**Matt Horvat is ready to talk...to you**

By Namrata Patel

**New principal eager to come on board**

S
trompologically (though not at U-High), a principal’s office contains a large mahogany desk dividing the room. The principal’s 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 doors, 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 a 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, reading, 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 Dunchester, he has a 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 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.”

Leasing 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.”

**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. Zhikao 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 York. He evacuated Hurricane Katrina and then went to Mississippi where he built a house.

**Director to reveal awaited semester decision this week**

By Henry Africano

**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," Ms. 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," she added.

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

"I don’t think any institution can be happy where it is," she 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.

"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."
As the Midway sees it...

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

H ere at U-High, there's 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 basis, so it's easy to get along with 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 put together whether the school will switch from a quarters to semesters.

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

As Curriculum Committee made various decisions regarding classes, Student Council helped make sure student voice was heard. At the beginning of the first semester 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-semester petitions which circulated among the freshman and sophomore classes and drew 121 and 126 signatures, respectively.

Through letters to the Midway, students kept reminding faculty members and administrators that this answer to semesters was needed. Whatever the verdict, it's important for all sides to accept it and move forward. Advocates of quarters and semesters had the same kind of altering 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. 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.

The Midway is all about you

C elebrating the arrival of a new principal, Mr. Matt Horvat, Midway editors returned to the publication to prepare the first-day issue.

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

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

Mr. Brasler and Photjournalism Advisor Liene Ricketts are the only two adults who see the newspaper before publication. But administrators are simply 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 contributions, place it in a sealed envelope or Mr. Brasler's mailbox in the High School office and you could be a part of the next edition.

We're still best friends and love each other very much. Though I worry, how much will the distance separate us?

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 last goodbye to my boy friend, Trevor Lohrner, 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 was 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 Malam'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 Naderko, 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 fine, 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're apart, he can still be a part of my life. Though I worry, how much will the distance separate us?
Golfers seek revenge

By Henry Africano

Editorial

The Hull-House team is coming off a tough loss in a recent match against the powerhouse University of Illinois. Despite the defeat, the team remains optimistic and focused on the upcoming conference tournament.

"We were disappointed with the result, but we are looking forward to the challenge ahead," said Coach Michael Johnson. "We have a strong team and we believe we can bounce back and perform well in the conference.""}

Tennis squad takes on last year’s League champs

By Dana Alfano

Associate Editor

Facing Woodlands, who topped the Independent School League last year, girls' varsity tennis needs mental toughness to compete. The Devils, 5-0, against the Wildcats, 4-0, tomorrow, at home, believes Coach Mark Harken. Last year Lake Forest Academy and the Maroons trudged in the League. "The match is important not only because it’s the first league match but it’s early in the year," Coach Harken said. "Playing the match will be nerve-racking for the players so it’s more about mental than physical preparation. We hope that we win it because it sets the tone for the rest of the season." The Devils’ mental strength is clear that freshman Gabby Clark will be outstanding for us. She has competed in USTA tournaments and has really good younger talent this year, according to Coach James.

"One drill we have been using a lot is the butterfly drill, which helps us control the ball while working offense and defense." Coach James added. "We want to be fantastic on our defense tomorrow," said new Coach Amy Glass. "It’s going to help each other at the front of the pack. I’m looking forward to a tough battle with Woodlands and I think our team has the talent to win."


China proves hot spot for summer adventurers

Italy, France, Slovakia also provide memorable experiences

By David McGaughie
Senior editor

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everal of them traveled to China to examine life and the education system. 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, 13 Middle and High School students, accompanied by Middle School Humanities Teacher Melicent Rothschild traveled to China. Participating freshmen included Joey Klooswilk, Berkham Rogers and Sam Lloyd.

In June and July, Senior Harley Chang, along with Seniors John Whitmore and Noah Klonowski, traveled to China to teach English to high school students.

"It was hard at first, because in the Chinese education system, it's always good to have 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 Danny Schmit, taught English to students in China as well, going to Beijing, Shanghai and Xiamen 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, bustling 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

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

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, 139, and freshmen, 121.

New to U-High are the following:

SINCIO-Jane Gomert.

JINDOIS-Chistopher Chang, Jason Stoway.

SOMERFIELD-Ane Freundlich, Nico Germain, Alyssa Zeimor. Former Middle School students returning to the Lab Schools are Ilka Daversport and Hannah Bedeck.


Smile, dare ya, smile: yearbook photo time

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

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, Jodd 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 read for the press," Louis said.

"This year Louis will serve as student advisor. He is no longer a student, but former Senior Michael Hernandez and I are back from the doldrums.

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