Exchange Traded Funds trade like stocks, fluctuate in market value and may trade at prices above or below the ETFs net asset value. Brokerage commissions and ETF expenses will reduce returns.

The SPDR S&P MidCap 400 ETF Trust is an exchange traded fund designed to generally correspond to the price and yield performance of the S&P MidCap 400 Index. ETFs are considered to have continuous liquidity because they allow for an individual to trade throughout the day.

Commodities contain heightened risk including market, political, regulatory, and natural conditions, and may not be suitable for all investors.

Bond funds contain interest rate risk (as interest rates rise bond prices usually fall); the risk of issuer default; and inflation risk.

“SPDR” and MidCap SPDR are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor’s Financial Services, LLC (“S&P”) and have been licensed for use by State Street Corporation. No financial product offered by State Street or its affiliates is sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by S&P.

ALPS Distributors, Inc., a registered broker-dealer, is distributor for the MidCap SPDR Trust, a unit investment trust.

Before investing, carefully consider the funds' investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. To obtain a prospectus or summary prospectus, which contains this and other information, call 1.866.787.2257 or visit www.spdrs.com. Read it carefully.

Truth be told, your spouse may forgive a little tardiness. But the market won't. Ever. So you may want to consider State Street’s family of SPDR® ETFs. They let you buy and sell entire market segments just like a stock. Which means you’re always liquid.

Mid Caps. Commodities. Fixed Income. No matter what you’re interested in, we’re sure to have an investment that precisely matches your investment strategy.

Scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit spdrs.com for details. We just might improve your on-time performance.

INVESTMENTS ARE LIKE ANNIVERSARIES. YOU CAN’T BE A DAY LATE.
Join as a member and save $10!

Member Previews: May 13–15. Opens to the public May 16.
Join today! Visit www.artic.edu/joinaic and use promotion code 10UCHICAGO.
Features

32 BOBO SOPRANO
How monkeys, the Mafia, Italian academia—and, increasingly, American society—illustrate the biological impulse and social peril of nepotism.
By Dario Maestripieri

40 ONE DOOR CLOSES
"Are you a member of the Communist Party?" George Anastaplo, AB’48, JD’51, PhD’64, refused to answer that question, a refusal that shaped his life.
By Richard Mertens

48 VISCERAL UCHICAGO
Some sights, sounds, smells, touches, and tastes can send you back to the quads.
By Amy Braverman Puma

52 EDITORIAL AUTHORITY
Fresh off simultaneous No. 1 New York Times best sellers, editor Gretchen Young, AB’84, AM’84, continues to find new authors with big stories to tell.
By Ruth E. Kott, AM’07

58 NIGHT SHIFT
For nearly a century, Chicago scientists have explored the deep universe of sleep.
By Lydialyle Gibson

Departments

3 EDITOR’S NOTES
Where T-shirts come to endure: a Special Collections exhibit on student life.

4 LETTERS
Readers sound off on what’s missing from education at Chicago (and from the Magazine’s coverage), David Axelrod’s (AB’76) new campus role, and Martin Luther King Jr.’s campus addresses.

15 ON THE AGENDA
Marking his 30th year at the University, Provost Thomas Rosenbaum reflects on the constancy of change.

17 UCHICAGO JOURNAL
Kuvia keeps its cool; the Harris School opens a politics institute; scholars debate Donne’s sonnets; a bond trader stages a career change; a psychologist studies twins’ differences; Thomas Frank, AM’89, PhD’94, skewers conservative populism; small reactors ignite nuclear optimism; Mexico offers universal health care; and a philosopher brings irony back.

30 COURSE WORK
Staged reading: Court Theatre’s world premiere gives College students new insight into Invisible Man.

65 PEER REVIEW

96 LITE OF THE MIND
A lesson from Nick Kolakowski, AB’03, on what types of eccentricities an aspiring intellectual should embrace.

The cover: George Anastaplo’s correspondence with Virginia (Darrow) Oggins, U-High’44, AB’48, AM’55, goes back to 1948. Photo by Dan Dry.

See the full print issue of the University of Chicago Magazine, web-exclusive content, and links to our Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and Tumblr accounts at mag.uchicago.edu.
The University has outlined an ambitious agenda that will influence the future of science, the arts, global engagement, and education.

Please join University of Chicago alumni, parents, and friends for a conversation with President Robert J. Zimmer about the ideas, people, and discoveries that shape the University and inform its impact on the global community.

For more information and to RSVP, please visit alumniandfriends.uchicago.edu/conversations. While there is no charge to attend, registration is required.

Conversations around the world

- San Francisco Monday, March 12
- Hong Kong Friday, March 23
- Los Angeles Wednesday, March 14
- Washington, DC Thursday, March 29
- Chicago* Wednesday, April 4
- London Thursday, May 10
- New York Thursday, May 17

* live webcast will be available
editor’s notes

Where T-shirts come to endure

by Amy Braverman Puma

Who ever thought a “where fun comes to die” T-shirt would be exhibit worthy? Yet there it is, in the back row of a display of shirts boasting about hell freezing over, the Div School coffee shop, women’s crew, and Harold’s Chicken. The 20 T-shirts hanging in the library’s Special Collections Exhibition Gallery glass case offer a glimpse of the recent UChicago student experience in one quick snap.

The rest of the exhibition, We Are Chicago: Student Life in the Collections of the University of Chicago Archives, captures moments over a 120-year span. Some highlights: a 1935 photo of three women archers aiming bows and arrows, a 1932 cartoon map of campus with capped-and-gowned students scurrying about, and a 1925 silk kimono hand painted to commemorate a tradition of baseball games between the Ma-roons and Japan’s Waseda University.

In addition to perusing the exhibit cases, visitors can watch a slide show of 7,500 photos the Maroon donated to the University Archives, which Special Collections digitized with a grant from the U of C Women’s Board. Visitors also can post their own memories on an interactive comment board.

The comment board could help the archives collect more information about student life, which can be a challenge. The University has some 300 registered student organizations; since 1892 students have been active in all sorts of social, cultural, academic, and political groups. The library staff notes that some exhibit items were donated by alumni, and they’re always looking to fill in the gaps.

If you have items of interest—even an old T-shirt can shed light on the UChicago experience—e-mail Special Collections Research Center director Daniel Meyer, AM’75, PhD’94, at arch@uchicago.edu. We Are Chicago runs through March 23.
LETTERS

I suppose that a compliment withheld is as good as an insult—which is why I’m giving you a much-overdue ovation for the new art direction I’ve noticed from the Magazine.

I just read the recent letter from John Rossheim, AB’80, saying that the imagery is too “high concept” for him (Jan–Feb/12). Whuh? Isn’t this the University of Chicago we’re talking about? When has “high concept” ever been considered a negative?

I am currently living with grads of Yale and UCLA, and all three of us have magazines coming from our alma maters. Lately I’ve been stacking my U of C Magazine conspicuously on top of the coffee-table assortment, silently bragging about the cool new look of the mag’s graphic design and photo choices. My roommates have been stealing glances too—and have actually been reading it (secretly, of course).

So I apologize for holding back my praise till now. You guys are blowing the other schools away. You are the most intriguing, most readable, “high concept” superstar on my coffee table. Keep it up.

Simon Miller, AB’01
Los Angeles

Lately I’ve been stacking my U of C Magazine conspicuously on top of the coffee-table assortment, silently bragging about the mag’s cool new look.

Stories found
So happy to see the glimpse of Vivian Gussin Paley, PhB’47, in your Jan–Feb/12 issue (Glimpses). When I was doing a graduate degree in the Education Department in the mid ’70s, I was so fortunate to spend a semester in her kindergarten room doing what was then called an “ecological study” of the children at play in the housekeeping corner. My master’s thesis was on the value of play: the development of language and empathy through role-playing. After nearly 40 years teaching in public education in early childhood—pre-K, K, and first grade, I can tell you that the value of play has sadly been diminished to nearly zero time in the school day. I agree with her statement about “a year of lost stories” and so much more that has been deemed irrelevant by the factory mentality of today’s public-education curriculum. But the vibrant and highly verbal environment she created in that room has stayed with me in all the subsequent years in which I worked with young children. Thank you, Vivian Paley!

Eslée Kessler, AM’77
Santa Fe, New Mexico

There is a factual error on page 36 of the Jan–Feb/12 issue (“Debating So- ciety”). Under the year 1988, it is asserted that the Everyday Mathematics curriculum was developed by Izaak Wirszup, PhD’55. Izaak was a co-founder of the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project, but he did not plan or manage the development of the Everyday Mathematics curriculum at any time.

The one person most responsible for Everyday Mathematics is Max Bell, AM’58, MAT’59, a professor emeritus of education who still has a hand in Everyday Mathematics. Max’s thinking, and also the name he gave to the curriculum, can be traced back to a paper in the March 1974 Mathematics Teacher, “What Does ‘Everyman’ Really Need from School Mathematics?”

A detailed history can be found in an article by Max and Andrew Isaacs in Perspectives on the Design and Development of School Mathematics Curricula (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, 2007).

Stories found
So happy to see the glimpse of Vivian Gussin Paley, PhB’47, in your Jan–Feb/12 issue (Glimpses). When I was doing a graduate degree in the Education Department in the mid ’70s, I was so fortunate to spend a semester in her kindergarten room doing what was then called an “ecological study” of the children at play in the housekeeping corner. My master’s thesis was on the value of play: the development of language and empathy through role-playing. After nearly 40 years teaching in public education in early childhood—pre-K, K, and first grade, I can tell you that the value of play has sadly been diminished to nearly zero time in the school day. I agree with her statement about “a year of lost stories” and so much more that has been deemed irrelevant by the factory mentality of today’s public-education curriculum. But the vibrant and highly verbal environment she created in that room has stayed with me in all the subsequent years in which I worked with young children. Thank you, Vivian Paley!

Eslée Kessler, AM’77
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Check the math
There is a factual error on page 36 of the Jan–Feb/12 issue (“Debating Society”). Under the year 1988, it is asserted that the Everyday Mathematics curriculum was developed by Izaak Wirszup, PhD’55. Izaak was a co-founder of the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project, but he did not plan or manage the development of the Everyday Mathematics curriculum at any time.

The one person most responsible for Everyday Mathematics is Max Bell, AM’58, MAT’59, a professor emeritus of education who still has a hand in Everyday Mathematics. Max’s thinking, and also the name he gave to the curriculum, can be traced back to a paper in the March 1974 Mathematics Teacher, “What Does ‘Everyman’ Really Need from School Mathematics?”

A detailed history can be found in an article by Max and Andrew Isaacs in Perspectives on the Design and Development of School Mathematics Curricula (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, 2007).

There also is a misleading statement on the same page with an error on the date. It is asserted that the Graduate School of Education (GSE) closed in 1978 because of a national glut of teachers. This is not true, though there was a national glut of teachers in some subjects (but not in science and mathematics) at the time.

From the inception of the GSE, the Department of Education and the school shared administrations (the dean of the GSE was chair of the department; applications to either unit went to the same office; there were a couple of joint committees), and the University’s central administration felt (quite accurately) that the duplication was unnecessary and expensive. It asked the faculties of the two units to merge and gave the choice to the faculties to merge either in the department or in the graduate school. The Department of Education faculty was larger and had many of the most well-known figures in the world in education, and its faculty did not want to leave the Division of Social Sciences, so the merger was into the department.

The merger occurred during the 1975–76 school year, not in 1978.

There has always been a need for well-qualified teachers like those trained in the GSE (and currently in the Urban Teacher Education Program). After the merger, teacher-training programs that had been in the GSE continued in the Department of Education until the dismantling of the department in 2001.

Zalman Usiskin
Professor Emeritus of Education
Director, University of Chicago School Mathematics Project

Buried the lede
The education topics in the Jan–Feb/12
SAVE YOUR SICK DAYS FOR BRECK
MARCH 17 - APRIL 15

BUD LIGHT CONCERT SERIES
BEER FESTIVAL
LODGING FROM $119
SUNSHINE ON THE SLOPES

PRESENTED BY BRECKSPRINGFEVER.COM
LETTERS

issue miss two critical stories. The most significant education event in the period I was at U of C (1992–2001) [as an astronomy and astrophysics faculty member] was the closing of the School of Education. The place where John Dewey laid the foundations for modern US teaching is no more. It is admirable that faculty members such as [astronomy and astrophysics professor] Don York, PhD’71, have done so much to improve teaching in Chicago schools, but he does this entirely on his own, using the prerogatives of tenure, an individual effort apart from his official role in astrophysics. In university teaching, U of C has completely missed the substantial advances in science teaching taking place at schools such as the University of Colorado, where Nobel Prize winner Carl Wieman saw such potential that he switched his personal research from atomic physics to physics education research. Then his university put $5 million into improving its own science teaching. That’s where the leading edge of university science teaching is today (see phet.colorado.edu for an example).

When MIT was told that it was systematically shortchanging the resources given to women faculty, it conducted a major study, found the claims were true, and acted aggressively to fix things. Its number of good women faculty and students has risen. MIT also called a meeting of Ivy League schools and U of C to discuss these issues of women in science. U of C missed the meeting. My department, astronomy and astrophysics, has had one tenured woman professor in the 130 years since U of C was founded.

That is not the leading edge.

Douglas Duncan
Boulder, Colorado

According to Peter Vandervoort, AB’54, SB’55, SM’56, PhD’60, professor emeritus in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics and in the College, the department has had four women faculty members since 1949. Two are currently tenured members of the faculty.—Ed.

Tuition, sweat, and grants

I am not sure what was more sickening about “The Future of PhDs” (Marketplace of Ideas, Jan–Feb/12)—the arrogant and self-serving tone of sociologist Andrew Abbott’s (AM’75, PhD’82) comments or the tepid debate he received. At the risk of asking the obvious, why should Dr. Abbott or any of the others worry whether they are accurately portraying the value of the product they are selling to the incoming academic candidates as long as they have an unending supply of grist for their mill. If it didn’t occur to Dr. Abbott, it did occur to me that it is quite easy for him to insist that it should be business as usual from the comfort of his cozy tenured life supported by the steady stream of tuition, sweat, and grant dollars provided by his students and their parents.

Those of us who live in the real world, however, are facing more daunting challenges than merely the pursuit of an “elite academic life trajectory.” As the mother of a PhD historian from Brown University who is unemployed and friend of many others who are stuck in an endless chain of cobbled together low paying adjunct positions, I would challenge your four interviewees to have a soul searching discussion of the ethics and morals of a group of people who promote something of great cost and dubious value without so much as a caveat emptor.

Stephanie Lazzeroni
Racine, Wisconsin

Chosen profession

Perhaps education is, indeed, greatly valued in editor Amy Puma’s family (Editor’s Notes, “So Much To Learn,” Jan–Feb/12). I must say, however, that starting her notes with the claim that teaching as a profession was held out to her as “something to fall back on” (granted her mother’s words, which she chose to include), gives no such impression. I am a second-grade teacher in a Chicago public school. The work that I do is complex and personally demanding. To teach well one needs more than a store of information and tools of analysis, but the ability to empathize with learners and convert wisdom in the teacher into understanding in the student. Forget managing budding personalities, English-language learners, and the barrage of standardized testing...
now present in the primary grades.

Teaching, when done well, is no easy task, and yet, for many reasons, some of which are valid, others mere urban myth, the work of teachers is continually denigrated in American society. Puma’s opening line does the profession no favors but just suggests that teaching is a job anyone could do if Plan A were to not pan out. I will not try to convince those who hold this position otherwise; such arguments tend to fall on deaf ears, but I will express my disappointment that in the issue meant to give education and teaching their due, the editor’s note opens by reinforcing the false notion that teaching is merely a fall-back profession. I would, however, agree with the author’s mother in that the *Everyday Math* curriculum has wonderful games but could stand to have more skills practice built into it.

*Genie Albina, AM’09  Chicago*

The editor apologizes to readers—and to her mother—for implying she meant teaching in general was a fallback career. In fact she meant the editor specifically should have some kind of Plan B ready, and that her own career choice offered a rewarding and stable (at the time, anyway) alternative. She had Plan B advice for the editor’s sister too, even when she planned to become a teacher.

**Skills and schools**

On page 16 of the Jan–Feb/12 issue is a graph that seems to me an example of sterling gobbledygook (UChicago Journal, Fig. 1, “Stop Gap”). Despite the abysmal failure of 46 years of Head Start, economist James Heckman has divined a saving metric—skills—that he says emerge before children begin school.

I posit that these skills of conscientiousness, perseverance, and sociability do begin early—at conception.

I’d like to ask: What indicates that these traits are not inborn? How are these skills measured on scholastic ability scores? What indicates that these skills are amenable to training? Is there any indication that any school program has this ability?

*J. Curtis Kovacs, AB’63, MD’67  Sun City, Arizona*

**Impolitic decision**

I am very disappointed and disturbed that the University would hire or even
I read with interest Michael Fitzger-
ald’s (AB’86) article “Ends and Means” (Nov–Dec/11), concerning microfinance in India. The subject undoubtedly has even wider implications, whence various microfinance organizations operate in many parts of the world, as the author points out. It is regrettable that corruption threatens to undermine an otherwise promising source of relief for the very poor. At the risk of being overly pedantic, however, I would like to point out a major error in Fitzgerald’s text. On page 36, in speaking about Andhra Pradesh, he states that “many of the state’s 82 million residents, who speak a minority Indian dialect, Telugu, are engaged in subsistence agriculture. Not only is Telugu misspelled, but it is hardly a “minority dialect.” It is a major Indian language spoken by at least 70 million people, and by far the majority language in Andhra Pradesh. —Ed

What an unfortunate choice! David Axelrod, AB’76, is not a David Ger-
gen. Axelrod is too much a “politics as usual” figure in our time and all others (see the 1947 Loretta Young, Ethel Barrymore, and Joseph Cotton movie The Farmer’s Daughter). Both in the 2008 campaign and in the Obama ad-
ministration, he showed himself to be a negative, vicious, no-holds-barred politician. I certainly wouldn’t want my child learning about “idealism” in politics from such a person.

In sum: the University has chosen unwisely.

Paul Giersky, MBA’75 Pepper Pike, Ohio

We apologize for the spelling error: the writer is correct that it is Telugu. According to the CIA’s World Fact Book, the language is spoken by 7.2 percent of India’s population. The article noted that it is spoken in Andhra Pradesh. —Ed

Freud lives

It appears that Mark Borinsky’s (PhD’72) study of psychoanalysis ended with the “pre-Jurassic peri-
od” research he cites (Letters, Jan–Feb/12). Obviously he is unaware of the ubiquitous incorporation of psy-
chodynamic elements in art, music, literature, even marketing and sales. He rests his case on an article in the Wall Street Journal. I prefer the scientific inquiry he seems to demand to the hackneyed, out of date rhetoric he uses. Recent research has dem-
onstrated the effectiveness of long term psychodynamic psychotherapy.

It has been shown to have powerful long term effects on both symptoms and personality change, and that the changes are long term and enduring. In both outcomes, psychodynamic psychotherapy equals or surpasses the holy grail of the Evidence Based Practice cultists, CBT.

I suggest Dr. Borinsky catch up with the field and read: de Maat et al., Harvard Review of Psychiatry, 2009, 171: 1-23; Shedler, American Psycholo-
gist, 2010, 65(2) 98-109; and Cortina, Psychiatry, 2010, 73(1) 43-56. Letters to the editor are, I suppose, opinion pieces. But it would be nice to see those making scientific proclamations have extant scientific support for their exhortations.

Robert B. Bloom, SB’58 Highland Park, Illinois

Heat wave

Robert Reynolds’s (AB’39) assertion that we “need” to warm the earth up “to avoid the return of the ice” is not very comforting (Letters, Jan–Feb/12). His overconfidence in his own conclusions is based in part on the education he received at Chicago in the 1930s, in the field of geology no less, when the macroecological pro-
cesses which maintain our atmosphere and the livability of the earth were poorly understood. Chicago was not educating its students very well with regard to these subjects as late as the 1980s, so who knows what a student—
even a biology student—learned in the 1930s. Certainly all students read many musty old texts by philosophers who had little or no grasp of the ways nature functions, and who could not foresee the ravages of future human overpopulation and overconsump-
tion on the biosphere. Looking back with 20/20 hindsight, this may not have been the best type of education for people who lived and voted in the 20th century, when we had the opportunity to check and prevent problems but chose not to do so.
60TH ANNUAL Chicago Booth
Management Conference
May 12
ChicagoBooth.edu/mc12

CHICAGO BOOTH
The University of Chicago Booth School of Business
I doubt Mr. Reynolds’s subsequent reading of books by “climate scientists” who agree with him has furthered his knowledge much. I am sure he will change his tune if he lives long enough, however, as Tucson is sure to experience more frequent killer heat waves in the very near future. Enjoy!

