

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE



WINTER 2017, VOLUME 109, NUMBER 2



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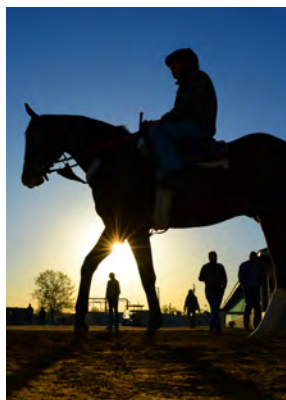
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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE

WINTER 2017
VOLUME 109, NUMBER 2



Long after their racing days are over, Thoroughbreds can be ridden, trained, evented, and cherished. See “Grass Roots,” page 34. Photo by Dan Dry.

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Pixels and planning come together to form the *Magazine*’s new website—and our office’s new Post-it phoenix mural. *By Joy Olivia Miller and Laura Lorenz*



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A campus tradition since 1983, Kuviasungnerk/Kangeiko helps UChicago students beat the winter blues with predawn calisthenics and evening gatherings. On the final day of Kuvia, participants trek to Promontory Point to perform sun salutations in the early morning glow.





Volume 109, Number 2, Winter 2017

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EDITOR'S NOTES

In the swim

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

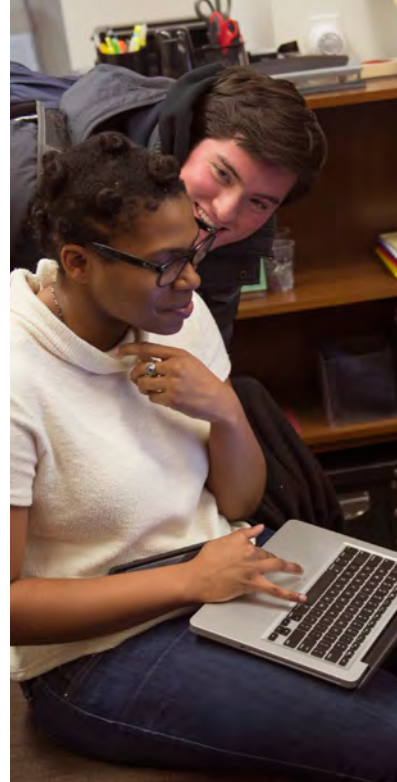
The Small School Talent Search, an admissions experiment launched in the 1960s, reached out to rural high schools to find potential Maroons who otherwise might not apply to—or know about—the University of Chicago (see “No Small Talent,” page 26).

As SSTS recruit **Tom Heberlein**, AB'67, tells it, those who made their way to UChicago found it heady, momentous, world expanding. But it could also be rough. When he arrived in 1963, few measures were in place to ease students' introduction to a big city and a demanding curriculum.

As a result, he argues, not every one of them formed as happy a match with the College as they might have. SSTS students left before graduating in greater numbers than their peers. Many, he says, felt thrown into the deep end without swimming lessons.

The SSTS is no more, but the College still works hard to enroll students from many socioeconomic backgrounds. Compared to peers, it succeeds: a January 2017 interactive feature in the *New York Times* showed that among 12 “Ivy-plus” schools, UChicago students have the lowest median family income. Only one peer school enrolled more students from outside the top 1 percent.

Part of the success in bringing more lower- and middle-income students to campus is owed to Odyssey Scholarships, which replace loans with grants and provide paid internships, career advising, and study abroad assistance for students with financial need. The College Academic Achievement Program offers immersive on-campus academic prep to 50 first-years each summer.



The support continues day to day on campus. Midquarter I visited the 16-month-old Center for College Student Success (CCSS) in Harper Memorial Library. Open to all undergraduates, the CCSS was designed to serve students who are the first in their family to attend college, come from under-resourced backgrounds, or are undocumented.

The day I was there, students and advisers mingled in the CCSS's comfy study room with its textbook library, loaner laptops, and free printing. Six academic advisers within CCSS are assigned fewer advisees so they can spend more time with each. The program also makes emergency loans and hosts programs on practical student skills: how to make the most of faculty office hours, how to ask a professor for a recommendation. It works closely with other groups on campus that support low-income students.

Such resources show how much we've learned about helping students thrive since the SSTS experiment—and there's a way College alumni can contribute. If you were the first in your family to attend college and would like to mentor first-generation College students, visit ccss.uchicago.edu/support/mentoring or email ccss@uchicago.edu for more information. ♦

LETTERS

Among the stars

"Bright Stars" (Editor's Notes, Fall/16), citing Gilbert White's precise 18th-century observations of local natural and human landscape change, calls to mind his 20th-century namesake, distinguished University of Chicago geographer Gilbert F. White, LAB'28, SB'32, SM'34, PhD'42, who chaired the legendary department (founded in 1903) in the 1950s and '60s.

White fostered among students and faculty a pervasive atmosphere of quiet curiosity.

Like his 18th-century predecessor, White fostered among students and faculty a pervasive atmosphere of quiet curiosity and sense of a problem to be explored theoretically and through applied work. By midcentury, "Chicago geography" was universally recognized as setting the highest standards for the field.

Baruch Boxer, AM'57, PhD'61
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

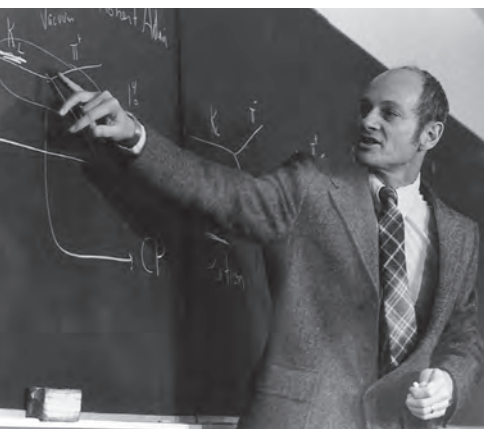
Citizen observers

Gilbert White's project of recording the dates of first blooms, dates of the arrival of migrant birds, etc.—today known as the science of phenology or the science of nature's calendar—is seeing a resurgence during this time of rapid climate change.

There are now databases that citizens can contribute to. For example, Illinois has Project Budburst, run by the Chicago Botanic Garden, for plant observation (budburst.org), and the National Phenology Network sponsors Nature's Notebook (usanpn.org/natures_notebook).

We can all be Gilbert Whites now.

Martha L. Bohrer, PhD'03
CHICAGO



James Cronin, SM'53, PhD'55.

Remembering James Cronin

Thank you for the memorial to James Cronin, SM'53, PhD'55, in the Fall/16 *University of Chicago Magazine* ("Big Thinker"). It's a beautiful story about a beautiful life. I had the pleasure of having Professor Cronin teach my undergraduate quantum mechanics class in the 1980s, and I can attest to the fact that he was dedicated to undergraduate teaching. He spent hours in the lab with us, and he inspired in me a much greater appreciation for lab work.

Allen Zeyher, AB'90
HOFFMAN ESTATES, ILLINOIS

Inquiring minds

Thank you for publishing the series of brilliant articles by Maureen Searcy on recent advances in computational science at the University of Chicago (*Inquiry*, Fall/16). I was, of course, aware of the importance of computational science at the U of C when I worked on my PhD in biopsychology at the Pritzker School of Medicine (1968–71). In fact, I recall using punch cards at the facility across from Stagg Field in order to complete some course assignments. But Searcy's stories show that many mind-boggling advances in physics and computational science have been made since then. For me, the most amazing idea was advanced in the article entitled "Mirror Image" concerning the possibility of using

photo collisions to create synthetic materials. What will people at the U of C think of next?

Donald F. Smith, PhD'71
EGAA, DENMARK

Free expressions

President Robert J. Zimmer's editorial in your Fall/16 issue says, "Universities cannot be viewed as a sanctuary for comfort but rather as a crucible for confronting ideas." Sadly, not everyone at the U of C agrees. For example, John Cochrane of Chicago Booth said in 2009, "[Keynesian ideas are] not part of what anybody has taught graduate students since the 1960s. They are fairy tales that have been proved false. It is very comforting in times of stress to go back to the fairy tales we heard as children, but it doesn't make them less false." So at least one prominent member of the Chicago Booth faculty has carved out safe spaces for himself and for students who might feel threatened if they were to think seriously about ideas that many competent economists today consider to be very important.

As Eric Holmberg, Class of 2018 and current student government president, remarked, Jay Ellison's infamous letter to incoming undergraduates "is hypocritical in the sense that the University is more fearful of challenge and discomfort than any student I know."

Bob Michaelson, SB'66, AM'73
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Diverging on climate

Another great issue (Fall/16). The *Magazine* keeps getting better and better as judged by the percentage of the articles that I actually read all the way through. President Zimmer's On the Agenda was especially encouraging in these days of political correctness and persecution of individuals with divergent views. The following is a divergent view.

Advocates of the hypothesis that the recent global warming has been caused by human activity would have you believe that the science is settled and that we are all in agreement. This is simply not true. Richard Lindzen is a good example of a well-known and respected specialist in atmospheric dynamics who has questioned the underlying science.



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LETTERS

My own specialties lie in cloud microphysics and computer modeling of atmospheric processes (my PhD thesis) as well as statistical methods. I too, have come to question the science underlying this hypothesis.

First, the link between increases in greenhouse gases and global temperatures is provided by global circulation models (GCMs). Since it is not possible to model radiative transfer or precipitation processes from the basic equations, GCMs resort to parameterization. Parameterization substitutes simple algebraic equations for these two critical processes.

The radiative transfer process is critical in determining atmospheric temperatures. The parameterization takes the form of independent variables such as CO₂ and water vapor concentrations. Each of these variables has an adjustable coefficient. The coefficients are adjusted until the GCM produces results that resemble the real atmosphere.

In order to determine the coefficients for the greenhouse gases, it is necessary to rely on the climatic record, say for the previous 20 years. This was a period of warming temperatures and increasing CO₂ concentrations. Adjusting the coefficient for CO₂ based on this dataset in essence assumes that the increase in CO₂ was responsible for the increase in temperature. However, this same model is then used to state categorically that the observed warming has been due to the increases in greenhouse gases. It doesn't take an expert in logic to recognize a circular argument.

Another tenet held by the proponents of anthropogenic climate change is that the climate has never had such rapid changes in such a short period of time. I refer to my 1994 paper that addresses this issue ("Reconstructing Streamflow Time Series in Central Arizona Using Monthly Precipitation and Tree Ring Records," *Journal of Climate*).

In this paper, I present a chart showing the raw reconstructed streamflow from 1580 to the early 1990s. The variance in the time series was small for the period prior to 1860 that relied only on tree ring data. The variance was significantly larger when precipitation data was added in but was still well below the variance from 1910 when actual streamflow data became available.

The statistical methods used to reconstruct climate, in this case streamflow, are designed to minimize the root mean square error (RMSE). When the signal is weak, this produces values close to the long-term mean. I developed a method to restore the variance. The raw time series showed a pronounced uptick in the most recent years, similar to Al Gore's "hockey stick." This feature was not present in the time series with the variance restored.

I suspect that the conclusion that the climate has become more variable in recent years is merely an artifact of the methods used to reconstruct past climates. I submit this in the spirit espoused by President Zimmer, that we need divergent views: "Having one's assumptions challenged and experiencing the discomfort that sometimes accompanies this process are intrinsic parts of an excellent education."

Ken Young, SM'67, PhD'73
PETROLIA, CALIFORNIA

I suspect that the conclusion that climate has become more variable in recent years is an artifact of the methods used to reconstruct past climates.

Centennial remembrance

One hundred years ago Frank Lillie, PhD 1894, then professor of zoology, later dean of the Division of Biological Sciences, discovered the mechanism of intersex or "freemartin" cattle ("Deep Ties," Original Source, Fall/16). When twin cattle are born, one is male and the other is a female intersex cow, called a freemartin by cattle farmers. Lillie discovered that the blood vessels of the male and female fetal cows communicate with each other in their common placenta. The mixing of fetal hormones across the placenta creates a partial "masculinization" of the fetal female cow and an incompletely developed female genital tract. These freemartins have a distinct appearance as they mature, easily known to the cattle farmers.

Lillie's pioneering study shed light on the nature of intersex conditions, present not only in humans but in a number of species in the animal kingdom. Intersex conditions in humans are a complex set of hormonal, anatomic, and genetic changes in development and maturation. There is a better knowledge today of how to help intersex persons and their families at birth and at puberty. Much less is known about how these intersex conditions affect the arc of intersex persons' old age. This remains an area of inquiry, in the spirit of Frank Lillie.

David O. Staats, MD'76
MADISON, WISCONSIN

Eat, memory

The letters under "What, no T-Hut?" (Letters, Fall/16) reminded me that I had forgotten to write about the original location of Station JBD.

Before urban renewal relocated Lake Park Avenue to about the Illi-

BLAST FROM THE PAST



It's always a good corrective to one's own worldview to read the letters in the *University of Chicago Magazine*. No matter the subject, one's sensibilities are likely to be abused by one's fellow curmudgeons, and the sensitive soul is taken aback to discover not all fellow graduates of said university hold the exact same opinion as oneself. If one allows, and is in the proper mood, it is both sobering and entertaining.

—Martha Hoffman, AB'87
Sept-Oct/11

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LETTERS

nois Central right-of-way, there were buildings along the east side of that avenue north of, I think, 55th Street. Station JBD was in one of those buildings before moving to Hyde Park Avenue. The Compass Players moved from another of those buildings to a bar on the current site of the University fire station on 55th Street, before spending time in St. Louis and then reconstituting as Second City back here in Chicago. Station JBD was a popular spot in the early '50s for some faculty members given to two-martini lunches, much more common in those days than now, I understand.

I had the pleasure of a long conversation with Peter Pomier, the owner of the T-Hut, at his relocated site on Stony Island at about 87th. The décor was totally relocated and his niece, the statuesque blonde (in the Hyde Park days), was still serving as hostess: "How many please? This way. Here we are!" The famous corn steak was no longer on the menu, because the machine that embedded the corn broke and could not be restored or replaced. I also learned that, before the T-Hut, Pomier had been a partner with Ric Riccardo in the restaurant of that name near the Wrigley Building, a hangout for the

newspaper people from the *Trib*, *Daily News*, and *Sun-Times* and noted for the large paintings of the "seven lively arts." (The number may need to be corrected. I was usually looking at my companion or my martini.)

Jim Vice, EX'52, AM'54
WABASH, INDIANA

Capital thoughts, revisited

Just finished reading your superb Fall/16 edition. The "Capital thoughts" letters remind me of a seminar response by UChicago's leading moral philosopher, Alan Gewirth, my mentor during graduate studies: "Not infrequently, Adam Smith's 'hidden hand' is all thumbs!"

Sheldon W. Samuels, AB'51
SOLOMONS, MARYLAND

Thank you for your timely and provocative article "Of Morals and Markets" (Spring/16). Recent price-setting issues for lifesaving drugs raised by the encounter between the public and pharmaceutical companies have raised significant questions with regard to the handling of externalities of establishing a price or cost for a human life. Martin Shkreli and also the Mylan company possess significant monopoly price-setting power and they use it without regard for social acceptance—capitalist system or not. Is the invisible hand fallible?

Another example of market failure is the ever-increasing destruction of this planet from global warming, which also brings with it water—human beings' staff of life—issues. Society has had a difficult time digesting and coping with this externality of the free market system. Solutions are not directly associated with the free market envisioned by Adam Smith and the invisible hand. And yet society urgently needs to come to grips with the horrendous, costly situation, now and in the future. The market pricing mechanism needs assistance.

A course dealing with the ethics of markets is therefore timely. Market mechanisms of the future will need to be aided by social processes dealing with a number of externalities not addressed by the current market system. Philosophy and ethics will offer the foundation for building revisions to the invisible hand. Nobel Prize-winning economist Elinor Ostrom

Society has had a difficult time digesting and coping with this externality of the free market system.

provides an initial thrust, a process in her book *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action* (Cambridge University Press, 1990). Maybe this book should also become a part of the course along with *The Wealth of Nations*.

Steven A. Windell, MBA'64
BLAINE, WASHINGTON

I don't recall reading John Paul Rollert's (AM'09) "Of Morals and Markets" in the Spring issue, but found the letter about it by Richard West, MBA'63, PhD'64, in the summer issue and Rollert's response interesting.

I don't think the financial crisis was based on capitalism itself. In any system it's necessary that there be people watching it to make sure it runs correctly. In 2008, to an incredible extent, the people who should have been doing this—economists, professors, accounting firms, banks, politicians, government agencies—were either brainless and/or corrupt.

But is this a problem unique to capitalism? Any system, capitalistic or otherwise, can fail if the people running it and supposedly watching over it aren't doing their jobs. If the government is separate from the economy, it can work to make sure it runs smoothly and fairly (although, unfortunately, I don't see nearly enough real signs that that's being done in the United States today, even after the crisis). But if, as in other systems, the government is controlling the economy itself, who has the power to correct it when it goes wrong, as, in the real world, it inevitably will, sooner or later?

If a gigantic failure is proof that an economic system should be dropped, what system can be considered acceptable? Does the collapse of Venezuela mean that an abiding faith in socialism is no longer warranted? And surely (to choose just one of many examples) the famine in China of the late '50s and



Close cover before striking.

early '60s, in which millions starved to death (Mao: It is better to let half of the people die so the other half can eat their fill), should discredit any faith in communism as an economic system.

So what does Rollert think is left?

Greg Darak, AB'76

TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

A disservice

I was rather appalled at the photo on page 67 of the Fall/16 issue of the *Magazine* (Bear Review). No doubt, rules for encounters with wildlife, including bears, were not yet clearly established in 1923, but to print such a photo now is a disservice to the efforts of the Park Service, Forest Service, and other organizations to teach campers and other wilderness visitors not to approach wildlife and certainly not to offer them food. Further, running such a photograph may have the unintended consequence of encouraging dangerous behavior among park and wilderness visitors. A human food-accustomed bear is not only a danger to humans but often is deprived of its life, owing to that danger. Each summer I participate in volunteer activities on Admiralty Island, home to numerous brown bears, in Alaska, and the rangers carefully instruct us about "no food, no food scents, no scents of any kind that might attract a bear," in our tents. I will mail the page to some of the rangers; they will be as appalled as I.

Roselee Bundy-Hansen AB'73,
AM'75, PhD'84

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Corrections

In the obituary for Marilou McCarthy von Ferstel, AM'79 (Deaths, Fall/16), we misstated the year von Ferstel was elected to Chicago's city council. She was elected in 1971. We regret the error.

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SOCIAL UCHICAGO



Chicago Studies @ChicagoStudies • Jan 11

"In many ways, the history of African American education is the history of African Americans."

<http://mag.uchicago.edu/education-social-service/history-retreating>



UChicago Arts @UChicagoArts • Jan 10

Add alcohol, make art. #UChicago alum @EricThurm hosts TED talks with a twist (of lemon).

<http://mag.uchicago.edu/arts-humanities/ted-twist>



Ignacio Illanes G. @iillanes • Jan 4

"One word summarizes the process by which universities impart these skills: questioning." Breve y muy bueno. <http://mag.uchicago.edu/university-news/crucible-confronting-ideas>



Rene Schlegel @Rene_Schlegel • Jan 2

The output of the first computer was a loom.

<http://mag.uchicago.edu/science-medicine/pattern-progress>



Mimosa Shah @mimosaishere • 28 Dec 2016

Chance encounter with a cracked sculpture in Rome leads to a reunion nearly 1,500 years in the making. Oh Antinous. <http://mag.uchicago.edu/arts-humanities/cracked-case>



UChicago @UChicago • 27 Dec 2016

What was it like to be the first woman president at #UChicago? Hanna Holborn Gray reflects. <http://mag.uchicago.edu/university-news/leading-questions>



UChicago History @UChicagoHistory • 13 Dec 2016

How does baseball relate to gender, sexuality, and class? Read about professor Matthew Briones' research. <http://mag.uchicago.edu/law-policy-society/fiel-dreams>



UChicago Humanities @UChicagoHum • 25 Nov 2016

Art history professor Christine Mehring pulls Concrete Car out of storage. <http://mag.uchicago.edu/arts-humanities/set-stone>



Ivy Onyeodor @Ivuoma • 24 Nov 2016

Amazing profile of a fly Nigerian oologist. <http://mag.uchicago.edu/science-medicine/beyond-borders>



Chris Smith @CHSmithPhD • 21 Nov 2016

Nice feature story about the great scientist and academic administrator Walter E. Massey. <http://mag.uchicago.edu/science-medicine/change-state>



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Robin Hunicke believes games like *Luna*, about the adventures of a little red bird, can inspire empathy in players.

MEDIA

Game changer

Robin Hunicke, AB'95, designs video games for the soul.

In 2009 **Robin Hunicke**, AB'95, met with her friend and fellow game designer Jenova Chen to talk about Chen's idea for a new game. Chen en-

visioned characters on a pilgrimage to a distant mountain.

