

Tribute to Dean Emeritus and Historian John Boyer

Professor and Dean emeritus John W. Boyer's distinguished and prolific career at the University of Chicago is a testament to his unwavering commitment to education, scholarship, and leadership. Over the years, he has left his mark on the academic landscape, the minds of countless students, and the discipline of history. With his unwavering dedication and exceptional leadership, Professor Boyer has led the University of Chicago to unprecedented heights.

His term as dean can be described as nothing short of transformational—increased access to higher education, revitalized the Core curriculum, and nearly doubled on-campus student capacity, to name just a few of his monumental achievements. Though most students are most familiar with his service as dean—or as Hyde Park's most famous bicycle rider—his work as a historian equals his legendary legacy as dean.

Professor Boyer specializes in modern Europe, notably German and Austrian history. Since receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1975, he has published an entire catalog of scholarship, ranging from short, digestible articles to discipline-defining tomes. To that end, Boyer has been well recognized, including an honorary degree from the University of Vienna during the school's 650th anniversary ceremony, the Cross of Honor for Science and Art, First Class, from the Republic of Austria in 2004, the 2006 Austrian State Prize for Modern History, and many others that would not fit on just a single page.

As Professor Boyer embarks on a new chapter in his career, we must remember the legacy he leaves behind is not confined to the volumes on library shelves or the annals of academic journals. It lives on in the minds of those he inspired, the researchers he mentored, and the enduring impact of his ideas on the evolving landscape of historical inquiry.



Photo by Matt Marton