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SPRING 2025, VOLUME 117, NUMBER 3

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VOLUME 117, NUMBER 3, SPRING 2025

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CIRCLE GAME

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09
GUEST EDITOR

I didn't think I'd get to write one of these again. Regular readers of this section might remember that in our Summer/23 issue, **Laura Demanski**, AM'94, announced my departure from the *Magazine*. But after a year at an institution with a slightly different view of Lake Michigan, I turned right back around.

My accidental sabbatical up north was the longest continuous stretch I'd spent away from the University of Chicago since I first arrived here as a student, extremely anxious and with bangs I now regret, in the fall of 2005. Leaving and coming back allowed me—for the first time, really—to see the University and Hyde Park through eyes at once fresh and full of nostalgia.

Everything familiar felt wonderfully new: *Look, it's Jimmy's! Look, a Doc Films poster! Look, the terrifying moving bookshelves on the B level of the Reg that I still believe, against reason, might squish me!* At the same time, everything new felt familiar: the freshly renovated Botany Pond, the new centers and institutes and majors and faculty members, the latest crop of students (who may, in 20 years' time, regret their own bangs). *Plus ça change*, as they say.

In the early months of my return, I found myself thinking about something I heard **John Boyer**, AM'69, PhD'75, say at convocation in 2010: "Time, at least for an historian, is a powerful and an inescapable thing—it has its own reasons and its own cunning, and it brings changes that often enrich and yet never fail to complicate our lives." I take this to mean that it's OK for things to turn out differently than how you imagined, and that both the past and the present have something to teach us. (Then again, it's also possible that Boyer was actually making an important point about the Habsburg Empire, and I completely missed it.)

I hope you will consider this my enthusiastic letter of recommendation for revisiting a place you once knew intimately and seeing it anew—with a sense of appreciation for both what it was then and what it is now. Conveniently, for anyone who might like to experience UChicago this way for themselves, Alumni Weekend is May 1–4, 2025. I am living proof: You can go home again. ◆

Vol. 117 / No. 3

SPRING 2025

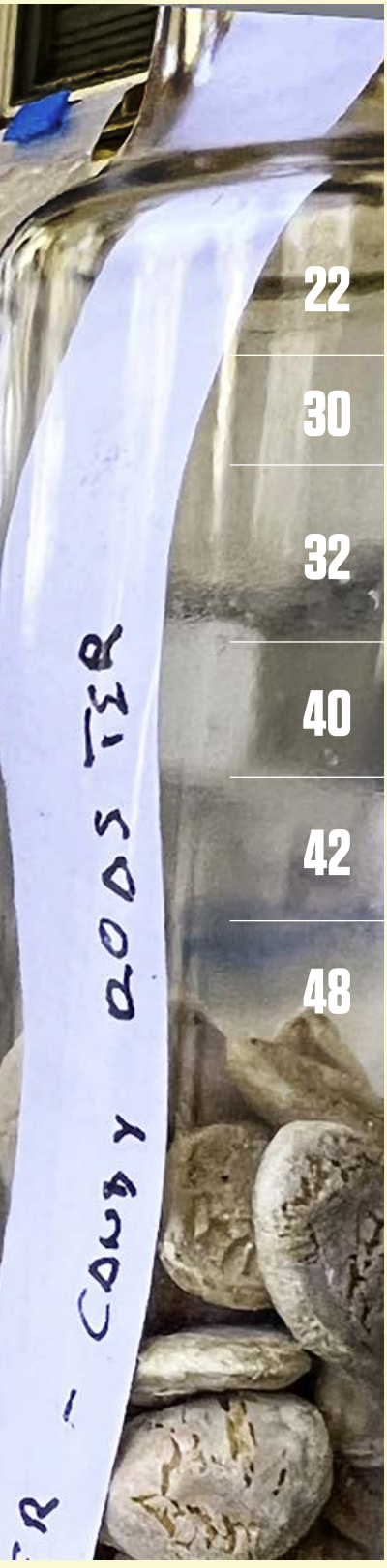
mag.uchicago.edu

On the cover

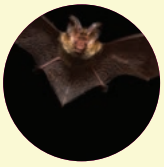
Carolina Gold rice is one of many Southern heritage crops **David Shields**, AM'75, PhD'82, has worked to reintroduce and bring back to prominence. See "Omnivorous," page 32. Illustration by Jon Reinfurt.

This page

Shields also visits longtime seed savers to see what treasures may lurk in their collections. The legumes and seeds shown here are from the collection of Carold Wicker of Newberry County, South Carolina; some date back to the 1960s. Photography by Kim Truett/*Carolinian*.



Features



LETTERS

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

Two years ago my neighbor told me of his plan to rent a motor home and take the family on vacation to Yellowstone. I said that was an easy trip: Just go down to the end of the street, hang a right, and follow the US 14 signs.

The scenic route

"The Longest Route" (Winter/25) reminded me of the following. My wife grew up in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. One day many years ago, I was standing in her parents' front yard talking with two nephews (19 and 21). I said I was going to give them a geography quiz: If you go down the street to the traffic light and turn left, you are on Mayfield Road (US 322) heading west toward downtown Cleveland. After about two miles you go down a huge hill. What is the geographic significance of the hill? They had no idea. (If you keep heading west, after about 1,400 miles, you will get to Denver, and all that way you will not see a hill as high as the one you just came down.)

My suburban street is only a mile long, but some of the locals know it is the only street that connects Northwest Highway with Rand Road. Most of them have no idea that Northwest Highway is US 14. (It heads west from Chicago and dead-ends into Yellowstone National Park. The last few miles it is the same road as US 20.) Rand Road is US 12, which starts in Detroit and heads west to Chicago; Madison, Wisconsin; Minneapolis; and on to the West Coast. Two years ago my neighbor told me of his plan to rent a motor home and take the family on vacation to Yellowstone. I said that was an easy trip: Just go down to the end of the street, hang a right, and follow the US 14 signs. He had no idea what I was talking about.

David Shaffer, MBA'71
MOUNT PROSPECT, ILLINOIS

The new *University of Chicago Magazine* arrived today, and I have read Mary Quade's (AB'93) essay on Route 20—very good.

I have been by where she lives, as well as on most of US 20 in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. Ashtabula County, Ohio, doesn't look much like Appalachia—much more like Dairy Belt southern Wisconsin—but it is part of some governmental designation of the Appalachian region. Lake County, where Quade lives, is outside this boundary despite the bluffs along Lake Erie. In upstate New York, Route 20 goes along the northern end of the Finger Lakes area, which is definitely Appalachia; Cooperstown, where the Baseball Hall of Fame is located, is in that area, just a few miles off Route 20.

Quade is certainly right about the significance of the hospitals on the east side of Cleveland—also about Yellowstone and other Western scenic areas Route 20 (in reality, whatever the National Park Service calls it) crosses. One major cultural amenity she doesn't mention, also on the east side of Cleveland, is Severance Hall. I have been to many concerts there. Among other things, it has a quote from Plato on the wall: "Music is a moral law." No one seems to know where in Plato's dialogues it comes from. This sounds like a U of C–type question.

One final point: US Route 20 goes through a lot of the greatest farmland in the world, in Illinois, Iowa, and eastern Nebraska.

Thorn C. Roberts, AB'65
ELIZABETH, WEST VIRGINIA

While I enjoyed Mary Quade's essay about US 20 in the Winter/25 issue of *The University of Chicago Magazine*, a key fact about that route was never mentioned: The highway is the officially recognized Medal of Honor

Illustration by Ben Giles

Highway for the United States. You won't have to look very far to find numerous articles about the gentleman responsible for achieving this recognition: a central Oregon retired US Army lieutenant colonel, Dick Tobiason.

Tobiason achieved this great honor on behalf of many veterans, fallen and still living. It's a life's work to be proud of—and fulfills a promise he made to the late Bob Maxwell, a Medal of Honor recipient. Signs commemorating numerous Medal of Honor recipients are located along US 20 from coast to coast.

Kent M. McLean, SM'76
REDMOND, OREGON

Ecological expenses

I read with considerable interest in the Winter/25 issue about the new Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth ("A Fine Balance"). I was dismayed to learn that the new institute has no ecological component. In 1997 ecological economist Robert Costanza and colleagues estimated that the annual contribution of natural ecosystem services to the world's economy was about $33 trillion, while the total global gross national product was around $18 trillion. In other words, were humans to attempt to replace the ecological services provided by nature to us for free, the cost would require tripling worldwide expenditures. In the intervening quarter century, the importance of natural ecological services has, if anything, increased.

The consequence is that we cannot realistically deal with climate and economic growth without incorporating the study of nature's ecological services. Not doing so will surely lead to failing to reach the goals of the new institute.

Roger A. Powell, PhD'77
ELY, MINNESOTA

Classroom presence

I participated in a Daniel J. Boorstin American Civilization seminar while working toward my PhD in American history ("Daniel J. Boorstin," Alumni News, Winter/25). The photo shows Professor Boorstin with much more hair on his head than when I was one of his students in 1968. His bow ties were not clip-ons but actual ones that he tied. He would come into the room with an attaché case. It was not full of notes or papers—instead, it contained his ever-present pipe, tobacco, and a piece of fruit or a small sandwich. The pipe was never lit during the seminar times, but he always held it in his hand, tapping it as he spoke or listened to the students. Professor Boorstin was one of the most interesting and brain-challenging educators that I had the pleasure of working with during my time at the University of Chicago.

Edward Mazur, PhD'74
CHICAGO

Hitting the books

My Y2K reading list ("Book Talk," Alumni News, Winter/25):

- *The Pelican Brief* and *The Firm*, both by John Grisham
- *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom

We cannot realistically deal with climate and economic growth without incorporating the study of nature's ecological services.

LETTERS

- *Leap Over a Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians* by Eugene Peterson
- *Themes from the Minor Prophets* by David Hubbard
- *From Dawn to Decadence: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life* by Jacques Barzun
- *Who Moved My Cheese? An Amazing Way to Deal with Change in Your Work and in Your Life* by Spencer Johnson
- *Listening for God, Vol 1: Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith* by Paula J. Carlson and Peter S. Hawkins
- *The Force of Character: And the Lasting Life* by James Hillman

Terry Cathcart, AB'70
ISHPEMING, MICHIGAN

Early risers

Yes, I saw and enjoyed numerous dawns over the lake back in graduate student nights of the early 1970s ("Early Shift," UChicago Journal, Winter/25). At that time the illustrious geography department and map library occupied Julius Rosenwald Hall, on the quadrangle dominated by Harper Library. It is in the neo-Gothic style of neighboring buildings. And in that spirit, there is a battlement tower of three levels. The lower two are hexagonal spaces big enough for a chair and desk and lit by six arrow-slit windows. The top is outside and reached by a built-in ladder. It is a battlement good for pouring down boiling oil onto, for example, professors.

I returned from overseas fieldwork to the geography department around 1970. No one in living memory had ever used the tower for an office, but I did—with a pretty big desk and two chairs moved into the next-to-highest level of the tower. I habitually worked all night. I climbed up top to enjoy the sun setting over the almost endless checkerboard of streets and westward over the Great Plains.

James Osborn, AM'69, PhD'72
PORTLAND, MAINE

It was the fall of 1962. I had been anxiously awaiting responses to my medical school applications. My first interview invitation summoned me to New York. Hotels and taxis were outside of my price range. The New York parents of a girl in my dorm graciously offered me a room. I had to leave early in the morning to take the Illinois Central commuter train downtown to catch the O'Hare shuttle. As I passed the president's house with my little suitcase, George W. Beadle was outside in his garden, tending the corn plants on which his research was based. He looked up and saw me, saying, "I hope you're not leaving us." That was a lovely send-off for an ultimately successful trip. I went to medical school at the University of Chicago.

Nada Stotland, AB'63, MD'67
CHICAGO

Satisfied customer

I thought your Winter/25 issue was the best I've ever read. The David S. Tatel, JD'66, article ("A Judge's Tale") had me in tears. I ordered a copy of his book for my attorney son and his attorney girlfriend.

As I passed the president's house with my little suitcase, George W. Beadle was outside in his garden, tending the corn plants on which his research was based. He looked up and saw me, saying, "I hope you're not leaving us."

Putting the artist Melanie Deal, AM'78, ("Pattern Play") and the travel essay ("The Longest Route") alongside the science story ("Engineering Excellence") was a great mix.

Jean Bundy, MFA'02
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

A mentor's legacy

Nearly two decades ago, I sat on a bench in a New York City subway station with a slim volume in my lap: *German Jews: A Dual Identity* by Paul Mendes-Flohr. In a scant 150 pages, the book challenged the idea that the "German-Jewish symbiosis" was merely a fantasy or a failed experiment. Drawing on the philosopher Franz Rosenzweig, Mendes-Flohr argued that from the 18th century onward German Jews sought to create a proverbial *Zweistromland*—a "land of two rivers," like the region between the Tigris and Euphrates—a culture shaped by the confluence of German and Jewish traditions.

I looked up Mendes-Flohr's email address and wrote to introduce myself. His reply came swiftly and revealed that the florid Mendes-Flohrian style wasn't limited to his academic writing: "With appreciation for your missive of January 3rd," it began. Was he for real?

Indeed he was. By fall I was sitting in a seminar room at the University of Chicago learning from this remarkable man who would become not just

From left: Photography by Jason Smith; photography by Edie Tatel

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my PhD adviser but, as German academic tradition puts it in a manner befitting the intimacy of this relationship, my *Doktorvater*.

By conventional standards, he was a terrible academic adviser. I would pester him to read a chapter of my dissertation, and when he finally did, it was with excessive generosity. He rarely critiqued my work. Instead, after reading a draft, he approached me one day in the library, kissed me vigorously on the cheek, and said, "You're a poet!" He valued the spirit of my work more than its academic precision.

An aging hippie and old soul with a penchant for linen peasant shirts, Mendes-Flohr was committed above all to the humanistic ideals he felt embodied Judaism's highest form. His mentorship was radically human, never hierarchical—a genuine I-Thou encounter, in keeping with the philosophy of his most beloved subject, Martin Buber. My *Doktorvater* taught me about the synergistic potential of seemingly split loyalties, the complexity of debates over Zionism through the decades, and the ethical legacy of Buber and his intellectual circle.

In one of the last "missives" I received from him—just days before Rosh Hashanah and weeks before his death—Mendes-Flohr lamented the state of our "tormented world" and expressed longing for a "path of peace." This longing weighed heavily on him, and the lack of progress toward that horizon perhaps hastened the inevitable. That and his weak—albeit very big—heart.

Rachel Seelig, AM'09, PhD'11
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

To read an obituary for Paul Mendes-Flohr, see Deaths, page 77.—Ed.

Fondly remembered

I saw the death of Howie Aronson, professor in the Departments of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Linguistics, the Committee on Jewish Studies, and the College, listed in your latest issue (Deaths, Winter/25). I met Howie in 1969 at a family friend's party. He was a draft counselor while the Vietnam War was raging. I was a 16-year-old long-haired hippie junior at U-High. I told him I was a pacifist and opposed to the war. He told me to start building my case as a conscientious objector. I did so. I asked him to review my application. After I registered for the draft, my request was granted. In the last year of the draft lottery, I drew a 300-plus number and was not drafted to serve in a noncombat role.

Howie was a nice guy who looked as if he could have been the brother of my father, Martin P. Schulman. Both were brilliant men. May they rest in peace.

John Schulman, LAB'70
BRADFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Bill Callahan, 1946–2025

I write to share with the alumni community that William Joseph Callahan passed away on January 14, 2025, at the age of 78. Born in Chicago, Bill spent his formative years in Hyde Park, attending St. Thomas the Apostle for grade school. He later graduated from Loyola University, where he majored in English.

Bill's first professional job was teaching English and math at St. Thomas the Apostle. In parallel, he worked part time as a bartender at the Woodlawn Tap, a position that would come to define his life for the next 56 years. Under the mentorship of its founder, Jimmy Wilson, Bill transitioned from bartender to manager and ultimately became the beloved bar's owner after Jimmy's passing.

The Woodlawn Tap, nestled in the heart of the University of Chicago community, was more than just a business to Bill. It was a place where he became known for his sharp wit, generosity, and unparalleled ability to connect with people. A true judge of character, Bill treated everyone with the same respect and kindness, regardless of their background. He was a stabilizing presence in the lives of many, with a remarkable capacity to listen and engage with both grand philosophical discussions and everyday exchanges, which made life feel richer.

Three years ago Bill sold the business to his dear friend Matt Martell, AB'95, and retired, though he never quite lost the draw of the bar. He missed the lively conversations, the energy of being behind the counter, and the joy of connecting with friends old and new. He was a lover of baseball, an avid reader, and always open to book recommendations, eager to share his favorite stories and instill a love for good literature in his children. His greatest passions, however, were travel and food, particularly discovering new restaurants and bars, passions matched only by his delight in sharing those experiences with family and friends. In his presence, one would never be short a solid belly laugh and easy, comfortable companionship—as I'm sure many readers remember.

Kristen Callahan Alyn
PACIFIC PALISADES, CALIFORNIA

Corrections

In Winter/25, we misidentified the book for which David S. Tatel, JD'66, read the audiobook prologue and acknowledgments. It was his own memoir, *Vision: A Memoir of Blindness and Justice* (Little, Brown, 2024).

BLAST FROM THE PAST

ON UCHICAGO SPIRIT

The article by Howard K. Beale, in the July number of *The Magazine*, entitled "Has Chicago a Spirit?" ought to be printed in the form of a little pamphlet and distributed, not only among our own alumni, but to the general public in Chicago.

Mr. Beale has answered his own question by stating that the U. of C. has a college spirit of a type which is far more to be desired than the college spirit of other institutions. The college spirit of the U. of C., as explained by Mr. Beale, is on a higher plane and indicative of more broad-mindedness and culture than the college spirit of any other institution about which I have ever heard.

William J. McDowell, SB 1902
Vol. 13, No. 1, November 1920

RECENTERING HUMANISTIC INQUIRY, CREATIVITY, AND LEADERSHIP

BY DEBORAH L. NELSON
DEAN OF THE DIVISION OF THE HUMANITIES AND
HELEN B. AND FRANK L. SULZBERGER PROFESSOR IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE
AND LITERATURE AND THE COLLEGE

It's been almost 30 years since I arrived at the University of Chicago in 1996 as a junior faculty member in the Department of English Language and Literature. In my many roles during that time, I've had a front-row seat to two striking examples of our University's excellence: the enduring centrality of the humanities in the transformative UChicago experience, and the flowering of world-class artistic practice and production, which has made our University and the South Side of Chicago a national and global destination for the arts.

Over the past 15 years, while degrees in the arts and humanities have declined nationally, our University has remained an outlier. Since 2010 the percentage of UChicago undergraduates who earn a degree in the humanities has remained steady, with an average of 30 percent of students earning a major or minor in departments and programs in the arts and humanities.

Part of the reason that our family of disciplines remains central to UChicago is the preeminence of our award-winning faculty, who continue to shape the future of graduate education while devoting themselves to teaching in the College and the Core.

The Humanities Core, Arts Core, and language acquisition are foundational to the University's vision of an intellectually dynamic college education. Students experience illuminating possibilities born of analyzing cultures around the world and across time and studying ancient and modern languages, from Akkadian to Swahili. They master truth seeking while reading and synthesizing material—texts,

ideas, music, art—from perspectives that can seem initially novel or foreign but soon become part of their toolkit to make sense of complex problems, form connections with other people, and build an intellectual and aesthetic home in the world.

Truly rare is the student, in any unit across campus, undergraduate or graduate, who has not found joyful, deeply meaningful experiences by joining a musical ensemble, such as the University Symphony Orchestra, or one of the more than 60 student-driven performing arts organizations. And so many of these experiences are part of the vibrant activity of the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts.

Symbiotic with the student desire for arts practice and production, faculty in cinema and media studies, creative writing, music, theater and performance studies, and visual arts have emerged as some of the brightest stars in their fields: the composer **Augusta Read Thomas**; the multimedia artist **Theaster Gates**; the late performance artist Pope.L; and two of our recent MacArthur winners, the film scholar **Jacqueline Stewart**, AM'93, PhD'99, who will be filming episodes of *Silent Sunday Nights* for Turner Classic Movies on locations across campus throughout the year, and the novelist **Ling Ma**, AB'05.

While the arts and humanities remain central to UChicago's stature as one of the world's great universities, we are sensitive to the larger challenges facing higher education. We embrace the opportunity to be more publicly engaged, to demonstrate the impact of our scholars and artists. I am strategically optimistic about our ability to seed a future of human flourishing by providing life-affirming knowledge and art. In times of unprecedented strains on the planet and our collective lives, true leadership requires multiple fluencies: in language, culture, interpretation, and creative intelligence.

This year we are formally changing the name of the division to the Division of the Arts & Humanities to better reflect a more integrated, expansive, and outward-facing division that embraces the full breadth of humanistic inquiry and creativity. The accompanying administrative changes will better align our arts units with academic departments, providing sites of collaboration to catalyze transdisciplinary explorations of history, theory, and practice.

Over the summer we will complete the internal housekeeping that comes with renaming the division, and in August we will relaunch our divisional website to reflect our new name. I invite you to visit artshumanities.uchicago.edu to read more highlights from this academic year and sign up for news and events from the division. ◆

Photography by John Zich

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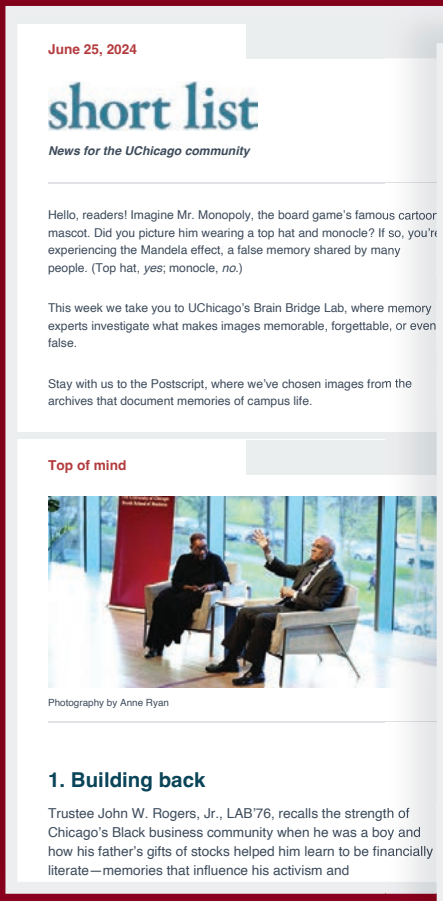

June 25, 2024

short list

News for the UChicago community

Hello, readers! Imagine Mr. Monopoly, the board game's famous cartoon mascot. Did you picture him wearing a top hat and monocle? If so, you're experiencing the Mandela effect, a false memory shared by many people. (Top hat, *yes*; monocle, *no*.)

This week we take you to UChicago's Brain Bridge Lab, where memory experts investigate what makes images memorable, forgettable, or even false.

Stay with us to the Postscript, where we've chosen images from the archives that document memories of campus life.

Top of mind

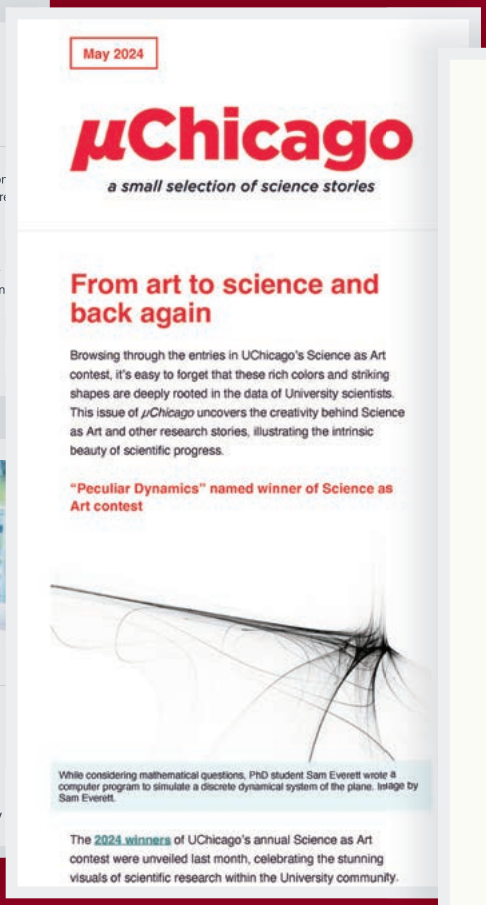
Photography by Anne Ryan

1. Building back

Trustee John W. Rogers, Jr., LAB'76, recalls the strength of Chicago's Black business community when he was a boy and how his father's gifts of stocks helped him learn to be financially literate—memories that influence his activism and

Short List

Research you can use, UChicagoans in the news, and more—every other Tuesday


May 2024

µChicago

a small selection of science stories

From art to science and back again

Browsing through the entries in UChicago's Science as Art contest, it's easy to forget that these rich colors and striking shapes are deeply rooted in the data of University scientists. This issue of *µChicago* uncovers the creativity behind Science as Art and other research stories, illustrating the intrinsic beauty of scientific progress.

