

U-HIGH MIDWAY

Tuesday,
September 7,
2010

Volume 86, Number 1
University High School, 1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637,



**Lookin back,
looking ahead**



A star-studded opening day

With workshops ranging from short story writing to horror film directing, this year's First Day program will incorporate 20 accomplished writers, many of them U-High graduates, offering 18 different workshops.

English teachers, who designed and conceived the day with the broad help of the school community, brought in writers from all over the country.

"We wanted to foster the idea that one's connection to U-High goes beyond graduation by having alumni come back to share their experiences with students," English Department Chair Carrie Koenen said.

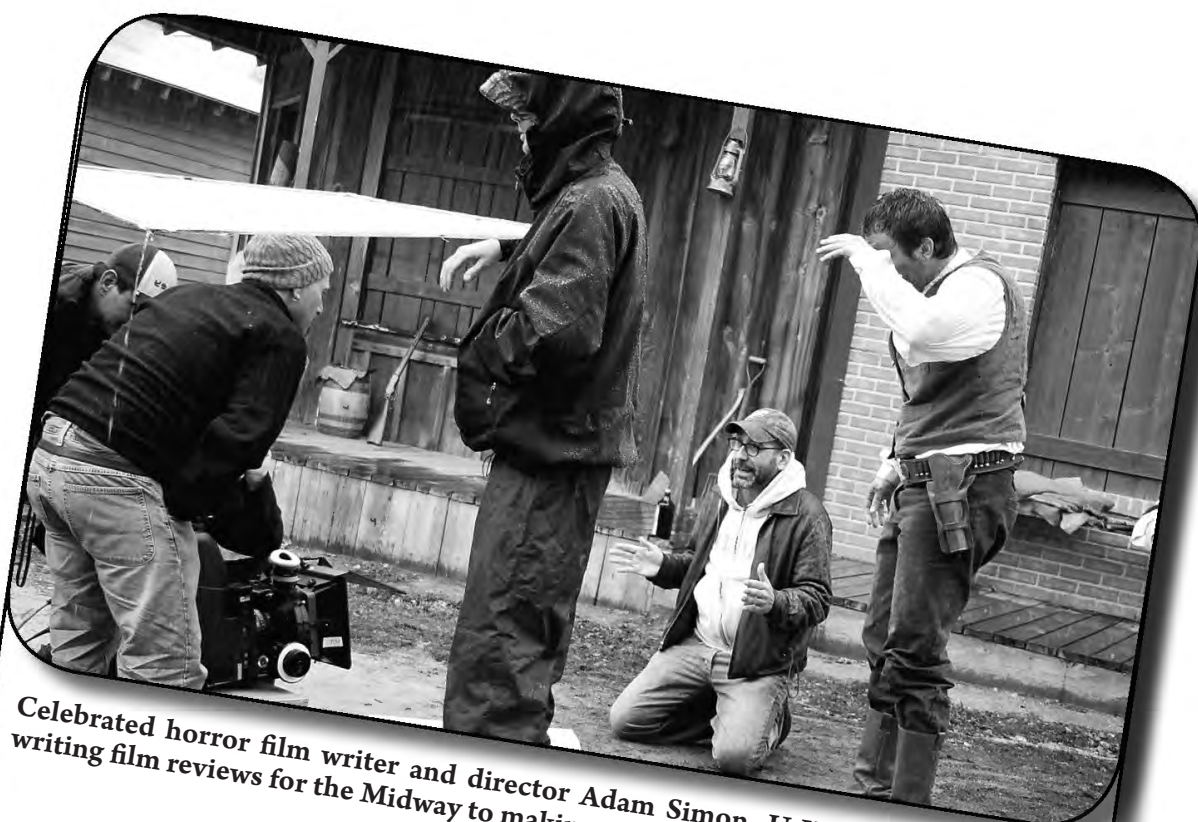
"While the Alumni and Development Office, Parents' Association and Mr. Horvat generously took care of all the expenses needed, the alums and other presenters are giving their own time."

As with last year's first-day program, chaired by the Computer Science Department, U-Highers chose their workshops.

"We felt like giving students choices spurred their sense of curiosity and enthusiasm," Ms. Koenen said. "Ultimately, I hope that the First Day program will be inspiring to U-Highers and will help them learn more about writing and its importance in everyday life."

Other workshop leaders will include.

Copyeditor CAROL SALLER; author **SUSAN FINE** on Facebook; Counselor **MELISSA WAREHALL** on the works of playwright **EMILY MANN**, U-High 1970; **PATRICK FULLER** on Lab Graduate '79 Daniel Clowse's graphic novel "Ghost World;" **BILL BROWN** on Mutant Objects; actress **KATE COLLINS** on the Oral Interpretation of Lewis Carrolls "Jabberwocky;" U. of C. History Professor Adrian Johns on "The Pirates of the information Super Highway;" journalist and author **LILY KOPPEL**, U-High '99, on "The Red Leather Diary;" **HAZEL AND HY-MIE ROCHMAN** on "South African Apartheid and Books"; Lower School Librarians **IRENE FAHRENWALD** and **ELEANOR OGILVIE** on "Story Time at the Blaine Library;" **MAUREEN EWING** on "The What, Why, and How of Being a Published Poet."



Celebrated horror film writer and director Adam Simon, U-High 1980, went from writing film reviews for the Midway to making movies others reviewed.

ADAM SIMON

Filmmaker Adam Simon will put the horror back into high school. Former U-High Midway movie critic, Mr. Simon, U-High 1980, continued his education at Harvard, The Sorbonne, and The University of Southern California Film School. After college Mr. Simon wrote and directed "Brain Dead" (1990), "Carnosaur" (1993), and "The American Nightmare" (2000), also co-writing "The Haunting in Connecticut" (2009). In 1996, he won the Special Jury Award in Amsterdam for "The Typewriter, the Rifle and the Movie Camera" (1996), which he wrote and directed.

"Last time I visited U-High was in 2000. I was filming my documentary 'The American Nightmare,'" Mr. Simon said. "I was here for two reasons; first because one of the people I wanted to interview for the movie was a very brilliant film scholar at the University of Chicago, Tom Gunning. And also the film was an essay on the particularly intense horror films made between 1968 and 1978. In a sense it was a reflection on those years in my own life, when I went from being 6 to 16, and why I became so fascinated with horror stories and movies - and of course since I spent those years in Hyde Park I wanted the landscape I grew up in to be a part of the movie." -By Akila Raoul.

SCOTT GRIFFIN

With his white Louisiana State University hat pulled low, Facilities Coordinator Scott Griffin works all day to keep the school running smoothly. What most U-Highers don't know is that Mr. Griffin is a published author.

A Lab Schools parent, Mr. Griffin finds time aside from his work and family to pursue his love of writing. In his workshop, Mr. Griffin will hand out pieces by T.S. Eliot, Edgar Allan Poe, and children's writer Jack Gantos, among others.

"Although I have selected reading material for us to look at, I don't want to beat it into the ground on the first day," said Mr. Griffin. "Primarily, I want to answer any questions kids might have about the writing process, as well as the publishing business in New York."

According to Mr. Griffin, he is strongly influenced by classic American writers. "I started writing in college when I was 21," Mr. Griffin said. Writers such as Faulkner, Hemingway, and Joyce were and still are inspirational to me. The Jazz Age of the 20s and 30s was a golden era for American writing, and an incredibly innovative time. I understood what these guys were doing to get a reaction out of the reader, and could see the process that went into creating stories.

"One day, I just sat down and started writing. My first short story was about a rebellious teenager who steals his dad's car and crashes it. Afterwards, his father picks him up from jail. It took me about a week to finish, I sent it in to a small publication called the Hoosier Review in Indiana, and it wound up getting published."

After dabbling in short prose, Mr. Griffin explored other forms of writing. "For a while, I thought I wanted to be a playwright. I was seeing a lot of stage plays and traveling all over. Oftentimes made special trips to New York and Chicago to see special performances. It turned out that I was too long-winded to do plays. I could write dialogue well, but I just couldn't make it work in a stage setting."

Mr. Griffin has since returned to story writing, with a major project in the works. "Currently, I am under contract with an agency in New York. I am working on a trilogy, which will wind up being about 600 pages in total. The first book is done, and as of now we are just looking for a publisher." -By Jeremy Woo.



Facilities Coordinator Scott Griffin plans to answer questions about the writing process through the work of famed authors.

A veteran Chicago Tribune investigative reporter, Mr. David Jackson plans to have students read pieces of journalism and determine whether they are legitimate or fraudulent.

DAVID JACKSON

Pulitzer prize winning Chicago Tribune investigative reporter, David Jackson, U-High Class of 1976, became interested in journalism after playing guitar and cooking professionally.

After graduating U-High, Mr. Jackson attended Oberlin University before completing his history degree at Northwestern University.

"I was in my late 20s when I got interested in journalism," Mr. Jackson said. "A friend of mine asked me to write an interview of jazz artist Von Freeman for the periodical Haymarket, which was a short-lived alternative paper. After that I became a freelance writer. I wrote mostly for the Chicago Reader as a columnist and feature writer."

"In 1987, Chicago Magazine hired me as a senior editor. I worked there until 1998. After, I moved to Washington, D.C., and took a job at the Washington Post.

"During that time, I was part of a three-person team who wrote a series of five stories about the fact that Washington, D.C. police were using aggressive tactics and unnecessarily firing at people. Then, the stories showed that police administrators tried to obscure the reality of what had happened.

"Those stories won a Pulitzer Prize for public service in 1999, by which time I had already returned to Chicago to work on the Tribune.

Now living in Wicker Park, Mr. Jackson continues to write for the Tribune as an investigative reporter. Today, he will present different newspaper stories to U-Highers and discuss them.

"During my workshop, I'm planning to show students examples of excellent and also fraudulent journalism and talk about what distinguishes the two. I hope this will help students be more critical readers and more discerning when reading newspaper stores." -By Nick Phalen.





At her family's Hyde Park home, Ms. Beth Fama has a cozy computer corner. An award-winning children's author, Ms. Fama is a Lab Schools parent and graduate.

BETH FAMA

Can you say Hyde Park?

After 15 years at the Lab Schools, Beth Fama, U-High 1983, attended the University of Chicago, before earning her MBA and PhD from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Ms. Fama and her husband John Cochrane, who attended the Lab Schools through 8th grade and is a professor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, continued their legacy at the Lab Schools with their four children: Sally, Class of 2007; Eric, Class of 2009; Junior Gene and Middle Schooler Lydia.

