

**Student Initiatives funded by the Dean's Fund for Student Life
Fall 2015 – Spring 2016**

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 2015-16.



OCTOBER

British Parliamentary Debate Union at the World Universities Debating Championships

The UChicago British Parliamentary Debate Union attended the World Universities Debating Championships, an international debate competition held in Thessaloniki, Greece. Almost 400 teams participated in the competition that included nine rounds of debate over three days, followed by quarterfinals, semi-finals, and finals. The UChicago debate team competed against the London School of Economics, Queensland, and PEP, placing second in each round. This experience was deeply rewarding for them, as it helped them develop a better understanding of British Parliamentary debate, improve their debate techniques, and meet debaters from all over the world. After listening to experienced adjudicators explain how to form strong arguments, they learned to utilize different rhetorical devices and strategies to strengthen their claims. It was also a rewarding experience for them to watch the out-round debates that featured teams from leading institutions like Harvard University and Cambridge University. Not only did they represent UChicago well at a prestigious competition, they also gained valuable skills to teach their members and other undergraduates upon their return.

LOOP: A Summit for Music Makers

Max Tamahori attended the LOOP: A Summit for Music Makers, a three-day event held in Berlin, Germany. Comprised of talks, discussions, and workshops addressing issues regarding the current state of electronic music, the experience provided him an opportunity to network with performing artists, recording artists, engineers, programmers, writers, and label executives. By having conversations with them, he broadened his musical knowledge and became inspired to develop his own electronic style tracks. Berlin houses many companies and organizations that make the city the most vibrant intersection of all technologic and artistic interests. Thus, it was vital for Max that he was there to meet music-makers from around the world to share their passions for music and learn collectively. This experience gave him a new perspective on what it felt like to be artistically engaged in a foreign country with strangers and fostered his interest in pursuing a career in the music industry.

PhiNix Dance Crew Performance at the World of Dance Competition

PhiNix Dance Crew competed at the World of Dance Competition in Chicago, Illinois, one of the largest dance tours in the Midwest featuring collegiate and professional hip-hop dance crews. World of Dance was the largest stage any of the members—in both freestyle and choreography crews—had ever competed on and was a memorable moment for everyone. PhiNix competed against 26 teams and placed 16th ahead of other collegiate crews. World-renowned choreographers and dancers judged the competition and provided constructive criticism for each performance. The opportunity to perform in front of and interact with prominent figures in the urban dance industry inspired the members to become more dedicated to their dances and determined to excel at the next dance competition. Their performance has put UChicago's performing arts community on the map in the hip-hop world.

Senior Thesis Research on the Business of Healthcare between U.S. and China

Cynthia Avila's senior thesis research, "The Business of Healthcare Comparing U.S. and China Patient-Satisfaction, Post-Health Reform" took her to China to interact with physicians and patients who experienced obstacles on a daily basis. By interviewing medical providers in Beijing, she collected important information about the long-standing relationship between Peking Union Hospital and the



University of Chicago. Being in Beijing inspired her to develop new ideas on ways of implementing changes and improving doctor-patient relationships, which she would not have considered before the trip. She hopes that the Peking Union Hospital will establish an ethics-training program in the future to emphasize values, morals, vocation, and strong relationships with patients.

Theater Performance brought by the University Theater

Alexander Eichner recently performed a piece of experimentally devised work. His piece was inspired by the work of “House of Cards” by Charles Mee. Alexander focused on the themes of trauma and the exploration of memories. In the performance, there was an ensemble of nine people of diverse talents, from University Theater, the Deans Men, Chicago Men’s A Capella, UBallet, and The Lion & the Slam. There were three tents set up on stage that each contained multiple performers, who together would constitute a single “character” embodied in the tent. This venture was so successful that it inspired others to create more experimental and site-specific performance art at the University Theater and elsewhere on campus. This project brought together several members from different organizations on campus and they were able to foster strong relationships and form new collaboration groups through their close interactions with one another.

The Home School Conference for Poets

Helena Bassett attended the Home School, an experimental weeklong conference for poets and artists in Miami, Florida. She participated in a set of workshops that helped her write a book of poems in the style of the poet CD Wright. She used this book for her BA Thesis on Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies. In her book, she emulated Wright’s style of examining explosive landscapes by weaving together investigative and historical work with poetry and traced structures of intimacy in relationships between women who were in and out of the prison system in rural New Mexico. She utilized oral histories; interviews; newspaper accounts; and conversations with witnesses, neighbors, police, and activists in her research. Because of her work and Home School participation, she developed a more critical lens towards writing and performing poetry. Now that her poetry techniques have improved, she is more open to alternative ways of thinking and writing about the world. She plans to publish a “zine” in the future that combines her interests in poetry and cultural criticism and hopes to share with the public her radical vision of a world where people can flourish and live free of harm and violence.

Public Policy BA Research on Southern Mexico

For her Public Policy BA thesis, Maya Handa traveled to southern Mexico to conduct interviews with program beneficiaries and administrators to find out more about the implementation and impact of Prospera, Mexico’s largest anti-poverty policy program. Her research focused on how the conditions of the policy affected women’s lives. Though the program was empowering to women because it offered them an income that they otherwise might not have had, the program also required them to comply with conditions that were time consuming and considered “women’s work.” After gaining valuable insights and realizing that little research existed in the field, she hopes that her thesis will provide essential evidence to convince researchers to further pursue the topic.



NOVEMBER

Chicago Debate Society at the World Universities Debating Championships

The Chicago Debate Society sent two representatives, Jing Chai and Emma Ashe O'Toole, to the World Universities Debating Championships in Thessaloniki, Greece. Not only were they exposed to diverse styles of debate and learned different ways to improve their techniques, they also received firsthand experience of Greek culture and history. Through restaurant and museum visits, they were able to identify the similarities and differences between American and Greek culture. Through this experience, they were able to develop a greater appreciation for differing debate styles, increase UChicago's competitive standing, internalize team development, and have a larger campus outreach.

Judging Competition at the World Universities Debating Championships

Michelle Jiang represented the University of Chicago in the Judging Competition at the World Universities Debating Championships (WUDC) in Thessaloniki, Greece. Judging at WUDC is a competitive process; to secure a spot as a judge and have the opportunity to learn the international perspective of debate was a significant accomplishment for Michelle. In the competition, debaters rank judges after each round for the quality of their adjudication and judges compete to represent their schools in elimination rounds. The judges in eliminations were considered the best in the world for understanding and evaluating arguments. After paneling with the judges, Jiang gained a large number of contacts that had worked with her to evaluate international perspectives on argumentation.

7th Annual UChicago Women in Business Career Explorations Conference

Mackenzie Smith, Co-President of the undergraduate Women in Business organization, hosted the seventh annual University of Chicago Women in Business Career Explorations Conference. The conference, consisted of 10 panels and a keynote speaker series, brought together over 250 undergraduates and 75 successful professionals across the Midwest. Its main purpose was to unite young women and teach them to become leaders by increasing their business knowledge, introducing them to different career paths, and equipping them with the skills to succeed. Over 50 speakers from high-profile companies in finance, consulting, technology, marketing, and entrepreneurship industries presented at the conference. By networking with and hearing success stories from women in leadership positions, the members became more motivated to pursue careers in business.

BA Research on World War II at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Jenny Mao wrote her BA thesis on the relationship between World War II American propaganda and internationalist foreign policy. After gaining access to research materials that were only available in an archive at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she engaged with a variety of visual propaganda and investigated popular notions of American patriotism, identity, and leadership. In particular, she analyzed American post-war global involvement and the Roosevelt administration. Much of her analysis was centered on reading print propaganda for recurring themes and messages and relating them to what the administration perceived to be the most effective way to popularize internationalism. As she has never conducted independent primary source research before, this experience was a unique and enriching experience for her as a young scholar.



Kent Lecture held in honor of the late Dr. George E. Kent

Every year, the Organization of Black Students (OBS) holds the Kent Lecture in honor of the late Dr. George E. Kent, one of the earliest tenured African-American professors at the University of Chicago and its first African-American English Professor. The organization established the lecture to serve as a platform for community exposure to African-American luminaries. Since the lecture's inception in 1984, speakers such as Dick Gregory, Gwendolyn Brooks, Nikki Giovanni, and more have shared their views on politics, social justice, and race relations with large audiences. Given recent events that have transpired both on campus and nationwide concerning race relations, this talk has engaged both University students and the members of the Hyde Park community to address important issues.

Public Policy BA Research in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Vidya Venkatakrisnan wrote her Public Policy thesis on the policy failures of U.S. intervention in the Bosnian Civil War. She traveled to Bosnia and Herzegovina to conduct interviews with the people in the region, visit memorials related to the Bosnian war, and examine national and municipal archives. This research helped her develop her thesis, "Dissecting Dayton: Understanding, Amending, and Improving upon Policy Failures of Consociational Democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina," exploring the causal relationship between the consociational model of democracy in Bosnia and the perpetuation of ethnic segregation in the political, education, and social realms. This trip contributed significantly to her development as a global citizen and her interest in foreign policy and human rights.

DECEMBER

Surgeon Shadows Winter Externship in California

Adam Rosa participated in a winter externship called Surgeon Shadows in Fresno, California. He witnessed doctor-patient interactions, watched surgeries in person, and gained a firsthand look into the lifestyle of a doctor. Because of this experience, he broadened his knowledge of what it takes to be a doctor and solidified his intent to pursue a career in the medical field in the future. Overall, this was an important networking experience for him since he got to meet with several doctors and learn from their life experiences on how to become good doctors and how to deal with difficulties they face daily on the job.

Public Policy BA Research on Relative Poverty

Rachel Vogt wrote her senior thesis for the Public Policy major on relative poverty. Her goal was to understand on a small scale whether the federal poverty line accurately reflects the subjective experience of families or not. She utilized her funding to offer a small monetary incentive to community residents who agreed to take her survey. Her project consisted of a mixed methods approach, surveys from community residents in East Garfield, quantitative census data, and interviews with program directors from local organizations. She discovered that survey respondents who fell on both sides of the federal poverty line still identified material need in terms of housing and food security, as well as relative well-being.

Short Horror Film: With Family

Raju Sankalp is an experienced student filmmaker with a proven track record of creating ambitious films. He recently embarked on a new project, *With Family*, a short horror film that explored a young



woman's descent into insanity after the sudden death of her parents. This project involved several student filmmakers and substantially influenced the UChicago filmmaking community. Not only did this project increase collaboration between students, it also provided them with an opportunity to learn film techniques from each other. After the production, many students became inspired to develop their own films and connect with others to make meaningful contributions on campus.

