

# THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE



SEPT-OCT 2013, VOLUME 106, NUMBER 1

# A NEW ARCHITECTURAL GUIDE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



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# THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE

SEPT-OCT 2013  
VOLUME 106, NUMBER 1



**In *Translated Vases*, Korean conceptual artist Yeesoogyung uses traditional methods to shape broken pottery into surprising new forms. See “Curators’ Choice,” page 44. Photo courtesy Smart Museum of Art.**

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June 28 marked the opening of *AFRICOBRA: Philosophy* at the Logan Center, the second of three linked South Side exhibitions on the influential African Commune of Bad Relevant Artists, founded in 1968 in Chicago and still active today. The third show is open through September 29 at the DuSable Museum. Photography by Jason Smith.



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# How they stacked up

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

**A**nnounced in the last issue, our “Title Fight” contest asked readers to arrange book spines into a very short story. It seemed to strike a chord. As entries began hitting the *Magazine’s* in-box in July, interactive content editor Joy Olivia Miller posted them—along with any notes—on our Facebook page, where all the entries can still be viewed. When the dust and attachments had settled on deadline day, we had 98 entries, the most for any *Magazine* contest since 2006, when readers penned 409 UChicago haiku.

This time we heard from 80 readers who piled up 743 unique books. Some titles made multiple appearances, albeit in different editions. Leading the way with four uses each were *As I Lay Dying* and *Things Fall Apart*. Also popular, *The Sound and the Fury* and *Brave New World* popped up three times each. Of 26 titles making two appearances, one (*The Man without Qualities*) appeared twice in the same entry, while the sleeper repeat was just that: *Half-Asleep in Frog Pajamas*.

Three rounds of voting by the *Magazine* staff yielded a short list of 12. Judging was no easy task—we found a lot to like throughout the field.

In some cases we admired a particular couplet. For instance, **Donald E. Gowen**, PhD'64, began deliciously: “Started Early, Took My Dog / Around the World on a Bicycle.” But we were disappointed when the dog sank out of sight. We enjoyed the stories that came with props, like that shown below, from **Kirsten Wendt**, AB'81, which gets an honorable mention (Cats Cats Cats / Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight / West with the Night / Into Thin Air / East of the Sun and West of the Moon / Come to the City / Where Angels Fear to Tread / The Places in Between / The Lost Continent / Where the Wild Things Are / The Dragons of Eden / The Snow Leopard). And we bowed to the efforts of **John Fischer**, AB'13, who artfully ordered 39 titles, working in at least one alumni book, *Cosmos* by Carl Sagan, AB'54, SB'55, SM'56, PhD'60.

In the end, economy of storytelling and humor turned out to be most prized by the judges. The humor, both light and dark, was in ample supply, the economy less so—perhaps surprising, given the genre's towering limitations. For the winning entries and other honorable mentions, see “Top Shelf” on page 63. Our gratitude to the University of Chicago Press for providing the prizes, and thanks to everyone who played with their books. ♦



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Art by renowned illustrator Isabelle Arsenault.



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## LETTERS

However, I was very disappointed with the incompleteness of this article. Normally, such pieces include how one may donate (cash or—in this case—books) to the program. Also, is there not a website with advice for others who might want to reproduce such a program in another metro for other prisons?

Today, the journalist must answer not only “Who? What? When? Where? Why?” and “Who cares?” but also “Web addy.”

*Rev. Christa Landon, AM'89*  
MINNEAPOLIS

*Cash donations can be made online at [chicagobwp.org](http://chicagobwp.org) or mailed to Chicago Books to Women in Prison, PO Box 14778, Chicago, IL 60614. Please make checks payable to Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM) and*

*write “For CBWP” in the memo line. To donate books, e-mail [chicagobwp@gmail.com](mailto:chicagobwp@gmail.com) to arrange a drop-off.—Ed.*

### **Sing, memory**

The latest issue of the *Magazine* reminded me of attending a concert by Paul Robeson while I was a graduate student at the University studying chemistry with Morris Kharasch, PhD 1921. Google has helped to remind me that the concert was at Mandel Hall on May 8, 1954. I remember being warned by faculty that it would be dangerous for a science student to attend the concert because it might impact the future ability to get a security clearance (it did not).

There were American Legion pickets at the site trying to take names of attendees. I will never forget the emotion of hearing Robeson's rich baritone singing “We are climbing Jacob's ladder” and ending the concert with “This Is My Country, Land of My Birth.”

I found this quote from Robeson,

which appeared in *Masses & Mainstream* in October 1954: “Only recently I sang in a concert at the University of Chicago. The student organization which invited me was subjected to various pressures to get them to cancel the offer; local reactionary groups threatened violence against any who dared to attend; the newspapers fiercely denounced the concert as ‘un-American.’ But the students stood firm, and the result—a packed hall of 1,500 people, with hundreds more turned away for lack of room!”

And from the *Maroon*, May 7, 1954: “Yesterday Chancellor Kimpton told the *Maroon* that he had received a letter from the Legion. Compton [sic] said the University would not take any action on the Legion letter.”

Those were the good old days?

*Jerome Sallo, SM'52, PhD'55*  
RANCHO MIRAGE, CALIFORNIA

### **A Leary resemblance**

In the July–Aug/13 *University of Chicago Magazine*, I didn't recognize the

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**Born a racer.**



## LETTERS

### Reasoned discourse, please

I'm disappointed that the *Magazine* saw fit to print Grant Bergman's letter (July–Aug/13) accusing Mitt Romney voters of stupidity. There are many reasoned arguments that can be made both for and against Messrs. Romney's and Obama's candidacies. Stupidity is not one of them. I'd be willing to bet a considerable sum of cash that the average IQ of Romney voters is statistically indistinguishable from that of Obama voters. Our already coarsened political discourse does not need any further coarsening.

Laurence B. Siegel, AB'75, MBA'77  
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS

### Where the action was

Mike Weinberg, U-High'43, AB'47, whom I knew well when I was a fellow member of Student Union, was so right about social activities on campus in the '40s (Letters, July–Aug/13).

Richard Janopaul's (AB'52) impression that nothing was going on at Ida Noyes during those years is not correct. I came to Chicago in the fall of 1942, in what might have been the largest entering class the College had yet experienced, due in part to an article in *Life* or *Time* about the early entry program of the Hutchins College. I was there until June 1949 and find it hard to believe that for the next two or three years there was nothing going on at Ida Noyes.

From my first orientation events on, it seems like everything happened at Ida Noyes, right through until I graduated in 1949. As I remember it,

## Oh for warm wood, soft glowing colors, some brick, all inspired by Hyde Park architecture or Robie House.

Ida Noyes had been the Women's Club until the war years, when Navy V-12 students arrived and whatever served as the men's equivalent (Reynolds Club?) was no longer available. The Reynolds Club reopened after the war was over, but Ida Noyes continued with a rich offering of activities.

We had dances, various parties, and events. The women's clubs met there, as did many other groups (Chapel Union, NuPiSigma Honor Society, and the YWCA, to name a few). Social Dancing (part of the required physical education courses we who entered before finishing high school were required to take) was offered there, as well as swimming and bowling, each for PE credit and as social activities. I'm not certain, but I think maybe the *Maroon* also was housed there during the war years.

Walter the guard was our friend and protector at Ida Noyes and I remember the whole building and its staff with great fondness. It was home away from home for the commuters, and there were a lot of us in those days.

Babette (Babs) Casper Bloch, PhB'47,  
SB'49

MILL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

### Ad reaction

I rarely write to the *Magazine* though I used to enjoy some of the issues quite a bit. (I don't like the smaller format or the new typeface, which was presum-

ably not chosen for its readability—it's too spiky and fussy.) Yesterday, when I opened the latest issue, I was struck speechless by the two-page Morgan Stanley ad inside the front cover. I might have enjoyed the art-historical overtones of the style had the implications of the content not been so sexist. (Look at the figures and you will see what I mean.) I would never use the services of a company like Morgan Stanley and don't give a hoot about their welfare, but if they want to reach a broad array of wealthy people perhaps they should rethink their approach. I'm not familiar with your advertisements policy, but this was not something I wanted to see during my read of the *Magazine*. I guess I'll go watch *Inside Job* again with my teens.

Talvi Laev, AB'84  
FERNEY-VOLTAIRE, FRANCE

### Lodging reservations

Looked at the new residence hall and dining commons and was quite enthused until I noticed all that glass and white stone or marble ("Building Relationships," UChicago News for Alumni and Friends, July 30, 2013. See also "Due North" in this issue, page 17).

Did no one tell the architect that this was in Chicago? It's cold and it snows, and the last thing a student wants to look at is an ice-like interior. Shades of New Dorm, happily no more, where I lived and froze. Oh for warm wood, soft glowing colors, some brick, all inspired by Hyde Park architecture or Robie House. What a shame.

Ann E. B'Rells née Resnick, SB'64  
HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

My god, the student housing monstrosity you have supported will look dated and ugly inside of a decade. The design looks like the Barbican Centre in London. The design is the ugliest piece of architecture I have seen outside of communist Central Europe.

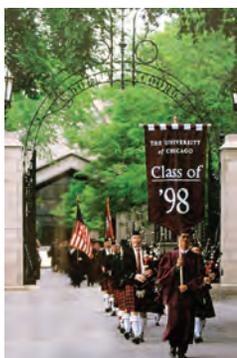
Benjamin Harris, MBA'09  
NEW YORK

The rear wall of Bond Chapel, a very beautiful building, carries an inscription I remember as "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Coming out of class in Cobb Hall, I was inspired by that inscription, and it remains one of my enduring

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

**A hearty congratulations to the University for having an outdoor convocation. It must have been wonderful. I well remember mine ... My proud father, in a nice new white shirt and tie, perspired so much that the red dye from the Rockefeller cushions was absorbed, leaving him with a permanently pink-stained shirt. I've often wondered how many other people through the years at U of C convocation have sacrificed shirts or dresses for the cause of their children's graduation.**

—James J. Hogan, PhD'68, October 1998



links to the University of Chicago. As I read about all the splendid new buildings being built at the University, I am nagged by one truth that goes unmentioned: how is it that the University of Chicago built two residence halls—Pierce and Woodward—that were architectural failures? My esteemed Social Science 3 professor, Gerhard Emil Otto Meyer, once said—as best I remember, and I do not remember the context—that we should not pursue truth but truthfulness. In that spirit, I ask the *Magazine* to explain how these two architectural failures happened. And along with that: why did the Edward Durrell Stone Conference Center on East 60th Street fail as a conference center? Intellectual vigor includes understanding failures, and I believe alumni are entitled to that understanding.

Gerald Handel, AB'47, AM'51, PhD'62  
SCARSDALE, NEW YORK

*In his Occasional Papers on Higher Education, volume XVIII, "The Kind of University That We Desire to Become": Student Housing and the Educational Mission of the University of Chicago, available online at college.uchicago.edu/about-college/college-publications, dean of the College John Boyer, AM'69, PhD'75, discusses the construction and service of Pierce and Woodward in detail. See especially pages 70–90.—Ed.*

#### Studio sage

I note that in the May–June/13 issue of the *University of Chicago Magazine* (Alumni News, page 73) you describe Freeman Schoolcraft simply as a “local sculptor.” In fact Mr. Schoolcraft was closely associated with the University. He was in charge of the open studio in the basement of Burton-Judson where I and many other students were introduced to the making of visual art. Alan Fern, AB'50, AM'54, PhD'60, who was then in the Department of Art and later became director of the National Portrait Gallery, knew Freeman well and was a frequent visitor. I believe that Freeman gave demonstrations of sculptural techniques to graduate students in the Department of Art.

Like many others whom he taught, I found him an extraordinary teacher and human being. To him I owe my first teaching position (at the Layton



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School of Art in Milwaukee) and my career as a sculptor.

Burton Blüstein, AB'50, AM'58  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

#### Brain teaser

In a fascinating seminar on the effects of trauma on the brain, Dr. Bruce Perry of Baylor University School of Medicine showed numerous neurological images of the brains of traumatized children. He discussed the effect of those changes on the behavior of the children and went on to show the effects on the brain of traditional talk

psychotherapy. So we see a cybernetic cycle where trauma changes the brain, leading to behavioral changes that, when addressed, psychologically change the brain, which affects the children's behavior. So I was intrigued by the Jean Decety and Laurie Skelly (AM'09, PhD'12) citation regarding brain function as a possible cause of psychopathy (“To Learn, Sleep,” Citations, *UChicago Journal*, May–June/13). Notwithstanding that Bob Hare's work on psychopathy—in fact the whole diagnosis of psychopathy—has serious challengers and detractors



## Digital UChicagoMag

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(see, for instance, Jon Ronson, *The Psychopath Test: A Journey Through the Madness Industry* [Riverhead Trade, 2012]), Decety and Skelly's study begs the question: which came first, the brain function or the behavior? (the age-old nature/nurture question revisited). I think the answer is yes.

*Robert B. Bloom, SB'58*

HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

### Whodunit?

At age 82, I'm long retired from teaching English—for five years at Kelly High in Chicago and 20 more at Cleveland High. Occasionally I taught Shakespeare in AP classes. I'm just back from Ashland, Oregon, and enjoyed a great *King Lear*, more in keeping with my current state. I also read the *Magazine's* article on *Hamlet* ("Shakespeare's Laws: A Justice, a Judge, a Philosopher, and an English Professor," May–June/13) and am just wondering why my dear old faculty of the humanities and English literature have never studied the legitimate question of whether Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare, and whether *Anonymous*, a German movie of a couple years ago with the tagline "Was Shakespeare a fraud?," made a good case for Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford. Can someone from our great magazine give some good old, unbiased, real UChicago literary research in an article on both sides of the debate?

*Will Skryha, AM'61*

VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA

### UChicago perceptions

Recently at a coffee shop near my home, a scruffy young barista looked at the University of Chicago T-shirt I was wearing. His face soured and he disdainfully said, "I don't know about the University, just their economics department." It's a reaction the shirt has been getting more frequently the last few years. He was more or less implicating me by association with creating the economic crisis many of us are still slowly clawing our way out of. I felt stung. I'm a social worker, and not only do my politics not agree with that of the Chicago school's libertarian bent, but in the wake of the crisis, with the state and federal budgets that pay for my work being slashed, I certainly haven't reaped any financial rewards from my association with the University or its economics department.

Now, sure, maybe Surly Barista Guy is a die-hard radical leftist and feels the Original Sin of Chicago's having propagated free market neoliberalism across the globe is so great that all the good done by other alums in the many fields of study and practice the University produces is rendered irrelevant. Maybe, like a lot of millennials, he just feels salty because he's been stuck doing barista jobs since the recession hit and can barely cover his student debt, let alone save for retirement or buy a home. Maybe he's upset that the Chicago school he's read about advanced theories and policies that would ultimately make a very small number of people extraordinarily rich through financial business practices of at least questionable ethics if not legality while everyone else was left struggling to keep their homes. Perhaps he's also aware that former Treasury secretary Hank Paulson was hired by—the University of Chicago. Paulson's migration to Chicago remains a direct link in many minds between the free market economic policies that emanate from the University and the global financial meltdown that nearly resulted from them.

## Over the 16 years since I graduated, I've been able to watch how reactions have shifted when I tell people where I went to school.

When I applied to Chicago, the school's reputation was for its Great Books curriculum and producing top-notch teachers, not global finance Masters of the Universe. Over the 16 years since I graduated, I've been able to watch how reactions have shifted when I tell people where I went to school. Whereas the U of C used to be considered closer in character to schools like Reed or Saint John's Colleges, it's now more associated with places like the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. People are surprised to find that I work directly with poor communities and have used my Chicago education to serve the public good.

The University has never addressed

its role in forming and advancing the economic policies that destroyed trillions of dollars in wealth during the financial crisis and created epic human misery across multiple continents. It has heavily publicized and promoted its many Nobel Prize for Economics winners, driving the public's perception of Chicago as a one-dimensional institution. I doubt I'm the only alum who would appreciate the University making a statement addressing the economics department's role in creating the crisis and articulating a plan for how its policies can benefit the greater good by expanding opportunity and prosperity for all. I also doubt that I'm the only alum who would support the University shifting its focus back to producing graduates who want to live the "life of the mind" rather than to conquer the global marketplace. We would appreciate it, frankly, because we're getting tired of the guilt by association thing.

*Jeff Deeney, AB'97*  
PHILADELPHIA

See the Magazine's Sept–Oct/09 feature, "Chicago Schooled: The Visible Hand of



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Robert Maynard Hutchins as sketched by his wife, Maude Hutchins.

*the Recession has Revitalized Critics of the Chicago School of Economics*” at [magazine.uchicago.edu/chicagoschooled](http://magazine.uchicago.edu/chicagoschooled).—Ed.

### Informed philanthropy

I followed Robert Maynard Hutchins, then chancellor of the University of Chicago, as he spoke to assembled students. I was then in the College.

He admonished students to “think,” not saying what to think, nor specifically how, just (as I recall), “think.” I hope your readers will help me think now.

In the past eight days, I have had requests for money from Oxfam, Project Bread, FINCA, Northeast Animal Shelter, Feeding America, the Salvation Army, Earth Justice, WBUR, the Jane Goodall Institute, Save the Manatee Club, Common Cause, Environmental Defense Fund, the Republican Party, WGBH, the Democratic Party, Natural Resources Defense Council, Mercy Corps, Greenpeace, the Wilderness Society, Doctors Without Borders, and Planned Parenthood.

I await requests from our National Parks and from organizations concerned with specific diseases, as well as education programs and local interests.

Surely, in the great academic institutions, the subject of worldwide priorities is examined and weighed, charting both immediate and long-term results. What criteria are considered? By a committee of mathematicians? Physi-

cians? Theologians? As world population figures grow from seven billion to a projected nine billion, I expect more pleas for money. I expect that it would be wise to think through our priorities, as the educated thing to do.

Thank you. My best to the remnants of the 1940s! It was suggested that you had had no word from this generation—so here I am.

*Lenore (Callahan) Frazier, AB'47*  
WINCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

P.S. I quite literally followed Mr. Hutchins (as speaker/welcomer and chairman of the Student Orientation Committee). With knees knocking, I might add.

### Sixth sense

The *University of Chicago Magazine* should be renamed the *University of Chicago Sixthly*. Why? Firstly, it is an accurate description of the *Magazine's* publishing habits, which famously rests on the “Sixth System.” Secondly, it is quirky, which our admissions people and students like. Thirdly, it'll show more readily in online searches. Fourthly, it's slightly difficult to say, so people will only speak its name with serious intention. Fifthly, I recently graduated from the College, so I think I ought to know. Therefore, *Sixthly!*

*Ricky Zacharias, AB'12*  
NEW ORLEANS



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## A very dark day

Since the 50th anniversary of the assassination of president John F. Kennedy is approaching, and I was at UChicago at the time, I thought I would offer this reminiscence.

I was a master's candidate in English language and literature and was living in International House. Shortly after lunch I left I-House and was headed west to a 1 p.m. class in Wieboldt Hall, Seventeenth-Century English Literature taught by George Williamson. I encountered a friend from I-House walking the other way.

"Kennedy's been shot," he told me. He had no more to tell: at that point Kennedy's death had not been announced, so the nation was holding its collective breath, waiting to hear if he would live or not.

I and most of the other students in Professor Williamson's class dutifully if somberly took our seats. Williamson convened class by muttering, "Let's try to get our minds down to business."

Not long after we began, a student from the class appeared in the open classroom doorway. We saw him mouth the words, "He's dead."

*Richard Stein, AM'64*  
OAK LAWN, ILLINOIS

## Morgenthau memories

I am writing a biography of Hans J. Morgenthau, the influential political scientist who taught at the University of Chicago from 1943 until his retirement in 1971. I would love to hear recollections from former students of Morgenthau's that can be included in the book. Please contact me via e-mail at [erafshoo@ggc.edu](mailto:erafshoo@ggc.edu) if you have interesting observations or stories to share. Thank you for your assistance.

*Ellen G. Rafshoon*  
ATLANTA

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# Strong solutions

BY MATTHEW TIRRELL, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF MOLECULAR ENGINEERING AND PRITZKER DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR ENGINEERING

**E**arlier this summer in Jerusalem, I joined my friend and scientific collaborator, Moshe Gottlieb, the Frankel professor of chemical engineering at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) in Be'er Sheva, Israel, to announce formal cooperation on clean water innovation between UChicago and BGU. The announcement featured President **Robert J. Zimmer** and his counterpart at BGU, Rivka Carmi, as well as Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel and the president of Israel, Shimon Peres.

The event was exceptional in several respects. It took place at President Peres's official residence, and it was widely covered by Israeli news media. More unusual still, it brought together a group of researchers who live and work in a desert, in a country that gets about 60 percent of its fresh water by desalination from the ocean, with another group of engineering scientists from halfway around the world who live by one of the world's great freshwater reservoirs.

That dramatic contrast, and the complementarity between our two groups, is part of what makes this collaboration stimulating for all of us. BGU has leading researchers and facilities for nanotechnology, as well as pilot-scale facilities for water purification as part of the Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research. At UChicago's Institute for Molecular Engineering (IME), we are well along in assembling a unique team of experts, including current and new faculty, focused on the molecular-level



**Before arriving at Chicago in 2011, Tirrell taught at the University of California, Berkeley; UC Santa Barbara; and other institutions.**

el science and engineering of water. We have a lot to learn from one another, and a host of new questions to examine. For example, when freshwater supplies were abundant, brackish groundwater was nothing more than a futuristic prospective resource. Today it has become one of the most important elements of the conversation about how to meet water needs.

The announcement marked my third trip to Israel in six months to develop this partnership, matched by several visits from BGU to Chicago. In April, 17 of us from UChicago and Argonne visited BGU and spent a couple of days brainstorming with our Israeli counterparts. In my experience, this is the most exciting type of collaboration. Many scientific partnerships involve the *execution of research*, in which one is pursuing a certain line and gets to a point where one needs help in

measuring, calculating, or interpreting something. That happens often in great universities. What is rare and exciting is when researchers get together on *conception of research* ideas.

Our time together in April led to a set of 15 joint proposals that we are now screening to select the highest priority ideas for seed funding; more promising ideas have been generated than we will be able to pursue initially. We have new ideas to develop specialized purification membranes, to prolong the life of membrane materials, to create new catalysts for eliminating industrial contaminants, for tools for groundwater conservation, and many more. Each one is being advanced by a team consisting of a BGU researcher in concert with a UChicago or Argonne researcher.

