

# LabLife

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

**Fall 2023**





# LabLife

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FROM DIRECTOR  
TORI JUEDS

## A History of Championing Diversity



Labbies show an appreciation for intellectual inquiry, an affinity for scholarly rigor, and a commitment to diversity that fills me with hope for the future—theirs and ours.

Dear Friends,

A new school year is always a time of hope and excitement, especially a new school year at the Laboratory Schools.

It is autumn in Hyde Park, and our two campuses are alive with activity. This year we have welcomed more than 2,200 students in N3 through Grade 12. As alumni and parents, we know Labbies of all ages are curious, poised, informed, engaged, and articulate. They show an appreciation for intellectual inquiry, an affinity for scholarly rigor, and a commitment to diversity that fills me with hope for the future—theirs and ours. Of this year's student body, over 53% are students of color. Our students identify across the gender spectrum. At least 20% are neurodiverse. They come from a variety of neighborhoods across our metropolitan area. Almost 60 different languages are spoken in their homes. And

of course, they bring a panoply of viewpoints, opinions, and ideas to Lab's classrooms.

The diversity of the Lab community has its roots in social justice. While there is evidence of Black student enrollment at Lab as far back as 1907, it was precisely 80 years ago that the Laboratory Schools became the first private school in then racially-segregated Chicago to formally and officially admit Black students in 1943. Thus, our schools answered the pressing and overdue call for integration, and furthered a long-standing commitment demonstrated by Lab's prior history of enrolling Asian and Jewish students in advance of our peer schools.

Today, Lab's mission calls us to honor diversity. We strive to

live this commitment in many ways. We seek to develop and deepen our understanding of history, especially that of identity groups which have long been marginalized, such as the history of Black Americans so eloquently recounted by Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson in her dissenting opinion from the recent Supreme Court decision regarding affirmative action. We endeavor to make conscious and mitigate our implicit biases and to heighten awareness of the dynamics of privilege in our world—not to elicit guilt or blame, but to empower and inspire action for a better future. We commit resources and encourage giving to ensure ever-expanding access to Lab for families in need of financial support, at a time when wealth and income disparities are entrenched and growing. We work together to provide for our students an experience of belonging, and to instill in them a deep sense of confidence in their identities and backgrounds.

At Lab, we join with President Paul Alivisatos and Provost Kate Baicker, who reaffirmed in June that at the University of Chicago, "we consider diversity to be a strength—and, indeed, foundational to our academic success."

It is with pride, hope, and determination that we bring to you this issue of *LabLife*, focused on diversity. Lab's history of championing diversity, and our mission commitment of honoring diversity, will not only continue but grow. Thank you, students, educators, alumni, families, and friends of the Laboratory Schools, for supporting this work at every opportunity. From all of us at Lab, we wish you well.

Yours sincerely,

Tori Jueds  
Director of Schools

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Director  
Tori Jueds

Editor, Director of Marketing  
Communications  
Valerie M. Reynolds

Contributors  
Rocio Villaseñor  
Liz Walch, E.W. Editing

Design  
Janice Clark

Photography  
Ann Ryan  
Kathryn Smidstra  
Rocio Villaseñor  
Cover: Seed Lynn

Lab Notes Correspondents  
Dozens of diligent alumni  
agents

Publisher  
The University of Chicago  
Laboratory Schools  
1362 E. 59th Street  
Chicago, IL 60637  
www.ucls.uchicago.edu

Please send comments or  
updated contact information  
to [alumni@ucls.uchicago.edu](mailto:alumni@ucls.uchicago.edu), or call 773-702-0578.

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## In the Halls

# “In Reverse...” Art Exhibit at ESH

Early Childhood teacher Tracy Aiden's Snake Room in Earl Shapiro Hall curated the “In Reverse...” art exhibit after being inspired by Nick Cave's artwork



“Phenomenal” is the word used to describe the “In Reverse...” art exhibit that Early Childhood teacher Tracy Aiden's Snake Room unveiled at Earl Shapiro Hall (ESH) in early February.

The Nursery 4 students were inspired by the art of visual artist Nick Cave—a sculptor, dancer, performance artist, designer, and director of the graduate fashion program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Specifically, Cave's Soundsuits series which are “costumes that completely cover the individual's body. They camouflage the wearer's shape, enveloping and creating a second skin that hides gender, race, and class, thus compelling the audience to watch without judgment.”

The little learners explored Cave's creations and created a variety of art pieces based on their readings and conversations.

“They immediately connected to the colors, designs, movement, and

“They have thought about what makes up their unique identities and have taken pride in sharing them with their friends.”



sounds of the Soundsuits, but also were able to clearly understand why they were created...to protect and hide

one's identity,” Aiden says.

Their project was a little different in that they created Soundsuits to celebrate and express their identities.

“They have thought about what makes up their unique identities and have taken pride in sharing them with their friends,” Aiden says.

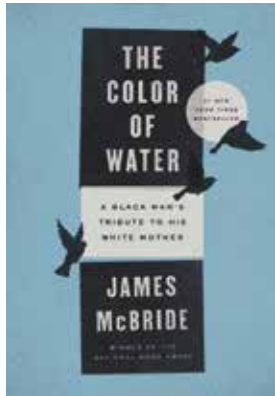


Scan this QR code to view more pictures from the Snake Room's “In Reverse...” exhibit along with self-portrait artwork from Early Childhood artists who were inspired by American portrait painter Kehinde Wiley.



# Recommended Reading

Valerie M. Reynolds, Communications Director, recommends *New York Times* bestseller and recipient of the Anisfield-Wolf Award, *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*



In early August, I was listening to NPR as Scott Detrow interviewed author James McBride about his new fiction book, *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*. As the interview went on, the book's storyline of residents from a dilapidated neighborhood in Pottstown, PA, where immigrant Jews and Black Americans lived side by side, began to spark my nostalgia as I recalled reading a moving biography about a young Black boy raised by a single Jewish mother in a poverty-ridden neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. I was both surprised and excited to learn that this was, indeed, the same author of *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*. Originally published in 1995, I read *The Color of Water* in 2005 while I, myself, resided in Brooklyn. Alternating

narratives between himself and his mother, McBride's autobiography unveils the complexities of identity from both his and his mother's perspectives. It colorfully unweaves the story of his mother's upbringing as a young Jewish girl who immigrated from Poland at the age of two. It also recounts McBride's own upbringing as the eighth child of twelve—being the son of a Black minister and mother who would not admit that she was white and described herself as a "light-skinned" woman.

**Readers will gain from this book a bird's eye view of how a lack of belonging—in both the Black and Jewish communities—impacted two people with little agency and few resources: an ostracized single mother and a mixed-race child living in poverty.**

When the author's mother, Ruth McBride, discovers that she is pregnant

by her Black boyfriend, she leaves her childhood home at the age of seventeen and lands in Harlem. While there, she meets James' father Dennis, a Black man whom she immediately falls for and soon marries. Her family eventually learns of her marriage and disowns her and, for all intents and purposes, her parents never speak to her again. Ruth converts to Christianity and together they found the New Brown Memorial Church in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Despite the prejudice and discrimination they face due to their interracial marriage, Ruth recalls her time with Dennis as some of the happiest years of her life. Sadly, James is born shortly after his father dies, and Ruth, desperate to care for herself and her children, reaches out to her family for support and they refuse to have any sort of contact with her.

Though mixed-raced, James clearly presents as a young Black man. As he comes of age, he begins to unpack the nuances of race and realizes that his mother is white, and is seemingly "the only White person in sight." As a frustrated adolescent, he asked his mother if God was Black or White. "God's not black. He's not white... God is the color of water. Water doesn't have a color."

In somewhat of an homage to the title, McBride's memoir explores the fluidity of identity and belonging with truth, beauty, and vulnerability.

**"God's not black. He's not white. . . . God is the color of water. Water doesn't have a color."**

McBride writes that in his house "the question of race was like...a silent power," similar to how it is in our country. As our nation and society grows more diverse, it is simultaneously becoming less accepting of different cultures, races, heritages, and identities. Readers will gain a bird's eye view of how a lack of belonging—in both the Black and Jewish communities—impacted two people with little agency and few resources: an ostracized single mother and a mixed-race child living in poverty. This is one of the most well-written pieces of nonfiction literature that I ever read; it taught me lessons of empathy that any person, of any identity, race, heritage, culture, or religion, could benefit from.



VALERIE M. REYNOLDS

# U-High Students Take Part in Citywide Civic Data Project



PHOTO: JENNA BRAUNSTEIN PHOTOGRAPHY

U-High Midway managing editor **Audrey Park** and assistant editor **Clare McRoberts** participated in a civic data journalism project organized by Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism and The Scholastic Press Association of Chicago from November–January. Park and McRoberts joined Medill professors along with other student journalists from 12 Chicago high schools to plan a citywide survey about issues in the mayoral election.

"We knew the program was related to the mayoral elections, but I was unaware of how large-scale the survey would be," says Park, who was a junior when she participated in this program last year.

The project was assigned over Thanksgiving break. The first workshop was on November 30 and survey

AUDREY PARK, CLARE MCROBERTS



questions about "school and neighborhood safety; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and mental health issues, among others" were developed.

The survey, which falls under Medill's Teach for Chicago Journalism program, was distributed through Schoology and QR codes in December at U-High and other Chicago high schools. The survey received 1,288 responses—1,042 from public schools and 246 from independent schools. The data was analyzed and revealed that the students' greatest concerns were regarding mental health and safety.

Park and McRoberts, a sophomore, coordinated with other *Midway* editors to plan the coverage of the results and five stories were published.

"It's the kind of collaborative project that students here are well prepared for, with strong communication skills and ability to think deeply about issues in the community," **Logan Aimone**, journalism teacher and U-High *Midway* advisor, says.

"The program served as an opportunity to connect with the larger Chicago student community," Park says. "It was interesting actually to analyze and draw larger conclusions from the data. I found that some issues do not concern other Lab students (indicative of the survey) and me, which reflects our privilege."

**Survey questions about "school and neighborhood safety; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and mental health issues, among others," were developed.**



## Fourth Graders Play-Test Toys for IIT's IPRO Students

Students learn about creativity and get inspired to become toy designers



PHOTO: ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT)

**Tye Johnson's** fourth-grade class had the opportunity to play-test a variety of toys invented by Illinois Institute of Technology's (IIT) students taking an introductory toy design Interprofessional Projects (IPRO) Program course in partnership with Big Monster Toys, a Chicago-based toy design studio.

Johnson found out about the design course from Lab's Lower School Principal **Sylvie Anglin**, who asked if Johnson's "class would be interested because they had participated in design challenges in class all year, had just interviewed a game designer, were product testers for a game, and were completing original games to teach others about Black history."

Johnson's class visited the Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship and, after listening to a presentation from

Jonathan Hodgkins and Bo Rodda, IIT professors who taught the toy design course, the students were able to play with a variety of toys created by eight teams.

Johnson says her students "used 21st century skills of creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and perseverance. They also had to utilize a growth mindset and learned to be okay with taking risks and trying new ideas."

After one-hour of play, the fourth graders were given \$700 in play money to "donate" to their favorite toy creators.

"This inspired at least one of my students to become a toy designer one day," Johnson says. "It inspired all of my students to recognize their power and to understand the importance of their unique voice and expressions."

## Two Middle School Students Runners-Up in "Bringing Chicago's Voices Together" Art Contest



EVA NEVES



DINA LETKO

Eighth grade students **Dina Letko** and **Eva Neves** were among nineteen students out of about 100 chosen as runners-up in "Bringing Chicago's Voices Together" student art contest hosted by the *Chicago Sun-Times*/WBEZ/Vocalo.

The art contest was organized by the *Chicago Sun-Times* and Chicago Public Media. It called Chicago and suburban students enrolled in elementary, middle school, or high school to submit "a work of art centered on the theme 'Bringing Chicago's Voices Together.'" Students were asked to create an original painting, drawing, or digital art submission from December 12, 2022–January 22, 2023. The parent/guardian of the student had to enter the contest online and submit only one entry per student.

**Students were asked to submit a work of art centered on the theme "Bringing Chicago's Voices Together."**

During the contest period, designated judges were to choose ten winners "based on the originality of design, clarity of theme messages, and artistic merit." The winners were notified around January 23. According to the contest rules, ten prizes were to be awarded: nine were to receive \$20 gift cards, and the grand prize winner was to receive a \$50 gift card. Additionally, all ten winners were to be featured in the print and digital edition of the *Chicago Sun-Times*, and the grand prize

winner was to have their art featured on The Salt Shed mural located at 1357 N. Elston Avenue from March 1–April 30.

However, after receiving approximately 100 entries, on February 24, the *Chicago Sun-Times* announced the winners online and chose nineteen students instead of ten, as previously mentioned.

Dina's artwork consists of seven people holding up letters that spell out Chicago.

Eva's artwork consists of people walking on a sidewalk in front of different storefronts like a dance studio, a taqueria, music school, etc. with the Chicago skyline in the background and the Chicago flag.

## Two U-High Juniors Recipients of the American Chemical Society Scholarship Exam

Both Keira Harter and Sonakshi Mutreja received high scores on the scholarship exam



LAB'S ILLINOIS SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM  
KEIRA HARTER IS IN THE FRONT ROW, THIRD FROM RIGHT

U-High chemistry teacher **Jim Catlett** did not think twice when he nominated juniors **Keira Harter** and **Sonakshi Mutreja** for the 2023 Sixty-Seventh Annual American Chemical Society (ACS) Scholarship Examination last spring.

"Teachers are allowed to nominate two students to take [the exam]," Catlett says. "I nominated Keira and Sonakshi because of their excellent work and aptitude in accelerated chemistry."

According to the site, the Chicago Section of the ACS was once again sponsoring the scholarship exam this year at three locations for high school students in the area who were enrolled in their first-year of high school level chemistry. The funds for the scholarship are contributed by the chemical industry and individuals. Furthermore, it is stated that teachers of prize-winning student(s) also receive a one-year membership in the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT).

This is the fourth year Catlett has nominated students—in total eight students. Catlett found out about the exam from U-High chemistry teacher **Zackary Hund** who forwarded an email from ACS. Keira and Sonakshi completed practice tests in preparation. Catlett found out that both his students placed high—Keira placed first and Sonakshi third.

"I couldn't be more proud of Keira and Sonakshi," Catlett says. "The exam is challenging and they are competing against the best chemistry students. I was ecstatic when I read the announcement [via email]. I immediately forwarded it to Keira and Sonakshi and contacted my department chair."

Keira will receive \$8,000 for three scholarships: \$5,000 for finishing in first place overall, \$2,000 for The Marie Ann Lishka Memorial Scholarship for the highest scoring female student, and the \$1,000 Bernard E. Schaar Award for the highest scoring Chicago student.

KEIRA HARTER, SONAKSHI MUTREJA



"Getting first in the Scholarship Exam was a huge accomplishment for me on a personal level because it reminded me of how much I have grown this past year and of my capacity to take on challenges," Keira says.

"I was thrilled to represent my school... I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of competing against some of the best chemistry students. Our success is really a testament to our amazing teacher, Mr. Catlett," Sonakshi, who will receive a \$2,500 scholarship for placing third, says.

Catlett says Keira and Sonakshi will be honored at the American Chemical Society Education Night sometime in the fall.



