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FEATURED EVENTS

The SAHMAT Collective: Art and Activism in India since 1989

Thursday / February 14
All day

Smart Museum of Art

<http://event.uchicago.edu/maincampus/>

Judaism, Medicine, and the Formation of Clinicians

September 10 — 11
9:00 AM — 12:00 PM

Swift Hall, Third Floor Lecture Room

<http://event.uchicago.edu/maincampus/>



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Bertram Cohler, psychologist and esteemed teacher, 1938-2012

By **William Harms**

Tuesday, May 15, 2012



Prof. Bertram Cohler

Bertram Cohler, a UChicago psychologist and celebrated teacher who was an expert on family life and transitions, died May 9. Cohler, 73, was the William Rainey Harper Professor in the College.

Cohler's primary appointment was in Comparative Human Development, with joint appointments held in Psychology, Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience, and the College. He was a mainstay of the Self, Culture and Society Core sequence, which he co-chaired for many years, and he also previously served as a Resident Head in the housing system.

He sustained an interest in clinical psychology throughout his career. He played a major role in the intellectual life of the Chicago psychoanalytic community and trained several generations of clinical PhD students.

"Bert Cohler was the embodiment of intellectual seriousness and love of assumption-questioning discourse that typifies the University of Chicago. I have long thought that the color of his blood must be maroon," said Richard Shweder, the William Claude Reavis Distinguished Service Professor in Comparative Human Development.

He twice won the University's top prize for College teaching, the [Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching](#), first in 1975 and [again in 1999](#).

In 2006 he won the Norman Maclean Faculty Award from the UChicago Alumni Association for outstanding contributions to teaching and student life on campus.

The essence of good teaching begins with respect for students, he said in an interview with the *University of Chicago Chronicle* in 1999. "I learn a tremendous amount from what the students say in class, and I want them to know I consider that important," he said.

As a professor, he normally taught more classes than were required, as well as evening and summer courses through the University's Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies.

"Bert's love of students and teaching combined with an almost fanatical zeal to do his part in ensuring that the University fulfilled its responsibility to teach. He often said he was merely carrying out the ideals of his beloved University of Chicago, but it is clear, in the end, that Bert himself was a beacon of these ideals," said Michael Kaufman, a doctoral student in human development.

Cohler's research interests included life-story and response to adversity and stigma. He taught a course, "Sexual Identity and the Life Course of Gay and Lesbian Lives," which looked at the social contexts of gays and lesbians at various points in their lives, from childhood to old age.

The course was inspired by a book Cohler co-authored with Robert Galatzer-Levy, clinical professor of psychiatry at UChicago, *The Course of Gay and Lesbian Lives: Social and Psychoanalytic Perspectives*, published in 2000.

"Bert never separated his professional and personal life. His love and respect for people led him to use tools ranging from empirical research to deep examination of his own struggles to explore how individuals, in all sorts of contexts, 'search after meaning' across the course of life," said Galatzer-Levy.

"Bert leaves behind not only a massive scholarly accomplishment but also an ideal of compassionate comprehension in the study of human lives," he added.

Cohler was part of the University community much of his life. He attended the Sonia Shankman Orthogenic

School and University High School and continued his work at the College, where he received an AB in human development in 1961.

He received a PhD from Harvard University in 1967 from the department of social relations, where he deepened his interest in psychoanalysis as a means of understanding life course development.

“He was an erudite clinical psychologist trained in the interdisciplinary spirit of the Department of Social Relations at Harvard, where anthropologists, sociologists and psychologists were members of the same department,” said Shweder.

UChicago’s Department of Comparative Human Development carries on the tradition “in a large measure because of intellectuals such as Bert Cohler,” he added.

He came to Chicago in 1969 to become director of the Orthogenic School at the request of its legendary leader Bruno Bettelheim, who was retiring. In Chicago he resumed his psychoanalytic studies, completing psychoanalytic training at the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis, where he later became a prominent faculty member.

He joined the UChicago faculty in 1972 and was the principal investigator in a continuing study funded by the National Institute on Aging, concerning relations among young adults, their parents and grandparents in a Midwestern community.

He was co-editor of *Mentally Ill Mothers and Their Children* (1975).

His work led to a new understanding of the roles between parents and children brought on by aging, which can lead to an imbalance in mothers’ and daughters’ social ties, he pointed out.

