PARENT CONNECTION

THE COLLEGE | THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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Night at the Museum of Science and Industry
Photo by Allen Sue
The long thaw has finally begun after a record-breaking winter. Despite the cold and snow, UChicago was setting records of its own. The Lab School just announced a $25 million gift from famed director George Lucas. The University of Chicago Crime Lab celebrated a $1 million award from the MacArthur Foundation to continue its work on creative ways to reduce violence. We also received word that Tim Rudnicki, a fourth-year student in the College, was awarded a Gates Cambridge scholarship to continue his work on the emergence of capitalism in Britain, a study he hopes will yield insights that may one day aid other emerging economies in fighting poverty.

The University also just announced the opening of the new UChicago Center in Dehli. The Dehli Center will join the Centers in Beijing and Paris in bringing together researchers and students from many different academic backgrounds. The Center will also serve as a space for programming for UChicago faculty, students, alumni, parents, and the community at large.

As spring is welcomed to campus, UChicago students tend to become very forward-looking, preparing for their next steps. Fourth-year students begin looking toward Convocation, the end of their undergraduate career and the exciting start of something completely new. Many students have already started applying for study abroad opportunities, internships, and new jobs. The campus takes on an air of constant movement, bubbling excitement, and a pronounced sense of rebirth that comes with approach of new things.

As the weather changes, the quad is over-taken by sun-seeking students, laptop and books in tow, trying to put the winter cold behind them. Campus traditions like the Summer Breeze carnival and concert, intramurals, and presentations of year-long research projects dot the social calendars of students throughout the spring as the campus is transformed from wintry white to bold greens, pinks, purples and yellows. The winter brings with it a time to plan and prepare, to reflect on priorities. But now it is spring, and the time has come to act, to play, and embrace the future. We hope to you will join us to enjoy springtime in Chicago very soon. It really isn't to be missed.

Warmest regards,
Matthew Hendricks
Associate Director, Parent and Family Relations
Dear Mum and Dad,

I can’t believe yet another quarter is spinning to a close! I remember making fun of you “oldies” when you would marvel at how fast time flies; little did I know! Every quarter here leaves my head spinning and this is certainly not an exception.

This Winter I feel like I was able to deepen relationships that I know I will value forever. A group of friends and I have gotten into the habit of connecting once a month to share our struggles and successes with each other to ensure that we’re all feeling supported; talk about effective stress relief! Every time I get to share moments like these with my amazing peers, I remember what I truly value about being a Maroon: there is a deep diversity of life outlooks that allow us to build each other up in remarkable ways, in and out of the classroom.

Energized by this outlet, this quarter really has been about communication for me. I feel more empowered than ever to voice my concerns and value my feelings. I started out the quarter working three days a week with Organizing for Action’s headquarters, where I really connected with my boss. However, the program quickly became overwhelming for me, mainly due to the lengthy commutes as well as trying to fit it in with classes and RSOs. I’ve found that one of the hardest things to do in college, spurred by youthful delusions of invincibility, is to accept when you need a break, which is why I was so proud of myself when I finally was able to speak up and voice my concerns. My supervisor was incredibly understanding: she told me to focus on being a student and assured me that I had her continued support!

Leaving the program early allowed me to throw myself into extra-curricular activities and classes with a renewed vigor and commitment. Did I tell you that my friends, Helena and Kenny, and I are working on an entrepreneurship kick starter program for the Spring? I’m really excited; it will be a 3-day innovation-fest! I’m also working on a very exciting new project with the UChicago Microfinance Initiative. I can’t tell you much but here’s a hint - it’s international and it’s even close to home!

Each week spent in Hyde Park makes me fall more in love with this community. This quarter, I have been deeply inspired by the passion all around me. Seeing my closest friends working on the issues most dear is very moving. My student activist friends are organizing around equitable healthcare here in the Southside and marching for workers’ rights. My roommates are expanding their artistic talents: one reviving a comic book club, another involved in launching comedy programming on Maroon TV. Several friends have secured summer internships at leading companies across a range of industries. I never cease to marvel at just how accomplished everyone in this community is.

Each quarter, I try to sum up my growth and reflection in a few words. Winter has been about enthusiasm and energy (in direct contradiction of the weather)!

Thank you all your support this quarter! I promise I’ll be a better at keeping in touch next quarter!

Lots of love,

Shiro

To learn more about some of the initiatives that Shiro mentioned in her letter, click on the links below:

- UChicago Microfinance Initiative
- Maroon TV
- Find resources for International Students
It’s the first Tuesday of Spring Quarter. One of the best-named College courses ever, The Ugly American Comes Home, is about to start.

“Hello, travelers!” Martha Merritt, executive associate dean of the College, calls out to the 30 or so students gathered in Cobb 110. All of them have studied abroad. By a quick show of hands, about half were away this academic year; about a quarter have just returned.

“When you try to explain your experience abroad, what do you say?” says Merritt. “It was great! It was awesome!” The students laugh.

“The first few times when you were asked, did you try to explain in more detail?” she asks. Most of the students nod. “And then you watch their eyes glaze over. It’s hard to convey what your time abroad meant and what was significant.” So the first assignment, to be done in class, is for students to write a brief description of their study-abroad experience: “This is what you should have said,” says Merritt. “You can even memorize it and respond this way in the future.”

The description will be the first entry in the students’ journals, to be kept throughout the course. They will also read the entries aloud in a few minutes, Merritt says: “our way of taking roll.”

At this, a bearded man gets up and leaves without a word. He does not return.

Merritt first taught her Ugly American class—inspired by post-study-abroad courses at Notre Dame and other institutions—in Spring 2011, when she was associate dean for international education. It’s a Big Problems course, one of more than 40 interdisciplinary classes cotaught by instructors with different academic backgrounds.

This year Paul Durica, AM’06, PhD’13, creative writing instructor and purveyor of the Pocket Guide to Hell tours of Chicago, is Merritt’s coteacher. Durica’s tours, which he conducts in period costume, include the Hidden History of the University of Chicago, the Working Man’s Guide to the World’s Columbian Exposition, and Ben Reitman’s Hobohemia. He also leads quirky historical reenactments—most infamously, a recreation of the 1886 Haymarket Riots, albeit with foam-rubber nightsticks.