Jennifer Thurber Willis, AB’84
Cincinnati

And which thermometer to use?
Planet Earth has lots of water, lots of ice, and while not well mixed, they are in significant contact, both direct and via water flow and air circulation. Thus the planet is a weakly mixed and therefore partially buffered biphasic (ice/water) environment. It is very hard to take the temperature of a planet. One reading every quarter hour for ten years gets you 365,000 readings. One reading per degree of longitude multiplies by 360, and once per 0.1 degree of latitude by 1,800, taking us to over $2.3 \times 10^{11}$. For height I would do at least 100 readings from surface to 100 feet over surface, giving us a grand total of $2.3 \times 10^{13}$; my oh my. And we have yet to consider where might be the anal pore, the oral pore, and an armpit. The temperature information is contaminated by the buffering, so why bother.

When the ice goes down, planet Earth is gaining net energy, and when the ice goes up, planet Earth is losing net energy. Main energy source is the sun; main energy sink is space. The message is we are gaining energy. The why is somewhat irrelevant because the 7 billion living humans are heavily invested in waterside property, and most of us don’t do the New Orleans dog paddle very proficiently.

Robert Reynolds may well be right that we are in the fifth interglacial of the Pleistocene, but many crop and disease problems come with warming up, and really big problems come with the being under water part. Also, it is much easier to bump the temperature of the planet up than to bring it down.

Reynolds is also right about this being contrary to historical record. The historical record shows periods of increase in solar output followed by Earth ocean out gassing of gases such as CO$_2$ (increased atmospheric CO$_2$, reduced oceanic CO$_2$), which intensified the warming by trapping more outgoing radiation. The current record shows no change in solar (see NASA sun data), increases in atmospheric CO$_2$, and also increases in oceanic CO$_2$, all consistent with burning 50 percent of planet Earth’s oil supply in only 50 years, and thus raising the atmospheric CO$_2$. Of course, in historical times there were not 7 billion of us, along with our cows and pigs, and we had not learned how much fun it was to burn oil. The historical reading is correct. The current reading is correct. The lesson is: things can happen in more than one way.

Richard A Karlin, AB’55, SB’57
Pittsburgh

M*A*S*H note
Re: Harry (Bratsburg) Morgan, X’37, who died last year (Deaths, Jan–Feb/12). Mr. Morgan was once asked if being on M*A*S*H made him a better actor. His reply: “I don’t know about that, but it’s made me a better human being.”

Victor Sloan, AB’80
Flemington, New Jersey

MLK memories
In January the Magazine asked online readers to post memories of Martin Luther King Jr. speaking at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel in 1956 and 1959, and at Mandel Hall in 1966. Here are a few selections:

I was a transfer student to the College during the 1965–66 academic year, living in Pierce Tower. Before his talk in Mandel Hall, Dr. King was having dinner with select students in the private dining room off the main Pierce dining hall. Not being one of the elect, I stood in awe outside the private dining room door when, in a rush, a student exited. Noticing me, he asked if I’d like to go in and take his place, which turned out to be the chair immediately to Dr. King’s right. I recall that Dr. King ate only a salad: he told me he never ate much before an address, and that he would have a regular meal later. He didn’t talk about himself but drew me out about work I had done the previous summer with the children of African American migrant workers on the eastern end of Long Island.

When we left the private dining room, a few members of an African American family, representing at least three generations, I think, were waiting for him with a request. They had a family heirloom, a tablecloth with signatures of notable blacks in American history, and each signature had then been embroidered. They asked if he would sign the cloth. He examined it with delight, and of course he signed. I’ve often wondered about that family, and where the tablecloth is today.

Dr. King’s talk, as I recall, was on the African American family, and, as an address to an academic community, it
A squirrel and a gargoyle walked into Jimmy’s...

Send us your best jest.

The University of Chicago Magazine invites you to provide a punch line that’s as UChicago as squirrels, gargoyles, and Jimmy’s.

If your entry tickles our funny bone, we’ll print it in an upcoming issue and send you a UChicago sweatshirt (available in either squirrel or gargoyle gray). Entries must be printable and must be received by July 1, 2012 (send to uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu with “Joke Contest” as the subject line).

As ubiquitous as campus gargoyles and squirrels, the Magazine offers fresh news and views from campus and alumni | award-winning writing | bimonthly print issues | biweekly e-newsletters | scores of web exclusives at mag.uchicago.edu | daily tweets

Have a few dollars squirreled away?
We welcome gifts of any size, and if you give $50 or more, we’ll send you a deck of UChicago-inspired cards (lots of gargoyles but, sorry, no squirrels). See the cards at magazine.uchicago.edu/cards.

mag.uchicago.edu/makeagift
was not in the rousing style of a sermon, which I would have preferred. A little over two years later, when I was living as an assistant resident head across the midway in Salisbury House, I recall looking out a Burton Judson dining hall window at the military vehicles on patrol after Dr. King’s assassination.

Jack Barbera, AB’68, AM’69, PhD’76
University, Mississippi

January 1966 was not the last time Dr. King spoke on campus. In 1967 I spent the summer in Hyde Park as a high-school volunteer in something called the Mitzvah Corps, run by the National Federation of Temple Youth. On July 10, 1967, the 20 or so volunteers were invited to attend an event at the Oriental Institute where both Dr. King and Rev. Jesse Jackson, X’67, were speaking at an event held by Operation Breadbasket. At the end of the evening we were introduced to Dr. King as young Jewish civil-rights activists, and he was most gracious.

I’m sure that evening was one of the main reasons I applied to the U of C. Hyde Park was full of energy and excitement that summer, and I wanted to be part of it.

Joy F. Robinson-Lynch, AB’72
Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts

Canon fever
The Doc Film Group that I know dates from 1947 and continues into the mid ’50s, beginning from the time that Martin Picker, PhB’47, AM’51 [deceased], Guy Lester Cooper III, AB’50, and I met at Linn House as roommates and began a discussion on the art of the film evolving into a shared passion and crusade to further scholarly study, and appreciation of

TRYING to FIND UCHICAGO FRIENDS on TWITTER?

Let us help. The @UChicagoAlumni account acts as a connecting hub for alumni. Send us a tweet identifying yourself as a grad, and we’ll follow you. Follow us back to get up-to-the minute class notes and find UChicago friends.

HAVE PHOTOS to SHARE?

Post them at facebook.com/UChicagoAlumni. While you’re there, take a look at the Facebook Directory for a list of other Facebook pages and groups for UChicago alumni.

It’s not too late to become a doctor
Bryn Mawr College’s prestigious Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program will help you realize your dreams.

• For women and men changing career direction
• Over 98 percent acceptance rate into medical school
• Early acceptance programs at a large selection of medical schools
• Supportive, individual academic and premedical advising

Bryn Mawr College
Canwyll House | Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
610-526-7390
postbac@brynmawr.edu
www.brynmawr.edu/postbac/
film as the most recently structured fine art (“Reel Stories,” Alumni News, Nov–Dec/11). Film could come into its right only with a knowledgeable and discerning audience that had the opportunity to see the canon and to contribute to it.

To that end, we appropriated the then idle resources of the Documentary Film Society, a social-issues advocacy group that used documentary films to gain an audience for its opinions. The dean’s office assigned us to a vault office in the basement of Classics. The desk still had supplies from the old group. We got no funding and hoped to survive on an admission fee from each series. We were assigned SocSci 122, because it had a rudimentary projection room. The projector and film had to be carried between Classics and SocSci, so we got a coaster wagon. Martin, a musicologist at that time studying bibliographic techniques, became the secretary and business manager. Guy was a humanist and kept us all on a course of unwavering high standards. I was interested in social psychology and the question of perception and cognition and undertook the organization of film series, film selection, and series poster writing and design. We chose every film because it would educate the viewer’s eye and help in our goal to maintain film through the pull of an educated audience.

That photo of Doc Film people is a sensation. I was a lifelong friend of Ed Shafer, the center figure. Ed was never in Doc Film, but he always gave a helping hand. The Doc Film badges are an odd thing, perhaps marking a special occasion or perhaps a spoof mocking Doc Film’s chronic lack of a formal organization. The statements about Ernest Callenbach, PhB’49, AM’53, need correction. He was not a core member or contributor to the group’s mission or activities. He appeared to have been to film showings, but other than that, went into film in California.

I still get a thrill from the canon and honor Eisenstein, De Sica, and all the others. Just the other day, I saw where “Rosebud” was the answer to a low-level question on Who Wants to Be a Millionaire. After all of this time, who would have thought that everybody would know the canon? 

Frank G. Ternenyi, PhB’51
Chicago

**Department of corrections**

In the Jan–Feb/12 Citations, we referred to Jean Decety, the Irving B. Harris professor of psychology and psychiatry, as a psychologist rather than as a neurobiologist. We regret the error.

The University of Chicago Magazine welcomes letters about its contents or about the life of the University. Letters for publication must be signed and may be edited for space, clarity, and civility. To provide a range of views and voices, we encourage letter writers to limit themselves to 300 words or fewer. Write: Editor, The University of Chicago Magazine, 401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60611. Or e-mail: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

---

**The most in-depth exploration possible**

**Ultimate Alaska**

- Glaciers, old-growth forests & the undersea revealed
- Veteran & diverse expedition team
- Free Air on select May and June departures*

Request a free brochure or DVD: 1.800.EXPEDITION www.expeditions.com/alaska or contact your travel agent.

*Applies to new bookings and select departures. Subject to availability.
Midstream
The Chicago River 1999–2010
RICHARD WASSERMAN
With an Essay by Julia S. Bachrach

Midstream is the culmination of a ten-year project, in which there was always one more location to explore and another moment to capture. The result is a remarkable record of the Chicago River, revealing the nature of the waterway as it changed throughout the seasons and in relation to the dramatic extremes of Chicago weather.

Cloth $50.00

An American Palace
Chicago’s Samuel M. Nickerson House
DAVID BAGNALL

“Saving the ornate Samuel M. Nickerson House has given a new generation the chance to experience the extraordinary architectural legacy of America’s Gilded Age. This book is the next best thing to exploring the mansion and its fabulous collection of decorative arts in person, and it is a wonderful celebration of the home and the skillful restoration that brought it back to its original glory.”—Stephanie Meeks, President and CEO, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Cloth $37.50

Re: Chicago
Edited by LOUISE LINCOLN

For more than a century the Chicago art community has struggled to define itself in relation to other urban art centers. While prominent American artists past and present have had strong connections to Chicago, many left to make their reputations elsewhere. This book and the exhibition on which it is based reframe Chicago as an artistic center in its own right, with a perspective and community as distinctive as its geography, economy, and politics.

Paper $30.00
This spring marks the start of my 30th year at the University of Chicago. As I suspect may be true for many of you, one comes to a place expecting to stay a short time, and before you know it, a decade or two or three has passed. But what keeps me here is not the constancy of the experience; rather, it is the constancy of change.

The most obvious change involves the explosion of construction on campus. From an athletic center to residence halls, from an arts center to an iconic new library, from biomedical research and teaching centers to Chicago Booth’s Harper Center, new buildings have sprouted up on both sides of the Midway. Yet as much as we now hope to address acute facility needs across the disciplines, our fundamental motivation has not changed. The success of Chicago always has been its investment in human capital, creating an intellectual environment where big questions can be asked and scholars searching for answers—or, as importantly, posing the next big question—can thrive. Investment in buildings is simply a means to the end of attracting the best faculty, students, and staff to Chicago.

A second, deeper change involves new modes of inquiry, enriching our commitment to creating knowledge for the ages. We have broadened our scope of impact and embraced greater engagement with community and society. For example, the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry situates the academic study of the arts in the context of a thriving national arts scene. As envisioned by the original faculty committee, it strives to develop a model for the practicing artist on campus through the most Chicago of approaches: exploratory constructs yielding data leading to new models. The University’s Department of Education has been superseded by a University-wide faculty Committee on Education, closely linked via the Urban Education Institute to four University-run campuses of a Chicago city charter school, whereby theory can confront practice. The Institute for Molecular Engineering recognizes the full continuum from basic science to technological application; after a century of eschewing investment in engineering, we have launched an effort to recraft the study of engineering on the molecular level. The opportunity to define a discipline without being constrained by past practice is exhilarating, but perhaps the most powerful influence will come as current approaches are enriched by new colleagues with different scientific sensibilities.

The most profound change I have seen in my time in academia is the emergence of the supercharged, competitive educational landscape in which we must pick our way. It extends from college admissions through graduate-student aid to faculty recruitment and retention to organizational structure. Major research universities throughout the world, including Chicago, are investing aggressively across the board and creating ever more complex configurations that demand imagination coupled with a sure sense of institutional self. Suppleness of thought and acceptance of the reality that tools of scholarship and modes of inquiry are not only changing, but changing differently in different disciplines, will be essential to maintain the University of Chicago’s eminence. The whole of the University is most powerful when the connections between schools and divisions and the College are real and robust, but these connections also must be allowed to evolve in ways that are driven locally and preferentially.

Like the New Yorker cartoon where one lab-coated physicist peruses the discoveries in his laboratory notebook and informs the other, “We’ve agreed to count it as both a wave and a particle for tax purposes,” we need the freedom to reimagine the shape of the University while remaining bounded by the tenets of the intellectual society that we have created. Change is manifest and inevitable, but it will not be powerful except in the context of our defining values.
If you’re a standout, you’ll fit right in.

There is a difference between communicating ideas and experiencing them. It’s the difference between memorizing a foreign language and thinking in one. Between studying ruins and excavating them. Between analyzing dreams and living them. The difference is huge. And it’s the very essence of the University of Chicago Summer Session. Where students are engaged at every level—intellectually, socially, personally, and professionally. Where you can benefit from the value of taking university courses in an accelerated, intensive format. Join us this summer for an extraordinary learning experience at the academic home to more than 85 Nobel laureates.

For students in high school, college, and beyond.

**June 18–August 24, 2012, 3, 4, 5, or 6-week sessions**

---

For more information:

summer.uchicago.edu/go/TLALAM
773.702.6033
summer@uchicago.edu
Chill out

A warm start for Kuviasungnerk swirls to a snowy finish.

The week started on such a high note—51 degrees Fahrenheit—that the purists declared 2012 was “not a real Kuvia.” But by Friday, scarves and snow pants were both commonplace and necessary.

Every year Jean Treese, AB’66, who leads the weeklong winter festival’s Salute to the Sun exercise (pictured above) at the Point on Friday, asks participants not to disrobe before the yoga begins. And while the cold snap kept some bundled in their beds, it didn’t deter the diehards from stripping down to shorts and T-shirts and flopping around in the snow.

In theory, the Monday–Thursday morning exercises are preparation for the final Friday ritual at the Point: you build up from two salutes on Monday to ten on Friday, when your collective labor culminates in a glorious sunrise over Lake Michigan. In practice, there’s a big difference between yoga in the gym and yoga in the snow.

After the march from Henry Crown, a perfunctory plank pose and a few quick dips into the snow are enough to demonstrate commitment. Diehard or not, though, everyone hopped onto the buses and rode back to campus, where they were welcomed with a bagel, a juice box, and the coveted Kuvia T-shirt.—Mitchell Kohles, ’12
The new Institute of Politics will include events like January’s bipartisan panel of officials and analysts.

POLITICS

Left, right, left, right

Strategist David Axelrod will lead a campus institute designed to be an ROTC for public service.

Complementing the announcement that former White House senior adviser David Axelrod, AB’76, will direct a campus Institute for Politics beginning in 2013, the University hosted a January 19 panel of well-known politicians to talk about the 2012 election.

The International House auditorium was packed with invited guests, students, faculty, and staff members to see New York Times columnist David Brooks, AB’83; Republican media consultant Alex Castellanos; Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel; and MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow. George Stephanopoulos of ABC moderated the discussion—an event planned to demonstrate the types of speakers Axelrod, currently a strategist for President Obama’s reelection campaign, hopes to attract.

Collaborating with the Harris School of Public Policy and the College, the institute will not be an academic division but rather will provide resources to students. “Think of this as an ROTC program for politics and public service,” Axelrod said.

Although he has advised only Democrats, Axelrod and University president Robert J. Zimmer told audience members that they are committed to keeping the institute nonpartisan. Zimmer noted that the commitment reflects “the University’s culture of open debate that includes multiple and often competing perspectives.”

As a student at the University, Axelrod felt an absence of opportunities for politically minded students. He observed a low level of campus activism and wants the institute to inspire student interest. He said it’s easy to be cynical about politics, but it’s participants in the process who shape political decisions. Rather than “curse the outcome,” Axelrod encouraged students to “change the outcome, if not as a candidate then as a strategist or an adviser or as a writer.”

Bringing the panelists onstage, Axelrod said the group demonstrated the range of political views the institute will promote.

That range soon became evident, but the discussion began with a consensus: they agreed that among GOP presidential candidates, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney has the best shot to win the party’s nomination. Emanuel said that New Jersey governor Chris Christie or Indiana governor Mitch Daniels would be stronger candidates, and Castellanos added that the Republican Party is missing an Obama, a standard-bearer with a strong “optimistic vision” that inspires voters.

Asked if there were a third-party candidate who might challenge either nominee, Maddow said that it would most likely be Texas representative Ron Paul. The left, she added, would “eat alive” any liberal trying to oust Obama.

Whatever happens in the November election, Axelrod will return in early 2013 to his Chicago academic roots, bringing his political experience with him. The Institute of Politics will have three main components—attracting political professionals to campus as...
fellow, a student internship program, and regular events featuring speakers such as the group who visited in January. The mission, Axelrod says, is to give students “a real-life sense of public engagement—what it entails, what it offers, why it’s important.”

—Christina Pillsbury, ’13

POETRY

Holy, holey sonnets

Does Donne dramatize religious incoherence or lapse into it?

This was how winter quarter began for the Divinity School’s long-running Wednesday Lunch lecture series: with English professor Richard Strier standing behind a podium in the Swift Hall common room while two dozen students and faculty polished off the last of their brownies and listened as he tore into John Donne’s Holy Sonnets. The title of Strier’s talk posed a question: “Does bad theology make bad poetry?” The answer, he contended, was yes.

His fellow scholars were more than willing to argue the point.

Donne was born in 1572 into a devout Catholic family at a time when Catholicism was illegal in England. His mother wanted to be.”

In the end, Donne emerged a Protestant and in 1615 became an Anglican priest. But Donne’s Holy Sonnets, now among his most celebrated poems, were written between 1607 and 1610, Strier said, before he’d fully aligned himself with his Protestant beliefs. And the theological confusion evident in some of the poems, Strier argued—with an almost gleeful vehemence that kept his audience chuckling—mars the poetry. Glancing periodically at his watch and wishing aloud that he had more time to speak (“this should be a three-hour seminar”), Strier analyzed three of Donne’s Holy Sonnets, including the most famous, which begins, “Batter my heart, three person’d God.” But the poem that seemed to dismay Strier most was sonnet number 6, describing the afterlife, with the opening line, “This is my body”—imputed righteousness—bestowed on a sinner by faith alone—to the point of incoherence. Strier teased out further religious incoherence or lapse into it?

This was how winter quarter began for the Divinity School’s long-running Wednesday Lunch lecture series: with English professor Richard Strier standing behind a podium in the Swift Hall common room while two dozen students and faculty polished off the last of their brownies and listened as he tore into John Donne’s Holy Sonnets. The title of Strier’s talk posed a question: “Does bad theology make bad poetry?” The answer, he contended, was yes.

His fellow scholars were more than willing to argue the point.

Donne was born in 1572 into a devout Catholic family at a time when Catholicism was illegal in England. His mother and his brother went to prison for sheltering Jesuits. But by the 1590s, his father was released, was yes.

His fellow scholars were more than willing to argue the point.

Donne was born in 1572 into a devout Catholic family at a time when Catholicism was illegal in England. His mother and his brother went to prison for sheltering Jesuits. But by the 1590s, his father was released, was yes.

His fellow scholars were more than willing to argue the point.

Donne was born in 1572 into a devout Catholic family at a time when Catholicism was illegal in England. His mother and his brother went to prison for sheltering Jesuits. But by the 1590s, his father was released, was yes.

His fellow scholars were more than willing to argue the point.

