

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE



LSE-UCHICAGO DOUBLE EXECUTIVE MASTER'S IN HEALTH POLICY

FROM HARRIS PUBLIC POLICY AND THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

2 YEARS
2 DEGREES
2 CITIES

AUTUMN 2018 + 2019
2-3 weeks in London

SPRING 2018 + 2019
2-3 weeks in Chicago

SUMMER 2019
Capstone Project

SPRING 2020
MSc Dissertation



**Solutions to
global health challenges
require global thinking.**



VISIT US ONLINE
lse.uchicago.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2018
VOLUME 110, NUMBER 4



Adrienne Brown's work probes the effects of burgeoning urbanism in the 19th and 20th centuries. See "Towering Insights," page 38. Illustration by Sylvia Moritz.

Features

- 22 CORRECTIVE MEASURES**
A UChicago professor spearheads an initiative to end mass incarceration. *By Lucas McGranahan*
- 30 TALKING BACK**
Reflections on the life and literature of Philip Roth, AM'55. *By Laura Demanski, AM'94*
- 32 BIBLIOMANIA!**
College students go head-to-head in a competition for the best undergraduate book collection. *By Susie Allen, AB'09*
- 38 TOWERING INSIGHTS**
English associate professor **Adrienne Brown** explores the complicated racial history of the American skyscraper. *By Susie Allen, AB'09*
- 44 FOOD FOR THOUGHT**
Former White House chef **Sam Kass**, LAB'98, AB'04, is serving up new recipes and improvements to food policy. *By Laura Demanski, AM'94*
Plus: Kass's recipe for brussels sprouts Caesar salad from *Eat A Little Better*.

Departments

- 3 EDITOR'S NOTES**
Remembrance of notes past. *By Laura Demanski, AM'94*
- 4 LETTERS**
Readers applaud class correspondents, debate health policy, ponder the merits of reflection and regret, and more.
- 7 ON THE AGENDA**
Humanities' reach expands exponentially. *By Anne Walters Robertson*
- 9 UCHICAGO JOURNAL**
Vision care in the developing world; expanding access to the College; making property tax more proper; agricultural legacies; and more.
- 20 COURSE WORK**
Lights up on **Thomas Christensen's** Making and Meaning in the American Musical. *By Jeanie Chung*
- 47 PEER REVIEW**
In the alumni essays, an unlikely political wife mulls her future and a scholar treads the boards. Plus: Alumni News, Deaths, and Classifieds.
- 80 LITE OF THE MIND**
Doodling is the sincerest form of flattery. *By Laura Demanski, AM'94*



Certified Chain of Custody
Promoting Sustainable Forestry
www.sfipprogram.org
SFI-00894



See the print issue of the *University of Chicago Magazine*, web-exclusive content, and links to our Facebook and Twitter accounts at mag.uchicago.edu.



Spring ahead: Photographed from above in late May, the quads were both stately and verdant. One of the newest sights in the campus landscape, which opened to students in fall quarter 2017, is Campus North Residential Commons, the tall white building northeast of the Regenstein Library.



Volume 110, Number 4, Summer 2018

EDITOR Laura Demanski, AM'94
SENIOR EDITOR Mary Ruth Yoe
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Susie Allen, AB'09
MANAGING EDITOR Rhonda L. Smith
ART DIRECTOR Guido Mendez
ALUMNI NEWS EDITOR Andrew Peart, AM'16, PhD'18
COPY EDITOR Sam Edsill
STUDENT INTERNS Brooke Nagler, '20; Dylan Petiprin, '19
GRAPHIC DESIGNER Laura Lorenz
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS John Easton, AM'77; Carrie Golus, AB'91, AM'93; Brooke E. O'Neill, AM'04; Amy Braverman Puma

Editorial Office *The University of Chicago Magazine*, 5235 South Harper Court, Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60615. TELEPHONE 773.702.2163; FAX 773.702.8836; EMAIL uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. The University of Chicago Alumni Association has its offices at 5235 South Harper Court, 7th Floor, Chicago, IL 60615. TELEPHONE 773.702.2150; FAX 773.702.2166. ADDRESS CHANGES 800.955.0065 or alumni-support@uchicago.edu. WEB mag.uchicago.edu

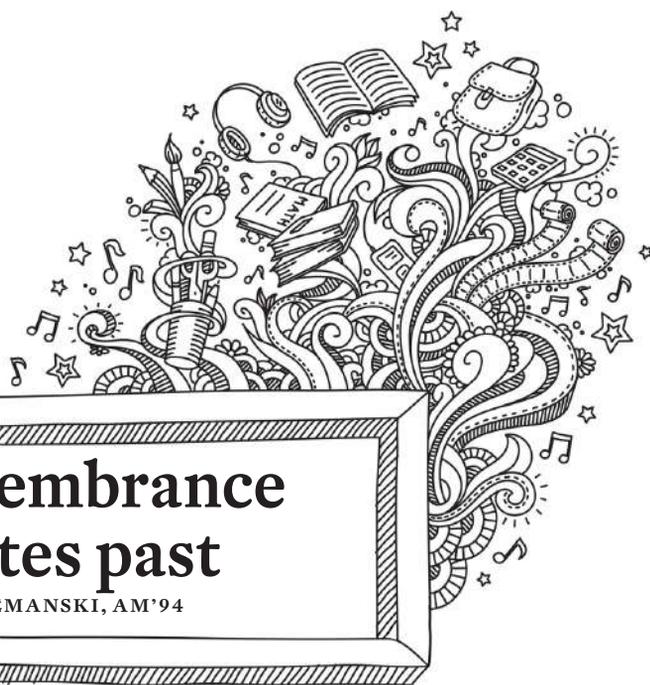
The University of Chicago Magazine (ISSN-0041-9508) is published quarterly (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer) by the University of Chicago in cooperation with the Alumni Association, 5235 South Harper Court, 7th Floor, Chicago, IL 60615, and sent to all University of Chicago alumni. Published continuously since 1907. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER Send address changes to *The University of Chicago Magazine*, Alumni Records, 5235 South Harper Court, Chicago, IL 60615. © 2018 University of Chicago.

Advertising Contact uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu or visit mag.uchicago.edu/advertising. The *Magazine* is a member of the Ivy League Magazine Network, whose clients include other colleges and universities. These advertisements help the *Magazine* continue to deliver news of the University of Chicago and its alumni to readers. Please contact the editor with any questions.

IVY LEAGUE MAGAZINE NETWORK
Heather Wedlake, Director of Operations
WEB ivymags.com
EMAIL heatherwedlake@ivymags.com
TELEPHONE 617.319.0995

The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, or other protected classes under the law. For additional information, please see equalopportunity.uchicago.edu.

EDITOR'S NOTES



Remembrance of notes past

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

By happy coincidence, this issue contains reproductions from the course notebooks of two UChicagoans. Original Source (page 12) offers a page from Nobel Prize-winning astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar's notes for a quantum mechanics class he took as a student at Cambridge University. And *Lite of the Mind* features notes that **Benjamin Lorch**, AB'93, AM'04, took in a class with the College's legendary Herman Sinaiko, AB'47, PhD'61 (page 80).

Like many others who went to school for a very long time, I love notebooks. Throughout my 20-plus years as a student—from kindergarten to high school to college to graduate studies—there was no more welcome accompaniment to each new fall. They might be Mead or Clairefontaine; I wasn't too particular, just craved those blank lines full of promise, all neatly spiral-bound, simultaneously tactile and symbolic.

Once acquired and brought to class, those notebooks offered the different pleasure of filling them up—dutifully with ideas, facts, dates, equations, and fancifully with doodles. In work meetings and during phone calls, I still fill my margins with elaborate geometric designs. To onlookers, I know, the practice can appear inattentive. In my experience it's anything but, and experts, including philosopher

of psychology **Jesse Prinz**, PhD'97, agree, saying that doodling focuses our attention on what we're hearing and helps us remember it later.

That was the case for Lorch, who sketched Sinaiko during a lecture on Aristotle's *Poetics* in October 1989. In a Q&A on our website (mag.uchicago.edu/doodlecore), Lorch talks about the class; clearly the lecture stuck with him, helped by doodling and affection.

Meanwhile, if the cover page of Chandrasekhar's notes on quantum mechanics is any indication, he was all business during his classes. Yet the note he added almost two decades later, in the same careful, almost austere hand, betrays how his wife Lalitha had been on his mind as well.

Laptops may be more efficient, but long live handwritten notes with their madeleine-like powers to take us back in time, to knowledge and experience alike.

Copy that

Just before deadline, the *Magazine* welcomed **Sam Edsill** to the staff as copy editor. He takes over the copyediting, fact-checking, and proofreading duties of **Rhonda L. Smith**, who became managing editor earlier this year. Sam comes to UChicago from the American Hospital Association and the New York political news company City & State. At press time, we were already benefiting from his sharp eye, and are very happy to be working with him. ♦

LETTERS

Support your class correspondent

One of the thankless tasks that your fellow alumni who are College class correspondents perform is to compile class notes about what folks have been up to. We all know that this task can only be fulfilled to the degree that we provide

This is, thus, a personal note asking you to support your class correspondents' appeals.

Still, regardless of prior acquaintance, folks from all classes enjoy their classmates' updates. So please contribute to your class narratives and our shared history while we can.

Speaking personally, I have enjoyed my correspondent's (Bob Bloom, SB'58) reports. Good luck, Bob, and many thanks for what you do.

Norm Schulze, SB'58
CLIFTON, VIRGINIA

Lost in memory

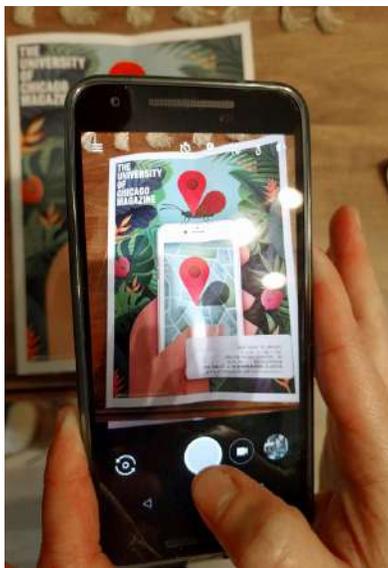
"Well, you've done it again," as Click and Clack the Tappet Brothers used to say, "You've wasted another perfectly good hour." Except it wasn't wasted devouring, almost as it arrived, the Spring/18 issue of the *Magazine*, which proved yet another slam dunk for which kudos are in order.

Special "thanks for the memories," including a superb piece about Hanna Gray ("The Long View," UChicago Journal), whom I had the privilege of meeting, not at the U of C, but at the unveiling of her portrait in the grand promenade of Woolsey Hall at Yale during my graduate work. A good U of C friend had her as his doctoral adviser, so I no more than mentioned his name and she was right on subject.

That same quality personified Ed Levi, LAB'28, PhB'32, JD'35, one of her predecessors as UChicago president, with whom she's pictured in the story. On the occasion of his presidential installation, I carried the University banner, nearly taking out a window in the chapel entry while lowering the heavy, awkward pole in passage. Mortified, I wrote a letter to Levi apologizing for any delay or anxiety resulting from my misadventure. Within a few

days came a handwritten note on presidential stationery thanking me for my service and assuring me he hadn't been aware of a near mishap. Talk about putting a third-year at ease. If that wasn't enough, years later I saw him briefly in Washington, DC, when he was Gerald Ford's attorney general. He not only remembered my note but said he'd kept it in a file as an example of unusually good manners and penmanship.

days came a handwritten note on presidential stationery thanking me for my service and assuring me he hadn't been aware of a near mishap. Talk about putting a third-year at ease. If that wasn't enough, years later I saw him briefly in Washington, DC, when he was Gerald Ford's attorney general. He not only remembered my note but said he'd kept it in a file as an example of unusually good manners and penmanship.



Another outstanding contribution to the Spring issue was a letter about Jonathan Z. ("JZ" as we knew him) Smith. The writer described JZ's unique storytelling, teaching, and mentoring so well that I felt again how profound was his adopting me as an advisee upon Henry Rago's untimely death. Though the ordeal was crushing, JZ's steering me to apply to Yale for graduate school redeemed it. I'm so glad I got to thank him personally at my 40th reunion. "Oh, think nothing of it," he gushed, as only JZ could. "You were the perfect candidate for that spot," which happened to be a Rockefeller Fellowship for a trial year in seminary. It both saved me from Vietnam and opened the door to my happy career as priest and seminary professor.

Yes, hindsight is 20/20 vision. Thanks for providing quarterly occasions to "see more clearly, love more dearly, and follow more nearly, day by day" (Richard of Chicester, via Stephen Schwartz's song from *Godspell*) in the paths we were set upon by UChicago's exceptional administrators and faculty. Oh, and "Let's Get Lost"—here's to never sacrificing serendipity! Edward Tenner's (AM'67, PhD'72) *The Efficiency Paradox* just went on my summer reading list.

Michael Tessman, AB'70
KINGSTOWN, RHODE ISLAND

Constitutional context

In "The Long Founding Moment" (UChicago Journal, Spring/18) Alison LaCroix points out, "There isn't an optimal distribution of federal versus state power," and further notes, "There might be an optimal one, but you can't find it in the Constitution." With these words she understates the many problems our country has with an 18th-century constitution and accompanying political system as it confronts a 21st-century commercial and technological world.

Indeed, one could take the Constitution line by line and show quite conclusively that when its context is ignored (i.e., the Second Amendment written when only muskets and other primitive firearms were available, and those in limited quantities) its words can be and are interpreted to give us "wrong answers in constitutional law." An example to illustrate my point: the equating of money with free

speech. It is hard for me to believe that anyone making prudent judgments could possibly have come up with that “answer.” I have come to the conclusion that one of the most serious flaws in our Constitution is to allow 5–4 decisions of the Supreme Court justices to become the law of the land. I take as precedent the Judicial Procedures Reform Bill of 1937, a legislative initiative proposed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to add more justices to the Supreme Court. An alternative to “packing” the court would be a constitutional amendment to require that any decision that would become the final law of the land would need the concurrence of a large majority, perhaps 7–2, or better yet, 8–1.

At 81 I have lived in an era when the son of a former migrant farm worker from Eastern Europe/factory worker could have the opportunity to attend the University of Chicago because of the sacrifices of his parents, their understanding of the value of education, the preparation of a Catholic educational system, and my own hard work. Those days seem to be long gone. Would that we, as a country, strive to interpret the Constitution in such a way as to bring back into reality a 21st-century version of that time.

Ernest A. Dorko, SM'61, PhD'64
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Information, please

“Measuring Medicaid” (UChicago Journal, Spring/18) oversimplifies complex issues.

The expected outcome of increased access to medical care is not to prevent the use of emergency rooms but the abuse of them. There was no discussion of whether the case mix seen among the groups is different. If there is no difference in the case mix that would be a positive change. Increased use of preventive care will not prevent emergencies from occurring. People will continue to get shot and stabbed, fall

The expected outcome of increased access to medical care is not to prevent the use of emergency rooms but the abuse of them.

from elevation, have auto accidents, and otherwise encounter the slings and arrows to which flesh is heir. Moreover, people will encounter the same risks regardless of insurance status because they still live in the same place and have the same lifestyles as before.

The actual hope is—and there was no statement to contradict this—that visits by those few people who come into emergency rooms in true crisis that could have been prevented by a trip to the doctor’s office a few weeks before might be reduced or even eliminated. That would mean a financial savings to the health system but also the saving of lives that are unnecessarily shortened.

People who have not had access to doctors because of financial reasons are not going to suddenly acquire the habit of making an appointment to see about a cough or any of the other conditions that they have been conditioned to live with because they couldn’t afford to do anything about them. How, in such a short space of time and with no teaching or habituation, could it be expected that the newly insured and the never insured would change their habits?

Journalists and researchers in this country have substituted asking a question for asking the right question and getting an answer for getting the real answer. Have all the editors died and gone to hell?

Lonnie L. Sorrells Jr., AB'81
BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN

The letter writer raises a good question about the types of emergency department visits analyzed by the researchers. The authors did indeed analyze the effect of insurance on emergency department visits for different types of care and circumstances. They found that Medicaid caused bigger increases in discretionary or preventable emergency department visits than in non-preventable emergencies.—Ed.

Title trouble

The headline “Driving Up Wages” (Fig. 1, UChicago Journal) and chart labeled “Average hourly earnings, US” in the Spring/18 issue surprised me. Curious that men’s and women’s earnings would be as close as depicted, I read the article only to discover that the chart and article were about Uber drivers’ compensation, not all US workers. I’m glad to have learned

that pay inequity persists even when wage rates are equitable, but was drawn into reading about it by my confusion. Please be precise when describing your charts.

Michele Beaulieux, AB'82
CHICAGO

We agree with the letter writer and apologize for the misleading labeling.—Ed.

Jazz records

I was intrigued and perplexed by the caption on page 51 of your Spring/18 issue, which described jazz musician Hanah Jon Taylor as having been the director of the University of Chicago Jazz Ensemble in 1992.

I enrolled in a doctoral program in the fall of 1992, and I know there was no University-sponsored jazz ensemble in the 1992–93 school year, nor in 1993–94. In the fall of 1994 signs appeared announcing auditions for a new jazz ensemble. I was one of the 10 musicians selected by director Mwata Bowden for the maiden edition of what he christened the University of Chicago Jazz X-Tet (the X originally having been intended as a Roman numeral), which is still going strong under his direction decades later.

But, in my X-Tet years, I had never heard any suggestions that there had been another incarnation of a University jazz ensemble as recently as 1992; and while a number of guest artists played with the X-Tet, Taylor’s name is quite unfamiliar to me. My understanding had been that Ingrid Monson, assistant professor in the Department of Music from 1991 to 1995 and now a professor at Harvard, had been the driving force, not just in creating a jazz ensemble where none had existed previously, but also in finding a major figure from South Side Chicago’s Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians movement, Bowden, to lead it.

I hope you can elucidate on what role he did or didn’t play in the history of jazz performance at the University.

Rowen Bell, SM'94, MBA'05
CHICAGO

According to a February 2, 1990, Chicago Maroon story, the University of Chicago Jazz Ensemble was a registered student organization formed that year by Josh Sinton, AB'94, with Hanah Jon Taylor as its musical director. The

LETTERS

25-member ensemble had its first performance on April 4, 1990, at the First Unitarian Church of Chicago.—Ed.

Looking back (to the Winter issue)

As a longtime formal and informal student of regret, I read “Looking Back” (Winter/18) with great interest. The fascinating “conversation” between Martha C. Nussbaum and Saul Levmore, excerpted from their recent book, *Aging Thoughtfully: Conversations about Retirement, Romance, Wrinkles, and Regret* (Oxford University Press, 2017), reminded me of many works in the large literature on regret I read as a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania, including *Woulda/Coulda/Shoulda*, by Arthur Freeman and Rose DeWolf (William Morrow, 1989), and *What Might Have Been: The Social Psychology of Counterfactual Thinking*, by Neal J. Roese and James M. Olson (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1995). Looking forward to more looking back with *Aging Thoughtfully!*

Karen Matlaw Steinberg,

LAB'71, AB'75

PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA

The Winter/18 issue contained quite a few articles that intersected with my life. “Looking Back” struck so very many chords. My wife and I live in an age-restricted community, Sun City, Arizona. When I started at the Uni-

versity in 1959, my mother, Oberlin '33, would come to some of the open HUM 101 activities. Her intellectual spirit was renewed. She applied to the School of Social Service Administration to work toward a master's degree. Despite her Phi Beta Kappa credentials, she was told that she was too old to be admitted to a degree program, and that those slots were reserved for younger students. She could, of course, pay tuition and take courses. She did not. Sara Paretzky, AM'69, MBA'77, PhD'77, is not alone in having mixed feelings about UChicago (Glimpses, “Criminal Mastermind”).

I read “Urban Legend” (C. Vitae) and noticed a curious omission. Having joined the US Air Force while attending the University of Chicago medical school, I noted that although the text reveals that the GI Bill helped Herbert Gans, PhB'47, AM'50, complete his first two degrees, under “milestones” there was no mention of his military service.

William Sloan, SB'63, MD'67 was not only a classmate but a friend (UChicago Journal, “String Theory”).

J. Curtis Kovacs, AB'63, MD'67
SUN CITY, ARIZONA

Tale of the pile

I worked at Argonne National Laboratory in the summer of 1959. Chicago Pile-1, or what was left of it, was in a warehouse attracting little attention. It was a stack five feet high

of about 25 graphite blocks, each the size of a cinder block. I could easily have touched them. Also at Argonne was CP-5, still actively used by researchers.

Norman Hilberry, PhD'41, director of Argonne, spoke at a welcoming meeting of interns like me. He was in the squash court on December 2, 1942, and sent to the grandstands with an axe. He was to cut a rope and lower a safety rod into the reactor in case things got out of hand. He was later told that if the worst had happened it would all have been over in a microsecond.

Bill Brainerd, AM'63

MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Corrections

On page 47 of “Babyography” (Spring/18) we misstated the surname of a great-grandmother whose family has long used *Our Baby's First Seven Years*. Her name is Pat Brend. We regret the error.

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

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Jimmy [Wilson, proprietor of the Woodlawn Tap] did a great job by decreeing that only active candidates for the PhD could serve as bartenders and surrounded the bar with reference books to squelch many disagreements which frequently arose in the bar. ... I still miss Jimmy and the Woodlawn Tap since the long life I've lived has never allowed me to replicate the ease and camaraderie of the watering hole that Jimmy created and maintained for thousands of University of Chicago students over his lifetime.

—Joseph N. DuCanto, JD'55,
July–Aug/12
River Forest, Illinois

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

Humanities' reach expands exponentially

BY ANNE WALTERS ROBERTSON, DEAN OF THE DIVISION OF THE HUMANITIES AND CLAIRE DUX SWIFT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND THE COLLEGE

Two years ago, when I became the dean of the Division of the Humanities, my perspective about the myriad roles of the humanities at the University of Chicago and in the world grew exponentially. From my bird's-eye view, I can see that the work of our faculty, students, and alumni, as well as our outreach initiatives, is setting the agenda for transformative dialogue about the humanities in the world today.

In 1930 University of Chicago president Robert Maynard Hutchins encouraged disciplinary innovation by creating four graduate divisions at UChicago: the humanities and the three sciences—social, physical, and biological. Rather than install the more prevalent arts-and-sciences model that exists in most US universities combining graduate studies, he grouped disciplines based on how he imagined departments would most likely collaborate in their research.

To be sure, the 15 departments in the Division of the Humanities have cooperated extensively, but we also have collaborated across divisions through interdisciplinary organizations like the Franke Institute for the Humanities, the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, and the Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry. During the past 30 years, we have also witnessed the birth of three new departments—visual arts, cinema and media studies, and comparative literature—developed through what were initially workshops and committees.

Through our research and teaching in the Division of the Humanities, we



Robertson has spent more than 30 years on the faculty of the Division of the Humanities' Music Department.

produce new interpretations of old subjects, adding to the heft of humanities scholarship through books and articles that often attract the recognition that **Philippe Desan's** *Montaigne: A Life* received in 2017 from the *New Yorker* and the *Wall Street Journal*. Likewise, our creative endeavors have set the standard for originality and imagination, including **Augusta Read Thomas's** Ear Taxi Festival, a six-day festival of new music; **Christine Mehring's** celebration of the restoration of Wolf Vostell's famous concrete car; and **William Pope.L's** multisensory installation *Claim (Whitney Version)* at the Whitney Museum.

The Division of the Humanities leaves another kind of mark through public conversation: our faculty deliver scholarly papers in venues around the world each year. Notably, **Martha Nussbaum** presented the National Endowment for the Humanities' Jefferson Lecture in 2017. We are also re-drawing the traditional boundaries of the humanities through our collaborations with multiple new academic and

artistic partners, including performers, computer scientists, chemists, physicists, and neuroscientists.

Likewise, the Humanities has made transformational contributions by fostering programs in cognitive science and digital studies of language, culture, and history, and by developing programs such as media arts and design and urban architecture. Realizing that the life of the mind must also preserve the life of the body, our division has enhanced prospects for humanities PhDs by preparing them for a challenging job market. We cultivate opportunities for them both within and beyond academe, enriching society with the kind of critical thinking and analysis that characterize our disciplines.

As the Division of the Humanities reaches outward in myriad ways, other fields are looking into the humanities. Books and articles written by specialists in nonhumanities subjects often recognize how an understanding of the humanities is essential to their projects. Christian Madsbjerg's *Sensemaking: The Power of the Humanities in the Age of the Algorithm* and Gary Saul Morson and Morton Schapiro's *Cents and Sensibility: What Economics Can Learn from the Humanities* both appeared in 2017. This past spring, former US Treasury secretary Robert E. Rubin published an op-ed in the *New York Times* titled "Philosophy Prepared Me for a Career in Finance and Government."

As always, the division was keen to embrace these overtures. The Franke Institute hosts an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation-sponsored program called The Limits of the Numerical. Classics professor **Alain Bresson** recently made a fundamental contribution to economic history in his prize-winning book *The Making of the Ancient Greek Economy: Institutions, Markets, and Growth in the City-States* (2016).

In short, I believe this is an exceptional and pivotal time for the Division of the Humanities at UChicago, and I'm excited and motivated when I think about our immediate and long-term future. As the humanities play increasingly seminal roles in the academy and the world, we at UChicago will continue to lead the way. ♦

HUMANITIES DAY

Saturday, October 20, 2018

30+ Talks. 40+ Presenters. 1 Day.

Free and open to the public
Register online or call 773.702.7423

humanitiesday.uchicago.edu

FREE



James Chen's (AB'82) Vision for a Nation has improved access to eye care in Rwanda and is piloting a program in Ghana.

PHILANTHROPY

Farsighted venture

James Chen, AB'82, is reenvisioning a centuries-old solution to transform millions of lives.

Corrective lenses date back at least to the 13th century. Yet an estimated 2.5 billion people today need glasses and don't have them. That number threatens to grow. About 80 percent of people with poor vision live in developing

countries, and research predicts myopia alone will affect 4.8 billion, half the world population, by 2050.

Poor vision is "the largest unaddressed disability in the world today," says Hong Kong philanthropist **James Chen**, AB'82. He's spent more than a decade working to understand and fix unaddressed poor vision in the developing world, along with its far-reaching causes and consequences, investing family wealth from the multinational pot and pan business his grandfather built after fleeing China in 1947.

Chen's mission began 14 years ago, when he met an Oxford professor who had developed a "very intriguing prototype" of an adjustable lens. "Having

grown up in Nigeria and spent a large part of my working life in developing Asia, I noticed that very few people [there] had glasses," says Chen.

While made-to-order glasses remain out of reach for many in the developing world, Chen realized a single pair of specs serving a wide range of needs could provide a more cost-effective option. So, in 2011, Chen founded Vision for a Nation (VFAN), a nonprofit dedicated to providing affordable eye care in developing countries—beginning with Rwanda.

"The idea there was just to say, 'Let's just pick a country and attempt to solve this problem ourselves,'" Chen says. If nothing else, he figured, they'd learn more about it. Within five years,

VFAN had screened more than 2.5 million pairs of eyes and revolutionized the Rwandan eye care system to make it accessible to the country's entire population of 12 million. The effort involved close collaboration with the government's ministry of health.

