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FALL 2024, VOLUME 117, NUMBER 1



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## EDITOR'S NOTES

# MEET THE INTERNS

BY LAURA DEMANSKI, AM'94

wish you could have been a fly on the wall in the *Magazine* offices this past summer. For the first time since before the pandemic, two students from the College joined us as full-time Metcalf interns. They are Californian **Rory McGann**, Class of 2025, and North Carolina native **Shiloh Miller**, Class of 2026. Intergenerational side-eye is a fact of our world, as it probably ever was. But Rory and Shiloh swooped in and showed us the kids are much more than all right.

The two are true polymaths: a molecular engineering major who is minoring in the humanistic fields of science communication and theater (Rory) and a creative writing and cognitive science double major (Shiloh). Both are razor-sharp with unlimited curiosity. That combined with their deep interest in a print-first publication made all of the *Magazine* editors feel bullish about the future of a profession many of us chose long ago.

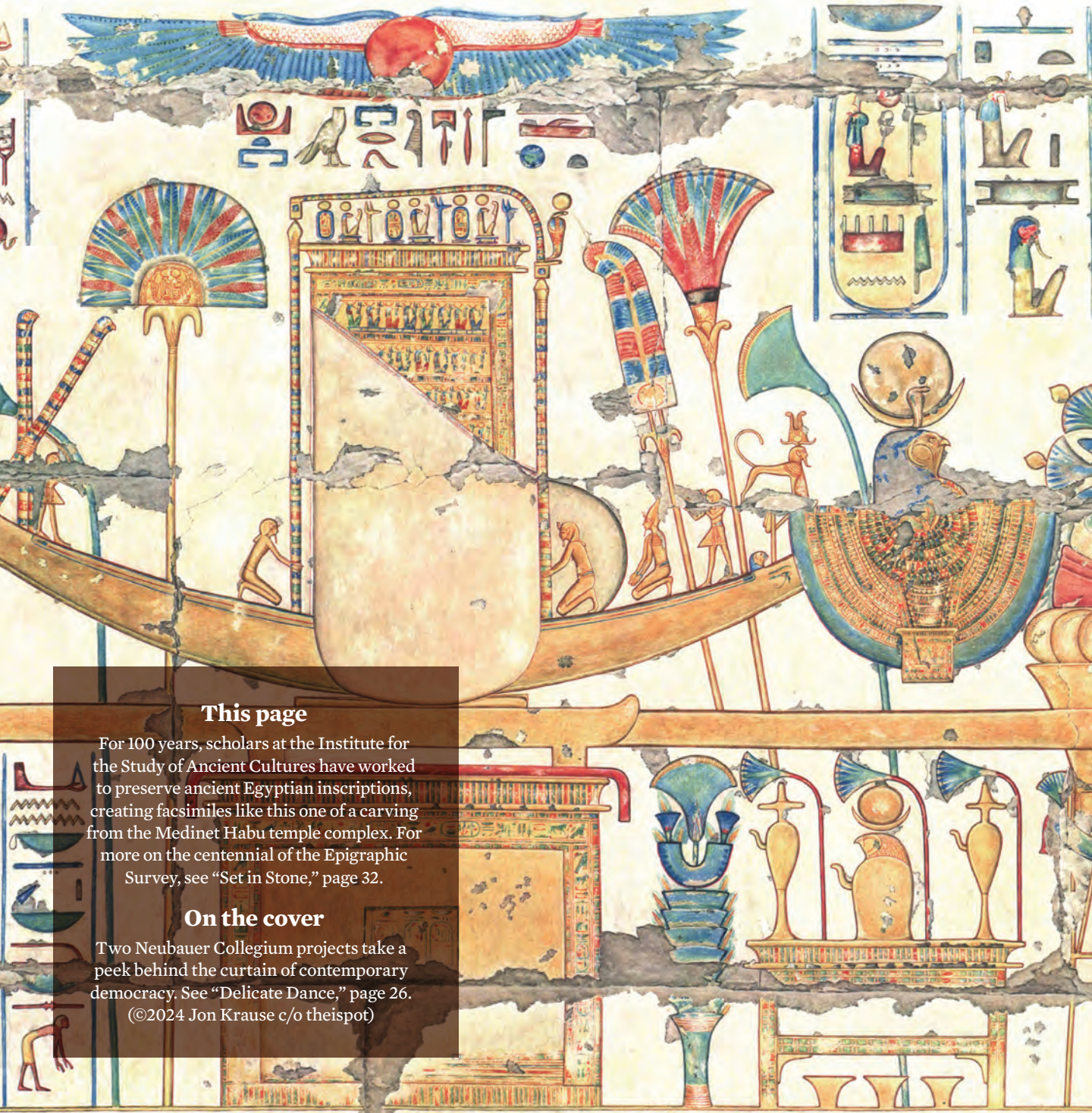
If you aren't familiar with the Jeff Metcalf Internship Program, it offers meaningful paid internships and micro-internships that are earmarked for UChicago undergraduates. Metcalf employers, who now number more than a thousand, include Sotheby's, Goldman Sachs, and the Smithsonian. The *Magazine* was one of the inaugural employers back in 1997, the program's first year. Since then the program has grown to offer more than 4,000 opportunities.

This summer Rory and Shiloh edited copy, pitched stories, brought order to our archives, and got to know our colleagues across Alumni Relations and Development communications. They inspired us daily and started small traditions that have survived their time here, like the playlists, reading lists, and weekly flash polls (*Star Wars* or *Star Trek*? Beatles or Stones?) they installed on our office's whiteboard walls.

Now they are off on other adventures (Shiloh will be with us again part time during Autumn Quarter, however), and our lives are a little more beige. In this issue you'll find their first bylined pieces: two Quick Study research briefs (pages 15 and 17) and Shiloh's non-bylined W. R. Harper's Index (page 23). Additional fruits of their work this summer will appear in the Winter/25 *Magazine*, so look out for more of Rory's and Shiloh's fresh voices in January. ♦

# FALL 2024

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## This page

For 100 years, scholars at the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures have worked to preserve ancient Egyptian inscriptions, creating facsimiles like this one of a carving from the Medinet Habu temple complex. For more on the centennial of the Epigraphic Survey, see “Set in Stone,” page 32.

## On the cover

Two Neubauer Collegium projects take a peek behind the curtain of contemporary democracy. See “Delicate Dance,” page 26.

(©2024 Jon Krause c/o theispot)

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Two faculty projects examine the awkward partnership between democracy and capitalism.

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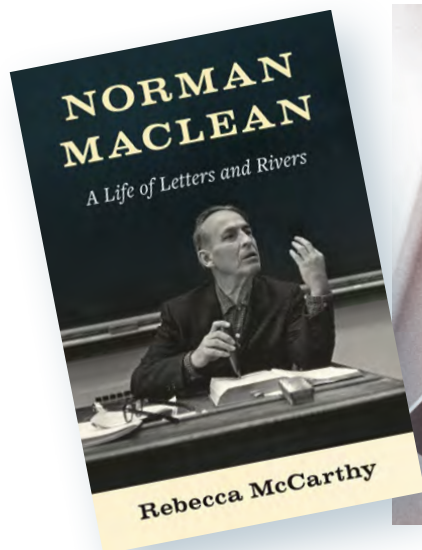
What alumni are thinking and doing



Courtesy the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures

# 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](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).



## Readers run through it

I enjoyed the piece on Norman Maclean, PhD'40, and his *A River Runs Through It* in the Summer/24 issue of the *Magazine* ("Searching for a Story").

My guess is I am one of the few readers of Maclean's famous book whose father also was a Presbyterian minister and fine fly fisherman, likewise not necessarily in that order. And I shared with the author the University of Chicago in the '60s, graduating with a BA in history in 1968.

I joined my folks in the summer of 1980 for some fly fishing on Montana's Madison River; my father had recently retired from his position as professor of religion at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. His successor, also a fly fisherman, was along with his wife. They gave me Maclean's book and took me out on the river. Like the author's father, they tied their own flies, checking out the hatch of the day and tying up some likenesses, not bothering to head for the river until late afternoon. Both could put their fly on a dime at 100 feet, while my casts resembled a sloppy heave of coiled rope. The fish laughed at me, but eventually I settled into a pretty good four-count cast, got

lucky, and caught a few. And I enjoyed my evening's reading of *A River Runs Through It*.

Wait, there's more! The story on the Accelerator Building ("Atom Smashers") brought back memories of my time working in the bubble chamber measurement group housed in the mid-'60s in that building. That's an interesting story. Then on page 64 there was something about the Olympics that mentioned Coach Ted Haydon, LAB'29, PhB'33, AM'54 ("Fans of the Flame," *Alumni News*). I ran cross-country and track for Coach Haydon my first year and made the varsity squad. He took me aside one day to comment on my stride, which was one-third up and two-thirds forward. He said, "If you will let me adjust your stride a bit, I think I can get you into the Olympics!" I lacked the necessary desire and had too many books to read; that was the end of my distance running career. But he was a great coach.

**Lenny Anderson, AB'68**  
PORTLAND, OREGON

Your lovely introduction and book excerpt on Norman Maclean brought

back a warm memory of spotting *A River Runs Through It* on a display table in the University bookstore in 1976. I read the opening paragraph, was completely "hooked," and stood there reading page after page, unable to put it down. Ultimately, of course, I did buy it, and in the decades that followed it has been the book I gifted others time and again. What a treasure!

**Kathryn Gallien, AM'76**  
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

**Both could put their fly on a dime at 100 feet, while my casts resembled a sloppy heave of coiled rope. The fish laughed at me.**

Thank you for the charming article on Norman Maclean, including his long dedication to teaching in the College. In the accompanying excerpt from Rebecca McCarthy's (AB'77) biography

From left: Courtesy University of Washington Press; photography by Gwen Cates, EX'79. Copyright 2024, *The Chicago Maroon*. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

of Maclean, she touches on his experience during a famous innovation at UChicago.

After Richard McKeon became dean of the Humanities Division, Maclean's organization of courses on general studies in the humanities was one of a network of programs, all part of the effort by McKeon, Ronald Crane, and others to achieve a pluralism of interdisciplinary studies in the humanities. To characterize this as an attempt to apply "Aristotelian methods of logic and analysis to texts"—as was indeed stated by others—missed the richness, complexity, and, yes, difficulty of the pluralistic path they actually did initiate for purposes of broadening creativity, not in service to any one dogma. This intention McKeon and others close to the program have amply demonstrated.

The program's fate, what McKeon later recognized as "the splintering and atrophy that overtook the interdisciplinary programs in the humanities," he attributed to the "tendency to succumb to a unity achieved by

subordinating the variety of disciplines to a single well-established or prestigious architectonic discipline." Those interested in this famous effort and its wider creative possibilities can consult *Selected Writings of Richard McKeon, Volume Two: Culture, Education, and the Arts*. It would be interesting to learn more of Maclean's thoughts on this part of his experience.

**David Mason, AB'77**

CARY, NORTH CAROLINA

As an English major in the College between 1966 and 1970, I never took a class with Norman Maclean; I was a fan of David Bevington, who also taught Shakespeare, as well as Renaissance drama. However, during my fourth year, I served on a student-faculty committee that was reconsidering the curriculum for English majors. I don't remember exactly what was discussed, though I do know that my personal mission on the committee was to see more female authors included.

My most vivid memory, however, involves Professor Maclean, who was

**While he had a reputation as being somewhat intimidating as a professor, as a human being he was lovely and kind.**

one of the English faculty members on the committee. That year I lived in an apartment at 5605 South Drexel Avenue (since demolished), and I rode my bike to and from campus. The committee meetings would end in the late afternoon, and Professor Maclean was concerned that I get home safely, so he would ask me to wait while he got his car, and then he would follow me home to be sure that I arrived without incident. While he had a reputation as being somewhat intimidating as a professor, as a human being he was lovely and kind.

**Ilene Kantrov, AB'70**

LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS



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## Of note

In the picture with Norman Maclean's daughter on page 45 of the Summer/24 issue ("Searching for a Story"), just in case you are curious, the person on the other side of Robert Redford is B. Kenneth West, MBA'60. At that point, he would have likely been retired from Harris Bank, where he had been CEO.

*Ernst Heldring, MBA'80*

NEWTOWN SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA

## Aims of education

The University of Chicago has always been admirable in its defense of free speech and debate, as in so many other respects. Yet at times that defense seems to be presented as a form of institutional self-congratulation and a tactic for refuting dissenters from orthodox views. A good example is the quotation from Nadya Mason, dean of the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering ("What Is the Future of Higher Education?" Summer/24): "At the University of Chicago we want

**Arguing with straw men is typical of a political campaign, not the sort of "conversations" the University should want to encourage.**

our students to go out and be leaders and be able to engage in conversations about things that matter to people. If someone says, 'Vaccines are not important' or 'I don't believe in climate change,' I want our students to be able to answer with reason, with scientific proof, with evidence. That's what will make them leaders in the way that we want them to be, and it starts here."

Arguing with straw men is typical of a political campaign, not the sort of "conversations" the University should want to encourage. For example, what about answering the more impressive skeptic who says, "Vaccines are great, but their rapid proliferation over the past two decades has led to dangers that official health authorities too often minimize," or "Climate is always changing, but the proportion of present-day change attributable to human actions remains uncertain, and likely outcomes have often been exaggerated since it became a partisan issue in the 1990s"? Learning to engage with genuinely arguable assertions like those would be a far worthier goal for a Chicago education.

*Christopher Clausen, AM'65*

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

I enjoyed your piece "What Is the Future of Higher Education?" on the Alumni Weekend forum of UChicago deans moderated by Arne Duncan, LAB'82. But I felt sympathy for the panel. It seemed they were flailing for answers.

John Adams famously said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." In the same way, perhaps, a university is made for a society that rests on common philosophical assumptions; Western assumptions, in the case of UChicago. Today such universities may be wholly inadequate to the education of a people who disdain the assumptions and first principles upon which these universities were created. The intellectual skeletal structure is gone.

Ironically, it was at Chicago in the 1970s that I, coming in with secularist blinders on, discovered the heritage of classical and Judeo-Christian thought that built the Western world.



The blinders came off. I found a worldview which to me made sense of reality. It still does. A fulfilling family and vocation have been part of the fruit of that awakening. I believe that worldview not only supplies subjective fulfillment; I believe it "works" because it is objectively true. It is connected to what is real: God, rationality, facts, human experience, creativity, moral boundaries, and more.

**Ironically, it was at Chicago in the 1970s that I, coming in with secularist blinders on, discovered the heritage of classical and Judeo-Christian thought that built the Western world.**

Alas, that old philosophically confident, Western-civilization-grounded University of Chicago seems to be no more. It succumbed first to rigid secularism and now is bending to tribal wokeism. There is still good at UChicago. But I fear those virtues are but the fading afterglow of a worldview the University now neglects.

Perhaps a free market of educational choices will lead back to the ideals that once animated the University of Chicago. That may be the best hope for higher education's future.

*Christopher Corbett, AB'78*

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# LETTERS



## Yoe-man's service

Mary Ruth Yoe is the best of us UChicagoans (“The Heart of It All,” Editor’s Notes, Summer/24). My mom was a newspaper editor, and my wife is an English professor and was a lit mag editor. I was a law review editor. So I appreciate excellence in that role. MRY is tops in the field. I got to know her on a personal level when I was on the Alumni Board. She is a delightful person, as well as a grammatical stickler.

**Jeff Rasley, AB’75**

INDIANAPOLIS

## Comment and criticism

I don’t share your view on the past 30–40 years of the *Magazine* and its editors (“The Heart of It All,” Editor’s Notes, Summer/24). I seldom find anything interesting: it is mostly just plain elitist and promoting social engineering. Little to nothing about getting back to real American values. It has become a testament to how our universities, in general, have lost any value for the real world. I’m sorry to say I now have to explain that my degree was earned at a time when there was still some value left in obtaining it.

**Vegard Vevstad, MBA’77**

CRETE, ILLINOIS

## Studying in style

It took me an entire four or five quarters to get to Harper Library (“Uplifted,” Alumni News, Summer/24). For my first year, I studied in my dorm room

in Woodward Court at 58th and Woodlawn; then I was made aware of the social center on campus, aka Regenstein. But when I walked into this almost luxurious space, with cushions, platforms, pillows, was I really in a library?

I kept returning to Harper because I could get work done. At Regenstein friends typically wanted to “take a break” ... seemingly every 15 minutes.

For truly serious study, though, we’d get lost at the Law Library across the Midway, next to Burton Judson Courts.

**Adam Stoler, AB’78 (Class of 1977)**

BRONX, NEW YORK



## Teacher tributes

I can nominate two excellent teachers who influenced me (“Best in Class,” Editor’s Notes, Spring/24).

James E. Miller Jr., AM’47, PhD’49 (above), taught American literature, but much more than that. He had a way of drawing us into the language of writers including Melville, Faulkner, and Eliot, who are not always easily accessible to a reader. Sometimes when I read those works, I can hear traces of his soft drawl working through each writer’s rhythm. Outside of class, he was always available to help with literature and the problems of undergraduate life.

Robert Ferguson also taught American literature and became a mentor to me. I was not sure whether to pursue graduate studies in English or go to law school. Robert had had both experiences and helped show me what my career paths might look like. Over time, he was able to teach both literature and law. I thought he had one of the best jobs you could have, and later

told him that many of my current colleagues were envious. In class he brought all of his skills to the room and found a way to get everyone talking—and debating in a respectful way. It’s a skill that is lacking these days.

**Robert Wanerman, AB’79**

POTOMAC, MARYLAND

## ROTC responses

Although Chicago is not a land-grant university and, therefore, has no legal obligation to establish an ROTC program, it should be commended for its support of local universities and the Air Force ROTC program (Letters, Spring/24).

It would be a shame for UChicago students to not have the opportunity to contribute their special talents to our country and its military.

In hindsight, the Vietnam experience gave us serious lessons learned, and it damaged many young Americans. But today the world has shown us we cannot exist without a strong military. Let its leadership be an ethical and educated one.

**Scott Knight, MBA’85**

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

I emphatically agree with Daniel Levine’s (SB’63, SM’64) letter to the editor opposing ROTC on campus. Indeed, there is even more to oppose about ROTC than he expresses. The ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964 specifies that no ROTC unit may be “maintained at an institution unless the senior commissioned officer of the armed force concerned who is assigned to the program at that institution is given the academic rank of professor ... and the institution

**In class he brought all of his skills to the room and found a way to get everyone talking—and debating in a respectful way. It’s a skill that is lacking these days.**



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# LETTERS

adopts, as a part of its curriculum, a four-year course of military instruction ... which the Secretary of the military department concerned prescribes and conducts.” Thus the University of Chicago would be required to appoint faculty and adopt a specific curriculum according to the wishes of an outside institution. The University of Chicago does not, so far as I know, allow other outside donors to pick faculty and curricula, and I hope it never does so, but this could be a very bad precedent.

The matter became of even graver concern in 1996, when “as part of the FY1996 NDAA (P.L. 104-106, §541), Congress passed legislation that denied certain federal funding to any higher education institution that

prohibited or prevented the operation of ROTC units, recruiting activity, or student participation in ROTC on its campus” (quoted from the Congressional Research Service’s newsletter *In Focus*, updated January 19, 2024). The current University of Chicago administration seems to have put UChicago in a position where it would lose substantial funding if it ever has the good sense to drop out of ROTC—a very serious unforced error.

**Robert Michaelson, SB’66, AM’73**  
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

**Gerald McSwiggan, director for public affairs, responds:** “The first ROTC unit on the University of Chicago campus began in 1917 before it was transferred to Michigan State University in 1936. ROTC was not excluded from UChicago as at some other universities, but a lack of interest kept the program from returning to campus.

