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## EDITOR'S NOTES

# PRESIDENTS AND PASSAGES

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

arrived at the University of Chicago as a graduate student in September 1993. That fall a banner on the main quads welcomed a more notable arrival on campus: “Let the Sonnenschein In!” And they did. On a cloudy Wednesday in October, Hugo Freund Sonnenschein was inaugurated as the University’s 11th president.

After his death this summer, Sonnenschein’s friends, colleagues, and students remembered a forceful, far-seeing leader and a gracious, generous man (see “Change Agent,” page 32). His absence was felt again in September, when four presidents—**Paul Alivisatos**, AB’81; **Hanna Holborn Gray**; **Don Michael Randel**; and **Robert J. Zimmer**—gathered in the new David Rubenstein Forum for a discussion moderated by University trustee and Forum benefactor **David Rubenstein**, JD’73. (Watch at [mag.uchicago.edu/presidents](http://mag.uchicago.edu/presidents).)

As the four traded stories and perspectives, singularity emerged as a leitmotif. “The University of Chicago is a place of meaning. It has a particular point of view; it has a set of values,” said Zimmer, now University chancellor. Calling his 15 years as president “a great and unusual opportunity,” he spoke of his particular pride in being a UChicago faculty member. Gray, too, singled out this University, calling it “*the university*.” Other places spoke of making leaders, she said, “but our purpose had to do with teaching people to think.”

For Randel, “it was clear I was going stay at Cornell forever,” he said, until it wasn’t. The University of Chicago proved to be the one place that could lure him away, aided by his lasting admiration for a high school teacher who was a UChicago alumnus.

Memories spurred Alivisatos too—not of a mentor but of his own younger self. “I was exposed to a whole way of having a life of purpose,” he recalled. “There was no doubt in my mind this was a place I would want to come back to, because the experience of how people think and how they behave as a community has always stayed with me.”

On October 29, as this issue went to press, Alivisatos was inaugurated in Rockefeller Memorial Chapel. Look for our story about the ceremony in the Winter/22 issue, out in February. For now, see “Magnifying Vision” (page 24) to learn more about the man who has returned to a community he never really left.

## Welcome, and well done

In August the *Magazine* welcomed **Katie Byrne**, previously at the Joint Commission, as copy editor. A first-degree black belt in karate, Katie was just as adept at fact-checking and proofreading this issue, her first. And **Susie Allen**, AB’09, is now senior associate editor. While continuing to run UChicago Journal and write features, Susie will regularly guest edit the *Magazine*, as she did with distinction in Fall/19. ♦

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# FALL 2021

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## On the cover

Into the unknown: A student arrives at Burton-Judson Courts, bags in hand, ready for the great adventure ahead. Do you know who this student is or when the photo was taken? Drop us a line at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu). We love solving mysteries! Photo courtesy Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center.

## Above

From the 1970s until the building's renovation in 2007–09, this chalk tiger graced a classroom in Searle Chemistry Lab. The work of an anonymous graduate student, it is today preserved under plexiglass and hangs in the Department of Chemistry's reception area. For more on the power and beauty of chalk, see "Board Work," page 34.

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## Peer Review

What alumni are  
thinking and doing

# LETTERS



## The stories tell the tale

Why is the University of Chicago exceptional?

I have often pondered this question during my faculty leadership positions at the University of Wisconsin, Boston University, and the University of California, and while serving as visiting professor at numerous great universities.

The Summer/21 issue of the *University of Chicago Magazine* responds to the question in a significant way. “A Questioning Mind” describes the career of Leon Kass, LAB’54, SB’58, MD’62 (who was a medical student when I was a resident and an instructor), illustrating extraordinary breadth, depth, and devotion to excellence. “Abiding Convictions” tells of the adaptation of prisoners after incarceration, showing sensitivity to human values and the power of forgiveness. “A Measure of Pleasure” describes the unique work of the Clinical Addictions Research Laboratory regarding the roots of alcoholism, and so it is an example of socially relevant originality. “Lawyer Jokes,” about Liz Glazer, JD’04, a gay Law School graduate turned successful comedian, illustrates adaptability, openness about who one is, and U of C’s tolerance. “Executive Dreaming” probes the minds of American presidents.

I conclude that the U of C is exceptional because of its pervasive approach

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and emphasis upon teaching how to think, how to learn, and how to adapt.

**John R. Benfield, MD’55**  
LOS ANGELES

## Kass appreciated

Rarely has an article made me as thrilled and motivated as “A Questioning Mind” (Summer/21). Reading Leon Kass’s insights is like reading Shakespeare; every line is eternally quotable. “If you want to learn *from* the text, and not only learn about it, you can’t read just for argument or ammunition. You have to learn what it says and what it means.” Perfectly put, and a great reminder of how exciting learning can be and of the value of edification for its own sake. His discussion of the three pillars and their relevance in today’s America is a terrific starting point for a mature, serious conversation on where we go from here as a nation. Immediately I took on the assignments of reading Nathaniel Hawthorne’s “The Birth-Mark” and the Book of Ruth, and I look forward to reading Kass’s books.

I sent the *Magazine* piece to my

**Reading Leon Kass’s insights is like reading Shakespeare; every line is eternally quotable.**

mom and sister, and both were awed by Kass’s words. I have taped this article on my wall so that I can reread it and share it with my child. In answer to the proverbial question, “Who are six people you would like to have dinner with from throughout history?” I must adjust my list to add Kass. Kudos to the *Magazine* for once again packing

so much pleasure in such a short piece.

**Sabrina Ricci, MBA’98**  
NISKAYUNA, NEW YORK

I very much enjoyed hearing about what Leon Kass has been thinking about recently. He gave the welcoming speech to our entering class in 1981 after we watched the movie *High Noon*. I took his course in Darwinism in 1984, and it was my most meaningful course. I always struggled with my writing skills, and he wisely advised me to take Little Red Schoolhouse, one of the most valuable courses I took as an undergraduate.

I have followed Kass’s work and truly appreciate his contributions to education and mankind in general. I would love to hear his thoughts on the new clinical genetic tools, CRISPR, based upon both his scientific and humanistic expertise (too bad that we have to call them out separately, however). Perhaps he might consider this topic for his next book? Thank you for the very interesting article.

**Arthur J. Puff, AB’85**  
MINNETONKA, MINNESOTA

## The culture factor

I found Maureen Searcy’s article “A Measure of Pleasure” (Summer/21) very intriguing. I wonder if the researchers at the Clinical Addictions Research Laboratory have attended to the social aspects of addiction, such as the difference between wet (social) and dry (bingeing) alcohol cultures.

New models of addiction purport to show that problematic drug use stems from social isolation and a lack of intimate relationships. Anecdotal evidence suggests drinking often begins as a social aid at the age when young people are beginning to form lifelong relationships. So the clinical setting with one older research assistant for company, as

described in the article, may not be the most illuminating scenario to study the social dimension of drinking.

If alcohol use disorder and other addictions do have a social element to them, perhaps there will never be an effective medicine to treat addiction, but more positive, intimate relationships among those who suffer from these disorders may help.

**David Vognar, AM'16**  
OAK LAWN, ILLINOIS

**Andrea C. King, professor of psychiatry and behavioral neuroscience and director of the Clinical Addictions Research Laboratory, responds:** “Social aspects of addiction are important, but at the same time, people with alcohol use disorder are heterogeneous and there is no ‘one route’ to developing the disorder. In our laboratory studies, social aspects of drinking are embedded in the design as participants engage in conversation with the research assistant, usually of a similar age. Our natural environment studies examine drinking context (alone, with others, bar, or home). Above and beyond these factors, heightened pleasurable response to alcohol remains a key factor in the risk and maintenance of alcohol use disorder. We appreciate the feedback as we investigate this complex disorder.”

### A friend and a fan

I really loved the article about Roy Mackal, SB'49, PhD'53 (“Roy Mackal’s Wild Speculation,” the *Core*, Summer/21). It brought back so many memories. I got to know Roy in the 1980s when I was director of Argonne National Laboratory. I am not sure why we hit it off, but he was quite a character. Thank you for printing this.

**Walter E. Massey**  
UChicago Emeritus Trustee  
CHICAGO

### Maritime province

Maureen Searcy’s article on Roy Mackal refers twice to the University’s biology department. I never heard of such an entity. Roy was in the biochemistry department.

When I was a student back in the Nessie period, I used to muse on the sea

orientation of that department. There was Roy Mackal (Mackerel), Eugene Goldwasser, Herbert Anker (Anchor), and secretary Mary Haliburt (Halibut).

**Eric Fenster, SB'61, PhD'67**  
PIEDMONT, OHIO

*Fenster is correct that a Department of Biology does not exist at the University of Chicago. Although present at the University’s founding, the department was subdivided into multiple departments before its first anniversary. Our use of “biology” and “biology department” was a reflection of a shorthand employed by Mackal that we found in our archival research.—Ed.*

### Principled position

When I read the story about Liz Cheney, JD'96 (“Loyalty Test,” Summer/21), I thought that Cheney demonstrated to all American people that her love and respect for her country weigh more than adoration of a false figure.

## The day I stepped onto this soil, I knew that life in this country would be different than in my native country, Peru.

Probably my political views are different than hers. However, it does not change my respect for her position related to the insurrection on January 6.

I have lived in the United States since 1961, when I came to study at the University of Chicago medical school. The day I stepped onto this soil, I knew that life in this country would be different than in my native country, Peru. Like many countries in South America, my country has had many bad political experiences, such as coups, states of emergency, military juntas, and curfews. Therefore, coming to America was like a dream come true.

On the day of the insurrection, I was completely surprised to watch on TV what was going on in the Capi-

tol building. I couldn’t believe what I was seeing. It was like a nightmare. My surprise went further when some members of Congress were completely denying the insurrection. It was like a joke for them, and they were taking it as a friendly visit to the Capitol.

As all of us know, it was not a friendly visit or a matter of patriots visiting “their House.” The people who participated were prepared and committed to one false idol, the one who lit the flame of this mob attack.

I applaud Cheney for taking the side of respect for the Constitution and the rule of law. I know that it will probably cost her her position in Congress, but she will be remembered as a person who followed the law even though it was not in her personal interest.

**Fernando Ugarte, MD'65**  
BRADENTON, FLORIDA

### Synchronicity

The Summer/21 story on Liz Cheney aroused my curiosity about a possible



overlap with another UChicago figure of national standing. The wisdom of Wikipedia gives Cheney's JD degree as granted in 1996; whereas Barack Obama taught constitutional law from 1992 to 2004. Further pondering is left as an exercise for the reader.

**Tim Rolfe, SM'76, PhD'82**  
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON



## Consuming memories

As a professor at Rutgers University who teaches courses on culture and food, I read your notes about Hyde Park food with great interest (“Eat, Memory,” Editor’s Notes, Summer/21). I was there ordering food at Ribs ‘n’ Bibs when a Cadillac stopped out front and none other than Muhammad Ali walked in and picked up several bags of delicious ribs, fist-bumped us all, and drove off. It was an amazing Hyde Park moment!

I remember Florian and still have one of their coffee cups with the chemical symbol for caffeine along with “This cup was stolen from Caffè Florian!” But I hope students today realize what an amazing food city they live in and take advantage of all those opportunities, from the Indian all-you-can-eat places on Devon Avenue to the fish fry places near the Chicago Skyway. It’s a great food city I miss every day.

**Sean Duffy, AB'99, AM'02, PhD'03**  
PHILADELPHIA

It’s been a very long time since I wrote to the University. But as I read through the editor’s notes in the Summer/21 issue of the *Magazine*, I have thought

only about writing. (I haven’t actually read the rest of the issue, because I was really caught up by this concept.)

I have so much food memory, I don’t think I even realized how much. While I could go on and on, two things stand out for two very specific reasons.

I sometimes went to the Med(ici) just to order plain spaghetti (though I also loved their four-cheese pizza now that I am thinking about it). But plain spaghetti was probably the cheapest thing on the menu. I would ask for no sauce because I don’t particularly care for red sauce. Certainly I could make spaghetti myself, but the fact that someone would serve it to me and then clean my dishes was the luxury of it. To this day my husband knows that Friday nights we go out—I don’t care where—because I want someone to cook for me, and more importantly to clean up for me. And although it’s often a nice restaurant, deep down I know (and so does he) that it could be something as simple as plain spaghetti.

Then there is my holy grail. I came from New York, where Chinese food was king. I moved to Hyde Park, where I never could find “good” Chinese food. But to my delight I discovered Thai food. I don’t remember the name of the restaurant, but there was a dish there called Bangkok chicken. I have been searching for it at every Thai restaurant I have been to since then, in vain.

As I write this, more food memories come flooding in, but I will spare you.

**Elena (Poloukhine) MacKenzie, AB'94**  
WOODSTOCK, CONNECTICUT

*A dish called Bangkok chicken is served at both Snail (1649 East 55th Street) and Thai 55 (1607 East 55th Street), but the picture menu provided by Snail shows a dish that MacKenzie recognizes as the one she fondly remembers.—Ed.*

If my memory serves me right, Jane Moy had a restaurant on 53rd Street just east of Kimbark Avenue starting in the late 1950s or perhaps the early 1960s (“East by Midwest,” Alumni News, Summer/21), taking up part of the space where the Sit Down is now. This was, of course, before the moves farther east. You could get a very satisfying dinner there for about \$2 at

that time. I used to live in a building where the CVS Pharmacy is now and later across the street in the apartment building on the southeast corner of 53rd and Kimbark, so Moy’s restaurant was both quite handy and quite affordable.

**Joseph Marlin, AM'54, AM'60**  
CHICAGO

## Skirl power

My late and brilliant brother John M. Kidd, SM'62, PhD'62, a physicist, would’ve been delighted, as I was, by the picture in your Summer/21 issue of the bison and calf happily grazing near Fermilab (“Seen and Herd,” UChicago Journal). Why? Because we both grew up in Wyoming.

Also, the photo of the piper made me think of him (“Pipes and Pomp,” Table of Contents). With his physics colleague Peter Lindstrom, John made the first significant acoustic improvement in the Highland pipes in more than a century. I can hear readers chuckling and thinking of piper jokes, but this is no joke.

During World War II at MIT, while working on radar, a phenomenon called “mode-lock” was discovered: two very close radio frequencies in a state of dissonance would miraculously lock together to become one. John and Peter were able to achieve mode-lock in the acoustics of the pipes. This meant that after achieving the mode-lock condition, taking about 30 seconds, the pipes were in absolutely perfect tune, and remained that way for hours. The player didn’t have to constantly stop and retune. Thank you for these evocative details.

**James C. Kidd, PhD'73**  
FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA

## Smelt, smelt, salmon

The illustration of Promontory Point on the cover of the Summer/21 issue and the photograph on page 49 of fishing off a breakwater (Peer Review) bring to mind our smelt fishing during the late 1960s. In those days there would be a reliable smelt run every spring.

The base of operations was the then-new apartment building at 4800 South

Lake Shore Drive, where Al Burns, EX'63, and David Duckman, EX'63, lived. Curt Kovacs, AB'63, MD'67, an avid fisherman, brought the gear. Bob Hermon, EX'64, brought his fishing

## One memorable night, a puff of wind blew Bob's treasured Stetson hat into the lake.

talents. We'd go across Lake Shore Drive to the retaining wall on the lake and set up. A grappling hook was tied to the end of a rope to make a trolley line. The hook was heaved into the lake and a weighted gill net run down the rope. After 15 minutes or so the net was hauled back up and, more often than not, the net was filled with dozens of the eight-inch smelt. On a good night we'd catch 500 fish. Some of the catch were consumed on the spot. The fish were cleaned, battered, and fried

on a camp stove. Al, a skilled chef, did the cooking.

One memorable night, a puff of wind blew Bob's treasured Stetson hat into the lake. Without hesitation, Bob stripped down to his skivvies, dove into the frigid lake waters, and retrieved his hat. On another occasion the net brought up a coho salmon that must have weighed three pounds. Coho had been introduced into Lake Michigan in 1966 to control the alewives. We'd heard about them and now had caught one!

**Roger Taft, SB'65, SM'68**  
LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA

### Marx and anguish

I am writing in response to the "Pier" Review photo and caption in the Summer/21 issue ("Marx and Angles," Peer Review).

Clearly the editors have little knowledge of fishing traditions in Chicago. While the caption writer discusses fishing for panfish or larger species in Lake Michigan, the people in this photo are

not actually fishing for these types of fish. These people appear to be fishing for smelt, a small species caught with a gill net during the spring season. Commonly, smelt fishermen wedge a pole in between rocks or a railing (as seen in the photo) to support a piece of rope attached to an anchor which is thrown into the water some distance away from the pier. The net is then attached to the rope and lowered into the water using a pulley system. The smelt then are trapped in the net as they swim close to shore.

Fishing for smelt remains a tradition in Chicago, although the number of fish caught has declined in recent years due to pollution in Lake Michigan. Many people fish as families or groups of friends and often bring cooking equipment to fry the freshly caught fish for dinner. During these spring evenings a real social atmosphere exists along the lakefront.

Also, the pun in the caption is a little weak. Doesn't "Marx and Anglers" seem better?

**Douglas B. Warren, AB'80**  
LAKE BLUFF, ILLINOIS



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## Credit to a master

The article by Jason Kelly about philosophy professor Jonathan Lear's book *Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation* and his lecture series is very timely indeed ("Life as We Knew It," Spring/21). It includes the famous woodcut by Albrecht Dürer, *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*.

Although I believe that over 90 percent of University of Chicago students, faculty, and alumni are familiar with the engraving, I still feel that the name of the artist and the title and year of the work should be mentioned. The image is also cropped, so it does not show Dürer's monogram at the bottom, which he included in all his engravings, drawings, and paintings. The full image should have been shown, I feel.

Thank you very much for publishing the *Magazine*.

**Ruediger Kratz, MD'73**  
CHANTILLY, VIRGINIA

## The Tao of Scott

I was reading the Summer/21 issue when I saw your request for remembrances of coach Christopher Scott—simply "Chris" to a lot of us ("Ace Advice," Alumni News).

I was U-High Class of 1971. Chris actually recruited me to play at the U of C (I did not play at U-High but did play junior tennis tournaments in the area and regionally). My love of a certain U-High Class of 1971 coed took me to Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.

I have so many stories about Chris. In terms of local or regional matches, the best match I ever saw was in 1971 or 1972. Chris was about 40 then and was playing the men's tournament in South Bend, Indiana, at Leeper Park. Chris was playing Brian Marcus, the number one player for the University of Michigan. Chris had beautiful fluid strokes and the ball came off "heavy" as he tried to have a six-to-nine-inch hitting zone (much different from the

"window-washer" strokes we have today among some players).

The Scott–Marcus match went deep into the third set and word spread. There were probably 250 spectators watching this match of two players separated by a full generation. Marcus eventually won 11–9 in the third. Few among the spectators knew that Chris was teaching at least 40 hours a week. How he could produce this quality of tennis is a great unknown to me.

I saw Chris play many times during the 1970s, including a match at Lake Meadows against the then-number one men's player in Chicago, Ray Cahnman. Chris won 6–2, 6–0 (although who really knows who comes in "sharp" at any particular local age group tournament).

Chris may have been 26 years old or so when he took up tennis, but his strokes were beautiful. He is clearly the best player I ever saw who took up the game that late in life. His game was so fluid, including a quick ball bounce and booming serve that looked so effortless.

**James W. Naisbitt, LAB'71**  
CHICAGO

I had the privilege of playing number one singles all four years as a walk-on, during which Chris Scott was my coach for 1970 and 1971. Scott got me involved with regional players and facilitated my playing national Division III tournaments during both years. For better or worse, my coaches, including Bill Moyle during my first two years, had a greater impact on me than any of my professors.

Another note about Chris Scott's incredible athletic skills: He once told me he seriously considered going into professional boxing. Scott declined when he learned he would have to have his high cheek bones surgically reduced to minimize the trauma caused by the inevitable blows to the face that would come with professional boxing.

**Thomas McCroskey, AB'71**  
STERLING, COLORADO

I had the distinct blessing, honor, and privilege of being one of Coach Scott's tennis pupils. He was kind, knowledgeable, and patient. My first lesson with Coach Scott began on Stag Field.

He had me throw my racquet as hard as possible. When I retrieved my racquet, he explained the exercise was to demonstrate the "capability and power of my serve." Truly, a life lesson. Our hard work paid off. At one point, I held a US Tennis Association ranking.

Thanks again, Coach Scott! Men of your grace and stature are missed and sorely needed in these tumultuous times. Continue enjoying the blue skies.

**Sabryna-Joi King-Bell, LAB'79**  
CHICAGO

## The trudge report

I always had grudging respect for the work of the *Chicago Journal*, and I've now realized why: the letters of Messrs. James Graff, AB'81, ("trudging up the steps") and Steven Feldman, AB'76, AM'79, ("trudged up the stairs") in your Summer/21 issue.

Neither "bound up the flights" nor "took the stairs two at a time."

Rather, in the traditional UChicago desultory manner, they made it a winter burden to be borne, grudgingly. Hence, my respect.

**Terence Flynn, JD'75**  
CHICAGO

## Correcting the record

Chip Forrester's (AB'77) "Alternative History" in the Spring/21 issue was an aptly titled account of his publication the *Chicago Journal* in at least one unintended yet amusing aspect for me: the photograph on page 48 of Muhammad Ali in front of the *Chicago Journal's* offices was shot by yours truly and not by D. Shigley, as credited in the article.

For me, the most memorable part of having my photographs appear in the *Chicago Journal* was the opportunity to learn directly from the master photographer D. Shigley his beautiful printing technique. While I'm flattered to have had my work mistaken for the late Mr. Shigley's, I'd appreciate a correction, just for the record.

**Andrew Seipos, AB'74**  
CHICAGO

*We regret the error and appreciate the correction. We have set the record straight in the online story.—Ed.*

# UCHICAGO JOURNAL

RESEARCH AND NEWS IN BRIEF

## COMMON GOOD

As part of the Smart Museum's *Toward Common Cause*, artist Njideka Akunyili Crosby's painting *Mother and Child* was transformed into a mural displayed at the National Public Housing Museum on Chicago's West Side. The multi-venue exhibition highlights the work of MacArthur Fellows such as Crosby.



Installation view of Njideka Akunyili Crosby, *Mother and Child*, at the National Public Housing Museum, 2021; photography by Jonathan Loic Rogers

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Space debris

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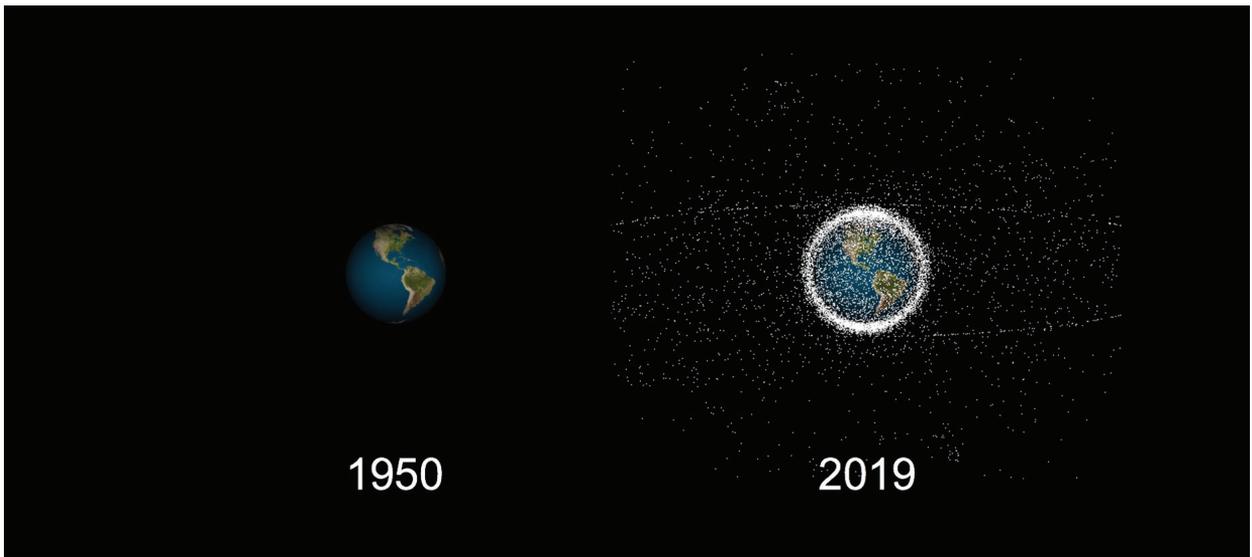
Perfect pitch

16

Guerrilla  
television

21

Bird by bird



1950

2019

Traffic jam: Earth's orbits are home to satellites, telescopes, space stations—and 100 million pieces of space trash. Dave Fischer, AB'87, is working to clean up these high-altitude highways.

