



# THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LABORATORY SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT 2013

**Strength in numbers**





This year, the Lab community joined in an exercise to simplify and focus the Schools' mission statement (one of the many long-overdue renovations at hand). Every teacher and staff member had a chance to participate, as did many parents, alumni, and students—even those littlest learners who don't know (or much care) what a mission statement even is.

While the words may have changed, the ideas have not.

Each offered ideas: what makes Lab a wonderful place to teach and to learn? What about Lab should be preserved at all cost?

Knowing that ours is a community of varied voices and independent thinkers, with enthusiasm—and a little relief given the potential complexity of the task—our community found its way to agree upon these 38 words. It's a testament to the fact that Lab has stayed true to the central ideas that have anchored this institution for the past 117 years:

- > That education should start with the child;
- > That a child's ideas have value and that student and teacher learn from one another;
- > That learning by doing and being part of a democratic society make learning that much richer and more meaningful;
- > That school should ignite curiosity and develop problem-solving, thinking, and communications skills that can transcend any one discipline.

So while it's easy to see the physical changes to the Schools, spend even a little time listening, watching, or participating, and it's just as easy to see how much has stayed the same.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

# 38 words

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

1896



1 building, 32 students, 2.5 teachers, 1 manual training instructor, 3 graduate student assistants, 9:1 student/teacher ratio



7 buildings, 1,837 students, 239 faculty, 85 staff, 8:1 student/teacher ratio

2013

# From the Director and Board Chair

This year is of special significance for each of us—John enters his final term as Lab’s board chair, having served in leadership roles at the Schools for more than 20 years. And David will retire at the end of this school year after an 11-year tenure—one of the longest for a director of Schools.

So it is with real emotion that we witness so much of what we have worked for coming to life.

With the help of passionate, involved, and knowledgeable teachers, staff, parents, and alumni (not to mention the outside advisors who offered insights), Lab has opened what may be the most innovative early childhood education facility in our country. Earl Shapiro Hall is a building filled with teachers and students who together continue to create one of the most dynamic early childhood education experiences in the United States. It was thrilling to see our children come to school on the first day, and it continues to be thrilling as we see how this community of learners

**1** thing we take away from our work at Lab will be this: a community that is so filled with mutual respect, that shares a love of learning, and that supports one another with such deep-rooted kindness can accomplish anything.

discovers all the ways to take advantage of this new environment.

We would be remiss if we were not to once again extend our collective thanks to the Shapiro family for their generosity and personal interest in making this venture a reality. We hope, and believe, that Earl would have been proud of all that has transpired.

On our Historic Campus, changes are moving as planned to enhance the environment for all of our students in grades three through 12. Blaine Hall renovations are well underway, and the single-story portion of Belfield Hall has come down as the Schools ready to start work on the much-anticipated new Arts Hall.

All of these changes are designed to support our mission to ignite and nurture an enduring spirit of scholarship, curiosity, creativity, and confidence in every child. The mere fact that we can say that so succinctly is a testament to another expression of

community and caring that took place at Lab this year.

When we set out to include virtually every teacher and staff member—as well as parents, alumni, and even students—in the crafting of a clearer, more focused mission statement, we knew that it seemed an impossible task to gain consensus. But when you have a group of people who are so clearly focused on the students, and when you have a school with such a clear sense of shared purpose and history, it turns out to be a highly attainable goal.

We are each tasked with caring about specific aspects of the Lab experience, and we each bring our own set of diverse experiences to our work. That diversity benefits us all: despite differing ideas we are still able to find commonality. It is a very Lab process to blend difference and community, to challenge while seeking to make ourselves, our school, and our world better.

In our collective years here we have played many roles—administrator, student, leader,



May we all be able to recreate what we have at Lab in other areas of our lives. Thank you all for allowing the two of us to be a part of something this special.

With our warmest regards and appreciation, and on behalf of everyone at Lab, we thank you for your investment in this outstanding institution.

David W. Magill, EdD  
Director

John W. Rogers, Jr., '76  
Chair, Board of Directors

parent, alumnus, chair—and we have seen just how much kindness makes a community that is this complex and this diverse function so beautifully. If we take one thing away from our work at Lab, it will be this: a community that is so filled with mutual respect, that shares a love of learning, and that supports one another with such deep-rooted kindness can accomplish anything.



