

LabLife

the magazine for alumni, parents, and friends of the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools
Spring 2023



LabLife

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FROM DIRECTOR
TORI JUEDS

Culminating
experiences are
about to begin



It is a time of year to celebrate Lab students’ growth and accomplishments, like those of the scientists, artists, musicians, and athletes featured in this edition of *LabLife*.

Dear Friends,

Spring has come to Hyde Park and with it the exciting final weeks of school. At each grade level, carefully-delivered lessons, inquiry-based adventures, and confidence-inspiring challenges have taken firm root. Culminating experiences are about to begin. Soon, Middle Schoolers will depart for outdoor experiences or explorations of American history in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Outside of Earl Shapiro Hall, Early Childhood children are taking in the wonders of spring in Jackson Park. Our seniors will shortly depart for an assortment of curated adventures for May Project. Lower School students will soon find that Pride Month is again marked by their advocacy for LGBTQ inclusivity. It is a time of year to celebrate Lab students’

growth and accomplishments, like those of the scientists, artists, musicians, and athletes featured in this edition of *LabLife*.

Over countless seasons, Lab has grown into a large, diverse, complex institution that brings together students and their families from a broad geographical swath of Chicagoland and a variety of backgrounds and situations. A world-class faculty teaches a 21st century curriculum with care to the great pressures and challenges facing young people today. And yet, we still find purpose in John Dewey’s founding vision—particularly in our consciousness that Lab is preparing today’s children and teens to be the leaders and champions of an ever-healthier

democracy in the future. No purpose could be more compelling at such a time.

In these pages, and in all your interactions with the Laboratory Schools, I hope you find inspiration and joy in the growth and development of our students. You will find their daily endeavors as well as their triumphs—from new school swimming records set at the Independent Schools League championship meet to the Quality Award nabbed by our robotics team at the FRC robotics regional in Milwaukee—reflect our mission priorities of scholarship, kindness, and diversity. You will find countless young people well on their way to being leaders in their chosen fields, discerning defenders of truth, informed participants in public discourse, and staunch proponents of an inclusive, equitable society.



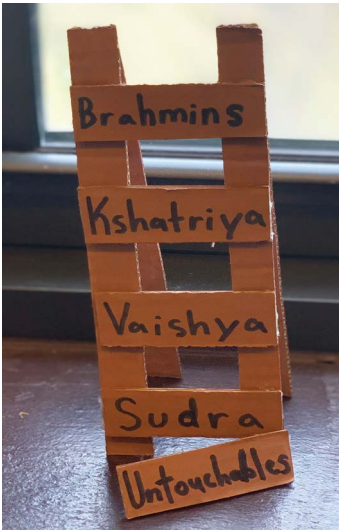
Throughout, Lab stands as a community of caring and purpose. Thank you for belonging to the Lab community and partnering in the all-important endeavor of providing an outstanding education to young people. Enjoy this issue of *LabLife*, and have a wonderful spring.

Tori Jueds
Yours truly,
Tori Jueds

<i>LabLife</i> , published twice a year, is written for the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools’ community of alumni, parents, faculty, and staff. Director Tori Jueds	Editor, Director of Marketing Communications Valerie M. Reynolds Contributors Liz Walch, E.W. Editing Rocio Villaseñor Design Janice Clark	Photography Seed Lynn Ann Ryan Kathryn Smidstra Cover: Julijana Lazarevich Lab Notes Correspondents Dozens of diligent alumni agents	Publisher The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools 1362 E. 59th Street Chicago, IL 60637 www.ucls.uchicago.edu	Please send comments or updated contact information to alumni@ucls.uchicago.edu, or call 773-702-0578. Volume 14, Number 2 © 2023 by the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools	Reproduction in whole or part, without permission of the publisher, is prohibited.
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Civilization As We Know It

What makes a civilization, and who gets to decide?



By posing the question: “*What makes a civilization, and who gets to decide?*” last winter, Middle School students explored the general phenomenon of the river valley civilizations that emerged approximately six thousand years ago.

Studying the Mesopotamia civilization is a fairly common unit in most middle schools. With such an extensive written and archaeological record of Mesopotamia, it offers a helpful case study when teaching about civilization. However, Middle School humanities teacher **Benjamin Tress** recognized that focusing on Mesopotamia alone runs the risk of sending students a message—even if unintentionally—that this place

was the sole origin point of civilization. So, growing out of a faculty innovation grant from summer 2022, Tress, along with fellow Middle School humanities teacher **Jasmine Jefferson** and Rowley Middle School librarian **Amy Atkinson**, designed the ancient river valley civilizations project for their students.

The project began with a class visit to the Oriental Institute (OI), a research center and archaeological museum at the University of Chicago which, in April (after the class visit), underwent an official name change and is now called the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures. Over the next few weeks, students examined patterns of civilization using Mesopotamia as a case study. As a culminating project,

students designed their own “museum displays” based on everything they researched and learned. Student displays included informational text to educate “museum visitors” and visuals such as posters, dioramas, and 3D models. Then, students working on the

Middle School students explored the general phenomenon of the river valley civilizations that emerged approximately six thousand years ago.

same civilization combined their displays to create an exhibit on their civilization.

Many visitors—including Lower and Middle School teachers, parents, and students—came through the museum and were guided through the exhibits by students who served as docents.

“The complex societies that began to emerge around six thousand years ago represented a marked shift from what had come before,” said Tress. “They created new opportunities and challenges for the people living in them. These civilizations provided a blueprint for how many societies function to this day.”

Recommended Reading

Nicole Willams, Director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, recommends *The Big Box*, a stellar children’s book by Toni and Slade Morrison that we all can learn from

There is no question that Toni Morrison’s writing is transformative in guiding the way we see and engage with the world. However, I was unprepared for the impact that her children’s book, *The Big Box*, co-written with her son, Slade Morrison, would have on me as a parent. The three children in the story are given all the stuff they could ever want—toys, games, food, trinkets—but it comes at a cost. Their freedom. Patty, Mickey, and Liza Sue do not behave the way the adults in their lives

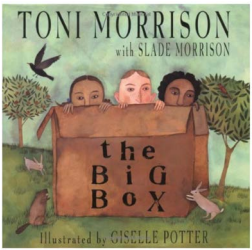
think they should and for that they have been consigned to live in a box that is triple locked with the door only opening in one direction. The Morrisons tell us that each of the children have met the basic expectations of those around them: they brush their teeth, do their homework, and feed their pets. But when it comes to the curiosities and boundary pushing aspects of childhood, the adults in their lives have reached their limits. The first time I read the book to my child, I had a sinking feeling in my stomach. It reminded me

The three children in the story are given all the stuff they could ever want—toys, games, food, trinkets—but it comes at a cost.

of a comment made at a convening of educators and education researchers that I had attended. A person stood up and asked: *When were*

we going to stop focusing on childhood and adolescence as preparation for adulthood, but as real and valid experiences in themselves to be cultivated and nurtured? At the time, I had wholeheartedly agreed with the comment, but after reading *The Big Box* I began to wonder whether I was actually embracing the reality of my child’s developmental stage, or was I pushing her to do what was acceptable to me and other adults around her so that she would be ready for the next stages of life. *The Big Box* is a great reminder that it is not easy

being parents and caregivers or being the child of parents and caregivers. It is a constant negotiation. Of course it is necessary to guide the young people in our lives, or as Kahlil Gibran says, “You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.” And just as importantly, Patty, Mickey, and Liza Sue remind us, “...if freedom is handled just *your* way, then it’s not *my* freedom or free.”

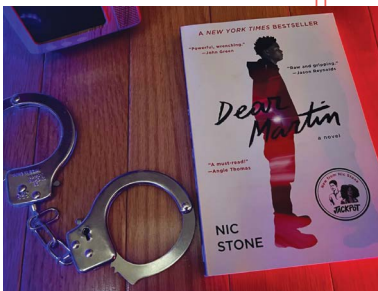


NICOLE WILLAMS

FROM THE SYLLABI #Bookstagram

This year, led by Lower School librarian **Kelly Campos** and in partnership with our Lower School fifth graders, Lab launched its very own #Bookstagram campaign. #Bookstagram is the niche corner of the Instagram social media platform where people share their love of books. “The creativity of the #Bookstagram concept is a way to incline fifth-grade students to think about how setting, plot, character, and theme can be expressed visually through objects, textures, colors, and light,” she says. How does it work? Students choose a book and use a thinking guide to help them work through the process of imagining their

book as a static image. What colors do they see? What textures? What is the



overall theme? Are there any items that are especially important to the story? Once they’ve thought it all through, they compose their hashtags along with thoughtful snippets, phrases, or individual words meant to encapsulate the feeling of the book or entice a person to read it. “Lab’s #Bookstagram project taps into the Lower School information literacy goals for the fifth grade and it is also an exploration of a number of concepts that students will build on in Middle and High School,” Campos remarks. So far, students have turned in thoughtful and visually interesting submissions on a wide



Students choose a book and use a thinking guide to help them work through the process of imagining their book as a static image.

variety of book topics. Fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels, novels in verse; you will see them all in Lab’s Instagram feed (@uchicagolab). “In the future, I’d love to have a gallery-style viewing for the #Bookstagrams where fifth graders could talk about their creations for classmates and parents,” she says. “This year, I’m just enjoying the successful implementation of a project I’ve really loved watching come to fruition. Seeing the third and fourth graders in the hallways talking about their favorite #Bookstagram is a special kind of joy.”

In the Halls

Down to Earth

An out-of-this-world experience for fourth grade students



Fourth grade students had an out-of-this-world experience this winter when

measurements of the surface of a planet, experience the environment through the eyes of various equipment, and how they fly over mountains in real-time 3D. He even allowed their teacher, **Deb Del Campo**, to take over a rover’s controls to roam the surface of Mars.

Minafra’s presentation included a piece of rock from Mars and a small piece of the Moon that students were able to touch and feel. He also shared

a meteorite that came from the dust and debris collected from outer space. The piece that he shared is older than our planet and is the most common rock to hit Earth.

These presentations gave these young students valuable insight into many of the remarkable job opportunities NASA has to offer. Our budding scientists had a number of inquisitive questions for the NASA experts, such as: *Do you think the life on the Moon was intelligent or microbes? Or, Can you estimate a day when you think we—the students—will be able to live on the Moon?*

“How many people can say they have touched a piece of the Moon, a meteorite, and a rock that came from Mars?” asked Del Campo.

“How many people can say they have touched a piece of the Moon, a meteorite, and a rock that came from Mars?” asked Del Campo.

Making Apple Cider: An Early Childhood Tradition

Nursery and Kindergarten students have delicious fun with apples



Nursery classrooms have been learning how to make apple cider since 2011, when classes were held at Woodlawn. They made apple cider for Woodlawn's Fall Harvest Festival, recalls Nursery teacher **Maureen Movrich**. The project was brought over to the rest of the Early Childhood division at Earl Shapiro Hall in 2013.

"The transition was then shared with all N-K classrooms [who] also have their big buddies join the process," Movrich says. "There

are many learning points that begin even before the pressing," Movrich says. "This includes counting, sorting, and tasting apples, researching recipes, and making connections to children's family experiences with fall apple picking trips to their school community."

Nursery teacher **Kiran Younus'** classroom participated in the project to learn about machines. "[The cider press] is a simple machine that was a fun experience which helped the children really understand the process of making cider," Younus says.

Children brought apples from apple picking with their families. They sliced them with an apple corer. They were broken into small groups with a parent volunteer helping them use the press. "It was a lot of work to get a pitcher of apple cider!" Younus says, "Children decided to enjoy at room temperature or warmed up."

Middle School Science Teacher Sets Sail

Tony Del Campo joins a JOIDES Resolution Expedition



Middle School science teacher **Tony Del Campo** was one of twelve educators in the US participating in this year's International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) School of Rock JOIDES Resolution (JR) Expedition 398P from February 24–March 3 in Tarragona, Spain.

Del Campo is still in shock and humbled for being "selected by the United States Science Support program, which is part of the National Science Foundation, to take part in this unique and career-shaping expedition."

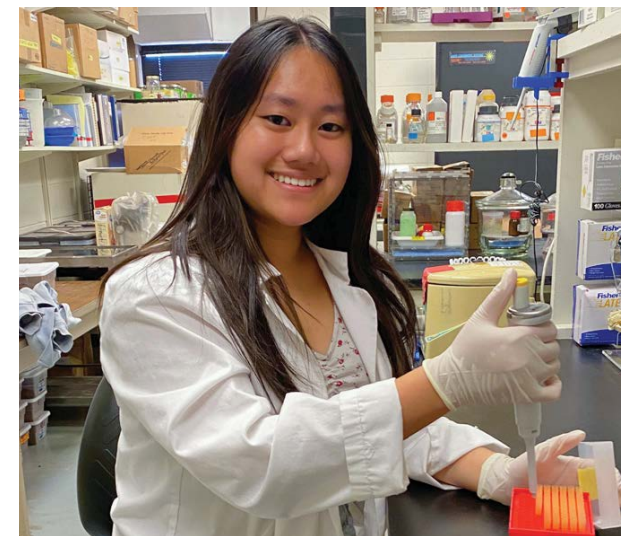
IOD is an "international marine research collaboration that explores Earth's history and dynamics using ocean-going research platforms to recover data recorded in seafloor sediments and rocks and to monitor subsurface environments." Participants learned "about IODP's science and ship operations, [spoke] with scientists and technicians, and collaborate[d] to enhance educational offerings."