IME's partnership with Argonne is vital to this project, not only for the technical expertise Argonne scientists bring to the table, but also because of the inseparable connection between global water and energy usage. It takes energy to create clean water, and it takes a lot of water to produce energy. Much of the water involved in energy production can be reclaimed but it must be cleaned up. The energy consumption for desalination can be as much as ten times higher than for water from local freshwater supplies. Smart grids for water are likely to follow smart grids for energy.

There is no doubt that by 2020, desalination and water purification technologies, as well as more effective uses of water in energy production and agriculture, will contribute significantly to ensuring a safe, sustainable, affordable, and adequate water supply for our nation and the world. Our partnerships with BGU and with Argonne go to the heart of our commitment at IME to tackle technological problems of global importance. To accomplish this, we are building a faculty of outstanding achievement and diverse expertise. They, in turn, are reaching out to their peers around the world to develop partnerships that leverage this growing body of talent to address large-scale issues that matter to all of us. ♦

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE PRESENTS

uchicago

# THINKERS' TOYS

CUSTOM BLOCKS FEATURING PLACES AND SPACES  
WHERE STUDENTS PLAY WITH NEW IDEAS



**Y**ear in and year out, the *Magazine* staff stacks up words and images, charting the ever-changing campus and alumni landscape of news and ideas with award-winning writers' blocks: **BIMONTHLY PRINT ISSUES, WEB EXCLUSIVES, BIWEEKLY E-NEWSLETTERS, and DAILY TWEETS, with MOBILE-FRIENDLY EDITIONS COMING THIS SUMMER.**

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STUDENT LIFE

## Due north

A new dorm and dining commons on the site of Pierce Tower will remake 55th and University.

Before Pierce Tower's demolition began in August the dorm's loading dock lined 55th Street and University Avenue—and that might have been the corner's most inviting feature. Architect Jeanne Gang's design for the new Cam-

pus North Residence Hall and Dining Commons will eliminate what *Chicago Tribune* critic Blair Kamin called the "fortresslike street presence" in favor of something more like an open door.

A diagonal pathway accessible from that corner will "take students from the campus out to the city ... and also invite the community into the campus," Gang said. Retail along 55th Street will create an "urban, active edge" while a tree-lined sidewalk will add to University Avenue's leafy character. "This corner," Gang added, "becomes very important as this connection to Hyde Park."

Gang and the University administrators who joined her at the July 23 unveiling emphasized the connections they hoped the design would create between the campus and the city, and among the 800 students—more than three times Pierce's occupancy—who will live there. Three buildings of 15, 11, and five stories will make up the \$148 million complex scheduled to open in 2016. The residence hall will have eight houses of about 100 first- through fourth-year students, each organized around three-story lounges.

Mixing students from different

classes within a single house, said **Karen Warren Coleman**, vice president for campus life and student services, offers mentoring opportunities, another form of connective tissue built into the design. **John W. Boyer**, AM'69, PhD'75, dean of the College, referred to faculty committees dating back decades that argued for more, and more integrated, campus housing "to reflect the culture and the student milieu of the whole College, the whole University."

In dorms of recent vintage, Max Palevsky and South Campus, Boyer said those aspirations have begun to be realized. "I think it will be even more the case in this great hall, to have all four years of the students living together in a multigenerational community."

Input from students, Warren Coleman added, showed that third- and fourth-years covet independence even in campus housing. "They want to be able to cook together, they want to be able to go shopping and make their

own meal," she said. "So how could the University create spaces, create apartments, that allow them to stay on campus and still have the support of the College house system, but be able to have that kind of autonomy?" Private rooms with kitchen facilities will provide that for older students without their having to move off campus.

Architect Harry Weese's ten-story Pierce Tower, built in 1960, suffered indignities including exploding toilets in recent years, but Gang found inspiration in its vitality. "The quality of the common areas, the places where students interact, really worked," she said, noting that her design's "cascading lounge" creates perches for people watching, a nod to elements she especially respected in Pierce.

She mentioned former residents who had visited to "say goodbye" to the building, but there was more anticipation than mourning. Boyer, in particular, expressed his enthusiasm

for this tangible step toward his goal of keeping more undergraduates on campus. "A few years ago I had an opportunity to write a short history of student housing, basically making the case that we should build this dorm," he said, "so it's with some great appreciation that I find myself sitting here today next to our brilliant architect."

Gang, the principal of Chicago's Studio Gang Architects, received a 2011 MacArthur "genius" grant and a 2013 National Design Award. She joins Rafael Viñoly (Chicago Booth's Harper Center), Helmut Jahn (Mansueto Library), and Tod Williams and Billie Tsien (Logan Center for the Arts) on the list of prominent architects who have altered the campus landscape in recent years. The *Tribune's* Kamin called Gang's residence hall and dining commons "the latest in a series of bold designs that have remade the storied, once-frumpy neo-Gothic enclave."—*Jason Kelly*



A reading room (top) will offer sweeping views of the lake and the skyline; each of eight houses will be built around three-story lounges (bottom left); sight lines for "people watching" (bottom center) are a design element reminiscent of Weese's Pierce Tower; and the dining commons (below right) will include dedicated house tables.

COURTESY STUDIO GANG ARCHITECTS



“I don’t believe that video games make people violent,” says Seropian, who popularized the “first-person shooter.”

VIDEO GAMES

# Big game hunter

Developer Alex Seropian, SB’91, redefined video games—and he sees profound changes to come.

Video games have transformed **Alex Seropian’s** life—he’s one of the country’s most innovative and successful developers—and he thinks that someday they might evolve to alter life itself. “It’s not far-fetched to think about a future where you’re jacking into a matrix and your perception of a virtual world is nigh but indistinguishable from your perception of the real world,” Seropian, SB’91, said in an *UnCommon Core* session with Chicago Booth entrepreneurship professor **Waverly Deutsch** during Alumni Weekend. “And when that happens, man, it’s going to get real weird.” Good weird, but still: weird.

Deutsch had asked Seropian about 3-D gaming and virtual reality headsets beginning to take off. “I look at games as a fundamental part of being a person,” he said. Games are ancient; they are as old as human civilization. “It’s clearly a part of how we express and re-

late to each other,” Seropian said. “But as you get tools and technology that bring game playing closer and closer to your physical body, it has very interesting implications.”

Seropian made his first video game as an undergraduate math major, working in his Woodward Court dorm room “with the dream that, hey, if I could actually finish this thing, I could sell it, and wouldn’t that be cool.” It was a Pong-like game called *Gnop!* He did finish it—and sold it (although mostly he gave it away for free). “I didn’t make any profit doing that, but it worked out well enough that I convinced myself to try again,” Seropian said. Ten years and a few games later, he and former classmate and fellow programmer **Jason Jones**, X’94, released *Halo*, a science fiction game depicting a vast interstellar war. Its influence on the industry has been compared to the effect of *Star Wars* on movies.

Since then, Seropian has seen—and helped generate—tremendous change in almost every facet of the video game business. Technology, artistry, and craftsmanship have traveled light-years. Business models have evolved too. “When I got started in the business, you’d make a game, you’d put it on a floppy disk, and you’d put it in a cardboard box, shrink-wrap it, and you’d have to beg somebody at, like, Walmart to actually sell it for you.” Af-

ter that came consoles like PlayStation and Xbox, and huge corporate developers that made video games big business. Now crowd-source funding websites like Kickstarter and platforms like the Apple App Store have remade the industry again, opening up the process of creating games and getting them to customers. “If you’ve got 99 bucks, you can be a developer, publisher, and distributor of games to the largest gaming platform the world has ever seen,” he said. Customers “get a lot of noise, but you also get a lot of innovation that you would have never seen before.”

Customer demographics have changed too. When Seropian asked how many in the audience carried iPhones or Android phones, nearly everyone raised a hand. Their hands stayed up when he asked how many had ever played a game on these phones. Seropian’s most recent start-up company, Industrial Toys, founded in 2012, develops games for mobile platforms. “Today the average age of a gamer is 30-plus, and more women than men play games now,” he said. “That’s way different than it was ten years ago.”

Deutsch asked Seropian about the video game genre that *Halo* popularized: the first-person shooter, in which the player experiences the game through the eyes of the protagonist, looking at adversaries down the barrel of a gun. Deutsch told Seropian: “That

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON SMITH

young man”—she pointed to a student in the audience who’d applauded at the mention of Halo—“has spent many, many hours behind a gun, and there are people who say that that whole mechanism in video gaming is inuring kids to a whole new level of violence.”

Seropian nodded, but countered. “I don’t believe that video games make people violent,” he said. The father of three children, he doesn’t let his eight-year-old son play combat games, but will when his son is older. “I don’t see too much water in the bucket of that argument that video games are sending our society to a pit of despair,” Seropian said. The audience assented.

During the audience Q&A, Seropian fielded questions about video games’ reputed contributions to surgeon-level dexterity and staving off Alzheimer’s, and a mom’s request for more games with teammates rather than winners and losers. A student sitting at the back of the room asked what Seropian thought of the industry as a career choice right now. He had read that it was hard for game developers to make it on their own.

“Well,” Seropian said, a smile widening across his face, “I’m trying to think, what’s a better career choice?” He was only half joking. “I mean, if you’re into programming or you’re into art or you’re into playing games, it’s a fuckin’ great career choice.”

—Lydia Lyle Gibson

## MUSIC

# Set on notes

Easley Blackwood Jr. composes music, and palindromes, with spirit and precision.

“I’m not one of those composers who believes that every single work he writes is a masterpiece,” says **Easley Blackwood Jr.** “There are some successes, some that are less so.” After all, he’s been creating music since age four,

when his mother taped slips of colored paper to the keys of their piano, teaching him to distinguish between notes.

“Strangely enough,” says Blackwood, “I can still remember the colors.”

Now 80, the professor emeritus tells stories woven with such threads: poring over his parents’ classical record collection, coming home on his sixth birthday to find a gleaming Steinway L in place of the old family piano, and sharing early scores with instructor Aaron Copland during a summer camp at Massachusetts’s Berkshire (now Tanglewood) Music Center.

“You are far in advance of anyone I’ve ever seen your age,” the legendary composer told the 15-year-old, urging him to continue honing his craft.

“When you get advice like that,” recalls Blackwood with a laugh, “you take it seriously.” And did he ever.

Soon the Indiana native was in Paris, studying under renowned composer Nadia Boulanger. He’s spent the past six decades experimenting with diverse compositional styles, ranging from radical atonal pieces to ultra-conservative scores that could have

## ORIGINAL SOURCE A WING AND A PRAYER

“It’s such an immediate work, that’s what first drew me to it,” says Iva Olah, PhD ’13, about Bernardino Fungai’s *Madonna in a Mandorla Surrounded by Angels*, painted in the late 15th or early 16th century. Olah wrote a dissertation on Florentine Renaissance art and is the Mellon Foundation curatorial intern at the Smart Museum. She organized the museum’s exhibition *Wings, Speed, and Cosmic Dominion in Renaissance Italy*, which features Fungai’s painted wood panel.

The exhibition, which runs through December 8, is intended to show a side of the Renaissance that isn’t all about canonical art. “There is so much more to Renaissance art that people never see,” Olah says.

Artworks like this *Madonna* were displayed in churches and

functioned as worship objects. The mandorla, an almond-shaped aureole, is key to the adoration experience of the work. “It acts like a portal,” says Olah, “transporting a worshiper to a space where they can experience an intimate moment of prayer with the Virgin Mary.”

Compared to better-known Renaissance works, Fungai’s *Madonna* seems to lack artistic refinement. But its roughness, says Olah, adds to its power. “The simplicity of the work would have made it immediately relatable to a Renaissance viewer. They would have been able to identify and engage with the devotional theme of suffering through things such as the red color of the Madonna’s gown—symbolic of the blood of Christ.”—Eric Green, ’14



COLLECTION OF THE SMART MUSEUM OF ART

been penned in Mozart's time. This rare versatility has garnered commissions played by many of the country's top ensembles, including his beloved Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

"When I imagine the sounds of an orchestral piece of mine that I haven't yet heard," says Blackwood, "what I hear is the Chicago Symphony Orchestra playing in an empty Orchestra Hall." Even after years cataloging every note, instrument, and reverberation, however, he's still surprised at how a finished score can leap off the page. "It's always bigger than you thought."

Between writing new works and playing in chamber ensembles, he's also been training young University of Chicago musicians to fine-tune their own craft since 1958. Dubbed "one of the truly great living American pianist-composers" by classical music magazine *Fanfare*, he's now officially retired, teaching one course per year on subjects such as the evolution of the string quartet, tuning theory, and other nuances of composition. (Blackwood also visits campus regularly to "check mail and drop by the Quadrangle Club for a martini.")

His advice to budding composers? Be a perfectionist—and keep track of your ideas. "If you don't write it down, it doesn't exist," says Blackwood, who penned the first ten measures of his 1994 *Sonatina for Piccolo, Clarinet, and Piano in F Major, op. 38*, in a frenzy after they came to him in a dream.

"You can start in any number of ways," he says of his compositions. "You can just have a notion of a fragment." Sometimes, it's a matter of working within very specific constraints, as when he was enlisted to write a new tune for Rockefeller Chapel's carillon in the 1960s. After chiming Wagner's "Parsifal" on the quarter hour for nearly 30 years, four bells had become worn. To remedy the situation, Blackwood composed "The Chicago Chime," which employed the low E, a unique bell rarely found on carillons.

"That bell is one of the nice ones," he recalls. "I thought we really ought to have some use for it." His tune marked time from 9 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. daily until the early 1970s when a campus visit from the Archbishop of Canterbury prompted a switch to six-note phrases known as the "Canterbury Chime."

These days, Blackwood passes his free time taking in CSO matinees and



His mother's colorful method taught Blackwood the piano backward and forward.

indulging in wordplay, a hobby that prizes the same brand of precision his compositions require. (His love of puzzles can be traced back to his father, the late Easley Blackwood Sr., a contract bridge player who invented one of the card game's most famous conventions.)

At the Hyde Park apartment building he's called home since 1962, the composer pulls up a Word document on his computer titled "Everybody's Favorite

Palindromes," some he dreamed up himself, some from other enthusiasts. Asked if he has a personal favorite, he smiles and first rattles off a six-word sentence about Tulsa too bawdy for publication.

Finally, he settles on a print-appropriate masterpiece of his own: "Dennis never even lived as a devil, never even sinned." Like penning a musical score, it's a creative act that calls for attention to detail.—Brooke E. O'Neill, *AM*'04



The links between terrorism and economics turn out to be complicated, and sometimes counterintuitive.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

# Tactical response

Studying terrorism's social context produces complicated answers about its causes.

Political scientist **Ethan Bueno de Mesquita**, AB'06, began with a warning. The "new science of violence," he said—the close and careful study of terrorism, insurgency, and other asymmetrical warfare—is rich with productive data and provocative findings. But there's no easy cure. "There are no pat recommendations to be had about how we end conflict. These things are not just a matter of being willing to spend enough money or having the political will." After all, he said, the United States has poured trillions of dollars into counterterrorism and counterinsurgency since 9/11. As a scholar, Bueno de Mesquita added later, "my obligation is to say that to the extent that people are telling you we know what to do, I don't think we know what to do."

Still, over the past decade researchers have teased out increasingly precise answers to complicated questions about political violence: the dynamics between poverty and terrorism, for instance, or what it means that so

many suicide bombers have college educations. An applied game theorist and Chicago Harris professor, Bueno de Mesquita analyzed these and other issues during an Alumni Weekend lecture that filled much of the auditorium at Kent Chemical Laboratory.

The connection between poverty and terrorism, he said, seems deceptively simple. One prevailing idea is that "people engage in acts of violence because they're desperate, because they have miserable lives, and they're trying to achieve change." It makes sense that helping a poor country get richer would decrease violence.

But it turns out to depend on what kind of riches. Violence tends to drop with rising prices for labor-intensive commodities that offer jobs and wealth to large numbers of people. By contrast, "capital-intensive" commodities—like oil, diamonds, or minerals—don't offer many jobs. "But they're easy to steal," Bueno de Mesquita said, and especially attractive targets to militants trying to weaken the government and fund a rebellion. So, when oil and minerals become more valuable, "that predation mechanism, that 'Now I can really win a valuable prize,' might come into play."

He demonstrated using data from Colombia. When the international price of coffee dropped in 1997, taking jobs and farm wages with it, guerilla attacks by Colombian rebels rose sharply, but only in coffee-producing regions; elsewhere in the country, the level of violence remained unaffected. Next,

Bueno de Mesquita put up a graph showing what happened in Colombia when the price of oil jumped up. Again, two lines diverged: guerilla attacks in oil-producing regions increased, but not so much in the rest of the country. "These two commodities are acting in exactly opposite ways," he said.

Using similar data, he turned to the question of education and terrorism and the fact, much puzzled over, that Hamas and Hezbollah members are better educated, wealthier, and less likely to be unemployed than the Palestinian population in general. Many scholars have concluded from this that poverty and education must not matter in the question of who becomes a terrorist. Instead, Bueno de Mesquita believes it says something about supply and demand.

"It's not trivial to be a successful terrorist operative," he said. Many suicide bombings kill only the suicide bomber; 35 to 40 percent of them detonate their bombs prematurely by mistake. "Terrorist organizations, like any employer, select the best people they can find." And when a country's economy turns bad and jobs dry up, he argued, well-educated people who sympathize with the cause often find themselves without other employment. Terrorist organizations can then choose from a better pool of applicants.

Drawing on data from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he said "One standard deviation increase in unemployment leads to it being 38 percent more likely that you have an operative

NOOR MOHAMMAD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES/NEWS.COM

who has a college education, an 18 percent increase that they have prior experience, and a 21 percent increase that they're assigned to a difficult target," meaning one inside Israel, rather than the occupied territories.

Much less clear is what to do with this knowledge. One difficulty, Bueno de Mesquita said, is fighting "strategic" terrorists who can switch from one target to another depending on which sites a government decides to fortify or leave unguarded. He displayed a graph charting the rate of airplane hijackings before and after metal detectors were introduced in US airports in 1972. Beginning in the 1960s, hijackings were epidemic, with sometimes as many as 70 in a single year. Then in the early '70s, the number of hijackings fell to almost zero. Bueno de Mesquita's graph looked like a picture of a cliff.

The effect is stunning, he said, until you see the data on hostage-taking incidents that didn't involve airplanes. He showed another graph, nearly an exact inverse of the first one. "It's almost a one-for-one offset in the reduction of hijackings," he said, later adding, "You can prevent hijackings, which is different from preventing terrorism."

Bueno de Mesquita's final lesson was on the difficulties in waging counterinsurgencies. Using data from the US campaign in Afghanistan, he showed that when coalition forces killed a civilian, support for the Taliban rose, along with insurgent attacks. This contrasted sharply with Russia's experience in Chechnya, where in 1999

a brutal counterinsurgency campaign put down a strong rebellion. Examining dates when random Russian artillery shellings led to civilian deaths, Bueno de Mesquita found that afterward those towns saw a dramatic decrease in violence. "Which is an interesting fact, right?" he said. "Because the United States, fighting what is an attempt at a benign counterinsurgency, sees massive backfiring when it kills civilians."

Why the difference? "It might be," he said, "because when you're trying to convince civilians that you have their best interests at heart, when you're trying to win hearts and minds—when you kill them, it really hurts that strategy. When you've explicitly adopted the policy that, 'If you guys continue to support the rebels, we are going to kill you,' then when they see a lot of capacity for violence, they are in fact deterred."

The Russian counterinsurgency's effectiveness in Chechnya isn't enough reason to recommend it as policy, Bueno de Mesquita emphasized—morally, or perhaps even materially. That successful counterinsurgency, he said later, "I think is directly accountable for the Moscow subway bombings" in 2010. "The environment became so difficult for the Chechen rebels that they could no longer put boots on the ground. And the only tactic available to them at that point was urban warfare with very few people. They transitioned from being civil war fighters to being terrorists, because being a terrorist isn't a thing; it's a tactic."

—Lydiakyle Gibson



There's no easy solution to political violence, Bueno de Mesquita said.

## WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER'S INDEX

### POWER SOURCE

Number of computing cores in Argonne's new supercomputer Mira, the fifth fastest in the world:

**786,000**

Cores in Mira's predecessor:

**163,000**

Mira's weight, in tons:

**100**

Quadrillions of calculations per second that Mira can do:

**10**

Millions of iPads needed to equal Mira's raw power:

**58**

Years it would take a laptop to do a calculation that Mira could do in one hour:

**20**

Billions of computing hours that will be allotted to scientists starting in 2014:

**5**

## FOR THE RECORD



### INDIA'S CENTRAL BANKER

**Raghuram Rajan**, a professor of finance at Chicago Booth, has been appointed governor of the Reserve Bank of India. An economic adviser to Indian prime minister Manmohan Singh since 2008, Rajan has served for the past year as the government's chief economic adviser, a position analogous to his Chicago Booth colleague **Austan Goolsbee's** role in the first Obama administration. Rajan, best known for warning of risks in the financial system years before the 2008 economic crisis, will be on leave from the University during his tenure as governor.

### MAGNETIC PULL

After a five-week, 3,200-mile waterway journey, a 50-foot electromagnet arrived at Fermilab on July 26. The magnet is the centerpiece of Fermilab's new Muon g-2 experiment, which will study the properties of subatomic particles called muons. Previously located at Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York, the magnet was relocated to Fermilab at a fraction of the cost of building a new one. But the process was arduous for the 17-ton ring, which could not be taken apart. Made up of three aluminum rings with superconducting coils inside, it traveled by barge down the Atlantic coast, around Florida into the Gulf of Mexico, and up a series of rivers to its new Illinois location.

### WATER SOURCE

**Steven Sibener** will lead the Institute of Molecular Engineering water research initiative, a collaboration with Ben-Gurion University

of the Negev and Argonne National Laboratory. Sibener, the Carl William Eisendrath distinguished service professor in chemistry and the James Franck Institute, will serve a two-year term as director, leading the application of nanotechnology discoveries to make clean drinking water cheaper and more plentiful.

### UNE CHAISE POUR HARCOURT

**Bernard Harcourt**, the Julius Kreeger professor of law and political science, has been elected to a chair at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris, the leading European social science institute, whose scholars have included Claude Levi-Strauss, Roland Barthes, and Jacques Derrida. Harcourt, who will hold the chair in political theory and juridical practices, will visit the institute annually as a permanent visitor.



### NATIONAL LEADER IN CHILD WELFARE

**Bryan Samuels**, AM '93, has been named executive director of the Chapin Hall Center for Children. As commissioner of the US Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Children, Youth, and Families since 2010, Samuels was the highest-ranking federal child welfare policy maker. He emphasized data-driven approaches to improving the social and emotional well-being of vulnerable children, overseeing programs addressing child abuse and neglect, runaway and homeless youth, domestic violence, and teen pregnancy.

