

**Student Initiatives funded by the Dean's Fund for Student Life
Fall 2014 – Spring 2015**

The Dean's Fund for Student Life exists to support innovation among University of Chicago students. Through this fund, numerous ambitious and inventive projects that enhance the student experience on campus and promote knowledge, creativity, leadership, and community are supported.

This memo describes the student initiatives supported by the Dean's Fund for Student Life in AY 2014-15.

OCTOBER

Logan Center for the Arts' Initiatives and Arts Pass

In their goal to ensure that every student in the College has a substantive arts experience before they graduate, the Logan Center/UChicago Arts Pass Program continues to work closely with UChicago Careers in Journalism, Arts & Media (UCIJAM), Chicago Studies, and the Center for Leadership and Involvement, to present a set of programs off-campus that include at least 5 events per quarter, bringing on at least 10 new partners across disciplines, with a special focus on partners within the new Museum Campus South. Programs include guided tours of the Body Doubles and David Bowie Is exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, an overview of the life and work of composer Pierre Boulez at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a trip to see The Passenger at Lyric Opera, and much more.

Research Presentation at Annual Bio-Medical Research Conference for Minority Students

Ijeoma Nwabudike's research on the impact of social class on hallucinatory symptoms in psychotic disorders was accepted to the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) in Seattle, Washington. ABRCMS, supported by the NIH, aims to advance undergraduates from underrepresented populations in STEM fields into doctoral programs and brings together some of the most successful minority biomedical scientists, physicians, and physician-scientists. The conference provided Ijeoma with the opportunity to present her research to professionals in the field of schizophrenia research, receive feedback, network, and attend workshops, teaching her the skills necessary to succeed as a physician-scientist.



French Club Invites Former French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin to Campus

The UChicago French Club invited former Prime Minister of France Dominique de Villepin to campus to offer his unique perspective on more than ten years of foreign intervention around the world, following the war in Iraq. Over 500 people from both the University and French communities of Chicago gathered in Mandel Hall to hear de Villepin speak about international relations, the failure of Western democracies, and the world after Iraq. His visit to Chicago created an unprecedented opportunity for 50 students selected by lottery, half from the Institute of Politics and half from the French Club, to partake in an off-the-record Q&A with de Villepin on whatever topics they selected. Planning and orchestrating de Villepin's visit to campus was a formidable learning experience for the French Club board, as well as an opportunity to bring together the French community of Chicago with Francophile students, one of the French Club's chief goals.

NOVEMBER

Evaluation of Microfinance Program on Women's Financial Empowerment in Uganda

The International Program Evaluation course at the School of Social Service Administration focuses on teaching technical skills required to evaluate international programs, specifically the theory and use of IBM SPSS. Sam Boland and a partner worked with Apoolo Na Angor, a women's microfinance NGO in Uganda to survey 100 women. With the extensive data collected and entered into SPSS, evaluating various parameters and indices, the students were able to establish statistically significant results: women who had participated in the Apoolo Na Angor program had statistically significantly healthier relationships with their spouses. The resulting 40 page report was the only original research for the course.

The Botanist's Violet Film Project

Anna Gregg and Alison Titus have undertaken a year-long short film project in conjunction with Fire Escape Films. The intention is to establish a UChicago presence at the Sundance Film Festival in particular, in addition to other festivals of international significance. The short film, *The Botanist's Violet*, follows Violet, an up-and-coming botanist on the brink of adolescence, as she competes for an apprenticeship with world-renowned botanist Dr. Proctor. Successfully screening the film at major festivals will set a precedent for future UChicago students to embark on larger projects with more serious intentions and greater due diligence. Networking opportunities at festivals like Sundance will establish Fire Escape Films as more than a club, but a career portal, for affiliated students.



