Although Joyce Newman’s parents never went to college, they encouraged her to do so. “School, reading, learning were early passions in my life,” she says. Born and raised in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Newman, PhD’55, enjoyed chemistry in high school. After earning a bachelor’s in chemistry at Cornell, she continued her biochemistry education at UChicago, where an uncle was a resident in psychiatry. At the University she met her late husband, Melvin Newman, SB’42, MD’44, a surgical resident. They both appreciated the University’s attitude of academic honesty, comradeship in investigation, and opportunities for exploring wide-ranging interests. “I felt like it was just the atmosphere I had always wanted to study in,” Joyce says. By the time she earned her doctorate, the two were married and had two children.

“Following the pattern for women in those times, I moved according to my husband’s career, to New York then Denver,” where she worked part time researching lung chemistry at the University of Colorado Medical Center and later taught science courses at the University of Colorado’s downtown center. Newman became active in the UChicago Alumni Association, particularly in planning programs—picking up speakers at the airport, serving them dinner, and driving them to the program site. She also began to sculpt, a profession she’s practiced for more than 40 years. “I work only in clay and have created some monumental sized works as well as small ones.”

Melvin’s career was influenced by teachers like UChicago’s first surgery chair, Dallas Phemister, who invented a type of bone graft, and William Adams, one of Phemister’s students. Melvin taught and did clinical work at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center at
Anthony Hirschel has worked at academic art museums at Yale University, the University of Virginia, and Emory University. The Dana Feitler director of the Smart Museum of Art since 2005, Hirschel trained as an art historian of the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance. Before joining the Smart Museum, he was director and CEO of the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

How has the Smart worked to engage visitors in recent years?
One of the most effective ways the Smart is able to reach new audiences is through collaboration and cross promotion. Collaboration is part of the Smart’s DNA; it is built into nearly everything we do.

For example, our current exhibition, Performing Images, on view through June 15, was the inspiration behind a wider festival of art and culture on campus called Envisioning China. By joining with the Logan Arts Center, the Film Studies Center, University of Chicago Presents, and Court Theatre, we’re able to build thematic connections that enhance the art and ideas on view while at the same time introducing film buffs, classical music aficionados, and theatergoers to an exhibition that they may not have otherwise known about.

How is the Smart responding to changing demographics in the United States?
The Smart has the dual fortune of being a part of a diverse urban community and being located on a campus full of passionate, inquisitive younger adults. And the museum is free and open to all. So we’re on solid footing to think about and engage with these issues.

We are already piloting projects that take a new approach. One initiative, known as CoCre8, developed in partnership with Arts + Public Life and Urban Gateways, rejects traditional top-down learning to bring Chicago Public Schools students, local artists, and teachers together to look at, talk about, and respond to art. Another partnership provides training to graduates of the Odyssey Project—a free year-
long course in the humanities offered by the University for adults at or below the poverty level—to be Smart docents and lead tours of the museum.

What current or recent exhibits exemplify how the Smart is looking toward the future of museum experiences?
Over the last few years, the Smart has started to bring more technology into exhibitions, in particular, iPads with short documentary videos and interviews with artists. In an exhibition like The Sahmat Collective, which had to do with contemporary art in India, the videos provided political and social context that would have been difficult to address in a label or handout.

We’re also using the museum’s 40th anniversary as a catalyst to rethink our approach to education, interpretation, and engagement. We will be collaborating with architects, artists, community partners, and experts in the field to create experimental museum experiences and come together to debate this very question: what is the function and future of museums?

How does the Smart engage with members and visitors through events and social media?
The Smart offers a number of programs that cater to different types of visitors: family days, after-hours parties and study halls for College students, interactive social hours for grad students and the creative community, and so forth. These events are more informal and social and are designed to spark conversations and exchange.

We want people to have a great experience when they visit the Smart—one that they want to share with their friends, coworkers, and family, through social media or in person. The Smart is engaging with its audiences via Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, but we aren’t steering people to respond to art in a predetermined way or throwing up restrictions on taking photos in the galleries. If they like, visitors can tweet their way through an exhibition or share photos of their favorite artworks. But just as importantly, if one wants to look and reflect and talk, then one can do that as well.

