A Community of Individuals
Lab founder John Dewey anchored his ideas about education around the individual: our society is but the amalgam of all those singular minds and the ways that they interact and create together. Students, teachers, alumni, parents, faculty, and staff all have a role in the way Lab approaches education, the energy in the classroom, the flow of ideas and respectful debate.

“I believe that the individual who is to be educated is a social individual and that society is an organic union of individuals.” —John Dewey, My Pedagogic Creed (1897)

Lab founder John Dewey anchored his ideas about education around the individual: our society is but the amalgam of all those singular minds and the ways that they interact and create together. Students, teachers, alumni, parents, faculty, and staff all have a role in the way Lab approaches education, the energy in the classroom, the flow of ideas and respectful debate.

—The freedom to truly be an authentic individual.
—The opportunity to explore one’s real interests.
—An environment that allows the unique self to flourish within the broader community.

These are at the very center of what it means to be a Labbie.
From the Director and Board Chair

Lab is an educator’s dream. And our students’ wonderful reality.

We are both so very thrilled to be working together this year knowing that our partnership will allow us each to offer perspectives that add to the whole of Lab in complementary ways. Robin is new to Lab and brings a passion for the Schools’ mission and for the ways in which a global perspective can help extend that mission. John’s ties to Lab span decades and the many roles that he has been so privileged to hold (student, parent, alumnus, board chair).

We share a belief that Lab is a magical place. We know that the magic happens when great teachers, talented students, and committed parents and alumni all come together to support the teaching and learning that unfold here every day, for every child.

It has been a year (really, several years) of intense change here at Lab, and that change will continue. It is hard to believe that Earl Shapiro Hall opened just a year ago. And while new beginnings are exciting, change can be challenging—especially within the context of historical continuity and success that the Laboratory Schools have experienced.

While Blaine renovation work moves apace, the construction of the Gordon Parks Arts Hall is already revealing the shape and scope of the magnificent space that will support fine arts, theater, music, photography, and film education for generations to come. We cannot begin to thank George Lucas and Mellody Hobson enough for their generous gift, which helped make this possible and, as importantly, their care and contributions to the thinking that will help these spaces bring the arts to life and our community together in meaningful ways.

All these new and refreshed spaces afford the opportunity to examine our own best practices and how they will inform our future learning. The ISACS Self-Study the Schools will undertake this year offers a great opportunity to learn more about Lab and ourselves. The accreditation process has the potential to enrich the efforts in which Lab is already engaged. At its best, with everyone contributing, accreditation offers us the opportunity to dig deep into what we do to see if it truly aligns with what we believe. This is a chance to measure ourselves against our own mission, and to dream and design for the future to ensure that “Lab Leads.”

As we all work together to make the most of the tremendous potential that is before us, we know that our opportunities begin with a history, mission, culture, and diverse population that are so meaningfully intertwined.

We thank you for all you have done for Lab in the past, and we especially thank and honor David Magill for his 11 years of service and for ensuring that Lab was poised to make these transformative changes a reality.

We share a belief that Lab is a magical place.
Michael Wong
Middle School science teacher

“At Lab you never stop learning and never stop trying—even the faculty are inquisitive and self-reflecting. As a teacher, there's an energy and a pace here that’s exciting. Even after years of teaching, all the faculty are involved in a cooperative, creative, critical, and honest assessment of what we do. You don’t get to do that at other schools.”

“We all ask, ‘Can we do better’ and can we do it while still respecting and carrying on traditions?’”

“Nobody says ‘no.’ They find a way.”

“Excited about Wood's Hole Marine Biological Laboratories

We all ask, ‘Can we do better’ and can we do it while still respecting and carrying on traditions?”

“Nobody says ‘no.’ They find a way.”

intellectual sophistication
academic exploration
creativity
flexibility to create the best experience, program, curriculum
inquiry
it never slows down
Valentina Gardner
U-High student

"I love the fact that everyone has a different personality—this person fences... that one writes poetry... that one has a gajillion science awards—everybody does something and you can create any kind of identity that you want."