Moot Court Team at the National Championship Tournament

This year the Moot Court Team at the University of Chicago competed at the National Championship Tournament where they secured one of 80 spots from over 360 competing teams. They competed in three rounds of oral argument and received lots of praise from the judges. The competition also helped them connect with other coaches and teams so they could gain guidance and advice on how to improve their strategies. They hope to display how much they have improved in future tournaments and look forward to bringing more teams to the Regional Qualifiers.

JANUARY

BA Research on 1940s Cuba in Paris

For her senior thesis research, Cathryn Jijon examined questions of nationalism, racism, and the role of the arts in identity production in 1940s Cuba. She traveled to Paris to figure out how the art of Cuban painter Wifredo Lam succeeded in reasserting Afro-Cuban identity in a country whose ideology of racial blindness negated its existence, while also creating a safe space for the criticism of racist practices. Her thesis focused on the narrative of racial blindness that began with Jose Marti's writings at the end of the 19th century during Cuba's fight for independence and the white Cuban intellectuals like Fernando Ortiz during the first half of the 20th century. She analyzed how these narratives served to oppress Afro-Cubans by silencing discussion on the question of race.

Art History BA Research at the University of Southern California

Mark "Willekes" Cronin focused his Art History BA thesis on a very popular artist Ron Athey, who was active in the late 80's and early 90's. Sadly, Jesse Helms labeled Athey's work "degenerate" which led to Athey ceasing all performances in America and quickly becoming forgotten in the art world. Since documentation of past performances is nonexistent and photographs or videos are hard to find, writing about performance art is very difficult. However, this opportunity allowed Mark to see a live performance and truly experience what it feels like to be in the same room as the performer. Mark eventually interviewed Athey and visited several venues in Los Angeles to use as source material for his academic work.

Expansion of the UChicago Chamber Music Organization's Music Library (CMO)

The Chamber Music Organization (CMO) is a collective of over 300 classical musicians, drawing from the undergraduate body, graduate schools, faculty, staff, and community members, united by a passion for chamber music. The CMO focuses on creating opportunities for members to meet others who are interested in listening to and playing chamber music. They establish recurring quarterly events such as sight-reading parties, Chicago Symphony Orchestra trips, movie nights, finals week study breaks, panel discussions, and chamber music showcases. This year, they expanded the CMO's Music Library by adding a variety of sheet music, contemporary music pieces, and works written by prominent female



composers. The music library is an essential part of the organization because many chamber music groups utilize the library to test out and select music to practice for the rest of the year. Many musicians borrow and request music for their performances. The CMO hopes to continue its goal of filling in the gap of musical knowledge by offering a larger variety and quantity of music to musicians.

National Indian Cultural Dance Competition

Two distinct Indian cultural dance teams at the University of Chicago – Chicago Raas and UChicago Bhangra (UCB) – were accepted to compete at the national Indian cultural dance competition, Raas Rave & Bhangra Blitz (R2B2). Southern Methodist University’s Indian Student Association in Dallas, TX hosted this competition, with a mission to promote and celebrate Indian culture through cultural dances. R2B2 featured two of the most popular styles of Indian dance: Garba-Raas and Bhangra. From a pool of over 100 applicants from universities nationwide, fourteen teams (7 Garba-Raas teams and 7 Bhangra teams) were chosen to compete at R2B2. Both teams served as ambassadors for the University and showcased the school’s commitment to an inclusive and diverse national dance family. Attendance at this competition was invaluable for the personal growth of all of the dancers. It was an immensely enriching experience for them to have the opportunity to showcase their countless months of hard work to the best Bhangra and Garba-Raas teams in the country. This experience provided an unbelievable boost to the dancers’ confidence as performers, engendering pride in their dance and in representing UChicago.

Presentation at University of Puget Sound Philosophy Conference in Seattle, Washington

Elek Lane, a fourth-year Philosophy major, was invited to present his BA thesis on rule-following skepticism at the annual University of Puget Sound Philosophy Conference. At the conference, he received valuable feedback on his presentation from other undergraduates and University of Puget Sound faculty members. He was inspired to look at his research topic from various points of views and had the opportunity to engage with philosophers from around the world. After listening to several presentations and participating in discussions, he met several keynote speakers and renowned professors and became more motivated to pursue philosophy studies in graduate school.

London School of Economics Alternative Investments Conference

Angel Sun, an Economics major, recently attended the London School of Economics Alternative Investments Conference (LSE AIC), a highly competitive and well-known international LSE Conference that focuses on hedge funds and private equity. It featured prominent industry figures, workshops, and networking events for undergraduate and graduate attendees. She met and networked with 300 of the brightest international young professionals interested in the financial services and alternative investments industries. The conference included many educational workshops on topics like impact investing, breaking into the buy-side, anatomy of a private equity deal, and unintended consequences of recent regulation. In addition, there were panels for women, venture capital, and hedge fund managers. She also met several delegates and became inspired by their unique career developments. She bonded with highly ambitious and competitive individuals from top business schools in numerous countries and gained a better understanding of what she wants to do after graduating from the College.



Public Policy BA Research on Barriers of Female Veterans

Andy Rapoport, a Public Policy major, chose to research the barriers that female veterans in Chicago face when they access mental healthcare services at the Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Center. He interviewed 12 female veterans by compensating them each with \$25. His thesis was ultimately awarded an honors designation. Since he hopes to become a physician in the future, this was a tremendous opportunity to interact with individuals all along the care continuum—patients, mental and physical health professionals, and those with administration duties. His endeavored to determine when, how, and from whom Chicagoland female veterans with mental healthcare needs learn about their eligibility for VA health benefits and their ability to pursue care at the JBVA WVHC, and how each of those factors affected the timeliness and comfort with which they pursued care. Though there are studies specifically examining the level of discomfort amongst female veterans with the VA healthcare system, he looked at whether those veterans who sought care at the JBVA WVHC had to overcome discomfort or trepidation in identifying themselves as veterans and in choosing to take advantage of the services they were entitled to. Overall, he consolidated the content from the interviews he conducted and crafted policy suggestions for the VA in light of what he observed.

Research Presentation at Tulane University and Indiana University-Bloomington

In recent years, Adela Zhang has participated in a lot of fieldwork in Lima, Peru, analyzing how one particular development initiative (CompliTB) deployed in the fight against TB. She presented her independent research paper at two graduate paper conferences at Tulane University and Indiana University-Bloomington to contribute to generalizable knowledge on the effects of development in the Global South. Her paper focused on the use of biometric tracking to improve treatment adherence outcomes among tuberculosis patients. Based on the ethnographic data collected in Lima and Callao, Peru, the preliminary conclusions she drew suggested that the developmental effects of a biometric tracking initiative posed a particular threat to existing relations between patients and health workers in Peru's national TB program. At the conference, she had her work critically discussed and examined by professors from several universities. She also engaged in discussions with esteemed academic thinkers and graduate students from various disciplines such as Latin American Studies, Anthropology, History, and more. She was encouraged to reformulate and reframe her findings in addition to distributing her paper more widely. Not only did this experience allow her to expand her intellectual network, it also advanced her professional aspirations of attending graduate school.

Berlin International Film Festival and European Film Market

As Publicity Chair of DocFilms, Peter Goldberg wanted to establish strong contacts with professionals and leaders in the film industry to bring their expertise back to Doc Films. The Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale) is one of the most revered film festivals, held in the same regard as festivals like the Cannes, Sundance, and Venice. Each year, over 400 films are represented at the Berlinale. Due to its location in one of Europe's largest urban centers, the festival attracts around half a million festival goers, making it the largest international film festival each year. It is known for hosting the European Film Market and Berlinale Talent Campus, two industry meetings that include seminars and workshops with famous and new producers, distributors, filmmakers, and art house movie theaters. These workshops attract an international audience of around 20,000 professionals who work in all aspects of the movie industry. After attending the Berlinale and the European Film Market, he increased Doc Films' visibility in both Chicago and the global film community. Not only did he



establish industry ties with international film distributors and producers, but also learned to better maintain a cinema.

FEBRUARY

NanoMaterials for Energy and Environment Conference in Paris, France

Jake Russell, a Chemistry major, attended the NanoMaterials for Energy and Environment Conference in Paris, France. This conference had great specificity for his field of scientific interest and was truly a beneficial experience for him, both professionally and academically through presentation and engagement with researchers from all around the world. This experience motivated him to pursue a PhD in chemistry, study nanomaterials for energy applications, and attend graduate school. He found this topic interesting because it combined problem-solving and real-world applicability of materials science with the incredibly vibrant and unique physical phenomena of the nanoscale world, and had significant applications in the fields of renewable energy and sustainability. Since a significant part of both graduate school and science is the communication between researchers, it is essential that scientific communities meet to discuss theories, methods, results, successes, and failures. This conference provided an unparalleled forum for direct communication between researchers in all stages of their careers via poster presentations by first-year graduate students to keynote speeches by established professors. The exposure to different ideas and the work of various groups was invaluable to him, as it sparked his imagination, motivation for science, and the development of his professional network. He also had the opportunity to practice scientific communication skills—both formal and informal—necessary for success in the field. Jake plans to further his studies in graduate school and focus on finding solutions to the global climate and energy crises.

Clinton Global Initiative Conference

Annie Albright, Evan Eschliman, and Haley Schwab attended the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU) Conference in Berkeley, California to present their proposal on Type 2 Diabetes dietary management. CGIU mission brings together young social entrepreneurs from around the world for a weekend of inspiration, support, and collaboration and the only way to secure an invitation is to submit a commitment to action and be selected among a competitive pool of applicants. Their commitment on how to best establish culturally and socioeconomically sensitive food-tracking systems for diabetic individuals garnered them a conference invitation and provided them with the opportunity to network with 1,000 students in diverse interests and backgrounds. In addition, they learned several lessons from speeches, panels, and workshops held by CEOs, businessmen, academics, activists, and other leaders in society. They left the conference with inspiration, readiness to enact change, and new perspectives on the world. They now have a new understanding of the importance of teamwork, of listening to others' opinions, and of combining diverse talents in order to create the change they believe the world needs.

Theater and Performance Studies BA Research in New York

Cynthia Campos Costanzo, a Theater and Performance Studies major, traveled to New York for her BA research on shadow puppet performance. While there, she analyzed different aspects of stage plays as executed in professional theater. She studied *Something Rotten's* lighting, as it had won a nomination for a Tony and an Outer Critics Circle Award for choreography and lighting respectively. For her shadow puppet show, choreography and lighting were important aspects for her to analyze and gain



a better understanding, given her interest and post-graduations plans for work in puppetry and animation. She also took in the stage adaptation of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, where she learned the different ways to put a story together and to transition a character from its original written medium to a visual medium. She was also inspired by *School of Rock's* costuming, puppetry, and ability to increase audience participation. With a future in puppetry, she hopes to create an intimate atmosphere where the audience is engaged with the performance and feels part of the play.