Through VFAN's work in Rwanda, Chen identified four key obstacles to solving poor vision in the developing world: dollars, distribution, diagnosis, and demand.

First and perhaps most obvious: eye care costs money. In the developed world, most of that markup goes toward highly trained doctors, luxury retail space, and fancy brand names. "That's kind of the dirty secret of the optical industry," Chen says.

VFAN skips all of that; 90 percent of the lenses they provide are simple reading glasses that cost less than one dollar to produce. For people with more complex needs, VFAN offers adjustable-lens models that cost around three dollars.

The technology behind the adjustable lenses builds on the work of Chen's fellow UChicago alumnus, Nobel prize-winning physicist Luis Alvarez, SB'32, SM'34, PhD'36. The Alvarez Dual Lens features two independently moving polycarbonate plates. Their position relative to each other determines the overall focal length of the lens.

But getting the glasses into the hands of the people who need them can be tricky, particularly in rural areas of the developing world.

In addition to leveraging the ministry of health's existing infrastructure, VFAN streamlined distribution. They stocked reading glasses in a limited selection of strengths that covered nearly all farsighted needs, and provided adjustable lenses to nearsighted patients—narrowing their inventory down to a lean list of five items.

Before any lenses can be provided, however, patients need a diagnosis from a health care professional. Formal training in optometry or ophthalmology takes years, but basic eye screening doesn't require an advanced

degree. To address what Chen calls a "huge bottleneck" in the eye care system, VFAN devised a three-day training program and delivered it to 2,700 Rwandan nurses. (Rwanda now incorporates eye screening as a regular training requirement for nurses.)

Patients with vision problems receive either glasses, eye drops, or, in serious cases, referral to a specialist. The system "isn't perfect, but it's definitely functional," Chen says.

Another unexpected obstacle? Demand. Many people don't realize they have poor vision. "Someone who has never

had a pair of corrective glasses may not know how bad his or her eyes really are and what impact it has on their functionality," says Chen, who discovered his own need for lenses when he failed a driving test as a teenager.

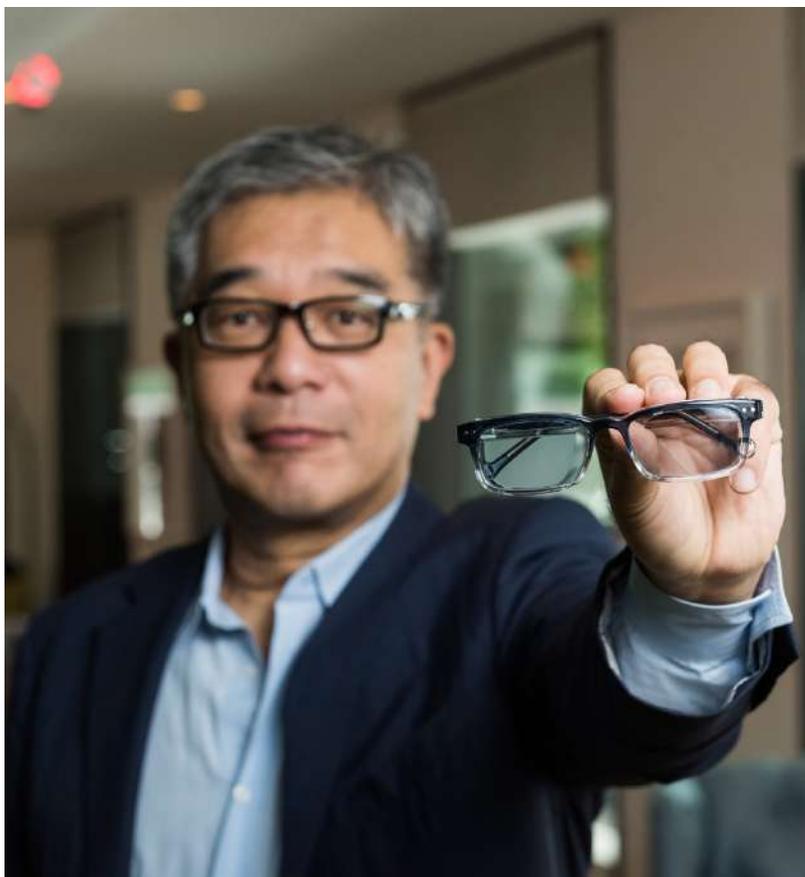
Some people know they need glasses but don't want them. Chen points to cultural biases, particularly for girls. In some societies, he says, parents worry that glasses might hinder their daughters' marriage prospects. Awareness remains a widespread challenge and a key part of Chen's personal mission.

"Sight is the golden thread of human development," Chen writes in his book, *Clearly* (Biteback Publishing, 2017), which shares its title with the nonprofit he founded in 2016 to raise awareness about vision care access through social media as well as petitions and other outreach.

This year VFAN launched a pilot program in the Central Region of Ghana that will expand nationwide in 2019. Chen hopes lessons learned in Rwanda will open doors to affordable eye care across the developing world. He's got a clear vision for the future.

—Ingrid Gonçalves, AB'08

SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER HAD A PAIR OF CORRECTIVE GLASSES MAY NOT KNOW HOW BAD HIS OR HER EYES REALLY ARE AND WHAT IMPACT IT HAS ON THEIR FUNCTIONALITY.



Chen hopes to replicate the success his nonprofit had in bringing affordable vision care to Rwanda.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRONNEX HU

Forward thinking

The UChicago Empower Initiative changes the admissions conversation, adds more financial aid.

In June the University announced it will no longer require the SAT/ACT for College applications—a decision widely reported in national and international media. While hundreds of US colleges do not require standardized tests, “Chicago’s move is the first by one of the very top research universities in the country,” *Inside Higher Ed* reported.

The new UChicago Empower Initiative updates this and other admissions policies to enable students to better represent themselves. “We want students to understand the application does not define you. You define the application,” says **James G. Nondorf**, vice president and dean of admissions.

The initiative also includes a substantial enhancement of financial aid. Tuition will now be free for families with incomes under \$125,000 a year (with typical assets). Families earning less than \$60,000 (again, with typical assets) will have tuition, fees, and room and board covered. First-generation students will receive a \$20,000 scholarship over four years and a guaranteed paid internship the summer after their freshman year, regardless of family income.

Critics of standardized tests have long argued that the test scores correlate more strongly with socioeconomic background than with academic ability—while contributing to a lack of diversity on campus. UChicago Empower is intended to “level the playing field for talented first-generation and low-income students who perceive top-ranked colleges as inaccessible,” Nondorf says.

UCHICAGO EMPOWER IS INTENDED TO “LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR TALENTED FIRST-GENERATION AND LOW-INCOME STUDENTS WHO PERCEIVE TOP-RANKED COLLEGES AS INACCESSIBLE.”

As part of the test-optional process, applicants can choose which information best represents their skills and college readiness, including standardized test scores other than the SAT/ACT or nonstandard materials and accomplishments. Prospective students will have the option of including a two-minute video introduction as part of their applications, rather than an on-campus or alumni interview.

In-person interviews—both on campus and alumni interviews—are being phased out. First-generation, low-income, and other underrepresented students often couldn’t take advantage of interviews because of time, cost, and other factors. Instead, the Office of College Admissions will partner with Wisr, an online platform that allows alumni and prospective students to connect before and during the admissions process. Through Wisr, alumni volunteers can interact with students of

similar interests, answer questions, and share knowledge with a broad set of students, unlimited by geographical distance.

The new initiative “continues the College’s unwavering commitment to access and inclusion,” says **John W. Boyer**,

AM’69, PhD’75, dean of the College and a first-generation student himself. “Throughout the past century, UChicago has considered a broad diversity of cultural perspectives and academic merit without regard to socioeconomic class.” The Odyssey Scholarship Program, the flagship financial aid initiative established in 2007, removes such barriers to a College education by eliminating student loans and providing other kinds of support.

The College admissions process always stresses to applicants that there’s no one piece of information—academic and extracurricular records, essays, or letters of recommendation—that alone determines whether or not a student would be a good fit for the College. Instead, each application goes through a holistic

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER’S INDEX VENTURED AND GAINED

Years since the founding of the Edward L. Kaplan, MBA’71, New Venture Challenge (NVC):

22

NVC alumni companies still in existence today:

300+

Ice cream-related ventures that have participated:

2

Amount, in millions, PayPal paid to acquire 2007 NVC winner Braintree:

\$800

2018 finalists:

11

Amount received by 2006 first-prize winner GrubHub:

\$25,000

Amount received by 2018 first-prize winner Manifest:

\$315,000

review process. Admissions officers say that students' transcripts—their high school grades and rigor of courses—along with their responses to the University's famously creative supplemental essay questions, are the most valuable predictors of future performance.

But wait, there's more. UChicago Empower expands the College's current Police and Fire Scholarships for the City of Chicago nationwide: select children of police officers and firefighters will receive full-tuition scholarships. The College is also working to increase the number of veterans on campus by partnering with the Posse Foundation Veterans Program. The first undergraduate Veterans Posse cohort will enter UChicago in autumn 2020.

The initiative offers more kinds of support for current College students too. For example, through Wisr, first-generation and low-income students will be able to connect more easily with alumni mentors.

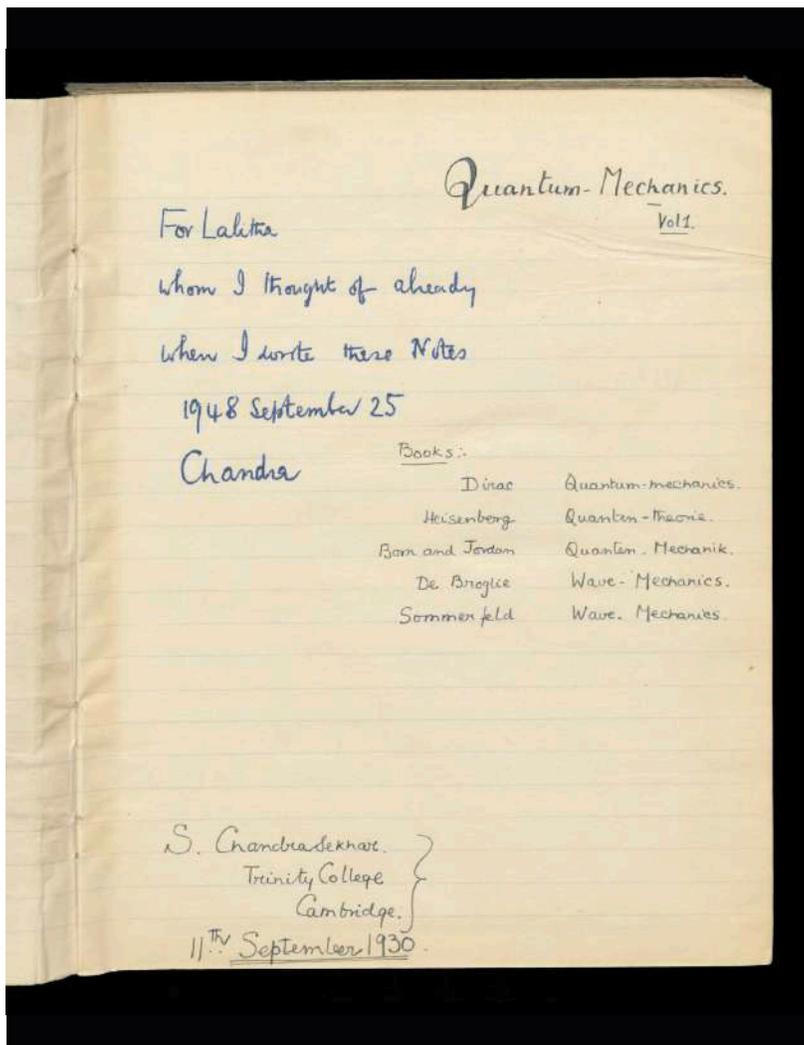
A new Summer Scholars Program for African American Students, sponsored by the Allison Davis Jr. Education Summit and the UChicago Women's Board, will provide fully funded summer opportunities at UChicago for talented students from underrepresented high schools. This program builds on the success of the Neubauer Adelante Summer Scholars program for students from Latino/Hispanic communities.

UChicago Empower also targets high schools, earmarking new funding for professional development programming for counselors from rural schools, as well as expanding admissions workshops for Illinois high school students.

Although alumni interviews are being phased out, College Admissions still needs an army of volunteers. Alumni are invited to attend college fairs held around the country, where they can chat with prospective students about their own College experiences and answer questions. Alumni are also needed to mentor undergraduates through Wisr. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact College Admissions at alumnischoolscommittee@uchicago.edu.

—Carrie Golus, AB'91, AM'93

ORIGINAL SOURCE LOVE NOTES



In 1930 Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, then 19, left his native city of Lahore, India (now Pakistan) and headed for England. As he embarked on postgraduate study at Cambridge University, Chandrasekhar was beginning to develop the theory of star evolution that later earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics.

He had other preoccupations as well. Two years earlier Chandrasekhar had met Lalitha Doraiswamy, a fellow physics student at Presidency College in Madras, India (now Chennai, India). She was on his mind as

he jotted notes on a quantum mechanics course at Cambridge, he wrote in a dedication inscribed on the notebook's front page in 1948. Those notes, along with many of Chandrasekhar's other personal papers, are now open to researchers at the University of Chicago Library.

The notes are dated September 11, a day that would prove important in Chandrasekhar's life. Exactly six years later, Lalitha and Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar were married, and remained so until his death in 1995.

—Susie Allen, AB'09

FOR THE RECORD

TRAUMA CENTER OPENS

The University of Chicago Medicine began providing adult trauma care on May 1, with the first patient brought by ambulance at noon that day. The level 1 adult trauma center adds to UChicago Medicine's pediatric trauma and burn services, providing the community with a comprehensive system of care to treat the full range of trauma injuries in patients of all ages. Since announcing plans to become a level 1 adult trauma center in December 2015, UChicago Medicine has hired 18 experienced trauma professionals from around the country, including five surgeons.



NEW DEAN FOR PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Angela V. Olinto, the Albert A. Michelson Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, was named dean of the Division of the Physical Sciences. Her appointment took effect July 1. Olinto is a leader in the field of astroparticle physics and cosmology, focusing on understanding the origin of high-energy cosmic rays, gamma rays, and neutrinos. She succeeds **Edward "Rocky" Kolb**, the Arthur Holly Compton Distinguished Service Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics, who served as dean from 2013 to 2018.

MAKING A SPLASH AT MBL

Nipam Patel, a top scholar of modern evolutionary and developmental biology, has been appointed director of the UChicago-affiliated Marine Biological Laboratory, effective

September 4. In addition, Patel will be appointed as a faculty member at UChicago. He currently holds the William V. Power Endowed Chair in Biology at the University of California, Berkeley, where he is a professor and cochair of the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology and a professor in the Department of Integrative Biology.

PROVOSTIAL POST

Daniel Abebe, AM'06, PhD'13, was named vice provost of the University, effective July 1. In this role, he will lead a range of critical efforts in support of the University's academic units. He also will serve as the faculty director of UChicagoGRAD, the University's initiative for graduate students and postdocs. Abebe is the Harold J. and Marion F. Green Professor of Law and Walter Mander Teaching Scholar. His research focuses on the relationship between foreign relations law and public international law.



STRONG ECONOMIC FORECAST

Economist **Sendhil Mullainathan** joined the Chicago Booth faculty as University Professor on July 1. He previously was the Robert C. Waggoner Professor of Economics at Harvard. His research spans behavioral, labor, and public economics; corporate finance; and the intersection of machine learning and public policy. Mullainathan is the 22nd person to hold a University Professorship, and one of nine active faculty members with that title. University Professors are selected for internationally recognized eminence and

potential for impact across the University.

BOARD REELECTS NEUBAUER AS CHAIR

The Board of Trustees has reelected **Joseph Neubauer**, MBA'65, as its chair, and **Ashley D. Joyce**, AM'01, and **Brien M. O'Brien** have joined the board as new members, the University announced June 11. O'Brien also has been elected chair of the UChicago Medical Center's Board of Trustees, which he joined in 2005. Neubauer, the retired chairman of the ARAMARK Corporation, has served on the University's Board of Trustees since 1992 and as chair since 2015. He and his wife, Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer, have a long history of service and generous philanthropic giving to the University.

CURBING CONFLICT

The Pearson Global Forum will take place October 4–5, bringing together scholars, policy makers, and other stakeholders to examine strategies to prevent, deescalate, and resolve violent conflicts around the world. The inaugural Forum will be held at the University of Chicago and hosted by The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts, launched at UChicago in 2015. The Forum will convene researchers, students, policy makers, and individuals working in conflict zones or with victims of conflict. The event will focus on bridging a critical gap between research and policy and using empirical insights to inform more effective policies.

COURTING SUCCESS

Angel Ysaquarre has been appointed executive director of the University of Chicago's Court Theatre, effective September 4. Ysaquarre, who previously led the nonprofit Illinois Humanities, will work alongside **Charlie Newell**, the Marilyn F. Vitale Artistic Director, as coleader of the University's professional theater. Founded in 1955, Court was dubbed "the most

consistently excellent theater company in America" by the *Wall Street Journal* in 2006.

AN APPLE FOR THE TEACHER

At convocation, 10 members of the UChicago faculty were honored for their work in the classroom. **Stuart Gazes**, senior lecturer in physics; **Kimberly Hoang**, assistant professor in sociology; **Boaz Keysar**, professor in psychology; **Peggy Mason**, professor in neurobiology; and **Nadine Moeller**, associate professor of Egyptian archaeology, received the Llewellyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. The Faculty Awards for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring went to **Niall Atkinson**, associate professor of art history; **Rina Foygel Barber**, SM'09, PhD'12, associate professor in statistics; **John Brehm**, professor in political science; **David Freedman**, professor in neurobiology; and **Susan Schreiner**, professor of the history of Christianity and theology.



DECADES IN THE MAKING

On June 9, more than 70 years after taking her first UChicago course, **June Gordon Marks Patinkin**, 90, received her bachelor's degree in political science. Patinkin, LAB'44, AB'18, left school early to work for the Marshall Plan. When her family learned that Patinkin regretted never receiving her degree, they contacted the College and learned that, counting several classes she took at Northwestern University, she had enough credits to graduate.

Value judgment

A Harris scholar fights to reform the property tax system.

In 2015, if you'd asked property tax expert **Christopher Berry** about the work he did for the Cook County Assessor's Office, he would have said it was "a textbook example of how to do policy reform."

The Assessor's Office determines the value of properties in the county. But James Houlihan, the office's leader at the time Berry began his work, knew that some of those assessments were flawed. Low-priced homes were overvalued, and high-priced homes were undervalued. As a result, poor homeowners were paying more than their fair share in property taxes.

So, with Houlihan's blessing, Berry, AM'98, PhD'02, and consultant

Robert Weissbourd, JD'79, created a new computer model for the Assessor's Office to use. Their model was more sensitive to factors such as location and renovation that can influence a property's market value.

"It felt pretty successful," says Berry, the William J. and Alicia Townsend Friedman Professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. "Which I suppose then made it all the more depressing when it turned out to be a complete charade."

The first sign of trouble came in 2016 when Berry was contacted by Jason Grotto, then a reporter at the *Chicago Tribune*. What would you say, he asked Berry, if I told you the Assessor's Office had never implemented the new model you worked on?

Berry was dubious. The office, by this time under the leadership of influential Democrat Joe Berrios, had said publicly that the new model was better than the previous one by every measure. Weissbourd

had spent weeks training staff on the new system.

Grotto filed a Freedom of Information Act request and obtained the code the Assessor's Office was using to value homes. He showed it to Berry, who was surprised to discover that he was looking at the old, outdated model.

In a Pulitzer Prize-nominated series of *Tribune*/ProPublica Illinois

IT FELT PRETTY SUCCESSFUL. WHICH I SUPPOSE THEN MADE IT ALL THE MORE DEPRESSING WHEN IT TURNED OUT TO BE A COMPLETE CHARADE.

articles, the Assessor's Office tried to defend itself. First they claimed they were using the old and new models simultaneously. Then the office changed its story,

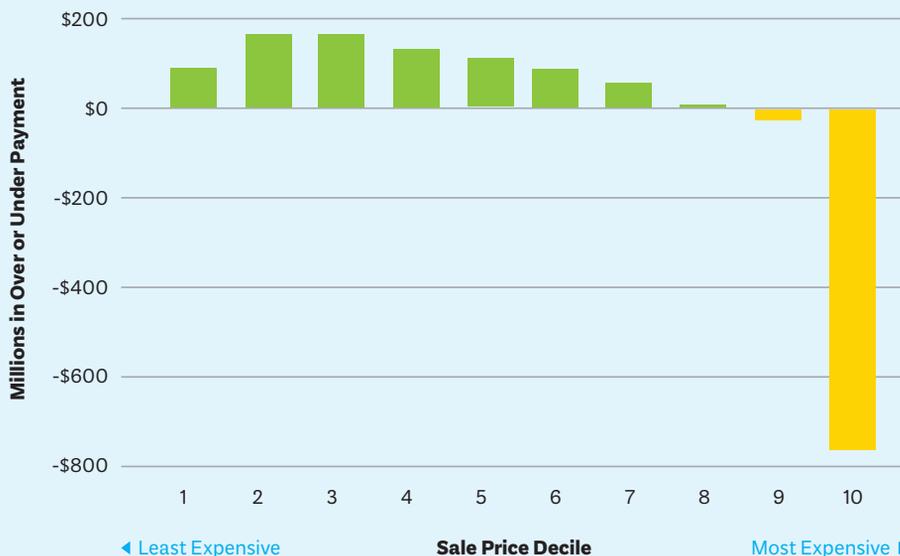
asserting they'd found issues with Berry and Weissbourd's model. But they never said exactly what the issues were, and neither researcher was ever contacted about any problems.

The *Tribune*/ProPublica investigation was the beginning of the end for Berrios. In the months that followed, he was called before the Cook County Board of Commissioners to defend



After studying property taxes in Cook County, Berry turned to Detroit and discovered an even more dire situation. Not only are less wealthy homeowners paying more than their fair share of property taxes, they are also at risk of losing their homes as a result.

Net Cook County Property Tax Shift 2011–15



Critics have argued for decades that property taxes in Cook County are highly regressive. To quantify the scale of the problem, Berry used properties that sold in Cook County between 2011 and 2015 to estimate the value of all residential properties in the county. He then divided the county’s homes into ten equal segments (deciles) based on their sale price, and compared the actual tax rate to a fair tax rate. The most expensive homes (decile 10), he found, were undertaxed to the tune of \$800 million, while the least expensive were overtaxed.

the work of his office and accused in a lawsuit of violating federal civil rights laws and housing laws. An independent study confirmed that, just as Berry and others had said, assessments were highly regressive. (Berry estimates that about a billion dollars in tax burden was shifted from the top 10 percent of homeowners to the bottom 90 percent.) In March 2018 the people spoke. Berrios lost his primary in what was widely regarded as an upset.

So why does Berry think the Assessor’s Office never used his model? He suspects it may be because it would have resulted in higher property taxes in wealthy parts of the city—and that would have been politically challenging for Berrios.

But sticking with the old model meant homeowners in less affluent communities paid more than their fair share of property taxes. One homeowner in the North Lawndale neighborhood told the *Tribune* the inflated assessments were

making it hard to keep up with tax payments on the small home she inherited from her parents.

That’s not what lawmakers intended. “People are supposed to be paying their tax proportional to the value of their property. That’s what policy makers have chosen,” Berry says. It’s not the assessor’s job to change the fundamental nature of the property tax system.

Studying Cook County left Berry wanting to know more about property tax assessments around the country. “One question is, ‘Is Cook County just an isolated case? Do we just have a bad assessor?’ ... Or is this a very general problem?” Through the Center on Municipal Finance at Harris Public Policy, which he directs, Berry has been trying to find out.

In March he and Bernadette Atuahene of the Chicago Kent College of Law released a study that found troubling levels of regressivity in Detroit’s assessments. The stakes

are even higher there, because in Michigan the county can foreclose on homes for property tax nonpayment. An astonishing 100,000 Detroit-area properties were foreclosed on for this reason between 2011 and 2015. Of these foreclosures, Berry and Atuahene estimate that 10 percent resulted from flawed assessments.

“When you combine those two things together—you combine the overassessment of poor households and the really rampant tax foreclosures—you start to wonder, is the one causing the other?” Berry says.

Meanwhile, in Cook County, a new assessor will take the reins of the office later this year. Fritz Kaegi, who is running unopposed in November, has pledged reform. But change will come with a cost in some of Chicago’s most prosperous neighborhoods. Berry doesn’t envy the work that lies ahead for Kaegi. “It’s going to be a hard job,” he says.—*Susie Allen, AB’09*



Philadelphia's young virtuosos in training can get free or low-cost instruction through the Settlement Music School, founded more than a century ago and led today by Helen Eaton, AM'00.

ARTS EDUCATION

Urban soundscape

At Philadelphia's Settlement Music School, led by Helen Eaton, AM'00, anyone can play.

Cecelia VonderLinden was surprised when her daughter, My Love, said she was going to audition for her public elementary school's production of *Annie*—more so when My wanted to play the lead role.

"She was always shy," recalls VonderLinden, who lives in Philadelphia, "but she memorized her lines so quickly, and got the part."

Her daughter's confidence grew, VonderLinden said, by participating in an after-school program devised by **Helen Eaton**, AM'00. My, now 11, is also a better student, says her mother, recently making her school's honor roll for the first time with nearly all As.

Eaton, who studied music history and theory at UChicago, is CEO of Philadelphia's Settlement Music School. Situated on a narrow street in one of Philadelphia's oldest residential

neighborhoods, just blocks from Center City, Settlement operates from the three-story red brick building where it has resided since 1917. More than 300,000 students have received music education at the school since its 1908 founding, including Albert Einstein, Chubby Checker, actor Kevin Bacon, Grammy-winning opera singer Eric Owens, and *Tonight Show* musician Questlove. Today the school has five branches throughout the Greater Philadelphia region and 5,000 students.

At Settlement anyone can pick up an instrument, exercise their vocal chords, or train their ear. There are programs for age groups from babies and toddlers to adults, with the bulk of them aimed at children and teens. Some are designed to address the decline of arts education in US public schools, especially in lower-income areas.

For instance, the Teacher Training Institute for the Arts targets early childhood professionals and preschool and elementary teachers who want to bring arts instruction into their classroom. And, for the past five years, Settlement has brought music lessons straight to schools though Eaton's brainchild Music Education Pathways.

The program, in partnership with the School District of Philadelphia, provides intensive after-school band,

orchestra, and choir training in eight underserved schools throughout the city, enhancing the music instruction already offered by those schools. Classes are open to all and are based on the needs of each school. "The real opportunity in our community partnerships is that we bring the teachers directly to where the students are," says Eaton.

Playing music was Eaton's first love and ambition. She took up the violin at age 8 before switching to viola at 16, inspired by a family friend who played the instrument for the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania and earning a certificate in viola performance from the Juilliard School, Eaton was accepted into UChicago's musicology program and headed west with Guillaume Combet, a violinist who is now her husband. It was in Chicago that she began warming to the idea of a career in music education, en route to full conversion.

From the time she was an applicant, Eaton was struck by the UChicago music faculty's "holistic approach to their teaching that really embraced the natural curiosity of their students." While still in graduate school she began teaching at the West Loop's Merit School of Music, whose efforts focus on young people, from babies to high school se-

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATT STANLEY, COURTESY SETTLEMENT MUSIC SCHOOL

niors. There she hoped to tap into the “joy the professors at UChicago were experiencing in their teaching.”