"I love the Rockefeller Chapel bells. They ring at the right time and just calm you."

"Because of Lab I want to learn for myself."

smart students but aware students

be smart and try

opportunity, community, dignity

Thespian

"everyone’s opinions are heard"

curiosity

“Model UN developed a whole new side of Rahul’s personality and his worldview.”

“Lab is a place where it is cool to be smart and cool to be interested in academics and cool to be involved in sports. The special things that happened for Rahul at Lab would not have been possible without his inspiring teachers and close-knit group of friends.’
Michelle L. Collins
Class of 1978
Lab is a great place for students to develop individuality. My sister Adrienne King, '82, and I have different personalities, strengths, and weaknesses, yet have significant shared values and have enjoyed success in our fields. I'm thrilled to see the same thing happening for my nephews. Each is coming into his own; being tested and nurtured to find his interests, capabilities, friends, values... It's exciting. I can't wait to see what the future holds for them.

“Labbies question authority (in a nice way).”

Lab grads are real doers

shared connection

motivated, smart, challenging

confidence

“I couldn’t get away from Lab and Hyde Park faster. So now, I couldn’t be more surprised that: a) my Lab friends are my closest friends; b) I live in Hyde Park!; and c) I am so interested in what’s going on at Lab.”

Aunt, '14, '18, '20
Julian Federle, ’02
Lab Alumni Association Executive Board member

“Lab makes students better members of a community: Lab, Hyde Park, Chicago, globally. If not for Lab I wouldn’t have experienced the educational opportunities and diverse community that made me the person I am today. It was instrumental in providing me with the experiences and skills to be a good citizen, literally and figuratively.”

“I could not have gone to Lab without the very generous financial aid I received—and many friends were in a similar situation.”

“I feel very strongly about, and support unequivocally, Lab’s commitment to diversity—racial, socio-economic—that’s important to me.”

facilities that match students’ talent

service

an all-encompassing experience

responsible, contributing, ethical

diversity

service learning program
This historic period for the Laboratory Schools provided an incredible opportunity to serve as co-presidents of the Parents’ Association (PA) for the 2013–2014 school year.

Our PA governing board and school councils—all parent volunteers—gave willingly of their time, energy, and creativity. PA councils developed, organized, and supported the many PA-sponsored school events, all of which furthered our mission: to foster community by bringing families and the school together for common objectives.

Reflecting on the past year, the PA’s speaker series continued to anchor our goal of promoting educational excellence by bringing vibrant and informative voices to parents on a monthly basis. Speakers addressed issues of grit, connecting children and nature, and creating young innovators. The PA also provided significant support by co-sponsoring, with the Schools, an executive function workshop as part of the faculty professional development program.

PA community-building efforts and impressive parent volunteer help were evident at Bizaarnival festivities and Rites of May, which featured what might become a new Lab tradition—a family bike ride ending at Earl Shapiro Hall. Parents organically formed affinity groups, and the Diversity Committee continued to have strength in numbers, and, in partnership with UChicago’s Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, sponsored a well-attended movie screening of American Promise. A post-screening, moderated panel discussion offered families an opportunity for lively and candid dialogue.

With excitement came challenge. The opening of Earl Shapiro Hall ushered in a momentous chapter in Lab’s 118-year history; how special for the PA to be a part of the inaugural year at ESH when new traditions were in the making and old ones were being cherished in a new “home.” On the Historic Campus, history-making continued as Blaine Hall underwent major renovations and a portion of Belfield Hall was cleared to make way for the Gordon Parks Art Hall.

On behalf of students and parents we extend our deepest thanks to the PA school councils for their tireless work and adaptability during the complicated construction and renovations. Our grateful thanks, as well, to administrators, faculty, and staff for their partnership and support. Without their involvement, the PA would not have had such a successful year. And everyone made this a fulfilling and fun year for the two of us!

