I have often heard it said that there are only two seasons in Chicago: winter and construction. One look around the city seems to provide some degree of proof for this statement with major projects taking place on highways, bridges, train lines, and parks. Indeed the University of Chicago is far from exempt from this pattern. The normal buzz and excitement of student conversations and activities around the quad has given way to the sounds of hammers, drills, and heavy equipment preparing the campus for another academic year yet to come.

However, the physical construction taking place on buildings across campus also serves as a nice analogy for the constant review and reconstruction taking place internally as well. Faculty, administrators, and staff all use this time to review their programs and offerings to ensure that we are doing all we can to support student success.

For those of us who spend time working to serve the needs of our parent and family community, the summer time has frequently been a time to re-examine our programming and to launch new opportunities for engagement. Last year, the summer was used to usher in our new calendar for parents of upper-class students, the UChicago Parent Community Online, and our re-designed Parents and Families website.

This year, we are proud to be able to announce the launch of our newest collaboration, the Parent and Family Program, which you can learn more about at http://parents.uchicago.edu/program. This new program seeks to draw upon the talents and expertise of our parent and family community in a way that invites participants to take a more active role in supporting the College.

Whether your interests lie in attending College events, creating new opportunities for career-development, giving to support College initiatives, or building community with other parents, we have tried to make getting involved with the College easier than ever. Through the support of active participants in the Parent and Family Program, we hope to be able to offer even more great opportunities to keep you connected with the College and, most importantly, to continue to find new ways to support the success of our amazing UChicago students.

If you have questions about the Parent and Family Program, check out website or email me anytime. I look forward to hearing from you.

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

First of all, let me just say thank you for all you’ve done for me these past four years. In case you’ve lost track, this appreciation includes but is not limited to 1) Indulging me in my adamant but ultimately misguided beliefs that under-bed storage was necessary 2) Trusting that I was onto something when I told you that the grand culmination of my undergraduate career would me writing an International Studies BA Thesis about Chinese food 3) and most recently, getting ready to get back into our trusty minivan to trek back down to Hyde Park one last time and celebrating what has been the most transformative, most rigorous, and of course, most rewarding four years of my life.

I just received an email from the girls who are moving into our apartment asking if we’d be willing to sell our furniture. I don’t recall ever taking a class here about pricing furniture, but I do wonder what Marx would say about the use- and exchange-values for my dresser. It’s moments like these that I know my UChicago education will stick with me forever.

From now on, any time that I’m at an empty intersection and stop at a stop sign anyway, I’ll be reminded of Foucault’s Panopticism. And when a group of people say the same thing and yell “jinx!”, I will be the one to exclaim “Durkheim’s collective effervescence!” It’s with the ability to identify the theory within the everyday that I arrived at my International Studies BA Thesis topic: the production of Chinese ethnicity and authenticity within foodie culture. I know I probably lost you at ethnicity, but many theories, several ethnographic studies, and a year later, I’m graduating with honors, a bound copy of my thesis, and a very deep knowledge about the Chinese food scene in Chicago. Who said that my UChicago education wouldn’t be practical?

Tonight, I’m meeting up with some of my Beijing study abroad friends. I’m really excited to catch up with them; I know that somewhere in the conversation, we’ll reminisce about celebrating Halloween literally “Gangnam Style” in Seoul, having the most delicious Chinese buns at our disposal on our walk to class, and of course, singing the Mulan soundtrack during that beautiful afternoon when we had a section of the Great Wall of China all to ourselves. Even though I went to Beijing with the intent of rediscovering my culture, I’ve really It’s also kind of funny that even though I flew to Beijing with the intent of reconnecting with our family’s culture, I ended up making such different maroon-tinted memories. Sure, I “reconnected with my roots” but in this globalized world, there’s a pretty good chance that I’ll be heading right back to China, Japan, and Korea very soon, and I’m even more excited to reconnect with the family I met and friends I made this second time around.

But before you object to me leaving again, please keep in mind that technically, I am moving closer to you. I’ll be about 7 miles more north when I move in to my new apartment in Wicker Park. It will undoubtedly keep me safe, cool (central A/C!), and clean (in-unit laundry!) while my friends keep me company. I’m so excited to continue working at this tech startup in Chicago and spend a last summer here before the company expands eastward to Washington D.C. Plus, I don’t think I’m ready to say good-bye to this beautiful city yet, even though it’s time to say good-bye to the University of Chicago.

Next fall, when I make my big move out East, I know that if I want, our dutiful minivan will be there for me once again. But until then, I’m so excited to have you down here during graduation to show you around my home for the last 4 years. On our to-do list: Have one last Mexicana milkshake from Medici, enjoy a picnic at the Point, and of course, watch me walk across that stage.

Until then, mom and dad, thanks again, seriously. For everything.

Love,

Sherry
INSURING THE FUTURE

Understanding your student insurance options doesn’t have to be difficult. The Student Health Service breaks it down so that parents can make the right choice for their student.

Spring is finally here in Chicago. After a particularly long and challenging winter, we are happy to welcome the warmth and blooming flowers back to campus.

Some of you are getting ready to welcome your students home for summer break, while others are enjoying your final months before preparing to send your students to campus for the first time. Whether you are a first-time UChicago parent, or a returning member of the community, we want to ensure that you are familiar with some key insurance requirements for your student, and that you are aware of some important changes for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Annual Requirements:

1. Students must confirm or waive their U-SHIP enrollment annually – this guarantees insurance information is up-to-date and applicable to the current academic year.
2. If students fail to waive by 5pm central time on the fourth Friday of their first registered quarter – for Autumn 2014, this is Friday, Oct. 24th – they remain enrolled in U-SHIP for the entire academic year and they are billed the annual premium of $3,162 in three quarterly installments ($1,054).

