THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE

WINTER 2025, VOLUME 117, NUMBER 2

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE

VOLUME 117, NUMBER 2, WINTER 2025

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SLOW DOWN, YOU MOVE TOO FAST

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

As you wind your way through this issue, I hope you'll spend some time with "The Longest Route," an essay by College alumna **Mary Quade**, AB'93 (page 42). Quade's meditation on Route 20, which passes near her Ohio home as it traverses the country from Massachusetts to Oregon, made me think about traveling and destinations, and the minor fall—the journey's end—that can come with the major lift of arriving somewhere.

Route 20 has become a slower means of getting from point A to point B than it once was; or rather, other means, like the interstates, have gotten faster. Quade writes about how Route 20 loses its identity for a stretch in Yellowstone National Park, becoming an unnumbered park road where taking your time is enforced, even celebrated (see page 2).

I haven't been to Yellowstone, but in northern Michigan I love the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive. This past autumn was just the latest time my husband and I handed $25 to the National Park Service to take the road's 7.4 miles at no more than 20 miles per hour, snaking through the woods toward a memorable view of Glen Lake and, beyond it, Lake Michigan—in local parlance, the big lake.

And it is. "It's the same lake!" we can't resist exclaiming in mock wonder each time we travel the five-plus hours from Chicago without straying far from the same body of water we see every day. Friends visiting from the East Coast, whose referent is the ocean, sometimes need a moment to take in how expansive—dare I say great—a mere lake can be. It's all relative.

Twenty miles per hour is relative too. Some drivers treat the speed limit as just a suggestion, pushing 30 in pursuit of the scenic overlook. Others treat it as a different kind of suggestion, embracing the journey to the tune of 10 or 15 miles per hour, pulling over as needed to let the vista seekers pass.

Maybe you opened this magazine with a destination in mind, or maybe you like to see what you see along the way. Whatever your chosen path, we always want to hear what catches your attention at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. ◆

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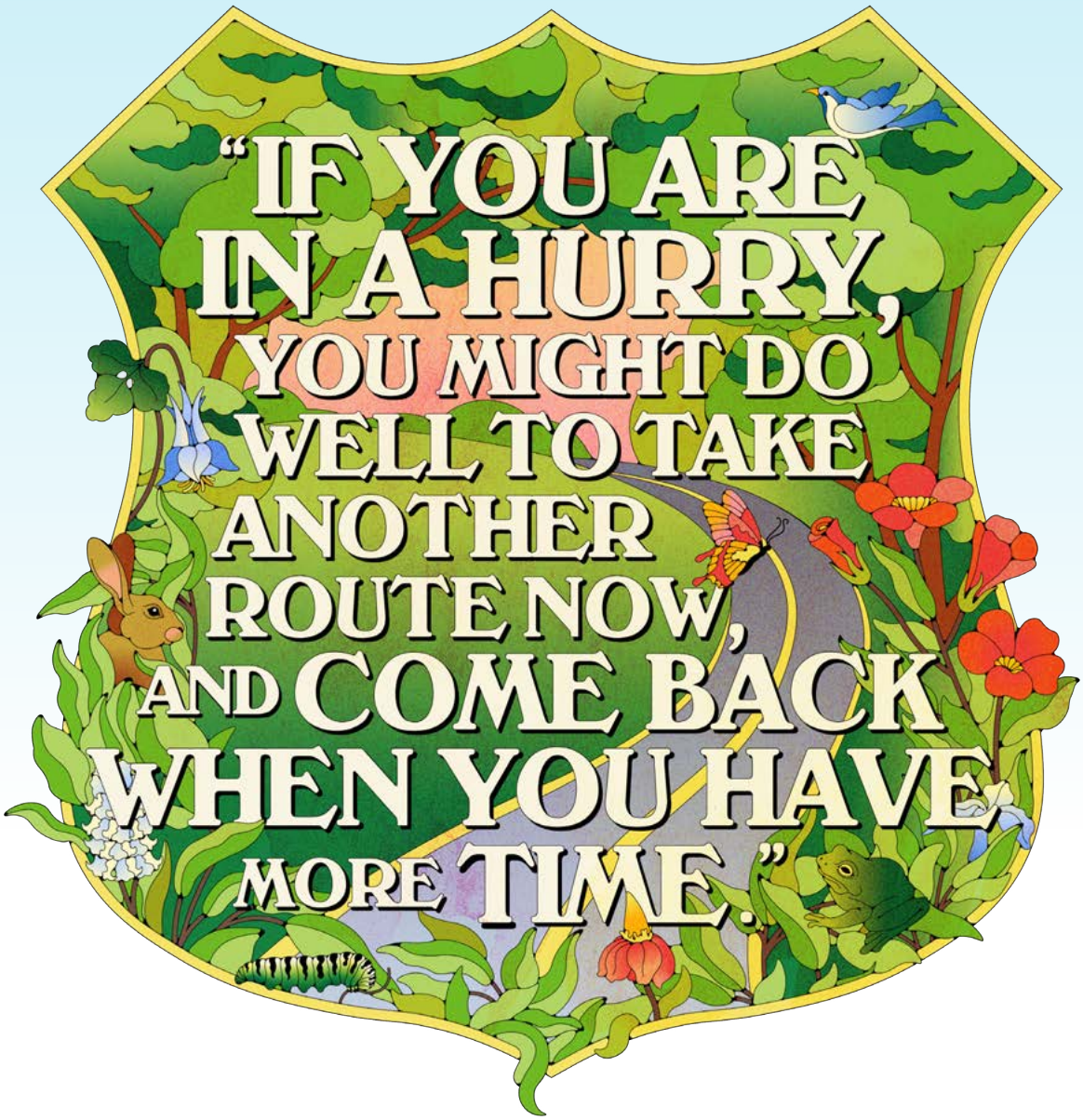

On the cover

This photo of a playful reindeer in Tromsø, Norway, received an honorable mention in the annual Study Abroad Photo Contest. Photography by **Evelina Swigart**, Class of 2025.

This page

Meanwhile, domestic journeys—and the reflections they inspire—take center stage in **Mary Quade**'s (AB'93) essay about a fabled highway. See "The Longest Route," page 42.

Illustration by Francesca Melis; quote from *Park Road Standards*, National Park Service

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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**.

The dance goes on

Reading Lucas McGranahan's report about two recent Neubauer Collegium programs where "an intimate group" of academic elites pushed for more government regulation and redistribution ("Delicate Dance," Fall/24), I was struck by how the November elections have overtaken that agenda. It seems that many ordinary Americans want no such thing.

Dismissing the "almost mythic" mid-20th-century view "that the American republic was founded by treating private property as sacrosanct," needing protection from government interference, these worthies remind us that "even so-called free markets are made possible by state power … just as they are both sustained and hemmed in by that same power."

Citing Milton Friedman, AM'33, and George Stigler, PhD'38, McGranahan is quick to note that "this is not the economic thinking UChicago is known for." Really? I knew both men. In fact, Friedman, who sat on my dissertation committee in the philosophy department, was clear that free markets are impossible without the rule of law that free states secure. True, he and Stigler "advocated using markets to solve problems whenever possible," as McGranahan writes, but they were arguing there not for anarchy but against the ubiquitous programs of the New Deal and Great Society.

That's only the first of the straw men peppering this report—too many to address here—like the claim that neoliberalism "is an assault on the very idea of the public interest." Nonsense. Liberal public-choice economists have long developed a rich theory of "public goods" arising from the free-rider problem.

Not surprisingly, the report concludes with a proposal for "the creation of a national investment authority to advance long-term national priorities," an "800-pound gorilla" that would "get its hands dirty as a lender and guarantor in credit markets and as an asset manager and venture capitalist in equity markets." Exactly what we need as our national debt, at this writing, has just surpassed $36 trillion.

Roger Pilon, AM'72, PhD'79
WASHINGTON, DC

Dunes messiah

Carrie Golus's (AB'91, AM'93) wonderful story "Pipe Dreams" in the Fall/24 issue of *The Core* shined a bright light on the Calumet Region, whose crown jewel is the hauntingly beautiful Indiana Dunes lakeshore. The Calumet Quarter is a wonderful idea to provide University students—many of whom may be new to the Chicago area—with an idea of the adventures that lie just outside the city limits.

I grew up in gritty Hammond, Indiana, in the heart of the region, and earned a BA in 1977. The drive from my home to Hyde Park took under an hour, but I often marveled at the psychic and cultural chasm that separated the two. So close, and yet so far away.

Like most of my friends, we didn't often go to the Dunes while growing up. It was only after I moved away and could see them with fresh eyes that I realized what a treasure they are—and what a miracle it is that they've survived, even while sharing space with hulking steel mills. Solitude is easy to find in the land- and seascape of the Dunes. Hell, if you don't look across Lake Michigan at the Chicago skyline, you can even forget what century it is.

The article ably documents how the Dunes, with the diversity of plant life in a distinct ecosystem, took center stage in the development of the field of botany through the research of Henry Chandler Cowles, PhD 1898. But readers might be more surprised to learn of the enduring artistic and cultural legacy of the Indiana Dunes as exemplified by Frank V. Dudley, widely known as the Painter of the Dunes.

Dudley (1868–1957) was born in Wisconsin and made his home in Chicago, where he developed as a realist painter and became a vital member of the burgeoning Chicago artistic community. In the early 1900s, Dudley visited the Dunes and was struck by the area's beauty and ever-shifting patterns of light and shadow. He was a key member of the Prairie Club, the bellwether of the Dunes conservation movement that began just before World War I. The Dunes were even then in the sights of industrial titans such as US Steel.

The Calumet Quarter is a wonderful idea to provide University students—many of whom may be new to the Chicago area—with an idea of the adventures that lie just outside the city limits.

Illustration by Melinda Beck/istock.com

The creation of the Indiana Dunes State Park in 1923 was a key victory for the conservationists, but it also led to an unexpected development: What to do with the Prairie Club's unofficial beachfront cottages—including the Dudleys'—that were now on state park land? The Indiana Department of Conservation came up with a novel solution: Dudley alone would be allowed to stay on in his cabin, his payment being "one large original oil painting by the Licensee, suitably framed. ... This payment shall be made annually." Many of those "rental" paintings are now in the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis.

Ted Dupont, AB'77
UPPER MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

Metcalf's magnanimity

I'm not sure I regularly or ever read the Editor's Notes in the *Magazine*, but I did in the Fall/24 issue ("Meet the Interns"). Maybe it was an accident, or maybe an unknown force said, "Read this." As I read about the Metcalf interns, I recalled perhaps the most influential thing that happened to me during my 18 months at the University of Chicago.

After undergraduate school and a few years of full-time work as an engineer, I enrolled in the MBA program at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business (aka the GSB). At the time, I was married with two very young children and rented a third-floor walk-up in South Shore. Midway through my first year we were pregnant again, with the due date shortly after expected graduation in April 1969. Already short of cash and with (by then) a maxed-out student loan ($10,000 seems like a pittance today, but it represented about 40 percent of the price of the suburban home I purchased after graduation), I was living on the edge.

As I faced tuition for year two, it was evident that something needed to happen or year two would not happen. Enter Harold R. "Jeff" Metcalf, AM'53.

I went in to see Jeff, who was then dean of students for the business school as well as a regular attendee at Hyde Park watering holes and the Friday mixers in Business East. I explained to him that I had a problem. I was either going to be able to afford to live or to pay tuition, but not both. To the best of my recollection, and within no more than a short minute, Jeff said, "You live, and I'll take care of the tuition." Is this amazing, or what?

There was never a formal document nor my signature on anything. It just happened! Sometimes the bureaucracy wins and sometimes the good guys prevail. Needless to say, Jeff Metcalf was responsible for the successful completion of the most important educational event in my life.

It is certainly no surprise to me that this amazing internship program is named for Jeff Metcalf. He knew how to give back and is a role model for all of us.

Here's to you, Jeff.

Bob James, MBA'69
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Time check

With a master's in English lit from UChicago, and as a writer, editor, and copy editor in the corporate communications field for the last 40 years, I always look forward to the *Magazine* for its well-written and illuminating letters and articles. So my interest was doubly piqued by the *Chicago Manual of Style* 18 piece and its little quiz ("*CMOS* 18 Is Here," Fall/24). I won't say what my score was, but my editorial pleasure (the satisfaction that only copy editors know, red pencils

always at the ready) knew no bounds when I saw the factual error at the end of question 5. Aha, something to fix, I thought. And yet, I wondered, where else would the sly *Magazine* staff hide an editorial Easter egg but in an editorial quiz? I shall ponder this tomorrow morning as I walk my dog, once again enjoying the early morning light afforded by our fall back to standard time.

Steve Parker, AM'79
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS

Editors tend to be opinionated and can debate endlessly about arcana such as the appropriate places for commas, capital letters, and italics. I should know: When my wife, Lynn, and I got together, it turned out that between us we had no fewer than three copies of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. That meant that we could garner up to five opinions about any editorial matter: mine, Lynn's, and as many as three more from the various editions of *CMOS*.

We therefore read with interest the squib about the new 18th edition of *CMOS*, took the little quiz, and debated whether *CMOS* was getting the answers right. The two of us are on the same page with respect to question 5: "Daylight saving time ends … [and] Chicago will go back to Central Standard Time and wake up to darker mornings."

The point of this quiz question was new doctrine concerning the capitalization of the names of time zones, such as Central Standard Time. Well and good: We can reserve debate about that for some other time.

However, at least out here in California, where we live, when daylight saving time ends and we go back to Pacific Standard Time—note my use of capital letters—we get lighter mornings, not darker.

On this particular point, perhaps *The Associated Press Stylebook* is a better guide?

David Simon, SM'74
LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA

While we wish we could claim this time zone slipup was an Easter egg designed to delight attentive quiz takers, it was—alas!—something more mundane: an error, which we regret. We thank Parker, Simon, and the other alert readers who brought it to our attention.—Ed.

Supply and demand

On the lower level of Business East was a student lounge, and students met on Thursday afternoons at the LPF—Liquidity Preference Function—for beer and conversation ("Locker Room Talk," Alumni News, Fall/24). Liquidity preference is a theory of the English economist John Maynard Keynes.

Steven Georgeou, MBA'70
NEW YORK

Norman invasion

Your article about Rebecca McCarthy's (AB'77) biography of Norman Maclean, PhD'40, pushed several buttons, prompting this letter ("Searching for a Story," Summer/24) .

As a student in Maclean's Modern Criticism class, what I remember most is his gruff manner and chain-smoking. But he also told an anecdote that has stuck with me. When T. S. Eliot was at the U of C for a lecture series (either in 1950 or 1959), Maclean asked "Tom" what he meant by the term "dissociation of sensibility," which Eliot had coined in his 1921 essay on the metaphysical poets. After hemming and hawing, Eliot confessed that he had forgotten.

That anecdote may stick with me because it shows that Maclean possessed such a good "crap detector" (Hemingway). Your piece also mentions that Maclean never really committed himself to the scholar's life, and that his breakthrough book was his memoir, *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*.

Three other U of C English professors mentioned in the excerpt from McCarthy's biography are Gwin Kolb, AM'46, PhD'49; David Bevington; and Elder Olson, AB'34, AM'35, PhD'38. Kolb saved my bacon by throwing me a Maclean-like softball during my 75-book exam. After I had muffed a hard question from a junior faculty member, Kolb asked, "Where was Uncle Toby injured?" "Shall I show you the place?" I replied. (The text to which we were referring was *Tristram Shandy*.)

Bevington was my thesis adviser. After several rounds of "I'm sorry to have to tell you," I finally produced a cogent draft that he could approve.

When Olson unexpectedly turned up at my strategically planned summer dissertation defense, I panicked. But he only made one comment: "You could turn this thesis into a very useful book."

Like Maclean, however, I followed a different path, becoming a teacher (for 44 years) and creative writer. (My 22nd and 23rd books will soon appear.) To whom do I owe my long dual career?

Ron Singer, AM'68, PhD'76
NEW YORK

I was pleased to see the article on the new biography of Norman Maclean in the Summer/24 issue. I took his Shakespeare course in 1959 or 1960, and I recall the no-nonsense directness he brought to class discussions and his care to make sure everyone who had something to say was heard.

That meant that we could garner up to five opinions about any editorial matter: mine, Lynn's, and as many as three more from the various editions of *CMOS*.

Photography by Stephen Lewellyn, AB'48; UChicago Photographic Archive, apf4-02021, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

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LETTERS

I remember him remarking one day that Shakespeare's plots could be analyzed in the same terms as a Mickey Spillane novel. I was young, naive, and a bit shocked at the idea of comparing Shakespeare and a writer of pulp novels. Some years later, when I was a theater critic reviewing productions of *Julius Caesar* dressed in combat fatigues or *Macbeth* presented as a gangland bloodbath, I understood his point. Human passions such as greed for power, lust, and the compulsion for justice are universal, whether it's Aegisthus, Clytemnestra, and Orestes; Claudius, Gertrude, and Hamlet; or a racketeer, a femme fatale, and a private eye unable to escape the moral imperative.

The other thing, of course, is what a fine writer Maclean was. We can best honor his memory by rereading his two marvelous books, *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories* and *Young Men and Fire*. The first is a jewel and a deserved classic. The latter, less well known but equally rewarding, is his reconstruction of a 1949 forest fire that killed 13 US Forest Service firefighters. It is a model of how to turn a carefully researched nonfiction account into a deeply moving story. Like *A River Runs Through It*, it is also a tough-minded, clear-eyed attempt to find meaning at the heart of a seemingly pitiless universe.

Jon Lehman, AB'62
DUXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Rebecca McCarthy's biography of Norman Maclean is an extraordinary achievement. It captures not only the Norman Maclean I knew as a grad student in 1970 but the much larger picture of the man in all of his complexity. Rebecca knew him long and well, I only briefly, as a student of Wordsworth in understandable awe of Maclean's craggy presence and exceptional intellect—exceptional even in a place where exceptional was the norm. There's a great deal in McCarthy's book that I didn't know, of course, and I am grateful for the broader and deeper view. It

turns out that he was in fact a mortal being, who swore and drank, drove a Volvo, and used a Crock-Pot.

I believe Maclean would applaud this book's honesty and comprehension of the whole man and the whole story.

It is also clear from this book that his, shall we say, direct approach to correction overlay a fundamental and sincere dedication to a student's growth. I have my own tale to tell about that. Early on we were to do a two-page paper on Wordsworth's "Westminster Bridge" sonnet. He was not impressed with mine. He said I should have used a .22 but I'd used a shotgun. I was devastated. He told me to come to his office on Friday. This was a Tuesday. For three days I wandered about like a zombie, assuming my graduate education was over in the first quarter.

On Friday, in his office at last after my Green Mile march from home, he poured me a cup of coffee, studied me for a long moment, and said, "Alm, you're rusty. You have a fine mind, but you're rusty after all that time in the Navy." (I'd done two deployments in Vietnam, and just that April I'd been an engineering officer for the recovery of Apollo 13.) "The quick way to get rid of that rust is to kick it off." That's as I remember it. But the thing is, I never told him about the Navy. He had gone and checked me out!

Beyond an understanding of Wordsworth, which in retrospect was secondary, two memorable moments remain top of mind from that experience, 54 years ago. One, Maclean defined a good teacher as "a tough guy who cares very deeply about something that is hard to understand." That was him, of course, but it gave the rest of us who were heading toward teaching careers a model. Two, he told us not to come into his classroom if we weren't prepared to teach him something. That gave us to understand that this place was a community of scholars, and we had mutual responsibility to respect a high bar.

Rebecca McCarthy has captured all that brilliantly.

Brian Alm, AM'71
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

The excerpt from Rebecca McCarthy's book on Norman Maclean, along with its introduction, taught me much about someone I never met but to whom I feel connected. When James M. Gustafson, DB'51 (1925–2021), a Divinity School professor with whom I had come to study in the late 1980s, learned that I grew up in Missoula, Montana, he asked if I had read *A River Runs Through It and Other Stories*. When I confessed that I knew nothing of the book or its author, "Mr. G." lent me his own copy, talked about Maclean, and fondly recalled his own days as a young minister in Montana before "being called" to graduate studies.

As I read the book, I thought of the many times that my father, a general practitioner in the days when doctors made house calls, and a dry-fly fisherman who tied his own flies, took us to fish in the Blackfoot River that "runs through it" and other waters probably familiar to the Macleans. Seeley Lake, so beloved by Maclean, was a frequent family vacation spot, and *Young Men and Fire*, which I read when it came out, reminded me of a grade-school field trip to the smoke-jumper training center at the airport a few miles from town.

Speaking at my father's funeral a dozen years after *A River Runs Through It* reached the theaters, I shared memories of him with some help from Maclean. Afterward a physician friend of my father's approached me, offered condolences, but had little good to say about the book and film. By making Montana trout streams so popular, they had ruined everything. I wonder how Professor Maclean,

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maybe turning to Shakespeare, or how the many students featured in McCarthy's book, would respond to this complaint.

William George, PhD'90
SKOKIE, ILLINOIS

Particle people

In "Atom Smashers," Summer/24, you feature a photo of "chief betatron engineer Charles R. McKinney" (above) putting a sample into a nuclear instrument. The nuclear instruments that Chuck McKinney became better known for were mass spectrometers that he built in collaboration with Professor Harold C. Urey, who in the 1950s was developing a new method to tell the temperature of the world's oceans in the ancient past.

A collaborator on this work was Sam Epstein, who would soon be hired as a professor at Caltech, and who would take Chuck McKinney with him as technician in charge of building mass spectrometers.

As it happened, I also moved from the U of C to Caltech in 1953, where I became a grad student and research assistant in the lab where Chuck McKinney carried out his marvelous work. Without him, it would have been impossible to create the instruments that opened up the science of stable isotope geochemistry that came to be an important element of our understanding of Earth's history. Chuck was a warm, open-hearted, and clever engineer, and we all appreciated his presence in the geochemistry lab. He authored a couple of scientific papers with Epstein and Urey featuring electronic circuit diagrams, something geochemists could hardly appreciate. Thanks for giving me that little memory of a lost hero of the struggle to understand Earth's past.

Henry Schwarcz, AB'52
JERUSALEM

I thoroughly enjoyed the article about the University of Chicago particle accelerators. I only wish it were longer. I'm particularly grateful for the picture of Professor Herbert Anderson, with whom I had the privilege of working as a postdoc for a few years.

Another student and I were the last to use the cyclotron in 1971.

After it was decommissioned, the magnet had another life. It was carried to Fermilab, where our University of Chicago collaboration with Harvard and Oxford used it to study quarks and gluons.

Howard Matis, SM'71, PhD'76
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

I spy

My eye caught the photo on page 58 in the Summer/24 issue of the *Magazine* ("Focused Study," Alumni News). The standing woman is Maureen L. P. Patterson. I was a grad student in the early 1970s working on a dual degree in library science and South Asian languages and civilizations. Bob Emmett, AM'76, and I were Maureen's advisees and interns, having embraced Indian studies as a result of our Peace Corps experiences there.

By the early 1970s, Maureen was known across the South Asian studies world as the woman who had made the University of Chicago Library the best South Asian collection in North America. She was wonderfully imperious and a force to be reckoned with. We grad students sort of knew Maureen had been in India when it became independent and in Delhi when Gandhi was assassinated. That was confirmed in 2009 when Bob sent me information about the book *Sisterhood of Spies: The Women of the OSS*. The ID card on the cover is Maureen's. She must have been studying Japanese when she was recruited to the Office of Strategic Services to spy on the Japanese from a post in India. We learned much more from this book.