Donne was born in 1572 into a devout Catholic family at a time when Catholicism was illegal in England. His mother and his brother went to prison for sheltering Jesuits. But by the 1590s, his father was released, was yes.
how to articulate a radical transformation,” from Catholicism to Protestantism. “Is there a preferred language of transformation that Donne finally arrives at, or is he constantly playing as a poet with different ways of articulating? Because if so, you might want to argue the reverse of your title: does bad poetry make for bad theology?”

Strier laughed. “I’m not sure how you’d argue that,” he said. A few minutes later, he left his audience with a final assessment of Donne: “There’s a difference between dramatizing incoherence and being incoherent,” he said. “In the better poems, he dramatizes it. In the worse ones, he just falls into it.” —Lydia Tyle Gibson

THEATER

Career change

Lucy Wang went from trading bonds to writing scripts.

In her 1994 play Junk Bonds, Lucy Wang, MBA’86, details the fast-paced world of Wall Street bond traders—the power plays, bluffs, and betrayals—along with the question of just whom you could trust. Wang was writing from experience: before becoming a playwright, she was a bond trader. “It’s a tough world. They want to make sure you can handle it,” she notes, adding that she endured her share of nicknames.

The year Junk Bonds premiered, the play won awards from the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays and the Katherine and Lee Chilcote Foundation. It was a good year for Wang: the New York Times featured her on the cover of the Business section, with a two-page article inside, and the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles selected her play Bird’s Nest Soup, about an immigrant family, for its New Work Festival.

Born in Taiwan, Wang was raised in Ohio by her father after her mother abandoned them when Wang was a teenager. Although she was a “good writer”—she wrote a short story in tenth grade about Holden Caulfield going on The Tonight Show—Wang felt she needed to pursue a more practical career. “People would tell me, ‘You didn’t come all the way from China to be a starving artist.’ So very early on, it was ingrained that that I must make money.”

The self-described “business nerd” studied economics and Asian studies at the University of Texas at Austin and then moved to New York to work on Wall Street. At a party, she met someone who thought she’d be a good fit in Mayor David Dinkins’s City Hall, so she took a detour into politics, working as deputy chief of staff to the deputy mayor. Almost two years later, Wang found herself out of a job when Dinkins lost his 1993 reelection bid to Rudy Giuliani. “To chase my blues away, I joined a writing group,” she recalls. The group encouraged her to turn her stories into a play.

The result was Junk Bonds, and she’s been writing ever since—13 published plays and eight monologues to date. In mid-March Wang completes a ten-week residency at the Annenberg Community Beach House in Santa Monica, California, where she will have hosted a series of public events about storytelling. At the first meeting, titled New Year, New Beginnings, Wang opened the discussion by talking about the subject of luck and how many of the attendees thought of themselves as lucky—a lot, surprisingly, Wang thought. “In today’s economy, I know a lot of unemployed and underemployed people, struggling, carrying upside-down mortgages, no health insurance, worthless pensions,” she says. The discussion made her rethink the definition of the word: “Is luck a random windfall? Is luck simply an attitude? Or the byproduct of hard labor plus timing?”

During her residency, Wang hoped to finish a play in progress, “Moo Goo Gai Pan Asian.” She has also branched out into other genres. An as-yet-unpublished young-adult novel, “Teen Mogul,” is about a girl working in corporate America to support her family after her mother leaves. When Wang was about 15, she used some connections to get a job as a marketing research director. “And then I ended up on the board of directors because they didn’t know how old I was.”

When trying to publish “Teen Mogul,” “I was told by some people that nobody cares about a smart, precocious Asian American girl,” Wang says. “I was told to make it a boy, and not make him Asian American. ... So I’m adapting my novel into a play, and I’m making it race neutral, because I want it to be done in more than one city.”

Wang has also begun performing stand-up comedy at the urging of Gloria Steinem, whom Wang met during a monthlong writers residency at Hedgebrook. “She said, ‘You’ve got to dare yourself to do it,’” Wang says. “So I started trying last fall, and it’s a huge rush. Normally I let actors perform my lines, but it was cool to do my own stuff.” Wang finds the medium terrifying but rewarding. “I’ve had one guy tell me, ‘I almost peed in my pants,’” she recalls. “And that’s just the best compliment you can get.”—Jenelle Riley

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Twin studies

Nancy Segal’s experience as a twin inspired her to ask, what makes them alike?

Sometime around her fourth birthday, Nancy L. Segal, AM’74, PhD’82, realized that she was a fraternal twin, that there was a “same-age person who
Has checking your smartphone become a vice? Research from Chicago Booth suggests that the desire to check e-mail and social media is among the most irresistible temptations—even stronger than the yen for alcohol and tobacco. In an experiment of 205 people aged 18–85 in Würzburg, Germany, assistant professor Wilhelm Hofmann recorded how often and how strongly participants felt various urges, and when they gave in. In the March Psychological Science, he reported that desires for sex and sleep were the strongest and most commonly reported, but also the easiest to resist. Checking e-mail and Twitter accounts, on the other hand, proved difficult to withstand—perhaps, Hofmann said, because of the activity’s perceived low cost. Moreover, the study found that subjects didn’t build up immunity to their cravings—instead, as the day dragged on and they continually fought back desire, their willpower broke down.

Organ allocation that favors geography over patients’ severity of condition may unnecessarily leave the neediest patients to die on the wait-list, says transplant surgeon Mark J. Russo. Russo and colleagues at Chicago and Columbia University used data from the United Network for Organ Sharing and found that out of 580 lung transplants performed in 2009, 480 went to the closest patient while another patient in more critical condition waited outside the “local service area,” sometimes within 20 miles. Ultimately, 183 of the bypassed candidates died on the waiting list. Because the data was limited to double-lung candidates and researchers could not cross-check for blood-type matches, the study likely underestimates the number of lives lost, Russo said. The findings were shared at January’s annual meeting of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

When biologists search for clues as to why a species evolves in one way and not another, they generally begin with living species and trace the path backward. Lauren Sallan, a doctoral student in organismal biology, instead consulted the fossil record to see how a species moves forward to evolve. With an Oxford University colleague, Sallan studied fossils of fish from periods immediately after mass extinctions, when resources were abundant and competitors scarce. In these conditions, they found that contrary to existing theories, fish’s heads evolved first, before their tails. The driving factor, the researchers posit, may have been food: the animals evolved new teeth and jaws to exploit the expanded options. The findings were published online in December in Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

Fossils turned a theory of fish evolution upside down.

TIME AND HYPERTENSION
When patients struggle with diabetes, any sign of high blood pressure is reason enough to make their physician reach for the prescription pad. But a study by internist and Pritzker instructor Neda Laiteerapong, published in the January 9 Journal of General Internal Medicine, suggests that patients may have more time than they think to get their blood pressure under control. Drawing on years of published data, Laiteerapong and Chicago colleagues built models to determine how dangerous it is to delay effective treatment for diabetics. They found that patients who postponed medication and lifestyle changes for one year could expect only a two-day loss in quality-adjusted life expectancy. “For newly diagnosed patients, this means we have time,” said Laiteerapong. However, as the delay increases, the risks multiply.—Mitchell Kohles, ’12
Segal, many researchers argued that the environment was the prime determinant of individual behavior and that genetics played a relatively minor role. Based on her research, Segal suspected that biology deserved more consideration.

She did her postdoc at the University of Minnesota, working on psychologist Thomas Bouchard’s Minnesota Study of Twins Reared Apart. The study, launched in 1979 and lasting two decades, tested 137 adult twin pairs who had been raised in different homes. Eighty-one pairs were identical and 56 were fraternal. Bouchard’s group also used data from the Minnesota Twin Registry, started in 1983 by researchers studying identical and fraternal pairs raised together.

The general finding, explains Segal, who worked on the project for nine years, was “that genes are much more pervasive than anyone would have ever imagined,” a controversial idea when the data was first released in 1981. Across most of the measured behavioral characteristics, identical pairs—whether reared apart or together—scored more alike than fraternal pairs. Even more telling, on many traits, such as aggression, the identical twins raised apart displayed roughly the same degree of similarity as those raised together.

Although the study showed that genes account for the vast majority of family similarities, Segal gives social factors due. “Behavior is a complex combination of both genes and environment. Nothing is 100 percent genetic—everything is a combination of the two.” No pair of identical twins is exactly the same. The differences have to come from somewhere, Segal suggests, most likely unshared environmental experiences.

To research Someone Else’s Twin, Segal flew to Las Palmas, Spain. The book follows the 1973 case of Delia and Begoña, a pair of identical twins born at the Nuestra Señora del Pino Hospital. When Delia was accidentally switched with unrelated infant Beatriz, Begoña and Beatriz became same-age unrelated children raised together, and Delia became the first-born child of a family with whom she had no biological connection. Twenty-eight years later, Begoña was mistaken for Delia in a clothing store, a mix-up that eventually uncovered the baby switch and left the three women and their families stunned and embroiled in a years-long lawsuit with the hospital.

In 2009 the lawyers granted Segal full access to the families—they thought she would help their case, which concluded that same year and awarded the families €900,000 (then about $1.2 million). The case confirmed for Segal that, in general, people are more like their biological relatives—even if they have not been raised under the same roof. Segal learned that Beatriz realized at 12 that she looked, thought, and acted differently than the family who raised her. Delia and Begoña noted their striking behavioral similarities and described feeling a strong connection upon first meeting, echoing reared-apart identical twins in the Minnesota Study.

Segal’s latest book project is Born Together—Reared Apart: The Landmark Minnesota Twin Study (Harvard University Press, forthcoming). She expects the book, like her other endeavors, will attract publicity because twins—especially identicals—fascinate people. “Everybody would love to have someone who is just like them,” says Segal, who is now very close to her fraternal twin. “Many of us sort of envy that, and perhaps in some ways I did too. Maybe I wanted someone just like me. Who knows?” —Katherine Muhlenkamp

**Twins Nancy (right) and Anne Segal differ in appearance and personality.**

**Politics**

**Voice of descent**

Thomas Frank fears the rise of conservative populism could deepen economic decline.

Whenever Thomas Frank, AM’89, PhD’94, gestured in exasperation at the state of American political culture—and he did that a lot during a January talk at International House—water sloshed from the open bottle in his left hand. He didn’t seem to notice the puddle forming next to him on the stage.

Eventually Frank set the water down, but he never let go of the vehemence that spilled it. Reading loose-leaf pages adapted from his new book, *Pity the Billionaire: The Hard-Times Swindle and the Unlikely Comeback of the Right* (Metropolitan Books, 2012), Frank tossed each completed sheet behind him. By the end he had created a pile of righteous indignation and hissing sarcasm.

A supportive audience of a few dozen challenged him only to serve up more red meat during the question-and-answer session. Called the “thinking person’s Michael Moore” in the *New York Times*, Frank provided all the ideological snarl expected from the author of the red-state-baiting best seller *What’s the Matter with Kansas?* (Metropolitan Books, 2004). Now a *Harper’s* columnist, Frank unloaded on the tea party’s populist fervor in the wake of the financial crisis.

Conservative economic ideas emerged from the recession with ra- bid public support, much to Frank’s surprise. He traces the financial crisis to the free-market philosophy of “de-regulation, de-unionization, privatization, and free-trade agreements” that has had bipartisan political support since the 1980s. “Now, after all this has been going on for decades, we suddenly have a people’s uprising demanding that we embrace the free-market ideology,” said Frank, the founding editor of the left-wing journal *The Baffler*. “And this only a short while after that same ideology led the...
Frank discussion: “The thinking man’s Michael Moore” thinks things look bleak.

world into the greatest economic catastrophe in memory.”
In response, he said, liberals have preached moderation, ceding the rage that sparked legislative reforms during the Great Depression to their political opposition. “The bailouts produced an environment that was perfect for populism in the old Jacksonian tradition, for old-fashioned calamity howlers, for jeremiads raging against the corrupt and the powerful. And one of our two political factions, as we have seen, took to that task immediately and with relish.”

Occupy Wall Street has since added a left-wing perspective to the unrest, but Frank believes the elected officials on that side of the spectrum have been tone deaf. “The actual political descendants of Jackson and Truman and Roosevelt, they pretty much failed to rise to the occasion. They never seemed to get it. ... They could not embrace the requirements of the moment even though responding to hard times was once their movement’s very reason for being.”

In Frank’s view, the unworthy heirs to that tradition include President Obama, who happened to be in Chicago the same night for a series of campaign fundraisers. “Back to raise big bucks,” Frank said, holding up a Chicago Sun-Times clipping that reminded him of a passage from Obama’s book The Audacity of Hope about how money influences politicians.

Major Democratic donors, Frank said, tend to have liberal social views but share the conservative antunion, pro-free-trade economic philosophy. “In other words, they’re sort of like a nice version of the tea party movement. And that’s who pays for Barack Obama’s campaigns. And he himself has said it, and he’s very honest about it. He says, ‘As I campaigned for the Senate ... I found myself becoming more like them.' And he’s right.”

As indebted as Republicans are to supporters who prospered despite the downturn, Obama and the Democrats do not elude culpability for the Ayn Rand abyss Frank envisions. A triumphant tea party agenda taken to its logical extreme, he said, would eliminate programs such as disaster relief and interstate highways and national parks as government functions for the common good. In their place, Frank argued, would be a culture not of individual responsibility but of social and economic anarchy.

“Every problem that our editorialists fret about today will get worse, of course: inequality, global warming, financial bubbles one after another after another, but it won’t matter,” Frank said. “On our country will go, chasing the only ideology that we have left, down into the seething Arcadia of all against all.”—Jason Kelly
FOR THE RECORD

INVESTMENT IN INDIAN STUDIES
A $1.5 million gift from India’s Ministry of Culture has established a visiting professorship in Indian Studies. The chair commemorates Hindu spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda. The quarter-long visiting professorship in the humanities division will go to scholars in disciplines most relevant to Vivekananda’s teachings, including Indian philosophy, politics, and social movements.

IT’S FIVE MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT
In January the University-based Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved the hands of its symbolic Doomsday Clock one minute closer to midnight. Since 2010 the clock had stood at 11:54 p.m., but the Bulletin cited inadequate progress on nuclear-weapons reduction and proliferation and inaction on climate change as the reasons for the reset.

GROUP THINKERS
Chicago Booth professors Raghuram Rajan and Axel Weber have been named to the Group of 30, an international body that examines the effects of public and private financial and economic decisions. Rajan, the Eric J. Gleacher distinguished service professor in finance, serves as an economic adviser to India’s prime minister and was the International Monetary Fund’s chief economist from 2003 to 2006. Weber, former president of Deutsche Bundesbank and a member of the European Central Bank’s governing council, is a visiting professor of economics and the incoming chair of global financial-services company UBS.

MOVING INSTRUMENT
The baroque-style Reneker Memorial Organ moves this summer from the Chicago Theological Seminary to Bond Chapel. To get the 1083 organ settled in its new home, the chapel will close after June Convocation and reopen in December. University organist Thomas Weisflog, SM’69, plans a concert series to celebrate the instrument’s arrival at Bond Chapel.

BOYCE LEAFS THROUGH HISTORY
As a literature student, Kevin Boyce imagined himself in Chaucer’s medieval world. That made him think about the dizzying sweep of history, back to life on earth millions of years ago, sparking an interest that became a career. Now an associate professor in geophysical sciences, Boyce received the 2011 Charles Schuchert Award from the Paleontological Society, which goes to a paleontologist under 40, for his research into leaves and fossil geochemistry. One of 11 recipients since the award was established 1973, Boyce joins Michael Foote, professor and chair of the geophysical sciences department, on the list of winners.

MODEL STUDENTS
The University’s Urban Education Institute and the Ounce of Prevention Fund have been awarded a total of $2.45 million for a multiyear effort to develop a public-education model from birth to college. Funds from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, and the Foundation for Child Development will be used to create and implement instructional practices and academic and social supports, beginning with early-childhood education and continuing from kindergarten through high school.

PRIZE FOR A PIONEER
Janet Rowley, PhB’45, SB’46, MD’78, has received the 2012 Japan Prize for Healthcare and Medical Technology for her role in developing targeted cancer therapy. Rowley, the Blum-Riese distinguished service professor of medicine, received the $215,000 award for research that began in the early 1970s, showing that chromosome “translocation” affected genes that regulated cell growth and division, a factor in several types of leukemia. Her discoveries helped lead to better treatments, including the first targeted anticancer drug, Gleevec.

THE SOUND OF SCIENCE
The sounds of Fermilab machinery—“the ubiquitous booms, hums, growls, and crackles”—provide a daily soundtrack that employees learn to tune out. Composer Mason Bates turned those noises into music for his symphony Alternative Energy, which the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performed in February and the Chicago Tribune called “exceedingly well-made.”

HONORED IN TRANSLATION
The Modern Language Association honored three UChicago faculty members in January. Michael Bourdags, associate professor in East Asian languages and civilizations, received the Scaglione Prize for Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature for Natsume Soseki’s Theory of Literature and Other Critical Writings. Sharing the prize for Distinguished Scholarly Edition as coeditors of Elizabeth I: Translations, 1544–1589, and Elizabeth I: Translations, 1592–1598, were Janel Muller, the William Rainey Harper distinguished service professor emerita in English language and literature, and Joshua Scodel, the Helen A. Regenstein professor in English language and literature, comparative literature, and the College.

IN THE LINE OF FIRE
The University of Chicago Medicine and CeaseFire Chicago will sponsor a “violence interrupter,” a person who defuses potentially deadly disputes—efforts featured in the 2011 documentary The Interrupters. Providing $120,000 over three years to fund the interrupter, UChicago Medicine plans other antiviolence efforts throughout the South Side.
Goldin says the United States needs to strengthen academic standards to increase its competitive workforce.

ECONOMICS

Capital ideas

Panelists at a Becker Friedman Institute event tackle policy issues in classic Chicago style.

At a January event in New York, University president Robert J. Zimmer introduced the Becker Friedman Institute for Research in Economics as an endeavor that will build on the tradition of the Chicago school of economics. UChicago economists, Zimmer reminded the more than 220 alumni and business leaders in the audience, produced insights that changed how governments viewed their economic structures. “Many of you will remember the rather famous remark that George Will made after the fall of the Soviet Union—and, along with it, a discrediting of an economic system that was totally non-market-engaged,” he said: “The Cold War is over, and the University of Chicago has won.”

The new institute, which combines the Milton Friedman Institute with the Becker Center on Price Theory, Zimmer said, is designed to continue the generating and nurturing ideas that change the world. Some of those ideas were on display during two panel discussions on some of today’s most pressing economic policy challenges.

Institute chair Gary S. Becker, AM’53, PhD’55, led a discussion of human capital and its importance in an information-based economy. Becker and Claudia Goldin, AM’69, PhD’72, the Henry Lee professor of economics at Harvard University, showed how the US educational system powered economic growth for much of the 20th century, but stagnation in high-school graduation rates translates into a workforce lacking the skills to compete. Presenting information from her book with Lawrence F. Katz, The Race Between Education and Technology (Harvard University Press, 2008), Goldin called for more competition and stronger academic standards.

Kevin Murphy, PhD’86, the George J. Stigler professor of economics at Chicago Booth, agreed: Of the three factors driving GDP growth—investment in physical capital, investment in human capital, and new technology—“people are the most important input,” he said. “Human capital accounts for roughly 65 percent of our productive capacity. If you don’t increase the skills of your workforce, it’s harder and harder to absorb technical innovations and advances.”

The dearth of skilled workers, Murphy said, fuels the wage premium for college-educated workers and grow-
Figuring there had to be a more efficient way to board passengers onto an airplane, astrophysicist and Fermilab postdoc Jason Steffen built a computer model a few years ago to investigate. He discovered that loading passengers at random would be faster than the methods most airlines use. He advocated a staggered process (right) that starts at the rear of the cabin and works its way forward, skipping every other row, loading the window seats first, then middles, then aisles. In 2008 he published his findings to a flurry of media but little interest from airlines.

Last fall he tested his method against four others on a Hollywood sound stage. Seventy-two people, children and adults with roller bags and carry-ons, boarded a mock 757. The results, published in the Journal of Air Transport Management, show that it took six minutes, 11 seconds, to board the plane from back to front and six minutes, 54 seconds, to board it by sections. Boarding window seats, then middles, then aisles took just over four minutes, and boarding at random took about five. By contrast, Steffen’s staggered process took three minutes and 36 seconds.

