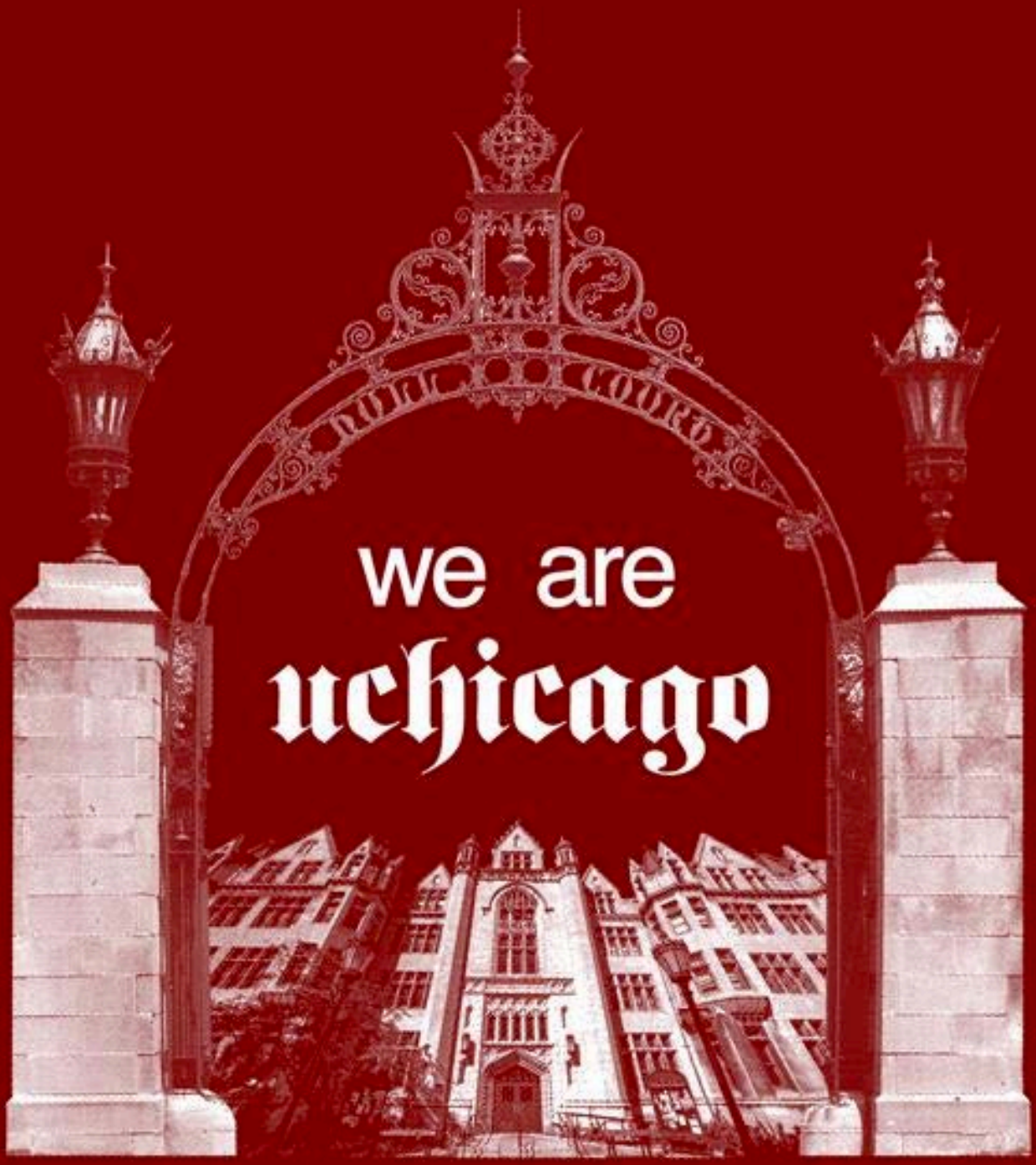

Family Weekend 2025

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025

WELCOME TO FAMILY WEEKEND

Event Check-In and Registration

10:00AM - 3:00PM, Cloister Club of Ida Noyes Hall

Please check in and pick up your registration materials. Continental breakfast will be provided.

MIDDAY PROGRAMMING

University of Chicago Bookstore

9:00AM - 5:30PM, 970 E 59th Street

Pick up your UChicago gear and browse books by University Faculty.

Self Guided Tours of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures

10:00AM - 4:00PM, 1155 E 58th Street

Families are welcome to visit the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (ISAC). The ISAC is a free entrance museum. Available on Saturday, November 8th at the same time.

Smart Museum of Art Open House

10:00AM - 4:00PM, 5500 S Greenwood Avenue

As the fine arts museum of the University of Chicago, the Smart is home to thought-provoking exhibitions. The Smart Museum is a free entrance museum. Available on Saturday, November 8th at the same time.

Neighborhood Exploration Bus Tours

Departs at 11:00AM, 12:30PM, 2:15PM, and 3:45PM, Woodlawn and 59th Street

Buses depart and return from the corner of Woodlawn Avenue and 59th Street. Step aboard a bus with the Chicago Detours, a tour company started by a UChicago alum, for a fascinating look at the history and architecture of campus and beyond. We'll journey through the neighborhoods of Hyde Park, Woodlawn, and Jackson Park Highlands, and discover exciting changes, including how the University is expanding its reach. Tours are 75 minutes long.

Ratner Athletics Center Open

11:00AM - 4:00PM, 5530 S Ellis Avenue

For family members who wish to use the athletic facilities, complimentary guest passes will be available. You will need to have your Family Weekend lanyard to show involvement and a liability waiver signed. Waivers are available in person at Ratner to sign.

