

Student Council selects new officers

New representatives will help ratify the constitution, which is now the main fall quarter project of StudCo

BY SARAH PAN
NEWS EDITOR

Student Council elections were held both early and late this year, with new all-school and senior class offices being filled in September and freshmen positions being elected in early October.

New all-school officers include seniors Charlie Billings as Student Council secretary, Ciara O'Muircheartaigh as Cultural Union vice president, and Elizabeth Stolze as Senior Class Cultural Union representative.

"I ran because I wanted to involve myself in the school as much as I personally could," Elizabeth said. "I love being involved and feel as if I can make a difference within the Lab school community. There seems to be a lack of general grade and school spirit and I hope to work on that issue as CU. I also want to make communication between students, Student Council, and the faculty and administration as easy and open as possible."

After three seniors resigned from their posts during the summer, a new process to select the new officers needed to be put in motion.

"This summer at a retreat I held for Student Council and peer lead-

ers, Student Council discussed how to replace the people in these positions on the council," Dean of Students Ana Campos said. "The Constitution is the document that should provide the path for handling this type of situation, but the old Constitution did not directly deal with the topic. It only talked about impeachment decisions and not a situation in which the people chose to withdraw."

Student Council ultimately decided to limit the vote and decision to within the Council itself, hearing from candidates nominated by the entire student body.

"Somebody proposed doing it that way, so it was on the table and it won," said Jonathan Lipman, Student Council treasurer. "We feel like the entire council should vote on big decisions, because they are representatives of the students as

"We were looking to be as democratic as possible, while also looking to be as expeditious as possible."

— Fabrice Guyot-Sionnest,
Student Council president



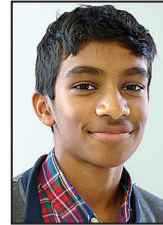
Charlie Billings



Ciara O'Muircheartaigh



Elizabeth Stolze



Shiva Menta

much as the executive board is."

Nominations were opened to the whole student body, and on Sept. 21 Student Council heard speeches from the willing nominees. Through voting, they selected the new officers the following day.

"A family isn't complete without all the members," said Student Council President Fabrice Guyot-Sionnest, "so we were looking to be as democratic as possible, while also looking to be as expeditious as possible."

While voting, Student Council tried to find officers who would fit with their standard values.

"I personally am looking for a candidate who will be dedicated to their tasks and will execute them well," said Senior Class President Kimya Buckner. "In my mind, a student council representative needs to be someone who's not afraid to speak their mind but is still respectful of the opinions of others."

The empty positions were temporarily filled earlier this year.

"We adjusted and made it

work," Jonathan said. "With the new members, the group dynamic will hopefully stay productive, but that depends more on the new officers, so I can only be hopeful."

New officers will contribute to Student Council's goals and endeavours for the rest of the year.

"Finalizing the new Constitution is the main one for me," Charlie said. "Otherwise, I'm excited to see how we utilize Gordon Parks Art Hall. I'd like to use it for some student-run events, so figuring all that out is another goal."

Freshmen select officers

Freshman elections were held Oct. 2, with voting done electronically through the Student Council website. Elected officers include Shiva Menta, president; Otto Brown, vice president; and Yongjia Chen and Alyssa Russell as Cultural Union representatives.

"I ran for freshman vice president because I felt that I could be an effective leader that listens to students and conveys their ideas in successful and concise ways," Otto

said. "Shiva and I will be working closely to determine what is best for our grade as a whole based on feedback that we receive."

Freshmen officers look forward to their first year of high school Student Council.

"Shiva and I have put together a list of things we'd like to get done this year," Otto said, "but one goal that I set for myself in particular is to make sure that the Class of 2019 has the best freshman year possible. Being the youngest member of a high school that is connected to a university is sometimes intimidating, and making sure that every freshman enjoys his or her high school experience is my number one priority."

Constitution is major project

The current main project of Student Council is ratifying the new high school constitution. Changes have been in progress since the end of last year.

"We've been working really hard to get a framework for ourselves," said Fabrice, who has been a member of Student Council for the last three years. "It has taken a long time, as it should, because the better job we do the fewer problems there will be down the road. Once we get through the Constitution, I'm really hoping we can tackle some major issues at the school. I'm just really looking forward to seeing how many of those issues we can at least make a stab at."

Temporary cafe runs smoothly during first month

BY JACKIE WALKER
HEALTH EDITOR

After the opening was delayed a week, the Kenwood Kafe opened Sept. 14. A matte white building taking up about a third of Kenwood Mall, the new cafeteria has vents sticking out its side and seems out of place among the old architecture of Lab's and the University of Chicago's Gothic-style campus.

As part of the campus renovation, not all areas of the school could be completed at once.

"You still have to have the school operate," Associate Director David Stafford said. He explained that the cafeteria will take 6-9 months to complete, and the rest of U-High will be renovated over the summer of 2016.

Without the old space for students and faculty to meet, eat and gather, construction project leaders started brainstorming. The temporary cafeteria is the first of its kind in the city of Chicago, Christopher Jones, Lab's executive director of finance and operations, explained.

"We opened the cafeteria on a four-day delay to ensure that all the necessary university and city inspections and checkoffs had occurred," Mr. Jones said. "There were no real delays in construction. What we needed to do was to align all of the necessary inspectors and personnel from the university to get those inspections done."

The temporary cafeteria has all the functions and abilities of the previous cafeteria.

"It's a fully functional kitchen that has all the same capacities," Mr. Jones said. "Some of the equipment is different, but in terms

of what kind of food, it is able to make all the kinds of food that were served previously."

Students' opinion about the Kenwood Kafe are split.

Freshman Gabe Fioramonti-Gorchow said he thinks the building is nice but had several specific criticisms.

"I think it smells a little funky," he said. "It also looks ugly, and it's hard to walk by because there isn't much space between Kovler and the cafeteria. The vents drip, which is nasty. Besides all this, it is still a nice, clean cafeteria with plenty of space. The new chicken tenders are also delicious."

Sophomore Michael Hellie conversely had no negative points.

"I think it's well furnished and exceeds expectations," he said. "I don't have any criticisms."

Despite the amount of space it takes up on the outside, it feels bigger on the inside according to some students.

"I think it looks a lot more spacious on the inside than I thought it would," sophomore Samuel Morin said. "I honestly like it more than the old cafeteria."

When it opens in spring, the newly remodeled cafeteria won't have the previous lunch line style. Instead, it will be a "scatter system," meaning that students who want pizza will go to one spot, while those who want a sandwich will go to another.

The cafeteria will also be expanded east and west, taking up the areas where the Senior Lounge and the Dean's office were prior to construction.

The new senior lounge and the Dean's office will be located nearby in other areas of the lower level of U-High.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SARAH PAN

GO OUT FOR LUNCH. To get to the Kenwood Kafe, students and faculty have to walk out the High School lobby to Kenwood Mall beside the gymnasium. Various ramps and stairs help transport materials in and out of the cafeteria.

MIDWAY PHOTO BY JANIE INGRASSIA

SAME ENVIRONMENT, NEW LOCATION. Students of all grades have adapted to the new mealtime setting, and lunch has continued this quarter as usual. The tables are the same ones from the former cafeteria, and Aramark, the same company as last year, prepares breakfast and lunch every weekday. Students and faculty alike can use the space in a similar way to the old cafeteria: for gathering and sharing a common space. Students will use the temporary location until the remodeled cafeteria reopens in March.

Changes coming to college app process

With a new SAT layout and FAFSA procedure, juniors must adjust

BY ELENA CARROLL-MAESTRIPIERI
MIDWAY REPORTER

As of September 2015, students in the Class of 2017 and below will experience changes in the college application process.

On Sept. 14, the Obama administration announced a major change in how students file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Normally, incoming college freshmen in need of financial aid have had to wait until January to report the prior year's financial information to the schools they're applying to. However, in 2017-18 the applications' financial aid sections will accept that information from the "prior-prior-year," making the entire application available for completion in October, according to college counselor Patty Kovacs.

The current "prior-year" system

deprives many students of the ability to think about their college options in the context of their financial situation.

"In theory," Ms. Kovacs explained, "this new policy would allow students to know their expected family contribution, grant eligibility and the money they can receive from the government in the fall, and colleges can provide financial aid packages for students applying Early Action or Early Decision."

Another major change in the application process includes a new alternative to the Common Appli-



Patty Kovacs

cation called the Coalition Application. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, the Coalition Application differs in that students will be able to submit a digital portfolio of work (from photography to research, and possibly even video files) that they can amass well before their senior year of high school, providing colleges with additional resources.

So far the list of schools accepting the Coalition Application includes the University of Chicago, with a graduation rate of over 70 percent.

"This new application is especially significant because the students who do not graduate, by in large, have had to do so because of financial reasons," Ms. Kovacs said, "so this solidifies a student's ability to go to college with the appropriate financial aid."