As you probably know, to ensure that all students have adequate insurance coverage, the University enrolls all registered students into the University Student Health Insurance Plan, or U-SHIP. Students who wish to opt out of U-SHIP coverage, either because they are covered under your insurance or because they have alternate insurance coverage of their own, are encouraged to waive their U-SHIP enrollment as soon as possible, to avoid billing charges from the bursar’s office for the first of three billing installments. To waive U-SHIP coverage, students must provide proof of active, alternate insurance that provides comparable coverage to U-SHIP. Please note: we have updated our comparable coverage requirements for the 2014-2015 academic year!

Important Changes to Insurance Requirements

1. Comparable coverage requirements updated to align with the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
2. A subset of students who waive U-SHIP enrollment will be audited in 2014-2015 to ensure compliance.

Changes to comparable coverage requirements

If your student will be covered under your insurance plan, we want you to know that we have updated the requirements for comparable coverage to better align with standards set by the Affordable Care Act. This means:

• Greater flexibility – more plans, including many on state and federal exchanges, will qualify for waivers;
• National standard for benefits – all plans must provide “essential health benefits” as defined by ACA, and plans cannot exclude pre-existing conditions;
• Out-of-pocket annual maximums align with ACA: individual plans may not exceed $6,350; family plans may not exceed $12,700; and
• Plans must still provide routine, non-emergency care, in addition to emergency care, in the Chicago area.
Auditing of alternate insurance for comparable coverage compliance

Beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year, Student Health & Counseling Services will contract with a third-party provider to audit a subset of students who have waived enrollment in U-SHIP, to (1) ensure that the insurance information they entered in the waiver application is accurate and correct, (2) confirm that their coverage is active, and (3) confirm that their plan meets the University’s requirements for comparable coverage.

If the insurance information submitted in the waiver application fails the audit for any reason, students will be given 10 business days to either supplement their existing insurance coverage or find alternate insurance coverage that meets the University’s requirements for comparable coverage, or they will be reenrolled in U-SHIP for the full academic year.

A note on out-of-state HMOs:

Parents, please be aware that many out-of-state HMO plans require you to designate a primary care physician in your plan’s network in order to provide covered care in Chicago. We encourage students to seek primary medical and mental health care through our Student Health Service (SHS) and Student Counseling Service (SCS), where care is provided free of charge (students pay a quarterly Student Life Fee which covers these services; for more information about what this fee covers, see here: http://studenthealth.uchicago.edu/page/student-life-fee).

Providers in SHS and SCS cannot be designated as primary care providers in out-of-state HMO networks. Some out-of-state HMO plans may only offer care within a regional network, or for other reasons, may not provide routine, non-emergency care in the Chicago area; these plans would not meet the University’s requirements for comparable coverage.

Open enrollment: confirm or waive U-SHIP

This year’s open enrollment period for U-SHIP will begin on July 1, 2014, and run through October 24, 2014. Students may confirm or waive their U-SHIP enrollment at the online Enrollment / Waiver Application site: https://studentinsurance.uchicago.edu/authenticate.php. We encourage students to make their insurance selection promptly, once open enrollment begins on July 1st.

Questions?

If you, or your student, have questions about U-SHIP, UChicago hosts two on-campus United Healthcare representatives to answer questions regarding confirming or waiving U-SHIP enrollment, explain plan benefits, and help students navigate the insurance system; they can be reached by email at uchicagoadvocates@uhcsr.com, or by phone at 773-834-4543 (select option 2).

We ask you to partner with us to help your student understand this important annual process, and also, to take time now to review your current insurance coverage. We want your student to be prepared to join us this Autumn, and to be safe and healthy throughout the school year.

For more information about student health insurance at the University, we encourage you to explore our webpages at http://studenthealth.uchicago.edu/page/student-health-insurance-0. Have a great summer!

Want More Information about Student Health?
Click below for some useful websites with resources related to student health at UChicago.
- Student Health Service
- Student Counseling Service
- Health Promotion & Wellness
- Immunization Requirements
UNIQUELY CHICAGO: Morgane Richer La Fleche


Last spring, just one day after completing her last final, third-year Morgane Richer La Fleche sat aboard her flight to Moscow, preparing for an altogether different kind of challenge: working with 20 young women, all hailing from different countries, to develop a set of recommendations for the economic empowerment of women around the globe.

The occasion was the fourth annual G(irls)20 Summit, held June 15-19, 2013, which brought together one delegate from each of the G20 countries, plus one from the European Union and the African Union, to share their perspectives on the status of women in their countries. The 21 delegates, all ages 18-20, were then required to condense their policy proposals into a single communiqué and hand deliver it to the Head Sherpa of the G20 Summit in Moscow.

Coming at the heels of her second full year in the College, the summit hardly offered the much-needed break that many students were enjoying before starting internships or research. But the opportunity to discuss the issues addressed at the summit and to help direct the dialogue surrounding them “just seemed too good to pass up,” Richer La Fleche, a History and Russian Studies double-major, explained.

“When you care really strongly about issues—particularly issues that are considered out of the mainstream, or not the main political agenda—it’s hard to feel like you have avenues to have your voice heard and to contribute in a meaningful way,” she said.

To get access to the summit, Richer La Fleche, who is originally from Montreal, had to apply and be selected from hundreds of applicants to serve as the delegate from Canada.

“I was pretty much sure that I wasn’t going to get it, but decided that I might as well try anyway. I sent [my application] off and heard back three months later—three agonizing months later—and it turned out that I got it,” she said.

‘Seeing it come together’

Leaving Spring Quarter and the Atlantic Ocean behind her, Richer La Fleche arrived in Moscow for the start of the G(irls)20 Summit and met up for the first time with her fellow delegates.

The 21 young women applied their unique perspectives and months of preparation right away—attending roundtables and workshops, meeting with business leaders and policy experts.
These experiences informed Richer La Fleche’s position on the issues she was most interested in addressing through the group’s communiqué, including her concerns about women in the technology sector.

“I am not a woman in tech, but many of my friends and close family members—like my sister—are. Seeing their struggles to be recognized and respected in their fields is what pushes me to stand for those issues,” she said.