Del Campo says their "time on the [JR] will have an impact on science classrooms all across the country with any educator being able to access these materials."

"Many of my students can attest to how much I love the field of earth science," says Del Campo. "To have the opportunity to be aboard the premier research vessel for deep ocean discovery, learning from the [JR] scientists, is truly a dream come true for me."

U-High Senior Takes National Science Stage

Corona Chen competed in Society for Science Regeneron Talent Search final in DC



U-High senior **Corona Chen** was among the top 40 2023 Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) finalists headed to Washington, D.C. for final judging March 9–14.

Although Chen did not make the top ten, she was thrilled and honored to be a Regeneron STS Scholar and finalist. She first heard about the competition through a friend who previously participated. Chen's environmental science project, *Understanding Incidental Microbial Communities Inside Ordinary Concrete Toward Decarbonization*, focuses on a new field of concrete microbiology.

"It presents possibilities of intentionally growing the right type of microbes to self-repair and extend the lifespan of concrete," Chen says. She wants to "inspire the global-scale creation and usage of sustainable concrete to reduce

humanity's overall greenhouse gas emissions."

As a top 300 finalist, Chen received \$2,000. Regeneron also gave \$2,000 to each scholar's school.

Chen worked on the project this past summer through the Anson L. Clark Scholars Program with a mentor and graduate student. She spent around 50 hours per week collecting data in the lab. It took her a month to complete her 90-page application.

"My success is also inseparable from the amazing programs and rigorous courses that [U-High] offers," Chen says. "They have truly prepared me with the necessary skills to do high-level research, from helping me build a strong foundation in science to teaching me how to solve problems, think creatively and critically, and produce strong writing."

Students Turn Into Travel Agents for History Project

Fourth graders learn about the history of the world in a fun and relative way



Students in **Tye Johnson's** history class hosted a grand opening for their Jazzy Jaguar Travel Agency and invited families to attend earlier this academic year.

Students dressed up as travel agents and had their own booths presenting their \$5,000 vacation packages to each of the three countries they researched for their "Around the World" project. The first country had to

be from Africa, the second from their ethnic origin, and the third was their own choice.

"I try to pay attention to what excites my students and then design projects based on their interests and on issues that are relevant," says Johnson, who got the idea from her experience working at an international progressive school in Dubai.

Johnson wants her students to learn that "we're globally connected in more ways than one."

The students learned about human migration with origins from Africa, systems thinking across cultures, how to fact check multiple sources when researching data, and using new technology.

"My hope is that in learning about our common ancestry, and then about the beauty of our ethnicities and the beauty of other cultures, that we will have a foundation rooted in love," says Johnson.

Students dressed up as travel agents and had their own booths presenting their \$5,000 vacation packages to each of the three countries they researched.

Middle School Students Express Themselves Through the Arts

Students have fun experiencing jazz, poetry, and painting during Black History Month



The Middle School Black Student Association (BSA) brought the Black arts to Lab in the *I Can Because They Can* workshop series, a project funded by a grant from Lab's Alumni Relations Department at the beginning of the school year. Specifically, the *Innovation in Teaching and Learning Fund* which provides "hands-on interactive workshops, discussions, and seminars for all Middle School students in collaboration with the High School BSA."

A variety of artists were invited to offer workshops

ranging in mediums from the culinary, visual, and digital, to the poetic, dance, and musical, according to Middle School teachers **Jasmine Jefferson**, **Joy Parham**, and **Rebecca Reaves**.

These workshops centered on students learning "to value and appreciate the diversity among African Americans in every field of study," according to the teachers. "Our goal is to provide mirrors for our BSA members so that they can feel inspired and be reminded that there are no limits to what they can accomplish."

"Something I really enjoy is that we have the opportunity to meet so many people that look like us," **Hailey Purcell**, an eighth-grade student, says. "We have a community where we can talk with people like us."

BSA engages in critical discussions that inspire two special assemblies each year—the Dr. King Assembly and Black History Month assembly.

Caught Red-Handed

Planting 100,000 tulips for the Redefining Redlining public art project



In October, many of the students and parents from Lab's Lower School community volunteered to plant 100,000 red tulip bulbs across several vacant lots in Chicago's South Side community of Washington Park. This was in partnership with an initiative led by **Amanda Williams**, '92, a Lab alumna, parent, and recipient of the 2022 MacArthur Fellowship Award.

In the weeks preceding the red tulip planting activity, Williams visited our Schools

and explained to Lower School students how she uses art to bring attention to many of the issues on Chicago's South Side, such as race and housing. It was during this presentation that she invited students to join her in planting tulips for the *Redefining Redlining* project.

Redefining Redlining is a public art project that was designed to reimagine the value of blocks and vacant lots on the South Side that have been impacted by redlining, a discriminatory practice that began all over the country in the 1940s and created the long-lasting devastation and vacancy that our communities experience daily on the South and West Sides of Chicago.

EXPERIENCING LANGUAGE

Sonia Perez, world language Spanish teacher, incorporates everyday experiences in her lessons



Learning a new language can be difficult. However, it can also be fun and enriching. Students in **Sonia Perez's** classroom are not only learning Spanish but also the culture.

"I want my students to be open to new cultures and new things," Perez, Lower School world language Spanish teacher, says. "I want my students to remember that things can seem hard, but with practice and effort, it can get easier."

She encourages her students to apply their Spanish skills if they travel to a Spanish-speaking country or dine at a restaurant that serves food traditionally from a Spanish-speaking country. Students tell her when they used their Spanish skills outside of the classroom or tried foods from Spanish-speaking countries. "Spanish is all around them and they should take advantage of that," Perez, a proud Puerto Rican

woman who loves her culture and enjoys sharing it with her students, says.

Her teaching style focuses on social-emotional learning, voice, and choice. In her classroom, she has a Zen Zone, so students can take a break if they need one. "I greet my students at the door and ask them how they are doing before they enter my class. Kids are really honest and they will let you know," she says. "This is important for me to see how kids are feeling before I start my class. It's one way I connect with my students and support them with what they need to learn best."

Perez has close to 25 years of combined teaching and education administration experience. She recalls that she always wanted to be a teacher because she "was inspired by children and wanted to spend [her] days supporting them."

She first joined Lab in 2018 where she served as the dean of students for four years. She

"My enthusiasm for teaching grows every day. My smile is the same size every morning when I leave for school and when I get home."

missed working directly with students so she decided to get back into teaching and began teaching Spanish this past year. "Working directly with students and their learning was where I felt I could make

the February Lower Schools Community Assembly for Black History Month, her students researched and presented information about Afro-Latinos. Her third grade class learned about the life and music of Celia Cruz, renowned Cuban-American singer referred to by many as "the queen of salsa." Perez taught her students a dance to one of her most famous songs, "La Vida es un Carnaval," which means, "Life is a Carnival."



the most impact," Perez says. "I've been able to rediscover the motivations behind why I decided to become a teacher in the first place."

She incorporates fun and dance into her lessons whenever possible. During

"My enthusiasm for teaching grows every day. My smile is the same size every morning when I leave for school and when I get home," she says.

Coming Together Through Science

U-High and Lower School students enjoy the Beaker Buddies program



"If you can't explain it to a six-year-old, then you don't understand it yourself," is one of Albert Einstein's famous quotes and one of the reasons U-High chemistry teacher **Zachary Hund** reached out to Lower School and Early Childhood science teachers **Sam O'Malley** and **Michael Eldridge**, respectively, to start the Beaker Buddies program earlier this year.

Once a month, first and second graders in Eldridge's class walk from Earl Shapiro Hall to the Historic Campus and complete experiments with

Hund's students (called the Big Beaker Buddies) based on what they are currently learning in biology, chemistry, and physics.

"I wanted to see if my students could take something they learned from class, and then turn around and explain it to a child with zero understanding of the material," says Hund. "We want these activities to be as hands-on as possible, with the older students providing guidance and support to the younger ones."

The Little Beaker Buddies in Eldridge's class enjoy the experiments and connections. They journal about their experiences. "We love to read their journal entries and to look at the pictures that they drew to help bring their writing to life," says Eldridge. "I hope that we are making science feel accessible and inclusive to all of our students."

Science + Sound = Cymatics

Music and physics are magically intertwined



Music and physics are magically intertwined. The sounds made by musical instruments are possible because of standing waves, which are two waves moving in opposite directions. U-High's music teacher **Francisco Dean** and physics teacher **Matthew Martino** have long wanted to collaborate to explore with their combined classes the creative ways in which music and physics interact.

This fall, the pair came across *CYMATICS: Science Vs Music*, a video by musician and physicist Nigel Stanford, which visually and audibly illustrates several experiments with music and physics. After viewing the video, the teacher duo applied for and received a grant through the Lab Alumni Relations and Development Department's Computational Thinking Fund.

The funding was used to design The Cymatics Project,

which brings together students to reproduce experiments from Stanford's video, such as using a bass speaker to create concentric circles or kaleidoscope shapes from sand granules. Students from Dean's and Martino's classes, along with students from the Linnaean Society Science Club, meet regularly during lunches and after school to brainstorm ideas, experiment with materials, and build and test devices.

"The approach is hands-on and incorporates computational thinking in a very creative way in order to explore the principles of music and science."

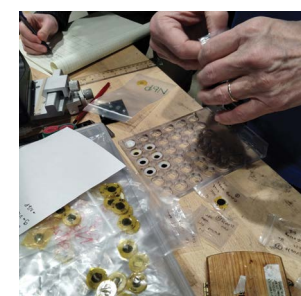
"The Cymatics Project has John Dewey written all over it," said Dean as he spoke of Lab's founder and his notion of experiential learning. "It is an innovative way to teach the principles covered in our science and music technology classes. The approach is hands-on and incorporates computational thinking in a very creative way in order to explore the principles of music and science."

Follow this QR code to enjoy Nigel Stanford's *CYMATICS: Science Vs Music*.



U-High Students Make Batteries at Argonne National Laboratory

Students discover a career in STEM in Argonne's Exemplary Student Research Program



In September, eight U-High students—four juniors and four seniors in advanced science and math courses—visited the Argonne National Laboratory, a multidisciplinary science and engineering research center, to participate in the Exemplary Student Research Program (ESRP) to work on a battery project.

"We are studying the performance of a vanadium niobium oxide cathode with a lithium anode," says U-High math teacher and ESRP mentor **Diane Nead**. "The object of study is how this cathode performs over time."

U-High students were paired with Carlo Segre, PhD, a leading scientist studying batteries at Argonne's Advanced Photon Source (APS) facility. Segre is a physics professor at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT).

"I feel extremely fortunate to be a part of ESRP, and it only furthers my passion for the STEM field," says junior **Rohan Chadha**.

Students spent two days in December at Segre's labs at IIT preparing the batteries. In February, they went to APS "to determine how the cathodes stood up to the charging and discharging cycle," says Nead. "The entire process took around

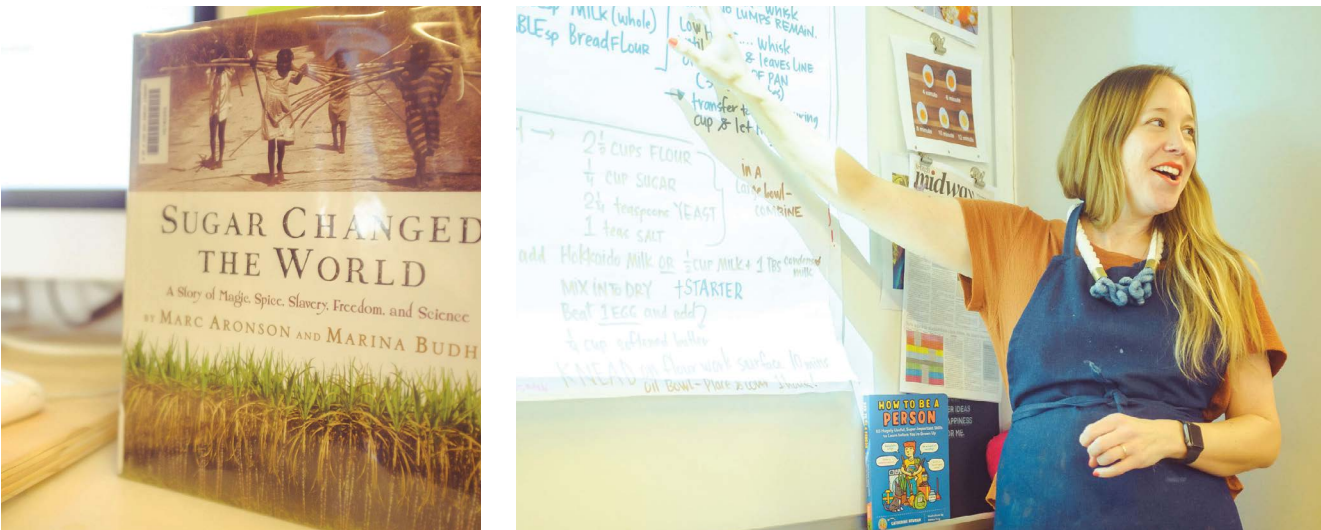
two hours and resulted in around 10 successful batteries being made."