Additional changes to the college application process include a newly formatted SAT. Students who took the PSAT this week

"The many changes may be daunting to some students. Those who are frightened by the new SAT layout can choose to take the ACT instead. There is no need to panic."

— Patty Kovacs, college counselor

were the first to see some of those changes coming to the SAT in the new year. The new test will bear a closer resemblance to the ACT, which will remain the same, in that it's essay portion will now be optional, the SAT will drop it's penalty for wrong answers, and it will be shortened to 3 hours total instead of 3 hours and 45 minutes.

"The many changes may be daunting to some students," Ms. Kovacs said. "Those who are frightened by the new SAT layout can choose to take the ACT instead. There is no need to panic."

Placement agency to aid in search for high school principal

BY ELIZABETH CHON
OPINION EDITOR

While former Latin Teacher Frances Spaltro fills in for former U-High Principal Scott Fech as Acting Associate Principal, the Search Advisory Committee reconvenes to seek a full-time replacement.

Since the principal search resumed in August, the school has decided to hire Carney Sandoe & Associates, a faculty placement agency, to aid in the search process. As head of the Laboratory Schools and a member of the committee, Director Robin Appleby has an integral role in the search process.

"The agency helps with placements of teachers and administrators, mostly in private schools in the U.S., but also around the world," Ms. Appleby said. "We hired them to support the search, which means that they will actively go out there and find the best candidates nationally and internationally, and do preliminary screenings. Then they will recommend a group of strong candidates,



Robin Appleby

probably a dozen or so. They not only find people already on the job market, but they also recruit people who might not be on the market but are still interested in this job. We will also post with the university and the other agencies that we always use, but they will proactively seek people out and make sure we get the best candidates."

The Search Advisory Committee will expand to include a wider range of people from the Laboratory Schools community.

"We plan to make the committee a bit bigger than it was last spring. We're going to add a member from the learning and counseling team, two parents, and our new coordinator of diversity, equity and inclusion," Ms. Appleby said. "The committee will interview candidates and recommend the finalists to come on campus."

Last spring, candidates were invited to the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools for one day. This time, candidates will spend two days on campus to allow for a more thorough visit.

"There isn't enough time to see and understand Lab in one day. We want a two-day visit in order to allow candidates to have a little bit more time to be interviewed and to talk to people who can help them understand the unique culture of U-High and Lab," Ms. Appleby said. "We want the candidates to go to some classes and see Lab teachers in action. When a candidate comes to campus, it's a two-way street; we are interviewing them, but they're also interviewing us. They have to feel that this is the right match for them. We want to hire someone who feels like Lab is the right place for their next leadership role, and so we don't want to rush through the day and the interviews."

U-High hosts 13 in Spanish exchange

BY NATALIE GLICK
MIDWAY REPORTER

On Sept. 13, 13 exchange students from Gijón, Spain arrived in Chicago to strengthen their English skills and get a taste of American culture.

"The Spanish students have a far smaller workload than their American counterparts," said sophomore and host student Harrison Shapiro. "Not only that, but Gijón is a substantially smaller and safer city than Chicago. These two factors combined made it far easier for them to entertain us in Spain than for us to entertain them here."

In picking El Piles High School, Spanish teacher Mrs. Laura Damer was looking for a school similar to Lab for the U-High students to visit. She found El Piles High School through meeting a former teacher of the school.

This is the exchange program's 11th year.

"I came here to learn more about a different culture," said Javier García a sophomore and being hosted by Harrison Shapiro.

The goal of the trip is to give the Spanish students a taste of American life.

"This is my first time here, so I am hoping to understand America more by being here," said David Acevedo, hosted by sophomore Sam Morin.

While on the trip, the students were exposed to Chicago culture daily. They went to the Museum of Science and Industry, Field Museum, Art Institute, Water Tower Place, Millennium Park, the river and lake, and even had Chicago's world-famous pizza.

"I wanted to make a life long friend in another country," host student and sophomore Isabella Light said. "I didn't go to Spain, but I was asked to host. I'm really glad



MIDWAY PHOTO BY JAMIE INGRASSIA

SELFIE TIME. Junior Lucy Ordman poses with Spanish exchange students Marta de Sevilla and Sara Pantoja near the Chicago River on North Michigan Avenue. "Having the Spaniards here was amazing," Lucy said. "I loved having the opportunity to show them our city and school."

that I did."

10 out of the 13 hosting students from Lab went to Gijón from June 13 to June 27.

"I had a lot of fun on the trip," Harrison said. "Hosting is a lot of work, but it is really fun. I became a lot closer with Javier, which is nice."

Harrison took Javier and David to see the Bears game on Sept. 20.

"My favorite thing about the trip was going to the Bears game," Javier said.

"It was really cool seeing American football actually happen," added David.

While the students weren't here for long, they learned a lot about American culture and made a number of foreign friends.

"My favorite part about being in America is just being here," Lucia Benito said. "I am really excited for the rest of the trip, and to make more friends here so I can come back."

After 3 months, 14 to reunite during German and French exchanges

BY ELENA CARROLL-MAESTRIPIERI
MIDWAY REPORTER

"The big yellow school bus is the most exciting thing for them," German teacher Annette Steinbarth said. "They love taking pictures in front of it and inside of it. It's like their American high school dream."

Arriving just in time for U-High's annual Homecoming dance on Saturday, nine exchange students from Stuttgart, Germany and five students from La Rochelle, France, will experience their first American Halloween during their two-week stays in America.

The partnering German school, Königin-Katharina-Stift Gymnasium, has been a partner of the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools since the 1980's, according to Ms. Steinbarth. During their stay this month, German students will visit a number of museums around the city, experience a Chicago River architecture tour and attend a showing of Shakespeare's "The Tempest" at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Grand Avenue.

Junior Benji Wittenbrink said he learned a lot about the differences in German and American culture during his stay in Germany over the summer, and he is looking forward to providing the same experience for his partner Silja Wach.



Benji Wittenbrink

"The most important thing is that it provides a different perspective to things that seem routine to us," Benji said. "The cultural and social norms that we are accustomed to are often different than those in foreign cities. So, just experiencing someone else's everyday life, the way they interact with their environment, provides an interesting perspective on how we live our everyday lives."

'NEEDFOREID.' Muslim Students' Association members Myra Ziad, Sahar Sadiqqi and Matt Atassi introduced themselves at the sixth Lab Eid dinner on Oct. 5 in the Kenwood Kafe. The event commemorated the end of the Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, and was open to Lab community members. "I really enjoyed the dinner because we got to demonstrate leadership to peers and bring the community together to celebrate a diverse holiday," Myra said.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY KARA COLEMAN

With ‘Rodeo’ theme, homecoming relocates

Cultural Union hopes to match last year’s record attendance at dance

BY DHEVEN UNNI
ASSISTANT EDITOR

This Saturday, the Chicago Theological Seminary will be outfitted with plaid, balloons, and bales of hay in anticipation for Lab’s rodeo-themed homecoming dance.

The dance will be helmed by Cultural Union, mainly seniors Daniel Zhu, CU president, and newly elected vice president Ciara O’Muircheartaigh.

“The theme should be fun,” Daniel said, encouraging students to dress in accordance with the rodeo theme. “We’re hoping to have some hay bales. In the past we’ve been too specific, so this will allow students to get more involved.”

The Chicago Theological Seminary, located across the Midway from Lab at 1407 E. 60th St., will host the event instead of the International House, which has usually housed the homecoming dance in recent years.

“It looks good,” Daniel said.

“There’s a really nice view, so at nighttime you can see the skyline.”

The homecoming dance had record attendance last year, and Cultural Union organizers are attempting to match those numbers by having a fun theme with a double meaning.

“Sophomores in particular have very high attendance,” Ciara said. “We’re hoping more seniors will come. I think that the theme is really clever. Travis Scott just released an album called ‘Rodeo.’ Besides, everyone knows what a rodeo is. There’s an opportunity to dress to the theme.”

