various religions who proclaim to have similar lifestyles, I don’t think, at least in my lifetime, that we have had a public view of these largely hidden but beautiful people.

Expanding the heart through extensive prayer undoubtedly takes exceptional courage, humility, and generosity where one puts oneself to-

tally in God’s hands. How long these individuals can sustain this kind of withdrawal from society is an open question beyond the scope of this article. The level of turnover of these people (coming and going) over time is a curiosity of mine as some must recirculate back to “regular” society. Maybe not?

I thank the photographer for giving us a candid view of some of those within the walls of this particular monastery.

Thomas H. Kieren, MBA’68
OAK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY

Inspiring Nadler

Although our contact was so brief, Judi Nadler’s life and career and her contribution to the library of my alma mater have been an inspiration to me (Glimpses, May–June/14). Her interest in Special Collections, to which my wife, Barbara, and I have made a small contribution, will always remain a special memory. Her role in the construction of the Mansueto Library will be a permanent monument to her leadership, and it was my privilege to watch it grow literally from the ground up.

Barbara and I wish Judi well in all her future endeavors, and it is our hope that our paths will cross often in the future.

William M. (Bill) Yoffee, AB’52
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

Uncommon grace

The best word I can think of to describe George Anastaplo, AB’48, JD’51, PhD’64 (Deaths, May–June/14), as I knew him in the 1980s during my tenure at Illinois State University, is gracious. I was especially impressed by his warm spirit of hospitality following conferences downtown when a good number of us would be invited to his Hyde Park home for little receptions.

I was never one of his students, but I was well acquainted with his books and articles in my field (political philosophy) and admired his combination of scholarship and piety. I’m sure George could barely recognize me, and yet he treated me as one of his own, right along with alums who had been in his classes and were old friends.

John Gueguen, PhD’70
KIRKWOOD, MISSOURI



Abbie Reese, MFA’13, captured daily life in the Poor Clare Colettine order.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ABBIE REESE, MFA’13

Miltonic freedom

Richard Timberlake, PhD'59, deservedly a proud Miltonian economist, points out (*Letters*, Mar–Apr/14) that none of the 18 speakers (both Democrats and Republicans) discussing the 2008 financial crisis at a symposium, reported on in these pages, disagreed or criticized the government remedy of spending programs. He correctly takes issue with all the speakers and explains why. His last sentence laments: “Where are you, Milton, when we need you most?”

Indeed! You don’t have to be a Friedmaniatic to take Timberlake’s analysis one step further—a Friedmanian would suffice. Had Milton Friedman, AM’33, been around, he would have explained why 18 speakers from both parties agreed with the government position by pointing out that most, if not all, have served in the administration.

A clueless journalist once asked Milton, “If you’re so smart and so right, why aren’t you in the government?” To which Milton responded by explaining that once you join the government you’re part of a team and lose the right to express yourself independently. He ended with something like, I believe I can be more useful serving the country better by thinking and expressing myself independently.

Sol S. Shalit, MBA’65, PhD’70
LEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Beyond the pale

I am writing about Donald L. Meccia’s (AB’85) letter in the May–June/14 issue entitled “Divine Origins.” I am dismayed that it was published in the *Magazine*, given your usual high standards of thoughtful discussion. I don’t always agree with the viewpoints expressed in the letters section, but that’s fine—indeed part of the fun. However, Meccia’s letter was beyond the pale.

I certainly understand the value of having an open airing of ideas from various perspectives. After I received my SM in physics at Chicago, I went on to a PhD in philosophy at the Johns Hopkins University, with a specialty in philosophy of science, and have recently retired after a long career teaching philosophy—an area where the airing of various points of view

is indeed strongly encouraged. And I always encouraged such exchanges in my classes. However, one thing I did not encourage was ignorant, unintelligible, and mean-spirited criticisms of opposing views.

I have no problem with a careful comparison of religion and science in various issues of public concern—in particular the place of humans in the universe. But Meccia’s letter is rudely dismissive of science, while egregiously misunderstanding and/or misrepresenting current developments in cosmology, and an excuse for him to simply state (his own version

of) the view of the Catholic Church regarding what cosmological research has shown about our place in the physical universe.

The clincher was the forthcoming “documentary” to which Meccia refers, *The Principle*, which he urges us to watch when it is released. It is a slick creationist rant, complete with the usual tricks of false claims, quoting scientists out of context, etc. Those who doubt this can judge for themselves. Just Google “The Principle” or see the trailer here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8cBvMCucTg. It is not much different than some of those

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Books that win awards have *lower* Goodreads ratings. Is that from raised expectations, or worse-matched readers? mag.uchicago.edu/arts-humanities/reading-reviews



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Very Bad Wizards @verybadwizards • May 21
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Sara Hupp @Sara_Hupp • May 20
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LETTERS

nasty negative political campaign ads we are all too familiar with.

I hope that the *University of Chicago Magazine* will in the future ferret out the nonsense (and worse) in the various points of view being proposed for airing in the letters section. Science is now under attack in many quarters—evolution, climate change, vaccination, etc., and I would hope that the *Magazine* does not inadvertently play into that, the way the mass media often does with the false “fairness” of presenting all points of view as if they were all equally deserving of serious attention.

Marshall Spector, SM’59
SETAUKET, NEW YORK

I’m very sorry that Donald L. Meccia didn’t learn any science in the College, but I’m even sorrier that he is so lacking in Google skills. If he had Googled the documentary he touts, he would have learned what various authorities interviewed by the filmmakers said.

Max Tegmark says, “They cleverly tricked a whole bunch of us scientists into thinking that they were independent filmmakers doing an ordinary cosmology documentary, without mentioning anything about their hidden agenda.” George Ellis (who, by the way, was awarded the Templeton Prize for his “contributions to the dialogue between science and religion”): “I was interviewed for it but they did not disclose this agenda, which of course is nonsense. I don’t think it’s worth responding to—it just gives them publicity. To ignore is the best policy. But for the record, I totally disavow that silly agenda.” Lawrence Krauss said he had

Recent discourse about returning veterans would not be complete without mention of a sorry moment in our university’s history.



Better ways to budget at the Treasury Building in Washington, DC?

no recollection of being interviewed for the film and would have refused to be in it if he had known more about it. Michio Kaku said that the film was likely “clever editing” of his statements and that it bordered on “intellectual dishonesty.” The producer, Rick DeLano, claimed that Krauss signed a release form, but he refused to show a copy to *Popular Science*.

I conclude that DeLano and the rest associated with this production had to resort to trickery to try to support their nonsense.

Robert Michaelson, SB’66, AM’73
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Budget analysis

I read the synopsis of the Mahoney/Liebman study on federal year-end spending with interest and a sense of déjà vu (“Surge Protection,” Fig. 1, *UChicago Journal*, Mar–Apr/14). As a budget analyst, then resource manager, of a federal organization for over 20 years, I had on more than one occasion wished for multiyear funding to relieve the use-or-lose pressure on year-end operations and maintenance funding. While Mahoney and Liebman correctly point out that some IT funding is already multiyear (as is some for R&D and construction), there is still a long way to go.

The only caveat I would add to their analysis is that year-end fund-

ing is not always forced to be spent on “lower quality projects.” Most federal agencies have program/budgeting feedback throughout the year and determine priority funding requirements for any year-end funding that may be available. Many of these are quality of life issues that during the year cannot compete for funds held in reserve for operations (which can be anything from overtime for civilians to unexpected equipment expenses or increases in necessary supplies/utilities costs). Nevertheless, it is a good debate to pursue.

Scott Sunquist, AM’80
MONS, BELGIUM

Unbecoming

Recent discourse about returning veterans (Letters, May–June/14) would not be complete without mention of a sorry moment in our university’s history. In December 1944 Robert Maynard Hutchins wrote in *Collier’s* magazine about the threat to American education posed by the GI Bill, a noble effort to assist our troops and improve our society.

“Colleges and universities,” he wrote, “will find themselves converted into educational hobo jungles. ... Education is not a device for coping with mass unemployment.”

It is shameful that Hutchins would openly express an elitist attitude such

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LETTERS

as this. And doubly so for targeting veterans who were on the verge of securing our nation's survival in the largest conflict in human history.

Frederick A. Lehrer, MBA'64
POCONO PINES, PENNSYLVANIA

Left leaning

I read with great interest the letter in your May–June/14 issue from Thomas Rodgers, AB'76 (Class of 1968). In it he decries the liberal bias he believes exists at the University of Chicago, and I was somewhat relieved to learn that others hold this view.

As a student at SSA from 2003 to 2005, I experienced firsthand a large dose of that bias. The day after the election of George W. Bush in 2004, I went to class as usual. We were greeted by an obviously angry professor who spent the entire class period of 90 minutes ranting about the evils of the Republican Party. I suppose being a Republican would have been insult enough, but I had paid quite hefty tuition for that class and was appalled to have to listen to someone else's political views for 90 minutes. When I suggested as much, I was subject to name-calling by fellow students, which was certainly not discouraged by the professor.

I wish I could say this was an isolated event, but the lack of "independent thinking" was pervasive.

As a result of my experience, I've made the decision to not financially support the University. I wonder how many others have made that same decision.

Pamela J. Cook, AM'05
CHICAGO

Confucius on campus

I am writing to express an opinion on the matter of the Confucius Institute at the University of Chicago (CIUC). As a China scholar and a University of Chicago-trained anthropologist, the issue at hand is extremely important to me. I love the study of China and have made it my career; it is for these reasons that I see the potential for the CIUC to be discontinued as a very positive development. (See "Rejecting Confucius Funding," *Inside Higher Ed*, April 29, 2014; bit.ly/1qhXFWW.)

Instituting a Chinese government-sponsored operation on campus has harmed the reputation of the University. No organization whose goal is to achieve direct or indirect political influence over how China is studied and/or taught should be allowed to continue. The University should not have allowed its reputation as the preeminent independent research university to be compromised in this way. This damage, originally allowed by a well-meaning search for funding sources, can now start to be repaired.

Kevin Caffrey, AM'97, PhD'07
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

With the grave harm already done to the University's integrity and reputation, it is heartening that more than 100 faculty signed the petition to discontinue the CIUC. Installing such a Chinese government-sponsored outfit has tainted the University whether or not the Chinese government actually achieves any direct or indirect influence over how China is taught and debated (as everyone should expect is

indeed the long-term goal of inserting these institutes into host institutions instead of renting a building downtown). The University of Chicago should never have allowed its standing as an independent research university to be compromised in this way, carrots or no carrots.

For many of us, the petition raised the distinct possibility that the U of C is still special somehow, as I for one once thought that it was. And that something (the integrity and self-respect of a place for serious inquiry) might still be possible to rekindle, if the CIUC is terminated so that the damage can begin to be repaired.

Magnus Fiskesjö, AM'94, PhD'00
NEW YORK CITY

As this issue went to press, no decision had been announced regarding the renewal of the Confucius Institute's contract, but the University affirmed that the faculty are responsible for all academic programs, saying, "Authority for making these academic decisions is widely distributed. A key part of the culture, history, and processes of the University are that faculty need to be free to pursue research, collaborate on research, recommend faculty appointments, and decide on academic aspects of implementation of educational programs without the oversight of the faculty from outside their areas. Two faculty committees reaffirmed this position in 2012."—Ed.

Family history

I'm looking to connect with people who knew my parents, Anita (Kieras) Yurchyshyn, AB'67, and George Yurchyshyn, JD'65, MBA'67. I'm writing a family memoir and am researching this period of their lives. If interested in sharing any info you may have, e-mail me at anya.yurchyshyn@gmail.com.

Anya Yurchyshyn
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

BLAST FROM THE PAST



May I express my admiration for the mix in the May–June issue of the *University of Chicago Magazine*. There was something for everybody. ... I reveled in James "Jimmy" Cate's (PhD'35) piece on Emily Post. His pixie-sober appraisal of the lady's strictures on manners was a sheer delight.

—James Brown IV, AM'37, PhD'39, Nov–Dec/72

We found Cate's story in our print archive and digitized it. Read it online at mag.uchicago.edu/keep-posted.—Ed.

The University of Chicago Magazine welcomes letters about its contents or about the life of the University. Letters for publication must be signed and may be edited for space, clarity, and civility. To provide a range of views and voices, we encourage letter writers to limit themselves to 300 words or fewer. Write: Editor, The University of Chicago Magazine, 5235 South Harper Court, Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60615. Or e-mail: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

Science forward

BY PETER B. LITTLEWOOD, DIRECTOR, ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY, AND PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

Argonne National Laboratory traces its history to a converted squash court underneath the University of Chicago's abandoned football field. There, on December 2, 1942, a group of 49 scientists led by Enrico Fermi created the world's first controlled, self-sustained nuclear reaction.

From that day to this, the US Department of Energy national laboratories have been charged with addressing this nation's greatest, most pressing challenges in science and engineering.

At Argonne, we tackle these complex problems by convening multidisciplinary "dream teams" of world-class scientists and engineers, joined by experts from industry, academia, and other national labs. We equip them with some of the most advanced scientific equipment in the world, such as the Advanced Photon Source, which provides brilliant x-ray beams that illuminate and penetrate objects at the nanoscale, and Mira, a powerful supercomputer capable of ten quadrillion calculations per second. Then we challenge these exceptional researchers to identify the heart of the problem, match it to a strategy, and pull together the ideas and resources necessary to build a new and workable solution.

Our results are tremendous. Every one of America's 104 nuclear power plants has Argonne's groundbreaking energy research in its DNA. Today Argonne scientists and engineers are still at work on every aspect of nuclear technology, designing power plants that are even safer and more secure and developing new strategies to make sure nuclear materials can be used only for peaceful purposes.



Littlewood was named director of Argonne this spring.

Argonne's comprehensive energy science research program ranges from the development of game-changing battery systems to the discovery of revolutionary chemical transformation processes for creating new biofuels to the creation of transformational systems for solar energy production. Our battery program includes the new Joint Center for Energy Storage Research (JCESR), where Argonne researchers work elbow to elbow with partners from industry, academia, and our sister labs to build the next generation of battery systems for transportation and the power grid. JCESR's goals are ambitious and straightforward: we are working to develop a battery that will power an electric car 400 miles on a single charge, and to create grid-level batteries with the capacity to store electricity created by wind and solar farms, so we can use electricity from clean, sustainable sources even when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing.

Argonne's Center for Transportation Research provides the gold standard for vehicle development and testing. Our research on fuel sprays in

combustion engines has changed the efficiency and emissions of today's cars. Our engineers are fast-tracking the development of tomorrow's electric vehicles and working with international manufacturers to develop universal standards to make sure those vehicles can plug in and recharge anywhere in the world.

The University of Chicago has managed Argonne since our laboratory's founding, and our strong collaborative relationship creates opportunities and benefits for researchers at both institutions. Today Argonne is partner in more than a dozen research centers at the University. We are working together to establish the Institute for Molecular Engineering (IME), doing research at the intersection of chemical, electrical, mechanical, and biological engineering and materials, biological, and physical sciences. Researchers at IME are exploring innovative technologies at the molecular scale, seeking novel ways to incorporate synthetic molecular building blocks into functional systems that could solve grand challenges, from advanced medical therapies to quantum computing. Argonne and IME are the initial anchors for the Chicago Innovation Exchange, the University's new hub for multidisciplinary business start-up activities by University faculty, students, and area entrepreneurs.

These are just a handful of the projects that make Argonne such a fascinating and productive place. Every day, hundreds of the world's finest researchers come to our campus in Chicago's western suburbs to tackle the biggest, knottiest, most interesting and important scientific and societal problems—from creating exquisitely sensitive detectors for the giant South Pole Telescope to solving the protein structure that gives the dengue fever virus its deadly power.

Three years ago, I came to Argonne from the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University, drawn by the opportunity to work on the kinds of grand scientific problems that only a laboratory of this scale and caliber can address. Today, as Argonne's 13th director, I am very proud to have this privilege to lead this laboratory to even greater future achievements, and I remain inspired by its wholehearted dedication to research excellence. ♦



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UNIVERSITY NEWS

Taste of UChicago

Alumni award recipients share dinner and reminiscences.

The alumni awards ceremony held in Rockefeller Chapel the Saturday morning of each Alumni Weekend is an august occasion, complete with

bagpipe procession and presidential remarks. This year's alumni awards celebration dinner, held on the eve of the ceremony, had a less formal atmosphere. The new class of 15 award-ees gathered with family members at Hyde Park's La Petite Folie, taking turns sharing life stories and Chicago memories. Widely varied by profession, politics, and generation, they were united in camaraderie.

The first speaker, sportswriter **Lester Munson**, JD'67, shared an Alumni Service Award with his wife **Judith**, AB'63. The father of former varsity football player **Lester Munson III**,

AB'89, the elder Lester reminisced about another dinner: a banquet he and Judith helped organize for the football team. The task of inviting then-president **Hanna Holborn Gray** fell to Lester. "The first challenge was to inform Hanna Gray that there was a football team," he said, inspiring laughter among the diners. "Once I got through that, the rest was easy. She said no."

Young Alumni Service Award recipient **Luke Rodehorst**, AB'09, took the microphone next. His graduation five years ago was "bittersweet" until he realized, "I wasn't going to be leaving the University of Chicago behind.

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I was going to be entering a different relationship with the University.” Through volunteer work he has tried to deepen that relationship—“that really is what drives me”—serving on alumni club boards in Chicago, Detroit/Ann Arbor, and Washington, DC. He also created an alumni group of the Chicago Men’s A Capella.

Lloyd Rudolph, professor emeritus of political science, shared a Norman Maclean Faculty Award with his wife, **Suzanne Rudolph**, Benton distinguished service professor emerita in political science. Lloyd sang the praises of fellow award recipient and Vermont senator **Bernie Sanders**, AB’64, who was given a Public Service Award. “We are residents and voters in Vermont. We are represented by Bernie Sanders,” he said to laughter and applause. “We even send him money from time to time.”

Gabrielle Selz, daughter of art historian and Professional Achievement Award recipient **Peter Selz**, AM’49, PhD’54, spoke in her father’s place; at 95, he was too ill to travel. Peter Selz fled Nazi Germany at 17, she said. Ten years later, he was able to attend UChicago on the GI Bill. “This community gave him back a part of his life that he felt had been taken away from him and lost,” she said. “It was incredibly important to him.”

Wall Street Journal columnist **Bret Stephens**, AB’95, who received a Professional Achievement Award, confessed that “most of my memories at the University of Chicago involve moments of searing intellectual humiliation.” (For more on Stephens, see *Glimpses*, page 38.)

Cardiologist **C. Noel Bairey Merz**, AB’77, who also received a Professional Achievement Award, explained that she came to Chicago as the first recipient of the Gertrude Dudley Scholarship—an academic-athletic scholarship for women, spearheaded by **Mary Jean Mulvaney**, then athletics director. There were few opportunities for women athletes at the time, and Merz, a nationally ranked swimmer, jumped at the opportunity (even though the Ida Noyes pool was not regulation length and lacked both lanes and gutters). For any contributions she has been able to make to women’s health since then, Merz said, “I thank the

University of Chicago and Mary Jean Mulvaney.”

Law professor **Richard Epstein**, who received a Norman Maclean Faculty Award, began by pointing out three former students in the room. In 42 years at UChicago, he has racked up “10,000 students or so,” he said, a number that continues to grow despite his emeritus status. He still returns to teach, energized by the “perpetual intellectual turmoil” he encounters. “Everybody here, from students to faculty, believes that you’re only as good as your last day’s work,” Epstein said, “and you can never sit and rest on your laurels.”

Public Service Award recipient **Michael Shakman**, AB’62, AM’64, JD’66, likewise goes way back with the University—but his long history was not the claim to fame he thought it was. “I was actually born at the University of Chicago,” Shakman noted. “I suspect not very many of you can make that claim.” Surprisingly, four other diners could; there were more Chicago Lying-In Hospital babies in the room than Epstein students.

“I’m best known for the lawsuit that bears my name. That lawsuit was filed in 1969,” he continued. (The resulting “Shakman decrees” outlawed patronage hiring in Chicago.) “That’s 44 years. I’ve been able to boil it down to ten minutes a decade. So sit back, relax, and get ready.” His listeners, after a couple of courses of food and wine, laughed uproariously. “But that talk isn’t going to be given. That’s because three minutes ago, the White Sox started to play in Anaheim.”

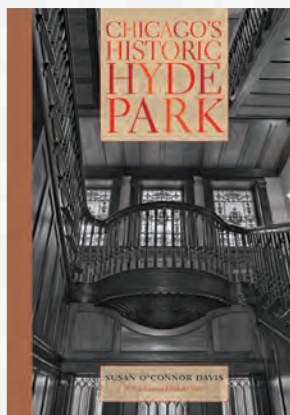
Sanders, the evening’s final speaker, reflected on all he learned in four years at UChicago. “Truth be told, most of it was not in the classrooms, but out on the streets.” In Chicago he formed the ideas about social justice, war and peace, and racial justice that have informed his political career. “What I learned in the basement of the Harper Library, and what I learned in the streets of Chicago, has stayed with me my whole life.”

As the dinner concluded, a small crowd clumped around Sanders. Young Alumni Service Award **Jenna Beletic**, AB’07, was hoping for a selfie with the man who has hinted at a possible 2016 presidential run. She achieved her goal.

—Carrie Golus, AB’93

Architecture

FROM CHICAGO



Chicago's Historic Hyde Park

Susan O'Connor Davis

With a Foreword by John Vinci

"Davis has created an extraordinary guide to a remarkable place. *Chicago's Historic Hyde Park* is a compelling visual account that introduces the reader not only to a complex local history, but also to one grounded firmly in the larger currents of both architectural change and urban development."—Dominic A. Pacyga, author of *Chicago: A Biography*

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Paper \$25.00

From Columbia College Chicago Press

Stray Light

David Hartt



When the Johnson Publishing Company, best known for *Jet* and *Ebony*, moved into its iconic building on Michigan Avenue, the structure symbolized a bold entry into both the Chicago skyline and the city's cultural environment. David Hartt was given unprecedented access to the building, much of which retains its '70s design, from bright gold accents to vintage see-through furniture. His resulting photographs take viewers on a rich and revealing tour.