The students finish scribbling or typing and, one by one, read their descriptions: “I’m 20 and for once I felt 20. I’m American and I felt French.” “I was both stupid and brave for studying in Beijing.” “It was simultaneously the best and worst year of my life.” “Exactly no one thought I was Egyptian. And pumpkin milkshakes are delicious.”

Merritt observes that many of the descriptions were more autobiographical than geographical: “Sometimes if you are completely focused on the ‘I,’ you’re neglecting place.” But the more you travel, the easier this becomes. “You have a lot more years and places to go,” she says. “I’m 51, and I’m still traveling. It can be done.”

At the end of class, Merritt explains why she chose Durica as her coteacher: the students’ final project will be to design a campus tour, with future study-abroad students in mind.

Her inspiration, she says, was a downtown tour she took in 2011, designed by an Australian theater group in conjunction with the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. The tour—guided by audio recording, text message, and at one point by someone who came running out of nowhere to grab her by the hand—led to unusual places, such as blind alleys and historic hotel rooms.
And yet many of the sites “were in full view, and other people were passing and didn’t even see them,” says Merritt. The goal of the assignment is to “reexperience the city of Chicago as if it’s a foreign place to you.”

Ten weeks later, the students have formed into four groups, each of which has produced a tour. On the last day of class, presentation day, the room is extra crowded; the guests include study-abroad staff members: Dean John Boyer, AM’69, PhD’75, and Tim Samuelson, cultural historian for the City of Chicago.

Each group leads a virtual tour, using slides and commentary. The first tour, Personal Places, Beautiful Spaces, includes stops at the members’ favorite spaces on and near campus: the Osaka Garden, the Law School reflecting pool, a “squashy gray couch” in Pick Hall, Eckhart Library. In each place, the students explain, “we attempt to reconnect with the personal and reconsider our familiar environment in light of study abroad.”

The Fringe Tour, which requires a bicycle, looks at “the fringes of UChicago”: the Fountain of Time sculpture, the Hyde Park Arts Center, Louis Farrakhan’s house in Woodlawn, the Drexel Square fountain. It ends at the mulberry tree outside the Quad Club with the instruction to eat some of the ripe berries. “If you collect enough, perhaps you might even like to make a pie.”

The Reorientation Experience supplies clues to guess the stops: “Provost Richard Saller once said about UChicago, ‘On our campus, it’s not the biggest football game that draws the biggest crowd, it’s the evening study in the library.’ Head north to the space that has housed crowds for both.” The destination, of course, is Old Stagg Field/Regenstein. This tour ends in the Pub.

The tour called Why Are You Here and Not Somewhere Else? begins with a pointed question posed by a work of art at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. On the tour the students explain, “At times you will be uncomfortable, at times you will be reflective, and you will always see your surroundings in a new light.”

Required reading

According to the syllabus, the aim of The Ugly American Comes Home is “to interrogate not only the experience of studying and living abroad, but also the condition of coming home and facing a range of needs to assimilate and articulate your experiences.”

During the course, students read The Pig and the Skyscraper: Chicago: A History of Our Future by Marco d’Eramo, Foreign Babes in Beijing: Behind the Scenes of a New China by Rachel DeWoskin, We Are All Islanders to Begin With: The University of Chicago in the Late 19th and 20th Centuries by John W. Boyer, The Innocents Abroad by Mark Twain, The Ugly American by William J. Lederer and Eugene Burdick, A Moveable Feast by Ernest Hemingway, and The Lost Continent: Travels in Small-Town America by Bill Bryson.
“That’s the big problem with Iraq today—all the intellectual capital has been lost… So many basic facts are unknown. There’s basically no literature on what happened to the universities other than just numbers.”

This is the premise of second-year Matthew Schweitzer’s research project, “Iraq’s Intelligentsia Under Siege,” which aims to understand the Iraq War’s impact on the nation’s intellectuals—many of whom fled the country following the U.S. invasion in 2003—and the universities where they taught, which were largely left unprotected and open to looting.

“Iraq used to be a center of learning in the Middle East… People would come to study in Iraq,” he said. “It’s interesting now that everyone’s leaving, so it’s sort of like a switch. And along with that switch comes the destruction of all the archives at those universities.”

“I was interested in telling a story of a country that we’ve pretty much destroyed. As a student in a university setting, I can relate and understand what it’s like to be an intellectual and academic because I study with them.”

“I got a little bit antsy during high school”

The story of how he began this endeavor came from a broader interest in the Iraq War during high school—and some senioritis, he admits. During his senior year, he started a website on the withdrawal of troops from Iraq.

“I originally started the website to keep an eye on the drawdown of U.S. troops from Iraq because at that point, we had just withdrawn from Iraq. And then, [the website was] looking forward and analyzing what’s going to happen when we withdraw from Afghanistan, so I started out by interviewing people about Iraq and Afghanistan,” he said.

“That’s the reason I tell people. But the other reason was because it was second semester senior year, and I got a little bit antsy in high school,” he added with a laugh.

To find interview subjects for the website, he began with scholars he knew, and through those initial interviews, he attracted the attention of more notable people.

“You call them up and ask if you can have 20 minutes, and an hour later, they say, ‘Oh, I have to go now.’... I had some guy in Poland who said, ‘It’s Friday. I could talk about Afghanistan for hours.’”

Schweitzer’s website gained a following, especially after he landed an interview with Noam Chomsky.

“That really got the ball rolling… once you get one big name, all the other big names are like, ‘Ah, now I want to debate with this guy.’”

“Someone should write a book about it”

It was an interview with an Iraqi professor teaching
at the London School of Economics, Saad Jawad, that sparked Schweitzer’s interest in what has become a massive project. Unbeknownst to Schweitzer, Jawad had been a prominent scholar at Baghdad University before moving to London, and his thoughts on teaching in Iraq were surprising.

“He said, ‘It was easier to teach under Saddam,’ and I sort of did a double take because I hadn’t really studied Iraqi history, and I figured it was pretty bad after the invasion, but it had to be better than what it was like under a dictatorship,” Schweitzer said. “According to this guy, that was not the case at all… It was more dangerous to speak your mind after 2003 because you didn’t know who you were going to piss off. Before 2003, you knew: don’t criticize Saddam, and you’re fine.”

When Schweitzer asked Jawad about the situation today, he replied, “It’s such a big topic. Someone should write a book about it.” And with that, Schweitzer realized that this was a project worth pursuing.

