LabLife
the magazine for alumni, parents, and friends of the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools
Winter 2015/16
FROM DIRECTOR ROBIN APPLEBY

Happy 120th Birthday

“One hundred and twenty years is a remarkable legacy for any academic institution, and it feels especially exciting to celebrate this milestone at Lab right now.”

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n January, 1896, a new elementary school opened its doors in a house on 57th Street and embarked on one of the most important educational experiments of the new century to come... 16 students gathered under the guidance of John Dewey, a professor of philosophy at the University of Chicago. Dewey’s intention was to challenge conventional conservative attitudes about childhood education and to discover “how a school could become a cooperative community.” —Ida DeVencens, *Experiencing Education*

One hundred and twenty years is a remarkable legacy for any academic institution, and it feels especially exciting to celebrate this milestone at Lab right now. Our alumni are spread far and wide. Labbies find and stay connected to one another describing a shared experience that bonds them, even if they graduated years apart. Today, the people who have stewarded this great institution over these many decades have helped bring us to a time when we are, collectively, making so much happen for our students.

Earlier this year, I wrote of our responsibility to help our students understand the times in which we live, both here and abroad. Across Lab, we are working to come together in a time when it would be easy to come apart. Students and adults are talking about how to better realize Lab’s historic commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This is not easy work; often, it is work of the heart as much as the mind. It can be unsettling but it is essential work that affirms our commitment to all members of our community.

With this sense of community and commitment to one another in mind, we have undertaken activities that are helping us make the best possible use of wonderful new facilities and our important relationship to the University of Chicago.

**On Campus**

We have had a number of major events on campus this fall. Early October saw the official opening of Gordon Parks Arts Hall, which brought more than 1,000 members of our community to tour our wonderful new facility and enjoy a family festival.

Lab alumni are a crucial part of today’s Lab experience,
and in mid-October, hundreds returned for Alumni Weekend. We are grateful for the six new class scholarships established over the past year and the active support of dedicated alumni volunteers.

Then in November, Lab hosted a 27-member visiting team from the Independent Schools Association of the Central States as part of our re-accreditation process. This is essentially a peer review process following preparation of our comprehensive self-study last year. The visiting team will produce a report of commendations and recommendations, which, along with our self-study, will contribute to Lab’s strategic planning process.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

One of our strategic goals this year is the creation of a Diversity Action Plan for the Schools. Under the leadership of the School’s new coordinator for diversity, equity, and inclusion, Ken Garcia-Gonzales, Lab’s long-standing Diversity Advisory Committee (made up of parents, faculty, staff, and students) is working to formulate more measurable strategic goals. It is important that our focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion remain shared work across our community if we are to be true to our mission and values as a community. Ken also represents Lab on the University’s Diversity Leadership Council and works with the Parents’ Association Diversity Committee.

Planning for Growth

Careful preparations are underway for the growth that we will experience on campus next year when Judd Hall and U-High renovations are complete. We will be able to offer additional seats in grades six and nine. (Interest in Lab has never been stronger—more than 1,000 people attended our Middle and High School Admissions Open House!) Know that this growth and the new High School programs it will allow will be phased across several years and managed with great care.

With 120 years comes much wisdom. We are privileged to have the experiences of so many dedicated educators supporting our next generation of learners.

Happy Birthday to Lab!

Sincerely yours,
Robin Appleby

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1960s

- 1960: University High School construction begins.
- 1967: Chicago is crippled by 26 inches of snow.
- 1969: Rites of May are celebrated for the first time.
- 1969: Enrollment at Lab reaches 1,200.

1970s

- 1971: Teachers write in the Independent Schools Association of the Central States evaluation: “The force of John Dewey, who founded the school, continues to be felt—most strikingly evidenced in the value we attach to the democratic process and in our pragmatic approach to the educational process.”
- 1977: After an investigation by the Midwest police crack down on bar owners in Hyde Park who have been selling alcohol to under-aged drinkers.

1980s

- 1981: Field Hockey ends at Lab as a U-High girls’ athletic competitive sport.
- 1983: The University of Chicago School Mathematics Project uses the Laboratory Schools to test new curriculum. Teachers contribute to textbooks in what becomes the nation’s largest university-based mathematics curriculum project.

1990s

- 1993: Twenty-two percent of households have a computer.
- 1996: Lab celebrates its centennial on January 21, 1996, with 1,000 people gathered in Rockefeller Chapel.

2000s

- 2001: Apple introduces the iPod.
- 2008: Two Lab alumni win the MacArthur “genius” grant: Dr. Chiara Nunn, ’96 and astrophysicist Andrea Ghez, ’85.
- 2010: Earl Shapiro Hall.
- 2011: Ground is broken for Earl Shapiro Hall.
In his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys and the Dawn of a New America, Gilbert King interweaves two compelling and interrelated stories. The first is the story of a criminal case in Florida focusing on four falsely accused black men known as the Groveland Boys. The second is Thurgood Marshall’s painstakingly deliberate legal and public relations campaign leading up to his landmark Brown v. Board of Education case, which found “that in the field of public education the doctrine of ‘separate but equal’ has no place.” The book moves back and forth between the two stories, with the Groveland case providing context and depth to the larger legal case being mounted at the national level.

The details of the Groveland Boys case are difficult to read and unbelievable in their brutality. The county sheriff, Willis McCall, employed ruthless tactics. When federal agents were brought in, he was able to use his power to cover much of it up. Justice was elusive.

At the national level, Marshall had to make difficult choices about which cases to take and which to put aside. This left many deserving individuals without the support of his NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Though many cases were compelling and unjust, Marshall strategically chose cases he felt would ensure that the narrative at the national level would help change public opinion and ultimately achieve the legal precedent necessary to overturn Jim Crow laws.

The book is a page-turner and reads much like a crime thriller. It is difficult to believe these things actually happened and this retelling feels particularly important given instances of police brutality in the news in Chicago and elsewhere. Like the Groveland Boys, these stories are ultimately undergirded by an incongruence of power. One hopes that these cases will also ultimately lead to systemic change.