### SIMONS SAYS ...

**Ngô Bao Châu** and **Dam Thanh Son** are among 13 mathematicians, theoretical

physicists, and theoretical computer scientists named 2013 Simons Investigators. Ngo, the Francis and Rose Yuen distinguished service professor in mathematics, won the 2010 Fields Medal for his proof of Langland's fundamental lemma. Son, University Professor of physics, has published in a variety of subfields, including quantum chromodynamics, theoretical nuclear physics, condensed matter physics, and atomic physics. They will each receive \$500,000 over the next five years, allowing them to engage in long-term study of questions fundamental to their fields.



### ALLENSWORTH MAKES THE GRADE

Applied education researcher **Elaine Allensworth** has been named the Lewis-Sebring director of the Consortium on Chicago School Research. Allensworth, who joined the consortium in 1998, worked most recently as its interim director. She researches factors predicting whether students will drop out of high school. She also contributed to the consortium's study of the relationship between school organizational structures and community conditions in determining academic success, which led to the book *Organizing Schools for Improvement* (University of Chicago Press, 2010), called the "most important research on urban schools in the past decade."

### OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN HONG KONG

The University of Chicago Booth School of Business will relocate its Asia executive MBA program from Singapore to Hong Kong. In 2014 Chicago Booth faculty will begin teaching at the new location, while maintaining activities

in Singapore. The expansion into Hong Kong is aimed at deepening Chicago Booth's engagement in Asia. **Sunil Kumar**, dean of the business school, noted that proximity to China, the world's second-largest economy, made the move especially appealing.



### ACCEPTED WITHOUT EXCEPTION

For the second year in a row, 100 percent of University of Chicago Charter School graduates were accepted into college. Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel, the convocation ceremony's keynote speaker, praised the students, their parents, and their teachers and urged the students to return to Chicago after college to be a part of the city's future. "I have high expectations for you. ... When you're done with college, I want you to call Chicago home, because if you call Chicago home, we have a great future in the city—as great as you are."

### SANDOR'S ADMIRERS ARE LEGION

In acknowledgment of his pioneering work in environmental finance and carbon trading, and his contribution to French-American relations, the French government has inducted **Richard Sandor** into the French National Order of the Legion of Honor. A Law School lecturer, Sandor is the chair and CEO of Environmental Financial Products LLC. He and his wife, Ellen, are the principal donors to a \$10 million endowment in law and economics in honor of his mentor, Nobel laureate **Ronald Coase**, the Clifton R. Musser professor emeritus of economics at the Law School. The Coase-Sandor Institute for Law and Economics was named in recognition of their contributions.



Recreating scattered leaflets, memorials outside the University of Munich commemorate White Rose members.

## HISTORY

# Rose up

Jud Newborn, AM'77, PhD'94, tells the story of Munich's anti-Nazis.

On February 18, 1943, Hans and Sophie Scholl entered the University of Munich carrying a suitcase filled with 1,000 leaflets calling for Germans to resist Adolf Hitler, “the most abominable tyrant our people have ever been forced to endure.” Leaving pamphlets in front of classrooms and on stairways and windowsills, the siblings climbed up to a gallery above the university’s long inner courtyard, and Sophie tossed the remainder over the balustrade into the atrium. A janitor appeared below them and bellowed up, “You’re under arrest!”

Thirty-seven years later, **Jud Newborn**, then a UChicago doctoral student in anthropology, arrived in Munich to research his dissertation on the cultural

origins of the Holocaust. He left an expert on an additional topic: the Scholls and other Germans in the White Rose resistance network. Newborn’s chronicle of the movement, *Shattering the German Night*, was published in 1986. Seventy years have now passed since the Scholls and four fellow resisters were caught and executed.

Studying abroad on a Fulbright, Newborn, AM'77, PhD'94, spent 1980 to 1983 traveling in Germany and to Holocaust sites in Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. Searching for the seeds of Nazi culture, he traced the camps’ symbolic elements to the late medieval period, examining artifacts from woodcuts to films. He also interviewed former SS officers in prison.

As a researcher, Newborn was intent on objectivity. As a Jew who vividly remembered his childhood discovery that some of his mother’s relatives were killed by the Nazis, he experienced Germany with heightened emotions. Riding on Berlin’s U-Bahn to the Platz der Opfer des Nationalsozialismus

for a 1980 rally to protest a neo-Nazi bombing, he noticed two women of the WW II generation dressed in expensive loden coats, talking and laughing. “Where were you when the Jews were hauled off?” he thought. When he saw them again at the protest site, walking arm in arm, Newborn asked why they were there. “We were imprisoned as anti-Nazis in the Ravensbrück Concentration Camp for Women,” they said. “The chip that had materialized on my shoulder,” he says, “was knocked off.”

From then he began paying close attention to Nazi resistance movements, including the White Rose, a network of around 35 people. He had heard about the movement and its core participants while at UChicago: the Scholl siblings; Christoph Probst, Alexander Schmorell, Willi Graf, and Traute Lafrenz, all University of Munich students; and professor Kurt Huber. In Germany he began to sense the significance of their story. Riveted by the 1982 film *Die Weiße Rose*, and knowing that in 1983 a subtitled version would be released in

the United States, where the group was little known, Newborn collaborated with American expat writer Annette Dumbach on a trade book.

*Shattering the German Night* (Little Brown and Company) recounts how White Rose members began in the spring of 1942 to duplicate leaflets using a hand-cranked mimeograph machine. “For Hitler and his followers, no punishment on this earth can be commensurate with their crimes,” proclaimed one leaflet. “We will not be silent. We are your bad conscience.”

To give the impression of a broad network, the resisters took trains from Munich to mail the pamphlets from other cities. With newsletters circulating throughout Germany, the Gestapo took notice. Days after being spotted by the janitor, the Scholls were beheaded, along with Probst, whose leaflet draft was in Hans’s pocket during the arrest. Hans tore up the leaflet and tried to swallow it but was tackled by Gestapo officers, who pieced the document together. The other key players were caught in 1943, and all but Lafrenz were executed.

In 2006 *Shattering the German Night* was revised and expanded as *Sophie Scholl and the White Rose* to complement the 2005 German-language movie *Sophie Scholl: Die letzten Tage*. Newborn wanted the 2006 edition to incorporate new information about Hans Scholl. Hans and Sophie had been Hitler Youth leaders; for years people had asked Newborn, “Why did they change?” Expanding on research by sociologist Eckard Holler, he now argues that Hans’s 1937 arrest by the Gestapo for having a same-sex relationship is key to explaining their transformation. Hans “discovered what it was to be one of the persecuted,” he says. The material didn’t make it in, but “I believe firmly the White Rose would have wanted this to be told today.”

Newborn published his argument in a 2006 pamphlet, which also addresses another mystery: how the group got its name. Hans told his Gestapo interrogator that “White Rose” was selected randomly. But Newborn thinks the resisters were far too thoughtful and literate for that to be true. He theorizes that Hans and Schmorell, who started the group, read *Die Weiße Rose*, a 1929 novel banned in the Third Reich that portrays Mexican Indian peasants fighting American oilmen to save their hacienda, called La Rosa Blanca. It

would have “resonated powerfully” with the students, writes Newborn.

The founding historian and curator at New York’s Museum of Jewish Heritage until 2000, Newborn is now a special programs curator for Long Island’s Cinema Arts Centre. He incorporates the pamphlet material into his White Rose multimedia lecture, which he’s delivered throughout the United States and in South Africa. The presentation ties White Rose members to 21st-century figures like Malala Yousafzai, the young Pakistani activist shot by the Taliban in 2012. Students often approach Newborn after a lecture and note that they are the same age as the White Rose members were. They ask: “I wonder if I would have the courage.”

—Katherine Muhlenkamp

#### ONLINE EDUCATION

## Class dispersed

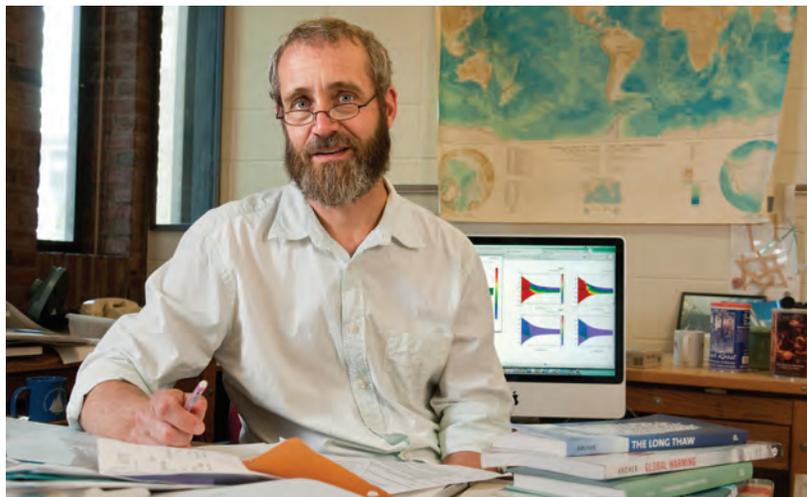
UChicago dips a toe into long-distance learning with its first two online course offerings.

The University of Chicago announced June 4 that it would begin experimenting with online education, offering free, not-for-credit courses through the

website Coursera. Massive open online courses, known as MOOCs, have multiplied over the past few years as schools such as Harvard, MIT, and Yale have begun offering them.

To investigate UChicago’s options, provost **Thomas F. Rosenbaum** appointed two committees to explore online courses. Among the conclusions in the subsequent report the committees produced is that online courses would allow the University to increase its presence and engage with students and scholars at other institutions. “It’s a way of bringing the University of Chicago to a larger audience who might otherwise not be able to have access to us,” says **Roy E. Weiss**, deputy provost for research and the Rabbi Esformes professor of medicine and pediatrics. Weiss chairs an oversight committee appointed to review faculty proposals for online courses.

The committees’ report notes another potential advantage of online education. “Part of the hope of this experiment is that online courses will allow faculty to experiment with new ways of teaching,” says Weiss. The report cites the idea of flipping the classroom—meaning students watch lectures outside of class and use class time for questions and discussion. Coursera and EdX, another online education site, provide student feedback to professors in the form of enrollment data and end-of-course evaluations, and they offer interaction through message boards, allowing professors



David Archer is teaching a version of his global warming class online.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LLOYD DEGRANE

## CITATIONS

### PEDESTRIAN POWER

The high degree of political activism and social movement in cities is closely tied to their urban environments, says Chicago sociologist **Terry Clark**. Writing in the June 9 *Urban Affairs Review*, Clark and coauthor Brian Knudsen, from Urban Innovation Analysis, interpret the US Census tally of social movement organizations (SMOs) in more than 30,000 ZIP codes based on a host of demographic and socioeconomic statistics. Denser populations, more mixed land uses, more mixed building ages, and shorter city blocks all correlated strongly with higher incidence of SMOs. Walking, they conclude, mediates these relationships, providing a crucial way for individuals to directly engage with their cities, which, in turn, become “locales for social change and hubs of innovativeness.”

### SOCIAL CANCER

Stress has long been associated with the development of cancer. Now UChicago researchers in medicine and psychology think they’ve found a biological link between the two: chemical signals released by fat cells. In the July

*Cancer Prevention Research*, breast cancer oncologist **Suzanne Conzen** and her collaborators report that the stress of chronic social isolation can change the behavior of mammary gland fat cells. Chemical signals from these cells encourage the growth of precancerous epithelial cells, which accelerate the development of breast cancer. The researchers found that female mice isolated after weaning showed increased expression of three genes central to metabolizing glucose. This caused mammary fat cells to roughly double their glucose intake and triple their output of leptin, which stimulates epithelial cell growth. The study’s authors suggest that changes in fat cell behavior could be used to anticipate breast cancer and possibly intervene preemptively.

### METEORITE MYSTERY

There’s a longstanding enigma embedded inside chondrites, the largest and most common type of meteorite. For over a century, researchers have been unable to explain the origin of chondrules. Molten droplets in space, they solidify as the small, glassy spherules often found

inside chondrites. UChicago cosmochemists **Lawrence Grossman** and **Alexei Fedkin** posit a solution in July’s *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*. After discovering sodium in the chondrules’ olivine crystals, they reconstructed how minerals condensed from the primordial solar nebula. Then using mineralogical calculations that followed up on work by UChicago geophysicists **Fred Ciesla** and **Steven Simon**, they suggest that high-pressure collisions between early cosmic bodies generated chondrules.

### ANCIENT HAIR-ITAGE

A Jurassic fossil recently discovered in Inner Mongolia, China, by biology professor **Zhe-Xi Luo** and his team demonstrates that in the evolutionary march from the

reptilian to the mammalian, hair and fur popped up early. In the August 8 issue of *Nature*, they describe the features of what Luo calls our “great-great-grand uncle 165 million years removed”: *Megaconus mammaliaformis*, a squirrel-sized terrestrial animal named for a large cusp on its first cheek tooth. *Megaconus* is only the second known pre-mammal with fur, and the clear halo of guard hairs and underfur residue preserved in its fossil are the oldest evidence of fur and hair in ancestral mammals. *Megaconus* moved like a mammal—its hind legs and claws would have given it a gait like an armadillo. Its anklebones, vertebral column, and the middle ear attached to its jaw, though, were all reptilian.

—Derek Tsang, '15



Despite its fur, *Megaconus* wasn't quite a mammal.

to analyze the quality of their pedagogical experiments.

Interest among faculty appears high. In a *Chronicle of Higher Education* survey, 79 percent of faculty who have taught MOOCs deemed them “worth the hype.” **David Archer**, professor of geophysical sciences, and **John Cochrane**, Chicago Booth’s AQR Capital Management distinguished service professor of finance, volunteered to lead courses that go live this fall on Coursera. Archer will teach a version of his global warming class, and Cochrane will teach an asset pricing theory course originally designed for doctoral students.

Echoing Weiss, Cochrane says, “I hope to use the online technology to improve the instructional value of my on-campus course, as well as to provide

a unique resource for people who want an exposure to academic finance.” For Archer, “It’s a question of outreach. I’m very motivated by the issue of climate change.”

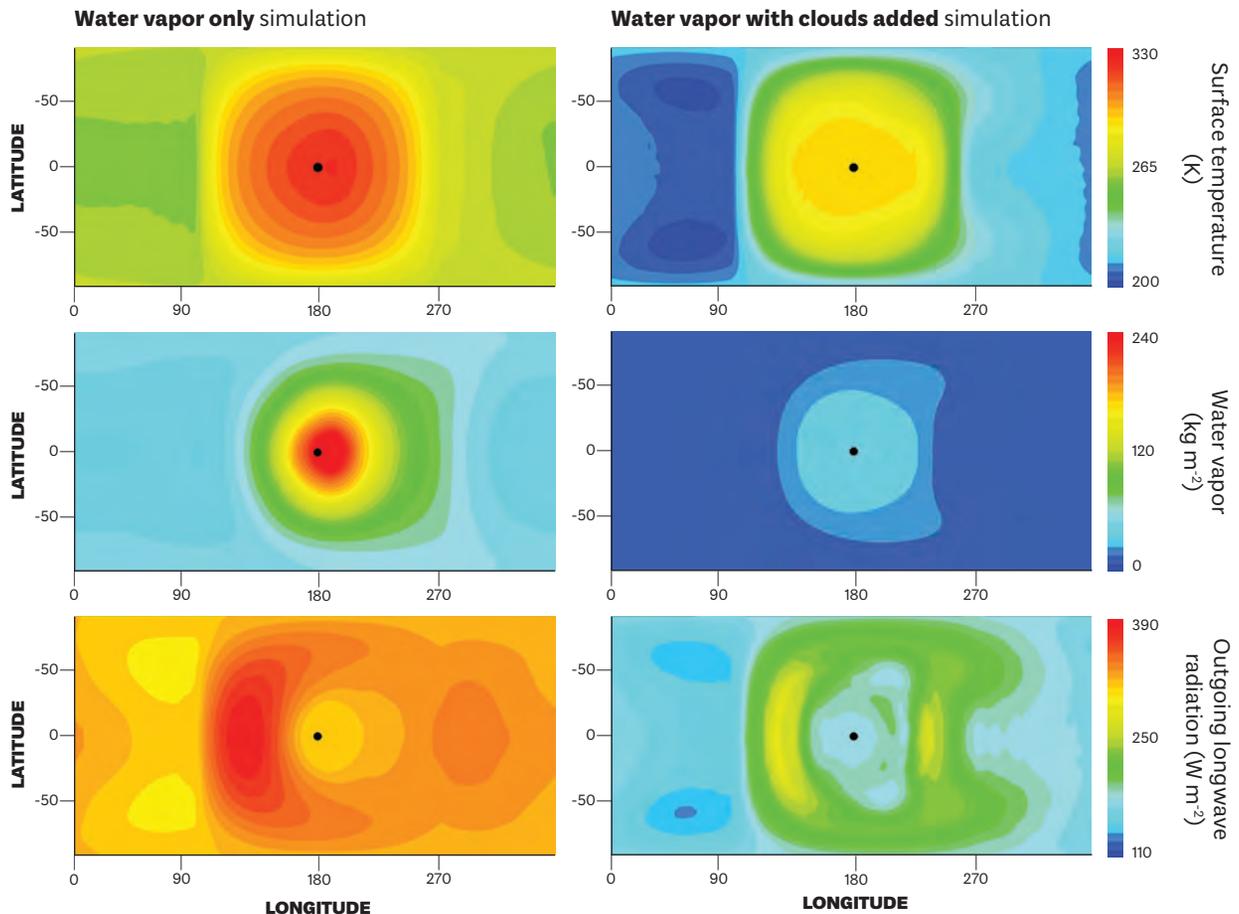
But before faculty like Archer and Cochrane can reach new audiences, there are challenges. MOOCs are often plagued by high attrition rates, with thousands of participants signing up but only a small percentage completing the course. And they require a significant time commitment to teach. The *Chronicle* survey found that, for 55 percent of respondents, teaching a MOOC diverted attention from other academic duties.

To assist with these challenges, **Paul Bergen**, the executive director of academic and scholarly technology services, leads a team helping faculty members

adapt their courses for an online audience. “Faculty should be prepared to invest a large amount of time in producing and teaching their courses,” Bergen says, estimating up to 200 hours for course design and production alone. “There is no way around that.” The process involves writing an online lesson plan, recording lectures on video, and creating digital teaching materials, which will be handled in part by Bergen’s team. Teaching assistants are also needed to monitor discussions and upload material.

In supporting online courses, the provost’s committees emphasized that strong engagement with faculty is part of what distinguishes a University of Chicago education. This will be a main focus and challenge as UChicago joins one of the fastest growing trends in higher education.—Eric Green, '14

# FIG. 1 GOLDILOCKS UNLOCKED



GRAPHIC COURTESY JUN YANG, DORIAN ABBOT, AND NICOLAS COWAN; ADAPTED BY JOY OLIVIA MILLER

The “Goldilocks” habitable zone around each star—the narrow sweet spot where a planet’s temperature and heat retention are just right to maintain surface water—is growing up. UChicago geophysicists Jun Yang and Dorian Abbot, working with Northwestern researcher Nicolas Cowan, simulated cloud behavior on Earth-sized planets toward the inner edge of the habitable zones around red dwarf stars, and found that 50 to 100 percent more had the potential for life when the water clouds’ effects on climate were accounted for.

Previously, investigations had used limited one-dimensional convection models, or had discounted planets considered too close to their stars to be cool enough

for life. Instead, Yang, Abbot, and Cowan used 216 networked computers over several months to perform three-dimensional global simulations with myriad intricate variables. They calculated that planets in tight orbits become tidally locked: the same hemisphere always faces the sun, and what’s called the substellar point is always directly beneath the sun.

On tidally locked planets with surface water, about 60 percent of this substellar region is covered by high-level clouds, and about 80 percent by low-level clouds. In the representative case shown above, this near-constant cloud cover provided a mean cooling of 73 kelvin on the planet’s surface—roughly the difference between summer in

Death Valley and in Antarctica. Above are the researchers’ maps of how adding clouds to their simulations reduced the surface temperature, humidity, and thermal emissions on a representative, tidally locked terrestrial planet, where the substellar point is the black dot.

These findings will undergo a reality check when the James Webb Space Telescope launches in 2018 and measures the temperature on such tidally locked planets. According to Yang, Abbot, and Cowan, tidally locked planets with extensive cloud cover will appear cooler on their dayside than their nightside—without cloud cover, it would be the opposite—providing heavy evidence for liquid surface water.—*Derek Tsang, '15*

# Sense of direction

New UChicago athletic director Erin McDermott has experience and high expectations.

**Erin McDermott** isn't the type to dawdle, and the call of duty didn't let her. Even before her July 22 start date, the new UChicago athletic director was already involved in the search for a new football coach—Dartmouth associate head coach **Chris Wilkerson's** hiring was announced July 30. After 13 years at Princeton, McDermott is still adjusting to her new digs; when I arranged to meet with her she didn't know where the Reynolds Club was, although she got there just fine. "I feel like I'm kind of graduating from Princeton, and I'm going to be like a first-year in Chicago," she said.

After three years working as assistant director for compliance at Columbia University, McDermott worked her way up to deputy athletic director at Princeton. She also chaired the NCAA's postseason selection committee for field hockey and served on the NCAA's Championships Cabinet.

As an international business major at Hofstra College, she lettered in basketball, later earning a master's in sports management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. In an interview with the *Magazine*, edited and adapted below, McDermott discussed the importance of the student-athlete and her own experience in sports and sports administration.—*Derek Tsang, '15*

## Ice in her veins

I remember one game against Lehigh or Lafayette my senior year. I had been a very consistent free-throw shooter in high school, and that seemed to not be the case as much in college. The game was very close, and it was the last play. It was a feed from a guard to me down low, and I was able to make a basket. I was fouled, and the opposing coach called a timeout—they were trying to make me think about it. I came out of that and made the shot. I remember going back to the locker room, and the opposing coach-



ing staff was in front of me and didn't realize it. One of them made a comment, "can you believe it was McDermott that made the free throw at the end?" So I ran by. I didn't say anything derogatory, but I just let them know I was there.

## Interdisciplinary discipline

I always liked that my sports experience offered discipline both within that athletic area but also in the academic area. It's a very similar approach that makes you successful in both places: you have to invest time, you have to really work at it. You can't just go to class and expect things are going to come naturally. You have to read, you have to do the research. And it's just the same in playing. You can't just show up for games, you have to go to practice, you have to work on those skills.