# DEWEYDANCE2023

Over 300 attendees reported to mission control on Saturday, May 6, from 7–11 p.m., at Kovler Gymnasium for this year's space-themed Dewey Dance: The Next Frontier! Dewey Dance is a bi-annual tradition that began in 2017 and alternates with Connections, Lab's formal gala, every other year. Dewey Dance brings together Lab parents, alumni, faculty, and staff for an informal celebration of our shared commitment to

the school and community. Throughout the stellar evening, party-goers had a blast enjoying the festivities, which included middle and high school musician performances, dancing the night away to the DJ's music, hors d'oeuvres and dessert stations, community-building, and space-themed fun!



## BEST PARTY IN THE GALAXY!





# Alumni Honored

On Saturday, May 20, the Lab Community celebrated four extraordinary alumni at the 2023 Alumni Awards Ceremony during the Lab Alumni Weekend

## Erwin Chemerinsky '71

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD



Erwin Chemerinsky '71 became the thirteenth dean of the University of California Berkeley School of Law on July 1, 2017, when he joined the faculty as the Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law.

Prior to assuming this position, he was the founding dean and distinguished professor of law and the Raymond Pryke professor of first amendment law at the University of California, Irvine School of Law from 2008–2017. Before that, he was the Alston and Bird professor of law and political science at Duke University from 2004–2008, and from 1983–2004 he was a professor at the University of Southern California Law School, including as the Sydney M. Irmas professor of public interest law, legal ethics, and political science.

He is the author of 16 books including leading casebooks and treatises about constitutional law, criminal procedure, and federal jurisdiction. His most recent books are *Worse Than Nothing: The Dangerous Fallacy of Originalism* (2022) and *Presumed Guilty: How*

*the Supreme Court Empowered the Police and Subverted Civil Rights* (2021).

He also is the author of more than 200 law review articles and a contributing writer for the Opinion section of the *Los Angeles Times*. He frequently argues appellate cases, including in the United States Supreme Court.

Dean Chemerinsky was named president of the association of American law schools in 2022. In 2016, he was named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2017, *National Jurist* magazine named him as the most influential person in legal education in the United States. Dean Chemerinsky earned a BS from Northwestern University and a JD from Harvard Law School.

## Andrea Ellis and Olivia John '03

### RISING STAR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



ANDREA ELLIS, OLIVIA JOHN

Andrea Ellis '03 joined Fanatics Betting & Gaming as its chief financial officer in October 2022. In her current role, Ellis oversees financial planning

and analysis, strategic finance, accounting, tax, treasury, payments, and fraud. This is her second chief financial officer appointment in the tech industry, as Fanatics looks to launch its proprietary online sportsbook app in the coming months.

Prior to joining Fanatics, Ellis served as chief financial officer of Neutron Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Lime, the largest electric micromobility company globally. During her tenure, Lime more than doubled its revenue and became the first electric micromobility company ever to achieve full-year EBITDA positive results. In addition to overseeing finance at Lime, Ellis managed HR/people (interim), investor relations, corporate development, and business information systems, leading a team of more than 100 individuals. Her commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion was exemplified in the composition of her team, which was 70 percent women and more than 60 percent people of color.

From 2015–2020, Ellis held numerous positions at Restaurant Brands International (RBI) (NYSE:QSR), the parent company of Burger King, Popeyes, and Tim Hortons. Ellis started her career at Goldman Sachs, working in investment banking from 2012–2015 and equities trading from 2007–2010. She earned a BS in biology from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from

Harvard Business School. Ellis was named in *Crain's* 40 Under 40 class in 2021 and was honored as the 2022 CFO of the Year in the Non-Public Company category by the *San Francisco Business Times*. She currently serves on the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools Board and resides in Chicago with her husband, Dr. Marco Ellis, and their four-year-old son.

Olivia John '03 is the founder and CEO of Osso Capital, an investment firm offering traditional apartment investing with a data-driven approach. She is responsible for the investment strategy and day-to-day management of the firm and serves as the chair of the investment committee.



Before Osso, John was a managing director on the real estate acquisitions team at Blackstone, where she worked in the New York and London offices from 2007–2020. She previously led the firm's US multifamily investing efforts (approximately \$12 billion of acquisitions) and played a key role in the creation and expansion of LivCor, Blackstone's US apartment portfolio company.

Olivia graduated summa cum laude from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, where she received a BS in economics and was a Joseph Wharton scholar.

## Chase Chavin '97

### ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD



Chase Chavin '97 is a co-founder and principal of Intersection Realty Group where he is responsible for investment strategy and asset management. Since 2009, Chavin has overseen the acquisition and capitalization of almost 18,000 units in the multifamily space totaling over \$1.5 billion in value.

In 2019, Chavin co-founded COLAB 7100, a shared workspace and innovation hub in the South Shore neighborhood of Chicago with the goal of supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs from traditionally underserved markets in the city. He also serves on the board of directors of Social Change, a nonprofit committed to liberation, amplifying community voices, and disrupting the legacy of systemic injustice through storytelling, organizing, direct action, and policy advocacy.

Chavin has dedicated his time and talents to supporting the Laboratory Schools for many years. He joined the Alumni Advisory Committee in 2006 and continued to serve as the group transitioned to the current Alumni Association Executive

Board (AAEB). Chavin chaired the nominations committee and served as vice president of the AAEB during his tenure. Chavin and his family were instrumental in launching the Class of 1997 Scholarship Fund during his 25th reunion year. Additionally, he has visited Lab to speak with U-High students as a Maroon Mentor, has participated in philanthropic and engagement appeals to the alumni community, and has served on search committees for leadership positions at Lab.

Chavin received a BBA with high distinction from the University of Michigan and an MBA from Harvard Business School. He resides in Chicago with his wife, Stefanie; his son, Colby; his daughter, Alexandra—both current Lab students—and their two dogs, Zoom and Misty.

## Leah Taylor '78

### ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD



Leah Taylor '78 is a managing director and banker in the Chicago office of J.P. Morgan Private Bank. She and her team help clients define and pursue their individual wealth goals, providing customized strategies across financial planning, investing, borrowing, banking, and

trust and estate planning.

With more than 30 years of experience at J.P. Morgan, Taylor marshals the bank's best resources to address even the most complex family and business issues. She is finely attuned to the specifics of each client's circumstances, and she is known for her ability to craft innovative strategies for special situations.

Taylor has supported the Laboratory Schools and the University of Chicago community in countless ways. She has served on the Alumni Association Executive Board since 2011, spending two years as the vice president. Taylor has also advocated for and championed the cause of the Laboratory Schools through her seat on the University of Chicago Alumni Board for the past two years. She has spoken with U-High students at career talks about the finance industry, providing guidance, wisdom, and encouragement to those looking to follow in her footsteps.

Taylor has spent her entire career in finance. She earned her undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, and holds an MBA from Harvard Business School. Prior to joining the Private Bank, Taylor worked in both commercial and investment banking at J.P. Morgan.



# Buzzing with Curiosity, Creating Hives of Generosity

Yearlong study of bees yields valuable lessons  
and expansive LabArts exhibit



A fallen honey bee was discovered in the Historic Campus garden. That’s how it started. Their first life as a noble drone was over. As the N4 students of **Kristin Smith** carefully collected the tiny corpse, however, the bee’s second life as a subject of productivity, teamwork, and gratitude began.

“We carefully put the honey bee on a soft green leaf and brought it back to our classroom,” says Smith. “We studied the bee close up under a magnifying glass. What do you see? What do you think? What do you wonder?”

Wonder sparked curiosity: “It has four wings!” “Is it sleeping?” “What happens when you die?”

The initial discovery of the bee inspired the class to explore the apiary in the Historic Campus Garden, and to taste

the sweet honey during their Rosh Hashanah celebration. As curiosity fueled confidence, the interactions of students and teachers sparked more seeing, thinking, wondering, and learning about bees.

“Every bee has a job and everyone takes care of each other,” says Smith, “and every bee does their best work to keep the hive strong and healthy. We took those lessons into the classroom all year long.”

Using the honey bee’s corpse as a subject for merging science and art, parent and artist Doug Frietag engaged the entire class in creating a collaborative mural.

“We asked Doug if he could help us look closely at the honey bee that we found, and then turn it into a beautiful piece of art,” says Smith. “We used a

magnifying camera to project a giant image of the bee onto the white board. Then Doug traced the image as we watched with great interest.”

After the bee was drawn, Doug made several more visits, helping students add color to the bee. Teachers encouraged children to examine closely, noticing all of the colors that it had on its body.

“Then, section by section, we used oil crayons in shades of gold, brown, yellow, and

**“Every bee is depending on every other bee, so everyone must do their best work, just like we do in 117.”**

black to fill in the drawn lines,” says Smith. “On the last day we used stampers to fill in the background with brightly colored dots. The finished honey bee is beautiful!” For the annual LabArts show, the class added artistic environmental elements of grass, sky, and hives.

The noble honey bee inspired a special flavor of gratitude in the four-year-olds:

*“I’m thankful for flowers because they will help bees make honey.”*

*“I’m thankful for bees because they make honey. I like to eat it on waffles.”*

*“I’m thankful for the sun and flowers. The bees get the pollen from the flowers.”*

As Smith’s class began discovering more and more about many ways to show

gratitude, they identified the bees’ lessons of cooperation and community.

*Be thankful for our friends that we play with.*

*Be thankful for the families that love us.*

*Be thankful for the flowers that show us beauty.*

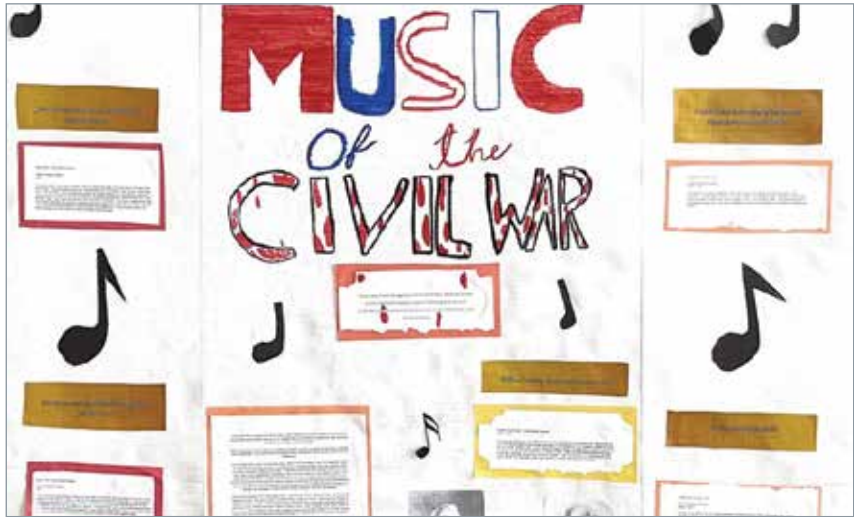
*Be thankful for the bees that keep so many things growing in nature and give us honey.*

*Be thankful that all of us can play together and work together.*

*Be thankful for the symbiotic relationship/family of the natural world and humankind.*

“Every bee has a job in the hive,” says Smith, “Every bee is depending on every other bee, so every one must do their best work, just like we do in 117.”

# Seventh Graders Present Humanities Civil War Poster Project



Grade 7 humanities teachers **Rebecca Reaves** and **Iris Yin** spent a lot of time unpacking the history of the American Civil War within their classrooms last spring. Their curriculum examined the events that led to the war, the experiences and perspectives of individuals during the war, and the ways in which this war has shaped the country.

Having gained a fundamental understanding of the Civil War, the students were given the opportunity to choose a topic of interest to explore even further. Upon the students’ exploration of their chosen topic, they created posters detailing their learning and exhibited them to their families and fellow classmates during a poster presentation in Judd Hall.

“This project gave students a meaningful way to transfer their knowledge into a creative visual,” said Reaves. “The overall goal of this project was for students to demonstrate and build upon important skills—such

as research and presentation—they’ll utilize throughout their time at Lab and beyond.”

To provide students with all of the resources they would need for this project, Reaves and Yin worked closely with Rowley Middle School librarians, who curated a cart filled with books on various topics related to the Civil War. The librarians also worked closely with students to help them develop important research skills, such as presearch; identifying the difference between primary, secondary, and tertiary sources; navigating websites and databases; and citing sources.

Seventh-grade student **Ravi Shah**, who is in Yin’s humanities class, studied music of the Civil War, specifically “what it was like and its specialty.” Shah says, “I enjoyed this the most because I was able to combine writing, primary sources, factual content, and my passion for music, all on one huge poster.”

**“This project gave students a meaningful way to transfer their knowledge into a creative visual,” said Reaves.**

“This culminating experience provided our students with the agency to explore a facet of the Civil War that was most interesting or curious to them,” said Yin.

“The Civil War Poster Project was one of my favorite projects all year!” said **Mila Bhatoley-Bertrand**, seventh-grade student in Yin’s humanities class, who focused on Emily Dickinson for the Civil War poster project. “I learned a lot about Emily Dickinson’s life and went more in depth with her poetry.”



# ALUMNIWEEKEND2023

Generations of the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools' alumni gathered together on May 19–20 for an exciting program of activities. Lab's Alumni Weekend 2023 events included a special conversation with Erwin Chemerinsky '71, campus tours of the Historic Campus and Earl Shapiro Hall, the Alumni Awards ceremony, and milestone class reunion dinners. Lab's hallways were abuzz with alumni reminiscing and reconnecting with one another.



ALUMNI HAD FUN AND THEIR  
FIX OF LAB NOSTALGIA





# WGN February Friday Forecaster



PHOTO: WGN

Lower School fourth grader **Nora Aronsohn** spectacularly reported a WGN Morning News Friday’s weather forecast on February 10 paired with meteorologist Paul Konrad.

The students that present the forecast on Friday mornings attend schools in the Earth Networks and are chosen to be Friday Forecasters because they show exemplary work in the classroom.

When asked if she was nervous or worried about reporting the forecast by Konrad, Nora said, “Not really.” She gave shoutouts to her sister, Lab teacher **Tye Johnson**, her classmates and friends, as well as the Middle School Dean of Students **Kendall Straughter**, who helped her get on the show.

“Mr. Straughter visited our classroom one morning, [and] found himself extremely delighted by Nora’s bold and fun personality. He knew she would be the perfect weather forecaster

to represent Lab... and she was!” Johnson said.

Earth Networks is an organization that operates the largest global hyperlocal weather network and provides companies with weather intelligence data to help automate decision-making.

WGN-TV (Channel 9) is an independent television station in Chicago. It was founded in 1948 by the *Chicago Tribune*, which decided the name for their new television property would represent the three-letter base call sign the “World’s Greatest Newspaper,” a tagline and slogan used by the Tribune since 1909.

“That was pretty fun,” Nora said after finishing the forecast. “It was kind of what I thought. Probably a little bit easier than I thought it was going to be.”

Johnson said Nora “was really inspired by the experience and now wants to be either a weather forecaster or soccer coach when she grows up!”

# Passover Display Teaches Early Childhood Students about Diversity

Students learn about overcoming oppression through the Jewish holiday



This spring, Lab’s Jewish Family Group created a Passover display in honor of the Jewish holiday in the main lobby of Earl Shapiro Hall (ESH). The display beautifully educated Early Childhood students, families, and visitors who entered ESH about Passover, which symbolizes spring, freedom, and overcoming oppression.

