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Up, up, and away! On April 24 NASA launched a massive superpressure balloon intended to fly for 100 days at altitudes up to 110,000 feet. The football-stadium-sized behemoth is carrying a telescope designed to detect ultrahigh energy cosmic particles as they enter Earth’s atmosphere. Scientists from UChicago and 76 other institutions worldwide worked together on the telescope, which features an infrared camera built by Leo Allen, AB’17, and Mikhail Rezazadeh, Class of 2017. Angela V. Olinto (left), the Homer J. Livingston Distinguished Service Professor in Astronomy and Astrophysics, is the project’s principal investigator. “The origin of these particles is a great mystery,” Olinto says. “Do they come from massive black holes at the center of galaxies? Tiny, fast-spinning stars? Or somewhere else?”
Transport yourself

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM’94

This spring I’ve been going to the 1970s in my mind. Edward Levi, LAB’28, PhB’32, JD’35, is president of the University. The College has refreshed its curriculum. Joseph O’Gara’s book store has taken over the space where Woodworth’s Books used to do business (today it’s a wine shop). And the Watergate hearings are fresh in everyone’s minds.

Law professor Philip Kurland is about to teach a fall course, Constitutional Aspects of Watergate. And “at Jimmy’s, the venerable 55th Street spa,” the September/October 1973 University of Chicago Magazine reported, “the hearings were sometimes offered on radio while the audio was turned off for the telecast of the day’s baseball game, giving an eerie effect.”

Newly available online, the Magazine’s back issues from 1908 to August 1995 are rife with gemlike details like these. On the other end of the spectrum are big-thinking essays by UChicagoans like Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar and Katharine Graham, AB’38. Not to mention news of the classes, campus life, and a nine-decade retrospective of print advertising. (An ad in the first archived issue promoted a Chicago magic store: “Remember, conjuring is the delight that comes from an act of the mind, like a graduate student to a venerable 55th Street spa.”)

I’ve always been drawn to the bound volumes of back issues in our offices like a graduate student to a venerable 55th Street spa. Now, at mag.uchicago.edu/libarchive, you can also turn back time by turning back the pages. Thanks are owed to the Library’s Special Collections Research Center for valiantly digitizing the Magazine archives, along with Cap and Gown and the University Record. All are fully searchable. (As always, you can find and search later volumes at mag.uchicago.edu.)

Browsing the Watergate years, I’ve been struck by content both curious and sublime. The Summer/74 Class News treated readers to side-by-side photos of alumnus Harry Sholl, EX’41, and his look-alike Henry Kissinger. Earlier that year, Norman Maclean, PhD’40, articulated the art of teaching as his Presbyterian minister father might have conceived it—as a craft of “conveying the delight that comes from an act of the spirit… without ever giving anyone the notion that the delight comes easy.”

That hard truth was useful to bear in mind as I absorbed the results of a reader postcard survey the Magazine conducted in 1973. A thousand postcards came back. “There were such comments,” the editors wrote, “as ‘keeps me informed,’ ‘increases my affinity with the University,’ and ‘makes me think’—but also ‘sloppy editing,’ ‘looks like Ford Motor Company annual report,’ and ‘fed up with your revolutionary baloney.’”

We hope your feelings about the Magazine are more in keeping with the former remarks than the latter. If they are, please help us continue to deliver both the sweeping ideas and the sparkling details of UChicago life to your mailbox long into the future. Make your gift at mag.uchicago.edu/give or by calling 888.824.4224 and declaring the Magazine as your area of support. Thank you. ♦
Bright minds, big city
I was from a small town, working class, a weaver in cotton mills while still in high school, got some Korea military time in first. Then I got to UChicago on my own, met Lawrence Kimpton once, and found many of the same difficulties at the same time as the Small School Talent Search students in “No Small Talent” (Winter/17). But for all its warts as a program, it became a life-changing set of events for many, including me.

These stories resonate. And the difficulties of always running into worlds never before experienced in those small towns is both a great challenge and a growth opportunity. My guess: there is GRIT out there, everywhere really, and talent galore, and, given the chance, more would flourish even with little additional assistance.

I am forever amazed at the wonders still out there to explore.

Monty Brown, AB’59, MBA’60
Kansas City, Missouri

Given the chance more would flourish even with little additional assistance.

Grass roots talent
I very much appreciate Tom Heberlein’s (AB’67) “No Small Talent” about the Small School Talent Search. I was recruited to that program through an interview with Margaret Perry in Billings, Montana. I was a senior at Custer County High School in Miles City, Montana. My father was a barber, my mother a bookkeeper. I learned of my acceptance and scholarship in April 1963 (the local paper gave it quite a write-up, calling it the “Small Talent Search,” which was not entirely inaccurate since I was ill prepared for the academic demands I was to face).

That first quarter was agonizing. My composition instructor wrote on my initial paper, “The first thing you need to do, Mr. Shields, is learn to write an English sentence.” I barely scraped though my math requirement with only high school algebra and plane geometry to my credit. I had an incompatible roommate, the only person in all my years at Chicago to scoff at my origins. I returned from winter break fully suicidal and ready to turn tail. A phone call to a wonderful counselor, Wilma Ebbitt, changed that. She understood where I was better than anyone and, with complete sympathy and a little psychology, convinced me to try another quarter. She was there with me all the way from then until the end of my first year.

That May my father died and Mrs. Ebbitt came to my math class to tell me, took me to the dorm where she had arranged to have my bag packed (inserting the right textbooks for finals the next week), put me into a cab to O’Hare with a friend to make sure I got onto the flight, then contacted my professors. The University bought my ticket home (my first-ever flight) and sent a spray of flowers to the funeral. Margaret Perry sent a certified letter to my mother of both condolence and assurance that the University would be there for me and her, and the students at New Dorms (I had by then established a circle of friends and changed roommates and felt more at home there) took up a collection to assure I could afford a train trip back in time for finals.

Although it may sound like something from a hackneyed movie script, my mother put me on the train and told me she had worried about me in the big city but would worry no more.

Those years were pivotal and the most formative of my life. I studied under too many great professors to list, from James Miller, AM’47, PhD’49, to Hans Morgenthau. I gained a circle of friends who introduced me pretty much to all Chicago had to offer, from student-rush tickets at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to ball games at Wrigley Field.

But most exciting of all was that I learned to learn.

I moved to Reno, Nevada, in 1969 and began a 33-year career teaching English, a 20-year career as the Reno-Tahoe entertainment critic for Variety and Daily Variety, and a 40-year-and-going career as an entertainment writer for the Sacramento Bee.

Mel Shields, AB’67, MAT’69
Reno, Nevada

“No Small Talent” enraptured me.

I grew up on my family’s six-generation farm in Iowa, 10 miles south of a small 2,000-person community. Even though I graduated nearly 50 years after the Grass Roots Talent Search (GRTS) kids in the article, their sentiments and experiences still resonate.

It is apparent that UChicago has made great strides in the effort to accommodate students of varying backgrounds—including regular tutors in Stuart, the UChicago Careers In programs, and frequent adviser check-ins—but I still found myself out of my depth my first few quarters. I was used to a life where everyone knew everyone, there was one predominant poli-
The ideological and physical ideology, and doors were always left unlocked. Moving to campus was a big wake-up call, and while it was tough and often solitary at the beginning, I wouldn’t change my decision to attend the University for the world.

My UChicago experience is priceless to me, full of ideas and thought processes and friendships I would likely have never acquired had I remained in my one-mile-by-one-mile town or gone to a college nearby. I am confident I can successfully apply rigorous inquiry and a strong sense of curiosity to my family’s farming business when I return to carry it on to the seventh generation.

The closing quote, from GRTS student Loren Nelson, AB’67, SM’68, PhD’79, prompted a sense of personal mutuality and a good laugh: “I think that this talent search was harder on my folks than it was on me. ... 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.” Seems like not that much has changed after all!

Thanks to Tom Heberlein for the fantastic read. Easily my favorite piece of journalism I’ve come across in the Magazine.

Lauren M. Riensche, AB’15
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Thank you for a fine article. Even though I was not part of the Small School Talent Search, I would like to share two anecdotes. As the only student from North Carolina in the four years I attended, and the only one who had attended a small boys’ boarding school in Virginia, it is clear I was admitted for diversity’s sake.

I entered the University of Chicago in 1959 and arranged piano lessons with someone who taught music students on a part-time basis. A sign posted in the music building stated that the practice pianos were reserved for music majors. I checked the sign-up sheets, went to the office, and offered to wait until all music majors had signed up. My suggestion was dismissed out of hand, and the person who was willing to teach could do nothing. The other pianos I found on campus were in public rooms.

The second anecdote took place at one of those faculty-student meetings held in Burton-Judson. A good friend of mine has a stutter. When he introduced himself to a member of the English department, she said, “It’s always nice to meet someone who can’t pronounce his own name.” That line might be appropriate in a British satire of academic life, but it was hardly conducive to warm faculty-student relationships. The unpleasantness I experienced at Chicago involved the faculty, not the students.

Jeffrey T. Gross, AB’63
Memphis, Tennessee
Thanks to Tom Heberlein for his story. I came to the U of C under that endeavor in 1962 from a high school class of 21 in an ingrown German American town three and a half hours west of Chicago. We spoke a peculiar kind of English called “Dutchy” by outsiders. My first quarter at the U of C was very hard. My roommate informed me that it wasn’t cool to wear white socks with black shoes, so I discarded my white socks and began an accent reduction attempt. After fall quarter grades came out, I was convinced that I was in an environment of tough love in its purest expression. We were assured that a C at the University of Chicago was equivalent to a B or even an A at a state university. Still, rural draft boards were notorious for confusing the U of C with the University of Illinois at Chicago, so a low GPA wasn’t good for one’s draft status. We were encouraged to address our teachers as Mr. or Mrs. instead of Doctor. I found some of them aloof, even unfriendly, in spite of that. I wonder to what extent the College faculty bought into the SSTS. Surely some of them feared pressure to dumb things down; others may have felt an assault on their own identities. With time, my obsession to assimilate into the cultural milieu abated, and positive thoughts began to overcome my negative ones. I hope that Tom will continue to research and document this unique experiment.

Jeff Ruprecht, AB’67 (Class of 1966)
Twin Falls, Idaho

The article “No Small Talent” brought back memories of this program, which I knew as GRTS. As a high school student in 1972, I attended a National Science Foundation–sponsored program at the University of Texas, and my mentor encouraged me to look seriously at schools I had only dreamed about. This was a radical and empowering suggestion to a farm boy for whom UT was considered radical. While my mentor pushed the Ivy League, the U of C appealed to me because of both a stellar reputation in research (Robert Millikan, Enrico Fermi, George Beadle, and others) and a more democratic spirit sans legacy students. But it was only after arriving and receiving an invitation to a reception from Margaret Perry that I learned that I was a GRTS student. While the program did not recruit me, I suspect they were behind the letter I received from College dean Charles Oxnard after I applied, which addressed the interests I expressed in my application essay. And Perry helped me get a part-time job working in the admissions office. Adapting to the academic rigor was daunting but manageable: life of the mind, meet West Texas Bible Belt work ethic. I am forever grateful to the University for the opportunity to attend and scholarships to make it possible.

D. M. Henry, AB’76 (Class of 1977), MD’80
Schererville, Indiana

I much enjoyed Tom Heberlein’s article. I entered the College from Wabash, Indiana, in autumn 1951 and remained at the University until 1975. During those 24 years, I was a general adviser and later dean of freshmen and director of men’s housing. I served on the College Committee on Admissions from 1956 until 1971. Tom correctly reports that I claim credit for suggesting the “small school talent search.” What I suggested to Margaret Perry was a straight-out recruiting device. Margaret became so
The less time we spend hiking real mountains, and the more time spent focused on screens with digitized mountains, the more alienated from the natural world we become.

identified with the program that it is not surprising she misremembered a couple of years later. In autumn 1960, the University prepared a press release describing the program, featuring LaVonne Johncheck from Rice Lake High School in Wisconsin, and quoting me for the Admissions Office and Mary Alice Newman, AM’49, PhD’54, for the College advisers. No Margaret Perry. The press release was picked up by a number of newspapers, and it and some clippings are in the archives.

Tom discussed the withdrawal rate. This was a very sensitive topic among administrators in the 1950s and 1960s. I took some heat because I sometimes thought taking time off or transferring made sense. I thought the registrar’s figures underreported graduation by failing to keep track of individuals who took up to nine years to graduate or who changed names (mostly through marriage). My computations showed a graduation rate of 67.3 percent for the Class of 1966 and 73.8 percent for the Class of 1967 including the GRTS students.

Huddle up
Were you on the 1968 UChicago football team, the first after football was reinstated as a varsity sport? A player reunion is being planned for Homecoming weekend; call me at 815.382.2210 for more information.

Jeff Rasley, AB’75
Indianapolis

A different game
Robin Hunicke, AB’95, deserves congratulations for her success in the video game industry and encouragement in her efforts to develop games “that help players in their lives” (“Game Changer,” Winter/17). What leaves me a bit disappointed (not so much in the creators as the customers) is that so much time and energy is given over to video games.

Hunicke receives accolades for the creativity of the game she codeveloped: “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.” Hunicke was inspired to create this game after trekking in Bhutan.

Instead of encouraging people to spend more time locked onto a device, I wish people with Hunicke’s talents would promote actual outdoor experiences. Hunicke’s mountaintop experience in Bhutan was so moving it inspired her to change her life. As she explained, “I realized that I had been climbing the wrong mountain.”

The less time we spend hiking real mountains, and the more time spent focused on screens with digitized mountains, the more alienated from the natural world we become. Hunicke’s market would be better served to put down their devices and get outside. On the treks I lead in Nepal there is “a system of collaboration,” there are always “spontaneous encounters,” and we “travel toward the mountain together.” Our songs are not, however, wordless, and our scarves are for warmth, not magic.

Jeff Rasley, AB’75
Indianapolis

Write, memory
In response to the letter from Jim Vice, EX’52, AM’54, titled “Eat, Memory” (Letters, Winter/17): Several scenes in my very long novel, now under consideration by a New York publisher, are set at Station JBD, Jimmy’s, Morton’s on South Shore Drive, Tropical Hut, and Steinway Drugs on 57th Street (maybe 55th?). For the record, if it’s actually published, the title is “Jesters.”

Roland Schneider, LAB’43, AB’48
Santa Monica, California

Talking about free speech
The University of Chicago has garnered great respect for its consistent public advocacy of speech and inqui-
ry freedoms, when other educational institutions may have difficulty doing so. It also has attracted admiration for its “tough love” position regarding so-called safe spaces and trigger warnings, by advising students that such concepts are inconsistent with the University’s general pedagogic philosophy of intellectual confrontation.

From President Zimmer’s commentary (“A Crucible for Confronting Ideas,” On the Agenda, Fall/16), that philosophy seems fundamental to the aspirations and expectations for the student body. For example, Mr. Zimmer asks, “What is the value of a university education without encountering, reflecting on, and debating ideas that differ from the ones that students brought with them to college?” Indeed. But what about ideas, beliefs, or assumptions that faculty and administration bring with them, especially in the area of political economy where so much campus controversy resides?

That may be relevant, because President Trump’s recent immigration order is an example of an enormous campus contention that the University must accept some effective responsibility for: despite objections Mr. Zimmer recently penned to the White House concerning that order, the University has generally avoided challenging its deeper causality—the global war on terror—with the same kind of probity that it encourages among students. The University hosts several educational programs, including the Institute of Politics and the Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism, that accept, ipso facto, the premises of that war.

The intellectual culture of the University of Chicago—skepticism and investigation—might apply equally, and with equal responsibility, to all its members, if that “crucible” is going to form its highest results.

Matt Andersson, MBA’96
Oak Brook, Illinois

Good neighbors

This year we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Neighborhood Schools Program at UChicago (NSP) with a series of events that culminates at Alumni Weekend 2017. The program, founded by Duel Richardson, AB’67, in the Office of Community Affairs (precursor to today’s Office of Civic Engagement), has been serving local schools by connecting University students to volunteer or work opportunities as tutors, classrooms assistants, tech support, etc., since 1976. This year more than 400 UChicago students will partner with local schools for long-term substantive experiences working with young people in 50 schools and community centers.

As part of the celebration, we would like to acknowledge and learn from the alumni who have participated in the program over the years! We’re collecting and posting reflections and feedback online, but we could use your help identifying alumni from the era before electronic records. If you are (or know) an alum who participat-

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Debating climate change
I am all for intellectual debate based on facts. But that debate needs to provide appropriate disclosures. Ken Young, SM’67, PhD’73, states that “Richard Lindzen is a good example of a well-known and respected specialist in atmospheric dynamics who has questioned the underlying science” (Letters, Winter/17). Young fails to disclose (as one must in all scientific discussions) important conflicts of interest for Lindzen. In a 2007 column in *Newsweek*, Lindzen’s biography claimed his “research has always been funded exclusively by the US government. He receives no funding from any energy companies.”

In fact, Lindzen received funding from Peabody Coal for his research. This funding only came to light in Peabody’s bankruptcy filing. His trip to testify before a Senate committee in 1991 was paid for by Western Fuels, and a speech he gave, “Global Warming: The Origin and Nature of Alleged Scientific Consensus” was underwritten by OPEC. So it seems that Lindzen’s “findings” are at the very least tainted by his lack of transparency in research funding.

I’m guessing this pseudoscientific letter based on research conducted with undisclosed conflicts isn’t what President Zimmer had in mind.

Victor S. Sloan, AB’80
Flemington, New Jersey

Reviving trauma care
The news of Selwyn O. Rogers Jr. coming to the University of Chicago to lead the development of a level 1 adult trauma center (“For the Record,” Winter/17) has brought joy and happy memories to my life.

The city of Chicago has been instrumental in developing designated trauma care units in US hospitals. When I was in training, I spent time at Cook County Hospital. The chief of general surgery was Robert Freeark, EX’45, and it occurred to him to put all

For more on NSP see William Rainey Harper’s Index, page 13.—Ed.
the trauma victims in a special room. When he was asked what the room was called, he called it a “trauma unit.” It was one of the first in the United States and certainly the first in Chicago.

Later Peter Geis, who trained at the University of Chicago, was also concerned about trauma victims and helped develop a system in the city of Chicago in which trauma victims were taken by ambulance to the nearest trauma unit, bypassing small hospitals that were not trained properly to take care of trauma patients.

The University of Chicago was involved in the trauma system, and it brought a lot of cases to us, but it was not of any benefit financially to the University.

Because of my trauma experience and the fact that I am in general surgery, several years ago in my rural practice I was able to save a patient who was shot accidentally with a shotgun and came to our emergency room in shock. Trauma victims are sad cases, but luckily we can take care of them many times quite successfully.

The new level 1 adult trauma center at the University of Chicago is indeed a wonderful idea.

Fernando Ugarte, MD'65
Marysville, Kansas

To read more about Selwyn O. Rogers Jr., the founding director of UChicago’s level 1 adult trauma center, see “Community Caregiver,” page 13.—Ed.

Carbon footprint

It was appropriate for the American Chemical Society to mark one of the achievements of the chemistry department (For the Record, Fall’16). The article attributes Willard Libby’s carbon-14 work to Kent Hall. My recollection is quite clear that Libby’s laboratories were in Jones, one on the second floor opposite Hermann Irving Schlesinger’s (SB’48, SM’49, PhD’52) lab where I worked (his main counters were there) and two in the basement, where Andy Suttle, PhD’52, was his graduate student.

The only activity in Kent that I recall was the two-plus story thermal diffusion column wedged into the modest space in the stairwell that ran from the basement to the second floor. All of the labs on Kent’s second floor were largely taken up by undergraduate qual and quant chemistry courses, and the attic was largely an interesting storage/archive place. There are others who might recall his labs also.

Martin J. Steinandler, LAB’44, PhB’47, SB’48, SM’49, PhD’52
Downers Grove, Illinois

The writer is correct that Libby’s lab was on the second floor of Jones. The plaque commemorating his work as a National Historic Chemical Landmark was placed in Kent Hall for greater visibility. We regret the error.—Ed.

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

Ant hero

Graduate student Benjamin Blanchard’s enthusiasm about ants fuels his scientific research.

In December journalist and Jezebel editor in chief Emma Carmichael scanned her in-box and discovered the message she would later dub her “favorite email of 2016.”

The missive from UChicago graduate student Benjamin Blanchard explained that he was “trying to gather statements on ants from influential thinkers of our time. So, could you please provide an answer to this question: ‘What is your favorite thing about ants?’”

Carmichael posted a screenshot of the message on Twitter. “If I don’t get back to your email for a few days,” she wrote, “it’s [because] I’m still figuring out how to respond to this one.” Her tweet went (modestly) viral—as of this writing, it had been retweeted by nearly a thousand people, and liked more than 4,300 times.

Months later Blanchard, a student in the Committee on Evolutionary Biology, remains both bemused by and slightly incredulous at the online response Carmichael’s tweet provoked. (He’s also careful not to overstate the scale of the attention. “I don’t know if I would go as far to say it was fully viral,” he says.) Mostly he’s happy the email allowed him to talk about his love of ants with a wider audience. On Twitter he bantered with Carmichael and others about his insect research—and his hope that other public figures he’d written to would respond.

In person Blanchard is as earnest and knowledgeable about ants as his email would suggest. He provides a rapid-fire overview of some of the most interesting ant species: the trap jaw ant has “these crazy, really, really superpowered jaws—that’s actually the fastest self-directed motion of any known animal.” His adviser, lecturer Corrie Moreau, studies the turtle ant, which has an odd circular head that can be used to block the entrance to its nest. In human terms, “it’d be like if our heads were rectangular and we sat all day with our heads in the door,” Blanchard says.

Growing up, Benjamin Blanchard’s parents got him a book on insects. It was “off to the races from there,” he says.
Blanchard has a particular soft spot for the “truly amazing” genus he studies, the *Polyrhachis* (“many-spined”) ants. The 700 species in the group have different kinds and numbers of defensive spines, which, up close, look a little like rose thorns protruding from the thorax. Blanchard wants to understand why such a diverse range of spines evolved and how these spines influence the species’ relationships to their habitats and to other ants. He’s also working to establish an updated phylogeny—an evolutionary tree of life—for the spiny ant group.

In the first chapter of his dissertation, which was recently published in the journal *Evolution*, Blanchard looked at the development of ant defense mechanisms. He hypothesized that certain defensive traits would exhibit what’s called an evolutionary trade-off—as Blanchard defines it, “a negative correlation across species between different traits that serve similar functions.” And indeed, using statistical analysis, he found that ant species appear to make a choice, so to speak, between developing a chemical sting and other defensive traits, such as spines, large eyes, and large colony size.

The paper also showed that the evolutionary decision to forgo a sting allows for the development of many other types of defensive traits, leading to an explosion of new ant species. In evolutionary biology, the question of how much evolutionary trade-offs contribute to species diversity is an open one, and Blanchard hopes his work will inform the conversation. (Many other factors might also contribute, such as decreases in predation and the development of very specialized ecological niches.)

This summer Blanchard will return to his field site in southern China, which is home to a large number of spiny ant species. He’ll be looking at how different lengths of spines and numbers of spines affect ants’ ability to survive, both against predators and in competition with other ant species. There’s already some evidence that longer hooklike spines get caught uncomfortably in the mouths of large predators such as frogs; shorter spines may be more effective against smaller predators, like spiders, or allow for greater agility. It’s also possible there’s an evolutionary trajectory toward longer spines because smaller ones aren’t very useful for defense at all.

In addition to exposing ants to predators, Blanchard’s research involves putting different spiny ant species together with a shared food resource and seeing which colony withstands the ecological pressure. “Hopefully it’s a somewhat realistic test of what they do in nature,” he explains.

Blanchard traces his interest in ants to an insect book his parents bought for him when he was a child. He was struck, then as now, by the similarities between ants and humans. The way ants tend minute sap-sucking insects called aphids is, he says, “indistinguishable” from how humans herd cows. And like ours, their social behavior runs the gamut from heroic self-sacrifice to warfare. “It’s not just a layperson thing” to see ourselves in ants.

Those similarities, Blanchard thinks, may explain why humans have been studying and writing about ants so consistently and for so long. Alongside his scientific research, he’s been compiling a database of ant quotes and references that he hopes someday to turn into a book; the oldest entry is from 2500 BC.

And he’s continued to gather more material from the email solicitation he sent to Carmichael and around 50 others. (Carmichael did write back, noting that “ants work their butts off at all times for the greater good of their species.”) Psychologist Steven Pinker said his favorite thing about ants was their altruism. Writer Natasha Vargas-Cooper replied at length explaining that ants are in a constant state of revolution. Politician Dennis Kucinich sent a three-word response: “They are organized.”

—Susie Allen, AB’09
**HEALTH CARE**

**Community caregiver**

The Magazine sits down with the leader of the University’s new level I adult trauma center.

Selwyn O. Rogers Jr. is a habitual storyteller, and a strong one. We spoke in his University of Chicago Medicine office this February, shortly after he arrived to direct the level I adult trauma center that will open on campus next year—the only medical facility on Chicago’s South Side dedicated to treating life-threatening injuries from violence, car crashes, and other accidents.

“Tell me if I tell too many stories,” he said partway through our conversation. But Rogers’s tales are arresting, and every one of them illuminates why he’s right here, right now.

Like the story from when he was a junior faculty member at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. A man was brought in brain-dead from a gunshot wound to the head. With the patient’s mother and young daughter waiting outside the intensive care room, Rogers tried to quickly devise how he’d tell them there was nothing the doctors could do for the man.

As he began by asking what their faith was, the man’s mother “looked at me very resolved,” he remembers, and calmly said that she wanted the girl to see her father. A young dad himself, with his own kids in mind, Rogers suggested that might not be a good idea. But the mother was insistent; the patient had just gotten out of prison and hadn’t yet seen his daughter. “I think it’s important,” she told Rogers.

Rogers acceded, telling the little girl what to expect before bringing her into the room. There, in his re-creation of the scene, she “touches her dad’s hand, and the mother looks straight forward, keeps her hand on the girl’s shoulder, and there’s no crying, there’s no weeping, there’s just calm.” Afterward Rogers asked the mother, “What’s your source of strength?” She turned to him and said, “I had to bury my other son with a gunshot wound to the head two years ago.”

He leans forward to finish the story, voice lowered. “And I thought, no mother should have to go through that once. ... No mother should ever have to go through that twice.”

It was early in his career, then, that Rogers started thinking hard about the social determinants of health—not only the violence that disproportionately affects some communities, but the disparities in income, education, and health care access that heighten the negative impact of diseases such as diabetes and asthma in those neighborhoods. He brings a holistic view of community health to his new job, and a determination to confront medical problems at their root.

In his work directing the new level I adult trauma center, Rogers aims to address the underlying causes of medical inequity.
The day we met was just 48 days—Rogers keeps a running count in his head—since his move from the University of Texas Medical Branch, where he was vice president and chief medical officer, and a little more than a year before UChicago’s adult trauma center is slated to open next spring. He’d had to roll up his sleeves (and order cold-weather clothes and boots) as soon as he arrived. His office was understandably a work in progress, with a few items standing out: photos of his fiancée and three sons, who live in Galveston, Texas, and Atlanta, respectively, and a stack of copies of The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation (St. Martin’s, 2016). He’d been reading up on the neighborhood he’ll be serving, and giving the book to colleagues.

For Rogers, understanding the trauma center’s South Side setting is crucial. He believes he can’t succeed without the community’s help and trust. In addition to serving as the center’s founding director and as chief of the newly created Section for Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, he has a third appointment as executive vice president for community health engagement. In that capacity, he oversees UChicago Medicine’s Urban Health Initiative, which since 2006 has supported primary care clinics and education programs to improve the well-being of South Side neighborhoods. Linking that work with trauma care will distinguish this trauma center from most others.

Rogers’s focus on community health and its social determinants will build on long experience. While an associate professor of surgery at Harvard University, Rogers founded its thriving Center for Surgery and Public Health, which researches how surgery can be most effective and equitable across populations. During a year working as a trauma surgeon at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Meharry Medical College, he earned a master’s in public health at Vanderbilt. He has published frequently on health disparities and the impact of race and ethnicity on surgical outcomes.

Rogers grew up in the US Virgin Islands, in a poor family on St. Croix. He’s still grateful that an elementary school teacher noticed his academic talent instead of writing him off as simply bored. Skipping a grade and starting junior high school early motivated him to throw himself into his studies. “The things that I liked the most were biological sciences,” he says, and he thought of becoming a science teacher. “That was the first step.”

When it struck him that by being a doctor, he could both practice science and help people, Rogers pulled out a volume of his Encyclopaedia Britannica and looked up “medical school.” There were “only two medical schools listed, Harvard and Johns Hopkins. And that’s where I applied for college.” When his first year at Hopkins wasn’t the fit he was hoping for, he transferred to Harvard, where he finished college and medical school.