In graduate school, Ms. Fama began writing and illustrating picture books. After finishing her PhD, Ms. Fama had started her first novel.

One night while watching "Dateline NBC" featuring ferry disaster survivors in Indonesia, she was inspired to write "Overboard". "The stories of the survivors were so compelling, and each one of them had a different strategy," Ms. Fama said. "My first reaction was to wonder, 'Could I survive in that circumstance? Would I have the physical and emotional strength?' I poured out the first draft in two months, but it took two more years for it to become a real book."

Planning on discussing writing techniques during her workshop, Ms. Fama wishes to address outlining a novel but also winging it.—By Sydney Scarlata.

CARLO ROTELLA



A Boston College English professor, Mr. Carlo Rotella is accustomed to writing and giving attention to his two daughters at the same time.

Though Mr. Carlo Rotella, U-High 1982, says he was never a focused or ambitious high school student, his impressive resumé suggests otherwise.

As a U-Higher, Mr. Rotella wrote for the Midway and earned the English Department's nomination to the National Council of Teachers of English competition his junior year.

"I liked to read, and I always liked writing, but mostly I just drifted along," Mr. Rotella wrote in an e-mail interview.

His "drifting," however, earned him admission into Wesleyan University majoring in American studies, then into Yale University where he received his PhD in American studies.

As an English professor at Boston College, Mr. Rotella has earned numerous writing awards, including the Whiting Writers Award and "The American Scholar's" prizes for Best Essay and Best Work by a Younger Writer, for his nonfiction pieces, printed in more than 20 publications.

Last February, a feature by Mr. Rotella on Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, who

graduated from U-High alongside Mr. Rotella, appeared in an issue of New York Magazine. He continues to contribute regularly to the New York Times Magazine, the Washington Post Magazine and the Boston Globe.

His latest book, "Cut Time: An Education at the Fights," and the topic of his First Day workshop, was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize.

"I remember that when I was at U-High, you were respected if you had something you were about—if you had ideas, if you were honing some kind of expertise, if there was something you were trying to be good at.—By Rafi Khan.

KATE GROSSMAN

Once a Midway editor-in-chief, now a Chicago Sun-Times deputy editorial page editor.

From U-High Ms. Kate Grossman, U-High 1988, attended Cornell University and graduated with a history degree then attended Columbia University where she received her Master Degrees in Journalism and Public Policy.

"At U-High I was very involved in sports and editor of the newspaper," Ms. Grossman said.

"But after graduating, I didn't have a clear direction about what I wanted to do in life. It wasn't until college when I was the editor of my college magazine at Columbia did I realize that I really loved journalism and that's something I might like to do."

Before joining the Sun-Times staff, Ms. Grossman worked for the Chicago Bureau of the Associated Press and the Providence (Rhode Island) Journal and taught for a year at a Chicago Public School (CPS).

Reporting for the Sun-Times, Ms. Grossman focused mainly on education and public housing. She wrote two award-winning series, one about the first year of a new Chicago charter school, the other documenting a CPS graduate from West Englewood during her first year at Northwestern University.

In May 2009, Ms. Grossman's series on violence in schools,



Ms. Kate Grossman is a former U-High Midway editor-in-chief and now a Chicago Sun-Times deputy editorial page editor.

"Calming our Classrooms", won a National Education Writers Association.

After seven years as a metro reporter for the Sun-Times, Ms. Grossman joined the editorial board in December 2007.

Planning on introducing her work to U-Highers, Ms. Grossman will discuss her career and award-winning stories in "Storytelling in Journalism".

"For my workshop, I'll be talking about narrative nonfiction which is basically storytelling in a narrative fashion. I'll focus on how a story should have a beginning.—By Sydney Scarlata.

Receiving her 1995 Pulitzer Prize from Columbia University President George Rupp, Ms. Margo Jefferson won her award for her cultural criticism in the New York Times.



Margo Jefferson

Then: Junior class president, cheerleader and French Club Member. Now: Internationally acclaimed Pulitzer Prize winning book, theater and art critic.

Ms. Margo Jefferson, U-High 1964, received her B.A. from Brandeis University graduating cum laude and earned her Masters degree in 1971 at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Ms. Jefferson then worked as associate editor for Newsweek before becoming a contributing editor at Vogue magazine 7 Days magazine until 1989. After two years as a critic for the New York Times, she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism in 1995.

Today, Ms. Jefferson hopes to see how different and alike students are to her own classmates and hear what U-Highers have to say.

"I want to do the workshop to see their minds at work, to find out how they think and feel, watch them in the process of shaping themselves," Ms. Jefferson said. "My workshop will be about criticism, about the daily process of making oneself into a writer who questions, experiences intensely, and analyzes, not just the world, but oneself."

"I loved thinking about the arts, and about culture in the broadest sense. I trusted my ability to write, and that excited me. I chose journalism, because I knew I needed to stay in touch with the world as it changes swiftly and unexpectedly, something journalism makes you pay attention to.—By Sydney Scarlata.

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New year, newcomers

Lab Schools parent, Californian among faculty faces today

Rachel Sylora
Editor-in-Chief

Ranging from Lab Schools parents to former college teachers, four new faculty members are debuting today.

They include Mr. Francisco Dean, music, and Mr. Mark Krewatch and Ms. Rachel Nielsen, English. Long-term substitute Mr. Daniel Calleri, new but not new, will return this year as a full-time teacher.

TEACHING ANALYSIS and Composition and English I this year, Ms. Nielsen graduated from Augsburg College in Minneapolis, before she earned master's degree from University of Illinois in Chicago.

Shen then taught at Lusher Charter School in New Orleans, before moving to Hyde Park 11 years ago. Ms. Nielsen now has two children in Lower School.

"Everywhere that I have taught before this, I have had to start a program," Ms. Nielsen. "It's a little bit intimidating to come into a program with such great teachers, but I am eager to get into the swing of things, and to be apart of this community, especially as a Lab Schools mom. I've benefitted from teaching in many schools, and teaching students all over the spectrum."

BORN IN DELWARE, Mr. Krewatch earned a degree in journalism from University of Virginia, but will teach English I and II this year. After college, he moved to the West Coast, teaching creative writing at University of California at Los Angeles before serving five years at the Marlborough School, an all-girls preparatory school.

"I WANTED TO move to Chicago because my wife grew up here and this is where we wanted to raise our family," Mr. Krewatch said. "Luckily, this job became available. I hope even though I am not teaching journalism or creative writing, that my background in



ARRIVING FOR two weeks of preparation before school, new U-High teachers were treated to a luncheon in the Courtyard August 25. From left are Mr. Daniel Calleri, science (not new but a part-time substitute who is now a full-time teacher); Lower School Teacher Susanne Pralle (who dropped in to the conversation); Ms. Rachel Nielsen, English; Mr. Francisco Dean, music; and Mr. Mark Krewatch, English. Photo by Anisha Sisodia.

those subjects will work to my advantage."

After teaching and attending graduate school at Indiana University for three years, Mr. Dean moved to Chicago last year to teach at Thorton Township High School in south suburban Harvey. Now living in Orland Park, Mr. Dean will teach Electronic Music Studio, Concert Band, A.P. Music Theory, Designs in Music and Jazz Band.

"I learned about this opportunity from a friend of a music teacher who was here," Mr. Dean explained. "I hope to bring the continuation of what has been here

before, and to introduce new opportunities. But, I am most excited for the overall Lab experience."

NOT RETURNING this year are Ms. Meghan Olson, English; Mr. John Sun, Foreign Language, Mr. Mark Dreesen, Science; and longtime Attendance Coordinator Frankie Newcom.

New administrators include Ms. Irene Reed, Class of '98, admissions director, and Ms. Pam Winthrop, executive director of alumni and development.

Both will be featured in stories in the next issue of the Midway.

Brief-ly

Thirty-six new students start today

■ **NEW TO THE FAMILY**—Thirty-two new students are among the 500 at U-High today, the same number of newcomers as last year.

Exactly 166 students applied this year, with about a fifth being admitted.

Enrollment by grade is as follows:

Seniors, 120 (68 boys, 52 girls) ; **juniors**, 124 (64 girls, 55 boys); **sophomores**, 130 (84 girls, 46 boys); **freshmen**, 126 (69 girls, 57 boys).

New U-Highers (no seniors) are as follows:

JUNIORS—Anastasia Gusakova, Kendall Reynolds, Kayla St.Clair.

SOPHOMORES—Thanh Ngo, Chan Williams.s

FRESHMEN—Alexis Acosta, Leila Aliev, Clara Berestycki, Isabelle Berten, Zoe Briskey, Avery Broome, Jack Davis, Valentine Gallon-Morris, Miranda Garfinkle, Jaquell Hamelin, Ellie Hill, Qianyi Huang, Boluwatife Johnson, Stephanie Luo, Hebah Masood, Raul Mehta, Isabel Mitchell, Kahan Modi, Alekhyia Mukkarvilli, Tabitha Oh, Luis Ortega, Asha Ransby-Sporn, Gabby Rosenbacher, Daisee Toledo, Tommi Tsao, Monica Valenzuela, Carolyn Voth.

■ **JAZZIN' IT UP**—Including at least one student-written composition, Jazz Band will perform 1 p.m., Saturday, September 25, at the DuSable Museum of African-American History, 740 East 56th Place, as part of the Hyde Park Jazz Festival.

Music Teacher Francisco Dean will be succeeding Mr. Dominic Piane, retired after 38 years.

"Mr. Dean is really knowledgeable about jazz education," said Senior Sam Framptom.

"He's been getting us to work on different rhythms and styles, particularly Afro-Cuban forms, which is something you don't usually find in a high school jazz band. He focused on jazz at the University of Indiana and taught in Texas for a while. You can really tell he knows what he's doing."

"We've played at the festival before, so we will try to be creative this year. We're going to be experimenting with more styles and some original compositions by members of the band. There will be four songs, but we haven't decided what they are yet. It is going to definitely have some Latin Jazz in it, though. We didn't get to play original compo-

sitions last year, so including at least one will be our goal this year."

Besides Sam, Jazz Band members performing at the Festival include Junior Luis Saldaña, and Seniors Danny Traub, Ben Buchheim-Jurisson and Yael Litwin.