Paleontology Club Dig in Cincinnati, Ohio

Maria Viteri is a member of the Paleontology Club, a new RSO dedicated to teaching undergraduates about paleontology and skills in the field. This spring, the PaleoClub participated in a fossil collection trip in Cincinnati, Ohio where they received detailed lectures from graduate students. They visited four sites and each had its own marine invertebrate fauna. They participated in discussions about specific portions of the Ordovician Period, as well as the creatures that were characteristic of the time. Each student unearthed many fossils including orthocones, trilobites, crinoids, and brachiopods. Finally, they camped at the Campshore Campground, where they learned to identify fossils. Overall, this was an incredible learning experience for the students and helped them appreciate the realities of fossil collection so much more.

United States Associate of Collegiate Fencing Clubs Tournament

Hannah Binney is on the University's fencing team, which recently competed at the United States Associate of Collegiate Fencing Clubs Tournament (USACFC) at Brown University in Providence, RI, against 30 teams, comprised of more than 500 fencers from across the country. They performed very well in both the individuals' and team competitions. It was a successful tournament overall since many fencers developed new skills and learned to think more strategically after competing with others with different skill levels. It was a great opportunity for the team to bond, gain large-scale tournament experience, and network with other fencing clubs. With the knowledge gained from this experience, they are determined to grow the fencing team in order to compete in future national tournaments.

Public Policy BA Research on Women with Type 2 Diabetes and Low-Income

As a Public Policy major and as part of her BA thesis, Haleigh Miller, conducted research on women with Type 2 diabetes and of low-income backgrounds in Chicago as part of her BA thesis. She worked with a qualitative research recruiting firm and paid six women \$100 to participate in one-hour, in-depth interviews. These interviews ultimately unearthed five key themes about how low-income women in Chicago experience and cope with Type 2 diabetes. In particular, accessing diabetes-friendly food during their busy schedules was an enormous challenge for women who worked full-time or odd hours. Additionally, women seemed to go through stages of coping with their diabetes, not dissimilar to the stages of grief. Her thesis was nominated for Honors within the Public Policy department, was best departmental paper, and was published in the Journal of Chicago studies.

American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting and the New England Science Symposium

Gustavo Pacheco has worked for the past two years in Dr. Lucia Nieto Schuger's laboratory in the Department of Pathology and successfully identified the cell of origin of Lymphangioleiomyomatosis,



a rare form of cancer affecting childbearing age women and developed a novel treatment targeting this cancer. After presenting his research at the American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting in Washington, DC and at the New England Science Symposium at Harvard Medical School, he received high praises from numerous scientists and administrators of medical institutions for his work. His presentation at these high caliber conferences has provided him substantive experience in addressing the questions of some of the premier scientists in the medical field. This experience has provided him with the training required for the press release of his published work in *The American Journal of Pathology*, making him the youngest research student to conduct a press release for a journal of this high impact. His attendance at both of these conferences allowed him to further develop a professional network for his scientific work.

MODA Spring Fashion Show

The MODA Spring Fashion Show is a unique opportunity to showcase the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of UChicago students. Artists on campus express themselves by designing a collection, modeling, or designing hair and makeup for the show. This year, the designers each created 3 outfits and the runway show lasted for 90 minutes. Each designer's outfits characterized the quirkiness embodied at the University and the diversity in views of beauty, fashion, and style that MODA strives to identify and for which it provides an outlet. There were 1200 students in attendance, not including the designers, models, photographers, volunteers, and board members. The members received donations from a variety of beauty, health, and wellness sponsors including Madewell, Akira, Kind, Luna, and VitaCoco. Given the show's success, MODA plans to identify a larger venue next year to accommodate a larger audience. They also hope to include more designers and increase the number of students involved in the organization.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan Sports Analytics Conference in Boston

Eric Qiu, an Economics major, attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Sloan Analytics Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. At the conference, multiple forums opened up to discuss papers written within the last year regarding sports analytics. This conference was a great way to discuss cutting-edge sports analytics with others who were also passionate about this topic. Most of the conference attendees worked with basketball analytics in some capacity: either consulting for a specific team or the league. Given the unparalleled prestige of this conference in the world of sports analytics, Eric gained invaluable exposure to leading researchers and their ideas. His experience had an extremely positive impact on his ability to think about sports analytics as well as provide a unique opportunity to interact with and get feedback from some of the leading researchers in the field.

Double-Exposure Film Photography Project

Eleanor Clifford produces a double-exposure film photography project that incorporated the vision of twelve UChicago students and captured the collaborative qualities of the undergraduate experience. She shot a roll of film, wound it back, and handed it off to her friends so they could shoot their own photos over hers. The result was an unpredictable blend of their contributions. Though some photos undoubtedly were un-useable, the joy of film, like that of connecting with new people, was in the unpredictability it entailed and the trust it required. All of the students involved had varying levels of artistic experience and were from different classes or RSOs. They shot 432 photos in total for a final product of 216 double-exposed images. The idea was that students would participate in spontaneous shooting of whatever interesting experiences they happened to have around campus or the city. Once



the film was sent out for development, she framed the best photo from each of the collaborative film rolls and publically displayed the shot for the community.

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Winter Conference

Ellen Wiese recently submitted a sample of her novel and was selected to receive the Student Writer Scholarship at the Winter Conference of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators in New York. At the conference, she attended keynote speeches and workshops and received feedback on her manuscript. She further developed her professional network by meeting with agents, editors, publishers, and other industry professionals. By learning directly from their experiences, she gained a better understanding of how to improve her writing process and became more open to new ideas. This conference was also a wonderful opportunity for her to look closely at her writing and set goals for her manuscript and future projects.

Visit to Lugar de la Memoria in Lima, Peru

Camila Palomino, an Art History and International Studies major, visited the Lugar de la Memoria (LUM) in Lima, Peru. At the museum, she met curator Victor Vich, who helped her gain extensive research to support her senior thesis. This was an incredible experience for her, as it allowed her to answer many of her questions about memory in Peru such as, "Does memory matter?" Finding herself in the middle of the Peruvian election season was beneficial, as one of the candidates was the daughter of Alberto Fujimori, a key figure in her research. Camila's research examined state-sponsored militarism and terrorism that led to deaths and violence during the Internal Conflict in Peru; Fujimori was an important figure as he was a Peruvian president who had been charged with human rights abuse. The fact that his daughter was a front-runner in the elections and was hailed as someone who would fight terrorism was a sign of collective amnesia to her. This was a validated piece of information she could only have gathered by being in Peru and speaking to people in the area. She looks forward to receiving feedback from various Peruvian scholars and writers with whom she has shared her thesis.

Mural Magazine's Winter 2016 Publication

Mural Magazine, a student-run bilingual (English and Spanish) publication, promotes the discussion of culture, politics, and art especially as they relate to Latin America and to the Latino/Hispanic communities on campus and the wider Chicago area. For this edition, they printed 125 magazine copies. They celebrated this achievement by holding a Winter Release Party at the Reynolds Club and distributed the magazines to student-run campus cafés such as Cobb Café, Hallowed Grounds, and Harper Café. They also distributed copies to the Center for Latin American Studies, the Romance Languages Department, the Center for Identity and Inclusion, and the Katz Center for Mexican Studies. Overall, the publication grew a lot and they are working on translating old material and posting new material on their website. They hope to further strengthen their project's stability and credibility and increase the number of readers.

Smart Woman Securities Conference in Omaha

Smart Woman Securities (SWS) empowers undergraduate women of all academic backgrounds and career interests to expand their investment knowledge. Sruthi Ramaswami was invited on a trip to meet Warren Buffett. Each year, 20 select members of SWS from all chapters travel to Omaha, Nebraska, to meet and learn from Buffett and other successful professionals from the area. During



this trip, she contributed her insights in discussion sessions and extended her professional network. In addition, she toured Berkshire Hathaway companies and heard from top executives at organizations, such as TD Ameritrade and the Gallup Organization. Because of this experience, she has increased her chapter's visibility among prominent business leaders and learned vital knowledge that helps other members. Since then, she has organized new workshops for financial learning opportunities on campus.

MEDLIFE Mobile Clinic in Peru

Maggi Kreisheh was invited to join a MEDLIFE Mobile Clinic and work in multiple medical stations for one week in Peru. In Chorrillos, she shadowed a doctor and assisted a dentist. Next, she worked at an Education and Pharmacy tent in El Salvador, where she interacted with patients and realized the struggle to secure purified water and food in the area. Most homes were in bad conditions and some staircases were never completed by volunteers and NGOs previously working in the area. Because of this trip, she noticed how much more help people needed and planned to increase awareness about the issues. Overall, this was an incredible opportunity for her to work with the local people and listen to their stories. It also helped her see that although the locals did not have many luxuries, they were still happy because of their strong sense of community. This trip was very memorable because she not only enhanced her Spanish-speaking abilities through a one-week course and learned about Peruvian culture and history, but also enriched her interests in traveling, working in public health, and volunteering.

MEDLIFE Mobile Clinic

Jaylie Vergara-Coll was invited to join a MEDLIFE Mobile Clinic and work in multiple medical stations for one week in Peru. Her desire to work on this project stemmed from her career goals and general interests. As a pre-med student, her primary objective was to improve the lives of others through healthcare. During the trip, she utilized her Spanish-speaking skills to communicate with others in the area. The MEDLIFE chapter's project built stairs in the outskirts of the city and helped improve the daily lives of local residents. During this program, students learned about healthcare and discovered new approaches of helping impoverished areas.

Dirt Red Brass Band Performance in New Orleans

The Dirt Red Brass Band participated in a weeklong trip to New Orleans where they rehearsed every day, watched performances, learned about the city's history of jazz, performed in the French Quarter, and became a more cohesive ensemble. New Orleans serves as the group's musical motherland because of its distinctive brass music that informs their aesthetic and band spirit. For this trip, their goals were to play in a variety of environments such as the streets or schools, learn first-hand from the musical community such as Glen David Andrews, have extensive collaborations with their connections, attend concerts, and bring their experiences back to campus. When they returned to campus, they shared what they learned with the UChicago community through concerts, collaborations, and open workshops on their five newly-composed songs. A few wonderful additions to their repertoire include "Never Going Back Again" and "Brand New Place," which told their stories of experiencing the city of New Orleans and expressed their happiness of being there. This trip allowed the members to grow as individual musicians, the band to improve into a better ensemble, and everyone to become better ambassadors of the New Orleans' culture of music and group improvisation. They hope to continue playing music with musicians of all skill levels and playing music



on the quad whenever they can to lift the spirits of the campus community and increase appreciation of New Orleans jazz.