Federal Reserve Challenge Competition

The Federal Reserve Challenge Team won the Midwest regional competition on November 10, 2014 and advanced to the National Federal Reserve College Competition in Washington, DC, an annual national academic competition inspired by the work of the Federal Open Market Committee and intended to encourage students to learn more about the U.S. macro economy, the Federal Reserve System, and the implementation of monetary policy. The UChicago team traveled to the Board of Governors in Washington and competed against district champions Bentley University, Pace University, Princeton University, and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Though UChicago did not win the national title, the team performed exceptionally well. The presentation, carefully and thoroughly prepared, was delivered in an impeccable fashion. The Q&A session was handled with poise and intellect, reflecting the team's wide and deep knowledge, as well as its ability to connect dots on the spot.

Public Policy BA Research on Health Care Disparities

Ayushi Shrivastava's interests within health policy include access to care disparities, implementation and management of policy guidance within community-based health settings, and advocacy for vulnerable populations. Her research examines the relationship between perceived social supports in maternal and infant health among racially diverse, low-income neighborhoods in Chicago, determining whether a correlation exists between women who feel more supported and like they have access to community resources and healthier pregnancies/healthier babies. Her research also examines whether this correlation differs among neighborhoods of predominantly different races.

Poetry from the 2014 Hong Kong Umbrella Revolution

Rebecca Stoner traveled to Hong Kong and documented the uses and significance of poetry in the context of the 2014 Hong Kong Umbrella Revolution protests. With the help of personal contacts in Hong Kong, she collected a significant number of poems in English and Chinese. The culmination of the project is a self-designed chapbook and the inclusion in a *Chicago Review* online anthology, featuring works from the Pacific Rim.

Chamber Music Organization's Winter Showcase

The Chamber Music Organization (CMO) creates opportunities for student musicians who are either interested in playing in a chamber group or are already in at least one group to come together three times a year for quarterly Chamber Showcases. These showcases provide musicians with the opportunity to perform and display the fruits of their labor, as well as listen to their peers play music.

DECEMBER

Research Presentation at Joint Mathematics Meeting

Rina Friedberg traveled to San Antonio, TX and presented original research on rank-one transformations at the Joint Mathematics Meeting, introducing her to a variety of academic research and allowing her to gain greater understanding of what to expect upon entering a PhD program in statistics.



Curbside Splendor Publishing Reading and Workshop

Connor Goodwin organized a two-fold event that consisted of a reading by authors affiliated with Curbside Splendor Publishing, an independent press located in Chicago and one of the leading indie presses in the country, followed by a writing workshop. Both of these events, free and open to the public helped to make the local arts community more visible and accessible to students and provided them with the opportunity to engage and interact with the authors.

Improv Olympic Comedy Classes

Jenny Keroack and Elisabeth Del Toro enrolled in improvisational comedy classes at Improv Olympic (iO) in hopes to augment their comedic educations; improve their techniques as they write, direct, and perform on-campus; and help them reach their aspirations to enter the world of professional comedy-writing and performance. The culmination is a two-woman improvisational show.

UChicago Moot Court Team's Participation in the National Championship Tournament

The Moot Court Team competed at the National Championship Tournament, hosted by the American Collegiate Moot Court Association (ACMA) and Florida International University College of Law in Miami, Florida. UChicago received an impressive three bids to the Championship Tournament, for which nearly four hundred teams competed nationally for eighty spots. The teams competed in three rounds of oral argument on the first day of the tournament. Unfortunately, each team came just shy of winning the requisite number of ballots, with two of the three ballots necessary to advance to the second day of competition. Nonetheless, the team had an amazing experience and learned a tremendous amount from competing against top teams in the country. The judges noted the quality of the team's answers to judges' questions and the depth of insight into legal issues.

Eckhart Consulting's Final Presentation to Client Pangea Network

Eckhart Consulting is a Recognized Student Organization that provides pro-bono consulting services for nonprofit, for-profit, and University clients. A team of students traveled to Houston, TX for a final presentation with client Pangea Network, a nonprofit organization, overseeing a cooperative network for women in Kenya and providing educational training, business development, and micro-lending. By traveling to the client-site for the final meeting, the team learned more about the organization, the community, and more effectively delivered the recommendations to Pangea.

Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism Invites Robert Kagan to Campus

The Maroon Project on Security and Terrorism (MPOST) – an undergraduate organization focused on driving student engagement in global security and other international-relations issues – and Professor Robert Pape's Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism (CPOST) jointly hosted both a fireside chat and lecture featuring Robert Kagan, a leading foreign policy scholar and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. In both events, Kagan discussed the United States' post-WWII role as the international community's foremost protector of the liberal world order and how such a role has and may continue to change over the years.



History BA Research at King Center Archives

Jennifer Standish's research on the perspective of white civil rights movement participants on the philosophy of Black Power and separatism within civil rights organizations took her to the King Center archives in Atlanta, Georgia to analyze the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee's (SNCC) radical vote in 1966 to expel its white members from the organization—even those who had been with the organization since its founding. There she compared mainstream newspapers' analysis of the event with SNCC members' responses to their expulsion.

Research Presentation at the American Society of Hematologists Meeting

George Tsourdinis traveled to San Francisco, California to attend the American Society of Hematologists Meeting and present the findings of his summer internship's cancer research at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Each year, ASH hosts a conference, bringing together physicians, scientists, and the international community of hematology for a weekend of discourse, learning, and presenting novel research. Presenting at the ASH Conference provided George with the opportunity to expose his research in an academic sphere and network with physicians and other researchers, in preparation for his future in hematological research.

JANUARY

Organization of Black Students' Annual Kent Lecture

The Organization of Black Students holds the Kent Lecture every year in honor of the late Dr. George E. Kent, one of the earliest tenured African-American professors at the University of Chicago. This year's lecture, held in Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, was presented by actor and author Hill Harper to an audience of students, staff, faculty, and visitors from the Chicago area.

History BA Research at Sophia Smith Collection

Sadie Bergen's research examining the complex history of the first years of the birth control movement in Chicago took her to Smith College in Northampton, MA to access primary sources, including letters from the activists of the movement. Accessing the Sophia Smith Collection—one of the world's most expansive collections of manuscripts, archives, and other primary sources in women's history—will be invaluable as Sadie conducts her research in preparation for her senior thesis.

Visual Arts BA Logan Exhibition

This past summer, Alice Bucknell was invited to take place in a collaborative artist residency project at the Agora Collective where she worked with six other artists from around the world. The work put into the project inspired her to produce and instill an anthropological visual ethnography at an exhibit at the Logan Center, honoring the work of graduating seniors. The compilation "socializes" the topic of urban decay and the myth of the shrinking city, using both fieldwork, theories, and encounters re-told in a second person narrative, plus film and photography taken in Berlin and Detroit and developed in Chicago, to unpack and shed light on some of the hidden cultural happenings in both cities, crucial to the contemporary art scene.



Eckhart Consulting's Management Consulting Case Competition

Eckhart Consulting hosted a management consulting case competition in collaboration with consulting firm Bain & Company. This program provided students with the opportunity to adopt a three-week long consulting project, develop results that made long-run impact for the client, and to interact with members of Bain & Company.

Opportunity Nation Entrepreneurship Conference

Sonam Jindal traveled to Washington, DC to take part in the Opportunity Nation Entrepreneurship Conference as an Opportunity Leader. This opportunity allowed him to explore economic mobility from various perspectives. He served as a grassroots ambassador; helped to advise policy, while engaging with lawmakers; and contributed to projects as part of a national campaign to advocate for economic mobility and opportunities across the country.

Steering Committee for Undergraduate Research Leaders at Harvard University

Klevin Lo traveled to Harvard University to serve on the Steering Committee for Undergraduate Research Leaders. This provided him with the opportunity to represent the work of fellow UChicago undergraduate researchers and the Phoenix Biology Club, engage in discussions on improving research associations on campus, foster inter-university undergraduate research initiatives and collaborations, and help shape the goals for the committee in its future iterations.