Students are creating a poster summarizing their process and discoveries. They will present their research later this year at the annual APS Users Conference.

U-High students were paired with Carlo Segre, PhD, a leading scientist studying batteries at Argonne's Advanced Photon Source (APS) facility.

Sugar and Spice...and Everything

Middle School home economics students learn about the impact of sugar on our desserts, our bodies, and the world



This year the Middle School home economics rotation course included a 3–4 week cooking component in its curriculum. Instructed by **Allison Beaulieu**, visual arts teacher and co-chair of Lab’s Fine Arts Department, students in the fall rotation learned how to cook intuitively with ingredient-based investigations and food experiments. One of the ingredients that they explored was sugar. As the students tested nine different kinds of sugar—from molasses to corn syrup to stevia—they learned the origins of sugar and how it literally changed the world. Using the book *Sugar Changed the World: A Story of Magic, Spice, Slavery, Freedom, and Science* (by Marc Aronson and Marina Budhos) to inform this section of her curriculum, Beaulieu took her students on a

sweet journey through the art of history, baking, and geography. “We looked at the maps that showed each island where sugar plantations became a dominant crop and when they each had peak production,” said Beaulieu. “We also discussed how Europeans developed and orchestrated the slave trade around the production of sugar.” *Sugar Changed the World* unravels the story of how one product, “cane, not cotton or tobacco, drove the [sic] Atlantic slave trade.” The book’s synopsis asserts that “the history of sugar runs like a bright band from religious ceremonies in India to Europe’s Middle Ages, then on to Columbus, who brought the first cane cuttings to the Americas. Sugar caused the loss of countless lives, but it also planted the seeds of revolution

that led to freedom in the American colonies, Haiti, and France.” Beaulieu is a visual arts teacher in her seventeenth year of teaching—her ninth at Lab. She grew up in Michigan with a mom who was a home ec teacher for 35 years, so, although she is an artist, she was familiar with the concept of home ec. She knew that a nine-week rotation class was not a lot of time and that many of her students already had experience cooking and baking, especially as a result of the pandemic when many families took up the pastimes of cooking and baking at home. During the summer before the launch of the school year, she designed her curriculum in the same manner that she would build her visual art curriculum: *through the lens of equity and inclusion, and*

through stories and narratives. One student shared with Beaulieu that they “learned a lot about the history of foods as we know them.” Another student told her that, “before I stepped into this room, I didn’t know many of the things that we did.” True to one of core values enshrined in the Lab mission, **As the students tested nine different kinds of sugar—from molasses to corn syrup to stevia—they learned the origins of sugar and how it literally changed the world.**



learning experientially is what drove this project. The students who participated in this class learned not only through doing but also through seeing and through tasting. In addition to absorbing the historical context of sugar, many of the students went home and cooked molasses cookies for their families and explained how molasses comes from the refinement of sugar cane process. They heard from a pediatrician on what sugar and salt do to your body when you get too much or too little. They even learned, and literally saw, what corn syrup does after it sits for a few minutes—a film hardens on the top layer—and were able to conceptualize that corn syrup could do the same inside their own bodies.

“When we did the sugar and salt units I learned about the effects of those types of foods on your body,” said a student who took this class. “It was very eye-opening.” “I had a lot of ideas on how special home ec could be and what kind of experience I wanted students to have in terms of equitable teaching and learning,” says Beaulieu. “I wanted them to experiment with food in a way that they had ownership, but also from a place of respect and history. I didn’t feel students needed time to learn how to read a recipe, but I did think they needed time to understand what salt does to pasta water, or how to prepare an omelet for themselves, and of course, how sugar changed the world.”

Early Childhood Faculty Present at Oxford University



This spring, Lab’s Early Childhood faculty academic specialist **Lydia Friedman Siddique** and first-grade counselor **Kate Surmeier** presented their literacy learning project *My Alphabet* at the 2023 World Literacy Summit (WLS) at Oxford University on April 2–4. Earlier this school year, Friedman Siddique’s and Surmeier’s *My Alphabet* project had first graders create classroom syllabaries as part of literacy learning at Lab. They introduced first graders to the work of Frédéric Bruly Bouabré (1923–2014), a pioneering Ivory Coast artist who committed his life to studying and memorializing his native Bété language by creating a syllabary depicting daily life on a series of cardboard squares. Friedman Siddique and Surmeier designed a curriculum for students to create their own classroom syllabary that—like

Bouabré’s work—marries visual imagery, phonological awareness, and identity keywords. The pieces portrayed images of Bouabré’s community, rituals, and everyday objects that represented the letters and sounds of the language. The alphabet card exhibit was on display in December at the Earl Shapiro Hall second floor east side gallery. Every year, WLS brings together leaders from 85 countries to advocate, champion, and educate “on the vital importance of improving literacy levels across the globe.” “We see this presentation as an opportunity for [Lab] to demonstrate its leadership, innovation, and commitment to scholarship in the field of literacy while also highlighting our commitment to honoring diversity, learning experientially, and promoting social justice,” Friedman Siddique says.

ATHLETICS HALLOFFAME

On Saturday, October 15, Lab hosted its fourth annual Athletics Hall of Fame Reception and Induction Ceremony, which was established to honor outstanding contributions to Lab's rich athletics history. During this year's festivities, the following alumni were inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame:

- TED HAYDON, '29
- JIMMY BRUCE, '76
- JOHN NAISBITT, '80
- ZEKE UPSHAW, '09
- EMILY KUO, '09
- SHERRY FU, '10

The presenters for this year's induction ceremony included Larry McFarlane, Deb Ribbens, Mike Moses, Markie Room, John Rogers, and Ron Drozd. We are so proud of all of our Lab athletes and remain excited to strengthen the Schools' commitment to athletics, health, and wellness.



Lab's Athletic Director Dave Ribbens with attendees



Val Sanders, guest of the Upshaws, Jewel Upshaw



Inductee Jimmy Bruce, '76, and John Rogers, '76



Sherry Fu, '10; Emily Kuo, '09; Dave Ribbens; John Naisbitt, '80; Jewel Upshaw; and Jimmy Bruce, '76



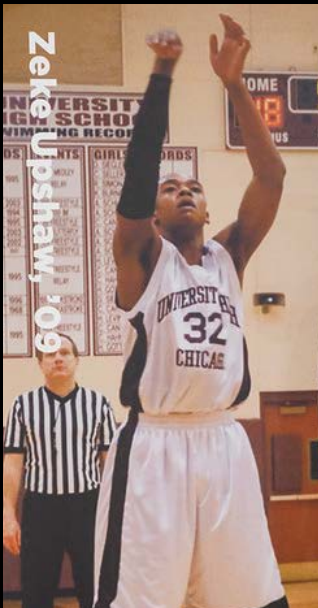
Patsy Lin and Wen-Liang Kuo



Brianna Chang, Mary Bridget Moloney, Olivia Gin, Yaseen Sufi



Lab alumnus Justin Algee, '11



Guest of the Upshaws, Valerie Upshaw



Richard Nayer, '76

FALL/WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023



BOYS BASKETBALL

The boys basketball team defeated the Jaguars from King High School 73–51 to win the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) 2A Regional Championship, marking the sixth for the Maroons over the past 13 seasons. The Maroons advanced to the Sectional semifinals where they were defeated by Perspectives Leadership Charter School and finished an impressive season with a 17–14 record.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The ninth-seeded Maroons girls basketball team upset fourth-seed King College Prep in the IHSA 2A Regional Championship quarter-final game, advancing them to the Regional semi-final game where they lost to #3 seed Dyett High School. The Maroons finished with a 9–11 season record.

GIRLS AND BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

At the 1A IHSA Latin Regional, the girls Cross-Country team scored 73 points to place second and the boys scored 88 points to place third with both teams advancing to the Sectional Finals. At Sectionals, senior **Alex Lopez** and sophomore **Simon Lane** qualified to run at the State Championship in Peoria.

DANCE TEAM

The Dance Team made history as they concluded their first varsity season at the Maine East Invitational, hosted by the Illinois Drill Team Association (IDTA). Senior **Lizzie Baker** performed a fantastic solo dance and her score qualified her for the IDTA State Championship. The season



concluded by honoring the seniors—**Sarah Abdelsalam** (manager), **Lizzie Baker**, **Anna Bohlen**, **Michael Ewing** (manager), **Ishani Hariprasad**, **Lena Stole**, **Nora Underwood**, and **Ava Wilczak**—from their participation in Lab’s inaugural varsity Dance Team season.

FENCING

This year’s fencing team advanced to the Great Lakes High School Fencing Conference Championships in Highland Park, where the boys épée team placed fifth and the boys foil team placed in the top eight. Competing for the Maroons were **Maya El Shamsy**, **Kai Gregorski**, **Jacob Lui**, **Ben O’Donnell**, **Francis Ofori-Mante**, **Varun Shriram**, **Dash Smith**, **Daniel Tothy**, **Luka Vegna-Spofford**, **Rachel Xiang**, and **William Zhang**. At the individual Great Lakes Championships, **William Zhang** placed third in saber, **Ben O’Donnell** placed fifth in épée, and senior **Maya El Shamsy** placed sixth, also in épée.

BOYS GOLF

The boys golf team had a strong season, missing qualifying as a team to the 2A Sectional by one stroke. Four golfers qualified individually to compete at IHSA Sectionals. **Alex Ruppel** and **Ethan Kucera** won ISL All-Conference honors, placing in the top 10 in the Conference tournament.



GIRLS GOLF

Sophomores **Amelia Tan** and **Maxine Hurst** finished nineteenth and thirty-fifth, respectively, at the IHSA 1A State Championship Tournament. The two concluded their season with outstanding performances at State for the second consecutive year.

GIRLS TENNIS

The girls tennis team had an impressive showing at the 1A IHSA State Tournament, placing fifth (of 52 teams) and scoring 17 points. The doubles team of senior **Kriti Sarav** and sophomore **Paola Almeda** defeated the Latin School of Chicago to advance to the State Championship match. Senior **Corona Chen** had an excellent showing, winning four matches and scoring 5 points over three days. Over the past six years, the Maroons have won 2 State Titles.

SQUASH

The squash team finished second in the Chicagoland Squash Conference Championship, held at the Lakeshore Athletic Club. The Maroons defeated Lake Forest Academy 5 matches to 4 in the semi-final and lost to the Latin School of Chicago in the championship match 5–4.

BOYS SOCCER

The boys soccer team showed well in an exciting IHSA 2A Regional Championship match held at Lab’s own Jackman in front of a large Maroon crowd.



The Maroons lost 1–0 to St. Ignatius to finish their season with an 8–13–1 record.

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING

The boys swimming team won the Independent School League (ISL) championship for the second consecutive year. The boys swimmers medaled in the following events.

200 medley relay:
1st place **Sam Oyler**, **Jeffrey Huang**, **Jeffrey Wang**, **Austin Kim**

200 free:
2nd place **Sebastian Gans**
3rd place **Vincent Zhang**

200 IM:
1st place **Jeffrey Wang**
2nd place **Sam Oyler**
3rd place **Harry Feng**

100 fly:
1st place **Jeffrey Wang**
2nd place **Harry Feng**
3rd place **Sam Oyler**

500 free:
1st place **Vincent Zhang**
2nd place **Charles Moehrke**
3rd place **Austin Kim**

200 free relay:
2nd place **Sebastian Gans**, **Justin Zheng**, **Henry Lyon**, **Austin Kim**

100 back:
1st place **Austin Kim**
3rd place **Charles Moehrke**

100 breast:
2nd place **Jeffrey Huang**

400 free relay:
1st place **Sebastian Gans**, **Jeffrey Wang**, **Sam Oyler**, **Henry Lyon**
2nd place **Harry Feng**, **Jeffrey Huang**, **Charles Moehrke**, **Zachary Wong**

Junior **David Ren** won the IHSA Sectional Diving championship, scoring 315.20 for an 11-dive sequence.

GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING

The girls Swimming and Diving team placed second in the ISL Championship meet. The team also placed fourth in the IHSA Sectional swim meet where **Elizabeth Oyler** set three school records and qualified for the 100-yard backstroke at the State Championship.

School Records set this year include:

100 freestyle:
Elizabeth Oyler 2nd place (New Varsity School Record), **Amy Ren** 6th place

200 freestyle relay:
Elizabeth Oyler (lead-off time is new Varsity School Record)

100 backstroke:
Elizabeth Oyler 2nd place (new Varsity School Record and State Qualifying Time)

Sophomore **Uma Malani** set a new school record for 11 dives scoring 319.25 points.



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

After defeating Beecher High School 25–14, 25–18, Lab’s volleyball team advanced to the 2A IHSA Sectional Championship, where they were defeated by Chicago Christian 25–10, 25–15. The Maroons finished with a remarkable 28–4 season record.

