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.
Dear Lab community

Leading Lab is a privilege, a deeply rewarding one that allows us to partner with all those who give their time and energy to our school to achieve its mission. This year we have seen our professionals, students, families, and alumni collaborate on existing programs and activities. This work has unfolded into four key areas:

Inventing Lab 2.0—holding on to the ideas upon which John and Alice Dewey founded our school: being experimental, interdisciplinary, and democratic.

> We have invested in freedomspace—the people and training to help us make the best use of these spaces—so that across every grade, students can take hold of ideas and problems, freely.

> We sent Lab and UChicago Charter School students, faculty, and staff on study tours of China where they traveled the path that Dewey followed on his two-year trip that began in 1919. The transfers revised Dewey’s teachings and connected to a new culture and to one another.

> Two all-school activities were introduced and embraced: a public contest for new Lab traditions. We hold our first ever All School Sing which brought together more than 2,000 students, teachers, and staff to see just what we look like (and sound like) as a whole school—maybe a first ever!

> At the end of the school year, our senior class paraded through the Historic Campus where former teachers and younger students lined the halls. The school “shucked off” the senior class, choosing and congratulating the soon-to-be graduates.

> Alumni Weekend 2017 returned to campus for the Class of 2018 Senior parents founded Connections 2018 staff, alumni—attended on the Road. We brought the Smart Museum to Lab through a creative partnership that helped add visitor revenue to an artistic event. Our Corsair Gallery hosted a satellite exhibit of Welcome Wristlet, a participatory project created by area, design, and Pusanlly Project co-founder Jonya Zwizman.

> Supporting All Students—we recognize, and must continually address, the complex intersections between issues of affordability, access, opportunity, to learn, and inclusivity.

> Fundraising: Critical support from alumni is critical to sustaining and enhancing the Lab experience.

We are deeply proud that Lab has been able to expand its financial aid budget by over 20 percent so that outstanding students are able to join Lab regardless of financial resources. We have more to do, but the participation in Connections this year symbolized that our community values having economic diversity in our school.

> The Schools took a broader approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion by creating eight new extra-curricular positions focused on these areas. These new DEI Liasons support school-wide diversity priorities and programs through collaboration with the Diversity Advisory Council, an student task-force drawn from a wide cross-section of community stakeholders, including students.

> This coming year promises to be exciting. Together we will continue our focus on their offers as we plan for the future. Led by our external strategy partners, Lab can create a long-term strategic framework that will benefit our students as they face an increasingly global and changing world. This fall, we will continue the “inquiry phase” through surveys and input sessions with Lab faculty, students, parents, and staff. This phase will culminate in a creative and auspicious multi-day Deeps Shop (involving about 60 people across stakeholder groups) to sharpen our focus and clarify our thinking and vision.

Lastly, please join us in thanking the Lab Board members who recently completed their service to the Schools for all of their work and commitment: Hannah Goldberg, Peggy Liu, Michael Markoff, and Andy Neill. Please also welcome our newest board members: John Han, Alexander Lurye, Sunhee Mullangi, and Mango Wollfe-Donnelly.

> We are excited for all the ways our community will contribute to the work at Lab. Your full partnership is why Lab succeeds. We are deeply proud that Lab has developed into a creative partnership that helped add visitor revenue to an artistic event.

> Lab educators worked with UChicago experts to think more holistically about how we introduce computational thinking skills across our curriculum in developmentally appropriate ways.

> The school “clapped out” the senior class as of June 30, 2018

Dear Lab community

Fostering Community, Coherence, Cility—we are a large and highly diverse community but we are one school and we must be intentional as we work to build that shared sensibility.

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> At the end of the school year, our senior class paraded through the Historic Campus where former teachers and younger students lined the halls. The school “shucked off” the senior class, choosing and congratulating the soon-to-be graduates.

Connecting to the University and City—fully leveraging our role at the University and connecting to our city allows unparalleled opportunities for our school community to both learn and serve.