For Hunicke, it felt a bit like fate. Just a few months earlier, she had taken a trip to Bhutan, where she ascended a 14,000- and then a 16,500-foot peak. The experience convinced her she needed to make a change. "I realized that I had been climbing the wrong mountain," says Hunicke. She'd been working on major commercial games at Electronic Arts for years, and while she'd enjoyed projects like *The Sims 2* and *Boom Blox*, "I really wanted to try actually making artistic games for a living."

Chen's meditative project was exactly the kind of thing she had in mind. She took the role of executive producer and helped assemble a small team. Together they developed *Journey*'s unusual system of collaboration: throughout the game, players spontaneously encounter one another and can travel toward the mountain together, communicating only through wordless song. Each wears a magic scarf that, when properly charged, allows them to fly; players can "recharge" their scarves by remaining close together.

When it came out in 2012, *Journey* broke sales records on the PlaySta-

tion Network and earned reviews that were not so much favorable as ecstatic. “*Journey* is a marvel, a hallucination of gameplay that feels as deep and immersive as the borderless desert where it begins. An abstract story of spiritual fulfillment that’s tinted with magic and suffused with almost ethereal beauty,” one reviewer wrote.

Journey takes only about two and a half hours to play, but developing the game took almost three years (“so it was a year an hour, if you think about it that way,” Hunicke says, “and that’s a lot of time”). Yet something important emerged from the laborious process: “We really wanted to create a canvas for you to project your thoughts and feelings onto,” she says. “And some of the best responses that we got to the game were from people that were able to use it as a way of projecting out traumatic narratives, grief, love.”

Journey’s collaborative elements proved especially powerful. Despite the constraints on communication between players, many described feelings of intense connection to their nameless partners. On a fan site, one player commented about helping a less experienced companion: “I happily showed her everything I could. She taught me to care for those I took under my wing, and it’s not something I’m going to forget.”

Today, four years after *Journey*’s remarkable success, Hunicke is the cofounder of her own small game company, Funomena, and is at work on several new games. She also teaches game design as an associate professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and speaks regularly about the importance of diversity in the game industry. Despite some changes, the field remains predominantly white and male, according to the International Game Developers Association.

Hunicke’s path to game design was nearly thwarted by the devious *Pitfall!* (1982)—the first game she’d ever played—which at age seven she found “punishing and hard to know.” But she became enraptured with *M.U.L.E.* (1983), in which settlers compete for resources on a newly discovered planet. When she wasn’t playing the

game, she spent her time devising new strategies to try out. At UChicago, she took her first computer programming class and devised her own humanities major focused on art, computer science, women’s studies, and storytelling. She was nearly done with a PhD in computer science at Northwestern when she left to work on *The Sims 2: Open for Business* expansion pack at Electronic Arts.

In her spare time, Hunicke continued to tinker with game ideas of her own. One of these ideas became the forthcoming *Luna*, which explores themes of regret and transformation through the adventures of a little red bird blown from its nest. Players help the bird return home by solving puzzles that unlock information about its past. Hunicke says the game was informed by her study of childhood trauma and its lifelong mental and emotional impact.

Years ago, this might have been seen as unusually dark subject matter for a video game. But today, many designers, especially those affiliated with the “deep games” movement, are interested in finding ways to explore the human condition through their work. Some deep games, such as the depression narrative *Actual Sunlight* (2013) and *That Dragon, Cancer* (2016), directly address topics like mental and physical illness. Others, like *Luna*, are more allegorical.

The growth of artistic games stems in part from technological advancement and new distribution platforms, according to **Patrick Jagoda**, who studies digital games as an associate

professor in English and cinema and media studies at UChicago. In the 1990s and early 2000s, games could only be distributed in

hard copy, and pressing discs at volume was too expensive for most small companies. Today online platforms like Steam and Xbox Live have eliminated that barrier by allowing people to download games directly to their consoles, making it easier for independent games to compete alongside shoot-’em-up blockbusters.

Because they’re naturally interactive, games offer artistic possibilities that novels or movies don’t. “A game doesn’t just allow you to imagine what



“We want to build things that encourage creativity and exploration,” Hunicke has said of her work with Funomena, the company she cofounded in 2013.

it would be like to act,” says Jagoda. “It actually puts you in situations where you have to make choices and take actions.” Games offer “an opportunity to practice new habits, to alter attitudes, potentially to change one’s behaviors.”

Hunicke agrees, and she’s committed to developing games that help players in their lives. “Technology and entertainment have the capacity to help shift our approach to our feelings,” she says, “and help us be more open to them and honest about them in ways that reduce our chances of hurting ourselves or harming others.”

The same goes for the people making the games. For Hunicke, game design—and all design, really—is an exercise in empathy. “You’re literally building that world from scratch,” she says. “You need to think about, ‘What is the experience of the players going to be? How are they going to experience this as a system and as a reality?’”

In her classes, Hunicke reminds students that this empathetic and design-focused worldview has value for more than games. “Everything is being designed,” from where items are placed in the grocery store to our immigration system. And that means everything can be redesigned too. “We are all capable of imagining a better world.” —*Susie Allen, AB’09*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLIE CHU, CC BY-SA 2.0

Under compulsion

Psychiatrist Jon Grant, AM'87, is helping treat and raise awareness of behavioral addiction.

One more episode of your favorite show, another doughnut, those new shoes you're dying to have—cravings like these can be hard to resist. But for some, saying no is nearly impossible.

Jon Grant, AM'87, is a professor of psychiatry at UChicago who studies and treats behavioral addiction (also called impulse-control disorders), which affects an estimated 10 to 15 percent of the global population annually. For his patients, relatively commonplace activities, such as shopping, eating, or internet surfing, have become all consuming. Many arrive in his office facing financial ruin, legal trouble, or serious marital problems.

"These conditions can be difficult for other people to understand," Grant and his coauthors write in *Why Can't I Stop?: Reclaiming Your Life From a Behavioral Addiction* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2016), a book that examines some of the most prevalent types of impulse-control disorders. While sufferers' actions may look willful, they "cannot just stop—at some point the behavior has become ingrained, compulsive, and, frequently, beyond their control," the authors explain. It takes professional

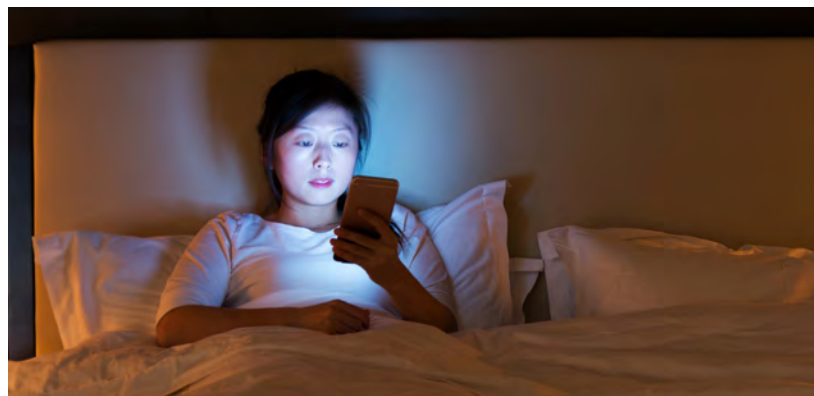
intervention (typically therapy and sometimes medication) to bring relief.

Grant has published dozens of articles about pathological gambling and directs UChicago's Addictive, Compulsive, and Impulsive Disorders Research Program. But when he first got interested in gambling addiction as a medical student 20 years ago, doctors didn't know what to make of the phenomenon. They debated whether it was a symptom of another disorder—or if it was a mental health issue at all.

Today doctors have a much better understanding of the problem. It's now known that compulsive gambling runs in families, for instance. And children of alcoholics have a heightened risk of both alcoholism and compulsive gambling, suggesting a genetic link between the two disorders. Grant's own research has shown that naltrexone, a drug usually used to treat opioid addiction, can lessen the urge to gamble.

Gambling addiction is included in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)*, along with compulsive stealing, grooming, and online gaming. But some of the other issues Grant studies, such as compulsive sexual behavior and internet addiction, are not. What's included in the *DSM*—the American Psychiatric Association's official compendium of mental illnesses—can have practical ramifications for patients, like whether their health insurance will cover the cost of treatment. (Providers can often sidestep insurance limitations by using one of the *DSM*'s "catchall" diagnoses.)

Grant says he understands skeptics' hesitation to classify these behaviors as addictions and include them in the



When we're all glued to our phones, how do you spot an internet addict?

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER'S INDEX LIVING DATA

Number of UChicago residence halls:

7

Years between the opening of the oldest active residence hall, Snell, and the newest, Campus North:

123

Thin-crust pizzas consumed by Campus North crews during construction:

580+

Annual residence hall study breaks:

2,625

Packages accepted in the residence hall mail rooms in 2015–16:

100,000+

Bed spaces in the seven halls:

3,200

Length, in miles, of 3,200 extra-long twin mattresses laid end-to-end:

4

DSM, and the reluctance to “glibly pathologize something that might not merit it.” Still, however it’s labeled by the medical community, his patients’ distress is real. Grant argues that including more impulse-control disorders in the *DSM* will raise awareness of these afflictions and convince more people to seek treatment. Without a clear set of diagnostic criteria, patients often “feel less legitimate,” he says.

In their early stages, behavioral addictions can be hard to spot. Family doctors typically ask patients about drug, alcohol, and tobacco use but almost never about behaviors like gambling. Addicts can easily justify their actions by pointing out that everyone

else is shopping and overeating too.

This sense of denial is typical of internet addicts—after all, they argue, aren’t we all fixated on our phones? Grant says internet addiction is a growing part of his practice and is especially prevalent in young adults. He’s seen college students who, unable to tear themselves away from their browsers, failed an entire semester, and “now all heck is breaking loose and they really do need help.”

Internet and online gaming addictions aren’t well recognized in the United States, but South Korea began taking the issue seriously after several deaths related to internet binges. (In one disturbing case, a three-month-old

South Korean girl died of malnutrition; her parents regularly left her alone for 10-hour stretches while they went to internet cafés.) The Korean government has since introduced public education campaigns about the dangers of excessive internet use.

Behavioral addictions may be dangerous, but, Grant stresses, they can be overcome. Cognitive behavioral therapy, which focuses on changing patterns of thought and behavior, is especially helpful. And Grant’s lab is currently investigating medications that may ease symptoms of these disorders—making unbearable urges less painful, and a normal life more possible.—*Susie Allen, AB’09*

CITATIONS



Teens, stick it to the man by skipping the fries.

REBEL WITHOUT A CANDY BAR

Teenage defiance can be harnessed to motivate healthy eating. A team of researchers including **Christopher Bryan**, assistant professor at Chicago Booth, and **Cintia Hinojosa**, research coordinator and lab manager at Chicago Booth, published a study in September in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that shows teenagers choose healthier options when they are presented as acts of rebellion. When given information that portrayed the junk food industry’s marketing practices as unfair and deceptive, eighth graders were far more likely to abstain from sugary foods than peers who received conventional educational material focusing on the individual benefits of healthy eating. The idea of battling

“manipulative” corporations in the name of social justice proved to be better motivation for changing adolescent behavior than emphasizing long-term health outcomes.

HANDED-DOWN LONELINESS

Loneliness may be heritable, according to new research published online in *Neuropsychopharmacology*. In the first genome-wide association study of loneliness, **John Cacioppo**, the Tiffany and Margaret Blake Distinguished Service Professor of Psychology; **Lide Han**, postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Human Genetics; and their colleagues examined genetic and health information of more than 10,000 people aged 50 years and older. From three questions that assess the

tendency to feel lonely over a lifetime, the researchers concluded that loneliness is a modestly heritable trait. The researchers also found strong genetic correlations between loneliness, neuroticism, and depression. The team’s next goal is to identify a specific set of genes that is responsible for long-term loneliness.

QUIETLY SINKING

What happened to Earth’s crust when Eurasia and India began to collide 56 million years ago? It sank, according to **Miquela Ingalls**, doctoral student in geophysical sciences; **David Rowley**, professor in geophysical sciences; and **Albert Colman**, assistant professor in geophysical sciences. In a study published in the November *Nature Geoscience*, the researchers used recently revised estimates on plate movements to calculate the amount of continental crust before the collision. What they discovered was that about half of this mass is not found on Earth’s surface today. “We’re taught in Geology 101 that continental crust is buoyant and can’t descend into the mantle,” Ingalls said, but in this case that was the only place the missing crust could have gone. The team’s refutation of this traditional assumption has important implications for understanding

how the chemical makeup of Earth’s interior has changed and the evolution of the continents over time.

END OF THE STONE AGE

A study published online in the *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* in October suggests that intestinal flora may prevent kidney stones. A team led by assistant professor of medicine **Hatim Hassan** and including professor of medicine **Eugene Chang**, MD’76; assistant professor of medicine **Dionysios Antonopoulos**; research specialist **Donna Arvas**, AB’85; and research associates **Mohamed Bashir** and **Mark Musch**, PhD’83, found that *Oxalobacter formigenes*, an intestinal bacterium, reduces the amount of oxalate in the urine. Oxalate is a compound that combines with calcium to form the most common type of kidney stone, and *O. formigenes* helps transport oxalate through the colon. The bacteria is easily killed by antibiotics, and more than a quarter of people lack *O. formigenes* in their colons. The team is now working on identifying the proteins produced by *O. formigenes* so that they may be used separately for treatment and prevention of kidney stone disease.

—*Chloe Hadavas, ’17*

Little scientists

Think of children as pint-sized psychologists, says parenting expert Erica Reischer, AM'96, PhD'00.

When **Erica Reischer**, AM'96, PhD'00, and her husband enrolled their new puppy in an obedience class more than a decade ago, she discovered a sneaky truth: the class was as much about training the couple as the dog. "Its focus was teaching us how to think like a dog, how to interpret what dogs do, and how to interact with her so that she would learn positive behaviors," Reischer says.

She incorporated that same philosophy into her new book, *What Great Parents Do: 75 Simple Strategies for Raising Kids Who Thrive* (TarcherPerigee, 2016). "The main way in which we can change our kids' behavior is through changing our behavior," says Reischer, a psychologist who works with children and families.

As a student in the Committee on Human Development, Reischer immersed herself in research on how children learn and grow. But when she became a parent, she had no time to return to her stacks of dog-eared material from graduate school. She wrote the book she wishes she'd had then, one that promotes a pragmatic, research-based approach to parenting.

Fundamentally, Reischer views parenting as a skill you can hone with time and practice. "My real goal," she explains, "is to talk about how we can have happy families and parents who enjoy parenting." Her comments below have been condensed and edited. —Susie Allen, AB'09

What was it like to become a parent after studying early childhood development?

A friend of mine who also has a PhD said, "Well, I was a perfect parent until I became one." When you have kids yourself, and you have that emotional connection, you realize this is not as easy as it all sounds.

You suggest parents focus on kids' behavior without trying to correct their feelings. Why is this important?

A lot of times, parents without realizing it start telling kids what they should think or not think, or what they should feel or not feel. When people are telling you what to think or feel, it almost never works and in fact is kind of alienating.

This comes up in small ways. Say we're going to go to Grandma's house, and our three-year-old says, "I don't want to go. I don't like Grandma. She's scary."

A lot of parents would probably say, "Yes you do. You love Grandma and she loves you and she's not scary." It seems like a reasonable response, but we're ignoring what our kids feel. In a worst-case scenario, if we do this kind of thing over and over, they'll just stop telling us how they feel because it doesn't get them anywhere.

What we really need to be paying attention to is our children's behavior—words and deeds. If our daughter thinks Grandma is scary and doesn't want to go—that's all okay for her to think and feel. What's not okay is for her to be mean or impolite to Grandma.

When we can be aware of our thoughts and feelings, and make choices about what we're going to do about them, that's the secret sauce.

What advice do you give most frequently?

One thing I find helpful is the idea of seeing your kids as little scientists. If we see our kids as doing something we don't like and think to ourselves, "They're being defiant!" that's going to trigger some

feelings in us. Whereas if we see that same behavior not as defiant but as curious—curious about what we'll do if they ignore us, curious about what will happen if they disobey us—it gives us a lot more patience to respond in a constructive way.

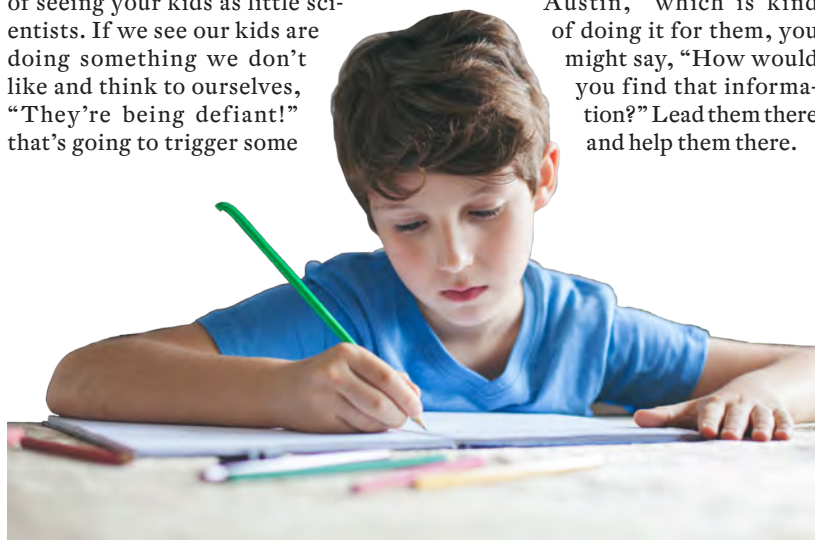
Kids are doing experiments because they have to figure out how the people in their lives work. I sometimes say, "Pretend your kids are wearing little white lab coats, and carrying little lab notebooks, and making notes all day long about what works and what doesn't work with you." Because they're going to come back to that and say, "If I want something, whining works in public but not at home, so when I want the lollipop in the store, I'm going to whine."

When parents say, "My kids are always whining" or "My kids always interrupt me," you can be pretty sure that's because it works, at least sometimes. Kids are smart.

How involved should parents be in their child's activities and schoolwork?

I think, generally, less is more. If it's the kid's schoolwork, it's the kid's schoolwork. You should be very careful not to imprint your ideas, your methodology. Even though that might make the project better, objectively speaking, it completely misses the point of the project, which is for the child to learn, and for them to maybe make some mistakes.

If your kid asks, "What's the capital of Texas?" instead of saying "Austin," which is kind of doing it for them, you might say, "How would you find that information?" Lead them there and help them there.



Cultural revelations

Youqin Wang refuses to let the victims of China's Cultural Revolution be forgotten.

Youqin Wang was 13 years old when her fellow classmates beat her middle school vice principal, Bian Zhongyun, to death.

The events of August 5, 1966, hadn't begun so violently. "They just poured ink on the [vice] principal's head," recalls Wang. But over the course of the afternoon, she watched as students at the girls' middle school attached to Beijing Teachers University traded in the ink for boiling water and took up clubs spiked with nails. When the administrator fell unconscious, students threw her body into a garbage cart.

Wang doesn't flinch when she remembers that day. Now a senior lecturer in Chinese language at UChicago, she repeats the graphic details of Bian's death often—not for the shock value, but because few others will. For almost 40 years, Wang has been on a solitary mission to gather and tell the stories of the individuals who lost their lives during China's Cultural Revolution. It's not known exactly how many people died, but estimates range from 500,000 to several million.

In 2004 Wang published a book listing the details of 659 deaths from the Cultural Revolution, and she maintains a website listing nearly 200 more (hum.uchicago.edu/faculty/ywang). It's a painstaking effort. Records from those years are scattered far and wide, and while a handful of the people who participated in the violence have apologized, the Chinese government has done little to preserve the memory of the deceased.

Yet Wang can't be deterred. "Someone should tell people the truth," she says quietly.

The Cultural Revolution began three months before Bian's death, when Mao Zedong first enlisted students across the country to persecute



Wang's home is filled with artifacts of her quest to memorialize the dead.

perceived enemies of his Communist Party. Over the next three years, the youths captured, tortured, and killed suspected counterrevolutionaries, particularly urban intellectuals like Bian.

Those victims' stories line Wang's sunny Hyde Park apartment. Binders stuffed with interview notes fill long rows of shelves, while stacks of neatly labeled plastic tubs house reams of photocopies. As she talks, Wang moves from room to room looking for documents. Not that she needs them—Wang seems to effortlessly recall intimate details of each case she mentions: the department where he worked, how she was publicly humiliated, the way they committed suicide together after years of persecution.

Wang was a bright student, skipping several grades in elementary school. But during the Cultural Revolution, Mao suspended the formal education system, instead sending urban youth to work in the Chinese countryside. So, in 1969, Wang went not to a university, but to the rural province of Yunnan, where she spent six backbreaking years clearing bamboo and planting rubber trees. While there, Wang found a tattered journal of world literature containing an excerpt of Anne Frank's diary, which inspired her to begin documenting the injustices she had encountered herself.