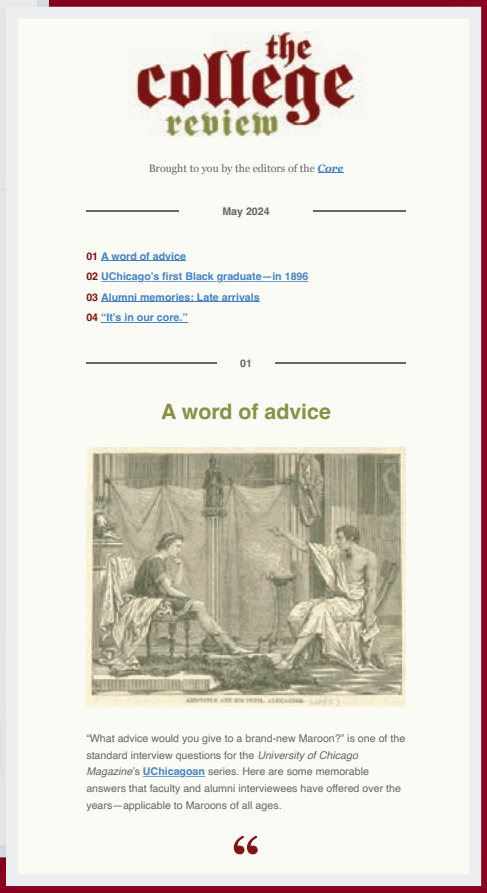
"Peculiar Dynamics" named winner of Science as Art contest

While considering mathematical questions, PhD student Sam Everett wrote a computer program to simulate a discrete dynamical system of the plane. Image by Sam Everett.

The 2024 winners of UChicago's annual Science as Art contest were unveiled last month, celebrating the stunning visuals of scientific research within the University community.

µChicago

A small selection of science stories each month


the college review

Brought to you by the editors of the *Core*

May 2024

01 A word of advice
02 UChicago's first Black graduate—in 1896
03 Alumni memories: Late arrivals
04 "It's in our core."

01

A word of advice

"What advice would you give to a brand-new Maroon?" is one of the standard interview questions for the *University of Chicago Magazine*'s **UChicagoan** series. Here are some memorable answers that faculty and alumni interviewees have offered over the years—applicable to Maroons of all ages.

“

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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RESEARCH AND NEWS IN BRIEF

BAT SIGNAL
What happens when we lose nature's pest controllers? See "The Other Bat Man," page 14.

Martin Janca/Shutterstock.com

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Well aware

Adam Peltz, AB'05, is helping combat an environmental scourge.

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

On a clear Tuesday evening in September, over macaroni salad, blondies, and Yuengling beer, about 20 residents of Titusville, Pennsylvania, described to **Adam Peltz**, AB'05, the orphaned oil wells on or near their properties.

These abandoned wells can be hard to find. Some of them leak, and a few leak badly. You can tell by the toxic smell and the hissing noise. They emit dirty water into nearby streams, and the plants around their openings are dead.

The Titusville locals had gathered at the site of the historic Drake Well, the first commercial oil well in the United States, to learn about an Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) effort to find and plug orphaned oil wells in their county. Peltz is director and senior attorney of energy transition at EDF, but here in western Pennsylvania, he's seen as more of a carpetbagger.

"Most of these people have lived in this area for generations," he says. So when a large nonprofit comes in to look for environmental liabilities—with no guarantee they'll be fixed—he isn't surprised that some people are skeptical.

But Peltz draws on heart and humility to bring civil society, government agencies, and industry together to handle abandoned oil wells, here and across the country.

Peltz is an environmental attorney who began his journey as a political science major at UChicago. He initially aimed for a career in international development, but during law school at Boston University he discovered that climate change and global development issues are, as he puts it, "two sides of the same coin." He was drawn to EDF's science- and economics-based approach to environmental challenges, and in his 13 years at the nonprofit he's become a leading voice in addressing the often-overlooked problem of orphaned oil and gas wells.

His work involves understanding the technical aspects of well plugging and also navigating the complex landscape of state regulations and industry interests—all while working toward positive change. But the event in Titusville was, for him, a rare foray into direct community engagement.

Drilled in 1859, the Drake Well sparked a Pennsylvania oil boom that lasted until 1901, when production shifted westward to Texas. Today Pennsylvania is home to about 27,000 known orphaned oil and gas wells—the most of any state. But that is almost certainly a vast undercount: Peltz estimates that the real number in Pennsylvania could be as high as 700,000. In fact, about 14 million Americans live within one mile of a documented orphaned well.

Left untouched, orphaned wells can release radioactive and carcinogenic chemicals, creating health, safety, and environmental hazards.

Photo courtesy Environmental Defense Fund

Oil and gas production began in western Pennsylvania in the 1850s, and for the next 100 years "there was basically unregulated drilling," Peltz says. "Standard Oil was punching one hole after the other after the other."

For decades, when a well stopped producing, it was simply left behind with no paper trail. In the 1950s states started to get more serious about regulating well plugging, but it wasn't until the 1970s that companies were required to provide financial guarantees to cover plugging costs if they went bankrupt—although Peltz says enforcement has been spotty at best.

Over time abandoned wells break down, releasing radioactive and carcinogenic chemicals. Methane, for example, is not only a potent greenhouse gas but also a major safety hazard when trapped in small spaces.

If you have an undocumented well emitting methane under your house, "it can go into your basement and explode," says Peltz. "That does happen."

Plugging a well requires pouring cement down the shaft and using cast-iron bridge plugs to hold the cement in place, at an average cost of $50,000 to $75,000 per well. Multiply this by Peltz's estimate of about a million abandoned wells across the United States, and the cost is astronomical.

Working with state governments and the oil industry, Peltz and EDF brought together Democrats and Republicans to develop a package within the 2021 infrastructure law earmarking $4.7 billion for mitigation of orphaned wells—a small win, since he estimates this funding to be only about 5 percent of what's currently needed. Still, he says, "one of the benefits of getting this funding in place is that we are now in fact having conversations about this issue."

Adam Peltz, AB'05.

Having a national perspective is one reason EDF is well positioned to tackle the orphaned well problem, Peltz says. For example, EDF's analyses of different approaches across states can aid decision-making about well mitigation.

Showing up to one state with empirical data that points to tangible results can really make a difference, he says: "We can say, 'Hey, New Mexico, … here's what Utah has done, and maybe you could do it. And in fact, we're going to take your well data set, and we're going to apply the Utah rule and show you how much money you'd be getting.'"

As of late 2024, $1 billion of the $4.7 billion national earmark had been spent, and 10,000 wells had been plugged. The rest of the funding will come in installments when states achieve benchmarks like plugging the highest-risk wells and enacting measures to ensure new wells will be overseen until the end of their lives.

In Titusville, and at events in neighboring Clarion and McKean Counties, Peltz tells residents that the roughly $101 million their state has received so far won't cover plugging its documented wells, let alone the undocumented ones.

And the only way to get more funding is to go out and find more orphaned wells.

To help in that effort, EDF and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection have begun piloting drones equipped with magnetometers and methane sensors. The first outing revealed several probable and possible wells in just one small area.

Armed with these maps and the inroads he's making with local people, Peltz is hopeful this work can come into the spotlight and eventually expand to the rest of the country.

"People know this is an issue," he says. "There just hasn't been any empowerment to deal with it. And what we'd like to do is bring some empowerment." ◆

Terrence Irving Photography / courtesy of EDF

QUICK STUDY

MATERIALS SCIENCE

Graphite goes green

Graphite is a critical material with a big environmental footprint. Softer than other forms of carbon but still electrically conductive, it's a necessary component in many electronics and batteries. However, mining graphite has devastating ecological consequences, and synthetic production relies on crude oil. A new, greener method of graphite production uses biochar, a carbon-rich byproduct of plant-based biofuel. This method generates the perfect hexagonal patterns of carbon needed for high-tech applications—a feat difficult to achieve with plant-based material. In a study published October 22 in *Small*, UChicago researchers led by **Stuart Rowan** of the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering demonstrate the biographite's viability in small electronics. They hope to refine their method so they can produce more graphite at lower cost in the future.—*Cían Ford* ◆

POLICY

The other bat man

Eyal Frank, Harris Public Policy assistant professor, quantifies the harms of biodiversity loss.

BY ELLY FISHMAN, LAB'06, AB'10

The devastation of North American bat populations due to white-nose syndrome offered an unusual opportunity to calculate the costs of biodiversity loss.

Photo by Marvin Moriarty/USFWS

If there's one animal in need of a rebrand, bats are a strong contender. Many bat species sleep in caves, hanging upside down. They typically fly at night, giving them an inherently spooky vibe. And, of course, bats are known to carry a wide range of coronaviruses. But for **Eyal Frank**, Harris Public Policy assistant professor, bats and several other maligned creatures—vultures among them—offer essential insights into some of today's most urgent environmental and economic challenges.

In a study published last fall in *Science*, Frank, who has been a faculty member at the University since 2018, demonstrates how the decline of bats in North America has contributed to a rise in infant mortality. The study highlights a key factor driving this trend: Most bats in North America feed on insects, including crop-damaging pests like moths. With fewer bats to control these pests, farmers are forced to rely more heavily on insecticides. The study shows that increased insecticide use correlates with greater exposure to harmful chemicals, which is known to adversely affect the health of newborns.

Frank's unconventional approach to research—bridging the worlds of economics and ecology to measure the tangible value of biodiversity—can be traced back to his teenage years growing up in Israel. "I watched *Princess Mononoke*, and it really resonated with me," Frank recalls, referring to the iconic Studio Ghibli film about a mystical forest under siege. "No one's portrayed in that movie as absolutely evil. You totally sympathize with the plight of [the people who] just want a better life"—even though that better life involves harming the environment. For Frank, the film provided an unusually nuanced perspective on the conflicts between development and conservation, a viewpoint he found lacking in much of Western media.

That perspective guided him through his time in Columbia University's Sustainable Development PhD program, a rare interdisciplinary course of study that requires training in both economics and the natural sciences. At Columbia Frank immersed himself in causal inference, systems thinking, and statistical methods, though finding his niche proved challenging.

The right research question finally came to him late one evening around 2015 while he was browsing the US Geological Survey website. There he stumbled upon a report about white-nose syndrome, an invasive fungal disease that was devastating bat populations across North America. It was "spreading year after year into more counties," Frank recalls.

Bats, Frank knew, are nature's pest controllers, saving billions of dollars annually in crop protection by consuming insects. He hypothesized that

The implications were profound: Biodiversity loss wasn't just an environmental issue. It also had significant economic and public health consequences.

their sudden disappearance could reveal the hidden costs of biodiversity loss—if he could find the data to support his theory.

"This seemed like a very rare opportunity for a natural experiment," Frank explains, envisioning how he could connect ecologists' observations about biodiversity loss to broader impacts on human behavior. "I could see the links that potentially might not be visible or as obvious" to scholars focused on just one discipline.

Over the next several years, Frank painstakingly compiled data from various sources: county-level pesticide sales, agricultural yields, and public health statistics. His findings were startling. The collapse of bat populations, he discovered, led to a measurable rise in insecticide use, which, in turn, correlated with an increase in infant mortality—likely due to chemical exposure. The implications were profound: Biodiversity loss wasn't just an environmental issue. It also had significant economic and public health consequences.

Yet, despite the importance of his findings, Frank struggled to publish the research as a cross-disciplinary academic. Economics journal editors felt the paper included too much ecology, while ecological reviewers balked at its economic framing. As a result, the research—begun a decade ago—was only published this past fall, after years of rewriting.

The paper itself also drew polarized reactions. Economists praised Frank's innovative approach to quantifying ecological impacts, while ecologists, less familiar with causal inference methods, were skeptical of his bold conclusions. "Dr. Frank is one of a few economists who are working at this frontier," says Anant Sudarshan, an associate professor of economics at the University of Warwick and visiting scholar at the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago, adding that Frank's work "requires insights from outside economics, and this is why it has not historically been in the mainstream of economics research, notwithstanding its substantive importance."

But Frank is undeterred by the squabbling. He has more pressing questions to explore. In a forthcoming paper, for instance, he examines how wolves influence deer-vehicle collisions in Canada. His findings reveal that regions with stable wolf populations see a roughly 30 percent drop in animal-related crashes compared to areas without wolves. When the United States decided to embark on eradicating wolf populations, "we couldn't imagine just how deer populations would explode by orders of magnitude," Frank says. Now, decades later, we're seeing the costs of those decisions.

This year Frank plans to investigate the European Union's 2019 ban on neonicotinoid pesticides, which have been linked to negative impacts on bees and birds. "What we're trying to first establish is, did nature heal?" Frank asks. "Did we see some resurgence in some of these insect populations? And then, what was the cost to farmers?"

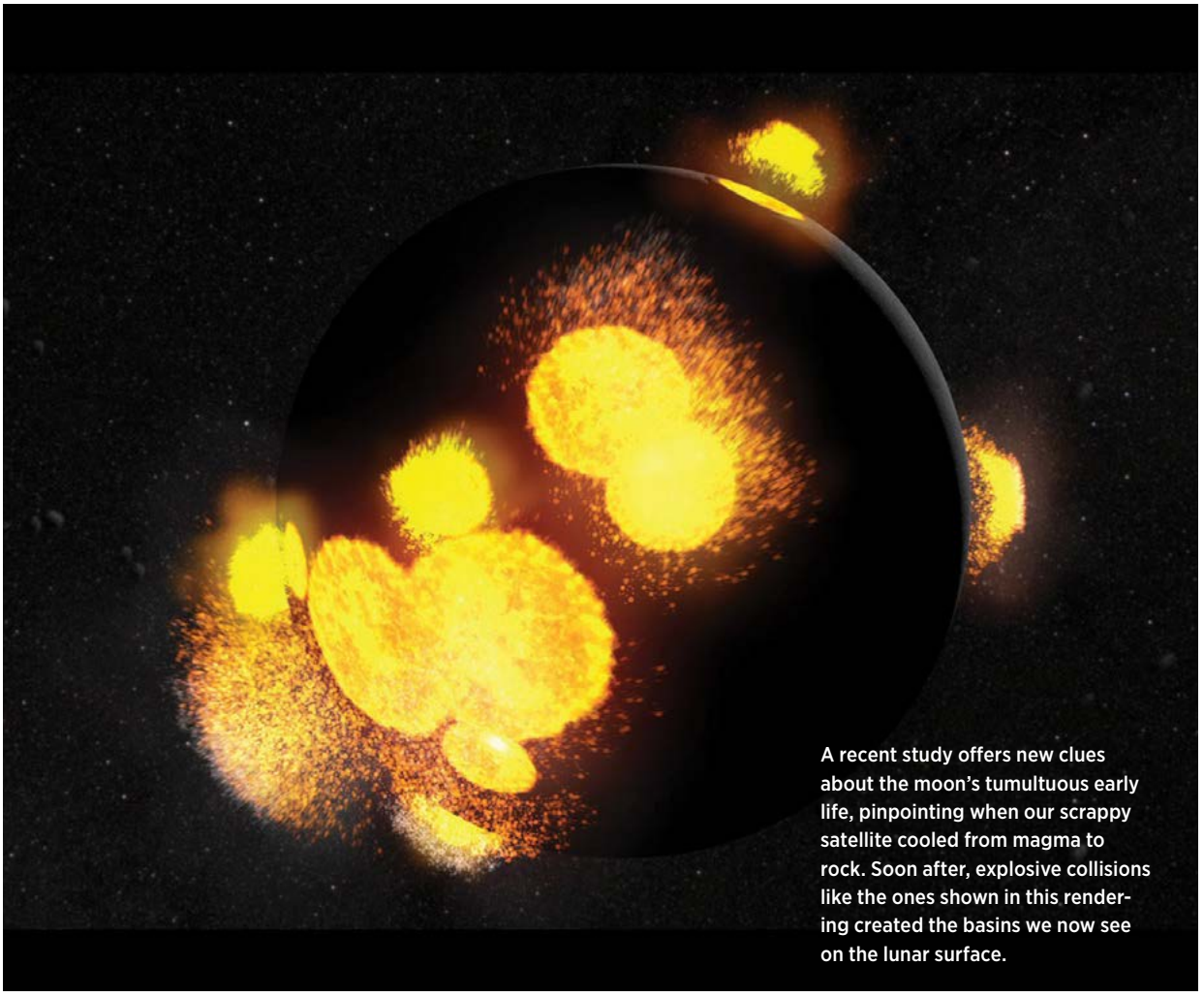
Eventually Frank hopes to turn his attention to whales—specifically, how their feces fertilize ocean ecosystems and potentially boost fisheries. "For years I've wanted to work on whales," he says. "They're the great fertilizers of the ocean." For now, though, his focus remains on the unsung heroes of our ecosystems. ◆

QUICK STUDY

CHEMISTRY

Transcription trouble

Transcription factors are proteins that help control gene expression by latching onto stretches of DNA with a set of molecular "claws." These proteins can be recruited to help tumors spread, making them a tantalizing target for cancer researchers. In 2022 a group led by chemist **Raymond Moellering** devised a novel way to hinder transcription factors when they go rogue. The team developed a synthetic molecule that targets the same stretch of DNA as the transcription factor, blocking its path. In a new study, Moellering and his colleagues adapted this approach to XBP-1, a transcription factor involved in many cancers. The researchers tested their molecule in mice with breast cancer and found it both shrank the rodents' tumors and reduced metastasis. The study, published August 30 in *Nature Chemical Biology*, offers fresh insight into how transcription factors function in cancer—and how they can be stopped.—*S. A.* ◆



A recent study offers new clues about the moon's tumultuous early life, pinpointing when our scrappy satellite cooled from magma to rock. Soon after, explosive collisions like the ones shown in this rendering created the basins we now see on the lunar surface.

PLANETARY SCIENCE

A cool answer to a lunar question

A new study sheds light on the moon's age and origin story.

BY LOUISE LERNER, AB'09

Even though humans have pondered the moon since the first of us looked skyward, there is still much we don't know about it.

One of these unsolved questions is its origin story. We think the moon formed after a collision between Earth and another huge object created debris made of molten magma. But we don't know exactly when—or how.

Now scientists have made new measurements of moon rocks retrieved during the Apollo missions to determine both when the moon first formed from the debris and when it later solidified into the rocky orb we see today.

The study, conducted by a collaboration including University of Chicago scientists, applied cutting-edge techniques to make ultraprecise readings of rare minerals in the rocks. Published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in January, the results add evidence for our understanding of the formation stories of both the moon and Earth.

"It took us years to develop these techniques, but we got a very precise answer for a question that has been controversial for a long time," says **Nicolas Dauphas**, Louis Block Professor of Geophysical Sciences, the first author on the paper and head of the UChicago Origins Laboratory.

We know the solar system formed about 4.57 billion years ago. Shortly afterward, as it cooled, debris began colliding and clumping together over time, forming the planets. Scientists believe that a very large object crashed into the burgeoning Earth and that our moon formed from the debris produced by this impact.

This collision was extremely violent, Dauphas says, enough to melt rocks; "so at first we must imagine a big ball of magma floating in space around Earth."

The moon quickly began to cool.

Photo courtesy NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Most of the lunar magma ocean solidified almost right away, by geologic standards—in about a single millennium.

But once about 80 percent of the magma had solidified, a crust of minerals formed, which insulated the young moon. "It's like putting on a coat in Chicago when it's cold out—you will not lose heat as fast," says Dauphas. That slowed down the cooling process, and for a time the moon had a partially molten mantle. What researchers haven't been able to pin down is how long it stayed that way before it cooled all the way down and became solid rock.

Past studies of samples from the Apollo missions revealed that as the moon slowly cooled, a mixture of certain elements would have floated upward in the partly molten mantle—a bit like the flaky white salt left behind when seawater evaporates—and formed a distinct layer.

Previous researchers figured that if they could find a precise age for this magma layer, they would know when the moon was 99 percent crystallized. But they didn't know exactly how to go about finding that precise age.

Dauphas and his collaborators decided to look at the different proportions of elements locked inside the moon rocks retrieved by Apollo astronauts. In particular, they focused on KREEP, a lunar material named for its high levels of potassium (K on the periodic table), rare earth elements, and phosphorous (P on the periodic table).

One of the rare earth elements in KREEP is lutetium, which is very slightly radioactive; over eons, it gradually changes into the element hafnium at a predictable rate. So scientists can work backward to see how long a particular rock has been around. (This is similar to the way we use carbon dating to tell how old archaeological artifacts are.)

It took us years to develop these techniques, but we got a very precise answer for a question that has been controversial for a long time.

In the early solar system, all the rocks had the same amount of lutetium. But the solidification process that formed KREEP did not favor the element, so that layer has lower levels of lutetium than other rocks from the same era.

If the scientists could very precisely measure the proportions of lutetium and hafnium in moon rocks compared to other objects from the same era that originated elsewhere in the solar system, like meteorites, they could calculate backward to see when the KREEP layer formed—and thus when the moon was just about done cooling.

The trouble is, we only have small, precious samples of moon rocks. So the team, including **Cindy Xi Chen**, PhD'22, had to develop extremely rigorous techniques to separate the different elements.

By testing tiny samples of moon rocks retrieved from multiple Apollo missions, they came up with an age for the solidification of the moon: 4.43 billion years before the present day.

Based on other studies, scientists think the solidification process would have taken about 20 million years. Working backward, that puts the formation of the moon itself at about 4.45 billion years ago.

This tells us not only about the history of the moon but also about the formation of Earth, since the impact that birthed the moon was probably also the last major impact to Earth—marking the date when our planet may have first become stable and thus hospitable for life.

"This finding aligns nicely with other evidence," says Dauphas. "It's a great place to be in as we prepare for more knowledge about the moon from the Chang-e and Artemis missions"—two upcoming lunar expeditions by China and the United States, respectively.

Dauphas dedicated the study to the memory of his wife and fellow geochemist Reika Yokochi, a research professor at UChicago who died in 2024 (see Deaths, page 77). "She was instrumental to all aspects of my research," he says. ◆

QUICK STUDY

BIOELECTRONICS

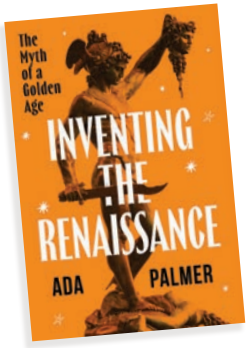
Gelling with cells

The field of bioelectronics seeks to integrate electronic devices with the human body to improve health without the rigidity and excess bulk of traditional tools. The newest bioelectronic prototype from the lab of UChicago chemistry professor **Bozhi Tian** combines electronics with living bacteria to heal skin wounds. Detailed in a May 30 study in *Science*, the device adheres a flexible circuit, with sensors that monitor the skin, to a layer of tissue-like gelatin populated with *Staphylococcus epidermis*, a bacterium that naturally protects the skin barrier. Mice showed significant reduction in psoriasis-like symptoms in short-term tests, but the device can also be freeze-dried and stored for long-term or ongoing treatments. The researchers believe the concept may have applications even beyond wound healing, such as hormone regulation or neural health.—*Cían Ford* ◆

RESEARCH

Fresh ink

A selection of recent books by UChicago faculty members.

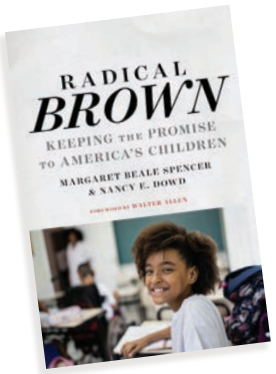


Inventing the Renaissance: The Myth of a Golden Age

University of Chicago Press

By **Ada Palmer**, Associate Professor in the Department of History and the College

The Renaissance is widely understood as a golden age of art, culture, and scholarship that emerged in sharp contrast to the Middle Ages. But this view of the period is misleading, writes **Ada Palmer**. She examines how we have constructed myths about the Renaissance over the past several centuries and what purposes these myths have served. In character portraits of 15 Renaissance personalities, some prominent (such as Michelangelo, Lorenzo de Medici, and Machiavelli) and some obscure (such as Manetto Amanatini and Julia the Sibyl), she shows that the Renaissance was more complex, diverse, international, and desperate than we like to believe.

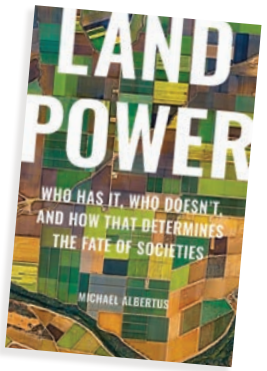


Radical Brown: Keeping the Promise to America's Children

Harvard Education Press

By **Margaret Beale Spencer**, PhD'76, Charles F. Grey Distinguished Service Professor Emerita in the Department of Comparative Human Development, and Nancy E. Dowd

Seventy years after the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* established that segregation in K–12 public schools was unconstitutional, developmental scholar **Margaret Beale Spencer** and legal analyst Nancy E. Dowd assess the decision's legacy. Rereading the ruling in its historical context, Spencer and Dowd conclude that the comprehensive mandate for equality that the decision laid out has not been realized. Instead they find that post-*Brown* policies have entrenched racial inequality in schools, harming the development of all children. Building from human development science, Spencer and Dowd offer concrete steps that legislators, school leaders, educators, and scholars can take to achieve equality grounded in a dedication to the common humanity of all children.

