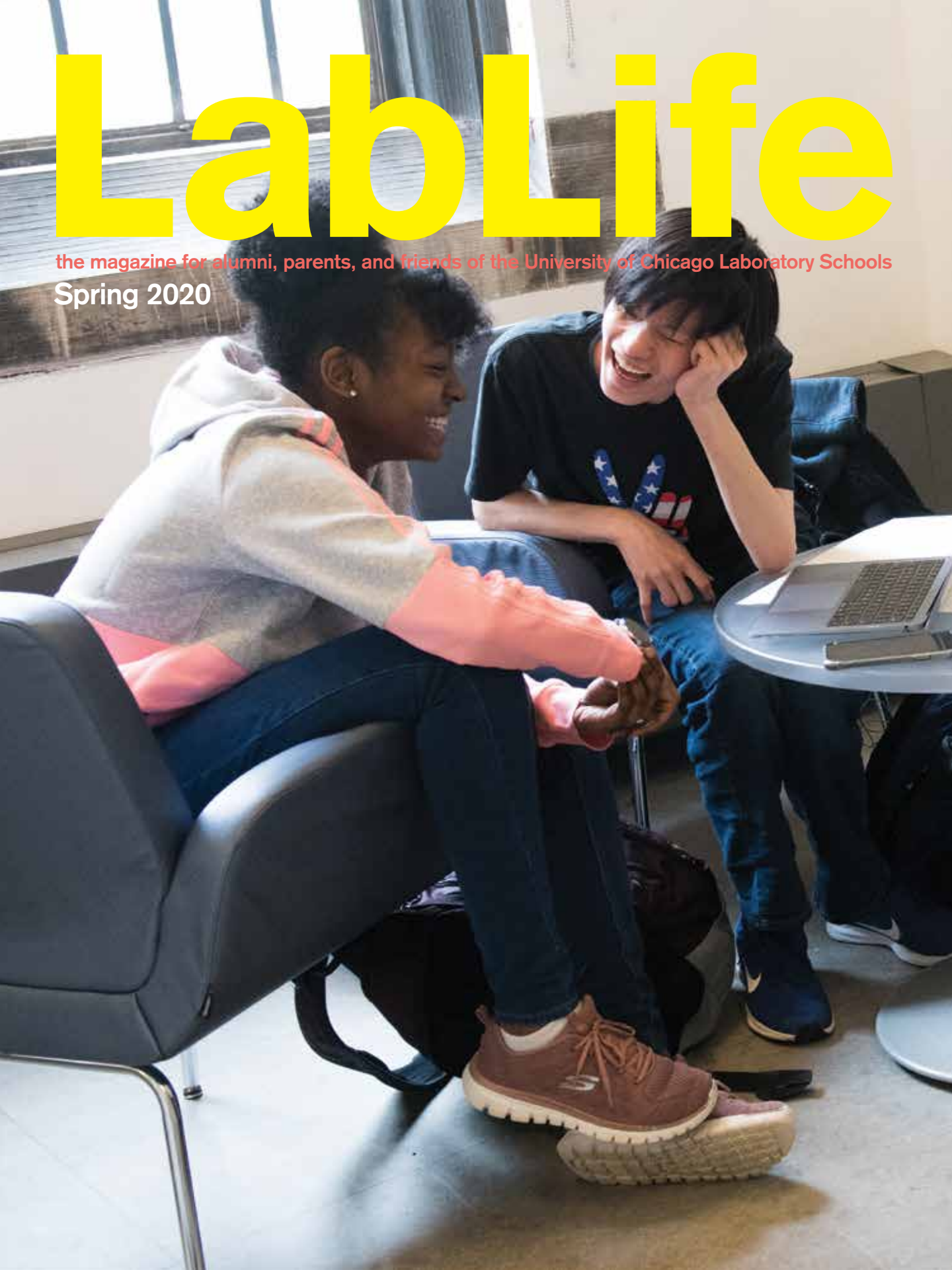


LabLife

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

Spring 2020



LabLife

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FROM DIRECTOR
CHARLIE ABELMANN

Our remote educational journey



I have been deeply impressed by the creativity, energy, and enthusiasm everyone at Lab has shown in preparing for what is a totally new way of connecting, working, and teaching.

Dear Friends,

As this publication went to press, we were only a couple of weeks into a new experience: On March 30, at the end of our normally scheduled spring break, Lab's 2,188 students began their remote educational journey as COVID-19 required people across the world to stay at home. Just as you and your families did—and likely are still doing—we had to make major adjustments.

Our students and faculty, like millions of others across the United States and around the world, are trying to create meaningful education experiences and, just as importantly, foster the human interactions that are so critical to a young person's social/emotional development. That personal connection profoundly shapes what it means to be a community of learners.

As I saw written by one university professor, "None of us asked for this!" But here we are. Together, we can do this. Adjusting to a "new normal" is a phrase we are hearing a lot. As we move to remote learning we are cognizant of the characteristics of Lab that allow us to successfully meet our mission: we are a caring community dedicated to fostering a powerful connection between teacher and learner, home and school.

I have been deeply impressed by the creativity, energy, and enthusiasm everyone at Lab has shown in preparing for what is a totally new way of connecting, working, and teaching. Our teachers have spent hours uploading videos on Seesaw, learning how to use Google Hangouts and Zoom, researching best practices in remote learning, working to flip the classroom experience in useful ways, shaping flexible

lesson plans, and much more. We are committed to being a true lab school, willing to try new things, experiment, collaborate, and create.

We have all been asked to do so much more than we may ever have had to do before. We have been asked to do it more alone than ever before and so have made sure to watch out for one another in many ways. We are deeply concerned about Lab families and employees that may find themselves in a place of serious hardship. Our development team has worked with the University to set up the special Lab Community Response Fund. You may contribute online, ucls.uchicago.edu/giving, or contact Executive Director Alumni Relations and Development Damon Cates, dcates@ucls.uchicago.edu, to learn more.

Lastly, I thought I would share the words of UChicago's very own Dr. Emily Landon,

their chief infectious disease epidemiologist (and a Lab parent). Her explanation of social distancing went viral (pun intended). It seemed worth sharing her wisdom even more widely:

"...it's really hard to feel like you're saving the world when you're watching Netflix on your couch but, if we do this right, nothing happens. Yes. A successful shelter in place means that you will feel like it was all for nothing. And you would be right. Because "nothing" means that nothing happened to your family and that's what we are going for here."

So, thank you for doing your part and may you and your family be healthy and well.

With deepest appreciation,
Charlie H. Abelman
Charlie

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In the Halls

Drawing in 3D with Faheem Majeed

Kids transform found items into art



Most kindergarteners don't tell their parents, "We made art with 8-foot long, multicolored sticks in school today!" But Lab isn't most schools.

For the first half of the 2019–20 school year, artist Faheem Majeed joined Lab as the Kistenbroker Family Artist-in-Residence. Labbies across all grades were invited to share in Majeed's work and vision: to use discarded materials from the surrounding neighborhoods to create art that ponders concepts such as civic-

mindfulness and community involvement.

"The project we did with the multicolored sticks in Earl Shapiro Hall was a community exercise," explains Majeed, who has his own studio practice on the South Side and is an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "I would give the students a prompt, such as, 'Make something I can walk through.' Then they'd have to communicate and work together to make it happen."

"I think of this project as drawing in 3D. Instead of doodling with pencils, they use the sticks."

Majeed's residency kicked off with the unveiling of his exhibition, Re-UNITE, at the Corvus Gallery on October 4. One striking installation is comprised of discarded

plywood—the kind used to board up businesses on the South Side—dyed in various vibrant colors with Kool-Aid.

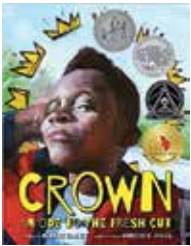
"These [boards] are things that are associated with crime or disinvestment... But actually, the boards are more like a chrysalis in that it means that [buildings] are boarded because there's a value... they're safe-keeping it," he says.

If you missed Majeed's exhibition at the Corvus Gallery, you can catch his Planting and Maintaining a Perennial Garden IV at the Hyde Park Art Center from August 2–November 8.

Labbies across all grades were invited to share in Majeed's work and vision: to use discarded materials from the surrounding neighborhoods to create art that ponders concepts such as civic-mindedness and community involvement.

Recommended reading

Lauren Snelling, N-2 counselor, recommends *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*, by Derrick Barnes



LAUREN SNELLING

As a counselor to the youngest members of our Lab community, I like to expose my kindergartners to books that affirm experiences. *Crown* is that and more.

Author Derrick Barnes comments that his book, “focuses on the humanity, the beautiful, raw, smart, perceptive, assured humanity of black boys/sons/brothers/nephews/grandsons, and how they see themselves when they highly approve of their reflections in the mirror. Deep down inside, they wish that everyone could see what they see: a real life, breathing, compassionate, thoughtful,

brilliant, limitless soul that matters—that desperately matters. We’ve always mattered.”

Crown is a love letter to the black barber shop, a love letter to every black boy out there. It is unapologetic in its beauty and authenticity as it describes the importance of self-care, community, and visibility for black and brown boys/men. *Crown* is a hand-held affirmation full of validation, high expectations, adulation, and care. “You’re a star. A brilliant, blazing star. Not the kind that you’ll find on a sidewalk in Hollywood. Nope. They’re going to have to wear shades when they look up to catch your shine.”

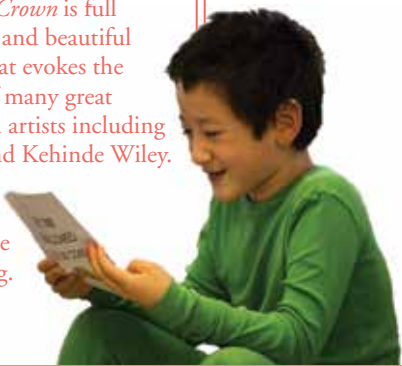
In reading this book you are fully immersed into the culture of the black

barbershop and if you’ve never been, you may need to learn some new terms to fully explore and experience this book the way it deserves to be experienced. *Crown* pushes past historical and unfair stereotypes and forces you to stretch your mind and your perception of what a black boy can be.

As an added bonus to the positivity throughout this book, *Crown* is full of intricate and beautiful imagery, that evokes the presence of many great black visual artists including Basquiat and Kehinde Wiley.

As a whole, this book is pure artistic swag.

Crown is a hand-held affirmation full of validation, high expectations, adulation, and care.



FROM THE SYLLABI

Literature as mirror and window

Lab librarians work to ensure that the Schools’ collections support teacher lesson plans and student work. They also want Lab’s holdings to appeal to a variety of interests and tastes. Says Library Chair Susan Augustine, “We strive to collect quality literature that both reflects the diversity of our student body and opens windows to new experiences.” Here are books from a recent display inspired by author Gabe Bump, ’09, who spoke to students and faculty.



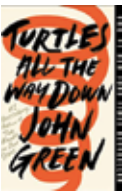
Everywhere You Don't Belong
Gabe Bump, '09



Monday's Not Coming
Tiffany Jackson



Children of Blood and Bone
Tomi Adeyemi



Turtles All the Way Down
John Green



With the Fire on High
Elizabeth Acevedo



Yes, No, Maybe So
Becky Albertali



Almost American Girl: an Illustrated Memoir
Robin Ha



Barely Missing Everything
Matt Mendez



Permanent Record
Mary HK Choi



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
Mark Haddon

In the Halls

Keeping chickens at Lab

At Lab, kids learn by doing. And what’s more hands-on than building a chicken coop?



In the summer of 2018, Lower School teacher Ginger Phillips conducted a Summer Lab program for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders called City Chicks. With reused materials from the Builder’s Exchange of Chicago, and other in-kind donations, they built a chicken coop with the longer-term vision to start a program for raising and maintaining chickens at Lab. With the coop built and approval from the University’s risk management in hand, the program was poised to move to the next stage: keeping chickens at Lab.

“Although the chicken coop existed, implementation had to wait because we didn’t have the funding for infrastructure to sustain the birds or the program,” Phillips noted. “The Innovation Fund from an anonymous donor allowed us to bring the program to life.”

With the participation of other chick enthusiasts who will be incubating eggs in their classrooms, the program is ready to move to the coop, now installed in the Lab garden.

“The intent is to build enthusiasm and engagement among the entire Lab community,” Phillips reported. “The chickens will draw people and create a gathering place, and the promise of eggs for caretakers will be a bonus.” The larger aim is to teach responsibility and sustainability and to instill empathy for creatures and care for the natural world.

Music Workshop

New Middle School class expands how kids engage with the topic



At the beginning of the year, students in the Middle School Music Workshop tuned into NPR’s Tiny Desk concert series, absorbing themselves in everything from improvisational jazz to an unconventional pairing of cello and beatboxing.

“The class is designed to fulfill an interest in music that’s not related to a traditional ensemble, so they can explore piano, guitar, drumming, or even ukulele,” said Andrew Norte, who teaches the sixth and seventh grade workshops. “The appeal is that they get to dive into their own unique musical interests.”

In this survey class, students can experiment playing

different instruments, rather than sticking to just one. They spend a lot of time simply listening and responding to what they hear. They also learn about the history of the instruments, how they’re made and have historically been used in different kinds of performances—including the unexpected. When sound sculptures were installed throughout the University of Chicago campus, the class took the opportunity to walk through them. The students engaged in discussions about what a sound sculpture is and how it differs from a traditional musical performance.

“I told them at the beginning of the year that in this class we’re going to discover things about each other,” says Norte. “I help them define their musical identities, and make sure they know that their interests are valid. Your perspective is OK, it’s who you are.”

New course helps U-Highers expand global understanding



Christy Gerst



High School history teacher **Christy Gerst's** juniors and seniors are gaining valuable perspective on how governments around the world operate with respect to important international issues. Last Fall, Gerst introduced AT Comparative Politics and Global Relations, a new elective intended to broaden students' understanding of global affairs.

"This new course is really student-driven," Gerst says. "We have many students who participate in Model United Nations and Urban Policy Debate with focus on international relations, and we wanted to bring that into the curriculum and to allow them to

compare diverse governmental structures, avoid looking at things from a single, dominant perspective, and move to multiple ways of looking at current and historical events based on the major theories of international relations."

Students also ask questions: how do international bodies handle disputes between states or corporations? How do they deal with issues relating to the environment or natural resources? The class recently finished a month-long moot court of the International Criminal Court—a hypothetical case involving allegations of use of child soldiers as well as destruction of cultural, historical, and religious sites.

The emphasis is on deliberative discussion, Gerst explains, "not debating each other but trying to understand how different perspectives allow us to bring to the surface previously unseen aspects, to bring greater nuance to their understanding."

More formal ties to the University are envisioned. "As a laboratory school, we wanted to work with students to build a course, then look to the University to what programs are going on there and try to build interactivity and strengthen our ties," Gerst says. "Students have been extremely engaged, and there is opportunity for expansion."

