

U-High MIDWAY

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Matt Horvat is ready to talk...to you

New principal eager to come on board

By Namrata Patel
Editor-in-Chief

Stereotypically (though not at U-High), a principal's office contains a large, mahogany desk dividing the room. The principal looms threateningly behind it while shaking students await a confrontation. It's an intimidating atmosphere.

New Principal Matt Horvat's office, with its wide open door, feels nothing like that. One of the first things he did was place the desk in the corner, filling the middle with a circular table surrounded by four chairs. It reflects his warm, inviting personality.

"I want students to know that I'm not shy about relating bad news to them, but I'm not to be feared either," Mr. Horvat, 41, explained. "I hope that students will feel comfortable talking to me."

Born in Moorestown, New Jersey, Mr. Horvat majored in history at the University of Pennsylvania and received an MAT in mathematics from Boston University. Some of his diverse experiences include rowing in the 1991 Pan American Games and teaching computer science in Taiwan from 1997 to 1999. In his free time, Mr. Horvat enjoys running marathons and reading.

Mr. Horvat comes to U-High after serving as principal of the Browning School in New York City. With him came his wife Susan Fine, an author, and sons Alex, 5, a Lab Schools kindergartner, and 9-month-old Matteo.

"I like New York, but it's a fast paced place to live," he said in a recent interview in his office. "Everything had to be scheduled for my son Alex, even for him to go play in Central Park. In our new home on Dorchester, he has a

"I hope students will feel comfortable talking to me."

-Mr. Matt Horvat

backyard. I think the move was good for my family and helped me professionally and personally."

Upon receiving a phone call about a job offer from Mr. Magill in mid-December, Mr. Horvat said he immediately decided to accept.

"I wanted to come to U-High as soon as I heard about the opening," he explained. "If you're in education, you've heard about Lab. The school and its affiliation with John Dewey has a well-deserved

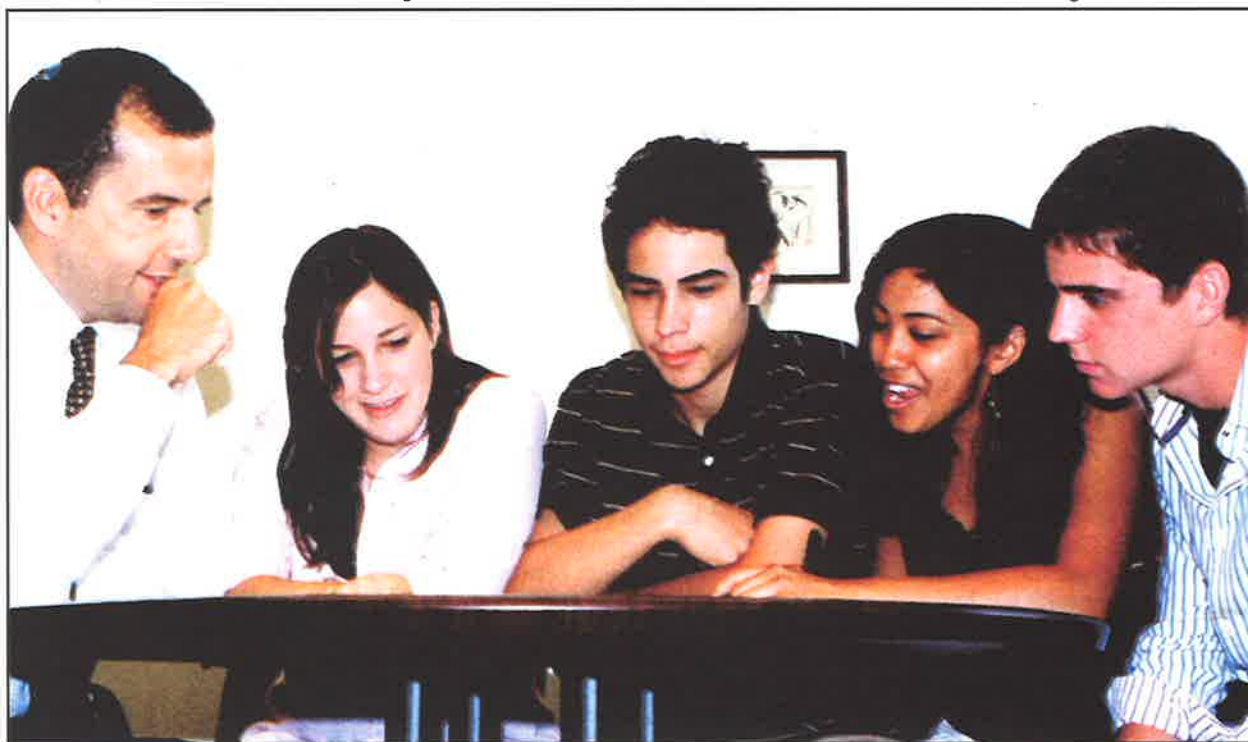


Photo by Emma Lantos

Principal Matt Horvat with Midway Editors-in-Chief Sarah Fischel, Phil Jacobson, Namrata Patel and Henry Africano.

national reputation."