Passover lasts for seven days and honors the freedom and exodus of the Israelites (Jewish slaves) from Egyptian pharaoh Ramses II’s reign. Many Jewish people around the world gather to read the Haggadah—the book of the story of the exodus from Egypt—while at the Seder table. The Seder table is where they also share a festive meal called the Seder Plate, which consists of a large round plate with six indentations that hold deep symbolism.

The display focused on the value of freedom. A few

discussion prompts for students were: *Reflect on freedom and hope; What can we do to make the world fairer?; and Leave a note about what freedom means to you.*

**A few discussion prompts for students were:**  
***Reflect on freedom and hope; What can we do to make the world fairer?; and Leave a note about what freedom means to you.***

# U-High Class of 2023 Matriculates



**GRADUATES FROM THE LABORATORY SCHOOLS’ CLASS OF 2023 WERE OFFERED ADMISSION TO 89 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.**

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY	CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PARIS	CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY (3)
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA (2)	CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE
BARD COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO (17)
BATES COLLEGE	CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE
BOSTON COLLEGE (2)	COLGATE UNIVERSITY
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY (3)
BRYN MAWR COLLEGE	CORNELL UNIVERSITY
BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY	CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY	DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	DENISON UNIVERSITY (2)
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-BERKELEY	DEPAUL UNIVERSITY (2)
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-LOS ANGELES	DREXEL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-SANTA CRUZ (2)	ECKERD COLLEGE
CARLETON COLLEGE (6)	EMERSON COLLEGE
	ESADE BUSINESS SCHOOL
	GRINNELL COLLEGE (2)
	HARVARD UNIVERSITY (5)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO (3)
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN (8)
INDIANA UNIVERSITY-BLOOMINGTON
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
KENYON COLLEGE
KNOX COLLEGE
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO (2)
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS
MACALESTER COLLEGE
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (2)
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-ANN ARBOR (6)
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (2)
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY (3)
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME (2)
OBERLIN COLLEGE (3)
PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA (2)
PITZER COLLEGE
POMONA COLLEGE
PRATT INSTITUTE-MAIN
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PURDUE UNIVERSITY (4)
REED COLLEGE
RICE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER (3)
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE
SKIDMORE COLLEGE
SMITH COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY-CARBONDALE
ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
STANFORD UNIVERSITY (2)
SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
THE NEW SCHOOL (2)
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
TUFTS UNIVERSITY
TULANE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
UNION COLLEGE NEW YORK (2)
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY (2)
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
WABASH VALLEY COLLEGE
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST LOUIS
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
WELLESLEY COLLEGE (3)
COLLEGE OF WOOSTER
YALE UNIVERSITY



# SUMMERLAB2023

This year's Summer Lab ran from June 20–July 28. Summer Lab 2023 had three summer day camp sessions and over 50 fun-filled programs open to all rising Nursery 3–Grade 8 children that were in the Chicagoland area this summer. Summer Lab builds on over 70 years of summer programming at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, bringing together the resources and faculty of Lab with exciting programs offered by experts from across Chicago. The variety of programs offered allow children to dive into areas of interest, develop a new skill, or simply meet new friends.



AT SUMMER LAB, THE  
LOVE OF LEARNING NEVER  
GOES ON VACATION



# Lab Welcomes New Leaders

Lab is proud to introduce the talented new leaders we’ve welcomed for the 2023-2024 academic year

## Rob Buckla

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS,  
ALUMNI RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT



Rob Buckla holds a BA in communication, journalism, and related programs from St. Bonaventure University, and a MEd and doctorate from Vanderbilt University. Buckla joined the Lab community on February 6, he brings deep and broad relevant experience to help advance the critical work of the Alumni Relations Department. Most recently, Buckla served as vice president of advancement at Lake Forest Academy (LFA), a diverse day and boarding school on the North Shore of Chicago, where he secured more than \$34 million in philanthropic investment through his leadership including more than \$23 million to support need-based financial aid, professional development, and other needs. Throughout his 37-year career, Buckla has directed or served on the senior leadership of eight capital and endowment campaigns including the \$250 million Fueling Innovation campaign at Illinois Institute of Technology—where he served as senior director of college programs/major and leadership gifts.

## Joseph Drogos

INTERIM PRINCIPAL, MIDDLE SCHOOL



Before joining Lab 12 years ago, Joe Drogos had 18 years of experience as an educator including as an adjunct humanities instructor at Malcolm X College,

teaching English at Leo Catholic High School, St. Francis High School in Sacramento, and Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix, and tutoring students in Latin. Drogos is an accomplished journalist and creative writer and holds a BA in English from Georgetown University and an MA in the humanities from the University of Chicago. He has held numerous leadership roles at Lab, and has advocated for and supported innumerable students and families as an advisor and Middle School student council moderator. Drogos has been both assistant and head coach in Lab’s Middle School and High School boys and girls soccer programs, and has chaperoned our seventh-grade camping trip and eighth-grade Washington trip on several occasions. The extraordinary caliber of Drogos’ teaching was recognized at Lab in 2020 when he was awarded our prestigious Mary V. Williams Award for Excellence in Teaching.

## Heather Duncan (Attended)

INTERIM PRINCIPAL, EARLY CHILDHOOD



Heather Duncan joined Lab in 2021 as the dean of teaching and learning in Lab’s Early Childhood Division. She’s been a key partner in discerning the needs and aspirations of the division and envisioning its future. Duncan brings over 20 years of experience in education—teaching at Posen-Robbins School District 143 ½; as a Pre-K teacher at Chicago Public Schools; as founder, director, and Pre-K teacher of Ahadi Early Learning for five years; and most recently as the director of early learning and equity initiatives at the Collaboration for Early Childhood in Oak Park. Heather holds a BA in English and an MEd in early childhood education

from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a certificate in early childhood leadership from Erikson Institute, and is currently pursuing a PhD in organizational leadership at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Duncan received many honors and fellowships and is a 2018 winner of the Golden Apple award.

## Brad Grimmer

DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT & CAMPAIGN  
MANAGER



Brad Grimmer comes to Lab from Northwestern University where he served as senior associate director of major gifts at the Kellogg School of Management. Grimmer was the finance sector specialist and worked closely with school leadership to secure six- and seven-figure commitments. Prior to Kellogg, Grimmer held leadership roles at two independent schools in New York City—director of advancement at The Speyer School and campaign director at The Allen-Stevenson School. During his time in NYC, Grimmer was also a member of the NYSAIS Advancement Conference Planning Committee, and the Professional Development Committee of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Grimmer is a native of Milwaukee and holds a BA in music education from Lawrence University. He serves on the Executive Committee of the LU Alumni Association Board of Directors and has been the co-chair of the Development Committee since 2021.

## Eli Johnson

INTERIM DEAN, TEACHING & LEARNING,  
EARLY CHILDHOOD



Eli Johnson has been part of our Lab community for almost 30 years—she has taught first and second graders at Lab since the mid-1990s. Prior to joining Lab, Johnson was a third grade teacher for three years at Chicago Public School’s Norwood Park School. Johnson is an invaluable resource for her colleagues and administrators as she has served many teacher leadership roles over the years at Lab and has taken every opportunity to grow professionally by participating in workshops and conferences. Johnson holds a BA in English and French from St. Olaf College and an MEd from the University of Illinois at Chicago in curriculum development with an emphasis on literacy. She has been working toward her Orton Gillingham Certification through the Institute of Multi-Sensory Education. Apart from teaching, Johnson is also a Lab parent of two Lab Lifers—her daughter was in Lab’s graduating class of 2022 and son is in the class of 2024. Eli is a true collaborator and is excited to step into this role for the 2023–2024 school year.

## Arlene Lewis-Reid

DEAN OF STUDENTS, EARLY CHILDHOOD



Arlene Lewis-Reid brings a solid foundation in early childhood education to Earl Shapiro Hall. She holds a BA in family and consumer sciences from Illinois State University

and an MS in early childhood education from Governors State University. Her studies include a specialized focus of Early Childhood at the renowned Erikson Institute and the University of Illinois Chicago. With over 15 years of dedicated experience in the field, she has played a pivotal role in creating inclusive and nurturing learning environments for students and families while leading city-wide teams in collaboration for academic progress in the Chicago Public Schools district. Lewis-Reid’s expertise in curriculum development, child development, and effective family-school partnerships has led to significant improvements in student well-being and academic achievement. As a compassionate and solution-focused leader, Lewis-Reid is looking forward to working collaboratively with the administration team, teachers, parents, and students, ensuring a supportive educational journey for all.

## Matthew Manley

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



Matthew Manley joined the Lab community in July. He has been a fan of Lab and its athletics program for so long and is honored to lead the next chapter of Lab Athletics. Manley brings a 20-year career as a coach and administrator managing 50 sports teams in the Chicago region and comes equipped with the kind of experience Lab needs as it continues to invigorate and expand its co-curricular athletic programs. Manley previously held the position of athletics director for the Sacred Heart School, where he also served as an administrator, assistant athletics director, and coach. Prior to his positions at Sacred Heart, Manley was also a head coach for the Francis W. Parker School and

assistant varsity and head coach for the Latin School of Chicago. Manley moved to Chicago from Tampa, Florida in 1998, is an avid cyclist, and enjoys exploring Chicago on two wheels.

## Andrew Miller

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, STUDENT SERVICES



Andrew Miller will be working alongside the Learning and Counseling team across all divisions. He is originally from Warsaw, Indiana and holds a BS in psychology and sociology from Grace College & Seminary, and an MA in school psychology and a specialist in education degree in educational psychology, both from Ball State University. Miller is a licensed school psychologist and started his career in independent schools working at Culver Academies. After moving to the Chicagoland area, Miller has worked for Chicago Public Schools, The Frances Xavier Warde School, and the Latin School of Chicago having been a school psychologist, middle school dean, and an upper school counselor.



# Lab Welcomes New Leaders

## Suresh Mudragada

DIRECTOR, ALUMNI RELATIONS & GIVING



Suresh Mudragada joined Lab on May 15 and will serve on Lab’s Major Gifts team. He will provide leadership for events, traditions, and relationship-building with the goal of increasing engagement, volunteerism, and philanthropic support. Most recently, Mudragada served as senior associate director of alumni engagement at Northwestern University. Prior to joining Northwestern University, Mudragada worked in higher education student affairs including roles in student engagement, leadership, and programming at Macalester College in Minnesota, and diversity and inclusion at DePaul University. Mudragada holds a BS in business from Auburn University and MEd from Loyola University Chicago. He has been involved with professional organizations such as the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and ACPA—College of Student Educators International.

## Rebecca Reaves

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION



Rebecca Reaves joins the Lab community as the assistant director of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Reaves previously taught seventh grade at Lab’s Middle School for

three years. During that time her leadership extended into several roles. Most recently, Reaves served as the Middle School DEI coordinator to support the professional growth of faculty members. She also partnered with faculty to curate culturally responsive programming that enhanced student experiences beyond the classroom. Prior to Lab, Reaves was a curriculum consultant at Learning Dimensions and taught at the Latin School of Chicago for eight years. Reaves received her BA in early childhood education and MEd in elementary education from DePaul University. Reaves is excited for this next chapter in her career and with the Lab community.

## Carrie Phillips Trimble

DIRECTOR, PARENT & FAMILY RELATIONS



Carrie Phillips Trimble ’93 is a Lab alumna. She holds a BA in music business from New York University. Phillips Trimble joined Lab’s staff in August 2022 as the project assistant for the Early Childhood Division, where she coordinated with families and helped schedule events at Earl Shapiro Hall. Phillips Trimble has more than 25 years of professional experience in large scale client management, public relations, and project management that include leadership roles. Prior to joining Lab, Phillips Trimble held leadership roles at Arrow for almost two years—she was the vice president of partnerships then senior vice president of partnerships. She was also the client development director at Ticketmaster Entertainment for nine years.

## Martin Woods

U-HIGH PRINCIPAL



Martin Woods joined Lab in July from Wolcott College Prep, where he served on the four-person executive leadership team since 2018. He is an accomplished educator and leader with extensive experience in the field. Having spent nearly 15 years as head of electives for private and charter schools, Woods is well-versed in creating and implementing innovative curricula, as well as providing staff development and coaching. He also brings a unique perspective to the field with his background in corporate, educational, and artistic arenas as a skilled arts administrator and innovator. Woods holds a BA from Morehouse College, an MA and professional diploma from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, a professional certificate in inclusion and diversity from the Yale University School of Management, and a certificate in high-performance leadership from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

# World Language Day Resumes at the Lower School

The return of a beloved tradition



On April 28, excitement roamed in the air at Blaine Hall as the long-standing tradition of Lab’s fifth-grade World Language Day resumed after a three-year hiatus. Fifth graders taking German, Mandarin Chinese, French, and Spanish loaded onto yellow school buses for their language immersion adventures into the city.

Nine students in German “had a great time” as they made Müsli for breakfast, visited and toured DANK Haus German Cultural Center, did a walking tour of German sights on Lincoln Avenue, visited Merz Apothecary, ate German food at Lashet’s Inn, and went to Lutz Konditorei, according to **Annette Steinbarth**, Lower School world language German teacher, who drove them along with another adult chaperone.

“They had the opportunity to see artifacts from Germans who immigrated to Chicago as

## “The students especially loved doing découpage and dessert!”

well as learn about the history of Germans in Chicago,” Steinbarth said.

Sixteen students in Chinese along with three adult chaperones including **Jin Yin**, Lower School world language Chinese teacher, went to a Chinese Go workshop to challenge their intellectual thinking, and visited Health Kick Kung-Fu studio for a workshop to learn the origins and principles of Kung Fu and to learn basic moves. Afterwards, they went to Chinatown Square Plaza and did Chinese dumpling-making for lunch, and explored Chinatown bakery and gift shops.

“It was a very fun day,” Yin said. “With workshops and

activities specifically designed to cater for diverse needs, students were immersed in Chinese culture for the whole day and had a great time they wouldn’t soon forget.”

Thirty students in French with three French teachers as chaperones ate breakfast and watched a French movie at Blaine Theater, went to Logan Center to see Matisse’s Jazz and other works, spoke with UChicago Arts Department Chair and did a drawing activity, had a scavenger hunt at Logan Center, then traveled to Marchesa restaurant for lunch.

“The students especially loved doing découpage and dessert!” **Charles Campbell**, one of the Lower School world language French teachers, said.

Seventy fifth graders in Spanish began the day eating breakfast and having a salsa class from Lower School world language Spanish teachers **Sonia Perez** and **Rosa Ramos** at Judd

Hall along with seven chaperones. They then went to the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen, went to Mi Tierra Mexican restaurant in Little Village for lunch, and had a treasure hunt in the Little Village neighborhood by the arch.

“My students loved the experience in general,” Perez said. “My students told me they loved the food from the restaurant, visiting the candy store in Little Village, and the National Museum of Mexican Art.”

Lower School Principal **Sylvie Anglin** wrote in the Principal Letter that “Fifth graders who take world language classes spend the day immersed in the language and culture of the world language they have been studying during their time in Lower School.”