How do international bodies handle disputes between states or corporations? How do they deal with issues relating to the environment or natural resources?

Chromatograph plus

It's not a scene from crime dramas NCIS or CSI, it's just science class.



Alexis Chia ran through a preliminary experiment, mixing liquids together. Using a syringe, she carefully added the solution to a holding container, and inserted it into a mini gas chromatograph for analysis—just like the experts.

"This is an instrument that actual forensic chemists use," said science teacher **Zachary Hund**. "When I contacted the company to inquire about purchasing one, I mentioned it was for a high school and they were pretty shocked."

The \$2,000 instrument, which was set up this fall, separates different compounds based on their composition. For example, real-world chemists might use it to extract chemicals present when something was burning, in order to suss out what set things ablaze. In addition to independent studies and upcoming May Projects, Lab's chromatograph will be

used in Advanced Chemistry courses, like Introduction to Chemical Research. The seminar-style class will focus on how to read published research papers, how to design and run experiments, and how to present material to a non-technical audience.

"Gas chromatography is very advanced and technical, and learning new techniques is something you have to do as a real chemist," said Hund. "Lab's science department is progressive and at the forefront of research. It's incredible that we have this."

Middle Schoolers confront climate change



"Climate change is occurring right now, and we have a responsibility to teach our students about it," notes Middle School science teacher **Tony Del Campo**, who spoke to a group of faculty and administrators during a recent professional development day at Lab. "Since I gave that talk, many teachers have reached out to tell me what they were thinking and doing, and I realized there are teachers from Nursery 3 to grade 12 who are looking to address climate change issues in their classrooms. Everyone across the curriculum is talking about how to confront it."

For seventh graders in both Del Campo's and **Debra Kogelman's** science classes, this has included reviewing the federal government's National Climate Assessment, the most recent installment of which was published November 2018, and posting a series of podcasts about their findings. The purpose behind students

Students wrote politicians, from local aldermen to their US Senators, urging them to listen—and to take action.

reading the National Climate Assessment was not just memorizing data, explains Del Campo, but understanding how data was produced, how it affects all of us, and how students may be part of the solution.

"It's important students understand they need to make their voices heard," Del Campo says. After posting the podcasts, students wrote politicians, from local aldermen to their US Senators, urging them to listen—and to take action. "We need to know the science behind what's

occurring, and we need to understand the effects that are happening right now in the United States."

Del Campo emphasizes that people need to know how to change behaviors, in homes and in schools. Some of the changes at Lab have included increased recycling and composting in homerooms, as well as a Lights Out Challenge, a competition across all Middle School science classes to turn off lights and other electricity and then calculate how much is saved, translating that to reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Del Campo's biggest message to young scientists? "Don't be afraid to express publicly what you have learned."

Art as message



Many Lab teachers bring social justice topics into their classrooms. Fifth-grade teacher **Carl Farrington** and High School art teacher **Sunny Neater** have collaborated on a research and art installation project stemming from one issue animating young people, the plight of NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick. After seeing Nike's "Believe in Something" ad featuring Kaepernick, the students said they had no idea who he was and wanted to know more.

"The kids are the ones who spearheaded this," says Farrington, "asking questions

about why he was blackballed from the NFL, why he was kneeling during the national anthem. We analyzed everything, and the kids researched. I didn't want to give my perspective or bias." When they discovered that Kaepernick's intent was not to be unpatriotic but to protest the murder of unarmed black men by police officers, students were inspired to bring greater awareness to their own beliefs through images and words.

"When the kids came into the art studio, they were able to make meaningful imagery informed by the issues," Neater notes. "They articulated how their quote spoke to the issue that was close to their heart. These 10-year-olds were incredibly well informed and passionate about the work."

I've got my passport. Take me to Scooterville.



The gym is transformed into a village, complete with a movie theater, gas station, yoga studio, pet adoption center, library, grocery store, burger drive-thru, racetrack, rest area, and more. Students have 30 minutes to use their scooter to scoot from place to place and get stamps from all of the "stations." It's quite the fun work-out and a majorly anticipated event for the children in grades N-2 at Earl Shapiro Hall.



Newsweek's ranking placed Lab in the top five STEM high schools in the nation (#2 among independent schools).

"Afrofuturism and Social Justice: Ideas Through Art, Literature and Science"

Faculty present at People of Color Conference



Some attendees leaned against the walls of the room, others sat on the floor; more overflowed into the hallway when Lab teachers led a session at this year's People of Color Conference.

"It was incredible, a 'sold-out' room," said **Joseph Kerney**, fourth-grade teacher. "People rated the workshops, and we got all five out of five stars."

Kerney and his colleagues, visual arts teacher **Allison Beaulieu** and science teacher **Mikki Sanders**, presented on incorporating Afrofuturism and social justice themes in the classroom. They teach students what Afrofuturism is through their arts and science units, introducing classes to the work of Sun Ra, Octavia Butler, and Janelle Monáe, for example.

Afrofuturism, which reimagines the future through an African-based lens, has a powerful ability to transform the black experience. Says Sanders, "We're not used to seeing ourselves in the future. The movie *Black Panther*, for example, opened up a new way for black kids to see themselves that wasn't available previously."

She helped her students make their own holograms—a technology featured in the movie—using old-fashioned transparency paper. They learned how light travels in waves, and that certain materials bend it, creating a hovering, 3D image. "They thought they were Wakandian scientists!" she said.

In the film, the holograms are projected from Kimoyo bead bracelets, which Beaulieu helped her students make with

Afrofuturism, which reimagines the future through an African-based lens, has a powerful ability to transform the black experience.

their own special symbols. She also taught her classes about the art and history of ancient Nubia, including a field trip to the Oriental Institute. Kerney teaches storytelling and world-building, guiding students to bring dynamic characters to life. His students created their own comic book characters

and Kerney invited local comic artist Turtel Onli to help students with design and panel layouts.

Presenting during the December conference, which has a mission to provide a safe space for leadership, professional development, and networking for people of color and allies of all backgrounds, was a thrill. "It felt amazing," said Kerney. Beaulieu felt honored to represent Lab and see her colleagues shine. "So many people came up to us asking how we even get permission to do this," she said. "That's what's so great about getting to teach at a place like Lab."

FALL AND WINTER HIGHLIGHTS 2019–20



BOYS BASKETBALL

The boys' basketball team made it to the IHSA 2ARegional semi-final where they lost to King. The Maroons finished with a 13-15 record (7-5 ISL). Senior Charles Chen was named Honorable Mention for the IHSA Academic All-State team.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The girls' basketball team finished with a 10-10 season record (2-5 ISL) and an IHSA 2A Regional Final appearance, unfortunately losing 34-33 to South Shore International in the championship game. Sophomore Meena Lee advanced to State in the IHSA 3-Point shooting contest in Bloomington. Senior Franzi Wild was nominated for the IHSA Academic All-State team.

GIRLS AND BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY

The cross-country teams ran well at the IHSA 1A State Cross-Country Championship meet. The boys finished 16th in the State and the girls placed 21st. Sophomore Amanda O'Donnell earned All-State honors for the second time with a 21st place finish and junior Nicky Edwards-Levin won All-State honors also with a 21st place finish. Amanda is only the second U-High runner to win two All-State

honors. Nicky becomes our fourth boy to ever win All-State honors.

FENCING

The fencing team competed in the Great Lakes High School Fencing Conference championship where sophomore Jonathan Liu placed 5th in saber and freshman Maya El Shamsy was 9th in epee. Fencers qualifying to compete in the championship included juniors Michelle Weaver and Jasmine Tan and freshman Rebecca Byrnes and seniors Leland Culver and Tom Ben-Shahar, junior Gabriel Carter, and freshman Daniel Tothy.

GIRLS GOLF

Junior Emily Chang finished 7th in the IHSA Class A State Championships shooting a 36 hole 149 over the two-day tournament at the Red Tail Golf Course. This marks the highest finish ever in school history earning Emily All-State honors for the second time in her career. Emily finished 10th place in 2017 and 11th place in 2018.

GIRLS TENNIS

The girls' tennis team became U-High's first-ever state champs when they won the IHSA Class A State Championship. The Maroons won the title

with 33 points; all the players contributed, showing the depth of the talent: #1 singles player sophomore Emma Baker scored 12 points and finished second; #2 singles Kriti Sarav scored 6 points; the #1 doubles team of senior Izzie Kellermeier/sophomore Emilee Pak scored 12 points and finished second. The senior doubles team of Ananya Asthana/Macy Beal scored 3 points.

Congratulations to sixth year head coach Dawuad Talib who also led the boys tennis team to the IHSA Championship in spring 2018.



SAILING

The sailing team finished 10th out of 18 teams in the Midwest Interscholastic Sailing Association meet and 3rd among Illinois schools. Sailing for the Maroons were Benny Wild/Adler Wright and Philip Lengyel/Ava Wilson.

SQUASH

The squash team won U-High's first-ever Chicagoland Squash Conference championship, defeating Latin, Lake Forest Academy, and Lake Forest High School and winning all nine matches in the final championship round. In addition, the Maroons competed in the USA Squash National Championship in Hartford, CT, finishing 10th in division 4. Congratulations to seniors Peter Grissom, Gaurav Shekhawat and Eli Hinerfeld, juniors Sarah Thomas and Freddie Tang, sophomore John Patras, and freshman Serena Thomas,

Hudson Lin, Jacob Grissom, and William Kraemer. Kudos to coaches Seetreeon "Tron" Torres and Sharon Harrison for their fine work this year.

BOYS SOCCER

In the same week that the girls' tennis team took state, the U-High boys' soccer team defeated Alton Marquette High School with an exciting come from behind 2-1 to win the IHSA Class 1A State Championship in a field of 175 teams.

The Maroons win was our first-ever "bracketed" IHSA State Championship in school history and our eighth State Championship in the past 110 years. The Maroons finished the season with 22 wins, 3 losses, and 2 ties, winning 19 of their last 20 games. Congratulations to varsity coach Josh Potter.



BOYS SWIMMING

The boys swim team scored 142 points and placed 4th (of 14 teams) in the IHSA Sectional Championship at UIC. The following students were medalists (top 6 finish): seniors Charles Chen and Ben Cifu, 400 freestyle relay; junior Graham Waterstraat, 200 medley and 200 freestyle relay; sophomore Will Trone, 200 medley relay, 200 IM, 200 and 400 freestyle relay; junior Jaden Li, 200 freestyle relay; sophomore Tyler Turek, 200 medley, 200 and 400 freestyle relays; freshman Vincent Zhang, 500 freestyle and 200 freestyle relay. Coach Paul Gunty is retiring after a remarkable 30 consecutive (44

total) years of coaching U-High swimming. Special thanks for his unwavering commitment to our student swimmers.

GIRLS SWIMMING

The Maroons set seven school records and scored 175 points in the IHSA Sectional meet at UIC to finish 4th out of 13 teams. Junior Jayne Crouthamel qualified in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle to become Lab's first-ever qualifier in the IHSA Athletes with Disabilities division. She placed 8th in both races.

- New school records were set as follows:
- > 200 Medley Relay: junior Susan Huang, seniors Ava McKula, Kaley Qin, and Jessica Huang, 1:49.96
 - > 100 Freestyle: senior Kaley Qin, 54.84
 - > 500 Freestyle: junior Lea Rebollo Baum, 5:19.93
 - > 200 Freestyle Relay: sophomore Zoe Morton, seniors Ava McKula, Jessica Huang, and Kaley Qin, 1:40.53

- > 100 Backstroke: senior Ava McKula, 59.54
- > 100 Breaststroke: senior Kaley Qin, 1:07.87
- > 11 Dive: freshman Jessica Slear, 233.95



GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball team advanced to the IHSA 2A Sectional Championship match with a Regional Championship win over Cristo Rey and Sectional semi-final win over CICS Ellison before losing to Chicago Christian in a tough well-played match. The Maroons finished with a fine 20-14 season record.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL LEAGUE ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Tolu Johnson
Xavier Nesbitt
Ryan Duncan
Zach Smith

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Mary Neal
Eve Grobman
Lea Runesha

GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY

Amanda O'Donnell
Sophia Park
Sana Shaul

BOYS CROSS-COUNTRY

Nickey Edwards-Levin,
Runner of the Year
Luke Sikora

RUNNER OF THE YEAR

Luke Sikora

GIRLS GOLF

Emily Chang, Player of the Year

BOYS GOLF

Aaron Kim

BOYS SOCCER

Miles Rochester,
Player of the Year
Alex Bal
Mickey Claffey
Jaden Lynch
Julian Modragon

GIRLS TENNIS

Emma Baker, Player of the Year
Kriti Sarav
Isabella Kellemeier
Emily Pak
Ananya Asthana
Macy Beal

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Sydney Rogers
Troy Johnson
Sara Gregg
Jordan Rogers

GREAT LAKES HIGH SCHOOL FENCING CONFERENCE

Jonathan Liu, Saber
All-Conference

ISL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Girls Cross-Country; Boys
Cross-Country

ILLINOIS TENNIS COACHES ASSOCIATION ALL-STATE

Emma Baker, 1st team
Kriti Sarav, 2nd team
Isabella Kellermeier, 1st team
Emily Pak, 1st team

ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER COACHES ASSOCIATION

Alex Ball, All-Sectional
Miles Rochester, All-Sectional
Julian Mondragon, Honorable
Mention All-Sectional

ALL-STATE IHSA

Emily Chang, Girls Golf
Amanda O'Donnell,
Cross-Country
Nicky Edwards-Levin,
Cross-Country

IHSA SECTIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR

Dar Novak, Diving

ISL COACH OF THE YEAR

Deb Ribbens
Alex Clark

Lab's first-ever Athletics Hall of Fame

As a freshman, Marty Billingsley, '77, and her older sister Patty, '74, were not allowed to join the U-High track team—boys only, they were told. The next year, while her sister had already graduated, things changed. Marty was able to join the team, whether due to Title IX or because, as Marty says, “maybe Lab was just catching up with the times.” She credits that moment with a series of events that ultimately brought her to teaching and coaching and back to Lab.

In the fall, before an audience of nearly 150 people, Marty shared her thoughts as she accepted her place among Lab's first Athletics Hall of Fame inductees. Lab established the Hall of Fame to honor outstanding athletics

contributions and Lab's rich athletics history. Nearly every one of the twelve inductees attended the ceremony, some having traveled from as far as California. If you look at the record board in Kovler Gym, you'll still see many of their names.

“Acceptance on the track team was so foundational because it gave me passion and confidence. Being accepted as a runner—not as a girl, not as a boy, but as a runner—on the team meant that I never ever thought I wasn't as good as everyone else,” said Marty at the reception. “It meant that I didn't think it was any big deal to be one of the first three women smokejumpers in the country. It meant that it was easy to fit in as one of just a few women in a big software engineering lab.