SPACE

## Earthside assistance

*Dave Fischer, AB'87, helps the space industry become more sustainable.*

BY MAUREEN SEARCY

Imagine you're on a road trip and you run out of gas, pop a tire, or break down. You might call roadside assistance to get refueled, repaired, or towed away. But what if everyone left their broken-down cars on the road? Or abandoned their vehicles once they reached their destinations?

This hypothetical is reality on Earth's orbital highways. Satellites, telescopes, and space stations transit amid 100 million pieces of human-made debris—paint flecks, screws, defunct satellites, bus-sized rocket bodies—traveling around 16,000 miles per hour. The Department of Defense tracks roughly 23,000 pieces larger than a softball to predict impending conjunctions—spacespeak for collisions—and to advise functional satel-

lite operators to move their equipment out of the way. Orbital collisions can destroy hardware, end missions prematurely, and create even more debris.

Space development is “a trillion-dollar economy,” says **Dave Fischer, AB'87**, and the industry exacerbates the debris problem while also suffering from it. Astroscale, where Fischer is vice president of business development and advanced systems, hopes to declutter space by offering on-orbit services and debris removal.

There are several types of orbits; two are most relevant to Astroscale's services. Satellites in geostationary orbit (GEO) travel about 36,000 kilometers above and along the equator. They move at the same rate as Earth's rotation, keeping them in a relatively fixed position, which allows satellite television, for instance, to transmit with few interruptions. More accessible—and therefore far more crowded—is low-Earth orbit (LEO), located 160–1,000 kilometers above Earth. The Hubble Space Telescope and the International Space Station travel in LEO.

Nonstationary satellites in low-Earth orbit aren't required to follow specific paths, so LEO offers more flexibility and space to maneuver. But those satellites circle Earth in about 90 minutes, too quickly to easily track

from the ground. Many companies compensate by using constellations—networks of satellites that work together and form a web around the planet. An estimated tens of thousands more satellites will be launched into LEO in the next 10 years.

“Right now we're operating under rules that were written in the 1970s,” says Fischer. “If you launch something into low-Earth orbit, it has to deorbit within 25 years.” But today there are more than 6,500 satellites on orbit, nearly half of which are dead. This level of development without disposal is unsustainable.

Headquartered in Japan, Astroscale was founded in 2013 with a focus on debris removal. Fischer, who has worked in the space sphere his entire career—starting at Yerkes Observatory as an undergrad, then building ground-based observatories in Antarctica, and finally transitioning to aerospace—joined Astroscale's US team in 2020.

By signing on with Astroscale, Fischer “failed at retirement.” UChicago alumni, he says, might have “a little more energy than is good for us.” In fact, this year he's turned some of that energy toward creating the University of Chicago Space Network, a networking and mentorship group for alumni in the space industry.

Image courtesy Astroscale

## QUICK STUDY

### ENVIRONMENT

# Wise moves

The northern spotted owl's 1990 designation as threatened under the Endangered Species Act directly affected the timber industry, creating an opportunity to gather previously scarce data on how conservation influences labor markets. UChicago environmental economist **Eyal Frank**, coauthor of a study published in the September issue of the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, found that the owl's habitat protection in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California eliminated about 32,000 jobs. Frank's team found no comparable decline in Canada's logging sector, indicating that the loss was caused by the legislation and not by industry-wide trends. This research demonstrates that conservation did indeed lead to job losses, but less than a quarter of what the industry predicted. Frank also notes that had logging continued as planned, the forests would be gone now—along with the jobs.—M. S. ♦

By the time Fischer joined Astroscale's Denver office, the company had expanded beyond developing tools for debris removal. Their mission now includes technologies that provide end-of-life services (preparation for eventual removal of dead satellites) and satellite life-extension assistance (restoration, refueling, and repair).

How space junk would be removed depends on its location. In LEO a service vehicle would grab a piece of debris and deorbit it by dragging the object low enough for it to burn up in the atmosphere. For GEO debris, deorbiting wouldn't be practical; those objects would be moved to a graveyard orbit. But at some point, those graveyards will need to be decluttered as well.

Astroscale's debris removal and end-of-life services are related. For existing debris, the company's servicer would rendezvous with the object and inspect it for a structurally sound place to dock. "None of the satellites that are in GEO today were launched with the intent that they would be docked with," says Fischer. But almost all were built with a payload adapter ring that connects the spacecraft to

the rocket, which the service vehicle's grappling arms can grab. For future debris, the end-of-life program makes removal easier by preparing satellites before launch with, for example, a magnetic docking plate that Astroscale developed with Colorado company Altius. (Millimeter-sized litter also poses considerable danger but requires different solutions. Big nets or even sticky satellites have been proposed.)

The final service—life extension—is meant to slow the space debris problem. "Satellites are built to last," says Fischer, but they often run out of fuel around 15 years after launch. "This is the value proposition to commercial operators: your satellite is still working. You don't need to retire it." Astroscale hopes to send a service vehicle to drained or damaged satellites to refuel them or make repairs.

A few other organizations are working on the sustainability goals at the heart of Astroscale's mission. Swiss start-up ClearSpace plans to launch a debris removal mission by 2025, and American aerospace conglomerate Northrop Grumman docked a life extension vehicle to a depleted satellite in 2020. Astroscale has a service vehicle on orbit as well: a refrigerator-sized demonstration vehicle launched in March successfully exhibited its ability to dock with a smaller craft, send it tumbling away, and then retrieve it.

Astroscale's mission transcends its services. "We're trying to help drive policy changes that say responsible behavior looks like this," Fischer says. Rewards and penalties influence behavior, he adds, but setting a good example works too. For instance, anyone can use the docking plate Astroscale codesigned to deorbit a satellite. You might think no one would act conscientiously out of the "goodness of their heart," he says, but Astroscale has had companies voluntarily request help making their business sustainable. The hope is that "everybody sees space as global commons" and collaborates with a shared vision of the future. That means offering assistance to those who need a boost. ♦



Photo courtesy Dave Fischer, AB'87

Fischer has spent his entire career working in space-related industries.

# Name that note

*New research identifies a cognitive characteristic associated with perfect pitch.*

BY MAX WITYNSKI

Both light and sound travel as waves, with characteristics that allow people with typical vision and hearing to perceive and categorize them when they reach their eyes and ears: “That’s a black dog barking,” someone might say.

But while people can easily name colors—specific frequencies and wave-

lengths of light—few can do the same for musical notes, that is, for specific frequencies and wavelengths of sound. Hearing a musical note and naming it is beyond the expertise of most people.

In fact, this ability is rare enough that society celebrates people who can label musical notes heard in isolation: They are said to have “perfect pitch,” or, as scientists who study auditory perception call the ability, “absolute pitch.” More common is “relative pitch,” the ability to name musical notes in relation to one another on a scale (“do, re, mi”) but not without a reference note. Both require musical training, but it’s not clear what separates people with perfect pitch from people with relative pitch.

For psychologists and neuroscientists at the University of Chicago who study absolute pitch, the rarity of the

ability raises an interesting question about the relationship between sensory processing and cognition: What makes some musicians so good at identifying musical sounds? Is it the way their brains process sounds or their musical training?

New research from a UChicago team, including psychology doctoral student **Katherine Reis**, AB’19, AM’21, and **Howard Nusbaum**, LAB’72, the Stella M. Rowley Professor of Psychology, suggests it’s both. They identified a specific cognitive response to musical notes that correlates with having perfect pitch more strongly than any other known factor—a likely indication that these rare individuals have a neurological advantage in identifying sounds. However, the paper’s findings also show that experience and training play a role in pitch recognition.



People with perfect pitch appear to have a neurological advantage in identifying musical notes—but practice matters too.

For the paper, published in July in *Nature: Scientific Reports*, Reis and Nusbaum worked with other UChicago researchers to design a study comparing people with and without perfect pitch on a series of tasks.

Thirty-one trained musicians participated in the study: 16 with perfect pitch and 15 without it. They completed a task that required naming piano notes and naming “pure” sine tones generated by a computer (these represent exact frequencies without an instrument’s timbre).

In each trial, the scientists used noninvasive electrodes to monitor how participants’ brains and nervous systems reacted to sounds. In particular, they looked at a measure called the “frequency following response” (FFR)—essentially, how quickly and faithfully the brain internally recreates externally produced sound waves. The researchers then recorded how accurately the participants identified the pitches, along with details about their prior training in music.

The researchers found that in both groups, the people who most accurately recreated a pitch’s sound wave in their brains were the best at correctly identifying those pitches. The FFR predicted people’s performance on pitch identification better than any metric previously used in studies of perfect pitch, including musical training.

“As a result of our study, we now know that features of the FFR predict absolute pitch ability even better than the developmental factors that people usually associate with absolute pitch, like the age you first learned an instrument,” Reis says—a signal that absolute pitch possessors may have a built-in advantage when it comes to naming notes.

Participants also tended to be better at naming notes played on a piano as compared to the computer-generated sine tones. Those with perfect pitch averaged 98 percent accuracy on piano and 77 percent for sine tones, while those without averaged 29 percent accuracy on piano and 25 percent for sine tones.

According to UChicago doctoral student **John Veillette**, SB’19, AM’21, a coauthor on the paper, these results suggest that timbres—which are conferred by upper harmonics in sound frequencies and give instruments their unique, familiar rings—play an important role in pitch recognition. This, Reis says, implies that experience is probably involved in pitch recognition, since even people with self-reported perfect pitch weren’t “perfect” when the notes were produced in an unfamiliar way.

While the study shows that frequency following response is a very strong predictor of perfect pitch, that doesn’t mean it’s immutable. Despite the differences between the brains of

individuals with and without perfect pitch, previous work indicates FFR itself is not a “fixed” trait. In other words, people without perfect pitch may be able to improve their FFR and their ability to name notes over time, according to the scientists.

For Nusbaum, this variability was not surprising. He has spent years studying perfect pitch alongside other scientists, including study coauthors **Shannon Heald**, AB’02, AM’05, PhD’12, an assistant instructional professor in the Department of Psychology, and **Stephen Van Hedger**, AB’09, AM’12, PhD’15, now an assistant professor of psychology at Huron University College in Ontario.

They have argued consistently that perfect pitch is not a dichotomous ability that people either have or do not have: instead, it may be better thought of as a continuous spectrum.

“Perfect pitch was long thought to be a rare ability that only some children could acquire if they had the right musical training in early childhood,” Nusbaum says. “However, this study provides further evidence that while the differences in people’s ability to categorize notes are real—and related to cognitive processing—our brains develop in tandem with the skills we practice over our entire lives. So, when it comes to pitch learning, practice, in a sense, really does make ‘perfect.’” ♦

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

#### QUICK STUDY

## Self-image search

How children see themselves in the books they read—if they see themselves at all—can shape their worldview. With society’s growing awareness of race and gender representation, **Anjali Adukia**, an assistant professor at Harris Public Policy, wondered if children’s books were changing in kind. Her team developed computer-vision-based tools—trained to detect faces; classify skin color; and predict race, gender, and age—and analyzed images in more than a thousand children’s books, which were divided into “mainstream” collections and “diversity” collections that explicitly highlight an identity group. Adukia’s July Becker Friedman Institute working paper revealed that mainstream books have had largely White and male characters over the past century, became even less racially diverse over the past 20 years, and depict female characters more consistently in images than in text. Children are also presented with lighter skin than adults across both collections. The authors hope their tools will help scholars study representation in media and address structural inequalities in education and society.—*M. S.* ♦

## Medal-worthy care

*Marcia Faustin, MD'13, keeps America's top gymnasts healthy.*

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

This summer, as American gymnasts flipped their way to Olympic glory in Tokyo, their families couldn't be there to watch—but USA Gymnastics women's team physician **Marcia Faustin, MD'13**, was.

COVID-19 made for an Olympics unlike any other. There were challenges—strict pandemic protocols, Simone Biles's struggle with a mental block, the US team's unexpected second-place finish—and triumphs, including gold-medal performances from Jade Carey and Sunisa Lee and Biles's openness in discussing and prioritizing her mental health.

Through it all, “we as the medical team had to really become part of their support system,” says Faustin. “You're there to hug them when they're having a hard time, and you're there to hug them when they are feeling at the top of the world.”

Faustin considers both roles a privilege, one she has spent years earning. Growing up in the Chicago suburbs, she was always athletic, competing in volleyball and gymnastics and eventually as a Division I athlete in track and field at Loyola University Chicago. Studying nursing—her original plan—required clinical rotations her schedule as a student-athlete didn't allow for, so Faustin set her sights on medical school instead.

At Loyola, Faustin got interested in sports medicine after shadowing her track and field team doctor. A scholarship brought her to the UChicago Pritzker School of Medicine in 2009. Today she works at the University of California, Davis, where she practices



A former gymnast and avid fan of the sport, Marcia Faustin, MD'13, became co-head women's team physician for USA Gymnastics in 2019.

family and sports medicine, serves as assistant team physician for collegiate athletes, and teaches medical students and sports medicine fellows. She's also a team physician for a professional soccer team, the Sacramento Republic FC.

Faustin has worked with athletes in a variety of sports, but gymnastics was always her favorite. So in 2017 she began volunteering with USA Gymnastics, providing medical care at meets around the country. Two years later, she and Ellen Casey of the Hospital for Special Surgery were appointed co-head women's team physicians, a role that involves attending national team training camps every few months,

traveling with the gymnasts to domestic and international meets, and keeping tabs on the athletes' medical issues in between. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the physicians were also charged with developing protocols to keep athletes, coaches, and staff safe.

Being a team doctor means treating a little bit of everything—something for which Faustin's family medicine training prepared her well. “It's very broad in what you're managing,” she says. Alongside every musculoskeletal ailment under the sun, “they get colds, they get migraines, they get abdominal pain.”

Sometimes, her job is to deliver news a gymnast least wants to hear: rest an



injury, take time off practice, stop competing. With major injuries, the decisions are painful but more clear-cut. For smaller or chronic ones, there's not always a right answer. That's "the beauty of medicine, but also the challenge of medicine," Faustin says. She often asks athletes who want to return to competition, "Can you protect yourself?" For a gymnast, that might mean the ability to safely take off, land, or fall; for a football player, the ability to block a tackle. Sometimes she encourages athletes to think about the future: if competing today means pain 15 years from now, is it worth it?

She's also attentive to the gymnasts'

mental health. Viewers and fans "forget that they're people first and they're individuals first," Faustin says. "We need always to remember that and respect that." After all, she points out, they're subject to the same stresses as everyone else—along with the pressure of being on an international stage.

Caring for the whole athlete has taken on added importance in the wake of a sexual abuse crisis that has prompted many people, both inside and outside of gymnastics, to reconsider the culture of the sport.

To build trust with her gymnast patients, Faustin focused on the basics of medicine. "I know that I'm taking care of the highest-level athletes," she says, "but if you're constantly thinking of them as VIPs, it's harder to bring yourself down to just practicing good care." That means listening well and making decisions collaboratively—with input from the athlete, parents, coaches, physical therapists, and other medical specialists—in support of the athlete's health and goals.

While reaching the Olympics is a dream for many of the gymnasts on the 20-to-30-person national team, it's not the only one that matters. Some gymnasts are hoping to make a World Championships team or earn a scholarship at a top-tier college, which can take just as much dedication and place just as much strain on the body. "We're here to support their individualized goals," Faustin says.

Tokyo was the first Olympics for Faustin and four of the six athletes on the women's team. To reduce the risk of catching COVID-19, the US gymnasts and team staff opted to stay in a hotel instead of the Olympic Village. The atmosphere, Faustin says, was "similar to a dorm room." The team even staged its own mini opening ceremony, complete with an American flag and a small procession.

In the end, every athlete under her and Casey's care came home with a medal. "It is exciting and exhilarating to see the girls reach their goals," she says. "That's an amazing feeling and an amazing atmosphere to be part of." ♦

## QUICK STUDY

### BIOTECH

# A hardy meal

Shelter, medicine, clothing, food, the air we breathe: our lives rely on plants, and climate change threatens crop production on a global scale. A July *Nature Biotechnology* paper describes how a genetic tweak can grow crops that yield significantly more food and are better able to tolerate drought conditions. The key is a protein called FTO, which was discovered by Guifang Jia, a former postdoc in biochemist **Chuan He's** lab. FTO dampens some of the signals that slow plant growth. When He and Jia added the gene that encodes for FTO to rice and potato plants grown under field conditions, both yielded 50 percent more food, photosynthesized more efficiently, and produced longer roots that were better able to survive drought. The technique could help address worldwide food insecurity, as well as combat the effects of climate change, by developing drought-resistant grasses or trees with root systems strong enough to withstand increasingly severe weather.

—M. S. ♦

# History on tape

*Chicago's Media Burn Archive is preserving a precious but vulnerable resource: video.*

BY DAN KELLY

The revolution may not have been televised, but in the 1960s and '70s, some of it was captured on tape by members of the guerrilla television movement, a loose conglomeration of filmmakers and activists who used new technology to tell stories not seen on the corporate television networks of that era.

The movement's videographers turned their lenses on strikes, protests, and political conventions, as well as on everyday life in overlooked communities around the United States. Guerrilla television put cameras in the hands of ordinary people and allowed them to control the narrative.

Now this historically vital footage is at risk: videotape is a vulnerable medium, destined to degrade and, in some cases, to take with it events otherwise unremembered. Enter Chicago's Media Burn Archive, a nonprofit whose mission is to collect and digitize important archival videos.

Fifty-year-old tapes are "very much at the end of their life span, and unlike film, you cannot bring them back," says **Sara Chapman**, AB'04, the executive director of Media Burn. "It's basically just a race against time to transfer them before they're lost."

The archivists are gaining ground in that race, thanks to a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources. In partnership with UChicago, Media Burn will digitize more than 1,000 tapes associated with the guerrilla television movement. Duties are divided: Media Burn will convert the videos, and the University will catalog them and create an online archive.



Guerrilla television pioneers Eleanor Boyer and Karen Peugh filming in Chicago in 1979. Footage from the movement urgently needs restoration.

The added tapes will bolster the singular trove of more than 8,000 videos Media Burn has converted and released since its establishment in 2003: everything from several hundred videos featuring Louis "Studs" Terkel, PhB'32, JD'34, to five minutes of B-roll footage inside the factory where *Ms. Pac-Man* was manufactured.

Media Burn's interest in preserving

guerrilla television footage isn't new—about half of the nonprofit's collection was donated by its founder, Tom Weinberg, one of the movement's most prominent figures in Chicago—but the grant will give the digitization effort more momentum and visibility.

Broader awareness of guerrilla television has been a goal of Chapman's since her time at the College. Originally

## ARGONNE AT 75

Days between Argonne's "birth" with the world's first controlled, self-sustained nuclear reaction and its formal charter on July 1, 1946

1,307

200-watt lightbulbs lit in 1951 by Argonne's EBR-1, the first reactor to generate usable amounts of electricity with nuclear energy

4

Highest number handled by AVIDAC, Argonne's first digital computer, built in 1953

999,999,999,999

Number of calculations the lab's newest computer, Aurora, set to arrive in 2022, can perform per second

$10^{18}$

Researchers at Argonne today

1,739

Atomic numbers of einsteinium and fermium, elements discovered by Argonne chemists

99, 100

Women who won the Nobel Prize in Physics before Argonne researcher Maria Goeppert Mayer did

1

a physics and astrophysics major, she took an elective class in documentary film with filmmaker and professor of practice in the arts **Judy Hoffman**.

Two weeks in, Chapman switched her major to Cinema and Media Studies, motivated by Hoffman's teaching about guerrilla television and a classroom visit by Weinberg. After graduation she went to work for Media Burn, where she's been ever since, rising to become its executive director in 2009.

"The thing that surprised me was that I had never heard of [guerrilla television], and my parents, who lived through the era—they'd never heard of it," Chapman says. "Barely anyone knew that this really cool thing had happened."

Guerrilla television arose from two simultaneous forces: the social upheaval of the '60s and the rise of affordable recording equipment. Hoffman, a veteran of the movement herself, describes it as "a utopian moment" involving "a diverse group of people who were questioning society and authority."

It couldn't have happened without Sony's portapak. While not nearly as sleek as an iPhone, the portapak (appropriate to its time) was revolutionary. It allowed its users to film and replay on the fly, as well as to do basic in-camera editing. Speaking by Zoom, Hoffman holds a portapak up to her computer's camera. Designed in the late '60s, it absolutely looks like it was designed in the late '60s, with a portable videotape recorder connected to a small square box with a pistol grip—the video camera.

These features made it possible to "produce something immediately," Hoffman says. "You can really be part of a struggle as it's happening, rather than documenting something that happened in the past." Amateurism lent authenticity as well. "It was OK if we were in the tapes, it was OK if the microphone was in, it was OK if we had a point of view. We didn't need to pretend towards any kind of false objectivity. So it was *guerrilla*."

But the imperfections also made the movement's work easy to overlook. "Video is often a denigrated me-

dium—much of this material was never taken seriously at the time," says **Daniel Morgan**, PhD'07, professor and chair of the Department of Cinema and Media Studies, who worked with Media Burn on the Council on Library and Information Resources grant. "It wasn't preserved. It wasn't archived. It wasn't restored. And so much of the work that we're trying to preserve here has never been seen since the moment it was shot, or since the time it was first screened. It forms a kind of amazing record of the American democratic ethos."

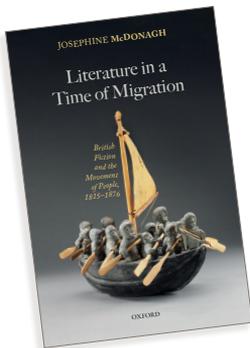
**Much of the work that we're trying to preserve here has never been seen since the moment it was shot, or since the time it was first screened. It forms a kind of amazing record of the American democratic ethos.**

What emerges is an entirely different view of the world than mainstream news portrayed. "We have an incredibly detailed and personal history, especially of Chicago neighborhoods," Chapman says. Then, as now, South Side and West Side neighborhoods were often portrayed only as bastions of gang and criminal activity. But guerrilla television footage shows other sides of life: community organizers at work, long conversations in hair salons, children sharing what they love about their neighborhoods.

With guerrilla footage, it's possible to witness people long dead, places long demolished, and events long past in ways that words alone can't always capture. It's a vital resource for researchers and the public, Chapman believes. "We are only beginning to understand how important moving image media is for studying history." ♦

## Fresh ink

A selection of recent books by UChicago faculty members.