Shirley K. Baker, AM'74
ST. LOUIS

Seeking memories

I am a history student at the University of Memphis who is writing a biography of blues artist Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup. On Thursday, May 18, 1967, Crudup gave his first real concert at Mandel Hall at the University of Chicago's Rhythm and Blues Festival, which was held by the University of Chicago Folklore Society. I am hoping that someone has documents, photos, or memories related to his time in Chicago, or knows someone who does. I can be reached by email at cmllins7@memphis.edu or by phone or text at 901.288.0416.

Christian Mullins
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Corrections

In "Set in Stone" (Fall/24), we misstated dates in two photo captions. The photo of Old Chicago House was taken in the 1920s, and the illustration from the Medinet Habu temple complex dates from the Ptolemaic era (c. 145–116 BCE). We regret the errors.

FOR MORE LETTERS VISIT US AT MAG.UCHICAGO.EDU/WIN25LETTERS.

From left: Photography by Stephen Deutch, UChicago Photographic Archive, apf2-00056, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library; UChicago Photographic Archive, apf2-06273, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN FOCUS

BY TOM GINSBURG
LEO SPITZ DISTINGUISHED SERVICE PROFESSOR
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
AND FACULTY DIRECTOR OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO FORUM
FOR FREE INQUIRY AND EXPRESSION

Freedom of expression and inquiry has been a guiding principle at the University of Chicago since its founding. In the face of challenges, the University has demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting and preserving free expression, encouraging members of the community to engage in constructive open discourse without fear of retribution. This commitment and culture of intellectual engagement have made the University a global leader in the creation of knowledge.

The University also stands out nationally as an important leader on free inquiry and expression. In 2015 the president and provost formed the Committee on Freedom of Expression, chaired by Professor **Geoffrey R. Stone**, JD'71. The committee's report has had a powerful impact on the national conversation. It became known as the Chicago Principles and was adopted at more than 100 other higher education institutions, a touchstone guiding them to uphold these central values.

Each era brings its own challenges, and to meet our own, President **Paul Alivisatos**, AB'81, launched the University of Chicago Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression in 2023. The Chicago Forum, which I lead as faculty director, seeks to promote the understanding, practice, and advancement of free and open discourse on campus and beyond.

In its first year, the Chicago Forum organized more than a dozen events, large and small, on challenging topics as varied as the conflict in the Middle East, affirmative action in the United States, and civil liberties in Hong Kong. These events encouraged students, faculty, and staff from across the University to think critically, listen actively,

and engage productively with one another. The University of Chicago Press published a book I coedited with our executive director, **Tony Banout**, PhD'12, titled *The Chicago Canon on Free Inquiry and Expression* (2024). The volume collects speeches and reports by leaders throughout the University's history—from William Rainey Harper and John Dewey to Robert J. Zimmer and current faculty members.

We have also sought to broaden conversations about free expression at other institutions of higher learning around the country by piloting the Academic Freedom Institute, which debuted in June 2024 and brought administrators and scholars from 22 different schools to UChicago.

Looking ahead, we seek to build on this momentum by deepening conversations on our campus and beyond. We recently welcomed our inaugural Student Advisory Board, a group of 100-plus students from across the schools and divisions who will actively organize events and programs that engage their peers and the larger UChicago community in productive conversations. And the Chicago Forum is investing in free expression scholarship and teaching throughout the University by offering research and course development grants. We also plan to launch a fellowship program to bring others with insights to share to our campus.

As political polarization heightens already profound threats to academic freedom, and as trust in higher education erodes, it is crucial that UChicago take the lead in developing the skills through which ideas are sharpened—or found wanting—and solutions are arrived at. The ability to openly articulate our own ideas and rigorously challenge others' ideas is critical to pushing the boundaries of knowledge and solving the problems facing our world. Through all of its programming, the Chicago Forum strives to model these practices and underline the value of free inquiry and expression.

In light of the importance of this work, I was heartened and delighted recently by a generous gift from an anonymous donor that will do much to advance it. In October the University received $100 million in support of freedom of inquiry and expression, believed to be the largest gift to any institution for this purpose. On the strength of this investment and the ongoing commitment of UChicago's leaders and community, the Chicago Forum will continue to expand and engage more students, faculty, staff, alumni, and others in understanding the value of free expression and its vital relationship to knowledge.

I hope you will keep current with the Chicago Forum's activities and initiatives at thechicagoforum.uchicago.edu. ◆

University of Chicago Law School

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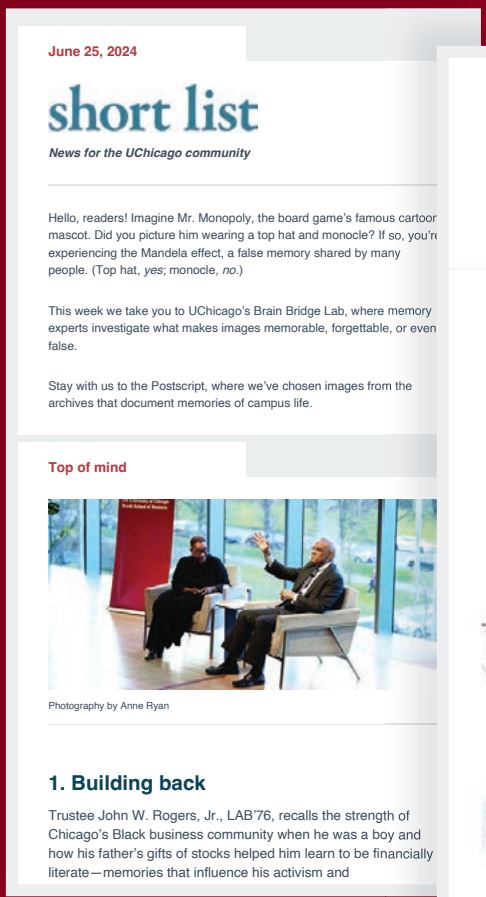


June 25, 2024

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.

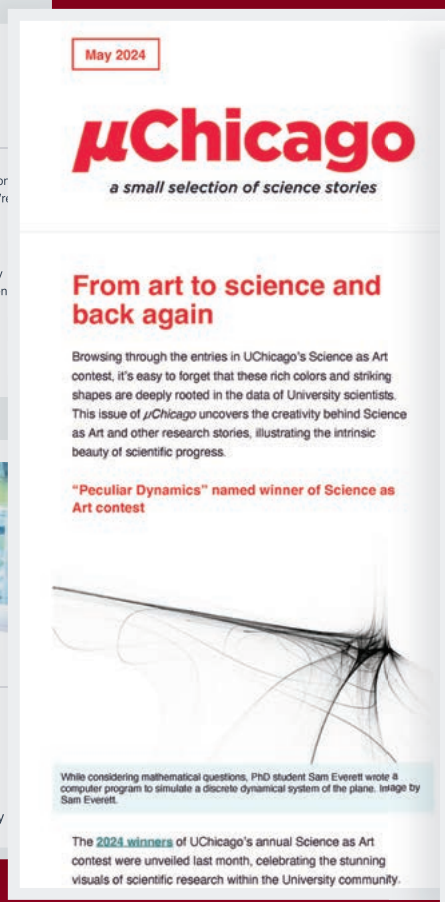
Stay with us to the Postscript, where we've chosen images from the archives that document memories of campus life.

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



May 2024

μChicago

a small selection of science stories

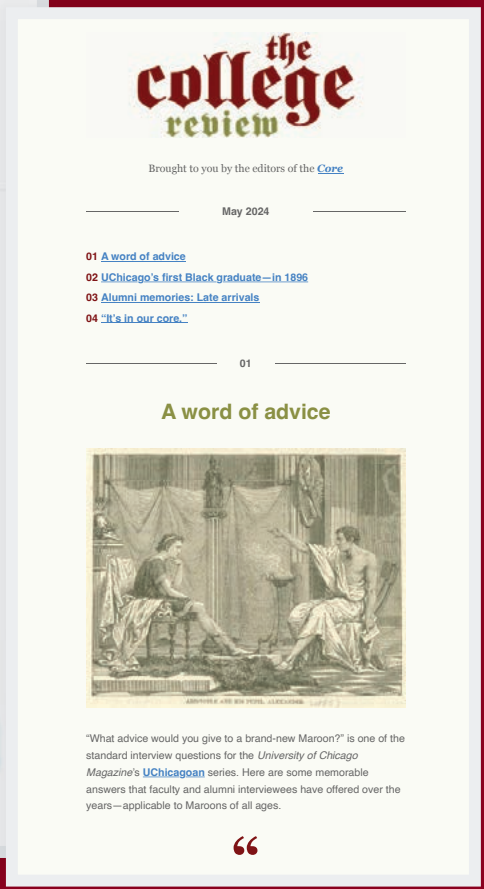
From art to science and back again

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.



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.

“

Short List

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

μChicago

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The College Review

Stories from the College every other month

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

UCHICAGO JOURNAL

RESEARCH AND NEWS IN BRIEF

EARLY SHIFT

A quiet morning dawns on the quads. Did you ever catch the sunrise on campus? Tell us what got you out of bed early (or kept you up late): uchicago-magazine @uchicago.edu.

14 *New Nobel laureates*

16 *Attention Receipts*

20 *Humanities Day*

25 *Historian of the slopes*

Photography by Jason Smith

Newly minted Nobelist James A. Robinson chats with President Paul Alivisatos, AB'81, at a press conference celebrating his achievement. Robinson and his collaborators were honored for their work on the relationship between societal institutions and prosperity.

HONORS

101 acclamations

Two UChicagoans join a distinguished group of Nobel laureates.

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

The call that would change **James A. Robinson**'s life came early on the morning of October 14.

Or rather, the call that would have changed his life—if his phone hadn't been off.

So when Robinson learned he had received the 2024 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, the message came not from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences but from his wife, who had gotten a text from a friend.

"It hasn't quite sunk in yet," Robinson, the Reverend Dr. Richard L. Pearson Professor of Global Conflict Studies and University Professor in the Harris School of Public Policy and the Department of Political Science, said later that morning.

Robinson became the 101st Nobel laureate associated with the University of Chicago, a few days after alumnus **John Jumper**, SM'12, PhD'17, had become the 100th (see "Above the Fold," opposite). Robinson was honored alongside his longtime collaborators, Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson, both of MIT, for their research into the societal institutions formed during colonization and how they affect prosperity. In their many jointly authored publications, the trio seeks to understand why global wealth disparities emerged and why they persist.

A member of the UChicago faculty since 2015, Robinson is Institute Director of The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts. He has taught and conducted fieldwork around the world: in Bolivia, Colombia, Haiti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and other countries. His publications include *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, 2005); *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (Crown Publishers, 2012); and *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty* (Penguin, 2019), all coauthored with Acemoglu.

Robinson's work, President **Paul Alivisatos**, AB'81, said at a press conference celebrating the University's latest Nobel laureate, "is in a deep tradition of University of Chicago scholarship that helps us to see the world anew and to shape it to the betterment of humankind."

Ethan Bueno de Mesquita, AB'96, dean of Harris Public Policy, added that Robinson and his collaborators "set the agenda for a generation of scholars who are seeking to understand how to create peace and prosperity where there was conflict and poverty."

Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson are perhaps best known for their contention that the organization of a country's economic and political institutions, rather than its geography or culture, determines its prosperity.

In particular, Robinson and his colleagues distinguish between two types

Photography by Jason Smith

of institutions—inclusive and extractive—that characterize richer and poorer countries, respectively. Inclusive institutions emphasize power sharing and equal access to advancement, while extractive ones concentrate opportunity in the hands of a select few. In many cases, the researchers argue, the presence of inclusive or extractive institutions is a legacy of the particular type of colonial rule that existed in that country.

Robinson and Acemoglu have also explored the relationship between liberty and prosperity and why democratic states with high degrees of personal liberty have emerged and endured in some places but not others. They attribute the persistence of liberty to a healthy balance of power between state and society. A country with too much state power risks tipping into authoritarianism; a country organized around competing social groups may become lawless. Liberty, in their view, emerges when state and society keep one another in check.

At the press conference, Robinson said that he looked forward to continuing his collaboration with Acemoglu and Johnson. "We've been working together for 30 years, more or less. We're still good friends, still talking about ideas nonstop. I don't think that's going to change," he said. "It's a great recognition, and I just hope we can carry on doing the same thing." ◆

Above the fold

John Jumper, SM'12, PhD'17.

James A. Robinson was not the only Maroon Nobel laureate this year: **John Jumper**, SM'12, PhD'17, shared half of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with artificial intelligence researcher Demis Hassabis for their work on protein structure prediction. (University of Washington professor David Baker received the other half of the prize.)

Proteins are the workhorses of our cells. Formed from spaghettilike strings of amino acids, they fold themselves into complex three-dimensional shapes. These structures are closely related to their functions. For example, collagen strengthens skin and connective tissue thanks to its ropelike form, while Y-shaped antibodies, or immunoglobulins, can efficiently trap invaders on their prongs. Knowing proteins' shapes can help scientists develop new ways to treat disease.

But for years the only way researchers could see the structure of a protein was through laborious experimentation. Many researchers came to believe a better way was possible—perhaps, they reasoned, the structure of a protein could be predicted from its amino acid sequence.

Google DeepMind's AlphaFold, created by Jumper and Hassabis, uses machine learning to do just that. The system is unusual among computational methods for its comparatively high degree of accuracy; its predictions often match protein structures observed via experimentation.

AlphaFold has revolutionized molecular biology. Today, thanks to the software, researchers have working predictions of the structure of almost all the roughly 20,000 proteins in the human body. "The expression 'I alphafolded it' is now something I hear almost every day," one of Jumper's advisers, **Tobin R. Sosnick**, William B. Graham Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, wrote in 2023.

"It's absolutely extraordinary," Jumper said of receiving the Nobel Prize. "I've been a computational biologist a long time, and I like to say in talks: We need this to work. We need computation to solve the problems of biology, and I just love that it's starting to work."—*S. A.* ◆

Photo courtesy Google DeepMind

QUICK STUDY

IMMUNOLOGY

Innate memory

What we think of as the immune system is really two systems. The innate immune system offe s nonspecifi protection against any invader that enters the body, while the adaptive immune system learns how to recognize and combat specifi pathogens. In 2012, however, researchers discovered that the innate immune system can also "remember" like the adaptive immune system does; innate immune memory, or trained immunity, has been observed in response to, for instance, the tuberculosis vaccine. A team led by **Aaron Esser-Kahn** of the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering wanted to see if any small-molecule drugs—pharmaceuticals that are typically administered orally and can easily pass through cell membranes—might have similar effects. After testing some 2,000 drugs, the researchers made the surprising discovery that steroids induced trained immunity in mice—an unexpected result, given that steroids are often used to suppress immune responses like inflammation. The finding could lead to new cancer treatments and improved vaccines. The research was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in July.—*S. A.* ◆

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Fit to print

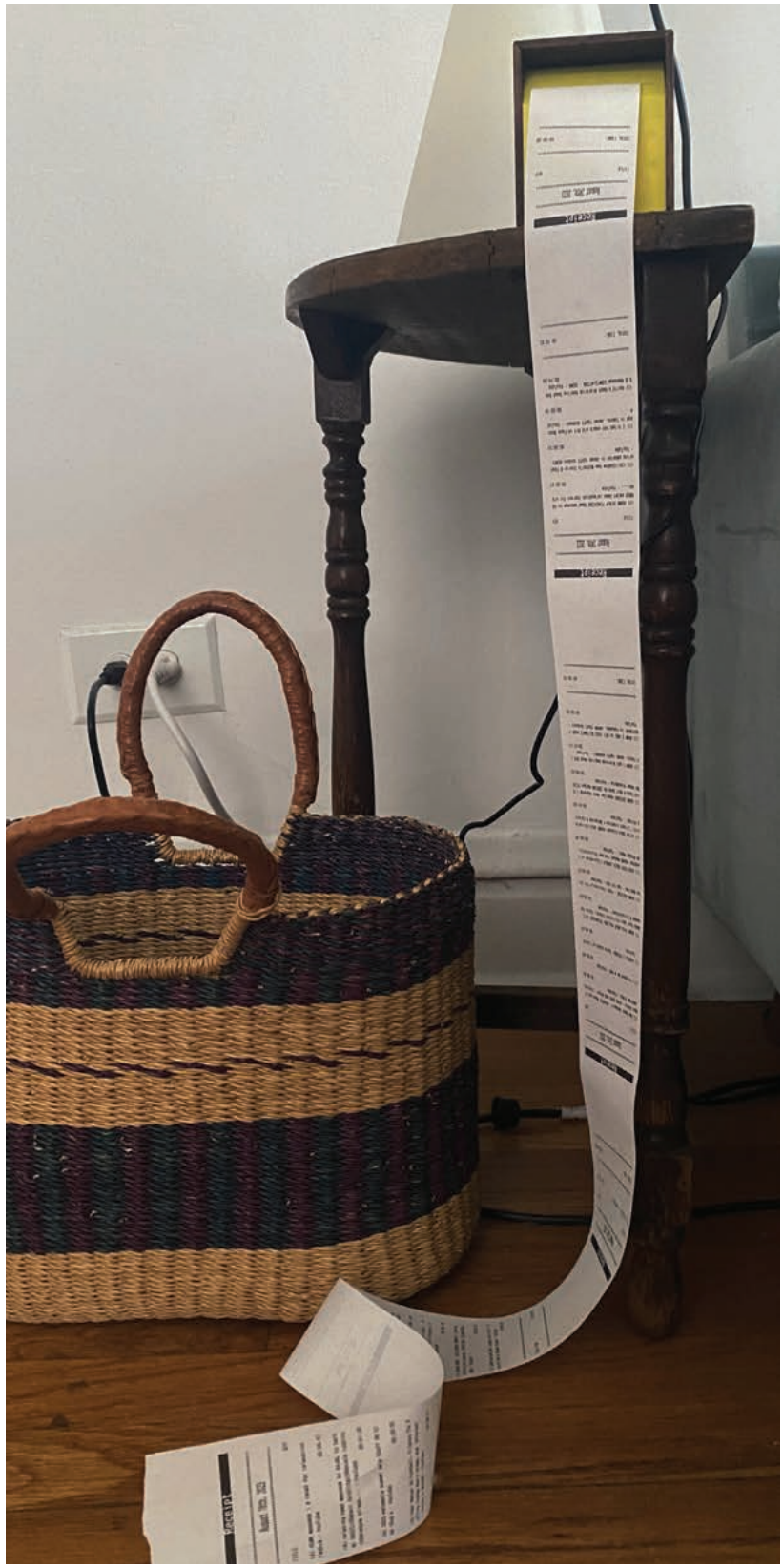
The Actuated Experience Lab is creating gadgets that prompt new ways of thinking about technology.

BY SHILOH MILLER, CLASS OF 2026

The box is made of wood, with a canary-yellow panel on its front hiding the whirring guts of a thermal printer. It's small enough to hold in your hand. There's a mid-century elegance to this piece of technology—it doesn't have the silvery, burnished sleekness of Apple products, with their rounded edges and titanium shells. This is Attention Receipts, an object designed to make your technology usage tangible. The premise is simple: You download a browser plugin; plunk the little box somewhere in your home; and, at the end of the day or at your prompting, the machine spits out a paper receipt. On it is printed the YouTube videos you watched, how long you watched each one, and the sum total of time you spent on the site.

Attention Receipts was created by **Anup Sathya**, a computer science PhD student and a member of the Actuated Experience Lab (AxLab). Animating the project is his fiery resistance to the attention economy—wherein companies deliberately design their products to be addictive in order to collect greater amounts of their users' data to sell to advertisers. "A lot of platforms that we use these days are free," Sathya says, "and they're free for a reason, because we pay with attention."

The receipt format is a nod to both the uncomfortable economic implications of online consumption—*if it's free, you're the product*, goes the aphorism—and the importance of tangibility in reframing how we interact with technology. While there are countless apps, browser extensions, and phone settings designed to help combat mind-



It all adds up: The Attention Receipts box tallies the amount of time users spend watching YouTube videos. The project aims to promote mindful digital media consumption.

Photography by Anup Sathya

less scrolling, these tools are embedded in the devices themselves, which means the cost of technology usage remains literally immaterial. "I've gotten really tired of having another app for everything," Sathya says. "There is a lot of potential for tangibility to have an impact on digital well-being."

Tangibility is the characteristic that unites AxLab's eclectic output. The lab's focus is on human-computer interaction, or HCI, a field dedicated to finding new ways for people to engage with technology. AxLab's particular brand of HCI research proposes that this engagement need not be limited to screen-based interfaces like laptops and phones; it can also be facilitated by technology embedded in the objects and surfaces of daily life. "I do really love the things we have around us, like the real world, the real material objects," AxLab director and computer science assistant professor **Ken Nakagaki** says. Through technology, "we can reimagine or create a new interactive, embodied, and tangible experience."

AxLab's name was inspired by the dual meanings of the word *actuate*, which can mean to put a machine into action or to move a person to action. The lab's aim is to make technology that does both. AxLab's website is filled with examples of these kinds of quirky, experimental creations—a jacket lined with airbags that puff and deflate to make virtual reality games more immersive; small robots that, given a mess of cups and utensils, can set the table for you; kinetic fiber that can stretch, compress, or vibrate in response to stimuli from the human body. "I think these technologies have the power to engage people, make people think, make people take actions, make people be more creative," Nakagaki says.

In a field study conducted by Sathya and Nakagaki, six participants lived with an Attention Receipts box for three weeks. At the end of the study, a majority of participants reported that the object induced a positive change in their interactions with YouTube, especially regarding the perceived quality of the content they chose to watch. Sathya attributes the success of Attention Receipts to the object's materiality. In a way, Nakagaki says, Attention Receipts uses human-computer interaction's own tools against it: "Instead of using tangibility to interact with digital information smoothly, we can use tangibility as a way to resist against it."

Of course, there is always a risk of people or companies co-opting well-intentioned inventions; Sathya gives the hypothetical example of Attention Receipts being used for workplace surveillance. But when it comes to addictive technology, "the other way is to leave people without any tools to fight it." When it's you against developers who are working to make technology as irresistible as possible, self-control only gets you so far.

There's an irony in the fact that a tool for resisting technology was made in a lab focused on human-computer interaction—a discipline whose vision is, as Sathya puts it, "to embed computation in as many things as possible." But to Nakagaki, the goal of all of AxLab's work is to provoke thought about how we do—and don't—want to interact with technology in our daily lives. The prototypes he and his team build are intended "as a speculative thing that maybe you don't necessarily want," Nakagaki says. "What if this thing happened? Do you want it or not? That's part of the discussion, and that's part of the intellectual contribution of this research."

Anyone who has ever been swept away by a current of short-form video content knows that the technology we interact with day to day does not always feel conducive to human flourishing. But this type of mindless digital consumption—the kind that Attention Receipts is designed to counter—is exactly the type in which people are not actuated. In a sense, the project distills AxLab's work into its essentials: envisioning a world in which tech works with our values, not against them. Sathya knows that using technology to save ourselves from technology might sound paradoxical. But the whirlpool of modern algorithms may be too strong to swim away from unassisted. ◆

W. R. HARPER'S INDEX

Smart at 50

Year David Smart cofounded *Esquire* magazine

1933

Dedication date of the David and Alfred Smart Gallery, funded by a posthumous gift from the brothers' family foundation

10.22.74

Year the Smart Gallery was rechristened the Smart Museum

1990

Works in the Smart's collection when it opened

2,491

Works in the collection today

17,000+

Paintings in the collection

782

Students served through classes during the 2023–24 academic year

4,035

Students served through Smart programs in 2023–24

1,487

Cost to visit the Smart—in 1974 and today

$0

Science historian Jordan Bimm teaches Science Communication: Crafting a Science Think Piece, one of several elective courses included in the new Science Communication and Public Discourse minor in the College.