*Instead, UChicago provided support for students participating in ROTC, and cadets commuted to the University of Illinois Chicago or Illinois Institute of Technology for training. In 2016 ROTC became a student organization at UChicago and cadets started to train again on campus.*

*“The University continues to use its long-standing faculty-guided processes for all academic appointments. ROTC training is not in the form of courses listed with the registrar and does not provide credit toward UChicago degree requirements or graduation.”*

## Corrections

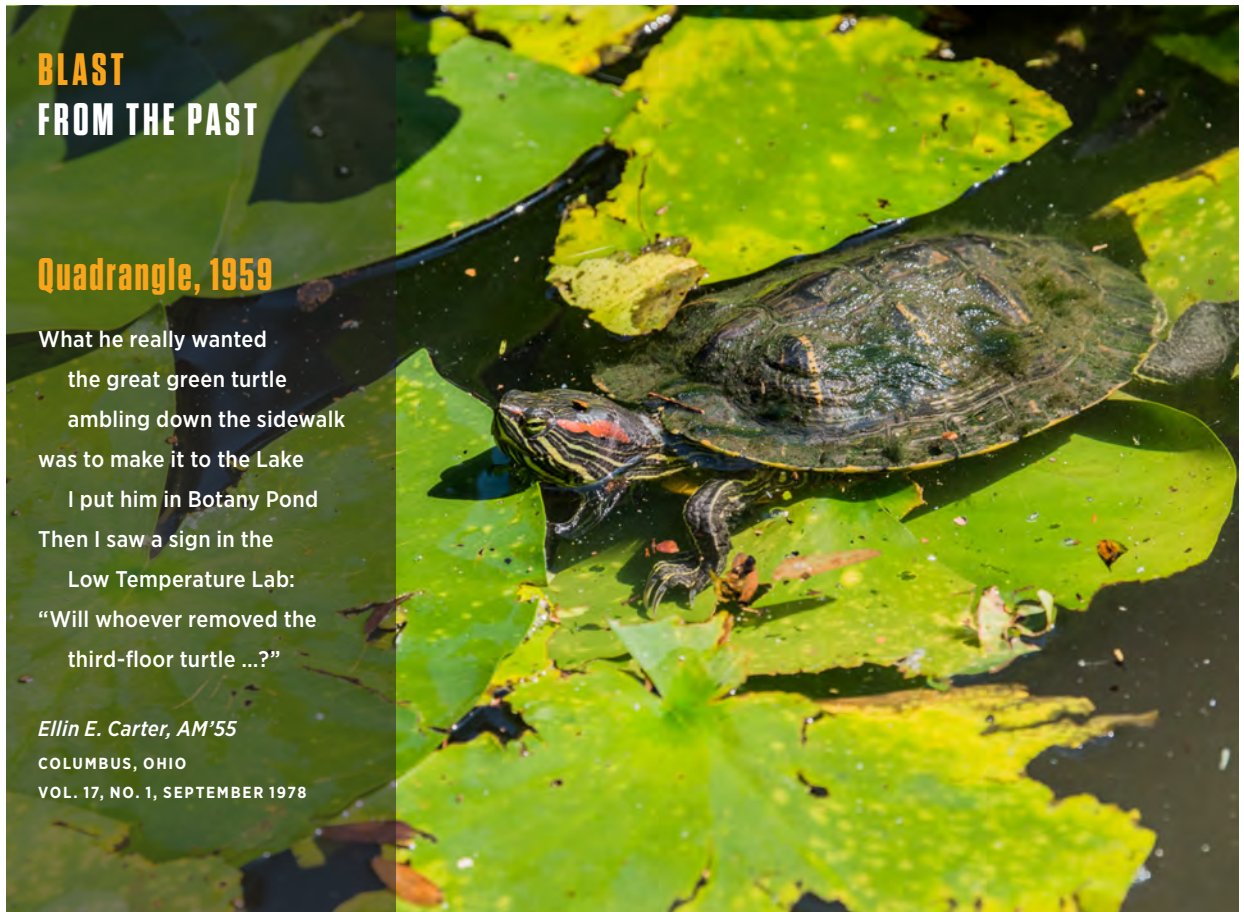
In the extended online letters for our Spring/24 edition, we misidentified the Fifth Ward alderman during the 1960s. Leon Despres, PhB’27, JD’29, served in that position from 1955 to 1975. We regret the error.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

### Quadrangle, 1959

What he really wanted  
the great green turtle  
ambuling down the sidewalk  
was to make it to the Lake  
I put him in Botany Pond  
Then I saw a sign in the  
Low Temperature Lab:  
“Will whoever removed the  
third-floor turtle ...?”

*Ellin E. Carter, AM’55*  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
VOL. 17, NO. 1, SEPTEMBER 1978



Photography by Jean Lechat

## OUR MOMENT TO SEIZE

BY ARMIN AFSAHI

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT



This is my second autumn with the University of Chicago, and already campus feels like home. As vice president for Alumni Relations and Development, I help advance UChicago’s mission through the intellectual, social, professional, and philanthropic engagement of our global University community, working closely with President **Paul Alivisatos**, AB’81; University leadership; and our inspiring volunteers. Advancing the mission of this remarkable institution is an honor and a privilege for me and my colleagues.

Every day my journey connects me to faculty, students, staff, alumni, parents, and friends and ignites storytelling moments about what makes this University so special to them. I also experience important moments when they share their hopes and expectations for what is yet ahead. I have seen up close the rigor and curiosity that animate passion and inspire engagement. UChicago is an exhilarating place, fueled by a diverse and engaged community that spans the globe, and your stories, perspectives, hopes, and expectations frame our future.

Certainly, our community is rooted in the University’s history and values. Founded in 1890, UChicago has been a pioneering place from the start, a home for advanced research and scholarship and academic freedom. In a 1902 lecture, founding president William Rainey Harper commented that “complete freedom of speech on

all subjects has from the beginning been regarded as fundamental.” With the Chicago Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression that President Alivisatos launched last year, we continue to hold Harper’s reminder in the highest regard, while acknowledging that free expression is a critical area for further study and practice in Chicago and around the world.

Perhaps nothing more succinctly and uniquely captures the bond we share than our motto: *Crescat scientia; vita excolatur*, or “Let knowledge grow from more to more; and so be human life enriched,” adopted by the University in 1911. Professor of Greek Paul Shorey created the motto with phrases from two different works of literature. I love this fact because it emblemizes the UChicago tradition of interdisciplinarity—of innovation and the cross-pollination of ideas.

President Alivisatos has said that the University’s distinctive culture “is suffused by a genuine love for ideas and a conviction in the power knowledge

holds to shape society for the better.” Our UChicago experiences connect us to each other and to our most curious, engaged selves in countless ways.

It might be the insight from a Core course that you return to again and again, or a chance conversation with a researcher in another discipline that unlocked a lifelong interest. It might be an impromptu return to campus for a reunion that reacquaints you with an old friend. Our UChicago ties endure because they evolve with us, providing inspiration and challenge throughout our lives to think unlikely ideas and fiercely pursue them.

Continuing to build our community is a calling together of future convocations. What do we imagine for the next 50 or 100 years at UChicago? How many lives around the world can we impact and improve through our medical breakthroughs, student scholarships, civic engagement, and climate and energy initiatives? Whether you are a student, faculty member, alum, parent, patient, volunteer, staff member, or friend, you have been touched by this love for ideas and the extraordinary feats we can accomplish when we harness it.

In this spirit, I invite you to join us in authoring the next chapter. I invite you to seize with us this moment in time when we can have a profound impact on the future we envision and on the university we love. ♦

**What UChicago moment resonates most with you? Tell me at [armin\\_afsahi@uchicago.edu](mailto:armin_afsahi@uchicago.edu).**

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June 25, 2024

## short list

News for the UChicago community

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

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

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

### Top of mind



Photography by Anne Ryan

### 1. Building back

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

## Short List

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

May 2024

## μChicago

a small selection of science stories

### From art to science and back again

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

"Peculiar Dynamics" named winner of Science as Art contest



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

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

## μChicago

A small selection of science stories each month

## the college review

Brought to you by the editors of the *Core*

May 2024

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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.

“

## The College Review

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO

# UCHICAGO JOURNAL

RESEARCH AND NEWS IN BRIEF



## CORE CURRICULUM

Ocean floor cores like these can reveal the secrets of Earth's climate. See "Buried Treasure," page 18.

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*Ghostly endeavors*



Southwest of Cape Cod, Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farms, led by Charmaine Gahan, AB'00, produces oysters with a singular “merroir”—a flavor profile shaped by the unique combination of environmental elements at work on Cuttyhunk Island.

#### AQUACULTURE

## Out of her shell

*Charmaine Gahan, AB'00, is fulfilling a teenage dream as the owner of Cuttyhunk Shellfish farms.*

BY LYDIALYLE GIBSON

As a high schooler, **Charmaine Gahan**, AB'00, found her calling on an oyster farm at the farthest edge of a tiny island chain off the coast of Massachusetts. Then, 30 years later, she found her way back to it.

“OK, here we are,” she says, switching off the ignition of her olive-green four-wheeler and looking out across a sprawling salt pond, where 300,000 oysters are growing underwater in nets suspended from long lines of white buoys. Soon the tide will wash back in, bringing fresh nutrients and plankton to feed the oysters. This is the operations hub of Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farms, on Cuttyhunk Island.

Two years ago, following a career in business that felt more like a detour, Gahan purchased the farm from her former boss Seth Garfield, who had started it with his wife in 1981. Over the decades, Garfield has employed hundreds of young people to help bring in the oyster harvest—the children of Cuttyhunk residents and regular vacationers, or those with some other connection to the island. “Probably 80 percent of the kids on the island over the generations have worked with us at some point,” he says. When she was 17, Gahan became one of them.

She spent several summers hauling nets and shucking oysters before returning home to the mainland every fall for school in Concord, Massachusetts. The experience was formative. In her UChicago admissions essay, she described a day spent working with Garfield: piloting his boat through the early morning fog, picking exotic sea creatures out of the shimmering slime caked onto the oyster traps. Her grandfather had been a commercial fisherman, and the work felt right. “My favorite thing was to be out here on the water,” she says. “That’s what I really wanted.”

She also felt drawn to the island itself. Cuttyhunk, a remote squib of sand, scrub trees, and white clapboard cottages, is situated on the outermost edge of the Elizabeth Islands chain southwest of Cape Cod. It and the other islands comprise Gosnold, the tiniest town in Massachusetts—around 70 residents, according to the US Census. In summer the population swells to 400 or more (besides vacationers, the island is a magnet for striped bass fishermen), but fewer than a dozen hardy locals stay on through winter.

Last December, Gahan says, there were three other people there besides her. Wi-Fi is spotty, there’s no doctor’s office, and class sizes in the one-room schoolhouse can be in the single digits. Full-time residents like Garfield fill multiple roles: among his many responsibilities, he’s the fire chief and the emergency response manager, he serves on the town’s finance committee, and he assists with solid waste management. Though he retired from teaching science at the school, he substitute teaches when called on; he also runs his own landscaping business on the side. The same is true now of Gahan, who

Photos courtesy Charmaine Gahan, AB'00



## QUICK STUDY

ASTRONOMY

### Star scraps

Casual stargazers can't see Sagittarius A\*, the supermassive black hole more than 26,000 light-years away at our galaxy's center, devouring matter around itself. Data taken from various telescopes, including NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory, are necessary to capture it. Astrophysics PhD student **Scott Mackey, SM'23**, and collaborators used the observatory's archive for a study published May 9 in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, investigating the role of black holes in galaxy formation. By collating 13 X-ray images from 2005 and 2008, the researchers identified an "exhaust vent" atop a known chimney of gas streaming hundreds of light-years away from the galactic center. Thought to be the waste disposal for the scraps Sagittarius A\* spits out, the vent system may help researchers discern how often the black hole consumes and excretes cosmic material. It might also explain how the mysterious galaxy-sized Fermi and eROSITA bubbles around Sagittarius A\* came to be.—*R. M.* ♦



Charmaine Gahan, AB'00.

is in and out during the winter and on the island full time the rest of the year. "I have jumped in to clean the public toilets, collect trash, dig a grave, clear a road, help change the oil on a diesel generator at the powerhouse," she says.

After college, where Gahan majored in history and played on the women's soccer team, she felt pressure to get a "serious" job. And so she did, working in finance and health care industry positions that took her to Philadelphia, California, and South Korea. She got married and had children (Nathalie, 18, and Lola, 16), and eventually the family moved back to Massachusetts. She visited Cuttyhunk every summer, and the farm remained on her mind—a "maybe someday," an unfulfilled idea.

Then the pandemic hit and the world abruptly halted. Gahan wondered if, in that sudden shift, there might be an opportunity. Garfield was nearly ready for retirement and encouraging her to buy him out. That winter she moved to Cuttyhunk full time to try out the idea, helping him manage the farm and teaching gym and social studies at the school. She and her husband decided it could work, and she made the leap. "This is my second chance," she says.

On this morning, a sunny Friday in late July—the height of oyster season—her own crew of young farmhands (including her daughters) have been at work in the salt pond for hours, hoisting heavy lantern nets out of the water and onto a homemade wooden raft, sorting the harvest-ready oysters from the "carry-backs" that aren't yet big enough. The ideal size, Gahan says, is 2.5 to three inches long, with a "nice deep cup" in the bottom shell—plenty of room for meat. "You learn to eyeball it," says UChicago student **Sam Heintz**, who spent several summers on the farm, starting at the age of 13. "After you've been on the farm for years, shucking oysters, you kind of know what the oysters are going to look like [inside]."

And what they taste like? "Briny and sweet," says Garfield (who's staying on temporarily as an "operations guy" and on-call expert while Gahan learns the ropes). "Fresh and crisp," offers Heintz.

"I mean, these oysters are literally commuting less than a mile and a half to where they're being served. They're coming straight out of the ocean."

He's talking about the farm's raw bar. While Gahan delivers oysters year-round to restaurants on the mainland—an hour-long boat ride across Buzzards Bay—and caters parties and events on the island, from late spring through early fall she and her staff also serve shucked-on-demand oysters and other seafood out of a shack at the harbor. And customers can flag down Gahan's "floating raw bar," operated from a skiff that circulates the marina every evening, from their yachts and sailboats.

When you ask Gahan about the taste, she mentions what's sometimes called "merroir," the sea-soil version of vineyards' terroir. "Oysters have a flavor profile specific to where they were grown," she says. On Cuttyhunk, 16 miles off the coast, that flavor profile flows in from the open ocean. Studies have suggested a number of environmental benefits to oyster aquaculture: there's no fertilizer or feed, and there's very little mechanized equipment—plus, oysters eat algae and filter particulates out of the water while their nets give shelter to other marine animals. To Gahan, all of that is part of the taste, along with the salt and the sediment and the washing tides. And so too is the community where Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farms is rooted, small and self-reliant. Growing oysters here is an experience as deep and layered as the shells she and her crew draw up from the water, summer after summer after summer. ♦

## Strand by strand

*Jared Janas, AB'94, has become a celebrated hair, makeup, and wig designer on Broadway. His UChicago major? Math.*

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

It was the month before he was set to graduate from UChicago with a degree in mathematics, and **Jared Janas, AB'94**, was feeling restless. He complained to a friend that he was sitting around with nothing to do, so she invited him to help with hair and makeup for a University Theater production of the Stephen Sondheim musical *Assassins*.

At that time, Janas had seen only three musicals (*Annie*, *Les Misérables*, and *Miss Saigon*) and never so much as picked up a powder puff—but he was game to try. By the end of the three-weekend run of *Assassins*, Janas was transformed.

“My entire life had been filled with experiences of logic, not of art,” he says. He hadn’t had much exposure to the arts growing up (“we were a poor family,” he says, “and art is a luxury to the poor”); he’d leaned toward math and science because he was good at them. But now, “there was something artistic that suddenly opened up in me that I had no idea even existed.” He wasn’t yet sure how to make his new found passion into a living; that, he realized, was a different kind of math problem to solve.

Since his first brush with brushes, Janas has become one of Broadway’s most in-demand hair and makeup designers. For the 2022–23 season, he designed hair, makeup, and wigs for three Tony-nominated musicals: *& Juliet*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, and the revival of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. This season he’s working on *Once Upon a Mattress* and *Our Town* on Broadway, alongside several off-Broadway productions and national tours.



For Mrs. Lovett (Annaleigh Ashford) in *Sweeney Todd*, Jared Janas, AB'94, designed a slightly asymmetrical updo that intentionally departed from strict period accuracy.

Janas works closely with a show’s costume designer and director to create the characters’ onstage looks, whether through historical research, artistic license, or a combination of both. Once a production is up and running, actors are typically responsible for doing their own makeup (and sometimes hair), so Janas’s job also involves teaching them how to achieve his vision on their own.

His present success came through years of nights-and-weekends work. After graduating from college, Janas honed his craft by practicing hair

and makeup on himself and friends and by offering his services for free to community theaters in Chicago. He moved to New York City in 1996 and built his theatrical resume while working full time as a mathematician and education researcher. (During this time, he also learned the craft of wig-making through an apprenticeship with a men’s hair replacement company, Top Priority.)

Costume designer Tracy Christensen—Janas’s longtime friend and frequent collaborator—thought he was

MEDICINE

QUICK STUDY

Breathe  
easy

Each year millions of critically ill patients worldwide require mechanical ventilators to help them breathe. While doctors aim to keep these patients' peripheral oxygenation-saturation (SpO<sub>2</sub>) levels—the amount of oxygen in their blood—between 88 and 100 percent, the specific target within this range was thought to be inconsequential. But a study led by UChicago Medicine pulmonary and critical care fellow **Kevin Buell**, SM'24, indicates that optimal SpO<sub>2</sub> levels do exist—they're just different for each individual. In the study, published March 19 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, researchers used a machine learning model trained on randomized trial data to predict the ideal SpO<sub>2</sub> level for critically ill adults on ventilators. They found that optimal blood oxygen concentrations could potentially be determined using specific demographic and health data, such as age and heart rate, and that for patients whose SpO<sub>2</sub> levels fell within the algorithm's ideal predicted range, mortality would have decreased by 6.4 percent overall. If implemented in clinical settings, these findings could lead to more personalized care and higher survival rates for the critically ill.—S. M. ♦

kidding when she first found out he had been a mathematician before starting in hair and makeup design. “Like, ‘yeah, I was an astronaut and lived on Mars.’ I mean, I just thought we were being funny.”

But she thinks his nontraditional path is part of what sets Janas and his work apart. “He’s smart as a whip,” Christensen says, and knows how to create looks that tell a story.

In 2005 Janas was finally able to quit his day job, and by 2012, he had made his Broadway debut with the revival of *Porgy and Bess* starring Audra McDonald. “It’s still the show that holds the biggest place in my heart,” he says, because he was involved with the production from its inception: “It’s what I call ‘the trifecta’ for a designer. It’s what all designers want—to start the show pre-Broadway, bring it to Broadway, and take it on tour.”

Sometimes his work can involve helping the creative team understand what they don’t want, as Janas learned while working on *Sweeney Todd* last year. The director and costume designers had settled on an 1830s look for the production, but Janas

found himself arguing against strict period authenticity for the hair.

Historically accurate 1830s hair would feature severe center parts and massive ringlets that look almost silly to the modern eye. Whenever you’re designing a show set in the past, Janas explains, “you’re designing it in period through the lens of today”—in other words, you have to keep in mind how something looks to contemporary audience members. (Think of *Gone with the Wind*, he notes—the movie may be set in the 1860s, but the eyebrows are all 1930s.)

In the end, the director and costume designer “were very willing to listen to me and what I had to say,” and Janas’s final designs offered an 1830s-inspired look that also reflected modern sensibilities. (As Mrs. Lovett, for instance, Annaleigh Ashford got two frizzy, off-kilter updos that don’t fit tidily into any particular historical moment.) It was “the best design experience of my life,” Janas declares.

*Kimberly Akimbo*, a musical about a teenager with a rapid-aging disease, offered another head-scratching temporal challenge. Janas had to design a



**There’s so many things I’ve learned in life, not because I learned them in school but because I did a show about them.**

wig that told the story of a 16-year-old living in a 70-year-old body in 1999. They settled on a long wig with subtle gray tones—and threw in a few butterfly clips for period authenticity.

The opportunity to learn about new things—cultures, time periods, musical styles—is one of Janas’s favorite parts of his career in the theater. “There’s so many things I’ve learned in life,” he says, “not because I learned them in school but because I did a show about them.” ♦



Clara Blättler (front row, second from left) was one of the 30 scientists aboard the research vessel *JOIDES Resolution* this past winter. The crew spent two months drilling core samples from the floors of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

## GEOLOGY

# Buried treasure

*Seafloor ore samples are helping scientists understand the past and future of Earth's climate.*

BY LOUISE LERNER, AB'09

Aboard the ship *JOIDES Resolution* last winter were 30 scientists, 85 crew members, 460 pounds of coffee, hundreds of pieces of million-year-old rock, and one very big drill.