Mr. Horvat has already begun formulating ideas about U-High, but he knows he needs time before he can create more specific plans.

"My main goal is getting to know people," he said. "I want to make myself as available as I can. I'll go to games and events and I definitely won't be locked up in my office working all the time. I would hate for someone in April to ask 'Who is that?' pointing to me."

"During the summer, I began meeting faculty members. They seem great and all talk about how great the student body is. They're obviously very committed to the students. It's tough working in a high school. I think you have to be more of an adult than in any other job. It requires you to act as a role model."

Leaning back in his wooden chair, Mr. Horvat looked at his desk covered with summer reading, including U-High yearbooks beginning in the 1930s and evaluations of the Lab Schools. Among his observations of U-High, he noted

that the daily schedule has not changed significantly in more than four decades. He plans to create a team of students and faculty to discuss the prospect of a new schedule.

"I don't think any institution can be happy where it is," he said. "I've been a teacher for a lot of years and have never taught a course the same way. I want to try and create a different schedule, because a schedule drives everything. It may be the only thing that works, but I still want to get a committee together to think of new possibilities."

In the 1997-1998 school year, U-High instituted all-school weekly assemblies, which included a variety of speakers, performances and activities 3rd period Wednesdays. Though the assemblies only lasted two years because of indifferent student response, such a period appeals to Mr. Horvat.

"I would like to add to the schedule is a period where we have time as a community, such as a time when students can display their abilities," he said. "I would want this to be run by the students, giving them more power and more of a voice. There is always the need to build as a community."

Director to reveal awaited semester decision this week

By Henry Africano
Editor-in-Chief

This week Lab Schools Director David Magill plans to announce whether U-High will go to a semester schedule or stick with quarters.

The idea of switching to semesters was proposed by Former Principal Jack Knapp. In a faculty meeting at the end of the 2005 school year, members voted almost unanimously in favor of semesters. Since the proposal, students have voiced strong disapproval for the switch idea.

"Before I made any final decision I spoke with U-High's new principal Matthew Horvat to be sure that his opinion was in line with mine," Mr. Magill said. "I also wanted to take a look at the University's struggle with this same topic. But it is hard to compare because as a high school we have more school days than a college, thus we have uneven quarters."

"But when it comes down to it, I don't want a change that creates stress. Take Winter Break for example; even if the school doesn't

give homework over the break, there is still the thought of a final three weeks after they get back. It's no longer a break really."

"I've been through both and found that one is much better than the other. I'm not going to say which one, but I can give you a hint."

It has nothing to do with the exams, but I find that shorter time periods are easier to bear."

During the summer the school underwent renovations, according to Mr. Magill.

"We redid the Language Lab," Mr. Magill said. "It's almost double

the size of the old one and has all new computers. But the most obvious change has been the bathrooms in the high school. Each one was redone, making 22 restrooms total in the past four years. Those are the two major changes. There are smaller changes like new computers and new audio and visual components in a few classrooms."



Mr. Magill



Photo by Emma Lantos

Four new faces

U-Highers met four new teachers in classes today. At an Orientation August 28, they received gift bags before enjoying a luncheon buffet. From left are:

■ **Mr. Sonaar Luthra, English.** He previously taught at the Punahou School in Honolulu. Last year he was a reporter for the Today newspaper in New Delhi in India.

■ **Ms. Mary Kay Akers, librarian.** She previously served two years as a research librarian for Donors Forum of Chicago.

■ **Mr. Zhihao Sun, Mandarin Chinese.** He previously taught Mandarin at the Robert Healy School in Chicago.

■ **Mr. Ira Nirenberg, Physics.** He previously taught at the Benjamin Franklin School in New Orleans. He evacuated Hurricane Katrina and then went to Mississippi where he built a house.

On the inside

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THIRTY NEW U-Highers join the family today (welcome all!).....4

As the Midway sees it...

We are family...and don't you forget it!

Here at U-High, there's a good chance any one student knows most of the others in their grade. That student probably also knows many faculty and administrators on a friendly, personal level. Each group understands each other at a different level than at most large schools; it's all part of U-High's community environment.

That understanding contributed to the idea to replace quarters with semesters, originally brought up by former Principal Jack Knapp. The plan's main goal is to reduce stress among students and faculty.

This week, Lab Schools Director David Magill plans to announce whether the school will switch from a quarters to semesters.

Regardless of how it ends up affecting the final decision, U-Highers made sure that faculty and administration knew what they thought.

As Curriculum Committee made various decisions regarding the proposal, Student Council helped make sure student voice was heard.