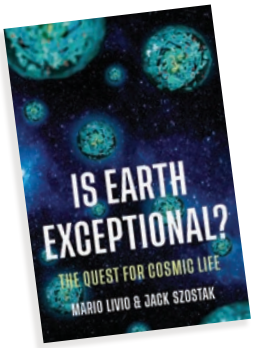


Land Power: Who Has It, Who Doesn't, and How That Determines the Fate of Societies

Basic Books

By **Michael Albertus**, Professor in the Department of Political Science and the College

Land has long been a determinant of economic and social power. The past two centuries have been characterized by what **Michael Albertus** calls the Great Reshuffle, with land ownership around the world shifting dramatically through imperialist settler movements as well as through various reform movements—such as the formation of communes in the Soviet Union—intended to transfer land ownership from the few to the many. Land reallocation, Albertus explains, has the potential for broad social benefit, but in many cases these systems have left legacies of racial and gender inequality, environmental degradation, and underdevelopment. Albertus traces the history of land ownership policies to shed light on the structure of modern societies around the world and shares some recent efforts to think differently about land distribution.



Is Earth Exceptional? The Quest for Cosmic Life

Basic Books

By Mario Livio and **Jack Szostak**, University Professor in the Department of Chemistry and the College

"How likely is it for life to emerge on the surface of a potentially habitable planet?" This fundamental question is driving research across the sciences. Astrophysicist Mario Livio and chemist-biologist and Nobel laureate **Jack Szostak** highlight two major lines of inquiry that aim to provide an answer: Chemists and biologists are working to understand how life first developed on Earth, while astronomers and astrophysicists seek signs of life elsewhere in our galaxy. If there is life elsewhere in the Milky Way, they write, we may well find it "within the next one or two decades." Livio and Szostak outline the major discoveries in these areas that have brought us to our exciting current moment, and they take readers behind the scenes of the latest research into the origins of life.—*C. C.*

January 29, 2025

A young audience member listens to civil rights icon Ruby Bridges speak at the University's 35th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Celebration.

Photography by Jason Smith

For the record

ACCOLADE FOR ALIVISATOS

President Paul Alivisatos, AB'81, received the Enrico Fermi Presidential Award—one of the most prestigious science and technology honors bestowed by the US government—at a January 10 ceremony in Washington, DC. Alivisatos was cited for "groundbreaking ideas and discoveries" that "have transformed nanochemistry and enabled new classes of commercially available electronic devices and materials," said Geraldine Richmond, then–US under secretary for science and innovation. Alivisatos was honored alongside Héctor D. Abruña of Cornell University and John H. Nuckolls, the former director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

HISTORIC RECOGNITION

David M. Rubenstein, JD'73, chair of the Board of Trustees, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, by then-President Joe Biden on January 4. An international leader in business, public affairs, higher education, and the arts, Rubenstein was recognized for his "philanthropy and generous support for the restoration of historic landmarks and the country's cultural institutions." Rubenstein is co-founder and co-chairman of The Carlyle Group, one of the world's most successful private investment firms. Renowned for his patriotic philanthropy, Rubenstein has made transformative gifts in support of numerous national monuments and museums.

STAR RESEARCHER

Wendy Freedman, the John and Marion Sullivan University Professor in Astronomy and Astrophysics and the College, received the National Medal of Science, the country's highest scientific honor, on January 3. Freedman was recognized for her pioneering contributions to cosmology, including her leadership of the team that in 2001 made a landmark measurement of the Hubble constant—the rate at which the universe is expanding. She also led the initiative to build the Giant Magellan Telescope, one of the world's largest optical telescopes.

NEW COLLEGE MAJOR

The University is launching a new undergraduate major in climate and sustainable growth, with enrollment beginning in Autumn Quarter 2025. The major is the first degree program anchored in the Chicago Curriculum on Climate and Sustainable Growth, a novel approach to energy and climate education being led by the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth. The Chicago Curriculum starts with a set of foundational courses, required for all students in the major, that explores the climate and economic growth challenge from multiple perspectives. Students will go on to specialize in one of three areas: climate science, economics and politics, or finance.

SCHWARZMAN SCHOLAR

College fourth-year Emily Shi has been selected as a Schwarzman Scholar, joining a program that aims to prepare future global leaders. She will pursue a master's degree in global affairs at Schwarzman College, part of Tsinghua University in Beijing. Shi is a biological sciences and public policy double major, focusing on health and medicine from a global perspective, and plans to apply to medical school after completing the Schwarzman program. Alumna Maxime Kpangbai, AB'20, also received the prestigious scholarship (see Notes, page 54).

POTENTIAL ENERGY

Six UChicago faculty members have received Sloan Research Fellowships, which recognize early-career scholars' potential to make substantial contributions to their fields. Luca V. Delacrétaz, assistant professor of physics, studies collective and emergent phenomena in condensed matter physics through the lens of quantum field theory. Raul Castro Fernandez, assistant professor of computer science, explores how data affects our technological, economic, social, and cultural ecosystems. Jeremy Hoskins, assistant professor of statistics, is interested in problems at the intersection of physics, computation, and mathematics. Alexander Ji, assistant professor of astronomy and astrophysics, studies the elemental composition of the oldest surviving stars. Sarah King, assistant professor of chemistry, investigates condensed phase and interface dynamics using ultrafast spectroscopy, surface science, and materials science. Weixin Tang, Neubauer Family Assistant Professor of Chemistry, develops and applies new chemical tools to study and manipulate the biological system.

AURORA DAWNS

Argonne National Laboratory has fully opened its Aurora supercomputer to researchers around the world. One of the world's first exascale supercomputers, Aurora is capable of performing at least a quintillion calculations per second. Scientists can apply to use the supercomputer to perform calculations for studies that are in many cases impossible to do elsewhere. With powerful capabilities for simulation, artificial intelligence, and data analysis, Aurora is expected to facilitate breakthroughs in fields including drug discovery, cosmology, and nuclear energy research.

ENDURING LEGACY

Author and civil rights icon Ruby Bridges spoke at UChicago's 35th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Celebration on January 29 (see page 19). In 1960, at age 6, Bridges became the first Black student to enroll at William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans; photographs of her on the school's steps, accompanied by the federal marshals assigned to protect her, are among the most enduring images of the American civil rights movement. At the January event, Bridges reflected on her memories of that tumultuous year and the need to continue the fight against injustice.

Clockwise from top left: Photography by Charles Watkins, courtesy the Department of Energy; photo courtesy Emily Shi, Class of 2025; photography by Ryan K. Morris, courtesy the National Science & Technology Medals Foundation

INTERVIEW

Cold case

Journalist Nicola Twilley, AM'01, examines the relationship between food and the built environment.

BY CHANDLER A. CALDERON

In *Frostbite: How Refrigeration Changed Our Food, Our Planet, and Ourselves* (Penguin Press, 2024), journalist **Nicola Twilley**, AM'01, traces how the development of a "cold chain"—in Twilley's words, "the network of warehouses, shipping containers, trucks, display cases, and domestic fridges that keep meat, milk, and more chilled on their journeys from farm to fork"—has changed how and what we eat. This interview has been edited and condensed.

How did you first come to write about food?

I tried a lot of different things after leaving UChicago. My husband, **Geoff Manaugh**, AM'01, was writing about architecture and had really built a niche for himself. I was like, "Huh! This is interesting. The way to build an audience and a voice and a platform is to find a beat." I've always loved food, and it's a great lens to write about all sorts of other things, but with focus and productive constraint. It also turns out to be our most intimate relationship with the planet other than breathing.

What made you want to write about refrigeration?

I got the idea when farm to table was the hottest new trend, which shows you how long ago it was. Writers like Michael Pollan and Eric Schlosser had written these amazing books taking us behind the scenes of the "farm" aspect of "farm to table." But I just got hung up on the "to." How does the food get from the farm *to* the table? And then I realized, there's this entire network. It's a distributed, permanent winter that we've built for our food to live in. What would it be like to see it as a whole?

Hands-on reporting is a hallmark of your work. Why is that approach important to you?

I could tell you it's because it's good journalism, because you see perspectives that you would never get any other way. Those things are true. By working in a refrigerated warehouse, I had a much more visceral relationship to cold and an entirely different perspective on the labor of this aspect of our food system. I knew cold enables us to have stockpiles of food, but when you see it all in a refrigerated warehouse, you have an entirely different understanding of what it means to have a year's worth of frozen pizza. But really, it's because I want to do it. I'm a genuine sucker for a novel experience.

Did you have a favorite place that you visited for Frostbite*?*

The subterranean refrigerated warehouse Springfield Underground, which has been the subject of a documentary about whether it's the headquarters of the Illuminati. But no, really, it's just where Kraft stores most of its cheese, which I like, because, you know, cheese and caves go way back. And it's great that American cheese has a cave too.

The US cold chain is extensive. But how much is this an American story?

A lot of the early work on refrigeration was done in the United Kingdom, because it had this enormous population and no way of feeding itself without regular shipments of imported food. The United States is the first and most refrigerated country in the world, but the impact of that is a global phenomenon. Now, as much of the rest of the world builds a cold chain, will the same transitions play out? In China right now, for example, food waste is shifting from between the farm and the market to the consumer end. What people eat is changing and vegetables are being bred to be shipped rather than for their local resilience or deliciousness. You can see all that happen in real time.

How did you balance the benefits of refrigeration against its negative impacts?

A friend of mine read the book and he was like, "So are you against refrigeration?" No. Where I ended up was, it seems really foolish to have become dependent on a technology and not have done a full accounting of its costs as well as its benefits. Why would we do that? We routinely think about the technologies we've adopted and their costs as well as their benefits. Let's just have that conversation about refrigeration. Then we can have a conversation about how we mitigate those downsides. ◆

READ MORE AT MAG.UCHICAGO.EDU/TWILLEY.

Illustration by Robert Ball

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

For 40 years UChicago's MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics has built a bridge between clinical practice and ethical inquiry.

BY ELIZABETH STATION

The MacLean Center's Wednesday case discussions give UChicago Medicine staff, as well as faculty from across the University, an opportunity to reflect on the complex ethical challenges that arise in patient care.

Photography by John Zich

Every Wednesday afternoon, in a quiet conference room off the bustling lobby of UChicago's Goldblatt Pavilion, 30 time-pressed physicians, nurses, fellows, and faculty members from across the University gather to talk about ethics.

This week they review a case, already closed, involving a 44-year-old woman with advanced liver disease and severe bipolar disorder. (Details here have been changed to protect the patient's privacy.) Critically ill and sometimes agitated, the patient spent weeks under sedation in a medical intensive care unit. An invasive and potentially risky procedure might have made it easier for her to breathe, but given the patient's incapacity, someone else—either her anguished father or court-appointed guardian—would have had to approve it.

For a solid hour, UChicago Medicine staff familiar with the case field probing questions from their colleagues around the table. They delve into the medical facts and tougher issues too: Who should make decisions about treatment when a patient is too ill to do so? How should the process be handled when there are two potential surrogates—a family member and a legal guardian? Is it ethically permissible for the care team to withhold a medical procedure they believe will be only marginally helpful? What would the patient want?

"All the options basically suck," laments one of the physicians.

Since the patient's father had requested ethical guidance, another doctor suggests ways to begin the conversation. "We can say, 'Listen, this is ethically, and morally, and medically a really complicated case. … And it's really hard and sad, I would imagine, to see your daughter be so sick and so agitated.'"

A third colleague agrees. The next step should be to guide the surrogates toward a decision based on their knowledge of the patient's values and wishes, asking, "What's important to you, and her, and your family? Tell me about this person you love."

Before they consider another case, the group learns how this story ended. Over several weeks, as the woman's condition deteriorated, her father and her guardian conferred with the care team. Together they determined that it would be best for her to forgo the invasive procedure and transition to palliative care. She died in the hospital the day before the gathering around the conference table.

THE GOAL IS TO PROVIDE REGULAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR PEOPLE FROM VARIED MEDICAL SPECIALTIES AND ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES.

For nearly four decades, the MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics has convened Wednesday case discussions on the UChicago campus. The goal is to provide regular opportunities for dialogue and continuing education for people from varied medical specialties and academic disciplines—philosophy, theology, law, and others—rather than to have them them resolve active cases. The latter task falls to the MacLean Center's ethics consultation service, which offers real-time guidance on complex clinical cases emerging at UChicago Medicine.

The MacLean Center was created in 1983 with a transformative philanthropic gift from Dorothy J. MacLean and the MacLean family. The idea for the center grew from the doctor-patient relationship between Dorothy and her physician **Mark Siegler**, MD'67, the Lindy Bergman Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Medicine and a pioneer in the field of clinical medical ethics. Over time, Dorothy and Siegler developed a

friendship rooted in shared intellectual curiosity and a lively exchange of ideas. Through their relationship, Dorothy became an advocate for clinical medical ethics, which she believed could improve the delivery of health care and the experiences of patients and their families. Today, with the continued support of Dorothy's son and UChicago Medical Center Life Trustee **Barry MacLean** and the MacLean family, the center provides an intellectual home for more than 50 UChicago faculty and staff.

Siegler first got interested in clinical medical ethics in the 1970s. At the time his focus on everyday ethical problems emerging "at the bedside" was novel; so was his effort to root ethics in the clinical encounter between doctors and patients. While a moral philosopher approaching medical ethics might wrestle with abstract theoretical questions (What is illness? What is responsibility?), clinical ethics aims to offer case-based guidance on practical dilemmas.

To orient medical students and physicians, Siegler teamed up with two fellow bioethicists to author a 1982 textbook, *Clinical Ethics: A Practical Approach to Ethical Decisions in Clinical Medicine* (Macmillan). Slender enough to fit in a lab coat pocket, the little blue book filled a void. Now in its ninth edition, it has been translated into 11 languages.

Pressing topics in clinical ethics—such as reproductive cloning, stem-cell research, and artificial intelligence—have evolved with technology and the times. The field's early physician-centric approach has expanded to recognize nurses, social workers, chaplains, psychologists, families, and others as essential partners in patient care. But fundamental principles such as shared decision-making, informed consent, and confidentiality have stayed at the core.

In 2022 **Peter Angelos**, an endocrine surgeon with a PhD in philosophy, succeeded Siegler as the MacLean Center's director. Angelos first came to UChicago some 30 years ago as a surgical resident and fellow at the center. (He spent his fellowship year rewriting his philosophy dissertation after his committee at Boston University rejected the initial topic—euthanasia—as "too applied.") As UChicago's Linda Kohler Anderson Professor of Surgery and Surgical Ethics, Angelos has remained committed to applied clinical ethics. This past fall, at an event celebrating the MacLean Center's 40th anniversary, he outlined a vision for where the field should go.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed major challenges to the US health care system that need addressing, Angelos said, including racial health disparities and fair allocation of scarce resources. Meanwhile, he warned, "the increasing use

Photography by John Zich

In addition to Wednesday case discussions, the MacLean Center offers an ethics consultation service, which provides real-time guidance on complex clinical cases at UChicago Medicine.

of artificial intelligence in medicine pushes the boundaries of patient trust and physician responsibility to previously unimaginable levels." Health threats from climate change are escalating locally and globally. For physicians and researchers, the implications are clear: "We now need to address ethics beyond the realm of issues arising at the bedside to those issues that impact society at large."

Health equity, a vast and challenging problem that cuts across nearly every area of clinical ethics, receives no mention in Siegler's 1982 guide for physicians. Yet increasingly scholars and practitioners recognize that health care systems and broader social and economic forces influence health outcomes as much as the doctor-patient relationship does. The authors of *Ending Unequal Treatment: Strategies to Achieve Equitable Health Care and Optimal Health for All*, a 2024 National Academies report, define health equity as "a state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, or other factors." The report also notes that the United States has made little progress in improving health inequities over the past two decades.

Nationally, life expectancies for Black and Native Americans fall far below those of White Americans. People of color are more likely to die of COVID-19 and illnesses like heart disease and cancer. Both rural and inner-city Americans often lack access to primary care and hospital services. **Monica Peek**, SM'15, the Ellen H. Block Professor for Health Justice in the Department of Medicine and a coauthor of *Ending Unequal Treatment*, says, "I really, truly believe that health disparities are one of our country's biggest moral shortcomings."

Peek, an internist and clinician-investigator, joined the University faculty in 2006 and treats patients in Hyde Park. Concerned about the high rates of diabetes among patients on Chicago's largely low-income, African American South Side, Peek joined forces with her mentor **Marshall Chin** and others to find solutions. Their decade-long collaboration showed that social drivers of health, like access to secure housing and healthy food, play a critical role in diabetes care and outcomes, and that diabetes education works best when it is culturally tailored and offered with community partners.

Mark Siegler, MD'67

Peter Angelos

Monica Peek, SM'15

Marshall Chin

"A lot of this early work shaped what are now considered standards for doing multilevel interventions for racial disparities," Peek says. What's more, the project helped save the University's health plan almost 10 percent of its total costs for all diabetes patients, since hospitalizations and emergency room visits declined among the group studied. With Chin, the Richard Parrillo Family Distinguished Service Professor of Healthcare Ethics in the Department of Medicine, Peek went on to lead a nationwide project to improve diabetes health outcomes. (The two are also associate directors of the MacLean Center,

Photography by Jean Lachat (Siegler and Angelos); photography by Eddie Quinones (Peek and Chin)

along with UChicago Medicine faculty members **Megan Applewhite**, AB'03, and **Micah Prochaska**, AB'04, SM'16.)

Efforts to eliminate health inequities must move beyond merely documenting differences between groups and instead uncover the reasons for—and root causes of—disparate health outcomes, Peek says. To that end, she has collaborated on health-related research involving communities of color around the country.

Chin has focused his recent research on the important role of payment policy and payers—including health plans, providers, and programs like Medicare and Medicaid—in advancing health equity. Compared to other high-income countries, the United States spends far more on health care as a percentage of gross domestic product but has the lowest life expectancies and highest rates of treatable and preventable deaths. Americans also face the greatest barriers to accessing and affording health services.

"That's not just by chance," Chin says. "The way we organize our system tends to reward short-term financial gain, as opposed to the health and well-being of patients and communities and medium- and long-term outcomes." Invoking George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, he concludes, "Some people are more equal than others."

THE WAY WE ORGANIZE OUR SYSTEM TENDS TO REWARD SHORT-TERM FINANCIAL GAIN, AS OPPOSED TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES AND MEDIUM- AND LONG-TERM OUTCOMES.

Some areas of medicine, like organ transplantation, have posed thorny ethical challenges since their inception. In 1989 a surgical team from UChicago Medicine made history when they performed the country's first successful living-donor liver transplant. Prior to the transplant, MacLean Center ethicists spent two years working with transplant experts to review the ethical issues and develop protocols for practitioners to follow. The donating mother and her recipient daughter, then an infant, have thrived, but at the time the novel procedure raised questions about the risks and benefits of surgical innovation, informed consent, and the protection of living organ donors.

Then and now, the demand for transplant organs of all kinds has far exceeded supply. More than 100,000 people are currently on the national transplant waiting list, and each day 17 people die waiting for a transplant. Given the shortage, what is the best way to decide who should receive a lifesaving transplant? In general, factors of justice (considering the candidates' circumstances and medical needs) are balanced against those of medical utility (trying to increase the overall number of transplants and the survival time of recipients and organs). The available organ also must match—in blood type, in size, and per other criteria—the patient in need.

Those are sound considerations, but researchers like **William Parker**, MD'12, SM'18, PhD'21, have found issues with the way allocation plays out in practice. A decade ago, when the assistant professor of medicine and public health sciences was a resident in the intensive care unit, he wondered why patients at the top of the wait-list for liver transplants were far sicker than their counterparts awaiting heart transplants.

The liver patients were "at death's door," Parker remembers, kept alive by ventilators and vasoactive blood-pressure medications. Meanwhile, patients in the cardiac intensive care unit "certainly had advanced heart failure and needed heart transplants, but they were conscious, comfortable, and receiving therapy support for their heart, like an intra-aortic balloon pump."

Parker later learned that heart patients who received aggressive treatment had a better chance of receiving a transplant, since the therapies their

UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-09355 (inset) and apf1-09356 (Photography by James Ballard), Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Christoph E. Broelsch (1944–2019; inset and above), who led the team that performed the country's first successful living-donor liver transplant at UChicago Medicine in 1989, worked closely with the MacLean Center before the procedure. Ethical issues related to organ transplantation remain a focus of the center's work.

cardiologists chose determined their priority status. By contrast, liver transplant candidates were prioritized based on medical urgency. "I realized that the heart transplant allocation system was not working the way it was intended, to capture and designate status 1A for the patients who are literally moments or hours away from death without a transplant," he says.

Most clinical ethics research is team science, and Parker collaborated with others to develop the US-Candidate Risk Score, a new tool that incorporates clinical, lab, and blood-flow data to identify patients at the highest risk of death without a heart transplant. In 2024 the team was excited to publish proof of their model's fairness and efficacy in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Parker says, "but the issue now is getting policymakers to put it into place, which is a different story."

Other ethical dilemmas complicate organ transplants. The rising demand for organs has generated international "transplant tourism," in which wealthy patients travel abroad to obtain a transplant more quickly, but organs may come from donors who act out of financial necessity or who did not give informed consent.

The pressure to obtain organs for transplant is even shaping the definition of death. In the United States organ donation can legally occur after brain death (the irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brain stem) or cardiac death (cessation of circulatory and respiratory function). But a controversial technique called normothermic regional perfusion has added new layers of complexity to organ donation.

Normothermic regional perfusion involves using a machine to recirculate blood to specific organs in the body after an organ donor's heart has stopped beating, replenishing oxygen so organs can be utilized. The medical team clamps blood vessels to the brain to prevent any return of brain activity. Cardiac criteria are used to determine death, but the procedure essentially restarts the heart. And if you can restart the heart, some ask, is the donor really dead?

Critics believe the procedure is unethical because it violates existing norms governing the declaration of death and the physician's vow to "do no harm." But supporters argue that as long as patients and/or their surrogates understand what's happening and have consented to organ donation, the procedure should be allowed. This past November, at the 36th annual MacLean Conference on Clinical Medical Ethics, a well-attended session on normothermic regional perfusion offered practical ideas for resolving the conflict—a sign that, together, physicians and ethicists will find a bridge across the impasse.

When clinicians face ethical quandaries, it can help to have knowledge—and allies—from fields other than medicine. **Dan Brudney**, the Florin Harrison Pugh Professor of Philosophy, has crossed Ellis Avenue regularly over the past 20 years to join the MacLean Center's Wednesday case conferences. Early on he taught moral philosophy to annual cohorts of ethics fellows. "From the get-go I've been immensely impressed with the clinicians," he says, "with their humaneness as well as their technical knowledge and skill."

Dan Brudney

Brudney has seen how concepts from philosophy can provide a way forward in messy and painful situations related to end-of-life care, especially when patients can't make decisions for themselves or haven't left an advance directive for care. For instance, should a wife authorize life-prolonging treatment for her beloved husband who is incapacitated by terminal cancer if the intervention gives his children precious time to say goodbye? As a surrogate decision-maker, she has a responsibility to act based on his will or preference—if he previously expressed it—or, if he never stated a preference, to act on what she believes to be his firmly held values.

Both of these moral considerations—the exercising of the patient's will and staying faithful to the patient's values—are important and relevant at the bedside, Brudney says. The clinician's role is to help the surrogate reach a de-

Photography by Robert Kozloff

cision with sufficient confidence while making sure that the surrogate's emotional burden "is not added to by the worry about whether they did the right thing."

When a patient or family questions a course of treatment for religious reasons, a theologian's perspective may be valuable. **Laurie Zoloth**, the Margaret E. Burton Professor of Religion and Ethics in the Divinity School, brings her knowledge of Judaism and other faiths to interdisciplinary discussions with MacLean Center colleagues. She also draws on her own experience in medicine—in her 20s she worked as a neonatal intensive care nurse to help pay for her graduate studies in religion and ethics.

Conflicts between religious and medical practices sometimes surface in hospital settings. A classic example is the Jehovah's Witness who refuses a blood transfusion because they believe it will exclude them from eternal life. When treating such patients, doctors and nurses must proceed respectfully and consider alternatives like bloodless surgery. "Negotiating all the different pieces of this discussion and dilemma is an important skill for our fellows to learn," Zoloth says.

Laurie Zoloth

Zoloth's scholarship often goes beyond the bedside boundaries of clinical ethics. One of her recent books mines the texts and traditions of Jewish thought to make the moral case for fighting climate change, which she calls "the most pressing ethical issue of our time." The evolving climate crisis will have enormous health consequences for everyone, Zoloth believes. "We're all in a phase 1 trial on what happens to humans when the climate heats up—an unconsented trial."