She did. At Merit Eaton found her own joy in witnessing the opportunities afforded to young students from all economic backgrounds. She remembers walking the hallways on Saturdays, when Merit’s Alice S. Pfaelzer Tuition-Free Conservatory for the most accomplished young musicians was in session. “I felt the excitement of the students to be there, students from all over the city coming together, playing side by side.” She taught at Merit for five years before moving to the school’s administration with the aspiration that “one day

I could play a part in making a difference in families’ lives.”

From Merit Eaton moved to the Chicago Children’s Choir, where she was president and executive director for almost three years before being named Settlement’s CEO in 2010. In that position she’s focused on suffusing music education across the greater Philly community, working on the school’s own turf and around the city, with partners such as social service agencies, libraries, and retirement homes.

Eaton’s work is hardly done. Settlement recently received grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Pew Center for Arts and Heritage that are shaping its future ambitions.

The Mellon grant, with Settlement as the lead partner for 10 institutions including the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Temple University Music Preparatory Division, will support the pursuit of greater diversity in classical music through identifying and nurturing young musicians, while the Pew grant will help Settlement’s faculty members develop new teaching methods and curricula for 21st-century music students.

Under Eaton’s watch Settlement’s work is expanding in many directions. “It’s all about equitable access,” she says, “and the critical role the arts play in creating opportunity.”

—Jon Caroulis

CITATIONS



Mix two parts cornstarch and one part water and you’ve got a fluid that exhibits shear thickening behavior.

THE PLOT THICKENS

If you’ve ever played with oobleck—a goopy mixture of cornstarch and water—you’ve seen that certain fluids, when mixed at high speeds, become so viscous they’re nearly impossible to stir. Scientists have been trying to understand this phenomenon, called shear thickening, for decades, because it may reduce the energy consumption in many industrial processes. One theory? A phenomenon called order-to-disorder transition

might be the cause. In order-to-disorder transition, particles arrange themselves neatly at low speeds and become disordered at high speeds. But there was a problem: researchers only observed this transition in some shear thickening liquids. Using an advanced X-ray technique, a team of scientists at Argonne National Laboratory determined that order-to-disorder transition and shear thickening are two separate phenomena. The results,

published January 9 in *Physical Review Letters*, bring scientists one step closer to solving the shear thickening mystery.

QUANTUM FORCE

It sounds like science fiction, but scientists are more and more confident that quantum entanglement—a force that links two objects, no matter how far apart they are—really exists. Now, in a paper published April 25 in *Nature*, a group of researchers, including **Aashish Clerk**, professor in the Institute for Molecular Engineering, have managed to link the motion of two aluminum plates about 20 microns across. They achieved this quantum feat using a custom-designed circuit made out of a superconducting metal. The plates are about the diameter of a human hair, making them among the largest objects scientists have yet entangled. By harnessing the property of quantum entanglement, scientists hope to develop more powerful sensors and computers.

NO DOWNSIDES

Almost one in four adults in India participates in a program that guarantees them 100 days of paid employment on public works projects. It’s a boon to struggling rural communities, but some policy makers worry that the program, established

in 2006, dissuades families from educating their children, thereby harming India’s long-term economic growth. In a Becker Friedman Institute working paper released in May, **Anjali Adukia**, assistant professor at Harris Public Policy, lays those fears to rest. The employment program isn’t associated with a substantial decline in children’s education, Adukia found.

GREAT JOB!

How you praise toddlers can affect their performance in school years later, according to researchers including **Susan Goldin-Meadow**, the Bearsley Ruml Distinguished Service Professor in Psychology, and **Susan Levine**, the Rebecca Anne Boylan Professor in Education and Society. Previous research has shown that children who as toddlers received a high proportion of “process praise”—praise that focuses on effort (“you worked hard”), not innate ability (“you’re so smart”)—had more motivation for challenging tasks in school during second and third grade. By fourth grade, according to the new study published in *Developmental Psychology* in March, these children also had greater achievement in math and reading comprehension.

—Susie Allen, AB’09

FIG. 1 HABIT FARMING

The crops our ancestors grew may affect our behavior today, according to a new study published in *Science Advances* this April by Thomas Talhelm, assistant professor of behavioral science and William Ladany Faculty Scholar at Chicago Booth.

For several years Talhelm has studied cultural variation in northern and southern China. Southerners have the reputation of being deferential and conflict averse, while northerners are thought to be more pugnacious and individualistic. (Talhelm, who's lived in both parts of the country, says he found the stereotypes to be true, broadly speaking.)

In a 2014 paper Talhelm argued the contrast stems, in part,

from the fact that the north is wheat growing while the south is rice growing. Wheat is relatively straightforward to cultivate, while “the irrigation networks that are involved in growing rice mean that farmers have to coordinate their water use,” he explains—giving rise to a more cooperative culture.

Talhelm was in search of a “more concrete” way to measure and observe these differences in behavior when, while sitting in a coffee shop, he noticed a departing patron had pulled out his chair, creating a narrow passage between it and another chair. To get through the trap, people could either move one of the chairs or squeeze between them.

It was a simple way to test the differences that interested him: Which people change their environment and which change themselves?

So Talhelm and a research assistant began creating “chair traps” in coffee shops across China and observing how customers responded.

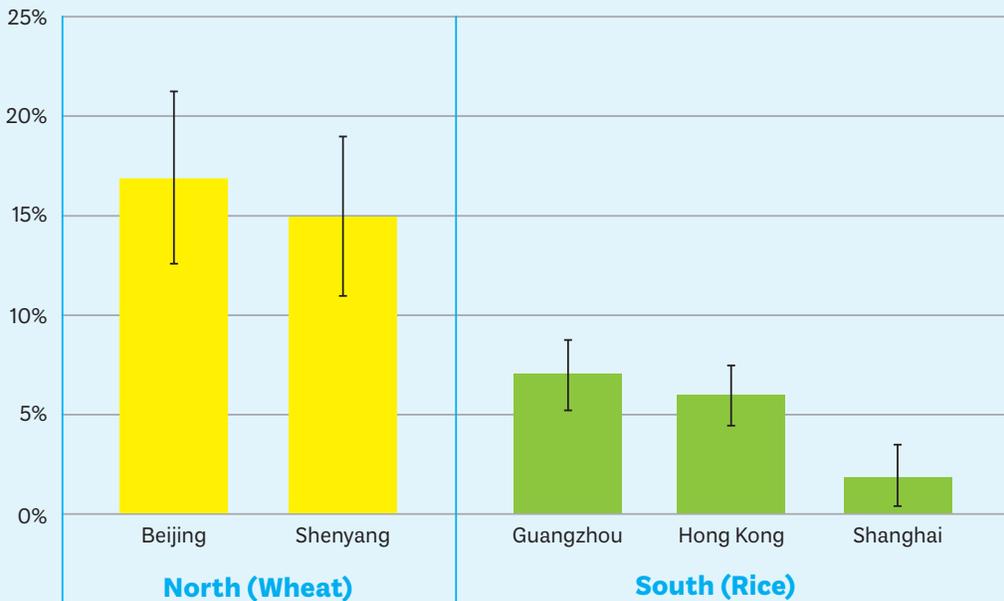
In a test of 678 people, northerners were more likely to move the chairs than southerners (see figure below). Northerners, the same paper revealed, were also much more likely to be found sitting alone.

None of the people they studied were farmers, Talhelm notes. Yet “these elements of historical culture are still shaping people in the modern world.”

—Susie Allen, AB'09

Percent of coffee shop patrons moving chair

Bars represent one standard error of the mean (SEM).



GRAPHIC BY LAURA LORENZ (DATA FROM TALHELM, ET AL.)

White power is not new

Historian Kathleen Belew finds an unexpected origin for a resurgent movement.

The Vietnam War created the contemporary white power movement in the United States. That's the provocative claim of *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America* (Harvard University Press, 2018) by **Kathleen Belew**, assistant professor of US history.

In the aftermath of Vietnam, white power activists drew a straight line from that war to the revolution they hoped to bring about in the United States. The story they told about Vietnam—soldiers betrayed by political leaders and the military, their sacrifice trivialized—helped unite disparate white supremacy groups, such as the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis.

The title of Belew's book comes from white power leader and Vietnam veteran Louis Beam, who urged

his followers to bring the war home. In 1977 Beam created Camp Puller, a Vietnam War-style training facility in Texas, "to turn Klansmen into soldiers," Belew writes. It was the beginning of the militarization of the white power movement.

For more of this conversation, visit mag.uchicago.edu/belew. This interview has been edited and condensed.

—*Carrie Golus, AB'91, AM'93*

In your book, you draw a picture of a national coordinated white power movement. Has your work been met with any skepticism?

None of the events I write about are discovered in this book. Everything has been documented by journalists, watchdog groups, ethnographers, sociologists. But this is the first book that takes an archival perspective and a wide-angle view.

There has been excellent work done by journalists looking at one event in one place. For example, the 1984 murder of Alan Berg [a Denver talk show host who criticized white power groups] was reported in great depth in the *Rocky Mountain News* and the *Denver Post*. But journalists wouldn't necessarily connect that murder to what other white power activists were doing in other places.

Similarly, ethnographers have done deep work, but they spend perhaps two years with one group. So again, you get fragmented views of the whole.

The book culminates in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Is this commonly understood as the work of the white power movement?

At the time, Timothy McVeigh's actions were dismissed as those of a lone wolf by the FBI and the media.

But the social geography of his life shows many connections, ideologically and materially, with the white power movement. He structured his actions based on manuals, such as *The Turner Diaries* [by William Luther Pierce as Andrew Macdonald, National Vanguard Books, 1978], that directed white power activists.

If you see the Oklahoma City bombing—which killed 168 people—as part of the white power movement, it changes a lot about how we think about the supposedly race-neutral 1980s and 1990s.

You're probably one of the few people who wasn't surprised by the recent surge in public white nationalism.

It's an odd thing to have your project shift in such a dramatic way. In an earlier version of my book, I explained why it's important to study the fringe. My editor ended up striking that entire section. All of a sudden my topic of study was in the mainstream.

It's disheartening. I would rather have been wrong. But history can give us some tools about how to respond—what has and hasn't worked in the past. This may seem astonishing and new, but it is not new.

What were the biggest surprises for you?

The level at which social relationships were managed by women staggered me. If you look at intermarriages, you can really see how white power functions as a social movement that connects different regions, social classes, urban and rural areas. There's a web of people.

Yet another surprise was that these white power activists were using technology very early. In 1984 they established Liberty Net, a protosocial network. They were early adopters who were very skilled in this arena. They had a decade of practice using this before the Oklahoma City bombing.

Your book belies the stereotype of uneducated, rural white power activists.

The movement is not Southern, it's not low class, it's not uneducated, and it never has been. David Duke was wearing a suit, going on talk shows, and presenting a more genteel image for the Klan in the 1970s. White power is a bridge movement that has brought in a whole lot of people.

What's it like to write about such recent history?

My training is in American studies, which has a less rigid divide about what's far enough back to study. In the discipline of history, there's a harder line: 25 years or more.

My work on white power could help navigate the crush of information in these very emotional current events. We can't afford to wait 25 years to understand what's happening now.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANNE RYAN

AMERICAN HISTORY

Anatomy of Song

BY JEANIE CHUNG

It's the second week of spring quarter in Making and Meaning in the American Musical, and **Thomas Christensen**, the Avalon Foundation Professor of Music and the Humanities, asks the class what may be the central question for anyone who's ever watched musical theater—and certainly for many people who dislike it—“Why is everyone singing?”

The class is discussing a scene in the 1936 film version of the Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein musical *Show Boat*. When the handsome riverboat gambler Gaylord Ravenal meets Magnolia Hawks, the riverboat captain's daughter, they break into the song “Make Believe.” But why?

The song is about two people falling in love, and one student says the music “has this tendency to kind of jump-start emotional processes.”

“The fact that it was a duet kind of implies something intimate about it,” a classmate adds. “They're already communicating—even though they don't know each other, there's a connection.”

Christensen reads Hammerstein's lyrics: “Only make believe I love you. Only make believe that you love me. Others find peace of mind in pretending. Couldn't you? Couldn't I? Couldn't we?” He reads a few more lines as the students giggle.

“It's not exactly Shakespeare, is it?” he says. “But within those six lines or so, you basically have accelerated something that should take hours, days of getting to know someone, or maybe in normal life, weeks and months.”

He points out that earlier in the movie, several characters sing “Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man.” Christensen borrows a term from film to describe

the music in that scene: diegetic. The music is happening within the world of the show, and the characters know they're singing. In contrast, “Make Believe,” like many romantic duets, is nondiegetic—the music is an expression of the characters' inner thoughts, not part of the outer world they inhabit.

The music “sneaks up underneath you,” Christensen says, “and presumably the characters aren't aware of it until they start singing. In a sense, this is just their emotional personae coming through.”

Music, he notes, is not only an emotional expression. It also tells the truth



Presumably the characters aren't aware of it until they start singing. In a sense, this is just their emotional personae coming through.

of the situation even when the action says otherwise. For example, at the end of the “Make Believe” scene, as Ravenal learns that the judge wants to talk to him, the music turns to a minor key, signaling something ominous lies ahead.

Over the quarter, the students analyze four musicals: *Show Boat* (1927), *South Pacific* (1949), *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (1979), and *Hamilton* (2015). They examine the cultural and historical contexts around each of them, focusing on social class in *Sweeney Todd* and race in the other three shows.

But the course is called Making and Meaning, and Christensen also wants the students to understand a little of the technical craft of creating a musical. In week six, after a discussion of song anatomy and Stephen Sondheim's use of lyric and rhyme in *Sweeney Todd*, the class has a more creative assignment: write lyrics for their own musical theater number.

“A refrain is usually a great thing to have,” Christensen tells students when he hands the papers back, citing the repetition of lines in *Sweeney Todd* (“Nothing's gonna harm you”), *South Pacific* (“You've got to be carefully taught”), and *Show Boat* (“Can't help lovin' dat man”).

Overall, he found the students' lyrics clever, and projects a few on the screen.

“The SOSC Class Song,” according to the student who wrote it, satirizes “the condescension that can be expressed in a SOSC class—the tension between the academic establishment and some students who might be less into it.” It begins with a student walking into class and Karl Marx chanting “Religion is the opiate of the people.”

ILLUSTRATION BY ALLAN BURCH

then proceeds to a duet between the student and a professor, with the rest of the class chiming in as a chorus. Like a UChicago version of “50 Ways to Leave Your Lover,” much of the song consists of lines like, “Buon giorno, Mr. Adorno / How do you do, Montesquieu,” and name checks Milton Friedman, AM’33, alongside social sciences staples like Adam Smith, Ayn Rand, Simone de Beauvoir, and Michel Foucault, before the bridge: “You’ll learn in SOSC class just how little you really know.”

Christensen repeats his advice about the refrain. Then, to illustrate how it might work, he sits down at the Logan Center penthouse’s grand piano to improvise a melody that sounds a little like “Food, Glorious Food” from *Oliver!*

Christensen had told students they could explain the plot and characters to provide context for their songs, and some “essentially sketched out a whole musical,” he says.

One of them has written both melody and accompaniment for his song from an imagined musical adaptation of *Macbeth*. Like *West Side Story* did with *Romeo and Juliet*, it borrows the ideas and plot of Shakespeare, but not the specific language.

The song comes near the end of the play, after Lady Macbeth has killed herself and Macbeth is plunging deeper into madness: “Everything I’ve longed for / Everyone I’ve wronged for / All my life prolonged for / This. / Meaningless.” Accompanied by Christensen on piano, the student performs the song for the class.

“I wanted to do something that was a bit like *Sweeney Todd*,” he says, “kind of this investigation of psychosis.” Christensen notes that the minor major seventh chord progression is sometimes known as the Herrmann chord, after film composer Bernard Herrmann, who used it to great effect in *Psycho*. He suggests a more gradual tempo acceleration in the accompaniment, and when they try it again, both think it works better.

The course requires each of the 25 students to perform an in-class interpretation of some part of a musical. Christensen, himself not a singer, permits those not musically inclined



Christensen’s course is not intended to be a history of musical theater, though the syllabus goes from oldest (*Show Boat*) to newest (*Hamilton*). About a quarter of the students in the spring 2018 course were music or theater and performance majors.

to act out a scene or deliver a monologue, but most of the enrolled students are comfortable singing, having performed in musicals in high school or elsewhere.

Today three students take on numbers from *Hamilton*, which the class will travel downtown to see on stage the following week. Many of them are already familiar with the songs; they nod along to “Helpless,” led by the character Eliza Hamilton, and mouth the words and backing vocals to “Satisfied,” a song/rap led by An-

gelica Schuyler, Eliza’s sister.

For the day’s final performance, the hip-hop-based “Guns and Ships,” sung by Aaron Burr, the Marquis de Lafayette, and George Washington, Christensen asks the class to yell out “Lafayette!” and “Hamilton!” at the appropriate times in the song. Even before that point, they’re snapping their fingers.

After the song ends with George Washington’s line, “The world will never be the same, Alexander,” students pack up to go, smiling. ♦

SYLLABUS

Making and Meaning in the American Musical meets twice a week. The class sees film or video of three musicals and attends a fourth show live. Christensen first taught the course in spring 2017.

Sondheim is Christensen’s favorite musical theater composer; he taught *Company* in 2017, *Sweeney Todd* this year, and hopes to take the class to *West Side Story* in

2019. In addition to short writing assignments, including the original lyrics and a review of *Hamilton*, students submit a final paper discussing an element—such as a song, a recurring melody or lyric, or a character—from a musical of their choice that is not discussed in the course.

As a Signature Course—an elective designed to be an introductory level

course but not a survey or beginning methods course—Making and Meaning is open to anyone. Both times it’s been offered, it has filled up immediately, even when the syllabus didn’t include a trip to *Hamilton* (made possible through funding from the College, the Course Arts Resource Fund, and the Department of Music, plus a \$40 per student contribution).—J. C.

public policy

CORRECTIVE MEASURES

A UChicago professor spearheads an initiative to end mass incarceration.

BY LUCAS MCGRANAHAN

Most people believe in a world of second chances,” said Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) at the Smart Decarceration Initiative conference held on the UChicago campus in November 2017. Durbin’s voice is just one in an emerging chorus of public officials, researchers, and community activists seeking alternatives to a system of mass incarceration that has taken hold in the United States like nowhere else in the world. “Now it’s up to us,” Durbin said.

The scale of the problem is difficult to overstate. In a now familiar story, the United States has emerged as the global leader in incarceration, driven by efforts such as the federal Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, mandatory minimum sentences (including a host of state-level “three-strikes” laws), and a decades-long war on drugs. Today the United States has under 5 percent of the world’s population but over 20 percent of its prisoners. Its total prison and jail census exceeds that of any other coun-

try, including the closest runners-up, China and Russia.

But the high-water mark for incarceration in the United States may be behind us. In 2009, after 37 consecutive years of growth, the US incarceration rate finally leveled off and began to decline slightly. This shift may have been a response to short-term budget crunches in the Great Recession, but it has given lawmakers an opportunity to question what is still an over \$50 billion annual expenditure on incarceration—difficult to justify in the face of research showing that time behind bars generally increases rather than decreases chances of recidivism.

And no budget line captures the human costs of incarceration: permanently disrupted families, educations, housing, and careers, all borne disproportionately by people with mental illness and communities of color, further entrenching existing inequities.

Remarkably, the intentional reduction of incarceration, or decarceration, now has potentially as much bipartisan appeal as “tough on crime” legislation once did, winning advocates from Black Lives Matter activists to former Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich. The question is what to do with this historic opening.

©2018 ROBERT NEUBECKER C/O THE SPOT





Matthew Epperson's course on decarceration draws students from across the University's schools and divisions.

Matthew Epperson, an associate professor in the School of Social Service Administration, has more than an academic understanding of the effects of incarceration. With 15 years of experience as a practicing social worker, including six as a crisis mental health counselor at a county jail in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he has seen firsthand how the criminal justice system fails to meet the needs of individuals and communities.

For a significant proportion of the inmates Epperson worked with, jail was part of a recurring pattern generated by untreated mental illness or addiction. "There were some folks I knew on a first-name basis because they were in and out of the jail, sometimes weekly, sometimes multiple times in the same day." For them, jail was neither a deterrent to future behavior nor a treatment for current problems. To Epperson, it felt like a waste. So he set up a program to divert individuals with serious mental illness away from jail and into treatment. Incarceration and mental illness remains a focus of his research at SSA today.

When Epperson began as a social worker in the mid-1990s, the term "mass incarceration" was not on the tip of everyone's tongue. We did not have Michelle Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (The New Press, 2010) or the documentary film *13th* (2016), each of which traces disparities in the criminal justice system to a troubled historical legacy rooted in slavery. Nor did we have the TV series *Orange Is the New Black* (2013–), with its humanizing portrayal of prisoners. Even a sympathetic insider might have been unaware of the full scope of the problem.

A light-bulb moment for Epperson came at a conference after his first year at the jail, which outlined how the United States had become historically and globally unique in its reliance on incarceration. "It wasn't just happening in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It wasn't just happening to the person across from me. It was happening everywhere."

Epperson has also seen mental health services from an administrative perspective, leaving Michigan for a stint as a mental health administrator in North Carolina. There he felt unprepared by his experience as a clinician for such tasks as overseeing the center's managed care and mental health service contracts. He says that his lack of research knowledge was typical of mental health administrators.

Sensing how much more there was to learn, Epperson decided to get a PhD—"probably the best career decision I made," he says. As a professor he could still work directly with the community while also conducting research and teaching a new generation of students to critically evaluate the criminal justice system.

At SSA Epperson's research focuses on risk factors for criminal involvement among individuals with mental illness, as well as the development of conceptual frameworks for effective and sustainable decarceration. He cofounded the Smart Decarceration Initiative in 2014 with collaborators at the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. However, plans are underway for Epperson's work in this area—now called simply "Smart Decarceration"—to be housed within a new criminal justice-focused center to be established at SSA. Epperson is also a leader of the Promote Smart Decarceration initiative of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, one of that organization's 12 Grand Challenges for Social Work intended to address the nation's toughest social problems.

The goal of Smart Decarceration is to transform the criminal justice system by reducing the incarcerated population in a way that redresses social disparities and enhances public safety. Its strategy—demonstrated so far by a book and two national conferences—is to source perspectives and evidence from everyone researching, working in, or impacted by the criminal justice system.

"Incarceration could look quite different in 10 or 20 years," Epperson says. "We want to shape how it looks different."

TODAY THE UNITED STATES HAS UNDER 5 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION BUT OVER 20 PERCENT OF ITS PRISONERS.

For Epperson, it's critical that we scrutinize the function of incarceration. Despite the optimistic 18th-century conception of the penitentiary as a place for penitence, or the righting of one's character through self-reflection, prisons and jails are actively hostile places for rehabilitation. Nor do harsh sentences seem to deter criminal behavior in the general population. Incarceration may inflict retribution, but this is an unquantifiable and, to Epperson's mind, dubious goal. In the end, Epperson thinks that incarceration is only effective at incapacitating individuals who pose an imminent threat to the community—perhaps just a small fraction of those languishing in America's jails and prisons today.

Narrowing the role of incarceration in society requires outlining alternatives. A host of other criminal justice sanctions are available: jail-diversion programs provide community-based treatment to those with serious mental illness or substance abuse disorders; deferred prosecution allows charges to be dropped in exchange for making restitution to victims or completing rehabilitation programs; and community supervision (probation and parole) allows individuals to maintain family and work lives while serving a sentence. Some jurisdictions use these interventions regularly within specialized courts that seek to address the needs of particular communities: drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans courts.

Epperson is currently coleading a study on deferred prosecution programs in Cook County, Milwaukee County, and St. Louis, with the aim of designing a future randomized trial experiment on the practice. In his view, calling such approaches "alternatives" already cedes too much ground, since it implicitly accepts that incarceration is the default remedy. To his mind, incarceration is just one tool in the tool kit—the heaviest and bluntest one. "How did we end up in a place where if somebody has a drug habit and they steal something from a store ... our default response would be they should sit behind bars tonight and possibly for the next few months or years?"

Borrowing from the field of medicine, Epperson suggests that different cases require different levels of care. Incarceration may be viewed as a particularly high level of care for protecting public safety. You don't perform surgery on a scraped knee, increasing expense and risk for no reason. And time behind bars may be an inappropriate remedy for a drug offense. Whether in medicine or criminal justice, inpatient care is to be avoided where outpatient care will do.

A medical lens on the issue also tends to make discussions more scientific and less narrowly moralistic. "In adopting a public health approach," writes Ernest Drucker, a New York University professor of global public health, "decarceration efforts are less likely to blame and stigmatize individuals; instead, decarceration can focus on the adverse policies and pathogenic environments imposed on entire populations." A participant in the Smart Decarceration Initiative's 2015 inaugural conference, Drucker has recently edited an anthology titled *Decarcerating America: From Mass Punishment to Public Health* (The New Press, 2018).

A public health approach may require changes throughout the criminal justice system. For instance, Cook County sheriff Tom Dart opened a new Supportive Release Center in 2017 with grant funding from UChicago Urban Labs and in partnership with Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities and Heartland Alliance Health. After they're released, some of the most in-need former inmates can now spend the night at a repurposed mobile home near the jail, where they may eat, sleep, wash clothes, and arrange for services such as housing assistance and mental health counseling. Dart sees it as obvious that this model should be scaled up and replicated widely.

Effective decarceration would depend largely on the actions of prosecutors, Epperson says. This means that prosecutors should not be rewarded for processing large volumes of cases with high conviction rates, but for carefully applying sanctions that don't unduly disrupt the lives of individuals or communities. "A prosecutor's role is really to promote safety and justice," he says. In that role, they "have to respond to the evidence that shows that just locking people up doesn't achieve those things."

Some prosecutors across the country are getting on board. For instance, Philadelphia district attorney Larry Krasner, a former civil rights lawyer, made headlines with the controversial idea that prosecutors ought to discuss the price tag of incarceration with judges during sentencing. Funds saved by using less expensive sanctions—say, court-mandated addiction treatment—could be used to address unmet needs in the community, potentially making everyone safer. John Chisholm, district attorney of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin,

sin, coauthored a chapter in the Smart Decarceration Initiative's book, *Smart Decarceration: Achieving Criminal Justice Transformation in the 21st Century* (Oxford University Press, 2017), outlining principles for fair sentencing that address the seriousness of a crime while preserving the defendant's basic means of citizenship.

An emerging leader in prosecutorial reform is Kim Foxx, the state's attorney for Cook County, Illinois. Foxx was elected in 2016 as the first African American woman to lead the county's prosecutor's office, which is the second largest in the United States. Foxx has recommended the increased use of personal recognizance bonds, which allow low-risk defendants to sign a written promise to appear in court without the need for cash bail. As Katie Hill, director of policy, research, and development in Foxx's office, described at the 2017 Smart Decarceration conference, attorneys are now encouraged to seek cash bail only as a last resort.

Many poor defendants nationwide sit in jail only because they are unable to afford bail. A September 2017 order by Cook County chief judge Timothy Evans required judges to set affordable cash bail for defendants not deemed to be dangerous. By December of that year, the population of Cook County Jail had reduced by 20 percent, dipping below 6,000 for the first time in decades.