At open Student Council forums in January and February, U-Highers voted almost unanimously in favor of quarters, causing faculty to take notice of student opinion and revise the plan. U-Highers

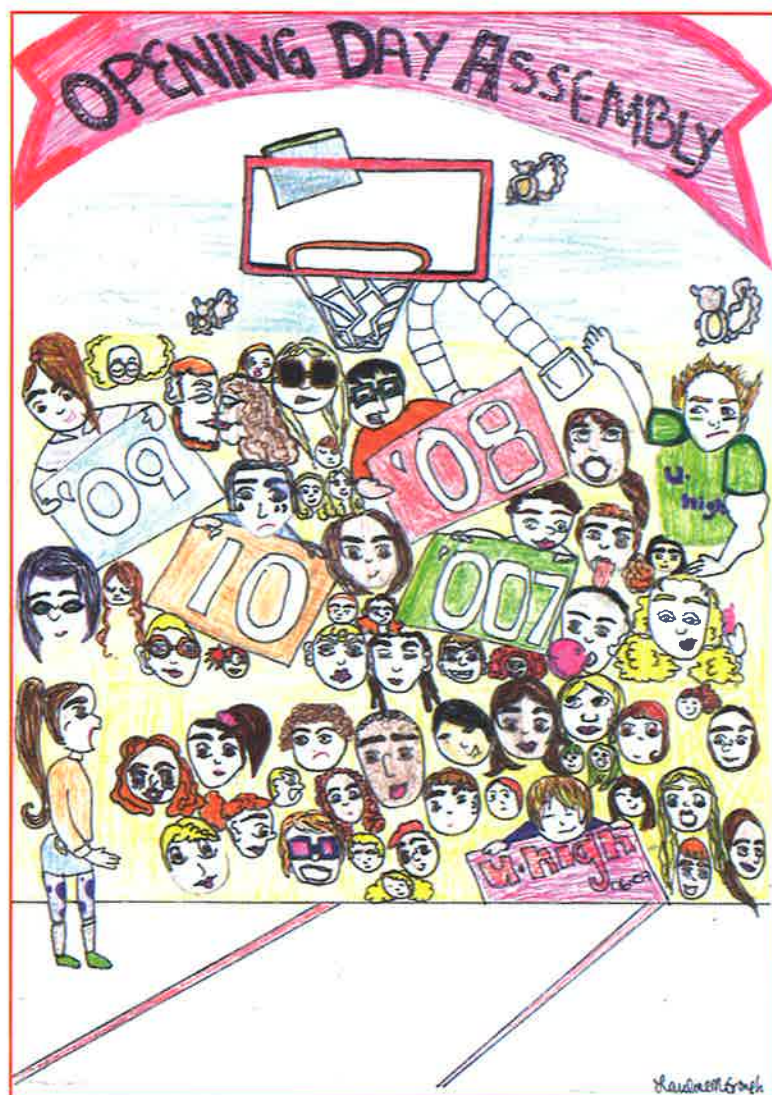
continued to voice their opinions through two pro-quarters petitions which circulated among the freshman and sophomore grades and drew 121 and 126 signatures, respectively.

Through letters to the Midway, students kept reminding faculty members and administrators that their answer to semesters was a resounding no.

Whatever the verdict, it's important for all sides to accept it and move forward. Advocates of quarters and semesters had the same goal of alleviating stress in mind; it's just the way they wanted to do it that differed. That highlights the connection between administrators, faculty members and students, vital because it kept everyone pursuing the same end.

Our new principal, Mr. Matt Horvat, said his main goal is to get to know people. If U-Highers make the same effort to meet him, for example inviting him to club meetings or stopping by his office to say hello, a connection between Mr. Horvat and the U-High community will develop that much faster.

To build on last year's positives, we must remember that although it doesn't always provide an instant solution, an understanding of those you're working with is a pretty good place to start.



Art by Lauline Gough

The Midway is all about you

Celebrating the arrival of a new principal, Mr. Matt Horvat, Midway editors returned to school three weeks early to prepare this first-day issue.

Published monthly with nine issues scheduled this year, the Midway is planned, reported, written, photographed and designed by the journalism and photojournalism classes. Keeping students, parents, faculty and other members of the community informed, the Midway strives to address issues of significance and interest to readers, tackling controversial subjects and other important topics.

In an era of rampant high school censorship the Midway represents a beacon of hope as a student-run newspaper. Because U-High is a private school administrators have the right to review and censor the paper before publication. Reflecting an agreement under which Midway Adviser Wayne Brasler came here 42 years ago, administrators do not censor the Midway.

Mr. Brasler and Photojournalism Adviser Liese

Ricketts are the only two adults who see the newspaper before publication. But administrators are also part of the publishing team, joining in generating story ideas, giving advice on handling difficult topics and giving opinions of each issue.

The Midway must fulfill certain legal requirements. We cannot print libel, obscenity or anything that could reasonably be construed as resulting in disrupting the orderly running of school.

Participation from all students, parents and faculty is always a welcome part of the Midway. Guest columns, letters to the editors and story ideas are all appreciated ways to participate in the Midway. Simply sign your contribution, place it in a sealed envelope in Mr. Brasler's mailbox in the High School office and you could be a part of the next issue.

You may notice some changes in the Midway as we luxuriate with upgraded Macintosh computers and new design software, InDesign. Both these changes, which allow for more creativity and design options with the newspaper, are greatly appreciated.

U-High MIDWAY

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Lauline Gough

Say What?