2019 ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Marty Billingsley, '77
Gabrielle Clark, '10
William “Doc” Monilaw
John W. Rogers, Jr., '76

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD TEAM MEMBERS, 1979–1981:

Beata Boodell, '81
Heidi Hackel Schlageter, '81
Anita Hollins, '81
Liz Homans, '83
Natalie Pardo, '80
Michelle Shaw, '80
Helen Straus, '80, AB'84, MD'90
Darcine Thomas, '81

The U-High team's acceptance of me meant that I was never plagued by the sexist shackles that seem to hamper so many women. For that I thank U-High wholeheartedly.”

Lab's athletics program has since substantially expanded. Today, nearly 65% of all Middle and High Schoolers play on at least one team, and Lab fields 56 teams in 19 different sports.

SAVE THE DATE:
THE 2020 ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME WILL BE INDUCTED ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17. INVITATIONS TO COME.

Playing. With! Punctuation?

The script consisted of just one word: Dude.



And with that, **Debby Davis's** third graders communicated a lot of information. As writing partners stood ready to act before their classmates, Davis prompted them:

You run into a friend. What do you say? Dude.

You want to know how they are. What do you say? Dude?

You find a million dollars in your pocket. What do you say? Dude!

Your friend has something disgusting on their shirt. What do you say? Dude....

Third graders, Davis explains, don't like to use punctuation very much.

That's where the Lucy Calkins approach can come into play. Calkins founded the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, an organization that has influenced literacy instruction—using a workshop model—for 30 years. Many Lab teachers have trained

in this approach, including Lower School teacher Chantal Lambrix who has attended a Calkins workshop. More informally, over the summer Davis and Lambrix became study partners reading a new Calkins book and discussing how to apply some of the some of the strategies—like this performance technique for helping young writers see the value of punctuation to help one express an idea in writing. Right on, Dude.

You run into a friend. What do you say? Dude.

You want to know how they are. What do you say? Dude?

New Fitness Center supports Lab's health and wellness mission



To meet our mission, the Schools must first ensure that students and employees are safe, healthy, and well. This work takes place every day, in every part of our school, but Lab's Fitness Center is a critical element of health and wellness teaching and learning. The Fitness Center supports competitive athletes and hundreds of students in physical education classes, as well as many employees who take advantage of these facilities.

"Having a right-sized and rightly outfitted Fitness Center presents an important wellness opportunity for the Lab community," says Director Charlie Abelmann. "Our school has grown substantially in the past decade and now is the time to invest in a space that better meets our curricular and co-curricular needs."

As students reach Middle and High School, Lab's curriculum continues an important shift: readying young

people to take ownership of their own health and wellness as they shift from children to young adults. Every year, nearly 900 students in grades 6–11 learn "Fitness Training" as part of their PE curriculum, and it is a required six-week course for all ninth-grade students.

The new Fitness Center, in a prime first-floor location, is now the most highly visible space in Sunny and Kovler gyms. This seems only right for a facility that is so heavily used by people of all ages and which helps students set the kinds of cardio and strength wellness goals that will help them throughout their lives.

The Center is 250 square feet larger than the old space with easier access, spectacular views of Jackman Field, and two beautiful skylights. "We want our new space to be appealing and inviting—a place that our students and adults want to be," says Abelmann.

A SOUND MIND

Science teacher Jeff Maharry plays, writes, and engineers music



Before he was teaching fifth grade science and cultivating Lab's outdoor classroom, Jeff Maharry was teaching himself guitar.

"My parents sent me for violin and cello lessons at a young age," recalls Maharry, now in his 11th year of teaching at Lab. "I sang harmonies in church with my mom. Then my father bought me a guitar for my 12th birthday, and I taught myself to play. That's the instrument that stuck."

On weekends—and the occasional Thursday night—you might find Maharry performing original music with one of his two bands at the Beat Kitchen, the Beer Shop, or Fitzgerald's.

In true songwriter/musician form, he struggles to commit his bands to a genre. "In Falling Stars," where he sings and plays bass, "we play original power pop stuff...

no, I think it's best described as rock."

"Work in Progress is kind of like blue grass...no, that's not right. My bandmates would want me to say Americana," he laughs.

He speaks with equal enthusiasm about another passion: sound engineering. After earning his bachelor's in biology at Grinnell College, Maharry "bounced around somewhat aimlessly" for a while. He spent a year as a raft guide at a Colorado resort and another as a professional musician in Pennsylvania before settling into a graduate

program at UIC. During that time he worked as a sound engineer at the Hideout, committed to making bands "sound as good as possible coming out of the speaker.

On weekends—and the occasional Thursday night—you might find Maharry performing original music with one of his two bands at the Beat Kitchen, the Beer Shop, or Fitzgerald's.

"It's an interesting way to listen to music," he says. "When I go to a concert, I am constantly wishing I could get my hands on the knobs and improve the sound." While no longer a regular at the Hideout, he still engineers sound for a couple of benefits each year.

Maharry passed his love of music on to his own Labbie children—Will, a sophomore, and Haley, an eighth grader, who play the baritone and the clarinet,

respectively, and are also learning guitar. And when not making music, Maharry and family take to the outdoors: hiking, biking, and camping. It makes sense that he is a passionate champion of Lab's outdoor classroom.

"We've been on a kick in the last few years to visit as many national parks as



possible. We've been to the Everglades and Olympic and too many in between to list," Maharry says. Just how rustic are we talking? "We did a long trip in the Smokies that was pretty rustic...long days hiking and pitching our own tents."

"Our cabin at Yellowstone was deep in the woods. No hope for WiFi. And if you wanted to take a shower, you had to heat tanks of water over a fire.

"There's just something about getting away...about getting back to nature and getting unplugged."

Strange words from a sound engineer?



CONNECTIONS 2020 GALA DRAWS LARGEST TURNOUT EVER

On Leap Day, February 29, more than 900 Lab parents, guardians, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends came together at the Field Museum for a dazzling evening at Connections 2020. With this largest turnout ever, Connections raised more than \$1.6 million to support financial aid and faculty development.

Says Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Development Damon Cates, “Our community really cares about Lab. This was a wonderful event and we thank our co-chairs, Evelyn McCullen, Karen Slimmon, and Yolanda Tyler, for their time, creativity, and energy.” The chairs received support from 100+ parent and student volunteers.



Wai-Sinn Chan and Sara Skelly



Connections 2020 co-chairs Evelyn McCullen, Yolanda Tyler, Karen Slimmon



Nyro Murphy and Don Wilson



Ethan Van Ha and Ka Yee Lee



Charlie Abelman and Ann and Doug Grissom



Naadia Owens, Mikki Sanders, Sharon Williams



Andrew Norte and the Middle School Jazz Band



Kristin Finney-Cooke, Rian Walker, Chelsea Smith, Andrea Wishom Young



Trissa Babrowski, Sundeep Mullangi, Yolanda Tyler, Melina Hale, Jason Tyler, '89, Daniel Abebe, Francis Idehen, and Mark Westneat



Tyrone Jordan and Annie Padrid Jordan, Andrea Ellis, '03, and Marco Ellis, and Marc and Jordann Nunn, '03.



Sandra Mulholland, Daniel Ryan, and Iona Calhoun-Battiste '94



Charles Diawara and Bonnie Kang



Chasing Vermeer

Best-selling author visits Lab to see Middle Schoolers perform a stage production of her novel

By Heather Preston

if you show this to the authorities, you will most certainly be placing your life in danger.

An ominous letter. Two 11-year-old “University School” students. One eccentric teacher. A centuries-old mystery. Pentominoes. Welcome to the roller-coaster ride that is *Chasing Vermeer*, a young adult book by *New York Times* bestselling novelist and former Lab Lower School teacher Blue Balliett.

In November, Lab kids, their families, and other members of the community piled into the Gordon Parks Assembly Hall to watch Lab theatre director and drama teacher Audre Budrys Nakas’s stage adaptation of *Chasing*

“Kids love hearing that there are things even adults don’t know,” Balliett says. “It sparks their curiosity when they think, ‘maybe I could be the one to figure this out!’ They have impressive ways of sorting experience, and they learn so much when they feel in charge, when they’re chasing information or ideas valued by the world at large.

“I honestly didn’t write *Chasing Vermeer* for publication,” laughs Balliett. “I wrote a book I wanted to use as a read-aloud in my classroom. I never imagined there was a place for this wild story in the market.”

As it turned out, there was. Since its publication in 2004, *Chasing Vermeer* has been translated into 35 languages, sold millions of copies, and is a mainstay in classrooms all over the world. Described by *Newsweek* as “A Da Vinci Code for tweens,” it won numerous awards,



“Kids love hearing that there are things even adults don’t know,” Balliett says. “It sparks their curiosity when they think, ‘maybe I could be the one to figure this out!’”

Vermeer performed by a cast of 27 Middle Schoolers.

The play is set in Hyde Park and features two Labbie-like protagonists/amateur detectives—Calder and Petra—who endeavor to recover seventeenth-century painter Johannes Vermeer’s stolen painting, *A Lady Writing*.

“What a beautiful and amazing production. I was bowled over,” says Balliett, who was in the audience opening night. “Audre’s adaptation of my book was both true-to-content and inventive, and the sets, music, and acting were wonderful. So much talent, and all springing from the Lab community!”

In the play, as in the book and at Lab, students are encouraged to ask questions, explore, persevere—values that John Dewey hoped would spread like wildfire.

including the Edgar Award for Best Juvenile Novel, the Agatha Award for Best Young Adult Novel, the Book Sense Book of the Year Award, and the Chicago Tribune Prize for Young Adult Fiction.

“I was more surprised than anyone to see this book take off. It’s packed with glimpses of my everyday classroom,” says Balliett, who taught third and fourth grade at Lab for 12 years before becoming a full-time novelist. “Real conversations between kids and actual homework assignments are woven into the story. I’m pretty similar to the teacher, Ms. Hussey, but not as wild or I probably would have been fired,” she adds with a laugh. “Ms. Hussey takes kids’ ideas seriously, which is something I’ve always done too.”



At the time of *Chasing Vermeer*’s publication, there weren’t many mysteries for kids that shared actual, mind-bending questions set in the real world. Balliett wanted to give kids the thrill of tackling real-life mysteries.

And in *Chasing Vermeer*, there are thrills galore. It’s an interactive endeavor, packed with maps, puzzles, and coded graphics (by illustrator Brett Helquist) that hide secret messages. There’s also a healthy dose of adrenalin, as the reader follows the two protagonists through a high-speed chase and a series of tight escapes.

Ghostly Beginnings

Balliett’s interest in the unknown and the little-understood began many years ago. After college she lived on Nantucket Island, in Massachusetts, and heard people in that community telling stories about run-ins with ghosts. Incredulous, she began interviewing residents and visitors, recording their experiences. The result was her first book, *Nantucket Ghosts*, which was written as oral history.

Does Balliett believe in ghosts? “Well, there’s definitely something going on,” she says with a smile. “When you hear

so many stories from unlikely sources, it really makes you stop and wonder.”

After *Chasing Vermeer*’s publication in 2004, Balliett went on to write six more young adult mysteries also built around ongoing questions in the real world. “My hope has always been to get kids hooked on being lifelong thinkers and questioners,” Balliett says.

Opening Night

“I’ve done adaptations before, both at Lab and as an adjunct at Roosevelt University,” Budrys Nakas says. “And as a huge *Chasing Vermeer* fan, I’d pondered adapting it for some time.” She finally got her chance when Balliett visited the Schools to speak. “I was nervous about approaching her, but she was so warm and gracious that I just blurted it out,” she recalls. “I was kicking myself for putting her on the spot, but she was so gracious and agreed to allow me to adapt her novel after a few emails. Needless to say, I was thrilled!”

Budrys Nakas wanted to stay as true to the source material as possible, but as with all book-to-stage adaptations, some changes had to be made.

“I did add some extra roles and a chorus, the goal being to give more students a voice,” Budrys Nakas says. “I would rather write more kid roles than give adult roles to kids.” She also expanded the roles of some peripheral characters from the book, and added more Chicago landmarks into the production.

This smash-hit production wouldn’t have been possible without the work of her stage crew, Budrys Nakas says. “They worked the box office. They sewed costumes and built sets by hand. They managed the stage and the lighting. I couldn’t be more proud of their dedication. And I thank their families for all of their support.”

“The teacher in *Chasing Vermeer* really does what John Dewey laid out for us to do: stay curious, follow the knowledge,” Budrys Nakas says. “It’s a message that bears repeating. I think our students really honored Dewey’s memory with their work on this production.”



Honoring the importance of education

Kathleen and Michael O'Connor's planned giving decision

By Amanda Norton

Education brought Kathleen and Michael O'Connor together in the 1980s; they met as undergraduates at Amherst College. They connected again a decade later at their tenth-year college reunion.

Their early life together took them on peacekeeping and education missions to Madagascar and Kosovo. After they returned to the US, Michael's work led them to the Chicago area, and they made a home for their family in Oak Park. As their children approached the transition to high school, they were delighted to find Lab. Soon after their son Thomas, '22, entered U-High, Michael began volunteering, first as a Parents Fund volunteer and later as a member of the Parent Development Committee.

Having spent much of their adult lives dedicated to education in a number of different local contexts and complex circumstances, the O'Connors strongly believe that it does indeed take a village to raise a child. For them, Lab is a place that nurtures learning and growth, a small village within the bigger UChicago community. At Lab, they have found for their three children—Thomas was joined last year by his siblings Clare and Daniel, both in the class of 2023—"a place where they can be themselves and be challenged to evolve by expanding their knowledge and emotional intelligence."

In 2018, Kathleen and Michael decided to demonstrate their support of Lab by making a bequest. Bequests—often made through a will or trust—allow donors to retain control over their assets during their lifetime while pledging future support to institutions that are important to them. Of their decision to include

"We wanted to make sure that at the end of our days something was left to say thank you to the institution and the people who have been such a positive and integral part of our lives."

Lab in their estate plans, Michael notes, "The one thing we really wanted to do was to show appreciation to the villages that have helped us raise our children. Lab is one of three such villages that stand out in our minds as key to our children's development. We wanted to make sure that at the end of our days something was left to say thank you to the institution and the people who have been such a positive and integral part of our lives.

"Kathleen and I have both been in education for much of our adult lives, and we have toured hundreds if not thousands of schools," says Michael. "I believe that like Tolstoy's 'all happy families,' all good schools are alike, at least in one important regard. They all share the distinguishing characteristic of 'spirited inquiry.' For us, Lab has such a feel." Including Lab in

their estate planning offered Kathleen and Michael a way to make a meaningful, long-term commitment to a place to which they feel deeply connected and grateful.

These days, the O'Connors run FORA (Forging Opportunities for Refugees in America), a tutoring center in West Rogers Park that serves Rohingya children and women. With a staff of volunteer and professional tutors, the center offers students ages 5–18 support in reading and math, as well as English classes for adult refugees. The O'Connors are providing to new Americans some measure of what they value most about the education they have found for their own children at Lab.

