Keeping the family safe

How administrators got an exception, saved Lab Schools security staffs’ jobs

By Nick Chaskin and Matt Luchins

Editors-in-Chief

Bringing the separations of summer breaks, Lab Schools community members came together to save three valued security officers.

To cut costs, the University Police Department, led by new Police Chief Marilyn Lynch, decided to out-source part of its force. In mid-July, 50 Public Safety Coordinators—unarmed University employees who provided security for U. of C. buildings—were informed they would lose their jobs. Among them were longtime Lab Schools security guards Mike Cephus, Jessie Ward and Cynthia Boykin.

Replacing them would be employees of the private firm Allied Barton Security Services.

As with other laid-off employees, Mr. Cephus, Ms. Boykin and Mr. Ward were given the opportunity to stay at the Lab Schools, but as employees of Allied Barton. All three refused because of lower pay.

Summer notwithstanding, the news spread quickly, as more than 600 people joined “U-High loves Mike,” a group on Facebook started by Senior Loren Kole.

“I heard about it one day from Simone Baggett’s mom (Nurse Martha Baggett) when I was at her house and I was shocked,” Loren explained. “Mike, Cynthia and Jessie are always there. They’re a friendly face. Even if you’re having a really bad day you can count on a smile or a hi-five from Mike, lots of people feel that way.

“I expected maybe 60 people to join the group, but I was getting emails from alumni and even parents thanking me and asking what they could do to help. Administrators also recognized the guards’ importance to the community and worked to keep them, according to Lab Schools Director David Magill.

“We don’t view Mike, Cynthia and Jessie as just security,” said Mr. Magill, who worked with Director of Business Affairs Chris Jess and Director of Facilities and Security Tony Wilson. “They are the first people you see when you walk into school and that first impression is very important. We want those who provide security to also have a relationship with us.

“CHRISS JONES said he requested a meeting with Marilyn Lynch to make sure we had every chance to keep Mike, Cynthia and Jessie at Lab. Along with Tony Wilson, we sat down with Chief Lynch and several representatives from Allied Barton and explained that these people were different from the other security guards around the University.

“Chief Lynch was very receptive. It was his idea to keep just our three guards as University employees. If any one of them leaves the school for whatever reason, Allied Barton will replace them, but we can interview and have input in who fills that post.”

The final resolution allowed the University Police Department to address the issue that caused the layoffs in the first place, according to Chief Lynch.

“If any security officer took leave time, a University Police Department officer was required to replace them in that post,” Chief Lynch said. “That’s one reason why we decided to make the change to Allied Barton.

“The decision to keep the Lab Schools guards came because their role seemed to be different due to the K-12 environment. But now when one of them takes leave, we’ll use Allied Barton to replace them. When attrition occurs, either through resignation or retirement, Allied Barton personnel will take the posts.”

New teacher, new administrator debut as familiar faces return

By Rachel Sylora

Associate editor

Only new teacher as school opens, Chinese Teacher Ching-Yun Chang is planning on emphasizing high energy class activities. A native of Taiwan, Ms. Chang moved to the US three years ago to complete a Masters degree at University of Illinois in Chicago-Urbana.

A new Lab Schools administrator has also come and two faculty members have returned in new positions.

At U-High, Ms. Chang, the World Language Department’s third Chinese teacher, will teach Chinese 3 in addition to Lower and Middle School classes.

“I had heard a lot about the U-High World Languages department before I came here from my coworkers at U of I,” Ms. Chang said. “I believe I can bring my students enthusiasm to Chinese.”

After serving as a substitute for Biology Teacher Sharon Hustinger last year, Science Teacher Daniel Calleri will teach Biology this year as full time faculty. Last year he received an honorary diploma at Commencement from the Class of 2009.

After retiring two years ago, English Teacher Hal Hoffenkamp by popular demand last year hosted a seminar on “Anna Karenina.” Mr. Hoffenkamp will return to teach English Winter Quarter.