As she wrote in one of her notebooks: "Even though I cannot change anything that is happening, at least I can record them."

Following Mao's death in 1976, college entrance exams resumed and Wang enrolled at Beijing University. In

her free time, she visited old classmates to ask about their experiences during the Revolution. In the late '80s, Wang started more methodically tracking down family members of the victims.

In 1995 she published a report documenting 63 individuals from Beijing University who died during the Cultural Revolution. But her list kept growing. When she arrived at UChicago in 1999, she created a website to house the memorial. Today the site lists 755 names and descriptions of another 70 unidentified victims, from all across China.

They have a way of haunting her—like physicist Yu Tai Rao, SB 1917, who was imprisoned on his Beijing campus. He escaped one night, returned home, and hanged himself. "He even didn't have time to get a rope," says Wang. "He just found a piece of fabric."

To date Wang has uncovered 13 individuals who, like Rao, graduated from UChicago and later died or committed suicide as part of the Cultural Revolution. It's a vivid reminder that the past, however painful it may be, has a distinct place in the present—the same lesson she seems determined to impart to others.

On her website, Wang shares a story from a man sentenced to farm labor during the Cultural Revolution. One day a cow from his herd was slaughtered under a willow tree. From then on, the other cows refused to go near the tree. By contrast, the chickens strutted happily where their friends had been butchered. The chickens forgot, but the cows remembered. Wang remembers too. —*Jake Smith, AB '13*



Reviewers called *Mauerschau* “intense,” “fascinating,” and “dazzling.”

MUSIC

Fight song

In her critically acclaimed opera, Amy Stebbins, AM’14, tackles the timeless problem of war.

“Was siehst du?”

“What do you see?”

It’s a question that pulses throughout the new German-language opera *Mauerschau*, which premiered June 29, 2016, to impressed audiences and critics alike. One reviewer proclaimed the piece the “incontestable ornament of the Munich Opera Festival.” With direction and libretto by University of Chicago graduate student **Amy Stebbins**, AM’14, *Mauerschau* transforms Heinrich von Kleist’s play *Penthesilea* (1808) into an opera exploring the chaos of war.

In Kleist’s tragedy, Penthesilea, the Amazonian queen and dedicated warrior, falls in love with the Greek Achilles, only to kill him through a series of misunderstandings. Kleist’s world is one of muddled truths and misinterpreted motives. No one, not even the leading lovers, can stay clear on who’s fighting who and why. In the end, Penthesilea dies under the weight of what she’s seen and what others have told her she’s done.

Stebbins, a PhD candidate in cinema and media studies and Germanic studies, majored in history and literature as an undergraduate. After col-

lege, she worked at several German theaters, including the famed Volksbühne, known for its avant-garde productions. She encountered *Penthesilea* for the first time in a UChicago seminar taught by **Christopher Wild**, associate professor of Germanic studies.

The piece is both compelling to scholars and tricky to stage because it uses a technique known as “teichoscopy”—or, in German, *mauerschau*—which involves directly reporting to the audience on unseen events. (As a practical matter teichoscopy provides a way around scenes that would be difficult to stage, like battles.)

So when composer Hauke Berheide first posited putting *Penthesilea* on stage, Stebbins had her doubts. “It would be incalculably boring—hours of actors recounting events that the audience is unable to see.”

But Stebbins and Berheide realized the concept could work as an opera, which had the potential to open *Penthesilea* to fresh possibilities.

And Kleist’s themes of conflict and confusion had begun to seem ever more relevant. At the time, Russia was in the headlines for its forceful annexation of the Crimean peninsula. “Neither the political leadership nor those actually living in Ukraine seemed to know what was really going on,” says Stebbins. Then the Islamic State began gaining ground, bringing more global uncertainty. “The facts were changing every day,” she says.

This—the elusiveness of facts, the obscurity of truth—is central to *Mauerschau*. Stebbins and Berheide

knew what problems they wanted to address. How do we navigate war and international relations in a world where information is so difficult to verify, let alone comprehend? And how, they wondered, can citizens in a democracy make decisions about their country if political leaders and institutions don’t keep the public informed?

It’s a problem that goes back centuries, Stebbins says. “There’s a lot of discussion about how recent technological developments have created a new problem for truth in war reporting,” she says. “But if you look back even to the Greeks, this problem of figuring out what was actually happening was just as prevalent.”

Stebbins knew that the heightened language and tragic nature of *Penthesilea* would translate well to opera. In the scene where the queen comes to terms with what she’s done, “it would be a challenge not to identify with the sense of total disorientation that she’s experiencing,” Stebbins says. She stayed true to her source material, employing the same dramaturgical tool from which *Mauerschau* takes its name. The opera’s messenger character weaves in and out of the piece, providing both the audience and the opera’s characters with new information—information that often conflicts with what is seen.

Refusing to situate *Mauerschau* in a singular moment or context, Stebbins incorporated a patchwork of texts in her libretto. The piece opens with audio of former US secretary of state Colin Powell’s 2003 remarks to the United Nations on alleged weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, as a projected photo of a cannonball-riddled road taken during the Crimean War fades to black. She also sprinkled the libretto with lines from writers and thinkers including Friedrich Nietzsche and the memorable “known unknowns” of former US secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld.

In the end, *Mauerschau* doesn’t present an obvious solution to the problem of unintelligible war—a solution Stebbins thinks may not exist. But that was never the point. For her, it’s not the job of art to “articulate an answer to a societal problem.” Instead, she’s offering what she describes as “a kind of critique ... in the form of a question.” —Tessa D’Agosta

PHOTO COURTESY AMY STEBBINS, AM’14

Brick by brick

How to build a dream career out of Lego.

David Pickett, AB'07, can't remember a time when he didn't play with Lego. "I learned to build before I learned English, probably," he says. "It's just always felt incredibly natural to me."

In the past decade, Pickett has emerged as a star in the Lego online fan community thanks to his YouTube channel, Brick 101, where he posts Lego reviews, tutorials, and episodes of his Lego animation series *Nightly News at Nine*. His videos became so popular that last year Pickett was able to quit his day job and work with Lego full time—a childhood dream fulfilled.

Now he's cowritten *The LEGO Animation Book: Make Your Own LEGO Movies!* (No Starch Press, 2016), in hopes of helping other aspiring Lego filmmakers. "I really wish I had a time machine so I could go back and give it to my eight-year-old self," Pickett says. "Because that's really who I wrote it for." His comments below have been condensed and edited. —Susie Allen, AB'09

Why have Lego remained popular?

It's an incredibly accessible but also powerful creative medium. What other low-cost, simple 3-D construction medium is there? It's almost like a language in terms of its usability. It's flexible, accessible, and beautiful.

When did you get interested in Lego animation?

When I was about eight, my family got one of those old-school video cameras where you had to put a VHS tape into it to record. Of course the thing that I wanted to videotape was Lego, because you can do so much imaginative filmmaking. You can film a car chase, and you can add in a dragon and a robot. I think people naturally tell stories when they're playing with Lego, so making the leap to filmmaking is not really that different.

Did you bring Lego to college?

A little bit. In the "adult fan of Lego" community, we have this term called "the dark age"—the years when you go through puberty and are more interested in pursuing romantic options than playing with Lego. I had more of a dim age. When I went to college I didn't bring my entire basement room full of Lego with me, but I was making Lego movies using [the student film group] Fire Escape Films and things like that. After college I was able to move all the Lego from my parents' basement to my living room.

When did you realize that you could make a career out of Lego?

I've been publishing videos on YouTube for 10 years. It certainly wasn't an overnight success. It was probably about a year and a half ago that it really started to seem like I could quit my day job. That's just because I was able to find the right formula for making YouTube videos that were easy to produce but also popular enough to bring in the ad revenue. There's a lot of work and luck that goes into creating a successful YouTube channel.

You've expressed concern about the gendered marketing of Lego. Has that changed at all?

Back in 2012 Lego started its latest push into marketing a new line of products specifically toward girls. That started with the Lego Friends line, which led to the Lego Disney princess line, Lego Elves, and now Lego DC Super Hero Girls. It's been incred-

ibly successful for them, and they now have a whole range of products, which I think is really great, because it used to be that Lego would have one line for girls. At the same time, I still have disappointments with the figures that they're using in those lines. They have less articulation than the regular mini figure, and that seems to have a coded message about the importance of physical activity for boys versus girls.

It's not ever going to go back to the halcyon days of the of the '60s and '70s where gender-neutral toys were "in" and there were just Lego sets for everyone. But compared to some of the things that were done in the past—like Lego jewelry that was the only thing marketed toward girls—the place they're in now is less limiting and more open than it ever has been. And if you don't want the gendered sets, there's always just regular Lego blocks.

What is it like to be a Lego celebrity?

It's really bizarre. Three hundred sixty days out of the year, my celebrity is totally digital. There's nothing about my day-to-day life where I feel like a celebrity walking down the street. But when I go to a Lego convention, kids will say, "I know you! You're Brick 101!" or they'll come up and be like, "Oh my god, I'm your biggest fan." Meeting these kids who can recite my videos—it's really inspiring and also humbling. I feel like I have a responsibility to be a good presence in these kids' lives and make content that helps them access their own creativity.



Working with Lego full time is "literally my dream job," Pickett says.



A team of researchers from Rice University, MIT, and the University of Richmond ranked the Edward L. Kaplan, MBA'71, New Venture Challenge as one of the premier start-up accelerators in the country.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Start-up support

A new investment program gives fledgling UChicago companies a boost.

Maroon start-ups are about to get an influx of UChicago capital. The University is designating \$25 million from its endowment to invest alongside established venture funds in start-ups led by faculty, students, staff, and alumni, expanding a commitment to grow entrepreneurship and research commercialization on campus.

The Office of Investments, which manages the University's \$7.1 billion endowment, will oversee the UChicago Startup Investment Program as part of its private equity and venture capital portfolio. The \$25 million in investment capital will be targeted at companies raising an early round of funding known as a series A.

The University anticipates investing in three or four new companies a year through the initiative, which is set to run for a decade. UChicago's maximum

initial investment in each company will be the lesser of \$500,000 or 20 percent of the investment round. The University will require an established venture capital firm to both lead the investment round and to take a seat on the start-up's board.

"The University is continuing to expand its commitment to support our students and faculty across the institution who are engaged in entrepreneurship," says president **Robert J. Zimmer**. "By coinvesting in new companies that have independent investments by established firms, we will enhance University-wide support for start-ups while encouraging venture partners to explore investment opportunities coming out of the University."

To qualify for the program, start-ups must have a significant affiliation with UChicago. Generally the start-up must either be built on University-owned intellectual property, or faculty, alumni, students, or staff must be on the founding team.

"Capital is a key resource required for scaling ventures once they have advanced to this pivotal stage," says **John Flavin**, associate vice president of entrepreneurship and innovation, who leads UChicago's Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. "The goal of the UChicago Startup Investment Program is to at-

tract more venture partners to Chicago and infuse more needed capital into successful start-ups, leading to a greater number of them emerging from the University."

The initiative builds on the endowment team's venture investing experience. The Office of Investments made its first venture investment in 1978 and now has a stake in several venture capital funds.

"In addition to fostering innovation, we hope the UChicago Startup Investment Program will encourage our partner venture capitalists to take a deeper look in the Midwest and Chicago specifically," says **Mark Schmid**, University vice president and chief investment officer. "We want to invest in companies that grow and create economic opportunities here and participate in the resulting benefits."

Series A funding tends to be the second or third time external investors are given ownership in a start-up. Start-ups typically receive between \$3 million and \$5 million from multiple venture capital funds to fuel their growth during series A.

Many successful University of Chicago-affiliated start-ups have attracted series A funding early in their development from leading venture capital firms, such as Accel, Index Ventures, LightBank, Revolution

Ventures, and Andreessen Horowitz.

Some of those start-ups were top finishers in the University's **Edward L. Kaplan**, MBA'71, New Venture Challenge. They include food delivery service Grubhub, which went public in 2014; payments processor Braintree, which sold to PayPal for \$800 million; Base, a sales software company; and flower delivery service BloomNation. Others, including Electrochaea, which builds renewable gas storage, and RefleXion Medical, a medical device company focused on precision cancer treatment, are based on technologies developed at the University.

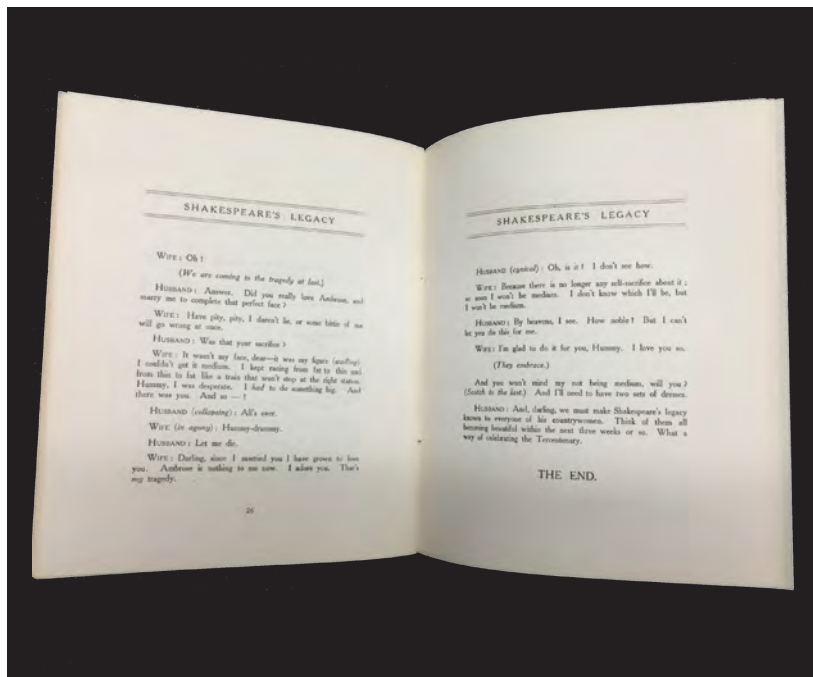
For the UChicago Startup Investment Program, staff at the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation will conduct the first round of vetting and then advance promising companies to the investment office. One source for potential companies will be the Polsky Center's technology commercialization and licensing team, which is working to increase the number of companies arising from inventions and intellectual property developed by University researchers.

It's likely that most qualified companies, including ones built on University-owned patents, will have completed at least one of the Polsky Center's programs, such as the New Venture Challenge; the **John Edwardson**, MBA'72, Social New Venture Challenge; the College New Venture Challenge for undergraduates; the University of Chicago Innovation Fund, which invests in start-ups at an earlier stage; or the Polsky Accelerator or Incubator, where entrepreneurs get space and coaching.

The most successful of the companies that receive funding through the UChicago Startup Investment Program are expected to raise subsequent rounds of capital. Endowment officials have set aside a portion of the \$25 million for participation in these later rounds, allowing for investment over the long term.

"We're excited that the Office of Investments has partnered with the Polsky Center to launch the UChicago Startup Investment Program," Flavin says. "This sends a strong signal to the capital markets as well as to innovators that we're serious about helping faculty and students build fast-growing companies."

ORIGINAL SOURCE REDISCOVERED



In 1916, the tercentenary of William Shakespeare's death, the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, in London hosted a matinee production of J. M. Barrie's one-act play *Shakespeare's Legacy* to raise funds during World War I. The 26-page absurdist comedy follows a newly married man who finds out that his wife grew up in a house scattered with previously undiscovered manuscripts written by Shakespeare. In addition to revealing Shakespeare to be a Scot who definitely did not rely on Sir Francis Bacon as a coauthor, one of the lost works contained the cosmic secret to enduring physical beauty—virtue, charity, and sacrifice. The husband is pleased his wife will remain angelic inside and out, until he realizes one of her acts of charity may have been giving up a handsomer suitor to “complete that perfect face.”

Twenty-five copies of the play were printed by English journalist and editor Clement King Shorter for distribution to his friends; the

University's Special Collections Research Center has copy number seven, part of a trove of Barrie's work (including a first edition of *Peter Pan*) donated by a retired Chicago accountant in 1969. It's one of only a few copies of *Shakespeare's Legacy* in the United States, and the copy the theater company Shaw Chicago relied on for its fall production of the play as part of its Shakespeare 400 celebration.

The production was the American premiere of *Shakespeare's Legacy*. Shaw Chicago was “very thrilled to have found it,” says University rare books librarian Catherine Uecker, and used a PDF of the library's edition for their staging. The revival of the piece prompted Uecker to read through it herself, which is the “wonderful thing about what we have,” she says. “Sometimes a researcher will come in and discover something fabulous that maybe hasn't been looked at for a while, and we get to sort of discover it all over again as well.”

—Helen Gregg, AB'09

Electoral reflections

Following the presidential race, UChicagoans discussed what to expect after the unexpected.

Two days after November's presidential election, the mood at the University of Chicago Institute of Politics was reflective. During a panel discussion in the IOP House's intimate living room, **David Axelrod**, AB'76, spoke with several institute fellows about the results and what to expect from a Donald Trump presidency.

"Something big happened on Tuesday," said Axelrod, who directs the nonpartisan institute and served as a senior adviser to president Barack Obama. And the outcome was, "by almost everyone, unanticipated."

The event was one of many ways the UChicago community reacted to the 2016 election. On election night, the *Chicago Maroon* reported, some students took to the quad to celebrate Trump's victory; a week later, the quad was the site of an anti-Trump rally.

Faculty members from across campus also grappled with the outcome. In the *New York Times*, **William Howell**, Sydney Stein Professor in American Politics at Chicago Harris, considered how much Republicans will ac-

complish with control of the White House and Congress. "There is a fair bit of historical evidence that Congress enacts more laws during periods of unified government," he said. "But in this period of slim majorities and rampant obstructionism, past trends may not hold."

Also in the *Times*, **Luigi Zingales**, the Robert C. McCormack Distinguished Service Professor of Entrepreneurship and Finance at Chicago Booth, compared Trump to former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi and gave his advice to the opposition: "Democrats should also offer Mr. Trump help against the Republican establishment, an offer that would reveal whether his populism is empty language or a real position," Zingales wrote.

Geoffrey R. Stone, JD'71, the Edward H. Levi Distinguished Service Professor of Law, was less conciliatory, describing Trump's election as "a grievous mistake" in the *Huffington Post*. That view is shared by **Harold Pollack**, Helen Ross Professor at the School of Social Service Administration. Pollack suggested in the *Nation* that civil disobedience may become necessary to resist Trump. Pollack has also expressed concern about the future of health care, writing in the *New York Times* that Trump and congressional Republicans "owe Americans a detailed explanation of how they plan to replace" the Affordable Care Act.

At the IOP, the election-week panel included fellows Liesl Hickey, a Republican strategist; Bruce Reed, former Democratic White House adviser;

journalist Philip Revzin; and former fellow Stuart Stevens, another Republican strategist.

Reed, who advised Presidents Clinton and Obama, attributed Trump's victory to "an enormous amount of real pain" in the industrial Midwest and rural communities, while Stevens argued Trump's victory was due less to economic anxiety than to Trump's popularity among white voters of all incomes. Trump's pledge to "make America great again" was racially divisive, said Stevens, a veteran of Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign. "I don't think a lot of African Americans are longing for the past."

Looking ahead, the panel predicted a dim future for the Affordable Care Act, though they acknowledged the risks of repealing the law. "It's a lot more fun to attack Obamacare than it is to own the successor to it," Reed said.

Hickey anticipated debates over trade policy within the GOP. While Trump wants to pull out of or renegotiate trade deals, many congressional Republicans don't. "For the most part they are a free trade conference."

Abroad, news of Trump's election has been greeted with trepidation, said Revzin, former publisher of the *Wall Street Journal* in Europe and Asia. Eastern Europeans, he said, are alarmed by Trump's admiration for Russian Federation president Vladimir Putin, and in France, some believe Trump's victory may energize far-right presidential candidate Marine Le Pen.

The Republicans and Democrats on the panel alike predicted soul searching within their parties. Trump, Stevens said, violated norms of civil discourse "and he got away with it. ... He was allowed to both run as an establishment Republican and something else by the end. I don't think that speaks well about the [Republican] Party, frankly, or the whole process."

Democrats are also in a moment of uncertainty. Reed predicted a more prominent role for progressives like senators Elizabeth Warren and **Bernie Sanders**, AB'64, but conceded that with just 16 governorships, the party will struggle to find an anti-Washington candidate to run in 2020.

Wrapping things up, Axelrod underscored the value of political participation. "Elections matter," he said.—*Susie Allen, AB'09*



The IOP panel discussed issues including trade, climate change, and race.

