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## EDITOR'S NOTES

# FIT TO PRINT

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94



For readers of a certain generation (mine), the words “*Cricket* magazine” cast a spell. The somewhat tony, totally charming publication for young readers started in 1973. Among the quarter-million mailboxes it landed in was my family’s, putting in my greedy little hands stories and poetry by renowned writers. Alongside the words were witty illustrations, including the critters crawling the margins of every issue: Ladybug (object of art director **Guido Mendez’s** homage, above right), Ugly Bird, and the eponymous *Cricket*. The magazine helped make reading a habit—like breathing, but more fun.

I was reminded of this small joy when I heard of the death of Marianne Carus, *Cricket’s* founder, in March. What I didn’t know until I read her obituary was that Carus took a few classes at the University of Chicago after moving here from Germany, with her American husband, and was a parent of two alumni.

To the biased observer (me), it’s fitting that someone with ties to the University would invent a new magazine, no less one that treated children as discerning readers and supplied them with good things to read—as Carus called it, “literature you cannot put down.” Decades later I’m still grateful for that gift, and glad to know its giver had even a slender common thread with me, and with you.

Starting a new periodical is a pretty UChicago thing to do, it turns out. Maybe most famously, Robert Silvers, AB’47, cofounded the *New York Review of Books* in 1963. Three more such publications come up in this very issue: in *Peer Review*, the graduate-student-run literary journal *Chicago Review*, which turns 75 this year and which once had *Magazine* alumni news editor **Andrew Peart**, AM’16, PhD’18, at the top of the masthead (see page 55), and the *Baffler*, founded by **Thomas Frank**, AM’89, PhD’94 (see page 73).

In 1976 College third-year **Eugene “Chip” Forrester**, AB’77, cofounded a new student newspaper, the *Chicago Journal*. Like Carus with *Cricket* and so many others, Forrester identified a readerly need and spoke to it. His paper spoke for eight years, one as a student publication and the next seven as a free weekly for Chicago’s South Side. To find out more, see “Alternative History,” page 44.

We at the *Magazine*, with its 113 years and generations of editors, are more custodians than founders. That just makes our admiration of Carus et al. deeper. ♦

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# SPRING 2021

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## Above

The student-founded *Chicago Journal* aimed to capture life on the South Side—and what could be more authentic than Valois? For more on the paper and its alumni, see “Alternative History,” page 44.

## On the Cover

The Harper Library chandelier, a familiar sight to many a groggy, newly awoken catnapper. Photography by Jason Smith.



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# LETTERS

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. While the *Magazine* staff works remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, please send letters via email: [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).

## Epic love

I want to thank the *Magazine* and Laura Demanski, AM'94, for the story about Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer's translation of the *Aeneid* ("An Aeneas Divided," Winter/21). I am a fan of this epic poem and plan to purchase the book.

Just for reference, this is not the first translation of the *Aeneid* by a woman. Sarah Ruden published a translation in 2008 with Yale University Press. It was positively reviewed in the *New York Review of Books*, and she took a somewhat similar approach.

Anyway, I look forward to reading this new translation, which sounds great, and I appreciate your flagging it for us.

**Angelo Grima, JD'84**  
VIENNA, VIRGINIA

*Grima was one of several readers to call our attention to Ruden's translation. We appreciate the correction and regret the error.—Ed.*

Wow! Your article on Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer's translation of the *Aeneid* jostled my memory. It has been over six decades since I studied Latin (eight years' worth), and yet the *Aeneid*'s first line in Latin jumped out of my mouth. Those were the days you had to memorize a lot.

Her translation is just totally beautiful. It spurred me to reread the opening verses of the poem in Latin and marvel at the exquisite rendering of Bartsch-Zimmer.

Latin has served me well. My doctoral dissertation (Tulane University, PhD'68) was 300 pages in Latin—an edited 13th-century manuscript of a commentary on one of Aristotle's works. I can read and speak Spanish

very well, and Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian haltingly—all Latin derivatives. And, of course, it helps with the other languages I have studied: Greek, Russian, French, and German.

I have urged my five grandsons to study Latin in high school and college but to no avail. My final hope is currently a first-year student in the humanities at the University of Chicago.



I hope he can enjoy learning from a gifted professor like Bartsch-Zimmer.

**Bernard Parker, AM'65**  
OCALA, FLORIDA

I was thrilled to read your article on Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer's new translation of the *Aeneid* and continue to be pleased that I graduated from a university that recognizes and honors such classics in its alumni magazine.

The *Aeneid* had a brief moment in my University of Chicago experience. As you remember from my article on

the Small School Talent Search ("No Small Talent," Winter/17), I was one of the students from the rural Midwest who was recruited to UChicago in the 1960s. We were all poorly trained, and it showed in our classroom participation.

I struggled with Humanities I that first year. The class was taught by Paul Moses, a gifted instructor and the first Black person I had ever met. (He was tragically murdered two years later.) My ignorance stood out as my experienced classmates responded to Mr. Moses's questions about art, music, and literature.

But one cold January morning, I got my chance when he put up a slide of the *Laocoön*. My education at Portage High School in Wisconsin was substandard in many ways, but we had a gifted Latin teacher. For four years I studied Latin with Miss Raup. The last year, we read and even memorized significant sections of the *Aeneid*. So when Mr. Moses asked who could give the background of the slide, my hand shot up. Much to Mr. Moses's amazement, I expect, I told the story of *Laocoön*, the priest of Troy whose sons were crushed by snakes as he pleaded with the Trojans not to bring the horse into their city. When I finished, Mr. Moses asked, "Mr. Heberlein, do you remember what *Laocoön* said that day?"

Here was my *carpe diem* moment. I replied, "Yes! *Quidquid id est, timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.*" Mr. Moses, who was rumored to be fluent in four languages, raced to the board and wrote the Latin words and asked me to translate for my classmates: "Whatever it is, I fear the Greeks even bearing gifts."

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Over the decades people have asked me, “What good were four years of Latin?” In that moment the whole four years paid off as my self-esteem got a much-needed boost in my UChicago struggles.

Thanks for your story and for bringing back such a fond memory. Fifty years later I got to Rome, where I saw the *Laocoön* in person, and my wife took a picture of me standing in front of it.

**Thomas Heberlein, AB’67**  
MADISON, WISCONSIN

Ave atque vale!

Reading “An Aeneas Divided,” I was brought back 50-plus years to a classroom of 38 boys in a Jesuit high school and a more mirthful story about translating Vergil. The *Aeneid* was read in third year, and four years of Latin or Greek were required for the honors program. As the Jesuit scholar teaching the course was not very inspiring (or desired a return to civilian life), a flourishing market in interlinear translations (“ponies”) had developed. Mine was a reissue of Hart and Osborn’s 1882 version, written in a florid Victorian style. The scheme was unmasked when several classmates didn’t bother to retranslate into contemporary English!

I commend Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer for her new translation.

**Jack Walton, MBA’74**  
SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO

### Over the top

It is almost always a pleasure to dive into the *Magazine* when it arrives, but occasionally it gets my goat. In the Winter/21 issue there is an article, “Experimental Theater,” that highlights the following quotation from the teacher: “The goal of the minicourse ... is to help participants develop ‘a larger, more diverse and inclusive inner ensemble that’s ambidextrous and more effective across different contexts.’”

The pretension in this statement oozes. I thought UChicago was above academic psychobabble. It’s enough to make you want to listen to one of Trump’s monosyllabic speeches. Hrrmph!

**Neil Arkuss, AB’66**  
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

### On the road again

Really enjoyed the article on Route 66 (“Out of the Past,” Winter/21), a highway of unique significance in the history of movements of an untold number of people across a vast portion of America.

And I was one of them, starting in the late ’50s. From Santa Fe, New Mexico, where I lived at the time, I drove a few miles south to get on Route 66, drove on it as far as St. Louis, and then continued on other highways to my ultimate destination, Washington, DC, and college at the Catholic University of America.

Four years after that, starting in 1959, I’d make the same journey, but get off in Chicago, and repeat the same trip several more times for four years of study at the University.

It was always an enjoyable experience. It offered a most appreciated venue for meeting and getting to know many people from around the country and around the world.

Let me include a little item of possible interest to you: a poem based on my Route 66 journeys.

**Robert W. Proctor, SM’62**  
LA LUZ, NEW MEXICO

To read the poem, visit [mag.uchicago.edu/spring21mail](http://mag.uchicago.edu/spring21mail).—Ed.

I was delighted to read about Charley Custer’s (EX’75) parents’ road-tripping photography and Charley’s discovery and preservation of the photos. I lost touch with Charley (he was Chuck back then) after graduation. Seeing his name brought to the surface cherished College memories of parties at his Hyde Park walk-up with Dancing John, Mystic Pat, Doobie Dan, Silent Bob, Sexy SheShe, etc.

But I was very saddened to see the death notice of another friend, Paul Mankowski, AB’76 (Deaths, Winter/21). Paul shared the distinction with two others, Steve Piwinski, AB’75, and me, of being on the swimming and football teams. Paul was one of the most brilliant and well-read people I’ve known. He was the ideal scholar-athlete.

**Jeff Rasley, AB’75**  
INDIANAPOLIS

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## A teacher to remember

Thanks for Susie Allen's (AB'09) "A Hanna Gray Miscellany" in the Winter/21 *Core*. I wish I could send her a personal word of thanks.

I began my fourth year in the College in autumn 1967 with the intention of doing my final year's history thesis on something to do with the northern Renaissance/Reformation. By one means or another, I landed with Mrs. Gray as adviser. (Everyone was Mr., Mrs., or Miss in those years.) What luck! She gently guided my reading as I narrowed my focus to the "Radical Reformation."

I had taken Eric Cochran's fine Italian Renaissance course the year before. Amazing how accessible graduate-level courses were for those of us in the College. That year I took another amazing course in the Divinity School on the New Testament gospels from a very prominent British biblical scholar, Norman Perrin.

Every week I met with Mrs. Gray to discuss what I was reading, learning, and doing. The early modern required coursework ran all year and included at least one quarter with William McNeill, LAB'34, AB'38, AM'39. I also took a philosophy course from Richard McKeon, writing a paper on Erasmus and Luther's dispute over free will. Added to that was a reading course with one of the greatest teachers in the College in those days, Karl Weintraub, AB'49, AM'52, PhD'57. What an education!

But at one point that year I hit some very tough personal challenges: a (for then) long-term relationship ended, and of course there was the Vietnam War and military draft staring at all of us guys. Mrs. Gray offered some very wise advice: be sure to finish your coursework, as it may not come around for another year or two, and put off your thesis if need be.

That's what I did, ending up with just one incomplete and the unfinished thesis at the end of Spring quarter. That summer my late father, a professor at Lewis & Clark College, gave me his office and electric typewriter, and I worked all day, every day for six-plus

weeks on an analysis and life history for Mrs. Gray of Michael Servetus, who was burned at the stake by Calvin in Geneva. I also finished that paper on free will for McKeon. Got them in the mail by the August 1 deadline. I'm not sure what mark she gave my work, but I was finally awarded a BA in history in December 1968. I failed to offer thanks!

By that time I was a graduate student in Renaissance and Reformation studies at Stanford University with a full fellowship and stipend, no doubt the result of a fine letter of recommendation from Mrs. Gray. Stanford was like being back in high school after my final two years at the University of Chicago. For better or worse, it did not pan out: I turned in my draft cards, refused induction into the military, and was indicted. Draft resistance became my full-time job until I worked out an arrangement with the federal attorney in Portland, Oregon, to perform two years of alternative service. The scholar's life was not for me. I helped start the *Potrero View*, now San Francisco's oldest community newspaper, in 1970.

Years later I got a job testing paper on production printing presses (I was by then a journeyman press operator), in large part because my résumé included a BA in history from the University of Chicago. The guy who hired me was confident that I could stand my ground with all the PhDs who worked at Boise Cascade Paper R&D! He was right.

**Lenny Anderson, AB'68**  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**



## Of UChicago I sing

I read with nostalgic interest your article on the album *Songs of the Uni-*

*versity of Chicago* ("A Surprise Package from 1950," the *Core*, Winter/21). I was a contemporary of Maurice Mandel, AB'56, AB'57, and lived across the street in the Zeta Beta Tau house. As a participant in the Interfraternity Sing, I was always struck by the Delta Upsilon song, which contained, as I recall, the following memorable lines:

Down among the dead men  
Down among the dead men  
Down among the dead men  
Let him lie.

Perhaps the material he sent you would substantiate my recollection.

On one quibbling point, the game Mandel describes between the University of Chicago and University of Illinois Navy Pier was played not in Bartlett Gym but in the old field house, where we played all our games at that time. I was a member (bench warmer, sliver collector) of that team and remember the events he describes so vividly. It was U-High that played its games in Bartlett.

**Carl B. Frankel, AB'54, JD'57**  
**PITTSBURGH**

I just read Carrie Golus's (AB'91, AM'93) piece on University of Chicago songs of the 1950s, with Maurice Mandel's recollections. I was nodding along until I came to the end where Mandel describes the big game against Navy Pier.

OMG. I played in that game. Winter Quarter 1953. The Maroons basketball team had not won a game in three years. As something of a lark, several of us on the baseball team decided to skip winter indoor practice in the field house that year. There was always the risk of getting beamed there due to all the gloom and glare on the infield we would set up on the dirt tennis courts. Let's try another sport, thought we. Could not do any worse at basketball than had our friends who came before. And it seemed a good way to make sure our legs were in shape for baseball.

We were right. We blew Navy Pier away. Ended the losing streak. And in the next game started another one, of course.

One minor correction. The game was played in the (old) field house, before the double deck was installed. In those days

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# LETTERS

Bartlett was reserved for the U-High team, intramurals, and “noon ball.”

**David G. Utley, LAB’49, AB’53, AM’60**  
MADISON, WISCONSIN

## For want of a pen

You asked about campus speakers who left an impression (“A Symposium on Statecraft,” Alumni News, Winter/21). I was 13 years old and a student at Lab when Robert F. Kennedy gave his address at the Law School in February 1967. I attended the talk with my father, who was a professor in the oncology department at that time.

We were lucky to encounter Mr. Kennedy in the parking lot by the Law School as he was on his way in to the event. Like a typical starstruck teen, I immediately asked him for his autograph. He stopped and kindly tried to sign my program a few times with a defective ballpoint pen that I had given him. In frustration Mr. Kennedy said to me, “Sorry, son, but this damn pen won’t write.” It was an amusing encounter that I will never forget, and one that lingers with sadness.

**Alexander Vesselinovitch, LAB’71,**  
AB’75  
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS

## Know your audience

Sometime around 1948, J. Robert Oppenheimer came to campus. Remember that at the time, atomic energy and its attendant field were still mysteries to most laymen. Cobb Hall (I think) was packed with students, and faculty members occupied the first rows, eager to hear the latest from “the chief.”

Entering the hall, Oppenheimer seemed somewhat surprised at the number of students in the audience. Acknowledging the faculty members in the first rows, he apologized to them, saying something like this: “I know you want to hear the latest, but there is such misunderstanding of this subject that I cannot resist the opportunity to help enlighten such a large number of students while I have the chance.” And he launched into

a clear discussion of the subject at a level that we could understand. It was an impressive performance.

**Harold Lieberman, AM’49**  
ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

## Snow business

I remember the snow sculpture (“Art Brut,” Alumni News, Winter/21). I was in the College. That sculpture seemed to appear out of nowhere. I took photos of it, but I have long since lost them. I have told people about this sculpture over the years, but it defies description if you did not see it. Great memory!

**Richard Charles Anderson, AB’73**  
CHICAGO

## Poster master

What a surprise to see the film posters David P. James, AB’80 (Class of 1972), and I did for Doc Films on the cover of the *Magazine* (Winter/19). Somehow we managed to crank out almost daily posters without the aid of graphic arts software—in between attending classes and writing English papers. Thanks to my mom, who saved nearly every one of the posters, I was able to send a stack of posters to Special Collections for display. What an additional treat to see that our posters are now featured on *Magazine* postcards (Editor’s Notes, “Postcards of the Past,” Winter/21).

All this triggered a flood of memories of Doc Films and my life at UChicago. I wonder if my fellow cineastes remember when I introduced films at Quantrell Auditorium wearing a cowboy outfit for a John Ford series. Or when I wore a gold Mylar toga for a showing of *I Am Curious (Yellow)* during the annual Lascivious Costume Ball. What was I thinking? Those stage lights made it look like I was wearing Saran Wrap. I think that was the biggest applause I ever received.

I also remember when Jane Fonda came to campus to give a talk at Quantrell in the early ’70s. As she walked onto the stage, Fonda noticed a Doc Films poster of *Barbarella* tacked on a nearby wall. She wasn’t pleased and pretty much tore it off the wall. Well, maybe she didn’t literally tear it off, but she certainly made dispar-

aging remarks. I think her *Barbarella* character didn’t quite mesh with her antiwar activist persona at the time. I hear she has lightened up since then.

**Paul Preston, AB’72, AM’73**  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

## All-time classic

I was at the remarkable Aristotelian-Platonism game and do remember both Bernard Wax, AB’50, AM’55, and Gerald Brody, AB’51, from our College days (Letters, Spring/20 and Fall/20). I had no understanding of football but their enthusiasm was contagious. As I recall, there was a struggle to assemble the proper safety equipment for the game as well as the audience. We were an energetic group of friends and I would be happy to see them.

**Irvina Perman Warren, AB’52**  
WINNETKA, ILLINOIS

## Policy note

To make a more inclusive university, I recommend a change to the existing policy on harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct.

Currently the policy “expresses the University’s commitment to an environment free from discrimination, sexual harassment and other unlawful forms of harassment.” Unlawful harassment is defined as harassment related to protected classes, such as race or color. The policy should be broadened to prohibit all harassment. I have read news reports indicating that much (and perhaps most) harassment on college campuses these days relates to politics or ideology rather than a protected class and is thus outside the current definition. An inclusive Chicago does not tolerate anyone being harassed for any reason.

An expanded policy should also make it clear that exposure to ideas and opinions one dislikes is not the same thing as harassment. In fact, exposure to such ideas and opinions is one of the goals of a Chicago education.

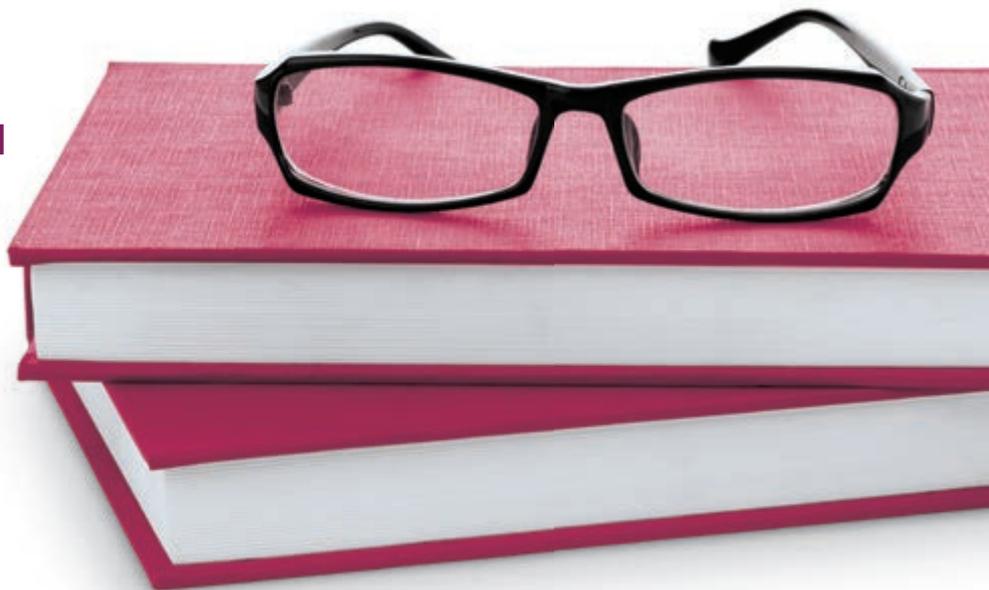
**James G. Russell, MBA’78**  
MIDLOTHIAN, VIRGINIA



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# ADVANCING A MORE JUST AND HUMANE SOCIETY

BY DEBORAH GORMAN-SMITH

DEAN AND EMILY KLEIN GIDWITZ PROFESSOR,  
CROWN FAMILY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK,  
POLICY, AND PRACTICE

In the past year, the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice has continued a steady expansion of initiatives and programs designed to address pressing social challenges. Guiding this work is the vision of the school's first dean, Edith Abbott, PhD 1905, a forward-thinking leader who understood that lasting social change—and real impact—would happen only if rigorous research informed policy and practice.

