

Communities

Growing up, I was part of several communities. The two most important were high school Erasmus Hall in college. The University of Chicago Medical School was less consequential. We were a very special group at Erasmus: Marty Willick, Bennet Simon, Nancy Willick, maybe Stanley Palumbo, and Arlene Richards.

We were the crew that ran the class. We had a very special place in the hierarchy that we created. We were the brightest, and Marty Bennett and me all planned to go to medical school. Then there was the cohort at the University of Chicago. I lived in Dodd House, Burton Judson Court. My roommate was Daniel Queen. He was from Swampscott, Massachusetts, and his father was the assembly man there, and he had some very esoteric traits. He introduced me to music—Mahler, especially—he also built a radio station in the basement of the dormitory. I would play music all the time.

Then there was Nicholas Papianos, a very colorful person. I remember he would say that Poincare is right: the answer is philosophy. Frank Barham Roomed with Eric Elfman, and we have remained friends until this day. The most famous student in Dodd House at that time was Carl Sagan, who I'm sure everyone has heard of. He was very interested in life in outer space as a student.

Not more to say, but everything I know I learned that year at the University of Chicago: The curriculum of Hutchins and Adler, and an understanding which came from common places. We read the originals of the great books of the of the Western world. It was as good as an education as you could get anywhere. Arlene lived in Green Hall. We connected after the first New Year's Eve, and decided to get married, and here we are 72 years later.