At charge of educational and diversity programs, Associate Director (Educational Program) Jason Lopez has 20 years experience as an educational administrator. He came from Downingtown, Pennsylvania, with his wife Penelope and two kids Sine and Sebastian, a new junior here. Mr. Lopez will be profiled in-depth in an upcoming Midway.

Other new administrators include Alumni Development Director Alice Duford and Mr. Colin Warren, replacing Allison Weiss as the Technology Integration Specialist of the World Language Department.

Council president hopes to strengthen student voice

By Nick Phalen

Student government editor

Giving students more of a voice in the possible change to a five-day schedule with varying period lengths each day of the week but would eliminate Thursday double lunch, Student Council President Jack Brewer, senior, plans to hold forums so students can voice their concerns to the faculty.

The faculty, after years of discussion, the faculty last spring voted the new schedule be considered.

“T think that the students really haven’t been heard on the scheduling change,” said Jack. “I plan to speak with Lab Schools Director David Magill and make sure that we can set up a time where students can voice their opinions and ask questions of the faculty.”

Cultural Union will add more whimsical activities, according to President Julia Baird, senior.

“I think that this year we could make Spirit Week more exciting by having a lot of new activities,” Julia explained. “One of the ideas we had is instead of the traditional pie-eating contest where you can’t use your hands, we’ve considered adding something where people actually put food into your mouth that you have to eat.”
As the Midway Sees It

More than a school, U-High shows it's a united family

Most people think school should be the last thing on students' minds during the summer. It is surprising, therefore, how many students responded to the threat of losing three of Lab Schools' security guards this summer.

Amidst the current economic recession, recently-appointed University Police Chief Marlon Lynch decided to replace 50 security guards with employees of a private security firm.

"The news that Lab Schools security guards Mike Cephus, Jessie Ward and Cynthia Boykin wouldn't be welcoming students back to school flew through the grapevine during July. Parents, teachers and students went to work. Parents and teachers took more traditional steps - writing letters and speaking directly to administrators. While a student-formed Facebook group, "U-High Loves Mike!" swelled to more than 500 members, dwarfing the U-High student population of 496. For more than a decade, Mike - as he's known to students - has provided more than security. From his perch overlooking the David Scheunemann Lobby, he has formed strong relationships with U-Highers.

"NO MORE high fives," a dejected student wrote in the Facebook group's forum, voicing the student body's sentiments.

Administrators, including Director David Magill and Director of Business Affairs Christopher Jones, recognized the importance of Mr. Cephus, Mr. Ward and Ms. Boykin in the community as role models and resources to students. They became committed to keeping them.

Mr. Lynch and his associates considered several options including having Mr. Cephus, Mr. Ward and Ms. Boykin return as security guards this summer. But don't worry, we have a first-day plan. Mr. Magill and Mr. Jones arranged a meeting with Mr. Lynch.

AFTER MR. MAGILL and Mr. Jones explained the unique roles the guards play in the school community, Mr. Lynch suggested an exception be made. The three now remain the only security guards employed by the University Police Plant.

Not everyone goes along at U-High. Like any high school, students disagree and don't always have each other's back. But here, the atmosphere was different. Everyone rallied behind the three members of the community. Working together, students and administrators effected real change in the school.

Let's keep it up.

What are you most looking forward to as you begin your life at U-High? (Asked of new students.)

JAMIE HEILBRUNN, junior from Fairview High School, Boulder, Colorado: I'm excited about being in Chicago and going to school at such a small high school. I like the fact that there are closer student teacher relationships, and that the atmosphere is much smaller.

TINA UMANSKY, senior from Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois: I'm a fanatic, so I'm really excited to join the team at U-High. At Stevenson I was really interested in student government so I'm looking forward to seeing how student government works at U-High.

BRIANNA SOLOLA, sophomore from Munster (Indiana) High School: I'm ready for a new atmosphere is much smaller.