A Capella Group's Music and Creative Workshops in California

Voices in Your Head was invited to hold music and creative workshops at high schools arts programs in California. The Oakland School of the Arts, Del Norte High School, Miramonte High School, and more reached out to the group after they placed 2nd at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella last year to ask if they would be interested in hosting workshops with their students. Being invited was a huge honor and having the opportunity to share the music they have worked so hard on was an unforgettable part of their college experience. They believe that sharing their music will not only have a positive impact on developing musicians, but also help build a name for the University as a diverse community dedicated to supporting and fostering student growth outside the academic sphere.

First Generation Student Summit

Natalia Delery, as the president of UChicago's QuestBridge Scholars Network, attended the First Generation Summit to bring back ideas to help first-generation students on campus. At the conference, she and other QuestBridge members attended workshops, networked with other first-generation students, interacted with admissions officers, and gained significant knowledge that they brought back to on-campus advisers and the dean. They also presented their success stories with other student organizations and inspired others to push for change and growth within their own universities. They discussed the importance of failures in "providing" for the needs of low-income and first-generation students at top-tier universities and how vital communication and listening are essential for the progress of these organizations. They defined what "successful" events looked like and how students could take initiative to run their own programs. Because of this trip, the students were able to provide better suggestions for valuable and useful programs that could be implemented at the Center for College Student Success. For instance, FaculTea was initiated in order to allow first-generation students to meet first-generation faculty, build strong connections, network, and share experiences about their college careers, including challenges and triumphs. They hope to expand the conversation revolving around first-generation students at the University, using the accomplishments of other first-generation students to advance UChicago's own students' college experiences, and spark action for future years to come.

Research on James Booker's Life, Music, and Legacy

Ari Feldman's essay written for Daniel Raeburn's *Fundamentals of Nonfiction* class examined the life and legacy of James Booker. Booker's eccentric personality, sexuality, and chronic struggles with drugs and mental illness earned him an aura of legend arguably unmatched by any other American musician from the twentieth century. As Ari's interest in Booker grew, he wanted to continue his research into Booker's life, music, and legacy. Despite Booker's otherworldly talent and his fascinating life, Ari believes that he has not been given the recognition he deserves due to being too different to be understood. Thus, he traveled to New Orleans to continue his biographical treatment of Booker. To expand his knowledge, he spoke with musicologists, filmmakers, and veterans about the New Orleans nightlife in the seventies and eighties. In addition, he interviewed musicians, club owners, and prominent citizens of New Orleans about their experiences being around and listening to Booker play



live. This project not only helped paint a complete portrait of Booker that the world deserves to see, but also established connections for UChicago in general with the culture of the American South and cultural leaders of New Orleans.

Actuary Credentialing Examinations

Rebecca Sze is working towards a career as a credentialed actuary. After receiving funding, she was able to pay for actuarial exam fees and study materials so she could pass the five exams administered by the Society of Actuaries (SOA). The SOA is the association that credentials actuaries in the U.S., allowing them to work. The five tests involve probability (P), financial mathematics (FM), models for financial economics (MFE), models for life contingencies (MLC), and construction and evaluation of actuarial models (C). Not only are these tests important for receiving certifications, but also are often prerequisites for obtaining jobs and internships. Actuarial internships generally require passing the first one or two tests to be considered for the role, and full-time positions often require at least two or three tests. Once on the job, many benefits such as raises and promotions are also tied to the number of tests passed. She has already passed Exam P and secured an internship with American Family Insurance in their actuarial department. By completing Exam FM and MFE now has an advantage during recruitment for full-time positions.

Public Policy BA Research on Involuntary Leave of Absence Policies at UChicago

Alyssa Cox is a Public Policy major whose BA thesis examined the involuntary leave of absence policies at UChicago and other colleges across the United States. To collect the necessary information, she conducted field research by interviewing students and administration at various college campuses. She believed the narrative of her research would be greatly advanced by including first-person interviews, primary source documents, and statistical data gathered in the field. Not only did these qualities add another dimension to the research document, they also increased the viability and applicability of the research findings. She compared policies across private research universities, small liberal arts colleges, and public state flagship universities. By encapsulating different features of various colleges in her thesis, she argued how university leave of absence policies, along with university administration, affect campus culture, student mental health, and student reactions to being placed on involuntary leave, compared to UChicago. She hopes through her research, she can use the knowledge gained to impact university policies as she works towards a career in university administration.

On-Demand Academic Help Service to UChicago Students

As part of the *Building the New Venture* class at the Booth School of Business, Julie Khidekel and her group developed a service that provided on-demand academic help to UChicago students. After multiple rounds of beta testing and meeting with administrators across University divisions, they assessed students' willingness to pay, tutors' reservation prices, and the viability of implementing private tutoring for advanced courses. They ultimately created an online platform that matched undergraduate students with other undergraduates or graduate students qualified to teach advanced-level classes with which the Harper Tutors did not offer help. They are still analyzing the optimal method of bringing *The A Level* to market, and continuing to refine, research, and analyze the student body to understand the best way to move *The A Level* forward.



National Conference for the Association of American Medical Colleges

Kellie Brue is a member of the Student National Medical Associations (SNMA), which hosts an enriching national conference focused on preparing underrepresented minorities to pursue careers in medicine every year. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AMEC) conference brought representatives from various medical colleges to hold workshops and provided networking opportunities for attendees. During AMEC, she met several people who shaped her perspectives on post-graduation and her career plan. The workshops discussed current events, healthcare issues, post-baccalaureate programs, and more. In addition, the SNMA-MAPS board had an opportunity to explore the city of Austin and build new relationships by discussing what they learned in the workshops.

National Conference for the Association of American Medical Colleges

Meagan Nicole Thornton is a member of the Student National Medical Associations (SNMA), which hosts an enriching national conference focused on preparing underrepresented minorities to pursue careers in medicine every year. During the Association of American Medical Colleges (AMEC) conference, she had the opportunity to spend time with undergraduate students from other schools and bond over similar experiences as pre-medical students. The conference was mainly composed of workshops, luncheons, banquets, panel discussions, and recreational activities. The conference also held sessions on self-care and professional skill development. Because of her interactions with current medical students and doctors, she received lots of good advice and encouragement. The workshops motivated her to think beyond her immediate goal of becoming a pharmacist and consider causes with which she would like to be involved. Because of this experience, she has left feeling truly confident and better equipped to pursue a career in medicine.

National Conference for the Association of American Medical Colleges

Roberto De Loera is a member of the Student National Medical Associations (SNMA), which hosts an enriching national conference focused on preparing underrepresented minorities to pursue careers in medicine every year. As Vice President of the UChicago Minority Association of Premedical Students (MAPS), attending the National Conference for the Association of American Medical Colleges was critical in helping him further develop the chapter and increase the quality of the events. At the conference, he connected with presidents and vice presidents of other MAPS chapters and discussed programming, fundraising ideas, and potential collaborative opportunities with other MAPS chapters in the area. In addition to connecting with other undergraduate MAPS members, he had the opportunity to network with medical students from around the country and doctors doing amazing work. He gained valuable insight into medical schools in which he was interested and heard directly from students about the experience of being in medical school. The workshops available for undergraduates and lectures were very informative and useful for him.

Public Policy and HIPS Major BA Research at the Primo Levi Centre Conference

Christina Xiao, a Public Policy and HIPS major, examined the mental healthcare system in France through the lens of Syrian refugees, as part of her undergraduate thesis. She attended a conference hosted by the Primo Levi Centre in Paris, France, a center for refugees and asylum seekers suffering



from trauma and political violence. Her interviews at the Association Mana in Bordeaux allowed her to discuss current refugee affairs with clinicians. Visiting these two sites provided her with crucial information about her topic, such as what kind of services are being provided, the space and number of individuals the center treats, what kind of ethno-psychological care they provide, as well as the kind of training these centers provide to both their clinicians and those at other hospitals. Since these two centers were part of a larger mental healthcare network in France, she was interested in whether the types of services they provide were uniform and which methods of treatment were the most effective. She believed that these environments were essential in facilitating conversations among professionals, since it created a space for academics to exchange ideas and present new information.

MARCH

Economics BA Research on the Effectiveness of Social Choice Mechanism

Philip Liang, an Economics major, conducted an experiment to investigate the effectiveness of a social choice mechanism as part of his senior thesis. He compensated experimental participants for their time and rewarded them for good performance. In each experimental round, he randomly generated the reward offered to participants if their side won. Participants collectively selected an option and the participants whose favored option was selected received the reward. In the first 10 rounds, participants decided the option by majority voting. In the next 10 rounds, he employed his experimental mechanism, which meant that each participant received 10 influences. Participants purchased votes with influence, with the cost being quadratic in the number of votes purchased. The side with the most votes won and the remaining influence was reserved saved for the next rounds. By testing this mechanism, he determined whether it could help people make collective decisions in an efficient manner without the need for monetary transfers.

Theatrical Experience Project on the Adaptation of the Greek Myth Andromeda

Daniele Wieder, a Theater and Performance Studies major, developed a major theatrical adaptation of the Greek myth Andromeda, which explored the protagonist's relationship to her own body as she underwent a life-altering trauma. The group was able to purchase props needed for the show, allowing for more authentic performances. While many elements seemed to dwarf the actor body, they ultimately supported the performances, adding to the emotional stakes rather than imposing on them. Some objects also changed in significance depending on how each actor handled them. Some items used included doll bodies, mirror sizes, scissors, and more. Even the objects that were not directly involved in the narrative helped show the audience the character's relationship to the world and how the actor engaged in practices of attachment. Daniele's work helped answer several questions she posed in the beginning such as, "How can we talk about changing relationships to our bodies?" and "How do we talk about ourselves as objects?" Since people can only experience this transformation and the best way to dramatize it seems to mean that both protagonist and audience should undergo it, Daniele believes that her work engages intimately with the theoretical writing on objects and bodies-as-objects. Overall, her work successfully engaged voyeurism in order to challenge the representation and reception of bodies, and how the body and the objects it encounters serve or refuse to serve as loci of meaning.