Two other areas engaging MacLean Center ethicists—artificial intelligence (AI) and abortion care—have grown in visibility and complexity. Health care providers are increasingly using AI to interpret medical scans, diagnose disease, and determine treatment. **Heather Whitney**, a past ethics fellow and current assistant professor of radiology, is partnering with colleagues to study the ethics of off-label use of medical imaging AI and to develop a "sureness metric" for physicians using AI tools to diagnose cancer on medical images. Other faculty are looking for ways to ensure fairness in health care algorithms, since the decisions and rules that algorithms generate can reflect biases in the data sets used to create them, with potentially negative consequences for patients from marginalized groups.

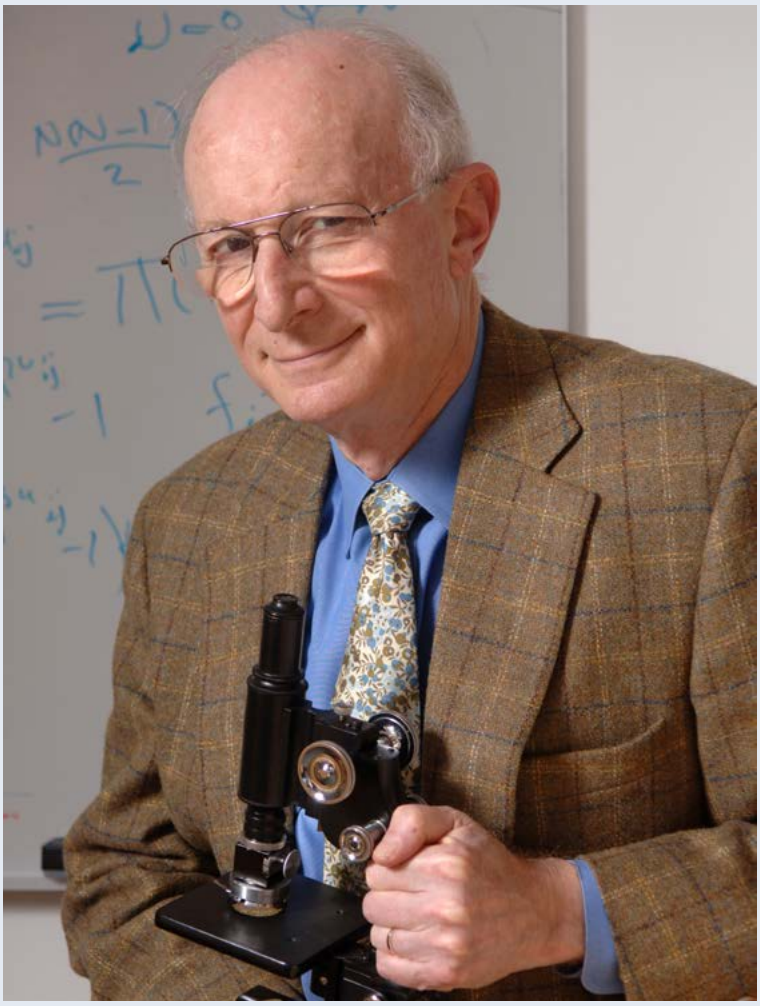
Meanwhile, in the wake of the US Supreme Court's 2022 decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, **Julie Chor**, MD'04, has studied the experiences and priorities of out-of-state patients who seek abortions in Illinois, a "surge state" where the procedure remains legal. Chor, an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, also has called attention to the moral distress of clinicians in states with abortion restrictions, "when faced with circumstances where they know what the best thing to do is medically, but they're prohibited by law from doing it."

Chor came to clinical ethics as a first-year Pritzker School of Medicine student in Siegler's course on the doctor-patient relationship. A decade after she graduated, she did a MacLean Center fellowship and describes the training as "transformative." She believes that health care professionals should be advocates for patients and their well-being and champions of research grounded in evidence-based best practices. As this work unfolds, the center's activities, including Wednesday case conferences, offer a community of support and interdisciplinary learning.

Today Chor codirects the same introductory ethics course that opened her eyes as a medical student, regularly updating the syllabus with new questions and readings. "I stand in the front of the lecture hall, looking out at seats that I sat in almost 25 years ago," she says. The discussion topics—such as health disparities and LGBTQ health—have changed, but having a role in educating a new generation of ethicists "feels profound." ◆

Elizabeth Station is a writer in Evanston, Illinois.

Photography by Seth Joel



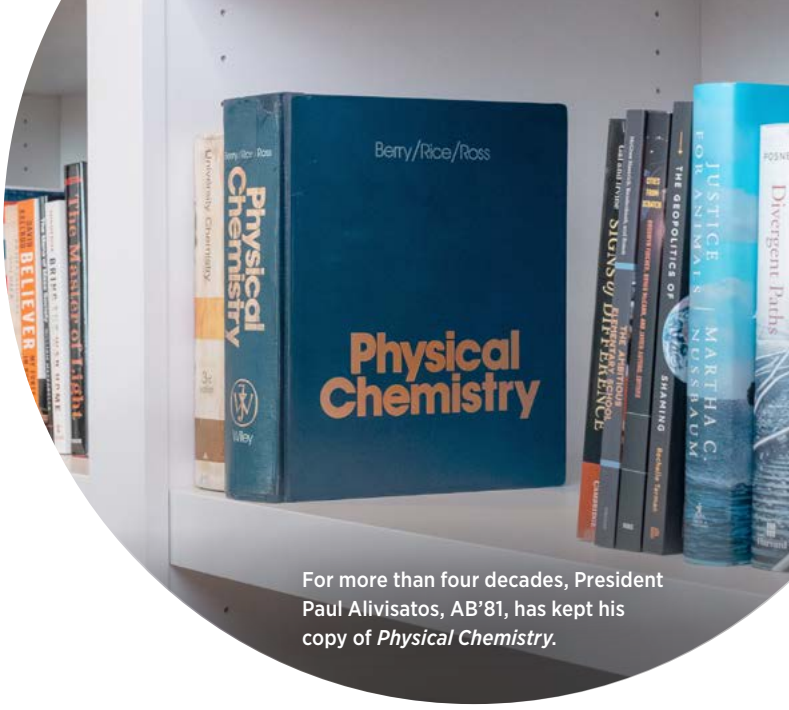
A TEACHER'S LEGACY

Remembering Stuart Rice.

BY PAUL ALIVISATOS, AB'81

Photography by Dan Dry

In December 2024 Stuart A. Rice, the Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in Chemistry, died at the age of 92 (see Deaths, page 77). President of the University of Chicago Paul Alivisatos, AB'81, pays tribute to an incomparable teacher whose influence on him endures.—Ed.



For more than four decades, President Paul Alivisatos, AB'81, has kept his copy of *Physical Chemistry*.

Photography by Jason Smith

Enjoying pride of place in my office is a by-now-decrepit treasure: my original copy of *Physical Chemistry* (Wiley, 1980), a textbook by R. Stephen Berry, Stuart Rice, and John Ross. I first encountered it as a junior in the College some 45 years ago, and it has been with me ever since. It is a book that showed me a winding path that I still follow, a path with as many open questions as questions that have been solved.

This tome consists of three idiosyncratic sections, one by each of the aforementioned authors. Steve Berry's quantum mechanics section and John Ross's kinetics section capture an adventurous spirit. Equal parts compendium of images that seem repurposed from a basic freshman chemistry lecture and discourses into mathematical foundations that would have been challenging even for a postdoctoral researcher, this was a work to be contended with. For someone destined to be a physical chemist, it remains unquestionably the one great book of its kind.

After making it through the first quarter of the course that shared *Physical Chemistry*'s name, which in 10 weeks covered the entirety of the Berry quantum section of the textbook, I was astonished to see that Stuart Rice himself was the professor for the Winter Quarter, covering statistical mechanics and thermodynamics.

From the moment he picked up his chalk and began to lecture elegantly, I was transfixed by this magician. He spoke extemporaneously, with no notes and no interruption in his flow, for the full 50 minutes, all in a kindly but authoritative voice. He was exact and illuminating and inspiring. As long as he continued to speak, he rendered his difficult subject with simplicity and clarity. His section of the great textbook similarly stands apart from the other two in its completeness and beauty. In Stuart Rice I encountered a person with an expansive love of a subject that I also found compelling and inspiring.

He was a master of intellectual sleight of hand, setting up a problem just so, knowing in advance that one or another of his seemingly innocuous assumptions was essential to a direct solution to a problem otherwise intractable. Yet his toy problems were chosen perfectly as guides to show where the traps lay, and where the good unanswered questions still hid for those willing to look for them, for those who wanted to extend the boundaries of knowledge. His was a kindly brilliance. Stuart always seemed to see things a few layers deeper than anyone else.

A year later, now determined to continue in the study of physical chemistry, I went to him for advice on where to go to graduate school. Every program but the one at the University of California, Berkeley, featured a full two years of coursework and exams before one could be qualified to start research in earnest. The Berkeley folks were indifferent to these kinds of formal constraints. Find your own way, they said. Could such a program be serious? I am sure the advice he gave me was hard for him to give, since Berkeley had only recently managed to lure away his friend and protégé, the great UChicago physical chemist Yuan T. Lee, who just a few years later won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his studies of molecular collisions and reaction dynamics.

In the event, Stuart looked at me sardonically and said, "Paul, have you not yet understood the point? As a UChicago undergraduate you leave here with the skill to learn any existing human knowledge, without needing anyone to hold your hand." He was of course right about UChicago undergrads, then and now—and he was one of many UChicago mentors whose passion and wisdom set so many of us on our right paths. I followed Stuart's advice and went to Berkeley, and from there on to a life of science, beauty, and challenge, always searching in the footsteps of this great master.

When I learned that Stuart had passed away, I felt a great sadness, along with my enduring gratitude to him. Farewell, my teacher Stuart Rice. ◆

OMNIVOROUS

How literary scholar David Shields, AM'75, PhD'82, came to rediscover dozens of forgotten crops and preserve Southern culinary heritage.

BY REBECCA MCCARTHY, AB'77

Opposite page: Photography by Kim Truett/*Carolinian*. All other photos courtesy David Shields, AM'75, PhD'82.

The search for lost heritage crops has led David Shields, AM'75, PhD'82, to farms across the US South and farther afield.

It's a sunny summer day. I'm driving through the campus of the University of South Carolina, in Columbia, with **David Shields**, AM'75, PhD'82. We pass the building where he has been a member of the English department faculty for the past 21 years. Soon he will vacate his office there, give away many of his books and journals, and sail into retirement. But, Shields points out, "there's no retiring from the life of the mind."

We reach Blanding Street, site of Historic Columbia, a preservation nonprofit offering education programs and events. There, Shields walks me through the young fruit trees of an heirloom garden—some of which he himself saved from oblivion. He reels off facts about each individual plant. There's the Early Crawford peach ("the leading spring market peach in the 19th century"), the Shui Mi Tao peach ("the reason Shanghai became a city"), and the Lemon Cling peach ("favored for brandy and canning").

A group of trees with branches that fall in wide green ribbons about their trunks are Hicks Everbearing mulberries, he says, developed around 1813 by horticulturist and master vintner Nicholas Herbemont. Other mulberry trees were intended to feed silkworms; Herbemont's were not.

"It was known as the hog tree," Shields says as he touches the branches. "It's everbearing because it drops fruit for three months. An orchard of 46 trees an acre could feed 100 hogs, mostly guinea hogs, for half the time needed to prep them for market. And chickens as well—it shaded chicken yards. Mulberry-fed pork and chicken meat was supposed to be wonderful."

The Hicks tree was common on farms throughout the Southeast until around 1890, when grain became the feed of choice for pigs and poultry. Thereafter, it all but vanished. But in the winter of 2016, Shields and a horticulturist from Historic Columbia, Keith Mearns, traveled to a 150-year-old mulberry grove outside Mount Olive, North Carolina, and took cuttings from one of nine extant trees. Mearns managed to root the cuttings, and now they can be seen growing in Historic Columbia's garden.

Among the treasures rescued by the Slow Food Foundation was the all-but-extinct Dyehouse cherry from Kentucky.

Shields's success in tracking down supposedly lost cultivars—plants produced through selective breeding like the "hog mulberry"—has made him one of the country's foremost culinary historians. Most of the neglected cultivars he finds are hardy, able to withstand drought and deluge, and more nutritious and tastier than today's varieties. Once found, they are brought back into production. Some, such as Carolina Gold rice, are nationally available. Others, such as rice peas and benne, are maintained by heirloom seed companies for produce stand cultivation by farmers and home gardeners.

In addition, Shields has learned about soil composition, the identity and location of the plants' farmers, recipes incorporating the plants, the people preparing those dishes, and the places where the dishes are traditionally served, be they homes, restaurants, or banquet halls.

"David's contributions are difficult to translate in a simple sentence because it's two decades of multidisciplinary work that's groundbreaking worldwide," says Glenn Roberts, who specializes in recovering, growing, and marketing old grains and cereals. "Finding lost foods and assisting in their path to recovery is what he does. He operates with the idea that he's finding foods that need to be on the American table, and there's no one else working like this in the country."

But how did a tenured English professor come to be stomping around in mulberry groves?

At a 2003 conference in Charleston, South Carolina, titled "The Cuisines of the Lowcountry and Caribbean," Shields had a watershed moment that would propel him deep into the culinary realm. He had just concluded a lecture to an audience of chefs, historians, farmers, and food producers when he was approached by the grain-loving Roberts, founder and CEO of Columbia-based Anson Mills. Roberts's company grows, mills, and markets Carolina Gold rice, which was the primary rice grown in the United States until the Civil War. Its origins aren't certain—West Africa? Madagascar? Asia?—but it fell out of favor when other strains of rice appeared that could be harvested by machine. Carolina Gold rice became little more than a missing ingredient in old recipes.

Roberts was instrumental in its recovery. By 1998 a disease-resistant variety of Carolina Gold rice was being grown organically in Texas, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Roberts isn't done with rice. His company is attempting to rescue other early cereal cultivars and legumes from the doldrums of neglect and to restore them to production.

At the Charleston conference, Shields's use of "cuisine" troubled Roberts. Because, Shields learned, what he had called a cuisine "wasn't a cuisine, it was a cookery. To have a cuisine, you have to have local ingredients, and we didn't have those."

Roberts asked Shields if he would research the crops that had brought worldwide praise to Southern restaurants and chefs in the 1800s. Not realizing what a quagmire he was entering, Shields said yes. How difficult could it be?

A self-described archives rat, he is as relentless a digger as a Jack Russell terrier. And he was accustomed to methodical forays into the obscure. For his book *Oracles of Empire: Poetry, Politics, and Commerce in British America, 1690–1750* (University of Chicago Press, 1990), Shields exhumed a raft of forgotten poems, most of which likely hadn't been read in a century. Besides, he had already spent who knows how many hours reading horticulture books and cookbooks at the South Carolina Historical Society, learning what people were planting, preparing, and eating in the state before the Civil War. He figured he'd be finished with Roberts's request in a couple of weeks.

"I didn't know then that I had made a deal with the devil," Shields says with a laugh. "I learned how much I didn't know."

At the time, Shields was teaching at the Citadel in Charleston, but in 2004 he accepted a position at the University of South Carolina. He moved to Columbia with his family and continued his research there. In the basement of USC's Thomas Cooper Library, he delved into dusty antebellum agricultural journals, plantation records, and seed catalogs. Reading books on botany and agronomy, he learned how farmers grouped crops to ward off pests or to improve the soil. He discovered that certain old grains develop elaborate roots that can extend as far as 50 feet, pumping sugar into the soil and extracting micronutrients, which translate into richer, fuller flavor.

Shields found that the once-popular Southern ingredient benne—an African grain similar to sesame—when planted with rice suppresses a damaging pest.

Among the once-prized then nearly extinct crops that have been revived through Shields's work are (from left) Purple Ribbon sugarcane (first two photos), Moruga Hill rice, and Bradford watermelons.

"I realized my ignorance was profound about Southern ingredients," Shields says. "We had lost so much. We didn't even know what we had lost. And I didn't understand why 19th-century farmers were growing certain things with other things."

He spent three years in Thomas Cooper's stacks, where he studied books and manuscripts detailing crop rotation and soil health. Outside the library, Shields was involved with the nonprofit Carolina Gold Rice Foundation, which he had helped organize in 2005. (After he tasted the cooked rice, he was all in. The taste and texture were enormously satisfying, reminding him of the congee he ate as a child in Tokyo, where his father worked in the early 1950s.)

In 2009 Shields agreed to become chair of the foundation's board, a position he still holds. The Carolina Gold Rice Foundation's goal is to find, revive, and restore to Southern cooking an entire repertoire of landrace grains, vegetables, and fruits. (A landrace is a cultivated variety of plant suited to local conditions.)

After three years of research, Shields had compiled a list of 45 cultivars that had been served on South Carolina dinner plates for 50 years or more throughout the 1800s. He found that in the years after the Civil War, Southern farmers had started truck farming and sending produce to Northern markets. They chose prolific, shelf-stable, pest-resistant varieties that were profitable but often not the tastiest. And to increase yields, farmers began applying commercial fertilizer to fields they had once fertilized with manure, changing the chemistry of the soil and the taste of the foods they produced. While in prescientific cultures wholesome flavor was the primary indicator of nutritive value, Shields points out, in the 20th century new cultivars weren't even tested for flavor, so strong was the emphasis on crops' disease resistance and productivity, and farms' ability to transport and process them.

As monocultures thrived and expanded, flavor and genetic adaptability suffered. By 1890 many long-used ingredients had all but disappeared. Only two, it seems, have remained unchanged: okra and collards. The foundation focused on finding and restoring the other 43, which had been perhaps unwisely abandoned.

Much as historic preservationists think a neglected building should be restored and used, culinary historians believe a neglected cultivar ought to be grown and eaten. In the past 15 years, Shields and a team of geneticists, horticulturists, seed savers and sellers, home gardeners, and farmers have found and brought into production all but four of the 43 plants he sought.

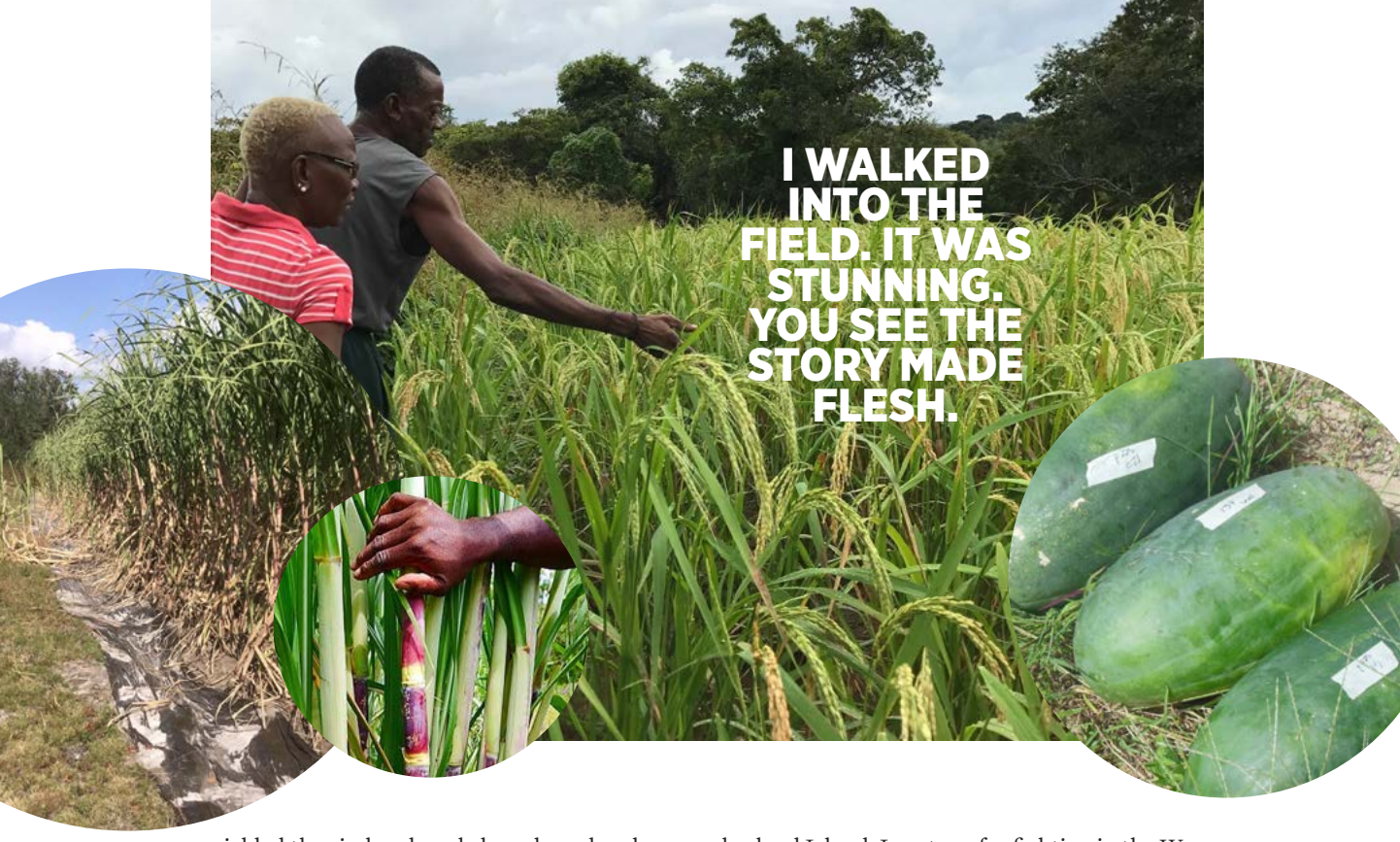
"David has been transformative in what we know now about Southern cooking," says Sarah Ross, editor of *Social Roots: Lowcountry Foodways, Reconnecting the Landscape* (University of Georgia Press, 2024) and a board member of the Carolina Gold Rice Foundation. "He never extrapolates, never jumps to a conclusion. He's extraordinarily accurate, and he imparts not just information but curiosity."

Finding plants that have gone missing is a little like searching for a beloved Irish uncle who stowed away from Derry to Boston and then lit out for Alaska. Shields and Roberts have checked seed banks, seed saver websites, and germplasm catalogs—where Carolina Gold rice survived—and in this way have found a few cultivars. But most of the sleuthing has meant talking with county extension agents and agricultural experts from other universities, traipsing through fields and forests, visiting home gardeners who have been saving seeds for generations, finding mislabeled items, or even traveling overseas.

Take watermelon—specifically the Bradford watermelon, known for its gigantic size and lip-smacking sweetness. The year after the Confederacy's defeat, farmers shipped Bradfords and other Southern melons north to receptive markets. They were tastier than what was typically found in, say, New Jersey. So demand was high.

But the Bradford's soft rind made it a poor traveler. It was supplanted by less delicious varieties with thick skin that held up to boxcar shipping.

In early 2009 the foundation began searching for the Bradford and for two other Carolina melons, the Ravenscroft and Odell's White. Shields knew from research how important the Bradford had been to South Carolina cooks and chefs, who



pickled the rind and made brandy and molasses from its juice. In 2013 Shields got an email from a South Carolina landscape architect, one Nat Bradford, who said an ancestor of his had developed the melon in the mid-1800s.

"My first impulse was I wanted to see proof—a photo, a seed. Then I wanted to make sure he was a true Bradford," Shields says. "It was the genealogy that convinced me, because I had the lineage of the creator, Nathaniel Napoleon Bradford, down to the end of the 19th century. His family knowledge linked up with my list. … It was then that certainty and joy bloomed."

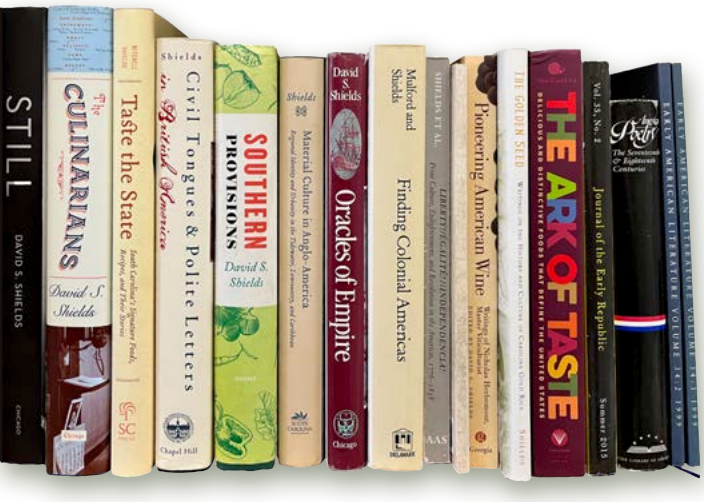
In the winter Bradford drove to Columbia to show Shields a jar of seeds and some photos. The next summer, Shields went to Bradford's farm and found the big melons growing in the fields there. Bradford later started selling them to brewers and food producers, and to restaurateurs like Sean Brock in Charleston, a James Beard Award–winning chef. Bradfords are now in ever-increasing demand.