“The older mother is increasingly preoccupied with the psychological consequences of her own aging at just the time her daughter is expressing the desire for increased contact and additional assistance in performing the roles of housewife and mother,” Cohler wrote in *Mothers, Grandmothers and Daughters* (1981), a book he co-authored.

He continued his publications on lifetime and transitions and was the author and editor of a number

of important scholarly works, including the *Essential Other*, which he co-wrote with Galatzer-Levy (1993). He was a co-editor of the *Handbook of Clinical Research and Practice*, also published in 1993.

After his wife, Ann, died in 1989, Cohler entered a new phase in his life as a gay man. His research moved to include issues of homosexual identity, and he wrote a number of articles on the issues confronting young gay people as well as aging gays.

Cohler put into practice what he studied and took leadership roles in fighting homophobia on campus and bringing psychological care to underserved populations. He held several leadership roles including the Presidency of the American Orthopsychiatric Association. Throughout his life he remained an active clinician, often working with troubled adolescents.

In his final years he also worked extensively studying the life narratives of Holocaust survivors.

He is survived by sons, Jonathan and James; granddaughters, Emma and Kate; grandson, Logan; and his partner, Bill Hensley.

A memorial service will take place in Rockefeller Memorial Chapel on June 4.

Original article can be viewed at:
news.uchicago.edu/node/120217

Scholars, scientists explore cosmos and culture at Adler Planetarium event

By **Greg Borzo**

Tuesday, May 15, 2012



Adler Planetarium's high-tech Grainger Sky Theater served as the backdrop for the April 18 "Cosmos and Culture" event, which included UChicago and Argonne scientists and other experts.

Photo by Lloyd DeGrane

Anthropologist George Murdock once conducted a cross-cultural survey of more than a thousand societies, which revealed a list of "cultural universals"—things that are found in every society. In addition to brewing alcoholic beverages, body adornment and sexual taboos, the list included a creation story, or an explanation of where we came from.

In other words, a cosmology.

Those are the same universals addressed by cultural activities, such as art, music, literature and poetry, said Edward "Rocky" Kolb, the Arthur Holly Compton Distinguished Service Professor in Astronomy & Astrophysics. "Cultural activities do not make people good or bad; they are simply a beacon in whose light good and evil are illuminated in stark contrast. Cosmology is a beacon as well, and we need all the light we can get."

Kolb's words set the stage for "Cosmos and Culture" — the fifth in a series of Joint Speaker events for UChicago faculty and scientists, researchers and engineers from Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. Kolb moderated the April 18 event, which the Office of the Vice President for Research and for National Laboratories sponsored.

The Adler Planetarium's high-tech Grainger Sky Theater, which allows spectacular visualizations and simulations of cosmic events, attracted a record crowd of attendees for the panel discussion.

To the uninitiated, the cosmos can seem pretty daunting, from the big bang to cosmic rays. Yet on another level, the celestial order differs greatly from the confusion and chaos so common on Earth, the panelists said. Cyclical patterns observed in the cosmos have long provided most cultures with stability, comfort and "assurance of a transcendent, heavenly realm above and beyond the mundane," said Paul Knappenberger Jr., president of Adler.

Nevertheless, there is a gap between cosmos and culture as well as hostility between science and society, the panelists agreed. They devoted much of their discussion to ways of bridging this "gulf of mutual incomprehension."

"I want my students to love science as much as I do," said Angela Olinto, professor of astronomy and astrophysics at UChicago. One way she engages her students is an astro-art treasure hunt, in which she asks them to find a piece of art that is connected to astronomy and astrophysics. One student selected *The Fall of Icarus* by Henri Matisse and turned around the legend of Icarus.

"Instead of flying too close to the sun as a way to disobey his father, this student's Icarus flies towards the sun because he wants to know the answers to such questions as, 'Where do we come from?' and 'What are we doing here?'" Olinto said.

Popular culture: portal to the cosmos

David Schmitz, a particle physicist and fellow at Fermilab, cited several popular movies that could get people interested in cosmology, even though the films are usually hokey and full of inaccuracies. In *Angels & Demons*, physicists working at the Large Hadron Collider in Cern, Switzerland wear long, white lab coats and "create more anti-matter in 90 seconds than Fermi has created in 25 years," Schmitz said. In 2012, neutrinos are cast as Hollywood villains that destroy the Earth.