Cloth \$60.00



Hughes, shown with Gwendolyn Brooks, enjoyed his stint at Lab.

LITERATURE

Guest author

Langston Hughes made a lasting impression as a visiting lecturer at the Laboratory Schools.

In 1949, just six years after the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools admitted its first African American students, Langston Hughes spent eight weeks there as a visiting lecturer on poetry. The Harlem-based writer—well known at 47—had read his poetry to children but never taught them before.

The neatly typed 14-page report that Hughes submitted at the end of his stay, now housed with his papers at Yale, reveals his enthusiasm for the assignment. At Lab he offered weekly creative writing workshops for stu-

dents in grades six to ten, and seminars on jazz and the “negro theme” in American poetry. He helped small children compose stories and practice rhymes and expressed regret that his schedule was too packed to visit the kindergarten regularly.

“Writing may have, I believe, for some adolescents a psycho-therapeutic value,” Hughes wrote in his report. Nearly 70 students attended workshops—with “no compulsion, no grades”—and turned in manuscripts for Hughes to review. He praised Lab students generally as having “more initiative, freedom of expression, and independence of thought than any I have known before.” Even the youngest children, he noted, asked interesting questions.

Why would a writer of national stature set aside his own professional projects to teach school in Chicago? In *The Life of Langston Hughes*, biographer Arnold Rampersad provides some clues. Hughes’s left-leaning politics sparked accusations that he was a Communist and attracted negative

attention to his 1947 speaking tour. The *Chicago Tribune* called him a “red-tinted poet,” and he was denounced on the Senate floor as pro-Russian in 1948. Hughes struggled to find publishers for a poetry anthology and for *Simple Speaks His Mind*, a book adapted from popular columns he’d written for the *Chicago Defender*, ultimately released by Simon and Schuster in 1950.

Around that time, Lab’s director, Warren Seyfert, had shared a Thanksgiving dinner with Hughes at which the poet thoroughly charmed Seyfert’s three young daughters. He offered Hughes a \$2,000 stipend to spend spring quarter as poet in residence, in a year when his total income was \$8,800. “The school certainly got its money’s worth,” a teacher recalled. Hughes offered sessions on poetry recitation, helped with a school musical program, and talked to a geography class about his travels in Mexico. “The fact that he was a black instructor among children almost all of whom were white seemed not to matter,” writes Rampersad. “Loving children, and eager to please, he made friends easily.”

Hughes lived modestly in a seventh-floor room at International House just down 59th Street from the school. After hours he liked to visit Lab art teacher Robert Erickson, who had a giant jazz and blues record collection, and his wife in their attic apartment at 5611 South Blackstone. He appeared with local poet Gwendolyn Brooks at a South Side public library branch, and she came to Lab to speak to his high school students. Just before Hughes left town, Brooks packed close to 100 people into her two-room apartment on East 63rd Street for his farewell party.

Although Hughes received offers, he never accepted a teaching appointment again. He expressed a few minor complaints in his report to Lab. The school’s cramped auditorium couldn’t seat everyone who wanted to hear Brooks; eight weeks wasn’t enough to help students become better writers; teaching left him little time for creative work. The poet liked to sleep late and Rampersad quotes him as finding early morning classes to be “too much for me at my advanced age.” As a pupil, Hughes wrote, he was never on time for school: “I see no need to start straining my ego now just to improve race relations.”—*Elizabeth Station*

Going public

The most ambitious fundraising campaign in UChicago's history will focus on inquiry and impact.

This fall the University will formally launch the public phase of a comprehensive campaign to raise \$4.5 billion. The priorities of the campaign, the most ambitious in the University's history, include support for faculty and researchers, educational opportunities for students at all levels, and programs to enhance the University's local and global reach.

The University of Chicago Campaign: Inquiry and Impact will begin its public phase in late October and is expected to conclude in 2019. University officials announced in May that the quiet phase of the campaign had already raised more than \$2 billion, representing some 182,000 gifts.

"This campaign offers a singular opportunity to ensure the University continues to take its place among the world's great centers of discovery, education, and impact," said Board of Trustees chair **Andrew M. Alper**, AB'80, MBA'81. "Our faculty, deans, provost, and president have identified an ambi-

tious intellectual agenda, and we want to respond with our full support."

An important factor in the board's unanimous vote to launch the campaign was President **Robert J. Zimmer**'s intention to stay in office at least until 2020, Alper said. "The University of Chicago is enjoying ever greater global eminence under Bob Zimmer's leadership, and we are lucky to have him as our president."

Alper noted that the board's support for the University's leadership and momentum is reflected in more than \$750 million in campaign donations from trustees to date, more than a third of the total raised during the quiet phase.

Joseph Neubauer, MBA'65, a vice chair of the Board of Trustees, will serve as campaign chair. Neubauer and his wife, Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer, have been generous supporters of the University for many years. Their most recent gift, in 2012, was \$26.5 million to create the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society.

"The University is an international leader in enabling scholars from across disciplines to develop and test great ideas," said Neubauer, the chair of the board at Aramark. "Jeanette and I, as well as thousands of others, believe deeply in the importance of the critical nature of the University of Chicago's work and are honored to support it."

The Neubauer Collegium is one of many initiatives the campaign will support on campus, in the city of Chicago, and around the world. Among other

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER'S INDEX

SUMMER JOBS REPORT

Number of College students with paid internships through Career Advancement's Jeff Metcalf program during the 2013–14 academic year:

1,000

Percentage increase from 2012–13:

17.64

Number of Metcalf Interns in 1997, the program's inaugural year:

7

Number of employers participating this year:

490

Number of US states, including the District of Columbia, where Metcalf Interns are working this summer:

17

Foreign countries where Metcalf Interns are working this summer:

18



A \$4.5 billion fundraising campaign will invest in building a model University.

campaign priorities is the Institute for Molecular Engineering, which is seeking solutions to challenges such as the need for clean water through new developments in nanoscale science. The University's recent affiliation with the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, combines with the University's operation of Argonne National Laboratory and Fermilab to put UChicago scientists at a nexus of institutions with international reach.

In the biological sciences and at the University of Chicago Medicine, the campaign will support exploration of basic biological phenomena, computational methods in biology and medicine, and new cancer treatments, while strengthening research in digestive diseases, diabetes, immunology, and transplantation.

Beyond campus the revitalization of 53rd Street in Hyde Park and the Urban Education Institute are just two exam-

ples of an ambitious effort to make the University of Chicago a model for the relationship of a great urban research university to its city. Meanwhile, the recently opened Center in Delhi and the planned Center in Hong Kong highlight the University's growing global presence and mark its commitment to collaboration among scholars and students around the world.

Investments in the College will include enhanced support for the Core curriculum, expanded study-abroad opportunities, new career advancement tracks, the construction of the new Campus North Residence Hall and Dining Commons, and continued growth in financial aid. Support for graduate and professional students at every phase of their academic programs is also an important priority.

Across schools and divisions of the University, the campaign will provide resources for the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty,

expanded aid and programming for students, and an intellectual environment and facilities that allow them to produce their best work.

"We are stewards of a University that has accomplished extraordinary things in a little more than a century," Zimmer said. "It is our job to ensure that it remains true to its values and that we leave it stronger still, by supporting a faculty whose work is of the greatest originality, depth and impact, and an outstanding student body who will leave the University enriched by their experience and go on to have impact on virtually every field of human endeavor in our nation and around the world."

The University of Chicago Campaign: Inquiry and Impact is the University's fifth major fundraising campaign, including its founding campaign in 1886–90 and most recently the Chicago Initiative, which ran from 2000 to 2008. The Chicago Initiative surpassed its \$2 billion goal, raising \$2.38 billion.

CITATIONS

ROCKABYE MOTHER

Poor sleep during the third trimester of pregnancy—a serious problem for some women, especially with sleep apnea—means a higher risk of weight gain and metabolic abnormalities for offspring once they reach adulthood, according to a study published online May 8 in *Diabetes* and led by UChicago pediatrician and sleep specialist **David Gozal**. Researchers tested the effects of fragmented sleep in pregnant mice. As newborns, the offspring of mothers whose rest had been disturbed (by a motorized brush sweeping through their cages every two minutes) grew normally. But at the equivalent of early middle age, these offspring began eating more and gaining excess weight, ending up 10 percent heavier than mice whose mothers had slept uninterrupted. They also scored poorly on glucose-tolerance tests and produced less effective insulin. The researchers determined that a mother's sleep loss reduces her offspring's expression of the gene for adiponectin, a

hormone that helps regulate metabolic processes.

GROWTH INVESTMENT

The long-term cognitive and economic benefits of early-childhood nutritional and emotional development programs in the United States also hold true in developing nations. Results of a study led by UChicago economist **James J. Heckman** and the University of California, Berkeley's Paul Getler, published May 30 in *Science*, showed the impact of interventions in Jamaica. Heckman and Getler interviewed subjects who had been enrolled in the study as toddlers in 1986 and 1987. They were selected then based on diagnoses of stunted growth and poor cognitive development, which are associated with malnutrition. The treatment group received nutritional and educational support and their parents learned child-rearing skills and interaction techniques to improve their children's cognitive and socioemotional development. This approach,

Heckman and Getler found, increased the adult earnings of participants, who are now almost 30 years old, by 25 percent—enough to equal a comparison group whose development had not been stunted.

A LITTLE BIRD

When birds first emerged more than 125 million years ago, the range of diversity was strikingly narrower than today. "They were pretty much all between a sparrow and a crow," says **Jonathan Mitchell**, a PhD student in UChicago's Committee on Evolutionary Biology and lead author of a study on early Cretaceous birds, published May 28 in *Proceedings of the*

Royal Society B. With Field Museum paleontologist Peter Makovicky, Mitchell analyzed fossils collected from an area in China where they were preserved in abundance by volcanoes. Some birds, the researchers found, had teeth and long bony tails; nearly all were small ground or forest dwellers that lived on insects and seeds. Particularly lacking were large birds and water birds. Diversity could have been hampered by competition from similar animals, such as flying reptiles called pterosaurs, but might also be explained by the fact that birds had not existed long enough to diversify widely.

—Lydia Lyle Gibson and Jason Kelly



The earliest birds were mostly small forest dwellers.

ILLUSTRATION COURTESY ALLISON ELAINE JOHNSON

FOR THE RECORD



SOCIAL SCIENCES TAPS NIRENBERG

David Nirenberg, the founding director of the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, began his term as dean of the Social Sciences Division on July 1. The Deborah R. and Edgar D. Jannotta professor of medieval history and social thought, Nirenberg has focused his research on the interactions of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic societies. He succeeds **Mario L. Small**, the John Matthews Manly distinguished service professor of sociology and in the College, who stepped down after two years as dean to join the faculty at Harvard.



ECONOMIC SUPPORT

In recognition of a gift from University trustee **Álvaro Saieh**, AM'76, PhD'80, the new home for the Department of Economics and the Becker Friedman Institute will be named in his honor. The 150,000-square-foot Saieh Hall for Economics opens this summer after the renovation and adaptive reuse of the former Chicago Theological Seminary at 5757 South University Avenue. Saieh, a trustee since 2012, is president and chair of the Chile-based CorpGroup Holding. He has previously served as adviser to

Chile's Ministry of Housing and Public Works and as head of research for the country's central bank.

CHECK OUT OBAMA LIBRARY'S IMPACT

A Barack Obama Presidential Library on Chicago's South Side would have a \$220 million annual economic impact on the city, according to a study by the Anderson Economic Group. The University-commissioned analysis projected that an Obama library would increase employment, earnings, and tax revenue with 1,900 permanent new jobs and 350,000 out-of-town visitors a year spending an additional \$31 million on food and retail in the area. In June the University submitted a proposal to the Barack Obama Foundation in support of building the library in a neighboring South Side community.



CHICAGO HARRIS NAMES NEW DEAN

Daniel Diermeier, a prolific scholar of political institutions and formal political theory, and an expert in crisis and reputation management, has been named dean of the Harris School of Public Policy, effective September 1. Currently the IBM professor of regulation and competitive practice at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, Diermeier will succeed **Colm O'Muircheartaigh**, who announced in January that he would return to teaching and research at the end of his five-year term.

NEW CENTER FLOURISHES

A May 30 event marked the opening of the Center for the Economics of Human

Development, an initiative under the direction of Nobelist **James J. Heckman** focused on "identifying sources of disadvantage and promoting equality of opportunity." Federal and private grants support the center, including a \$1 million pledge from a group of Heckman's former students. "We are interested in the economics of human flourishing," says Heckman, the Henry Schultz distinguished service professor of economics, "or the circumstances under which people are able to develop the skills to thrive in our current economy."



LEGAL LEADER

Kimberly P. Taylor, a partner of Hilton & Bishop PC in Falmouth, Massachusetts, becomes the University's vice president and general counsel on August 1. A specialist in mergers and acquisitions, equity investments, financings, and partnerships, Taylor represented the Marine Biological Laboratory during negotiations that led to its 2013 affiliation with the University. She succeeds **Beth A. Harris**, AB'74, who will lead a new practice area in the Office of Legal Counsel related to institutional partnerships and affiliations.



NEW CO-OP DIRECTOR BOOKED

Jeff Deutsch, director of

stores for the Stanford Bookstore Group since 2012, has been named director of the Seminary Co-op Bookstore. Deutsch, selected after a national search led by the firm Isaacson, Miller, has worked with books since taking a library job as a teenager. He married his wife, artist and fellow bookseller May Yen, in a book-themed wedding on Bloomsday (June 16) 2012. Deutsch succeeds **Jack Cella**, EX'73, who retired in October 2013 after 43 years at the helm.

TWO NEW TRUSTEES ELECTED

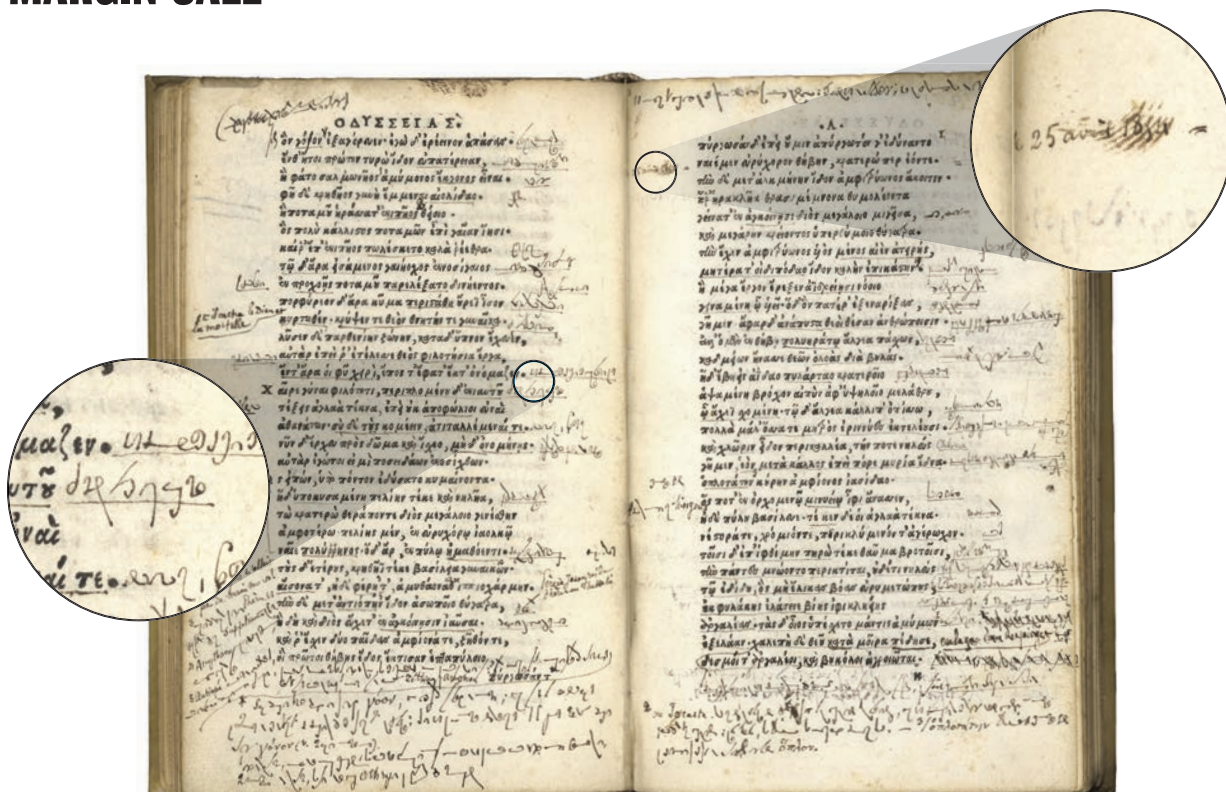
The University of Chicago Board of Trustees has elected two new members: **Debra A. Cafaro**, JD'82, chairman and CEO of Ventas Inc., and **Kenneth C. Griffin**, founder and CEO of Citadel LLC. Cafaro and Griffin both began their five-year terms at the June 2014 board meeting.



QUEL HONNEUR

Robert Morrissey, PhD'82, the Benjamin Franklin professor in Romance languages and literatures, received the French Legion of Honor, the country's highest distinction. Laurent Fabius, the French minister of foreign affairs and international development, presented the award at a ceremony May 11 at the Quadrangle Club hosted by University president **Robert J. Zimmer**. Morrissey, whose books include *The Economy of Glory: From Ancien Régime France to the Fall of Napoleon* (University of Chicago Press, 2014), specializes in 18th- and 19th-century French literature, history, and culture.

ORIGINAL SOURCE MARGIN CALL



An Italian computer engineer solved a 150-year-old literary mystery found in a rare edition of Homer's *Odyssey* at the University of Chicago Library.

In 2007 the University received a donation of Homer's works from collector M. C. Lang, including a 1504 Venetian edition of the *Odyssey* containing handwritten annotations in an unknown script. In hopes of cracking the code, this past spring the library's Special Collections Research Center offered a \$1,000 prize from Lang to the first person to identify the script, provide evidence to support the conclusion, and translate selected portions of the marginalia. Submissions poured in from around the world.

The winner of the contest, Daniele Metilli, was taking a digital humanities course and is aiming for a career in libraries and archives. Working with Giulia

Accetta, a colleague proficient in contemporary Italian stenography and fluent in French, Metilli identified the mystery script as a system of shorthand invented by Jean Coulon de Thévenot in the late 18th century. The annotations themselves are mostly French translations of words and phrases from the Greek text of the *Odyssey*.

Based on the mix of French words within the script and a legible date of April 25, 1854 (above right detail), Metilli and Accetta began with the assumption that it was a system of French stenography in use in the mid-19th century. After rejecting several such systems, they uncovered a chart comparing one of them to the *tachygraphie* (shorthand) system invented by Thévenot and published in *Méthode tachygraphique, ou l'art d'écrire aussi vite que la parole* (1789). Online, they found an 1819

edition revised by a professor of stenography, N. Patey. Then they began the work of translating the annotations. (The above left detail translates to "when a year will have made its turn.")

In Thévenot's system, "every consonant and vowel has a starting shape, and they combine together to form new shapes representing syllables," Metilli wrote. "The vertical alignment is especially important, as the position of a letter above or below the line, or even the length of a letter segment can change the value of the grapheme. This explains why most notes in the *Odyssey* shorthand are underlined—the line being key to the transcription."

Metilli and Accetta continue to work on the annotations and hope to identify their author and explain why they appear in only one section of the text.

—Susie Allen, AB'09

Why we intervene

A scholar raises questions about the humanitarian claims of some military ventures.

At the end of the first day of Crisis of Humanitarianism/Humanitarianism in Crisis, a conference sponsored in April by the Human Rights Program, keynote speaker Didier Fassin argued “exactly the opposite.” Humanitarianism, he said, “has never been so powerful and imperial.” More and more, it is invoked to prompt domestic government action, raise money for nonprofit organizations, and justify multilateral military intervention.

Few would find fault with the stated goal of providing aid to people in distress, but when nearly everyone, from corporations to dictators, is taking up the mantle of humanitarianism, Fassin argued, we need to question its underlying assumptions and uses. “What is humanitarianism?” he asked. “Where does it come from? How can it be critiqued?”

The James D. Wolfensohn professor of social science at Princeton University’s Institute for Advanced Study, Fassin was a public health physician and later a vice president of Doctors Without Borders who explored the political roots and responses to health epidemics from AIDS to lead poisoning. As an academic, he has written ethnographies of institutions like police, justice, and prison systems. And his research seeks to identify the principles behind contemporary morality and analyze them in historical and political context.

The language of humanitarianism, Fassin said, nearly always obscures a complex set of motivations. Take, for instance, the United Nations Security Council Resolution to authorize international action, including air strikes, in Libya in 2011—the first time that the responsibility to protect principle, approved by the UN General Assembly in 2005, was used to justify military intervention on humanitarian grounds.

For its proponents, the subsequent bombing of Libya was an exemplar of a just war. For Fassin it was “war-mongering in the name of humanitarianism.” Despite the fact that the Libyan leader was a brutal despot known to be responsible for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103, the West was courting Gadhafi to help fight al-Qaeda in the Middle East and to resume trade with an oil-rich and arms-hungry Libya. “The dictator had become a shameful friend” of Western leaders, much to the shock of their constituencies, said Fassin. “Intervening in Libya could erase the taint of this humiliation.”