## Chicago's second female AD

I think it's fabulous that I'm not the first. In this case to have had a woman so long ago be the athletic director [Mary Jean Mulvaney, 1976–1990], I think says a lot about the institution. At that time, that was very uncommon for sure. So there's certainly a lot of pride in being another woman hired as

an athletic director. But I would hope that that focus on gender, at this point, is not really a defining thing.

## Division of labor

I feel like you have really the greatest set of attributes here, where you can fully be about the student-athlete experience. It's not about the conference realignment at Division I, which means you're pulling kids out of class constantly. They're not having a normal student experience, and I think that gets clouded sometimes in the competitive aspect of things. And that's just not what I'm about. So that's why I felt such a connection here.

## The student-athlete experience

I want students to leave here a UAA champion, maybe even a national champion, feeling like they're going to be connected to their coach for the rest of their lives, and that it's somebody who really developed them and influenced them in a very positive way. And to leave here feeling like they took everything out of this place that they possibly could. To me that would mean they had the best possible experience they could have had.

# In the court of public opinion

**T**he first issue of *People* magazine hit newsstands March 4, 1974, with Mia Farrow as *The Great Gatsby*'s Daisy Buchanan on its cover. University of Chicago Law School student Harvey Levin was immediately hooked. He would race his roommate to finish new issues on the train from Hyde Park to their downtown apartment. "After reading cases and all that, it was just like crack," Levin, JD'75, says. "It was my cocaine and I just got addicted"—a gateway drug, as it turned out, from the law and academia to a career in the hothouse of Hollywood gossip.

Now he's racing—and often beating—the competition in posting celebrity news online. Levin's website, *TMZ*, churns paparazzi photos and anonymous tips into 25 to 40 posts a day covering the public gaffes, police run-ins, romances, and rehab stints of stars, from teen idol Justin Bieber to Academy Award winner Jennifer Lawrence. Named for the "thirty-mile

zone" around LA that determines pay rates on union film projects (outside the zone, or "on location," rates go up), the site draws millions of hits each month. *TMZ* also airs a TV show six days a week, where Levin wisecracks over the day's developments with his reporters and producers.

Producing *TMZ* is the latest in a string of career changes—law professor, TV personality, journalist, now media mogul—that Levin, 62, credits with keeping him young. "What I feel I've done right is I've challenged myself in trying new things," he says.

Today Levin is smiling, slumped on a couch in *TMZ*'s offices in West Los Angeles. Dressed in blue from watch to polo to rubber sneakers, the wry, exuberant interviewer familiar to *People's Court* viewers is friendly and accommodating in person. He says he rises at 2:30 a.m. most days, and on this late afternoon he looks tired after typing up a just-verified story. On his desk is a University of Chicago Law School tote bag that he carries every day: "Everybody in my office calls it a purse, and it's not a purse."

Levin remembers law school fondly as "three years where people tried to set traps for me." Learning to navigate and anticipate lines of legal questioning in class gave him critical thinking skills that he still uses every day. "I think I use my Law School education more not practicing law than I did practicing law," he says. But "I was an enigma at that school, I really was." In his third year he flew to Los Angeles to appear on the game show *High Rollers* to try to win a boat to take to Florida—he had accepted a job after graduation from his former UChicago professor, University of Miami Law School dean Soia Mentschikoff. Losing to a housewife from Van Nuys, California, he arrived in Miami boatless, but his pop culture habit came with him. "At the time, Harvey probably was the only law professor in America to have the then-new *People* magazine delivered to his office," says **Jay Feinman**, JD'75, his colleague at Miami and now a professor at Rutgers University.

In 1977, Levin left Miami for his native Los Angeles and joined the Whittier College of Law (now Whittier Law School) in Orange County as assistant professor of law. He taught classes including Professional Responsibility and Real Property. The next year, some Californians were campaigning to limit property tax increases in the state constitution. Levin's dean at Whittier led the line against the amendment but needed someone who didn't stand to benefit from the low taxes to debate popular antitax crusader Howard Jarvis. "He was debating people who were against his proposition and killing everybody because they all had vested interests." Then 27, Levin didn't own much of anything, so the dean threw him in the ring.

"It became a thing," Levin says. "I debated him all over the state. We would do five-hour radio marathons." Jarvis's side eventually won, and Proposition 13 remains an enduring and controversial feature of California law. But Levin's feisty performances earned him a talk radio show, on which he was known as Doctor Law. A legal column for the *Los Angeles Times* soon followed.

Levin's radio show caught the ear of John Rhinehart, a line producer for *The People's Court*, the now-iconic daytime TV show that replicates

## MILESTONES

**1972** Passing through Chicago, Levin learns he can enroll in the Law School—after fall quarter has started.  
**1975** Levin is admitted to the State Bar of California.  
**1983** Harvey Levin Productions, which produces *TMZ* and Levin's other media projects, is founded

soon after Levin joins the *People's Court*.

**1985** Levin leaves Whittier Law School and academia.

**1994** O. J. Simpson is arrested, a story Levin would follow as a broadcast reporter for two-and-a-half years.

**1996** With a burgeoning career in media, Levin deactivates his

bar registration.

**2002** *Celebrity Justice* debuts on TV.

**2005** Levin's gossip website, *TMZ*, goes live.

**2007** First airing of *TMZ*'s TV show, known for silly on-the-street interviews conducted by paparazzi.

**2013** *TMZ* launches two-hour bus tours of New York City and Hollywood.



**Clockwise from top: Levin on the beat as a Los Angeles investigative reporter; with current and original *People's Court* judges Marilyn Milian and Joseph Wapner when Wapner received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; speaking at the National Press Club in 2011 on the evolution of entertainment news coverage.**

small-claims court as fervid drama. On Rhinehart's recommendation—for being funny and knowing the law—the producers added Levin to their team as a behind-the-scenes legal consultant. (Today he's the host and a legal reporter on the show's second incarnation, getting reactions to the cases from people on the street.) While at the show, Levin began working as a reporter at Los Angeles's KCBS-TV. He covered the O. J. Simpson murder trial there, and his work on credit card fraud, outpatient care, and workers' compensation fraud earned him Emmys for investigative reporting.

*TMZ* was launched in 2005 after Levin's syndicated show about stars' legal issues, *Celebrity Justice*, stalled out. The show's producer came to him with an idea for a website. "I said I could not be less interested." But later he realized a digital news operation would free reporters from the strictures of TV scheduling, which could stall a breaking story until after another outlet got the scoop. "If we can create a news operation around the website, we can beat everybody," Levin says. "That was a simple premise and it worked." One of *TMZ*'s first big stories reported Mel Gibson's July 2006 arrest for driving under the influence and his subsequent anti-Se-

mitic rant to a police officer. The story was posted the night of the arrest, followed by pages from the arrest report two hours later. Just about every news outlet wanted a piece of the action; *TMZ* had arrived.

The site's celebrity-baiting stories have earned it a degree of infamy. But at Levin's insistence, what gets reported is subject to intense debate among the staff. Standards vary in the gossip business, but Levin is intent on taking an ethical approach. "I don't live by hard-and-fast rules in this job," he told UChicago Law School students at a 2010 talk on privacy and the media. "I can't give you a rigid principle on where the line of privacy is, and I struggle with it all the time."

*TMZ* cameramen sign contracts stipulating that they will not chase or incite people, trespass, or otherwise break the law in pursuit of a story, Levin said in the talk, "and we've fired people who violate that." Even public records can be off limits. A "shocking document" in a court case involving Britney Spears, for example, revealed embarrassing personal information about the singer's parenting. There was no gray area about *TMZ*'s right to publish it—the court clerk included it in a public filing—and no question about public interest. But Levin

sensed the filing was a mistake; the nature of the information told him the file should have been sealed.

He was right. Levin called Spears's attorney, who was mortified at the blunder, and the court withdrew the filing before anybody but *TMZ* had it. "The only copy that was out there was ours," Levin told his student audience, "and I ripped it up."

Levin knows that some think *TMZ* has taken the notion of "parasocial experience"—one-way relationships like those between celebrities and their fans—to an extreme. "People are now obsessed with other people's lives in a really unhealthy way," he says, summing up the criticism. To him, websites like *TMZ* are just the natural next step of mass media amplifying a rumor mill that has always existed in one form or another. "Journalists kind of became the town gossips," Levin said in his talk at the Law School. "They may be reporting important things or frivolous things, but long before the Internet came along, journalism became part of the parasocial experience. ... The extension of that is *TMZ*."—Asher Klein, AB'11

**Asher Klein, AB'11, is a reporter in Southern California.**

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: MICHAEL GOULDING/KRTV/NEWS.COM; FS2 WENN PHOTOS/NEWS.COM; GETTY IMAGES

sociology

# GROWING NUMBERS

*For 40 years, the General Social Survey has cultivated a vast body of knowledge about Americans' personal attitudes and opinions.*

BY LYDIALYLE GIBSON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON SMITH





Every two years, a couple hundred survey takers working for NORC at the University of Chicago set out across the country, knocking on doors in urban neighborhoods, suburban subdivisions, rural communities, and remote outposts, talking to thousands of Americans about everything from the nation's politics to their own personal lives. This is the General Social Survey, or GSS, which for 40 years has measured the country's attitudes and feelings on a vast range of subjects.

The GSS is how we know, for instance, the percentage of Americans who believe in an afterlife, or the legitimacy of the death penalty, or the competence of the executive branch—and how those numbers have changed over time. It's how we know what their sexual behavior is like and whether they're happily married and how often they go to church. It tells us how many Americans belong to unions or own guns, how they feel about physician-assisted suicide, prayer in school, gay marriage, and mothers working outside the home. How many hours they spend watching television or visiting friends, how often they feel rushed or bored. Racial attitudes, job satisfaction, drug use. Whether people feel afraid walking alone at night in their neighborhoods. Whether they think their children's standard of living will exceed their own.

In important ways, the GSS tells us who we are.

**Tom Smith**, PhD '80, the survey's longtime director, is careful to emphasize that the GSS doesn't actually measure everything. "I take the word 'comprehensive' very seriously," he says. "Nothing covering something as big as American society could possibly be comprehensive." Still, the GSS is colossal. Only the US Census is cited more often in the academic and popular press. If you've ever read a newspaper story or magazine article about a sociological trend or a long-term shift in American opinion, chances are the data originated with the GSS. Smith gets as many as 15 calls a month from reporters, and every year the survey is cited in hundreds of academic studies. As of early 2012, NORC, which administers the GSS, had counted nearly 20,000 scholarly papers and books that had used GSS research since the survey first launched in 1972.

Duke University professor Mark Chaves, who specializes in the sociology of religion, offers a representative sentiment. "The GSS is by far the most important source of information about religion, especially when it comes to tracking trends in American religion," says Chaves, who chaired the survey's board of overseers from 2008 to 2011. "There's lots of surveys out there now, but there's no other source that tracks as many aspects of Americans' basic religiosity—beliefs, practices, affiliation." Without the GSS, he says, his 2011 book, *American Religion: Contemporary Trends* (Princeton University Press), "would not have been possible."

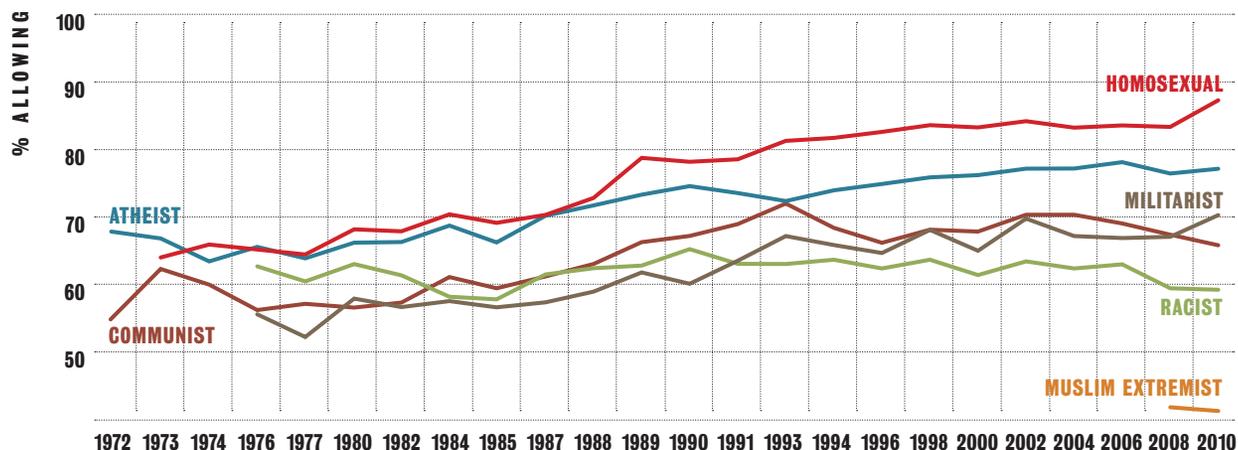
The data is open to everyone. That is the survey's core principle. Before the GSS, Smith says, most surveys were carried out by scholars with access to funding, and centered around narrow research questions. "And he—I say 'he,' because they were almost always men—he'd get the data and analyze it for two or three years, and then he'd write the book," Smith says. "And maybe the data would eventually get into the public domain, and maybe it wouldn't." The GSS's founder, sociologist **James A. Davis**, wanted to change that system, with an idea he first called the 20 questions project. "It occurred to me that there could be a program which provided sociologists and social scientists everywhere data that they could work on without having to get individual grants," says Davis, NORC's director at the time and now a GSS principal investigator emeritus, who has taught at numerous universities including UChicago. "So that was the germ of the idea, sort of a primitive socialism."

The other half of the survey's "birth story," as Smith calls it, began in the mid-1960s with the social indicators movement, a push to study subjective measures of well-being in addition to the objective economic statistics the government collected: unemployment, cost of living, gross national product, and corporate profits and losses. "Those are important economic indicators," Smith says. But "society's a lot more than that." Harvard sociologist **Peter Marsden**, AM '75, PhD '79, a GSS principal investigator who in 2012 edited *Social Trends in American Life: Findings from the General Social Survey since 1972* (Princeton University Press), remembers the first year's data scrolling across his computer screen in 1973, when he was a Dartmouth undergrad in Davis's class. "It looks much more dramatic now than it did then," he says. But by the 1980s, "you started to get a glimmer of what could happen if this went on for a while."

It was always conceived as a decades-long project. "There's very little meaningful change that happens on a year-to-year basis," Smith explains. Davis puts a finer point on it. "Certainly we hoped it would go on forever," he says. "If 200 years from now it was continuing, think what you could go back and trace. What if we'd had one like this during the time of the Civil War, or the Depression?"

And so, for 40 years, GSS interviewers have sat down with Americans in their living rooms and at their kitchen tables, asking for their honest feelings and opinions, compiling snapshot after snapshot of American society. Out by O'Hare International Airport, there's a warehouse that holds original copies of every GSS questionnaire ever filled out (or, at least, every one up to 2002, when NORC began sending interviewers into the field with laptops instead of paper questionnaires). In all, 55,087 surveys are in storage there, millions upon millions of individual bits of data, personal testimonies that add up to what it means and feels like to be an American at a particular moment and place.

## TRENDS OF FREE SPEECH, 1972–2010



Over the decades, a few social trends have taken Smith by surprise, the arcs of American opinion angling out in ways he wouldn't have predicted. One example is the marked shift in attitudes toward homosexual behavior, which the GSS has monitored since 1973. A suite of connected questions asks respondents to rate the “wrongness” of four types of sex: teenage, premarital, extramarital, and same-gender. “The attitudes toward these behaviors are all correlated,” Smith says. “Someone who is permissive on one tends to be permissive on the others.” So he would have expected them all to move more or less together. But since the early 1990s, disapproval of gay sex has fallen much faster than the others, to less than 50 percent. Most of that, he says, is driven by “cohort turnover”: as older generations dwindle, they're being replaced by younger people more open to gay rights. That cohort difference doesn't hold for the other categories of sexual behavior. “Extramarital sex has actually become slightly less accepted over time,” Smith says. Its disapproval now hovers at around 80 percent, and it's never been lower than 70 percent. For premarital sex, always the least objectionable to respondents, there has been a gradual but constant wearing away of disapproval.

Smith sees similar nuance and complexity in the issue of free-speech rights for social groups held in suspicion: anti-religionists, communists, gays, militarists, and racists. “We

ask a series of questions about civil liberties: Should members of these certain groups be allowed to make a public speech? To teach in a college? To have a book they've written in the public library?” From the early 1970s to the present, Smith says, the numbers show a basic increase in support for civil liberties—with one exception: “There's no greater support for the racist.” Less than 60 percent say racists should be allowed the same free speech as other Americans (in 1976, free speech for racists was more popular than for communists or militarists). For the other groups, those numbers have reached 70, 80, or close to 90 percent. “So what you have here is a general social trend pushing support for civil liberties up,” Smith says. “And then there's a second social trend that is supporting racial equality, that's also moving up. And that makes the racist less and less socially acceptable over time.” In 2008 the GSS added Muslim extremists to the list of groups. Only 41 percent of respondents said they'd allow them free speech. That number didn't budge in the 2010 survey.

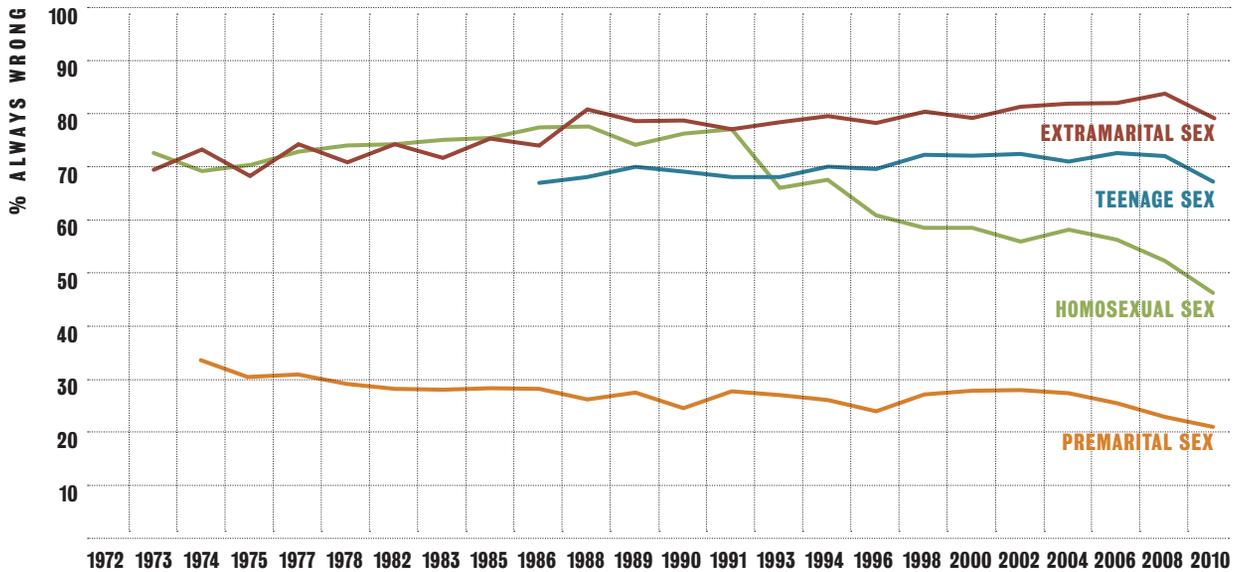
Perhaps more than any other subject, religion—one of the GSS elements most intensely analyzed by outside researchers—demonstrates the intricacy of societal change. “We document a huge rise in the number of people with no religious affiliation, a drop in church attendance, very little change in the belief in God, and very little change in belief in an afterlife,” Smith says. In fact, belief in life after death has risen a few percentage points, he adds, while belief in God has dropped slightly, but only to about 90 percent. “There's a very strong theory in sociology that says of secularization, as societies become more modern, as education is increased, science takes over and the nonscientific mythology of religion dies away.” According to GSS numbers, he says, the answer to that theory is both yes and no. The religiousness of society is changing, he says, but in a complex way that can't be fully understood without examining multiple facets of belief. If you looked at only one, Smith says, “you would substantially misunderstand the religious profile of America.”

Chaves agrees, although he reads the numbers differently. “We now know, I think, that Americans' religiosity”—that is, traditional religious belief—“has actually been declining.” But the change has been so slow that “if you have only

**IN 1976, FREE SPEECH FOR RACISTS WAS MORE POPULAR THAN FOR COMMUNISTS OR MILITARISTS.**

GRAPHIC COURTESY TOM SMITH, PHD '80

## TRENDS IN ATTITUDES TOWARD SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, 1973–2010



ten years or 20 years of data, you can't quite see it," he says. "Now that we have 40 years of data, it's like building a more powerful telescope." And alongside that slow slide in traditional worship, Chaves sees what he calls a "diffuse spirituality" accounting for things like a growing belief in the afterlife.

Smith sums up: "What people want is often a very simple story. 'We're all becoming more permissive,' or, 'We're all becoming more selfish.' But society's more complex than that. Are we becoming more religious? There isn't a simple answer."

In the decade after the GSS first launched, other countries began conducting their own, similar surveys. The first was West Germany in 1980, followed by Great Britain and Australia. In 1984 Smith helped organize a collaboration among those four—a series of shared questions on topics like class differences, equality, and the welfare state—whose results would allow researchers to study social trends across national borders. Today the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) includes some 57 countries.

Each ISSP questionnaire focuses on a single, internationally relevant theme, and those themes repeat once a decade. In 2013 the theme was national identity; in 2014 it will be citizenship. Cross-national surveys offer a useful, and sometimes surprising, look at which ideas or values or habits are shared, and which are singular. The United States has been the runaway leader or tied for first place for national pride each year that the issue has been investigated. Digging deeper, however, the data reveals a more universal trend. "In 30-some countries, when I analyzed the data, national pride was highest among the oldest adults and lowest among the younger adults," Smith says. The difference, he believes, is related not to a change in feeling as people age, but to generational turnover; young people now

are less nationalistic than their elders were when they were young. "So this really is a global pattern, and something that I think represents a historic change, growing cosmopolitanism, the impact of globalization."

Playing on an old joke ("How's your wife?" "Compared to what?"), Smith articulates the significance of these comparative studies. "You grow up in a society, and whatever the society is, whether it's a conservative Muslim society or a fairly secular, prosperous Scandinavian society, you tend to grow up and say, 'Yeah, that's what people are like; that's what society is like,'" he says. "The fact is, well, that's what your society is, that you've grown up in at this point in time. That's not what human society is."