"Even though depictions of science and scientists don't always match with reality, we can still use popular culture as an opportunity to connect with the public about real science," Schmitz said.

Other panelists noted that popular movies depicting aliens and humans in outer space explore our deepest desires (order, peace, salvation, etc.) and fears (destruction and annihilation), which should open up discussion of these topics.

Knappenberger acknowledged that few people wake up in the morning wondering about the universe. “Nevertheless, enough people have a keen interest in some aspect of the universe that they bring their family and friends to museums and planetariums, where contemporary tools offer inspiring, contemporary views of the cosmos.”

Salman Habib, senior physicist and computational scientist at Argonne, said that physicists are not good at explaining what they do. “We have to do a better job telling our story. It’s very useful that scientists now have to do this because today, outreach is a part of most grants.”

All the panelists lamented the preponderance of misinformation about cosmology and the public’s lack of scientific knowledge. Kolb cited a website claiming that the LHC would create a black hole that would swallow Earth. He also cited interviews of Ivy League students and faculty who thought that the earth’s seasons are caused by an erratic orbit around the sun rather than by the tilt of the earth. Nevertheless, such misinformation offers openings to educating the public.

“You have to know your audiences’ misconceptions in order to address them,” Knappenberger said. “You need to start where they are.”

In the end, all the panelists found reason for optimism, saying that scientific knowledge is more robust than ever, and cosmology is more accessible than ever.

Recently the San Francisco Symphony performed “Magnetar,” a concerto by Enrico Chapela that was inspired by magnetars, a type of neutron star, Olinto said. “The fact that magnetars inspired a symphonic piece and that that composition was played at the top level of music is evidence that the cosmos continues to play a role in culture.”

Original article can be viewed at:
news.uchicago.edu/node/120450

Harris School, Economics graduate students organize conference on early childhood

By **Sarah Galer**

Monday, May 14, 2012



Professor Heckman, a Nobel Prize-winning economist, whose groundbreaking early childhood development research and teaching served as an inspiration and guide for the conference, chats with the Chicago Initiative on Development and Early Childhood founders and PhD students (clockwise) Pietro Biroli, Pedro Bernal, Guadalupe Bedoya, Elise Chor, Maria Fernanda Rosales, Javaeria Qureshi, Arianna Zanolini and Ana Sofia Lince.

Photo by Jean Lachat

On April 20 and 21, leading thinkers on early childhood development gathered at the University of Chicago to discuss a wide range of current research and its global implications, a culmination of two years of work by a group of driven UChicago graduate students.

An inspiration for the event’s content came from a yearlong series of workshops led by Nobel laureate [James Heckman](#), who has pioneered the economic study of issues in early childhood development. Those discussions led the students to assemble a program that broke new ground in the field, Heckman said.

“The work on less-developed countries and the work on developed countries was laid side-by-side and we discussed for the first time what the relative priorities should be for different strategies for human development,” said Heckman, the Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor in the [Department of Economics](#), the [College](#), and the [Harris School of Public Policy Studies](#), and director of the [Center for Social Program Evaluation](#).

“It was rewarding for me to help guide the students’ study of this complex subject and then to see them make a real contribution,” Heckman said.

The conference, "[Investing in Early Childhood: A Global Perspective on the Interplay Between Family and Interventions](#)," began as an informal exchange of ideas among eight graduate students from the Chicago Harris and the Department of Economics interested in early childhood development in developing countries, said Arianna Zanolini, a PhD student at Chicago Harris.

"There is obviously a lot of research on early childhood development going on at Chicago Harris and in economics, but there wasn't really anyone focusing on developing countries," said Zanolini. "We found ourselves having a lot of informal exchanges about the topic over coffee or after a workshop and decided to capitalize on our common interests in a more formal way."

Their first step was to create the [Chicago Initiative for Economic Development and Early Childhood](#) in 2010, which includes affiliated scholars and students interested in the topic, with a mission to build bridges among leading scholars and policymakers on state-of-the-art early childhood research for developing countries. The students and others attended the initiative's workshops led by Heckman, hosting guest speakers to present their research.

"In those discussions, we realized the best thing to do was to bring all of these people and perspectives together so we could have a joint conversation about what we know, what we understand, and what we need to do going forward," said Chicago Harris PhD student Javaeria Qureshi.