But how “humanitarian” was the Libyan intervention? For Fassin the record on that is also deeply problematic. Civilian casualties from the UN bombing were high, the region was destabilized, and Western governments largely turned their backs on Libyan refugees fleeing the crisis.

Fassin pointed to other troubling examples. A furor over Kuwaiti babies left to die after Iraqi soldiers took their incubators helped galvanize American support for the first Gulf War in 1990. The story turned out to be apocryphal, concocted by a public relations firm working for the Kuwaiti government. By the time the hoax was revealed, the war was already under way, leading to the deaths of thousands of Iraqi noncombatants. During the Rwandan genocide in 1994 a French army mission with ostensibly “strictly humanitarian” objectives—to help protect refugees and civilians at risk—actually had a political objective apart from hu-

manitarianism, Fassin said: to protect the Hutu regime. The result was to extend violence in the region for years.

The question that Fassin’s talk boiled down to was, why? “Why do images and narratives of suffering have such an impact on the way politics is enacted? Why is it that the most effective way to legitimize actions is by striking the chord of compassion?” Because, he concluded, in an increasingly unequal world, humanitarianism promises solidarity. It “bridges the contradictions of our world and makes the intolerability of its injustices somewhat bearable.”

Today, “with the entry of suffering into politics, salvation comes not through the passion one endures,” Fassin argued, “but through the compassion one feels.” Humanitarian workers—who once risked their lives on the battlefield but now operate “under the protection of the belligerents”—enjoy what Fassin called “a moral untouchability,” and humanitarianism as a whole is “granted a sort of immunity from critique.”

Humanitarianism’s emotional pull is powerful—enough to silence the dissent that is often prompted by military intervention. It falls to social scientists, Fassin said, to observe and elucidate how humanitarianism operates in domestic and global politics. “What is gained and lost, or simply different,” he asked, “when one talks of suffering instead of inequality, of trauma instead of violence, of compassion instead of justice?”

—Sarah Miller-Davenport, *AM’08*



Rebels stand atop a Libyan tank hit by UN-backed air strikes in 2011.

Temperate forest

A new book examining the world's natural landscapes challenges the idea of "the empty and the wild."

"You can't understand most forests in the world without understanding human history with them," said **Susanna Hecht**, LAB'68, AB'72. A professor of urban planning at UCLA and a scholar of political ecology in the Amazon, Hecht is also an unapologetic contrarian when it comes to conservation: optimistic about the fate of the world's forests and critical of reflexive efforts to wall them off from all human contact. The notion of "the empty and the wild," she argues, is flawed and oversimplified, sometimes even harmful. "These are places," she said, "that have a deep sociality to them."

At Ida Noyes this past April, Hecht and UChicago anthropology professor **Kathleen Morrison** spoke to students and faculty about *The Social Lives of Forests* (University of Chicago Press, 2014), which the two coedited with ecological anthropologist Christine Padoch. The book grew out of a 2008 conference of the same name, sponsored by UChicago's Program on the Global Environment.



Peru's Amazon rain forest.



The Novo River runs through northern Brazil's Jamanxim National Forest.

In more than two dozen articles by scholars in ecology, paleoecology, archaeology, anthropology, botany, geography, biology, and environmental history, the book calls into question "some of our most cherished stories about nature and about change," Morrison said. "It turns out there was not a simple story about forest loss, or a simple correlation between humans and degradation."

The book examines woodlands in Europe, Africa, South Asia—where Morrison's research is focused—Southeast Asia, North America, and the Latin American tropics, offering sometimes dramatic examples of upended narratives and overlooked complexity. Citing one chapter, Morrison noted that until recently, afforestation—the increase in forested land—"is not something that people even thought to measure." Assessment surveys were structured to assume a decline. "So perhaps it's not surprising that using these techniques, you get these frightening looking downward facing lines." In fact, argues University of Leeds geographer Alan Grainger, worldwide tropical moist forest area has changed very little over the past 30 years "That doesn't mean that there's been no deforestation," Morrison said, "but it does mean that afforestation has also taken place."

Researchers find that many forests considered primitive and "feral" in fact show long legacies of human manipulation. More than 1,000 years after the Mayan city of Dos Hombres

in Belize was abandoned, vegetation surveys found that forests there contained a greater than expected number of tree species that were once important to the ancient Maya, Morrison said. Other evidence shows that the Amazon, "once seen as the largest pristine tropical forest in the world, an outpost of nature," was home to a large and complex human population long before colonization.

In Bolivia, areas relatively recently cleared of vegetation revealed a huge ring-shaped ditch six feet deep and an extensive network of pre-Columbian raised fields and canals. "All underneath this presumably pristine tropical forest," Morrison said. The Amazon's famous "dark earths," islands of lush fertility and rich soil—once thought to have been created by winding riverbeds—"are artifacts of human occupation," Morrison said. "They're full of the debris of past occupants and the result of large-scale composting and active intervention by previous residents."

Similarly, Hecht's research in Latin America finds some of the most vigorous forest resurgence in densely inhabited areas with growing populations and sometimes large industries: El Salvador, northern Mexico, northeastern Brazil. These are places with histories of catastrophic forest loss and ecological collapse, but since the mid-2000s, they've been coming back, even where the forests are not completely isolated.

The reasons are complicated, Hecht

said. They have to do with changes in agriculture and the shifting structure of local and global economies, the rise of civil societies and the demise of authoritarian regimes. Today about 60 percent of Amazonia is under land management “that involves inhabited forest,” Hecht said. There has been an “extraordinary transformation,” she explained, in the ideology of landscapes, from thinking of them as necessarily separated into urban, agricultural, and wild to something more integrated. “What this says is that livelihoods can be forest based and that they can keep forests up,” Hecht said.

A common thread in *The Social Lives of Forests* is a criticism of nature set-asides as the default conservation model. “Anthropocene literature is actually shockingly ignorant of the human-environment interactions be-

fore about the last 300 years,” Morrison said. Reconstructing landscape histories in the Americas and South Asia—using everything from texts and oral histories to pollen grains and isotopic signatures in the soil—researchers found no single pattern of forest loss and renewal, of human destruction and harmony, but many. “The Malthusian models aren’t really holding,” Hecht said: more people doesn’t necessarily mean less forest and never has.

Different standards also complicate the issue of forest conservation: Mediterranean shepherds are encouraged to stay on their forest-adjacent lands while east African Massai pastoralists and Toda pastoralists from southern India are evicted. Parks, preserves, and other set-asides harm livelihoods and disenfranchise local people, Morrison said, sometimes unnecessarily.

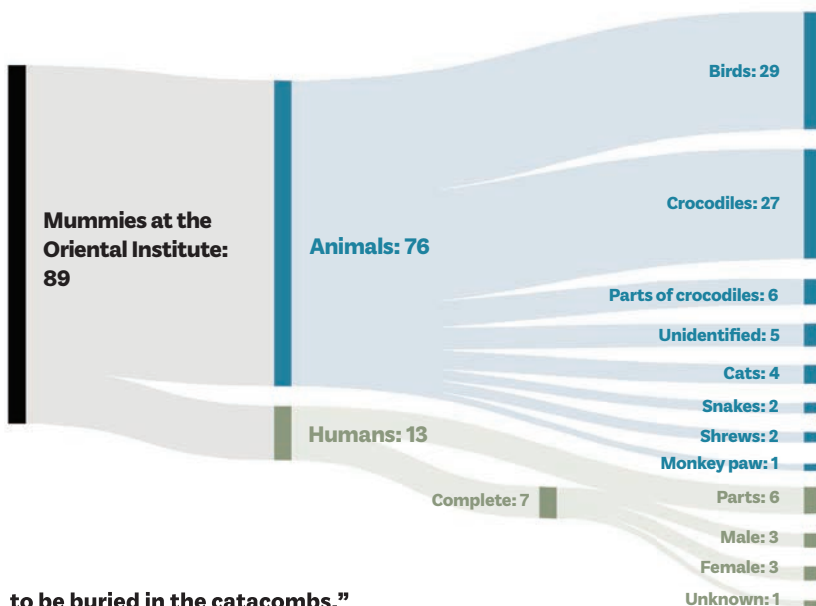
And they “risk failure if it turns out that some forms of human action are actually needed to achieve” conservation goals.

These are contentious, even radical, arguments. “There’s plenty of controversy about everything I’m saying,” Hecht said. During the Q&A that followed the presentation, one listener, a UChicago student and former Eagle Scout who grew up visiting the national parks, asked whether US conservation should be moving in a different direction. Yes and no, Morrison said. “It’s not that it’s not important to have any set-asides or that there shouldn’t be any national parks or wildlife preserves.” But, she argued, there’s a balance to be struck. “We have to understand those processes well so that we can make policies in a sensible kind of way.”—*Lydia Lyle Gibson*

FIG. 1 MUMMY FIGURES

There are 89 mummies at the Oriental Institute: some animal, some human, some intact, some in pieces (mostly disembodied hands, feet, and heads—“spare parts,” Egyptologist Emily Teeter, PhD’90, calls them), some on display, and many more in storage. This past spring, at the request of Chicago’s public radio station, WBEZ, Oriental Institute researchers counted up all the mummies, and from that tally, WBEZ created this graphic.

It was the first time Teeter had seen the mummy list in its entirety. “I had no idea we had a monkey paw,” she says. “That’s straight out of Edgar Allan Poe.” There are also two snakes, 29 birds, and 27 crocodiles (and six “parts of crocodiles”). “Most of them”—the crocodiles—“are this big,” Teeter says, holding her hands a foot apart. “Tiny. And so cute.” They were associated with the Nile god Sobek, whose priests would raise the crocodiles, then kill them as infants, mummify them, and sell the mummies to pilgrims. “And the pilgrims, to show their piety, would give them back to the temple



to be buried in the catacombs,” Teeter says. Egyptian cults did the same thing with birds and cats—although recent CT scans can reveal ancient scams: some beautifully wrapped mummies sold to pilgrims turn out to contain not whole animals but only bones and mud.

Passing by a pair of plaster feet in the Ol’s back room—“this was to put over the wrapped feet of the mummy, to give another set of feet

in case something went wrong with the mummy”—Teeter notes the numerous redundancies built into every mummy and buried in every tomb, so that the dead’s every need could be met. “These guys were so intent on creating life after death, forever and ever,” she says. “All of this stuff was to create security for them.”—*Lydia Lyle Gibson*

Desktop folders

Simulating a protein that allows cells to run amok, researchers hunt for better cancer drugs.

Researchers at the University of Chicago and Stanford are using the processing power of thousands of idle personal computers—in the homes and offices of ordinary volunteers around the world—to help look for ways to design better, more targeted drugs for cancer treatment.

Cancer is often linked to mutations on enzymes called kinases, which regulate processes such as cell growth. Kinases fold into particular configurations depending on whether they're active or inactive. Usually cells regulate the kinases and keep them inactive as much as possible. But if the kinases develop mutations that increase their activity, they may induce cells to divide uncontrollably, resulting in cancer. "It's a bit like the brake of a car," says **Benoît Roux**, UChicago professor in biochemistry and molecular biophysics. "If you start to have no brake, then you accelerate more and more and more—it's going to be bad. So the kinase needs to be able to turn off; it needs to be kept off most of the time. Otherwise you're really going to be in trouble."

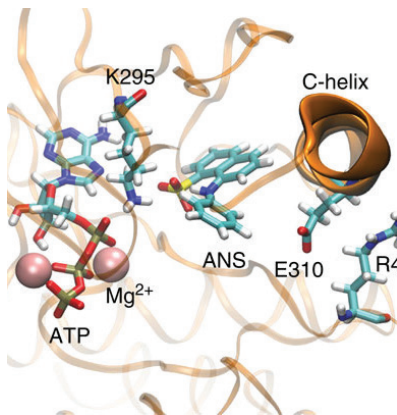
It's difficult to develop drugs that inhibit overactive kinases, because scientists don't know how the molecules transition between inactive and active. "There are lots of crystal structures of kinases in different configurations, druggable or not druggable," Roux says. "But no one has been able to see how the kinase goes from the off to the on state."

Roux and his colleagues may have found a way to see these transitions. Using a technique called the string method, the team determined the spatial arrangement of a protein kinase at certain stages as it folds from the inactive to the active state. They passed these snapshots on to Stanford biophysicist Vijay Pande, who teaches

structural biology and computer science. Pande used the data to launch computer simulations that allowed the researchers to model how the kinase folds during each small step between active and inactive. "Now we can easily simulate the full transition from the on to the off state and back and forth," Roux says.

So far the team has performed simulations for a handful of kinases; in a paper this past spring in the journal *Nature Communications*, Roux and his coauthors reported on Src, a kinase whose activation is associated with many tumors. But there are hundreds more kinase types, Roux says. "And there's lots of mutations that give resistive effects. For example, a patient could have cancer; you know a given kinase is malfunctioning; you give them a drug; they feel better; and after a while there's resistance to that drug." Why does the resistance happen? A new mutation, Roux says. "All the kinases mutated into something else, and now the drug doesn't bind anymore." Computer models, he adds, help researchers anticipate the chemical changes that might prevent a drug from binding properly, so that researchers can modify the drug.

Computer simulations are particularly useful for problems such as figuring out the pathways of kinase transitions. Kinases all serve the same function—they remove phosphates from molecules like ATP, which store the energy needed for almost all physiological mechanisms, and attach those phosphates to other proteins. The



A simulation of Src kinase in midfold, showing one type of chemical bond that can keep the protein inactive.

structural similarities of kinase types make it difficult to develop drugs that target specific kinases and keep them inactive without affecting others. Roux offers an analogy: many doors with the same lock, but you only want to keep one of them closed. "Since they all have the same key, you can't just focus on the lock," Roux says. "You have to find something else on the door"—a "novel site"—"to actually jam it." Despite their common purposes, different kinases fold in unique ways, so once these pathways are established, researchers can pinpoint where drugs bind more easily and "jam" them individually. Then drugs can be tailored accordingly.

Simulations on the Src kinase showed an intermediate state that is "putatively a good place to start to inhibit the protein," Roux says. "And this intermediate state is not something you normally see." Now the researchers can simulate the Src kinase's full transition from the off to the on state.

Running through all the possible ways a kinase can fold takes a large amount of computing power. And the next stage of Roux's research will involve simulating many more kinases and their interactions with drugs. "You'd like to enter the world of large numbers and maybe simulate a hundred kinases with 15 drugs," he says. To perform such simulations, the researchers harnessed more than 200,000 idle computers through *Folding@home*, a Stanford project run by Pande. Ordinary computer users can volunteer their computers by downloading a program from the project's website that uses the computers' processing power to run protein-folding simulations while the users are away. "That means that overnight when you're sleeping," Roux says, "a drug can run on your computer."

Computer modeling is an approximation of reality, but one that allows researchers to work with much finer details of a molecule than they otherwise could. Their models, Roux says, serve as imperfect but useful representations. "Ultimately, a drug is a molecule, which binds to a protein, which itself is a macromodel," Roux says. "If you don't go to the level of atoms, you're never going to know what's going on." —*Chelsea Leu, AB'14*

New depths

Author James L. Cambias, AB'88, discusses the underwater world of his debut novel, *A Darkling Sea*.

In January Tor Books released *A Darkling Sea*, the debut novel by **James L. Cambias**, AB'88. A science fiction/fantasy writer and tabletop game designer, Cambias has published numerous short stories and received nominations for the Nebula Award, the James Tiptree Jr. Award, and the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in 2001.

His novel centers on a group of human scientists stationed in an underwater facility on Ilmatar, a remote moon that supports the intelligent, crustacean-like Ilmatarans. The humans' attempts to gather information on the Ilmataran culture are complicated when the Sholen species intervenes.

In an interview with the *Magazine*, edited and adapted below, Cambias discusses the world he created.

—Adrianna Szenthe, AM'14

Many science fiction novels focus on a war between two sides. Why create the dynamic of three?

The very first original inspiration for the story was about Ilmatarans (or whatever I was calling them then) making their first expedition onto dry land. Then I put in humans, when I was thinking of it as a *Star Trek* story. Then I added the Sholen when I was inspired by reading about World War I in Africa. I suppose if Tor hadn't bought the book when they did I would have kept adding more intelligent species.

The Ilmatarans are blind, an evolutionary trait of living in the dark depths of the sea, but is there any larger purpose to having this fought-over alien species be blind?

I'd say it's about 90 percent reasonable evolution and 10 percent thematic resonance. Of course beings in a lightless ocean will be blind—but one reason I



was writing about a lightless ocean in the first place was to tell a story about beings discovering the existence of a larger universe they never could have seen for themselves. And of course there's the irony that the sighted humans and Sholen are nevertheless "blinded" by their ideologies.

You call the character Henri Kerlerrec a "scientific media star." Is his desire to provoke a media sensation just an aspect of his personality, or does this imply something about the interaction of media and science?

Well, Henri's personality is of course his own, and there's no reason why being a well-known scientist has to make one an ass. But, yes, I was poking a little at the "celebrification" of science nowadays. I don't think it's a bad thing when scientists like Stephen Hawking, Brian Greene, or Neil deGrasse Tyson are as famous as athletes or pop singers; I think it's great. But there is a persistent risk that individuals more interested in fame and fortune than science will seek to wrap themselves in the lab coat of scientific expertise and authority.

The role of language and the importance of communication seem to be a recurrent theme in the novel. Can you explain your choices to foreground these elements?

Actually, I didn't. I completely hand-waved away the difficulty of commu-

nication. The humans and Ilmatarans learn to speak with each other with ridiculous ease. I didn't want a story about learning to communicate.

What I did want to write about was how even with relatively clear communication, we can still misunderstand one another, especially when we project our own ideas of what the other side "really means" onto their statements.

Your degree is in history, philosophy, and social studies of science and medicine. Do you think your academic experience has informed your approach to creative work?

That's a tough question, because I don't know if my academic interests shaped my personality and methods or reflect them. I will say that my senior paper for my HiPSS degree, on Robert Hooke and the Royal Society, was definitely one of the inspirations for Broadtail and his club of scientific amateurs on Ilmatar.

Any vivid memories of UChicago?

Lots of them. A couple stand out in particular: going to see Dr. Chandrasekhar lecturing about Newton on the anniversary of Newton's *Principia*; meeting Diane Kelly, AB'90, who I married soon afterward; seeing the Regenstein's copy of Copernicus's *De Revolutionibus* with margin notes and strike-throughs by the Holy Office censors; and of course Harold's.

PHILOSOPHY

Complex Oedipus

BY DEREK TSANG, '15

Last year **Irad Kimhi's** undergraduate Unhappiness course, according to a friend who was enrolled, attracted tenured philosophy professors, graduate students, and auditors who filled the lecture hall to bursting. Kimhi, an associate professor in the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought and the College, is famous in modern philosophical circles for his *Thinking and Being: A Two Way Capacity*—a book forthcoming from Harvard University Press but long in circulation in the form of drafts and lecture notes passed among colleagues and former students.

His research connects logic and the philosophy of language to questions in metaphysics and psychoanalysis. He has broad expertise: in two years at UChicago, after stops at Yale and Tel Aviv University, he's taught Martin Heidegger, *Hamlet*, psychoanalysis, and the analytic philosopher Gottlob Frege.

When I arrive at the fifth-floor classroom in Foster Hall on a Tuesday in April, I find a diverse group of about 15 undergraduates, a few missing among 19 enrolled. This is a comparative literature class, a philosophy class, and a Committee on Social Thought class, and I recognize fellow English majors besides. It's the fourth week of spring quarter and everybody looks comfortable; several students have brought lunch or sip coffee.

Kimhi arrives just as the clock hits 1:30 and wastes no time jumping into the deep end: Sigmund Freud's reading of *Oedipus Rex*, which pioneered the idea of the Oedipus complex (the

child's repressed sexual desire for the parent of the opposite sex). "There's an intimate relation between psychoanalysis and this play," says Kimhi, who speaks in a stentorian tone with a thick Israeli accent and an unhurried cadence. "It has to do with the unconscious question being asked: What is the father? Who is the father?"

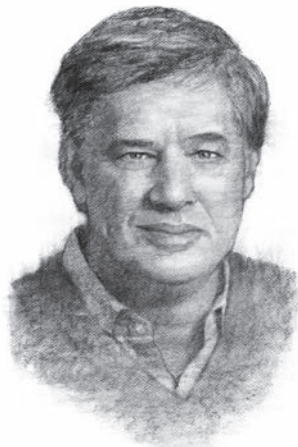
Oedipus Rex, says Kimhi, sets up the question of the father as a crisis of succession. Oedipus fulfills a prophecy whereby he kills his father, beds his mother, and unwittingly brings disaster to his city, Thebes. "We have this question of maintenance, of how the world continues," says Kimhi. "The

three plays we discuss"—*Oedipus Rex*, *Hamlet*, and Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*—"have a corrupt world in crisis. We start with a scene of disease, and the corruption is connected to a crisis of transmission in the figure of the father. In this crisis of the way the world continues, we have this emergence of the poetical world."

Kimhi is almost free-associating, his audience rapt and silent. The overarching objective of the class is to tackle poetic and philosophical conceptions of unhappiness. Kimhi argues that the three plays he assigned reflect a change in mankind's consciousness over time. Before we can get to unhappiness, though, we have to define our terms. For Kimhi this is far from a trivial task. His stream of associations leads from Oedipus to the etymology of Freud's term "uncanny" and its connotation, in the German, of "unfamiliar," or "not family." The prefix "un" is especially complex. "How can you think the not?" he asks. "How can you think something that is not a unity; how can something come to be that is mortal? How can nonbeing become a subject matter for philosophy?"

For Kimhi, this all emerges from the strangeness inherent in psychoanalysis. Freud "discovered" the unconscious, says Kimhi, in the sense that psychoanalysis works by diagnosing what patients are simply unable to recognize in themselves. This is the source of Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams*, where he introduces the Oedipus complex. Dreams and art are interrelated, Kimhi says, with all art forms displaying a "dreamlike character," a reflection of humanity as not fully awake.

