Principal ascends to new role at Lab
by Ariel Gans
Associate editor

"It doesn't feel like I'm leaving," Principal Scott Fech said. That's because he's not.

On July 1, Mr. Fech will formally begin his new position as the Lab Schools' director of educational programs, but the search for his successor has already begun.

As director of educational programs, Mr. Fech will oversee curriculum and professional development in all divisions of the Lab Schools and collaborate with administrators and department heads.

Fech said, "We aren't going to go around checking to make sure that the seniors act as leaders in the school community."

The senior lounge was the right decision," Mr. Fech said. "But many seniors also came forward and said they thought I made the wrong decision." Mr. Fech, Dean of Students Ana Campos, Senior Class President Whitney Beach and Student Council President John Williams met March 3 to discuss the best solution to the problem.

"They're on the honor system," Mr. Fech said. "We aren't going to go around checking to make sure that the seniors are being the leaders we know they can be." According to Ms. Campos, administrators do see the importance of the lounge.

"The administration is trusting the seniors to use good judgment with the senior lounge," Ms. Campos said. "In the end, we're trying to prepare them for college, where they will be expected to use shared spaces responsibly." Despite its administrative attempts to show trust in students, John worries this incident shows an underlying lack of trust between administrators and the student body.

"Punishing the rest of the grade seems to me a move to encourage students to rat each other out," John said. "That should not happen because our small community is based on trust and mutual support.

A lack of trust between students at this school would be a co- 

siderable deterrent to young people because many feel that in this careless environment, all we have is each other.

As one of several speakers who visited the Juvenile Justice Seminar to encourage the students, Schuler Small types notes along with the other U-Highers in the class.

Colleges and U-Highers take advantage of U. of. C. offerings
by Maia Boussy

Even in his second year taking courses at the university, senior Adam Fine finds balancing the university and U-High schedules challenging.

"It doesn't feel like I'm leaving," Principal Scott Fech said. "I also think that the position would provide me with new challenges and opportunities. It wasn't that I was unhappy doing this -- I mean I love what I do -- but sometimes you're searching different with another organization and you wonder what it would be like." Mr. Fech's experience inside and outside Lab ultimately set him on the path to leading the school.

"I won the job because I feel like I've been successful as the high school principal, but that I can add something across Lab," Mr. Fech said. "I also think that the position would provide me with new challenges and opportunities. It wasn't that I was unhappy doing this -- I mean I love what I do -- but sometimes you're searching different with another organization and you wonder what it would be like."

Mr. Fech is the best candidate because he has a deep understanding of Lab, and not just of the high school but of the whole school," Ms. Appleby said. "He understands the culture of the place. When he moves into his new job he can much more quickly make an impact and be effective; he won't have to figure out how Lab works.

To select the next high school principal, a search advisory committee will select input from faculty members, students and parents and decide on a pool of candidates that the board will consider to replace Mr. Fech as principal. The committee will then review applications, interview candidates and recommend finalists for full-day community interviews in May.

Four Lab administrators have been named to the committee, and four faculty members will be appointed next week.

"We want somebody who has high standards, who expects their best and that kids can do really well, and that likes that kids are smart and independent thought leaders," Ms. Appleby said. "Once we have finalists, a student panel will review them and interview candidates and recommend finalists for replacing Mr. Fech as principal. The committee will then review applications, interview candidates and recommend finalists for full-day community interviews in May.

For Clare, the ice and snow were worth it. She chose to take Honors Calculus because it is fairly unique to the U. of C. "It's entirely proof-based," she said, "so there is almost no computation. It's taken some getting used to, but being able to express very clearly why a certain theorem is true is a useful skill and I'm glad I'm getting to learn it now."

"Generally with university classes, there's very little interaction with teachers and other students. There is very little time before class to talk to other people and no one stays around to talk after class, so taking classes at the university as a high school student is pretty isolating."

Because of the U. of C.'s rigid policies about finals, Adam sacrificed some of his extracurricular activities. "University classes are really strict when it comes to final test dates, especially for high school students. I had to miss IHSA Scholastic Bowl State Series on March 20 because I had my Physics final the same day. That was really disappointing because then my team ended up not attending the tournament."