Most GSS questions have been a part of the survey's "replicating core" for decades; there are questions about religion, family, work, and politics that have remained the same, word for word, since the early 1970s. Some questions, about racial integration and gender roles, for instance, go back even further. "There's a little saying," Smith says: "The way to measure change is not to change the measure." Before the GSS launched, grad student **Kathleen Schwartzman**, PhD '85, now a sociologist at the University of Arizona, spent nearly a year combing through old surveys, culling questions to include. And so

# THE WAY TO MEASURE CHANGE IS NOT TO CHANGE THE MEASURE.

GRAPHIC COURTESY TOM SMITH, PHD '80

from its earliest moment, the GSS offered a perspective on the past; it was already tracking trends.

Sometimes, though, new questions do get added to the survey. Some belong to “topical modules” that often appear only once and bore deeply into a particular theme: multiculturalism, social networks, medical care, work organization. In 2004, Smith developed a module on spiritual transformations, studying people’s experiences with conversion or rebirth or the collapse of faith, and the demographics and triggering events.

Once in a while, new questions are added to the core. It’s rare, though, Smith says, because for every new question, an old one must be taken out to preserve the survey’s length. Plus, writing questions that will hold up year after year, decade after decade, is hard. The terminology gets outdated, or the concepts cease to be relevant. Sometimes it’s hard to make questions narrow and precise enough. In the 1990s, Smith and his staff wanted to get at the issue of comparable worth by looking at pay rates for men and women. But the problem was, so many occupations were largely segregated—construction workers, secretaries, nurses—that it became difficult to isolate gender as a variable. In the end, Smith gave up. “We came up with some questions, we tested them, and the majority of them failed completely.”

When new questions concern technology, writing them is even harder. “The questions we asked in the early 2000s about web and Internet use we’ve had to drop because they’re already too dated in terms of the terminology,” Smith says. “There was one we had, and the only example we could give to convey to people what we meant was ‘Blackberry.’ That was basically the device that defined this emerging market. And now there’s a 50-50 chance that Blackberry won’t even be around by the end of the next few years.”

He’s wary of latching onto the newest term: smartphone. “Maybe ‘smartphone’ is going to last, and maybe it won’t,” he says. “I mean, we could ask something like, ‘Do you have a device which could contact the Internet?’ And that would be pretty stable. The problem is, no one thinks in that kind of terminology. They think, smartphone, Wi-Fi-connected laptop, tablet.” In cases like this, he says, it can take several survey questions to nail down the answer to a single idea. “And you’re still less certain that you’re measuring the same thing over time.”

Social media has Smith completely stumped so far. The GSS doesn’t measure Americans’ social media behavior and attitudes because Smith and his staff haven’t yet found a clear and durable set of terms. For one thing, he says, “social media,” which entered the lexicon only a few years ago, doesn’t mean the same thing from person to person. For another, “if we had jumped on the first major example of social media in the early 2000s, MySpace, and asked questions about that, think where we’d be today. MySpace barely ex-

ists and has morphed into something it wasn’t originally.”

The GSS could ask respondents if they have Facebook accounts, but as time goes on, that information may not signify much about the overall trend in social media engagement. “It’s only true if Facebook is maintaining its market share of the social media universe,” Smith says. “Which it’s unlikely to do.”

Besides the vast and expanding list of social media sites—each with its own slightly different concept and purpose—there stands the deepening thicket of online and text messages. Does a Facebook message count the same as an e-mail? What about a direct message on Twitter? How to categorize Snapchats and Instagrams? “And somehow,” Smith says, “you want to know both the total of all of that and the different components of all that. And it’s very difficult, because the platforms are so different, and because they keep changing.” At some point, he would like to add social media questions to the GSS core. But at the moment, “I just don’t think there’s a reliable way to do that. It’s the exception, something that I just don’t think we can measure.”

**A**dministering the GSS is harder than it used to be. More expensive too. Mostly, says Smith, that’s because it takes more work to get every interview. It’s harder to find people at home, even on Saturdays and in the evenings, and when you do find them at home, it’s harder to get them to talk. They’re busy, or they’re skeptical, or they can’t be bothered. “Men are less cooperative,” Smith says. Even when they’re home, they’re more likely to say, “I’m busy.” Or, “The ball game’s on,” or, “I’m not interested.” Often it takes several visits for interviewers—all of them trained professionals for whom the GSS is part-time work—to talk their way inside.

Once they’re in, the survey itself takes about 90 minutes to complete and covers about 300 questions. Most are multiple choice, some yes or no, and a few open-ended. Sometimes the survey takes longer than planned. The phone rings; compa-

**WE CAME UP WITH SOME QUESTIONS, WE TESTED THEM, AND THE MAJORITY OF THEM FAILED COMPLETELY.**

ny comes over; children need to be fed. Smith tells one story about a GSS respondent 20 years ago who took three hours to complete the survey. “He actually gave his answers fairly quickly,” but for almost every question he quoted biblical chapter and verse to support his position, Smith says. “Like, Luke 12:16, or Leviticus, or whatever.” The interviewer diligently wrote down each one.

The GSS used to be conducted annually—with the exception of three missed years, when the money fell short—but in 1994, the National Science Foundation, which underwrites

the survey, reduced its funding, forcing NORC to conduct it every other year instead. To keep collecting as much data, the GSS began targeting 3,000 respondents instead of 1,500. Though cheaper than mounting annual surveys, it’s an imperfect solution, Smith says, but one that preserves the survey’s overall robustness and reliability. “If I had my druthers,” he notes, “I’d go back to our original design,” since gaps in the data can limit the ability to do some types of analyses that involve pairing GSS findings with other, more frequently updated sources.



# SURVEY SAYS

*GSS director Tom Smith, PhD'80, breaks down the numbers.*

BY LYDIALYLE GIBSON

**F**orty years ago, **Tom Smith**, PhD'80, took a job at NORC to help make his way through grad school. All he knew was that it paid well: tuition plus a generous stipend. “By far the best support I could find,” he says. So in October 1973, at the start of his second year as a history PhD student studying early industrial Philadelphia, he began work at the NORC library on a fellowship from the National Institute of Mental Health. A year later, a spot opened up at the still-fledgling General Social Survey, and he was given the assignment.

That’s when the hook set. Within two years, Smith was working full time for the GSS as associate study director, fitting in his dissertation when he could. In 1980, the year he finished his degree, Smith was named director of the GSS. He’s been there ever since, as not only the survey’s leader but its most public face. When the GSS speaks—to reporters, to scholars—it is usually in the voice of Tom Smith. Says GSS founder **James A. Davis**: “I’m the blue-sky idea man, but Tom does all the work. He’s incredibly smart, incredibly efficient. The whole thing would have fallen apart without him.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON SMITH

Another innovation: in 2006, the GSS began returning to some respondents for reinterviews in two subsequent GSS surveys—launching a “rolling panel” of people interviewed a total of three times in four years, allowing for the study of not only aggregate but also individual change over time.

The survey’s respondents represent a cross section of the country. Dividing cities and counties into 400 sample sections, measured in blocks, NORC researchers randomly draw addresses and a target respondent, 18 or older, from each household. “And there’s no substitution allowed,”

Smith says. If the targeted respondent declines the survey—as sometimes they do—“you can’t go to another household. You can’t do the wife instead of the husband; you can’t do the unemployed son instead of the 60-hour-a-week working single mom. Because then you’re creating bias in the sample. If everyone in the target population—that is, adults living in households in the United States—has an equal probability of selection, then you will get a representative sample.” After that, the interviewers just have to get them to open the door. ♦

In person, Smith is slight and angular, with wide, wire-rimmed glasses and a graying mustache. His shirt is rarely tucked in, his sleeves perpetually bunched at the elbow. His office windowsill is overrun with jade plants that have multiplied over the decades. But Smith exudes a casual, knowing precision. Speaking in the accent of his Pennsylvania upbringing—the swallowed syllables, the diminished consonants, the long “a” in “measure”—he has the diction and rhetoric of someone used to coming up with carefully worded questions. Always qualifying, contextualizing, clarifying one example with another, framing personal anecdotes in quantitative terms.

Smith grew up in State College, Pennsylvania, home of Penn State University, and in the 1950s his father gave up the family dry cleaning business to become a real estate broker. “Which was by far the smartest thing he ever did,” Smith says, “because now you’re talking about the ’50s, ’60s, ’70s, when universities are expanding a lot. So there was a really strong real estate market in the local community there. And if anything, the dry cleaning market was going the opposite direction, because there was

more ready-to-wear clothing, and men didn’t wear suits to the office every day anymore.” He looks down at his own wardrobe: cotton slacks and a loose corduroy button-up, with the sleeves bunched at the elbow. “As I can testify.”

Smith’s college years at Penn State coincided with the founding of a new academic field: quantitative social science history, an approach that uses numerical statistics like census records, tax records, and death records to analyze the lives of people and societies. In class, Smith read Stephan Thernstrom’s groundbreaking *Poverty and Progress* (Harvard University Press, 1964), a quantitative study of social mobility in 19th century Newburyport, Massachusetts. “I decided it was the best way to study and understand society,” Smith says. After earning bachelor’s and master’s degrees in history at Penn State, he came to UChicago in 1972 to study under historian **Edward Cook**, who had done similar quantitative studies of New England towns. Smith settled into a dissertation on the social structure of Philadelphia during the early industrial era, when traditional craftsmen’s shops were giving way to assembly lines, but before electric power and diesel turbines had taken over.

“The first part of the Industrial Revolution isn’t the application of power,” Smith says. “It’s the reorganization of businesses from small craftsman shops where you’ve got a master and maybe two journeymen” to factories with an owner and a bookkeeper and employees with narrow skills doing fractional work: nailing the heel of a shoe, stitching the sole, cutting the leather. “An interesting transformation was going on,” Smith says—the middle class shifting from blue collar to white collar as new professions materialized and old ones died out. “In the 1970s, this was vastly understudied.”

At the GSS, Smith’s quantitative turn of mind fit right in. “I always say that as a historian, I was interested in studying societal change,” he says. “And here I am, studying societal change—just about 170 years later than I originally planned.” ♦

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film

# CHANNELING CARRIE

*Kimberly Peirce revives the pop culture classic.*

BY AMY MONAGHAN, AM'93

**W**hen I spoke with director **Kimberly Peirce**, AB'90, about her third feature film, *Carrie*, she was busy with postproduction. "You're watching a terrible print of the movie with great sound, and then you're watching a beautiful print of the movie with no sound," Peirce said, explaining the process of fixing the sound mix and correcting the color. "And you're the only person who's seeing it both ways at once." She relishes the challenge. "You perfect these different components of the movie in all these separate pieces, and then at the very end you marry them together. I don't think most people know that."

Peirce's *Carrie* tackles a pop culture classic by adapting Stephen King's 1974 debut novel. Brian DePalma's 1976 film version also casts a long shadow. It was nominated for several Oscars, including a nod to Sissy Spacek as Carrie White. But the director of *Boys Don't Cry* (1999) and *Stop-Loss* (2008) brings her own firepower to this tale of a telekinetic girl, her first period, her overbearing mother, and a prom to remember. Pulling the events 40 years forward into our era of camera phones and cyberbullying, *Carrie* stars Chloë Grace Moretz in the title role; Julianne Moore

as her Holy Roller mother; and scene-stealer extraordinaire Judy Greer as the concerned gym teacher who attempts to intervene. The movie opens nationally October 18.

In an interview edited and adapted below, Peirce looked back on making an iconic story her own.

## **Why *Carrie*?**

I had read it as a kid. But when [MGM] came to me to do the movie, I was hesitant because I had never done a remake. I hadn't thought about *Carrie* as a movie—which I loved—in a long time. But based on my memory of DePalma's film, it didn't make sense. He made a great movie. What's there to do?

Then I read the book, and I'm like, Oh my God! There's so much to do. There's the bullying. There's the mother-daughter relationship. There's the superhero origin story. There's the ability to modernize it by 40 years. I read it pretty much cover to cover three times and understood why they wanted me to do it. Because these were themes I deal with.

I've always been drawn to true stories, but I've never had the benefit of such an amazing writer as Stephen King. I was really hit by just how fun and powerful a writer King is, and how wonderful of a storyteller. He takes such delight in all his characters, and he's writing from the subconscious, so this stuff is perfectly formed in a really deep way.



PHOTO COURTESY KIMBERLY PEIRCE

Hopefully, there's bandwidth for two really good films that go in different directions. Sissy was 26 when she made the movie, and Chloë is 15. Even though Sissy's acting is brilliant, Chloë's acting is simply different because she was a girl who hadn't had sex, who hadn't been to the prom, who lived at home, still was under her mother's control. Instead of taking an adult and making her younger, I take a child actor and grow her up on screen.

#### How do you do that?

Get inside who that person really is, what they want out of life. Then get inside the character and what they need.

Find the composite where the actor and the character become one. Some actors have said to me, "I don't know if I can be that person." I'm like, you have to be that person as you.

Chloë had the firmest handshake in the world. I said to her, "You're too confident. You're telling me everything you think I want to hear. But I want to hear what you're most scared of and what you want. You have to let me shape you and break you down. Hilary [Swank, in *Boys Don't Cry*] lived as a boy for six weeks; I need you to live as Carrie to the extent that we can do that."

#### What about Julianne Moore as Carrie's mother?

Julianne's one of our greatest living actors. She takes this person who could have been cartoonish and breathes such mastery and authenticity and life into her. Once you have that, Julianne then can make Margaret odder. She scratches herself; she bangs her head. We got to do pretty crazy things because she's so grounded. Margaret is a great horror figure, but we still maintain the fundamental authenticity of that person.

You really see Chloë's game go completely up because she gets to be a great actor with another great actor. Chloë is technically on child's hours, so very short days. Basically, the whole set mobilized around Chloë's hours. If her head went off screen, we lost the shot, so Julianne would grab her head in the middle of a take and bring it back and put it right into the sweet spot of the camera. It was like, whoa. They blossomed separately and as this mother-daughter unit. You're going to see in the movie; they have a huge journey to go through. It's birth to death.

**The gym teacher occupies a space between adolescence and motherhood because she's in charge, but she's still a young woman. What did Judy Greer bring to the role that surprised you?**



**Julianne Moore (right) and Chloë Grace Moretz "blossomed separately and as this mother-daughter unit" on the set, says Peirce.**

Judy and Julianne were the two female adult figures in the movie. Carrie bounces between going home to that mom and coming to school and this mom. Judy has a moral center, she has a gravitas to her, but she's funny. She had it all figured out: "I'm the teacher who really doesn't care about teaching, and I already have my summer vacation planned. I'm going to Guatemala, and my bags are packed. And I no longer even bother wearing the right outfit to school anymore because I'm one foot out the door. I'm probably still smoking, and I shouldn't be smoking." Then she takes on the cause of this problem girl. She gets caught up in this teenage melee: "These girls are brats. They're monsters, and I'm going to teach them something before they go out into the world and make a mess of everything." The character even says, "I was bullied when I was in high school. I want to get these bitches back."

#### Bullying is at the core of *Carrie*. How do you update that aspect so that it resonates today?

You go inside of it and look at how it really is. How would these girls act in the locker room nowadays? Would they throw tampons? Would they yell? Would they use their cell phones? I interviewed lots of girls that age, and I read lots of stories. The young people you cast will tell you whether what you're doing is true or not. And Chloë is a truth barometer. Does it feel authentic to her?

Cyberbullying is such a big part of bullying now. The girls videotape Carrie while they yell "Plug it up!" and that ends up being a big part of the story. What do you do with a video? You upload it. People see it.

Bullying, let's say it's fun and delicious because there's a conflict there. We have a girl that we love, who is a misfit, gets made fun of. Well, there's something interesting about that bullying scene that we watch. I try to do that in all my movies. You don't celebrate the violence, but you're engaged by it.

### **It's part of that icky feeling of implication ...**

You're implicated because you think Carrie kind of deserves it because she's annoying. Because she's a weakling and sometimes there's a part of us that likes the strong to prey on the weak because we're angry that the weak are weak. I want you to identify with Carrie, but I also want you to identify with the girls. I try to put you on the side of Carrie, on the side of the girls, on the side the teacher. You're constantly engaged as if you could be any of those people.

### **How did you handle Carrie not knowing about her period?**

That was one of the biggest challenges. She's not been raised in a cave. She goes to a public school. It's not that she doesn't know what a period is, she just doesn't want to believe that this is happening to her because she's been told that sexuality is a bad thing. There's a level of denial, but there's not a level of stupidity.

### **Carrie subverts the crowning achievements of the teen movie—the makeover and the prom.**

Absolutely. It's the Cinderella story turned inside out. Instead of ending up with the prince, that's kind of your midpoint, and that's when your horror gear really kicks in. In a lot of ways you've been *waiting* for the horror. You also get the superhero origin story, like the Hulk. What happens if you get him mad? He's going to freak out.

### **Telekinesis seems like an extreme manifestation of the self-harming behaviors of some adolescent girls.**

If a girl were going to have a superpower, it'd be telekinesis. It's bodily. All the stunts are built this way—at the prom she's humiliated and angry, and she pushes out the emotion and creates this wave that turns over everybody. She gets angry and she's able to crush things at a distance. When she wants to stop the villains, she stamps on the ground and opens up a fissure in the earth. I think she goes beyond gender in that she has supreme

**SOMETIMES THERE'S A PART OF US THAT LIKES THE STRONG TO PREY ON THE WEAK BECAUSE WE'RE ANGRY THAT THE WEAK ARE WEAK.**

powers. It's emotions turned into physical strength. She becomes this monster that causes pain in the middle to the late stages of the movie, and then we have to reclaim her at the very end.

### **There are already two endings in circulation.**

I followed King, and King climaxes with the stones destroying the house. Brian didn't have the resources [in 1976]. I'm excited about bringing that house to life, which is a real trope in horror films.

### **And women's pictures more generally.**

What our sound designer Karen Baker Landers does with the soundscape is amazing. Carrie's tiny house is rickety. It's falling apart. It's in love with Carrie and scared of Carrie. When Carrie and Margaret fight, the house feels it, which climaxes with the stones coming down. That is the natural end of these powers. They grow and they grow and they grow, and they destroy things around Carrie.

### **It's a shame in a way that a girl comes into her powers and they're too much—they destroy her. It's a little depressing.**

Or complete. But I think you're right. Certain structures demand closure in a certain way, and for Carrie just to walk away unscathed after all that's happened, I believe you would feel we actually hadn't done our job and completed the story. I think it's what Aristotle said: There's a beginning and a middle and an end, and it's about finding the right ones and putting them in the right order. So if you have to have a tragic or difficult ending, as long as it's the right ending, I don't even think of it as happy or sad. I think of it as right.

### **What's next?**

I have two things I'm writing. One deals with cyborg technology—where we're going with being augmented. That'll probably be the next movie because it's commercial, but it's got these deep elements that I want to deal with.

The other is a funny, dark family tragedy-comedy about my dad dying. He was a charismatic guy who had been with a lot of different women and had children by different ones of them. I didn't want to deal with this, but of course I went back and got sucked into a family drama that was just a wild adventure.

### **Will we ever see your William Desmond Taylor movie? His career and murder rival *Chinatown* for classic California noir.**

I love that story. I have to just get that financed. It's a great script. Give that a shout-out. ♦

**Amy Monaghan, AM'93, is a senior lecturer in the Department of English at Clemson University. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and has a master's in cinema studies from New York University. Her writing has appeared in *Black Clock 15* and on *TheAwl.com*.**



Louis Dupré, *Portrait of M. Fauvel, the French consul, with view of the Acropolis*, 1819, OIL ON CANVAS. SMART MUSEUM OF ART, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, GIFT OF MR. AND MRS. FRANK H. WOODS, 1980.33.

Keepers of University collections reveal the pieces closest to their hearts.

collections  
**CURATORS' CHOICE**

BY BROOKE E. O'NEILL, AM'04

sk curators on campus to name favorite works entrusted to their care and they respond like parents asked to single out a favorite child. Whether 19th-century portraits or experimental sculpture, ancient artifacts or contemporary manuscripts, each item has its own personality. And, like one's children, none are less loved.

At least that's what you're supposed to tell people. But dig a little deeper and most curators will

confess that certain items hold a special place in their heart—and these tend to come with a story. For example, Smart Museum of Art director **Anthony Hirschel** gravitates toward pieces that play with viewers' expectations, such as Louis Dupré's 1810 portrait of a French consul to Greece (see page 44).

"This French diplomat wanted to be sure of the legacy he was leaving," Hirschel observes. With the Acropolis jutting up in the distance and coffee being served while he sits at his easel,

Monsieur Fauvel "wants us to see he was a supremely cultured individual, even somewhat dismissive

of us." It's a 19th-century approach to a very modern dilemma: creating one's personal brand. "I just love this painting," Hirschel says. "He really got what he wanted from this artist."

At the library, Special Collections Research Center director **Daniel Meyer**, AM '75, PhD '94, points to collections whose uses evolve as researchers bring new perspectives to them. In addition to Hirschel and Meyer, the *Magazine* spoke to assistant University librarian **Alice Schreyer** and to **Jack Green** and **Emily Teeter**, PhD '90, at the Oriental Institute. In the following pages, you can peek inside their heads—and hearts—through the objects that most captivate them.

### JACK GREEN, CHIEF CURATOR, ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

Situated along the bustling trade route between Egypt and Syria, the ancient city of Megiddo (in modern-day Israel) was a crossroads of globalization in the late Bronze Age. A massive archaeological excavation here by the Oriental Institute in the 1920s and '30s unearthed 382 pieces of carved ivory in a palace cellar. Combs, ointment containers, and decorative trinkets bearing aesthetic influences from surrounding regions were stacked in a single room.

"We actually don't know why all these pieces were found together," though people have been known for several centuries to hoard and collect ivory, says Green. Even more mysterious, the treasure pile was topped with the remains of a dead cow, perhaps as part of a sacrifice or ritual. The OI holds the only collection of Megiddo ivories in North America. "They're wonderful because they really show the trade connections in the eastern Mediterranean at that time."

**Female sphinx plaque, IVORY, MEGIDDO, STRATUM VIIA, LATE BRONZE IIB (1300–1200 BC). A.22213.**

This well-preserved ivory sphinx speaks to Megiddo as a cultural crossroads infused with the influence of globalization. Though situated far from Egypt, locals created artistic objects that captured their perceptions of the distant land. "They're taking an Egyptian motif—the sphinx—and combining it with other motifs that might be thought to be Egyptian to create this hybrid," Green says. "But it's really not something that you'd normally see in ancient Egypt." Resident Egyptologist Emily Teeter adds, "an Egyptian would look at this and think, 'it's supposed to be Egyptian? You've got to be kidding me.'"