The mission: catalog the history written into the layers of rock below the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean to understand Earth's climate history.

That goal is what brought UChicago geologist **Clara Blättler** to the *JOIDES Resolution* (JOIDES stands for the Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling) in early 2024, along with several dozen other researchers from around the world. With the drill, the scientists can retrieve long, thin cores of the mud and rock below the ocean. Each of the slim cylinders—which measure just over two inches in diameter and about 32 feet in length—is a cross-section of the seafloor, with layers deposited bit by bit over the past several million years.

“So much of our understanding of the world comes from these cores of rock from the seafloor,” says Blättler, an assistant professor of geophysical sciences. “They even helped prove the theory of plate tectonics itself. They are really invaluable.”

The story of the world is recorded at the bottoms of Earth's oceans: the fall of mountains as they're washed down rivers a pebble at a time, the rise of new species as seen through their fossilized remains, the shifts of major ocean currents, and the advance and retreat of glaciers.

There are many questions that these cores can help answer, but for this particular *JOIDES Resolution* expedition, the focus is on the Messinian Salinity Crisis, an event that is scientifically interesting in its own right—and important for understanding today's climate system.

Six million years ago, the Mediterranean Sea suddenly became a lake. The strait normally connecting it to the Atlantic Ocean was cut off, maybe by tectonic plates moving, changes in global sea level, or a combination of the two.

What's indisputable is that things got hairy for everything living in the newly

minted lake. Without regular water flow from the ocean, the whole sea slowly began to evaporate—and what was left behind got saltier and saltier.

“You can see it in the cores—you come to a layer nearly a kilometer thick that’s just salt,” says Blättler. “There are no fossils in this layer; much like the Dead Sea today, nothing bigger than a microbe could survive in these waters.”

The Messinian Salinity Crisis killed a lot of fish locally, but scientists think it likely affected the climate worldwide as well; normally, the water that flows out of the Mediterranean contributes to global ocean circulation.

Eventually, after about half a million years, the strait opened up again—

possibly in one huge flood—and normal marine life returned.

The saga is particularly of interest to scientists today because the entire Mediterranean region is forecast to become more arid as climate change progresses. The sea is already measuring a little saltier than it was two decades ago.

Exactly what this change will mean is unknown, but looking to the past may provide some clues, Blättler says. “By understanding this really extreme event, we can learn more about how these processes influence climate as a whole.”

Gaining that understanding requires arduous work. For virtually the entire two months the *JOIDES Resolution* is at sea, the drill is working around the clock. Everyone pulls a 12-hour shift, sharing a tiny cabin with someone on the opposite shift.

When the cores come off the drill, technicians cut them into five-foot sections that are carried to the ship’s lab. There, the scientists scan and measure the properties of each core segment, split it in half to describe everything they see, and check for fossils to get a sense of its age. (The cores will be more precisely dated later.) When the drill is working at its fastest, they have just 45 minutes to get the cores recorded and stored before the next one comes up.

“It’s pretty intense,” says Blättler, who worked the midnight-to-noon

shift. “But it’s worth it because this is the only way we have to answer a lot of these scientific questions.”

Now, months later, Blättler and her colleagues can begin analyzing the cores in earnest at their home institutions. The segments will be dated and the overlapping layers matched up to create a comprehensive timeline going back millions of years.

Some of the material will be pulverized and analyzed; for example, Blättler’s lab will investigate the composition of the carbonate minerals in the cores to see how the makeup of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean changed over time.

And just as NASA has saved some of the precious moon rock samples from the Apollo missions for later studies, half of the cores will be set aside for future analysis, in hopes that new technologies may offer new insights.

While the future of the cores is secure, the fate of the *JOIDES Resolution* is not: the National Science Foundation announced last year that it was not renewing its agreement with Texas A&M University to operate and maintain the vessel. In August the ship returned from what may have been its final voyage.

Still, Blättler has confidence that her long days at sea, gathering core after core, were well worth the effort: “People will be learning from these for generations.” ♦



Blättler processes a water sample in one of the ship’s onboard labs.

## POLICY

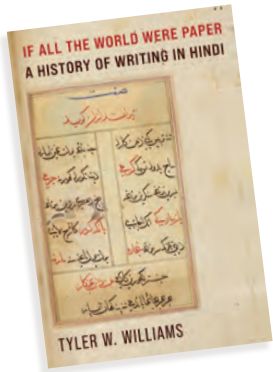
### QUICK STUDY

# Costly effects

Since 2000 prices in health care have risen faster than those in any other economic sector in the United States. Because most Americans receive health insurance through their or a family member’s job, those rising costs are not directly borne by consumers but are passed on to employers. So how are employers reacting to the upticks, and what are the broader economic effects? A June 2024 working paper led by **Zarek Brot-Goldberg** of Harris Public Policy answers those questions using data from hospital mergers, which have been shown to increase health care costs. Brot-Goldberg and his colleagues compared non-health care employers that were heavily exposed to hospital mergers with those that were less heavily exposed. The results painted a bleak picture: for every 1 percent that health care costs went up, employers reduced employee head count by 0.4 percent and payroll by 0.37 percent. That translates to a 2.5 percent increase in unemployment insurance payouts—demonstrating that rising health care costs significantly affect federal and state budgets as well as employers and workers.—S. A. ♦

## Fresh ink

A selection of recent books by UChicago faculty members.



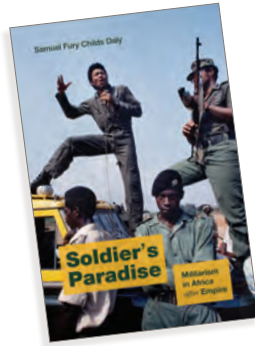
### If All the World Were Paper: A History of Writing in Hindi

Columbia University Press

#### By Tyler W. Williams

Associate Professor in the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations

Hindi, today the fourth most widely spoken language in the world, became a language of literature in the mid-14th century. Previously South Asian literature and scholarship were written in “classical” languages like Persian or Sanskrit. **Tyler W. Williams** investigates the social and material processes that led Hindi to be used in works of fiction, scholarship, and religious texts, and how these writings in turn shaped the use and perception of the language. Williams gives significant attention to not only the content of the works he studies but also how people lived with them on a daily basis—how they used them, organized them, wrote in them. The approach offers a new model for studying South Asian languages and literature in their social contexts.—C. C.



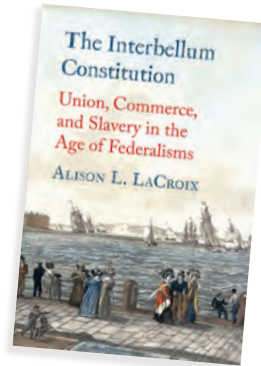
### Soldier's Paradise: Militarism in Africa after Empire

Duke University Press

#### By Samuel Fury Childs Daly

Associate Professor in the Department of History and the College

In the mid to late 20th century, independence in former European colonies in Africa was followed, in dozens of countries, by military coups. Military dictators hoped to break definitively from European norms and to restructure society around martial ideals like order and discipline. At first many civilians believed in this vision, hoping it would lead to modernization and national strength. **Samuel Fury Childs Daly** focuses on the contradictory role of law in these regimes: though the law was a useful tool for military rule, judges often undermined the leaders' goals. Daly studies how this tension operated in a number of countries—particularly in Nigeria, which was governed by military leaders for over 30 years, the longest of any of these nations. The impact of militarism in the 20th century is often overlooked, says Daly. By reckoning with its prominence following decolonization, we can better understand the recent resurgence of militarism in Africa.—C. C.



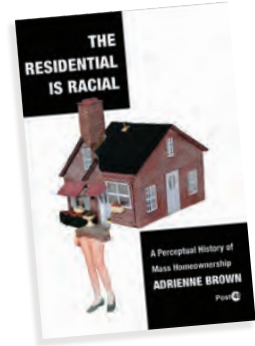
### The Interbellum Constitution: Union, Commerce, and Slavery in the Age of Federalisms

Yale University Press

#### By Alison L. LaCroix

Robert Newton Reid Professor of Law at the Law School

The US Constitution changed dramatically between the War of 1812 and the Civil War, as the federalist vision laid out by the founding fathers was tested. A debate about the fundamental organization of the country raged among politicians, journalists, and ordinary people. Ultimately, **Alison L. LaCroix** argues, these debates led to the Civil War and to our modern view of the Constitution. LaCroix brings together legal, political, and social history to illuminate this period of intense constitutional debate, which has often been forgotten or oversimplified. These interbellum debates about federalism are especially relevant today, she writes, when disagreement about the balance of power between states and the federal government is at the forefront of political conversations.—C. C.



### The Residential is Racial: A Perceptual History of Mass Homeownership

Stanford University Press

#### By Adrienne Brown

Associate Professor in the Departments of English and Race, Diaspora, and Indigeneity

The central place of homeownership in the American dream was an idea consciously formed in the early 20th century. Baked into the creation of this particular American ideal and into the development of a real estate market was an assumption that the ability to own and care for a house was an inherent racial quality, writes **Adrienne Brown**. Brown explores the impact of mass homeownership on how Americans thought about and valued race from 1900 to 1968, when the Fair Housing Act was passed. Analyzing the work of bureaucrats and real estate agents alongside literary and artistic depictions of homeownership, she finds that people relied on subjective perceptions to assess the ideal homeowner and the value of real estate investments. As a result, ideas about race and the residential shifted constantly throughout these decades.—C. C.



**August 20, 2024**

*A sound sculpture  
performance at the Arts +  
Public Life Homecoming  
celebration.*



Family portrait: A new edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*, released in September, continues a tradition that goes back to the earliest days of the University of Chicago Press.

PUBLISHING

## CMOS 18 is here

*The essential guide gets a big update.*

### THE START OF STYLE

In the early years of the University of Chicago Press, professors gave their handwritten manuscripts directly to the typesetters, who deciphered the pages and created proofs. Then proofreaders corrected typographical errors and addressed stylistic inconsistencies. These employees gradually compiled a sheet, later a small book, of guidelines to ensure consistency across the press’s publications. The style guide was so foundational to the work of the press that, in 1903, a copy was placed in the cornerstone of the newly constructed press building (today’s University bookstore).

*Manual of Style: Being a Compilation of the Typographical Rules in Force at the University of Chicago Press* was first published in 1906, bringing the guidelines to external audiences. The first edition was about 100 pages of style guidelines and about 80 pages of sample typefaces. The *Manual* retained the

same structure for the first half of the 20th century.

“When style rules go beyond their role of achieving clarity and consistency, when they become precious or merely doctrinaire, they must be changed or eliminated,” wrote the editors of the 12th edition. Published in 1969, 20 years after its predecessor, this edition was the most significant revision of the century. It contained over 90 percent new material and was restructured to guide readers through the entire publishing process.

Over the years, more changes followed:

- The title *The Chicago Manual of Style*—which, as the guide grew in prominence, had become its unofficial moniker—was first used in the 13th edition (1982). This version also notably served as “much more a ‘how-to’ book for authors and editors” than previous editions.
- The 15th edition (2003) was the first to grapple with the internet.
- In 2006 *The Chicago Manual of Style Online* website went live.
- The 16th edition (2010) was the first to have a fully XML-coded manuscript: it was published in print and online simultaneously.
- The 17th edition responded to changes in the media landscape, with

guidance for self-publishing, e-books, and social media citations.

- The 18th edition speaks to its historical moment with guidance on inclusive language and how to cite artificial intelligence-generated text and art.—C. C.

### MAKING A NEW MANUAL

Creating a new edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* never quite stops. The kickoff meeting for the 18th edition was held on February 1, 2021, more than three years before the scheduled release date, but “we’re always working on the next edition in some ways,” says UChicago Press executive editor **Mary Laur**, who led the revision effort. The *CMOS Shop Talk* online forum, along with informal questions from readers and suggestions from the press’s authors and editors, allows the revision team to see which topics need clarification or rethinking.

The 18th edition, for instance, includes clearer guidance on the use of the singular *they*—“unquestionably the most anticipated and requested change in the new edition,” Laur says. Some changes, while likely to go unnoticed among many readers, are the source of much celebration among copy editors: The first word of a grammatically complete sentence following a colon

From left: UChicago Press; photography by Jean Lechat



## Pub trivia

Years the Pub, in Ida Noyes Hall, has been in business

50

Beer steins allegedly stolen from the Pub in its first five months of operation

180

Total cost of the beer kegs destroyed in a 1975 flash fire

\$480

Price of a beer for any Pub member who attended a winning varsity basketball home game in 1975 (one per customer)

\$0

Years the Pub has hosted a weekly trivia night

22

Price of an annual membership

\$10

Draft beers available

26

Cost of the most expensive pitcher on the menu, Weihenstephaner

\$31

Cost of the least expensive pitcher, Pabst Blue Ribbon

\$13

will now get an initial capital. A change Laur has long supported—omitting place of publication in book citations—finally got its day too.

The revision process itself has undergone revision. When Laur started at the press in 1998, updating the manuscript involved cutting pages out of a print copy of the *Manual* with an X-Acto knife. Today, the revision team circulates a Word document with proposed changes to its internal and external advisory boards, a process that comes with its own challenges, Laur says: “There were so many comments that we couldn’t even combine them into a single document.”

To top off the 18th edition—“the most significant revision we’ve done in a generation”—the press chose a bright yellow cover that departs from the reds, oranges, and blues of years past. (The typeface on the cover was custom-made by the press’s principal designer **Isaac Tobin**; he named it “Seamoss” to mirror the press’s pronunciation of the acronym “CMOS.”)

Sending a new edition of *CMOS* out into the world always comes with some anxiety. “We’ve put all this work into it ... and hopefully people will think we made good decisions,” Laur says. And

fortunately, nothing is written in stone: “We already have a folder for the 19th edition.”—S. A.

### TEST YOUR CMOS SKILLS

*CMOS* or *no más*: Do the following sentences follow the 18th edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*? (Answers below.)

1. Meet me at the entrance to Ida Noyes, or go downstairs and grab a table in the Pub.
2. William finished Autumn Quarter with three A’s, two B’s, and one C.
3. When the school’s then-principal retired, the then–assistant principal was promoted.
4. Children of Baby Boomers, or the me generation, are often Millennials.
5. Daylight saving time ends on the first Sunday in November, at which point Chicago will go back to Central Standard Time and wake up to darker mornings.
6. 1906 was the year the University of Chicago Press style sheet turned into the first edition of the *Manual of Style*, now in its 18th edition.
7. About 45 percent of the *UChicago Magazine* staff have dogs, while less than 37 percent have cats; however, the cats outnumber the dogs by about two to one.—R. L. S. ♦

1. No, see section 6.25. Two imperative sentences joined by a coordinating conjunction are now preferably interpreted as a single clause with a compound predicate rather than as two independent clauses, so no comma is needed before the conjunction.
2. Yes, see sections 7.15, 7.68. The plural form of a capital letter denoting a scholastic grade now takes an apostrophe.
3. Yes, see section 7.96. To prevent misreading, when using *then* to mean *former* insert a hyphen or, when preceding an open compound, an en dash.
4. No, see section 8.43. Terms for generations that include the word *generation* are capitalized (e.g., *Me Generation*, *Silent Generation*, *Generation X*). Terms like *baby boomers* and *millennials* are lowercase.
5. Yes, see section 8.91. While *daylight saving time* has stayed lowercase, official time zones are now capitalized (e.g., *Central Standard Time*, *Eastern Daylight Time*).
6. Yes, see sections 9.5, 9.31. The 18th edition allows for years expressed as numerals to begin a sentence “if necessary.” It’s still preferable to reword to avoid beginning the sentence with a number, but you now have options! Sentences may also begin with numeric terms such as *401(k)* and *3D*.
7. Yes, see section 9.20. *Less* rather than *fewer* may now be used with percentages.

# For the record

## NEW TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees has elected four new members: **Rebecca Jarvis**, AB'03; **Yong-Mee "Michele" Kang**, AB'83; **Thomas "Tom" Ricketts**, AB'88, MBA'93; and **Steven "Steve" Wymer**, MBA'89. They began their five-year terms in May 2024. Jarvis is the chief business, technology, and economics correspondent at ABC News. Kang is the founder and CEO of the first global multi-club women's professional football group, which owns controlling interests in three teams. Ricketts is the executive chairman of the Chicago Cubs. Ricketts is also the founder and chairman of Incapital LLC, which merged with a fintech startup to create InspereX, where Ricketts serves as the chairman and largest owner. Wymer is a portfolio manager in Fidelity Investments' equity and high-income division.

## GOLD(WATER) STARS

College fourth-years **Sarah Kress**, **Eva McCord**, and **Joshua Pixley** have been awarded 2024 Barry Goldwater Scholarships, which support students who intend to pursue research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering. The three are among the 437 US college students selected for the prestigious scholarship out of a pool of more than 5,000 applicants. Kress is majoring in chemistry, McCord in neuroscience, and Pixley in molecular engineering, biochemistry, and chemistry.

## COMMUNITY LEADER

**Arsima Araya**, a fourth-year in the College, received the inaugural **Timuel D. Black Community Solidarity Scholarship**.

The scholarship is administered by the University's Civic Knowledge Project and awarded to a student who is committed to strengthening the University's connection to the South Side community, advocating for civil rights, and furthering the project's educational programming. Araya, who is majoring in Law, Letters, and Society,

is active in the Organization of Black Students and helped develop the idea of the University of Chicago Black Council and UChicago Black Conference. The scholarship is named in honor of **Black, AM'54**, a historian, civil rights activist, and teacher who died in 2021 at the age of 102.

## SOUTH SIDE PARTNERS

UChicago and Chicago State University (CSU) have signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding. The agreement aims to strengthen mutually beneficial collaborations between the two institutions in the physical, social, biological, and data sciences with an emphasis on education, research, employment pathway programs, and civic engagement. The memorandum builds on existing partnerships, such as a program that places UChicago data science postdocs in teaching roles at CSU and a National Science Foundation-funded quantum research collaboration.



## CANCER FIGHTER

**Olufunmilayo Olopade** was awarded the 2024 Ellis Island Medal of Honor for her achievements in cancer genetics

and genomics. The medal recognizes American immigrants and their descendants who have made significant contributions to society. Olopade, **Walter L. Palmer Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine**, is internationally renowned for her expertise in breast cancer and for research that has advanced prevention, early detection, and treatment for people at high risk for the disease.

## FRESH VENTURES

**FreshX**, a start-up developing supply chain software to help food companies and freight brokers with cold chain transportation and storage, won first place in the **Edward L. Kaplan, MBA'71, New Venture Challenge (NVC)**. **FreshX**



was awarded \$1 million in investment—the largest single investment in NVC history—including the \$185,000 **Rattan L. Khosa, MBA'79, First-Place Prize**. Meanwhile, mock-interview platform the **Dev Difference** took first place in the 2024 **John Edwardson, MBA'72, Social New Venture Challenge**. Party-planning tool **Lynkr** won the **College New Venture Challenge**; artificial intelligence-hiring company **UpTrials**, the **Alumni New Venture Challenge**; and robo-advising app **Investable**, the **Global New Venture Challenge**.

## SMART SCIENCE

The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$20 million grant to a UChicago research team to create first-of-their-kind large language models intended to help predict and strategically direct funding to scientific discoveries and technological advancements. The team is led by **James Evans**, **Max Palevsky Professor** in the Department of Sociology, and includes **Ufuk Akcigit**, **Arnold C. Harberger Professor of Economics**; **Ian Foster**, **Arthur Holly Compton Distinguished Service Professor of Computer Science**; and UChicago and Argonne National Lab researcher **Ben Blaiszik**. Together they hope to broaden science funding by identifying previously overlooked research areas with high potential to confront major challenges.

## BOOSTING THE MICROBIOME

The **Duchossois Family Institute (DFI)** has opened a new facility equipped to manufacture clinical-grade microbiome therapeutics, creating new opportunities for researchers to better understand the microbiome and its role in human health. The first of its kind at an academic institution, the facility allows researchers to grow, freeze-dry, and encapsulate live bacteria so that it can be administered safely to patients in clinical trials. For instance, a recently approved trial led by researchers at UChicago Medicine and the DFI will use the new facility to manufacture capsules containing different combinations of 17 bacteria strains to restore the microbiomes of patients with liver disease.