Compiled by Jacqueline Chaudhry

What did you find most interesting about the summer reading assignment, "Freakonomics"?

JAMES PHILLIPS, freshman:

"Freakonomics" is a lot of different things put together in a way that wasn't just a list of statistics. Steven Levitt's comparison of real estate agents to the KKK was very interesting. It wasn't a comparison that you would normally make.

VICTORIA TSAY, sophomore: I thought it was interesting that part of it took place in Chicago and Hyde Park. I think you could learn a lot about our community from the book. I also liked the book because it answered a lot of different questions.

JARUS SINGH, junior: I think it's interesting how Steven Levitt takes scientific views on social phenomena. I liked the comparison of teachers to sumo wrestlers the best. They are odd things to compare but it's surprising how he can tie it all up in the end.

CORTNI BROWN, senior: The question is have I read it yet? I started reading it but got busy rehearsing for a play and traveling. I think it was important to read because it is out of the box. From what I read there were things in it that weren't orthodox, which makes me appreciate the assignment.



James



Victoria



Jarus



Cortni

For many U-Highers

Something's missing today

AS I WALK through U-High's familiar doors today, I feel little excitement over the prospect of a new school year. Instead I feel an overwhelming sadness, as if something is missing. Or, rather, someone.

After a year with my boy friend, Trevor Lombaer, the day finally came when I had to watch him drive away to college. From the moment he decided to attend Boston University, I knew we would eventually be going to school and living miles apart.

We talked about staying together before he left. I wasn't really sure whether we should. In my heart I knew I wanted to but in my mind I thought of the difficulties distance would make for us. We would only have stolen days together, a vacation here and there and school breaks. I know we will both change and grow and not together.

I thought about some of my friends facing the same situation. Senior Palika Makam's boy friend of three years, Jon Handrup, recently left for Miami University of Ohio.

"I feel really weird right now," Palika said. "I've had my boy friend for all of high school. Now he's gone. He's not at camp or on a vacation. He's living in a new city and the fact that I won't see him every day is something I have to get used to."

"The first day he left was the hardest. We're not saying goodbye but a certain part of my life is different now. We're still best friends and love each other very much and I know it's not goodbye forever."

So a part of me is comforted knowing I am not alone in my confusion. Should I be asking: "Where do we go from here?" Or "Where do I go from here?"

I asked 2006 graduate Corey Biller how she felt when her boyfriend, 2005 graduate Dan Naclerio, left for the University of Wisconsin. I wanted to know how they maintained their ongoing relationship with the distance between them.

"We had only been together for four months before Dan left for college," Corey said. "I was really worried about the distance between us and how people change when they're away from each other. I felt like he would change in college and I would be the same because I would still be at Lab. I had to figure out if our relationship was worth staying together and it was."

"In order to keep our relationship going, we talked on the phone and online. He would come home to visit and there was a bus I could take to see him. Then when he came home, I had to make sure our relationship was still fun, happy and exciting. I realized that our relationship had to be about trust and value."

After hearing from my friends, I contemplated my decision for a long time. I knew I wasn't ready to end my relationship with Trevor. I know I've found a person worth waiting for. I worried about us growing up without each other and now I realize, that even though we'll be apart, he can still be a part of my life. Though I worry, how much will the distance separate us?



Mona Dasgupta
Opinion



"As cocaptain, I am looking forward to a fun and team-oriented season."
—Alex Guynn, junior, girls' varsity tennis

On the defense, volleyballers launch

By Mona Dasgupta
Associate editor

Relying on defensive tactics to compensate for height disadvantages, varsity volleyballers will take on beatable Woodlands in their first Independent School League match 6:30 p.m., tomorrow, in Upper Kovler Gym.

The team opened its season in the Timothy Christian Tournament, September 1-2 (results came after Midway deadline). Led by Cocaptains Rachel Hanessian, senior, and Anne Sawyer, junior, the squad boasts 13 players, including eight returnees and five new players.

"We want to be fantastic on our defense tomorrow," said new Coach Amy Landis, replacing veteran mentor Joyce Stiles Grotthus, who wanted to spend time with her young son. "We're a short team so our passing is key. We've been doing a lot of scrimmaging and practicing game like situations."

Last year varsity advanced to Regionals for the first time in U-High history. The Maroons finished 2nd behind Morgan Park Academy in the ISL. The team faces the Warriors, 6:30 p.m., Friday, at home.

"We can beat MPA this year," Junior Becca Foley said. "We've been working on a lot more complex plays that will help us confuse them."

Also facing Woodlands at 5 p.m., j.v. has focused on ball control, according to Coach Tina Huisenga, last year's assistant varsity coach replacing Middle School Science Teacher Allison Gerds.

"We have been working a lot on fundamental skills," Coach Huisenga said. "One drill we have been using a lot is the butterfly drill, which helps us control the ball while working offense and defense."

Golfers seek revenge

By Henry Africano
Editor-in-Chief

Gearing up for a rematch against Parker 4:30 p.m. today, after a loss by 10 strokes to the Colonels August 18, away, the Maroons will play at U-High's new home golf course, The Sanctuary in New Lenox.