Staying Connected: Life After UChicago Panel

11:00AM - 11:50AM, Max P Cinema of Ida Noyes Hall

Ever wondered what happens after graduation — and how UChicago helps you stay connected? Join staff from the Advancement team for an inside look at what it means to become part of UChicago's global alumni community. This will be a panel Q&A session.

Safety and Security Information Session

12:00PM - 12:50PM, 3rd Floor Theater of Ida Noyes Hall

Officers from the University of Chicago Police Department will share the police services available to you as well as other safety-related tips and best practices to keep students safe on campus.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025

MIDDAY PROGRAMMING CONTINUED

Dean of Students Panel

12:00PM - 12:50PM, Max Palevsky Cinema of Ida Noyes Hall

The Office of the Dean of Students in the College offers a wide range of resources aimed at helping students achieve their educational and personal goals. A panel of representatives from areas of support will share the approaches they use when working with students before opening for Q&A.

Career Advancement Information Session

1:00PM - 1:50PM, Max Palevsky Cinema of Ida Noyes Hall

Learn how the Career Advancement office can support your student's search for job and internship opportunities, as well as graduate and professional school programs.

Student Wellness at UChicago Information Session

1:00 PM - 1:50PM, 3rd Floor Theater of Ida Noyes Hall

Learn about the services we provide to support student health and wellness. This session will cover how to access medical health, mental health, and health promotion services.

Student Services Reception

1:30PM - 4:30PM, Library of Ida Noyes Hall

The Office of the Dean of Students invites you to join representatives from the College and the University who will be available to interact, answer questions, and mingle. Light refreshments will be provided.

Study Abroad Information Session

2:00 - 2:50PM, Max Palevsky Cinema of Ida Noyes Hall

Talk with a Study Abroad Program Manager and student alumni to learn about study abroad programs.

Model Classes

3:00PM - 5:15PM

Additional details and class schedule on back pages.

EVENING PROGRAMMING

UChicago Trivia with Dean Venticinque

Session 1 at 6:30PM, Session 2 at 8:00PM, Cloister Club of Ida Noyes

Celebrate Family Weekend with a night of UChicago fun! Join the Dean of Students for UChicago Trivia Night—a friendly competition testing your knowledge of the University's history, traditions, and quirky facts. Snacks will be provided.

Doc Films Presents "Thelma and Louise"

7:00 PM, Max Palevsky Cinema of Ida Noyes

Movie Description on Guidebook. General Admission is $7 at the door.

Doc Films Presents "Strangers on a Train"

9:30PM, Max Palevsky Cinema of Ida Noyes

Movie Description on Guidebook. General Admission is $7 at the door.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

MIDDAY PROGRAMMING

University of Chicago Bookstore

10:00AM - 4:00PM, 970 E 59th Street

Pick up your UChicago gear and browse books by University Faculty.

Crossword Puzzle Tournament, Hosted by The Chicago Maroon

10:00 AM - 12:00PM, Library of Ida Noyes Hall

Put your pencil to the test at the crossword tournament! Solve three increasingly challenging puzzles, support student journalism, and - if you do well enough - win prizes.

Model Classes

10:00AM - 12:15PM

Additional details and class schedule on back pages.

Homecoming Block Party

11:30AM - 2:30PM, 56th Street between S Ellis Avenue and University Avenue

Join us for food, music, student activities, and fall festivity for Maroons of all ages. Admission includes two food tickets, giveaways, and all Block Party activities. Students should bring their UChicago IDs.

Carillon Tower Tour

2:00PM - 3:00PM and 3:00PM - 4:00PM, Rockefeller Chapel

Visit the tower's mechanical room, see the bells up close, experience a demonstration of how the carillon is played, and enjoy the 360-degree view from the roof.

EVENING PROGRAMMING

River Boat Cruise

Cruise 1 at 5:00PM, Cruise 2 at 7:30PM, Address provided with registration

You must have a previous confirmed registration. Registrants received a confirmation email.

Comedy Show

Show 1 at 5:00PM, Show 2 at 7:30PM, Friedman Hall of David Rubenstein Forum

Join The Revival for a special Family Weekend comedy showcase featuring a handpicked lineup of Chicago's best touring comics! The show is first-come, first-served, seating is limited. Light refreshments will be provided.

Doc Films Presents "Hands/The Plow That Broke the Plains/People of the Cumberland"

5:00 PM, Max Palevsky Cinema of Ida Noyes

Movie Description on Guidebook. General Admission is $7 at the door.

Doc Films Presents "Fire of Wind"

7:00 PM, Max Palevsky Cinema of Ida Noyes

Movie Description on Guidebook. General Admission is $7 at the door.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

MORNING PROGRAMMING

Neighborhood Exploration Bus Tours

Departs at 9:00AM, 11:45AM, 12:30PM, and 1:15PM, Woodlawn and 59th Street

Buses depart and return from the corner of Woodlawn Avenue and 59th St. Step aboard a bus with the Chicago Detours, a tour company started by a UChicago alum, for a fascinating look at the history and architecture of campus and beyond. We'll journey through the neighborhoods of Hyde Park, Woodlawn, and Jackson Park Highlands, and discover exciting changes, including how the University is expanding its reach. Tours are 75 minutes long.

Dean's Brunch

10:00AM - 1:00PM, Ida Noyes Hall

Dean of the College, Melina Hale, hosts a brunch in honor of you, the University of Chicago's family members. Seating is available indoors on each level of the building.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

GENERAL FAMILY WEEKEND INFORMATION

ACCESSING THE FULL SCHEDULE

Search "UChicago Guides" in your app store or scan the QR code to download. Once open, search "Family Weekend 2025", download and open to save the guide to the app for easy access to the official schedule of events.

