First day brings variety of changes

Though the new arts building opened, a temporary cafeteria structure on Kenwood Mall will not open for student use until Sept. 14.

BY GRACE ANDERSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In a flurry of final classroom preparations, around the clock, movers, and last minute decision-making, construction workers and administrators alike prepared to open the entire building to students on the first day of school. While Gordon Parks Arts Hall did open to student on the first day, the temporary cafeteria located in Kenwood Mall will not open until Sept. 14.

Acting Principal Frances Spaltro explained that the cafeteria renovation is not yet completed and the building does not have the necessary occupancy permits from the City of Chicago to allow students to eat there this week. Students are expected to eat either in classrooms or off campus as the ban on eating in the hallway will not be lifted during this time.

Before the week began, Ms. Spaltro and the rest of the administration hoped that students would be able to bring bag lunches so that students did not overwhelm the Booth School. She also suggested that students who were unable to pack lunch head to 57th Street. U-High also had classrooms in U-High buildings 302 and 303 in Gordon Parks Arts Hall, this week.

In addition to the lunchtime chaos, the cafeteria mishaps brought, first day locker assignments brought on their own set of challenges since students were unable to access their lockers until Monday night, Sept 7.

"Because of the level of activity in the halls, and also the amount of work that needed to get done we couldn't allow students in the hallways," Ms. Spaltro said. "It's a safety issue more than anything else. All lockers that were in the basement are now on the first and second floors. But all those lockers that were bought up, they're not in order. It's going to be a bit of a scavenger hunt, except there's no prize at the end."

For someone new to the high school this year, like new student, Amar Shabeb, getting settled on the first day proved a bit difficult.

"It was actually really awkward to find my locker because it was one of the ones that was out of order," Amar said. "So, that was sort of a difficult. I was looking around for an hour, and bunch of people had helped me find it."

Once she found her locker though, Amar settled in quickly to the U-High community.

"Most of my classes were small," she explained. "I really liked Mr. Saer. He was funny in physics class, so I think it'll be a fun class."

For the past few weeks, 24-hour moves propelled classrooms, window washers cleaned floor-to-ceiling windows, and workmen smoothed flooring in the new Gordon Parks Arts Hall. All students had access to the high ceilings, natural lighting, and clean, modern look of this building on the first day of school. Students also had access to the building for a first-day assembly that involved speeches, recitation, Bell Canto performance and a serenade from orchestra students.

"I would encourage students and faculty to go over there to explore the beautiful new building," requested Ms. Spaltro. "Teachers may still be unpacking and workers are still finishing up a few things, but full use of the building will come soon."

Even in its uncompleted state, the new Gordon Parks Art Hall brings great joy and excitement to faculty like orchestra teacher Rosalyn Torto.

"We were able to gain access to the arts hall from the first day of planning week," Ms. Torto said. "It's definitely humbling to have access to such a space — it's aesthetically just beautiful and acoustically outstanding. We're slightly overwhelmed, but we're so excited for the students to be in the space. We think it's going to be very inspiring for them."

Ms. Torto also noticed how faculty and staff around U-High came together when preparing for the new year.

"We had to have the arts people moved over, the music tower moved, and journalism moved, all it's kind of like a domino effect. I would say the faculty really rallied around one another. Construction workers to the administrators, teachers and staff, everyone has been really supportive. People have just come together."

As an Advanced Drawing and Painting student this year, senior Monica Lewis is excited to have the opportunity to take advantage of the state-of-the-art space that Gordon Parks Arts Hall offers.

"I'm interested in seeing the building and how they've updated the space and the materials we'll get to use. It's nice to see how much thought that's really put into The fact that they built a space specifically for the arts is exciting because it shows how the school is investing in that part of our education as well, instead of just the academic side."

Student Council will select students to fill vacancies

Nominations, speeches and elections will happen within the next week, according to Dean of Students Ana Campos.

"Over the student council and peer leading retreat in late August, Student Council met to develop a process to elect new people for those positions," Ms. Campos said. "A bulletin announcement is going out to tell students they are welcome to nominate someone, including themselves, as long as that person is willing to take on the responsibilities to run for one of the positions. The nominees have to agree. Students can nominate their peers through Student Council's website: scs.uic.edu.cgp."

Ms. Campos said that Student Council President Fabricce Guyot-Sioneer would notify the nominees, who will prepare a 1-2 minute speech to be delivered in front of the current Student Council on Monday. All students will vote to select the new representatives. Only seniors in the Class of 2018 are eligible for the senior class Student Council representative position, though any student can run for the other two positions.

"We chose this process because we want to be democratic, but we also want to expedite the process. We're looking for people with an open mind who want to listen to others."

— Fabricce Guyot-Sioneer, Student Council president
Marine biology trip engages, excites students

BY SABRIN PAN

“Surprised me that even after 5 years of studying frogs or 44 years of studying the same salt marsh, the scientists on that project were still so engaged, interested, dedi- cated and enthusiastic about their work,” sophomore Elizabeth Van Broderick said about last summer’s ma- rine biology trip partners. “It was not only their job but it was a pas- sion.”