Abbott's pioneering work more than one hundred years ago shaped a model of interdisciplinary inquiry and impact that continues to this day. Inspired by this tradition, Crown Family School scholars conduct research on public policies, human service organizations, social programs, and social work practice, studying such far-ranging topics as child welfare, urban education, criminal justice disparities, homelessness, health care, policing, youth violence prevention, urban politics, low-wage employment, immigration, child and family policy, and substance use and abuse.

Earlier this year, we received a gift of \$75 million from James and Paula Crown and the Crown family—the largest ever in support of a school of social work. In recognition of this significant gift, the school, long known as the School of Social Service Administration, was renamed the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. Changing the school's name so it more aptly reflects our mission had been, for many years, a discussion topic among faculty, students, and alumni. The gift provided a good moment to make clear this is a school of social work with a strong emphasis



and expertise in social policy as well as practice across a wide range of domains and organizational and community contexts. Significantly, the gift will expand financial support to students, accelerate faculty hiring and research initiatives, and deepen our ambitious community-engaged research, especially our work on Chicago's South Side.

With this added momentum, we are amplifying the school's central themes: Research and evidence must guide social change initiatives. Only an interdisciplinary approach can solve interconnected and complex social challenges. Education that integrates theory with practice must occur both in the classroom and in the community.

Above all, our work must connect to and influence the issues of our time—locally, nationally, and globally. To do this, we are adding and developing programs that allow us to partner with a range of communities in a strategic and intentional way. To support a new generation of leaders, our recently launched master's degree program in Social Sector Leadership

and Nonprofit Management enhances the analytical skills of midlevel professionals, preparing them to direct nonprofit organizations that make impact in the community. And while the Crown Family School historically has been a professional graduate school, we have developed a new minor in the College in Inequality, Social Problems and Change. The school, now the academic home of the Urban Education Institute, is integrating educational research, policy making, and practice, to address the social determinants related to educational achievement.

On the global stage, a \$25 million gift from the Kiphart Family Foundation will establish the Susan and Richard Kiphart Center for Global Health and Social Development, led in partnership with the Biological Sciences Division. The Kiphart Center will serve as the University's gateway in bringing together teams from around the University and partner communities to address social determinants of health and improve infrastructure to promote community health and well-being around the world.

As a coda to this activity, the University recently dedicated the building that is home to the Crown Family School in honor of our farseeing first dean. Edith Abbott Hall is a landmark in many ways—recognizing Abbott's importance to the University, her contributions to the profession, and her impact in creating a more just and humane society. We know our work is not done, and we will press forward because, as Edith Abbott once said, we have “the grave responsibility of interfering with the lives of human beings.” ♦



# BIG BRAINS PODCAST

**“Podcast of the Year”**

-Adweek’s branded content award winner

“The storytelling makes the research from UChicago faculty come alive.”

- Apple Podcasts Review

“My 10 year-old and I listen on the way to school. We listen, we hit pause for questions, and by the time I drop him off he’s a little bit smarter.”

- Apple Podcasts Review

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# UCHICAGO JOURNAL

RESEARCH AND NEWS IN BRIEF

## GLOW UP

The *Light Fantastic* public art project aimed to brighten up the dark days of Winter Quarter with student-made sculptures constructed from bamboo poles and holiday lights. Twenty of these beacons of light were on view around campus from February 26 to March 20.

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*UChicago's  
next president*

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*Effective  
government*

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*A forgotten  
spy*

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*The future  
of comedy*

Photography by Jason Smith

# Presidential transition

*UChicago alumnus Paul Alivisatos, AB'81, takes office in September.*

The University of Chicago's Board of Trustees has named **Paul Alivisatos**, AB'81, as the University's 14th president.

An accomplished leader in higher education and a world-renowned scientist, Alivisatos, 61, currently serves as executive vice chancellor and provost at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the Samsung Distinguished Professor of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology in the Department of Chemistry and the former director of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Following an international search, Alivisatos was elected president at a meeting of the Board of Trustees on February 25 and will assume his role on September 1. Alivisatos will succeed **Robert J. Zimmer**, who has served as president since 2006 and will transition into a new role as chancellor of the University on September 1 (see "Defining Figure," page 26).

"Throughout his distinguished academic career, Paul has demonstrated the skills and imagination needed to be an inspirational leader, confront the challenges of our time, and guide the University of Chicago during a period of enormous opportunity," says **Joseph Neubauer**, MBA'65, chair of the Board of Trustees, who led the presidential search.

A native of Chicago, Alivisatos will become only the second University graduate to serve as president. The first, Edward H. Levi, LAB'28, PhB'32, JD'35, led the University from 1968 to 1975.

"I am honored for this opportunity to lead the distinctive intellectual community at the University of Chicago, a special place that was so transformative in my early education and guided

me throughout my academic career," says Alivisatos. "I look forward to partnering with members of our campus and South Side communities, who are so integral to the University's role as a great research university in one of the world's greatest cities."

As Berkeley's executive vice chancellor and provost, Alivisatos has been responsible for the planning, development, implementation, and improvement of campus academic programs and policies. Since taking the role in 2017, he has supported new initiatives to increase diversity among students, faculty, and leadership and has been deeply engaged in issues of free speech and social justice. In addition, Alivisatos led a campus-wide initiative that created immersive learning projects and discovery experiences for students, while starting a series of forums that promoted faculty mentoring of graduate students. During his tenure, Berkeley also launched a new division focused on data science.

Alivisatos oversees a significant development portfolio as provost. Annual giving to Berkeley exceeded \$1 billion in 2020, with Alivisatos stewarding more than \$450 million in gifts from 2016 to 2020. As director of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory from 2009 to 2016, Alivisatos guided the US Department of Energy lab through a period of transformational change, creating new programs in biosciences, renewable energy, and entrepreneurship. From 2016 to 2017, he served as Berkeley's vice chancellor for research.

A scientist and entrepreneur, Alivisatos has made pioneering research breakthroughs in nanomaterials. His inventions are widely used in biomedicine and QLED TV displays, and his scientific advances have yielded more than 50 patents. He also founded two prominent nanotechnology companies: Nanosys Inc. and Quantum Dot Corporation (now part of Thermo Fisher Scientific).

"The University of Chicago is characterized by a distinctive approach to our work of research, education, and impact, and we share ambitious aspirations for the future," Zimmer says.



"Paul Alivisatos is superbly equipped to serve as president of the University in a way that honors its legacy while building upon it for the next generation of scholars and students. This outstanding choice will serve the University community and our partners locally and around the world well in the coming years."

In his nearly 15-year tenure as president, Zimmer increased the University's eminence and helped raise its stature among the world's top research universities. As chancellor, Zimmer will focus on high-level strategic initiatives, stewardship of key relationships, and high-level fundraising.

As part of the presidential search process, the Trustee Search Committee



Paul Alivisatos, AB'81, will be the second University alumnus to serve as president.

and Faculty Advisory Committee received recommendations and feedback from the University community and friends of the University. The Faculty Advisory Committee also conducted dozens of listening sessions with faculty, students, alumni, staff, and former University presidents.

“In Paul Alivisatos, we believe we have found a collaborative and inspiring leader who is deeply committed to excellence, including our support for the high ambitions of faculty, students, and other members of the University community,” says **Robert J. Rosner**, the William E. Wrather Distinguished Service Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics and Physics, who chaired the Faculty Advisory Committee.

Among his more than 25 awards and honors, Alivisatos has received the National Medal of Science, the Wolf Prize in Chemistry, and the Priestley Medal. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago, Alivisatos earned his PhD in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1986. He joined the Berkeley faculty in 1988 as an assistant professor, and was appointed associate professor in 1993 and professor in 1995.

Alivisatos is married to Nicole Alivisatos, a retired chemist and former editor of the journal *Nano Letters*. ♦

## QUICK STUDY

### PSYCHOLOGY

# Sketchy memory

While most people are intimately familiar with their homes, those with a rare condition called **aphantasia**—which impairs visual memory—can't easily picture the places they spend their lives. In a February *Cortex* study, psychologist **Wilma Bainbridge** sought to experimentally characterize the little-studied condition through drawing. Bainbridge and colleagues asked participants with aphantasia, recruited from online forums, and a control group to look at photographs of rooms and draw them first from memory, and again while looking at the photo. From memory, the control group drew prominent objects with moderate detail. Those with aphantasia drew a few simple objects and sometimes relied on words, like labeling a rectangle “window.” Yet they placed those objects in the correct locations, demonstrating that while their object memory was lacking, their spatial memory was intact. —*M. S.* ♦



William Howell's concern about the state of US democratic institutions was made manifest with the January 6 Capitol insurrection.

POLITICS

## Democracy rethought

*The Center for Effective Government looks beyond policy to imagine institutions that work.*

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

When political scientist **William Howell** founded the Center for Effective Government in 2019, he was already concerned about the state of American democratic institutions. Just a few months later, the COVID-19 pandemic made those worries—and the need for the new center—even more immediate.

“If you want to say we don’t have an effective government,” says Howell, “exhibit A is the government’s response to the pandemic.” For Americans who considered government dysfunction a faraway or abstract

problem, COVID-19’s toll has shown that the “losses that flow from a government that can’t solve problems” can be tragically concrete. If exhibit B was needed, the disinformation campaign during and after the 2020 presidential election and the January 6 Capitol insurrection provided it.

Howell, the Sydney Stein Professor in American Politics at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and chair of the political science department at UChicago, has spent his career thinking about American democratic institutions. In eight books he’s examined the dynamics of power in our political system: “how power works, how it expresses itself, how it’s checked and limited,” especially in the US presidency.

While doing that work, Howell found himself struck more and more by how “these institutions I’m studying aren’t working especially well.” He saw a government that routinely fails to take action on large-scale problems like climate change, inequality, and immigration; a Congress whose members aren’t incentivized to solve prob-

lems for the American people; and a populace that regards Washington, DC, with distrust—for good reason.

Studying the workings of a nonworking political system came to feel insufficient. Deeply concerned as both scholar and citizen, Howell founded the Center for Effective Government (CEG), housed at the Harris School of Public Policy, to gather intellectual and practical expertise to identify concrete reforms—for instance, to political appointments, executive and congressional power, and the currently very front-and-center matter of the Senate filibuster.

Generating ideas is one-third of the center’s agenda. Its other activities revolve around uplifting those ideas (engagement) and training students, academics, and aspiring civic leaders (education). “We take scholarship and distill it so that practitioners, advocacy groups, and others engaged in this work with us are able to do something with it,” says the center’s executive director, **Sadia Sindhu**.

Beginning this spring, much of the work will be driven by CEG’s first class of Senior Practitioner Fellows. These

Jonathan Ernst/Reuters/Newscom

leaders from the worlds of government, nonprofits, journalism, and other fields of practice spend a year at the CEG studying particular reform areas aligned with their expertise.

For one fellow, that will mean a return to UChicago: alumna **Sonal Shah**, AB'90, a Georgetown University economist, will look at the fault lines between national and state policy making and connections across borders and levels of government. Shah's counterparts are national security expert Liza Goitein from New York University Law's Brennan Center for Justice, former Republican politician and communications strategist Jennifer Horn, and Chicago-based public radio reporter Natalie Y. Moore.

The fellows will examine reform areas including separation of powers, political parties, and the role of journalism and media in democracy. Each area resonates with a question that spurred Howell to found the center: Particular policies and politics aside, do we have "a government that's *capable* of solving problems or meaningfully addressing problems that the public broadly recognizes as the legitimate subject of government action?"

The CEG builds on a seven-year-old Harris Public Policy program focused on the practicalities of governing, the Civic Leadership Academy, where Howell and Sindhu first worked to-



Political scientist William Howell.

gether. Run in conjunction with the University's Office of Civic Engagement, the academy has trained aspiring Chicago-area leaders in nonprofits and government agencies since 2015. Its work continues as one of CEG's education programs, alongside fellowships and research assistantships for UChicago graduate students.

As for engagement, Howell and Sindhu have already forged partnerships with local and national outlets to invite the public into the center's conversations. Leading up to last fall's election, the *Washington Post's* Monkey Cage blog and Protect Democracy teamed up with the CEG to publish *Rethinking Our Democracy*, a series of democratic reform proposals by

scholars and experts. The essays shared ideas for rebalancing executive and legislative power and Howell's own pitch for a fast-track system for legislation modeled on the Trade Act of 1974, which gave the president power to send trade agreements to Congress for a quick up or down vote.

This May the CEG will hit the local airwaves with *Re-imagine Chicago*, a series on Chicago public radio station WBEZ. With the city's recovery from the pandemic offering an opportunity to rethink whether Chicago has the right governing institutions, the CEG helped launch a series of conversations about ward-based elections, collective bargaining, the design of the police reform efforts, the powers of the mayor's office, and more.

The name of the radio show hosting those conversations, *Reset*, captures the inherent optimism of a center studying problems that can seem huge and intractable. The governmental structures we have aren't working, but Howell wants people to believe we aren't stuck with them. The scholars and practitioners at the center are "digging down and excavating the institutions that govern our deliberations, and that periodically impede our ability to solve problems." Then we can "take a hard look at them and say, 'Hmm, maybe they should be different. How are they to be different?'" ♦

MEDICINE

QUICK STUDY

# Rethinking binge drinking

Alcohol use disorder (AUD) has long been associated with increased tolerance, but a study published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* online in January challenges that dogma. In a decade-long longitudinal study of alcohol use, psychiatrist **Andrea King**, director of the Clinical Addictions Research Laboratory, found that a heightened, rather than dampened, sensitivity to alcohol's pleasurable effects led to greater consumption. King's team tested 190 social drinkers in several lab-based binge-drinking investigations, studying acute response to alcohol compared to a placebo. King also interviewed the participants over 10 years to track drinking patterns and any possible AUD symptoms. She found that individuals who exhibited AUD in year 10 had a more rewarding response and were more stimulated by alcohol initially, and those effects intensified over time. This revised understanding of the relationship between pleasure and alcohol use could help in the development of new treatment and prevention measures.—*M. S.* ♦

# Life as we knew it

*Lost in the pandemic.*

BY JASON KELLY

More than a decade ago, in a book examining the philosophical and psychological consequences of civilizations ending, University of Chicago scholar **Jonathan Lear** offered a thought experiment: “Consider a situation,” he writes, “in which the social institution of restaurants goes out of existence.”

With its disruption of communal rituals, the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed that theoretical notion into a practical reality. Many restaurants did away with indoor dining or closed up shop altogether, conjuring a vision of a world without them. “I don’t think that’s going to happen,” Lear says in an interview over Zoom, “but it’s an imaginable thing.”

And once we can imagine the end—of anything that contributes to social cohesion—fissures develop in our concept of permanence. Will our institutions endure? What will be the wellspring of shared values? How will we rearrange our relationships to each other and preserve society?

Lear, the John U. Nef Distinguished Service Professor in Philosophy and the Committee on Social Thought, explored the intricacies of confronting those questions in *Imagining the End: Thoughts on Mourning, Happiness, and Radical Hope*, a three-part lecture series at Chicago’s Newberry Library that concluded April 7. The series began before the pandemic. By the second installment in November 2020, COVID-19 had introduced a real-time experience of the ideas that animated Lear’s talks.

“Imagine a future generation looking back on us and telling our story,” the philosopher told the library’s online audience. “Here’s the rub: we cannot really do that, at least in any way



Apocalypse, then and now: In his recent lecture series, philosopher Jonathan Lear examined how different thinkers have imagined life after unimaginable disaster.

that does not immediately seem to be one person’s fantasy. We can imagine the narrative beginning, ‘They lived in a time of pandemic.’ But then what? The pandemic has destroyed any shared illusion about how the future will unfold continuously from the present.”

Sigmund Freud’s essay “On Transience” provided a historical comparison, exploring how World War I destroyed such an illusion. Lear knows the essay well, having studied it for decades. Writing in 1915, Freud begins with a recollection from before the war, of a summer stroll through the countryside with a young poet who laments the inevitable extinction of the

natural beauty around them. That specter prevents the poet from taking any joy in his surroundings. He expresses instead what Freud calls an “aching despondency” over the eventual decay.

In Lear’s long-standing interpretation of the essay, that dour outlook leads Freud into a meditation on the undeniable transience of all life and whether impermanence diminishes meaning. Freud contradicts “the pessimistic poet’s view that the transience of what is beautiful involves any loss in its worth,” Lear says, and insists that temporality serves to enhance value.

The pandemic changed Lear’s reading of “On Transience.” He now sees



**We can imagine the narrative beginning, “They lived in a time of pandemic.” But then what? The pandemic has destroyed any shared illusion about how the future will unfold continuously from the present.**

Freud as reckoning not with the inexorable loss of all things, but rather with the specific ruin of the war. The metaphysical toll “shattered our pride in the achievements of our civilization,” Freud writes, revealing “how ephemeral were many things that we had regarded as changeless.”

Freud’s rumination on transience, a masked and distanced Lear came to believe, did not just happen to coincide with the European carnage. The essay now seems suffused with it. “I realized no, no, no,” he explained a few weeks after the second lecture, “the whole thing is about the destruction of war.”

Even those far from the fighting experienced a palpable sense of loss over the obliteration of cultural ideals and artifacts—just as those untouched by disease feel the tremors COVID-19 sends across society. In his lecture Lear summarized his updated analysis of “On Transience” this way: “Freud is grappling with how to live in the midst of world catastrophe and the radical uncertainty of the immediate future.”

To grapple successfully with radical uncertainty requires what Lear calls radical hope. This reminded him of another historical figure he has studied:

Plenty Coups, the principal Crow chief who helped his people reckon with a new way of life after they were confined to a reservation.

In *Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation* (Harvard University Press, 2006), Lear quotes Plenty Coups in what becomes a refrain in the book: “After this, nothing happened.” Life continued for individuals, but the sinew that connected the Crow as nomadic hunters and warriors had been severed.

In Lear’s telling, however, Plenty Coups personifies the Crow civilization’s visionary resilience. He tethers his people to important talismans, such as the chickadee (a traditional symbol of courage), even as they undergo a fundamental redefinition of their cultural identity. They cannot go back—but radical hope, as Lear defines the notion, lies in their willingness to accept what can never be restored while remaining receptive to unforeseeable forms of flourishing.

Throughout the 20th century and into the 21st, world wars, the perils of nuclear devastation, and climate upheaval have threatened civilizations at ever larger scales. Just the possibility of losing our sources of collective meaning, Lear believes, poses a psychic threat—one that the pandemic has made imminent and tangible.

A healthy response requires conceiving of a new way forward. “Part of the imagination’s job,” Lear says, “is to help us live a creative life in response to the future” rather than immobilize us.

The natural world, cultural achievements, and even entire civilizations are finite, their ends unknowable but imaginable—all too imaginable in moments of acute crisis. That heightened awareness could lead to despair. After this, what happens?

Lear’s scholarship does not presume to answer that question for any given situation. Instead he provides a way of thinking through despondency toward a radically hopeful response: We don’t know what happens when one world ends. But we have the chance to imagine a new one. ♦

## QUICK STUDY

BIOLOGY

# Holistic approach

Soft, flexible living tissues and hard, rigid static electronics aren’t often compatible. As medicine increasingly incorporates technology into living bodies—drug delivery systems, biosensors, moveable prostheses—researchers aspire to make the natural-synthetic interface seamless. Typically a device is engineered and then scaled down and modified to fit a living system—a “top-down” approach. But in a February *Nature Nanotechnology* paper, researchers, including chemist **Bozhi Tian** and PhD students **Aleksander Prominski, SM’17, and Lingyuan Meng**, describe a “bottom-up” process, using building blocks called micelles to form carbon-based bioelectronics. Micelles are groups of molecules that self-assemble into spheres in the presence of water. These spheres can then aggregate into thin sheets, dotted with holes—or pores—that increase flexibility and surface area, helping the sheet mesh better with biological membranes.—*M. S.* ♦



Xenophon de Blumenthal Kalamatiano, AB 1902 (middle row, second from right), shown here with his Maroon cross-country teammates, became a State Department spy in 1918.

HISTORY

## The spy you never heard of

*A College track star turned secret agent and a plot to kill Vladimir Lenin.*

BY CARRIE GOLUS, AB'91, AM'93

In 1900, nine years into his tenure as the University's founding president, William Rainey Harper was exhausted. Over tea one afternoon, he confided in a friend, philanthropist and adventurer Charles R. Crane. As an unlikely rest cure, Crane offered to take Harper with him on his upcoming trip to Russia. Harper accepted.

The biblical scholar fell in love with Russia: the people, music, food, culture,

traditions. When he returned, he convinced his son, Samuel N. Harper, AB 1902, EX'09, to learn Russian abroad so he could teach it at UChicago.

But President Harper's traveling companion wasn't in Russia just for pleasure. Before the United States created the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, the government recruited "casual" agents—businessmen, teachers, clergy, students, anyone who had a legitimate reason to be abroad—to supply information. During those chaotic years in Russia, Crane and Sam Harper were among "America's most valuable intelligence sources," according to *The Lenin Plot: The Unknown Story of America's War Against Russia* (Pegasus Books, 2020) by Barnes Carr.