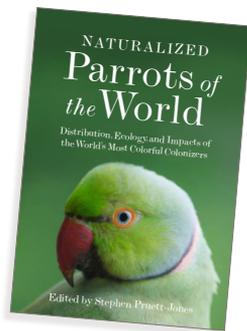
### Literature in a Time of Migration: British Fiction and the Movement of People, 1815-1876

Oxford University Press

**By Josephine McDonagh**

George M. Pullman Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature

A chapter on Sir Walter Scott opens **Josephine McDonagh's** book examining how greater human mobility around the globe was reflected and thought about in 19th-century British novels. In *Guy Mannering* (1815), Scott gave part of his narrative a backstory set in India, invented the itinerant Meg Merrilies, and in other ways raised questions of transience, place, and belonging. As the century progressed and colonial emigration became an ever more familiar and scrutinized practice, Britain's fiction writers showed a keen awareness of and engagement with the meaning of such movement. Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens, and George Eliot get their turns under McDonagh's lens, alongside less canonical writers.—*L. D.*



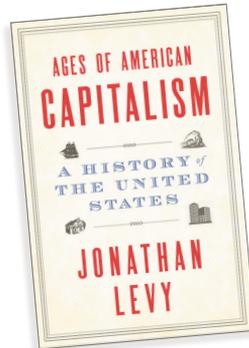
### Naturalized Parrots of the World: Distribution, Ecology, and Impacts of the World's Most Colorful Colonizers

Princeton University Press, 2021

**Edited by Stephen Pruett-Jones**

Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolution

Human activity has helped parrots become the planet's most widely distributed group of birds. Of the 380 or so known parrot species, about 330 have been taken outside their native countries and at least 75 have established breeding populations in those new places by escaping or through intentional release. This volume edited by **Stephen Pruett-Jones** is the first devoted to naturalized parrots and the issues raised by their finding new places to call home. The book's contributors consider genetics, ecological implications, wildlife management questions, and more. Two chapters present case studies of species that have thrived in new habitats: the rose-ringed parakeet in several warm-weather US states and the monk parakeet familiar to Chicago residents.—*L. D.*



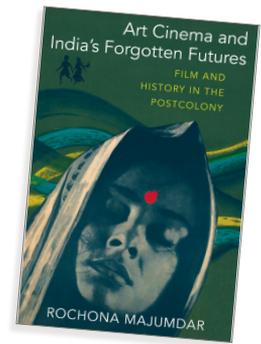
### Ages of American Capitalism: A History of the United States

Penguin Random House, 2021

**By Jonathan Levy, AM'03, PhD'08**

Professor in the Department of History and the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought

Commerce (1660-1860), capital (1860-1932), control (1932-1980), chaos (1980-present): these are the four stages of US capitalism that **Jonathan Levy** delineates in his comprehensive one-volume economic history of the United States. Each stage of capitalism, in Levy's telling, marks a shift in the relationship between government and financial markets, with political actors increasingly exerting their influence. Building on ideas from a course Levy teaches at UChicago, *Ages of American Capitalism* demonstrates the evolution of a system that is virtually synonymous with the United States but facing a crisis in the current "age of chaos." Far from solely economic, the story Levy tells implicates the United States' legal system, culture, society—and especially its politics.—*L. D.*



### Art Cinema and India's Forgotten Futures: Film and History in the Postcolony

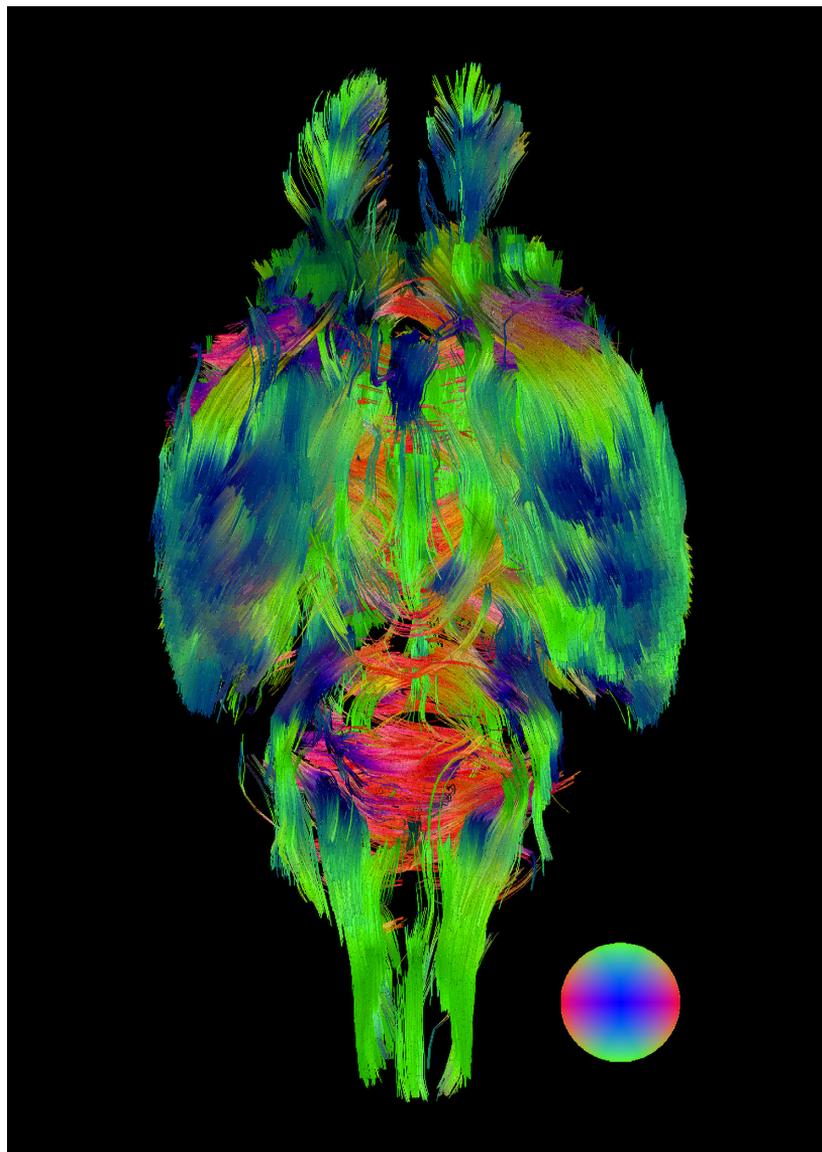
Columbia University Press, 2021

**By Rochona Majumdar, PhD'03**

Associate Professor of South Asian Languages and Civilizations and Cinema and Media Studies

Following the upheaval of partition in 1947, film in newly independent India took on a pedagogical role. The on-screen future portrayed the progress of a modern nation, and these "good films" were a means of creating "good and discerning citizen subjects." **Rochona Majumdar** recounts this postindependence history before turning to the postcolonial disillusionment of Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen, and Ritwik Ghatak in the 1960s. Exploring trilogies by the three art cinema filmmakers, she examines how they moved away from the prevailing narrative of modernization to reveal an India with "multiple and contradictory futures"—anticipating similar shifts that occurred in the 1990s in historians' understanding of the postcolonial period.—*R. L. S.*

## SAY CHEESE



It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a ... mouse brain? Earlier this year a joint UChicago-Argonne team scanned an entire mouse brain at the resolution of one micron (that's one millionth of a meter) using synchrotron-based X-ray tomography, a type of micro-CT scan. This approach allowed the team to bridge a gap between MRI-based visualizations (above), which show whole networks of synaptic connections but at low resolution, and electron microscopy, which shows individual neurons and synapses in detail but only a few micrometers at once. With access to all three imaging techniques, scientists can better understand the microstructure of the brain and gain new knowledge about neurological diseases. So why a mouse brain? Well, "because it fits in the microscope," senior author Narayanan "Bobby" Kasthuri, assistant professor of neurobiology, told UChicago Medicine.—S. A. ♦

Image courtesy Sean Foxley

## QUICK STUDY

## MATERIALS SCIENCE

## Cusp of discovery

A mollusk called the gumboot chiton, aka the "wandering meatloaf," holds the secret to durable synthetic materials—in its mouth. Using X-rays from the Advanced Photon Source at UChicago-managed Argonne National Laboratory, a Northwestern University team discovered a rare mineral called santabarbarite in the meatloaf's teeth. The chiton's stylus (analogous to the root of a human tooth) is a strong composite material made of santabarbarite nanoparticles in a fibrous matrix that's similar to human bone. The discovery, described in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in June, helped the team understand how the meatloaf's entire tooth, not just the ultrahard cusp, is designed to withstand scraping algae off rocks. Finding this mineral in a biological context inspired the researchers to create a synthetic ink of similar composition for 3D printing of durable materials, such as prostheses and devices for space exploration.—M. S. ♦

# For the record

## EXPANDING ODYSSEY

In August the University announced a new \$200 million commitment to educational access and financial aid for College students in honor of Chancellor **Robert J. Zimmer**. Members of the Board of Trustees have given \$105 million to the Odyssey Scholarship Program, the University's flagship financial aid initiative that helps ensure need-blind, loan-free education for students regardless of their economic circumstances. The trustees' gift—the largest in support of financial aid in University history—also will serve as a challenge to raise a total of \$200 million with the support of UChicago alumni, parents, and friends. This effort, which will establish the Robert J. Zimmer Odyssey Scholarship Fund, honors Zimmer's commitment to expanding undergraduate financial aid during his 15-year presidency.

## LEGACY OF SUPPORT

UChicago has received the largest estate gift in its history from the late Arley D. Cathey, PhD'50. Cathey's \$50 million bequest, directed to the University when he died in 2020 at age 93, will support UChicago's commitments to educational access and financial aid. In honor of the gift, the College is launching a \$20 million match campaign, called the Arley D. Cathey Odyssey Challenge, to support the Odyssey Scholarship Program. Cathey's legacy of philanthropy began in 2012 when he committed his estate—then valued at \$17 million—to the College in honor of his physician father, Arley D. Cathey Sr.

## NEW TRUSTEES NAMED

Two new trustees began their five-year terms in May 2021: **Antonio J. Gracias**, JD'98, chief executive officer and chief investment officer at Valor Equity Partners, and **Jason J. Tyler**, LAB'89, MBA'99, executive vice president and chief financial officer of the financial services company Northern Trust. Gracias serves on the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering Council, while Tyler chairs the Laboratory Schools Board and is a member of the Becker Friedman Institute Council.

## A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION

UChicago presidents past and present convened on September 22 to celebrate the

David Rubenstein Forum, which opened in September 2020. The event featured four leaders from different eras of Maroon history—new president **Paul Alivisatos**, AB'81; Chancellor **Robert J. Zimmer**; **Don Michael Randel**, professor emeritus of music; and **Hanna Holborn Gray**, Harry Pratt Judson Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of History—reflecting on their time in the president's office. The conversation was moderated by University trustee **David Rubenstein**, JD'73, whose support made possible the construction of the 10-story building, located at Woodlawn Avenue and 60th Street.

## NOBELIST TO JOIN FACULTY

Biochemist Jack Szostak will join the UChicago chemistry faculty as a University Professor on September 1, 2022.

A geneticist who studies the biochemical origins of

life, Szostak shared the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Currently a professor in the Departments of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Harvard University as well as in the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School, Szostak is also the Alexander Rich Distinguished Investigator at Massachusetts General Hospital and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator. University Professors are selected for internationally recognized eminence in their fields and their potential for impact across the University.

## SCIENTIFIC OUTREACH

Experimental particle physicist **Young-Kee Kim** will serve as president of the American Physical Society beginning in 2024. She will be the ninth UChicago faculty member to lead the organization, which publishes scientific journals; conducts programs in education, public outreach, and media relations; and is active in public and governmental affairs. The Louis Block Distinguished Service Professor and chair of physics, Kim devotes much of her research to understanding the origin of mass for fundamental particles.

## PROOF POSITIVE

Assistant professor in mathematics

**Sebastian Hurtado-Salazar**

shared the 2022 New Horizons Mathematics Prize with Aaron Brown of Northwestern University for their contributions to the 2018 proof of

Zimmer's conjecture. First outlined by Chancellor **Robert J. Zimmer** in the 1980s, the conjecture concerns a fundamental concept in mathematics called symmetries. Hurtado-Salazar and Brown will share \$100,000 as winners of the prize; Hurtado-Salazar plans to donate his share to organizations that provide math and science education in developing countries.



## POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCES

After a senior year upended by the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the Class of 2020 and their families got a long-awaited chance to celebrate their graduation and other accomplishments in person October 22 at a Rockefeller Memorial Chapel ceremony featuring remarks from **John W. Boyer**, AM'69, PhD'75, dean of the College. A reception at the Museum of Science and Industry included gatherings for each residence hall and remarks by the resident deans.

## O-WEEK, IN PERSON

At this year's Aims of Education address, **Kimberly Kay Hoang**, associate professor of sociology, encouraged the members of the Class of 2025 to learn from one another.

"Some of my most creative and innovative work has come from finding fun and joy in community with other people on the journey of discovery," she said.

The start-of-year address was one of several O-Week traditions that could take place

in person after being suspended in 2020. This year's O-Week also included special programming designed to reintroduce second-year students to in-person learning and residential life at UChicago.





# How to start bird-watching

*Chicago Ornithological Society president Edward Warden, AB'18, offers some tips.*

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

In April 2020, lifelong birder **Edward Warden**, AB'18, became president of the Chicago Ornithological Society. (The organization was founded at UChicago in 1912—"a nice little point of pride for me," he says.) Warden holds that position alongside his work as a conservation stewardship coordinator for the Shedd Aquarium. His comments have been edited and condensed.

## How did you get interested in birding?

In the birding community, there's a term—"spark bird"—for the bird that sparked your interest. For me, my parents took me to Illinois Beach State Park for a camping trip when I was seven. We went for a hike and saw these cool birds burst up out of the marsh and fly away. We had a beginner field guide, and I looked it up and said, "That was a common loon." I was stoked about that, and I've been hooked ever since.

Here's where it gets funny: my spark bird is a lie. As I learned more and got

better at birding craft, I slowly realized, wait, there's no way that was a loon. I don't know what it was, and it definitely was not what I thought it was, but it still got me to the same destination.

## Why are people so intrigued by birds?

There's a deep fascination with these living dinosaurs—though we haven't always known them as such—that take to the skies. They're in ancient literature and art and mythology; birds are part of early pictographic languages. For most of history, people didn't know the global dynamics of migration, but they knew birds would come back or pass through every year at the same time. There's something remarkable about that to the human mind.

## Has there been greater interest in birding since the pandemic?

Without a doubt. I did an interview early in the pandemic where someone

asked, "Where are all these birds coming from?"—because people were seeing so many birds in their yard or on their street. The assumption was, this must be a crazy year for birds. And don't get me wrong, it was a fantastic spring, but that really wasn't it. It was that people simply weren't paying attention before.

## What are some fun birding terms?

Here's a very irreverent one: "giss." It's a term we use when we can't explain exactly why we know what a particular bird is. It stands for "general impression of shape and size." There's "pishing"—if you ever encounter some weird person with binoculars by a bush somewhere making a kind of raspy sound like, "pish, pish," that's what that is. There's a "nemesis bird," a bird you have tried and failed to see many times. I just conquered my most recent nemesis bird, a type of falcon called a merlin.

## What's your dream bird?

There are several on my list that are possible to see in the city of Chicago. One is the upland sandpiper. It's very, very goofy looking. It's like a little periscope of a bird—it runs around in short grasses and then pops up its long neck and tiny head and looks around. It's unfortunately a species in decline due to grassland habitat destruction, but occasionally they'll show up. I missed one a couple of weeks ago on a bird walk. Somebody reported it at a park literally one mile away from where we were that day.

## What's your elevator pitch for birding?

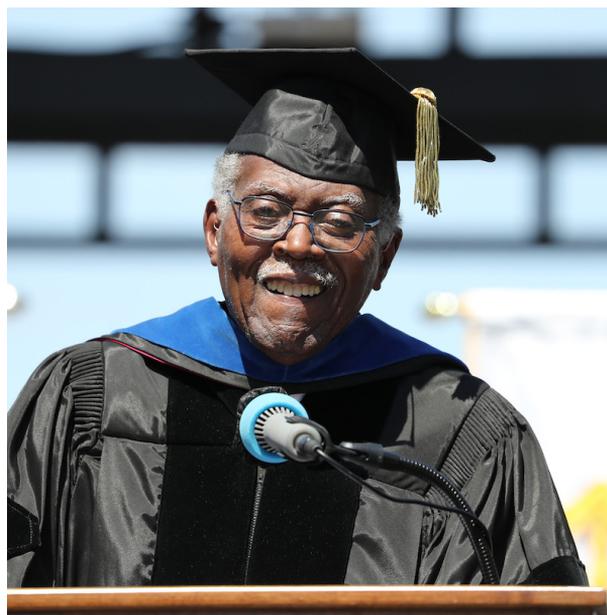
It's the easiest thing in the world to do. Birds are everywhere. You don't have to work for them. You don't need fancy binoculars or telescopes. You don't even really need a field guide to be able to see and appreciate birds. All you have to do is look. I think that's pretty incredible. ♦

C VITAE

# FREEDOM-MINDED

*John A. Peoples Jr., AM'51, PhD'61,  
helped Jackson State endure  
and thrive after tragedy.*

BY JASON KELLY



**A**s an aspiring math teacher just out of college, **John A. Peoples Jr.**, AM'51, PhD'61, thought of himself as pretty smart. While that self-appraisal would prove to be accurate, the University of Chicago subjected his hypothesis to rigorous scrutiny.

As an undergraduate at what is now Jackson State University—at the time, a teacher's college for Black students—Peoples had been “Mr. Everything,” earning straight As, twice serving as student body president, and excelling in football and track. When he headed to UChicago to pursue a master's degree in education, not everyone thought it was a good idea.

“Man, don't go there, you'll never get out,” the 95-year-old Peoples says today with a laugh, paraphrasing the chorus of discouragement he heard.

There were moments when he believed it himself. He recalls asking an instructor with a German accent to repeat something, only to have his intelligence—and that of everyone from Mississippi—impugned.

Thankfully, in the midst of his struggles, Peoples fell in with a circle of friends from Manley House who “kind of adopted me,” he says. “I was

the only Black in that dormitory at that time, and they helped me to get through my degree.”

Born in Starkville, Mississippi, in 1926, Peoples had persevered through difficulty before without such support, drawing on a strength of character that would come to define his professional life. He was drafted into the US Marine Corps after high school and trained at the Montford Point Camp in North Carolina, where segregation was so stringently enforced that Black recruits could not so much as enter the main base at Camp Lejeune without a White escort. As president of Jackson State, he would steer the school through tragedy and expand its academic mission beyond training teachers, setting it on a path to become the nation's 10th-largest historically Black college or university.

Peoples's career in education began in Gary, Indiana, where he became Froebel High School's first Black teacher in 1951. Continually passed over for administrative promotions, he was finally hired as an assistant principal at Lincoln Elementary School in 1958, then as principal at Banneker Elementary School in 1962.

In his 1995 memoir, *To Survive and Thrive: The Quest for a True University* (Town Square Books), Peoples writes

that a friend had warned he would go further in his career if he kept quiet and deferred to White colleagues. That was not in his nature, and he believed his outspoken character undermined him in the eyes of his superintendent.

Still, Peoples gained admirers, resulting in multiple job offers—including one to become vice president at Jackson State and heir apparent to its longtime leader. Peoples decided to return to Mississippi, though he knew it would be difficult and even dangerous. In 1967 he assumed the presidency of Jackson State.

He arrived at a volatile moment. During his first three years as president, Peoples came to expect demonstrations over civil rights and the Vietnam War that escalated into clashes with Jackson police or residents.

Lynch Street, a busy road in Jackson, ran through the campus like a fuse, often becoming a flashpoint for conflict between the Black student body and passing White motorists. (Despite the name's ominous resonance, the street commemorated John R. Lynch, a Black US representative during Reconstruction.) Drivers hurled epithets and objects; students responded in kind.

Peoples had to navigate delicate terrain: defending student expression on social issues but appealing to them for

Photography by Charles A. Smith

Jackson State president emeritus John A. Peoples Jr., AM'51, PhD'61, speaking at a long-delayed commencement ceremony for the Class of 1970 this past May.

calm in the face of racist taunting, all while lobbying for academic resources from a recalcitrant state college board. "I wanted my revolution to take place through the production of progressive, freedom-minded teachers, lawyers, doctors, and entrepreneurs," he writes.

By the spring of 1970, if he had not yet revolutionized Jackson State, Peoples had taken strides toward realizing his vision, doubling enrollment and recruiting talented students and faculty. As commencement approached for the Class of 1970, the disturbances of the previous three years had not resurfaced.

The peaceful spring would soon be shattered. On May 4, four Kent State University students were killed by the Ohio National Guard. Three days later, Jackson State students gathered to speak out against the killings and the US invasion of Cambodia that had prompted the Kent State protests. To Peoples, the rally seemed mild.

But on the evening of May 13, conflict flared between students and motorists, prompting the closure of Lynch Street. Against Peoples's urging, local authorities allowed traffic through the next day; another round of rock-throwing erupted that night. When the street was barricaded again, calm returned.

Then a group of non-students set fire to a nearby dump truck. Firefighters arrived with 26 city officers, 40 state highway patrolmen, and an armored tank. National Guard troops also had been summoned.

The fire was soon doused, but the officers moved farther along Lynch Street into the heart of campus. About 200 students were outside Alexander Hall, a women's dormitory, whose residents had already retired because of the evening curfew. According to James "Lap" Baker, a Jackson State senior at the time, Peoples had told them earlier in the evening to keep calm. "And that's what [we] did," Baker says, "because we listened to him."

To the authorities, the crowd of stu-

dents represented a threat. Orders to disperse, bellowed through a bullhorn, were met with defiance. Then someone threw a bottle into the street.

"When it burst," Baker says, "all hell broke loose."

Officers sprayed gunfire across both sides of Lynch Street, more than 400 rounds in a barrage that lasted 28 seconds. Bullets shattered glass and pocked the walls of Alexander Hall, where authorities later claimed to have seen a sniper, though there was no evidence of such a threat.

Phillip Lafayette Gibbs, 21, and James Earl Green, 17, were killed. A dozen others were wounded. Gibbs, a junior studying political science, was

## THE PEACEFUL SPRING WOULD SOON BE SHATTERED.

married with a young son and another child on the way. Green, a high school senior, was walking home from his job at the neighborhood store Wag-A-Bag.

From his home about a block away, Peoples thought the sound might be fireworks. When he learned of the shooting, Peoples opened his door to discover two National Guardsmen stationed there to protect his family. They were under orders not to let him leave.

Peoples felt helpless. He heard screams and sirens, then the sounds of a crowd advancing toward his house. The students wanted him to see the scene for himself, and the guardsmen at the door did not stop Peoples this time.

"And sure enough, when I got there, it was really something awful to see," he says. "You could smell the gunpowder."

Peoples climbed on a table to address the students, but he had no words.

"Dr. Peoples, why don't you pray?"

came a voice from the crowd. And so he did, sensing a calm come over the crowd that ended as soon as he said "Amen" and told them to return to their dorms.

Under no circumstances would they budge, a response Peoples couldn't help but respect. Shattered glass and bullet holes in the walls were a powerful argument that they would be no safer inside. He stayed outside with them, singing hymns and freedom songs. Peoples canceled the final days of the term, along with the commencement ceremony.

Though they occurred just 10 days after the Kent State tragedy, the Jackson State killings did not attract the same national attention or outrage. No one was ever punished for the deaths of Gibbs and Green. On campus, the reaction moved from anger to resignation.

The tragedy changed Peoples; near the one-year anniversary of the killings, a student activist remarked that the president had "aged 10 years in 12 months." He channeled his grief into his work, continuing his dogged efforts to expand Jackson State and achieving a major goal—university status—in 1974. Peoples stepped down in 1984, having transformed an undergraduate teacher training school into a multifaceted institution offering doctoral degrees in numerous disciplines.

"It just shows the tremendous vision and drive and dedication that Dr. Peoples had then, and still has," Baker says. "He was strong. He was strong."

There was work left undone, however, until 2021. In May, Peoples spoke during a commencement ceremony for the Class of 1970, held on the Gibbs-Green Memorial Plaza that long ago replaced the volatile stretch of John R. Lynch Street. The site of bloodshed and symbol of the barriers to building Jackson State is now a pedestrian path for students attending the university that Peoples envisioned for them. ♦

**Jason Kelly is associate editor of *Notre Dame Magazine*.**



PROFILE

# MAGNIFYING VISION

*As a scientist, Paul Alivisatos, AB'81, studies ultrasmall structures.  
As UChicago's 14th president, he sees big opportunities.*

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON SMITH



**O**n **Paul Alivisatos's** last day as a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, a friend asked him where he thought his career was headed. Though Alivisatos, AB'81, had a postdoctoral fellowship lined up at AT&T Bell Laboratories, he hadn't decided what to do after that. But he knew one thing for certain, he told his friend: "I'm not going to be a professor."

Alivisatos laughs as he remembers the conversation's twist ending. "Eighteen months later, I was a professor."

Embracing the unexpected has been a hallmark of Alivisatos's career as a scientist and academic leader. In the College, he went from taking classes in German and political science to majoring, somewhat to his own surprise, in chemistry. Nanoscience, the field in which he eventually made his mark, was brand-new when he began his doctoral studies; today, he is one of its stars. A hesitant entrant into academia at Berkeley in 1988, he rose to become director of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and then the university's executive vice chancellor and provost.

None of it was what he envisioned when he arrived in Hyde Park in the fall of 1977, but he's a firm believer that taking things step by step will lead him to the right place. "I always try, at each moment, to think really hard about what is the next thing for me. And once I settle on it, I go for it," he says. "Which is kind of what's happening right now."