From left: photography by Masika Mrema, Class of 2026; photography by Jean Leclat; Polsky Center



INTERVIEW

## Got ghosts?

*Lauren Riensche, AB'15, offers tours that meld the historical and the supernatural.*

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

Whenever **Lauren Riensche**, AB'15, finds herself in a new city, she tries to take a ghost tour. “You get a little deeper insight into the community that you’re visiting,” she says. In 2021 she decided to bring the fun home by creating a ghost tour of Cedar Falls, Iowa, where she’s lived since 2020. (Riensche, who works in marketing for a sustainable agriculture company, grew up on her family’s farm in nearby Jesup.) On the tour she recounts spooky tales gathered from fellow locals and archival research. Riensche’s comments have been condensed and edited.

### **What inspired you to create a ghost tour?**

During the pandemic I moved from Boston back home to Iowa, and I fell into the work-from-home routine where you get up, you walk over to your laptop, you work all day, and then you go sit on your couch and look at a different screen for a while before going to bed. After a few months of this, I thought, “Man, I really need a new hobby.” I realized I’d been on enough ghost tours that I could take a stab at making one, and that could be a new hobby. Now it’s become much more than a hobby.

### **Do you believe in ghosts, or do you just like ghost stories as a way of engaging people?**

I tell people at the beginning of the tour that I’m not there to convince them whether or not ghosts exist. If you believe in them, great. If not, I hope you find the spooky stories entertaining.

I think that we don’t have everything all figured out. There are a lot of tall tales out there, but there have also been instances, even in my own life, where I haven’t quite been able to find an explanation. It’s the unknown element that keeps me, and my tour goers, fascinated.

### **What’s your favorite story from the tour?**

There’s a story about a man who lived in the community between 1915 and 1984 and passed away shortly after his 100th birthday. His name was Eddie Bowles, and he was a beloved citizen here in Cedar Falls. He was a talented musician who played in the same circles as Louis Armstrong in New Orleans, and he taught music in the community while he lived here. The story goes that some of the people who work in one of the buildings near where he lived have heard unexplained blues music playing from somewhere on the premises from

time to time. I like to think that he used his musical talents to give back to the community his whole life—and now he continues to give back in the afterlife.

### **Do you look at Cedar Falls differently now?**

I always joke that, since doing this research, I haven’t known a moment of peace walking around downtown—because now I know where there are a lot of spooky (or tragic) stories. But I don’t mind it at all. I really love knowing a community’s history deeply.

### **You must get a lot of people telling you about their paranormal experiences now.**

The way I started collecting stories for this tour was by creating a little flyer with my email address on it that read, “Got ghosts?” I walked up and down Main Street and talked to all of the shop owners and asked if they’d ever experienced anything unexplained in their businesses. Lots of people had stories for me, or they were just very supportive.

### **Are you aware of any UChicago ghosts?**

Surprisingly, I never heard any consistent UChicago ghost stories. I think UChicago’s more fascinating macabre stories are related to real-life historical figures, like the Lipstick Killer, Leopold and Loeb, and H. H. Holmes.

### **Are you a big Halloween person?**

I do love the season. I am the sixth generation from my family farm, so there’s already that special feeling that comes with the harvest season.

When you’re out there and you see the harvest moon—my husband and I like to joke that there’s nothing creepier than when you’re harvesting around an abandoned old farmhouse at night. When you finally get out of the combine and you shut everything off and it’s dead silent and the wind is just blowing through the dry corn—that is a spooky place to be, and it feels very October. ♦



READ MORE AT [MAG.UCHICAGO.EDU/RIENSCHEGHOSTS](https://MAG.UCHICAGO.EDU/RIENSCHEGHOSTS).



POLICY

# DELICATE DANCE

*Two faculty projects examine the awkward partnership between democracy and capitalism.*

BY LUCAS MCGRANAHAN



In December 2022 James Sparrow (below, left) gave opening remarks at a conference for Democracy and Capitalism, a Neubauer Collegium project he led with Jonathan Levy (speaking, right) and others.

**D**emocracy and capitalism—popular rule in politics and an economic system based on private investment and markets—are a modern power couple. Coming of age together in the 18th and 19th centuries, both promised a form of society that is more self-regulating and less subject to top-down control. They were certainly more enlightened and egalitarian than their stodgy parents, monarchy and feudalism. And in the 20th century, the authoritarianism of communist states seemed to demonstrate the bond of Western democracy and capitalism by contrast.

Still, democracy and capitalism are awkward dance partners. Each wants to lead. They step on each other's toes. They're usually, but not always, seen together. Democracy flirts with socialism when it's in the mood, and capitalism has been spotted in the corner with dictators.



This aging relationship, with its strengths and weaknesses, has been the subject of two recent faculty projects based at the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society. The first, called Democracy and Capitalism: An Interdisciplinary Project in History, Law, and Politics, took place in the 2022–23 academic year. The second, titled Economic Planning and Democratic Politics: History, Theory, and Practice—focused in part on whether public control of the economy can fuel a “green transition”—is an ongoing project that kicked off in July 2023. Both projects are inter-

disciplinary, bringing together historians analyzing the past with political scientists, economists, and legal theorists prescribing possible futures.

The underlying questions are fundamental: When can we rely on the invisible hand of the market to meet human needs? What policies and institutional innovations could help bend a country's economic activity to the public good? What bedrock political and economic principles should guide us?

**T**he first project's inaugural conference, held at the Neubauer Collegium in December 2022, began by placing regulation at the center of the American founding. At the podium, addressing an intimate group of invited colleagues, University of Michigan law professor William Novak said the revolutionaries' campaign to drive out the British had posed an urgent question: “How do we allow the state to create better conditions for the emergence of a domestic economy that can sustain itself without dependence on some kind of foreign or imperial entity?”

In response, Novak said, the colonists' earliest attempts at popular self-governance—provincial congresses and revolutionary committees—created the rudiments of a regulatory state concerned with promoting public safety, encouraging manufacturing, and reining in prices, among other goals. This research cuts against the idea, which Novak said became “almost mythic” in the mid-20th century, that the American republic was founded by treating private property as sacrosanct and always in need of protection from government interference.

In a discussion later that day, **Jonathan Levy**, AM'03, PhD'08, one of the project's faculty leads and the James Westfall Thompson Professor in the Department of History and the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought, extracted a key point: “In this period, state power is at the cutting edge of creating markets.” In fact, as Levy outlines in his book *Ages of American Capitalism: A History of the United States* (Random House, 2021), the British imperial project from which the United States grew was an attempt to expand markets, for both capitalists and the Crown, through territorial conquest.

Historical work like Novak's and Levy's is a reminder that even so-called free markets are made

possible by state power—which may or may not be democratic—just as they are both sustained and hemmed in by that same power.

This is not the economic thinking UChicago is known for. Prominent economists like Milton Friedman, AM’33, and George Stigler, PhD’38, advocated using markets to solve problems whenever possible, while pointing to the relative inefficiency and corruption of governments. By digging into the history—and possible legitimacy—of robust forms of public regulation, economic planning, and public ownership, the two Neubauer Collegium projects provide a modest counterweight on campus to the Chicago school tradition.

The policies associated with the Chicago school—deregulating industries, cutting or privatizing state programs, lowering taxes on individuals and corporations, and eliminating barriers to trade—can be described as promarket. They are also described, especially by their detractors, as neoliberal. This term is more often hurled as an insult than defined, but **James Sparrow**, an associate professor in the Department of History and also a faculty lead on Democracy and Capitalism, hazards a definition. Neoliberalism, he says, is an assault on the very idea of the public interest, an idea that was taken for granted by New Deal-era programs like social security and unemployment insurance. In its place, Sparrow says, we are given a “radically individualistic calculus of utility maximization,” that is, a way of viewing society as a set of competing, selfish units.

It’s a dog-eat-dog world in this view, and the best we can do is to make sure the dogs are free to fight it out openly and vigorously.

In a standard telling, neoliberalism ascended in the late 1970s and ’80s with the conservative administrations of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the United Kingdom and President Ronald Reagan in the United States, becoming dominant globally through institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. It also got an early test-drive in Chile by a cadre of UChicago-trained economists who advised the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet after his 1973 coup against a democratically elected government—a dramatic example of free markets divorced from political freedom—as

documented by **Sebastian Edwards**, AM’78, PhD’81, in *The Chile Project: The Story of the Chicago Boys and the Downfall of Neoliberalism* (Princeton University Press, 2023).

By the turn of the 21st century it was common sense across party lines to cut welfare spending, deregulate the financial sector, and promote free trade within North America, three policy goals advanced with significant legislation in the 1990s by Democratic US president Bill Clinton.



The two Neubauer Collegium projects are inspired less by the meteoric rise of promarket policies than by their apparent decline. **Gary Herrigel**, Paul Klapper Professor in the Department of Political Science and a faculty lead on Economic Planning and Democratic Politics, underscores a “movement towards circumvention of the market and a more active state” in recent years. It is as if the 2008 financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic reminded policymakers and the public that massive, coordinated interventions in the economy—new regulations, industry bailouts, direct stimulus payments, loan and grant programs, tax-funded public health measures, and more—are all tools at our disposal.

When is it a good idea to pick up these tools? And what new tools might help?

As part of Economic Planning and Democratic Politics, scholars explored some of the possibilities for renewed government action

in the economy in a series of seven lectures from December 2023 to May 2024—on Zoom, at the Neubauer Collegium, or both.

In one lecture, economist Peter Boettke of George Mason University took an “Austrian school” perspective aligned with UChicago economics, drawing on the work of Friedrich Hayek (a member from 1950 to 1962 of what is now the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought) by emphasizing the efficiency of markets, the inability of government planners to access enough information to make rational decisions, and the danger of concentrating power in a state bureaucracy. From there, the events took a left turn, covering approaches ranging from Keynesian (stabilizing the economy by tuning fiscal knobs like interest rates, tax rates, and the quantity of available money) to democratic socialist (creating a more equal society by redistributing wealth, guaranteeing universal services, and collectivizing ownership of parts of the economy).

No one seemed to argue for a Soviet-style system with a fully nationalized economy and no markets. In a Zoom talk titled “Is Socialism Feasible?” the answer to the titular question, flashed in large type on a blue slide by British economist Geoffrey Hodgson, was “only within a liberal order, with markets and an effective, independent legal system.” Wary of the brand of socialism associated with Stalin and Mao, Hodgson recommended a decentralized economy including small-scale collectivist structures like communes and worker-owned cooperatives that produce goods and compete in markets.

The talks reflected different attitudes about whether state intervention in the economy should really be viewed as democratic. As Boettke and Hodgson noted, state intervention seems undemocratic when the state is authoritarian, poorly managed, or corrupt. But it also seems democratic, in a sense, when the state promotes public demands that would otherwise go unrepresented in a profit-driven market system. Instead of waiting to see if private investors find it profitable to halt the destructive impacts of climate change, for instance, the state can put a finger on the scales to promote sustainability. Indeed, a common thread in several talks—with titles like “Keynes, Carbon, and Socialism,” “Par-



ticipatory Democratic Eco-Socialist Planning,” and “The Price Is Wrong: Why the Market Will Never Solve the Climate Crisis”—was the possibility of transitioning to a greener economy by installing new levers of public control.

This kind of nuanced discussion featuring dialogue across fields and institutions is characteristic of the Neubauer Collegium. In addition to sponsoring faculty research projects on a wide variety of themes—currently including Roman law, Pan-Africanism, and the history of music theory—the Collegium brings visiting fellows to campus and invites public engagement through its exhibitions gallery, a site for collaborations between the visual arts and academic research.

“We have been proud to support many projects that probe the links between democracy and capitalism since the Collegium’s inception,” says **Tara Zahra**, the Roman Family Director of the Neubauer Collegium and Hanna Holborn Gray Professor in the Department of History. She adds that the topic “raises questions that cannot be resolved within the framework of a single discipline.”

The Collegium hosted several of these two projects’ events at its building at Woodlawn Avenue and 57th Street, including a conference this past May for Economic Planning and Democratic Politics. Over two days, invited participants gave talks in the first-floor meeting room, which has doors that open to a patio with tables and chairs overlooking the street; chatted in the lobby while gesturing with small plates of cheese and fruit; and spent an afternoon in an intensive roundtable discussion—it was a square assembled from four long tables, technically—in a wood-paneled meeting room upstairs.

Not everything went to plan. During the final panel of the first day, as Yale law professor Amy Kapczynski addressed an audience question about democracy, the sound of distant chanting became audible, then unmistakable, as protesters marching down 57th Street became harder to ignore. “Seems like democracy is happening right outside today,” quipped Cornell University histo-



From left, faculty members Matthew Landauer, Gary Herrigel, Joel Isaac, and Mara Caden. Landauer, Herrigel, and Isaac were on the research team for the Neubauer Collegium project Economic Planning and Democratic Politics.

rian and social theorist **Aaron Benanav**, AB'05, one of the project leads, acknowledging a more confrontational way of pressing political demands than the ones the conference participants had been mulling over in their sessions.

**P**olitical battles are tough, regardless of the tactics used. And determining the proper relationship between states and markets is messy territory, in theory as well as in practice. It's tempting to think there's an easy out. As inequality increases, one way to fill the gaps in public funding and keep social and environmental priorities in view is by turning to philanthropy.

So, maybe the rich will save us?

**Chiara Cordelli**, professor in the Department of Political Science and a faculty lead on Democracy and Capitalism, is skeptical. Of course we can be thankful when private funding underwrites important causes. However, as outlined in a book coedited by Cordelli, *Philanthropy in Democratic Societies: History, Institutions, Values* (University of Chicago Press, 2016), relying on donations from the wealthy means letting them set the agenda for our institutions while the public subsidizes the tax write-off.

game of production and investment instead of just playing referee. At the May 2024 conference, for instance, Melanie Brusseler of the UK-based think tank Common Wealth argued for the nationalization of electricity production, claiming that private investment can't provide the kind of coordinated, risk-tolerant response to climate change that could be mustered by a public program. And Cornell law professor Saule Omarova, a former adviser to the US Treasury Department, argued for the creation of a national investment authority to advance long-term national priorities.

Unlike its aloof siblings the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department, Omarova says, the national investment authority would get its hands dirty as a lender and guarantor in credit markets and as an asset manager and venture capitalist in equity markets. It could direct flows of private investment to critical infrastructure and clean technologies, use its power as a stockholder to improve labor conditions, and create a competitive public option for institutional investors such as pension funds, among other positive social functions.

"Do you feel lucky, punk?" Omarova asked, ventriloquizing the agency she was proposing. "Make my day. I'm the 800-pound gorilla. Not

## **PHILANTHROPY IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE MORE GENERAL POWER OF THE WEALTHY "TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE, TO DETERMINE WHAT GETS PRODUCED, TO DETERMINE THE VALUE OF ASSETS."**

In this way, Cordelli says, philanthropy is an example of the more general power of the wealthy "to invest in the future, to determine what gets produced, to determine the value of assets." She says that even if US society were to achieve higher levels of regulation and redistribution—already a tall order—this tremendous power to determine the economic future would still lie with a relatively small class of wealthy investors.

Uneasy with this structural feature of capitalism, some involved in the two Neubauer Collegium projects want to see the state get in the

Black Rock. Not JP Morgan. Not even Goldman Sachs. It's me, because I am the one who has the entire force of the federal government, the full faith and credit of the United States."

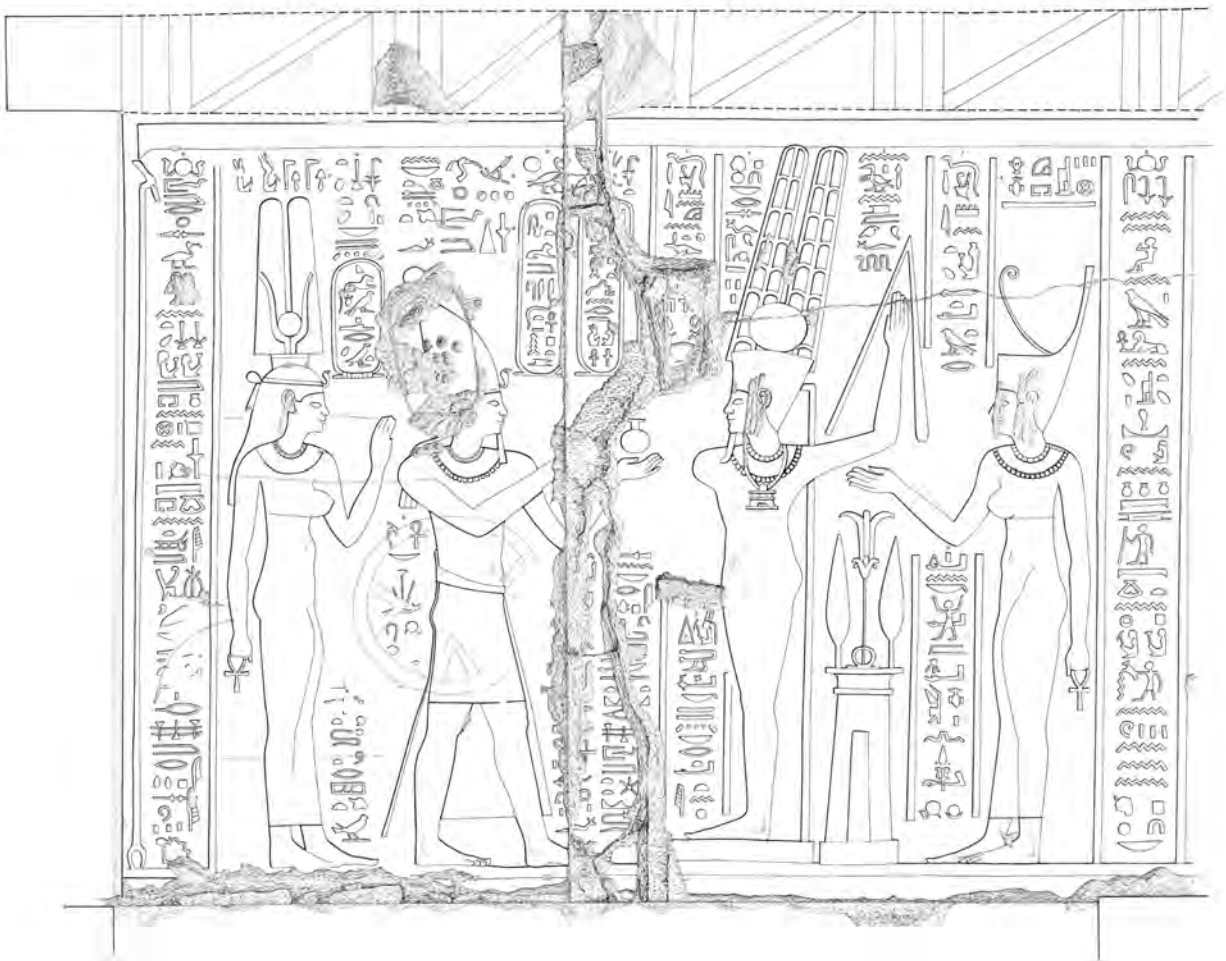
Herrigel says Omarova's proposal raises a key question for the ongoing Collegium project: "How might such alternatives to the market be made to be sustainably democratic?" If the state is going to direct investment, for example, how do we ensure these actions reflect the public will? "That is the challenge we will be devoting ourselves to in the next two years." ♦

# SET IN STONE

*The Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures celebrates  
100 years of studying inscriptions.*

**T**his year marks the centennial of the Epigraphic Survey of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (ISAC). Since 1924 ISAC staff have returned nearly every winter to Luxor, Egypt—once the southern half of the ancient city of Thebes. There they carefully record inscriptions from the area’s monuments using a combination of photography and illustration. In recent decades, they’ve also added conservation, site management, and training to their charge. The Chicago House Method of epigraphy, pioneered by ISAC founder James Henry Breasted, allowed scholars to preserve these carvings in precise detail: they would photograph an inscription, then draw over the print while sitting in front of the original, capturing subtle details the photo missed. Today digital technology has replaced film and pencil, but the basic technique remains the same—an unbroken line of tradition that now enters its second century. The Epigraphic Survey is the subject of an ISAC exhibition that runs through March 23, 2025.—S.A. ♦

All images courtesy the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures;  
color photography by Ray Johnson



Opposite page: Chicago House, shown here in the 1930s on the banks of a flooded Nile, has long served as the home base for the Epigraphic Survey's scholars, artists, stonemasons, architects, and other staff. It houses more than 20,000 volumes in its research library, which is considered among the finest in Egypt.