# WINTER & SPRING HIGHLIGHTS 2022-2023



## BASEBALL

The 2023 U-High baseball team ended the season with a 12–9 record. Several Maroon baseball players spent their spring break training as a team in Orlando, Florida. The team got in some good repetitions in warm weather all while having the opportunity to enjoy Universal Studios. The early season work paid off for the Maroons, leading them to a stellar conference record and coming just shy of winning the Independent School League (ISL) Championship. Several Maroons were acknowledged for their outstanding performances throughout the season. **Mason List**, **Sohrab Rezaei**, and **Ryan Roggin** won 1st Team ISL honors while **Brayden Kenny** received a 2nd Team nod. Head Coach **Luke Zavala** was also named ISL Coach of the Year. The Maroons will return many key players from last season and look to build on their successes for their 2024 campaign.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

The 2023 U-High boys basketball team ended the season with a 17–15 record after graduating many key players from the 2022 ISL and

Regional Championship team. The Maroons played a difficult schedule, however, consistently outperformed expectations. Head Coach **Andre Battle** had the team well prepared and marked improvement was seen with every passing game from the young Maroons squad. The season was highlighted by an IHSA Regional Championship victory over King High School.



Senior **Xavier Nesbitt** received 1st Team All State recognition from the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association as well ISL Player of the Year. Additionally, Nesbitt, along with fellow senior **Ben King**, received 1st Team All ISL accolades. **Donovan Hackett** and **Noah Hoereth** earned all ISL honorable mention.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

The 2023 U-High girls basketball team finished the season with a 10–11 record. The team was coached by Lab Athletics Hall of Famer **Alexis Jenkins '09**. While the team finished with a below 500 record, the girls steadily improved throughout the season. As the season progressed the girls developed solid team chemistry which could be seen on the court. The Maroons advanced to the IHSA Regional semi-final after upsetting King High School. The team was led by seniors **Maya Atassi**, **Jenna Kilkus**, and **Hannah Maxcy**. Sophomore **Alex Giles** was named ISL All Conference Honorable Mention.



## DANCE TEAM

After years of participating as a club sport, the dance team completed their first official varsity season. The team competed and showed well at three separate competitions throughout the year. Senior **Lizzie Baker** advanced to state for her solo performance, which was also a first in dance team history. A fun season highlight for the team included a halftime



performance at a boys and girls basketball game where each team member asked their favorite Lab faculty/staff member to join in a dance. It was an amazing showing of school spirit and recognition for our community. Great things are ahead for the Maroons dance team!



## FENCING (CO-ED)

The Maroons fencing team had a successful season continuing to cement itself as one of the top teams in the Great Lakes High School Fencing Conference. The team saw record numbers of interest this past season, which is exciting as Lab is one of the few schools in the state that offers fencing to its students. The team was led by seniors **Maya El Shamsy** and **Daniel Tothy** who exhibited great leadership throughout the season.

## SQUASH (CO-ED)

The Maroons squash team ended a stellar 2023 campaign with a heartbreaking 2nd place finish in the Chicagoland Squash Conference Championship. The Maroons fell to Latin School of Chicago in what was described as a



nailbiter. The senior-heavy squash team won all but two regular season matches, one loss coming from the out-of-state powerhouse, John Burroughs School. The squash team looks to build on their strong 2023 season next year and is grateful for the contributions of the many seniors who participated during their time at U-High.

## TRACK AND FIELD

The U-High boys and girls track and field teams saw great successes this past season. Throughout the season, many individuals achieved personal bests which catapulted the team to outstanding finishes both in the ISL and the IHSA State series. The girls team finished 4th in the ISL, while



the boys secured a 3rd place finish. Following their strong performance at the ISL Championships both the boys and girls teams sent several individuals to the IHSA State Championship meet hosted by Eastern Illinois University. It was great to see Maroons represented at so many events downstate. Senior **Luke Grothuss** won ISL Runner of the Year, while Head Coaches **Lynne Ingalls** and **Austin Warner** won ISL Coaching Staff of the Year.

## SAILING (CO-ED)

The U-High sailing team had a very successful season, competing their way to the National Invitational Regatta as well as the Phoebe King Memorial Trophy Regatta. Both regattas saw the Maroons sail against some of the top sailing teams in the country. The sailing program, which was started within the past 10 years, has become one of U-High's most unique and successful programs.

## GIRLS SOCCER

The U-High girls soccer team finished the 2023 season with an 11–5–1 record. The Maroons played a difficult schedule which prepared them for the many tests they saw



throughout the season. The team won the IHSA Regional Championship defeating Catalyst Maria on Jackman Field. Following their regional win, the Maroons lost in heartbreaking fashion to Coal City in the IHSA Sectional Semi-Final ending their hopes of making it downstate. The Maroons return a solid core of players and look forward to another successful season in 2024. The ISL honored **Lucy Aronsohn**, **Orly Eggner**, and **Charlotte Sims** with 1st Team honors, while **Olivia Quiles**, **Zoe Stephens**, and **Haley Sturgill** received 2nd Team.



## BOYS TENNIS

The U-High boys tennis team finished the season with a 14–2 record, highlighted by a 5th place finish at the IHSA 1A State Championships. The Maroons saw stellar play throughout the season only falling to perennial powerhouse Hinsdale Central and the eventual IHSA State Champions, Latin School. In addition to a 5th place finish in the State, the Maroons finished 2nd in the ISL. Looking to 2024, the team returns several key players at singles and doubles and look to build on their 5th place finish at State. **Ameya Deo**, **Krish Khanna**, **Maurice Neumann**, **Sohail Sajdeh**, **Dash Smith**, and **Steven Sun** all received ISL Honors.

## BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING



The boys swimming and diving team had a successful season. The young Maroons squad saw marked improvement throughout the season with strong performances at the ISL Championship meet as well as winning the Lincoln-Way West pentathlon meet. As the season progressed many Maroons swimmers achieved personal best times. The Maroons will return a strong core of athletes and will look to continue the progress made during the 2022–2023 campaign.

## SPORTS HONORS & RECOGNITION

### BILL ZARVIS AWARD

**Katie Bai**  
**Lizzie Baker**  
**Corona Chen**  
**Maya El Shamsy**  
**Elizabeth Frost**  
**Charlotte Henderson**  
**Jeffrey Huang**  
**Ben King**  
**Ethan Kucera**  
**William Montague**  
**Bryan Pan**  
**Kenneth Peters**  
**Yaseen Qureshi**  
**Sohrab Rezaei**  
**Jake Roggin**  
**Kriti Sarav**  
**Charlotte Sims**  
**Serena Thomas**

### JAMES WHERRY-WILLIS AWARD

**Will Meyer**

### WILLIAM “DOC” MONILAW MEDAL

**Maya Atassi**  
**Luke Grothuss**  
**Xavier Nesbitt**  
**Jackie Slimmon**



# RITES OF MAY 2023

Rain couldn't stop this year's 54th annual Rites of May festival which was held on Saturday, May 13, at the Historic Campus' Kenwood Mall. Nearly 2,000 people attended this year's festival which included bounce houses of all shapes and sizes, carnival games, delicious food, face painting, and fun-filled booths. Managed and produced by the Lab Parents' Association, Rites of May, affectionately referred to as "ROM" by many Labbies, began in 1969 and is a beloved festival and Lab tradition that celebrates spring and the diverse cultures of Lab's community.



THIS ALL-SCHOOLS, ALL-AGES FESTIVAL  
BRINGS TOGETHER THE LAB COMMUNITY





## FROM THE Midway

### Holocaust remembrance will include assembly, workshops

By Amy Ren, Assistant Editor  
MARCH 30, 2023

The Jewish Students' Association will hold the first in-person Holocaust Remembrance Assembly in four years on April 13. This year, the extended assembly period will explore the theme "The Power of Words," and begin in the Griffin Auditorium and conclude with student- and faculty-run workshops held in various locations. The portion in the auditorium and the workshops are intended to take about 45 minutes each, with about 15 minutes of transition period in between.

Along with opening and closing speeches, there will

be a candle-lighting ceremony, Bel Canto and poetry performances, and a guest speaker, Susan Meschel. Dr. Meschel, who earned a M.S. and Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Chicago, conducts research at the Illinois Institute of Technology and is the editor of two books and the author of another book about Jewish experiences.

"We have a speaker, someone who survived the Holocaust," JSA co-president **Charlie Benton** said. "I don't want to spoil anything, but she has a very interesting story about her experience."



Similar to how students signed up for ArtsFest workshops, they will have the opportunity to use a Google Form to select one of the 25-30 workshops to attend, according to Charlie. JSA members will then manually place each student into a workshop, based on their responses.

Although workshops will be predominantly run by

affinity groups and faculty, any student was also able to submit workshop proposals to JSA for approval. This year, according to Charlie, the club decided to conduct workshops, in addition to a traditional assembly, to truly honor all student affinity groups and to better represent the diverse experiences and perspectives of the Holocaust.

### Two students accepted for language study program in Taiwan Scholarship

By Taariq Ahmed, Reporter  
APRIL 13, 2023

Juniors **Skyler Albert** and **Poppy Beiser** were chosen for a government-sponsored scholarship to study world languages at an academic intensive program in Taiwan for six weeks this summer.

The National Security Language Initiative for Youth is run by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. To be chosen for the scholarship, an applicant must be a U.S.

citizen, be a 15-18 year old high school student and meet other criteria defined in an online application.

Skyler has studied Chinese at Lab since third grade, and said he has always been fascinated by Chinese language. Skyler said he applied to the program with a hope of immersing himself in Chinese culture.

"I'm trying to go in with an open mind," Skyler said. "I don't want to go in there with preconceived notions, but I

think it'll be a great opportunity to learn more about Chinese and Taiwanese inspirations and culture, and obviously, improve my language skills."

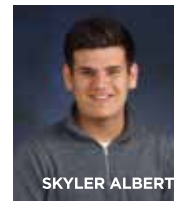
Participants in the program will stay with a host family, attend courses at a local university and stay involved with community activities.

Poppy said she is excited to make connections through her passion of learning languages.

"I think it'll be amazing to form relationships with the host family I stay with, and with the



POPPY BEISER



SKYLER ALBERT

people who I'm taking classes with," Poppy said. "I'm going to completely commit

to only speaking Mandarin as much as I can. I'm sure it's going to be a really cool experience."

#### Behind the Scenes

## TEACHING LIFE SKILLS THROUGH HUMANITIES CURRICULA

Students in Jasmine Jefferson's Grade 6 humanities classroom learn real-world skills



JASMINE JEFFERSON, LEFT

Sixth-grade humanities students in **Jasmine Jefferson's** classroom can expect not only to be intellectually challenged by the curricula, but also enjoy a variety of teaching and learning styles.

"My style of teaching is a combination of: experiential learning, online learning, differentiated learning, blended learning, game-based learning, and student-centered learning," Jefferson says, who has 26 years of experience teaching—six of those years at Lab.

Before coming to Lab, Jefferson taught at Chicago Public Schools (CPS) for 21 years. "My work as a teacher has evolved in multiple ways," Jefferson says. "My methods and practices of teaching are more informed by my experiences and continuous professional development, as well as my didactical approach which focuses on the process of motivating my students in the learning process."

Jefferson used to teach primary school students, including kindergarteners, and eventually evolved to teaching middle school students. In addition to being a Grade 6 humanities teacher, Jefferson is also a sixth-grade advisor and Middle School Black Student Association (BSA) co-sponsor. "Although the age level of my students has changed...my philosophy has not," Jefferson says. "I still firmly believe that all students can learn. It is the responsibility of the teacher to meet students where they are and assist them in the progression of their educational journey."

Jefferson's graduate educational background consisted of "social science and urban education with a concentration in the study of the societies, and the relationships among the individuals within the societies."

**"These skills support learning centered around being creative and critical thinkers, problem-solvers, assertive and equanimous learners, empathetic and self-aware individuals."**

Jefferson also incorporates life skills into lessons so students may apply them to the real world. "These skills support learning centered around being creative and critical thinkers, problem-solvers, assertive and equanimous learners, empathetic and self-aware individuals, and interpersonal communication," explains Jefferson, who decided to pursue education in undergraduate school while taking elective courses.

This school year, "students will work on researching and studying the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia and develop a student-directed Museum Fair open to students, teachers, faculty, and family members," Jefferson says.







# Lab in the House: A Tale of Two Genres

By Valerie M. Reynolds

Duro Wicks '85, the subject of a documentary produced by Lab alumni Dave Steck '84



This year celebrated the 50th anniversary of hip hop. At a party in the South Bronx of New York City in 1973, an 18-year-old DJ under the moniker DJ Kool Herc changed music history when he spun the same record on twin turntables, toggling between them to isolate and extend percussion breaks. Fifty years later, hip hop's rhythmic beats and poetic verses continue to resonate across generations.

Today, hip hop has grown into one of the world's most prominent musical genres and cultural influences. But while the genre was picking up steam in New York and on the East Coast in the late '70s and early '80s, Chicago was a bit slower to join the hip hop craze. That's because another genre of music was taking hold in the city, and that genre was house music.

### Lab's Connection to the Birthplace of House Music

It is safe to say that house music, the musical genre that was created in Chicago, is seeing somewhat of a rebirth. With the release of and worldwide fanfare of Beyoncé's most recent album, *Renaissance*, a brand new generation has been introduced to the genre of house music, as an older generation basks in the limelight as house once again takes center stage in pop culture.

Around the same time that hip hop was taking shape in the South Bronx, house music began to take shape when Frankie Knuckles moved from the Bronx to Chicago. As a teen, he attended discos in New York and soon began working as a DJ playing soul, disco, and R&B at two of New York's most popular discos: The Continental Baths and The Gallery. Shortly thereafter, Knuckles arrived in Chicago, where he began DJing at a new club called the Warehouse. It was at the Warehouse where he innovated the genre of house music by blending disco, funk, and electronic pop. From the late '70s to early '80s, the Warehouse, which was a private club in the West Loop that one could only enter by invitation, became a mainstay for house dance parties hosted by Knuckles, who had by then become the club's resident DJ.

## Last June, the Chicago City Council approved a landmark designation for the Warehouse, officially marking its history as the birthplace of house music.

When being interviewed by *MusicRadar* in 2012, Knuckles was asked if he considered himself the inventor of house music. "That's what they tell me," he responded. "I was driving past a shop in Chicago and I saw a sign that said, 'We play house music.' I said to my friend, 'What the hell is house music?' He said, 'It's the kind of music you play at the Warehouse.'" That's when it began to crystalize that what he had created was larger than him; larger than the Warehouse.

Last June, the Chicago City Council approved a landmark designation for the Warehouse, officially marking its history as the birthplace of house music. House grew in popularity and began to quickly spread beyond Chicago and to the nation. This was due in large part to a small group of pioneers: local Black DJs who played a pivotal role in helping to evolve disco into what became known as early house music. One of those pioneering DJs was **Alan King '81**.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHOSEN FEW DJS

Today, King's name is one of the most well-known names affiliated not only with house music but with house culture. He is a member of Chicago's legendary DJ crew The Chosen Few, the collective that hosts one of the biggest house music festivals in the country on Chicago's South Side each year. The Chosen Few, which includes Wayne Williams, Jesse Saunders, Terry Hunter, Mike Dunn, and brothers Andre and Tony Hatchett, are some of the original DJs who helped propel the genre into an international culture of dance, music, and soul, and they continue to contribute to the evolution of the house music phenomenon.