While icy Chicago weather caused winter quarter to be a struggle, Clare is now able to reach her classes on time more consistently thanks to spring weather allowing her to bike to class.

After series of infractions, administrators close, reopen lounge
by Jackie Walker
Associate editor

"Ultimately it's a collective space with a collective responsibility. When one person does something that is wrong, it's everyone's responsibility to fix it."

So said Principal Scott Fech regarding the senior lounge following the administration's decision to close the senior haven March 2 after the administration learned of a recurring pattern of trouble in the lounge.

"They're on the honor system," Mr. Fech said. "But many seniors also came forward and said they thought I made the wrong decision."

According to Mr. Fech, seniors had conflicting views on the lounge's closing.

"Many seniors actually came forward and told me that they thought closing the senior lounge was the right decision," Mr. Fech said. "But many seniors also came forward and said they thought I made the wrong decision."

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Ready.
S.E.T.
Act.

This year’s annual Student Experimental Theater production was “Sound and Lights Show,” produced and directed by SET board members Sam Van Loon, Emma Gossett, Lizzie Sullivan, Katharina Flock and Valentina Gardner. U-Highers performed in Judd 126 at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 26-28.

Student leaders plan week of social justice discussion

by Mike Glick
Editor-in-Chief

In order to promote discussion about social justice issues, a coalition of students have organized U-High Social Justice Week, which will take place April 20-24.

Junior Leah Umanskiy, who helped create U-High Social Justice Week, says she drew inspiration from universities that have held similar events.

Members of Black Students’ Association, DICE, Feminist Club, Green Team, Jewish Students’ Association, Latinos Unidos and Muslim Students’ Association have collaborated to organize the week. Workshops will take place during lunch periods, Tuesday day open time and after school.

“I’m hoping that people will understand that we do have injustices in our world, big and small, and there is something we can do about it,” Leah said. “Talking is the first step. I want kids to see the wide range of things you can do to help the world. I also want people to see what kids in clubs are already doing in regards to social justice.”

Leah encourages kids to attend workshops to discuss social justice issues in the U-High community and around the world.

“Kids should come because it’s a new experience,” Leah said. “It’s completely student-run. Teachers are only there for support.

“The workshops are interactive and fun, including hands-on projects. It’s worth taking time out of your life to talk about these issues.”

Beloved former principal dies

by Clay Surmeier
Editor-in-Chief

Economic experts invited to talk
Well-rounded teacher selected for middle school principal position

by Marissa Martinez
Associate editor

After a four-month search period, former Lab science teacher Sandy Bixby has been chosen as Middle School principal by the Search Advisory Committee. She has served as both interim assistant principal and interim principal in her eight years in the science department. Ms. Bixby also served as advisory coordinator, seventh grade chair, and on the diversity and admissions committees. Ms. Bixby was chosen for the position out of three finalists, all of whom went through interviews and discussions with parents, faculty, students, and administrators.

“I’ve been in leadership positions at my previous schools, and have taught for over 25 years,” Ms. Bixby said. “I enjoy working on the larger aspects of the middle school program and interacting with the students. It felt like the right time to apply for this role. I also know the faculty from working with them as a teacher.

“A lot of what we’re doing is looking at a new schedule for the 2016-17 school year and an expansion of the middle school,” Ms. Bixby said. The new rotation will be put into place two years from now so teachers and students can transition more easily. She will also be hiring for several open positions at the middle school.

She also wants greater learning opportunities for the students. For example, she said this spring, the eighth grade class will fly to Baltimore and spend a day in Philadelphia looking at the Constitution Center and Liberty Bell, in addition to the usual three days spent in Washington D.C. The other two candidates were Kenneth Koll, the founding head at Ridge Academy, a K-8 school in the South Side, and John Dey, director of curriculum and professional development at the International School Nido de Aguilas in Santiago, Chile.

Music competition brings awards

by John Williams
Associate editor

U-High instrumentalists and vocalists traveled to Reavis High School in Burbank, Illinois, to compete in the IHSA solos/ensemble music contest March 8.

Ensembles and individuals first presented themselves and their accompanists. Choir teacher Katie Sinclair played with vocalists, assistant Hu Hsiung Huang accompanied band members and Maya Akamura played along with orchestra members. Contestants spent 10 minutes with judges, whom asked competitors about the personal significance of their song, gave advice, and inquired about the meaning of contestants’ song.