FOR THE RECORD



A NEW CENTER

A \$30 million grant from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, a nonprofit institution and Hong Kong's largest community benefactor, will support the construction of the University of Chicago's new center in Hong Kong. Like the University's centers in Beijing and Delhi, the center in Hong Kong will provide a hub for education, research, and collaboration and deepen the University's engagement in Asia. Academic programs will include the Booth Executive MBA Program Asia. The new facility, scheduled to open in 2018, will be named the Francis and Rose Yuen Center in Hong Kong in honor of University trustee **Francis Tin Fan Yuen**, AB'75, and his wife, Rose Wai Man Lee Yuen.



NEXT STOP OXFORD

Lilian Dube, AB'15, and Law School student **Joshua Pickar** have been named Rhodes Scholars. They are among the 51 UChicago students and alumni who have received the honor, which supports graduate study at the University of Oxford. Dube will pursue two master's degrees at Oxford—one in education and the other in English—with an eye toward higher

education policy and curricula in southern Africa, particularly the tensions between the humanities and technical-skills education. A native of Zimbabwe, Dube is currently teaching high school in Hong Kong. Pickar will pursue master's degrees in global governance and diplomacy, as well as in comparative social policy. Those degrees will help him fulfil his ambition to strengthen international legal institutions to protect the world's most vulnerable populations. Pickar has worked with asylum seekers at the US Department of Justice, the law firm Debevoise & Plimpton, and the International Refugee Assistance Program in Chicago.

CAMPUS CLIMATE

In November the University released data from its first Campus Climate Survey. The survey questionnaire, aimed at capturing experiences and perceptions on campus concerning issues of diversity and inclusion, was sent to students, faculty, academic appointees, postdoctoral researchers, and staff in spring 2016. "It is crucial that we cultivate a climate that is welcoming for individuals of all backgrounds," provost **Daniel Diermeier** wrote in a letter to the campus community about the survey's findings. "As the data make clear, we have work to do to ensure a diverse and inclusive campus climate, and we have a foundation for making positive change." Comprehensive data from the survey can be found at mag.uchicago.edu/campusclimate2016.

GIVING BACK

Martha C. Nussbaum, the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics, will donate a portion of her 2016 Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy to the University of Chicago Law School and the Department of Philosophy to create a financial award designed to encourage scholarship at the intersection of law and philosophy among graduate students. The award,

which will be given each year to a student in either the Law School or the philosophy department, was announced at a November 2 reception.



TRAUMA CHIEF

Selwyn O. Rogers, a surgeon and public health expert with 16 years of trauma-care experience, will lead the University of Chicago Medicine's development of the South Side's only level 1 adult trauma center, scheduled to open in 2018. Rogers will build a team of specialists to treat patients who suffer injury from life-threatening events such as car crashes, serious falls, and gun violence. He and his team will work with leaders in the city's trauma network and at other hospitals to expand trauma care on the South Side. Rogers comes to UChicago from the University of Texas Medical Branch, where he was vice president and chief medical officer.

LEADING THE WAY

At the University's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on January 9, president **Robert J. Zimmer** presented Diversity Leadership Awards to **Jamil Khoury**, AM'92, cofounder of Silk Road Rising, a Chicago-based theater company that showcases Asian and Middle Eastern playwrights; community leader, youth mentor, and former University police chief **Rudy Nimocks**; and **Margaret Beale Spencer**, PhD'76, the Marshall Field IV Professor of Urban Education in comparative human development, who studies resilience in urban children and teens. The awards honor UChicagoans who display

leadership in fostering diversity and advancing social justice.

JOLLY GOOD FELLOWS

Four UChicago scientists have been named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Fellows are elected by AAAS members for their efforts to advance science or its applications. UChicago's new fellows are **Geoffrey Greene**, the Virginia and D. K. Ludwig Professor and chair of the Ben May Department for Cancer Research; **Zhe-Xi Luo**, professor of organismal biology and anatomy; **Clifton Ragsdale**, professor of neurobiology and organismal biology and anatomy; and **Jonathan Staley**, professor of molecular genetics and cell biology.

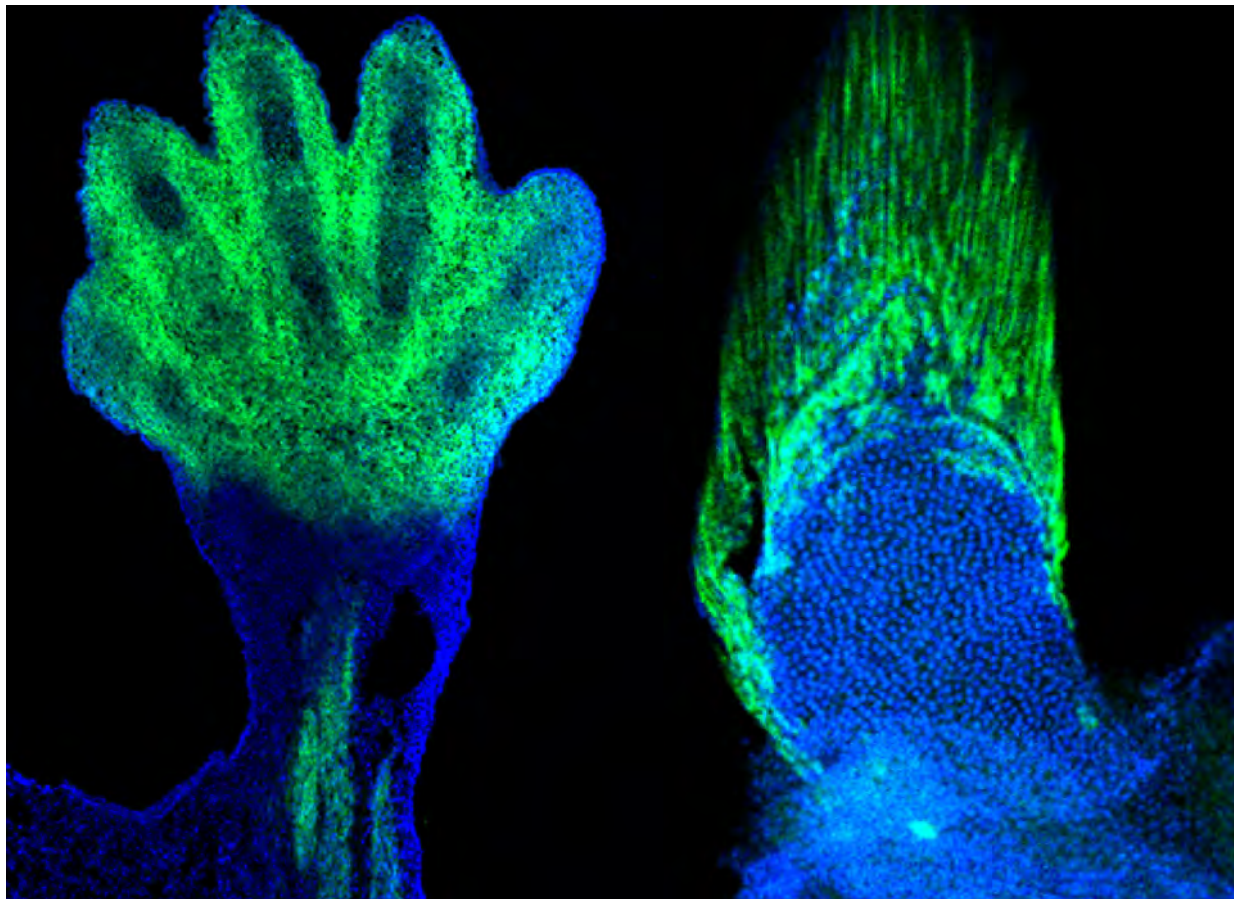
LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Michael Greenstone, LAB'87, the Milton Friedman Professor in Economics, has been appointed director of the University's Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics. The institute supports economic and interdisciplinary research, brings together scholars from around the world, and offers public outreach programs. Greenstone will build on the work of **Lars Peter Hansen**, the David Rockefeller Distinguished Service Professor and inaugural director of the Becker Friedman Institute, and Hansen's cochair **Kevin M. Murphy**, PhD'86, the George J. Stigler Distinguished Service Professor of Economics.

HAMANTASH HUMBLD

At the 70th annual Latke-Hamantash Debate on November 22, speakers from across the University debated the merits of the two traditional Jewish treats. In her presentation, **Wendy Freedman**, the John and Marion Sullivan University Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics, concluded "the cosmos has a preference for latkes over hamantashen"—a view shared by her three copresenters, all of whom argued for the superiority of the potato pancake.

FIG. 1 FROM FINS TO FINGERS



Some 375 million years ago, during the Devonian period, our ancestors emerged from the sea and walked on land for the first time. The evolutionary link between primitive fish and modern land dwellers gained key evidence in 2006, when Neil Shubin, the Robert R. Bensley Distinguished Service Professor of Organismal Biology and Anatomy, discovered a fossil of the transitional “fishapod” *Tiktaalik*, with features of both fish and four-limbed animals.

How fins and their bony rays evolved into limbs and digits has remained a puzzle. The two kinds of appendages have been thought to be distinct both structurally and developmentally. Notably, they are composed of different types of bone

tissue—one type of bone formed directly for fin rays, a different type of bone preformed in cartilage for finger and toe bones.

Two recent studies in Shubin’s lab, however, revealed that the same genes influence the development of fin rays in fish and digits in mice.

In one study, postdoctoral scholar Tetsuya Nakamura used CRISPR/Cas, an advanced gene-editing technique, to delete the genes *Hoxa-13* and *Hoxd-13* from zebra fish—genes known to be important to the development of wrist bones and digits in mice. In Nakamura’s experiment, the zebra fish lacking those genes failed to fully develop fin rays.

Meanwhile, his colleague Andrew Gehrke, SM’13, PhD’16, used

molecular markers in zebra fish embryos to label individual cells in which the same *Hox* genes are expressed. Since the embryos are transparent, he was able to follow the paths of the glowing cells as the fins developed. The marked cells, shown in green in the composite image above, grew into fin rays in the zebra fish, much as similarly marked cells had grown into digits in a mouse hand in a separate experiment (left).

Taken together, the discoveries “reveal a cellular and genetic connection between the fin rays of fish and the digits of tetrapods,” the researchers said—bolstering evidence of our own evolution from aquatic ancestors.

—Laura Demanski, AM’94

IMAGE COURTESY ANDREW GEHRKE AND MARIE KNITTA

A life in print

BY JASON KELLY

His first formative encounter with the publishing industry came when **T. David Brent** was seven years old. Drawing on more than half a decade of life experience, Brent used a manual typewriter to compose a memoir.

His father, the legendary Chicago bookseller Stuart Brent, EX'40, unspooled his son's life story and submitted it to the *Chicago Daily News*, which printed it under the headline, "T. D. Brent, Author."

How old was he again?

"Seven," Brent says over coffee in the café at the University of Chicago Press, where he retired as executive editor at the end of 2016.

The publication of the young Brent's article set typewriter keys to clacking in some hallowed offices. Letters soon began arriving.

"From Alfred A. Knopf, from the head of Macmillan, of Doubleday, of Random House, and all saying, 'Dear T. D., we've read your piece in the *Chicago Daily News*. We want you to keep us in mind for your first book.'"

The warm reception did not inspire Brent, AB'70, AM'71, PhD'77, to become an author. Instead, he found himself attracted to the job titles of his new pen pals—editorial director, editor in chief, publisher. He became curious about what they did.

That curiosity idled in the back of Brent's mind for years, until another unexpected encounter with a publisher. Brent's father held a book-signing party in the mid-1970s for novelist and longtime University of Chicago Press director Morris Philipson, AB'49, AM'52. Introduced to the younger Brent, Philipson asked about his graduate work, which happened to be a dissertation on Carl Jung.

"Lo and behold, Morris had also written on Jung for his dissertation," Brent says. The two arranged to meet and discuss their intellectual overlap.

Soon after, a job opened for an entry level "first reader" at the press and Philipson suggested to Stuart Brent that he encourage his son to apply. "I applied for it, and I got the job," Brent says, "and the rest is 42 years of history."

He was still a grad student then, but when he completed his degree, facing

a meager job market for philosophy PhDs, he accepted an offer to become the psychology and anthropology acquisitions editor at the press, selecting among submitted manuscripts in those fields and soliciting others. Not long after, an editor's departure allowed Brent to add philosophy to his portfolio.

As he established himself, Brent worked to define the publisher's identity in those fields. His graduate studies incorporated all three, and "it just seemed natural to me when I got to the press that I would somehow try to combine these things—philosophy, anthropology, and psychology."

He had come to see philosophy as the "intellectual precursor" to the other disciplines. Philosophers were the theorists, anthropologists and psychologists the experimentalists holding ideas up to empirical scrutiny.

Brent brought to the press influential titles that blended philosophical thought with anthropological and psychological field work, such as Vincent Crapanzano's *Tuhami: Portrait of a Moroccan* (1980) and Gananath Obeyesekere's *Medusa's Hair: An Essay on Personal Symbols and Religious Experience* (1981). "I've always felt that the core was theoretically sophisticated ethnography," Brent says. "There's an element of storytelling, but not always just for its own sake. There's got to be an analytic and theoretical edge to it."

His ideas evolved under the direction of, among other graduate school mentors, historian and writer Mircea Eliade, a Divinity School professor and chair of the history of religions for nearly three decades. Eliade called this way of thinking "the new 'umanism,'" with Brent fondly recreating how Eliade's Romanian accent rendered the *h* silent. "If you wanted to understand other people, you had to get into their world," Brent says. "You had to participate."

Among Brent's interests from his teenage years was listening to soul and blues music, a world with few barriers to entry for a Chicago kid of the 1960s and UChicago student of the 1970s, when artists and clubs proliferated. What might have remained a personal pastime merged with the professional while he was still a first reader at the press.

A manuscript called *African Rhythm and African Sensibility: Aesthetics and*

NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS

1978–85 Mircea Eliade, *History of Religious Ideas*, Volumes I–III

1979 John Miller Chernoff, *African Rhythm and African Sensibility: Aesthetics and Social Action in African Musical Idioms*

1980 Vincent

Crapanzano, *Tuhami: Portrait of a Moroccan*

1984–88 Paul Ricoeur, *Time and Narrative*, Volumes I–III

1990 Leszek Kolakowski, *Modernity on Endless Trial*

1991 Michael Taussig, *Shamanism,*

Colonialism, and the Wild Man: A Study in Terror and Healing

1995 Jeffrey J. Kripal, *Kali's Child: The Mystical and the Erotic in the Life and Teachings of Ramakrishna*

2017 Ronald Aronson, *We: Reviving Social Hope*

Social Action in African Musical Idioms (1979) fell to Brent. Almost immediately he recognized it as a “perfect embodiment” of Eliade’s new ‘umanism.

“It couldn’t have been more than about 11 pages into the introduction,” Brent says, “when I realized that I was reading a work of greatness.”

He and author John Chernoff, who was still in Africa at the time, began a correspondence that forged a friendship and shaped an important part of Brent’s career. Chernoff sent recordings and Brent began to take the first steps toward developing an African studies category at the press.

Under that broad umbrella, and especially within African ethnomusicology, Brent came to discover, “everybody wants to read everything. ... It’s borne out in the market for Africanist literature that, no matter what part of the huge continent you work in, you have a kind of interest in knowing what’s going on in every little tiny corner.”

Such is not the market for much of an academic publisher’s list. Academic publishers are, as the title of a 1999 Brent essay put it, “merchants in the temple of scholarship.” They must balance commercial interests with intellectual significance, leaving them “suspended, like a magic floating wand in a magnetic force field, between two principles vying for dominance.”

Another principle surpassed both for Brent: enthusiasm. He wrote about the importance of scholarly enthusiasm—“or love, or fun if you will”—in a 2012 essay on Chernoff’s book, and he considers it an essential quality in scholarly publishing as well, enabling a publisher to transcend the mere dissemination of information.

In retirement Brent still exudes his seven-year-old’s wonder for the publishing process. He remembers, as a 26-year-old junior editor, cold-calling University of Pennsylvania sociologist Philip Rieff, AB’46, AM’47, PhD’54, whose books with trade publishers had gone out of print. That led to a new 1979 press edition of *Freud: The Mind of the Moralist*.

A letter introducing himself to French philosopher Jacques Derrida and informing him of an upcoming trip to Paris was greeted with an invitation to meet. In addition to several Der-



Above: Seven-year-old Brent posed for his *Chicago Daily News* story. Right: A meeting of the minds with Michel de Montaigne in Paris, 2007.



rida translations, the press is home to a posthumous series of previously unpublished lectures dating to 1960.

Annual visits to the Frankfurt Book Fair, where publishers buy and sell foreign rights, and side excursions to Paris were memorable for both the intellectual company Brent kept there and the results for the press. On a single day in Paris he had breakfast with Derrida and lunch with his former dissertation director, the influential philosopher of hermeneutics Paul Ricoeur. Brent had convinced Ricoeur to retain the English language rights to his books, to the benefit of author and publisher alike. That night at a jazz club, Brent met Cameroonian saxophonist Manu Dibango, whose music he knew through Chernoff and whose autobiography, *Three Kilos of Coffee* (1994), the press later published.

“I was always looking for books,” Brent says, “but I was also having a fantastic time.”

Sometimes the books came to Brent. **Wendy Doniger**, the Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor of the History of Religions, brought a student’s dissertation to his attention. It became *Kali’s Child: The Mystical and the Erotic in the Life and Teachings of Ramakrishna* (1995) and began a partnership with **Jeffrey J. Kripal**, PhD’93, now the J. Newton Rayzor Chair in Philosophy and Religious Thought at Rice University.

Describing his own intellectual interests as “eccentric,” Kripal found an open mind and a fervent supporter in Brent. That encouragement stuck with Kripal when Brent candidly told him his 2007 book *Esalen: America and the Religion of No Religion* had commercial potential that a trade publisher might better maximize. On the other hand, Brent cautioned, he might encounter more creative interference. “I stayed with David and the press,” Kripal says, “and I have never regretted that decision.”

Brent’s guiding influence, he says, “turned a small mishmash of books into a potential oeuvre.” When *Kali’s Child* generated harassment and calls for censorship from Hindu fundamentalists, Brent’s support never wavered.

Through controversy and the ongoing lonely labor of research and writing, he had a champion who envisioned the impact of his work even when Kripal could not see it himself. If it felt at times like an audience of one, Brent’s vision was sustaining, and it was validated in the heartening reception of Kripal’s books.

“We are not just talking changed minds,” Kripal says. “We are talking about something more akin to books becoming hauntings, possessions, zappings, real magic.”

As a summary of a career’s work in publishing, Brent wouldn’t change a word of that. ♦



history

NO SMALL TALENT

In the 1960s the Small School Talent Search sought promising young scholars in rural areas. Fifty years later, one of those students gives his perspective on the program and its legacy.

BY TOM HEBERLEIN, AB'67

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DOUGLAS JONES



In an undated photo, Margaret Perry, central to launching the SSTS experiment as associate director of admissions, chats with students on the quads.

Early one morning in September 1963, **Lloyd Johnson**'s dad finished milking cows on the family's 80-acre Iowa farm while Lloyd, SB'67, helped his mother pack the car for the drive to Chicago. Lloyd's family filled out a tax form every year but never had enough income to owe anything. In Minnesota **Mary Ellen Kippley**, AB'67, the eldest daughter of a tenant farmer, washed with a basin; her family of 11 had no indoor plumbing. Her mother had the day off from the Campbell Soup plant, where she worked deboning cooked chickens, and rode along as Mary Ellen's grandparents drove her to Chicago. Versions of this story were repeated in Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Michigan, Illinois, North Dakota, Montana, and Wisconsin. Forty-three other rural kids joined Lloyd and Mary Ellen on their paths to the University of Chicago. I was one of them.

In *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (W. W. Norton, 1991), historian William Cronon describes 19th-century Chicago as a center that gathered the raw materials of the Midwest—logs, grain, and livestock—to process them into lumber, flour, and bacon. We, Midwest youth of promise, were likewise being sent to Chicago to be transformed. In 1960 the University of Chicago instituted the Small School Talent Search program, informally labeled GRITS ("Grass Roots Talent Search"). By the early 1970s, 480 GRITS students had come to the University.

Few of us in the Class of 1967 had ever heard of the University of Chicago, and most had never been to the city. **Jane Grady**, AB'67, from Shelby, Montana, "vaguely thought of it like a city community college. ... My competitive side liked the idea that you had to be smart to get in." We were not all poor—my dad owned a small gas station—but most of us were the first in our families to attend college. We were all academic stars in our hometowns. Mary Ellen had attended a National Science Foundation summer course her junior year. **Loren Nelson**, AB'67, SM'68,

PhD'79, had finished at the top of the Kansas State Science Fair. **Fred Mannausau**, AB'67, had won the Upper Midwest Spelling Bee as an eighth grader and gotten a free trip to Washington, DC. Both Fred and Mary Ellen were National Merit Scholars. Until our guidance counselors told us about the University of Chicago scholarships, however, we were considering state schools or small local colleges. We had not planned to go far from home.