Public Policy BA Research on Designer Drugs

Utilizing mixed methods research, Rachael Nass investigated the demographic of designer drug users in hopes to determine which education methods would be most effective in preventing the use of the substances. Being able to offer a small monetary incentive to interviewees and utilize data collection software, greatly assisted in Rachael's research.

Soul Umoja Performance at Carnegie Hall

Soul Umoja Gospel Choir traveled to New York City to perform at the renowned Carnegie Hall as part of the Distinguished Concerts International Series. The group was amongst the talented few who had been invited by Distinguished Concerts International to perform at the world premiere program of the Choir and Orchestra composition, *Exodus* by Chicago-based composer Ernestine Robinson which was part of the *Two Cultures: One Dream* concert.

FEMMES Code Camp

FEMMES is a newly founded chapter of the Duke-founded organization that seeks to introduce girls to the STEM fields. FEMMES provides local middle school girls with the opportunity to explore interests in technology by giving them real-world technological skills to build on. The Code Camp was a tremendous success, introducing young girls from neighboring Chicago middle schools to computer science in a fun and interactive way.



Annual Contribution to Uncommon Fund

The Uncommon Fund helps enrich UChicago student life by helping student projects and ideas become reality. Every year they solicit student projects which are posted on the web for students to vote on. In the past, many of these projects have not been possible due to logistical issues.

Research Presentation at Human Development Conference

Benjamin Trnka traveled to Notre Dame to present his research on substance abuse issues concerning young adults in India. Exploring both quantitative and qualitative (interview-generated) data, Benjamin's preliminary fieldwork identified potential trends in substance dependency, suggested social risk factors for the population, and provided new avenues of public health intervention. This project also serves as the basis for his Fulbright research for next year.

TEDx's Delegate to TedActive Conference for Licensing

Freddy Tsao is currently the longest-running board member in the TEDxUChicago organization, and will serve next year as the president and main organizer of the annual conference. In order to continue the growth of TEDxUChicago, he traveled to TEDActive in order to become the main license holder for next year's TEDxUChicago event. He not only received the license for the student organization, but also came away from the experience with a more comprehensive understanding of what TED represents, new insights, lessons, and best practices for UChicago, and had the opportunity to engage with other TEDx organizers and leaders from around the world.

FEBRUARY

Research on Theophrastus Redivivus and Translation of Latin Text

Jonathan Nathan undertook the task of writing the world's first-ever translation of Theophrastus Redivivus, the most complete and explicit atheist text published in modern Europe before the Enlightenment. Unfortunately there are only four known manuscripts in the world—two in Vienna, one in Paris, and one in Belgium. His time in Vienna and Paris examining the manuscripts and working on the translation project will serve as a capstone to his undergraduate career, during which he has spent quite a bit of time examining the intersection between philosophy, history and religion. When he begins his graduate studies in divinity next year, this project will serve as the foundation to his scholarly career studying the development of early-modern atheism. He plans to have the entire translation completed by the end of Spring Quarter before graduation and to have it published shortly after.



Research Presentation at International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks in Amsterdam

Liyu (Jimmy) Xia traveled to the International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks (ICANN) in Amsterdam to present the results of his work on a mathematical analysis of a novel machine learning algorithm called Hierarchical Temporal Memory. ICANN, a world-renowned conference in the field of artificial intelligence, brings together leading scientists and researchers to share and exchange ideas about Artificial Neural Networks, currently the state of the art family of algorithms with huge potential and application in object classification and detection, prediction, pattern recognition, robotics, etc. This conference provided Jimmy with the opportunity to engage with top-tier experts from around the world and learn more about their work and research, in preparation for furthering his studies in the field.

French Club's Satire and the Sacred Event, in Response to Charlie Hebdo Attack

The University of Chicago French hosted Charlie Hebdo journalist Zineb el Rhazoui on campus and provided the UChicago community with the opportunity to engage on the subject of freedom of speech and the place of satire, and its relation to the sacred in France.