THE COLLEGE

Storytelling, down to a science

A new minor bridges the growing gap between researchers and the public.

BY RORY MCGANN, CLASS OF 2025

Ten students ponder the headline projected at the front of the classroom: "LK-99 Isn't a Superconductor—How Science Sleuths Solved the Mystery." The wording suggests to some of us a Sherlock Holmes–like figure in a lab coat standing back from a corkboard of strung-together research papers, a grainy photo of the mysterious LK-99 compound at their center. Turning to the article itself, my classmates and I decide the author should have explained the relevance of important phrases like "sharp drops in its electrical resistivity" and "partial levitation over a magnet." Then again, since the piece was published in the journal *Nature* instead of in a general readership periodical like *The New York Times*, we note, it makes sense that some unexplained scientific jargon is included.

Title appeal, jargon use, and the character of the publication—these are all factors the class Science Communication: Crafting a Science Think Piece teaches students to consider when consuming and conveying scientific information. The class is part of the Parrhesia Program for Public Discourse's new Science Communication and Public Discourse (SCPD) undergraduate minor, first offered in the 2023–24 academic year.

The program responds to declining public trust in science: The Pew Research Center reports that, from April 2020 to November 2023, Americans' trust in scientists dropped 14 percent. Pew notes that this drop coincided with the most acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, when crucial advice from health officials in the United States was undercut by disinformation campaigns and attempts to politicize science.

To regain the public's trust, science communicators must learn to present technical information in a persuasive, engaging way. That demands scientific and media literacy—both of which SCPD aims to bolster through its courses.

Even if students don't become professional scientists or science communicators, "people need to know how to navigate scientific discourse in public life," says **Jordan Bimm**, a historian of space exploration and assistant instructional professor of SCPD. In his view, it's an essential part of a liberal arts education and meaningful "training for the real world."

Professor of neurobiology and faculty director of the SCPD program

Photography by Jason Smith

“There’s been this tradition of looking down on scientists who make forays into the public,” she says. Investing in a minor dedicated to public interaction combats that stigma and acknowledges why research is done: for the good of all people. It’s also worth remembering that most research is funded by the public, says Mason: “They’re our bosses, and they deserve a report.”

Peggy Mason notes the challenges science communication faces within academia. “There’s been this tradition of looking down on scientists who make forays into the public,” she says. Investing in a minor dedicated to public interaction combats that stigma and acknowledges why research is done: for the good of all people. It’s also worth remembering that most research is funded by the public, says Mason: “They’re our bosses, and they deserve a report.”

For Crafting a Science Think Piece, that report takes the form of a 2,000- to 5,000-word article from each student. The class meets twice a week and covers communication theories, journalistic practices, and analysis of other writers’ published think pieces. Students are expected to incorporate the theories they’ve studied into their articles as the quarter moves along. For example, if your article compares an upcoming space telescope to past projects, then the lesson on navigating federal archives under the Freedom of Information Act will be important. Students’ completed think pieces are polished products that fare well outside the classroom: A piece submitted by a student in the autumn 2023 class earned her first place (and $1,500) in the annual John Crerar Foundation Science Writing Prize for College Students.

Other courses in the minor include Producing a Science Video Story, Designing a Science Exhibit, and Producing a Science Podcast, providing students with experience in a breadth of different media that appeal to different audiences. The instructors’ diverse professions—the roster includes a science historian, a linguist, a research scientist, and an investigative journalist—demonstrate how widely science communication skills can be applied.

“It’s meeting the students where they are in terms of their interest,” Bimm explains. He hopes the program will attract “anyone who has an interest not just in science but in the relationships between science and society or history and science.” It’s succeeding already: Classes have accrued wait lists and earned high ratings from students.

So far, about 15 students have declared the minor. Bimm and Mason are eager to grow that number, because they believe their field will need more skilled spokespeople in the future. “Ten years from now, science communication is going to be even more important than it is today,” says Bimm. “I expect students who take these classes will look back on this training and be like, ‘Yes, this is something that I still think about, something that I still use, even more than I thought I would.’” ◆

QUICK STUDY

BIOLOGY

Something to chew on

Dental plaque—the thin film on your teeth where they meet your gums—is composed of hundreds of types of bacteria. One of the most prevalent, *Corynebacterium matruchotii* (it’s a mouthful), functions as scaffolding for other bacteria in the oral microbiome. Until recently, the process by which *C. matruchotii* grow and reproduce eluded scientists. To make the bacterium easier to study, researchers at the Marine Biological Laboratory dyed the organism with fluorescent amino acids and recorded a time-lapse video of its growth. They discovered that *C. matruchotii* is able to split into up to 14 new cells at once, in a kind of reproduction known as multiple fission. This division strategy is rare in the broader bacterial kingdom, where the vast majority of bacteria split into only two new cells. Because of how intertwined *C. matruchotii* is with other bacteria, these discoveries help account for the spatial organization of the entire oral microbiome. The study was published September 3 in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.—S. M.* ◆

ARTS AND LETTERS

Humanities Day, in brief

Scenes from Humanities Day: James F. Osborne, associate professor in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, spoke on the love affair between archaeologists and pottery.

The Division of the Humanities' annual celebration of its discipline took place on October 26, 2024. Here are snapshots of just a few of the day's events; you can find more talks from this and previous years on the division's YouTube page.

Of sailors and shipwrecks

"Everybody loves a good shipwreck," said archaeologist **Derek Kennet**, "unless they're a sailor." Shipwrecks—and the coins, fragments of pottery, and other items they left behind in the Indian Ocean—are the only evidence for the thriving commercial relationship between the Islamic world and China 1,200 years ago. "Until that time, there hadn't been that level of connectivity," explained Kennet, Howard E. Hallengren Professor of Arabian Peninsula and Gulf States Archaeology in the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, and the College. "It's what you might call early globalization."

One of the major pieces of evidence for this connection is the Belitung shipwreck, the remains of a sailing vessel that sank around 826 CE off the coast of modern-day Indonesia. Kennet explained that the vessel's material and construction method (wooden planks sewn rather than nailed together) was typical of boats made in much of the Indian Ocean area at that time, but the type of wood and style might suggest that the boat was made in the Gulf of Oman area. However, the vast majority of objects on board were Changsha bowls, a kind of highly glazed Chinese pottery made during the Tang dynasty. It is not clear how popular the polychrome style of the bowls was in China at the time, suggesting that the pottery was "very possibly made for the Muslim market of the Middle East," Kennet said.

Archaeologists can glean information from the smallest pottery fragments as well as the largest shipwrecks. One of Kennet's research projects involved analyzing the chemical composition of 120 potsherds from the ninth century to identify their chemical signatures. Through this process, "we can group them and say they were probably produced in the same kiln or town," he said. Such grouping allows researchers to map both short- and long-distance trade routes, showing how merchants spread goods within the empires.

The title of Kennet's talk, "The Archaeology of Sinbad the Sailor," references the seafaring hero of *The Thousand and One Nights*. Sinbad, Kennet acknowledged, was a fictional character, but he was inspired by real sailors of the period and their often perilous voyages from the Middle East to China and Southeast Asia. "There's an element of basic human energy and exploration," Kennet said. "It's not recorded. These guys didn't write. But they changed the world through their own drive."—*S. M.*

Machine made

"What does it mean to create something new?" **Jason Salavon** asked the attendees gathered at the Weston Game Lab for his talk, "AI, Creativity, and the Limits of Data."

Salavon, an associate professor in the Department of Visual Arts, has built his career at the intersection of art and technology, probing questions of newness and originality. Long before the recent proliferation of image-generating artificial intelligence (AI) models like DALL-E, Salavon explained, artists had begun using programs—systems with rules—in their work. He pointed out two early examples of this kind of art: mathematician John Conway's digital configuration *Game of Life* (1970), in which squares skitter across a grid in distinct patterns, and Sol LeWitt's *Wall Drawing 51* (1970), in which every architectural element in a room is connected with a straight line.

The subtitle of Salavon's talk was "Good Art Is Off-Manifold." The "manifold" is the sum total of what an AI model can recognize as a depiction of a certain entity, such as a cat or a bicycle. A model "learns" to recognize and generate these items by analyzing billions of images and finding common features. "Good art is about being off that center," Salavon said. For him, the question becomes how to transcend an existing dataset to make something novel. He displayed his 2020 project *Little Infinity*, a wallpaper compiled from 350,000 images drawn from ImageNet, a database often used for AI training. From a distance, the wallpaper looked not unlike multicolored beaded curtains. But as he zoomed in on a digitized version, the streaks resolved themselves into distinct images—a burger, a

Photography by Joe Sterbenc

From left: Amber Ginsburg, a lecturer in the Department of Visual Arts, presented her living sculpture *Untidy Objects*. Earlier in the day, musical performances punctuated Philip V. Bohlman's keynote lecture, "On Goodness."

face, a violet—before vanishing again as he zoomed out.

Salavon's current work involves manipulating the code of an AI model to create something impossible to generate with a prompt alone. He showed the audience the results of some of his experiments—distorted, blooming images, reminiscent of dreams or psychedelic hallucinations. Salavon emphasized that AI art is not simply inputting a prompt and receiving an image, but rather the ineffable process of taking a preexisting dataset and making something unexpected from it. Salavon rejects the condemnatory attitude some humanists have toward AI. "These things are really philosophically interesting," he said. "Artists should be there."—*S. M.*

"It is an abiding premise of humanistic thought, and the action it sets in motion, that the arts and the humanities together do things. And it is the conviction that I share with you today that music and sound do good. The affective and the effective converge in music, and accordingly they imbue music with life—the life of the collective community, the life that returns through the realization of goodness."

—Keynote speaker Philip V. Bohlman, Ludwig Rosenberger Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Music and the College

Primary sources

Eric Slauter's talk, "Human Being and Citizen: A Hands-on Approach to the Humanities Core," took place in one of his favorite teaching spaces: the Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center. Two years ago, Slauter, deputy dean of the Humanities and master of the Humanities Collegiate Division, decided to teach the entirety of his Humanities Core course Human Being and Citizen (HBC) in one of the Special Collections seminar rooms, where students could handle objects and documents from the library's trove.

It was an idea born partly of panic. Slauter, associate professor in the Department of English Language and Literature and the College, specializes in 18th-century American literature. Most of the works on the HBC syllabus "frightened me," he confessed. "I didn't think I had any business teaching them." Bringing the course inside Special Collections, he reasoned, "would give me enough props to work with."

The decision was transformative for both Slauter and his students. "It changes your experience of, say, the work of Homer to be able to see the media shifts—from an ancient papyrus fragment to a first printing from movable type in the 15th century to the various printed translations that have been made of the text," he said. Slauter also found archival documents about the history of HBC itself.

Working with these documents helped Slauter understand the Core curriculum and its development more deeply. "We sometimes engage in collective myths. All institutions do," he observed. "One is of an unbroken tradition of the Core, but that's not true."

In fact, the Core—and the Humanities Core in particular—has had many shapes and flavors, yet its ambitions have remained more fixed. "The Humanities Core introduces students to some primary texts, and the texts change from year to year," Slauter said, "but more so, it introduces them to the task of interpreting those texts, and especially of confronting them as an academic community together." Offering that introduction represents "probably the most important responsibility that any of us in the faculty of the humanities have."—*S. A.* ◆

Photography by Joe Sterbenc

ATHLETICS

School of failure

Marius Aleksa, AB'12, helps baseball players get past the strikeouts.

BY CARRIE GOLUS, AB'91, AM'93

Before he was mental skills coach for the Miami Marlins, Marius Aleksa, AB'12, taught middle school and worked with soldiers training to become Green Berets.

Marius Aleksa, AB'12, mental skills coach with the Miami Marlins baseball team, has a simple analogy to explain the difference between mental health and mental skills. If an athlete is having mental health issues, "it's like having an injury," he says, so they would see a doctor or therapist.

In contrast, Aleksa's job centers on performance. He helps players handle the mental side of the game, so their physical performance is the best it can be: "Optimizing," he says. "What are you doing well? How do we get even better? It's like going to a strength and conditioning coach."

A psychology major and varsity swimmer at UChicago, Aleksa earned a master's degree in performance psychology at National University. Before joining the Marlins in 2023, he was a mental performance coach at the US Army Special Warfare Center and School, where he worked with soldiers training to become Green Berets.

5 | The number of school swimming records Aleksa set at UChicago—even though he was a walk-on. "I considered myself an athlete first, and it really helped me be the best student that I could be," he says. "With the rigorous course load at UChicago, if I'm not on top of my studies, I'm not getting the grades that I want. So I'm stressing about that, which is going to bleed into my athletic performance."

7 | The grade Aleksa taught through Teach for America in Detroit. "When you do classroom management with seventh graders, those lessons translate to working with soldiers and baseball players. Because sometimes grown men can be like seventh graders.

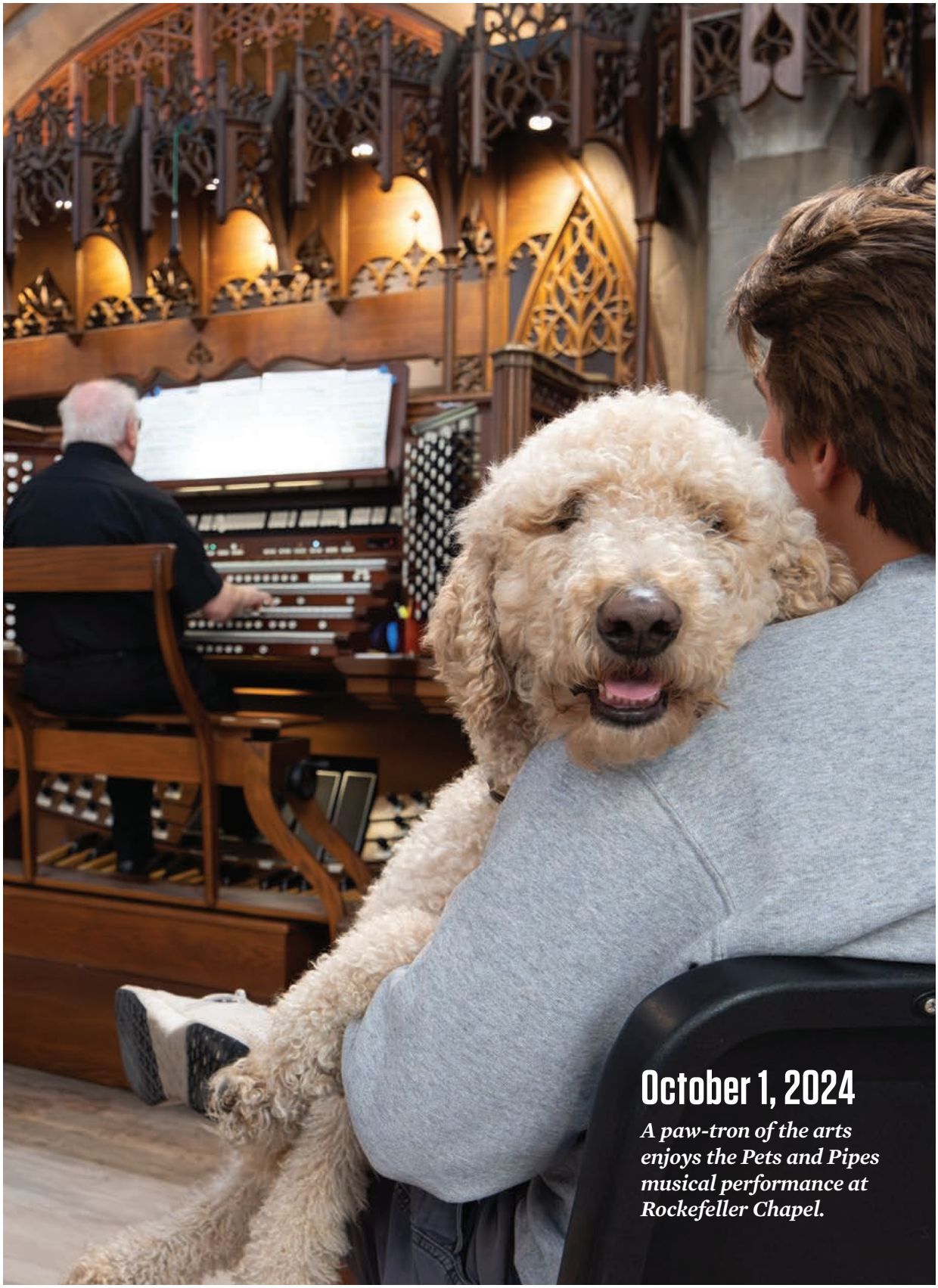
"I absolutely love Detroit. It's got similar Midwest blue-collar vibes as Chicago, and everyone has so much pride and love for the city. I lived and taught in downtown Detroit. Then on the weekends I was a coach at a swimming club in the suburbs. That's when I solidified that I wanted to do coaching."

162 | The number of games per year he attends with the Miami Marlins—that is, all of them. "I'm fully embedded with the team. I try to create the conditions so the players know they can approach me and talk to me, but I'm not going to force the issue."

7 out of 10 | The number of times the best batters don't get a hit. "The big thing in baseball is, what's your relationship with failure? If you're failing only seven times out of 10—at the end of the season, if you have a .300 batting average—you're going to be pretty happy. But in the moment, you're not getting on base.

"We see some blowups. Sometimes if it's their third, fourth strikeout of a game, a player might come in the dugout and throw something. Have a little fi . If it's not harming anyone—if that's their way of getting it out and it puts them in a better position to go up to that next at-bat—I don't have a huge issue with it." ◆

Photo courtesy Miami Marlins



October 1, 2024

A paw-tron of the arts enjoys the Pets and Pipes musical performance at Rockefeller Chapel.

Photography by Anne Ryan

For the record

ADVANCING CANCER CARE

The AbbVie Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to addressing health inequities, has made a $75 million donation to the University of Chicago to support the construction of UChicago Medicine's new cancer pavilion—the first standalone facility in Illinois dedicated to cancer care and research. The building, to be named the AbbVie Foundation Cancer Pavilion when it opens in 2027, reflects the shared mission of both organizations to advance health equity and increase access to high-quality, culturally competent care. The donation helps fund the $815 million, 575,000-square-foot building, which will serve as UChicago Medicine's flagship hub for cancer research, pioneering clinical treatments, and personalized patient care.

SUPPORT FOR BOOTH

Global investment management firm AQR cofounders **Clifford Asness**, MBA'91, PhD'94, and UChicago trustee **John Liew**, AB'89, MBA'94, PhD'95, have made a $60 million gift to the University in support of Chicago Booth and its Master in Finance Program. In honor of their commitment, the program will be renamed the Asness and Liew Master in Finance Program. This August Booth welcomed the first students into the 15-month program, which is intended for recent college graduates seeking to build on their analytical skills and start a career in finance with a competitive advantage. This program and the Master in Management Program were announced in 2023 as the school's first new degree programs in 88 years. Asness and Liew joined Booth faculty and students from the two new programs for a lunch and fireside chat in November.

MAKING A SPLASH

Botany Pond reopened in October following an extensive restoration. Work over the past year included repairs to the pond's base and walls, major structural reinforcement for the bridge, a new biological filtration system, and improved pedestrian access and gathering spaces. Next steps include adding mud and zooplankton and introducing larger pond inhabitants, such as native fish and turtles. Ducks are expected to return to Botany Pond in the spring.

DREAMING SPIRES

College fourth-years **Francesco Rahe** and **Anqi Qu** have received Rhodes Scholarships to study at the University of Oxford next fall. Rahe, who is majoring in Fundamentals and religious studies, will pursue a master's degree in classical Indian religions; Qu, an economics major, plans to study innovative methods of applying artificial intelligence to economic research and policy. They are among the 55 UChicago students and alumni to have received the prestigious honor.

MEDICAL EXCELLENCE

Selwyn O. Rogers Jr., James E. Bowman Jr. Professor of Surgery, was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in October. Rogers is a trauma surgeon, public health expert, founding director of UChicago's Trauma Center, and executive vice president for community health engagement at UChicago Medicine. He was among the 100 people elected this year to the academy, which recognizes outstanding achievement in medicine. To read about new alumni inductees, see Notes, page 52.

GREEN SEEDS

A new master's program in environmental science will provide students with the foundational quantitative and data science skills needed across a wide range of environmental science disciplines. Students in the MS in Environmental Science program—set to launch in autumn 2025—will take data science courses and choose from electives covering topics such as climate dynamics, glaciology, and paleoclimatology. The program aims to prepare students for further graduate study or careers in fields related to the environment.

ENERGETIC ENDORSEMENT

Two UChicago scientists have been selected as awardees for the US Department of Energy's (DOE) Early Career Research Program. **Allison Squires**, a Neubauer Family Assistant Professor of Molecular Engineering, will research how cyanobacteria efficiently turn light into energy, with the goal of improving technologies such as solar cells. **Austin Joyce**, an assistant professor of astronomy and astrophysics, will use cosmological quantum field theory to understand how the universe evolved and got its structure. Both will receive five-year grants.

PHILOSOPHER HONORED

Robert B. Pippin, the Evelyn Stefansson Nef Distinguished Service Professor in the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought, the Department of Philosophy, and the College, has received the Luhmann Science Prize from the Sparkasse Bielefeld Foundation in Germany. Pippin, whose research encompasses studies of 19th-century philosophy and 20th-century filmmaking, was honored for his contributions to the political, moral, and aesthetic self-image of society.

HANDS-ON SCIENCE

The third annual South Side Science Festival attracted more than 4,500 attendees this year. Co-organized by UChicago's Biological Sciences Division, Physical Sciences Division, Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering, and Office of Civic Engagement, the festival aims to bring the campus and broader South Side communities together to explore science in a fun, accessible way. Activities included a paper airplane design contest, a liquid nitrogen show, an emergency medicine demo, and a laser maze.

From left: Photography by Jean Lachat; UChicago News; UChicago News; photography by John Zich

INTERVIEW

Downhill all the way

Seth Masia, AB'70, has devoted his career to the past, present, and future of skiing.

BY SHILOH MILLER, CLASS OF 2026

For **Seth Masia**, AB'70, skiing is an intellectual pursuit as well as a physical one. Over the course of his 56-year career as a ski writer, ski historian, and environmentalist, he has examined the sport's past and fought for its future. And as the current president of the International Skiing History Association, he shares the legacy of skiing with aficionados worldwide. This interview has been edited and condensed.

When did you start skiing?

In the summer of 1968 I was hitchhiking around in Europe, and I wanted to do some climbing. So I went to Chamonix. It was right after the Olympics, and the French were absolutely nuts about skiing. That was the year that Jean-Claude Killy won three gold medals, which were all the skiing gold medals that were to be had in those days. Half the population of the town was up on the glacier running slalom gates.

I couldn't find anyone to climb with, but somebody suggested, why don't you grab a pair of skis and come on up to the glacier? So I rented some old wooden skis and leather boots, went up to the glacier, and rolled around in the corn snow for a couple of days and really got hooked.

What was it that got you hooked on skiing?