Recommended reading
Extended Day Director Colleen Coyle recommends Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys and the Dawn of a New America, by Gilbert King

FROM THE SYLLABI
Vikings take a central role as part of the fifth-grade humanities curriculum. Teachers Kristin Frank and Catherine Mannering start with the Bayeux Tapestry and a general study of early British history. Then students examine the Viking influences on language, law, geography, literature, and the arts. Here are some of the texts that support their work:

- Viking
  - Susan Margeson
- Barbarians!
  - Steven Kroll
- Favorite Norse Myths
  - Mary Pope Osborne
- D’Aulaire’s Norse Gods and Giants
  - Ingri D’Aulaire
- Ingrid D’Aulaire’s Norse Gods and Giants
  - Steven Kroll
- The Real Vikings: Craftsmen, Traders and Fearsome Raiders
  - Melvin Berger
- The Viking Settler
  - Giovanni Caselli
- The Viking Ships
  - Ian Atkinson
- The Vikings
  - Giovanni Caselli
- The Usborne Book of Greek and Norse Legends
  - Sea of Trolls
  - Nancy Farmer
  - Nancy Farmer
- The Usborne Book of Greek and Norse Legends

In the Halls
The making of a Lego Parks Hall

Kindergarten teacher David Kaleta, ’95, is a Lego master who has amazed children and adults with the sophistication of his work. His piece, “Frog in Dissection,” shared space with works by artists, scientists, and designers from around the world as part of a show called “The Flower of Making” that ran at London’s Victoria & Albert Museum in 2011–12. This time he turned his sights to the new Gordon Parks Arts Hall and recreated it in miniature.
This is art

An installation hits Blaine Hall

When a Rice Krispie treat shaped like an airplane landed in the Alumni Relations office its purpose wasn’t quite clear. Was it a joke? Was it a treat? It was art.

The plane was one of many conceptual art projects taught by Lower School art teacher Allison Beaulieu. “I love conceptual art, and at Lab we get to teach what we’re passionate about,” she says. In pairs, third-graders came up with a message—something on their minds or that they felt passionate about. “They worked through how they could make that into something tangible,” says Ms. Beaulieu who had kids study the works of artists like Damien Hirst.

But construction was only part of the project: “I had a big map of Blaine Hall. They had to tell me exactly where they wanted to install the pieces,” says Ms. Beaulieu. The students wrote artist’s statements (for the plane the statement read “Remembrance”) and installed the projects themselves. Aside from alerting faculty and notifying the cleaning crew that the projects were not trash, the art’s appearance surprised the rest of the school. The young artists enjoyed seeing the contemplation, confusion, and delight from their community audience.

The project inspired a workshop Ms. Beaulieu presented at the Progressive Education Network conference on the topic of socially minded work. “I don’t use those specific words with third-graders,” she says, “but that’s essentially what they’re creating.” Ms. Beaulieu shared her work at other professional development events, like the Museum of Contemporary Art’s Curriculum Slam and the National Art Education Association conference. At such events, says Ms. Beaulieu, she can meet other people in the field and “give a little glimpse into what you do in your classroom.”

Lab Presents: Your Inner Fish

Professor Neil Shubin kicks off Lab’s new lecture series

When asked how a child should prepare for a life as a paleontologist, Professor Neil Shubin suggested heading out to the backyard in the cold, sleeping in a tent, and digging in the dirt—for weeks and weeks. Alternatively, take full advantage of your local museum of natural history. Last week, Professor Shubin, a Lab parent and board member and the Robert R. Bensley Professor of Anatomy at the University of Chicago, gave a gleeful hour-long presentation on the work that led to his discovery of the “fishapod” fossil, a crucial link in the story of how life on earth transitioned from sea to land.

His talk, based upon his research and award-winning book and PBS series, both titled Your Inner Fish, inaugurated what will be the quarterly Lab Presents lecture series. Lab Presents will highlight an ongoing series of speakers brought to the Gordon Parks Assembly Hall to benefit not just Lab but the greater UChicago community, including families at the UBS Charter Schools, with whom Lab is establishing a deepening partnership. The lecture series is designed to introduce Lab families, and Lab friends and partners across the University, to the extraordinary people who are a part of the Laboratory Schools. Speaking to an audience equally divided between adults (teachers, parents, and others) and kids (Lower through High School), Prof. Shubin shared the “simple in concept, hard in execution,” rules for finding fossils—look for the right type of rocks, of the right age (in his case 365 million years old) and that are accessible. Think open deserts or near the North Pole, which is in fact where he found Tiktaalik, named by his two children, and which means “large freshwater fish.”

For such a storied academic, Prof. Shubin demonstrated a light touch and an ability to connect with his audience such that even the youngest in the room felt comfortable raising their hands and asking questions. After the 60-minute talk, adults and children alike swarmed tables manned by UChicago grad students who happily explained how to extract DNA from strawberries, helped kids handle fossil casts, and smiled as adults Bustled into place for their turn to look through microscopes with child-like wonder.

On the first day of school, Lower School teachers and staff wore t-shirts that read: KIND THOUGHTFUL RESPONSIBLE. The shirts served as a physical representation of a community agreement, says LS Principal Sylvie Anglin, that both students and staff would conduct themselves in line with Lab’s shared values.

Last year, the Lower School focused on developing a “simple and easy to understand language to share our expectations for living and working in the community,” says Ms. Anglin. To implement the simpler code of conduct, teachers worked with students to help define what it means to be kind, thoughtful, and responsible people at Lab. In a collaboration between fourth-grade teacher Sandy Cortez and fifth-grade teacher Nicole Power, students compared and contrasted different types of community agreements: worker’s agreements, contracts, even the Declaration of Independence. “We let them investigate meaningful questions about purpose and relevance,” says Ms. Cortez.

Then student teams developed agreements for shared spaces, including the courtyard, Blaine Lobby, bathrooms. For example, students should obey the “rules of the road” in hallways by walking on the right side. “When we allow the students to take ownership and go through the process, there is a deeper appreciation of the new agreement,” says Ms. Cortez. She hopes “they’ll take personal responsibility.”

In addition to learning to live Lab’s values, the agreement is also intended to create an inclusive, safe environment, ...being kind, thoughtful, and responsible is a constant process.

Ms. Anglin says, “a place where you can take some risks, because learning is risky business, and know that the community is going to support that.”

The agreement is important for adults, too—faculty and staff agree to hold themselves accountable and serve as role models. In doing so, they convey an important message. Ms. Anglin says, that being kind, thoughtful, and responsible is a constant process.

Words to live by

The Lower School agrees to be kind, thoughtful, and responsible—collaboratively

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The ground (and cement and gum and bugs) beneath their feet

It started simply enough. One student brought in one chunk of concrete. Then another student brought in a piece. And so on. This fall Meredith Dodd’s nursery students became so fascinated with sidewalks on their daily perambulations that they brought them into the classroom—one craggy hunk at a time.