ACCESSING WI-FI

To connect to the wireless internet, select "uchicago-guest" from your list of available wireless networks and open your browser. The browser will redirect to the page "University of Chicago Wireless Access" with fields for CNet ID and Password. **Enter the following information:**
Username: college-programming@uchicago.edu
Password: ikpmw

PARKING

Parking is available on campus throughout Family Weekend in the Campus North Parking Garage, 5525 S Ellis Ave. Street parking is also available when permitted by law. There are many areas where street parking is free on campus. If the gate for the parking garage is down, please take a ticket. The gate will be lifted by 2:00 PM on Friday and will be open for the rest of the weekend.

Contact Information

Have questions about Family Weekend or family programming at UChicago? Contact College Programming and Orientation at collegefamily@uchicago.edu!

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD APP

MODEL CLASS SCHEDULE

Friday, November 7 - Block A (3:00PM - 4:00PM)

In Praise of Small Language Models and Their Applications to Biology, Medicine and Healthcare
Robert Grossman, Medicine and Computer Science
Large Language Models (LLMs) have been applied to a wide variety of problems in biology, medicine, and healthcare, including the analysis of clinical notes, electronic medical records, medical images, genomic data, biomedical literature, and potential drug targets. Both the advantages (new capabilities, improved performance, and greater efficiency) and disadvantages (hallucinations, lack of interpretability, potential bias, and data leakage) are by now well known. In this talk, we will provide an overview of the development and the current state-of-the-art of LLMs designed for biomedical research or clinical use. Although somewhat counter intuitive, for various reasons, LLM are limited by high quality data. We discuss the growing importance of small and midscale AI models built over high-quality data within an academic medical center, healthcare system, or other organization that addresses this problem and some of the implications for the field.

Data manipulation in R with dplyr
Sabrina Nardin, Master Program in Computational Social Sciences
This beginner-friendly class introduces the basics of data manipulation using the programming language R. Participants will learn how to use logical operators the dplyr package to explore and transform data efficiently.

Arabic Language & Culture; Novice Level
Osama abu-Eledam, Department of Middle Eastern Studies
The session will provide visitors with basic facts pertaining to Arabic language and culture. The Arabic script and the sound system of the alphabet will be introduced. Attendees will be able to learn a few expressions in Arabic (greetings and leave taking). By the end of the session, attendees will have the opportunity to write their first names using the Arabic script. Additionally, the session will briefly discuss the Arab American population in Chicago and in the USA.

The Power of Multilingualism in a Global Marketplace
Ana Flavia Boeing Marcelino, Romance Languages Department
How does learning another language shape a student's future? Drawing on a research project that maps the skills and abilities Economics and Business Economics graduates use in their professional work—in languages such as Portuguese, Spanish, French, German, Chinese, and English as a Second Language—this session explores how multilingualism enhances communication, cultural agility, and global career potential. Using insights from international recruiters and alumni experiences, we'll discuss how multilingual graduates stand out in an increasingly interconnected world. Participants will also discover how the University of Chicago's language programs cultivate both linguistic proficiency and cross-cultural understanding, preparing students to engage meaningfully with diverse communities and global markets. Join us to see why the power of language learning extends far beyond the classroom-and how it equips our students for success wherever in the world they choose to go.

Free Expression, Discourse, and Democracy
Leila Brammer, Forum for Free Inquiry and Expression
Discourse rests at the nexus of academic inquiry, freedom of expression, and democracy. The rigorous testing and refining of ideas necessary for pursuing knowledge and advancing democracy depend on the ability to seek out and engage multiple perspectives, differences, and disagreements. Drawing on the principles of freedom of expression and discourse theory, this model class will discuss models and practices that foster the vigorous, inclusive, and productive discourse.

An Introduction to Drawing
Katherine Desjardins, Visual Arts
During this hands-on model class, participants are provided with basic drawing materials and are led through a series of short drawing exercises designed to generate group discussion of how the act of drawing can heighten our powers of observation and ability to make connections across disciplines. No prior drawing experience required!!

The Chemistry of Color: Historic Dyes and Pigments
Hannah Lant, Department of Chemistry
The study of color is an inherently interdisciplinary pursuit: the sensation of color requires the physics of light interacting with chemical matter to produce a biological sensation in the eye and brain. In this model class based on content from my Physical Sciences course for the Core entitled "The Chemistry of Artists' Materials," we will explore the science of color, with case studies in several historically important dyes and pigments. This model class will include several demos with colored lights and scientific equipment.

MODEL CLASS SCHEDULE

Friday, November 7 - Block A (3:00PM - 4:00PM)

Human Capital and the Economy

Pablo Pena Munoz, Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics

Many believe economics is a discipline mostly concerned with money, finance, taxes, international trade, and industrial policy. In this lecture we explore how economics is, above all, about people. We cover a wide range of topics, all seen through the lens of human capital theory to demonstrate its importance in the economy: parental investment in children, nature versus nurture, aging, education, health, marriage, fertility, preference formation, specialization, and economic growth.

Saving biodiversity in the Anthropocene

Trevor Price, Ecology and Evoluton

In a rapidly changing world, six threats to biodiversity can be summarized by the acronym COPHID: Climate change, Overharvesting, Pollution, Habitat loss, Invasive species, and Disease. These threats have led to many extinctions and are on course to generate many more. Each threat can be traced back to the growth of the human population, increase in wealth, and in technology. Dramatic changes in the environment have been brought about by removal of species (including collapse of coral reefs), by addition of species (such as predators destroying island faunas), by pollution (such as the formation of dead zones in the ocean), and by habitat conversion, which has resulted from about 75% of the terrestrial part of the planet being exploited by humans. Despite these issues, cause for optimism stems from the increase in wealth, increased education, and an associated decline in the fertility rate. This may eventually lead to a declining human population, as well as more value placed on an increasingly scarce commodity, wildlands.

