

# LETTERS

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The *University of Chicago Magazine* welcomes letters about its contents or about the life of the University. Letters for publication must be signed and may be edited for space, clarity, and civility. To provide a range of views and voices, we encourage letter writers to limit themselves to 300 words or fewer. While the *Magazine* staff works remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, please send letters via e-mail: [uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu](mailto:uchicago-magazine@uchicago.edu).

I very much enjoyed Maureen Searcy's article "Pilot Program" (Fall/20), with the mention and photo of UChicago meteorologist Dave Fultz, SB'41, PhD'47, known for his "soup pot" experiments modeling Earth's atmosphere. He had gotten beyond the soup pot stage when I began working in his laboratory for a few summers in the 1950s, when I was 15 years old. I built the flash units used to produce the light for the photos that showed the aluminum dust flow patterns on the surface of the water. I also developed innumerable prints.

It was there that I met Yoshinari Nagagawa, whom I also worked for when he got his own laboratory. He used the then-available small cyclotron magnet to conduct similar experiments with rotating mercury. The magnet and mercury were used to try to understand flow patterns in the sun.

Recently, when I was trying to understand how the north pole of Saturn could have a hexagonal pattern around it, I remembered my time in Fultz's laboratory and how various wave number patterns could form in the rotating liquid. Going back to read Fultz's papers, which I could now understand, resolved what I called the enigma of Saturn's north-polar hexagon. I only wish that he could have known about this very recent application of his work.

I wrote a paper on the subject, "The Enigma of Saturn's North-Polar Hexagon," and gave a colloquium on it at the Illinois Institute of Technology in March 2018.

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