King began making a name for himself as a DJ after he DJed his own eighth-grade graduation party. "Once I went to the Warehouse, however, it changed my life. It was there that I learned what a party was supposed to look like, sound like, and feel like," King shared in a 2019 interview for *Switched on Music*, a platform that celebrates house music. All this "in addition to the amazing sound and lighting, and the way Frankie would manipulate and enhance the records," impacted King as a young DJ. "Plus it was the people. Different races, nationalities, sexual orientations, etc., all partying together in peace and harmony. I had never experienced anything quite like it before."

As one of the world's most sought-out DJs in house music, King lives somewhat of an alternate reality with dual careers. After graduating from Lab, King received a degree in political science from Augustana College and went on to receive a juris doctorate from the University of Illinois College of Law. So, in addition



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOROTHY PERRY

to being a house music icon the world over, he is also a partner at Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila where he chairs the national labor and employment practice. He is a renowned labor and employment litigation attorney and has been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America* since 2012.

### The Rise of Hip Hop in Chicago

As house music evolved from Chicago's underground dance and club culture, its vibrant scene began to have a significant impact on many other genres of music. In 1990, Madonna's house song "Vogue" topped the US and international charts. With Madonna and others, including CeCe Peniston and Paula Abdul, incorporating house into their music, house had been solidified as a cultural phenomenon that was here to stay. Given that Knuckles himself was from the same New York burrough where hip hop was created, it's no surprise how the blending of electronic beats, danceable rhythms, and innovative production techniques from house began to find their way into many local Chicago hip hop tracks. But, because of the hold that house music had on Chicago's urban, underground culture, Chicagoans were somewhat late adopters of hip hop. That is, until a young man by the name of **Duro Wicks '85** and his group, He Who Walks Three Ways, had their say.

*CATALYST: The Story of Duro Wicks and Chicago Hip Hop* is a soon-to-be released, independent documentary film about the early days of hip hop in Chicago. It examines how and why the uptake of hip hop music and culture evolved so much later in Chicago than it did in other urban American cities. The

film shines a light on Duro "Shame Love Tempo" Wicks, an entrepreneur and performer who fell in love with hip hop culture and helped give it a home on the Chicago music scene of the early 1990s.

The documentary explores how WHPK, a tiny 100-watt radio station at the University of Chicago, became Chicago's hip hop powerhouse and why it was so difficult for a young Black entrepreneur to promote hip hop events in the City of Chicago during that time.

As Wicks and his crew began to take the northwest side community of Wicker Park by storm, their notoriety began to spread throughout the city. *The Chicago Reader* once called Wicks "one of the godfathers of the Wicker Park hip hop scene," and *The Chicago Tribune* called him "a large man with a charismatic presence...at the center of the kinetic circus." When speaking to others of how Wicks cultivated a place for a generation of kids to show up and prove the hip hop culture was relevant and here to stay, many describe Wicks as "the catalyst."

"Before I did my own thing, I had nowhere to go," says Wicks. "So my whole thing was, *let's do our own shows*," he shares as he speaks about his love affair with hip hop.

*CATALYST* paints an honest picture of Duro's wild, roller coaster ride of music, passion, culture, and Chicago's political machine. The story is told by Wicks himself, along with the help of recollections from many others from Chicago's early hip hop community with whom he partnered. Their stories are woven together with archival footage and still photographs that tell the vibrant history of the early days of hip hop in Chicago. The filmmaker behind the project is Wicks' high school friend **Dave Steck '84**, founder of Numeric Pictures.

Steck is an award-winning, twice Emmy-nominated member of the Producers Guild of America and a veteran of underground music scenes. When Wicks first told Steck about his journey as a hip hop pioneer in Chicago, he knew that it had to be captured and preserved as part of Chicago's musical history. So they began to collaborate as co-producers to get this story told.

"As a filmmaker, I don't always get to pick what the show is that I work on,

and I've been very fortunate to get to do things where I've gone to travel around the world," Steck said. "And oftentimes going into a situation where I'm in a culture very different from where I grew up, or in a place very different from where I grew up, I can see how some people who I work with may or may not adapt to that better than others." Steck considers himself one of those who can adapt better than others and he attributes that to his time at Lab.



"One of the things I got out of the Lab—and I didn't realize any of this at the time—was growing up in such a diverse environment," said Steck. "You know, just meeting people and having friends whose lives were different from my own and, yet we had something in common: Lab."

Chicago's hip hop and house scenes have left indelible marks on the genres. They showcase a fusion of styles, address social issues, and nurture a worldwide sense of community and collaboration. The unique sound, diverse talent, and authenticity of this music have contributed to the lasting influence of both genres. The fact that these Lab grads contributed to these movements in music in such confounding ways should be of no surprise. It isn't to Steck.

"I think that Lab made us curious; it made us patient. You know, we will take the time to learn. We don't have to rush through it. And it made us, I guess, fearless."

**The University of Chicago's Doc Films is presenting a work-in-progress screening of selections from *CATALYST*, followed by a talkback with the filmmakers, at Ida Noyes Hall on Wednesday, October 25, at 4pm.**



# Pioneering Innovations in Health Care

How Lab graduates have revolutionized medicine through groundbreaking contributions to health care

By Valerie M. Reynolds

Janet Rowley, LAB'42, PhB'44, SB'46, MD'48



**W**hat drives medical innovation? Many technologists would suggest that the key driver of innovation is big data and technology. Some scholars in higher education might argue that more experimentation and research to advance science is what is needed. Yet, others might conclude that, as the saying goes, necessity is the mother of inventions.

All of the aforementioned answers hold truth, but if the question is asked of a “Labbie” they might say to take one good look at the Schools’ mission and home in on the part about igniting an “enduring spirit of scholarship, curiosity, creativity, and confidence.” For over 127 years, these tenets have created a confluence of ideas that have led to a growing body of world-renowned alumni. As the youngest learners of a tier one research university, it’s no surprise that so many Lab students have, in fascinating ways, contributed to advancements that run the gamut of sectors, including medical innovation.

### Matriarch of Cancer Genetics

In February 2022, the Biden administration reignited the Cancer Moonshot, a White House initiative to mobilize a national effort to end cancer as we know it. It was designed to bring renewed leadership to the fight against cancer, facilitate new collaborations, and drive progress in the field of cancer research. Arguably, one of the most significant strides that was made in cancer research within the last fifty years was made by Lab alumna **Janet Rowley, LAB’42, PhB’44, SB’46, MD’48**.

Dr. Rowley was a human geneticist who made an enduring mark in cancer research when she became the first scientist to identify a chromosomal translocation as the cause of leukemia and other cancers. This discovery proved that cancer is a genetic disease. Before Dr. Rowley, few scientists suspected that chromosomal aberrations caused cancer. Beginning in the 1970s, however, she made a series of fundamental discoveries, including her landmark study in 1972, when she became the first scientist to find evidence that alterations in chromosomes could lead to forms of leukemia and other forms of cancer. She soon uncovered more than a dozen similar translocations in other leukemia and lymphoma cells.

### In the spring of 1972, in her Hyde Park home, Dr. Rowley “lined up the chromosomes from leukemia cells on a table and told [her] kids not to sneeze.”

“The concept at the time was that cancer was chaos; that these chromosomes that hold the DNA, they would just randomly get all crazy and that’s how cancer started,” said Dr. Sonali M. Smith, chief of the section of hematology/oncology at UChicago Medicine and chair of the Lymphoma Research Foundation’s Scientific Advisory Board. “What she showed is that it is not random, that there’s actually a pattern and that this pattern reflects these chromosomes that rearrange. We still, to this day, call them chromosomal rearrangements.”

Dr. Rowley not only blazed a trail for cancer research, but she also blazed a trail for women in science. She began at Lab at the age of 15 when she was awarded a scholarship that allowed her to enroll in the Hutchins College at the University of Chicago and combine her last two years of high school with the first two years of college. She earned her bachelor of philosophy in 1944, and although she was accepted into medical school, she unfortunately had to wait nine months before she could enter because the University of Chicago had met its quota of women in medical school—three women out of a class of 65.

After graduating medical school in 1948 at the age of 23, she married Donald Rowley, a pioneering researcher in his own right, and spent the next 20 years raising her four boys and working three days a week at a number of different research institutions and health care facilities, including a Chicago clinic for children with Down syndrome. In 1962, after a year at Oxford University, where she learned newly developed techniques of chromosome analysis, her interest in chromosomes and cancer took focus.

According to a 2013 *UChicago News* profile of her career, she made her first big discovery at home, when, after a second sabbatical in Oxford from 1970 to 1971 to learn new staining techniques to highlight the different stripes or “bands” on chromosomes, she began to photograph the chromosomes using the fluorescence microscope. In the spring of 1972, in her



Hyde Park home, Dr. Rowley “lined up the chromosomes from leukemia cells on a table and told my kids not to sneeze.” She noticed that the chromosomes of a patient with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) had two abnormalities; chromosomes 8 and 21 had made a switch. As she studied more patients with AML, she saw the same process. Though her findings changed cancer research as it was known at the time, for years Dr. Rowley struggled to convince fellow researchers, which at the time was a field that was dominated by men. According to *The Lancet*, she wrote a short report for *The New England Journal of Medicine* that was rejected. “When I phoned to ask why,” Dr. Rowley recalled, “I was told that in their judgment my paper was unimportant.” She resubmitted it to the French journal *Annales de Génétique*, which published it in 1973.

“She started medical school at a time when there were very few women in medical school,” said Dr. Smith, who, in 2021, became the first woman to be appointed chief of the section of hematology/oncology at UChicago Medicine, where she worked with Dr. Rowley and published with her as a fellow. “I have four children as well, and what she taught me was that, if we’re lucky and life is long, you still have years of contribution, that you’re not over the hill when you’re forty. Listening to her story of how she came back and contributed so much to our field later life, that kind of gave me hope. If we have role models like that, we can think that it’s possible for ourselves too.”

Dr. Rowley is highly recognized for her accomplishments. She was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to serve on the National Cancer Advisory Board from 1979–1984. She also served on President George W. Bush’s Council of Bioethics from 2002–2009. In 1998, President Bill Clinton awarded her the National Medal of Science, and in 2009, she received the National Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama.

### Breathing New Life into CPR

Dr. Rowley’s legacy began to take root many decades ago, but there are many more recent Lab graduates leading new advancements in medical innovations such as **Diane Meier ’69**, a geriatrics and palliative care specialist who founded the Center to Advance Palliative Care in 1999, and **David Melzer ’82**, a professor of medicine at the University of Chicago and health economist who has made major contributions to the fields of medical cost-effectiveness analysis. This list also includes **Ben Abella ’88**, a physician, emergency medicine practitioner, and academic researcher that studies the evaluation of CPR, resuscitation performance, and new methods to teach CPR in the community.

This past January, *Monday Night Football* unexpectedly sent its live viewers into a tailspin as they watched Damar Hamlin, safety for the NFL’s Buffalo Bills, receive a seemingly innocuous tackle from a player on the opposing team. Hamlin got up from the tackle in a manner that most football players do over and over again, and then he suddenly went limp and collapsed on the field. Hamlin had suffered a cardiac arrest.

### “As I get older, I come to appreciate more and more how important the education I received at Lab was,” said Dr. Abella.



In typical pop culture fashion, the next day—and several days to follow—media outlets were full of talking heads about Hamlin’s cardiac arrest and his road to recovery. One of those talking heads was Dr. Ben Abella. Dr. Abella is a professor of emergency medicine and vice chair for research in the department of emergency medicine in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He was appointed the director of the Center for Resuscitation Science in 2016 and, just this past July, Dr. Abella was appointed to serve on the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine after being nominated by Gov. Josh Shapiro and unanimously confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate in late June.

“Dr. Abella has demonstrated outstanding leadership throughout his career, most notably in his efforts to educate the public about cardiac arrest and CPR,” Pennsylvania State Senator Amanda Cappelletti stated in a press release announcing his appointment to the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine.

As a student at Lab, Dr. Abella was inclined toward science at a young age. At the age of 17, he won the Museum of Science and Industry’s Outstanding Young Scientist Award which awarded him the opportunity to fly to Oslo for the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony. He also won third place in the national Westinghouse Talent Search (now known as the Society for Science Regeneration Science Talent Search) for his genetic-engineering research project mapping bacterial chromosomes. After graduating from Lab, he went on to receive his undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis and attended the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine and emergency medicine, as well as his fellowship training in resuscitation and emergency medicine, at the University of Chicago Hospitals.

“Being at Lab was much more important than I realized at the time. As I get older, I come to appreciate more and more how important the education I received at Lab was,” said Dr. Abella. “I’ve loved science forever and received a superb science education at Lab. There were a number of science teachers at Lab that absolutely inspired and propelled me to continue thinking about science starting all the way back in fourth grade to **Ms. [Barbara] Wehr**, who made a big impact on me in grade school. But throughout middle and high school, I had amazing science teachers including **David Derbes** and, importantly, **Murray Hozinky**, an incredible biology teacher who went out of his way to help students get positions in University of Chicago laboratories to do research, and he did that with me.”

Today, Dr. Abella is one of the nation’s top research experts in cardiac arrest and the evaluation of CPR. He is recognized as one of the first to establish that therapeutic hypothermia after cardiac arrest (intra-arrest targeted temperature management/TTM) could dramatically improve arrest outcomes. According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than 356,000 people have an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in the United States every year, and about 60 to 80% of them die before reaching the hospital. Therapeutic hypothermia is a type of cooling treatment to lower the body temperature of a patient and is sometimes performed on people

who have a cardiac arrest. He was integral in establishing post-arrest TTM protocols at both the University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania, and has led TTM training workshops around the world.

In addition to cardiac arrest and CPR quality, he and his research colleagues have also studied automated external defibrillator (AED) usage. They made an impact in this field after they researched the analysis period that determines when, and if, an electric shock can be given or if CPR can be administered when using an AED. When administering an AED, typically, before the first shock, there is a point when the AED must analyze the person’s heart rhythm. After the first shock, the AED machine will instruct the user to perform CPR for approximately two minutes and then tell the user to stop compressions while it rechecks and analyzes the heart rhythm.

“The old AEDs—about 10 to 15 years ago—had an analysis time of about 20 seconds. That would be 20 agonizing seconds where the victim is not receiving blood flow or getting CPR,” said Dr. Abella. “We asked the question, whether this mattered, and in fact we found out that it mattered a lot that when people receive a shock more quickly their survival is better.”

Dr. Abella’s team worked with AED companies to help them understand the importance of this, and now, with the advancements of computers and technology, analysis time in most AEDs is down to about eight seconds. His team did not develop the technology to speed up the time, but they did help to develop the science of why this matters and why AED companies should care about it. Dr. Abella was proud to share that this research was conducted in conjunction with a current University of Chicago faculty member, Dana Edelson MD, a student of his at the time.

Throughout history, advancements in medicine and science have signaled turning points in the way diseases are diagnosed and treated, providing medical professionals with opportunities to better diagnose and improve quality of care. But with all the fanfare, at the end of the day, it saves lives, something Dr. Abella considers the pinnacle of his career.

“I’ve met many cardiac arrest survivors at this point” said Dr. Abella, “and it’s a very gratifying part of my career to know that some of the work I’ve done may have actually contributed to people being alive to be with their families and enjoy their life again.”






# The Sound of Lab

At an early age, Labbies begin learning an instrument. Many excel through graduation and beyond.