Startup Fest Showcase of Student-run Ventures

Enkhmend Gereltogtokh, an Economics and Environmental Studies major, worked with a group of students to organize the Startup Fest, a huge showcase of promising student-run ventures on Bartlett Quad. It was organized in collaboration with other entrepreneurship-focused RSOs, namely EnvisionDo and Edge—two organizations based in the belief that in building resolve, initiative, resourcefulness, and other soft skills, entrepreneurship fosters academic and professional success. Booths were set up for each venture so they could distribute tickets to students who stopped by to learn about their services, downloaded an app, or completed a marketing survey. The fest inspired the student body to become more involved with entrepreneurial endeavors on campus since they could apply the critical inquiry developed in class to individual interests. After the event, attendees left with a greater appreciation of entrepreneurship that encouraged them to get involved with existing ventures or begin new ones. Moreover, participating ventures were able to cultivate a larger student consumer base and to share their experiences with other RSOs.

Stop Telling Women to Smile Public Art Campaign

Sarah Zeichner, a Geophysical Sciences major, invited to campus Tatyana Fazlalizadeh, an oil-painter and illustrator based in Brooklyn, to facilitate conversations related to campus sexual assault and sexual misconduct. Because Tatyana created an art series that was inspired by women's experiences with harassment, Sarah wanted her to spearhead a "Stop Telling Women to Smile" public art campaign in campus spaces. Since these portraits were posted in public spaces, it allowed women to speak directly to offenders in spaces they have previously felt marginalized. During Tatyana's time at the University, there were several events such as a female-specific workshop, lecture, open-gender-identity-expression workshop, study break, volunteer breakfast, and wheat pasting in Washington Park. Because of Tatyana's visit, there were many art installations on campus that fueled conversations around gender-based street harassment and empowered women who felt sexualized and marginalized in public spaces. The artistic works ultimately served as a step towards building a truly inclusive "public" space.

Research Presentation at the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU) and the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH)

Elizabeth Frank, a HIPS and Biology, presented her Global Health research alongside Joyce Lu at the Clinton Global Initiative University and Consortium of Universities for Global Health. Both students were selected to present at both conferences research projects they'd conducted over the summer. At CUGH, Elizabeth presented her research on Household Air Pollution from her time in Ibadan, Nigeria. Her research was chosen from several hundred abstracts and she received valuable feedback on her work after her presentation. By listening to other presentations, she became more informed about her thesis and learned how people were taking abstract human rights concepts and applying them towards practical work. Moreover, the UChicago Center for Global Health gained major recognition through her presentation, along with the attendance of a few other student researchers. Through networking with important leaders in global health, she was invited by the Center for Disease Control to help indoctrinate UChicago in an initiative called the Consortium of Universities doing research in Guatemala. Through this program, UChicago has become more connected to research opportunities in Latin America and Guatemala. After having this experience, they both feel more prepared academically and professionally. They hope to create more potential openings for future students to pursue global health research. In particular, Elizabeth will be starting her own global social enterprise in Guatemala and working for an international NGO in India.



Econometrics Game

Naoko Takeda is a member of Oeconomica, an economics research RSO that works to provide opportunities on campus for young economists to challenge each other to grow outside of the classroom. They hosted the Econometrics Game, an all-day case competition, that engaged participating teams in groups of four. Groups were given a prompt at the start of the day and given 12 hours to analyze the data, answer the prompt, and write a comprehensive paper. Three teams with the best papers were then selected to present their findings in front of a panel of judges. Because of their success in hosting students from universities all over the Chicagoland area, they hope to turn the Econometrics Game into an annual event or a tradition of the Economics Department so that it sets the stage for young economists to gather at UChicago in the future for many intellectually stimulating competitions.

ITASA's Annual Midwest Conference at Northwestern University

Vincent Shieh is a member of the Intercollegiate Taiwanese American Students Association (ITASA), a national non-profit organization that connects, inspires, and empowers the Taiwanese American student community. Not only did they fundraise for disaster reliefs in Asian countries, they also engaged in mentorship and philanthropy with the Taiwanese professional alumni network. Although the group was founded on campus in 2015, they have garnered 100+ members and hosted 20+ successful events. To expand the discussion of Asian identity from on-campus to include off-campus organizations, they sent their current executive board to ITASA's annual Midwest Conference held at Northwestern University. This meeting offered a wide variety of workshops led by prominent Asian Americans professional in the Chicagoland area and talks that addressed leadership, culture, and identity. Thus, it was extremely important for them to dedicate a full week to engage in this discussion with students of similar heritage. In addition, this conference offered an opportunity for the members of UChicago ITASA to connect and foster stronger relations with Taiwanese interest groups on other campuses. This experience allowed them to learn and discuss different strategies to be an effective student group. In addition, they learned to arrange many up-coming collaborations for philanthropy and guest speaker events that could improve the Taiwanese identity in the Chicagoland area.

Anthropological Research in New York City's Flushing Neighborhood

Ryan Chiew, an Anthropology major in the college, produced an ethnographic documentary film on New York City's predominantly Chinese neighborhood, Flushing. He recorded and documented the experiences of immigrant workers living in crowded, pricey, and daunting urban landscapes. His main interlocutors were restaurant workers and recent immigrants, Xiao Zhangwen and Wei Meimi. Through this documentary, he explored spoken histories, cultural lineages, and the neighborhood's rich heritage. He repeatedly sought to answer the following questions in hopes of delineating a clear answer, "How do new Chinese immigrants in Flushing form meaningful networks?" and "To what extent do they face existing barriers: linguistic, cultural and financial, and how do they overcome these barriers?" To create the film, he conducted several interviews with workers at the Chinese restaurant White Bear, and with the staff at the Chinese Community Center of Flushing. He selected two sites with discriminatory United States Chinese immigrant policies in mind, since it evoked a history wrought with racist policies like the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Overall, he had a great experience working to develop this ethnographic documentary and gained lots of knowledge about Chinese immigrant life.



Research on Museum and Curation Practices in Mexico

Julia Epplin-Zapf, an International Studies and Political Science major, traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico to collect information about museum and curation best practices. In Oaxaca, she had a great time exploring new art institutions and museum spaces. Some of her favorite exhibits included a natural cloth exhibit at the Textile Museum, both of the courtyard exhibits at MACO, and shadowbox or jewelry box exhibit at Manuel Alvarez Bravo Photography. She discovered five main considerations about institutionalized art and museum settings such as accessibility, appreciation of the struggles of Mexico, spaces of nature, simple exhibit designs, and notable architecture. She found that the museums of Oaxaca were much more accessible than most museums in Chicago since they were pedestrian friendly and close to buses. Moreover, museum curators did not shy away from representing indigenous struggles and were thoughtful of exhibiting works by indigenous artists. All of the museums she visited had a courtyard, pond, or plants, which added to the positive atmosphere. When she was in the exhibits, there were no lengthy placards or explanations, allowing visitors and patrons to interpret the works on their own. Finally, every museum was built with lots of bright white walls and windows to allow natural light inside, which opened the spaces up and gave off a refreshing feeling.

The Think Tank's (TTT) BRAINIACS at the USA Science and Engineering Festival

Daren Bedian, Emily Garcia, Nikolai Maximay, Monica Kieff, and Sumer Vaid are members of The Think Tank (TTT), UChicago's mobile neuroscience lab and education station, designed to accelerate diverse participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Recently, the BRAINIACS (TTT's team of undergraduate science educators) were given the opportunity to represent the College at the nation's largest science-fair, the USA Science and Engineering Festival. Since there is an underrepresentation of women and minority groups in the science and engineering workforce, The Think Tank has worked to close this achievement gap by bringing informal science education to where it is needed most. At the STEM fair, the group showcased motivational ideas and demonstrations they have developed on campus, such as the Ford-powered mobile science lab. This was a great opportunity for The Think Tank to engage with large audiences in their demonstrations on neuroplasticity and inspire the nation's youth to improve on their academic performances. This event was crucial in the development of the students' academic, professional, and social lives since it allowed them to form professional connections with some of the brightest scientific minds in the nation. These connections would help spread word about their initiative and link them to potentially game-changing opportunities that could magnify the extent of their work to a national level. Not only did networking with important figures in society lead to the development of more events on campus, it also allowed them to receive helpful feedback that would help streamline their projects. After presenting and communicating the nuances of scientific knowledge, they have greatly improved their social abilities as aspiring scientists.

TEDxUChicago's Annual Conference

Buding Qu, an Economics major, is a member of TEDxUChicago. Each year, TEDxUChicago hosts its annual conference *Performance Group and Reception*. TEDxUChicago strives to re-create the unique experience found at TED, where the world's leaders, thinkers, and doers congregate to share what they are most passionate about. The group hosted the 6th annual, full-day TEDxUChicago conference at the Logan Center, and brought about 500 attendees to share ideas, debate, and collaborate. At the



conference, there was a reception session for speakers and attendees to have one-on-one conversations, allowing for stronger interactions and building connections. In addition to student performers, they also hosted a performance from Visceral Dance Chicago, a contemporary dance group with roots in Chicago's performing arts scene and dedicated to bold and progressive movements. Because of the fantastic artistic performance component in the conference, it made the event more intellectually diverse, attracted students from a variety of interests, and greatly enriched the overall experience of all attendees.

Le Vorriss and Vox Circus

Michael Reid is a member of Le Vorriss and Vox, an RSO that provides members of the community with the opportunity to experience, learn, and develop in the world of circus arts. Through collaborative efforts, members of the circus train to develop skills and produce shows to showcase the work of everyone involved. Some acts include unicycling, stilt-walking, globe-walking, and using the rolla-bolla. The circus strives to foster a sense of community and to provide a safe space for people to explore their physicality and develop pride in themselves and their personal growths. Due to the expansion of the organization, the group extended their practices further by attempting more equilibristic or balancing acts. After purchasing a Cyr wheel and utilizing it for their spring show and for general use in their circus, they were able to engage the campus community through new and outstanding performances. A Cyr wheel is a large piece of circus equipment, typically made of aluminum, and balanced in a particular way. The purpose of the apparatus is to stand inside and to spin around in it. With this new equipment, the circus group was able to enchant the audience with several incredible and beautiful circus acts. With the success of their shows, they have drawn more attention to the circus, increased the number of members, and received more requests to perform for outside organizations. They are also holding workshops to teach the public and members to use the apparatus.

Undergraduate Philosophy Conference in Pacific University

Gareth Walsh, a Philosophy major, attended an undergraduate philosophy conference in Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. He was invited to present his paper, "Susan Wolf and the Possibility of Local Societal Insanity," which was followed by a commentary and discussion session. During the discussion, he received feedback from undergraduates around the world, as well as faculty members of Pacific University. He also chaired a panel discussion on "Blame and Responsibility," and provided commentary to three other papers submitted by undergraduates from Northwestern University and Western Washington University. The critique from philosophers and undergraduate philosophy students outside of UChicago was extremely helpful for his thesis as he plans to further develop his academic work in practical and ethical philosophy. In philosophy, different departments are known for espousing distinctive angles on philosophical topics; as such it was essential to receive diverse perspectives on his work at the conference.