—Lydialyle Gibson

**FIG. 1**

**BOARDING CALL**

**SHADING AND NUMBERS INDICATE THE ORDER IN WHICH PASSENGERS WOULD TAKE THEIR SEATS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP ONE</th>
<th>GROUP TWO</th>
<th>GROUP THREE</th>
<th>GROUP FOUR</th>
<th>GROUP FIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIRST CLASS</strong></td>
<td>30, 32, 34</td>
<td>40, 42, 44</td>
<td>10, 12, 14</td>
<td>43, 45, 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10, 12, 14</td>
<td>29, 31, 33</td>
<td>20, 22, 24</td>
<td>32, 34, 36</td>
<td>42, 44, 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28, 30, 32</td>
<td>29, 31, 33</td>
<td>30, 32, 34</td>
<td>31, 33, 35</td>
<td>41, 43, 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27, 29, 31</td>
<td>28, 30, 32</td>
<td>32, 34, 36</td>
<td>33, 35, 37</td>
<td>34, 36, 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26, 28, 30</td>
<td>27, 29, 31</td>
<td>34, 36, 38</td>
<td>35, 37, 39</td>
<td>36, 38, 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25, 27, 29</td>
<td>26, 28, 30</td>
<td>36, 38, 40</td>
<td>37, 39, 41</td>
<td>38, 40, 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24, 26, 28</td>
<td>25, 27, 29</td>
<td>38, 40, 42</td>
<td>39, 41, 43</td>
<td>39, 41, 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23, 25, 27</td>
<td>24, 26, 28</td>
<td>40, 42, 44</td>
<td>41, 43, 45</td>
<td>41, 43, 45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ENERGY**

Small modular nuclear reactors could have economic and safety benefits, a Chicago study reports.

Despite the environmental benefits of nuclear power, two major obstacles have prevented development of the low-carbon energy source: cost and safety. A US Department of Energy-funded study released in December by the Energy Policy Institute at Chicago (EPIC) argues that an emerging technological development, known as a small modular reactor, could go a long way toward mitigating both concerns.

Three to ten times smaller than traditional reactors, modular reactors could reduce the cost of bringing a plant online by 25–50 percent, estimates report coauthor Robert Rosner, institute director and the William E. Wrather

**ING INCOME INEQUALITY**

Because improving the educational system and producing more skilled workers could take 20 years or more, Becker advocated a quicker fix: a market-based immigration system to bring in workers with the necessary expertise.

Leading a panel on financial markets and the macroeconomy, institute research director Lars Peter Hansen noted that Milton Friedman, AM’33, “pushed us to think about the important interactions between monetary and fiscal policy.” Commenting on fiscal decentralization in Europe, Agustin Carstens, AM’83, PhD’85, governor of the Bank of Mexico, drew parallels to a series of fiscal crises in Latin America in the 1970s and 80s rooted in flawed exchange-rate policies.

“So what has Europe done? Europe has fixed exchange rates, not just one to another but 17 countries together,” said Carstens. “To make that exchange-rate arrangement sustainable, you have to make the fiscal policies consistent to fit that exchange-rate policy. It’s not that difficult to see that you’d have a problem at some point in time.”

Myron Scholes, MBA’64, PhD’70, a 1997 economics Nobelist, noted that it was difficult to tell whether European nations have liquidity or solvency problems, which imply different solutions. “The problem with the 17 countries is that there is no consistency or a fiscal union to create a unified response.”

 Asked about the new US Treasury Department Financial Stability Oversight Council’s capacity to identify and manage risks, Scholes said, “When you have this idea of a systemic risk regulator, what you’ve done is cement in the notion of too big to fail. You’ve guaranteed a bailout, so [financial institutions] are going to take even more risks.”

The panelists differed on how to deal with financial institutions deemed too big to fail, but when asked if the financial crisis could be laid at the market’s door, there was more agreement: no. “I wouldn’t throw the market economy out the window. I would focus on how we can improve incentives and reduce information asymmetries,” Carstens said. “The world has moved forward. We have to tackle these issues from a legal and accounting point of view, but that doesn’t mean markets have failed.”

—Toni Shears
Health Care

Salud

Mexico’s universal health care is both an achievement and a work in progress.

After David García-Junco Machado, AM’95, wrapped up his presentation on Mexico’s newly achieved universal health coverage, one student raised his hand and asked what the main difference was between the health system in Mexico and in the United States. García-Junco smiled. “In general terms,” he said, “in Mexico we think health care is a fundamental right. And that the government has to pay for it.”

Ten years ago, one in two Mexicans—more than 50 million people—distinguished service professor in astronomy and astrophysics. The report, which Rosner wrote with Argonne National Laboratory’s Stephen Goldberg, calls the proposed transition to the new reactors an “evolutionary, rather than a disruptive, radical shift” in nuclear-energy technology.

From a business standpoint, the new technology could revolutionize a stalled industry. The EPIC study notes that developing small modular reactors offers an opportunity for the United States to seize the lead in nuclear manufacturing. The Obama administration apparently agrees, announcing in January that the Department of Energy will allocate $452 million over the next five years for design development.

The price tag of bringing a traditional plant from design to operation—about $2 billion, according to a 2008 Congressional Budget Office report—has deterred nuclear development. There are 31 states with traditional plants in operation and seven states where nuclear power accounts for the largest percentage of electricity generated. But the last US commercial plant to come online was Tennessee’s Watts Bar 1 plant in 1996.

A typical traditional station, Watts Bar generates about 1,123 megawatts of electricity. Nebraska’s Fort Calhoun plant, with an output of 478 megawatts, is the nation’s smallest operational plant. By comparison, small modular reactors would generate between 45 and 300 megawatts. Most of the Energy Policy Institute’s conclusions were based on a hypothetical “middle position” 100 megawatt plant.

“The economic question is all about, ‘Is what I am buying affordable?’” says Rosner. “Are you going to go broke buying it or not? And can you make money when you actually use it?”

The new reactors could be built more quickly and efficiently than traditional plants, although pinpointing precise construction timetables is difficult at this stage. Because traditional plants are built so infrequently, laborers must be trained from scratch with each project, rather than moving from job to job. The proposed small modular reactor industry could change that model. Rosner compares it to the plane and ship industries: “Training costs are sharply reduced and the error rate is sharply reduced. People are just better at what they do.”

It will take time to get laborers up to speed. The learning curve will make the early units expensive enough, Rosner says, that it may be difficult to find initial investors. “Most likely, it is the federal government that will have to be the first major buyer,” he says. Rosner’s optimistic estimate is that, if both the industry and the government push development, the first small modular reactors could become operational in eight to ten years. Realistically, he added, it could be well after 2020 before the first ones come online.

From a safety standpoint, the design of small modular reactors would prevent the problems that plagued Japan’s Fukushima nuclear plant. Small modular reactors were a goal before the Japan disaster, but after the meltdown safety concerns became a major public issue, and researchers like Rosner and Goldberg addressed safety more vigorously. “While the focus in this paper is on the business case for SMRs,” the report notes, “the safety case also is an important element.”

The Japan meltdown occurred when electricity to the plant was cut off as a result of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. The small modular reactors’ integrated design eliminates the need for outside electricity. According to the report, the design relies on “robust battery power to maintain minimal safety operations.”

The reactors, says Rosner, also would not be as vulnerable to terrorism because they would be located underground: “There is nothing above ground to attack.”—Jeff Carroll
In Mexico, Garcia-Junco says, health care is seen as a “fundamental right.”
Is irony dead?

Jonathan Lear tries to revive the term as Socrates understood it—the opposite of detachment.

Irony died on September 11, 2001—or so went the conventional wisdom. For philosopher Jonathan Lear, the terrorist attacks shook Americans out of a common misunderstanding of the concept and revived a deeper sense of irony as Socrates and Kierkegaard expressed it.

In A Case for Irony (Harvard University Press, 2011), Lear argues that the 1990s sense of irony as a “rundown sense of detachment and lack of commitment” failed to reflect its significance to human experience. “Irony as detachment is the first movement of a two-movement dance. The culture at the end of the 20th century saw irony just as the first step and completely lost the picture of what the second step is and why it’s important.”

In a February interview, Lear, the John U. Nef distinguished service professor in the Committee on Social Thought, discussed the second step across “the gap between pretense and aspiration” that characterizes true irony.—Jason Kelly

What’s the distinction between an ironic experience and routine personal contemplation?

Walking down 57th Street, you can’t walk past Medici without being confronted by at least one, maybe two people who want money from you. And they’re poor. What do you do about that? I would say just about everybody in the University of Chicago has a routine. Maybe they change it, maybe sometimes they give money, maybe sometimes they don’t. Mostly what we try to do is deaden down that experience, make it routine. There may be occasions where you might go to church and you hear a sermon about loving your neighbor, or you’re reading a Charles Dickens novel about poverty in England, and you think, “You know, I probably ought to be a bit more generous,” and the next time you give him a dollar. You change your routine a little bit. Irony is the moment where you’re so shaken you see all of this as part of a very standard coping mechanism. At some point, what I’m trying to capture is the moment where you see the soul of the other in his eyes and the demand of the other on you and are utterly shaken by it. Like, “Why is the world like this, such that there is a poor person here? How could this be?”... I think the real issue for humans at any given time in life is, “What are we blind to? What is the nature of our insensitivity toward the world?”

How does irony relate to satire or sarcasm?

Irony, as I understand it, is essentially a first-personal confrontation. This is what makes it so different from satire and sarcasm, because satire and sarcasm are third personal—they’re making fun of somebody else; they’re ridiculing somebody else for not living up to some value. Irony is...ultimately either about us or it’s about me in relationship to us. It really isn’t ridicule, and it’s not arrogant. It’s not looking down on somebody; it’s shaking myself up, or shaking us up, as fellow participants.

In what ways do we encounter irony at a cultural level?

When irony is working, it’s calling us in a kind of anxious way to live up to the ideals we already think we have but have come into question. If you think of America, what other country has ever been founded around certain ideals—freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, religious toleration, protection from unreasonable searches. Where are these ideals now, and who is articulating them? Irony is the way of asking us, you might say, if our routines with ideals have become too routine. In that sense it’s a spur to a kind of transcendence with respect to our own lives around what matters most to us in terms of who we are and how we want to live.
COURSE WORK

LITERATURE

Staged reading: Court Theatre’s world premiere gives College students new insight into *Invisible Man*

BY JASON KELLY

Discussions in Kenneth Warren’s undergraduate course Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* and the Problem of Democracy begin with students raising questions based on themes in the novel and related essays. At the start of one class in January, Warren asked his own question first to frame the conversation about individualism versus collectivism and the contradictions of democracy.

The previous night, the group had attended Court Theatre’s world-premiere production of *Invisible Man*, a challenge of dramatic adaptation—and not only because the novel is nearly 600 pages long and opens in a cellar with 1,369 light bulbs burning, a detail incorporated into the set. Ellison resisted adaptations, insisting that none be done until after he and his wife had died.

The author died in 1994 and his wife in 2005, after which playwright Oren Jacoby began working with Ellison’s literary executor, John F. Callahan, to bring the classic to the stage. Court Theatre had some advantages in securing the rights to produce Jacoby’s script, including support from Warren, a leading Ellison scholar and the author of *So Black and Blue: Ralph Ellison and the Occasion of Criticism* (University of Chicago Press, 2003).

Warren, the Fairfax M. Cone distinguished service professor in English, consulted on the production and incorporated it into his class, asking his students how seeing the play shaped their thinking about the book’s themes. “Does the problem of staging the novel produce questions for us that maybe the novel on its own doesn’t raise?”

“This novel is profoundly about an individual life,” one woman said. A phrase in the play’s program was “particularly odd,” she thought, “where it says something about the everyman’s journey. I thought, ‘This is not about an everyman. This is about a very particular character.’”

That character journeys from a southern black college, where he’s cast out for failing to uphold an unspoken arrangement with its white benefactors, to the Brotherhood in New York, where his oratorical power makes him a leader in a Marxist movement. The invisible man’s isolation even within those organizations and the story’s precise historical setting in the late 1940s prompted Warren to amplify the woman’s point: “As you say, it’s not an everyman, not even a sort of Christian everyman; he’s sort of a particular individual at a particular time. But that may raise the question, why should we be concerned with this particular individual? Can he do away with representativeness altogether?”

In the humid warmth of Cobb Hall, with the January snow shaken off their coats and stomped off their boots, Warren’s students teased out answers to those questions. Both the college and the Brotherhood exist, ostensibly, to advance the causes of collective equality and of individual freedom. Focusing on the tension between those goals, the class noted that Bledsoe, the college president, expects students to sacrifice themselves for the greater good of the race. Yet Bledsoe’s bombastic rule over students belies his own subordination to the college’s wealthy white patrons.

One woman’s reading led her to see Bledsoe as perpetuating white society’s power structure, providing limited opportunities for African Americans within parameters that kept them subservient. On stage, though, Bledsoe’s circumstances reminded her of Primo Levi’s essay “The Gray Zone,” describing concentration-camp prisoners who assumed favored status. “People in this sort of privileged position are, in fact, oppressed in an even sadder way, in that they are not only oppressed, but they come to mimic and look just like their oppressors. Seeing it in the play, it seemed a lot more sad. I almost felt sympathy that Bledsoe was in this position.”

The invisible man himself seems caught between the forces of individual and racial progress—overlapping but occasionally conflicting ends that weigh him down each time he rises in social status. Warren noted that the ideal of a college education is to produce critical, independent thinkers, but “it’s precisely that type of individual who ends up being a threat to the order that the college and, I guess presumably, the Brotherhood are trying to impose. So what they want is to produce individuals who reflect a particular take or view on reality.”

A man added that any organization, no matter how open-minded, has certain ideals, and anyone whose thinking does not align with them risks being oppressed. Warren distilled the idea: “Is thinking, by its very nature, antiorganizational?”

“Oh, man,” a woman said, “that’s a question.”

The invisible man’s experience sug-

Is thinking, by its nature, antiorganizational?
gests that an individual who sets himself apart from a group, in thought or in action, risks becoming a pariah. Even when he believes he’s conforming, ignorant of the forces that interpret his actions as hostile to the college or the Brotherhood, the result is the same: he’s ostracized. Warren asked what the two organizations represent in the novel.

“Is, say, the college under Bledsoe the same as or different from the Brotherhood? ... Are they different geographically located instances of the same thing?” Sociology, Warren added, would be interested in the differences between a southern black college and a northern political organization. He asked if *Invisible Man* could be read as an anti-social-science novel because it equates the two institutions. “Is the force of Ellison’s novel to say this is like the other?”

No, said the man who prompted the question about the nature of thinking. “One person can think in isolation, but that causes no change. The invisible man goes down into his cellar and [thinks] about it, but none of his realizations would have happened if not for his several accidents and key events that contained people, that contained society, that impact him.”

Society’s effect on him is punishing. His sincere attempts to succeed within its boundaries fail again and again. One man identified a pattern of “trying to do the right thing and always ending up in a fight ... as he continually struggles to attain individuality and equality within society.”

The degrading battle royal he endures as a high-school student—thrown into a ring to brawl with a group of boys—repeats itself in different forms throughout the novel. In physical and verbal altercations, he’s forced to assert himself against people who would strip him of his identity and dignity.

“In the play he says he feels like everyone he has come across has manipulated him in some way,” a man says. “This pressure on him takes on very different disguises, but it ultimately boils down to the same sort of loss of individual autonomy.”

---

### SYLLABUS

During winter quarter *Kenneth Warren*, the Fairfax M. Cone distinguished service professor in English, included a requirement never before available to his course *Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man* and the Problem of Democracy: attending Court Theatre’s world-premiere adaptation of the 1952 novel.

Attendance at the play and writing a three- to four-page essay on the relationship between the book and the adaptation added new layers to the class’s literary interpretations. In addition to *Invisible Man*, students read *The Collected Essays of Ralph Ellison* (Modern Library, 2003), *Conversations with Ralph Ellison* (University Press of Mississippi, 1995), and *Cultural Contexts for Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man* (Bedford/St. Martin’s, 1995).

Class discussions, which made up 20 percent of a student’s final grade, explored, among other questions, “whether a novel that so powerfully addressed the problem of democracy in a society that was still legally segregated can continue to speak for our post–Civil Rights world.” Each student was expected to pose questions for a session, posting them to the course’s online discussion board 24 hours before the class met.

In addition to the essay about the play, students wrote a five- to seven-page paper analyzing a chapter of the novel, and another examining the connection between fiction and politics in Ellison’s work.—J.K.
How monkeys, the Mafia, Italian academia—and, increasingly, American society—illustrate the biological impulse and social peril of nepotism.

BY DARIO MAESTRIPIERI
ILLUSTRATION BY JEN LOBO

The Italian word for “recommendation” is raccomandazione. According to the dictionary, both mean the same thing: advice, or support for an idea or cause. They are also used in similar contexts. In both the United States and Italy, people applying for jobs may be recommended—or raccomandati—by someone else. This, however, is where the similarities end. In the United States, letters of recommendation provide an evaluation of a candidate’s qualifications and are usually written by a senior person familiar with the candidate, such as a former teacher or employer. These letters are often an application requirement, and although in theory they can be good or bad, in practice they tend to be uniformly good. As a result, good letters of recommendation don’t necessarily increase one’s chances of getting a job. They make the most difference when they are bad.

In Italy, where I’m from, the raccomandazione is not a requirement of the job-application process. It endorses a candidate but doesn’t necessarily describe his or her qualifications. It’s usually made with a phone call, and it generally comes from a family member or family friend. Not all candidates have a raccomandazione; those who don’t generally don’t stand a chance. For those who have one, the chance of success depends not on how good the raccomandazione is but on the power and influence of the person who makes the call. The raccomandazioni are not meant to facilitate the applicant-review process but rather to rig the process and guarantee the success of a particular candidate, regardless of his or her credentials. The
The eight winners had already been agreed upon. I wasn’t the University of Rome, there were eight open slots, and how did I get in there? When it came to admission decisions, family, of course, came first. The baroni admitted their children and other family members directly into their programs or recommended them to other baroni. Baroni also guaranteed admission to their protégés, students who, thanks to a raccomandazione from their parents, had completed their undergraduate thesis with a barone and, because of their loyalty, had been granted the status of extended kin—they had been adopted. Finally, the baroni admitted students who were neither kin nor protégés but strangers with raccomandazioni from politicians, businesspeople, or friends and neighbors. Applicants who did not fall into these categories would be turned down regardless of academic credentials. My adviser turned down students without the required family pedigree or raccomandazioni even if they were academically outstanding and he had empty slots in his lab. He had to keep slots vacant because his phone could ring at any time with a request to take a student he couldn’t refuse. So how did I get in there?

The year I applied to the biology doctorate program at the University of Rome, there were eight open slots, and the eight winners had already been agreed upon. I wasn’t one of them. A couple of weeks before the concorso, however, the National Research Council offered funding to support two additional fellowships. The baroni did not have time to negotiate these positions, so two outsiders with good résumés and exam scores—a friend and I—were admitted. We squeezed in through a crack in the system. Yet despite the fact that we were straight-A students and had published scientific articles, we couldn’t find a professor willing to serve as our adviser.

The truth was that by filling a slot with an outsider without raccomandazioni or appropriate pedigree, the advisers might lose an opportunity to admit a family member or the child of the prime minister the following year. Admitting two outsiders had been a big mistake—one would have to pay the price. Eventually, after some arm-twisting, my friend and I found an adviser. Three years later, however, after I finished my PhD, it was made abundantly clear that someone who had entered academia through a crack in the system could not expect to go very far. After doors were shut in my face one too many times, I moved to the United States.

The nepotism that controls admission to graduate programs is nothing compared to what happens when academic jobs and real money are involved. Many concorsi for full-time researchers and professors, especially in medical schools, are rigged; complaints and appeals by candidates turned down for positions for which they were eminently qualified (in a word, they were fregati) have led to multiple criminal investigations, with some baroni convicted of fraud. Investigations of academic nepotism have shown that the baroni have organized themselves in clans that operate just like the Mafia. They have hierarchies of power.
TO A BIOLOGIST, NEPOTISM SIMPLY MEANS FAVORITISM TOWARD KIN, SUCH THAT KIN ARE PREFERRED AS SOCIAL (BUT NOT SEXUAL) PARTNERS AND HELPED AT THE EXPENSE OF NONKIN.

with a “boss” at the top, they aim to control entire areas of academia, and they do not hesitate to threaten and intimidate to get what they want.

Scandals involving rigged concorsi have received a great deal of media attention in Italy; newspaper and magazine articles, and even books, have been written on the subject. Several years ago the weekly news magazine L’Espresso devoted a cover article—“The Baroni’s Mafia”—to academic nepotism in Italy, reviewing some of the best-known scandals.