■ **WORK AND PLAY**—Traveling to Perlstein Resort in Lake Delton, Wisconsin, sophomores will leave for Retreat September 27 and return September 29.

While there, sophomores will visit the Kalahari Indoor Water Park on Monday and work at various service sites, still in the process of planning, on Tuesday.

"The purpose of having this Retreat is to stress the importance of community service to the incoming sophomores," Dean of Students Larry McFarlane said.

"Since sophomore year is the year Community Service is required, we want to make sure that students know just how important giving to their community and helping others is."

■ **FREAKY THURSDAY**—Parents will fill their children's shoes from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, September 30 during the annual Parent Open House.

Following a Parents' Association-sponsored dinner 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria, parents will attend 10-minute classes. Students may volunteer by signing up in the High School office to serve as guides helping parents find classrooms.

"Open House is an opportunity to relieve parent's anxieties, especially 9th grade parents," Principal Matt Horvat said. "It gives parents an opportunity to learn about the High School."

"Teachers usually discuss their expectations for the class, hand out the classes' syllabus and answer any questions parents have."

■ **NEW MENU CHOICES**—Calzones, Belgian waffles, breadsticks and marinara sauce, and new pizza recipes, will be added to the menu in the school cafeteria, Cafe Lab, this year.

"We have implemented a new menu, adding new menu items and taking suggestions from students," said Food Service Director Rachel Kovich.

"We still will have a healthy menu that will appeal to everyone."

Student gov't leaders to seek U-Highers' ideas

Sydney Scarlata
Editor-in-Chief

To encourage more multiple-grade events and stay in touch with the student body, Student Council President Emmy Ehrmann, senior, plans to schedule monthly open meetings to discuss ideas.

Cultural Union President Tara Rajan, senior, plans to address issues related to dances.

"I think it really strengthens the bond between students of different grades if we have more events involving multiple grades, like our junior and sophomore Wilmot skiing trip and the annual Six Flags trip," Emmy said.

"I ALSO WANT to work on improving attendance at assemblies by creating a system where students must walk over with their previous class, or sign in with their teacher."

"I want students to have a reason to come. I don't want people just sitting and texting and not listening. Maybe instead, we could take the assembly elsewhere and bring students into the community instead of just holding it in an auditorium."

"As for the monthly meetings," Emmy said, "I know one issue people want to discuss, and something that student council has discussed in the past, is the greening issue at U-High. There are many students who want to improve the school's recycling system, and there has been a lot of talk of buying recyclable paper for the printers."

"Lastly, our biggest goal as a Student Council, I'd say, would be to encourage the help of the student body. We're governing for them, representing their ideas, so it is crucial that they let us know what they want to get done. We will definitely try our hardest to help any student with reasonable requests or issues."

CULTURAN UNION President Tara Rajan, senior, said "We're trying to tackle the issues many U-Highers seem to have with music at dances."

"So not only are we going to have a song requests box where people can put in requests and vote for songs they like, but we'll also have CU representatives getting lists of songs from other students in their grade."



Emmy

WHAT THEY DID LAST SUMMER

Roaming over the globe, U-Highers worked, played

Rolland Long
Associate editor

Hiking Mount Afadjato, the highest ground in Ghana, Junior Kristina Wald struggled to climb to its peak this summer. A few of the fellow hikers from her volunteer group, Cross Cultural Solutions, turned back in exhaustion, but Kristina made it to the top. She explored the dry, 70-degree city of Hohoe, July 31-August 14, with fellow youths from the CCS.

A frequent traveler, Kristina decided to volunteer in Ghana because she felt it would prove unusual.

"WE WORKED as a group during our volunteer work," Kristina said. "The work included planting Mango trees at a school, and playing with kids while painting a mural at the orphanage. Most of the volunteer work took place in the morning so we had many activities, like buying clothes, hiking, and learning from various guest speakers about the history and conditions of Ghana.

"Playing with the kids, I realized how selfish people in the U.S. are. The children at the orphanage didn't have any toys to play with and they still can be so happy. They don't have a lot of food and lack healthcare. They didn't even have band-aids."

Traveling to Shanghai and Suzhou, China, Sophomore Rex Gu and his family visited his hometown for six-weeks.

"IT'S A YEARLY THING," Rex said. "I visit mainly to see my family, since aside from my parents, we have little family here. I thought it was rewarding and nostalgic to see all the places I used to go when I was a small child.

"China was incredibly hot. However, Shanghai's pollution really cleared up in an effort to provide a cleaner city during the Shanghai World Expo, which I went to. The Exposition was the most interesting thing I went to while I was there, and attracted loads of people. The expo's longest line was eight hours, to enter the Saudi Arabian pavilion. Apparently it had the biggest 3D screen in the world."

As part of a Museum-Teacher Fellowship program, at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum July 11-17, Washington D.C., History Teacher Susan Shapiro participated in a conference on improving Holocaust



WITH CHILDREN in the House of Hope, a Ghanaian orphanage, Kristina Wald did volunteer work in schools and orphanages in Hohoe.

and genocide education in schools.

AS PART OF the program, Mrs. Shapiro will bring students her new knowledge in holocaust studies to benefit both students and fellow teachers.

"It was intense in that we ate and breathed the Holocaust and genocide studies for five days," Mrs. Shapiro said. "Each of us was required to prepare a series of lessons for studying the museum's guidelines on teaching about the Holocaust. We analyzed how civil cultures can buy into a system that would other civilizations."

"My project over the next year will be to develop a course at Lab for next June, in which I will teach other teachers the best mechanisms for teaching about this subject. Next year I will have to present to the conference on my project is a success or a failure.

"The conference has reinforced my recognition that I will never fully understand this subject. At the same time it reinforced my determination to teach it."

ART TEACHER LIESE RICKETTS returned to Lima,



AT THE Shanghai World Expo, Rex Gu and his mother Binghua Ying stand next to a line for the Japanese Booth, which highlighted cutting-edge technology and Opera.

Peru, which she visits frequently because of her Peruvian heritage, to work on "Moving Spectacles", a personal Art project, spanning the entire month of July.

"I traveled to the most remote and impoverished edges of the city to find small family circuses and photograph them," said Liese. "I purposely avoided making images that point to the poor conditions of the families but rather; I tried to image their valiant struggle to survive as itinerants and the humanity in their life and work."

Summer Lab hits record numbers

Sydney Scarlata
Editor-in-Chief

From 700 to 900.

With 200 more campers signed up then last summer, Summer Lab achieved record enrollment. New Lab Schools website's format and a more detailed brochure boosted the increase said Director Ned Reece.

"I believe the jump in numbers this year was due to persistent emphasis on providing quality programming, both in fact and in our messaging and the overall development of the program," Mr. Reece explained. "We changed our advertising to focus on features of Summer Lab, such as Adventure Kids Day Camp and its 10th birthday party.

"High School participation increased significantly both in returning classes and new offerings like the new Computer Science class as well as the SAT and ACT classes in the afternoons. High School credits awarded jumped almost 40 percent."

With more campers to handle, counselors felt the pressure said Sophomore Rachel Buikema, Adventure Kids counselor.

"During the second session," Rachel explained, "there weren't enough counselors because a bunch of the campers registered for session two last minute. Eventually we did find people but one day a couple counselors were sick and I had to run to one of my friends' house and ask if she could work that day."



VICTORIOUS, U-Higher Charles Du and his USA Biology Olympics teammates display their award medals after the exams. From left are teammates Eric Liaw, Charles Du, Chelsea Voss, and Debra Van Egeren.

An Olympic experience in South Korea

Spencer Lee
Associate editor

Walking through the streets of Changwon, Korea, population one million, Senior Charles Du and his teammates Chelsea Voss, from Cupertino, California; Eric Liaw, Honolulu, Hawaii; and Debra Van Egeren, Detroit, Michigan, are slammed by the language barrier separating them from the locals, preventing even hand signs from being deciphered.

Modern looking malls contrast to the shabby residential buildings remind Charles of China, but without the high rises.

OUT OF MORE than 6000 students

in the U.S., Charles was among four students to qualify for the United States of America Biology Olympic Team at the International Biology Olympiad July 11-18 in Changwon, Korea.

Charles flew by Korea Air and had expenses paid for by the Center of Excellence in Education, who also sponsored the IBO competition.

To qualify for the IBO, Charles underwent numerous rounds and tests.

"WE HAD several rounds of selection in order to qualify for the IBO," Charles said. "After the open round (50 question multiple choice), about 600 advanced to semifinals. From there, after a much more comprehensive written test,

20 were selected for finals. At finals, they trained us for about two weeks in things that might come up on the practical. Then we had theoretical and practical tests modeled after the International Biology Olympiad to select a team."

Intense self-preparation and help from his father, Wei Du, was what got him to qualify, according to Charles.

"I READ numerous textbooks on biology. But I think what really pulled me up on the theoretical at finals was my math. Ten percent of it was genetics, and about half of that involved complicated probability that tripped a lot of people up.

"Also, after I qualified for finals, I went through molecular and cellular biology techniques with my dad at his lab. I think this helped me at IBO, because what really pulled me up there was the molecular and cellular biology practical. In the IBO itself, I was up against some tough competition with 58 teams, each representing a country, and four people per team."

During his time at the IBO competition, Charles placed fifth individually out of 233 people from 58 nations. Teammates Chelsea, Eric, and Debra placed third, fourth, and 26th, respectively. No official team scores were released.

BESIDES FOCUSING on biology and competitions, Charles had time to relax and drink in the gaming culture of Korea.

"I paid a lot of attention to computer games directly related to the culture, like Starcraft. Televised Starcraft is very much real. They also had other televised video games that I wasn't familiar with. We went to a cyber cafe with team Canada once, and was owned by a 'below average' Korean. Besides the gaming scene in Korea, it was a lot of fun to just meet new people from all over the world."

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO U-HIGH

For those who have never had the pleasure of being assigned 10 hours of homework in one night, and for those who have forgotten after a too-short summer away, the Midway staff has designed a guide to remind you about the best of U-High.

We like to think that U-High is somewhat like Hogwarts: the Gryffindors play sports, the nerds are Ravenclaws, we have our share of shady Slytherins, and of course the Hufflepuffs...we'll leave that to you.

IRREFUTABLY, THESE social taxa are not uniformly distributed into a one in four ratio—Wow. That might be a little much even for a U-Higher.