By Rocio Villaseñor



top: Jennifer Yu Wang '18; bottom: Louis Auxenfans '23

PHOTOS: CYSO

Upon entering Grade 5 in Lab's Lower School, students excitedly select an instrument and begin their musician journey. Though many students may have played an instrument before joining Lab, many may have never picked up an instrument, and so begins an experience of a lifetime in not only developing new musical skills but also developing skills that are needed throughout adulthood. For many decades, Lab music teachers have instilled a sense of encouragement and direction for tens of thousands of "Labbies" as they continue down their musical path.

Though students don't play an instrument until Grade 5, Lab's music education is from Nursery 3 through Grade 12. At the Historic Campus, music teachers offer classes in general music, band, choir, orchestra, Bel Canto, Chamber Collective, Jazz band, music history, digital music production, and various independent studies. Throughout any given school year, there are more than 40 music performances, according to Lab's orchestra teacher **Hsing-Huei Huang**.

"The amount of classes and performances offered in our Schools is truly outstanding," Huang said. "Our Lab musicians delight in offering beautiful performances that enrich the audience... But beyond the broader community's enjoyment of the music, Lab's music program also helps musicians in ways that go well beyond their individual ability to perform. It teaches discipline and concentration, as being a successful musician requires consistent practice over long periods of time."

## The Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra

Lab musicians have a long history of becoming members of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra (CYSO) and performing in ensembles at the Symphony Center and beyond.

This past spring, on Sunday, May 21, many of Lab's current musicians performed in two ensembles in CYSO's spring concert—the Philanthropic Orchestra, performed the opening piece, and the Symphony Orchestra, performed the other five pieces.

One solo performance that was "simply breathtaking" was U-High student **Henry Auxenfans**' rendition of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35 accompanied by CYSO, according to Huang. Henry performed the last piece of the first half.

"Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D Major is one of the most difficult concertos in the violin repertoire, but even at the young age of 15, Henry showed artistry typically only achieved by much older musicians," Huang said.

Henry was the winner of the 2022 Concerto Competition at the Symphony Center and thus had the opportunity to perform a solo with the CYSO that night. However, this was not the first time Henry performed the concerto. "I played this piece with the Civic Orchestra in January as one of the finalists of the CSO Crain-Maling Foundation Young Artists Competition," Henry said. "This time, I felt I had a better understanding of Tchaikovsky's language and structure... I became more proficient and was able to execute my musical ideas with a higher level of artistry."

## Lab's Music Education

Henry began playing the violin at age four and has been a part of CYSO for eight years. He has performed in many ensembles at CYSO and national competitions including claiming first place in the finals of the 2022 United States Marine Band concerto competition last February in Washington, DC, and got to play with the US Marine Chamber Orchestra in April.

"It was such an honor to be able to work with them, and to be able to play with the nation's oldest orchestra institution. I will cherish that for the rest of my life," Henry told CYSO in an interview.

Henry, along with his brother **Louis Auxenfans** '23, have both participated in the annual LabArts performance and the annual Lab Schools' October recital—which were organized by former music teacher **Brad Brickner**. Henry was also part of Lab's choir from Grades 5–9 and Lab's independent study for trio music.

"We are very fortunate to have an extremely supportive community and top-notch facilities [like Gordon Parks Arts Hall] where we can practice performing and share our musical arts with others," Henry said. "I truly appreciate those training and performing opportunities I have had at [Lab] since I was in primary school... My brother Louis and I are also extremely appreciative of the group of supportive and enthusiastic audiences attending these events."

Like his brother, Louis also plays the piano, but picked up the clarinet in Lab's fifth-grade band. "The enthusiastic and

**"Teachers like Ryan Hudec and [Brad] Brickner made rehearsals engaging by having us break down tricky rhythms in cool ways and reminding us to tell a story through music. Those rehearsals made me excited to practice and come back the next day playing even better."**

caring support of the band teachers helped give me the patience and confidence necessary to excel at my instrument," Louis says. "Teachers like **Ryan Hudec** and **Brickner** made rehearsals engaging by having us break down tricky rhythms in cool ways and reminding us to tell a story through music. Those rehearsals made me excited to practice and come back the next day playing even better."

Louis, who first joined CYSO seven years ago, was the principal clarinetist of CYSO's flagship Symphony Orchestra and Classical Orchestra Repertory Ensemble. He competed and was awarded in several local and national competitions for his piano and clarinet talents including the 2018 Crain-Maling CSO Young Artist Competition, where he won a scholarship prize to attend Boston University Tanglewood Institute. In 2018, he also won Walgreens National Concerto Competition in the junior woodwind division, and in 2020, he was the Illinois Federation of Music Club Concerto Competition winner for his performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3. Both Lab's band and CYSO gave Louis "the opportunity to take on exciting, challenging repertoire with frequent performances at Mandel Hall and Logan Center."

"Lab's band was and is a great place for all beginners to take advantage of exploring a new instrument in an incredibly supportive and fun environment," Louis says, who was at music camp in Tanglewood this summer before joining Harvard this fall. "Lab's band program helped give me a strong foundation to shape and elevate my musicianship that became beneficial in all facets of my playing—from CYSO to solo performances."

*continued on page 40*



Scan QR code to view  
Louis Auxenfans in  
performance





## Beyond Lab

Louis and Henry have been featured on WFMT's *Introductions* show. However, they are not the only Lab musicians featured on the show. Alumna **Jennifer Yu Wang '18** and alumnus **Giacomo Glotzer '18** have also performed live on the show and were also members of CYSO.

Wang was a member of the CYSO for eight years and was the principal flutist. At CYSO, she was awarded with the 2018 Albert Pick III Award, and she won a number of awards in local and national solo and chamber competitions including first place in the Young Artists division of the Society of American Musicians, the 2013 Chicago Flute Club competitions, and First Chair in the National Flute Association (NFA) High School Flute Choir at the NFA annual convention.

As a "Lablifer," Wang, a flutist in the U-High band, the Jazz Band, and the U-High chamber music program, fondly remembers all her music teachers since

**"Music was at the center of my Lab School education," Wang said. "Through the Lab music department, I gained insight on history, social justice, and of course, music, in ways that would never have been possible in other courses."**

preschool, like Huang and Brickner, as well as **En-Chen-Grozov, Crystal (Schlieker) Henricks, Catherine Janovjak, Lee Gustafson, Katy Sinclair, Francisco Dean, Michelle Morales, and Rozalyn Torto**. "Music was at the center of my Lab School education," Wang said. "Through the Lab music department, I gained insight on history, social justice, and of course, music, in ways that would never have been possible in other courses."

Wang recently graduated from Harvard University and studied neuroscience while continuing to pursue music. Wang was president of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra (HRO) and is now a director on HRO's Alumni Board.

"All of which would never have happened without the inspiration I had in Middle School music classes at Lab School," Wang said. "Through Lab, my love of playing a wind instrument was nurtured through the U-High band and other programs, and the encouragement I got from every single teacher in the Music Department to practice and even teach my peers. From them, I gained the confidence to thrive and succeed in organizations like CYSO or HRO, and the necessary skills to become not just a musician, but a leader and life-long lover of the performing arts."

Glotzer, also a "Lablifer," began his journey with the cello in Kindergarten,

and in third grade he was drawn to the alto saxophone. Glotzer said the saxophone became part of his student life and would play the cello in his spare time, but that changed in U-High when Huang approached him with the proposal of joining a flute-piano-cello trio.

"This was a significant turning point in my musical journey. I grew to love the intimacy of chamber music, the exchange of ideas, both spoken and unspoken, in the practice room and on the stage," Glotzer said.

Glotzer was part of the CYSO for ten years playing cello, and was CYSO's 2018 winner of the Mollendorf Award. He also had the opportunity to tour Central Europe with CYSO, according to the *U-High Midway*. "Music will continue providing me a space to express my emotions while also teaching me important life skills," Glotzer told CYSO in an interview.

Glotzer recently graduated Yale University and is going to study neuroscience in a PhD program, but before doing that he toured with Yale's Low Strung, a 12-member cello rock band comprised of classically trained cellists, which he joined in 2018. Huang said that Glotzer dreamt of bringing the group to Chicago and Lab, and in June that dream came true when Low Strung performed at Earl Shapiro Hall and the Historic Campus.

"Having the opportunity to bring Low Strung to Lab was a unique full-circle moment that I will always cherish," Glotzer



said. "It was a joy to reunite with several of my [former] teachers, including Huang, **Staci Garner, Francisco Javier Saez De Adana, Frau Steinbarth, Ian Taylor, and Meghan Janda**. These educators played crucial roles in shaping not only my life but also those of my friends. The experience of returning to express my gratitude was deeply rewarding."

# Alumni Notes

## Keep in Touch

**Lab Notes allows alumni to connect with Lab and fellow classmates. Please contact your class representative or the Office of Alumni Relations and Development (ARD) 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. Please email notes, information, or questions to labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu. Please note that ARD reserves the right to determine what is included in the publication.**

## 1949 Class Representative

Ernest J. Dunston  
4 Tetilla Road  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
santafe@moonrise.com  
505-466-4346

## 50s

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

## 1951 Class Representative

Lynn Manaster Alperin  
13122 Shannondell Drive  
Audubon, PA 19403  
lynnalperin@gmail.com

As most of us traverse our eighty-eighth year of existence, we have good news and bad news. I'm sorry to report that Jim Rosenblum passed away in June. Jim lived in Los Angeles and had practiced psychiatry for many years. We are saddened and diminished by his loss.

**Bob Abrams '51** writes: Sharon and I just celebrated the wedding of our grandchild Jessie (our fourth wedding) in Chicago and they are going to live in Chicago (yeah). We also have three great grandchildren, twin girls from one family and a girl from another, all around two-and-a-half years old. In April, Sharon and I went to see the tulips in the Netherlands, by way of driving from Luxembourg and all through Belgium. It was always something Sharon wanted to see. Fortunately for us life is good.

**Martin Dillard '51** writes: I have been retired from medical practice for 12+ years. I live in the Washington DC area in Bethesda. Fortunately I'm still healthy and remain active. I play tennis (doubles only) once a week. My granddaughter plans to be married next July. I hope I will be able to attend Alumni Weekend. My best to everyone.

**Art Koff '51** sends word that he has received successful treatment for a wound on his foot and is now able to walk again under his own

steam. He adds, "Unfortunately, I had to cancel my trip to Europe this summer where I had planned to spend some time with **Mickey Padnos** on his boat [at Joinville-le-Pont] on the Marne River just outside of Paris."

**Lynn Manaster Alperin '51** reports that our one and only grandchild, Sabrina, will be heading off to college in August. I tried (unsuccessfully) to talk her into the University of Chicago, but she will be matriculating at Vanderbilt University to study Spanish and Engineering.

**Michael Padnos '51** writes: Sunday June 25 was my eighty-eighth birthday. By happy coincidence, the port had decided to celebrate the day with a *Guinguette*, a traditional summer party held in the many festive restaurants on the bucolic shores of the Marne River. At the *Guinguettes*, little kids dance with their grandparents, moms and dads waltz lovingly together, and young lovers dream misty dreams about the future, all to the accompaniment of many bottles of freshly chilled white wine and a merry and rollicking local orchestra. The orchestra celebrated Michael's birthday by playing his favorite French songs and inspired him to count among his blessings having realized his lifelong dream of being able to spend most of his adult life in his beloved France. (For more details, see his essay posted on Facebook.) Also, his two novels have been published recently and are available from Amazon.

**Bobbe Press Wolf '51** writes: After 43 years of living independently and traveling all over the world, when our lease was up in our wonderful Evanston apartment, our five 'children' talked us into moving to a senior living residence. Fortunately, the Symphony is in the very interesting neighborhood of Lincoln Park in Chicago, two blocks away from Facets Multimedia, a movie House noted for being the first to run foreign films. It's near the DePaul University with all the good stuff near a college campus, like Starbucks, Sushi, and great Korean chicken. The Chicago Public Library keeps us busy, and in House we get some wonderful therapy for our sore bodies. We moved in early May, and our kids handled all the details.

## 1952 Class Representative

William T. Salam  
114 Prospector Pass  
Georgetown, TX 78633  
bill.salam@gmail.com  
512-868-1915

## 1953 Class Representative

Cordelia "Corky" Dahlberg Benedict  
885 West Stone Barn Road  
Franklin Grove, IL 61031  
benedictcd@hotmail.com  
815-677-0093

## 1954 Class Representative

Alfred Manaster  
300 West Beech Street, #202  
San Diego, CA 92101  
alfred.manaster@gmail.com  
619-269-0996

**Class of 1955-'57: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative?** Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

## 1958 Class Representative

Allen S. Musikantow  
allenmusikantow@gmail.com  
1620 NW 73rd Terr, Ocala, FL  
34482  
352-671-1919

**Allen S. Musikantow '58** writes: Eighteen of our classmates attended the events at the school on Alumni Weekend which concluded with a dinner hosted by **Richard '58** and Hoppie Penn at their beautiful apartment in the Indiana Village. This was the 65th anniversary of our graduation.

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

## 60s

## 1960 Class Representative

Ellen O'Farrell Leavitt  
7508 North Red Ledge Drive  
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253  
ellen@leavittcom.com

**Ellen Leavitt '60** writes: On June 28, **Cass Friedberg '60, Phil Leavitt '60**, and I traveled to Morris, IL to visit Pat Neff, at the beautiful lakeside acreage where she and Peter lived and raised their two sons. Pete has been gone for 15 years, but Pat continues to enjoy and improve the lakeshore, woods, flatland, and hills. We enjoyed the gorgeous property, her delicious lunch, her good company, and her rambunctious, and sweet rescue dog, Carl.



**Class of 1960 Reunion Committee:** From left to right: **Cass Friedberg, David Passman, Nancy Frank, Earl Silbar, Chuck Buben, Ellen Leavitt, and Phil Leavitt**. Absent was **David Epstein**, who is still fighting his 18 month battle with shingles.



**Menachem Kovacs '60** writes that he continues to do the daily Daf Yomi, a page a Day of Talmud studied by tens of thousands of people around the world. So intellectually stimulating and uniting!

**1961 Class Representative**

James Orr  
Apartment 3802  
1660 North LaSalle Drive  
Chicago, IL 60614-6027  
jeo@aol.com

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

**1963 Class Representative**

David Stameshkin  
176 Treetops Drive  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
david.stameshkin@fandm.edu  
717-341-5188

**David Stameshkin '63** writes: The Class of 1963 held its 60th Reunion the weekend of May 20–21, 2023. The turnout was excellent; indeed, we have been informed that our Class had the largest attendance of any of the reunion classes that weekend! The reunion committee was headed by **Betty Rosenstein Musburger '63**, **Kim Mosley '63**, and **Karen Goldberg Topin '63**. Others on the committee were **Lynne Firsel '63**, **Susan Furth Hand '63**, **Judi Epstein Shapiro '63**, and **Gayle Sherman Pierce '63**. There were three major events during the weekend: a dinner on Saturday evening in Judd Hall; an after-dinner party hosted by **Andy Gelman '63** and his wife, Amy; and a Sunday brunch hosted by **Karen Goldberg Topin '63** and her husband, Al. The dinner attendees were entertained by musical performances from singer **Irma Routen '63** and pianist **Steuwart Dewar '63**; as well as a wacky comic skit concerning AI that **Muffie Meyer '63**, **Libby Storr '63**, and **Jon Boorstin '63** had organized and who were joined in performing the skit by **Bob Factor '63**, **Susan Goldsmith Wooldridge '63**, and **Andy Gelman '63**. **Paul Breslin '63** and **Irma Routen '63** planned and implemented a moving memorial to deceased classmates. I was honored to be asked to auction off a wonderful paper sculpture designed by Patti Eisenstein Fertel, the proceeds of which she generously asked to be added to the Class of 1963 Endowed Scholarship Fund. Jon Kovler and his wife, Sally, made the highest bid. **Dick Lansing '63** informed the attendees that the current market value of the Fund, which the Class created as part of our 50th Reunion, was \$145,583.18; that prior to the reunion, the Class had

From right to left: Doug Matthews '64, Ruth (Orden) '64, and Ruth's husband Gabriel



donated \$136,250.37 and the total amount of money donated and five-year pledges totaled \$168,750; and that income from the Fund has been used to provide scholarship aid to a current student.

