



KNOW YOUR CHICAGO

An annual lecture and tour series
designed to educate for civic leadership

sponsored by
The University of Chicago
Center for Continuing Studies

Monday, September 11, 1995
9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

Max Palevsky Cinema
Ida Noyes Hall
The University of Chicago
1212 East 59th Street

1995 SYMPOSIUM

KNOW YOUR UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Ralph W. Nicholas, *William Rainey Harper Professor, Department of Anthropology and Social Sciences Collegiate Division; Executive Director, International House, The University of Chicago*

Ralph Nicholas first came to the University of Chicago in the autumn of 1957 to begin his graduate studies in the Department of Anthropology. He completed his Ph.D. in 1962 and returned to the University in 1971 when he became a professor of anthropology and of the social sciences in the College. In 1981, he became the chairman of the Anthropology Department, and in 1982, he was named the deputy provost of the University.

After five years of service in the Provost's Office, he became dean of the College. Under his deanship, courses in African and African-American studies and Jewish studies were added to the undergraduate curriculum. He completed his term as dean of the College in 1992, returning to teaching as the William Rainey Harper Professor of Anthropology and of the Social Sciences in the College, and director of the Center for International Studies. In 1993, he was appointed to the position of president of the International House of Chicago.

His research and writing has mainly focused on the South Asian subcontinent, India, and Bangladesh. In recent years, Mr. Nicholas has been researching religious myths and rituals in rural Bengal.

MOUNTAINS OF MAIL

Rufus Porter, *District Manager/Postmaster, Customer Service and Sales, Chicago District, United States Postal Service*

Rufus F. Porter, a twenty-six year postal veteran, was appointed the forty-fourth District Manager/Postmaster, Customer Service and Sales, Chicago District on July 16, 1994. He began his postal career in 1968 as a mail handler at the Los Angeles Post Office. This was followed by several years in an executive capacity with the American Postal Workers' Union (APWU) before being promoted to Foreman of Mails in 1977.

Mr. Porter successfully assumed positions of greater responsibility as Labor Relations Representative; Manager, Employee Relations; and MSC Director, Human Resources and Field Director, Marketing and Communications. He also was an instructor in human resources at the University of Dominguez Hills from 1984 to 1986. For several months in 1990 and 1991, he served as Officer-in-Charge of the Santa Monica Post Office. Mr. Porter joined the Great Lakes area staff in January 1993 as manager of customer service support.

While fulfilling his commitment as a father and USPS employee, Mr. Porter furthered his education receiving an associate of arts degree in political science and pre-law, a bachelor of arts in political science, and a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Mr. Porter also attended Law School at the University of West Los Angeles.

OLÉ: CHICAGO'S MEXICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Gery J. Chico, *Partner, Sidley & Austin; Former Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office, City of Chicago*

Gery J. Chico pursued undergraduate studies in political science from both the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Illinois at Chicago. After receiving a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, he continued his studies in public administration at the Illinois Institute of Technology and the Loyola University School of Law where he received a J.D. degree.

While in college, he served as a senior research assistant for the City of Chicago's Department of Planning. In this role he researched and prepared reports concerning industrial development and retention in Chicago, and assisted with several planning and land use projects. He later worked for the City of Chicago's Committee on Finance as a research manager and attorney.

In 1987, Mr. Chico left public service to become an attorney in the firm of Sidley & Austin where he practiced in the Government Regulation, Land Use, and Legislative Group. His

practice involved representing businesses, real estate developers, and property owners in matters of land use, zoning, other government regulation, and legislation before local governments in Chicago and the suburban Chicago area.

Mr. Chico in 1990 became general counsel to the Chicago Development Council. His duties included advising the seven member executive committee, representing the Council, and overseeing day-to-day operations of the organization.

In December 1991, Mr. Chico returned to public service as the Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff. Nine months later he became the Mayor's Chief of Staff. In this position, he coordinated the activities of all city departments and agencies, oversaw special projects, and focused on issues of city government. He continued in this role until May, 1995, when he returned to Sidley & Austin as the partner in charge of the Government Group.