From there he brings up Freud's idea



Freud "discovered" the unconscious in the sense that psychoanalysis works by diagnosing what patients are simply unable to recognize in themselves.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALLAN BURCH



concept is a deep issue; how do we have a concept of consciousness? And every concept has a negative, so we have something of the uncanny in our concepts.”

This sends him back in time from Freud to the classical philosophers. Plato asserts that pleasure is concordant with the good in being. “Beauty is supposed to be a radiation of organic unity,” says Kimhi. But we also have a “perverse” fascination with the “beautiful dead.”

“In some sense, all art—you think about sculpture—has beauty from some ambiguity of life and not life. That’s what you find in this piece of the uncanny,” says Kimhi. Aristotle, on the other hand, disagrees that such pleasure is perverse. “What is the kind of pleasure we take when we ride a roller coaster?” Kimhi asks. “You go through your own death, so to speak, but you came out alive. There is a tremendous pleasure we take, and it is not a pleasure we take with an eye towards nonbeing.”

This is where he stops for the day. My head actually hurts from all the abstraction, but it’s hard to stop working on untying the mental knots. The classroom empties with minimal banter, Kimhi’s ideas and images echoing in our minds. ♦

of the individual dreamer as a “stranger at home.” The stranger is dreaming, Kimhi says, but the dreamer is also “in some deep intimate sense, you.” This, he adds, reflects “the uncanny character of the unconscious.”

Kimhi’s careful to qualify, though, that he’s painting in broad strokes. “I’m not suggesting these images are concepts,” he says. It’s 30 minutes into the class, and a student finally pipes up. “I’m not totally sure what you mean by ‘concept,’” says a reedy-voiced guy who gives off a grad-student vibe.

Kimhi responds with the typical Kantian definition—“general representations in use by conscious judgment.” Philosophy emerged for the Greeks, he goes on, as “a demand for

conceptual clarification. ... This understanding is a fundamental part of our existence, our intellect.”

Kimhi explains that contemporary philosophy is still figuring out exactly what a concept is; this is a foundational question. “The relationship between language as a metaphor, figure, and

SYLLABUS

“The old quarrel between philosophy and poetry. Wisdom attained by suffering vis-à-vis happiness.” That’s the first week’s subject matter in Irad Kimhi’s

Unhappiness course, which goes on to explore notions of “negation, nonbeing, and the poetic image” and “the uncanny, negation, totem, and taboo.” Readings, which

make up the majority of the course requirements along with a five to eight page paper, include Parmenides, Plato, Freud, Sophocles, Shakespeare, and Beckett.—D.T.

in memoriam

HUMAN CAPITALIST

Reflections on the life and work of trailblazing economist Gary Becker.

BY JASON KELLY

ILLUSTRATION BY ALLAN BURCH

Economist Gary Becker, AM'53, PhD'55, never retired. Actively contributing to the field he helped redefine—teaching, researching, speaking, blogging—until his death in May at age 83, Becker was such a profound influence that he had long received the sort of extravagant tributes that typically precede the presentation of a gold watch.

In 2001 Milton Friedman, AM'33, described his former student, colleague, and fellow Nobel laureate as “the greatest social scientist who has lived and worked in the last half century.” Friedman’s use of “social scientist” rather than “economist” illustrated Becker’s transformational role. Perhaps nobody did more to make the terms synonymous.

His early work, including research on the economic impact of discrimination and the rational basis of criminal behavior, won him few admirers and little attention. Such border crossings into territory reserved for sociologists and psychologists were not yet commonplace in economics.

Becker, continuing on the path he charted for himself, made it so. He received the 1992 Nobel Memorial Prize in recognition of his “radical extension of the applicability of economic theory in his analysis of relations among individuals outside of the market system.”

As former US Treasury secretary Lawrence H. Summers put it, Becker turned economists’ attention to “the stuff of human life.” In addition to discrimination and crime, he studied subjects such as education, marriage, and family, which were once deemed beyond the reach of the dismal science. “Becker fused the cool logic of economic reason with a fiery imagination,” Harvard economist **Edward Glaeser**, PhD'92, wrote in his *New Republic* remembrance, “a combination that enabled him to use economics to enlighten wide swaths of human behavior.”

Becker’s death, from complications after ulcer surgery, inspired a wide swath of praise from those who were touched by his life and work. Selections are collected below. (For more on Becker’s influence, see “A Theory of the Allocation of a Nobelist’s Time,” page 52.)

Steven Levitt, William B. Ogden Distinguished Service Professor in Economics

Gary had a reputation for being extremely tough. He absolutely terrified people. But not once in twenty years did I hear him raise his voice, or even appear openly angry. People feared him because he could see the truth. At his core, though, he had a deep humanity.

Years ago, my son Andrew died unexpectedly in the middle of the school term. I cancelled my classes for a few weeks. Only when I returned did I discover that Gary had stepped in, without anyone asking him to, and had taught the classes in my absence. The only problem was that my students were so disappointed when I returned!

Lawrence H. Summers, Former US Treasury Secretary

Before Becker, economics was about topics like business cycles, inflation, trade, monopoly and investment. Today it is also about racial discrimination, schooling, fertility, marriage and divorce, addiction, charity, political influence—the stuff of human life. If, as some assert, economics is an imperial social science, Gary Becker was its emperor.

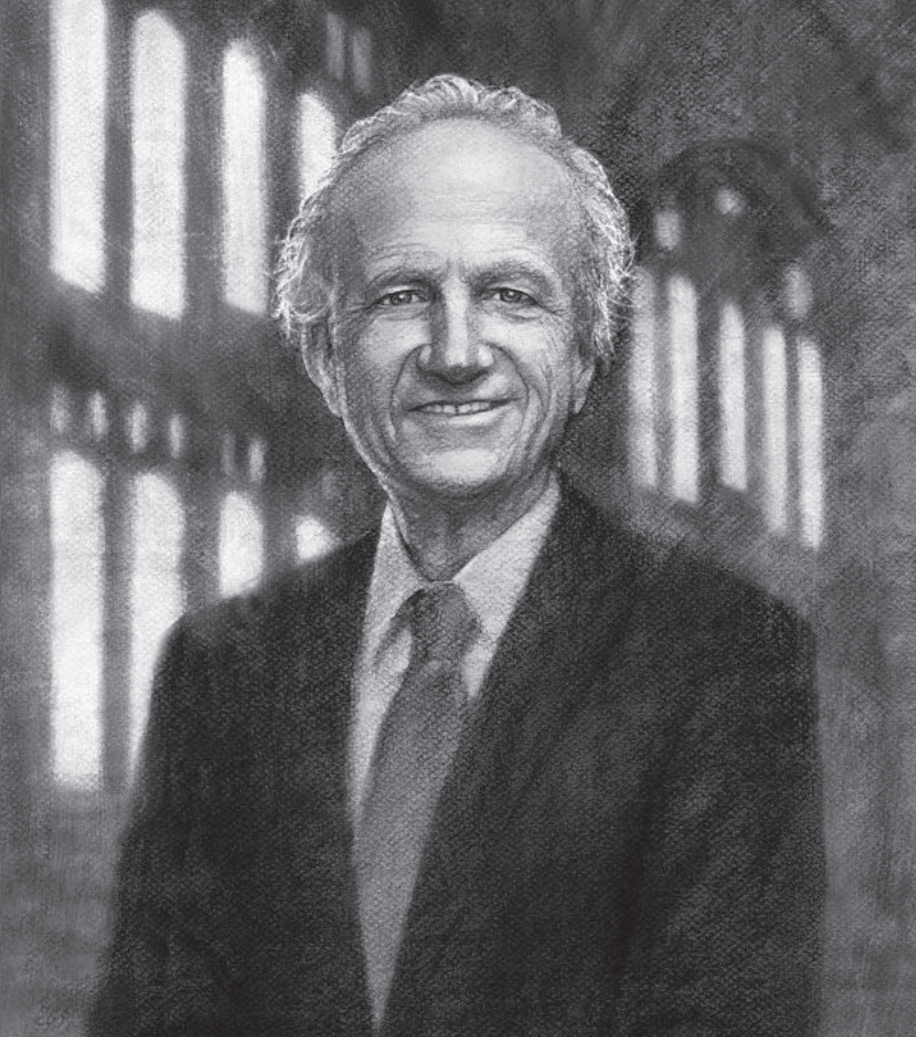
Robert J. Zimmer, President of the University of Chicago

He was intellectually fearless. As a scholar and as a person, he represented the best of what the University of Chicago aspires to be.

Kevin M. Murphy, PhD'86, George J. Stigler Distinguished Service Professor of Economics

He was devoted to and helped define Chicago economics, a

**BECKER FUSED
THE COOL LOGIC OF
ECONOMIC REASON WITH
A FIERY IMAGINATION.**



Becker redrew the disciplinary boundaries of economics.

rich tradition that uses economics to understand and shape the world around us. Gary was an inspiration to several generations of Chicago students—instilling in them the love for economics that he lived and breathed.

The Economist

Becker's trailblazing earned plenty of criticism. The interdisciplinary adventurism it embodied peeved other social scientists, who doubted that cool-headed analysis played much part in matters of love or larceny. But his work yielded unexpected insights and forced social scientists to rethink their assumptions and sharpen their analyses, the better to learn why people behave as they do and how policy can best help. Whole branches of microeconomics owe their existence to him. It is hard to imagine a more welfare-improving contribution.

Edward Lazear, Former Chair of the President's Council of Economic Advisers

Gary Becker was a giant who used his genius to make sense of issues that had formerly resisted analysis. He integrated economics into more general social science and won over his critics. He demonstrated that analytic thinking and economic analysis were the social scientist's most powerful tools.

tangible benefits: better wages, better services, better care, better job satisfaction, services, wellbeing and better profits. This is almost taken for granted now. Becker is a big part of the reason it is and we should be grateful for that.

Peter Klein, Associate Professor of Applied Social Sciences and Director of the McQuinn Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the University of Missouri

A friend of mine was at Chicago in the 1990s when Becker was in his mid-60s and already a Nobel laureate. Like most economists in the department, my friend went to the office and worked Saturdays and Sundays. Becker was usually the first to arrive and the last to leave. "He's not only the smartest person here," I was told, "but the hardest worker!"

Richard A. Posner, US Court of Appeals Judge and Senior Lecturer at the Law School

In memoriam: Gary S. Becker, 1930–2014. The Becker-Posner blog is terminated. ♦

Ilya Somin, Professor of Law at George Mason University School of Law

Sadly, I never got the chance to meet Prof. Becker. But I did exchange e-mails with him about a mutual research interest several years ago. I was skeptical that a Nobel Prize winner would bother responding to a request from an obscure assistant professor in another field. But he sent a very informative reply within a few hours after I e-mailed him. I have heard that this was just a typical example of his generosity.

Richard Griffin, Director of the UK's Institute of Vocational Learning and Workforce Research

When he first wrote *Human Capital* he was accused of debasing learning. Surely learning is good in itself regardless of its economic outcome? I have some sympathy with that view, but I have more sympathy with the view that education, including workplace learning and development, delivers



Links to the full Gary Becker tributes excerpted above are available online. To read more, visit mag.uchicago.edu/human-capitalist.

politics

CITY LIMITS

Chicago Harris's Gary Project joins forces with a dynamic new mayor to reframe the Indiana steel town's future.

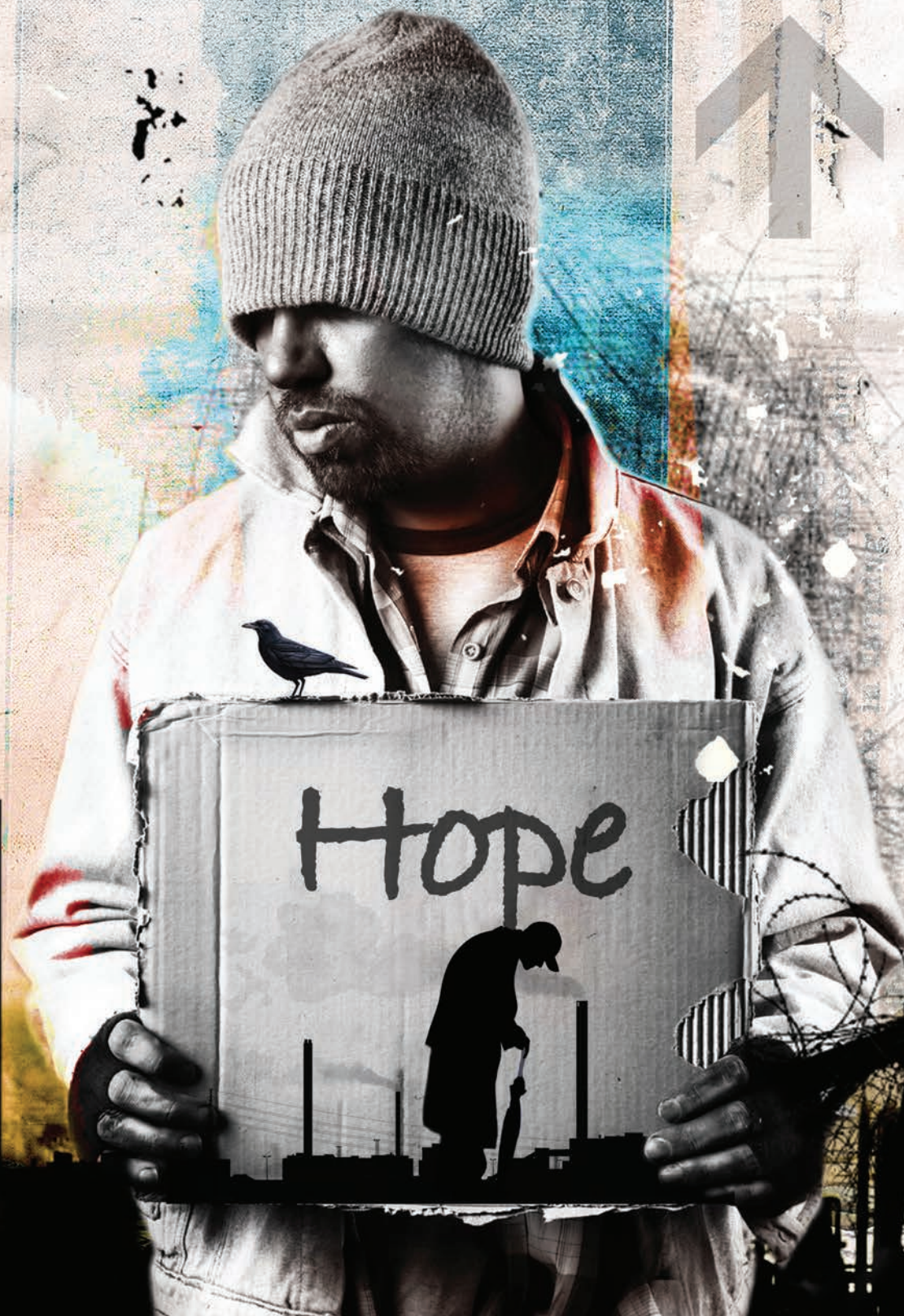
BY RICHARD MERTENS

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID JUNKIN



I try to take care
of my neighborhood

I've lived here for 35 years, and I plan to stay



Mayor Freeman-Wilson received the Chicago Harris Dean's Award during Alumni Weekend 2014 (left); in Gary last fall, the mayor shared a laugh with Jocelyn Hare, MPP'13, the Gary Project's first postdoctoral fellow (top right); Hare and Doug Nagy, MBA'13, center, conferred with consultant Lincoln Chandler.

A n icy wind blew down Broadway, the main street in Gary, Indiana. It drove wisps of snow past boarded-up shops and tugged at the plastic that hung over the empty floors of an abandoned Sheraton Hotel. Most of the sidewalks were full of snow, so pedestrians walked in the street, including a blind woman in a fur coat who found her way by tapping her cane against the windrow of snow. To the north, on the other side of Interstate 90, gigantic clouds of smoke and steam billowed from US Steel's sprawling Gary Works, which hummed along despite the cold.

To a city as economically battered as Gary, the harsh winter of 2014 was a special affront. The thriving steel town that once proclaimed itself "City of the Century" has become one of the most impoverished and economically depressed cities in the country. Jobs have disappeared, more than a third of residents live in poverty, and the population has dwindled to less than half its former size. Covering 50 square miles, the city is too big for its residents and for efficient snow removal. To clear its 434 miles of streets, Gary deployed a fleet of just four snowplows plus an assortment of pickup trucks fitted with blades. "We have more workers than snowplows," said Cloteal LaBroi, the city's public works director. When nearly 20 inches of snow fell, overwhelming Gary's crews, the mayor of nearby Portage, Indiana, sent four more plows—and caught grief for showing neighborliness toward Gary.

Still, the mood in city hall was buoyant that January afternoon. Karen Freeman-Wilson, Gary's mayor since 2012, had brought good news: that morning, officials of the Gary airport had approved a deal with a private company to spend \$100 million over 40 years to develop the airport and the surrounding area, which for decades had failed to deliver the economic boost that had been hoped for. In 2013 the airport lost its only airline—the sixth to have come and gone since 1999—and was hardly used. The agreement included a pledge not just to bring business to the airport but to train and hire Gary residents. "This is a big deal," said **Richard Leverett**, JD'10, the mayor's interim chief of staff.

The mayor and a dozen or so other city officials were gathered in a conference room to hear ideas about reviving retail business in Gary. **Doug Nagy**, MBA'13, had brought a thick report on strategies that he and another Chicago Booth graduate had worked on as students the year before. An Ohio native who calls himself "passionate about the revitalization of the Rust Belt," Nagy was part of an effort organized by the Harris School of Public Policy to give University students firsthand experience wrestling with the tough problems of a struggling industrial city.

Nagy, 28, had once worked on a Main Street project to revive a small town just outside Cleveland, and he brimmed with ideas for Gary. The city staff, who are surprisingly young, listened intently as he outlined his ideas on a screen at one end of the room: making the downtown friendlier to pedestrians, saving historic buildings, concentrating traffic on Broadway, creating bike lanes, moving Gary's casino downtown, and setting up business incubators so that starting a business might be a less lonely endeavor.

"People always try to start new businesses in Gary, but it's all over the city," said Nagy. He was fast-talking and relentlessly upbeat, heading to a job back in Cleveland but still passionate about Gary. "Our idea is that every neighborhood can have a sense of place," he continued. "It doesn't have to be a highfalutin place to have a sense of place." He sprinkled bits of data throughout his presentation—how much Gary residents spend annually at barbershops and beauty salons, references to cities facing similar problems. "We called Detroit," he said. "We called Youngstown. We called Cleveland and asked what they did." In a city chronically short of money, he stressed the importance of starting small. But he also warned against "low design expectations." The city had neglected to make sure that existing retail development, as modest as it was, suited "Gary's historic character," his report said. "The prevailing wisdom is that Gary can't be picky." Nagy urged the city to focus on its most promising locations. It wouldn't take a lot of money, he said. His hometown added bike lanes and new parking places, and "All it cost us was a can of paint."

The mayor seemed pleased. The report "leaves us with a lot of good options," she said. "It gives us a lot to think about as we go forward."

**EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD
CAN HAVE A SENSE
OF PLACE. IT DOESN'T
HAVE TO BE A
HIGHFALUTIN PLACE
TO HAVE A SENSE
OF PLACE.**



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DREW REYNOLDS (LEFT), ROBERT KOZLOFF (TOP RIGHT), AND RICHARD MERTENS (BOTTOM RIGHT)

For years, going forward in Gary has meant trying to halt the backward slide. The city was founded in 1906 when US Steel chose a seven-mile stretch of sand dunes on Lake Michigan's south shore as the site for a new plant. Named after the company's chairman and CEO, Judge Elbert Gary, the city flourished, attracting immigrant workers from the Balkans, Italy, Greece, and other European countries, as well as African Americans from the South. It endured the Depression and labor struggles, and by 1960 had grown to 178,000 residents.

It was also growing into a center of black culture and political awakening. In 1967 Gary elected its first black mayor, Richard Hatcher; he and Carl Stokes of Cleveland, voted into office the same year, were the first elected black mayors of large American cities. Whites resisted—the local Democratic machine backed Hatcher's white Republican opponent—and began leaving Gary for surrounding communities. Many businesses followed. At the same time, the globalization of trade and industry resulted in the closing and relocation of many area factories. The Gary Works stayed open, but its workforce declined. Still, US Steel's biggest plant, the Gary Works' four blast furnaces can turn out 7.5 million tons of steel a year. But with improved equipment, says Michael R. Millsap, District 7 director of the United Steelworkers union, the number of workers needed to make all that steel has fallen from a high of more than 20,000 to around 5,000 today.

Gary's population continues to shrink, falling by 22 percent in the first decade of this century, to about 80,000. "When people start making money, they move out," says

Pleas Yates, a longtime resident whose neighborhood has slowly been emptying out. As those with jobs leave, abandoning houses and other property, the city's tax base shrinks and essential services suffer, like policing and snow removal. To make things worse, many homeowners don't or can't pay their taxes. The city collects only about 42 percent of what it's owed, far less than the Lake County average. Meanwhile state policy has shifted the burden of taxation from businesses to homeowners and imposed caps on rates, forcing cities across Indiana to make do with less.

The city's wide streets now transect a landscape of neglect, decay, and abandonment. Most of the old businesses are boarded up or torn down, leaving empty lots. What survives is largely fast food joints, liquor stores, payday loan shops, beauty parlors, and car repair shops. The streets themselves are potholed, the sidewalks cracked and overgrown, the lots brush choked and cluttered with trash from the illegal dumping that afflicts the city. Officials estimate that as many as 15,000 homes—a quarter of the city's housing—stand empty.