The Class of 1963 also recently held its second zoom session this year on June 25, with 25 participants. **Kim Mosely '63**, who organized and moderated the event, has, over the past 11 years, worked diligently to bring our class together by creating and administering our class Google group. Many thanks to you, Kim!

**1964 Class Representative**

Robert Friedman  
720 Appletree Lane  
Deerfield, IL 60015  
rfriedman@bensman.com  
847-945-6933

**Doug Matthews '64** shared that he and wife, Carol, toured Israel, Jordan, and Egypt from their Florida home in December 2022. While there, Doug had dinner in Jerusalem with classmate **Ruth (Orden) '64** and her husband Gabriel, who live near Tel Aviv.

**Barbara Daté EX'64** writes: My niece's, Miyuki Daté Smith Khanna (now Neascu), wedding was May 21 in London. I was the only USA family member who could make it because everyone else was on academic schedules and could not break free. Because of illness before the wedding, I extended by stay for two weeks and had really deep conversations with all of the family members including Sol (one-and-a-half years old who speaks Spanish and French and now learning English!). After nine years of research in India, my brother, Norman just published the unpublished collected letters of Marjorie Sykes, Quaker woman from England, who worked with Gandhi teaching until and beyond when he died.

For myself, surprisingly, during COVID I have worked FULL-TIME from my home office, teaching, counseling, and providing organizational consultations including crisis intervention. I of course had to learn some new skills, but we were amazed at how much

progress could be made via Zoom and FaceTime (WhatsApp and Skype).

**Classes of 1965–'66: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative?** Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

**Joey Kenig '66** writes: I still perform in cafés and farmers markets, do occasional house concerts in northeastern MN and St. Louis, MO, and still use poster-sized prints of my visual artwork to let people know when/where I'm playing music.

Balance, Joey Kenig '66



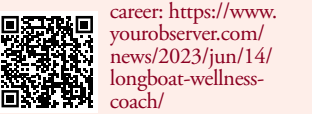
**1967 Class Representative**

Barry S. Finkel  
10314 South Oakley  
Chicago, IL 60643  
bsfinkel@att.net  
773-445-4112

**1968 Class Representative**

Richard Dworkin  
Apartment 24  
130 West 16th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
richard.dworkin@gmail.com  
212-366-6636

**Mirabai Holland '68** writes that she's a nationally known wellness expert. Here is a link from a recent article in the *LBK Observer* about her



**1969 Class Representative**

Kelley Anderson  
marshg44@gmail.com



Lawton Robert Burns, LAB'68, AM'76, PhD'81, MBA'84, met India's Prime Minister Modi in June 2022 and they discussed India's health care system. PM Modi is holding Lawton's book.

# 70s

**1970 Class Representative**

Hannah Banks  
107 Garland Road  
Newton, MA 02459  
617-877-7885 cell  
617-236-1876  
banks.hannah@gmail.com

**1971 Class Representative**

Susan Meltzer Yost  
2759 Plymouth Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43209  
susanyost8@gmail.com  
614-231-9435

**1972 Class Representative**

Colin Smith  
99 Mill Road  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-1612  
colinmbsmith@gmail.com  
831-818-1455

**Pam Wang '72** writes: I am happily retired in Indianapolis, where I have lived for twenty-eight years. I recently returned to the University of Chicago for Reunion Weekend where my husband attended his 50th Reunion dinner in the new David Rubenstein Forum, which was really cool (or is the right word “groovy”?). I wanted to remind members of the class who would like to get in touch with past schoolmates that there is a group of at least two dozen Class of 1972ers (and also people from other classes) who communicate with each other on Facebook (which really is for grandparents). If you don't know where to start, join Facebook and then friend either Jessica Kohn (McGuire) or me (Pamela Wang).

**1973 Class Representative**

Kevin Spicer  
Apartment A, 1122 Chelsea Avenue  
Santa Monica, CA 90403-4656  
uofclabschool1973@gmail.com  
310-315-1833

**1974 Class Representative**

Dan Kohrman  
3606 McKinley Street NW  
Washington, DC 20015  
dkohrman@aarp.org  
202-966-2445

**Class of 1975: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative?** Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

**Karla Werninghaus '75** writes: I am living in Reno, Nevada, working as a surgeon with the Veterans Administration. I fly my little airplane all over the West, whenever I can.

**1976 Class Representative**

Stuart Field  
1609 Blue Sage Drive  
Fort Collins, CO 80526-3714  
stuart.field@colostate.edu  
970-219-5364

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

**1978 Class Representative**

Andrew G. Neal  
2438 N. Marshfield Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60614  
andrew.neal@sbcglobal.net  
773-348-6367

**1979 Class Representatives**

Karl Wright  
13957 Davana Terrace  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423  
karl83@sbcglobal.net  
818-981-2723

Jessica DeGroot  
4918 Cedar Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19143  
jdegroot@thirdpath.org  
215-471-5767

Hans Massaquoi  
26054 York Road  
Huntington Woods, MI 48070-1311  
hmassaquoi@lewismondax.com  
313-510-7721

# 80s

**1980 Class Representative**

Rhonda Gans  
Apartment 112  
440 North Mcclurg Court  
Chicago, IL 60611  
rygans@sbcglobal.net  
312-645-0248

**1981 Class Representative**

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

**Christopher Newscomb '81** writes: Greetings from Houston. Ten years so far in a blue city stuck in a red state (like everywhere else these days, right?) poorly run by a villainous clown and his evil cabal (again, like about everywhere else, right?). I'm continuing my long and highly successful career as an environmental and safety attorney in the so-called Energy Capital during the big energy transition—it's an exciting time to be in this field! (There was a brief five-year mental lapse where I veered out of my law lane to manage all HSE

for a large refining company, working through fun times like Hurricane Harvey and COVID, and damn near lost my mind. Know thyself, I guess.) During COVID, in June 2020, we lost my dear dad, Dr. Richard Newcomb, who characteristically went out very vocally and very much on his own terms. My mother, Dr. Joan Newcomb, still lives in Chicago and I enjoy visiting her and old friends like **Louise LeBourgeois '84** and **Ann McCabe, AM'92** now and then. Louise is still as grounded and insightful as ever and has become quite the impressive artiste. Visit her site [louiselebourgeois.com](http://louiselebourgeois.com) and see how well she captures the moods of our favorite body of water, Lake Michigan. My wife Alyssa and I recently ordered a couple of Louise's works for our Silver Anniversary so our home will have some of that cool, calm but slightly dangerous mood only that lake can evoke. We are enjoying our three boys as they grow up, Calvin (21), Xander (19), and Oliver (16), all of whom are much better swimmers than I ever was. I envy the pools they get to swim in and describe the pools we swam in back in high school—they look at me agog and think I'm making it all up! I still ride bicycle regularly, Houston having a surprisingly good network of bike and hike paths. Cheers y'all.

**1982 Class Representative**

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

**1983 Class Representative**

Cheryl Buckingham  
csamp2002@yahoo.com

**1984 Class Representative**

Susan Mack Taple  
drsusantaple@gmail.com

**1985 Class Representative**

Anjali Fedson Hack  
fedsonhack@gmail.com

**1986 Class Representative**

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

**Sam Pearlman '86** writes: While attending the Council of American Maritime Museums conference in Astoria, OR last April, I took advantage of a free night to drive up

to Olympia, WA to have dinner with our classmate **Matthew Marzynski!** Totally worth the four and half hour round trip to have dinner with my dear friend of 41(!) years.

For the Goode/Perlman Household, the big news is that our oldest son, Theo, graduated from high school with honors in May. He will be attending Harvard in the fall, with interests in human evolutionary biology and Spanish.

**Matthew Marzynski '86** writes: Recently caught up with my dearest friend of 41(!) years, **Sam Pearlman '86**, who I met during the first week of my freshman year. My entry to Lab in 1982 was accompanied by my father, a documentary filmmaker, who made a film about the school that semester (*Fred the Rock for Class President*, anyone?). Imagine being the new kid with that introduction. Somehow Sam hasn't aged despite us being two days apart in age and me the younger. Great to catch up here on the left coast.

So, I'm three years into the third act of my career in and around design and innovation, working at Microsoft. If you have had a Teams meeting in the last couple of years, you've probably interacted with the stuff I work on. The Pacific Northwest has become one of the favorite places I've lived, and I use every chance to explore the mountains and forests we have within reach. Even the rain just highlights the beautiful summers. Although, I have been bingeing *The Bear* lately and feeling a twinge for Chicago...

My two boys, Jacob (22) and Levi (18), are both pursuing their passions, bringing me closer to coveted empty-nest status that I'll be enjoying with my fiancée, Jennifer. Second time around for both of us and definitely sweeter. Unlike my tech friends, I'm allergic to social media, so you'll find me most easily at [m.marz@me.com](mailto:m.marz@me.com).

**1987 Class Representative**

Barbara Harris  
harriswoodard@gmail.com

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

**1989 Class Representative**

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

Class of 1993 reunion dinner hosted by Sarah Abella '93



# 90s

**1990 Class Representatives**

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

**1991 Class Representative**

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

**1992 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  
alanheymann@gmail.com  
202-468-9554

**1994 Class Representative**

Michelle Maffia Tarkowski  
nateelle@hotmail.com

**1995 Class Representative**

Dan Hartley  
dhartley@alum.mit.edu

**1996 Class Representatives**

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

**1997 Class Representative**

Elena Arensman McPeak  
elena.mcpeak@gmail.com

**JaSaun Buckner '96** writes: Hey classmates! Overall I'm really good. A show I produced called *Swiping America* is now streaming on (HBO) Max.

**Shira Lee Katz '96** writes: Sending well wishes to everyone from Lake Tahoe, California, where we are vacationing with kids Ivy (5) and Juniper (2), husband Brandon, and Mom, Lucinda, former longtime



left: Inga Mittendorf '03 senior picture  
right: Mittendorf '03 and Will Mittendorf  
'01 at their family's former home at  
5634 S. Woodlawn



head of the Laboratory Schools. In everyday life, we live in Oakland. I lead content strategy at Coursera, which offers affordable online content and credentials by top companies and universities to learners worldwide. **Melissa Garcia '96** lives five minutes away, and is an excellent walking buddy. In the last year I've had the pleasure of seeing **Rachel Tartof '93**, **Sara Tartof '96**, **Sam Winer '96**, **Daphna Bassok '96**, **Michelle Bloomberg '95**, and **Geeta Makhija '94**! This past year I also had the great honor of delivering the University of Michigan English Department commencement address. It was the thrill of a life! Hugs to my class and the rest!

**Elena McPeak '96** writes: Greetings from Louisiana. Just completed my eighth year as an Admission Director for private schools in Baton Rouge and am taking a leave next year while my husband, Kevin, is on sabbatical. My two boys (Liam, 14 years old and Robert, 12 years old), Kevin, and I are headed to Barcelona in January. If you have any suggestions for travel in Spain, please let me know!

Class of '96, let's get more updates in the next publication. Email Shira or me with your news.

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

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

**1999 Class Representative**  
Katherine Le  
katherinejle@yahoo.com

left: Dr. Peggy Herschell 1956 8th-grade  
Lab graduate senior picture  
right: Peggy Herschel, Debby Wilder  
Sandford, Barbara Goetz Garner, Carol  
Wentz, pictured in 1956 in Hyde Park



## 00s

**2000 Class Representative**  
Tiago Pappas  
1501 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60607  
tiago.pappas@gmail.com  
773-330-8583

**2001 Class Representative**  
Greg Kohlhaugen  
gkohlha@gmail.com

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

**2003 Class Representative**  
John Oxtoby  
joxtooby@gmail.com

**Inga Mittendorf '03** has returned to UChicago as a Staff RN and Assistant Patient Care Manager for the General Medicine units of the Bernard Mitchell Hospital. As a fourth generation Lab student, Inga was not initially interested in a career at UCMC, as it felt too familiar. "I wanted to forge my own path at another institution. However, after a year, I couldn't wait to transfer to UChicago. It just feels like home." Inga's mom, **Dr. Peggy Herschel**, graduated 8th grade from Lab and was a noted Neonatologist at UCMC and regarded as an international authority on hyperbilirubinemia in newborns. The medical center continues to hold a yearly lecture in her honor. The upcoming 2024 lecture will mark 20 years since her passing. Inga's father, **Dr. Robert Mittendorf**, was a noted Professor of Obstetrics at the Lying-In Hospital in the 1990s. Dr. Mittendorf's "due date predictor" (known as the Mittendorf-Williams rule) was deemed in 1996 by the University to be more accurate than Naegele's Rule, which had previously been considered the gold standard for due date calculations since 1838. Inga shared that her great-grandmother, **Jessie Heckman Herschel**, was a 1906 U-High graduate and served as a model for noted artist and UChicago lecturer, Lorado

Jessie Heckman Herschel 1906 senior  
picture



Traft. Other family legacies include Inga's grandfather, **AJ Herschel '38**; great-uncle, **Austin Herschel '36**; great-aunt, **Mary Herschel Swanberg '39**, **AB '43**, **MD '48**; aunt, **Janet Herschel O'Brien AB '77**, **AM '79**; and cousin, **Ellen O'Connor Ph.D. '90**.

**2004 Class Representative**  
Marcelo Pappas  
marcelopappas@gmail.com

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

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

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

**2008 Class Representative**  
Victoria Rogers  
victoriamrogers@gmail.com

**David McAlpine '08** writes: My name is David McAlpine and I wanted to share that I'll be starting my Executive MBA at Booth in August as part of the class of 2025. So excited to be back at UChicago!

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

## 10s

**2010 Class Representative**  
Andrew Cook  
andrewhcook1@gmail.com

**2011 Class Representative**  
Rachel Sylora  
rachelsylora@gmail.com

**2012 Class Representative**  
Ary Hansen  
ary.hansen@gmail.com  
773-324-4012

clockwise: Alice Rosenthal Markham,  
Carol Wentz, Inga Mittendorf, Deborah  
Wilder Sanford, Nancy Ricketts Bradley,  
Barbara Goetz Garner pictured in 2022  
yearly reunion, Lakeside, Michigan



**2013 Class Representatives**  
Sarah Curci  
sarahcurci@gmail.com

Amartya Das  
amartya.das78@gmail.com

**2014 Class Representatives**  
Lillian Eckstein  
lillian.eckstein@gmail.com  
773-243-9409

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

**Class of 2015: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative?** Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

**2016 Class Representative**  
Julian Lark  
jlark@uchicago.edu

**2017 Class Representative**  
Jonathan Lipman  
jlipman500@gmail.com

**Class of 2018: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative?** Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

**2019 Class Representative**  
Alex Pietraszek  
apietraszek@uchicago.edu

**Classes of 2020-23: Interested in volunteering to serve as your class representative?** Email the Alumni Relations and Development Office at labnotes@ucls.uchicago.edu.