Right now, of course, is the start of Alivisatos's tenure as the 14th president of the University of Chicago. He sees in the institution what any ambitious new leader would hope for: a combination of strength and opportunity. "It's already a truly great university, but there's a lot to build with here," he says. When a chance to take



Paul Alivisatos, AB'81, an amateur photographer, visits the Smart Museum for a sneak peek at photos from the winter 2022 exhibition *Smart to the Core: Medium / Image*.

the helm presented itself, "it just all felt right."

It felt right to others too. A chorus of congratulatory voices heralded the February announcement. Alivisatos's predecessor, Chancellor **Robert J. Zimmer**, called him "an extraordinary scholar and academic leader" who 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."

"He's an outstanding administrator, a world-class scholar, a proven, leading educator, and recognized by his peers as an outstanding human being," says **Joseph Neubauer**, MBA'65, the chair of the University's Board of Trustees. "He truly loves the University of Chicago, and cherishes the principles and values system we stand for."

**Randal C. Picker**, AB'80, AM'82, JD'85, the James Parker Hall Distinguished Service Professor of Law, served on

the faculty advisory committee for the presidential search. He says Alivisatos fulfilled all of the group's hopes: an outstanding scholar, an experienced leader, and someone who understands UChicago's culture. "He is seen as being a killer scientist. He's run a national lab and been provost at Berkeley, a very complicated public institution. He was a University of Chicago undergrad," Picker says. On top of that, "he seems like a really decent guy. And that's a good characteristic."

At a virtual Alumni Weekend event in June, Alivisatos's enthusiasm for his new role and his alma mater was evident. After relating early meetings with students and faculty and sharing reminiscences of Valois and the Shoreland, he paused to reflect on the possibilities ahead. "The feeling that there could be an impact on thousands of the most creative people in the world—I mean, what a wonderful opportunity to have."

**W**hen Alivisatos took office on September 1, it was both a venture into the unknown and a return to the familiar. He is the second Chicago native and second University alumnus to lead the institution. (He shares both distinctions with UChicago's eighth president, Edward H. Levi, LAB'28, PhB'32, JD'35.)

Born to Greek immigrant parents on Chicago's North Side, Alivisatos decorated his childhood bedroom with models of rockets and lunar landers. He remembers building a radio and playing with a toy chemistry set—fascinated by science already. In second grade, a Northwestern University student visited his school and taught the students about space travel and the solar system. “I just loved all that stuff,” Alivisatos told *Chemical and Engineering News* earlier this year.

This happy childhood was upended by the death of his mother when Alivisatos was 10. The loss was soon followed by another life-altering change: Alivisatos's physician father, struggling to care for two children on his own, sent him and his older sister to live with extended family in Greece.

Alivisatos spoke almost no Greek when he arrived. Early in his schooling, a teacher handed him two paragraphs of text, instructing him to underline every word he didn't understand. “I underlined about 50 words,” Alivisatos remembers with a laugh. In time his Greek improved, and he came to appreciate the tongue that had challenged him so much at first. “It's a very deep, expressive language,” he says.

For all the difficulty of his schooling in Greece, Alivisatos found a certain kind of freedom too. “There was no possibility that I could be amongst the better students in the class, at least for a while,” he says. The lack of pressure “allowed me to have my own compass” about what to learn and how to learn it.

But there were limits on what could be learned. When Alivisatos first arrived in Greece, the country was under a military dictatorship, and the atmosphere was tense. “Teachers were frightened that a student might write something in an essay ... that would land them in jail,” he recalled at Alumni Weekend. The effect “was corrosive. It made it almost impossible for any kind of discovery or real sharing of knowledge to occur the way it should.”

**H**aving experienced firsthand the suppression of speech and its dangers, Alivisatos is eager to uphold the University's stance on freedom of expression, which he regards as essential to the health of universities and democracies alike. “I'm very gratified that the University of Chicago has taken a strong position on it over many presidential tenures and many decades,” he says.

He knows there is more work to do. Disagreeing productively and respectfully is not a skill we are born with; it must be learned like any other. He hopes to see UChicago find creative

that may lead to some uncomfortable interactions—and also how to enter into a discussion in a way that respects other people and doesn't make them feel terrible.”

It's one of Alivisatos's many ambitious goals for his presidency; a true Chicagoan, he makes no little plans. In interviews and early communications, he has outlined a vision for sustaining the University's distinctive approach to inquiry while broadening its connection to the wider world—goals he regards as complementary.

Foundational inquiry and external engagement “reinforce each other, and through that reinforcement, they both become stronger,” he says. He intends to build on existing partnerships—with the city of Chicago, Argonne, Fermilab, the Marine Biological Laboratory—and to forge new ones, especially on the South Side, and use those connections to confront major societal problems.

High on his list is ensuring the health of democracies. “It's no news, I think, to any reader of the alumni magazine that there are stresses on democracy both domestically and glob-

## HE HAS OUTLINED A VISION FOR SUSTAINING THE UNIVERSITY'S DISTINCTIVE APPROACH TO INQUIRY WHILE BROADENING ITS CONNECTION TO THE WIDER WORLD.

ways to model and teach healthy debate. “When people are first coming to the University,” he says, “I'd like them to learn more about free expression, about the history of the University, and how to be resilient in a discussion

ally,” he says. With strong programs in the humanities, social sciences, public policy, and social work, the University of Chicago is well positioned to consider what he calls “the hard problems of democracy”: What makes a democracy



**AS PRESIDENT,  
ALIVISATOS WELCOMES  
THE TASK OF DEFENDING  
THE LIBERAL ARTS  
EDUCATION THAT TESTED  
AND SHAPED HIM.**

work? What are its critical challenges, at the philosophical level and at the nuts-and-bolts level? What does it take to forge resilient and strong democracies that address the needs of citizens?

None of the University's other priorities can truly flourish, Alivisatos believes, without improving diversity, equity, and inclusion—nor can the University reach its highest aspirations for open debate. “Critical to having the kinds of give-and-take that are vital to the University is to create a sense of belonging for all people, no matter what background they come from,” he says. It's not only the right thing to do—it's good science, Alivisatos points

out: “All the evidence tells us that the most diverse teams are the ones that function the best.”

At Berkeley he sought opportunities to put these ideals into practice. In selecting students for his lab, says Vida Jamali, a postdoctoral scholar in the Alivisatos Group, he strives for a balance of backgrounds and points of view. He's been attentive as well to the perspectives of women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). While the Alivisatos Group is almost 50 percent women, Jamali has been part of collaborations where she is the only woman in the room. Alivisatos “has been there for me when I want to

talk to him about this,” she says, and offered guidance and support.

As Berkeley's provost, Alivisatos founded the Faculty Leadership Academy, which helps tenured faculty develop the skills to become successful department chairs, deans, and administrators. “He ensured it was designed from the beginning to be very inclusive,” says anthropologist Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, executive dean of Berkeley's College of Letters & Sciences. Today, thanks in part to that program, she says, the group of university deans “is quite different than when Paul began, and is more representative of our students and our country.”

Photography by Rob Hart



At Opening Convocation, Alivisatos spoke of his special connection to the College Class of 2025, as both he and they embarked on new journeys.

and social science courses imparted “techniques and ways of thinking that I draw upon almost every day.” There the questions were not defined, but framing a good question was part of the education—useful training for a scientist, because “so much about what makes really good work is to ask a big question.”

As president, Alivisatos welcomes the task of defending the liberal arts education that tested and shaped him. At Berkeley, Johnson-Hanks saw him earn the trust of scholars across the university. “He is truly committed to a liberal education, to the production of knowledge for its own sake, to cultivating old knowledge,” she says, “not just discovering new stuff, but attending to what we’ve already known.”

In the College Alivisatos made the most of his chance to soak up knowledge old and new. The classes he signed up for were “all over the place,” he says—German, political theory, endocrinology. He didn’t figure out his major until “as late as possible.”

Anchoring his extracurricular life was Doc Films, which was housed in Cobb Hall at the time. He first went with a friend (“I’m not 100 percent sure, but I think it was an Ernst Lubitsch film”), who explained the rudiments of understanding cinema—lighting, framing, camera movement. Alivisatos was bowled over. “I thought, this is unbelievable,” he recalls. “So then I started taking tickets so I could get in for free.”

He gradually became a more active member of the film society, programming a series by the Japanese director Kenji Mizoguchi and contributing to the quarterly catalogs, which contained brief essays on the films being shown each quarter. “That was probably the most significant work that I participated in as part of a community at the University. It was really fun,” he says. (Though he’s not as much of a film buff these days, Alivisatos does

**A**livisatos’s experience in the Core curriculum as an undergraduate student had its humbling moments. His first essay, on Plato’s *Republic*, came back to him “with more red than black, just completely torn to shreds,” he remembers. He met with the professor, who helped him clarify his thoughts and how best to express them in writing; persevered; and learned.

He never forgot that paper, and he’s struck by the ongoing influence of the Core curriculum on his life and work. “Clearly I learned things in my science classes that I’m deeply grateful for as a scientist,” he says, but his humanities

## GETTING TO KNOW PAUL ALIVISATOS

**Age:** 61

**Education:** AB in chemistry from UChicago; PhD in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley

**Scientific publications:** 421 (and counting)

**Selected accolades:** National Medal of Science, Ernest Orlando Lawrence Award from the US Department of Energy, Priestley Medal from the American Chemical Society, Wolf Prize in Chemistry

**Newly minted student nickname:** “President Paul”

**Favorite writing on leadership:** “What Is Strategy?” by Michael Porter

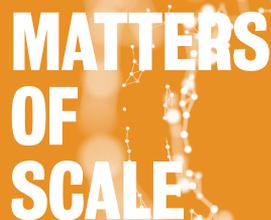
**Morning routine:** Ten minutes of meditation, making breakfast while listening to Bach’s *Goldberg Variations*

**Favorite app:** DailyArt

**Extracurricular interest:** Photography

**Favorite Chicago pizza:** TBD (but he welcomes input on “this urgent topic”)

# MATTERS OF SCALE



plan to return to Doc when it reopens to catch a movie or two.)

He lived in Shoreland Hall in its first year as student housing, when the building was still mostly apartments—not the typical dorm experience, but one that sparked unlikely friendships between students and longtime residents. The distance from campus “had me traipsing through Hyde Park a lot, and actually, that was really good,” if occasionally perilous. On one wintertime stroll down 55th Street, he took a tumble, “so I looked back to see what the heck I just tripped over, and it was the top of a parking meter poking out of the snow.”

Not until he started the three-part physical chemistry Core sequence did he find his academic home. He loved a course taught by **Stuart Rice**, the Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Chemistry. “As long as he was talking, I felt like I understood everything,” Alivisatos says. “The moment he stopped, it was like, ‘Oh no, now what?’” By his own admission, he was not a top chemistry student—rather, a very enthusiastic one. “It just somehow connected for me all the different ways of thinking that I really liked the most.”

**T**hough late breaking, his passion for chemistry proved to be lasting. As a graduate student at Berkeley, Alivisatos studied how energy is transferred from molecules to solids. That work led him to what he has called “the renowned and somewhat scary Bell Labs,” where he became entranced with nanocrystals—a small number of atoms arranged in a regular, orderly pattern (see “Matters of Scale”). Today his name is nearly synonymous with these ultrasmall structures.

Alivisatos’s affection for his object of study is evident. “These tiny crystals have brought a sense of wonder, not

Paul Alivisatos’s groundbreaking scientific work includes studying the characteristics and behavior of nanocrystals, then designing and building them with a level of control never previously achieved.

But what is a nanocrystal? Smaller than a micron, these organized and structured clusters of atoms punch far above their weight in technology and industry.

The value and versatility of nanocrystals are owed in part to their size. The appearance and behavior of a substance—density, color, melting point, conductivity—depend on chemical composition, but at very small scales, that same substance acts differently. Nanoscale crystals have distinctive electrical, optical, structural, thermodynamic, and magnetic properties.

Consider nanocrystals in geometric terms. Shrink a box to half its size; the smaller box now has relatively more surface area compared to volume. Similarly, compared to a large-scale crystal, a nanocrystal has a higher percentage of its atoms on the surface, creating more opportunity for exposure to or contact with other materials and thereby changing the nanocrystal’s chemical reactivity. Surface atoms also have fewer bonds than those in the interior and are easier to dislodge, which leads to the crystal melting. The smaller the crystal, the more weakly held surface atoms, the lower the melting point.

Nanocrystals are also subject to something called the quantum size effect, which Alivisatos compares to a museum exhibit where a ball is launched into a curved funnel. The ball travels sluggishly around the wide funnel mouth but picks up speed as it spirals down the narrow pipe. Electrons move in a nanocrystal like the ball in the funnel pipe, with higher kinetic energy. These high-energy electrons require even more energy to be excited, and when they come back down to ground state, the size of the crystal determines the color of the light emitted. This property is particularly relevant in semiconductor materials, which are essential to electronics.

Understanding how nanoscopic matter behaves was a critical prerequisite to creating precise structures with exquisite control. Alivisatos’s team developed methods to consistently synthesize semiconductor nanocrystals—or quantum dots—to specific sizes and shapes for applications including biological imaging, renewable energy, and ultra-efficient LED displays. With colleagues, Alivisatos has also developed advanced nanoscale visualization technology in the form of a special type of electron microscope that allows chemists to observe nanocrystals at atomic resolution as they grow and dissolve, and to locate the exact position of every atom.—*M. S.*



HE KNOWS FOR HIS VISION TO BE REALIZED, "IT'S GOT TO BE A COLLECTIVE PROJECT."

A homecoming: Alivisatos strolls through his old College stomping grounds with a new generation of students.

just to me, but also to thousands of scientists and engineers from around the world who study them," he wrote in an essay accepting the 2021 Priestley Medal from the American Chemical Society.

His research on nanocrystals is widely recognized for its significance to academia and industry. In an interview with *Chemical and Engineering News*, Mostafa El-Sayed of the Georgia Institute of Technology said Alivisatos's work has led to "fundamental understanding and chemical tools that are used by thousands of researchers and companies worldwide."

In the early 2000s, his lab's success in fabricating a particular type of nanocrystal brought lots of attention from other scientists who wanted to know how they were pulling it off. "And I would just say, 'Hey, come to Berkeley, come to our lab, we'll show you,'" Alivisatos recalls. "And one day I came back to my lab, and my colleague said, 'This is it, we're done, you may not invite another person because we can't get any work done. We're spending all of our time sharing what we know.'"

In hopes of developing a more efficient way to spread knowledge, Alivisatos became the first director of the Molecular Foundry, a facility at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory created to share nanoscience methods. It was an early taste of academic leadership, and "it totally changed my life," he says, by providing a model for what he's tried to do since: help others advance, and learn from them in the process.

From there, Alivisatos's rise was swift and steady: in 2008 he became deputy director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory—like Argonne and Fermilab, part of the US Department of Energy's national laboratory system—under Steven Chu. When Chu left to join President Barack Obama's cabinet as US Secretary of Energy, Alivisatos stepped up. Five years later, he became Berkeley's executive vice chancellor and provost, serving as deputy to Chancellor Carol Christ.

As he took on new responsibilities, Alivisatos never abandoned the little nanocrystal. Through feats of time management, the Alivisatos Group remained active while he was Berkeley's provost. (Alivisatos is attentive to his use of time, periodically creating pie charts to see how he's allocating it and making adjustments as needed.)

At UChicago he plans to continue his research; he is also the John D. MacArthur Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Chemistry, the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering (PME), and the College. "I view it as really being a part of the community, so I can be an effective president," he said at Alumni Weekend.

During his first week, he still held a regularly scheduled drop-in meeting for researchers in his group. Postdoctoral scholar Jamali assumed it would be canceled, "but no, he had that hour for us, and we talked to him about science, and it was great. ... That's just who he is."

"He's still very much a professor,"

agrees **Matt Tirrell**, PME's dean, who has known Alivisatos for about 15 years. Because Alivisatos has remained engaged in the practice of science, "he knows what professors are trying to do and how they do it and the tools and resources they need."

**A**livisatos is acutely aware that he's arriving at a strange moment for UChicago and the world. COVID-19 upended everyone's life, including his own. (During the early months of the pandemic, Alivisatos and his wife, Nicole, formed a pod with their two adult daughters, allowing the family to weather the crisis together.)

Yet he's in awe of the resilience he witnessed, at Berkeley and beyond: "Even as we were pulled apart into our little Zoom boxes, into flatland, these versions of exile, what's so amazing to me is how human beings found a way to connect."

The impulse to seek connection and collaboration is one Alivisatos feels strongly, both as a researcher and a leader. He has said repeatedly that his first job as president will be to listen—to students, faculty, alumni, staff, and South Siders—and work together. Even before he officially took office, he was scheduling meetings with stakeholders across the institution, trying to understand the University community's hopes and needs. He knows for his vision to be realized, "it's got to be a collective project."

He can't do it alone. More to the point, he wouldn't want to. ♦

# CHANGE AGENT

*Remembering Hugo Sonnenschein, 1940–2021.*

BY MARY ABOWD

**A**fter stepping down as the University of Chicago’s 11th president in June 2000, Hugo Sonnenschein was asked by this publication to reflect on his tenure. In characteristic style, he didn’t mince words: “The hardest situations are the ones where there isn’t easy agreement,” he replied, “where there may be a need to do something that may not be popular. And you’re the one who has to say, ‘Do it.’”

Sonnenschein, the Charles L. Hutchinson Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in Economics, died July 15, at age 80. He is remembered for a decisive approach to governance during his seven years as president, a period in the ’90s when the University grappled with addressing financial challenges while preserving its intellectual identity.

That was the “practical challenge” he faced, says **Geoffrey R. Stone**, JD’71, the Edward H. Levi Distinguished Service Professor of Law, who served as provost during Sonnenschein’s presidency. “Hugo was really quite remarkable in his demand to know the facts, to understand the facts, and to do what was necessary to preserve the excellence of the University.”

An economist who had come to Chicago after serving as provost at Princeton University, Sonnenschein laid out the facts as he saw them in a famous letter to faculty dated April 30, 1996. “Our smaller number of undergraduate alumni has led over time to fewer contributors to the University and fewer

dollars for the endowment,” he wrote. “A structure in which tuition does not cover salaries and in which endowment does not grow at a robust rate is not sustainable over the long term.”

Sonnenschein proposed an aggressive plan to enlarge the undergraduate College by 1,000 students over a period of 10 years. In 1998 the Council of the University Senate agreed to the expansion while making recommendations to ensure no loss of educational rigor. Later that year Sonnenschein approved reducing the number of required courses in the College’s legendary Core curriculum to allow for more electives and study abroad opportunities.

Both moves were perceived by some as watering down academic standards—and the school’s niche identity—in a bid to attract more applicants. The curriculum change, in particular, hit a nerve. A firestorm erupted among students, alumni, and faculty. Critics feared that, in restructuring the University, its founding identity as a graduate-oriented institution—a true research university—would be in peril.

**John W. Boyer**, AM’69, PhD’75, dean of the College since 1992 and a historian of the University (and of empires), likens the period to a sort of “revolution.” The process of amending the Core from 21 to 15 credits, plus a foreign language requirement—“very tough but still very effective,” Boyer says—took four years and endless meetings. “Hundreds of meetings. Big meetings, small meetings, proposals, and counterproposals,” he recalls. “It was like marking up major

legislation, like getting the Affordable Care Act passed through Congress.”

Through it all, Sonnenschein—described by those who knew him as soft-spoken and unflappable—stayed the course. Stone says, “Hugo basically took the view that, I have to do the right thing for the University, that’s my responsibility. If it creates flak for me, I’ll deal with it.”

While conflict swirled, Sonnenschein wrapped up a \$676 million capital campaign, the largest in the University’s history at the time, and instituted the first campus master-planning process in 30 years. He invested heavily in enhancements to undergraduate student life, from career support to dance studios, and more than doubled the University’s endowment.

Over the past two decades Sonnenschein’s key changes were adopted and expanded by succeeding administrations. The shifts still have their critics, Stone acknowledges. “I think you would find faculty members who would say this is not the same university,” he says. “In some sense they’re right, but we couldn’t have kept that—that was the problem.” The College, which now numbers about 7,000 students (almost double what it was in 1996), is hotly sought after by top high school seniors and has an acceptance rate that’s gone from 77 percent when Sonnenschein took office to just over 6 percent today.

**H**ugo Freund Sonnenschein was born November 14, 1940, in Brooklyn. His mother died when he was very young, and he was raised by his aunt, who, he later recalled, “cared about what I would become and valued education.” In 1961 he earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from the University of Rochester, where he met his future wife, Elizabeth Gunn. The two married in 1962 and had three daughters: Leah, Amy, and Rachel.



Illustration by Daniel Hertzberg

While at Rochester, Sonnenschein discovered a paper on “social choice” and the work of Kenneth Arrow, which ignited his love of economics. He rocketed through his graduate studies. By the time he was 23, he had completed his doctorate in economics at Purdue University.

His brilliance was apparent early on, says Sonnenschein’s colleague and former doctoral student **Philip J. Reny**, the Hugo F. Sonnenschein Distinguished Service Professor in Economics and the College. “Hugo’s approach to consumer choice theory has since become a standard in the field,” and the effects of his

most stunning and important result—the Sonnenschein-Mantel-Debreu theorem—“ripple through economic theory to this day.”

Sonnenschein taught economics at several universities, including Northwestern and Princeton. In 1988 he became dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania before returning to Princeton as provost in 1991. Reny, his doctoral student at Princeton during the 1980s, recalls a gifted and gregarious mentor whose “office hours” often took the form of a walk across campus to get ice cream.

Sonnenschein was an equally talented lecturer. In one particularly memorable presentation, he performed a sort of dance to demonstrate subtleties in consumer preference relations. Crouching in the corner of the lecture hall, he used elegant sweeping motions of his hands and arms to trace the surfaces of two indifference maps as he rose and moved toward the center of the room. “The distinction instantly became clear to me,” Reny recalls.

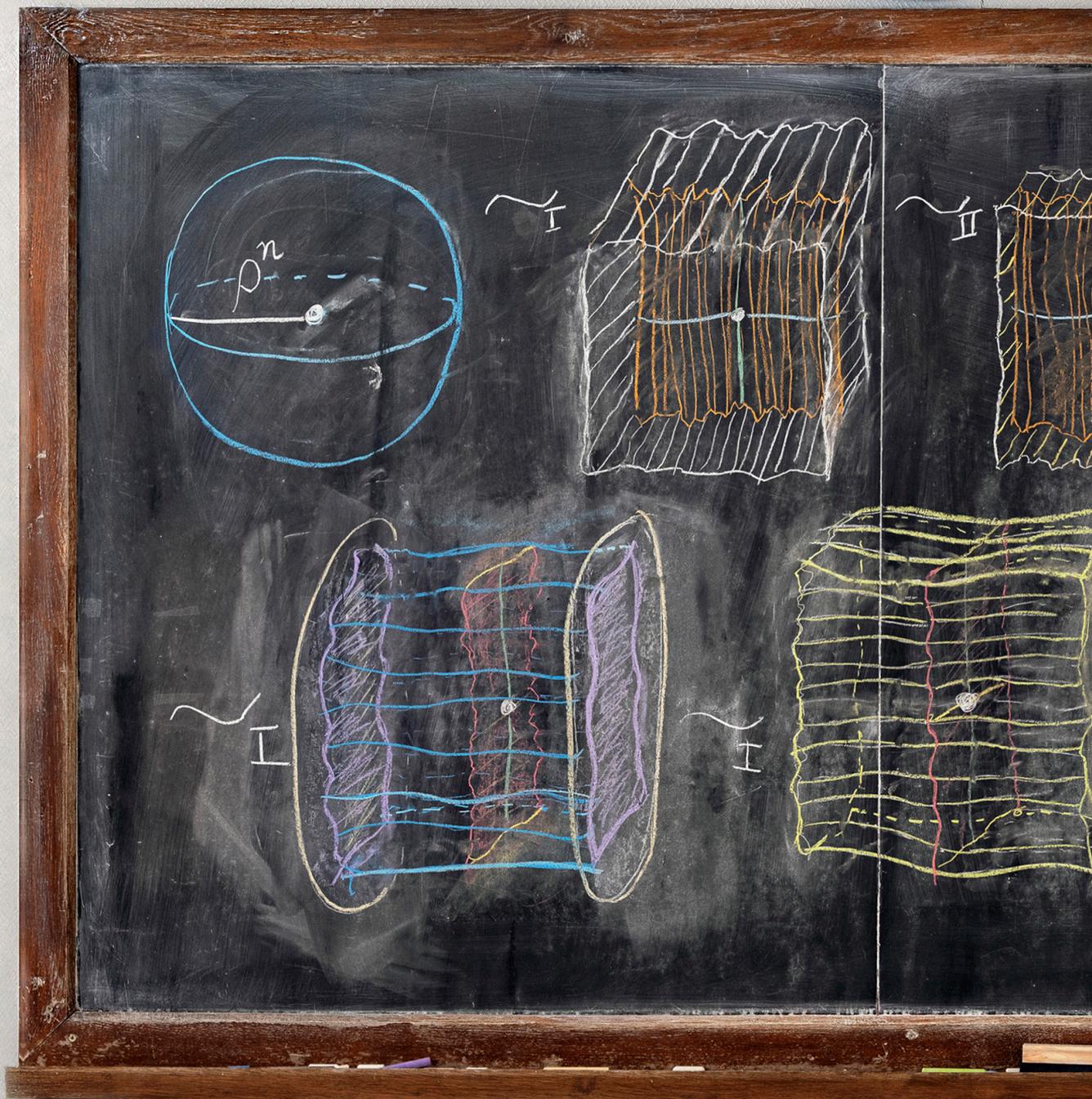
That gift for connecting with students continued during Sonnenschein’s presidency. “One day he and I were talking about how to engage the undergraduates in a more natural way, instead of ceremonial visits to dorms,” Boyer recalls. Sonnenschein, a cyclist, suggested a bike ride.