"[Sam] Harper was almost certainly a recruiter for American intelligence," Carr writes in the book, "though he never admitted that in his letters and papers." Carr cites a 1915 letter to

Harper—by then an assistant professor of Russian at UChicago—from his College classmate Xenophon de Blumenthal Kalamatiano, AB 1902.

Kalamatiano, a Russian American who spoke both languages flawlessly, had been a scholarship student, a founding member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and a track star. By 1915 he was the American representative for a Russian trade group. His letter to Harper offers support for American men who would come to Russia for a few years to learn the language and commercial customs. Is there something more to read between the lines? Carr thinks so.

As World War I dragged on, Kalamatiano—who was already a casual agent, Carr suspects—struggled financially. In 1918, needing a stable job with a dependable paycheck, he signed on with the State Department as a paid spy.

This career move did not end well for Kalamatiano, as readers of *The Lenin Plot* know from the first chapter,

## GUESS THE PRESIDENTS

Alumni who have become  
University president (including  
incoming president Paul  
Alivisatos, AB'81)

2

Presidents who have served for  
more than 10 years

5

Age of the youngest president

30

Nobel Prize winners who have  
served as University president

1

Cats owned by the Nobelist  
before moving to Chicago

17

New global centers opened  
by the president who opened  
more than any other

3

Times one president's  
portrait has been stolen from  
Hutchinson Commons

2

Answers at [mag.uchicago  
.edu/presquiz](http://mag.uchicago.edu/presquiz).

"A Forgotten Man." Carr, who considers fiction writing "my main calling in life," jumps around in the chronology for dramatic effect. Readers first encounter Kalamatiano, "the first American spy to ever be sentenced to death in Russia," in solitary confinement in a Moscow prison, awaiting his turn to meet the firing squad.

Kalamatiano had been arrested for his role in a failed conspiracy to assassinate Vladimir Lenin, overthrow the Soviet regime, and replace it with a provisional government more friendly to the Allies. Lenin had incurred their ire by withdrawing Russia from the war; fearful of the Germans, the Allies wanted the Russians back in. Kalamatiano endured mock executions and terrible conditions before he was finally released three years later—partly as a result of a pressure campaign on the State Department by the brothers of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He returned to Hyde Park in 1921 but died two years later at the age of 41.

In the final section of the book, Carr focuses on a little-known military intervention in Russia. The American Expeditionary Force to North Russia,

nicknamed the Polar Bears, was sent to the seaport Archangel, allegedly to defend munitions there—though Carr suspects that wasn't the real goal. Like the plot to kill Lenin, the campaign was a failure.

The story of how Carr happened upon his subject reads a bit like a spy novel too. As a Tulane University student in the 1970s, Carr met an elderly alumnus who had lived in Paris, where he had known some veterans of the US war against Soviet Russia. Carr had never heard of such a war. Intrigued, he searched through bound volumes of the *Times* of London (where it was referred to as "the Russian expeditions"); a French news magazine, *L'Illustration* ("les événements en Russie"); and American news magazine *Literary Digest* ("Allied Intervention in the Russian Civil War").

Carr continued his research off and on since then—45 years. "When I first started researching, there wasn't much available. Two or three scholarly articles," he says. Under Russia's first president, Boris Yeltsin, more archives in the former USSR were opened up, but they were soon closed to Western researchers. Carr, who has never been to Russia, "ran an end run," he says. "I went through some Russian historians who had access to the documents." Meanwhile he worked as a newspaper journalist and wrote fiction, as well as another nonfiction book about Russia and espionage, *Operation Whisper: The Capture of Soviet Spies Morris and Lona Cohen* (ForeEdge, 2016).

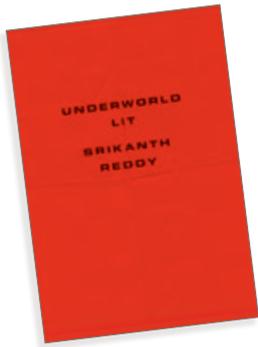
Over the decades, American presidents have pretended this period of history never happened, Carr writes. Franklin Delano Roosevelt insisted that a "happy tradition of friendship" has always existed with Russia, while Ronald Reagan stated that "our sons and daughters have never fought each other in war." Russia's version of history is rather different. Although most Americans think the Cold War began after World War II, "the Lenin Plot was the true beginning of it all. More than a hundred years later, we still live in the shadow of 1918." ♦



Kalamatiano spent three years in a Russian prison for his role in a failed plot to assassinate Vladimir Lenin.

## Fresh ink

A selection of recent books by UChicago faculty members.

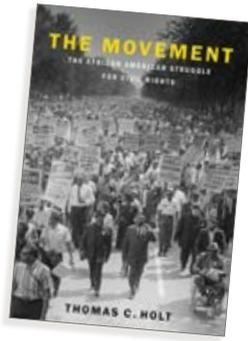


### Underworld Lit

Wave Books, 2020

**By Srikanth Reddy**  
Professor of English

**Srikanth Reddy's** serial prose poem follows a fictive English professor who faces adversity: a bleak tenure outlook, poor teaching evaluations, and a melanoma diagnosis. Over one academic year, fall to summer, this narrator shuttles from home to clinic to classroom, where he is teaching Hum 101: Introduction to the Underworld. Every book on the syllabus is a Book of the Dead: Egyptian, Mayan, and more. Reddy's poem spirits the reader into those distinct underworlds, fluidly shifting between realms and styles, life and death, hell and purgatory, quotidian existence and eternal afterlife. *Underworld Lit* balances its satire of contemporary higher education with an age-old exploration of mortality.—*L. D.*



### The Movement: The African American Struggle for Civil Rights

Oxford University Press, 2021

**By Thomas C. Holt**  
James Westfall Thompson  
Professor Emeritus of American and African American History

In a compact 120 pages, **Thomas C. Holt** shines new light on the US civil rights movement of the mid-20th century. As a young man Holt himself marched in his hometown of Danville, Virginia, during a visit by Martin Luther King Jr., and was jailed for his participation in that and other political demonstrations. His book emphasizes the many who took part in the struggle rather than its most visible leaders, reframing this important passage in American history as a grassroots movement of ordinary people. Holt's analysis shows the movement had origins in earlier, lesser-known protests mounted successfully against racist Jim Crow laws during what some call the "long civil rights movement," and in the service of 1.5 million African Americans in World War II, which gave them a surer sense of their rights.—*L. D.*

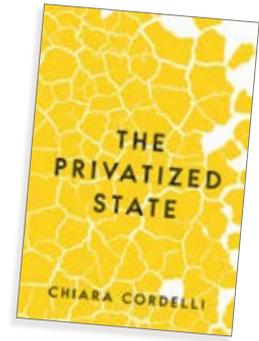


### Sun Ra's Chicago: Afrofuturism and the City

University of Chicago Press, 2020

**By William Sites**  
Associate Professor in the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice

In 1946 a young musician and composer named Sonny Blount moved to Chicago's Washington Park neighborhood. His years living on the South Side, sociologist **William Sites** writes, were decisive for the career of experimentation and innovation that followed. Sun Ra and his Arkestra made history with exuberant performances and recordings synthesizing many styles into their own. The postwar South Side where the bandleader spent 15 years was a crossroads for any number of intellectual and musical sources, including Afrocentric philosophies. Through extensive research into this cultural scene, Sites argues that it was critical to Sun Ra's development, to the emergence of Afrofuturism, and to a sense of the city as a space rife with possibility for Black Americans.—*L. D.*



### The Privatized State: Why Government Outsourcing of Public Powers Is Making Us Less Free

Princeton University Press, 2020

**By Chiara Cordelli**  
Associate Professor of Political Science

In the United States employees privately contracted by the federal government—to run prisons, fight wars, inspect food, and perform many more functions—now outnumber federal civil servants nearly three to one, writes **Chiara Cordelli** in *The Privatized State*. Moreover, in some US states, nonprofit organizations provide up to 90 percent of social services, and sectors like education rely increasingly on private philanthropy. Cordelli argues that this high degree of privatization, seen in democracies abroad as well as in the United States, works against freedom, justice, and government legitimacy. The privatized state reproduces conditions that Enlightenment thinkers associated with precivil societies: provisional justice, undue dependence, and unequal freedom. A democratic and just government requires robust public institutions, and constitutional limits should be placed on privatization, she contends.—*L. D.*

## JOY OF MOTION



**A**yodele is a Yoruba word meaning joy in the home, and the Chicago-based Ayodele Drum & Dance imparts the joy of these African arts through adult and youth classes, workshops, and performances—all adapted for remote modes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ayodele is one of eight Chicago companies that are part of the Chicago Black Dance Legacy Project, launched in 2019 in a partnership between UChicago’s Logan Center for the Arts and the Joyce Foundation. The CBDLP creates a community of artists and gives these historically underfunded companies operational and financial support to help them reach wider audiences and safeguard their futures. While in-person events continue to be restricted for public health reasons, performances by the companies and conversations with their creative leads are available online at the CBDLP website. For a Q&A with Ayodele’s business manager, **Mashaune Hardy**, who is also assistant director of partnerships and strategy at the Logan Center, visit [mag.uchicago.edu/blackdance](http://mag.uchicago.edu/blackdance).—*L. D.* ♦

Photography by Marc Monaghan

## QUICK STUDY

## COMPUTATION

## Computer virus

As biological entities go, viruses are pretty simple. But modeling their interactions, particularly with host cells, is complicated, so many researchers focus on just one piece of the virus. Yet parts of a virus work in cooperation, chemist and computational scientist **Gregory Voth** says, and studying isolated pieces doesn’t tell the whole story. Published in *Biophysical Journal* in March, the first usable computational model of SARS-CoV-2 in its entirety was created by researchers including Voth, **Alvin Yu**, **Alexander Pak**, and **Peng He**, using a technique called “coarse-graining.” The method, which Voth’s team helped pioneer, involves finding and incorporating the most important characteristics of each viral component while ignoring the rest to build a comprehensive model that can still be run on a computer. The framework can also be used to simulate potential drug therapies and investigate the effects of mutations.—*M. S.* ♦

# For the record

## DIVINITY DEAN

**David Nirenberg**, the interim dean of the Divinity School since 2018, has been appointed dean, announced President **Robert J. Zimmer** and Provost **Ka Yee C. Lee** in March.



Nirenberg, the Deborah R. and Edgar D. Jannotta Distinguished Service Professor of Medieval History and Social Thought, is a leading scholar of the ways in which Jewish, Christian, and Islamic societies have interacted with and thought about each other. He previously served as executive vice provost, dean of the Social Sciences Division, and Roman Family Director of the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society. Nirenberg, whose interim appointment ends June 30, will begin his term in July 2022, following a one-year sabbatical. **James T. Robinson**, the Caroline E. Haskell Professor of the History of Judaism, Islamic Studies, and the History of Religions, will serve as interim dean during the 2021–22 academic year.

## TRIO OF ALUMNI TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees has elected three new members: **Thomas F. Dunn**, AB'81, MBA'86; **Brett J. Hart**, JD'94; and **Hilarie Koplow-McAdams**, AM'87. They began their five-year terms in spring 2020. Dunn, a founding partner and former CEO of New Holland Capital, is a member of the advisory councils of both the Urban Labs and the Harris School of Public Policy. Hart is the president of United Airlines and previously served on the Law School Advisory Council and Fertilab's Board of Directors. Koplow-McAdams joined New Enterprise Associates as a venture partner in 2017 after serving as president at both New Relic and Salesforce. She chairs the advisory council of the Harris School of Public Policy.

## OI TRANSITION

Christopher Woods, formerly the John A. Wilson Professor in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and director of the Oriental Institute (OI), left the University in April to head the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. **Theo van**

**den Hout**, the Arthur and Joann Rasmussen Professor of Hittite and Anatolian Languages, is leading the OI on an interim basis while the University undertakes a national search for a new director. Van den Hout is the executive editor of the *Chicago Hittite Dictionary*. He studies record management, literacy and writing, and visual culture in Hittite society.

## PRESS PRIZE

The University of Chicago Press awarded the 2020 Gordon J. Laing Award to **Eve L. Ewing**, AB'08, assistant professor in the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, for *Ghosts in the Schoolyard: Racism and School Closings on Chicago's South Side*. The Laing Award is given annually to the UChicago faculty author, editor, or translator of a book published in the previous three years that brings the press the greatest distinction. Ewing's 2018 book draws on her experience in Chicago Public Schools as a student, teacher, and researcher, and situates Chicago's wave of school closings in 2013 within a larger context: the ongoing struggle of Black people in America to build successful lives and achieve true self-determination.



## LAB LEADERSHIP

Victoria Jueds has been named director of the Laboratory Schools, effective August 16. Since 2017 Jueds has served as head of school at Westtown School in West Chester, Pennsylvania, a Quaker pre-K–12th grade college preparatory day and boarding school. A former civil rights lawyer, she previously served in a variety of student-focused roles at Princeton University. Jueds succeeds **David Magill**, who returned to Lab in May 2020 to serve as interim director. Magill was the director of the Laboratory Schools for 11 years before retiring in 2014.



## MAJOR ADDITION

A new major will allow College students to pursue in-depth humanistic research with close faculty mentorship. Inquiry and Research in the Humanities (IRHUM) emphasizes applied research and is intended to introduce students to the techniques, tools, and practices of advanced humanistic inquiry. Each student will be paired with a faculty mentor during their course of study and for their research projects, including a BA thesis. The program will also feature undergraduate research seminars in which students learn from faculty members how to produce advanced scholarly research. The major is led by **Benjamin Morgan**, associate professor of English language and literature.

## HONORING EDITH ABBOTT

The Mies van der Rohe–designed building that is home to the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice has been dedicated in honor of Edith Abbott, PhD 1905, who played a historic role as the school's founding dean. The first woman to lead a graduate school in the United States, Abbott shaped a model of social work inquiry and impact that continues to this day. The University celebrated the dedication of Edith Abbott Hall at a March 17 ceremony featuring UChicago leaders as well as Crown Family School faculty and alumni.



## CELEBRATING GRADS

UChicago will again hold a virtual convocation ceremony this June and is planning limited in-person diploma ceremonies for the Class of 2021. The virtual convocation ceremony will confer degrees to this year's graduates and celebrate their accomplishments. Smaller, in-person diploma ceremonies for each school and division will be limited to graduates and participating faculty and staff in order to maximize health and safety mitigations. The University will continue to evaluate public health conditions and explore ways to involve 2020 and 2021 graduates in future, in-person convocation ceremonies.

Clockwise from top left: Photography by John Zich; photography by Mercedes Zapata; UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-00005; University of Chicago Library; UChicago News



INTERVIEW

## Not just kidding

New York Times comedy critic Jason Zinoman, AB'97, on the power and peril of jokes.

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

In 2011 the *New York Times* debuted its first-ever column dedicated to comedy. To its author, **Jason Zinoman**, AB'97, *On Comedy* was “a symptom” of the boom that brought stand-up, improv, sketch, and late night to new levels of importance. Today, a decade into his tenure as the *Times*' comedy critic, Zinoman feels he's witnessing another revolutionary moment for comedy, as cultural shifts and the pandemic prompt both a crisis and a rebirth. A former theater critic, Zinoman has also written a biography of David Letterman and a book on 1970s horror films. His comments have been edited and condensed.

### What's the biggest change you've observed in comedy?

When I started, the stand-up special was an often ignored form, but over the past 10 years, it's become the meat and potatoes of our cultural diet. They are the backbone of the growth of Netflix.

In terms of artistic ambition and in terms of cultural impact, you have people like [stand-up comedians] Hannah Gadsby and Ali Wong who

completely dominate the cultural conversation. That kind of figure isn't so unusual anymore.

### A wave of comedy theaters closed during the pandemic. What does that signal?

My suspicion is that the pandemic didn't revolutionize culture so much as it accelerated trends that were already there, and in the case of improv theaters, which have been hit harder than other genres, it exposed the weaknesses of their business models. Being for-profit, making your money through schools, keeping ticket prices low, and basically exploiting performers by not paying them turned out to be a very rickety business model, and I think it made them vulnerable to collapse. It also made them vulnerable to having a very homogeneous group of artists.

### What will be different about comedy after the pandemic?

There are business models that started during the pandemic, like online com-

edy clubs, that I think will continue.

There's also a school of thought that says people are going to leave cities. Part of the excitement and the reason to come to New York or Chicago was to be around all these other performers and the press, and going to these crummy little spaces to see amazing work. Young artists who are coming from somewhere else to take risks—I don't think that's going to stop, but maybe it will be more decentralized and spread out in different parts of the country.

### What does it say about us, that comedy has become so culturally important?

This will be my most U of C answer, because I'm going to bring up Aristotle. For thousands of years, there's been this question, is comedy good for you? Aristotle was very skeptical of comedy. He believed that you should ban certain kinds of jokes.

For a long time we forgot that. There was the sense that comedy was this unifying force. And then there started to be a backlash to *that*, which is the idea that Aristotle knew what he was talking about, that comedy has an ugly, dark side.

This is part of the success of Hannah Gadsby. She had a grand unified theory, some of which I agree with, some of which I don't, about how comedy can traumatize us and prevent us from growing. When you think about the rise of Trump, a lot of his appeal had to do with his weaponization of cruel jokes.

But that idea became so popular and so dominant that I think a lot of people forgot there's a sunny side to laughing. In the pandemic I've become a little more sentimental about the pleasures of comedy, and the kinds of things comedians say to me in interviews about how you need to laugh to lighten your load. The pleasure of dumb jokes shouldn't be underestimated. ♦



READ MORE AT  
[MAG.UCHICAGO.EDU/ZINOMAN](https://MAG.UCHICAGO.EDU/ZINOMAN).



## PROFILE

# DEFINING FIGURE

*President Robert J. Zimmer  
transformed the University of Chicago  
by affirming its core values.*

BY LUCAS MCGRAHAN

**W**hen **Robert J. Zimmer** became president of the University of Chicago in 2006, he came to the Board of Trustees with a set of priorities and one overriding message: A great university is never good enough. Complacency is enemy number one.

For all its achievements, the University could not rest on its laurels—or its laureates. It had to keep moving ahead. “We had to be ambitious,” he says, “and we had to take a more outward look at how we interact with and affect the world at large, whether that involves scholarship, societal issues, policy, science and its impact, or the nature of the students that we’re able to attract.”

Doing well after surgery last spring to remove a malignant brain tumor, Zimmer is now preparing to transition to the role of chancellor on September 1, when **Paul Alivisatos**, AB’81, currently provost of the University of

California, Berkeley, is set to assume the presidency.

That the University has become more engaged with the world during Zimmer’s 15 years as president is beyond question. The College has become more accessible to students from a wide range of backgrounds, the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering has brought applied science to campus in a big way, and the University has strengthened its ties to the South Side and around the globe. For a school known for its excellence in theory, these are decidedly practical achievements.

Nevertheless, if Zimmer has positioned the University to face more outward, he has done so by looking inward to its own principles and history. Indeed, he has staked his leadership on a commitment to the University’s abiding values—most prominently, freedom of expression. Already in his 2006 inaugural convocation address, he said that his “core responsibility” was “to ensure that the University realizes its enduring values and fundamental principles in the most powerful and lasting way possible.”

Photography by Jason Smith

**Z**immer says that one of his proudest achievements as president is bringing molecular engineering to campus. As he is quick to point out, however, “there’s very little one can do all by oneself.”

“When Bob left to be provost at Brown, I told him that I hoped we would one day see him back at the University of Chicago,” says University trustee **Tom J. Pritzker**, MBA’76, JD’76. That was in 2002. When Zimmer returned to become the University’s 13th president, Pritzker says, they met at a cocktail party where they first discussed Zimmer’s idea for bringing a novel kind of engineering to the University. “That chance meeting led the two of us to partner on a wonderful decade-long journey.”

Today the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering represents a distinctly UChicago approach to applied science, comprising innovative programs in immunoengineering, quantum information science and technology, new materials for sustainability, and other areas that have the potential to transform health care, industry, environmental sustainability, and national security. A key moment for Pritzker Molecular Engineer-

ing was in 2019, when the Institute for Molecular Engineering, first founded in partnership with Argonne National Laboratory in 2011, was elevated to the status of a school and named in honor of the Pritzker Foundation.

“The creation of PME was the work of a broad community of people,” Pritzker says, “but from my side, at the core of our effort was Bob’s friendship and inspiration.”

University of Chicago faculty, Zimmer notes, were at the heart of the work to establish the school from the start. “We had a faculty committee chaired by [Carl William Eisendrath Distinguished Service Professor] **Steven Sibener** from the chemistry department,” Zimmer says, “and the committee put together an exceedingly thoughtful and well-argued plan.”