“Iraq is still timely”

After arriving at UChicago in the fall of 2012, he sought ways to advance the project by applying for grants and contacting interested professors on campus.

“I remember during O-Week, I was working on a grant application, and everyone was like, ‘You’re a weird kid.’”

With the help of Law School Professor Tom Ginsburg and a major grant from the University’s Neubauer Collegium of Culture and Society, Schweitzer has been able to fund the work of five Iraqi professors conducting interviews within the country, a significant first step.

“We’re lucky that Iraq is still timely, and things are still developing, so that helps us get funds.”

Schweitzer and his colleagues focus on two angles of the story: the conditions for intellectuals who remain in Iraq, as well as the stories of those who fled Iraq after the war.

“Academics went to Australia, they went to Malaysia, they went to Sweden, England, Jordan, you name it, there’s probably someone there.”

In total, they are looking to do 150-200 interviews. Schweitzer said the interviews will be archived in the University library and will also form the basis of a book about the topic. He and his colleagues are also collecting Iraqi intellectuals’ papers and artifacts, which can be difficult to track down.

“There are people here who know a lot”

Schweitzer mainly works on the project over breaks. He traveled to Istanbul last summer to meet with scholars working on the project. Then, over winter break, he embarked on his first of what he hopes to be many trips to Iraq. As a history major, he is struck by the country’s rich history as one of the world’s first civilizations.

“You’ll see a city, and say, ‘Oh, that’s an old city. Oh wait, that’s the first city.’ It blows your mind.”

Schweitzer said it is difficult to find courses in the College that match his specific research interests. However, he noted that the theoretical underpinnings of his courses and the reading and research course option are good supplements.

“Reading courses have been helpful. It’s just one-on-one with the professor, and you choose a reading list and just sort of go. Those have been good because you get a good theoretical basis of what you’re thinking about,” he said. “There are courses that give you a framework [for] understanding a broad problem. I haven’t taken a course on Iraq or even the Middle East because a lot of the times, modern Middle East is like the Ottomans, but there are people here who know a lot.”

Schweitzer hopes his project has some impact on the political situation in Iraq, particularly in fostering a more open intellectual environment.

“It really just comes down to respecting free expression. The government doesn’t respect intellectuals, as with most sort of quasi-dictatorships. You talk to professors, and they get very emotional, and [they] say that it’s the worst thing that’s happened [to them]. It’s hard for them because there will always be people who don’t care… As an American student, I feel a responsibility to understand what we did to their country. It’s humbling stuff.”

Find more Uniquely Chicago stories from the College Media Team at http://college.uchicago.edu/uniquely-chicago.
THE COLLEGE HOUSES: CREATING A CULTURE OF COMMUNITY

Growing and learning in UChicago’s unique College House system offers many benefits for students.

Every other Friday night, Phoenix House residents take a break from their schoolwork, gather in their house lounge, and learn for fun. Called the Phoenix Colloquia, the biweekly sessions feature two students presenting for 15 minutes on their favorite subjects, from modern Chinese history and forensic linguistics to 20th-century composer John Cage to the fifth nitrogenous base found in human RNA—a talk that was memorably titled “Making It to Fifth Base.” Rows of chairs are set up in the lounge to fit the crowd, although housemates often squeeze onto the couch to listen and watch the slides projected onto the lounge’s TV.

The colloquium series is just one of many Phoenix House traditions, including regular participation in intramural sports, fall quarter cider nights, and “Awkward Date Night,” where residents go out to dinner with an assigned partner and try to make the dinner as entertainingly uncomfortable as possible.

Located within International House, Phoenix House is made up of a cluster of individual rooms with a common lounge—like the 37 other College Houses located across the University of Chicago’s 11 residence halls.

A College House is much more than a dorm. For students entering UChicago, it is a place where they can instantly make friends; participate in social, intellectual, and cultural activities; and make connections that last well beyond their first year.

In each House, groups of up to 100 students share common living spaces, participate in unique house traditions, and help each other find their way around the College. Only first-year students are required to live in College Housing, but, because of the bonds built with housemates and the knowledge that close friends will be nearby, many upperclassmen choose to live in their houses beyond their first years.

College Houses play a major role in the students’ total education, says Katie Callow-Wright, assistant vice president for Campus Life and assistant dean in the College. “The things that students are learning and discussing and experiencing in the classroom are taken out into the Resident Masters’ apartments, the house lounges and common rooms, and the house tables in the dining commons.”

All of the Comforts of Home

In each house’s dedicated common space, students gather for study breaks, movie nights, and just to catch up. In Phoenix House, the lounge is decorated with signs and banners with their house mottos, lists of movies to watch—Dr. Strangelove and The Godfather live on the same list as She’s the Man and The Lizzie McGuire Movie—and a quote wall with house memories and jokes.

On any given night in the Phoenix House lounge, students are studying on one side of the lounge and chatting, watching movies, or playing video games on the other. The residents all live in single rooms, and the lounge is a place to congregate when they want to socialize. “When we get off elevator, the first thing we do is check the lounge,” second-year and Phoenix House resident Victoria Mooers says. “Even if you can’t stay, you can at least say hi, and it makes your day a bit better.”

Adding to the homey environment are the staff who live within each College House—the Resident Assistants and Resident Heads—who organize activities like study breaks and trips to downtown Chicago.
The staff nurture a residential community through regular house meetings — starting the day that students move into the dorms — and by serving as “informal counselors,” says Nicole Eggleston, UChicago’s associate director for community life. “Resident Heads are key to ensuring students who want to be connected are connected and students who want to be left alone know they have support available to them should they need it.”

In the two student dining commons, housemates can share meals at dedicated house tables. The tables “are a little bit like Hogwarts, a little bit like the family table at home,” Callow-Wright says. Students know that they can go there for a meal to talk through a tough book they’re reading for class or share news of an internship they just received. “It’s very much a place of comfort.”

Mooers agrees. She’s in an economics class with a friend in the house, and they always meet up at the house table to study before class. “It’s really convenient, and it’s very nice,” she says. “You’re all stressed out from class, and then you go to your house table, and you just sit down for a little while to see your friends.”