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Warmest regards,

Charles Abelmann Lab Board Chair

2017-18 Financials and Fundraising

Operating Statement as of June 30, 2018

REVENUES
Tuition & Fees.................................$65,251,241
Auxiliary Programs .........................$ 4,554,247
Gifts..................................................$9,059,644
Restricted Gifts/Current Use ...............$987,575
Total Gifts ...........................................$10,037,219
Endowment Payout .............................$1,134,596
Other Income .....................................$657,818
TOTAL REVENUES ..........................$8,915,121

EXPENSES
Instruction Personnel .......................$37,175,933
Other Personnel ...............................$9,001,395
Benefits ..........................................$9,553,581
Total Personnel ..................................$45,730,909
Instruction ........................................$2,090,163
Operations & Maintenance ...............$7,488,057
Ethics ..............................................$2,692,861
Auxiliary Program .........................$1,396,279
Capital Related ...............................$7,999,387
University Assessments .................$6,393,134
All Other Expenses .........................$2,070,829
Total Non-Personnel ..........................$32,130,700
TOTAL EXPENSES ............................$77,861,609
Addition to Capital Reserves ..............$3,653,512
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) ....................$0

Development Report as of June 30, 2018

Unrestricted Gifts .........................$972,093
Financial Aid and Scholarships ..........$15,013,956
Capital and Naming Gifts .................$6,015,628
Programmatic Support .................$1,780,579
Arts, Athletics and Planned Gifts .......$11,902
Other Restricted .............................$17,386
TOTAL PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT .........$12,428,701

“Lab offers an incredible educational experience and we can look to our history to help explain how that no other school can lay claim to being the Dewey school,” says Mr. Abelmann. “We have a legacy in John and Alice Dewey’s efforts that can, and should, underpin everything we do. Time and again, our generous community helps shine a spotlight on that legacy and those values. In doing so, they help Lab stay true to what makes a Lab education not just unique but life-changing.”

—DIRECTOR CHARLIE ABELMANN

Development Highlights

> Lab’s financial aid budget increased by 20%

> Connections 2018 helped raise more than $3.4 million to support the revitalization of Jackman Field and to help build upon Lab’s commitment to financial aid

> Alumni are stewarding 27 class scholarships

> On a terrace overlooking NYC, Lab kicked off a new replacement series: Lab on the Road

> 66% of parents made a contribution to Lab

> Approximately 800 people—parents, faculty, staff, alumni—attended Connections 2018

> Senior parents founded the Class of 2018 Scholarship Fund with more than $25,000,000

> Nearly 400 alumni returned to campus for Alumni Weekend 2017

> Alumni participation in giving continued an upward trend hitting 13%
Philanthropy and volunteerism at work

Donors help shape Lab 2.0

As Lab looks to prepare students for an increasingly complex world, honoring Dewey’s core beliefs guides the way: Education should be interdisciplinary, hands-on, and help students develop into adults who can participate meaningfully in a global democratic society. Newly built and beautifully outfitted maker spaces allow students to touch, build, tinker, shape, and play through projects that naturally integrate math, science, art, physics—and delight. Further afield, a special contribution made possible study tours in China for a dozen Lab faculty and staff, and students from both Lab and the UChicago Charter school. The students, who followed the same path taken by Lab founder John Dewey in 1919, are working on a documentary film of their experiences. It will be shown at a May 2019 colloquium honoring the 100th anniversary of Dewey’s two-year trip to China. The Centennial Colloquium, Dewey Then and Now, is funded in part by the same gift.

Philanthropy fosters community, coherence, civility

Lab is a big school and it is one school. That mindset inspired new school traditions and brought our community together. Connections, Lab’s annual gala fundraiser brought hundreds of people together in support of financial aid and to help make possible the newly revitalized Jackman field.

Professional development, supported by Lab’s Parent and Alumni Funds, fosters collaboration among our educators and enhances the student experience. For example, a group of N-5 teachers attended the Harvard Graduate School of Education Project Zero Institute to consider the requirements of a powerful learning experience in the 21st century. In Project Zero classroom, teachers are also learners who model intellectual curiosity and rigor, interdisciplinary and collaborative inquiry, and sensitivity to the ethical and aesthetic dimensions of learning.

Deepening Lab’s connections to the university and city

In celebrating a life, alumni help support all students

The gift of time

Parents’ Association

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.

Highlights of the Parents’ Association activities include:

▶ Welcoming new families through the mentor program, summer parties, and parent orientation events
▶ Supporting parents through PA-sponsored meetings and workshops, Renaissance Week and other settings, and the Voluntary Fee, which encourages all to get involved
▶ Bringing together more than 1,400 faculty, students, and staff at the annual Rise of May festival
▶ Awarding $16,000+ in faculty and student grants which made possible projects ranging from Katz’s Daffy visiting U-High, visual artist Tittel Ottil’s joint project with grade 8 and EU Mock Council and various club and program opportunities across the grades and interest areas
▶ Partnering with the Schools on student events, athletic spirit and booster activities, graduation celebrations, and more
▶ Honoring teachers with faculty appreciation luncheons