Thomas F. Rosenbaum, who was a UChicago physics faculty member and vice president for research and for Argonne National Laboratory before becoming provost under Zimmer, says that planning an engineering program from scratch allowed the committee to follow the most promising science rather than being “hidebound” by existing structures.

The campus landscape was transformed during Robert J. Zimmer’s presidency, and the University expanded programs and partnerships with the South Side and the City of Chicago.



Photography by Soaring Badger Productions

Critical to the PME effort was Zimmer's hiring of chemical engineer **Matthew Tirrell** as founding director (now dean), much as recruiting data scientist **Michael Franklin**, the Liew Family Chair of Computer Science, was key to increasing that department's capacity for connecting to applied science.

"Building a team of people in a purposeful way

department that he began his ascent into formal academic leadership roles. He has also remained a mathematician, adding two books to his long list of scholarly publications during his presidency.

Mathematics was not Zimmer's first career aspiration. As a young man, he wanted to become a physician like his father—until he had to dissect

## **BUILDING A TEAM OF PEOPLE IN A PURPOSEFUL WAY IS EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT FOR GETTING ANYTHING DONE. ... BEING PRESIDENT OF A PRETTY SIZABLE AND COMPLEX INSTITUTION, ONE FEELS IT AND EXPERIENCES THAT EVERY DAY.**

is exceedingly important for getting anything done," Zimmer says. "It's not as if I didn't know that beforehand, but being president of a pretty sizable and complex institution, one feels it and experiences that every day. It's not just a matter of some abstract knowledge."

Making a priority of bringing in excellent talent is something Zimmer says he learned about early on in his administrative career from **Stuart Rice**, now the Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the Department of Chemistry. When Zimmer was a department chair at the University in the early 1990s, he went to Rice, then dean of the Physical Sciences Division, for help recruiting an exceptional new hire: "I said I needed X, Y, and Z in order to recruit this guy." According to Zimmer, Rice immediately got on the phone, called the provost, asked for the resources, turned back to him, and gave him the OK. "I still remember it vividly," Zimmer says. Rice's "ambition, values, and commitment to excellence were so clear."

**B**efore he was president of the University of Chicago, before he was provost of Brown University, before he was UChicago's vice president for research or deputy provost, Robert J. Zimmer was a mathematician. It was as a mathematics instructor that he joined the University in 1977, and it was as chair of the mathematics

a frog in high school, which helped convince him to switch his attention to chemistry and physics. As a physics major at Brandeis University, he jokes, "I had a great magic touch," claiming that no machine in the lab would work if he got near it. He knew that his strengths lay elsewhere. "So, I left the physics lab and walked over to the mathematics department."

Zimmer's research into ergodic theory, Lie groups, and differential geometry resists quick summary, especially for those not versed in the statistical properties of dynamical systems or the study of symmetries. Let it simply be noted that, starting from his Harvard PhD thesis, Zimmer's work has been recognized as highly original—inaugurating an entire area of study called the Zimmer program—because of how it integrates seemingly disparate fields.

This integrative tendency is a deep part of Zimmer's style of thinking, finding application well beyond the abstract realm of mathematics. "It's affected how I think about the University in multiple ways," he says.

As examples, he mentions the increase in professional school faculty teaching in the College, the incorporation of "institutional" programs into academic ones (e.g., the Urban Education Institute's move into the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice), and a greater emphasis on public impact.

Similarly, arts programming at the University during Zimmer's tenure didn't just grow—it grew in ways that complemented and enriched what was already in place. “We’ve always had spectacular programs in musicology and art history,” he says, acknowledging the University’s established prowess in arts scholarship. What was less developed, and what he has helped to expand, was public performance, production, and exhibition. Strength in theory is a value in itself, and it provides a firm basis for closing the loop between theory and practice.

Alongside a greater emphasis on practice, UChicago Arts today pursues more, and more robust, connections with the University’s neighbors on the South Side. Under Zimmer, the Office of Civic Engagement has done the same, expanding programs and partnerships with the surrounding community and the whole city. “He has been our biggest vocal champion for the work we do,” says vice president for civic engagement **Derek R. B. Douglas**, whose office has distributed hundreds of thousands of free meals among other forms of assistance on the South Side since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic—on top of its existing work building partnerships with small businesses and community organizations and providing residents with greater access to education and employment.

Douglas says this work “takes on a different level of weight and importance” when the president visibly makes it a priority as Zimmer has. “Not since William Rainey Harper,” Douglas says, has a UChicago president so clearly stressed the University’s purpose and responsibility, “not just from within, but also beyond the walls of the institution.”

**A**s much as Zimmer is a born mathematician—he recalls lying in bed as a seven-year-old, thinking through arithmetic problems—it would be a mistake to characterize his thinking as simply mathematical or logical.

“His mind is very curious, and it’s fun to talk to him about almost any topic,” says chair of the University’s Board of Trustees **Joseph Neubauer**, MBA’65. “He just generates ideas on a continuous basis.” Neubauer says this generativity was apparent when Zimmer was hired as president, as was

his extensive knowledge of the University based on his time as faculty. Trustee **Mary Louise Gorno**, MBA’76, highlights his wit, which “can lift spirits, motivate, and capture the significance of an idea.”

“He’s an extraordinary listener,” says trustee **John W. Rogers Jr.**, LAB’76, noting how Zimmer reaches out to the board for counsel. And yet, says former University provost Rosenbaum, who credits his current position as president of Caltech in part to Zimmer’s example and mentorship, “When you interact with Bob, there’s no ambiguity about where he stands.”

Inevitably, this means taking positions on controversial issues. In March 1998, **John W. Boyer**, AM’69, PhD’75, who was still in his first decade as dean of the College, recalls Zimmer, then deputy provost for research, joining in for a “very critical meeting of the College Council.” The faculty group was considering a measure that would reduce the number of required Core courses, increase free electives, introduce minor areas of study, and create more study abroad opportunities—changes that Boyer, among others, had fought for but which were facing some opposition.

Boyer says Zimmer sat with him throughout the vote, congratulated him when the measure passed, and sent him a generous note afterward acknowledging his hard work on these reforms. Boyer also recalls how, after becoming president, Zimmer continued supporting him against those

**“NOT SINCE WILLIAM RAINY HARPER” HAS A UCHICAGO PRESIDENT SO CLEARLY STRESSED THE UNIVERSITY’S PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITY, “NOT JUST FROM WITHIN, BUT ALSO BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE INSTITUTION.”**

# FROM MORE TO MORE

*The University of Chicago under  
President Robert J. Zimmer.*



- Dramatically expanded financial aid for undergraduate students through the Odyssey Scholarship Program and other initiatives.
- Greatly increased support for graduate and professional students.
- A nearly 300 percent increase in applications to the College since 2005, with admission yield rates of 80 percent.
- 24 percent growth in nonclinical tenured and tenure-track faculty, driven in part by new or expanded activities in molecular engineering, quantum information and technology, computer and data science, policy leadership, neurobiology, and the humanities.
- Establishment of the University's first engineering program, now known as the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering.
- Establishment of institutes and centers within and across the disciplines.
- Investments in the arts, including the opening of the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts and the establishment of the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry, the Green Line Performing Arts Center, and the Arts Block on East Garfield Boulevard.
- New or strengthened partnerships with the City of Chicago and local organizations, including through the opening of a level 1 adult trauma center at UChicago Medicine; the integration of the Urban Education Institute and the UChicago Charter School into the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice; and collaborations between UChicago Urban Labs, nonprofit groups, and government agencies.
- A broadened global engagement strategy drawing more international students with increased financial support; expanding student study abroad; and leading to the opening of the Center in Beijing, the Center in Delhi, and the Francis and Rose Yuen Campus in Hong Kong, and to plans for expansion of the Center in Paris.
- Unprecedented levels of philanthropic engagement, including the success of the University of Chicago Campaign: Inquiry and Impact, which concluded at the end of 2019 having raised more than \$5.43 billion. ♦

Clockwise from top left: The Green Line Performing Arts Center; the Rubenstein Forum; the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society; the Hong Kong campus; the Pritzker Nanofabrication Facility in the William Eckhardt Research Center.

who viewed career programs as a waste of time or dismissed study abroad as frivolous. “You’re right, and they’re wrong,” Boyer remembers Zimmer saying. “And those programs have become signature elements of the College.”

**D**o you know what it means when you hand somebody a diploma?” It’s a question Zimmer likes to pose to academic leaders and faculty at UChicago and at other institutions. “What are you certifying? Is it that they sat in classes for four years and passed some tests and wrote some papers?”

Most members of the UChicago community, and even many outside it, have a distinct sense of what it means to be a UChicagoan—to be open and deliberative, to judge ideas by their merit, to wield sharp analytical tools across areas of knowledge. That common understanding owes much to Zimmer’s public advocacy for the values he believes make a great university possible.

The value he has become best known for defending is free expression. He has consistently made the case in speeches and op-eds that students and faculty alike thrive in an atmosphere that tolerates and promotes the free exchange of ideas. The issue here is not the First Amendment, which concerns the ability of the government,

America at that time. “You felt that tolerance in a deep way,” he says. “It was super interesting and so much fun, with all these different people, with these different backgrounds and different kinds of quotidian cultures—just totally great.”

This kind of environment can counter complacency and self-satisfaction. “One of the great dangers with respect to free expression,” Zimmer told the *Washington Post* last October, “is people feeling very morally sure of themselves and dismissive of other people’s views.” You don’t get new ideas, new technologies, new treatments, or new policies from operating in an echo chamber.

Zimmer did not introduce this value at UChicago but rather reaffirmed it. The University’s long-standing commitment to free expression is codified in the 1967 Kalven Report, which states that “a good university, like Socrates, will be upsetting” because it serves as a platform for critics of the social order. What Zimmer has done is to vocally recommit to this idea in the era of what some commentators call “cancel culture,” of which the chilling of speech on college campuses—especially the disinviting of controversial speakers—is a frequently cited example.

In 2014 Zimmer appointed the Committee on Freedom of Expression, which was led by **Geoffrey R. Stone**, JD’71, the Edward H. Levi Distinguished Service Professor of Law. The

## **ONE OF THE GREAT DANGERS WITH RESPECT TO FREE EXPRESSION IS PEOPLE FEELING VERY MORALLY SURE OF THEMSELVES AND DISMISSIVE OF OTHER PEOPLE’S VIEWS.**

not private institutions like UChicago, to restrict speech. The question, Zimmer says, is whether to create the conditions for a great university or a mediocre one. “And I don’t want mediocre.”

His belief in the value of a bustling marketplace of ideas, while reinforced by his years in academia, may have deeper roots. Zimmer grew up in New York City’s Greenwich Village in the 1950s and early 1960s, which he describes as a more diverse—and more tolerant—place than much of

committee’s report advanced what became known as the “Chicago Principles,” which have been adopted by more than 80 colleges and universities around the country. The report reiterates the importance of open debate, in part by linking it to students’ ability to learn, grow, and participate in society.

In short, learning how to think requires not being told what to think. “When we’re handing somebody a degree,” Zimmer says, “we know that



Odyssey Scholars from the Class of 2018. The Odyssey Scholarship Program, established in 2007, has grown in the years since to provide academic, social, and career support to students from low-income families, in addition to loan-free financial aid.

we wanted to impart a set of intellectual skills and habits of mind ... that will empower you to deal with all sorts of questions, through all sorts of modes of inquiry.”

**T**he University of Chicago is a different place in 2021 than it was when Zimmer became president in 2006. Admission to the College became need blind with a guarantee of adequate financial support, ensuring that, in the words of University provost **Ka Yee C. Lee**, offers made to low-income students are no “pipe dream.” The University broadened its global presence with new centers in Beijing, Delhi, and Hong Kong. Exhibitions and performances multiplied with the opening of the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, and the Green Line Performing Arts Center. UChicago Medicine opened the state-of-the-art Center for Care and Discovery; the Duchossois Family Institute; and, in response to community need and advocacy efforts, the first level 1 adult trauma center on the South Side of Chicago since 1991. In these ways and others, the University has become more connected to the world while retaining its core identity.

“I think he’s at least a peer of the most successful presidents in the history of the University, in my view the most successful president,” says trustee and Law School senior lecturer **Andrew M. Rosenfield**, JD’78.

Looking to the future, Zimmer sees challenges and opportunities for higher education and for the University of Chicago in particular. He notes that the pandemic has forced us to think more about the capacity of remote education to reach more people in different ways. In addition to making education more available throughout the country and around the world, he says, remote technologies are helping the University rethink how to stay connected with its alumni through online content that lets them continue learning from their alma mater. The University’s Harper Lectures multiplied their audiences when they went virtual this past year, and even before the pandemic, work was underway to highlight faculty research through UChicago Review: Inquiry and Impact, part of [alumniandfriends.uchicago.edu](http://alumniandfriends.uchicago.edu).

Making education more accessible, he believes, will be a continuing imperative in the years ahead. He also cites the importance of diversity and inclusion efforts, and the value of federal policy that acknowledges the positive value of immigration “not just to universities but to the country.”

In confronting those challenges, Zimmer says, “We need to be open to imaginative and new ways of realizing our values and mission.” For proof, one need look no further than the University of Chicago today—unmistakably renewed, and unmistakably itself. ♦

HORNET + 3



# A WORLD APART

*The many lives of quarantine.*

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

In October 2019 journalists **Geoff Manaugh** and **Nicola Twilley** observed a disease outbreak simulation cohosted by the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. The players included leaders in business, public health, and government. The fictional crisis was sparked when a coronavirus jumped from pigs to humans, quickly unfurling into a global pandemic. Inside the exercise, medical equipment was in short supply, financial markets crashed, and conspiracy theories flourished online.

Event 201, as it was termed, concluded with a cascade of recommendations. Organizers called for more government funding to support the development and manufacture of medications and vaccines, increased efforts to combat misinformation, larger stockpiles of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other essential medical equipment, and more.

Nowhere on the list was a discussion of quarantine—when to use it, how to enforce it, or what it would look and feel like for the people experiencing it. Yet just six months after Event 201,

more than half the world was under some form of stay-at-home order.

It was a pattern Manaugh and Twilley, both AM'01, saw repeatedly while researching their forthcoming book, *Until Proven Safe: The History and Future of Quarantine* (MCD, 2021). Somewhere in the four pandemic simulations they attended, “you get to the point where it’s like, ‘OK, now we just quarantine.’ But nobody thinks about what that’s going to mean,” Manaugh says. Quarantine was either glossed over or treated as a switch that could be easily flipped on, rather than an ordeal people would have to live through, full of fear, confusion, and boredom.

Martin Cetron, director of the division of global migration and quarantine at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), had noticed the same thing in the planning exercises he attended: a tendency to focus on the beginning and end of the crisis and overlook the lived experience in between. As he told Manaugh and Twilley, “Nobody appreciates what the middle game is going to look like, but that’s the hard game.”

**You get to the point where it’s like, “OK, now we just quarantine.” But nobody thinks about what that’s going to mean.**

Hello from the other side: The Apollo 11 astronauts spent three weeks in quarantine to avoid contaminating Earth with extraterrestrial material. They greeted President Richard Nixon from inside the Mobile Quarantine Facility—a converted Airstream trailer.

Photo courtesy NASA

**A**t the heart of quarantine is the idea that a community can, with distance and time, protect itself from a threat—even if it doesn't understand the nature of that threat. Though the terms are often used interchangeably, even by experts, quarantine is technically distinct from isolation, which refers to the separation of people known to be sick from healthy people. Those in quarantine, by contrast, are currently healthy, but “we simply have reason to believe they may yet become sick,” as Manaugh and Twilley put it.

Indeed, long before widespread understanding of the germ theory of disease, our forebears had sussed out, through a grisly process of trial and error, that separating certain people and goods from others seemed to prevent illness from spreading.

It is both a simple and an ingenious idea—the realization that, as Manaugh puts it, “if we cut these things off, we're safe. We don't know what it is we're safe from, but we seem to be in a position of security.” Quarantine is also, as Manaugh and Twilley write in *Until Proven Safe*, “an unusually poetic metaphor for any number of moral, ethical, and religious ills: it is a period of waiting to see if something hidden within you will be revealed.”

That combination of simplicity, complexity, and metaphoric power has kept Manaugh and Twilley, who are married, thinking about quarantine for more than a decade. Their interest was first piqued while visiting Sydney in 2009, when they heard about a nearby quarantine station that had been converted to a luxury hotel. The couple spent their seventh wedding anniversary at the resort,

where, for over 150 years, newly arrived immigrants to Australia waited to be deemed safe or to fall ill, their journey's end just out of reach.

For two former art history students with ongoing interests in the built environment, the idea of a quarantine facility living out its second act as a resort was appealingly odd. As they wandered around Q Station, they were struck by the knotty design challenges that quarantine presented—a space that is not a prison, but holds people; not a hospital, but may house the sick; near a destination, but not in it.

Quarantine also struck them as a necessarily interdisciplinary topic, understood best when examined from a variety of angles: medical, historical, architectural. “Interdisciplinarity is definitely our preferred way of looking at things,” Twilley says, something they came to realize as UChicago graduate students. (They met on their first day of orientation.) Neither wanted to be confined to a single field, but both realized they enjoyed research and writing. Manaugh, the author of the *New York Times* best seller *A Burglar's Guide to the City*

(FSG Originals, 2016), founded the architecture blog BLDGBLOG and teaches; Twilley writes for the *New Yorker* and cohosts the podcast *Gastropod*, which looks at food through the lenses of science and history.

When they first started studying quarantine, it seemed more like a relic of a past era than a harbinger of our collective future. This was not a fringe view, they later learned. Some public health experts the couple talked to dismissed quarantine as a mostly obsolete measure with only narrow usefulness in today's global,

interconnected world. Its costs and dangers, one World Health Organization leader told them, were simply too large to justify.

As Manaugh and Twilley investigated quarantine more deeply, they began to form a different view. “We went from thinking of it as an outdated medieval tool to something that was actually central to the functioning of the modern world as we know it,” Manaugh says. Though we don't see it and name it as such, quarantine is everywhere, omnipresent and invisible.

Then, of course, it became all too visible. (Manaugh and Twilley abandoned their book's original title, “The Coming Quarantine,” for obvious reasons.) They found themselves writing about quarantine while in quarantine, a surreal experience that reinforced the lessons of their research—that quarantine was central to our lives, that we had not prepared adequately for it, that it could and must be reenvisioned.

**T**he first formal quarantine order, Manaugh and Twilley write, was issued in 1377 by officials in the bustling port city of Dubrovnik, Croatia, who required people and goods from plague-ridden areas to spend a month on the nearby island of Mrkan or in the town of Cavtat.

Dubrovnik eventually built lazarettos, or quarantine hospitals, to accommodate these travelers, as did other cities throughout Europe. In normal times, the lazarettos served as a way station for merchants and their goods; in times of disease outbreak, they housed the local population, for the purposes of either quarantine or isolation.

Some, like Venice's Lazzaretto Vecchio, established in 1423, and Lazzaretto Nuovo, established in 1468, were built on close-lying islands so “the sick were separated from but remained

**It is a period  
of waiting to see  
if something  
hidden within  
you will  
be revealed.**



From top: Nicola Twilley and Geoff Manaugh, both AM'01; the lazaretto of Ancona, Italy; an isolation facility for nuclear material near Carlsbad, New Mexico.



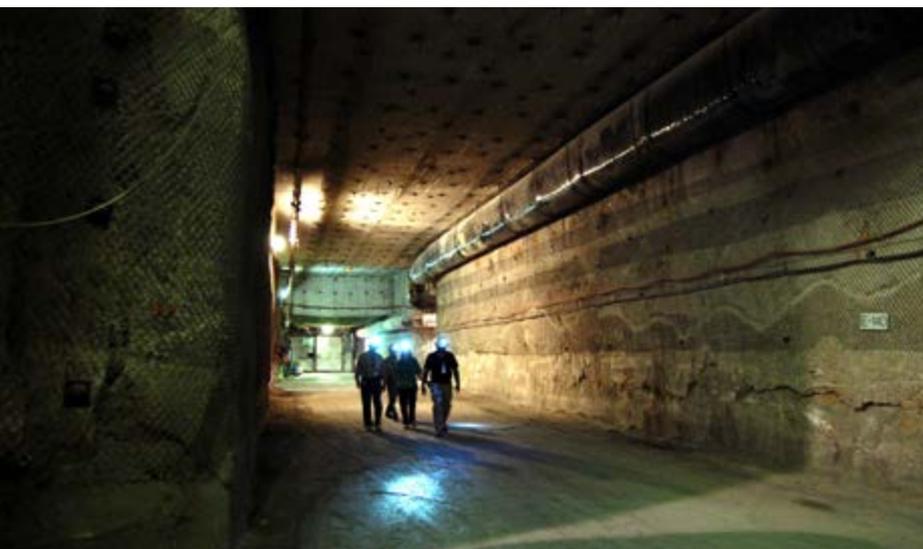
closely tied to the city,” Manaugh and Twilley write in *Until Proven Safe*.