A typical day finds Kathleen or Michael directing tutors and engaging children, and thinking about the development and broader well-being of all the families the organization serves. Thomas, Clare, and Daniel sometimes join their parents in working with the children as well. Throughout the O'Connors' bright storefront space, one can see caring adults and young people carrying out the kind of powerful work that also goes on at Lab every day: the work of instilling confidence in children while also motivating them to be hungry to learn more and continue to grow.

By making a bequest to Lab, Kathleen and Michael O'Connor have made a formal pledge to support Lab's powerful work, helping to ensure that Lab will continue to deliver on its educational mission to ignite and nurture an enduring spirit of scholarship, curiosity, creativity, and confidence, far into the future.

Planned Giving Opportunities

There are many ways to provide vital future support for students, faculty, facilities, or programs at Lab by making a planned gift. Ways to give include:

BEQUESTS
Including a gift to the University of Chicago in your will is a simple way to leave an enduring legacy.

LIFE INCOME GIFTS
Earn income for yourself or a beneficiary through assets gifted to the University.

GIFTS OF RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS
Designate the University as a beneficiary of your retirement plan.

GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE
Make a unique, lasting, and convenient gift of real estate based on current market value.

To learn more about making a planned giving decision to benefit Lab, contact development@ucls.uchicago.edu.

All donors who support any unit in the University through a planned gift are invited to join the Phoenix Society and are recognized in an annual Honor Roll (unless anonymity is requested)

We regret the following errors or omissions in our fall *LabLife* 2019 *Special Report on Philanthropy and Giving*: Carol Sobel Siegel, '64 and Charles Siegel were omitted from the DePencier Society list. John Mores, AM'89 was omitted from the list of donors. Jaya and Seenu Hariprasad should have appeared in the listing of \$2,500-4,999 donors. These names were misspelled: Laura DuFour, John Himmelfarb, and Andrea John, '03. An updated Alumni Association Executive Board list with members' current employment information is now online at <https://www.ucls.uchicago.edu/alumni/connect-volunteer-lead>



Extended Day program allows U-High graduates to come full circle

Alumni return in roles that help them explore careers in education

By Megan E. Doherty, AM'05, PhD'10

When Kaleb Mazurek, '14, joined Lab's Extended Day program as a kindergartener, he wound up meeting people who'd become some of his closest friends. Four years after he left U-High, he returned to the program as a teaching assistant.

"It was always something that I had in the back of my head when I was an assistant, that these kids could go on to be life-long friends," says Mazurek, who's currently teaching English in Palestine. "When I was in their shoes, Extended Day provided an opportunity to build bonds, play, experiment, and spend time together outside of school." Interacting in an open and play-based environment allowed him to forge connections with some of his peers that weren't possible during the regular school day.

More than 800 Lab students participate in an Extended Day program each year, whether in a play-based, student-driven before- or after-school program or in an enrichment class—anything from chess to using maker spaces for hands-on design to dance and sports. The program is designed to create constructive, intentional, and meaningful social engagement in a way that is familiar and enriching.

"What's particularly wonderful is when our very own Lab alumni return to work at Lab in Extended Day," says Ann Marie Baumann, associate director of N-2 Family Life Programs. "It's phenomenal. They bring a joy with them and are thrilled to give to something that they were part of."

In recent years, Lab has made it a strategic priority to ensure that Extended Day lead staff are all early

career education and education-related professionals. The lead "Fellows," who must have a BA in education or a related field, are responsible for developing and implementing curriculum, managing and mentoring up to two teaching assistants, writing newsletters, and managing administrative tasks. Their assistants are eager to learn and grow in working with children and fine tune their skills. There are usually Lab grads to be found among the assistants and nearly a third

of assistants are UChicago graduate or undergraduate students.

Participating in the program provides perspective as they're looking toward their futures in education, Baumann notes.

Emily Kleeman, '10, agrees. The chance to be a Fellow last year seemed an excellent jumping off point. While at U-High, she taught ballet at the Hyde Park School of Dance, and she taught cooking to youngsters while in college. Not only did she want to make sure



"Our alumni Fellows and assistants settle in so quickly because they have an immediate comfort with the fact that learning and play are messy. Many of our early career educators are still acclimating to that idea."

devoting her career to education was something she truly wanted, she also wanted to clarify what age range best suited her.

"When I went in, I had my mind made up that I wanted to work with first through fourth graders, and I was very sure about that," says Kleeman, who is now a full-time NK assistant teacher at Lab. "In the program, I was able to work with many different age groups and I really loved them all. Especially the younger kids!"

Cortney Hill, '13, started as an Extended Day assistant for nursery and third grades. Thanks to that work, he's now a substitute teacher at Lab, helping with gym and art classes in the Lower School.

"What kind of teacher do I want to be? What age group do I want to work with? Getting to be a substitute teacher right now gives me a full range of different subjects and ages to work with. It can be everything from music to science," he says. "Extended Day has opened up a lot of doors for me."

Both Fellows and assistants receive regular mentoring and feedback on their performance. Put into place this year, Fellows now have the chance to get classroom observations and more detailed feedback as they seek growth and learning opportunities.

Ivan Beck, '19, has been grateful for the chance to watch the more experienced teachers and follow their lead. "It's been trial and error. The demeanor you need

with kids is something I've been able to practice through the experience of the Extended Day program," says Beck, who is currently an Extended Day teaching assistant. "Working with kids just makes me really happy, and this was an opportunity to get more context about what working with children is really like."

Connecting with other teachers at Lab, Hill says, has been incredibly helpful. His former teachers have stepped up and gladly offered advice to help his substitute teaching. Further, it's been encouraging to reconnect with so many teachers who inspired him when he was a kid.

"I can watch how they do what they do behind the scenes," he said. "This is what it means to be a teacher." Kleeman, talks about her goals for the future with her lead teacher. "I could see myself in early childhood now, and have gotten great advice as I reflect on my decision."

Part of the magic of the Extended Day program is that it allows U-High graduates to come full-circle. "The alumni get it. They know the lingo, they know the traditions, and they know the autonomy our children bring to making a classroom experience their own," says Baumann.

"Our alumni Fellows and assistants settle in so quickly because they have an immediate comfort with the fact that learning and play are messy. Many of our early career educators are still acclimating to that idea."

Being familiar with the rhythms of Lab as a student, and then as a Fellow, helped Kleeman feel like she was already part of the community. "I came in knowing how the day worked and how everything runs," she says. "This gave me a sense of how to come up with activities that were heavily experiential, because that's something I'm familiar with as core to Lab's philosophy."

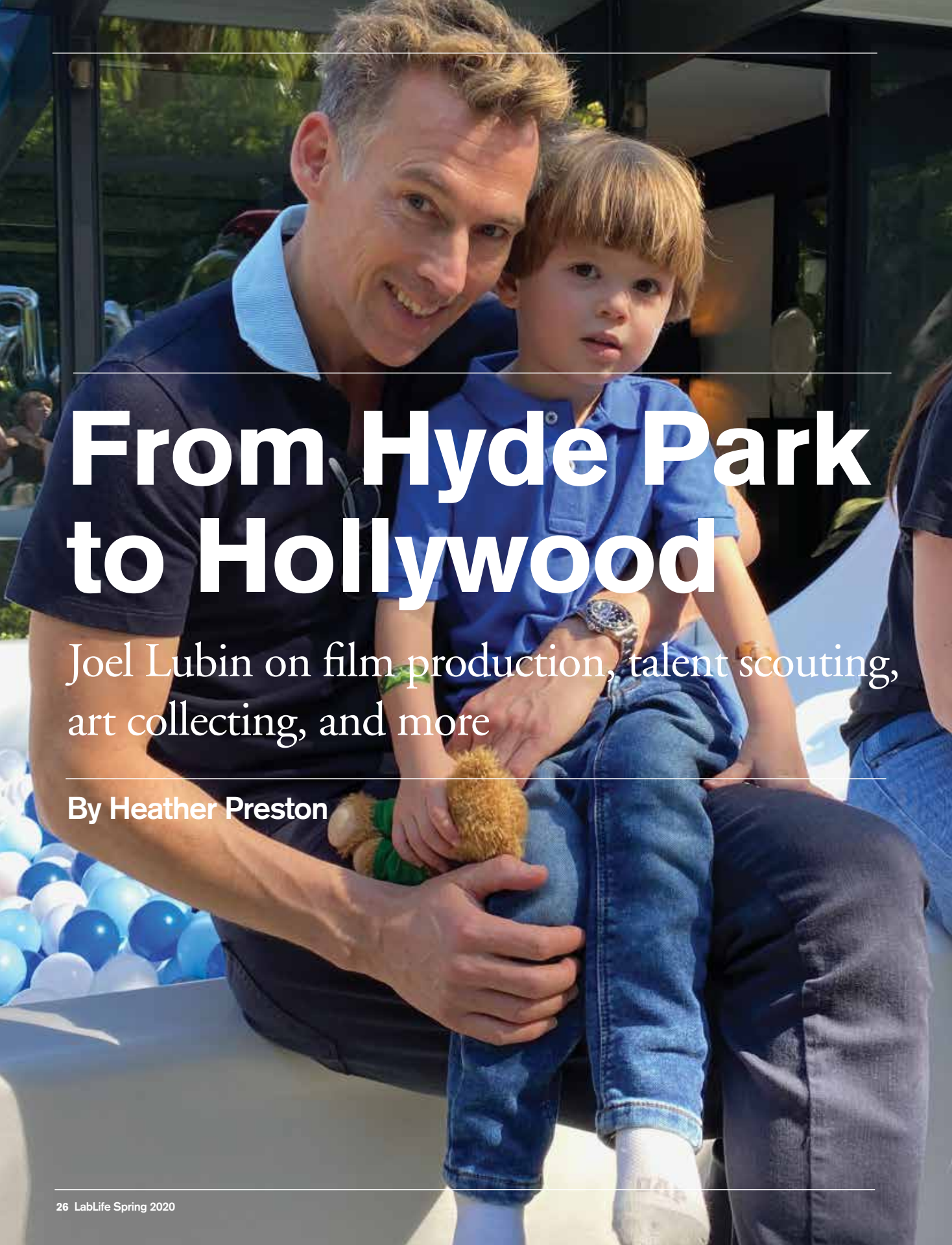
The Lab frame of mind is about modeling a passion for learning, especially through experimentation. Lab alumni understand this intimately, and it's one way they add to the Extended Day experience for the next generation. "Where else will you find an after-school program where four-year-olds look forward to Science Mondays and doing activities like using Play-Doh to explore color theory?" Baumann adds.



... When Hill joined Extended Day, he wondered what he could do to help the students now as a teacher. He remembered being a Lab Middle Schooler with undiagnosed dyslexia—reading and writing were a struggle. One year, he asked his teacher if he could do his report as a video project. He discovered an alternative way that he could learn and communicate information to others, which launched a lifelong interest in filmmaking and helping other students best express themselves.

Growing up, Hill didn't consider himself an artist. Being a substitute teacher for art classes at Lab has helped him realize that filmmaking is an artform; it's also helped him find his calling to help students find alternative ways to digest ideas and communicate their insights with confidence.

"Some kids struggle with an idea that they don't know how to get out, and I get to help them walk through it and come up with ways to get it out," he said. "I want to help others find their voice in art, because it was filmmaking that helped me find my voice."



From Hyde Park to Hollywood

Joel Lubin on film production, talent scouting, art collecting, and more

By Heather Preston

The glitz, glamour, and temperate climate of Hollywood is a world away from our beloved, gritty Chicago. But when talent agent Joel Lubin, '88, first visited Los Angeles, he was determined to migrate west.

"I loved California from the get-go. I loved how different everything was than Chicago, from the landscape to the climate," Lubin recalls.

"I have always been drawn to entertainment—I took an acting class in college—but what that really cultivated was an interest in watching other people perform," he says. "It feels natural to me to observe other people in a creative setting. It's a passion."

It's a passion that paid off. Now on the board and co-head of the motion picture group of one of Hollywood's top talent agencies—Creative Artists Agency—Lubin can boast clients such as Tom Cruise, Zac Efron, Josh Brolin, James Corden, and David Oyelowo.

And in 2011, after buying his first painting, Lubin became a collector and an advocate for fine arts . . . to the surprise of no one so much as himself.

"I definitely remember being very young and not having any patience or interest [in fine art], so it took about 40 years."

Labbie roots

Lubin attended Lab from nursery through High School graduation. Even back then, he recalls having an interest in storytelling.

His biggest influence from Lab was journalism teacher Wayne Brasler—even if Brasler wasn't so easy to please. "He was incredibly eccentric and always demanded the best from *Midway* writers, even if it was uncomfortable for us...meaning, he always said our work could be better. And he was right.

"To be clear, I had zero interest in journalism," he adds with a laugh. "I just enjoyed being pushed to do my best work. It's a value that has really driven me in my life and career."

His Lab experience is one he holds dear. "Growing up in a diverse environment has made me better at my job, and resulted in an ability to connect with a variety of people and cultures. I was fortunate to have that experience at such a young age."

Art advocacy

"I want to create things so people have something to relate to, feel less lonely, and escape from some of the challenges of daily life," Lubin says. "Fine artists have similar goals."

His interest in fine art began in 2011 when he purchased his first painting. Around that same time, a mutual friend—former actress-model China Chow—introduced him to LA-artist Alex Israel, host of Bravo's art-world reality competition *Work of Art: The Next Great Artist*. Israel, it so happened, was looking for help booking talent on his satirical web interview series *As It Lays*. Lubin took on the project, and soon found himself seeing art with a new eye.

"The art world felt really opaque to me, and I had no idea how to approach it," he recalls.

But he eventually learned. His expansive art collection features sculpture, paintings, photography, and videos. He owns Jonathan Gardner's painting *The Model*, Luis Flores' sculpture *Breaking Down, Polishing Rocks*, and the sculpture

"I want to create things so people have something to relate to, feel less lonely, and escape from some of the challenges of daily life," Lubin says. "Fine artists have similar goals."



Suit by Erwin Wurm. He even owns a re-creation of the crystal egg from *Risky Business*. "All art forms tell a story, and my draw to storytelling is the common thread" says Lubin.

And he didn't stop at collecting. He recently joined the Institute of Contemporary Art's board, and the board of the Hammer Museum. "I love identifying young artists and promoting their work. There are so many talented artists whose voices need support. I feel fortunate I am in a position to help expand their audience.

"When I started collecting, it felt that L.A. was more on the periphery of the art world. [But L.A.] has become a real magnet for artists, for galleries, and collectors."



Philanthropic endeavors

Lubin's client, Andrew Garfield, introduced him to Dr. Jane Aronson, the founder and former CEO of Worldwide Orphans (WWO). WWO works to transform the lives of orphans and at-risk children by providing access to education, medical care, and psycho-social support so they become independent, productive individuals. Lubin joined Aronson on a trip to see WWO's Vietnam and Haiti programs: WWO's Vietnam program, established in 2004, has since served 15,000 children and adults; the Haiti program started in 2010, has served 3,000 children and adults. "It is gratifying and humbling to visit a place where there are so many young children at risk and seeing the impact good social services can have on those children," he says.