**Gaming board, IVORY AND GOLD, MEGIDDO, STRATUM VIIA, LATE BRONZE IIB (1300–1200 BC). A22254 A&B.**

**“If I had to choose one object amongst all of them, this gaming board would probably be it,” says Green. Designed for a Partheesi-like pastime of the upper crust known as the “game of 58 holes,” this “super luxe” item was a sign of worldly sophistication. Made of fragile elephant ivory, the piece retains much of its gold embellishment and is one of few such boards ever discovered intact. “You could imagine a governor or wealthy Canaanite mayor using one of these,” Green says. “An international-style gaming board was very much the fashionable thing.”**

Handwritten text in Arabic script on aged, cracked parchment. The text is arranged in several lines, starting with a large initial letter 'Q' (Qaf) on the left. The script is dense and characteristic of classical Islamic manuscripts. The parchment shows significant wear, including cracks and discoloration.

**EMILY TEETER, EGYPTOLOGIST AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, ORIENTAL INSTITUTE**

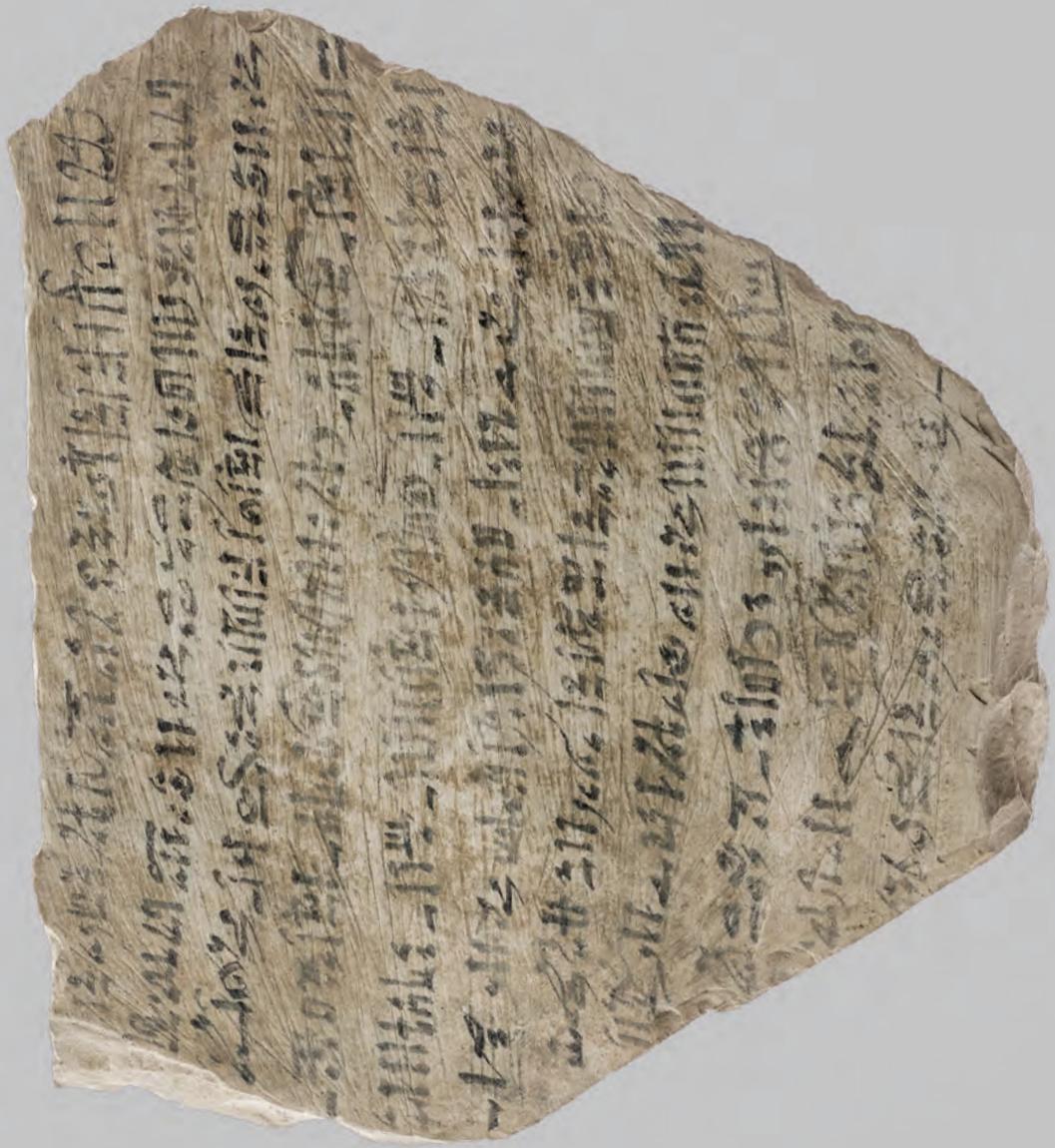
**Annuity contract** (FACING PAGE), PAPYRUS, INK (DETAIL), 365–364 BC / LATE PERIOD, DYNASTY 30, REIGN OF NECTANEBO, 22 DECEMBER 365 BC–20 JANUARY 364 BC, FAIYUM, HAWARA, PURCHASED IN CAIRO, 1932. OIM 17481.

“I love the resonance of ancient and modern in this piece,” Teeter says, describing an expansive papyrus scroll that details a northern Egyptian marriage contract from 364–365 BC. Written in Demotic script, a later form of hieroglyphics, the document specifies that the man must provide his wife a set amount of silver and grain each year—for life. “He has to continue to pay this, regardless of what house she’s living in,” says Teeter, explaining that divorce, much like now, was quite common in ancient Egypt. “There was no real stigma to it.” Penned on multiple sheets of costly papyri affixed together, each of which features only a small amount of text, the contract itself was a status symbol for the couple. “They didn’t need this much papyrus,” says Teeter. “They’re showing off.”

**A complaint from tomb builders**, LIMESTONE, PIGMENT, NEW KINGDOM, DYNASTY 20, REIGN OF RAMESSES III, CA. 1182–1151 BC, LUXOR, DEIR EL-MEDINA, PURCHASED IN LUXOR, 1936. OIM 16991.

This limestone plaque inscribed with cursive hieroglyphics chronicles the first recorded labor strike in Egyptian history, circa 1153 BC. “It’s such a humble-looking object, but it says so much about the society,” Teeter says. After being shorted on pay, builders constructing tombs for Ramesses III’s sons in the Valley of the Queens walked off the work site and put down their tools at a local temple.

“We are exceedingly impoverished,” they wrote to the vizier overseeing the project. Though the plaque itself breaks off midtext, the result—the tombs were finished—attests to a successful strike. “People think of ancient societies where the pharaoh is all powerful,” Teeter says, “but there was a lot of give-and-take.”





though the shape is unexpected, we assume that when you look inside, it would still be a vessel," says Hirschel. Instead, the artist closes off the opening entirely. "She's taking things that were intended to be functional and telling us, 'This is a work of art. It has no other purpose.'"

**Arthur Dove, *Harbor in Light*, 1929, OIL ON CANVAS IN ORIGINAL COPPER FRAME. COURTESY OF THE SMART MUSEUM OF ART, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, PARTIAL BEQUEST OF JOHN S. ANDERSON AND PARTIAL PURCHASE, BY EXCHANGE, 1995.48.**

American modernist Arthur Dove loved to toy with his audiences. "When you first glance at this painting, it seems

as if it's a completely coherent landscape: a sailboat on the water with a sunset," Hirschel says, noting that Dove spent much of the 1920s on a houseboat in Long Island Sound. "But when you really think about what's here, he confounds your expectations. If that's a sailboat, where did those reflected conifer trees come from? And how is the sunset in front of the trees? He's really playing with notions of modernism."

Just as intriguing is the story of the painting's acquisition. In his final will, local collector John S. Anderson, MFA '60, bequeathed a half interest in the work to the Smart and the other half to his devoted full-time caretaker in the latter days of his life. Over the next decade, the museum purchased the woman's half, providing her an ongoing income as Anderson had intended. "He was nice to the museum," Hirschel says, "but he was also nice to her."



**TONY HIRSCHEL, DIRECTOR, SMART MUSEUM OF ART**

**Yeosookyung, *Translated Vases*, 2007, CERAMIC FRAGMENTS, EPOXY, AND GOLD LEAF. SMART MUSEUM OF ART, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, PURCHASE, GIFT OF GAY-YOUNG CHO AND CHRISTOPHER CHUI IN HONOR OF RICHARD A. BORN, 2010.4.**

In Korea, many potters still fashion vessels in a traditional 18th- and 19th-century style. When something goes amiss in the firing process, they smash the object. Artist Yeosookyung purchases these broken fragments and pieces them together in an unusual shape using gold lacquer in the traditional manner used to restore wooden Buddhist temple statues. But that's not the only surprise. "Even







**ALICESCHREYER, ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN FOR HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**George Chapman, *The Whole Works of Homer*** (LONDON: PRINTED FOR NATHANIEL BUTTER, 1616). FROM THE BIBLIOTHECA HOMERICA LANGIANA, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER.

**Richmond Lattimore, *The Iliad of Homer*** (CHICAGO: UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS, 1951). FROM THE BIBLIOTHECA HOMERICA LANGIANA, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER.

**Aldo Manuzio, *Homeri Ilias, Vlysea*** (VENICE: ALDUS, 1504). FROM THE BIBLIOTHECA HOMERICA LANGIANA, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER.

“About five or six years ago, we got a gift from a collector who wanted to trace the transmission of Homeric texts from their first appearance in print in the 1480s,” says Alice Schreyer. “It gave us enormous strength, almost overnight.” Today *Iliad* scholars are drawn to Special Collections to study the library’s many print editions.

Among them is a “relatively obscure” pocket-sized Greek version published by Venetian humanist Aldus Manutius in 1504 (right). The edition, which contains unidentified handwritten annotations, was part of a modestly priced series that significantly boosted interest in the classics throughout Italy. Other items in the windfall gift include the first comprehensive Homeric English translation, George Chapman’s definitive 1616 *The Whole Works of Homer* (left), and Richmond Lattimore’s *The Iliad of Homer* (1951), a favorite of Chicago undergraduates (center).

## legacy

# CHARLES K. MCNEIL

(1903–81)

*Point man.*

BY JASON KELLY

**C**harles K. McNeil, PhB '25, would bet on anything. An afternoon at Wrigley Field involved not only a wager on the outcome but an array of side bets about the game and beyond, like whether a stumbling drunk in the bleachers would fall down. During the depths of the Depression, McNeil even laid odds on the next person to be fired at the bank where he worked as a securities analyst.

Successful beyond the wildest dreams of most gamblers, McNeil lost on that one. He put the bank president at 3 to 1 to be ousted, but the boss got wind of it and canned McNeil instead. "I had myself at 8 to 1," he told William Barry Furlong in a 1977 *New York Times Magazine* story that recounted McNeil's influence on the pastime that became his profession: sports gambling.

After graduating from Chicago, he taught math at New York's Riverdale Country School, where his students included a young John F. Kennedy. McNeil didn't have much money then, but his analytical ability took enough out of bookmakers' pockets even on low-stakes football wagers that they started asking him how he did it. With a point system, McNeil confided, that analyzed the competing teams to predict the difference in the score. He suggested that the bookies follow his lead and offer bets based on his method. "If the bookmakers were ever to achieve mass marketing of bets, he advised them, they'd have to switch to something like his point system," Furlong wrote.

Unlike odds, which can confuse casual gamblers, limit interest in lopsided games, and tilt action toward the favored team, the point spread encourages betting on both sides. The "line," as it's known, handicaps every game to create a theoretically equal chance that either team could win.

If bookmakers determine that, for example, the Chicago Bears are six points better than the Minnesota Vikings, wagers on each team reflect that differential. Bears bettors "give" six points, meaning Chicago has to win the game by more than six—to "cover the spread"—for them to win the wagers. Minnesota, meanwhile, "gets" six points. Even if the underdog Vikings were to lose, provided it's by five or fewer points, they would "beat the spread" and pay off for those who bet on them.

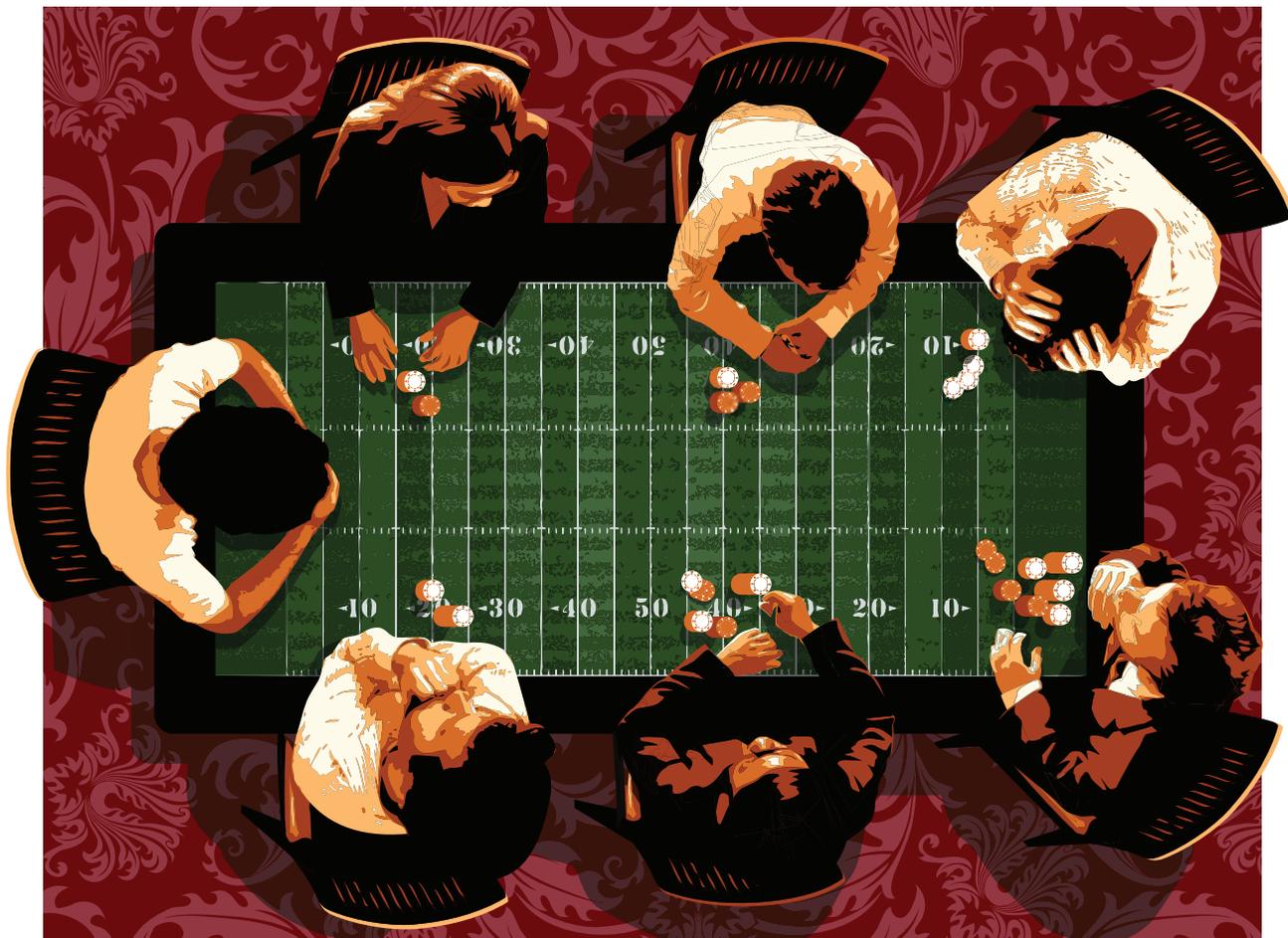
The incentive to "take the points"—attracting wagers on the underdog—and the point spread's simplicity compared to esoteric odds serve the bookies' interests in both the volume and balance of bets on any given game. McNeil made a convincing case. "The best evidence," Furlong concluded, "suggests that some bookmakers listened closely and began using the point spread in New York City."

This came to be known as the invention of the point spread, credited to McNeil, a stubborn nugget of lore that's as plausible as any explanation, if impossible to prove. Bookies didn't carbon copy their correspondence for posterity, but the stories passed down point to him. Jimmy "the Greek" Snyder, the NFL handicapper on the CBS pregame show from 1976 to 1988, said he first heard of the method of wagering from McNeil during World War II. And in 1986 *Sports Illustrated* proclaimed, "Charles K. McNeil is the wizard who gave the world the point spread."

There are those who doubt that the point spread was, in fact, his intellectual property. "I don't know of anyone who can take credit for that. McNeil fell into line like everyone else," his friend and fellow oddsmaker Ed Curd told author Dan E. Moldea in *Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football* (William Morrow, 1989). McNeil's intellectual capacity, on the other hand, apparently was beyond dispute. "In my estimation," Curd added, "he was the best handicapper who ever lived."



Charles K. McNeil



The consensus about McNeil’s handicapping skill extends to the idea that, whoever invented the point spread, he shaped the concept into a popular alternative to traditional odds. According to *Betting the Line: Sports Wagering in American Life* (Ohio State University Press, 2001), “it was McNeil who refined it and first offered point spread betting out of his own sports book.”

McNeil’s success as a gambler had prompted one of Chicago’s biggest sports books to limit how much he could play, so he went into business for himself in the 1940s. Offering point spread bets, first on college football and then expanding to college basketball, McNeil drew so much action that the joint that had restricted his wagering shut down.

The point spread’s popularity opened a new angle for game fixing too. A team didn’t have to lose outright—just failing to cover the spread could alter the gambling outcome—an enticement that meant players could accept money for “point shaving” without having to suffer the indignity of defeat. The scandals that shook college basketball in the early 1950s were a byproduct of the gambling system so often attributed to McNeil.

Not that he had any connection to that underworld within an underworld. Described as “scholarly” and “temperamentally and politically” conservative—“I’m the last of the ‘economic royalists’ that Roosevelt used to talk against,” he told

Furlong—McNeil was a legitimate businessman in his illicit line of work. He even harbored a hint of shame about his profession, which he kept secret from his longtime friend Amos Alonzo Stagg. As an undergraduate McNeil got to know the legendary Chicago football coach and they stayed in touch for decades, but he feared Stagg would shun him over his wagering.

In darker corners, McNeil’s gambling success was well known, so much so that he encountered unsavory interference. He closed his bookmaking operation when, as he told a friend, the mob “wanted to go partners with my brain.”

Along with guts and money, brains made up the three things that McNeil believed every gambler needed. And his brains and guts made him a lot of money. Calculating his career results in 1957, he figured he had been a winner in 25 of 27 seasons betting on college football, making an average of \$320,000 a year.

In an open market McNeil’s innovations might have been worth much more. A multibillion-dollar sports industry derives a healthy percentage of its interest from point-spread wagering. Furlong suggested the NFL owed McNeil as much as anyone for the league’s lucrative popularity, to say nothing of the casino sports books where cash passes over the table by the fistful. As author Brendan Koerner put it, “Dude deserves a gold statue in front of Caesar’s Palace.” ♦

social work

# HER CHILDREN'S KEEPER

*David Williams, AM'82, helps foster families  
navigate trauma and find trust.*

BY EMILY DAGOSTINO

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID M. BRINLEY



**With her 14-year-old great-nephew, Henry Krause, Davida Williams plays *Movin' On*, a board game she created to help children in group homes learn life skills.**

**W**hile our first foster child raged from room to room, my husband sat next to **Davida Williams**, AM'82, on our big paisley armchairs and, with a degree of nonchalance that only ramped up my unease, they made small talk about the moon. Apparently, it was especially beautiful that night. Their voices were level and low, as if everything were OK. As if a luminous moon in a February sky could compensate for our home's current crisis.

Sitting across from them, though, I knew better.

"Did you see the moon, Emily?" Davida asked.

The social worker who trained us the previous summer when we'd started the process of becoming licensed foster parents, Davida had been in and out of our home since our ten-year-old foster child moved in, counseling the three of us through the challenges of learning to live together.

My arms crossed tight to my chest, I stared at the floorboards so as not to look up and meet our foster daughter's eyes. I knew if I did she was likely to snap, and I was apt to bite back with a venom I'd quickly regret.

"Nope. Didn't see it," I told Davida.

"Shut up!" our daughter yelled. "I don't want to hear about the moon!"

It was clear well before that night that we couldn't give our daughter what she needed. Still, there had been moments of grace during our four weeks together. Over bowls of cereal one morning, she'd nodded and laughed as my husband, Sean, crooned a familiar Irish tune. We'd braided one another's hair, done cartwheels through the snow, and read together before bed, as recently as the night before. Our daughter wanted to keep reading but it was late so she went to bed without ado, making a plan with us to return to the book the following night.

The following night, though, she and Sean were barely home after he'd picked her up from school when things suddenly went wrong again. These emotional extremes had been the norm since she'd moved in. Every instance in which we connected and drew closer was followed by an increasingly defiant act that again pushed us apart, and I was on edge.

When I heard the commotion, I sprang up just in time to see her throw the books off our coffee table and kick the table across the living room. I asked Sean to call Davida.

While he made the call, our daughter shouted, "I don't want to be here anymore!"

"You may just get your wish, honey," I hissed, picking up books and sliding the table back into place.

"Don't call me honey, dummy," she countered, and kicked the table again.

Davida answered Sean's call immediately and was at our door soon thereafter.

Despite Davida's presence, our daughter became a threat to her own safety that night, requiring a more intensive intervention than a foster home could provide. Seven hours after she'd arrived home from school, our daughter left our home for good.

Davida stayed with us throughout the crisis, facilitating that intervention and steering us all safely through the storm.

**A**lthough our experience with our first daughter was extreme, all foster parents work with kids who have been traumatized in one way or another. Some have had multiple hospitalizations or lived in multiple foster homes. Some have seen family members killed. Some have been physically or sexually abused. Some have been locked in their homes, in closets, or worse. Some have been starved. Some have lived in squalor, with roaches in their clothes and hair. All have been cleaved from their immediate families. Whenever possible, these kids are placed with relatives. However, that's not always an option. Many kids then end up being dropped off to live for who knows how long in the homes of complete strangers.

They are stressed and distrustful of their new environments. Many have trouble sleeping or issues with food. Some are depressed, withdrawn, crying, or wanting to hurt themselves. Others are angry and aggressive, yelling, throwing tantrums, and wanting to hurt others. Some don't understand appropriate boundaries and act out sexually.