Early quarantines were “a civic project,” Twilley says—an effort undertaken collectively to provide reassurance, structure, and continuity. (Such community mindedness had its limits: throughout Europe, Jews and other marginalized groups were blamed for the Black Death, at times leading to genocidal violence.) They were also, of necessity, less isolated than today. At times, entire neighborhoods might be quarantined together.

In keeping with this collectively oriented approach, the Venetian state covered the costs of accommodation, food, water, and medical care for those in quarantine. During an outbreak, historian Jane Stevens Crawshaw writes, the city’s monks and nuns would pray for the health of the city for eight days straight. The lazarettos themselves were seen as a public good and an essential part of the fabric of the city—Venetian notaries were required to ask clients if they would like to leave a bequest to these institutions in their wills. “That attitude is kind of incredible,” Twilley reflects, an acknowledgment that “we need this for all of our protection, and therefore, we are all going to be asked if we want to donate to it.”

Over time, however, the communal experience of quarantine gave way to something more atomized. Lazarettos were renovated to include more private rooms—partly because officials saw health benefits, and partly because quarantine had begun to fracture along class lines. By the 19th century, when ships arrived at Malta’s busy lazaretto on Manoel Island, the wealthy passengers departed to quarantine in the relative comfort of the lazaretto; crew members remained on board, cramped and uncomfortable, after weeks at sea.

Only a handful of Europe’s lazarettos have been preserved in their

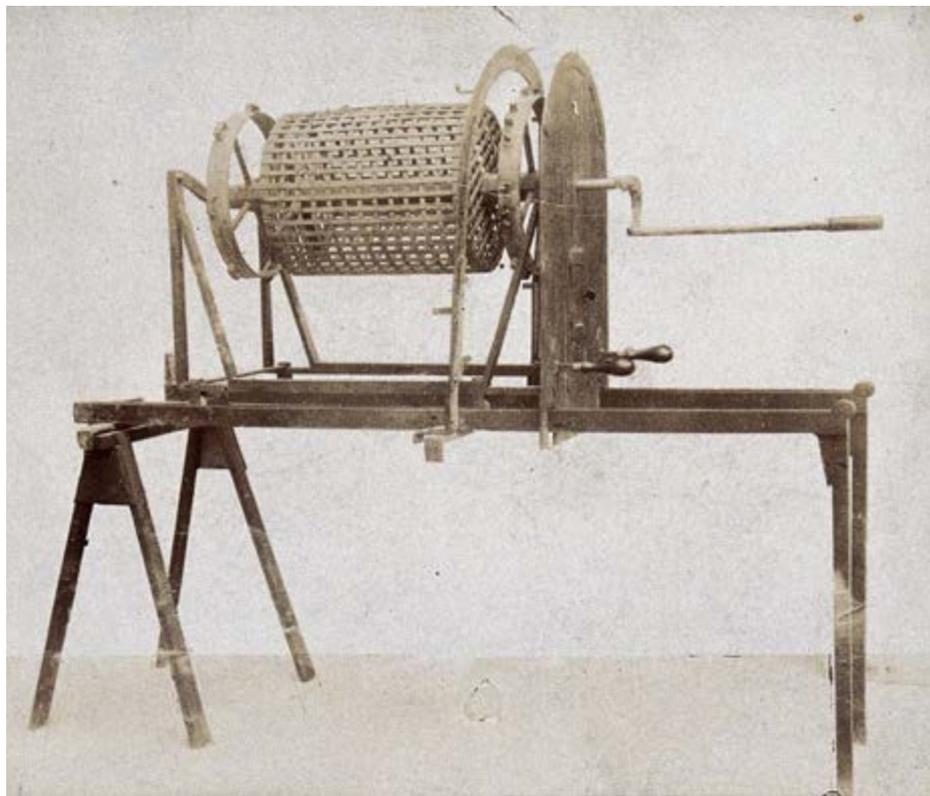
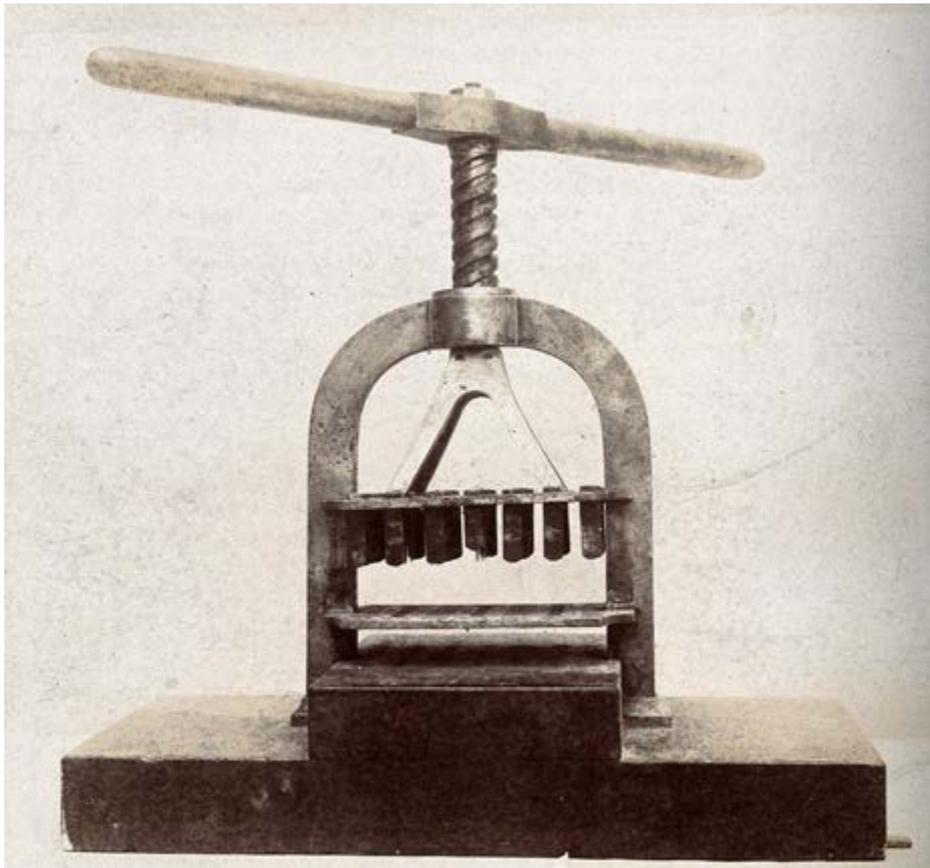


original forms. (Some have been repurposed, but most were torn down.) Manaugh and Twilley, who have visited many of those that remain, see “a mournfulness to them,” Twilley says. She found herself wishing for a monument to everyone who had passed through, in honor of “the time, and in some cases, the lives that people had sacrificed to keep us all safe.”

The structures may have crumbled, but there are remnants of historic quarantine all over the modern world. The World Health Organization, for instance, has its origins in the 19th-century International Sanitary Conferences, meetings of European powers to develop standardized quarantine protocols across the continent. Modern passports have forerunners in *fedi di sanità*, Italian documents from the 1500s certifying the holders had been declared infection-free, allowing them to move freely across national borders.

Borders themselves carry traces of infection control measures, Manaugh and Twilley write. Take the almost perfectly straight line separating Egypt from Sudan. The small, finger-shaped indentation in the border marks the location of a former British quarantine station designed to prevent the spread of the parasitic worm disease schistosomiasis. The cultural border between “East” and “West” was made literal in a network of quarantine stations along the edges of the Austro-Hungarian empire, with the aim of preventing Muslims returning from pilgrimages to Mecca from spreading diseases such as cholera.

**Q**uarantine used to be a fact of life because disease was a fact of life. But for a brief period beginning in the 1950s, it receded in the public imagination, thanks to antibiotics and vaccines.



These tools from Venetian lazarettos were used to disinfect mail and other paper goods (top) and clothing (bottom). It was believed that carefully ventilating such items could prevent the spread of infection.

“We thought we’d won,” Twilley says. “We thought our science and technology and our advanced medical system had really put us beyond needing these types of countermeasures anymore.” In fact, when they started their research, “it was quite hard to find someone who’d been in quarantine” to interview.

Yet quarantine hadn’t disappeared. Instead, it took on new forms and flavors, as Manaugh and Twilley document in *Until Proven Safe*. The book includes chapters on efforts to isolate nuclear material and quarantine livestock and plants; one chapter narrates a visit to the International Cocoa Quarantine Centre near London, where different varieties of the pest-prone crop are cultivated and carefully monitored for infection before being released to growers around the world. The facility is designed to prevent a “chocpocalypse”—the near complete collapse of chocolate due to disease.

These applications of quarantine to nonhuman contexts underscore “how ubiquitous and multiscale it is to begin with,” Manaugh explains. Quarantine is a logic for interacting with all kinds of uncertainty: “We’re putting things in liminal states, we’re putting things in buffers, we’re delaying our actual interaction with them until we figure it out.”

And what could be more uncertain than alien life? *Until Proven Safe* charts quarantine across planetary borders—a challenge that took on new urgency in the Apollo era. Although NASA’s engineers were fairly sure there was

no life on the moon that could hitch a ride back to Earth, “fairly sure” was not enough for the CDC, the Department of Agriculture, and the Fish and Wildlife Service, whose leaders sought to prevent the small matter of an accidental hitchhiker eradicating all plant and animal life on Earth.

NASA worked intently to create quarantine protocols for the returning astronauts, their spacecraft, and their cargo of lunar rocks, ultimately modifying an Airstream trailer to serve as

the Mobile Quarantine Facility for the Apollo 11 mission. When Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, and Michael Collins splashed down in the Pacific Ocean, they were doused with a decontaminant and confined to the Airstream until they returned to Texas, where they spent another two weeks in the Lunar Receiving Lab at the Johnson Space Center. The

command module and moon rocks also underwent a 21-day quarantine. (The grim worst-case-scenario plan in the event of alien infection was to bury the entire lab and everyone in it under dirt and concrete; ultimately, the worst fate anyone suffered was boredom.)

Today NASA and its counterparts around the globe are making plans for how to protect Earth against any threats posed by returning Martian material. The rover Perseverance is currently hard at work collecting soil and rock samples to be retrieved by a future lander, and, through an elaborate chain of spacecraft hand-offs, returned to Earth in a sterile bio-containment unit sometime around

2030—at which time the samples can finally be opened in an ultrasecure lab.

The plan is not without controversy. An International Committee Against Mars Sample Return, whose advisers include a member of NASA’s original Planetary Quarantine Advisory Panel, has lodged its objections, on the grounds the material may contaminate our world. Meanwhile, some scientists feel the elaborate measures are unnecessary. After all, meteorites likely still carrying traces of extraterrestrial material regularly arrive on Earth without incident. From this point of view, Earth and Mars are part of the same planetary quarantine “pod.”

Even during quarantine’s comparatively quiet years, some public health experts were crying out for its reform. Precisely because quarantine has been used so rarely in the United States since the 1918 flu pandemic, the plans, facilities, and laws governing it sat mostly frozen in time.

The threat of bioterrorism following 9/11, as well as SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) and Ebola outbreaks in the 2000s, prompted the United States government to revisit the question of how, when, and why federal quarantine might be used. In 2017, after more than a decade of work and study, the CDC adopted new quarantine regulations. (States also have their own quarantine powers.)

The new rules allow the CDC to detain people anywhere in the country, not just when they first enter the United States or cross state lines; broaden the list of illnesses that can be used to invoke quarantine; and institute new data-gathering rules for airlines. The regulations also outline the rights of the quarantined to challenge their detention—although some argued those protections weren’t strong or clear enough.

**These applications of quarantine to nonhuman contexts underscore “how ubiquitous and multiscale it is to begin with.”**

Quarantine is one of the rare situations where a government can detain an individual who has committed no crime and may never pose a health risk to anyone. It's easy to imagine quarantine being used to dystopian ends: a government arbitrarily imprisoning masses of people on the grounds that they might be sick.

Even the CDC's Martin Cetron—"the closest quarantine has to a poster child," Manaugh and Twilley write—acknowledges the serious danger of its misuse. "One of the problems is that quarantine is used as a political tool in an overreaction to fear," Cetron told them. "And that has given it a really bad name."

Take Kaci Hickox, a nurse who treated Ebola patients in West Africa with Doctors Without Borders. When she returned to the United States through the Newark, New Jersey, airport in 2014, then-governor Chris Christie insisted she be quarantined upon arrival—despite the fact that Ebola is only contagious when a patient is symptomatic, and Hickox showed no signs of illness and returned a negative blood test. (Elsewhere in the United States, health workers who had treated Ebola patients had been allowed to return home and self-monitor for symptoms, as the CDC's guidelines recommended.)

Hickox's lawyer ultimately persuaded Christie to allow her to return home to Maine, where she was promptly issued a formal quarantine order that she challenged in court. A judge ruled that the state did not have evidence that Hickox's quarantine was medically necessary.

Many at the time—including Manaugh and Twilley—couldn't understand Hick-

ox's resistance. But to Hickox, who was not only a nurse but also a former fellow at the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service, her situation was a perfect example of how quarantine can be deployed in ways that don't actually reduce risk. It was a reaction to fear, not a reasoned public health effort, and it had real consequences: the public controversy deterred other health workers from volunteering to help with the Ebola crisis.

Hickox's principled stance did not make her many friends. She received hate mail and death threats for months after her return. But she continues to believe she did the right thing. "She acted with such intentionality," Twilley reflects, "almost deliberately sacrificing herself to try to make sure that this kind of thing didn't happen to others."

And she succeeded. Hickox sued New Jersey and, as part of her settlement, got the state to adopt new guidelines for people under quarantine, including the right to challenge the order.

"I'm a public health nurse, so I know that sometimes quarantine will be needed," Hickox told Manaugh and Twilley. "But when we do it, we need to do it well and we need to think about that person as a human with a family and a livelihood and everything else."

Her point, echoed by other public health leaders, including Cetron, was clear, Twilley says: "If you ask someone to make these sacrifices, you have a duty of care to them."

**S**omber though it may be to contemplate, COVID-19 will not be the last pandemic. (In fact, many scientists believe we'll see more

**If you ask someone to make these sacrifices, you have a duty of care to them.**



zoonoses—diseases that jump from animals to humans—as the human population grows and spreads.) For some of us, it may not even be the last pandemic of our lifetimes.

With the wounds of this crisis still fresh (and indeed, still being inflicted), there comes a rare opportunity to take what we've learned and prepare for the future. "Before COVID-19, pandemic preparedness people felt like these lone Cassandras, bringing the tidings of bad news that seemed like the stuff of movies, not real life," Twilley says. "I'm hoping that now

Photography by Nicola Twilley, AM'01



Personal protective equipment through the ages: Manaugh (left), in modern gear, poses with Italian health policy expert Luigi Bertinato, who wears the beaked uniform of a bubonic-plague-era doctor.

that quarantine has become universal again, we could have those conversations more productively.”

At the end of *Until Proven Safe*, Manaugh and Twilley argue for a wholesale reimagining, including changes to the built environment that would make quarantine less disruptive to implement and less burdensome for the quarantined. “Thinking about the city as this flexible instrument for dealing with disaster would be really useful in a medical context,” Manaugh says. Cities could develop “pandemic modes”—closing down streets to al-

Democratic Republic of the Congo. LaRochelle came to understand the potential trauma of forced separation firsthand when he had to quarantine in a biocontainment unit following an Ebola exposure. While he wasn’t bothered by the isolation himself, the experience helped him understand why his patients feared being kept from family and community as much as they feared Ebola itself.

“His insight, which was really interesting, is that the quarantine is never going to work if it doesn’t feel like a community experience,” Twilley says.

low pedestrian distancing, making crosswalk buttons touchless, and so on—that they toggle on and off as needed.

Just as we have tornado shelters in airports, we could build pandemic preparedness into publicly funded facilities such as schools, stadiums, and convention centers. Simple measures, such as making sure there are enough electrical outlets and bathrooms, could allow these spaces to be quickly converted into modern lazarettos.

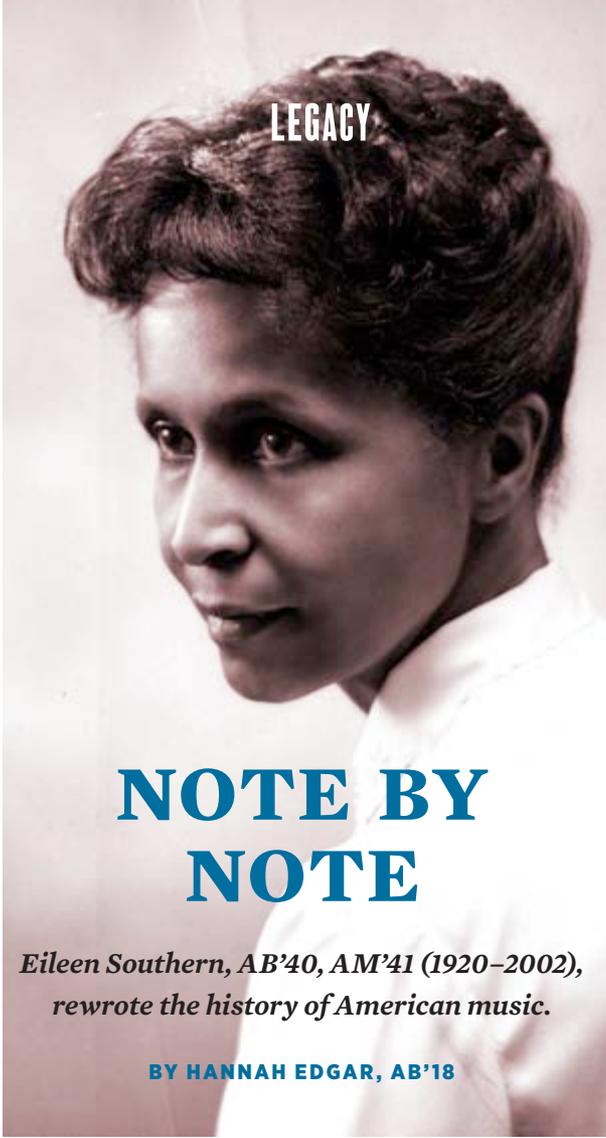
We would benefit, too, from a return to the civic-minded, community-spirited ethic of quarantine in the past—a point emphasized by Patrick LaRochelle, an American doctor who treated Ebola patients in the

But it’s possible: in the United Kingdom, for example, Ebola-exposed patients quarantine in Trexler units—essentially, negative-pressure tents contained within hospitals. Rather than wearing full PPE, medical staff interact with the patient through suits built into the unit’s walls. Outsiders can learn to use these features with relatively little training, meaning that family members can visit a loved one in quarantine. During COVID-19, doctors whose faces were covered by masks and goggles began wearing smiling photos of themselves around their necks to help foster a sense of connection with patients (and look a little less ominous).

Simple acts like these matter, Manaugh and Twilley argue, and can make the difference between compliance with or avoidance of quarantine. “One of the most interesting design challenges is how to make quarantine, this thing where you are separating yourself, feel like an act of connection,” Twilley says.

Community mindedness also means guaranteeing “a basic social safety net,” Manaugh says, without which quarantine will invariably fail. Of course US business owners protested COVID-related restrictions; no one was offering a viable alternative for them and their employees to survive for a year without work. Just as the Venetians—and some countries today—shouldered the burden of financially supporting the quarantined, so must we.

Changing quarantine means changing ourselves. Individualistic Americans have long been resistant to seeing themselves as responsible for the care of others, yet in a pandemic there is no other option, Manaugh and Twilley argue: we can’t protect ourselves if we don’t care for those around us. As they write in *Until Proven Safe*, “we will never have public health if we do not think of ourselves as a public.” ♦



LEGACY

**J**ust before earning her master's from New England Conservatory in 1970, piano student Marva Griffin Carter took a rare practice-room break to attend a lecture unlike any other she'd heard: one about African American musical traditions. Though the details of the lecture now escape her, Carter remembers being struck by the visiting scholar—a solemn, soft-spoken woman at work on a comprehensive history of Black American music.

Carter approached the lecturer afterward, expecting a brief, polite exchange. Instead, she remembers, the scholar pulled her aside and “basically recruited me.”

“If you don’t go into doing more research on the music of Black Americans, then who will? And once I am gone, who will carry on this work?” the lecturer asked. Carter, now an associate professor of music history and literature at Georgia State University, “was just floored.”

“I would not have achieved what I have, or even pursued my areas of interest were it not for her,” says Carter, who later successfully campaigned to diversify the music curriculum of her own institution.