With the addition of two freshmen, Evan Levin and Bill Steuben, Team Captain Nick Kogelman, senior, believes working on the team's chipping and putting and better understanding the rules can cut the 10 strokes. The golfers have been focusing on their short game and ball placement.

"We lost Tarek Hijazi, Trevor Lombaer and Nathan Oldach to graduation, which were tough losses, but we have two really good freshmen," Nick said. "We have a lot of talent and we're just trying to get past the mental mistakes. We're learning where to put the ball when. It's the whole risk and rewards thing."

"We've been doing a lot of short game drills and we all need to learn the rules. Knowing how to take advantage of the rules is important. With that and the work on the short game we should be able to beat Parker."

With the short game work, a full roster and home course advantage, the team has a good chance at winning the match, believes Coach Glenn Sharp.

Tennis squad takes on last year's League champs

By Dana Alfassa
Associate editor

Facing Woodlands, who topped the Independent School League last year, girls' varsity tennis needs mental toughness to champion the Wildcats, 4:30 p.m., tomorrow, at home, believes Coach Gerold Hanck. Last year Lake Forest Academy and the Maroons trailed them in the League.

"The match is important not only because it's the first league match but it's early in the year," Coach Hanck said. "Playing the match will be nerve-racking for the players so it's more about mental than physical preparation. We hope that it will give them confidence and help develop the new players. It's clear that Freshman Gabby Clark will be outstanding for us. She has competed in USTA tournaments and holds both district and national rankings."

The team of six returnees and two freshmen played Timothy Christian, August 31, away, and in the Hinsdale South Quad, September 2, away. Results came after Midway deadline.

The Maroons will concentrate on their net game against Lake Forest Academy Tuesday, September 12, away.

"Lake Forest is a solid team overall and the fact that the match is away makes it even more intense," said Junior Alex Guynn, cocaptain with Senior Rebecca Resnick. "During practices there has been less talking and more focus on getting a clear head. We have been working on footwork and we need to run more volley drills so that we can maximize our net game during doubles matches."

Concentrating on teamwork and consistency, j.v. faces Woodlands, 4:30 p.m., tomorrow, at AA Stagg courts at the U. of C.

"We've been stressing the importance of team chemistry to the new players who are used to playing individually," Coach Julijana Lazarevich said. "We've run singles and doubles drills because we mix and match players to different combinations and we need to support the team as a whole. Some of these girls haven't hit a ball in a year, so we run drills to maintain mental toughness."



Photo by Emma Lantos
Gabby Clark



Photo by Emma Lantos

Sophomore Jamie Veeneman strips possession from Lincoln Park forward Chad Kyles, August 25, on Jackman Field. The Maroons lost 0-1.

Soccermen face off with foe which topped them in Sectionals

By Gabe Bump
Associate editor

"Our more organized style of play should give us the edge against Morgan Park Academy," said Boys' Varsity Soccer Coach Mike Moses. The Maroons face the Warriors, who finished 2nd in the Independent School League behind U-High last year, in their sixth match of the season, 4:30 p.m., Friday, away. Last year varsity lost to MPA during overtime in Sectionals.

"MPA has two or three players that, if they get the ball, can really burn us," Coach Moses continued. "But we try and get everybody involved in the attack. They seem to get lucky a lot too. They score all of their goals off dead balls: corner kicks and penalty kicks. They shouldn't burn us, if they do, we have a lot to fix."

Beginning its season playing in the Hyde Park Soccer Classic, August 25-26, the team of 13 returnees and 10 new players finished 2nd in the Maroon Pool behind Wheeling. Championship game results came after Midway deadline.

Cross country squads ready for first test

By Christina Delicata
Associate editor

Armed with confidence, the boys' and girls' cross country teams expect to dominate against Chicago Hope Academy, Willows Academy and North Shore Country Day in their first meet at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 12, at home.

The teams boast 14 boys and seven girls, including 11 returning boys and six returning girls. Last year's boys' team qualified for Class A State competition for the first time since 1977 and the girls qualified for the seventh time in 10 years.

"Our team has really good younger talent this year, and that's going to help replace the loss of some of our seniors like Ana Wagener-Sobrero and Erin Hale,"

Accomplished swimmers taking it further

By Stephanie Stern
Associate editor

Sharply rotating her hips and shoulders, Junior Anna Schleusener finishes strongly into her flipturn, practicing tactics the girls' varsity swim team will use against Morton East in its second meet 5 p.m., tomorrow, at home.

Breaking a record for the 200 freestyle last year, Anna made U-High history when she became the first girl swimmer to qualify for State. The Maroons placed 4th at Sectionals last year behind St. Ignatius, Latin and Mother McAuley. Losing four swimmers to graduation, this year's team of 15 returning athletes and one new freshman is working on improving speed and technique, according to Coach Paul Gunty.

"We've increased our yardage for the meet, so we're definitely in better shape this year," Coach Gunty said. "We've also been stressing the mechanics of swimming, like a perfect hip and shoulder rotation in the backstroke and freestyle."