IN LOCO PARENTIS

Jess McDonald, *Director, Department of Children and Family Services, State of Illinois*

Jess McDonald was appointed director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services on June 2, 1994, by Governor Jim Edgar. Prior to his appointment, Mr. McDonald served as director of the Illinois Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. As director of DCFS, Mr. McDonald is responsible for overseeing the activities of a cabinet level agency.

Mr. McDonald began his career in human services in 1970 as a DCFS caseworker at the agency's Bloomington field office. From 1973 to 1974, he served as a legislative analyst for the Appropriations and Human Resources Committee of the Illinois House of Representatives. During this time, he also taught part-time at Illinois State University.

He returned to DCFS as assistant to the DCFS director in 1974 and later served as executive deputy director in 1975. From 1976 to 1983, Mr. McDonald served as chief of the Health and Social Services Division in the Bureau of the Budget. He then served as the Governor's assistant for human services from 1983 to July, 1990, when he became acting director of DCFS.

Mr. McDonald accepted the position of Executive Director for the Illinois Association of Community Mental Health Agencies in January, 1991. In March, 1992, Governor Edgar named Mr. McDonald the director of the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities to spearhead major reforms at that agency.

Mr. McDonald holds a bachelor's degree from Illinois State University, a master's degree from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration, and has participated in Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

KNOW YOUR CHICAGO JAZZ

Richard Wang, *Associate Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Ensembles, University of Illinois at Chicago*

Richard Wang is associate professor of music and director of jazz ensembles at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he teaches courses in jazz history and literature, theory and improvisation, and seminars on Chicago Jazz and the music of Duke Ellington. He is also the chairman of the executive committee of the Chicago Jazz Archive of the University of Chicago.

The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Illinois Arts Council have recognized his scholarship with research awards. He has also been a visiting professor of music at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University. His articles have appeared in the *Black Music Research Journal*, *The Musical Quarterly*, *The Jazz Educators Journal*, *The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz*, *The New Grove Dictionary of American Music*, and *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

Professor Wang is the immediate past president of the Jazz Institute of Chicago and has been deeply involved with the development and programming of the Chicago Jazz Festival for which he produced the 1990 performance of Charles Mingus's *Epitaph*. In 1991, his research on the music of Duke Ellington was crucial to the revival of Ellington's *Jump for Joy* by Chicago's Pegasus Players.

A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

William L. Stohlmann, *President, Junior Achievement of Chicago Area*

Since 1991, William L. Stohlmann has served as president of Junior Achievement of Chicago Area. Prior to his current role, he held various positions in Junior Achievement including program manager, program director, vice president of operations, and executive vice president.

Mr. Stohlmann's active participation in Junior Achievement began as a high school student during which he competed as a finalist in the National Company of the Year Awards. Following high school, he attended Ball State University where he received an undergraduate degree in business administration.

Mr. Stohlmann is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago and the Executives Clubs of Chicago.

Merri Dee, *Director of Community Relations, WGN-TV; Board Member, Junior Achievement of Chicago Area*

Merri Dee in her role as director of community relations serves as liaison between WGN-TV and community organizations in Chicago ensuring that the station serves the needs of the diverse Chicagoland area. This role enables her to oversee WGN's various public service announcement campaigns.

Raised in Chicago and New Orleans, Ms. Dee began her on-air career in 1966 as a radio personality. She has been with WGN-TV since 1972 in various on-air roles.

In addition to her duties at WGN-TV, Ms. Dee is known for her extensive charitable work in the community and her commitment to social service. A strong believer in education, she has hosted the United Negro College Fund Telethon for over fifteen years. She has served two years as the "volunteer" general chairman of this nationally televised event, and travels extensively to promote it. Ms. Dee has hosted the Easter Seals Telethon and the Bud Biliken Parade and is one of the founders of a Chicago-based organization called "Athletes for a Better Education."

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* Former committee chairman