What would the average reader be surprised to know about the Smart?
The “Smart” in our name isn’t a nod to the University’s intellectual prowess. It’s a family name. The museum is named after David and Alfred Smart, brothers who founded Esquire in the 1930s in Chicago.

What current or recent exhibits exemplify how the Smart is looking toward the future of museum experiences?

The Sahmat Collective


What does the Smart Museum lack that perhaps a generous donor could help procure? Where are the greatest funding needs?
The Smart employs more than 90 College and graduate students from the University of Chicago each year. The students play an essential role in the day-to-day life of the museum, working alongside the professional staff to lead tours for schoolchildren, do research into the collection, make visitors feel welcome, and assist with a host of administrative duties. In these roles, students gain valuable experience and develop an understanding of professional museum practices. Smart alumni now work at major museums in Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and elsewhere.

The majority of funding for the student staff comes from the Smart’s annual operating budget. A gift in support of student employment would help support the Smart in its efforts to shape the next generation of arts leaders, educators, advocates, innovators, and patrons.

POSTPONE RETIREMENT DECISIONS WITH A FLEXIBLE GIFT ANNUITY

If you would like to plan for retirement but are unsure of when you might retire, a flexible deferred gift annuity might be an option. You can fund an annuity today but defer income payments until a future date when your income tax bracket may be lower. While a standard deferred gift annuity requires you to choose a date to begin receiving payments, a flexible deferred gift annuity allows you to postpone deciding when those payments will begin and instead choose a range of years. The longer you choose to delay the payments, the higher the payout rate.

The table above shows sample rates and payments based on a $20,000 gift annuity funded in 2014 by a 50-year-old donor who chose a ten-year range beginning at age 65. The charitable deduction is based on the earliest date of that range. Regardless of how you choose to structure your gift annuity payments, your gift will ultimately benefit the University in an area of your choosing. For a personalized illustration, contact the Office of Gift Planning at 866.241.9802 or giftplan@uchicago.edu. Please note that gift annuities are not available in some states.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN FUND A GIFT ANNUITY, VISIT GIFTPLANNING.UCHICAGO.EDU.
At age 14, Barbra Goering, AB’74, JD’77, couldn’t wait to get out of her suburban Washington, DC, high school. “I started studying college catalogs at the public library, and when I read the University of Chicago’s, I knew I’d found my place. Of course, I had to wait until I was a senior to apply.” She discovered that her father had started his graduate school education in human development at UChicago before moving to Maryland. He was “very enthusiastic” about her application, she recalls.

Forty-plus years after her University education, Goering, senior vice president at Miami Corporation, a private investment company, recognizes that the University has defined her adult life—as an individual, as a professional, as a parent. The institution, she says, “is really the major influence for me and my husband”—Jim Murray, MBA’74. Married at Bond Chapel and remaining in Hyde Park long after graduating, they watched their two daughters attend the Lab Schools from kindergarten through high school. While Goering and Murray now live in the Loop, their older daughter and husband live in Hyde Park with their young daughter. Goering served for several years on the College visiting Committee and is the Class of 1974 correspondent for the alumni magazine.

Goering already makes annual gifts to the University, but she wanted to do something more substantial for the College, where she studied history and “found myself intellectually,” she says. “It just opened so many doors in my mind. I remember every class as a source of energy. The more I read, the more I learned, the more I wanted to learn.” She recalls professors Sidney Hyman, AB’36, AM’38, Meyer Isenberg, AB’35, PhD’40, and Emile Karafiol, JD’79, her bachelor’s essay adviser, as major influences.

Impressed with recent College initiatives such as the Jeff Metcalf Internships, Odyssey Scholarships, and undergraduate opportunities at the Logan Arts Center, she says, “the College just gets better and better, and I wanted to be part of that.” So she named the College as a beneficiary of her IRA. “My wealth is principally my retirement assets, so that’s where I thought it would make sense to designate the College as a beneficiary.”