They collected broken bits around school and near their homes and studied them in class, cleaning them with brusholt. “They really like to find different kinds of surfaces. Texture is important,” says Ms. Dodd. “Smooth, soft, bumpy, jagged, rough. One girl wanted to bring a really heavy piece home. It made her feel important.”

Using an Elmo microscope, Ms. Dodd projected the magnified images onto the classroom wall. “It looked like craters of the moon,” she says. “It looked like a different world.” The students got excited when they discovered materials that weren’t part of the concrete—flat, blackened gum, mortar, and lichen.

After working together as a class, the students divided into small groups—each assigned a single piece that was markedly different from the others—and created murals by tracing the projected images of their chunks onto butcher paper. The project not only sharpened their observational skills but also strengthened their vocabularies and counting skills. The students carefully described the sidewalk’s appearance—in its color and texture and sheen. (“The big thing is sparkles,” Ms. Dodd says.) They counted the pieces in the sidewalk. We use a thing once, and someone else uses it again.”

This idea supports one of Ms. Dodd’s larger pedagogical goals: teaching students about systems, how things are put together, and how to make something purposeful. “We’re studying these sidewalks that we walk on every day but that we might not pay attention to,” says Ms. Dodd. “They’re made out of all these little parts that, if we didn’t have them, we wouldn’t have a sidewalk. Same with the children—if a child isn’t in the classroom, it’s not the same. We look at what makes each student special, how that specialness creates the classroom, and how we’re all connected.”

The students discussed connections outside the classroom. “Like recycling,” Ms. Dodd says. “There are glass pieces in the sidewalk. We use a thing once, and someone else uses it again.”

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With American flags flanking the stage and the entire Lower School gathered in the Gordon Parks Assembly Hall, fourth graders from Nicole Power and Linda Weide’s classes took turns in front of the microphone to share what they had learned about Veterans Day and to honor members of the Lab community who have served.

“The goal was to have students learn about veterans by interviewing them, including a conscientious objector. They formulated questions and then interviewed them in person or over the phone,” explains Ms. Power. “The interviewers escorted the veterans to a map maker. He got to “fly around in a jet and be a general,’ ” says Ms. Power, “and they were so appreciative of that experience.”

On the day, student interviewers escorted the veterans in attendance, including several alumni, to their seats. Later, as students read their names aloud, the veterans stood to be recognized and honored by a standing ovation.

“Was he stolen? Did he escape?”

Theories abounded as to the roving rodent’s whereabouts. “He got to “look around in a jet and be a general,” says Ms. Power, “and they were so appreciative of that experience.”

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Lost and found

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The story of Oreo the rabbit, a fixture in Ms. Gillespie’s second-grade classroom for four years, has a more bittersweet ending. Ms. Gillespie noticed one morning in late October that Oreo wasn’t moving. Hoping for the best, she sent the beloved six-year-old rabbit to the vet, but Oreo died soon after. “It was a powerful moment in learning how to grieve for a death.”

Although Oreo will be missed, the class is enjoying the company of a new rabbit: Cookie.

“The name was actually Oreo when we found her!” Ms. Gillespie said. The class decided to change the new rabbit’s name to preserve the memory of their departed pet. But the coincidence suggests that maybe, just maybe, it was meant to be.

Since he passed, the class has been inspired to do more work on loss. They have written stories and poems about Oreo, made memory books for the class, and researched the history of the United States and other countries the protocols that the United States and other countries have around flags or moments of silence, and “how one respectfully celebrates Veterans, who may themselves be conflicted by their own service.” They then put together the assembly, wrote their lines, and rehearsed.

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They found Feathers’s hamster ball, but it was empty. The door had popped open. Theories abounded as to the roving rodent’s whereabouts. “He was stolen? Did he escape? Some students drew pictures of Feathers to post around the building in case anyone had seen him.”

Feathers the hamster (named for his soft, wisp-y fur) went missing from Marie Randazzo’s preschool classroom one morning in late September. “We looked in his cage and he was just gone,” she said. The students immediately mobilized, scouring every corner of the classroom in what became an impromptu bonding experience.

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The story of Oreo the rabbit, a fixture in Ms. Gillespie’s second-grade classroom for four years, has a more bittersweet ending. Ms. Gillespie noticed one morning in late October that Oreo wasn’t moving. Hoping for the best, she sent the beloved six-year-old rabbit to the vet, but Oreo died soon after. "It was a powerful moment in learning how to grieve for a death.”

Although Oreo will be missed, the class is enjoying the company of a new rabbit: Cookie.

“Her name was actually Oreo when we found her!” Ms. Gillespie said. The class decided to change the new rabbit’s name to preserve the memory of their departed pet. But the coincidence suggests that maybe, just maybe, it was meant to be.

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No more helicopter parents

Julie Lythcott-Haines speaks to Lab community about how to raise adults

Julie Lythcott-Haines, author of How to Raise an Adult, gave the inaugural Parents’ Association lecture this October in Gordon Parks Arts Hall.

A former student dean at Stanford University, Ms. Lythcott-Haines argues that over-parenting harms children, their parents, and society at large. As a New York Times review put it, her “bleak portrait may just be the Black Hawk Down of helicopter parenting.” Ms. Lythcott-Haines, who had been invited by the Parents’ Association, noted that she was scheduled to do ten readings in Chicago over five days. “Something about the message resonates,” she said.

Her own children are 14 and 16. “Like you,” she said, “I’m just trying to ensure my kids are healthy and successful.”

At Stanford, where she was dean of freshmen from 2002–2012, she realized that over-parenting had created a generation of semi-adults. Each class of incoming freshmen was “more and more accomplished,” she said, eliciting a knowing laugh from her audience. They had been to the right schools, taken the right classes, earned the right grades and awards, done the right activities. “Don’t just join a club. Start a club. And don’t forget community service.” More laughter.

But the students were “far more interesting on paper than to talk with in person,” she said. They could say what they’d done, but not why. They were unwilling participants in what she calls “the checklisted childhood.”

At the same time, every year brought more parents who came with their kid to college and stayed.” Helping their children choose courses and activities, tracking their deadlines, even calling to wake them up. Ms. Lythcott-Haines and other administrators “giggled at first, but as the number of these parents grew, their amusement waned.