Alumni notes

Keep in Touch

The Lab Notes section of this magazine is where alumni come to connect with the Schools and fellow classmates. Please contact your class representative or the Office of Alumni Relations and Development with any updates about yourself or friends who attended Lab. If your graduation year is without a representative, please consider volunteering to serve in this fun and important role. Email notes, information, or questions to labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

30s & 40s

Classes of 1940–43: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Office of Alumni Relations and Development at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

Roland Schneider, '43, writes, “My ‘debut novel,’ *Jesters*, is now available as an audio book via Amazon. All comments are welcome. I did my first (nervous) public appearance on November 21, 2019 at the library in Galena, IL. It went well. Three people showed up.”

1944 Class Representative
RuthAnn Johnson Frazier
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1945 Class Representatives
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773-493-8373

1947 Class Representative
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6650 West Flamingo Road
Apt. 209
Las Vegas, NV 89103
702-648-9913

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

George Shambaugh writes, “In 1999, I retired from Northwestern University Medical School. I had been widowed twice and came to Atlanta to make a new life with my current wife. At that time Grady Hospital had the greatest need and I began my tenure as a volunteer, non-salaried faculty member in November 1999.

Teaching has been my forte. In this role, I have utilized my extensive experience and familiarity with biochemistry and molecular biology to provide lectures on topics in translational medicine to the housestaff, fellows, and faculty on a variety of subjects in genetics, obesity, and geroscience. In the general endocrine clinic I provide instruction on basic principles of clinical endocrinology, appropriate physical examination techniques, interpretation of laboratory data, and ultrasound studies, and supervise fine needle aspiration of the thyroid gland. What makes my experience at Grady so special is the membership in an international family, from countries all over the world. Grady for me has been

a wonderful home, and makes volunteering a meaningful and enjoyable facet of my life.

My hobbies have been three. The first is reading—not only medical literature, but to learn about the Southern folkways, familiarize myself with African American culture, and learn Spanish. The second has been to embrace the traditional music of the South. The bluegrass banjo style is complex and I took lessons for several years. Playing the banjo has become a hobby, and a source of entertainment for others. The third has been to cook with my wife and to develop new recipes or to improve upon known dishes. In the community, we enjoy the Atlanta Symphony, opera and ballet, and are active in our church. We like to walk and to explore different regions outside of Atlanta.”

1949 Class Representative
Ernest J. Dunston
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505-466-4346

50s

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

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A note from your class representative: I’m sorry to report that **Marvin Goldsmith** died in early February. Marvin served for decades on the board of WWCI, the parent organization of radio stations WTTW and WFMT in Chicago. I learned of his death from a kindergarten classmate from our mutual elementary school in South Shore.

Catherine Allison Marshall has become what we in Texas call a “snowbird.” Escaping from the rigors of a Northern Wisconsin winter, Catherine spent February basking in the sun on St. Simon’s Island in Georgia, returning in March through Chicago where she took in a concentrated series of musical performances. Last year, she had taken a *New York Times*

cruise around Japan, enjoying the sights and the stimulating on-board lectures. She says she found Mount Fuji truly awesome.

As I write this, I believe **Andrea Arentsen Atlass** is off on another of her fabulous extended cruises. I hope she will share its highlights in our next issue’s column.

Arthur Koff, who has now sold his retiredbrains.com website, was quoted recently in a *Forbes* article on the subject of popular online resources for job seekers older than 50 years of age. He continues to dispense valuable advice for the senior generation.

Judy Friedman Meyers is still describing enthusiastically her WFMT trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg. She couldn’t stop raving about attending a performance of the Bolshoi Ballet. She travels periodically to Massachusetts to visit one son’s family there; she is fortunate to have her other son nearby.

Michael Padnos writes that he is about to publish his first novel, which has been three or four years in gestation. Titled *Murder on the Marne*, it will be followed shortly thereafter by another, more autobiographical novel to be called After Lucy, and then by a third book, also kind of autobiographical, with the tentative title of *Ruin*. All three books are in the last stages of editing, and he hopes to publish them all in 2020. He says, “Perhaps one of them will come out at the same time as my son’s new book, *Blindfolded*, the story of his Syrian experience, plus. I need hardly say that his book will be much more of a publishing event than mine. Indeed Scribners is hoping that *Blindfolded* will become a bestseller.”

Please let me hear from the rest of you and keep me informed of any changes of address.

We would like to hear your news, too.

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Andrea Stryer writes, “As avid amateur naturalists, Lubert and I have sought out trips where we can observe animals and their behavior. In October, we spent nearly two weeks in Madagascar where the biological diversity is vast. Lemurs appeared there about 50 million years ago from Africa on rafts of vegetation. We saw 15 species—from the tiny nocturnal, solitary mouse lemur to the diurnal and very social ringtail lemur. The adaptive radiation is impressive—the lemurs found and adapted to so many different niches. Their eyes are fixed. To get a take on the next tree to leap to, they rotate their heads. Their leaps are breathtaking. My favorite is the sifaka, whose arms are very short and legs very long. Because of this discrepancy, they can not walk on all fours on the ground. Like kangaroos, they bound, perhaps ten feet a leap.

But not all is well on this island. There is constant pressure on the wildlife. The poverty, the non-existent infrastructure, and the corruption are palpable. I found it distressing that the Malagasy people do not have the support they need. The country has so much to offer.

On another note: those of us not in Chicago rarely come across fellow Labbies. So it was a surprise when our grandson brought a college friend over. It turned out that Joey was a Lab graduate, albeit 60+ years later than my Lab years. A bridge over the years.”

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

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

1957 Class Representative
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Members of the Class of 1959 celebrating their 60th reunion



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

News from the Class of 1959, reported by reunion organizers **Marianna Tax Choldin**, **Meredith Eaton Harris**, **Jean Maclean Snyder**, and **Mike Winter**: “On the weekend of October 25–27, 2019, the Class of 1959 held its 60th reunion. The celebration began on Friday evening with pizza in the multi-purpose room at Judd Hall. As you may recall, we used to creep silently through Judd on our way from Blaine to Belfield and back, under strict orders not to disturb the University’s Department of Education. On Saturday afternoon we toured Blaine and what’s left of Belfield, both now referred to as the Historic Campus, where we went to school, and the amazing new building, Gordon Parks Arts Hall, which opened in 2015. As we walked, we tried to identify our favorite spots, not always successfully.

Saturday night, a little disoriented but very impressed, we moved on to Jean Maclean’s home for a wonderful dinner and a relaxing evening spent catching up and exchanging memories. As you can see from the accompanying photo, we had a good crowd. The final event was a well-attended Sunday brunch at Mike Winter’s apartment near the John Hancock Building. Between our 50th and 60th reunions we met twice, for our 55th reunion and to celebrate our collective 75th birthday. We remain close, and we would love to see each other again, probably three years hence, to celebrate our next big birthday!”

60s

1960 Class Representative
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Sandy Lach Arlinghaus published a new book (with others)—*Spatial Thinking in Environmental Contexts: Maps, Archives, and Timelines*.

Menachem Kovacs recently completed for the second time the Siyum HaShas, learning the entire Talmud one page a day, 2711 pages over seven plus years. This Daf Yomi program is an international learning program with tens of thousands of participants all over the world.

Ellen Leavitt writes: As usual Phil and I have been visiting classmates when we can. In October, we were in New York City, where we had dinner at the home of **Carol Stein**, (who left Lab after fifth grade), along with **Hal Lieberman** and **Michael McKeon**. In November, we visited Shane and **Sally Spiegel Weare** in their Oakland home, seeing their art studios, sipping wine by a lovely fire and visiting the nearby Botanic Garden. We then drove to see their newly finished home in Bennett Canyon, replacing one that had been burned down in a terrible California wildfire.”

Phil Leavitt, '60, Sally Spiegel Weare, '60, Ellen Leavitt, '60, and Shane Weare



Hal Lieberman, Phil Leavitt, Ellen Leavitt, Carol Stein, all Class of 1960



Michael Newsom writes, “I have written a novel that I will publish this spring. The novel is my first work of fiction, although I wrote a number of very long law review articles, some early on in my career as a lawyer, others towards the end of my career as a law professor. Here is the back cover blurb, somewhat condensed and modified:

The Road to Green Hill introduces Asher, a Georgia slave boy born in 1841. He learns the three Rs, a lot of money comes his way, and his remarkable business acumen makes even more in 1871. The ‘Green Hill’ is a huge house, in a small residential compound in Atlanta. The outside world impinges on Asher’s world. The Chicago Fire disrupts Asher’s plans to become a real estate developer there, while still living in Atlanta, in Green Hill, and traveling to New York City from time to time to attend to Wall Street business. The unhinged racism of a former business associate of the object of Asher’s passion leads Asher into an encounter the consequences of which strain his relationships with both his wife and with the object of his forbidden passion.

I plan to write a number of sequels, taking Asher from 1871 to his death in Paris, France, at the age of 94. There is a lot to work with in telling the story of Asher and his family, not least of which is Chicago where Asher will live from sometime in the late 1800s to 1919. There are a lot of loose ends in *The Road to Green Hill*. It is a daunting task to tie them together, but Asher has been on my mind for a very long time now, and I hope that I can finish the story of his life before I sleep with my ancestors.”

1961 Class Representative
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Paul Boorstin and his wife, Sharon, were in New York City, and they dined with **Bill Blakemore** and **Carol Aldrich Barkin** (and Phyllis Lee and Spike Barkin, who were Paul’s classmates at the London School of Film Technique) at Bill’s favorite Upper West Side restaurant. Serious and not-so-serious conversation, reminiscences, and delicious food—a good time was had by all.

Paul Boorstin, Bill Blakemore, Carol Aldrich Barkin from the Class of 1961



David Friedman writes, “Over the past year, I have published two books. The first, *Legal Systems Very Different from Ours*, came out of a seminar I taught for many years at the law school of Santa Clara University. The underlying idea is that all human societies face about the same problems, they solve them in an interesting variety of different ways, and they are all grownups, hence all of their solutions deserve to be taken seriously. The 11 legal systems I discuss range from Imperial China to modern Romania and Amish, and include both Jewish and Islamic law. The book is out as both a paperback and a Kindle, and someone else is doing a podcast of it.

The second book, *Brothers*, is my third novel. It is a fantasy set in a world where magery is a science, but a very young science, that world’s equivalent of Newton having taken the first steps towards understanding it only about fifty years earlier. I have also produced audiobook versions of two of my other books, *The Machinery of Freedom*, which I first published almost 50 years ago, and *Hidden Order: The Economics of Everyday Life*.

I retired a couple of years ago, so the only teaching I have been doing is an occasional adult education course at SCU, most recently one based on my legal systems book. I also do a certain amount of public speaking, with trips planned to Europe and Australia. I continue to spend two weeks every summer camped out in a medieval pavilion, cooking over a campfire from medieval recipes, and surrounded by about 10,000 other crazy people engaged in similar activities as part of the Society for Creative Anachronism’s Pennsic War.”

Barbara Natof Paget writes, “It is always a delight to bump into fellow Labbies!—lunching

and laughing with **Gail Epstein Nagle** and daily playing ‘Words’ with **Nancy Sussman Kitay**. With my husband of 53 years, we are lovingly watching our middle-aged children (back at Rockefeller years ago, for my son’s MBA graduation from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business), raising their terrific kids, ranging in age from 14 to 23, my eldest granddaughter now teaching at a private charter school on the South Side. My days have been filled with a passion to help as many of the 14+ million cancer survivors, first as a volunteer starting in 1995 at Highland Park Hospital, and then in 2003 creating an all-volunteer event, Cancer Survivor Beauty and Support Day (.org), which is now international. With Resolution 422 in the House of Representatives, this event is held annually on the first Tuesday in June, offering all men, women, and children cancer survivors a day of complimentary beauty and wellness services. Thank you for Lab’s prestigious reputation for opening some doors for me, and for sharing this information now!”

Kathryn Posin writes, “I founded my dance company, the Kathryn Posin Dance Company, in 1972. We recently gave a concert series under an NEA Art Works grant, produced by the 92nd Street Y in New York City. **James Orr** was graciously able to attend. Other U-Highers, **Cecie Crawford** and **Paul Dry**, **Ben Heineman**, **David Stern**, and **Barbara Medwin Gurkhoff**, **Ingrid Sergel**, **Carol Aldrich**, and **Sharyn Teschner** have supported our projects. The works on the program were Triple Sextet to Steve Reich’s Pulitzer Prize-winning *Double Sextet* and *Evolution*, *The Letters of Charles Darwin*, supported by the Darwin Correspondence Project of Cambridge, England. I have also been a professor at the Gallatin School of NYU since 2004.”

Lee Preston writes, “Last August, I joined brother **Barry Preston**, ‘59, **Allen Musikantow**, ‘59, **Eliot Finkel**, ‘59, **Murray Dry**, ‘59, **Herb Simon**, ‘59, and friend Fred Jacobs and our wives in Wisconsin for our twice yearly poker game, laughing, eating, drinking, and enjoying each other’s company. This time, however, our time together ended in a terrible tragedy when Herb Simon, an ophthalmologist living in California, drowned in the hotel pool where we were staying. His wife, Sharon, and all of us were

standing by as the paramedics tried to revive him. He died the following day. He was a wonderful person who always seemed ready to smile and to contribute his good cheer to all of us. My condolences continue to go out to Sharon and their family. Then, on the day of Herb’s funeral, I learned that **Kay Johnson**, ‘62, had died. Kay and I dated during my senior year at U-High and I have fond memories of her. My condolences go out to Kay’s husband, children, and her brother, **David Johnson**, ‘60. We will soon be traveling from our winter home in Scottsdale, AZ, to meet again with the poker group, this time in Beverly Hills (Eliot Finkel’s Home). **Ben Shapiro**, ‘61, wife Barbara and **Stephen Marcus**, ‘61, and **Lynne Graham Marcus**, ‘62, will be visiting us in Scottsdale, where we will enjoy the sun and enjoy being with one another. Fran and I just became the parents and best friends of our new Cavalier King Charles Spaniel puppy, Bogart. He brings a smile to my face, for which I am most thankful.”

Rick Schmidt writes, “Some of you may know that I’ve made movies and written books about the process, including *Feature Filmmaking at Used-Car Prices* that actor Vin Diesel credits with starting his movie career (his mother bought him my book!). This last summer I had the good fortune that my punk comedy *Emerald Cities* (featuring San Francisco bands Flipper and The Mutants) was remastered to 4K/Hi-RES video from the film negative and 8-track live recordings. Danish writer/director Nicholas Winding Refn produced the re-do (he directed *Drive* starring Ryan Gosling), and he now offers it free at his website. In any case, it feels great to have my 1983 movie get distributed again in 2020. Please take a look!”