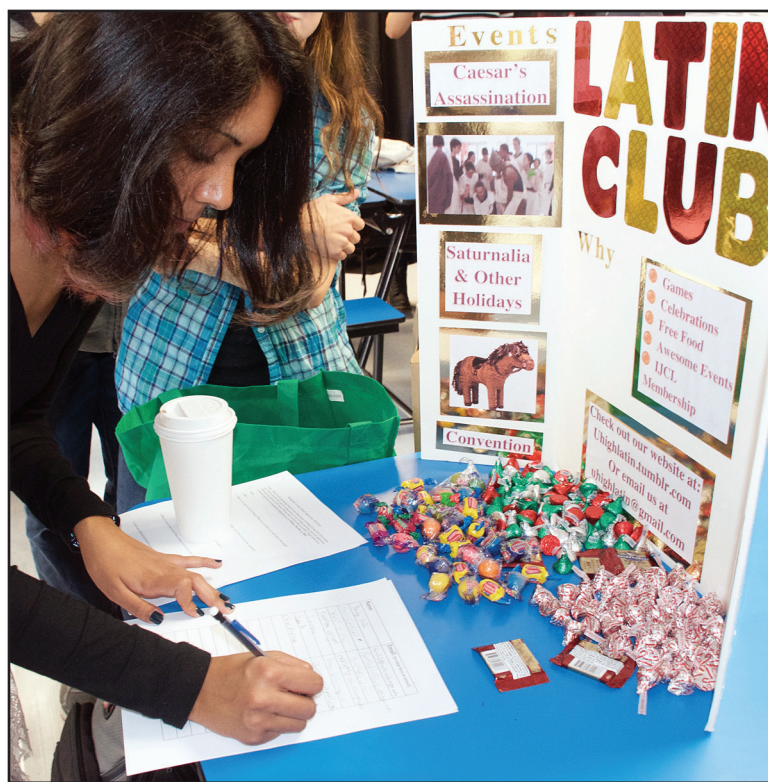
Cultural Union members focused on complaints lodged by students in previous years and attempted to fix them, using Facebook surveys to give students more control.

“Hopefully the music will be really good,” Ciara said. “I’m hoping people get really excited about the theme. I’m hoping people will feel like more of a community.”



MIDWAY PHOTOS BY GABBY CONFORTI

SPERRYS & SWEATERS. Freshman Eddy Rose, junior Taylor Thompson and sophomore Michael Rubin dress in their preppiest outfits for the first day of spirit week. Tuesday was Twin Day, there were no classes Wednesday due to PSAT testing, today is Pajama Day and Friday is Maroon Day.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY PAIGE FISHMAN

CLUB SHOPPING. One of many U-Highers who signed up for clubs during assembly period club shopping, junior Pria Parsad writes down her contact information to sign up for Latin Club.

Host of new clubs solicit students at assembly period Club Shopping event

BY TALIA GOERGE-KARRON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Students wave banners, display food, and scream out to their peers, attempting to entice them to sign up their clubs as they walk by. This is atmosphere of club shopping, which took place in the crowded Kenwood Kafe on Thursday, Oct. 24.

Despite what students think, clubs can be created at any point in the year.

“There’s no deadline to create a club,” Ms. Campos said. “If at anytime people think there is a gap, then they can request a form and become a club.”

Some of the new clubs this year include computer science, movie/film, philosophy, Chinese cultural, classical music, and Stop the Stigma.

Stop the Stigma, a club to raise awareness about mental illness, was started by sophomores Mi-

chael Rubin and Megan Moran and will meet every Wednesday at lunch.

“We started the club because Megan and I both have strong ties to people with special needs,” Michael said. “We felt strongly about providing U-High students with a platform where they can discuss topics related to special needs as well as gain skills for working with people who have disabilities so that we, as a student body, can help erase the stigma around disabilities.”

Seniors Harry Ni and Nigel Van Ha, and junior Alexander Tyska started a classical music club because of the considerable amount of students at U-High that enjoy classical music or want to learn about it.

“There are a fair number of people at Lab who like classical music, and also it would be great for anyone who’s even remotely

interested in exploring it to have a good place to start,” Alexander said. “It seemed like a good number of people would be interested in at least trying it out.”

Freshmen were both astonished and perplexed by the significant number of offerings, but also felt that the cramped environment of the Kenwood Kafe made it difficult to see all the different clubs’ stands.

“I joined the Red Cross Club, Thank A Soldier, and the Ronald McDonald House Club,” freshman Mia Palmer said. “I found it to be quite stressful, considering the whole student body is trying it sign up for clubs all at once, but I found it very interesting that they have a variety of clubs that suited everyone’s interests. They had many great causes they were supporting and also many fun clubs that would take the stress of a school day out of the students’ minds.”

Concord Review accepts Lab juniors’s history paper

BY WILLIS WEINSTEIN
MIDWAY REPORTER

Ever since junior Xander Tyska saw “The Master Singers of Nuremberg” at the Lyric Opera in 7th grade, he has been captivated by Richard Wagner’s music.

It was this fascination for Wagner’s music, as well as Friedrich Nietzsche’s philosophy, that drove Xander to write a paper which was published recently in a national history publication, The Concord Review.

Xander originally wrote his paper, “Twilight of the Decadents: Wagner, Nietzsche, Mahler and the Death, Transfiguration and Resurrection of the Nineteenth-century Zeitgeist,” last spring for his AT European History class. He explored the friendship between philosophers Friedrich Nietzsche and Richard Wagner, and the joint influence of their works on composer Gustav Mahler. At the sug-



Xander Tyska

gestion of his teacher, Chris Janus, Xander submitted the paper to InFlame, U-High’s history journal, as well as The Concord Review, where it appears in the Fall 2015 issue.

While the typical U-High student perhaps looks at reading Nietzsche as a responsibility, Xander views it as a promise of excitement.

“I am fascinated by Wagner’s and Nietzsche’s work. His operas are so immersive and amazing, and inspired me to listen to Mahler,” Xander said. “Nietzsche, who I learned about from history class and my grandfather, has wonderful aphorisms. When reading him, you have to truly think after each sentence.”

Although friends for many years, Nietzsche and Wagner’s philosophies separated the two near the end of their lives. In writing his paper, Xander hoped to reconcile their friendship posthumously.

“Wagner had a very spiritual and religious view, whereas Nietzsche was a very humanistic philosopher, who believed that man achieved salvation through striving for success and the sheer power of will,” Xander said. “Coin-

“It is often said of conductors that they know the composer of the music they conduct... I certainly hope to interact with it directly in the future.”

— Xander Tyska

cidentally, Gustav Mahler, the German composer, represented both of these ideas. I sought to analyze how Mahler combined between Wagner’s ideas and Nietzsche’s ideas in Mahler’s form of expression.”

In addition to his appreciation for their works, Xander also was driven by his love to analyze music and philosophy.

“When you analyze a piece of Nietzsche or Wagner, it’s like finding the individual meaning to you. It’s my way of funneling passion, much like they funneled passion through music and philosophy,” Xander said.

Xander spent two weeks crafting the paper, with one week dedicated to researching biographies and essays, and another for writing. His mother, a novelist, helped edit his paper for grammar and style, while his grandfather, a philosophy professor at the University of

Notre Dame, helped him interpret Nietzsche’s complex ideas.

“Overall, I was very dedicated to the writing over the paper,” Xander said. “Over the weekend, I stayed up until two in the morning writing. Once I started a section, I wanted to finish it.”

After Xander completed the paper for class and submitted it to InFlame, it was reviewed by two staff members, Jacob Mazzarella, junior, and Micaiah Buchheim-Jurisson, senior.

“My first impressions were that it was an extremely impressive piece of work, clearly with a lot of passion and dedication that went into the analysis of Nietzsche’s work,” Jacob said. “As a friend, he’s intensely intellectual and very passionate about music, so it was consistent with his personality. His paper was so well written, that I kept editing it even though I had to study for finals.”

Once Xander submitted his paper to InFlame, he spent two weeks reducing the length of his paper and editing so it could be sent to The Concord Review. On Aug. 20, Xander received a letter from The Review stating his paper had been published.

“My first thoughts when I saw the paper in the actual issue were plans for revision and notes on what I should change,” Xander said. “I think one day, perhaps for a thesis dissertation, I’ll work on the paper again.”

Now that he’s been published, Xander feels more invested in 19th century history and the music of the era. While he enjoyed symphonies of Mahler and Wagner before, he now has a better understanding of their pieces after studying them closely.

“This passion I have for music, in addition to connectedness with it, makes me hope to one day be an orchestral conductor,” Xander said. “It is often said of conductors that they know the composer of the music they conduct, and although I may not write about music again, I certainly hope to interact with it directly in the future.”

New theater described as a work in progress

In preparation for fall production, students embrace challenges, benefits of new theater facilities

BY MARISSA MARTINEZ
MIDWAY REPORTER

“Works in Progress” not only describes U-High’s first play of the year, but also the space where it will be performed. Named after Hollywood executive Sherry Lansing (’62), the new theater will house an original production made up of scenes from different dramatic pieces throughout history, which will debut Nov. 5-7.

Drama teacher Liucija Ambrosini described the show as a showcase of comedic and dramatic scenes and monologues. Singing will be a large part of the showcase, through choruses and musical presentations.

“We’re going to take it from the beginnings of theater in Ancient Greece all the way to the present, touching on each different period in drama,” Mrs. Ambrosini said. “We chose pieces based on the time periods they come from, but also because they are significant pieces either by the author or by how they influenced theatrical history. I’ve done other combination shows in the past, but this one is cuttings and snippets to give a sense of the time period, of what thrilled people then.”