Some contend that Cook County's criminal justice reform has not gone far enough. The electronic monitoring systems that are commonly replacing bail can limit movement in a way that's similar to incarceration. There are also concerns about judges' uneven adherence to new policies. On the other hand, Sheriff Dart claimed in February 2018 that the new rules go too far, letting potentially dangerous suspects walk the streets. He delayed some releases for a short time while conducting additional case reviews—a move that prompted backlash from both activists and fellow officials. Even those seeking a change of course are learning to steer the ship together as it moves.

Mass incarceration was a decidedly bipartisan creation, driven by a Republican-led war on drugs, a 1994 crime bill authored by Democratic senator Joe Biden and signed by President Bill Clinton, and a flurry of three-strikes laws that were nowhere more punitive than in heavily Democratic California. Today mass incarceration is once again an area of emerging bipartisan agreement, but in the opposite direction.

One Democrat seeking to make amends is Senator Durbin. Speaking at the 2017 Smart Decarceration conference, he publicly regretted the criminalizing attitude adopted by the public and policy makers during the crack-cocaine epidemic of the 1980s. He also frankly indicated

why he believes many Americans are readier for a more rehabilitative approach today: the opioid crisis is perceived as white and rural, whereas crack was understood as African American and urban.

Even with two forms of the same drug, racial and socioeconomic disparities are in plain view. The Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, authored by Durbin and signed by President Barack Obama, established an 18:1 sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and the powder form of the drug more popular among white and affluent users. The reason this law is considered a progressive reform is because it revises the ratio of 100:1 established under the Reagan administration in 1986.

The Smart Decarceration conference also featured a leading conservative voice on criminal justice: Marc Levin, the vice president of criminal justice policy at the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Right on Crime initiative. Epperson draws on Levin's perspective to supplement traditionally liberal or leftist arguments against mass incarceration with conservative ones.

Levin argues that we should employ the least restrictive criminal justice sanctions that are consistent with justice, while creating incentives rather than barriers to education and work. For the Right on Crime initiative, decarceration goes hand-in-hand with a conservative vision of "constitutionally limited government, transparency, individual liberty, personal responsibility, free enterprise, and the centrality of the family and community."

For instance, of about 11.5 million Americans cycling in and out of jails each year, the majority are not convicted of a charge for which they are being held but are unable to afford cash bail, a system that arguably criminalizes poverty and vitiates the ideal of presumed innocence. Moreover, Levin points out, one-fifth of those in jail in many jurisdictions are

OF ABOUT 11.5 MILLION AMERICANS CYCLING IN AND OUT OF JAILS EACH YEAR, THE MAJORITY ... ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD CASH BAIL.

there for unpaid fines for infractions that would not otherwise carry a jail sentence. “People end up in what basically is a debtors’ prison,” he says. One alternative, he suggests, is that courts be given the authority to assess the day fines—penalties limited to what an individual earns in a day—used in some European and Latin American countries.

Levin invokes a further principle, one that resonates with American religious conservatism: redemption. Incarceration and the restrictions on housing, educational opportunities, and job prospects that come with a criminal charge hinder individuals’ ability to pull themselves up, often when they are at their lowest point. It does not seem to be a system designed to offer second chances. One example of the antirehabilitative bent of the criminal justice system in recent decades is the banning of federal Pell Grants for prisoners in the 1994 federal crime bill. Educational grants for prisoners were partially revived under President Obama but face an uncertain future.

None of this is to mention cost savings, which are clearly appealing to fiscal conservatives. Why continue a \$50 billion annual expenditure that at best yields highly mixed results and at worst is a massive waste of human and economic potential? Levin says that he leads with the fiscal argument: “The appetizer is saving money, and the main course is public safety, keeping families together, getting people in the workforce.”

Durbin echoed this sentiment at the 2017 Smart Decarceration conference: “We’re talking about the primary breadwinners in many families spending their peak earning years behind bars, instead of contributing to their families and society. They end up costing society as prisoners.”

Levin’s position is not a fringe view on the right. In fact, many are eager to brand prison reform as a conservative-led cause. Signatories to the Right on Crime initiative include the likes of Jeb Bush, Mike Huckabee, Rick Perry, and Newt Gingrich. Gingrich and conservative activist Pat Nolan went on record promoting Right on Crime in a 2011 *Washington Post* opinion piece, where they argued that a reduction in incarceration is a win-win that saves money while increasing public safety. “If our prison policies are failing half of the time, and we know that there are more humane, effective alternatives, it is time to fundamentally rethink how we treat and rehabilitate our prisoners,” they contended.

“Everyone running on the Republican ticket for the 2016 election except for one candidate was pretty vocal about the need for criminal justice reform,” Epperson says. “That had never been the case in a presidential election in the last 30 years.”

Opposition to mass incarceration has not entirely won the day among Republicans, however, as the GOP nomination, and ultimately the presidency, went to the sole tough-on-crime voice in the group.

This is not the first time the United States has looked to significantly downsize a major social institution. Epperson cites the lessons of the 20th-century deinstitutionalization movement in mental health care, in which long-stay state psychiatric hospitals—criticized as isolated and stigmatizing—were largely replaced by community-based care. (See “Learning from Deinstitutionalization” page 29.)

Epperson says that deinstitutionalization was successful in meeting its target of closing down facilities, which it did ahead of schedule. “But it wasn’t successful because lots of these folks ended up not getting adequate support.” The analogy is clear enough: deinstitutionalization, whether in mental health or the criminal justice system, requires an adequately funded successor system. The evacuation of the institution is not itself the goal.

But it’s more than an analogy. Prisons and jails are not just like psychiatric institutions. They are in fact the largest psychiatric institutions in the United States, containing 10 times the number of individuals with serious mental illness—conditions such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depression—as America’s remaining psychiatric hospitals, according to the Treatment Advocacy Center. Cook County Jail by itself holds more individuals with serious mental illness than any state psychiatric hospital in the United States.

Most inmates do not receive any treatment for these disorders while behind bars, and sometimes receive worse than no treatment. In 2015 the State of Illinois settled a class-action lawsuit brought by 11,000 state prison inmates claiming cruel and unusual punishment for alleged abuses including the withholding of medications, the stripping and humiliation of suicidal prisoners, and the use of extensive solitary confinement as punishment for symptoms. The settlement calls for new residential treatment facilities, hundreds of new staff to provide treatment, and closer monitoring and additional out-of-cell time for mentally ill prisoners in solitary confinement. (In October 2017 three legal organizations filed a motion against the Illinois Department of Corrections, claiming it hadn’t met its obligations under the terms of the settlement.)

Some officials are taking more proactive measures. As the *New York Times* has reported, Sheriff Dart took the unusual step in 2015 of appointing a clinical psychologist, Nneka Jones Tapia, as warden of the county jail. Even before becoming warden, Jones Tapia had overseen the offering of new services in the jail: collecting mental health histories, arranging for diagnoses and medication, and forwarding pertinent mental health information to judges so that they could consider it in their rulings. In March 2018 she stepped down as warden after three years on the job, saying she hopes to be a resource to the jail in the future as a collaborator.

OVER 90 PERCENT OF INMATES HAVE HIGH LIFETIME RATES OF TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES SUCH AS ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND WITNESSING VIOLENCE.

As a fellow at the University of Chicago Institute of Politics in spring 2018, Jones Tapia led a series of seminars on the role of trauma in the criminal justice system—another important area of mental health crisis among the incarcerated.

Studies indicate that over 90 percent of inmates have high lifetime rates of traumatic experiences such as abuse, neglect, and witnessing violence. Symptoms commonly include anxiety brought on by associations with a traumatic event, which can lead sufferers to turn to drugs or alcohol for relief. Incarceration amplifies these effects, as incarceration is itself a traumatic experience. The problem is intergenerational: children of incarcerated parents are six times likelier than average to be incarcerated themselves.

Not everyone agrees that mass incarceration is a problem. Tough-on-crime rhetoric such as President Donald J. Trump's resonates with the belief that a bad deed deserves punishment, while stoking the fear that either we or our loved ones may fall prey to malevolent forces in a dangerous world. At its most unseemly, such rhetoric appeals to dehumanizing, frequently racialized images of exactly whom decent people must be defended from. A concern for the welfare of perpetrators appears misplaced, the very definition of a mawkish bleeding heart.

Epperson says he recently got an email from a stranger in South Carolina that described a repeat offender who committed a violent crime while out on parole. To this correspondent, the case discredited Epperson's entire approach. "So if you want to not incarcerate people I'd gladly put this person on a bus and send them to Chicago so you can deal with them."

This touches on a concern of Epperson's: that a high-profile case of recidivism could be used to justify a return to tough-on-crime policies. "There's also hundreds of thousands of stories of people who are locked up and whose lives are made worse and are basically victimized by the system," he says. "And so both of those stories need to be considered here."

Violent crime in particular elicits a strong response, making it something of a taboo topic among politicians advocating for criminal justice reform. The safest way to critique the system is to conjure a sympathetic image of a nonviolent offender—perhaps one of the one-in-five incarcerated individuals in the United States serving time for a nonviolent drug offense. However, a case can be made that decarceration should include reduced sentences for violent crime as well. Todd Clear, a professor of criminal justice at Rutgers University who visited SSA in spring 2018, takes this position, arguing that the term "violent" names a misleadingly broad range of cases and that moderate sentence reductions for violent offenders are not linked to increased recidivism or significant public safety risks.

Other criticisms come from another direction entirely. Prison abolitionists, such as prominent social activist and scholar Angela Davis, argue that prisons are fundamentally illegitimate institutions that should be rejected outright rather than reformed. The abolitionist critique, says Epperson, is that reformers are only "tinkering around the edges" of the system. If abolition, not reformism, was the correct response to slavery, then perhaps it is the correct response to another form of institutionalized unfreedom that entrenches racial inequality in the United States.

Epperson acknowledges the abolitionists' concern that we might settle for too little. How much incarceration is the right amount? Will minor successes lead to complacency? Nevertheless, he says, "I'm a pragmatist at heart."

Epperson ultimately sees himself as a mediator among different forces for change in the criminal justice system. This includes his teaching as well as his work with Smart Decarceration. For instance, he teaches a course on decarceration in which he has students debate different perspectives on the issue such as abolitionism or Right on Crime. "The students are developing their own policy ideas and interventions, which is really exciting because even if a handful of them go on to do those things there's a much greater impact."

Decarceration, of course, is not a matter of closing down some facilities, pocketing the savings, and calling it a day. Epperson cites the idea of "justice reinvestment." Although this term traditionally re-

fers to the diversion of funds from prisons and jails to other parts of the criminal justice system, he says, the concept is being broadened to include addressing the upstream social and economic conditions that lead to involvement in the criminal justice system in the first place.

“Are we making the right investment? Are we making the right impacts?” asks **Esther Franco-Payne**, AM’99, who spoke at the 2017 conference. Justice reinvestment concerns Franco-Payne in her work as executive director of Cabrini Green Legal Aid, a Chicago nonprofit that provides holistic services to individuals affected by the criminal justice system. “You see multiple generations of people in the same family impacted by incarceration,” she says. “We need to really think about what is it that we need to do to break that cycle as we continue to spend billions and billions of dollars on this nationally.”

Mental health services and substance abuse treatment are clear targets for justice reinvestment. So are public education and economic opportunities for low-income neigh-

borhoods and communities of color. And yet no complete list of approaches can be offered in advance, nor are academic outsiders necessarily in the best place to prescribe what communities need. Part of Epperson’s philosophy is to be flexible and listen.

To that end, the University of Chicago Women’s Board awarded Epperson a 2018–19 grant for a project to assess the strengths and needs of the high-incarceration Chicago neighborhoods of Austin and Washington Park. Epperson’s team is creating a community advisory board consisting of ordinary residents, officials, and formerly incarcerated individuals, allowing communities to define their own problems while using evidence to examine how to address them. Movements for civil rights, women’s rights, or gay rights would have been dead in the water if they had not been led by the people most affected, Epperson says, and there’s no reason to think that a movement for the formerly incarcerated and their communities should be different. ♦



LEARNING FROM DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION

The late 20th-century shift in mental health care offers lessons for the decarceration movement.

The deinstitutionalization movement in the United States was driven by the Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Health Centers Construction Act of 1963, signed by President John F. Kennedy in the last weeks of his life, which shifted care to community mental health centers.

Deinstitutionalization was enabled by psychotropic drugs that improved symptom management for certain disorders. The fact that psychiatric patients’ institutional care was not covered by Medicare or Medicaid upon these programs’ passage in 1965 accelerated the process. Leaving state hospitals became both possible and necessary for most psychiatric patients.

Deinstitutionalization shifted the financial burden of mental health care to the federal government, which never provided complete or long-term funding for the new community mental health centers. Less than half of planned centers were ever built, while the overwhelming majority of state psychiatric hospital beds were eliminated.

Under President Ronald Reagan, federal funding for mental health treatment was drastically reduced and block granted to states, essentially ending federal oversight of mental health care. Further billions of dollars were stripped from mental health programs by the states themselves during the Great Recession.

The legacy of deinstitutionalization has included improved rights, respectability, and community integration for many Americans suffering mental illness and those with intellectual disabilities, especially those with engaged families and more easily managed conditions.

However, it has also meant the abandonment of tens of thousands of seriously mentally ill individuals lacking sufficient social or financial supports, who face an exceptionally high risk of social isolation, homelessness, and incarceration. For these individuals, deinstitutionalization rang out like a cruel last call: you don’t have to go home, but you can’t stay here.

—L. M.

in memoriam

TALKING BACK

*Reflections on the life and literature
of Philip Roth, AM '55.*

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM '94

Philip Roth, AM '55, spent only a few years at the University of Chicago, but they had an outsized influence on the career of the celebrated American novelist, who died May 22 (see Deaths, page 76).

It was here that Roth published his first story for a national audience, “The Day It Snowed,” in the graduate student–edited *Chicago Review*. He endowed one of his most famous and enduring characters, Nathan Zuckerman, with a UChicago education, and an unmistakable one at that: “Inspiring teachers, impenetrable texts, neurotic classmates, embattled causes, semantic hairsplitting—‘What do you mean by “mean”?’” Roth wrote in *The Anatomy Lesson* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1983).

Roth arrived at the University of Chicago in 1954, completing his master’s degree in English the following year. After briefly serving in the Army, he returned to campus to teach composition in the College from 1956 to 1958 and resumed his productive exchanges with students, colleagues, and teachers.

Among those he spoke of later were Napier Wilt, then dean of the humanities; professor and *The Lonely Crowd* author David Riesman, whose mass culture course he audited; his fellow graduate student Ted Solotaroff, AM '56, who published an early excerpt from *Portnoy’s Complaint* (Random House, 1969) as editor of the *New American Review*; and novelist and professor Richard Stern, who famously advised Roth to mine his personal stories of growing up in New Jersey for his fiction.

The University of Chicago “was the right place for me to go to,” Roth told an interviewer in 2011. “I enjoyed it. I developed a real affection for the place, the neighborhood Hyde Park, and the University.” What he learned there, he said in 1983, was “how to talk back to all those great books.”

Protean and prolific, he talked back for some 50 years in more than two dozen books that earned him nearly every literary prize of note, save the Nobel Prize for Litera-

ture—an omission much discussed during his life and after his death. His bibliography contains its own small canons: the Kepesh novels, the Zuckermans, the Roths. Sex, aging and death, and Jewishness were his most noted themes, but there was little of life in 20th-century America that wasn’t represented in his body of work. (Some of his critics would place women’s experience in that category.)

Trying to take the full measure of that work, the memorials that proliferated in May consistently observed its faithfulness to the concrete world in all its detail and the universality miraculously wrought from those specifics. Selections from some of the appreciations follow.

Dwight Garner, *The New York Times*

One might as well come out and say it: The death of Philip Roth marks, in its way, the end of a cultural era as definitively as the death of Pablo Picasso did in 1973. ...

His work had more rage, more wit, more lust, more talk, more crosscurrents of thought and emotion, more turning over of the universals of existence (in his case, Jewish-American existence), as if tending meat over a fire, than any writer of his time.

Hermione Lee, *The Washington Post*

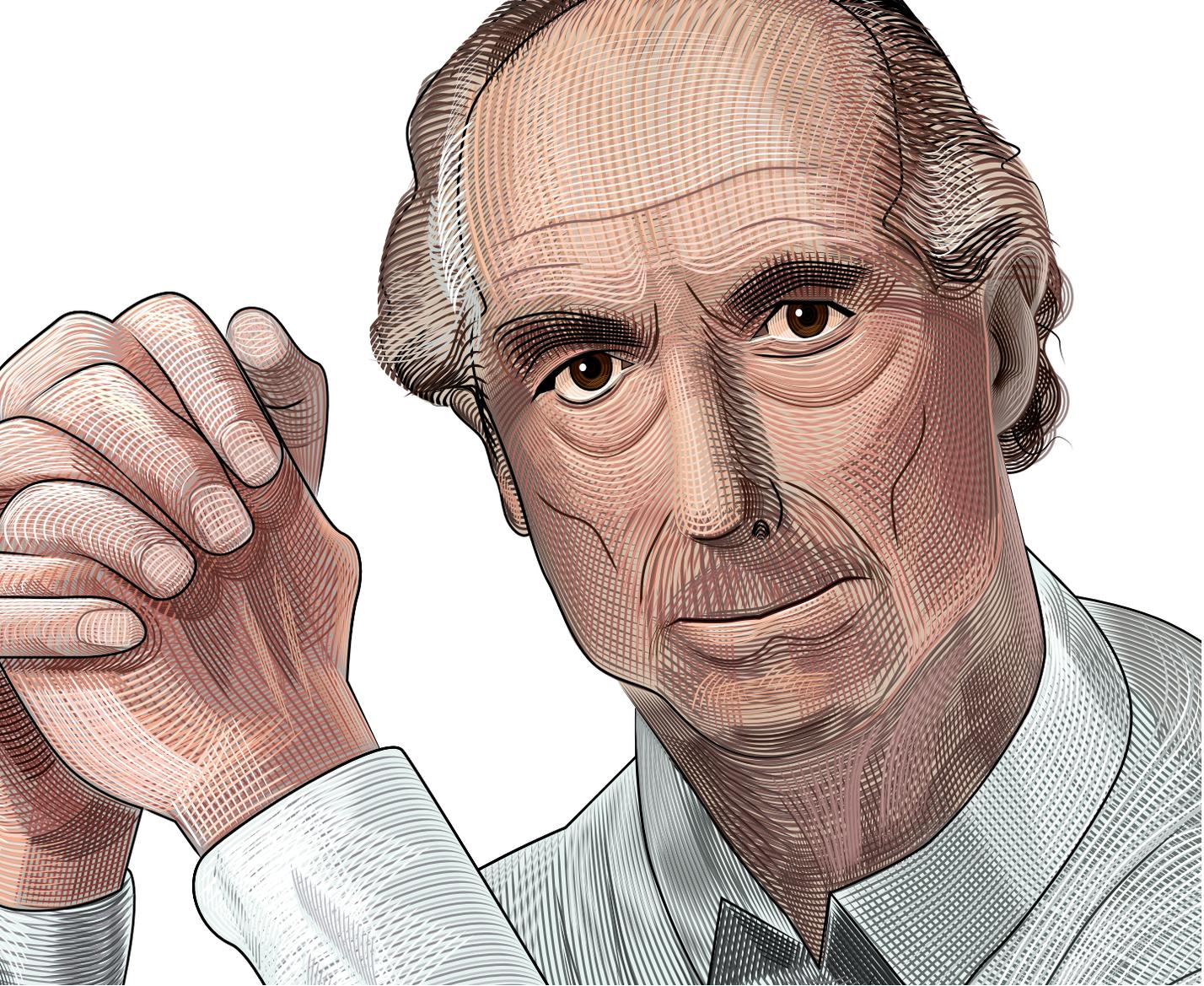
From *The Anatomy Lesson* (1984) to *Nemesis* (2010), I became one of the group of readers to whom he sent penultimate book drafts and asked for comments. There’s no point being polite, he said. (He was exasperated by English politeness.) So I would tell him exactly what I thought, and he would listen with beady-eyed attention, pouncing on woolly expressions, defending his work and lightning-quick to pick up anything that might be useful. Drafts would arrive by fax in those days, and when Roth was sending me new versions to read, the faxes would sometimes roll down the stairs. It was one of the most exhilarating tasks I have ever taken on.

Christian Lorentzen, *New York*

It’s ever tempting to think of Roth as a product of his time, to attribute his success to a keen instinct for the turn in sexual mores of the late ’60s; or to see him, with Susan Sontag [AB’51], as the last comer of the New York Intellectuals; or, along with Norman Mailer and John Updike, as the last of the Great Male Narcissists, in David Foster Wallace’s phrase. Roth’s talent bloomed across six decades and has become part of the foundation of an ongoing literature. That he was male, that he was a Jew—in his own mind these were accidents. The essence he sought was American, and its nature was struggle, a struggle first of all, as he wrote in 1961, against a nationwide reality that was day by day threatening to outdo any one writer’s powers.

Cynthia Ozick, *The Wall Street Journal*

So come, and let us praise the Nobel committee for its honorific omission, this majestic absence that joins Philip Roth to Mark Twain, James Joyce and Tolstoy: He has something in common with each. With Joyce, the unflinching recklessness of the familiar yet unspoken, going where even daredevils once feared to tread. With Mark Twain, cosmic laughter and a revelatory overturning of moral expectation.



With Tolstoy, a biblical descent into baseness, to show how human beings, entangled in sex, death and treachery, really are. And all in a freewheeling American vein: clear, brisk, unpretentious colloquial sentences that, bundled into a crafty paragraph, take on the irresistible blow of a force majeure—while meanwhile, boiling in fiction’s chthonic bowel, a ferocious literary intellect waits and watches.

The Economist

Forget the Jewishness or anti-Jewishness. Certainly, like all great artists, Mr Roth mined his immediate milieu, but only as a way of directly unearthing the deeper questions of family, society, belief, culture and relationships; of getting at the underlying nature of humanity. Judaism is only his way in, a mighty metaphor for all religions and all peoples. (He used his religion in the manner of, say, Bob Dylan or Leonard Cohen.) But, profoundly, Mr Roth eschewed the literature of victimhood. He refused to be relegated. Instead—like all great artists—his subject was everything he

could possibly imagine, summon or otherwise lay his hands on. His subject was the human condition.

Nathaniel Rich, *The New York Review of Books*

I had just been kicked out of Hebrew school, a year ahead of my bar mitzvah, and I felt an immediate intimacy with the novel’s [*Portnoy’s Complaint*] author, Philip Roth. Though two generations separated us, I felt that he spoke directly to me or, in some mystical, incoherent sense, spoke from somewhere inside my brain. I had read novels that frightened and delighted me, made me laugh, made me question—Roth’s writing did all that, but it also elicited a spookier response. I had never before read a writer who knew me. It was a shock to discover that others felt the same way—including many who were not Jewish teenage boys. ...

It’s foolhardy to predict literary fate; all one can do is take a snapshot of the moment. But this fool predicts that several generations from now Roth will be considered the central American novelist of the second half of the twentieth century. ♦



books

BIBLIOM

College students go head-to-head in a competition for the best undergraduate book collection.
BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09





MANIA!



This spring, in a conference room at the Joseph Regenstein Library, **Rosanna Warren** and second-year undergraduate **Clare Kemmerer** engaged in the debate that divides bibliophiles everywhere: To lend or not to lend?

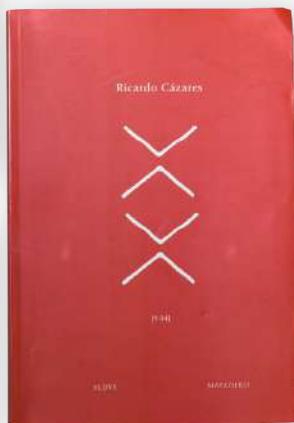
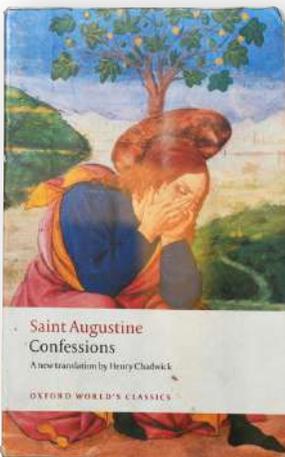
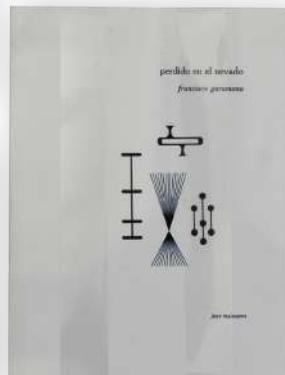
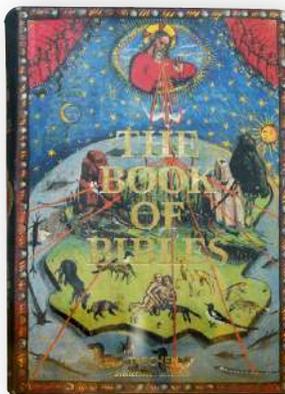
Warren, the Hanna Holborn Gray Distinguished Service Professor in the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought, is firmly anti. “I never lend my books,” she says. Kemmerer is pro. She keeps track of the 306 volumes in her personal collection in an Excel spreadsheet and has a special column where she notes everything she’s lent out. At this point she’s running a mini library out of her dorm room. “I get little freshmen knocking on my door,” she says, asking to borrow from her.

Lots of UChicago students are, at the very least, inadvertent book collectors. Between course readings and recreational trips to Powell’s and the Seminary Co-op, many a Maroon has ended their college career wondering how on earth they ended up with so many books—and how to schlep them home, or to their next apartment.

But some, like Kemmerer, who owns 12 bibles (seven English, two Greek, one Latin, one Hebrew, one French), are on a different level. For these students, there is the T. Kimball Brooker Prize for Undergraduate Book Collecting, awarded by the University of Chicago Library every year since 1990.

The prize was established by **T. Kimball Brooker**, AM’89, PhD’96, an accomplished collector of rare books. It comes with a cash prize—\$1,000 for a second-year student and \$2,000 for a fourth-year student—and a membership to the Caxton Club, a society for Chicago book lovers and collectors. To enter, students submit a bibliography and an essay about their collection. Finalists are invited to come to the library and present a selection of their books.

PRIMARY CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO THE THOUGHTFULNESS AND INTENT IN BUILDING THE COLLECTION.



Selections from Clare Kemmerer’s and Anna Wood’s winning book collections. Kemmerer is especially attached to her dog-eared copy of Saint Augustine’s *Confessions*. Wood acquired much of her collection while in Mexico City last summer.



Wood (left) and Kemmerer were recognized at the spring meeting of UChicago's Library Society.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN KLEHR/CHURCHILL+ KLEHR PHOTOGRAPHY (LEFT AND ABOVE); SVITLANA UNUCHKO/ISTOCK, ADAPTED BY GUIDO MENDEZ (PREVIOUS PAGES)

That's what brought Kemmerer to the Reg in April, along with her heavily annotated edition of St. Augustine's *Confessions* (Oxford University Press, 2009); *The Lais of Marie de France* (Labyrinth Press, 1978); and an art book that includes a section about religious tattoos. Her collection's title, arguably worthy of its own prize: "The Only Crush I Have Is the Crushing Weight of My Sins (Love and Faith in Christian Literature)."