The thing that has always appealed to me about the sports I get involved in is the sense of mastery. Of being able to be proud of your own skill. And that combined with the speed, the wind in your face. Rock climbing, skiing, motorcycling—I've always been most attracted to sports that have a thrill of danger.

You also have a background in environmentalism. How did you get into that?

The ski season has grown several weeks shorter over the course of my career. Working for *Ski Magazine*, I was traveling all over the world, skiing on different continents. Everywhere I went I could see glaciers melting. So I started writing about climate change in 1989. Eventually I went back to school and got a master's in environmental journalism, and that's what led me to work for the American Solar Energy Society. I guess that's one of the decisions I made because I wanted to be a good guy. Skiing has such a self-involved culture. I always felt a little bit guilty that skiing was not making a great contribution to the health and wealth of humanity in general.

How was your early writing about climate change received by the ski world?

It's interesting. I wrote a feature story for *Ski Magazine* in 1989 on the future of skiing on a warming planet. It was too distant for a lot of people to want to pay attention to. There was a fair amount of positive reaction and a whole lot of shrugged shoulders. But now everybody understands what's going on. A number of ski areas have closed permanently. Glaciers continue to shrink. No one industry is large enough to fix the problem by itself. As no one nation is. Everybody wants it to be somebody else's problem.

What drew you to ski history?

I've always had a good mind for remembering dates and perceiving patterns. Following the history of sports can provide some interesting insights into society at large. For instance, the big boom in skiing in North America happened more or less as a direct result of the takeover of skiing by the Nazis in the '30s.

There's a long history in Austria and Germany of mountain sports being reflective of German nationalism. The Alpine clubs and the ski associations excluded those they considered to be non-Aryans from their activities. When the Nazis came to power in the '30s, a lot of people fled to Britain and North America, and they brought their passion for skiing with them. That's really what got Alpine skiing rolling in North America. To do ski history, you have to have a pretty keen sense of how it all fi s into the wider world.

What is your fondest skiing memory?

Oh boy, so many of them. I love skiing powder, so heli-skiing in Canada is always at the top of the list. I got to spend three days skiing in France with Jean-Claude Killy at one point. I enjoyed teaching skiing. It's hard to single out the specific days. It's all good. ◆

READ MORE AT MAG.UCHICAGO.EDU/MASIA.

Illustration by Robert Ball

A FINE BALANCE

A new institute confronts climate change and economic growth as closely linked challenges.

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

Introducing the University's Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth at an event this past fall, economist **Michael Greenstone**, LAB'87, laid out the institute's challenge in stark terms: "The world does not have an example of a society becoming wealthy, and all the comforts that come along with that, without consuming lots and lots of energy." Greenstone, the Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor in the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics, the Harris School of Public Policy, and the College, has directed UChicago's Energy Policy Institute (EPIC) since 2014 and now leads the new institute as its founding faculty director. Whether in rural India or right here in Chicago, "there are families that aspire to better lifestyles for themselves and their children," he said—"and that runs through increased energy consumption."

Founding faculty director Michael Greenstone, LAB'87, speaks at the October 30 launch of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth.

The problem? Fossil fuels, which largely remain the cheapest way to meet those energy needs, are damaging lives, livelihoods, and the planet.

With Greenstone delivering his remarks in front of a large window overlooking the Midway, the 77-degree day in late October could hardly escape his listeners' notice, or his own comment. But, he reminded the crowd, data of all kinds show that climate change is "not just the more pleasant fall in Chicago." India, for one, now experiences summer days over 40 to 45 degrees Celsius—104 to 113 degrees Fahrenheit—"and that impairs people's lives in very consequential ways." Crops fail, people can't work, people die prematurely. The world over, extreme weather events are becoming more typical and more widespread.

Such downstream effects of the 1.3 degrees Celsius rise in Earth's temperature since the Industrial Revolution, Greenstone said, are one of the twin challenges the new institute will take on, along with the world's ever-persistent need for economic growth.

"So it's these two ideas," he said, "climate and growth. And the question: Must they really be in conflict with each other?" Animating everything the new institute will do is a deeply held belief that a balance must be struck; that at the intersection of technology, economics, and policy are solutions that will address both challenges; and that UChicago has the people and knowledge to find those solutions.

The October 30 launch of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth was a major event. Over the afternoon, Greenstone was joined at the Rubenstein Forum by UChicago's president and provost, the institute's other faculty leaders, experts and policy makers from the developed and developing worlds, and Illinois governor J. B. Pritzker and senior senator Dick Durbin (D-IL). Throughout the day, a career fair allowed students to better understand different climate and energy career paths, while a "climate showcase" of research programs and organizations and a student poster display demonstrated some of the work already underway.

In opening remarks, President **Paul Alivisatos**, AB'81, elaborated on why this institute, these challenges, and this moment are the right ones. The climate problem, he said, has inspired research centers at institutions everywhere—all needed efforts. In launching the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth, UChicago is building on its particular strengths.

On one hand, Alivisatos said, that means building on a long track record of "applying economic and policy-based thinking to tackle major societal challenges." Greenstone and his EPIC colleagues have done that in the climate and energy arena through innovations like the world's first pollution market, in the Indian state of Gujarat, and the Air Quality Life Index, which quantifies the impact of air pollution concentrations on life expectancy. Economics and policy work is one of the institute's three research pillars.

Another singular strength of UChicago is a deep bench of scientists working at the cutting edge of energy storage technology. Between the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering (PME) on campus and the intertwined research of Argonne National Laboratory nearby, managed for the US Department of Energy by UChicago, "we are home to one of the nation's largest concentrations of energy innovators," Alivisatos said. This is the institute's second research pillar. Its Energy Technologies Initiative (ETI) seeks the storage solutions needed to create a cleaner energy infrastructure at scale. ETI's work is led by PME professor **Y. Shirley Meng**, who has spent her career seeking and finding better materials and methods for storing energy—better batteries, to be succinct.

Previous page: NASA GSFC_20171208_Archive_e001592. This page: Photography by Jason Smith

THE WORLD NEEDS A GENERATION OF THINKERS AND SPECIAL PEOPLE WHO CAN SET THE PACE.

The institute's third research pillar creates a new field of study: climate systems engineering. The field has developed "as a hedge against the unwelcome possibility that large-scale interventions may be needed," Alivisatos said at the launch—in the event that efforts to systemically reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change run out of time. These interventions might include some method of removing carbon from the atmosphere, local efforts to protect melting glaciers, or using particles in the atmosphere to reflect the sun's light. University professor of geophysical sciences **David Keith**, an internationally acknowledged leader in this area who joined UChicago in 2023, is the founding faculty director of the institute's Climate Systems Engineering Initiative, which will explore such measures and seek to thoroughly understand their potential risks and benefi s.

Economics and policy, energy storage, climate systems engineering: These areas, where the University of Chicago is especially well positioned to contribute, form the research foundation of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth. In its leaders' vision, cross-disciplinary research will take root between and beyond the central pillars, and with it the potential to generate the next big climate ideas. Just as central to its mission is the institute's novel vision for education.

The world needs a generation of thinkers and special people who can set the pace," Alivisatos said at the launch. It needs individuals, especially those just setting out into higher education, "who can see the climate challenge from its many angles, appreciate the societal and economic complexities, understand what is required technically—and even politically—to confront these problems." To that end, in September 2025, the University will introduce the Chicago Curriculum on Climate and Sustainable Growth.

The curriculum will provide "a road map for educating an entire generation of leaders, thinkers, and entrepreneurs on the seminal challenge of our time," in the institute's words. Law professor **David A. Weisbach** is leading development of the curriculum, which is grounded in eight required courses and offers specialized concentrations (see "The Chicago Curriculum," above). Over time, the institute's leaders expect that the curriculum will be adopted at other institutions around the world.

THE CHICAGO CURRICULUM

Available beginning in Autumn Quarter 2025, the Chicago Curriculum on Climate and Sustainable Growth builds on eight foundational courses that grapple with the climate and sustainable growth challenge from multiple perspectives:

- Climate Science
- Climate and Energy Economics
- Politics and Law of Energy and Climate
- Energy Technology and Energy Systems
- Humanistic Approaches to the Climate Problem
- Climate Impacts and Adaptation
- International Perspectives on Energy and Climate
- Global Perspectives

Y. SHIRLEY MENG

At UChicago since 2022, Y. Shirley Meng is known for her innovative approaches to discovering better battery materials—a prerequisite to moving away from fossil fuel use. Bringing quantum mechanics and supercomputing to bear on the quest for ways to safely and reliably store more energy, Meng, faculty director of the institute's Energy Technologies Initiative, has made key discoveries in rechargeable batteries for electric vehicles; power sources for the Internet of Things, all the connected devices we use every day; and grid-scale energy storage.

This past September the US Department of Energy selected Argonne National Laboratory to host a new research hub, the Energy Storage Research Alliance (ESRA), and selected Meng to direct it. Nearly 50 researchers from three national labs and 12 universities, including UChicago, will come together at ESRA to address pressing battery challenges.

From top: Photography by Jason Smith; photography by John Zich

DAVID KEITH

As faculty director of the new institute's Climate Systems Engineering Initiative, David Keith builds on more than 25 years exploring potential technological interventions to reduce the effects of climate change, an approach that he articulated and advocated for in his book *A Case for Climate Engineering* (MIT Press, 2013). He studies policy related to climate and energy, for instance analyzing electricity markets and carbon prices and investigating how the public perceives risky geoengineering measures.

Also an engineer, Keith has built hardware including the first interferometer for atoms, a high-accuracy infrared spectrometer for NASA's ER-2 aircraft, and a stratospheric propelled balloon for solar engineering. In 2009 he founded Carbon Engineering, a company developing technology to capture CO_2 from ambient air.

Photography by Jason Smith

Speaking to the need for the curriculum, Greenstone recounted his experiences talking to college-age US students about climate change. "There's a little reeducation that has to go on," he said. Many "have a very one-sided view of the climate and what I like to think of as the climate and growth problem, and in truth, they haven't lived—they may have visited, but they haven't lived—in a place where incomes are very low or energy consumption is very low." The new curriculum will give "a real 360-degree perspective" including climate and energy law, science and technology, international perspectives, impact and adaptations, and humanistic perspectives on the relationship between human beings and our planet.

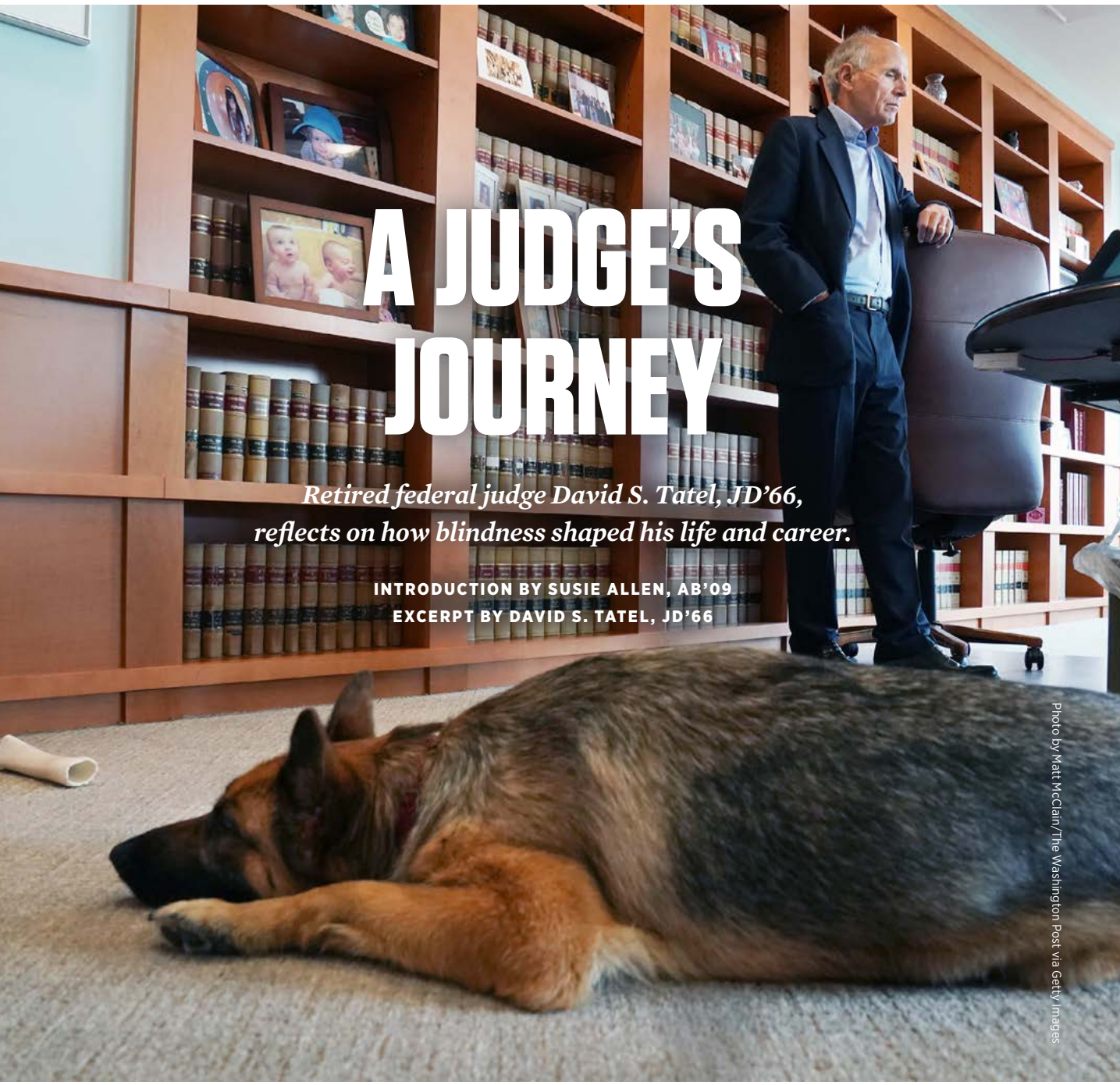
Bringing it all together in students' fourth year will be an experiential course. Greenstone envisions it bringing students to places where, in different ways, climate matters most in people's daily lives: to rural India to see "what it's like to live with a couple-hundred kilowatt hours of electricity"; to west Texas to witness "what a booming fracking town looks like"; to Wall Street to meet with investors; and to Washington, DC, to talk to policymakers. The broad training that precedes this capstone course will have given students "the tools to hold these multiple competing thoughts in their heads." Overall, the curriculum aims to "produce better leaders and better citizens."

Groundbreaking climate and energy research is nothing new at UChicago. EPIC, the institute that Greenstone has led for a decade, has had tangible impact on measuring, educating about, and ameliorating the effects of climate change. UChicago geophysical scientists, chemists, and physicists have long contributed to our understanding of the atmosphere and the effects on it of carbon dioxide buildup.

But the particular approaches that come together in the new institute are uniquely wedded to this moment and this university—and, its leaders believe, are uniquely potent.

In their vision, the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Growth is an all-UChicago endeavor. Early in the planning, Greenstone told the launch event audience, University and faculty leaders conducted a "listening tour" across campus that revealed deep and avid interest.

As well as engaging the 150 or so current faculty who raised their hands, the institute will hire 20 new faculty members over the next five years. Searches are underway now for positions in law, political science, economics, materials science, and artificial intelligence. "The institute's interdisciplinary, collaborative approach is crucial for addressing the complexities of climate change," said Provost **Katherine Baicker** at the launch. "It will create a dynamic platform that engages the full breadth of insights across our campus community." ◆



A JUDGE'S JOURNEY

Retired federal judge David S. Tatel, JD'66, reflects on how blindness shaped his life and career.

INTRODUCTION BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09
EXCERPT BY DAVID S. TATEL, JD'66

Photo by Matt McClain/The Washington Post via Getty Images

Growing up, **David S. Tatel**, JD'66, imagined he would be a scientist like his father. But the civil rights movement and President John F. Kennedy's call for young people to enter public service set Tatel on a different path—one that led him to law school, the practice of civil rights law, the Office for Civil Rights, and, eventually, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, where he served as a judge until his retirement from the bench in 2023.

Yet, as Tatel writes in his new book, *Vision: A Memoir of Blindness and Justice* (Little, Brown, 2024), there is a curious irony at the heart of his career. Through many of the years he spent fighting to protect the rights of marginalized groups, he thought of civil rights law as something for other people and not for him—even as he was losing his sight because of a progressive genetic disease called retinitis pigmentosa. Tatel was diagnosed with the condition at age 15; by the time he had reached his 30s, he could no longer see words on a page.

At the Office for Civil Rights, which he led from 1977 to 1979, Tatel worked to guide and enforce some of the nation's first laws preventing discrimination against people with disabilities. "And here I was, the director of the office responsible for that," Tatel says. "I had an obvious disability, yet I was hiding from it." Even when he began using a cane and concealing his blindness became impossible, Tatel chose not to discuss his disability in public.

He would make different choices today. "Looking back," he reflects in the book, "I regret my refusal to discuss my blindness and the shame I felt when others mentioned it. ... I *wasn't* a judge who was just like everyone else, and the life experiences born from my blindness were valuable, not shameful." Writing *Vision* forced him to be more open about his visual impairment and its effects on his life than he had ever been before.

The book also offered Tatel an opportunity to look back on other aspects of his life and career. He recounts a memorable first date at Jimmy's with his now-wife, Edie, as well as formative experiences in law school, where the intellectual environment was intense but invigorating. "Law felt like science, but with words, or like political science, but with rules," he writes. "Throughout my years on the DC Circuit, I often found myself thinking and writing in ways I learned long ago in Chicago."

As a judge on the DC Circuit, Tatel handled cases about some of the most complex and important issues facing the nation: the fate of prisoners at the Guantánamo Bay detention camp, net neutrality, pollution, voting rights, and many others. In each instance, Tatel says, he tried to apply the law faithfully. Judicial restraint was his guiding philosophy, and it helped him grapple with the gravity of his position: "I wasn't exercising my power," Tatel explains. "I was exercising the power of the law, and I found that deeply comforting."

Far less comforting, in Tatel's view, is the current Supreme Court's seeming abandonment of judicial restraint. He writes in *Vision* that his decision to retire from the DC Circuit stemmed in part from his concern about having to apply decisions whose reasoning seemed faulty and ideologically motivated. He mentions, for instance, *Shelby County v. Holder* and *Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee*, which severely weakened key provisions of the Voting Rights Act, as well as *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* and *Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*, which overturned previous rulings on abortion and affirmative action, respectively.

I *WASN'T* A JUDGE WHO WAS JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, AND THE LIFE EXPERIENCES BORN FROM MY BLINDNESS WERE VALUABLE, NOT SHAMEFUL.

"I had no problem following Supreme Court decisions, even the ones that reversed me, for many years, because I respected the process they used," Tatel says. But "when the court itself

abandoned the principles of judging, I felt uncomfortable. I felt like I couldn't, in good faith, apply those decisions.

"Hopefully," he adds, "the current members of the court will come to realize that the integrity of the institution on which they serve is perhaps more important than their own ideological objectives."

Retirement from the DC Circuit has opened new possibilities: In addition to writing *Vision*, Tatel has rejoined his former firm Hogan Lovells to do pro bono work as senior counsel. He is also enjoying long walks with Vixen, his guide dog since 2019.

He credits the seven-year-old German shepherd with not only offering him new independence but also making his blindness easier to discuss. "You can't have a guide dog and not talk about it," he says. "People want to talk about the dog." (Including Tatel himself: "If talking too much about my dog is a crime," he writes in *Vision*, "I plead guilty.") Vixen has attracted lots of attention during publicity events for the book—she enjoys having her picture taken, Tatel notes—but "it has not gone to her head." ◆

CLOSE LISTENING

As his vision worsened, Tatel came to rely on listening to do his work. In addition to his clerks—who dubbed themselves the "Tatel Tots"—he also hired a reader each year to help him digest case materials and draft opinions. (Many were former debaters, practiced in the art of speaking quickly.) Now, assistive technology like the iPhone VoiceOver function allows Tatel to navigate the digital world.

Soon after he lost his ability to see words on a page, Tatel discovered Talking Books—a forerunner of today's audiobooks. Issued on vinyl records (and later floppy disks, cassettes, and CDs), Talking Books were a revelation: "For the first time in a long time, I could read on my own," he writes.

Audiobooks remain a passion for Tatel—and he is no longer just a listener. In addition to recording sections of his own book, he recently read the prologue and acknowledgments for Doris Kearns Goodwin's *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s* (Simon and Schuster, 2024).—*S. A.*

EXCERPT

People sometimes ask what I experience with my eyes open. What do I see? It's hard to explain. It's not total darkness. It's not a void. It's like a thick, drab fog. Sometimes I think I'm aware of light, particularly outdoors on a sunny day, although maybe what I'm perceiving is just the sun's warmth. I can't tell whether the lights in the house are on or off. I can't see shapes, faces, objects, or even movement. It's just the same thick fog, extending to infinity in every direction.

But I do know what many things look like because I had my vision for so long. I still have vivid visual memories of growing up: the gray mouse that met its demise in the trap in our pantry; the brown and white cow my grandfather slaughtered in his butcher shop right in front of me; my mother's long white Pall Mall cigarettes; the gigantic steaming locomotives at Union Station; Passover Seders with my aunts and uncles sitting around my grandparents' huge table; the gaudy circus next to the railroad tracks; the model boat with our handmade brass fi tings and varnished deck; El Misti; that toaster! I can also still see images of my parents' love for each other: Dad tossing little Mom in the big waves of the Atlantic on the Jersey Shore; the two of them walking hand in hand on the beach; the candles they lit as they danced to "The Blue Danube" in our living room. All are lasting snapshots of my childhood. I draw on that glossary of images when I listen to others and conjure up a picture of what they're describing. After all, "seeing" happens not in our eyes, but in our brains.

For my entire adult life, Edie, whose shiny auburn hair and bright blue eyes are embedded in my memory, has been my Describer-in-Chief. We've spent so much of our lives together that we have a deep reservoir of shared experiences she can draw on to help me see what she sees. "The woman at dinner looked a lot like my sister," she might say. Or she might tell me that a sandy beach we're visiting is even whiter than our Bermuda honeymoon beaches, and that the sky is the same blue as her eyes. She can't describe everything, of course, so she focuses on the details she knows I'll find interesting, curating images for me in much the same way she once curated *The New Yorker*.

My children and grandchildren have been describing things for me since they were very little, and they've grown into full-fledged audible artists. They all have their own descriptive styles. "It's dark blue and light green mixed together. I don't even have that color in my crayon box," little Emily said as we stood hand in hand on the rim of Crater Lake. When Rebecca and I cross-country skied on the Mall, she painted the picture for me: "Dad, on our right there's a huge oak tree. Its branches look like arms reaching in every direction, and every black branch is piled with snow. It's just beautiful, all sparkling in the sun." My then-six-year-old granddaughter Maya, perched in my lap as we sat on the dock, cupped my ear with her little hands and whispered, "Poppa, *shhhhh*. There's a mama deer across the pond with a tiny baby fawn. It's even smaller than my little brother." Later she sketched a picture of the scene and traced my finger along the lines she'd drawn.

MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN HAVE BEEN DESCRIBING THINGS FOR ME SINCE THEY WERE VERY LITTLE, AND THEY'VE GROWN INTO FULL-FLEDGED AUDIBLE ARTISTS.