Political Science BA Research on Constructed Narratives and Representations of French Immigrant Communities in Paris

Wendy Wei traveled to Paris to conduct her thesis research on the constructed narratives and representation of French immigrant communities in Paris. Her research explores the relationship between French cultural assimilation policy and the different narratives surrounding immigration in France. While in France, she visited three Parisian museums – Musee de l'histoire de l'immigration (MHI), the Musee Quai Branly (MQB), and Le Comptoir General (LCG) – selected as case studies, representing a wide range of engagement with French republicanism. Wendy came away from the experience having made professional connections with the leadership at some of the institutions and organizations with whom she hopes to work when she returns to France after graduation to engage in French cultural policy work.

History BA Research on Frank Lloyd Wright Archival Drawings at Columbia University

Daniel Cioffi's research examines some of the earlier and less-celebrated architectural works of Frank Lloyd Wright, who both flourished and influenced the architectural map with his buildings in Chicago. Daniel examines five of these works in particular: a series of apartment buildings, three built and two unbuilt, that were among the earliest attempts in America to build high-quality housing for the working class. Daniel traveled to the Avery Library at Columbia University to study and duplicate the rare and restricted drawings of these buildings (only one of the three survived demolition) for his thesis. Additionally, he was able to purchase a non-circulating publication with some of the drawings, and 19 core images that never circulated or reproduced.

Arts + Public Life Initiative & Students for Justice in Palestine's DARKMATTER Production

Arts + Public Life Initiative and Students for Justice in Palestine collaborated on a project to host a poetry performance and workshop by DARKMATTER—"a trans south asian art/activism collaboration." The programs provided space for UChicago students to consider the intersection of art and activism, as well as how their own art and activism work affects the community surrounding the University.



Chicago Health Solutions Challenge at Clinton Global Initiative University Conference

Chicago Health Solutions Challenge is a new style of case competition for University of Chicago students to engage with health issues prevalent within Chicago. Its goal is to launch a new generation of student health innovators from the University of Chicago. The group's leadership attended the 2015 Clinton Global Initiative University Conference in Miami, Florida and the experience for the three aspiring physicians and health innovators provided them with crucial mentoring and direction for the expansion and growth of their local and global projects.

Chicago Youth Philanthropy Group at Clinton Global Initiative University Conference

Chicago Youth Philanthropy Group (CYPG) is a student-run nonprofit that empowers youth in Chicago Public Schools to become student-leaders within their communities. CYPG sent three aspiring teachers and policy-makers to the 2015 Clinton Global Initiative University Conference and the students had the opportunity to engage in conference discussions, widen their contact lists, build their networking skills, and identify new dimensions within their project to better support youth community engagement.

Research Presentation at Midwest Economic Association Conference

Cody Cook and Daniele Caratelli traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota to present their research at the Midwest Economic Association Conference, an annual forum for economists to exchange ideas and to present research. The conference provided them with the opportunity to not only present and discuss their research with peers, but to also develop their presentation skills, as well as receive feedback and further solidify their research, in preparation for the graduate school experience.

Clinton Global Initiative University Conference

With an interest in applying entrepreneurial ideas to medicine and learning more about the different problems in global health, Akila Ally traveled to Miami, Florida to attend the Clinton Global Initiative University Conference where she proposed a mentorship model for middle school girls in Dhaka, Bangladesh, aimed at increasing the number of women in research-oriented medical fields. At the conference, she engaged with potential collaborators, and began to establish a network of advisors to help bring her project to fruition.

Research Presentation at Pacific University Undergraduate Conference

Noam Margalit traveled to Forest Grove, OR for the Pacific University Undergraduate Conference and presented her research paper, "Decent Justice and Ethical Friendship in Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics," which examines notions of society and ethics and the meaning of a good life by asking how it is that we ought to live. The experience provided Noam with the opportunity to share her research with the larger undergraduate philosophical community and to engage with the diverse body of the conference participants.



Student Leadership Institute Capstone Projects

The Student Leadership Institute in the Center for Leadership and Involvement aims to help students develop their professional, personal, and academic goals. After participating in several workshops, students have the opportunity to complete capstone projects (programs, events, inventions, or products that are designed to benefit the University and other surrounding communities).