Senior Thesis Show

Alison Titus, a Visual Art and Public Policy major, and a group of DOVA seniors, installed five storage PODs in the Logan Center Courtyard for their senior thesis show. The five units created a row of exhibition spaces and functioned as a space for the group of five to display culminating works from their time in the undergrad program. The PODs were outfitted with handicap ramps and electricity. Their goal was to solve the gallery space problem and create a collaborative piece that engaged



undergraduate student artists, the wider University Arts community, and the South Side community. They also created a distribution center in one of the PODs to serve as a place for community members and other students to meet, stage events, or receive free food and art objects. By using food as a mode of interaction, the group was able to lay a foundation for exchanges and conversations about larger topics. They hope the PODs space will continue to be used by students in the future to form collaborations with each other.

International Emory Global Health Case Competition

Karen Yang, a Biology major, participated in the International Emory Global Health Case Competition with five other students. The group successfully expanded their professional network with other undergraduates, graduate students, and professionals from across the nation, as they discussed global health issues at the Emory University campus in Atlanta, GA. The case prompt was to develop a plan that would allow the Indian government to begin tackling the problem of obstetric fistula in the northern region of the country. After working on the prompt for a week, they presented their proposals in front of a panel of experienced judges. It was a difficult task because it challenged them to navigate the complex and multi-tiered Indian healthcare system, address a culturally sensitive health issue with respect, and operate under a theoretical budget and timeline. Through this process of intense research, they gained a lot of knowledge about global health and how multi-sector partnerships come about. Overall, it was a very inspiring and informative experience for them because they received valuable feedback from mentors and judges at the event, helping them improve their proposal and effectively contribute to global health work. Moreover, they were able to make valuable connections with seasoned global health professionals since keynote speakers came to provide insight about their time at the CDC and their projects abroad. Another important takeaway for the team was seeing how Emory organized such a big event and how they grew to an international scale in 8 years. As organizers of community health and global health case competitions on campus, this opportunity provided them with new insight as to how they could improve their events and possibly scale up to engage more students on campus, in the city, and in the community.

Chicago Society Conference on Space: Speculation and Exploration

Andrew Fry organized Chicago Society's conference *Space: Speculation and Exploration*. Experts from around the world were invited to discuss the scientific, economic, political, and cultural aspects of space and the development of space travel. This event was a day-long conference that sought to explore space from multiple perspectives and provide a broad analysis of the impact it has had on society and culture. It featured a keynote address; three panels on the science, politics, business, and fiction of space; and thirteen presentations on topics as varied as the tracking and studying solar eclipses, the importance of using space-related technology for national security purposes, and the development of science fiction as both a reflection and predictor of cultural and scientific progression. Overall, the conference was a great success for the organization, as it featured well over 100 attendees and fully engaged the audience.

University Theater Production of the West Side Story

Itzel Blancas, a Theater and Performance Studies and Comparative Literature double major, directed the production of the *West Side Story*, produced by University Theater. She was particularly interested in the representation of Latinx bodies in American theater and literature. She studied the process of adaptation—how works are adapted across different mediums and across different social and cultural



contexts, and the effects that adaptations can have on the audience. Because the *West Side Story* is a loose adaptation of Shakespeare's classic *Romeo and Juliet* and includes aspects from both fields of study, directing this musical provided her with an enhanced and unique lens to study the work beyond a traditional analysis of the text. After noticing the theater community was lacking in diversity, she became intent on encouraging other artists of color to become engaged. They were able to utilize OrchExtra to produce the musical at the University. The score was beautifully intricate and smartly captured the struggle between the two gangs. The experience was very valuable and provided insight into the kind of literary and theatrical study she plans to pursue at the graduate school level and professionally.

International Congress of Infant Studies

Yeo Choi, an Economics and Psychology double major, was invited to present her project, "Thinking about others' thoughts: Can neural activity in infancy predict development of theory of mind?" at the International Congress of Infant Studies (ICIS). By attending this conference, she was inspired to build upon her experience and work towards a future career goal of researching infants at risk of autism. ICIS, a not-for-profit professional organization devoted to the promotion of research on the development of infants, hosts biennial conferences for researchers to congregate and discuss the latest research and theory in infant development. YB's older brother is autistic and she has always wondered what makes him different from her biologically and psychologically. She is committed to autism research and wants to improve current diagnostic methods and provide therapies for families of autistic individuals. She plans to obtain a clinical or developmental psychology PhD and become a professor at a top research university in the future and develop a program that improves the treatment and diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Because of ICIS, she experienced first-hand presenting psychological research for an audience of professional psychologists and the opportunity to learn from their experiences.

Uncommon Hacks Program

Kwaku Ofori-Atta is a member of the Uncommon Hacks team that provides students with the opportunity to test out the most interesting and creative ideas they can envision. During this program, students had the opportunity to meet, network, and be mentored by technology industry professionals and academics in the space of software and technology. Students worked on developing software products and designing business applications. After developing a product and a pitch, they presented to a panel of judges who provided helpful feedback. Because of the Hackathon, students were able to produce many new and fascinating ideas and products, some of which led to collaborative efforts after the event. Overall, they were able to offer students in the College opportunities to advance their chosen academic and professional goals, as these undertakings serve as important sources of innovation and learning for the University's campus culture.

APRIL

Literary Certificate Program in Publishing

Willa Zhang, an English Literature major, was accepted to a 3-day intensive literary certificate program in publishing at Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts. She gained many skills and contacts that would help her pursue a career in publishing post-graduation. Her interest in publishing stems from



her pursuit of a degree in English Literature, her summer internships at small, independent publishers, and her campus involvement with UChicago's oldest literary journal RSO, Euphony. She was always interested in stories and was especially fascinated by the deployment of plot, characters that could be brought to life in a sentence, and the beautiful written language. At the event, she received insight into the literary journal climate, the process of acquiring and editing work, and how to market, publicize, and distribute the journal effectively. The program taught her concrete skills in publication that could be applied towards future projects and gave her an opportunity to network within the publishing field. Because this program brought together college students from around the nation and industry professionals, it was essential for her to hear from a diverse set of experiences and gain resources to expand her professional network. After learning important information about the field, she brought her knowledge back to the Euphony community and the greater UChicago community so they could attract a wider range of authors and submissions and retain a reputation as a high quality literary publication. This experience also helped her identify areas of growth for the journal and methods for improving the size of readership. She will continue to inspire others to pursue liberal arts degrees and post-graduation careers in publishing.

15th Annual Carroll Round Economics Research Conference in Washington, DC

Querida Qui, an Economics and Statistics double major, was invited to present her Economics Honor Thesis at the 15th Annual Carroll Rounds Economics Research Conference in Washington DC, as one of 30 selected undergraduate participants. During the conference, she participated in a wide range of activities, including presentation sessions, receptions with conference alumni from the past 15 years, dinners featuring keynote speakers, web conferences, field trips, social gatherings, and more. She also networked with peers from other prestigious universities around the U.S. and Europe. She had the chance to hear from prominent scholars and policy-makers in economics and finance, including Dr. Eugene Fama and Dr. Daniel Kaufmann. Her research and presentation were given the Outstanding Paper Award at the conclusion of the four-day conference. Overall, she found the conference incredibly valuable in expanding her professional network in the economics research field, and in acquiring new insights of the frontier research work. She was proud to represent UChicago at the conference and to gain recognition for the quality of research done by the university's undergraduates.

Presentation at the Stanford Research Conference

Eva Kinnebrew, an Environmental Studies major, was invited to present her research at the Stanford Research Conference. Her research involved sustainable management of threatened grassland ecosystems through techniques like cattle-grazing and mowing. The conference was interdisciplinary and brought together students from all around the nation. On the first day of the conference, she listened to a lecture by a Stanford economist, Dr. Mark Duggan, who studied medical insurance policies in the U.S. She was impressed by his specialization in the field and ability to change his career path so successfully. Later that day, she attended a workshop on design and innovation, where she crafted a wallet for her partner through interviews, brainstorming, preliminary model creation, consumer testing, and product revisions. On the second day, she attended numerous talks by Stanford students such as Madeline Lisasius, who studied a tribe in Ecuador that had run into problems due to bushmeat-hunting. She found this talk particularly memorable because she was interested in working in Central America and with indigenous peoples. On the last day, there were two poster sessions for people to ask questions about her poster. Eva found this experience very valuable because she had



the opportunity to interact with several students who had similar projects. By forming connections with them, she gained many recommendations on which universities and labs she should consider for her graduate education. She found the conference very enriching, having received great feedback on her research and gained important knowledge about others' research.

BA Research on Environmental Security in Tbilisi, Georgia

Madeline McCann traveled to Tbilisi, Georgia to work on her BA research in the field of Environmental Security, as well as complete a second year of Russian language classes with professors from Harvard University. She became interested in Russian and East European studies and environmental conservation work after reading Mikhail Lermontov's work *A Hero of Our Time*. She was fascinated by the radically new environmental peace-building efforts that were starting in Caucasus. These efforts took advantage of shared spaces and resources and used conservation efforts to create dialogues between communities trapped in conflicts from the Soviet era policies. She chose to attend the Harvard Summer Program in Tbilisi because it was a historically fascinating city and a hub for intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations focused on trans-boundary water cooperation efforts in the Southern Caucasus. The program included modules on the Russian language, history, politics, culture, film, and literature in the Caucasus. This opportunity was very meaningful for her because it allowed her to explore the Caucasus, speak with top professors in Russian and East European Studies, and obtain the language skills necessary to better utilize the Russian language sources in Tbilisi and at UChicago.

University of California at Berkeley's Eighth Annual Undergraduate Sociological Research Symposium

Julianna St. Onge, a Sociology major, presented the findings of her thesis on the familial causes of childhood mental health at the University of California at Berkeley's Eighth Annual Undergraduate Sociological Research Symposium. As an aspiring researcher, interested in reducing inequity in youth health outcomes, this was an invaluable opportunity for her academic, professional, and social experience. Participation in this conference helped strengthen the quality and nuance of her thesis and her professional presentation since peer researchers from across the country were able to give her real-time feedback. They not only commented on the quality of the presentation itself (clarity, impact, and appeal to the public), but also asked intriguing questions about the content. Finally, she was extremely eager to meet and connect with like-minded sociological peers who might be future co-authors and professional colleagues. The symposium allowed her to further participate in other stages of the formal research process—peer review and conference presentations—at the undergraduate level in preparation for a career in research.