Such were the mentorship, foresight, and tenacity of Eileen Southern, AB’40, AM’41, whose research exploded not only Carter’s worldview but academia at large. Southern earned a PhD in musicology from New York University in 1961. Later, she became the first Black woman to earn tenure at Harvard University, teaching there from 1974 to 1987. Her *Music of Black Americans: A History* (W. W. Norton, 1971), stretching from 1619 through the 1960s, has become a foundational text. Southern expanded the book’s scope with two subsequent editions; the last, in 1997, dipped its toe into rap, which she presciently called “the new pop music.”

## NOTE BY NOTE

*Eileen Southern, AB’40, AM’41 (1920–2002),  
rewrote the history of American music.*

BY HANNAH EDGAR, AB’18

Together, Southern’s body of work on African American musics formed a magisterial riposte to those who deemed the subject unworthy of study. Even divorced from its revolutionary context, *The Music of Black Americans* is a formidable history—artfully arranged, narratively compelling, and fastidiously researched.

Southern traveled the globe to collect primary source material for that work and for her subsequent *Biographical Dictionary of Afro-American and African Musicians* (Greenwood Press, 1982). Her papers at the Center for Black Music Research at Columbia College Chicago contain troves of fact-finding correspondence with Black artists and composers. While revising *The Music of Black Americans* and teaching at

Harvard, Southern springboarded the careers of dozens of Black-music scholars with her pathbreaking academic journal, *The Black Perspective in Music* (1973–90); her husband, Joseph Southern, MBA’45, served as managing editor.

Though musicologists have floated the idea of posthumously updating *The Music of Black Americans*, Society for American Music president and Miami University professor of musicology Tammy Kernodle says that for many, the prospect of adding to Southern’s volume is too intimidating to venture.

“Do you know how many of us have been asked to revise that? I know I’ve been asked three times,” Kernodle says with a chuckle. “Mmm-mmm, no. I’m not touching that.”

Eileen Stanza Jackson was born in Minneapolis on February 19, 1920, splitting her childhood between Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Chicago. The eldest of three daughters, Eileen came from a musical family. Her mother sang in church choirs; her father, Walter Wade Jackson, EX’27, a chemistry teacher, was an amateur violinist. Touring musicians, including Louis Armstrong, stayed with the family on occasion.

Photography by Gill Photographers; courtesy the Center for Black Music Research, Columbia College Chicago (Eileen Southern Collection, box 44, folder 18)

Samuel Floyd, founder of the Center for Black Music Research, called Eileen Southern, AB'40, AM'41, a "quiet revolutionary" in a 1992 essay on her scholarly achievements.

Eileen began taking piano lessons when she was five, playing every evening as her sisters sang and her father played violin. By the time she turned 18, she'd toured the Midwest as an accompanist and performed at Chicago's Orchestra Hall.

Matriculating at the University of Chicago in 1936 on a scholarship, Southern piled up her plate as precipitously as any ambitious undergrad, becoming secretary of the Negro Student Club, a campus congress delegate, and a cabinet member of the school's YWCA chapter. Southern later recalled the kindness of UChicago faculty member Scott Goldthwaite, which made her, a Black student in the predominantly White College, "feel a part of the music department." When she wrote her master's thesis, "The Use of Negro Folk-song in Symphonic Forms," professor Cecil Smith, PhB'27—who occasionally covered Southern's performances for the *Chicago Tribune*—encouraged and advised her research.

Upon leaving Chicago in 1941, Southern grappled with a profoundly segregated job market. Despite her high qualifications, she was passed over for openings at largely White institutions. Instead, she accepted revolving-door appointments at historically Black colleges and universities in the South. When Southern decided to pursue her PhD, she was rejected by Harvard ("I got the impression they didn't want two blacks [in the department] at the same time," she later said). At NYU, she wrote her dissertation not on Black music but on a Renaissance-era German organ book.

Higher education's attitudes began changing rapidly in 1968. Student demonstrations in the wake of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination pushed American universities to establish Black studies programs. When the reckoning reached the City University of New York—where she then taught—the usually mild-mannered Southern stormed out of a music department meeting after a colleague declared that Black music wasn't worth incorporating into their curriculum. "Black music?" he'd scoffed. "Besides jazz, what is there?" That moment, bolstered by the collective urgency of the Black studies movement, helped inspire Southern to write *The Music of Black Americans*.

"In a way she single-handedly started a field," says Harvard assistant professor **Braxton D. Shelley**, AM'16, PhD'17, MDiv'17. Yet Southern hasn't received broad recognition. Beyond a few fellowships and grants in her name, "there's nothing commensurate with her status," says Shelley. He is currently working with Harvard faculty and grad students to produce the Eileen Southern Project, a digital oral history exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of *The Music of Black Americans*, this fall.

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The project is partly redemptive, given Southern's complicated relationship with Harvard. Almost simultaneously with her formal appointment as full professor in 1975, she was thrust into chairing the nascent Department of African American Studies. Southern's three years as chair were tumultuous, marred by insufficient institutional support, tenure controversies, criticism from student activists, and friction with junior scholars. Nevertheless, Southern stayed on faculty for several more years.

"In effect, my withdrawal (in spirit if not in physical presence) lasted until my retirement in December 1986, and it was not totally voluntary on my part," she later wrote.

Afterward, Eileen and Joseph moved into a house they'd built in Port Charlotte, Florida, where they lived until her death from complications of Alzheimer's on October 13, 2002. Joseph, her partner in work and life, followed her 15 years later. Their daughter, April Reilly, lives in California, while their son, Edward, still lives in the Port Charlotte house, sometimes stopping to "tickle the ivories" of the Roland electric keyboard his mother bought as a substitute for her Steinway grand.

Before her death, Southern told Samuel Floyd, founder of the Center for Black Music Research, that her greatest wish—besides seeing African diasporic music established as a specialization in music departments everywhere—was to see more Black musicologists in the field. Even so, according to the most recent available self-reported demographic surveys, Black scholars made up just 1 percent of the American Musicological Society's (AMS) membership in 2017 and 4.8 percent of the Society for Ethnomusicology's in 2014. Southern's legacy, it seems, remains unfinished.

Not unlike the reckoning of 1968, last year's racial justice protests served as a wake-up call to music departments across the country. Some are actively recruiting new hires with expertise

in "Black music," variously defined. But, as Southern knew all too well, the real test will be departments' commitments to support and retain those specialists. Future generations of musicologists—of Black musicologists in particular—could be at stake. Just ask Marva Griffin Carter or Tammy Kernodle.

"My first AMS meeting was Pittsburgh—I think it was 1992. I went there looking for Eileen Southern, because I wanted to see somebody who looked like me," Kernodle says. "Her book opened doors for me. It opened up a way of doing music in a totally different way that no one had ever told me about—it completely changed my whole life. That's not a cliché. I'm not being overly dramatic. It completely changed my entire life." ♦

**Hannah Edgar, AB'18, is a writer in Chicago.**

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THE  
**CHICAGO  
JOURNAL**  
The South Side's Free Newsweekly

**Jane Byrne's Chicago**  
HOW WILL IT WORK?

PERSONAL ESSAY

# ALTERNATIVE HISTORY

*The Chicago Journal—rival to the Maroon,  
free South Side weekly, journalism  
and business talent incubator—had a  
memorable eight-year run.*

BY EUGENE "CHIP" FORRESTER, AB'77

University of Chicago  
**SEMINAR SESSION**  
element



All images courtesy Eugene "Chip" Forrester, AB'77/The Chicago Journal (photographer noted when known)

**L**ike any piece of journalism, this is a story.

The son of a serving soldier, I grew up living all over the world. Whenever the family relocated, my mother would take us on memorable expeditions in our new hometown. We explored back alleys in Paris and small villages in England,

toured London, and uncovered amazing places around Manila, in the Philippines. I was imbued with a sense of adventure and curiosity to understand my new environs wherever I was. It was part of the family legacy.

So was the University of Chicago. My grandfather Percy E. Wagner, PhB 1916, had always spoken reverently of his alma mater, where he was on the track team and a member of the Order of the C.

In the fall of 1973 I was heading to the College myself, determined not only to get an education but to explore and understand the Second City. I was blessed with an old Opel Kadett, and shortly after settling in at Burton-Judson, I began venturing out to see Chicago's South Side.

Along with this passion for exploring, I brought with me experience as a reporter and photographer for my high school newspaper. Soon after arriving in Hyde Park, I made my way to Ida Noyes and the upstairs offices of the *Chicago Maroon*, for which I began writing stories and taking photos, developing black-and-white film in the basement dark room.

Meanwhile, a class with one of the best professors I ever had, Richard Taub, gave shape and purpose to my wanderlust. In his Common Core sociology course, Taub had us pair up with a classmate (my partner in crime was **Pete Sturman**, EX'77) and pick a Chicago neighborhood to visit. We were to, in Pete's memory, "open our eyes and take notes!" Taub gave us a set of questions to use as a way to begin understanding the neighborhood sociologically: How did neighbors

interact? What kind of retail stores were there? What condition was the housing in? Pete and I chose Little Italy and Taylor Street. Besides our assigned investigations, we discovered our go-to Italian restaurant for years, Gennaro's.

**I WAS IMBUED WITH A SENSE OF ADVENTURE AND CURIOSITY TO UNDERSTAND MY NEW ENVIRONS WHEREVER I WAS.**

Very local politics: *Chicago Journal* staffers pose with their pooches for a 1978 story about burgeoning ire for Hyde Parkers' dog-walking behavior.

The experience encouraged me and my friends to further explore the city. We found Theresa's, where we heard world-class blues musicians like Buddy Guy and Junior Wells, the Checkerboard Lounge on 43rd Street, and the Brown Derby on 51st, where shots of Jack Daniels were 50 cents each.

By my third year I'd become the *Maroon's* news editor. With a vivid sense of the life of the city beyond the University's perimeter, I began a concerted effort to see the paper break out of the Hyde Park–Kenwood cocoon and begin covering the greater South Side—to no avail. After I ran for editor that spring and lost, I decided to pursue this work under a new banner.

The paper I helped found, the *Chicago Journal*, grew out of a realization by a small band of UChicago students that Hyde Park–Kenwood was an island on Chicago's South Side, one that lay within a community we had little to no clue about. These students set out to explore, study, and document life outside the patrolled sanctuary of Hyde Park–Kenwood.

**W**hen I was attending the College, students rarely ventured beyond 47th Street to the north, 60th Street to the south, or Washington Park to the West. White-and-maroon security phones and the campus police were constant reminders that you crossed these boundaries at your own peril.

Yet a whole world lay beyond these borders—South Shore, Lake Meadows, Prairie Shores, Englewood, Avalon Park, Beverly-Morgan Park, South Chicago, Chatham, Woodlawn. Parents raised their families, businesses operated, schools educated children, and politicians made decisions that affected people's lives.

Among the South Side politicians whose careers we covered closely were politician Harold Washington, who served in the Illinois House and Senate and the US House before becoming Chicago's first Black mayor. Other notables were **Barbara Flynn Currie**, LAB'58, AB'68, AM'73; **Carol Moseley Braun**, JD'72; **Toni Preckwinkle**, AB'69, MAT'77; Ross Lathrop; John Stroger; and Ralph Metcalfe.

If the paper's beat would distinguish it from anything else being published by students in the

College, so would its look. Designer **Cindy Hoffman**, AB'79, an Ideas and Methods major, was part of the founding group. She and I planned a graphically bold, visually unfettered newsweekly that would capture readers on the first page and carry them through the last. Cindy had followed the work of the late *New York Magazine* cofounder and graphic designer Milton Glaser. "Glaser's influence on me," she recalls, "was all about typography and utility. In his words, 'A weekly magazine needs a very rigid design system. With tight deadlines and last-minute changes, there is no opportunity for elaborate layout considerations. ... The illusion of unmanipulated presentation is the goal.'"

With this double mission—to focus on the entire community in which we lived and to present our reporting with powerful graphic design—we launched the *Chicago Journal*.

**T**here were two iterations of the *Chicago Journal*. The first one began in 1976 as a student-run newspaper at the University, officed in a tiny, cramped cubbyhole hidden away in Ida Noyes Hall. We enjoyed the support and guidance of Marie Wester, the "Queen" of Ida Noyes and the assistant director of student activities.

The first issue, published September 20, 1976, featured 41 names on the masthead, with no real hierarchy. On the cover was a photograph of Promontory Point with downtown Chicago in the background, taken from 1,000 feet in the air. A private pilot, I rented a Cessna 172 from Midway Flyers and captured the image.

For that first year, the paper's student-reporter staff developed sources in the University administration and published stories that did not endear us to the public relations office. We investigated the University's role in the Hyde Park housing market and took a critical look at the hospital's emergency room. Ultimately the paper was denied access to University president John T. Wilson.

In the spring of 1977, as the end of my fourth year and the *Chicago Journal's* first volume year were in sight, I received a call asking me to see vice president of community affairs Jonathan Kleinbard. It was never a good sign to be summoned to Mr. Kleinbard's office. As he motioned me to sit down, he abruptly asked, "Most of you are gradu-



# ALUMNI ROLL

*Chicago Journal* staffers went on to make their marks in journalism and business. Here are some of the most notable.

“I started writing for the *Journal* in '77. I walked in off 53rd Street and asked folks in the office (Cindy Hoffman and Margaret Roberts, I am almost sure) if they wanted me to write something. I remember telling them that I had a lot of sketches in a kind of diary of Chicago (the city) and could probably derive something from that. They thought that curious (which it certainly was), but that is where it started.”—Brent Staples

“The *Chicago Journal* was a chance to put my UChicago critical thinking into practice in the nitty-gritty real world—the golden opportunity I was waiting for without even knowing it.”  
—Margaret Roberts

**David Brooks**, AB'83. Author, *New York Times* columnist, and member of the UChicago Board of Trustees.

**Cindy Hoffman**, AB'79. Design director for Bloomberg Digital.

**Gordon Crovitz**, AB'80. Co-CEO of NewsGuard and former publisher of the *Wall Street Journal*.

**Brent Staples**, AM'76, PhD'82. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and editorial board member of the *New York Times*.

**Marc PoKempner**, AB'73 (Class of 1969). Photojournalist with works held by the Art Institute of Chicago.

**Andrew M. Alper**, AB'80, MBA'81. Goldman Sachs partner, former chair and current member of the UChicago Board of Trustees.

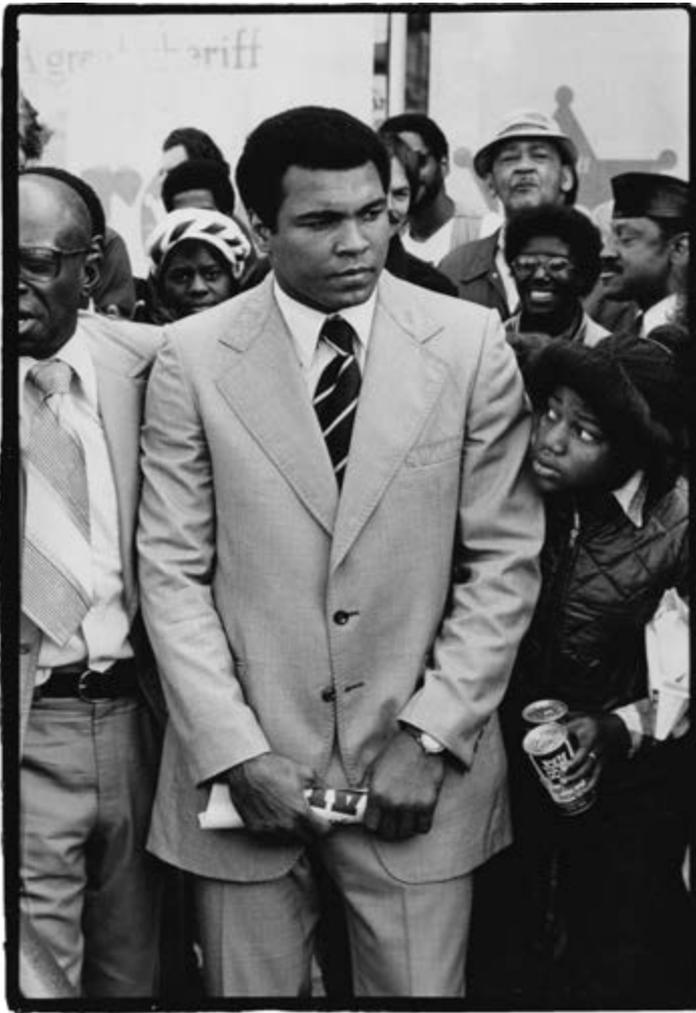
**Margaret Roberts**, AM'72. News director, *America's Most Wanted*.

**Carl Lavin**, AB'79. Manager of business integrity, Facebook.

**Ann Grimes**, AM'78. Journalist and director of the Knight-Bagehot Fellowship in Economics and Business Journalism, Columbia Journalism School.

“I vividly remember sitting in our second-floor office looking down at a pretty dismal 53rd Street. ... Thirty years later I was the newly elected chairman of the UChicago Board of Trustees and 53rd Street was pretty much unchanged from the late '70s. I was all-in on supporting and championing the substantial investments necessary to make Hyde Park a better, more inviting place to live, work, and shop.”  
—Andrew M. Alper

“We took a risk. We were tenacious and ambitious. We were resilient. At the time, it felt like we were wandering in the woods. But it was a formative and foundational experience. What an incredibly talented group. Who knew?”—Ann Grimes



A surprise interview with Muhammad Ali yielded an unforgettable cover story; here, Ali with a copy of the issue in hand. Opposite: The author looks out on 53rd Street from the *Chicago Journal's* offices.

ating this year. What are your plans for the *Chicago Journal*?" I told him I assumed that the next class of students would take it over. He said that the University did not have that in mind—and that all the paperwork had been drawn up to relinquish full legal and editorial control of the newspaper to the staff. He needed an answer in 48 hours.

With that, the second *Chicago Journal*—a for-profit independent newsweekly for Chicago's South Side—was born. **Ann Grimes**, AM'78, a subsequent editor of the paper, likens our venture to a start-up: "We didn't have the vocabulary back then to call it a start-up, but that's what it was. The team raised initial funding from what we now would call 'friends and family.' We were twenty-somethings who made it up as we went."

We spent the summer of 1977 looking for a place to work and assembling a staff. We found office space at 1505 East 53rd Street, above what's now Pizza Capri. In this incarnation of the paper, we decided on a more conventional hierarchy. **Gordon Crovitz**, AB'80, and **Margaret Roberts**,

AM'72, were coeditors, and **Carl Lavin**, AB'79, was the news editor. Gordon would concentrate on investigative news, Margaret on features. In that capacity she was the first editor of future *New York Times* columnist **Brent Staples**, AM'76, PhD'82. Cindy became the art director.

University trustee **Andrew M. Alper**, AB'80, MBA'81, was our first advertising manager and our occasional distributor. Andy's business acumen—which would later carry him into the highest levels of finance—was on display from the very beginning. In a valiant attempt to determine the "cost per issue" and thus calculate the advertising revenue needed to sustain the paper, he directed Cindy to account for every production expense she incurred, finally asking her, "How much line tape do you use per issue?"

As the fall 1977 launch of our newly independent newsweekly approached, we had an office and an operating structure. Now we needed a killer story.

Unknown to many Hyde Parkers, Kenwood was home to the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Muhammad Ali. Ali had become a Black Muslim and adherent of the Nation of Islam, whose leader, Elijah Muhammad, was his mentor and Kenwood neighbor. What if we profiled this newsworthy neighbor for our new reader base?

Margaret, photographer **Charlie Moseley**, AM'69, and I headed to his Woodlawn Avenue house. At the wrought-iron gate I gingerly pushed the buzzer and received a quick reply: "Yes, what can we do for you?" We hoped, I said, to feature Mr. Ali on the cover of the inaugural issue of a new weekly for the South Side and would like to interview him. "Please wait," came the reply. Shortly after, the gate buzzed open and, as we approached the front door, Muhammad Ali came out to greet us with his young daughter in his arms.

Just like that, Margaret got her cover story, Charlie got the photos—and Ali invited us to his boxing workout the next morning. His dark green Rolls Royce with tan leather seats took us to the Windy City Gym in Woodlawn, where Margaret's reporting continued—and when the *Chicago Journal*, no. 1, appeared that fall, Ali graced its cover.

With a hopeful knock on the door of the Greatest began a journalistic adventure that would last until 1984.

Photography by D. Singler



In between, Gordon reported on Leon Finney's outsized salary as executive director of the Woodlawn Organization (TWO), and **Frank Gibney Jr.**, AB'80, covered South Shore Bank and its founder Ron Grzywinski's efforts to revitalize the South Side (we also banked there to support the mission). Carl profiled the Nazi group in Marquette Park and their commander, Frank Collin, to capture the truth of their hateful cause.