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

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Ruth Leitner, Andi John, and Mark Hyman celebrating the Class of 1964 reunion



Richard Allman reports: “I think that I have found a quite wonderful position for those of us now of a certain age. I am the Site Director of the A. Philip Randolph Senior Center in Upper Manhattan. I live nearby with my partner Fortunato Battaglia. I still get back to Chicago as often as possible, and would also love to be more in touch with classmates in New York.”

David Stameshkin writes, “The Class mourns the death of **Peggy Kadison Beck** on November 7, 2019. **Betty Rosenstein Musburger**, **Susie Furth Hand**, and **Gail Epstein Kovler** attended the funeral on November 13 in Portland, OR, at which Gail delivered a beautiful eulogy. We will all miss Peggy’s infectious joie de vivre.”

1964 Class Representative
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Ruth Orden Leitner writes, “After months of debating, I decided this was my opportunity to attend the reunion. I had never been to one before and traveling all the way from Israel was an obstacle. Luckily I decided to come, because it was a great experience and an opportunity to get back to Chicago. I stayed with classmate **Tanya Sugarman** whose hospitality was superb and met with **Andi John** and **Merle Gross**. It is amazing how we could still relate after 55 years. The evening events were well organized but the highlight was going back to school, taking the tour and bringing up all kinds of hilarious memories. And then going to the Medici for lunch with a rowdy crowd. From Chicago, I went to NY for a few days and had dinner with **Donna Katzin**, no better way to end the trip. Lab will always remain very special to me.”

Sheila Fischer, ‘65 reuniting with former Lab exchange student Colette Camelin



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

Sheila Penelope Fischer & Colette Camelin (Lycée Paul Valéry) thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each other in Reims, France, 55, years after switching places in 1964-65 through the American Friends Service Committee Student Exchange Program!

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

Ronald Barnes writes, “On a regular basis, **Gale Renitz (Krause)**, **John Renitz**, **Michael Perelemuter**, **Robert (Bob) Hutchinson**, and myself get together almost weekly and have dinner. We have dined at a number of restaurants throughout Chicagoland. Gale could be a great restaurant influencer. We have really enjoyed our escapades with each other and look forward to the time we spend together. Personally, I sold my business and returned to school. I completed my MA in religious studies at the University of Chicago Divinity



Sonya Baehr and Paula Fan, Class of 1969

School (2015). I am finishing my doctorate (PhD) in psychology focusing on integrating technology into the learning process (2020). I have been inducted into Psi Chi, the International Honor Society for psychology (2019) and I have written a book entitled, *Practice What You Preach, Preach What You Practice.*”

1967 Class Representative
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Thomas Hirsh writes, “Would you believe that four of us U-High boys still meet and have lunch together regularly? Yep, **Bobby Bergman**, **Kevin Kenward**, **Jonny Speigel**, and myself eat at Miller’s Pub on Wabash Avenue a couple times a year before Chicago Symphony Orchestra concerts. We have been doing this for decades. We are all healthy and happy, still talk to each other, and wish you the best.”

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1969 Class Representative
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Sonya Baehr writes, “Paula Fan and I met for the first time since 1967, when we were both at U-High. Paula left sophomore year to move to Arizona. I stayed in Chicago to graduate in 1969 with our class. Paula has since become a pianist and was on her way to concertize through Canada and several other countries. I was at my home in between travels to Peru, Frankfurt, and Portugal on IDEA business. It was wonderful to get back in touch and we both celebrated the fact that our Lab educations had really made us who we are today.”

Pen-L Publishing has recently released *Death at a Seance*, a new novel by **Carolyn Wilkins**. Set in 1920, Carolyn’s latest who-done-it is the story of an African American psychic fighting for survival in a world populated by gangsters, bootleggers, and the KKK. To launch the book, Carolyn hosted a real-life seance, providing mediumship readings to members of the audience.

70s
1970 Class Representative
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Peter Kalven writes, “I have, after a successful 40+ year career as a technician in film, television and stage, become a licensed real estate associate in the Province of Alberta, Canada. My early years in the industry were as a residential realtor and I focused on the difficult transactions of luxury homes, bankruptcies, and divorce. My contact with several affluent clients led me into working as a realtor, first in commercial real estate, and gradually developing the specialty of selling large portfolios of multi-family or hotels as a licensed associate. I am now with a small international firm consisting of just the broker and myself and on occasion another associate. The majority of my clients do not speak English as their first language and I’ve developed a very patient and discerning ear. I enjoy the work, but have found as we have all reached well past 60, that I am enjoying my status as grandfather more. It is my good fortune to have seven grandchildren at present all under the age of seven.”

Martin Lubran writes, “I am happily married for 43 years to my wife Mary. We have six kids and five grandkids—one is a clinical psychologist, one a CPA, one a master chef, one a country singer (getting well known on the West Coast) and MBA, one a mechanical engineer, and the youngest finishing college. I am still working. I own a national construction company, American Classic Construction Inc. We are one of the largest small businesses providing building materials to the federal government, and we do commercial projects locally in Southern California like churches, shopping malls, and some high-end residential projects. I am very active in our local church. Mary and I love to dance, and we go out at least three nights per week (country-style dancing and West Coast swing mostly). We got the idea from our CPA daughter who was (until she had her first child) one of the top half dozen West Coast Swing dancers in world-wide ratings.”

Peter Kalven, ‘70 enjoying the holidays with his grandchildren



Emily Mann writes, “As you may know, I am preparing to leave Princeton’s McCarter Theatre Center at the end of June after 30 glorious years as artistic director and resident playwright.”

Steve Pitts writes, “I can’t believe we graduated 50 years ago. I am so looking forward to seeing as many of my classmates as possible at our reunion in June. For me it will be extra special as June will be the last month of my formal working life. I retire on July 1 and I am so excited about this development. No major plans...I just know it is time to shut it down. I have been at the UC Berkeley Labor Center since 2001 and I feel really good about the work I have done individually and we have done institutionally. I have gained a great deal of joy in being able to combine my passion for social justice with my training as an economist and skills as an educator/organizer. I am really excited about this next phase...who knows what it will entail.

My incredible joy and anticipation are tempered by the seriousness of these times. I care deeply about the various forms of inequality that are hard-baked into our society. I was fortunate to contract only a relatively mild form of cancer five years ago—I am fine now...there was no major danger, but the absence of danger was due to my access to the finest health care systems in the world. I get angry and am moved to tears knowing that if not for my good job with health care and flex-time, I might be dead...and too many people don’t have the opportunities I have. This is wrong. And then I see Trump and his crew flaunting every basic value we were raised on at the Lab. This has to stop. I will spend part of the first half year of my retirement fighting to make sure that the moral arc of the universe really does bend toward justice.”

Janet “Dinny” Gottlieb
Sailian looks forward to attending the 50th Reunion of the 1970 U-High graduating class on June 6. Where did 50 years go? As co-author of the newly published autobiography *Ghost Warrior—The Real “Martin Blank”*: *Green Beret in the Vietnam and Cold War Eras*, Janet spent eight years capturing the life story of a 20-year U.S. Airborne Army Ranger and Special Forces Green Beret, Martin Le Blanc. Born in small-town Nova Scotia, the French-speaking Acadian Le Blanc moved to New Jersey with his family as a teen, enlisted in the Army at age 20 (though not a U.S. citizen) and quickly rose to the most elite Special Forces ranks. Missions took him from Vietnam and Cambodia to Europe, Lebanon, Egypt, Grenada, the Pacific Shelf, Afghanistan and Colombia. Twice he was the lone survivor of a mission. Le Blanc’s life as one of “the quiet professionals” foreshadows today’s geopolitics.

1971 Class Representative

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1972 Class Representative

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James Johnston writes, “I’ll report for my whole family: **Jim ’72, Jeff ’74, Mary ’78, David ’82**. We all attended Lab from nursery school through high school graduation. Our mother, Charlotte, is 90 and still lives in Hyde Park, half a block from where we grew up. I have been living in Lexington, MA since 1992. My wife Mary and I have six children turning ages 29 to 39 this year. They are living in California, Massachusetts, and New York. Jeff and his wife Nelly are in Berkeley, CA. Jeff just finished a Grand Canyon hike (rim to rim to rim), reminiscent of his cross-country bike ride one summer of high school with **Paul Strauss, ’74**, and others. Mary and her husband John are in Charleston, SC. Their two daughters also live there. David and his wife Michelle are in Sammamish, WA. We have a reunion this summer with our mother, all four siblings and spouses, and many of the next two

generations. As I scan the list of our class members (in my trusty 1993 alumni directory), I find that I remember nearly everyone in our class at least a little bit. To the end of my days, I’ll be one of this group, a group that helped form me. In my life now, I have space, in a way I haven’t before, to renew acquaintances and grow new friendships. If anyone feels moved to give me a call or stop by for a visit, I’d be very glad.”

Adam Rudolph is a drummer/composer and world music pioneer who has been earning acclaim throughout his career. His latest project *Ragmala* is his biggest yet and may be of interest to his fellow Lab alumni. *Ragmala - A Garden of Ragas* is a recording featuring 40 world-class musicians combining Rudolph’s Go: Organic Orchestra with the Brooklyn Raga Massive. The project features Gnawa master musician Hassan Hakmoun, legendary drummer/percussionist Hamid Drake, forward-thinking cornetist Graham Haynes, and tradition-blurring flutist Kaoru Watanabe combining forces with Brooklyn Raga Massive’s Trina Basu, Jay Gandhi, Samarth Nagakar, and many others.

1973 Class Representative

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John Prunskis, MD, co-founder and co-medical director of the Illinois Pain Institute, and presidential appointee to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Pain Task Force, was a panelist at the sixth annual 2019 Summit on Balance Pain Management in Washington, DC, focussed on the benefits of integrated pain care and the barriers patients face in accessing it, as well as strategies to begin removing those access challenges.

1974 Class Representative

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1975 Class Representative

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Charles Pekow writes, “I’m still doing what I started on the *Midway*: all sorts of news reporting and continuing to witness the slow death of print journalism from my perch inside the Washington Beltway. Most writing I do involves alcoholic beverages and bicycling, with some environmental writing. Every now and then in this business, you can come up with something grand. Biggest accomplishment (so far) of the year was breaking the story on how the Trump Administration is killing the Endangered Species Act, written for *Earth Island Journal*. Project Censored, a media watchdog group, named it #15 on the list of the 25 most important but underreported stories of the year (and 3rd among environmental stories).”

1976 Class Representative

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

Reverend Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed recently won the award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism.

1978 Class Representative

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Matthew Bigongiari writes, “After teaching elementary and middle school for the last 28 years, I was lucky enough to have been granted a sabbatical year. So last year my wife (Donica), nine-year-



Matthew Bigongiari, '78 and his son during his sabbatical in Italy

old son (Adrian), and I moved to Padova (Padua), Italy for a year of adventure and renewal. Adrian attended 3rd grade at an Italian Waldorf School while Donica and I hiked most every day in the nearby Colli Euganei or weekends in the Dolomites. We also were able to travel around Italy and reconnect with my father’s friends and family in Tuscany. In Padova, we lived in an amazing palazzo that dates from 1441, shopped in outdoor markets daily, visited numerous churches, castles, museums, and wineries and I even had a part-time job teaching English in two local middle schools. Now I am back in Eugene, Oregon, returning to a job-share teaching position at the Village School, a public K-8 Waldorf-inspired charter school which I helped to found in 2000. For any and all who have the opportunity for a sabbatical year, I say emphatically: don’t hesitate!”

Amity Shlaes writes, “Greetings, Many U of C spirits and alums, including **John Cochrane, ’75**, Harry Kalven, Milton Friedman, and E.V. Hayek (the last three from the grave) helped me with my current book, *Great Society: A New History*. The book has triggered plenty of disputes, but that seems to be... the way life works. Certainly Hyde Park informed the book, not only my Hyde Park, but that of my late father, Jared Shlaes. I am taking suggestions for the next book. Perhaps fiction. Recently I had a wonderful salmon and mascarpone dinner in California with John Cochrane and **Elizabeth Fama, ’83**. After the dinner, I read Elizabeth’s book *Plus One*, which is really outstanding, right up there with *Wrinkle in Time*. I’m very glad to have remained friends with **Mark Hornung** and **Jacqueline Pardo**. Our first son, Eli Lipsky, is working in downtown Chicago, perhaps some of you or your children run into him; we also have a son in the army, Theo Lipsky, 173rd Airborne.”

1982 Class Representative
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Naveena Daniels Bembry writes, “Running into **Tim Wilkins** at a holiday party in Philadelphia was a wonderful and unexpected gift. As we caught up on life in between reunions, special childhood memories emerged. We recalled those halcyon days playing basketball with the Duncan family in the alleyway behind their house. We shared fond memories of Sue (and the Duncan kids) playing with us and the spirited way Sue encouraged and cheered us on. Our conversation served as a valuable reminder of the wonderful bond that Labbies share! I am in my 22nd year of teaching at a Quaker school. My school community reminds me of Lab in many

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80s

1980 Class Representative

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312-645-0248

1981 Class Representative

Paul Robertson
8835 South Harper Avenue
Chicago, IL 60619
pjr4@nih.gov
773-667-4012

Harry Bims writes, “Hello Labbies! I have been a wireless expert witness for about 17 years now. In this role, I testify in federal courts around the country, where I explain my technical opinions in patent infringement lawsuits regarding wireless technologies such as 5G, LTE, WiFi, and Bluetooth. And, to the best of my knowledge, I continue to be the only person of color who has done this. Additionally, I have just taken on the role of technical editor for a brand new version of WiFi that replaces radio waves with LED light. My Lab experience has provided a great educational foundation that has served me well in this phase of my career.”

1982 Class Representative

Eliza Tyksinski
237 Orchard Drive
Oregon, WI 53575
ejfamjam@gmail.com
608-334-2795

Naveena Daniels Bembry writes, “Running into **Tim Wilkins** at a holiday party in Philadelphia was a wonderful and unexpected gift. As we caught up on life in between reunions, special childhood memories emerged. We recalled those halcyon days playing basketball with the Duncan family in the alleyway behind their house. We shared fond memories of Sue (and the Duncan kids) playing with us and the spirited way Sue encouraged and cheered us on. Our conversation served as a valuable reminder of the wonderful bond that Labbies share! I am in my 22nd year of teaching at a Quaker school. My school community reminds me of Lab in many

Naveena Daniels Bembry, ’82, and Timothy Wilkins, ’82



ways—progressive educators and engaged students committed to social justice and living lives that make a difference. Last summer, Bobby and I celebrated our 30th anniversary. Our oldest daughter is graduating from Duke Law School in May and is heading back to the Bay Area to work for a firm. Our younger daughter graduated from Oberlin College and recently moved to the East Village and is working for a tech company. Wishing everyone a joyful 2020!”