"Morton will have a bigger team, but we have better swimmers. Anna Schleusener obviously stands out in

"The league is pretty even this year," said Elan Weiner, cocaptain with Leo Carlson and Charlie Fisher, all seniors, and Ben Picker, junior. "It's important that we win against MPA. MPA doesn't move the ball around well. If we can contain their forward and get the ball in the net, it's only going to take one or two goals to get the win."

Keeping many key players from last year, MPA seems to have an advantage over the Maroons, Leo believes.

"We lost a lot of seniors from last year's team, such as Matt Aucunas and Kendahl Streeter," Leo said. "Every team in the ISL lost key players, though, except for MPA. So they might have the advantage, but it is too early in the season to really tell. When we start playing more teams it should become clear."

Scores are as follows:

Chicago Christian, August 29, away: Varsity tied 1-1, j.v. won 5-0; **St. Ignatius**, September 1, home, results past Midway deadline; **Whitney Young**, September 2, home, results past Midway deadline.

said Junior Shannon Kimball, returning cocaptain with Seniors Peter Bush and Iain MacDonald. "This first meet is an opportunity to just see how fast we can go and how far we can push it. This is good preparation for the bigger meets like the Loyola Invitational and ISLs."

Overall group talent will help the team overcome individual standout competitors in the Independent School League, believes Coach Bud James.

"This year we have some really fast guys like Ben Worcester, Peter Bush, Jarus Singh, Don Traubert and Iain MacDonald," Coach James said. "They all are going to help each other at the front of the pack. I suspect that against ISL teams we will have five guys, every race, in the top 10."

the 200 free, Caroline Bank in the 100 fly and Linnea Madsen is strong in the 500 free. We should beat them, but the number of swimmers we have to put in each event, the depth of our team, will hurt us."

With 14 years of coaching experience, new Assistant Coach Mike Cunningham replaces Middle School Science Teacher Tony DelCampo.

Facing University High of Urbana, 1 p.m., Saturday, at home, the Maroons' standout swimmers will compensate for a small squad size, believes Erica Zagaja, cocaptain with Stephanie Stern. Both are seniors.

"Of our upcoming meets, U-High Urbana is probably our biggest competition right now," Erica said. "Though we've beat them in the past and they only placed 9th at Sectionals, it's always been really close. They have a larger team than we do, but they don't have any really fast girls. We're focusing on honing our individual strokes, so we can try to place first in as many events as possible."

Scores are as follows:

Bremen Pentathlon, August 28, away: Varsity placed 2nd of 7.

"All I know is that next time I need help on my Chinese homework, I'm going to Mr. Magill."
—Phil Jacobson, senior



China proves hot spot for summer adventurers

Italy, France, Slovakia also provide memorable experiences

By David McAlpine
Associate editor

Several of them traveled to China to examine life and the education system. Two more groups ventured to Europe on school-sponsored art trips. From China to Slovakia, and everywhere in between, U-High students, faculty and administrators traveled the world for summer vacation.

As guests of the Chinese government, a group of American educators, including Lab Schools Director David Magill, visited China for one week in July to examine the education system. With U-High offering Mandarin for the first time, Mr. Magill wanted to visit to see what possibilities are open as the Chinese

"The country is growing very fast and I wanted to witness first-hand the progress that they've made."

—Donavan Mitchem, senior

language program develops further.

"Most of the billboards and signs have the English translation under the Chinese characters," he said, "which shows that China is trying

to become a bilingual nation. We're so tied to China in the global economy that I think it behooves American schools to introduce Chinese. Not only will it increase communication, but it will help us create a productive relationship and a friend in an area of the world where we don't have that many."

In August, 12 Middle and High School students, accompanied by Middle School Humanities Teacher Melicent Rothschild traveled to China. Participating freshmen included Joey Klonowski, Bertham Rogers and Sam Lloyd.

In June and July, Senior Harley Chang, along with Seniors Jason Hu and Hugh Montag traveled to China to teach English to high school seniors.

"It was hard at first, because in the Chinese education system, it's all about lecture; there's very little teacher to student interaction," Harley said. "Eventually, through asking questions and getting the students to participate in things like speech contests, we broke the cultural barrier. The rewards from teaching these kids were greater than I could have ever imagined."

As part of Lead America, a youth leadership organization, Senior Donovan Mitchem traveled to China as well, going to Beijing, Shanghai and X'ian for two weeks in July.

"China has a lot to offer in both history and culture," he said. "The country is growing very fast and I wanted to witness first-hand the progress that they've made. However, when I got to Shanghai, I wasn't expecting them to be as developed as they were. I had this idea that China was a very old world society, but to see a big, flourishing city full of skyscrapers was really surprising."