But even with our cliques and cult-like clubs (journalism? Never!), students never constrain themselves to a single House—er, social group. Admittedly, we all have some nerd in us.

Not that we don't do stupid stuff (notice the locks on the iCarts?) So to help you keep away from trouble (just don't get caught, duh), We have a list of suggestions to help you through the year.

WE KNOW. Many of you can't make it an entire school day without sending at least a couple hundred texts. But be careful: school policy states that if a student is caught using their phones during the day, the phone gets confiscated until parents sludge over to the Dean of Students' office to retrieve it.

As with any rule, though, there are exceptions. Find the more lenient teachers and get on their good side.

Or, just don't get caught.

THE FABLED 10-minute rule: Should a teacher be more than 10 minutes late to a class, all students get that period free. However, the Midway couldn't find this rule in the books anywhere—perhaps this is just an urban legend.

Abandon class at your own risk.

Hazing at U-High is at best, hazy. No clubs or teams have brutal freshman "initiations"—at least none that the Midway has found. To keep it that way, we suggest that lowerclassmen show their elders some deserved respect. And upperclassmen don't be too mean—you were freshmen once, too.

Besides, we're like family at U-High, right?



LOCATED IN Ida Noyes Hall, the student run organization Doc Films plays movies every day of the academic year for \$5.



ONE OF several superlative local bookstores, the 57th Street Bookstore offers literature from the classics to school textbooks. If you get lost within the winding passages, the caring staff will help you find your way.



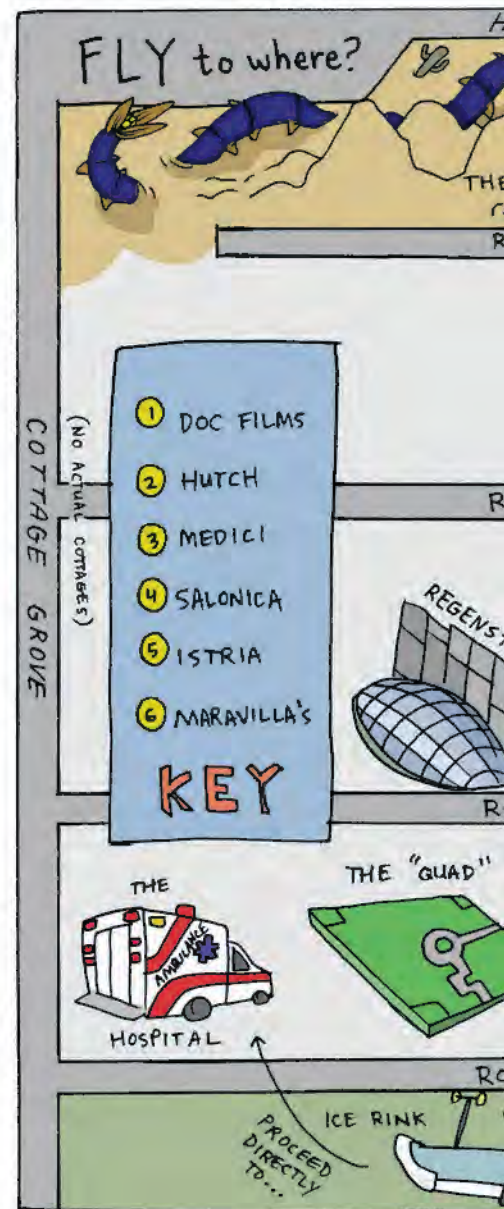
Charlotte
Lastra

THERE'S SOME-THING for everybody here, you could perform, argue or compete, three things I know appeal to Lab students.

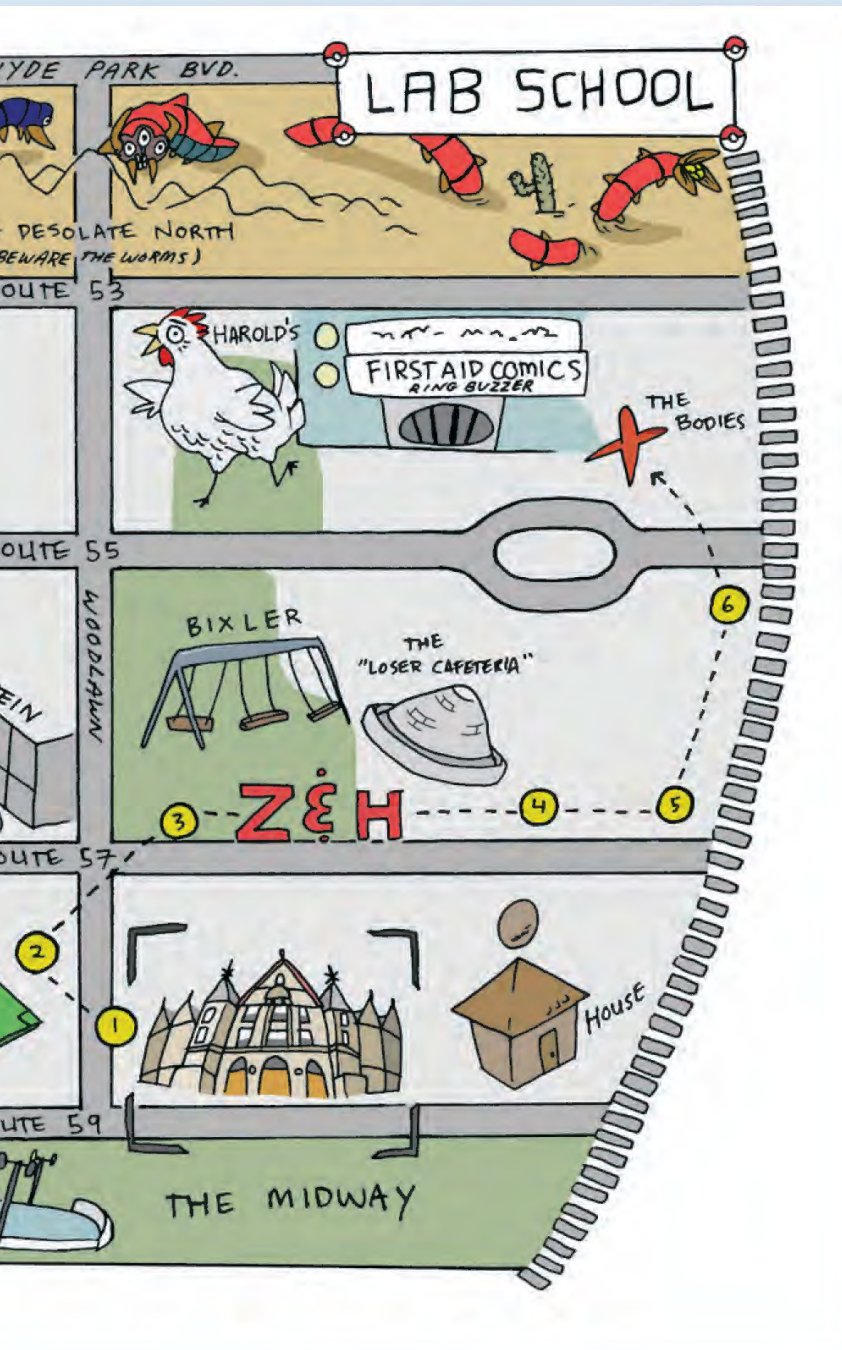


Henry
Bergman

ASK FOR help. There are a zillion teachers, friends, counselors and people who have more knowledge and experience than you. And lastly, don't mess with seniors.

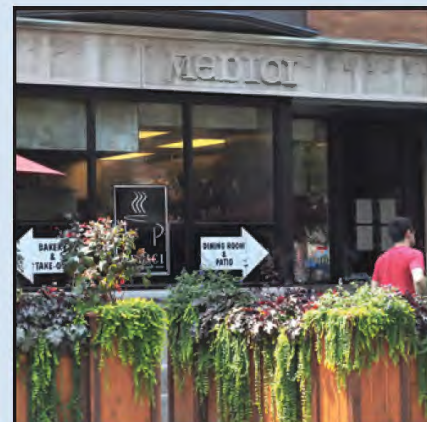


Photos by Sarah Husain



Art by Gene Cochrane

A block from U-High, the Medici puts a new spin on decorating. Along the walls of the restaurant countless U-Highers have inked the walls. Take your pen, or maybe your fork, to the wall and leave your own message for years to come. Next to the unique American diner, Medici offers an array of pastries and a large selection of coffee at their bakery. With a 7 a.m. opening, the Medici bakery can provide you with a before school fix.



WITH ITS Hogwarts similarity, the Hutch dining hall greatly resembles the Great Hall, though the food does not. In addition to Subway, Grille Works and Saffron Indian and Afghan Cuisine, Hutch also offers Robinson's Ribs, The Wokery, Southern Tsunami Sushi and Bene Pizzeria. Located on 57th and University, Hutch neighbors the University of Chicago Quadrangle, a great place to relax and do homework in the fall and spring.



Yael Litwin

BEING A LIFER at Lab is hard because you're in the same place you were in as a Lower sShooler, so you get a constant reminder of how much easier school was back then!"



Sam Neal

Don't put too much pressure on yourself. Sure, you want to get good grades, but don't sacrifice your friends, family and health. It's just high school.



MINUTES AWAY from U-High, Salonica is an inexpensive diner, featuring greek cuisine.

AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT



Art by Gene Cochrane

New year, new opportunities

It would be an understatement to say last year proved a struggle for U-High. But in some ways it also represented a triumph.

Before the year even started, students, parents, alumni and administrators were working together to save the contracts of three veteran security guards.

When an earthquake struck Haiti in January, clubs began within a week raising money for relief efforts. Finally, the year culminated in united and sustained support after a Spring Vacation bicycling trip accident in which two seniors were injured and one passed away.

No matter what obstacles the U-High community faced, the school family persevered.

Next year, predictably, will also prove extraordinary.

After nearly four decades of using some version of the current daily schedule, the school will moving to something decidedly different, and the extinction of Thursday double lunch.

What's more, the Lab Plus expansion campaign

is fast becoming a reality. By the time it's completed, the U-High community is expected to grow to 600 students, and U-Highers will see new art classrooms, a new library setting, an auditorium, and other dramatic improvements.

Expanding the Lab Schools campus, a new Early Childhood Center is planned for Stony Island Avenue just north of 59th Street.