When my family describes these images to me, in my mind I definitely see them. I see the brown and white cows on gently sloping hills, the fallen tree snags deep in the forest, the bright yellow daffodils along the side of the highway, the swooping heron at the pond at sunrise, and the distant mountains lit up orange at sunset. My whole family uses words precisely and even poetically, choosing just the right adjectives and adverbs to let me see what they see. Constantly describing the world that I can't see myself seems to have made them all into great describers—and terrific writers.

In 1991, with the help of my son Josh's precise narration, I was the scribe on a fantastic sailing adventure in the British Virgin Islands skippered by a good friend and crewed by his son, two nephews, and Josh. At the end of each day, I'd add to our ship's log from what Josh and the others told me, as well as what I could hear, smell, and feel—and whatever Blackbeard allusions I could come up with. Tapping away on my little Braille computer, I'd quiz the boys for more details, suggesting descriptions that they'd verify or refute. My log recorded, "A huge orange setting sun over sparkling turquoise seas … endless white beaches … hummingbirds in the trees … an underwater array of blue and yellow zebrafish … a dark, isolated cove that seems like the perfect spot for pirates." It was as if I'd seen those things myself. Being blind amid an all-male crew and their strewn laundry and beer cans also had its upside. "What you can't see can't bother you," I wrote in an entry intended for our absent women.

I've also been asked whether I dream in pictures. The answer is yes. In most of them, my vision is twenty-twenty, and I see the world in Technicolor. But in my nightmares, everything is black and white, and I'm blind and anxious, often about finding the right airport gate or getting lost in the dark.

In writing this memoir, Edie and I have talked about my career, my blindness, and the effects of both of those things on our family more than we ever did in the past sixty years. I'm sorry to say that for *many* of those years, I was a far less attentive, empathetic, and forthright person than I hope I am now. Back then, I was consumed with becoming an excellent lawyer, meeting my mentors' expectations, and furthering the causes that I believed in. At the same time, it took an enormous amount of energy and effort—both deliberate and unconscious—to compensate for my waning vision. And the less I could see, the less I was able to help with even the small things around the house. I relied entirely on Edie to tend the home fires, which she did so well, and which allowed me to enjoy my time with the kids when I was home.

Edie thinks that as the women's movement of the 1960s and '70s unfolded, we were lucky that she was content to focus on parenting while our kids were young. "Maybe it wouldn't have worked if we both were Type A professionals intent on

SO MY DISABILITY WAS NOT MINE ALONE. WE SHARED IT. EDIE, OUR CHILDREN, AND EVENTUALLY THEIR SPOUSES AND OUR GRANDCHILDREN—WE WERE ALL IN IT TOGETHER.

establishing ourselves right then," she says. She kept on teaching part-time through the births of our first three children. But after our fourth child, even part-time work became impossible to manage, so she gave up teaching for a time, and with it, her professional identity. None of that was easy. For a while she felt like she was known only as "David's wife" and "the kids' Mommy," roles she adored, but which defined only a small part of who she is. Of course, she eventually made many new friends and carved out a meaningful life of her own. She never forgot her professional passions and the difference she wanted to make in children's lives. When the kids were older, Edie returned to school for her PhD, and Dr. Tatel resumed teaching, this time at the university level. Then for years she worked as a teacher coach.

Edie is a very social person, but she's also very private. Although she did confide her occasional despair to her sisters, few others would have suspected how much she was going through. Parenting four small children is hard enough. Add to that mix a husband who not only had an extremely demanding work and travel schedule but who also needed more and more help and you'll begin to understand what Edie was dealing with. One of the few times she brought up her worries with a good friend, it convinced her that most other people just didn't understand. When a recent eye exam disclosed that my vision loss was accelerating, Edie called her friend that evening and tried to express her anguish. "Oh, I know just what you mean," the friend replied. "My husband can't see very well, either, without his glasses." She offered no shoulder to cry on. She asked no questions. That good friend was demoted to the reserve list.

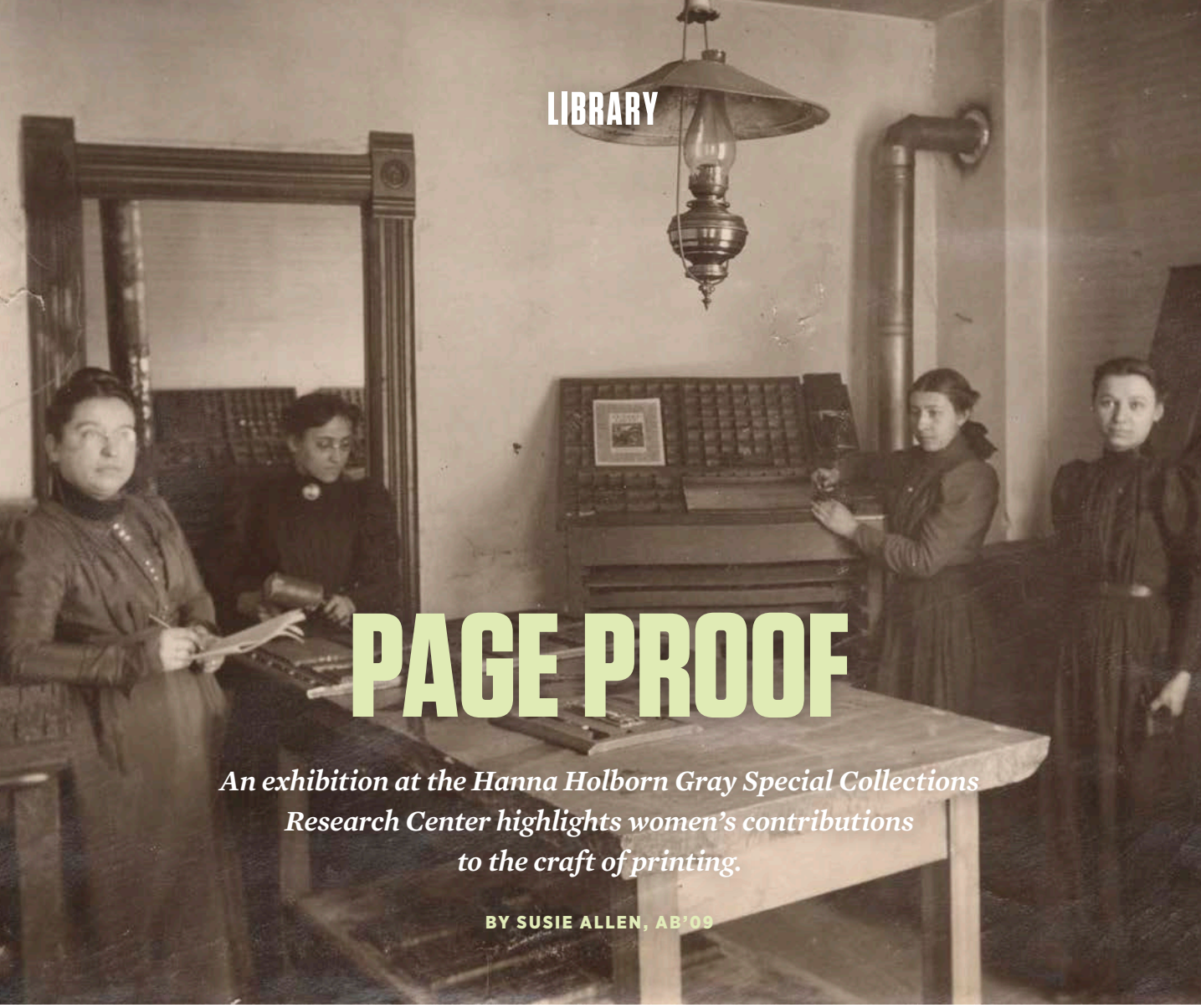
So my disability was not mine alone. We shared it. Edie, our children, and eventually their spouses and our grandchildren—we were all in it together. It touched all of our lives. It was simultaneously a challenge and completely normal. Edie and I were both aware of—and worried about—the hassles and hazards we faced every day. At the same time, our adjustments became routine, and often even unconscious. Our kids, of course, knew nothing else. Blindness bound us tightly together. We read together. We walked together—a "Dad Walk," the kids called it. We held hands. We *still* hold hands. When Vixen isn't guiding me, even my youngest grandchildren naturally reach for my hand.

I adored taking my kids with me on business trips. They each came with me to New York. The shuttle flights that had become routine to me were thrilling to them. Even the taxi rides into the city excited them. We went to the top of the Empire State Building, found Eloise at the Plaza, watched the skaters at Rockefeller Center, and navigated lunch at the automat. Those times together were precious. As we walked through the city, I trusted them completely. We'd navigate together, with the kids confirming the numbers on the street signs we passed. When it came time to cross, I'd remind them to look both ways. When they said they were sure it was safe, we stepped out together into the street. My life was quite literally in the children's hands.

Over the years, we went on many other excursions where the children were my eyes. Rebecca led me on snowshoes across a frozen lake with little Olivia, our first granddaughter, marching behind in our tracks. Emily took me to the top of Pikes Peak. Josh guided me bouldering and rock climbing. Stephanie and I went camping in the Bitterroot Range. (We'd both thought Edie was coming, too, but she feigned illness at the last minute, which I learned years later had been her real plan all along.) Stephanie was totally in charge of the route, our meals, and me. Later she said that she hadn't been at all worried about my blindness, but the repeated lightning strikes up in the mountains had sure given her a fright.

As I look at my adult children today, I see Edie. They share her optimism, her cheerfulness, and most importantly, her amazing parenting skills. I couldn't be prouder. ◆

Photography by Edie Tatel



PAGE PROOF

An exhibition at the Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center highlights women's contributions to the craft of printing.

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

Peruse the shelves of any bookstore or library and you are almost certain to find a book set in Baskerville—a typeface that bears the name of its creator, the 18th-century printer John Baskerville. Baskerville's contributions to the history of the printed word are widely celebrated; his 1763 edition of the Bible is considered a masterpiece. Far less well known is the woman who became his wife, Sarah Eaves, who worked behind the scenes in a variety of ways, including casting type—that is, creating the individual metal letters that would be used on Baskerville's press.

Stories of women like Eaves are present all throughout a new exhibition at the Special Collections Research Center, *A Pressing Call: Five Centuries of Women Printing*, which runs through April 18. The exhibition was cocurated by Special Collections metadata librarian **Rebecca Flore**, PhD'21, and rare books curator **Elizabeth Frengel**.

A Pressing Call highlights the many ways women have contributed to an industry whose most famous figures—Johannes Gutenberg, Aldus Manutius, William Caxton—are men. But women were always present, casting and setting type, feeding paper into presses, proofreading, and more. They also served as publishers and booksellers, functions that were historically less distinct from printing than they are today. Many, including Eaves, married into the business and carried it on after their husbands died.

The exhibition highlights treasures from the

Bohemian Women's Publishing Company records, Special Collections and University Archives, University of Illinois at Chicago

Left to right: Workers at the Bohemian Women's Publishing Company; a 16th-century Bible printed by Katharina Gerlach; a volume of poetry and prose published by Emily Faithfull and Co. in 1861.

From left: *Biblia, das ist, Die gantze Heilige Schrifft: Deutsch* (Nürmberg: Katharina Gerlachin und Johanns vom Berg Erben, 1583); *The Victoria Regia* (London: Printed and published by Emily Faithfull and Co., Victoria Press, 1861). Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

PRINTING WAS, IN FACT, WOMEN'S WORK FROM ITS EARLIEST DAYS—REGARDLESS OF WHOSE NAME APPEARED ON THE TITLE PAGE.

library's collection, including a richly illustrated 16th-century Bible from the German printer Katharina Gerlach, a volume of poetry and prose from the 19th-century English women's rights activist and publisher Emily Faithfull, and a book typeset and bound by Virginia Woolf. (In the early days of Hogarth Press, founded by Virginia and Leonard Woolf, the couple purchased a small handpress, which they kept in their dining room. The book on view in the exhibition, like many of the Woolfs' early efforts, is "really scrappy looking," Flore says—clearly the work of novices.)

Together, these objects and the others included in *A Pressing Call* reveal that printing was, in fact, women's work from its earliest days—regardless of whose name appeared on the title page. ◆

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

Dean Nadya Mason is helping the UChicago Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering reach new heights.

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

Nadya Mason says her goals as dean of the UChicago Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering include growing the number of faculty and students at the school, expanding partnerships on campus and externally, and training well-rounded engineers.

On October 1, 2023, **Nadya Mason** became the second dean of the UChicago Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering. Mason, who also serves as the Robert J. Zimmer Professor of Molecular Engineering, specializes in experimental studies of quantum materials. Much of her research has focused on the electronic properties of small-scale materials, such as nanoscale wires and atomically thin membranes. Mason came to UChicago after 18 years at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

An elite gymnast from age 7 to 16, Mason was a member of the 1986–87 US junior national team. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Harvard and a PhD from Stanford, both in physics. This interview has been edited and condensed.

How did your interest in science emerge?

I didn't have a strong science background in a traditional sense. It was more an interest in nature and in understanding how things work. I also liked math a lot—I would do math word problems just for fun.

I honestly didn't think about becoming a scientist until, after my junior year of high school, I got an opportunity to work in a research lab at Rice University. That was revelatory. I loved going in and solving problems and fiddling around with things. It was a lot of fun to think about how to design something that would access the answer to the question we had. The whole process of being in a lab group where people are thinking about solving problems, being creative, experimenting—I knew within a few weeks that this was something I could do for life.

You were an elite gymnast growing up. What was your favorite event?

My favorite event and my best event was the uneven parallel bars. It feels like it looks—you're just flying through the air and everything's engaged. It was super fun.

Do you see connections between your athletic background and your scientific career?

Gymnastics fed some natural tendencies I had that are really useful in science. Perseverance is one—being willing to fall and get back up, realizing you just have to keep trying again.

Also, and this is something I often tell students, knowing not to accept that you can't do something until you've worked as hard as you can to try to achieve it. Hard work in the gym is 30 hours a week of intense training. Hard work in the lab is being in the clean room for 50 hours a week sometimes, or studying for that problem set. That doesn't mean you beat your head against a wall. There might be some things you just can't do, but you don't know that until you've worked as hard as you can to get at them.

What drew you to the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering?

While at the University of Illinois I had interacted with the University of Chicago over many years. I'd watched from a distance, but with a lot of interest, as PME developed. I was incredibly impressed that UChicago was investing so much in building an engineering school and that they were doing it the right way. They were hiring great faculty, they had great new facilities, they had excited students, they had great staff.

The previous dean, **Matt Tirrell** [D. Gale Johnson Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus in the UChicago Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering], did an amazing job of building an institute starting with him alone to a place with 50 faculty and a thriving research portfolio. The opportunity to step in as the second dean and sustain that level of growth and impact, to develop something that was going from founder phase to start-up phase to sustainable phase, was really interesting to me. I like thinking about making efficient structures and creating communities where people can do their best work.

I was also attracted by the fact that it's not a traditional engineering school. We're interdisciplinary. We don't have departments, we have research themes. People work together here in a different way. It seemed much more exciting than just, here is your department of electrical engineering and here are the faculty. That's important, but what we have here is unique and exciting.

Photography by John Zich

We want all of our students to have the best interdisciplinary training they can get here, and then go out and help solve the world's problems.

What would you like to accomplish during your time as dean?

I'm hoping that we can double in size under my tenure. We probably need to triple in size at some point. In the long run, we need to have a robust faculty working on all the most important topics to have broad global impact.

I'm excited about the new engineering and science building, which will give us the space to grow that we really need when it's completed in four years.

Having more strong partnerships across campus would be a mark of success for me. I want everyone to see the value of having engineering at UChicago and to see that we partner in solving problems that matter. I hope that people in the humanities and social sciences will want to work with us so we can leverage our collective strengths.

In the last 18 months, UChicago PME has helped catalyze almost a billion dollars in regional investment to Chicagoland. We also want to have more partnerships across the state, across the nation, and across the globe. For example, we already partner with the UChicago Center in Delhi to produce and distribute water sensors that clean the rivers in India. We partner with the state at the Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park, where the goal is to bring jobs to Chicago through new quantum companies. Entrepreneurship is one of the priorities of an engineering school—especially ours.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, I hope we develop a cohort of great engineers and engineering leaders who will further this work. We want all of our students to have the best interdisciplinary training they can get here, and then go out and help solve the world's problems.

Of all your scientific publications, which is closest to your heart and why?

The title of the paper is complicated: "Approaching Zero-Temperature Metallic States in Mesoscopic Superconductor–Normal–Superconductor Arrays."

Rolls right off the tongue!

That's right! In the paper we looked at something called superconductivity, which is when electrons pair up in such a way that they can move through a material without bumping into anything. They have zero electrical resistance, and that means you don't lose any energy to heat. Systems like MRI magnets are superconducting, because you have to put very high currents in them to get high magnetic fields. If you did that in a normal metal, it would get so hot it would just blow up. So you use a superconductor because it doesn't heat up.

For this paper I was trying to understand superconductivity in two dimensions. I decided to create a model superconductor where, instead of having a solid film, I put little islands of superconductors together and then controlled how the islands interacted. We were able to induce new sorts of behaviors and see how the material went from a superconductor to a metal to an insulator.

I came up with the idea for this experiment in graduate school, and I first tried it when I was a postdoc. The technology wasn't good enough yet to make these small islands. By the time I started as a professor, it took less time to make the samples. I talked to some senior colleagues I was close to—and we laugh about this today—but they said, "This is just not interesting. Don't do this experiment."

We stuck at it, and lo and behold, it turned out to be a really interesting experiment with lots of new physics. We published it in a great journal, and the paper has been cited many times. It really opened a new field of looking at these nanoscale-connected superconductors.

It's close to my heart because it's a topic that I really wanted to know about, that mattered to me—and one where, as an early-career professor, I decided not to listen to senior colleagues or worry too much when my students were frustrated, and instead to just follow through on something I thought would be great.

Do you have a favorite lab memory?

When I was a second-year graduate student, my adviser put me in charge of this million-dollar piece of equipment he had spent years trying to get.

I spent a long time getting it set up. It had a big magnet, and it was very heavy, so we had to

lift and lower it using a hoist system. A couple of weeks after we got it, I was working late and trying to load a sample, but the system was cold, and it started pulling the hoist in a way that had never happened before. One of my lab mates looked over and said, "Is it supposed to be tilting like that?" I looked over, and it was about half an inch away from the supports falling off and crashing down into a pit that was six feet deep. It was *not* supposed to be tilting like that.

We had to call my adviser, who was at a dinner party with some other physics professors. They all came to the lab. We got a jack from someone's car and jacked the system back into place.

My adviser never criticized me for this. He just said, "Fix it." That helped me to not just throw up my hands or be scared to proceed in experimental science. As an adviser, I try to inspire that level of confidence in my students, because it makes all the difference in the world.

So, bad memory, good memory!

What's the best part of being a scientist?

There are two parts to it. One is being able to think deeply about how something works and then to test it and see if you're right. I think many of us enter these fields because we're curious and because we want to understand the world better. And so feeling like you can have an interest in and understand something better, and then to contribute that understanding to the world, is incredibly powerful. Even though it sometimes takes a long time to do that, the ability to follow through on your own ideas is satisfying, even joyful.

But it's not just thinking through these ideas. It's when you get to go out and present the ideas—so, giving a talk at a workshop, having people ask questions, going out for coffee or drinks afterward. You have a community around the world that feeds on social relationships and scientifi knowledge.

And hopefully someday the work has a significant impact on our knowledge base or a technology. That keeps you going through the late nights in the clean room.

Having mentors who can put things in context is really important.

You've always done a lot of outreach work. Why is that outward focus important to you?

I was given opportunities when I was younger to explore my interest in science, and if I hadn't been given those opportunities, I wouldn't be a scientist today. So I fundamentally believe that everyone should have the chance to explore their interests. Unfortunately, especially for interest in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and math], a lot of people never get that chance—because they're turned off at an early stage, or because other people say through implications, actions, or even explicit statements that it's not for them. This happens especially to women and people of color.

I've done a lot of mentoring over the years, because sometimes you need the right person to say, "It's okay that you did badly on that test. It doesn't mean you're not good enough. It just means maybe you should study more." I give a lot of hard advice, but people have told me it's helpful, which is gratifying. Having mentors who can put things in context is really important.

I love our community college program, the PME-City Colleges of Chicago Summer Program, because it allows students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to work in cutting-edge labs to be part of some of the top research in the world. Our goal is to train great people and give them opportunities to be successful, whether or not they come to UChicago. This is part of our mission. And what I love about PME is that many people here feel this is part of their own mission.

For example, the South Side Science Festival started three years ago and now draws almost 5,000 people each fall. It's a collaboration between PME, the Physical Sciences Division, the Biological Sciences Division, the Office of Civic Engagement, and others. Our graduate students, postdocs, faculty, and staff are spending their weekend and evening time organizing this event for elementary school kids to experience hands-on science. They're doing it because they care.

Our mission is to have an impact in science and technology, and we can do that in many ways—from going into kindergarten classes to developing quantum computers. ◆

THE LONGEST ROUTE

From the Atlantic to the Pacific, an alumna takes the measure of Route 20 and points along the way.

BY MARY QUADE, AB'93
ILLUSTRATIONS BY BEN GILES

WHEN I THINK OF IT SPANNING THE COUNTRY, I IMAGINE A SEAM HOLDING THE LAND TOGETHER, OR A ZIPPER READY TO SEPARATE IT, OR PERHAPS A MEASURING TAPE.

If I stand in the road in front of my house and gaze north, a traffic light glows where historic US Route 20 travels east and west through northeast Ohio, a few miles south of Lake Erie. I live on County Line Road, and if I cross the road into Ashtabula County, I'm officially in Appalachia. Four buildings mark the corners of the intersection.

Northwest: an Italianate mansion behind a chain-link fence on the grounds of Ridge Manor Nursery, over 300 acres topped with gravel and plastic pots of uniformly pruned landscaping plants, like arbor vitae and hydrangea, grown for a large garden center chain.

Northeast: a store called Corner Store, selling a limited supply of staple goods but a decent array of hot sauces, where the cashier converses in Spanish with workers from the nursery and in English with me.

Southeast: a church in a ranch house with a sign saying "Gods Tabernacle," though it is not polytheistic but Pentecostal.

Southwest: The Pub, a small bar with 75-cent wings and buck-fifty beers and bigger crowds than the church.

Route 20 stretches 3,365 miles from Boston, Massachusetts, to Newport, Oregon—the longest road in the United States. When I think of it spanning the country, I imagine a seam holding the land together, or a zipper ready to separate it, or perhaps a measuring tape.

Measure twice, cut once: the mantra of a careful craftsperson. As a kid I spent hours watching my mom sew, the presser foot on her Singer 237 Fashion Mate machine guiding the needle along its smooth stitches. The space between the stitches and the edge of the fabric is the seam allowance. A store-bought pattern accounts for the seam allowance, but if you're designing something from scratch, you need to be sure to include the extra space before you cut out your pieces. Without a sufficient allowance, the fabric could pull loose of the stitches, leaving a hole along the seam.

Along Lake Erie, the shoreline and Route 20 are mostly separated by other roads. However, for one brief stretch less than 10 miles west of my intersection, the only thing between the highway and lake is the 1,100-acre property of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, its twin 516-foot-tall hourglass cooling towers looming near the shore. I live within the emergency planning zone, so the county health department issues me potassium iodide pills to take in case things go wrong.