# Early Childhood Education



112

Caterpillars ordered for the kindergarten butterfly unit

“The new building is beautiful—filled with light, color, and open spaces. I think being surrounded by the beauty of the space with easy access to the outdoors and the park will enhance the joy and warmth that are at the core of our teaching.

Our early childhood program is built on the child's passion for exploring, creating, and engaging—a view of the learner so well articulated by John Dewey. This new building expresses our commitment to the wonder of learning, the power of community, and the importance of aesthetics.”

— N/K Principal Carla Young

The Lab+ Campaign has allowed us to create an innovative new Early Childhood Campus that complements the outstanding program for which Lab is famous. Earl Shapiro Hall is tailored for Lab's youngest learners, seamlessly connects indoor and outdoor spaces, and is designed to maximize a child's independence.



Items planted: **48** deciduous trees, **16** evergreen trees, **61** shrubs, and almost **30,000** ground cover, vine, and perennial plants

**729** students for the 2013–14 school year



**20** tiny toilets

**30** homerooms, **2** music rooms, **2** art rooms, **1** Extended Day room, **1** nurse's office, **20** workspaces, conference rooms, administrative, and learning and counseling offices



0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34 . . .

EARL SHAPIRO HALL INTERIOR SPACE

**130,601** FT.<sup>2</sup>



EARL SHAPIRO HALL OUTDOOR SPACE

**46,700** FT.<sup>2</sup>



**6** outdoor play spaces and Jackson Park

The Fibonacci Sequence which inspired architectural patterns found in ESH

size of chairs purchased for ESH: 12" | 14" | 16" | 18"

14" | 16" | 18"

16" | 18"

18"

18"



Oldest camera owned by Lab:  a 100-year-old 8x10 format

4 art studios (all with north light)  
seats in the new community  
assembly hall

700

ART MATERIALS BOUGHT BY ONE  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ART TEACHER



80 stretched  
canvasses



80 floppy  
canvasses



200+ paintbrushes\*

(\*more than should be necessary, but getting kids to clean brushes properly is a tall order)

100+ theater lighting instruments

From music to painting, from drama to photography, the Lab+ Campaign will allow the Schools to build spaces dedicated to the arts that match the creativity and talent of our students and teachers.

Though the Schools have produced alumni with distinguished artistic careers—among them the late Alvin Ailey School of Dance director Denise Jefferson, '61; former Paramount Pictures CEO Sherry Lansing, '62; and composer Ned Rorem, '40—not one space currently used for the arts was originally created with that purpose in mind.

Through the new Arts Hall, students will be able to develop their skills at the highest possible level, learn to draw inspiration from their surroundings, and have the opportunity to stretch their horizons—and perhaps discover a passion or a new interest.

1 of each: drama studio; black box theater; orchestra, band, choir, jazz band, electronic and general music rooms; recording studio; kiln room; music library

94,167  
Arts Hall sq. ft.



“In thinking of the new Arts Hall, it's not a case of, ‘Oh, the things we could do!’ but more like, ‘Oh, thank goodness for the space to embrace the things we are already doing!’ I've had the pleasure of watching students in our music department grow up to—and beyond—the boundaries of space, staffing, and schedules. It will be a pleasure to have our vibrant, talented kids work in a vibrant and appropriately-equipped new home”

—Katy Sinclair, music teacher



1

number of organs owned by Lab

35

gallons of paint used each year for theater sets



glockenspiels owned by Lab: 2

# Infrastructure and Preservation of the Historic Campus

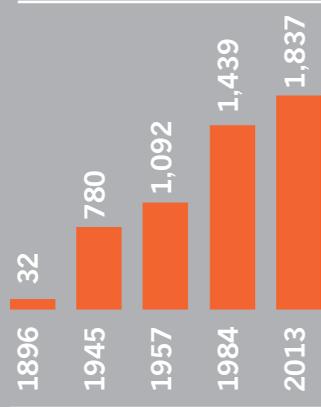
3,500

moving boxes and still counting

Lab+ will allow us to update our historic buildings to meet 21st-century learning standards. Simple but critical improvements, like modernized heating and cooling systems, will address basic infrastructure needs and complement the creation of new spaces, including community gathering areas—grand and intimate—and additional science and computer labs. Throughout the campus, we will ensure that technology is brought into daily classroom life in the most appropriate and beneficial ways.