All that leaves this year caught between last year's unexpected upheavals and next year's expected scheduling overhaul.

Still, this year is off to a superlative start. The English Department, with broad participation from the school community, has crafted today's impressive First Day program involving 20 accomplished writers, many U-High graduates.

There's new administrators, new teachers, new students and all sorts of opportunities for making this year more than an in-between.

Sandwiched between two years defined by extremes, it's up to U-Highers to shape this year as something special in itself.

The Midway is all about you, so get in print!

We know. It's early and you're tired. So sit down, take a break from looking at your schedule and enjoy.

Welcome, for the 86th time, to the Midway. Journalism and photojournalism students work after school, weekends, and over the summer to bring you all the news and events that make U-High what it is.

Although we choose what goes to print, it is the reader who makes the Midway unique. Students, as well as faculty members, parents, and administrators are welcome to contribute their voices. We encourage you to submit guest columns, letters to the editor, or anything else noteworthy for consideration. Direct your ideas and opinions to Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler's mailbox, located in U-High

106, and we'll take it from there.

To provide a total picture of U-High, the Midway has proven that it is not afraid to tackle thorny issues, such as race, drugs, and censorship. Thanks to faculty adviser Mr. Wayne Brasler's agreement with the school upon his arrival, the administration does not see any part of the paper until after it goes to print. Faculty advisers Mr. Brasler and Ms. Liese Ricketts identify problems and offer advice to journalists and photojournalists.

The Midway is not allowed legally to publish libel, obscenity, or anything that can be taken as an attempt to disrupt the orderly running of the school.

We look forward to offering you a window into U-High and all the things that define it.

SAY WHAT?

Compiled by Spencer Lee

What are you looking most forward to about U-High?

(Asked of new students)



Alexis

ALEXIS ACOSTA, freshman (from Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School): I look forward to sleeping in on Mondays, getting extra time to eat lunch on Thursdays, and getting out early on Fridays.



Rahul

RAHUL MEHTA, freshman (from Lake Forest Country Day): At U-High, I feel like there are more opportunities for me to succeed, compared to my middle school years at Lake Forest Country Day. I relish the opportunity to work harder, and look forward to playing golf for U-High.



Gabrielle

GABRIELLE ROSENBACHER, freshman (from St. Patrick School, Chesterton, Indiana): I plan to join the volleyball and basketball teams at U-High. I love playing sports and feel like the atmosphere surrounding athletics is to my liking.



Kayla

KAYLA ST. CLAIR, junior (from Homewood Flossmoor High School): Going to the same school my mom (Ms. Jamelle St. Clair, librarian) works at can be a little daunting, but at the same time I feel like it would spur me to work harder and not get into trouble.

OPINION RAFI KHAN

There's no limit to no limit texting

THIS SUMMER, for the first time in my almost 18 years, I got unlimited texting.

And omg did it change my life.

Gone are the months of meticulously counting what I send and receive. Banished are the days I howl in frustration while struggling to trim messages to 160 characters. No longer do I eye my friends enviously as they click away with callused thumbs, dawn to dusk and dawn again.

OF COURSE, I didn't really expect to have life-changing text-versations. It couldn't possibly be personal with all the shorthand and scandalous disregard for grammar.

But I was so wrong.

Now, to the people I didn't have the time or means to see in person or telephone, I simply shot a text. Getting in touch with those I wasn't comfortable meeting or calling wasn't awkward when I had my slideout keypad at my thumb tips.

My text messages were creating friendships. And scarier yet, they were reviving my existing ones.

WAIT UP. That can't be healthy.

I'm one inclined to agree with those who say all the texting and instant messaging and Facebooking makes my generation shallow and numb to human connection.

And it's disturbing to think that without my phone or laptop, I might not have half my friends. Especially when that applies to my closest ones.

But in my book, a shallow friendship is better than none at all.

As my mom always points out—usually while I peruse my News Feed, cell phone in hand—she hardly sees me anywhere but in front of my computer.

At least I'm not being antisocial, I counter.

THAT'S HARDLY a joke, now that on-line behavior and etiquette is nearing the intricacy of non-digital social situations. And any conversation I text or type can be as meaningful as one I speak. Well, almost.

I'll happily admit that I've been sucked in, as have many teenagers—and grown-ups—and I cherish every moment. Most of them, anyway.

When scientists invent hands-free texting or outright telepathy, I'll be the first to sign up, if only because it makes communication all the more convenient.

In the back of my mind, though, I'll always dread the day the Internet breaks, the phone service lines die, or the telepathy matrix fails.

Some friends I'll certainly see, but maybe the others will write me letters, or we'll get walkie-talkies.

Or maybe my only memory of them will be my slideout keypad and callused thumbs.



Rafi

U-HIGH MIDWAY

Published nine times a year by journalism and photojournalism students of University High School, 1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. Phone 773-702-0591. FAX 773-702-7455. E-mail uhighpublications@ucls.uchicago.edu. Copyright 2010 University High School, Chicago, Journalism Department. Printed by FGS, Broadview, Illinois.

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CRITICS

Film, Moira Differding; **theatre**, Nick Phalen.

PAGE EDITORS THIS ISSUE

1, cover, Nick Chaskin and Nick Phalen; 2, news, Spencer Lee; 3, news, Spencer Lee; 4, news, Nick Phalen; 5, news, Rolland Long; 6-7, insider's guide, Nick Chaskin, Sydney Scarlata, Rafi Khan, Rachel Sylora; 8, editorial, Rafi Khan; 9, news, Sydney Scarlata; 10, sports, William Chung; 11, sports, William Chung; 12, news, Nick Chaskin. **Other associate editors this year:** Akila Raoul, Moira Differding.

ARTISTS

Gene Cochrane, Michael Bissonnette.

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Editorial and business

Mr. Wayne Brasler

Photojournalism

Ms. Liese Ricketts

At Stevenson High the Statesman gets another new start

Akila Roaul Associate editor new year. A new Stevenson Statesman adviser. Again.

After getting two new advisers last year after a tumultuous experience the year before with administrative prior review, censorship and pressure, the beleaguered school newspaper at Stevenson is getting yet another change of guard.

FOLLOWING THE FORMATION of an administrative-conceived prior review board, the Statesman’s award-winning adviser for six years, Journalism Teacher, Ms. Barbara Thill resigned at the end of the 2008- 2009 school year. Under her leadership, the Statesman had won numerous honors, including the prestigious National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker Award twice.

After another year of prior review and staff resignations and national news coverage of censorship at Stevenson, Ms. Thill’s replacements will not be returning as advisers.

Ms. Lisa Lukens resigned and Mr. Matt Lockowitz was not renewed. U-High journalism teacher Wayne Brasler says he was told administrators said they did not feel significant enough progress had been made with the Statesman during last year.

“WITH BASICALLY only four staff members, in my estimation by any reasonable measurement last year’s paper was a heroic achievement,” Mr. Brasler said.

The new adviser, Mr. Andrew Boque from Yorktown Community High School will work with 20 students from last year’s second semester Newspaper Production class to produce this year’s paper..

While the conflict between Statesman staff members and administrators received nationwide attention, Stevenson administrators remained publicly silent. After requesting e-mails from Stevenson administrators involved with the Statesman and finding considerable material marked out, the suburban Daily Herald filed a lawsuit to get the material as mandated by state law.

A legal ruling from the Illinois Attorney General’s Office required administrators to release the e-mails as required by law.

BELIEVING E-MAIL CENSORSHIP was necessary to protect student identities, Mr. Jim Conrey, Stevenson director of public information, believes changes made in the journalism program last will help the paper to return to award winning status.

“We expect a quieter year in 2010-11, due to the changes we made during the last school year,” Mr. Conrey said. “We made two important changes to the journalism curriculum during the past school year whose impact will be felt more clearly this year.

“First, we clarified what the expectations were in (continues on back page)

Schedule change gets moving

Nicholas Phalen Associate editor

With a new class schedule with varying period lengths planned for next year, student leaders believe U-Highers will benefit from all-school free periods, where students can meet with teachers.

After at least four decades of using variations of the current schedule, the faculty formed a Scheduling Committee which worked on schedule possibilities for almost three years.

THE FACULTY voted to approve the schedule in April 2009, by a vote of 28 to 21 with two abstentions and considerable vocal dispute.

During its meeting June 8 this year the faculty was informed that the Lab Schools Board had approved the new schedule for next year.

Praised by some teachers for increased student contact time, the new schedule will reduce the number of schedulable periods from nine to eight to accommodate varying period lengths.

DURING THE APPROVAL process Science Department teachers repeatedly voiced concerns about the schedule, as it will reduce their class time by as much as 15 percent by providing only one 75-minute lab period a week.

Opposition also came from students, who believed eliminating Thursday double lunch would limit club meeting time and student freedom.

Though concerned about reducing U-Highers’ free time, Student Council President Emmy Ehmann agrees making teachers more accessible will benefit U-Highers.

“I DON’T WANT the new schedule to have too much of a focus on taking away freedom from the students and putting them in class for longer,” Emmy said. “All the focus on contact time takes away from the fact that students still need freedom during the school day.

“However, I think that the new morning break is a good idea, and if it can increase the time that teachers and students can meet than that will ultimately be good for everyone.”

Concerned that their department was treated unfairly, Science Department teachers do not want their class time limited to accommodate other departments.

“BECAUSE WE AREN’T going to have a lab period any longer, the contact time for science courses will be reduced by as much as 15 percent for some A.P. courses,” Mr. Daniel Jones said. “Instead of having one or more 90-minute periods each week, we will only have one 75-minute period.

“This may only seem like 15-minutes, but in some cases we were stretched for time with out 90-minute periods. Last year, for my A.P. Biology course we had to ask for permission for students to stay after class to complete labs on several occasions.

“The Science Department made its concerns with the new schedule known, but I think that people

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00	A 45'	C 45'	A 45'	B 45'	C 45'
8:45					
8:50	C 75'	B 75'	B 45'	A 75'	A 45'
9:35					
9:40			C 45'		B 45'
10:05	30'	30'		50'	10'
10:25			30'		
10:35	D 45'	D 45'			D 45'
10:55					
11:20			D 75'	E 75'	E 45'
11:25	E 45'	E 45'			
12:10					
12:10	Lunch 45'	Lunch 45'	Lunch 45'	Lunch 45'	Lunch 45'
12:55					
12:55	G 75'	H 75'	H 45'	G 45'	F 75'
1:40					
1:45			G 45'	F 45'	
2:10					
2:30	H 45'	F 45'			G 45'
2:35			F 45'	H 45'	
3:00					
3:20					

THIS IS HOW next year’s schedule shapes up, with varying period lengths and morning break times (in gray).

rushed to decide on a new schedule without really thinking about how it will affect our program.