MARCH

Spring Quarter Workshop at Yerkes Observatory

Yerkes Observatory is home to the largest refracting telescope successfully used for astronomy and scientific research. Taweewat Somboonpanyakul designed a three-day astronomy workshop at the Observatory for 15 students in order to both promote the Observatory to a larger community at the University and to provide undergraduate students with the opportunity for collaborative learning and hands-on experience with astronomical instruments (24-inch telescope, 3D printer, etc.).

Research Presentation at the Particle and Astroparticle Physics Spring Program

Ariel Matalon traveled to Italy to present her research at the International Association of Physics Students (IAPS)'s particle and astroparticle physics conference at the Gran Sasso National Laboratory. This experience provided Ariel with the opportunity to visit important facilities, meet fellow scientists and researchers, and served as a vital step in her preparation for graduate work and future studies in astrophysics.

Dirt Red Brass Band in New Orleans

UChicago's Dirt Red Brass Band traveled to New Orleans to learn more about the traditional style of jazz and to get some invaluable performance experience. The group's new members had the opportunity to experience first-hand the distinctive brass band style not found in Chicago, participated in composition and arrangement workshops, and performed in the French Quarter and in local music venues. This training and exposure over the course of the week will allow them to become better individual musicians and a better brass band.

Cinema and Media Studies BA Documentary Film Production

Cam Bauchner traveled cross-country to Prescott, Arizona where his brother had spent over a year in a rehabilitation center. This trip provided Cam with the opportunity to shoot material for his BA thesis film, an option open to only the most talented graduating seniors (versed in production) in the Department of Cinema and Media Studies. Cam's project displayed a deep understanding of film history and criticism, as he captured a tumultuous time in his brother's life, their relationship, and the difficulties the family faced.



Student National Medical Association – Minority Association of Premedical Students Annual Medical Education Conference

Student National Medical Association – Minority Association of Premedical Students (SNMA-MAPS) sent eight highly motivated students, committed to pursuing careers in healthcare to the Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC) in New Orleans, Louisiana. At this conference, students had the opportunity to network with other pre-medical students, participate in medical school practice interviews, view medical school exhibits, listen to panel discussions about the role of healthcare providers in making healthcare more accessible to others, and engage with health professionals committed to supporting future members in the field.

Research Presentation at Pediatric Academic Society Annual Meeting

Wendy Tian traveled to San Diego, California to attend the Pediatric Academic Society Annual Meeting with Dr. Sarah Sobotka in Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. Wendy presented her poster, “Implementing a Transitional Care Model for Children with Complex Medical Needs: Improving Family Preparedness for Discharge and Linking to Community Resources” and was able to share her objective of systematically studying the caregiver experience of *Almost Home Kids*, a transitional care home for children with complex medical needs in Chicago. Attending this medical conference strengthened her understanding of medical ethics and provided her with the opportunity to engage with various physicians and health experts with firsthand experience.

Microsoft Build Conference

Grace Lu and Shao-Yi Qian attended Microsoft’s second annual Build Developer Conference in San Francisco, CA. The Conference provides a means for Microsoft to release the latest news regarding its latest technologies. This year, they presented the most recent information regarding Windows 10, the latest operation system, and HoloLens, a wearable holographic computer. Attending this conference provided Grace and Shao-Yi with the opportunity to experience firsthand the excitement of the technological community and to engage with like-minded students and developers from around the world.

Research Presentation at Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at SUNY Oneonta

Jon Catlin traveled to Oneonta, New York and presented his philosophy and Jewish studies research paper, "Catastrophe as Religious Experience: Levinas, Leibowitz, and the Holocaust," at the Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. The paper serves as a capstone project of years’ of coursework in philosophy, Jewish studies, and Fundamentals. In addition to sharing his work at the conference, Jon had the opportunity to network within the field of academic philosophy, thus further preparing him for his graduate studies in philosophy.