A few of the incidents recounted are particularly noteworthy. For example, 25 new professor positions in otorino-laringoiatria were filled in universities around Italy in 1988 and 1992. Of these new hires, four were the sons of professors who sat on the search committees that examined the candidates. One powerful barone, Giovanni Motta, appointed his own son, Gaetano Motta, as a full professor at the age of 32. The father, as the chair of the search committee, himself evaluated his son’s credentials, which included scientific articles published in his father’s department, with his father as a coauthor. The senior Motta then falsified the examination reports to make it look like his son was more qualified and had performed better than the other candidates. Motta and other baroni whose sons were hired in these concorsi were later found guilty of fraud and convicted to one to two years in jail. Although theulings were declared null, Gaetano Motta to this day still holds the appointment he illegally obtained in 1992.

Another case involved Roberto Puxeddu, an associate professor at the University of Cagliari. He was appointed by a committee that included two professors who had themselves obtained their faculty positions through a fraudulent concorso chaired by Professor Paolo Puxeddu, Roberto Puxeddu’s father and a powerful barone. Again, although the senior barone was later convicted of fraud and his son’s appointment annulled, the son maintains his position at the university. In another case at the University of Bari medical school, a professor who became dean left the directorship of his department to his 34-year-old son, the only candidate considered for the position. Another dean pressured his university to hire his daughter without even advertising the position and interviewing other candidates.

The inner workings of the Italian academic mafia were revealed when some university phones were wiretapped and conversations between baroni were recorded by the police. In 2005 Paolo Rizzon, a professor at the University of Bari, was recorded discussing strategies for manipulating concorsi across Italy. In one conversation he negotiated the composition of a search committee for his son, who had applied for a faculty position, and then he negotiated the essay topic for his son’s examination. Another recorded conversation revealed that a qualified job candidate who competed against the baroni’s protégés was threatened with physical violence by two Mafia hit men if he didn’t withdraw from the concorso. The hit men were identified by name—both had criminal records. In another conversation, Rizzon bragged to a colleague that to help his son and the relatives of other baroni obtain professorships, he had to be very creative to be able to fregare outside candidates with better qualifications.

The qualified job candidates fregati by the baroni often leave the country and begin successful careers abroad. In the last 20–30 years, tens of thousands of Italian researchers have fled the country. The baroni’s clans continue to operate undisturbed and have absolute control of the Italian academic system. As a result of such nepotism, the Department of Economics at the University of Bari had, at one point, eight professors who shared the same last name: Massari. They were all related. Apparently this set a new record for Italy; the previous record was six family members in the same department or institution.

When it comes to nepotism, the baroni of academia are amateurs compared to politicians, judges, businesspeople, and anyone else who has real power and influence in society. In his 2005 book In Praise of Nepotism: A History of Family Enterprise from King David to George W. Bush (Doubleday), Adam Bellow—the son of Nobel Prize–winning novelist and Chicago professor Saul
Examples of nepotistic behavior can be found in almost any animal species, from vampire bats, who regurgitate the blood of their victims only to their close relatives, to naked mole rats, burrowing rodents native to East Africa, among which many females give up sex altogether to perform hard labor such as digging tunnels and gathering food for their mother, the queen. Some species of monkeys and apes closely related to us have taken nepotism to the next level. They don’t simply help their relatives with food but also help them gain and maintain political power. One of the most political and shamelessly nepotistic creatures on this planet is the rhesus macaque, a monkey species I have studied for more than 20 years.

Bellow, X’39—describes outrageous cases of nepotism that have received media attention around the world. Yet nepotism, he argues, “has its origins in nature, has played a vital role in human social life, and boasts a record of impressive contributions to the progress of civilization.”

Nepotism indeed has natural origins. To a biologist, nepotism simply means favoritism toward kin, such that kin are preferred as social (but not sexual) partners and helped at the expense of nonkin. For example, a squirrel who has saved a few nuts for dinner will share one with his starving brother but not with the unrelated squirrel next door. This altruism, however, is a bit phony. Because family members share some genes, helping a relative is a way to maintain the animal’s own DNA in the population. So nepotism is really selfishness in disguise. Many selfish behaviors have evolved by natural selection because they help an individual to survive and reproduce; the genes for selfishness are transmitted to the next generation. Similarly, many nepotistic behaviors have evolved through a kind of natural selection called kin selection, because these behaviors help an individual’s relatives to survive and reproduce; the genes for nepotism also are transmitted to the next generation.

Nepotism is a universal phenomenon. There is no animal species or human society in which individuals favor nonkin against their kin. What makes animals or humans more or less nepotistic is usually the availability of resources. When everyone has all the food (or water or money) they need or want, they can afford to be generous and don’t bother to discriminate as much between kin and nonkin. When belt-tightening becomes necessary, however, family values rise in importance. It’s not often that people have all the money they want—which may explain why nepotism has been an important part of human history.

It’s true that the United States has seen a resurgence of nepotism, but there is nothing gentle or kind—or new—about it.
ranking mothers gain power and eventually acquire a rank just below their mothers. The sons and daughters of low-ranking mothers also end up with a rank similar to their mothers, which means that they also become losers.

Animal nepotism and human nepotism differ in important respects. Nepotism in macaques is mostly a female business, and especially a maternal business. Males don’t recognize their offspring, don’t give them milk bottles or change their diapers, and don’t help them realize their dreams of wealth and world domination the way human fathers try to do with their children. Traditionally in human societies, men have held most of the wealth and political power. Accordingly, it’s usually men who pull the nepotistic strings on behalf of their children and other relatives.

Another difference between rhesus and human nepotism is that while in the monkeys nepotism is limited to biological relatives, humans have extended the boundaries of the biological family to include nonkin through marriage and patronage. When we marry, we agree to treat our spouse and our spouse’s relatives as if they were genetic relatives. Throughout human history, marriages and exchanges of wives have also allowed men to form alliances with men from other villages or tribes. In humans, as in rhesus macaques, political strength lies in numbers. For men and women with strong political ambitions, an extended family may not be enough. Nonrelatives, then, must be brought into the family and given kin status. The Mafia provides a good example: the mafiosi maintain strong bonds with relatives but increase the size and power of their families by providing patronage to a large number of associates. The head of the family cements this patronage by serving as a godfather to the children of these associates.

While the rhesus macaques transfer only their social status to their relatives—other animals transfer nests or territories—humans transfer not only their power and privileges but also their property, money, knowledge, and values. So human nepotism is also a cultural phenomenon, since the transmission of knowledge, norms, and values within families makes an important contribution to human cultures.

The trouble with human nepotism is not that relatives are educated or helped, but how they are helped. The most important difference between the nepotism of rhesus macaques and our own has to do with a thing called morality. Like everything in nature, rhesus macaque nepotism—and all animal nepotism—is neither good nor bad. Sure, there are winners and losers; in the rhesus world, high-ranking females are winners and low-ranking ones are losers; in the African savanna the lion that captures the gazelle is the winner, and the gazelle that ends up in its stomach the loser. But the lion is not a bad animal, nor is eating the gazelle wrong. High-ranking rhesus macaques torment and torture unrelated monkeys of lower rank, but in doing so they don’t break any rules.

When people behave nepotistically in public life, they usually break moral, social, and legal rules. If everybody played by the rules, nepotism would be useless. Moral inclinations are strong—in some individuals more than in others—but the instinct to favor relatives is even stronger. In the end, rules are broken all the time, and nepotism gets associated with fraud, corruption, and other crimes. The popes in Rome, instead of appointing people to office based on merit and qualifications, hired their illegitimate sons, whom they called “nephews”—hence the term *nepotism*. In doing so, they had to *fregare* more qualified individuals.

Such fraud, however, is the least of the crimes associated with nepotism. Millions of people have been killed as a re-
ONE OF THE MOST POLITICAL AND SHAMELESSLY NEPOTISTIC CREATURES ON THIS PLANET IS THE RHESUS MACAQUE.

sult of ruthless dictators bent on advancing the interests of their family members. Uday and Qusay Hussein—the two sons of Saddam Hussein, killed in a 2003 gun battle with US forces—would not have acquired their immense power and wealth without their father’s support and the shedding of Iraqi citizens’ blood. Criminal nepotism is rampant in many human societies, and particularly in dictatorships in Africa, Asia, and South America. According to Bellow, Europeans too have a relatively positive and tolerant view of nepotism.

American society, by contrast, was founded on the criteria of merit, fairness, and equal opportunity, and Americans have historically resisted and rejected nepotism. Yet family interests predominate in American economic life. In his forthcoming book A Capitalism for the People: Recapturing the Lost Genius of American Prosperity (Basic Books), Chicago Booth economist Luigi Zingales makes the case that American capitalism, once unique for being based on fair competition, equal opportunity, and meritocracy, has gradually changed and increasingly resembles Italian capitalism, in which cronyism and nepotism rule.

Nepotism has crept into American academia too, increasingly following patterns similar to those of Italian baronism. I moved to the United States in 1992, and of the first two academic jobs I interviewed for, one was offered to the daughter of a powerful professor in the same institution, while the other was offered to an internal candidate, a protégé of the department chair. At the University of Chicago, many students supervised by well-established professors happen to also be the sons and daughters of other well-established professors.

Biologists explain the relative strength or weakness of nepotism in a species or a society based on resource availability and competition intensity. With America’s recent resource depletion and economic crises, coupled with healthy population growth, social competition has intensified. A great deal of wealth and political power is concentrated in the hands of baby boomers. As they approach retirement age, their children are entering the workforce en masse. No wonder the aging baby boomers use all the means at their disposal to transfer wealth and power to their children.

C onfronted with the reality that American society has become more nepotistic, Bellow launches into a patriotic defense of this phenomenon. He explains that contemporary American nepotism is a different beast, a gentle and noble kind, and nothing like the nepotism practiced by rhesus macaques, dictators around the world, or Europeans. He also argues that while bad nepotism—hiring a grossly incompetent relative—is essentially harmless, good nepotism—hiring a competent relative—plays a positive role in promoting a capitalistic economy and conservative moral and family values.

It’s true that the United States has seen a resurgence of nepotism, but there is nothing gentle or kind—or new—about it. It’s the same old nasty beast. And although all economic classes practice nepotism, it is much more dangerous to society when rich and powerful people do it. The lower classes simply don’t have the power to bend the rules, and their nepotism is largely inconsequential for the society.

Bellow argues that we have a moral obligation to be nepotistic: if we fail to put our families first, we may destroy the very fabric of human society. We strengthen nuclear families, encourage people to help their relatives, and stimulate extended kinship networks through patronage of friends and associates. Hiring a nephew may be discriminatory, but since people will do it anyway, we might as well hire the best and most meritorious of nephews. “If nepotism is just about helping relatives,” he writes, “then clearly there is nothing wrong with it and even the nepotistic values the Mafia embodies may have merit and legitimacy.” He cites an episode of the Sopranos in which Tony Soprano’s wife Carmela tries to get their daughter admitted to Brown University by pulling strings. She says: “It’s all connections now. It’s who you know. If the rules don’t apply to everyone, why follow the rules?” If we share Carmela Soprano’s and Adam Bellow’s views, then in the end we are all mafiosi.

Adapted with permission from Games Primates Play: An Undercover Investigation of the Evolution and Economics of Human Relationships (Basic Books, 2012) by Dario Maestripieri, professor in comparative human development and evolutionary biology.
Justice Hugo Black once called George Anastaplo, AB’48, JD’51, PhD’64, “too stubborn for his own good.” Sixty-some years later, Anastaplo sits in a basement room in the Gleacher Center, in downtown Chicago, surrounded by a dozen adult-education students, the picture of cheerful amiability. At 86 years old, Anastaplo has taught in the University of Chicago’s Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults for 55 years. A small man with white hair and clear gray eyes, wearing running shoes and an old tweed jacket, Anastaplo is lively and relaxed. A photocopy of Emerson’s essay “Friendship” lies on the table in front of him.

“I was appalled by how elitist Emerson was in his view of friendship,” says one student, a middle-aged woman. Anastaplo’s eyes light up. He leans forward, and a smile tugs at the corners of his mouth. “You were appalled?” he says. She reads from a passage in which Emerson writes, “I do then with my friends as I do with my books. I would have them where I can find them, but I seldom use them.’ Give me a break!” she exclaims, rolling her eyes. Delighted, Anastaplo swivels his head around the room. “Any reactions?”

This was not the life Anastaplo envisioned. On the morning of November 10, 1950, three days after his 25th birthday, he put on a coat and tie and headed downtown to the offices of the Chicago Bar Association, on LaSalle Street, for what he assumed would be the last step to launching a legal career in Illinois. The son of Greek immigrants from downstate Carterville, Anastaplo was a World War II veteran—he had navigated B-17 and B-29 bombers—and a top student at the University of Chicago Law School.

He had already passed the bar exam. He had begun talking to firms in the city. All that remained was a routine interview with two members of the Illinois Bar Association’s Committee on Character and Fitness. Anastaplo expected 15 minutes of pleasantries. Other applicants were waiting outside.

But the interview took an unexpected turn. After a few harmless questions, one of the lawyers asked Anastaplo:

“Are you a member of the Communist Party?” George Anastaplo refused to answer that question, a refusal that shaped his life.

By Richard Mertens
Photography by Dan Dry
Are you a member of the Communist Party?" George Anastaplo refused to answer that question, a refusal that shaped his life. Justice Hugo Black once called George Anastaplo, AB'48, JD'51, PhD'64, "too stubborn for his own good." Sixty-some years later, Anastaplo sits in a basement room in the Gleacher Center, in downtown Chicago, surrounded by a dozen adult-education students, the picture of cheerful amiability. At 86 years old, Anastaplo has taught in the University of Chicago's Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults for 55 years. A small man with white hair and clear gray eyes, wearing running shoes and an old tweed jacket, Anastaplo is lively and relaxed. A photocopy of Emerson's essay "Friendship" lies on the table in front of him. "I was appalled by how elitist Emerson was in his view of friendship," says one student, a middle-aged woman. Anastaplo's eyes light up. He leans forward, and a smile tugs at the corners of his mouth. "You were appalled?" he says. She reads from a passage in which Emerson writes, "I do then with my friends as I do with my books. I would have them where I can find them, but I seldom use them." Give me a break!" she exclaims, rolling her eyes. Delighted, Anastaplo swivels his head around the room. "Any reactions?"

This was not the life Anastaplo envisioned. On the morning of November 10, 1950, three days after his 25th birthday, he put on a coat and tie and headed downtown to the offices of the Chicago Bar Association, on LaSalle Street, for what he assumed would be the last step to launching a legal career in Illinois. The son of Greek immigrants from downstate Carterville, Anastaplo was a World War II veteran—he had navigated B-17 and B-29 bombers—and a top student at the University of Chicago Law School. He had already passed the bar exam. He had begun talking to firms in the city. All that remained was a routine interview with two members of the Illinois Bar Association's Committee on Character and Fitness. Anastaplo expected 15 minutes of pleasantries. Other applicants were waiting outside. But the interview took an unexpected turn. After a few harmless questions, one of the lawyers asked Anastaplo...
if a member of the Communist Party should be eligible to practice law in Illinois. Anastaplo was surprised. “I should think so,” he said. But didn’t Communists believe in overthrowing the government? the lawyer asked. In the long colloquy that followed, Anastaplo, invoking George Washington and American political tradition, insisted that the right to revolt was “one of the most fundamental rights any people have.” The committee members were unconvinced. Finally the second one asked, “Are you a member of the Communist Party?”

Although this question was much in the air in the 1950s—earlier that year in West Virginia, Senator Joe McCarthy had brandished a list of Communists he claimed had infiltrated the State Department—no one seriously thought that Anastaplo was a Communist. Nor did anyone doubt his intellect, character, or patriotism. “If the mothers in Carterville have their way, all their boys will be like George,” Fred K. Lingle, one of his high-school teachers, had told the committee in a written statement. And yet Anastaplo had determined that, as a matter of principle, the committee had no right to ask about his political beliefs or affiliations. “I think it is an illegitimate question,” he replied.

Thus began a decade-long confrontation pitting an unknown but determined young Army reservist and Law School graduate against the Illinois Bar Association and the climate of fear and suspicion that then pervaded public life in the United States. Anastaplo never did become a lawyer. But the case made him famous as an example of resistance to communist witch-hunting and launched him on a long and prolific career as a scholar, law professor, and teacher of great books, a good-natured contrarian, gadfly, and independent thinker.

In the months and years that followed his first interview with the Committee on Character and Fitness, Anastaplo had many chances to change his mind and answer the question. He had plenty of encouragement to do so, including a warning from his Law School dean, Edward H. Levi, U-High’28, PhB’32, JD’35, that he was making a big mistake. But he refused—and kept on refusing. He declined, as one writer put it, “to follow the line of least resistance.” For its part, the Illinois Bar was no less intractable: it simply refused to admit him. Anastaplo sued. The two sides fought back and forth through ten years of hearings and rehearings, rulings and appeals, until the case landed before the Supreme Court in 1960.

By then Anastaplo had spent a decade practicing law, all on his own behalf. He made the oral argument himself. On April 24, 1961, the court ruled against him, upholding the Illinois Bar five to four. In a lengthy petition for rehearing that he had little hope would succeed, Anastaplo wrote, “It is highly probable that upon disposition of this Petition for Rehearing, petitioner will have practiced all the law he is ever going to.”

With that valedictory flourish, Anastaplo moved on. But although he had lost, neither he nor the case was forgotten, thanks primarily to Justice Black, whose dissent raised Anastaplo to something more than a legal footnote. Black had not taken Anastaplo seriously at first. Of his lawsuit, Black had confided to Chief Justice William Brennan, “This whole thing is a little silly on his part.” But recent cases had left
Black worried about the fate of the First Amendment and of what he later called “that great heritage of freedom.” In Anastaplo he found freedom’s champion. “The very most that can fairly be said against Anastaplo’s position in this entire matter is that he took too much of the responsibility of preserving [this country’s] freedom upon himself,” Black wrote. He compared Anastaplo to great lawyers like Clarence Darrow and then, taking measure of the nation’s ills, decried “the present trend, not only in the legal profession but in almost every walk of life” in which “too many men are being driven to become government-fearing and time-serving because the Government is being permitted to strike out at those who are fearless enough to think as they please and say what they think.” He concluded with an exhortation that still resonates: “We must not be afraid to be free.” Black liked this dissent so much that he had parts of it read at his funeral in 1971. When Brennan, who voted with Black, read it, he told him, “You’ve immortalized Anastaplo.”

Anastaplo has been called many things, some worse than stubborn. Sidney Hook, the leftist New York intellectual turned anticommunist crusader, described him as “a very much confused young man—both philosophically and politically—with a large bump of self-righteousness.” On the other hand, Leon Despres, PhB’27, JD’29, a Hyde Park alderman and one of Anastaplo’s most fervent admirers, dubbed him the “Socrates of Chicago.”

But Studs Terkel, PhB’32, JD’34, who interviewed Anastaplo twice on Chicago’s WFMT, may have hit closest to the truth when he described him simply as “one of those rare individuals who belongs to himself.” Anastaplo remains an unconventional figure, a lecturer in the Graham School’s Basic Program, a law professor at Loyola University of Chicago since 1981, and a writer of unusual range and productivity, with articles and books on subjects as diverse as the US Constitution, the Bhagavad Gita, and the lights at Wrigley Field. Shut out of the law, Anastaplo poured his energies into new channels, where, his friends say, he has proven himself as much his own man as he was before the Committee on Character and Fitness.

“To use a cliché, George really marches to his own drummer,” says Stanley Katz, an old friend and a professor at Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. “I don’t know anybody of whom that is truer.”

Anastaplo inspires strong feelings. To a dwindling number of old friends and admirers—he has outlived not only his antagonists but also most of his old supporters—he is a heroic figure who stood up for liberty and decency at a dark moment in American history. At its 40th reunion, his Law School class gave him a bronze plaque that read “In admiration of a life devoted to high principle.” He has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Later generations know Anastaplo mainly as a gifted teacher and writer who delights in expressing unpopular or idiosyncratic positions. His first book, a close reading of the First Amendment, holds that the amendment does not apply to the states, in contrast to the views of almost every other constitutional scholar. Once, at a ceremony honoring him for his defense of civil liberties, Anastaplo surprised the audience by arguing for the abolition of television. On a talk show, he defended Richard Nixon against Gore Vidal, asserting that Nixon’s Watergate transgressions were minor compared to the actions of some other presidents, such as Harry Truman.

“He has always behaved as some kind of gadfly,” Laurence Berns, AB’50, PhD’57, an old friend, said in a 1986 Chicago magazine article written by Andrew Patner, X’81. “When the conventional opinion goes overboard in one direction, he tends to move in the other.”