It’s a trend not just at Stanford but among the upper middle class in general, Ms. Lythcott-Haines said. She drew a connection to the increasing rate of mental illness among children from affluent backgrounds. “We’re trying to boost them up, but we are paradoxically tearing them down. Our job as parents is to put ourselves out of a job.”

Interestingly, Ms. Lythcott-Haines looked to the special needs community for guidance. Parents of special needs children “have to be deliberate about teaching skills,” she said. There’s a four-step method: Do it for them. Do it with them. Watch them do it. Finally, they do it completely on their own.

If we all used this method, she said, Stanford wouldn’t be enrolling students who don’t know how to put gas in the car. And parents wouldn’t need books like the recently published Getting to Thirty: A Parent’s Guide. From the marketing blurb: “When will this new generation of 20-somethings leave home, find love, start a career, settle down—grow up?”

During the question-and-answer session, one parent wanted to know if higher education contributed to the problem with aggressive marketing. “This is usually question one, two, or three” at her lectures, Ms. Lythcott-Haines said.

The answer, “and I want you to really hear me,” is that there are 2,800 colleges and universities in the United States. If you look at only the top five percent, that’s still 140 schools. “They’re all selective, but not in a cutthroat way,” she said. “A great education is to be found at small colleges no one has heard of. We need to open our blinders, not wait for colleges to fix their broken system.”

In the World

Video pen pals

Working with Henry Harboe, ’11, Lisa Harrison’s second grade students are virtual pen pals

In 2014 a group of five students at Oberlin College, including Henry Harboe, ’11, wanted to change the way students communicate across borders. But Mr. Harboe’s team recognized “a lack of suitable technology in education,” he says, “especially for the most underprivileged students around the world.”

They founded the for-profit social enterprise LumenEd—a battery-powered smart projector with a video camera and an Internet connection that provides educational content to classrooms.

Part of LumenEd’s vision is its Pen Pal program. Last year Mr. Harboe recruited second-grade teacher Lisa Harrison, who taught him in 1999–2000, to be one of several teachers around the country to pilot the program. This year every second-grade class at Lab is participating.

LumenEd pairs up students in the United States and India—Ms. Harrison partners with third-graders in New Delhi—and each class creates three- to four-minute videos. The students generate ideas, like describing American Halloween and the Indian festival of Dussehra, and LumenEd plans to conduct pilots in Ghana, Haiti, and Senegal.

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In the Halls

Julie Lythcott-Haines

Photo Credit: Scott Smith
Rhodes Scholar

Isaac Stanley-Becker, ’12, wins prestigious scholarship

Among the 32 American students awarded a 2016 Rhodes Scholarship is Isaac M. Stanley-Becker, ’12, who moved with his family to Washington, DC, after he attended Lab through his freshman year of high school. According to Yale University, where he is a senior majoring in history, “He is writing his senior essay on industrial transformation and civil disobedience in the port city of New London, Connecticut. Isaac is an award-winning journalist and a passionate historian of modern urban society. He served as Editor in Chief of the Yale Daily News and interned at the Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Isaac also founded the Hillhouse High Journalism Project to teach journalism to New Haven public high school students.”

At Oxford, he intends to complete an MPhil in economic and social history. “The award provides all expenses for two or three years of study at the University of Oxford in England to those students who best exemplify “academic achievement, integrity of character, a spirit of unselfishness, and leadership potential.”

Mr. Stanley-Becker follows a path heen by Chesa Boudin, ’99, who also attended Yale and who received a Rhodes scholarship in 2003. At Oxford, Mr. Boudin earned two master’s degrees, one in forced migration and the other in public policy in Latin America. He graduated from Yale Law School in 2011. Other Lab Rhodes Scholars include: Ben Heineman, Jr., ’61; Andrew Rosenheim, ’74; and Mr. Heinemans niece, Jessica Heineman-Pieper, ’88.

Global Social Leaders

Isaac M. Stanley-Becker, ’99

Global Social Leaders course, a program Wellington hosts for 16- and 17-year-olds from different countries to exchange ideas and plan projects to make a positive impact in their local communities.

“...it’s a chance for them to have a little window into what it’s like to be 16 in Kenya or Delhi or Amman.”

For two weeks this past August, juniors Sarah Markovitz and Ajay Choprah joined around 50 other students from around the world to discuss the definition of leadership, contemplate their social responsibilities, and meet leaders of organizations that develop programming for public good.

The opportunity came about after Lab Director Robin Appleby traveled to Wellington last spring to represent Lab as part of the G20 Schools’ annual conference, which brings together prestigious high schools from around the world. “When I go to these conferences, I try to bring back something concrete for the kids,” says Ms. Appleby. In this case it was the Global Social Leaders course, a program Wellington hosts for 16- and 17-year-olds from different countries to exchange ideas and plan projects to make a positive impact in their local communities.

“The Social Global Leaders course at England’s Wellington College “really opened their eyes to the reality of kids their same age from around the world,” says U-High Assistant Principal Sarah Markovitz. “They’re in this beautiful dormitory setting with their peers from other countries. It’s a chance for them to have a little window into what it’s like to be 16 in Kenya or Delhi or Amman.”

At the end of the two weeks, the students gave presentations about ideas they could take back to their home cities. Sarah focused on mental health issues and self esteem, while Ajay intended to put together a fundraiser for cancer awareness.

Alumni awarded

Susan Landau Axelrod, ’70

Distinguished Alumni/ Alumni Award

Ms. Axelrod is founding chair of CURE (Citizens United Research in Epilepsy). In the early 80s, Ms. Axelrod’s daughter was diagnosed with epilepsy and in 1998 Ms. Axelrod, and others, frustrated by their inability to protect their children from the severe impact of uncontrollable seizures and intolerable side effects of epilepsy medications, joined forces to spearhead the search for a cure.

CURE has catalyzed the epilepsy research community to accelerate their efforts, and has become the largest private funder of epilepsy research globally. Ms. Axelrod travels broadly to raise awareness and funds to support the organization’s cutting-edge research programs.

She has served on the NIH’s National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council and as a consumer reviewer for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program within the Department of Defense. In 2014, she was elected to the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, where she advises the President of the United States and Secretary of Health and Human Services on a broad range of topics that impact people with intellectual disabilities.

Debra Gitler, ’98

Rising Star Professional Achievement Award

Ms. Gitler is the founder/director of Contextos, an educational NGO established in El Salvador and the United States. Contextos’ mission is to transform the educational experience so that students go beyond rote, mechanical learning to develop authentic literacy skills such as deep thinking, interpretation, analysis, and creativity.