WILLIAM CHUNG, freshman from Whitney Young: I'm really looking forward to being on the swim team with my brother David, and hopefully making varsity and competing against St. Ignatius, and hopefully beating them.

Say What?

Compiled by Sydney Scarlata

Art by Gene Cochrane

2 Opinion

U-High Midway & Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Put your voice in the Midway

We know you're disappointed. You can't believe it's the end of summer, and classes are back in session. But don't worry, we have a first-day Midway issue to ease you into the start of school.

Journalism and photojournalism students publish the Midway, reporting and photographing issues, people and events important to U-High and the community. We hope to provide an accurate picture of the high and maintain the quality news source for our readers.

This year's paper looks to maintain the informative, clean and easy-to-read paper you've come to enjoy, but with further emphasis on investigative columns, opinion and investigative pieces.

The Midway prides itself and is consistently praised in competition for its individuality and range of coverage. We welcome readers to submit any story ideas, questions or letters to Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler's mailbox in U-High for consideration. Potential topics can range from commenting on a Midway article to addressing a community concern. Contributions are not limited to the student body. Faculty, parents, and administrators are welcome to submit material as well.

Although administrators have a legal right to view the paper before publication, they haven't in 45 years. The two faculty advisers, Mr. Wayne Brasler and Mr. Leese Brinkley, are the only adults who see the Midway's contents before it is sent to the print, to ensure the paper abides by legal restrictions.

We are obligated not to publish libel, obscenity, or any content that can reasonably be construed as disruptive to the orderly running of the school.

We look forward to giving you continuing, in-depth coverage of the U-High community, and hope the Midway offers you the reader an enjoyable experience in all of our content.

OPINION ANDREW SYLORA

There's more to life at U-High than the workload; there's a payoff

SO THE work begins.

Let's go back to this morning, when the doors of Judd Hall, took the well-worn stage through the cafeteria into the hallway columns of U-High, and prepared myself for the inevitable barrage of homework and accompanying groans that signaled the end of the day.

Going on four years as a U-Higher, the pains and sacrifices that go along with class workloads now seem second nature to me. In a school where mission statement includes "rigorous and well-rounded education," a heavy homework load is simply accepted as a universal truth. Some of my friends get their homework done in one sitting and spend the rest of the night watching movies or talking with friends.

But many others procrastinate, much like myself, doing the minimal amount of work until the day or period before. Asking me if there are others who simply don't do assignments at all, though they are few and far between. There are moments the workload becomes overwhelming. The times when I sit back in my chair and wonder if analyzing the meaning of a fictional character or solving calculus problems will somehow help me land a future job. Or the inevitable situations when my friends are out shopping or playing a game of tennis and I'm stuck in my room endlessly typing away at a history paper.

It's true I shouldn't be complaining. I chose to attend U-High, and that means I signed into doing a lot of work for my own good. But what I have to conclude after four years is that homework made me knowledgeable and open to discussion on a variety of topics. Which I guess is an advantage in what has been deemed the "real world." Where well-rounded people seem to find the most success.

And so when my friends from other schools label me as a workaholic and ask how I can possibly keep up with all my schoolwork, my response is simple. It's a response I hear from most U-High students when confronted by the same question. "I just do it."

U-High Midway

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Midway Staff Revives First-Day Issue

RESTORING the First-Day Midway, the three new editors-in-chief, from left, Matt Lucchins, Nick Chaskin and Andrew Sylora returned to school early to work on the issue with staff members. The Midway will also publish a four-page September 29, previewing Homecoming, and then its first full-sized issue October 27.