The judges who award the Brooker Prize aren't necessarily looking for valuable or rare books. Rather, according to the Library's website, "primary consideration is given to the thoughtfulness and intent in building the collection around the collector's interest. ... Whatever its defining quality may be, the organizing principle should be apparent in every item of the collection."

Past winners have included **Elizabeth Litchfield**, AB'08, for "A Library of Love: Challenging the Social Order One Couple (or Threesome?) at a Time," a collection of romance novels, and **Aaron Vanides**, AB'10, for "Into the Mists of the North: A Comparative Collection of the Medieval Germanic Tradition and Its Modern Manifestations." There's no wrong subject for a book collection.

This year's judging panel is a veritable "who's who" of Hyde Park's book community. Along with Warren, there's **Jeff Deutsch**, director of the Seminary Co-op Bookstores; **Garrett Kiely**, director of the University of

THERE'S NO WRONG SUBJECT FOR A BOOK COLLECTION.

Chicago Press; Michael Thompson, a collector and member of UChicago's Library Society; **Catherine Uecker**, head of research and instruction at the Special Collections Research Center; and **Nancy Spiegel**, the Library's bibliographer for art, cinema, and history.

Kemmerer begins her presentation by explaining her winding academic path. She transferred from the New School in New York to the University of California, Berkeley, before arriving at UChicago. "My book collection has been with me through all three schools," she says. Today "they're eating my dorm room." (For logistical reasons, she's glad she doesn't have a roommate: "I would be so afraid of books falling on them.")

Kemmerer's affection for her collection is apparent as she describes the books she's brought to share with the judges. She considers all of it to be pleasure reading. "I read all of these for fun," she insists as the judges peruse titles including *Why on Earth Did Anyone Become a Christian in the First Three*

Selections from the Brooker Bibliographies

Clare Kemmerer, Class of 2020

THE ONLY CRUSH I HAVE IS THE CRUSHING WEIGHT OF MY SINS (LOVE AND FAITH IN CHRISTIAN LITERATURE)

Robert Alter, *Strong as Death Is Love: The Song of Songs, Ruth, Esther, Jonah, and Daniel: A Translation with Commentary* (W. W. Norton, 2015)

Katheryn Pfisterer Darr, *Far More Precious Than Jewels: Perspectives on Biblical Women* (John Knox Press, 1991)

Kathryn Lofton, *Consuming Religion* (University of Chicago Press, 2017)

Rosa Giorgi, *Angels and Demons in Art* (J. Paul Getty Museum, 2005)

Anna Wood, AB'18

LEARNING A LOVE FOR SPANISH LANGUAGE THROUGH LATIN AMERICAN POETRY

Giancarlo Huapaya Cárdenas, *Taller sub verso* (Casa Katatay Editores, 2011)

Dolores Dorantes and Rodrigo Flores Sánchez, *Intervenir / Intervene* (Ugly Duckling Presse, 2015)

Luis Felipe Fabre, *Poemas de horror y de misterio* (Editorial Almadía S.C., 2013)

Octavio Paz, *Configurations* (New Directions, 1971)

Reina María Rodríguez, *Varietades de Galiano* (Editorial Letras Cubanas, 2008)

Khia Kurtenbach, SB'18

HISTORY THROUGH A GASTRONOMICAL LENS

Betty Crocker's Picture Cookbook (General Mills, 1930)

Your Baby's Formula (Sioux Valley Hospital, 1960)

Dan Nevins, *Holiday Cookbook for Boys and Girls* (Watermill Press, 1981)

All About Home Baking (General Foods Corporation, 1933)

Aliya Slayton, AB'18

FROM TUNG TO TONGUE: LANGUAGE HISTORY AND USAGE

James W. Pennebaker, *The Secret Life of Pronouns: What Our Words Say About Us* (Bloomsbury Press, 2011)

Justin Kaplan and Anne Bernays, *The Language of Names: What We Call Ourselves and Why It Matters* (Simon & Schuster, 1997)

Bill Bryson, *The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way* (Perennial, 1990)

Richard W. Bailey, *Speaking American: A History of English in the United States* (Oxford University Press, 2012)

Jeffrey Kacirk, *The Word Museum: The Most Remarkable English Words Ever Forgotten* (Simon & Schuster, 2000)

Danny Licht, AB'18

A JOYOUS SCIENCE

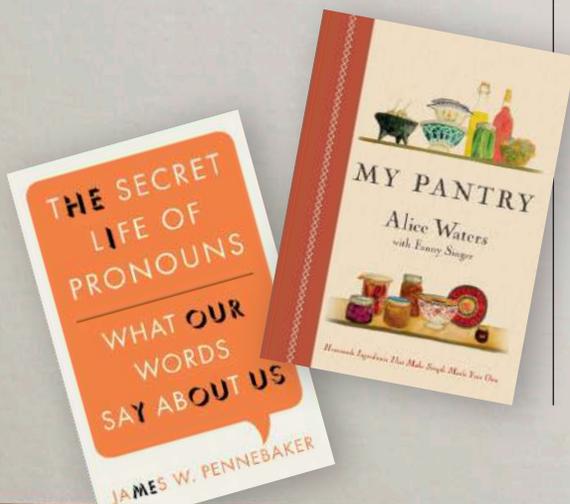
Marcella Hazan, *Essentials of Classic Italian Cooking* (Knopf, 1992)

Cal Peternell, *A Recipe for Cooking* (William Morrow, 2016)

Chad Robertson, *Tartine Bread* (Chronicle Books, 2010)

David Tanis, *Heart of the Artichoke and Other Kitchen Journeys* (Artisan, 2010)

Alice Waters, *My Pantry* (Pam Krauss Books, 2015)



MY HOUSE WAS ALWAYS FULL OF BOOKS GROWING UP, AND BECAUSE OF THAT I JUST DEVELOPED A HABIT.

Centuries? (Marquette University Press, 2016). Kemmerer pauses on *The Lais of Marie de France*. The medieval poet is “just a charming person, and I love her very much.”

Equally passionate about his collection is finalist **Danny Licht**, AB’18. His assemblage of cookbooks, titled “A Joyous Science,” was born of necessity: he was moving to an apartment and wanted to learn to cook. He found a copy of Alice Waters’s *The Art of Simple Food: Notes, Lessons, and Recipes from a Delicious Revolution* (Clarkson Potter, 2007) and wound up getting a summer job at her legendary restaurant Chez Panisse.

That experience led him to the work of chefs and food writers such as Elizabeth David, David Tanis, and Paul Bertolli. Bertolli’s *Cooking by Hand* (Clarkson Potter, 2003), one of the titles he’s brought to present to the judges, has a special place in Licht’s heart: “The section on balsamic vinegar is really moving.”

Licht tells the judges that, at this point, the collection is more motivational than instructive. “I already know how to cook,” he explains. “What I’m looking for is books that augment and inspire that cooking.”

Khia Kurtenbach, SB’18, also presents the judges with a selection of cookbooks—though hers are of a decidedly different flavor. Many were passed down from her grandparents and reflect her family’s roots in the Midwest. When asked what she’d like to add to the collection if she were to win the prize, Kurtenbach says there’s a book about Jell-O she hopes to acquire.

The judges flip through titles including the *Go Big Red Cookbook: Recipes and Traditions from the Hearts of Huskers* (Morris Publishing, 1992), *The Nebraska Pioneer Cookbook* (University of Nebraska Press, 1974), *The South Dakota Centennial Cookbook* (State Publishing Company, 1989), and several church cookbooks.

Kiely spots a recipe that calls for “pieces of pheasant”—“Which pieces?” he says with a laugh. Warren chuckles over a section in *Easy Suppers* (H. P. Books, 1980) containing a recipe for a candlelit dinner for two. “There’s a whole

John Cheever story implied in this recipe,” she says.

Aliya Slayton, AB’18, is full of stories as she describes her collection of books about linguistics, “From *Tung to Tongue: Language History and Usage*.” One of the first items she acquired was *A Dictionary of First Names* (Chambers, 2009). The cover is wrapped with a sheet of white paper because she wanted to bring the book on a middle school trip but thought the baby-filled cover might look odd to her classmates. She’s fascinated by names and where they come from.

“Something that unites my collection is that it’s not theoretical,” Slayton says. She’s brought two titles by John McWhorter, *The Power of Babel: A Natural History of Language* (Henry Holt, 2001) and *What Language Is (And What It Isn’t and What It Could Be)* (Gotham, 2012) both aimed at a lay audience.

Much of what the finalists present is familiar to the judges, particularly Deutsch, who has a bookseller’s encyclopedic knowledge of titles and editions. He asks Slayton why she picked the particular edition of H. L. Mencken’s *The American Language* (Cosimo, 2008) she has in her collection; Slayton says it’s what she happened to find.

But **Anna Wood’s** (AB’18) collection of Mexican small press poetry, “Learning a Love for Spanish Language through Latin American Poetry,” is terra incognita for the judges. She bought many of the books in Mexico City last summer while working on a chapbook of her own poems. Some have the handmade quality of zines, while others were commercially produced—though in very limited quantities.

Uecker notices that many of the books are first editions. “Is that important to you?” she asks. Wood explains that it’s not intentional but often happens by accident, “because I seek out things that are rare.” Kiely points out that for many of the titles in the collection, the first edition may be the only edition.

After the presentations are complete, the judges begin their deliberations. It turns out to be an easy decision. Of all the finalists, they agree, Wood seemed the most interested in the beauty of books as objects—something that distinguishes collectors from people who are simply avid readers. Kemmerer stands out for her passion for collecting and the clear vision behind her collection. They agree Kemmerer will receive the second-year prize, and Wood the fourth-year prize.

For Wood, learning she had received the prize was a happy and unexpected graduation gift: “It’s a really nice ending to my fourth year to have my book hoarding rewarded.”

She’s always had books around, she says. “My house was always full of books growing up, and because of that I just developed a habit,” she says. “Anytime I go to a used bookstore, especially, I can’t help but grab a handful.” But her Mexican small press poetry is the first focused and defined collection she’s ever had. With the help of the prize, she’s planning to add to it this summer, when she goes back to Mexico. Like every good book collector, she’s on the hunt. ♦

A group of people are standing on a glass observation deck of a skyscraper, looking out over a city. The deck is made of glass and metal, and the people are dressed in business casual attire. The city below is visible through the glass, showing buildings, streets, and a river. The sky is overcast.

culture

TOWERING INSIGHTS

English associate professor Adrienne Brown explores the complicated racial history of the American skyscraper.

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09





When the first skyscrapers soared into existence in the 1880s, Americans were fascinated by the new buildings on the block. Not everyone liked them, or believed the trend would last, but the towering structures—popularized in Chicago and New York, and exported worldwide—demanded attention. They changed the everyday lives of metropolitans, interrupting familiar skylines and packing bodies into the city more densely than ever before.

Even people living outside urban centers couldn't escape the "mortared Himalayas," as one writer dubbed them. Skyscrapers were ubiquitous in newspaper articles, cartoons, and photographs. Poets, including Carl Sandburg, wrote odes to them, and filmmakers cast them in starring roles. The silent-era classic *Safety Last!* (1923) features a set of death-defying skyscraper stunts. In one famous shot, ac-

tor and filmmaker Harold Lloyd dangles from a building's edge clutching only the hands of a clock.

But despite their omnipresence in late 19th and early 20th century American life, there was one place where skyscrapers were hard to find: the novel.

Adrienne Brown was a graduate student at Princeton University when she first noticed the skyscraper's curious absence from canonical novels about American cities. Skyscrapers got an occasional line or two (in *The Great Gatsby* [1925], for instance, they are likened to "white heaps and sugar lumps") but were otherwise peripheral and unimportant to the story.

This indifference surprised Brown, now the director of undergraduate studies and an associate professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at UChicago. The skyscraper got fanfare "in almost every other cultural sphere. ... There are plays written about it, there's poetry about it, but the novel as a form is not that drawn to it." Was it really not there, she wondered, or was she just looking in the wrong places?

Chicago's Home Insurance Building, completed in 1885, has been mythologized as the world's first skyscraper. (Some architects dispute the characterization, because the tower was not fully supported by its steel frame—the defining characteristic of a skyscraper.) Many doubted the building would be able to stand on its own.

Answering that question led Brown to the pulpy edges of American literature. In dime novels, science fiction, romances, and so-called weird fiction, skyscrapers abounded. The more time she spent with these fantastical tales, as well as architectural writing and reportage from the era, Brown began to see how enmeshed their representations of the buildings were with post-Reconstruction racial anxiety in America. Those entanglements are the subject of her book *The Black Skyscraper: Architecture and the Perception of Race* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017).

Skyscrapers didn't just change city skylines. Brown argues that they also demanded people develop new ways of seeing and relating to others. And those new ways of seeing emerged at a historical moment when race was in flux as Americans debated how, precisely, to conceptualize race and make racial identifications. In *The Black Skyscraper* Brown writes that “the early skyscraper threatened to reveal the ‘nothingness’ of race ... precisely when the nation most desired to assert and extend the meaningfulness of race.”

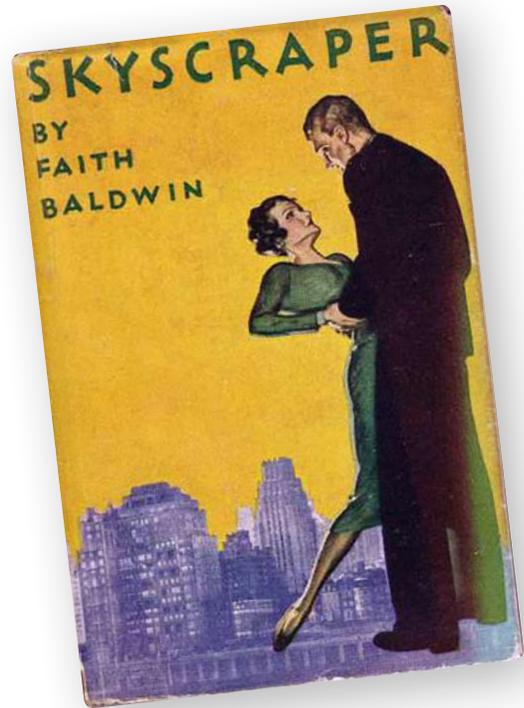
Brown grew up in suburban Maryland. Because of legal restrictions on the height of buildings, there are few skyscrapers in the nearest big city, Washington, DC. She doesn't remember the first real skyscraper she saw. “No one was more surprised than me when the skyscraper ended up being at the center of [my] book,” she says.

But she was always fascinated by architecture and how we relate to it. (Any aspirations of being an architect herself were scuttled by a lack of depth perception and being overall “very bad spatially.”) As a University of Maryland undergraduate, she wrote her senior thesis on literature about the suburbs.

The idea of getting a PhD wasn't on her radar. But a professor encouraged her to apply to graduate school, and she settled on Princeton, home to several scholars working on the intersection of architecture and literature, and strong programs in pure architecture and American studies. That's when she began reading and writing about the skyscraper, which became the subject of her dissertation.

When she joined the UChicago faculty in 2011, Brown began the work of expanding her dissertation—which focused more narrowly on the skyscraper's absence in early 20th century novels—into *The Black Skyscraper*. The buildings' relationship to race grew from one chapter into the book's primary focus as she noticed that “this question about the life of race, whether race could remain a viable category that you could read from the outside, was constantly shadowing the skyscraper.”

One challenge of writing the book was helping modern-day readers understand how radical a shift skyscrapers represented. The ability to perceive the world from above is



THE EARLY SKYSCRAPER THREATENED TO REVEAL THE “NOTHINGNESS” OF RACE ... PRECISELY WHEN THE NATION MOST DESIRED TO ASSERT AND EXTEND THE MEANINGFULNESS OF RACE.



Adrienne Brown says moving to Chicago helped her understand aspects of city life that had once been abstract, such as light, pollution, and density—“all of these things that the skyscraper magnifies and intensifies in the city.”

something we take for granted today. We fly in airplanes; we own drones; we’ve seen the earth from space. But life in the 19th century was smaller in scale. Suddenly urban citizens had to adapt their bodies to a new architectural reality.

“You do find these stories in the ’10s and ’20s of people from Iowa arriving to New York and Chicago for the first time and having to crane their necks,” says Brown. “Their muscles hurt from having to look up all the time.”

That wasn’t the only adjustment skyscrapers necessitated. “People looked drastically different depending on where one stood in and around these tall structures,” Brown wrote in a 2017 blog post. From the top of a skyscraper, everyone became “an ant-like speck.” On the jam-packed streets below, faces were abstract and hard to see. In the new world created by the skyscraper, bodies took many forms: they looked one way from up close, another from on high, another from within a crowd.

This was a threatening shift in an era when law makers were trying to decide what made a person black or white, Brown contends. The one-drop rule, which stated that any amount of black ancestry made someone black, became law in many Southern states but had obvious limitations. In urban areas, you might not know your neighbor’s name, let alone their genealogical background.

In the North and the West, where migrants were plentiful but family history was scarce, appearance became the standard by default. You were black or white or Asian because you looked that way. In the 1920s the Supreme Court upheld this practice, arguing that race was “a matter of familiar observation and knowledge” that “the common man” could interpret.

But it was clear from Brown’s research for *The Black Skyscraper* that writers in the early 20th century were beginning to see how fragile a criterion appearance offered. White Americans wrote fearfully about the dangers of black Americans “passing” and intermarrying. Black writers grappled with the practice too, in novels such as Nella

Larsen’s *Passing* (1929), about a black woman who has concealed her racial identity to marry a white man.

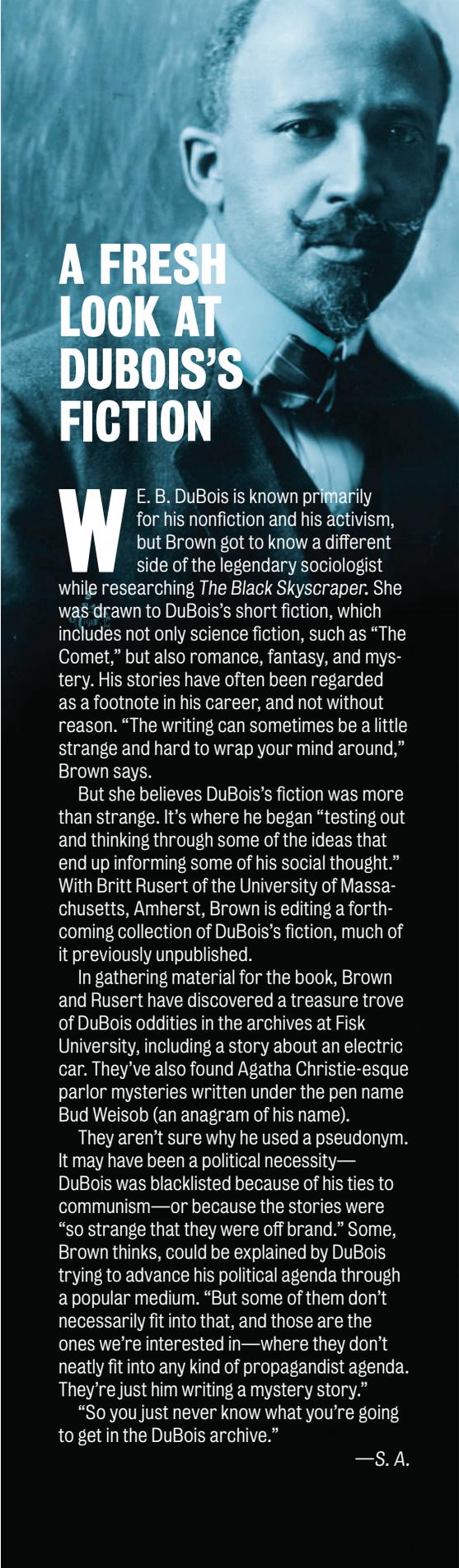
Much of Larsen’s novel takes place in and around skyscrapers—a choice that, Brown argues, serves to highlight the various ways city life complicated the act of racial perception. Through the tragic death of *Passing*’s protagonist, Larsen ultimately shows that the growing difficulty in pinning down a person’s race didn’t make the question go away. If anything, the desire to make racial determinations got stronger.

That theme carries through to other stories that Brown studies in *The Black Skyscraper*. Several, not coincidentally in Brown’s view, are science fiction or apocalypse narratives. “When you think about how crazy it was to people that these buildings were being put up, the science fiction already writes itself,” Brown says. If anything, the genre of science fiction “had to keep up with the buildings.” (Some of the stories feature the destruction of iconic skyscrapers, a cultural fascination that hasn’t gone anywhere: “We are still doing that with *Transformers*.”)

One structure, New York City’s Metropolitan Life Tower, is the setting for two very different apocalypse stories about race and the urban setting. George Allan England’s serialized epic *The Last New Yorkers* (1909) depicts the building under attack by a horde of monsters. From inside the structure, the story’s white protagonists identify the encroaching creatures as hybrids of apes and “degenerate” nonwhites who have returned to a “primeval state.”

IN THE NEW WORLD CREATED BY THE SKYSCRAPER, BODIES TOOK MANY FORMS.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANNE RYAN



A FRESH LOOK AT DUBOIS'S FICTION

W E. B. DuBois is known primarily for his nonfiction and his activism, but Brown got to know a different side of the legendary sociologist while researching *The Black Skyscraper*. She was drawn to DuBois's short fiction, which includes not only science fiction, such as "The Comet," but also romance, fantasy, and mystery. His stories have often been regarded as a footnote in his career, and not without reason. "The writing can sometimes be a little strange and hard to wrap your mind around," Brown says.

But she believes DuBois's fiction was more than strange. It's where he began "testing out and thinking through some of the ideas that end up informing some of his social thought." With Britt Rusert of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Brown is editing a forthcoming collection of DuBois's fiction, much of it previously unpublished.

In gathering material for the book, Brown and Rusert have discovered a treasure trove of DuBois oddities in the archives at Fisk University, including a story about an electric car. They've also found Agatha Christie-esque parlor mysteries written under the pen name Bud Weisob (an anagram of his name).

They aren't sure why he used a pseudonym. It may have been a political necessity—DuBois was blacklisted because of his ties to communism—or because the stories were "so strange that they were off brand." Some, Brown thinks, could be explained by DuBois trying to advance his political agenda through a popular medium. "But some of them don't necessarily fit into that, and those are the ones we're interested in—where they don't neatly fit into any kind of propagandist agenda. They're just him writing a mystery story."

"So you just never know what you're going to get in the DuBois archive."

—S. A.

Eleven years later, W. E. B. DuBois chose the same setting for his short story "The Comet" (1920), about the aftermath of a natural disaster. But in DuBois's telling, the setting of the Metropolitan Life Tower allows Manhattan's two remaining residents, a black man and a white woman, to acknowledge each other's humanity. Looking out over the city below, the unnamed woman remarks on "how foolish our human distinctions seem—now."

Could race be a human distinction that no longer matters? The question hangs in the air but doesn't find an answer in "The Comet": DuBois's protagonists soon discover that only New York has been destroyed and the rest of the United States (and its racial regime) remains intact.

It wasn't DuBois's first time using the skyscraper as a motif—his earlier unpublished story "The Princess Steel" (c. 1908) is also set in one. In his work, "the skyscraper is putting forward these potentially liberatory conditions that disrupt the social script of racial domination and oppression and discrimination," Brown says. The hopeful possibilities "often crash down eventually, but he does use the skyscraper to stage these 'what-if' moments."

In the '40s and '50s, the suburbs replaced the city in the American cultural imagination. The housing developments springing up around the country were the new utopias and sites of fascination—at least for white families. Black families were largely kept out. Sometimes the discrimination was explicit: Levittowns, the iconic post-war developments in the Northeast, initially had a whites-only clause in their lease agreements. In other cases the government and banks enforced segregation through the practice of redlining, which de facto prevented residents of black neighborhoods from getting mortgages.

Since finishing *The Black Skyscraper*, Brown has also moved some of her research from the city to the suburbs. She's at work on a new project about property ownership and midcentury white flight, and recently published an *American Quarterly* article examining real-estate appraisal manuals from the turn of the 20th century, in which questions about racial perception are once again front and center.

For Brown, studying redlining and property feels like the logical sequel to *The Black Skyscraper*. If cities complicated the existing order, "the suburbs become a longer-term answer to that question. ... The suburbs are low rise, they're removed from the city. You can have more control over who's moving in and out," Brown explains.

The issues are at once new and familiar: how architecture and race entwine, and how writers contend with those links. "It's fun to be at the beginning of this new project that very much comes out of *The Black Skyscraper* but carries it forward." ♦

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

The Secret Service *hates* it when you run in the White House.” So begins **Sam Kass’s** *Eat a Little Better* (Clarkson Potter, 2018)—not your typical cookbook opening.

But Kass, LAB'98, AB'04, would know, having served at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue from 2009 to 2014. Following years of restaurant work, he became the Obama family’s personal chef while Barack Obama was campaigning for president. After the 2009 inauguration, Kass continued cooking for the first family while also taking on the jobs of senior policy advisor for nutrition and executive director of Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move public health campaign.

The experience transformed Kass’s career, broadening his focus from the food on a plate to the food on our planet. On a global scale, he is a partner in Acre, a venture capital fund launched by Campbell Soup to invest in health-focused food start-ups, while his strategy firm Trove provides consulting to companies looking to lessen their negative impact on the environment and human health.

Eat a Little Better, published this spring, aims to do the same thing for what’s on your plate at home, creating a lower-pressure path to healthier eating, with recipes using everything from veggies to red meat and flexible cooking techniques. It also has tips on how to organize your kitchen, pantry, and refrigerator in ways that encourage better choices—for instance, getting your produce out of the crisper and putting it on an eye-level shelf where it will be the first thing you see when you open the door.

The *Magazine* talked to Kass about his UChicago education, carving out a life in food, the book, and his own food loves. This interview has been edited and condensed.

What was it like growing up in the University neighborhood?

Hyde Park is one of the most diverse communities that I’ve ever known—diverse in all kinds of ways. It has the intellect, it’s the anchor of the University, it has different races and economic classes. And so it provides a pretty dynamic environment for kids to grow up in. I’ve maintained lifelong friends from the time I was a little kid, which I’ve come to find is actually quite rare. I remember playing baseball for Hyde Park-Kenwood, going to the Point. It’s just a great place to grow up.

You transferred to the College from a community college where you’d enrolled for baseball. What was it like coming back?

I went to the Laboratory Schools and my aunt and uncle [Amy Kass, AB'62, and **Leon Kass**, LAB'54, SB'58, MD'62] were on the UChicago faculty. So I had a pretty decent sense of what the University was like. But it was a bit of a shock when the coach told me that we don’t practice on Thursdays because that’s science lab day. I hadn’t really been used to that. And the caliber of the students took some getting used to. But I think it’s the single best decision I ever made, besides marrying my wife.

What told me that [the College] had really done its job was that I felt like I was prepared to go to college when I graduated—I was sort of wishing that I could do it again, now that I’d been given the skills of thinking and writing in the way that I had.

Your culinary career traces back to a quarter studying abroad in Vienna. How did that happen?

I had one quarter left and enough credits because of my transfer. I applied to all three of the abroad programs, and I got waitlisted for all of them. I ended up marching into the office of the dean of the study abroad program and got into a heated discussion with him.