The Small School Talent Search was born of necessity. Enrollment in the College in the 1950s was down by over 50 percent. After president Lawrence Kimpton and his staff met with hundreds of college counselors who had been sending students to Chicago, he told the trustees and faculty that the University had a reputation problem. Charles O'Connell, AM'47, director of admissions when the Small School Talent Search began, noted, "although the College attracted bright young people, it was considered to be a place for oddballs." In his recent book, *The University of Chicago: A History* (University of Chicago Press, 2015), College dean **John Boyer**, AM'69, PhD'75, writes of the steep drop in enrollment Kimpton faced. Additionally, the recruitment of high school sophomores and juniors during Robert Maynard Hutchins's presidency had led to a "collapse of trust among local high school officials, alumni, and parents in the University's traditional markets." The backlash, writes Boyer, "meant admissions officials had to try to expand the applicant base of the College by recruiting more students from distant and unfamiliar areas."

Two accounts of the program's beginnings are on record. **James Vice**, EX'52, AM'54, then a part-time assistant in the admissions office, recalls stumbling onto one of these distant markets when he visited four small schools in Indiana. The high school principal in Rochester told Jim he was the first representative of a major private university to ever visit the school and that his students had never even been invited to look beyond their state for colleges. Vice says he then returned to Chicago and presented the idea of recruiting from small Midwest towns to Margaret Perry, the associate director of admissions.

In a different origin story reported in the May/64 *University of Chicago Magazine*, Perry herself had the idea, after a conversation with a UChicago student from a small Western town, and brought it to O'Connell. Perry had close ties to a Wisconsin village and was eager to preach the gospel of the University of Chicago to small schools. She added Montana because she had visited English department colleague Norman Maclean, PhD'40, at his Montana home that summer and loved the state. Perry would become the program's champion over the years.

**WE, MIDWEST YOUTH
OF PROMISE, WERE
LIKewise BEING SENT
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TRANSFORMED.**



However the idea reached him, O'Connell liked it. Thus began a program its creators called an "experiment." No one in admissions had any idea whether it would work.

Letters were sent to 25 rural high schools with fewer than 800 students in six Midwestern states. They promised funding to qualified students. "Since we have found that students from small towns nearly always need help, we tell the high schools: If you find us the type of student we are looking for, we will offer him financial assistance." Even so, there was no new money or endowment for the program. Vice recalls, "We applied the same admissions standards but juiced up the financial computation a bit to lessen the shock." Fifteen schools produced applicants, and in the fall of 1960 the first nine SSTS kids entered the University. The following year, applicants were recruited from 50 schools in 11 states, producing 19 enrollees. In my Class of 1967, the 45 SSTS students comprised nearly 8 percent.

Arriving from northeast Kansas, Loren Nelson found Chicago to be "dingy, dangerous, and it was also an explosion of new experiences. I met my first communist, my first PhD, my first psychiatrist, my first Jewish person, my first somebody from another continent. I'd led a pretty sheltered life." **Gene Evenskaas**, EX'67, from a tiny high school on the Montana plains, says he was lonely in his new urban environment and struck by the poverty in parts of the city.

The academic challenges were also daunting. "My entire knowledge of chem was covered in the first three minutes of the first chemistry lecture while kids from the Bronx High School of Science were looking bored," recalled Jane Grady. **Doug Petersen**, AB'67, ThM'69, had earned As for his writing in Worthington, Minnesota. When he distributed an essay on his hometown to his English class, it was ravaged for its naiveté and poor writing by his more world-



ly classmates, as well as by the professor. **Anne Studley**, AB'66, SM'72, PhD'73, part of the previous year's SSTS class, discovered that among the 16 students in her English class, three were famous authors' sons, including the future Nobel Prize winner Saul Bellow's (EX'39) son **Greg Bellow**, AB'66, AM'68. **Lorry Sallee**, EX'67, from Coin, Iowa, recalls a group of guys talking about the play *Antigone*. The kid that first mentioned it pronounced it "Anti-gone" and was razzed by all the others for the mispronunciation—except Lorry, who also thought it was pronounced that way. Learning had been easy in our hometowns, but Evenskaas speaks for most of us when he says he "studied seven days a week just to try and stay not too far behind."

Comparing classmates to her family in Montana, Jane Grady "liked that people not only spoke in sentences, they did in whole paragraphs." A nondegreed alumna who grew up on a 250-acre farm put it this way: "Coming from a small community, ... five or six or 10 of you who were basically bright hung out together since first grade. ... And you're kind of bored with them, and they're bored with you. It was neat running into lots and lots and lots of people who were cool and had done interesting things."

According to Muriel Beadle, the wife of University president George Beadle, the Small School Talent Search had as one of its goals "to leaven," or to change the campus by modifying the mix of students. A major barrier to leavening was that, like all young adults, we wanted to fit in. **Robert Mitchell**, AB'68 (Class of 1967), MBA'73, came from a mining town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. His first strategy for fitting in was to "ditch the trappings of the UP," he says. "I reinvented myself, very quickly," and "scrapped my wardrobe after three weeks," going downtown to Marshall Field's for new clothes. In her award-winning book *Packin'house Daughter* (Harper Perennial, 2001), classmate **Cheri Register**, AB'67, AM'68, PhD'73, from Albert Lea, Minnesota, describes returning home after her first quarter at Chicago intent on buying a blue work shirt to better fit in. Her father—a millwright in the meat packing plant—presented her with one from work stained with hog's blood.

Mitchell also avoided classmates from the Small School Talent Search. "I just didn't think they were very sophisticated," he recalls, "but I developed this enormous respect for Jewish kids from New York." Breaking the cultural barrier and making friends with students from urban backgrounds, especially from Chicago and the East Coast, was a key to successful integration for the GRITS kids. But it required some give and take. **Lynn Kant**, EX'67, from Waupun, Wisconsin, had dreamed of coming to Chicago

BREAKING THE CULTURAL BARRIER AND MAKING FRIENDS WITH STUDENTS FROM URBAN BACKGROUNDS, ESPECIALLY FROM CHICAGO AND THE EAST COAST, WAS A KEY TO SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION FOR THE GRITS KIDS.

since she was a high school sophomore and got exactly the roommate she wanted, a sophisticated girl from New York City. But the cultural gap turned out to be larger than Kant anticipated, and after six weeks she switched, getting a roommate whose background was more similar to her own.

Whether other students and the campus culture were much changed by the SSTS kids is unclear. Doug Petersen was among those who made a mark. He was recruited from a physical fitness test and soon found himself starting on the varsity basketball team. Having been active in a Worthington Presbyterian youth group, Petersen attended Sunday services at Rockefeller Chapel and eventually became head usher. He joined the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity where, as president, he successfully increased the size of the pledge classes. As a result, he was invited to join the Maroon Key Society, consisting of well-rounded students who advised the deans. Members were often asked to guide visitors around campus. Having a basketball-playing fraternity president and church member from a small town representing the University to prospective students and parents broke with UChicago stereotypes of the era.

I was lucky to find a kid from New Jersey, **Paul Fleischman**, AB'67, who shared my love for the outdoors and read Thoreau; he became my best friend, teacher, and mentor. I thought the learning was all one-sided, but 50 years later he

recalled, “I looked upon the world that you showed me, in Portage, as remarkably secure, embedded in the safety of a large democracy on a vast continent, where the citizens owned their own homes (rather than living in apartments as I and my parents did) and where the people had nothing to worry about, and so pursued aimless hobbies like hunting and storytelling. Where I came from, everything was dire, unstable, filled with palpable terror, warfare, and volcanic cruelty. No one had a hobby that wasn’t connected in some way to self-improvement or survival. No one felt free.” So maybe we did make a difference.

A much more achievable goal than the transformation of the College was the transformation of SSTS students’ lives. In *Where Has All the Ivy Gone: A Memoir of University Life* (Doubleday, 1972), Muriel Beadle wrote, “It’s wasteful of the nation’s intellectual resources to let a really bright youngster become a home economist or a high school football coach when he or she is capable of becoming a statistician or a physician.” Although her sentiments deprecate many Americans, they are not surprising coming from the wife of someone who had grown up on a 40-acre farm near Wahoo, Nebraska, and gone on to win a Nobel Prize. And they reflect the program’s ambitions.

The transformative effects of the University on us were dramatic. Fred Mannausau, the spelling champ, grew up on a hardscrabble farm his grandfather homesteaded in the 1880s. Even in the mid-20th century, when Fred was growing up, the farm had no running water or electricity. As his reputation as a speller grew, he began to receive a weekly shipment of books from the librarian in International Falls, Minnesota, about 20 miles away. Chicago was the only school he applied to. Fred went on to become the chief financial officer for Chase Manhattan’s credit card business and later the chief financial officer for a group of American Express businesses. He credits his success to learning how to think critically at the University of Chicago.

Of his five brothers and sisters, Fred is the only one who went beyond high school. When I asked what he thinks would have happened to him had he not gone to the University of Chicago, he immediately said, “I never think about

that. The second I start thinking about that question—and I have occasionally—two seconds later I say, well, I am not going to think about that.”

Jane Grady, who spent her career as an administrator at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, responds to the same question: “I don’t know—it makes me sad to even think about. Losing all that rigor that Chicago provided. I blundered into the best decision I could have possibly made.” Anne Studley says, “I thought I would become a teacher and marry my high school sweetheart. Who knows?” Instead she became the first female deputy director of the National Science Foundation and held professorships at Stanford, the University of Michigan, and Penn State.

But while the SSTS program brought us to Chicago, it sometimes had a hard time keeping us there. Of the first nine students who arrived in 1960, only three graduated. Of the 19 admitted in 1961, 12 withdrew, a dropout rate of 63 percent. Press releases from the admissions office tried to put a good light on the program, noting that by our third and fourth years our grades were as high as the other students’.

Seventeen SSTS students in the Class of 1967 (38 percent) left Chicago without degrees. For the rest of the class, the dropout rate was lower, suggesting we were underprepared and not sufficiently supported, a conclusion consistent with the tales of culture shock and struggles to keep up in class. But what happens to a UChicago dropout? This is a question I have worried about since college. Did the University, for its own interest, recruit students from the countryside who would have done better elsewhere?

Gene Evenskaas, who came from Plentywood, Montana, ran out of money after four quarters, took a train home, and borrowed money from the local bank to attend Carroll College, a Catholic liberal arts school in Helena. He kept his costs down by living with his sister, who taught at Carroll, and graduated in 1967, on track with his UChicago cohort. He went on to a career on the trading floor at Bank of America.

Stephen Schempf, EX’67, lost his funding because of low grades, so his father pulled him out to attend the much cheaper University of Minnesota, 35 miles from his hometown of Elk River. He too graduated on time in 1967 with a degree in zoology and went on to the University of Colorado Denver health sciences center with a fellowship to study pathology.

Lynn Kant and Lorry Sallee fell in love, and in June of our first year ran off to get married in Michigan (men had to be 21 to marry without parental permission in Illinois). They left the program when they couldn’t keep up with their scholarship requirements and Kant’s pregnancy caused her to leave the campus job that paid her tuition. Later Kant would get a bachelor’s degree at the University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh and, later in life, a master’s degree in library science. Sallee would build a career with the paper company Kimberly-

I BLUNDERED INTO THE BEST DECISION I COULD HAVE POSSIBLY MADE.

THEY PRETTY MUCH JUST SAID WELCOME, WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE, AND THREW ME IN THE DEEP END.

Clark, starting as a technician in the research department and, with the help of internal training, retiring 30 years later with the title of senior research scientist.

The classmate who grew up on a 250-acre farm counts not getting a college degree as one of the negatives about her Chicago experience. She eventually married a UChicago graduate—one who sat in on the 50-yard line protesting the return of football in 1963—raised kids, and tutored in public schools. On her way to Botswana when I interviewed her, she wrote: “I didn’t become a world shaking leader in something, but had never thought to do that. Think there needs to be more brighter people without world changing agendas, and who value their space on earth rather than their position on earth.”

The most consistent criticism of the program from the GRITS kids 50 years later was captured by Loren Nelson: “They pretty much just said welcome, we’re glad you’re here, and threw me in the deep end.” The program had been developed by admissions, and after we matriculated they seemed to think their job was done. But we who had grown up in tight-knit rural communities expected swimming lessons and coaches when tossed into the pool. Even small things could become a source of anxiety, like when Jane Grady got an invitation to a dinner party and realized she had never had dinner at someone’s house who was not a relative. Another GRITS kid recalls realizing after her parents left that she had no idea how to get home to Wisconsin. No one had written *Urban Universities for Dummies*, explaining how to live in a city, or among strangers.

Except for a mimeographed list that did not give room addresses, we had no idea who else was struggling like us. The only time we were gathered together was for a tea and sherry evening at associate admissions director Perry’s elegant apartment in the 13-story Cloisters on South Dorchester Avenue, where we mostly felt like Jane at her dinner party. How much more comfortable and instructive it would have

been if George and Muriel Beadle had hosted a Midwest cookout in their backyard, where we could hear a Nobel Prize winner describe his struggles going from Wahoo to the University of Nebraska.

Miss Perry, as we called her then, did not entirely ignore us. Some got to her office on their own when they needed help; others she kept her eye on. When Doug Petersen got a D in the second quarter of Hum 1, Miss Perry called him in and gave him her usual pitch, “You have to work harder.” A girl who dropped out at the end of the first year recalls meeting at Miss Perry’s apartment for counseling and getting the same advice. “Well, I was working my fingers off,” she says.

In many cases, it wasn’t that we didn’t work hard—it was that we didn’t work very smart. I was spending two hours a day mindlessly typing up my math notes. It took a stunningly low grade on my first exam to get me to Izaak Wirszup’s (PhD’55) office, where the Quantrell teaching award winner gave me a lesson on how to study math. That coaching led to a B at the end of the term. What saved Doug Petersen was the basketball team. Worried that they would lose a starting player if he flunked out, the team organized a study group and brought in a Greek classmate who had experience interpreting sculpture. As a result, Doug got an A in the comprehensive exam in June, erasing the advisory D of the winter quarter.

The second great deficiency from today’s vantage point is that no one ever evaluated the success of the Small School Talent Search. While called an experiment, it was not one in the scientific sense of the term. I could find no record of assessments or follow-ups with those who dropped out. Nor were the SSTs graduates and dropouts tracked along with control groups of other students to determine the effects of the program over time, positive and negative.

The University of Chicago Small School Talent Search was initiated in part to meet the recruitment needs of the University, and some hoped it might change the campus culture. Predictably, the University changed us more than we changed it. Little was done to help with our deficiencies and bridge the cultural chasm between our small towns and a great urban community of scholars.

But for the graduates and even those who left without degrees, the University of Chicago changed them in lasting ways. “I think that this talent search was harder on my folks than it was on me,” says Loren Nelson. “You know, I went far away and I became corrupted. I met communists in school... I became less religious. I think they probably regretted that I went, although I loved it.” ♦

Tom Heberlein, AB’67, is professor emeritus of community and environmental sociology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and in the School of Forestry at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.



profile

GRASS ROOTS

*Retired Racehorse Project founder Steuart Pittman Jr.,
AB'85, advocates for off-track Thoroughbreds.*

BY HELEN GREGG, AB'09

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAN DRY



When a retired racehorse arrives at Dodon Farm in Davidsonville, Maryland, for retraining, the first session is usually held in the farm's indoor riding arena. The wooden facility, 80 feet by 200 feet with sand footing and high rafters, is closed off from all the potential distractions that populate the 550-acre farm: the fields of blanketed grazing horses; the riders and stablehands carrying equipment in and out of the main barn; cars, trailers, and motorized carts running along the gravel roads; and the dogs, some belonging to the Pittman family, some to the farm's employees, that all run around the property with abandon.

Inside the arena **Steuart Pittman Jr.**, AB'85, will hold the horse's head while Michelle Warro, a trainer at the farm, climbs on, and they'll start to walk around the ring in a circle. With a Thoroughbred fresh off the track "we don't know what the horse is like," says Pittman, only that it's been ridden a lot. But it usually doesn't take long for Pittman to tell if the horse is receptive to Warro's leg, rein, and seat signals. More often than not, he's able to let go after a few laps. Then Warro "walks it, trots it, canters it, does everything short of jumping in that very first day," he says, while Pittman observes from the center of the arena.

Most Americans are only familiar with Thoroughbred racehorses from the Kentucky Derby and the other Triple Crown races, once a year marveling at the horses and "how hard they compete, how powerful, and how beautiful they are," Pittman says. Watching them race "is pretty inspiring stuff," but most racehorses retire before age seven, leaving them with two decades of life, and plenty of ability, to flourish in new careers.

At Dodon Farm Training Center, Pittman boards and trains about 20 horses at a time, many of them ex-racehorses. He is also the founder of the Retired Racehorse Project (RRP), a nonprofit that seeks to highlight the potential of off-track Thoroughbreds and helps owners and trainers transition ex-racehorses into other careers, such as competitive equestrian events and pleasure riding. In October the RRP's largest annual event, the Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium, drew thousands of spectators to watch 300 ex-racehorses compete in a variety of disciplines, and their trainers win \$100,000 in prize money.

Pittman thinks Thoroughbreds "are the most fun horse, they're the most athletic, they learn faster than any other horse, they're a blast"—and have as much value off the track as on. The RRP is broadcasting that message to prospective owners and the general public. "These incredible animals

can play polo and they can work cattle and they can teach kids to ride," he says, long after their racing days are over.

In 2015 the average selling price for a Thoroughbred yearling (before it has been raced) was \$65,591.

But the market value plunges for off-track (retired or nonracing) Thoroughbreds. In 2013 Pittman conducted a survey of 2,759 owners of 4,200 former racehorses. The owners reported paying an average of \$1,985 per horse; 31 percent of the horses had been given to them for free.

Thoroughbreds that have successful racing (and subsequently, stud) careers can earn their owners millions. But of the more than 20,000 Thoroughbreds foaled each year in the United States, only about two-thirds will ever race, with just about 4 percent winning a higher-pursed stakes race.

Up until about 40 years ago, off-track Thoroughbreds were used widely in other equestrian sports like eventing, a three-day competition involving dressage, a cross-country course, and show jumping. There are more than 250 eventing competitions in the United States each year, and it's been a summer Olympic sport since 1912. Other breeds have since become more popular eventing horses; Pittman points to aggressive marketing from their breed associations. The European warmbloods especially "became a fad," says Pittman. "Their values went up and people started to think of the Thoroughbreds as worthless" for anything except racing. Thoroughbreds' reputation for behavior problems has worked to keep riders away from the breed as well, though Pittman believes this reputation is unearned: "They're probably the least mean horses you can find," he says.

As the market value of ex-racehorses has fallen, rescue organizations and nonprofit retirement facilities have emerged to provide homes for them and keep them from being neglected, or sent to slaughterhouses in Canada and Mexico (horse slaughter has been banned in the United States since 2007).

**MOST RACEHORSES
RETIRE BEFORE AGE
SEVEN, LEAVING THEM
WITH TWO DECADES OF
LIFE ... TO FLOURISH IN
NEW CAREERS.**



Pittman with his 22-year-old Thoroughbred stallion Salute the Truth, affectionately known as Willy. Willy retired from the racetrack at age four, and has been with Pittman ever since.

Animal welfare advocates think that of the approximately 140,000 horses sold to kill buyers each year, up to 10 percent are Thoroughbreds. (Pittman believes the rate is lower than that of other breeds since the tattooed serial number on all registered Thoroughbreds' upper lip makes them easier to trace—and the act of knowingly selling a horse for slaughter, punishable by a lifetime ban from racing, harder to hide.)

Ahead of major races, the media often cover abandoned and mistreated ex-racehorses, shining light on the work of these rescue organizations. That work is important and deserving of the publicity but the coverage reinforces a narrative Pittman is trying to thwart: that off-track Thoroughbreds are all destined for either the rescue farm or the slaughterhouse. He wants to turn the conversation instead to these horses' potential for full postracing careers.

"Much of the news about ex-racehorses includes words like rescue, slaughter, donate, and adopt," he wrote in a 2011 report. "Too few people hear about heart, athleticism, and versatility."

As a professional trainer, the current market for ex-racehorses benefits Pittman's bottom line. "I would like to be able to get all my horses for free and sell them all for \$100,000, of course," he says, "but it's not good for the horses."

Thoroughbreds need to have intrinsic value, he says, just as they've always had for him. The Retired Racehorse Project is Pittman's way of advocating for a breed that he grew up with, grew to love, and kept coming back to.

Steuart is the eighth generation of Pittmans to live on Dodon Farm. He's the first to earn a living there through horses—the colonial Pittmans grew and cured tobacco, and Steuart's father raised cattle while

commuting to a legal job in Washington, DC. But there have always been horses, including Thoroughbreds, on the property.