Monica Davey joined award-winning journalist and *New York Times* bestselling author Beth Macy in November at the Field Museum for a discussion on the impact of opioids. As part of the 2019 Chicago Humanities Festival, the conversation also addressed what can be done to combat the national opioid epidemic.

Carlo Rotello was also a speaker at the 2019 Chicago Humanities Festival. Rotella, now a professor at Boston College, returned to the neighborhood to research his latest book, *The World Is Always Coming to an End*. Part memoir, part urban history, Rotella’s book is an evocative reminder of the powerful ways neighborhoods shape our lives. Carlo also led a discussion at the South Shore Cultural Center focused on the historic neighborhood’s past, present, and future.

1983 Class Representative

Cheryl Buckingham
csamp2002@yahoo.com

Kumari de Silva writes, “Another year and I’m still here! Ongoing treatment seems promising, heartfelt deep thanks to everyone who contributed to my GoFundMe a couple of years ago.”

Juli Wade writes, “In July, I started a new position as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Connecticut. My husband

(Stephen Stanley) and I moved from Michigan in July (we had both been employed at Michigan State). I haven’t seen any Labbies in a long, long time, but if anyone is in Connecticut or nearby, it would be great to connect.”

1984 Class Representative

Susan Mack Taple
drsusantaple@gmail.com

Thaila Field writes, “I have two new books out in 2020, *Leave to Remain (Legends of Janus)* and *Personhood*. I have been named faculty director of the Brown Arts Initiative at Brown University, and look forward to three years of exciting and innovative experimental programs. We are proud to host **Bill Morrison, ’83**, in October, 2020, who will present his recent film, *Dawson City: Frozen Time*, as well as give a lecture and do a workshop with students. I hope other alumni will be in touch if they are ever coming through Providence!”

Class of 1985: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Office of Alumni Relations and Development at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

1986 Class Representative

Sam Perlman
P.O. Box 652
Baileys Harbor, WI 54202
samplermandoorcounty@icloud.com

Michael DeSombre writes, “On January 8, 2020, I was confirmed by the United States Senate as the next United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand. As a result, I have resigned from the partnership of Sullivan & Cromwell (where I have been since 1995) and anticipate taking up the position in the coming weeks.”

1987 Class Representative

Barbara Harris
harriswoodard@gmail.com

Leah Zonis Harp has become an operator for the Minnesota Streetcar Museum, driving a 111-year-old streetcar. Recently she participated in an event honoring the Motorettes, the women who went to work during WWII. The event was covered by *The Star Tribune*.

Jon Becker, ’89, Nicole Heaston Lane, ’89, and Helena Ghez, ’89 after Nicole’s performance in Le Nozze di Figaro with the San Francisco Opera



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

1989 Class Representative

Mekeda Johnson-Brooks
7425 South Rhodes Avenue
Chicago, IL 60619
mekeda27@gmail.com
773-783-0445

Nicole Heaston Lane writes, “I am from the class of 1989 and attended Lab from 1976-1985. This past fall I was singing the role of Contessa Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with the San Francisco Opera. Two of my former classmates, **Jon Becker** and **Helena Ghez** came to the performance. It was great to see them. I had not seen them since our eighth-grade graduation in 1985. Once a Labbie, always a Labbie.”

90s

1990 Class Representatives

Dan Kirschner
606 Forest Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305-1710
dsk@corboydemetrio.com
312-346-3191

Tara P. Shochet
1182 East Court Street
Iowa City, IA 52240
tshochet@gmail.com
319-354-0893

1991 Class Representative

Mariann McKeever
mariannmckeever@comcast.net

1992 Class Representative

Shrunali Rai
shrunali@me.com

1993 Class Representative
Alan Heymann
2703 Dennis Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20902
alanheyman@gmail.com
202-468-9554

Alan Heymann recently left the world of full-time employment to launch his own executive and leadership coaching business, Peaceful Direction. His new work aims to help leaders work around obstacles and unlock their full potential. Alan holds an executive certificate in leadership coaching from Georgetown University.

1994 Class Representative
Michelle Maffia Tarkowski
nateelle@hotmail.com

1995 Class Representative
Dan Hartley
dhartley@alum.mit.edu

Barika Grant worked in New York City on Wall Street for over a decade. She moved back to Chicago four years ago and in 2019, started to pursue a lifelong passion in comedy. While she has written comedy for 20 years, she only recently took to the stage and now performs in and around Chicago. She has found success by being smart, edgy, and thought provoking. She performs in and around Chicago. Support a Labbie! Find a performance by following her on FB @ Barika jokes and IG @barika_jokes.

1996 Class Representatives
Shira Katz
1068 Ashbury Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
shikatz@hotmail.com

Elena Arensman McPeak
elena.mcpeak@gmail.com

Sami James writes, “I’m an IT project manager at the Cook County Treasurer’s Office. I am also executive producer at Stop the Bomb Productions, a small indie woman- and Native American-owned film production company. Our latest film, *Altruist*, recently won the Best Windy City Short Film 2019 award at the Chicago International Arthouse Film Festival! We’re currently finishing the script for our next project, a coming-of-age feature film about a young woman traveling around the world.”

Stefanie and Chase Chavin, '97 at Connections 2020 at the Field Museum



1997 Class Representative
Win Boon
10433 Lochmere Court
Fort Wayne, IN 46814
win.boon@gmail.com
260-616-1022

Chase Chavin writes, “I currently live in the South Loop with my incredible wife, Stefanie, and our two children, Colby (age 10) and Alexandra (age 8). For the last 11 years, my professional focus has been in real estate, specifically investments in multi-family (i.e., apartments) across the United States, including several properties in the Chicagoland area. In late 2019, I founded CoLab 7100, a shared workspace and innovation hub in South Shore. My hope is that we can provide a resource for the South Shore community, specifically, at a price point that is affordable. My longer-term goal with this venture is to support small businesses and entrepreneurs from traditionally underserved markets in similar locations throughout the city. This is a project that I am extremely passionate about, as I know there are a number of people working from home right now who are priced out of other traditional coworking options, and who could benefit from both the resources and the community. Importantly, I was able to convince the extraordinary **Amanda Williams, '92**, to join me in this endeavor, and she has graciously included an installation of hers in the space! Please help us get the word out and follow us on FB or Instagram (@colab7100chicago). If you are in South Shore, don’t hesitate to come in and tour the space. You can also check out our website.”

Jason Boulware writes, “It’s been a big year for me so I thought I should share some. I’m teaching a very interesting class at the School of the Art Institute (SAIC) called Social Practices where I teach about the prison system in America and then we also teach filmmaking and make films with incarcerated

youth. We make 7–8 trips during the fall semester to the Illinois Youth Center—CHICAGO and work with a group of dedicated youth prisoners. This past year my work was recognized not only by the youth center here in Chicago, as I won their volunteer of the year award, but more broadly: I also won the Department of Juvenile Justice volunteer of the year award. Not long after that, in conjunction with the University of Chicago and SAIC, I was awarded a grant for \$197K to study justice and fairness. And finally SAIC awarded me the Marion Kryczka Excellence in Teaching Award. Aside from my academic achievements, my film production company continues to do well working with World Business Chicago, Lab alum and State Representative **Justin Slaughter, '98**, the Villages of Broadview and Maywood, and many other wonderful organizations. All in all, we’ve had a great year and we’re looking forward to a great 2020.”

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

Todd Belcore writes, “When you look at non-profits nationwide, too few are led by people who have actually experienced the injustices they try to solve. Eight years ago, **Emile Cambry Jr.** and I co-founded a national nonprofit called Social Change to change that. I know firsthand what it feels like to experience economic insecurity, arrests at gunpoint, and housing insecurity. Others fought so that I would have a chance to succeed. As Social Change’s executive director, I get the chance to do the same for others using the storytelling, organizing, legal services, and policy advocacy skills I acquired through personal experience and at Lab, Michigan and Northwestern Law. In terms of organizing and advocacy, the Social Change team has worked to successfully pass 23 pieces of legislation benefiting over 5,000,000 people relating to economic equity to criminal justice reform. As it relates to storytelling, we have also hosted 13 International Social Change Film Festivals that have hosted thousands of people and showcased films, art, fashion and music from all over the world. And with regard to direct assistance, we’ve done everything from feed the

Tiago Pappas, '00, Andy Rosenband, '99, Lena Clement, '99 at Connections 2020 at the Field Museum



homeless to provide legal assistance and know your rights training to over 2,000. I’m excited that Social Change’s Board now has fellow Labbies **Chase Chavin, '97, Kim du Buclet, '89, and Anthony Williams, PhD, '98**, onboard, so I know the best is yet to come! Please follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @chisocialchange. If you’ve found yourself wishing you were doing more to confront division, promote justice and create opportunity, join us!”

1999 Class Representative
Katherine Le
katherinele@yahoo.com

Lizzi Heydemann writes, “After graduating with the last class of the 20th century, I spent a year in Israel, then four years of studying religion and philosophy at Stanford, then five years in rabbinical school in Los Angeles, and have been a rabbi for the better part of the past decade. I moved home to Chicago in 2011 and founded Mishkan Chicago, a post-denominational, everybody-friendly, inspired, down-to-earth Jewish spiritual community. I married a fellow Hyde Parker named Henry Bernstein and we have two adorable kids, Judah Lev and Adira. Life’s pretty good and I think back on Lab with gratitude and fondness!”

00s

2000 Class Representative
Tiago Pappas
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773-330-8583

2001 Class Representative
Greg Kohlhaagen
gkohlha@gmail.com

Margaret Farris, '04, at her wedding with Lab classmates



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

Melissa Corey and **Ryan Beck, '00** were recently featured in Condé Nast Traveler’s article, “20 Best Places to Go in 2020” for their farm/restaurant, Pennyroyal Cafe & Provisions, located in southwest Michigan.

2003 Class Representative
John Oxtoby
joxtooby@gmail.com

2004 Class Representative
Marcelo Pappas
marcelopappas@gmail.com

Margaret Faris writes, “On September 21, I celebrated my marriage to Amit Thakur here in NYC and a few of my Lab classmates joined.”

2005 Class Representative
Mark Berberian
2540 North Spaulding Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647
berberian3@gmail.com
773-348-7233

Matthew Klein writes, “My first book, *Trade Wars are Class Wars*, comes out this spring. Early reviews call it “essential,” “erudite, original, and provocative,” and, “a book that everyone concerned with the global economy should read.”

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

Lindsay Cook currently teaches medieval art and architectural history at Vassar College. *Notre Dame Cathedral: Nine Centuries*

of History, her translation from French into English of the recent book co-authored by Sorbonne professor Dany Sandron and the late architectural historian Andrew Tallon, will be published in March 2020.

2007 Class Representative
Molly Schloss
molly.j.schloss@gmail.com

2008 Class Representative
Victoria Rogers
victoriamrogers@gmail.com

Graham Salinger writes, “As a Lab graduate I have been committed to living the philosophy of learning by doing. I have been doing a lot and learning a lot. From 2012–14, I served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Donbas region of Ukraine and, because of the ongoing war in that region of Ukraine, was evacuated. Feeling a desire to continue working internationally, I did the logical thing and moved to China.

As of January 2020, I have been working as a restorative mediation and facilitation practitioner for the Center for Community Justice for a year. I serve as a staff mediator for community mediation cases, family mediation cases, and the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP). VORP seeks to give victims a voice in determining how the offender can work to make things right. In addition to my mediation responsibilities, I also founded the Center for Community Justice’s Conflict Coaching Program which we call “Coaching for Success” and have worked with HR departments to implement our coaching model. Furthermore, I founded the Promise Academy for Conflict Transformation (PACT), a diversion program for youth who have committed crimes. PACT empowers youth with conflict-resolution skills to manage and de-escalate conflicts. The Center for Community Justice provides a range of services that are rooted in restorative justice, a form of justice that shifts the focus from broken laws and incarceration to repairing broken lives and healing damaged relationships. The work that we do helps to build stronger communities and cultures of care by providing opportunities for dialogue in times of turmoil. We focus on repairing harm, building a just and equitable systems and addressing conflict in healthy and empowering ways.”

Attendees from Derbes Fest, honoring retired teacher David Derbes



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

10s

Class of 2010: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative? Email the Office of Alumni Relations and Development at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

2011 Class Representative
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2012 Class Representative
Ary Hansen
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773-324-4012

2013 Class Representatives
Sarah Curci
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Amartya Das
amartya.das78@gmail.com

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

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

2015 Class Representative
Michael Glick
mglick608@yahoo.com

2016 Class Representative
Julian Lark
jlark@uchicago.edu

2017 Class Representative
Jonathan Lipman
jlipman500@gmail.com

Will Zich writes, “I initially left Lab, for the University of Toronto, but found its culture to be extremely unwelcoming, coming from a nurturing place like Lab. I’ve since transferred to the University of British Columbia (whose

president is a UChicago man!), and I started working with TEDxUBC as a graphic designer! The position has been thrilling. Additionally, I’ve interned twice at a startup in Hyde Park called NowPow, as a data engineer and data analyst, where I became a vital part of the team. NowPow was founded by the mother of a Lab student, and a doctor at UChicago, Stacy Lindau. Shortly after leaving U of T, I started a not-for-profit activist group called “How Many Lives?” in response to the abhorrent suicide rate at the University of Toronto. We started a website where students could anonymously share their experiences with the university and tell their own narratives of their mental health experiences. Since leaving, I’ve passed on the management of the group to students who are still there, but the group had a profound impact on the university, and forced them to create a new task force to address their suicides.”

Obituaries

CHRIS FREEMAN, AB,'85, MAT,'95 1961–2020



Middle School math teacher Chris Freeman, AB,'85, MAT,'95, died February 7, 2020. Chris was born May 25, 1961 in Tucson, AZ to Hershon Freeman and Maeda Sprengling. He had two older sisters, Joan and Gale. The family moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma when he was just six weeks old, then to Boston when he was in second grade. He moved to Chicago in 1982 to attend the University of Chicago. Although he began by studying history, he majored in mathematics. He began his teaching career at Quest Academy, formerly known as Creative Children's Academy, in 1986, and married Maria Fridgeirsson, AB,'88, AM,'90, PhD,'05, the same year.

He started working at the Laboratory Schools in 1994 as a student teacher with Cathy Feldman and Hanna Goldschmidt. He earned his masters in teaching in 1995. During the summers and on the

weekends, he taught enrichment courses in mathematics and historic games at the Center for Gifted. As a member of the Mathematics Department, Chris had a deep understanding of the threads of mathematical inquiry and thought that weave through the mathematics curriculum. He was responsible for initiating generations of 11-year-olds into the pleasures of rigorous mathematical reasoning. He wrote a deep curriculum for the advanced Middle School geometry course, a curriculum that is still unique within mathematics education. He taught courses in the Middle and High Schools, as well as lessons in the Lower School and in a summer enrichment program; this vast experience and expertise informed the classroom experience of every child in his care. A long-time colleague of Chris's expressed his community's loss perfectly with these words: "I will always remember how his calm, thoughtful voice would remind me to return to more important priorities—to see my students as people, to treat my colleagues with kindness, to bring decency and joy to every day. Chris Freeman was one of the most sincere, earnest people I have ever met."