She received her MEd from Harvard. Previously, she worked as the coordinator and lead author of El Salvador’s national teacher training strategy in the area of literacy, and has taught in Honduras and the South Bronx to see the play at Court Theater. They have followed the live performance model ever since.

Neurological Disorders and the NIH’s National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council and as a consumer reviewer for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program within the Department of Defense. In 2014, she was elected to the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, where she advises the President of the United States and Secretary of Health and Human Services on a broad range of topics that impact people with intellectual disabilities.

Through dedication and meritorious accomplishments. Lab’s highest honor celebrates the accomplishments of exceptional alumni whose professional achievements, personal lives, public or civic service, philanthropic or volunteer endeavors enhance society through dedication and meritorious accomplishments. The opportunity came...
Culture shift

Lab and Lab families host dozens of international students every year

Every year, Lab hosts nearly 50 international students who come to stay with Lab families and bring a bit of the world to our hallways. Students from China, France, Germany, or a Spanish-speaking country come to Lab during the school year and during summer, Lab students may travel to the homes of some of our international guests.

The international students often take time to visit the Lower School classrooms where, say Diane Jackson, World Languages chair, the younger students are excited to meet “young, native speakers” of the languages they study. The exchange students especially enjoy celebrating holidays with younger American students—Valentine’s Day, Halloween, or the German fall lantern festival, St. Martin’s Day.

During their travels, the American students attend school with exchange partners, in addition to exploring their temporary countries. For students who visit China, for instance, “the teachers really roll out the red carpet, organizing an array of sightseeing and cultural experiences within Beijing,” says Diane Jackson. Lab’s Chinese instructors also set up side trips to Shijian, Shanghai, and Hangzhou. “It’s an amazing visit.”

While certain trips are mainstays, the Spanish program rotates between Spain, Central America, or South America, and the language department is always looking to expand opportunities to Lab students’ global reach.

Recent French teachers, for instance, are considering an exchange program with Martinique. No matter where Lab students travel, Ms. Jackson says, “the most exciting part for us as language teachers is that these kids get an opportunity to use in real life what they’ve worked on so hard in the classroom.”

Off the grid, but far from quiet

Mr. Drogos has kept an illustrated journal of the plants and animals he’s found on the land, improvements he’s made, and other lessons he and Ms. Crawford have learned. They know where and when to spot deer and owls. They make wine from the apples in the orchard, and they bring a few back to Lab to share with students. They gather edible wild mushrooms and strawberries. They found that bergamot, a fragrant herb, grew in the burned-over areas, and they wonder about making cologne with it.

And though he frequently uses the word “weird” to describe his activities, they exemplify experiential learning. For example, he spent a snow day last year preparing a European mount of a deer skull he’d found on the land. This process involved boiling the skull gently for five or six hours before wearing it with hair bleached. This fall he was finishing a total reconstruction of the deck around the house, which he learned to do mostly by trial and error, with a little help from some old how-to books he’d found at his parents’ house. Using the lumber from the old deck, he built a sort of earthwork pyramid with different plants on each level.

In this isolated environment with no cell service, Internet, or television, where the nearest neighbor is about a half mile away and “you might have three cars drive by over the course of a day,” Mr. Drogos is never bored. “Every day, you think, ‘what are we going to do today?’”

In the four years that Mr. Drogos has owned the house and its surrounding 20 acres of land, it has become an ecological project, an informal art studio, an occasional larder, and a place to learn and play.
In mid-October more than 450 alumni and guests returned for Alumni Weekend, which included school tours, discussion groups, a reception with former faculty, an alumni awards breakfast, and an outdoor family-fun program.

“Alumni are as essential to Lab’s future as they have been to its past,” says Director Robin Appleby, noting that this year six classes—four of which celebrated five-year milestone reunions—established class scholarships.

Says Jeremiah Stevens, Lab’s director of alumni relations, “Class scholarships work because they create a rallying point for a group of closely connected peers. United, they are making a real difference in the life of a current Labbie and future alum.”

>> To find out more about your class scholarship or how to start one, please contact Jeremiah Stevens at 773-702-9988 or JSTEVENS@UCLS.UCHICAGO.EDU.
New place
New programs
The new Gordon Parks Arts Hall ignites creativity

by Catherine Braendel, ’81

For the first time in Lab’s history, the Schools have spaces specifically designed for the arts. The Gordon Parks Arts Hall allows Lab to strengthen its programs in theater, music, and the visual arts. With Middle and High School theaters, music and art studios, rehearsal spaces, kilns, and costume and scene shops, Lab will be able to expand its arts offerings. Filmmaking, for example, is now being offered, thanks to a dedicated digital media lab.
Music is more than just notes on a page; it permeates everything that makes me who I am. The feeling I get when I make music with a group motivates me to strive for greatness. With access to the new space, we can work as an ensemble to better ourselves, unfettered by space or time constraints or meeting with our teacher.

—Max Kramer, U-Higher, drummer

Our students are so excited about the space that we used it as the subject matter of our architectural drawings this fall in eighth grade art. They love the angles, the light, the shadows. These new spaces align with Lab’s emphasis on “learning by doing,” allowing students to experience the artistic process in greater complexity as they create their work.

—Art Department Chair Gina Alicea

Music is a humanizing entity, which by breaking boundaries unifies us in a joined experience. The more technique I build, the more ways I have to express the music. The Hall will facilitate more productive rehearsals with updated technology and architecture.

—Will Kent, U-Higher, singer, trombonist
The Middle School drama studio is now a multi-functional space. We have a traditional black curtain, so we can unveil actors on a beautiful set and take the audience by surprise. We can also stage performances in less traditional ways using the whole studio space. That’s exciting!

— Audre Baudrys-Nakas, Middle School drama teacher

The scale invites us to work larger. The windows and soaring ceilings invite the outside in and inspire us to engage the outside in art making. Our building’s namesake reminds us that we, as artists, have a role in shaping how the world is perceived and that we have something to say about what we see happening in the world. By creating such a space for our young artists, we are telling them that we value what they do and want them to create and grow.

— Art teacher Sunny Neater
An October weekend of events celebrated the new artistic opportunities that the Gordon Parks Arts Hall is creating for Lab students, the philanthropy that made the project possible, and the inspiring legacy of the building’s namesake, filmmaker Gordon Parks.