Growth Opportunities for Upperclassmen

About 50 percent of students in College Housing are second- through fourth-years, Callow-Wright estimates. “Our students want to be part of a larger whole,” she says. “They enjoy being members of a community where they know everyone and where they really feel like they matter to the other people that are there.”

Even when students choose to move out of College Housing, many of them remain connected as associate members. “Jannotta [House] expats are a real asset to our house community,” says fourth-year Tessa Huttenlocher, whose College House is in South Campus East Residence Hall. “Some of them visit the house frequently to do their homework or play video games in the common spaces, while others simply show special interest in Jannottan underclassmen when they meet at off-campus events.”

Huttenlocher still sees many upperclass students choosing to live on campus. At other universities, she imagines, students might think that leaving student housing to move off-campus represents personal growth and budding independence. But in UChicago’s College House system, Huttenlocher’s experience was quite the opposite: “By gradually taking on rewarding mentorship and leadership roles—whether formally or informally—you can grow alongside your community.”

As the secretary for the Inter-House Council and an Orientation Aide, welcoming first-years into Phoenix House at the beginning of the school year, Mooers has enjoyed the leadership opportunities available to her through her house.

But the everyday moments mean just as much to her. During fall quarter’s final exams, Mooers had one test in the morning and one at night. The evening’s exam didn’t go as well as Mooers had hoped, and she was disappointed. But that evening her Resident Masters, Scott and Laura Stern, hosted a chocolate-themed study break in their apartment, and Mooers went there to be surrounded by her friends when she was feeling down: “That made everything better.”

Additional Information about
College Housing

Website: http://housing.uchicago.edu
Email: collegehousing@uchicago.edu
Phone: 773.702.7366

Important Upcoming Dates

House Lottery: May 6, 2014
Hall Lottery: May 7-8, 2014
General Housing Lottery: May 14, 2014
Off-Campus Lottery: June 5, 2014

Click Below for Other Useful Websites

Information for Parents and Families
Send a Care Package
Housing Lottery Guide
Information for Newly Admitted Students
ENHANCING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Scott and Laura Stern, the first Resident Masters of International House, weave history and programs to make students feel right at home.

At the opening party for Orientation Week 2012, the College students living in International House lined the walls. But after 30 minutes, these former strangers were “jamming” together on the dance floor, following the DJ in group dances.

“That was fabulous!” says Laura Stern, adding that dance instruction is now a planned part of the opening parties. Laura and her husband Scott are the inaugural Resident Masters of International House and live among the 253 College students and residential staff of International House’s four College House communities—Phoenix, Booth, Thompson, and Shorey. They began as Resident Masters in September 2012 and just moved into their International House apartment this past fall.

Both graduates of the College, Scott, a professor of medicine, and Laura Naujokas Stern, an investment manager, were familiar with the Resident Master program. As students in the late 1970s, they lived in the former Woodward Court Residence Complex, where their Resident Masters were Izaak and Pera Wirszup. The Wirszups would host legendary scholars such as physicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar and philosopher Mortimer Adler, and they organized what Laura remembers as the “first chair series,” where they would bring each of the first chairs from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to play a personal concert in Woodward Court.

Inspired by the Wirszups and their Resident Master colleagues, Scott and Laura organize events to “enhance students’ social, educational, and cultural experience, in ways that we enjoy and they enjoy,” says Laura. They have brought in University President Robert Zimmer for a frank conversation about his work and daily life and brought their students to an event with Institute of Politics director David Axelrod. Their son, a pastry chef at La Petit Folie in Hyde Park, taught students how to bake apple tart tatin. As friends of Court Theatre director Charles Newell, the Sterns take residents to see shows such as An Iliad, and afterward the cast comes out for a conversation with the students. And Scott and Laura incorporate Resident Master activities into International House’s original lecture and performing arts programming.

The Sterns open their apartment to students for many of these events, giving chocolate-themed study breaks and guest lectures with faculty friends an intimate and familial air. Their apartment, which they live in with their 10-year-old daughter, Elena, can fit about 30 students comfortably. Larger events often overflow into the Home Room, one of the community gathering spaces in International House, next door.

While bringing opportunities to the students is a large part of their role, the Sterns also regularly introduce students to the Chicago outside of Hyde Park.
They’ve taken residents to see Broadway shows Evita and Phantom of the Opera, Giuseppe Verdi’s La Traviata at Lyric Opera of Chicago, and a Chicago Bulls basketball game. A cyclist, Scott also plans to lead some lakefront bike rides in the spring.

The Sterns embody the College’s goals for the Resident Masters program. The program “enables students to have more access to faculty members, to have more personal contact with them,” says Katie Callow-Wright, assistant vice president for Campus Life and assistant dean in the College. “It bridges gaps between students and faculty—they might feel that much more comfortable approaching any member of the faculty to ask them, ‘Can I work in your lab? ‘Could you be my BA adviser?’”

Scott and Laura also see themselves learning from the students. “We see what’s important to this new generation—being green, thinking about the environment, social justice,” Laura says. “You see a whole new generation that’s shaping their own future. It’s really exciting to be a part of that and help them expand those horizons.”

UChicago has planned a number of events across the globe over the next quarter. Register for any of these events at www.uchicagoparents.org.

Istanbul Harper Lecture with Niall Atkinson: Getting Lost in the Renaissance: The Geography of Urban Disorientation. April 8, 2014; 7:00-9:30pm
Atkinson will explore the relationship between familiar and unfamiliar urban spaces in the Renaissance and what this can tell us about how we can participate in the construction of modern cities and make them meaningful to our everyday lives. (Also offered in Paris on April 10th)

Mexico City Harper Lecture with Mario Luis Small: Are Some Cities More Punishing than Others? April 10, 2014; 7:00-9:30pm
Using both long-standing and ongoing field research in high-poverty neighborhoods, Mario Luis Small will discuss why being born in the wrong city might be as difficult as being born in the wrong income bracket.

Vancouver Harper Lecture with David Nirenberg: Can History Help Us Think About Religious Conflict? May 5, 2014; 6:00-8:30pm
This talk will examine how the Qur’an, Torah, and New Testament have been read at different moments in history—including our own—in order to consider the politics of conflict and community among the “peoples of the Book.”