The family's neighbors had Thoroughbreds as well, and Pittman remembers growing up surrounded by "these gorgeous horses" that their owners took steeplechasing, fox hunting, or simply riding. He was active in his local riding clubs and spent as much time as he could with the horses. "Some kids are into cars, you know, superheroes," he says. "I was into Thoroughbreds."

When he was in high school, Pittman got his first ex-racehorse, Hurricane Hannah. A bone chip in her ankle had ended her racing career (the chip came in a bottle with the horse; Pittman still has it). Pittman and Hurricane Hannah evented through the Preliminary level, the fourth of six levels in American eventing. "She was pretty magnificent," he says.

In high school Pittman started to become more interested in academics and decided to leave the East Coast to attend the College. There was something about "a bunch of nerds that spend all their time in the library studying" that appealed to him. After his first year he joined a campus movement to protest the United States' involvement in civil wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua. He got hooked, he says, on Latin American studies (his eventual major), on community-based movements, on politics. "I wanted to change the world."

He took a job with ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) as a community organizer in Chicago, working in the Altgeld Gardens public housing project on the South Side shortly before Barack Obama did. Pittman later ran ACORN's Iowa offices and worked with several campaigns during the state's quadrennial presidential primary caucuses. It was "a lot of grassroots commu-

nity organizing”—which he loved—but not a lot of horses.

Pittman hadn't ridden for almost 10 years when, during a vacation at Dodon Farm, he met a horse his father had recently purchased. “I got on and rode it the first day,” he recalls, and then every day for the rest of his trip. He realized, “I had been missing this.” Back at home, he was considering trying to bring the horse to Iowa when one night he woke up with the obvious solution: “I need to go back to the farm.”

Pittman returned home to Dodon Farm with his young family in 1990. He commuted to Washington, DC, to work for the National Low Income Housing Coalition and then as ACORN's director of national campaigns, and rode in his spare time. He began buying racehorses off the track and turning them into eventing horses, like he'd done with Hurricane Hannah. He'd work with one or two horses at a time, for six months to a year and a half each, and then sell them on.

As his training business grew, Pittman began to feel confined by his office job; if he couldn't be out in the field working with activists like he had done in Iowa and Chicago, then he wanted to be in the fields at Dodon with his horses. Figuring out that he'd be able to support himself and his family by training and reselling five or six ex-racehorses per year, he resigned his position with ACORN and became a full-time horse trainer.

“And I got lucky; I got good horses off the track who became valuable,” says Pittman. He “certainly didn't get rich” but he was able to develop a reputation as someone who was successfully transitioning ex-racehorses into sport horses.

Pittman didn't sell all of the Thoroughbreds he worked with. He'd always wanted a Thoroughbred stallion (male racehorses unlikely to win enough races to make them valuable as a stud are often gelded, or neutered, as geldings are usually easier for a rider to control).

In 1999 he got Salute the Truth, known to Pittman and everyone at Dodon Farm simply as Willy.

Pittman wanted Willy before he was even born. He had been impressed by his neighbor's mare, and when that mare was bred with a sire known for producing successful sport horses, Pittman made an offer on the foal, still in utero. A deal was struck for Pittman to buy the horse after he retired from the racetrack; four years and a minor tendon injury later, Salute the Truth was at Dodon Farm.

Willy (a nickname given by his former owners) showed an early aptitude for eventing, especially jumping. He easily cleared a four-foot, six-inch jump on his third training session in the farm's indoor arena (jumps at the 2016 Rio Olympics had a maximum height of just over five feet). He could be challenging to work with at times, says Pittman; as a stallion he “had real strong opinions about things.” His



THE RETIRED RACEHORSE PROJECT SHOWCASES HOW IMPRESSIVE OFF-TRACK THOROUGHBREDS ARE AS SPORT HORSES AND HELPS PROMOTE THEM TO THE RIGHT AUDIENCE.

will not only endeared the horse to Pittman, it meant Willy was the horse who ended up teaching him the most about training Thoroughbreds.

Pittman started competing with Willy the same year he got him. The pair quickly moved up the eventing levels, reaching the top level of the sport in 2003 and competing in an Olympic-level event the following year. For the next decade Willy was a breeding stallion; in 2013 the US Equestrian Federation ranked him the third-best sire for producing eventing horses. Willy “defined my career for a lot of years,” says Pittman. “People sort of said that if they thought of me, they thought of him, us together.”

Now 22, Willy spends his days running and grazing on the fields of Dodon Farm, his spirit undiminished by age. Pittman still rides him occasionally, and Willy still saunters over to the fence when Pittman calls his name. “He’s my man,” Pittman says. There’s a small family graveyard on Dodon Farm where generations of Pittmans, including Stuart’s father, have been laid to rest. When Willy passes on, says Pittman, he just might rest there too.

What first pulled Pittman off the farm into organizing again, he says, was his involvement in the Maryland Horse Council, a trade association and advocacy group for the state’s horse owners. Lobbying legislators, hosting forums, putting forth policy proposals—“it’s community organizing, just like ACORN was.” He served as MHC’s president for four years (he re-

mains on the board) and from that experience “felt the confidence and the arrogance” to think he could successfully advocate for off-track Thoroughbreds.

In 2009 Dodon Farm ran what Pittman calls an experiment. Pittman rented a large arena and through word of mouth invited owners and trainers to a four-hour symposium and demonstration on retraining racehorses. More than 350 people showed up. “It showed us that there’s a demand, that people want this information,” he says.

Pittman started presenting at horse expos, teaching crowds how to work with former racehorses. In 2010 he incorporated the Retired Racehorse Project, which now hosts educational seminars and training competitions, publishes a quarterly magazine and resource directory, and provides sale listings and informational videos on its website. More than 20,000 people have attended RRP events like the annual Thoroughbred Makeover, 10,000 subscribe to the RRP’s *Off-Track Thoroughbred* magazine, and 2,000 dues-paying members support the organization and Pittman’s work.

Pittman is planning another study of off-track Thoroughbred prices to gauge how successful the RRP has been in promoting ex-racehorses, but he’s heard from other owners and trainers that his efforts are paying off. “Anecdotally, everybody is telling us that prices are up” over the past few years, he says. Pittman has also earned the support of others in the racing industry; the nonprofit Thoroughbred Charities of America was the main sponsor of the 2016 Makeover, and jockey Rosie Napravnik, who has raced in all three legs of the Triple Crown, sits on the RRP’s board.

“The Retired Racehorse Project showcases how impressive off-track Thoroughbreds are as sport horses and helps promote them to the right audience,” says Jim Gagliano, president and COO of the Jockey Club, which oversees the national Thoroughbred registry. “Mr. Pittman has done an amazing job.”

Looking forward, Pittman wants to expand the RRP’s reach by doing more marketing and communications work and hosting more training clinics. He has plans for an apprenticeship program that would place experienced trainers on farms with ex-racehorses to give guidance to owners and trainers new to Thoroughbreds.

His ultimate goal is to lead the RRP to a place where someone else could take over and build upon his progress. He loves seeing his efforts pay off, whether in the growing demand for off-track Thoroughbreds or when a rider takes the reins of her retrained racehorse for the first time. Watching hundreds of trainers showcase their ex-racehorses during the Makeover is “magical,” he says. Still, he sees himself taking a step back from the RRP in the coming years.

He wants to get back to his horses. ♦



A woman fighter with the Ogaden National Liberation Front in Ethiopia embraces an old friend during a village crossing on October 16, 2006. ONLF soldiers often go for months without seeing friends and family, usually only reuniting with loved ones when a campaign takes them through their home village, reported Alpeyrie.

Photojournalist Jonathan Alpeyrie, AB'03, shoots from the front lines.

photography WAR STORIES

BY HELEN GREGG, AB'09
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN ALPEYRIE, AB'03

When it happens, says photojournalist **Jonathan Alpeyrie**, AB'03, you don't really believe it.

When armed militants pull you out of your 4x4 at a roadside checkpoint in Syria, and force you to your knees, and put a gun next to your head, "you think, it's just a mistake, and you're going to be OK," he says. "But no, it's not a mistake."

It was April 29, 2013, and Alpeyrie, then a staff photographer for Polaris Images, was on his third trip to Syria to cover the war. He'd spent the past decade photographing dangerous conflicts around the world, embedding himself with soldiers and rebel fighters and sending images to global news agencies. That day he was leaving one group of opposition fighters and traveling to a different front nearer Damascus; he believes one of his two fixers, locals he had hired to get him around safely, led him into a trap.

Alpeyrie was held for a total of 81 days. He spent the first three weeks blindfolded and handcuffed in a house surrounded by heavy shelling. At one point men with knives tried to get him to confess to being in the CIA; at another, a young guard wanted to execute him for using the bathroom without permission and had to be called off by the other guards.

To get through it, Alpeyrie did his best to push thoughts of friends and family from his mind, and sought to humanize himself to the militants. In a second house, he was given more freedom, and used it to help prepare meals and improve his Arabic. After mentioning to a guard that he had been a competitive swimmer in high school, Alpeyrie spent a surreal afternoon in an old concrete pool behind the house teaching the militants' leader to swim. He held the warlord, clad in Hawaiian swim trunks, in his arms like a baby while armed guards looked on.

Alpeyrie was released two days later, on July 18, 2013. A wealthy businessman had been in contact with various rebel groups, looking to ransom two other abducted journalists; he paid for Alpeyrie's release and



Jonathan Alpeyrie on assignment in 2013.

got him out of Syria. It was luck that the businessman found him, Alpeyrie says, and luck that the militants were just in it for the money.

He arrived safely in Paris on July 24. Coming back, "you feel kind of normal, but [the experience] never really leaves you," says Alpeyrie. "You're a mess, you collapse. ... It took me many months after to be okay."

But following those months he was back at work, and back on the front lines. For Alpeyrie, war photography is something that "stays with you when you try to push it to the side completely ... you don't want to stop." Since 2013 he has covered conflicts in places including Armenia and Ukraine. After being injured in a firefight in Ukraine in 2015, he returned for a two-week stint in 2016 to take photos in the no-man's land between territories held by the Ukrainian government and by Russian-backed separatists. "I know my limits," he says, "but I go fairly far." He won't be returning to Syria—to go back there after all that happened "would mean there's something wrong with me."

Alpeyrie says he inherited his adventurous spirit from his mother, but that it was the men in his family who fueled his interest in war. When he was growing up in France, his father read him *The Last of the Mohicans* and Jack London. He had relatives who fought in almost every major European conflict over the past century, from World War I to the Algerian War, and who regaled him with tales of heroism and valor.

The books and family lore compounded; the Alpeyrie family "has always been involved in romanticizing what war is," he says. And when you're raised like that, "you decide to actually go and find out for yourself what it's like."

Alpeyrie began his photography career as an undergraduate working for Chicago newspapers, and soon after graduation began photographing wars in east and central Africa as a freelancer. "They were dangerous, expensive trips" that didn't always pay off immediately, but they helped him build his portfolio. Some of his 2003 photographs from the Congo were picked up by Getty Images; he became a contributor for the image distribution service the next year.

Alpeyrie has since photographed conflicts in places like Kenya, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Libya, and his work has been published by *Newsweek*, *Time* magazine, and the BBC. From 2009 to 2015 he was a staff photographer for Polaris Images while continuing to freelance for other outlets. More recently he has been photographing more outside of war zones, covering income inequality in New York City and the dwindling Jewish community in Cuba. In the fall of 2016 he was mostly reporting on the US presidential campaign; he guessed right, he says, and chose an assignment that put him inside Trump Tower on election night.

Now 38, with an eye toward one day starting a family, he's thinking about slowing down. "I've escaped death multiple times, and I think you have to step back at some point and move on to something else." Alpeyrie speaks regularly at conferences on global politics and is finishing up a book of portraits of World War II veterans from every country involved in the conflict. Another book, about his life and career thus far, will be published in the fall, followed by a movie that focuses on his time as a hostage in Syria. Alpeyrie was involved with the script writing, and will be on set to help with accuracy and details.

Alpeyrie doesn't see himself as an artist (his photography skills are a by-product, not a goal, of his work) or, as some photojournalists he knows, an advocate for the people he photographs. His childhood fascination with war grew into an interest in history; he studied medieval history at UC Chicago, and hundreds of history books, many from his time at the College, fill his current home in the Bronx. Through photojournalism, Alpeyrie wants to document the wars, revolutions, and societal change that are reshaping the world—to capture history as it happens, "or at least grab a little bit and be a part of it." ♦

glimpses

OUT IN FRONT

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

In 1972 **Nancy Warner, SB'44, MD'49**, was named chair of pathology at the University of Southern California—a promotion that made history. Warner was not only the first woman chair at the Keck School of Medicine but also the first woman in the United States to chair a pathology department at a coeducational institution.

Warner has been quietly overcoming professional barriers since the 1940s, when as a University of Chicago undergraduate, she convinced a reluctant secretary to hand her an application form for the medical school. She remained at the University for her residency in pathology—the study of bodily tissues and fluids to diagnose disease—and later served as its chief surgical pathologist. In 1965 Warner headed for the West Coast and ultimately settled at USC, where she retired as the Hastings Professor of Pathology in 1991.

An expert in endocrine pathology, especially the diagnosis of thyroid disease, she authored the textbook *Basic Endocrine Pathology* (Year Book Medical Publishers, 1971), among many other scholarly publications. Warner coined the now commonly used term “Orphan Annie-eye nuclei” to describe a distinctive trait of certain thyroid cancer cells; the tumors’ empty nuclei reminded her of Orphan Annie’s blank eyes in the popular comic strip.

Warner’s skill in the classroom earned her four USC teaching awards and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists’ Distinguished Pathology Educator Award in 1994. “I think enthusiasm in a teacher gets transmitted to the students,” she told the USC Living History Project in 2002. “They know who cares and who doesn’t.”

Early in her own medical training, Warner was influenced and inspired by two women pathologists at the University: Edith Potter, who created the subspecialty of perinatal pathology and worked to discover the cause of infant deaths, and surgical pathologist Eleanor Humphreys, MD'31. (Humphreys was “one of the best teachers I ever saw and so clever as a pathologist. ... Every

student got to know her and loved her.”) Throughout her career, Warner made a point of helping other women, just as Humphreys and Potter helped her.

In addition to recruiting women to the USC faculty, she served on the board of the Medical Faculty Women’s Association at USC, which provides research grants to women researchers. Warner and her wife and partner of more than six decades, Christine Reynolds, longtime supporters of many areas of the University, made a gift last year to help women scholars flourish across the disciplines. Their bequest creates a dissertation completion fellowship in gender and sexuality studies, professional development opportunities for women in the biological sciences, and a research scholar fund for tenured women faculty in the humanities. When one woman succeeds, Warner believes, it makes room for others to succeed. Her comments below have been condensed and edited.

Applying to medical school The persons who taught the immunology courses that I needed to complete my degree were gone to World War II, so I had to substitute other things to get enough credits.

I took chemistry courses and some other things, and after I put all that stuff together, it was about the same as what a premedical student would have to take. Two of my professors said, “You should apply to medical

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A rebel fighter with the Ogaden National Liberation Front lost parts of four fingers when a grenade exploded near his hands six months before this photograph was taken on October 15, 2006, in eastern Ogadenia, Ethiopia. He is far from the only ONLF fighter with scars from the decades-long insurgency against the Ethiopian government., reported Alpeyrie.





South of Ajdabiya, Libya, a group of rebel soldiers pray during a lull in the fighting on April 19, 2011, during the Libyan Civil War. Rebel forces had retreated from Ajdabiya 12 days prior but were back in control of the city by May, supported by NATO airstrikes.

Residents of Yabrud, Syria, gather on April 25, 2013, to bury two civilians killed by government shelling. The city was controlled by rebel forces but faced almost daily attacks from regime troops (top). A battalion of female soldiers with the Royal Nepalese Army gather in Kathmandu, Nepal, for a departure ceremony on February 5, 2005 (bottom).



Ukrainian separatists hold a funeral on August 18, 2014, for four local men who died fighting the Ukrainian army. The burial, south of Donetsk, was very close to the front lines; there was shelling about half a mile away (top). A local man walks past an armored unit of French soldiers on June 6, 2010, in Tagab Valley, Afghanistan (bottom).





On July 15, 2007, an Ethiopian with leprosy runs to a local church for prayer. It's a daily ritual for those with leprosy living in the slums of Addis Ababa (top). Close to 4,000 rabbis pose for a group photo on November 11, 2012, during Kinus Hashluchim, an annual gathering for leaders of the Chabad Hasidic movement, in Brooklyn, New York (bottom).



Three synagogues in Havana support Cuba's dwindling Jewish population, often with the help of funds from Jewish organizations in the United States and Israel. A woman fixes her hair inside a synagogue on August 26, 2015 (top), and a member of the city's Sefaradi synagogue displays photographs of his parents on August 31, 2015 (bottom).

Increased regulations and globalization have taken a toll on the traditional agricultural industry in France, and suicide among French farmers is on the rise. On March 12, 2016, Louis Ganay Languidic of Brittany looks up at the spot where he once tried to hang himself. Working on "Secret Anguish of the French Farmer," a photo essay for *Político EU*, "was emotional for me" as a Frenchman, says Alpeyrie. "We're a farming people," he says, and have been for 15 centuries.





Warner (left) and her wife, Christine Reynolds, at home in Pasadena. The couple met in elementary school.

school.” I said, “What’s the point? They don’t let women in.” They said, “You should do it anyway.”

You had to go and get the application form from the woman in the office of the dean of the medical school. I asked her, and she said, “You won’t get in, because they already admitted five women and that’s more than they’ve ever had before.” But I persuaded her that she needed to give me a form and she finally did.

The two professors who thought I should apply to medical school—I’m indebted to them because I never would have thought of it otherwise.

One of seven There were seven women in my class. They put four students on one cadaver, and you were responsible for dissecting it and taking care of it. The three people who were with me were very nice guys, they really were, and we got along fine. So I really didn’t have any trouble with that. And the other courses, the classroom stuff, it didn’t matter whether you were a man or a woman. It came to me pretty easily.

Memorable classmate Janet Rowley [LAB’42, PhB’45, SB’46, MD’48, the late Blum-Riese Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine] was a very good student. She liked to sit in the back and knit, which irritated some of the guys. I kept up with her work after

medical school, and over the years we became closer friends. She came here to the house a couple of times. Another friend of mine and I nominated her for an honorary degree at the University of Southern California. She was selected and she came out here with her husband, Don [SB’45, SM’50, MD’50], and we had a nice little party afterward.

Choosing a specialty I would have gone into surgery, but I can’t get along without sleep. Surgeons have to be able to go for 30 or 35 hours straight with no sleep, and I just can’t do that, so I didn’t go for it. I figured out pathology was the thing for me, because it’s got more structured hours. I enjoyed anatomy very much, and abnormal anatomy—which pathology is—was of interest to me also.

On meeting her wife, Christine Reynolds We grew up in the same town, in Dixon, Illinois. It was a town of about 5,000 in those days. A river runs right through the town, and I lived on the north side and Chris lived on the south side. When she was nine she moved, and she came to the same school where I was. That’s how we met. After high school, I think we saw each other a couple of times on holidays or vacations.

In 1950 my mother was going to do some business in San Francisco and she said to me, “You’ve never been to



Warner (fourth from left) and her classmate Janet Rowley (second from left) were among the seven women in their medical school class.

California, why don't you come with me? When we go through Los Angeles, we'll call Chris up and have dinner."

We traveled on what they called the California Zephyr, a beautiful train. I was just thrilled with the scenery and the animals and the birds and everything. We got to Los Angeles, and I called up Chris and she said, "Yes, we'll have dinner."

Chris planned that we would go to the San Fernando Valley and have dinner there. We became interested in each other. I went over to where she was living and spent the evening there. It became late, and we had been drinking quite a bit. I called my mother and said, "I don't think I'm going to make it home tonight" and she said, "That's fine."

I LIKED THE FACT THAT YOU COULD WEAR PANTS. THAT WAS VERY NICE. WOMEN DID NOT WEAR PANTS IN THOSE DAYS, BUT THEY DID IN CALIFORNIA.

Living in secrecy You didn't dare come out in those days. I don't know whether my family knew. I've thought a lot about it. I never told my mother, and Chris never told her mother. That's the way it was then. To be in the closet, there was no choice. You had to be, that was all. You could lose your job. You could lose everything.

You would try to figure out ways to meet with other people you suspected might be gay and talk to them and get to know them, and eventually come out to them. We did that with a couple people.

West Coast perks I liked the fact that you could wear pants. That was very nice. Women did not wear pants in those days, but they did in California.


Her biggest accomplishment I think I'm most proud of having been the chairman of the department of pathology at USC. That wouldn't have happened without the dean of the medical school. His wife and his mother were physicians, and I think he had quite a bit of pressure on him to appoint a woman chairman. There had never been such a thing. I accepted the position as chairman of pathology, and I enjoyed it very much.