Enrollment Trends



8



new/  
remodeled  
Lower and  
Middle  
School  
science  
labs



“The basis of Lab+ is not flashy new facilities or growth for growth’s sake. It is about ensuring that the Laboratory Schools continue to deliver the best-in-class education they have always been known for and about ensuring that our students and faculty have the resources they need to fulfill the Schools’ mission. These renovations and enhancements have been long-awaited and I am thrilled to have been part of the team of people who helped make it happen.”

—Director David W. Magill

Air conditioning available in an additional **200,000** sq. ft. of space so that for the first time, all of Blaine, Belfield Towers, and Judd will be fully temperature-controlled



**38,000** additional square feet of space when last floors of Judd Hall are finally turned over to Lab.

8 new/remodeled High School science labs

BUILDINGS AND THE YEARS THEY WERE BUILT



**1903**  
Blaine Hall



**1904**  
Belfield Hall



**1929**  
Sunny Gym



**1960**  
High School



**1993**  
Middle School



**2000**  
Kovler Gym



**2013**  
Earl Shapiro Hall



**coming soon**  
Arts Hall

6



Lab gargoyles—they support the limestone benches in Kovler.

# Scholarship, Financial Aid, and Professional Development

205

(11%) of students received some type of financial aid or scholarship support

The heart of the Laboratory Schools has always been the tremendously talented people who inhabit it. The Lab+ Campaign will help keep that community vibrant by ensuring that financial considerations do not get in the way of attracting the best and brightest students to our Schools. And faculty will remain energized, inspired, and innovative through a professional development program that starts with the individual teacher and emphasizes collaboration to help ideas spread throughout the divisions.



“Scholarship benefits everyone and enriches lives, not just those of the deserving students who receive the aid, but all who are affected by their presence. The child is blessed to be educated, and the entire community is blessed to have educated members. I am very happy to support scholarship students at Lab.”

—Sarita Warshawsky, Lab scholarship supporter and mother of Ilene Warshawsky Shaw '66, AM'75, and Carol Warshawsky, '69, AM'75

13 class scholar ships: 1953 1954 1962 1977 1978 2005 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013



**100%**  
OF FACULTY PARTICIPATING IN SOME TYPE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



“We try to practice what we preach and follow the learner’s path of inquiry. So, in Lab’s professional development program, the teachers themselves get to decide what they want to do and the program goes where they go.”