“All other courses will have more contact time, but limiting science teachers’ ability to teach so that other departments can have more time cannot be the best way to deal with the problem.”

TO ENCOURAGE a smooth change, High School Principal Matt Horvat and Registrar Brent LaRowe will research potential conflicts.

“There are a couple stages to working on the project,” Mr. Horvat said. “Right now I’m working with Mr. LaRowe to make sure we work out all the kinks before we implement the schedule. Basically, we are just running the schedule model for this year, and the classes students have registered for and teachers’ schedules across all three schools. So, if there are any conflicts we can work them out.”

As for elimination of the beloved (by students) Thursday double lunch, Mr. Horvat believes there’s a strong alternative planned.

“We will have more meeting time as a school three times per week and we will still have a morning break period,” Mr. Horvat explained. “We all had Monday mornings and Thursday double lunch free, but now we will have a community meeting time several times a week where we can meet as a student body. This also has the effect of making teachers more accessible. Of course, class contact time also increases which makes it easier for students to learn.”

Continuing city violence hits home for U-Highers

Rafi Khan Editor-in-Chief

As Junior Cathy Ludwig hurries along Woodlawn Avenue to her family’s home on 63rd Street one recent afternoon, she can’t help but look over her shoulder every several seconds.

Neatly-mowed grass, overarching trees and well-kept townhouses flank Cathy’s route through the Woodlawn neighborhood, located just across the Midway from the Lab Schools.

BUT THE CONSTANT FEAR residents live with, of being mugged, or worse, caught in crossfire, Cathy feels overwhelms the neighborhood’s virtues.

“The neighborhood is getting better, but my parents still won’t let me walk home at night, even if it’s just 6 or 7,” Cathy said. “I’ve seen and heard fights and beatings happen right outside my house. Usually, these are late at night, but sometimes they’re at like 3 in the afternoon.

“One time, my mom and I walked out of our house one morning and found a bullet hole in the trunk of our car.

“And Woodlawn’s not nearly as bad as a lot of parts of the city, like Englewood, or when you go west of Cottage Grove. But even here, in the back of your mind, you’re always scared.”

OVER THE PAST four months, Chicago recorded 187 homicides, most concentrated around the Englewood, Roseland, Humboldt Park and South Chicago neighborhoods, police records show.

Among the deaths lie three police officers, all shot to death, and 26 teenagers, 23 killed by gunshot.

One, 13-year-old Robert Freeman, died after suffering 22 bullet wounds outside his house in West Pullman

July 28, further scarring the city’s reputation.

Countless other teens have survived beatings, stabings or gun fights, including two Gage Park High School students who were shot in a two week period in early August just blocks from their school, located at 56th Street and Rockwell Avenue.

FACED WITH A dwindling police force and a \$654 million budget deficit, Mayor Richard Daley and Police Superintendent Jody Weis continue to push “predictive policing,” a system that uses crime-pattern recognition technology. They propose increased use of \$9 million of federal stimulus money for more police overtime, and urge greater collaboration between local, state and federal officers.

And as Mr. Daley’s approval numbers hit record lows and he considers running for an unprecedented 7th term, he and Mr. Weis also continue to point out that compared with 20 years ago, the murder rate has halved.

AT AN AUGUST 4 press conference, Mr. Weis noted July homicides fell 24 percent compared to last year, and that city violence has declined for “19 consecutive months”.

But those statistics provide little comfort for those like Black Students’ Association President Justin Algee, senior, who feels gang tensions or witnesses violence almost daily.

“I live in a fairly nice neighborhood, Oak Lawn, by Midway airport,” Justin said. “But to get there, I had to ride the #X55 bus through parts where lots of people would get on, or just be hanging around corners, wearing red, and you knew they were in the Bloods.

“A lot of U-Highers, the ones who drive down Lake Shore Drive back downtown or to the North Side after

school, aren’t exposed to that, which I can’t say is a bad thing. It’d be hard for those kids to go out in the neighborhood and try to help—they’d be completely alien to these guys.

“Even aldermen hold rallies, and that doesn’t help. The best most U-Highers can do is fundraise for organizations like CeaseFire. BSA is planning some events like that.

“This kind of alienation affects all races, too. Even in my neighborhood, I can’t go out and play basketball with a group of Mexican guys if I’m the only black dude in case they’re Latin Kings or something.”

GYM ATTENDANT Terry Shanks Sr., who grew up in the area of 45th Street and Drexel Avenue in the ‘60s and ‘70s, believes the solution to Chicago’s violence lies in community development.

“These young dudes are out on the street because they got nothing to do,” Mr. Shanks explained. “Back when I was younger, we had social clubs and community centers, so after school we weren’t just hanging around.

“Nowadays, even when they do get home, they open their fridge and it’s empty because their parents lost their jobs or something. So what do you do? You go back out and try to feed yourself.

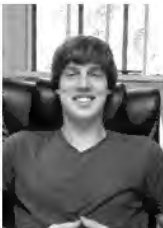
“THIS CREATES anger, at this economy, at their circumstance, and that what’s pushing these gangbangers. They’re not even scared of the police no more. In my day, the police would line us up and straighten us out, but now, if you go to jail and you’ve killed a cop, you’re a hero.

“The violence is lower in Hyde Park, but I might not be for long. They see what you students got, and they want it.”

Soccermen work toward a crucial Sectional slam

William Chung
Associate Editor

Payback. Losing the Sectional Championship for two consecutive years to St. Joseph of Westchester, varsity soccermen face their eighth test 6 p.m. today at Northridge Prep.



Nick

Jackman Field.

Then the team lost to Bremen, away, August 28, 4-0. The Maroons also faced Fenwick, away, August 31 and St. Ignatius, away, September 2. Results came after Midway deadline. Varsity Coach Michael Moses, who mentors the team along with Assistant Coach Carlos Acosta, is more than satisfied with his team's performance.

"With all the injuries that we've suffered, and with people on vacation, I think our team is coming around pretty nicely," Coach Mike said. "We've been very competitive, but our team chemistry is still building."

Sharing his optimism, Senior Rafi Khan, cocaptain with Senior Nick

Chaskin, believes that the Sectional Championship is within the Maroon's grasp.

"**WE HAVE** a solid starting lineup," Rafi said. "We've won the Independent Schools League twice in a row, and we're tired of being stopped at the same place, by the same team."

The Maroons used their preseason to shore up chinks in teamwork.

"A lot of us haven't played together before, so we've been working on team chemistry," Nick said. "We're a very technical team that has a focus on quick ball movement and unselfish play."

DOMINATING THEIR SEASON, j.v. beat Rickover Military Academy at Jackman Field, August 23, 4-2, Oak Park-River Forest, also at Jackman Field, August 24, 2-1, and Latin, away, August 26, 4-0.

They also took on Mount Carmel, away, August 31 and Reavis, away, September 2. Results came after Midway deadline. With an 11-1-3 record last year, the 22 player team expects to bulldoze through the opposition.



TAKING CONTROL of the ball, Dean Balabanov tears through the midfield on the way to a 5-0 victory over ACE Tech Charter, August 24.

"The best way for us to keep our winning streak going is for us to change our point of attack," said Sophomore Steven Glick. "We tend to go up the middle, and we need to start using both of the flanks as well as more short passes. We need more options to find something that works in each game."

Coach Tom Piane and Assistant Coach John Aloe are happy with their leaders' performance.

"The sophomore class has stepped up and demonstrated good leadership so far this year," said Coach Tom. "They

helped the incoming freshmen to understand a good work ethic and what's expected of them as a team.

Upcoming varsity



CONFRONTED BY an ACE Tech midfielder, Nick Chaskin dribbles around him to create a scoring chance. *Photos by Cathy Ludwig.*

games are as follows:

Thornton Fractional North HS, September 11, away; **Parker**, September 14, away; **Brother Rice**, September 16, away; **Elgin Academy**, September 21, home; **Morgan Park Academy**, September 23, away; **Mt. Carmel**, September 25, home; **Latin**, September 30, home; **DeLaSalle**, October 2, away; **North Shore**, October 5, home; **Walter Payton**, October 8, home; **Regionals**, October 15, home.

Cross country steps off with confident top talent

Jeremy Woo
Associate Editor

With the girls attempting to defend their title, and the boys bringing back every runner from last season in another chance to win one, cross country begins its season, 8 a.m. Saturday at the Gordon Tech Invitational. The Maroons will compete against more than 15 schools.

"Gordon Tech is usually a tough meet, with the top Chicago Public Schools runners there along with those from St. Ignatius," said Senior Robert Meyer, captain with fellow seniors Ben Buchheim-Jurisson and Thomas Aquino. "Last year the girls won it all, and the boys were in the middle of the pack. I think we can definitely improve upon our results this time around."

On the girls' side, a young group of 15 runners captained by Senior Mollie Rotmensch and Junior Alex Chang, and who return Sophomore Sarah Curci will attempt to fill the holes left by the departures of all state runner Sherry Fu, as well as Julia Baird and Aoife MacMahon, contributors to an ISL winning squad last season.

Robert, Thomas, and Ben lead 15 boys, including all seven of last year's varsity competitors.

"**I THINK THAT** the boys have the best top three and probably top seven in the ISL," Robert said. "Ben, Thomas, and I are all experienced and worked hard over the summer to improve. Francis Parker's top runner, Jonny Levin, is always tough competition, but as a team, we stack up well against the rest of the conference."

As last season, Mr. Bud James and Ms. Deborah Ribbens return as coaches. Coach Ribbens foresees a few obstacles for the girls.

"Sarah has dealt with ankle problems in the past, and Alex has been working through a back injury lately," she said. "Health will be a key to success for the girls. Although someone will have to step into Sherry Fu's leadership role, we will need all six of our runners to make contributions. Still, I think they should be up there in the ISL standings again."

