In Memory of
Professor Robert LaLonde
The University of Chicago

Saturday, March 10, 2018
Rockefeller Chapel
Chicago, IL
2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Reception
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Harper Center, Winter Garden
5807 S. Woodlawn, Chicago, IL
Robert John LaLonde grew up in Syracuse, New York and attended Westhill High School. He earned his B.A. in Economics from the University of Chicago in 1980, and his Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton University in 1985. Bob held Assistant and Associate Professorships at the University of Chicago’s Graduate School of Business (now named Booth School of Business) from 1985-1994, was Visiting Professor at the Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago from 1994-1995, served as Associate Professor of Economics at Michigan State University from 1995-1998, and in 1998 became Professor at the Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy, where he served until his death. Bob was a Senior Staff Economist at the Council of Economic Advisers from 1987–1988 during the Reagan administration, a fellow at both the National Bureau of Economic Research and the Institute for the Study of Labor, a member of the Board of Directors of Public/Private Ventures, and an affiliated scholar at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Bob married Laura Skosey in 1988, and with her raised their three children—Elena, Eve, and Julian Skosey-LaLonde - all of whom were his pride and joy.

Bob’s research interests included the economic effects of immigration on the workforce, the costs of worker displacement, the impact of unions and collective bargaining, and the economic impact of incarceration. Perhaps Bob’s greatest academic contribution was his research on program evaluation. In his 1986 paper, “Evaluating the Econometric Evaluations of Training Programs with Experimental Data,” Bob demonstrated that many standardly employed, non-experimental econometric procedures used to evaluate employment and training programs failed to replicate experimentally obtained results. His findings have had an enduring influence on subsequent labor economic research and policy.

Bob’s professional legacy also lives on in the many students he taught and mentored, and to whom he gave so generously of his time and guidance. Bob served on over twenty-one dissertation committees, and was the director of the Harris Ph.D. program from 2008-2013. He also garnered several teaching awards over the years for the inspiration he brought to the classroom.
On the personal side, Bob’s joys included attending Elena, Eve and Julian’s many musical and/or dance performances, his role as assistant coach on Julian’s Little League teams with Hyde Park Legends, a day at Garfield Park Conservatory or an evening at Sox Park, a walk along the lake or through the woods, a variety of live musical performances, making “Daddy Breakfast Dinners,” savoring fine wines and world cuisines, “Citizen Kane” and “Singin’ in the Rain,” family reunions in Syracuse, a hearty political debate, reading some Dickens by the fireside, and time with Laura and the kids in their cabin in the Northwoods of Wisconsin, their little piece of heaven on earth.

Over a decade ago, Bob developed a rare neurodegenerative disease which ultimately led to his premature decease in the early hours of 17 January 2018 at age 59. Bob overcame the stereotypes of his disabilities, and lived life to the fullest and on his own terms. Bob’s determined effort to prevail over the challenges posed by his disease so that he could continue his work and spend time with his family was truly heroic, and will forever inspire his family to live and serve to their fullest.

In addition to Laura, Elena, Eve and Julian, Bob is survived by his father, Robert T. LaLonde; his siblings Judith LaLonde and Peter Bodine, and their children, Adam, Daniel, and Benjamin Bodine; Mary LaLonde and Dan Nourie, and their children, Luke and Colette Nourie; Jane LaLonde and Steve Bottega; Suzanne LaLonde and Joe Romano, and their children, Marc and Marie Romano; Jerome LaLonde and Melissa Young; Tom LaLonde and Julie Zito, and their children, Kathryn and Alex LaLonde; his parents-in-law, Connie and John Skosey; brothers-in-law, Lyle Skosey and Louise Tornehave Skosey; Peter Skosey and Mellody Bose Skosey, and their children, Bryn Skosey, Nikki and Erik Bose; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. Bob was predeceased by his mother, Suzanne D. LaLonde.

Laura, Elena, Eve and Julian invite anyone wishing to make donations in Bob’s honor to please consider CurePSP, Gift of Hope, or the University of Chicago’s College Fund. Bob’s family would also like to thank each of you for enriching Bob’s life, and for all the support you have given them over the years.
Order of Service

**Musical Prelude**
“Grazioso” from Winter, The Four Seasons  
Composed by Antonio Vivaldi  
*Organ performed by Tom Weisflog, University Organist*

**Welcome**
Elena, Eve and Julian Skosey-LaLonde  
*Bob’s Children*

**Introduction**
Robert Michael  
_Eliakim Hastings Moore Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus and Dean Emeritus, University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy_

**Remarks**
Orley Ashenfelter  
_Joseph Douglas Green 1895 Professor of Economics, Princeton University_

Robert Topel  
_Isidore Brown and Gladys J. Brown Distinguished Service Professor_  
_University of Chicago Booth School of Business_

Judith and Mary LaLonde  
*Sisters of Bob*

**Musical Interlude**
“Autumn Leaves”  
Arrangement by Eva Cassidy, Directed by Mollie Stone  
*Performed by members of the University Chorus and Women’s Ensemble, with Elena and Eve Skosey-LaLonde & Laura Skosey*

**Remarks**
James Heckman  
_Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor in Economics, the College and Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago_
Remarks cont.