—Jason Lopez, associate director—educational programs



MR. AND MRS. JOHN Y. SCAMMON

1898 first year parents supported Lab financially

75

endowed scholarships

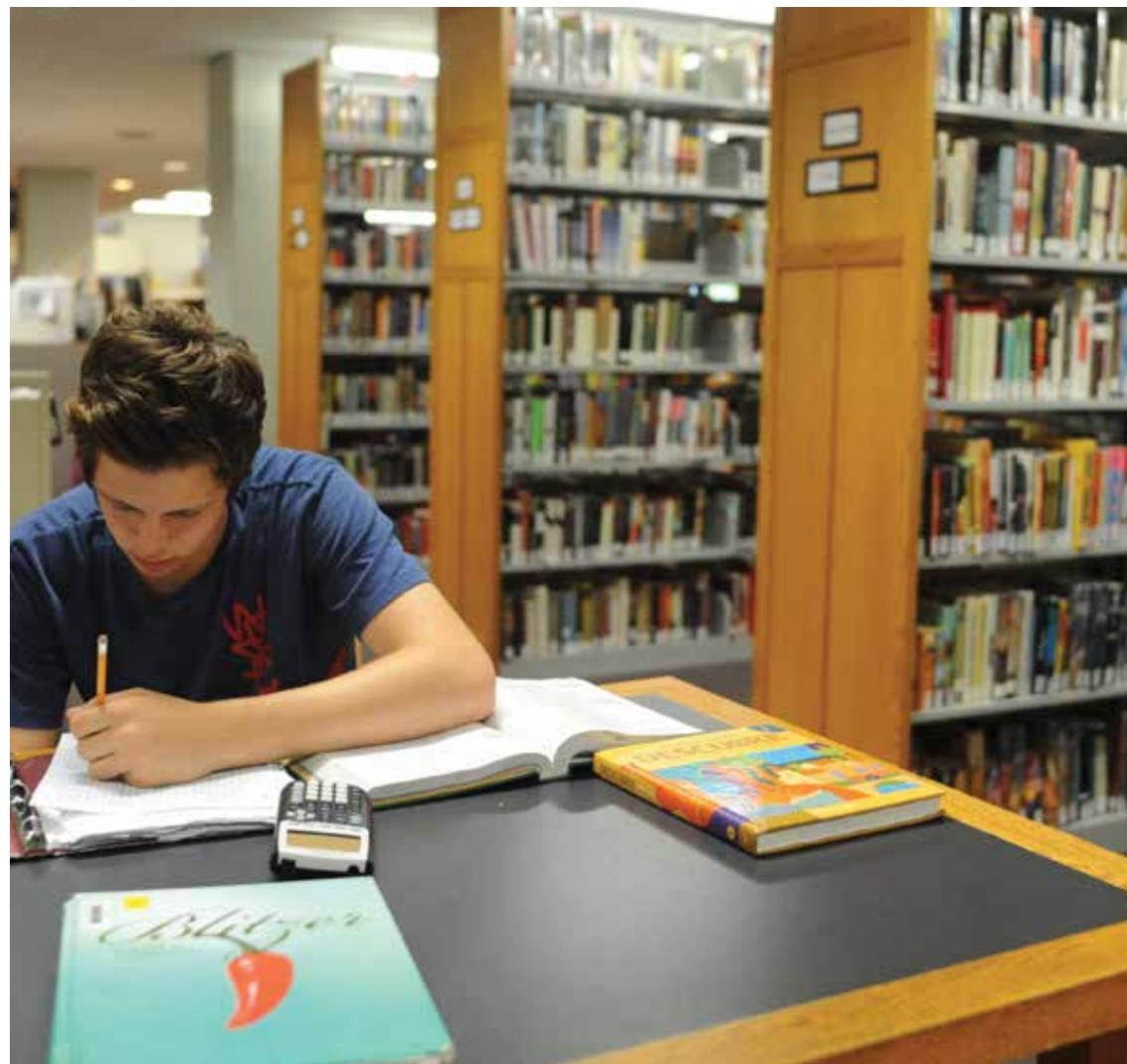
faculty attending a conference last year: 109

# Libraries

**Dramatically expanding the footprint and number of libraries is one way Lab+ will guarantee teachers and students the resources and spaces they need for one of the best educational experiences in the country.**

With the library at Earl Shapiro Hall for grades N-2, Blaine Library will be expanded and used exclusively by the Lower School. Also, as part of Lab's Historic Campus renovation, Judd 207, which was once the University of Chicago School of Education library, will be restored to its original purpose when it is renovated and expanded to become the new U-High library. The Middle School will have unique use of Rowley Library.

**items in Rowley Library: 52,035**



**Titles about pigs:  Rowley, 57; Blaine, 362**

**items in Blaine Library: 46,748**

Book most often replaced:  *Catcher in the Rye*

**oldest book dated  
1896**

NUMBER OF BLAINE LIBRARY BOOKS GETTING MOVED TO ESH:

**15,000**



NUMBER THAT NEEDED TO GET LOOKED AT BY HAND TO MAKE THE CHOICE:

**ALL OF THEM**

**# of patrons with borrowing privileges:  
Blaine 2,605 | Rowley 2,339**



**10**

**in Rowley  
comfy chairs**



**“There is an expansiveness to the library program at Lab—libraries have incredible value here.**

The support for the libraries has very deep roots, and we are very well funded so we can do the kind of programs that other librarians only dream of. The storytelling program and the Zena Sutherland Award are just some of the things that would be impossible without that support. And just think: the Sutherland Award is generated by only our students and has grown throughout the years to have an international profile.”