Technical director Allen Ambrosini admits there are several challenges that come with adapting to

“Finally having a space that’s actually ours is the best feeling. We’re not encroaching on anyone else’s space.”
— Autumn Espinoza, senior

the new space.

“It’s described as a black box theater, but this doesn’t have black walls, which draw focus to the performance,” Mr. Ambrosini said. “Black boxes don’t have windows, and we have a whole series of clerestory windows on the south wall, as well as a heat chimney that leaks light. There’s also no direct access to the control room, dressing rooms, or costume shop. You have to go up through either end of the building.

Despite the obstacles, the new theater has many benefits. Sophisticated lighting and sound systems, flexible seating options and dressing rooms fully stocked with makeup mirrors and vanities are all additions that both students and teachers are excited to work with.

“We also have the biggest shop I’ve ever worked in,” Mr. Ambrosini said. “We have three sinks, which are really important, lots of lockable storage space, and a system that sucks up the sawdust.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY JANIE INGRASSIA

“RUN IT AGAIN!” Freshman Aly Latherow, junior Eliana Whitehouse and freshman Alyssa Russell recite their lines and write down their stage directions on Oct. 9 for “Works In Progress,” the first production in the new Sherry Lansing Theater.

State-of-the-art pieces like these allow us to concentrate more on the theater, sets and lights rather than trying to solve all the problems like we had to in the other spaces we’ve had before.

Mr. Ambrosini appreciates how the new features will change the scope of the show because of the technical power of the new space’s systems, like the flexible light structures. “This show is very

“We also have the biggest shop I’ve ever worked in”
— Liucija Ambrosini, director

episodic, so we can’t have full costumes, just simple ones that have little changing parts.”

Senior Autumn Espinosa, member of the cast and crew, says one of the best features of the new theater is its permanence.

“Finally having a space that’s actually ours is the best feeling,” Autumn said. “We’re not encroaching on anyone else’s space. All the different departments aren’t jammed in the same small room anymore, and the sound and light systems are brand new. It resembles the old Belfield theater quite a bit. Now we have a place that is large and can accommodate anything we want to do.”

Kurt Vile returns with laid-back solo album

BY CLYDE SCHWAB
FEATURES EDITOR

In Kurt Vile’s newest release, his ’70s, long haired classic rock blends with clever, light-hearted lyricism and spacious instrumentation in a cohesive and intriguing new album, “b’lieve i’m goin down...”

Vile first began recording in 2005 with Adam Granduciel with their band “War on Drugs” and debuted his first solo album, “Constant Hitmaker”, in 2008, an album which contained the influence of Pavement, Neil Young and Tom Petty. It wasn’t until his 2009 signing with indie label Matador and subsequent release of his fourth album “Smoke Ring for my Halo” that Vile gained a presence on the charts and accrued critical praise.

Returning with his familiar, dazed guitar and casual-yet-sage lyricism, “b’lieve i’m goin down...” fits as another saga in Vile’s evolution as a songwriter. Written at night after his wife and kids had gone to bed, the album focuses more on piano, banjo and guitar than the more reverb-heavy “Wakin on a Pretty Day” (2013). Instead, the album focuses on a sense of spacious, blurry, and almost detached musicality.

Beginning with “Pretty Pimpin,” in which Vile captures a moment of confusion upon seeing himself in the mirror, the album feels cohesive as it drifts through episodes of bravado, melancholy, pontification lightheartedly. Vile’s songwriting shines with both wisdom and humor, employing vivid imagery (“I got a headache like a shop vac coughin’ dust bunnies” he says on “Dust Bunnies”), lonely, offhand insights while stuck in his own head (“On a vacation at the seashore/ by the bay but far away/ inside your mind has been unkind/ it brings along your brain” sings Vile on “Kidding Around”).



KURTVILE.COM

“What’s the meaning of this song, and what’s this piece of wood, I don’t care it sounds so pretty.”
— Kurt Vile

Perhaps the most interesting reflection lies later in the same song where Vile, in his nasally and melodic voice sings, “What’s the meaning of this song/ And what’s this piece of wood/ I don’t care it sounds so pretty/ It’s change is so sublime/ what was the meaning of that last line.” While the reflection on the power of his own songwriting hints at profundity, the beauty of this, along with the rest of Vile’s sometimes astounding introspection, is that he is just “Kidding Around.” His musings don’t need to form a thesis.

The album wains from nonchalance to melancholia to detachment and finally to a kind of warmth found when simply chilling out. His conversational tone, reinforced with repetitions of “I guess,” lends the whole thing a kind of uncertainty that feels honest. “b’lieve i’m goin down...” brings you inside the blurry but comfortable reality of Vile that, alongside consistently beautiful instrumentation, lends itself to a listless wisdom that knows you can’t take anything too seriously.



ARTWORK BY KAT FLOCKE

The October Mixtape: Fall back into the season one storytelling song at a time

BY ALEX LUND
ARTS CO-EDITOR

What do you associate with the month of October? Whether you think of cool breezes, sunny skies, Halloween or the carpets of fallen leaves adorning sidewalks, one thing is certain: October is a month of storytelling. The songs listed below capture the essence of fall with crisp lyrics, melodies and timeless storylines presented through a mix of recent and classic artists — a charming balance of sentiments synonymous to a perfect fall day.

Circulate your back-to-school stress with People Under the Stairs, a Los Angeles-based rap duo, and their song “Acid Raindrops,” or reminisce about your summer fling with the daughter of Frank Sinatra, Nancy Sinatra, and her classic hit “Bang Bang” — most recently covered by Beyonce in her

short film series, “Bang Bang,” with Jay Z.

“Romeo and Juliet” by Dire Straits is also a classic. Get lost in a beautiful interpretation of the iconic love story through the sensitivity of Mark Knopfler’s voice, and allow your tears to fall freely.

Released in late-August as a single of her latest album, “A Curious Tale of Trials and Persons,” “Dead Body” by Little Simz addresses the imperfections of humanity metaphor by metaphor. If you’re looking to do some soul searching, creep yourself out or host a little mosh party in your basement, you might want to listen to this one first.

“FBGM” was released earlier in 2015 and features D.C. rapper Goldlink and production by Russian producer BMB Spacekid. With day-dreamy beats and hot lyrics, “FBGM” is a perfect song for

someone looking to broaden their musical horizons by kicking their year off with a collab from two relatively under-the-radar artists.

Amanamonesia (Chairlift) and Prince Johnny (St. Vincent) are two hauntingly melodic, light, yet memorable alternative songs filled with layered minor chords and obscure lyrics. Their soaring vocals and unusual arrangements will leave you feeling surprisingly comfortable and wanting more.

Get motivated and stay motivated with Lion Babe, of NYC, Childish Gambino, and their single Jump Hi. The song is built around a sample from Nina Simone’s “Mr. Bojangles,” which results in an effortlessly cool contrast of old and new — just as the month of October provides us with the warm, fleeting illusions of a lingering summer and the inklings of a daunting winter.

GOING ALL IN: From stocks to sneakers, senior Caleb Hill discovers importance of making his own way through life

BY CLYDE SCHWAB
FEATURES EDITOR

When senior Caleb Hill discovered the piano in the third grade, he played for hours on end. When he began playing hockey as a kid, he would skate for hours at a time. When he found out about the stock market through his uncle's brief suggestion last spring, he invested months doing research before finally opening a portfolio, and he now spends hours each week trading.

When Caleb Hill finds a passion, he goes all in.

"My mom always told me if the intent is right, the income will follow," Caleb said. "Over time, as you learn more, your thoughts come to fruition. It's the idea that your thoughts and your words become a reality."

Growing up on the south side of Chicago, Caleb says complicated family situations sometimes interfered with his interests.

"My parents ended up separating and I think that I was forced to grow up quicker than most people have to," Caleb said. "For a long time, my life didn't have any stability, primarily through middle school and some of high school. I came through on the other side of that and everything's good now."

Caleb says that currently one of his biggest focuses is his stock portfolio

Trading, despite the research and discipline it requires, comes with a distinct thrill.

"I've been sitting in a chair and lost \$150 or made \$250 in five minutes. It's a really big rush that I can't explain," Caleb said. "Imagine you get a steal in soccer and there is no one around you but the goalie and the goal."

"It's all about discipline and getting a set of rules, so that you aren't making random trades based on emotion," Caleb said. "I don't get too worked up about my losses. You learn something new and what to do next time because market tends to repeat itself. You enjoy your wins, but never let them get into your head because there is always another play."



MIDWAY PHOTO BY PAIGE FISHMAN

PLAYING THE MARKET. Caleb Hill works on his portfolio using TD Ameritrades trading software, observing graphs that show the progress in pricing of various stocks over different time intervals. Caleb says that while he checks his stocks every week, he only trades with a plan. "If a stock doesn't do exactly what I want it to do," Caleb said. "I cut losses and take whatever small profits I get and get out."