At the top of Rogers’s to-do list now is hiring the team of surgeons who will provide care at UChicago Medicine as it adds four trauma bays and expands by 188 inpatient beds to accommodate, among other patient groups, an expected 2,000 trauma patients in the first year of providing adult trauma care. He’s eager to form partnerships with other hospitals in the city, with residents of the South Side, and with colleagues across UChicago.

As much as he can weave a great story, Rogers prides himself on listening attentively and on being aware of what he doesn’t know. When we met, he had already kicked off his “active listening tour”—meeting and listening to stakeholders within the University and, “more fundamentally,” hearing from South Siders. “Without engagement of the communities,” he says, “we can build eight trauma centers, … and we will not have changed the core reasons for what we see every day.”

Both the present moment and the University, he believes, provide an uncommon opportunity to make those changes. One thing that drew him to UChicago was his strong impression that it’s “a university that welcomes big, bold ideas.” And in its breadth of intellectual expertise he hopes to find the needed ingredients for such breakthroughs. He foresees working with faculty in economics, social service administration, public policy, and the Urban Labs’ Crime Lab and Poverty Lab, to name a few. “I can’t think of a more compelling place or compelling set of circumstances for us to go for the big solution.”

—Laura Demanski, AM’94

## The prison reformer’s dilemma

A UChicago alumnus is challenging the conventional wisdom on mass incarceration.

At the end of 2015, almost 2.2 million people were incarcerated in American prisons and jails, surpassing the population of New Mexico.

The incarceration rate catapulted in the 1970s and continued to swell over the next 40 years, giving rise to today’s prison reform movement. “Mass incarceration makes our country worse off, and we need to do something about it,” then-president Barack Obama said in 2015.

Many of Obama’s efforts focused on nonviolent drug offenders, mandatory minimum sentences, and private prisons. He’s far from alone in thinking those are the best routes for prison reform, says John Pfaff, AM’97, AM’02, JD’03, PhD’05.

But the conventional wisdom misses the real reasons why the United States is the world’s biggest jailer, argues Pfaff, a Fordham University law professor. His paradigm-challenging new book, Locked In: The True Causes of Mass Incarceration—and How to Achieve Real Reform (Basic Books, 2017), aims to dismantle the drug-war-focused “standard story,” as Pfaff calls it, of why our prison population is so high. “Why I push so hard against this common narrative is because actually, in the end, it leads us to embrace solutions that won’t work.”

Pfaff is an economist and lawyer who describes himself as a “prisons and criminal justice quant.” He’s spent years diving into data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the National Center on State Courts, seeking to understand the problem and politics of mass incarceration.

The book is jammed with statistics, but a few simple ones help illustrate
In his Twitter bio, Pfaff jokes that “I’m not contrarian—the data is.”

why Pfaff thinks the standard story falls short.

For instance, drug crimes account for about 16 percent of state prisoners, while violent crimes account for more than half. Violent crimes, Pfaff argues, are the primary driver of the swollen prison rate and a better place to focus reform efforts.

“We’ve convinced people that we can do so much just by targeting drugs that they don’t feel the need to start wrestling with, how do we handle violence?”

Pfaff writes that three things have driven the American prison boom. First, sentencing for violent crimes has grown harsher; second, prosecutors’ power is rarely checked; and third, prison guard unions and politicians can have even stronger incentives to maximize

the size of prisons than the for-profit private prisons loathed by reformers.

Pfaff says his findings on prosecutors are the most important in the book, as they get far less scrutiny than police, judges, and prison officials. In fact, he could find no data analyzing prosecutors’ choices until he stumbled upon an obscure data set from the National Center for State Courts.

It was a eureka moment. He saw that between 1994 and 2008, crime reports and the number of arrests fell, yet prosecutors filed more felony cases in state courts.

The probability that a felony charge led to prison time stayed the same (about one in four) under Pfaff’s analysis. Simply by filing more felony charges, prosecutors brought about a 40 percent increase in prison admissions.

Pfaff concludes that prosecutors need charging guidelines similar to judges’ sentencing guidelines—scoring systems that weigh elements in a case so that similar offenders are treated equally. Currently they have “unfettered discretion” over how to handle a case in which, for example, a dozen different statutes might apply.

And he’d like to see more prosecutors representing only cities, rather than counties, so that richer whiter suburbs have less sway over criminal justice in poorer urban areas with larger minority populations.

As for why anyone would want to cut time served for a violent crime, that’s the notion Pfaff says people have most wanted to debate as he’s promoted the book. His thinking on the question is still evolving.

He acknowledges lighter sentencing is a political third-rail in a country like the United States. Reducing sentences for violent crime is “the one part where left, right, or center, it’s a very hard road ... to get people to come along with me.”

That’s the case for Vikrant Reddy, a senior research fellow on criminal justice reform at the Charles Koch Institute. Reddy calls the book “one of the most important contributions an academic has made in the criminal justice space in many years,” but he’s cautious about fundamentally rethinking punishments for violent crimes. “For very serious violent offenders, the sentences are going to be long and probably need to be long,” Reddy says.

Pfaff thinks long sentences haven’t worked as a deterrent and aren’t cost efficient. He favors shifting money from prisons toward interventions proven to prevent violence in the first place. For instance, studies show that CeaseFire, a Chicago program working to break cycles of violence and retaliation, reduced shooting rates. (The program’s funding was cut in 2015—right before gun violence skyrocketed.)

Elsewhere, Pfaff sees an all-too-common urge in prison reform measures to balance shorter sentences for nonviolent offenses with harsher punishment for violent ones, as South Carolina did in a lauded 2010 reform bill.

None of this is to say that Pfaff believes ending the drug war is a bad idea. He’s for it, even if he thinks it’s a relatively small contributor to the incarceration rate.

He takes heart, too, in the recent bipartisan trend in prison reform that’s coalesced around the standard story. Some in the conservative industrialist Koch brothers’ orbit have teamed with liberal groups like the American Civil Liberties Union to combat mandatory minimum sentences, earning a shout-out from Obama in that 2015 speech.

Pfaff thinks the election of tough-on-crime Donald Trump won’t make much difference to the prison reform movement. If he’s right about what’s putting people in prison, trying to change legislation and executive action at a national level won’t be as effective as reaching out to the thousands of prosecutors across the country and convincing them to change.

Pfaff has plenty of ideas he’s willing to share with reformers of all political stripes. He hopes his book will help them unite around new, more effective strategies to reduce the prison population—though he acknowledges it won’t be simple. “I understand that you don’t turn our system around on a dime. You have to work your way into this,” he says. “Ironically, drugs is the gateway policy issue to reform.”

—Asher Klein, AB’11
Left-hand man

By studying handedness, psychologist Daniel Casasanto hopes to understand the relationship between body and mind.

Left-handers make great baseball pitchers, but they’re generally considered lousy subjects for studies of the brain. “Every good neuroscientist knows you don’t test lefties,” explains Daniel Casasanto, assistant professor in psychology. “They mess up your data.”

Perhaps it’s justice. After years of being relegated to uncomfortable right-handed desks (to say nothing of scissors or spiral notebooks) lefties exact their revenge in MRIs. Among righties, brain lateralization—the control of functions and behaviors by particular brain hemispheres—is fairly consistent. Among lefties, however, it’s messier and much less predictable, complicating results.

But rather than avoiding southpaws, Casasanto has devoted years to studying them, hoping to learn how and why their brains diverge from those of right-handers. It’s part of a larger effort to understand the relationship between our bodies and our minds. Does experiencing the world in different bodies cause us to develop correspondingly different brains? Casasanto thinks so.

Handedness offers especially powerful insights into the links between cognition and bodily experience. It’s “a model system where human bodies differ in clear and measurable ways, and in consequential ways—because our hands are a point of interface between the mind and the world,” he explains.

It’s still not known why human handedness varies. While there appears to be a strong genetic component, environment plays a role too: identical twins share the same genome but not always the same handedness.

Casasanto’s research has shown that, where handedness is concerned, experience matters more than genetics. Handedness is something you do rather than something you are. Lefties whose handedness was “corrected” in childhood behave consistently like righties in his studies.

Casasanto started by exploring whether handedness influences perceptions of abstract concepts, like good and bad. In one study, subjects were presented with a drawing of a cartoon character, viewed from above, with an empty box on either side. They were told the character loved pandas but hated zebras (or vice versa) and then asked to draw a panda in the box that best represents good things, and a zebra in the box that best represents bad things. He found the subject’s choice of the “good” side was strongly associated with their handedness.

The same study asked subjects to look at two columns of Fribbles, alien cartoon characters with various arm and trunk-like appendages. Subjects were asked to assign positive or negative characteristics such as attractiveness or sadness to the Fribbles. Again, the results varied by handedness, with lefties assigning positive characteristics to the Fribbles on the left side of the page. The outcome was the same whether subjects responded orally or used their hands to indicate their choices—and the pattern extends far beyond the realm of the fictional Fribbles. The study showed identical effects for people picking among consumer products and between hypothetical job candidates whose names and qualifications were displayed in two columns.

Handedness might even influence voting behavior. Lefties, Casasanto revealed in a 2015 paper, were 15 percentage points more likely than righties to vote for the candidate they saw on the left side of the ballot in a simulated election. Some states present opposing candidates’ names in two columns—a ballot design that may have unwittingly influenced election outcomes for years.

These findings surprised Casasanto, given how strongly Americans associate “right” with “good.” This mapping is reinforced in idioms like “my right-hand man” or “two left feet,” and in customs like raising your right hand as you swear to tell the truth in court.

“This body-based pattern goes against deeply entrenched patterns in our language and culture,” he says.

The old myth that lefties are “right-brained” and therefore creative and artistic is just that—a myth, discredited by research. But Casasanto has found that lefties’ and righties’ brains do vary in how they organize a basic dimension of emotion—approach and avoidance motivation.

Emotions are either approach related, like happiness or anger, or avoidance related, like fear. Generally speaking, we perform approach-related activities with our dominant hands and avoidance-related activities with our nondominant hands. Casasanto...
Hitting Close to Home

The old adage “out of sight, out of mind” extends even to charitable donations. Studies suggest recent research from Northwestern’s Maferima Touré-Tillery, PhD’13, found that physical distance influences giving behavior. Using lab experiments and fundraising data from a private university, the researchers found that donors are more likely to donate to causes physically close to them. They showed that the perception of distance matters too — when a country was described as “faraway” in an experimental appeal, donors were less likely to give than when the same country was described as “nearby.” The researchers suggest the study could help charitable organizations improve their outreach to donors.

Fighting Flu

Universal flu vaccines may offer key advantages over conventional flu shots, according to a study by UChicago graduate student Rahul Subramanian. While conventional vaccines are aimed at the strains of flu currently circulating, universal vaccines now under development target proteins shared by all flu strains. In the paper, published December 15 in PLOS Computational Biology, Subramanian and his coauthors used mathematical modeling to study the effects of universal vaccines at a population level. According to their model, widely administered universal vaccines could reduce rates of flu transmission more effectively than conventional vaccines and slow the evolution of new flu strains. However, the team still sees utility in conventional vaccines, which could be used to provide extra protection to high-risk populations.

Heavy Metal

Why does Earth have such different iron composition than other bodies in the solar system? In comparison to rocks from other planetary objects, Earth’s rocks have more heavy iron isotopes than light isotopes. The prevailing theory had been that the conditions on early Earth pulled light iron isotopes to the planet’s core, leaving heavy iron isotopes to accumulate in the mantle. But the new study, whose authors include Nicolas Dauphas, Louis Block Professor in Geophysical Sciences, and graduate student Justin Y. Hu, challenges that explanation. By using a device called a diamond anvil cell, which can recreate the high pressures that exist deep within planets, Dauphas and his colleagues found iron isotopes didn’t break and recombine with elements found in the mantle or core, as the prevailing theory would require. The paper, published February 20 in Nature Communications, makes way for competing theories about Earth’s anomalous iron.

Making a Math Whiz

If you’re hoping to raise a computer scientist or engineer, talk to your kids about math and science early and often. A study coauthored by Human Performance Lab postdoctoral scholar Christopher S. Rozek and published in the January 31 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences showed that parents could boost high schoolers’ math and science scores on the ACT by talking to them about the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. For the study, parents in the experimental group were provided materials designed to help them talk about the relevance of math and science with their teenagers. This led to a 12 percentage point increase in the children’s math and science ACT scores, as well as an increase in their STEM course work in both high school and college.

—Susie Allen, AB’09
The newly opened American Writers Museum takes a broad view of US literature, from Louisa May Alcott to Tupac Shakur.

CULTURE

Writ large

Five alumni helped launch the first museum celebrating American literature.

When it comes to celebrating our writers, Americans tend to think local. From the Emily Dickinson Museum in Massachusetts to California’s National Steinbeck Center, sites dedicated to individual authors are generously sprinkled across the US map. But the landscape didn’t include a museum honoring the nation’s overarching literary legacy until this month, when the American Writers Museum opened in Chicago.

Germany, China, Ireland, and other countries have had such museums for years. Even to some of those most involved in launching the AWM, the absence of a US writers museum came as a surprise. “There were a number of people who were like me, who were just astonished” to realize it, says Hill Hammock, MBA ’70, who cochairs the museum’s board of directors. Four other UChicago alumni sit on the board: Jay Hammer, AB’76, the AWM’s treasurer; Ronne Hartfield, AB’55, AM’82, its vice chair; Ivan Kane, AB’78, JD’81; and James Donnelley, MBA’62.

The idea for the museum came to its founder, the manufacturer Malcolm E. O’Hagan, around 2009 and gained traction as he worked a personal and professional network rife with philanthropists and book lovers. A native of Ireland who has lived in Washington, DC, for years, O’Hagan told Irish America magazine in 2012 that he became a passionate reader only after emigrating.

The museum’s founding core didn’t decide on Chicago as the location right away. The nation’s capital was an early candidate and “we thought for a nanosecond about being in New York,” Hammer says. But with its central location, abundant tourism, and dynamic cultural scene with strong community support, Chicago “was really one of the few cities that checked all the boxes,” he explains. Its own rich literary heritage was another advantage—and is celebrated in one of the museum’s permanent exhibits, Chicago Writers: Visionaries and Troublemakers.

While deliberating over a location, the founders and their advisers also had to figure out how best to represent and honor American writing in a museum setting. “We really started from a tabula rasa,” says Hammer. During early planning he got hold of the six-volume study the Smithsonian Institution undertook in preparation for opening its innovative National Museum of African American History and Culture, and pored over it for months.

“You had to really rethink the notion of what a museum could be,” Hartfield adds. A former executive director for museum education at the Art Institute of Chicago, she began advising the museum’s founders in 2011 and later joined the board. Nobody, she says, wanted the AWM to amount to a library. Instead of collecting and displaying objects like a traditional museum, this one encourages visitors to be hands-on.

Touch screens are the technology that makes the museum go. In the American Voices exhibit they unfold the lives and influences of 100 essential US authors selected by a content committee of literary experts. Across the way, scores more writers and works are featured in the interactive Surprise Bookshelf, which reveals unexpected literary facts—about more than just fiction and poetry. The AWM embraces “a broad idea of literature,” says Kane. “It’s journalists, it’s poetry, it might be songwriters.” And it is—Irving Berlin, Johnny Cash, Woody Guthrie, and Tupac Shakur are among those celebrated.

In other technology-powered exhibits museumgoers can tour interactive literary maps of the United States and Chicago, compare their top 10 books to other visitors’, and shuffle the paragraphs of famous works to get a feel for the revision process.

The digital technology and design were concocted by Boston-based Amaze Design. The firm gets a lot of potential clients with ideas for new museums, said Amaze’s Andrew Anway at a winter press conference. “We’re kind of jaded about it, to be honest, because most of those do not come to fruition.” But with the AWM, “for the first time of any project we ever worked on, there was no opposition. Everyone who heard about this project got excited about it.”

Amid all the high-tech exhibits, the museum makes space for old-fashioned reading too. A children’s literature gallery sits off the entryway, with books and comfy spots to nestle with them. Squirrels holding beloved children’s classics smile down from the gallery’s mural, created by the Caldecott Medal–winning illustrator Paul O. Zelinsky.

The spacious Readers Hall can seat a few patrons lost in a book or hold 100 for events. For Hartfield, the AWM’s best promise is in its public programs that will reach out to a broad population of Chicagoland and visitors. She once worked for Chicago’s now-closed Neighborhood Writing Alliance, dedicated to “teaching neighborhood people who were just beginning to think of themselves as writers to really take that seriously.” She thinks the museum can do that too, especially by working with public school teachers. Donnelley also sees potential for the museum to bolster literacy and help children at risk in Chicago.

Though not the focus, literary artifacts have a place in the AWM. One
corner gallery is dedicated to displaying objects lent from the 60-plus writers’ homes and centers affiliated with the AWM. On view through October 27 is the draft of *On the Road* (1957) that Jack Kerouac famously typed on a continuous 120-foot scroll.

As the May 16 opening approached, the UChicagoans involved with the AWM sounded almost giddy with anticipation. Hammer, a businessman who studied for a doctorate in English and American literature, enthused about every aspect of the AWM but particularly the wide net it casts. The writers represented are “black and white, they’re women and men, they’re songwriters and speechmakers, all of whom are considered great American writers.”

Kane concurs. “It’s hard to do a museum that does justice to the breadth of American writing.” A retired real estate lawyer but still an English major at heart, he collects Mark Twain books and ephemera and is one of the board’s newest members. “I’ll have a lot of fun watching its reception and cheering it on, and if things need adjusting, I’ll have fun being a part of that as well.”

Hammock, who is chair of the board of Cook County Health and Hospitals System, traces aspects of both his involvement with the AWM and his UChicago attendance to a 1967 Robert Maynard Hutchins appearance at Georgia Tech, where he was an undergraduate math major. The talk influenced Hammock’s decision to come to Chicago for business school and imparted a piece of aphoristic wisdom he’s carried through life.

Hutchins, he remembers, told the Georgia Tech students he was proud that the University of Chicago had made “more mistakes first than any other university.” “That stuck with me as a challenge,” Hammock says. “We have to do new things. We have to dive in, we have to see where this goes.” For him and the other board members, the American Writers Museum is a thrilling new thing. Soon they’ll find out where it goes.

You can find out too: beginning May 16, visit the American Writers Museum at 180 North Michigan Avenue, on the second floor, and at americanwritersmuseum.org.

—Laura Demanski, AM’94

After 30 years of teaching, professor of medicine Mindy Schwartz acknowledges that a medical education has its highs and lows. Awe-inspiring moments—like the “transformative” experience of dissecting a cadaver for the first time—are interspersed with mundane lessons on treating routine ailments.

So, in search of a spoonful of sugar to make the medical training go down, Schwartz started reading widely on the history of medicine and sprinkling her instruction with stories from the past. In 2001 she decided to teach an elective course for Pritzker School of Medicine students, Invitation to Medical History (“not ‘introduction,’” Schwartz notes, “because it’s not even that grand”).

In 2006 one of her students told Schwartz about the Library’s Special Collections Research Center, where she discovered a surgical kit from 1887. “When you take those tools and you hold them, something happens,” Schwartz says. Handling the equipment awakens a deep sense of curiosity about the doctors and patients who came before her.

Some of the knives and amputation tools are surprisingly similar to what’s used today. But unlike contemporary instruments, which are designed for efficiency and sterility, the 1887 kit boasts craftsmanlike touches: for instance, the bone saw’s mother-of-pearl handle is scored with small notches to provide a better grip.

The Special Collections “field trip” is one of the most hotly anticipated elements of Schwartz’s course. The physicians in training inspect the surgical kit and pore over historical anatomy atlases and old glass slides.

Schwartz hopes that by studying medical history students will see their experiences as part of a continuum. She views medicine as a fitful endeavor, full of progress and mistakes, and her students as part of its complex lineage. “You can look to history for lessons on how to cope and how to understand.”

—Susie Allen, AB’09
FOR THE RECORD

URBAN LEADER

Luis M. Bettencourt, a leading researcher in urban science and complex systems, has been appointed the inaugural Pritzker Director of the Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation at the University of Chicago, effective July 1. Bettencourt, who comes to the University from the Santa Fe Institute, will also be a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution and the College. The Mansueto Institute launched last year with a $35 million gift from Joe, AB’78, MBA’80, and Rika, AB’91, Mansueto, and aims to produce scholarship and programs that address urban challenges.

DEANS, NEW AND RETURNING

Katherine Baicker, a top scholar in the economic analysis of health care policy, has been appointed the next dean of the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. Baicker is the C. Boyden Gray Professor of Health Economics at Harvard University. Before joining Harvard, she was on the faculties of the University of California, Los Angeles, and Dartmouth College. Baicker served as a visiting assistant professor at Harris in 2003. Her appointment as Harris’s dean will begin August 15.

John W. Boyer, AM’69, PhD’75, has been appointed to a record-breaking sixth term as dean of the College. In his 25-year tenure, Boyer has overseen the opening of three new residence halls, the expansion of career development and internship programs, and a dramatic increase in financial aid through the Odyssey Scholarship Challenge.

Laurie Zoloth, a leader in the field of religious studies with particular scholarly interest in bioethics and Jewish studies, has been appointed dean of the University of Chicago Divinity School. Her term begins July 1. Zoloth currently serves as the Charles McCormick Deering Professor of Teaching Excellence at Northwestern University. Zoloth succeeds interim dean Richard A. Rosengarten, AM’88, PhD’94, associate professor of religion and literature.

Madhav Rajan, the Robert K. Jaedicke Professor of Accounting at Stanford’s Graduate School of Business, has been named the next dean of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. His appointment will begin July 1. Rajan’s primary research interest is the economics-based analysis of management accounting issues. He served as senior associate dean for academic affairs at the Stanford GSB from 2010 to 2016.

Anne Walters Robertson, the Claire Dux Swift Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Music and the College, has been appointed dean of the Division of the Humanities, effective April 1. Robertson, an expert in the music of the Middle Ages, has served as interim dean since July 2016. She joined the Department of Music in 1984 and has held several leadership positions at the University, including deputy provost for research and education and chair of the music department.

TEACHERS’ HELPER

A new UChicago program will offer full-tuition scholarships to children of educators working in the Chicago Public Schools. The scholarship applies to teachers, counselors, speech pathologists, and nurses, as well as support personnel such as lunchroom workers and custodians. The CPS Educators Award Scholarship joins existing scholarship programs for children of Chicago firefighters and Chicago and UChicago police officers.

SETTING GOALS

The University’s Board of Trustees voted on March 2 to increase the financial target of the University of Chicago Campaign: Inquiry and Impact to $5 billion. The fundraising campaign publicly launched in 2014 with a goal to raise $4.5 billion. Since that time, UChicago has raised $3.68 billion, affecting virtually every part of the University.

MAJOR CHANGES

Attention, future Roths and Bellows: the College will offer a new creative writing major beginning next fall. The program will require students to take a mix of creative writing and literature courses and to complete a BA thesis. “The major is designed to enable students to locate their practice politically, socially, and professionally,” John Wilkinson, professor and chair of creative writing, told the Chicago Maroon.

OUR COMPETITION?

Elysia Bryen, Class of 2017; Madeline de Figueiredo, Class of 2019; and Nick Posegay, AB’16, have launched a new Arabic-language magazine at UChicago. Majalla, which means “magazine,” grew out of the students’ desire to put their language skills to the test. The first issue, published in January, includes both academic and personal pieces (one submission described the author’s worst date), all written by UChicago students with one to four years of Arabic study.

SMART CHOICE

Alison Gass has been appointed the Dana Feitler Director of the Smart Museum of Art, effective May 1. Gass came to UChicago from Stanford, where she was chief curator at the Cantor Arts Center. She has organized major exhibitions at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University, where she also served as curator and deputy director. Gass was featured in a 2010 New York Times article highlighting “the new guard of curators.”
INTERVIEW

Raghuram Rajan reflects on his time at the Reserve Bank of India and coming back to academia.

After three years steering monetary policy in India as the country’s top central banker, Raghuram Rajan has returned home to the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, where he is the Katherine Dusak Miller Distinguished Service Professor of Finance. Rajan, who first joined Chicago Booth in 1991, was governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 2013 to 2016. He served as the chief economist and director of research at the International Monetary Fund from 2003 to 2006. Chicago Booth recently spoke to Rajan about settling back into academic life and his experience working as a policy maker.

—Sandra Jones

What are you most looking forward to as you return to academic life?

One of the difficulties of a job in the “real world” is you don’t really get time to shut yourself off in a room and think. Now in academia, if you’re not too careful, you get really dragged into the real world and you don’t have that time. But if you are careful, you can spend four days in a room, sit looking at a piece of paper and struggling with a thought that refuses to come out. At the end of those four days, sometimes you say, “Oh my God, how did I miss this?”—and it dawns on you. And that’s as close to bliss as you can get.

How did the three years in India influence your research interests?

I’m interested in a number of issues that I was interested in before I left, but of course you are influenced by the real world. And what we see out there is a strengthening of populist movements around the world. You see some concerns about the market. Is the free market really what we want to have as a society?

Are there particular topics that you want to dig into?

The global financial crisis essentially gave us research topics for the next 30 years. If you look at what happened, there are about 15 to 20 different stories now emerging. I would argue that one of the biggest factors was a large amount of liquidity in financial markets, which tends to breed complacency. Actually [Chicago Booth professor] Doug Diamond and I have a paper on that now [National Bureau of Economic Research working paper, “Pledgeability, Industry Liquidity, and Financing Cycles,” January 2017].

More liquidity means more leverage. More leverage means more financial fragility. That complacency comes back to hit us in down times, and then the down times take a long time to get out of, because we’re still rebuilding the mechanisms that we shouldn’t have let go of in the good times. This is a fertile area for research—the increasing inequality, as well as the sort of leverage we built up in an attempt to deal with problems like inequality.

What’s the difference between being a scholar and being a policy maker?

As a policy maker, you’re desperate for more data to guide your policy making. You would love to have a ton of research telling you, “this works, that doesn’t,” thus and such is how you should go.” But, in practice, you don’t have it. So you’re going 60 miles per hour with the rain pattering on your windshield, and the windshield is fogging up. And you’re on a highway, so you can’t stop, because you could cause a pileup, but you have no idea what’s in front of you. That’s sort of policy making.

And so you always go back. I found that if I went back to first principles, and thought through the problems, and said OK, if this is what is going on, here are the things that will affect the economy. Here’s what I don’t know, but here’s what I broadly know. But you don’t get time to really reflect.

How did you first become interested in economics and finance?

I was reasonably interested in math, and a friend told me about econometrics. I had read Isaac Asimov’s Foundation series and you’re trying to predict how people behave, and I thought well, that’s a nice thing. At that time I also started reading about John Maynard Keynes and the work he had done, and I found it extraordinary. The quick take on Keynes was he took the world out of depression. Now that’s not quite correct, but certainly his ideas were very influential in postwar economics—both in creating the Bretton Woods system [of monetary management], but also in the Keynesian approach to dealing with business cycles. It seemed to me that here was a person who through the strength of his ideas is changing the way we think. That’s extraordinary, and I wanted to be like him.

In an era of widespread democracy you cannot have a system that works only for some, and not for others. The markets need political support. We need to further that debate. And UChicago has always played an important role in that debate. We need a better solution, and that is part of what I hope to think about.
as students file tentatively into Classics 312, Jacqueline Stewart, AM’93, PhD’99, greets them with an encouraging smile. “I’m glad you found the room,” she says.

Showing up in the right place isn’t a given for this mixed graduate and undergraduate course. Stewart’s Chicago Film Cultures class includes sessions in Cobb Hall, the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, the Studio Movie Grill in the Chatham neighborhood, and the Stony Island Arts Bank on 68th Street. The reading list is also wide-ranging, with texts about local film societies and festivals, amateur filmmaking, and historic moviegoing practices. There’s a hands-on component too: students will curate a night of public film programming at the Stony Island Arts Bank.

Today’s class, however, is in the more traditional sit-around-the-table-and-discuss-the-reading vein. Stewart, professor in cinema and media studies, lays out the agenda: they’ll start with a chapter from Douglas Gomery’s *Shared Pleasures: A History of Movie Presentation in the United States* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1992) before shifting to a discussion about the kinds of evidence film historians use in their work.

Stewart turns things over to the undergraduate who will lead today’s discussion. The student begins by recapping the Gomery chapter, which traces the history of racial segregation in movie theaters. In the South, African American audiences either attended black-only theaters or adhered to restrictive guidelines in white theaters. Sometimes African Americans were permitted only on certain days of the week or after the last showing for white audiences. At other theaters, they entered through a separate door leading to a segregated balcony.

The discussion leader poses a question to the group: What forces led to the integration of movie theaters? One undergraduate suggests the change came about in part because film producers realized black audiences were financially valuable. In the 1960s, with Hollywood studios in the midst of a financial crisis, “all of a sudden these blaxploitation films came around—*Shaft, Sweet Sweetback’s* …” She pauses for a moment, searching for the name. “It’s a really long title.” Stewart steps in to supply the full title of the risqué 1971 action film—*Sweet Sweetback’s Baadasssss Song*—which follows an African American protagonist as he evades the police following a wrongful arrest. The film did well at the box office and inspired many imitators. “Yeah,” the undergraduate says. Hollywood “saw dollar signs” in these black-themed films.