The plant was originally meant to have two reactors, but in 1988, only a year after commercial production began, power demands changed, and work on the second unit was never completed. The two towers give the illusion of a larger plant, but only one pumps steam into the troposphere—the nonfunctioning tower remains as an artifact of miscalculation.

About 45 miles west of my intersection on Route 20 sits Public Square, the heart of downtown Cleveland. On Cleveland's east side, Route 20 is Euclid Avenue, which runs along the campuses of Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals. Eighteen years ago I received a blood transfusion in the emergency room at Cleveland Clinic, just south of Route 20. Lying on the gurney, I imagined the people who donated the units of O-negative blood I needed: folks who wandered into a blood drive, signed their forms, climbed onto a donation bed, and let the very same blood that was entering my veins leave theirs.

In the past year I've spent some time at University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center with a friend who, at 35, was diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer. The infusion therapy suite, a modern glass atrium where chemotherapy patients receive their treatments, looks out over Route 20. One rainy day, while my friend reclined under a warm blanket with her IV, outside on the sidewalk a man wearing shorts and a see-through plastic rain poncho whizzed past our window on Rollerblades, weaving around pedestrians making their way to the bus stop.

IF ROUTE 20 WERE A BORDER, IT WOULD SLICE THE COUNTRY INTO TWO PIECES, THOUGH I'M NOT SURE WHERE ALASKA OR HAWAII WOULD FIT IN.

If Route 20 were a border, it would slice the country into two pieces, though I'm not sure where Alaska or Hawaii would fit in. Because I'd dwell on the border, some of my neighbors would be foreigners, our lives separated by documents, checkpoints, suspicions, and suspiciousness.

When driving down Route 20 last fall, noticing election signs that had popped up over the summer, I considered that

this is a country divided by opinions and beliefs but united by roads. And united by roads, we're subjected to the same detours. One and a half miles east of my intersection, Route 20 has been closed to eastbound travelers for months as crews replace storm and sanitary sewers and remove the remnants of an old trolley system. The construction obscures an Ohio historical marker erected at the birthplace of R. E. Olds, who introduced the stationary assembly line to auto production, the precursor to Henry Ford's moving assembly line. The historical marker pokes up from the empty parking lot of a vacant building that was once a NAPA Auto Parts store. Westbound traffic creeps beside orange barrels and steel plates.

On an early morning in mid-July 2024, I drive Route 20 eastbound on the South Side of Chicago, where it follows 95th Street/Stony Island Avenue and turns south just before Calumet Park, skirting the East Side neighborhood. Usually I cruise above this area on the Chicago Skyway, the first privatized toll road in the United States, owned currently by Canadians and Australians. Storefronts along Route 20 sell *tortas y tacos* and auto repairs, but one also houses the Centro de Trabajadores Unidos, whose vision is to build "a healthy and thriving local economy free from exploitation and oppression."

After slipping under the Skyway, Route 20 eases into Indiana, bisecting 1,400 acres of huge squatting white tanks and pipes and stacks of the BP Whiting refinery. According to the BP US website, each day the refinery produces enough fuel for the average daily travel of over seven million cars. Six months before, a power outage at the refinery caused Route 20 to shut down as huge flames flared from stacks and filled the surrounding area with smoke.

Further along Route 20, in East Chicago, Indiana, I find a "road closed" sign blocking the street. On this day, Route 20 is also closed in Sisters, Oregon; Long Pine Recreation Area, Nebraska; Galena, Illinois; Geneva, Ohio; and North East Township, Pennsylvania. Otherwise, it appears to be serving its purpose.

Route 20 was once a thriving artery bringing goods and vacationers east to west, but the interstate highway system made these trips faster, and the ghosts of tourism haunt the route near where I live—mid-century motels and strips of tiny cabins, some now converted to apartments. Empty buildings mark services no longer in much demand, like clock repair and alterations. Elsewhere, the road innovates, revises, shapes itself to our tastes and values, finds ways to extend our journeys, to sidetrack us.

In Orchard Park, New York, Route 20 Ice Cream inhabits an old Texaco Sky Chief gas station. In Cazenovia, New York, a Masonic lodge runs Nelson Creamery. In Conneaut, Ohio, a former church houses Heavenly Creamery. In Plainview, Nebraska, free admission gets you inside the Klown Doll Museum with over 8,000 clown dolls. In West Yellowstone, Montana, at Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center, $16.50 allows you close proximity to bears and wolves and (for the more timid) ground squirrels. In Rexburg, Idaho, for $139.95 a carload you can drive through Yellowstone Bear World and visit the petting zoo and amusement rides; for $75 more, you can bottle-feed a bear cub. Further west, in Sisters, Oregon, you can stop by the Fantastic Museum (admission: donation only) and take in the presence of the nine-foot-tall, purported Norwegian mummy Olaf the Giant. Once exhibited at the Barnum and Bailey Circus and the 1962 Seattle World's Fair, he now rests on rust-colored velvet in a glass-topped case.

Driving across Idaho on our way to scatter my mother-in-law's ashes, my husband and I find ourselves outside of Atomic City, Route 20 stretching miles through dry sagebrush grasslands. A modest sign advertises the EBR-1 Atomic Museum. I've been interested in nuclear history ever since I lived in Snell-Hitchcock Hall as an undergraduate at the University of Chicago in the early 1990s; the view across 57th Street featured the bulbous bronze-black shine of Henry Moore's sculpture *Nuclear Energy* at the site of Chicago Pile-1, where the first human-made self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction took place December 2, 1942, on a squash court beneath the University's abandoned Stagg Field. Apparently Enrico Fermi stayed in Hitchcock while working on the Manhattan Project.

We pull off 20 to the windowless brick building housing the experimental breeder reactor that on December 20, 1951, was the first to produce usable electricity, powering four lightbulbs and then the whole building. In the control room of the reactor, the switches, dials, meters, and buttons that once controlled the reactor invite visitors to touch. I reach for the button labeled SCRAM—worn to a coppery shine by a parade of fingers—and push; I imagine the emergency shutdown.

About nine miles east of the exit to EBR-1 sits the site of SL-1, where an experimental nuclear reactor exploded in 1961, killing three technicians. One of the technicians pulled a control rod too far out of the reactor, which reached supercritical almost instantly. The radioactive bodies of the technicians were buried in lead-lined caskets.

It's midsummer 2024, and along Route 20 in Oregon, three large wildfires and a number of smaller fires, started by lightning strikes, burn over 400,000 acres. Two of these fires, including the largest, the Durkee Fire, are 0 percent contained. In the weeks ahead, firefighters will get the fires under control, but right now, people are being told to evacuate. In photos, a line of flame and black smoke marks where the fire steadily consumes the dry, sage-spotted land.

Around 2,242 miles east, my friend and I are back in the infusion suite. We listen to the clicking of the pump dripping chemo through the implanted port in her chest. I'm confused and amazed by the power of the MRIs, the CT and PET scans, to see inside a body, beyond skin and skull, to pinpoint aberrations. In a few weeks, she'll undergo whole-brain radiation therapy to reduce tumors in her brain; she will begin new treatment plans—her path forward unknowable and persistent.

Recent construction both east and west of my intersection slows and complicates my usual errands but allows me to see the layers of asphalt and concrete, and the rocky soil predating the road. Of course, Route 20 as it exists is an iteration of older trails once followed by Native Americans. As long as there have been trails, there have been ways to measure trails—paces, miles, kilometers. But my favorite way to gauge distance is the least accurate: time. Depending on how fast we go, how often we stop, we may never get a consistent number to understand our progress.

Though the official length of Route 20 is 3,365 miles, some argue that this distance is inaccurate. For instance, the 92 or so miles of the road through Yellowstone National Park aren't officially Route 20; no numbered highways exist in the park. I wonder why and discover a National Park Service document from 1984 titled *Park Road Standards*, which includes such information as the minimum radius needed for a U-turn. The typewritten introduction, "The Purpose of Park Roads," explains that the fundamental purpose of the parks is "bringing humankind and the environment into closer harmony" and that the "distinctive character of park roads plays a basic role in setting this essential unhurried pace." Park roads "are designed with extreme care and sensitivity with respect to the terrain and environment through which they pass—they are laid lightly onto the land." It states that no road in a park should be "planned or designed merely as a device to link points of interest."

I think about this. The road in Yellowstone is not intended to be a continuation of Route 20, but, instead, an interruption of it, a pause or detour from getting places promptly—a communion with the land not measurable by any usual means. *Park Road Standards* quotes an old park service brochure: "If you are in a hurry, you might do well to take another route now, and come back when you have more time."

Approximately 2,032 miles from my intersection, I make a sandwich beside the parking lot of Craters of the Moon National Monument, surrounded by picnicking families also making sandwiches. The park was officially named in 1924; humans didn't explore the moon for another 45 years. In 1969 the lava formations and cinder cones served as training grounds for NASA astronauts, including Eugene Cernan, who would later command the 1972 Apollo 17 mission. It was on that mission that the iconic "Blue Marble" photo of Earth, beloved by environmentalists, was taken by one of the three astronauts, though we don't know who clicked the shutter. As though to illustrate their shared expedition,

I'LL TELL YOU, IF THERE EVER WAS A FRAGILE-APPEARING PIECE OF BLUE IN SPACE, IT'S THE EARTH RIGHT NOW.

each claimed to have shot it. The day it was taken, astronaut Harrison Schmitt (who would years later deny human impact on climate change) commented, "I'll tell you, if there ever was a fragile-appearing piece of blue in space, it's the Earth right now."

At the end of their stay on the moon, Cernan ascended the ladder off the surface for the last time, saying, "We leave as we came and, God willing, we shall return with peace and hope for all mankind." Though a return mission is scheduled for September 2026, we have, for now, never journeyed back.

Progress is measured in indices and percentages, in deadlines and achievements, in distances and profi s. I wonder how to measure the durability of what holds us together, the allowance necessary to be sure that seam doesn't give way, doesn't split.

On a sewing machine, two threads create a stitch: one coming from the top and one from the bottom. On an ideal stitch, they meet in the middle of the fabric layers' thickness and wrap around each other. However, if the tension of either thread is too strong or too weak, the stitch will be out of balance and may not hold, one thread lying flat across the surface, marked by loops of the other thread popping up. Instead, this is how a seam should be: both threads bobbing equally in and out of the material as the needle sews forward, evenly secured, a simple but reliable bond. ◆

Mary Quade, AB'93, is the author of *Zoo World: Essays* (2023, The Ohio State University Press/Mad Creek Books).

UChicago Alumni

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PEER REVIEW

WHAT ALUMNI ARE THINKING AND DOING

MIES-EN-SCÈNE
Students and faculty of the School of Social Service Administration (now the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice) gather in their new home base, designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and dedicated in 1965.

UChicago Photographic Archive, apf2-07544, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

50 *Alumni Portfolio*

52 *Notes and Releases*

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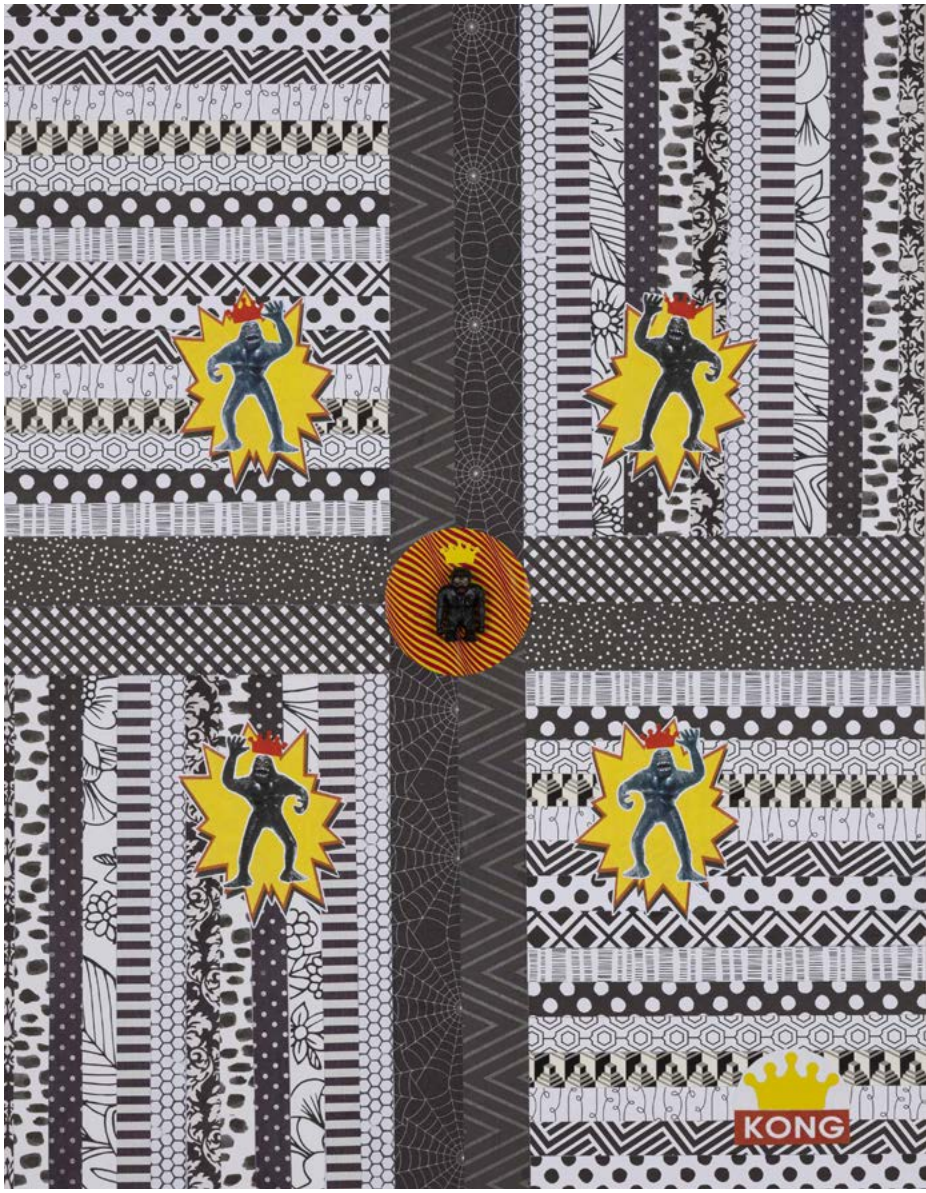


PATTERN PLAY

Melanie Deal's (AM'78) mixed-media works blend humor and nostalgia.

Melanie Deal's (AM'78) artistic process is often unhurried. She carefully layers pieces of patterned paper and materials collected over the years—beads, gumball-machine trinkets, game pieces, vintage postage stamps, and cartoon word balloons cut from newspapers. A self-taught artist, she has made paper dolls, picture books, and comics since childhood. These media remain key sources of inspiration for Deal's work today.

"My only agenda is to express my perspective on topics that interest or amuse me. Sometimes the topic is simply a combination of colors or a particular pattern," Deal says. In *Kong* (above) she takes her cue from a plastic gorilla figure to showcase an array of black-and-white paper. In other pieces, she turns a critical eye on contemporary society: *Internal Affairs* (opposite page) engages with women's health issues and health care costs, multiplying a pictogram representing a woman and images of organs and dollar signs. Translating her subjects into tongue-in-cheek patterns, Deal invites viewers to see our everyday lives through her whimsical gaze.—*C. C.* ◆

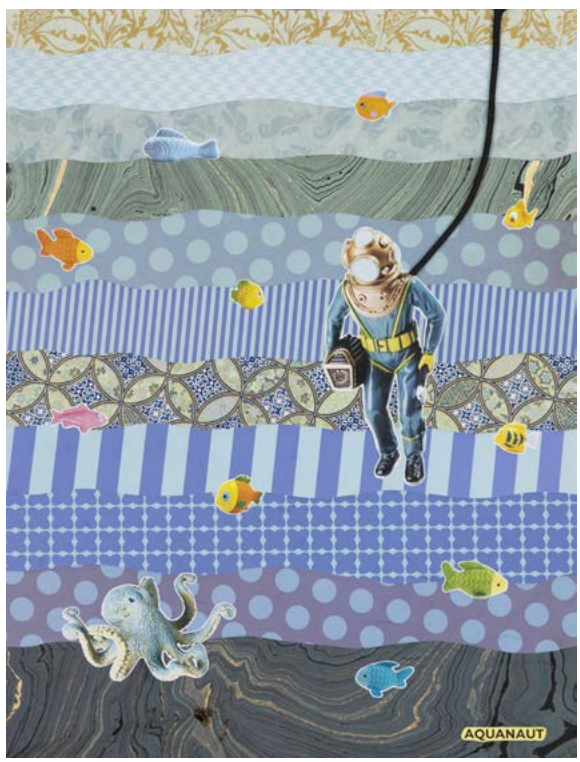
Opposite page: *Kong*, 2022. Paper, printouts, toy figure, 18 × 14 in.

Clockwise from top left: *Internal Aff irs*, 2022. Paper, 24 × 20 in.

O brave new world, 2024. Paper, 24 × 24 in.

Bumper to Bumper, 2023. Paper, printouts, 14 × 18 in.

Aquanaut, 2022. Paper, printouts, cord, 18 × 14 in.



Photography by Clare Britt for melanie-deal.com

NOTES

A SELECTION OF ALUMNI WHOSE NAMES ARE IN THE NEWS

DOCTORS' ORDER

Six alumni were elected to the National Academy of Medicine in October: **Joseph Heitman**, SB'84, SM'84, professor of molecular genetics and microbiology at Duke University School of Medicine; **Kenneth M. Langa**, AM'90, PhD'92, MD'94, professor of medicine at the University of Michigan; **Santa Ono**, AB'84, president of the University of Michigan; **David Pellman**, AB'81, MD'86, Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, professor of pediatric oncology at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and professor of cell biology at Harvard Medical School; **Jeffrey D. Rothstein**, AM'79, professor of neurology and neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; and **Matthew G. Vander Heiden**, SB'94, PhD'00, MD'02, director of the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT.

EXCEPTIONAL CREATIVITY

Ling Ma, AB'05, the author of *Severance* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018) and *Bliss Montage* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2022), was awarded a 2024 MacArthur Fellowship. In her fiction, Ma brings together mundane and fantastical elements to highlight the surreality of our everyday lives. The prestigious fellowship, which comes with an $800,000 grant, is awarded to 20 to 30 people annually by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. It supports "individuals who have shown exceptional creativity in their work and the promise to do more." Formerly an assistant professor of practice in the arts in UChicago's Program in Creative Writing, Ma will return to the University as an associate professor in the Department of English Language and Literature in January 2025.

HEADLINES HOST

Tracy Mumford, AB'10, was named host and editor of *The New York Times* podcast *The Headlines*. Formerly available only on *The New York Times Audio* app, *The Headlines* became available on all podcast platforms in August. In 10-minute episodes, the show touches on the day's biggest stories, with commentary from journalists around the world. Mumford has worked on the show as a producer, editor, and host since its early days. She was previously a producer, reporter, and host of the Minnesota Public Radio podcast *74 Seconds*, which won a Peabody Award in 2017 for its investigation into the 2016 killing of Philando Castile during a traffic stop.

Photo by Mary Kouw/CBS ©2024 CBS Broadcasting, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Daniel Aukin, AB'93, won the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Play for his work on *Stereophonic* (2024). Set in a recording studio in mid-1970s California, the play follows an up-and-coming folk-rock quintet as they record their second album. The prolonged recording process tests the group's personal relationships and their creative collaboration. Written by David Adjmi and featuring original music by Will Butler, *Stereophonic* received 13 Tony nominations—the most ever for a play—and won five. Aukin previously directed *Fool for Love* (2015) on Broadway.

PLAYING CHICKEN

KJ Dell'Antonia's (JD'94) best-selling novel *The Chicken Sisters* (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2020) has been adapted into a TV series. The novel centers on two small-town Kansas chicken restaurants and the women behind them. The rivalry between the restaurants reaches a boiling point when a cooking competition show comes to town. The eight-episode series, also called *The Chicken Sisters*, was released on the new Hallmark+ streaming service in September. It stars Schuyler Fisk, Genevieve Angelson, Lea Thompson, and Wendie Malick. Dell'Antonia's most recent novels are *In Her Boots* (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2022) and *Playing the Witch Card* (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2023).

FROM THE QUADS TO THE SENATE

Four alumni were elected to the US Senate in November. **Andy Kim**, AB'04 (D-NJ), will become the first Korean American senator. He had served as a US House representative since 2019. **Amy Klobuchar**, JD'85 (D-MN), and **Bernie Sanders**, AB'64 (I-VT), each won reelection to seats they have held since 2007. **Pete Ricketts**, AB'86, MBA'91 (R-NE), who was appointed to the US Senate by Nebraska's governor upon former Republican senator Ben Sasse's resignation in January 2023, won a special election to serve the final two years of Sasse's term.

—Chandler A. Calderon

RELEASES

ALUMNI BOOKS, FILMS, AND RECORDINGS

THE DRAGON FROM CHICAGO: THE UNTOLD STORY OF AN AMERICAN REPORTER IN NAZI GERMANY

By Pamela D. Toler, AM'81, PhD'03; Beacon Press, 2024

Sigrid Schultz was the *Chicago Tribune*'s Berlin bureau chief and primary foreign correspondent for Central Europe from 1925 to 1941. At a time when it was rare for women to write feature news stories, she reported on Hitler's rise to power and was one of the first journalists to warn Americans of the dangers of Nazism. **Pamela D. Toler** uncovers Schultz's work in Europe, in particular highlighting her critique of Nazi press manipulation.

FOR THE BLESSINGS OF JUPITER AND VENUS: A NOVEL

By Varun Gauri, AB'88; Washington Writers' Publishing House, 2024

Meena is a highly educated and well-traveled business consultant turned educator from Delhi, and Avi is an Indian American attorney who has moved back to his small Ohio hometown, Southgate, to run for local political office. At the start of **Varun Gauri**'s debut novel, they decide to enter into an arranged marriage. Despite sharing a modern outlook and similar values, Avi and Meena get off to a rocky start as they learn about one another and adjust to life in Southgate. But when Avi's political opponent launches a racist campaign, they must work together to defend the Indian American community in their small town.

LEFT TURNS IN BROWN STUDY

By Sandra Ruiz, AB'99; Duke University Press, 2024

In lyrical essays, memoir, and poetry, **Sandra Ruiz** weaves together study and mourning. She puts forward "brown study" as an emancipatory practice and an experiment in theory and aesthetics, based in the citation of Black and Brown activists and thinkers and a repetition of language. Giving voice to ghosts, departed family members and teachers, and victims of institutional and colonial violence, Ruiz arrives at an understanding of Brownness as holding collective grief but also offering new utopian possibilities of being, thinking, and writing together.

FOLLOW YOUR BLISS AND OTHER LIES ABOUT CALLING

By Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore, AM'80, PhD'86; Oxford University Press, 2024

Popular conversations about following one's calling can be overly simplistic, argues **Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore**. In reality, she says, pursuing meaning and passion is not simply a matter of doing what you love or following God's will. Seeking meaningful work and sticking with it is a complex and often painful process, requiring one to negotiate obstacles like fi ancial constraints, expectations from family members, and conflicting vocations. Bringing together religious studies and psychology, Miller-McLemore explores how a calling can shift over time as one navigates such challenges. She argues that it is through confronting these forces that one gains greater insight and fulfillment in a vocation.