Although the delegates held similar views on many issues, they often disagreed on the most appropriate strategies for addressing them. But with limited time to draft their communiqué, they decided to focus on the essentials and engage in structured conversation and debate—not unlike a higher-stakes, girls-only SOSC discussion.

“We had one day to condense all this information, which was very challenging and was an exercise in management, but was eventually quite successful,” she said. “It was definitely my favorite part because of the formidable challenge and seeing it come together, and being like, ‘OK, it is actually possible to get 21 girls to agree on something.’”

Richer La Fleche recognized how the critical-thinking skills she has developed through her classes at UChicago, both in the Core and in her majors, enabled her to be a more effective participant in the summit.

“Being able to be the person in the room who is not afraid to ask the tough question, because you know that that’s how you move forward, is something that UChicago has instilled and groomed in me,” she said.

‘You just have to keep going’

Although the G(irls)20 Summit wrapped up when the delegates delivered their completed communiqué, their involvement in women’s economic empowerment did not end in Moscow. In fact, as part of their participation in the summit, the delegates are required to demonstrate a continuing commitment to the issues by implementing or joining a project back home.

For Richer La Fleche, this ongoing engagement will likely consist of a program to introduce kids to coding and computers—addressing her emphasis on getting more women involved in technology.

“My sister has an organization in Montreal that is trying to teach kids how to program—it’s called Kids Code Jeunesse,” she said. “I am collaborating with a team of mentors from Google to create a similar after-school coding initiative in Hyde Park elementary schools. The plan is to launch the process in spring 2014. I think that giving kids exposure to computer programming can really open up doors that otherwise are not readily made available by most schooling systems.”

Bolstered by the experiences of the summit and the knowledge gained from her fellow delegates, Richer La Fleche aims to continue advocating for the economic empowerment of women around the world, an effort she hopes to integrate into other facets of her life and work.

“It was an incredible learning experience on so many levels, but I think what it really taught me was that when something really matters to you, you just have to hold onto it. People will always disagree with you, and people are going to try to take you down,” she said. “I think it’s easy to waver in your expectations and to say, ‘This is hard. Can I ever really convince everyone?’ But you just have to keep going.”

Find more Uniquely Chicago stories from the College Media Team at http://college.uchicago.edu/archives.

Have you visited the all-new College website?
In early May, the College launched a brand new website that makes searching for information easier than ever before. You will also find a list of important dates, upcoming College events, and more. Visit http://college.uchicago.edu to check it out.
Student Disability Services provides support to promote students’ full participation in all aspects of university life. While transitioning from high school to college is an exciting time, it can be especially stressful for students with disabilities and their families. Understanding disability laws and how students engage their accommodations at the post-secondary level is critical to facilitating a more effective transition to college and ultimately a more satisfying experience.

First, it is important to understand that IEPs and 504 Plans may not suffice as adequate documentation to accompany a student to a postsecondary institution since both are required under sections of the laws that do not apply to college. Although a student is covered under Section 504 once s/he gets to college, it is a different Subpart (Subpart E). IEP’s and 504 Plans are sometimes helpful to colleges but are often insufficient as a sole form of documentation. Students often come to college and learn that they need to provide different or additional documentation to support their request for accommodations. Thus, by their senior year in high school, students should contact Disability Services departments at the institutions they may attend to inquire about the process for requesting accommodations and the required documentation.

Some other points to remember when transitioning to post-secondary education:

- Generally, the purpose of the IDEA is to ensure that students are successful in the K-12 system whereas the ADA and Section 504 only ensure opportunity/access.
- Overall, student responsibilities and those of the institution are very different at the post-secondary level.
- At the high school level, the school is responsible for identifying students with disabilities, testing those students, and providing services.

There are three particular laws which merit our attention: the Individuals with Disabilities Education (IDEA) Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The application of these laws in K-12 is significantly different from their application in higher education, and consequently the role of students in regards to those distinctions.

Student Disability Services is Moving to New Offices

Over the summer, construction will be completed on new offices for Student Disability Services. They will relocate from Edward H. Levi Hall to the parking structure at 55th Street and Ellis Avenue. The new offices, located across the street from the Ratner Athletic Center, will provide easier access and more space to better serve students. The office is currently taking input from students about furnishings for the new space, including carpeting, signage, artwork, and more. Find more information on the move at http://disabilities.uchicago.edu.
At the post-secondary level, students must contact the appropriate office, and be directly involved in requesting accommodations, and provide documentation to support the need for accommodations. The student is responsible for paying for any testing required to support accommodation requests.

At the high school level, a formal plan (IEP or 504 Plan) makes it the school’s responsibility to arrange for students to receive accommodations.

At the post-secondary level, students must, once approved for accommodations, directly request accommodations in each instance they are needed.

At the high school level, accommodations and services are usually designed to maximize student potential.

At the post-secondary level, accommodations are granted to create a “level playing field”. Often, the reason certain accommodation requests are rejected is that they go beyond the scope of this goal.

Finally, students and parents should remember that it is never too early to contact Student Disability Services. For more information regarding how to request accommodations at the University of Chicago, please visit our website at: http://disabilities.uchicago.edu. Prospective College students and their parents may call our Associate Director, Karyn LaTurner at 773-834-4469, or email: karyn@uchicago.edu.

To rent or buy? New or used? Students today have more choice than ever when it comes to course materials.

The UChicago Bookstore offers a suite of options to meet every student’s academic needs and budget.

They offer the option of RENTAL for over 80% of all the textbook titles they stock, with savings of up to 60% off the price of a new textbook. Rentals are easier than you think. Pay the rental fee at the time of purchase and return the book to the store by the end of finals. And yes, you can highlight in them! They will also send friendly reminders to return your rentals in the weeks leading up to the due date.

Other options include USED COPIES. Students who buy used textbooks save an immediate 25 percent, but their savings can jump to 75 percent if they sell those books back to the UChicago Bookstore; YUZU, Barnes & Nobles brand new digital textbook application which offers numerous enhancements to the textbook experience, including interactive graphics and text, organizational tools and peer to peer communication; and of course the New Textbook, for those who want a clean start to the year.