Finally, we welcome Robin Appleby as director. The PA governing board looks forward to working with her and the Schools on behalf of all Lab families in the coming year.

With grateful thanks to have served,

Lynn Sasamoto, ’79, AB’83, and Tracy Coe
Parents’ Association co-presidents 2013–2014

Cheryl Rudbeck
President
Sari Weichbrodt, ’94
Treasurer
Lisa Curci, MBA’89
Secretary
Thomas Gaulkin, AB’04
Communications Coordinator
Debra Beinstein, JD’91
Laura Lichter, MBA’89
Sheila Nooraini
High School Council
Co-chairs
Tracy Coe
Nikki Gupta
Karen Schweickart, JD’03
Middle School Council
Co-chairs
Lena Jessen, MBA’04
Tracey Quinn
Claudia Roeder-Luez
Lower School Council
Co-chairs
Monica Hughson
Shrunali Rai, ’92
Triste Lieteau Smith, JD’97
Andee Stacy
Earl Shapiro Hall Council
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Alumni Association
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As of October 1, 2014

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Daniel Deutsch, ’78
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Deutsch Williams

Bonnie Dry, ’63
Executive Producer
Court Television

Sheel Edelstein, ’83
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Squire Patton Boggs

Julian Federle, ’02
Assistant Deputy Director, Service Delivery
Illinois Department of Employment Security

Anjali Fedson Hack, ’85, ’88, AM’90, MD’99, PhD’99
Research Physician

Richard Heller, ’54
Jonathan Hoganson, ’82
Senior Director of Global Government Affairs
Maxon Technology, Inc.

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Assistant to the Director
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Policy Analyst
Bipartisan Policy Center

Sidney Lee, ’80
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Zachary Levin, ’03
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Associate Director, Regional Major Gifts
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Donor Relations Specialist
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Vice President, Intellectual Property
20th Century Fox Home Entertainment

Deanna Quan, ’89
Vice President, Asset Management
The Charters Lodging Group

James Ratcliffe, ’92
Director, Equity Research
The Buckingham Research Group

Kavitha Reddy, ’98, JD’05
Counsel
Gawler Media, LLC

Randee Saturno, ’79
Molly Schloss, ’07
Senior Analyst, Strategy and Analysis
Digiadli

Smita Shah de Jeu, ’91
Founder/President
Spaan Technology

Carol Sobel Siegel, ’64
Dawn Sirtak, ’93
Executive Assistant
Fandango

Robert Solomon, ’78
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Software Platform Consulting, Inc.

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Vice President
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Suzanne Friedman Stein, ’45

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Sari Weichbrodt, ’94
Tim Wilkins, ’82
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As of October 1, 2014

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As of October 1, 2014

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University of Chicago

As of October 1, 2014

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As of October 1, 2014

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University of Chicago Laboratory Schools

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Assistant Principal, University High School

Sylvie Anglin
Principal, Lower School

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Department of Surgery

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Professor of Psychology;
Department of Comparative Human Development and Committee on Education

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Ned Beene
Director, Auxiliary Programs

Irene Reed, ’92
Executive Director, Admission and Financial Aid

David Ribbens
Director, Athletics

David T. Stafford, MBA’86
Associate Director, Capital Programs

Kristen Stevens
Director, Alumni Relations and Giving

Fountain Walker
Director, Operations and Liaison

UChicago Department of Safety and Security

Beth Withbrodt
Executive Director, Alumni Relations and Development

Carla Young
Principal, Nursery School and Kindergarten

As of October 1, 2014

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this annual report. Please call 773-702-0578 should you notice an error or omission in the Honor Roll listings.
Parents: If your alumni child’s annual report has been delivered to your home address, please share his or her current address with us at alumni@uchicago.edu or 773-702-0578.
Lab’s Mission

The Laboratory Schools are home to the youngest members of the University of Chicago’s academic community. We ignite and nurture an enduring spirit of scholarship, curiosity, creativity, and confidence. We value learning experientially, exhibiting kindness, and honoring diversity.