This page: Senior artist Margaret De Jong at work on an illustration of an inscription from an Eighteenth Dynasty (c. 1539–1292 BCE) temple in the Medinet Habu complex. Above: De Jong's completed illustration, depicting Ptolemy VIII and Cleopatra II offering wine to the gods Amunopet and Amunet.

HISTORY

# THE FREE AIR OF ANOTHER LAND

*Jonathan D. S. Schroeder, PhD'16, rediscovered a forgotten 19th-century text—then unearthed its author's extraordinary life story.*

BY SUSIE ALLEN, AB'09

In 2016 **Jonathan D. S. Schroeder**, who had recently completed his PhD in English at UChicago, was engaged in one of the many side quests that inevitably accompany academic research.

His dissertation focused on the transformation of nostalgia from an 18th-century medical diagnosis of pathological homesickness, often applied to displaced and marginalized groups, to the emotional state we think of today—a sentimental, bittersweet longing for things past.

For a chapter about how enslaved and formerly enslaved people experienced what doctors then called nostalgia, he had been reading about Harriet Jacobs, author of the 1861 autobiography *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Written By Herself*. Schroeder, PhD'16, learned that Harriet's son, Joseph, had moved to Australia and later died, possibly by suicide. He wanted to see if he could find a cause of death for Joseph, because at the time suicide was sometimes said to result from nostalgia.

Schroeder began searching through various databases to see if he could learn more about

Joseph Whiting Stock, *A Portrait of John Swanson Jacobs (currently known as The Man Holding the "Liberator"), 1848*, courtesy of the African American Museum in Philadelphia

## SEEING JOHN SWANSON JACOBS

**T**his painting, found at a Cape Cod antique sale in the 1970s, is now part of the collection of the African American Museum in Philadelphia. The portrait, which has been identified as the work of the artist Joseph Whiting Stock, features a man holding an April 1848 edition of the Boston-based abolitionist publication the *Liberator*. Descriptions of John Jacobs's appearance match with the sitter of the portrait; what's more, Jacobs, who had ties to the *Liberator*, was in Massachusetts in April 1848, when several other likely sitters were not.

"I'm 99 percent positive this is John Jacobs," Schroeder says. Yet, as he writes in an essay in the new edition of *Despots*, "identifying an image of a person who exists only in words is a riddle with no obvious answer."

Joseph's life and death. Trove, a digital archive of Australian newspapers and periodicals, seemed especially promising. But finding information about the right Joseph Jacobs was tricky, he says: "Joseph Jacobs' is a super common name for an immigrant moving to Australia in the 19th century." So he also tried searching for John S. Jacobs, Harriet's brother and Joseph's uncle, thinking that the combination of a first name and middle initial might lead him to the right Joseph.

The search turned up something else entirely: a 20,000-word article from April 1855 in the Sydney newspaper the *Empire*, published under the title "The United States Governed by Six Hundred Thousand Despots." Although the narrative was published with the byline "A Fugitive Slave," it used the real names of the author's family and associates, so Schroeder quickly came to suspect he was reading John Swanson Jacobs's life story. Halfway through the article, the hunch was confirmed—Jacobs had inserted his real name into the story.

**MY FATHER TAUGHT  
ME TO HATE SLAVERY;  
BUT FORGOT TO TEACH  
ME HOW TO CONCEAL  
MY HATRED.**

Schroeder had never seen the document referenced anywhere, and he felt its importance instantly. This was a singular piece of writing, one that differed in striking ways from other accounts from the same period written by formerly enslaved people. Part autobiography, part polemic, the furious narrative seemingly took its title from Jacobs's estimate of the number of slave owners in the United States at that time.

"I was kind of in a tizzy," Schroeder says. He began emailing and calling colleagues and mentors around the country, asking what he should do next.

Their advice set him on a multiyear research project that resulted in the first stand-alone edition of *The United States Governed by Six Hundred Thousand Despots: A True Story of Slavery; A Rediscovered Narrative, with a Full Biography*, published this summer by the University of Chicago Press. For the republication, Schroeder gathered Jacobs's letters and other writings, wrote a detailed biography of Jacobs, and even identified a painting he believes depicts Jacobs.

Together, the materials tell the story of a fiercely intelligent man intent on denouncing the injustice at the heart of his country and articulating the urgent need for abolition. "The day must come; it will come," Jacobs writes in *Despots*. "Human nature will be human nature; crush it as you may, it changes not; but woe to that country where the sun of liberty has to rise up out of a sea of blood."

The rediscovery and republication of the text is "an extraordinary contribution to the canon of slave narratives—thus a contribution to American history and to the history of the Black diaspora," says **Bill Brown**, Karla

Scherer Distinguished Service Professor in American Culture and one of Schroeder's UChicago advisers. *Despots* stands out "for all the reasons that Jon outlines in his introduction to the work—the absence of a White abolitionist mediator, the aggressive tone, the full frontal attack on US political institutions. ... It will be read and reread, studied, and cherished for its detailed belligerence."

Jonathan D. S. Schroeder,  
PhD'16, and his Great  
Dane, Alba.



**I HAD TO RETRAIN AND  
DEVELOP THE SKILLS OF AN  
ARCHIVAL HISTORIAN.**

**T**racing Jacobs's life story was an entirely new kind of project for a literary scholar like Schroeder. "I had to retrain and develop the skills of an archival historian," he says. The task was made more complicated by the fact that enslaved people were documented only as property, not as people, and that Jacobs spent much of his later life as a sailor and miner, moving from place to place.

For scholars working on so-called history from below, figuring out how to piece together a story from limited records is a constant challenge: Can you "apply the same standards of evidence to, say, a biography of George Washington as to a biography of a person for whom records were not saved and collected?" Schroeder asks. At times, inference had to fill in the gaps left by the historical record.

Still, despite these constraints, Schroeder was able to reconstruct a remarkably comprehensive account of Jacobs's life. The text of *Despots* itself

was rich with detail; the 2004 biography of Harriet Jacobs by Jean Fagan Yellin provided another essential resource. Archival shipping records in London and New Bedford, Massachusetts, helped Schroeder map Jacobs's long career as a sailor.

What we know with certainty, from Jacobs's own words, is that he felt the profound injustice of his circumstances from a young age. "My father taught me to hate slavery; but forgot to teach me how to conceal my hatred," Jacobs writes. He resisted in whatever small ways he could, for example, by refusing to call his enslaver's children "Master" and "Miss."

Escape became Jacobs's ultimate ambition. He'd seen others in his family take the risk. His uncle successfully escaped; his sister, Harriet, went into hiding in 1835. And while it's unclear whether Jacobs knew the details of the story, his grandmother had, as a young woman, briefly escaped to the

Photo courtesy Jonathan D. S. Schroeder, PhD'16

## THE LIFE OF JOHN SWANSON JACOBS

**c. 1815–18**

Born in Edenton, North Carolina

**1839**

Escapes slavery

**1839**

Takes his first paying job as a sailor  
aboard the *Frances Henrietta*

**1850**

Moves to California to work  
as a miner

**1852**

Arrives in Australia and continues  
working as a miner

**April 1855**

Publishes “The United States  
Governed by Six Hundred Thousand  
Despots” in the Sydney newspaper  
the *Empire*

**1857**

Moves to London and resumes work  
as a sailor

**1862**

Marries Eleanor Aspland, a widow  
and mother of two children

**1866**

Eleanor gives birth to Jacobs’s only  
biological child, Joseph Ramsey  
Jacobs

**Early 1873**

Returns to the United States

**December 19, 1873**

Dies in Cambridge, Massachusetts

North—only to be sent back to her enslavers in the first court case to test the 1793 Fugitive Slave Act.

Jacobs meticulously planned his escape. As he writes in *Despots*, “I had rather die a free man than live a slave.”

He finally took his chance in 1839 when his then enslaver, the North Carolina congressman Samuel Tredwell Sawyer, brought Jacobs along on a trip to New York. While there, Jacobs slipped out and boarded a steamship bound for Providence, Rhode Island. (He’d secretly sold his best clothes to pay for the ticket.) As he could read but not write at the time, he instructed a friend to send a note to Sawyer on his behalf. It concluded simply, “No longer yours, John S Jacob [*sic*].”

Jacobs made his way to New Bedford, a town that had become both a safe haven for fugitive slaves and a center of the whaling industry. Like many other men in his position, Jacobs went to sea after his escape, spending three and a half years aboard the *Frances Henrietta*. He studied in his spare time on board, teaching himself to write and reading abolitionist literature.

In 1843 Jacobs returned stateside. He became active on the abolitionist lecture circuit, befriending figures including Frederick Douglass and William Cooper Nell. He also reunited with Harriet and her son, Joseph. (For a brief period, he took a break from lecturing and ran an oyster saloon in Rochester, New York—an unexpected side career.)

This fruitful period in Jacobs’s life was cut short in 1850 by the passage of the second Fugitive Slave Act. The legislation permitted the seizure of escaped slaves, even in free states and without due process, extending the legal reach of slavery and threatening the already fragile compromise between slave and free states. The new law was intensely divisive; indeed, many historians see it as having put the nation on the path to war. As a personal matter, Jacobs felt in real peril of being forcibly returned to North Carolina.

Schroeder found an account of a speech Jacobs gave at a rally soon after the legislation had passed; in it, Jacobs urged resistance at any cost: “They said that they cannot take us back to the South; but I say, under the present law they can; and now

## HE NEVER ALLOWED ANYONE TO BUY HIS FREEDOM. IT WAS A PRINCIPLED STANCE—AND A PERSONALLY COSTLY ONE.

I say unto you, let them only take your dead bodies,” he told the crowd.

To guarantee their safety, some formerly enslaved people allowed White abolitionists to purchase their freedom. (In fact, this was how Harriet Jacobs was emancipated in 1852.) But Jacobs saw the practice as an unacceptable form of compromise, one that condoned the buying and selling of human beings. He never allowed anyone to buy his freedom.

It was a principled stance—and a personally costly one. At risk in the North, he headed west to mine in gold rush California, where the new legislation did not yet apply. (His nephew, Joseph, eventually joined him there.) But his respite was brief: in 1852 California passed its own fugitive slave law. Accompanied by Joseph, Jacobs set out for Australia, the country in which he would write and publish *Despots*, and one in the midst of its own gold rush. Jacobs and Joseph were among the estimated 5 percent of Black Americans who left the United States after 1850.

Schroeder sees these years as intensely formative for Jacobs. As fugitive slave laws spread, the possibility of remaining in his home country was taken from him. “I think that the tone of *Despots* is related to the passage of the second Fugitive Slave Act,” Schroeder says. “It seems doubtless that this radicalized him.”

**D**espots fits into a complex and heterogeneous genre known as the slave narrative. (This term makes some scholars uneasy—Schroeder prefers “emancipation narrative”—but it is the most widely used.) All told, there are about 6,000 extant slave narratives, the majority of which are audio recordings collected in the 1930s through the Works Progress Administration; there are only about 200 book-length narratives like *Despots*.

Yet these texts, especially the ones from the 19th century, were shaped by certain “invisible constraints,” as Schroeder puts it. White abolitionist editors wanted particular kinds of stories: the slave narratives that got published tended to follow a standard arc from birth to escape and included

graphic details of barbarity intended to arouse outrage and sympathy.

Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*—

which was heavily shaped by its White editor, Lydia Maria Child—conforms in many ways to this pattern. Child also excised material from Harriet’s manuscript, including a chapter on the radical abolitionist John Brown, that brought focus to the political, rather than personal, aspects of her story.

But in Australia, Jacobs could write his story exactly as he saw fit. “Outside of American jurisdiction and humanitarian authority, he had more freedom to speak in an unfiltered way and write in an unfiltered way,” Schroeder says.

Jacobs’s tone is forceful and unsentimental; rather than detailing the cruelties inflicted on him, he focuses his attention on the people and institutions that allowed the injustice of slavery to continue. In the last several sections, Jacobs eschews conventional autobiography, moving away from his life story and toward a methodical, point-by-point argument for abolition.

Throughout *Despots*, Jacobs is unsparing in his critique. His home country, he writes, is tainted by “that devil in sheepskin called the Constitution of the United States” and no one is free from guilt by association. “The people of the north cannot plead ignorance to the sin of slavery,” Jacobs writes. Since the passage of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, “they can no longer say, ‘This sin does not lie at my door;’ they can no longer say, ‘I am not my brother’s keeper.’ The blood of your coloured countrymen cries out against you—the laws of God condemn you.”

It’s unclear how *Despots* was received in Australia when it was first published. Whether the piece was celebrated, criticized, or ignored, Jacobs would have had little time to take in the reaction. Just a few months later, he was on the move again.

Leaving Australia, Jacobs settled in London and resumed his career as a sailor. “Settled,” of course, is a relative term—Schroeder estimates that, on average, Jacobs spent about two months at home for every 10 months abroad.





## SIBLINGS AND SCHOLARS

**D**ecades before Jonathan Schroeder began studying John Swanson Jacobs, the work of Jacobs's sister Harriet underwent its own scholarly rediscovery. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, which was published pseudonymously under the name Linda Brent in 1861, recounts Harriet Jacobs's remarkable life story, including the seven years she spent hiding in her grandmother's tiny attic before finally escaping to freedom.

The book was presented as autobiography, but many scholars did not see it that way. For years *Incidents* was viewed as a work of fiction, allegedly written by its White editor, Lydia Maria Child.

The late literary critic and historian Jean Fagan Yellin read *Incidents* while writing her dissertation and came to believe it was, in fact, a true story. Through letters and archival research, Yellin was able to conclusively prove her case in a 1981 article. She later published a biography of Harriet Jacobs that also provided key information about the life of John Jacobs.

Already well traveled, he saw even more of the world. Jacobs crisscrossed the globe, visiting the Caribbean, South America, and the Middle East. He used his unusual vantage point to help the abolitionist cause, writing letters to friends and antislavery organizations about the shifting attitudes toward slavery around the world as well as the trade in Chinese indentured servants. As Schroeder puts it, "he was the abolitionists' eyes and ears on the world."

In an 1861 letter to the abolitionist Isaac Post, Jacobs vowed not to return to America until slavery was abolished. In the end, he waited

even longer—until 1873, a full decade after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued—to go home. He had, in a very literal sense, spent his years living out the abolitionist slogan "Our country is the world, our countrymen are all mankind."

**S**chroeder, who is currently a lecturer at the Rhode Island School of Design, is not finished with John Jacobs yet. He hopes to write a multigenerational biography of the Jacobs family, one that builds on his and Yellin's research. (He's also at work on *Lauren Berlant, A Reader* [Duke University Press, forthcoming] with **Lauren Michele Jackson**, PhD'19, and **Jean-Thomas Tremblay**, PhD'18, as well as *Prisoners of Loss: An Atlantic History of Nostalgia* [Harvard University Press, forthcoming], a book based on his dissertation.)

Despite all we now know about the life of John S. Jacobs, there is much we still do not. Schroeder says he is continually struck by this sense of absence. The very question that led Schroeder to start his research project—What happened to Jacobs's nephew, Joseph?—sits open. We have little information about Jacobs's marriage and family life, and we don't know why he decided to return to the United States when he did. What he was like as a person is another blank space. His tombstone says only "Brother."

Schroeder sees Jacobs as one of many Black Americans from this era whose stories have been lost and need recovery. (Arguably, in fact, Jacobs's life story is far better preserved than many of his contemporaries'.) In the records that survive, people like Jacobs are "not given individuality. They're treated as a population to be measured by the Census, and then multiplied by three-fifths," Schroeder says. Who they were, what mattered to them, what meaning they made of their lives: these questions remain unanswered. ♦

## HUMOR



# LAWYER JOKES

*Former attorney Phil Witte, JD'83, quit his job to be a full-time cartoonist. Now he has a book of cartoon criticism.*

BY CARRIE GOLUS, AB'91, AM'93

**T**he single-panel gag cartoon is “unique in the world of humor,” **Phil Witte**, JD’83, and Rex Hesner write in *Funny Stuff: How Great Cartoonists Make Great Cartoons* (Prometheus Books, 2024). The genre is astonishingly spare: a single drawing, usually black and white, with a supershort caption—or no caption

at all. And yet, they argue, “no other form of humor delivers the goods with such immediacy.”

*Funny Stuff* is not a how-to book, although its close analysis could serve as a road map for aspiring cartoonists (and if any of them become famous, “we won’t hesitate to take partial credit,” Witte and Hesner write). It’s more like a guide for deepening your cartoon appreciation—perhaps even becoming a cartoon connoisseur.



## THE ONLY FUNNY PERSON IN THE COURTROOM IS THE JUDGE WHO MAKES A JOKE. THEN EVERYONE LAUGHS.

*Funny Stuff* grew out of a blog, *Cartoon Companion*. Hesner started it, then Witte joined in once they discovered their shared love of the genre. (Witte met Hesner, a jazz musician, at a neighbor's party in Piedmont, California; at the time they lived a few houses apart.) In the blog they dissected, in obsessive detail, the cartoons in each issue of the *New Yorker*. Soon the cartoonists themselves were reading the blog, as was Bob Mankoff, who served as the magazine's cartoon editor for two decades.

When Mankoff left the *New Yorker* and later became the head of the licensing site CartoonStock, he invited Witte and Hesner to write for it. That blog, *Anatomy of a Cartoon*, still appears sporadically. It was Mankoff who suggested that Witte and Hesner write a book together. He even supplied the foreword for *Funny Stuff*.

The book, Witte says, takes "an analytical approach, like a lawyer I guess," while keeping a light tone so as not to kill the funny. It includes more than 100 cartoons (most licensed from CartoonStock) that many readers will recognize by the artists' styles if not by their names: Charles Addams, Roz Chast, Emily Flake, Sam Gross, William Haefeli, Bruce Kaplan.

*Funny Stuff* also includes two cartoons by Witte himself. In 2012—living out the daydreams of untold numbers of lawyers—he quit his law job of three decades to become a full-time freelance cartoonist. He's published work in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Barron's*, the *New Statesman*, and the *Times* (London), among others.

In chapter 7, one of Witte's cartoons serves as an example of the "good news/bad news" gag. "You can afford to retire at 65," a smiling financial adviser tells a middle-aged man, "but you'll need to die at 70." In chapter 8, Witte contributes a captionless cartoon to the debate about whether abstract paintings are art (see previous page).

Witte worked in litigation after law school—"That was suited to my personality," he says, "more competitive in some ways"—and ended up specializing in insurance law, becoming a partner at what was then Morison & Prough. Typical cases involved complex environmental claims or large-scale bank fraud. How complex, how large? "They had to have special courtrooms built just to hold all the lawyers sometimes," he says.

Meanwhile, around 2004, Witte began drawing cartoons in his spare hours. While working on improving his drawing, he sold jokes to *Bizarro*, a daily single-panel newspaper cartoon by Dan Piraro. Witte also took classes in life drawing, but he isn't sure they helped. More useful was simply "drawing more cartoons," he says. "I'm talking hundreds and hundreds of cartoons."

At work he was not funny. "The only funny person in the courtroom is the judge who makes a joke. Then everyone laughs," he says. "It's not appropriate for a lawyer."

*Funny Stuff* reveals "the astounding rejection rate that cartoonists endure," as Witte and Hesner put it. Even for regular *New Yorker* contributors, more than 95 percent of their submissions are rejected. "Frank Cotham, now one of the regulars, estimated that he submitted somewhere between 7,000 and 10,000 cartoons over a period of fifteen years before his first one was okayed," they write. "For future cartoon editor Bob Mankoff, the number was about 2,000."

An equally fascinating chapter explores how cartoonists get their goofball ideas. Roz Chast collects her own scribbles and sketches in a large shoebox, then sifts through them when it's time to work. "It's not efficient," Chast told Witte and Hesner. "Some of... the best ideas I've ever had are probably lost in a dryer somewhere." Other cartoonists read magazines and newspapers, turn on CNN, listen to or play music, ride the train, take a shower.