To avoid the crush at the start of the quarter, you can order online at www.uchicago.bncollege.com and pick up your books at your convenience, or have them shipped.

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.
REFLECTIONS ON AN EXCEPTIONAL JOURNEY

Each year, three UChicago fourth-year students are selected by their peers to provide prospective on the last four years during the College Diploma Ceremony. As a tribute to the Class of 2014, we reprint their thoughts.

Student Speaker: Aerik Francis, AB'14

“Everything in the world began with a yes. One molecule said yes to another molecule and life was born.” These words by author Clarice Lispector observe a simple yet deeply profound fact: that movement and action begin from the affirmation of an idea. Unstated in this quote, however, is the claim that everything in the world must have begun with a question from which one could answer “Yes”.

From our uncommon app questions asking us “how we got caught” down to the questions on our last final exam, UChicago asked us questions we never thought about before - and we asked even more in return. Here, today, we receive our final UChicago “Yes.”

So why do we want that yes? Why did we come to the University of Chicago? I wish I could say I came to UChicago for 4 amazing years packed with cake filled with rainbows and smiles. I wish I could say that UChicago never made me frustrated, stressed out, or constantly sleep deprived. Trust me, it did ALL of those things. But none of us came here for those things. We didn’t come here just to learn - we could have done that anywhere. No, we came for particular kind of education.

We came here knowing that UChicago would push us to our limits intellectually. Knowing that we would be surrounded with bright and quirky minds. Knowing that Chicago, with all of its spirit and shortcomings, would be our home for at least a few years. We came here to grow.

So we survived the Core. We endured the quarter system. We braved Snowpocalypse and multiple Polar Vortices. We Scav’d. We Reg’d. We questioned each other. We questioned ourselves, and we grew.

The simple fact is our experience was never just about this grass, those buildings, a core class, or even our majors. Our time here is only as unique as all of us - the people that make UChicago what it is. The changes we made, records we set, ideas we thought, the hundreds of questions we asked are all sewn into the fabric of the university and are also what we take away after leaving.

This is the power of inquiry, the power to shape – and this power is rooted in the connections we make and the questions we ask. We can help shape communities. We can help shape markets. We can help shape minds. And we know this because of how we shape others and how we’ve been shaped by others here. It is more than just having and cultivating this power, though.

While we have the tools and power, they mean nothing if we do nothing. The world is wrought with problems. The people who can solve them are the ones who can ask not only what the problems are, but also why and how they exist – how to solve them and why those solutions might work. We must question the institutions we inhabit and the spaces we occupy and work to change them for the better. This is our responsibility.

Today the Class of 2014 comes together for our last hoorah, the end of one journey and the beginning of many more. I’ve learned to never be afraid to ask tough questions. So some questions for you all: What will you become? What will you do with these newfound skills and experiences?

The answers to these questions are important, but it is even more important that we remember to continue asking these questions and remain devoted to learning more about the world, about ourselves, and how we can improve both.
Today I want us to leave knowing the immense power and privilege we possess by being UChicago graduates and to use that to challenge others and to change the world. We came here ambitious and brilliant, but we leave better than before with many answers and even more questions. The very first step to changing the world is simply asking.

Congratulations Class of 2014!

Student Speaker: Katie Burkhart, AB’14

President Zimmer, Dean Boyer, distinguished faculty, friends and family, and fellow members of the class of 2014:

Congratulations, we’ve made it. Each of us stands in front of you to express our gratitude; and to express our love for our university. My love for UChicago, though, was largely forged not by my presence on campus, but by my absence from it.

Like most of you, I arrived at this university in the fall of 2010, wide-eyed and anxious. Like many of you, I felt threatened by fixtures on this campus with loud opinions and even louder voices, and wondered if I could really thrive here. And, so, like a small handful of you—who I see similarly found your way back—I transferred universities at the earliest possible opportunity.

19-year old me would have said that I returned to UChicago as a matter of practicality. When your heart walks the line between two immensely different atmospheres, it’s easy to feel like neither can fully function as a home—and to let the US News & World Report serve as the arbiter of your future. Today, though, I know that it’s the community sitting before me that made—and still makes—this university so difficult to leave.

My understanding is that these kinds of speeches usually begin with some anecdote, and end with some allegory to commemorate our departure from this place. And for the life of me, I can’t find a narrative to narrow 4 years’ worth of history into a metaphor for this moment. So instead I’ll say this: each of you is heading off toward—somewhere, and I’m so grateful to be able to tell you in person that I hope you get there.

Student Speaker: Sam Levine, AB’14

Not too long ago, in a desperate moment of procrastination while I was writing my BA, I found an online version of our Aims of Education address from four years ago. Sitting in the pews of Rockefeller, we were promised in that speech, that one of the aims of education was love.

When I read the speech holed up on the third floor of the Reg a few weeks ago I was baffled. Love? I thought. Love was definitely not what I was feeling as I was quickly running out of time to write my paper. At the time, “love” was definitely not the verb that I would have used to describe how I was feeling about my BA, college in general, or the endless hours of my life spent in the Reg.
It seemed almost silly to think that love was an essential part of our time here. We’ve been taught over and over that reason, uncontaminated by passion, is the way to truth. And we’ve used reason, not love, to tackle enormous ideas here: ideas of supply-and-demand, of Dasein and being, gender and identity, literature and medicine. These are just a fraction of the ideas that each member of this class will use to impact the world—in both in theory and in practice.

But as graduation approached, I couldn’t shake the idea that more than anything—our time here has been about love. It was love that caused our families to let us let us leave home and come here from every corner of the country and the world to pursue our passions. And in our four years here, we’ve learned not just how to think, but the importance of this kind of love. We’ve learned that for something to be meaningful it doesn’t have to serve a function: it is a good unto itself.