Caleb says that part of his attraction to the stock market came from the ability for anyone to use it.

"Trading is something anyone can do," Caleb said. "You can do it wherever, whenever. I don't think anyone's purpose in life is really about money, it's finding happiness. An example of ambition I always use is a kid seeing someone driving a Lamborghini down his street and he thinks that's cool, I want to drive that."

Over the summer, Caleb participated in the U-High Summer-

link internship program where he worked at Allston Trading, a global energies, commodities and futures electronic trading firm.

"The biggest thing I learned was networking because I got to work at the front desk for a while.

Before stock trading, Caleb worked at buying, selling and trading popular shoes, an interest that started after seeing the sneakers of a family friend.

"They were the Jordan Bred [black and red] 11s, which is my favorite shoe now. It was like that

moment with the kid with the Lambo. I wanted it, but it was sold out everywhere and was selling for prices no mother would ever pay for their kid's shoe. Then, a few years later, the [Jordan] Concord 11 retailed, which is when I really started. I waited half an hour in the cold to get mine. The shoe retailed at \$175, and immediately after that, people are buying the shoe for \$1,000 — so I sold it."

A market based off of exclusivity and hype from brands such as Nike and Air Jordan, Caleb says

"A lot of kids at Lab don't realize that there's a difference between being good at school and being good at life and the obstacles and networking that it calls for you to push through."

— Caleb Hill, senior

some of the skills he learned while selling sneakers taught him early the basics of marketing.

"Sneakers are only worth what dumbasses are willing to pay for them, just like anything else in the world. I bought a ton of Jordans that year and over time, the deeper you get, the more relationships you build."

According to Caleb, his interest in basketball shoes started with basketball. Now captain of the Varsity basketball team, Caleb began playing basketball in seventh grade and joined varsity his sophomore year.

"Basketball is all about commitment, hard work and discipline, discipline is probably the most important," Caleb said.

With demanding time commitments for basketball, school and trading, Caleb uses his passion for music as creative outlet.

"I'm really happy that I'm in Mr. Dean's digital recordings class this year because we all have our own studio setup and it gives me the structure that I didn't really have before and I get to have the structure behind what I'm doing."

Despite his responsibilities, Caleb says that he says he's preparing himself for the rest of his life.

"A lot of kids at Lab don't realize that there's a difference between being good at school and being good at life and the obstacles and networking that it calls for you to push through," Caleb said. "I don't want to go to four years of college just to wait to get a job when I come out of school. My goal is, by the time I graduate college, to be wealthy enough to travel the world."

Peer leaders join sophomores at retreat to help with service

BY ARIEL GANS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For the first time in the history of the Peer Leadership Program, senior peer leaders were invited on the sophomore retreat at Perlstein Resort in Lake Delton, Wisconsin, Sept. 16-18.



Meghan Janda

"I feel like they really set the tone," Meghan Janda, head of the peer leadership program, said. "They really lead by example. It's a really good group that involves themselves in service, so when we went to our service sites they were really pumped to do the service, and for the kids that was really contagious."

In the past, junior and senior peer leaders have led a designated sophomore advisory for one school year. Beginning last year, junior peer leaders were assigned their own freshman advisories, which they continued with through those students' sophomore year. While senior peer lead-



Ilana Dutton



Dylan Olthoff

ers were invited to attend and help design their advisories' sophomore retreat, some peer leaders felt the purpose of their presence there was unclear.

"I think the concept of us going is really, really good because they (the sophomores) usually respond a lot better to their peers talking to them," peer leader Ilana Dutton said. "But I think the schedule of sophomore retreat needs to be changed around, so that the peer leaders can do more. I felt like we were just sitting around. For instance, during the discussions, the advisers led them and we were just kind of there — we didn't lead them as much as I think we all had wanted to."

Dylan Olthoff, another senior peer leader, shared many of Ilana's feelings.

"I think the schedule of sophomore retreat needs to be changed around, so that the peer leaders can do more. I felt like we were just sitting around. During the discussions, the advisers led them and we were just kinda there."

— Ilana Dutton, senior

"We helped out during the community service discussions and helped them understand what they were doing," Dylan said. "But other than that we weren't really incorporated in the social activities that they did."

Though glad to have the extra help, Ms. Janda will determine whether future senior peer leaders will attend sophomore retreat based on feedback from the peer leaders.

"I think it's really big that they went to sophomore retreat," Ms. Janda said. "We are now kind of seeing how that went and any changes that we can make for the better based off of their own feedback and how involved they were."



MIDWAY PHOTO BY TERESA XIE

BREAKING THE ICE. Senior Fikayo Walter-Johnson instructs sophomores on the rules of an icebreaking game before going to the Hope House, a service site that supports victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse. Peer leaders helped lead discussion and accompanied sophomores to their service sites.

HALL OF FAME

Not only does Gordon Parks Arts Hall demonstrate a newfound recognition for the fine arts and music at U-High, it is also an important step in the Hyde Park community. The building’s name acknowledges photographer, filmmaker and artist Gordon Parks, a key contributor who may have been overlooked in the past due to racial issues. The arts hall is the first building named for an African American on the University of Chicago campus. In a time where racial concerns continue to come to the forefront, recognition of Parks serves as a way to remember the past through his thought-provoking artwork and help members of the U-High community use that appreciation to understand the present.

Role model and civil rights documentarian recognized

BY GRACE ANDERSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A role model for youth his entire life, U-High’s new Arts Hall cements Gordon Parks’ legacy and provides an avenue that many hope will create a renewed passion for social justice and fearlessness among students.

For photography and filmmaking teacher Benjamin Jaffe, Parks’ work represents a passion for social justice issues.

“Everything he did had the same theme of lending a voice to people who were down and out,” said Mr. Jaffe, “who were not being recognized, or who were marginalized by society. And he did it so powerfully and in such a moving way that when you look at his photos today they still have that same ring of truth to them.”

Amanda Smith, archivist and education coordinator at The Gordon Parks Foundation, noted a similar phenomenon in Parks’ art.

“As a teenager, Gordon Parks overcame racism and poverty,” Ms. Smith stated in an interview over email. “Instead of channeling his frustrations into a life of crime or misconduct, his choice of weapons” — as he described it — was a camera, which he used to document the adversity he saw around him. Naming the arts hall after Gordon Parks is a testament that young minds can use their creativity as a springboard to overcome adversity and express themselves in a socially conscious way.”

A man who started from “humble beginnings,” as Mr. Jaffe put it, and worked for each and every success, Parks’ life in many ways illustrates the American dream.

“His advice to young people was to be bold,” Mr. Jaffe said, “to not be hampered by the fact that you don’t have a job, or someone isn’t



Benjamin

“Everything he did had the same theme of lending a voice to people who were down and out.”

— Benjamin Jaffe,
Photo and Film Teacher

footing your bill — because someone will notice if what you do is good enough.”

For Parks, that first shot came through the South Side Community Arts Center. The federal government initially funded this space as part of the New Deal, a series of federal programs developed by President Roosevelt to end the Great Depression. This particular program brought together artists to create jobs and teach communities. While many other community centers that were part of this New Deal project fell apart after federal funding dried up, the South Side Community Arts Center has endured to this day.

Artist and former director of the center, Faheem Majeed, shared his thoughts on Parks’ beginnings.

“The South Side Community Arts Center took great pride in being able to support a young artist who went on to do great things,” Mr. Majeed said. “The Center was his home very early on in his career — this was the space where he had his first darkroom, which consisted of a curtain in the basement. Gordon Parks was the ideal. He’s someone who accomplished many things and who often shifted direction from documentary photographer to filmmaker to advocate for social change, he never let convention hold him back.”

Mr. Majeed also noted the educational nature of Parks’ time at the Center, through both critiquing his colleagues’ work at the center and teaching student art classes, for whom he tried to serve as a role model.

Continuing the theme of education, Mr. Jaffe explained how he hopes Parks’ story will become an inspiration for everyone at U-High, especially African-American

students.

“It gives the African-American students who are here in our community the ability to look up to someone in their own school and feel like ‘I belong, I’m not an outsider.’”

According to Mr. Jaffe, Gordon Parks Arts Hall in particular demonstrates a long overdue appreciation for the photography and film-Parks created.

“I also think it’s rare for someone to be humbled and step back from the limelight in the way that [George] Lucas and [Mellody] Hobson have in order to give credit to someone else who deserves it,” Mr. Jaffe said, referring to the couple who provided major funding for the arts hall.

The renewed appreciation of Parks’ work and the history that surrounds it can also create a deeper understanding of the racial issues this country continues to face today.