Collecting the Odyssey: A Humanities Core Field Trip

Joe Stadolnik, Humanities

This tour recreates a day of instruction in the Humanities Core, allowing participants to interact with the University's remarkable collection of editions of Homer's Odyssey in the Special Collections Research Center. With editions and translations of Homer's poetry that stretch from ancient papyrus to contemporary pop-up books, this collection of materials will serve as a springboard to explore the many ways audiences have encountered the epic story of the Odyssey over its long history.

Does Small Matter? Exploring the invisible strength of materials

Adarsh Suresh, Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering

Why are some materials light yet incredibly strong? What role does the “small”—the microscopic and molecular—play in making that possible? In this interactive session, we explore how properties at the nanoscale shape the strength and resilience of everyday materials. From the microscopic ridges of a lotus leaf that repel water to the intricate, hierarchical structures that make bone and wood both light and tough, we’ll uncover how nature creates materials with remarkable structural efficiency. Using striking electron microscopy and hands-on demonstrations with everyday objects, we’ll challenge the age-old trade-off between strength and weight—asking whether lighter can, in fact, mean stronger. Inspired by cutting-edge research at the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering, this lecture reminds us that in materials—as in nature—true strength often begins where we can’t see it, shaping everything from feathers and spider silk to carbon fibers and skyscrapers.

Cutting Through AI Hype: Understanding and Exploiting Limitations in Generative AI to Protect Human Creativity

Ben Zhao, Computer Science

Contrary to marketing hype from AI companies, generative AI architectures are fundamentally limited and unable to deliver on much of its hypes and promises. Yet many of the harms it introduces are very real, deepfakes, misinformation, copyright violations, undress apps, plagiarism, and mimicry of individuals in voice, photos and video. In CS25800 (Adversarial Machine Learning), we teach students a core understanding of generative AI architectures and models, from autoregressive transformers (LLMs) to diffusion-based image models; what they can do, what they do today, and what they cannot do. We analyze these models from perspectives of robustness, security & privacy, and explore tools and techniques that leverage deep understanding of these models to minimize their harms, and disrupt their misuse to protect human creatives in the visual arts, music, and writing.
his model class will present a condensed summary of key ideas from CS25800 (minus much of the mathematics), including: a) fundamental intuition for understanding LLMs and their limitations, b) general understanding of how diffusion models produce images that mimic art styles, c) the underlying ideas behind Glaze and Nightshade, tools that are being used by millions of artists in 160+ countries to protect their art from generative AI models.

MODEL CLASS SCHEDULE

Friday, November 7 - Block B (4:15PM - 5:15PM)

The Power of Multilingualism in a Global Marketplace

Ana Flavia Boeing Marcelino, Romance Languages Department

How does learning another language shape a student's future? Drawing on a research project that maps the skills and abilities Economics and Business Economics graduates use in their professional work—in languages such as Portuguese, Spanish, French, German, Chinese, and English as a Second Language—this session explores how multilingualism enhances communication, cultural agility, and global career potential. Using insights from international recruiters and alumni experiences, we'll discuss how multilingual graduates stand out in an increasingly interconnected world. Participants will also discover how the University of Chicago's language programs cultivate both linguistic proficiency and cross-cultural understanding, preparing students to engage meaningfully with diverse communities and global markets. Join us to see why the power of language learning extends far beyond the classroom—and how it equips our students for success wherever in the world they choose to go.

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MODEL CLASS SCHEDULE

Friday, November 7

Block B (continued), 4:15PM - 5:15PM

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Generative AI and Online Speech: Creativity, Copyright, and the Future of Expression

Nick Feamster, Computer Science

Chatbots such as ChatGPT and Claude can now generate convincing essays, poems, and arguments in seconds. Other systems, such as Suno, can compose music from a few lines of text. These technologies are transforming how we create and communicate online—but they also raise tough questions. Who owns content created by an AI? When a model is trained on copyrighted books, music, or art, is that fair use—or digital plagiarism? And how do these debates over copyright and ownership shape what people can say, share, and build upon in the future? In this one-hour session, we’ll explore how generative AI is blurring the boundaries between human and machine creativity and how copyright law, platform policies, and social norms are evolving in response. Drawing from my University of Chicago course Internet Censorship and Online Speech, we’ll discuss how AI tools affect free expression, moderation, and access to information—and what all of this means for the future of speech in a world where anyone, or anything, can be a creator.

Cause-and-Effect Questions in Economics

Melissa Tartari, Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics

How do economists move from asking “What happened?” to “What caused it to happen?” In this model lecture, Associate Instructional Professor Melissa Tartari introduces students and families to the logic of causal inference—how economists design studies to uncover cause-and-effect relationships that inform policy, business, and everyday decisions. Through examples such as class size and student learning, environmental policy and life expectancy, and criminal sentencing and recidivism, Professor Tartari shows how careful design and data can separate correlation from causation. The class highlights research by UChicago faculty to illustrate modern causal methods—from randomized experiments to natural experiments—and invites participants to think like economists confronting real-world problems. Come discover how empirical evidence and creative reasoning meet at the core of the University of Chicago’s distinctive approach to economics.

MODEL CLASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 8 - Block C (10:00AM - 11:00AM)

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Arabic Language & Culture; Novice Level

Osama abu-Eledam, Department of Middle Eastern Studies

The session will provide visitors with basic facts pertaining to Arabic language and culture. The Arabic script and the sound system of the alphabet will be introduced. Attendees will be able to learn a few expressions in Arabic (greetings and leave taking). By the end of the session, attendees will have the opportunity to write their first names using the Arabic script. Additionally, the session will briefly discuss the Arab American population in Chicago and in the USA.

Biotechnology - DNA fingerprinting and forensics

Navneet Bhasin, Biological Sciences Collegiate Division

"Where have you been? Where do you come from? Who am I? Learn how scientists use biotechnological tools to answer these questions based on individuals’ unique DNA fingerprints".