Covering politics on the South Side was **David Brooks**, AB'83. The *New York Times* columnist and UChicago trustee remembers the experience as professionally formative: "My year or so at the *Chicago Journal* was what journalism should be all about. I was writing a weekly column on Chicago politics. Harold Washington was mayor. "Fast Eddie" [**Edward Vrdolyak**, JD'63] led the city council. The council wars were in full flame. It was a daily extravaganza of salacious conflict and important historical change. I was, like, 22, but I got to interview everybody from Jesse Jackson to Louis Farrakhan to Eddie Burke to Danny Davis. The *Chicago Journal* was my first real work in this business."

Our reporting earned awards, but the struggle for revenue was always uphill. The modest affluence of the South Side did not offer a robust advertising base. We worked hard to drum up ads and to serve an underserved community.

The financial challenges, unfortunately, per-

sisted. In 1982 we moved to Printers Row in the South Loop in hopes of finding a more viable and lucrative advertising base. Our early 1984 merger with the *River Clipper*, a downtown-based free paper, was another attempt to boost advertising sales and keep the paper going.

But later that year, I made the hardest decision of my life at that point and ceased publishing. My biggest regret was not putting out a final issue and saying goodbye to the thousands of loyal readers who followed the paper. We just meekly disappeared.

Many of those who worked on the paper during the previous seven years (plus one) came to look back on the *Chicago Journal* as a springboard to their success in journalism and business. I too was blessed by this experience. At the *Journal* I had gotten to know Mayor Washington and his team well, and I ended up as assistant commissioner of economic development for the City of Chicago. From there I headed to Tennessee, my father's home, where I've

spent more than 35 years in Democratic politics.

Looking back on all of it, the *Chicago Journal* makes me most proud. I was honored to toil beside the incredible men and women who were part of it as we told stories that no one else in Chicago was telling. ♦

**Chip Forrester, AB'77, is the former chair of the Tennessee Democratic Party.**

**MY BIGGEST REGRET WAS NOT PUTTING OUT A FINAL ISSUE AND SAYING GOODBYE TO THE THOUSANDS OF LOYAL READERS WHO FOLLOWED THE PAPER.**



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# PEER REVIEW

WHAT ALUMNI ARE THINKING AND DOING

## AUSPICIOUS BEGINNINGS

The University of Chicago women's crew club launched in the 1975-76 season, heading to Boston's Head of the Charles Regatta just months after the club formed. Their "Support University of Chicago Women's Crew" T-shirts were part of a \$10,000 fundraising campaign to cover the costs of travel and new boats and oars. Included in this lineup are club cofounder and president Barbara (Hornung) Harvey, AB'79 (third from right); head coach Mark Maxson (far right); and coxswain Elaine Chin, AB'79, MAT'80 (far left).



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Photography by Don Morris, AB'36

# NOTES

## A SELECTION OF ALUMNI WHOSE NAMES ARE IN THE NEWS

### ABOVE THE FOLD

Theoretical chemist **John Jumper**, SM'12, PhD'17, was named to the 2021 *Time*100 Next list for his work as lead researcher for AlphaFold, an artificial intelligence program that predicts the shape a protein folds into. The technology could improve knowledge of diseases and accelerate development of new drugs. Part of UK-based company DeepMind, AlphaFold uses genetic data and deep learning to predict the distance between pairs of amino acids in a protein. It then adds information about physical and geometric constraints to compute the protein's likely structure. In last year's biennial Critical Assessment of Structure Prediction challenge, AlphaFold outperformed all other participants. *Nature* said the program "could herald a revolution in biology."

### ACTION FIGURE

In March **Ann Mukherjee**, AB'87, MBA'94, received a 2021 Justice in Action Award from the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF). The chair and CEO of the wine and spirits company Pernod Ricard North America, Mukherjee previously held positions at companies including SC Johnson, PepsiCo, and Kraft Heinz. The AALDEF, founded in 1974 to protect and promote the civil rights of Asian Americans, honored Mukherjee for her work as a corporate leader to promote diversity and to address racial inequity. Accepting the award, she said, "I have a job to return on investment, but I think my bigger job is return on responsibility."

### ANOTHER HUTCHINS PLAN

A book published last October unearths the full story of the Commission on Freedom of the Press, the 1943 project spearheaded by UChicago's fifth president, Robert Maynard Hutchins, and *Time* Inc. editor in chief Henry R. Luce to define and defend the role of the media in a modern democracy. Members of the commission included UChicago alumni Robert Redfield, LAB 1915, PhD'20, JD'21, PhD'28, and Harold D. Lasswell, PhD 1922, PhD'26, along with Reinhold



### AN ENDURING HONOR

**A historic building at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA, was renamed Gabbin Hall in February, in honor of longtime JMU professors Joanne V. Gabbin, AM'70, PhD'80, and Alexander Gabbin, MBA'70. Until July 2020, Gabbin Hall and two other campus buildings were named for Confederate military leaders. The school's board of visitors unanimously voted to remove those names and appointed a committee to invite community input and recommend new names. The Gabbins met as teenagers in their native Baltimore. Joanne Gabbin, a professor of English specializing in African American literature, leads the Furious Flower Poetry Center at JMU. Her husband, Alexander, a professor of accounting, was the first Black director of the JMU College of Business's accounting school.**

Niebuhr, Archibald MacLeish, and eight other prominent thinkers of the time. In *An Aristocracy of Critics: Luce, Hutchins, Niebuhr, and the Committee that Redefined Freedom of the Press* (Yale University Press), free speech expert Stephen Bates reveals ideas from the commission's deliberations not included in the final report and reflects on the contemporary salience of its work.

### ANCESTRAL VOICES

**Kiki Petrosino**, AM'04, won the 2021 Rilke Prize for her poetry collection *White Blood: A Lyric of Virginia* (Sarabande Books, 2020). The prize, founded in 2012, is awarded by the University of North Texas each year to a midcareer poet of "exceptional artistry and vision." After completing UChicago's Master of Arts Program in the Humanities, Petrosino earned her MFA from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. *White Blood*, her fourth book, sprang from intensive

archival research into her family's history. The collection employs a range of poetic forms to reflect on the history of race and injustice in the United States, and on her own roots and Black identity.

### LEADING THROUGH MUSIC

**Jeri Lynne Johnson**, AM'05, received the 2021 Woman One Award from Drexel University College of Medicine's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership. Johnson, who received her UChicago master's degree in music, is the founder and artistic director of the Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra in Philadelphia. Awarded many National Endowment for the Arts grants, Black Pearl is celebrated both for its performances and for its community engagement programs. The Woman One Award each year honors an outstanding leader in Philadelphia and raises scholarship funds for underrepresented women studying medicine at Drexel.

—Laura Demanski, AM'94

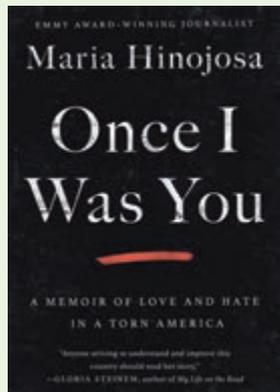
# RELEASES

## ALUMNI BOOKS, FILMS, AND RECORDINGS

### LET'S BE REASONABLE: A CONSERVATIVE CASE FOR LIBERAL EDUCATION

By **Jonathan Marks, AB'91, AM'94, PhD'97**; Princeton University Press, 2021

Conservatives should participate in debates about the aims of higher education rather than dismiss colleges and universities as institutions under the sway of leftist academic activists, writes Ursinus College politics professor **Jonathan Marks**. Such dismissals rest on an inaccurate assumption, Marks contends, and they sideline his fellow conservatives from efforts to help those institutions better explain the value of a liberal education. Marks draws from John Locke to define the liberally educated person as a truth-seeker who regards reason as an authority.



### ONCE I WAS YOU: A MEMOIR OF LOVE AND HATE IN A TORN AMERICA

By **Maria Hinojosa, LAB'79**; Atria Books, 2020

The first televised refugee crisis in US history, writes Emmy Award-winning journalist **Maria Hinojosa**, came in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. It reached her through the evening news in her parents' Hyde Park home. The degrading language journalists then used for Vietnamese refugees still unsettles Hinojosa, who immigrated to the United States from Mexico as a child when her father was recruited to UChicago's surgery department. This memoir from the anchor of NPR's *Latino USA* takes readers from her

upbringing in the "multicultural oasis" of Hyde Park to her frontline reporting on US immigration, tracing the personal journey of a reporter committed to portraying her subjects in their full humanity.

### ANTITRUST: TAKING ON MONOPOLY POWER FROM THE GILDED AGE TO THE DIGITAL AGE

By **Amy Klobuchar, JD'85**; Knopf, 2021

In 2008, a year into her first term as a US senator, **Amy Klobuchar** (D-MN) learned from a constituent about the staggering price increase for a drug used to treat heart valve defects in premature babies. Though Klobuchar and others succeeded in prompting a Federal Trade Commission lawsuit against the drug maker for price gouging, the case failed in the courts—evidence, for Klobuchar, that US antitrust law was being outmatched by 21st-century corporate titans in the pharmaceutical, tech, and other industries. In this primer on the origins and evolution of our legal apparatus for curbing monopolies, Klobuchar calls for updates aimed at strengthening procompetition and proconsumer laws and policies.

### A VOICE FOR JUSTICE: WRITINGS OF DAVID SCHUMAN

Edited by **Sharon J. Schuman, PhD'75**; Oregon State University Press and Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, 2021

A man of letters and the law, the late David Schuman, PhD'74, retained qualities of the former literature professor he was, even as his career took him to the University of Oregon School of Law and the Oregon Court of Appeals. This collection, edited by his widow, **Sharon J. Schuman**, includes short fiction, law review articles, judicial opinions, and speeches. Many of the legal writings reflect a judicial philosophy that seeks clarity from the state constitution before applying rules from the federal one. Meanwhile, David Schuman's commencement address "Lawyers in Hell" shows his literary and philosophical bent, outlining a professional ethics inspired by Dante and Socrates.



### ANTICIPATION

Music by **Cameron Knowler and Eli Winter, AB'20**; American Dreams Records, 2021

Named a new artist to watch by the *Guardian*, **Eli Winter** is joined by fellow guitarist Cameron Knowler for an album of instrumental duets that puts Americana in conversation with the avant-garde. Stemming from a concert tour the two musicians made across Texas in the winter of 2018, the album contains original compositions and improvisations, including the multilayered "Sippin' Amaretto," along with several folk and bluegrass covers and a baroque reinterpretation of the traditional "Cumberland Gap." Country in spirit, this collaboration is jazzy and experimental in style.

### NOTHING HAPPENED: A HISTORY

By **Susan A. Crane, AM'87, PhD'92**; Stanford University Press, 2021

After Italian steelworker Luigi Trastulli was killed by police during a 1949 protest, the local community remembered for decades, angrily, that nothing happened to hold authorities accountable. For University of Arizona historian **Susan A. Crane**, that's "Nothing" with a capital "n." When it comes to historical memory, Crane argues, Nothing is always something—in this case, a grievous awareness of injustice. Crane analyzes what people have in mind when they say that Nothing is happening or Nothing is the way it was, discovering in moments like these some fundamental conditions of modern historical consciousness.

—*Andrew Peart, AM'16, PhD'18*

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

# ALUMNI NEWS

FROM THE CLASSES, SCHOOLS, AND DIVISIONS

To protect the privacy of our alumni, we have removed the class notes from this section. The remaining advertisements and photos have been consolidated to reduce the number of pages. If you are an alumnus of the University and would like class notes from our archives, please email [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).

Photography by Stephen Lewellyn, AB'48; UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-02051, University of Chicago Library



Scattering poems: E. E. Cummings (center) is backstage at Mandel Hall with *Chicago Review* coeditors Lachlan MacDonald, AM'57 (left), and Samuel Blazer, AB'57 (right), in 1955. The student-run literary quarterly brought the poet to campus for a Wednesday night reading that October. Cummings's ultramodern sonnet beginning "someone i am wandering a town," published in the journal's summer issue, appeared in the poet's last collection before his 1962 death. *Chicago Review's* legacy lives on. Founded in 1946 by budding poet and critic J. Radcliffe Squires, AM'46, and social work student Carolyn Dillard, EX'46, the journal marks its 75th anniversary this year.

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**What's new?** We are always eager to receive your news, care of the Alumni News Editor, *The University of Chicago Magazine*. While the *Magazine* staff works remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, please send news via email: [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu). No engagements, please. Items may be edited for space. As news is published in the order in which it arrives, it may not appear immediately. We list news from all former undergraduates (including those with UChicago graduate degrees) by the year of their undergraduate affiliation. All former students who received only graduate degrees are listed in the advanced degrees section.



Another take on tiki: From the 1940s to the 1960s, UChicago students could escape to the South Pacific with no more than a walk to 57th Street, thanks to the legendary Tropical Hut restaurant. This 1952 photograph of T-Hut's interior captures the ambience of the restaurant during its heyday, complete with a seaside panorama in the mural at left. Bruce A. Shuman, AB'63, AM'65, who writes about first visiting the restaurant in his undergraduate days (see *Class of 1963*, page 59), had the distinction of being a T-Hut patron at both its Hyde Park location and its later incarnation several miles south on Stony Island Avenue. Both huts are now dwellings in memory alone.



Photo courtesy Marion Sirefman, BFA'68

More Midway memories: Inspired by our call for recollections of Midway Studios, Marion Sirefman, BFA'68, sent us this photo of herself at work in the arts facility's printmaking workshop. Sirefman believes the photo dates to her third year in the College (1966-67). Though the printmaking workshop was disbanded in the 1970s, Midway Studios remains a vital part of the life of the arts on campus, housing the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry. (To read Sirefman's reflections on Midway Studios, see *Class of 1968*, page 62.) If you can tell us who took this portrait, please write to [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).



Groovy situation: A Spring Quarter tradition since 1955, the Festival of the Arts had evolved by the late 1960s from a long weekend of exhibitions and performances into what the *University of Chicago Magazine* described as a “super colossal and very costly happening.” FOTA kicked off the 1970s with a monthlong series of 60-some events, including a Maypole dance, a Blackfriars’ rock musical called *Sweetlife*, and a poetry reading by Allen Ginsberg. The yearly festival continued to thrive throughout the decade in a spirit combining the classical and the countercultural. FOTA 1978 brought an evening of ballet and modern dance, a Modern Poetry Awareness Day with readings taking place in trees and trash cans, and more Maypole dancing. In recent years FOTA has joined forces with the Logan Center for the Arts and campus groups to develop year-round programs, including fellowships that provide student artists with workspaces, funding, and mentoring.

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I'll take an Egg McMorry: Morry's Deli, originally located on 55th Street between Lake Park and Cornell Avenues, opened its first campus dining spot in 1980 in the University of Chicago Bookstore. By mid-decade Morry's had eateries in Hutchinson Commons and the C-Shop, along with a catering service known as Chez Morry's. Meanwhile, the original off-campus location was rechristened El Lugar, a now defunct Mexican restaurant, as the flagship deli moved down the block to the corner of 55th and Cornell, where it remains today. Were you a regular at any of the Morry's restaurants on 55th? Which of the campus shops was your spot? Send us your memories at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).

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Shallow waters run deep: Springtime makes a destination out of Botany Pond for all kinds of occasions, both lively and serene—tug-of-war contests, mallard duckling hatchings, and lone contemplative moments like this one. What memorable moments of your own took place at this picturesque spot on the quads? Do you remember a revival of the mustache race, in which losers (or winners, or judges, or spectators) of the facial-hair-growing contest would be tossed into the water? Let us know at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).

Photography by Alma (Limprecht) Klein, AB'98, Copyright 2021, *The Chicago Maroon*. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.



A taste of Greece: Founded in 1979, Salonica takes its name from the Greek port city where original owner Nick Karaiskakis was born. The Greek diner’s “pan-cakes specialists” have also earned a reputation for their steak and eggs, the go-to dish of UChicago economics professor and *Freakonomics* coauthor Steven Levitt when he drops in at 57th and Blackstone. What were your menu favorites at Salonica, and what memories do you have of eating in those wood-framed booths? Write to us at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).

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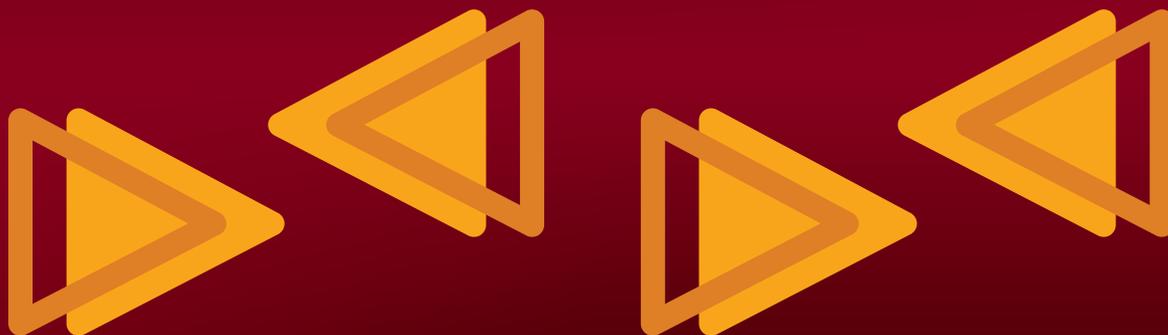


Photography by Adam Lisberg, AB'92. Copyright 2021. The Chicago Maroon. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.



Do it yourself: As a graduate student in history, cultural critic Thomas Frank, AM'89, PhD'94, was WHPK's station manager, using the radio station's office down the hall from its Mitchell Tower studios as production space for the *Baffler*, the journal of left-wing criticism he cofounded before arriving at UChicago. The journal and the radio station had a shared ethos, Frank said in a 1993 interview. "It basically comes out of this idea that stems from punk rock in the late 1970s, and that is, cultural production outside of the traditional culture industry." Frank's dissertation, published as *The Conquest of Cool: Business Culture, Counterculture, and the Rise of Hip Consumerism* (University of Chicago Press, 1997), became a best seller.

# Get In on the Acts



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**Universal Charitable Deduction for Non-itemizers.** This provision allows individual taxpayers who do not itemize to claim a \$300 deduction for cash gifts. The benefit doubles to \$600 for married joint filers.

**Extension of 100 Percent AGI Deduction for Cash Gifts.** Previous charitable deduction limits restricted the annual charitable giving deduction to 60 percent of a taxpayer's adjusted gross income (AGI). For 2021, donors may deduct a larger portion—or all—of their AGI to make cash gifts or to fund a charitable gift annuity. This opportunity may expire after 2021.

We welcome your questions about these timely giving incentives, and we continue to be a resource for bequests and other planned gifts.

## CONTACT US

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# DEATHS

## FACULTY AND STAFF

**Roger H. Hildebrand**, the Samuel K. Allison Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Astronomy and Astrophysics and Physics, died January 21 in Lexington, MA. He was 98. Thought to have been the last surviving Manhattan Project scientist at UChicago, Hildebrand learned to operate a cyclotron as an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley, helping create the first samples of plutonium and neptunium during World War II. He then trained workers to separate uranium at the Manhattan Project facility in Oak Ridge, TN. Joining the UChicago faculty in 1952 as a particle physicist, he discovered that pions form an isotopic triplet; pioneered hydrogen bubble chamber technology, using it to photograph nuclear reactions; and helped develop the Zero Gradient Synchrotron at Argonne National Laboratory. Shifting his research focus to astrophysics, he revolutionized the field of high-infrared astronomy, while also holding a series of administrative posts before retiring in 1992: director of the Enrico Fermi Institute, dean of the College, and chair of the astronomy and astrophysics department. He is survived by two daughters, including **Kathryn J. Hildebrand**, LAB'68; sons **Peter H. Hildebrand**, LAB'63, AB'67, SM'69, PhD'76, and **Daniel M. Hildebrand**, LAB'70, AB'75, MAT'76; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**Norman Golb**, the Ludwig Rosenberger Professor Emeritus of Jewish History and Civilization, died December 29 in Chicago. He was 92. Golb studied at the Oriental Institute before earning his doctorate at Johns Hopkins University in Judaic and Semitic studies. A scholar of ancient and medieval Jewish texts and fluent in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Arabic, he returned to UChicago and the OI in 1963, serving on the faculty for more than five decades. Among other contributions, he aided the rediscovery of a medieval Jewish culture in Rouen, France, and redefined scholarship on the Dead Sea Scrolls by arguing controversially that multiple Jewish sects had authored them. He campaigned successfully for wider research access to the scrolls and articulated his account of their authorship in *Who Wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls? The Search for the Secret of Qumran* (1995). Golb received an honorary doctorate from the University of Rouen, along with the city's Grand Medal. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; a daughter, **Judith Golb**, LAB'69; sons **Joel David Golb**, LAB'68, AB'74, AM'80, and **Raphael Golb**, LAB'77; a sister; and a grandchild.