Gary's reputation has suffered too. Once celebrated for steel, the city is now best known for crime and poverty. In 1994 the *Chicago Tribune* proclaimed it murder capital of the United States, and rates of violent crime remain high. Ed Feigenbaum, publisher of *Indiana Legislative Insight* and a longtime observer of state politics, says that Indianapolis, the state capital, sees Gary as little more than a supplicant. "It's always had to go to the state to ask for things," he says.

Freeman-Wilson promised a fresh start. A Gary native, graduate of Harvard Law School, former Indiana attorney



Abandoned buildings must be razed, says former Chicago mayor Richard M. Daley. “If you don’t, that’s a symbol.”

ney general, and judge and practicing lawyer in Gary, she seemed to possess many of the qualities the city needed in its mayor. Now 53, she is intelligent, energetic, well connected outside the city but also deeply loyal to it.

Mayor Karen, as she is known throughout Gary, came into office facing two huge challenges. One was to do more with less—to fight the city’s decline with ever dwindling resources. The other was to restore the hope and trust of residents grown weary of false dawns, empty promises and ineffective government, and big ideas that never lived up to expectations. Gary was founded on a big idea—making steel in as efficient and modern a way as possible—and for years its leaders have grasped at the big ideas that would reverse the city’s fortunes: a new convention center in 1981, two Miss USA pageants in the early 2000s, the \$300 million museum once proposed to honor Michael Jackson. All these and more were conceived of as answers to Gary’s woes. None of them were.

For the most part Freeman-Wilson has avoided the kind of grandiose symbolic projects that inspired her predecessors, focusing on modest efforts to attack the city’s most pressing problems: unemployment, crime, blight, struggling schools, and widespread resignation. “Instead of one big answer, a lot of smaller answers,” says historian S. Paul O’Hara, who wrote a book about Gary and says he’s impressed with the new mayor. She has strived to restore confidence in government but also to awaken a sense of civic responsibility. “It’s a New Day!” proclaims the sign outside City Hall, but also “Keep Gary Clean! Pick Up!”

In her State of the City address in February, she began not with a list of her administration’s accomplishments but with a sobering overview of Gary’s problems. Just a week before, two gunmen had shot up a senior citizen’s club on Broadway, wounding four and bringing a lot of unflattering attention to the city. “Crime, specifically the murder rate, has been the Achilles heel of this administration,”

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID TRIBBY

ONE THING ABOUT BLIGHT AND ABANDONMENT IS IT'S EXTREMELY CONTAGIOUS ... THE STRATEGY IS TO FIND THE ONE OR TWO ABANDONED BUILDINGS AND TAKE THEM OUT.

the mayor acknowledged. Only a few months earlier, the state had issued a scathing report on the Gary police department, finding, among other problems, “a profound lack of direction, authority and discipline.” The city clearly had a long way to go. “It’s a balance,” Freeman-Wilson says. “You want people to understand that progress and success in an area where you have had so many challenges is measured in baby steps, and you have to walk through those baby steps and help them understand what is being accomplished. At the same time there is a need to manage expectations.”

She has ranged widely in search of help for her city. One of the first things she did was to staff city offices with a cadre of bright young professionals, many of whom, like Leverett and LaBroi, grew up in Gary. “I wanted to make Gary better,” says LaBroi, a lawyer who worked in public relations for NBA and NFL teams before Freeman-Wilson persuaded her to come home. The mayor also has cultivated friends in neighboring communities, including officials like the mayor of Portage, and in other cities grappling with similar problems. Her administration has reached out to state and federal agencies with the money and expertise that Gary lacks. In January these efforts began to bear fruit when the Obama administration named Gary one of seven cities in the federal Strong Cities, Strong Communities program. Indeed, the mayor has earned respect in both Indianapolis and Washington. “People think Karen Freeman-Wilson has a lot more promise than other mayors,” says Feigenbaum.

The Gary Project at UChicago grew out of a phone call Freeman-Wilson made to former Chicago mayor **Richard M. Daley**, distinguished senior fellow at Chicago Harris, seeking advice on Gary’s challenges. Daley invited the mayor to speak at the school soon after she was elected, and a broader collaboration took root. “It’s not just Gary,” Daley told the *Chicago Policy Review*, based at Chicago Harris. “There are many other cities in America just like it. I’ve always thought that we should not forget the people in a city like that.”

Launched in 2012, the Gary Project provides a rare opportunity for seven to ten students each quarter to put theory into practice by confronting Gary’s problems. “I thought it was a perfect fit,” Daley said in a recent interview. “We’re taking graduate students and giving them real experience about an issue, to research it, come up with the facts, and come up with ways of solving these problems.” Part of their job is to search for new ideas, often by studying the experiences of other struggling industrial cities, and figure out how to apply them to Gary. It started with Harris students but was soon expanded to include students from other units, including Chicago Booth, the Law School, the Pritzker School of Medicine, and the College.

Early on, Daley and Freeman-Wilson assigned the Gary Project two challenges: dealing with abandoned houses and cleaning up unkempt neighborhoods. These were not only urgent needs, they spoke to Daley’s conviction that to thrive, a city needs to be attractive. Abandoned buildings “represent the deterioration of Gary,” he told NBC in 2013. “You have to get those down. If you don’t, that’s a symbol.”

Along with poverty and crime, abandoned housing is one of Gary’s worst problems and the starting point for any rebuilding effort. “One thing about blight and abandonment is it’s extremely contagious,” says Joseph A. Van Dyk, director of the city’s redevelopment department. “If there’s a blighted building on a block there’s a far greater chance that the other buildings will fall into disrepair. The strategy is to find the one or two abandoned buildings and take them out.”

In the spring of 2012 a group of Gary Project students explored what to do with abandoned houses. They came up with a series of proposals, like selling houses for a dollar, a revival of an old US Department of Housing and Urban Development program that transferred abandoned properties to residents willing to fix them up and live in them, and giving vacant lots to a neighboring homeowner who would keep it up and pay taxes on it.

“We had a bunch of recommendations,” says **Jocelyn Hare**, MPP’13, part of the Gary Project from the beginning and now its first postdoctoral fellow. She says she became “pretty enamored” of the problem of abandoned housing. “I figured if you could solve this issue in a city with very

A LOT OF PEOPLE I KNOW HAVE LOST THEIR HOPE. I WANT TO BE A SOURCE OF HOPE. IF I'M ON FIRE, THEY CAN CATCH ON FIRE.

limited resources, you could do it anywhere.”

It quickly became clear, however, that good policy recommendations required a better understanding of the problem. No one really knew the full scope of Gary’s abandoned housing problem. The students set out to find answers. It took them a while to figure out how to do it. One idea was to fly over the city with infrared cameras that could detect houses that were inhabited. But geothermal mapping would have been expensive, says **Ana Aguilera**, MPP’13, now a junior professional associate at the World Bank in Washington, DC. It also would have revealed relatively little about the condition of the houses. In the end the students used software from a Detroit start-up and went from house to house, entering data into their smartphones.

The survey covered more than a third of the city and yielded color-coded maps that showed at a glance the condition of whole neighborhoods. It gave the city a much clearer picture of its housing problem and helped win a \$6.6 million federal grant that will pay for the demolition of hundreds of houses. The grant also will fund a pilot project to dismantle 12 houses and sell them as recycled building material, an effort designed mainly to create badly needed jobs. “It’s really huge,” says Hare. “I think we’re going to see changes in how the city feels and looks.”

To tidy up neighborhoods, students in the Gary Project borrowed an idea from Macon, Georgia. They identified five-block areas in five neighborhoods, then organized massive five-week cleanups, area by area. Local volunteers, youth groups, UChicago students, and city workers pick up trash, mow vacant lots, and cut brush. The goal is not just to beautify a neighborhood but also to inspire pride in it. “A lot of people I know have lost their hope,” says LaToya Jones, a 39-year-old Gary resident who has taken part in several 5x5x5 cleanups, first as a volunteer and more recently as a paid city employee. “I want to be a source of hope. If I’m on fire, they can catch on fire.” But the cleanups have attracted

relatively few volunteers from the targeted neighborhoods.

The inclusion of students from across the University has given the Gary Project a strong interdisciplinary flavor. This year, for example, **Sameer Vohra**, a Harris student and third-year pediatric resident, is part of a group of students trying to figure out efficient ways of addressing Gary’s public health problems. The problems—for instance, high rates of asthma—resemble those in Chicago’s poor neighborhoods, but Gary has a small health department and lacks a big medical center. The challenge, Vohra says, is to address health issues from a wider community perspective, starting, perhaps, with education. “One question we hope to try to answer is what can a small city government do,” says Vohra. “What impact can it make on health outcomes without a lot of resources?”





Covering 50 square miles, Gary is too big for a population that fell 22 percent in the ten years since 2000.

Gary's predicament is dire but not unique. Its struggles reflect those of many older industrial US cities, especially in the Midwest and Northeast. Some, like Detroit and Cleveland, are well known. But many smaller cities, like Youngstown, Ohio, and Flint, Michigan, also grapple with shrinking populations, dwindling jobs, rising poverty, and the blight that accompanies demographic and economic decline. Nor is the phenomenon uniquely American. Last October the *Economist* lamented the stubbornly depressed condition of small English cities. "Whereas over the past two decades England's big cities have developed strong service-sector economies," it reported, "its smaller industrial towns have continued their relative decline."

Can these cities be revived? To Harvard economist **Edward Glaeser**, PhD'92, this is the wrong question. Writing

about Buffalo, New York, he argues that government has wasted too much money on projects aimed at resurrecting old industrial cities, trying to save places when it should be investing in people by giving them better educational opportunities and helping them with policies like the earned income tax credit. Indeed, in Gary millions of dollars have been poured into projects that came to little or nothing. But urban planners have not given up on old industrial cities like Gary and Buffalo. They are still strong believers in place-based efforts. They think these cities should accept their diminished size—no more longing for past glory—but build on their strengths.

A place to start, they believe, is downtown. Cities should revive their centers and reestablish the downtown's economic importance. One way is simply to make down-



Marley Snow plays guitar outside his barbershop.



Gary Project students introduced 5x5x5 cleanups.

towns more attractive, places people want to be. (As mayor of Chicago, Daley was a strong believer in beautification.) They also say cities need to shrink intelligently, focusing limited resources on the most vibrant neighborhoods and finding new uses for abandoned areas. Genesee County, Michigan, home to Flint, for instance, set up a land bank to ease the redevelopment of vacant housing and repurposing of vacant land.

“More cities have come to the understanding that they may at best stabilize their population,” says Jennifer S. Vey, a fellow in the Brookings Institution’s Metropolitan Policy Program. “It’s unrealistic to base their revitalization efforts on population growth. And that’s an important change. Because for a long time people thought that growth had to be the answer.”

Some cities, like Pittsburgh, have been able to transform themselves in part because of the influence of universities, medical centers, and other large institutions that provide jobs, civic leadership, and new economic opportunities. Others have taken advantage of waterfront locations and strong transportation systems. Still others have built on historical expertise. Akron, Ohio, was good at making tires, and it was a short step from tires to polymers. Milwaukee is trying to use its manufacturing legacy and location on Lake Michigan to become a center of freshwater research and technology.

Don K. Carter, director of the Remaking Cities Institute at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, says strong, diverse, and coordinated leadership is critical to these efforts. Once such leadership flowed from the owners and managers of big companies. Nowadays it more often comes from hospitals, universities, and other institutions. “It is the keystone and has to be public/private,” he says. Energetic mayors are necessary but not enough.

Like many small industrial cities, Gary lacks the re-

sources of larger cities. For example, it has little business community to lean on for leadership or philanthropy, as Detroit, with all its difficulties, can. But Gary does enjoy some distinct advantages, including proximity to Chicago, an airport closer to downtown Chicago than O’Hare, and its location at the crossroads of four interstate highways. Already the city is home to several large trucking terminals.

And there are signs of progress. Last year the city began selling a small number of dollar homes, creating new homeowners and drawing positive national attention. Meanwhile, Gary has quietly started up a 311 program to enable it to respond better to citizens’ needs and revive their confidence in city government. Freeman-Wilson continues to promote civic responsibility, in part by lending a hand herself at many projects, like the neighborhood cleanups and the conversion of her old middle school into a Boys & Girls Club. She regularly appears on a local radio talk show and sets aside afternoons to meet with residents who have ideas for improving the city.

She hasn’t erased skepticism. “We figured with the new mayor the city would start to come around,” said Gary resident James Adams, who stood talking with friends outside a car repair shop one morning. He rattled off some common complaints in Gary—too many unfilled potholes and boarded-up houses, a top-heavy administration. “We don’t see no turnaround in the city,” he added.

Even residents more sympathetic to Freeman-Wilson harbor strong doubts. “It doesn’t matter who the mayor is,” said Yates, who has lived in Gary for 50 years. He recalled when his neighborhood was full of houses. Now those that remain stand among vacant lots, and many are boarded up. “I’ll never see the way it was,” he said. “I ain’t going to lie. It’s never going to get better here.”

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD MEERTENS (LEFT AND RIGHT), DAVID TRIBBY (CENTER)



After 35 years here, Nancy Wilson says, “I plan to stay.”

Others are more optimistic. “People around here want immediate change,” says Mike Ballard, the manager of Billco’s Barber Shop, with its 15 barbers one of the liveliest businesses on Broadway. “It didn’t become like this overnight. It’s going to take some time to rebound. She’s doing some good things. She’s trying.”

She’s not the only one. In December Drew Fox opened the 18th Street Brewery, a brewpub that employs seven people and was named the state’s best new brewer by craft beer website RateBeer.com this winter. “I saw it as giving back to the city where I live, give it some opportunity,” Fox says. Marley Snow started a barbershop on a desolate stretch of Broadway close to downtown. Although the number of customers is “getting thin,” he says, “I think Gary is still a good place for business.” And when business is slow, as it was on a mild morning this April, Snow takes out his Maestro six-string guitar and plays on the sidewalk in front of his shop.

The mayor says she’s been impressed by the resilience of Gary’s residents. UChicago students, too, are struck by the determination of people they’ve met to tend diligently to their small corner of the city. “I was surprised that even in the worst neighborhoods in Gary there was a strong sense of community among the neighbors,” says Nagy. “It was an inspiration to me that things can get better.”

Nancy Wilson is one such resident. A retired steelworker in her 60s, she’s lived since 1981 in a quiet neighborhood that has bled many of its residents in those years. Up and down the streets, a third or more of the houses stand empty. Trash and construction debris clutter the back alleys. But her block is carefully tended, grass cut, yards neat. She’s worked to keep it that way, picking up trash in front of the vacant homes and encouraging others to clean up too. Her neighbor across the street, Eddie Tarver, helps out, mowing the grass around the houses and using his snow blower to clear the walks. “I try to take care of my neighborhood,” he says.

Their care has its limits. Sooner or later most empty houses in Gary fall victim to “scrappers”—thieves who break in and steal furnaces, appliances, light fixtures, knobs, pipes, and pretty much anything else of value. It’s often the first step on the road to dilapidation. In April, Wilson went to city hall to suggest ways of stopping the scrappers, such as installing surveillance cameras and using monitoring devices to track stolen appliances. “I’ve lived here for 35 years,” she told the mayor. “And I plan to stay.”

The Gary Project is entering its third year. Freeman-Wilson says it’s already helped her city move forward, through the 5x5x5 cleanups, abandoned housing survey, and more. “It’s the innovations of students who aren’t jaded enough to dwell on what we can’t do that really has made this project,” she said at the meeting with Nagy. For his part, Nagy was impressed by the city’s openness to new approaches. “If the University of Chicago can come up with some great ideas, Gary is perfectly willing to try them,” he says. “It’s a perfect laboratory. ... If we can improve the quality of life in Gary with new strategies, those strategies are likely to work in Youngstown and Cleveland and Detroit and places like that.”

“We owe it to another generation to rebuild Gary into something that no one ever thought it could be,” says Daley. O’Hara agrees that the Gary Project follows in a long tradition of seeing the city as a place of new ideas and possibilities. It’s happened in education, in politics, and, in a sense, in making steel. “Gary has always been sort of a laboratory for all kinds of experimentation,” he says. Whether that spirit can reverse Gary’s fortunes is still to be seen. ♦

Richard Mertens has written for the *Magazine* about the ethics of anthrax vaccines for children and about the late George Anastaplo, AB’48, JD’51, PhD’64.

glimpses

BRET STEPHENS

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

After Friday's celebration dinner, Saturday morning's breakfast and ceremony, and a panel discussion of politics and public life that afternoon, freshly minted alumni award recipient **Bret Stephens**, AB'95, sat down to talk to the *Magazine*. Stephens's pugnacious foreign affairs column, *Global View*, appears each Tuesday in the *Wall Street Journal*, where he is also the deputy editorial page editor responsible for the paper's international opinion pages and a member of the editorial board. The column earned him the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 2013. He was very happy to win the Pulitzer, Stephens said, but "in awe" of winning the Professional Achievement Award because the latter put him in such distinguished company. Recognized with the same award this year was **Leon Kass**, LAB'54, SB'58, MD'62, one of Stephens's most cherished teachers in the College. The other, **Amy Kass**, AB'62 (Norman Maclean Faculty Award recipient in 2010), was in the audience. The Kassess taught him great books, he said, but also "that great wisdom and great decency are indivisible."

Stephens's résumé also includes the editorship of the *Jerusalem Post* and a stint at *Commentary*, where his first published piece of writing appeared, "for the princely sum of \$350," when he was a UChicago sophomore. His first book, *America in Retreat: The New Isolationism and the Coming Global Disorder*, will be published by the Penguin imprint Sentinel in November. The *Magazine's* interview with Stephens is edited and adapted below.

Welcome home

I remember my Aims of Education address, which was an analysis of the cliché Frost poem "The Road Not Taken." But Dean Boyer spoke before the address, and he said something that I found very comforting. He said, "All of you belong here." And looking around, you think, gee, these are some smart kids. I would like to take the opportunity to thank him for that comment, because it was greatly reassuring and now, 23-odd years later, I can look back at it and think, maybe Dean Boyer was right.

Dyed in the wool

The [UChicago] echo signal became stronger, not weaker, the farther away I got from the University. More and more I find that the topics I write about touch on themes that were intellectually alive for me at Chicago. To take a recent example, I wrote a column that dealt with the spate of commencement speaking cancellations and managed to slip in a reference to Emily Brontë, but I also managed to talk about the nature of liberalism. I said that one aspect of liberalism is not only the right to offend but the responsibility to know how to deal maturely with being offended. These are lines in a column but really they're the heart of the column, and all of that comes out of a certain kind of intellectual experience and curriculum that is here.

Trial by fire

I started at the *Journal* as an op-ed editor, then went to Brussels and wrote about the EU. I started writing about the Middle East a great deal beginning in 2000. After the Second Intifada erupted, I started covering it all the time. And then out of the blue, not long after September 11, I received a phone call from the then publisher of the *Jerusalem Post* asking me if I'd be interested in editing the paper. I said well, I'm 27 and I've never had responsibility for anything. But why not? It was a great story. It was a great job. And

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Stephens majored in fundamentals at the College.

it was a deep dive into a vat of boiling oil. I mean that in a good way. But there were suicide bombings on a constant basis. When the war with Iraq began we had to distribute gas masks to staff. I was there for just under three years, but they were dog years; each year counted for seven. I also met my wife there, and our first child was born there. So they were rich and crowded years.

Second thoughts

I was far too enthusiastic about the democratization project. I should have been much more sober about it. I've thought very seriously about my support for the Iraq War, and I've concluded that it was still worth supporting. But I didn't think clearly and quickly enough about how the war began to go wrong and how the Bush administration overdosed on its own idealism. When you have a president of the United States saying, as Bush did in the second inaugural, that the purpose of American foreign policy is to work toward the abolition of tyranny in every country in our time, that is substituting Utopianism for policy.

Beat cop

I believe in the idea of America as a world policeman. The job of a policeman is not the job of a priest, to save souls and change hearts. The job of a policeman is to walk the beat, to reassure the good, to deter the tempted, and to

punish the wicked. And that is a good thing for the United States to do internationally. First, because if we don't do it, we aren't going to like the characters who do. It's either Barack Obama or Vladimir Putin. Republican that I am, I'd rather it be Barack Obama. I'd rather it be the American president. Second, we've learned from the 1920s and '30s that when liberal democracies abdicate their responsibility, what you get is chaos and anarchy. And third, because the kind of stability and predictability that Pax Americana has provided has in its own quiet way greatly promoted liberal democratic culture and values all over the world.

Moral combat

You're useless as a columnist if you're not provoking some kind of strong reaction in your readers, whether approbation or disagreement. What I most want to do is get a reader to think. To react. To maybe rethink his own views. To enlarge his views. I feel like when an institution like the *Wall Street Journal* hands me something like a newspaper column, in effect I'm being handed a sword to do right as I see it. To call out the bad guys, to praise the good guys, to defend the weak, to attack the wicked. That's my view of a column.

Short order

Columns are a bit like pancakes: they need to be cooked and eaten right away. I've never written a column on a Thursday and just put it aside and then run it on Monday night. I think that's deadly.

Information economy

At the *Journal* I hire our annual crop of interns. I interview these really smart kids, and I find it distressing that they don't have hard facts at their fingertips. They're very smart; they've got minds that are like V8 engines. They know how to find information and how to process information. But you can't connect the dots if you don't know where the dots are in the first place. And so they have minds that look like 15th century maps—there's a kind of "here be dragons" quality. I think in education we've gone overboard with this idea that information doesn't matter, that what matters is learning how to think. But information does matter. Understanding chronology matters, and understanding geography matters. Understanding how chronology and geography create history is crucial to the business that I'm in. Anyone who aspires to be a serious journalist needs to do more than simply learn the craft of asking who, what, when, and where. They have to be able to make imaginative leaps based on hard facts. And that creates great journalism and great commentary. Otherwise you're pretty much a slave to whatever people are saying or thinking, and I don't think you'll ever really distinguish yourself as a journalist. ♦

history

ELEVATED DISCOURSE

How the University of Chicago, the great books craze, and a love of Goethe helped create the Aspen Institute.