To me, this is the very core of what it means to love: to find joy in something or someone simply for what it is. This love isn’t some abstract concept, but something tangible that we’ve felt over-and-over during our time here. We felt it late one night—probably in the Reg—working together with friends to prepare for an exam. We felt it during an office hour, when we signed up for a 20 minute slot with a professor, but wound up speaking with her for an hour, bouncing ideas back and forth that weren’t even related to class.

For some of us, these moments of love may have been entirely unrelated to school. We might have felt love on a late night trip to the point, staying up until three talking in our house lounge, or even on top of a table at Psi U. A few years from now, we might not remember Marx’s theory of the commodity fetish or what Sanderson said about the law of one price. But what we will remember, are moments of love.

We’ll remember these moments because they remind us of the infinite possibilities of loving. That when we explore for the sake of exploring, think for the sake of thinking, and love for the sake of loving—we can discover things about ourselves and the world that we never thought possible.

But there’s also something risky about the love we’ve experienced here. It’s tempting to see this love as a thing of the past, a memory of the best times of our lives that we can never get back. That kind of nostalgia can be paralyzing. It can leave us grasping further and further into the past for something we can’t re-live. And instead of bringing us closer to others, this nostalgic love can make us feel more and more alone.

So like everything else we’ve learned here, this love is something that shouldn’t just be remembered, but something that we should constantly carry with us. It can push us not just to seek meaning by ourselves, but to find others to share that meaning with. And in a world that will demand efficiency and pragmatism, the love that we’ve learned will urge us to explore whatever we encounter, no matter how mundane. It will allow us to take the ordinary and find the extraordinary.

And perhaps most importantly, this ability to love, to find endless possibilities for meaning wherever we are, is what made all of those nights in the Reg worth it after all.

Congratulations to all of the graduates of the Class of 2014. Video of the University’s 519th Convocation will be posted at http://convocation.uchicago.edu. Parents and families who wish to purchase photographs of graduates during the College Diploma Ceremony may do so through our photo partner Grad Images. Learn more about photography packages and ordering at www.gradimages.com or call 800.261.2576.

Parents seeking information about future graduation ceremonies may visit http://convocation.uchicago.edu, the University’s central Convocation website.
Planning a Trip to Campus? Let us help.

If you are planning a visit to campus over the summer, for New Student Orientation, or for Family Weekend, remember that the University of Chicago can help you plan your next trip. You will find information about hotels, transportation, and things to do in the area on our Visiting the University site, http://visit.uchicago.edu.

For those taking making their first visit to campus, remember that Hyde Park hotel space is limited. However, you will find information about hotels across the city on our Visit site.

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.
As students are preparing for their summer internships and research experiences, Career Advancement is working to help students make the most of their summer plans. Whether your student will be close to home this summer, or taking on an internship in a new city, Career Advancement encourages all students to make the most of their summer experiences, to help set the foundation for future career success.

Here are some tips and tricks to share with your student:

**Prepare for the Office Work Schedule:** For students who will be working a traditional office schedule for the first time this summer, it is important that they set their sleep and work schedules now. Students who are used to late night studying sessions in the Regenstein Library, followed by sleeping in before an afternoon class, may be surprised at how tired they are after a few weeks of a traditional nine-to-five work schedule. Encourage your student to start setting earlier alarms now, so they are prepared to start their summer experience on time, and feeling well-rested.

**Dress to Impress:** Most students are comfortable with interview dress (and Career Advancement advises students on the best outfits to wear to make a great first impression), but dressing for an office environment every day can be challenging, especially during the summer heat. Students should always err on the side of the more conservative, especially in their first few weeks of an internship or job. Encourage your student to wear “dressier” business casual wear – dress shirts and trousers for men, dress shirts, light sweaters, trousers and conservative skirts for women – at least until they observe how the rest of their new colleagues are dressing. Students should never arrive for the first day of an internship or job in jeans, shorts, flip flops, or tank tops.

**Network, Network, Network!** It’s a common mantra, but Career Advancement reminds students to treat their work experience as an opportunity to make lasting professional connections. In addition to being open and friendly with immediate supervisors and colleagues, students are encouraged to meet other professionals who are working in their summer internship organizations. If your student is interested in marketing, encourage him or her to reach out to the director of marketing or communications for a coffee chat or quick networking meeting. As long as students reach out with professional emails and are respectful of their colleagues’ time, this is a great way to learn more about organizations and build connections. Related to this, Career Advancement also encourages students to create a LinkedIn profile, and to use that on-line tool to keep in touch with internship supervisors and colleagues after the summer is over.

**Socialize—in moderation:** In many work environments, summer intern outings to sporting events or other activities are common, and Career Advancement encourages employer partners to provide opportunities for interns to connect with their co-workers. For underage students, we simply encourage them to attend these events, but do not partake in any alcoholic drinks. For students who are of legal drinking age, this is an important opportunity to make a good impression on colleagues, by not overdoing it.
Career Preparation

Career Advancement encourages students to take advantage of opportunities to connect with coworkers in social settings – but to always be responsible and in control when alcohol is involved. Students should never over-indulge and risk embarrassing themselves among coworkers, even if it seems as if everyone else is cutting loose. Students who are nervous about their first work outing or “off the clock” meeting are encouraged to meet with a Career Advancement adviser in advance – and students should always put their health and safety first, regardless of the work situation they may find themselves in.

Keep in touch: Once an internship comes to an end, Career Advancement encourages students to keep in touch with their supervisors and fellow interns. A supervisor who appreciates a job well-done can become a great reference (or future employer!), and fellow interns may become great professional contacts in the future as well. This is another time when having a LinkedIn account can be a great way to stay in touch.

Regardless of where your student will be this summer, encourage him or her to really make the most of these coming months outside of the classroom – and once the summer comes to a close, Career Advancement works with students to incorporate their most recent experiences into an updated resume.

Career advisers are available to meet with students throughout the academic year and during the summer break. Encourage your student to make an appointment via Chicago Career Connection.