**Hyman Rochman**, associate professor emeritus of pathology, died October 21 in Chicago. He was 88. Born in Cape Town, South Africa, Rochman protested against the apartheid regime as a young man. During his medical residency at Baragwanath Hospital in Johannesburg, he met Winnie Mandela; Rochman

and his wife, **Hazel Perry Rochman**, MAT'74, later sheltered Nelson Mandela from authorities in their home for five weeks. Avoiding arrest himself, Rochman left with his young family for England, working in chemical pathology at institutions including University College London. Settling in Chicago and joining the University in 1972, he became an associate professor in the Department of Pathology and director of clinical chemistry at UChicago Medicine. He also worked at La Rabida Children's Hospital. His works include *Clinical Pathology in the Elderly: A Textbook of Laboratory Interpretations* (1988). He is survived by his wife and his sons, **Danny Rochman**, LAB'79, and **Simon L. Rochman**, LAB'81.

**Peter O. Vandervoort**, AB'54, SB'55, SM'56, PhD'60, professor emeritus in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, of Chicago, died December 11. He was 85. An astrophysicist who studied with Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar and such Manhattan Project veterans as Maria Goeppert Mayer, Vandervoort joined the UChicago faculty in 1961. Specializing in stellar dynamics, he conducted research on the formation of spiral galaxies, calculating the orbit of stars within them, and explored the role of chaos in galaxies and stars. Known as the astronomy and astrophysics department's resident historian, Vandervoort became part of the institutional legacy he helped preserve. He held several administrative roles at the University, including associate chair of his department, associate dean of the Physical Sciences Division, and master of the Physical Sciences Collegiate Division. After his retirement in 2003, Vandervoort also led the planning for the astronomy and astrophysics department's current home in the William Eckhardt Research Center. He is survived by his wife, **Frances Sheridan Vandervoort**, SB'57, SM'65; two sons, **William Vandervoort**, LAB'76, and **Dirk S. Vandervoort**, LAB'78; and a grandchild.

**Tetsuo Najita**, the Robert S. Ingersoll Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in History, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, and the College, died January 11 in Kamuela, HI. He was 84. Najita taught at Carleton College, Washington University in St. Louis, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison before joining the UChicago faculty in 1969. A historian of Japan's early modern and modern intellectual history, he directed the University's Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) from 1974 to 1980, helping build an endowment for Japanese studies. He later served as master of the Social Sciences Collegiate Division and twice chaired the history department. Focusing on ordinary people traditionally excluded from power and their influence on political economic thought, Najita wrote the award-winning *Visions of Virtue in Tokugawa Japan: The Kaitokudō Merchant Academy*

of Osaka (1987). A fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he served as president of the Association for Asian Studies. In 2007, five years after his retirement, CEAS established a Japanese studies lecture series named in Najita's honor. He is survived by his wife, Elinor; a son, **Kiyoshi Y. Najita**, LAB'84; and two grandchildren.

## 1940s

**Albert Somit**, AB'41, PhD'47, of Oceanside, CA, died August 2. He was 100. A political scientist who helped establish the field of biopolitics, Somit taught at several universities during his career, including New York University and the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he served as executive vice president and acting president. In 1980 he became president of Southern Illinois University, where he retired as a distinguished service professor. Studying the role of evolution in human political behavior, he cowrote *Darwinism, Dominance, and Democracy: The Biological Bases of Authoritarianism* (1997), among other works. He is survived by his wife, Lyn Corder; two sons; a stepdaughter; two stepsons; five grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. **Jack Steinberger**, SB'42, PhD'49, died December 12 in Geneva. He was 99. An experimental physicist who studied the basic particles of the universe and the elemental forces governing their interactions, Steinberger taught at Columbia University before joining the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), where he spent most of his career. In the early 1960s he codiscovered the muon neutrino and helped illuminate the nature of the weak force, work for which he shared the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1988. That year he also received the National Medal of Science. Among many other accomplishments, Steinberger led a group at CERN that confirmed there are three families of fundamental particles. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Alff; a daughter; three sons; and four grandchildren. **Charlotte Russ Benton**, SB'44, died November 30 in Baltimore. She was 97. One of three women in her graduating class from UChicago's meteorology program, Benton became a faculty member in the program and trained weather forecasters bound for military service during World War II. In 1945 she married fellow UChicago meteorologist George S. Benton, SB'42, PhD'47, moving to Baltimore when he joined Johns Hopkins University. A pioneering meteorologist in her own right, she remained active in the field while she raised a family. Her international travels included several trips to China on scientific exchanges and for a stint teaching English to Chinese meteorologists. Her husband died in 1999. She is survived by three daughters, including **Sandra Benton Solomon**, AB'70, AM'71; a son; a brother; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Pauline Mathewson Levin**, PhB'48, died August 10 in Scarborough, ME. She was 93. After living in Chicago and New York City, Levin moved to Piermont, NY. For 25 years she taught elementary and middle school, serving as a president of the teachers' union. A Piermont village board member, she later moved to Scarborough, where she was active in local preservation efforts. She is survived by two daughters, a son, two stepdaughters, a stepson, and many grandchildren.

**James L. Philon**, PhB'48, EX'52, died December 1 in Palm Desert, CA. He was 92. Philon studied at what was then the University's Graduate School of Business before taking a position at the Stevens Hotel (now Hilton Chicago) and embarking on a four-decade career with Hilton Hotel Corporation. Serving as senior vice president of real estate and development, he negotiated deals with business leaders, heads of state, and celebrities. A longtime member of the Urban Land Institute, he was a philanthropic supporter of the National WWII Museum. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, and two brothers, including **Oliver Maurice Philon**, AB'54, MBA'59.

**Warren Richard Jones**, SB'49, MD'51, died September 3 in Issaquah, WA. He was 99. Having served in the US Navy during World War II, Jones completed his postgraduate medical training in the Navy and spent the first part of his career as a Navy physician. Trained as a flight surgeon, he served on special assignments at sea and in Iceland, Greece, and Italy, where he retired as a captain. He then studied painting and sculpture at the Naples Academy of Fine Arts before returning stateside and leading medical practices in Washington and South Carolina. Survivors include a son, three stepsons, and many grandchildren.

## 1950s

**Ruth Eisenstein Soybel**, LAB'50, 12GC'53, EX'54, died January 6 in Concord, MA. She was 86. Soybel entered the College at age 16 and later finished her undergraduate degree at the University of Vermont, where her husband, William M. Soybel, AB'52, attended medical school. After working for the technology market research firm International Data Corporation, she earned a law degree from Boston College Law School and for nearly two decades ran a family law practice in Waltham, MA. Her husband died in 2018. She is survived by three daughters; two sons, **David Ira Soybel**, AB'78, MD'82, and **Jeremy G. Soybel**, AB'83; a sister, **Patricia Eisenstein Fertel**, LAB'63; 12 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. **Ethel B. Jones**, AM'54, PhD'61, of New Castle, CO, died September 18. She was 90. With her two degrees in economics, Jones returned to her native Arkansas and worked on the state's economic development program. Launching her academic career in 1965, she taught at the University of Georgia and Auburn University, conducting research on unemployment, occupational wage differences, and the labor force effects of unionization.

Jones served on advisory committees for the US Department of Labor and the National Science Foundation.

**Crow Swimsaway** (né Martin A. Nettleship), AB'58, AM'58, of New Marshfield, OH, died April 7, 2018. He was 81. A cultural anthropologist with a doctorate from the London School of Economics, Swimsaway conducted research with the indigenous people of Taiwan and on war and human aggression. An experience on his organic farm in the Missouri Ozarks, in which he heard crows speak to him, inspired him to practice shamanism. He wrote *Anecdotal Evidence: Stories about How an Ozark (Intellectual) Farm Boy Became a Shaman* (2012), and cofounded the Church of Earth Healing in Athens County, OH. Survivors include a daughter.

**Robert C. Leif**, SB'59, of San Diego, CA, died August 3. He was 82. A biomedical expert, Leif conducted research at several universities, including the University of Southern California and Florida State University, and worked at the Coulter Corporation before starting his own biotechnology company. Specializing in flow cytometry, he designed instruments used in biomedical analysis and held more than a dozen patents. His achievements included developing tags for the automatic detection of cancer cells. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne; two daughters, including **Liza Celia Leif**, AB'86; and three grandchildren.

**Jerome L. Rodnitzky**, AB'59, MAT'62, died April 25, 2020, in Arlington, TX. He was 83. Rodnitzky taught history for more than 50 years at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). An authority on 20th-century American counterculture, he wrote *Minstrels of the Dawn: The Folk-Protest Singer as a Cultural Hero* (1976), among other works. He also helped establish women's studies in the UTA curriculum, teaching the school's first American women's history course and serving as the first director of teaching in its women's studies program. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; a daughter; a son; a brother, **Robert L. Rodnitzky**, SB'63, MD'66; and five grandchildren.

**Allen T. Slagle**, PhD'59, died August 1 in Madison, WI. He was 99. Slagle served in the US Marine Corps in New Zealand during World War II and then devoted himself to a civilian career in public education in Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin, both as a teacher and a school administrator. With his doctorate in education, he became assistant vice president of academic affairs for the University of Wisconsin System, retiring in 1982. He is survived by three sons, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

## 1960s

**Anne Schaeffer Eaton**, AB'61 (Class of 1962), died October 7 in Adelphi, MD. She was 79. With her bachelor's in linguistics, Eaton pursued a career as a writer and journalist, working at *Glamour* magazine and the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency. After living with her family in Ireland for several

years, she returned to the New York City area and worked for Gannett Westchester Rockland Newspapers, *Newsday*, and *Star* magazine, where she was special issues editor. She is survived by four children, a brother, and four grandchildren.

**Walter Goldstein**, PhD'61, died July 9 in Falls Church, VA. He was 89. A native of London, Goldstein served in the Royal Fusiliers and came to the United States on a Fulbright Scholarship, earning his PhD in international relations. A professor of political science at the State University of New York at Albany, he also taught at New York University and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Bologna, Italy, among other institutions, and wrote several books on international economics. His first wife, Batya Goldstein, AB'54, died in 1993. He is survived by his second wife, Phyllis Cohen; a daughter; two sons; and three grandchildren.

**Ann (Hillyer) Metcalf**, AB'62, died September 13 in Oakland, CA. She was 80. Metcalf studied anthropology at UChicago and went on to earn her doctorate in the field. She held research and teaching positions at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Washington, and the Institute for Scientific Analysis before joining Mills College, where she taught for more than three decades. Formerly the director of community service and service learning and the American studies program chair, Metcalf retired from Mills in 2016. She is survived by two sons and three grandchildren.

**Ellis B. Rosenzweig**, EX'62, died November 29 in Chicago. He was 80. Rosenzweig graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago's John Marshall Law School and spent his career as an attorney in Chicago. He was a partner in the firm Wexler, Kane & Rosenzweig and later practiced with the firm now known as Reed Smith. He is survived by his wife, Linda; two sons; and two grandchildren.

**Bertram G. Woodland**, PhD'62, of Homewood, IL, died March 24, 2020. He was 97. A Welsh-born geologist, Woodland worked in mineral resource planning in London before immigrating to the United States to teach geology at the University of Massachusetts and Mount Holyoke College. Earning his PhD with work on the Vermont Geological Survey, he became a curator of petrology at the Field Museum, where he spent the rest of his career. He is survived by two sons, including **Trevor William Woodland**, MBA'81, and three grandchildren.

**Rose Ann Gordon Cope**, AB'63, died June 14 in Lincolnwood, IL. She was 78. Cope worked at Chicago's Mount Sinai Hospital and Medical Center as director of volunteer services. She is survived by her husband, **Ronald S. Cope**, AB'61, JD'63; two daughters; a son, **Jonathan I. Cope**, JD'94; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. (*This notice corrects information in the Fall/20 issue.*—Ed.) **Richard M. Younker**, LAB'57, AB'63, of Chicago, died February 21, 2020. He was 80. A self-taught photojournalist who often focused on working-class life, Younker published such photodocumentary books as *Our Chicago*:

*Faces and Voices of the City* (1987). He contributed to the *Chicago Tribune's* and the *Chicago Sun-Times's* magazines, the *Chicago Reader*, and the *University of Chicago Magazine*. He is survived by his partner, Judith Kiehm, and two sisters, **Catherine Younker**, LAB'58, and **Susan Younker**, LAB'61.

**Wayne T. Adams**, JD'66, died July 28 in Portland, ME. He was 79. After serving as a US Army intelligence officer during the Vietnam War and spending several years in the foreign service, Adams practiced general law for more than three decades as a partner in the firm Reagan, Adams & Cadigan in Kennebunk, ME. He finished his career at another Maine firm, Bergen and Parkinson. Adams was a longtime town meeting moderator for Kennebunk and nearby Kennebunkport. He is survived by two daughters, a son, a brother, and five grandchildren.

**Judith W. Munson**, AB'66 (Class of 1963), died October 4 in Chicago. She was 79. Munson married and started a family with **Lester E. Munson Jr.**, JD'67, before graduating with honors from Chicago-Kent College of Law and beginning a career in public health law. She counseled officials at the local, state, federal, and international levels, including at agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization. She also taught law and public health policy at several Illinois universities. She is survived by her husband; two sons, including **Lester E. Munson III**, AB'89; and four grandchildren, including **Annika K. Munson**, Class of 2024.

**Michael Z. Wincor**, SB'66, died November 30, 2018, in Long Beach, CA. He was 72. A sleep researcher since his College years, Wincor became an expert in sleep and anxiety disorders and psychiatric pharmacy practice. Earning a PharmD from the University of Southern California, he joined USC's faculty and became an associate professor of clinical pharmacy, psychiatry, and the behavioral sciences in the pharmacy and medical schools. He directed the psychiatric pharmacy residency program and was 15 times named professor of the year in pharmacy. He is survived by two daughters and several grandchildren.

**Ignacio Daniel "Atio" Maramba**, MBA'67, of Manila, Philippines, died August 19. He was 83. An international development expert, Maramba worked around the world as a partner at the Philippine professional services firm SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co. and as an officer at the International Finance Corporation, where he led investment operations in Europe and Africa. He is survived by his wife, Josefina Ildefonso-Maramba; a daughter; three sons; a brother; and four grandchildren.

## 1970s

**Mary Andrea Arnold**, AM'70, died August 8 in Oakland, CA. She was 79. Arnold earned a bachelor's degree in sociology before receiving her master's from the School of Social Service Administration (now known as the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice). She was a clinical social worker

at the University of California, Los Angeles, and later for Alameda County, CA. Survivors include her companion, Jay P. Smith.

**David Schuman**, PhD'74, died October 8, 2019, in Eugene, OR. He was 75. After earning his doctorate in English and teaching at several colleges and universities, Schuman switched professions from literature to law, earning his JD from the University of Oregon School of Law and entering a career of public service to the state. He was an assistant and later deputy attorney general in the Oregon justice department and served as a justice on the state's court of appeals. Throughout his legal career Schuman also served on the faculty of his law school alma mater; he was a professor of practice there at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, **Sharon Schuman**, PhD'75; a daughter; a son; a sister; a brother, **Joseph Schuman**, JD'76; and three grandchildren.

**Brigitte Warning Treumann**, AM'77, PhD'97, of Chicago, died October 24. She was 82. Between earning her master's degree and her doctorate in Near Eastern languages and civilizations, Treumann worked in development at UChicago and George Washington University. Her dissertation examined the Phoenician trade in timber throughout the ancient Mediterranean world, and she participated in the first season of the Oriental Institute's Hamoukar Expedition in Syria. She continued her career in nonprofit administration as a private consultant. She is survived by a daughter, a son, three brothers, and two grandchildren.

**Celia Malone Phillips**, AM'78, died September 28 in Johns Creek, GA. She was 73. Phillips studied anthropology and philosophy as an undergraduate, later earning her master's in theology from UChicago's Divinity School. She worked as a legal secretary and a paralegal and spent retirement in Johns Creek close to family. She is survived by her husband, Larry; a daughter; a son; a sister; a brother; and three grandchildren.

## 1980s

**Theodore C. Chappen**, AM'81, died of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis September 17 in New Berlin, PA. He was 64. A resident assistant and resident head for Shorey House in Pierce Tower in the 1980s, Chappen worked at the University for several more years as a director of student housing. He then became an instructor in Susquehanna University's philosophy department, where he taught for more than two decades. Chappen also served as president of his local Habitat for Humanity affiliate. He is survived by his wife, **Margaret E. Chappen**, MD'83; a daughter, **Eleni O. Chappen**, AB'10; a son; his mother; and a sister.

**Robert Aponte**, AM'82, PhD'91, died January 16, 2020, in Indianapolis. He was 72. Early in his career as a sociologist, Aponte taught at Michigan State University and helped found the school's Julian Samora Research Institute, a leading center for the study of Latino issues. He later joined the faculty of Indiana University–Purdue Uni-

versity Indianapolis, where he was an associate professor of sociology and an adjunct associate professor of Latino studies at the time of his death. He is survived by his partner, Carrie Foote; a daughter; three sons; a brother; and a grandchild.

**Dennis Ray Wheaton**, AM'82, PhD'87, died December 26 in Chicago. He was 74. While seeking an academic position after completing his doctorate in sociology, he instead found an opening for a restaurant critic at *Chicago* magazine—a job he held for more than 25 years. He also reviewed restaurants for other outlets, including national food magazines and the *New York Times*. As a sociologist, he wrote or cowrote several scholarly articles on authenticity in American culture. In addition, he worked as a preceptor in UChicago's Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences and taught the College Core's Self, Culture, and Society course. He is survived by his wife, **Susan Weiss**, a project assistant at the Laboratory Schools, and a son, **Daniel Wheaton**, LAB'07.

## 1990s

**Christopher L. Culp**, PhD'97, of Chicago, died July 1. He was 51. Culp earned his doctorate in financial economics from Chicago Booth and later served on the school's faculty as an adjunct professor of finance. He also taught at the Swiss Finance Institute and the Universität Bern's Institute for Financial Management, among other schools, and coedited the Studies in Applied Economics working paper series for Johns Hopkins University. The author of several books on derivatives, risk management, and other topics, Culp was a senior affiliate with the economics consulting firm Compass Lexecon at the time of his death. He is survived by his parents and a sister.

## 2000s

**Carolyn D. Cracraft**, AB'00, died of end-stage liver disease June 7, 2019, in Denver, CO. She was 41. Cracraft studied Egyptology at UChicago and in her junior year became the national champion of the *Jeopardy!* College Tournament. After living for a time in Singapore, she earned a master's in information management and systems at the University of California, Berkeley. Based in San Francisco for the rest of her career, Cracraft worked as an independent technology contractor with a specialty in database programming and integration. She is survived by her mother, sister, and brother.

**Andries H. Smith**, AB'09, died September 23 in Atlanta. He was 33. Majoring in mathematics at UChicago, Smith spent a year in Paris at the *Instituts d'études politiques*. He went on to receive a master's in computer science from Bowling Green State University. A software engineer in the Atlanta area, he worked with the financial technology company MerchantE and the job-search website CareerBuilder. He is survived by his parents and two brothers.



THE UCHICAGOAN  
**Vineet Arora**  
AM'03

*Questions for the  
UChicago physician and incoming  
dean for medical education.*

**What surprising job have you had in the past?**

Bookkeeper at a Jenny Craig Weight Loss Center.

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

I have wondered if I should have gone into a career in marketing and advertising. I feel like so much of what I do is trying to inspire people to try something new.

**What do you hate that everyone else loves?**

*Downton Abbey.*

**What person, alive or dead, would you want to write your life story?**

Mindy Kaling.

**What's your least useful talent?**

As a working mom to young children, I have to use every talent I have, no matter how unnecessary it may appear to others.

**Who was your best teacher, and why?**

My high school math teacher really encouraged me to try out for the math team. I know this is a cliché plot from Tina Fey's *Mean Girls*, but as a young woman at the time, it really wasn't something I would have thought of doing, so that encouragement meant a lot. I was, of course, the only girl on the team, and it was challenging in many ways, but it definitely enhanced my interest in gender equity in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and math] careers.

**What UChicago classroom moment will you never forget?**

As a physician, I think of the “classroom” for our students as the actual clinical environment. I will never forget those times when a medical student or resident uses every tool at their disposal. Once, a very early clinical medical student advocated for a second biopsy in her patient by sharing literature showing the initial biopsy was often negative in a rare cancer syndrome we had considered—and of course she was right.



TO READ THE FULL Q&A, VISIT [MAG.UCHICAGO.EDU/UCHICAGOAN](http://MAG.UCHICAGO.EDU/UCHICAGOAN).

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