Scores were based on points given by the judges, from low (Division V) to superior (Division I). All U-High participants scored a Division II title or above.

“The atmosphere was very high stress, but also very fun,” sophomore Allie Kreitman said. “The practice rooms were completely packed, and the classrooms weren’t easy to warm up in. I found a couple people who I recognized from other competitions, who introduced me to their friends. Everyone was very supportive of each other.

“I did this competition last year, and I would definitely do it again. It’s not the most organized or timely competition, but it was a great atmosphere and I got useful comments from the judges.”

Students selected for biology trip

by Alex Harron
Associate editor

The following students were selected and subsequently announced on March 13 to participate in the first-ever summer course:

Freshmen Hayward Melton, Whitney Thomas and Elizabeth Van Ha; sophomores Tôhina Ginsburg, Owen Lasko, Delnaz Patel, and Nicholas Slimmon; and juniors Grace Anderson, Grace Bruderick, Mavee Potter, Lucy Shen and Angela White.

Tuition to increase for coming year

by Miciah Buchheim-Jurisson
Associate editor

Tuition at the Laboratory Schools will increase for the 2015-16 year, according to a recent email announcement from Director Robin Appleby and Board Chair John Rogers. U-High’s tuition will rise approximately four percent from $29,624 to $30,618. The announcement marks the first time the school publicized a tuition increase before the re-enrollment deadline. U-High’s tuition, which includes some fees, is slightly less than the tuition of its peer institutions. Tuition and fees for the 2014-15 year are $30,500 for grade 12 at the Francis W. Parker School. Upper School tuition at the Latin School of Chicago for the same period is $30,855, not including approximately $1,000-$5,000 of fees, depending on a student’s activities.
As the Midway sees it
Punishment leads to questions about students’ responsibilities

For three and a half days during the week of March 2, seniors could be found roaming the halls or socializing in the cafeteria during their free periods rather than battling one another in Ping-Pong or video games in the senior lounge. The administration claimed the lounge closed in order to emphasize collective responsibility in the Senior Class. However, this decision prevented seniors from taking on a leadership position and initially kept them out of the conversation. Senior members of student council still managed to demonstrate leadership by developing a proposal to reopen the lounge. In the future, it is important for students to have a say in the lounge’s reopening, as the current version only references bullying. In order to prevent confusion, students or counselors would help prevent confusion and encourage students to take on responsibility.

Since the basis for a strong community is mutual trust, seniors spoke out against reporting their classmates because it undermines class unity. However, students also must respond to infractions they witness. Students should work together to develop a way to hold one another accountable — without needing to rat one another out.

A new arts building is nice, but we need time to take art classes
by Grace Anderson

Unclear whether students will realistically be able to take advantage of these opportunities. The current credit system requires students to take just one art and one music class as well as an elective of their choice. But beyond these baseline requirements, students often struggle to find time for art in their schedules. Often, there simply aren’t enough hours in the school day for students to continue taking art or music after their freshmen and sophomore years.

Even upperclassmen with space for an additional art course often opt for a free period or another core math, science or history class rather than an art course. The rigor of U-High’s courses makes free periods more appealing than art. Students need more time for core class homework.

At U-High, it is normal for students to squeeze art courses out of the picture in order to double up on math or science because of the prestige these classes bring. Each and every year, college counselors stress the importance of a “well rounded” student, but students rarely take more than required visual and performing art classes during their high school career.

In the future, it is unlikely that U-High will decrease its standard core requirements in favor of the arts, not that they necessarily should. Students could be given greater access to art by encouraging teachers to develop interdisciplinary courses that integrate into core classes.

In addition, the scheduling committee should also consider establishing a system that allows students to take more classes throughout the week. For example, this could be done by holding two different classes that meet during the same period on different days and allowing students to swap between them.

Although students now have the potential to take advantage of exciting new artstic opportunities, it remains to be seen whether the prestige of U-High’s core curriculum will overpower our bright and shiny $30 million building.

by Alex Harron

Associate editor

The success of the Hunt because it was student-run? Surely administration-run Advisory Cup monthly challenges have never generated as much participation or buzz. School spirit has come from the students, not administrators. We need to hold ourselves to a higher standard and support our school, not to check it off a list to win concert tickets or for external incentives.