Margaret Triyana
Former Ph.D. Student of Bob; Visiting Professor of Economics, University of Notre Dame

At this time we welcome all of Bob’s current and former students to accompany Maggie on the platform.

Daniel Sullivan
Executive Vice President and Director of Research, The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; Lecturer, University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy

Bruce Meyer
McCormick Foundation Professor, University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy

and

Paula Worthington
Senior Lecturer, University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy

Musical Interlude

“Wayfaring Stranger”
Arrangement by Eva Cassidy, Directed by Mollie Stone
Performed by members of the University Chorus and Women’s Ensemble, with Elena and Eve Skosey-LaLonde

Closing Remarks

“A Son’s Address”
Julian Skosey-LaLonde, Bob’s Son

“Further Teachings from Bob”
Laura Skosey, Bob’s Wife

Video

“RJL Through the Years”
A photo presentation created by the Skosey-LaLonde Family, with music by U2

Musical Postlude

“Andante Festivo”
Composed by Jean Sibelius
Organ performed by Tom Weisflog, University Organist

The University Carillonneur will play for the campus after the ceremony.
Elena, Eve, Julian and Laura give special thanks to the following people:

**For Support on Bob’s & Our Journey**

Suzanne D. and Robert T. LaLonde  
Connie and John Skosey  
Jane LaLonde  
Jerome LaLonde  
Judith LaLonde  
Mary LaLonde  
Suzanne LaLonde  
Thomas LaLonde  
Peter and Mellody Skosey

Laurel Blasi and Larry Nolan  
Anne and Michael Brody  
Ingrid Gould  
Group 17  
Cindy Jurisson  
Liliana Lark  
Susan G. Litoff  
Dudley Morgan  
Deborah Porter  
Angelika Schmoll  
Michele Seidl  
Michelle Thompson  
Kun Yan and Mingde Hong  
Shuya Yan and Yong Chen

The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy  
The Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations

**Bob’s Medical Team**

Christina Abramiuk, PT  
Gabriella Borrelli, APN  
Dr. James Curran  
Dr. Sarah Faris  
Dr. Amy Guralnick  
Dr. Thomas Kelly  
Dr. Neal Klauer  
Dr. Paul Lantz  
Dr. John McConville  
Dr. Jeffrey Nichols  
Sarju Patel, SLP  
Dr. Samuel Refetoff  
Dr. Mindy Schwartz  
Rev. Polly Toner  
Treasyr Wiliams, MA, CCC-SLP, CBIS

**For Support for This Service**

The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy  
The University of Chicago Booth School of Business  
Kathrine Baicker, Dean of Harris Public Policy  
Melissa Calahan  
Cynthia Cook-Conley  
Ashley Gottlieb  
Elizbeth Davenport, Dean of Rockefeller  
Margaret (Peggy) Harper

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**Chorus**

Mollie Stone, *Director*


**Musicians**

Bob Parlier, *Percussion*; Dave Saenger, *Guitar*; and Dan Thatcher, *Bass*

**Ushers**

Daniel Bodine, *Nephew*

Peter Bodine, *Brother-in-Law*

Erik Bose, *Nephew*

Cynthia Cook-Conley, *Colleague and Friend*

Dan Nourie, *Brother-in-Law*

Mairead Reidy, *Family Friend*

Alice Lu Sieges, *Family Friend*

Peter Skosey, *Brother-in-Law*
In the depth of your hopes and desires lies your silent knowledge of the beyond; And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring. Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity. Your fear of death is but the trembling of the shepherd when he stands before the king whose hand is to be laid upon him in honour. Is the shepherd not joyful beneath his trembling, that he shall wear the mark of the king? Yet is he not more mindful of his trembling?

For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun? And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing. And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb. And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.
The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and Booth School of Business invite you to a reception after the service at the Harper Center Winter Garden, 5807 S. Woodlawn Ave., in the Booth School of Business.