The week of Aug. 23, 12 Lab students traveled to Woods Hole, Massachusetts to study biology up close for U-High’s first ever Marine Biology Laboratory (MBL) Field Experience.

A grant from the University of Chicago funded the trip, which involved a direct partnership with the lab in Woods Hole.

“It’s not a summer vacation kind of trip,” science teacher, chap- lain, and co-organizer Sharon Housinger said. “We wanted stu- dents to dive in and learn in-depth about what they did.”

Interested students applied for one of 12 slots, submitting a re- sume and two essays by February 27. Selected students attended a seminar through spring quarter in preparation for the trip.

“I signed up because I’ve always loved animals and biology in gen- eral, and because I’ve spent many summers by the ocean,” said ju- nior Benjamin Aronson.

While living in another coun- try provided valuable exposure to new cultures, these students’ own culture says sopho- more Harrison Shapiro, who went to the Universidad de Educacion Secundaria El Piles in Spain. “The Spanish exchange opened my eyes to how assimilated Western cultures have both from the lan- guage and culinary differences,” he said.

For senior Rachel Housinger, who went on the German ex- change program to Stuttgart at the Katarina-Stift Gymnasium, visiting in the area I was staying in (Besançon) Teresa Xie said. “Some phrases that people didn’t know before became super familiar to me by the end of the trip because they were used so often. The exchange program also helped me understand everyday routines in French families. Often meals and cooking would take up a large percentage of the day.”

While the p ro gram was free of work, homework, or school U-High students spent all of their time on their interests.

“Other student exchanges are incredible in their way, finding themselves in another culture and living as engaged as possible.” said Josephine Housinger.

“I worked mostly with the grad students on a project that involved the interaction between all the species on the farm,” said Rachel. “I was able to see a lot of hands on research and the community that the lab was built upon. It was engaging and educational.”

Senior Caleb Housinger worked in the commercial banking division at Hyde Park Bank.

“Working at Allston was absolutely the best experience I could have,” said Caleb. “I enjoyed my job there and it really helped me get a sense of what I would like to pursue in college where I would like to work.”

“We thought it would have been harder to get them into the lab activ- ities,” said Ms. Housinger. “But we didn’t really have to push them, they were really interest- ed in the activities we chose. We needed to do less work than we ex- pected and never over stressed or made them learn it.”

Working alongside computer science interns was a real plus for most students.

“It definitely opened a lot of cur- iosity for marine life that I hadn’t really had before,” senior Grace Broderick said. “It gave a great ex- citing experience for the sea. Even in the shallowest tides, there is so much life.”

Other participants included seniors eagle Martino, cane McVey, potter Grace Broderick and Grace Anderson. Juniors Delphine Broderick, Owen Lasko, Owen Lasko, Nicholas Slim Patel, and Frances Wittenbrink.

“The exchange program allowed students to intern in science research labs at the University of Chicago. The applic- ation process began in Decem- ber. Then Ms. Housinger and three U. of C. scientists placed students in labs matching their interests. Junior Jonathan Lipman, who worked with Dr. Kyle Chard in the computer science department, said he enjoyed the, what he de- scribed as, “laid back academic environment.”

Three projects that I worked on during the summer,” said Jonathan. “These involved writing a lot of code for projects that I worked on by myself. I took both in learning more about computer science and other related fields.”

“I worked mostly with the grad students on a project that involved the interaction between all the species on the farm,” said Rachel. “I was able to see a lot of hands on research and the community that the lab was built upon. It was engaging and educational.”

The program runs seven weeks, but many students work through the summer like Senior Sydney Sa- wathie, who worked with chem- istry professor Dr. Ka Lee Lee. “I really wasn’t any other high school students working with me but I got to see all their during our lunch. It was nice to have the work to work on where I had to create my own samples of cell mem- branes, and could callied vesicles. I used an IUC machine to analyze these and I think it was an experience I really liked and it definitely helps you figure out how you want to do it.”

Harrison Shapiro
**Latin teacher transitions to leadership role**

**BY ARIEL GANS**

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

"It's a paring position but I wouldn't say that I'm daunted."

Now the new acting associate principal, U-High Latin teacher of 25 years, Frances Spaltro began her term on July 1.

"There's very little that has surprised me since gaining the position," Ms. Spaltro said. "Perhaps because I've been here a long time. The pace is intense, but it's exactly what I knew it would be.

Unlike former principal Scott Reis, Ms. Spaltro works especially close with vice principal Asra Ahmed and principal, Anna Campos.

"We are a team, and we confer on a regular basis," Ms. Spaltro reported. "Ms. Ahmed for instance, her purview is the academic programming and advisory. And Ms. Campos is student life and activities with discipline, and my role is a more general one of an individual student and faculty. So there are so many points at which we all are part of the conversations. There are certain things that are left to Ms. Ahmed. But it all comes back to us, and Ms. Campos too, and me, but every time I communicate in my own way, I try to make sure that they've had input on it."

On the long term projects Ms. Spaltro plans to focus on throughout the 2015-16 school year includes creating a new schedule for the high school.