But Anastaplo is more than a gadfly. He is an intellectual omnivore, a generalist who respects few intellectual boundaries. In lectures, essays, and op-ed pieces, he often returns to favorite subjects, including the Constitution, the Greek classics, Shakespeare, and Lincoln. He comments frequently on contemporary issues involving questions of rights and liberties. Recently, for instance, he criticized the use of drones against terror suspects.

In fact Anastaplo writes about whatever interests him. He has published about 20 books, a dozen book-length law-review articles, and hundreds of essays. Many of his books treat aspects of the Constitution (including one on Lincoln and the Constitution), but they also explore literature (The Artist as Thinker: From Shakespeare to Joyce, Swallow Press, 1982), non-Western ideas (But Not Philosophy: Seven Introductions to Non-Western Thought, Lexington Books, 2002), religion (The Bible: Respectful Readings, Lexington Books, 2008), and other subjects far from his training in law and Western political philosophy. This variety is

HE TOOK TOO MUCH OF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PRESERVING [THIS COUNTRY’S] FREEDOM UPON HIMSELF.
Any man who is kicked out of Russia, Greece, and the Illinois Bar can’t be all bad.

in part a consequence of teaching in the Basic Program, where, during a typical week last fall, he led discussions of Emerson, Plutarch, and Newton’s Principia, and where, he notes with a kind of pride, “I teach whatever other people don’t want to.”

It is also an expression of a lively curiosity and the freedom to follow it. Anastaplo frequently attends University lectures, panels, and colloquia—the Franke Institute for Wednesday lunch, a Physics colloquium on Thursdays—where, he laments, he is often the only layman in the room. As his friend Stanley Katz suggests, Anastaplo exemplifies an older intellectual ideal, one envisioned by Robert Hutchins’s university and Mortimer Adler’s Great Books of the Western World.

Friends have long marveled at his capacity for work. His eldest daughter, Helen Newlin, U-High’67, JD’75, CER’02, says that in winter he would rise and begin working as soon as the family’s modest wood frame house had cooled sufficiently to wake him. John Murley, a professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology in whose house Anastaplo stayed while a guest lecturer in the 1980s, remembers that his typewriter began clattering away at 5 a.m.

“I have always had the overwhelming feeling, when I’m with him, that I should get much more serious about my work,” says Murley.

In person Anastaplo is mild, courteous, and funny. He is a classicist at heart, with a deep faith in reason, moderation, and human goodness, and devoted to the search for enduring values. He is skeptical of modernity. He dislikes what he calls “value-free social sciences.” He is fascinated by the physical sciences but thinks their influence has been bad, chiding scientists for their “abandonment” of “common sense.” His 1961 petition to the Supreme Court included his own exhortation: “We must try to take seriously again the concern and conditions for virtue, nobility, and the life most fitting for man.”

“He’s a person who is profoundly conservative, with a small ‘c,’” says Katz. “He’s deeply committed to traditional values … that for him are more than intellectual. … The bar-admissions case was about that. This is simply a man for whom principle is everything.”

The bar case was not his only clash with authorities. In 1960 the Anastaplo family drove a Volkswagen microbus across Europe, one of many summer trips the family made. On a public square in Moscow, Anastaplo approached a group of British tourists handing out copies of an American magazine, attracting a crowd. He meant only to warn them they could get in trouble, but when the police showed up, he says, someone pointed him out, and he was arrested along with the others. The next day he was expelled. In 1968 Greece’s military rulers threw him out of the country for criticizing their regime. C. Hermann Pritchard later quipped, “Any man who is kicked out of Russia, Greece, and the Illinois Bar can’t be all bad.”

As a teacher, Anastaplo has a talent for inducing thoughtfulness, says Laurence Nee, a tutor at St. John’s College in Santa Fe and a former student of Anastaplo. Once, Nee recalls, Anastaplo gave a talk on Constitution Day at the University of Dallas, a conservative Catholic institution where he taught for many years, flying down regularly from Chicago. Flag burning was in the news, and Anastaplo began by handing out photocopies of a canceled stamp bearing the image of a flag—in effect, a mutilated flag.

“His first motion isn’t to argue for or against a position,” says Nee, then a graduate student in Dallas. “It’s, ‘Have we thought about this?’”

Students like his obvious love of learning. He often scribbles notes in class, and he tries to approach each work afresh, using a clean text whenever he can. “He has a kind of boyishness to him still,” Nee says. “I think that’s part of his appeal. He enjoys learning. You can see the pleasure he takes in it.”

Monday and Tuesday mornings this past fall, Anastaplo taught at the Gleacher Center, then walked briskly up Michigan Avenue, a canvas tote in each hand, to teach jurisprudence and constitutional law at Loyola. He uses public transportation (or his feet) whenever possible, and until a few years ago he biked to classes downtown, pedaling an old three-speed up the lakeshore path.

Anastaplo’s freewheeling and often philosophical approach to the law is a welcome contrast to the “nuts and bolts” fare of other courses, says Rebecca Blabolil, a recent Loyola graduate who took Anastaplo’s class last fall. “His classes are an opportunity to think and exercise a part of your brain that has been dormant for the three years you’ve been here,” Blabolil says. During one week, for example, he discussed the Emancipation Proclamation, a new Supreme Court ruling concerning images on cigarette packs, and Civil War songs, which he described as a neglected window into sectional differences.
A nastaplo’s Law School classmates remember him as brilliant and witty, although quiet, even solitary. He was clearly not a typical law student. “He had his own ideas about how to spend his time,” says Abner Mikva, JD’51, who went on to become a congressman, federal judge, and adviser to President Clinton. Instead of joining the Law Review, a sure path to advancement, Anastaplo audited other courses at the University. When Dean Levi decreed that students wear coats and ties to class, Anastaplo continued to show up in jeans. When a lecture bored him, he would pull out a newspaper and read.

Few of his classmates, then, were surprised when Anastaplo defied the Committee on Character and Fitness, says Alexander Polikoff, AB’48, AM’50, JD’53, who later helped write a friend-of-the-court brief for him. “He was strong willed and stubborn when it came to constitutional principles.”

At the hearings Anastaplo was polite but confident. Transcripts suggest he was more than an intellectual match for his questioners. But he seems to have misjudged them. He arrived as if armed for a graduate seminar, laden with books, citing Jefferson, Locke, and English parliamentary rules, expecting to engage in real debate. To the lawyers on the committee, however, his arguments seem to have been mostly beside the point. The anxieties over communism in America, fanned by far right, anti–New Deal Republicans, were real, if misguided, and the lawyers could not easily discount them. In Chicago schoolteachers had been forced to take loyalty oaths. An Illinois legislative committee had been investigating communist sympathies among the faculties of Illinois universities, including the University of Chicago. Anastaplo’s talk about revolution was alarming.

“I had a feeling that George was not a communist in any shape or form,” said the late Edmund A. Stephan, who presided over a rehearing of Anastaplo’s case in 1958, in the Chicago magazine article. “But at that time, ‘communist’ meant somebody who would overthrow the government. It wasn’t something to be trifled with.”

A bigger issue for the lawyers—and a decisive one for the Supreme Court—was whether Anastaplo could get away with refusing to answer questions. His manner, as much as his arguments, exasperated some committee members. One told Patner he was “a smart aleck.”

“The big mistake, if it was a mistake, was in assuming that other people in other institutions had sense and good will, and they didn’t,” concludes Lawrence Friedman, AB’48, JD’51, LLM’53, a former classmate and today a professor of law at Stanford University. “It was an age of intolerance and moral panic. He was asking for trouble, and he got it. You don’t argue with George—‘Why are you doing this?’ It won’t do any good. I think it was admirable. He stood up for his principle. And he took the consequences.”

At the Law School, sentiment ran heavily against him. Students seem to have respected his principles but doubted the wisdom of his position.

“I think the majority felt that it was impractical,” says Ramsey Clark, AM’50, JD’51, a classmate and former US attorney general. “It was kind of a quixotic gesture that might hurt the Law School a little bit. And I think some,
Anastaplo and his supporters say he was blacklisted because of the bar-admissions case and the opposition of his old dean, Edward Levi. He was too much of a troublemaker. Others offer different explanations.

James Redfield, U-High ’50, AB’54, PhD’61, a professor of classics and former master of the New Collegiate Division, recalls that he and Levi talked “more than once” about Anastaplo and that some professors recommended him. But Anastaplo lacked broad faculty support. The reason, Redfield suggests, was neither Levi nor the bar case but Anastaplo’s link to Leo Strauss. “There was generally a hostility toward Leo Strauss on the humanities faculty,” he says.

Katz believes that Anastaplo’s scholarship was simply too unconventional. “He has not respected any of the norms of academic discourse,” he says. “He’s turned that into a virtue, but he never would have gotten tenure at the University of Chicago like that.”

Still, Anastaplo has thrived in the academic hinterland, finding appreciative audiences at lesser known and often conservative institutions like the University of Dallas and publishing in obscure journals like the Oklahoma City University Law Review and the South Dakota Law Review. “The main thing is to write it the way I want it,” he says. “That’s what I’ve been able to do.”

Anastaplo and Edward Levi had a long history.
of his adult life Anastaplo has regularly sent packets of his writings to large numbers of friends and acquaintances. His children received packets when they were at college. So, in the last ten years of his life, did Hugo Black, who responded that he enjoyed them. “I have long thought and still believe that you have the capacity to make a highly useful citizen of this country,” he wrote in 1969.

Anastaplo’s work has attracted critical notice and often praise, but no large following. “George is prolific, original,” says Geoffrey Stone, JD’71, an expert on constitutional law and a Law School professor since 1973. “But in the world of legal scholars, he isn’t widely recognized.” An exasperated Dean Alfange Jr., now a professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, noted in a 1974 review that Anastaplo would not extend First Amendment protection to artistic or literary expression: “Professor Anastaplo states that he knows of no one who agrees with his position on the First Amendment. It is unlikely that he will have to change that assessment as the result of this book.” Another writer praised Anastaplo’s “fervent and selfless moral vision, rooted in the classics of Western thought,” and called him a “rare intellectual: thought and learning are not for him the meaning of life, inducing a withdrawal into books, ideas, and ideological posturings; they give meaning to life, enabling one to live it actively and as perfectly as possible.”

At 86, Anastaplo maintains a busy schedule of teaching and writing. “That’s how you stay alive,” he says. He is in the middle of a projected ten-volume series called Reflections, each volume a collection of essays, or “constitutional sonnets,” as he calls them, on various topics. In the third volume, for example, titled Reflections on Life, Death, and the Constitution (University Press of Kentucky, 2009), he takes up Pericles’s funeral oration, assisted suicide, oblitera-tion bombing, and “The Unseemly Fearfulness of Our Time.” In the meantime he is trying to publish a collection of essays on the aftermath of 9/11, as well as a book-length series of interviews he conducted a decade ago with a Holocaust survivor. He would like to write a book about Roma people and about Sophocles’s Oedipus Tyrannus, a work he considers “the greatest of our plays.”

Despite his full life, Anastaplo remains aggrieved by the bar-admissions case. He finds it ironic when people tell him they admire what he did. Last year, on the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, he wrote, “If such people had expressed their admiration publicly in the 1950s, the Character Committee would probably have backed away from demands that were being made only of me.”

Anastaplo and Edward Levi had a long history. They were friends and colleagues for decades, and set him on what he calls “my career as a naysayer.” More than that, losing the case gave him the freedom to “do what I want to do and publish what I want to.” Those who know him say they cannot imagine him doing anything differently.

“The practical point of view never was Anastaplo’s. In the end, he says, his case proved “liberating and even empowering.”
Some sights, sounds, smells, and tastes can send you back to the quads.
Sinking into a comfy reading chair in Harper Library's sunlit Grand Reading Room, propping your feet onto the matching ottoman, and pulling out a book (for effect) as you drift off for a late-afternoon nap.
catching a glimpse of the spring ducklings in Boat-
any Pond, heart bulging with familial pride and
protection.

Hearing the bagpipes wail louder as the Convocation
procession makes its way toward the Main Quad.

Scanning the Medici bakery shelves (right) in the morn-
ing, when they’re stocked full of fresh, warm, flaky, but-
tery pastries.

Smelling the aroma in the dark Divinity School coffee
shop, the promise of a caffeine boost to get you through
one more chapter or verse.

Feeling the cold swipe at your cheeks during your brisk
walk to the Reg (is it always this far?), keeping your
head down to avoid the wind.

Feeling the grass under your feet on the first nice day
of the year, when the whole world decides to eat their
lunch, toss a frisbee, or take a nap al fresco.

Listening to the blended melodies of strings and rhythm-
ic footfalls coming from every which way during Folk
Fest at Ida Noyes.

Slurping a creamy, mint-chip, dollar Shake Day shake
(below), all the better after an hour’s wait at the C-Shop.

Biting into a sweet, yet savory, gooey-cheese stuffed
pizza at Edwardo’s.

Smelling the foul smashed seeds fallen from the gingko
trees along Ellis Avenue.

Breathing in old leather, cloth, paper, glue, and ink in the
Reg stacks (below right), looking for one text but find-
ing something different, bringing it to a carrel for just a
moment... two.

We could go on, but we’d rather let you. What sen-
sory memories take you back to campus? Let us
know at mag.uchicago.edu/visceral.
At the sight of spring ducklings in Bodany Pond, heart swelling with familial pride and protectiveness.

Hearing the bagpipes blare louder as the Convocation procession makes its way toward the Main Quad.

Scanning the Medici bakery shelves (right) in the morning, when they're stocked full of fresh, warm, flaky, buttery pastries.

Smelling the aroma in the dark Divinity School coffee shop, the promise of a caffeine boost to get you through one more chapter or verse.

Feeling the cold swipe at your cheeks during your brisk walk to the Reg (is it always this far?), keeping your head down to avoid the wind.

Feeling the grass under your feet on the first nice day of the year, when the whole world decides to eat their lunch, toss a Frisbee, or take a nap alfresco.

Listening to the blended melodies of strings and rhythmic footfalls coming from every which way during Folk Fest at Ida Noyes.

Slurping a creamy, mint-chip, dollar Shake Day shake (below), all the better after an hour's wait at the C-Shop.

Biting into a sweet yet savory gooey-cheese stuffed pizza at Edwardo's.

Smelling the foul smashed seeds fallen from the gingko trees along Ellis Avenue.

Breathing in old leather, cloth, paper, glue, and ink in the Reg stacks (below right), looking for one text but finding something different, bringing it to a carrel for just a moment ... or two.

We could go on, but we'd rather let you. What sensory memories take you back to campus? Let us know at mag.uchicago.edu/visceral.
Fresh off simultaneous No. 1 New York Times best sellers, editor Gretchen Young continues to find new authors with big stories to tell.

by Ruth E. Kott, AM’07
photography by Bill Wadman

Gretchen Young, AB’84, AM’84, could be the only real-life book editor to appear on a daytime soap opera. In a 2008 episode of All My Children, in a bit part for which she didn’t have to dig too deep, she played the editor of character Kendall Hart’s memoirs—a book actually released as if written by Hart (and actually edited by Young). She had one line in the episode, praising the fictional writer.

“Gretchen did fine with her line,” rhymed New York magazine’s Vulture blog, yet, the writer observed, she looked “somewhat embarrassed” on set. Young is comfortable working with celebrities but in behind-the-scenes roles, helping them to shape their memoirs or choose poems to include in a collection. Celebrities, politicians, and media personalities make up many of her clients; she finds people with a good (and marketable) story to tell and works closely with them to fashion those stories into a book.

As vice president and executive editor of Manhattan-based general-interest publisher Hyperion Books and editorial director of ABC Synergy—the arm of Disney-ABC Television Group that produces books tied to the company’s television shows and movies—Young works with a wide range of clients and subjects. In addition to ghostwritten fictional memoirs, she’s edited a book about fitness and health by Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition trainer Chris Powell; mystery novels by CNN talk-show host Nancy Grace; comedy and opinion best sellers by George Carlin; and poetry anthologies with Caroline Kennedy.

Young has been Kennedy’s editor for a decade, and the two are prolific. Starting in 2002 with Profiles in Courage for Our Time, 15 essays about men and women who have received the John F. Kennedy Library’s Profile in Courage Award,
Fresh off simultaneous No. 1 New York Times best sellers, editor Gretchen Young continues to find new authors with big stories to tell.

by ruth e. kott, am '07

photography by bill wadman

Gretchen Young, AB'84, AM'84, could be the only real-life book editor to appear on a daytime soap opera. In a 2008 episode of All My Children, in a bit part for which she didn't have to dig too deep, she played the editor of character Kendall Hart's memoirs—a book actually released as if written by Hart (and actually edited by Young). She had one line in the episode, praising the fictional writer.

“Gretchen did fine with her line,” rhymed New York magazine’s Vulture blog, yet, the writer observed, she looked “somewhat embarrassed” on set. Young is comfortable working with celebrities but in behind-the-scenes roles, helping them to shape their memoirs or choose poems to include in a collection. Celebrities, politicians, and media personalities make up many of her clients; she finds people with a good (and marketable) story to tell and works closely with them to fashion those stories into a book.

As vice president and executive editor of Manhattan-based general-interest publisher Hyperion Books and editorial director of ABC Synergy—the arm of Disney-ABC Television Group that produces books tied to the company's television shows and movies—Young works with a wide range of clients and subjects. In addition to ghostwritten fictional memoirs, she's edited a book about fitness and health by Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition trainer Chris Powell; mystery novels by CNN talk-show host Nancy Grace; comedy and opinion best sellers by George Carlin; and poetry anthologies with Caroline Kennedy.

Young has been Kennedy's editor for a decade, and the two are prolific. Starting in 2002 with Profiles in Courage for Our Time, 15 essays about men and women who have received the John F. Kennedy Library's Profile in Courage Award,
Young and Kennedy have put out six books together. The most recent, Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life with John F. Kennedy, published in September, debuted at No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list. The book—eight-and-a-half hours of transcribed, previously unheard interviews Jacqueline did with historian Arthur Schlesinger four months after her husband’s assassination—was packaged with eight compact discs. Readers can hear Jacqueline’s voice (she pronounced her name jahk-LEEN), the ice cubes clinking in her glass, and planes overhead as she talks with Schlesinger about what the president thought of Dwight Eisenhower (“not much”) and his relationship with her parents (“he always called my father ‘Mr. Bouvier’”).

“So now, at long last, it is her turn to speak,” writes historian Michael Beschloss in the oral history’s introduction. Commemorating the 50th anniversary of JFK’s presidency, the tapes, which Caroline Kennedy first listened to after her mother’s 1994 death, reflect a poised, witty woman with strong opinions about her husband’s colleagues and the people passing through their lives. Her breathy voice, interrupted only briefly by questions from Schlesinger or from young Caroline or John passing through the room, reveals unknown details about her husband’s short presidency. One day in October 1963, about a month before JFK’s death, he woke up from a nap looking “very worried,” Jacqueline recalls: “I said something and he said, ‘This has been one of the worst days of my life. Ten things have gone wrong and it’s only two-thirty.’ … Anyway, one I can remember was that some little raid on Cuba had failed.”

“After my father’s death,” Caroline Kennedy wrote in the book’s foreword, “my mother resolved to do everything she could to make sure that the record of his administration was preserved.” For that reason, even though her mother likely would have made revisions to the transcript if she had read them now, Kennedy left the tapes’ content unedited.

Piggybacking on Jacqueline Kennedy’s success, Young and Kennedy are working on another book: transcripts and CDs of JFK’s Oval Office tapes. They’re not newly released, like the Jacqueline recordings; the JFK Library had declassified them steadily since 1993, the final hours in late January. In total there are more than 248 hours of recorded meeting conversations and 12 hours of Dictabelt telephone conversations. With the crude technology of the time, Young says, it’s a challenge to find the best quality recordings and clean them up, like they did with the Jacqueline tapes. “These tapes capture the unscripted brilliance of a great leader in action,” Young says. “Journalists, historians, and biographers are amazing—they do deep, tremendous work on their subject—but there’s nothing like the raw history. You can’t argue with it. It’s what actually occurred, without the filter of someone else’s perspective.”

Young spends most days in meetings about deadlines at Hyperion’s Midtown office, making offers for new books, or having lunch with literary agents. “The editing of the manuscripts doesn’t happen in the office,” she says. It happens at her home in New York’s Turtle Bay neighborhood, after work or on weekends, “in a quiet spot somewhere.”