Another student ties the push for desegregation to the rise of the blockbuster: “They’re making these movies that weren’t marketed to a specific niche, or a specific demographic, but they were just like, ‘*Jaws* is for everybody.’” And blockbusters needed broad audiences in order to be financially successful.

A male student recalls a preintegration film about the Harlem Globetrotters—*Go, Man, Go* (1954)—that Gomery mentions in the chapter. The film was a success in the North but hardly shown in the South in order to avoid protests or public controversy. “Right,” Stewart says. Until the 1960s, Hollywood studios accepted the reality of segregation, even though it hurt their bottom line. They knew some films could not be screened nationwide and that others would be altered by local authorities in the South to eliminate positive depictions of African American characters. Early in her career, the pioneering African American star Lena Horne was usually given supporting roles so that her scenes could be excised more easily.

“Local and regional control over the content of films is a really important part of the story,” Stewart says—and one that seems almost sacrilegious to us today. “Can you imagine if some guy in Nebraska decides ‘I’m going to cut this scene out of this Scorsese film’? But projectionists, exhibitors, had a huge amount of power during this period.”

As the discussion of theater desegregation winds down, Stewart switches gears. “It’s going to be really important for us to think about questions of evidence,” she says.

The readings for the course so far have used different types of material to support their claims about moviegoing. For instance, film scholar Gerald Butters—the author of another of today’s assigned readings, about black film audiences in Chicago—uses inter-
views to tell his story. “He interviews my mom for this book, which I totally forgot,” Stewart says. “He’s like, ‘Chicago mother Barbara Holt,’ and ... wait, that’s my mother.”


What Stewart wanted to find, but couldn’t, were firsthand accounts of what moviegoers were thinking and feeling while in the theater. So she had to get creative.

“One of the things that I recognized, being a graduate student here in the English department,” she says, “was that there are a number of African American novels that have scenes in which characters go to the movies. Richard Wright’s *Native Son*, for example, has a scene—have you read *Native Son*?” she asks the class. Crickets. “Have any of you read *Native Son*? It’s OK if you haven’t. I’m just curious.” Finally a first-year undergrad pipes up, sounding shy. “I have.”

Stewart describes the plot of the 1940 novel, which was “made into a terrible movie—actually kind of beautifully terrible. You should watch it sometime.”

She reads from a *Native Son* passage in which the protagonist, Bigger, and his friend Jack go to the movies. In her book, Stewart tells the class, she suggests the scene is based on Wright’s “own experiences going to the movies himself, on the experiences of other young black men of his generation. And that the mode of fiction allows for him to get at some of the material and emotional and psychological details of moviegoing that we don’t get from other sources.”

Stewart continues the exercise, handing out a photocopied excerpt from Gwendolyn Brooks’s novella *Maud Martha* (1953), in which the African American protagonist goes to the movies with her husband. The students take turns reading aloud from it.

Afterward they consider the two passages. A graduate student notices something curious: how quickly discussion of the films themselves is superseded by the narrator’s thoughts and imagination. In the darkness of the theater, she notes, the protagonists of both *Maud Martha* and *Native Son* have license to imagine other lives and experiences.

“Thank you for that,” Stewart says. How we experience films and what happens when we watch them is, she agrees, a foundational question, and one she hopes they’ll continue to ponder. “How do films speak to people, or what do people find in them?”

But there’s not much more time to discuss that or anything else today. In just a minute, the class will head to the Stony Island Arts Bank to begin planning their end-of-quarter screening. As they have all quarter, they’ll keep moving.

**SYLLABUS**

For Chicago Film Cultures (CMST 21805/31805), Stewart selected a mixture of readings she knows well—very well in the case of the chapter from her own book—and others that are newer to her. “It was OK with me to be eclectic,” she says.


In addition to planning the end-of-quarter event, students must submit a “research dossier” on a topic of their choosing at the end of the quarter, as well as five brief screening reports “on films you view independently, covering each of the categories covered in class (‘minority’ cinemas/communities; festivals; cinémathèques/film societies; museums/schools; microcinemas/multi-venue film programs).” —S.A.
What’s the French word for yes?

Oui, obviously, you might think, if you took French in high school or college. Or even if you did not.

That’s correct. But it’s not necessarily what a native speaker would say. “People most of the time will use oui”—yeah—“instead of oui,” explains lecturer Céline Legrand, who’s a Parisienne. Roughly, “way” instead of “we.”

It’s just past nine on the first morning of summer elementary French, which compresses all of first-year French, three quarters’ worth, into eight manic weeks. The class meets in Cobb Hall for three hours Monday through Thursday with an additional speaking lab in the afternoons.

Today’s class begins with the usual basic phrases—bonjour, salut, comment allez-vous?—with one essential difference. The course is structured around recordings of native speakers. The students learn oui because that’s what Juliette said to Marion in the video.

Claude Grangier and Nadine O’Connor Di Vito, creators of UChicago’s first-year French textbook, collected all the recordings themselves over decades. (They’ve gone through six formats in that time, beginning with cassette tapes, minitapes, and digital audio tapes. Since 2005 all of the clips are on video.)

Both Grangier, now the French language coordinator, and Di Vito, director of language programs, arrived in 1992. Soon afterward they began to develop their book, because “commercial textbooks were so unsatisfactory,” says Grangier. A short list of flaws: grammar mistakes big and small, no material on pronunciation, artificial dialogues that no French speaker would ever say.

Their self-published textbook—actually a workbook that students fill in during class time, so they discover the rules of the language themselves—has been used here for more than a decade. In fall 2018 Georgetown University Press will publish it as Comme on dit (As We Say). A second-year textbook, C’est ce qu’on dit (That’s What We Say), written by Grangier, Di Vito, and French lecturer Marie Berg, will come out soon afterward.
UN AVOCAT

UN VER

LA MÈRE

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LA MER
YOU’VE DONE THE VOCABULARY, YOU’VE READ, YOU’VE TRANSLATED, YOU’VE WRITTEN, NOW YOU CAN ACTUALLY SPEAK, WITH NO AIDS. IT’S THE HARDEST AND SCARIEST THING TO DO.

It’s not quite 9:30 and students have picked up another common French word: *ben*, which sounds like a nasal “bah” and “doesn’t really mean anything,” Legrand explains. It’s a filler word, the French equivalent of “um” and its ilk. If you’re searching for vocabulary and need to stall for time, *ben* is a really useful word to know. *Ben, oui.* Well, yeah.

A few of the students have some background in French, others none. A woman in a black T-shirt asks optimistically if French nouns have the same genders as the equivalent words in Latin and Spanish. The answer is no.

By 9:45 the students are walking around the classroom, greeting each other in French. “I didn’t go to class for awkward social interactions,” one student mutters.

If that’s the case, he should have opted for a dead language, or perhaps built a time machine. At UChicago, as at universities across the nation, contemporary pedagogy for modern languages is focused on communication, with the plenitude of awkward social interactions that requires. Just an hour into the class, the students’ vowels already sound noticeably more French. (Many French teachers claim beginners cannot learn pronunciation, “which is wrong,” says Grangier. “Not only can, but must be learned first thing.” It’s much harder to correct mistakes you’ve been making for years: “fossilized errors,” as Di Vito calls them.) To pick up each new chunk of vocabulary or grammar, the students listen to a recording or watch a video of college-educated French people speaking. Then they immediately imitate what they hear.

What sounds like “schwee,” for example, turns out to be *je suis*, I am, just mashed together.

The students pair up and practice confessing their inner state to each other: I’m sorry. I’m disgusted. I’m flattered. I’m angry. They don’t say *je suis* like French students. They say “schwee,” like French speakers.

Catherine Baumann, director of the University of Chicago Language Center—a resource for language teachers at UChicago—describes herself as “a product of the history of language instruction in the United States in the 20th century.” In elementary and high school, she studied Spanish but didn’t learn much and didn’t enjoy it: in the terminology of language teaching, the curriculum was “poorly articulated.”

During college Baumann took French and liked it. She taught seventh grade for a year—“the worst year of my life”—before returning to the University of Minnesota to study German. Baumann is of German heritage but had learned “not a syllable” growing up.

She studied abroad in Salzburg and northern Bavaria, then stayed on for two years as an elementary school teacher at the US Army base in Erlangen. Though she had not begun her German studies until age 23, eventually she spoke so fluently, “I could go incognito,” she says. “I was indistinguishable from a native speaker.”

Baumann’s accomplishment is enviable—especially if you’ve had the all-too-common experience of earning As in language classes for years, only to discover, in the country where the language is spoken, that you can’t even order a cup of coffee. The contemporary approach to language teaching, ideally, will prevent that soul-crushing moment.

Today the watchword in language teaching is proficiency. The shift began in the late 1970s and early ’80s, when the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) adapted the US government’s oral exams for Foreign Service employees. “The federal government has been teaching language for a century, because they place people in jobs where they need to use language,” says Baumann. Just because someone has taken two years of Japanese or majored in French, “What does that mean? Nothing.”

The verbal tests show what you can really do. ACTFL recognizes five major levels of proficiency: novice, intermediate, advanced, superior, and distinguished. Novice, intermediate, and advanced are further subdivided into low, mid, and high. The levels are consistent across languages. An intermediate-mid in French or Japanese can do approximately the same things in their respective languages. It just may take longer—if you’re a native English speaker—to get to that point in Japanese.
When you speak, “you’re doing the maximal manifestation of knowledge,” says Arabic lecturer Noha Forster. “To speak is to have worked so hard. You’ve done the vocabulary, you’ve read, you’ve translated, you’ve written, now you can actually speak, with no aids. It’s the hardest and scariest thing to do.”

Once the new proficiency standard was adopted, classroom instruction had to change too, says Baumann: “The goal becomes teaching toward functional ability, instead of teaching toward knowledge about grammar and vocabulary.” Put simply, students no longer learn about the language—like a linguist might—to understand its structure and subtleties, or to compare it to other languages. Instead, students learn to use the language they’re studying.

Textbooks began to change. “A chapter that used to be called ‘The Past Tense’ is now called ‘Childhood Memories and Telling Stories,’” says Baumann, “because that’s what you do with the past tense.” Then came an emphasis on authentic materials, from magazines to movies to mundane exchanges between native speakers: “In the real world, that’s what you’re going to be confronted with.”

Arabic pedagogy was changing, technology began to undergo its own independent seismic shift. In 1999, when Baumann arrived at UChicago as a German lecturer, students who wanted to hear native speech would go to the language lab. Teachers who wanted to show a foreign movie in class would check out a VCR (the tech-savvy University owned VCRs that could play European-standard tapes) and roll it to the classroom.

The internet transformed all that. Now, when Forster wants to show her beginning Arabic class, say, how Turkish coffee is made, she can choose from a selection of YouTube videos in a number of Arabic dialects. All the classrooms in Cobb are “smart,” with large flat-screen displays; that upgrade happened a dozen years ago.


Later in the class, she passes out a worksheet of questions. The 15 students are assigned to walk around the room and interview three others. “It’s been proven that when people walk around, they learn more,” she tells them.

Forster and the University’s other Arabic instructors rely on a textbook, *Alif Baa* (Georgetown University Press) for the beginning class. (*Alif* and *baa* are the first two letters of the Arabic alphabet.) But Arabic in Social Context, her class for more advanced students, could not exist without the internet. Forster finds clips online and prepares her own worksheets. Students can watch the clips anywhere, 24 hours a day, over and over, slowed down if necessary.

There’s an additional challenge with teaching Arabic proficiency, Forster says: “the diglossic quality of a written versus a spoken language.” The written version, Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), derives from classical Arabic, the language of the Koran. It’s the language of literature and journalism—but not conversation. “I’m not going to speak to my mom in this language,” says Forster, who comes from Cairo and would use Egyptian colloquial Arabic.

So if you want to speak Arabic, you have to choose. There are four primary dialects: the Arabic spoken in Egypt and Sudan, in the Persian Gulf (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait), in the Levant (Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian territories), and in North Africa (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria). The first three are mutually intelligible for the most part, but the North African dialect, Maghrebi, “can be pretty opaque to the rest.” There are also regional variations within each: “I can’t tell you how many linguistic studies have been done on various dialects just in Palestine,” Forster says.

Arabic has been taught continuously at the University since 1893. In the beginning, it was probably taught as a dead language, Forster says, with an emphasis on grammar and translation, and no concerns about dialects. But the proficiency approach “is really what’s in vogue now.”

“It’s been very gradual, the movement from treating it as a dead language to treating it as we would Spanish, like a language you’re supposed to become proficient in, walk out in the street and speak in.” The proficiency approach, “which is entrenched in all of the other commonly taught languages,” she says, “is forcing its way onto the less commonly taught languages.”

It’s now week three of intensive French. The students can tell stories and talk about what happened yesterday—that is, in linguistic terms, they have learned the passé composé, the past tense.

They have also lost the hard *r*’s that mark (or you could say mar) the pronunciation of the vast majority of American tourists in France. Legrand reads a list of verbs on the board—*dormir, lire, manger,* and trickiest of all, *regarder*—as the class repeats. No one sounds American; a few sound uncannily French.

Nonetheless denial, or perhaps exhaustion, has set in. Students seem aggrieved by the inconsistencies of French, outraged by its differences from English: “Now we decide to drop the article?” one man complains.

At another point in the class, the same student asks if *brun* (brown) can be used to describe eyes. Legrand explains this word is for hair only. Eyes are *marron* or *noisette,* hazelnut.
“Pourquoi?” another man asks. Why?
“I don’t know. Parce que,” Legrand says, smiling: because. “When children ask too many questions, you say, ‘Parce que.’”

Her cheerful deflection is like a child’s version of the new pedagogy: Do or do not. There is no why.

Chicago offers a superabundance of less commonly taught languages (LCTLs for short, pronounced LICK-tulls), primarily to graduate students: Akkadian, Bangla (Bengali), Demotic, Ge’ez, Haitian Creole, Hieratic, Hittite, Luwian, Marathi, Swahili, Syriac, Tamil, Ugaritic, Uzbek, Yucatec Maya, and three dozen more. But not Icelandic. Until a few years ago, students who wanted to study Icelandic had to take it elsewhere during the summer—or they were just out of luck.

In 2014 the University joined CourseShare, run by the Big Ten Academic Alliance. Now a student at UChicago can enroll in an Icelandic course at the University of Minnesota, sit in a classroom in Cobb, and attend the class by videoconference.

This academic year UChicago is sharing its Polish, Tibetan, and Catalan courses with other institutions. Catalan, taught by lecturer Alba Girons Masot, has eight students: four in Chicago, four in Minnesota. Girons Masot comes from Sabadell, Spain, a small city near Barcelona, and has never been to Minnesota. She keeps regular office hours for her Chicago students and online office hours for the Minnesota ones.

The class meets in the UChicago Language Center on the second floor of Cobb. The swanky center, which celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, includes a number of tiny glass-walled teaching spaces, called pods, which seat just a few people. Pods are used for LCTLs, many of which have tiny enrollments. There are also two classrooms with videoconferencing equipment. The larger of the two, where Catalan is taught, seats 10.

In 2016 the language center received a $2 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to go beyond ad hoc course sharing. The program, which runs for five years, pairs LCTL instructors from different institutions to develop shared course sequences. The idea is to “let them work together instead of in isolation,” says Baumann, to get better curricula—and therefore better language speakers.

The grant also supports professional development conferences aimed at LCTL teachers. The two-day Mellon Winter Workshop, held in February, attracted 60 participants to sessions such as “Grammar by Night, Meaningful Interaction by Day” and “(Cost-) Effective Vocabulary Instruction.”

“Bonjour!” Girons Masot calls cheerily to the Minnesota students when they appear on screen. The class, an accelerated course for beginners, is in its second quarter and taught almost entirely in Catalan. At one point there’s a technical glitch; Minnesota cuts out. When Nicholas Swinehart, the language center’s multimedia pedagogy specialist, comes in to investigate, Girons Masot accidentally thanks him in Catalan, a language he doesn’t speak. She laughs. He seems to understand anyway.

If you know any Romance language, Catalan sounds like a distant radio station: you can follow it, but it keeps fading in and out. Catalan, spoken in parts of Spain, France, and Italy, is not a dialect of Spanish, contrary to the common misconception; it’s a language, and closer to Italian or French. It was also banned in Spain from 1939 until after Spanish dictator Francisco Franco died in 1975. “For years, saying ‘Bonjour’ was a political statement,” Girons Masot says. Children were punished for speaking Catalan at school; adults spoke it privately but not in public. Now it’s the language of instruction in public schools in the Catalonia region of Spain, where Catalan-Spanish bilingualism is the norm.
Today’s class focuses on food and shopping. Girons Masot passes out words written on slips of paper to the Chicago students, by email to the Minnesota ones. The students break into pairs: one tries to describe the food, the other to guess it. “Una fruta seca?” one student says doubtfully: a dry fruit? The word turns out to be *ametlles*, almonds.

Immersive games like this don’t just make language learning more fun and less like drudgery; they are intended to make the most of classroom time. As Swinehart explained during the vocabulary session at the Mellon Winter Workshop, the goal is for students to learn words outside of class and then practice them together during class. Swinehart and Baumann demonstrated several ways—high tech and low tech—to accomplish this, from online classroom games like *Kahoot!* that students use their phones to play, to childhood favorites like hangman and charades. (Baumann enjoys asking her beginning German students to mime the verb *sein*, to be. “They can handle it,” she says.)

Like Baumann, Swinehart has a complicated language learning history. “I learned French at one point, and Italian, and Arabic, but I can’t use any of those,” he says. “I can use Chinese, the one language I didn’t actually take any classes in.” He picked it up while teaching English as a second language in China. “Not to say that classroom learning is necessarily inferior,” he adds quickly, “but the more you use a language for meaningful communication, the more you become functional and proficient.”

In contrast Girons Masot, who speaks French, Italian, and English as well as her native Catalan and Spanish, is an addict for classroom learning. Every other summer, she’s studied German, Swedish, and Icelandic. As a language instructor, she says, it’s useful to remind herself what it’s like to be confused in a classroom: “That’s what my students are experiencing.”

It’s August 9, the last day of intensive French. The students are reviewing for the final in pairs, changing partners every few minutes, as they have done innumerable times by now.

Lecturer *Isabelle Faton*, PhD’16, who’s been teaching the last four weeks of the course, circulates as the students practice. She listens in, correcting pronunciation and supplying vocabulary when necessary.

“How do you say ‘wow’ in French?” one man wants to know. “Wow,” Faton says, “but it’s spelled a little differently.” She walks to the board and writes *ouah*.

The students talk much more slowly than the rapid-fire native speakers they’ve been imitating all quarter. Nonetheless they form full French sentences, only rarely lapsing into English. “At the end of 101, I’m still amazed after 20 years,” says textbook coauthor Grangier. “They can pronounce. Of course, they don’t all have the *r* or the *on* or the *u*. But French people are going to understand them.”

If you close your eyes, it doesn’t sound like a language class at all. It’s more natural, more conversational: voices rising and falling, tumbling over each other, punctuated now and again with easy laughter. In fact it sounds a little like a party.

In eight short weeks, the students have learned to speak French. *Ouah.*

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**WHAT’S A LCTL?**

LCTL (less commonly taught language) is “a relative term,” says Catherine Baumann of the University of Chicago Language Center. “At UChicago we call LCTLS any language with less than about 100 annually enrolled students.” So at some universities, Arabic is a LCTL, but here it isn’t.

**COMMONLY TAUGHT LANGUAGES AT UCHICAGO, 2016–17**

American Sign Language • Arabic • Chinese • French • German • Hebrew • Italian • Japanese • Korean • Portuguese • Russian • Spanish • Turkish

**LCTLS TAUGHT AT UCHICAGO, 2016–17**

Akkadian • Aramaic • Armenian • Assyrian • Babylonian • Bangla (Bengali) • Basque • Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian • Catalan • Czech • Demotic • Egyptian (Old) • Egyptian (Middle) • Egyptian (Late) • Ge’ez • Greek (Ancient) • Greek (Biblical, Koine) • Greek (Modern) • Haitian Kreyol • Hieratic • Hindi • Hittite • Kazakh • Latin • Luvian • Marathi • Norwegian • Persian • Polish • Sanskrit • Sumerian • Swahili • Syriac • Tamil • Tibetan • Ugaritic • Urdu • Uzbek • Yucatec Maya
Mitsuye Yamada, AM’53, transformed her family’s internment experience into poetry.

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB’09

ILLUSTRATIONS BY YUKO SHIMIZU
For years, Mitsuye Yamada, AM’53, never spoke of the 18 months she spent interned in the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho during the Second World War. Yamada was 19 when she, her mother, and her three siblings were forced to leave their Seattle home with no certainty about when they might return.

They were among the roughly 120,000 West Coast Japanese Americans ordered by the US government to remote facilities in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. Yamada’s father, Jack Yasutake, who had worked as a translator for the US Immigration and Naturalization Service for more than 20 years, was sent to a prisoner of war camp in New Mexico under suspicion of spying for the Japanese. The Federal Bureau of Investigation never found any evidence to support the charge, and in 1944 Yasutake was transferred from the POW camp to an internment camp in Crystal City, Texas.

“It was just something that we never talked about,” reflects Yamada, now 93 and living in Irvine, California. Only in 1962, after her 11-year-old daughter saw a news report about Japanese internment camps, did Yamada reveal to her children that she had been held in one.

Fourteen years later, Yamada broke her silence on a wider scale in Camp Notes and Other Poems (Shameless Hussy Press, 1976), a book inspired in part by her internment. The collection, hailed as “vivid, pain-filled, weighted with irony” by the Los Angeles Times, launched Yamada’s career as an award-winning writer of poetry and essays.

In comments condensed and edited below, Yamada looks back on her childhood, her career as a writer, and the lasting legacy of internment.

My father was a poet. He wrote a form of 17-syllable Japanese poem called the senryu, which is somewhat like the haiku. But haiku are much more ethereal and much more abstract. Senryu talk about everyday problems.

Many of his fellow poets were immigrant men. They would gather in our dining room to write about their daily problems with their wives and their jobs and so forth. Which they had many of.

I remember sitting with them in the dining room as a young girl. My mother was making refreshments—sushi and tea and so forth—and I was serving the poets.

My Japanese wasn’t fully developed during those days, so I didn’t understand everything they were saying, but I was totally enthralled by the process of writing poems.
At the Minidoka Relocation Center, Yamada worked as a nurse’s aide in the emergency clinic alongside Japanese American doctors who had been forced to close their practices. Keeping busy, she wrote later, was “the trick” to enduring internment: “keep the body busy / be a teacher / be a nurse / be a typist / ... / But the mind was not fooled.”

It was one crisis after another in the emergency ward. The doctors, who worked for 16 dollars a month, were wonderful self-sacrificing people. And the head nurse I worked under was a wonderful person. I just admired their work and what they were doing.

In Camp Notes Yamada relates one of the central dilemmas of internment: the “loyalty questionnaire,” which asked interned adults about their hobbies, religion, and languages they spoke—questions designed to determine how Americanized they were. The questionnaire also required them to forswear all allegiance to Japan. Some refused on the grounds that they were American citizens who had never been loyal to Japan. Others, barred by law from becoming American citizens, worried they would be left in stateless limbo if they renounced their Japanese citizenship.

The outbreak of the Second World War brought sudden changes to Yamada’s family.

My father was arrested by the FBI on December 7, 1941. We didn’t know where he was for a while. He ultimately ended up in a prisoner of war camp in Lordsburg, New Mexico. This was a real prisoner of war camp, unlike the so-called relocation camps that we were ultimately evacuated to. My mother and brothers and I were so worried about what was happening to my dad. We were not quite sure if he was going to be forced to return to Japan.

Our situation of going into relocation camp seemed like nothing in comparison to what my dad was being accused of—espionage against a country he had spent 20 years working for. It just seemed so unfair at that time. Whatever was happening to us seemed very minor.

IT WAS A MAGICAL MOMENT FOR ME TO SIT THERE AND LISTEN TO THE MUSIC OF THE POETRY THAT THEY WERE RECITING ALOUD.

The Question of Loyalty

I met the deadline for alien registration once before was numbered fingerprinted and ordered not to travel without permit.

But alien still they said I must foreswear allegiance to the emperor. For me that was easy I didn’t even know him But my mother who did cried out If I sign this What will I be? I am doubly loyal to my American children also to my own people. How can double mean nothing? I wish no one to lose this war. Everyone does.

I was poor at math. I signed my only ticket out.
I had been writing all along, sticking bits of paper into a shoebox, like a lot of closet women poets did.

Yamada’s brother Tosh left Camp Minidoka to serve in the US Army. Yamada was permitted to leave in 1943 and enrolled at the University of Cincinnati a year later. She went on to study English literature at New York University and at UChicago.

I had heard from somewhere that a master’s degree from the University of Chicago was the equivalent to a PhD, and I thought, well, that’s for me.

In Chicago, Yamada met her husband, Yoshikazu Yamada, then a PhD student in chemistry at Purdue University. The couple had four children; Yamada didn’t tell any of them about her internment experience until her oldest daughter was 11.

My daughter said, “Why didn’t you tell us?” She couldn’t believe that I hadn’t ever talked about it. And I remember saying, “Well, nobody asked me.” The subject never came up before.

You just bury it inside yourself. It’s an experience that one had to be ashamed of. If it happened to you, it must have been something that you did. I don’t know what the psychology of that is. It was true that I really did bury it very deeply.

Even as a mother of four, Yamada found time to write and edit poetry, though she considered herself a hobbyist, “like a Sunday painter.” One of her projects involved revisiting her journals from Camp Minidoka.

I had been writing all along, sticking bits of paper into a shoebox, like a lot of closet women poets did. I never thought of my camp poems as really being poems. That was why I called them “camp notes,” because they were notes that I kept about my experiences in camp.

When I started to edit, I took out many of the excessive words. I just thought, these words are not central to the poem itself. I remember taking a pen and just crossing out words on the page. I wasn’t really thinking of it as a poem, but as the idea that I was trying to express. I think that explains the starkness of the images in Camp Notes.

To the Lady

The one in San Francisco who asked
Why did the Japanese Americans let
the government put them in
those camps without protest?

Come to think of it I

should’ve run off to Canada
should’ve hijacked a plane to Algeria
should’ve pulled myself up from my
bra straps
and kicked’m in the groin
should’ve bombed a bank
should’ve tried self-immolation
should’ve holed myself up in a
woodframe house
and let you watch me
burn up on the six o’clock news
should’ve run howling down the street
naked and assaulted you at breakfast
by AP wirephoto
should’ve screamed bloody murder
like Kitty Genovese

Then

YOU would’ve

come to my aid in shining armor
laid yourself across the railroad track
marched on Washington
tattooed a Star of David on your arm
written six million enraged
letters to Congress

But we didn’t draw the line
anywhere
law and order Executive Order 9066
social order moral order internal order

YOU let’em
I let’em
All are punished.
In 1976 Yamada met the radical feminist poet Alta Gerrey, founder of Shameless Hussy Press. She convinced Yamada to publish Camp Notes.

Alta invited me to San Francisco to do a reading. We went to various coffeehouses and places like that. The burgeoning feminist movement in the 1970s, that was quite a revelation to me. And an exciting experience. I had four kids at home and had never really been outside of my little comfort zone. Publishing my book really opened up a whole world that I didn’t know existed.

I met so many wonderful people, including many gay and lesbian poets. The growing consciousness of all of us together at the same time was quite strengthening.

I met Nellie Wong and Merle Woo at a Women Poets of San Francisco meeting, and we became very good friends. We connected immediately.

And then Nellie and I were featured in a film together, Mitsuye and Nellie: Asian American Poets (1981). It’s a one-hour documentary about Chinese American and Japanese American cultures. That film did very well, I think. [Mitsuye and Nellie was broadcast nationally on PBS and featured in several film festivals.]

Yamada continued to write, producing the collection Desert Run: Poems and Stories (Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, 1988). She also became active in the human rights group Amnesty International and served on its board.

In recent years Yamada has shifted from poetry toward memoir and family history. This year she completed a biography of her father, who died in 1953, only weeks after finally becoming an American citizen.

I remember asking my dad if he felt bitter about his experiences, about the government suspecting him. He said, “No, not at all, because you have to remember the context in that time. You have to remember that during the first few months of World War II after Pearl Harbor, the American country was actually losing, because we were totally unprepared.” He said it seemed kind of natural to suspect a person like him or the Japanese people in general.

My dad did quite well because of his bilingualism. But I often think about how the people who lost the most from the evacuation experience were the first-generation people like my father’s generation.

Most of the Issei [first-generation Japanese immigrants] his age—just imagine, you come to this country when you’re in your 20s and spend 25 years working hard and establishing yourself, buying a house, raising your children, and being quite proud of what you have achieved.