Fifty students showed up and cycled with the University president and dean of the College seven miles up the lakeshore. “Hugo didn’t look so presidential in his bike helmet and gloves,” Boyer muses, “and we said to ourselves, ‘we’re not sure William Rainey Harper would have done this.’” But the outing was a success and set the tone for the president’s easy, informal style.

After Sonnenschein’s presidency and a yearlong sabbatical, he resumed his teaching and research in the economics department. Soon after, the department chair stepped down. When volunteers to fill the post were not forthcoming, Sonnenschein raised his hand.

“I don’t know that many individuals would be able to go from university president to department chair,” Reny says. Sonnenschein was not only happy to perform this “selfless act,” he recalls, but “did it with such grace, purpose, and with a genuine spirit to help others.” ♦

**Mary Abowd is a writer and editor based in Columbus, Ohio, and formerly worked in the University of Chicago News Office.**



MATHEMATICS

# BOARD WORK

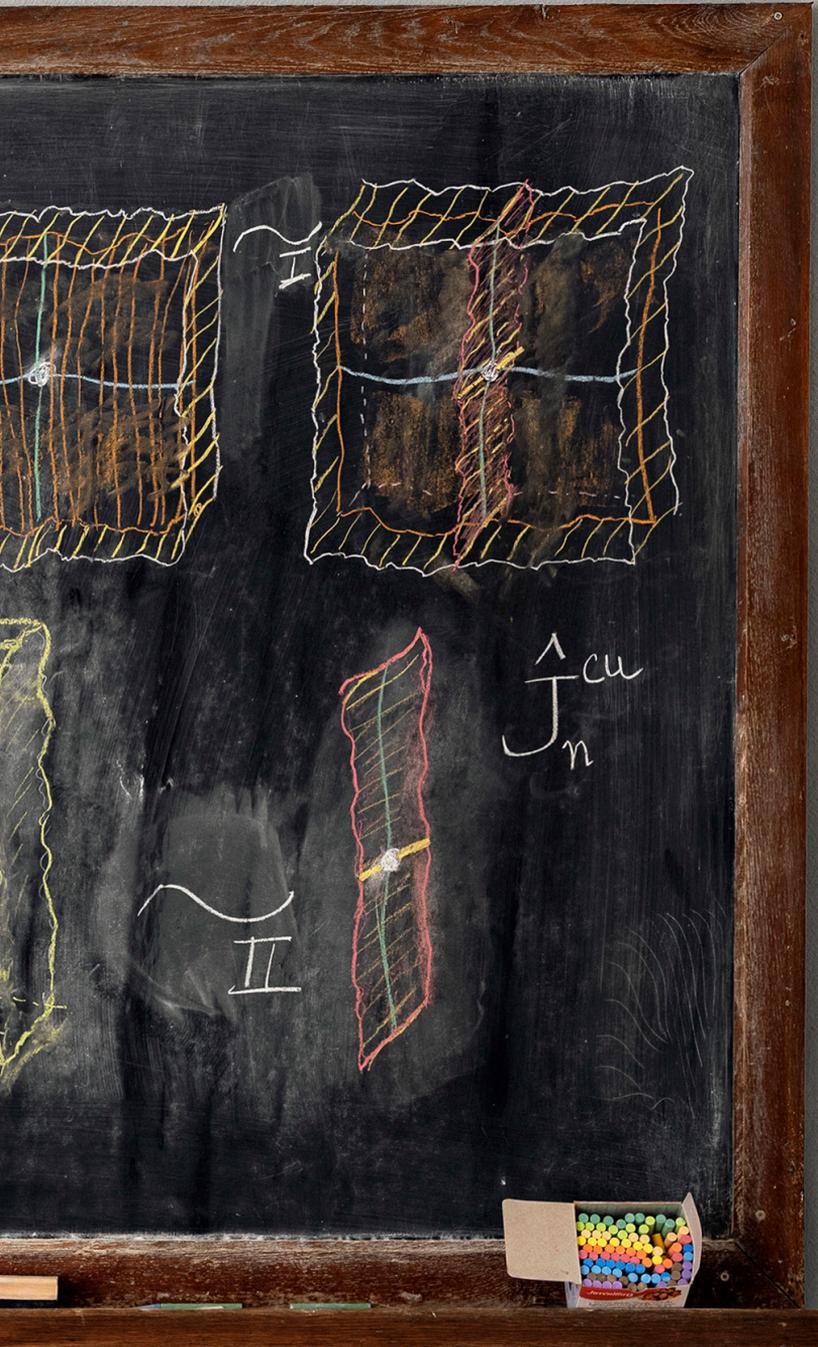
*A photographer captures the beauty of mathematicians' chalk experiments.*

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA WYNNE

**Amie Wilkinson**

*Professor of Mathematics,  
University of Chicago*

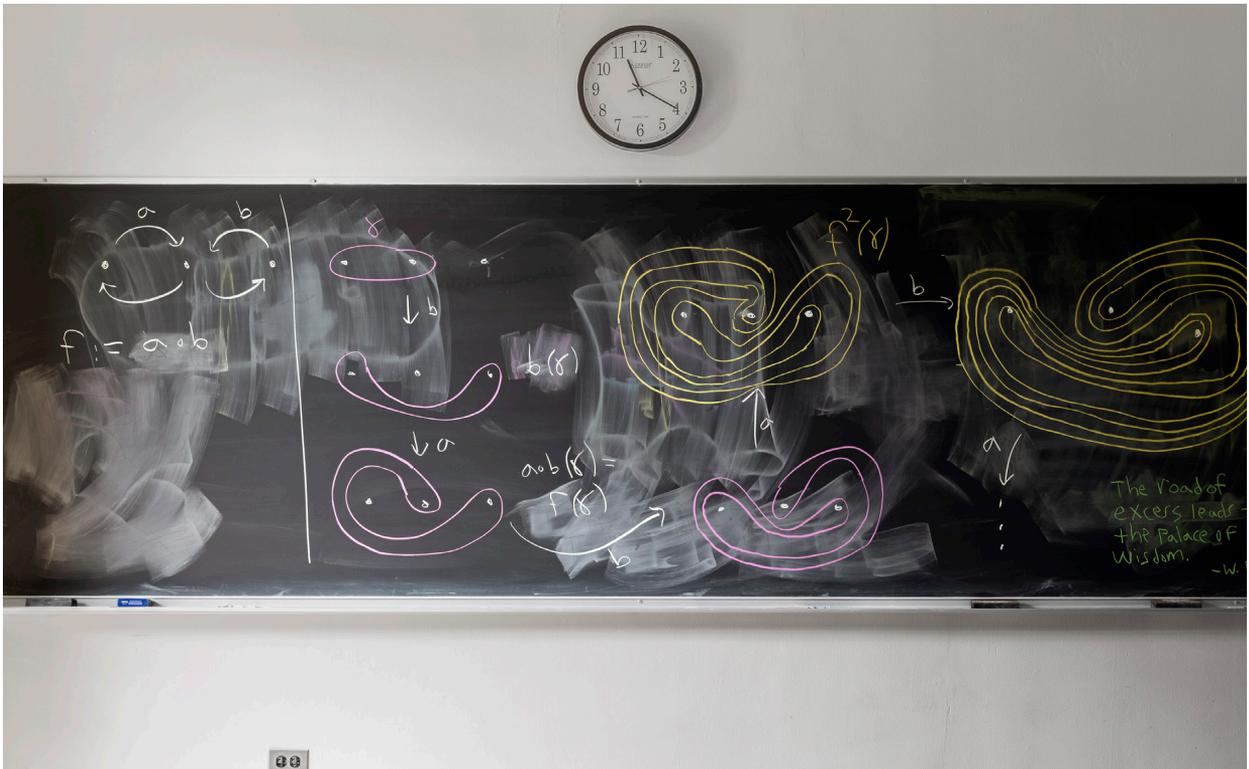
“On this blackboard is a central argument in a paper I wrote with Keith Burns (professor of mathematics, Northwestern University) about a mechanism for chaotic dynamics. It depicts a sequence of shapes that, in a precise sense, are equivalent to each other, starting with a spherical ball and ending with something called a julienne, named for its resemblance to a thinly sliced vegetable. We are proud of this paper; as Keith likes to say, a good paper has one truly new idea, and this one has two.”



## Benson Farb

Professor of Mathematics, University of Chicago

“The main tool that most of us use to communicate our ideas is the chalkboard. ... A computer doesn’t help much with 40,000 dimensions, but on a blackboard, I can work up a schematic of the situation, explaining it in real time to a student or collaborator. She can jump up and start writing on the board during my explanation, amending my computations, noting possible problems, unwrapping some equation into a flurry of computations of her own. Doing this dance at the blackboard with someone is an intense, frustrating, energizing, and sometimes moving experience.”



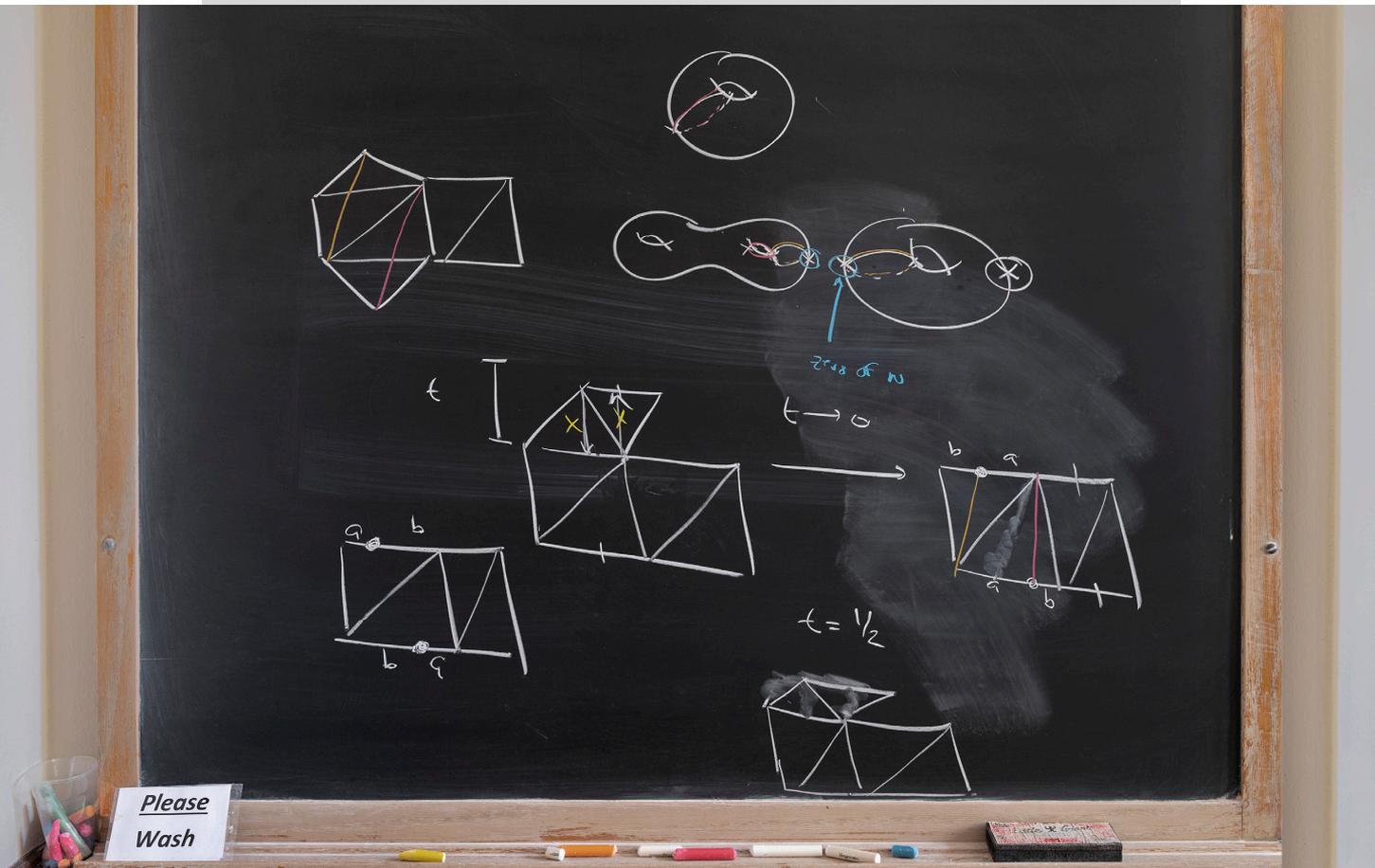
**A**rtists have paintbrushes and canvas, carpenters have hammers and wood; for mathematicians, the tools of the trade have long been a blackboard and a slender cylinder of chalk (preferably Hagoromo, the cult-favorite Japanese brand celebrated in the profession for its durability and lack of dust).

“The boards are their homes, their labs, their private thinking spaces,” writes photographer Jessica Wynne in the introduction to *Do Not Erase: Mathematicians and Their Chalkboards* (Princeton University Press, 2021). The book features 110 images of chalk-based investigations by mathematicians around the world—several affiliated with UChicago, as shown in these pages—alongside their reflections on blackboards as a medium.

**Paul Apisa**, SM'14, PhD'18

Donald J. Lewis Research Assistant Professor,  
University of Michigan

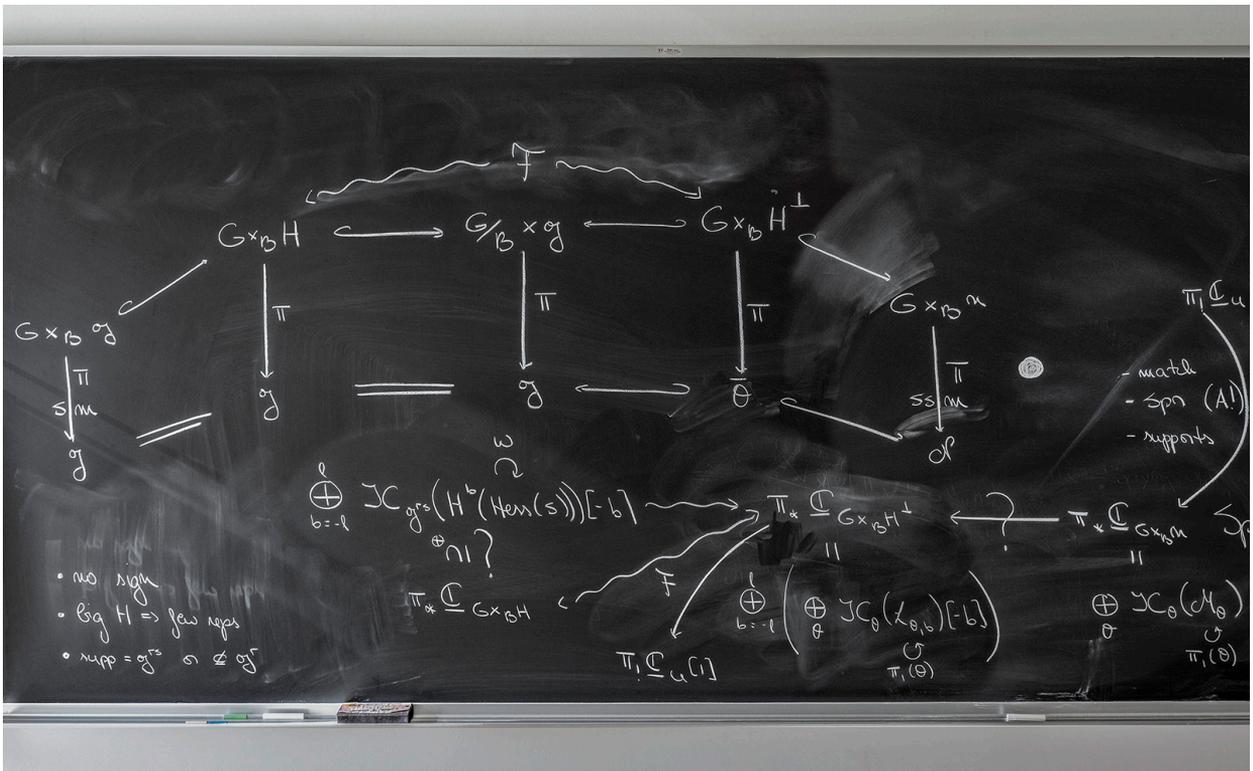
“There are two axioms I would like to throw out that I imagine few people will object to: first, mathematics can be complicated; and second, humans think slowly—or, to make the second axiom less grandiose, I think slowly.



... A virtue of chalk, and talks that use it, is that it checks the Icarian desire of a speaker to communicate too much, heedless of the capacity of the listeners to comprehend. But perhaps the most important virtue of chalk is that it enables bad drawings. ... It forces you to draw cartoons that only capture the essential features of a complex system and forces you to think about exactly what those features are.”

**Ana Balibanu, SM'13, PhD'17**  
*Benjamin Peirce Fellow, Harvard University*

“This chalkboard has a schematic outline of a project about a family of geometric objects called Hessenberg varieties. An individual Hessenberg variety can be very complicated—inscrutable, even. Instead, we have to consider all possible Hessenberg varieties together and understand the relationships between them. Their geometry then becomes clear through the way they interact. The diagrams on the board map out these interactions. ... The lists are speculations about which direction the results might take. (In hindsight, some of them are true and some of them are not.) The board is a snapshot of an exciting moment in the project—there are many uncertainties, but also many possibilities.”



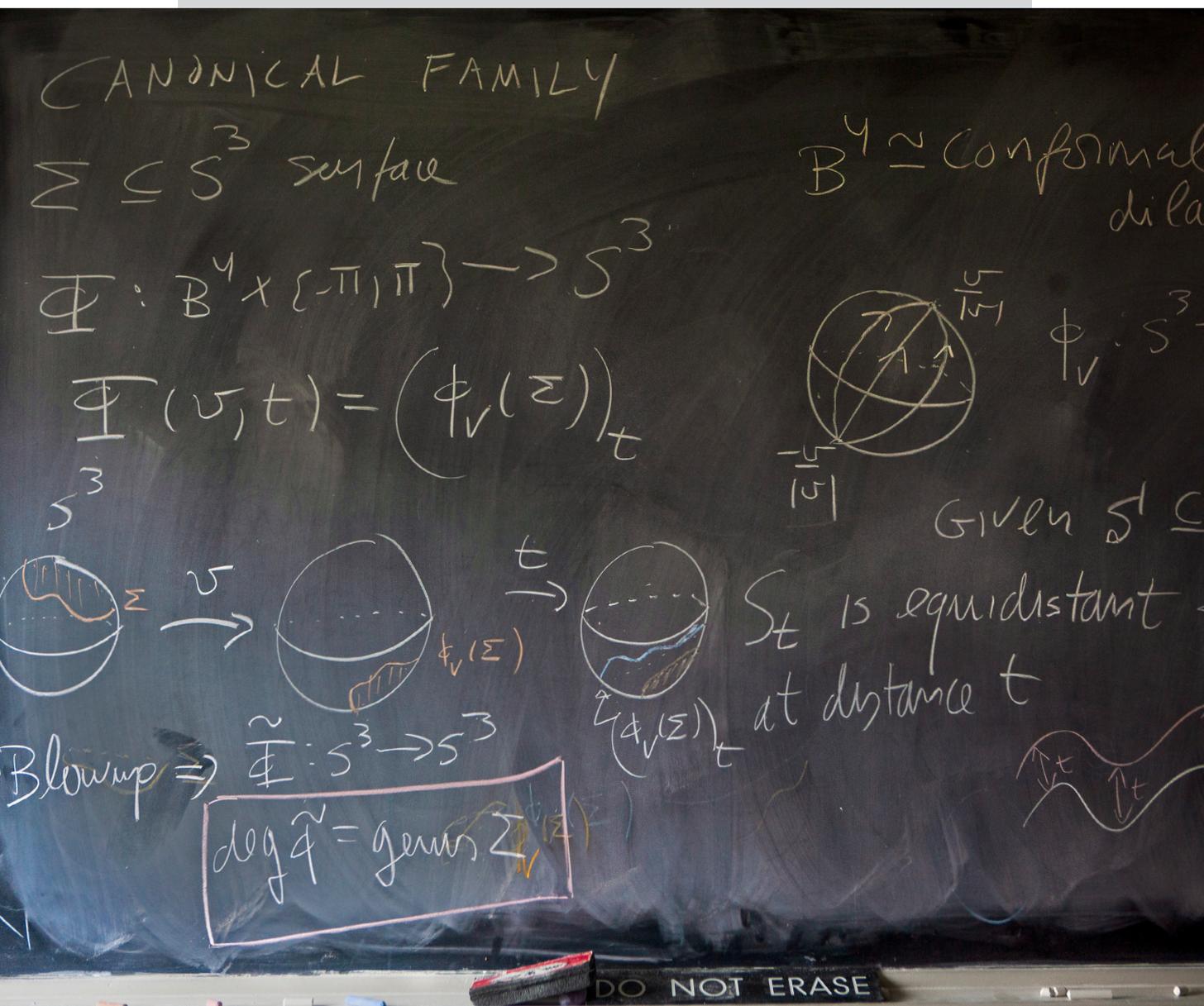
The project was sparked by married UChicago mathematicians **Amie Wilkinson** and **Benson Farb**, Wynne’s neighbors each summer on Cape Cod. One afternoon Wynne watched Farb at the dining room table jotting notes on paper (any port in a storm) and puzzling over symbols, drawings, and equations whose significance she couldn’t discern. Not understanding the notes made them feel more intriguing—like a glimpse into a secret world.

This memory returned to her as she reviewed a series of photos she’d taken in Jaipur, India, of lessons in Hindi inscribed on chalkboards at a local school. To her eyes the images had the same elegant, impenetrable quality as Farb’s calculations. Wynne began writing to mathematicians at institutions near her New York City home, seeking permission to photograph their chalkboards. They could share new or completed projects; her only rule was no whiteboards or glass.