BY CARRIE GOLUS, AB'91, AM'93







Seven people—more than a third of the participants in the Aspen Seminar—don’t want to go on the afternoon’s planned activity: “guided hike (all ability levels).”

It’s 8:30 on a Monday in August, another flawlessly beautiful morning in Aspen; the sun is so intense, it almost sparkles. Because of the altitude, 7,907 feet, summer temperatures rarely climb beyond the comfortable 70s. The scenery, celebrated by artists from Ansel Adams to John Denver, requires no further description.

Todd Breyfogle, AM’07, PhD’08, director of seminars and a native of Colorado—who’s wearing jeans and gray Teva sandals—reframes the terms of the discussion: “It’s a walk,” he says. “It’s a downhill walk.”

“Does this make us the laziest group ever?” asks Ladonna, a prominent radio journalist. (At the Aspen Institute’s request, names have been changed to protect the participants’ confidentiality.)

“Yes,” Breyfogle says. “You’re going to go down in Aspen

Institute history as the laziest group ever.” The laziest group laughs. Two of its members give in to the pressure and agree to go.

The Aspen Seminar, designed for business executives and other leaders, bills itself as a “moderated, text-based Socratic dialogue on the concept of a good and just society.” The following day’s afternoon outing is a tour of Snowmass Monastery. The monks of Snowmass, Breyfogle explains, who live “in an intentional community, to which they commit for life,

A “MODERATED, TEXT-BASED SOCRATIC DIALOGUE ON THE CONCEPT OF A GOOD AND JUST SOCIETY.”

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY
(PREVIOUS PAGE); PHOTO COURTESY ASPEN MEADOWS RESORT (ABOVE)

Previous page: Aspen Seminar participants in the 1950s costumed in Greek chitons to perform *Antigone*; University of Chicago professor Mortimer Adler is seated in center foreground. Opposite: A recent view of the Aspen Institute campus, with the area's world-famous ski runs in the background.

are one version of a good society." It's a silent order, he continues, where all decisions are made by consensus. ("Then how do they get consensus?" John, a director at a charitable foundation, quips. "Maybe that's how they do it.")

Today is the third day of the weeklong seminar, held many times throughout the year in Aspen as well as at the institute's Wye River campus in Queenstown, Maryland. The 20 participants—among them two executives from a Japanese electronics company, a bank CEO, the chancellor of a Puerto Rican university, an honorable lady justice from Kenya, and a retired judge from South Carolina—have been in Aspen since Saturday afternoon. On Sunday they were up at 8:30 a.m. discussing Aristotle's *Nichomachean Ethics*, followed by Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan*. Later that day they had rehearsals for their own amateur performance of *Antigone*—a tradition dating back more than 60 years, to the earliest days of the seminar—followed by an Aspen Music Festival concert.

With the logistics of the hike and the monastery tour clarified, moderator Carol Gluck turns to the first reading of the morning, Aristotle's *Politics*. A history professor at Columbia University, Gluck has served as a moderator at Aspen for 14 years. Columbia has a great books requirement, but "because I'm an Asianist, I've never had the opportunity to teach that"; at Aspen she can. The seminar, she says, provides a chance "to step back and think about your values. Hobbes thinks, to oversimplify, that human nature is not inherently good, while Mencius thinks just the opposite. Do you act differently in your company or your family if you begin with the premise that human nature is naturally good?"

Aspen sessions have two moderators, but they don't comoderate so much as take turns; while Gluck leads the discussion—"What is natural for Aristotle? What was natural for Hobbes? Why does the state exist?"—the other moderator, Roger Widmann of investment banking firm Cutwater Associates, listens.

The week's activities include easy hikes, elegant dinners, and cocktail receptions, but the discussions are at its core. The readings, photocopied into an old-school reading packet, include excerpts from Mencius, Charles Darwin, Plato, John Locke, and Karl Marx, as well as less predictable choices: Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, Elizabeth Bishop's poem "The Moose." (Seminar participants are encouraged to do the readings in advance; usually they comply, says Breyfogle, but not always.)

During the discussion, the behavior of the participants is a professor's dream. Everyone in the room—average age perhaps 45—appears intensely engaged. They look down at the packet, across at the moderator, or stare at nothing, lost

in thought. The hexagonal seminar room has small windows near the ceiling; you can't see any distracting passersby, just deep blue sky and Aspen trees trembling in the breeze.

Some ugliness comes through in Aristotle, though, who makes a number of unpleasant assertions about the position of women and slaves in society. "He's not a feel-good kind of guy," Gluck notes.

"Does he think the master-slave relationship is natural?" asks Patricia, founder of a nonprofit that helps minority students pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

"Only when it is by heritage," says Javier, CEO of a Brazilian restaurant chain. "You're a slave by nature."

Jim, a direct marketing executive, reads from the text: "From the hour of their birth, some are marked out for subjection, others for rule." He does no work here. He just sort of states it, in the way that he states that women are inferior to men."

"We need to ask whether hierarchy is natural," moderator Gluck says. "And if we don't think it's natural, what do we think it is?"

"Here's Aristotle saying hierarchy is natural in order for him to be contemplative, and here we all are, sitting around being contemplative," Betsy, founder of a digital education nonprofit, points out. Jason, CEO of an organization that supports charter schools (whom Gluck affectionately calls "the cynic in chief" at one point) laughs wickedly. "What natural state do we think the world should be in that we have the ability to sit around like this?" Betsy continues. "Because most people don't."

"Absolutely," says Gluck. "What would Aristotle say about Aspen? Ask that question."

"I think he would say it's natural," says Betsy, "because we're here."

"I think you need to define what you mean by natural," says Nathan, a fellow at a think tank. "It could be natural, but not be justified."

The joke in Colorado is that Aspen is the town where the billionaires drove out the millionaires. With a population under 7,000, Aspen has some of the most expensive real estate in the United States; according to real estate website Zillow, the median listing price for a single-family home is above \$2 million. The 99 percent (possibly even some of the 1 percent) can't afford to live there; many of the workers who make Aspen function ride the bus up Highway 82 from Glenwood Springs and other down-valley towns.

In 1892, the height of the silver boom, Aspen's population was 12,000. The prosperous town was the first in Colorado to



Scenes from the Goethe Festival, clockwise from top left: Elizabeth Paepcke, EX'22; Robert Maynard Hutchins (second from right); and Walter Paepcke (standing) in the bar; Albert Schweitzer delivers his speech in German and French with Thornton Wilder interpreting; pianist Arthur Rubinstein rides a ski lift; the Paepckes.

install electric street lights. But after the Sherman Silver Purchase Act was repealed in 1893 (so the government was no longer required to buy a set amount of silver every month), Aspen's economy was ruined.

The town had shrunk to 1,000 mostly impoverished residents by 1938. That's when Chicago socialite Elizabeth Paepcke, EX'22—wife of Walter Paepcke, University of Chicago trustee and chairman of the Container Corporation of America; daughter of Romance languages professor William Nitze; and sister of Paul Nitze, who became secretary of the Navy—"discovered" Aspen.

As the origin story goes, the pipes had frozen and burst at the Paepcke ranch near Larkspur, Colorado, in 1938. To divert her houseguests' attention, Elizabeth suggested a skiing expedition to Aspen, about 150 miles away. There was no ski lift, just a tow; but she fell in love with the decrepit former mining town.

Elizabeth returned to Aspen at the end of World War II, bringing her husband. As **Sidney Hyman**, AB'36, AM'38, writes in *The Aspen Idea* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1975), "When Walter Paepcke saw Aspen for the first time on Memorial Day, 1945, the only mortal visible out-of-doors was a drunk, and he was half-dead." The Paepckes stayed at the formerly grand Hotel Jerome, where the house drink, four parts bourbon and one part milk, was known as "crud." (Aspen crud—served hot in winter, with ice cream in summer—remains the signature drink at the Jerome, now a four-star hotel.)

Walter too saw the charm of Aspen and impulsively bought his wife a Victorian house as a birthday present. Then he bought another house, and another, and leased the Hotel Jerome. Over the next few years he established two companies, the Aspen Skiing Corporation and the Aspen Company, to run the hotel and purchase other investment properties.

Meanwhile—in what would seem an entirely unrelated development—the president of the University of Chicago, Robert Maynard Hutchins, was mulling over the possibility of a festival celebrating Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The idea for the festival, marking the bicentennial of the writer's birth, came from Guiseppe Antonio Borgese, professor emeritus of Italian literature and the son-in-law of Thomas Mann. It was 1948, just three years after the end of World War II, and the intention was to help bring Germany back into the world intellectual community.

Hutchins approached Paepcke about supporting the festival. Both men loved Goethe. Hutchins had taken a copy of *Faust* with him to Italy during World War I, memorizing long passages while on guard duty; Paepcke too could recite entire sections. Paepcke agreed to help—as long as the festival included music and was held in Aspen. The festival site should be Aspen Meadows, Paepcke suggested, a flat tract of land where Aspen's silver barons once gambled on horse races, and which he now owned.

IT'S A SURPRISINGLY COMPELLING EXERCISE, TO EXAMINE A DOCUMENT THAT GENERATIONS OF GRADE SCHOOL CHILDREN MEMORIZE UNTHINKINGLY.

Finding donors was difficult at first, since "99 percent of the American population never heard of Goethe," as Hutchins put it. But the festival's success was assured once Albert Schweitzer, the famous theologian and medical missionary in Africa, agreed to give the keynote speech. Schweitzer was engaged for two lectures—the 1949 convocation speech at the University and another talk in Aspen, which he naively assumed was a suburb of Chicago. Only after Schweitzer arrived in the United States did he discover that Aspen was a further two days' journey by train.

The festival lasted for three weeks and was attended by more than 2,000 people from all over the world. On that same patch of flat land, the Aspen Institute stands today.

After the seminar participants enjoy a quick breakfast buffet (along with the standard bagels, granola, coffee cake, and fruit, there's a mini egg-white fritata with roasted Provençal vegetables), Widmann takes over. This is Widmann's 19th year of moderating; he commands the room like a tenured professor, though he has never taught anywhere but here. Of the Declaration of Independence, he asks, "What kind of a document is this?"

The answers come quickly: "Game changing."

"Explanatory."

"Justification."

"Propaganda."

"A living document."

"Powerful."

"Disobedient," says Ruth, the Kenyan lady justice.

"Disobedient," Widmann says. "Good one. What else?"

"Manifesto."

"Awesome."

The Aspen Seminar, clockwise from top left: Mortimer Adler poses a question; a hexagonal table helps foster discussion; exercising the body as well as the mind; President George H. W. Bush and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at the institute's 40th anniversary in 1990.

"Declaration," says Crystal, managing director of an urban education nonprofit.

"Declaration!" Widmann crows. "Thank you very much. Right out of the text, isn't it? It is, legally speaking, in the form of a bill of particulars—I've got a complaint, and here are the particulars of my complaint. But it is, first and foremost, a declaration. A philosophical statement. A mission statement, in corporate speak. A PR statement."

Widmann and his wife, Judy, first came to Aspen in 1988, when he was head of investment banking at Chemical Bank and the seminar was two weeks long ("No one has that kind of time anymore," he notes). At the end of each Aspen Seminar, participants are asked who in their group would make a good moderator; his group chose him. Judy, sitting quietly with the other auditors in the outer ring of chairs, always attends: "She's my extra eyes and ears," he says. (Auditors, who include spouses, guests, and Aspen Institute staff, are expected to listen without contributing.)

Widmann leads the group through a line-by-line parsing of the Declaration. It's a surprisingly compelling exercise, to examine a document that generations of grade school children memorize unthinkingly.

At one point, the discussion slides into current events as Matt, a senior program officer at a foundation, and Nathan, the think tank fellow, spar over whether the United States was true to its democratic principles when setting policy toward Egypt.

The dispute grows more heated; Matt and Nathan interrupt and talk over each other. (This is against the rules at Aspen; at another point in the discussion, Widmann reminds the group firmly, "We have to have one person speaking at a time. Let's be careful.")

Widmann finally breaks in, talking over them both: "I think you're actually in violent agreement." With that, any acrimony diffuses easily into laughter.

The Goethe Festival had been intended as a one-off. But Paepcke was intrigued by the prospect of creating an institution "something like a university," without the bureaucratic aspects: degrees, exams, tenured faculty. He called it the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies.

At the time, the nation was consumed by a great books craze. As well as the famous seminar that Hutchins and Mortimer Adler cotaught for College students (nicknamed "the Great Men's Fat Book Class"), there was an evening course popular with UChicago trustees, businessmen, and their wives (nicknamed, in honor of its students, "the Fat Men's Great Books Class," or simply "the Fat Man's Seminar"). Both Walter and Elizabeth Paepcke had taken it.

THE HARD-NOSED SOFT-DRINK EXECUTIVE HAD DECIDED MAYBE WOMEN NEEDED AN EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT AFTER ALL.

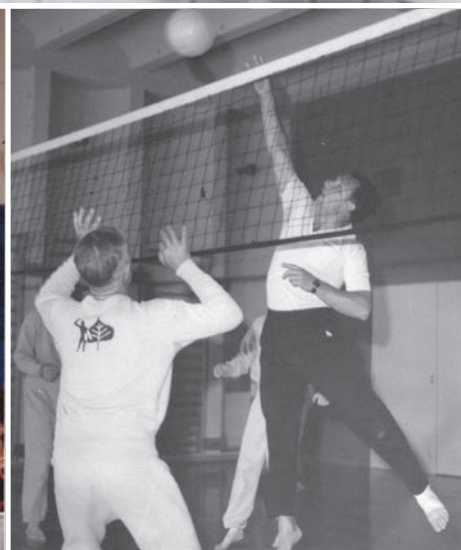
In Paepcke's vision, the Executive Seminar at Aspen would be a version of the Fat Man's Seminar, held over 12 intensive days, with a collection of readings, compiled by Adler, dealing with ideas such as equality, liberty, justice, and property. Paepcke hoped the seminar would improve American society by fostering humanistic thought among important decision makers; at the same time, he saw it as an intellectual weapon in the Cold War.

The first Executive Seminar was held in the summer of 1951, with a schedule much less grueling than today's. Rather than a solid four hours of Socratic-style discussion, mornings back then began with an hour and a half of reading, followed by two hours of discussion, then lunch.

In the afternoon, wrote a (London) *Times* reporter who attended the seminar in the 1950s, executives "do a daily stint of exercises ... topped off by a game of volley ball and a sauna bath." Four afternoons a week, wrote the editor of the (Louisville, Kentucky) *Courier-Journal*, there were "excellent concerts in a music tent designed by Eero Saarinen." The afternoons without concerts often featured cocktail parties, "with everybody warning everybody else about the effect of alcohol at such an altitude." In the evenings, there might be a lecture, more music, or a movie.

Newspaper accounts of the discussions show how much has been preserved: the hexagonal room, the two moderators, the Socratic method, the back row of silent auditors (usually wives) who occasionally struggle to maintain their silence. One wife, the *Courier-Journal* editor wrote, "built up such a head of steam that she uttered a loud cry of disagreement ... then blushed so furiously that everybody knew where the outburst came from."

By the end of the seminar, reporter after reporter noted over the decades, the participants' closely held opinions had begun to shift. "The hard-nosed soft-drink executive had decided maybe women needed an Equal Rights Amendment after all," a *Newsweek* reporter wrote in 1980. "The



law-loving district judge from Tennessee wondered aloud whether he had been too busy meting out justice to reflect on the merits of the justice system.” *Newsweek* noted one dissenting opinion, from Vernon Jordan, then National Urban League president, who said of one discussion: “It’s like the Powder River. About a mile wide and an inch deep.”

Paepcke never entirely abandoned his idea of founding a university; in 1955, a front-page *Rocky Mountain News* story declared, “New university slated at Aspen.” The four-year liberal arts college would open by 1958 or 1959, the article claimed, and “will definitely not have a football team.” Even after Paepcke’s death in 1960, these suggestions continued. In the early 1960s, UChicago’s board considered a proposal to make the institute a Western branch; a postdoctoral academy was also suggested. But nothing ever came of either idea.

Perhaps because of its odd, fluid identity from its very inception, the Aspen Institute has shifted shapes, missions, and

locations over the years. The Aspen Music Festival used to be part of it, but in 1955, after a disagreement with Paepcke, it became independent. Despite the name, the Aspen Institute is no longer headquartered in Aspen; the 2012 annual report describes it as “an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC,” though further down, notes it’s “based in Washington, DC; Aspen, Colorado; and on the Wye River on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.” There are also partner Aspen Institutes in Germany, France, Japan, Italy, India, Romania, Spain, and the Czech Republic.

The institute runs 31 policy programs on a range of social issues, including the Agent Orange in Vietnam Program, Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs, Aspen Strategy Group, Center for Native American Youth, Congressional Program (“in which more than 30 percent of the current Congress has participated,” the annual report notes), Education and Society Program, Program on the World Economy, and Sports and Society Program. The participants in Aspen Institute programs are like a catalog of the rich, famous, and/or powerful: “Deepak Chopra Unveils New Consciousness

Initiative at Vanguard Event” was one headline on the website earlier this year; “President Bill Clinton and Kobe Bryant on the Importance of Growing Up with Sports” was another.

The Aspen Institute’s “signature public offering,” according to the annual report, is the Aspen Ideas Festival, first held in 2005 in conjunction with the *Atlantic* magazine. Other public programs include the Aspen Institute Arts Program, the Aspen Writers’ Foundation, the Aspen Security Forum, and ten or so more.

But the institute’s flagship program remains the homely, rather old-fashioned Executive Seminar—now called the Aspen Seminar to show its pride of place. Over the decades the political subtext of the seminar has evolved. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the curriculum’s Cold War mentality was abandoned in favor of a more explicit focus on leadership.

The weeklong seminar costs \$9,450, not including airfare. To some corporations, this is a worthwhile investment in their executives’ professional development. Twenty years ago corporations often did their own ethics training, says Breyfogle, but the trend has shifted since the scandals at Enron and Arthur Andersen, to name the most notorious.

“One of the dangers of in-house ethics training is the organizational culture becomes very insular, and when it becomes insular, you don’t ask yourself difficult questions,” he says. At Aspen, these difficult questions are unavoidable.

At the same time, says Breyfogle, “the economic and political crisis has really underscored the centrality of values. It’s put philosophy back on the map.” To choose between lower taxes and universal health care, for example, or lower profits and layoffs, is “a values decision.”

Not all Aspen Seminar participants come from corporations with generous professional development budgets. Some participants—in finance particularly—take vacation and pay out of pocket. Still others receive scholarships. The Aspen Institute has “a very elite, and sometimes elitist, persona,” but surprisingly, it’s not that difficult to get in, says Breyfogle: “We’re selective, but there’s a lot of self-selection

among our applicant pool. If you’re self-reflective—or crazy—enough to pay to spend a week reading the great books, then the Aspen Seminar would be a good fit for you.”

Breyfogle never met Mortimer Adler, whose influence on the seminar still looms so large; he died in 2001 at age 98. Adler, who served as a seminar moderator for nearly 50 years, was legendary for the intellectual rigor of his sessions, as well as his confrontational style. He reputedly reduced more than one hardened executive to tears.

Breyfogle—a graduate of the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought, Rhodes scholar, and former University of Denver professor, who trains moderators and comoderates several of the eight executive programs typically offered—has often been compared to Adler. He’s not sure he enjoys the comparison: “I’ve certainly never made anyone cry.”

Aspen Seminar moderators have a secret tradition: soon after they meet the participants, they try to guess who will be chosen by the group to play *Antigone*. “We’re usually right,” says Gluck. Past *Antigones* have included Queen Noor of Jordan and Madeleine Albright, both Aspen trustees.

Participants are given a great deal of latitude in their interpretation of Sophocles’s play, written circa 441 BCE. One group did it with sock puppets, says Gluck. “I’ve seen it a thousand ways, but I’ve never seen it done badly.”

During this session, three different participants have been chosen to play *Antigone*. There are also three actors playing the roles of *Antigone*’s uncle Creon and (an unorthodox addition to the cast) Martin Luther King Jr. Titled *A Tweet to Antigone*, the play is a mash-up with King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail.”

The performance is held in a white geodesic dome designed by Buckminster Fuller. The actors tie on white tablecloths to serve as chitons like the ancient Greeks wore; the director, the Kenyan lady justice, also wears one, though she isn’t performing. The bars of King’s jail are suggested by black umbrellas stuck into Styrofoam blocks (umbrellas, free for the borrowing, are ubiquitous in Aspen Institute buildings, since light showers blow through with little warning).

“Now let’s have a drink,” Simon, the retired judge, says in his lovely Southern-patrician accent, once the brief, goofy show is over.

But this is no light celebratory chitchat. The moderators, talking together for the first time, want to discuss the meaning of the play: “What would Machiavelli say about *Tiresias*?” Gluck asks, and later, “Is *Antigone* a leader?” At times during the seminar there is eating and drinking; there is hiking and joking; there is writing and performing; but always, always there is talking. ♦

IF YOU’RE SELF-REFLECTIVE—OR CRAZY—ENOUGH ... THEN THE ASPEN SEMINAR WOULD BE A GOOD FIT FOR YOU.

peer review



Judy Blake Schaefer, AB'50, AM'57, PhD'62, was recruited for a campus photo shoot in 1948. The names of her companions are lost to history.

Finding humility on the last frontier

BY DOROTHEE E. KOCKS, AB'78

In Alaska, deep in the wild, a corporate retreat center perches on one of the last great salmon rivers, surrounded by woods and accessible only by seaplane. In the summer of 2009, I worked there as a cook's helper, aka kitchen bitch.