And suddenly, there’s a war, and you lose everything. And you go to camp, and you’re in camp for three or four years, and then the government closes the camp and says OK, now you can go back to where you came from. Well, at that point, most of the Issei had nothing to go back to. There was nothing.

I do think we’re at risk of forgetting some of those lessons. You forget the struggles of the past. Maybe it’s a survival instinct of a sort to forget those kinds of things and to go on with our lives, to look ahead, to keep going.


THE BURGEONING FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN THE 1970S, THAT WAS QUITE A REVELATION TO ME. AND AN EXCITING EXPERIENCE. I HAD FOUR KIDS AT HOME AND HAD NEVER REALLY BEEN OUTSIDE OF MY LITTLE COMFORT ZONE.
INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

How Ken Ono, AB’89, found life in and outside of math.

BY HELEN GREGG, AB’09
He had ideas that would transform mathematics, and no one to read them. So in 1911, Srinivasa Ramanujan, a two-time college dropout working as a low-level clerk in southern India, began submitting his work to local mathematics journals and, when they went largely unnoticed, writing letters to mathematicians overseas. He enclosed pages of his groundbreaking theorems and the patterns he was finding in numbers; no proofs, just bursts of mathematical insight.

In 1913 he finally got a response, from Cambridge mathematician G. H. Hardy. The renowned English number theorist saw the brilliance of Ramanujan’s work and became his mentor and champion, bringing Ramanujan to Cambridge, and his work to a wider audience.

“I did not invent him—like other great men, he invented himself,” Hardy later said of Ramanujan, “but I was the first really competent person who had the chance to see some of his work, and … recognise[d] at once what a treasure I had found.”

Today mathematician Ken Ono, AB’89, the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Mathematics at Emory University and a renowned number theorist himself, is on a hunt for those with similar undiscovered potential. His Spirit of Ramanujan Math Talent Initiative is a global search that seeks out gifted young mathematicians from modest backgrounds and pairs them with mentors and academic opportunities.

In Ramanujan, “we have a man who could have easily been lost to mathematics, and a man who has genuinely transformed the way we do mathematics,” says Ono. With the talent search, “we want to be the Hardy.”

Ono has long felt a connection and kinship with Ramanujan. As a specialist in algebraic number theory, Ono, like Ramanujan, seeks new patterns and truths in integers. He drew on the Indian mathematician’s work in his doctoral thesis and found his footing as a mathematician in part by confirming some of Ramanujan’s ideas on partition functions.

More recently, Ono, with two collaborators, found what he dubbed the “mother lode” of mathematical identities—equations that are true for any value of their variables—using two identities that were among those Ramanujan sent to Hardy in 1913. And his 2014 proof of the umbral moonshine conjecture, which has applications in fields from number theory to quantum physics, drew on work that Ramanujan furiously wrote as he was dying of tuberculosis in 1920.

Ono even helped bring Ramanujan’s story to life as the math consultant and an associate producer on the 2015 biopic The Man Who Knew Infinity. His on-set enthusiasm for Ramanujan was contagious, and the film companies partnered with Ono to launch the Spirit of Ramanujan Math Talent Initiative last year.

In Ono’s corner office at Emory, framed awards placard the walls. But one frame in the middle, directly over Ono’s desk, holds something different. It’s a letter that Ramanujan’s widow wrote to Ono’s father in 1984—evidence of the Indian prodigy’s deep influence not only on Ono’s work but on his very identity.

When Ono was growing up, his parents often told him how, at just three years old, he had discovered infinity—when he first reasoned that there couldn’t be a largest number since there was always the possibility of adding one. Math was a part of Ono’s life as far back as he can remember; some of his favorite early memories are of sitting at a child-sized desk in the family’s home office solving problem sets while his father, the mathematician Takashi Ono, worked on his next breakthrough alongside him.

Less fond are Ono’s memories of what happened at the kitchen table where, after a less-than-perfect test score or other perceived failure, he would face a barrage of harsh criticism from Takashi and his mother, Sachiko: he was sloppy, he was unaccomplished, he was bringing shame on his family.

Ono was recognized from an early age as a math prodigy. He was included in psychologist Julian Stanley’s well-known Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth, and his parents decided he would be a mathematician like his father. All of his time was to be spent studying. Extracur-
riculars, sports, television, and friends were forbidden. He doesn’t remember being hugged or hearing “I love you.” Ono’s two older brothers were raised the same way: Momaro, a gifted musician, and Santa Ono, AB’84. (Santa, not identified as a prodigy in childhood like his brothers, faced the same parental demands but without the expectations for success—ironic, says Ono, as he considers Santa, now president of the University of British Columbia, the most professionally successful of the three.)

Ono was in high school when the pressure started to become unbearable. As an outlet, and against his parents’ wishes, he joined a competitive cycling team, but it wasn’t enough. He realized he needed to get out of the house and began a months-long campaign to convince his parents to let him drop out of high school.

His ultimate success hinged on a letter that had arrived in the spring of 1984, in a rice-paper envelope from India. Janaki Ammal, Ramanujan’s elderly widow, had written to Ono’s father to thank him for contributing to a statue of her late husband. It was a short letter, but Ono had never seen his stoic father so visibly moved.

Standing in his home office, letter in hand, Takashi told Ono for the first time about Ramanujan, whose story had inspired Takashi as a struggling mathematician in postwar Japan. Takashi even had his own Hardy—André Weil, a University of Chicago mathematician who noticed Ta-

But at the end of his third year, a visiting math professor who was an acquaintance of Takashi told Ono that his work was subpar and he’d never be a professional mathematician. Stung and refusing to let his parents be proved right, Ono attacked mathematics with new vigor.

During Ono’s senior year, his work caught the attention of mathematics professor and “math pirate” Paul Sally Jr., who was known for mentoring students in Hyde Park and beyond. The two began meeting several times a week, to talk math or just to talk. They bonded over their untraditional paths—Sally had spent several years driving cabs and teaching high school in Boston before deciding he wanted to pursue math—and Sally helped Ono secure a spot in the mathematics PhD program at the University of California, Los Angeles.

At UCLA Ono still heard his parents’ voices telling him that he wasn’t good enough, that he would fail. He almost did fail his first attempt at a qualifying exam in his chosen field, abstract algebra, and was drifting until he took a class with Basil Gordon. Impressed when Ono offered an alternative proof in class, Gordon invited him to come talk during office hours and soon took Ono on as his final PhD student.

For his dissertation, Gordon suggested Ono pursue mod-

kashi’s talent at a math conference in Tokyo and secured him a position at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, in 1955.

And so, during one of their many fights about leaving school, Ono reminded his father that Ramanujan, his idol, had been a two-time college dropout. His parents relented, and Ono became a dropout himself. Soon he was on an Amtrak train to Montreal to live with Santa, then a doctoral student at McGill University. Santa provided a couch to sleep on, a part-time job at a campus laboratory, and much-needed empathy. Less than a year later, feeling like he could breathe again, Ono started applying to colleges.

At UChicago, Ono immediately embraced his freedom. He joined Psi Upsilon and spent more time deejaying parties, playing foosball, and eating Harold’s fried chicken than studying. He also started competitive cycling again, which is how he met his wife, Erika (Anderson) Ono, AB’90; as a student worker in Pierce dining hall, she began setting aside bananas each Saturday morning, fuel for the kid who came in early with his racing bike.

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For his dissertation, Gordon suggested Ono pursue mod-

ular forms, a class of functions rooted in Ramanujan’s identities. It was the first time Ono realized that Ramanujan’s
I was mesmerized by his ability to make mathematics beautiful by making analogies with classical art, literature, and music.

work had modern implications. In 1991, while Ono was at work on his doctoral thesis, biographer Robert Kanigel published The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan (Charles Scribner’s Sons). Ono quickly bought the book and read it from cover to cover.

Ono and Gordon held long, intense work sessions on Saturdays, taking breaks to walk up the beach or talk about literature. Gordon could quote long passages from memory; Ono vividly recalls him reciting the opening of Moby-Dick. “I was mesmerized by his ability to make mathematics beautiful by making analogies with classical art, literature, and music,” Ono wrote after Gordon died in 2012. Gordon viewed math as an art form, a way of understanding—and embracing—the world around him. From him Ono learned for the first time to truly, as he says, “do mathematics.”

As he was closing in on his doctorate, Ono drove to Erika’s hometown of Missoula, Montana, to present at a math conference. His talk covered Galois representations, a part of modern number theory related to modular forms. But Ono, wanting to impress his audience, made the mistake of preparing lectures that were too technical. The audience couldn’t follow, and one professor berated him afterward for wasting his time. His parents’ recriminations came rushing back. Ono felt he’d failed in abstract number theory, a subfield in which he thought he was making real progress, in front of mathematicians he deeply admired, and in a city where word might reach his new wife’s family. On the last day of the conference, Ono was driving on a rainy Montana highway, devastated and alone except for the critical voices filling his head. An oncoming truck came into view, and, seeing a way out, he yanked the wheel and steered his car over the center line.

Ono doesn’t remember how he found the other side of the road and brought his car to a stop, only that he sat shaking, terrified. “I couldn’t believe what I had almost done,” he later wrote. “I had never had suicidal thoughts before. … It was an impulsive act that I will never fully understand.”

For almost 20 years, he didn’t tell anyone what happened on that highway, but the following week he had to tell Gordon how the conference had gone. The response buoyed him. Gordon told Ono he hadn’t failed and hadn’t disappointed him. Math, he reminded Ono, is about taking risks, voyaging into the unknown, and occasionally overreaching. Delving too deeply into his topic was a symptom of transforming into a mathematician. It was exactly what Ono needed to hear.

In 1997, at a math conference honoring Gordon’s 65th birthday, Ono’s banquet speech started simply, and without hyperbole: “I thank Basil Gordon for saving my life.”

Ono successfully defended his thesis on Galois representations in 1993. He secured positions at the University of Georgia and then the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and cowrote what he calls a “semi-important paper in representation theory.” Despite these successes, voices of disapproval still rang in his head. He identifies it now as impostor syndrome—the persistent belief that one’s success has been unearned, that it’s only a matter of time until one is exposed as a fraud. “When I first started, I was grateful that anyone would come hear a lecture that I would give,” he says. At some point, he feared, other mathematicians were going to validate his parents’ criticism.

Those voices finally started to subside when Ono received an appointment at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, an echo of his father’s achievement four decades ago. It was the first time Ono had been recognized solely for his own ideas. “These guys had actually heard of me and knew some of my theorems,” he says. “That was the first time I actually recognized that nothing else matters if you work hard and you have faith and have some luck.”

Later, a breakthrough in partition functions while he was an assistant professor at Penn State led to international acclaim and fellowships from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation (see sidebar, “Partition Revelation,” page 45). In 1999 Ono received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from president Bill Clinton. His parents attended the White House ceremony, and afterward Takashi presented Ono with the fateful letter from Ramanujan’s widow. Now,
he said, he considered Ono the letter’s rightful owner. He added, “I am so proud of you.”

Ono’s relationship with his parents has slowly continued to improve. His professional successes, including appointments at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and then at Emory, ended their criticism, making room for new ways of connecting. His parents now send cards for birthdays and holidays, events that weren’t celebrated when Ono was growing up. Ono, for his part, has come to understand better why they applied the pressure they did on their children. In his memoir he reflects on the traditional Japanese ideas about child-rearing that his parents brought with them to the States, and how the racism the family encountered in postwar America focused their attention even more intensely on hard work and achievement.

In 2014 Takashi and Sachiko traveled to Atlanta for the high school graduation of Ono’s daughter, Aspen. She and her younger brother, Sage, are now both undergraduates at Emory. They’re talented students but Ono talks up Aspen’s figure skating and Sage’s swimming (he was recently named UAA Men’s Rookie Swimmer of the Year and an NCAA National Champion, Ono says proudly). Ono has raised them to follow their passions and to love themselves as much as he loves them—including their imperfections. Aspen has close to a perfect 4.0 GPA, says Ono, “so I tell her, go get a B and learn that it’s okay.”

In 2016 Ono published a memoir, My Search for Ramanujan: How I Learned to Count (Springer), detailing his winding life path and how it kept leading to the Indian mathematician. (The book is dedicated to his mentors.) It “was good for him,” says his wife, Erika, “to unpack his mental closet.” But Ono also wrote it to help those who might be struggling like he was.

Ono likes to tell his undergraduate classes at Emory that he barely got any As in math during his first three years of college—drawing laughs when he adds, “But believe me, I am totally able to teach this class.”

“They need to hear that,” says Ono, especially from someone as successful as him. He frequently encounters students he can tell are under heavy parental pressure to get top grades and then go into the profession their families favor. “Every class I teach, I will end up having to talk to four or five kids who are not sure about what they are meant to do or be,” he says. “And it’s shocking how often it’s related to, ‘Well, my parents think I should do this.’”

Life beyond college is even a part of Ono’s course syllabi. For years the last question on every final exam he gives has been, “What are you going to do to make the world a better place?” He’s so well known for it that many students write and print out their answers ahead of time and bring them in to staple to the test.

For several years Ono has given an address to freshman parents during Emory’s Family Weekend that includes a bit of his life story. Last fall that talk drew explicitly on his memoir. (Santa has also made use of his life story to help his students; he publicly revealed in 2016 that he battled depression as a young man and has continued to talk about his own experiences while president of UBC as a way to destigmatize mental illness on his campus and encourage students to seek help when needed.)

Ono currently has seven graduate students, who share a workspace down the hall from his office. He’s in there frequently, to check in but also to ask one about her marathon training, or to earnestly tell another that she should really consider Hawaii for her honeymoon.

But in front of a chalkboard working through a problem with one of them, he’s quiet and focused, shaping formulas with rapid-fire questions and rapid-fire encouragement. Ono’s devotion to his students’ work and ideas is effective—and remembered. “When you are working on something day in and day out, it is easy to lose sight of the big picture and the excitement, and he can give that to you,” his former student Robert Lemke Oliver told Emory magazine. “I would not be the mathematician I am today if I’d had almost any other adviser.”

What Ono loves is “watching someone achieve something they don’t think they are ever going to be able to do.” When that happens he delights in saying he told them so. “Nobody likes hearing that, except in this case.” He finds working with students both a joy and a duty, and feels he owes it to his own mentors—and to Ramanujan—to be the best Hardy he can be for the next generation.
n 2014 Ono got a surprise email from Matthew Brown, the writer and director of *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, based on the 1991 Kanigel biography of Ramanujan. Brown’s team needed help ensuring the accuracy of documents that were going to be reproduced for the biopic. Impressed by Ono’s deep knowledge of Ramanujan’s work and life, Brown invited Ono to be the movie’s math consultant.

On set in England, Ono went to work checking and perfecting all the math that appears on screen. He was present during rehearsals and filming to explain math concepts as needed and to help the lead actors, Dev Patel and Jeremy Irons, develop gestures and use inflections that fit both the characters and the math discussed in the movie.

Ono was even able to help when the movie’s prop coordinators, looking for a sample of Janaki Ammal’s handwriting, asked him if he knew of anything, anywhere, that might have Ramanujan’s wife signature on it.

When he saw that Ramanujan’s story was really striking a chord with Brown and others working on the movie, Ono was thrilled. He and the producers began brainstorming ways to help *The Man Who Knew Infinity* have a lasting impact. “We thought, this film isn’t going to be *Batman v. Superman*, but for us it’s important,” says Ono. “And so we decided that we should have the film mean something.”

Last spring Ono, Pressman Film, and IFC Films launched the Spirit of Ramanujan Math Talent Initiative. The project builds on math outreach work that Ono has done for years, and the goal, he says, is to find and support “the brilliant outliers”—young people like Ramanujan who have the potential to make significant contributions to math but have few resources or mentors.

The Spirit of Ramanujan’s mobile-friendly online math and logic quiz directs high scorers to an application. The American Mathematical Society, the Templeton Foundation, and other organizations are also helping promote the initiative, and during its inaugural round, more than 8,000 applications flooded in. The four winners received financial support and connections with professional mathematicians in their fields. Tenth-grader Kendall Clark of Baltimore will study applied mathematics with Johns Hopkins professors this summer, and 13-year-old Ishwar Karthik works every week with a number theorist at Texas A&M’s Qatar campus.

Ono discovered the most recent winner in December during a trip to Kenya. After Ono finished a lecture on his recent work at the University of Nairobi, a young man stood up in front of 500 audience members to offer a correction based on a Hans Rademacher proof from the 1930s. Ono later met with the questioner, Martin Irungu, and dis-
covered he wasn’t an advanced graduate student, like Ono had thought, but a recent high school graduate. Unable to afford the University of Nairobi’s tuition, Irungu had been spending his free time on campus, poring over math books from the library. “He was reading material that a second- or third-year PhD student at a top school would be reading,” says Ono.

In less than 48 hours, Ono managed to secure Irungu a visa to travel to Emory. He spent a week on campus working with Ono’s graduate students and will return for the summer. Irungu also met with other mathematicians from around the country who were in town for a conference. “I ended up introducing him to professors at Harvard and MIT and Berkeley,” says Ono, “and now they’re competing for him.”

Ono is confident the Spirit of Ramanujan Math Talent Initiative will continue to identify similarly gifted students. “They’re out there,” he says, and he’s going to do everything he can to find them.

PARTITION REVELATION

Ono’s 1999 breakthrough dealt with partition numbers, or how many different ways an integer can be represented as the sum of positive integers.

For example, the partition number of 4, commonly denoted as \( p(4) \), is 5, since there are five ways of writing 4 as the sum of positive integers:

- \( 4 \)
- \( 3 + 1 \)
- \( 2 + 2 \)
- \( 2 + 1 + 1 \)
- \( 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 \)

Ramanujan discovered patterns in these partition numbers. For instance, he found that for any value of \( n \), the partition number \( p(5n+4) \) is always divisible by 5. So when \( n=5 \), the value of \( p(30+4) \), or \( p(29) \), is 4,565, which is divisible by 5. The same holds true for any value of \( n \).

Ramanujan also found that the value of \( p(7n+5) \) is always divisible by 7, and \( p(11n+6) \) is always divisible by 11, no matter what number is plugged in for \( n \). No other such expressions using another prime number as \( n \)’s coefficient appear in the work he left behind. In an unpublished notebook, Ramanujan wrote that he wasn’t aware of any other expressions with “equally simple properties” for partition functions.

Ono discovered that Ramanujan’s enigmatic claim was correct—“simple” expressions like the ones Ramanujan found don’t exist, but more complicated ones do. Drawing on other recent advances in partition numbers and aided by a number-crunching computer program, Ono proved that, for all the prime numbers from 5 to infinity, there exist expressions of the form \( p(an+b) \) where the resulting partition numbers are divisible by the prime number represented by \( a \).

Ono notes these are often “monstrosities,” like \( p(48037937n+1122838) \), which is always divisible by 17. Only for the primes 5, 7, and 11 do the values of \( a \) equal the prime divisor. This is likely what Ramanujan meant by an expression with “simple properties,” says Ono.

Ono has since made other significant advances in partition numbers, including devising the first exact formula for calculating the partition number for any value of \( n \). In 2011 he presented this formula and related patterns to a standing-room-only crowd at a special three-day conference at Emory. —H.G.
Lewis Hine, EX 1904, captured the changing face of American labor.
In 1908 photographer Lewis Wickes Hine, EX 1904, visited a cotton mill in Whitnel, North Carolina, where he met a little girl employed as a spinner. When Hine asked how old she was, the girl demurred. “I don’t remember,” she told him. After a moment, she added, “I’m not old enough to work, but I do just the same.” In his record of the encounter, Hine noted the girl’s daily wage: 48 cents (about 13 dollars today).

Industrialization brought children who previously might have worked on family farms or in domestic service into factories and urban sweatshops. Children’s wages helped their families survive and might have accounted for as much as 20 percent of their household’s total income. In 1900 children ages 10 to 14 made up 6 percent of the American workforce. Many were recent immigrants.

From 1908 to 1911 Hine traveled around the country, documenting the lives of young workers for the recently formed National Child Labor Committee (NCLC). When the images were published in NCLC pamphlets and in popular magazines, they shocked many Americans and spurred efforts to reform and strengthen labor laws.

“If I could tell the story in words,” Hine said of his work, “I wouldn’t have to lug a camera.”

Hine’s own working life began at 18, after the death of his father. Alongside the various jobs he held to support his mother (factory laborer, janitor, bank clerk), Hine took extension courses in art and stenography at the University of Wisconsin. He earned a teaching certificate at the Oshkosh Normal School and went on to study at the University of Chicago under educational reformer John Dewey. In 1901 Hine moved to New York to teach at the Ethical Culture School, which offered free high-quality education to poor children.

Millions of Europeans were pouring into the United States in 1903, when Hine bought his first camera. For one of his early photographic projects, Hine hauled his bulky equipment to Ellis Island in hopes of chronicling the experiences of these newcomers.

He continued to trace the immigrant experience through the early 1900s. In 1907 the NCLC commissioned Hine to photograph home labor in New York City’s teeming tenements, where immigrant children, along with their parents, made clothing and assembled artificial flowers.

By 1908 Hine had left his teaching position and was working primarily for the NCLC. With his wife, Sarah Ann Rich, he crisscrossed the country, sweet talking factory owners into allowing him to take pictures. If he was refused entry, Hine would wait for a shift change and photograph the young workers on their way home.

Hine’s notes were brief but evocative: “7 a.m. Boy (‘Bill’) carrying milk. In summertime he works in the glass factory and keeps two cows too.” “Sonny and Pete newsboys. One is six years old. They began at 6:00 a.m.” “Gastonia, n.c. Boy from Loray Mill. ‘Been at it right smart two years.’”

The publication of his images helped bring about gradual changes, including the creation of the first federal bureau focused solely on improving the lives of children and families. In the early 1900s, the Supreme Court narrowly overturned several efforts to ban child labor at the federal level, but public opinion had shifted decisively against the practice—thanks in no small part to Hine. The chair of the NCLC said Hine’s work was “more responsible than all other efforts” in rousing the public. In 1938 the Fair Labor Standards Act ended dangerous child labor and offered new protections for minors.

After parting ways with the NCLC over a salary dispute, Hine maintained his interest in labor issues but found a new tone. His images of the construction of the Empire State Building celebrated the daredevil feats of the workers who raised 57,000 tons of steel to frame the building. The images “have given a new zest ... and perhaps, a different note in my interpretation of Industry,” Hine wrote.

In the 1930s Hine took on small freelance projects but worried his images had fallen out of fashion. His reputation for difficulty, too, scared off potential employers. One former boss praised his talent but noted he was a “true artist type” who “requires some ‘waiting upon.’”

Hine applied multiple times for a Farm Security Administration project documenting the impact of the Great Depression, but the head of the project felt he was too uncompromising. When Hine died in 1940, he was destitute and his home was in foreclosure. The photographer who had made a career of capturing the devastation and majesty of American labor couldn’t find work.
Hine’s work documented the breadth of child labor, from home work in urban tenements (bottom right) to industrial work (top right). Boys working in West Virginia coal mines (left) might have spent 10 hours a day underground and earned a daily wage of about 60 cents.
Hine knew the images he was capturing might seem unbelievable to some, so he kept careful records of his visits. The authorities, he wrote, “try to get around” the images “by crying ‘fake,’ but therein lies the value of data and a witness.” (Top left: child workers outside a New Jersey glass factory; bottom left: cousins Inez and Lily Johnson, employed at a Mississippi cotton mill; right: a young basket seller in Cincinnati.)
“Cities do not build themselves, machines cannot make machines, unless back of them all are the brains and toil of men. ... The more machines we use the more do we need real men to make and direct them,” Hine wrote in *Men at Work* (1932), the only collection of his photography published in his lifetime. Hine’s later images celebrated the courage, skill, and imagination of workers, including those who constructed the Empire State Building (left) and a mechanic at work on a steam pump (below).
he was everywhere, all the time. That's how Lisa Commager remembers her father, the American historian Henry Steele Commager, PhB’23, AM’24, PhD’28. All vehemence and irrepressible energy. A poet friend of the family who came to the house for dinner once maybe said it best, she recalls. Amid the evening’s clamor, he proclaimed, “Commager! You’re nine men. Not the nine muses, not the nine justices on the Supreme Court—you’re the nine men on a baseball team!” Every outfielder, the pitcher and the catcher and the basemen and the shortstop. “Yep,” says Lisa Commager. “That was him.”

For the wider public, it wasn't much different. Henry Steele Commager was one of the 20th century’s most visible and popular scholars. A household name for decades, a public intellectual with an encyclopedic memory and a bouncy dynamism. There he was on television and the radio, interpreting America’s past for reporters and offering up lessons for the current moment; and in Congress, testifying before the Senate about presidential powers and foreign entanglements; and in the pages of newspapers and magazines, where for decades he unleashed a steady torrent of op-eds and essays and book reviews about the issues of the day.

For 65 years Commager was a professor, first at New York University and Columbia University and then, for more than three decades, at Amherst College, where he taught well into his 80s. He had visiting professorships at Oxford and Cambridge; in Denmark and Sweden; and throughout Western Europe. When he wasn’t in the classroom, he was speaking to audiences in lecture halls across the country and abroad, for free to many groups that couldn’t afford to pay him. (Lisa Commager recalls her father flying to Charleston, South Carolina, in the mid-1970s, to deliver one of those free lectures, only to realize once he got there that he was in the wrong Charleston—the college he was speaking at was in West Virginia. So he hired an airplane to fly him there that night. “It never occurred to him,” she says, “that he didn’t have to get there on time.”)

Commager wrote and edited more than 40 books altogether. At 28 years old, he published the once-ubiquitous textbook *The Growth of the American Republic* (1930, a collaboration with historian Samuel Eliot Morison); and later, another popular volume, *A Pocket History of the United States* (1943, with historian Allan Nevins). More than a few of his books were aimed at young people. Generations of high school and college students grew up reading Commager.

At home, “he was like living with a hurricane,” Lisa says: bounding up and down the stairs at their house in Rye, New York (where they lived when Commager taught at Columbia), talking, shouting, laughing, banging from room to room and then back to work in his study, while Mozart or Schubert or Beethoven rang from the little record player in the living room. He was happiest when he was working, and he was almost always working. He typed—at lightning speed—using only his index fingers; he tapped his foot so hard that it shook the dining table. And he played ping-pong to win. “We had ping-pong tables wherever we went,” Lisa says.

I never met Commager. I knew him first (and for a while, exclusively) as the author of a children’s book, *Chestnut Squirrel* (1952), one of several rotating volumes in the bedtime story set list my father read to me and one of many works of fiction that Commager wrote for children. With a little-boy squirrel who gets in and out of scrapes for a protagonist, the book originated, Lisa recalls, as a series of stories her father invented on long family drives to keep her from getting carsick.

My father did know Commager, the laughing, banging, roaring one. “Uncle Felix,” he called him, using the nickname Commager’s first wife, my dad’s aunt Evan, had given him, from the Latin word for “happy.” Like his aunt, my
dad grew up in South Carolina, and he remembered taking the train all the way north to visit. He celebrated his sixth birthday at the Commagers’ house in Vermont and went swimming with his cousins (besides Lisa, there was a sister, Nell, and a brother, Steele) in a rock quarry down the road, with the lights of Montpelier shining in the distance. Years later, at 14, away from home on his own for the first time, he came up to Amherst for Christmas. A Danish professor was also visiting that week, and he and my father spent the holiday making Scandinavian snow lanterns.

By the time I was growing up in the 1980s, Commager had largely faded from the scene. Fewer people read him, or knew of him. He now seemed old fashioned.

But for more than 50 years, he had been an everyday presence for many Americans (biographer Neil Jumonville recounts how, even with a bandaged eye from detached-cornea surgery, Commager went on television the night of John F. Kennedy’s assassination to talk to viewers about their fallen president). His legacy rests as much on his public engagement as on his academic scholarship. He was a public intellectual at a time when both halves of the term bore equal weight, when part of that work was to make challenging subjects accessible to all. “Commager always insisted that no matter how technical your subject, you must write so a general reader can understand you,” recalls former Amherst student Richard B. Bernstein, now a lecturer in political science at the City College of New York. “And if the general reader doesn’t understand you, it’s your fault.”

The other part of the job was to fight. His academic peers sometimes groused at the amount of time he spent in front of the camera and on the lecture circuit, but fellow historian Alan Brinkley argued in a *New Republic* article that Commager wasn’t in it for glory of self-promotion; he wanted “to use his stature as a scholar to advance a set of beliefs to which he was deeply committed.” He felt it was his responsibility. A progressive liberal in the traditional 20th-century mold and a Jeffersonian defender of individual liberties, Commager was “a part of all the brawls,” says Bernstein. From the New Deal to the McCarthy hearings to Vietnam and Nixon, “he was right in the middle of it.” More than once, it proved a perilous place to be.

Commager was born in Pittsburgh in 1902. His parents divorced several years later, and when he was 9, his mother died. His two brothers went to live with aunts and uncles, but Henry, they said, was too energetic. Instead, he was sent to Chicago, to his grandfather Adam Dan, a Lutheran minister and church leader from Denmark, who wrote hymns and taught in Danish, and whose liberal reform beliefs ingrained in Commager an interest in politics and culture, an appreciation for democracy, and a lifelong sympathy for moral dissent.