The students planned a comprehensive conference to focus on ways to integrate the role of the family in child development with the role of early childhood intervention through public policy to improve the well being of children around the world.

"The conference showed how economics, biology, epidemiology, and other approaches could be synthesized in a way that was brand new for a lot of people in the room," said Heckman.

The conference also hosted lively policy discussions on what should be the role of Early Childhood Policies and how they should look. According to Zanolini and Qureshi, most of the speakers agreed that when it comes to early childhood development between the ages of 0-3 years old, parenting is much more key

than any influence outside the home. And although policymakers have identified that particular age range as a key developmental period, they have found that intervening with center-based programs such as daycare in that very early age range is not effective if it does not involve the family. Yet, parenting programs are in the early stages of development and there is still a lot of uncertainty related to their effectiveness.

"While parenting seems to matter a lot more than out-of-home levers, the catch is that we as policymakers don't have a lot of influence on what happens in the home and we have the greatest control over out-of-home factors," said Qureshi.

Speakers at the conference included Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, a developmental psychologist at Columbia University specializing in policy research on family and community influences on childhood development; Paul Gertler, a professor at University of California, Berkeley, and former chief economist at the World Bank Human Development Network, who pioneered impact evaluations of social programs in developing countries; and Norbert Schady, an economist at the Inter-American Development Bank who works on early childhood development programs in Latin America. The conference also included a range of academics and policy makers involved in early childhood research and implementation.

"The students really cast a wide net in terms of who they wanted to include in the program," said [Chicago Harris professor Ariel Kalil](#), whose [Center for Human Potential and Public Policy](#) helped organize the Chicago Initiative for Economic Development and Early Childhood conference.

"It was really driven very much by their ideas. There was a lot of energy and enthusiasm. It is such a great example for other PhD students of the sort of things that are possible at the Harris School and at the University of Chicago."

Funding for the conference was provided by the Center for Human Potential and Public Policy, the Economics Research Center, the [Population Research Center at the National Opinion Research Center](#) (NORC), The JB & MK Pritzker Family Foundation and the [Robert T. Michael Research Prize](#) at the University of Chicago. The Chicago Initiative for Economic Development and Early Childhood group includes PhD students Pedro Bernal, Pietro Biroli, Elise Chor,

Ana Sofia Leon, Javaeria Qureshi, Maria Fernanda Rosales, and Arianna Zanolini.

Original article can be viewed at:
news.uchicago.edu/node/119601

Federalist Society honors Elder Dallin H. Oaks, JD'57

By **Sarah Galer**
Tuesday, May 15, 2012



"If you only do in the legal profession what you get paid for, you will miss some of your choicest opportunities," said Oaks, JD'57, who left legal practice to pursue more public service-oriented work.

Photo by Beth Rooney

"If you only do in the legal profession what you get paid for, you will miss some of your choicest opportunities," said Elder Dallin H. Oaks, JD'57, a distinguished Mormon leader, to a group of University of Chicago law students.

The students had gathered at the Law School on May 3 to present Oaks with the [Federalist Society's](#) 2012 Lee Lieberman Otis Award for Distinguished Service to honor his years of dedicated public service.

His turn toward a life of service came as a young associate in a Chicago law firm when he accepted a hopeless pro bono case defending an accused robber. While pro bono work is now part of law firm life, it was the first time his firm had ever allowed it.

"As I reflected on the satisfaction I had handling that case for that indigent Polish boy and compared it to the level of satisfaction I was experiencing

representing large corporations, it turned my thinking around on how I wanted to spend my life."

Since 1984, Oaks has served as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He also practiced law at Kirkland and Ellis in the late 1950s, was a professor and acting dean of the Law School in the turbulent 1960s, president of Brigham Young University from 1971 to 1980, and a justice of the Utah Supreme Court from 1980 to 1984.

"We chose Elder Oaks for this year's Otis Award because of his passion for principled service," said Dennis Ng, a 3L who is vice president of the UChicago Federalist Society. "He has played key roles throughout the public sector."

In accepting the Otis award, Oaks reminisced about his years at the Law School, from being a student paying \$55 a month to live in former army barracks near the Law School with his family, to his years on the faculty, including when he was asked to lead the 1969 faculty committee deciding the discipline of student protestors who had taken over the University administration building for 14 days.