Witte's method is to walk. After half an hour or 45 minutes, "I usually have an idea or two." The gag comes to mind first, although he usually has a notion of what the drawing will look like. For example, "a dog talking to a person, or a whale," he says, which probably means it will be underwater, "although not necessarily." ♦

## EXCERPT

# Eureka, It's Funny: Idea Generation

BY PHIL WITTE, JD'83, AND REX HESNER

**W**ith deadlines looming, how do cartoonists generate a batch of original cartoons every week? While some cartoonists do not actively, consciously think of ideas, others take a more structured approach: they mine ideas from well-worn pathways we've dubbed the "Idea Generator."

Typical idea generators are cliché situations, stereotypical characters, characters we know and (mostly) love, personal characters, and lifestyle scenarios.

### CLICHÉ SETUPS

The word "cliché" has a negative connotation. It normally refers to an overused or trite expression, like "happily ever after." However, in the cartooning world, clichés—in the sense of a recurring graphic setup—can serve a useful purpose. Cartoonists know that if a reader doesn't get the joke within a few seconds, the gag is a dud, and the reader will be frustrated. So cartoonists need visual shortcuts to speed up comprehension of their gags.

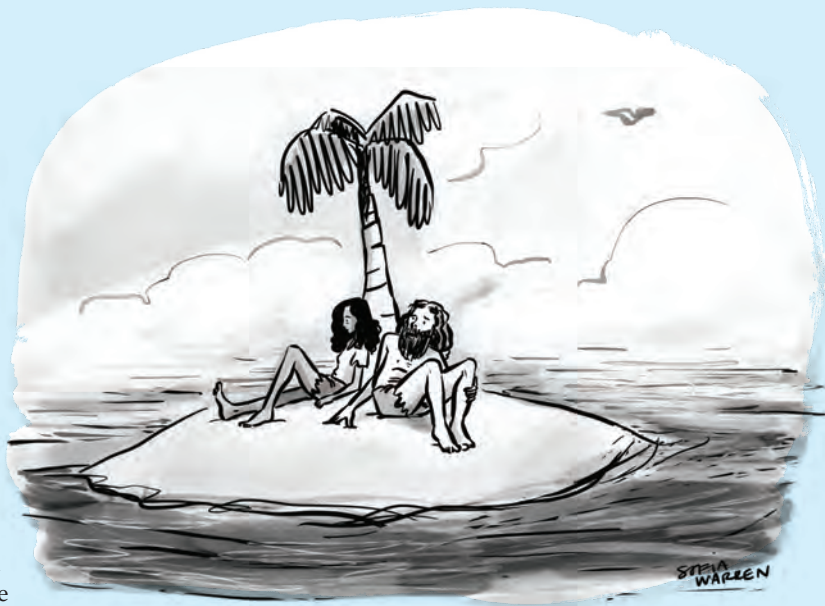
The cliché setup provides that shortcut, allowing cartoonists to present complex situations in a single frame. Upon seeing an image of Noah's ark, Easter Island heads, or a patient on a psychologist's couch, we need no further explanation. We've seen these images so often that they're instantly recognizable. We make specific associations with these images, which the cartoonist can manipulate to create the gag.

Cartoonists also frequently rely on settings that lend themselves to comic developments. Some settings are commonplace—a courtroom, a doctor's office, or an elementary school, as examples—while other settings are removed from the everyday—a medieval castle or outer space. Other cartoonists choose settings in bars or bedrooms or boardrooms because, in their minds, that's where funny things can happen.

One cliché setup has been a mainstay of the cartoon world for decades: the desert island. Why this setting has endured is a mystery. Do such tiny, precipitation-challenged islands litter the South Pacific? If so, why do castaways end up on them instead of, say, the shores of Tahiti? Despite all that, we frequently find two characters biding their time there, as isolated as Vladimir and Estragon in *Waiting for Godot*.

Sofia Warren executes the required desert island elements: an impossibly small island surrounded by ocean, barefoot castaways in tattered clothing, and the obligatory single palm tree. The drawing (above) tells half the story; the caption (right) tells the other half.

Given the sheer number of published variations on the



*"I'd say my number-one issue is getting off the island, and then, after that, probably health care."*

desert island cartoon, it's challenging to come up with a new angle. Nevertheless, more than a few undeterred cartoonists continue to rack their brains in search of a new iteration of this venerable theme. Joe Dator told us that when he came up with a desert cartoon that no one had thought of before, "that was a great day in my life as an artist."

Other cartoonists avoid clichés as limiting or unoriginal. Indeed, they can be a crutch as much as a tool. Bob Mankoff observed that "they can get to be a little bit incestuous in that they just keep eating their own brain, running after their own tail, until it becomes a particular kind of game." Mick Stevens has conflicting feelings about using these cartoon templates, such as the familiar evolving fish that ventures onto land:

I started trying to get away from the clichés on several occasions and they just sink back in. They just won't go away, like I'm a slave to these things. I thought, "I'll just use them ironically." You can't really tell the difference. The attempt might be ironic, but basically the reader doesn't see the irony. I finally got to the point where I said, "I'm going to draw the last [evolving fish] cartoon." I thought, "That's it, I'm done."

At right is the cartoon he's referring to. It's an example of a meta-cartoon, in which the cartoon itself references a cartoon convention.

"[The *New Yorker*] bought that cartoon," he recalled, "which encouraged me to do more of them." Thus, an ironic cartoon led to an ironic result.

We've mentioned a few common cartoon setups, but there are many more ... so many more! We've included an appendix of the Top 100 cartoon clichés, and that list only scratches the surface, to use a cliché.

## TOP 100 CARTOON CLICHÉS

Aliens encounter Earthlings  
 Ascent of Man evolution illustration  
 Astronomer in observatory  
 Beached whale  
 Big fish chasing little fish  
 Botticelli's *Birth of Venus*  
 Bride and groom at altar  
 Building the Egyptian pyramids  
 Business executive pointing to sales chart  
 Car salesman and customer  
 Cat versus mouse  
 Cave paintings  
 Chalk outlines at crime scenes  
 Chicken versus egg  
 Clergyman delivering eulogy  
 Cloud-watching and identifying  
 Clowns in tiny car  
 Comedy and tragedy masks  
 Complaint window  
 Couple caught cheating in bed  
 Couples counselor with couple  
 Crash-test dummies  
 Crawling through desert  
 Creation of Frankenstein's monster  
 Damsels in distress  
 Desert island  
 Dinosaurs and killer meteor  
 Discovery of fire  
 Doctor delivering bad news  
 Duelists  
 Dungeon prisoners  
 Easter Island heads  
 Emergency mid-flight announcement  
 Engraving on tombstone(s)  
 Explorers in quicksand  
 Fish evolving into land creature  
 Fortune-teller and customer  
 Funeral parlor viewing  
 Galley slaves  
 General pointing to service ribbons  
 Genie granting wishes  
 Godzilla destroying city  
 Good cop, bad cop  
 Guru on mountain  
 Guy in stocks  
 Halloween trick-or-treaters  
 Headless praying mantis  
 Hibernating bears  
 Ice hole fishing  
 Igloos  
 Invention of the wheel  
 IRS auditor and taxpayer  
 Jester trying to entertain king  
 Kids building sandcastles  
 Lab rat in maze  
 Last words on deathbed  
 Lawyer arguing to judge or jury  
 Lawyer reading will  
 Lemmings  
 Lost and Found window  
 Marriage proposal  
 Maternity ward  
 Men's club codgers  
 Michelangelo's God creating Adam  
 Military round table  
 Mobsters and victim at pier  
 Mount Rushmore variations  
 Munch's *The Scream*  
 Noah's ark  
 Optometrist and eye chart  
 Ostrich with head in sand  
 Parent reading bedtime story  
 Patent office  
 Patient on examining table  
 Patient on psychiatrist's couch  
 Perusing books by genre in bookstore  
 Police lineup  
 Politician delivering stump speech  
 Prisoners counting the days with marks on wall  
 Realtor showing homes for sale  
 Road signs  
 Rodin's *The Thinker*  
 Russian nesting dolls  
 Scientists with equations on blackboards  
 Selecting a greeting card  
 Snow globe variations  
 Star constellations  
 Stonehenge  
 Surgical team in operating theater  
 The damned in hell  
 The End-Is-Nigh Guy  
 The Last Supper  
 Traffic cop pulling over speeding motorist  
 Trojan horse  
 Tunnel of Love  
 TV news and weather  
 Viewing modern art in museum  
 Walking the plank  
 Witch stirring cauldron  
 Yoga class  
 You-are-here map



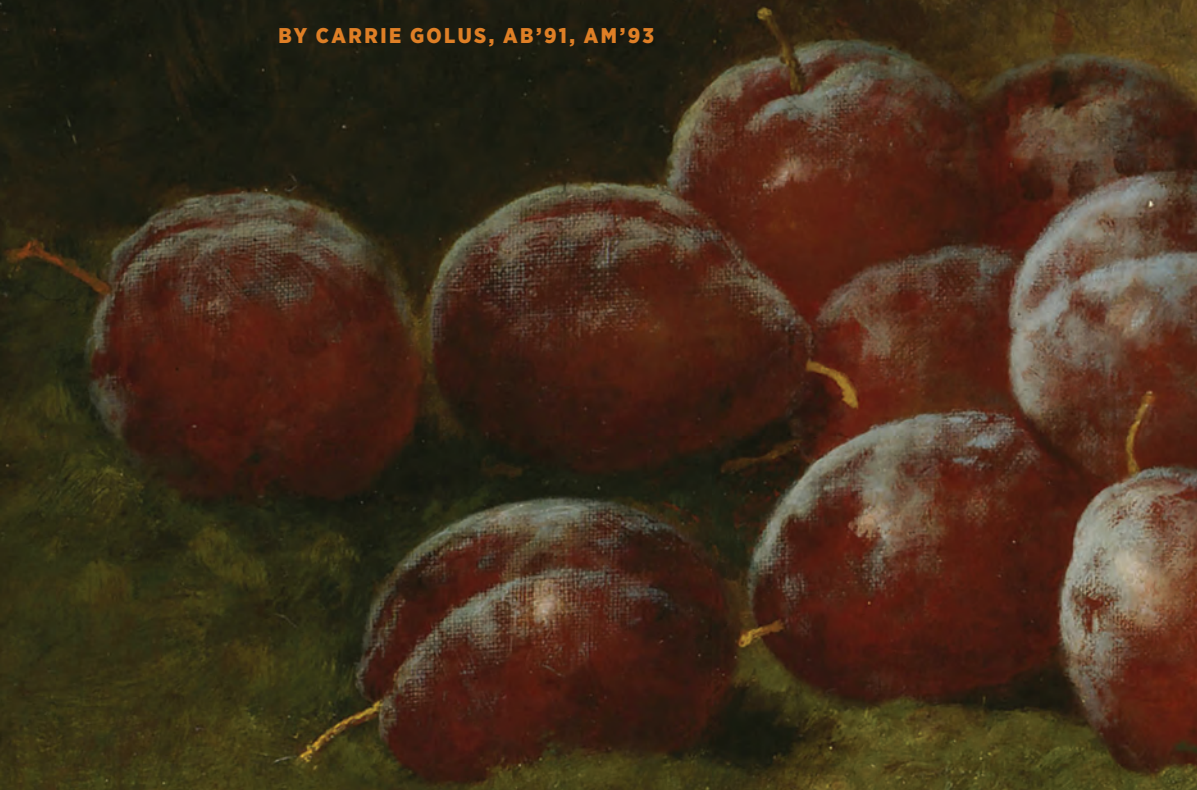
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*Funny Stuff: How Great Cartoonists  
 Make Great Cartoons* (Prometheus  
 Books). Copyright © 2024 by Phil  
 Witte and Rex Hesner.**


PSYCHOLOGY

# YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS?

*Memorability, says Wilma Bainbridge,  
isn't only in the eye of the beholder.*

BY CARRIE GOLUS, AB'91, AM'93





**Y**ou are a unique person. You were born and raised in a certain time and place. Growing up, you were shaped by your particular family, friends, teachers, community. You have your own ideas of what is interesting or uninteresting, attractive or unattractive.

Nonetheless, what you remember is not that personal. According to assistant professor of psychology **Wilma Bainbridge**, people tend to remember and forget the same things.

Bainbridge's lab, the Brain Bridge Lab, studies memorability, "an intrinsic property to the stimulus that generalizes across observers," as defined in one of her papers. Put simply, some images are more memorable than others. Whether you like them or not. And even if you're not paying attention.

Bainbridge's first work on memorability centered on human faces—an interesting topic of research, she says, because faces look so much alike. All share a broadly similar palette: "We don't have blue faces." The eyes, nose, and mouth are all in the same relative positions; no one has their mouth on their forehead like Mr. Potato Head.

You might imagine that the faces of people you love, or have seen often, would determine which faces you remember. But Bainbridge found that 50 percent of what influences our memory is the memorability of the face itself. This is the case even though "you and I have probably seen almost non-overlapping sets of faces growing up," she says. We still find the same faces more memorable—or more forgettable.

It's not a specific photo of someone that sparks the memory, Bainbridge's project demonstrated: "If you're memorable when you're smiling, you'll also be memorable when you're looking away or making another expression."

It's also not related to physical beauty. "It's not something easy, like attractive equals memorable," Bainbridge says. "It's something more complex than that."



In her Brain Bridge Lab, assistant professor Wilma Bainbridge (left) is seeking to identify “generalizable principles of memorability.” In one experiment, her team sent subjects to the Art Institute of Chicago’s American Art wing with instructions to look at every piece. Artist Rembrandt Peale’s portrait of Samuel Fisher Bradford (near right) was among the pictures participants most remembered. *Purple Plums* by Carducius Plantagenet Ream (previous pages) and *Meetinghouse Hill, Roxbury, Massachusetts* by John Ritto Penniman (far right) were among the most forgettable.

**B**ainbridge hasn’t yet figured out why certain faces and images are more memorable. Her current hypothesis is that memorable images are less work to process: there’s something about them that is “easy for the brain to latch on to,” she says. She hopes to discover “generalizable principles of memorability.”

But first, she had to prove that the phenomenon of memorability exists at all. Other memory researchers were skeptical, believing that “personal experience should be the number one thing influencing our memories,” she says.

As Bainbridge and other researchers have dug into memorability, they’re finding its universality holds. Experiments have shown that young children and adults find the same images memorable, she says (the effect seems to kick in at age 4). “It works across cultures.” Monkeys, too, find some images more memorable than others.

Although Bainbridge doesn’t have a simple formula for memorability, she has plenty of data on memorable images. Based on that, her lab has created a neural network that can predict which images will stick. ResMem, a machine learning model developed by **Coen Needell**, AM’21, can assign a numerical memorability score to any image you upload to it.

Surprisingly, ResMem predicts memorability much better than actual humans do. In experi-

ments subjects are terrible at guessing what they will remember later. Even as someone who has studied memorability for more than a decade, Bainbridge admits, “I don’t have perfect intuition about it.”

**I**f faces have intrinsic memorability, Bainbridge wondered, would the same hold true for artwork? Possibly this would be more influenced by personal taste.

To find out, Bainbridge ran an online experiment using the Art Institute of Chicago’s collection of paintings. Just as with faces, some paintings were more memorable.

Next Bainbridge took the experiment into the real world to test if memorability influenced the museum experience. Participants were asked to visit the Art Institute’s American Art wing, viewing the art in any order they wanted, as long as they saw each piece at least once. Afterward participants took a memory test on their phones. Same result: some pieces were more memorable. So memorable that ResMem could predict what people would remember.

Then finally—a radically interdisciplinary moment. The Brain Bridge Lab staged its own art exhibition/psychology experiment, to see if artists themselves had an intuition about what makes images memorable.





**Trent Davis**, AB'23, initially an undergraduate researcher and later lab manager in the Brain Bridge Lab, organized the show, called *The Art of Memory*, at Connect Gallery on 53rd Street in Hyde Park this past spring.

The lab had issued an open call for artists to submit original work. Entrants had to choose to enter each work in either the “most memorable” or the “most forgettable” category. The work was judged

sible. When Bainbridge wanted to investigate the memorability of faces, for example, she didn’t want to use existing databases. These relied on a convenient but not very diverse group of subjects: students. Young, mostly White, many of them conventionally attractive. And often the photos were very posed.

Instead Bainbridge created her own database of over 10,000 faces by scraping publicly available

## **SOME OF THE ARTISTS WHO TRIED TO CREATE MEMORABLE PIECES ENDED UP PLACING IN THE MOST FORGETTABLE CONTEST BY ACCIDENT. “THEY SEEMED A LITTLE UPSET.”**

through an online memory experiment, similar to the lab’s previous research; study participants had no idea they were curating an art show.

Some of the artists who tried to create memorable pieces ended up placing in the most forgettable contest by accident. “They seemed a little upset,” Davis says.

**B**ainbridge has always loved coding and tinkering with computers. In college she thought she wanted to pursue robotics, but she was disappointed once she realized how little robots could do. So she shifted to neuroscience and psychology research, using a computational approach.

The internet has made much of her work pos-

sible. The result was a more representative database matching US demographics: half male, half female; diverse ages and races.

The internet has also allowed Bainbridge to conduct studies with larger, more diverse populations—not just the usual convenient students. Today psychology research is typically done with online platforms such as Prolific, which has hundreds of thousands of potential research participants.

Having access to a large, diverse set of participants could make the results not only more accurate but also easier to replicate—a counter to the replication crisis in social sciences research that began to be recognized in the 2010s. “That’s

one of the motivating factors for why we did our studies online,” Bainbridge says.

It’s hard to argue that memorability is not a thing when thousands of people agree about what’s most memorable.

**N**ot only are humans not unique in what we remember, we’re also not unique in what we misremember, a phenomenon known as the Mandela effect. This phenomenon was popularized by paranormal researcher Fiona Broome, who in 2009 reported having vivid memories of news coverage of Nelson Mandela dying in a South African prison.

In fact, Mandela was released in 1990, served as South Africa’s president, and died in 2013. Broome reported that hundreds of other people had the same false memories and speculated they could be evidence of a parallel reality.

Conspiracy theorists had a field day. Bainbridge was the first to use the phenomenon to try to figure out how memory works.

Her research on the Mandela effect examined the false visual memories that many people strangely share. A well-known example is the

**S**o why is our memory so unreliable? Can anything be done?

Bainbridge’s primary advice—if there’s an event coming up that you really want to remember, for example—is to off-load it. Use a memorable picture in your calendar, for instance.

To preserve personal memories, she’s a fan of technology like the app 1 Second Everyday. Users record a second-long snippet of video daily, and the app compiles them into a jumpy little home movie: a year of one-second clips is about six minutes long. This is how Bainbridge is preserving her memories of her two-year-old twin daughters.

For one of her experiments she recruited people who had been using the app for years. Their brains were scanned while they watched their own autobiographical footage.

Previous memory studies participants had been brought into a lab, shown images “they don’t really care about,” and then tested on their memory of the random images. Bainbridge’s research, by contrast, looked at the brain while it processed memories from 1 Second Everyday that were personally significant. The results: “We were able to find this new map of content in the brain that hadn’t been identified before,” she says.

## WHAT OCCURS IN BETWEEN SEEING SOMETHING AND REMEMBERING IT?

Monopoly man, the mascot of the board game Monopoly. Close your eyes and picture him. Does he have a monocle?

He does not. But many people remember him that way.

The Mandela effect is not caused by looking at incorrect versions of the image, Bainbridge discovered. Her research found that when shown a picture, then tested just a few minutes later, many people would draw a monocle on him. Something is happening in your memory within a very short time span.

This is what Bainbridge is trying to understand: what occurs in between seeing something and remembering it. The bridge between perception and memory. The brain bridge of the Brain Bridge Lab.