Briefly

Yearbook photo taking first week in October

■ REASON TO SMILE—Student photos for the 2010 U-Highlights are scheduled for the beginning of next month. Seniors will be photographed in the courtyard Monday, October 5; Tuesday, October 6; Thursday, October 8; and Friday, October 9, according to Editor-in-Chief Simon Baggetto and Isabella Prenta. Juniors, sophomores and freshmen will be photographed Wednesday, October 7 in the Journalism Office, Room 14. Schedules will be posted next week on class boards. Seniors will receive order forms through the mail; underclassmen will receive them in their mailboxes or advisors. Parents or guardians can contact Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler at 773-702-0591.

■ TOP RATING—All American, the highest rating given by the National Scholastic Press Association, has been awarded to the First-Day Midway. "I think it’s the 44th consecutive year the Midway has made All American," said Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler, who advises the paper with Photojournalism Teacher Liese Ricketts. "It has also all American in 1958 and 1959 when Cecil Denton was the advisor. That’s one of the longest records in the country."

The Midway is spotlighted in the current issue of the Dow-Jones Newspaper Fund newspaper for its tradition of first-day issues, which began in 1908 by

FIRST-DAY CHANGES—With new student-designed workshops and a return to 20-minute class meetings, U-Highers participated in activities ranging from a life-size choose-your-own-adventure discussion on lie based on the summer reading novel, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon. In an assembly earlier in the day, U of C. Computational Institute Director Ian Foster, Lab Schools parent, spoke on the theme of computational thinking. Computer Science Teacher Baker Franke helped coordinate the student First-Day Committee.

"Students got to decide what type of discussion group they wanted to be in," Mr. Franke said. "There were some groups with direct discussions of the book and others with activities related to it. The First-Day Committee and I took the concept from Arstefast. We wanted more interesting, fun and especially active group activities to get kids more involved."

Last year on the first day, some classes met for the full 45-minute class period while others did not meet at all.

"Students were very vocal about wanting to see all of their teachers on the first day," Mr. Franke explained. "It’s important for things like having the right books and getting homework for the class as well as being more involved."

RENAISSANCE REAPPEARS—Both the 2008 and 2009 issues of Renaissance, the school’s literary and arts magazine, will be distributed later this month according to Alex Fryer, art board editor-in-chief with Keira Kennedy and Nicole Wordlaw: David Tong is also returning to the 9th grade class to balance out the overwhelming girl majority.

Enrollment by grade is as follows: Seniors, 117; juniors, 121; sophomores, 126; freshmen, 134. New students are as follows:

SOPHOMORES—Nina Ludwig, Jackie Robertson, Alex Franc, Aria Cheng, Rosie Cunio-Grant, Marissa Gunung, Matthew Gospodin, John Murrieta, Jack Miller, Sydney Schwartz, Grace Ulrich, Tchu Hom, Cameron Costello, Zachary Radcliff, Spencer McElroy, Spencer Lew, Zachary Robinson, Matthew Jenkins, John Haddad, Malvika Jolly; Ireland: Aoife McMahon; Australia: Cassie Shira; Brazil: Gracie Schillinger; Canada: Alex Chong; Chile: Steeny Pu; Argentina: Reze-Ramos; France: Alex Cheng, Arielle Robertson, Sydney Schwartz; Greece: Rosanna Trumbull; Hong Kong: Spencer Lew, Zachary Robinson; India: Alex Cheng, Sadie Phillipson; Italy: Robert DePasquale; Japan: Spencer Lew; Mexico: Stephanie Lakan; Spain: Deidra Pimentel; Turkey:arity Pu; Uruguay: Rose Cunio-Grant; Cathy Luftey, Page Redding.

Features 3

Traveling to exotic locales U-Highers return with tales

By Adrian Aldana

A CRUISE down a bumpy road on the last of five 10-mile drives in Mashatu Game Reserve, a safari park in Botswana, Junior Tyler and Freshman Laura Anderson rode with their parent in an open top jeep driven by a park ranger. The ranger slowed for the family to photograph impalas, African antelopes.

Tyler and Laura were among several U-Highers who traveled the globe this summer.