"It's an exhausting job, but when you can affect one child's life like our foster parents do, it's exhilarating," says Mary Anne Brown, executive director of Hephzibah Children's Association, the child welfare agency in Oak Park, Illinois, through which Sean and I are licensed. "But you

**IT WAS CLEAR WELL BEFORE THAT NIGHT THAT WE COULDN'T GIVE OUR DAUGHTER WHAT SHE NEEDED.**



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON SMITH

need people like Davida behind these programs to not make these people get exhausted and worn out.”

Hephzibah provides abused and neglected kids from Illinois safe homes in which to heal. Davida has devoted her 34-year career in social work to the agency. This fall she retires.

Sean and I are only two of thousands of foster parents she has trained. Ours is just one of countless families she’s supported and protected. “Once you start working in foster care, it’s really hard to stop. It’s addictive,” she says. “When the kids start to get better, there’s nothing better than that. Right?”

During her career, she’s worked in virtually every branch of Hephzibah. She started out in day care, driving the bus, then working as the building manager. After becoming a social worker, she brought AIDS babies into foster care when no one else would touch them. She helped open and directed Hephzibah’s group homes. She started a program to help group-home kids transition into foster homes—even creating a board game to help ease them through the change.

As foster care specialist, a position created for her in which she is the primary support person for foster parents, she launched a support group that Brown said is so popular that foster parents delay vacations or take off work to attend. “It’s more than a social worker would do,” Brown says. “It’s more than a therapist.”

About Davida’s impending departure, Brown added, “I have never been so concerned. And I don’t want to talk about it. It’s very hard. We’ve got some staff that want to try to take her place, but nobody can take her place. It’s going to be a huge loss.”

**D**avida always wanted to work with kids. Just out of Illinois Benedictine College (now Benedictine University) in 1978 with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a minor in literature, she says her mom pointed her toward “that place on North Boulevard” for a job. Opened in 1897, Hephzibah operated as an orphanage until the early 1970s, when it became a day care, later adding foster services and group homes. When Davida rode her bike to the facility, the day care director, Rudi Vanderburg, interviewed her on the spot. Two days later she received an offer to work in the day care. When she began to itch to do more, Brown, who’s been at Hephzibah for 37 years, said, “You’re not going anywhere.” Davida continued working for the agency while she applied to graduate school at the University of Chicago to become a social worker. She started at the School of Social Service Administration in 1980, volunteering in hospice and completing internships in health care and at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

The youngest of five siblings, Davida says her father was a physically and verbally abusive alcoholic who, the morn-

## DAVIDA SAYS SHE PROMISED HERSELF SHE WOULDN’T WORK WITH ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

ing after inflicting horrendous violence on his wife and kids, would wake up having completely forgotten everything he’d done the night before.

Because of her childhood trauma, Davida says she promised herself she wouldn’t work with abused and neglected children, thinking it would be too painful. Throughout graduate school, however, she maintained ties with Hephzibah, working there in the summer and on weekends. The fall after graduating, she interviewed for a job as the foster care social worker when the program was in its infancy. Once she started working with the kids there, she says, she couldn’t stop.

Brian Fruits, one of the first kids to live in Hephzibah’s diagnostic group home, says “Davida changed my life and saved my life. ... She was the first adult I ever trusted.”

Fruits, who is now 33 and recently earned his MFA degree, says when he was a child his parents were divorced, his mother was an alcoholic, and his father was a workaholic who struggled with substance abuse and could be physically and verbally abusive. “Davida always saw the good in both of my parents,” he says. “She knew the demons that they wrestled with.” When he and his sibling moved to Hephzibah, he says his dad was there five days a week to visit. “My dad busted his ass to get us back.”

Davida became friends with Fruits’s father. After Fruits was reunited with his dad, she remained close with the family. “Even when my dad and I weren’t talking she would fight for me to reach back out to him,” Fruits says. “Finally I made that amends with him a few years before he passed.

“She taught me how to love people unconditionally.”

Davida says she’s learned through therapy how to deal with her own childhood trauma. She says the children at Hephzibah—whom she calls “my kids”—don’t yet know how to handle what’s happened to them. “They don’t have the frame of reference of education and nurturing care,” she says, adding that her goal is to open that door for them.

Fruits was in first grade and living with a foster family that was “very abusive” when his case was transferred to Hep-

hzipah. When Davida came to remove him from the home, Fruits remembers looking out the window from the couch to see her on the porch. As she drove him and his sibling away, she asked how they were.

“We told her everything,” he recalls. “It was just so easy to. She was warm and sweet. She had that innate, maternal quality. She’s just so loving, quiet, and soft-spoken. Not a threat.”

Today, a few months before her retirement, a drawing Fruits made when he was a child, showing Davida seated behind her desk, still adorns her office. Dozens more crayon and pencil pictures from her kids surround it. Interspersed among them are framed photos of her kids and their families.

In one photo, Davida sits between a young man and woman holding their baby. When the man was a boy, she says, his mother threatened to kill him, Davida, and herself with a butcher knife if Davida tried to take her son away. Davida returned to the house with police to take him to Hephzibah and eventually placed him in an adoptive home. As an adult, he asked her to be the “best lady” in his wedding.

Remembering another child, Davida says, “You know what we had to do? Take her into the bathroom and at the mirror we taught her how to smile.”

“What do you do?” she asks. What do you do if you’re a child who has watched her family be murdered or whose mother has threatened his life—who’s been confined to a roach-infested apartment above the barn at the racetrack, been sexually abused or beaten, or otherwise forced to sub-



mit to the depraved whims of sick adults?

Asked how she could continue in a line of work that required her to face a daily barrage of horror stories, she says she’s sought help from a trusted therapist. She’s turned to gardening, growing plants and trees and building a sunroom in her home. Finally, Davida says, she’s always refused on the energy of the people with whom she works.

“My love and admiration for foster and adoptive families is profound,” she says. “What am I going to do without them? They blow me away with kindness.”

You make connections working in foster care, Davida says. “We get as we give to these children, don’t we?”

**“YOU KNOW WHAT WE HAD TO DO? TAKE HER INTO THE BATHROOM AND AT THE MIRROR WE TAUGHT HER HOW TO SMILE.”**

**J**uanita Broscheit is a veteran foster parent whom Davida trained 14 years ago and who, with Davida, cotrained Sean and me in the summer of 2010. The Broscheits have adopted two kids and have provided a foster home to dozens more. They have often turned to Davida for encouragement. When they were deciding whether to adopt a child with special needs, Davida spent hours counseling them and making them aware of future challenges they would face. “Davida helped us to really, I felt, realistically think through the decision we were making,” Broscheit says. She adds that Davida has always gone out of her way to get kids anything they might need or want that their parents might not be able to, from winter coats to sports gear, sleds, bicycles, and musical instruments and lessons.

In training, Davida teaches breathing and relaxation exercises to help parents regulate their responses to their

kids' behaviors. She encourages them to involve their kids in activities like art, music, theater, or sports; to teach them how to wash and dress themselves; and to give them responsibilities and even decision-making control around the house. She emphasizes the importance of never making food an issue, since many kids in foster care have not experienced many foods or will hoard food as a result of the abuse or neglect they've experienced. She also drills into foster parents that they can't—and their kids can't—do it alone, and that she is always on call to help. "Whenever it's convenient for parents and for children, that's when Davida works," Brown says.

David Neubecker says Davida is why he and his partner decided to start their family through foster care, then adoption. They formed a relationship with Hephzibah through Davida in 2007 and later that year received a phone call about two siblings who needed a home. Despite Neubecker's degree in early-childhood education, he found parenting the children, who'd previously lived in several foster homes, challenging. "By the time the kids came to us, they really didn't trust adults at all," Neubecker says.

After the kids moved in, Davida frequently dropped by, always bringing a small gift for them—usually a book—and encouraging Neubecker to take care of himself and recharge. After reaching what he called his "lowest point," when he questioned whether he could continue, he turned to Davida and she found the right respite worker to assist his family. "All while doing this because she knew it was the right family for these kids and that as a family we could get through it," he says.

Davida does everything she can to keep families intact, says Mildred Moore. Moore has been a foster parent for nearly 20 years, having provided a short-term home to about 60 kids, a long-term home to about 20, and adopting three. No matter what she went through—whether a child set fire to her house or was experiencing a psychotic break and heading to the hospital in the middle of the night—Davida was there when called for help.

## THE FLIP SIDE TO THEIR PAIN WAS INCREDIBLE JOY, AND WE WERE THRILLED TO SHARE IN IT.

"There were times when I'd take a kid to the office and say, 'I just can't do it anymore,'" Moore says. Davida would sit with her for hours, suggesting ways to provide additional support and developing a plan to work through the issues.

"She never gives up. She never says, 'I'm tired. I can't come out to your home. I can't meet you at the hospital at three in the morning.' So that keeps you motivated. It keeps you looking for ways to work with the children and making sure they're going to be OK."

**O**n a walk with Sean the night after our first foster child left, that same crisp moon lit the sky.

"Look, it's Davida's moon," I said.

"How about that?" he said.

"You guys were right. It's incredible. You should call her and tell her." Before we could, we arrived home to a voice message from Davida:

"I don't mean to disturb you guys but I just had to call you. Did you see the moon tonight? It's just beautiful. Just like last night. I saw it and thought of you both and had to call to let you know. Make sure you take a look, OK? It's really something. OK, sorry to bother you. Hope you're OK. Take care."

Over those next days and weeks as we processed the night our daughter left, the preceding weeks, and the loss of the first child we'd loved as parents, Davida remained in close contact, encouraging us not to quit foster care. Over breakfast, she challenged us to reexamine our goals. She invited us to the foster parent support group she led. She e-mailed often, confiding once, "Rarely, but sometimes, even I get discouraged," then later asking, "Don't hearts touch through our work?"

Davida inspired us to continue, and Sean and I shared many subsequent joyful foster parenting experiences. We quickly came to love all of the kids who lived with us, no matter how hurt, angry, or challenging they could be, because the flip side to their pain was incredible joy, and we were thrilled to share in it.

Now, with our ten-month-old biological son nearly sleeping through the night, we've registered for one of Davida's final trainings—on parenting children who've experienced trauma—required to maintain our license. We dream of a house with more bedrooms to accommodate more kids. And we attempt to live her legacy, asking ourselves with increasing urgency: when can we foster again? ♦

**Emily Dagostino has a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University and graduated from the University of Notre Dame. Her writing has appeared in *Catholic Digest*, *Hospital Drive*, and *Notre Dame Magazine* and is forthcoming in the anthology *My Body, My Health: Women's Stories*. Read more at [emilydagostino.com](http://emilydagostino.com) or contact her at [etdags22@yahoo.com](mailto:etdags22@yahoo.com).**

TORNADO ALERT! SCAVUZZO

THE SOUND AND THE FURY FAULKNER

LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE WILDER

GONE WITH THE WIND MITCHELL

VINCENT TABOR, MBA'88

FIRST PLACE

THE YEAR OF EATING DANGEROUSLY PARKER BOWLES

IT MUST'VE BEEN SOMETHING I ATE STEINGARTEN

THE RESTAURANT AT THE END OF THE UNIVERSE ADAMS

THE \$64 TOMATO ALEXANDER

I WAS TOLD THERE'D BE CAKE GROSLEY

WOE IS I O'CONNOR

ATONEMENT MCEWAN

LAURA OPPENHEIMER, AB'06

SECOND PLACE

# TOP SHELF

*In July, we asked readers to scour their libraries for raw materials to build a story out of books. Eighty of you answered the call. And the winners are ... Vincent Tabor, MBA'88, whose taut tale of natural disaster took top honors, and Laura Oppenheimer, AB'06, whose lament for a meal gone wrong garnered second place. The entries at right, plus one more (see page 3), received honorable mentions.—Laura Demanski, AM'94*

THE END OF EDUCATION POSTMAN

WHY JOHNNY CAN'T CONCENTRATE MOSS

BOYS & GIRLS PALEY

ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDERS LERNER, LOWENTHAL & LERNER

LONELINESS CACIOPPO & PATRICK

SEXUALITY WEEKS

NONE OF THE ABOVE OWEN

ALGEBRA COHN

JOY HSIAO, AB'91, MAT'92

THE PEOPLE SHALL JUDGE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE GREAT LATKE-HAMANTASH DEBATE CERNEA

ON BULLSHIT FRANKFURT

MARGARET MALLET, AB'65

OUR STORY BEGINS WOLFF

BEHIND THE BEAUTIFUL FOREVERS BOO

SPEAK, MEMORY NABOKOV

BEAUTIFUL LOFTY PEOPLE BEVINGTON

TO BE IN THIS NUMBER ROLLINGS

ALL THE LITTLE LIVE THINGS STEGNER

LYING AWAKE SALZMAN

RECALCULATING BERNSTEIN

WHAT ARE PEOPLE FOR? BERRY

LOVE AND SUMMER TREVOR

A KIND OF FLYING CARLSON

ALAN THOMAS

THE DEAD AND THE LIVING OLDS

PASSING THROUGH KUNITZ

HEAVEN AND EARTH MAJMUDAR

LOOKING FOR LUCK KUMIN

DEAR GHOSTS, GALLAGHER

WHISPERING TO FOOL THE WIND RIOS

YOU COME TOO FROST

ELIZABETH M. JOHNSON, AB'90

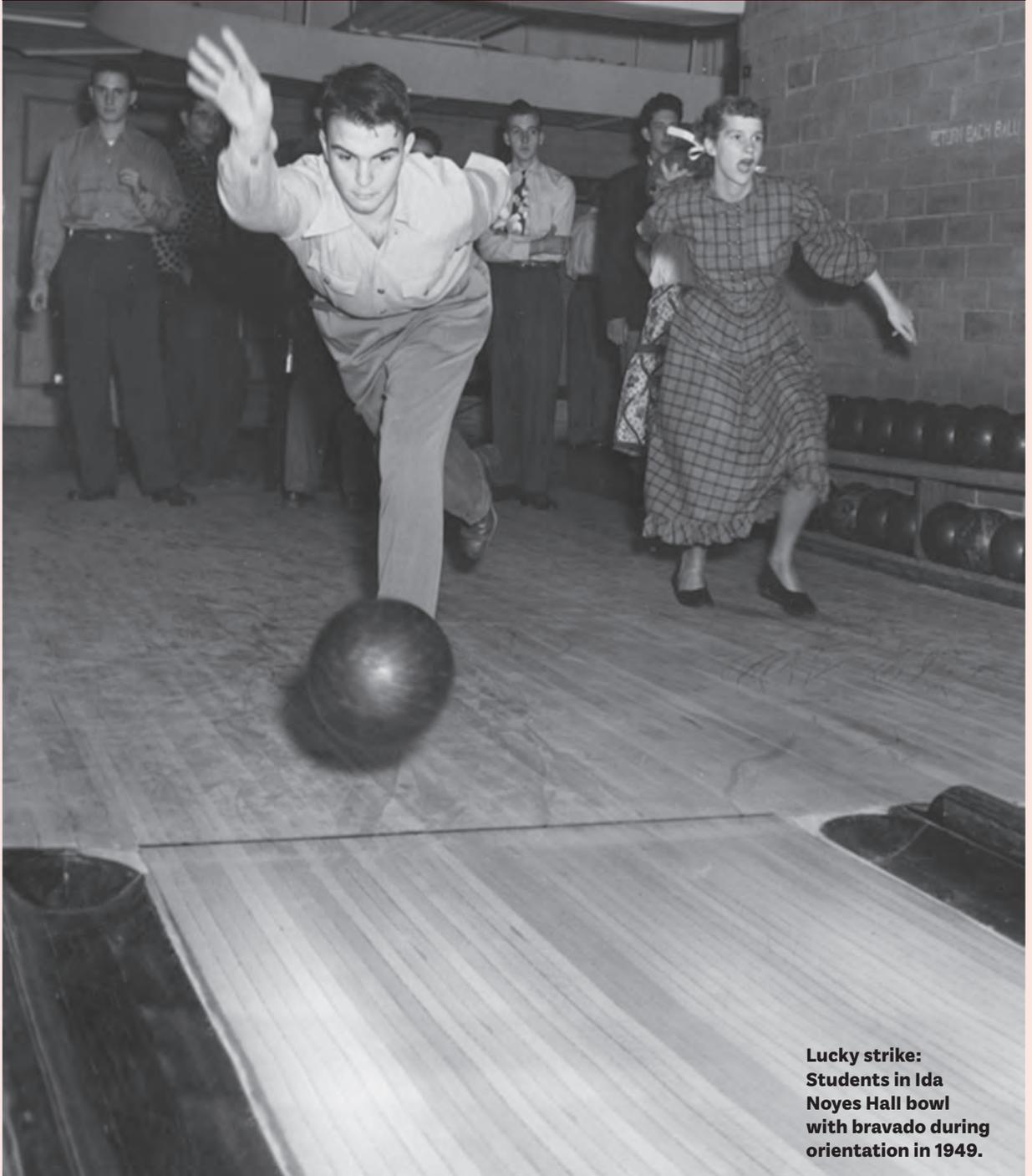
HONORABLE MENTION



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# peer review

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**Lucky strike:**  
Students in Ida  
Noyes Hall bowl  
with bravado during  
orientation in 1949.

# Character studies

BY ANNE FORD, AM'99

It's said that nothing makes us lonelier than our secrets. For a while in my early 20s, my secret was this: I didn't belong at the University of Chicago. Though I'd been accepted to the AM program at the Divinity School, I felt I was missing some indefinable but important attribute that, undergraduate performance and professor recommendations aside, would truly qualify me to be there. Its lack spooked me at every moment, whether I was listening to my fellow students discussing Nietzsche and Hegel with aggressive ease, anxiously looking up the definitions of "apophatic" and "hermeneutic," or being advised by a professor, "You should be hitting the ground running."

If that sounds like garden-variety impostor syndrome, it was, but only in part. The truth is, I simply wasn't suited to graduate school, having done well academically all my life without feeling much passion for my studies. Because I was a good student, that lack of genuine scholarly commitment escaped my undergraduate professors, who regularly returned with As the papers I seldom wrote earlier than the night before they were due. (Dear All My Teachers Ever: I'm really sorry.)

During my undergraduate years at a different school, only one professor ever caught on that I was more or less phoning it in: a visiting prof with whom I did an independent study on medieval literature. It came back with the puz-

zling grade of "A ... for now" and a note in her small, stylish handwriting: "You are smarter than this paper."

Little did she know, I thought, that I wasn't smart at all—not in the way that my professors and fellow students seemed to be. No matter the class I took, everyone seemed to be constructing, debating, and dismantling concepts. Whatever the subject matter, the abstract approach seemed to be the ideal one. I understood that. But it just wasn't ... fun.

Surrounded by scholars, I was more like a newborn baby: fascinated most by very close, very specific things. But instead of the black-and-white mobiles that babies love, I seemed to be obsessed with people—what they said, how they moved, what they thereby revealed without realizing it.

Take my calculus professor, a small, moist man in oversized glasses. As an adjunct, he dribbled onto campus for only a few hours a week and spent most of that time with his back to the class, scrawling functions on the whiteboard—except for the day when he revealed, for reasons I can't remember, that his wife called him only by his last name.

A tiny, totally irrelevant fact. But for the first time all term, my ears perked up. Really? Huh. Why? And why would he tell us? I never tried to find out more. Just witnessing that small moment of revelation made me happy. It was like a present, and I immediately liked him a little better for giving it to us.

In the margins of my lecture notes, I started habitually scribbling down all the little asides my professors made, along with any other personal details that caught my attention. In Christian History, I learned about Arianism and the Apostles' Creed, and that my professor's poker face never ever broke, not even when he asked us if we were under the impression that the Bible had fallen from the sky in a red leatherette edition with a zipper. In East Asian Studies, I noted that Lao-tzu was likely a mythical figure, but also that our Ohio-born-and-bred teacher's accent made "pleasure" rhyme with "faze her."

When it came time to decide what to do after graduation, I gave in to the pressure of my academic past and entered the Divinity School, thinking I'd get a doctorate and become a professor like the ones I loved observing. Though my surroundings changed, my proclivities didn't. When I took a religion and literature class taught by **Wendy Doniger** and David Grene—two of the finest minds any student could hope to encounter—it wasn't the Christian themes of *Measure for Measure* that drew me in, but rather the way that I always ran into the professors walking to class together. What a tender scene: Doniger patiently helping the elderly Grene as he slowly, painfully made his way up the steps. And what a blustery one: Grene thrusting a wild index finger at us as he raged that we were forbidden from writing papers longer than ten pages, "so help you God!" Those moments made it into my margins too.

By the second and final year of my master's program, I had resigned myself to the fact that I wasn't an academic. So instead of choosing my courses

**During my undergraduate years at a different school, only one professor ever caught on that I was more or less phoning it in.**



based on a doctoral future I now realized I'd never have, I just registered for what looked interesting. What looked interesting was a series of courses on women and religion in early American history, taught by **Catherine Brekus**.

Kind, down-to-earth Professor Brekus didn't supply me with many quirks to document. Instead, under her tutelage, I wrote the paper that in retrospect represented the first step toward commodifying my old, odd habit. It was about Deborah Sampson, the Colonial-era indentured servant who disguised herself as a man in order to fight in the Revolutionary War. In my paper, I fulfilled the assignment by using her example to construct some argument I can't remember about the church, gender, and the military.

But along the way, I explored for the first time what really fascinated me: in this case, the personal and historical details that helped Sampson succeed in her scheme. For one thing, she was 5 feet 7 inches, very tall for a woman

then. For another, in those days puberty hit later in life, so the fact that she never shaved wasn't suspicious. Then, too, her eventual assignment as waiter to a general afforded her more personal privacy than the average soldier.

Still, it amazed me that Sampson succeeded in her disguise. How lonely she must have been, and how afraid. I was in disguise too, of course. Sampson was finally unmasked, after 17 months of service, by a fever and a subsequent doctor's examination. My unmasking took much longer, and it didn't happen all at once.

Instead, after earning my AM, I left the University, acquired a bill-paying job, and on my own time began tiptoeing further into the realm of what fascinated me. First I found Studs Terkel's (PhB'32, JD'34) *Working: People Talk about What They Do All Day and How They Feel about What They Do*, a collection of interviews with waitresses, supermarket cashiers, bank tellers, doormen, cab

drivers, and dozens of other people who spoke frankly about their work and their lives. Since then, I've come across many other projects with the same approach (NPR's StoryCorps radio series, John Bowe's oral history collections *Gig* and *Us*, and Stephen Bloom's *The Oxford Project*, to name some of the best).