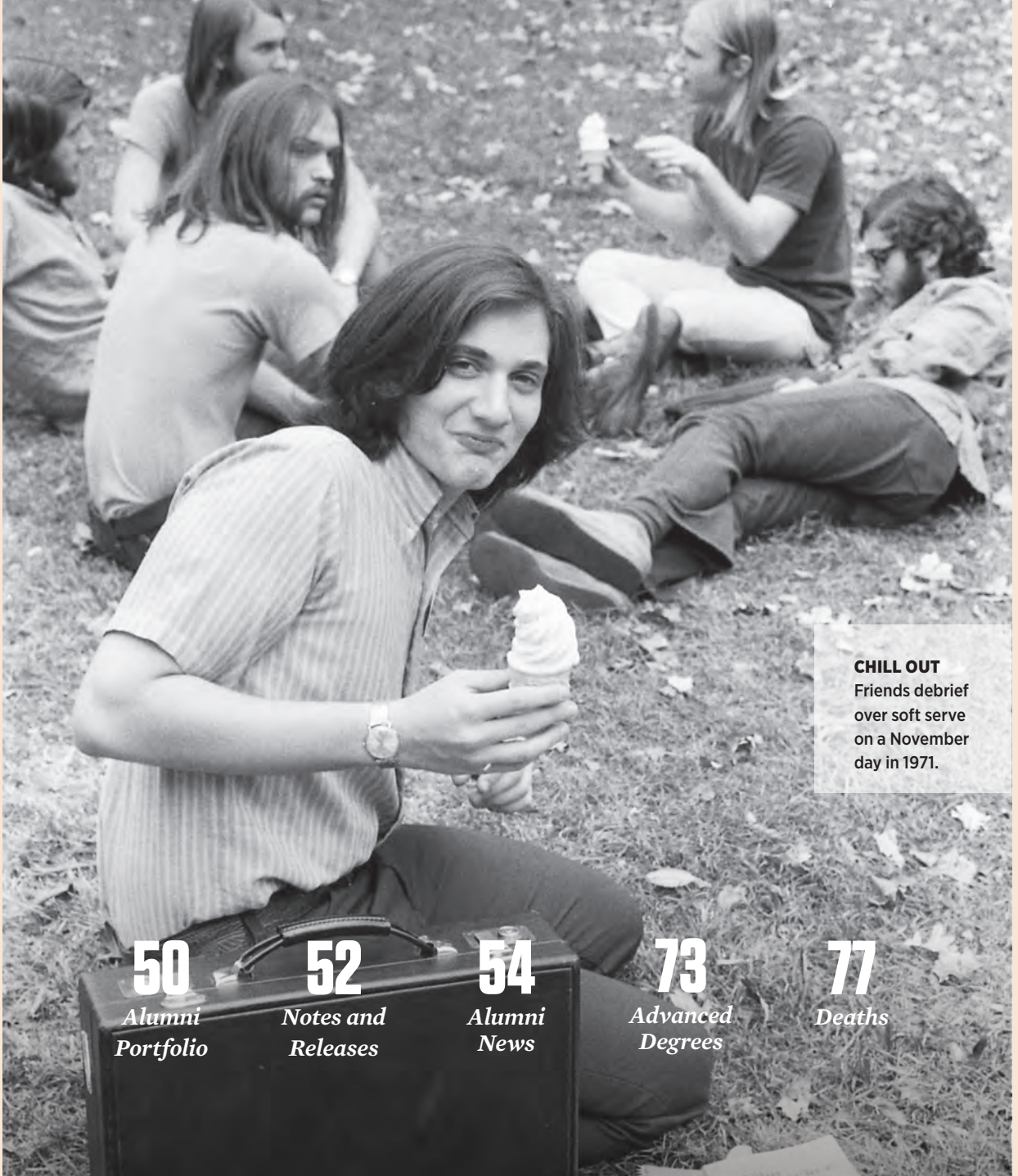
“One neuron doesn’t just belong to one memory,” Bainbridge told UChicago’s *Big Brains* podcast this past May. “It might fire from multiple different memories, and it might code different aspects of those different memories.”

Despite her area of expertise, Bainbridge’s own memory is no better than anyone else’s. “I think I’m more cognizant of the ways in which memory can fail,” she says. “I just know how fallible memory is.” She relies heavily on notes, screenshots, calendars, and other memory aids.

Many of us complain about our poor memories, but “on the flip side, you wouldn’t want to remember everything,” Bainbridge says. “It’s actually really adaptive for our brains to be able to filter down information. I think some of what memorability is, is tapping into that filtering.” ♦

# PEER REVIEW

WHAT ALUMNI ARE THINKING AND DOING



**CHILL OUT**  
Friends debrief over soft serve on a November day in 1971.

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# ON REFLECTION

*Elisabeth Hogeman, MFA'16, puts her spin on the still-life tradition with physical and digital collages.*



**T**hrough her photography and film works, **Elisabeth Hogeman**, MFA'16, a lecturer in the Department of Visual Arts, examines our relationship to domestic spaces. In the ongoing series *Vanities*, she assembles collages from luxury home décor magazines and catalogs—fantasies of interiors she found herself turning to in her daily life—adds physical materials like glass, and then photographs the pieces for digital editing.

Each piece has a mirror at its center. When she began the project around 2020, Hogeman

gave these mirrors the shape of caskets; today they take the shape of a stringed instrument, a lemon, an oyster—playful echoes of the 17th-century Dutch *vanitas* tradition. Those still-life paintings contained symbols of wealth, the arts, and the passage of time. They aimed to remind viewers of the inevitability of death and the unimportance of worldly things. In revisiting the tradition, Hogeman explores a tension in her identity as an artist: she is a critic of the visual world, but she is also a consumer, tempted and influenced by idealized images.—C. C. ♦



Left: *Untitled (Cruciferous)* from the series *Vanities*, 2024. Archival pigment print on Hahnemühle metallic paper, 32 × 23.5 in., Elisabeth Hogeman.

Right: *Untitled (Vessel)* from the series *Vanities*, 2024. Archival pigment print on Hahnemühle metallic paper, 28 × 22 in., Elisabeth Hogeman.

# NOTES

## A SELECTION OF ALUMNI WHOSE NAMES ARE IN THE NEWS

### WRIT LARGE

From May to September, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum exhibited a retrospective of work by text-based conceptual artist **Jenny Holzer**, EX'74. Including works from all six decades of the artist's career, *Jenny Holzer: Light Line* had as its focal point a reprisal of her 1989 installation of text on LED screens along the ramp of the Guggenheim's central rotunda. The rotunda installation, previously covering only three levels of the ramp, rose to all six levels and featured additional text drawn from Holzer's best-known works, including *Truisms* and *Inflammatory Essays*, both written in the 1970s and 1980s. The exhibition also showed installations of some of her other works, including the recent *Cursed* (2022).

### FROM BLACK BEANS TO COFFEE BEANS

On September 9 **Brian Niccol**, MBA'03, became CEO and board chair of Starbucks. Niccol was previously CEO of Chipotle Mexican Grill, a position he had held since 2018. Before that he spent three years as head of Taco Bell. In his six years with Chipotle, Niccol oversaw a shift to more drive-through restaurants and improvements to the chain's loyalty program. During that time, stock prices increased from \$6.40 in 2018 to a high of \$68.55 in summer 2024. At Starbucks he takes the helm of a larger company struggling with declining sales and pressure from investors.

### ROYAL RECOGNITION

**Bill Browder**, AB'85, was made a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George by the King of England for his work in service to human rights, anticorruption, and international affairs. Browder is the founder and CEO of Hermitage Capital Management, once a major foreign investor in Russia. In 2008 Sergei Magnitsky, a lawyer hired by Hermitage, uncovered tax fraud by Russian government officials, which led to his arrest and subsequent death in a Moscow jail. Browder founded the Global Magnitsky



### UCHICAGOANS AND OLYMPIANS

Two alumni competed in the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. **John Jayne**, AB'19, represented the United States in judo. He upset number 9 ranked **Christian Parlati** of Italy in the men's 90-kg round of 32. Later, competing in the round of 16 against **South Korea's Juyeop Han**, Jayne lost the match by a small margin. **Jesse Ssengonzi**, AB'24, represented Uganda in swimming, coming in second in his 100-meter butterfly heat and setting a new national record for Uganda in the event—a record he previously held.

Justice Campaign to lobby governments for sanctions against those who abuse human rights. He helped the United States pass the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 and, in 2016, the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act. Similar legislation has since been enacted in Canada, the United Kingdom, the Baltic states, the European Union, and Australia.

### KNIGHT-HENNESSY SCHOLAR

**Umar Siddiqi**, AB'24, who majored in biology with an immunology specialization, was named a Knight-Hennessy Scholar at Stanford, where he started medical school this fall. Siddiqi, who received a Barry Goldwater Scholarship in 2023, is interested in developing new mechanical circulatory support devices to treat patients with serious heart failure. Such technologies, he believes, could be scalable and more accessible than current options. At UChicago he worked closely



with **Valluvan Jeevanandam**, chief of cardiac surgery at UChicago Medicine, and designed and built prototypes of medical devices such as left ventricular assist devices.

### STREET HEAT

**Andre Castro**, AB'22 (Class of 2021), competed in NASCAR's 2024 Chicago Street Race on July 6. He drove in the Xfinity Series race, the Loop 110, representing eRacing Association and UChicago. He came in 35th, completing 34 of the 50 laps on streets near Grant Park, but he was involved in a crash and had to leave the race. Castro made his NASCAR Xfinity Series debut in this same race last year. In May he was named a finalist for the 2025–26 IMSA (International Motor Sports Association) Diverse Driver Development Scholarship, which provides funding and training to assist a racer in competing in an IMSA racing series.

—Chandler A. Calderon

From left: Photo courtesy J/F Media; photography by Jacob Brown/UChicago Athletics

# RELEASES

## ALUMNI BOOKS, FILMS, AND RECORDINGS



**PASSIONATE WORK:  
CHOREOGRAPHING A DANCE CAREER**  
By Ruth Horowitz, AM'72, PhD'75;  
Stanford University Press, 2024

Sociologist **Ruth Horowitz** seeks to understand what drives the thousands of dancers who have careers as performers but never become stars. Drawing on interviews with dozens of dancers who spend years in the corps de ballet of a large company or build a portfolio of roles with smaller companies and in short-term projects, Horowitz explores how they balance financial stability and opportunities for artistic expression at every stage of their careers, from their earliest training decisions to their transition away from performing years later.

**ANIMALS, ROBOTS, GODS:  
ADVENTURES IN THE MORAL  
IMAGINATION**  
By Webb Keane, AM'84, PhD'90;  
Allen Lane, 2024

The emergence of new artificial intelligence tools has prompted ethical concerns about, for instance, the moral decision-making power of a self-driving car or our ability to bond with a chatbot. But such dilemmas are not new, **Webb Keane** argues. The anthropologist traces a sweeping history of encounters with near-human or nonhuman beings and inventions—the

animals, robots, and gods of the book's title as well as entities such as the environment. Keane brings together diverse views to explore how we live with ethically significant others and, ultimately, what makes us human.

**JANE AUSTEN AND THE PRICE  
OF HAPPINESS**  
By Inger Sigrun Brodey, AM'91, PhD'93; Johns Hopkins  
University Press, 2024

The name Jane Austen is synonymous with happy endings, but the neat resolutions to her novels, so often ending in marriage, belie a more ambivalent relationship between matrimony and happiness, according to **Inger Sigrun Brodey**. She argues that the idiosyncratic qualities of the novels' endings—the accelerated pace of the storytelling, the improbable coincidences—are techniques Austen uses to emphasize a different source of happiness: a woman's moral growth.

**BAD HOSTAGE**  
Directed, edited, and coproduced  
by Mimi Wilcox, AB'16; The Film  
Fund, 2024

**Mimi Wilcox's** grandmother was held hostage in her home with her five children in 1973. In this documentary Wilcox examines her grandmother's

experience alongside those of Kristin Enmark and Patty Hearst, two women involved in high-profile hostage situations during the same era. In Wilcox's framing, all three women attempted to connect with their captors and as a result were condemned by law enforcement, the media, and their communities. *Bad Hostage* highlights the misogyny at the heart of the narratives created around them. **Max Asaf**, AB'16, also worked as a producer on the film.

**UNHOMED: CYCLES OF MOBILITY  
AND PLACELESSNESS IN  
AMERICAN CINEMA**  
By Pamela Robertson Wojcik, AM'88,  
PhD'93; University of California  
Press, 2024

Americans have an ambivalent view of homelessness, and it has shifted throughout the 20th and 21st centuries: Is it a personal or societal failure? A bold display of independence? **Pamela Robertson Wojcik** examines how unhomed, placeless, and mobile characters have been depicted in American film, from the silent era tramp movies to *Nomadland* (2020). By focusing on stories of precarity, Wojcik challenges the common assertion that narratives of success and social mobility are at the heart of American cinema.

—Chandler A. Calderon

For additional alumni book releases, use the link to the *Magazine's* Goodreads bookshelf at [mag.uchicago.edu/alumni-books](https://mag.uchicago.edu/alumni-books).

# 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](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).



Comic relief: A student enjoys the funnies in 1944. *Life's Like That*, a single-panel gag cartoon—or a set of them on Sundays—created by Fred Neher from 1934 to 1977, features on the back page. How did you spend Sunday mornings as a student? Let us know at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu). And while you're at it, comics fans, turn to page 40 to read about cartoonist, author, and humor writer Phil Witte, JD'83, and his recently published book about the single-panel gag cartoon. (Photography by St. Louis Post-Dispatch, UChicago Photographic Archive, apf4-02836, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)

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**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](mailto: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.

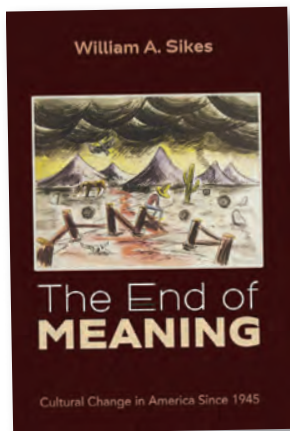




Scholars' aid: Students line up for scholarships, assisted by Robert M. Strozier, PhD'45, dean of students from 1946 to 1957, and Marjory Benedict, the secretary for the Committee on Fellowships and Scholarships. In 1950 there were 1,700 scholarships available to students. In addition, veterans and their families could benefit from federal funding for education through the GI Bill. This magazine reported in that same year that, at the time, veterans comprised 40 percent of the University's enrollment. (Photography by William M. Rittase, UChicago Photographic Archive, apf1-07992, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)



Hot-button issues: A smattering of political buttons from 1968 feature anti-war and anti-racism messages and support for Democratic candidate Eugene McCarthy, former president Harry S. Truman, and the Black Power and Free Speech movements. Different student organizations—the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Students for a Democratic Society, and the National Student Association—are all represented. (UChicago Photographic Archive, apf3-00266, Hanna Holborn Gray Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)



## The End of Meaning Cultural Change in America Since 1945

**Towards the end of the twentieth century** books proclaiming the “closing” of America’s mind, the “collapse” of her communities, and the “end” of her art, literature, education and more, began appearing with regularity. The underlying theme in all such works is the loss of those experiences that give our lives meaning. In *The End of Meaning: Cultural Change in America Since 1945*, readers learn to recognize these experiences, realize how prominent they were in the postwar period (c. 1945-65),

understand the forces that have brought about their extraordinary decline (in our families and communities, universities and religious institutions, films and popular music, fine arts, labor and more) and realize the implications of this loss for our society and our humanity. In doing so the book provides a way of thinking about a vital subject—one which, despite its enormous importance, has never been examined in a broad and systematic way capable of generating real understanding, discussion and debate.

**William A. Sikes** studied at U.N.C.–Chapel Hill, Harvard (M.Div.), and the University of Chicago before receiving his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Sikes is the author of *The Psychological Roots of Modernism: Picasso and Jung* (Routledge, 2015). *The End of Meaning* is available on Amazon or at [www.wipfandstock.com](http://www.wipfandstock.com).

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Pipe up: Maroon football fans have likely heard of the kazoo marching band featuring Big Ed, the world's largest kazoo. But what about the other halftime attraction of the '70s, the calliope? It seems there was a bit of a calliope craze in the first years of varsity football's return to the University, with the *Maroon* even advertising it as a headliner at the games: "THE MAROONS AND CALLIOPE MEET VALPARAISO," read the announcement for the October 8, 1971, face-off. Invented in the mid-19th century, calliopes produce sound by sending steam through a collection of train whistles of various sizes—the instruments are notoriously loud and off-key. In his boater hat and sleeve garters, calliope player Darwin C. Shoger added a bit of Staggy-era flair to the new football field. Did you witness the 1970s calliope revival? Tell us about it at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu). (Copyright 2024, The Chicago Maroon. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)



Presidential politics: Student supporters of former CIA director George H. W. Bush's campaign for the 1980 Republican presidential nomination hold a strategy meeting in the Reynolds Club. The Bush for President Committee was one of several student groups formed at the beginning of the year to support candidates in the primaries, including John B. Anderson, Howard Baker, Jimmy Carter, John Connally, and Ted Kennedy. (Copyright 2024, The Chicago Maroon. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)

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Look sharp: Cargo shorts, flannel shirts, graphic tees, silk headscarves. Ah yes, it must be finals week—at least according to the *Maroon's* 1991 campus fashion series. Stephen Wesley, AB'90, and Megan Garvey, AB'92, model the “finals week” look (don't forget your floppy disks and copy of Plato's *Republic*). Among the other styles in the series were these “looks”: the “frat house,” the “8:30 a.m. class,” the “J. Crew,” the “vintage artsy,” and the “granola.” What were you wearing in the '90s? Were you more J. Crew or granola? Let us know at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu). (Photography by Lauren A. Tillinghast, AB'90, AM'91, PhD'00; Copyright 2024, *The Chicago Maroon*. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.)



Locker room talk: Law students gather around lockers and phone booths in Stuart Hall. Built in 1904, Stuart Hall housed the Law School until the 1950s. After the school moved south of the Midway in 1959, the Graduate School of Business took over Stuart Hall and the building became known as Business East. Today Stuart houses the main office of the philosophy department and, in the basement, reSOURCE, a student-run thrift store. What did you chat about between classes at the Law School or Chicago Booth? Let us in on the gossip at [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu). (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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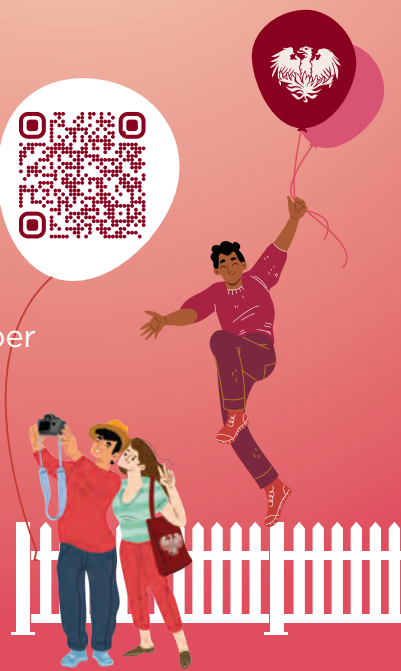


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# DEATHS

## FACULTY AND STAFF

**George Haley**, professor emeritus of Spanish literature, died June 6 in Chicago. He was 96. A specialist in 16th- and 17th-century Spanish and Portuguese literature, Haley was renowned for his scholarship on Miguel de Cervantes's *Don Quixote* and the poetry and prose of Vicente Espinel. An expert on Spanish and Luso-Brazilian culture, he brought authors' social and personal backgrounds to bear on his readings of literary texts. With degrees from Oberlin College and Brown, Haley taught in UChicago's Department of Romance Languages and Literatures from 1959 to 1996 and served as chair for three years. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1962 and the UChicago Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Mentoring Award in 1995. Survivors include a sister and a brother.

**George Bakris**, AM'75, professor of medicine in the Section of Endocrinology and director of the Comprehensive Hypertension Center, died June 15 in Munster, IN. He was 72. An expert on hypertension and diabetic kidney disease, Bakris published more than 500 peer-reviewed studies and guidelines. He attended what is now the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science and did his residency and a research fellowship at the Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education. He then completed fellowships in nephrology and clinical pharmacology at UChicago. He spent over a decade at Rush University Medical Center as vice chair of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine and joined the UChicago faculty in 2006. His numerous honors include the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois Lifetime Service and Achievement Award and the Donald F. Steiner Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Treatment of Diabetic Nephropathy. He is survived by his wife, Demetria; two children; and his grandchildren.