Because Hyperion is a small publishing house, with six editors and three assistant editors, Young is involved from the minute she receives a book proposal to its publication, including design, marketing, and publicity. “We have to be our own cheerleaders for books that we acquire all the way through the publishing process,” she says. Although the written page is an important part of her job, Young calls herself more of a project manager. On any given day, she says, she might discuss a cover or interior design or meet with writers’ PR teams. “The editor can’t ever let go to some degree.”

On a Wednesday in early January, Young and two members of Hyperion’s publicity team called Georgia congressman John Lewis’s communications director, Brenda Jones, in Washington, DC. The group was starting to plan a publicity schedule for Lewis’s book, Across That Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change, set to come out May 15. Typically, Young says, there are a few events before publication, but the big push comes about two weeks after a book’s release.

“Are there any media, anchors, journalists, reporters, or particular shows that have been after the congressman for an interview?” Young wondered. Yes, Jones said: “Brian Williams loves Congressman Lewis.” She also suggested Katie Couric, who is launching a show on ABC in the fall.

Not all editors choose to be as engaged in publicity as
Young is. “Gretchen’s a really creative, involved editor,” executive director of publicity Marie Coolman says. “She’s passionate about her writers’ projects, and she’s flexible, and she’s very collaborative. She’s always been very good at moving the project forward, figuring out a way to work something out if there’s any issue. Which is a good life skill in general, and particularly as an editor.”

Indeed, in fall 2011 Young had two different books at No. 1 on the New York Times best-seller list. With Jacqueline Kennedy’s oral history leading the nonfiction list, the fiction list was topped by Heat Rises, a novel tied to the TV show Castle, about a mystery novelist named Richard Castle who shadows a detective for inspiration. The ghostwritten thriller was supposedly written by the fictional character. “We put those books out there as if Richard Castle exists as a flesh-and-blood author.” Heat Rises had real-life blurbs from crime writer Michael Connelly and thriller novelist James Patterson.

Young and the Hyperion team also experiment with digital storytelling, including enhanced e-books, which add videos, images, and music to the reading experience. Apple cited the interactive Jacqueline Kennedy as the No. 1 enhanced e-book of the year. In addition to the transcript and the tapes, “we added archival footage, music, a video introduction by Caroline, a video introduction and video conclusion by Michael Beschloss, home movies of the Kennedys with one of their favorite songs, ‘September Song,’ in the background—we tried to make it as multimedia as possible.”

Young’s boss, Ellen Archer, embraces e-books and other new publishing technologies. The president and CEO of Hyperion was interviewed by Digital Book World in early January, predicting that Hyperion would derive 50–60 percent of its revenues from e-books by 2015. The company looks to acquire authors competent in social as well as traditional media, she said, so that their personal marketing drives sales. The goal is to have a large base of authors whom Archer calls “media-geic.”
Young cites journalist Alexandra Robbins as a “digitally savvy” example. The author of *The Geeks Shall Inherit the Earth* (2011), Robbins “gets social media.” Her nonfiction book follows seven members of what Robbins calls the “cafeteria fringe,” trying to navigate the murky social waters of middle and high school. Active on Twitter and Facebook, Robbins has a fan base beyond the book, from her many TV and lecture appearances. The Hyperion marketing team capitalized on that fan base when creating the book’s promotional video, with formerly “geeky” adults asserting pride in their nerdiness. Thanks to her devotees, Robbins won the Goodreads Choice Award for Best Nonfiction of 2011, competing against some big names, including 

David Brooks, AB’83; Richard Dawkins; and Jon Krakauer.

Ultimately, when it comes to social-media promotion and different ways to tell a story, Young says, “the sky’s the limit.” The format doesn’t much matter to Young, but she still loves the physical book. She and her husband, John Baxter, who runs a bondholder communications company and has written two novels of his own (not published by Hyperion), collect first editions. “We love early editions of significant works, but we also collect unspectacular books with striking dust jackets,” Young says. In the late ’80s they started their collection at an auction, buying a first edition of *The Bridge of San Luis Rey.* “We didn’t have a penny to our name, but we spent $110 on it.”

Young’s office is filled with her writers’ books, including 2011 memoirs by comedian Whoopi Goldberg and actress Marlo Thomas and journalist Thomas French’s *Zoo Story* (2010), following six years of research at Tampa, Florida’s Lowry Park Zoo. Her husband’s artwork—he also paints—sits on her desk, as does the art of their 13-year-old daughter, Greer, a student at the Chapin School, a private girls’ school on Manhattan’s Upper East Side and Young’s alma mater. One of Greer’s pencil drawings shows the New York skyline view from Young’s office, with the Empire State Building shooting up from smaller high-rises and a smattering of mushroom-shaped water towers. Young’s favorite skyscraper, the Chrysler Building, is barely in view.

A Manhattan native, Young says that her family thought she’d end up going to Columbia University, where her father and brother went. Applying to the University of Chicago on the suggestion of her college adviser, she entered an accelerated bachelor’s/master’s program in Spanish, earning both

**IT’S YOUNG’S WILLINGNESS TO TRY ANYTHING AND CONTACT ANYONE THAT HAS GOTTEN HER SO MANY SUCCESSFUL WRITERS.**
degrees by age 21. After finding out she’d passed her oral and written exams, she remembers, “I called my parents collect” from a phone nearby. “I feel like that was the smartest I’ve ever been.” The University “is so intense, so intellectually alive. I didn’t realize that was in me until I was there.”

Moving back to New York, she got a job at Good Morning America, where she’d worked over the summer while in the College. After several years in television, she decided to move to a publishing house. Even working in TV, she says, “I always had a book in my hand, and I was always the one running down the hallway reading.” An entry-level job at Harper Collins ultimately led to an editorial position, and in 1996 she started at Hyperion, then just five years old.

Early on she booked big writers—comedian Tracey Ullman and rocker David Lee Roth, for example. One of her first books, ESPN Sports Century (1999), which traced the 100-year evolution of American sports, was a New York Times best seller. “When you’re a new house, it’s all about running down the hallway reading.” An entry-level job at Harper Collins ultimately led to an editorial position, and in 1996 she started at Hyperion, then just five years old.

For someone who works with celebrities regularly, “I’m not jaded,” she says. Some people make Young as excited as when she first started in publishing. A two-page handwritten letter from To Kill a Mockingbird author Harper Lee is among her “most treasured possessions.” She had written to Lee after reading her 2006 essay in O Magazine about “the shrinking popularity of traditional methods of expression in the wireless age,” Young says. “It reminded me of the rich literary euphoria I experienced when reading To Kill a Mockingbird for the first time. I was so thrilled that the famously reclusive Lee could still write like an angel on a topic of relevance that I immediately resolved to compose an old-fashioned letter of appreciation in her honor.” She sent it to Lee’s publisher and expected to never hear back. Lee answered about a month later. “She had responded to my gesture with a warmth and eloquence that took my breath away.”

It’s Young’s willingness to try anything and contact anyone that has gotten her so many successful writers. Sometimes it works. After seeing Congressman Lewis speak and reading his op-eds, Young thought about bringing him on as an author. Lewis, 72, was a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee leader and in 1965 helped lead marchers across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. When Barack Obama became president, he signed a photograph for Lewis with the words, “Because of you, John.” Says Young, “That just made me think, there’s a book here.”

Sometimes her assertiveness doesn’t result in a book contract, at least not right away. After seeing an interview with a Hollywood legend, Young contacted his agent. “He’s just got the most amazing stories—and more importantly, he really knows how to tell them.” A couple weeks after sending the letter, she heard from the agent, saying that the award-winning actor/director would be in town and could meet with her. “I usually don’t get that nervous—but I was.” They spent an hour last summer in Hyperion’s offices, talking about possible ideas for a book, but nothing has come out of it yet.

Any chance—contacting authors or suggesting new ideas—no matter the outcome, is worth taking, she says. For Young, the important thing is finding a story: “I want to be part of making those stories and telling those stories. I want to keep readers reading.” ♦
For nearly a century, Chicago scientists have explored the deep universe of sleep.

BY LYDIALYLE GIBSON
ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLES GLAUBITZ
For nearly a century, Chicago scientists have explored the deep universe of sleep.

by lydia leigebson

illustration by charles glaubitz
The University of Chicago has a long history with sleep. “I heard this was the place where they invented it,” Rodriguez joked the first time he came to the medical center. That’s not quite true, but it is the place where sleep science first took shape, and where the shape of sleep itself—how it works and what it’s for, and what happens when something goes wrong—began to emerge from the darkness.

In 1925 Chicago physiologist Nathaniel Kleitman, PhD’23, established the world’s first sleep lab, on the second floor of Abbott Hall, which he filled with instruments and measuring devices he and his students had fashioned.

Fourteen years later, he published a textbook, *Sleep and Wakefulness* (University of Chicago Press, 1939), which became the canonical volume for sleep researchers everywhere. Fourteen years after that, in 1953, Kleitman and graduate student Eugene Aserinsky, PhD’53, published a two-page paper in *Science*, documenting their discovery of REM sleep. Little noticed at first, it was nevertheless a breakthrough, a foundation on which the rest of sleep science would build. Rapid eye movements, the two reported, occurred regularly during sleep and were accompanied by faster heartbeats, quicker breathing—and dreaming. Subjects whom they awakened during or just after a REM cycle could describe vivid, detailed, visual dreams.

With medical student William Dement, MD’55, PhD’58, Kleitman dispelled the idea that sleep was a single state. Recording subjects throughout the night, they used eye-motion measurements and EEGs of brain activity to chart shifting sleep patterns. A few years later, Chicago psychologist Allan Rechtschaffen, SB’51, MD’54, along with Dement and Chicago colleague Gerry Vogel, SB’51, MD’54, helped give scientific shape to narcolepsy, a disorder first described in the late 1800s. In a series of 1960s papers, the three researchers articulated the idea that narcolepsy is a form of dissociated REM sleep.

Later Rechtschaffen, who led the sleep lab after Kleitman’s retirement, carried out some of the first research on insomnia and sleep apnea. He and Pennsylvania psychiatrist Babak Mokhlesi, who directs the Sleep Disorders Center. “This is the extreme of the extreme.”

Rodriguez, 39, knew he’d put on a lot of weight in the past few years—he reached 375 pounds before he started working it off this past January—and he knew he was waking up frequently at night. But he didn’t realize he had a problem until his boss called and told him. A driver for a handicap-accessible van service, Rodriguez kept nodding off at the wheel, a few seconds here, a few seconds there, whenever traffic slowed to a stop. The camera on the windshield caught him. “I never hit nobody, thank God,” he says. Going in for a diagnostic sleep study last fall, he found out that when he slept, his breathing periodically stopped for 20 seconds at a time, sometimes longer, before his brain lurched into action, sending an urgent signal for him to rouse up and gasp for air. (“Apnea” comes from a Greek word meaning “without breath.”)

In the course of a night, this might happen dozens of times.

Tonight is Rodriguez’s last in the sleep lab. Now outfitted with a CPAP device (the acronym stands for “continuous positive airway pressure”) that keeps him breathing normally through a mask that fits over his face, he sleeps soundly, solidly. Five minutes after sleep tech Greg Bild wishes him goodnight over the intercom, Rodriguez is asleep. A little more than an hour later, he’s in REM, the digital waves that track his eye movements picking up speed, rolling over each other as they undulate across the computer screen’s teeming, black cosmos.
Anthony Kales developed a standardized method for classifying sleep stages that remained in use until 2007, when the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, building on Rechtschaffen and Kales’s system, released new guidelines.

In those early years, when sleep science was still a wide-open field of deep and ancient mysteries, Rechtschaffen looked for clues wherever he could find them. He brought into the lab not only human subjects but also cats, alligators, tortoises, and lizards, hoping to pin down the common fundamentals of sleep. His experiments with rats, in which he kept the animals awake continuously, demonstrated the fatal effects of sleep deprivation. Growing scrawnier and weaker, even as they ate more, the sleep-deprived animals lost coordination and stopped grooming themselves. Finally their bodies failed completely, and after two to three weeks they died.

Nearly a century after Kleitman first drew back the curtain on sleep, its mysteries remain vast and profound, although the field is more densely populated, at Chicago and elsewhere. Sleep researchers converge from across disciplines: physicians, neuroscientists, psychologists, physiologists. As David Gozal, who leads the University’s pediatric sleep program, says, “The universe of sleep here is expanding. There are lots of galaxies out there.”

Most of those galaxies exist within UChicago Medicine, but some are farther flung. Social neuroscientist John Cacioppo has shown that loneliness can damage sleep quality, and biophysicist David Biron searches for clues to the genetic mechanism that regulates sleep in the “lethargus” behavior of roundworm C. elegans, a tiny primitive organism whose quiescent state resembles our own.

For more than a decade, organismal biologist Daniel Margoliash and former psychology chair Howard Nusbaum, U-High’72, have investigated how sleep affects cognition in people and birds. Testing students as they learn complex video games or memorize new words, and starlings and zebra finches as they encounter new songs, Margoliash and Nusbaum have shown that sleep consolidates and protects new memories, that it fends off false ones, that it can even restore memories that seem to be lost. Tracking birds’ individual neurons, Margoliash discovered something not unlike dreaming: during sleep, the animals’ brains fire in patterns that mimic wakeful singing. Birds, he theorized, rehearse their songs at night, the way some scientists believe people revisit the day’s events in dreams.

Most of the University’s sleep research, though, happens within the medical center, where the past two decades of discovery have leaned more toward the physiological than the psychological: how sleep—or lack of it—interacts with obesity, diabetes risk, hormone function, metabolism, and cardiovascular problems. In 2008 scientists led by epidemiologist Diane Lauderdale, AM’79, AM’81, were among the first to draw a conclusive connection to heart disease, calculating that for every hour of average sleep lost, coronary calcium buildup can increase by 16 percent. In a novel study this past January, internist Vineet Arora, AM’03, examined how hospital noise, which sometimes spikes to a chainsaw-loud 80 decibels, disrupts patients’ rest, and perhaps with it their recovery.

“We have developed a theme that basically could be summarized as: the importance of sleep for physical health,” says Eve Van Cauter, who directs the University’s Sleep, Metabolism, and Health Center. “I mean, your grandmother would say, ‘I knew it all along, that sleep is important to stay healthy.’” Study by study, sleep researchers are proving it.

In 1999 Van Cauter published a groundbreaking report in the Lancet. Chronic sleep loss, she found, strikingly alters hormone secretion in young, healthy adults. In some subjects who were sleeping only four hours a night, glucose metabolism came to resemble that of diabetics. Their blood cortisol rose to levels usually seen in much older people. The study was one of the first to explore the effects of sleeplessness on the body rather than the brain.

Since then Van Cauter’s research has linked poor, irregular sleep to a multitude of chronic diseases: diabetes, obesity, and heart disease. She has studied shift workers and jetlag sufferers. Last year she and biomedical anthropologist Kristen Knutson, a frequent collaborator, reported that insomnia can worsen insulin resistance in diabetics. In another 2011 study, Van Cauter found that sleep loss can
“If you sleep deprive an individual,” says biophysicist Eve Van Cauter, “basically nothing remains normal.”

lower young men’s testosterone levels. Sleep apnea, she’s reported, can raise the risk and severity of diabetes.

“Many of my colleagues in the sleep field will say that the function of sleep is still unknown,” Van Cauter says. “Why do we sleep?” But the question, she argues, is itself a fallacy: there’s no single function. “If you sleep deprive an individual, basically nothing remains normal, whether mental or physical. Sleep is a basic need for function at every level.”

Van Cauter still has big questions. Does restoring sleep to the sleep deprived repair mental and physical function? Is it possible, with longer, better-quality sleep, to walk back some of the damage done to blood pressure, diabetes risk, inflammation, the likelihood of Alzheimer’s disease? “There are some hints,” she says, that what she calls “good sleep hygiene” can offer those benefits, but what’s missing is a body of evidence, “strong well-designed studies.”

Another open question for her is pharmacological. “We have so few drugs to treat people in sleep. For people with hypertension, there are 20 different drugs,” each targeting a different blood-pressure mechanism. “For sleep, we know there are different waking centers, so a person who has trouble sleeping, it could be because of too high histaminergic tone, or too high cholinergic tone, or too high neurogenic tone. The regulation of sleep is complex, and we know the neuronal groups and neurotransmitters involved. Yet the sleep drugs we have all target the exact same receptor,” a subunit of the benzodiazepine. “The pharmacology of sleep is really very poorly developed.”

In another corner of the medical center, the pharmacology is a puzzle Nanduri Prabhakar is trying to solve, at least for one disorder whose numbers have been rising: obstructive sleep apnea, which happens when the soft tissue around the airway blocks off breathing. (Mokhlesi says that 70 percent of the clinical patients at the Sleep Disorders Center have sleep apnea.) Weight is a frequent contributing factor—it’s no coincidence that sleep apnea has increased along with obesity—but so are age and gender and genetics. Men are more likely to develop the condition. So are people over 40, those with a family history, or people with certain sinus conditions. Four to 9 percent of middle-aged men and 2 to 4 percent of middle-aged women have sleep apnea.

An emergency-medicine professor, Prabhakar directs the Center for Systems Biology of Oxygen Sensing. His research focuses on the molecular mechanisms at work during intermittent hypoxia, the oxygen deficiency that accompanies sleep apnea and can contribute to high blood pressure, heart attacks, and other maladies. Using rodent and cell-culture models, Prabhakar is developing a drug to counteract the biological reactions that set those larger problems in motion.

The need is urgent, he says. During a 2010 interview with the UK’s Physiological Society, he noted that for adults with sleep apnea, a hypoxia-fighting drug would make CPAP devices more effective and improve patients’ quality of life and cognitive function. He added that nearly one in two babies born prematurely suffer chronic intermittent hypoxia because of disrupted breathing during sleep. “If it’s not cured,” Prabhakar said, “eventually they develop sudden infant death syndrome.”

Pediatric pulmonologist David Gozal has seen that happen. During his medical residency in Israel, a baby died from sudden infant death syndrome. The experience shook him. “Sudden infant death syndrome is a condition that occurs only during sleep,” he says. “I didn’t know anything about sleep, because at that time—this was the late 1970s—as a discipline it barely existed, and certainly not in pediatrics.” In 1981, while he was still a resident, Gozal established a sleep lab specifically for children at Haifa’s Rothschild Hospital (now called Bnai Zion Medical Center). “Looking back, I can’t overemphasize how primitive I was in my understanding of sleep, but it seemed like the right thing to do,” he says. “I thought we needed to understand why babies die suddenly and unexpectedly, and to understand that, I thought we needed to understand sleep in babies.” His research has helped illuminate the mechanisms that connect hypoxia and sudden infant death syndrome.

Thirty years later, Gozal is still a rarity, running a pediatric sleep program he says is “more unique” than he would like. “Children are not little adults,” he says. Diseases can behave differently in one than in the other, and they often require different remedies, although children, like adults,
suffer the full range of sleep disorders: sleep apnea, insomnia, restless leg syndrome, and “narcolepsy, which we now know—because we and others documented this—can occur very early.”

Moreover, Gozal says, children need their own sleep research because the stakes are so high. “Alterations in sleep in early childhood can have huge lifelong consequences, and sometimes transgenerational consequences.” Sleep disorders in kids can modify their genomes and change the way they develop into adulthood. “Our job as pediatricians is not just to make sure that kids are healthy, but to make sure they become healthy adults.”

Gozal came to Chicago in 2008, and since his arrival he’s assembled a team of nearly a dozen scientists and physicians doing what he calls “bench-to-bedside” work. Among them are Yang Wang, studying ways to protect children’s brains from the intermittent hypoxia associated with sleep apnea, and Shelley Zhang, investigating how immune function and metabolism are affected. Using animal models of sleep disorders, Abdelnaby Khalyfa examines the genomic pathways and gene interactions, and Vijay Ramesh looks for connections between childhood sleep disruptions and neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. Rakesh Bhattacharjee studies how cellular particles—endothelial cells, monocytes, platelets—shed during sleep apnea, contribute to vascular dysfunction and, in turn, to childhood obesity. Leila Kheirandish-Gozal, Gozal’s wife, studies how specific immune cells may change and then contribute to atherosclerosis in children with sleep disorders, while Richard Li investigates the role endothelial cells and monocytes play in apnea-related atherosclerosis.