Toronto Harper Lecture with Augusta Read Thomas: Inside a Composer’s Studio. May 8, 2014; 6:00-8:30pm
In this interactive and dynamic lecture, Thomas will share her sketches, manuscripts, and methodology of composing music, inviting any willing listener to participate in the discovery of its meanings. Thomas will also discuss how the University’s investment in the arts impacts her work and the broader artistic community in Chicago and beyond.

Beijing Harper Lecture with Susan Gzesh, AB’72: The Challenge of Citizenship. May 24, 2014; 1:00-3:30pm
In this talk, senior lecturer Susan Gzesh will examine the situation of asylum seekers, stateless persons, and migratory workers in the contemporary world. She will discuss various models for striking the balance among the duties of citizenship, national identity, the role of foreign nationals, and respect for universal rights. (Also offered in Shanghai on May 27th and Hong Kong on May 31st.)
CREATING A BODY POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

UChicago’s Health Promotion & Wellness offers tips on creating a body positive environment at home.

By Marth Burla, Health Educator, Health Promotion and Wellness

The UChicago Body Project is a group of student volunteers trained by the department of Health Promotion and Wellness. They facilitate workshops that help students to develop and maintain a positive body image, which have been found to reduce body dissatisfaction, unhealthy dieting, and eating disorder symptoms. During these workshops, participants engage in a number of activities and conversations, including a discussion about pressures to be thin. While, as you may expect, students regularly discuss pressures from the media, another common concern is perceived pressure from their families.

This perceived pressure manifests in ways that may be unexpected. For instance, many students have developed body positive communities on campus where they choose not to discuss weight or food. However, when they return home, their families and friends have no such agreement, and frequently engage in behaviors, like calorie counting or negative self-talk, that are generally accepted in society, but that some students find triggering and frustrating. Additionally, while it’s natural for families to want to ensure that students are eating well and exercising while away at school, this concern for health can also be interpreted as pressure to be thin.

Health Promotion and Wellness and The UChicago Body Project are committed to creating body positive environments for students both on and off campus, and have some tips for how you can be more body positive, as well as suggestions for how to frame conversations about weight.

Examine your own relationship with the media and the ideal standard of beauty. Like your student, you live in a culture with a narrow definition of beauty. Consider how that culture impacts the way that you view your body and theirs, as well as the way you talk to them about weight and size.

Practice positive self talk. We all have aspects of our bodies that we may not love, but commenting on those aspects in front of your student can increase their own body dissatisfaction. Try to stop yourself before you say things like, “I look so fat in this,” or “I really shouldn’t eat this.”

Accept your student’s natural weight and shape. It is important to be healthy, and encourage healthy habits in your student. However, health looks different for everyone. Remember that even when someone is eating well and exercising frequently, they may never be “thin” and that’s ok.

Ask questions. If you choose to talk to your student about weight, ask them how they feel about their body and health habits. What they reveal could surprise you. For example, many students are happy with how they look, but would still like to exercise more often. In cases like these, a conversation about weight might be frustrating, but a conversation about physical activity could be beneficial.

Focus on specific health related behaviors, not weight. If you are concerned about your student’s health, consider framing the conversation around their behaviors, not their weight. Research has shown that focusing on behavioral outcomes, such as adopting healthy eating habits or increasing physical activity is associated with sustained improved health and weight loss more often than dieting. Instead of saying, “I think you need to lose some weight”, try saying, “I’ve noticed
you haven’t been exercising,” or “Have you been eating enough fruits and vegetables?”

Avoid weight-related compliments. Statements like, “You look great. Have you lost weight at school?” or even, “You put on a couple of pounds. It looks good on you,” may seem encouraging. However, they place a high value on weight and can be interpreted as pressure. Try replacing them with compliments like, “I’m so impressed with everything you’re involved in at school,” or “you seem to be doing really well in a challenging environment.”

Exercise with your student. If you’re concerned about your student’s lack of physical activity, suggest that the two of you try something active together. Going for a walk, taking an aerobics class, or playing basketball are all excellent opportunities to spend quality time with your student, and can help them get moving without making them feel pressure to lose weight.

Try to view food positively. It’s common to feel guilty about eating certain foods, or to justify splurges by saying things like “I haven’t eaten all day” or “I really earned this at the gym this morning.” If possible, avoid comments like these around your student, and instead focus on enjoying the meals you have together.

Learn more. For more information on topics related to health and body positivity, check out Health At Every Size (http://www.haescommunity.org/), a movement that supports people in adopting health habits for the sake of well-being rather than weight control, or read more about intuitive eating (http://www.intuitiveeating.com/), which encourages a healthy relationship with food and the body.

UChicago Dancers, the University’s oldest dance company, is currently in its 37th year of performances. On March 7th, they presented, Voices, their winter quarter performance. Here dancers Ava Weiss, Class of 2014, and Theodore Watter, Class of 2017, perform “Victory passes back and forth between men”. Photo by Amanda Pagul, Class of 2015.
Career Advancement has had a very busy winter internship recruiting season. As the highlights below show, this is a great time for students to engage with Career Advancement, regardless of their year in school or their career interests. Industry-specific programs, as well as career exploration workshops, are available throughout the year.

Many parents and families contribute to these successful programs, and Career Advancement welcomes your participation in these programs at any time. Please contact us if you are interested in supporting the Metcalf Program and Externship Programs, hosting trek site visits or volunteering as expert speakers at our workshops throughout the year.

College Break Day Treks Explore Entrepreneurship, Consulting and Medicine

This year February 14 was not only Valentine’s Day, it also marked College Break Day, a mid-winter break from regular classes. The break is also an opportunity for Career Advancement to continue with the expansion of the popular trek program. This year’s College Break Day Trek line-up included an entrepreneurial trek to Austin, TX (the “Silicon Hills” of Texas), a consulting-focused trek to Boston, MA, and a Medicine-Focused Trek to locations in Chicago.

Austin Entrepreneurship Trek

Nine current undergraduates and one College alumna joined spent College Break Day exploring Austin’s most successful startups and cutting-edge companies. Alumna and current Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the University of Texas at Austin, Gary Hoover, AB ’73, connected Career Advancement with many of the site visit hosts and also served as one of the trek leaders. The group visited several entrepreneurial organizations in Austin, including Capital Factory, GoLab, Whole Foods, Homeaway, and RetailMeNot. The trek concluded with an Entrepreneur Panel featuring three Austin-area entrepreneurs who have literally built businesses from the ground up. The trek provided a fascinating view into the startup community in Austin, and many of the students commented on how much they enjoyed the visits and how much they benefitted from speaking with experienced entrepreneurs.