**André Neves**

*Professor of Mathematics, University of Chicago*

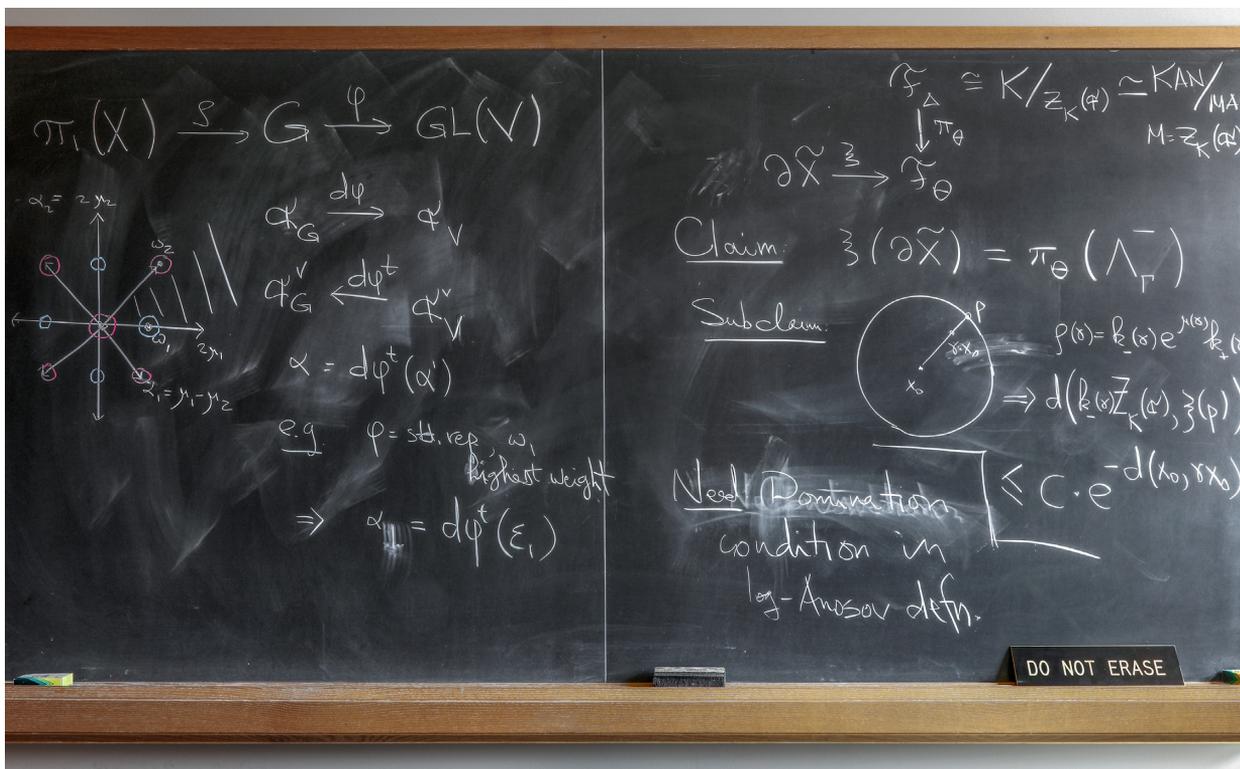
“The work on this blackboard was developed in part with my collaborator, Fernando Codá Marques, during a Thanksgiving dinner in Palo Alto in 2011. My wife and our soon-to-be three-year-old daughter and newborn son enjoyed the party while Fernando and I obsessed over the Willmore conjecture, a well-known problem that proposes what ought to be the ‘optimal’ shape among all doughnut-like shapes. Geometers love to think about these kinds of questions.”



**Simion Filip, SM'12, PhD'16**

Associate Professor of Mathematics, University of Chicago

“The blackboard is an active space, ready to change and willing to carry any thought. It doesn’t have the restricting linear quality of a written text, and it allows the user to organize the material according to its natural, spatial characteristics. Compared with writing on a page, the blackboard invites wider gestures and larger symbols. The broader physical space makes it psychologically satisfying to work on a blackboard.”



The mathematicians’ research itself remained mysterious to Wynne, but she came to see a connection between their work and hers. “They have a heightened aesthetic awareness, distinct styles and ways of using chalk, just like a visual artist,” she writes in *Do Not Erase*. “Some of the formulas are intensely chaotic, with explosive energy, while others feel neat, quiet, serene, and carefully considered.”

For all these individual differences, she was

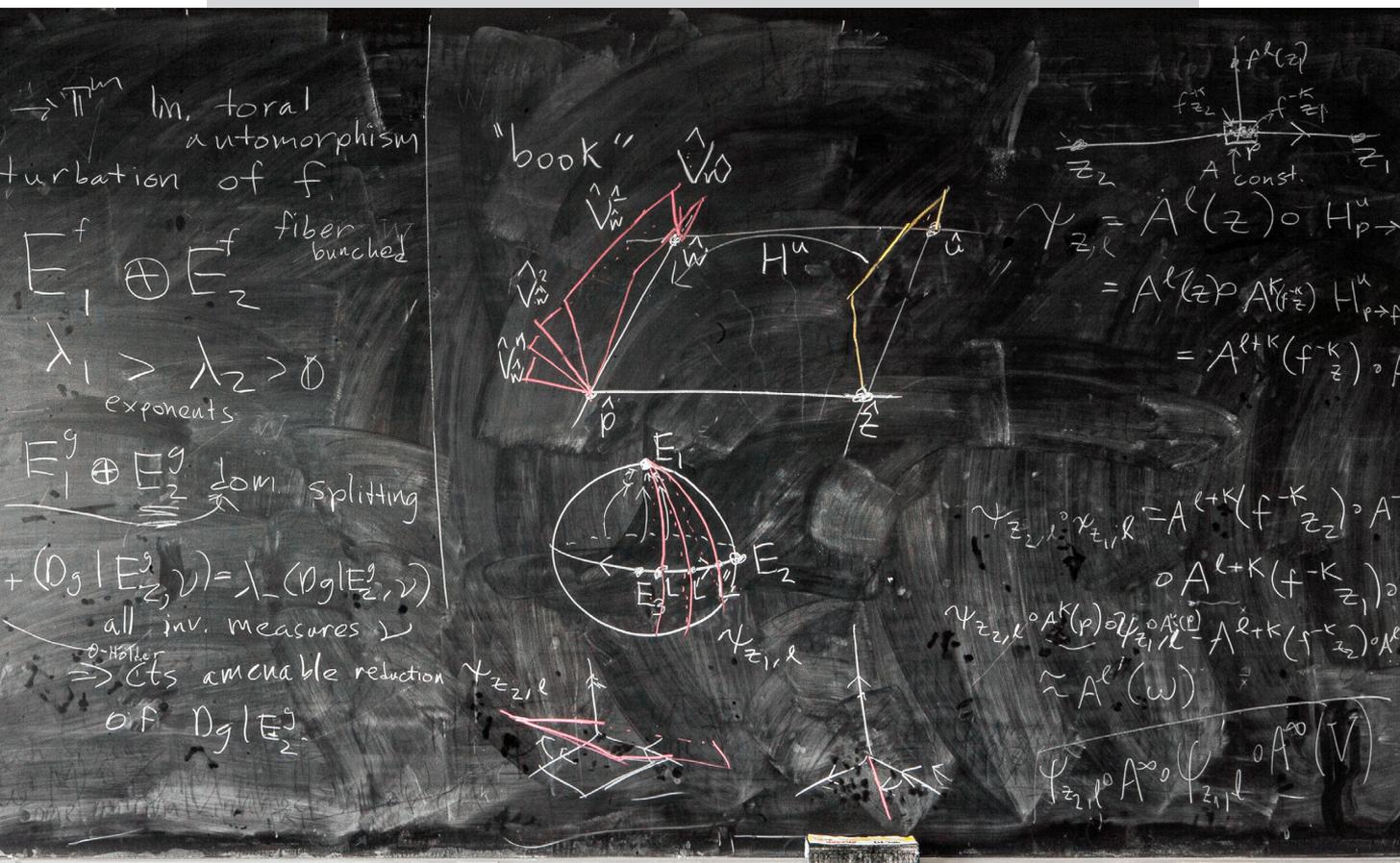
also struck by deep similarities as she took photos in the United States, Europe, and South America: math is the same everywhere, a common language pointing toward universal truth.

*Do Not Erase* attracted more participants than she expected, and Wynne found she rarely had to explain to her subjects why she was interested. “The mathematicians universally got it,” she says. “Their reaction was, basically, ‘Of course math is beautiful.’” ♦

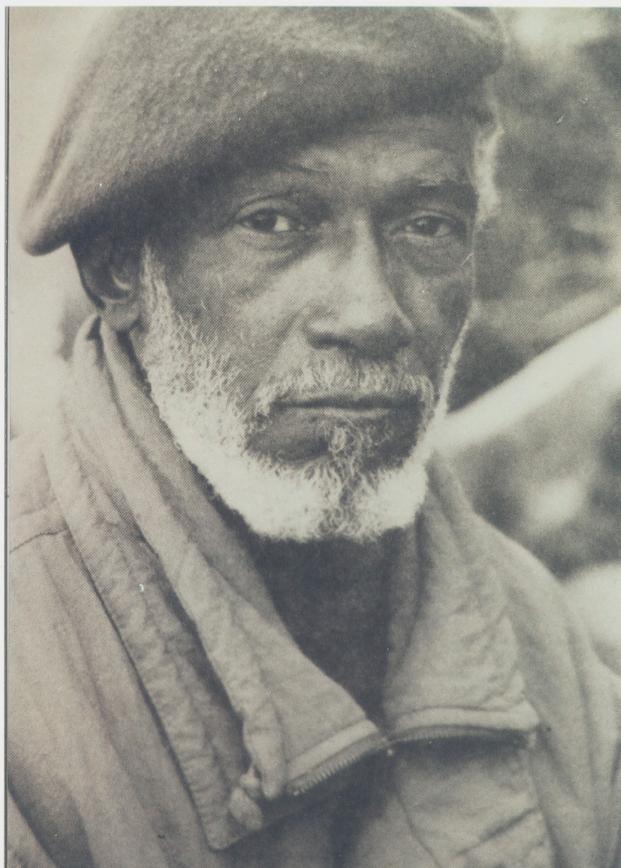
**Clark Butler**, SM'14, PhD'18  
 Veblen Research Instructor,  
 Princeton University

“The blackboard depicted here was created during discussions with Jairo Bochi, a mathematician working at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. The left side shows some motivating discussion for the problem that we were considering. The right side is a collection of equations governing the phenomenon we were studying. The middle is a visualization we created that shows these equations in motion. We noted that it looks something like the pages of a book being flipped around its spine. ...

I think non-mathematicians would be surprised how concrete our thinking is, and how many analogies we draw to everyday objects and experiences.”



LEGACY



# UNDERCOVER MAN

*Sam Greenlee, EX'57 (1930–2014), distinguished himself as a Foreign Service Officer, then found his true mission as a radical writer.*

**BY ANDREW PEART, AM'16, PHD'18**

Photo courtesy Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation, River Campus Libraries, University of Rochester

Author Sam Greenlee, EX'57 (shown here in an undated photo), cowrote and coproduced the 1973 film adaptation of his signature novel, *The Spook Who Sat by the Door*.

**S**am Greenlee described the title of his first and best-known novel, *The Spook Who Sat by the Door*, as more than just a double entendre. The 1969 thriller, about the first Black agent recruited to the Central Intelligence Agency, gives titular hero Dan Freeman a moniker familiar as both a racial epithet (“because we’re supposed to be scared of ghosts,” Greenlee said) and a slang term for intelligence agents (“because they’re supposed to be invisible”). But his sardonic wordplay, Greenlee insisted, had a third layer of meaning: “that an armed revolution by Black people haunts White America, and has for centuries.”

Greenlee, EX'57, wrote the best-selling novel—which later became a cult-classic film—after spending eight years in the US Foreign Service. In his tale of subversive infiltration, the protagonist enters the CIA through a racial integration program launched at the behest of a US senator with an ulterior political motive: to shore up reelection support from Black voters. The statesman finds “a fresh, dramatic and headline-capturing act,” Greenlee writes, in castigating the CIA for having no Black officers. When the agency institutes a special training program for prospective Black officers and Freeman becomes the lone recruit to make it through the course, he is named chief of the top secret reproduction section, a glorified clerical position.

Playing the part expected of him, he rises to the rank of special assistant to the director, with the responsibility “to be black and conspicuous”—that is, to sit by the door—“as the integrated Negro of the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States of America.” Secretly, Freeman is becoming “the best undercover man the CIA had.”

He gathers intelligence and acquires experience that he ultimately takes back to his native Chicago, where he resumes his career in social work as a cover for the plan he’s had all along: to organize the city’s street gang members into a force he hopes will stoke a countrywide militant uprising.

“If the idea makes you pale,” wrote a *Chicago Sun-Times* reviewer in 1969, “you are probably pale to begin with.”

Though his novel no doubt shocked some audiences, Greenlee seems to have been neither subversive when he belonged to the Foreign Service nor secretive about his attitudes when he left. He served with distinction in the

**I’VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE. THESE PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN ME EXACTLY WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT BLACK PEOPLE.**

US Information Agency from 1957 to 1965, one of the first Black officials in the USIA.

Over time he grew disenchanted with Foreign Service work and wanted to pursue writing full time. When the US State Department canceled a tour by Duke Ellington, deeming “hot jazz” inappropriate for the planned concerts honoring slain president John F. Kennedy, the catalyst was set. “I said, ‘I’ve got to get out of here,’” Greenlee remembered. “These people have shown me exactly what they think about Black people.”

Still, the self-described former propagandist took from his government

service what he called “intensive training” for his work to come as a novelist and filmmaker. On leave in Chicago in 1965, he watched as the Watts riots broke out in Los Angeles and thought, based on his service overseas, that such rebellions were bellwethers of more organized revolutionary activity.

After leaving the USIA, Greenlee and his Dutch-born first wife, Nienke “Nina” de Jonge Greenlee, moved to the Greek island of Mykonos, where he wrote *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* in one summer. He sustained his writing life in Greece for a period in the 1960s partly by going to mainland clubs and singing the blues for tips.

That was one skill Greenlee had picked up at home rather than abroad. Born on Chicago’s South Side in 1930, Greenlee grew up in the Washington Park and Woodlawn neighborhoods. His mother was a dancer, singer, and actress; his father worked on the Santa Fe Railroad and was later maître d’ at the Cliff Dwellers Club. Greenlee’s neighborhood around 63rd Street and St. Lawrence Avenue was a “striver’s community,” he told the HistoryMakers oral history project in 2001. “It was understood that I would get an education,” Greenlee said. And, because his family couldn’t afford to send him to college, “it was taken for granted that I would figure out some way to do it on my own.”

Greenlee attended the University of Wisconsin–Madison on a partial track and cross-country scholarship, graduating with a degree in political science in 1952. At a Stagg Field track meet, UChicago track coach Edward “Ted” Haydon, LAB’29, PhB’33, AM’54, suggested that he apply for graduate school and run track at the University. Greenlee studied international relations in the Social Sciences Division from 1954 to 1957. While in Washington, DC, and looking for a government job to support him while he finished up



his graduate thesis on Vladimir Lenin, he was recruited to a junior officer training program that led him to the US Information Agency. “A year later I was caught up in the Baghdad revolution,” Greenlee said, “and writing a thesis was the last thing on my mind.”

At the University of Chicago, Greenlee had reveled in the intellectual pluralism of the campus culture. The University in the mid-1950s, as Greenlee remembered it, “had an almost equal group of right-wingers and leftists. And we were constantly clashing. It was marvelous for that reason,” he said. “You know, to be exposed to the total spectrum of political thought.”

Tenacity in the midst of clashing viewpoints prepared Greenlee well for the battles ahead over *The Spook Who Sat by the Door*. Between 1966 and 1969, the novel was turned down more than 40 times by publishers. Unable to find an American publisher willing to go near the incendiary subject matter, Greenlee had better luck in London. Allison & Busby, an upstart indepen-

dent press cofounded by the Ghanaian-born British editor Margaret Busby, released the novel in a 1969 UK edition that made the best-seller lists and earned book-of-the-year mentions in two of London’s major newspapers.

The book’s success in London brought it to the attention of New York City publisher Richard W. Baron, who issued an American edition under his own imprint later in 1969. For critics, the book was dynamite—in more

senses than one. “The reader should be cautioned to remember this is a work of fiction and not a statement of fact,” read a favorable review in the *LA Sentinel*.

Hollywood seemed like the next logical step. “I knew it was going to be a flick up front,” Greenlee said of the novel in 1976. He teamed up with actor and director Ivan Dixon to adapt *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* for the screen. Unsuccessful in convincing anyone in the Hollywood establishment to help finance the film, Greenlee and Dixon went grassroots and found backers in the Black community, raising as much as \$850,000, mainly from independent investors. The remainder of their \$1 million budget came from United Artists, who agreed to distribute the film.

Greenlee served as coproducer and cowrote the screenplay. Dixon, known for his roles in 1964’s *Nothing but a Man* and the sitcom *Hogan’s Heroes*, directed. The filmmakers commissioned a funky synthesizer-heavy soundtrack from Herbie Hancock, who knew Greenlee personally from their South Side days.

**TENACITY IN  
THE MIDST  
OF CLASHING  
VIEWPOINTS  
PREPARED  
GREENLEE  
WELL FOR  
THE BATTLES  
AHEAD.**

Everett Collection

In this still from the film, ex-CIA officer Dan Freeman (played by Lawrence Cook, right) goes underground to recruit a guerrilla army from the Cobras street gang, including their leader Do-Daddy Dean (played by Paul Butler, left).

The film's casting director was Pemon Rami, a collaborator of Greenlee's in Chicago's independent Black theater scene who later worked in the casting departments of other locally set films like *Mahogany* and *The Blues Brothers*.

The cast included actors with Hollywood résumés, including the Negro Ensemble Company's Lawrence Cook as Freeman, along with local talent. Rami himself played Shorty Duncan, a young drug dealer whose killing by police sparks an uprising. Illinois Black Panther David Lemieux was working as a busboy at Hyde Park's Chances R when he met Greenlee at the restaurant. He was later cast as Pretty Willie, a prominent member of the Cobras street gang that Freeman recruits for the revolution.

Refused permission to film in the city by Mayor Richard J. Daley, the crew shot most scenes in nearby Gary, Indiana, where Mayor Richard G. Hatcher offered the use of city resources, including the cooperation of the police department for the film's climactic urban uprising scenes. The crew did capture some Chicago footage surreptitiously; viewers see Freeman and members of his guerrilla army at "L" stations along 63rd Street and, with poetic justice, Chicago's City Hall during an explosion sequence.

The film had local flavor and was met with local fanfare. Its official premiere took place in Chicago at the Woods Theatre in the Loop, posting a successful \$62,000 opening weekend there. A week and a half earlier, an audience in Greenlee's Woodlawn neighborhood had a chance to see the film at a benefit opening at the Maryland Theatre on 63rd Street. "It was a full house," casting director Rami recalls. "People were elated. We got standing ovations. It was the talk of the town."

But the film also quickly stirred unease. The *Defender* ran an article



**THEY WOULD SIT THE EXHIBITOR DOWN AND GENTLY TELL HIM THAT THIS FILM WAS DANGEROUS AND COULD CAUSE ALL KINDS OF DIFFICULTIES.**

praising the film as "Greenlee's masterpiece" with a portentous headline: "Will 'Spook' Touch off Race Warfare?" Elsewhere the paper advised the viewer that "one must 'keep his cool'" and take the film as entertainment only. Before long Greenlee and his collaborators began to notice theater exhibitors truncating their runs. The manager of the McVickers The-

ater in the Loop told Greenlee that FBI agents had visited him and encouraged him to pull the film. "They would sit the exhibitor down and gently tell him that this film was dangerous and could cause all kinds of difficulties," Greenlee said. He also heard rumors that agents had pressured United Artists to stifle the film's distribution. *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* had lived up to its name, in Greenlee's view, spooking those in power in the government and the film industry. Soon the film all but vanished from public view.

For the next 30 years, it circulated underground. In addition to periodic screenings at art houses and campuses, *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* gained a larger following through unauthorized home videos that emerged in the 1980s. These bootlegs helped keep the film alive in the public consciousness—and on the radar of interested exhibitors who might show it publicly. Doc Films first screened *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* in the Winter Quarter of 1990 as part of its Black American Cinema series. Four years later, Doc presented the film again with Greenlee as a special guest.

While the film was percolating underground, Greenlee was too. After the original theatrical run ended in 1974, he made his career primarily on the college lecture circuit. *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* was a sensation among students and activists of the Black Power era, and campuses in the 1970s welcomed Greenlee. He published a second thriller, *Baghdad Blues*, with Bantam Books in 1976, drawing from his experiences with the USIA in Iraq during the 1958 revolution.

But around 1980, Greenlee remembered, a generational shift started to mean less student interest in the book and film's militant themes. So he settled in a remote rural area of southern Spain for much of the '80s and '90s—"the

## THERE IS PLENTY OF OTHER WORK BY GREENLEE LEFT TO BE REDISCOVERED, MARKED BOTH BY HIS LOCAL ROOTS AND HIS YEARS ABROAD.

perfect place to work,” he called it—returning to the United States for several years at a time. He churned out poems, novels, stage plays, screenplays, and an autobiography, most still unpublished and unproduced, and several stamped by the author’s musical propensities (like the novels “Djakarta Blues” and “Mykonos Blues,” which form a Foreign Service trilogy with *Baghdad Blues*).

Indeed, Greenlee’s book titles announce a central tenor of his work. “My man is a blues man,” Greenlee remembered his second wife, actress Yvette Hawkins, once saying. Throughout his body of work, Greenlee identified with the segment of society he called the Black urban masses. For **Kenneth Warren**, the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor in English, that sentiment places Greenlee in a major tradition of 20th-century writers, most famously Langston Hughes, who put the culture of ordinary folks at the center of Black literature.

But *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* may have an even deeper pedigree, Warren notes. The literature of Black rebellion extends back to Martin R. Delany’s *Blake, or The Huts of America* (1859, 1861–62), one of the earliest novels by an African American writer. It also includes such works as Sutton E. Griggs’s *Imperium in Imperio* (1899), about a revolutionary secret society striving to set up an independent Black republic in Texas, and George S. Schuyler’s *Black Empire* (1936–38), a more satirical take on the Black nationalist theme. Greenlee himself said the author with whom he felt the closest affinity was detective novelist Chester Himes. Himes’s unfinished novel *Plan B*, published posthumously in the United States in 1993, depicts an armed uprising in Harlem.

Greenlee’s novel rides high astride this tradition, and the secret of its staying power may actually be that its appeal cuts across class positions. For

poet **Angela Jackson**, AM’95, who was a member with Greenlee of Chicago’s Organization of Black American Culture, the novel finds an audience from generation to generation because of the marginalized youth in whom it invests the possibility of social change. “I think the important thing that he’s saying is that young people, who people don’t think of as being valuable parts of our society, can be the ones who can transform our society,” Jackson says.

Meanwhile, Rami observes that the character of Dan Freeman has been a potent model for those in higher social positions. “Yes, it was about a revolutionary,” Rami says. “But more importantly, it was about Black men, specifically, who were in corporate America and had to be everything but themselves, in terms of shadowing what they really, truly felt and what they believed, and then going back and doing things within their own community.” In many corners of popular culture, *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* has become a byword for a certain stealthy subversive energy.

The film, too, has become a classic. A restoration and authorized home video release appeared in 2004. Less than a decade later, the movie joined the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress as one of the country’s “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant” films. Behind that achievement was possibly a different kind of stealthy act: Greenlee’s collaborator Ivan Dixon had given preservationists a chance to recover a film

many seem to have wanted lost when he put the negative into storage under a false name, keeping it undercover.