Towards More Fun and More Functional Programming

Ravi Chugh, Computer Science

Computational thinking offers a wonderful way of viewing and moving through the world, but programming can and should be even more fun and more functional. How could programming be more fun? Imagine programming environments that are interactive and graphical, like fun tools such as word processors and spreadsheets and slideshows but which are all magically part of one easy-to-use programming system. (Okay, well at least I find all of these tools fun.) How could programming be more functional? One answer can be found in so-called functional programming languages, which offer building blocks for manipulating data and organizing computations in marvelous ways. In this talk, I will introduce some of the ways in which I aim to promote these goals in my research and teaching.

Cosmology: A Century of Discovery

Jeff McMahon, Astronomy and Astrophysics

Astronomy is a curiosity-driven pursuit, where we observe our Universe with increasingly sophisticated instruments that reveal new objects and the dynamics of matter throughout the cosmos. We then develop models to explain these observations. This approach has led to a remarkable series of discoveries, shaping our understanding of the nature and history of the Universe, and physics at a fundamental level. In this talk, I will discuss the history of cosmological discovery, highlighting the significant contributions that Chicago has made and continues to make.

Economics for Everyone: Should the US Impose Import Tariffs?

Robert Shimer, Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics

For generations, the world has moved towards free trade. Suddenly tariffs are back, dominating the news with promises to restore American industry and close the budget deficit. This class unpacks one of the most significant economic shifts of our time. We begin by demystifying what a tariff is and follow the money to answer a fundamental question: who really pays the cost? Next, we will examine the powerful arguments from the Trump administration for the tariffs: to protect American industry, create jobs, and raise tax revenue. But promises are one thing; results are another. In the final part of the class, we will critically evaluate these claims. We will combine the latest economic data and cutting-edge research to answer the bottom-line question: Are tariffs good for the US? Join us for a clear-eyed look at one of the most consequential economic debates of our era.

MODEL CLASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 8 - Block C (10:00AM - 11:00AM)

Antimicrobial Resistance and Its Role in Infectious Disease
Robert Bednarczyk, Biological Sciences Collegiate Division
Antimicrobial resistance is an ever-growing problem in healthcare that currently has no end in sight. This model class is a mini-representation of an inquiry-based course that is offered by the Biological Sciences Collegiate Division for non-biology majors. Within this model class, the topic of antimicrobial resistance will be defined, which a subcategory of antibiotic resistance will be the main focus. The root causes and what contributes to antibiotic resistance will be discussed. The class will end with ideas encompassing general actions as well as the utilization of novel methods including technology that can assist in slowing this inevitable biological process.

Meet Urdu — Your Passport to Many Languages!
Romeena Kureishy, South Asian Languages and Civilizations
In this engaging model class, you will explore how Urdu and Hindi are mutually intelligible, sharing grammar, structure, and everyday speech, yet expressed in different scripts. Participants will also see how Urdu borrows generously from Arabic and Persian and shares its elegant script with them, making it a gateway to understanding multiple languages at once. Through short activities, you'll learn to recognize the graceful Urdu script, try writing your name, and hear how this lyrical language links South Asia with a wider world of art, poetry, and conversation.

George Washington's Farewell Address, 1789: Enduring Lessons from Our Founding Father
Jennifer Lind, Graham School
In this model class, we will read excerpts from George Washington's Farewell Address and discuss its enduring lessons relevant to our modern world today. History remembers Washington more for what he accomplished than for what he wrote or said. However, his long Farewell Address published at the end of his tenure as the first U.S. president remains central to his legacy. In this founding document, Washington offers the principles he believes should guide relations between the young American republic and the world beyond its borders. Join us as we discuss Washington's timeless legacy and its relevance for U.S. domestic and foreign policy today.

Harnessing Virtual and Mixed Reality for Molecular Modeling and Fundamental Structure-Based Drug Design
Wen Yi Low, Biological Sciences Collegiate Division
Traditional biochemistry education often relies on two-dimensional illustrations to convey the complex, three-dimensional structures of macromolecules such as proteins and their interactions with small molecules. To enhance student engagement and deepen understanding, our biochemistry courses have integrated virtual reality (VR) and mixed reality (MR) technologies. These immersive tools enable students to explore different levels of protein structure and investigate the intermolecular interactions responsible for protein folding in a highly interactive, hands-on environment. In a fundamental structure-based drug design module, students actively participate in the design and modification of drug molecules and docking these candidates into protein targets to observe and analyze binding interactions. At the conclusion of the presentation, a few VR/MR headsets will be available for interested audience members to try.

Turing and the invention of computers
Janos Simon, Computer Science
We will see the description of the birth of electronic computers as a partial consequence of the mathematical work of Alan Turing, showing the existence of precise and interesting mathematical problems that are unsolvable. The lecture is self-contained: no prerequisites.

Patterns of Armed Conflict in the Contemporary World
Paul Staniland, Political Sciences
The world is experiencing a wave of conflicts within and between countries. In this lecture, University of Chicago Professor of Political Science Paul Staniland will provide an overview of trends in war and conflict, the geography of political violence, possibilities for conflict resolution, and areas of emerging tension

MODEL CLASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 8 - Block D (11:15AM - 12:15PM)

Arabic Language & Culture; Novice Level
Osama abu-Eledam, Department of Middle Eastern Studies
The session will provide visitors with basic facts pertaining to Arabic language and culture. The Arabic script and the sound system of the alphabet will be introduced. Attendees will be able to learn a few expressions in Arabic (greetings and leave taking). By the end of the session, attendees will have the opportunity to write their first names using the Arabic script. Additionally, the session will briefly discuss the Arab American population in Chicago and in the USA.