My last job had been editor in chief of a glossy magazine. It folded, and a couple weeks later, my husband got a pink slip as well. We'd celebrated my 50th birthday with a tango party not long before. Bewildered, our professional lives decimated, we accepted jobs together at a guest lodge on the last frontier.

People came by invitation only. No one paid. One week, executives and lobbyists and maybe a senator would arrive, friends of the telecommunications company that owned the resort. The next week, the plane brought rank-and-file employees. They dropped from the sky, far away from their jobs as customer-service agents or sales staff or line workers along utility poles. The cabins offered plush beds, stocked liquor cabinets. Cuban cigars.

Three of us worked seven days a week to feed everyone. At 5:30 in the morning, I chopped fruit, mixed scone batter, kept the porridge from sticking, and fried meats. Fourteen hours later, I wheeled the dessert cart around in an apron. With a PhD and decades sitting behind a desk, I was in no shape for this.

My legs shook. My pride did too. The chef and dishwasher had to take up the slack when I couldn't do my

part. Shame spilled through me, both at being brought so low and for being so spoiled. By e-mail, the news came that an agent had rejected my novel. Meanwhile, my husband helped guests with their gear and then flew off in the red seaplane with beer and sandwiches for day trips.

As my body strengthened, I kayaked. I had two hours off in the afternoon. I needed to sit, so I went out in an orange plastic boat and paddled away from the generators' *grrrrrr*. I stared at the river's crosscurrents, feeling vacant.

Then the salmon arrived, two by two by 20,000, and on that day I lifted the paddle out of the water. I rocked on their backs. Salmon reach the peak of their fertility as they near death. They spawn as their skin wrinkles and sheds. I tried to let nature bolster my nerve at aging and heal the injury of being discarded. But what I really needed was help letting go of the fantasy of control.

The lessons would come indoors as well. From behind the kitchen's invisible curtain, I overheard board members scheme ways for the company to survive the recession. On the hall telephone, a guide who'd planned to retire several seasons before muffled his anguish at not being able to go home to a sick relative.

One night, some staff furtively harvested salmon for their winter freezers using nets. They did not have net permits and someone saw them. A photo e-mailed to the fish and game department put the lodge at risk. Be-

hind the scenes, the cultural contrast between stocking food for winter and sport fishing grated. Much of the fishing on this river was catch and release, and one employee said throwing back into the water what you'd caught was "playing with your food."

This was a conserved wilderness, a living museum of nature, but also a preserved vision of wealth—muscular, sure of itself, as if bears and bear markets both could be kept outside. It reminded me of a nobleman's hall, with fine food set out on long tables, wine flowing.

Midseason, when we'd worked two months without a day off, a new chef arrived. Black bearded, spinning a knife in one hand, turning the wheel of his well-stocked iPod in the other, Dave treated the kitchen like a playground. He made steak with chimichurri sauce. He spun sugar into a trout's shape to decorate chocolate mousse. Even for staff lunches, he seasoned mayonnaise with wild blueberries.

In his other life, he cooked for rock stars who had to wring passion and emotion out of songs they'd played so many times before. Dave understood tired, stressed people. His playfulness was intentional, skilled. He made happiness look simple.

Dave and I kayaked together one day. Rain approached. The droplets hit the river in a thousand tiny splashes. Far away. Nearer. Nearer still. Then it

When it strikes, I ask myself to remember to lift the paddle. To rock on the back of this world, and hold wonder. Hold it close. Then give it away.



touched us: cool, the gentlest of massages. My skin prickled underneath my rubber slicker.

The world on the river presented a paradox. Individual prowess mattered a great deal. And it didn't matter at all. We were all sitting in little rubber boats. Philosophers talk about the umbra of immensity, the emotional impact of standing small before large forces. Here, nature and the economy alike loomed as presences that we try, and succeed, and fail to rein in.

Dave taught me that any one person can summon good feeling and share it with others. I watched him make a daily practice of the gift of food, and it helped me to get over myself. Hu-

mility feels different from shame. It thrums with dignity. Wheeling the dessert cart was no longer a gauntlet.

My plummet from the professional class would be arrested within a year. A publisher took my novel and edited it with infinite care; I got an academic job. I cherish these privileges more poignantly now. My job seems secure, but I could get laid off again. I feel more at ease with my vulnerability. When it strikes, I ask myself to remember to lift the paddle. To rock on the back of this world, and hold wonder. Hold it close. Then give it away.

As a kitchen bitch in Alaska, I understood that my efforts to be compassionate and generous have always

been more important than the content of my work. I also realized that I don't want to miss anything, not even the part where my skin wrinkles and death comes near, nearer. ♦

Dorothee E. Kocks, AB'78, is the author of the historical novel *The Glass Harmonica: A Sensualist's Tale* (Rosa Mira Books, 2011). A companion illustrated history of the first American sexual revolution, *Such Were My Temptations: Bawdy Americans, 1760–1830*, is available on her website, BewareTheTimidLife.com. Other works include *Dream a Little: Land and Social Justice in Modern America* (University of California Press, 2000).

A theory of the allocation of a Nobelist's time

BY STEVE CICALA, AB'04

Different constraints are decisive for different situations, but the most fundamental constraint is limited time.

—Gary Becker, Nobel Lecture, December 9, 1992

I was not an economist when I met Gary Becker, AM'53, PhD'55. I was a 20-year-old undergraduate at the University of Chicago with quite simply no idea what I was going to do after graduation. The University was holding a conference to honor Milton Friedman's (AM'33) 90th birthday, and Gary was giving the keynote speech at a Quadrangle Club dinner for invited guests. I was not one of them.

I hadn't spent my childhood reading *Capitalism and Freedom*, and economics was not the family business. The prior summer I had been reading Whitman, Thoreau, and Emerson and working in a restaurant to stem the tide of student loans I was accumulating. I was interested in economics because I was at the University of Chicago, after all, and it'd be a shame to leave without some exposure. I volunteered at the conference that day and, curious to see the keynote dinner speech, asked if I could attend.

As Nobel laureates, central bankers, Council of Economic Advisers chairs, and other distinguished guests made their way to assigned tables throughout the dining room, I was told a seat for me had been found, but I would have to be on my best behavior. Ronald Coase couldn't make it to the dinner, and there was an open seat at the head table. It was Gary; **Guity Becker**, PhD'73; Milton; Rose Friedman, PhD'32; **Jim Heckman**; **Lynne Heckman**, AM'73; University President Don Randel and his wife, Carol;

trustee **Ned Jannotta**; and me—a philosophy/political science/economics undergraduate who wasn't even supposed to be in the room.

I sat next to Guity, who when I approached the open seat said, "You know, there's supposed to be a Nobel laureate sitting here, so I hope you can keep up your end of the conversation." I must have done all right, because she encouraged Gary when I asked him if he had any research positions available. He told me to come by his office and we'd figure something out—which I promptly chalked up to bar talk, and left for three months to study Western European civilization in Barcelona. It's a testament to how much Gary trusted Guity's judgment that there was a position waiting for me when I returned.

In our research meetings, not being an economist gave me the freedom to ask the kinds of questions that a graduate student already sold on the discipline would be embarrassed to ask: Why assume rationality? How do we express morality in this framework? Would you like to read Plato with me? I had the idea that there was more economics to the *Republic* than is commonly acknowledged and wanted to work through it with him. He not only agreed—he recruited **Dick Posner** to join us for a quarter-long reading course that turned into my undergraduate thesis.

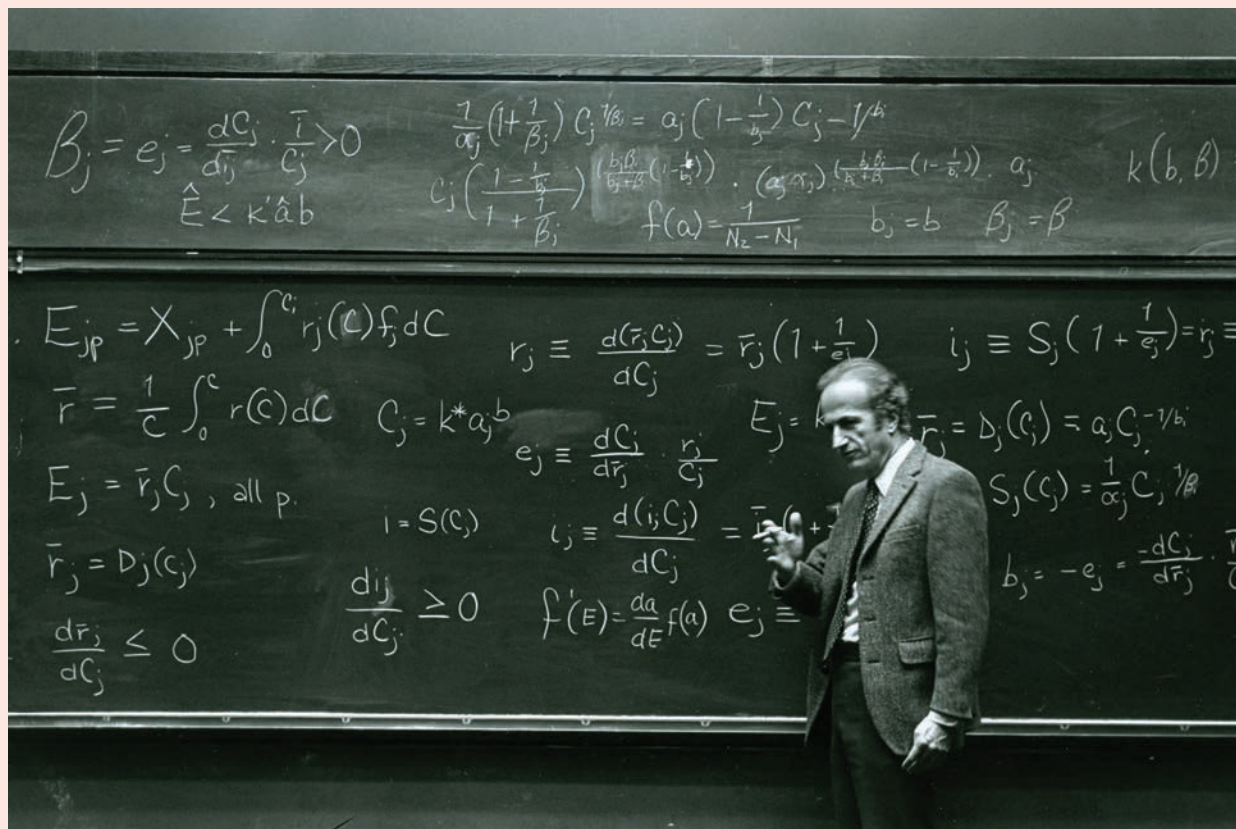
I enrolled in Gary's Human Capital graduate class, after he suggested that it "shouldn't be too hard," and followed up with Price Theory in the fall. "Is economics an art or a sci-

ence?" Gary would ask after a particularly difficult problem set. "Both," he would answer his own question, to the great relief of a lecture hall full of students terrified that they were about to be called on. The science part is widely taught—equilibrium borne from optimization to test falsifiable hypotheses. The art of economics is much tougher, as any student who has received zero points for a 20-page problem set write-up will attest.

Gary emphasized the craftsmanship of building a model—identifying the essential elements of a problem and casting them in a framework that would yield valuable insight once the science was applied. His recognition of this critical artistic element led to a sort of humility that is not often associated with the Chicago school's emphasis on the science of economics. When answering one of his own questions in class, he would invariably begin with, "Well, it depends ..."

Gary is most widely credited with "extending the domain" of economics, but I think this is like saying that Galileo simply made a nice telescope. Before Gary, there was a method for

Gary is most widely credited with "extending the domain" of economics, but I think this is like saying that Galileo simply made a nice telescope.



"Is economics an art or a science?" Gary would ask after a particularly difficult problem set," the author recalls.

analyzing markets and other methods for analyzing various forms of human behavior—as if the former were not entirely contained within the latter. This made economists vulnerable to the belief that markets were something greater than a mechanism to mediate human interactions. It was acceptable (or even admirable) to have faith in free markets, rather than understanding them.

Yet the “invisible hand” is a metaphor for an empirical proposition, not doctrine and certainly not magic. More than simply extending economics, Gary’s work tests this proposition by demonstrating the validity of the economic approach at its most basic level: human behavior. The proof is by contradiction: suppose decisions to marry, have children, go to school, commit crimes, etc., are all totally unresponsive to incentives and the economic approach utterly fails to explain how people behave in these contexts. Why would one put any stock in our ability to understand markets? Is there too little competition for spouses?

es? Are the stakes too low when facing time in prison? Of course not.

Most economists have come around to the importance of his work as contributions to sociology, demography, criminology, etc. But even more fundamental is that it serves as a lever to elevate the whole of economics above Ptolemaic theories that match observed phenomena without actually understanding the underlying mechanisms.

After graduating from the College, I spent a couple of years as an RA at Gary’s eponymous center, a few doors down from his office at Booth. He had long since transformed economics and received every possible accolade, yet at 75 he was still teaching a full course load, running two seminars, and coming in to work on Sundays. He would usually stop by on his way out, and we’d catch up. We’d talk about that week’s applications workshop paper, what we were working on, his daughter’s latest movie, his grandson’s latest feat of technology, and life in general (“no girls until you finish!”). When the time came to decide on a graduate pro-

gram, Gary told me how important his time at Columbia University was for establishing his independence: “You can’t come back if you’ve never left.”

Of the many things I learned from Gary, a single powerful lesson stands out: the value of revealed preference in judging one’s actions. Declared priorities are easily betrayed by actual behavior. I bring up this intuition because it’s what makes telling this story more about him than me. No one had a more profound understanding of the scarcity of time than Gary, and yet he spent his own with extraordinary generosity.

Gary took me on as an undergraduate with no skills to speak of, gave me time that I surely did not deserve, and set the course that I have been on ever since. I believe those actions reveal more about his character than any formal praise I could offer. ♦

Steve Cicala, AB’04, is an assistant professor at the University’s Harris School of Public Policy and a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

NOTES

NONPROFIT PRODIGY

Crain's Chicago Business has named **Theodore "Ted" Gonder**, AB'12, to its 2014 Twenty in Their 20s list. Gonder is CEO of Moneythink, a nonprofit he cofounded with four College classmates in 2009 that teaches financial literacy to high school students. Initially Chicago-based, Moneythink now places college-age mentors in classrooms across the country. Gonder told *Crain's* that his goal is to help adolescents prepare to "navigate the critical financial decisions of early adulthood like getting a job, financing higher education, and being smart about credit."

DAD'S DOODLES

Nanette Vonnegut has released a book of her famous father's doodles. *Kurt Vonnegut Drawings* (Monacelli Press, 2014) features 145 selections from a collection Vonnegut, AM'71, shipped to his daughter in the 1990s. The collection of pen and marker drawings highlights Vonnegut's visual imaginativeness.

THE OSCAR GOES TO ...

Stephen Tapert, AM'02, has curated *Best Actresses*, an exhibition at the Museo Nazionale del Cinema in Turin, Italy, a film museum located inside the Mole Antonelliana tower. Running through August 31, the show focuses on the first 72 women to win the Oscar for Best Actress, featuring photographs, costumes, and formal dresses worn by the award-winners on the red carpet.



CHANCELLOR CHOPP

In June **Rebecca Chopp**, PhD'83, was named chancellor of the University of Denver. Chopp, who has been president of Swarthmore College since 2009, will become DU's first female chancellor when she takes office on September 1. Recipient of an Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award in 2008, Chopp is a scholar of Christian theology, theological education, and women's studies. She has previously served as president of Colgate University, dean of the Yale University Divinity School, and provost of Emory University.

THE DOCTOR IS IN

In April anesthesiologist **William A. McDade**, PhD'88, MD'90, was elected president of the Illinois State Medical Society, making him the first African American to lead the state's largest doctors group. An associate professor of anesthesia and critical care and deputy provost for research and minority issues at UChicago Medicine, McDade was named the Chicago Medical Society's Physician of the Year in 2012. He is the former president of the Chicago Medical Society and the Chicago Society of Anesthesiologists.

TECHNICAL EDITING

In June **Zack Seward**, AB'06, became editor in chief of Technical.ly, a news and events network site serving Philadelphia, Baltimore, and

Brooklyn. He is a former innovations reporter at NewsWorks.org and WHYY 90.9 FM in Philadelphia and at WXXI public broadcasting in Rochester, NY.

ARTISTIC DIRECTION

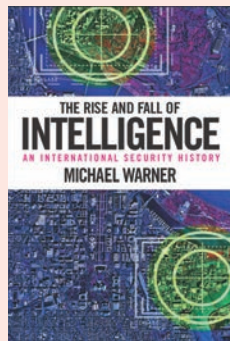
Christina Yu Yu, PhD'11, has been selected to lead the USC Pacific Asia Museum. She previously served as assistant curator of Chinese art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and in positions at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of Modern Art. Born and raised in China, Yu Yu has researched traditional Chinese painting and calligraphy and contemporary Asian art. She starts her post with USC PAM on August 1.

—Adrianna Szenthe, AM'14

PHOTO COURTESY BEST ACTRESSES (LEFT); PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAN DRY (TOP)

RELEASES

The Magazine lists a selection of general interest books, films, and albums by alumni. For additional alumni releases, use the link to the Magazine's Goodreads bookshelf at mag.uchicago.edu/alumni-books.



THE RISE AND FALL OF INTELLIGENCE: AN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY HISTORY

By Michael Warner, PhD'90; Georgetown University Press, 2014
As a historian for the US Department of Defense, **Michael Warner** has an inside perspective on state espionage. Also a former historian for the Central Intelligence Agency and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, he details the evolution of information gathering from its emergence around 2000 BC through world wars, cold wars, and into the present day. Warner ends with a forward-looking analysis of intelligence in the Internet age, a new world where "privacy can be erased."

GIDEON'S CONFESSION

By Joseph G. Peterson, AB'88; Switchgrass Books/Northern Illinois University Press, 2014
Every month, Gideon, the protagonist of **Joseph G. Peterson's** fourth novel, receives a generous check from his wealthy uncle. The only catch: the uncle wants to know what Gideon plans to do with his life—besides smoking, drinking, and gambling. But Gideon is at a loss. "I'm an English major," he says, "not an inventor. I don't have an entrepreneurial bone in my body." He drifts listlessly through the streets of Chi-

cago until he meets rich, beautiful, ambitious Claire, and everything changes. Or does it?

HOLY MATTER: CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF THE MATERIAL WORLD IN LATE MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY

By Sara Ritchey, PhD'05; Cornell University Press, 2014
Why trees? That question sparked **Sara Ritchey's** study of medieval Christian expression, which exploded with representations of flora, fauna, and other features of the material world. She begins in the 12th century Rhineland, where communities of women believed the birth of Christ marked a re-creation of the world, his physical presence proving that matter itself could be holy. Ritchey traces the development of this doctrine and its profound impact on religious practice.

THE INVISIBLE BRIDGE: THE FALL OF NIXON AND THE RISE OF REAGAN

By Rick Perlstein, AB'92; Simon & Schuster, 2014
Ronald Reagan rose to national political prominence in the wake of Watergate and Vietnam, preaching optimism and American exceptionalism to a chastened nation in his challenge to President Gerald Ford for the 1976 Republican nomination. **Rick Perlstein**, author of the bestselling *Nixonland*, explores how Reagan reversed a notion then gaining currency: that true patriotism meant a warts-and-all understanding of the United States and its place in the world. Four years later, his view in ascendance, Reagan won the presidency and created a vision of America rooted in "a cult of optimism and a blindness to its failings."



BOUND FOR GLORY! NEW SETTINGS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUALS

By Jonathan Miller, AB'85; Gothic Records, 2013
Chicago a cappella, an ensemble of professional singers founded in

1993 by **Jonathan Miller**, performs 17 spirituals, including four specially commissioned works and nine world premiere recordings. "If the spiritual teaches us anything, it is that we are not alone, even in our darkest moments and our times of deepest sorrow," says Miller, the ensemble's artistic director. *Bound for Glory* honors the legacy and power of spirituals in a modern medium.

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL: A LIFE WITH FRIENDS

By Ellen T. Harris, AM'70, PhD'76; W. W. Norton & Company, 2014
Unlike Handel's famous operas and concertos, the details of his private life remain generally unknown. **Ellen T. Harris** explored the German-born Baroque composer's letters, diaries, and personal files—and those of his closest friends—to dig up more than 400 pages of intriguing details, from his childhood and arrival in London to his relationships, finances, and philosophy. The result is a backstage pass into Handel's life and inner circle, a narrative modeled after one of his favorite forms: the fugue.



AFTER LEO STRAUSS: NEW DIRECTIONS IN PLATONIC POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

By Tucker Landy, AM'81, PhD'87; SUNY Press, 2014
Strauss's work plays a significant role in modern students' and thinkers' understanding of philosophy, but **Tucker Landy** advises readers to resist the urge to interpret classic texts through a Straussian lens. In *After Leo Strauss*, Landy outlines his own reading of the Platonic dialogues, in which he reconciles classic and modern views of natural right and advances a Socratic theory of democratic liberalism.

—*Ingrid Gonçalves, AB'08*

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Funded by a grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, the Institute for Molecular Engineering's director, Matthew Tirrell, and colleagues designed the self-assembling, multifunctional micelle—a versatile, flexible nanoparticle that can deliver diagnostic and therapeutic biofunctionality in vivo and treat various pathological tissues.