APRIL

Research Presentation at 34th International Cosmic Ray Convention

Andrew McCann and Christopher Bochenek traveled to The Hague, in the Netherlands to present their results on gamma-ray pulsar emission at the 34th International Cosmic Ray Conference. The conference is the largest gathering of cosmic-ray physicists in the world and Andrew and Christopher had the opportunity to network with experts in the gamma-ray astronomy field and gained great recognition for their work. They will continue their pursuit of knowledge in this field in graduate school.

Orchestra Tour in Argentina

Salina Wu traveled to Argentina to participate in a weeklong orchestra tour with the New York Youth Symphony, a nonprofit and high-caliber organization that she has both participated in as a violinist and worked for as an intern. Experiencing the tour helped reignite her passion for performance, helped her explore the realm of a potential BA thesis in ethnomusicology and Latin American music cultures, and strengthened her ties with this well-established organization.

Occupy Chicago Leader Interview Transcriptions

Brendan Leonard's case study of Occupy Chicago, the Chicago chapter of Occupy Wall Street, incorporated data gleaned from the transcription of twenty two in-depth interviews (over 1000 pages) conducted with leaders and members of the movement. These transcriptions allowed Brendan to understand the group and its platform and will further allow him to expand the project into a rigorous journal article or dissertation after graduation.

TAPS BA Research

Christopher Deakin produced his TAPS BA thesis performance, a traveling solo show modeled on business travel and Rosemont, IL. Christopher took on the character of Brandon, a business traveler, and the props, lighting, sound, and set all fit inside his carry-on luggage. In his show, he led the audience through a small-scale recreation of restaurants and hotels with the character.

Research Presentation at University of California - Berkeley Sociological Research Symposium

Maxine Frenzel traveled to UC Berkeley to present her research paper, "Pizza, Hamburgers, French Fries, and Society: Theorizing 21st Century Fast Food Sociality in China," completed using empirical findings from time spent in Nanjing, Beijing, and Hangzhou, China, as part of the Wanxiang Ambassador Fellows Program. As an aspiring sociologist, this experience was invaluable to Maxine, who is now certain that she will pursue graduate programs in sociology after graduation. Not only did she learn about crafting a sociological presentation, but also connected with an international network of researchers.



Short Film Production

The Empath is a 25-minute magical realism short film about an emotional self-discovery. Production and post-production involved both UChicago student filmmakers and professionals in the Chicago film industry. With this project, Kimberly Han provided an opportunity for undergraduate students to understand the “real world” roles of film production and for them to work alongside professionals in the local film industry.

Reading/Art Exhibition, Focusing on Immigration, Racial Privilege, and Sexuality

Daniel Rivera presented a collaborative, multidisciplinary reading/art exhibition, “Our Bodies, Our Monsters,” dealing explicitly with issues of immigration and diaspora, racial privilege and white passing, as well as the intersection of race and sexuality. All of the artwork was contributed by Daniel and other student-artists, under the guidance of Solveig Nelson, whose winter quarter class on Queer Cinema and the Culture Wars served as the inspiration. Through this project, he personalized and publicized issues that many students face when confronted with compromises to their identities. The project also served as a unique celebration of the art, described by Daniel as “...making radically visible our own claims to our otherness, to repower this horrific otherness for our own ends—and make it public and collaborative, in order to catalyze a climate in which these events—and these specific, raw conversations—can continue to occur.”

Research Presentation at University of California – Santa Barbara Ethnobiology Conference

Zoe Palenik attended the University of California – Santa Barbara Ethnobiology Conference and presented paleoanthropological research that she conducted in Dr. Kathleen Morrison’s paleoecology lab. Her project concerns variations in Zea mays pollen size, relevant to archaeological identification of past agricultural activity. Attending the conference provided her with insight into the experience of graduate work in the field and helped her understand how better to present and respond to research-related critiques and questions.

“Talk Show Portfolio” ImprovOlympic Class to Learn to Construct Jokes for Late Night Television

Gabrielle Costa enrolled in “Talk Show Portfolio,” which taught students how to construct topical jokes for late night television and provided guidance on the business of getting hired as comedy writers. Through this experience, Gabrielle learned a particular humor-based skillset and also took part in training for her future in the entertainment industry.