FOR THE FIRST TIME in the school's history, *ESPN Rise.com*, a division of the sports media giant that covers high school athletics nationwide, placed the boys 23rd in Illinois class AA, encompassing schools with enrollments ranging from 762 to 1719 students.

ESPN also predicted the boys to potentially finish as a top 10 team downstate, should they qualify.

"Last year we barely missed qualification with a young team," said Robert after a tough morning workout.

"**AFTER THOMAS**, Ben, and myself, there are a lot of strong runners who are hungry for a top seven place come postseason. With the talent and maturity that we have, we think we can be one of the best teams in school history."

Despite the confidence the ranking provides; in cross country, results come first.

"We're not putting too much into our ranking, because most of the time they don't really mean much," said Coach Ribbens.

"**THERE ARE TOO** many variables to really make the ranking important. ESPN takes into account things from last season and which runners are returning, but a lot can change in a year. Injuries and how much work people put in on their own always factor in team performance."

"It's evident to Coach James and I who has worked hard over the summer, and we have been pleased so far."

"Every year, there are runners who show up when school starts rather than the start of preseason, which is sometimes hard for us. Judging by what we have now, we expect both the boys and the girls to have a great season."

Upcoming games are as follows.

Gordon Tech Invitational, September 11, away; **Midway Races One**, September 14, home; **Midway Races Two**, September 21, home; **Whitney Young Invite**, September 25, away; **Mather Invitational**, September 28, away; **Loyola Invitational**, October 5, home; **Midway Races Three**, October 5, home; **Latin School Invitational**, October 7, away; **ISL Championship**, October 14, home; **Prospect Invitational**, October 19, away; **Regionals**, October 23, home.



Robert

Coaching changes signal fresh start for tennis girls

Rachel Sylora
Editor-in-Chief

With the exit of veteran and highly-honored Varsity Coach Gerold Hanck and the graduation of four varsity players girls' tennis starts this season with fresh energy and new faces.

Building off of last season's Independent School League Conference Title, the Maroons face Latin 4 p.m. today, away.

Led by former j.v. coach and now Varsity Coach Julijana Lazarevich, the team will battle heavy competition including rivals Fenwick, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday September 15 at home and St. Ignatius 4:30 p.m., Tuesday September 21 at home.

Helping to ease the transition for new varsity players, Senior Brianna Solola, cocaptain with Senior Rachel Sylora, also hopes to instill team unity on and off the court.

"As a captain, I want to make the courts an exciting place where the team can have fun and not stress over the game, while still kicking butt," Brianna explained. "This season, we have a new coach and a lot of new varsity players, so it is important that we set a fresh vibe and work together as a team in order to make the best team we possibly can."

Gaining eight freshman and welcoming new coach Chelsea Trader, j.v. girls' tennis team face Latin 4 p.m. today, away.

"I heard about this job from my sister Ariel, who works in support tech here," Coach Trader said. "She mentioned that they were looking for a new j.v. coach, and I immediately jumped at the opportunity."

"I really want to bring varsity and j.v. together, and add a lot of team spirit to the team. I'm having the girls focus on their footwork and fitness. I can already tell it's going to be a good season."

Upcoming games are as follows.

VARSITY-Seton Academy, September 10, home; **Latin**, September 14, home; **North Shore**, September 16, home; **Nazareth**, September 20, home; **Morgan Park Academy**, September 21, away; **St. Benedict**, September 24, away; **Elgin Academy**, October 1, away; **DeLaSalle Tournament**, October 2, away; **Parker**, October 5, home; **Holy Trinity**, October 8, home; **Willows Quad**, October 9, away; **Woodlands**, October 12, away; **Tinley Park**, October 15, home; **Willows Academy**, October 19, away; **Regionals**, October 27, away.

J.V.-CICS Northtown, September 10, home; **Mother McCauley**, September 13, home; **Parker**, September 14, home; **Fenwick**, September 15, home; **Morgan Park Academy**, September 16, home; **St. Ignatius**, September 21, home; **North Shore**, September 24, home; **Woodlands**, September 30, away; **Elgin Academy**, October 1, away; **AA Stagg**, October 4, home.



Brianna

Fun will mix with hard work for swimmers

William Chung
Associate Editor

Hairless. Promising to shave “everything” if the girl swimmers win at Sectionals later this year, Varsity Coach Michael Cunningham hopes to encourage personal best times. Kicking off their first Varsity and j.v. meet, the Maroons face Morton West in Berwyn 4:30 p.m., today.

WITH A 3-4 RECORD last year, Coach Mike wants his swimmers to best that mark, and he’s willing to sacrifice his hair to do it.

“My hair is something they can see and really want to get rid of,” the coach said. “I think it’s a fun way to have them try their best.”

The swimmers are taking the promise to heart as well.

“**I THINK IT’S** good motivation but if we don’t make it then its definitely extra upsetting because we want both at least third place and to see coach Mike’s chin,” Senior Chinami Lupescu, cocaptain along with Seniors Brienne Ellis, Maya Fishbach and Tara Rajan, said. “

It’s all really fun because it makes Mike seem like a part of the team and not a superior. I’m glad he has some fun with it, and it’s entertaining. We love it.”

The Maroons placed 3rd at Sectionals last year, behind St. Ignatius and Latin.

WITH BOTH Ignatius and Latin have diving teams, Coach Mike knows that the perennial lack of a diving team are bringing them down.

“Diving can count for more then 10 percent of a team’s overall points,” the coach said. “That means



READY TO play capture the flag, j.v. swimmers decide on a plan of attack. From left, they are Patricia Perozo, Kira Fujibayashi, Meryl Charleston and Brienne Ellis. At right is J.V. Coach Laura Thomas. Photo by Sarah Husain.

without a diving team, we have to push harder then all the other schools in every event we can get points in.”

Despite being optimistic about the coming season, there is something that isn’t so exciting that the girls must face: not being allowed to shave. Although shaving can make swimmers go faster, Mike wants the girls to wait until Sectionals. He thinks that it will give them a psychological boost for the final meet.

“**EVERYONE’S IN AGONY** right now because we can’t wear shorts anymore, its all jeans and leg-

gings,” Chi said. “That’s probably where Coach Mike gets 75 percent of his excitement, us suffering because of our hairy legs.”

Upcoming games meets are as follows:

University High-Urbana and Glenbard West, September 11, home; **Marist**, September 15, home; **Whitney Young**, September 21, away; **IMSA invitational**, October 2, away; **Lane Tech**, October 5, away; **Latin**, October 8, away; **Northside**, October 12, home; **Maine East Invitational**, October 16, away; **Marist**, October 19, home; **St Francis-Wheaton**, October 21, home; **Latin Invitational**, October 23, away; **St. Ignatius**, October 26, home; **Illinois State Invitational**, November 6, away; **Sectionals**, November 13, away.

Varsity golfers, coach see plentiful signs of power

Jeremy Woo
Associate Editor

Wielding clubs not swords, golfers will compete against Northridge Prep Knights today at 4:30 p.m., away. Conference play began September 2 at Francis Parker with results coming past Midway deadline.

“We played Northridge’s course two years ago, so there won’t be too many surprises,” said Senior Matt Hanessian, captain with fellow senior Jack Burns.

“We match up well in terms of talent and I think if we play up to our potential, we will win.”

The Maroons shot 361 as a team, good for 5th at the Nazareth Invitational, hosted by Nazareth Academy, August 16. The next day, they shot 340 at the ISL Invitational at Cog Hill in Lemont, coming in 3rd. The team dropped away matches August 19 against Westmont High School, losing 184-160, and August 25 against Notre Dame High School, by a score of 183-165.

Led by Matt and Jack, 15 golfers including four new team members are vying for six varsity spots, with the remaining players on the j.v. roster.

Despite graduating 2009 state qualifier Evan Levin along with Bill Steuben and Ian Simpson, second-year coach Micah Christensen remains undaunted.

“Matt and Jack both shot in the ‘70s in our second tournament at Cog Hill,” said Coach Christensen. “Last season our team was strong, but we never had two golfers do that simultaneously. We shot 340 as a team, which is about where we were last season.

“If we get solid production out of our bottom spots, we should be fine for Sectionals.”

A playoff system allows candidates to challenge one another, with the better scoring golfer awarded a varsity position.

Freshman Rahul Mehta, arriving from Lake Forest Country Day after a family move to the city, and returning Senior Tyler Anderson, are likely to fill the third and fourth spots, respectively.

Regardless of some roster uncertainty toward the bottom, Coach Christensen sees his team as contenders.

“North Shore and Latin were ahead of us in the ISL last year,” said Coach Christensen. “They should be our main competition again.

“Still, I think we are good enough to make a strong run at the conference.”

On the j.v. side of things, Coach Joan Vande Velde has dealt with a number of obstacles.

“I am not always sure who will be practicing with j.v., since the varsity situation is fluid and the rosters could change weekly,” said Coach Vande Velde.

“Because that makes it hard to perform at the highest level, we have been trying to key in on new golfers who don’t have the same experience that our older players have.

“If all our kids can play bogey golf or better by the end of the season, it will be a great step in our development.”

Upcoming meets are as follows:

Elgin Academy, September 14, home; **Latin**, September 21, home; **North Shore**, September 23, home; **ISL Championships**, September 29, away; **Regionals**, October 5, away.

Volleyball girls gear up for Conference challenges

J.R Reed
Sports Editor

Fresh off last weekend’s Labor Day Tournament at both Timothy Christian and Westmont High School, varsity volleyball girls take on Rich East tonight at 5:30 in Kovler Gym.

The Maroons look to build momentum heading into their Independent Schools League campaign, beginning next Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., home against rival Latin.

Beginning their season at St. Francis De Sales August 25, the Maroons won in straight sets, 25-22, 26-24.

At Rich East the next day, they lost 25-22, 25-19. The girls took on Agricultural Science High School September 1 at home. Results came past Midway deadline.

The Labor Day Tournament consisted

of five games last Friday and Saturday, with results coming past Midway deadline.

Varsity Coach Lisa Miller believes the tournament will help the team work out any kinks before Conference play begins.

“The advanced volleyball teams at the tournament represent the toughest competition we will face all season,” Ms. Miller explained. “I expect us to elevate our level of play heading into the regular season as a result of the experience.”

The Maroons return five varsity members, also adding Assistant Coach Marissa Meyer, former four-year Division I volleyballer at West Virginia University. Ms. Miller hopes to build from last season’s nine wins, five losses, and shared second place in the ISL with Morgan Park Academy.