The family was poor, and Commager was expected to work. In the fall of 1918, just before he turned 16, he took a job at the University of Chicago Library. Working 40 or 50 hours a week, he put himself through college and took upper-level classes with UChicago historians William Dodd and Andrew McLaughlin. They planted in him the idea that historians have a role in public affairs, a responsibility to act and speak out. Dodd wrote essays for the *Nation* and campaigned for Woodrow Wilson and later for Franklin Roosevelt’s early New Deal ideas. (Dodd’s ensuing ambassadorship to Hitler’s Germany was volatile, and in 1937, under State Department pressure to attend an annual Nazi Party rally in Nuremburg—at the time the US government was still trying to maintain diplomatic relations with Hitler’s regime—Dodd left the post.) McLaughlin, meanwhile, had supported America’s entry into World War I and in 1918 stumped his way through Britain, giving speeches endorsing the two countries’ alliance.

Alongside his activism, McLaughlin also believed that an important element of historians’ work lay in deciphering a nation’s character, its common essence, what he called “its most real self.” Commager, in his own books, would take up this aspiration again and again: to trace America’s Americanness and distill it into words. The volumes regarded now as his best work do this—1950’s *The American Mind*; 1977’s *The Empire of Reason*; even his 1956 biography of Theodore Parker, the 19th century Transcendentalist, abolitionist, and reformist Unitarian minister.

After college Commager went on to graduate school at UChicago, specializing in constitutional history. He wrote his dissertation on the Danish reform movement led by phy-
sician and prime minister Johann Friedrich Struensee, who in the late 1700s abolished torture and censorship, fought corruption and aristocratic privilege, and banned the slave trade in Denmark’s colonies.

An instructorship at New York University brought Commager east from Chicago in 1926. That’s where he met Evan. She was a shopgirl working the complaints desk at Lord & Taylor, a job for which her Southern sweetness was apparently well suited—after talking with her, customers routinely left without filing any grievance. She would go on to become a well-known author of children’s books and young adult novels. Evan and Commager lived in the same building in Greenwich Village, and he sent her wry, punny notes.

At one point during their courtship, he bought himself a piano, perhaps knowing it was too big to get up the stairs of their ramshackle building to his apartment. But Evan lived conveniently on the ground floor, and so it was installed in her tiny apartment. The piano was an excuse to see her often, but Commager truly did love to play, his daughter says. There’d been a piano in the basement of his grandfather’s house, and he taught himself to pick out tunes as a boy—with gloves on, he always said, because it was so cold. “He played by ear,” she says, “and he played horribly, you know. These big huge chords.” He tried to play whole symphonies at once.

The Commagers got married in 1928. That same year, he came to the New York Herald Tribune offices with a letter of introduction, offering to write book reviews. His first assignment: Our Revolutionary Forefathers, a translation of letters from 18th-century French politician (and Thomas Jefferson correspondent) François Barbé-Marbois. The Herald Tribune editors liked Commager’s review so much, they gave him 24 more books to review that year. In the Herald Tribune and elsewhere, he reviewed history books but sometimes literature too, including Gone with the Wind in 1936 and Carl Sandburg’s collected poems in 1950.

Over the next decades, he wrote regularly for a dozen or more magazines and newspapers, channeling his political advocacy into publications like the Atlantic, the Nation, Harper’s, the New Republic, the Saturday Review, and the New York Review of Books. From the late 1940s to the mid-1960s, the New York Times Magazine relied on him constantly for its lead essays. For him, all of this was pedagogy. “He really loved to teach,” says Bernstein, who was Commager’s student and research assistant as an Amherst undergraduate in the 1970s. “When he wrote for newspapers or magazines, for him it was just another form of teaching. Just a different audience in a different kind of classroom.”

Commager was known for his richly rhetorical and literary prose style, not surprising for someone who took the general reader as his audience. “History is a story,” he wrote in The Nature and Study of History (1965), a book for fellow educators. “If history forgets or neglects to tell a story, it will inevitably forfeit much of its appeal and much of its authority as well.” In the Iliad and the Odyssey, he continued, storytelling and history are so “inextricably commingled” that “we do not to this day know whether to classify them as literature or as history; they are of course both.”

This was a lesson he hammered home to his students. Bernstein had read The Growth of the American Republic and then, at 15, wrote a fan letter to Commager that blossomed into a correspondence. A few years later, Bernstein arrived at Amherst, where, he notes, the professor never tried to mold students in his image—there is no “Commager school” of history—but he did insist that they write well.

“Henry thought in paragraphs” and loved words, says his second wife, Mary Powlesland Commager, whom he
married in 1979, a decade after Evan’s death from cancer. The two met at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, where Commager had come to deliver a lecture and Mary, then a PhD student in Mexican history, was his appointed chauffeur. “He kept a complete set of the Oxford English Dictionary in the dining room,” she says, ready for when after-dinner discussion turned etymological.

His books were known less for their precise analysis than for their broad sweep and searching narratives, and for his sense of optimism about the American project. “People always felt more hopeful when they went to hear him,” Mary Commager says. “Like, ‘OK, things can get better, things are going to get better.’” And in all his works he sought to uncover the nation’s defining spirit. In the preface to The American Mind, whose subtitle reads, An Interpretation of American Thought and Character Since the 1860s, Commager wrote that he was concerned not with “abbreviated histories of American philosophy or religion, sociology or economics, politics or law,” but instead with the “ideas that illuminate the American mind and ways of using ideas that illustrate the American character.”

The reviews were mixed: in a New Republic assessment headlined “The American Soul and the Brave Historian,” Harvard historian Morton G. White called the book “a daring leap”; philosopher Ralph Barton Perry, noting (mostly approvingly) in the American Historical Review that it “leaves the safer ground of documented statements of fact and roams at large over the unfenced ranges of human experience,” praised the way the book forced readers “to see, or to try to see, life whole.” But others criticized its conceptualism and generalizations, the roaming at large beyond documented facts.

Later criticism of the book, and of Commager himself, noted what some historians believed to be a lack of urgency in his attention to the plight of African Americans. (A similar criticism arose from the fact that, although he supported the civil rights movement, he wrote and spoke about it only peripherally.) Reconsidering The American Mind decades later, in 1984, historian Robert Dawidoff wrote, “He does not take very seriously the possibility that American life was corrupt, liberty a privilege of class or race. American vulgarity, materialism, racism strike him not as conditions but as mistakes and faults, likely to be corrected by a fundamentally sound political system.” The ideas behind the nation’s founding, Commager believed, were sound, and so surely those ideas would win out.

The Empire of Reason: How Europe Imagined and America Realized the Enlightenment, Commager’s final full-length book, was the one the New York Times called “his most brilliant.” In the opening pages, Commager asserted his thesis: that Americans of the late 18th and early 19th centuries took the Enlightenment principles that Europe had envisioned and “tentatively” experimented with—principles such as religious and intellectual freedom, constitutional order, commitment to reason, progress, humanitarianism—and “wrote them into law, crystallized them into institutions, and put them to work. That, as much as the winning of independence and the creation of the nation,” he wrote, “was the American Revolution.”

But: those brawls. They were numerous. In the 1930s, Commager defended Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal, and he was an early advocate for American involvement in the Second World War. He supported John F. Kennedy for president in 1960 and Robert Kennedy in 1968. He warned against sending US troops to Indochina and called the Vietnam War a moral catastrophe. In April 1967, when Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his searing condemnation of the Vietnam War to an overflow crowd at New York’s Riverside Church, Commager stood beside him on the dais.

The historian was a profound critic of the Nixon administration (three days after Nixon resigned, Commager penned an op-ed in the New York Times titled “The Constitution is Alive and Well”) and a detractor of the Central Intelligence Agency, whose top-secret “black budget” he believed was unconstitutional. When presidents began assuming the war powers that the Constitution had reserved for Congress, Commager—who had initially supported Truman’s war-powers claim—became alarmed. He fought that battle into the Reagan years.

Commager’s best-remembered combat, and maybe his bravest, was against Joseph McCarthy and the anticomunist witch hunts of the postwar decade. He spoke out long before it became safe to do so. Just days after McCarthy launched himself into the public eye in February 1950, waving what he claimed was a list of 205 known Communists in the State Department, Commager addressed a gathering of high school students at Columbia University, telling them that the country had “the jitters” and that loyalty oaths signaled its confusion and insecurity. No nation can flourish for long, he said, without criticism and originality. A year later, his biographer, Jumonville, recounts, before a gathering of 1,000 Barnard College students and faculty, Commager attacked the oaths as “fat-headed” and “feeble-minded.”

Commager had sensed Americans’ rising anxiety almost as soon as the war had ended. In 1947 he railed in the Nation against “guilt by association with a vengeance,” and he published an essay in Harper’s whose title question, “Who Is Loyal to America?,” found its answer in rejecting conformity as loyalty. This “new loyalty,” he wrote, “takes the word for the deed, the gesture for the principle. It is content with the flag salute.” He included the Harper’s essay as one...
WHAT MAKES AMERICANS AMERICAN IS NOT ETHNICITY OR RELIGION OR RACE OR LANGUAGE, OR EVEN CULTURE. IT’S IDEAS.

of five in a slim 1954 volume called Freedom, Loyalty, Dissent. (The book’s opening paragraph states, “It is a sobering fact ... that each generation has to vindicate these freedoms”—of inquiry, criticism, and dissent—“anew, and for itself.”)

All this public activity made Commager a target. There were lectures canceled and complaints made, and one of his publishers sent a note warning that his statements were making it difficult to sell his book. Commager was accused of being a Communist and attacked in the press. His stridency put him at odds with old friends, including fellow historians Allan Nevins, Samuel Eliot Morison, and Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

In one bizarre incident, National Review editor William F. Buckley Jr. wrote to Commager in 1959, inquiring about his middle name and speculating that he had adopted it out of admiration for Joseph Stalin—stahl being the Russian word for “steel.” Buckley wrote that he had found out “that indeed your name was not always Henry Steele Commager.” That part was true: he was born Henry Irving Commager, and somewhere between his master’s thesis and his dissertation, he took the name Steele. But it was not after Stalin; his great-grandfather, Henry Steel Commagere, had fought with the Union Army during the Civil War. Commager’s reply to Buckley, Jumonville reports, was “hostile.”

Talking now to those who knew Commager, today’s politics unavoidably come up. Midway through a recollection about his exploits against McCarthyism, Mary Commager gives a little rueful sigh. She sees an unhappy parallel between that period in history and the current one, and thinks Commager would too. If he were still here, he’d be writing and speaking out furiously, she says. A friend of hers recently suggested opening a Twitter account here, he’d be writing and speaking out furiously, she says. A friend of hers recently suggested opening a Twitter account, but said no. “I think that would make me too sad.” Lisa Commager tells me that the night before we talked, she went online to order a used copy of The Great Constitution, Commager’s 1961 explainer for young people. Now more than ever, she says, “I need to know everything in it.”

Bernstein finds himself returning to Commager’s words too, especially to Freedom, Loyalty, Dissent, but also to The Empire of Reason, the book he helped research as Commager’s assistant at Amherst in the mid-1970s. He believes that Commager, like him, would be “appalled” at the 2016 presidential election and the turn of current politics. But, Bernstein says, Commager counsels “not to despair”—after all, he never did—and to reconnect with the country’s ideals, the national character he spent half his life trying to define. What makes Americans American, Bernstein says, paraphrasing his old professor, is not ethnicity or religion or race or language, or even culture. It’s ideas.

The Commager book that I’ve spent the most time with is one that fits less readily into his canon than volumes like The Empire of Reason, or The American Mind, or even Freedom, Loyalty, Dissent. But in its own way it seeks—and, I think, finds—the American character. Some years ago, my father gave me a copy of The Blue and the Gray: The Story of the Civil War as Told by Participants (1950), a massive two-volume anthology of letters, memoirs, journal entries, poems, songs, newspaper clippings, and published autobiographies written by foot soldiers and their wives, generals, politicians, preachers, doctors, prisoners. The book took Commager more than 10 years to compile. In page after vellum-thin page, he gives each document a warm introduction. There’s a letter President Lincoln wrote to General Sherman, urging him to send his foot soldiers home to Indiana to vote in the 1864 state election (“This is in no sense an order, but ...”), and a diary entry from an Illinois minister who traveled to Tennessee to recruit black soldiers for the Union.

In her journal, Julia LeGrand describes the “wild confusion” of New Orleans’s 1862 surrender: “The Women only did not seem afraid. They were all in favor of resistance, no matter how hopeless.” A Virginia boy recounts Confederate prayer meetings in woods that “resound for miles around with the unscientific but earnest music of the rough veterans of Lee’s army.” The Blue and the Gray, along with a parallel volume, Documents of American History (1934), led one historian to call Commager “the greatest anthologist America ever produced.” I think it goes deeper than that. I dip into The Blue and the Gray and find it moving to spend time, as Commager did, with the men and women whose words he sifted and gathered. And with the country that was striving, amid its failings and chaos and violence, to live up to itself.
lucy Kaplansky was just 18 when she moved to New York City, determined to become a singer. The city’s changed and so has she.

Over a cup of decaf at a cheerful, bustling Greenwich Village coffee shop, she remembers the surrounding area as “still pretty dystopian. ... It was slums and heroin and punk,” says Kaplansky, LAB ’78.

But the city’s music scene was thriving. Gerde’s Folk City, the legendary club where Bob Dylan and Simon and Garfunkel got their starts, was undergoing a revival. Like many other young New York musicians, Kaplansky found an artistic home there. In the ’70s and ’80s, folk artists such as Richard Thompson, David Massengill, and Lucinda Williams made appearances at the club, alongside alternative bands including Yo La Tengo and Sonic Youth.

Between waiting tables and tending bar, Kaplansky earned a reputation at Folk City as a top-notch harmony singer and skilled interpreter of other people’s songs (she hadn’t yet begun to write her own). She enrolled at Barnard College, “but didn’t take it particularly seriously,” and left after a year. She performed in a duo with Shawn Colvin and lent backing vocals to Suzanne Vega’s “Left of Center,” which appeared on the *Pretty in Pink* soundtrack in 1986.

It wasn’t the kind of career Kaplansky’s parents originally envisioned for her, though they did share her love of music. Her father, mathematician Irving Kaplansky, who taught at the University from 1945 until his retirement in 1984, played piano and wrote witty math-themed songs not unlike those of his onetime student Tom Lehrer. (In retirement, Irving would make occasional appearances at Lucy’s concerts, accompanying his daughter as she sang one of his originals, “A Song about Pi.”)

For a time, music wasn’t the future Kaplansky saw for herself either. In 1983, just as her career was picking up steam, she abruptly put away her guitar and decided to go back to school to become a psychotherapist. It was a sudden decision driven by anxiety and quarter-life confusion, and one she questioned as her friends’ songs climbed the charts.

With support from her husband, filmmaker Richard Litvin, and her own therapist, Kaplansky made a gradual return to singing and writing songs in the early ’90s. Since then, she’s released seven albums and has performed all over the country, both as a solo artist and in the groups Cry, Cry, Cry with Richard Shindell and Dar Williams, and Red Horse with John Gorka and Eliza Gilkyson.

Kaplansky spoke with the *Magazine* about her career, her early performances at Lab, and how independent artists are faring in a changing music industry. Her comments have been condensed and edited.

**Early music** Growing up I found a lot of solace in playing guitar and singing. I loved it. I would sit in my bedroom and write and sing and pretend I was performing.

I started performing at my summer camp and then at my eighth-grade graduation. I got enough positive feedback that I started to develop some confidence. Then I started performing at my high school.

There was a really great vocal teacher at Lab named Gise-la Goettling, who was a German opera singer. I took a class with her when I was a junior.

I put on a show with one of my friends during Lab’s Arts...
Week, at the Little Theater. Mrs. Goettling came, and I thought, “Oh God, she’s going to hate the way I’m singing.” I’m not breathing properly and all that.

She came up to me afterward and said something along the lines of, “You have real talent.” I didn’t know that I did. She could have said anything, and she encouraged me. What a gift.

Scenesters  Folk City had been the center of a folk scene 15 years before and then it kind of petered out—now it was important again.

Everyone was just hanging around, wanting to get a record deal. Back then, there were no independent labels. It was Columbia, Warner Brothers, Arista. A few people did get signed. The Roches just exploded out of there. Steve Forbert had just been signed to Columbia when I got to New York.

I don’t know if there’s another scene that’s been like it since, where there’s one club, and everyone goes there every night.

Friendly rivalry  Suzanne Vega was also a student at Barnard at the time. They did a big story about me playing Folk City in the Columbia Daily Spectator and Suzanne told me later that her reaction was, “Who the hell does she think she is?” And I remember seeing her name on posters around campus and thinking, “She’s some nerdy folk singer.”

Then somebody put us on a bill together in a Barnard dorm show—that’s how we met. Then I told her she needed to come down to the Village.

Walking away  I got a gig singing in a country band in Norway for three months. It was wild, singing like six hours of country music every night.

When I got back from that trip I just decided, I don’t want to do this anymore. I was extremely confused and neurotic, mostly neurotic, and couldn’t let myself pursue this thing that I wanted and was good at.

I had started therapy at that point and decided to go back to college and become a therapist. Anyone who really knew me and knew what was going on said, “Wait a minute, why are you leaving this thing you want to do?”

Comeback kid  I was getting my doctorate, and I was not happy. Suzanne had this big hit, “Luka,” in 1987, and then Shawn won a Grammy for her first album. I was happy for them, and they were my friends, but I remember feeling so bereft, so jealous.

While I was in grad school, Shawn said, “Let’s make an album together. I’ll be the producer, you’ll sing, we’ll do it live in the studio.”

So we made this album [The Tide, 1994] when I was in grad
Kaplansky sings Kaplansky

My dad first and foremost loved math. That was what he loved from the time he was a little boy. But the story is that, when he was three, the whole family went to some Yiddish musical, and he came home and he played the main song on the piano. So his parents said, “He’s a genius. We’ve got to get him lessons.”

He took piano lessons for years and years, and he was good. In grad school, he would play in swing bands, making a little bit of money. When he was at the University of Chicago, he would play at faculty parties and stuff, and he was the rehearsal pianist for the Hyde Park Gilbert and Sullivan company. But he never wanted to do that over math.

My brothers and I learned a lot of the songs my dad would play—the Gershwins, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, a lot of Gilbert and Sullivan. The joke was that my dad didn’t like anything from after 1950.

My dad wrote songs for fun—quirky songs. Some of them were about math. My brothers and I learned all those songs growing up.

Years later I said to my husband, “I need to come up with something lighthearted and fun to put in my show.” My husband, who has many great ideas, and this was one of them, said, “Why don’t you do one of your dad’s songs?” Now I always do one of my dad’s songs at my shows. People get a kick out of them, and I think it meant a lot to him.

Navigating the new music industry

It’s a very precarious time for people like me. I’ve always recorded albums that my record label would sell, and I would get royalties. That’s gone. CDs have stopped selling. I left my record label because there was no reason to have a record label anymore. So what is the new model going to be for someone like me? I will record somehow and put out music somehow.

One bit of good luck is that a year and a half ago, Spotify took a track of mine, “More Than This,” and put it on a very popular playlist of theirs. It got 11 million streams. That was this infusion of hope. I mean, they don’t pay what they should—it’s like a fraction of a cent per stream—but just the exposure was good.

It’s a new world, and people like me better embrace it in some way. I don’t know what the way is. I’m lucky. I have a career, people come to my shows, and I’m grateful for that. I’ll see how long I can make it last. ♦
Students and alumni come together for the annual Interfraternity Sing in 1955. Join in the fun this year during Alumni Weekend, June 1–4.
We were alone in that holy space created by eye contact. I instantly lost my place in my argument and, hopelessly confused,apsed into sullen silence, staring down with furious intensity at the tabletop in search of my point.
ary scholar could ever have imagined. Soon my brown rag of a winter coat lay crumpled in the corner of my room and Chloe and I gamboled happily over the fast-greening quad.

The best thing that spring was music class. After about half a quarter acquainting us with the key musical vocabulary of the past three centuries, the instructor confronted us with a quartet by Joseph Haydn, to be the subject of our final examination. We had five weeks to determine its basic structure, its principal key changes, how it arrived at its conclusion, and, most mystifying of all, how all its parts contributed to “its complex power to move us.”

We listened in groups and alone, in common rooms, in our dorms and on the quads, on cassettes secreted into the library. Never before, I submit, had a single work of Haydn’s been heard so often by so many in so short a time. It became part of us all, the Class of 1968, woven into the fabric of our collective neural network.

One sparkling Saturday morning I was hiding out to study for finals in the wainscoted gothic library of the Oriental Institute. It wasn’t a traditional undergrad haunt, and I was almost alone in the huge high-vaulted room, its long oak tables arrayed in faultless rows, its bookshelves loaded. Spread out before me were the Federalist Papers and three stacks of notes I had compiled for each of three essays I’d promised to write for a Soc 2 study guide. Alas, my summaries were at least as long as the essays themselves—no help to anyone pressed for time.

Then it hit me. Why not diagram the logic of each piece, in as few words as possible? By that time I had dimly glimpsed the logical shapes of the essays behind the flourishes of their 18th-century prose. Three hours later I had six sheets of paper before me, arrows and boxes arranged into a neat tool for efficient study. In the process I had looked intimately into the minds of men, dead for more than 200 years, who had helped to shape my country.

The day had warmed and the librarian had cranked open the row of huge mullioned windows that face onto University Avenue. (Who knew that such medieval things could open at all?) There were no screens, and the fragrant air of a northern spring gone wild, steeped in magnolia and crabapple, flooded the room. The warm breeze, laced with cool currents, ruffled my note papers. With it came a hundred animated voices enjoying the brilliant day on the grassy lawns, all lost in the subtleties of Federalist 10 and the structure of the Haydn.

Then, with shocking clarity, I seemed to hear the unadorned melody of the movement’s first few phrases, its simplicity succumbing to luxuriant harmonies, at first only between the violins, ultimately embracing a richly toned viola and a sonorous cello, to produce the complicated and unresolved variations at the end of the second section and imply the deeply satisfying denouement of the third.

I think of what happened next as “the great fusion reaction” (a vestigial remnant of my scientific dreams). Everything came together, not just the Haydn, but the urgent luxury of the spring, the sweet logic of the Federalist argument, my classmates’ eager pursuit of ideas, and my green-shoot passions for Chloe, all growing without surcease, budding as I watched in astonishment, promising to blossom brilliantly in colors that I never knew existed.

The quartet encompassed all of that and more. Not just for me and for Chloe, but for all of us in the Class of ’68. Our hopes were as alive as the promise of springtime, with direction and purpose and the certainty of fruition. When I happened to glance up from my notes in the library, all that I’d felt seemed to distill from thin air into the purest droplet of water, pendant upon a spring-green shoot, refracting and intensifying the light of the reawakened sun, redolent of the future, incorruptible by time, in endless reverberation of Haydn’s last triumphant chord.

Ed Navakas, AB ’68, PhD ’72, is a psychiatrist. Email him at ednav@comcast.net and read the sequel to this essay at mag.uchicago.edu/quartet.
FEDERAL AND STATE APPOINTMENTS
President Donald J. Trump has named Ajit Pai, JD’97, chair of the Federal Communications Commission. An FCC commissioner since 2012, Pai is focusing on reducing regulations within internet and communications markets. Secretary of state Rex Tillerson has appointed Margaret Peterlin, JD’00, as his chief of staff. A former House Republican aide and US Patent and Trademark Office official, Peterlin serves as a liaison between the secretary and his 75,000 employees.

SOCIAL HEALTH CARE
Raina Merchant, MD’03, has been named the inaugural director of the Penn Medicine Center for Digital Health at the University of Pennsylvania. Since 2013 Merchant has led Penn Medicine’s Social Media Laboratory, which studies how data from social media platforms can be used to evaluate, predict, and improve individual and population health. In her new position she will continue this work, with an emphasis on how physicians can harness social media to better care for their patients.

IRISH PRIDE
On March 11 Maura Connors, AB’15, reigned over Chicago’s 2017 St. Patrick’s Day Parade as queen. She competed against more than 50 other Chicagoans of Irish ancestry for the title and was crowned on January 15. Connors is an admissions counselor at UChicago.

MEETING SPECIAL NEEDS
Areva Martin, AB’84, has received a James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award for her work in extending autism care to underserved families. Herself the parent of a child with autism, Martin founded the Special Needs Network when she realized how difficult it can be to find and afford the right care for autistic children. She will use the $200,000 award to continue to educate low-income families in the Los Angeles area about the condition and help them navigate the health care system and access available state and federal resources, as well as advocate for children with autism.

COLLEGIATE LEADERSHIP
Elizabeth Howe Bradley, MBA’86, has been elected the 11th president of Vassar College. Bradley was formerly the Brady-Johnson Professor of Grand Strategy and head of Branford College at Yale University and the founder of the Yale Global Health Leadership Institute. Her term at Vassar begins July 1.

MOVIES AND MENTAL HEALTH
Unbroken Glass, a documentary by Dinesh Das Sabu, AB’06, had its Chicago theater premiere at the Gene Siskel Film Center in February. The film follows Sabu’s quest to learn more about his parents two decades after their deaths, one by suicide. In March, Fog, written and directed by Chelsea Woods, AB’11, was featured in the NewFilmmakers Los Angeles’s InFocus film series. The short film tells the story of a successful lawyer who navigates a changing career and the return of her grown daughter while struggling with mental illness.

WHO RUN THE WORLD?
In February Shola Farber, AB’12, received a 2017 Young Women of Achievement Award from the Women’s Information Network, a professional networking and political organization. Farber worked for the Obama administration’s National Economic Council and for the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign as a regional director in Michigan, and is focused on increasing political engagement among millennials.

DELIVERED HONOR
The Evanston (IL) Post Office has been renamed in honor of late congressman, judge, and White House adviser Abner Mikva, JD’51. The Abner J. Mikva Post Office is “the perfect coming together of three things my father loved,” Mikva’s daughter Mary told the Chicago Tribune. “Congress, the city of Evanston, and getting letters.” —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.

WAKING GODS
By Sylvain Neuvel, PhD’03; Del Rey, 2017

In Sylvain Neuvel’s sequel to Sleeping Giants (Del Rey, 2016), a team of researchers is working to unravel the mysteries of a towering robot buried on Earth thousands of years previously, when a second robot appears. And a third, and then a whole army. A war breaks out for control of the planet, and the researchers’ discoveries become humanity’s last line of defense against a complete takeover.

THE WORKING CLASS REPUBLICAN: RONALD REAGAN AND THE RETURN OF BLUE-COLLAR CONSERVATISM
By Henry Olsen, JD’90; Broadside Books, 2017

Republican icon Ronald Reagan is the true heir of Democratic hero Franklin Delano Roosevelt, argues Ethics and Public Policy Center senior fellow Henry Olsen—both presidents focused on providing working-class Americans the economic security and dignity of a steady job. Conservatives have been making gains over the past three decades by embracing this New Deal populism, posits Olsen, and should continue to promote the vision that Roosevelt and Reagan shared.

LATE IN THE EMPIRE OF MEN
By Christopher Kempf, AM’16; Four Way Books, 2017

In his debut poetry collection, Christopher Kempf uses his own coming of age in Ohio and California to explore the United States’ larger history of westward expansion and colonialism. Through imagery and reappropriated rhetoric, Kempf explores how American culture shapes and confines young men.

MINOR CHARACTERS HAVE THEIR DAY: GENRE AND THE CONTEMPORARY LITERARY MARKETPLACE
By Jeremy Rosen, AM’04, PhD’11; Columbia University Press, 2016

The trend started in the late 1960s with works like Wide Sargasso Sea and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, and now authors from Geraldine Brooks (March) to Margaret Atwood (The Penelopiad) have published books that retell classic literature from another character’s perspective. University of Utah assistant professor Jeremy Rosen investigates the new genre of “minor character elaboration” and argues it reflects both a neoliberal emphasis on individual experience and publishers’ desire to market new novels to great books readers.

THE SENSATIONAL PAST: HOW THE ENLIGHTENMENT CHANGED THE WAY WE USE OUR SENSES
By Carolyn Purnell, AM’07, PhD’13; W. W. Norton & Company, 2017

Enlightenment thinkers, seeking to make sense of their world, employed sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell in ways that seem shocking today—blindfolded children, intentional addictions, pianos made of live cats. Historian Carolyn Purnell delves into this often-bizarre history of sensation and shows how Enlightenment-era sensory experiments continue to shape the way people experience life three centuries later.

—Helen Gregg, AB’09

FALLOUT
By Sara Paretsky, AM’69, MBA’77, PhD’77; William Morrow, 2017

In Sara Paretsky’s latest V. I. Warshawski mystery, a film student goes missing in a Kansas college town. Warshawski’s investigation draws her into the racial tensions that have long plagued the area, and that may hold clues to the disappearance.