Students are capable of getting excited and involved in school-related activities, and we should have higher expectations for our attendance. It shouldn’t have to take an event like the Hunt to get students involved. Students can achieve the same amount of excitement the Hunt generated by supporting our peers at games, meets, or competitions.

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Was the success of the Hunt because it was student-run? Surely administration-run Advisory Cup monthly challenges have never generated as much participation or buzz. School spirit has come from the students, not administrators. We need to hold ourselves to a higher standard and support our school, not to check it off a list to win concert tickets but because we care about the success of our peers.

Punishment leads to questions about students’ responsibilities

‘Hunt’ highlights spirit potential

Quick
Seniors, what are you most excited for during spring term?
Madeline Sachs: I’d say I’m most excited to spend a lot less time worrying about school and way more time hanging out with my friends. I’m so excited for everyone’s post-high school plans and could not be prouder to be a part of the class of 2015! Miles Nagler: I’m looking forward to spending the last few weeks of senior year with friends. Jarrett Llomopley: I’m excited about May Project! I’m doing a marketing internship in New York City since I’m majoring in marketing. Jarrett Llomopley: I’m excited about May Project! I’m doing a marketing internship in New York City since I’m majoring in a marketing related major. I’m excited to be able to experience a little of what I’ll be learning about in the near future.

Compiled by Jackie Walker

Madeline Sachs
Miles Nagler
Jarrett Llomopley
Aya Nimer

U-HIGH MIDWAY
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Dueling Views: Has “House of Cards” lost its edge?

With a spellbinding first two seasons, Netflix-commissioned show “House of Cards,” starring Kevin Spacey as machiavellian politician Francis Underwood, combined with a third season released online in its entirety February 27. In seasons one and two, the show presented Frank Underwood and his ambitious wife Claire charming, threatening, and even entertaining. They’re more technical, not as clear as his office-jumping goals of being President, but they simply make Frank a less successful and strategically stupid, drive away his friends and closest allies. In the second season, we see Frank murder a Congressman to get ahead, but despite this we keep on cheering for him because his methods scandalize our moral sensibilities and is thus highly entertaining.

In this season, whenever there is a disagreement with any of his closest allies—his wife, his chief of staff, his potential running-mate—Frank becomes livid, and scolds them into disfruntlement. The issue with his attempts to “beat into submission” his allies is that these submission are more of a character study. We get a front-row seat to see Frank’s descent into ego-driven madness — he has become almost like Walter White toward the end of “Breaking Bad,” when he tells his wife that “I am the one who knocks” —he is so corrupted by power and ego that he has lost his grip on reality.

So far, “House of Cards” has mirrored “Macbeth” fairly faithfully, and Frank’s state toward the end of the season is no different. This suggests that in the next season, Frank’s “house of cards” might begin to come down.

Whether you think that the writers’ new, slightly more character-driven approach to House of Cards is good or bad, it is hard to deny that the show is still fun to watch. Because you probably come to dislike Frank, the show may be somewhat less captivating, but regardless of your opinion on him, the drama he creates in the nation’s highest office is still quite entertaining.

Julian: I don’t think we’re going to see a crash in the next season. I think we’re going to see a shift. Now Claire is the one who really hangs on in this season, and because Claire is the one who really hangs on, her rise is unquestioned and her character is developed now. She’s the one who becomes the main character, and because of that, she’s the one who is putting Frank in his place, and that’s the show. It’s a show about Claire, and it’s a show about Frank, but it’s a show about Claire.

Claire has made and lost powerful gains on Frank’s behalf, but it will be in the coming seasons that she fights for herself. I also think that this season, in it’s investigation of Frank’s character, has shown a possibility for Frank to break his façade. Claire still has a lot of work to do, and she’s got a lot of weight on her shoulders, and that’s the show. It’s a show about Claire, and it’s a show about Frank, but it’s a show about Claire.
Learning and leading by teaching Classes take advantage of service opportunities to advance students’ professional and educational enrichment.

by Ariel Ganz

Learn by doing. That’s the philosophy of Lab and what several U-High students believe to be community service, have gone beyond their classroom doors to.