“The decision to name the building after Gordon Parks was made long before Ferguson and other recent incidents,” Mr. Jaffe said. “But, I will say that it is definitely an interesting time in the U.S. We have a black president and you start to think we’re beginning to get past a lot of our indiscretions as a nation. And then you realize that we’re really not. There are still so many issues, and we still have a lot of work to be done.”

Ms. Smith echoed this sentiment, since Parks lived through “significant social changes” and his work documents the history of civil rights issues in America, beginning with his own experience in a segregated school through Martin Luther King and the March on Washington, serving as a window to America’s past.

“In light of recent events,” Ms. Smith explained, “it is important to understand and learn from the history that precedes them. Gordon Parks photography, essays, poetry, and films offer a glimpse into a portion of that history as told by a man that lived through it, documented it and interpreted it.”



MIDWAY PHOTO BY PAIGE FISHMAN

STAND OUT IN THE CROWD. Gordon Parks Arts Hall combines the gothic styling of Lab School’s architecture with clean lines and floor-to-ceiling windows, creating a modern twist on tradition.

SUPPORT STAYS STRONG. 1962 Lab alumna Sherry Lansing explains to 1982 alumna Monica Davey how the Lab experience gave her the skills she needed to succeed and become the first female president of a major Hollywood studio, emphasizing Lab’s supportive nature.

Gallery inspires interactive teaching and learning

BY MICAJAH BUCHHEIM-JURISSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Walking through the serene new gallery on the first floor of Gordon Parks Arts Hall, one can view and contemplate 13 photographs by photographer Gordon Parks, including the iconic “American Gothic” and his 1963 capture of Malcolm X at a Chicago rally. The photos, on loan from the Gordon Parks foundation, were taken by the arts hall’s namesake over a 40-year period between the 1940s and the 1980s.

The idea for exhibiting Parks’ photos originated from Fine Arts Department Chair Gina Alicea after finding out that the building would be named in his honor.

Ms. Alicea, who wants the Gallery to help enhance school curriculum, hopes this installation will ignite conversations about race relations in America today among the school community.

“Showing some of his iconic pieces, like ‘American Gothic,’ in which Ella Watson stands in front of the American flag with her broom and mop that are so well known,” Ms. Alicea explained, “is a great jumping-off point for conversations about race relations in America, what has happened since the ‘40s and Jim Crow Laws — and has it really improved?”

Throughout this school year, there are plans to display both more professional and student artwork. During winter quarter, work from Latin American print makers will be on display.

BY TALIA GOERGE-KARRON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Gordon Parks, a modern Renaissance man whose gifts encompassed photography, writing, and filmmaking, is memorialized in the South Side of Chicago through new appreciation for his legacy.

Born in Kansas on Nov. 30, 1912, Parks attended a segregated elementary school and then high school, but soon a teacher told him that he shouldn’t have any further aspirations and he dropped out. His mother died when he was 15, and after living with relatives for a short period of time he became homeless in St. Paul, Minnesota. Parks had several jobs, but later moved to Seattle and picked up photography.

After receiving encouragement for his photography, he relocated to Chicago. Soon, Parks joined the Farm Security Administration’s (FSA) photography program portraying the challenges of rural poverty, and he spent the next years on the South Side of Chicago photographing the people and the tenements.

Once his job with the FSA ended, Parks remained in Washington, D.C., during World War II at the Office of War Information. He then started shooting a project in small towns and industrial centers for an oil company.

These set the stage for what would become a long and impressive career in the arts.

Parks’ accomplishments are what impressed

“There are three of us on faculty that are teaching print making during winter quarter,” Ms. Alicea said. “So we’ll be taking our students in there and relating to the artwork itself.”

In the spring, the Gallery will hold student artwork and host the Lab Arts Expo, which will be in the Arts Hall for around a week, instead of just two days in Upper Kovler gym as in past years.

“We’ll have some type of student show, and we’ve talked about, would it be a senior show, would it be a juried or curated show?” Ms. Alicea said. “We’re trying to figure out what would be the best way to highlight those students that are at the peak of their career at Lab, to just showcase some of this incredible work — last year we had 11 students that won awards nationally, and quite a few that got scholarships, so I would love to have that opportunity to showcase their work in the spring.”

Plans for the gallery are determined by a gallery committee, which discusses and decides what exhibitions will take place in the gallery, as well as the broader plan for the gallery itself. Part of the gallery’s mission is to enhance curriculum at the Laboratory Schools, according to Ms. Alicea.

“Part of that mission is to enhance our curriculum here at Lab,” Ms. Alicea said. “One of the ways we’re doing that ... we wanted to tie into the namesake of the building, so we had to start with this African American photographer that did so much

Lab’s Director of Education Programs, Scott Fech, who explained his amazement after reading Parks’ autobiography.

“The challenges that he overcame in a very different historical time in this country and what he accomplished is really amazing,” Mr. Fech said. “He had to channel his passion through his art. There was so much going on in the world at the time and it was just building up inside of him.”

Parks began freelancing as a fashion photographer for Vogue and Glamour magazines on the side. He later became the first black staff member at Life Magazine, where he photographed subjects such as Martin Luther King Jr., Louis Armstrong, Muhammed Ali and Oprah Winfrey during his 20 years there.

Parks’ fearless attitude about photography carried him to photograph controversial subjects, which Professor Omar McRoberts from the Department of Sociology at University of Chicago associated with a depiction of fairness and equality.

“He was complex in the kinds of subjects he featured in his art,” Professor McRoberts said. “He did not shy away from controversy. He took pictures of controversial figures at the time like Malcolm X and Muhammed Ali. He didn’t depict them as people that are dangerous or should be feared, but in the fullness of their humanity.”

Similarly, U-High counselor Ron Tunis connected Gordon Parks’ greater idea of justice through art to the U-High community as Parks went on a mission to provide a deeper understanding of the people he photographed.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY TERESA XIE

more than just photography. We wanted to let students know. It’s a teachable moment.”

The committee is chaired by Laboratory Schools Board member Liz Parker, and consists of Lab parents Richard Wright, who owns an auction house, Garland Taylor an artist and exhibit designer for the Dusable Museum of African American History, Bernard Derroite, who owns a gallery in the Gold Coast, as well as Ms. Alicea, photography teacher Benjamin Jaffe and University of Chicago professors Bill Brown and Christine Mehring.

The committee is currently discussing plans for the summer as well as for opening the current exhibition to the public. Much of this comes down to figuring out costs, as both of these would require security during weekends and breaks. The University rolled the costs of the current exhibition into the larger costs for the grand opening of the arts hall, but the budget for next year is still under discussion by the committee.

Figuring out the budget for the gallery is a multi-faceted task, as the committee must determine the costs for many items, including for getting artwork on loan, labor for framing and hanging, documenting an exhibition, advertising an exhibition and putting together a gallery brochure. According to Ms. Alicea, they will present how much it costs to run the gallery for a year to the administration and propose the costs be included in the budget next year.

“When I think about the Laboratory School, my perception is that there’s willingness particularly among our students to address injustices in their own way. He addressed them through being a journalist and a photographer,” Mr. Tunis said. “It’s no different than what Gordon Parks did when he saw the injustices in America.” Parks immersed himself in the community of black Muslims, a group that was misunderstood by many Americans in order to show what they really stood for, Tunis said.

“As a result of that,” Mr. Tunis said, “he saw all the good they did in their communities, as well as their willingness to address hard issues that at the time many Americans were not willing to address.”

Parks authored many books, including three memoirs, a historical novel and essays on civil rights leaders. One of his books, “The Learning Tree,” was chosen to be adapted into a movie in 1963. Warner Bros. recruited Parks to write, direct and score the film. He continued to direct films such as “Shaft” and other action movies.

Parks’ movies were some of the first films giving African Americans a role as protagonists. Professor McRoberts related these films to Parks’ greater goal of justice for all.

“I think he was more interested in social movements more generally and managed to depict African American freedom struggles with a great deal of fairness and balance,” Pro-

fessor McRoberts said. “He also invited some controversy into his films. The movie ‘Shaft,’ which he produced and directed, on the one hand you could say it played with stereotypes about African Americans about violence and sexuality and so on. But at the same time, it depicted perhaps for the first time, African Americans as heroes in a story that revolved around black people. There’s a complexity that he managed and he used to open doors and create opportunities.”

Lab Fine Arts Department Chair Gina Alicea said Parks used his many passions and skills in the arts to explore humanity and equality.

“He never let life defeat him, he was up against a lot of obstacles, having been born in 1912, growing up in segregation and Jim Crow laws,” Ms. Alicea said. “He did not let that stop him. He was still able to be successful against all odds. His mom instilled a sense of self-esteem in him. It was a big deal for him to carry on and go out into the world. That’s just raw talent right there.”