There was one guy who was jealous of me, but everybody else was very friendly and cooperative. Many of them were people with international reputations, and I wondered how they'd take it, but they all thought it was great.

Front of the classroom I love teaching, and I got some nice teaching awards from students over the years. I just enjoy telling people what things are about. Especially pathology. I loved anatomy in medical school, and pathology is just anatomy gone wrong. It's something I do naturally—and I do it well if I may say so.

Leaning in Women will recruit other women. I recruited plenty of women to associate professor positions. When I started at the University of Southern California there were hardly any, and as the time went on there have been many more, but there are still not as many as there ought to be, I think. A woman is going to find you other women who are qualified. ♦

peer review



Walter Robert Goedecke, AB'46, AM'52, PhD'58, and Joan Hayes, PhB'45, SB'47, find a quiet place to talk during a College house party in 1944.

Rumbling down unknown streets

BY STÉPHANE GERSON, AM'92, PHD'97

On a family trip, **Stéphane Gerson, AM'92, PhD'97**, lost his young son Owen when their kayak capsized on Utah's Green River. Gerson's new book *Disaster Falls: A Family Story* (Crown, 2017) chronicles how he, his wife, Alison, and their older son, Julian, each in their own ways, navigated the devastating loss and the unfamiliar world it created. Gerson, a cultural historian, grieved in part by writing about Owen. This act of writing "felt like an affront ... inadequate, unjust, and intolerable. But it was less inadequate, less unjust, and less intolerable than silence."

Gerson also read, turning to stories from the past—writers mourning lost children and his own family history. In the chapter excerpted here, he reflects on how those historical voices helped pierce the solitude of grief.

The people for whom I longed—available whenever I needed them, still open to the world, ready to share their experiences without expecting me to reciprocate—did not exist, at least not anywhere I could see. To find such bereaved parents, I had to canvass other centuries. An important part of my mourning that first year took place in eras other than my own.

I had begun with [poems by] Victor Hugo but found others. In the Renaissance, the astrologer Nostradamus lost his wife and two children to the plague

epidemic that devastated Provence in the 1530s. While he mourned them privately, this ordeal allowed him to touch and capture in poetic prophecies the suffering and disquiet that so many of his contemporaries felt during those tumultuous times. Across the English Channel, Ben Jonson and Shakespeare expressed their sorrow for their departed sons in harrowing verses. "My sin was too much hope of thee, loved boy," Jonson wrote. "Seven years thou wert lent to me." Shakespeare included a bereaved mother in *King John*, the first play he wrote after his son's death in 1596. "Grief fills the room of my absent child, / Lies in his bed, walks up and down with me."

While some of these bereaved parents had attained fame, most were ordinary folk who had left a record of their suffering. Around 1800, a Burgundian notary by the name of Jean-Baptiste Boniard lost two of his children, including his five-year-old daughter Adèle, who succumbed to scarlet fever. He kept a detailed account of his last conversation with the girl, the "rosebud" who liked to kiss and comfort her father and died while reciting a fable to him. I found this out by chance, while reading the reminiscences of his grandson. Boniard was a fascinating character (local politician,

An important part of my mourning that first year took place in eras other than my own.



journalist, amateur archaeologist and astronomer), but his relationship with his late daughter told me everything I wanted to know about him.

Decades later, Victorian parents mounted images of deceased children on matchboxes with "lovely little scrolls" and snippets of hair. Charles Darwin kept objects that had belonged to his daughter Anna, as well as her writings, in a box that he built. The English widower John Horsley said he felt better when he wrote about the four sons and daughter he had lost to illness. The American Henry Bowditch, father of a soldier who died in Virginia in 1863, recovered his son's body and then compiled memorial volumes and scrapbooks about his life. This is not how men were expected to grieve. Bowditch understood this, but he maintained his course. "The labor was a sweet one," he wrote. "It took me out of myself."



And the Englishwoman Janet Trev-
elyan—she wrote everything she
could recall about her son Theo after
his death in 1911: “I know that as we get
further from the pain of these last days
the pure joy and beauty of his little life
will shine out more and more and will
be like a light in our hearts to illumi-
nate the rest of our way.”

My investigations of the past were
in character: as a historian, this is what
I had done every day for years. Uncover-
ing such narratives, memorials, and
poems came instinctively, proof that
some part of my professional self re-
mained intact.

But there was nothing scholarly
about this exploration, no questions
to resolve about grief across the centu-
ries. Historians are wary of their bias-
es and tend to keep their emotions and
proclivities at a remove from their re-
search. I now found this impossible. It
was companionship I sought. I wanted

to know these men and women who,
as Horsley put it, kept “the uncer-
tainty of this life ever in view.” They
inhabited a realm of pure emotion and
allowed me to join them, to mourn in
their company whenever I so desired.

W. E. B. Du Bois had faced unchart-
ed expanses upon burying his son, in
1899. “It seemed a ghostly unreal day—

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the wraith of life,” he wrote. “We
seemed to rumble down an unknown
street.” Granville Stanley Hall, the
American founder of gerontology in
the 19th century, felt that the death of
his daughter by gas asphyxiation was
“the greatest bereavement of my life—
such a one, indeed, as rarely falls to the
lot of man.” Hall was 44, but this great
fatigue, as he called it, made him feel
much older. I rumbled down unknown
streets with Du Bois and Hall, prey to
a great fatigue that made me feel as old
as they had.

Except for those Hugo poems, I did
not tell Alison of my explorations. I
did not require her presence alongside
men and women with whom I could
commune day and night, all of us part
of a community that remained perpet-
ually accessible.

This quest also took me to World
War II, with its untold number of
dead children. For Jewish parents in

Nazi-occupied Europe, the loss of a child was both swallowed up and magnified by the attack upon entire communities. The Polish shoemaker Simon Powsinoga withstood one form of degradation after another in the Warsaw Ghetto, but not the death of his only son. “Two days ago I was still a human being, ... I could support my own family and even help others,” he said in the midst of the war. “I just don’t care now. I don’t have Mates, what’s the point of living?”

This despair provided little succor, but there was no way around World War II in my family. My childhood in Brussels had been colored by the story of my maternal grandparents as a young couple during the war. I had always viewed Zosia and Jules as embodiments of History. When I was a child, their everyday lives seemed normal enough. They dressed in the morning and ate breakfast as I did; they walked on the same sidewalks; they gossiped and quarreled and laughed like everyone else. But they had experienced something I had not; their proximity to danger and death had made them different kinds of people.

Zosia had grown up in an affluent Jewish family in Warsaw. Her father, a silk merchant whose business took him to France and Belgium, was sufficiently lucid about the rise of anti-Semitism to move his wife and children to Brussels in 1932. It was there that Zosia met Jules, a diamond trader who would see action as a Belgian conscript in 1940 and then spend a year in Germany as a prisoner of war. They married in March 1942, and left for Southern France two months later. The French collaborationist regime in Vichy, and especially the Italian troops that controlled the city of Nice, seemed more forgiving than the Nazis who occupied Belgium. After an epic journey by train, bus, and foot, my grandparents arrived in Nice and registered as foreigners with the French police. Afterward, they rented an apartment and plotted their next step. My grandmother was pregnant.

When Owen died, Jules was long dead and Zosia in the throes of dementia. And yet one of the first things

I did, without awareness, was to summon them to my side. I did so on the river, when I recited the Shema in their company, and back home, when I returned to their wartime story. Although my grandparents had been dehumanized and persecuted, although our experiences were by no means similar, we could now enter a different realm of existence and encounter together shock and sorrow, and perhaps resilience. There was empathy, too. My grandparents knew too much about human frailty and the contingency of everyday life to ask me the kinds of questions I was asking myself, such as, How could you have allowed this to happen? How could you have let Owen go?

The accident changed something else in the way I saw my grandparents. After all, they had survived the war with their infant daughter—my mother.

Shortly after arriving in Nice, they were arrested by the French police and sent to the detention camp of Rivesaltes, near the Pyrenees mountains. They were unlikely to remain there for long. With the Germans about to take possession of Rivesaltes from the French, prisoners were being transferred to other camps or deported to Auschwitz. Zosia wrote to an official whom she had met at the Nice police station and asked him to intervene. He did. My grandparents were freed in November 1942. They returned to Nice, where my mother was born a month later.

The official, Charles, remained present in their lives. He warned them about imminent arrests and helped them find an apartment. He also introduced them to his wife, Annie. The two couples sometimes socialized, strolling together in public parks and posing for snapshots. In one photograph, Annie and Charles cozy up with Zosia on a bench, like long-lost cousins. In another, Annie cradles the swaddled baby in her arms. The child remains at the center of things. Annie and Charles kept her for several months in the fall of 1943, when massive roundups of Jews forced my grandparents into hiding.

My mother’s first name, Francine, serves as a tangible reminder of this time and place—France and Nice intermingled. Her middle name is her godmother’s: Annie.

Why had Charles helped this couple while, I assumed (rightly or not), stamping papers and contributing to the bureaucratic machine of identification, surveillance, and deportation? After the war, my grandmother made allowances and expressed gratitude for the man who had saved their lives, but never spoke much about his wife despite the risks she had taken. While my grandparents often vacationed in Nice, they only introduced my mother to her godparents twice, once when she was five and once when she was 17, in 1959.

It may be impossible to know what transpired among the four of them, but this did not stop me from conjuring up scenarios after Owen’s death: a social divide, infidelity or attraction, shame, jealousy, competing affections for the baby. At some point, it dawned on me that my grandparents might have kept a distance from a couple who reminded them of their interrupted youth and a truth that is not always easy to accept: how much we owe to others when our life veers out of control.

My mother could not understand why I asked her for more information about her parents and the war. It’s a simple story, she said, and she may have been right. But I saw complicated and perhaps conflicted human beings whose behavior transcended the bi-

It dawned on me that my grandparents might have kept a distance from a couple who reminded them of their interrupted youth and a truth that is not always easy to accept: how much we owe to others when our life veers out of control.

nary categories—in this case rescue and collaboration, justice and ingratitude—with which we all too often make sense of the world. Ultimately, it was impossible to determine what a savior looked like, or who exactly had saved whom.

Zosia seemed to understand these ambiguities. “Things are never entirely positive,” she once told me regarding Charles, “and they are never entirely negative either.” In this respect as well, my grandparents—the grandparents I imagined—provided solace and companionship. Together, we could escape the expectations of others and absolute conceptions of virtuous behavior.

But for how long? When Zosia recalled her wartime years, she described Jules’s forays into the black market. On some days, he would return with bananas for the baby, and only for the baby because that is all they had. She also depicted herself as an ingenious woman who made her own luck, took risks, and never allowed fear to hold her back. She had reached out to Charles as he sat behind his desk; later, she had written him from Rivesaltes. Someone had saved my grandparents, but according to this family story, they, too, had saved themselves and their daughter.

So, the three of us did not inhabit the same realm, after all. My grandparents were not only rescuees, but also rescuers and parents who had fulfilled their responsibilities. Luck had played its part, but this was not the main takeaway. Their story could not be mine. ♦

Stéphane Gerson, AM’92, PhD’97, is a cultural historian and a professor of French studies at New York University. A recipient of the Jacques Barzun Prize in Cultural History and the Laurence Wylie Prize in French Cultural Studies, he lives in Manhattan and Woodstock, New York, with his family.

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NOTES

LOCAL HERO

Samer Attar, SB'98, MD'02, was named a Chicagoan of the Year for spending two weeks volunteering as a doctor in war-torn Aleppo, Syria, in June. Working in the city's last hospital (which has since been destroyed), Attar treated bombing and gunshot victims and provided other critical medical services. An orthopedic surgeon of Syrian descent, he told *Chicago* magazine, "When I look back, I don't want to say that I wasn't there for the Syrian people ... for a heritage and a culture and a people who have been a part of me." The trip was his third medical mission to the country.



COMING SOON

The movie adaptation of *Before I Fall*, a young adult novel by Lauren Oliver (née **Laura Schechter**, AB'04) will be released March 3 by Open Road. The story follows high schooler Samantha Kingston, who miraculously gets seven chances to relive the day of her death and discover what was really important in her life. The novel, Oliver's first, was published by HarperCollins in 2010.

MAROON REPRESENTATION

Republican **Todd Young**, MBA'02, was elected Indiana's junior senator in November, previously serving in the US House of Representatives. He



PRESIDENTIAL RECOGNITION

In November physicist **Richard Garwin**, SM'48, PhD'49, was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. A student of Enrico Fermi, Garwin has made contributions to US defense and intelligence technologies, nuclear technology, magnetic resonance imaging, and more. He directed the applied research division of IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center and taught at Harvard, Columbia, and the University of Chicago. Garwin received the National Medal of Science in 2002.

joins alumni senators **Bernie Sanders**, AB'64 (I-Vermont), and **Amy Klobuchar**, JD'85 (D-Minnesota). US Representatives **Mike Quigley**, AM'85 (D-Illinois), and **Sander Levin**, AB'52 (D-Michigan), won reelection and were also sworn in with the 115th Congress in January.

HER DARK SIDE

Ballet Nebraska company artist **Genevieve "Vivi" DiMarco**, SB'12, played the colead role of Odile, the evil Black Swan, in the company's production of *Swan Lake* last fall. "For me, it is not difficult to play someone like that because she is necessary to the story, and for the story to have power, the evil has to be just as believable as the good," she told the *Omaha Reader*. Now in her fifth season with Ballet Nebraska, DiMarco also serves as the company's marketing coordinator.

RISING STAR

HarperCollins Children's Books senior editor **Andrew Harwell**, AB'08, was named *Publishers Weekly's* 2016 PW Star Watch Superstar. Harwell was recognized for his dedication to the children's book industry and for several successful acquisitions, including the Asylum series by author Madeleine Roux. Harwell is also an author himself; his debut

middle-grade novel, *The Spider Ring* (Scholastic, 2015), was named an International Literacy Association Children's Choice.

PUTTING DOWN HIS PEN

In December economist and writer **Thomas Sowell**, PhD'68, announced his retirement from the nationally syndicated column he had written for 25 years. The column, known for explaining economics and public policy issues in "plain English," as Sowell described it, appeared in more than 150 newspapers. "I write a weekly column," he once said, "except when I'm really revved up. Then I write two or three." Sowell, currently a senior public policy fellow at the Hoover Institution, has taught economics at various universities and in 2002 received the National Humanities Medal for his scholarship.

UNIVERSITY LEADER

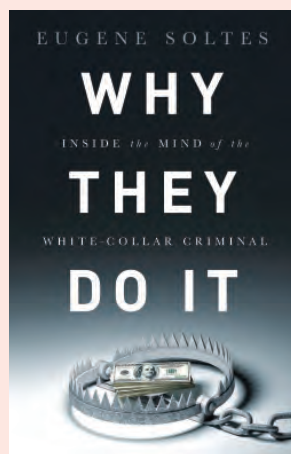
On July 1 **Sara Ray Stoelinga**, AB'95, AM'01, PhD'04, will become the next president of Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and the first female president in the university's 170-year history. An expert on urban education and school reform, Stoelinga currently serves as the Sara Liston Spurlark Director of the Urban Education Institute at UChicago.—*Helen Gregg*, AB'09

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.

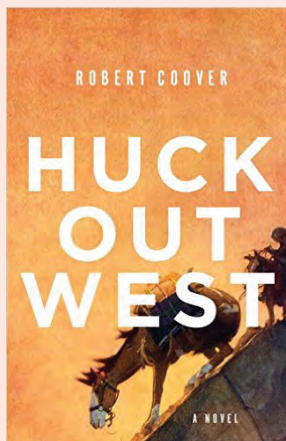
THE COLLAPSING EMPIRE

By John Scalzi, AB'91; Tor Books, 2017
In **John Scalzi's** latest science fiction novel, humans have discovered "The Flow," a way to travel faster than light through certain points in space-time, and used it to colonize other solar systems. Now The Flow is moving, threatening to cut off some of these outposts from the rest of humanity. The crisis brings together a scientist, a starship captain, and the empress in a race against time to salvage the interstellar pathways and the empire.



WHY THEY DO IT: INSIDE THE MIND OF THE WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINAL

By Eugene Soltes, MBA'09, PhD'09; PublicAffairs, 2016
What makes successful executives risk everything and engage in fraud, insider trading, or other corporate crimes? To find out, Harvard Business School's **Eugene Soltes** interviewed almost 50 high-profile white-collar criminals, including Bernie Madoff and former Enron executives. Soltes found their misconduct wasn't based solely in greed, or committed after careful calculation; the executives saw gray areas where the law saw black and white, and relied on corporate-molded intuition to judge what was right.



HUCK OUT WEST

By Robert Coover, AM'65; W. W. Norton and Company, 2017
Huck Out West picks up where Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* left off, following Huck and Tom Sawyer as they ride for the Pony Express and scout for both sides during the Civil War. When Tom decides to go back East, Huck is left to fend for himself—until he teams up with a young Indian for a new set of misadventures. Channeling Twain's humor and penchant for social commentary, postmodernist **Robert Coover** uses an iconic American character to chronicle the growing pains of an adolescent, and of a country.

REVEREND ADDIE WYATT: FAITH AND THE FIGHT FOR LABOR, GENDER, AND RACIAL EQUALITY

By Marcia Walker-McWilliams, AM'07, PhD'12; University of Illinois Press, 2016

Addie Wyatt was a clergywoman, union leader, and outspoken civil rights and feminist activist who worked alongside Martin Luther King Jr. and Eleanor Roosevelt, and who was honored as one of *Time* magazine's Women of the Year in 1975. In a new biography, historian **Marcia Walker-McWilliams** examines how Wyatt's faith fueled her intersectional quests for social justice.

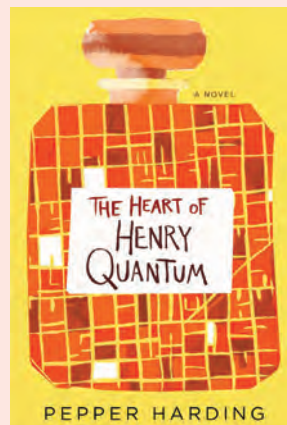
THE ZERO AND THE ONE

By Ryan Ruby, AM'07; Twelve, 2017
At Oxford University, shy, working-class Owen Whiting meets Zach Foedern, a wealthy, charismatic New Yorker who befriends Owen and leads him on a series of escalating adventures. From pubs to red light

districts and beyond, the two young men challenge each other to push boundaries and live faster until Zach proposes the ultimate dare—a suicide pact. A gothic bildungsroman, **Ryan Ruby's** first novel investigates the seductive power of the unknown.

THE PERILS OF "PRIVILEGE": WHY INJUSTICE CAN'T BE SOLVED BY ACCUSING OTHERS OF ADVANTAGE

By Phoebe Maltz Bovy, AB'05; St. Martin's Press, 2017
White privilege, male privilege, straight privilege. A term once reserved for the moneyed elite can now be used for anyone born with a cultural advantage relative to another group. But does pointing out privilege do anything to help those who have been marginalized? In *The Perils of Privilege* **Phoebe Maltz Bovy** explores how the definition of "privilege" has expanded in our current discussions of social justice, and how the word often shuts down conversation—and progress.



THE HEART OF HENRY QUANTUM

By Pepper Harding (né Michael Lavigne, AM'75); Gallery Books, 2016
Pepper Harding's debut novel follows Henry Quantum, a socially awkward 40-something man, as he spends a day in San Francisco looking for a Christmas gift for his wife. While wandering the city he bumps into an old girlfriend, Daisy, whom Henry knows may have been the love of his life. Told from the alternating viewpoints of Henry, Daisy, and Henry's wife, *The Heart of Henry Quantum* shows how the events of a single day can alter relationships and entire lives.—*Helen Gregg, AB'09*

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DEATHS

FACULTY AND STAFF

Isaac D. Abella, professor emeritus of physics, died October 23 in Chicago. He was 82. A physicist who worked on the early development of lasers, Abella joined the University faculty in 1965. During his tenure at the University he was a visiting researcher at national laboratories around the country and served on the working group that published the K-12 National Science Standards in 1996. An avid teacher and mentor, he won the Llewellyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Award for Undergraduate Teaching in 1969. For 16 years Abella and his wife were resident masters in Shoreland Hall, hosting pizza parties and organizing trips to the Lyric Opera for students in the residence hall. Abella retired from UChicago in 2011. His wife, Mary Ann Abella, MBA'86, died in 2004. Abella is survived by a daughter, **Sarah Abella**, LAB'93; a son, **Benjamin S. Abella**, LAB'88; a sister; a brother; and six grandchildren.