At the request of filmmaker George Lucas and financial executive Mellody Hobson, his wife, the building is named in honor of Parks, the American photographer, writer, film director, musician, and social justice advocate. The celebration continued on Saturday with a street fair and open house for Lab families, faculty, staff, and alumni. The day included a panel discussion among representatives from the Parks Foundation and members of Parks’ family, and a conversation between film industry leader Sherry Lansing, ’82, and New York Times journalist and Lab parent Monica Davey, ’82. Looking back on her experience at the Schools, Ms. Lansing remembered Lab as a tolerant and inclusive community that taught her the value of humanity.

An exhibit of some of Parks’ most iconic images, loaned to Lab by the Gordon Parks Foundation, served as the inaugural art exhibition in the Hall’s Corvus Gallery. Gordon Parks’ former wife, Genevieve (Gene) Young, daughter Leslie Parks (both with the Gordon Parks Foundation) and moderator and author Paul Roth.
Seaworthy

Beach combing, whale watching, and fresh-caught tuna. U-High students take a working vacation at the Marine Biological Laboratory.

by Sean Carr, AB’90
something about this high school science lab seems … different. The students—smart, resourceful, self-directed—are clearly Labbies. But there are no test tubes or frogs in sight. Instead the students are gathered around a small squid, and in lieu of the standard biology lab implements, one student has rigged up a connection between the squid and his smartphone. As the Black Keys’ “Lonely Boy” thunders from the phone’s speakers, the squid’s chromatophores—pigmented, light-emitting cells that aid in camouflage—flash red. When the lighting starts to fade, the student dials up the Black Eyed Peas’ “Boom Boom Pow”—all low-end bass—and the red returns with a vengeance. Also值得一提的是，“Boy” thrums from the phone’s speakers, the smartphone. As the Black Keys’ “Lonely lab implements, one student has rigged up

The advantages for the Laboratory Schools wasn’t as obvious, except to Mr. Calleri and Ms. Housinger. In the fall of 2014 the pair teamed with Lab Manager for University and Community Partnerships Alexzandria Wallace to identify areas for collaborative program development between MBL and Laboratory School students of every age. Together they successfully submitted a proposal to the University’s Office of the Executive Vice President and secured funding to support one year of pilot projects, including the very first summer field experience. In January 2015 they announced the trip and invited students to apply.

It was, says Ms. Housinger, “pretty rigorous screening on our part”—two essays and teacher recommendations, for a start—“to select kids whom we knew were both academically and personally able to handle a pretty intense experience without us having to push them or hold their hands.”

Owen Lasko, now a junior, says, “Biology has always been my thing”; a ninth-grade class with Mr. Calleri took that interest to a new level. “It’s kind of fascinating to see how everything is so vital to how the entire organism works, even if it’s just a tiny cell in one part of your body.” So he leapt at the chance to go to the MBL. Other students selected for the trip were more interested in physics or had a technological bent. “We even took a student who’s got more of an art interest,” says Mr. Calleri, “but it’s an art interest with a deep respect for science.”

That would be Maeve Potter. Her passion is filmmaking, but both of her parents are physicians, and her grandmother spent time at the MBL as a neurobiology researcher. “If you walk into a room at my family reunion and say ‘Dr. Potter,’ everyone will turn their head,” says Maeve, now a senior. She also notes that “some of the best and most inspiring teachers I’ve had in my time at Lab” have been in the sciences.

As an added bonus, her grandparents have a home in Woods Hole, where Maeve has spent part of each summer since she was little. So she volunteered her services as an informal tour guide. As it turned out, dinner at Maeve’s grandparents’ home was the Lab group’s first stop in Woods Hole, even before they dropped off their bags in the MBL dorm. “We had a typical meal for us: seafood and Lebanese food,” says Maeve. “My grandma is Lebanese,” she adds to clarify. They had caught the tuna earlier that day.

The students were obvious: access to the unique benefits for UChicago’s faculty and the MBL affiliated in July 2013, and inaugurating what many hope will become an annual Lab tradition.

Owen Lasko
Maeve Potter

For his part, Owen thinks the trip should become an annual opportunity for students. “I couldn’t imagine a better trip honestly,” he says. “We all learned so much and we had a great group dynamic, and Ms. Housinger and Mr. Calleri were amazing. It just really worked on every level.”

Ms. Housinger agrees. “They have this awesome education at Lab,” she says. “They’re really primed for an experience like this, and it’s nice to be able to offer them something in high school that really is a kind of capstone.”

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In living color

Amanda Williams, ’92, creates community dialogue through art

by Susie Allen
The walls of artist Amanda Williams’s Bridgeport studio look like something between a design studio, a gallery, and the paint section of a Home Depot. Tacked up alongside miniature cardboard houses and various sketches and studies are color samples and paint swatches in bright pinks, yellows, reds, and oranges. These are the remnants of Color(ed) Theory, a project that made Ms. Williams quieting around the city for her visual talents in architecture. Architecture Biennial. Over 18 months, Ms. Williams quietly traveled around Chicago, painting abandoned houses set to be torn down by the city. She created work that, like Color(ed) Theory, explores questions of race and place. Her Mapping series consists of laser-cut maps superimposing the city grids of Paris and Englewood. Up close, the maps look a bit like lace. Although she walked away from a traditional architecture career, that training continues to shape her work, with an emphasis on buildings and neighborhoods. She has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Architecture at the California College of the Arts and Illinois Institute of Technology. Her architectural education also has shaped how she relates to an audience. As an architect, “you’re trained to intake information, assess what the person is, wants, or needs, translate and offer,” Ms. Williams explains. “That’s very different from the way artists imagine their role; contemporary art suggests that artists have the right to present their ideas however they see fit, the audience is often made to feel stupid if they can’t understand why salt is being poured on the floor, or whatever.”

Bringing “different words” together
In picking the houses she planned to paint for Color(ed) Theory, Ms. Williams says she was drawn to “the iconic house shape”: one-story buildings with gabled roofs, the way children draw houses. It was also important to find properties that were genuinely abandoned. If she drove by a property slated for demolition and saw frequent activity, she moved on. She came to the first house in June 2014, with a skeleton crew of family and friends, with the goal of painting a new property every one or two months. Initial reactions from neighbors ranged from confusion (one man asked if she was creating a haunted house for Halloween) to gratitude that the crew mowed the lawns. Some neighbors felt embarrassed by the media attention that Color(ed) Theory brought to problems in Englewood. Others simply saw it as an eyesore.