Senior **Charlotte Henderson**, juniors **Emily Brennan** and **Ella Cohen-Richie**, and sophomore **Juliana Walker** won ISL All-Conference honors. **Cohen-Riche** was named ISL Player-of-the-Year and **Lisa Miller** was named Coach-of-the-Year. The Maroons won the ISL and IHSA Regional Championships.

SPORTS HONORS & RECOGNITION

BOYS BASKETBALL

ISL All-Conference First Team
Ben King
Xavier Nesbitt (Player of the Year)

ISL All-Conference Team, Honorable Mention
Donovan Hackett
Noah Hoereth

Illinois Sports Business Conference (ISBC) Player of the Year
Xavier Nesbitt

GIRLS BASKETBALL

ISL All-Conference Team, Honorable Mention
Alex Giles

GIRLS GOLF

ISL All-Conference
Maxine Hurst
Devyn Moubayed
Amelia Tan

BOYS GOLF

ISL All-Conference
Ethan Kucera
Alex Ruppel

BOYS SOCCER

ISL All-Conference
Kaden Moubayed
Charlie Young
Milo Jarard

Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association
Kaden Moubayed, All-Sectional
Charlie Young, Honorable Mention

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING

IHSA Sectional Boys Coach-of-the-Year
Dar Novak, Diving

GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING

IHSA Sectional Coach-of-the-Year
Kate Chronic
Dar Novak

GIRLS TENNIS

ISL All-Conference
Paola Almeda
Kriti Sarav
Illinois Tennis Coaches Association, All-State
Paola Almeda and **Kriti Sarav**, First Team
Corona Chen, Second Team

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

ISL All-Conference
Emily Drennan, **Charlotte Henderson**
Ella Chen-Richie (Player-of-the-Year)
Juliana Walker
ISL Volleyball Coach-of-the-Year
Lisa Miller

ARTSFEST: A CELEBRATED ARTS TRADITION CONTINUES

Held on March 1 this year, Lab's annual ArtsFest energized the hallways and classrooms at the Historic Campus as U-high students explored the many facets of art. Designed to heighten appreciation for creativity, ArtsFest is a day-long event of workshops, performances, and activities that celebrate the arts through John Dewey's "learning by doing" approach to education.

The board for this year's ArtsFest chose the theme of social justice, but workshops were not required to adhere to the theme. This year's ArtsFest board consisted of Grayson Smith, Maya Herron, Charlotte Sims, Jenna Kilkus, Hannah Maxcy, Jessica (Julia) Daugherty, Lusia Austen, Elizabeth Oyler, and Jeffrey Huang (webmaster).



U-High students creating a chocolate sculpture at the *Chocolate Showpiece* workshop

Pickle making! A popular workshop on the science of food preservation



Pickling workshop participants pose with their pickled veggies



Ink and paper only; ink blots were a big hit at this workshop



Plenty of thread for the *Friendship Bracelet* workshop



Students creating their top pattern for their arabesque lantern



Closing ceremonies featuring the Chicago Boyz Acrobatic Team and the U-High Dance Troupe



The *Fountain Pens, Ink, and Paper* workshop as students try various fountain pens and inks

A full-page background image showing two hikers from behind, walking away on a wide, cracked dirt road that stretches into the distance. The hiker on the left is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, dark pants, and a light-colored hat. The hiker on the right is wearing a white t-shirt, red shorts, and a backpack. They are both pushing large, loaded trekking carts. The landscape is a dry, open field with sparse, low-lying shrubs and grasses. In the far distance, there are rolling hills under a clear, bright blue sky with a few wispy clouds near the horizon.

A Walk Across America

Sam Rezaei and James Dill recollect their walk from New York to California as a “completely different chapter of our lives”

By Rocio Villaseñor

Walking across America was a physical and mental challenge that alumni James Dill, '18, and Sam Rezaei, '18, faced. Although their journey lasted longer than predicted, on December 3, 2022, the duo looked out over the Pacific Ocean at Los Angeles's Venice Beach, just as the sun was setting at their feet—feet that had carried them over 2,800 miles in 170 days.



Sam Rezaei

On December 3, 2022, the duo looked out over the Pacific Ocean at Los Angeles's Venice Beach, just as the sun was setting at their feet—feet that had carried them over 2,800 miles.

"We just kind of took 15-20 minutes, sitting on the beach trying to process what we had just done," Dill says. Rezaei echoes that it was the same feeling for him. "It didn't feel like some big grand sense of pride or accomplishment," Rezaei says. "We finished this challenge that we planned for ourselves and now it is on [to] the next step."

Their journey began on June 17, 2022, in Coney Island Beach, New York, which they chronicled in both an Instagram account @theamericantrail and blog *The Walk Across the United States*. In their first blog post, both alumni write that this will

be their ultimate challenge to immerse themselves in rural America.

"[The walk] really helped me understand such a big population that I and many other people that live out in the city never really get to interact with and all we maybe hear from them is through the news. So I thought that was very eye opening and I really enjoyed it," Rezaei says.

Most nights the alumni pitched tents along roads, outside churches, or community centers. They faced weather, safety, and other struggles, mostly in the countryside, but they were fortunate to meet people that would help them out. They recall how some locals engaged them in conversations, invited them to services, fed them, offered them showers, or left groceries on the road.

"It was extremely genuine help," Rezaei says. "We still keep in contact with [some of the people]."

Along the way, their purpose for walking expanded after being mistaken for homeless and having conversations with individuals who

are experiencing homelessness or poverty. They decided to turn their walk into a Coast2Coast fundraising initiative powered through a Gofundme.com page, which will provide funds to The Night Ministry in Chicago. They set out a goal of \$1 million and have raised over \$16,000. They are still accepting donations.

The alumni promoted the fundraiser on their Instagram, blog, and news stations during their walk. They were also receiving cash donations when locals saw them in towns and shared with them that their money would be put towards the fundraiser.



The Night Ministry found out about the fundraiser from a reporter for *The Daily Northwestern*, where Rezaei graduated from. Burke Patten, communications manager at The Night Ministry, got in touch with the alumni and says this is the first time that the organization has received funds from somebody walking across America.

"We're really grateful for the funds that Sam and James have raised for us. Those will go towards supporting our mission which is to provide human connection, housing support, and health care to members of our community who are unhoused or experiencing poverty," Patten says.

The Night Ministry is also grateful to Dill and Rezaei "for calling attention to the challenge of homelessness in this country" and educating others about it.

The alumni visited the Night Ministry in January. They spoke about their fundraiser

definitely miss doing it, too."

The walk was not only about accomplishing their goal but "about each given day and each given hour," Rezaei says. "That's something that I think we learned along the way...and how we [grew] through this walk."

Lab alumnus Tomer Keysar, '18, is turning their journey into a documentary. Keysar was there at the beginning of their trip in New York and also in California when they finished. They hope the documentary will be available to the public next year.



and experiences, according to Patten. "I believe they're looking to find other ways to continue to stay involved with The Night Ministry," Patten says.

Dill and Rezaei had savings, but their parents, for the most part, sponsored their journey. Both alumni say their family and friends are very proud of them. Their parents met up with them in California to see them finish the trip.

"It felt very normal [what] we're doing after a while, but to other people it is obviously like a very kind of unique thing to do," Dill says. "I still remember what it was like but it's like a completely different chapter of our lives. Even though it was a huge struggle, I think we both

They decided to turn their walk into a Coast2Coast fundraising initiative powered through a Gofundme.com page, which will provide funds to The Night Ministry in Chicago. They set out a goal of \$1 million and have raised over \$16,000.



A League of Our Own

Student athletes contribute to a rich legacy of excellence

By Valerie M. Reynolds



Lab seniors on National Signing Day: From left: Kriti Sarav, Wellesley (tennis); Elsa Nielsen, Grinnell (soccer); Akshay Puri, Michigan (Gymnastics); Sohrab Rezaei, Wabash Valley (baseball); Charlotte Sims, Swarthmore (soccer); Smith Bumpers, Bucknell (Rowing); and Xavier Nesbitt, Harvard (basketball). Not pictured: Sydney Tyler, Princeton (fencing)

This past fall the U-High Maroons boys basketball team won the Illinois High School Association's (IHSA) 2A Regional Championship, marking the sixth time in 13 years that Lab has made it to the finals and took home the regional title. The girls' basketball team competed in the IHSA 2A Regional quarter-finals championship game. The boys swimming team won the Independent School League (ISL) Championship for the second consecutive year, and junior Elizabeth Oyler set three school records at the State Championship. To top it all off, on National Signing Day, eight of Lab's phenomenal seniors committed to taking their athletics skills to the next level at Bucknell, Grinnell, Harvard, Michigan, Princeton, Swarthmore, Wabash Valley, and Wellesley. One of those eight seniors was Sydney Tyler, who was offered a fencing recruitment spot at Princeton University.

She explained how being an athlete at a school like Lab positioned her well for the Princeton athletic recruitment spot that she was offered. "I remind myself that I'm here because I worked for it," said Tyler. "I would not have gotten the spot had I not already been through what I experienced at Lab as a student athlete."

To many, Lab is most often thought of as a private school affiliated with the University of Chicago that is known for its academic rigor; after all, in 2020, Lab was rated as the nation's fifth top school in *Newsweek's* America's Best STEM High Schools. However, in the last few decades, it has grown clear that, at Lab, being smart and being athletic are not mutually exclusive.

In recent years, a growing body of research highlighting the benefit of youth athletics has emerged. According to a study cited by Project Play—an initiative launched in 2013 by the Aspen Institute's Sports & Society Program—physical activity is associated with improved

academic achievement, including grades and standardized test scores. And according to At Your Own Risk, a website aimed to educate employers, workers, legislators, school administrators, parents, and student athletes about the value athletic trainers bring to the field, office, and everyday life, participation in team sports results in higher GPAs for both high school boy and girl athletes. They report that physically active children are 15% more likely to attend college and former student athletes tend to earn significantly higher incomes than those who did not play sports.

"Being competitive has taught me a lot. It has shown me that not only can I be a leader, but I can also be a team player," says Tyler. "I also have a clear understanding of when it is necessary to step up and be a leader and when—at times—it will be necessary to be someone who sits back and lets others lead the group."

A shining example of Lab's long-standing athletic prowess can be exemplified through Lab alumnus Ted Haydon, '29. After graduating from Lab he attended the University of Chicago and eventually became the head coach of their track and field team in 1950. In 1952 he

formed the University of Chicago Track Club, a post-collegiate development group with a nondiscriminatory, open-door policy for young athletes. Haydon was also the assistant coach for the United States National Track and Field team in the 1968 and 1972 Olympic Games and the 1963 and 1979 Pan American Games. In 1975 he was inducted into the USA Track and Field



Lab Athletics Director Dave Ribbens

Hall of Fame and was a special inductee into the United States Track and Field and Cross-Country Coaches Hall of Fame. Haydon was also one of five alumni inducted into Lab's Athletic Hall of Fame this October.

More recently, Lab can boast alumni such as Memphis Grizzlies Executive Vice President of Basketball Operations and General Manager Zachary Kleiman, '06, who was selected as the National Basketball Association's 2021–2022 Basketball Executive of the Year, an award given annually since the 1972–73 season to the league's best general manager, president of basketball/business operations, or another high-ranking executive.

Similarly, Lab alumnus Jeremy Woo, '11, began writing for *Sports Illustrated* (SI) after graduating from Northwestern in 2015 and recently became a contributing writer with ESPN. He recently penned SI's March cover story on France's Victor Wembanyama, who was referred to in Woo's article as "the best basketball prospect in a generation." Woo, who was a "Lab Lifer," played baseball, basketball, and soccer throughout his years at Lab. He fondly recalls what was a great time to be an athlete

In the last few decades, it has grown clear that, at Lab, being smart and being athletic are not mutually exclusive.

at Lab as its commitment to athletics began to crystalize under the direction of the school's athletic director, Dave Ribbens.

"I was fortunate to attend Lab at a time when institutional support for athletics seemed to be growing," said Woo. "I felt encouraged to take sports seriously in addition to academics. Managing my time and energy doing both was always a challenge, but was ultimately one of the most gratifying and memorable parts of my experience at school."

To better illuminate the many high-achieving athletes that have come through the Lab program, in 2019, Ribbens established the Laboratory Schools Athletics Hall of Fame, which honors outstanding contributions and achievements in Lab's athletics history.

"I launched the Athletics Hall of Fame to simply tell the story of Lab athletics through the experiences of students, teams, and coaches," said Ribbens. "We have a rich history of athletics at Lab that many within our community are not even aware of. Our goal is to inform, enlighten and share the many ways that athletics helped shape our

Ted Haydon, right, with University of Chicago track and field athlete



student experience while attending Lab."

Ribbens has been at the helm of Lab's athletic department for the past twenty years. Under his tenure, the athletic program has grown in a number of ways. Lab offers a variety of competitive sports programs that came about as a result of student interest. The sailing team for example is one of the newest teams that was formed from our fortitudinous student and family community. Students and their families committed themselves to training during the off-season, coaches organized opportunities prior to the start of their season to ensure team readiness, and last year, our sailing team won the Illinois State Championship for the second consecutive year.