In the early 1970s, Parks helped create Essence magazine, for which he served as editorial director from 1970-1973 and he received the National Medal of the Arts from President Ronald Reagan in 1988. He died on March 7, 2006, at age 93.

“He’s got a strong Chicago connection,” Mr. Fech said. “I think that when you look at the neighborhood in which we live, it’s important that there is a building on the University of Chicago finally that’s named after an African American. He’s a perfect encapsulation of a Renaissance man who really embraced it all.”



MIDWAY PHOTO BY PAUGE FISHMAN

‘STING LIKE A BEE.’ Senior Veronica Baio and junior Ilana Emanuel study a Gordon Parks photo where an energized Muhammad Ali looks back at photographers before a fight.

Renowned alumni return for grand opening of arts hall

BY NATALIE GLICK
MIDWAY REPORTER

The cold temperatures and the whipping winds did not dampen the mood at the grand opening weekend of Gordon Parks Art Hall on Oct. 3. “Wow,” gasped a young boy gazing up at the gleaming modern building. The boy’s amazement summed up the mood of the crowd, which included alumni, parents, students of all ages, faculty and staff.

Outside, face painters, magicians, balloon artists and a stilt walker brought Kimbark Avenue alive. Attendees dined on nachos, barbecue, ice cream and hot dogs from vendors’ stands.

Inside, amazement showed on people’s faces as they strolled through the state-of-the-art facilities. Gallery doors swung open and closed all afternoon as people took in the special exhibit of Parks photographs displayed in a gallery.

Laughter and conversation filled the halls and people chatting away filled the Assembly Hall as the high energy for the day’s events spilled over into conversations.

Two formal discussions formally welcomed the building to the Laboratory Schools campus. A welcome from David Kistenbroker, chair of the Lab School Board, kicked off the program.

“This marks a special day in the history of the school,” Mr. Kistenbroker said. “I couldn’t be more excited for what students will accomplish in this arts hall.”

University of Chicago President Robert Zimmer, a former Lab parent, reminded everyone of the building’s historical significance.

“It’s long overdue to have a building named after an African American,” President Zimmer said in his remarks. “This building is a reflection of the University and its deep commitment to the Lab Schools.”

The program continued as New York Times Chicago bureau chief Monica Davey interviewed donor Sherry Lansing, the first woman to head a major American motion picture studio.

“It’s wonderful to be here today,” Ms. Lansing said excitedly from the stage. “It was very emotional for me to back at the school that gave me so much. When I started at Lab as a freshman I had no idea the environment that I was going to be in, but my expectations were blown away.”

In a later interview with the Midway later, Ms. Lansing explained her hopes for students.

“Art is important, art matters,” she said. “My hope for you is that



MIDWAY PHOTO BY TERESA XIE

WARM WELCOME. University of Chicago President Robert Zimmer discusses the importance of the building to the Hyde Park community.

in someway you will see how art can push the boundaries of life, and you will want to push those boundaries.”

Later in the day, experts on the work of Gordon Parks and members of his family participated in a panel discussion about Parks.

Event organizers hoped the event would channel community spirit, according to Interim Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Development Alice Dubose, who led the team responsible for planning the weekend’s events.

“It was beyond our expectations,” Ms. Dubose said. “It really brought together our community. Everyone seemed to have a really good time.”

Ms. Lansing also shared that the Lab community played a key role in her experience at U-High.

“It’s why I chose to give money to Lab, I had never been in such a supportive community before. Going to Lab changed my life.”

Reflecting on the Oct. 3 event, Lab Schools Director Robin Appleby felt truly amazed by the day.

“It’s incredible that we got 975 RSVP’s,” she said. “The highlights of the weekend for me were speaking with Mrs. Lansing and hearing the people from the Gordon Parks Foundation speak. Both of them were incredible to hear.”

At an invitation-only dinner the previous evening, actor Samuel L. Jackson, singer Janelle Monáe, filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola and artists Jeff Koons and Theaster Gates also spoke about the arts’ importance in a panel discussion.

“Friday night was a defining moment in our lives as performers,” choir teacher Katy Sinclair said about the opportunity for Bel Canto to sing for the private event. “To perform for, and listen to people who are not only famous but speak so personally about the arts was a defining moment in our lives.”

StudCo should elect, not appoint

In the past, Student Council has been considered irrelevant by many students, with their main responsibility as planning quarterly dances. However, last year's Student Council President John Williams and this year's President Fabrice Guyot-Sionnest have worked hard for Student Council to take on a bigger role as a valued governing body. However, if Student Council wants to take on more responsibility, the members need to follow this up by giving students a voice when it comes to decision-making. Student Council is currently working on rewriting its constitution. The last constitution included nothing dealing directly with student council resignations, so Student Council discussed and decided on a process after three students

As the Midway sees it...

resigned, forming this process around the old constitution's impeachment process. Student Council then included this process in their draft of the new constitution. Using this new process, Student Council asked students to nominate their peers. Nominees who chose to accept the nomination gave a short speech to Student Council during lunch. Student Council members then took a vote. What's missing from this process? The involvement of the student body. Student Council didn't give students a stake. The members simply made the decision for us. Fabrice said this decision was made in consideration of time. However, sometimes the work of Student Council means putting in the extra effort to make the best, not the fastest, decision. It would have taken the same amount of time to hold speeches in our new Assembly Hall rather than behind closed doors.

Another issue raised in Student Council's discussion, according to Dean of Students Ana Campos, was that because current freshmen weren't here last spring, it would be strange having them vote for all-school positions for students whom they barely knew. Freshmen, now a part of our community, should have been included in the election of our representatives the same way new sophomores or juniors should. It's Student Council's responsibility to provide the means to inform the freshmen or new students on their candidates, the opportunity to hear speeches and their right to vote. Student Council could have used this opportunity to strengthen communication between it and the student body by promoting and introducing new students to the Student Council website. Officers could have collected statements and posted bios on the nominees, possibly recorded and

posted videos of the speeches and had students vote through the website. On the "Updates" tab, it says nothing of the resignations or the process of re-election, yet results have been posted. Student Council has a chance to redeem, get credibility from and involve students with the ratification of their proposed constitution. They are our representatives. They need to make sure the final constitution reflects the voice and views of the student body. According to the statement on its website, Student Council is "committed to making UCLS the school that the students want it to be" — which they won't know unless they ask. Being a leader doesn't mean saying, "I'm open to questions, comments and concerns. Come talk to me!" It means getting up, reaching out and not waiting for students to approach them. *This editorial represents the opinion of the Midway's Editorial Board.*

Growing campus demands flexibility

BY MAIA BOUSSY
MANAGING EDITOR
Five minutes.
That is the length of time that students are allowed between classes to get supplies from their lockers, go to the bathroom, talk to their friends, and move from one class to another. While most students manage the time constraint when their classes are within one building, it has become increasingly difficult for students to reach their classes in Gordon Parks Arts Hall or Blaine Hall from their classes in the high school. The walk is made even more difficult as the hallway between U-High and Gordon Parks is shared with middle school students.



Maia Boussy

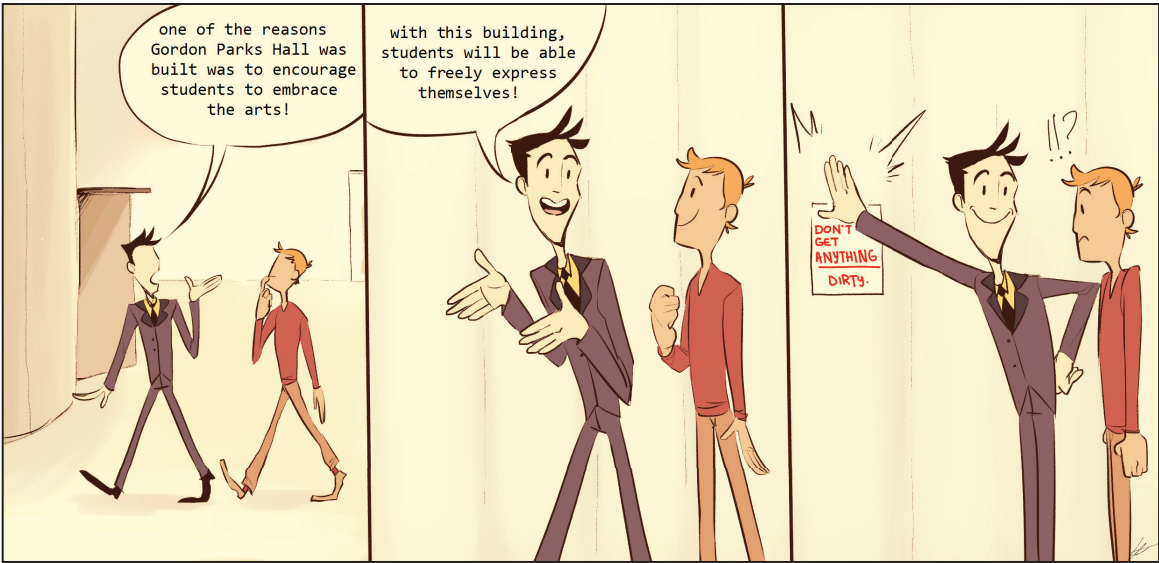
Students are not the only ones with this problem. Many language teachers have offices in Blaine and have to walk through the lower and middle schools to teach classes in the high school. Obviously, there is nothing that administrators can do to make classes closer together or change where buildings are located. Therefore, it is up to students and teachers to work around the growing size of our school. Teachers have to learn to be especially mindful of letting their classes out at the right times. Sometimes teachers need the full 45 minutes for instruction, making it difficult for them to release students early. However, teachers ought to be conscious of the fact that students have other classes that may be far away. Late dismissal of class is disrespectful to both students and other teachers. If students are unable to show up on time, teachers have to interrupt their lessons or wait for their students who are running late. **S t u d e n t s** also need to be responsible about getting to class on time. They have to be especially careful to not waste time in the hallways. If students ask teachers to forgive the tardiness because of the long walk, they must not abuse that gift by talking to friends or purposely taking time away from lessons. Students and teachers must work together around the growing scope of our school. We must learn to flexible and work around these constraints. If we work together as a school, we will find ways around these technical issues.