I knew how badly I wanted to get out and see the world. I knew that I was going to make the most of the experience, maybe more than students who had better grades than me, and probably stronger applications.

So, long story short, a few weeks later I got accepted into the Vienna program. And on my third day there I got connected to the sous chef of a Vienna restaurant, who ended up giving me all my training and teaching me everything I know.

I had worked one summer in a restaurant in Chicago while I was in college, so I said to the head of the program, I’m interested in food, maybe I could get into a pastry shop once a week just to learn about it. She came back and said something like, “My husband’s uncle’s friend from college’s son rides bicycles with the sous chef of the best restaurant in Vienna. If you’re interested, he’d be willing to meet with you.”

If it weren’t for that completely random and lucky moment, none of this stuff would have happened.



VOICES ON BETTER EATING ESPOUSE UTOPIC IDEALS OF HOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO EAT AND FRAME IT AS, THERE'S A RIGHT WAY AND A WRONG WAY.

“What the University really honed was a way to think,” Kass says. “It’s only with those tools that I could have gone from the kitchen to writing food policy.”

What was the best part about being the White House chef?

I don’t even know how to pick. It was great. I was cooking for the most important family in the world. I was also doing policy work, like the Let’s Move campaign. It was the greatest time I had in my life, and the best job in the world. Working with the First Lady, growing the garden—everything was spectacular.

If you could build US food policy from the ground up, what would you do first?

I would invest \$10 billion in research. We are dramatically underinvested in this area. And I would work to align our policy toward human health and environmental health. Right now we have agricultural policy on one hand and health policy on the other. They’re not aligned, and we’re not growing food based on what’s best for people—and we’re definitely not taking into consideration the impact on the environment and the role of climate change when it comes to crafting our policy. Globally, food agriculture is the number two driver of greenhouse gas emissions and within the next few decades will be number one. So we’re going to have to take some much more aggressive steps.

Your book puts forth the idea of eating a *little* better, making small changes that add up. How does that work?

A lot of the voices on better eating espouse utopic ideals of how we’re supposed to eat and frame it as, there’s a right way and a wrong way. It just doesn’t fit with people’s daily lives. People try to reach these ideals, then they fail, then they get discouraged, then they stop trying. If we want people to actually make changes, it has to be done in a way that fits their reality. So the book tries to focus on and celebrate progress more than ideals.

What experts say is good for us and bad for us seems to change a lot. How should people navigate conflicting studies on eating and health?

My advice would be, don’t listen to it. Just try to focus on eating mostly plants, fruits, vegetables, whole grains, some nice lean protein. And on not eating too much. We can’t just react to the latest study because you’re going to go back and forth like a ping-pong ball. Keep it simple. Part of the trick is not to get too obsessed with food either. Take a deep breath and relax a little bit. It’s going to be OK. Let’s just make some progress and build from there. That’s the approach.

Can you share a few key tips from the book for starting to make that progress?

Make sure your house is set up with the things you’re trying to eat and not a bunch of the things you’re not. What you have in the house and where you position it has a big influence on what you end up consuming. And try to cook one more time a week than you already do.

What’s your typical breakfast?

I’ll quickly make myself an omelet. I know that sounds like a whole thing, but it really takes me like 30 seconds. Actually it’s a quick challenge because making a perfect omelet is not an easy thing. Sometimes I’ll have a little salmon with it and a cup of coffee with half-and-half.

You’re a realist about how people eat, so what’s your own favorite guilty food pleasure?

I can’t say no to a buffalo wing, and I’m pretty much down for ice cream no matter what. ♦



RECIPE

FROM EAT A LITTLE BETTER

Brussels Sprouts Caesar Salad

Serves 6 to 8 / Active time: 20 minutes / Start to finish: 20 minutes

I wish I could say I came up with the idea of swapping out the romaine in the classic Caesar, because there's a reason you now see kale and brussels sprouts coated in creamy, bright, anchovy-spiked dressing at restaurants from Brooklyn to Boise. These vegetables deliver flavor instead of just crunch,

not to mention more nutrition. I particularly like to use brussels sprouts, thinly sliced so they grab on tight to that I-want-to-eat-this-forever dressing. Baby spinach leaves, very thinly sliced kale, or a crunchy combination of thinly sliced celery and radishes are also great to use here instead of the sprouts.

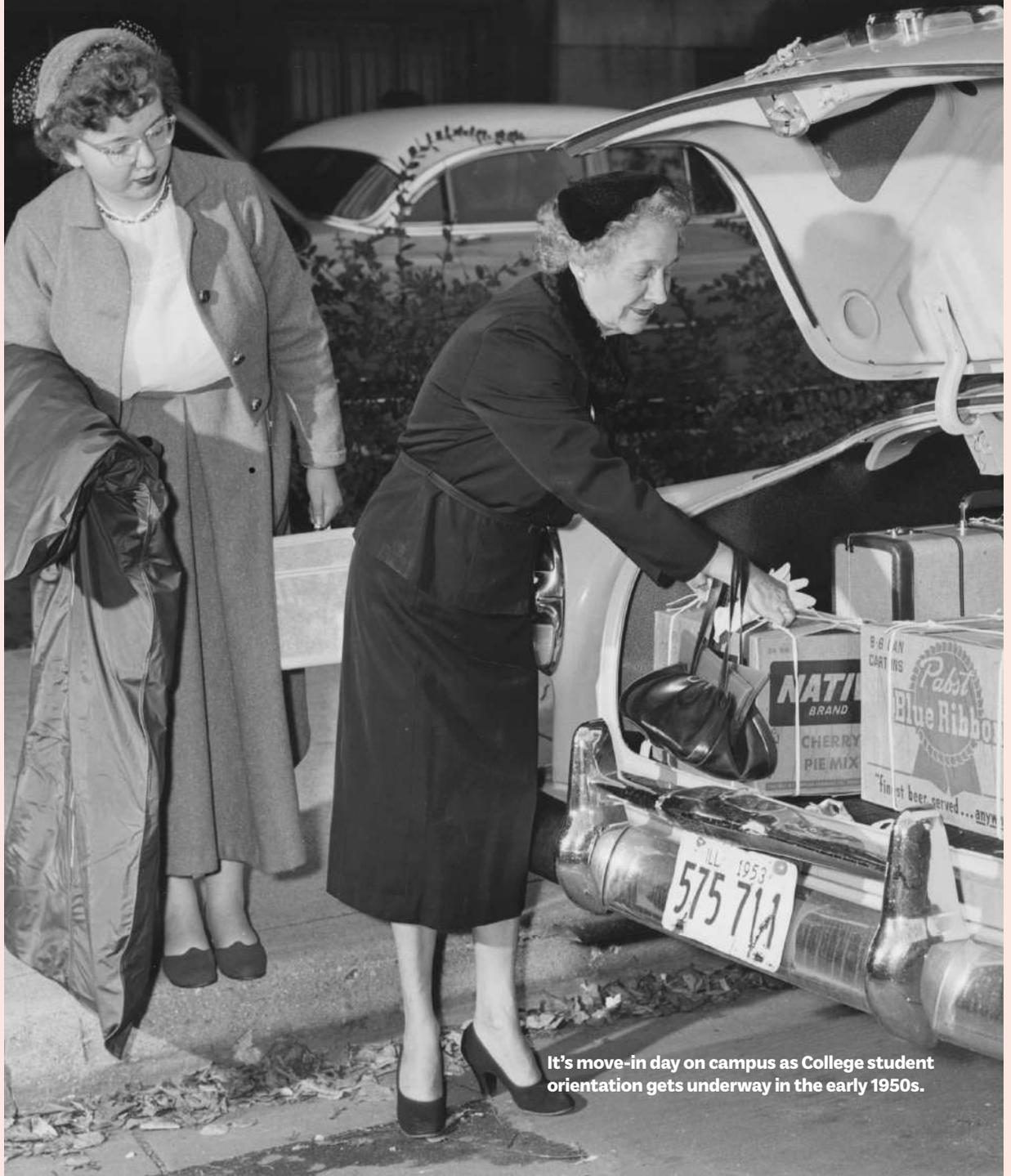
INGREDIENTS

- 4** thick slices crusty bread
- ½ cup** extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 or 2** oil-packed anchovy fillets, finely chopped
- 1** garlic clove, finely chopped
- Kosher salt**
- 1** large egg yolk
- 2** tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1** teaspoon Dijon mustard
- Freshly ground black pepper**
- 2 pounds** brussels sprouts, bottoms trimmed, halved lengthwise, very thinly sliced
- Big handful** finely grated Parmesan cheese
- 12** vinegared white anchovy fillets, often labeled “boquerones” (optional)

- 1. Drizzle both sides of the bread slices with about ¼ cup of the oil, then toast in a toaster oven or 400°F oven, flipping once, until golden on both sides, 5 to 8 minutes. Cut them into 1-inch pieces.**
- 2. Use a fork to mash the anchovy, garlic, and a pinch of salt to a paste. Scrape the paste into a large bowl. Add the egg yolk, lemon juice, mustard, and stir well. Then while whisking, add the remaining ¼ cup oil in a thin, steady stream and keep whisking until creamy. Season with salt and pepper to taste.**
- 3. Add the brussels sprouts to the bowl, toss with the dressing to coat well, and season with more salt to taste. Scatter the bread and cheese on top and, if you've got them, add the white anchovies.**

REPRINTED FROM EAT A LITTLE BETTER. COPYRIGHT © 2018 BY SAM KASS. PHOTOGRAPH COPYRIGHT © 2017 BY AUBREY PICK. PUBLISHED BY CLARKSON POTTER/PUBLISHERS, AN IMPRINT OF PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, LLC.

peer review



UCHICAGO PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE, APP4-02.403, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY

It's move-in day on campus as College student orientation gets underway in the early 1950s.

A good mayor is hard to find

BY BLAIR THORNBURGH, AB'12

To look at me is to see the World's Least Likely Political Wife. I have a *Rosemary's Baby* haircut that I dye in the bathtub, and I regularly parade around in an oversized black T-shirt that reads FEMINIST in bold witchy letters. I own no tasteful wrap dresses or twinsets. I have a degree in medieval studies, and I write self-consciously smart-alecky young adult novels for a living.

And yet—I fell in love with an elected official.

It was an extraordinarily cute meet: writer is working on novel about young mayor, writer meets *actual* young mayor, young mayor has dimples and green eyes like a real-life YA love interest, writer solicits informational interview that morphs into a date. Fast forward 13 months, and writer has a ring on her finger and is kindly reminding the young mayor to please put his pizza crusts in the trash after the Sixers game is over.

My fiancé, Josh, ran for mayor of his hometown of Downingtown, Pennsylvania, at the tender age of 26, because, as he so charmingly put it on our first date, “elected office is the best way to help as many people as possible.” (Me: “How many suits did you own then?” Him: “Less than one.”) Over the past eight years, he’s seen taxes stabilize, a new train station take shape, and a band of rogue chickens terrorize the south side of town. He’s even gotten into a Twitter spat with Donald Trump.

And so here I am, betrothed and thrust into a curious extracurricular for the rest of my life. (Yes, I have heard all the *Parks and Recreation* jokes. If this makes me Leslie Knope, so much the better.) I had to learn fast: I trust everyone and speak much too freely, even to reporters and opponents; I am still in the broke-artist mind-set of “attending events for the snacks” and chomp down hors d’oeuvres instead of making polite conversation; I have a (now curtailed) habit of swearing at Pennsylvania senator Pat Toomey on Twitter.

Some of it is fun: ribbon cuttings (yes, there are giant scissors), parades, 5K kickoffs, fire department chicken barbecues, Josh ducking out to “marry someone real quick” at the local brewery, holding the Bible in my best Michelle Obama dress (bought second-hand, worn frequently) for his swearing in. Some is exhausting: knocking on every door in town and foisting political literature on unsuspecting residents, trifold fundraising letter after fundraising letter, wearing high heels at any time for any purpose. Some is oddly glamorous: being stopped

on the street and congratulated (for my book coming out, for a landslide win, for our engagement), picking up my phone during election week and barking “talk to me,” holding a boom mic during an ad filming. Some is exhilarating: rallies, speeches, protests, debates. And some, the worst part, is emotionally taxing: being berated to the point of tears while canvassing, being lectured on the Main Street parking situation at a cocktail party, driving past a giant sign with my fiancé’s face on it declaring him a no-goodnik who’s taking the town to hell in a handbasket.

And yet it’s not all *that* unfamiliar. My grandfather Dick Thornburgh was governor of Pennsylvania and then US attorney general. I grew up with formal family portraits every year, award ceremonies, names in the paper, names in the social register, and photos of my family members with presidents, popes, dignitaries, and Jimmy Stewart lining my grandparents’ condo walls. Grandpa was even on *Da Ali G Show*, which, trust me, got me a lot of mileage in middle school.

So in the right context, with the right group of people, my last name will elicit a nod. Other times, people squint between me and Josh: How does the granddaughter of a Republican governor end up with a progressive Democratic upstart, and why is her hair that color? My mother and grandmother have lived through smear campaigns and public outrage and crushing defeats and even death threats (it’s fine, everybody’s fine!), and they can look back on it winsomely. But I never

How does the granddaughter of a Republican governor end up with a progressive Democratic upstart, and why is her hair that color?



fry, “writes books about smart teenage girls.” When I told him, “Hey, I might write an essay about marrying the mayor, is that chill?” he said “Just don’t make *too* much fun of me.”

If the personal is political, then our relationship has a feminist platform: I have (on good days) a career, or (on less productive ones) a hobby, but regardless, I am defined as someone who does stuff and doesn’t just exist at the side.

thought to ask how it made *them* feel about themselves: to have people set up lawn chairs to watch you leave your wedding ceremony because you’re marrying the First Son of Pennsylvania, or to be nine months pregnant and running into a burning campaign office to rescue index cards of precious voter data.

Controlling for other variables, married politicians tend to outperform single ones. But research has yet to weigh in on how marriage benefits or hinders YA novelists. Aside from the standard patriarchal nonsense of dramatically lowered lifetime earnings, my heterosexual marriage will give me a role that is not only reductive but publicly so: political wife. I will morph from “somebody’s granddaughter” to “somebody’s wife” with barely a gasp in between. When we are both rich and famous, will the society pages refer to “Blair Thornburgh and her husband, the politician Josh Maxwell,”

or “Mayor/Representative/Senator Maxwell and his wife, Blair,” no profession specified? What if the swearing/sex/teenage hijinks in my novels offend the electorate? What if we have a fight in Wegmans over whether or not to spring for the family size cheese and people whisper at our lack of literal family values behind their carts? What if he starts calling me “Mother” and I can’t make him stop? What if, God forbid, our eventual daughter takes a party drug in a fit of pique and ends up kidnapped with her security detail dead, like Zoe Bartlet on that one episode of *The West Wing*?

I am being hyperbolic. That is what I do; wife or no, I’m a writer. And my intended husband knows and enjoys this. “You’re *writing* a book?” he said when we met. “I’m meeting with this writer tomorrow,” he told a friend before we got coffee the first time. “Blair,” he will announce at every steam-table chicken dinner and fish

Sure, I have my fair share of stand-still-look-pretty moments ahead of me, and I probably will have to stop going to Wawa in my pajamas and yesterday’s eyeliner (even if it does make me look like a Woman of the People). I will bear children as photogenic as possible for those soft-focus campaign ads. I will fasten his cuff links until the day I die. Because it is fun, and exhausting, and oddly glamorous, exhilarating, and emotionally taxing. But in the end, because it is my choice.

So I won’t be ditching the FEMINIST T-shirt. But I might buy a new cardigan to wear over it. ♦

Blair Thornburgh, AB’12, is the author of the young adult novels *Who’s That Girl* (HarperTeen, 2017) and *Ordinary Girls* (HarperTeen, forthcoming). By day she is a senior editor at Quirk Books in Philadelphia. She lives—where else?—in Downingtown, Pennsylvania.

Empathy unmasked

BY JOHN PAUL ROLLERT, AM'09, PHD'17
ILLUSTRATIONS BY CAMERON COTTRILL

We talk about empathy a lot these days—most often to observe the lack of it. Consider the president. No, not that one. Barack Obama, who warned in his 2006 book, *The Audacity of Hope*, that the nation was suffering from an “empathy deficit.” He’d been saying as much since at least 2002, when he gave an address at a Rockefeller Chapel event commemorating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and bemoaned “an empathy shortage, an empathy deficit.” “We’ve become so cynical,” he told the assembly, “that it almost seems naive to believe that we can understand each other across the gulf of race or class or region or religion. It’s so much easier to retreat into what’s familiar.”

It’s also tempting to stay put. Sympathy is one thing (I can feel sorry for you just fine standing over here on the other side of the room) but stepping into the shoes of someone whose life looks a lot different from yours is frankly a little terrifying. The democratic benefits of closing that distance are one reason the distinguished law lecturer made his recommendation—“Not sympathy, mind you, but empathy”—but to anchor one’s ethics in a sustained commitment to empathy is no small undertaking. Set aside all of the detective work to make sense of someone’s daily affairs beyond a tidy list of stereotypical traits. What

would it mean for you not just to understand a stranger’s experience but to actually fulfill the fundamental requirement of empathy: To feel what she feels for the reason she feels it?

Seriously, think about it: What would it take to bring home the trauma of an exceedingly precocious child (spoiled and maybe a little bratty) who lost his father in a shocking moment of domestic violence? Or to feel the stinging humiliation of a boorish and proud man being pushed into retirement who believes his boys are lousy and that he has nothing to show for a lifetime of busting his chops? Or to feel the 10,000-watt rage of a young wife who’s sacrificed everything for her husband’s career only to have him drop her like a bad habit when some floozy comes along?

Actors who sign on to play Hamlet, Willy Loman, or Medea face just such challenges, and when I reached the end of the first draft of my doctoral dissertation for the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought, “At Home and Abroad: Reflections on the Nature and Limits of Empathy,” increasingly I found myself thinking about them. My research had examined what a range of figures have to teach

Stepping into the shoes of someone whose life looks a lot different from yours is frankly a little terrifying.

us about empathy, including Adam Smith, Michel de Montaigne, William Shakespeare, Jay Gatsby, and, yes, President Obama. But, as one of the chairs of my dissertation committee gently observed, I hadn’t gotten around to telling readers, practically speaking, how they might overcome their “empathy deficit.”

Actors are not the only individuals who make a career out of stepping into the shoes of others, but then again, I didn’t have access to any international spy rings, and I hadn’t known any narcs since high school. In turn, I decided that I would try to learn what actors learn—gain an empathetic education, if you will—in order to make sense of the requirements of a radical commitment to empathy.

Luckily, Chicago has arguably the liveliest theater scene in the country, complete with an unruly assortment of acting studios that offer everything from one-off classes and refreshers to what I was looking for: a comprehensive introduction to acting. After spending some time on Yelp, where, much like faculty meetings, the overwhelming spirit is often in error, never in doubt, I settled on the Artistic Home, a well-regarded training studio and black box theater in West Town.

In addition to aspiring Laurence Oliviers, acting classes tend to attract the same assortment of individuals who often congregate in adult education programs: the curious, the bored, the lonely, and the strange. It’s that last group—and the need to sort out the eccentric from the amateur taxi-



dermists—that makes conducting interviews of anyone who wants to enroll in an acting class a fairly routine procedure. Mine was with Kathy Scambiatterra, the cofounder and artistic director of the Artistic Home, as well as a distinguished actress, stage director, and a member of the theater’s ensemble. She couldn’t have been more welcoming when I first contacted her about joining the introductory class, but as I made my way to the

interview, passing the hodgepodge of prewar walk-ups and street establishments that share the same stretch of Grand Avenue, I found myself nursing a small knot in my stomach. It had been a while since I’d been given the once-over to determine if I would be an unpleasant presence in a classroom, and while I believed (or, well, hoped) that I would pass the test, I have to say, it was remarkable to feel so vulnerable again.

The feeling of vulnerability, a sense that often dulls with the certainties of adulthood and the satisfactions of professional success, is essential to an actor’s art, a lesson I would learn repeatedly over the cycle of four classes that make up the Artistic Home’s basic curriculum. In the United States, there isn’t a consensus approach to theatrical training, but most of the schools sit somewhere downstream of the Stanislavsky system.

Named for Konstantin Stanislavsky, the actor and director who founded the Moscow Art Theatre at the tail end of the 19th century, the Stanislavsky system broke from previous dramatic techniques by fundamentally changing the actor's orientation. Rather than working (as actors call it) "outside in" by emphasizing gestures, costumes, and vocal range, Stanislavsky had his students work "inside out" by enrolling them in what he called "The School of Experience." This involved a curriculum of free play and improvisational games that aimed to free students from customary habits while making them more receptive to a harrowing array of passions, all long before they entered the world of a play or tried to memorize a line of dialogue.

Lee Strasberg is the most famous of Stanislavsky's American acolytes, but Sanford Meisner's legacy as a teacher has been most enduring. The Artistic Home's training regimen is based on what is conventionally known as the Meisner technique, an approach to acting that draws inspiration from the Stanislavsky system by its focus on softening up the behavioral disposition of actors to make them more capable of channeling a wider range of emotions.

Such a process may sound unremarkable, but consider what it would take to eliminate, even for a short time, the tendencies, mannerisms, and tics that everyone recognizes in your daily behavior in addition to the sensibilities that underwrite them. In other words, to relieve you of you. This is no small challenge, and Meisner's opening gambit is the Repetition Game, the cornerstone of his technique.

I had never heard of the game when I arrived at the Artistic Home. Like so much of what goes on in acting classes, the first blush with the exercise is baffling to anyone whose vision of an actor's art is almost entirely derived from watching actors. In turn, it seems appropriate that the training studio at the Artistic Home lies at the back of the building behind the theater, for students arriving from

the street are required to pass through the setting of an actual play before entering the workshop where they will learn their trade.

The space itself is actually far cozier than the barebones acting studios in many an earnest Introduction to Acting video you can find on YouTube. It's outfitted with a collection of mismatched furniture and assorted bric-a-brac that would look entirely at home in a flat full of sociology students. The studio is supposed to have the feel of a domestic setting, one that, with the wall of props just inside the door, can be rearranged quickly to give the feeling, if not of Elsinore, then of someone else's living room.

Students wander through this space to do what students do, regardless of the discipline: take their seats and make an audience. In acting classes, most of the time is spent watching others fumble through the very exercises you'll soon be called on to do yourself. In the case of the Repetition Game, that involves joining another student with no directions except to engage each other and say what you're feeling (in Meisnerian parlance, "speaking to the moment") or to repeat what the other person has already said, allowing for impulses to shift the repetitive conversation. This gives rise to exchanges that look more or less as follows:

You're scared. I'm scared? You're scared. I'm scared. You're scared. I'm scared. You're scared! I'm scared! You're scared! I'M SCARED! [an impulse shift] You're angry. I'm angry! You're angry? I'm angry! You're angry! I'M ANGRY! YOU'RE ANGRY! I'M ANGRY! You're angry? I'm angry. You're angry. [another impulse] You're crying. I'm crying.

"Instinctive" is another way of describing behavior that my mother would just call "inappropriate."

You're crying? I'm crying! You're crying. I'm crying. [another impulse] You're scared. I'm scared.

If you're confused, that makes you pretty much like every acting student who first encounters the Repetition Game. Explaining the theory behind it, Meisner said he wanted an exercise that had "no intellectuality." Like Stanislavsky before him, he wanted to remove "all the mental manipulation" that most often leads to self-conscious, stilted acting in order to produce performances "firmly rooted in the instinctive."

"Instinctive" is another way of describing behavior that my mother would just call "inappropriate." That's by design. The brilliance of the Repetition Game is not only that it pushes you into emotional registers that you're hardly at home in but that it also gives you nowhere to hide. Once you've been called into the space, you're not supposed to play a character or conjure a plotline. You're just supposed to engage the other actor, and even if you're a reserved person by nature, when someone gets in your face and says, "You're full of it," you might quickly lose track of your inside voice.

Meisner training is not Marine Corps boot camp—for one thing, there are far fewer push-ups—but the intensity of the process should not be understated. You are not only being thrust far beyond your emotional comfort zone, but you're also expected to give evidence of it. Crying, screaming, and a fair bit of Rated behavior are all de rigueur in class meetings—no, you cannot remove your pants, and fisticuffs are strictly prohibited—but then again, such conduct is hardly alien to the theater.

Emotionally, the Repetition Game can be brutal. I found it somewhat like being trapped in a Buster Keaton movie: whipsawed, smacked, dunked, tripped, and kicked down a flight of



stairs—all in the course of a scene. The experience was a reminder that if you soften people up by pummeling them, it's going to leave bruises. That may sound extreme—and it's meant to be—but empathy often requires no less. Adam Smith famously began his *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759) by describing how we would feel if we spent some time watching someone being broken on a medieval rack, but if the ethical possibilities of empathy require you to be affected by the suffering of others (and thereby prompted to do something about them), you have to allow yourself to be wounded. Otherwise, you're lying when you say, "I feel your pain."

Smith's example is a somewhat gory reminder of why the Repetition Game is just the first step in the Meisner Technique. The exercise is supposed to prepare you to be emotionally receptive to what Meisner called "living truthfully under imaginary circumstances."

What did he mean by this? Take the Door-Knock Game, another staple of the training. One student calls another to join her, and the second student comes up with an imaginary

circumstance, a "shared specific," that will give their interaction a little drama. She shares it with her partner before she retreats behind a door, and when she reenters, the two quickly launch into repetition with a trajectory dictated by the charged circumstance.

Our teacher often reminded us that, as actors, we should always make choices that invite the greatest conflict, so I once informed a fellow writer that his prose was garbage. That episode had some sparks—You're a loser! I'm a loser! You're a loser! I'm a loser!—but the one I remember more vividly was a lot less sophomoric. I called a young woman down, and I remember her standing beside me,

pondering a "shared specific," when something terrible flickered across her face. She turned to me. "I told you I'm dying of cancer," she said, before retreating behind the door. When she knocked and came into the room, the sight was positively devastating.

She wasn't dying of cancer, any more than Smith's observer is being torn limb from limb, but the imagination can bring home either set of circumstances to inspire a profound sense of grief.

As I continued through the Artistic Home's basic curriculum, improvisational exercises like the Door-Knock Game incorporated more and more circumstances, adding layers of complexity and believability to every new scenario. Such additions work against the narcissistic tendencies in the training. Rather than lulling you into the mode of the tortured artist, you learn to harvest and metabolize human experience, letting it fire you creatively.

Such lessons prepare you for the training's ultimate aim, to inhabit a theatrical role so thoroughly you seem to disappear. Describing the requirements of such an endeavor, Meisner seconded George Bernard Shaw's estimation that "self-betrayal, magnified to suit the optics of the theater, is the whole art of acting." In other words, the aim of an actor's work is to lose himself in order to find a character.

Empathy is not an entirely different enterprise, even if the experience tends to be more fleeting. You are leaving the immediate world of your own experience—your needs, your fears, your present circumstances—and entering a new emotional landscape. You are betraying your self, even if just for a moment, in favor of another.