Boston Consulting Trek

14 UChicago Careers in Business (UCIB) students traveled to Boston to explore the diverse range of opportunities available in the consulting industry. The trek began with a casual dinner and Q&A session with Simon Kucher & Partners, a new employer this year at UChicago. The students had a full agenda the next day with visits to Bain & Co., Accenture, and the Analysis Group. One of the most important takeaways from the trek was that students do not necessarily need to secure highly competitive consulting internships to find a full-time position in the field after graduation: the students were truly grateful for this chance to learn more about consulting career paths and opportunities they didn’t even know existed.

Chicago Medical School Trek

A group of 19 UChicago Careers in Health Professions (UCIHP) students and one College alum spent their College Break visiting two of Chicago’s top medical schools: Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine and Rush University Medical Center. During each of these visits, students had the opportunity to learn more about each school’s admissions process and criteria, attend lectures and tours, and hear about life in medical school directly from current medical students. UCIHP received positive feedback for both visits, and the students were excited to potentially apply to these schools.
**Detroit Business Trek**

11 undergraduates and two graduate students joined this trek to learn more about the wide breadth of business opportunities in Detroit. Students had the opportunity to explore finance, marketing, entrepreneurship, and real estate during site visits to the Chrysler Group, Dhive, and Bedrock Real Estate Services. Detroit has recently experienced an influx of young professionals, and the students were all impressed by the site visit hosts' spirit of community and innovation. The students departed from the trek with new enthusiasm for job and internship opportunities in Detroit and the Midwest.

**InterviewSavvy Program Prepares Students to Hit an Interview Home Run**

Career Advancement works to connect students with a wide range of opportunities at top companies and organizations – but the team is also committed to guiding students throughout the interview and job offer consideration process. To help students manage this process (especially if it is their first time applying for opportunities), Career Advancement has partnered with Karin Goers, Allison Heverin and Ann Marie Peters of InterviewSavvy, a woman-owned business with more than 20 years of experience in Corporate HR, Recruiting and Career Counseling.

Whether students are interviewing for an internship or a first full-time job, this four-hour comprehensive interview prep program teaches students how to put the best foot forward and avoid common interviewing pitfalls. Students receive personalized coaching on conducting company research, practicing for the interview, leaving great first impressions, answering traditional and behavioral questions, and closing the deal! Students also learn how to conduct employer research including best online resources, what is appropriate interview attire, understand and know how to prepare for various types of interviews including behavioral, technical and case interviews.

**Spring Quarter Events**

-- Looking ahead to the spring (and warmer weather!), Career Advancement has another full set of programs and professional networking opportunities lined up for students. Please encourage your student to save the date for these upcoming events:

**April 8: First Years Discover the “Finer Points” of Networking and Etiquette** – The Steps to Success Series guides students throughout their first year, from resume writing to securing summer plans. Career Advancement and the College Programming Office will next offer the fifth installment of the series, The Finer Points. This workshop will focus on the basics of networking and etiquette, including how to hold your water glass and your cheese plate, while you shake hands with a new contact, and how to leverage new meetings into professional contacts and mentors.

**April 24: Start-Up Career Fair Appeals to Student Entrepreneurs** – On April 24, start-up and tech organizations from around the country will arrive on campus for the annual UChicago Careers in Entrepreneurship Start-Up Fair. Sponsored by Palantir Technologies, students will have the opportunity to connect with both larger scale, established firms, and true grassroots start-ups that are eager to hire UChicago students.

**May 2: Health School Fair Connects Students to Health Professions Programs and Careers** – On May 2, over 50 health-related graduate school programs and medical schools will attend the UChicago Careers in Health Professions Health School Fair. Top programs and schools, including the Drexel College of Medicine, the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, will be on hand to meet with students and share details about their programs and application processes.

Career Advancement is pleased to offer these programs and resources (and many more) to students throughout their time in the College. Students are also encouraged to schedule an advising appointment with Career Advancement’s dedicated advising staff -- students can log into their Chicago Career Connection account via the Career Advancement homepage to access advising schedules, view a complete calendar of upcoming programs and events, and to search for internship and full-time opportunities.

To receive bi-monthly updates about what is going on in Career Advancement, click the “Career Development Opportunities” interest button in your profile on the UChicago Parent Community Online.
University of Chicago Athletics enjoyed another stellar run in the winter sports season. Five teams sent individuals to their respective NCAA Championships and the Maroons earned 57 All-American accolades.

The men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams produced their most successful campaigns in school history. A program-record 13 men and nine women qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships. The participants excelled in the postseason, picking up 53 total All-American awards over the four-day meet as both teams finished 10th in the final team standings. Freshman Abby Erdmann made her first trip to nationals an unforgettable one as she won the national championship in the 200-yard butterfly. It marked the 15th individual national title in UChicago's history.

The Maroons had several individuals pick up a multitude of All-American honors, including Erdmann (six events), junior Jennifer Hill (four events), freshman Maya Scheidl (five events), freshman Alison Wall (five events), freshman Mantim Lee (four events), sophomore Thomas Meek (five events) and sophomore Matthew Veldman (six events). Before nationals rolled around, the UChicago men finished second at the University Athletic Association (UAA) Championships and the women took third. Over the two-day competition, the Maroons combined to win nine UAA titles while breaking 26 school records and 14 pool records. Junior Matthew Staab was named UAA Diver of the Year and Head Coach Jason Weber and his assistants garnered UAA Men’s Coaching Staff of the Year.

Sophomore Michael Bennett put his stamp on the 2014 indoor track season by winning the UAA title in the men’s pole vault and qualifying for the NCAA Championships. Bennett went on to win the 14th individual national championship in school history with a vault of 4.90 meters in the finals. As a team, the Maroons finished in sixth place at the UAA Championships.