"Right now I'm going to just talk with the faculty that are on the homework committee," Ms. Spaltro said. "I'll talk with the faculty, students, and parents that are in the discourse Challenge Success committees and then see where those conversations go and see if I can find a common thread in those conversations to pull together as we think about the new schedule."

One possibility for the new schedule could be switching to a block, where students would have a day A and a day B, each with different and longer classes—like for instance Northside College Preparatory High School's schedule.

"If we go to a new schedule that is on the model of the Northside College Preparatory schedule," Ms. Spaltro said, "we need to figure out what that means for the amount of homework that the students going to assign? Do it mean that we will get more work done in the classroom? So they will have to re-think how we assign homework, now that what's homework, what's good homework, and what's appropriate."

Although Ms. Spaltro has ideas for the new schedule, she wants to hear from other members of the Lab community.

"I am getting familiarized with the work that they've been doing over the last couple years, but I'm not there yet so it not ready to say that I have a very distinct or clear vision about where this is going to go. I'm in the information gathering stage right now. My agenda is to hear as many voices as I can and guide those voices toward choices and actions that bring us closer to the school we want to be.

Even though Ms. Spaltro enjoys her interim position, she will still

"I am perfectly fine doing this, and I'm happy doing this," Ms. Spaltro said. "I am at heart a teacher, and the classroom is where I belong."

Ms. Spaltro said, "I am happy to do this for a year but in the end, my happiness is being a teacher. This year you get to be standing out in the hallway, and now I've been home to grade and plan my classes, I'll be able to go to sporting events more often."

"I'm really looking forward to that. I love going to student sporting events, I love it."

**What do you think of the new temporary cafeteria?**

**SYRAN RUSSELL, SENIOR:** "I don't think I'm going to eat in there, because it seems kind of inconvenience for a cafeteria that they've had in place for a lifetime in the building.

**AVERY MILLER, JUNIOR:** "It looks a little weird because it's where the playground used to be. It's also kind of weird because it's where the school building.

**SAMY ABDULLAH, SOPHOMORE:** "I think that's what the cafeteria is being renovated, and the temporary cafeteria seems like a really good location for a new and temporary solution are complete. Things really shouldn't be that different than they were last year."

**JOSH ULANE, SOPHOMORE:** "While I believe that the old cafeteria was fine, and that this temporary cafeteria has been an inconvenience for some people, I think the temporary cafeteria that is under construction will be fantastic and worthwhile."
Permanent diversity coordinator arrives at Lab Schools community

“IT’S A BALANCE BETWEEN SOMEONE WHO ADDRESSES INDIVIDUAL ISSUES AS WELL AS LARGER INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES. IT WILL BE IMPERATIVE THAT I WORK WITH EVERYONE.”

Ken Garcia-Gonzalez, Office of Education Programs, diversity, and a student-led spoken word affinity show in the spring. He also interacted with student groups and gave professional development talks concerning diversity and equity to teachers.

Mr. Garcia-Gonzalez’ first goal is to understand the landscape of Lab.

“It is a big school with five divisions,” Mr. Garcia-Gonzalez said. “I want to identify the areas that need growth within the sections.”

As diversity coordinator, Mr. Garcia-Gonzalez plans to advocate for families by listening to students and parents, then communicating their concerns. Mr. Garcia-Gonzalez also will figure out the best methods to implement diversity with the Parent’s Association and teachers.

“If it’s a balance between being someone who addresses individual issues as well as larger institutional issues, it will be imperative that I work with everyone.”

Ken Garcia-Gonzalez — Lab Schools' diversity coordinator arrives at Lab Schools community

Cross Country

By Elizabeth Meyer

The cross country team started off its season against St. Ignatius Sept. 5 at Lewis University. They only had four girls and three boys, who ran at this meet due to injuries. They did not place as a team because there must be five runners on a team to place, according to senior Paula Herbst.

Today they face their next challenge: the Bremen High School Invitational. They also have the Peoria Notre Dame Invitational Sept. 19.

The cross country team has lost numerous runners to injuries this season, explained captain Charles Soverby, junior.

“The cross country season is going to be much harder to perform to the level we achieved in previous years," Charles said. "Nearly half of all the runners are unable to compete in races due to injury. Some of us like Elisa Efring and Hannah Herranz will return to race later in the season, but most such as myself, Harrison Klassen, Genevieve Nenneth, and Lucy Kemp-Ziada are likely going to be out for the entire season and won’t compete until track season begins.”

The team this year, "Colleen said. "It is free to sail now, and if successful season.

Despite only having 10 members, the team is projecting a season for their first regatta at the Sheridan Shores Yacht Club in Wilmette on Sept. 12.

Thanks to the determination of Sailing co-captains junior Colleen Baumann and senior Phoebe Lincoln, sailing is now recognized as a varsity sport for the first time. Despite only having 10 members, the team is projecting a successful season.

"I'm most looking forward to the first regatta of the year. It's an opportunity to improve and feel really confident about the team this year," Colleen said. "It is free to sail now, and if anyone wants to join they should, even if they don't have any experience. We will bring them up to speed very quickly."