If we often do so instinctively with those nearest to us, cultivating a capacity to inhabit lives that are far different from our own is daunting. This is true even under ideal circumstances, like those the Artistic Home afforded. The teaching staff created a safe environment to explore the full spectrum of human emotion and taught us how we

might attempt to channel strange and outrageous passions in service of stepping into the shoes of a gross gallery of characters. Such work is extremely challenging, not only because it is incredibly time consuming. Creatively speaking, the benefits of such efforts are showered on audiences who watch a gifted actress dissolve into a role, and they are also enjoyed by writers whose talent for empathy allows them to colonize a fictional world with a vivid community of characters.

Cultivating a radical capacity for empathy can have great benefits for an artist—my time at the Artistic Home convinced me of this—but I am more doubtful about its relevance for ethics.

To be sure, I am all for trying to understand the lives of others and extend the catalog of our experience—two activities that lend themselves to the spirit of tolerance and democratic accommodation that Barack Obama celebrates. But the difference between that activity and empathy in any full measure is akin to the difference between my own experience attending your wedding and yours. The practical challenges of bridging that divide are considerable, morally speaking, and I'm not sure the effects are worth the effort.

With apologies to the former president, I think we may do more good not by trying to feel the pain that others feel but by doing whatever we can to assist them. Much like trying to learn a new craft, rather than reaffirming our grasp on the world, such efforts can be revelatory in their own way. By reminding us how others suffer even when we enjoy comfort and security, they can teach us a separate lesson: humility. ♦

John Paul Rollert, AM'09, PhD'17, is an adjunct associate professor of behavioral science at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He writes the In-House Ethicist, a featured column for the *Chicago Booth Review*, and his writing has appeared in *Harper's*, the *Atlantic*, the *New York Times*, and the *Paris Review*.



NOTES

BACK TO STUDS'S PLACE

The daily interview show hosted by Louis “Studs” Terkel, PhB’32, JD’34, on Chicago’s WFMT radio station for nearly half a century migrated online in May. Launched by WFMT and the Chicago History Museum, the Studs Terkel Radio Archive encompasses a digital platform, where users can hear the thousands of programs he recorded between 1952 and 1997, including conversations with Martin Luther King Jr., Louis Armstrong, and Maya Angelou, as well as initiatives to engage the public with Terkel’s work. For example, *Bughouse Square*, a podcast hosted by **Eve L. Ewing**, AB’08, and launching in August, mixes Terkel’s recordings with Ewing’s commentary and her own interviews.

COST OF THE CAUSE

Criminal defense attorney and prisoners’ rights activist Fay Stender, JD’56, who died in 1980, is profiled in the new biography *Call Me Phaedra: The Life and Times of Movement Lawyer Fay Stender* (Regent Press, 2018). Written by attorney and former judge Lise Pearlman, it depicts Stender as a courageous fighter for justice in her defense of high-profile convicted militants such as Huey P. Newton and George Jackson—but also as the kind of tragic figure alluded to in the title, driven to suicide by the fate she suffered at the hands of the Black Guerilla Family.

DEMOCRACY AND ITS DISCONTENTS

Vivien A. Schmidt, AM’73, PhD’81, a professor of international relations and political science at Boston University’s Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, was awarded a 2018 Guggenheim Fellowship to study the rise of populist leaders in Europe and the United States in recent years. Schmidt intends to interview major populist figures on both sides of the Atlantic for a book on what she calls the “rhetoric of discontent,” looking to the language of populism to answer “why now, in this way, in these places.” Later this year Schmidt will be decorated as a chevalier in the French Legion of Honor



LIFE AFTER SHOW BIZ

Joel Kupperman, AB’54, SB’55, AM’56, professor emeritus of philosophy at the University of Connecticut, is the subject of *All the Answers* (Gallery 13, 2018), a graphic memoir by his son Michael. Famous during World War II as a child prodigy on the NBC radio show *Quiz Kids*, Kupperman stayed to see the program break into television but left at age 16 for UChicago, returning to show business only once for what the book presents as a fateful 1957 appearance on *The \$64,000 Challenge*. *All the Answers* traces how a philosopher exploring ethics, morality, and character emerged from the trauma of childhood celebrity.

for contributing to the advancement of French art and culture.

KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE

Americans and the Holocaust, a 25th-anniversary special exhibition at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, features the research of **Stephen J. Morewitz**, PhD’83, on the SS *Quanza* controversy, a 1940 incident in which Jewish refugees from Europe were denied safe harbor in Veracruz, Mexico, and Norfolk, VA, until legal action on their behalf prompted the US State Department to intercede. Morewitz, a lecturer in nursing and health science at California State University East Bay, is coauthor, with Susan Lieberman, of the play *Steamship Quanza*, which premiered at Chicago Dramatists in 1991.

PRIZE-WINNING POET

Jennifer Chang, AB’98, assistant professor of English at George Washington University, received this year’s William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America for her collection of poems *Some Say the Lark* (Alice James Books, 2017). The award recognizes a single-author poetry volume from a small, nonprofit, or university press. Chang’s book was cited by poet Paisley Rekdal for

capturing “the ways that words suggest and yet finally never do encapsulate the ultimate strangeness of the world in which each body—whether human or animal—is ultimately unknowable.”

ALL SIDES TO THE STORY

Tracy Mumford, AB’10, won a Peabody Award in May as part of the team that created *74 Seconds*, a Minnesota Public Radio podcast about Philando Castile and the police officer who was charged in his 2016 fatal shooting. Mumford, a digital producer at MPR, was a producer, reporter, and host on the podcast, which was recognized by the Peabody Board of Jurors “for the model it offers us of how to comprehensively cover incidents of police violence.”

RISE TO THE TOP

In July **David Hoffman**, MBA’98, was named CEO of Dunkin’ Brands, the parent company of Dunkin’ Donuts and Baskin-Robbins. Hoffman became president of Dunkin’ Donuts US and Canada in 2016 after holding various leadership positions at McDonald’s. “I grew up in the restaurants,” Hoffman said after his new appointment was announced. “It was burgers and fries at 16 and it’s donuts at 50.”

—Andrew Peart, AM’16, PhD’18

RELEASES

The Magazine lists a selection of general interest books, films, and albums by alumni. For additional alumni releases, use the link to the Magazine's Goodreads bookshelf at mag.uchicago.edu/alumni-books.

THE EXISTENTIALIST'S SURVIVAL GUIDE: HOW TO LIVE AUTHENTICALLY IN AN INAUTHENTIC AGE

By Gordon Marino, PhD'88; HarperOne, 2018

What would a version of Marcus Aurelius's *Meditations* for the 21st century look like? Instead of a manual for living stoically, **Gordon Marino**, professor of philosophy at St. Olaf College, offers wisdom about living authentically drawn from a career spent studying such existentialist thinkers as Søren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche. Existentialist thought, Marino believes, is a key to understanding anxiety, despair, and other threats to our inner well-being as pathways to becoming more fully human.

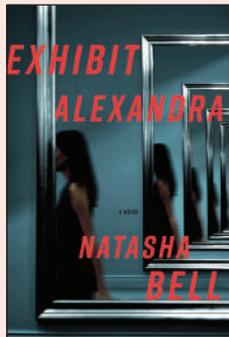


EXHIBIT ALEXANDRA

By Natasha Bell (né Natasha Long), AM'08; Crown, 2018

Alexandra and Marc, two university teachers in York, England, have a fairytale marriage and a happy family—until Alexandra goes missing. Held captive in a room by an unknown psychopath, Alexandra narrates Marc's tortuous odyssey to find her, basing her account on reports from the police investigation fed to her by her captor, with flashbacks of the marriage and her own imagination filling in the gaps. *Exhibit Alexandra*, a thriller by **Natasha Bell**, puzzles readers with the hidden identity and motive of its villain, but the biggest mystery may be who Alexandra and Marc really are beneath the fairytale.

BULLSHIT JOBS: A THEORY

By David Graeber, AM'87, PhD'96; Simon and Schuster, 2018

If your job vanished tomorrow, would society suffer? If not, suggests **David Graeber**, professor of anthropology at the London School of Economics, you may be working a bullshit job. This is no personal indictment: Graeber classifies jobs as such only when workers themselves report a sense of meaninglessness. Plus, he contends, contemporary capitalism simply tends to proliferate managerial and administrative jobs that neither make, maintain, nor move things. So join the club. All of us, even traditional laborers, Graeber suggests, may be doing some amount of bullshit work, including a classic example—paperwork.

THE PRICE OF GREATNESS: ALEXANDER HAMILTON, JAMES MADISON, AND THE CREATION OF AMERICAN OLIGARCHY

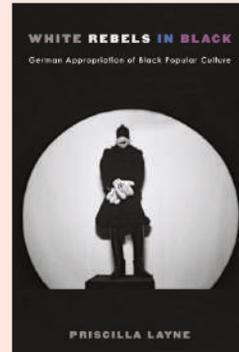
By Jay Cost, AM'04, PhD'17; Basic Books, 2018

Alexander Hamilton, in Lin-Manuel Miranda's Broadway musical, is adamant about "not throwing away his shot." But after reading political scientist **Jay Cost's** account of Hamilton's relationship with James Madison, you may take a different view of his vision of a country, like himself, that would be "young, scrappy, and hungry." Hamilton saw an American constitutional republic that would achieve national greatness by entrusting economic power to wealthy commercial and financial interests, argues Cost, while Madison pushed for equal distribution of power among citizens. This disagreement continues in debates over the role and limits of government in US politics today.

BAY OF POETS

The New York Second, featuring Harald Walkate, IMBA'01; The New York Second, 2017

The debut album of the Amsterdam-based quartet led by jazz pianist **Harald Walkate** takes its name from the Gulf of La Spezia, known as *Golfo dei Poeti* for its associations with Lord Byron, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, and Percy Shelley, who drowned in its waters in 1822. Like the album's namesake, the nine compositions performed here by the group move between the serene and the turbulent, blending soul and Latin influences with bold jazz improvisation.



WHITE REBELS IN BLACK: GERMAN APPROPRIATION OF BLACK POPULAR CULTURE

By Priscilla Layne, AB'03; University of Michigan Press, 2018

Just play Elvis Presley or the Rolling Stones, and you'll hear how much of American and British youth culture of the post-World War II period depended on white artists borrowing from black popular music. According to **Priscilla Layne**, assistant professor of German and adjunct assistant professor of African and African American studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a similar phenomenon swept through East and West Germany after the war. In literature and film, rebellious young whites took black popular culture as their mark of defiance against mainstream norms. That trope has prompted Philipp Khabo Köpsell and other black German writers to make blackness more than a symbol.

THE DEBASEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS: HOW POLITICS SABOTAGE THE IDEAL OF FREEDOM

By Aaron Rhodes, AM'76, PhD'80; Encounter Books, 2018

Should the economic and social rights recognized in international law, such as the rights to social security and a sufficient standard of living, count as human rights? In this critique of the rationale behind today's international human rights system, **Aaron Rhodes**, president of the Forum for Religious Freedom Europe and former executive director of the International Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, calls for reforms that follow a classical liberal definition of human rights. Social and economic welfare are political matters for states to decide, argues Rhodes, while the legitimate concerns of human rights advocacy are more basic—protecting individual liberty and promoting civil society.

—Andrew Peart, AM'16, PhD'18



PHOENIX SOCIETY
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



The Phoenix Society honors individuals who make estate commitments or life-income arrangements to support the University of Chicago. Such gifts provide important ways to strengthen and sustain the University's future.

You can become a lifetime member by funding a life-income gift or simply notifying us that you've planned a gift to the University in one of the following ways:

- included the University in your will or trust
- named the University as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, life insurance policy, or financial account

As a member, you will receive benefits including but not limited to

- complimentary admission to Harper Lectures,
- invitations to exclusive University events, including the annual Phoenix Society luncheon, and
- personalized assistance from gift planning professionals.

Become a member today.

Visit phoenixsociety.uchicago.edu/join

Email phoenixsociety@uchicago.edu

Call 866.241.9802

HONOR ROLL

Phoenix Society members lead the way in supporting the University's students, faculty, resources, and facilities. The names below represent new members welcomed into the society from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018.

All names are listed per member request and also located in the online Leaders in Philanthropy Honor Rolls at give.uchicago.edu/leadersinphilanthropy.

Anonymous (10)
Susan Albin
Carole Artman-Hodge, MBA'79,
and James Hodge, AM'75, AM'77, PhD'79
J. Marshall Ash, SB'61, SM'63, PhD'66,
and Alison Ash
Jack Barbera, AB'68, AM'69, PhD'76
Jane Engle Berlin, AM'52
Michael R. Bernique, AM'70,*
and Michele B. Bernique
Beth Boland, AB'85, JD'88,
and Robert Boland, AB'83, MBA'87
Phyllis Brauer, MST'80
Montague Brown, AB'59, MBA'60,
and Barbara McCool
Dennis Miles Campbell, MBA'78
Amy Carbone, AB'83,
and Paul Carbone, AB'83
Nicholas Carras, AB'84, and Kathleen Carras
Andrea Christian-Michaels, AM'79,
and Stephen Christian-Michaels, AM'79
Julia Cissel, AB'83
James Clark, MBA'84
David Coplen, AB'78
Dana Corman, AM'72
Thomas W. Coyle, MBA'71, and Sally S. Coyle
Natalie Dandekar, AB'64, PhD'70
Peter Dawson
Mary Lynn Donovan, MBA'86,
and Patrick Donovan, MBA'85
Carol Duncan, AB'58, AM'60,
and Andrew Hemingway
Scott Edelstein, LAB'83, and Anedi Edelstein
Deana Elwell, MBA'80
James H. Eraker, SM'71, PhD'81
Eric Etu, MBA'09, and Liza Etu
Janet Fahey and Richard Vance
Roger Fink, AB'63
Wilbur Franklin
Joseph Garcia, MBA'88
Richard Gates, MBA'72
Anne Glass and Mitchell Glass, AB'73, MD'77
Richard Graf, AB'79, AM'80
David Grawemeyer, JD'89
Herman Greene, THM'68, MDV'98,
and Sandra Greene
Ellen Grimes and John Grimes
John Groh, AM'68, PhD'72, and Nancy Groh
Kirsten Gronbjerg, AM'70, PhD'74
Susan Guber, AB'60
Edward Hamburg, PhD'82,
and Stacey Hamburg
Edward Hamlin, AB'81, and Paula Hamlin
John Mark Hansen and Dana Saowalak
Thomas Heberlein, AB'67,
and Elizabeth Thomson
Susanna Hecht, LAB'68, AB'72
Janet Helman and Robert Helman
John Heneghan, MBA'96
Kathryn Herndon, AB'55,
and Robert Herndon, AB'55
George Hersh, AB'80, MBA'82,
and Patricia Hersh
John Hutchason, MBA'71
William Jackman, MBA'95
John G. Jacobs, JD'72,
and Betty C. Jacobs, JD'72
Stasha Jain, AB'93
Joseph Jannotta, MBA'67,* and Gina Jannotta
Pamela Johnson
Annette Kadar, PhB'47
Sharon M. Keigher, AM'71, PhD'85
Thomas Kelly
Ryan Klabunde, MBA'97
Geraldine Krasner, AM'68,
and Ronald Krasner
Joan Lascelle, AB'60, AM'64
Nancy Leipzig, SM'80,
and Bernard Leipzig, SB'76, PhD'82
John Longwell Jr., MD'67, and Helen Wang
George Lundin, JD'54
Barry L. MacLean
Thomas Magee, AB'81
Eric and Barb Malès
Elizabeth Mandel-Carley, AM'68
Susan Maren, AB'75
Fred A. Mauck, JD'62, and Martha P. Mauck
Pearl Maxey and Rick Maxey
Roxane McKay, MD'70
Marsha Meskan and Stephen Meskan
Nancy Meyrich and Richard P. Krasnow
G. Michael Moebs, MBA'75
Venkat Mothkur, LAB'00
Donald William Musser, PhD'81
William Odell, SM'56, MD'56,
and Margaret Odell
John Odgen, MD'71
Thomas P. O'Toole Jr., MBA'73
Mary Ott, SM'67, PhD'71, and Edward Ott
Peter Parshall, AM'67, PhD'74,
and Linda Parshall
Gerald Picus, SB'47, SM'50, PhD'54,
and Joy Picus
John Polking, SM'61, PhD'66
Henrietta Bartizal Pons, MBA'79
Suzanne Rague, MBA'74
Shulamit Ran and Abraham Lotan
Marjorie Rapp, AB'51, AM'54
Margo Reich, AB'70
Richard Rendine, MBA'63, and Linda Rendine
Henry Renken, MBA'77
Barbara Rogers, AM'89,
and Christopher Rogers, MBA'90
Thorn Rosenthal, LAB'69, JD'75
Michael Rosepiler, MBA'94, and Peggy Qin
Janet Rotner and Philip Rotner
Sharon Rowley, MBA'79,
and Craig Rowley, MBA'78
Randi Rubovits-Seitz
Paul Schollmeier, AB'69, AM'74, PhD'82
Barbara Schubert
and Daniel McDonald, PhD'80
Mady Wechsler Segal, AM'67, PhD'73,
and David R. Segal, AM'63, PhD'67
Michael Seibold, AM'80, and Maurice Peterson
Deming Sherman, JD'68
Deborah Sifferlen, MBA'96,
and Joseph Sifferlen, MBA'93
Byron Smith, MBA'86, and Beth Ann Smith
Frank Smith
Jean Maclean Snyder, LAB'59, AB'63, JD'79
Allan Spradling, SB'71
Sandra Steele, MLA'05,
and John Steele, MBA'96
Rebecca Wilson Stein, AB'93
James Stirling
Charles Strickler, MBA'97
Alexis Strongin, AB'80, SM'82, MD'84,
and Steven Strongin II, AB'79, AM'82
David Terman, LAB'51, AB'55, SB'56, MD'59
Virginia Tobiason, CER'02
Preston Torbert, AM'70, PhD'73
Hazel Vespa, AM'68, and Carl Vespa, AB'49*
Anne Wedemeyer, MD, JD
Donald Weidemann, AB'75, MBA'76,
and Jennifer Weidemann
Joan Wennstrom Bennett, SM'64, PhD'67
David Wetzel, AM'74, PhD'76
Robert Wollmann, PhD'68, MD'69,
and Richard Sessions, AM'72
Meredith Lee Young, MBA'83,
and John Francis Chmura
Adam Zelitzky, MLA'12

*Deceased

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BECOME A DOCTOR

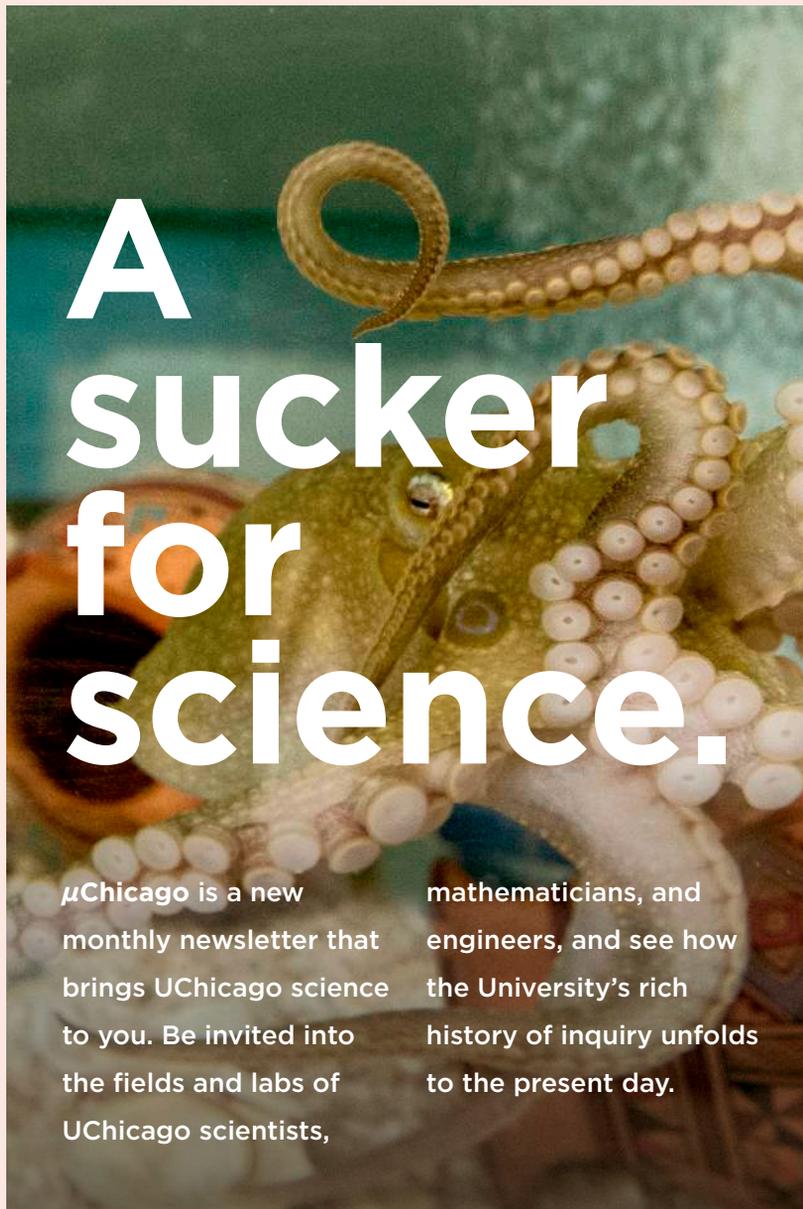
- Intensive, full-time preparation for medical school in one year
- Early acceptance programs at select medical schools—more than any other postbac program
- Supportive, individual academic and premedical advising

VISIT US AT WWW.BRYNMAWR.EDU/POSTBAC

POSTBAC@BRYNMAWR.EDU
610-526-7350



POSTBACCALAUREATE
PREMEDICAL PROGRAM
BRYN MAWR COLLEGE



A sucker for science.

μ Chicago is a new monthly newsletter that brings UChicago science to you. Be invited into the fields and labs of UChicago scientists,

mathematicians, and engineers, and see how the University's rich history of inquiry unfolds to the present day.

μ Chicago

a small selection of science stories

Don't miss out on discovery in the making.

To sign up, go to alumni.uchicago.edu/sci.

DEATHS

FACULTY AND STAFF

Hellmut Fritzsche, the Louis Block Professor Emeritus in Physics, of Tucson, AZ, died June 17. He was 91. An experimental physicist who made major contributions to modern electronics, Fritzsche chaired the Department of Physics from 1977 to 1986 and oversaw the building of the Kersten Physics Teaching Center. His experimental research on amorphous semiconductors led to technological advances in computer memory, solar panels, and what would become flat-screen televisions. A member of the UChicago faculty for nearly four decades, he was also vice president of United Solar Corporation and a consultant for Energy Conversion Devices. His honors included the Alexander von Humboldt Award and the Oliver E. Buckley Condensed Matter Physics Prize. His wife, Sybille Fritzsche, JD'68, PhD'95, died June 17 (see page 78). He is survived by two daughters, **Susanne Fritzsche Olkkola**, LAB'81, and **Katja Fritzsche**, LAB'88; two sons, **Peter Fritzsche**, LAB'77, and **Thomas Fritzsche**, LAB'80; and eight grandchildren. **Kali Charan Bahl**, associate professor emeritus, of Chicago, died March 29. He was 90. Bahl joined the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations in 1967, shortly after its inception as a formal program of study at the University. Over his 30-year career, he led the development of the department's language program, helping establish the study of Hindi at UChicago. A specialist in the Hindi, Rajasthani, Munda, and Punjabi languages, he authored several linguistics reference works and guides, including *A Reference Grammar of Hindi* (1967), as well as numerous articles on Indian literature and folklore. He is survived by his wife, Vimla; a daughter, **Vipul Bahl Purcell**, LAB'81; two sons, **Vinit Bahl**, LAB'76, and **Chandra Shekhar Bahl**, LAB'83, AB'88; and five grandchildren. **Louis Cohen**, SB'48, MD'53, professor emeritus of cardiology at UChicago Medicine, died January 10 in Chicago. He was 89. In his six decades as a researcher, physician, and teacher at the University, Cohen studied the chemistry of compounds now used to treat a range of cardiac problems, helped create the medical center's first coronary care unit, and designed the Department of Medicine's course on clinical pathophysiology and therapeutics. He also contributed to advances in treating Duchenne muscular dystrophy. He was recognized by the Department of Medicine with a Distinguished Service Award in 2007. His wife, Emily Cohen, CER'84, died in 2013. He is survived by a daughter, **Ruth C. Kubicek**, LAB'73; two sons, **Curtis R. Cohen**, LAB'71, and **Fredric A. Cohen**, LAB'78; eight grandchildren, including **Naomi S. Cody**, AB'99; and six great-grandchildren. **Bernard S. Silberman**, professor emeritus of political science, died April 28 in Chicago. He was 87. Silberman taught at Oberlin

College, the University of Arizona, and Duke University before joining UChicago in 1975, where he served from 1978 to 1981 as associate dean of the Graduate Division of the Social Sciences and master of the Social Sciences Collegiate Division and twice chaired the Department of Political Science. An expert on Japanese government and the bureaucratic state, he authored such books as *Ministers of Modernization: Elite Mobility in the Meiji Restoration, 1868–1873* (1964) and *Cages of Reason: The Rise of the Rational State in France, Japan, the United States, and Great Britain* (1993). He is survived by his wife, Pauline; three daughters, including **Andrea J. Silberman**, LAB'82; and three grandchildren.

Nicholas Rudall, professor emeritus of classics and founding artistic director of Court Theatre, died June 19 in Tucson, AZ. He was 78. A scholar and renowned translator of Greek drama, Rudall taught in the Department of Classics from 1966 until his retirement four decades later. As Court Theatre's artistic director from 1972 to 1994, he developed the institution from an amateur community-based theater into a professional company, overseeing the establishment of its permanent home on UChicago's campus in 1981. His published translations and adaptations included ancient works by Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes, as well as modern texts by Christopher Marlowe, Henrik Ibsen, and Georges Feydeau. He is survived by a daughter and extended family.

Paula Jaudes, professor of pediatrics at UChicago Medicine, died June 16 in Chicago. She was 71. A member of the Department of Pediatrics since 1975, Jaudes became medical director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services in 1993 and also served as president and CEO of La Rabida Children's Hospital from 1996 to 2011. In addition to her role as associate director of outreach at UChicago's Center for Global Health, she served the American Academy of Pediatrics as an executive committee member of the Council on Foster Care, Adoption, and Kinship Care. She is survived by a sister and extended family.

Daniel Luchins, associate professor emeritus of psychiatry, died May 2 in Chicago. He was 69. During his 25 years on the UChicago faculty, Luchins served as chief of adult psychiatry, director of public psychiatry, and director of both the Geriatrics Psychiatry Clinic and the Center for Public Mental Health Services Research. He was also a staff psychiatrist at Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center and its Auburn-Gresham Community Based Outpatient Clinic. His research included studies of depression, schizophrenia, Alzheimer's disease, and human brain development.

TRUSTEE

Robert H. Malott, University of Chicago trustee emeritus, died April 4 in Palo Alto, CA. He was 91. A World War II US Navy veteran, Malott joined the manufacturing

firm FMC Corporation in 1952, serving as CEO from 1971 until his retirement in 1991. An active civic leader and philanthropist, he served on Argonne National Laboratory's governing board, chaired the Hoover Institution's board of overseers, was chair of the board of the National Museum of Natural History, and was a life director of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Chicago Botanic Garden. He is survived by three daughters and six grandchildren.