The Magnificent Micelle, Detail I, 2013; Matthew Tirrell; Peter Allen, Scientific Visualization Director, University of California, Santa Barbara; Ellen Sandor and (art)n, Chris Kemp, Diana Torres; 30 x 30 in. Digital PHSCologram, Duratrans, Kodolith, and Plexiglas.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

DEATHS

FACULTY AND STAFF

Gary S. Becker, AM'53, PhD'55, University Professor of economics and of sociology, died May 3 in Chicago. He was 83. A widely influential pioneer in the field of social economics, Becker received the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel in 1992 for his work applying microeconomic analysis to human behavior. In 2007 he was awarded the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, by President George W. Bush. Becker and his mentor, Milton Friedman, AM'33, were the only economists to receive both the Nobel Memorial Prize and the Medal of Freedom. The University's Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics is named in their honor. Becker's work was also recognized with the John Bates Clark Medal, National Medal of Science, and University of Chicago Alumni Medal. His books include *The Economics of Discrimination* (1957), *Human Capital* (1964), and *A Treatise on the Family* (1981). He is survived by his wife, **Guity Nashat Becker**, PhD'73; two daughters, **Catherine Jean Becker**, LAB'74, AB'79, and **Judy S. Becker**, LAB'73; two stepsons, **Michael S. C. Claffey**, LAB'78, AB'84, and **Cyrus C. Claffey**, LAB'82, MBA'96; a sister; two grandchildren, **Henry B. Harboe**, LAB'11, and **Louis Harboe**, LAB'14; and two step-grandchildren, current Lab students **Michael D. Claffey** and **Colin Claffey**. [For more, see pages 26 and 52.—Ed.]

Donald J. Bogue, professor emeritus of sociology and research associate at the Population Research Center, died April 21 in Dyer, IN. He was 96. One of the nation's leading demographers, Bogue studied topics including migration, family planning, communication, and demographic methodology, publishing dozens of books, monographs, and reports. He founded *Demography*, the journal of the Population Association of America, and served as its first editor. In 2011 Bogue was named laureate of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and was honored by the Population Association of America, of which he was a past president. He is survived by two daughters, **Edith Bogue**, LAB'69, AM'81, and **Gretchen Maguire**, LAB'73, and four grandchildren.

Jacques Ovadia, professor emeritus of radiology, of Chicago, died April 19. He was 90. The first chair of the Department of Medical Physics at Michael Reese Hospital, Ovadia also served as president of the American Association of Physics in Medicine. He is survived by his wife, Florence; a daughter, **Corinne Ovadia**, LAB'75; a

son, **Marc Ovadia**, LAB'76, AB'80; four grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

1930s

Richard J. Ketterer, SB'37, died April 2 in Burnt Hills, NY. He was 98. Early in Ketterer's career as a chemist, his research contributed to the development of plastics used in eyeglasses and canopies for US military planes. He was granted eight patents during his career, including several for mica paper laminates, used to insulate electronics. He is survived by two sons, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Robert N. Baumgartner, AB'35, AM'47, died December 3 in Santa Cruz, CA. He was 99. A WW II Army veteran, Baumgartner taught English and drama before working as the librarian at Granite Hills High School in El Cajon, CA, from 1960 to 1985. He also helped found the Family School in La Mesa, CA. Survivors include a son, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

1940s

Shirley (Latham) Rinder, SB'42, of Burr Ridge, IL, died April 21. She was 93. Following her graduation from the College, Rinder worked at the University in numerous roles, including as an assistant to Chancellor Robert Maynard Hutchins and President Lawrence A. Kimpton. She is survived by her husband, **George Rinder**, LAB'37, EX'41, MBA'42; a daughter; two sons; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth (Plasman) Cook, AB'44, died December 12 in Towson, MD. She was 90. After moving to Wyoming with her husband in 1965, Cook helped to establish Wind River Native Crafts, a cooperative owned by Native American artisans. In later years, she worked with her husband and son in the family's computer consulting business in Maryland. Survivors include a daughter; three sons, including **Stephen Kennedy Cook**, AB'72; and three grandchildren.

Mary Helen (Augustine) Swanson, SB'45, of Lincoln, NE, died March 12. She was 90. A former staff lecturer at the Field Museum in Chicago, Swanson later served as the assistant dean of women at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She was a trustee of the University of Nebraska Foundation and a deacon and elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Survivors include a daughter and two granddaughters.

Gerald Stechler, PhD'46, died December 18 in Lexington, MA. He was 85. A WW II veteran, Stechler was an influential psychologist who spent his career as a professor at the Boston University School of

Medicine. He cofounded and led the Massachusetts Institute for Psychoanalysis and the Psychoanalytic Couple and Family Institute of New England. He is survived by his wife, Antonia Halton; two daughters; a sister; four grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Philip Baum, JD'48, died March 27 in Riverdale, NY. He was 94. A WW II veteran, Baum joined the American Jewish Congress soon after earning his law degree and served in senior positions at the organization for more than five decades, retiring as executive director in 2002. He organized the American-Israeli Dialogue, an annual conference in Israel that convened Jewish intellectual leaders from both countries. He is survived by his wife, Bette.

Bert "Bud" Rabinowitz, MBA'48, died April 15 in Antigua. He was 88. A successful entrepreneur, he spent many years as a philanthropist after selling his meat processing plant, Colonial Provision Company. Rabinowitz volunteered for the Combined Jewish Philanthropies and the United Jewish Appeal and also served as chair of the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, an Israeli center for applied research on social policy. Survivors include his wife, Constance; two daughters; a son; and four grandsons.

Natalie (Margolin) Rome, PhD'48, MBA'50, died December 19 in Charlton, MA. She was 85. Rome began her career at the New York advertising agency Kenyon & Eckhardt and later worked as director of Marcraft Realty in Massachusetts. A classical music enthusiast, Rome was also a *Jeopardy!* champion. She is survived by two daughters, a son, and two grandsons.

William "Billy" H. Samuels, PhD'48, AB'54, of Scottsdale, AZ, died April 11. He was 85. A longtime mortgage banker in Chicago, Samuels retired with his wife, Suzanne, to Arizona in the mid-1990s. He had a lifelong interest in the Civil War. Survivors include his wife, three sons, and seven grandchildren.

Donald Edwin Funk, SB'44, died December 24 in Willow Grove, PA. He was 91. A WW II Army Air Corps veteran, Funk practiced law for more than six decades, retiring in 2012. An avid traveler, he visited more than 40 countries. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy; a daughter; a son; and a grandson.

Rita (Peisner) Bornstein, AM'48, of Longwood, FL, died November 18. She was 88. A leader in her local Jewish community, Bornstein served as vice president for education for Hadassah, chair of education for the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando, and vice president of education for Temple Israel, where she also taught Sabbath school. Bornstein helped found Head Start in Orlando and the Hebrew Day School of Central Florida. Survivors include a daughter, a son, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Her husband, **Jerome J. Bornstein**, AB'47, JD'49, died in 1992.

Joy (Kopp) Goforth, AM'48, died January 28, 2013, in Pensacola, FL. She was 91. After serving in the US Naval Reserve during WW II, Goforth worked for the federal government at posts in Germany, Japan, Turkey, and Washington, DC. Survivors include eight nieces and nephews.

1950s

Charles Sumner Stone Jr., AM'51, died April 6 in Chapel Hill, NC. He was 89. A member of the Tuskegee Airmen during WW II, Stone served as an adviser to US representative Adam Clayton Powell and was the first black columnist hired by the *Philadelphia Daily News*. A founder of the National Association of Black Journalists, he taught journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Survivors include two daughters, a son, two sisters, and a granddaughter.

Alfred S. Dale Jr., DB'52, of Bellingham, WA, died March 3. He was 87. An Army paratrooper and chaplain, Dale also served as a minister at United Methodist churches in Illinois, California, and Washington, and as a missionary in Poland and Fiji. He was active in peace and social justice organizations and helped to found Bellingham Friends of Cuba. He is survived by his wife, **Dorothy Pikas Dale**, EX'49; a daughter, **Ana K. Gobledale**, AM'77; two sons; and two grandchildren, including **Thandiwe A. Gobledale**, MDiv'13.

Thomas W. Yoder, JD'52, of Fort Wayne, IN, died April 2. He was 86. A veteran of the Army Air Force, he had a long career at Livingston, Dildine, Haynie, and Yoder (now Carson Boxberger LLP), where he worked as a trial lawyer specializing in insurance defense litigation and public utility law. Yoder was an avid sports fan and a volunteer who served Indiana professional, civic, and charitable organizations including the State Bar Association and the Visiting Nurse Service. Survivors include his wife, Marilyn; two daughters; a son; two stepchildren; a sister; two grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; and a step-great-grandchild.

Lino John David Agosti, MBA'53, died November 10 in Anchorage, AK. He was 93. After serving as an Army paratrooper during WW II, Agosti moved to Alaska with his family in 1959 to become manager of Northwest Airlines' flight-kitchen operations. He later helped found a commercial appliance sales and repair company now run by his sons. A devout Catholic, he volunteered in a number of faith-based organizations. Survivors include three daughters; four sons; a sister; 19 grandchildren, including **Amy Woodruff**, AB'12; and two great-grandchildren.

Stanley John Heywood, AM'52, PhD'54, died February 21 in Tucson, AZ. He was 88. An expert in higher education, Heywood served on the board of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and completed several overseas

assignments for the US Information Service. He was president of Montana State University for ten years, retiring from that institution as professor emeritus of education. Survivors include his wife, Shirley; two sons; a stepdaughter; four stepsons; five grandchildren; nine step-grandchildren; and six step-great-grandchildren. His first wife, Joan Olive (Murton) Heywood, AB'53, died in 1995.

Daniel Greenberg, SM'49, died April 17 in Upper Makefield Township, PA. He was 86. Greenberg worked with Enrico Fermi in the Physical Sciences Division before spending most of his career at the National Distillers & Chemical Corporation, from which he retired as director of research. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, and four grandchildren.

Schuyler C. Johnson, MBA'55, died February 21 in Atco, NJ. He was 89. Johnson served in the US Marine Corps during WW II and the Korean War and spent 35 years as an industrial engineer for the Campbell Soup Company in Chicago; Paris, TX; and Camden, NJ. He is survived by three daughters, two sons, and six grandchildren.

Conrad V. Schmitt, MBA'55, of Edina, MN, died March 29. He was 86. A Korean War veteran, Schmitt had a long career in the health care industry; he was the founder of a substance abuse rehabilitation center in Minnesota and a health maintenance organization in Arizona. Survivors include a daughter and three grandchildren.

Michael A. Robins, AB'56, of Santa Fe, NM, died November 4. He was 76. An art dealer with particular interest in pre-Columbian, Chinese, African, and contemporary art, Robins was a voracious reader and loved to travel. He is survived by his wife, Maureen, and a son.

Mary Lucinda "Cindy" Sangree, AM'56, died February 23 in Rochester, NY. She was 82. Teaching sociology at SUNY Geneseo, Sangree also served as a research associate at the University of Rochester and was a longtime peace activist and a published poet. She is survived by her partner, Marge Forth; two daughters; a brother; a granddaughter; and her partner's daughter, son, and grandchildren.

Howard Leslie Bresler, MD'57, of Skokie, IL, died January 27. He was 82. After a long career in medicine that included serving as a research fellow at the American Heart Association and as chair of the Department of Family Practice at the University of Illinois, Bresler embarked on a second career as a master gardener at the Chicago Botanic Garden. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; a daughter; a son, **Michael Evan Bresler**, MD'88; a brother; and six grandchildren.

Willard J. Visek, MD'57, of Champaign, IL, died March 31. He was 91. A WW II veteran, Visek was an assistant professor of pharmacology at UChicago early in his career. He later taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, from

which he retired as professor emeritus of internal medicine in 1993. Editor of the *Journal of Nutrition*, Visek received the Osborne and Mendel Award from the American Institute of Nutrition for his research in ammonia and protein metabolism in 1985 and the Medical and Biological Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award in 1997. Survivors include his wife, Priscilla; two daughters; a son; and six grandchildren.

Douglas E. Sturm, DB'53, PhD'59, of Lewisburg, PA, died April 27. He was 85. A longtime professor at Bucknell University, Sturm also served in leadership roles at the Society of Christian Ethics and was one of the founders of the *Journal of Law and Religion*. He authored two books and edited *Belonging Together: Faith and Politics in a Relational World* (2003). He is survived by his wife, **Margie (Anderson) Sturm**, AM'57; two sons; and a grandson.

Donald W. Bowry, MBA'57, died November 23 in Walpole, NH. He was 93. Bowry served in the Air Force for 32 years, commanding a B-29 during WW II. He was a three-time recipient of the Legion of Merit and a two-time Distinguished Flying Cross recipient. He is survived by his wife, Jane; three daughters; two sisters; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

1960s

Donald E. Goldstone, MD'61, died March 1 in Washington, DC. He was 77. Goldstone headed the Peace Corps medical program in Latin America before helping shape national health care policy at the National Center for Health Services Research during three presidential administrations and as a member of the federal Senior Executive Service. As part of the SES, he directed data collection and analysis for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. He is survived by his wife, Martha; three sons; a stepmother; a brother; and three grandsons.

Miriam (Kovner) Ringo, AM'61, of Burr Ridge, IL, died March 19. She was 95. A labor economist who began her career at the US Department of Labor, Ringo later worked for Inland Steel and for the State of Illinois, from which she retired as director of operations for the Speaker of the Illinois House. She was the author of *Nobody Said It Better* (1980). Survivors include a daughter, two sons, and five grandchildren. Her husband, G. Roy Ringo, SB'36, PhD'40, died in 2008.

Stuart Lessing Weiss, PhD'61, died March 21 in Las Vegas, NV. He was 82. Weiss taught American history at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, for 25 years, establishing a scholarship fund there for disadvantaged students. His publications include two books, *The President's Man: Leo Crowley and Franklin Roosevelt in Peace and War* (1996), and *The*

Curt Flood Story: The Man Behind the Myth (2007). He is survived by his wife, Rita; four daughters; a son; a sister; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Elliot Wayne Eisner, AM'58, PhD '62, died January 10 in Stanford, CA. He was 80. Eisner was Lee Jacks emeritus professor of education and art at Stanford, where he taught for 42 years. His scholarly interests included art education, educational criticism, curriculum development, qualitative research methodologies, and school reform; he wrote 17 books and hundreds of articles, book chapters, reports, and presentations. Survivors include his wife, Ellie; a daughter; a son; and three grandsons.

Selgene Balaban, MBA'64, of Scottsdale, AZ, died March 23. He was 91. A WW II Army veteran, Balaban spent his career as an electrical engineer and retired as the owner of Maxtec International Corporation/Telemotive Industrial Controls. He also served as president of the Materials Handling Institute, a national trade association. He is survived by his wife, Anita Myra; two daughters; a son; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

1970s

Gary Marshall Melberg, MBA'71, of Chicago, died March 13. He was 73. Melberg worked as a mechanical engineer for several years before earning his business degree and going on to diverse roles in health care, executive recruiting, and academia. He retired from the Chicago Transit Authority in 1999 after serving as its director of management development. Survivors include his wife, Laura Lee; three daughters, including **Karin A. Melberg**, MBA'11, and **Karissa Annette McDonough**, AB'95; and two sisters.

Joseph A. Gump, MBA'74, died March 8 in Bloomington, MI. He was 86. A longtime social activist, Gump founded a chapter of the anti-nuclear-war protest movement Plowshares Action Group; he and his wife, Jean, a fellow activist, were profiled in Studs Terkel's (PhB'32, JD'34) 1988 book, *The Great Divide*. For 20 years, Gump volunteered as a tax preparer for the elderly. Survivors include his wife; seven daughters, including **Mary Patricia Gump**, AB'73, JD'76, **Holly Gump**, AB'83, and **Elizabeth Mary Gump**, AM'90; three sons; a brother, **Raymond Gump**, MBA'73; a sister; 15 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Harold "Joe" Pletcher, MBA'74, died February 24 in Naperville, IL. He was 82. A Korean War Army veteran, Pletcher spent 35 years in the banking industry, eventually overseeing five golf course communities in the southern United States for First Chicago Bank. After retiring in 1990, he founded a real estate management consulting firm that he ran until 2005. He is survived by his wife, Faye; a daughter; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Paul Stanley Castleman, MBA'76, of Dayton, OH, died April 4. He was 73. A Vietnam-era veteran, he began his business career with positions at commercial baking companies Bluebird and Chicago Pastry and went on to spend 26 years in the banking industry, serving as vice president of several banks. He was a three-term city council member in Oakwood, OH. Survivors include his wife, Maria; a daughter; and a son.

Thomas Joseph Lopina Sr., MBA'77, died April 1 in Winston-Salem, NC. He was 76. He began his career as a certified public accountant with Ernst & Ernst (later Ernst & Young) and served as president of Graveley Inc., a North Carolina manufacturer of commercial landscaping equipment. Survivors include his wife, Roma; six sons; a brother, **Lawrence T. Lopina**, MBA'63; 20 grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

1980s

William T. Boos, PhD'81, died April 1 in Iowa City, IA. He was 71. He taught mathematics for several years before earning his PhD in philosophical logic and going on to teach philosophy at institutions in the United States, Denmark, and Canada. A classical music enthusiast, Boos studied foreign languages including Greek, Danish, and Icelandic. He is survived by his wife, Florence, and a son.

Joseph Lederhaas, MBA'83, of Punta Gorda, FL, died April 3. He was 75. He earned his UChicago degree after retiring as a captain in the US Navy and went on to a career as a human resources executive and consultant. Survivors include his wife, Catherine; a daughter; a son; two brothers; two granddaughters; and two step-grandsons.

Glenn Allen Norem, MBA'83, died of pancreatic cancer October 21 in Austin, TX. He was 61. An Army veteran, Norem was a technology entrepreneur who began his career in product and business development and venture capital. The cofounder of companies that manufacture streaming video hardware and security equipment, he served on the board of directors of TechAmerica, a national association of technology companies. He is survived by his wife, Zoe Adams; a daughter; a son; a stepdaughter; his parents; three brothers; and a sister.

Steven Francis Crowley, AB'85, of Delano, MN, died April 11 in an automobile accident. He was 50. Crowley spent nearly three decades working in the investment industry as a health care and technology analyst. He and his family raised horses on their farm in Delano; he was also a wine collector and sports fan. Survivors include his wife, Anne; a daughter; two sons; his parents; and a stepfather.

Alvin "Al" Charles Skat Jr., MBA'82, of Elmhurst, IL, died of pancreatic cancer December 23. He was 63. A mechanical engineer, Skat designed products from

barcode printers to automobile switches. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Brown Skat; two daughters; two granddaughters; a brother; and a sister.

1990s

Howard Craig Mitzel, PhD'91, of Seaside, CA, died of cancer January 19. He was 62. Mitzel was an expert in psychometrics and cognitive psychology who developed a number of software programs used in educational testing. He founded the Pacific Metrics Corporation, which creates web-based student assessment systems, and held three patents, the most recent of which was granted in 2013 for a plagiarism detection program. Survivors include his mother and a sister.

Lindsey Wells Powell, AM'92, died of complications from a stroke February 19 in Louisville, KY. He was 47. An assistant professor of anthropology at Western Kentucky University, Powell directed a summer field school in Tokyo for several years and was an accomplished ethnographic filmmaker who had worked as a video producer and film archivist/projectionist at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He is survived by his wife, Chunmei Du; a son; his parents; a brother, **Smith Thompson Powell IV**, AB'85, MBA'90; a sister; three stepbrothers; and a stepsister.

2000s

Andrew Lawrence Gadzinski, MBA'07, of Chicago, died April 11 after a long fight with cancer. He was 47. A financial trader, Gadzinski was a seated member of the Chicago Board of Trade and the founder of ABG Investment Group, a discount trading company with operations in the United States, Asia, and Europe. He was a longtime supporter of the Special Olympics. He is survived by his mother and two sisters.

Laura Anne Sullivan LaPlante, a third-year law student, died May 2 in an automobile accident in Chicago. She was 26. Active in campus organizations including the Federalist Society, the Law School Republicans, and the Dean of Students' Advisory Board, LaPlante was also a member of the St. Thomas More Society and the Law Women's Caucus. She worked at WilmerHale LLC in Boston last summer and planned to return in the fall. Among the survivors are her parents, two brothers, a sister, and three grandparents.

Kathleen Bohanon, a fourth-year student in the College, died May 8 in Bakersfield, CA. She was 21. A biological chemistry major, Bohanon was part of the 2012-13 Beckman Scholars Program, which funds undergraduate laboratory work; she researched proteins in mammalian brain tissue. A member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and of Phi Beta Kappa, Bohanon was an accomplished swimmer and violinist. She is survived by her parents.

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Sign language

Do you speak emoji? The pictographs from Japan known as emojis, downloadable to your smartphone, add visual pizzazz to your text messages—or make them into tiny rebus-like puzzles.

What would the autumn 2014 course catalog look like, we wondered, rendered as emojis? Here's a peek at the cryptic results.

—Taylor Brogan, AB'14

POP QUIZ

See if you can match the emoji-fied course offerings listed at left with the actual course titles on the right.

1		The Public and Private Lives of Insects	A
2		Consumption	B
3		Evolutionary Adaptation	C
4		Global Warming	D
5		Basic Complex Variables	E
6		Introduction to Game Theory	F
7		Directing Study	G
8		Understanding Wisdom	H
9		Subjectivity	I
10		"Lady Jane" in Warsaw: Communism Brought Down by Rock 'n' Roll	J

1. C (Evolutionary Adaptation, BIOS 23266); 2. D (Global Warming, ENST 12300); 3. J ("Lady Jane" in Warsaw: Communism Brought Down by Rock 'n' Roll, POLI 22410); 4. F (Introduction to Game Theory, ECON 20710); 5. I (Subjectivity, PHIL 54605); 6. G (Directing Study, TAPS 29500); 7. B (Consumption, ANTH 25401); 8. A (The Public and Private Lives of Insects, BIOS 13140); 9. E (Basic Complex Variables, MATH 27000); 10. H (Understanding Wisdom, BPRO 24000)

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