Shields was involved in many other success stories. For example, the search for Moruga Hill rice, another "lost" food, took him nearly to South America. In 2016, with Charleston chef Benjamin "BJ" Dennis, he attended a rice symposium organized by ethnobotanist Francis Morean on Trinidad, off the coast of Venezuela.

Morean is one of many Trinidadians descended from a group of transplanted enslaved people who had once lived on Georgia's Cumberland Island. In return for fighting in the War of 1812—for the Corps of Colonial Marines—the British government granted them freedom and land on Trinidad, where they settled and became known as "Merikins" (Creole for "Americans"). With them they took seeds for various crops they had grown during their years in captivity. Among these were okra, corn, and rice—including the Moruga Hill rice for which Shields had long been searching.

Morean had contacted Shields and Dennis to invite them to the conference and told them that he thought he had their rice. After their arrival, Morean took them out to the country, where they came to a farm. "I walked into the field," Shields says. "It was stunning. You see the story made flesh." There it was, a field of rice on the verge of full ripeness, birds roosting in nearby trees, ready for the feast. Farmer John Elliot ran his fingers through the rice. There were the long, spikey awns that once prompted the Low Country name "red bearded rice." The stems were not quite six feet tall, shorter than Carolina Gold and less likely to blow down in storms.

Another find was a lost ancestral North American peanut. For much of the 18th century, the Carolina African Runner peanut was used to make groundnut cakes, one of Charleston's many signature dishes, sold by African American women for a penny. When the Spanish and Virginia peanuts edged out the Runner peanut, the groundnut cakes were gone. And yet, in 2012,



Shields was able to find 20 remaining seeds in a cold storage seed vault at North Carolina State University, where plant breeders had labeled them "Carolina No. 4."

He brought the seeds to Clemson horticulturist Brian Ward for propagation. Twelve sprouted, and when, in the summer of 2013, the peanuts blossomed, Shields and Ward knew they had revived the Carolina African Runner. It replicated the features of a specimen collected from enslaved people in Jamaica by Sir Hans Sloane in the 1680s that is now preserved in the Sloane Collection at London's Natural History Museum. By 2016 those 12 peanuts had become 15 million, and farmers were growing them commercially. The Carolina Gold Rice Foundation, Anson Mills, and the South Carolina Peanut Board are funding the project.

Angie Lavezzo, of the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association in Pittsboro, North Carolina, knew that Shields had been searching high and low for three years for Cocke's Prolific White Dent corn, developed in the 1800s by General John Hartwell Cocke of Bremo Plantation in Virginia. Lavezzo spotted someone selling "Cox's Prolific" on Craigslist and alerted Shields. Together they traveled to Landrum, South Carolina, where they found Manning Farmer and his son Darrell; their family had been growing the corn since the 1930s, taking care with planting and seed selection. This particular corn has stalks 10 to 12 feet high that produce two to four ears, as opposed to one ear for other varieties. Manning Farmer's seeds led to Cocke's revival. It's been introduced to growers and researchers around the country and is now grown at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.

When Shields received tenure in the Citadel's English department, he had spent more than 10 years focused on the history of writing. But "as a scholar, I didn't want my life to be contained in six inches of a library shelf," he says. He decided to branch out and develop an expertise in each of the five senses.

For hearing he created an archive of rare Russian piano scores composed between 1870 and 1930, now housed in the University of South Carolina's Music Library special collections. Shields loves the piano. Recently, while I was visiting, his wife, Luci, could be heard at the keyboard, practicing the hymns she would soon play at a funeral service. It's easy to believe she trained at the Eastman School of Music. "When I was thinking of marrying," Shields says, arching an eyebrow, "playing the piano was a requirement." He laughs.

For touch he studied karate, hoping to find a kind of body consciousness and sense of space. He practiced Wado Ryu karate for 15 years, until he was 55. It gave him "a heightened sense of where, how close, how dynamic things were around me."

For sight Shields began gathering information on performing art photography: performer portraits and production stills for the Broadway stage and for silent movies. Because 70 percent of silent feature film prints have perished, stills are the only surviving visual record of these creations. He eventually wrote *Still: American Silent Movie Picture Photography*, published by the University of Chicago Press in 2013. He maintains an online archive of late 19th- and early 20th-century Broadway photography and photographers and has an extensive photo collection of theater stars and casts.

In his home office he places a high stack of these photos, encased in hard plastic sleeves, on the desk in front of me. When I ask about one, he tells me the woman pictured, Maude Branscombe, couldn't act, sing, or dance but was placed on stage simply because she was lovely. An 1882 photo of Lily Langtry, with her wasp waist and languid expression, shows how alluring she was to her legions of fans. In addition to the larger photos, Shields has scads of "cabinet cards," 4-by-6-inch photo cards featuring Broadway stars. At one time, fans bought these by the thousands.

For the final two senses, taste and smell, Shields

Previous page: Shields's books reflect the range of his curiosity and expertise. This page: Cocke's Prolific White Dent corn was thought lost until Shields found Manning Farmer still growing it; from 20 seeds in a North Carolina vault have sprung acres of Carolina African Runner peanut plants.

turned his attention to food, work that still consumes him today. He has written papers and books, given lectures and talks, starred in indie films, and narrated animated shorts. For his work with saving old cultivars, he received the Southern Foodways Alliance Ruth Fertel Keeper of the Flame Award in 2016. He has twice been a finalist for the James Beard book award for reference, history, and scholarship. Taste has been a constant interest, even as he has ventured into other areas.

It doesn't surprise those who knew him as a University of Chicago graduate student that Shields would spend years foraging for lists of lost foods in dusty journals. Before turning to plants, he had long been delving into other kinds of obscure, near-forgotten records. He wrote his doctoral thesis on early American spiritual diarists.

"In school David was really into cooking and looking into 18th-century foodways and home gastronomy, trying to connect literature and social and political history," says Colby College professor **Mary Ellis Gibson**, AM'75, PhD'79. In the late 1970s she was coeditor, with Shields, of *The Chicago Review*. "David is omnivorously curious."

When focused on a topic—early American epic poetry, photography, diaries, piano music, 19th-century chefs, a neglected cultivar—Shields finds primary sources and learns as much about it as he can. Luci is quick to point out that he does not have a photographic memory, as some friends assert. But she does concede that everything that interests him sticks to his brain. Off the top of his head, he can lay out the menu of Charleston's Carolina Jockey Club Banquet from February 1860, provide details about the contributions of viticulturist Nicholas Herbemont, or sketch the life and career of stage and silent film star Jeanne Eagels.

In between his interviews and frequent travels, Shields still finds time to write. One representative book is *Taste the State: South Carolina's Signature Foods, Recipes, and Their Stories* (University of South Carolina Press, 2021), written with chef Kevin Mitchell. Mitchell teaches at the Culinary Institute of Charleston. He says he and Shields "have been joined at the hip since 2014. He's a brainiac with an insatiable thirst for knowledge. I can ask him any question, and he can give me an answer." Shields wrote most of the stories in their book, while Mitchell provided all the recipes.

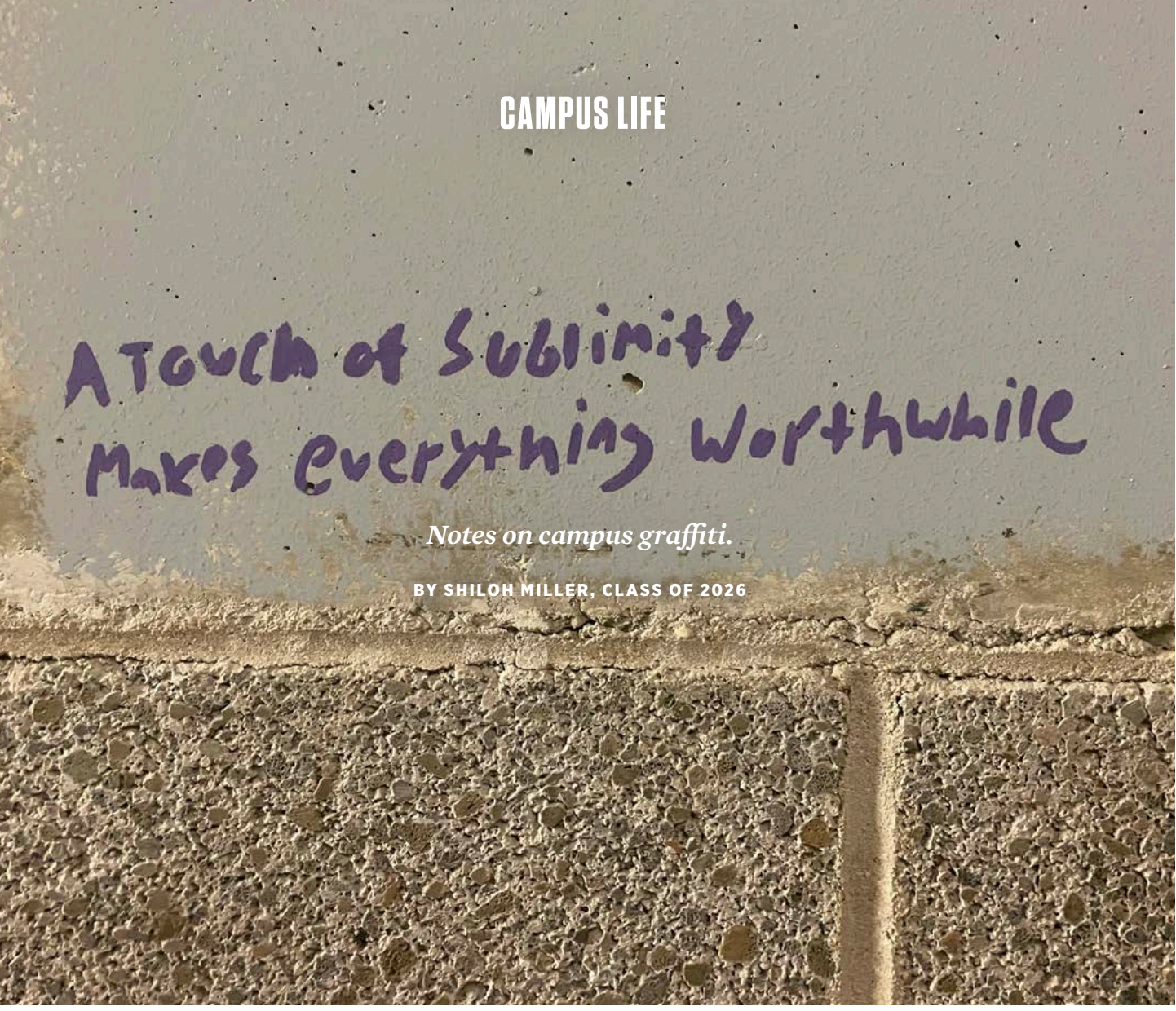
Taste the State is informative, the writing lively. On biscuits, Shields writes, "The star of breakfast, the partner of gravy, ham, and butter, the carrier of marmalade and fruit preserves, the biscuit has long been beloved throughout the South, and especially in South Carolina." On gravy, he says it "is the most treacherous dish in the whole art of cookery, showing immediately the mastery or incompetence of the maker." He and Mitchell recently finished another *Taste the State* book for Georgia, coming out this September, in which they reveal the secrets of chicken mull.

Shields's most recent book is *The Ark of Taste: Delicious and Distinctive Foods That Define the United States* (Voracious, 2023), written with Giselle Kennedy Lord. Highlighting foods that were once deemed lost but have now been brought back into production, it takes its title and premise from Slow Food's Ark of Taste project, a global register of the most historically resonant, flavorful, and imperiled foods. The book covers the American items in the Ark of Taste International catalog, now documenting online some 6,500 products from more than 150 countries: Arkansas Black apples, Maikoiko sugarcane from Hawaii, cassava leaf flour from Argentina, Sohshan wild strawberries from India, and on and on—"edible treasures," in the words of the project's website.

As chair of the Ark of Taste committee for the American South, Shields has been intimately involved in evaluating and creating nominations for imperiled American foods. The book relates how cherished foods were nearly lost, celebrates their qualities, and tells of their savers and guardians. It also poses the question of what other valuable ingredients need to be rescued and restored to kitchens across the United States to preserve their flavors and to secure their genetic heritage.

Shields's work for the past 20 years suggests what can be done. ◆

Rebecca McCarthy, AB'77, is a writer in Georgia and the author of *Norman Maclean: A Life of Letters and Rivers* (University of Washington Press, 2024).



Notes on campus graffiti.

BY SHILOH MILLER, CLASS OF 2026

In the immense corpus of language I've encountered at the University of Chicago—philosophy papers, Shakespeare's plays, issues of *The Chicago Maroon*, ebullient postcards from friends overseas, Hallowed Grounds open-mic slam poems, love letters, event posters, emails—graffiti is one of my favorites.

I have a fondness for one-liners, toasts, epitaphs—pithy forms of writing often involving communion with strangers. These are forms of communication in which meaning is concentrated. And yet even within this category, graffiti is unique. It is a kind of writing done without expectation of reward or acknowledgment. It's a hitchhiker's thumb on an empty road.

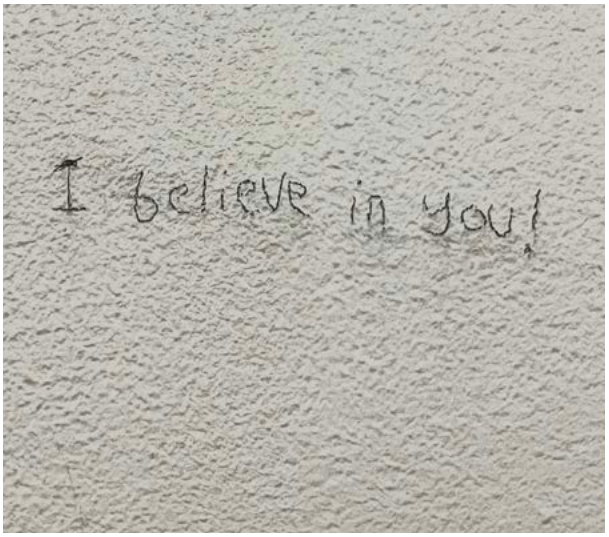
Graffiti is not on the syllabus. You can't look it up in the library catalog. You find it by happenstance on the walls of the carrels in the Regenstein bookstacks, above the inset desks studding the perimeter of the building. You find it in the labyrinthine basement of Harper Library, on a concrete pillar, in the beam of your flashlight. You find it on the red-lit landing in Ryerson's tower. You find it on the brick wall in the stairwell outside the one and only sixth-floor room in Burton Judson. You find it in places everyday, banal; you find it in places hidden.

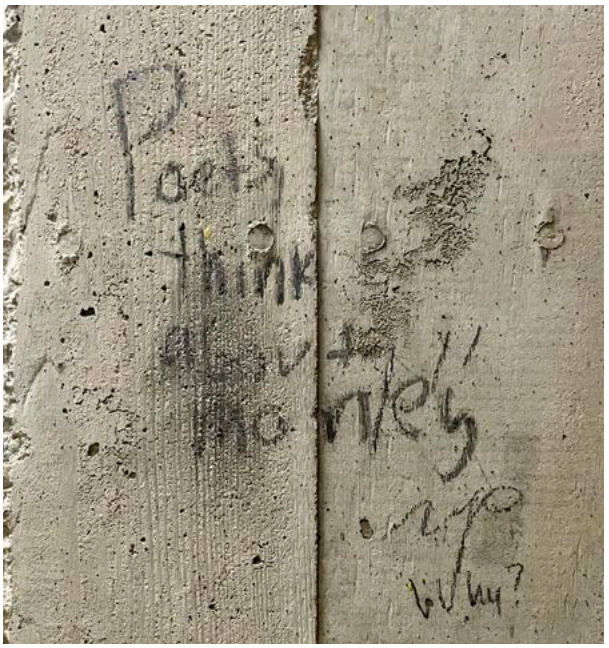
Though some people sign their name or date their message, many of the authors are anonymous, maybe long graduated. They cannot be asked the litany of questions—*What's your name? Where are you from? What's your major?*—that every college student asks and answers hundreds of times. All that is known about them is the words they chose to leave behind.

And yet there is recognition. The girl who wrote "WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY LIFE?" inside a stall of the

All photography by Shiloh Miller, Class of 2026

A sampling of campus graffiti. "Poets think about money" (right, inscribed on a pillar in the Regenstein Library) inspired a rejoinder: "Economists think about beauty & expression!"





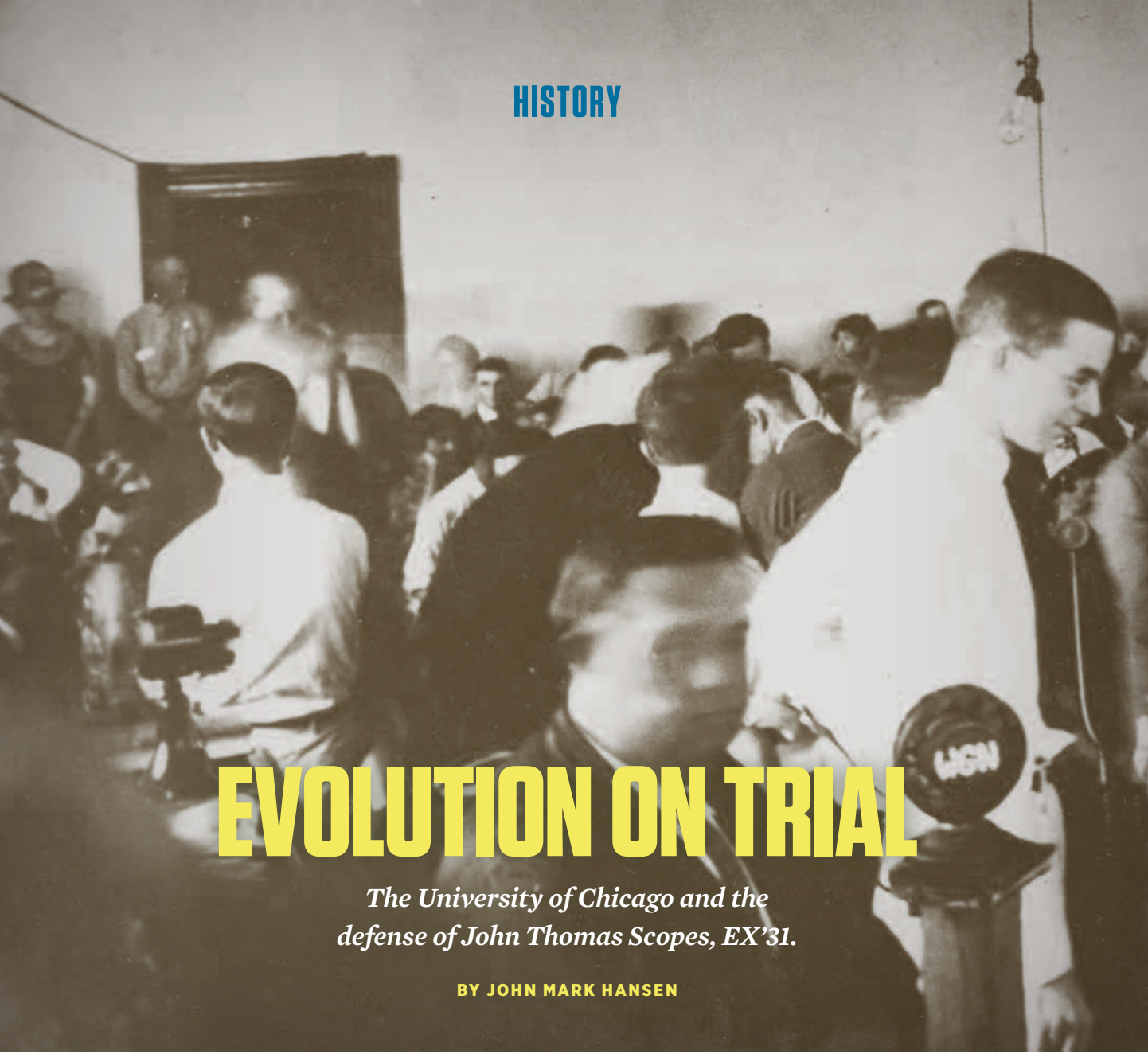
I'M WILLING TO BELIEVE THAT I'M IMBUING GRAFFITI WITH A PROFUNDITY IT DOESN'T DESERVE.

first-floor Harper women's bathroom. The students who etched "Math is a tempestuous lover" into desks in a Ryerson third-floor classroom. The person who transcribed all of "For Grace, After A Party" by Frank O'Hara inside the tower leading to Ryerson's rooftop observatory. Each instance of campus graffiti—however illicit, however crass—is an attempt to answer youth's central questions: *Who do I want to be? How do I want to represent myself to others?*

There is something unifying about graffiti. It binds people across time. You might not know when a particular message was left, or by whom, but you know that someone sat where you sat, saw the wall that you see. Seeing the graffiti, I feel in community with people. *I may not be here, but I used to be,* it says. *I may not be here, but I know you will be.*

I'm willing to believe that I'm imbuing graffiti with a profundity it doesn't deserve. And yet, when I sit in the Reg bookstacks amongst the tic-tac-toe boards, the epigrams, the song lyrics, the lines of poetry—these juvenescent missives from the past—I can't think of anything more sincere. ◆

TO SEE MORE, VISIT MAG.UCHICAGO.EDU/GRAFFITI



EVOLUTION ON TRIAL

The University of Chicago and the defense of John Thomas Scopes, EX'31.

BY JOHN MARK HANSEN

One hundred years ago, on July 10, 1925, the trial of John T. Scopes began. It concluded 11 days later with a conviction. Today this battle in the conflict over religion and science in US classrooms is best remembered for its climax: the ruthless dissection of prosecutor William Jennings Bryan by Scopes's counsel Clarence Darrow, dramatized in fictional form in the 1960 film *Inherit the Wind*. Nearly forgotten is the role of a half dozen University of Chicago professors and alumni, experts in religion, biology, geology, anthropology, and education—including the protagonist himself, John Thomas Scopes, EX'31.

In May 1925 Scopes was the first person charged for violating a Tennessee law making it illegal for any teacher in a state-supported school to teach "any theory that denies the story of the Divine Creation of man as taught in the Bible, and to teach instead that man has descended from a lower order of animals." He was a science teacher at Rhea County Central High School in Dayton, a Tennessee town of 1,800 located 40 miles north of Chattanooga.

For two weeks he took over a biology class for an indisposed colleague, teaching from a text that discussed evolutionary theory. Acquaintances in Dayton persuaded him to submit to arrest. They were critical of the law but mostly eager to draw attention—and business—to their

W. C. Robinson Collection of Scopes Trial Photographs, scopes:163, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Special Collections

The 11-day trial of John Thomas Scopes, EX'31, for teaching evolution in a Tennessee school became a media sensation.

sleepy little town. And so began the circus known from its inception as the "Monkey Trial."

Bryan was chosen to assist the prosecution. Three times the Democratic Party nominee for president, he now fashioned himself as a defender of the Christian faith and warned of "the menace of Darwinism." His participation attracted Darrow, a Chicagoan at the pinnacle of his career as the "attorney for the damned," who volunteered for the defense. "I knew that education was in danger from the source that had always hampered it—religious fanaticism," he explained. Darrow had earlier tangled with Bryan over religion, posing some 50 questions to him about the literal truth of the Bible on the front page of the *Chicago Tribune*.

Darrow intended to prove, as historian **Adam Shapiro**, AM'03, PhD'07, has noted, that the Tennessee law improperly favored a "fundamentalist" interpretation of Scripture over all others. To make his case, Darrow needed expert witnesses to testify not only to the scientific truth of evolution but also to the compatibility of evolutionary theory with other Christian beliefs. He found several close at hand. Darrow lived in an apartment on 60th Street near Stony Island Avenue. He hosted an informal biology club there, directing discussions on biology, religion, and evolution from his rocking chair. The participants included many University of Chicago professors.

Right: John Thomas Scopes, EX'31, and his defenders. Below: Sweltering temperatures forced the court outside for Darrow's examination of a bowtied Bryan.