“COLOR(ED) THEORY WAS ME TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF MY AGENCY USING PAINT, COLOR, RACE, SPACE AS TOOLS, JUST ME QUESTIONING THAT OUT LOUD, VERY LOUDLY.”

The colors themselves provoked strong reactions. For the final installment of the project, Flamin’ Red Hots, Ms. Williams had some 70 people join her in painting a now-demolished house at 5705 S. Lafayette Avenue including her former Lab classmates, Monica Horton ’91, Jennifer Wendell Benton ’92, and O’Darie Weathers ’93. A group of local teens engaged in a spirited debate about whether the paint should match the bright orange hue of the bag or the rusty red of the snack itself. (Ms. Williams settled on orange, to distinguish it from the Harold’s Chicken Shack Red house she had painted earlier.) Ms. Williams was initially so focused on reaction to Color(ed) Theory from inside the community that she didn’t realize how much outside attention the project would ultimately gain. A December 2014 article in the Chicago Sun-Times, as well as grants from the Arts Foundation, were the start of a steady trickle of publicity and notice from the art and design world; being selected for the Chicago Architecture Biennial this past April put the project in an international spotlight. Since then, viewers across the city. Speaking just a few weeks before painting the final house, Ms. Williams admits she was prepared for dialogue with and criticism from Englewood community residents, but she did not expect an onslaught of attention and acclaim from the contemporary art world.

“My initial intention was that the neighborhood was the audience—not even the whole city,” she explains, “and definitely not the architectural community or the art world.”

Although she is reluctant to be labeled an activist—“she’s quick to point out that there are community groups like the Anti-Eviction Campaign and Grow Greater Englewood working on the South Side every day, “and then me doing my odd art thing”—Ms. Williams says political and social questions were at the fore in the making of Color(ed) Theory. What is the psychological trauma of watching homes in your neighborhood fall into disrepair? How do we space value? How can a city let whole parts of itself fall into entropy? Are there small ways individuals can make a big impact upon their communities? “Even though it was very public in terms of its physical expression, [Color(ed) Theory] was very private,” says Ms. Williams. “It was me trying to make sense of my agency using paint, color, race, space as tools—just me questioning that out loud, very loudly.”

From architect to artist
Ms. Williams has made sense of the world through art for as long as she can remember. Growing up, she gravitated toward drawing; she grasped information more easily through images than words. Art classes were “an easy A,” she recalls. At Cornell University, she found a home for her visual talents in architecture. Her degree led her to the San Francisco Bay Area, where she worked for six-and-a-half years at firms including McCull Design Group and SOM before deciding to pursue painting full time.

Although she knew it was the right decision, “that was one of the hardest days ever, when I had my business card that said ‘Architect,’ and then to have to rip those up and hand out a card that said ‘Artist.’” People reacted quite differently to her new career. “The disdain for artists is second only to serial killers,” Ms. Williams jokes. In the 13 years she’s been pursuing art full time, Ms. Williams has exhibited her art throughout the country and locally, including shows at the Hyde Park Art Center, the National Museum of Mexican Art, and Gallery 400 at the University of Illinois at Chicago. In addition to abstract painting, she has created work that, like Color(ed) Theory, explores questions of race and place. Her Mapping series consists of laser-cut maps superimposing the city grids of Paris and Englewood. Up close, the maps look a bit like lace. Although she walked away from a traditional architecture career, that training continues to shape her work, with an emphasis on buildings and neighborhoods. She has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Architecture at the California College of the Arts and Illinois Institute of Technology. Her architectural education also has shaped how she relates to an audience. As an architect, “you’re trained to intake information, assess what the person is, wants, or needs, translate and offer,” Ms. Williams explains. “That’s very different from the way artists imagine their role; contemporary art suggests that artists have the right to present their ideas however they see fit, the audience is often made to feel stupid if they can’t understand why salt is being poured on the floor, or whatever.”

Bringing “different words” together
In picking the houses she planned to paint for Color(ed) Theory, Ms. Williams says she was drawn to “the iconic house shape”: one-story buildings with gabled roofs, the way children draw houses. It was also important to find properties that were genuinely abandoned. If she drove by a property slated for demolition and saw frequent activity, she moved on.
Ms. Williams has spoken regularly about Color(ed) Theory to art and architecture audiences around the city. Through Color(ed) Theory, Ms. Williams has intersected with many communities: architects and urban designers, residents and activists in Englewood, art patrons. Moving effortlessly between different worlds is a skill she has always been adept at, she says, growing up in Auburn-Gresham and attending Lab.

Ms. Williams and her brother, Anthony Williams, ’98, attended Lab from kindergarten onward. To both of them, it was “very clear, very quickly” that their neighborhood and their school “were different worlds,” she says, “and that we operated differently in these different worlds—and that both of these worlds were important.”

Now that she’s done painting houses for Color(ed) Theory Ms. Williams is busy in her studio plotting next steps. While she can’t share specifics yet, she knows it will involve paint and what she describes as “a new color obsession—gold”. It’s daunting, she says, now with many more eyes and the weight of expectation on her. But public interest in her work has given her a platform, she says, an opportunity to create art that can generate meaningful conversation.

Later this year, she’ll participate in a public art exhibition debuting in June, in Chicago called in the beginning, i left messages in the street. Calls to participate in other exhibitions and projects are coming in at a rate that is both a bit overwhelming and thrilling. As Ms. Williams puts it, “Never a dull moment.”
In a word
Allan Metcalf, ‘57

The accidental pianist
Paula Fan, ‘69

Changing the culture of youth sports
Tai Duncan, ‘00

Jumping high—and bringing others with her
Jax Chaudhry, ‘07

Forensic linguist Allan Metcalf, ‘57, doesn’t hesitate to tell you his favorite word: “OK.” It’s simple, versatile, omnipresent, and has a fascinating history: “It’s the world’s greatest word,” says Mr. Metcalf, an English professor at MacMurray College. “It’s the only word I know of that has spread to so many other languages, and because of the way we use it, with gesture and inflection, someone who speaks a different language can understand it.”

The author of OK: The Improbable Story of America’s Greatest Word, Mr. Metcalf has written seven books on American English, most recently From Sketchpad to Selfie: Words of the Generations, published by OUP in November.

For his latest effort, he asked students in his College English courses what “their” words are. They overwhelmingly claimed “OK.”