Since last year, Spanish teacher Ms. Dinah D’Antoni, Ms. Suzanna Baum and Mrs. Laura Thoms have been working to incorporate service learning into their curricula. Sites have included the Ellen Wellness Center and Casa Central adult wellness center and Erie Neighborhood House day-care center.

“It’s always hard to really experience Spanish in the classroom,” Spanish teacher Ms. Suzanna Baum said. “Thes...
Talent on both sides of town has Chicago baseball fans buzzing

Junior David Hedges, a competitive ultra-marathon runner, says he typically wakes up at 5:30 a.m. after school I do my running. I try to stuff in the gym so I can stay healthy and keep up. I do my running. I try to

"If I didn’t sign up for races, I would train. Some days she works out with her trainer at the Rutner Athletics Center beginning at 6 a.m. Other days she runs on the lakefront or does indoor cycling.

"What motivates me is staying in shape," Ms. Anderson said. "If I didn’t sign up for races, I would probably just stay in bed in the morning. If I know races are looming, I get up. I stay fit. I don’t mind saying that I’ll be fit this year and this helps keep me young.

"I don’t eat anything before I work out. I only drink water. I eat breakfast later, which is boiled eggs and fruit or avocados.

"There are times I like to eat junk food and the exercise I do helps compensate for the occasional treat.

Senior Miles Grogger and James Sinclair, captains of the baseball team, have included morning workouts throughout the year.

"Personally, I wake up at 8:15 for a 7 a.m. practice," Miles said. "But for me it’s good to not wake up too early and get some extra sleep."

"We’re all there to show dedication to the sport and to the team," our coach, Kerren Walker, always used to say in the morning that Latin and Parker weren’t doing what we were. It definitely helps to have an edge that we want to maintain the rest of the season."

WAKEUP. WORKOUT. While some stay in bed catching Z’s, early exercisers jump-start day.

by Mike Glick
Editor-in-Chief
Chicago’s North Side team ended the 2014 season as a 5th place finisher (5th in a row), the loser of more games than those won (5th in a row), and limited interest in the team (since... flash back to the Kerry Wood, Sammy Sosa era Cubs). However, 2015 promises change, hope and excitement for a re-energized team in a position to do just that. Resolved to put a winner on the field, General Manager Rick Hahn signed the Sox to a six-year, $155-million dollar contract. Pitching is not this team’s best. Sox fans, it’s time to buy your tickets!

The Sox also drafted Carlos Rodon, currently the #12 prospect according to ESPN’s Keith Law. While Don Cooper’s tutelage, many Sox pitchers have made a quick rise through the farm system. Rodon will likely be no different.

Several U-High sports teams, including the baseball and track and field squads, have included morning workouts to supplement their afternoon routines. Track and field captain Zach Emanuel, who lives on the North Side, says he wakes up at 5:45 a.m. on Wednesdays to get to 6:30 practices at Henry Crown Field House.

"We do a bit of warm-up, then the rest of the practice is speed work," Zach said. "They are very difficult practices. The machines will often give us times we need to hit for different intervals.

"During the winter, it’s great to have more time on the track once the outdoor track we use is covered in snow. It gives us a bit of an edge over the competition because in the afternoon we can lift weights and see the trainer. We also often have swim practices in the morning on the day after a meet."

by Lake Murphy
Sports editor
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by Mike Glick
Editor-in-Chief
During the winter meetings, the White Sox made a splash. Following a dismal 73-89 season, General Manager Rick Hahn resolved to put a winner on the field in 2015. He quickly put the team in a position to do just that. Bolstering a southpaw-heavy starting rotation, which included Chris Sale, Jose Quintana and John Danks, Hahn added righty Jeff Samardzija as the number two arm behind Sale. The Sox also drafted Carlos Rodon, currently the #12 prospect according to ESPN’s Keith Law. With Don Cooper’s tutelage, many Sox pitchers have made a quick rise through the farm system. Rodon will likely be no different.