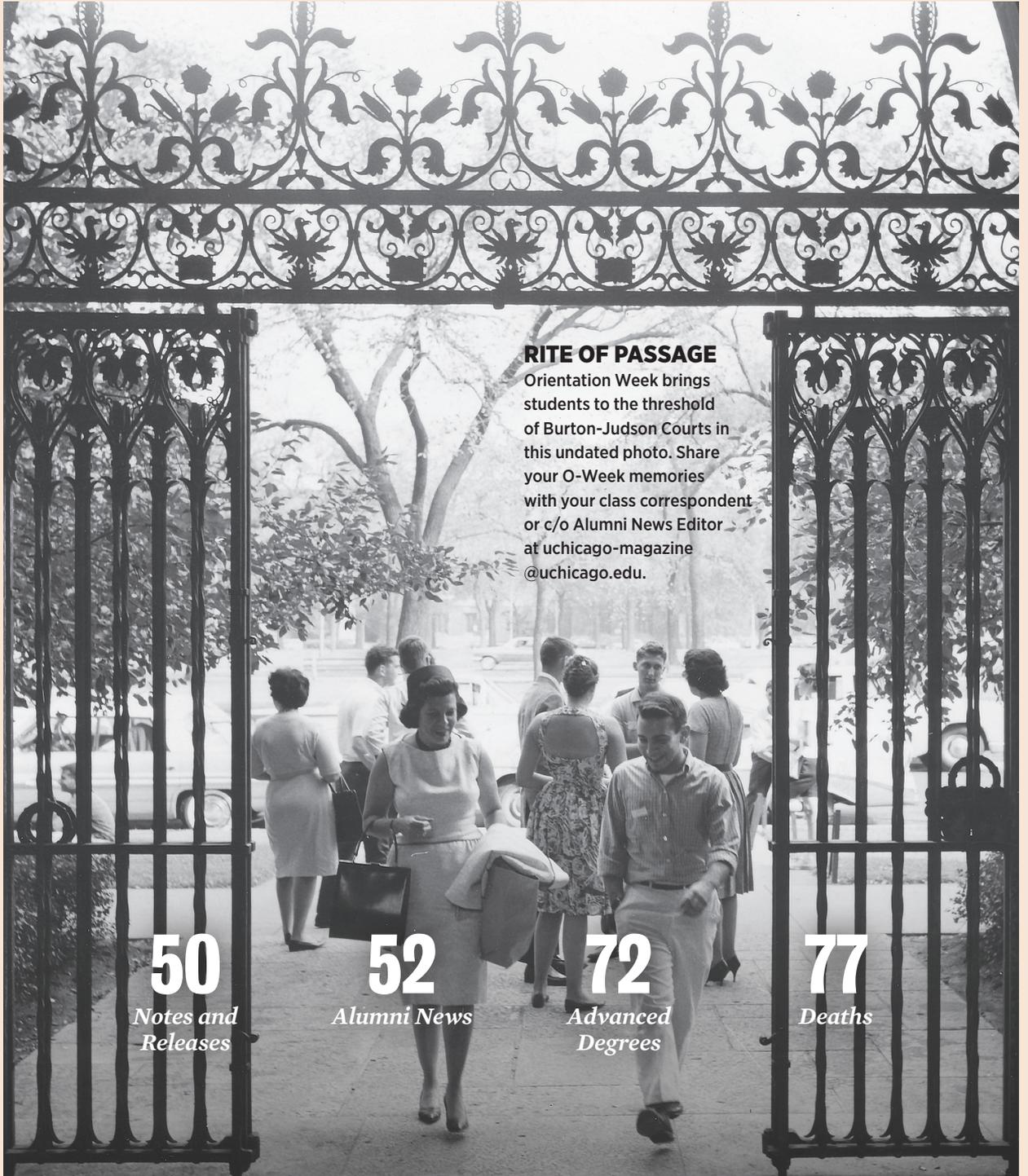
There is plenty of other work by Greenlee left to be rediscovered, marked both by his local roots and his years abroad. The plays he wrote in Spain include *Lisa Trotter*, an adaptation of *Lysistrata* set in Chicago’s Robert Taylor Homes. The only play of Greenlee’s ever staged, *South Side Blues*, was done as a small community production. Meanwhile, *The Spook Who Sat by the Door* is bound to attract a new generation of fans through an upcoming television adaptation on FX.

Greenlee was a man who gave up studying international relations at UChicago for a life of international travels, but familiar places mattered to him, says Natiki Montano-Pressley, Greenlee’s daughter from a long relationship with actress and dancer Maxine McCrey. Even overseas, in the varied locales that inspired the far-flung settings of his works, Greenlee would return to places where he had found comfort, meaning, or a sentimental connection.

Chief among those places, Chicago remained his home port. Greenlee lived his final years back in Woodlawn, near 62nd Street and Kenwood Avenue, and kept local establishments like Daley’s Restaurant and Jimmy’s Woodlawn Tap on his rounds, according to Rami, Greenlee’s friend until the author’s death. Acting as his own distributor, Greenlee sold copies of his books out of his shoulder bag, along with autographed DVDs of his film. He had decided years ago how best to preserve his independence as an artist. As early as 1975, Greenlee saw a culture industry awash with people plying work “totally lacking in moral concept,” and he was not afraid to go it alone on principle: “I won’t have anything to do with amoral dudes.” ♦

# PEER REVIEW

WHAT ALUMNI ARE THINKING AND DOING



## RITE OF PASSAGE

Orientation Week brings students to the threshold of Burton-Judson Courts in this undated photo. Share your O-Week memories with your class correspondent or c/o Alumni News Editor at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).

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# UChicago Alumni Awards

The Magazine is delighted to present the 2021 Alumni Award recipients.  
A celebration of their achievements is planned for Alumni Weekend,  
May 19–22, 2022.

## ALUMNI MEDAL

For achievement of an exceptional nature in any field, vocational or voluntary, covering an entire career

### Brent Staples, AM'76, PhD'82

Pulitzer Prize-winning  
New York Times  
editorial writer



*"Brent exemplifies the UChicago spirit of intellectual autonomy, the eagerness to examine topics of great significance (such as race relations), and the courage to question 'received truths.' With the rigor quintessential of a University graduate, he researches meticulously, bringing to the fore overlooked stories of the past and distilling their enduring impact on the present day."*

## PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For outstanding achievement in any professional field

### Zhenan Bao, SM'93, PhD'95

Department chair and K. K. Lee Professor in Chemical Engineering at Stanford University



*"Zhenan exemplifies both the historic nature of the University as well as the role it will play in shaping the world in the coming decades. It is clear that her philosophy toward engineering is nuanced by the rigorous investigatory techniques that were taught at the University of Chicago."*

### Katherine Freese, PhD'84

Professor of physics and the Jeff and Gail Kodosky Endowed Chair in Physics at the University of Texas at Austin



*"Professor Freese's world-recognized achievements in cosmology research exemplify the University's high standards of intellectual rigor as well as its spirit of multidisciplinary research, as her work interweaves the disparate fields of elementary particle physics and astrophysics—an interweaving that was born and fostered at the University when she was a student. In addition, through a popular book on dark matter, she has shown strong ability to communicate the excitement of science to a broader audience."*

### Kim Ng, AB'90

General Manager of the Miami Marlins



*"Kim's love of the game—and excellence in what she does—has helped set the path for all women coming after her to achieve the highest level in any field, but in particular professional sports. Kim's career has been revolutionary to the field of athletics, most notably professional major league sports. She has been able to leverage the analytical skills being implemented in sports to support and guide her decision-making process. She has reached one of the highest levels of her field, becoming the first woman to do so in any major men's sports organization."*

### Jonathan Rapping, AB'88

Founder and president of Gideon's Promise, a public defender nonprofit seeking to transform the criminal justice system



*"Jon is a visionary leader who founded a path-breaking nonprofit organization aimed at addressing one of the most important and intractable problems of our time—the shameful underfunding of indigent defense services, which leaves many of American society's most vulnerable people without protection of their most basic rights and fails to protect all of us from unchecked misconduct by the police and prosecutors."*

## EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For professional achievement or creative leadership in any field by alumni aged 40 or younger

### Alida Miranda-Wolff, AB'14

CEO and founder of Ethos, a diversity, equity, and inclusion firm



*"Alida's accomplishments since her graduation from the University of Chicago have perfectly exemplified the spirit of the University. She has continually challenged conventional thinking, generated new insights, asked bigger questions, and supported her community—all in the pursuit of enriching life, specifically for those who need visibility in their communities."*

All photos courtesy of the individuals

Since 1941 the University of Chicago has recognized outstanding professional achievement and service to the University with the Alumni Awards. The Norman Maclean Faculty Award was added in 1997 to honor emeriti and tenured faculty of distinction. Recipients are nominated by fellow UChicago community members and selected by a committee of Alumni Board members. The excerpts from their nominations cited here have been lightly edited. You can find awardees' complete biographies and congratulate them personally at [mag.uchicago.edu/2021awards](http://mag.uchicago.edu/2021awards).

### Efe Ukala, AB'06

Founder of ImpactHER, a nonprofit focused on bridging the financing gap for women-led enterprises in Africa



*"Efe is solving a real problem for African female entrepreneurs, and through her work, she is helping address the high rate of poverty among African women, and consequently gender inequality. Efe exhibits exemplary leadership and intellectual capabilities. She demonstrates an unwavering devotion to improving the lives of African women and displays strong passion in further mentoring them."*

### ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

For outstanding service to the University

### Julie Brennan, AB'96

Board member of the UChicago Alumni Schools Committee Task Force and reunion committee member for the Class of 1996 with 25 years of volunteer service to the University



*"Julie has offered outstanding service to the University, prospective students, and alumni volunteers. She deserves recognition, not only for the number of prospective students and volunteers whom she's supported, but also the way that she goes about her work: with kindness, enthusiasm, and a commitment to providing exemplary service to prospective students, alumni interviewers, and the University itself."*

### Albert Chang, AB'93

Organizer of a UChicago life sciences alumni networking and engagement series with almost 20 years of volunteer service to the University



*"Albert has been by far the most dedicated and loyal alumni volunteer in the San Francisco Bay Area alumni group. He consistently demonstrates a passion for learning and growth and applies this passion in service to building the University of Chicago's presence and value throughout the Bay Area community."*

### YOUNG ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

For service to the University by alumni aged 35 and younger

### Sofia Gross, AB'15

Strategic outreach advisor to the UChicago Admissions Office and member of the Institute of Politics Board of Advisors



*"Sofia has been an incredible leader—both in her professional capacity and in her relentless service to our campus community—and truly embodies the positive attitude, adaptability, work ethic, and poise representative of an institution of UChicago's caliber. I cannot say enough positive things about her and all that she has done for her alma mater."*

### NORMAN MACLEAN FACULTY AWARD

For extraordinary contributions to teaching and student life by emeritus or very senior faculty

### Mark Siegler, MD'67

The Lindy Bergman Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine



*"One year with Mark Siegler changed my entire academic life for the better. That is the power of a mentor. The connection with the mentor, even for just a time, changes the life. Mark gave us all a start, a voice, and a path. Mark's guidance about case writing lives on in my chart notes. I hear his words about writing. I write about the specifics of the person I see, and I describe the disease(s) he or she has. This is not just a patient. This is not just a rote, billable note. This is a relationship we are in together."*

**Geoffrey R. Stone, JD'71** | The Edward H. Levi Distinguished Service Professor of Law



*"I still draw energy today from his First Amendment class—over 25 years later. It profoundly impacted my thinking about free speech. It was intellectually and emotionally demanding. Professor Stone challenged us to think deeply about the limits of free speech, testing our values, assumptions, and prejudices all along the societal and intellectual fault lines that America continues to confront."*

# NOTES

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

### DRIVEN

UChicago Medicine clinical research coordinator **Aviva Klein**, AB'19, is among 300 young people worldwide named to the 2021 Diana Award's Roll of Honour, for her work creating the University Blood Initiative (UBI). The British award recognized Klein, who includes her volunteer staff in the honor, for mobilizing her generation toward community service and global change. UBI—a grassroots organization aimed at providing a sustainable and equitable blood supply to everyone—partners with independent community blood centers to encourage college students to give blood and to set up drives. Since its 2019 launch, UBI has grown to 24 chapters in 11 states, with more than 600 members.

### MOVING PICS AND PATHOGENS

Film scholar, archivist, and curator **Jacqueline Stewart**, AM'93, PhD'99, and computational virologist **Trevor Bedford**, AB'02—two of this year's 25 recipients of a MacArthur Fellowship—will each receive a five-year grant of \$625,000. Stewart, professor in Cinema and Media Studies, is currently on leave to serve as the chief artistic and programming officer at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. She is known for her scholarship of cinema produced by and for African Americans, including what she calls “orphan” media histories—moving images outside the realm of commercial filmmaking. She has worked to unite African American studies and film studies, in part by engaging community members on Chicago's South Side, where she grew up.

Bedford, a professor at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, developed tools for tracking virus evolution and the spread of infectious diseases in real time, particularly influenza, Ebola, and, most recently, COVID-19. He codeveloped Nextstrain, an open-source platform that provides continually updated genomic data and visualization tools to examine pathogen “family trees.” The database serves as a clearinghouse of SARS-CoV-2 genetic information to researchers worldwide.



### COMIC KHAN

The first of five issues of young adult novelist Samira A. Ahmed's (AB'93, MAT'93) *Ms. Marvel: Beyond the Limit* will be released in December. Ahmed is the first South Asian woman to write for the character Kamala Khan, aka Ms. Marvel, who debuted in 2014 and is the first Muslim superhero to headline her own Marvel comic. The *Ms. Marvel* miniseries is Ahmed's introduction to comic writing. Her previous books include *Love, Hate, and Other Filters* (Penguin Random House, 2018) and *Internment* (Little, Brown, 2019). Ahmed notes that her stories often feature a “revolutionary girl,” and Kamala Khan is the latest.

### CLIMATE COALITION CHANGE

**Santa Ono**, AB'84, president and vice chancellor of the University of British Columbia, was selected to lead the University Climate Change Coalition (UC3), a network of 22 North American research universities working toward local and regional climate action. UC3 members have hosted forums to explore goals such as the development of net-zero housing and biofuels derived from waste. In his new role, Ono will coordinate university leader participation, guide strategic projects, and continue building UC3's partnerships.

### PEACH OF A PART

**Rae Gray**, AB'14—a professional actor since the age of four—appears in Amazon's *A League of Their Own*, now filming its first season. The series reimagines Penny Marshall's 1992 film about the real-life All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Gray's character, Terri, is a pitcher for the Rockford Peaches, one of the league's first four teams. Gray has appeared on Amazon's *Sea Oak*, AMC's *Fear the Walking Dead*, and HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*.

—Maureen Searcy

MS. MARVEL: BEYOND THE LIMIT #1 cover by Mashal Ahmed

# RELEASES

## ALUMNI BOOKS, FILMS, AND RECORDINGS

### FROM SARAH TO SYDNEY: THE WOMAN BEHIND ALL-OF-A-KIND FAMILY

By June Cummins, with Alexandra Dunietz, PhD'90; Yale University Press, 2021

The 1951 publication of *All-of-a-Kind Family* was a milestone for Jewish representation in mainstream children's literature, writes Jane Cummins with Alexandra Dunietz in the first biography of author Sydney Taylor. The five *All-of-a-Kind Family* books, which chronicle the lively adventures of a Jewish family in New York City, draw on the happier elements of Taylor's Lower East Side upbringing; not included were her mother's struggles with mental illness and the death of an infant brother. Taylor, who left home in her teens, was a dancer for the Martha Graham Dance Company and a drama teacher before writing her beloved series.



### MPH AND OTHER ROAD POEMS

By Ed Roberson; edited by Andrew Peart, AM'16, PhD'18; Verge Books, 2021

In 2015 poet Ed Roberson discovered in his New Jersey home a lost manuscript of poems inspired by a cross-country motorcycle trip he took in 1970. With the help of editor (and *Magazine* staffer) Andrew Peart, who searched through the poet's personal archive, Roberson uncovered more material inspired by the journey; that work, the once-lost manuscript, and several new pieces make up *MPH and Other Road Poems*. The collection, written with Roberson's charac-

teristic feel for the music in vernacular speech, chronicles a formative period in his life and work when, as he writes in the introduction, he sought to communicate "the art that is latent in the poetry I lived as a Black man in America."

### THE NEXT APOCALYPSE: THE ART AND SCIENCE OF SURVIVAL

By Chris Begley, AM'92, PhD'99; Basic Books, 2021

The end of the world won't look how we imagine, contends archaeologist Chris Begley. Pop culture depictions of precipitous collapse obscure a more complicated truth: societies decline gradually and for many reasons. Take the Maya, who are often portrayed as having vanished overnight. In fact, the seven million Maya living in Central America today are a testament to the resilience of ancestors who left their ancient cities and started a new way of life. Begley argues the rise and fall of past civilizations teaches us that communities, not heroic individuals, have the best chance of weathering severe crises.

### BIRD TALK: AN EXPLORATION OF AVIAN COMMUNICATION

By Barbara Ballentine and Jeremy Hyman, AB'93; Cornell University Press, 2021

The dazzling tapestry of birdsong we love and listen for is a surprisingly rich form of communication that helps our feathered friends navigate mating, migration, and territorial disputes. Drawing on the latest avian research, Western Carolina University biologists Barbara Ballentine and Jeremy Hyman explore how and why birds learn to sing. The sumptuously illustrated *Bird Talk* also highlights birds' visual communication, such as aggressive wing-waving and strategic displays of plumage.

### HOME WATERS: A CHRONICLE OF FAMILY AND A RIVER

John N. Maclean, LAB'60; Custom House, 2021

Norman Maclean's (PhD'40) autobiographical collection *A River Runs*

*Through It* enshrined Montana's Blackfoot River in the popular imagination. In *Home Waters*, his son John N. Maclean returns to that same ground to explore his family's connection to the American West. The memoir tells the real stories of the figures made famous in *A River Runs Through It*—Norman; his charismatic but troubled brother, Paul; and the stoic Reverend Maclean—alongside the history of the river itself.

### WHY WE ARE RESTLESS: ON THE MODERN QUEST FOR CONTENTMENT

By Benjamin Storey, AM'01, PhD'05, and Jenna Silber Storey, AM'02, PhD'10; Princeton University Press, 2021

Trying to be happy hasn't helped humans find happiness, observe married Furman University professors of politics and international affairs Benjamin Storey and Jenna Silber Storey. The problem isn't new: Alexis de Tocqueville observed in 1831 that Americans were "restless in the midst of their well-being." Where did this unease come from, and how might it be combated? The Storeys look to the contrasting visions of happiness presented by Montaigne, Pascal, and Rousseau to understand our present difficulties and argue for turning "pointless busyness into a pointed quest" for deeper meaning.

### AMERICAN BLOOD: SELECTED WRITINGS 1961-2020

By Danny Lyon, AB'63; Karma Books, 2021

Best known for his photographs of the US civil rights movement, artist Danny Lyon has also written about American social change. This collection of essays, speeches, and fragments includes a satirical piece on capital punishment from a UChicago student magazine, *The Bug*; reflections on the state of photography as an art form; and Lyon's recent writings on topics including the Black Lives Matter movement. Together, writes editor Randy Kennedy, they reveal Lyon as "a world-class talker: funny, wise, sanguine, and indefatigable."

—Susie Allen, AB'09

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

UChicago Photographic Archive, apf4-01940, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library



Where the life of the mind goes for company: In-person activities resumed on campus this Autumn Quarter, and what haunt sees more activity than the library? The Regenstein A level it is not, but in its far nooks and corners the Harper Memorial Library, seen here in 1944, has long offered Maroons a comfortable place to low-key socialize while they study. If the memory of plush lounge chairs and inviting stacks of periodicals transports you to a Harper happy place, send us a note at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu). What was your favorite way to spend time at the library when you should have been studying?

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**What's new?** We are always eager to receive your news, care of the Alumni News Editor, *The University of Chicago Magazine*, 5235 South Harper Court, Chicago, IL 60615, or by email: [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](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.

# virtual book club



*"A novel worth reading is an education of the heart. It enlarges your sense of human possibility, of what human nature is, of what happens in the world. It's a creator of inwardness."* —Susan Sontag, AB'51



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Back by popular demand: Habitues of Hutchinson Commons in November 1966 soak up the Oxford vibes in the replica of Christ Church College's Great Hall they had recently rallied to maintain as a student gathering place. A campus planning project the previous academic year proposed converting Hutch (along with the Reynolds Club) into music department facilities. Student and faculty opposition reversed the plan and kept Hutch open for the general use of the campus community. Daily life in Hyde Park continued to flow through Hutch, and with it the generations of students who have grabbed a meal, a coffee, or a look at the day's news beneath the presidential portraits.



“In the float of the sight of things”: Walt Whitman holds vigil over the studios at Harper Memorial Library in 1982. Completed in 1958 and gifted to the University by the late artist’s wife in 1974, the sculpture *Walt Whitman* is the creation of Simon Gordon (1908–62), an artist and teacher known for his involvement in the Illinois Art Project of the Works Progress Administration. The Whitman sculpture floated over to a computer lab in Wieboldt Hall later in the 1980s before returning to Harper, where it now hangs in the building’s eastern second-floor stairway landing. Do you remember hanging out with it? Tell us about your experiences with the floating head of Whitman, and let us know where you encountered the good gray poet’s benevolent gaze, at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).



Feast your eyes: At Valois, founded a century ago this year, the slogan—nay, the promise—“see your food” is as old as the restaurant itself. Established in 1921 at 55th Street and Harper Avenue by William Valois, a French Canadian former chef at Kenwood’s Chicago Beach Hotel, the steam table diner has been at its present location on 53rd Street since 1964. Seen here not long before a 2002 expansion and remodeling absorbed the storefront next door, Valois greets its patrons much the same way today: staff instruct you to keep your tray on the counter, keep the line moving, and make your payment in cash only. (Recommended by this staff: keep room for a side of biscuits.) In honor of the restaurant’s first 100 years, send us your Valois stories at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).



“Where God drinks coffee”: That’s how devotees of the Divinity School coffee shop refer to their sipping sanctuary in the basement of Swift Hall. Founded in 1962 and known officially as Grounds of Being since the early 2000s, the café is operated by the Divinity Students Association and helps fund scholarships, grants, events, and other student life resources. The shop has lived up to its supernal monikers: in the mid-1980s this magazine reported that the Divinity School haven was “by almost all accounts the most popular coffee house on campus,” and just last year the *Maroon* praised it for having “the best cup of joe available” anywhere on the quads. Closed with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the shop reopened for in-person service in September. Was the Divinity School coffee shop a blessing in your life? Send us your reflections at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).



The liberal art of relaxation: On Friday, November 8, 1974, the taps officially started flowing at the Pub in the basement of Ida Noyes Hall. In this photo from the days before that official opening, charter members (UChicagoans who had prepaid their \$2 annual dues) previewed the amenities at the new tavern, the first of its kind on campus. Folk singer Melody Magnuson provided live entertainment during the midweek preview. On the Friday opening night, University marshal Robert Ashenurst made things official by waving his baton over the bar. Beers on draft included Schlitz, Dortmunder Union, and Old Chicago Dark. Menu items included sandwiches and fried mushrooms. By the mid-1980s, the Pub boasted a big-screen television airing sports and TV shows like *Hill Street Blues* and *Late Night with David Letterman*. Temporarily closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pub reopened its doors this year on September 20 to anyone with a University ID and plans to welcome back alumni and guests as COVID restrictions ease further—so keep your fingers crossed for Alumni Weekend. In the meantime, we want to know: What are your memories of spending time at the Pub? Write to us at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).

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Photo courtesy Sara Myers Turner, AM'49



Together in cold climes and T-Hut times: Sara Myers Turner, AM'49 (center), added to her adventures with Margaret Olson, AB'50 (left), and Catherine Rowady, EX'48 (right), with a visit to Tropical Hut on 57th Street in the summer of 1948. The three southerners—Turner hailed from Hattiesburg, MS, Olson from Tampa, FL, and Rowady from Harlan, KY— had met during Winter Quarter that year. Bonding over their similar regional backgrounds, they “became really good friends” at the University, says Turner. None of them had come to Chicago with the right kind of clothes for the winter months, she remembers, so the trio banded together for an outing to Goldblatt’s department store—“a cheap place to buy a warm coat.” T-Hut provided a summery respite. For more from Turner, see Crown Family School, page 73. And to submit your own snapshot for possible inclusion in Alumni News, write to us at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).