There were also two school-sponsored trips to Europe. Fifteen students, accompanied by Art Teacher Brian Wildeman and Photography Teacher Liese Ricketts, toured Italy on an 11-day art photography trip. Ten other students, including Sophomore

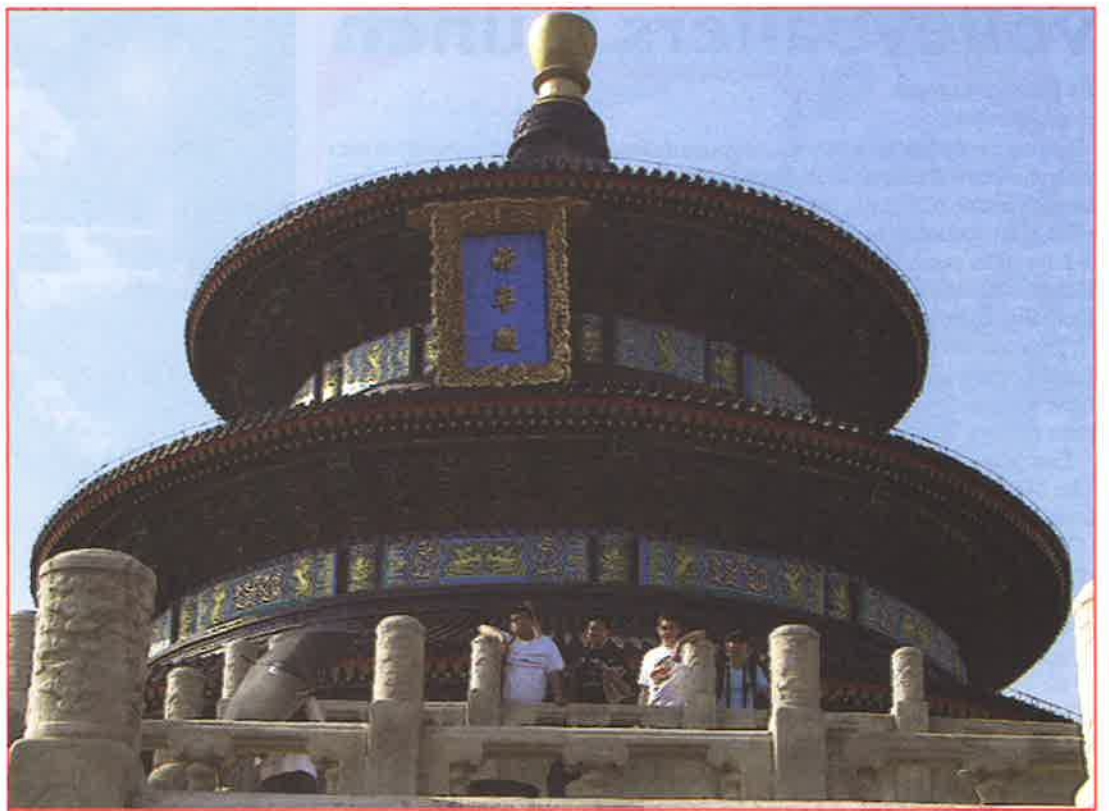


Photo courtesy of Harley Chang

Harley Chang, Hugh Montag and Jason Hu, admiring an ancient Chinese structure.

Andrej Rosic, with French Teachers Diane Jackson and Vicki Schneider, went to France for two weeks in June, including a week in Paris and a weeklong family stay in Brittany.

"The family stay in Brittany was unbelievable," Andrej said. "We were there during La Fete de la Musique, a national day for the celebration of music. The entire day, there were all kinds of bands in the streets, people singing and dancing everywhere; it was one giant party."

Already in Europe, Pys. Ed Teacher Joan Vande Velde will be spending the school year teaching in Bratislava, Slovakia, on an exchange program. Ms. Vande Velde's exchange partner, Sonia Oracova, a teacher from Bratislava, will be teaching Ms. Vande Velde's classes at U-High.

"I knew I would be teaching Physical Education when I accepted the exchange, but I didn't expect I'd be teaching anything else," Ms. Vande Velde explained in a phone interview from Slovakia. "Since physical education is not very big in Europe, all of the P.E. teachers teach one additional subject. Ms. Oracova, my exchange partner, taught geography, but I am teaching a special section of conversational English at the high school. I think it'll be a challenge, but I came to Slovakia to challenge myself in the first place, so I'm excited for it."

School's enrollment hovers around 500

Thirty new students were expected to start school at U-High today, most in the freshman class.

With the numbers still changing right up to the opening of school this morning, 487 U-Highers were expected to comprise the student body this year.

By grade, enrollment was as follows: Seniors, 110; juniors, 127; sophomores, 129; and freshmen, 121.

New to U-High are the following:

SENIOR—Alex Gomez.

JUNIORS—Christopher Chang, Jason Rowley.

SOPHOMORES—Ana Bezanilla, Nico Gomez, Alex Simmer. Former Middle School students returning to the Lab Schools are Mila Devenport and Hanna Redleaf.

FRESHMEN—Liz Abello, Turcia Ahsan, An-nhellie Akuamoah, Clara Freeman, Mario Gage, Lloyd Hall, Natalia Khosla, Shahreen Kibriya, Emily Kleeman, Sarah Lloyd, Aoife MacMahon, J.R. Mahung, Devaun Martin, Marissa Martinez, James Phillips, Sara Posner, Jenny Rowley, Chris Smith, Leyla Tatargil, Lauren Uchima, Shufei Wang, Jason Whitaker.