Key additions to the relief pitching unit will also address an area of need for the Sox. David Rob- erson proved himself a capable closer with the Yankees, and Zach Duke should prove a solid set-up man after posting a 2.45 ERA last year out of the bullpen. The Sox also return key posi- tion players, from infielders Jose Abreu, Alexei Ramirez and Conor Gillaspie to outfielders Avisail Garcia, healthy after an injury- plagued 2014, and Adam Eaton. The newly signed Melky Cabrera will assume the final outfield spot, while a number of Sox players will compete for the final infield spot.

Tyler Flowers may not be the long-term solution for the Sox behind the plate, but the squad can expect solid defensive play from him and perhaps a .250 average. Rick Hahn went for it this off-season, assembling a team that can compete with the division’s best. So far, it’s time to buy your tickets. A decade after the 2005 championship, the Sox look poised for a shot at another.
Hunting for Art

Artsfest gets students invested in creativity

by Clay Surmeier
Editor-in-chief

The Hunt is on.

In an attempt to revitalize Artsfest, committee heads Katie Adhika, Alajah Flutterman and Lily Olson created a school-wide scavenger hunt. Modeled loosely after the University of Chicago’s Scav Hunt, organizers tried to generate more creative, lab-related tasks. These tasks required everything from video submissions to retweets and even several home-cooked dishes.

"Last year, we had the first ever Art in the Dark," Lily said. "This year, we wanted to build on the Artsfest experience even more. We thought that doing a scavenger hunt would be a fun way to add competition and incentive to participate in this exciting day. As we fleshed out the idea of a scavenger hunt, we thought that we could make tasks that would showcase the creativity at U-High. We also offered Pitchfork tickets as the prize because who doesn’t love summer festivals?"

The group “Praise Clare,” consisting of Alex Schonbaum, Raghu Somala, Michael Horio, Claire Keenan and Maddi Ross, won with a total of more than 1,700 points.

"We won because we were the most determined," Alex said. "We tried to do the tasks that would award us the most points before moving onto the smaller ones. By the end, we had done almost 80 percent of the tasks. We spent almost four hours cooking a paella for Mr. Saez at Michael’s house one day, and we spent the last day at Clare’s house building a floating gingerbread house and an exact-size recreation of the Winged Victory of Samothrace. None of us consider ourselves artistic, but we gave it our best, and discovered new talents along the way."

For Senior Benny Friedman, The Hunt was a chance to try something outside of his comfort zone.

"My favorite activity was either the synchronized swimming routine or the 20-minute dance video," Benny said. "Both were exhausting, yet funny activities we did as a team. We also convinced a stranger to play Twister with us, which was an experience. Overall, I think everyone had a great time doing things they wouldn’t have otherwise. I really hope this becomes a tradition like Art in the Dark."

Michael Jackson, worms, gorillas and tigers were all inspiration for several dance moves members of the hip-hop group Culture Shock performed before getting students to take the stage. "Compared to the tumblers, Culture Shock wasn’t as energizing," junior Harry Ni said. "However, it was entertaining to see the grade reps dance off and the senior dance circle."

Volunteering to try screen printing for the first time, senior Catherine Eng prints a fancy logo that reads “Art” onto a piece of paper. “It really liked learning a new skill, especially in something like screen printing, because that’s something that I would have never encountered in my life otherwise,” Catherine said.

During closing assembly, Dance Troupe member Kimya Buckner grooved to a selection of songs including Mark Ronson’s “Uptown Funk.” “We wanted to perform to songs that would pump people up and get them dancing too,” Dance Troupe senior Apoorva Gundeti said.

In the midst of students dancing to DJ junior Jacob Silverstein, junior Brad Koontz reaches to the senior lounge ceiling to paint his name.

Kara Coleman dyes T-shirts over a tarp next to a mural of handprints at Art in the Dark. Shirts were sold for $5.

Painting his winning Hunt team’s name, “Praise Clare,” senior Alex Schonbaum applies the final coat of white to make the name pop in the Senior Lounge. “We wanted people to remember the winners of the hunt ‘5ever,’” Alex said.

Before the mid-air somersaults and extreme long jumps, Jesse White’s Tumblers warmed up with handstands.

"I thought it was a great way to get students energized early in the morning," junior Harry Ni said. "I was holding my breath every time they did a jump. It was exhilarating."

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