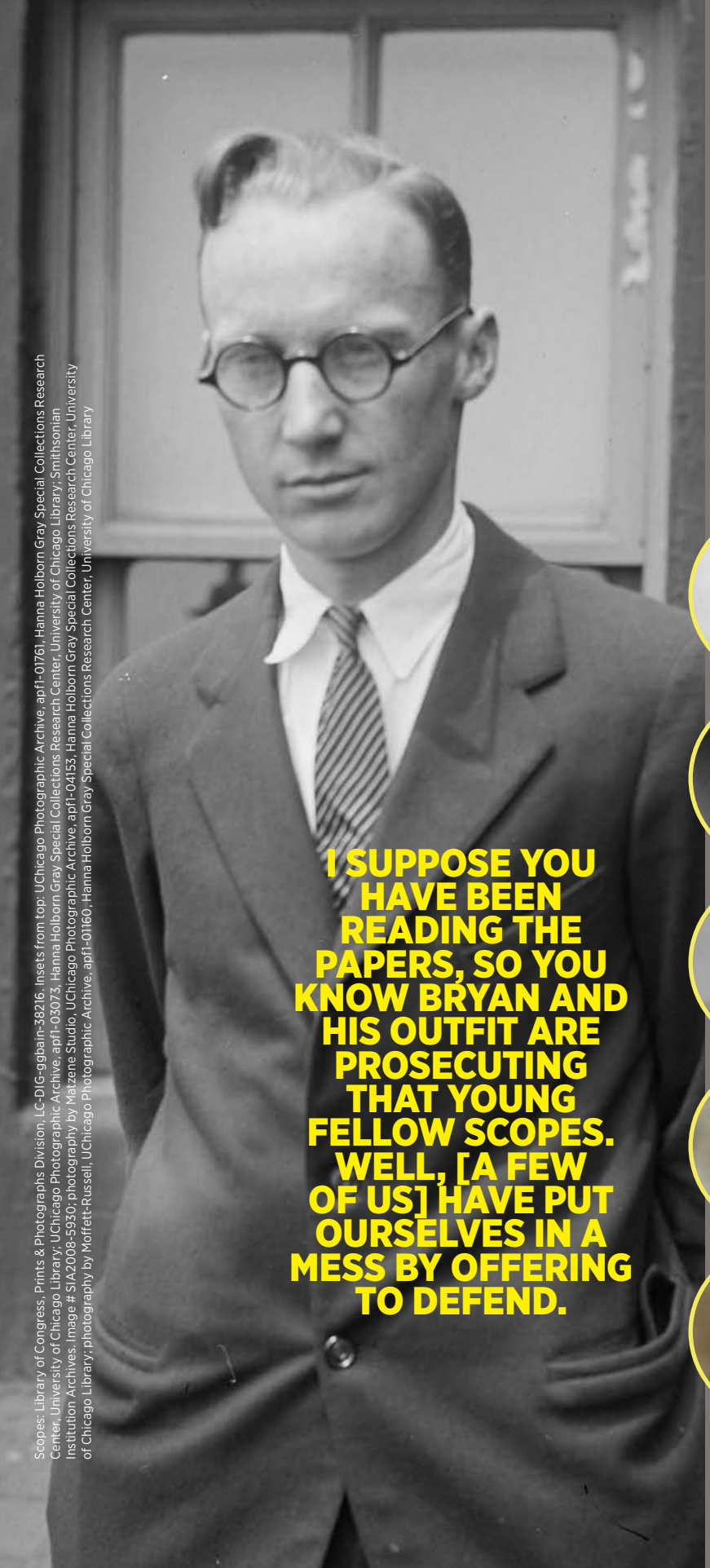
Photo by Watson Davis, Science Service (BSLOC_2016_10_62)

Soon after taking the case, Darrow rang up Fay-Cooper Cole, an anthropology professor and a biology club contributor. "I suppose you have been reading the papers, so you know Bryan and his outfit are prosecuting that young fellow Scopes," Cole recalled him saying. "Well, [a few of us] have put ourselves in a mess by offering to defend. ... We need the help of you fellows at the University, so I am asking three of you to come to my office to help lay plans." Later that day, Darrow met with Cole; Horatio Hackett Newman, PhD 1905, a zoology professor; and Shailer Mathews, dean of the Divinity School, to outline the strategy for the trial.

In 1925 Cole was a new associate professor. He had joined the faculty the year prior after 19 years at the Field Museum, where he oversaw the program in physical anthropology, the study of the hominid fossil record. In addition to dean, Mathews was professor of religious history and comparative theology. He was a leading proponent of theological "modernism" and the editor of and a contributor to the 1924 collection *Contributions of Science to Religion* (D. Appleton and Company). Mathews saw no conflict between the two. "Science warrants religion," he wrote, "because it affords evidence of immanent reason, purpose and personality in the cosmic environment and its discovery of the laws of human life." Newman was an embryologist. Evolutionary theory was at the center of his work.

The other witnesses for the defense were a rabbi and Hebraist, two ministers, the state geologist of Tennessee, two additional zoologists, an agronomist, an academic geologist, and an educational psychologist. The psychologist, Charles H. Judd, was a professor and the director of the University's School of Education. The geology professor was Kirtley F. Mather, PhD 1915, a petrogeologist at Harvard and a Chicago native.

In addition to their scholarly credentials, the five Chicago experts on Scopes's team had another qualification essential to Darrow's defense: staunch familial, educational, professional, and (in some cases) continuing connections to evangelical Protestant churches. Cole, Newman, and Judd were ministers' sons. Mathews's grandfather was a Baptist pastor. Mather was descended from the famous family of Puritan preachers. All five had attended Baptist or Methodist colleges. Mathews was a theologian, and Mather



Scopes: Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, LC-DIG-ggbain-38216. Insets from top: UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-01761, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library; UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-03073, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library; Smithsonian Institution Archives, Image # SIA2008-5930; photography by Matzene Studio, UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-04153, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library; photography by Moffett-Russell, UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-01160, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE BEEN READING THE PAPERS, SO YOU KNOW BRYAN AND HIS OUTFIT ARE PROSECUTING THAT YOUNG FELLOW SCOPES. WELL, [A FEW OF US] HAVE PUT OURSELVES IN A MESS BY OFFERING TO DEFEND.

Witnesses for the defense

Five experts with UChicago ties stood ready to testify in the Scopes Trial.

FAY-COOPER COLE
Professor of Anthropology

CHARLES H. JUDD
Professor and Director of the School of Education

KIRTLEY F. MATHER, PHD 1915
Professor of Geology at Harvard

SHAILER MATHEWS
Dean of the Divinity School

HORATIO HACKETT NEWMAN, PHD 1905
Professor of Zoology

Scopes (near right photo) awaiting sentencing in the courtroom. Defense attorneys Dudley Field Malone and a jauntily hatted Clarence Darrow flank their client.

a lay leader in his church. Mathews, Newman, and Mather were on record supporting the compatibility of evolutionary theory and Christian belief. Mather joined the defense to make the point. "Somebody ought to be in Dayton to defend a religion that would be respectable in the light of modern science," he decided, "and I thought I knew what that religion was."

Other than Mathews, who submitted his testimony by telegram from the Chautauqua Institution in New York, the defense witnesses stayed in a big Victorian house on the edge of Dayton. H. L. Mencken, who reported on the trial, described the house as "ancient and empty … now crudely furnished with iron cots, spittoons, playing cards and the other camp equipment of scientists." It was called the Mansion, Defense Mansion, and, inevitably, the Monkey House.

"Few, if any, of these witnesses will ever get a chance to outrage the jury with their blasphemies," Mencken continued, "but they are of much interest to the townspeople. The common belief is that they will be blown up with one mighty blast when the verdict of the twelve men … is brought in, and Darrow [and the other defense attorneys] with them. The country people avoid the Mansion. It is foolish to take unnecessary chances."

For all their learning, wisdom, and commitment, the witnesses for the defense had no material effect on the outcome. Judge John T. Raulston ruled their testimony irrelevant to the question at hand: whether Scopes had violated the statute. He allowed the defense to put the experts' statements in the court's record, however, and these were widely reported in the press. Two days later, the jury returned its verdict in nine minutes. Judge Raulston fined Scopes $100.

The Scopes Trial brought notoriety not only to Scopes and Darrow but also to the witnesses. Soon after returning to Chicago, Cole received a summons from Frederic Woodward, a law professor acting as University president after the death of Ernest DeWitt Burton. Woodward showed him resolutions from a Southern Baptist convention condemning him for his involvement in Scopes's defense. As Cole read their complaints he began to laugh, but Woodward caught him short. "Already we have more demands for your removal than any other man who has been on our faculty," Woodward told him. In fact, he continued, the Board of Trustees had discussed the allegations. Suddenly sober, Cole asked about the reaction. Woodward handed him a piece of paper. "They had raised my salary," Cole later recounted.

As the trial neared its end, Scopes had assessed his options. He decided not to return to his teaching job, and he rejected lucrative offers to cash in on his fame on the lecture circuit. To help him out, the scientists took up a collection that garnered Scopes enough money to support two further years of schooling. After considering law school, he realized that the trial had sharpened his "old interest [in] science": "One of my most valued windfalls at Dayton had been listening to … the distinguished scientists who had stayed at the Mansion. They had broadened my view of the world and everything in it."

When Mather interviewed him about his plans, Scopes affirmed his interest in graduate study. Would he study "botany or zoölogy?," Mather asked. Neither, was the reply: "I'd like to study geology." And at "what graduate school?" "The University of Chicago—if you don't mind, Professor Mather." "Of course I don't mind," Mather responded. "My own geological training was at the University of Chicago, and I think that'd be very fine indeed."

In September 1925 Scopes boarded an Illinois Central train at his parents' hometown of Paducah, Kentucky. Clarence and Ruby Darrow met him at the 63rd Street stop, and he boarded with them until he was able to rent a room. In addition to three graduate courses in geology, *The Daily Maroon* reported, Scopes audited a course offered to first-years "on the inter-relationships of science"; the lectures by Newman were of special interest to him. Hundreds of newspapers ran the story of the educator prosecuted for teaching evolution now sitting as a student in an evolutionist's course.

Scopes did his best to affect the obscurity of a graduate student. He was a denizen of the science library and a study room in Rosenwald Hall. He took a room in Gates Hall and then boarded in the house of the Gamma Alpha graduate men's scientific fraternity. He attended get-togethers hosted by Darrow, where he got to know Cole and Newman better.

When a reporter intruded on him in 1926, Scopes was curt. "I don't want any more publicity," he objected. "I am studying geology and one or two other scientific subjects. I think this is a good school and I should like to be let alone." In 1927 the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled on his appeal, upholding the law but vacating the fine. The prosecutor terminated the case, precluding further appeals. "Checkmates," the *Chattanooga News* editorialized.

Scopes's interests converged on paleontology, the study of the fossil record. He was elected to Kappa Epsilon Pi, the geology honor society, and the science honor society Sigma Xi. In his second year, as his grant drew down, the department chair nominated him for a fellowship to

FOR ALL THEIR LEARNING, WISDOM, AND COMMITMENT, THE WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENSE HAD NO MATERIAL EFFECT ON THE OUTCOME.

From left: W. C. Robinson Collection of Scopes Trial Photographs, scopes:96, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Special Collections; CSU Archives/Everett Collection

support the completion of his doctorate. The president of the "well-known technical school" that administered it, however, refused to consider the application. "As far as I am concerned," he wrote Scopes, "you can take your atheistic marbles and play elsewhere." Crestfallen and out of money, Scopes took a job with Gulf Oil in Venezuela.

Three years later, having lost the job, he came back to Chicago. His intended adviser had died in the meantime, but he found a new one, Edson S. Bastin, SM 1903, PhD 1909, in the new field of economic geology. His notoriety having faded, the press hardly noticed.

By the time he took additional courses and conducted fieldwork in New Mexico, however, "my Venezuela money [had] played out and with the end nearly in sight I had to stop and attend to needs considerably more pressing than the quest for a doctoral degree." Scopes never got his PhD. He eventually found a new job as a geologist, working in the oil and gas industry, living in Houston, Texas, and Shreveport, Louisiana.

In 1959 the University of Chicago convened a conference to mark the centennial of the publication of *On the Origin of Species* and the sesquicentennial of Darwin's birth. Some 2,000 scientists, scholars, educators, and journalists attended the five-day event in Mandel Hall. The chair of the conference planning committee, Sol Tax, PhD'35, did not invite Scopes to participate. His trial came up just twice in the discussions.

Scopes did return to the University of Chicago the next year. He was the featured guest at the premiere of a film documenting the *Origin* centennial conference. After the screening, Scopes, four professors, the sales manager of the University of Chicago Press, and Tax discussed the status of evolution in science teaching in the United States. The law against teaching evolution was still on the books in Tennessee, a participant pointed out, as were laws in Mississippi and Oregon besides. (They overlooked a 1927 Arkansas statute copied nearly verbatim from Tennessee's. Arkansas's ban on teaching evolution and others like it were invalidated by the US Supreme Court in 1968.)

In other states, textbook publishers resorted to euphemisms to finesse the controversy surrounding the concept. Away from teaching for a third of a century, Scopes had little to add. "I hope that I don't ever have to go through something like that again" was nearly all he would say about his experience in Dayton.

Scopes was more reflective in his 1967 memoir. In the contrast between scientific and religious perspectives on evolution, he found an apt metaphor. Despite the brevity of the event in the course of his life, he wrote, "in many minds I'll always be John T. Scopes, the Dayton, Tennessee, teacher who was the defendant in the Monkey Trial. … A man's fate, shaped by heredity and environment and an occasional accident, is often stranger than anything the imagination may produce." ◆

John Mark Hansen is the Charles L. Hutchinson Distinguished Service Professor in Political Science and the College and the author of *The City in a Garden: A Guide to the History of Hyde Park and Kenwood* (Chicago Studies Publication Series, 2019).

SWING STATE

Many millennials aren't sure about having children. A new book examines why.

BY CARRIE GOLUS, AB'91, AM'93

So many parents of young children feel guilty, **Anastasia Berg**, AM'13, PhD'17, is saying. For millennials, having kids can feel like shopping at Amazon, she quips: "I know I shouldn't, but it was convenient. I really wanted to." The audience laughs.

The first-floor seminar room in the Classics Building is packed with students—standing at the back, sitting on the floor. They're here to listen to Berg and **Rachel Wiseman**, AB'12, talk about their book *What Are Children For? On Ambivalence and Choice* (St. Martin's Press, 2024). The event is an October meeting of Night Owls, the philosophy discussion series that's popular with undergraduates. **Agnes Callard**, AB'97, associate professor of philosophy, is its host.

What *are* children for, anyway? Why would anyone choose to have kids, when it's no longer an assumed part of adulthood? When it's not just a choice, but a vexed choice that makes you vulnerable to moral judgment—both your own and others'? These are just a few of the questions that Berg and Wiseman consider in their book.

What Are Children For? is not a light read. For a book about parenting, there is a distinct lack of bullet points, sidebars, or homespun advice. There is plenty of data, philosophical argument, and analysis of the "motherhood ambivalence literature"—books, like Elena Ferrante's *The Lost Daughter*, that show just how unfun and depleting kids can be.

The language is unapologetically academic. Just one example: Having children means "radically reconfiguring your existing material and professional priorities and your relationship to leisure, to your existing family members, to time itself." The "sources" section is 21 pages long; among the A's you will find the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Hannah Arendt, Augustine, and Jane Austen.

Perhaps surprisingly—given the book's controversial topic and rigorous philosophical examination of it—the reviews of *What Are Children For?* have been a publicist's dream: "lucid and sophisticated" (*The Atlantic*), "striking and provocative" (*Christianity Today*), "quietly incendiary" (*The New Statesman*), "an engaging, literary investigation" (*The New Yorker*), "subtle and sophisticated" (*The Wall Street Journal*), "smart, fascinating" (*The Washington Post*).

In addition to the reviews, the book has been excerpted in *The Atlantic*, *The Cut*, and *Lithub*. Berg and Wiseman have been interviewed on television, radio, and podcasts. They've spoken at Northwestern University, the University of Oxford, Swarthmore College, Wheaton College, and more.

Back at the UChicago event, Callard poses a question about anti-natalism. She has a friend who's an anti-natalist—someone who "thinks that human life is not worthwhile, not worth perpetuating." Nonetheless, this friend has children. This gets a laugh from the room, Berg and Wiseman included.

"She feels very guilty towards her children, and very angry towards her parents for having her," Callard says. Her questions for Berg and Wiseman: "Is it wrong for an anti-natalist to have kids? Are there any wrong reasons to have kids?"

Wiseman offers "kind of an indirect response." She mentions something the late filmmaker David Lynch once posted on X, in the context of his emphysema diagnosis: that he had "loved every minute of smoking," she says. It was an aesthetic decision, a way of life. "A better way to be an anti-natalist with kids, instead of suffering in the sin, would be to embrace it aesthetically."

ARE WE HESITANT TO BRING NEW LIFE INTO THE WORLD BECAUSE WE ARE MORE MORALLY UPRIGHT THAN PREVIOUS GENERATIONS, OR BECAUSE WE ARE MORE SELFISH?

Wiseman and Berg, who are best friends, met in 2016 while working on *The Point*, "a magazine of the examined life." *The Point* was founded by three students in the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought: **Jon Baskin**, AM'12, PhD'16; **Jonny Thakkar**, AM'13, PhD'13; and **Etay Zwick**, EX'14.

Wiseman is *The Point*'s managing editor and one of its seven editors. Berg, now an assistant professor of philosophy at the University of California, Irvine, is also an editor.

The Fall 2019 issue included a collection of six essays—a "symposium" in the parlance of *The Point*—called "What Are Children For?" (Among the essays was Callard's "Half a Person." A mother of three, she found herself unexpectedly

Illustration by Davide Bonazzi/istock.com

pregnant with a fourth. Callard asked various people if she should have an abortion, including "a conference room full of philosophers," she writes. The philosophers avoided even engaging with the question.)

Berg and Wiseman collaborated on the introduction to the issue, "On Choosing Life," which centered on the millennial angst over having kids. "Are we hesitant to bring new life into the world because we are more morally upright than previous generations, or because we are more selfish?" they write. "The interesting thing is … that we're asking *why* in the first place."

"We were very pleasantly surprised by the reception that the piece got," Wiseman recalled in a Zoom interview. "It was one of the most popular pieces on the website."

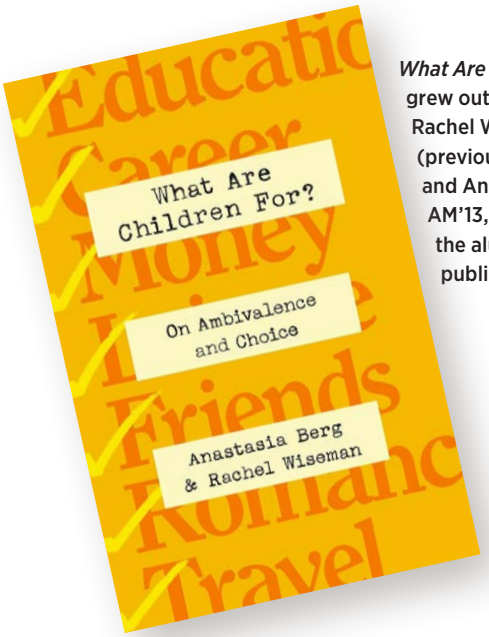
But their 3,000-word essay had just scratched the surface. Berg suggested they write an entire book. Wiseman's response: "We can do that?"

They could do that. They wrote a proposal, found an agent, and signed their book contract on March 8, 2020. They had taken the subway to their agent's office; by the time the meeting was over, New York's entire subway system had been shut down.

The pandemic would disrupt their writing plans too. Berg was supposed to be a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. It fell through. So she took a job as an assistant professor of philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. (Berg's CV, pockmarked with lectures canceled due to COVID or war, is a testament to the instability that makes people question the morality of having children.)

Wiseman and Berg wrote the book over Skype, working around the eight-hour time difference. Berg was teaching full time and had a small child. She would meet with Wiseman at the end of her day, with a shared online document open, and they would tussle over the draft, sentence by sentence. Once Berg asked her daughter what she did for work. "You talk to Rachel," Lila said.

Photo courtesy Anastasia Berg, AM'13, PhD'17, and Rachel Wiseman, AB'12



What Are Children For? grew out of an essay Rachel Wiseman, AB'12 (previous page, left), and Anastasia Berg, AM'13, PhD'17, wrote for the alumni-founded publication ***The Point***.

The first chapter of *What Are Children For?* deals with what the authors call "externals": real-world factors in the decision to have kids or not, like money, a partner, childcare. But birthrates are falling all over the world, Berg and Wiseman point out, even in countries with pro-family policies. They cite an astonishing 2023 survey: Only 26 percent of Americans said having children is an important part of a fulfilling life, while 71 percent said an enjoyable job or career was a must.

For those who *do* want children, Berg and Wiseman identify an unexpected external that works against it: "slow love," a term coined by anthropologist Helen Fisher to describe the tentative, time-consuming style of dating that is now common. "Wanting to start a family and conveying this to prospective partners is … perceived as a liability on the dating market," Berg and Wiseman write. "To date authentically—naturally, organically, traditionally—one must suppress the desire to have kids. This is a peculiar idea."

In the final chapter, "To Be Or … ?" they mull over anti-natalism. "'One cannot bring children into a world like this,'" the chapter begins. "'One cannot perpetuate suffering.'" It's a quote from Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* about the impossibility of having children in the aftermath of World War I. "As unprecedented as our contemporary existential crisis might seem," Berg and Wiseman write, "its roots run deep."

They identify two basic anti-natalist arguments. One, the world is too terrible for children. Two, human beings are too terrible to exist, period. (In passing, Berg and Wiseman note that while Jesus heals all kinds of ailments in the Gospels, he never helps a woman conceive.) Their nuanced discussion of both threads of argument eludes easy summary. But at the end of the book—as in their original 3,000-word essay—they arrive at a position of "affirming life," whether you choose to have children or not: "Most of us," they write, "treat our lives not only as valuable but as precious."

Bookending the dispassionate, analytical middle of the book are two deeply personal essays: the introduction, "Under Pressure," written by Wiseman, and the conclusion, "Hello from the Other Side," by Berg. Wiseman, pregnant by the time the book was published, writes frankly of her own childhood: "What would a happy family look like? When I blinked, I couldn't picture it."

Berg, who now has two children, describes the exasperating moments of parenting in a way that reads like a picture book: "Pajamas off! Pajamas on! New socks, night socks, no socks. Yes hat, no hat, always hat, not that hat. … Hug, hug, hug!"

Less humorously, "After an extended period without childcare, even grading can feel like a form of self-care," she writes. "'Boredom' is as good a name as any for the distinct irritation that I experienced for much of the time" that she spends with her daughter Lila. Nonetheless, the book is dedicated to her.

What Are Children For? was rushed out in June 2024, with the intention of hitting the market well ahead of the presidential election. But once J. D. Vance's 2021 remark about "childless cat ladies" resurfaced, the book was sucked into the vortex. In the heated, overly simplistic debate that ensued, *What Are Children For?* was labeled pronatalist.

Meanwhile, their publicist's dreams continued to come true: Berg and Wiseman's deeply serious book was mentioned on *The Megyn Kelly Show*, during an episode featuring Vance. Kelly name-checks the book and its authors—"leftists, liberals," she says, sounding incredulous, who "chastised their own side for the reluctance to have children."

She then reads an excerpt from their *New York Times* guest essay: "The question of children ultimately transcends politics. … Is life, however imperfect and however challenging—however fraught with political disagreement and disaster—worth living?"

Vance nods, looking serious. "What brings the most meaning to life is family," he responds, "not all these weird little accomplishments and degrees."

Around the same time, on their YouTube channel, pronatalist influencers Malcolm and Simone Collins dunked on *What Are Children For?* in an episode titled "The Progressive Pronatalist Book that Broke My Wife."

"I read this book. It included things like *literary analysis*," Simone Collins says, while managing a fussy baby with admirable aplomb. "This is clearly why we're not convincing any progressives. We forgot the literary analysis."

Feminist critic Moira Donegan piled on too. Berg and Wiseman's thinking was "loftier and more philosophical" than "right-wing pronatalists like Elon Musk and J. D. Vance," Donegan writes in *Bookforum*. Yet their claims were essentially the same: "that motherhood is superior and childless lives are comparatively impoverished."

Berg responded with a long thread on X, pointing out that Donegan had misunderstood the book and misstated the authors' views on motherhood: "As for the suggestion we 'pity' the childless, it is beneath contempt."

The central argument of *What Are Children For?* is not pronatalist, Berg continued, but rather "anti-anti-natalist, meaning that it is not meant to convince anyone that they must have kids, but rather show that it is ethically permissible to have them at all."

THE CENTRAL ARGUMENT OF *WHAT ARE CHILDREN FOR?* IS NOT PRONATALIST, BUT RATHER "ANTI-ANTI-NATALIST, MEANING THAT IT IS NOT MEANT TO CONVINCE ANYONE THAT THEY MUST HAVE KIDS, BUT RATHER SHOW THAT IT IS ETHICALLY PERMISSIBLE TO HAVE THEM AT ALL."

At the Night Owls event in October, there's a break for cookies, then a question and answer session. The second question of the evening (posed, incidentally, by the *Magazine*'s soft-spoken Metcalf intern, **Shiloh Miller**, Class of 2026): What obligations do children have to their parents?

"To obey them," Berg says sternly, "without questioning." Wiseman and Callard laugh; it takes the students a moment to register the joke.

"I do think that there's a responsibility to return some of the care that you received," Wiseman says, slowly and thoughtfully, "when your parents get old and vulnerable."

"I find this question very hard," Callard adds, "because I think my parents think I owe them a lot more than I think I owe them. And maybe they're right." In a later Zoom interview, Berg recalls how something like "10 more hands" shot up after that question was asked. The Night Owls audience was one of the youngest she and Wiseman had ever spoken to, "and suddenly the conversation went to a place it never went before."