The Anderson family became interested in travel from a conversation with other travelers while vacationing in Idaho. Beginning their trip in South Africa, the family traveled to Zambia and Botswana.

"We would go for an entire day and see animals and take pictures," Tyler said. "We would get in the car from 6:45 to 10:30. From 5:30 to 7:30, we would be on safari."

"We did a lot of camping in the bush and talked to the safari men. We would keep watch for animals. Our guide could name every animal we saw. He knew where to go to see certain animals."

Traveling to South Africa, Junior Jonathan Christensen, his parents and Middle School brother Jeffery, visited family for five weeks.

"In my first week, my mom and I went to a guitar store to get me into guitar lessons," Jonathan said. "I got signed up an aboriginal tribe in Australia, those who inhabited Queensland and New South Wales, as a teacher. Two weeks later, a hurricane swept over his mountain village. He had to go back home, so I really had only one guitar lesson."

"After the hurricane, we did volunteer work. We were shoveling mud from the mudslides. It felt good helping people."

Among countries U-Highers visited:

Argentina: Braco Cuneo-Grant, Marissa Gunung, Cathy Luftey, Page Redding; Australia: Reza-Ramos; Brazil: Gracie Schillinger; Chile: Alex Chong; China: Steeny Pu; Argentina: Reze-Ramos; France: Alex Cheng, Arielle Robertson, Sydney Schwartz; Greece: Rosanna Trumbull; Hong Kong: Spencer Lew, Zachary Robinson; India: Alex Cheng, Sadie Phillipson; Ireland: Aoife McMahon; Pakistan: Robert DePasquale; Japan: Spencer Lew; Mexico: Stephanie Lakan; Spain: Deidra Pimentel; Turkey:arity Pu; Uruguay: Rose Cunio-Grant; Cathy Luftey, Page Redding.

With the U-Higher now serving their hand-made subs on house-made loaves starting at 10 a.m., U-Highers can indulge their mid-morning cravings just down the block.

And if a sandwich isn’t your thing, you can still grab anything from drinks to peanut butter anytime from 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Things just keep getting better at the University Market.
Tennis battles ISL champs
Seeking to avenge a 4-1 loss last year, varsity tennis girls face Conference rival Latin 4:30 p.m. today at home in the season's third match. Last season, the Romans became one of three Independent School League teams which beat U-High. On top of that, the Romans also clinched the ISL Conference title, U-High finished 4th.
All this year's Maroons played last year except for Freshman Laura Andrade. Senior Gabbie Clark and Margot Turek captain the varsity lineup of seniors Caitlin Finn and Liz Abello, juniors Rachel Sylora and Maggie Carton and sophomore Leslie Sibener. With two winnable players lost to graduation, the team will need to readjust according to Coach Gerold Hanck.
"It usually takes a few matches for the doubles pairs to get used to playing together," Coach Hanck said. "None of the doubles pairs will be the same as last year because the seniors we lost were on different doubles teams. We'll need to win some of the doubles matches if we want to beat Latin because they are a really deep team. Our new second singles player, Laura, has a lot of tournament experience so I think she can really help us win some matches at that position."
With nine returnees and eight newcomers, j.v. also plays 4:30 today "Against Latin, we have to be consistent and aggressive because they are a difficult team to beat," Coach Julijana Lazarevich explained. "In general we have been working on a lot of doubles drills, focusing on placing the ball effectively and communicating well."
U-High split their first two matches, September 1 and 2, both at home, defeating Marist 3-2 with j.v. winning 4-1, and losing to Whitley Young 2-3 with j.v. winning 5-0.

Volleyball takes on Raiders
Working an hour in the weight room each practice to avoid injury, volleyball girls will face off against the North Shore Country Day Raiders at 6 p.m., today in Upper Kolver in their third match. Losing four seniors to graduation, Coach Lisa Miller believes the extra hour of weight training will compensate for the less-experienced group. "The first week and a half of practices were spent conditioning, which we will continue to do throughout the season," Coach Miller said. "The team will be strengthening their core muscles through weight training, and I feel that will help us avoid injuries and thus be more competitive against Latin and Morgan Park Academy, our biggest ISL competitors."
In their first two games, August 26 and 27, the girls defeated St. Francis 2-0, and both at home, increasing their record to 3-0.

