



Only Connect

The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools
Annual Report 2015

we spark creativity

we nurture scholarship

When we connect

we inspire confidence

we create lifelong learners

we ignite curiosity

More than a century ago, John Dewey imagined an ideal society and learning community. He started to bring that vision to life here at Lab and it is in our human connection that we provide the sure footing for its success.

Whether between student and teacher, between parent and school, between school and the world, these connections, to one another and our broader community, allow Lab to continue to be its best.



Lab's growth and new (and renovated) spaces have inspired, reshaped, or made possible new approaches and expanded programs.



From the Director and Board Chair

Dear Lab

The past decade has been one of the most dynamic in Lab's history. During this time we have watched the new blend beautifully with the old, an idea clearly manifest by the vista that is the new Gordon Parks Arts Hall, Belfield Tower (circa 1904), and Judd Hall (1931). Traditional and modern resonate; past and future are right here before us. The sight is amazing: a long awaited addition to the facilities that support Lab's teaching and learning.

More importantly, Lab's growth and new (and renovated) spaces have inspired, reshaped, or made possible new approaches

and expanded programs. These activities have brought our divisions and students together around projects and activities that benefit our learning community. They connect us in new ways and allow us to see the world, problems, challenges, and opportunities through new lenses.

Gordon Parks made a life looking through a lens, and the career he started with a camera ultimately allowed him to explore the world and humankind through a multitude of media: film, music, poetry, fiction, autobiography. It is our hope that every one of our students will be able to use his or her experience at Lab to find his or her own voice and

ways of understanding the world. In doing so our graduates will continue to create, problem-solve, learn, and yes, connect, to the issues of our society, to the ideas of the world, and to the hearts of others.

You are among the many who have helped to make this year a success. Without the support of our families, alumni, and friends, Lab would not be able to do so much for our students. We offer a special thank you to John W. Rogers, Jr., '76, who stepped down in June as Lab's board chair. John has devoted years of his life to Lab and the University in many capacities. He loves this school and has done much to enhance Lab's athletics program,

academic life, and physical plant. He leaves a truly remarkable legacy. A school he describes as "magical" is more so because of him.

We look forward to sharing the successes of our students, faculty, and community with you in this next year.

Warmest regards,

Robin Appleby
Robin Appleby
Director

David H. Kistenbroker
David Kistenbroker
Chair, Board of Directors



Ways We Connect:

Big to Little

Adults at Lab never underestimate the knowledge that each child brings to class. That mutual respect cultivates a confidence in the learner that allows him or her to question and challenge and create.



The Buddy Program pairs children in different grades (some across campuses, others down the stairs.) Little children love to see their big buddies and older students have the chance to model problem-solving and leadership.



Primary School classes placed QR codes alongside poems on the walls of Earl Shapiro Hall so that their pre-reader peers could listen, via iPad, to the poems being read aloud



Ways We Connect:

Child to Child

At every age, Lab encourages students to learn from and support one another, an idea that inspired architects to ensure that Lab's new spaces reflect design that encourages the large collaborations and everyday interactions that fuel scholarship, creativity, and discovery.



Snack time might be about refueling but it is also one of the ways children learn independence (serving themselves a glass of juice) and interdependence (sharing and conversing over a meal.)



During a Phys Ed exercise, Middle Schoolers guide one another through an obstacle course, which in addition to teaching balance requires students to communicate and trust.



Ways We Connect:

Being part of a larger community helps children find their place and voice in the world. In age-appropriate ways the Schools bring to life Dewey's ideals of the individual in a democratic society.

Kids to Community



A first-ever All Community Health Fair brought families, faculty, staff, and UChicago and other organizations together. Kids practiced CPR (using manikins of all sizes), explored models of the human heart, or raced stationary bikes.



Before classes start, Freshmen head out for a two-day retreat which helps students (both new to Lab and lifers) create a new sense of identity as a class.... and make new friends. Retreats each year after emphasize connection and community.