The book's title is flipped on its head. Student after student wants to know about the relationship of children to their parents: At a time when children are allowed to divorce their parents, what ethical responsibilities does a parent have to their children? Do you have an obligation to your parents even if they are imperfect? Do you have an obligation to them if you have a bad relationship? In parent-child relationships, is there a greater obligation to forgive than in other relationships?

"I thought there's supposed to be fewer questions as we go through," Berg observes after an hour of Q&A.

"A lot of you are sticking around for this one," Callard adds. But the questions keep coming, until Callard shuts down the event a little past 10 p.m. Over and over, the students are asking the same question, though in different words: What are parents for? ◆

PEER REVIEW

WHAT ALUMNI ARE THINKING AND DOING

EDS WILL ROLL

Big Ed, the 15-foot-long and couple-hundred-pound kazoo, trundles along in the 1974 reunion parade. Named after UChicago president (1968–75) Edward Levi, LAB'28, PhB'32, JD'35, Big Ed replaced Big Bertha, the giant bass drum of the University's Big Ten years, as the centerpiece of halftime shows for the newly reinstated varsity football program.

54 *Notes and Releases*

56 *Alumni News*

74 *Advanced Degrees*

77 *Deaths*

Photography by Leslie Travis, AB'73

NOTES

A SELECTION OF ALUMNI WHOSE NAMES ARE IN THE NEWS

MARSHALL SCHOLAR

Mónica Ruiz House, AB'24, was named a 2025 Marshall Scholar. The scholarship recognizes academic excellence, leadership, and ambassadorial potential by supporting graduate study in the United Kingdom. As a student in the College, Ruiz House advocated for and helped provide resources to migrants and to immigrant communities in Chicago and beyond. She will pursue master's degrees in criminology and in refugee and forced migration studies at the University of Oxford, developing alternatives to punitive border policies. Ruiz House also received the 2024 Hugo F. Sonnenschein Medal of Excellence from the College in May 2024.

CITIZEN HONOR

On January 2 **Liz Cheney**, JD'96, was awarded a Presidential Citizens Medal by Joe Biden. The medal is one of the highest civilian honors bestowed by the US government. The former US representative (R-WY) was recognized for her two decades of public service and for serving as vice chair of the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol.

BAKE SALE

On January 8 alumna-founded start-up Simple Mills was acquired for $795 million by Flowers Foods, which owns brands including Nature's Own, Dave's Killer Bread, and Wonder. Founded in 2012 by **Katlin Smith**, EX'18, Simple Mills produces snacks and baking mixes made of simple, nutrient-dense ingredients. The company also partners with farmers to promote sustainable agricultural practices. Simple Mills shared first place in the 2014 Edward L. Kaplan, MBA'71, New Venture Challenge. Today the company's products are sold in over 30,000 stores nationwide.

OSCAR NOD

Incident (2023), directed and produced by **Bill Morrison**, LAB'83, was nominated for an Academy Award in the Documentary Short Film category. The film is based on the journalistic work of **Jamie Kalven**, LAB'65, who also produced the film, and the Invisible Institute. Composed of body camera and surveillance footage, *Incident* follows the aftermath of the 2018 death of Harith Augustus, who was fatally shot by a police officer in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Maxime Kpangbai, AB'20, was named a 2025–26 Schwarzman Scholar. She will pursue a master's degree in global affairs at Schwarzman College, part of Tsinghua University in Beijing. The program, now in its 10th year, aims to prepare future global leaders. Since graduating with her degree in economics, Kpangbai has worked for Boston Consulting Group and the United Nations Global Compact. Returning to her childhood home of Beijing, Kpangbai will study the development work Chinese organizations are doing in Africa.—*C. C.*

Photo from *Wild Hope: Mission Impossible*

FROM RANCH TO FOREST

Stanford biochemistry professor emeritus Pat Brown, AB'76, PhD'80, MD'82, the founder and former CEO of plant-based meat substitute company Impossible Foods, is the subject of a new documentary, *Wild Hope: Mission Impossible*, produced by HHMI Tangled Bank Studios as an episode of the PBS/Nature series *Wild Hope*. The 39-minute program profiles Brown and follows him as he undertakes a new project: converting a former cattle ranch into a forest in order to sequester carbon and promote biodiversity. In this still from the documentary, Brown pilots a lidar-equipped drone that measures carbon sequestration on the ranch.

RELEASES

ALUMNI BOOKS, FILMS, AND RECORDINGS

EVERYBODY NEEDS AN EDITOR: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO CLEAR AND EFFECTIVE WRITING

By Melissa Harris, MBA'16, and Jenn Bane; Simon and Schuster/Simon Element, 2024

Drawing on their backgrounds in journalism and marketing, **Melissa Harris** and Jenn Bane share strategies for communicating effectively in the workplace, whether in résumés, social media posts, presentations, conversations with colleagues, or even toasts. The authors walk readers through problematic first drafts and stylistic flaws, highlighting common pitfalls and suggesting improvements. Also offering general tips for getting by in an office setting—such as when (or when not) to reply all to an email—the book is aimed particularly at people just entering the workforce.

UNSTABLE GROUND: THE LIVES, DEATHS, AND AFTERLIVES OF GOLD IN SOUTH AFRICA

By Rosalind C. Morris, PhD'94; Columbia University Press, 2024

Rosalind Morris draws on 25 years of fieldwork to reveal how the history of gold mining has shaped contemporary society in South Africa. She focuses on South Africa's Witwatersrand, an area that used to be rich with gold mines. Today, miners known as *zama zamas* continue to carry out dangerous informal mining operations in the Witwatersrand's abandoned mines. Morris brings together ethnography, history, and literary analysis to immerse readers in social worlds that have been shaped by the pursuit of gold.

THE NIMBUS

By Robert P. Baird, AM'03, PhD'10; Henry Holt and Company, 2025

One October day in a neo-Gothic building at an unnamed university in Chicago, the two-year-old son of divinity school associate professor Adrian Bennett begins to glow. The nimbus, as the glow comes to be known, reshapes the lives of everyone who comes across it, sending the Bennett family into a crisis and affecting other members of the community, including Warren Kayita, a librarian and divinity school alumnus pursued by a violent criminal, and Adrian's graduate student Paul Harkin. **Robert P. Baird**'s debut novel is a satire of academia and an exploration of spiritual belief in a secular age.

GLITCHY VISION: A FEMINIST HISTORY OF THE SOCIAL PHOTO

By Amanda K. Greene, AB'10; The MIT Press, 2024

Amanda K. Greene studies photographic innovations from 1930s Europe—photographs in the tabloid press, Lee Miller's retouched pictures of celebrities and deceased Nazi officials, and the "street-level-seeing" images of the Mass-Observation Movement—to explore how photographic media affect the human body. She identifies "glitches" that arise in each of these instances: Studying the disruptions that occur when the human body interacts with technology, she posits, can reveal how technology has impacted our understanding of and assumptions about the body. Greene also applies digital-age concepts of real time, algorithmic filters, and *sousveillance* (the inverse of surveillance, used to describe recording from "below" rather than from an authority figure) to the media of the 1930s. She draws new insights from these anachronistic terms and establishes a lineage between earlier photographic forms and our current media environment.

THE CLOCK IN THE SUN: HOW WE CAME TO UNDERSTAND OUR NEAREST STAR

By Pierre Sokolsky, AB'67; Columbia University Press, 2024

Whether seen as a deity or a predictor of business success, the sun has repeatedly been at the heart of humans' attempts to understand the world around us. Experimental particle astrophysicist **Pierre Sokolsky** provides a comprehensive history of the science of the sun from antiquity to the present. Focusing on discoveries related to sunspots and the solar cycle, he shows how our current understanding of the sun came to be. In the process, he offers portraits of the people responsible for these discoveries and illuminates the ways in which ideas travel and evolve between cultures and across time.—*C. C.*

ALUMNI NEWS

FROM THE CLASSES, SCHOOLS, AND DIVISIONS

To protect the privacy of our alumni, we have removed the class notes from this section. If you are an alumnus of the University and would like class notes from our archives, please email uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

Roll that beautiful bean footage: Distinguished guests enjoy a chuckwagon dinner at the opening of McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mountains of West Texas in May 1939. Pictured from left are Bertil Lindblad, director of the Stockholm Observatory; Edward Arthur Milne, professor of mathematics at the University of Oxford; Arthur Holly Compton, professor of physics at the University of Chicago; and C. J. Stilwell, president of the Warner and Swasey Company, which designed the observatory's 2.1-meter reflector telescope (today known as the Otto Struve Telescope). The University of Chicago and the University of Texas jointly operated the observatory until 1960; today, it is operated by the University of Texas at Austin. (UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-01874, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)

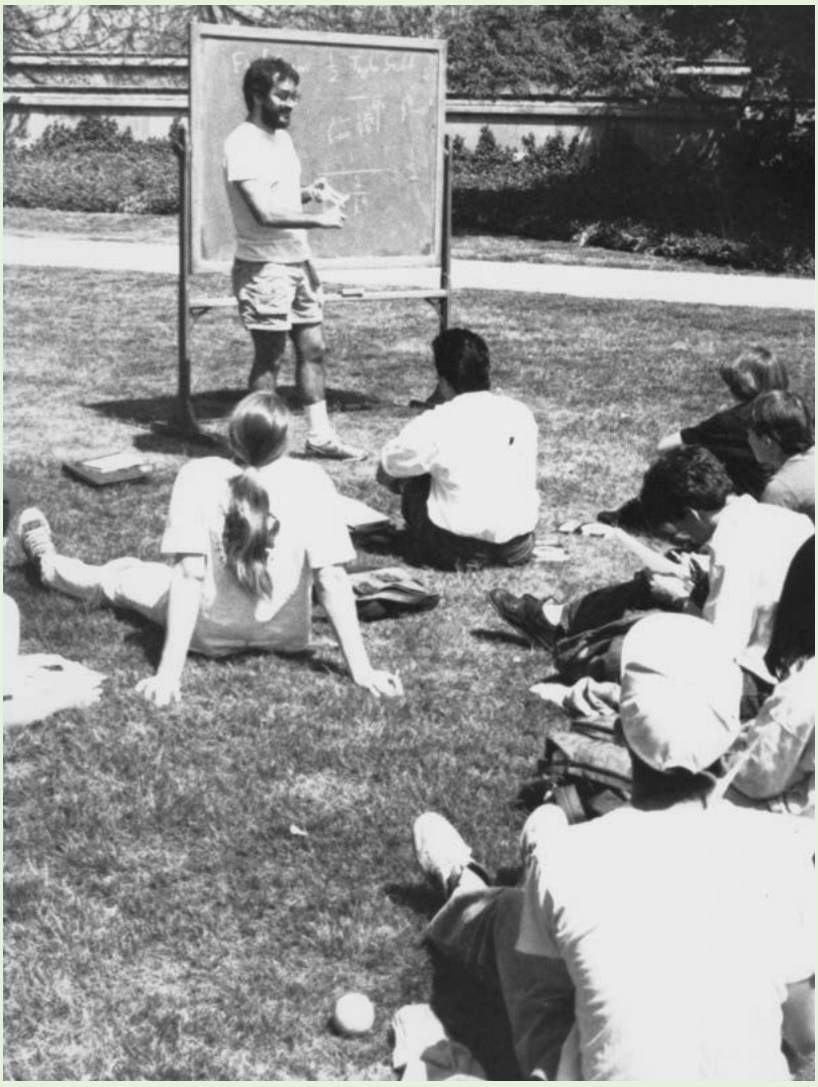
What's new? We are always eager to receive your news, care of the Alumni News Editor, *The University of Chicago Magazine*, 5235 South Harper Court, Chicago, IL 60615, or by email: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. No engagements, please. Items may be edited for space, clarity, civility, and style. As news is published in the order in which it arrives, it may not appear immediately. We list news from all former undergraduates (including those with UChicago graduate degrees) by the year of their undergraduate affiliation. All former students who received only graduate degrees are listed in the advanced degrees section.

Friz frame: At her 50th reunion in 1958, Una Jones Nelson, AB 1908, "learns to 'friz,'" as this magazine put it. It was only the previous year that Wham-O had begun producing the plastic Frisbee discs we know today, but college students had been flinging flying discs at each other for decades. The tradition began as early as the 1920s at Yale and other New England schools, where students let soar empty pie tins from Frisbie Pie Company, based in Bridgeport, Connecticut. What was your favorite way to spend time on the quads? Throw us a memory at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (Photography by Lee Balterman)

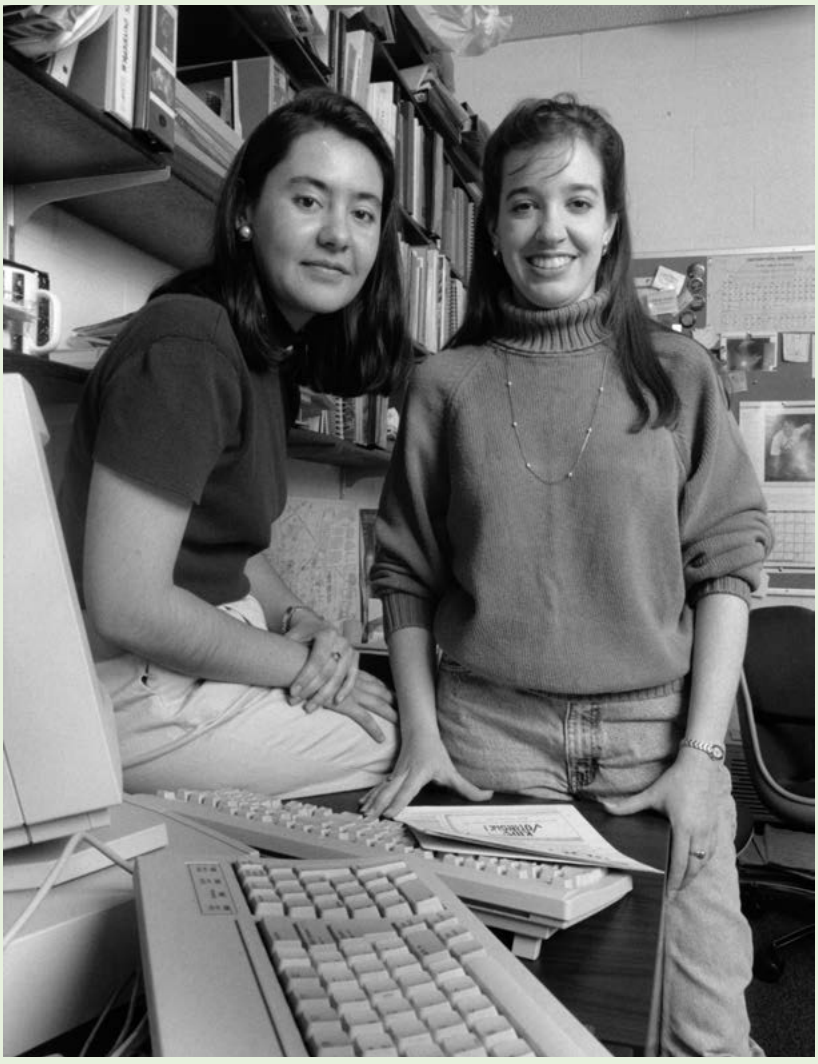
Historian of Chicago: History professor Bessie Louise Pierce, AM 1918, pictured here in 1967, joined the UChicago faculty and became head of the History of Chicago Project in 1929. She led the project until 1973, producing the first comprehensive history of the city of Chicago, from 1673 to the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. The University of Chicago Press published the three-volume *A History of Chicago* from 1937 to 1957. Did you work or study with Pierce? Share your memories at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (Photography by Edward De Luga, UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-06827, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)

In the cards: Students play cards in Hutchinson Court in May 1971. At a time of national discord and big changes on campus—including a new library—students came together to make their own fun. Read an oral history of College life in the 1970s at mag.uchicago.edu/1970s. And share your own memories of that time at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (Photography by Frank Gruber, AB'74; UChicago Photographic Archive, apf4-04481, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)

Orly's or … : Orly's Restaurant at 55th and Hyde Park Boulevard is pictured here circa 1981, the year it opened. The restaurant morphed several times—in name as well as cuisine—over the years. Most recently, Litehouse Grill occupied the spot, though today the restaurant is empty. Did you know it as Orly's, Jalapeño's, Hyde Park Barbeque and Bakery, the Big Easy, or something else? Share your stories at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (Copyright 2025, *The Chicago Maroon*. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)



Have chalk—will travel: Quadratics are better on the quads. A math instructor moves class outside to take advantage of a sunny day. Did any of your courses at the University take you outside the classroom? Tell us about it at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (Copyright 2025, *The Chicago Maroon*. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)



Connecting classrooms: Astronomy and astrophysics graduate students Lucia Muñoz-Franco, SM'95, PhD'00 (left), and Luisa Rebull, SM'93, PhD'00, worked as curriculum coordinators for the Chicago Public Schools/University of Chicago Internet Project. Started in 1996, the program aimed to help public schools on the South Side connect to the internet, providing infrastructure as well as training for teachers and administrators. The idea for the program originated with Don York, PhD'71, Horace B. Horton Professor Emeritus in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics. (Photography by Lloyd DeGrane, UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-13304, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)

UChicago Alumni

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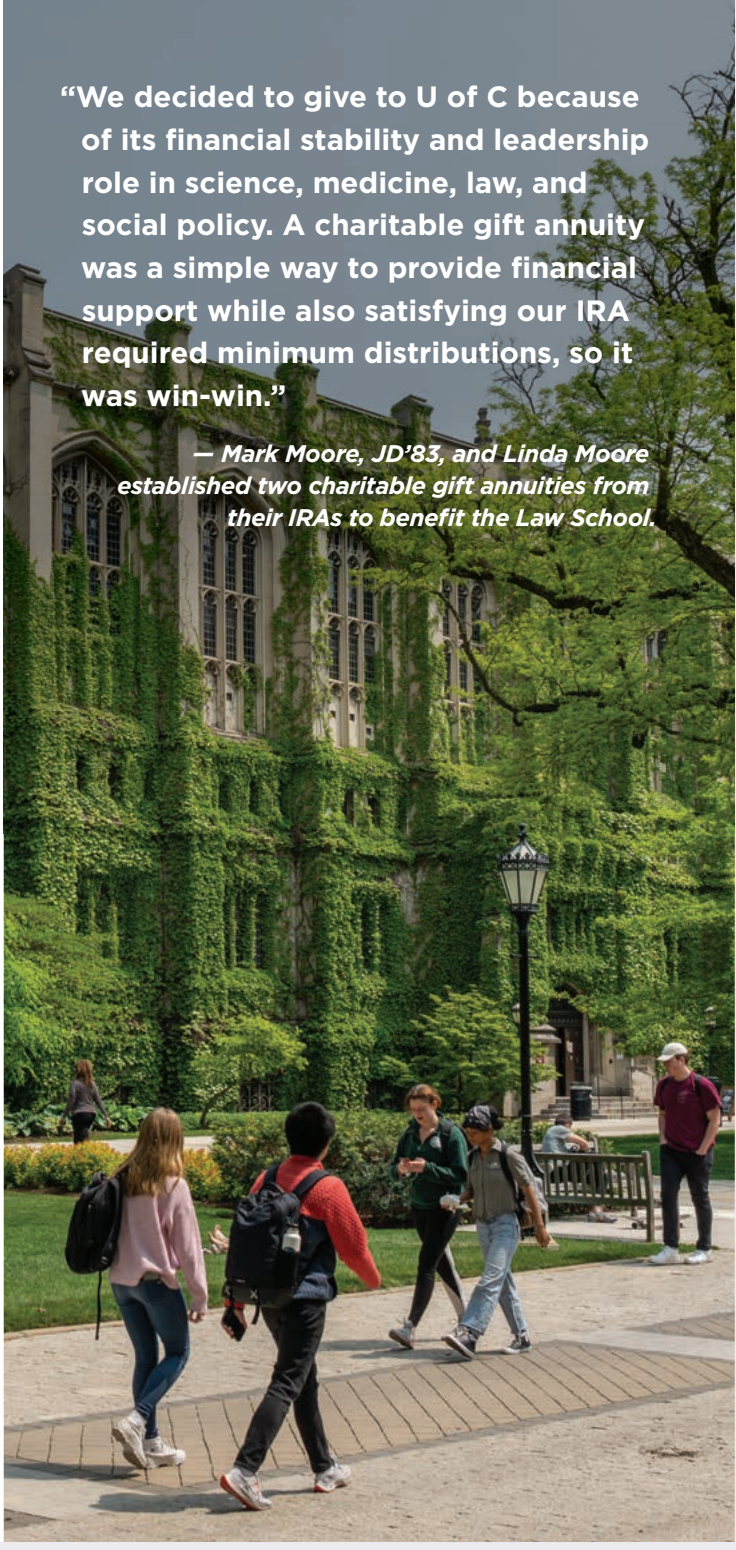

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO | OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING

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DEATHS

TRUSTEES

Howard Krane, JD'57, died November 23 in Chicago. He was 90. Krane, an emeritus trustee, chaired the UChicago Board of Trustees from 1992 to 1999, helping guide the University through budgetary and enrollment challenges. He also served as a life trustee and board chair at UChicago Medicine, was a member of the Law School and Center in Paris visiting committees, and taught business law as an adjunct faculty member. A graduate of Grinnell College, he joined Kirkland & Ellis in 1957. As a longtime managing partner and tax specialist at the firm, he became a key figure in its global expansion into new areas of practice. The University awarded Krane a doctor of laws honorary degree in 2001. He is survived by two daughters, including University Trustee **Hilary K. Krane**, JD'89; three stepchildren, including **Kyle Harvey**, JD'88; and four grandchildren, including **Maya Bulkeley-Krane**, AB'15, JD'21; **Conor Bulkeley-Krane**, AB'20; and **Henry Bergman**, LAB'11, JD'18.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Stuart Rice, the Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in Chemistry, of Chicago, died December 22. He was 92. He made foundational advances that laid the groundwork for technologies such as solar cells, LEDs, and quantum computing. The Wolf Prize and the National Medal of Science were among the many honors he received for his work. Rice mentored countless students, including 107 doctoral students, and received the Llewellyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 1970. During his nearly seven-decade career at UChicago, he served as director of the Institute for the Study of Metals, as chair of the chemistry department, and as the longest-serving dean of the Physical Sciences Division. His daughter Janet Rice, LAB'76, died in 2016. He is survived by his wife, **Ruth O'Brien**, AB'83, AM'91; a daughter, **Barbara Rice**, LAB'73; a son, **David Rice**, LAB'18; and two grandchildren.

John P. "Jack" Gould, MBA'63, PhD'66, the Steven G. Rothmeier Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Economics and former dean of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, of Chicago, died December 17. He was 85. Gould began teaching at Chicago Booth in 1965. Following a brief period in public service during the Nixon administration, he returned to teaching in 1970, becoming dean in 1983. A champion of educational opportunity, Gould established a director of minority recruitment, encouraged outreach to high school students, and helped launch the Gleacher Center, which expanded access to MBA programs for working professionals. Survivors include his wife, Kathleen Carpenter, and two sons, **John P. Gould III**, LAB'84, and **Jeffrey Gould**, LAB'87.

Paul Mendes-Flohr, the Dorothy Grant Maclear Professor Emeritus of Modern Jewish History and Thought at the Divinity School, died October 24 in Jerusalem. He was 83. A renowned scholar of intellectual history, modern Jewish thought, and German-Jewish intellectual life, Mendes-Flohr focused particularly on the philosophers Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig. After earning his BA at Brooklyn College and PhD at Brandeis University, he became a professor at Hebrew University in Israel, where he directed the Franz Rosenzweig Center for German-Jewish Literature and Cultural History. In 2000 he joined the UChicago faculty, dividing his time between Chicago and Jerusalem until his retirement in 2018. Mendes-Flohr's numerous articles, edited volumes, and monographs include *The Jew in the Modern World: A Documentary History* (1980) and *Martin Buber: A Life of Faith and Dissent* (2019). Survivors include his wife, Rita; two children; and four grandchildren.

Allen Sanderson, AM'70, senior instructional professor in the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics and the College, died January 23 in Chicago. He was 81. During four decades at UChicago, Sanderson taught foundational economics courses to thousands of students, receiving the Llewellyn John and Harriet Manchester Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 1998. He also served as associate provost and NORC senior research scientist, and he contributed widely to news outlets as an expert in labor markets and the economics of sports. Sanderson was active in the Collegiate Scholars Program, the Sawiris Scholars Program, and other initiatives, helping expand educational opportunities for students locally and globally. He is survived by two children, including **Matthew Sanderson**, MBA'97; and five grandchildren.

Mary Kay "Katy" O'Brien Weintraub, AB'75 (Class of 1974), AM'76, PhD'87, of Chicago, died November 29. She was 72. Weintraub earned her PhD in history and subsequently began teaching History of Western Civilization in 1987, a course she taught continuously for over 30 years. A beloved lecturer and a deeply familiar presence at UChicago, she was also a longtime bookseller at the Seminary Co-op Bookstores. Her husband, Karl Weintraub, AB'49, AM'52, PhD'57, Thomas E. Donnelley Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in History, died in 2004. She is survived by extended family.