"Our teams have been successful in winning five IHSA State Championships over the past six years," says Ribbens. "That success has inspired our student athletes to set higher goals and expectations of themselves and their teammates."

The athletic program at Lab has been essential to the education of our students for many years. These students remain high-achieving scholars and contribute to Lab legacy in an arena that most people wouldn't assume: the sports arena.

Learn more about Lab's Athletic Hall of Fame here:





The Genius of Lab

Exploring Lab's growing connection to the prestigious MacArthur award

By Valerie M. Reynolds

Around October of each year, scholars and academics from around the world tune in to the announcement of the year's Nobel Prize winners, live-streamed from Stockholm. Excitedly, these school administrators and other Nobel enthusiasts anxiously watch—some in the wee hours of the night—to learn if one of the many fascinating scholars or researchers who once graced their school's halls will be named the recipient of the coveted award.

This past October, however, when the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announced their 2022 MacArthur Fellows—often referred to as the “Genius Grants”—many community members at Lab came to the realization that the same practice could be required for our institution when it comes to the announcement of MacArthur's similarly coveted award. In this year alone, symbiotic relationships were unearthed as it related to the Laboratory Schools and several of the 2022 MacArthur Foundation Fellows.

Among those bestowed with the honor in 2022 were three awardees with ties to Lab: artist Amanda Williams, '92, an active alumna and current Lab parent; composer and cellist Tomeka Reid, a Lab orchestra teacher from 2003–2011; and mathematician Melanie Matchett Wood, who is the granddaughter-in-law of Margaret Matchett, a large contributor to Lab's Math Department for many years until her retirement in 1987. Other former Lab alumni who received this award in the past include musicologist George Lewis, '69, geriatrician Diane Meier, '69, and astrophysicist Andrea Ghez, '83, who went on to receive the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics “for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the center of our galaxy.”

A nexus of creativity

According to the organization's website, the MacArthur Fellows Program awards unrestricted fellowships to talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction. MacArthur contends that there are three criteria for the selection of Fellows: exceptional creativity, promise for important future advances based on a track record of significant accomplishments, and potential for the Fellowship to facilitate subsequent creative work.



Astrophysicist Andrea Ghez, '83

PHOTO: ELENA ZHUKOVA

on different meanings in response to different sorts of urgencies at different moments in history.”

Alumna and MacArthur Fellow Andrea Ghez agrees. “Creativity is not having known answers,” says Ghez, who has been researching the role of supermassive black holes in the evolution of galaxies for the past 30 years. “Asking the right questions is the key to deeper understanding. Lab school was not about cookie cutter rules and answers. It was teaching us how to learn creatively; how to be comfortable with discomfort.”

It's no coincidence that this idea of creativity that's mentioned in two of the three Fellowship criteria is also enshrined in the Lab mission statement to “ignite and nurture an enduring spirit of scholarship, curiosity, creativity, and confidence.”

“The first criterion for the MacArthur Fellowship is exceptional creativity; that's a pretty broad concept and idea, and it is that way by design,” said Don Meyer, senior program officer for the MacArthur Fellows Program. “Creativity can take many, many forms, and MacArthur recognizes that we might not be able to know in advance the innumerable ways creativity manifests—actually, we're quite certain that we don't—given that creativity continually expands and takes



Artist Amanda Williams, '92



Musicologist George Lewis, '69

PHOTO: EILEEN BARROSO

A transformative award

“Humility is something that is important to MacArthur and the way we do our work,” said Meyer. “Who are we to tell these exceptionally creative people who have track records of amazing, groundbreaking work, how best to use the funds?”

An unrestricted, no strings attached grant is rare in the world of funding and grant-making. One of the many things that makes the MacArthur Fellows Program and its award unique is that Fellows are not required to report on the status of their work or explain how the funds were used. It is not a grant-making program in the same way that many other funds are; it's an award.

“We take the ‘no strings attached’ aspect of the award very seriously and really just let the Fellows do what they do best. We don't monitor in any official way,” said Meyer. “We do keep track, of course, but more as a matter of interest, or just in the course of reading the news. How could we not be curious to see what Lin Manuel Miranda or George Lewis is up to?”

Among those bestowed with the honor in 2022 were three awardees with ties to Lab: artist Amanda Williams, '92, an active alumna and current Lab parent; composer and cellist Tomeka Reid, a Lab orchestra teacher from 2003–2011; and mathematician Melanie Matchett Wood

Ghez used a portion of the grant to pay for childcare. At the time, she was a mother to two small children who were attending the UCLA Lab School which was founded by Corrine A. Seeds, a protege of Lab's founder John Dewey. Providing high-quality, safe, and reliable childcare is an important factor in any parent's life, and it's an increasingly expensive factor. According to “Demanding Change,” a recent

report from Child Care Aware, the annual cost of child care in 2020, the latest data available, was \$10,174. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends parents spend no more than 7% of their household income on child care, but the amount shared in the report represents more than 10% of the median income for a married couple and more than 35% percent of the median income for a single parent.

These grants can be transformative not only for recipients of the award, but for society as well. Williams' work as an artist who trained as an architect often uses color and architecture to explore the intersection of race and the built environment. Her work visualizes the ways urban planning, zoning, development, and disinvestment have impacted and continue to impact people's lives, especially in Black communities. Her work also invites the participation of the community in reimagining their space, as it did during her Redefining Redlining project, which brought together hundreds of community members this past fall to plant 100,000 red tulip bulbs across several vacant Washington Park lots to re-imagine the value of blocks on the South Side of Chicago that have been impacted by the discriminatory practice of redlining.

A legacy of unparalleled teaching

“Everyone I had there from the third grade with Miss Louise Bliss, right on to high school, played a role in who I am today,” says George Lewis, who received the MacArthur Fellowship Award in 2002 and is the Edwin H. Case professor of American music at Columbia University, where he also serves as Area Chair in Composition and Faculty in Historical Musicology.

There were many fond memories of teachers that came up when these “Genius” award recipients spoke about their Lab experience. Lab educators are continuously recognized, locally, nationally, and internationally, for excellence in teaching and innovation in the classroom. Currently, Lab boasts



These grants can be transformative not only for recipients of the award, but for society as well. Williams' work as an artist who trained as an architect often uses color and architecture to explore the intersection of race and the built environment. Her work visualizes the ways urban planning, zoning, development, and disinvestment have impacted and continue to impact people's lives, especially in Black communities.

11 teachers that have won Chicago's prestigious Golden Apple Award for Excellence in teaching—more than any other school in the city.

Lewis recalled from decades ago how his social studies teacher was a great influential figure. "I hate to play favorites, but Earl Bell was a social studies teacher who was a great influential figure," Lewis recalled. "When I think about how I teach, like a flashback, I'm teaching my class on twentieth century music and I'm talking a certain way, and I think, 'God, I'm talking just like Mr. Bell would talk.'"

As it turns out, Bell was not just influential to Lewis, but also to his fellow alumna Valerie Jarrett, '73, which he learned when comparing notes with Jarrett as they discussed both being honored with Lab's Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Award.

Williams and Ghez both fondly referenced being inspired by the renowned Vivian Gussin Paley, a former teacher who was a MacArthur Fellow too. Paley, who was an early childhood educator, researcher, and writer, worked nearly her entire forty-year career as a preschool and kindergarten teacher at Lab and was the recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship Award in 1989. A 1992 New York Times article about Paley asserted that "Vivian Paley is an artist whose medium is children in

the classroom. The end product of her year's work is a group of children who can live comfortably with themselves and with one another."

John Dewey founded Lab in 1896 upon the notion of "experiential learning," and since its founding—more than 126 years ago—the school is still recognized as a pioneer in education that changed the way teachers went about their jobs in the classroom: the children, not the lesson, became the center of the teacher's attention.

"The training at Lab was all about asking questions. Asking good questions is the key to being a good scientist, says Ghez. "So am I fundamentally different from other scientists? No. But was I trained well? Yes."

Alumni notes

Keep in Touch

Lab Notes allows alumni to connect with Lab and fellow classmates. Please contact your class representative or the Office of Alumni Relations and Development (ARD) with any updates about yourself or friends who attended Lab. If your graduation year is without a representative, please consider volunteering to serve in this fun and important role. Please email notes, information, or questions to labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu. Please note that ARD reserves the right to determine what is included in the publication.

30s & 40s

Classes of 1940–44: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Lenore Frazier writes: To 1944 and 1945 U-Highers, I recall happily many in these classes, including **Julian Hansen, '43** and **Barbara (Park) Hansen, '45**. My best to all "survivors"!

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steinsj@yahoo.com

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jdaskal@ameritech.net
773-493-8373

Judy Daskal, representative of the Class of 1946, retired to Mill Valley, California in June 2022, and lives happily in a senior residence near some of her family, including grandchildren. She writes: As always, my days remain very busy. Among other activities, I've joined the Political Action Group and the Book Club, which meets weekly. I've continued to teach several Lab students via long distance over Zoom, therefore, I've lots to read.

The weather is great, I do not miss Chicago winters! I love all the sunshine, which occurs most of the time. I enjoy reading LabNotes, so I can keep informed about recent activities at Lab. Keep it coming!

Class of 1947: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Class of 1948: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

MeraLee Goldman writes: In 2018 my husband, Jay Canel, and I, took 26 members of our blended family to South Africa on an amazing family holiday. At long last, in 2022–23, we can all travel again; and this year we took 23 members of our family to Argentina and Patagonia—for more wonderful family ADVENTURES!

1949 Class Representative
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50s

Class of 1950: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

1951 Class Representative
Lynn Manaster Alperin
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lynnalperin@gmail.com

Lynn Manaster Alperin writes: Thanks to those of you who responded to my plea for news. Would love to hear from the rest of you for the next issue.

Andrea Arentsen Atlass (our Triple A classmate) has become addicted to cruises. Last year she traversed the Panama Canal five times on a Mexican and Caribbean trip that wound up in Astoria, Oregon. She planned to embark on January 6, 2023, on a world cruise that will include Peru, again crossing the canal and then the Pacific Ocean leading to a host of countries such as Australia, Indonesia, India, and eventually landing in Barcelona.

Nancy Lee Johnson writes: We continue to live—and age—at Seabury Life Village in Bloomfield, Connecticut. We are five minutes off I-95 as it heads up to Springfield, Massachusetts. Would love to have anyone passing by visit us! The biggest recent news is that I did a video of about an hour for a group here on serving in Congress, which I did for 24 years, after six years in the state Senate. I called it something like *The Fun of Politics!* It was a real hoot for me, mostly stories. Otherwise Ted and I live a quiet life. We walk and go to exercise class, concerts on site, and in the spring and fall, ALP (Adult Learning Program from UCONN) for the courses they offer annually. The kids drop by a lot and we travel to be with them on holidays, though this may be the last year we do so much of that as they live in North Carolina, Florida, and Ohio. What a world at home and abroad!

Judy Friedman Meyers tells me that she still enjoys singing in her Temple choir and exercises diligently. Cheerful as ever, she looks forward to visits from her son's family in Massachusetts.

Stuart Lerman writes: Arlene and I just returned from seeing our girls/families in Phoenix, and will be returning for another "warm-up" in a few weeks! Bragging rights for our daughter Amy (the English professor), who has now exceeded fifty published poetic works; and our grandson Jacob, who was smart enough to major in Supply Chain Management when he entered ASU in 2019 (who knew?) and immediately was snatched up by Shamrock Foods upon his graduation last Spring. We've been most fortunate to be doing well (we both had mild Covid-19 episodes

last fall) and still glad to be in Colorado (despite diminishing tolerance to cold—though not as bad as Chicago!).

Michael Padnos writes: You won't believe it, but I've been hit by a car [for the] SECOND TIME! ...I was on my bike, had gone too far into a neighborhood that I didn't know, and...some idiot woman came up behind me and knocked me down. She got out of her car, saw me sprawled out on the ground, and then got back into her car and drove off! They estimate another four to six weeks in rehab. Fortunately some passersby got her license number, and the cops have already found her.

On another front, I'm about to publish *Murder on the Marne* on Amazon, a thriller I've been working on (with occasional help from Lynn) for two or three years; and shortly thereafter, *After Abigail*, a semi- autobiographical novel about my coming to France; and then a third book, tentatively called *My Wild Ride: Through Real Estate In Pursuit Of The American Dream*; and after that, an (almost finished) autobiography. I hope all my classmates will rush to Amazon and give me a good review for *Murder on the Marne*. Apparently good reviews help sales. A lot. A sample free first chapter will be available on Amazon.

1952 Class Representative
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1953 Class Representative
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815-677-0093

1954 Class Representative
Alfred Manaster
300 West Beech Street, #202
San Diego, CA 92101
alfred.manaster@gmail.com
619-269-0996

Alfred Manaster writes: Late in 2022 my wife Mary and I were so glad to spend four days with David and Audrey Northrop here in San Diego. We enjoyed two days wandering through the San Diego Zoo, where I continue to volunteer. Our remaining time together was spent largely catching up on what we and our families had done during the past 62 years. One highlight for Mary and me was seeing narrated slides of the Northrops' past African safaris.