Spring Program Report and Other Career News

First Years Discover the “Finer Points” of Networking and Etiquette – Nearly 80 first-year students gathered in the Ida Noyes Hall Theater in early April for Steps to Success: The Finer Points, the last event in the flagship first-year series (Steps to Success is a five-part career exploration and preparation program offered exclusively to first-years in the College). Students were invited to attend a “mocktail” party where an etiquette trainer, Jill Bremmer, spoke on proper professional behavior and etiquette in social situations. Topics included how to introduce yourself, make appropriate small-talk, politely disengage from a conversation and build your professional network. Students were given the opportunity to practice these important but tricky skills throughout the mocktail party, before Jill spoke further on more formal event etiquette. Diagrams of formal dinner place-settings, examples of appropriate and inappropriate email correspondence, and general networking strategies rounded out the evening. By the end of the event, conversations were abuzz and students were looking forward to utilizing their skills in and outside of the workplace.

2nd Annual Start-Up Career Fair Appeals to Student Entrepreneurs -- In late April start-up and tech organizations from around the country arrived on campus for the 2nd annual UChicago Careers in Entrepreneurship Start-Up Fair. Sponsored by Palantir Technologies, over 300 students met with 40 organizations, including both larger scale, established firms, and true grassroots start-ups that are eager to hire UChicago students.

July – August: Summer Regional Receptions -- As UChicago students travel to destinations around the world this summer, we are pleased to offer several regional receptions that will bring together interns, employers, alumni, current and admitted students, and of course, parents! Summer regional receptions will take place in July and August in cities including Beijing, Cleveland, Houston, London, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. If you are interested in attending or hosting a reception (and for a full list of locations), please email Effie Zoubouridis at effiez@uchicago.edu.

Keep up with Career Advancement by visiting their website at http://careeradvancement.uchicago.edu and look for more updates in each quarter’s newsletter.
University of Chicago Athletics capped its 2013-14 school year with a stand-out spring campaign across the board.

The Maroons softball team started the year by winning its first 11 games en route to a final record of 25-10. The squad was selected to the NCAA Championship field for the eighth time in school history and the fifth time since 2006. UChicago hosted a four-team NCAA regional pod but was eliminated in day two. Senior third baseman Maddie McManus wrapped up her career with Second Team All-University Athletic Association (UAA) and Third Team NFCA All-Region honors. She led the team with a .375 batting average and 21 RBI. Sophomore pitcher Jordan Poole also received Third Team NFCA All-Region status, pacing the pitching staff with a 15-5 record, 1.96 ERA and 119 strikeouts in 128-1/3 innings. Senior outfielder Kaitlyn Carpenter made her mark in the record books by becoming the school’s all-time leader in career hits with 175.

The men’s outdoor track and field team hosted the UAA Championships and finished fourth out of seven teams. Sophomore Michael Bennett qualified for the NCAA Championships once again in the pole vault after winning the indoor national title back in March. Bennett tied for first place, but finished runner-up in a jump-off tiebreaker. He broke his own school record with a career-best height of 5.10 meters.

The women’s outdoor track and field squad was narrowly edged out for the UAA team title, taking second out of seven teams as the host of the conference championships. The Maroons produced a pair of qualifiers for the NCAA Championships – freshman Michelle Dobbs in the 800 meters and sophomore Brianna Hickey in the 1,500 meters. Dobbs ended up placing fifth in the race for her second All-American accolade of the year.

UChicago women’s tennis rolled on to another successful season, finishing with a 12-11 record against one of the toughest schedules in the country. The Maroons ended the regular season ranked No. 12 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) national rankings. After taking fourth place as a team in the UAA, UChicago earned a bid to the NCAA Championships and reached the round of 16 for the sixth-straight year. Individually, junior Megan Tang was selected to the NCAA Championships as a singles player and also as doubles player alongside freshman teammate Tiffany Chen.
The men’s tennis team also spent most of the year in the national rankings. The Maroons ended up ranked No. 17 in the ITA poll at the end of the regular season and compiled an 11-9 record. UChicago took fifth as a team at the UAA Championships. Junior Deepak Sabada reached the NCAA Championships as a singles player for the second year in-a-row.

UChicago’s baseball team tallied a 10-27 overall record in 2014. Senior outfielder Brett Huff earned Second Team All-UAA accolades with season stats that included a .346 batting average and 19 RBI. Senior infielder Dylan Massey was also a Second Team All-UAA pick with a .331 batting average, nine doubles, 12 RBI and eight stolen bases.

UChicago Athletics completed a banner year with a large number of team and individual accolades. The Maroons captured two national titles with sophomore Michael Bennett (indoor pole vault) in track and field and freshman Abby Erdmann (200-yard butterfly) in swimming and diving. Six teams qualified for the NCAA postseason and 37 individuals qualified for respective NCAA Championships. The school totaled 29 All-Americans who received 62 All-American honors.

Keep up with all the action through the Maroons Athletics website, http://athletics.uchicago.edu.
THE WORLD IS YOUR CLASSROOM

Travel to exotic places. Explore new cultures. Take advantage of UChicago’s Alumni Travel Program for your next vacation.

Where will you explore next? Fulfill your quest for knowledge and discovery with the UChicago Alumni Travel Program. More than beautiful vistas and exotic locales (although there are a few of these too!), the Alumni Travel Program connects you to the UChicago community of alumni, parents, and friends and provides access to the University’s most distinguished experts as you travel the globe and learn.

The experience is equally as meaningful to those distinguished experts, says Rochona Majumdar, PhD’03. Majumdar was the faculty leader for the Mystical India tour.

“It was a rare privilege to wear two hats, that of an alumna and faculty leader, for a wonderful group of alumni who were traveling through different cities and towns of north India. The three weeks spent with the group were very special, due in no small measure to their interest, curiosity, and probing questions about a fascinating country and its people.”

The group was fortunate to take part in the opening of the University’s Center in Delhi. Majumdar added, “With the University of Chicago Center in Delhi now open we look forward to deepening our ties with Indian alumni and institutions.”