Smile, darn ya, smile: yearbook photo time

Seniors will have lots to smile about early next month when their portraits are taken for the 2007 U-Highlights.

They will be photographed in the courtyard outside Blaine Hall Thursday, October 5; Friday, October 6; Monday, October 9 through Thursday, October 12; and possibly Monday, October 16 for seniors absent from the school on their scheduled day.

Underclassmen will be photographed Tuesday, October 17 in the Journalism Office, Judd 14, through the door at the west end of the cafeteria.

All students will receive order forms either at home or at school later this month.

The 2006 yearbook should be at school next month, said Senior Louis Baggetto, editor-in-chief with '06 graduate Priyanka Rupani, now at Northwestern University.

"We just finished a second round of proofreading and now the book is being readied for the press," Louis said.

This year Louis will serve as student adviser. The 2007 editors-in-chief are Senior Michael Hernandez and Liwen Xu.



Michael



Liwen

Service to reign at Retreat; Open House lures parents

By Evan Dorfman
Managing editor

Cleaning up camp grounds and volunteering with charity organizations, sophomores will travel Wednesday-Friday, September 20-22 to the Camp Chi Perlstein Retreat Center in Lake Delton, Wisconsin, for Sophomore Retreat.

"Sophomore Retreat is and has been about getting sophomores into the mindset of doing their community service," Dean of Students Larry McFarlane said. "In past years finding service opportunities has been difficult, but this year we already have three sites scheduled for the sophomores."

For their retreat, Freshman traveled on August 28 to Camp Delton in far northwest suburban Ingleside for Freshman Get Together. The day-long retreat focused on familiarizing and introducing the new students to their class.

"Freshman Get Together is about relaxing and having some fun," Mr. McFarlane said. "It is also about integrating the new kids into the grade and taking the stigma of new students away."

As an annual appreciation event for donors and volunteers, Partici-Party, will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, September 16 at the Gordon Science Center. And at 7 p.m. Monday parents will learn about their child's classes the High School Open House.

Junior captures summer on DVD

Memories of Summer Lab 2006 will never be forgotten thanks to Junior Ben Picker.

Completing seven weeks of filming, interviewing and editing, Ben produced a DVD capturing the activities of Summer Lab programs such as Adventure Kids and Summer Lab on Stage. The DVD features camp highlights, photo galleries, interviews with teachers and a 57 minute recording of the Summer Lab on Stage production "Alice in Wonderland."

"I'm glad I showed how great of a program we have in Summer Lab," Ben explained. "I am also glad I got to show how great the teachers are. They really care about what they do. All in all it was a very rewarding experience."

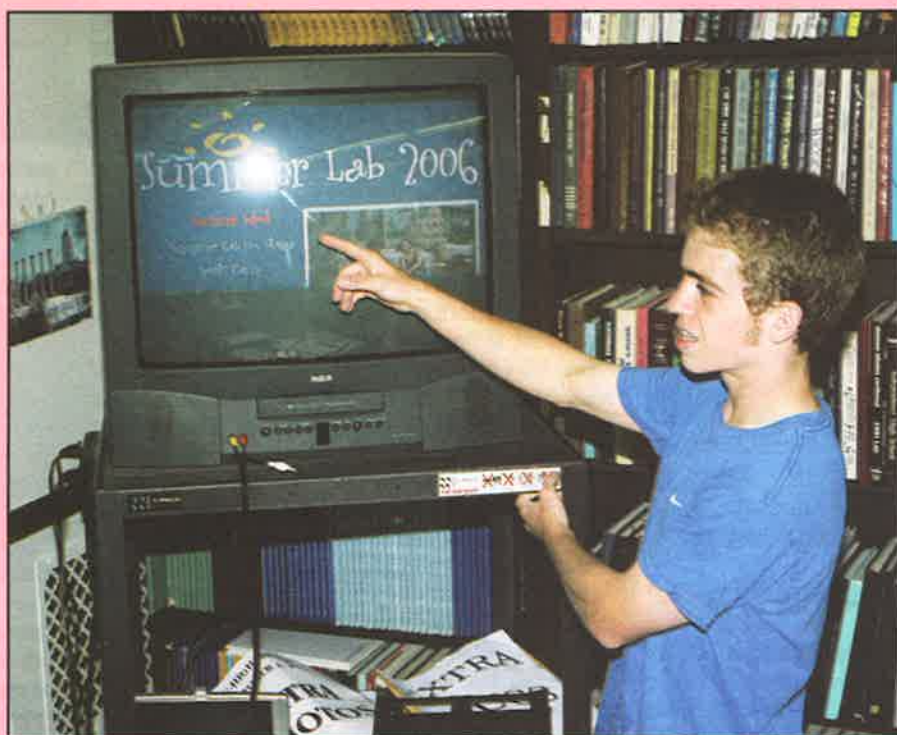


Photo by Emma Lantos