Dave and I were surprised to learn that we both had lived in the Cloisters at the same time several years after leaving U-High. As we got to know each other better, we also marveled with gratitude at how fortunate all of us have been. Dave told us that on their way west they had a brief visit with Tom Kirshbaum, who had expressed feelings similar to ours about his good fortune; Tom lives in Flagstaff, where he is retired after a long career in the Music Department of Northern Arizona University.

Class of 1955: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Class of 1956: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

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1958 Class Representative
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musik1@aol.com

Owen Cramer writes: “I’m still teaching at Colorado College at the age of 81— too attached to the profession to retire just yet.”

Merry Isaacs White writes: I’m **Corky White** and left Lab after Mr. Phelps’ sixth grade, having been there since kindergarten. I am an anthropologist, teaching at Boston University. My fields are Japan, social change, family life, and food. I miss Chicago hotdogs. I haven’t been back for a while, but did come to a class reunion a few years back, where I remembered, and was



Owen Cramer, '58, and his son with Union Station's old clock tower as a backdrop during an extended Amtrak layover in Chicago

Stephen Stigler, '59, in Paris on Thanksgiving with family members, including his four children, also Lab alumni, Andrew Lee Stigler, '87, Geoffrey Lee Stigler, '89, Margaret Stigler, '99, and Elizabeth Stigler, '01



remembered, a little bit. I would be very curious if anyone remembers Olga Adams’ kindergarten excursions with us to learn about the South Side. I have vivid memories I’d love corroborated. Sorry to have missed so many years with classmates and hope you’re all well.

Class of 1959: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? mail the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Stephen Stigler writes: My new book, *Casanova’s Lottery: The History of a Revolutionary Game of Chance* (UChicago Press), was published in October. I had started on this in the 1990s, but after I retired two years ago (after one quarter of teaching on Zoom), I had the time to finish it. It is a history of a Lotto-like game, and there is no mathematics prerequisite (more French history than math). No signs of movie interest by the major studios. Otherwise, my wife and I are traveling to Europe for a month each year and attribute our age-adjusted good health to 43 years of living in a third-floor walkup. Carrying cases of wine up three floors is great conditioning!

Gwen Dillard writes: About a week ago I got back from my second tour as an election observer for the Georgia midterm elections. I was there in November for the general election, and when it became clear neither Sen. Raphael Warnock or Herschel Walker could win outright, I came back a month later for the runoff.

Watching voting happen in this battleground state was eye opening: seeing people in a predominantly African American precinct who had never voted before in their lives decide to vote in this election; and seeing the long lines of people standing in the rain sometimes for hours to vote in the runoff. There were about a thousand of us poll observers in Georgia on the Democratic side; our role was to make sure every eligible voter could

vote and have that vote counted. The fact that watchers came from every part of the country at their own expense to ensure the integrity of the election really gave me faith that our country can overcome some of its present challenges.

60s

1960 Class Representative
Ellen O’Farrell Leavitt
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ellen@leavittcom.com

Ellen O’Farrell Leavitt writes: Sadly two more of our classmates have died; **Roberta Chroman** and **Alvin Loosli**. Please refer to the In Remembrance section for more details.

On a happier note, in August **Phil (Philip Leavitt)** and I traveled to Santa Monica for a double 80th birthday celebration for **Laurie Braude** and **Lois Bostwick**. It was three fun gatherings; a backyard pizza party, a beautiful buffet luncheon in a coastal restaurant hanging over the shore rocks, and bagels the next morning in the backyard again. The whole event was organized by their children and included a wonderful video tracing their stories together and before together, and highlighting the active and interesting lives of these two special people. Classmates **Chuck Buben** and **Randy De Lave** were also there for the fun.

Note to classmates: while the rest of us are no doubt shrinking at this point, Randy may still be growing! Just joking, but he is one tall man and doesn’t even seem to have lost an inch.

Sophia Hall writes: Retirement does not seem to be an option. I am, now, the head of the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court, Cook County, Illinois. My responsibilities are handling cases as well as the administration of 24 judges, and their various law clerks and other staff.

The challenge for the court system at this time is to embrace the advantages of technology and withstand the disadvantages. The responsibilities are the same, but the new tools require adjustments in how to work with lawyers and litigants, and all the other partners in the justice system. At this time in my life, bridging the gap between totally in-person administration of justice of the past and hybrid administration in the developing future, is just the challenge I need to continue to serve the citizens of Cook County. I guess I am a lifer.

I hope 2023 gives us all hope, health, and safety along with some happiness.

1961 Class Representative
James Orr
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Chicago, IL 60614-6027
jeo@aol.com

Rick Schmidt writes: Hope you all have had a safe journey, avoiding the risks of various pandemic viruses. This past year has been a good time for going “solitude,” in my case writing new books, which are now available on Amazon/Kindle. I’ve done a series of illustrated art books, one of which covers half-a-century of my wife’s artistic efforts, entitled, *The Art of Julie Schachter, 50 Years of Sculptures, Paintings, and Drawings, 1972-2022*. The back cover features a great Trompe-l’oeil painting by her, entitled “Tea Leaves, SOS Series” (cups on hooks in wall cupboard). Her art—some sculptures of mine, too—are represented in a second book, *A Treasury of Art—Works From the Collection of Artist/Photographer Julie Schachter and Filmmaker Rick Schmidt 1966-2022*. Some may be familiar with “Cadillac Ranch,” a roadside installation in Texas—ten buried Cadillacs. This book includes a hood ornament from one of those Cads, given to us by Ant Farm founder of the installation, Chip Lord. So the book serves up conceptual artworks like this, mixed with many more-traditional paintings and sculptures from the San Francisco/Bay Area. And not to leave out my main profession, I wrote a new filmmaking book, *Sleeper Trilogy—Three Undiscovered First Features 1973-1983*, to accompany my earlier how-tos, (Feature Filmmaking at Used-Car Prices, Extreme DV–Random House/Penguin Books). It describes the ups and downs of my no-budget, improv movie making process, and might be an inspiration to those pursuing artistic goals. Happy art-making in 2023!

Kathryn Posin begins her eighteenth year as Professor at the Gallatin School of Interdisciplinary Studies at NYU. She teaches Choreography and World Dance. Her dance company received a Dance NYC grant for its ongoing work. She is happy to be in touch with **Ben Heineman**, **Cecie Crawford** and **Paul Dry**. and **David Stern**.

Mary Walsh Brand writes: Living in Sarasota, Florida, after a career as a college English teacher and freelance writer plus 25 years as a psychotherapist. Still doing some teletherapy...and watercolors.

Class of 1962: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

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717-341-5188

1964 Class Representative
Robert Friedman
720 Appletree Lane
Deerfield, IL 60015
rfriedman@bensman.com
847-945-6933

Jo Ann Rothschild writes: This year I published *Then and Now, Now and Then* a book about the unstretched canvases I made between 1989 and 2006. I was fortunate to work with the independent curator, Susan Stoops, on this project during 2020, separated by a few miles and the pandemic. It has 82 full color reproductions of drawings, prints and paintings with discussions from the outside in, ((Susan’s essay), and from the inside out (my notes).”

Carol Siegel, '64 shares that **Barbara Flynn Currie, AB'68, AM'73** has been awarded the 2022 Simon-Edgar Award for her years of “forceful, creative, consequential, and civil leadership in the Illinois General Assembly.”

Class of 1965: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Class of 1966: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Stewart Herman continues to recover from a double lung transplant in late 2020. A bumpy road, but progress evident, and



Ruth Leitner, '64, in Jerusalem during a Middle East trip with her Israeli husband and Doug Mathews

he hopes to get back into hiking, his favorite sport. Meanwhile, he continues to publish the letters his father wrote home from Berlin in the 1930s when he worked for the U. S. Embassy and was pastor of the American Church in Berlin (*A Cold Descending Fog, The Swiftness of Living*—available on Amazon). After six years in a net zero house, he and his wife Linda continue to find it remarkably comfortable and easy on the utility bills.

Joey Kenig writes: I’m still writing songs and making collage and crayon drawings, performing in coffee houses and restaurants in cities and small towns, mostly in MN and MO.



Dusk, Joey Kenig

1967 Class Representative
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1968 Class Representative
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Robert McCullough writes: We are working on a variety of energy issues in British Columbia, California, North Dakota, Illinois, Texas, Washington D.C. (FERC), and Quebec.

Bill Horwich just completed 35 years with Delta Airlines. He flies mainly to Japan and China as a Senior Flight Attendant.

1969 Class Representative
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70s

1970 Class Representative
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1971 Class Representative
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614-231-9435

Ellen Stacy Wilson writes: We have lived in Golden, CO for three and a half years—two of which were in lockdown. There have been a few milestones however, in the time out of the house. My youngest had a son, my Denver Nugget, on March 15, 2019. That meant his first birthday was to be almost to the day of the beginning of lockdown. We cheated and continued with the celebration. He lives here and I see him often. He is now almost four and quite a joy for me. My oldest was married in the mountains in a gorgeous spot; it was magical. It turned out to be a Stacy reunion as well! The next year, the East Troublesome Fire took out the wedding venue along with much of Grand Lake, at the entrance of Rocky Mountain Nat’l. Park. Such a loss. He has since moved to Louisville 😊. I did take my own advice and “downsize” my singing. However, I was elected to the board of a professional choir in town. I did my three years during which I was on the governance committee that needed to build the policies and procedures for the organization. I was worn out. Mark and I love to spend time driving to our national parks; we go somewhere between two to three times a year. Winter, summer, all wonderful. My health remains good and that’s a blessing. I enjoy keeping up with many of you online; one of the few positives of social media.

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1973 Class Representative
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1974 Class Representative
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1975 Class Representative
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1976 Class Representative
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Class of 1977: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

1978 Class Representative
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773-348-6367

Pierre Poinsett writes: After almost seven years of owning a Farmers Insurance agency in Oak Park, Illinois, I have transitioned to being an Independent Insurance Agent—as of November, 2022. This gives me many more options to provide Auto, Home, Life and Commercial insurance!

I am now entering my sixth year of being an insurance instructor for the four (Life, Health, Property and Casualty) pre-licensing certification courses for individuals wanting to sell insurance in Illinois. Prior to the pandemic, my classes would have upwards of 70 people in a conference room. Since the pandemic, all classes are conducted via video conference and frequently have over 100 people in attendance.

Many of you have seen my passion for gardening over the years via the pictures and videos I’ve posted on Facebook. The summer of 2022 saw the completion (trust me, we gardeners keep tweaking) of our backyard landscaping. For those who don’t know, I became an Illinois Master Gardener and Master Composter in 2005. And for the past thirteen years, I have been one of the judges for the annual Bowmanville Garden Walk on the north side of Chicago. One year, I was surprised to see classmate **David Naunton** enjoying the Garden Walk.

This coming June 19, my wife Linda and I will be celebrating fourteen years of marriage. I could not ask for a better mate. Lastly, I have three wonderful grandchildren (ages 2–10) in St. Paul, MN. My son and his wife have lived there for a number of years. Thank goodness for video conferencing so I can stay in touch on a regular basis.

Susan Marks writes: Hello from Sarasota! I’ve been teaching Religion and Judaic Studies at New College of Florida for the past twenty years. It has been a fabulous experience, full of eager students and the joy of staying enough ahead of them so that they don’t get too lost in the weeds. A good spot for someone raised on John Dewey! As you have no doubt read elsewhere, we now face real challenges to freedom of education, with wide-ranging implications. We could use all the love and support of those who care

about American education.

On a lighter note, I hear from **Ellen Morrison** of good things planned for our reunion. Our daughter will be graduating elsewhere at that same moment, but I'll be there in spirit.

1979 Class Representatives

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215-471-5767

Hans Massaquoi
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Huntington Woods, MI
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313-510-7721

James Reginato writes: My latest book, *Growing Up Getty: The Story of America's Most Unconventional Dynasty*, has just been published by Simon & Schuster. I'm happy to say it has already received excellent reviews in the *New York Times* and on NPR's Morning Edition. Forgive the self-promotion, but I hope some of you will pick up a copy! Otherwise, I am still a New Yorker—a longtime West Village denizen. I would love to hear from any of our dear old classmates! Hope everybody is well.

80s

1980 Class Representative

Rhonda Gans
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440 North McClurg Court
Chicago, IL 60611
rygans@sbcglobal.net
312-645-0248

Farah Naim writes: I have returned to the federal government and am now a foreign affairs officer with the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the State Department.

1981 Class Representative

Paul Robertson
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773-667-4012

1982 Class Representative

Eliza Tyksinski
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ejfamjam@gmail.com
608-334-2795

Monica Davey shares: Hoping everyone had a peaceful and healthy

winter. I'm reaching out to share some exciting news from Carla Williams-Namboodiri. Her debut novel, *Blues Highway*, is coming out. (<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/blues-highway-carla-d-williams/1142011488>.) Huge congratulations, Carla!