While at the Law School, he taught classes such as criminal procedure, wills and trusts, estate and gift tax, and American legal history. His legal research focused on the criminal justice system.

"I've been so grateful that I went to a quality law school," said Oaks. "Under Edward Levi's leadership—he was a man I considered one of my fathers-in-the-law—the education in this law school was just not an education to practice law, it was an education to participate in the highest level of law-making and policy consideration, whether in the legal profession or not. It was a broad education."

He also spoke of his work as legal counsel to the Bill of Rights Committee of the Illinois Constitutional Convention in 1970; his friendship and respect for one-time Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork, AB'48 and JD'53; and his clerkship with Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren: "I adored him as a person and I had immense respect for him as a Chief Justice of the United States, but more often than not, I disagreed with his decisions."

The Otis award is named for Lee Lieberman Otis, JD'83, one of the founders of the Federalist Society, a 40,000 member-strong organization of lawyers, law students, and scholars established in 1982 by the UChicago, Harvard, and Yale law schools. The award recognizes alumni who have shown dedication to public service and a commitment to the ideals of the Federalist Society: individual liberty, traditional values, and the rule of law.

Oaks' achievements also inspired the [Dallin H. Oaks Society](#) at the Law School, whose mission is "to increase awareness within the Law School community of the presence, beliefs and concerns of law students

who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

This is the third year the Otis Award has been given. The first recipient, in 2010, was [James C. Ho](#), JD'99, former Solicitor General of Texas. The 2011 honoree was former U.S. Senator and Attorney General [John Ashcroft](#), JD'67.

Original article can be viewed at:
news.uchicago.edu/node/120474

NEWS DIGEST

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MAY 15, 2012

UChicago to webcast events from May 18-20 comics conference

UChicago will provide live webcasts for a number of events from “Comics: Philosophy & Practice,” a conference on May 18-20 that will bring together 17 world-renowned cartoonists to...

news.uchicago.edu/node/120269

MAY 11, 2012

Undocumented, young immigrants face obstacles, uncertain futures

Undocumented Latino youth who migrate to the United States face futures clouded by limited rights and the constant fear of deportation, according to a new report from the University of Chicago and...

news.uchicago.edu/node/119581

MAY 9, 2012

Larry Sjaastad, scholar of international economics, 1934-2012

Larry Sjaastad, professor emeritus of economics and a leading expert on trade in Latin America, died May 2. A resident of Hyde Park, he was 77. Sjaastad made fundamental contributions to economics...

news.uchicago.edu/node/118988

MAY 9, 2012

Expansion of human power spurs ‘Before Authority’ conference

What do we talk about when we talk about power? How do we balance the perils and possibilities of exercising power? An upcoming conference will tackle these questions and the complicated interactions...

news.uchicago.edu/node/118972

MAY 10, 2012

Special Collections exhibition on Haggadah will close with lecture May 13

The Haggadah, the text that gathers the prayers and stories recited at the Passover Seder, has a beloved place in Jewish tradition. While its basic themes have remained unchanged, the Haggadah (...)

news.uchicago.edu/node/118762

MAY 14, 2012

University to bestow honorary degrees on three distinguished scholars

The University of Chicago will present honorary degrees to an astronomer, a historian, and a biologist during the 511th Convocation Ceremony on Saturday, June 9 on the Main Quadrangle. The honorary...

news.uchicago.edu/node/118698

MAY 10, 2012

Stephen Raudenbush elected to National Academy of Sciences

Stephen W. Raudenbush, chair of the Committee on Education, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Raudenbush, the Lewis-Sebring Distinguished Service Professor in Sociology and the...

news.uchicago.edu/node/118700

MAY 10, 2012

Participants gearing up for Scav Hunt after record-setting year

Leah Rand won't be making any 3-D zoetropes this year, but she's still planning on exhaustion. Scav Hunt leaves no one untouched. "I'm always amazed that though I'm not...

news.uchicago.edu/node/118683

MAY 9, 2012

College alumnus Arley D. Cathey pledges \$17 million

As Harper Memorial Library approaches its centennial, the University of Chicago is celebrating another major milestone for the historic space: the creation of the Arley D. Cathey Learning Center. The...

news.uchicago.edu/node/118612