The women’s indoor track and field team excelled throughout the season and utilized a well-rounded effort to run away with the UAA team title. Head Coach Chris Hall and his staff were named UAA Coaching Staff of the Year and the Maroons won five individual events. Sophomore Nkemdilim Nwaokolo was victorious in both the weight throw and the shot put, junior Pam Yu won the triple jump, freshman Michelle Dobbs won the 800 meters, and the 4x400 meter relay team also finished first. Dobbs was named UAA Rookie of the Year and qualified for nationals in the 800 meters. She was joined at the NCAAs by sophomore Brianna Hickey in the one mile, Yu in the long jump and the 4x400-meter relay team. Dobbs earned All-American status at the NCAAs by finishing fourth in her event and Hickey was also an All-American with her sixth-place finish.

Support Student Scholarships with this Plush Phoenix

Small things can make a big difference, like this cute little Phoenix. You can make a difference in the lives of UChicago students by purchasing this plush Phoenix mascot for only $28.98. $10 from every purchase goes to supporting student scholarships across the University.

Click to purchase yours today online from the UChicago Bookstore.
The men’s basketball team enjoyed a successful year, finishing with a 15-10 overall record. The Maroons went 8-6 in conference games to take third place in the UAA. Head Coach Mike McGrath became the school’s all-time wins leader in men’s basketball with his 209th victory on Nov. 26. He passed Joseph Stampf at the top of the list, who recorded 208 victories from 1957-75. UChicago had four All-UAA selections in junior guard Royce Muskeyvalley (Second Team), senior guard Derrick Davis (Honorable Mention), senior forward Sam Gage (Honorable Mention) and sophomore guard Jordan Smith (Honorable Mention). Muskeyvalley came up clutch throughout the year as he hit three-game winning shots, including two against Carnegie Mellon University.

The women’s basketball squad made a big turnaround in 2013-14. The Maroons improved their previous record by eight games and finished with a 15-10 overall mark. They tied for second place in the UAA at 9-5 while playing the toughest strength of schedule in the country. Junior guard/forward Claire Devaney was a Second Team All-UAA pick who set the school record for field-goal percentage at 62.4 percent. She was joined on the All-UAA Teams by senior guard Julie Muguira (Second Team), freshman forward Britta Nordstrom (Second Team) and senior guard Maggie Ely (Honorable Mention).

UChicago’s wrestling team recovered from a slow start to the dual meet campaign to end on a high note. Freshman Charlie Banaszak qualified for the NCAA Championships and was an All-American in the 141-pound bracket following his fourth-place showing. Banaszak led the team in victories with a record of 29-12 in his collegiate debut. The Maroons took second place at the UAA Championships with a 28-18 win over Case Western Reserve University and a narrow 21-18 loss to New York University. Three UChicago wrestlers won conference titles – freshman Paul Papoutsis (165 pounds), senior Jeff Tyburski (285 pounds) and junior Adam Wyeth (133 pounds). Papoutsis was also named UAA Rookie of the Year.

Keep up with all of the action through the Maroons Athletics website, http://athletics.uchicago.edu.
519th CONVOCATION CEREMONY

The University of Chicago celebrated its first Convocation in January of 1893, and since that time, it has marked the graduation of UChicago students at the end of each quarter. On June 14, 2014, the University will hold its 519th Convocation in the Main Quad. The official start time for ceremony is 9:15am, though guests are asked to be seated by 9:00am. The Spring Convocation is held outdoors, rain or shine.

For the College, the Spring Convocation has two parts, the University-wide ceremony at 9:15am and the College Diploma Ceremony, which begins at 1:00pm back in the Main Quad. Attendees at the event should arrive prior to 9am, but it is not necessary to be in the Quad at 7am when it opens. There is plenty of space for everyone, and the ceremony is broadcast throughout the Quad on large screens. There really isn’t a bad seat anywhere. You should, however, remember to dress for the weather, which could be hot or cold and possibly wet.

Between the two ceremonies, students and families will be treated to lunch. In order to ensure that all activities begin on time, students will be fed separately so parents should not count on seeing their student between the two ceremonies. Also, while there are no tickets for the Spring Convocation, students are asked to note the number of attendees in their Senior Survey, which will help us gauge the appropriate number of lunches to have available.

At the conclusion of the Diploma ceremony, students and their families are invited to stick around for a post-convocation reception, which will provide ample photo-taking opportunities. To see the full event schedule, visit The College’s portion of the Convocation Website. You can also find information about events occurring throughout the weekend on the College’s Seniors Site, which includes a Parents and Families section that will answer many questions you might have.

Guests needing additional accommodations during the ceremony should complete the Guest Accommodations online form by Friday, May 30th. If you are unable to attend Convocation, the event will be broadcast live on the University’s Convocation Website and will be available for on-demand viewing on the Parent and Family Website. Should you have other questions, please feel free to contact the College Programming Office at college-programming@uchicago.edu.

Stay In Touch Over the Summer

Just because the quarter ends, that doesn’t mean we’ll stop trying to keep you informed about what’s going at the University of Chicago. Visit the UChicago Parent Community Online to make sure that we have your most up-to-date email address to ensure that you continue to receive our summer edition of the Parent Connection Newsletter.

It is also a good time to make sure that your student has given us your best home address as we’ll be sending out the 2014-2015 Parent Calendar as well.

Let Us Know Your Thoughts by Participating in our Family Feedback Program

We want to know what you think, and your thoughts might appear in future editions of the Parent Connection Quarterly Newsletter. Simply visit parents.uchicago.edu/familyfeedback and leave your comments about our newsletter, thoughts about being a UChicago parent, or whatever is on your mind. Make sure to give us your name and email address as well.
LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

John Hill, AB’63, shares UChicago memories with his daughter, third-year Jenny.
By Lindsey Simon, Class of 2015, Parents Media Editor

To hear John and Jenny in their own words, visit the UChicago College SoundCloud or the original article on the College’s Features Site.

At home in Urbana, Illinois, UChicago parent John Hill isn’t far from Jenny, his daughter—or from his alma mater. For the Hills, maroon runs in the family. John, AB’63, now Professor Emeritus of Musicology at the University of Illinois School of Music, studied music at the College 50 years ago; a generation prior, his mother belonged to Robert Maynard Hutchins’s first graduating class, in 1930. Today, third-year Biology major Jenny Hill keeps the legacy going.

Jenny’s active involvement in the UChicago community has given John ample opportunity to revisit the campus he once called home. On any given weekend, you might find him cheering on the Maroons at a swim meet (Jenny is a co-captain) or enjoying a University Symphony Orchestra concert (Jenny plays the violin). Recently, father and daughter spent a leisurely lunch in Bartlett—the gymnasium-turned-dining-hall where John endured P.E. class decades earlier—swapping stories of College culture and curriculum.