“I believe we will be comparable to last year’s team,” Ms. Miller said. “I think

that last year’s seniors instilled a willingness to be challenged and a strong work ethic into this year’s team, and I believe they set a standard that’s going to carry over from the previous season.” Senior Marissa Guiang, captain with fellow Senior Danielle Verdirame, also holds high expectations.

“Although we lost a few key players because they graduated, new members of the team are filling the void very quickly and have been trying out new positions and exploring new skills to do so,” Marissa explained.

“Sophomores Maya Hansen and Dany Zhang have both been moved up to the varsity team after playing only one season of j.v. It’s great to see them move up so quickly, especially because it was obvious last season that they had great potential.”

On the j.v. side, Ms. Liane Rousseau arrives as coach. Last fall, Ms. Rousseau blew out her knee playing volleyball for

the University of Chicago, and has since turned to coaching.

“I’m really excited for the opportunity to share my strong passion for volleyball with these girls,” Ms. Rousseau said. “I chose to coach at University High because it provided me with the chance to stay involved with the sport even though I can’t play anymore. After finishing last season with four wins and nine losses, I would love for the team to finish with a .500 record or better.”

Upcoming games are as follows:

Seton Academy, September 10, home; **J.V. Latin Invitational Tournament**, September 11, away; **Latin**, September 14, home; **North Shore**, September 16, home; **Nazareth**, September 20, home.

Morgan Park Academy, September 21, away; **St. Benedict**, September 24, away; **Elgin Academy**, October 1, away; **Varsity DeLaSalle Tournament**, October 2, away; **Parker**, October 5, home; **Holy Trinity**, October 8, home; **Willows Quad (varsity only)**, October 9, away; Jones (j.v. only), October 22, home.

Regionals get underway Friday, October 15, at home.



Chinami



Matt



Maya

Praised as ‘legend,’ Midway wins top rating for last year

“The U-High Midway remains a legend.”

With that observation the National Scholastic Press Association awarded last year’s Midway the top rating, All American, for overall excellence.

It is the 45th consecutive year the Midway has won the award; in the 1960s when judging was conducted twice a year the Midway two All Americans yearly.

Judges praised the Midway’s aggressive urban issues and high school newspaper censorship coverage and its excellent photography and cartoons. They suggested more graphics and less complex design.

“We’re already working on those areas,” said Senior Nick Chaskin, editor-in-chief last year with Andrew Sylora and Matt Luchins, now college freshmen. Nick,

who this year is executive director for special projects and redesigned the paper for this year.

Judge’s comments in the scorebook also included, “You show the world of high school journalism how to take difficult topics and turn them into complete, source-oriented news stories. And you follow those news stories with thoughtful commentary.

“You also took a difficult situation on your own campus and rose to the occasion with sensitivity and care; that was not easy and well all know it. Your paper otherwise is a lively, interesting collection of people and ideas, and you have much to be proud of.”

Honor also came to Andy Zheng, an associate editor and columnist last year, who was named to NSPA’s Honor Roll of High School Journalists.

The honor was based on Andy’s academic record and his achievements as high school journalist.

Topping off first day of school, 2010 yearbook will debut

Delivering a one-two Opening Day journalistic punch, the Midway staff distributed its first issue before school this morning and the U-Highlights staff will distribute the 2010 yearbook in the cafeteria after the closing assembly this afternoon.

“The Midway staff worked for three weeks before school to get out its issue,” said Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler, who advises both publications with Photojournalism Teacher Liese

Ricketts. “The U-Highlights staff hit its deadline on the nose August 26 and the yearbook’s printer in Dallas was able to deliver early.”

Yearbook editors-in-chief were Isabella Prenta and Simone Baggetto, with Adam Gelman photography editor.

“The photojournalism staff, as everyone will see, produced remarkable photo coverage of the year,” Mr. Brasler said, “and it’s set within outstanding report and writing. Everyone who worked on

School mourns passing of recipient of 2009 Distinguished Alumna award

The Lab Schools, as well as the dance world, lost a shining star July 17 when Ms. Denise Jefferson, Class of 1961, died of cancer in New York City, where

she was the longtime director of the Ailey School.

She had been selected by the founder Alvin Ailey to take that position in 1964 and her students went on to star in the outstanding dance companies in the nation. She had taught at the Ailey

school since 1974; Mr. Ailey died in 1989.

The famed dancer Judith Jamison, Ailey artistic director, told Sid Smith of the Chicago Tribune, that Ms. Jefferson’s smile “brought line to all of the students who came to their dance life through her nurturing hand and heart.”

Last year Ms. Jefferson received the Lab Schools Distinguished Alumni Award. She is survived by her mother Irma, her daughter Frances Harper, and by her sister Margo Jefferson, Class of 1964, a internationally-famous Pulitzer Prize-winning arts critic who is at U-High today for the First Day program.



Ms. Jefferson

What’s up on the front cover

From top:

■ In the Kovler Gymnastics Gym, Summer Lab Adventure Kids enjoyed the dodgeball game Fort Wars. The counselors here are Spencer Lee and Alex Ortez.

■ Among swimming Summer Lab swimming instructors were Kyra Fujibayashi, Sydney Scarlata, Patricia Perozo, Kaia Tammen and Homer Chu.

■ Summer Lab Counselor Cathy Ludwig sports a jersey with Dean Balabanov’s name on it.

■ At Culver Military Academy in Indiana, Remy Lewis enjoyed six weeks of summer camp incorporating both sports and classes.

■ In Luangprapang, Laos, Cathy Ludwig learned how to care for elephants.

■ On a carnival ride at Navy Pier, Max Davis enjoys a classic Chicago summer experience.

■ In Paris, Alexa Greene takes in the famous skyline.

■ Also in France, Maya Baroody, Maya Hansen and Abby Daum enjoy a carousel ride. Carousels are a frequent sight in France, not confined mostly to theme parks.

■ In the Masouri Islands of Fiji, Gia Rowley stayed in a local village doing volunteer work with the program Rustic Pathways.

■ Max Lehman waits for the L at the Damen stop on the North Side.



Vision of the future

THIS ARCHITECTS’ RENDERING depicts designs in progress for the projected Early Childhood Campus on Stony Island Avenue. At the Alumni Jazz Brunch last June, three-dimensional models of this complex and the new art wing and theater which will link up with the towers of Belfield Hall—the towers will be retained, the building otherwise will come down—elicited oohs and aahs.

Another new beginning for Stevenson High paper

(continues from page 9)

our journalism curriculum, and how students would be assessed in terms of meeting those expectations.

“Second, we are providing a more detailed production schedule to make sure that students know the deadlines they had to meet in order for their work to be published.

“The changes in the journalism curriculum brought a greater clarity and focus to the expectations for the students.

“**WE’RE NOT** as concerned about awards as we are about ensuring that students are learning journalism fundamentals. Having said that, we’re confident that if those fundamentals are being taught and practiced properly, it’s likely that awards will follow.”

In the Spring 2010 issue of the Student Press Law Center (SPLC) Report magazine, Stevenson’s censorship problems were addressed by Mr. Frank LoMonte, SPLC director.

He believes that if the school’s administrators can reinstate the positive values of journalism in the school, the paper can once again rise to the top.

“**THE CULTURE** at Stevenson High School has not been conducive to honest, independent journalism,” Mr. LoMonte said in a telephone interview.

“We really hope that the administration has, with the benefit of a summer to think about it, recognized the terrible damage that their actions inflicted on the school’s reputation and will act with greater self-restraint to avoid more controversy.

“We’re trying to be optimistic, because surely the school does not want a repeat of last year and does not want to have to defend its record of behavior in court.

“**FOR THE PAPER** to return to its former greatness they will have to start from the top. If the school makes journalism a frustrating and abusive experience, then good students won’t pursue it and the paper will die off.

“If the school takes a less heavy-handed approach and treats student-led journalism as the valuable educational experience that it is, then the paper can come back.”

“We have not talked with any students who are with the Statesman this year, but we understand that the administration has replaced the advisers yet again,” Mr. LoMonte added.

“**WE WILL** of course give the new adviser all of the support he needs if he is interested in acting for the benefit of the students and putting out a quality journalistic publication and not a public-relations newsletter for the school.

“It is hard to imagine that unless there is a complete turnover of the administration at Stevenson that the hostile climate for journalism can improve. Being

a journalist at Stevenson High School last year was like being a journalist in North Korea, and while we hope that the administrators have recognized how badly they behaved and have reformed, we’ve seen no public acknowledgment of wrongdoing and no apology to the students who were wronged.”

MR. WAYNE BRASLER, who is beginning his 47th year of teaching journalism and advising student publications, is a former National Journalism Teacher of the Year and who for several decades wrote the Newspaper Guidebook used for judging by the National Scholastic Press Association, says the statements issued by Stevenson spokesmen since the Statesman was first subjected to prior review are often misleading.

“For example, the insinuation in recent statements is that the journalism curriculum needed to achieve greater clarity and that students needed clearer expectations and to be taught fundamentals properly.

“In fact, as an adviser, Barb Thill guided the Statesman to two National Pace-maker awards and before that the Lyons Township Lion to five National Pace-maker Awards. She herself received the NSPA Pioneer Award for leadership in publications advising.

“**ADVISERS AND PUBLICATIONS** don’t receive these highest-level honors, which are extremely difficult to achieve, in programs where fundamentals aren’t adequately taught, students are not inspired by high-level expectations, and no one knows the deadlines.

“Barb Thill wasn’t some sort of doesn’t-quite-know-what-she’s-doing amateur. She was brought to Stevenson to lift adequate publications to the superlative level, and that she did quickly.

“To insinuate otherwise, even without actually stating so, to me is really questionable and needs to be examined. I also suspect the school could be now fashioning its own self-serving notion of expectations and fundamentals and what journalism is.”

MR. BRASLER, who received the Missouri School of Journalism Gold Medal for his activism in promoting and protecting student press freedom, added, “It has been painful to watch Stevenson High, a nationally-admired, so-called ‘Lighthouse School,’ be the source of what I believe in the final analysis will be regarded as one of the most tawdry episodes in the history of American high school journalism.

“This is a school with magnificent facilities, an outstanding faculty, and a supportive and generous community. For it to be source of one of the nation’s most notorious cases of high school newspaper censorship to me is inexplicable.”