THE GREAT ESCAPE: AMERICAN HEROES, AN ICONIC SHIP, AND SAVING EUROPE DURING WORLD WAR I
By Peter Hernon, AM’72; Harper, 2017

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, the US Navy seized a German luxury ocean liner from New York Harbor, renamed it the USS Leviathan, and used it to ferry American soldiers to fronts in France. On the centennial of America joining the fight, journalist Peter Hernon uses the ship and its array of passengers—generals and reporters, nurses and a future president—to offer a unique history of the Great War.

BLAST THE SUGAR OUT! LOWER BLOOD SUGAR, LOSE WEIGHT, LIVE BETTER
By Ian K. Smith, MD’97; St. Martin’s Press, 2017

The author of the best-selling Shred nutrition series, physician and media personality Ian K. Smith offers a new five-week plan for reducing sugar consumption with the goals of both losing weight and improving overall health. Providing simple low-sugar substitutions, exercise ideas, and more than 45 recipes, Blast the Sugar Out! aims to help readers eat, and love, healthy foods.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE | SPRING 2017 65
College classes

Judith Blake Schaefer, AB'50, AM'57, PhD'62, retired in 1995 from a research, teaching, and clinical career in psychology. In January she published her second novel, *Horizons* (Big Table Publishing Company), “about two pioneering women—a homesteader in Dakota Territory and her daughter, a writer, feminist, and suffragist who pursues her interests in Chicago at Hull House, *Poetry* magazine, and the University of Chicago during the Progressive Era of the early 20th century.”

Schaefer has also written more than a dozen short stories; a previous novel, *Though the Winds Blow* (Xlibris Corp., 2005); and an essay published in the May 2016, *Boston Sunday Globe* about a house on Ridgewood Court in Hyde Park that she and her husband, Theodore Schaefer Jr., AB'50, PhD'57, bought in 1958 from science fiction writer Fritz Leiber, PhB'32.

*Each Day to Me a Joy: Jewish-Themed and Other Poems and Plays* (CreateSpace, 2017) is a collection of work by Amy (Gevirman) Azen, AB'50, published posthumously by her daughter, Rachel Dimakis. The book contains 11 plays and more than 200 poems. Some of the poems offer a modern take on Judaism and others explore human emotions, writes Dimakis. The plays, which Azen wrote “in order to express ideas more directly,” tackle social issues including poverty and racism.

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52 **George L. River**, AB'52, writes, “I retired from Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Tulsa, OK, on June 2, 2016, after seven and a half years as a medical oncologist, working with great staff and support. My raison d'être was establishing and running a full-service weekend cancer clinic, the only one in the country. It was a rare privilege to spend my ‘retirement years’ (ages 75–84) there. My new home is in Monticello, WI, where I live with my daughter, Heidi, in a barn that’s been converted into a spacious three-story home, and loaf—or ride around on our ATV.”

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55 **Bob Stein**, AB'53, AB'57, writes: “I have been retired from the Michigan State University Physics and Astronomy Department for nine years now, but I am still doing research on the magneto-hydrodynamics of the solar surface part time. I call it computer modeling of weather on the sun. Some of my results and publications are on my website (steinr.pa.msu.edu/~bob/research.html). My wife and I are still traveling; we went to Cuba for two weeks in February 2016, going from Havana all the way to the eastern tip. We had lots of fun meeting many local people, hearing lots of good music, and doing some salsa dancing ourselves. We’ll celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary in two years with a big contra and square dance for our dancing friends.”

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56 **Yutan Firestone**, AB'56, SB'56, SM'59, 188 Mary St., Winnetka, IL 60093. Email: byf@uchicago.edu.

**John Ketterson**, SB'57, SM'58, PhD'62, wrote, “I am still on the active faculty rolls in the physics and astronomy department at Northwestern University. Having taught solid state physics since 1974, I slowly built up notes and then chapters on the topic that evolved into a lengthy book, *The Physics of Solids*, published last fall by Oxford University Press.”

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58 **Roland Finston**, AB'57, SB'57, 856 Thornwood Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94303. Phone: 650.494.0287. Email: rfinston@pacbell.net.

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59 **Joette Knapik Trofimuk**, AB'59, AM'61, Photosynthesis Gallery, 100 East San Francisco St., Santa Fe, NM 87501. Email: joette@cybermesa.com.

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60 **Nancy E. Albert-Goldberg**, AB'64 (Class of 1960), JD'71, on her recent book, *Your Rights When Stopped by Police: Supreme Court Decisions in Poetry and Prose*, published under her maiden name, Nancy E. Albert, by LegalEase Press in 2016. It is designed to empower the general public by providing a better understanding of one’s rights and responsibilities under the law. With its extensive endnotes and table of cases, it also serves as a primer on constitutional criminal law for students. More information is available on Amazon.

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I started many years ago. I also continue to be active in support of the Claremont Colleges Interfaith Chaplaincy, and was on the search committee that hired our fourth coequal chaplain, Imam Adeel Zeb, who works together with our Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant chaplains. I also serve on the Claremont Colleges Hillel Council. In addition, several of my research projects in the history of mathematics are still in the pipeline. My U of C education has shaped my teaching and research throughout my career.” Judith can be reached at Judith Choldin, AB’60, AM’63, PhD’65, with horology (working on watches), but it is really Michael who is.

Since 1997 David Novak, AB’61, has held the Shiff Chair of Jewish Studies as a professor of religion and philosophy at the University of Toronto. David wrote recently, “I am now busy preparing my six Gifford Lectures to be delivered at the University of Aberdeen in April and May. For a philosopher, this is a very great honor. My title is ‘Athens and Jerusalem: God, Humans, and Nature.’ My interest in this overall topic goes back to the influence of Leo Strauss, a professor in the department of political science from 1949 to 1968, on my thinking ever since my UChicago undergraduate days.”

Gifford Lecturers from the University of Chicago faculty past and present include John Dewey (1928–29), Martha Nussbaum (1992), Jaroslav Pelikan (1992–93), David Tracy (1995–97), David Novak (1999–2000), Jean Bethke Elshtain (2005–06), and Jean-Luc Marion (2014). The lectures were established by a bequest of Adam Lord Gifford, a senator of the College of Justice in Scotland. The purpose of the lectures, ongoing since 1888 at the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, St. Andrews, and Aberdeen, is “to promote and diffuse the study of Natural Theology in the widest sense of the term—in other words, the knowledge of God.”

Dear Classmates,

I was delighted to hear from some folks, in response to my plea for news, who had been out of touch for a while as well as some of my “regulars.”

Carol Grossman Schneider, AB’62, AM’67, writes, “I moved to northern California in 2015 to be nearer my family (as many of us have done at our age). I miss my Chicago friends and activities but not the weather. I have found gardening-based and other volunteer opportunities. First I worked at a county farm/park doing various garden work; the park has an active monarch butterfly support program and an overwintering colony of the butterflies. Now I am working at a city Victorian house garden. It was built in the mid-1800s and includes an arboretum that the owner started. Some of the trees are from 1860, including an enormous, beautiful ginkgo. One of my main activities is getting rid of my stuff—the children don’t want it. I volunteer at a Cancer Thrift Shop and started donating to it.”

My high school and college classmate Charles “Chuck” Lerner, SB’62, emails to say, “I have retired from clinical practice and launched a new career. I am now consulting with local hospital systems on antibiotic stewardship—optimizing the use of antibiotics.” Chuck, too, is out of the cold weather as he has been a longtime San Antonio resident. Those of us who live in cold, gray environments sometimes find sunshine can work as well as antibiotics.

From Israel, Moshe Erez tells us that his wife, Marlene Lazar Erez, AB’63 (Class of 1962), after starting her teaching career in Chicago and continuing in Israeli high schools from 1968 to 2001, “is still teaching in a teachers’ college at the young age of 76, training Arab, Israeli, and Palestinian young women to be English teachers,” as well as doing “teaching stints in Japan and China—and always with so much enthusiasm and energy.” He adds, “Marlene and I continue to travel and add pins in new places on the big world map. 

Commencing: Graduating seniors file into Rockefeller Memorial Chapel for convocation on June 15, 1951.
I moved to northern California in 2015 to be nearer my family (as many of us have done at our age). I miss my Chicago friends and activities, but not the weather.

—Carol Grossman Schneider, AB’62, AM’67

The weather was perfect for marching.

Judy Goldstein Marks, AB’63 (Class of 1962), AM’69, and her husband, Arthur, marched in Sarasota, FL, “over, back, and over again on the Ringling Bridge along with 10,000 young and old, children, women, and men, all very peaceful and exhilarating … lots of fun with everyone so friendly.” Myrna Helmer Gottlieb, AB’62, sent a photo of her granddaughter participating proudly in the social activism of the early ‘60s during our time at the University. However, our awareness and understanding of those issues were increased by classmates like Danny who actively spoke out against injustices and took personal risks to right them. Danny spoke out by capturing with his camera the lives of “outsiders” in difficult circumstances as well as their struggles against authority. His body of work is deserving of recognition and admiration.

Danny blogs at dektol.wordpress.com and bleakbeauty.com. In conjunction with the retrospective he has published two new books, The Story of Sam and an American Art in New York City. The 175 million plus who rallied at the lakefront included 10,000 young and old, children, women, and men, all very peaceful and exhilarating … lots of fun with everyone so friendly.” Myrna Helmer Gottlieb, AB’62, sent a photo of her granddaughter participating proudly in the social activism of the early ‘60s during our time at the University. However, our awareness and understanding of those issues were increased by classmates like Danny who actively spoke out against injustices and took personal risks to right them. Danny spoke out by capturing with his camera the lives of “outsiders” in difficult circumstances as well as their struggles against authority. His body of work is deserving of recognition and admiration.

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Danny blogs at dektol.wordpress.com and bleakbeauty.com. In conjunction with the retrospective he has published two new books, The Story of Sam and an American Art in New York City. The 175 million plus who rallied at the lakefront included 10,000 young and old, children, women, and men, all very peaceful and exhilarating … lots of fun with everyone so friendly.” Myrna Helmer Gottlieb, AB’62, sent a photo of her granddaughter participating proudly in the social activism of the early ‘60s during our time at the University. However, our awareness and understanding of those issues were increased by classmates like Danny who actively spoke out against injustices and took personal risks to right them. Danny spoke out by capturing with his camera the lives of “outsiders” in difficult circumstances as well as their struggles against authority. His body of work is deserving of recognition and admiration.
As a graduate student in education and for years afterward, Larry kept playing basketball. He completed his graduate work in 1965 and then embarked on a career in teaching and administration. In 1973 he became a member of the Palm Beach County school system and served for more than 30 years, retiring in 2003.

In 1966 Larry’s abiding belief that education in America could be fun as well as life changing brought his achievements on the basketball court into the classroom when he cofounded the Academic Games Leagues of America. The nonprofit organization blends the principles of sports competition with academics. The program develops and improves students’ academic and problem-solving skills, logical thinking abilities, work ethic, and lives. And it was fun. Over more than five decades Larry’s efforts touched more than 100,000 students in grades 4–12. He was recognized as “a champion for education and inspiration for educators nationwide.” In 2013 he received the University of Chicago Alumni Public Service Award, not only for developing “thinking kids,” but also for bringing credit to the University.

Larry is survived by his wife of 19 years, Carolyn; two children, Taryn and Blair; a sister, Sue; two brothers, Tom and Jim; three grandchildren; three step-children; and eight step-grandchildren. On December 16 in North Palm Beach, FL, a memorial service and reception celebrated Larry’s life “with joy and tears.” In attendance were lifelong friends, classmates, and basketball teammates Larry Costin, AB’66 (Class of 1963), and Mike Winter, LAB’59, AB’64, MBA’65. Like Larry did, they also cherish the time they played together. [For more on Liss, see Deaths, Winter/17.—Ed.]

A wicked night wind was blowing and a cold rain was saturating all who were venturing out to the Seminary Co-op Bookstore at 5710 South Woodlawn Avenue on January 11. Indeed, it was a “dark and stormy night.” Inside, however, in the dry and atmospheric setting of tens of thousands of books, sat Marriana Tax Choldin, LAB’59, AB’62, AM’67, PhD’79, prepared to discuss her memoir, Garden of Broken Statues: Exploring Censorship in Russia (Academic Studies Press, 2016). With her was Judith E. Stein, AB’62, MA’64, the Class of 1962 correspondent and the evening’s “interlocutor”—UChicago-speak for someone who facilitates a conversation.

Despite the dismal weather, the turnout was heartening—extra chairs were needed. Attendees were members of the University community, students, and alumni, some who claim Marianna and her spouse, Harvey M. Choldin, AB’60, AM’63, PhD’65, were picked up by their daughter Mary Tax Choldin, AB’86, for their ride home to prepare for the next book reading event (when the driver would be their other daughter, Mary’s twin Kate Tax Choldin, AB’86). And the two class correspondents modeled the appropriate decorum and behavior for our nation’s leaders and headed off, as friendly rivals, for a lovely dinner together.

Send your news to: Barry D. Bayer, AB’64, Email: uchicago64@gmail.com.

From the editor: Robert B. Williams, AB’64, is celebrating his 50th year as a practicing lawyer specializing in litigation. Located in Chicago, Williams’s practice focuses on workers’ compensation and Social Security disability issues. “He has not lessened his schedule, has no interest in retiring, and tries cases throughout the United States.”

Send your news to: Grazenia “Chris” Keeley, AB’63, MAT’75, MBA’79, 10532 South Bell Ave, Chicago, IL 60643. Email: keeleychicago@yahoo.com.

In summer 2004 your classmates Judy Shell Lavinsky, AB’65, AM’66; Rona Ruben, AB’65, AM’71; Jeanette Sharpe, AB’65, MA’66; and yours truly [Roberta Bernstein, AB’65], along with our respective husbands—Michael Lavinsky, JD’65; Russell Hollander, AM’76, PhD’77; Robert Kreiser, AM’65, PhD’71; and Charles Bernstein, AB’62—met for a mini–U of C reunion in New Mexico. We spent a marvelous three days together, seeing wonderful sights and talking constantly about memories of our U of C days and updates on our lives since.

At one point I mentioned that I was excited about a recent discovery, a box of letters from my father to my mother during World War II while he served in the medical corps (30th General Hospital) of the US Army, first in training in North Carolina and then a year in the European theater, primarily in Belgium. I told them that although he had spent his entire career as a writer for the Chicago Daily News and was a great speaker and storyteller, he never once discussed his Army service or mentioned this box or its contents to my sister or me, and had died (in 1990) long before my discovery. I said that the stories in the letters were not only interesting but primary source...
I have moved to the town’s Tree Advisory Board, which speaks for the condition of trees on town and park district property. Battleboro is excited about partnering with the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry program to get our town arborist.

—Georgia (Marks) Morgan, AB’66, AM’69, PhD’71

“Richard Gottlieb, College Class of 1965, died in his home in New York City on January 31 after a long illness. Richard received his MD from the University of Chicago medical school and had a long and eminent career as psychoanalyst, teacher, and scholar. He served as director of faculty at the New York Psychoanalytic Society and Institute (NYPsi) and supervising analyst at the Berkshire Psychoanalytic Institute, of which he was a founding member. He was an associate editor for clinical studies for the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association and associate clinical professor of psychiatry at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. Richard maintained clinical practices in New York City and Sharon, CT, for over 30 years. He lectured widely, within the United States and abroad, and published scholarly articles in all of the major psychiatric and psychoanalytic journals. His work has been recognized with NYPsi’s Heinz Hartmann Award, the American Psychoanalytic Association’s Edith Sabshin Teaching Award, and the Journal Prize of the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association. He is survived by his wife and collaborator, Josephine Wright, his two sons, David and Nicholas; and his broad network of friends dating back to middle school in New York and his years at UChicago through his long career in New York and to his beloved second home in Sharon.” [For more on Gottlieb, see Deaths, page 86.—Ed.] Best wishes for a happy summer with lots of fun-filled adventures to report in this space.

Send your news to: Roberta Lesner Bernstein, AB’65. Phone: 773.324.6362 or 312.520.6362. Email: bernsteinroberta@gmail.com.

Arthur G. Robins, AB’66, MD’70, moved to Boston when he graduated from medical school. An internal medicine specialist, he spent a year in a mission hospital in Zululand, South Africa. He was able to travel before returning to the States and completing some more internal medicine training in pulmonary diseases. He joined the pulmonary staff of the Veterans Affairs medical center in Boston and spent the rest of his career in the VA system in Boston and Manchester, NH. Arthur retired in 2010 and works one day a week in a VA system. He and his wife have raised two children and has three grandchildren, with a fourth on the way. He and his wife enjoy traveling, which now includes more frequent trips to New Zealand, Australia, South America, the Galapagos, and Antarctica. They enjoy bicycling, hiking, photography, and trips to New York City (more trips are planned). “This is all a far cry from 18 hours in Harper Library! I am currently reading John W. Boyer’s (AM’69, PhD’75) The University of Chicago: A History (University of Chicago Press, 2015). I wish I had some knowledge of that as a Chicago student; like most of...
us I drifted through with no sense of context. We knew that Harper was a saint and Hutchins an enfant terrible, but I don’t think we had any appreciation of how the College curriculum had come to be what it was. Better late than never; I am finding the history absolutely fascinating!”

Richard R. Ganz, AB’66, is still happily working as a solo medical practitioner in Healdsburg, CA. “The General Studies in the Humanities classes form the basis of my long-term relationship with multiple generations of patients. Happily married for 36 years with children and grandchildren, I do woodworking as a hobby. I went to Togo, West Africa, with the Peace Corps after the U of C and then decided to go into medicine; took premed classes at Columbia and did medical school at Georgetown. I then came to San Francisco for residency and stayed out West. I got very interested in Bowen Family Systems Theory after a lecture by Murray Bowen at Georgetown, which has been very helpful personally and professionally. I am extremely grateful to the University of Chicago.”

Georgia (Marks) Morgan, AB’66, AM’69, PhD’71, was planning to participate in the Women’s March with her daughter and two grandchildren. She continues to set down roots in southeastern Vermont. She was elected to a second term as town meeting representative (Brattleboro, VT, is too big for a town meeting). “Service involves two informational meetings and one marathon Saturday meeting. After serving for two years on the town’s Citizen Police Communications Committee and helping regularize the committee’s procedures, I have moved to the town’s Tree Advisory Board, which speaks for the condition of trees on town and private property. Brattleboro is excited about partnering with the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry program to get our town arborist.” She was also appointed to the steering committee of the Winter Farmers’ Market. “And am very happy in both cases working with and learning from such knowledgeable people.” She continues to volunteer with the activities of an assisted living center (mostly with polymer clay activities) and to sort and pack clothes for Carry Me Home, a local charity providing assistance to refugee families. Upon retirement, she was awarded her degree.

Richard M. Freund, AB’66, is in Africa writing a book and promises to communicate when it is accepted. The third edition of The Making of Contemporary Africa: The Development of African Society Since 1800 was published in the United States in September by Lynne Rienner. Bill did some traveling to Sicily, Alaska, and Carnegie Hall. His 12th PhD student was awarded her degree.

Richard M. Showman, AB’66, is a developmental biologist at the University of South Carolina. Rich served in the Army, using his U of C German and ending up as a field operative in Germany. His roommate in Henderson, Richard Dean McFarlane, EX’67, died in Vietnam. Rich will assume emeritus status in 2018 and hopes to have all the work for a geophysics degree completed by that time.

Leslie F. Goldstein, AB’65 (Class of 1966), AM’67, is enjoying sunny Florida in a one-room escape from winter on Siesta Key, near Sarasota.

Eric L. Hirschhorn, AB’65 (Class of 1966), is leaving his governmental post as undersecretary for industry and security at the Department of Commerce after a seven-year stint in the Obama administration. He plans on doing unpaid projects as well as some paying projects, “within his control.” The former category will include service as the Washington, DC, bar hearing officer on discipline; work with the American Law Institute; and projects with the National Academy of Public Administration and with several think tanks. The latter paid category will include updating his book on export controls and embargoes (Oxford University Press willing), working as a monitor for companies under judicial or administrative orders proving independent oversight, and possibly working as an expert witness in his fields of export control and professional responsibility. “Finally, I can’t imagine that I’ll be refraining from political activity either. Lord knows we’re going to need it.” His daughter, Anne, is to marry this fall; Eric and his wife, Leah, are excited about that.

Katharine Wexler, LAB’63, AB’66, has been retired for more than a year but feels busier than ever. She is tutoring medical students in improving their patient relationship skills in a course called Doctoring. She is traveling more; New York to London on the Queen Mary 2 with classes in theater and history, and on the Mekong via Vietnam and Cambodia. She is also to become a first-time grandmother! She is still in shock after the election and can only hope that “enough of us can follow Meryl Streep’s advice and ‘turn that broken heart into art’” (or science, social service, or a revolution?). “I wish I could find an action plan that makes sense.”

Steven C. Wofsy, SB’66, is embarking on his second around-the-world NASA-supported Atmospheric Tomography Mission. The mission departed in a DC-8 aircraft on January 23 from Palmdale, CA, and will travel to Anchorage, AK; Kona, HI; Fiji; Christchurch, New Zealand; Punta Arenas, Chile; Ascension Island; the Azores of Portugal; Thule; and then back to Palmdale. Read about the first mission at earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/fromthefield/category/atom-2016.

Margaret Puner Duke, AB’66, spent a lovely holiday with her daughter, son-in-law, and seven-year-old granddaughter, Victoria. “This year we eschewed all things plastic and gave Victoria a professional stand mixer as she is very keen to bake. Project number one was a chocolate cake, which turned out delicious. She also received her own measuring cups and spoons, which are definitely helping her understand fractions. As eager as she is to bake, she loves to play computer games, and in the age of Face-Time we are able to play these with her even when she is home in upstate New York.” Maggie is gearing up for her 12th Kingston Canadian Film Festival—the
only standalone festival of Canadian films in the world.

Michael Schlutz, SB’66, retired after 39 years as a hematologist-oncologist. He has spent much time on deferred house maintenance items and spent a week in Berlin on retreat with the Visiting Committee to the Division of the Humanities. “This was brilliantly organized and led by Martha Roth and her staff.” Mike remains active with the local alumni club in Newport Beach, CA, and he continues to support the Long Beach Opera and Pacific Symphony. His U of C daughter, Gretchen Elizabeth Schlutz, AB’98, and U of C son-in-law, David Pierre-Henri Silver, AB’97, are expecting his third grandson. On to his 50th wedding anniversary in 2018!

Send your news to: Dick Lyford, AB’66, 1600 Hub Tower, 699 Walnut St., Des Moines, IA 50309. Fax: 515.246.4550. Email: rlyford@dickinsonlaw.com.

50th Reunion June 1–4, 2017

67 Warren Olson, AB’72 (Class of 1967), says, “After nine years, six moves, three states, two houses constructed, and one house totally renovated, we have moved back to Florida. We are now living on the ‘space coast’ in Melbourne, FL. We are living in a regular neighborhood with lots of younger people, including kids on Big Wheels. A pleasant change from gated retirement communities. I am looking forward to our 50th class reunion this year, and hopefully the World Championship Cubs will be playing at home.” Congratulations Warren on ending his peripatetic existence by putting down roots in Florida at purbeck79@gmail.com.

Daniel Shapiro, AB’67, reports, “This year marks my 40th year of marriage to Sandy Strassberg, EX’69, the first-year girl who sat next to me in my third-year physics class. I left practice in 2011 after nearly 40 years as an obstetrician-gynecologist and we have been busy traveling (11 countries, 19 states); auditing Princeton University courses; attending lectures; helping to care for four nearby grandsons; reading; and bicycling, hiking, and otherwise keeping fit. We have been in contact with a number of classmates, traveling three times with Marshall Fields, SB’66, and wife, Heidi; bicycling with Mike Starrels, AB’67; and visiting Mel Firestone, AB’67, in Ohio and Eric Brody, AB’67, in Oregon. So far, life has been good. Looking forward to our 50th reunion.” Make plans to see Dan at our reunion at danielshapiro@verizon.net.

Steffi Abeshouse Wal lis, AB’67, is house manager at the Belasco Theater in New York. When the theater is dark, Steffi likes to travel. Last July she went to Paris, Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam, and London. She had dinner with Paul Lazarew, AB’67, and his wife and son in their home in Paris. In 2015 she spent time with Tom Heberlein, AB’67, and his wife in Stockholm. This September she plans to spend time in Greece with Pat, AB’67, MAT’69, and Manoli, AB’67, Cassimatis. Steffi says, “Nice to have friends in fun places!” Find out how she does this at sawallis@aol.com.

Nili Olay, AB’67, spends six months a year in Naples, FL. This year on January 21 she participated in the Women’s March. She says, “I marched because 100 years ago women marched and gave me the vote. Women marched some 40 or 50 years ago and now I can open my own credit card and own my own house. I am marching so that my great-grandkids won’t still have to march for women to have equal rights.” Congratulations her on her activism at niliolyay@yahoo.com.

Karen Stone, AB’67, says, “I marched with pride and passion on behalf of women’s rights in the Women’s March on Washington the day after the inauguration. An awesome experience, plus I am committed to deepening my engagement with the American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood, Emily’s List, the National Resources Defense Council, and Earth Justice. Look forward to seeing all of my fellow classmates for our 50th reunion!” Congratulations Karen on her dedication at kdstone3644@yahoo.com.

Deanna Dragunas Bennett, AB’67, have been doing our class news column for 20 years and this is my 125th column. I’ve decided to go into semiretirement as class correspondent. This means that I will be happy to continue to compile and submit class news columns; however, I’m not going to contact classmates and solicit news. If you have something to share, please send it to me and I’ll make sure it gets printed. Or give me some class news at our 50th reunion! See you all there.

Send your news to: Deanna Dragunas Bennett, AB’67, 3062 Arlington Dr., Palm Harbor, FL 34685. Phone: 727.772.6997. Email: the67scribe@hotmail.com.

Send your news to: Mike Nem eroff, AB’68, Sidley Austin LLP, 1501 K St. NW, Washington, DC 20005. Email: mnemeroff@sidley.com.

Send your news to: Carol Cohen Caswell, SB’69, 1024 West Upsal St., Philadelphia, PA 19119. Email: carol.s.caswell@gmail.com.

From the editor: God and Other Poems: Final Poems (Big Table Books, 2016), featuring work written during the last weeks of poet Paul Carroll’s (AM’52) life, was edited by Carroll’s widow and Dan Campion, AB’70. “I was Paul’s student in the Program for Writers at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1975,” writes Dan; the manuscripts are held by the University’s Special Collections Research Center.

Send your news to: Pete Douglass, AB’70, MD’74. Email: ed douglass@comcast.net.

So, now we know. The never-ending election really dead-ended in great balls of fire! Nevertheless, we keep on and we’ll do it all over again sooner than we imagine. As we sink well into spring and get ready to sizzle in summer, please try to find time in your busy work and play schedules to send news about you and your achievements, milestones, publications, epiphanies, family, colleagues, and any other news you would like to share in our column.

Dave Forbes, AB’71, sends us news that he recently coedited a new book, Handbooks of Mindfulness: Contexts, and Social Engagement (Springer, 2016). He also wrote a chapter in the book called “Critical Integral Contemplative Education.” Dave previously sent us his essay “ Occupy Mindfulness” (published online in June 2012 by Beams and Struts) about this complex field of study (please see our column in the Jan–Feb/13 Magazine). Dave’s new work is just as brilliant as that essay, and I must give our readers my same assessment of my own ability to not quite genuinely understand the concept and the agency of mindfulness. As of January 2013, Dave’s work “definitely requires a U of C mind to hatch and decipher. […] [It] is way above my intellectual pay grade, but no doubt many of our U of C classmates who still flex those fabulous U of C contemplative, analytical, and gymnastically introspective mind muscles will be able to understand and thrive” on Dave’s writings. I can think well enough about the subject matter, however, to assert for our readers that I think Dave is alerting our public at large—influential, philosophers, corporate actors, educators, etc.—about genuine missteps and groggy
I marched because 100 years ago women marched and gave me the vote. Women marched some 40 or 50 years ago and now I can open my own credit card and own my own house. I am marching so that my great-grandkids won’t still have to march for women to have equal rights.

—Nili Olay, AB ’67

thinking that can infect the talking and practice of mindfulness with old behaviors of materialism, silly self-realization, consumerism, and more of “the same old same old.” I know this is not really clear and five minutes from now I will probably no longer understand what I have just said to you. So I will shut up and give our readers a couple of quotes from Dave’s chapter.

“Mindfulness education programs can be helpful for some individuals: They tend to alleviate stress, promote skills useful for self-success, adjust students and teachers to the pressures and inequities of schooling, and help individuals navigate around high-stakes tests, teacher bashing, and other neoliberal detritus strewn on the surface. … [But] overall many do little to nothing to link agency with social justice and challenge the moral crises of our day that are based on self-attachment, greed, and delusion, which fuel the sources of stress in the first place. … Mindfulness programs tend to unwittingly reinforce rather than challenge the neoliberal individualist practices, culture, and social structures that prime the self for marketability. What the hell indeed?