—Middle School Librarian Cynthia Oakes

**1954:**  
year Blaine librarians started to record every story ever told as part of the Blaine storytelling curriculum



Rowley section from which most books are checked out:

**history**

## Parents' Association President's Report

## Parents' Association Governing Board

As of October 1, 2013

## Alumni Association Executive Board

As of October 1, 2013

What a pleasure and honor it is to reflect on the 2012–13 school year and the opportunity we had to serve as co-presidents of the Parents' Association (PA), the first time in the PA's history that the position has been shared (which it will be again in 2013–14).

It was a year of exciting opportunities for the PA, given the dynamism of the Laboratory Schools—faculty, staff, parents, children, and facilities all combined. Thanks to an incredible PA board, and stellar councils, we welcomed three new principals this year, revised the PA bylaws to incorporate Earl Shapiro Hall and expand that council to ensure greatest support for the increased number of families joining the community, and immensely enjoyed participating in the crafting of the new Lab mission statement.

Once again, the speaker series again served as a cornerstone of the PA's mission to enhance, through education and engagement, the parental experience of the Schools. We were pleased that the speakers (Michael Gurian, Larry Rosen, Rosetta Lee, Lara Field, and Scott Hunter) all had an opportunity to speak not only with parents, but teachers and students, as well. With topics ranging from perspectives on reliance, nutrition, and diversity to

technology and learning and the intricacies of brain functioning, we hope that the series provided information and insight to the Lab community.

The Lab community's strength and cohesion was evident this past year with several parental affinity groups, including the Diversity Committee, which sponsored an engaging discussion as part of the PA's book club and reading series, and also sponsored one of the highlights of this year's PA speaker series: Rosetta Lee.

We thank the many parents and students who planned and volunteered at several incredible events this past year, including Bizaarnival, Rites of May, and grade-level events. All of these community-building events were creative and fun.

Finally, we welcomed spring along with new families. The PA's involvement with the transition to Earl Shapiro Hall leaves us greatly excited about the year ahead. Thanks to all for the year of collaboration, trust, and joy.

Fondly and gratefully,

Christie Henry and Barbara Kern  
Parents' Association co-presidents  
2012–13

**Tracy Coe**  
**Lynn Sasamoto, '79, AB'83**  
Presidents

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President-elect

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Program Coordinator

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**Laura Lichter, MBA'89**  
**Debra Weiner**  
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Co-chairs

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**Mariana Ingersoll**  
**Safi Runesha**  
**Cheryl Whitaker**  
Middle School Council  
Co-chairs

**Patricia Jones**  
**Tina Louie**  
**Cindy Marchessault**  
**Audris Wong**  
Lower School Council  
Co-chairs

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**Peter Rogers**  
**Sara Skelly**  
**Triste Lieteau Smith, JD'97**  
**Christine Sterkel**  
Earl Shapiro Hall Council  
Co-chairs

**Erica Castle Davidovic, '85,**  
**President**  
Director  
Merck & Co., Inc.

**Kenneth Ebie, '97, Vice President**  
Campaign Manager  
Ken Thompson for Brooklyn DA

**Tai Duncan, '00, Secretary**  
Attorney, Director & Corporate Liaison  
Ariel Investments, LLC

**Jennifer Aliber, '76**  
Principal  
Shepley Bulfinch

**Benjamin Breyer, '95**  
Assistant Professor in Residence  
University of San Francisco  
School of Medicine

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**Alyson Cooke, '81**  
Majority Counsel  
Environment and Public Works  
Committee  
United States Senate

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Court Television

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Illinois General Assembly

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Assistant Deputy Director,  
Service Delivery  
Illinois Department of  
Employment Security

**Anjali Fedson Hack, '85, AB'88, AM'90, MD'99, PhD'99**  
Assistant Professor, Department  
of Anesthesiology  
Albert Einstein College of  
Medicine  
Jack D. Weiler Hospital

## Alumni Association Executive Board

As of October 1, 2013



Erica Castle Davidovic, '85, and Ginger Wilson, '85, at the Alumni Association Launch Party

## Laboratory Schools Board of Directors

As of October 1, 2013



Chase Chavin, '97, at the Alumni Association Launch Party

## Laboratory Schools Administrators

As of October 1, 2013



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Vanderbilt Children's Hospital

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Technology CEO Council

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Cofan Survival Fund

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Common Sense Media

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Marakon Associates

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Frederick Wildman & Sons

**Eric Larson, '06**  
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## LAB'S MISSION

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

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