With more than a dozen annual programs spanning the Americas, Asia, Africa, or Europe, you can choose your own adventure—whether it be hiking the Inca Trail, sailing to the Arctic Circle, immersing yourself in the culinary life of Tuscany, or experiencing lush desert oases in Morocco.

Our full 2015 Travel Program website is now available for you to check out, but here are a few of the places that you won’t want to miss:

- **The Pride of South Africa:** February 19–March 4. Experience the Nelson Mandela Long Walk to Freedom tour, stunning natural beauty, and unparalleled game viewing in this program with faculty leader Ralph Austen.

- **Cuban Discovery:** March 21–29: Join faculty leader Tianna Paschel as we explore Cuba’s turbulent economic and political past and vibrant, culturally rich present in this people-to-people educational exchange.

- **St. Petersburg:** Culture, Art, and History: August 6–14. Immerse yourself in the stunning art, fascinating history, and rich culture of St. Petersburg in this weeklong seminar led by Lenore Grenoble.

- **Expedition to Antarctica:** November 28–December 10. Journey to Antarctica, Earth’s last frontier, and experience the White Continent in its unspoiled state with faculty leader Michael LaBarbera.

The choices of which excursion to take don’t end there—you also have the opportunity to travel and learn with programs at the Graham School and the Oriental Institute.

So the question remains—where will you wander?
In 1934, the University of Chicago instituted a mandatory orientation, now affectionately called O-Week, in order to ease the transition of students into the University community. From that time onward, Orientation has come to mark one of the most transformative and memorable periods in the lives of UChicago students. The eight-day event combines special observances, campus traditions, information sessions, and meetings that bring together students, faculty, and staff in an effort to celebrate the start of each class’s academic journey.

Orientation isn’t just a review of the rules and regulations, though there is some of that. It is instead an introduction to what it means to be a student in the College at the University of Chicago. From Move-In Day at the start of the week to the class reception at the Hancock Building at the end of the week, the spirit of the UChicago community’s commitment to helping, encouraging, and educating one another shines through and welcomes students and their families to campus.

This year, Orientation begins on September 21st, which most parents will notice is considerably later than many other universities that are on a semester system. As a result, you will also notice that our academic year ends later than others, which means that our communications calendar naturally progresses with a bit of a delay compared to universities that get started in August. In early July, all incoming students will receive information regarding campus resources and information that will help to prepare them for Orientation. This mailing will be followed in mid-July by our First-Year Parent Summer Mailing, which will include information curated for parents and families such as orientation details, information on important programs and resources, and our First-Year Parent and Family Calendar. Additionally, once mailed, all of the resources contained in both mailings will be posted to our Orientation Website.

Families of incoming students will want to mark their calendar for the first two days of O-Week, September 21st and 22nd. On Sunday, September 21st, students will move into their residence hall room and check-in for Orientation. Families will have the opportunity to participate in our Family Resource Fair, a gathering of University staff and administrators who are available to answer questions and provide more information about their services.

On Monday, September 22nd, we invite you to stay for Family Orientation, our parent-focused program aimed at providing you with tools to aid your student through their transition to the College. This day ends with our Opening Convocation and President’s Reception in honor of the support provided by our parent and family community. The day wraps up around 6pm. For those who cannot remain on campus for Family Orientation, we will post videos of each session on the Parents and Families Website, http://parents.uchicago.edu.

Students will begin the heart of the Orientation schedule following the Opening Convocation so parents should expect that their student may be busy with events and meetings for the remainder of the week. You will find a host of valuable information regarding Orientation and the transition into the College on our Orientation Website, http://orientation.uchicago.edu. If you have additional questions, remember that you can always contact the College Programming Office at 773.702.8616. Have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you on campus very soon!
Anyone who owns a pet knows that animals make us happy. However, the impact of the human-animal connection is more than just a warm fuzzy feeling. A growing body of scientific data shows that connecting with animals improves not only health, but our overall well-being!

A new, innovative area of medicine called pet therapy is exploring the benefits of human-animal connections. Pet therapy has two main focuses: animal-assisted therapy and animal-assisted activities. Animal-assisted therapy uses animals to help people recover from, or better cope with, health problems such as veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), while animal-assisted activities have the more general purpose of providing comfort and enjoyment for certain populations, such as patients at children’s hospitals.

Two years ago, the department of Health Promotion & Wellness worked to develop an animal-assisted therapy program for students on UChicago’s campus. The department established the UChicago Pet Love Program through collaboration with Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy, a Chicagoland organization that coordinates training programs to prepare therapy dogs. Once every quarter, five adorable dogs and their friendly handlers come to the university to connect with students, and help relieve stress and encourage playfulness. Each quarter, an average of 400 students attend the two hour event and join fellow students in communal circles around the therapy dogs.

The time these students spend petting and playing with the animals has been shown to improve their physiological and psychological well-being. Similarly structured research programs have shown that these human-animal connections increase endorphins like oxytocin, which helps reduce stress and anxiety levels. Additionally, these programs provide opportunities to be social and community oriented, reducing loneliness.

If your student is feeling stressed, missing a pet back home, or would like to have fun with other UChicago students, encourage them to attend a Pet Love event!
Looking for even more pet opportunities? Here are some other ways your student can connect with animals:

**Meet Modo**

Rockefeller Chapel is home to a chapel cat named Modo. Students can find him sleeping in the Chapel office, or sometimes wandering into the chancels. Encourage your student to stop by during office hours to spend some time de-stressing with Modo.

**Hyde Park Cats**

Hyde Park Cats is a network of volunteers working to protect and rescue cats and kittens in and around Chicago’s Hyde Park neighborhood. The organization is always looking for volunteers and temporary foster homes.

**PAWS UChicago**

PAWS UChicago is a community service RSO (recognized student organization) that brings volunteers together to work at local animal shelters. This is a great way for your student to spend time with animals and make friends with other students.