Genehackers at the International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition (iGEM)

Yen Ji is a member of Genehackers, a synthetic biology research RSO. One of their goals was to share the exciting field of synthetic biology with the public through educational programming and guest speaker events. Their second goal was to further develop their own skills as principled scientists through journal clubs, discussions surrounding science and ethics, and the design of independent research. The final goal was a culmination of yearlong activities in a final research project that would be presented at the iGEM, an annual synthetic biology competition in which undergraduate students tackle issues of human interest by designing and implementing genetically engineered biological



systems. The project was to run the eukaryotic yeast cell cycle on a 24-hour circadian rhythm, as the ability to regulate the eukaryotic cell cycle on a day-night system would have significant implications for the treatment of abnormalities in the human circadian rhythm. Other projects ranged from bacteria that cleared pollutants from industrial waste sites, to bracelets that detected dangerous levels of UV radiation from the sun. The iGEM participants were both scientists and global citizens who had conducted rigorous, ethical, and socially impactful projects. The competition not only generated a wealth of knowledge and innovation that contributed to the wider scientific community, it also provided a space for students from around the world to engage in thoughtful and responsible scientific dialogue.

Mock Trial Team at the National Championship Tournament in Greenville, South Carolina

Tayryn Edwards is a member of the Mock Trial Team. The organization sent two teams to compete at the National Championship Tournament in Greenville, South Carolina. Not only were they one of six schools that qualified two teams, UChicago won seven individual awards at the qualifying level, the most individual commendations earned by any program in the nation. The two teams spent a month building case theories, developing witnesses, and crafting arguments for their case, State vs. Sinclair, a murder set at a fictitious university. The teams then flew to South Carolina for eight rounds of competition. The UChicago “B” team placed 11th in the Larry D. Estridge Division. With a winning record of 10.5 wins, the young team earned the highest Nationals record of any UChicago team in history. “A” team member Arielle Mourrain also earned the All-American witness award, which was the most prestigious commendation a witness could receive from the American Mock Trial Association. Not only was Greenville the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and memories for the graduating seniors, it also provided the younger members with a memorable experience at Nationals, helping them grow into better teammates and leaders.

Presentation at the Stanford Undergraduate Research Conference

Amelia Dmowska, an English major, presented her published paper at the Stanford Undergraduate Research Conference in Stanford, California. Her paper was based on research conducted during her time as a research assistant for Dr. Michael Msall in the Department of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. Over the three days, she met many students from across the country and learned about the different kinds of research projects they were completing. She also took part in a challenge to propose a solution to a major problem in academic research with a team of different students from around the country, and later presented the solution in front of a team of judges. On the first day, she attended a number of different lectures, including ones given by Professors Mark Duggan and Matt Kanan. Moreover, she attended interactive workshops on conducting academic research and learned about the undergraduate program for students interested in space at Stanford. On the second day, she worked on the academic research challenge with students from various universities. They chose to focus on the academic research hierarchy and different ways to get lower-income students engaged in research, especially if their university could not offer them funding or stipends for their work. Lastly, she attended a number of different plenary presentations by fellow students, and attended a distinguished speakers panel featuring Nobel Prize winner Professor Osheroff, Professor Berg, and Professor Schwarts. On the last day, she presented her poster in front of her fellow colleagues and a number of judges. She then attended a closing ceremony, with remarks from Professor Jenn Dionne, where she received an Honorable Mention for her poster presentation.



Explore Islam Week

Abdurrahman Muhammad is a member of the Muslim Students Association (MSA). MSA hosted an Explore Islam Week and Syrian Refugee Benefit dinner, with individual talks and discussions held each day of the week. The goal was to raise awareness of the plight of Syrian Refugees around the world. The benefit dinner was held for victims of the Nepal earthquake. As speakers, the group invited Suzanne Sahloul, executive director of the Syrian Community Network, which aids in easing the resettlement of Syrian refugees, and Ifrah Magan of the Zakat Foundation. This experience was very enriching for the youth of Hyde Park, families, and students at the University as they listened to Suzanne explain her organization's work for the refugees. They ended up raising \$1127.61 for the Zakat Foundation to assist in its noble efforts to alleviate the Syrian refugee crisis.

Berkeley's Eighth Annual Sociological Research Symposium

Ana Gonzalez, a Sociology and Latin American and Caribbean Studies major, attended Berkeley's Eighth Annual Sociological Research Symposium, *Mechanisms of Power: Examining Tools of Social Change in the New Millennium*, and presented her senior thesis research. The opening ceremony keynote speaker, Dr. Daniel Schneider, presented a talk on big-box scheduling practices and their effects on the family. Following the presentation, the symposium's first session was the "Axes of Stratification: Bridging International Education and Reproductive Justice," where she presented her honors thesis research, "The President's Son and the Coach's Son: Effects of Elite Preferences on Educational Stratification in Mexico City's West," and addressed West Mexico City's rigidly defined school pathways which were sustained through the conflation of educational quality and socio-economic status, as well as self-consecrating admissions policies. Graduate student evaluators provided feedback and attendees asked many thoughtful questions at the end of the presentation. Having these reactions made her more motivated to make edits and finalize her thesis. In addition, she attended numerous presentations throughout the day that sparked engaging discussions and gained exposure to different aspects of sociology. Attending the symposium helped her practice her public speaking skills and familiarize herself with Berkeley's Sociology Department, in preparation for future graduate school. It also provided her with an opportunity to connect with scholars who were interested in shifting economies of power. In conclusion, Ana gained invaluable exposure by venturing out of UChicago's Sociology Department and learning how other institutions approach social inquiry. She applied what she had learned at the event about approaches to equity-oriented pedagogy to inform her arts programming work at the Chicago Cultural Center and on-campus with the Stop Telling Women to Smile: Artist-in-Residency campaign.

Theorizing the Web: Fundamentals Studies Conference on Digital Theory

Austin Brown, a Fundamentals: Issues and Texts major, was accepted to a semi-academic conference called Theorizing the Web. This conference focused on questions of "web theory," of identity and communication, and of how the Internet affects these topics. The conference was sponsored by alternative literary publication *The New Inquiry* and social media platform *Snapchat*, and took place at the Museum of the Moving Image, in Queens, New York. Austin and his friend were approved to be moderators at this conference and in charge of a panel called "Get Real," which focused on authenticity, selfhood, and belonging online, especially within the context of social media in and out-groups. As a fundamentals major, most of his classwork focused on parsing the question of authentic human connection both online and offline, and the expression of a true "self." By interacting with and moderating panelists with research in various areas such as creating an online "image," exclusivity



on chat rooms, “fake geek girls,” and general social media authenticity, he was able to increase his understanding on these topics and use them to frame his ongoing investigation on the question of belonging. Generally, this was a great opportunity for him to expand the reach of the University headfirst into the burgeoning field of web theory.

“3Dysphoria” Abstract Digital Music Video

Zachary Augustine created an original computer-generated music video that was presented at the Logan Cabaret, FOTA Springfest, Hallowed Grounds, and across campus. During the Springfest, Zach and co-collaborator Zakir presented their work, discussed the creative process, and met new artists. They worked together to create an atmospheric video with 3D animation using computer programs Octane Render, X-Particles, and TurbulenceFD. In their video, they included spinning spheres, atomic structures, organic materials, collisions, and dynamic motions. This was also a great opportunity for them to further develop their sound design and animation skills. Because of the new software, they were able to produce a high-quality video in a short amount of time. The time it took to render thousands of frames was cut down drastically because X-Particles and TurbulenceFD provided speed-ups in their integration with Octane, simulation potential, and optimization for complex geometry and lighting. Due to his numerous collaborations with other artists, Zachary was able to create a visual dialogue between the technical and artistic communities.

MAY

UCIJAM Rome Art Program

Peyton Walker, a Visual Arts and Art History major, attended the Rome Art Program. Interested in pursuing a career in the art world (artist, art historian, journalist, businesswoman, or arts programs administration), she wanted to integrate her creative inclination and skills with a more practical application of her knowledge and rearing in art. As such, she found herself drawn to the program as it emphasized promoting a “deeper knowledge” of an individual’s “artistic journey” and offered a variety of inspirational modes that encouraged artists to become intellectually engaged with their crafts. This opportunity was essential to enhancing her art practice since she was able to travel to Rome for four weeks to paint and draw at various locations throughout the city, including ruins, churches, Renaissance palaces, museums, streets, and gardens. The program included guided tours and lectures presented by prominent art historians in the city and renowned artists. Through this training experience, Peyton gained the classical skills of art-making and became more determined in her artistic journey.

Internship at Boston University’s Phonetics, Acquisition, and Multilingualism Lab

Darby Douros, a Linguistics major, conducted a research assistantship at Boston University’s Phonetics, Acquisition, and Multilingualism Lab, overseen by Dr. Charles Chang. She worked on the classification of certain speech sounds in Korean and performed acoustic analysis on a corpus of samples of normal speech and “clear speech” to determine what features of the sounds were emphasized in clear speech. The results of this analysis indicated how speakers mentally categorized sounds, which was an important contribution to the linguistic classification of these controversial sounds. This opportunity gave her valuable experience in the field, as it was a chance to further explore her interest in phonetics and phonology. Because of this experience, she found inspiration for her BA thesis and gained a better understanding of the work of linguistic research in a lab.



History BA Research on the Gay Museum at Berlin

Alex Jarman, a History and Political Science major, studies East German gay activist groups in the 1970s and 1980s. He explored how East Germany's stance on queer issues evolved over the period of the Berlin Wall. Specifically, he investigated the "easternization" of East German gay activism. His BA sought to determine whether East German gay activism was able to create its own identity in the 1980s or if it was still linked to West German activism. After visiting the Gay Museum's archive and looking through its large collection of primary sources, he was able to obtain important information on his research's main subjects, such as the work of Rudolf Klimmer, an endocrinologist whose work was critical for the decriminalization of homosexuality in East Germany in 1968. Visiting the Gay Museum allowed him to further deepen his understanding of the actual work of a historian by exposing him to archives outside of the Special Collections in the Regenstein Library.

Marine Ecotourism Industry Research in New Zealand and Australia

Lisa Bonsignore-Opp, an Environmental Studies major and pre-medical student, traveled to New Zealand and Australia to study two examples of marine ecotourism industries in high developed first world countries. Growing up in California, she was raised to love the environment and support all efforts to preserve it. When she was sixteen years old, she spent a summer volunteering in Senegal with the local Peace Corps office and worked to develop a sustainable, efficient, and environmentally-friendly farm. Because of that experience, she became determined to help communities and worked to protect the Earth's fragile resources. She chose New Zealand and Australia because they were both highly developed, first world countries with stable and responsible marine ecotourism industries. Upon her return, she developed an ecotourism website as a forum for her articles, research, and photography. The website highlighted the effects of marine ecotourism on both marine ecosystems like coral reefs, as well as on the oceanfront towns, communities, and cultures. After graduation, she hopes to return to the Peace Corps for a full two-year service in the Philippines as part of their marine conservation team and help them advertise sustainable ecotourism. By learning about successful examples of marine ecotourism, she felt more prepared to join the Peace Corps and educate communities in developing countries about how preservation of environmental resources could be economically and socially beneficial. Creating an ecotourism industry in a country like the Philippines would encourage development of sound environmental policies and responsible use of resources, while also creating jobs and stimulating the economy.