**David B. Rowley**, of Porter Beach, IN, professor emeritus in the Department of the Geophysical Sciences, died May 30. He was 70. Rowley, whose parents were the accomplished UChicago scientists Janet D. Rowley, LAB'42, PhB'45, SB'46, MD'48, and Donald A. Rowley, SB'45, SM'50, MD'50, graduated from Denison University and earned a PhD in geology from University at Albany, SUNY. He joined UChicago's geophysical sciences faculty in 1993 and served as department chair and editor of the *Journal of Geology*. Rowley studied the deep history and constant motion of Earth's tectonic plates. For his contributions to the fields of paleogeography, paleoaltimetry, and

tectonics, he was named a fellow of the American Geophysical Union in 2018. He enjoyed sailing and time at the Indiana Dunes. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; three children, including **Gia Rowley**, LAB'12, and **Jason Rowley**, LAB'08, AB'16; a stepdaughter, **Molly Potchenik**, LAB'12; and a brother, **Roger Rowley**, LAB'81.

## 1940s

**Guillermo "Guillo" Mateo**, SB'45, MD'48, died December 6, in Newburyport, MA. He was 102. After serving in the US Air Force during the Korean War, Mateo settled in St. Paul, MN, and built a private medical practice, treating patients regardless of their ability to pay. His wife, Grace "Bunnie" Mateo, SM'45, who died in 2012, joined the practice as a nurse practitioner, and later the couple taught in the University of Minnesota's nurse practitioner program. Retiring to Tega Cay, SC, Mateo enjoyed skiing and played tennis into his 90s. He is survived by a daughter; two sons, including **John Mateo**, AB'81; and three grandchildren.

**Abe Krash**, AB'46, JD'49, of Chevy Chase, MD, died July 6. He was 97. As a UChicago undergraduate, he served as editor of the *Maroon*, having edited his high school paper and worked as a freelance writer and sports editor at a local paper in his hometown of Cheyenne, WY. Setting aside these early journalistic ambitions, Krash attended the Law School immediately after graduating. Later, as a junior partner at the law firm Arnold, Fortas & Porter, he provided research and helped draft a brief leading to the US Supreme Court's landmark 1963 decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which established the constitutional right to counsel in criminal cases. Krash remained at the firm, which became Arnold & Porter, for more than 30 years after *Gideon*; he also taught at the law schools of Georgetown University and Yale. Survivors include his wife, Joan; two daughters; four grandchildren, including **Rachel Freeman**, AB'08, and **Francesca Freeman**, AB'16; and two great-grandchildren.

**June Biber Freeman**, PhB'47, SB'49, died July 4 in Scottsdale, AZ. She was 95. A New Jersey native, Freeman studied psychology before marrying and moving to Arkansas in 1950 to raise a family. Living in Pine Bluff and later Little Rock, she championed art and architecture, leading an effort to turn an old fire station into an arts and science center and creating a mobile art gallery to serve rural areas. In recognition of her community service, Freeman was inducted into the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame in 2017.

Her husband, Edmond Wroe Freeman III, EX'51, died in 2021. She is survived by four children, a sister, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Thomas Marschak**, LAB'45, PhB'47, died January 31 in Oakland, CA. He was 93. An economist who earned his PhD at Stanford, Marschak was a faculty member at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, for almost 60 years. His research centered on the design of efficient organizations and the ways information technology, data science, and data use drive enterprise value. The recipient of Fulbright-Hays, Guggenheim, and Ford Foundation research awards, Marschak was also an elected fellow of the Econometric Society. He is survived by his wife, Merideth; four children; and two grandchildren.

## 1950s

**Bernard Lashinsky**, AB'50, AM'53, died May 26 in Naples, FL. He was 92. After studying economics and serving in the US Army, Lashinsky worked at Standard Oil Company of Indiana (later Amoco). He then joined Inland Steel Industries, where he spent 29 years, ultimately as chief economist. Lashinsky was a member of the National Association for Business Economics and the National Business Economics Issues Council. He is survived by two daughters; a son; a sister; a grandchild; and his partner, Iris Shur.

**Tsung-Dao "T.D." Lee**, PhD'50, died August 4 in San Francisco. He was 97. Lee was only 31 when he and **Chen Ning Yang**, PhD'48, shared the 1957 Nobel Prize for Physics for proving that subatomic particles are not always symmetrical, a finding that overturned the law of conservation of parity. They were the first Chinese-born Nobel laureates. Lee taught himself physics after the Second Sino-Japanese War forced him out of high school. He completed two years of college in China before coming to UChicago as a doctoral student under Enrico Fermi's direction. Lee went on to work at Yerkes Observatory; the University of California, Berkeley; and the Institute for Advanced Study before joining Columbia University's faculty in 1953, where he remained until his 2012 retirement. He developed the Lee Model and the Kinoshita-Lee-Nauenberg theorem and contributed to research on black holes and dark matter. His many honors include the Albert Einstein Award in Science; a minor planet also bears his name. He is survived by two sons, **James Lee**, AM'75, and **Stephen Lee**, PhD'86; a sister; a brother; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

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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](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).

**John Sever**, LAB'48, AB'51, of Rockville, MD, died April 25. He was 92. With his MD and PhD from Northwestern, Sever focused his career on curing and preventing infectious diseases in children. Moving to Maryland, he served as a captain in the US Public Health Service, worked for 28 years at the National Institutes of Health, was chair of Children's National Medical Center, and taught at George Washington University's medical school. Sever was active in his church and in many medical societies, and he championed Rotary International's efforts to eradicate polio. He is survived by his wife, **Gerane Sever**, AB'51; three daughters; and seven grandchildren.

**Marc Nerlove**, LAB'49, AB'52, of Wilmette, IL, died July 10. He was 90. An economist, Nerlove developed pioneering econometric models that continue to be used in global supply studies, influencing agriculture and resource economics in the United States and beyond. With his PhD from Johns Hopkins University, Nerlove taught at Stanford, Yale, UChicago, Northwestern, and the University of Maryland, among other institutions. His many honors include the 1969 John Bates Clark Medal, membership in the National Academy of Sciences, and recognition as a distinguished fellow of the American Economic Association. He is survived by his wife, Anke Meyer; two daughters; a sister, **Sara Nerlove Walters**, LAB'58; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Burnett H. Radosh**, AB'53, died March 26 in Arlington, VA. He was 88. Radosh, a graduate of New York University School of Law, served as a lawyer and judge in the US Army and completed two tours of duty in Vietnam. After retiring from the military in 1979 as a colonel, he joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Florida, serving for 15 years. He shared a love of sailing with his wife, Katherine Radosh, AB'58, who died in 2022. Survivors include two sons and a brother.

**Peter Pesch**, SB'55, SM'56, PhD'60, died July 16 in Cleveland. He was 90. For 37 years Pesch was a professor of astronomy at Case Western Reserve University, serving for a time as department chair. He also was a longtime volunteer with and supporter of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, where he organized special sessions in the museum's planetarium for his introductory astronomy students. He is survived by his wife, Donna; two daughters, a stepdaughter; a sister; a brother; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

**Adrian Kuyper**, JD'55, of Laguna Beach, CA, died October 24, 2023. He was 95. A Swarthmore College graduate and US Army veteran, Kuyper became an editor of the *University of Chicago Law Review*. He began his legal career at the County Counsel's Office in Orange County, CA, and served for 26 years as the County Counsel before retiring in 1991. Survivors include his wife, Elaine.

**Alex Hassilev**, EX'56, died April 21 in Burbank, CA. He was 91. Hassilev was the last original member of the Limelitters, a 1960s folk trio. Born in Paris to Jewish immi-

grants from Russia, Hassilev was fluent in five languages and played banjo and guitar. A decade before the band rose to fame, Hassilev had transferred to UChicago from Harvard, but he gave up academic pursuits to study acting and join the New York City folk scene. When the Limelitters broke up in 1965, Hassilev worked as a record producer; he later reconvened the band with old and new performers. He is survived by his wife, Gladys; a son; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

## 1960s

**Iván Argüelles**, AB'61, died April 28 in Berkeley, CA. He was 85. Argüelles studied classics in the College and later worked as a librarian at the New York Public Library and the University of California, Berkeley. From the late 1970s onward, he published many books of poetry, moving from early forms influenced by the Beat and Surrealist movements to epic-length poems. His published works include *The Invention of Spain* (1978); *Divine Comedy*, *The* (2009); and *The Death of Stalin* (2010), which won the Before Columbus Foundation's 2011 American Book Award. He is survived by his wife, **Marilla Argüelles**, AB'65 (Class of 1964); two sons, including **Alexander Argüelles**, AM'88, PhD'94; and two grandchildren.

**Rodney W. Napier**, AM'61, of Philadelphia, died April 6. He was 87. Napier graduated from Carleton College and served in the US Marine Corps Reserve before obtaining his master's in education at UChicago and doctorate in behavioral studies at the University of Wisconsin. He taught at Temple University until 1977, then launched a management consulting firm. Joining the University of Pennsylvania faculty in 1995, Napier co-founded its graduate program in organizational consulting and executive coaching. Survivors include three daughters, a sister, and three granddaughters.

**David Soukup**, JD'61, died December 16, in Silverdale, WA. He was 90. In 1976 Soukup was a judge in Seattle when he created what would become Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), now a national organization that provides volunteer advocates to represent the interests of abused or neglected children in court. Soukup was a US Army veteran and former prosecutor who served as a judge until 1983; after stepping down from the bench, he practiced arbitration and mediation law and remained an active CASA board member. He is survived by his wife, Beth Waid; six children; a stepdaughter; and a brother.

**Ellen R. Walters**, SB'61, AM'73, of Vineland, NJ, died June 11. She was 83. Walters, who completed a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's in social work, became a supervisor for the southern district of New Jersey's Division of Developmental Disabilities in the state's Department of Human Services. Her many passions included reading, rock 'n' roll music, environmental preservation,

and travel. Survivors include two sisters.

**Nathan Hare**, AM'57, PhD'62, died June 10 in San Francisco. He was 91. A sociologist, Hare taught at Howard University and what is now San Francisco State University, where he helped lead a faculty and student strike that sparked the creation of the country's first Black studies program in 1969. When the university later fired him for political reasons, Hare cofounded the *Black Scholar*, an interdisciplinary journal, and launched the Black Think Tank, a consulting firm, with his wife, psychologist Julia Reed Hare. Earning a second doctorate from the California School of Professional Psychology, Hare then worked as a clinical psychologist and continued to publish articles as well as books.

**Stephen R. Webb**, SM'60, PhD'62, died June 18 in Mission Viejo, CA. He was 85. Trained in mathematics and statistics, Webb moved to California to pursue a career in aerospace, where he held scientific and management positions at Rocketdyne, McDonnell Douglas Aeronautics, and Teledyne Brown Engineering. As an independent space systems analyst, he won contracts to evaluate the NORAD missile warning system and develop the OSCAR antisatellite mission effectiveness model, among other projects. Webb was active in the Orange County Ski Club and sang with the Pacific Chorale. He is survived by a daughter, a son, two sisters, four grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

**Warren Winiarski**, AM'62, died June 7 in Napa, CA. He was 95. Winiarski was the founder and longtime owner of Stags' Leap Wine Cellars—a Napa Valley start-up whose 1973 cabernet sauvignon won a blind tasting in Paris, giving a surprise boost to the California wine industry. At UChicago Winiarski had studied political science, but he moved to Napa in 1964 to learn wine making. After 37 years at Stags' Leap, he sold the winery in 2007. He served his undergraduate alma mater, St. John's College, as a trustee, donor, and summer humanities teacher. His wife, Barbara Winiarski, EX'59, died in 2021. Survivors include three children and six grandchildren.

**Jay Ross**, AB'67, MFA'69, of Rochester, NY, died April 10. She was 78. Ross, who also attended Whitman College, studied art and made ceramics at UChicago. Settling in Rochester with her family, she worked at a local art and craft gallery and created jewelry and ceramics. She later completed an associate's degree in wetlands conservation, served in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and was a longtime community, school, and public library volunteer. She is survived by her husband, **Dan Ross**, AM'67, PhD'72; four children; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Robert Schweizer**, MBA'67, of Northville, MI, died May 27. He was 95. Schweizer was awarded the Korean Service Medal, United Nations Medal, and National Defense Medal for his US Army service in Korea. Known for his love of antiquing and hosting memorable

dinner parties, he owned a German restaurant where he delighted in cooking for family and friends and sharing his passion for food and hospitality. He is survived by extended family.

**Michael C. Jensen**, MBA'64, PhD'68, died April 2 in Sarasota, FL. He was 84. Jensen funded his graduate education by working night shifts at the *Chicago Tribune*, and earned his MBA in finance and his doctorate in economics. As an economist at the University of Rochester and Harvard Business School, he advocated for the use of stock options, golden parachutes, and leveraged buyouts as tools for transforming firms. Jensen cofounded the *Journal of Financial Economics* and published widely on corporate finance and organizational strategy; he later cofounded the Erhard-Jensen Ontological/Phenomenological Initiative, a leadership training course. Survivors include two daughters, a sister, and four grandchildren.

## 1970s

**Jay Paul VanSant**, AB'71, died June 14 in Canby, OR. He was 75. Early in his career VanSant cofounded Dharma Brothers, a screen-printing company, but he later earned a mathematics degree at Portland State University and transitioned to software engineering, focusing on quality assurance. VanSant worked at Mentor Graphics, ParcPlace Systems, Northwest Evaluation Association, and other software firms. His lifelong Zen practice shaped his philosophy and approach to life; for more than 30 years, he was a dedicated member of the Dharma Rain Zen Center, where he taught meditation. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Tracy; and three daughters, including **Janine Tracy VanSant**, AB'99.

**Randall Roger Scott**, MBA'72, of Washington Township, OH, died September 22, 2023. He was 76. Scott served as CEO and chair of Scott Industrial Systems in Dayton, OH, a family business that designs and sells fluid power systems. A graduate of Brigham Young University, he held leadership, teaching, and volunteer roles in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He is survived by his wife, Raquelle; five children; a brother; and seven grandchildren.

**Peter Benno Gillis**, AB'73, AM'80, died June 20 in Albany, NY. He was 71. Gillis, a lifelong comics reader, took a leave of absence from his graduate studies in medieval German literature to become a comics writer. He penned many issues of *Micronauts*, *What If?* and *Dr. Strange* for Marvel Comics; cocreated the series *Shatter* and *Warp* for First Comics and *Strikeforce: Morituri* for Marvel; and wrote *Tailgunner Jo* for DC Comics. His best-selling graphic novel adaptation of Peter Beagle's fantasy novel *The Last Unicorn: A Fantastic Tale* (1968) was published in 2011. Survivors include a sister and a brother.

**Gary Lynn Garrison**, AM'75, died May 4 in Sarasota, FL. He was 79. A University of Kansas graduate, Garrison was a Peace

Corps volunteer and trainer in Tunisia and Yemen before working briefly at the Ford Foundation in Egypt. Having completed French, history, international relations, and comparative education degrees, as well as a yearlong Arabic studies program, he moved to Washington, DC, where he administered the US State Department's Fulbright Senior Scholar Program for the Middle East and North Africa for more than 33 years. After retiring he lived in Morocco, India, and Jordan before settling in Sarasota. He is survived by his wife, Lucy Laurretta Melbourne; three daughters; a stepson; and four grandchildren.

**William "Bill" Kells**, SM'71, PhD'76, died June 2 in Kimberly, ID. He was 76. During the 1980s, Kells worked as an experimental physicist in locations including Fermilab in suburban Chicago and CERN in Switzerland. He later helped build a guidance tool for the 200-inch Hale Telescope in California and became a senior research scientist at Caltech. Kells contributed to scientific discoveries at Caltech's Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) and Advanced LIGO until retiring in 2015. Survivors include his wife, May; a daughter; a son; a sister; a brother; and two grandchildren.

**Michael Sugrue**, AB'79, of Naples, FL, died January 16, of complications from cancer. He was 66. Trained as a historian at UChicago and Columbia University, Sugrue became a lecturer and fellow at Princeton. In 1992 he was hired to record audio and video talks on topics from Stoic philosophy to Foucault for "Great Minds of the Western Intellectual Tradition," an educational series marketed by the Teaching Company. Thirty years later, Sugrue—who taught at Ave Maria University from 2004 until his retirement nearly two decades later—uploaded the videos to YouTube, where they have garnered millions of views. He is survived by three daughters; a sister; and a brother, **Christopher Sugrue**, AB'92, AM'92.

## 1980s

**Gary Gagliardi**, AB'81, of Greenwood, IN, died May 26 of pancreatic cancer. He was 65. Pursuing his dream of becoming a physician, Gagliardi graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1985 and completed his residency in internal medicine at Indiana University Indianapolis. After working at Johnson Memorial Health in Franklin, IN, he continued his career at Richard L. Roudebush Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Indianapolis. Survivors include his mother and two sisters.

**Joel Riff**, JD'82, died June 16 in New York City. He was 73. Riff, a University of Michigan graduate, spent a year on Kibbutz Ketura in Israel before beginning his career as a software engineer. After earning his JD, he worked for more than 30 years as a lawyer in Silicon Valley, practicing at GCA Law Partners and Fenwick & West, where he chaired the licensing and online commerce

group. In 2016 he returned to Chicago, and later moved to New York to be closer to family. Survivors include two sons, a brother, and two grandchildren.

**Robert Mark "Bob" Rosenberg**, AM'82, of Fort Lauderdale, FL, died September 10, 2023. He was 72. With his undergraduate business degree and graduate studies in political science, Rosenberg initially worked as a regulator with the State of Florida. In 1989 he joined what is now the National Pest Management Association as a lobbyist, serving as its director of government affairs and CEO before retiring in 2016. Rosenberg was also a longtime member of the US Environmental Protection Agency's Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee. He is survived by his husband, Chuck Laster, and a sister.

## 1990s

**Elizabeth Freeman**, AM'91, PhD'96, of San Francisco, died of cancer on June 2. She was 57. Freeman taught at Sarah Lawrence College before becoming an English professor at the University of California, Davis, in 2000. A specialist in American literature and gender, queer, and sexuality studies, she authored three books: *The Wedding Complex* (2002), *Time Binds* (2010), and *Beside You in Time* (2019), a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award. She published numerous scholarly articles and served for six years as coeditor of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*. Survivors include her partner, Candace Moore, and a son.

## 2010s

**Seong Hyeok Moon**, AM'04, PhD'14, died June 18 in Seoul, South Korea, of a heart attack. He was 50. An economist, Moon had been active in the Institute of Economic Research at Seoul National University. With UChicago economist **James Heckman** and others, he coauthored a widely cited 2009 paper showing the high return on investment for quality preschool programs. Moon's research interests included empirical labor economics and micro-econometrics, with a focus on skill formation, intergenerational transmission, and early childhood intervention. He is survived by his mother and three sisters.

## 2020s

**Lewis "Alan" Longino**, AM'24, died July 8 in Biloxi, MS, of cancer. He was 36. A PhD candidate in art history, Longino studied postwar Japanese conceptual art and global contemporary art. With a bachelor's degree in French and art history from the University of Mississippi and a master's in fine arts from Hunter College, he worked in art galleries in New York City and Cologne, Germany. At UChicago he curated four exhibitions in Cobb Hall, published in art journals, and co-coordinated the Visual and Material Perspectives on East Asia workshop. He is survived by his parents.



THE UCHICAGOAN  
**Heidi Heitkamp**

*Questions for the Institute  
of Politics director and former  
US senator (D-ND).*

**What surprising job have you had in the past?**

I was a seasonal construction worker at a water pipeline company, where I glued two-inch pipe for a rural water system. Do you want a cooler one? It might be that I worked in a Popsicle factory cleaning up the lines.

**Did you get free Popsicles?**

Oh, yeah, Fudgsicles and Popsicles and Dreamsicles. I would come home literally reeking of cream. My roommate at the time would say, “You cannot come in the house.” She would put a shirt outside, and I would strip down before I would even walk in the house.

**What do you hate that everyone else loves?**

I hate the 24-hour news cycle. It drives people to make rash decisions, and there isn’t enough time to have an in-depth dialogue about what’s going on in the world. I think it has shortened our attention span on the problems in America.

**What book changed your life?**

I would say *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It made me want to be a lawyer.

**Tell us the best piece of advice you’ve received—or the worst.**

The best piece of advice that I ever received was, “Never back up more than you have to.” That’s from my friend Barbara Mikulski, who added to that, “Neutral gets you nowhere.”

**What advice would you give to a brand-new Maroon?**

You are not the center of the universe, and the more you realize that, the more joyful and productive you’re going to be.

**What’s your most vivid UChicago memory?**

The opportunity to give the 2024 College Class Day speech. My hope is that I said something that was memorable, that would help them along their journey, because they were a unique class.



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