THE ANTI–CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT: AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AS WEDGE AND WEAPON

By Mike Steve Collins, AM'89; University Press of Kansas, 2024

Conservative elites have worked for the past several decades to dismantle civil rights in the United States, says **Mike Steve Collins**; their efforts came to a head in the June 2023 Supreme Court decision that effectively ended affirmative action in higher education. The activists behind the anti–civil rights movement, Collins argues, rely on strategies intended to divide those who might otherwise be united by shared interests. He offers readers an in-depth guide to the personalities, funds, and questions animating the battle over civil rights.

—Chandler A. Calderon

ALUMNI NEWS

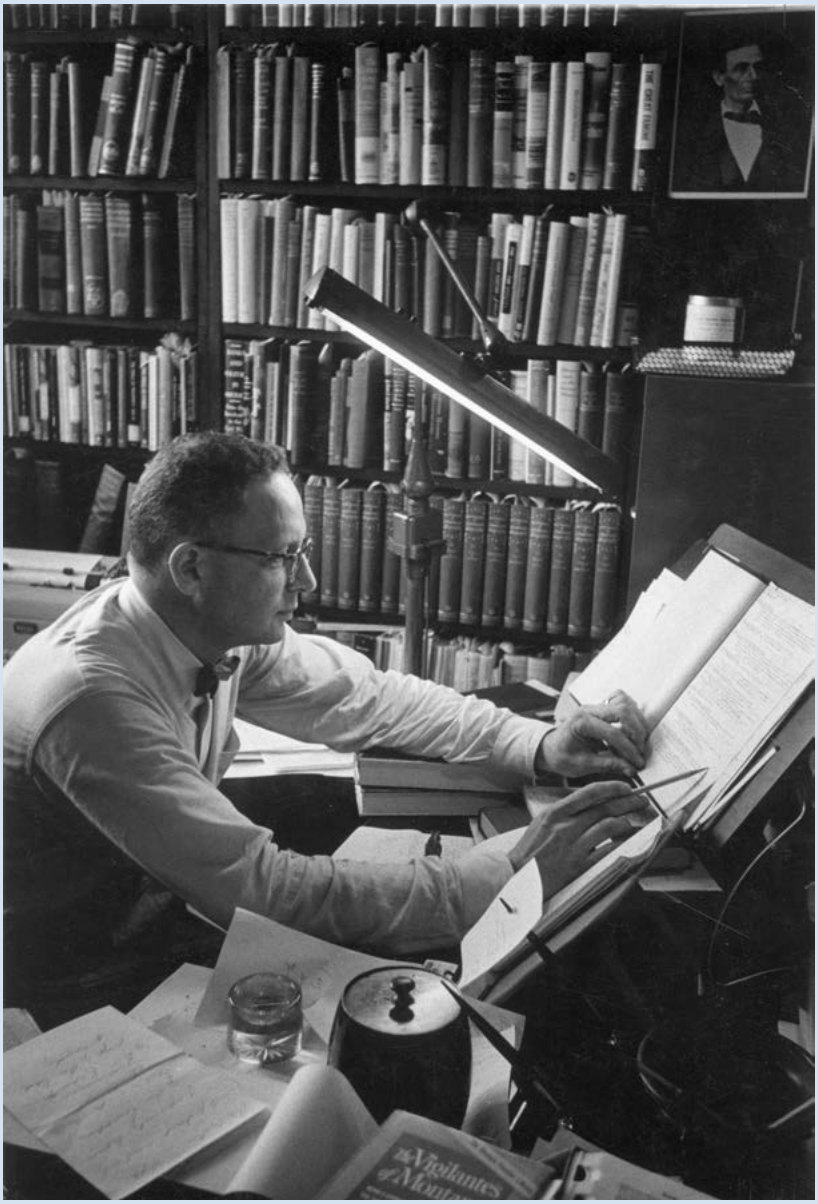
FROM THE CLASSES, SCHOOLS, AND DIVISIONS

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.

Cover to cover: Students illustrated the covers of *The University of Chicago Weekly*, a student publication from 1892 to 1907. Clockwise, from top left, are covers illustrated by David Allan Robertson, AB 1902; Milton G. G. Sills, AB 1903; Edson B. Cooke, EX 1903; and Ben Cohen, EX 1905. Each issue of *The University of Chicago Weekly* included a mix of sports results; student essays and stories; cartoons; campus news; and ads for bicycles, suits, medical schools, and fountain pens. (University of Chicago Library)

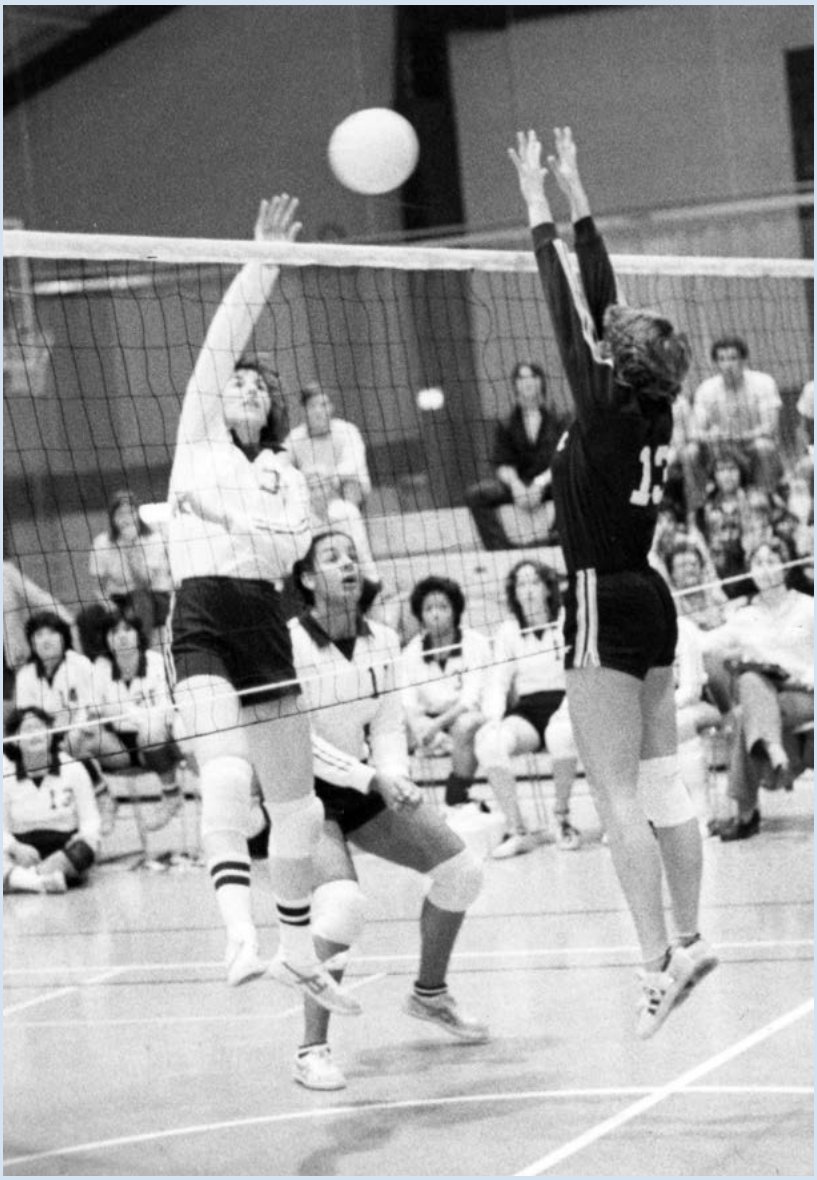
What's new? We are always eager to receive your news, care of the Alumni News Editor, *The University of Chicago Magazine*, 5235 South Harper Court, Chicago, IL 60615, or by email: uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. No engagements, please. Items may be edited for space, clarity, civility, and style. As 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.

Close-knit: A couple talks domestic affairs in their married student apartment housing. In 1955 this magazine reported that there were about 1,000 married students enrolled at the University, most in graduate degree programs. The University provided only 409 apartments for married students at the time, 340 of which were in prefab homes that had been erected along the Midway at the end of World War II. Making plans to demolish these prefabs in the mid-1950s, the University decided to acquire and convert more existing apartment buildings for affordable married students' housing. At the same time, the University started planning new housing for undergraduate students, renovations to College facilities, a new building for the Law School, and other improvements. (Photography by William M. Rittase, UChicago Photographic Archive, apf4-02889, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)



Daniel J. Boorstin, the Preston and Sterling Morton Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of History, pictured here around 1961, joined the UChicago faculty in 1944 and helped establish an interdisciplinary social sciences program in the Hutchins College. A specialist in American social history, Boorstin was best known for his three-volume work *The Americans* (1958–73), the third volume of which won the 1974 Pulitzer Prize for History. He worked closely with his wife, Ruth Frankel Boorstin, AM'64, who edited his academic work. Professor Boorstin left the University in 1969 to direct what is today the National Museum of American History, and in 1975 he was appointed as the 12th Librarian of Congress, a position he held until 1987. Under his watch, public use of the library more than doubled. Another UChicago alum, Carla D. Hayden, AM'77, PhD'87, has held the same position since 2016. Did you study with Boorstin? Share your memories at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-00808, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)

Dedication to the arts: Art lovers fill the Smart Museum of Art at its 1974 dedication event. Part of the Cochrane-Woods Art Center, the museum opened across a courtyard from the new home of the Department of Art History. The $2.75 million complex was designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes. On display at the dedication were pieces from the University's permanent collection, as well as new donations including 19th- and 20th-century sculptures, Chinese and Japanese paintings, and contemporary American art. The Smart Museum cel-ebrates its 50th anniversary during the 2024–25 academic year. (See "Smart at 50," page 17.) (Photography by Joel Snyder, SB'61)



Net gains: Vesna Martich Kriss, AB'84, MD'88, at left, and teammate Celeste (Travis) Fulgham, AB'85 (Class of 1984), compete in a varsity volleyball match in the early 1980s. Women's volleyball was long offered as an intramural sport, and it was one of the earliest women's sports on campus to compete in intercollegiate play. The varsity team was officially formed in the late 1960s under Mary Jean Mulvaney, chair of the women's division of the Department of Physical Education (later chair of both men's and women's athletics), and Patricia Kirby, associate chair of Physical Education and Athletics and coach of the women's badminton, basketball, softball, and volleyball teams. Longtime athletic administrator Rosalie "Rosy" Resch, AB'73, who retired in 2022, coached the team from 1977 to 1997. Did you play volleyball at UChicago? Serve us some memories at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (Photography by Jeff Terrell, AB'84; Copyright 2025, The Chicago Maroon. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)

The show must go on: A resourceful student makes a valiant effort to get to class on time after a heavy snowfall. What was your preferred mode of transport on campus? Tell us at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (Copyright 2025, T*he Chicago Maroon.* All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

Book talk: Hyde Parkers chat in the Seminary Co-op Bookstore's former location in 2000. What books were you reading at the turn of the century? Share your Y2K read-ing list at uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu. (Photography by Wes Pope. Hyde Park/Kenwood, image 128, 38198100122256_26. Comer Archive of Chicago in the Year 2000 [University of Illinois Chicago])

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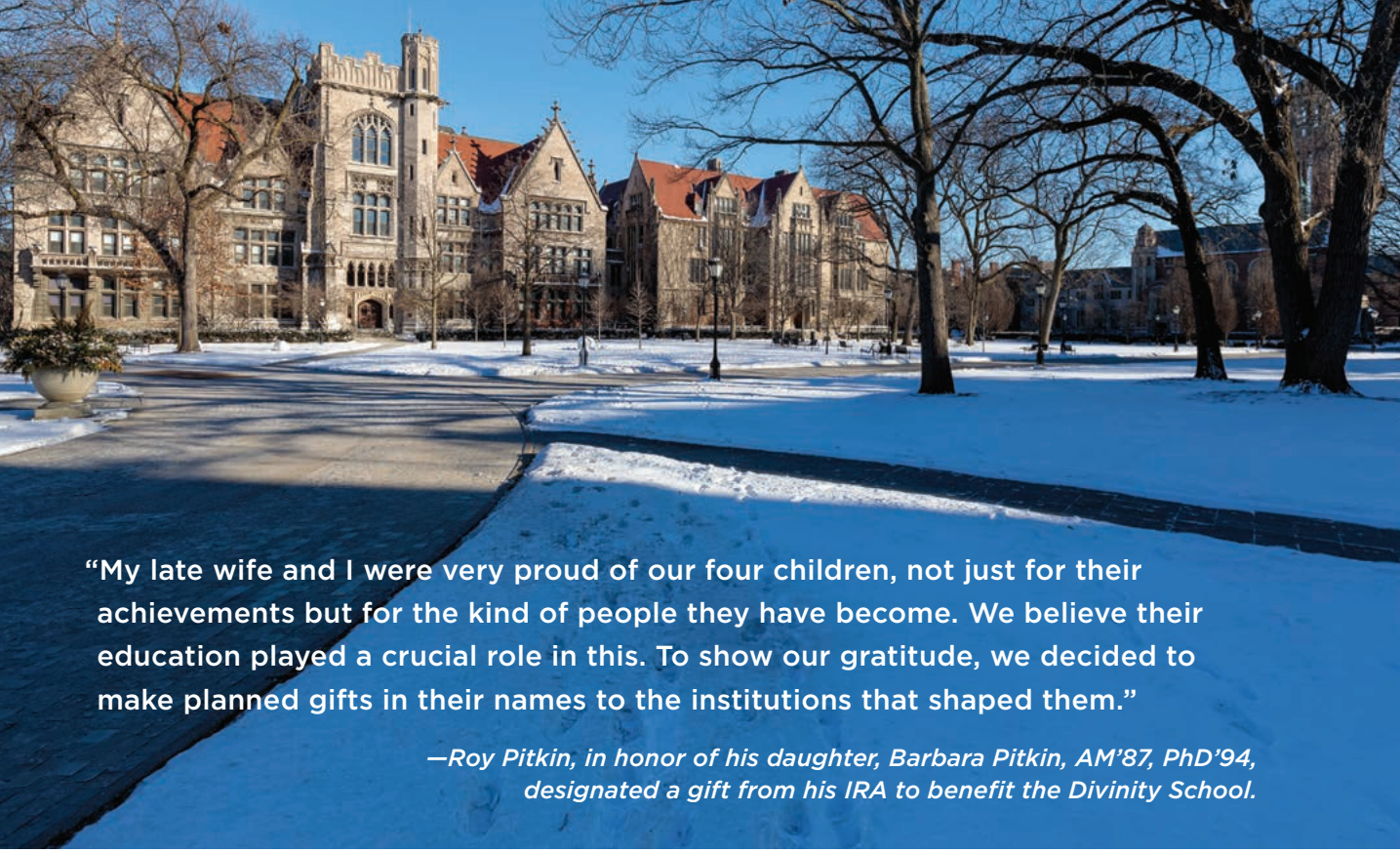

"My late wife and I were very proud of our four children, not just for their achievements but for the kind of people they have become. We believe their education played a crucial role in this. To show our gratitude, we decided to make planned gifts in their names to the institutions that shaped them."

—Roy Pitkin, in honor of his daughter, Barbara Pitkin, AM'87, PhD'94, designated a gift from his IRA to benefit the Divinity School.

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DEATHS

FACULTY AND STAFF

McKim Marriott, AM'49, PhD'55, professor emeritus in the Department of Anthropology, of Chicago, died July 3. He was 100. After studying several languages at Harvard, Marriott served as a translator of Japanese radio transmissions in India during World War II and later concentrated on India as a doctoral student in anthropology. In 1955 he joined the UChicago faculty and published *Village India: Studies in the Little Community*, an edited volume of anthropological studies that foregrounded Indian ways of thinking about kinship and caste. For over four decades, Marriott educated generations of ethnographers who would become influential scholars of South Asia; he also taught and shaped Self, Culture, and Society, a social science sequence in the Core curriculum. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; four children; four stepchildren; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Harry Trosman, professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience, of Chicago, died August 27. He was 99. With his MD from the University of Toronto, Trosman joined UChicago's faculty in 1952. He served in the US Navy Reserve for two years, returning to the University to direct the psychiatry department's outpatient clinic from 1956 to 1968 and later serving as acting department chair. He spent 70 years on the UChicago faculty. Trosman's research dealt with the psychoanalytic theory of dreams, and many of his books and articles applied psychoanalysis to the study of the arts and humanities. He taught a course for psychiatry residents on the concept of psychodynamic psychotherapy, which explores the psychological roots of emotional suffering. He also was an active member of the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute and the American Psychoanalytic Association. Survivors include a daughter, **Elizabeth Trosman**, LAB'71; sons **Michael Trosman**, LAB'78, and **David Trosman**, LAB'79, AM'86; four grandchildren, including **Seth Aaron Samelson**, AB'08; and three great-grandchildren.

Howard "Howie" Aronson, professor in the Departments of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Linguistics, the Committee on Jewish Studies, and the College, died October 26 in Chicago. He was 88. A renowned linguist, Aronson championed the study of Slavic, Balkan, and Caucasian languages, with a focus on Bulgarian and Georgian. One of the first American scholars to specialize in Caucasian languages, Aronson founded the Biennial Conference on Balkan and South Slavic Linguistics, Literature, and Folklore and published influential works on Georgian and Bulgarian grammar. Throughout his more than 40 years at UChicago, Aronson pioneered the integration of the indigenous languages of the former Soviet Union into linguistics programs, served as chair of both the Department of Slavic Languages and the Department of Linguistics, and established the first intradivisional dual-degree doctoral program. He is survived by extended family.

Ralph A. Austen, professor emeritus in the Department of History, of Chicago, died August 23. He was 87. Educated at the University of California, Berkeley, and Harvard, in 1967 Austen became the first tenure-track historian of Africa hired at UChicago. His scholarship focused on the dynamics of historical change in Africa and how these related to wider global processes. Among his eight books and many scholarly articles were pathbreaking studies in economic, imperial, and cultural history; comparative analyses of Africa with Europe and India; and examinations of Tanzania, Cameroon, the Mande world of West Africa, the Saharan desert, and the Atlantic world. Austen was pivotal in establishing the University's African Studies Workshop and in shaping the Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences. He is survived by his wife, Ernestine; two sons; a sister; and four grandchildren.

James Rylie Hietbrink, of Chicago, a retired facility director at UChicago Medicine, died August 15. He was 73. After attending what is now Calvin University, he earned a degree in industrial and operations engineering at the University of Michigan. During his 27-year career at UChicago Medicine, he served as the principal planner for the Center for Care and Discovery, the 1.2 million-square-foot hospital pavilion in Hyde Park that opened in 2012. He was an audiophile who loved electronics and music. Survivors include his husband, Verasak "Vee" Kongdanpai, and two sisters.

1940s

Ernestine Tabrah, AB'47, died May 20 in Scottsdale, AZ. She was 96. Tabrah was a social worker in Bellingham, WA, before starting a family; in 1972 she moved to Hawaii, where she resided for 50 years. A longtime docent at the Honolulu Museum of Art, Tabrah also served her condominium association as a board member and president. She was passionate about music and architecture and also enjoyed skiing, scuba diving, and tennis. She is survived by three children, three grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Geraldine "Gerry" Kuntz, AB'48, of Glenview, IL, died August 4. She was 95. Kuntz worked alongside her husband at the family printing business for many years. A supporter of Women's American ORT and a patron of the arts, she enjoyed the theater, ballet, and opera. Survivors include a daughter, two grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Phyllis Ehrlich, AB'49, of Miami, died July 26. She was 95. Ehrlich was a social worker, community organizer, and professor whose work in gerontology bridged theory and practice. Her research and activism focused on the marginal elderly and related topics, such as single-room occupancy housing, elder abuse, and midlife women caregivers. After teaching at St. Louis University, the University of South Florida, and Southern Illinois University, Ehrlich retired to Miami and became a volunteer ombudsman to investigate nursing homes as well as a guardian ad litem for children. She is survived by two children, three grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

1950s

Judith "Judy" Genesen, LAB'47, AB'51, AM'66, of Chicago, died August 1. She was 92. With her master's in library science, Genesen served as director of information services for the Chicago Transit Authority and executive director of the American Association of Law Libraries. She played active roles in the American Library Association, American Society of Association Executives, and Special Libraries Association, which inducted her into its Hall of Fame in 1994. Genesen's husband, Louis Genesen, PhB'50, died in 2022. She is survived by two daughters, including **Deborah Kovacs Sullivan**, LAB'71; two sons, including **David Kovacs**, LAB'69; seven grandchildren, including **Jacob Kovacs**, LAB'06; and seven great-grandchildren.

Charles John "Chaz" Erickson, AB'52, AM'54, of Tucson, AZ, died May 27. He was 92. Trained as an anthropologist, Erickson entered the then-new field of systems analysis, holding positions with Northrop Aircraft, the Stanford Research Institute, and North American Aviation's Apollo pro-

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.

gram. Transitioning to the federal government in 1970, he joined the Indian Health Service and focused on providing health care to remote populations. In retirement he worked with the Tucson visitor's bureau and volunteered as a docent with the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Survivors include his wife, Pat; three daughters; and a great-grandchild.

Lloyd Rogers, AB'54, of Naperville, IL, died September 16. He was 89. Rogers studied archaeology in the College, doing fieldwork in New Mexico and Arizona. A US Army veteran, Rogers worked in the insurance industry and retired in the early 2000s; he and his wife, Catherine, were longtime Naperville residents. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Matthew Enos, AB'55, AM'60, PhD'01, died May 17, 2020, in Chesterton, IN. He was 86. A US Army veteran, Enos taught high school and later joined the social sciences faculty of the fledgling City Colleges of Chicago's Loop Junior College (now Harold Washington College), serving for 25 years as a teacher and administrator. He retired in 1998 and later earned a doctorate in education. He authored study guides to accompany college psychology textbooks and advised graduate students. His wife, Marci Morrow Enos, LAB'50, AB'58, AM'69, PhD'01, died in 2024 (see below). Survivors include two stepdaughters, a sister, a step-grandchild, and a step-great-grandchild.

Marci Morrow Enos, LAB'50, AB'58, AM'69, PhD'01, died May 17 in Pasadena, CA. She was 89. Enos began her career as an elementary school teacher and in 1970 became the first therapist of color at the Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, under director Bruno Bettelheim. She later was an assistant professor of education at Roosevelt University and did a clinical psychology internship at Michael Reese Medical Center. For more than 40 years, Enos treated families and individuals in her private clinical psychology practices in downtown Chicago and Glenview, IL. Her husband, Matthew Enos, AB'55, AM'60, PhD'01, died in 2020 (see above). Survivors include two daughters, a half-sister, a step-grandchild, and a step-great-grandchild.

Alan M. Weintraub, MD'56, of Potomac, MD, died July 20. He was 94. Early in his career, Weintraub joined the Navy Medical Corps and provided care to US senators while stationed at the Capitol in Washington, DC. As a cardiologist, he practiced at Georgetown University Medical Center and Sibley Memorial Hospital and cared for patients who underwent some of the first artificial heart valve operations performed by Charles Hufnagel, who pioneered this technology. In his free time, Weintraub competed in carriage-driving events and became a certified scuba diver. He is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Lubert Stryer, SB'57, died April 8 in Stanford, CA. He was 86. A professor emeritus of structural biology and neurobiology at Stanford Medicine, Stryer was known for his pioneering discoveries in fluorescence spectroscopy, human vision, and high-speed genetic analysis. He also wrote a popular biochemistry textbook, now in its 10th edition, used by students worldwide. Among his many honors, Stryer received the National Medal of Science in 2006 and an honorary doctorate from UChicago in 1992; he was also elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences. He is survived by his wife, **Andrea Stenn Stryer**, LAB'53, AB'57, AM'58; a son; and four grandchildren.