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Meet Urdu — Your Passport to Many Languages!
Romena Kureishy, South Asian Languages and Civilizations
In this engaging model class, you will explore how Urdu and Hindi are mutually intelligible, sharing grammar, structure, and everyday speech, yet expressed in different scripts. Participants will also see how Urdu borrows generously from Arabic and Persian and shares its elegant script with them, making it a gateway to understanding multiple languages at once. Through short activities, you'll learn to recognize the graceful Urdu script, try writing your name, and hear how this lyrical language links South Asia with a wider world of art, poetry, and conversation.

George Washington's Farewell Address, 1789: Enduring Lessons from Our Founding Father
Jennifer Lind, Graham School
In this model class, we will read excerpts from George Washington's Farewell Address and discuss its enduring lessons relevant to our modern world today. History remembers Washington more for what he accomplished than for what he wrote or said. However, his long Farewell Address published at the end of his tenure as the first U.S. president remains central to his legacy. In this founding document, Washington offers the principles he believes should guide relations between the young American republic and the world beyond its borders. Join us as we discuss Washington's timeless legacy and its relevance for U.S. domestic and foreign policy today.

Harnessing Virtual and Mixed Reality for Molecular Modeling and Fundamental Structure-Based Drug Design
Wen Yi Low, Biological Sciences Collegiate Division
Traditional biochemistry education often relies on two-dimensional illustrations to convey the complex, three-dimensional structures of macromolecules such as proteins and their interactions with small molecules. To enhance student engagement and deepen understanding, our biochemistry courses have integrated virtual reality (VR) and mixed reality (MR) technologies. These immersive tools enable students to explore different levels of protein structure and investigate the intermolecular interactions responsible for protein folding in a highly interactive, hands-on environment. In a fundamental structure-based drug design module, students actively participate in the design and modification of drug molecules and docking these candidates into protein targets to observe and analyze binding interactions. At the conclusion of the presentation, a few VR/MR headsets will be available for interested audience members to try.

Turing and the invention of computers
Janos Simon, Computer Science
We will see the description of the birth of electronic computers as a partial consequence of the mathematical work of Alan Turing, showing the existence of precise and interesting mathematical problems that are unsolvable. The lecture is self-contained: no prerequisites.

Patterns of Armed Conflict in the Contemporary World
Paul Staniland, Political Science
The world is experiencing a wave of conflicts within and between countries. In this lecture, University of Chicago Professor of Political Science Paul Staniland will provide an overview of trends in war and conflict, the geography of political violence, possibilities for conflict resolution, and areas of emerging tension.

MODEL CLASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 8 - Block D (11:15AM - 12:15PM)

Cutting Through AI Hype: Understanding and Exploiting Limitations in Generative AI to Protect Human Creativity

Ben Zhao, Computer Science

Contrary to marketing hype from AI companies, generative AI architectures are fundamentally limited and unable to deliver on much of its hypes and promises. Yet many of the harms it introduces are very real, deepfakes, misinformation, copyright violations, undress apps, plagiarism, and mimicry of individuals in voice, photos and video. In CS25800 (Adversarial Machine Learning), we teach students a core understanding of generative AI architectures and models, from autoregressive transformers (LLMs) to diffusion-based image models; what they can do, what they do today, and what they cannot do. We analyze these models from perspectives of robustness, security & privacy, and explore tools and techniques that leverage deep understanding of these models to minimize their harms, and disrupt their misuse to protect human creatives in the visual arts, music, and writing.

This model class will present a condensed summary of key ideas from CS25800 (minus much of the mathematics), including: a) fundamental intuition for understanding LLMs and their limitations, b) general understanding of how diffusion models produce images that mimic art styles, c) the underlying ideas behind Glaze and Nightshade, tools that are being used by millions of artists in 160+ countries to protect their art from generative AI models. The lecture will be presented by Ben Zhao, Neubauer Professor, co-director of UChicago SAND Lab and creator of Glaze and Nightshade. For these projects, Ben was named in 2024 to TIME Magazine AI/100, 100 most influential people in AI.

Movies, Morals, and the Wizard of Oz

Russell Johnson, Religious Studies

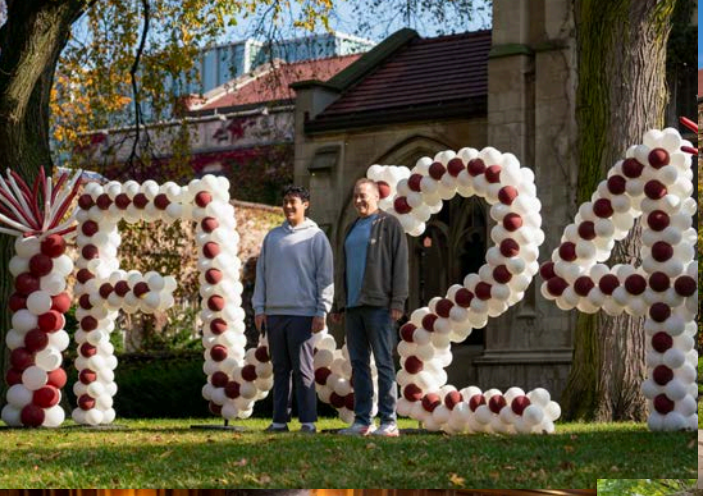
This lecture is part of the popular course "Villains: Evil in Philosophy, Religion, and Film." We will look at the different ways movies shape viewers' moral judgments and moral intuitions. Specifically, how do American blockbuster movies encourage us to imagine our enemies and what needs to be done in order for justice and truth to prevail? How does a movie like 1939's classic "The Wizard of Oz" train us to think morally... or immorally?