# In Remembrance

**Robert Lincicome '45** passed away on March 3, 2023. He was the son of Arthur and Myrtle Lincicome of Urbana, IL, and was born on October 30, 1929. His early years were spent in Urbana until the family moved to Chicago. As a teenager, he spent summers in Urbana where he worked summer jobs at the University of Illinois Department of Agriculture. After graduating from Lab, he moved on to the University of Illinois where he was a member of Acacia fraternity and earned his bachelor's degree. He then enlisted in the US Army where he served for two years. He had a successful career in journalism, and his employment in the power industry necessitated several moves and afforded him the opportunity to travel in Europe and Canada and, in time, become the editor of the *Electric Power and Light* magazine. In his personal life, he was active in the Boy Scouts. He was involved in Little Theatre and had lead roles in the productions of *Man of LaMancha* and *The King and I*. His hobby was painting, and it brought him great joy. He was an active soloist in the churches the family attended. He was an avid pilot and loved having his own plane.

**Walter N. Stone MD'47**, 91, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at the Frank Residences in San Francisco. An accomplished psychiatrist and pioneer in the field of group psychotherapy, he was beloved by his large family, many friends, and scores of long-time colleagues, and will be deeply missed. Walt was born on December 20, 1931 in Chicago to Theodore (z'l) and Esther Rosalie (Nast) (z'l) Stone. He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Esther, his four children from his first marriage, Katherine "Kay" (Peter Hofmann) Stone, Allen Stone, David (Melinda McTaggart-Stone) Stone, Andrew "Andy" (Julie Zaidler) Stone, and the daughters he lovingly gained through his marriage to Esther, Rhona (David Warren (z'l)) Lyons, and Amy Lyons; and, his 12 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. They are all blessed by his having been a part of their lives.

Walt's professional and personal achievements were grounded in his early education at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools and his undergraduate education at Colorado College. He maintained a lifelong connection to both institutions. In his college years, he was quite the card shark at bridge and poker. Playing cribbage with his grandchildren was one of Walt's greatest joys. He was a fan of all types of music, also an amateur birder, hot air balloon pilot, history buff, amateur oenologist, and enthusiastic art collector. An active member in his community, Walt served on the board of Isaac M. Wise Temple, and on the advisory board of Planned Parenthood of Cincinnati. After retiring to California in 2001, he volunteered at UCSF Department of Psychiatry and at Sutter Health, and served on the board of Buckalew, a nonprofit provider of mental health services.

As Walt loved to say, with a twinkle in his eye: "See you later, alligator."

**Herbert Reis '48** passed away on July 18, 2023. He was the son of Ralph A. Reis, MD and Rose-Frances Kramer Reis of Chicago. Herb began his early education at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, graduating in 1954 from Northwestern University where he was William Randolph Hearst Scholar in American History and Phi Beta Kappa; and he graduated in 1957 from the Yale Law School. At the Department of State in the 1960s, he became a major US negotiator in developing 1967 Outer Space Treaty prohibitions against earth-orbiting nuclear weapons and lunar or planetary militarization, mutual respect for the planetary environments; freedom of access, and the encouragement of international cooperation in space activities. He was the lead US negotiator for the 1967 Astronaut Rescue Agreement, the 1971 Outer Space Liability Convention and the 1974 Outer Space Registration Convention. From 1971 to 1984, Herb was chief Legal Adviser to George H. W.

Bush, Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Andrew Young during their tenures as United States Ambassadors to the United Nations. In 1980, the UN General Assembly elected him Member of the UN Administrative Tribunal. Appointed Adjunct Professor of Law at NYU Law School, he taught constitutional and international law for fifteen years. He also served for many years in his retirement as a volunteer attorney at the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City.

For some forty years Herb found in William James Coffey, PhD, CPA, a man of extraordinary verve, intelligence, energy, curiosity and high good humor. He was a major contributor to Lambda Legal and an ardent supporter of Lambda's work for equal opportunity without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. He considered himself a lucky man.

**David W. Johnson '60** passed away July 2021, of lung disease. He received his BS from Colorado State University, and an MBA from UChicago. His career was in health care. Upon retirement, his passion became animal rescue, particularly dogs. He is survived by his wife Jennifer, five children, six grandchildren, and five dogs.

**Ian G. Dresner '60, MD** passed away April 2, 2023, of cancer. He received his BS from University of Wisconsin, a PhD from UChicago, and his MD from Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Dresner began practicing at Children's Hospital in Akron, OH, where he helped create a division for Pediatric Nephrology, his specialty. He practiced there until 2006 when he moved to Basalt, CO to be closer to his grandchildren. He continued practicing in Colorado and was invited to create a Pediatric Nephrology unit in a Denver hospital. He and his wife eventually settled in Scottsdale, AZ, where they became good friends with four other Lab alumni and their spouses: **Phil Leavitt '60**, **Ellen Leavitt '60**, **Richard Goldsmith '60**, and **Ken Dry '62**. This group was a close and sanity-saving bubble during COVID. In retirement, Dr. Dresner had time to enjoy his many outside interests, including science, gardening and plants, baking blueberry scones, cycling, pickleball, and running. He qualified for and ran in the Boston Marathon twice. Dr Dresner is survived by his wife Carol, three daughters, five grandchildren, brother **Dr. Bruce Dresner '63**, and sister-in-law Jane.

**Leoneen Hedy Woodward-Faust '72, MD** passed away peacefully in her Hyde Park home on July 11, 2023. Leoneen was born in Chicago and grew up in the Morgan Park neighborhood. After graduation from the University of Chicago Laboratory High School, she earned her undergraduate degree from Mount Holyoke College, and medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago. As one of the few African-American child psychiatrists amidst a national shortage during that time, Leoneen dedicated herself to improving mental health care for children and adolescents in underserved communities. She worked and mentored at various neighborhood mental health agencies including Children's Memorial Hospital, the University of Chicago Medical Center, and retired from her position as medical director of the Child and Adolescent Program at Mercy Hospital. Leoneen is survived by her husband H. Patrick Faust, two sons, sister, niece, and grandnephews.

**Kimberly Werninghaus Blair '75** passed away following a lengthy battle with cancer. Kimberly was born in Chicago, Illinois where she attended the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. High school diploma in hand, she ventured east to Wheaton College in Massachusetts. Following graduation, she returned to Chicago, caring for her father and working for the University of Chicago hospitals. While working full time, she obtained an MBA from the University of Chicago (Booth) Business School Executive Program. Subsequently, she moved to Philadelphia, where she joined the Albert Einstein Medical Center. There, she met the love of her life, Ray. They married and settled in New Jersey. Later, they resettled in California, where she held leadership roles with Kaiser Hospitals and The Permanente Medical Group. She was an active volunteer in the community and Castro Valley schools, even as her illness progressed. She was brave, fierce, smart, loyal, and will be sorely missed by all who knew her. Kimberly is survived by her husband Raymond Blair, son David Blair, mother Betty van Sweringen, sister Karla Werninghaus, and nephew Curtis Werning. She is preceded in death by father William Werninghaus, stepfather Munro van Sweringen, and mother-in-law Jean Blair.

**Goddess Simmons Drew '75**, who served as the Class of 1975 Class Representative, passed away on April 26, 2023.



# Attorney, Admissions Director

Irene Reed '92



This opened up a world of possibilities for me after graduation.”

After graduating, Irene embarked on a path that eventually saw her receive a BA in government from Harvard College as well as a JD from Harvard Law School. Yet, destiny tends to have its own plans, and Irene made her way back to the very institution that had shaped her formative years, but this time, not as a student, but as a valued member of the administrative team. She now considers herself a “recovered” lawyer proud to have returned home to Lab.

As our Schools continue to evolve, a number of individuals within Lab play an integral part in that evolution. One position in particular plays the key role in evolving the school's phenomenal student-body: our director of admissions. **Irene Reed '92** has been employed as the Schools' director of admissions for more than 13 years. As an alumna, she stands as a living bridge between the past, the present, and the future. She embodies the essence of what it means to be an alumni of this prestigious institution.

Like many of our students and alumni, Irene was not the first person in her family to attend Lab; her mother, **Cynthia Ware Reed '54**, is also an alumna who helped instill in Irene a great sense of Maroon Pride even before she became a student. “Going to Lab changed my life,” says Irene. “I developed life-long friendships that, to this day, impact me in the greatest of ways. Lab also provided me with what I believe to be one of the best educational experiences in the world.

“I can think of no better career.”

When not working, you can find Irene enjoying time with her husband, Dave, and their two boys, Alexander and Zachary, who—you guessed it—are current Lab students. Irene is one of an amazing, yet growing ilk who carries the titles of Lab alumni, Lab employee, and Lab parent.

“As an alumna of Lab, it is such a privilege for me to be able to have a career that allows me the opportunity to provide so many children with all that our Schools have to offer,” says Irene. “I can think of no better career.”

# Artist, Painter, Photographer, Bookmaker, and Sculptor

Christopher Wool '72



Lab alumnus **Christopher Wool '72** has been recognized as one of the most important abstract painters of his generation. Specifically for his “word paintings,” which are large canvases with silk-screened phrases from movies, TV shows, or other recognizable materials.

Wool's work has been in various art exhibits, institutions, and auctions worldwide since he embarked on his career in the mid-1980s, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, among others.

He was named a fellow of the American Academy in Rome (1989), served as an artist-in-residence in DAAD Berlin (1992), received the Wolfgang Hahn Prize (2010), and was honored with amFAR's Award of Excellence for Artistic Contributions to the Fight Against AIDS. He has published several books of photographs and works from his time living in New York and part-time in Marfa, Texas.

Wool grew up in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood in the 1960s and has referenced it as “an incredible time.” His

father, Dr. Ira G. Wool, was a molecular biologist and professor for the University of Chicago and his mother was a psychiatrist. Wool has recollected that, at 12, he attended two shows that gave him a sense of “art's subversive power”—The Hairy Who art collective and the Art Ensemble of Chicago, an Afrofuturist jazz combo.

According to *The Art Story's* biography on him, Wool studied photography and art in U-High, and one of his art teachers was **Robert Donald Erickson**. After Lab, Wool went to New York to study painting and photography with Richard Pousette-Dart at Sarah Lawrence College. He then attended the Studio School to focus on painting. From 1980–1984, Wool worked as a studio assistant for Joel Shapiro, a sculptor, and was greatly influenced as this led him to create abstract paintings.

In the last few years, Wool has been creating sculptures made of twisted barbed wire at his home in Marfa.

“I don't know where I'll go next with the sculpture,” Wool told *The New York Times* in a May 2023 interview. “I mean, I've pretty much fished out all of the found wire that's possible for me to find in West Texas. It might not continue to provide me with new ideas, so maybe I'll have to start working in a completely new vein.”

“...maybe I'll have to start working in a completely new vein.”

PHOTO: ERIK TANNER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

# Chief of Staff, Writer, Public Policy Expert

Charles Blackstone '95  
(attended)



In June, New York City Mayor Eric Adams announced the appointment of **Charles Blackstone '95** as the chief of staff of the Mayor's Office of Food Policy (MOFP). In this role, Blackstone will advance the food equity goals of Food Forward, New York City's first-ever, ten-year food policy plan.

Blackstone will advance the food equity goals of Food Forward, New York City's first-ever, ten-year food policy plan.

Before his appointment, Blackstone held a variety of previous roles in government administration including deputy chief of staff for the City of New York's Department of Homeless Services and director of digital communications for the Department of Homeless Services within the Department of Social Services. He holds a BA from the University of Illinois at Chicago as well as an

MA in social sciences from the University of Colorado Boulder.

In his new role, Blackstone will collaborate with a diverse range of stakeholders including community members, local businesses, nonprofit organizations, government agencies to advance a comprehensive policy framework designed to increase food security, promote access to and consumption of healthy foods, and support economic opportunity in the food system by 2031. Under Blackstone's leadership, MOFP will continue leading the administration's goals toward a wholesome, nutrient-rich food system by collaborating across all city agencies.

In addition to being an accomplished public policy expert, Blackstone is also a freelance writer and accomplished author. Through both creativity and intellect, Blackstone's name in the literary world is gaining notoriety in both fiction and nonfiction genres. His published credits include *Vintage Attraction*, a novel about a young English teacher who falls for a famous and sommelier; *The Art of Friction*, which surveys the borderlands where fiction and nonfiction intersect and challenge genre lines; and *The Week You Weren't Here*, a novel that takes you in and out of the mind of a soon-to-be college graduate as he approaches the last days of his undergraduate tenure.

# Medical Director, Infectious Disease Physician

Nirav Shah '00



After graduating from Lab 23 years ago, **Dr. Nirav Shah '00** embarked on an inspiring journey that led him to his current role of medical director of quality innovation and clinical practice analytics at NorthShore University HealthSystem. In 2004, he received a bachelor's degree in biology and economics from Northwestern University. Then received his medical degree from Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine and a master's in public health, both in 2008.

Following his medical residency, also at Northwestern, he held several positions with the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine including infectious disease advanced research fellow, clinical associate in infectious diseases, and clinical assistant professor. As an infectious disease physician, Dr. Shah is involved in numerous quality improvement and research projects that focus on predictive analytics and clinical informatics. He is a rising star within his area of expertise, and in the fall of 2018 he graced the cover of *HealthLeaders* magazine.

Dr. Shah can often be spotted delivering talks and presentations at both local and national medical

conferences. Last year, he and his colleague, Wei Ning Chi, a research associate at NorthShore University HealthSystem, presented “Building a Continuous Remote Patient Monitoring Program” at Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society. And just this past August, Dr. Shah participated in a Chicago Health Executive Forum (CHEF) discussion entitled “Technology Innovation Changing the Face of Healthcare.” During this discussion, Dr. Shah, along with other leading voices in the field, explored how health systems are using innovation in technology to improve the value of the health care they deliver. Dr. Shah and his wife, Pooja,

Dr. Shah explored how health systems are using innovation in technology to improve the value of the health care they deliver.

live in Lincolnshire, and in his free time, he “enjoys spending time with my two boys, reading, listening to music, and traveling.” Outside of his professional accomplishments, Dr. Shah remains engaged with his high school alma mater. “I'm very excited to be joining the Lab Alumni Association Executive Board,” says Dr. Shah. His passion and unwavering commitment to improving health care make him an extraordinary example of success not only for Lab but also for society as a whole.



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## Fund for Lab

The bedrock of Lab's philanthropy efforts, the \$1.2 million Fund for Lab provides the Laboratory Schools with funds that allow us to continue to invest in the people and programs that are at the heart of the Lab experience.

The Fund for Lab supports all of Lab's core programs, making a real difference in the lives of students, families, and teachers. Every gift, no matter the size, makes an immediate and lasting impact to ensure that Lab continues to thrive.

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## Save the Date

**Connections 2024:**  
a Gala and Lab community event

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024  
The Old Post Office  
Chicago, IL