Reika Yokochi, research professor in the Department of the Geophysical Sciences, of Chicago, died February 17, 2024, of lung cancer. She was 48. A scholar of noble gas geochemistry, Yokochi joined the UChicago faculty in 2010. Her research focused on the extraction and purification of noble gas radionuclides from water samples, as well as investigations of noble gases in Earth's mantle and in cometary ices and icy moons. She was recognized with the Young Scientist Award by the Geochemistry Research Association of Japan and was named a NASA Planetary Science Early Career Fellow, both in 2012. Survivors include her husband, **Nicolas Dauphas**, Louis Block Professor of Geophysical Sciences, and two children.

1940s

Allen McCrady, PhB'47, of Idaho Falls, ID, died October 14. He was 95. Following military service in the Korean War, McCrady pursued two professions in Pittsburgh: practicing law and collecting fossils for the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. In 1975 he left the law to train at the Smithsonian's vertebrate paleontology lab and held positions at the Carnegie Museum and the Idaho Museum of Natural History. Active in the Unitarian Universalist Church, McCrady was a life member of the Sons of Norway and the National Speleological Society. He is survived by two daughters, a son, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Herbert Rothenberg, SB'49, MD'51, of Denver, died October 7. He was 96. A physician, Rothenberg worked at Denver General Hospital and served as a captain in the US Air Force during the Korean War. He joined the clinical faculty of the University of Colorado Medical School, and as a practitioner he was notable for taking night calls and making house calls throughout his career. Working with the American College of Physicians, Rothenberg developed a neighborhood health program in Denver; he also volunteered at medical clinics for migrant workers and in Kosovo. Survivors include three children and two grandchildren.

To request an obituary for a faculty member, staff member, or former student, please send a previously published obituary or a note that includes their accomplishments, surviving family members, and significant facts care of the Alumni News Editor, *The University of Chicago Magazine*, 5235 South Harper Court, Chicago, IL 60615, or by email: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu.

1950s

Mary Jane (Gholson) Engh, AB'51, died July 11 in Garfield, WA. She was 91. After studying history, archaeology, and library science at UChicago, Engh worked as an editor in the United States and Japan. She later completed a master's degree in library science and became a science librarian at Oklahoma State and Washington State Universities. Under the pen name M. J. Engh, she published several science fiction novels and a children's book; she also wrote nonfiction, including a 3,000-year history of religious persecution. She is survived by a daughter, **Alyssa Ferguson**, AB'81; a son; and a brother, **Robert K. Gholson**, AB'50.

Barbara Taylor Bowman, AM'52, died November 4 in Chicago. She was 96. Bowman, a pioneering researcher, educator, and advocate for early childhood education, taught preschool at UChicago's Laboratory Schools while pursuing her master's in education. In 1966 she cofounded what became the Erikson Institute, a graduate school and research center in Chicago that trains teachers to prepare young children from all backgrounds to reach their full potential. Bowman served as the institute's president and as a professor of child development, influencing policy at the local, state, and federal levels. Her husband, James E. Bowman, EX'65, professor emeritus in pathology and medicine at UChicago, died in 2011. She is survived by a daughter, University Trustee **Valerie B. Jarrett**; a grandchild, **Laura Jarrett**, LAB'03; and two great-grandchildren.

Julian Rial Hansen, LAB'43, JD'52, died October 24 in Sarasota, FL. He was 97. A US Navy pilot who served in the Korean War and the Navy Reserve, Hansen headed a family law practice in suburban Chicago. He also served on the Barrington, IL, school board and the zoning board of appeals for Barrington Hills, IL. He and his wife, Barbara P. Hansen, LAB'45, who met at the Laboratory Schools, retired to Sarasota in 2017 after wintering for many years on Longboat Key, FL. His wife died in 2023. Survivors include two daughters, **Jane Hansen**, MBA'76, and **Dicie Hansen**, MBA'84, and two grandchildren.

Alan Sparks Ward, JD'55, died September 23 in Shelby, MI. He was 93. Ward, who earned an undergraduate degree in English at Wesleyan University, settled in Chevy Chase, MD, after law school. He held various public-sector legal positions before joining Baker & Hostetler as a partner in the 1970s. Ward practiced antitrust law and continued working as a consultant and lecturer following his retirement from the firm in 2001. He is survived by three children, including **Guy G. Ward**, AB'89 (Class of 1984); a brother; and three grandchildren.

Eugene Halpert, MD'56, of San Francisco, died October 31. He was 93. For more than four decades, Halpert—a Union College graduate and US Army veteran—had a distinguished career as a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst. He helped train generations of psychiatrists as a clinical professor of psychiatry at New York University Medical Center, published scientific papers, and served on the editorial boards of leading publications in his field. He is survived by three sons, including **Douglas Halpert**, AB'84; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

John P. Ellis, LAB'52, AB'56, MBA'58, of Oak Lawn, IL, died March 30, 2024. He was 87. A piano player, car collector, and lover of history and politics, Ellis graduated at the top of his law school class and had a successful career in retail. Survivors include two brothers and his partner, Kathy Flynn.

Janet (Bezark) Freed, LAB'49, AM'58, of Niles, IL, died October 17. She was 91. With her bachelor's degree from Cornell University and master's degree in social work from UChicago, Freed volunteered with numerous organizations, mostly those centering on families. She was also a frequent volunteer at her children's schools. Her husband, Merrill Freed, AB'49, JD'53, died in 2018. She is survived by four children and six grandchildren.

Howard Hallengren, MBA'58, died October 13 in Chicago. He was 94. Hallengren, a Princeton graduate, was chief investment officer for the First National Bank of Chicago in the 1970s, where he was a critic of the philosophy of investing only in America's 50 leading companies, coining the phrase "Nifty Fifty." Later, after a decade as chief investment officer of international private banking at Chase Manhattan Bank, he formed Falcon Real Estate Investment Company. Hallengren was a longtime supporter of UChicago's Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures and wrote two novels following his retirement in 2012.

Herman Kattlove, SB'58, MD'62, died June 25 in Beverly Hills, CA. He was 86. Kattlove spent two years in the US Army prior to his residency and fellowship in hematology at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx. In 1970 he joined the medical school faculty at UCLA and later went into private practice for 20 years. Kattlove completed a master's in public health, worked at the American Cancer Society until 2003, and then taught medical students at UCLA until 2018. He is survived by his wife, **Rose Weiner Kattlove**, AB'60; three daughters; and a grandchild.

1960s

Melvin R. "Mel" Goodes, MBA'60, died September 30 in Palm Beach, FL. He was 89. Goodes attended Queen's University (Canada) and joined Warner-Lambert (now Pfizer) in 1965, becoming chief operating officer in 1985. In the 1990s, as the company's chair and CEO, he extended stock options to employees and authorized early testing of what would become the best-selling cholesterol medication Lipitor. Goodes was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2009 and worked with the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation to establish an annual prize honoring scientists doing research on the disease. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; three children; a brother; and eight grandchildren.

John Edward "Ed" Murray, SM'60, of Springfield, VA, died October 15. He was 86. With his graduate degree in statistics, Murray became an aerospace engineer in the Washington, DC, area and raised a family in Vienna, VA. After 44 years of service in government and the private sector, he retired in 2000. Survivors include three children and six grandchildren.

Reuben I. Sandler, SM'58, PhD'61, died September 8 in San Francisco. He was 87. A Reed College graduate, Sandler earned a doctorate in mathematics and held professorships at universities in New Zealand, Israel, and the United States. He left academia to live communally on Waiheke Island in New Zealand and later became a business consultant, board member, and executive at research and development companies including Intelligent Optical Systems, which he cofounded. Sandler received UChicago's Alumni Service Award in 2013, and he served on and chaired the Physical Sciences Division Council. He is survived by three children; a sister; 10 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and his partner, Emily.

Barbara Morton, AB'63, died September 7 in Toronto. She was 83. After studying mathematics and education in the College, Morton moved to Hamilton, Ontario, in 1969 and stayed for nearly 50 years. As an educator at Hamilton Hebrew Academy, she taught creative writing and performing arts for over three decades; later, she opened branches of the Kumon Learning Center and founded the Knowledge Tree, a learning program she ran until 2018. Morton loved music and the outdoors and belonged to multiple book clubs. Survivors include four children, two brothers, and four grandchildren.

Lawrence "Larry" Domash, SB'63, of Conway, MA, died November 22, 2020. He was 78. Domash studied physics in the College and began teaching at Maharishi International University in 1973. From 1977 to 1980 he served as the university's president through a pivotal period of growth. A devoted supporter of Chabad House Amherst, Domash bequeathed his estate to the organization to foster Jewish community and spiritual development.

Pamela "Lynn" Grace, AB'69, died October 2 in Eugene, OR. She was 77. Raised in small towns and logging camps in southern Oregon, Grace became valedictorian of her high school class. She later completed a master's degree in education and retired at 53 to enjoy her many interests, which included gardening, bodybuilding,

gourmet cooking, wine tasting, travel, and tango dancing. She is survived by her husband, Denis; her children; a brother; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

1970s

Raymond Sipowicz, AM'62, PhD'70, of Park Ridge, IL, died December 15, 2023. He was 89. Formerly of Mundelein and Evanston, IL, Sipowicz received degrees in comparative human development and worked as a psychologist at Elgin Mental Health Center and other institutions. Survivors include his wife, Ann; three children; a stepchild; and six grandchildren.

William Weber, AM'65, PhD'70, died August 8 in Los Alamitos, CA. He was 83. Known for his innovative scholarship on the social history of music, Weber was a professor of history at California State University, Long Beach. His numerous books, journal articles, and edited volumes include *The Great Transformation of Musical Taste: Concert Programming from Haydn to Brahms* (2008). Active with the teaching division of the American Historical Association, Weber served on the editorial board of *The History Teacher*. He is survived by his wife, Linda Clark; two daughters; and a grandchild.

Lynn A. "Yael" McKeever, AB'71, of Albuquerque, NM, died October 4. She was 77. McKeever completed law school in Iowa and moved to New Mexico, where she maintained a longtime practice as an estate-planning and small-business attorney. In 2001, after years of study and living a Jewish life, she was ceremonially received by the Jewish people and adopted the Hebrew name Yael. McKeever retired from her legal practice in 2019. She is survived by her partner, Deborah J. Brin; a son; and a grandchild.

Alane Rollings, AB'72, AM'75, of Atlantic Beach, FL, died November 10. She was 74. Rollings attended Bryn Mawr College before completing UChicago degrees in the humanities and Far Eastern languages and civilizations. Over four decades in Chicago, she wrote poetry and taught creative writing at Loyola University and UChicago, later settling in Tybee Island, GA. Rollings published six books of poetry and contributed to literary journals and anthologies; she also had several unpublished manuscripts and at the time of her death was working on a book set in South Africa. Her husband, Richard G. Stern, the Helen A. Regenstein Professor Emeritus in English Language and Literature and the College, died in 2013. Survivors include six siblings.

Huey L. Perry, AM'73, PhD'76, died August 3 in Baton Rouge, LA. He was 76. A 1970 graduate of what is today Grambling State University, Perry studied political science at UChicago and later taught at schools including Loyola University Chicago and Texas A&M University. During his three decades at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Perry published extensively on politics and race in the United States. He received two National Science Foundation grants. He served as chair of Southern's political science department, dean of its public policy school, and president of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists. He is survived by his wife, Emma; a son; two brothers; a grandchild; and a great-grandchild.

David B. J. Adams, AM'68, PhD'77, died May 1, 2024, in Olympia, WA. He was 82. Adams, who attended the College of William & Mary, specialized in the history of Thailand and taught political science at several colleges. He later became area chief for East Asia and the Pacific for the Fulbright Scholarship Program and received a lifetime achievement award from the Association for Asian Studies. Survivors include his spouse, Thomas G. Willis, and a brother.

Terrence M. "Terry" Slaven, JD'77, of Wakefield, RI, died October 28. He was 75. Raised in upstate New York, Slaven practiced law in Arizona for 42 years. He began his legal career at Lewis & Roca, a Phoenix firm where he became a partner. In 1990 he joined Phoenix Children's Hospital as general counsel and held similar positions at Sun Health and Banner Health before retiring in 2019. Slaven served on the board of the Phoenix Chorale and advised on the creation of KidsCare, a health insurance program for Arizona children. He is survived by his wife, Chris Coffey; three sons; and a grandchild.

Louise Myers, AM'70, PhD'78, of Waltham, MA, died April 6, 2024. She was 78. As a professor emeritus at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Myers taught American literature, poetry, and creative writing. She also played violin in the New England Philharmonic for 47 years, making her the orchestra's longest-serving member since its founding in 1977. Survivors include two children and five grandchildren.

1980s

Geert Broos, MBA'82, died July 10 in Hasselt, Belgium. He was 64. Broos started his career with Proctor & Gamble Belgium and worked for the company in Casablanca, Morocco. Moving to Coca-Cola, he spent several decades in positions with increasing responsibilities, including as managing director of Coca-Cola Korea, and retired as the company's general manager for North and Equatorial Africa. He is survived by his wife, Ann Delbrassine, and two daughters.

Ted B. Chang, MBA'84, of Corona del Mar, CA, died May 19, 2024. He was 76. After graduating from the Royal Naval Engineering College in England in 1972, Chang served as a lieutenant commander in the Royal Malaysian Navy, a post that included a year in Sweden. Moving from Kuala Lumpur to attend Chicago Booth, he later took a position with EPE USA, a subsidiary of Kaneka of Japan. As the company's general manager and vice president, Chang helped EPE build factories for packaging material around the United States before he left the company in 2002. Survivors include extended family.

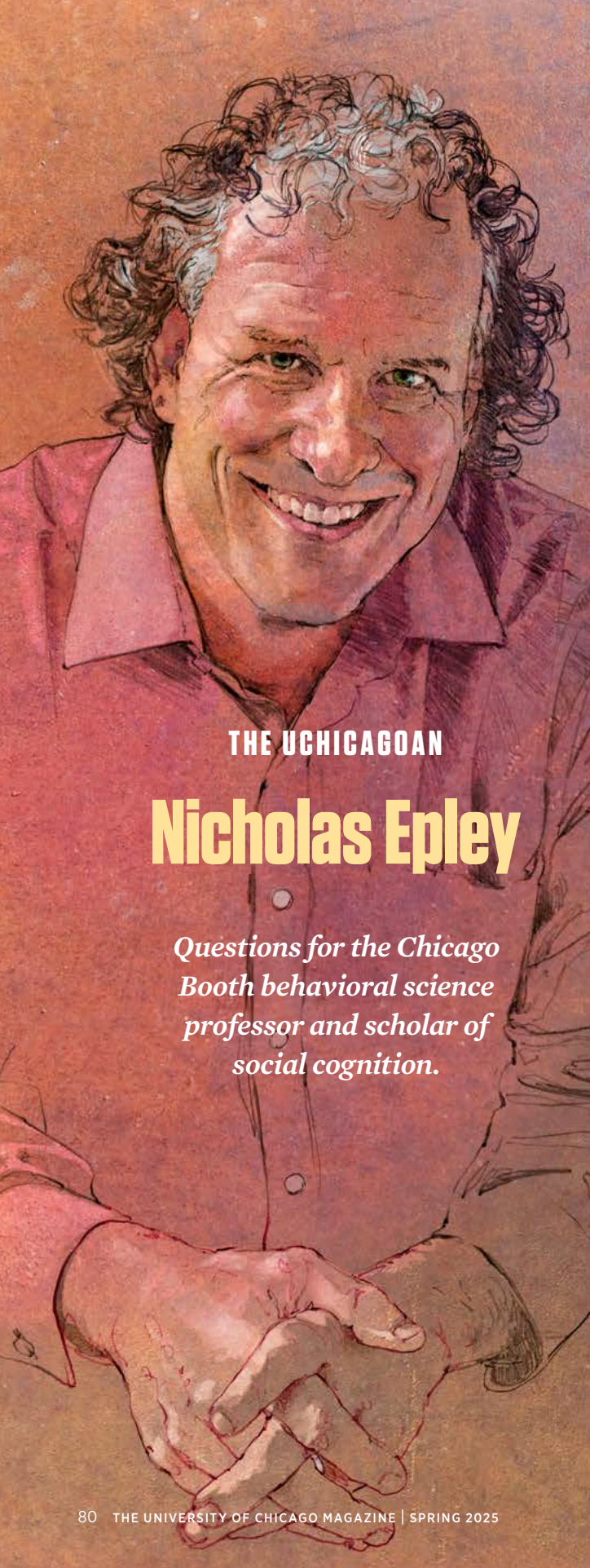
Michelle Steele Rebelsky, AB'86, died October 8 in Grinnell, IA. She was 59. Rebelsky studied chemistry in the College before completing her MD at the University of Illinois Chicago and an MBA at the University of Tennessee. She spent most of her career as a family physician in Grinnell, where she was dedicated to providing care that addressed both the physical and psychosocial needs of her patients. Rebelsky became a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians in 2006. She is survived by her husband, **Samuel A. Rebelsky**, SB'85, SM'87, PhD'93; three children; and a brother.

Jerry Van Polen, PhD'87, died September 29 in Napa, CA. He was 65. Van Polen studied physics as an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley, and later was a UChicago graduate fellow and a research assistant at Argonne National Laboratory. An electrical engineer and software developer, he worked for 20 years as a project director for Electro-Motive Diesel, a division of General Motors in McCook, IL. Van Polen's team, charged with research and development of locomotives for high-speed rail, received 15 patents for their inventions. Survivors include his mother and a sister.

1990s

Anne Flueckiger, AB'92 (Class of 1991), AM'92, of Duluth, MN, died September 26 after a brief illness. She was 55. Flueckiger focused on Russian studies at UChicago and later studied educational policy and administration at the University of Minnesota. As a guide with Adventures in Good Company, she led outdoor adventure and cultural exploration trips for women in the United States and internationally for over 25 years. In Duluth she also served as a nonprofit research collaborator and substitute teacher, volunteered with homeless people, and assisted with work on the Superior Hiking Trail. Survivors include her mother and a brother.

Boris Wolfson, AB'97, of Amherst, MA, died June 13 of complications from pancreatic cancer. He was 49. In the College Wolfson majored in Fundamentals: Issues and Texts and was active in University Theater. He received his doctorate in Slavic languages and literatures from the University of California, Berkeley, specializing in early Soviet theater, and taught at the University of Southern California. In 2008 he became an associate professor of Russian at Amherst College, where he published scholarly works about Russian literature, culture, and theater and chaired the Russian department. He is survived by his wife, **Amanda Walling**, AB'99; a son; his parents; and his brother.



THE UCHICAGOAN

Nicholas Epley

Questions for the Chicago Booth behavioral science professor and scholar of social cognition.

What surprising job have you had in the past?
I worked as a carpenter for two summers when I was in college. I've never learned so much in such a short time. I still use the skills I learned then to build and fix things today.

What would you want to be doing if not teaching?
Farming.

What do you hate that everyone else loves?
Social media, although I think the ranks of haters might be rising.

What do you love that everyone else hates?
Sauerkraut.

What book—or other work or idea—do you relish teaching?
An idea that comes straight from our research: that deep conversations are surprisingly positive. Every year during orientation, I demonstrate this in an experiment with our MBA students at Booth. The experience students have, going from doubt about how it's going to go to delight about how it went, is so uplifting to watch.

What book changed your life?
How We Know What Isn't So: The Fallibility of Human Reason in Everyday Life by Tom Gilovich. My undergraduate adviser at St. Olaf College, Chuck Huff, handed it to me one day and said, "I think you might be interested in this." "Interested" was a dramatic understatement: I found it so utterly fascinating that I decided that the kind of research described in this book was what I wanted to do for a living. I was then extremely lucky that I ended up having Tom Gilovich as my PhD adviser at Cornell University. Tom was just as inspiring an adviser as he was an author.

What UChicago classroom moment will you never forget, in three sentences or fewer?
In 2006, in the very first MBA course that I ever taught at UChicago, one of the most memorable students I ever had—Richard Jenkins, MBA'07, who sadly passed away recently—came up to me after our first class and earnestly told me, "You have to assign us more work." I already thought I was assigning more work than the students could handle, but I hadn't yet seen the UChicago work ethic. I immediately knew that this was the place for me.

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Illustration by Dahl Taylor

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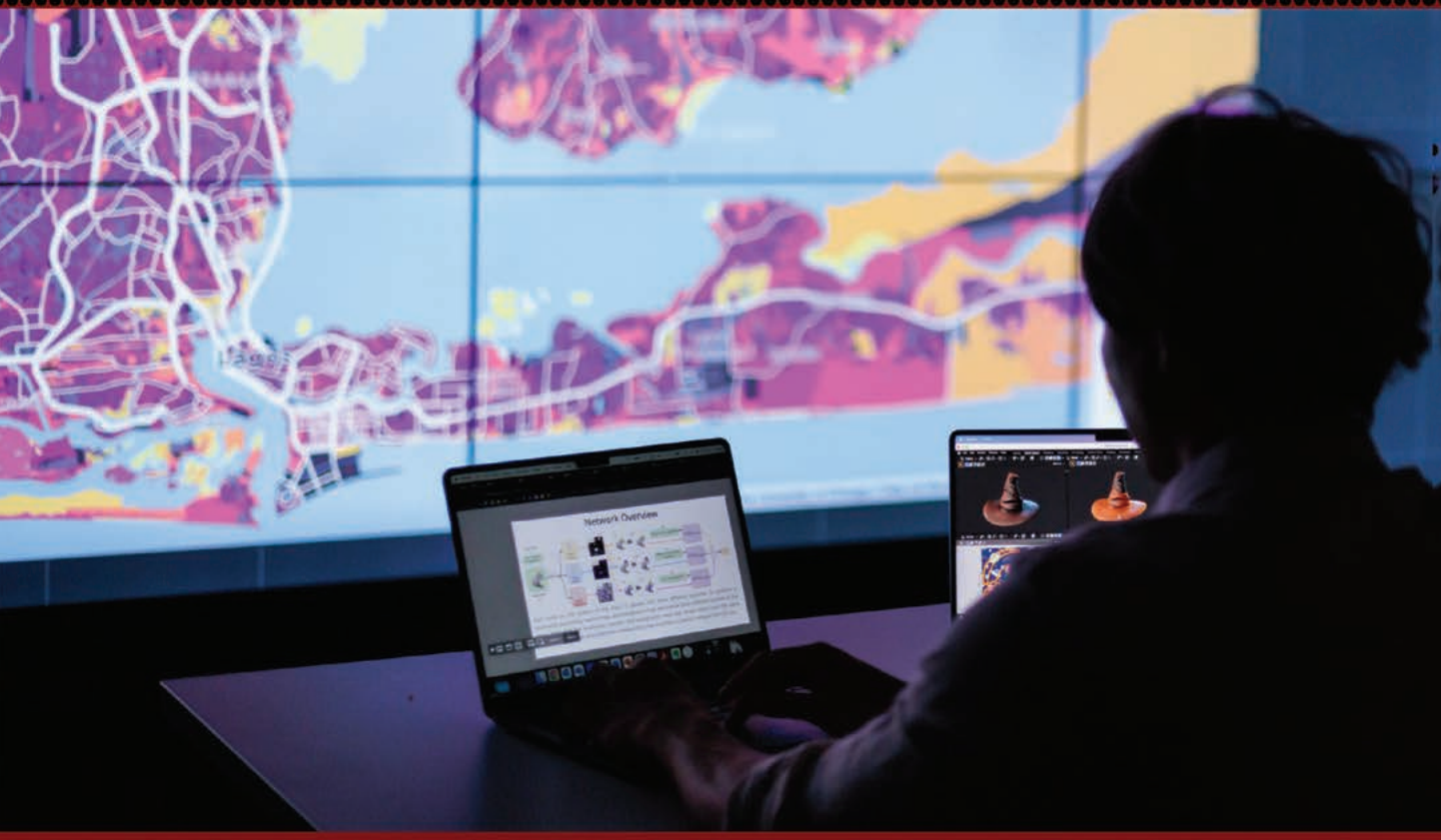

Shaping the Future of Computing

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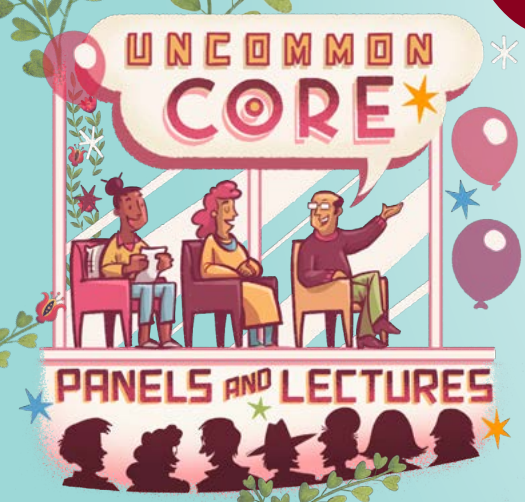
WHERE WILL ALUMNI WEEKEND TAKE YOU?



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