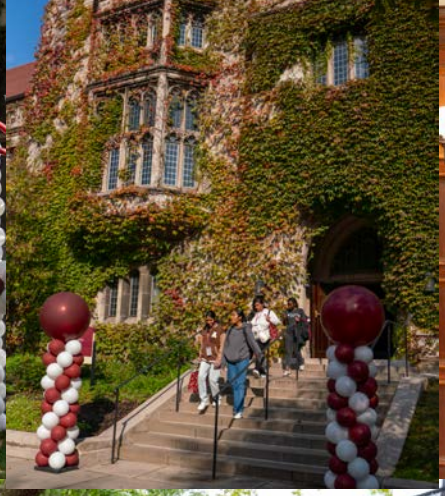
LLM-as-a-Prophet: Understanding Predictive Intelligence with Prophet Arena

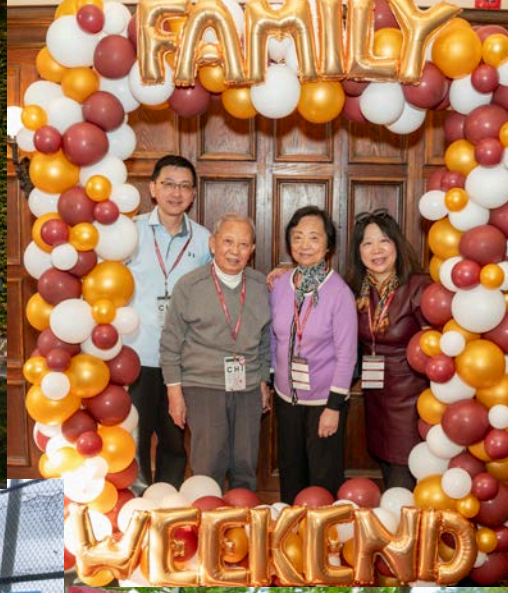
Haifeng Xu, Computer Science

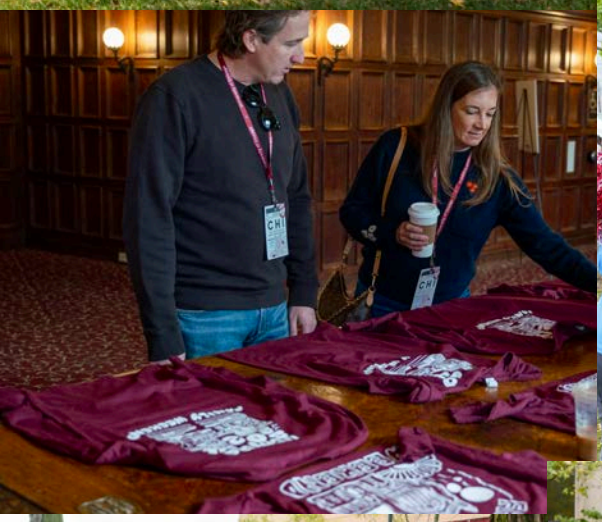
What is true machine intelligence? Accurately detecting objects, holding smooth conversations with a human, winning math Olympian, or something beyond? This question is of particular importance to artificial intelligence (AI) because much of AI's progress has been driven by optimizing clearly specified metrics. In this research talk, I propose forecasting -- the ability to predict future events – as a fundamental frontier of machine intelligence. To this end, I will introduce Prophet Arena (www.prophetarena.co), a live benchmark for evaluating forecasting capabilities of Large Language Models (LLMs), and will share our initial findings on their predictive intelligence.