Much has changed in the decades since John first came to Hyde Park. Before “the Reg” was the place to be, students studied and socialized at Steinway’s Drugstore on 57th Street, where John says professors led a “non-stop, multi-year Plato seminar” out of a single booth. But while neighborhood hangouts thrived, the on-campus community lacked the closeness forged by today’s residence halls and dining commons. John never got to know his neighbors in the New Dorm back in 1960, but proud Rickerteer Jenny bonds with her housemates through trips downtown, IM sports, and meals in Bartlett.

Still, some things never change. John sees traces of an old class called “Philosophical Aspects of Biology” in the present-day Social Sciences sequence Mind, which Jenny cites as one of her favorite college courses thus far. Both classes challenged the Hills to think and write critically about scientific literature, emphasizing rigorous scholastic methods as much as specific material. This approach reflects a larger theme in John and Jenny’s shared experiences at the University: while the architecture and campus life have transformed over the years, the unique spirit of intellectualism on campus has never wavered. Click here to listen to their conversation about UChicago past and present.

The College Media Team is a group of students who tell stories of every day life in the College. Each article is written and edited by students in the College. You can read more of their work by visiting the College’s Feature Site.

Also, make sure to check back in May for a brand new College website with a new look, more features and stories from the College and easier navigation. The new site is coming in May 2014.
The Spring Quarter offers events for everyone, including the 519th Convocation Ceremony. Find even more events at [www.uchicagoparents.org](http://www.uchicagoparents.org).

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<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Baseball at Washington Univ. in St. Louis</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
<td>The Maroons have a double-header against UAA rival Washington University in St. Louis. See more at <a href="http://athletics.uchicago.edu">http://athletics.uchicago.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>April 6</td>
<td>Houston Harper Lecture</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
<td>Elisabeth Clemens, AM’85, PhD’90, presents “Civic Gifts: Benevolence and the Making of the American Nation-State”. Learn more at <a href="http://www.uchicagoparents.org">www.uchicagoparents.org</a>.</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>Chicago Harper Lecture</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>“Health Information: Demand and Use” will be the topic of Emily Oster’s lecture. Learn more at <a href="http://www.uchicagoparents.org">www.uchicagoparents.org</a>.</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td>Softball vs. North Central College</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>The Maroons Softball team plays a double-header against the Cardinals of North Central College at home at Stagg Field. Learn more at <a href="http://athletics.uchicago.edu">http://athletics.uchicago.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Meet the University Architects and Campus Tour</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>The Alumni Club of Chicago invites alumni, parents, and friends for a campus tour led by the University’s architect, Steve Wiesenthal. Learn more at <a href="http://www.uchicagoparents.org">www.uchicagoparents.org</a>.</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>UAA Outdoor Track and Field Championship</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>The University of Chicago plays host to the UAA Men’s and Women’s Track and Field Championship at Amos Alonzo Stagg Field. Visit <a href="http://athletics.uchicago.edu">http://athletics.uchicago.edu</a> for more information.</td>
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<td>May 3</td>
<td>Walk Around Lake Merrit</td>
<td>Oakland, CA</td>
<td>The Alumni Club of the Bay Area is hosting a walk around Lake Merrit, the nation’s largest body of salt water within a city. The walk will include visits at notable sites around the lake. Learn more at <a href="http://www.uchicagoparents.org">www.uchicagoparents.org</a>.</td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>Baseball at Northwestern University</td>
<td>Evanston, IL</td>
<td>The Maroons travel north to take on the Northwestern University Wildcats. Learn more at <a href="http://athletics.uchicago.edu">http://athletics.uchicago.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>Student Leader Awards</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>Student leaders are honored for their involvement and impact on the UChicago community at this annual campus event. Students will be notified of their award by May 2nd. Parents of winners are invited to attend the ceremony.</td>
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<td>June 12</td>
<td>Phi Beta Kappa Induction Ceremony</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>New inductees to the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society are celebrated for their achievements. Parents of inductees are invited to attend the ceremony.</td>
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<td>June 13</td>
<td>Class of 2014 Baccalaureate Ceremony</td>
<td>Rockefeller Chapel, Chicago, IL</td>
<td>The Class of 2014 says goodbye in this student-run ceremony marking the end of their undergraduate career. Readings, rememberances, dance and musical performances, and a faculty address make up the program for this senior class event. Learn more at <a href="http://seniors.uchicago.edu">http://seniors.uchicago.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>June 13</td>
<td>Class of 2014 Reception at the Museum of Science and Industry</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>The University of Chicago takes over the Museum of Science and Industry, offering free admission and parking to graduating seniors and their families. The night is marked by the presentation of the Senior Class Gift and speeches by the President of the University and Dean of the College. Visit <a href="http://seniors.uchicago.edu">http://seniors.uchicago.edu</a> to learn more.</td>
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<td>June 14</td>
<td>519th Convocation Ceremony</td>
<td>Main Quad, Chicago, IL</td>
<td>In the largest convocation ceremony of the year, the University of Chicago honors the graduates of the Class of 2014 with two ceremonies, the University-wide celebration in the morning and the College Diploma Ceremony in the afternoon. Visit <a href="http://seniors.uchicago.edu">http://seniors.uchicago.edu</a> for details.</td>
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Gordon Lew, Class of 2015, Visual Media Editor for the College Media Team, recently put together an eye-catching photo series called ThruChicago, photos of campus “through” something else. You can see more of his work on the College’s Instagram page.
View the full slide show on the College’s features page:
http://college.uchicago.edu/slideshow/views-thruchicago
MODA is a student organization founded in 2003 to promote fashion as a creative outlet for UChicago students. Through its Designer Bootcamp program, quarterly fashion events, annual magazine, and blog, MODA has established itself as a prominent arts organization. By expanding partnerships with industry professionals, corporate sponsors, and the media, MODA has continuously connected the University of Chicago campus to the greater Chicago fashion scene, and beyond. On February 21st, MODA held its annual spring fashion show at Chicago’s Union Station called MODA in Bloom. The design shown here was featured in the show. You can learn more about MODA at www.modachicago.com. Photo by Austin Ward, Class of 2015.