In his own lab, Gozal examines the effects of disrupted sleep on children’s brains and bodies. In a 2011 study he tracked the sleep habits of four- to ten-year-olds and found that, on average, they slept eight hours a night—an hour and a half to two hours less than the recommended duration. Children with the poorest and shortest sleep were four times more likely to be obese, and their blood tests showed increased metabolic and cardiovascular risk factors. Currently Gozal studies how sleep apnea, obesity, and cognition interact. “So we’re imaging kids, doing cognitive function in kids, measuring vascular function in kids, doing metabolic assays in kids. And trying to put it all together and understand how genes could potentially affect these relationships.”

He also studies how oxidative stress affects cognition, and how diet might modify those effects; how sleep disruptions can lead to changes in cancer behaviors; and how poor sleep can alter the genome. Because obstructive sleep apnea affects kidney function, he is developing a urine test for the disorder, so that children can skip the strenuous, difficult nights in the sleep lab.

JUST down the hall from the bed where Rodriguez is spending his final night in the sleep lab, a three-year-old girl, attached to her own set of electrodes and wires, struggles to get to sleep. (Children and adults share sleep lab facilities, if not medical and research programs.) She’s come in for diagnosis and treatment of a nighttime breathing disruption—the sleep techs suspect sleep apnea—and for two hours she whimpers and squirms. Her mother cajoles her with a blanket, a toy, and, in desperation, a cell phone. By the time she finally drifts off, her mother already passed out beside her, it’s long after midnight.

Sleep disorders have genetic and biological underpinnings that researchers are just beginning to understand, but lack of sleep is also often environmental, and often in ways that are not within people’s control: Life’s responsibilities push back bedtimes. Stress keeps people awake. Children sleep irregularly because their parents do.

There’s also something Gozal might call a modern lack of regard for sleep. “You look at the earth today,” he says. “It’s all light, all noise. The quality of our sleep, the regularity of sleep—it has disappeared.” People ignore the effects of sleep loss because they can. “It’s the only thing that doesn’t punish you immediately.”

But sleeplessness does punish you. It’s not the “tradable commodity” it seems to be, Gozal says. “We spend one-third of our lives sleeping. If it weren’t important, why would we do this?” he says. “Every aspect of our lives essentially revolves around sleep. It is the dark matter that connects all the visible stars.”

To read about how human sleep compares with that of wild animals, see mag.uchicago.edu.
Upcoming Offerings in 2012

JOURNEY OF ODYSSEUS
MAY 26–JUNE 6, 2012
Retrace the Odyssey through the Ancient Mediterranean, from Troy to Ithaca. Led by Professor Emeritus Nick Rudall.

THE BLACK SEA
JULY 17–28, 2012
Enjoy a sailing voyage of the Black Sea and Crimean coast. Led by Professor Jonathan Hall.

ICELAND
JULY 14–24, 2012
Explore the glaciers, volcanoes, and natural beauty of this vast, unspoiled country. Led by Professor David Rowley.

RISING CHINA AND THE MIGHTY YANGZI RIVER
SEPTEMBER 4–15, 2012
Explore the beauty and grandeur of the Middle Kingdom. Led by Senior Lecturer Fangpei Cai.

SPACE IS LIMITED—BOOK TODAY!

For complete information about the trips, including links to available brochures, please visit alumniandfriends.uchicago.edu/studytrips. If you would like to be added to our travel mailing list, or for any travel-related questions, e-mail alumni-ed@uchicago.edu or call 800.955.0065.
Journey of odysseus
May 26–June 6, 2012
Retrace the Odyssey through the Ancient Mediterranean, from Troy to Ithaca. Led by Professor Emeritus Nick Rudall.

Iceland
July 14–24, 2012
Explore the glaciers, volcanoes, and natural beauty of this vast, unspoiled country. Led by Professor David Rowley.

The Black sea
July 17–28, 2012
Enjoy a sailing voyage of the Black Sea and Crimean coast. Led by Professor Jonathan Hall.

Rising China and the Mighty Yangzi River
September 4–15, 2012
Explore the beauty and grandeur of the Middle Kingdom. Led by Senior Lecturer Fangpei Cai.

For complete information about the trips, including links to available brochures, please visit alumniandfriends.uchicago.edu/studytrips. If you would like to be added to our travel mailing list, or for any travel-related questions, e-mail alumni-ed@uchicago.edu or call 800.955.0065.

Space is limited—Book today!
Russia’s chance for redemption

BY DAVID SATTER, AB’68

On a peaceful night in June 1980, I was on a train from Moscow to Vilnius. In my compartment were a man and a woman, both Soviet citizens. The man was an engineer at a power station outside Moscow. The woman was an economist in Vilnius. Rolling by outside the train’s windows were forests and lush green fields lit by the fading light of a blood-orange sun. Taking advantage of the encounter with an American journalist, my fellow passengers decided to engage me in a political discussion.

“First of all, you have to begin with the basics,” the man said. “In America, you’ll have to admit, money determines everything.”

“That’s right,” the woman said, “the corporations control everything.”

I said that in a democracy, the behavior of the corporations is limited by the law. The engineer waved his hand in disgust. “The law,” he said. “That’s nonsense. The law is what the corporations want.”

I noted the resignation of President Nixon. “You see,” I said, “even the president isn’t above the law.” “Yes,” he said, “but the president isn’t the real power. The real power is the corporations, the Rockefellers.”

I arrived in Moscow in 1976, eight years after graduating from the U of C, and was to spend the next six years reporting there. The question that dominated my term in Moscow, when the Soviet Union was at the height of its power, was the one that first occupied me when I was an undergraduate: to what extent is “political virtue” worth the price of living in a world of lies?

The Soviet Union saw itself as the quintessence of political virtue, and it was the crystallization of a lie. Soviet citizens could not vote, write, speak, or travel freely, but they were told that they were the freest people on earth. Others dreamed of paradise in the next world, but Soviet citizens did not need the hereafter. (This was a good thing because when Yuri Gagarin went into space, he looked for God and did not see him.) The Soviet Union had created heaven on earth.

What existed in the Soviet Union was an entire false reality that came to be so taken for granted that its surrealism was not appreciated. Newspapers contained only one opinion, trade unions supported management, and the parliament approved without dissent everything submitted by the government’s executive branch. The entire society was said to be unanimous (except for a few renegades, mostly traitors in the pay of the West), and the regime, steered by Marxist-Leninist ideology as inarguable as the axioms of geometry, was infallible.

The false world of the ideology dominated in the Soviet Union during all of the years I was in Moscow as the correspondent of the Financial Times. As a result, I felt as if I had a front-row seat at a nationwide theater of the absurd. But this theater could not withstand the impact of truthful information, which is what it faced after Mikhail Gorbachev came to power and initiated the policy of glasnost.

The intention of glasnost was to aid in the liberalization of the system. It was supposed to make socialism more dynamic, yet it had the opposite effect. The introduction of truth into an integrated system based on lies completely undermined the latter, and in six short years the Soviet Union collapsed.

I was persona non grata after leaving Moscow in 1982, but the changes under Gorbachev made it possible for me to return in 1990. I therefore witnessed the Soviet collapse and the birth of the new Russia. Unfortunately, the practices of the Soviet Union were not laid to rest when the country itself disappeared. In particular, the glorification of the goals of the state (and contempt for the fate of the individual) was carried over into the new Russia, where the attempt to go from socialism to capitalism without the rule of law led to the complete criminalization of the country. When Vladimir Putin took over from Boris Yeltsin and Russia’s economy finally began to grow as a result of the sharp increase in world commodity prices, the result was not
the implacability of the past and a new authoritarian system.

Under Putin there was little civic activism in Russia. For the most part, the population was ready to ignore lawlessness and lack of democracy as long as the rise in their standard of living continued. When the Putin regime blatantly falsified the December 2011 parliamentary elections, however, thousands of people finally took to the streets in the biggest demonstrations in 20 years.

The demonstrations are set to continue. As a result, Russians now have a second chance to create the democracy that they failed to establish after the Soviet Union’s fall. But to do so, they have to free themselves of the remnants of the imaginary world of the Soviet Union, including the notion that the Russian state is somehow sacred and its judgments infallible. This will only be possible if they face the full truth about the past and commemorate the millions of victims of the Communist regime’s crimes.

In 1992–93 I again lived in Moscow and witnessed the chaos as anti-Communists tried to create capitalism using Bolshevik methods, and in the following years I traveled to Russia perhaps 70 times. My experience there led to three books: the first, *Age of Delirium: The Decline and Fall of the Soviet Union* (Yale University Press, 2001), has been made into a documentary film that premiered this past fall in London and Washington. All three books chronicle the history of Russia in our times as I was privileged to see it.

On March 4 Russia will vote for president, and a new confrontation is brewing between the country’s democratic forces and a corrupt regime. This is a confrontation that the democratic forces need to win. Russia is too great a country to live forever under the yoke of falsehood. At the same time, they need to win for the benefit of the rest of the world, to demonstrate once and for all the danger of accepting the temptation rejected by Christ in the wilderness—the exchange of truth for bread.

David Satter has written three books on Russia, most recently *It Was a Long Time Ago, and It Never Happened Anyway* (Yale University Press, 2011).
AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER
In March director and screenwriter Philip Kaufman, AB’58, receives the Cinequest Film Festival’s Maverick Spirit Award. The writer of Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) and director of the Academy Award–winning The Right Stuff (1983), adapted from Tom Wolfe’s 1979 book, Kaufman’s next movie is Hemingway and Gellhorn, about the writer’s affair with and marriage to WW II correspondent Martha Gellhorn. It premieres on HBO in May.

MINISTER OF FINANCE
Christina Liu, MBA’80, PhD’86, head of Taiwan’s cabinet-level Council for Economic Planning and Development, was named the country’s next finance minister in late January. She will be the second woman to be Taiwan’s finance minister—her mother, Shirley Kuo, held the position in the late 1980s.

ORGANIC MOVE
In January Margaret Mueller, AM’97, helped launch CarbonSix Research, a health-care and pharmaceutical firm inside market-research agency Leo J. Shapiro (AB’42, PhD’56) & Associates. Before becoming CarbonSix’s president, Mueller created the pharmaceutical and health-care group at LJS. She volunteers for the University as president of the Master of the Arts Program in the Social Sciences’ alumni association.

HIGH-QUALITY IMAGING
In January the Digital Imaging Marketing Association presented George E. Smith, SM’56, PhD’59, with a Lifetime Achievement Award. The award, given only twice since the association’s 1995 founding, recognizes Smith’s work as the co-inventor of the CCD sensor, a technology that helps create high-quality digital images.

GOOD DESIGN
Architecture firm MASS Design Group, cofounded by Michael Murphy, AB’02, has received Contract magazine’s 2012 Designer of the Year Award. The firm has built a tuberculosis hospital and vocational school in Haiti and a 140-bed hospital in rural Rwanda, which received the magazine’s 2011 Healthcare Environment Award in the acute-care facility category. “It is designed as a campus of buildings,” explained a Contract article about Rwanda’s Butaro Hospital, “separate structures to help isolate and limit the possible transmission of disease.”

CANCER FIGHTER
Sidi Chen, SM’07, PhD’11, has been named a Damon Runyon fellow to conduct cancer research. Chen, a postdoc at MIT, hopes to develop anticancer drugs and therapies by targeting the processes of genetic network regulators called RNAs within human cells.

YES, RESERVATIONS
In August I. Duncan Robertson, MBA’98, was appointed chief financial officer of OpenTable, an online service that provides free restaurant reservations for diners and a computerized reservation system to restaurants.

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND
Former astronaut John Grunsfeld, SM’84, PhD’88, has been named the associate administrator for NASA’s Science Mission Directorate in Washington, DC. Responsible for overseeing the nation’s space-research program, the directorate “seeks to expand the frontiers of four broad scientific pursuits: earth science, planetary science, heliophysics, and astrophysics,” according to its website, through robotic observation and explorer crafts. Grunsfeld, most recently deputy director of Baltimore’s Space Telescope Science Institute, has been on five space shuttle flights and has performed eight space walks to service and upgrade the Hubble Space Telescope.
philosophy professor Stephen Rowe wrote this book, he says, as a patriotic duty, in response to the challenges America faces. Including a foreword by Divinity School professor emeritus Martin Marty, PhD’56, the book is not a doctrine about how to get the country back on track. Instead Rowe suggests that America is at a tipping point: the country will either be overcome by multifaceted, ideological battles—perhaps corporate greed or immigration—or it will overcome these battles and return to the tradition of democratic deliberation.

Knowing Nature: Art and Science in Philadelphia, 1740–1840
Edited by Amy R. W. Meyers, AB’77; Yale University Press, 2011. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, an active scientific community in Philadelphia fostered a group of naturalist-artists including John James Audubon, Amy Meyers, director of the Yale Center for British Art, has edited an illustrated coffee-table book of essays that demonstrate how the study of nature stimulated artistic production. These naturalist-artists created environments and objects associated with scientific practice, such as botanic gardens and natural-history illustrations, but also art separate from science—textiles and garments, for example, or architectural structures—inspired by scientific interpretations of the natural world.

The Impatient Woman’s Guide to Getting Pregnant
By Jean M. Twenge, AB’93, AM’93; Free Press, 2012. When she wanted to have a baby, psychologist Jean Twenge did her research, analyzing scientific data from medical journals, books, and websites. She found that the scientific data available for public consumption was often wrong or from a questionable source—for example, the most commonly cited statistic about fertility among women over 35 came from 17th-century French birth records. Twenge dismisses common myths and provides advice on the best time of the month to try to get pregnant, the best prenatal diets, and at what point to consider fertility treatment.

Cecelia and Fanny: The Remarkable Friendship Between an Escaped Slave and Her Former Mistress
By Brad Asher, AM’91, PhD’96; University Press of Kentucky, 2011. Fifteen-year-old slave Cecilia from Louisville, Kentucky, escaped to Canada in 1846. Separation from her enslaved mother and brother led her to begin a correspondence with Fanny, her former mistress, that lasted several decades. Brad Asher’s book draws on letters from the former slave owner to the escaped slave, exploring race relations in mid-19th century Kentucky. Asher, an independent scholar, details the cultural roles assigned to the two women and offers a glimpse into urban slavery and life in 19th-century America.

The Jewish Dark Continent: Life and Death in the Russian Pale of Settlement
By Nathaniel Deutsch, AB’88, AM’89, PhD’95; Harvard University Press, 2011. In 1912 Ansky, a Russian Jewish ethnographer, set out to document the lives of the Jews of the Pale, a territory in imperial Russia where Jews had been required to live and work for more than a century. At the time, this population comprised 40 percent of the world’s Jews, but their way of life was relatively unknown. Ansky wrote a detailed questionnaire to document this vibrant community that disappeared soon after World War I. Ansky’s project was interrupted by the war and never completed. In this book Nathaniel Deutsch, a professor of literature

The University of Chicago Magazine | Mar–Apr 2012
Use your CNETID to read class news online.
Unfortunately, our world offers many opportunities to respond to tragedy. And many catastrophic events require special, seemingly superhuman, skills to manage successfully.

Under these circumstances, the University of Chicago Graham School Master of Science in Threat and Response Management program innovatively combines education and advanced hands-on training in science and administration to effectively respond to emerging threats to the public’s health and safety. Call **773.702.0460** for more information.

**New Lunchtime Web Lecture**  
**Pandemics, Swine- and Avian-Flu! Oh, My!**  
**Wednesday, May 9, 2012**  
**12 to 1:30 pm**  
**Marian H. Adly, MSc**  
**MScTRM Alumna, Class of 2011**

**Learn more**  
grahamschool.uchicago.edu/go/MRALAM

**RSVP**  
773.702.0460
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

Join alumni from all areas of the University for four days of Chicago-style fun.

Activities include tours, concerts, lectures, parties, performances—most of them free. Go to alumniweekend.uchicago.edu for more details. Questions? Call 800.955.0065 or e-mail alumniweekend@uchicago.edu.

Use the QR code reader on your smartphone to launch the UChicago Alumni Weekend mobile website. Bookmark it to access the event schedule, live updates, transportation information, and more during your time at Alumni Weekend. Don’t have a QR code reader? Download a free one from your phone’s app store.
“The College was a mind-expanding experience for me. I could not have attended without the full tuition scholarship I received. I have felt obliged to give back since I graduated.”

HELEN “SCOTTY” MOORMAN, AB’62

You may find Helen Moorman serving as an usher for concerts at Mandel Hall and Rockefeller Chapel or leading tours of Robie House. Fifty years after graduating from the College, she also enrolled in the Basic Program at the Graham School. She notes, “My mind is expanding again.”

In addition to keeping a close connection to the University, Ms. Moorman wanted to express her gratitude by giving a gift of life insurance. “The life insurance policy was a way to ensure a larger gift to the University than I could manage otherwise,” she says.

AN EFFECTIVE TOOL

By naming the University as beneficiary of a new or existing life insurance policy you can maximize your giving potential and provide long-lasting support for the University. Among the benefits:

· Simple, powerful, and convenient
· Federal estate tax deduction
· Freedom from delays and costs associated with probate

To learn more about bequests or other creative ways you can make a gift to the University, contact the Office of Gift Planning.

giftplanning.uchicago.edu | giftplan@uchicago.edu | 866.241.9802
Cultivating a few choice eccentricities is practically a requirement for an intellectual. Fortunately, notable role models are everywhere. Despite having parsed some of the universe’s most complex secrets, Einstein reportedly never learned to drive, claiming it was too complicated. On top of that, he disdained socks. Legend has it that the French essayist and poet Gérard de Nerval walked around town with a lobster on a leash—which is actually inspired, when you consider how few pets also make good eating.

But only a lunatic would embrace eccentricity without a plan.

**HOW TO PUT THE MAXIM INTO PRACTICE**

1. **Keep it benign**
   Nobody appreciates a naked gentleman running down the street, smashing windows, and screaming about space aliens. The best eccentricities are small and safe. Strange hats and out-of-place accessories (ear horns, etc.) are always favorites, as are unusual hobbies, such as collecting erotic art from pre-Columbian Peru or fashioning household goods out of duct tape. Strange pets are a bit more problematic: a tiger will probably forego the leash in favor of eating you.

2. **Loud and proud**
   Own your eccentricities with every fiber of your being. An audience will instantly discredit the public performer who displays a hint of uncertainty or doubt. For better or worse, that means any chosen eccentricity needs to be cultivated, practiced, and developed over a long period of time. Being an intellectual requires commitment.

3. **Sense of humor**
   The best eccentricities amuse and delight people. You have to admit, walking a lobster is pretty funny. Well, except to the lobster.

   —Nick Kolakowski, AB’03

*Adapted from Kolakowski’s book* How to Become an Intellectual *(*Adams Media, forthcoming)*. To read two more maxims and the inevitable footnote for this excerpt, visit mag.uchicago.edu/maxims.
Sit in
with some of the world’s finest professors at the University of Chicago.

**Graduate Student-at-Large & Returning Scholar Programs**

Learn something new in your field. Explore new disciplines. Test out grad school without becoming part of a degree program.

Take courses at the Booth School of Business, Harris School of Public Policy, the School of Social Service Administration, and more. Further your professional or educational goals while studying with world-renowned faculty. Earn credits that may be transferable toward a degree later.

Apply today to take summer quarter courses. Summer classes start the week of June 18th.

**Deadlines**

- Summer 2012
- International Student Deadline: April 30, 2012
- U.S. Student Deadline: May 11, 2012

**Join us to learn more**

*Graduate Student-at-Large Information Session*

- Tuesday, April 3 at 6:00 p.m.
- University of Chicago Gleacher Center
- 450 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive,
- downtown Chicago

**RSVP**

- grahamsschool.uchicago.edu/go/SAALUM
- gsalinfo@uchicago.edu
- 773.702.1726
INVESTMENTS ARE LIKE ANNIVERSARIES. YOU CAN’T BE A DAY LATE.

Exchange Traded Funds trade like stocks, fluctuate in market value and may trade at prices above or below the ETFs net asset value. Brokerage commissions and ETF expenses will reduce returns.

The SPDR S&P MidCap 400 ETF Trust is an exchange traded fund designed to generally correspond to the price and yield performance of the S&P MidCap 400 Index.™ ETFs are considered to have continuous liquidity because they allow for an individual to trade throughout the day.

Commodities contain heightened risk including market, political, regulatory, and natural conditions, and may not be suitable for all investors.

Bond funds contain interest rate risk (as interest rates rise bond prices usually fall); the risk of issuer default; and inflation risk.

“SPDR” and MidCap SPDR are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor’s Financial Services, LLC (“S&P”) and have been licensed for use by State Street Corporation. No financial product offered by State Street or its affiliates is sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by S&P.

ALPS Distributors, Inc., a registered broker-dealer, is distributor for the MidCap SPDR Trust, a unit investment trust.