Beyond the intellectual stimulation she found at the College, Goering also believes it opened up her life socially. As a College senior, she followed a tip from friends and studied in the Regenstein’s A level, with the business and economics students. It worked: that’s where she met Murray. “I know the College has a longtime reputation as a place that isn’t fun. But I found so many kindred spirits there—I was finally with ‘my kind.’” She saw a similar experience in recent students while on the College visiting Committee. “The students were so accomplished, so eager, so very ready to be launched. I wanted to be sure others had the wonderful experience I did.”

She sees her IRA gift as a way to benefit the University long term while setting an example of generosity for her family. It delivers funds after her death without getting taxed because the University is a nonprofit. Goering, who has a background in estate planning, encourages others to use the University’s Office of Gift Planning as a resource. She’s proud to give to UChicago. “The University is deeply ingrained in our lives and, in a wild world of half-truths and spin, it stands for the spirit of true inquiry and intellectual integrity.”
The Office of Gift Planning would like to recognize the following individuals who made significant contributions to the University through planned gifts. Their legacies of generosity and commitment to academic excellence will live on through the programs they supported.

**Michael Conant, AM’46, PhD’49, JD’51**, named the University as a beneficiary of his IRA, with the proceeds to support the University’s general educational and charitable purposes.

**Ilse Friend**, widow of Robert Friend, JD’31, established and endowed the Ilse and Robert Friend Memorial Fund through a bequest for the Law School library.

**Alan Garber, LAB’42, PhB’47**, left a bequest to support the medical and biological sciences.

**Richard Henry Jr., AB’36**, left a bequest to benefit both the University of Chicago Medicine and the general educational and charitable purposes of the University.

**Reinhard Oehme**, professor emeritus in physics, established and endowed the Mafalda and Reinhard Oehme Research Fellowship Fund at the Enrico Fermi Institute by designating the University as the beneficiary of his retirement plans.

**Joseph Rosenstein, AB’39, AM’41, PhD’50**, left a bequest to the University for its unrestricted use.

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*“We look forward to growing our capacity to bring discoveries to the public.”*  
— Alan Thomas

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**A NEW AGE OF INNOVATION**

In February the *Chicago Innovation Exchange (CIE)*, hub for multidisciplinary collaborations and support for start-up activities, opened its first facility in Harper Court, one of three CIE spaces along 53rd Street. Together, the spaces will incubate five to ten new companies a year and furnish coworking space, gathering places, and meeting rooms to accommodate 350 people. The CIE brings together the University’s research and resource strengths to drive innovation, applying scientific discoveries to generate scalable solutions to societal problems.

The CIE and its partners, UChicago Tech and the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, all contribute to the CIE’s Innovation Fund, which this year awarded $275,000 for proof-of-concept work and business development for three faculty research projects and one UChicago spin-off venture. Launched in 2010, the Innovation Fund has awarded nearly $1.8 million to 25 University projects. This past October the University announced plans to increase the fund to $20 million to support faculty and student commercialization efforts.

“The fund addresses the critical bottleneck facing early-stage technologies on the path to commercialization,” says Alan Thomas, MBA’91, associate vice president and director of UChicago Tech, a specialized resource for intellectual property development. “With the expansion of the fund under CIE, we look forward to growing our capacity to bring discoveries to the public.”

The CIE also selected a group of UChicago College and graduate students to serve as associates to help screen, research, and support future Innovation Fund projects. “The Innovation Fund and the new associates program, among other activities, will help us expand our network of innovators across the University,” says John Flavin, executive director of the CIE.

To learn more about CIE and how you can support the Innovation Fund, contact Jason Pariso at 773.702.9062 or visit innovation.uchicago.edu.

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*The future of the University depends on thoughtful gifts from you.*

UChicago is grateful to alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who provide support for its programs, students, and faculty through planned gifts.
Donors who support the University through an estate commitment or life-income arrangement become lifetime members of the Phoenix Society. Members receive a welcome package, invitations to special University events, and recognition in an honor roll of contributors (unless anonymity is requested).

Phoenix Society Luncheon
Friday, November 7 | Noon–2 p.m.

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