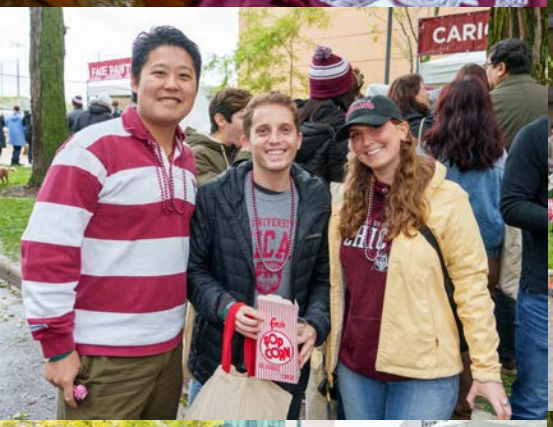
MODEL CLASS NOTES PAGE

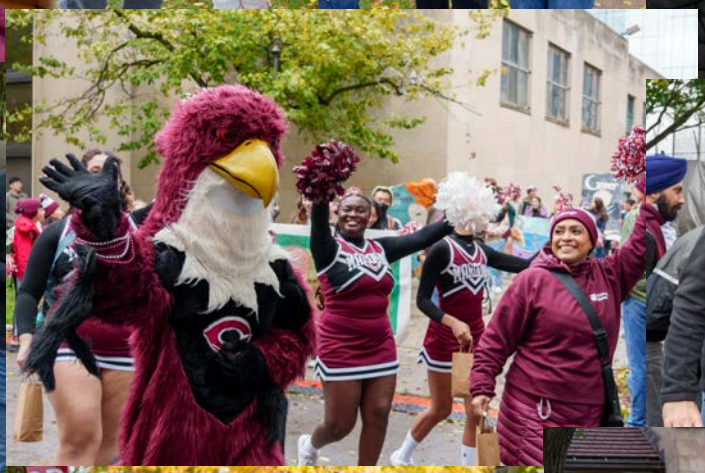


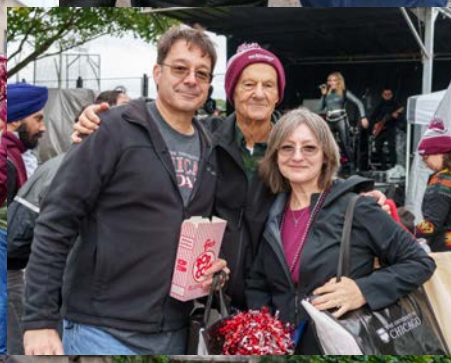


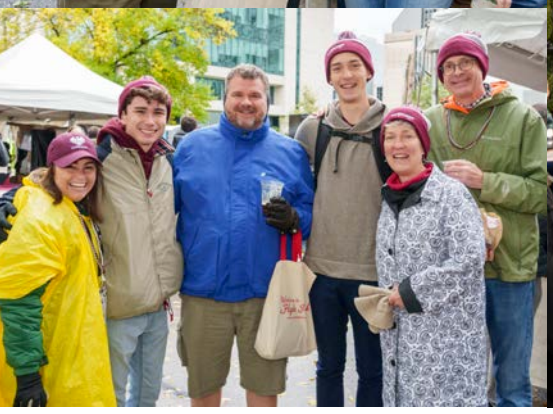


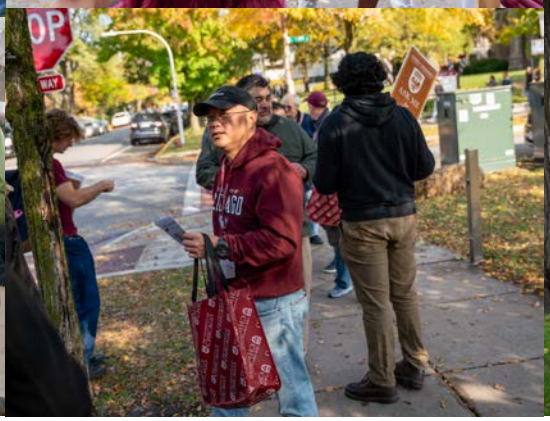






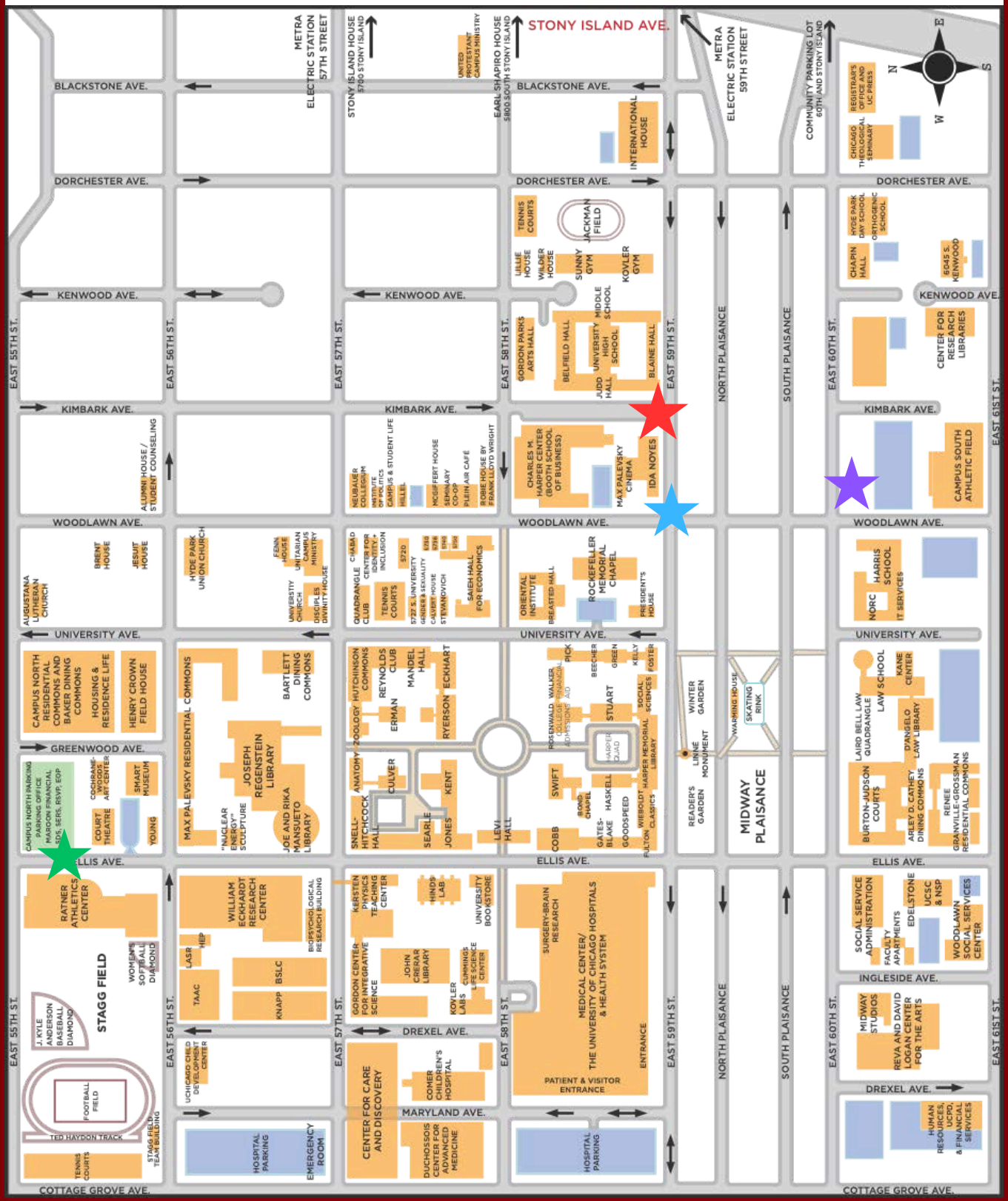






Thank you Family Weekend 2025 Guests & Partners!

CAMPUS MAP



KEY

- Campus North Parking Garage
- Rubenstein Forum
- Neighborhood bus tour pick up location
- Ida Noyes Hall

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