1983 Class Representative

Cheryl Buckingham
csamp2002@yahoo.com

1984 Class Representative

Susan Mack Taple
drsusantaple@gmail.com

Susan Mack Taple writes: The class of 1984 is looking forward to our 40th reunion, planning for the 2024 event has already begun. We want to reconnect and invite everyone that spent any time with us at Lab, whether you graduated from U-High or not. If you are interested in attending or better yet, would like to help us with the planning, please contact **Antonio Cibils, Camille Baughn Cunningham, David Cunninghamv David Okita, Debbie Rhone Shepard** or **Susan Mack Taple**. Message us to join the private Facebook page, All Peers Lab Class of 84.

1985 Class Representative

Anjali Fedson Hack
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1986 Class Representative

Sam Perlman
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1987 Class Representative

Barbara Harris
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Gita Rampersad writes: Greetings dear classmates! My first piece in Lab Notes follows our 35th class reunion, which also happens to be a somber time in my life. On January 20, 2022, I lost my mother, Dr. Peggy S. Rampersad, after an unexpected illness tipped the balance on her fragile health. She was 89 and died peacefully, with me by her side. After my mom stopped driving in 2016, I moved back to Virginia where she had retired, to be nearer to her. We were each other's best friend, companion, confidant, advisor, and advocate. We loved to travel together, took road trips, and were beach and pool bums. In 2020, I stepped up and became a caregiver when she needed me most. Mom used to say, "getting old isn't for wimps." She sure knew what she was talking about! She was a warrior, a three-time cancer survivor and master of positive thinking. The pandemic allowed me to work remotely, so we got to spend almost

every day of the last two years of her life together. We always found time for pleasure and laughter; my mother loved life and encouraged others to do the same. In October 2021, we traveled to Aruba for my birthday. What a gift! Three months later she was gone.

After receiving my JD from Loyola Chicago and my MHA from the U of I, I've focused the past fifteen years of my career on making a difference for others by working to advance health equity. It's an evolving field and one that has proved very rewarding in shaping who I am as an adult. But I always reflect on my days at Lab when I think about my foundation—our class was so cool and interesting! If you'd like to reconnect, my email is gita.jdmha@gmail.com. I hope everyone is doing well, I wish you the best in 2023, and thanks for reading my first Lab Notes story!

Class of 1988: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

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90s

1990 Class Representatives

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Tara P. Shochet

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1991 Class Representative

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1992 Class Representative

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1993 Class Representative

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1994 Class Representative

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1995 Class Representative

Dan Hartley
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1996 Class Representatives

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Elena Arensman McPeak

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1997 Class Representative

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260-616-1022

Class of 1998: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Todd Belcore writes: On behalf of **Chase Chavin, '97** and **Anthony Williams**, we're really excited about how, in the last couple months alone, we, via Social Change:

- Mobilized/trained 33 people in Georgia runoff election from every corner of the nation, traveling over 35,000 miles and engaging over 15,000 voters,

- Hosted over 1,000 changemakers from all over the world for International Social Change Film Festivals in Chicago (at Hyde Park's Harper Theater), in Atlanta at ZuCot Gallery and virtually (one of the largest Black-owned galleries in the nation),

- Served over 500 families on Chicago's Southside at our Thanksgiving food giveaway, and

- Vaccinated and provided food for hundreds of people in eastern North Carolina.

If anyone wants to follow our organization or support or get involved in any way, they can follow us @CHIsocialchange on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter.

1999 Class Representative

Katherine Le
katheringle@yahoo.com

Chris Rummel writes: I was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Sound Editing for a



Chris Rummel, '99

Limited or Anthology Series for the Starz show *Gaslit*.

After 15 years working for the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in multiple countries, **Katey Prudhomme (Schein)** has now joined the UN and is working for the World Food Program in Washington DC. She lives just outside the city with her husband and two young boys.

00s

2000 Class Representative

Tiago Pappas
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773-330-8583

Ian Cummins writes: I recently relocated to Visalia, California with wife Erika and three children to begin a new position as Forester for the Tule River Tribe. I continue to remotely manage a farm near Tena, Ecuador, where we grow cacao, vanilla, and tropical fruits. Labbies visiting the Southern Sierra or Ecuador should reach out.

2001 Class Representative

Greg Kohlhaagen
gkohlha@gmail.com

Class of 2002: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Ashley Rayner apologizes for the lateness of this update, but a lot has happened in a few years! After working for the Chicago Public Library for seven years, last as a branch manager in Greater Grand Crossing, Ashley started working for NORC at the University of Chicago in July 2021. She is a research librarian, supporting social scientists with reference help and occasionally going to Regenstein to pick up inter-library loans. In August 2021, Ashley fulfilled a lifelong dream of appearing on the game show Jeopardy! Though she didn't win, it was still an amazing journey. In 2022 she gave birth to her second child, a boy named Nathan. Big sister Sydney is very proud! Ashley and her husband Michael also celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary. If you're on the South Side, please come visit!

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2012 Class Representative
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2013 Class Representatives
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2003 Class Representative
John Oxtoby
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2004 Class Representative
Marcelo Pappas
marcelopappas@gmail.com



Dr. Takoya Williams, '00 (left) with Dr. Robert Galiano

2005 Class Representative
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Class of 2006: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

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2008 Class Representative
Victoria Rogers
victoriamrogers@gmail.com

2009 Class Representative
Jaya Sah
jaya.t.sah@gmail.com

10s

2010 Class Representative
Andrew Cook
andrewcook1@gmail.com

Gabrielle Lubin writes: I am the proud owner of a Chicago-based startup called Spark This Day which is situated in the Future of Work + HR Tech + Health Tech space. I would love to connect with other alumni in the startup ecosystem on LinkedIn.

2011 Class Representative
Rachel Sylora
rachelsylora@gmail.com

2012 Class Representative
Ary Hansen
ary.hansen@gmail.com
773-324-4012

2013 Class Representatives
Sarah Curci
sarahcurci@gmail.com

Amartya Das
amartya.das78@gmail.com

2014 Class Representatives
Lillian Eckstein
leckstei@bowdoin.edu
773-548-7390

Boluwatife (Bolu) Johnson
bolu.johnson0@gmail.com
708-351-8473

Class of 2015: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Jonah Berg-Ganzarain writes: Congratulations to Mirentxu Ganzarain, art teacher at Lab for 32 years, on her retirement!

Anna Knes writes: I recently returned from living in the Netherlands (Amsterdam) for the past two years while I obtained a master's degree in forensic science at the University of Amsterdam. While there, I studied decision making during crime scene investigations. Specifically, I examined how crime scene investigators decide where to search, and how they choose which traces to collect as evidence or which they deem as "relevant" or "irrelevant" and why. I now live in Providence, RI with my partner who works at the Nature Conservancy. In the fall I plan to start a PhD in criminology/criminal justice (which school I will attend is still to be decided!).

2016 Class Representative
Julian Lark
jlark@uchicago.edu

2017 Class Representative
Jonathan Lipman
jlipman500@gmail.com

Class of 2018: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Shaunak Puri visited Lab on January 5 to serve on a panel that talked to the current senior class about what to expect in college. He was joined by members of previous classes and shared about his post-Lab experiences so far.

2019 Class Representative
Alex Pietraszek
apietraszek@uchicago.edu

Otto Brown and **Henrik Nielsen** visited Lab on January 5 to serve on a panel that talked to the current senior class about what to expect in college. They were joined by members of previous classes and shared about their post-Lab experiences so far.

20s

Class of 2020: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Sydney Rogers and **Sana Shahul** visited Lab on January 5 to serve on a panel that talked to the current senior class about what to expect in college. They were joined by members of previous classes and shared about their post-Lab experiences so far.

Class of 2021: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Class of 2022: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Zach Gin, Kara Tao, and Brent Pennington visited Lab on January 5 to serve on a panel that talked to the current senior class about what to expect in college. They were joined by members of previous classes and shared about their post-Lab experiences so far.

Keara Booth writes: I just got back from Costa Rica on my first six-week gap year program. I traveled to all seven provinces in a sustainable manner, engaging with local communities in various service projects (working on ranches, coffee farms, permaculture farms, painting schools, cleaning up the ocean shore, etc.). Cultural immersion also included the opportunity to develop my Spanish language skills. I will do the same in Spain for twelve weeks in the spring months.

Isabella (Izzy) Caffarelli writes: I'm at Washington University in St. Louis and I'd like to report that I am currently learning about the image capture of M87* in my All About Black Holes seminar! I hope to study astrophysics so this topic has been really intriguing to discuss in class.

Sharyq Siddiqi writes: I have spent my first semester of college in London! So far it has been fun, and I have had plenty of opportunities to travel around the country, seeing everywhere from the coasts to Edinburgh!

In Remembrance

FACULTY

MURRAY HOZINSKY 1932–2022

Murray Hozinsky, a former U-High biology teacher, died on Sunday, October 9, 2022, at the age of 90. Mr. Hozinsky is credited with helping select students find summer jobs in the University’s research labs. He was a much beloved science teacher and mentor. He retired in 1996. Hozinky was the

inspiration for the creation and development of the present-day Summer Link program that now provides formal internship and research opportunities for all students who want to participate. He was loved and cherished by many people including his children, Ezra and Rivka, and his grandchild Nami.

Henry Levi Freund, ‘47
Henry Levi Freund, age 96, of Rancho Mirage, CA, formerly of Chicago, IL passed away on September 18, 2022. He is survived by his beloved wife **Joyce, nee Bernstein, ‘47**, daughter, **Marilyn Freund, ‘71**, son, Daniel Freund, daughter, Nancy Freund-Cremo, and son-in-law, Gary Cremo. He is the adored grandfather of Alexandra “Allie,” Adrianna, and Olivia Cremo. Henry supported many organizations in the desert. Memorials may be made to: The Jewish Federation of the Desert (<http://Jfedps.org>), The Palm Springs Art Museum (<https://www.psmuseum.org/join-give/donate>) and the Palm Springs Friends of the Philharmonic (<http://www.pspphil.org>).

Ira Fistell, ‘58
Ira Fistell passed away at the age of 81. He was the beloved father of Andrea Pack, the loving grandfather of Aliyah, Shirah, and Ayliyahu Pack, and beloved partner to **Rachel Berg, ‘58**.

Alvin R. Loosli, EX’60
Alvin Loosli died on July 15, 2022, age 79, of a brain tumor. Alvin, and his twin brother **Eddie**, attended Lab from Kindergarten through their Sophomore year of U-High. He finished high school in South Pasadena, where the family had moved. He attended Colorado College and medical school at UCSE. He served as a flight surgeon in the army’s 82nd Airborne Division from 1969 through 1972, then opened a family practice. Alvin took his talent for and love of sports and began practicing rehabilitation and sports medicine in 1980. He opened the Walnut Creek Center for Sports Medicine (a satellite clinic of the Saint Francis Hospital in San Francisco) in 1986, and was active there until shortly before his death. Dr. Loosli is survived by his wife, three children, five grandchildren, and his brother **Edward Loosli, EX’60**.

Roberta (Chroman) Turkat, ‘60
Roberta (Bobbie) Turkat died in her Los Angeles home on December 30, 2021, age 79. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Teviah Turkat. She is survived by her children and grandchildren.

Alan Gordon, ‘46
Alan Gordon was born in Chicago, June 12, 1931, to Lee and Dorée Gordon and passed away in Paradise Valley, Arizona, on October 27, 2022. His brother Michael preceded him in death. He did well scholastically and graduated from the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools at a young age. At the University of Illinois, he excelled as a student athlete running for the track and field team, and continued there for medical school, where he was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha honorary medical fraternity. Following graduation in 1951, he received a medical internship at Cook County Hospital. In 1954 he married Babs Schneider: she was his hand and heart, he was her “piano-man.”

Alan credits the U.S. Navy for his “growing up.” While in medical school he committed to the Navy, enlisted in 1956, and served aboard the USS Floyds Bay for one year and another as physician at the dependents’ dispensary, Naval Air Station North Island, CA. He remained in the U.S. Navy Reserve until his honorable discharge in 1962 as a Lt. Commander. Civilian life brought him to a fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Alan established a long and successful Internal Medicine practice in Phoenix, AZ, from 1962 to 1995, during which he earned several honors and awards.

Alan had many favorites in life. Among them was playing the piano, listening to Mozart and Gershwin, playing golf—especially earning a hole-in-one on September 19, 2000—eating Chinese food and pumpkin seeds, watching Marx Brothers movies, and hiking the Grand Canyon. Alan continued his insatiable quest for knowledge up to the day he passed away. He read books every day, subscribed to virtual learning and lecture programs, completed daily crossword puzzles, and continued to master Jeopardy.

Alan is survived by his wife Babs, their four children: Leslie

(Peter), Todd (Kathy), Jill (Jon), and Pete (Celeste), five grandsons: Paul, Edward, Nathaniel, Aaron, James, and eight great-grandchildren. Alan and Babs suffered the loss of their infant son Paul in 1960.