Charles E. Bidwell, LAB'46, AB'50, AM'53, PhD'56, William Claude Reavis Professor Emeritus of Sociology, died November 6 in Chicago. He was 84. A sociologist of education, Bidwell spent two years at Harvard University before joining UChicago in 1961 as an assistant professor. He was chair of the University's Department of Education for 10 years and later chaired the Department of Sociology. Bidwell's research centered on the organizational structure of educational institutions and how decisions are made from the classroom to the community level. He was the author of many scholarly works as well as the editor of the *American Journal of Sociology* and the *American Journal of Education*. Bidwell enjoyed teaching and mentoring; in his four decades at UChicago he chaired 39 PhD dissertations and served on more than 30 additional committees. He is survived by his son, **Charles Bidwell**, LAB'82; and two grandchildren.

Felix Browder, mathematics professor emeritus and past chair of the Department of Mathematics, died December 10 in Princeton, NJ. He was 89. Browder was known as a pioneer in nonlinear functional analysis, a field of mathematics with applications in engineering and finance. Browder began his career at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton but struggled to get a faculty appointment because his father was a leader in the Communist Party. With the help of Eleanor Roosevelt he secured a faculty position at Brandeis University in 1955. Browder then taught at Yale before joining the University of Chicago faculty in 1963, spending the following two decades on the University's mathematics faculty, including 11 years as department chair. He became vice president of research at Rutgers

University in 1986 and was later president of the American Mathematical Society. In 2000 Browder was awarded the National Medal of Science for his work in nonlinear functional analysis and for being a leader in crossdisciplinary research. He is survived by two sons, **Thomas Browder**, AB'82, and **William Browder**, AB'85; two brothers; and five grandchildren.

James A. Davis, senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology and former director of NORC at the University of Chicago, died September 29 in Michigan City, IN. He was 86. A pioneer in the use of quantitative statistical analysis in the social sciences, Davis taught at Harvard, Dartmouth, and the University of Chicago over the course of his career; he was on the University's sociology faculty from 1957 to 1965 and from 1972 to 1975. He joined NORC in 1957, serving as director from 1971 to 1975. In 1972 NORC launched Davis's brainchild the General Social Survey, which annually collects data on Americans' social and political attitudes and behaviors and is still in use today. Davis remained a principal investigator at NORC until 2009, and since 1994 was a senior lecturer and visiting professor at UChicago. He is survived by his wife, Martha; two daughters, including **Mary W. Davis**, LAB'67; two sons, **James M. Davis**, LAB'69, and **Andrew A. Davis**, LAB'74; and 11 grandchildren.

Janelle Huttenlocher, William S. Gray Professor Emeritus in Psychology, died November 20 in Chicago. She was 84. A childhood development researcher who focused on how children acquire language, Huttenlocher taught at Columbia University before joining the UChicago faculty in 1974. Her work explored topics including variances in mathematical thinking among children from different socioeconomic groups and how early exposure to a large vocabulary can spur syntactic growth, and many of her studies challenged the idea that inherited traits dictate how well a child is able to learn. Huttenlocher was known for attracting top students to UChicago and remained active in the psychology department after her retirement in 2009. Her husband, pediatric neurology professor Peter Huttenlocher, died in 2013. She is survived by a daughter, **Anna Huttenlocher**, LAB'79; two sons, **Daniel Huttenlocher**, LAB'76, and **Carl Huttenlocher**, LAB'90; and six grandchildren.

Myrna J. Lane of Charleston, SC, former dean of students at the Graduate School of Business (now Chicago Booth), died January 17, 2016. She was 77. Lane started as a secretary in the business school's faculty typing pool in 1961, quickly advancing to higher positions. After completing her bachelor's degree, Lane taught elementary school, working part time and during the summers at the business school, returning full time in 1976. She held a variety of leadership positions, including associate dean of students, associate director of the PhD program, and associate director of the in-

ternational business exchange program, before serving as dean of students from 1995 to 1998. Active in her community, Lane was involved with the Hyde Park Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company and the local Girl Scouts. She is survived by her husband, **Peter A. Piccione**, AM'76, PhD'90, formerly an Egyptologist at the Oriental Institute; a daughter, **Miriam Swann**, LAB'85; two sisters; and two grandchildren.

Jason McVicker, AM'94, a lecturer at the School of Social Service Administration, died October 13 of a heart attack. He was 54. A clinical social worker, McVicker developed programs for clients with HIV/AIDS at Chicago House and Social Service Agency and worked as a psychotherapist for young people at the Fillmore Center for Human Services. He joined SSA in 2005 and taught courses including Social Work with LGBT Clients and Social Intervention: Direct Practice. McVicker also taught at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Loyola University, as well as reviewed operas. He is survived by his husband, **Michael Worley**, AM'76, PhD'86; his father; and two brothers.

1930s

Sidney Hyman, AB'36, AM'38, died October 25 in Chicago. He was 103. A World War II veteran, Hyman was a speechwriter for president John F. Kennedy and a best-selling nonfiction author. He taught jurisprudence at the University of Illinois at Chicago, was a senior fellow at the Great Books Foundation, and contributed regularly to publications including the *New York Times*.

1940s

James Russell Robinson, AM'42, died September 20 in Southbury, CT. He was 98. A lifelong civil rights activist, Robinson cofounded the Congress of Racial Equality in 1942 and directed CORE's New York office. He later worked at the American Committee on Africa and raised funds for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; a daughter, **Harriet Robinson Gowanlock**, AB'83; a son; and several grandchildren.

Mary L. Austin, AM'43, died October 24 in Oneonta, NY. She was 97. Austin worked as an outreach coordinator for the Girl Scouts of America. She was an active member of her church, the League of Women Voters, the Adirondack Mountain Club, and a local book club, and enjoyed attending arts and music performances. Austin is survived by three daughters, four sons, 10 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

David R. Krathwohl, SB'43, AM'47, PhD'53, died October 13 in Glen Ellyn, IL. He was 95. A US Army veteran, Krathwohl taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Michigan State University before spending 11 years as dean of the school of education at Syracuse University. The author of several textbooks, he

advised the US Department of Education's research bureau and was active in professional organizations. His wife, Helen Jean (Abney) Krathwohl, EX'44, died in 2012. Krathwohl is survived by two daughters, a son, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

James R. McGrath, SB'43, MD'45, of Redmond, WA, died November 15. He was 95. McGrath served in the US Army Medical Corps before joining Bellevue (WA) Clinic in 1950. He later helped establish Overlake Medical Center, where he was the first chief of pediatrics and the first full-time pediatrician in Seattle's eastern suburbs. He was a longtime member of Physicians for Social Responsibility and held leadership roles at his church. McGrath is survived by two daughters, three sons, and 18 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Alan B. Carter, SB'44, of Fullerton, CA, died November 5. He was 93. Carter served as a meteorologist with the US Air Force in Italy during World War II. He later taught math and computer science at Fullerton Community College, retiring in 1982. He is survived by his wife, Alta.

Shirley Ann (Petersen) Durrant, PhB'46, of Medina, OH, died October 17. She was 93. Durrant was an airline stewardess and later an elementary school teacher. She took early retirement in 1976 so she could travel and play golf with her husband. Durrant is survived by a daughter, a son, and six grandchildren.

Hilma Bernice Cohn Levy, AM'47, of Dallas, died October 18. She was 98. A medical social worker, Levy worked at hospitals in Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, and Dallas. In the 1980s she transitioned into market research in the food and real estate industries. She is survived by her husband, **Walter J. Levy**, AM'45; three daughters, including **Deborah L. Levy**, AB'72, PhD'76; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Ralph S. Saul, AB'47, died October 4 in Gladwyne, PA. He was 94. Saul held leadership positions at the US Securities and Exchange Commission and the American Stock Exchange before becoming CEO of the Insurance Company of North America in 1975. He oversaw the company's 1982 merger with Connecticut General to become Cigna Corp. and served on Cigna's board until 1989. He is survived by a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

Norma Gay Sperry, SM'47, of Haverford, PA, died November 5. She was 93. Sperry was a medical researcher working on a typhoid vaccine before moving with her husband, Roger W. Sperry, PhD'41, to California. There she was a counselor at the Pasadena Mental Health Center for 25 years and a two-time president of the Caltech Women's Club. Sperry's husband died in 1994, and she is survived by a son.

Robert Blauner, AB'48, AM'50, died October 20 in Berkeley, CA. He was 87. Blauner joined the sociology faculty of the University of California, Berkeley, in 1963, becoming a full professor in 1978. An expert

on race relations, he wrote extensively on structural bias and started an affirmative action program in his department. Blauner retired in 1993 with emeritus status. He is survived by his wife, Karina Epperlein; two children; and two grandchildren.

David E. Botwin, PhB'48, died November 21 in Pittsburgh. He was 90. A US Army veteran, Botwin worked at the US Department of Veterans Affairs and later taught the psychology of education at the University of Pittsburgh, retiring in 1999. He was interested in classical music and human rights issues, and was an Ohio State Buckeyes fan. He is survived by a sister.

Hillel M. Black, AB'49, AM'52, of New York City, died February 8, 2016. He was 86. Black spent his career in book publishing, serving as editor in chief of William Morrow, publisher at Macmillan, and executive editor of Sourcebooks. He retired from Sourcebooks in 2009, continuing to work as a freelance editor for six years. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, and three grandsons.

1950s

Wayne Henry Akeson, MD'53, died October 15 in La Jolla, CA. He was 88. An orthopedic surgeon known for his joint injury and spine trauma research, Akeson was on the medical faculty at the University of North Carolina and the University of Washington before serving as chief of the orthopedic surgery department of the University of California, San Diego, from 1970 to 1996. A US Army veteran, Akeson spent the last part of his career providing care at the local Veterans Affairs hospital, retiring in 2008. He is survived by two daughters; three sons; and nine grandchildren, including **Tyler M. Mansfield**, MBA'13.

Daniel U. Levine, AB'54, AM'59, PhD'63, of Omaha, NE, died October 15. He was 81. A US Army veteran, Levine taught education administration at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, for 28 years. He then joined the faculty at the University of Nebraska—Omaha, where he helped develop the first doctoral program in education. An expert on urban pedagogy, Levine was the coauthor of *Foundations of Education*, now in its 13th edition. He is survived by his wife, **Rayna Freeman Levine**, AB'60; a daughter; a son; two sisters; and two granddaughters.

Joseph J. Rotman, AB'54, SM'56, PhD'59, died October 16 in Urbana, IL. He was 82. Rotman was a mathematics professor at the University of Illinois from 1959 to 2004. The author of 10 math textbooks, he focused his research on areas of algebra including abelian groups and combinatorics. Rotman was politically active and enjoyed watching Illini basketball and traveling. He is survived by his wife, Marganit; a daughter; a son; and a sister, **Margolish Rotman**, AB'50.

Jeanne "Sybil" Wallman Holtzer, PhD'55, of Philadelphia, died October 21. She was 90. Holtzer spent her career as a medical researcher at the University of Pennsylvania,

working with laboratories and research centers around the world. Her husband and collaborator, Howard Holtzer, SB'47, PhD'52, died in 2014. She is survived by her sister, **Eleanor "Beryl" Wallman Bennewith**, AB'59.

James Allen Roberts, SB'56, MD'59, died November 12 in Hendersonville, NC. He was 82. Roberts served as a Navy physician before founding his clinical urology practice. He was on the faculty of Tulane University for more than 30 years and authored more than 150 papers and 30 book chapters. Roberts enjoyed reading, photography, and going to museums and theater performances. He is survived by his wife, Hilda; a daughter; a son, **Thomas J. Roberts**, AB'88; a stepdaughter; three stepsons; and 14 grandchildren.

Henry Thomas James, PhD'58, died September 30 in Golden Valley, MN. He was 101. A World War II veteran, James joined Stanford University's education faculty in 1958. He served as dean of the school of education from 1966 to 1970 and was known for promoting interdisciplinary research. Later he was president of the education-focused Spencer Foundation, retiring in 1985. He is survived by four daughters, two sons, 17 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren.

Richard L. Purtil, AB'58, AM'60, PhD'65, died December 4 in Bellingham, WA. He was 85. A US Army veteran, Purtil was a longtime philosophy professor at Western Washington University. He wrote philosophy textbooks as well as science fiction and fantasy novels. Purtil is survived by his wife, Betty; three sons; and a brother.

Norman J. Bakall, AM'59, of Chicago, died November 16. He was 81. Bakall taught history at Taft High School, later becoming the school's assistant principal and school programmer. He enjoyed golf, tennis, bridge, travel, reading, and music. Bakall is survived by his wife, Elissa; a daughter; a son; and five grandchildren.

1960s

William Corwin Allen, MD'60, died September 12 in Columbia, MO. He was 81. An orthopedic surgeon, Allen served in the US Army Medical Corps before joining the University of Florida faculty in 1965. In 1976 he became orthopedic surgery chief at the University of Missouri, retiring in 2001. He is survived by his wife, **Kathryn E. Allen**, AB'59; a daughter; two sons; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Guinevere L. Griest, AM'47, PhD'61, died September 14 in Alexandria, VA. She was 92. Griest joined the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1968. She directed the fellowships and seminars division and later the research programs division, and was one of the architects of the flagship NEH Fellowship program. Griest retired in 1995 and enjoyed gardening and traveling. She is survived by a sister, **Jeanne Griest**, MBA'47.

Julie Rogers Wallace, AB'62, of Chicago, died December 22, 2015. She was 75. Wal-

lace taught French and the humanities at public and private schools in Winnetka, IL, and on Chicago's South Side. An artist, she designed displays at Marshall Field's department store, and was active in civil rights work with the Woodlawn Organization and Model Cities. She is survived by two daughters, **Mary Wallace**, LAB'81, and **Beth Wallace**, LAB'83; a son, **Ian Huntley Wallace**, LAB'84, AB'89; and three sisters.

Barbara E. (Unger) Williamson, AB'62, AM'65, of Indianapolis, died October 8. She was 74. Williamson taught high school French before joining the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana, where she served as executive director in the 1970s. She later worked for the US Attorney's Office and at a federal courthouse. Williamson enjoyed hosting parties, traveling, knitting and crocheting, and music. She is survived by her husband, **Clark M. Williamson**, DB'61, AM'63, PhD'69; a son, **Scott Taylor Williamson**, AB'97; and a brother, **Richard W. Unger**, AM'65.

Larry Liss, AB'63, MAT'65, of North Palm Beach, FL, died December 12. He was 75. A star basketball player inducted into the UChicago Athletics Hall of Fame in 2014, Liss supported other student-athletes by cofounding Academic Games Leagues of America and serving with the nonprofit for more than 50 years. He was also a member of the Palm Beach County School Board for three decades, retiring in 2003. He received the Alumni Association's Public Service Award in 2013. Liss is survived by his wife, Carolyn; two children; three step-children; a sister; two brothers; three grandchildren; and eight step-grandchildren.

Joseph K. Kovach, PhD'63, of Topeka, KS, died November 17. He was 87. A survivor of Soviet Union labor camps and the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, Kovach was a behavioral geneticist with the psychiatry-focused Menninger Foundation from 1966 to 1993. He enjoyed flying airplanes and reading Russian poetry. Kovach is survived by his wife, Magdalene; a daughter; three sons; a sister; three brothers; 11 grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Warren A. Sommers, MBA'63, died November 14 in West Hartford, CT. He was 96. A US Navy veteran, Sommers was the vice president of operations for Ashland Oil in Tulsa, OK. He was active with the YMCA in Chicago and Connecticut and enjoyed gardening and hiking. Sommers is survived by four daughters, including **Kathleen S. Luchs**, AB'72; a son; a sister; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Diana Kahn Taylor, SM'63, PhD'66, of Shaker Heights, OH, died June 13. She was 74. A mathematician, she was the author of the Taylor resolution, a result in monomial ideals that remains an active area of research. She enjoyed pottery, painting, horticulture, and spending time with family. Taylor is survived by her husband, **Haris C. Taylor**, MD'65; a daughter; a son; a brother; and two grandchildren.

James Ralph Winter, AM'66, died September 13 in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. He was 86. Winter was an economics professor at Acadia University and taught as a visiting scholar at other institutions. A member of several economic associations, he was also a government adviser on matters from water resource management to tax systems. He is survived by his wife, Jean; two daughters; two sons; and seven grandchildren.

Edward Novak, AB'67, died August 18 in Dayton, OH. He was 71. Novak was a nuclear physicist at Mound Laboratory in Miamisburg, OH. An avid amateur astronomer, he enjoyed taking photos of stars, planets, and nebulae. He is survived by his wife, **Mary Lankford Novak**, AB'68, AM'74; a daughter; a son; and two granddaughters.

James Barrett Swain, AM'68, of Cromwell, CT, died November 28. He was 84. A Methodist minister, Swain spent 13 years in north India as a pastor and graduate-level English literature instructor. He later pastored churches in Illinois and Connecticut, and in retirement chaired the advisory board of a local community mental health services center. Swain is survived by his wife, Doris; two daughters; a son; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

1970s

John J. Currano, SM'66, PhD'70, of Chicago, died October 20. He was 72. Currano was on the faculty at Roosevelt University for almost 40 years, retiring in 2008 as professor emeritus of mathematics. He is survived by his wife, **Diane Currano**, AB'69, and two daughters, including **Ellen Currano**, SB'03.

David Charles Knaak, AB'72, MAT'73, of Plymouth, MN, died September 6. He was 66. Knaak worked as a computer software engineer at Cray Inc. for 40 years. He enjoyed staying active throughout his life. He is survived by his partner, Pam Arnstein; four children; and four grandchildren.

Mark Tolbert Kenmore, AB'75, of Clarence Center, NY, died November 19 of complications from early-onset dementia. He was 62. Kenmore was an immigration defense attorney known for tackling especially complicated cases; in 2006 he received the Jack Wasserman Memorial Award for excellence in immigration litigation. He is survived by his wife, Sue Tannehill; a daughter; a son; and a brother.

David A. Schattschneider, AM'66, PhD'75, of Bethlehem, PA, died September 29. He was 77. A third-generation Moravian pastor, Schattschneider joined Moravian Theological Seminary in 1968 as a professor of historical theology and world Christianity. He served as dean of the seminary from 1988 until his retirement in 2001 and was active in Moravian cultural organizations. He is survived by his wife, Doris; a daughter; and a grandson.

Marjorie Harkins Buchanan Kiewit, PhD'77, died November 12 in Boston. She was 95. Kiewit was the first female presi-

dent of Lawrence University's board of trustees and served on the Governor's Commission in Education. After receiving her doctorate in education, she was a senior analyst at the Dallas Independent School District and a research fellow at Stanford University while sitting on the board of the Peter Kiewit Foundation. She is survived by two daughters, a son, a sister, seven grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Barry J. Kaplovitz, AB'78, of Winthrop, MA, died November 30 of cancer. He was 62. A political consultant, Kaplovitz worked for the campaign and subsequent administration of Massachusetts governor Edward King. He later formed his own consulting firm, focusing on ballot referendums and gubernatorial and legislative races around the country. He is survived by a sister.

1980s

Irene Farkas-Conn, AM'68, PhD'84, died October 11 in Arlington, VA. She was 89. Farkas-Conn helped her family protect thousands of Jewish people in Budapest during World War II before emigrating to America in 1947. She became a leading figure in library information science, lecturing frequently and serving in multiple professional associations. Her second husband, UChicago pediatrician Ira Rosenthal, died in 2002. She is survived by a daughter, **Elizabeth Pirie Ortmayer**, LAB'78; a son; a stepdaughter; two stepsons; and numerous grandchildren.

Jeffrey John Miller, AB'86, died of brain cancer on October 7 in Hayward, WI. He was 53. Miller practiced law in New York, London, and Hong Kong before moving to Wisconsin and purchasing an ice cream shop and bed and breakfast in 2005. He enjoyed running his businesses, walking his dogs, and living in a small town. He is survived by a sister and two brothers.

1990s

Gretchen Lynn Whitting, AB'96, of Durham, NC, died October 5. She was 42. Working in economic and financial consulting since graduation, Whitting spent 15 years as a manager at Cornerstone Research, first in Washington, DC, and then in New York City. She was passionate about physical fitness and enjoyed rock climbing and bicycling. She is survived by her mother and her sister.

2010s

Megan Rosemary Rawson, AB'11, of Anchorage, AK, died of brain cancer on September 26. She was 27. Rawson taught science at a Navajo Nation high school through Teach for America for several years. She then earned a master's degree in teaching and spent a year as a science teacher in Anchorage. She is survived by her parents and her sister.

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Square deal

When you've been hard at work re-designing the *Magazine's* website, everything starts to look like a pixel, even the sticky notes at your desk. So we created this colorful phoenix on our office wall using 900 Post-it notes.

What kinds of online extras would you like to see when the new site launches later this year? Send your suggestions to uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. Deal? Deal.

—Joy Olivia Miller & Laura Lorenz



To create your own UChicago-themed wall art, wrangle some Post-it notes and go to mag.uchicago.edu/squaredeal for detailed instructions.

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