Ways We Connect:

Pre-K to Prof

It's important and exciting when University faculty and educators visit classrooms and share an expertise. And it's just lovely to see how the questions a child might ask can, conversely, ignite a sense of wonder in even the most accomplished adult.



U-Highers and students from the University of Chicago Charter Schools shared an evening seminar on juvenile justice taught by Professor Emily Buss. Expanding partnerships add depth to the Lab experience and a gift from the Lim family will support additional such opportunities with the Urban Education Institute.



Environmental Science students worked with Northwestern University professor Shelby Hatch exploring environmental/ social justice issues with relation to contamination in minority neighborhoods. The students collected soil samples around the city, and brought them back to her lab to test for lead.



Ways We Connect:

Lab's commitment to diversity in all of its expressions has been and continues to be one of the foundations of a Lab education and allows our students to see the world in all of its complexity. Our students, the youngest members of the University of Chicago academic community, graduate prepared to make a difference.

Lab to the World

World-changing alumni

Charlotte Koh, '91, Head of Features and Series, GoPro

Ned Rorem, '40, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer

Dr. Diane Meier, '69, palliative care pioneer and MacArthur "genius" award winner

Janet Rowley, '42, PHB'45, SB'46, MD'48, winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Lasker Award, and the National Medal of Science

Linda Johnson Rice, '75, chairman of Johnson Publishing, which owns *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines, as well as Fashion Fair Cosmetics

Garrick Utley, '56, the first NBC reporter to cover the Vietnam war from Saigon

Illinois State Representative Barbara Flynn Currie, '58, AB'68, AM'73

Graham Moore, '99, Academy Award-winning screenwriter of *The Imitation Game* and author

Former Connecticut congresswoman Nancy Johnson, '51, the first Republican woman on the House Ways and Means Committee

Sherry Lansing, '62, former chairman of Paramount Pictures and first woman president of a major Hollywood studio

W. Kamau Bell, '90, comedian

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, '37, AB'41 (also a Presidential Medal of Freedom winner)

Christopher Wool, '72, one of the most important abstract painters of his generation

Denise Jefferson, '61, former director of the school of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

John W. Rogers, Jr., '76, founder and chief executive officer of Ariel Capital Investments, one of the nation's top black-owned businesses

Daniel Clowes, '79, Eisner Award-winning cartoonist and Academy Award-nominated screenwriter

Annie DeGroot, '73, MD'83, pioneer in using computer modeling to create vaccines to fight disease

Monica Davey, '82, Chicago Bureau Chief, *The New York Times*

Thank you to the wonderful Parents' Association (PA) board and exceptional council members at each division who worked tirelessly to further our mission:

to promote educational excellence by fostering a spirit of community through the facilitation of communication and cooperation among the Laboratory Schools' parents, administration, faculty, students, and board of directors, and to assist in the implementation of school activities.

The PA helped to welcome the hundreds of families new to the Lab community by organizing orientations and receptions and providing mentor families.

The Association's Speaker Series continued to be a major focus of our efforts to provide parents with informative and innovative topics. This year we welcomed several prominent thinkers:

> UChicago Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives and Department of Psychology Professor Sian Beilock spoke about the relation between the body and the brain. She is also the author of the noted book, *Choke: What the Secrets of the Brain Reveal About Getting It Right When You Have To*

> William Deresiewicz, author of *Excellent Sheep, The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life*, talked about American education and the importance of a meaningful life. He spoke to parents and also conducted a morning U-High assembly.

> Ted Gonder of MoneyThink spoke about the 21st century new forms of capital, and he spoke to parents as well as to U-High students at a PA-sponsored lunch.

Finally, everyone extends our appreciation to the hundreds of parent and student volunteers. Without your help, long standing events like Bizaarnival and Rites of May would not be possible.