James McNutly, ‘87
James McNutly of West Roxbury, MA, passed away on May 10, 2022. Born in Chicago, he was the cherished son of Jill McNulty and the late John W. McNulty Sr., and beloved partner of Catherine Glover. Survived by his sister-in-law Beth McNulty and nephews Ryan and Luke McNulty, Mary Kay Klein, John and Myriah Klein and their children Willow, Rowan, and Linden, and Kevin and Heather Klein, as well as many friends and colleagues. He was predeceased by his wife Karen Klein McNulty and his brother John W. McNulty Jr.

James graduated from the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools High School and Drake University and earned an MS in cellular and molecular biology at the Illinois Institute of Technology. A dedicated and passionate scientist, he was proudly working for Vertex Pharmaceuticals at the time of his death, involved on the team working towards a cure for Type 1 Diabetes. He had previously worked at Stryker Biotech, ImmunoGen Inc., and Bristol-Myers Squibb.

James was a passionate advocate for the Adult Congenital Heart Association and served in several roles over the years in ACHA. He was a speaker at numerous ACHA conferences and an avid fundraiser for the annual heart walks. At the time of his passing, he was a New England representative on the Patient and Family Advisory Board and hoped to advocate for better treatment options and advance scientific research. He lived with his congenital heart disease with great courage and resilience, never letting it curtail his goals.

James was a brilliant, kind, generous, and loving man, with a great sense of humor, who cared passionately about politics, current events, and the future of the country. A proud Chicagoan, he ended up making New England his home. He thoroughly enjoyed exploring New England, and especially loved Cape Ann.

Alumni

NED ROREM, ‘40 1923–2023



Words and music were inextricably linked for Ned Rorem. *Time* magazine called him “the world’s best composer of art songs,” yet his musical and literary ventures extended far beyond this specialized field. Rorem composed three symphonies, four piano concertos, and an array of other orchestral works, music for numerous combinations of chamber forces, ten operas, choral works of every description, ballets and other music for the theater, and

literally hundreds of songs and cycles. He authored sixteen books, including five volumes of diaries and collections of lectures and criticism.

In addition to a Pulitzer Prize, awarded in 1976 for his suite *Air Music*, Rorem was the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship (1951), a Guggenheim Fellowship (1957), and an award from the National Institute of Arts and Letters (1968). He was a three-time winner of the ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award; in 1998 he was chosen Composer of the Year by Musical America. The Atlanta Symphony recording of the *String Symphony / Sunday Morning / Eagles* received a Grammy Award for Outstanding Orchestral Recording in 1989. From 2000 to 2003 he served as President of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2003 he received ASCAP’s Lifetime Achievement Award,

Jerry Neugarten, ‘65
Jerrold Lee Neugarten (born in Chicago in 1948) died peacefully at home in Highland Park, Illinois on August 8, 2022, attended by his wife Betsy Kessler. He was a proud father to Rachel, Sadie, and Carter Neugarten, delighted father-in-law to Andrew Lello and Katie Turner Neugarten, loving grandfather of Charlotte and Mabel Lello and a grandson expected in November. He will be missed by friends from New College (1968), Harvard Law School (1972), Manhattan District Attorney’s Office (1972–86), and New York State Organized Crime Task Force (1986–93). In 2006 he moved to Chicago and began a decade-long mission to provide free chess education in Chicago public schools.

Jerry’s family and friends speak with admiration about his generosity as a father, friend, and mentor, his formidable organizational skills, intelligence, dedication to public service, pleasure in debate and food, and hearty laugh. A recording of Jerry’s celebration of life can be found here.

Marian Scheffler, ‘39
Marian Scheffler passed away at home on August 28, 2022 after a relatively short illness. She was born in Chicago on October 7, 1922, to Albert and Ruth (Freiler) Ellbogen. She graduated from the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools in 1939 and from Wellesley College in Boston in 1943. She had hoped to go to medical school, but found she

and in January 2004 the French government named him Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters.

His most recent publication, *Facing the Night: A Diary (1999–2005)* and *Musical Writings*, chronicles Rorem’s dark journey after the death of his thirty-two-year companion, Jim Holmes. In his diary, *Lies, A Diary:1986-1999*, Rorem remarks that “my music is a diary no less compromising than my prose. A diary nevertheless differs from a musical composition in that it depicts the moment, the writer’s present mood which, were it inscribed an hour later, could emerge quite otherwise. I don’t believe that composers notate their moods, they don’t tell the music where to go - it leads them....Why do I write music? Because I want to hear it—it’s as simple as that. Others may have more talent, more sense of duty. But I compose just from necessity, and no one else is making what I need.”

Rorem was born in Richmond, Indiana, on October 23, 1923. As a child he moved to Chicago with his family; by the age of ten his piano teacher had introduced him to Debussy and Ravel, an experience which “changed my life forever,”

was allergic to formaldehyde. On November 28, 1944 she married Milton M. Scheffler, MD, and they were very happily married until his death in 2005. Marian spent ten wonderful summers at Camp Pinemere. She did a great deal of volunteer work including 40 years at Michael Reese Hospital, 30 years at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and served for 40 years with Chicago District Golf Association of which she was a past president. She was incredibly active and independent until about two months before her death. She enjoyed playing golf—even at the age of 99, traveling worldwide, attending the Chicago Symphony theater, reading, and rooting for her “beloved White Sox.” Marian was predeceased by her parents

according to the composer. At seventeen he entered the Music School of Northwestern University, two years later receiving a scholarship to the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. He studied composition under Bernard Wagenaar at Juilliard, taking his BA in 1946 and his MA degree (along with the \$1,000 George Gershwin Memorial Prize in composition) in 1948. In New York he worked as Virgil Thomson’s copyist in return for \$20 a week and orchestration lessons. He studied on fellowship at the Berkshire Music Center in Tanglewood in the summers of 1946 and 1947; in 1948 his song *The Lordly Hudson* was voted the best published song of that year by the Music Library Association.

In 1949 Rorem moved to France, and lived there until 1958. His years as a young composer among the leading figures of the artistic and social milieu of post-war Europe are absorbingly portrayed in *The Paris Diary and The New York Diary, 1951-1961* (reissued by Da Capo, 1998).

Ned Rorem passed away at the age of 99 at his home in Manhattan. Bio credit: <http://nedrorem.org/>

and brother David F. Ellbogen. She is survived by her daughter **Jill Goldhamer, ‘68**, nephews Andrew and Thomas Ellbogen and their families, and extended family in Chicago and New Mexico. She was an extraordinary person and will be greatly missed by family and her many friends of all ages.

James Stone, ‘50
James Stone passed away on September 5, 2022.

Judy Bowly Zitske, ‘56
Judy Bowly Zitske passed away in November of 2020.

Writer, Director & Producer

Ben Epstein, '99



Ben Epstein, '99, is showing the television and film industry that he's got the chops for this business, and he's also showing them just where he got those chops from. With a growing number of credits to his name—including *You Get Me* (2017), *In the Vault* (2017), and *The Reunion* (2004), which created a buzz on the film festival circuit and received a number of awards including Best Short at the 2004 Avignon/New York Film Festival and Best Student Film at the California Independent Film Festival—Epstein is developing quite the name for himself.

His name is recognized to many as the creator of the MTV's dramedy *Happyland*, which centers on the character Lucy, a cynical teenage girl whose mother works as a fairytale princess in a popular theme park. Lucy explores the reality of growing up and falling in love whilst living in their fictional world of fantasy versus reality. *Happyland* aired on MTV for one eight-episode season from September 30 through November 18, 2014.

Last February, *Who Are You People*, one of Epstein's most recent projects, landed in select theaters and became available on demand. The film features rising star Ema

Horvath and is a coming of age story about troubled teen Alex (played by Horvath) who runs away to learn the dark secret of her roots as she seeks out the biological father her mother kept hidden. Epstein's classmate and fellow alumnus, the Oscar winner Graham Moore, '99, is among the executive producers of this feature film.

When asked about his best advice for success during a YouTube interview promoting the film, Epstein was quick with an answer. "Finish things. If you don't finish something, then it doesn't get to become all of the things that you imagined it could be when you were first conceiving of it," he said. "But if you're sitting around conceiving it never becomes anything."

Epstein has a number of conceived projects in the hopper. He is working on a screenplay on Michael Jordan's short-lived baseball career and has a couple of shows in development for both Netflix and Lionsgate.

"Finish things. If you don't finish something, then it doesn't get to become all of the things that you imagined it could be when you were first conceiving of it."

Business Strategist, Art Collector & Philanthropist

Victoria M. Rogers, '08



"My experience at Lab shaped my commitment to building a more equitable future world."

At an early age, alumna Victoria M. Rogers, '08, was inspired by art. She told *Frieze* in a March 2021 interview that she dressed up as Pablo Picasso for hero day. After school and during the summer Rogers would go to the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and the Art Institute of Chicago for classes.

"My experience at Lab shaped my commitment to building a more equitable future world," Rogers says. "At Lab, I learned the value of inclusion, and the importance of fostering communities built on mutual respect, deep curiosity, and an appreciation for difference."

Rogers started volunteering and teaching art classes in seventh grade at the Sue Duncan Children's Center in the South Side of Chicago for six years until she went to college at Yale University for art history.

"I recognized I was given many opportunities as a young person, and I wanted to use my time and resources to be supportive in a community that didn't have that same level of access," she told *Frieze*.

Rogers is described as a creative business strategist, avid art collector, and philanthropist. She received

her MBA from Stanford University and MFA from Parsons School of Design. She manages the strategy team at Autodesk and is an advisor at X, Alphabet's moonshot factory.

Rogers is currently on the Executive Committee and co-chairs the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Committee at the Brooklyn Museum, where she became the youngest board of trustees member in 2017. She serves as the Global Council for the Studio Museum in Harlem, is a board member of the Terra Foundation, and recently stepped down as board member of Creative Time after eight years.

In 2020, in response to the murder of George Floyd, she co-founded and co-chairs the Black Trustee Alliance (BTA) for Art Museums, a collective of over 130 Black trustees representing 78 institutions across North America that "increase the inclusion of Black perspectives in the art world."

"I think [art is] an important tool to get people to open up and have difficult dialogues," Rogers told *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* in a December 2022 interview.

Attorney, Professor & Mentor

David B. Wilkins, '73



dean of the Center on the Legal Profession, he graduated from Harvard University in 1977, and from Harvard Law School with honors in 1980. He joined Harvard's faculty in 1986 and received tenure in 1992, where he became the fourth African American tenured professor at the Harvard Law School and sixth in the history of the college.

During a February visit to IE University Law School's recently established LawAhead Center on the Legal Profession, Wilkins recently discussed the issues of sustainability, stakeholders, and social justice. "The future of legal work will be shaped by the interplay between the forces of continuity and change," he told an audience of law firm executives in Madrid.

"Lab still remains the most important educational experience of my life," Wilkins says. "Great teachers like Earl Bell provided the foundation for everything I have done since. And so many of the people I met during my time as a Lab Lifer continue to be among my closest friends."

"Look for work that engages your whole self, and then throw your whole self into it."

According to a 2013 interview with *The History Makers*, Wilkins developed an interest in debate during his time at Lab. He was born in Chicago in 1956 and has a family background in the legal field—his father, among several other family members, were all attorneys. He completed various clerkships including one with the United States Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall from 1981–1982. Currently the Lester Kissel Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and vice

Drummer & Musician

Gigi Reece, '21



Gigi Reece, '21, (they/them) is the drummer for what became known as one of Chicago's hottest new acts last summer. Reece makes up one-third of the Chicago rock band Horsegirl, which also features co-band members Nora Cheng and Penelope Lowenstein, both on guitars and vocals. The trio are best friends who formed their band in 2019, while they were all still in high school. As a matter of fact, Lowenstein ended up skipping her own high school graduation to play the band's highly anticipated debut album performance at Chicago's famed Thalia Hall.

Referred to by *The New Yorker* as "stylish caretakers" of indie rock, Horsegirl was already taking the alternative rock world by storm when *Versions of Modern Performance*, their debut album, was released in June 2022. In March of last year, the trio played the Austin, Texas, festival South by Southwest and followed that up with a July performance at Lollapalooza, their hometown's largest music festival. Before performing at Lollapalooza, an annual four-day music festival held in Grant Park in downtown Chicago, neither Cheng nor Lowenstein had ever attended the festival. During an interview with WLWU

Radio, Reece, however, warmly recalled attending Lolla at the age of fourteen and fainting from heat exhaustion.

"It was a crazy time. But then we ended up playing the stage I fainted at," Reece said last summer during a post-performance WLWU interview. Coming off of a whirlwind summer that saw the band touring North America and the UK, Horsegirl has been hard at work to follow up their debut album, which *Vulture* referred to "as one of the year's most confident albums" and *The Guardian* described as "a

"It was a crazy time. But then we ended up playing the stage I fainted at."

masterclass in a new kind of classic rock." In late winter and early spring, Horsegirl finished a few tour dates with Wilco, a Grammy award-winning rock band also from Chicago and, in April, the group will play at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, California. Be on the lookout for this group. They are just getting started and aren't going anywhere, unless it's a scheduled tour date.

Check out the official music video to Horsegirl's "Anti-glory" here:





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