Seth Leslie Wolitz, AB'58, died August 11 in Austin, TX. He was 86. Wolitz studied Romance languages in the College and at Yale, centering his early scholarship on French literature—especially Proust's works. He also began researching Yiddish and Jewish culture, and in 1980 he joined the University of Texas at Austin faculty as the Marie and Edwin Gale Chair of Judaic Studies. A specialist on the Yiddish writer Isaac Bashevis Singer, Wolitz expanded UT's Jewish studies program to include more courses on modern and diasporic topics, and he organized many lectures, symposia, and performance events.

1960s

Robert E. Porter Jr., MD'60, died September 10 in Gainesville, FL. He was 89. Porter served as a US Air Force flight surgeon before joining Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, NH, as an orthopedist in 1972. He later became an associate professor of surgery at Dartmouth Medical School and led the Federation of State Medical Boards and other professional organizations. A graduate and former trustee of Beloit College, he retired to Florida 20 years ago. He enjoyed sailing and skiing and scuba diving. He is survived by his wife, Betty; six children; two sisters; a brother; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Janetta Evangeline Webb, LAB'54, AB'60, of Oklahoma City, died in early September. She was 85. Webb had a lengthy teaching career in Illinois, Nebraska, New York, and Washington, DC. A community and PTA leader, Webb also volunteered with Jack and Jill of America. Survivors include four sons and three grandchildren.

Anthony Cordesman, LAB'56, AB'61, died January 29, 2024, in Alexandria, VA. He was 84. Cordesman worked as an intelligence analyst at the Pentagon, the State Department, and NATO before serving as national security assistant to Senator John McCain (R-AZ). In 1995 he joined the Center for Strategic and International Studies—where he was emeritus chair in strategy—and became a prominent commentator on US foreign and defense policies. Cordesman contributed op-eds to news outlets and analyses to ABC News; he wrote or cowrote more than 50 books. He also contributed equipment reviews to several audiophile magazines. Survivors include a daughter and two sons.

Conrad Kulawas, AB'62, of East Greenwich, RI, died August 12. He was 91. A Korean War veteran who served in the US Army Signal Corps, Kulawas studied English in the College. Early in his career he worked as a mill supervisor at US Steel in Chicago and served from 1964 to 1969 as editor of *The University of Chicago Magazine*. Moving to Brown University in 1969, he established the university's publications department as well as its award-winning graphic services department. Kulawas received many national awards for editing, writing, design, and photography throughout his career. Survivors include his wife, Grazina, and two daughters.

James L. Spiker, MBA'62, died August 10 in Eagle, CO. He was 93. Spiker majored in journalism at the University of Colorado and worked for newspapers in Wyoming, Texas, and Montana. After 25 years at Illinois Bell Telephone in Chicago, in 1985 he began leading Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Bushnell, IL, the town where he grew up, and retired from the bank in 2000. Spiker was active in educational and media organizations in Chicagoland and later, in retirement, with Eagle River Presbyterian Church in Colorado's Vail Valley. He is survived by a daughter; a son, **Scott Spiker**, MBA'84; and five grandchildren, including **Margaret Spiker**, AM'15.

Lowen Berman, AB'63, of Portland, OR, died September 10. He was 82. Berman was part of a student group that occupied the UChicago president's office in 1962 to demand integration in University-owned housing. Active in the civil rights and antiwar movements, he became a union and community organizer and joined a political theater group. Moving to Portland in 1982, Berman ran a machine shop at Oregon Health Sciences University and continued his activism; he later worked for the American Friends Service Committee and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. He is survived by his spouse, Kepper Petzing, and two daughters.

Ron Kaye, AB'64 (Class of 1963), died August 16 in Orange, CT. He was 83. With his College anthropology degree, Kaye became a journalist at *The Plain Dealer* (Cleveland), served briefly in the US Army, and later worked as a reporter and editor in the United States and Australia. In 1985 he joined the *Los Angeles Daily News*, eventually rising to editor in chief. A self-described "radical centrist," Kaye was known for civically inspired muckraking and for boosting the San Fernando Valley. He is survived by his wife, Deborah; a son; and two grandchildren.

William Edward Gibson, AB'64, AM'65, PhD'67, of Dallas, died August 23. He

was 80. Gibson served as a senior staff economist on the White House Council of Economic Advisers under President Richard Nixon. He later held senior executive positions in banking and worked in real estate. He is survived by his wife, Shannon; nine children; and a grandchild.

Robert B. "Bob" Austin, JD'65, of Olympia Fields, IL, died in September. He was 84. Austin, a graduate of Denison University, worked for 40 years as an attorney at Lord, Bissell & Brook and at Anderson Rasor & Partners, primarily specializing in medical malpractice defense. A member and director of the Society of Trial Lawyers, he was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers and served on the board of Illinois School District 161. Survivors include two children; two brothers; two grandchildren; and his partner, Sandy Haggman.

Richard E. Dooley, MBA'65, of Centerville, MA, died July 30. He was 90. A graduate of the College of the Holy Cross, Dooley served as a vice president of the First National Bank of Chicago, taught in the Graduate School of Business at Illinois Institute of Technology, and worked at Colonial Penn Group before starting his own consulting firm in 1973. The Dooley Group provided counsel and seminars on management and leadership development until 2018. Dooley also was a founder and lifetime member of the Society for Information Management. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; five children; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

David Barrett Williams, JD'65, died September 4 in Lake Geneva, WI. He was 85. Williams, a University of Wisconsin–Madison graduate, practiced law in Delavan, WI, prior to his firm's merger with a Janesville, WI, law firm. In 1979 he was elected as the first municipal judge for the village of Williams Bay, WI, and served for 36 years, through 17 election cycles, until retiring in 2014. Active in the local community, Williams cofounded the Lake Geneva chapter of Lyric Opera of Chicago and was passionate in his love for Geneva Lake. Williams is survived by two sons, two brothers, and three grandchildren.

Robert Coover, AM'65, died October 5 in Warwick, England. He was 92. A pioneer of postmodern writing, Coover wrote celebrated fiction, plays, poetry, and essays. He served in the Navy during the Korean War before receiving his master's degree in the humanities. His debut novel, *The Origin of the Brunists* (1966), examined religious cultism, and his 1969 collection, *Pricksongs and Descants*, introduced the fragmented narratives and reimagined fairy tales that defined his work. For more than 30 years he taught at Brown University, where he mentored several prominent writers. He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1987. Survivors include his wife, Pilar Sans Coover; two daughters; a son, **Roderick Coover**, PhD'99; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Irwin Feldinger, PhD'68, of Scarsdale, NY, died March 20. He was 86. A clinical psychologist, Feldinger practiced at Albert Einstein Hospital and Bronx State Hospital. He served for 32 years as the chief psychologist at Mercy Hospital in Rockville Centre, NY, and was on the adjunct medical staff at Winthrop Hospital in Mineola, NY, from 1975 to 1989. Feldinger retired from his private practice in Bayside, NY, in 2020. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; two daughters; and three grandchildren.

David J. Handel, MBA'68, of Fishers, IN, died July 31. He was 78. A Cornell University graduate, Handel had a 42-year career in health care that began with senior management positions at Northwestern and Vanderbilt University Medical Centers. As the CEO of Indiana University Hospitals, he oversaw the consolidation that created Clarian (now Indiana University Health). He later directed Indiana University's Master of Health Administration program, served on hospital boards, and founded the Executive Volunteer Services program to help retired senior executives provide pro bono assistance to local nonprofits. He is survived by his wife, Julia; a daughter; a son; a brother; and four grandchildren.

Michael D. Schechtman, AB'69, died August 7 in Helena, MT. He was 77. After studying environmental advocacy at the University of Michigan, Schechtman began his career by directing the Ann Arbor Ecology Center and cofounding the Illinois South Project. Moving to Montana, he led the Northern Rockies Action Group and later founded and served for 22 years as executive director of the Big Sky Institute for the Advancement of Nonprofits. Before retiring in 2023, he launched a grant-making endowment to support Helena area nonprofit organizations; he was also active in the Montana Jewish Project. Survivors include a sister and a brother.

Steven Landsman, EX'69, died August 2 in Eugene, OR. He was 76. While a student in the College, he founded the storied Students for Violent Non-Action. He moved to Oregon in the mid-1970s, where he worked as a phlebotomist and later as a computer programmer. He is survived by two stepdaughters, a sister, and five grandchildren.

1970s

Timothy Ennis, AB'70 (Class of 1969), of Waukee, IA, died September 10. He was 77. Ennis grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm and studied economics in the College, where he was a wrestler and Psi Upsilon fraternity member. He spent his career at National Farmers Organization in Corning, IA, and led the Adams County, IA, Extension Council for a decade. A Rotary Club and Knights of Columbus member, Ennis chaired the Adams County Democratic Party for over 30 years and volunteered at Johnny Carson's birthplace in Corning. He is survived by his wife, Kathy; three children; 10 siblings; and four grandchildren.

Jeanne Wikler, AB'70, died March 24 in Staatsburg, NY. She was 75. At UChicago Wikler starred in many University Theater productions and was a cofounder and coeditor of *The Chicago Maroon*'s weekend magazine, *The Grey City Journal*. After graduation she embarked on a varied career in journalism, film, and diplomacy that began with her studying with Marcel Marceau in Paris. Moving to the Netherlands with her husband, she worked as a TV journalist and then as director of Amsterdam's Binger Film Institute. From 2001 to 2007, Wikler was a cultural attaché for the Dutch government in New York City; she later served in the same role in Paris. In retirement she wrote personal essays and was working on a fictionalized version of her grandparents' lives on the Lower East Side and in Queens. Survivors include her son **Jef Klazen**, AB'01; a sister, **Marjorie Senechal**, SB'60; a brother; and a grandchild.

Thomas D. Hanson, JD'70, of Des Moines, IA, died April 3. He was 79. As an undergraduate at the University of Iowa, Hanson studied political science and served as student body president. After practicing law in Chicago, he joined Hanson, Bjork & Russell, leading the firm for nearly 40 years, and later Dickinson Bradshaw in Des Moines. Hanson was president of the Iowa Defense Counsel Association and a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers; outside of his legal work, he enjoyed working on his farm near Rippey, IA. He is survived by his partner, Patricia Kehoe, and five siblings.

Thomas F. Mullaney Jr., MBA'70, of West Hartford, CT, died August 26. He was 85. A Beloit College graduate, Mullaney served as a US Navy officer before earning a master's in economics at Northwestern University in 1965. He began his career at the First National Bank of Chicago, eventually moving to senior executive positions at Hartford National Bank and the Shawmut Banks of Connecticut and Massachusetts. In 1993 Mullaney retired but went on to found the investment advisory firm Mullaney, Keating & Wright in West Hartford, where he was active in many civic and business organizations. He is survived by a daughter; a son; a sister; a grandchild; and his partner, Gene Schaefer Flynn.

Marilyn Louise (Moody) Reiter, MAT'71, died September 12 in McHenry, IL. She was 81. Reiter studied German and education at Macalester College and UChicago, and for 30 years she tutored students and taught German in Chicago-area schools. With her husband, Helmut Reiter, AM'68, AM'74, who died in 2022, she enjoyed travel, hiking, and bird-watching. She also painted and created pottery. She is survived by a sister and two brothers.

Joseph Betz, AM'64, PhD'73, of Bryn Mawr, PA, died April 11. He was 84. With

his doctorate from the Committee on the Analysis of Ideas and the Study of Methods, Betz taught philosophy at Villanova University for 45 years. Committed to social justice causes, he served as the faculty adviser for Amnesty International for 30 years and taught philosophy in a maximum-security prison. Honoring his legacy of service and community activism, Villanova's Center for Peace and Justice Education annually recognizes a graduating senior with the Joseph Betz Solidarity Award. He is survived by his wife, Antoinette; four children; a sister; and six grandchildren.

James Drake, MBA'73, died September 17 in Houston. He was 81. Drake served as an intelligence officer in the US Navy during the 1960s and earned his bachelor's degree from American University. After working at the US Department of Agriculture and later for the Heinz Corporation, he moved to Houston to pursue a career in real estate. His passions included running, photography, music, and food. He is survived by two sons and four grandchildren.

Ronald L. Montgomery, MBA'73, of Hilton Head Island, SC, died September 22. He was 84. With his business studies and undergraduate degree in dairy technology, Montgomery worked in the grocery industry. He held management positions at Jewel Food Stores before launching a successful food brokerage firm, Cheese and Deli Sales. Retiring in 1999 and moving to Hilton Head, Montgomery was an elder at Providence Presbyterian Church and gardened at the community plot in Hilton Head Plantation, donating most of his produce to a local food pantry, neighbors, and friends. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine; three daughters; and four grandchildren.

Barry Scherr, AM'67, PhD'73, died September 12 in Lebanon, NH. He was 79. Scherr discovered a passion for Russian literature as a Harvard undergraduate; he continued that exploration at UChicago, conducting dissertation research in the former Soviet Union. For 38 years he taught at Dartmouth College in the Department of East European, Eurasian, and Russian Studies, and also served as provost. Scherr's scholarship focused on poetry and poetics as well as 19th- and 20th-century Russian fiction, comparative literature, film, and linguistics. Survivors include his wife, Sylvia; a daughter; and a son.

Robert Kossack, EX'76, of Las Vegas, died January 18, 2024, of cancer. He was 69. A Tucson, AZ, native, Kossack spent a year at UChicago before attending the New College in Sarasota, FL, and then the University of Arizona, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a JD. He spent his career as an attorney in Las Vegas, practicing personal injury, criminal, family, and civil rights law. He published a book and enjoyed performing and writing about karaoke.

Mitchell R. Meisner, AM'68, PhD'77, died June 20 in Huntington Woods, MI. He was 80. Meisner was a real estate attorney and partner at the Honigman law firm in Detroit, where he worked for more than 40 years. An Amherst College graduate, he studied political science at UChicago and later earned his JD at the University of Michigan. Meisner participated in the 1963 March on Washington; he later served as a volunteer judge in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and did pro bono legal work. He is survived by his wife, Marcia; three children; a brother; and seven grandchildren.

Gregory Gene Henry, SM'74, PhD'78, of Arlington, VA, died August 26. He was 73. Prior to attending the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Henry taught himself physics and calculus, subjects that weren't offered at his high school. With his doctorate in physics, he worked at Fermilab and later moved to Washington, DC, where he was an operations research analyst at the US Office of Management and Budget from 1979 to 2011. Beyond his professional pursuits, Henry took organ lessons and was involved in humanitarian, environmental, and pro-democracy causes. He is survived by a sister and two brothers.

1980s

Ronnie Bouldin, MBA'81, of Flint, TX, died September 25. He was 86. With a business degree from East Texas State University, Bouldin worked for Kraft Foods, first in Texas and later at the company's Chicago headquarters. He lived with his family in Arlington Heights, IL, until his retirement in 1996. Returning to Texas, Bouldin was active in Green Acres Baptist Church and volunteered for Meals on Wheels of East Texas. Survivors include his wife, Peggy; two sons; and his grandchildren.

David Rubin, SB'81, of Ewing, NJ, died May 9. He was 64. An enthusiastic learner and reader of history and biographies, Rubin could often be found at synagogue educational events. He took an active role at Adath Israel Congregation, serving for many years as treasurer. He enjoyed playing card and board games. He is survived by his wife, Holly; two children; his mother; and two brothers.

Dennis L. McCaughan, PhD'82, died August 4 in Suttons Bay, MI. He was 80. McCaughan grew up in Honolulu and attended Boston University before serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Iran. A US Army veteran, he served at the Pentagon and later earned a master's in education at Stanford. McCaughan later trained as a clinical psychologist and had a decades-long career as a psychotherapist, teacher, consultant, and mentor in Chicago before settling on the Leelanau Peninsula in northern Michigan. He is survived by his wife, Sally; three children; two grandchildren; and a brother.

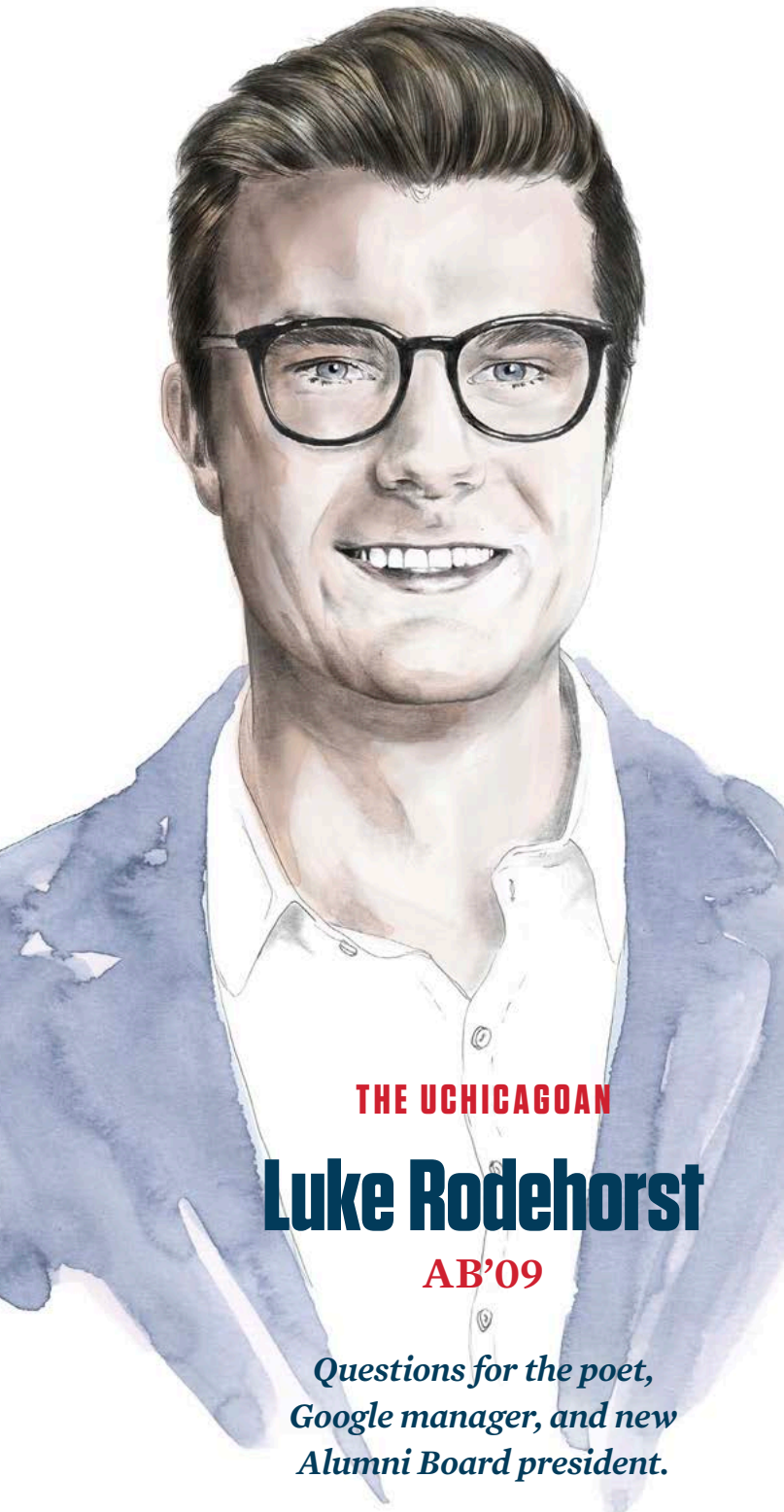
Richard E. Denison Jr., AM'82, DMin'85, of Mechanicsburg, PA, died July 19. He was 65. A pastor, Denison served United Methodist Church congregations throughout central Pennsylvania for nearly 40 years. He was also a Harley motorcycle enthusiast, a Christian radio host, and a lifetime member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As a chaplain with the 193rd Special Operations Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, he served multiple tours overseas, including during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Survivors include his wife, Barbara; a daughter; a son; a sister; and three grandchildren.

Althea Nagai, AM'78, PhD'86, died August 21 in Rockville, MD. She was 70. Nagai taught political science at Smith College and coauthored several books on topics including public opinion formation and adoption laws with her first husband, Robert Lerner, AM'82, PhD'84, who died in 2010. Over three decades, as a senior research fellow at the Center for Equal Opportunity, she published writing that helped lay the groundwork for the 2023 US Supreme Court decision banning racial preferences in college admissions. Nagai was a lifelong member of her hometown Buddhist temple in Kea'au, HI, as well as a pianist and guitarist. She is survived by her husband, Ken Masugi; a son, **Joshua Yoshio Lerner**, AB'12; a stepdaughter; and a grandchild.

Sean P. Elliott, AB'89, of Tucson, AZ, died suddenly on May 19. He was 56. Elliott, who received his medical degree from Columbia University, was a pediatrician, infectious disease specialist, professor, and administrator. At the University of Arizona College of Medicine and Banner–University Medical Center Tucson, his varied roles included directing the pediatrics residency program; he later worked at Tucson Medical Center and helped develop the curriculum at the University of Arizona Health Sciences. Elliott also was a talented musician, carpenter, and woodworker. Survivors include his wife, Kim, and daughter **Meghan Elliott**, AB'19.

2000s

Carl S. Nash, AM'02, died July 21 in Las Vegas. He was 47. Nash grew up in the Denver suburbs and graduated from the University of Colorado before studying history at UChicago under adviser George Chauncey. Nash contributed the entry "Gay and Lesbian Rights Movements" to the *Encyclopedia of Chicago* (2004). As director of events, senior director of programming, and later assistant dean of external relations for the Division of the Humanities, he transformed the University's annual Humanities Day celebration. He also served on the board of the Chicago Public Art Group. He is survived by his parents, his stepmother, and two half-brothers.



THE UCHICAGOAN

Luke Rodehorst

AB'09

Questions for the poet, Google manager, and new Alumni Board president.

What surprising job have you had in the past?
For two days during fall quarter of my second year, I was randomly cast as a featured extra in a movie being filmed in a soundstage on Chicago's West Side. My line required that I scream in Rachel Weisz's face during a rowdy bar scene. The film was *Fred Claus*, and it currently has a 21 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

What would you want to be doing if not your current profession?
I believe that personal storytelling is a universal human superpower. To build a career around finding and elevating people's stories would give me so much energy.

What book changed your life?
When I read *The Wild Iris* by Louise Glück as a junior in high school, I realized that poetry would always be important to me.

Tell us the best piece of advice you've received.
In the aftermath of a broken heart, my mother reminded me that the center of my happiness cannot exist anywhere outside of myself. It cannot be dependent on someone or something else. It has to come from within.

What advice would you give to a brand-new Maroon?
Take four classes every quarter. Don't miss the opportunity to attend professors' office hours. Enroll in at least one creative writing workshop.

What's your most vivid UChicago memory?
My experience at UChicago and in Hyde Park was and continues to be so full of luminous details that it's hard to pick just one, but certainly a memory that rises to the top is the moment I met my wife (**Lilly Connett**, AB'07, MBA'14) at a party on 57th and Kimbark when she punched me in the face.

TO READ THE FULL Q&A, VISIT MAG.UCHICAGO.EDU/UCHICAGOAN.

Illustration by Virginia Garnier

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