Soccer begins conference quest
Scoremen start their Independent School League title defense 6:30 p.m. today against Northridge Prep in the Maroons' first game at Jackman Field.
After a 1-2 defeat to Mount Carmel at Stagg Field in the Windy City Rams Classic tournament August 27, Coach Mike Moses says an ISL repeat has become the team's main goal. Coach Moses mentions the squad's physicality and athleticism as keys to success.
"Our first goal was to win the Windy City Classic," Coach Moses said. "Now that we've lost in the second round, we will focus on the second goal of winning the ISL. Our third goal is to advance farther than Sectionals in the State Tournament."
"Like I always say if we have talent – and we do have it this year – and we play to the level we're capable of, we should win."
With only a few freshmen playing soccer, the j.v. squad, traditionally composed of mostly freshmen and sophomores, needed several juniors in order to field a team.
"We have some older players who are experienced playing soccer, so we expect to win the ISL," J.V. Coach Tom Piane said. "Unfortunately, we had low turnout at preseason so we couldn't work on fundamentals during the first weeks of practice."
Other scores as follows: Rahm Bowser, August 29, away: Varsity won 3-2; Timothy Christensen, September 1, away; j.v. won 1-0; Ignatius, September 1, away; Varsity won 4-0.

Golf seeks to keep streak alive
Boasting a solid starting lineup of six returning players, the golf team looks to extend their currently undefeated record against Northridge College Prep, 4:30 p.m., today at home.
Standing 5-0 as of last Wednesday, the Maroons finished last season with an 8-7 record, having lost only one player to graduation. The squad views their experience as a big advantage, according to Senior Evan Levin, captain.
"This year we're really focusing on making Sectionals," Evan said. "Other than that, we are trying to place top three overall in the Independent School League and end the season with a winning record."
First-year Varsity Coach Micah Christensen is working with players to improve on last year's performance and establish strong team spirit.
"Ideally as a coach, I would like to see both the team and players individually improve," Coach Christensen said. "I've already seen great improvements this year, and I think it's because we're really having fun out on the courses."
Scores as of last Tuesday:
Beverly Hills Academy Invitational, August 19, away: Varsity placed 4 of 6; Westmont, August 20, home: Varsity won 181-186; j.v. placed 11 of 12; Westmont, August 20, away; Varsity won 150-156; Water Prep, August 21, away; Varsity won 179-226; Lincoln Prep, August 25, home; j.v. 165-164; Diana Christen, August 27, home match canceled; St. Benedict, September 1, away; Varsity 172-181; j.v. 165-0.

Swim adds practices for power
Improving their technique using moorlks and underwater cameras, girl swimmers have been preparing for their season meet 4:30 p.m., tomorrow at Morton High School.
Along with new equipment, Coach Mike Cunningham has added Saturday practices.
"Saturday practices won't be just straight swimming, but rather, different activities like Pilates and side rolls along the lane linefront," Coach Mike said. "We want to continue to improve strokes, and get best times at meets and I believe Saturday practices will bring us that much closer to achieving those goals."
Finishing 7th of 30 in the 50 free at the Bremen Pentathlon August 31, Senior Kaisa Tammenl, captain, with Seniors Paige Redding, Bettina Wensenthal, Audrey Alexander, Simone Baggetto, Isabella Prenta and Varsha Raghavan, was satisfied with finishing 3rd of 5 teams. "It was a great starting point for us, because we have a base time to work off of for the rest of the season," Kaisa said. "I was really happy with the team spirit as well. All the girls made signs for the swimmers and were really enthusiastic in the stands."