He is survived by his wife, and children, John, a U-High senior, Edward, '15, and Clara, '10, AM'16.

Jean T. Hatch, '38, of Downers Grove died on July 16, 2019, in her 100th year. She married Edward Hatch in 1942 and was a graduate of University Lab High School and DePauw University, where she was a member of Alpha Phi sorority. She was an active volunteer with the Girl Scouts, Clarendon Hills Library, a Sunday school teacher, and also served with the American Red Cross during WWII. She was an active member of the Infant Welfare Society and American Association of University Women for many years. She loved to play golf, bowl, and play bridge, and was an avid fan of Chicago sports teams, especially the White Sox and Blackhawks. She was preceded in death by her husband Edward and is survived by her children Nikki (Robert) Munch, Debbie (Terry) Green, and Jill (Morgan) Cragin.

Arnold K. Leavitt, '49, AB'51, died on November 19, 2019, at the age of 87. He worked for the family business, Union Liquor Company/Consolidated Distilled Products, which distributed, blended, rectified, bottled, and labeled alcoholic beverages. They also created their own private brands of popular cordials. There he supervised a large, diverse sales force and began the importation of European wines. An oenophile, he was instrumental in developing the wine industry in Chicago. He eventually became president of the company. Arnold and his wife Sandra were avid bridge players, winning many tournaments. In 1979, his team won the Grand National Championship. He continued playing until shortly before his death. After retiring, he and his wife travelled the world, visiting every continent and many countries. They were particularly interested in history, culture, wine, and food. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Sandra, daughter Debbie Leavitt (George) Castleberry, daughter Gail Culberson, and brothers Philip, '60, and Richard, '63.

Marvin Goldsmith, '51, age 84, of Bonita Springs, FL, formerly of Chicago, died in February. A 1957 graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, he began his marketing career with

a focus on the grocery food industry. Goldsmith's career in marketing and advertising led to the establishment of his own firm, Marketing That Works, in 1994. Prior to that, he managed accounts – including Bakers Square and Oldsmobile – at Campbell-Mithun-Esty Advertising, serving as the Chicago office's president and chief operating officer.

Additionally, he served for decades on the board of WWCII, the parent organization of WTTW and WFMT. Newton Minow, a WTTW/WFMT trustee emeritus, said Goldsmith's "legacy is a treasure."

He is survived by his wife, Adele, and two children, Marcie Goldsmith and Michelle Evins.

Kay Johnson, '63, died on August 14, 2019 from complications of breast cancer. For much of the past decade, she helped administer Hampshire College's Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment providing global exchange opportunities for herself and fellow faculty and students to lead environmental and agricultural field research in China and Thailand. She established Hampshire's unique partnership with Anhui Agricultural University, bringing numerous Chinese scholars to Hampshire to help prepare students to study abroad and creating enduring research networks in China for students and faculty. She helped secure significant funding from the Henry Luce Foundation's Asia Program. In 2017, she was named by *Foreign Policy Magazine* as one of "The U.S.-China 50." She earned her BA, MA, and PhD from the University of Wisconsin. Much of her research, publishing, and advocacy work was focused on the struggles of children and families in central rural China, including the impact of Chinese population control policies on children's welfare. She dedicated several summers to developing programs and funding for abandoned children with AIDS in China. Her research served to inform adoptive families of the realities of China's one-child policy.

Peggy Beck, '63, died on November 7, 2019, of cancer. She is survived by her husband Jonathan Beck, four children and many other family and friends.

Mark Plotkin, '64, died September 22, 2019 at his home in Washington, DC, at the age of 72. He was a political commentator and analyst for radio stations WAMU and WTOP, made numerous appearances on local and Canadian television and wrote columns for various publications. Born and raised in Chicago, he moved to DC to attend George Washington University and quickly adopted the nation's capital as his hometown. After college, his Chicago upbringing led him to try his hands at DC politics. He got as far as advisory neighborhood commissioner. He quit running after two failed attempts at the Ward 3 council seat. Keeping the structure housing the John Wilson Building in the District's hands was all Mark Plotkin's doing. The District government's headquarters would not be standing today without him. His mission in life was to hold government, and the people running it, accountable. And he wouldn't back down no matter the altitude of the elected officials. Members of the council, the Congress or the president's cabinet, he took them all on. He even worked the concerns of the District into presidential press conferences. Living alone, Plotkin was married to the District. No, that's too strong. Maybe it was more like a long-term engagement with a protective partner, which may help explain Plotkin's ferocity when he felt his city was under attack.

Marc Cogan, '65, died September 18, at his home in Paris. After earning a BA in English and a PhD from the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, Marc had a distinguished teaching career in humanities at Wayne State University. His published works include *The Human Thing* (about Thucydides) and *Design in the Wax* (about Dante). He loved Mozart and doo-wop, read the ancient Greeks and the complete Georges Simenon,

and adored Rembrandt etchings and the latest electronic devices. An enthusiastic chef and a foodie before the term was invented, he loved eating everything from tacos to oysters. He was married twice, first to Sarah Wallace (d. 2004) and then to Ann McConnell, '64, (d. 2018).

Philip Hodge, '67, died on August 23 in Nuuk, Greenland, from a MRSA infection, while he and his wife were on a cruise from Iceland to Alaska through the Northwest Passage. He had a love for learning and always encouraged others to never stop learning and growing. He was a respected member of the Pine Grove Volunteer Fire Department, a member of the Board of Directors of the Cumberland County Playhouse, and a treasured philanthropist to many organizations. He was a patron of arts and science. As an engineer, he was highly respected by his colleagues having been on the advisory board for the Academy of Structural & Mechanical Engineers. Phil is survived by his wife, Marjorie, three children, four grandchildren, and his sisters Susan Hodge, '63, and Lisa Hodge Kelly, '69.

Debby Kalk, '70, died on October 20 in San Antonio. She was a proud product of Chicago and U-High, and after over four decades in this state, she was very much a Texan. After high school she opened herself to a variety of experiences, including delivering mail in Chicago and supporting herself as an artist in New Orleans. An aunt in Fort Worth drew her to Texas, and she flourished at the University of Texas at Austin. She became an early practitioner of interactive instructional design and she co authored a respected instructional textbook. Her work included program and course design for Fortune 500 Companies, textbook publishers, US and foreign universities. She is survived by her daughter, Stella, and her stepmother and retired Lab teacher, Sharon Friedman.



Math prof

Jeffrey Kuan, '06



"I always wanted to do math. My dad likes to tell the story that when I was a baby, he would read me the room numbers in the hospital and that would calm me down," said Jeffrey Kuan, '06. "But that's probably apocryphal!" Even so, Kuan's interest in numbers can be traced at least as far back as kindergarten, when he said he wanted to be a mathematician. To a five-year-old, that just meant he thought he could add numbers all day.

Now an assistant professor of mathematics at Texas A&M University, he does a lot more than simple addition. "What do I do? I get asked that question a lot," quipped Kuan. "One thing I try to do is get a sense of unsolved problems and develop new methods to solve them that haven't been done before."

If you flip a coin a bunch of times and then plot the distribution of the results, it will look a lot like a bell curve. But what about something far less simple than that, which introduces more randomness? What shape would that distribution be? Take for example, how a forest fire spreads—in which directions and how quickly? Those are the kinds of real-world situations for which he'd like to be able to model the probability.

"In principle, this could help fight fires, and I certainly hope people can find applications like that from this sort of math,

since I don't actively work on them," he said. His long-term "pipedream" of a goal is to impact the way math is taught at the college level. So much of math education is rote memorization, rather than understanding conceptually why something is true or why an equation works. If math were framed differently, even going back to grade school and high school, it would be far easier for students to grasp. He was lucky, he said, attending Lab, where not only was he able to take college-level math classes as a high school student, he was also inspired by their efforts to teach math in a way that was beautiful and interesting. "I try to implement this in my own teaching," he said, recalling how he tutored at a local high school while a graduate student. His students were trying to

"My dad likes to tell the story that when I was a baby, he would read me the room numbers in the hospital and that would calm me down."

memorize how to calculate the areas of shapes, like triangles and parallelograms. He explained how a triangle is half a parallelogram, so you'd calculate the area the same way, just divided by two. "In the future, I dream of writing a calculus textbook. Although, there are already a lot of those out there. Maybe I can make mine free!"

Author, crossword creator

Aimee Lucido, '09



When Aimee Lucido, '09, was little, she'd put all her jigsaw pieces together and try to solve multiple puzzles simultaneously. "I've always loved puzzles," she said. Now, you can find her own puzzles—crosswords—in places like the *New York Times* and the *New Yorker*.

This gig has been more than a word-lover's creative outlet; it's also helped her quit her day job. Almost a year ago, Lucido left her post as a software engineer for Uber to pursue writing young adult books full time. After drafting 16 stories in her spare time over nine years, her first book was published in September.

"I accidentally got a literary arts degree on top of a computer science degree, and I just never stopped writing," she said. The result, *Emmy in the Key of Code*, straddles Lucido's twin interests in tech and the arts: it's about a 12-year-old girl who falls in love with computer science through the language of music.

"We need more representation of women in tech in the media. If there's a movie or TV show about it, they'll just hire a consultant, but this isn't the same as it being created from the ground up by a woman in tech who is also involved in art," she said. "That's what makes this book stand out, I'm an expert in both."

Emmy in the Key of Code straddles Lucido's twin interests in tech and the arts: it's about a 12-year-old girl who falls in love with computer science through the language of music.

Lucido has devoted herself to the world of children's literature because of the impact those stories had on her when she was growing up. Middle school is when kids are figuring out who they are, and the right book at the right time could be tremendously meaningful. She cites *Matilda*, *Harry Potter*, and *His Dark Materials* among the stories that shaped her as a child and mattered to her the most.

"Middle grade books are about more than magic; they're also about friendship and family. The politics of friendship and family are really meaty, and I like exploring that," she added.

Her next novel, *Recipe for Disaster*, will come out in about 18 months. And one or two of the earlier stories she worked on steadily for nine years will also be published eventually.

"Many aspiring writers think first about how to get published. But you just need to write," she advised. "The first barrier is writing a great book. And the barrier to that is learning to write a great book. You have to like writing enough to write those bad books, and to trust the process."

Writer, human rights activist

Jamie Kalven, '65



Although he rode a motorcycle from Paris to New Delhi and climbed mountains in the Himalayas, Jamie Kalven '65, says his biggest adventure was coming home.

"I was driven to explore my native place," said Kalven, who grew up in Kenwood. Moving back to Chicago after his father's death, he became fascinated by the vast social distances that can exist within a few city blocks. "Bringing into focus the racial inequalities that structure the city takes sustained effort. It became my work."

A writer and human rights activist, Kalven has spent years documenting police abuse in Chicago. He co-produced *16 Shots*, a Showtime documentary about the aftermath of the 2014 Laquan McDonald shooting. "It wasn't simply that a cop killed a kid; the whole machinery of government was mobilized to create a false narrative about what happened that night," he said. "My work is aimed at describing and helping to dismantle that narrative machinery."

The deeper he dug into the conditions that give rise to patterns of police brutality, he repeatedly thought he'd gone as far into the darkness as he could. Each time, what he thought was bedrock was really a gateway to something deeper.

Kalven was familiar with the excuse that police officers need to make "split-second decisions" about risk. What he has found is that often those life-or-death

moments weren't unavoidable; they were manufactured by the police themselves. The officers involved made a series of choices leading up to that moment, creating for themselves a situation in which they would have to respond and judge, in the blink of an eye, whether or not to use deadly force.

In 2014, he founded the Invisible Institute, a journalism production company on Chicago's South Side.

"The whole world is organized to hide what's in plain sight," he said. "We work to make visible what's in plain sight, but we don't want to see it."

Kalven, who received the 2015 Polk Award for Local Reporting, the 2016 Ridenhour Courage Prize, and the 2017 Hillman Prize for Web Journalism, is consulting on a dramatic TV series for AMC set on the South Side of Chicago and is executive producer on an investigative podcast series developed by Invisible Institute colleagues about the 2016 murder of a Chicago man.

"My focus on documenting individual stories of abuse has led to an effort to understand the larger institutional conditions that enable and shield those abuses, while at the same time allowing us to somehow tolerate intolerable things," he said. "That's the question I wake up thinking about in the morning."

"The whole world is organized to hide what's in plain sight," he said. "We work to make visible what's in plain sight, but we don't want to see it."

Composer

Adam Rudolph, '72



Handdrummer and world music pioneer Adam Rudolph, '72, has been composing since he was 10—though his piano teacher wanted him to stick to learning his scales.

"Sometimes I think of myself more as an inventor than a composer," said Rudolph, who, in addition to leading his own Go: Organic Orchestra and Moving Pictures ensembles, has collaborated with such luminaries as Don Cherry, L. Shankar, Pharoah Sanders, Fred Anderson, and Yusef Lateef. "What I do in performance is spontaneous composition. Surprise is one of the qualities that I appreciate and I try in my composing to cultivate an environment in which surprise can happen."

Luckily, his art and music teachers at Lab focused on cultivating intuition, creating new techniques, and experimentation. There, his music class was visited by members of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, and he began hanging out on Promontory Point, where he was mesmerized by people playing hand drums. "I would listen to the drummers out there, and there was something so beautiful and organic and powerful about it that called to me. That experience opened me up to a lifelong avenue of learning and creative activity," he said.

Later, when he went to live and study in Ghana, he was moved by the idea that there's a transference of energy created from the skin of the

hand touching the skin of the membrane that forms the surface of the drum. In addition to African traditions, Rudolph has also studied Cuban, Haitian, and Indian drumming—to name a few.

"Surprise is one of the qualities that I appreciate and I try in my composing to cultivate an environment in which surprise can happen."

With his wife Nancy Jackson, '73, he debuted an opera in 1995 called *The Dreamer*. Jackson, an artist, created a book of paintings based on texts by philosophers Friedrich Nietzsche and Arthur Schopenhauer. Rudolph was then inspired to write music for each. His most recent album, *Ragmala*, came out in October. He'll soon release his next album, *Imaginary Archipelago*, followed by a project created with gypsy musicians recorded in Turkey and a new string quartet.

With each endeavor, he tries to do something he's never done before, pushing boundaries and stepping out of his comfort zone. If he follows his creative imagination wherever it leads, he hopes someone else listening will be inspired to be who they truly are.

"When music is treated merely as a commodity, we lose sight of the fact that music exists and moves in this vibrational sphere. I have the intention that when I conduct my orchestra or send sound into motion by striking a drum, those vibrations move through the air and can affect people in an emotional and transformative way," said Rudolph. "To me, this is the mystery and miracle of music."



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