Documentary Chronicling the History of Police Misconduct and Abuse in Chicago

Emma Harmon, a History and Philosophy double major, filmed and produced a documentary chronicling the history of police misconduct and abuse in Chicago. Using a combination of oral histories, archival work, contemporary interviews, statistical research, and taking the accountability of authority to be an integral component of a functioning democratic society, this project questioned the ways in which officer impunity impacts police-community relations in the city of Chicago, as well as implications for society writ large.

Internship at the University of Göttingen to Research International Particle Physics

Raymond Han, a Physics major, joined an international particle physics research group at the University of Göttingen. The group consisted of scientists from Canada, South Africa, and



Switzerland. He benefited greatly from the exposure to a variety of scientific perspectives and ideas. During his time there, he participated in the data analysis of new high-energy particle collision data taken from the ATLAS particle detector experiment located at the CERN (the Large Hadron Collider) in Geneva. He wanted to better understand the top quark, the heaviest elementary particle of the Standard Model of Physics. His primary task was to characterize the processes associated with the production of top quark pairs. The completion of his work enabled scientists to more accurately identify possible observations of the elusive Higgs boson production process. This was an amazing opportunity for him to gain exposure to a rapidly evolving field. Moreover, he was able to use a data analysis framework called ROOT that allowed him to gain technical skills that would be indispensable for future work in particle physics. Having day-to-day access to the scientists working directly on experiments such as ATLAS helped him form many friendships and connections that would prove invaluable to him as a graduate student and future researcher. Upon returning to the University, he shared his experiences with peers, physicists, and South Side high school students who also aspire to be scientists. He plans to present the results of his research at the UCISTEM Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium as well as CAURS (the Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium).

Menstruation Matters Initiative

Menstruation Matters is an RSO on campus that wishes to begin a conversation about periods to help reduce the shame around this normal occurrence. It is also committed to addressing the stigma surrounding menstruation and the inadequate supplies in Chicago women's homeless shelters. Aixin Chen administered a two-day campaign on campus which consisted of many activities. One day involved a concert that featured multiple women's a capella and chorus groups. It also doubled as a menstruation sanitary supply campaign to support women's homeless shelters. The second day featured a panel for students and community members to learn and discuss period stigma. Because of this event, the group was able to open up a dialogue and educational conversation about reducing gender injustice and ending the luxury tax on tampons. In the end, this campaign created general awareness around the issue of a negative stigma around women's health and promoted a more positive environment on campus.

Development of a Free-Design 3D Printer

Joseph Lothan, a Computer Science major, built a 3D printer from designs freely available online. RepRap (replicating rapid prototype) was a community project that defined itself as "humanity's first general-purpose self-replicating manufacturing machine" and its goal was to make 3D-printers that could print themselves. The RepRap printer Joseph built was the Rostock Max v2. It was an uncommon delta-style design that allowed for high print speeds and positional accuracy. It was called Max because its build volume was one of the largest of any desktop 3D printer. It also contained a heated build plate to prevent print warping caused by a hot plastic cooling unevenly on a cold build plate. Through the process of building this 3D printer, Joseph had the opportunity to learn about every aspect of a 3D printer, from large design decisions to small details. It allowed him to participate in the free-design hardware community. Because of his extensive documentation of the creation, calibration, and use of the machine, anyone at the University can use the machine and have access to its designs. He plans to debut the product during O-Week so he can demonstrate and promote the new 3D printer to students and encourage incoming first years to request designs for printing. Finally, he will host a 3D printing party at the Hack Arts Lab (HAL) so students who are interested in digital fabrication can congregate and receive their prints.



Ecology and Evolution in the Southwest: Field School

Destiny Reeves, majoring in both the Geophysical Sciences and Ecology and Evolution, participated in the Desert Ecology Field School, a three-week long trip that extended across the entirety of the American southwest. At the School, she applied the knowledge gained during spring quarter and developed independent projects that involved data collection and evaluation. She also learned many necessary skills that would be helpful for doing field work after graduation such as pitching tents, trapping animals, enduring temperature stresses, and more. She plans to share her experiences with other students at the University so they can better understand what field work is like and be encouraged to pursue similar opportunities. She hopes her field supplies (sleeping bags and hiking shoes) can be beneficial for other students to use in the future.

Ethnographic, Journalistic, and Archival BA Research on Feminist Body Politics

Delana Tavakol, an International Studies and Romance Languages & Literatures double major, traveled to Paris, France to conduct ethnographic, journalistic, and archival research on feminist body politics, as they interact and react to islamophobia, given the rapid increase of Muslim migrants seeking refuge alongside terrorist attacks committed by the Islamic State. Delana hopes to provide insight into the humanitarianism of a liberal, secular nation as it responds to a non-secular crisis.

Presentation of Research on the Development and Social Worlds of Infants at the International Congress on Infant Studies

Lyzzy Joyce, a Comparative Human Development major, presented her original research on the development and social worlds of 18-month-old infants at the International Congress on Infant Studies (ICIS). Her focus on children developed when she began working as a research assistant in Dr. Amanda Woodward's developmental psychology lab. She worked closely with post-doctoral and graduate students on a project that compared the experiences and responses of 18-month old Yucatec Mayan and American children. With the help of Laura Shneidman, a former post-doc in Dr. Woodward's lab, she was able to access data from 18-month old Yucatec Mayan infants in the form of video taped experimental trials and naturalistic home visits. Lyzzy further contributed to the data collection by videotaping naturalistic data and running the lab-based condition in Chicago. After spending hundreds of hours coding and analyzing the videotapes of children's natural social environments in Chicago and the Mayan village, she was invited to present her poster, titled *Child-Directed Interactions and the Effects on Object-Action Learning: An observational study of US and Mayan Children*, at the ICIS in New Orleans, Louisiana. At the conference, prominent researchers in the field of developmental psychology came to discuss the latest trends and findings. This conference served as a culmination of her current research and was a stepping-point for her career. She was recently admitted into the School of Social Service Administration's Master's of Social Work Program, where she plans to focus her post-baccalaureate education on improving the lives of children in the city of Chicago through evidence-based intervention. This conference allowed her the opportunity to get a glimpse into the world of research of children's well-being and cognition, while simultaneously introducing herself to that world.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Education & Research Center (NEREC) Summer Fellows Program in South Korea

Ellen Swicord, a Political Science and East Asian Languages and Civilizations double major, was accepted to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Education & Research Center (NEREC) Summer Fellows



Program. NEREC, a think tank founded by the South Korean government, focuses mainly on issues of nuclear peace and nonproliferation. She spent several weeks in South Korea, where she was taught by professors from the Korean National Diplomatic Academy and KAIST (a public Korean university), and participated in the NEREC think tank. Through the program, she learned about the South Korea government balance of national security interests with the hope for future reconciliation with North Korea. Having taken classes in the field of political science, she understood how nuclear weapons and the concept of “mutual assured destruction” have reshaped the security dilemma and ways in which nations view their own national security. Thus, the NEREC program was an invaluable opportunity for her to learn about these issues from people who deal with them on a daily basis. She also learned how the South Korean government views its relationship with the U.S. government. This experience not only furthered her own professional goal of working for the U.S. State Department, it was also an amazing opportunity for her to network with Korean government officials and to learn more about South Korean views on nonproliferation with North Korea.

Experimental and Musical Short Film

Edward Brooks, a Computer Science major, produced the experimental and musical short film, “Simulathon.” The project drew from ’90s video yearbooks, adapting sequences from them into musical vignettes. It was written, directed, produced, and composed by University of Chicago students, ranging from first through fourth years. The short film was presented at the Fire Escape Film’s Spring quarter premiere and was submitted to competitive film festivals such as the Toronto International Film Festival and Onion City Film Festival. The piece followed a high school girl who decided to document her day at school and thematically explored two key philosophical notions with regards to characters in art: characters can never be human, as they are defined by a finite set of tropes and live within a finite number of frames, and humans can never acknowledge another being as human even if they are virtually identical, as humans identify “humanity” through an unconscious, vague, and yet precise criterion. All music and choreography was original, co-composed by Kyle Bojanek and Piper Hill, drawing heavy inspiration from concrete music paired with melodic vocals. This film was a strong learning opportunity for first years as they got a chance to work with more experienced members and benefited from the experimental framework of the piece. The film was the product of a rare collaboration between different talents and groups on campus such as Fire Escape, programmers, UChicago Cheer, a capella singers, classical musicians, experimental musicians, and members of dance groups. Overall, “Simulathon” created a unique precedence within Fire Escape and art at UChicago for future generations interested in either musical or experimental films.

Chemistry Honors Thesis Research Presentation at the 2016 Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment (ACE) Science Team Meeting

Hannah Kenagy, a Chemistry major, presented and discussed the results of her honors thesis research at the 2016 Atmospheric Chemistry Experiment (ACE) Science Team Meeting in Waterloo, Ontario. She developed an interest in atmospheric chemistry early on and worked in the laboratory of the Moyer Group in the Department of Geophysical Sciences at UChicago. As part of a core group research, she built a spectrometer for use in a flight campaign, and tested and improved a calibration system. Later on, she worked on an independent project that formed the core of her Chemistry honors thesis: using spectroscopic data from a satellite instrument to gain insight into the stratospheric hydrogen isotope budget. Her work involved reconsidering results first published in *Nature* in 2003 by using new measurements from the satellite-borne Canadian ACE solar occultation spectrometer; the new findings showed that the earlier work was over-simplified. This was a valuable experience for



her, as she had the opportunity to diagnose the chemical implications of her surprising results. She met many ACE scientists, with whom she discussed the tests she conducted to check for instrument systematics, and diagnostics of the chemistry of different methane oxidation regimes that her results suggested. Receiving their input was invaluable for her to complete analysis on her project and prepare it for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Her post-graduation plans include a PhD program in atmospheric chemistry at UC Berkeley. After attending the science team meeting, she felt a lot more prepared for the remainder of her career development in science. Not only did she learn how to strengthen the results of her analysis, she also learned how to present scientific results and build relationships with the wider atmospheric chemistry community.