1940s

Eunice "Ruddy" Hale Smith, AB'43, died February 4 in Lake Forest, IL. She was 95. Smith was a reporter for the *Chicago Daily News* during World War II and turned her attention to civic and charitable work in the 1960s. She served on the boards of Planned Parenthood, Lake Forest College, Hull House, and Know Your Chicago, a UChicago program in civic awareness and participation now sponsored by the University's Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies. She is survived by three daughters, a son, and eight grandchildren.

Olivia (Coolidge) Dworkin, AB'45, died April 28, 2017, in Meredith, NH. She was 94. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Dworkin taught political economics at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, where she met her husband. They later ran a home for troubled Jewish youth in Germantown, PA. For more than 25 years she was the owner of Roseway Books, a used bookstore in Boston. Her husband, Harry W. Dworkin, AM'52, died in 1996. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, a brother, and three grandchildren.

Gerald Reaven, AB'47, SB'50, MD'53, died February 12 in Stanford, CA. He was 89. An endocrinologist and a professor emeritus at the Stanford University School of Medicine, Reaven established insulin resistance as a cause of type 2 diabetes and demonstrated its role in a group of metabolic abnormalities that he called "Syndrome X," associated with cardiovascular disease. Honors for his research included the Banting Medal for Scientific Achievement from the American Diabetes Association and the William S. Middleton Award from the Department of Veterans Affairs. He is survived by his wife, **Eve (Perl) Reaven**, PhD'54; two daughters; and a son, **Peter D. Reaven**, MD'84.

Merrill A. Freed, AB'49, JD'53, died January 29 in Highland Park, IL. He was 88. After one year in India on a Fulbright Scholarship and two years in the US Army, Freed spent his career as a lawyer with the Chicago firm D'Ancona & Pflaum, now merged with Seyfarth Shaw. He is survived by his wife, **Janet (Bezark) Freed**, LAB'49, AM'58; two daughters; two sons; three brothers, including **Stanley A. Freed**, PhB'49, and **Frederick D. Freed**, AB'57; and five grandchildren.

George K. Hendrick Jr., AB'49, MBA'49, died February 19 in Chicago. He was 94. After serving in the US Army during World War II, Hendrick became a partner in the investment banking firm Blunt, Ellis &

Simmons. He went on to become a founding partner in the venture capital firm Frontenac and later founded the merchant banking firm Hendrick, Urgo. He is survived by three daughters; a son, **George K. Hendrick III**, MBA'93; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Carl Vespa, AB'49, died March 8 in Chicago. He was 87. Vespa worked at Argonne National Laboratory, Honeywell, and Bell Labs. In 1963 he founded NanoFast, which manufactures precision electronic scientific measurement equipment. Survivors include his wife, **Hazel M. Vespa**, AM'68; three stepdaughters; two stepsons; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

1950s

Barbara Kiefer Lewalski, AM'51, PhD'56, died March 2 in Providence, RI. She was 87. A leading scholar of the English Renaissance who advanced the study of 17th-century women's writing, Lewalski was the first woman to receive tenure and hold an endowed chair in English at Brown University and the first to do the same at Harvard University, where she taught since 1982. An authority on John Milton, she published such works as *Protestant Poetics and the Seventeenth-Century Religious Lyric* (1979) and *Writing Women in Jacobean England* (1993). Her husband, **Kenneth F. Lewalski**, AM'52, PhD'60, died in 2006. She is survived by a son.

Peter G. Peterson, MBA'51, died March 20 in New York City. He was 91. Peterson served as an assistant on international economic affairs and commerce secretary under President Richard M. Nixon before becoming chair and CEO of the Wall Street firm Lehman Brothers in 1973. He cofounded the alternative investments firm the Blackstone Group in 1985. In several books and through his support of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, he promoted arguments for fiscal responsibility and limits to federal entitlement spending. He is survived by his wife, Joan Ganz Cooney, a daughter, four sons, a brother, and nine grandchildren.

Boyd R. "Bob" Burkhardt, 12GC'52, died May 7 in Tucson, AZ. He was 84. After serving in the US Air Force as chief of surgery at Lajes Air Base in the Azores, Burkhardt moved with his family to Tucson and established a surgical facility next to the Tucson Medical Center. A specialist in plastic surgery for nearly four decades, he served as president of both the Pima County Medical Society and the Rocky Mountain Plastic Surgery Society. He is survived by two daughters, a son, and five grandchildren.

Sheldon M. Gordon, PhB'52, died September 28 in North Palm Beach, FL. He was 88. After a stint as a runner on the Chicago Board of Trade, Gordon became a real estate developer who helped pioneer entertainment retail. Beginning in the early 1970s, his major development projects were innovative retail complexes such as Pearlridge Center in Aiea, HI; the Beverly Shops in Los Angeles; and the Forum Shops at

Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. He is survived by his wife, Christine; two daughters; two sons; a sister; and six grandchildren.

Frank Ezra Levy, AM'54, of Fort Lee, NJ, died April 23, 2017. He was 86. A professional cellist and composer, Levy taught for a time at Brooklyn College and the New School. After stints with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Feldman Chamber Music Society, and the Halifax Symphony Orchestra, he became principal cellist at Radio City Music Hall, where he remained for more than four decades while also playing with the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the New York Philharmonic. He is survived by two daughters, a stepdaughter, a stepson, a brother, and three step-grandchildren.

Philip M. Roth, AM'55, died May 22 in New York City. He was 85. One of the preeminent American novelists of the second half of the 20th century, Roth won the National Book Award for his debut collection, *Goodbye, Columbus and Five Short Stories* (1959), and again for *Sabbath's Theater* (1995); achieved literary celebrity with the best-selling novel *Portnoy's Complaint* (1969); and later received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his 1997 novel *American Pastoral*. Other honors included the National Humanities Medal, the National Medal of the Arts, and the Man Booker International Prize. (See "Talking Back," page 30.—Ed.)

Lawrence Kaplan, PhD'56, died March 6 in Washington, DC. He was 91. A botanist who specialized in the origin and cultivation of beans in the Americas, Kaplan taught at Roosevelt University for nearly a decade before becoming a founding member in 1965 of the University of Massachusetts Boston campus, helping to start its biology department. He taught there until his retirement in 1995 and served as editor of the journal *Economic Botany*. He is survived by three daughters, including **Martha Kaplan**, AM'81, PhD'88; and two granddaughters, including **E. Kaplan-Kelly**, AB'14.

Franz C. Snyder, AB'56, died April 25 in Berkeley, CA. He was 81. A US Army veteran, Snyder taught English at Richmond High School in Richmond, CA, and Albany High School in Albany, CA. For more than 20 years he was a volunteer usher for the Aurora Theatre Company, the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and UC Berkeley's Cal Performances. His wife, Mary Ann "Zoe" (Anday) Snyder, LAB'52, AB'56, died in 1982. He is survived by two daughters, a sister, and two grandchildren.

Arthur L. Waldman, AB'56, of Pinecrest, FL, died March 26. He was 81. After earning his medical degree, Waldman became the first neurologist in Middletown, CT, where he served as chief of neurology at Middlesex Hospital for 31 years. An assistant clinical professor at the University of Connecticut Medical School, he also taught in its affiliated family practice residency at Middlesex Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; three sons, including **Brian Pearce Waldman**, AB'86, MBA'87; a sister; and seven grandchildren.

Raymond K. Baker, AB'57, AM'60, of Wilmette, IL, died December 26. He was 82. Baker taught philosophy at the City Colleges of Chicago and worked as a criminal defense attorney. In retirement he ushered for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He is survived by his wife, Deborah; three sons, including **Aaron Evan Baker**, AB'81; and three grandchildren.

Keith D. Hage, PhD'57, of Leduc, Alberta, died December 11. He was 91. Professor emeritus of geography at the University of Alberta, Hage taught there from 1967 until his retirement in 1985. He studied urban meteorology and prairie weather patterns and was a fellow of the American Meteorological Society. He is survived by his wife, Ollie; two daughters; a son; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Robert H. Gerstein, JD'59, of Highland Park, IL, died March 29. He was 82. A real estate lawyer who also worked as a developer in the Chicago metropolitan area, Gerstein started his legal career at the firm Yates, Holleb & Mickelson, which later became Holleb, Gerstein & Glass. Over decades he helped develop office, retail, and residential projects on Michigan Avenue and in Lincoln Park while promoting low- and moderate-income housing in Hyde Park, Highland Park, and the University of Illinois at Chicago area. He is survived by his wife, **Helene (Paul) Gerstein**, AB'58; a daughter; two sons, including **Mark D. Gerstein**, JD'84; and eight grandchildren.

Germain G. Grisez, PhD'59, of Emmitsburg, MD, died February 1. He was 88. Professor emeritus of Christian ethics at Mount St. Mary's University, Grisez previously taught at Georgetown University and Campion College and wrote extensively on Catholic theology. In *Contraception and the Natural Law* (1964) and other writings, he defended the Catholic Church's teachings on contraception. His three-volume work *The Way of the Lord Jesus* (1983–1997) assembled teachings in moral theology and helped articulate what became known as the new natural law theory. Survivors include three sons, 12 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren.

Judith E. Rosenblatt, AB'59, of Jacksonville, FL, died December 26. She was 79. Rosenblatt taught elementary school in Chicago and Centralia, MO, before working as an editor for state and local boards of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. She later embarked on a two-decade career at the University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center. She is survived by two sons and eight grandchildren.

1960s

John Cashman, SB'60, died March 3 in Wilmington, NC. He was 79. A diplomat of the American Urological Association and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Cashman was the head of urology at the US Naval Hospital in Charleston, SC, before moving to Wilmington in 1972 to join

the private practice Hanover Urological, where he remained until his retirement. He also served as president of the New Hanover-Pender County Medical Society and as chair of the Department of Surgery at the New Hanover Regional Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, **Diane Cashman**, AB'60; a daughter; a son; two sisters; a brother; and six grandchildren.

Miriam D. Balanoff, AB'61, JD'63, of Chicago, died in September 2017. She was 91. After operating a storefront legal practice in Chicago and teaching a course on women and law at local colleges, Balanoff was elected in 1978 to the first of two terms in the Illinois House of Representatives, where her advocacy for economic and social causes included proposing legislation to protect workers facing plant closings. For 14 years, beginning in 1986, she served as a judge on the Cook County Circuit Court. Her husband, **Clement Balanoff**, PhB'49, SB'58, died in 2002. She is survived by a daughter, **M. Jane Balanoff**, AB'76; two sons; nine grandchildren, including **Clement Balanoff**, LAB'04, and **Monica Balanoff**, LAB'06; and a great-grandchild.

Georgia L. Helmer, SB'63, PhD'82, died October 21 in Asheville, NC. She was 76. A biochemist, Helmer worked as a research associate at North Carolina State University. She later became a patent examiner with the US Patent and Trademark Office, retiring in 2012 after more than a decade of service. She is survived by her husband, **Hollis D. Smith**; two sisters; and a brother.

Jack K. Balcombe Jr., AB'65 (Class of 1966), died December 30 in Lorimor, IA. He was 73. Balcombe worked as a psychologist in Chicago before he and his wife purchased a farm near Lorimor in the late 1970s. He was a social worker at nursing homes in Afton and Creston, IA. He is survived by his wife, **Sarah Frank**; two daughters; a sister, **Joan Balcombe**, MD'80; and a grandson.

Jerry Lee Schoemann, MBA'65, died January 25 in Austin, TX. He was 78. Schoemann earned a degree in mechanical engineering before studying business at UChicago. He led a long career as a business professional in communications and marketing. He is survived by his wife, **Ginger**; three daughters; a son; a sister; and 11 grandchildren.

Floy Agnes Naranjo Lee, PhD'66, died March 6 in Santa Fe, NM. She was 95. Lee was a hematology technician on the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos, NM, before pursuing her doctorate in zoology. An expert in cytogenetics and radiation biology, she worked for a time at Argonne National Laboratory, going on to serve as the director of the Department of Tissue Culture at the Pasadena Foundation for Medical Research, a senior scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and a radiobiologist in Los Alamos National Laboratory's Mammalian Biology Group. She helped found the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and was a member of the Santa Clara Pueblo. She is survived by a daughter and two grandchildren.

Andrea Farkas Patenaude, AB'67, of Brookline, MA, died January 29. She was 71. A clinical psychologist and a leader in the field of psychosocial oncology, Patenaude began her career in the Department of Psychiatry at Boston Children's Hospital and later worked as a clinician at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where she served as director of the Jimmy Fund Clinic from 2000 to 2011 and then as director of psychology research and clinical service in the Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention until her retirement in 2017. She was also an associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and an attending psychologist and psychosocial researcher at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She is survived by her husband, **Leonard**; a daughter; and a sister. (See *Alumni News*, page 64.—Ed.)

Sybil Fritzsche, JD'68, PhD'95, of Tucson, AZ, died June 17. She was 87. A civil rights lawyer in Chicago for nearly three decades, Fritzsche served as a legal counsel to the American Civil Liberties Union and later as executive director of the Chicago Lawyers Committee for Equal Rights under Law. In addition to teaching law at DePaul University and Chicago-Kent College of Law at the Illinois Institute of Technology, she earned a doctorate as a scholar of Chinese history. Her husband, **Hellmut Fritzsche**, the Louis Block Professor Emeritus in Physics, died June 17 (see page 76). She is survived by two daughters, **Susanne Fritzsche Olkkola**, LAB'81, and **Katja Fritzsche**, LAB'88; two sons, **Peter Fritzsche**, LAB'77, and **Thomas Fritzsche**, LAB'80; and eight grandchildren.

Margery Smith, AM'68, PhD'70, died March 14 in St. Paul, MN. She was 90. A member of the Sisters of St. Joseph and a professor emerita of English at the College of St. Catherine, Smith taught on the English faculty there from 1968 to 1993 before serving as St. Catherine university archives director until her retirement in 2011. She founded the Antonian Scholars Honors Program at St. Catherine and received the 2010–11 Alumnae Award. She is survived by extended family.

1970s

Amos R. Bien, AB'73, died of cancer November 19 in Williamsburg, VA. He was 66. A population ecologist specializing in responsible and sustainable tourism, Bien was founder and CEO of Rara Avis Rainforest Lodge and Reserve in Costa Rica. He worked for the United Nations Environmental Programme, was a founding member of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, taught sustainable tourism at the Universidad de Cooperación Internacional, and served as lead assessor for the international nonprofit Forest Stewardship Council. He is survived by three children, two sisters, and four grandchildren.

Ivan F. Rivera, AM'73, died February 11 in Washington, DC. He was 71. An economist with the World Bank Group, he also served

as a member of its board of directors. He taught macroeconomics and microeconomics at the University of Lima and was industry minister of Peru in 1983, later serving as that nation's minister of economy and finance. He is survived by his wife, **Blanca**; two daughters; and a son.

Eli Leon, AM'79, died March 6 in Emeryville, CA. He was 82. A psychotherapist in private practice in Oakland, CA, for a time, Leon started collecting African American quilts in the mid-1980s and became a prominent curator of the self-taught art, receiving a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1989 to conduct research and expand his collection. Known as a champion of quiltmaker **Rosie Lee Tompkins**, he organized numerous exhibitions featuring his own collection and also loaned works by Tompkins to the Whitney Museum of American Art for the 2000 Whitney Biennial. Survivors include a sister and extended family.

1980s

Jeffrey C. Boulden, AB'82, died January 15 in Peoria, IL. He was 57. Boulden served underprivileged clients for more than two decades as an attorney with the Legal Aid Foundation. An accomplished cook, he also enjoyed blues and jazz music and traveling to New Orleans. He is survived by his father and a sister.

2000s

Erin Ashly Reynolds, AM'02, died March 30 after a sudden illness in Branson West, MO. She was 40. A licensed clinical social worker, Reynolds operated her own counseling practice, SEMS Treatment Services, and was executive director of the Family Access Center for Excellence of Boone County. She was also an assistant clinical professor at the University of Missouri. Licensed as a minister in 2001, Reynolds was co-pastor, with her husband, of Fifth Street Christian Church in Columbia, MO, from 2013 to 2017. Survivors include her husband, **Marcus**; a daughter; a son; her mother and father; two grandmothers; and two brothers.

Zeke R. Upshaw, LAB'09, died March 26 of a sudden cardiac event in Grand Rapids, MI. He was 26. A professional basketball player, Upshaw spent his NCAA career with the Illinois State University Redbirds and the Hofstra University Pride. He was in his second season with the Grand Rapids Drive, an NBA G League team affiliated with the Detroit Pistons. Survivors include his mother.

2010s

Alan M. Swartz, SM'15, died unexpectedly in his sleep May 12 in Vernon Hills, IL. He was 31. Swartz was working toward his PhD in the Department of Chemistry. He was a research assistant in the laboratory of **Jared Lewis**, former assistant professor of chemistry, and focused on the development of new catalysts. He is survived by a daughter, his mother and father, two sisters, and a grandmother.

CHICAGO CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

Delahoyde Projects is a full-service production company but one that's immediately scalable to fit any size project and budget. Have a quick idea that needs to be pulled off in a week? Have a massive commercial you need a cast of dozens for, and an equally big crew? From epic spots to corporate industrials and testimonials, short form comedy films to complex motion graphics, we've done it all, on time every time and always on budget. See thehoyde.com.

Chicago improv workshops: Build confidence, improve communication, and foster teamwork using the tools of improv comedy. We'll design a custom workshop to suit your group's needs and goals. (Introvert friendly, we promise!) Past clients include UChicago's Center for Latin American Studies and Divinity School. Led by veteran improvisers Scott and Mark Piebenga. scottpiebenga@gmail.com.

RENTALS

Italy, Rome: Spacious, stylish, renovated apartment with easy access to major sights and Metro. Two bedrooms, two baths. Wi-Fi. Elevator. Air conditioned. lm603@columbia.edu. 212.867.0489. casacleme.com.

US Virgin Islands. Hillcrest Guest House St. John vacation rental. hillcreststjohn.com. 340.998.8388.

WANTED

Help a student become WISR. A short conversation with a knowledgeable alum can change a UChicago student's life forever. The Alumni Association matches you with students and facilitates conversations, and you provide valuable advice. Join the network and create your mentor profile: uchicago.wisr.io.

EVENTS

Explore with Chicago Detours, founded in 2010 by a UChicago alum. Book a private or public tour of stunning architecture, historic bars, or food history, in Chicago neighborhoods or downtown: chicagodetours.com.

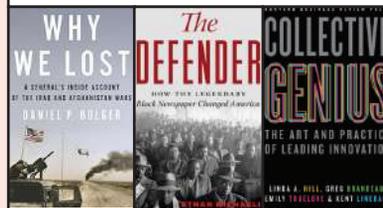
AlumniU: Stimulate your brain at the beach, in your backyard, or wherever you happen to be this summer. Explore AlumniU to catch up on past courses, or join an interactive self-paced learning quest: alumniu.uchicago.edu.



Good reads.

Find great books written by your fellow alumni on the *Magazine's* Goodreads shelf.

Go to mag.uchicago.edu/alumni-books to browse our collection by UChicago affiliation or to submit your book.



If You Weren't Looking For It
The Seminary Co-op Bookstore

A fully illustrated look at the past and future of the beloved Hyde Park bookstore.

Featuring essays by Co-op members including novelist Aleksandar Hemon, philosopher Jonathan Lear, legal scholar Cass Sunstein, and author Blue Balliett.

Available at semcoop.com—and at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore and 57th Street Books.

Hyde Park Cats

CATS TO ADOPT, FOSTER, SUPPORT, AND LOVE

... right here in the neighborhood.

Join our mission for a humane Chicago, where every cat is a wanted cat.

hydeparkcats.org

A registered 501(c)(3) organization.

Chicago Classifieds Reach 155,000 Readers

AD RATES \$3 per word, 10-word minimum.

DISCOUNTS 5% for advertising in 2–3 issues and 15% for 4 or more issues.

DEADLINES October 1 for the Fall/18 issue.

To learn more, visit mag.uchicago.edu/advertising.

ADVERTISING CATEGORIES (Check one.)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Personals | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rental | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Name

Daytime Phone

Email

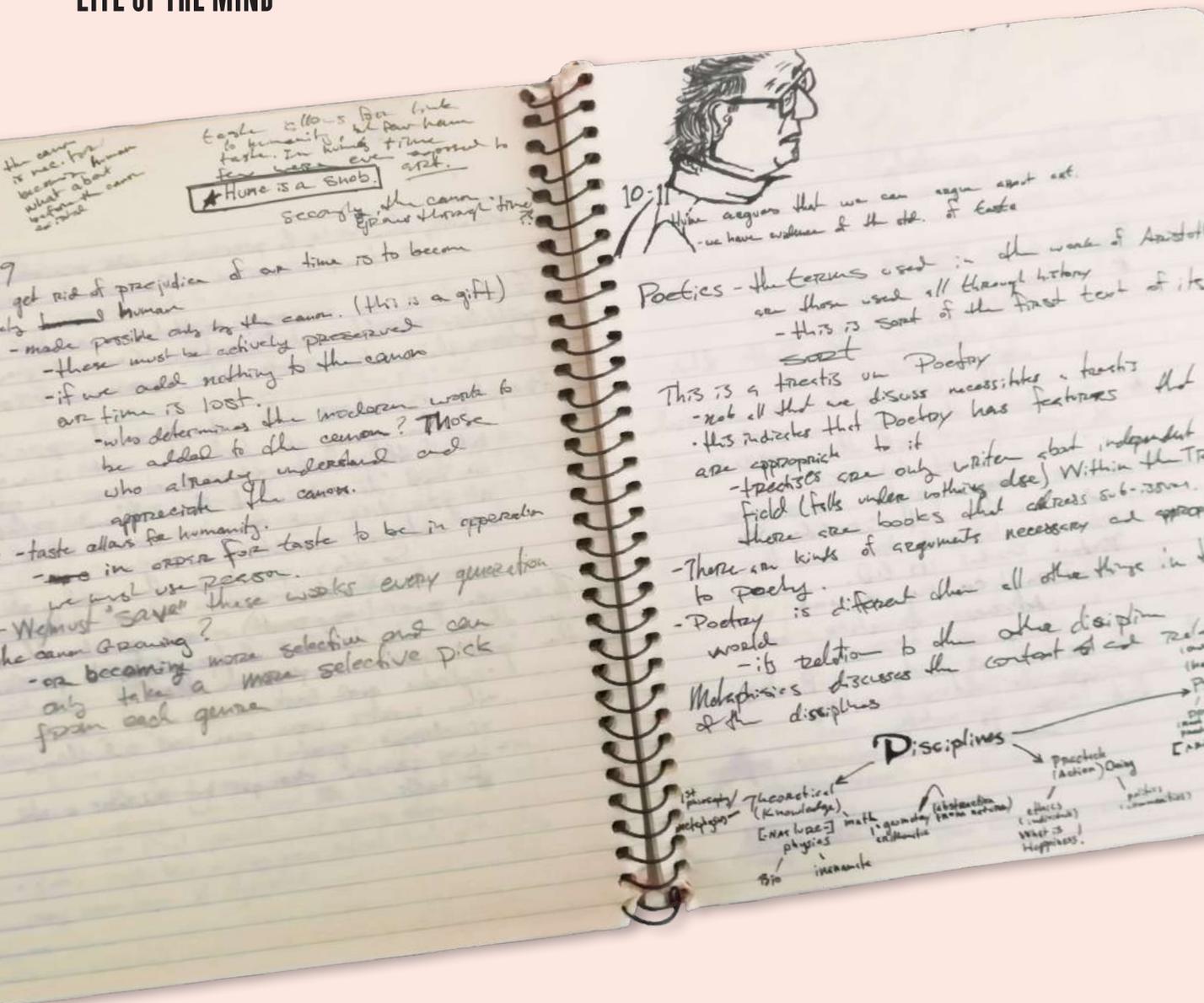
PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER

- Visa Mastercard Discover

Account # Exp. Date

Check (Payable to University of Chicago Magazine.)

Submit form, typed classified advertisement, and payment via email to uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu, or by fax to 773.702.8836, or by mail to The University of Chicago Magazine, 5235 South Harper Court, Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60615.



Doodlecore

In his College classes, **Benjamin Lorch**, AB'93, AM'04, often surrounded his notes with doodles, and the more he enjoyed his professors, the better the chances his marginalia included their likenesses. Among those teachers Lorch really liked—a far from unique sentiment among College alumni—was Herman Sinaiko, AB'47, PhD'61 (1929–2011).

Shown here are Lorch's notes from Modes of Criticism, where Sinaiko impressed on the students taking the General Studies in the Humanities course that “each discipline, each science, and each way of thinking has its own

language, logic, lessons, and learnings,” Lorch recalls. His notes reveal that under discussion that fall day in 1989 was Aristotle's *Poetics*.

Have you saved your own course notes, and do they contain any notable doodles? Scan and send them to us at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu and we'll share a selection on our website.—*Laura Demanski, AM'94*



To learn more about Lorch's memories of Sinaiko, visit mag.uchicago.edu/doodlecore.



HARPER LECTURES

HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL WITH US!

The UChicago Alumni Association is proud to offer the Harper Lecture series, featuring University faculty speaking on critical topics to engaged alumni around the globe.

Register to attend a fall Harper Lecture in a city near you today.

BEIJING 9/27

LOS ANGELES 10/7

CHICAGO 10/11

NORTH CAROLINA 10/11

BOSTON 10/25

WASHINGTON, DC 11/1

SAN FRANCISCO 11/4

NAPERVILLE 11/11

NEW YORK CITY 11/29

Bring your curiosity.

Visit alumni.uchicago.edu/harper

Email alumniassociation@uchicago.edu

Call **773.702.2150**





UCHICAGO
ALUMNI
TRAVEL
2019

“Compatible people,
good lectures,
interesting tours.”

—Alumni Traveler,
Scotland and Norway 2018

Why Travel with UChicago?

Insight and inspiration
from a UChicago
scholar's lectures

**Camaraderie
and conversation**
with fellow alumni
traveling companions

Ease and expertise
of a fully planned tour
led by an experienced
tour director

Winter

* **New Zealand**
Jan. 17–Feb. 1

* **Israel Past and Present**
Mar. 4–15

‡ **Belize to Tikal**
Mar. 5–13

* **Journey through
South Africa**
Mar. 26–Apr. 11

Spring

‡ **Holland and
Belgium by Barge**
May 10–18

* **Insider's Japan**
May 11–23

* **Paris Noir**
May 12–20

‡ **Celtic Lands: D-Day
75th Anniversary**
May 28–June 7

Summer

* **A Week in Tuscany**
June 11–19

‡ **Arctic Expedition**
June 14–24

‡ **Changing Tides of
History: The Baltic Sea**
June 23–July 2

* **Poland**
June 28–July 6

‡ **Gems of the Danube**
July 8–18

**National Parks and
Lodges of the Old West**
Aug. 14–23

Fall

‡ **Inspiring Italy**
Sept. 1–12

* **Normandy**
Sept. 7–15

**Toronto to
Vancouver by Rail**
Sept. 20–26

‡ **Romance of
the Douro River**
Oct. 15–26

* **Mystical India**
Nov. 3–21

For More Information

alumni.uchicago.edu/travel
alumnitravel@uchicago.edu
773.702.2150

* Indicates exclusive UChicago departures.

‡ Indicates a cruise.