Hosting prominent thinkers through the PA Speaker Series

▶ Devorah Hartman, author of Somos: Oilying Kiddo, Desire, (and Survival) In Their Digital World
▶ Lisa Miller, renowned scientist and author of The Spiritual Child: The New Science of Parenting, Health and Lifelong Thriving

Lab’s connection to the University of Chicago offers unparalleled opportunities for our students—timely special access to the Smart Museum and Oriental Institute to classroom visits by parents who are UChicago experts. Over recent years, an advantageous alliance between Lab and the UChicago Charter Schools has deepened. The vision and generosity of Vistria Group and Yung Bong Lim brought greater intentionality to how the schools work together. This year, students from both high schools participated in a seminar on the rights of minors taught by Law Professor Emily Bins and UChicago Law students. Throughout the year, Charter School families are invited to lectures, concerts, and other special events at Lab, and an ongoing collaboration has developed between our third grades.

Issues of affordability, inclusivity, access, and opportunity to learn are at the heart of Lab. To honor the life of Zeke Upshaw, his family and friends created the Zeke Upshaw, ‘09 Memorial Fund to provide financial support to talented and highly-motivated students whose financial situation might otherwise prevent them from attending Lab. Zeke, who graduated from the Ariel Community Academy before coming to U-High as a John W. Rogers, Jr. ’76, a trustee of the University of Chicago, pledged to match all donations to the newly established fund, up to $100,000. With donations from more than 100 alumni, parents and friends of Zeke, the fund stands at $120,000. In addition, Visita Group (of which Lab parent Marty Helvick is co-CEO) committed $40,000, in each of the next four years, to allow the fund to begin supporting students as soon as 2019.

Two days later. He was only 26 years old.

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Finances and fundraising at Lab: frequently asked questions

How is Lab funded?

Lab’s annual budget is funded by the following sources:

- Endowment payout
- Pre-based programs
- Annual philanthropy
- Tuition & fees-other

Frequently asked questions

- How is Lab funded?
- Why does Lab have a fundraising program?
- What is the scope of Lab’s fundraising program?
- How does Lab’s financial aid program work?
- What is the largest portion of Lab’s budget?
- What are the goals of Lab’s financial aid program?
- How much financial aid does Lab provide annually?
- What would a substantially larger endowment do for Lab?

Lab’s annual budget is funded by the following sources:

- Endowment payout: 13.6%
- Pre-based programs: 6.7%
- Annual philanthropy: 11.4%
- Tuition & fees-other: 10.3%

Revenues from tuition transfers from the University on behalf of University employees whose children attend Lab.

Frequently asked questions

Finances and fundraising at Lab:

Why does Lab have a fundraising program?

Fundraising at Lab closes a budget gap in annual operations, and funds around 50% of Lab’s financial aid budget. In addition, it allows Lab to meet aspirational goals that would otherwise be impossible to reach.

Generous support from parents, alumni, faculty, and staff allows Lab to offer a first rank educational program without having to rely solely on tuition increases. Furthermore, by connecting passionate philanthropists to programs and projects, fundraising also allows Lab to realize programs that further our vision and mission, and often go above and beyond in creative and meaningful ways.

Without this additional income, Lab would be forced to make difficult choices between tuition levels, financial aid budgets, and programmatic activities.

What is the scope of Lab’s fundraising program?

- Lab’s Alumni Relations and Development Office works with 100+ alumni and parent volunteers to facilitate all major fundraising efforts for the school.
- During the 2017-18 school year 925 (66%) families and 905 (13%) alumni made a gift to the Schools.
- Lab’s participation goals for 2018-19 are
  - Parent participation: 70%
  - Alumni participation: 14%
- Our philanthropy program is comprised of several key elements: Major gifts, Annual Fund

How does Lab’s financial aid program work?

All of Lab’s awards are based on demonstrated financial need. Lab does not give merit-based aid. Approximately 10% of families receive aid—separate from any tuition discount Transfers from Lab’s University employees who send their children to Lab.

1. A scholarship is a formally designated award, usually funded by endowment payout or private gifts, and assigned to a particular student for his or her entire High School career
2. Financial aid awards subsidize family tuition obligations and are awarded for tuition at any grade level

1. Please explain the tuition benefit for University of Chicago employees
2. What would a substantially larger endowment do for Lab?
3. What is the largest portion of Lab’s budget?
4. What are the goals of Lab’s financial aid program?
5. How much financial aid does Lab provide annually?