“That was a surprise,” Mr. Metcalf says. “We had that word around for a long time. It hadn’t occurred to me they considered one of their words.” He adds, “Unexpected discoveries like this are bonuses. Each word has its own interesting story.”

Even words like “OK” can be used to give people like him face the challenge of figuring out how to communicate what they want to say, especially when it involves tight deadlines. Since 2011 he has posted weekly to Lingua Franca, a blog of the Chronicle of Higher Education—on language topics from “Word of the Year” to bias-free language.

The latter is the tentative topic of his upcoming eighth book, focused on political correctness and language norms. He says that people who have an intuitive understanding of the way we use it, with gesture and inflection, someone who speaks a different language can understand it.

Metcalf predicts which new words will become permanent. He’s got his money on “selfie.”

Mr. Metcalf, who is executive secretary of the American Dialect Society, has for the past 14 years taken to predicting which new words will become permanent parts of our vocabulary. “Beak rape”? “Ground Zero”? “Shakelee,” “she-eo,” and “booners” don’t count on them. (He explains why in his 2002 book Predicting New Words: The Secrets of Their Success.)

“Certain characteristics of words make them more or less likely to last. Most important is that it’s a word that doesn’t look new,” says Mr. Metcalf. “It should camouflage itself so that it looks like it already belongs.”

Today he’s got his money on “selfie.”

Pianist Paula Fan, ‘69, never planned to be a musician. Yet her first memory is of moving her fingers while listening to the radio and she came home from her Arkansas kindergarten to report that a woman who played piano for her class “wasn’t very good.”

What I am is the result of Lab says Ms. Fan, who attended Lab from second grade through her sophomore year in high school, when, in 1967, her family moved to Tucson. At Lab, she says, “I learned to think independently, was inspired by great teaching, and was encouraged to pursue original ideas.”

Ms. Fan, who taught at the University of Arizona School of Music for 40 years and has been principal keyboard with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra for 31, thought she’d teach math. But her musical lab at U of A left an indelible mark: exploring Humor in Music with Mr. Triner, Minimalism and Musical Happenings with Mr. Hey, and fiddling in love with Mozart Lieder thanks to Mrs. Goetting.

Miserable at school after her family moved to Tucson, she auditioned to play for the Lab choirmaster team and was chosen. Eventually, the choirmaster team and her piano teacher, petitioning for Mr. Hey, left an indelible mark in music for one semester. “It’s been a real ‘Jungle Gym’ joke’s Ms. Fan.

In addition to his performances with the symphony, she tours every year playing in music festivals across the world. She has recorded more than 20 albums and has a regular radio show on BBC, NPR, Radio Television China, and others. She has interviewed famous people. Her credits as a pianist-partner include teaming up with German-American violinist Steven Moeckel, Welsh baritone Jeremy Huw Williams, and the late British clarinetist John Denman—who she married in 1982.

In 1980 she joined members of Beijing’s Philharmonic Orchestra for the first concert of Western chamber music since China’s Cultural Revolution. Previously she had been assistant attorney for Earthwatch and has a cat rescue 17 felines strong.

“One plays an instrument, and that is the operative word for me. I play—and still play—for fun, although I approach what I do seriously,” she says. “However, I can walk away and not play the instrument for months. It’s probably a healthy thing.”

Tai Duncan’s career has been far from linear. The executive director of the Chicago chapter of Positive Coaching Alliance, a national youth sports nonprofit, Ms. Duncan, ‘00, is also a coach of Rockford Basketball Academy. Previously she worked as an attorney for the City of Chicago and for John W. Rogers, Jr., ’76, at Ariel Investment. In her current role, the CEO, “I think most people are a professional work in progress,” says Ms. Duncan, who earned her coaching chops as Lab’s head varsity girls’ basketball coach from 2009–2014. “My career has looked more like a jungle gym than a ladder.”

Growing up, she found the people who had the most interesting jobs also had a legal background in common, including David Feldman, her Middle School social studies teacher and basketball coach at Lab. “He showed me the law of a degree outside of traditional practices,” says Ms. Duncan.

While law is her professional backbone, she now dedicates herself to the mission of changing the culture of youth sports. By concentrating on better building as much as skills improvement, both Positive Coaching Alliance and Rock Basketball Academy work to turn the tide away from a focus purely on winning.

Instead they cultivate sports’ potential to provide personal growth opportunities such as leadership, accountability, teamwork, and learning from mistakes.

“I still get together with some of the girls I coached at Lab,” says she. “I love hearing that they think fondly of their time on the basketball team and have used so much of what they learned through sports to help them be successful in college and beyond.”

In addition to volunteering on the boards of directors of the Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation, BIG Baseball Academy, and the LookingGlass Theatre Company junior board, Ms. Duncan was on the planning committee to celebrate her 15th U-High reunion. She enjoyed supporting the school.

When Jax Chaudhry, ’07, was a student at Lab, she remembers seeing a University of Chicago student wearing a nerdy T-shirt that read: “I’m not an outlier, I haven’t found my distribution yet.” Thanks to Rosa McCullagh’s AP Statistics class, she understood it. And so she applied to be an African American student from a low-income background and a single-parent home, which was totally what I am,” says Ms. Duncan.

When Chaudhry was on the planning board of the Lookingglass Theatre Company and the Lookingglass Theatre Company and lab’s board of directors, she decided to be an outlier. Ms. Chaudhry had posted weekly at Teach for America, the looking into the mission of changing the culture of youth sports. By concentrating on better building as much as skills improvement, both Positive Coaching Alliance and Rock Basketball Academy work to turn the tide away from a focus purely on winning.

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Chaudhry joined High Jump, a Chicago academic enrichment program for middle school students who have exhibited academic potential and who are of limited economic means. Lab has a partnership with High Jump and recently doubled the space it provides so that

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that has meant so much to her over the past 30 years, she looks forward to cochairing Connections, Lab’s annual gala fundraiser, in March.

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Connections 2016
Lab’s Gala Fundraiser
Celebrating Lab’s 120th Anniversary

Saturday, March 12, 2016
6 p.m.
The Geraghty, Chicago

Alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends are invited at Lab’s 120th celebration bash. Toast Lab’s founding by John Dewey in January 1896.

Cocktail-style seating, food stations, a DJ and dancing, student performances

All proceeds will support student financial aid.

For information or to RSVP call 773-702-0578 or email connections@ucls.uchicago.edu