Regards,

Cheryl Rudbeck
Parents' Association President
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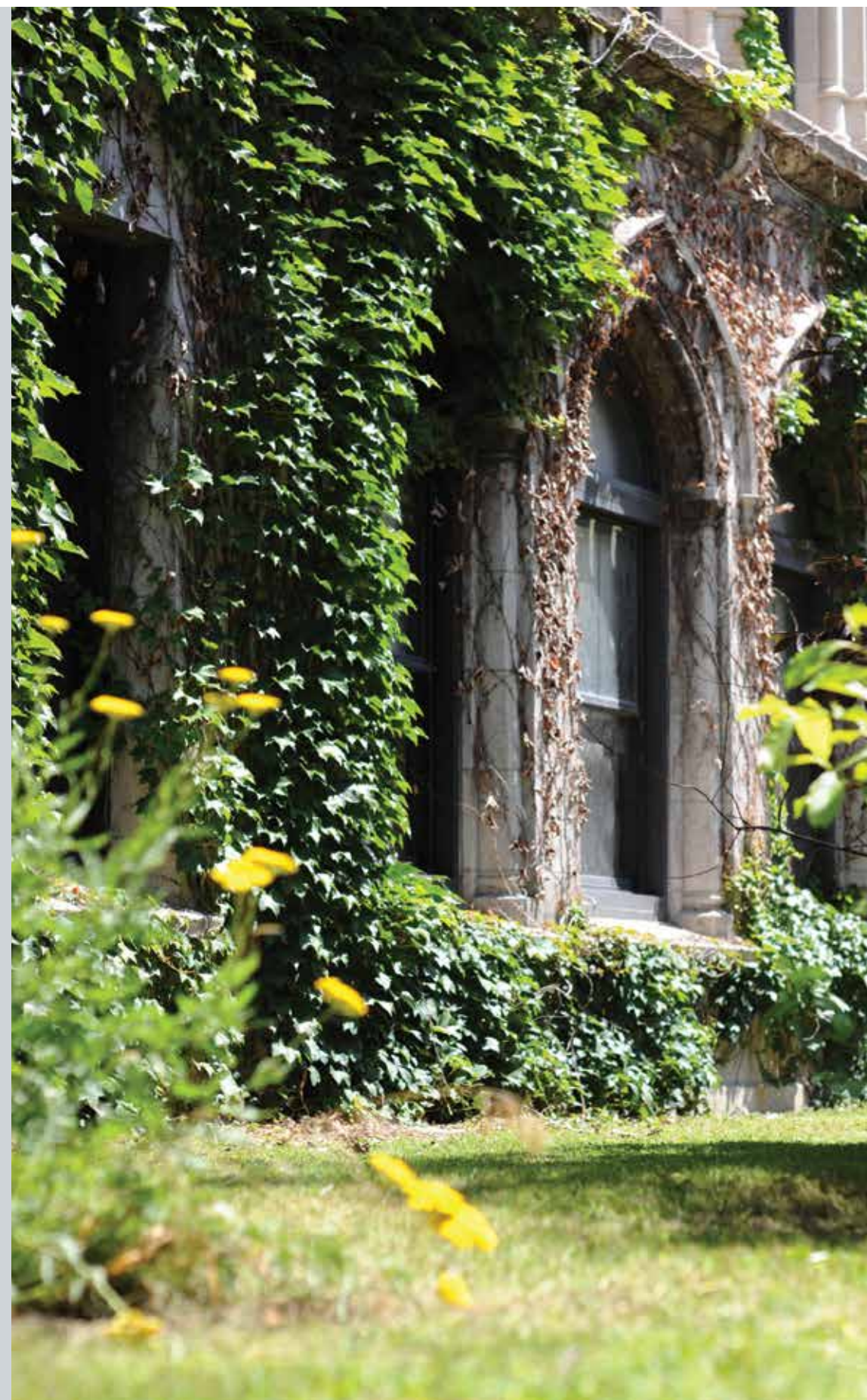
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Lab's Mission

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.