“We need a comprehensive, critical perspective on contemplative education that accounts for the varieties of experiences, worldviews, experimental orders, cultures and systems and that stands for optimal development of all. … A critical integral approach includes the best of traditional prophetic and contemplative values and practices, modernist scientific methods, knowledge and critical thinking, and postmodern multiperspectives and inclusivity.”

Dale Larson, AB ’71, sent us all “best wishes for the new year … let’s hope we can survive ‘post-Trump stress disorder’ and get back to sanity.” Dale enjoyed a great 2016. He is a professor in the counseling psychology department at Santa Clara University and specializes in end-of-life studies. In 2016 he received the Death Education Award from the Association for Death Education and Counseling.

Phil, AB ’71, AM ’82, PhD ’87, and Susan (Donner), AB ’71, Lutgendorf, both professors at the University of Iowa, sent us updates on life at large. Susan serves as the president of the Psychoneuroimmunology Research Society. She is also a professor and Starch Fellow in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Iowa. Phil continues serving as president of the American Institute of Indian Studies. In 2016 Harvard University Press published the first two volumes of the Epic of Ram, Philip’s translation of the Hindi Ramayana by Tulsidas. Their daughter Mira Lutgendorf Debs, AB ’99, receives her PhD in sociology from Yale this spring. Their daughter Claire Lutgendorf McPhee, works as a veterinarian in Bellingham, WA. Susan and Philip “are the proud grandparents of three lovely grandchildren—Francesca (8), Gabriel (4), and Henry (2).”

Semon Strobos, AB ’71, PhD ’84, our famous EMS hero, novelist, and essayist, sends us his “Announcement! Just too late for Xmas but in time for my 68th birthday, my novel, Triage (CreateSpace, 2016), has been published and is available on Amazon.” Triage is “about an Ivy League brother and sister, David and Rose, who move from Winchester, NY, to Wimberley, TX, during the 1960s and have all kinds of adventures, physical and emotional—dealing with a new culture, racing a bike for the Olympics (Rose), setting up a Home Depot–like business (David), falling in love, and dealing with their mom. Business, families, Texas. They are emotionally unstable and devote serious effort to rescuing each other from the consequences.” Semon notes that a critic (Tim O’Brien) describes his writing style as “curt, luminous and thoughtful.”

Semon also included news of his essay on the “myth of the artist,” a summary of the ideal and real persona and lifestyle of the artist in the viewpoints of our recent literary history (past 500 years).

It is difficult to provide a decent summary of Semon’s essay without including the entirety, so I suggest our classmates email semonstrobos@hotmail.com for further instructions regarding website addresses.

Send Your News to: Elaine Black, AB ’71. Phone: 415.389.9043. Email: ebq67@gmail.com.

45th Reunion June 1–4, 2017

George Van Cleve, AB ’73 (Class of 1972), writes that his new book will be published by the University of Chicago Press in fall 2017. It’s called We Have Not a Government: The Articles of Confederation and the Road to the Constitution, and it’s about why the confederation government, which was fairly popular at the end of the Revolutionary War, collapsed only four years later and was replaced by the dramatically more powerful federal government created by the 1787 Constitution. George and his wife recently went on an excellent U of C Alumni Association tour of Japan. “The professorial lecturer, James Ketelaar, A.M. ’82, of the U of C history department, was terrific, and we also had a really nice itinerary and an exceptionally knowledgeable and very, very personable Japanese guide as the overall tour director. I strongly recommend Japan as a place to visit, and this tour as a way to see it. Will send photos on request.”

Richard Gordon, AB ’72, general counsel at Seattle’s TOC Holdings Co. (formerly Time Oil Co.) recently returned from another trip to the People’s Republic of China, where he lectured on US environmental law to both the U of C Environmental Law and Policy Group and the University Law School and Beijing Normal University Law School. This was Rick’s seventh time lecturing at Peking University (colloquially referred to in China as “Beida”) and fourth time at Beijing Normal University (colloquially, “Shida”) since he first started lecturing in China 10 years ago. On this trip Rick gave a lecture called “A Look at Environmental Liabilities in US Real Estate Transactions: Problems, Approaches, and Solutions.” In addition to lecturing, Rick reports that, as is usual on these trips, he and his wife (a Beijing native)
enjoyed spending time exploring and photographing the city, visiting relatives and old friends, and, of course, eating. As retirement looms on the horizon, Rick hopes to be able to spend more time in China in the future.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO: Dorthea Juul, AB’72, PhD’89, Apt. 302, 1115 South Plymouth Ct., Chicago, IL 60605. Email: djuell@abpn.com.

From the editor: Were you on the first football team after football “came back” to the University of Chicago? If so, Charles Nelson, AB’73, wants to hear from you—he’s planning a team reunion during Homecoming weekend this fall. Give him a call at 815-382-2210.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO: Carolyn “Lyn” Ragan, AB’72 (Class of 1973). Email: ragnlyn57@gmail.com.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO: Barbra Goring, AB’74, JD’77, 65 E. Monroe St., Chicago, IL 60603. Email: bgoring@me.com.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO: Bruce Gluckman, AB’75, 21 Courtland Pl., New York, NY 10028. Email: bgluckman@hvc.rr.com.

James Fuchs, AB’76, AM’77, PhD’83, litigated this year at two US Army bases, Fort Meade and Fort Bragg. With his uncanny sense of direction, he arrived at Fort Bragg just a bit over one hour late. However, because the opposing attorney had announced a 7 a.m. starting time only 13 hours before, with no other prior notice, he did not feel particularly embarrassed. He is still waiting for a decision in that case. He won the case in Fort Meade, against one of the best attorneys he has met, and the client was very pleased.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO: James Lawrence Fuchs, AB’76, AM’77, PhD’83. Email: jlf227@nyu.edu.

Pesach Glaser, AB’77, writes, “After I completed my BA at the U of C and then my MBA at Northwestern, I met Rabbi Meir Chai Benhiyoun at the Chabad House of the Loop and I became a Baal Teshuva.

“Throughout the process of returning to my faith I was fascinated by the stories of the Rebbeim of Chabad. My book Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi: The Alter Rebbe (CreateSpace, 2016) is a biography of the first Lubavitcher Rebbe and is based on a series of tapes by Rabbi Shloma Majeski called the Chabad Heritage Series. Several years ago I called Rabbi Majeski to ask him on which one of his tapes I could find a certain story. He knew the answer off the top of his head but remarked that he wished someday one of his students would create a written version of his tapes so that such answers would be easier to find and be publicly available.

“Although I was never officially his student, I always considered Rabbi Majeski to be my teacher as I listened to his tapes over and over, told them at Farbrengens, and eventually wrote this book.

“The book is available on Amazon, and my website is alter-rebbe.com. You can message me on my Pesach Glaser author page on Facebook.”

SEND YOUR NEWS TO: Julian Brown, AB’77, AM’78, 2505 Elmen St., Houston, TX 77019. Email: jdb@juliand.com.

Our latest news from classmates shows that at both home and work, our peers continue to move beyond noteworthy milestones on life’s journey. Thanks to them for letting us enjoy their additions to our class saga, ideally to be savored in full glory via future in-person contacts!

Yvonne Lucero, AB’78, continues to work in research for the Department of Veterans Affairs at Hines Hospital near Chicago while looking forward to retirement in the next couple of years. When not enjoying the time she devotes to her four grandsons, she includes travel, gardening, needlecraft, and photography on her leisure-time agenda. Thanking the U of C for its role in broadening mind and spirit, she extends best wishes to all classmates.

Judith Ai-Lien (Franklin) Simon, AB’78, has remained in the Chicago area, raising a family and practicing various artisanal crafts including textile weaving and sewing, ceramic sculpture, and graphic arts. Nursing has proven to be a family affair, as she earned a combined master’s and registered nursing degree in 2012 and now works in community wellness and her younger son is now on track to become a nurse practitioner. Judith and her now-retired husband also offer their full parental love and support to their older son, who unfortunately has contended with mental illness since young adulthood. U of C college friends are cherished as an always-wonderful part of her life.

Scott Yaffe, AB’78, has one son, Steven Yaffe, Class of 2017, graduating from the College in June, and another, David Yaffe, Class of 2021, enrolling to start there in September. So Scott will be on campus a number of times this year!

SEND YOUR NEWS TO: Greg Gocek, AB’78, AM’80, MBA’85. Email: gggman @att.net.

Oscar Wilde wrote, “If there is anything more annoying in the world than having people talk about you, it
is certainly having no one talk about you." As the new correspondent for the Class of 1979, I am here to rectify that and give my classmate and lifelong friend the details of their achievements, travels, relationships, and lives. Going forward, I hope this will provide a pleasant way to reconnect with and rediscover old college friends. 

My entreaties already seem to be paying off. It was great to hear from Carol Studenmund, AB’79, now of Portland, OR, whose company, LNS Court Reporting, marked its 30th anniversary this January (which she realized when her son, who was born two months before the company was founded, celebrated his 30th birthday). This anniversary is impressive, given how difficult it is for small businesses to survive, and her company has not only succeeded over the long term but also thrived, expanding in 1994 to include a new division, LNS Captioning. Carol was in Chicago with her husband, Jay Hutchins, for a convention last August, and celebrated her birthday in true U of C style at Jimmy’s with a group of friends that included classmates Steve Gillenwater, AB’77, AM’85; Donna De La Flor, AB’79; Nancy Alexander, AB’80; and Bill Horsthemke, AB’86. There they took in the dulcet tones of Curtis Black’s jazz quartet (and perhaps a beer or two). 

I am also pleased to bring you up to date about my dear friend Lauren (Hackett) Kuby, AB’80 (Class of 1979), who manages community engagement for Arizona State University’s Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability and is a first-term council member for the City of Tempe, elected on a sustainability platform. Lauren’s been at the forefront of environmental and animal- and worker-friendly policies in her city and in Arizona. A number of policies she enacted in Tempe have been preempted by the Arizona state legislature, leading to lawsuits defending local control and the rights of charter cities. Notably, her battle for the minimum wage.

We are pleased to report that Jane Brinery, AB’81, was the recipient of the 2016 Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Precollege Level by the Society for Classical Studies. Congratulations! Jane has been teaching Latin in Washington, DC, for the past 20 years and was instrumental in creating a thriving Latin program at School Without Borders, a magnet public high school in the District. 

—Robert Trombly, AB’82

Robert Trombly, AB’82, responded to my email blast as follows: “Hard to believe it’s been 34 years. We have a renewed connection! Our youngest son, Peter Trombly, started law school at Chicago. Tanya Winard Trombly, AB’82, and I took the opportunity to visit and reconnect with lots of classmates and friends. We visited Duncan "Duke" Groebe, AB’82, my erstwhile Upper Rickert roommate, and his spouse, Elizabeth Barker Groebe, AB’83, at their home in Libertyville, tycoon of some 10 acres of their clan. We had pizza and a beautiful river walk downtown with Larry Pincsak, AB’82, and Joanne Zienty, EX’82. Explored the Chicago Theological Seminary bookstore, the Robie House, and campus with Matthew Moran, AB’82; Marisa Naujokas, AB’83; and Laura Naujokas Stern, AB’80. Lots of laughs and wonderful trips down memory lane. Of late most of our travel has been in the Washington, DC, area, where our two sons have been. Daniel, our oldest, a 2012 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of George Washington University’s Elliott School of ForeignAffairs, does national security work in DC. Peter graduated from the University of Virginia in 2016. Tanya and I are owned and trained by our fourth-generation Rhodesian ridgeback. We battle the vicissitudes of living in a 165-year-old colonial that’s a musket shot away from where the militia mustered to march to Concord Bridge. To keep dog food in the bowl, Tanya and I do IT work for competing insurers.”

Robert Trombly, AB’82

—Robert Trombly, AB’82

Katherine “Kat” Griffith, AB’82, reports that she is teaching AP Spanish, English, reading, and social studies at a public high school in Ripon, WI. “I’m active on immigration issues and refugee resettlement and am an ally of immigrants and refugees, and I’m also faculty adviser to our high school Gay-Straight Alliance. My son is now in college, my daughter graduated from Wellesley in Boston last spring, and life is very good!”

I also heard from Suffia (Khan) Azmat, AB’82. “After having been in K–12 education for the past 20 years as a teacher, division head, English department chair, and then principal, I am currently the executive director of the Council of Islamic Schools in North America. CISNA is working on the accreditation of Islamic schools to raise the quality of Islamic education in the United States and advocating for students in the private school world. My son is a JD/PhD student at Harvard University and my daughter is a high school English teacher.”

Here is an update from Vince Michael, AB’82, AM’82, executive director of the San Antonio Conservation Society. He lives in a historic complex on Mission Reach on the Riverwalk in San Antonio, which the society helped create. He reports that he continues to lecture widely, with presentations in the last year for the National Trust, Ball State, Goucher College, Notre Dame, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and the Art Institute of Chicago during a Japan study trip last fall. He continues to serve on the board of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy and maintains a blog (489 entries at press time) at vincemichael.com.

I’m excited to report that Nora Murphy, AB’83, has a memoir out—White Birch, Red Hawthorn (University of Minnesota Press, 2017), which the publisher describes as a “personal investigation into the multigenerational cost of immigration and genocide in the American heartland.” The story centers on her dispossessed ancestors’ 160-acre maple grove in Minnesota, the former home of three Native tribes, the Dakota, Ojibwa,
I am sorry to report the December death of our classmate Lesa B. Morrison, AB’84, MBA’85, in Nairobi, Kenya, where she had been doing research on the Luo people. It will not be possible in this short entry to do justice to our classmate’s amazing life and important work. Lesa served in the Peace Corps for three and a half years in Corozaal, Honduras, where she helped the local Garifuna women develop their small business, a cassava bread factory. She then worked for the World Bank for a brief time. She earned a master’s degree and a doctorate from Duke University in political science, specializing in African studies and ethnic conflict, and continued her research in Kenya. She traveled the world—across Africa, to Central and South America, Europe, and parts of Asia. She climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Fuji, and Machu Picchu. She was an avid opera, classical music, and Pittsburgh Steelers fan, and played Spanish-style classical guitar. [For more on Morrison, see Diesel, 2006 – Dyan Bargfrede Mojica and Abel Mojica, AB’85, MBA’99.]

Jim Jones, AB’75 (Class of 1984), reports that he has completed his master’s degree program in linguistics at Northeastern Illinois University and is starting a second master’s program there in January.

Ed Bauman, AB’86, writes in with some truly crucial, totally factual, although perhaps not 100 percent modest news: He “helped break the curse that allowed the Cubs to win their first world championship in 108 years. First, I caught Jake Arrieta’s home run in the division series in San Francisco, which had lots of media coverage because I was a sole Cubs fan surrounded by Giants fans in the bleachers. Second, I was present at the epic World Series game 5 win in Chicago and had the good fortune to have Corey Merz, AB’86, sitting just behind me with his father!” Ed adds, “The play of the Cubs themselves might have had something to do with the World Series win, but I was happy to play a part.” The many, many Cubs fans in the class thank you, Ed. When interviewed by the Chicago Tribune later, Ed, a manager for Cisco Systems in San Francisco, said he missed Wrigley Field, where he’d been a proud bleacher bum, and picked out the great Ernie Banks as his favorite Cub.

The theme this issue turns out to be media attention: Ben Weinberg, AB’86, was quoted in an article in the Trib when the Oak Park Village Board was considering making the area a sanctuary or welcoming village. Ben, whose mother fled Nazi Germany, supported the ordinance and is quoted as saying: “We need protection and not collaboration. This is the challenge of our day. My family has seen what happens when the government labels entire groups of people as illegal or dangerous or undesirable, and this is what has happened.” Like the Cubs’ victory, the board’s unanimous decision a few weeks later to enact what advocates are calling one of the strongest ordinances in the United States was doubtless the work of many hands, of whom Ben was one among many, but…

And then there’s Carmyn Shapiro, AB’89, MBA’93, JD’99, recently quoted in a Slate article about the checks-and-balances issues stemming from the Trump administration’s banning refugees from Syria and suspending entrance to residents of seven predominantly Muslim countries in January. She was also one of the 140 lawyers (from both sides of the aisle) who practice in the federal appellate and trial courts and/or clerked for the Supreme Court or other appellate and district courts who wrote to the acting attorney general to condemn attacks on judges and underscore the importance of an independent judiciary.

Subtheme: Class of ’86ers Are Smart. S. Janelle Montgomery, AB’86, MBA’89, says: “Three years ago I decided to pursue a master’s in art history, because I love to think and talk about art. I’ve dabbled for years as a docent at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth.” Well, guess it paid off, because Janelle just received the Romney Society’s Maclean Eltham Essay Prize in Romney Studies for her article “Every Picture Tells a Story: A Family Chronicle in George Romney’s Lady Mary Evens.” As she says, “Lest anyone be confused, the Romney in question is the 18th-century British painter, not Mitt’s father. I’ll finish my master’s in May, assuming I complete my thesis on David Alfaro Siqueiros’s controversial 1932 mural in Los Angeles, América Tropical. How did I get from 18th-century United Kingdom to 1932 Los Angeles? It’s all about art and social change.”

Now, as you know, the class column policy on news is that if you care about it, we care about it, so please don’t take this iteration to mean that you have to be quoted in the media or win a prize. No, friends and fellow travelers, you just have to be alive and kicking and doing something you’d like your former classmates/roommates/hall mates/drinking mates/ Harold’s-late-night-jaunte mates, etc., to know about. Don’t delay; write today.

Ben Weinberg, AB’86, Apt. 17C, 70 West 95th St., New York, NY 10025. Email: nibbs99@gmail.com.

Send your news to: Martha Schuman, AB’86, Apt. 17C, 70 West 95th St., New York, NY 10025. Email: nibbs99@gmail.com.

Send your news to: Karen Erger, AB’84, JD’90, 662 Old School Rd., Ely, IA 52227. Email: karenerger@gmail.com.

Send your news to: Gwyn Cready, AB’83, MBA’86. Email: cready@gmail.com.

Send your news to: Corey Mertes, AB’86, MBA’89, Lucas LLP. Email: cmertes@lucasllp.com.

Send your news to: Ed Baum, AB’86, Apt. 17C, 70 West 95th St., New York, NY 10025. Email: cmertes@lucasllp.com.

Send your news to: David Toub, AB’83, MD’87, has released Ataraxia (María de Alvear World Edition, 2016), an album featuring two of his piano compositions.

Send your news to: Robert推出以音符编织的友情故事，他的妻子，名誉教授Stuart Rice，以及他对学院——最近非常活跃的Daya Langfan，AB’83，和他的妻子，Larry Heller; AB’84, MBA’88; Jason; AB’82, MBA’88, and Deborah; AM’88, Selch; Lisa Montgomery, AB’86; and David Schaffer, AB’83, among others.”

From the editor: David B. Toub, AB’83, MD’87, has released Ataraxia (María de Alvear World Edition, 2016), an album featuring two of his piano compositions.

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Getting into character: Joan Polner, AB’87, leads her fellow cast members in warm-up exercises before the dress rehearsal for a student-led production of Tango by Polish playwright Slawomir Mrozek in 1986. The show was directed by Justyna Frank, LAB’83, AB’87, AM’87.

Carol Christine “Chris” Fair, SB’91, AM’97, PhD’04, reports that after being promoted to associate professor at Georgetown University’s security studies program in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service in the fall of 2015, she was selected as one of the Provost’s Distinguished Associate Professors for 2015–2016. She will begin her Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship in the spring. Congratulations to Chris!

Dyan Bargfrede Mojica and Abel Mojica, both AB’91, report, “We are enjoying seeing our second-oldest son, Henry Mojica, Class of 2020, experience Hyde Park as a first-year in the College. Henry lives on south campus, eats Harvard’s chicken, won his house’s scavenger hunt, and has so far gotten off scot-free with a mild Chicago winter. We are very proud of him despite his refusal to properly refer to the University as ‘U of C’ instead of the newfangled ‘UChicago.’” They have four more sons, Nathan, 21, a junior at Elon University; Conrad, 16; Thomas, 6; and Daniel, 4. Abel is a managing director at Tortoise Capital, an energy-focused asset manager based in Kansas City, and makes annual visits to campus to recruit for the partnership.

Your class correspondent, Martin Berman-Gorvine, AB’91, has two novels coming out sometime this spring: Monsters of Venus (Wildside Press), a young adult science fiction tale and sequel to his 2013 YA novel Seven Against Mars (also from Wildside Press), and Day of Vesuvian (Silver Leaf Books), the second in a four-book horror novel series.

Shinyung Oh, AB’93. Email: shinyungo@gmail.com.

From the editor: Are you interested in being the Class of 1994’s correspondent, compiling classmates’ updates and writing the quarterly alumni news column? If so, email us at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

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For the past few years Natalia Uribe Wilson, AB’95, AM’99, has been making rings for knitters and crocheters that allow them to measure their needles and hooks, and knitting publications are starting to take notice. Her knitting needle gauge rings have been featured in Interweave’s Spin + Knit magazine (instagram.com/p/BL_7SY5AMGH) and in Piecework magazine (instagram.com/p/BOQoQ8PjOUZ), and they will be in an upcoming issue of Interweave Knits. You can see more of Natalia’s work at malojos.com.

Natalia’s also excited to announce that the fiber arts festival she cofounded and still co-organizes celebrated its 10th anniversary! YarnCon hosted its 10th event on April 1 and 2 at the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Union Hall, featuring handmade yarn and tools for the hand stitcher and spinner. You can find out more at yarncon.com.

Natalia explains, “Needless to say, I am not practicing anthropology anymore, but every year I think about the commu-
Shooting the moon: A member of the 1995 Snell-Hitchcock Scav Hunt team models item #213, an authentic space suit. Snell-Hitchcock won that year with 4,534 points. Photography by Chris Dahlen, AB’95.

nity we have helped build at YarnCon, and the greater crafting community in Chicago, and think about what an interesting study that would be. Those lessons never leave you.”

Simon Weffer, AB’96 (Class of 1995), was recently elected to the executive board of the Illinois chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, joining fellow classmates Thurston Bailey, AB’93, and Will Burns, AB’95, AM’98. Simon is an associate professor in Northern Illinois University’s sociology department.

send your news to: Kathleen Abbott, AB’95, Unit 2, 4241 North Damen Ave., Chicago, IL 60618-3011. Phone: 415.661.8554. Email: kabbott@hotmail.com. Cheers and salutations from your Class of 1996 cocorrespondents!

As people are ensconced in their daily routines during this spring quarter, please remember to forward not-to-be-missed news for the autumn quarter issue of the University of Chicago Magazine. Our in-boxes thank you.

send your news to: Jeff Hjelt, AB’96. Email: jhjelt@uchicago.edu. Or Jenny Olaya, AB’96. Email: jlo202@excite.com.
I’m focusing primarily on family law for Chicago’s Filipino community, inspired by my involvement with Samahan, the Filipino student association.

—Janice Dantes, AB’05

Samuels-Kalow, SB’04, and Molly Schranz, AB’04, and Rebekah Rockwood, AB’05, visiting from Chicago. Alex and I landed in Cambridge in 2010 when I accepted the position of Wornick Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. At the MFA, I’ve been busy opening a new contemporary art wing in 2011, curating exhibitions, writing catalogs, and acquiring contemporary craft and design. “We’d love to hear from alums in the area, especially other new parents!”

Oscar Fernández’s (SB’04) new book, The Calculus of Happiness: How a Mathematical Approach to Life Adds Up to Health, Wealth, and Love (Princeton University Press), came out in April. He was officially awarded tenure at Wellesley College, where he has been a faculty member in the mathematics department since the fall of 2011. He writes, “Earning tenure is a notable accomplishment in and of itself. But it’s made all the more notable because of my background: a Latino and first-generation college graduate (son of an immigrant low-income Cuban family). ... Moreover, given that Wellesley College is currently ranked the third-best liberal arts college in the country (at least according to US News and World Report), the accomplishment is even more noteworthy. I doubt I would have gotten this far without the rigorous education I received at the University of Chicago.”

Thank you so much to everyone who submitted news at my recent request! As always, feel free to drop me updates anytime.

Sara Ortiz, AB’04, has worked steadily in the field of health-related research since graduation and is currently employed as project manager for program and data at Scripps Health, one of the biggest health systems in California. She spends her days managing the operations of the cardiovascular research department, focusing on fiscal analytics, special projects, and the development of novel data models to predict and manage staffing levels for large clinical research sites. In her spare time, Sara owns a fashion business, selling clothing to women across the country.

Joachim Steinberg, AB’04, married Emily Ryan Ascolese on November 12. There were many UChicagoans in attendance: Sarah Devorkin, AB’04; Ari Grey, AB’05, JD’12; Miriam Hess, AB’04; Ian Kessler, AB’03; Max Kaley, AB’03; Ashley White-Stern, AB’05; Jeremy Moskowitz, AB’04; Kara Lustig, AB’04; Thane Rehn, AB’04; Audrey Truschke, AB’04; Abraham Rondina, AB’04; Daniel Sullivan, AB’04, JD’08; Matthew Landauer, AB’04; Stephanie Bell, AB’08; and Jonathan Ascolese, AB’10.

Emily Zilber, AB’04, and Alex Reusing, AB’05, are thrilled to announce the birth of their identical twin daughters, Maia June and Juliana Eve, on January 10. Emily writes, “We’ve already introduced them to some wonderful Maroons, including Boston-area residents Maggie

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entists, among others.” To watch “Sincerely, the Future of Healthcare” and read the accompanying open letter, visit medium.com/@standtogether2017/sincerely-the-future-of-healthcare-e86f559675b#.pqukqppg.

send your news to: Rada Yovovich, AB'08. Email: rada.yovovich@gmail.com.

10th Reunion June 1–4, 2017

With our 10-year reunion on the horizon, I’ve received some wonderful updates about the journeys you have undertaken in the past decade. I hope to get even more to share in these pages as our reunion approaches!

In the 10 years since graduation, Pete Kalenik, AB'07 (political science), has served as a soldier, an AmeriCorps educator, and a Chicago police officer. In that time, he has earned degrees from Northwestern University (master’s in education and social policy) and the University of Illinois at Chicago (master’s in urban planning and policy) and is currently enrolled in the joint JD/MPP program at Loyola University Chicago. Pete invites us to learn more about what he’s been up to since graduation by checking out his website: petekalenik.com.

Samuel Philipson, AB’07, writes with the happy news that he and his wife, Natalie, welcomed their first child, Asher Matthew Philipson, on May 9, 2016. And just a few months later, another alum welcomed a son into the world.

Rachel Aubryn, AB’07, writes that Wesley Martin Aubyn was born on October 22.

Carl Streed, SB’07, reports that he is currently at Harvard’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital for a fellowship in general internal medicine research with a focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) health. In addition to conducting research on LGBTQ health with a focus on cardiovascular disease in transgender and gender-nonconforming adults, Carl is also chairing the American Medical Association Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Issues. Carl adds that his fiancé, Chad Rubalcaba, AB’00, JD’07, continues to work for Education First, a consultancy that specializes in education policy.

Keep sharing your stories right here in the Magazine by writing to liz.e.egan@gmail.com!

send your news to: Liz Egan, AB’07. Email: liz.e.egan@gmail.com.

Hello, Class of 2008! Quite a few fun updates this time around.

Ryan Kaminski, AB’08, is currently senior program manager for human rights and special initiatives at the United Nations Foundation. In January the Council on Foreign Relations released a report he coauthored with Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, “Bolstering the UN Human Rights Council’s Effectiveness.”

Jessica Ferguson, AB’08, tells us: “I left city life and now live entirely off the grid in remote Montana, where I have restored an 1800s structure with my own hands. I am a designer/maker of handcrafted contemporary furniture (gallery quality).” Visit Jessica’s website at jiferguson.com.

Lindsey Thomson-Levin, AB’08, reports: “I was honored and grateful to be in the presence of fellow Maroons Wendy Gonzalez, AB’08; Helena Lyson, AB’08; and Candace Wang, AB’07, at my wedding on October 1.” (A note from your correspondent: I was honored and grateful to be there!)

Anna Lunn, AB’08, and her husband, Tim Sweetser, welcomed their daughter, Helen Lunn Sweetser, last May. Anna reports that Helen is still not sleeping through the night, but fingers crossed that she is by the time of this publication. Congratulations are in order for Isaac Epstein, AB’08, who was elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives, representing the first ward of Dover. His partner, Harriet Fertik, AB’08, is halfway through her third year as an assistant professor of classics at the University of New Hampshire.

And proving that it pays to live the life of the mind, Bruce Arthur, AB’07 (Class of 2008), writes in: “In September my Washington, DC–based bar trivia team beat out dozens of others from DC, Maryland, and Virginia to win the prestigious District Trivia Tournament of Champions. Our cash prize was $5,000 in one dollar bills, which we split up equally among the team. We awkwardly stuffed the bills into our pockets and nervously took the train home, hoping we wouldn’t be some mugger’s lucky break.”