Looking for non-animal ways to improve well-being? Here are some other ways your student can connect with wellness programs:

**Yoga**

The UChicago campus and Hyde Park community offers a variety of yoga classes to help students energize their bodies and calm their minds. Your student can find free fitness yoga at Ratner Athletics Center, and gentle and restorative yoga through the department of Spiritual Life. There is also a student yoga club!

**Meditation**

UChicago offers both religious and non-religious meditation sessions which may help your student focus their mind and achieve an inner calm. Encourage your student to drop in on one of the department of Spiritual Life’s weekday 20 minute stills or register for one of Health Promotion & Wellness’s mindfulness meditation series.

**Stressbusters Backrubs**

Your student can also sit back, relax and enjoy a weekly backrub from a student stressbuster! This Health Promotion & Wellness student group provides free backrubs and wellness resources to fellow students. The backrubs provide sensory stress relief and an opportunity to socialize with other students in a stress free environment.
UChicago continues to offer engaging events throughout the summer. Find even more events at www.uchicagoparents.org.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>Pilsen Art Gallery Crawl</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>Join UChicago alumni, parents, and friends for dinner and fun at the Second Friday Galleries Night in the Chicago Arts District in Pilsen. Learn more at <a href="http://www.uchicagoparents.org">www.uchicagoparents.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>2nd Annual Cambridge Bookstore Crawl</td>
<td>Cambridge, MA</td>
<td>Visit several independent booksellers during this extremely popular event. Find out more at <a href="http://www.uchicagoparents.org">www.uchicagoparents.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>Summer Picnic-San Diego</td>
<td>Del Mar, CA</td>
<td>Get to know other UChicago alumni, parents, and students at this fun BBQ picnic in the park. Register today at <a href="http://www.uchicagoparents.org">www.uchicagoparents.org</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of July 21st</td>
<td>First-Year Parents’ Summer Mailing Sent to Parents</td>
<td></td>
<td>Parents of incoming first-year students will receive this mailing, which includes information about University resources, important dates, and more. The mailing will be sent out during this week and electronic copies of information will be posted at <a href="http://orientation.uchicago.edu">http://orientation.uchicago.edu</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of August 18th</td>
<td>Upper-Class Parent Calendar Mailed to Parents</td>
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<td>Parents of second, third, and fourth-year students will receive our handy Upper-Class Parent Calendar, the follow-up to the First-Year Parent Calendar. This year’s theme is photos from UChicago’s Study Abroad Photo Contest.</td>
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<td>August 18</td>
<td>Deadline to Submit New Student Immunization Form</td>
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<td>Incoming students must submit proof of updated immunizations to the Student Health Service by August 18th. To learn more, visit <a href="http://healthcare.uchicago.edu/page/vaccinations-required-enrollment">http://healthcare.uchicago.edu/page/vaccinations-required-enrollment</a>.</td>
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<td>August 20</td>
<td>Men’s Soccer vs. Loyola (IL)</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>The men’s soccer team hits the field to take on Loyola University-Chicago in an exhibition match at home. Keep up with Maroon Athletics at <a href="http://athletics.uchicago.edu">http://athletics.uchicago.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>September 13</td>
<td>Football vs. Concordia (IL)</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>The Maroons take on Concordia University Chicago at home in an evening match up at Stagg Field. Learn more at <a href="http://athletics.uchicago.edu">http://athletics.uchicago.edu</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>Women's Soccer vs. Millikin</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>The women's soccer team hosts Millikin University at home. Find out more at <a href="http://athletics.uchicago.edu">http://athletics.uchicago.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>September 21</td>
<td>New Student Orientation: Move-In and Class Day</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>Orientation begins with new students moving into their residence halls and a host of family-friendly activities. Visit <a href="http://orientation.uchicago.edu">http://orientation.uchicago.edu</a> to learn more.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>New Student Orientation: Opening Day and Family Orientation</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>The morning begins with a series of family-focused information sessions and ends with a wonderful reception. Visit <a href="http://orientation.uchicago.edu">http://orientation.uchicago.edu</a> to learn more.</td>
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<td>September 22</td>
<td>Family Weekend Registration Opens</td>
<td></td>
<td>Begin registering online for Family Weekend 2014 at <a href="http://familyweekend.uchicago.edu">http://familyweekend.uchicago.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>September 23</td>
<td>Webcast of the Aims of Education Address</td>
<td></td>
<td>Watch the 2014 Aims of Education Address to the Class of 2018 with this year’s featured speaker, former UChicago President Hugo Sonnenschein. Watch the webcast at <a href="http://parents.uchicago.edu">http://parents.uchicago.edu</a>.</td>
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<td>September 24</td>
<td>Rosh Hashanah Begins</td>
<td></td>
<td>New students on campus during orientation who will be observing Rosh Hashanah should alert the College so we might make necessary accommodations to their O-Week schedule. Students should visit their student portal at <a href="http://my.uchicago.edu">http://my.uchicago.edu</a> and look for their “To Do List”.</td>
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<td>September 26</td>
<td>Residence Halls Open for Returning Students</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>Returning students may begin moving back into their residence hall beginning at 8am. Visit <a href="http://housing.uchicago.edu">http://housing.uchicago.edu</a> for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>Football vs. Pacific (OR)</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>The Maroons take to the gridiron for a home again Pacific University. Keep up with Maroons sports at <a href="http://athletics.uchicago.edu">http://athletics.uchicago.edu</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>Autumn Quarter Classes Begin</td>
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<td>Autumn quarter classes begin. Get the entire academic calendar at <a href="http://www.uchicago.edu/academics/calendar">www.uchicago.edu/academics/calendar</a>.</td>
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Each year, the Study Abroad Office asks College students to submit photos from their excursions to the Study Abroad Photo Contest. We are delighted to be able to share some of these photos with our parent and family community through this year’s Upper-Class Parent and Family Calendar. This 2014-2015 academic year calendar will be mailed to families in mid-August along with information about this year’s Family Weekend. The photo seen here was submitted by Freddy Tsao, Class of 2016, who spent the winter quarter studying in Paris. He was this year’s winner of the Best Portfolio Award.