MAY

Delta Kappa Epsilon’s Annual Phoenix 5K Fun Run For Ian Woo Cummings Memorial

Fraternity Delta Kappa Epsilon hosted a 5K Fun Run during Alumni Weekend, with the proceeds going to the Ian Woo Cummings Memorial Scholarship Fund.



Davis Project for Peace in Senegal

Alex Ding traveled to Senegal to oversee a project for which she received a Davis Project for Peace award. The purpose of this project, “Awdi din Jam: Seeds of Peace,” was to end the practice of open-air defecation and to mitigate the effects of poor nutrition in Pelel Kindessa, Senegal. In collaboration with the Pelel Association des Groupes de Femmes (PAGF), Youth Association of Pelel, and various community leaders, Alex’s team constructed a community garden, improved latrines, and hand-dug well in her time there.

International Studies & Near Eastern Civilization Studies BA Research in Tehran, Iran

Hoda Katebi traveled to Iran to complete an internship as a human rights researcher and translator at the Anjoman Hoghoogh Bashar, a non-profit human rights organization. While there, she also began her research for her BA thesis, examining the relationship between nation-building and identity construction of women via fashion and mandatory dress codes. She was able to conduct several interviews with high-profile underground and government-sponsored fashion designers, professors, and young women from all walks of life. Additionally, Hoda shot street-style photography for a book slated for an October of 2015 publishing. The photographs captured the colorful clothes and the faces of Iranian men and women in the streets of Tehran. Viewing fashion as a universal language, able to transcend borders and animosities, Hoda will contribute to an art form that can be used in the peace-building process, encouraging an alternative view on, and promoting greater understanding of, the everyday people of a highly politically isolated country.

Institute for Field Research's Program in Vitor, Perú

Erin Dominici traveled to Perú to join the Vitor Archaeological Project (VAP). Through this program she archaeologically explored Vitor, discovering its ancient structures, artifacts, and human remains from the Early Intermediate/Middle Horizon occupation periods. This opportunity allowed Erin to contribute to the project’s long-term goal of establishing a local museum about Vitor’s history for the local community and furthered her interests in bio-archaeology by enhancing her understanding of how science and culture can intertwine into a research field such as archaeology.

Multimedia Production of *The Tempest*

David Lovejoy and a group of students mounted a multimedia production of *The Tempest* in the spring at the Promontory Point. Filming took place in multiple locations and the production included the use of photography and a painting of *The Tempest*. Music also served as medium for the storytelling. Bringing together student artists from various fields, this production provided the opportunity for a multidisciplinary and collaborative workspace.

Political Science BA Research at the University of Neuchatel

Andrew Holzman traveled to Switzerland to review the manuscripts and letters of Jean-Jacques Rousseau at the library of the University of Neuchatel, in hopes of his BA thesis uniquely expanding the literature on a greatly undervalued dimension of Rousseau’s thought: its motivations from and implications for important theological problems.



Documentary Film Production

Hamid Bendaas traveled to Portland, OR to produce a short documentary project about Ted Laderas (OORay), an experimental and improvisational cellist whose melancholy songs have earned him a cult following both in the Portland music scene and online.

GlobeMed's Delegation to ASPATPerú

GlobeMed, an undergraduate Community Service RSO, has been partnered with the Asociación de Personas Afectadas por Tuberculosis del Perú (ASPATPerú), a community-based health organization both run by and for tuberculosis (TB) patients. ASPATPerú fights to end discrimination against the disease and expand patient access to treatment. GlobeMed is currently working with ASPATPerú on three main projects, and in September, GlobeMed plans to send 5 students from the chapter to Lima, Perú to work with ASPATPerú on these projects for about 3 weeks. The trip to Perú allowed the students to gain concrete field experience in global health and community based health advocacy programs, and meet officials at the Peruvian Ministry of Health.