—Bruce Arthur, AB’07 (Class of 2008)

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From the editor: Lainie Singerman, AB’12, has joined Blankingship and Keith in Fairfax, VA, as an associate in the firm’s personal injury practice.

send your news to: Colin Bohan, AB’12. Email: colin.bohan@gmail.com.

Misha Hori, AB’10, is the youngest person to ever be elected to the Detroit Public Schools Community District Board of Education and was recently profiled in the Detroit News. She also started a new job as the director of arts and culture for the Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation.

Katharine Bierce, AB’10, teaches at a yoga retreat in Hawaii when she isn’t working in tech in the Bay Area.

From the editor: Are you interested in being the Class of 2016’s correspondent, compiling classmates’ updates and writing the quarterly alumni news column? If so, email us at uchicago -magazine@uchicago.edu.
Advanced degrees

CHICAGO BOOTH
Colin Coulson-Thomas, EX’75, received a distinguished professorship from Sri Sharada Institute of Indian Management-Research. An expert in corporate transformation, Coulson-Thomas has taught at universities around the world and has served on private and public sector boards. For more on his work and publications, see policypublications.com.

Robert D. Peterson, MBA’77, has published two novels, Deniable Justice and The Syndicate’s Church (both CreateSpace, 2013), and has a third, not yet titled, book in the works. The novels “feature a continuing cast of ex–government sanctioned assassins now righting wrongs in the civilian world,” writes Peterson.

Alden Solovy, MBA’90, has published This Grateful Heart: Psalms and Prayers for a New Day (CCAR Press, 2017). “Although a uniquely Jewish voice, my prayers are used by people of all faiths from around the world,” writes Solovy. More information is available on his website: to bendlight.com.

Bioelectronics firm Nativis has appointed Sean Kell, MBA’96, to its board of directors. Kell is the CEO of A Place for Mom, a senior living referral service.

David Iannelli, MBA’02, recently founded Hudson Pacific, “a data-driven consultancy that counsels organizations on public affairs issues, reputation, and crisis management.” The company has operations in New York; Austin, TX; and San Francisco. Previously, Iannelli was executive vice president of global research at Hill+Knowlton Strategies.

Hire an Esquire has added Hi Leva, MBA’03, to its board of directors. Leva was recently vice president of sales, marketing, business development, and technology at Propel Financial Services.

Matilda Ho, MBA’10, has been named a TED2017 Fellow. The founder of Chinese food technology start-up acceleratorBits x Bites, Ho spoke at TED2017 in April.

Pedro Saboia, MBA’13, and his wife, Monique, welcomed their second daughter, Evelyn Claire Saboia, in November.

DIVINITY SCHOOL
Jesus Followers in the Roman Empire by Paul B. Duff, PhD’88, will be published this fall by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. The book traces the early development of Christianity and its evolution from a rural Jewish movement into a largely urban phenomenon in the Roman Empire.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO: The University of Chicago Magazine, c/o Alumni News Editor. Email: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL
Librarian of congress Carla Hayden, AM’77, PhD’87, will receive an honorary degree at William and Mary’s 2017 commencement ceremony.

HARRIS PUBLIC POLICY
Kimberly Carter, AM’94, is the president of the Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Michael Heaney, PhD’04, and Melody (Weinstein) Shemtov, AB’02, have produced and released a documentary film, The Activists: War, Peace, and Politics in the Streets, about the protesters of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. More information is available at bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/acts.html.

HUMANITIES DIVISION
The Catalog of Crooked Thoughts (Longleaf Press, 2016), by Rob McKean, AM’70, won the Longleaf Press Prize Novel Contest at Methodist University. The novel is available on Amazon and through Rob’s website, robmckean.com. An editor of the Chicago Review in his graduate student days, he has published many short stories. McKean has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and received a grant for his writing from the Massachusetts Arts Council. He’s married and lives in the Boston area.

Mia Katrin, AM’70, PhD’75, writes: “I’m enjoying my secondary (actually tertiary!) career. I was a tenured associate philosophy professor at Millersville University and then I traveled internationally for years, teaching and spearheading organizational activities in nonprofit organizations. In 2013 I formed my high-end jewelry design company, Jewel Couture (jeweljewel.com), prompted by my love of gems, which I had been collecting directly from international sources—Brazil, Colombia, Sri Lanka, India—for years. My award-winning collections featuring custom-cut gems in my own original designs are now featured in more than 100 top stores nationally and have been chosen by celebrities. I write for numerous jewelry publications, including Southern Jewelry News and Mid-America Jewelry News, and am frequently invited to speak at jewelry trade shows and symposia. In April I gave a talk at the American Gem Society (jeweljewelry.com) in Houston, CA, and spoke at the Gem Society with Designers—The Inside Scoop!” Tegularly host trunk shows at retail jewelry stores throughout the country and my collections are featured in top jewelry trade publications such as the Retail Jeweler, InStore Magazine, and Rapaport Report.”

Charlotte Digregorio, AM’79, lives in Chicago and recently had a solo poetry exhibit at Fremont Public Library in Mundelein, IL. A special reception was also held for her at the library. Until July 1 her poetry exhibit will be at Northwest Community Healthcare’s Wellness Center in Arlington Heights, IL. Digregorio...
The music man (and family): George M. Pullman Distinguished Service Professor in English and College dean Wayne C. Booth, AM’47, PhD’50, plays with his wife, Phyllis B. Booth, AM’66; his son, Richard Booth, LAB’68; and his daughters, Katherine Booth, LAB’65, on the piano and Alison Booth, LAB’71, on the violin.
The gift of a lifetime deserves lifetime membership.

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DEATHS

FACULTY AND STAFF

James Charles Bruce, PhD'63, associate professor emeritus of Germanic studies, died January 26 in Chicago. He was 87. Bruce taught at South Carolina State College and studied at the University of Frankfurt am Main on a Fulbright scholarship before joining the UChicago faculty in 1963. He retired from the University in 1992 and then spent 11 years teaching English conversation at Soka University in Japan. Bruce was active in the Midwest Modern Language Association and published many articles on German literature as well as a book for Japanese students learning English. He is survived by a son and four grandsons.

Richard Chambers, associate professor emeritus of Turkish languages and civilizations, died August 1. He was 86. A key figure in the development of Turkish and Ottoman studies at UChicago, Chambers joined the faculty in 1962 and helped found the Center for Middle Eastern Studies in 1965. He served as the center’s director from 1979 to 1985 and helped recruit prominent Turkish scholars to the University. He was also involved with several national associations for Turkish and Middle Eastern studies and, with funding from the US Department of Education, established the Advanced Summer Modern Turkish Program for American students in 1982. He retired from UChicago in 1998.

Robert Gomer, professor emeritus of chemistry, died December 12. He was 92. A chemical physicist, Gomer joined the University in 1950. He directed the James Franck Institute from 1977 to 1984 and received a distinguished service professorship in 1984. Gomer’s research focused on surface physics and chemistry, and he pioneered new techniques for studying the emission, diffusion, and absorption of molecules and atoms on ultraclean surfaces. He received many awards for his work, including Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships. A staunch opponent of nuclear weapon proliferation, Gomer cowrote a book with his wife, Regina; two sons, and five grandchildren.

Richard Rockefeller, he served in the US Army before joining Chase bank, becoming chair and CEO of Chase Manhattan in 1969. Rockefeller had been a student of Chase’s international presence, and in the 1970s helped bring local businesses and government together to alleviate New York City’s financial troubles. Rockefeller retired in 1981 and continued his family’s commitment to philanthropy, spurring the development of low-income housing and supporting museums, public schools, and universities, including UChicago. In 1998 his contributions to society were recognized with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Rockefeller is survived by four daughters, one son; 10 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

1930s

Philip Joseph Stein, SB’34, SM’35, MD’37, died February 15 in Evanston, IL. He was 102. Stein served in the US Army’s Medical Corps during World War II before spending his career practicing obstetrics and gynecology. He worked at several Chicago-area hospitals in addition to maintaining a private practice. His wife, Elaine Krensky Stein, AM’50, died in December (see page 85). Stein is survived by a daughter, a son, and two granddaughters.

Charity Ruth (Hillis) Seay, AM’37, of Lexington, KY, died February 18. She was 102. Seay worked for the University of Kentucky’s Bureau of School Services before serving as a professor of education at three Michigan universities. In retirement she enjoyed gardening and breeding swans, ponies, and miniature donkeys. Her husband, Maurice F. Seay, PhD’43, died in 1988. Seay is survived by nieces and nephews.

1940s

Natalie Finder, AB’41, AM’46, of Pittsburgh, PA, died January 12. She was 95. Finder taught English at the College of St. Rose in Albany, NY. She enjoyed reading, cooking, and traveling. Her husband, Morris Finder, AM’49, PhD’60, died in 2013. She is survived by two daughters, three sons, and five grandchildren.

Gloria (Harnick) Parloff, SB’43, of Teaneck, NJ, died January 20. She was 94. After serving as a cartographer during World War II, Parloff had worked with the National Weather Service in Oregon and joined the editorial board of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists. After he retired from the University in 1996 he began hosting interdisciplinary lectures in his home, events that became the Robert and Anne Gomer Lecture Series. Gomer is survived by his wife, Anne; a daughter, Maria Luczkow, LAB’77; a son, Richard Gomer, LAB’73; and three granddaughters.

TRUSTEES

David Rockefeller, PhD’40, died March 20 in Pocantico Hills, NY. He was 101. The grandson of University co-founder John D. Rockefeller, he served in the US Army before joining Chase bank, becoming chair and CEO of Chase Manhattan in 1969. Rockefeller traveled frequently to expand Chase’s international presence, and in the 1970s helped bring local businesses and government together to alleviate New York City’s financial troubles. Rockefeller retired in 1981 and continued his family’s commitment to philanthropy, spurring the development of low-income housing and supporting museums, public schools, and universities, including UChicago. In 1998 his contributions to society were recognized with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Rockefeller is survived by four daughters, one son; 10 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Huston Smith, PhD’45, died December 30 in Berkeley, CA. He was 97. A comparative religion scholar known for practicing faiths, he studied them, Smith taught at several universities, including Washington University in St. Louis, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of California, Berkeley. He was the author of The Religions of Man (1958), later renamed The World’s Religions, which has sold more than three million copies. Smith is survived by his wife, Eleanor Kendra Smith, PhD’43; two daughters; a brother; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Janet McAuley Rotariu, PhD’46, died January 21 in Salisbury, MD. She was 92. While raising her family, Rotariu volunteered with her children’s scout troops and parent-teacher associations, as well as at Children’s National Medical Center. Later she was a financial administrator at two churches. Her husband, George J. Rotariu, SB’39, SM’40, died in 2010. Rotariu is survived by a daughter, two sons, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

George Wilson Hood, MBA’47, PhD’50, died February 20 in DeLand, FL. He was 95. A US Navy veteran, Hood joined Stetson University in 1950 as director of guidance, later serving as dean of men, dean of students, and professor of counselor education. After retiring from Stetson in 1987, he founded and directed a counseling center at his church and remained an active member of the USS Drexler Survivors’ Association. Hood is survived by nieces and nephews.

Victor Lownes III, AB’47, died January 11 in London. He was 88. Lownes joined Playboy as marketing director in 1955 and played a key role in expanding the magazine’s audience. He oversaw the long-running campaign “What Sort of Man Reads Playboy” and he had the idea for the Playboy Club nightclubs. Outside of Playboy, Lownes produced movies, plays, and music. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; a daughter; a son; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Robert S. Rosenzweig, PhB’47, SB’48, SM’49, died February 12 in San Francisco. He was 91. Rosenzweig spent his career as a business systems analyst and a hand bookbinder. He was a longtime member of the Hand Bookbinders of California and the Trollope Society, and enjoyed his hobby of Talmudic paging. Rosenzweig is survived by his wife, Regina; two sons, including David Abraham Rosenzweig, AB’90; and three grandchildren.

Robert Silvers, AB’47, died March 20 in New York City. He was 87. A US Army veteran, Silvers worked at the Paris Review and Harper’s before cofounding the New York Review of Books in 1963. He edited the Review for more than 50 years and was known for his pairings of influential writers with unexpected topics. A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he received the National Book Critics Circle’s Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement
Award in 2011, among other honors. He is survived by nieces and nephews.

1950s

Wallace M. Rudolph, AB’50, JD’53, died March 18 in Orlando, FL. He was 86. A US Army veteran, Rudolph was in private legal practice before joining the faculty of the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1962. He was appointed dean of Seattle University College of Law in 1976 and then became dean of Barry University’s law school in 1997. Rudolph is survived by his wife, Mimi; three daughters, including Sarah Rudolph Cole, JD’90; a stepdaughter; a stepson; and four grandchildren.

Elaine Krensky Stein, AM’50, died December 15 in Evanston, IL. She was 90. Stein taught nursery school and was involved in various community organizations. She enjoyed nature and gardening and was a supporter of local parks and nature centers. Her husband, Philip Joseph Stein, SB’34, died in 2009. Stein is survived by her brother, and two granddaughters.

Ruth Cord Dickson, AB’52, died January 17 in Topeka, KS. She was 83. Dickson started her career in public policy and mental health, later working in fundraising at several universities, including the University of Chicago. She retired in 1997 and enjoyed baking, textile art, and traveling. Dickson is survived by two daughters, including Sara Dickson, AB’82; a son; and eight grandchildren.

Lois (Josephs) Ely, JD’52, died February 19 in Morton Grove, IL. She was 89. Ely practiced law in Chicago before becoming the first woman assistant county prosecutor in Bergen County, NJ. She later was legal counsel at Winthrop College in Charlotte, NC. She enjoyed nature and gardening. She provided free legal assistance to the elderly. Ely is survived by two daughters and a son.

Donald L. Fink, LAB’48, AB’52, SB’54, MD’56, of San Francisco, died January 16. He was 84. A US Navy veteran, Fink directed the pediatric clinic at Moffitt Hospital before helping to found two family medicine programs at the University of California, San Francisco, in 1971. He held leadership positions at UCSF at San Francisco General Hospital and helped to create UCSF’s network of satellite community clinics. Fink is survived by his extended family, including sister Lenore F. Rubin, AB’59.

Robert T. Harms, AB’52, AM’56, PhD’60, of Austin, TX, died October 5. He was 84. A phonology expert, Harms was on the linguistics faculty at the University of Texas at Austin from 1958 until 2006, chairing the department from 1972 to 1977. In retirement he studied the flora of Texas. Harms is survived by his wife and children.

George W. Reed Jr., PhD’52, died August 31, 2015, in Chicago. He was 94. While a student, Reed worked on the Manhattan Project and collaborated with Clair Patterson, PhD’51, on dating the solar system. He then joined Argonne National Laboratory, where he was on the Lunar Samples Analysis Planning Team, receiving the NASA Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal and the NASA Group Achievement Award. He retired from Argonne in 1990. Reed is survived by a daughter; two sons, including Mark D. Morrison-Reed, LAB’67, AM’77; a brother; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Nancy Haas Flick, AB’53, died November 27 in San Diego. She was 83. Flick earned a law degree at the University of San Diego and served on the board of the Sierra Club. She enjoyed the arts, the beach, unspoiled wilderness, and San Diego. She is survived by her husband, Arnold Leab Flick, MD’54; three daughters, including Rachel Flick Wildavsky, AB’80; and eight grandchildren.

Stephen B. Appel, AB’54, MA’59, died February 5 in Cincinnati, OH. He was 81. Appel served in the US Army before beginning a career in retail, retiring as operating vice president at Federated Department Stores in 1988. He then began teaching at the University of Cincinnati’s Institute for Learning in Retirement, on subjects ranging from silent movies to the American Revolution, and served as the institute’s volunteer director for six years. Appel is survived by his wife, Patty; a daughter, Susan D. Appel, AB’90; a son; a brother; and four grandchildren.

Arthur Rosenfeld, PhD’54, died January 27 in Berkeley, CA. He was 90. A US Navy veteran, Rosenfeld was working as a nuclear and particle physicist at the University of California, Berkeley, when the 1973 oil crisis turned his attention to energy conservation. He created the Energy Efficient Buildings Program in 1975 and spent the rest of his career researching and promoting energy-efficient buildings. He was an advisor to the US Department of Energy and a recipient of the Enrico Fermi Award and the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. He is survived by two daughters and six grandchildren.

Roger C. Crumton, JD’55, died February 3 in Ithaca, NY. He was 87. Crumton taught at the University of Chicago and Michigan Law School before becoming assistant attorney general in the Nixon administration, a short-lived position as Crumton advised the president his actions were unlawful following the Watergate scandal. Crumton then served as dean of Cornell University’s law school, from 1975 to 1980, and was later an emeritus professor of law. He is survived by his wife, Harriet; a daughter; three sons; two sisters; 11 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Raymond M. Smullyan, SB’55, died February 6 in Hudson, NY. He was 97. Smullyan worked as a magician before becoming a mathematics professor, teaching at Yeshiva University; Lehman College, City University of New York; and Indiana University. The author of numerous books of puzzles, he was especially known for his creative logic puzzles. Smullyan is survived by a stepson, six step-grandchildren, and 16 step-great-grandchildren.

1960s

Walter David Braddock III, MBA’60, died March 11 in Springfield, IL. He was 80. Braddock was a fuel chemist for Standard Oil and an economist for the State of Illinois before becoming a college professor. He was also an inventor, holding the patent for the first computerized stock exchange. Braddock is survived by his wife, Zoa; three sons, including Walter D. Braddock, AB’84, and Demetrios Thomas Braddock, AB’88, PhD’94, MD’96; a sister; and seven grandchildren.

Avima Ruder, EX’62, of Cincinnati, OH, died January 26. She was 75. An epidemiologist, Ruder spent 28 years at the National Institute of Health before becoming a volunteer director for six years. Appel is survived by her husband, Gene; a daughter; three sons; and five grandchildren.

Robert P. Blumer, AB’56, SB’58, MBA’58, of Orland Park, IL, died February 22. He was 82. Blumer was vice president of media administration at the Leo Burnett advertising agency, retiring in 1994. He enjoyed gardening and the Pittsburgh Steelers and volunteered at the Cancer Support Center. Blumer is survived by his wife, Sharon; two daughters; a son; a sister, Elizabeth (Blumer) Witschard, SB’58; and three grandchildren.

Robert J. Blattner, PhD’57, died June 13, 2015, in Los Angeles. He was 83. Blattner was a professor of mathematics at the University of California, Los Angeles. A specialist in theory of representations and geometric quantization, he was best known for Blattner’s conjecture, involving representations of a semisimple real Lie group. Blattner also served on several boards at UCLA and had a passion for music. He is survived by his wife, Susan Montgomery, SM’66, PhD’69; three sons; and six grandchildren.

Mildred Dresselhaus, PhD’59, died February 20 in Cambridge, MA. She was 86. Dresselhaus joined the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1960, later becoming the university’s first tenured woman faculty member. She was known as the “queen of carbon science,” and her research into the fundamental properties of carbon paved the way for advances in materials science. The recipient of the National Medal of Science and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Dresselhaus was a dedicated advocate for women in science. She is survived by her husband, Gene; a daughter; three sons; and five grandchildren.

Raymond M. Smullyan, SB’55, died February 6 in Hudson, NY. He was 97. Smullyan worked as a magician before becoming a mathematics professor, teaching at Yeshiva University; Lehman College, City University of New York; and Indiana University. The author of numerous books of puzzles, he was especially known for his creative logic puzzles. Smullyan is survived by a stepson, six step-grandchildren, and 16 step-great-grandchildren.

Nina Blattner, SM’53, PhD’56, died June 5, 2014, in Santa Monica, CA. She was 84. A theoretical physicist, Byers joined the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1961 and made significant contributions to fields including particle physics and superconductivity. After retiring from UCLA in 1993, she established a website that chronicles and celebrates other women’s contributions to physics. Byers is survived by extended family.

Stephen B. Appel, AB’54, MA’59, died February 5 in Cincinnati, OH. He was 81. Appel served in the US Army before beginning a career in retail, retiring as operating vice president at Federated Department Stores in 1988. He then began teaching at the University of Cincinnati’s Institute for Learning in Retirement, on subjects ranging from silent movies to the American Revolution, and served as the institute’s volunteer director for six years. Appel is survived by his wife, Patty; a daughter, Susan D. Appel, AB’90; a son; a brother; and four grandchildren.

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Roger C. Crumton, JD’55, died February 3 in Ithaca, NY. He was 87. Crumton taught at the University of Chicago and Michigan Law School before becoming assistant attorney general in the Nixon administration, a short-lived position as Crumton advised the president his actions were unlawful following the Watergate scandal. Crumton then served as dean of Cornell University’s law school, from 1975 to 1980, and was later an emeritus professor of law. He is survived by his wife, Harriet; a daughter; three sons; two sisters; 11 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Raymond M. Smullyan, SB’55, died February 6 in Hudson, NY. He was 97. Smullyan worked as a magician before becoming a mathematics professor, teaching at Yeshiva University; Lehman College, City University of New York; and Indiana University. The author of numerous books of puzzles, he was especially known for his creative logic puzzles. Smullyan is survived by a stepson, six step-grandchildren, and 16 step-great-grandchildren.
Richard Gottlieb, AM’63, died January 26. He was 94. An academic librarian, Nitecki worked at colleges and universities across the country, most recently as director of libraries at the State University of New York, Albany, where he also taught school information policy. His brother, Matthew H. Nitecki, SM’62, PhD’68, died in December (see below). Nitecki is survived by family, including his son, Zbigniew Nitecki, SB’65.

Deborah Schimmel Butterworth, AM’64, of Washington, DC, died February 18. She was 79. Butterworth taught French at Georgetown Day School and enjoyed traveling and playing music with the local New Horizons Band. She is survived by her husband, Charles E. Butterworth, AM’62, PhD’66; a daughter; a brother; and a granddaughter.

Jerald C. Walker, DB’64, died December 24 in Tulsa, OK. He was 78. An ordained Methodist minister, Walker was chaplain of Nebraska Wesleyan University and president of John J. Pershing College before being appointed president of Oklahoma City University in 1979. Walker, a member of the university’s faculty, focused on improving educational access for Native American and minority students. He retired in 1997 and was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 1999.

John Richard “Jack” Shaeffer, SM’58, PhD’64, died December 21 in Carol Stream, IL. He was 85. Shaeffer served as a science adviser for the US Army, helping to write the Clean Water Act of 1972, before launching his own engineering firm in 1976. Known for creative solutions to wastewater management issues, he served as chairman of the DuPage County Environmental Commission and his work was recognized by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Shaeffer is survived by a daughter, three sons, two stepdaughters, two stepsons, two brothers, and 11 grandchildren.

Richard Gottlieb, AB’65, MD’69, died January 31 in New York City. He was 73. Gottlieb was a founding member of the Berkshire Psychoanalytic Institute and faculty director at the New York Psychoanalytic Institute. He was also a clinical associate professor at Mount Sinai’s medical school and lectured widely while maintaining private practices in New York and Shaker, CT. Gottlieb is survived by his wife, Josephine, and two sons.

Kathleen (O’Farrell) Rubin, LAB’54, AB’55, died February 17 in Camarillo, CA. She was 78. Rubin taught in the Chicago Public Schools system for a few years and then in the Westmont, IL, system for more than 30 years. She enjoyed visiting art museums, knitting, sewing, gardening, and playing bridge. Rubin is survived by a daughter; a stepdaughter; a stepson; and a sister, Ellen (Philip) Leavitt, LAB’60.

David M. Schoenwetter, SB’65, of Phoenix, died December 4. He was 72. Schoenwetter spent his career in the aerospace and computer industries and enjoyed writing fiction and humor pieces (including his own witty eulogy). He is survived by his wife, Barbara.

John T. Beaty Jr., MBA’66, died February 7 in Northfield, IL. He was 80. A US Army veteran, Beaty was an investment banker, holding senior positions with Allis Chalmers and Smith Barney. He also served on professional and civic boards, acted as a supernumerary with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. Beaty is survived by his wife, Marilla; a daughter; two sons; and four grandchildren.

Matthew H. Nitecki, SM’62, PhD’68, died December 21 in Chicago. He was 91. The last curator of the Walker Museum of Paleontology in Chicago, Nitecki oversaw the transfer of its collection to the Field Museum in 1965. He remained with the Field Museum for the rest of his career, retiring as curator of invertebrate fossils, while also teaching biology at UChicago. His brother, Joseph Nitecki, AM’63, died in January. Nitecki is survived by his wife, Doris Nitecki, AM’57; and a son.

Patricia (Riley) Johnson, AM’69, died January 14 in Washington, DC. She was 71. Johnson worked for the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare before becoming the founding president and CEO of Rebuilding Together, a nonprofit that repairs the homes of low-income, elderly, and handicapped Americans, in 1988. After retiring in 2006, she became canon missioner at Washington National Cathedral, where she led many social justice initiatives. Johnson is survived by her husband, Tom; four sons; and nine grandchildren.

William “Bill” Howard Cowan, JD’71, died of cancer on February 2 in Naperville, IL. He was 60. Cowan was a lawyer in the Chicago area, specializing in business and merger and acquisition law. He was also an amateur photographer, a member of the Art Institute of Chicago, and a dedicated theatergoer. Cowan is survived by three daughters, a son, and a grandson.

Roy Allen Whiteside Jr., MBA’72, died September 19 in Fredericksburg, VA. He was 76. A certified public accountant, Whiteside practiced in Fredericksburg from 1979 until his retirement in 2010. He enjoyed sailing, traveling, playing backgammon, and spending time with family. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; four children; three stepchildren; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

1980s

Tani Marilena Adams, AM’81, of Austin, TX, died February 5 of cancer. She was 62. The founder of the Texas Center for Policy Studies, between 1988 and 1994 Adams established and directed five Greenpeace regional offices in Latin America. In 1996 she was appointed director of the Center for Mesoamerican Research in Guatemala, and she later held fellowships at the United States Institute of Peace and the Woodrow Wilson Center. Adams is survived by a daughter, a son, her parents, a sister, and a brother.

Cameron Joseph Campbell, AM’84, died December 10 in Chicago. He was 70. Campbell ran the Regenstein Library’s serials indexing department and the Northwestern University School of Law’s special projects department, retiring from the American Theological Library Association as the director of indexing. He enjoyed collecting East Asian art, Campbell is survived by his husband, Daniel von Brighoff, and a sister.

Lesa B. Morrison, AB’84, MBA’85, died the first week of December in Nairobi, Kenya, as the result of a spider bite. She was 53. Morrison spent three and a half years in the Peace Corps and worked at the World Bank in Washington, DC, before earning a PhD in African studies. She later moved to Kenya to study the native Luo people. Morrison enjoyed traveling, classical music, and the Pittsburgh Steelers. She is survived by her mother and her sister.

1990s

Timothy Stephen Fuerst, AM’87, PhD’90, of Granger, IN, died February 21 of stomach cancer. He was 54. Fuerst was an economics professor at Bowling Green State University and a senior economic adviser at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland before joining the economics faculty at the University of Notre Dame in 2012. He was active in his church and enjoyed reading, exercising, and watching Notre Dame football. Fuerst is survived by his wife, Antoinette Medaglia; two daughters; two sons; and seven siblings.

2010s

Emily Ariel Bamberger, AB’13, died March 6 in Kansas City, MO. She was 26. Bamberger worked for the American Red Cross in Chicago as a member of AmeriCorps before enrolling in an MD/PhD program at the University of Missouri. She enjoyed reading, traveling, movies, and politics. Bamberger is survived by her parents, her sister, and two grandfathers.
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RENTALS


WANTED


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EVENTS

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What do you call a group of ... ?

Collective nouns exist for nearly every group of animals and gathering of people, but what’s the proper nomenclature for Maroon multiples? We took a stab at some potential UChicago aggregation terms.

—Joy Olivia Miller and Laura Demanski, AM’94

A weary of grad students
A daze of first-years
A Milton of free lunches
A merger of MBAs
A buck of milkshakes

A gurgle of gargoyles
A flutter of prospies
A jitter of coffee shops
A persuasion of law students
A bleary of library naps
An aggression of quad squirrels

What did we forget?
Send your UChicago-themed plural appellations to uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. We’ll post our favorites at mag.uchicago.edu.
JOIN US JUNE 1–4 FOR ALUMNI WEEKEND
Division of the Social Sciences events on Friday, June 2:

The Ambitious Elementary School
Conception, Design, and Implications for Educational Equality
Stephen Raudenbush and Lisa Rosen
Ida Noyes Hall | 11:30 a.m.–noon

How to Design Communities That Help Us Live Happier, Healthier, Longer Lives
Kathleen Cagney, AM’90; Terry N. Clark; and Emily Talen
Ida Noyes Hall | 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Economic Causes and Consequences of the Presidential Administration
Casey Mulligan, PhD’93, and Roger Myerson
Saieh Hall | 2–3 p.m.

Economics Student Poster Session and Reception
Saieh Hall | 3:00–4:30 p.m.
Turn back the pages

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