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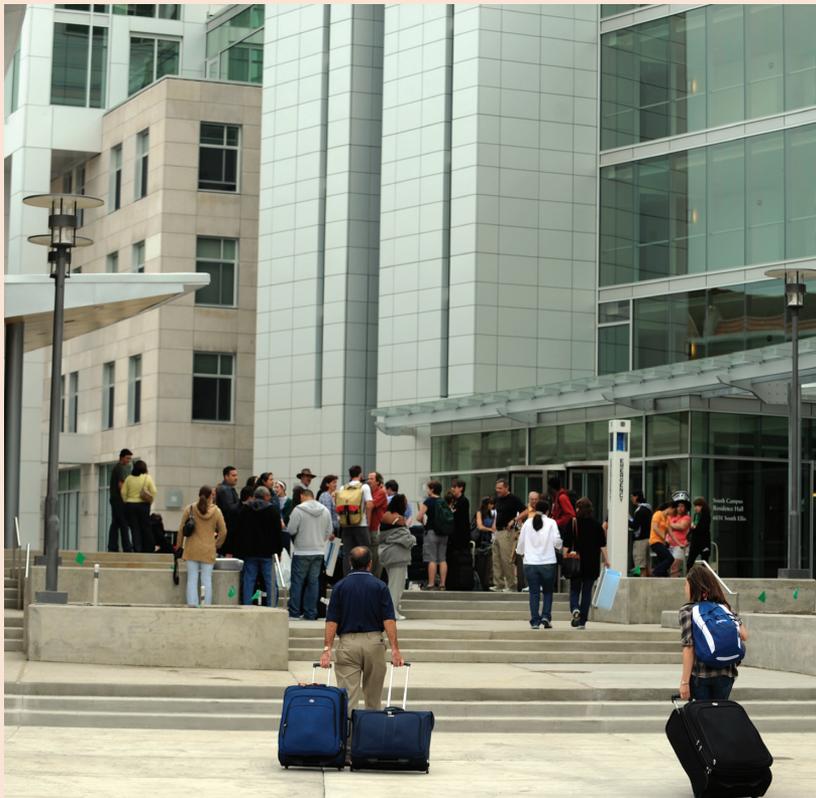
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# Are you reading *Short List*?



Photography by Dan Dry

**Rolling admission:** The first move-in day at the then-newly built South Campus dormitory commences in September 2009. The largest residence hall on campus when it opened, the 811-bed dorm gave new life to a vision the University had in the 1920s of a residential college south of the Midway. With its eight College houses and adjacent dining hall, the complex expanded on neighboring Burton-Judson Courts' partial fulfillment of that vision. Soon renamed in honor of philanthropist Renee Granville-Grossman, AB'63, the dorm now has counterparts both north and south of the Midway, as Campus North and Woodlawn Residential Commons help flesh out a new vision of campus as a home away from home. We want to hear your campus move-in stories. What stands out in your memory about those early days when you settled into your new digs and met your dormmates? Send us a note at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).

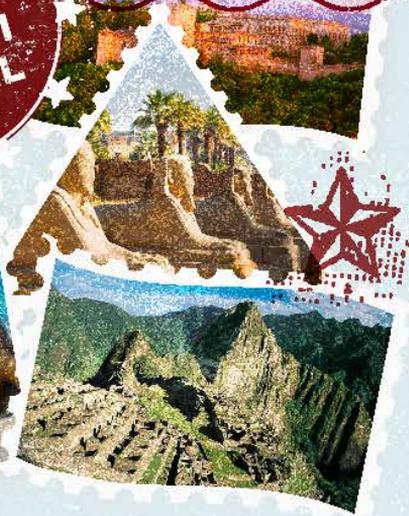


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# DEATHS

## FACULTY AND STAFF

**George S. Tolley**, AM'50, PhD'55, professor emeritus in the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, of Chicago, died August 31. He was 95. Part of a prominent group of agricultural economists during his PhD years at UChicago, Tolley later became a pioneer in urban, environmental, and energy economics. After more than a decade at North Carolina State University, he returned to UChicago in 1966 for the remainder of his career, establishing urban economics as an area of study within the economics department and directing UChicago's Center for Urban Studies. His estimates regarding urban and environmental amenities and health care improvements proved influential in the public policy arena. A consultant with government agencies at all levels beginning in the 1960s, he helped design the Clean Air Act. Taking emeritus status in 2000, Tolley continued teaching until 2018. He is survived by his wife, Alice; a daughter, **Catherine F. Mertes**, LAB'87; and two grandchildren.

**R. Darrell Bock**, AM'50, PhD'52, professor emeritus in the Departments of Psychology and Comparative Human Development, died September 15 in Chicago. He was 93. With his graduate degrees in educational practice, Bock served as a psychology assistant in the US Army before returning to UChicago in 1955 to teach in the psychology department for three years. After six years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he rejoined the UChicago faculty in 1964. A leader and innovator in educational testing and metrics, Bock authored the influential *Multivariate Statistical Methods in Behavioral Research* (1975) and founded what is now known as the Committee on Quantitative Methods in Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences. His 2021 book *Item Response Theory*, cowritten with UChicago statistician **Robert Gibbons**, PhD'81, brought together decades of research on the subject. He is survived by his wife, Renee Menegaz-Bock; a daughter; two sons; and six grandchildren.

**Selwyn W. Becker**, professor emeritus of psychology and quality management at Chicago Booth, died June 15 in Glenview, IL. He was 92. With a doctorate in psychology, Becker joined Chicago Booth's faculty in 1959 and taught at the school for three and a half decades. A social psychologist, he frequently focused on human behavior in his research on management and innovation in businesses. In an influential 1967 paper coauthored with late Chicago Booth professor of business policy Thomas L. Whisler, MBA'47, PhD'53, Becker helped define the business concept of innovation as a process distinct from organizational change and adaptation. After retiring in 1996, he published *Teenagers' Dilemmas and Opportunities: A Social*

*Psychologist Writes to His Grandchildren* (2003), a book meant to model family conversations. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, a brother, and five grandchildren.

**Jaroslav Stetkevych**, professor emeritus in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, died June 12 in Washington, DC. He was 92. A Ukrainian-born refugee who lived in Germany during and after World War II, Stetkevych received his PhD from Harvard's Semitic languages and literatures department in 1962. He joined UChicago's faculty that same year. An expert in Arabic linguistics and Semitic philology, he made significant contributions to the study of the Arabic poetic tradition in such scholarly works as *The Zephyrs of Najd: The Poetics of Nostalgia in the Classical Arabic Nasib* (1993) and *Arab Poetry and Orientalism* (2004). In 2019, with his wife, **Suzanne P. Stetkevych**, PhD'81, he received the Sheikh Zayed Book Award for Cultural Personality of the Year, one of the Arab world's top literary and cultural prizes. He is survived by his wife; five sons, including **Julian A. Stetkevych**, AB'00; and five grandchildren.

**Martha Morrow-Vojacek**, a retired University of Chicago staff member, died June 20 in Oak Park, IL. She was 85. Morrow-Vojacek, who held bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Roosevelt University, retired in 1998 after two decades as an administrative assistant at the Divinity School and International House. A piano player since childhood, she sang with and sewed costumes for the UChicago-affiliated Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company. With her husband, **Joseph R. Vojacek**, AM'64, she collected antique Americana and went on extensive road trips in search of the pieces they treasured. She is survived by her husband, three daughters, and two grandchildren.

**Michael J. Murrin**, the Raymond W. and Martha Hilpert Gruner Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the Department of English, the Department of Comparative Literature, and the Divinity School, died July 27 in Chicago. He was 83. Teaching at UChicago since 1963, Murrin was an authority on the literary genres of epic and romance across the Western tradition and on the history of criticism. With mastery of languages including Italian and Old Norse, he taught courses on the late Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the early modern age; cofounded the Core curriculum course in Greek thought and literature; and contributed to what is now the Divinity School's religion, literature, and visual culture program. His first book, *The Veil of Allegory: Some Notes Toward a Theory of Allegorical Rhetoric in the English Renaissance* (1969), situated Edmund Spenser with the ancients and the Romantics. His last, *Trade and Romance* (2013), earned him the American Comparative Literature Association's René Wellek Prize. Murrin's other honors include the Quantrell Award

for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Norman Maclean Faculty Award. He is survived by a brother.

**Hugo F. Sonnenschein**, the Charles L. Hutchinson Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, the University of Chicago's 11th president, and an honorary trustee, died July 15 in Chicago. He was 80. An economist, Sonnenschein taught and held leadership positions at universities including Penn and Princeton before becoming UChicago's president in 1993. Leading the University through a period of transformation and renewal, he confronted long-standing financial challenges by spearheading a set of sometimes-controversial institutional changes. His plan to increase enrollment in the College involved scaling back the required credits of the Core curriculum and making numerous enhancements to student life. During his presidency, UChicago concluded what was then its largest-ever fundraising campaign and more than doubled its endowment. After stepping down as president in 2000, he returned to teaching and research. Nine years later Sonnenschein received a BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award for his contributions to general equilibrium analysis and for establishing modern aggregate demand theory. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Gunn Sonnenschein; three daughters; and five grandchildren, including **Halima Mossi**, LAB'16. For more about Sonnenschein, see "Change Agent," page 32.

**Noel M. Swerdlow**, professor emeritus in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, the Department of History, and the College, died July 24 in Sierra Madre, CA. He was 79. A historian of science, Swerdlow came to UChicago in 1968 as an assistant professor of history; in 1982 he joined the faculty in astronomy and astrophysics as the department's only historian. Studying the development of astronomy from antiquity to the Renaissance, he gained prominence as the world's leading authority on Ptolemy and Copernicus. His coauthored two-volume treatise *Mathematical Astronomy in Copernicus's "De Revolutionibus"* (1984) won the Pfizer Award, the History of Science Society's highest honor for a scholarly work. A MacArthur Fellowship recipient, he also wrote *The Babylonian Theory of the Planets* (1998), in which he traced the origins of astronomy as a mathematical science. He is survived by his wife, Nadia; a son; a brother; and a granddaughter.

**Robert K. Ritner Jr.**, PhD'87, the Rowe Professor of Egyptology at the Oriental Institute and in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, died of kidney disease and leukemia July 25 in Chicago. He was 68. His book *The Mechanics of Ancient Egyptian Magical Practice* (1993), based on his UChicago dissertation, launched a re-

naissance in the study of ancient Egyptian religion and magic. After teaching at Yale University for several years, Ritner returned to UChicago in 1996. He produced a volume of Egyptian texts created during Libyan rule in the first millennium BCE that has become a standard reference work and an edition of Joseph Smith's Egyptian papyri that is important to debates within and beyond Mormonism. Skilled at drawing popular audiences to Egyptology, Ritner was a frequent public speaker and exhibitions contributor at the OI and other museums. He and his dog, Sheshonq, could be sighted on campus each Halloween dressed as mummies or pharaohs. Ritner is survived by a brother.

## 1940s

**Carl M. Honzak**, AM'42, AB'78, of Tarrytown, NY, died January 16. He was 102. Honzak studied music at UChicago, receiving his master's before his bachelor's because he couldn't afford the diploma fees for both. A singer and actor, he appeared on *The Martha Raye Show* and Sid Caesar's *Caesar's Hour*. In the 1950s, he sang in the Metropolitan Opera's chorus. Later he founded the electrical consulting company Honzak and Honzak. He is survived by his wife, Diane Colin; a daughter; a son; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Saul Levin**, AB'42, PhD'49, died March 4 in Chandler, AZ. He was 99. Between receiving his bachelor's degree and earning his doctorate in Greek, Levin served in the US Army Signal Corps during World War II. He taught at UChicago and Washington University in St. Louis before joining the faculty of Binghamton University, where he spent the rest of his career. Chairing the classics department several times over the course of nearly four decades, he rose to the rank of distinguished professor and helped found what is now the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. Levin published widely in historical linguistics, biblical studies, and other fields. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; four daughters; two sons; six grandchildren; and a step-grandchild.

**Ruth Chapin Fort**, AB'45, died April 28 in Chevy Chase, MD. She was 97. In the 1970s Fort served at the Center for Study of Responsive Law as executive assistant to founder Ralph Nader, who called her his "Rock of Gibraltar" for her role in fielding calls from student interns, congressional staffers, and whistleblowers. She later worked for the American Civil Liberties Union, the Pension Rights Center, and other public interest organizations in the Washington, DC, area. A lifelong advocate for civil rights and liberties, she received an ACLU award for exemplary volunteer service in 2004. She is survived by her husband, Arthur E. "Ted" Rowse III; three children; and two grandchildren.

**Richard M. Daskais**, PhD'47, SB'48, died October 9, 2020, in Los Angeles. He was 90. Daskais grew up in Hyde Park and entered UChicago at age 16 on a scholarship. With

degrees in philosophy and mathematics, he embarked on a career as an actuary. After working for an insurance company in San Francisco, he cofounded an actuarial consulting firm, which he and a partner ran for nearly two decades. Daskais played a prominent role in the actuarial profession as private pension plans evolved under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. He joined Goldman Sachs in the later part of his career and remained with them as a consultant into the 1990s. He is survived by two daughters, including **Carol Daskais Navin**, MBA'90; a stepdaughter; a son; two stepsons; and eight grandchildren. **Marvin Rose**, PhD'48, MBA'51, died February 12 in Evanston, IL. He was 95. A World War II US Army Air Force veteran, Rose spent his career working for several accounting firms in Chicago. He also served as treasurer of his condominium association. In retirement he volunteered as a speaker to heart patients at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, tutored students in math after school at Chicago's Fourth Presbyterian Church, and aided veterinarians at the Anti-Cruelty Society. He is survived by his wife, **Beverly (Segal) Rose**, AB'50; one son; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

## 1950s

**Gwendolyn D. Rogers**, AM'53, died August 22 in Chicago. She was 90. A teacher and advocate for public education, Rogers earned her master's in education while holding an assistantship at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. She taught prekindergarten and grade school in the Chicago Public Schools before becoming a curriculum consultant for the US Department of Health and Human Services' Head Start program. After earning a doctorate in educational psychology, she led the Chicago Urban League's education department, where she helped draft the 1988 Chicago School Reform Act. Rogers later directed external affairs for the Chicago Park District, receiving the agency's Kathy Osterman Award for outstanding executive employee. Her second husband, John W. Rogers, JD'48, died in 2014. Survivors include a stepson, UChicago trustee **John W. Rogers Jr.**, LAB'76; and granddaughter **Victoria Rogers**, LAB'08.

**Joseph L. Midler**, AB'56, AM'59, died February 17 in Sunnyvale, CA. He was 86. After starting at Shimer College, Midler completed his bachelor's in philosophy and math at UChicago and stayed on to earn his master's in economics. While pursuing a doctorate in economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he took a job with the RAND Corporation, launching a career as an expert in operations research and management science. Working with the US Department of Commerce, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and other institutions, Midler built mathematical models for a range of applications, including transportation and water usage, military airlift deployment, and aerospace development. His first wife, Joan Bayles

Midler, AB'57, died in 1984. He is survived by his daughter, **Anne E. Midler**, AB'80, and two grandchildren.

**Elizabeth McCabe Postell**, AB'56, AM'58, of Evanston, IL, died November 6, 2020. She was 95. With bachelor's and master's degrees in English, Postell taught literature at Indiana University's Gary campus, where she met her future husband, John M. Postell, EX'57. Settling in Hyde Park, the couple became politically active, campaigning for fifth ward aldermanic candidate Al Raby, EX'69, and Chicago mayor Harold Washington. An avid gardener, she served the Herb Society of America at its local and national levels and for more than two decades chaired the Hyde Park Garden Fair. Her husband died in 1991. She later moved to Evanston and spent her last years writing her memoirs as well as fiction.

**Jean R. Eckerly**, SB'58, MD'62, died May 1 in Edina, MN. She was 83. After completing her internship and residency at Minneapolis General Hospital and receiving her certification in internal medicine, Eckerly worked at Pilot City Health Center, created as part of a Great Society neighborhood service program in Minneapolis. She later ran an alternative medicine practice in the Twin Cities and Albert Lea, MN, and helped found Sagaris, a women's collective providing mental health services to women from a feminist perspective. Remembered as a physician who put the needs and fair treatment of patients first, Eckerly was also a skilled carpenter and enjoyed camping and canoeing. She is survived by a sister and many friends.

**Mildred Hallett Myren**, AM'58, CER'75, of Oak Lawn, IL, died February 1. She was 85. Myren joined the staff of the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago in the late 1970s, eventually becoming executive minister. Ordained in the American Baptist Churches USA, she also served as interim minister of Morgan Park Baptist Church, where she was a lifelong member. She is survived by a daughter, a son, a sister, and 12 grandchildren.

**Charles E. Colchin**, MBA'59, died July 4, 2020, in The Woodlands, TX. He was 90. Colchin worked as a draftsman at an architectural company in his native Fort Wayne, IN, and served in the US Air Force before earning his bachelor's and his MBA. One of the first designated chartered financial analysts in the United States, he spent three decades at NationsBank, retiring as a vice president of trust portfolio management. He is survived by two daughters, two stepdaughters, a stepson, and a grandchild.

**Stefanie Krainin Greene**, SB'59, of Takoma Park, MD, died December 16, 2020. She was 83. With an MD from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Greene interned at New York City's Bellevue Hospital and completed her residency in psychiatry at Massachusetts Mental Health Center. After a fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry at George Washington University, she went on to practice as a psychiatrist for four

decades in suburban Washington, DC. She is survived by two daughters, three stepchildren, a brother, and five grandchildren.

## 1960s

**Alan S. Berger**, AB'62, AM'63, PhD'68, of Chicago, died June 6. He was 81. Berger earned his UChicago degrees in sociology, carrying out graduate work on survey research design and analysis while on staff at the National Opinion Research Center. He conducted research on adolescent behavior for the Institute for Juvenile Research, then part of the Illinois Department of Mental Health. After serving as acting director of youth services for the City of Chicago Department of Human Services, where he instituted the agency's first computerized case-tracking system, Berger moved to DHS's planning division. He went on to start a computer consulting company. The author of the textbook *The City: Urban Communities and Their Problems* (1978), Berger taught college courses in sociology and computing. Survivors include his wife, **Paula S. Berger**, AB'61, AM'76, AM'87, PhD'94; and a daughter, **Sheila R. Berger**, LAB'89.

**Richard S. Levy**, AB'62, died June 23 in Chicago. He was 81. A preeminent historian of modern Germany, the Holocaust, and worldwide anti-Semitism, Levy taught at the University of Massachusetts Amherst before beginning his nearly 50-year career at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He earned early acclaim with his monograph *The Downfall of the Anti-Semitic Political Parties in Imperial Germany* (1975) and edited *Antisemitism: A Historical Encyclopedia of Prejudice and Persecution* (2005), a standard text in the field. Noted for his mentorship, he was the longtime director of undergraduate studies in UIC's history department and won several teaching awards from the school. Survivors include his wife, Linnea, and a brother.

**Michael L. Moran**, AM'65, of Fort Collins, CO, died April 24, 2020. He was 90. Moran spent three years as a Benedictine seminarian and monk before earning his master's in library science. He worked as a librarian at the University of Cincinnati, Colorado State University, and King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals. His writings on librarianship focused on acquisitions and appeared in numerous professional journals. Moran also wrote extensively about religion. He is survived by his wife, Frances; a daughter; a son; and a grandchild.

**Richard L. Wilson**, AB'66, died March 22 in Chattanooga, TN. He was 76. Wilson earned a doctorate in political science from Johns Hopkins University and taught the subject over a period of 50 years at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He was teaching at Beijing University on a Fulbright scholarship when the Tiananmen Square protests erupted in 1989. Back in Chattanooga, he turned a home near the campus into a haven for international students and foreign-exchange faculty members. Wilson wrote

and edited numerous scholarly works on American government, American business, and Chinese culture. He is survived by a son, a sister, a brother, and two grandchildren.

## 1970s

**Sushil Auluck**, SM'70, PhD'73, of New Delhi, died December 8, 2020. He was 76. A computational materials scientist, Auluck taught physics briefly at the University of Arizona before returning to his native India, where he spent more than three decades on the physics faculty at the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, specializing in condensed matter theory and working on electronic structure calculations. After retiring from IIT Roorkee, Auluck was a consultant in research and development at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Physical Laboratory. Survivors include his wife, Sneha, and two sons.

**Edward Carr**, AM'72, PhD'75, died January 8 in Walla Walla, WA. He was 74. A member of the Wenatchee (WA) Youth Circus as a youngster, Carr studied philosophy at Whitman College and earned his UChicago degrees in the same field, focusing on aesthetics. He then moved back to Washington, living on Orcas Island, training as a carpenter, and building a home for himself and his family. After earning a second master's in architecture from the University of Washington, he established an architectural firm in Seattle that specialized in waterfront homes. Carr designed houses that can be found throughout the San Juan Islands and around Puget Sound. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; two sons; three stepsisters; two stepbrothers; and three grandchildren.

**Marianne "Mary" C. Mahoney**, AM'73, PhD'77, of Austin, TX, died December 15, 2020. She was 70. With her doctorate in political science, Mahoney taught at several universities before pursuing a career as a technical writer. Involved in numerous Catholic charity projects, she also taught Sunday school and catechism classes. She is survived by a daughter.

**Patricia Cummings Charles**, AB'74, of Kansas City, MO, died September 7, 2020. She was 68. Charles spent her career in publishing, working as managing editor at the scholarly press Garland Publishing Company and later as editor in chief of the University of Hartford's alumni magazine. In retirement she moved to Kansas City, near her childhood hometown, to be close to family and to fulfill a lifelong dream of living in the city's Plaza Area. She is survived by her partner, John Quinn; a daughter; and a brother.

**Laura A. (Rosenblum) Tanz**, LAB'66, EX'74, of Minneapolis, died July 18, 2020. She was 71. A former student in what is now known as the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, Tanz went on to a career as a social worker in the Minneapolis Public Schools. An avid reader and talented cook, she participated in multiple book clubs and is remembered as the host of popular holiday gatherings for family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, **Mark L. Tanz**, LAB'65, AB'69; two sons; two sisters, **Susan (Rosenblum) Levitin**, LAB'58, and **Mary J. (Rosenblum) Briggs**, LAB'64; and two grandchildren.

## 1980s

**Vivienne Jane Kattapong**, AB'82, AM'84, died of melanoma June 26, 2020, in Tucson, AZ. She was 58. In addition to her undergraduate degree in biology and her master of arts from the Harris School of Public Policy, Kattapong earned an MD from the University of Texas Medical Branch and a master of public health from the University of Washington. She worked as a neurologist for the State of Arizona's Social Security office. Active in the UChicago community, Kattapong interviewed prospective students and planned events for alumni in southern Arizona. She is survived by four children, including **Ione L. Locher**, AB'15; a sister, **Kristi R. Kattapong**, AB'90, AM'94; and a brother.

**Alec Edwin Forsman**, AB'87, died January 23 in Washington, DC. He was 58. Paralyzed at 18, Forsman is thought to have been the first person with quadriplegia to graduate from UChicago. A math major, he went on to a government career as a computer specialist in the US Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR). He earned a master's in computer information systems and led the Atlantic Test Range photogrammetry team. A nationally recognized expert in his field, Forsman was named a NAVAIR full fellow and received the Outstanding Department of Defense Service Members and Civilians with a Disability Award. He is survived by his parents, a sister, and a brother.

## 1990s

**Harry L. Stern**, AM'91, of Lake Forest, IL, died November 14, 2020. He was 90. For more than half a century Stern devoted himself to a career as an antiquarian book and map dealer. He earned his UChicago master's in history at age 61 with a thesis on the University's special collections and rare books. Never retired, he was conducting appraisals until 10 days before his death. He is survived by his wife, Petrea Rahr Stern; three children; two stepchildren; three brothers; five grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

**Douglas A. Funke**, AB'93, died after a brief illness November 21, 2020, in Cliffside Park, NJ. He was 49. With his bachelor's in economics, Funke joined the investment banking firm Morgan Stanley, working first in the treasury department and then as the first analyst in the firm's real estate division. An early buy-side analyst in the then-emerging field of real estate investment trusts, he became a managing director at Forum Partners before establishing his own firm. Alongside his career in real estate investments, Funke was co-owner of a Chicago-area Korean chicken franchise. He is survived by three daughters, his parents, a sister, and two brothers.



**THE UCHICAGOAN**  
**Lisa Lucas**

AB'01

*Questions for the College alumna  
and publisher of Pantheon and  
Schocken Books.*

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

I was the telefund manager at Step-penwolf Theatre Company—a gig I managed to get because of my undergrad experience working as the U of C telefund supervisor for three years.

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

A radio host, 100 percent. I'm hoping I get to have a second act. I blame fellow Maroon Studs Terkel, PhB'32, JD'34, for this longing.

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

Football.

**What do you love that everyone else hates?**

Humidity.

**What was the last book you finished?**

*The Rage of Innocence* by Kristin Henning. It's such a stunning—if infuriating—book that explores how our society criminalizes Black children and does not give them the essential opportunities for play, exploration, risk, and messiness that we allow their White counterparts.

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

If I told you, I'd have to kill you. I work in books. This is not a safe question.

**What advice would you give to a brand-new Maroon?**

Read everything you are assigned, and deeply. You'll be glad you did, and you'll never have this kind of time again.

**What did you learn at UChicago that still benefits you today?**

Rigor.



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