But it was *Working* that first made me realize: learning about other people doesn't require spying and sneaking. On the contrary, almost all of us are delighted to talk about ourselves openly and genuinely—if someone will only ask.

So I started to ask. Deborah Sampson was long dead, but there was an entire world of other people with stories just as absorbing. Some of them wanted to tell me those stories; some periodicals wanted to publish them. And to my amazement, I slowly built up a career as a freelance writer and oral historian. Many years after leaving academia, noticing and documenting other people is my full-time job, whether I'm interviewing a burlesque performer for the *Chicago Reader* or a fried-chicken magnate for the *Chicago Tribune*. And I don't write in the margins anymore. ♦

**Anne Ford, AM'99, is a writer in Evanston, Illinois. Her oral-history series, *Chicagoans*, has appeared in the *Chicago Reader* since 2010; a companion film series can be seen at [www.thechicagoans.tv](http://www.thechicagoans.tv).**

## NOTES

### DALLAS DEAN

**Joshua Parens**, AM'88, PhD'92, became dean of the University of Dallas's Braniff Graduate School of Liberal Arts in June. Parens, a scholar of medieval Jewish and Islamic philosophy, has taught at the university for 16 years and previously directed its philosophy graduate program. The University of Chicago Press published his book *Maimonides and Spinoza: Their Conflicting Views of Human Nature* in 2012.

### DATA-DRIVEN FASHION

**Liz Kammell**, MBA'13, and her company ZipFit Denim were featured in a July 26 *Chicago Sun-Times* article for her algorithm that matches men with jeans that flatter. Kammell developed the algorithm as a student in Chicago Booth's weekend program. ZipFit's team includes **Alex Batdorf**, AB'12, and **Katie Easterly**, MBA'12. The flagship store in downtown Chicago—where customers enter their measurements and fit preference into an iPad before getting pants from the “Jeanous” bar—opened last October. Kammell also is a contributor to *Forbes.com*, where she has written about her experiences studying at Booth and starting ZipFit.

### NEW LORD CHIEF IN TOWN

In July Sir **John Thomas**, JD'70, was named the new Lord Chief Justice, the head of the judiciary of England and Wales. Thomas, who was knighted in 1996 when he rose to Britain's High Court, read law at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He was involved in Wikileaks founder Julian Assange's 2011 asylum case and the 2012 case to extradite radical cleric Abu Hamza from the UK.

### TRUST HIM, HE'S AN (HONORARY) DOCTOR

This May **Ray Suarez**, AM'93, received an honorary degree from the Chicago Theological Seminary. Suarez is a senior correspondent for the PBS *NewsHour* and the host of Public Radio International's *America Abroad*. He previously hosted NPR's *Talk of the Nation*, and in 2002 Suarez received the Alumni Association's



### EMMY BROOKHEIMER?

**Anna Chlumsky**, AB'02, has been nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her work on HBO's *Veep*, set in the office of a fictional US vice president (Julia Louis-Dreyfus). Chlumsky plays Amy Brookheimer, the vice president's Machiavellian chief of staff. “She does see the world’s population as those who can and those who cannot, and those who cannot are just not worth her time,” Chlumsky told *Backstage*. Chlumsky starred at age 10 in the 1991 movie *My Girl* before taking a hiatus from acting to earn her AB in international studies. The Emmy Awards will air September 22.

Professional Achievement Award. His *Latino Americans: The 500-Year Legacy That Shaped a Nation* (Celebra), a history of Latino migration, will be published in September.

### JOURNALISTIC JUSTICE

**Brendan Kiley**, AM'03, has received the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' 2013 Champion of Justice Award. Kiley writes for the *Stranger*, a Seattle alternative weekly, covering sentencing disparities, drug distribution, and grand jury resisters. The award recognizes work—legislative, judicial, journalistic, or humanitarian—that “has staunchly preserved or defended the constitutional rights of Washington residents and endeavored to ensure justice and due process for those accused of crime.” The association praised the way Kiley's grand jury resister stories humanize those

“caught in the dragnet,” and called his prose “replete with humanity, eloquence, and—despite the grimness of the issue—even humor.”

### HYDE PARK HOMECOMING

**Ben Paterson**, AB'04, is scheduled to play at this fall's Hyde Park Jazz Festival. Over the course of a decade on the Chicago jazz scene, dating back to his undergraduate days, Paterson played in almost every major Chicago venue and festival before a recent move to New York. He was the first-call pianist for the late tenor saxophonist Von Freeman, who spent the entirety of his renowned career in Chicago. Paterson's most recent album, *Blues for Oscar*, is a tribute to pianist Oscar Peterson. On September 28, Paterson will perform on organ at the West Stage on the Midway with his quintet of guitar, drums, trumpet, and sax.





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# DEATHS

## TRUSTEES AND FRIENDS

**William B. Johnson**, trustee emeritus, died April 24 in Lake Forest, IL. He was 94. After serving as president of the Railway Express Agency, Johnson came to Chicago in 1966 to become president, CEO, and a director of the Illinois Central Railroad and its parent company, IC Industries. In 1972 he was elected chair and CEO of IC Industries, leading the acquisition of more than 100 consumer, industrial, and manufacturing companies and growing IC Industries (now Whitman Corporation) to a Fortune 100 company. In 1987, two years after *Crain's Chicago Business* named him Executive of the Year, Johnson became the company's chairman emeritus but remained a director at Illinois Central Railroad until 1999. Among his awards and honors are the American Academy of Achievement's 1973 Golden Plate Award, Loyola University Chicago's 1986 Damen Award for Civic Leadership, and his 2001 induction into the Cooperstown Conference Hall of Fame for his lifetime achievement in the railroad industry. Survivors include a daughter; two sons, including **Kirk Barb Johnson**, JD'73; and six grandchildren.

## FACULTY AND STAFF

**Robert Fogel**, the Charles R. Walgreen distinguished service professor of American institutions, died June 11 in Oak Lawn, IL. He was 86. After teaching at UChicago and Harvard, Fogel rejoined the University's economics faculty in 1981, remaining for the rest of his career and also serving as director of the UChicago Center for Population Economics and as a faculty member in the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought. Awarded the 1993 Nobel Prize in economics for his controversial work on the economics of slavery, Fogel pioneered the use of quantitative methods in economic history with research ranging from railroads' role in American economic development to demography and how standards of living affect health and longevity. The author or coauthor of 22 books, including the two-volume *Time on the Cross: The Economics of American Negro Slavery* (Little, Brown, and Company, 1974), Fogel was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was chosen as one of the "1,000 Makers of the 20th Century" by the *London Times*. In 2006 he was recognized by the Alliance for Aging Research as its Indispensable Person of the Year for Health Research. Fogel is survived by two sons, including **Michael Fogel**, U-High'67, MBA'77; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Joel Schwab**, professor of pediatrics, died of metastatic gastric cancer June 21 in Chicago. He was 67. Joining UChicago

in 1986, Schwab served on the Pritzker School of Medicine's curriculum and admissions committees and directed the pediatric clerkship. A mentor for students and colleagues, Schwab received several Pritzker honors, including the Faculty Teaching Award, the Outstanding Clinical Teaching Award, and the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award. On the day he died, he was to be the inaugural recipient of an award named in his honor at the University of Chicago Medicine's annual residents award ceremony. Survivors include his wife, Gail; two daughters; a son; a brother; and five grandchildren.

**George W. Stocking Jr.**, the Stein-Freiler distinguished service professor emeritus of anthropology and in the Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, died July 13 in Chicago. He was 84. Best known for his study of the history of anthropology and reassessments of its pioneers, Stocking taught at the University of California, Berkeley, before joining UChicago in 1968. His first book, *Race, Culture, and Evolution: Essays in the History of Anthropology* (University of Chicago Press, 1968), redefined the accepted history of the field. In 1981 Stocking became director of UChicago's Morris Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine. The founding editor of the History of Anthropology book series (University of Wisconsin Press) for 18 years, Stocking received two University awards for teaching: a 1994 Llewellyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and a 2011 Norman Maclean Faculty Award from UChicago's Alumni Association. Survivors include his wife, **Carol A. Stocking**, AM'75, PhD'78; four daughters; a son; two sisters; ten grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

## 1930s

**Jean Henrietta Port Hayward**, SB'33, died May 22 in Boise, ID. She was 101. A teacher in Chicago and later in Riverside, CA, Hayward was the president of local organizations, including the Junior League of Riverside and the Riverside Historical Museum board, and was active at her local Presbyterian church. Hayward is survived by a daughter, two sons, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

## 1940s

**William J. Durka**, AB'43, JD'44, of Greenfield Center, NY, died May 12. He was 91. After becoming a partner at former Federal Communications Commission chair James Lawrence Fly's communications law firm, Durka joined the General Electric Company in 1956. He retired as the manager of

GE's international trade policy group. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; a daughter; a stepdaughter; and two step-grandchildren.

**Walter Kemetick**, AB'43, died February 20 in Westminster, MD. He was 92. Captain of the tennis team at UChicago, Kemetick later sold life insurance in Washington, DC. In retirement, he was a substitute teacher before moving to Sunset Beach, NC. Survivors include two daughters, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

**Reva Logan**, X'43, died July 22 in Chicago. She was 91. With her husband, the late David S. Logan, AB'39, JD'41, Logan supported arts and journalism efforts around the country through the Reva and David Logan Foundation. A \$35 million gift to UChicago from the Logan family led to the establishment of the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, which opened in 2012. The initial sponsors of the Jazz Loft Project of the Center for Documentary Studies, the couple also helped to establish the nonprofit Center for Investigative Reporting; contributed to the PBS program *Frontline* and the Ken Burns documentary series *Jazz*; and endowed the annual Logan Investigative Reporting Symposium for reporters and journalism students at the University of California, Berkeley. Logan taught for many years at the Winnetka Community Nursery School. Survivors include three sons, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Bernard Sahlins**, AB'43, cofounder of Chicago comedy venue the Second City, died June 16 in Chicago. He was 90. With Paul Sills, AB'51, Sahlins was a founding member of UChicago-based comedy troupe the Compass Players (often credited with inventing modern improvisational comedy), and in 1959 the two teamed up with Howard Alk, X'49, to found the Second City. Sahlins, who had also produced conventional plays at the Studebaker Theater, directed and produced many Second City sketch shows until the 1990s, helping comedians such as Gilda Radner, Dan Aykroyd, and Bill Murray launch their careers. After establishing a second theater in Toronto, Sahlins cofounded Canadian TV comedy series *SCTV*. Selling the business in 1984, Sahlins remained active in the Chicago theater scene, founding the International Theatre Festival of Chicago in 1986; directing productions at institutions including Court Theatre, Steppenwolf, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater; and directing staged readings for the Poetry Foundation. The author of the 2001 memoir *Days and Nights at the Second City* (Ivan R. Dee), Sahlins received a 1989 University of Chicago Alumni Association Professional Achievement Award and several Joseph Jefferson "Jeff" Awards for directing. Survivors include his wife, Jane, and a brother, **Marshall Sahlins**, the Charles F. Grey distinguished service professor emeritus of anthropology and the social sciences at the University.

**Virginia (Placzkiewicz) Wrobel**, AB'44, of Chicago, died May 28. She was 90. A Chicago Public Schools teacher since the 1960s, Wrobel taught eighth grade at Anderson Elementary School for the last 25 years of her career. Her husband, Frank J. Wrobel, AB'44, JD'48, died in 1987. She is survived by four sons, **Frank Stanley Wrobel**, AB'71, JD'74; **Stanley J. Wrobel**, AB'72, JD'75; **John Gregory Wrobel**, AB'73; and **Gregory Gene Wrobel**, AB'75, JD'78, MBA'79, and 11 grandchildren, including **Danielle E. Wrobel**, AB'12, MPP'13; **Giovanni Wrobel**, AB'13; and **Giuliano G. Wrobel**, '14.

**Shirley Daniels Marks**, PhB'45, died May 23 in Phoenix, AZ. She was 87. From 1975 to 1988, Marks worked in the University's Office of the Comptroller. Survivors include a daughter, a son, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Ernest Carl Anderson**, Ph.D'49, of Chula Vista, CA, died May 20. He was 92. After helping to invent radiocarbon dating at UChicago, Anderson worked at Los Alamos National Laboratories, where he studied the health hazards associated with nuclear energy. The author of many published works, Anderson received awards including a 1966 Ernest Orlando Lawrence Award from the Atomic Energy Commission. Survivors include a daughter, seven grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

**Edward R. de Grazia**, AB'48, JD'51, free-speech lawyer, professor, playwright, and author, died April 11 in Rockville, MD. He was 86. Raised in a musical family, de Grazia played the clarinet, sketched, and dreamed of becoming an artist. After the military and law school, he worked at UNESCO in Paris. In the Supreme Court of the United States and elsewhere, he defended and largely freed Aristophanes's *Lysistrata*, Miller's *Tropic of Cancer*, Bruce's satirical comedy, Burroughs's *Naked Lunch*, Sjoman's *I Am Curious—Yellow*, and antiwar protesters at the Pentagon, including Mailer. Throughout, de Grazia taught First Amendment law at schools including Yeshiva University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, which he cofounded. Respecting art, de Grazia ghostwrote the novel *Three Day Pass—To Kill*; wrote avant-garde plays, including *The Americans*, *The Swings*, and *The Vacuum Cleaner*; inspired Keaton's starring in Samuel Beckett's *Film*; and wrote books on censorship, including *Banned Films* (Bowker, 1982) and *Girls Lean Back Everywhere: The Law of Obscenity and the Assault on Genius* (Random House, 1992). He is survived by two daughters, including **Elizabeth (DeGrazia) Blumenfeld**, AB'88; sons **David DeGrazia**, AB'83, and **Christophe John deGrazia**, AB'78, AM'05; a brother, **Alfred de Grazia**, AB'39, Ph.D'48; and three grandchildren.

## 1950s

**David A. Nelson**, AB'51, AM'54, died June 24 in Scarborough, ME. He was 84. An Air

Force veteran, Nelson taught Renaissance drama and English literature at Bates College from 1960 until his 1992 retirement. In retirement, he studied Buddhism and traveled with his wife, Dirane Kelekyan. Nelson is survived by his wife; a daughter, **Stephanie Nelson**, AM'90, Ph.D'92; a son; and four grandchildren.

**Betty Lou Powers**, AM'53, of Vermillion, SD, died May 14. She was 98. After teaching elementary school in the Chicago Public Schools, Powers earned a home economics degree from the University. She then chaired the home economics department at Chicago's Lindblom Technical High School (now Lindblom Math and Science Academy). On the side, she became a local fashion and hair design model. Retiring from teaching in 1965, Powers moved with her second husband, Clem, to Boulder, CO, where she worked as an interior decorator and taught antiques classes. She is survived by her husband; two sons, including **James A. McBride**, SB'63, MAT'66, Ph.D'74; and two grandchildren, including **Logan McBride**, U-High'00.

## 1960s

**James M. Hopper**, MBA'60, of Little Rock, AR, died June 25. He was 78. Hopper started his career at W. R. Grace & Co., working as a sales engineer and as a product manager, before joining Harvard University's Graduate School of Education in 1968 as assistant to the dean and director of development. In 1972 Hopper returned to UChicago as assistant dean of the Graduate School of Business (now Chicago Booth), later serving as associate dean. As a vice president at Clark University until 1992, he led Clark's first successful multimillion-dollar fundraising campaign. Hopper also served on the development board of two horticultural organizations in Worcester, MA, becoming senior vice president of the Audubon Nature Institute in New Orleans in 1992. He retired in 1994. Survivors include a cousin.

**Liam S. Rooney**, AB'60, AM'68, of Kingman, AZ, died June 2. He was 83. An educator, Rooney taught kindergarten in Evanston, IL, and in the Hackberry School District in Kingman as well as at the Joe Cook Shock Incarceration Facility and Training Center and Mohave Community College. In retirement, he volunteered as a tutor to African refugees. Survivors include two daughters, six sons, two brothers, and four grandchildren.

**Joan R. Saks Berman**, AB'62, of Albuquerque, NM, died May 17. She was 72. A practicing psychologist and a longtime member of the women's collective Rainbow Artists, Berman was active in local politics and as a first responder for the Red Cross. Survivors include a nephew, a grandniece, a grandnephew, and her cousins.

**John R. Stanek**, AB'64, died May 25 in Chicago. He was 76. An Army veteran, Stanek was a pioneer in the field of employee research. After teaching sociology at UChicago and directing survey research at its industrial relations center, in 1974 Stanek, with his wife, Gay, started the Chicago-based International Survey Research, conducting employee surveys and working with clients including AT&T and Union Carbide. Over the next three decades, the company grew into a global research firm before being sold to Towers Perrin (now Towers Watson) in 2007. Stanek created a fund at UChicago to support undergraduate education. Survivors include his wife; a brother, **Robert G. Stanek**, AB'67, MBA'71; a nephew; two nieces; and four grandnephews.

**James Alden Van Vechten**, SM'66, Ph.D'69, a materials scientist, died June 20 in Portland, OR. He was 70. A Navy veteran, Van Vechten served as an officer at the Naval Research Laboratory, then worked at Bell Labs and the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center. In 1985 he joined Oregon State University as a professor of electrical and computer engineering, and he became a research professor in 2000. In retirement, Van Vechten researched the viability of a method of producing safe, convenient, and greenhouse-neutral fuel. His honors include a Department of Navy Commendation for Scientific Achievement and five patent achievement awards at IBM. He is survived by his wife, Wendy; two sons; a brother; and a sister.

## 1980s

**Hayward "Woody" Farrar Jr.**, AM'71, Ph.D'83, an African studies and history scholar, died May 31 in Blacksburg, VA. He was 63. A student of John Hope Franklin at UChicago, Farrar helped start the Afro-American Studies Program at the University of Maryland and taught at a number of historically black colleges. In 1992 he joined the faculty of Virginia Tech, where he was adviser of the school's NAACP chapter, was a member of the Africana Studies Executive Board, and served as a mentor for underrepresented students and students in the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. The author of *The Baltimore Afro-American, 1892-1950* (Greenwood Press, 1998), Farrar received awards including Virginia Tech's 1998 Black Caucus Faculty Member of the Year Award. Survivors include a brother.

## 2000s

**Sishir Bhattarai**, MPP'07, died March 28 of a stroke in Kathmandu, Nepal. He was 36. Bhattarai was a senior consultant on governance and public policy for the Asian Development Bank. Survivors include his wife, Liza Sigdel Bhattari; a son; and his parents.

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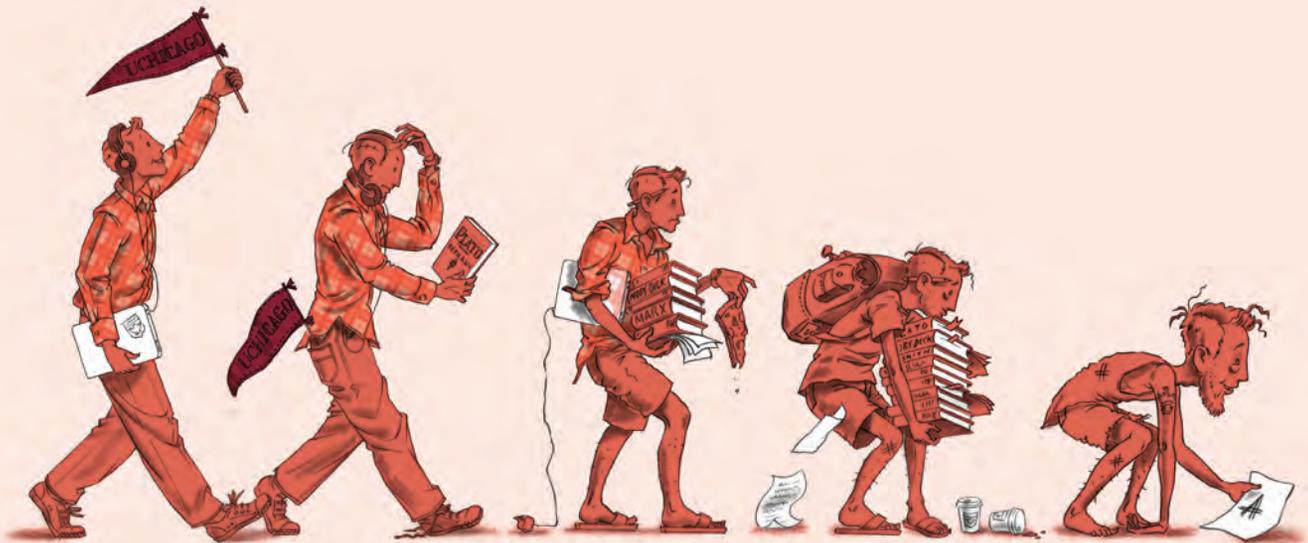
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# Intelligent decline

*How a UChicago student (d)evolves into a being almost purely of thought.*



**H**ow does a UChicago student’s brain evolve over the course of a quarter? The *Magazine* has blown through its neuro-imaging budget early (again!), so in these pages at least, the answer will have to wait for another fiscal year. But there’s nothing to stop us from playing armchair anthropologist and documenting 11 fascinating weeks of outward change.

First week, subject is a highly social creature, offering greeting displays (“smiling”), participating in tribal celebrations, and maintaining a kempt appearance during initial batteries of three-page papers and problem sets. This “casual friday” period begins to blend into a “weekend yard work” ap-

pearance around third week as socializing diminishes. Subject proposes the 7 p.m. Friday show at Doc—to squeeze in a few more hours of studying afterward—and is rarely seen without primitive learning tools (“books”). By fifth week the first physical changes are apparent: stride shortens (most likely because locomotion only necessary for short distances between midterms, discussion sections, and the library) and use of hands now limited to tasks that aid learning and cognition. Posture changes noticeably around eighth week to accommodate weight of inter-library loan books; subject squints in daylight as eyes have adapted to long hours in A-level stacks. Coming out of reading period, subject has become

a being almost purely of thought. All possible learning and knowledge has been transferred from backpack, books, and Internet to newly enlarged cranium, the weight of which now pulls upper body down. The quarter ends before the final descent into loincloth and Becker-Posner slippers.

As repeated observations have evidenced, most of these adaptations prove to be transitory. A trip to the laundry (or incinerator and mall) refreshes the wardrobe, a week of partial hibernation straightens the posture, and consuming multiple seasons of *Breaking Bad* and any show with the words “America’s,” “Top,” or “Duck” in its title can reduce head swelling.

—Sean Carr, AB’90

ILLUSTRATION BY DOUGLAS BURTON JONES



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