New student arts hall more like museum

BY ALEX LUND
ARTS EDITOR
The new arts building is beautiful, but whether or not it truly embodies Lab students' independent, free-thinking and expressive attitudes is another story. Gordon Parks Hall boasts an impressive lobby, assembly hall, art gallery and theater among other things. However, its quadratic, minimalist, sterile facilities, and more surprising, questionably superfluous rules, have left students with the impression that the new restrictions ironically limit student expression. On the first day of school, students were informed that no food, drinks or backpacks would be allowed in the Assembly Hall as an effort to keep it clean, preserve space and prevent students from working on homework during assemblies. When talking specifically about backpacks, Lab's interim associate principal, Fran Spaltro, made students aware that everyone in the audience is highly visible to those on stage, and reiterated something Lab students have been told time and time again — that it is disrespectful to work during a presentation. If it is a matter of conserving space though, the better question is why students are not having assemblies back in the Upper Kovler gym, where they have traditionally taken place. Rules such as these lend themselves to the idea that the new assembly hall is simply too rigid for the spirited assemblies Lab students have become accustomed to on occasions such as the first day. On the other hand, its tranquil atmosphere makes it the perfect place for formal events, those which involve a guest speaker, or have an air of seriousness to them. Communal events that exude a sense of thoughtful, quiet reflection, such as the Martin Luther King or Holocaust Remem-



Alex Lund



ARTWORK BY KAT FLOCKE

"Worrying about the appearance of the arts building to outsiders for the rest of its existence will forever stunt how students will perceive it."

brance assemblies will find a home in this new space. Unfortunately, those like our first day and spirit week assemblies will not. The infectious energy and camaraderie generated through rowdy class chants, student-versus-teacher competitions, dramatic Student Council entrances and student speeches in the open air of Upper Kovler cannot be replicated in the hall, despite the sense of closeness accomplished through organized seating on communal benches and its thrust stage design. In addition to the "no food, drinks, or backpacks" rule, the administration also seeks to prohibit any painting on any walls or tables in the new building — even in the art studio. Further, the art gallery is designated exclusively for professional artists' exhibits. Though the gallery is an exciting addition to the Lab community and presents an opportunity for students to learn more about art both culturally and historically, the administration has failed to designate

a space for students to showcase their own work. Students are not allowed to pin or tape their work up on the walls inside or outside studios due to the administration's request to leave them barren for fear of damaging the paint job. As a student body, we are beyond proud of our new building. But we are proud of our art, too, and our voices deserve to be heard beyond the confines of the gray-and-white walls. The new studios are cleaner, bigger and sharper than Lab's old ones. Yet even so, the echoing halls and intimidating sterility of the building seem to contradict and stifle the experiential, creative and free thinking Lab student — one who benefits from an inspired environment. The new building lacks perhaps the most essential aspect of a creative space — personalization, which only comes from the unique character students bring to it. Luckily, this is an attainable concept. Perhaps there is a need for balance between Lab's proclivity for progressivity, as well remembering that happiness and harmony achieved through expression is necessary in order to truly embody the aesthetic experiences, guidelines and ideals that are John Dewey's principles. For example, being conscious of how viewing

the future as an aura of the present is equally as important as allowing memories of the past and anticipations of the future to absorb themselves into the present. In other words, there needs to be greater equilibrium between reaching the administration's predetermined notions of the current and future physical aesthetics of the building, and giving students the freedom to radiate the aesthetic which, true to the spirit of Lab, resembles the vibrant ideals of John Dewey — learning through experience and living in the moment, without fear of the failures, messes and judgements that might ensue. This is something that is both observed and practiced in creating art. Worrying about the appearance of the arts building to outsiders for the rest of its existence will forever stunt how students will perceive it — as not truly their own, but as something on loan from the administration. Each generation of students under us will have the chance to create art in Gordon Parks Hall, and as time passes it will undoubtedly grow in its comfortability, whether the administration likes it or not. As the first generation, allow us to make our contribution by being the first ones to add a bit of ourselves to it. Allow us the opportunity and freedoms to make mistakes we can learn from.

=U-HIGH MIDWAY=

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Students find ways to maintain healthy lifestyle

From weights to tracking devices, working out takes many forms

BY SONNY LEE
ARTS CO-EDITOR

Exhausted from his workout, Kenny Koenen slowly walks down the stairs from the weight room, jokingly trying to hug someone in a sweaty embrace.

Though Kenny, a senior and former U-High baseball player, is prohibited from playing team sports because of surgeries performed on his ACL, it's still important to him to find time to work out and stay fit.

Kenny said being healthy means making the best choices for your body by eating right and exercising.



Kenny Koenen

doesn't drink soda or eat candy at home because of how he was raised. His parents only shop at Whole Foods, which is why at home he only eats organic food when home.

Sophomore Nikki Han, a member of the junior varsity volleyball team, finds time to exercise on the off-season.

"I try to work out, condition or go on runs on the weekends or at night when I have the time," Nikki said. "I want to get in at least half an hour of exercise at night, but sleep and home-



Nikki Han

work usually get in the way."

Because of obstacles like school work and extracurricular activities, any app or device that helps keep track of a person's exercising habits or encourages exercise throughout a busy day is worth the investment. Step trackers like Fitbit and Jawbone keep track of diet, sleep and exercise, making fitness a fun competition between friends and family.

"I got a Jawbone for Christmas," Nikki said. "It helps to get fit because it creates competition between me and my cousins."

Whether it be jogging to the point from school or walking to the store, Mr. Miller encourages everyone to do at least 30 minutes of cardio fitness three times a week because it works the heart at high intensities.

"I don't know much about Fitbits and Jawbones," Mr. Miller said. "But I'm all for anything that encourages exercise."



ILLUSTRATION BY KAT FLOCKE

New concussion test gives guidance for injury recovery

Test will give educators a baseline to measure damage, treat concussions

BY ARIEL GANS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"We had concussions in swimming last year, in PE class, in soccer, and I just think that anything to increase the safety of our students benefits everyone," Lab Schools athletic trainer Mallory Mihalov regarding a new requirement for U-High's athletes this fall: the ImpACT test. The ImpACT test, a 25-minute computerized exam of cognitive abilities, helps track the recovery of cerebral processes following a concussion, before starting their seasons.

Requiring an additional consent form, the testing involves a series of computerized cognitive tests involving mathematical memorization.

"I felt that we needed another tool to help with concussion treatment here regarding diagnosing and treatment," Ms. Mahalov said. "I've noticed that we get a good amount of concussions here in sports as well as physical education class — more than people would think. I don't think that our school is above average; but concussions are a very serious injury and anything that can help the safety of our kids we should do."

In fact, multiple U-High athletes have suffered concussions.



Mallory Mahalov



Martha Bagetto

"I never had a baseline test before I got my concussions," swimmer Ilana Dutton, a senior who has had five concussions, said. "So I think it's really good that people are taking them. Even if you do really badly, the baseline gives you a better idea of how severe your concussion is and how debilitating it actually is."

A new baseline test will be administered every two years, but if at any point an athlete suffers a head injury and a concussion is suspected, the student will complete another ImpACT test, which can be compared with the previous baseline report to assess potential damage.

Ms. Mihalov proposed bringing ImpACT testing to Lab in August and is trained in administering the test as well as properly interpreting its results.

"It bothered me that other

schools were doing it and we weren't," Ms. Mahalov continued. "We don't have any football or wrestling teams, so we have less concussions than other schools to begin with — but I have a good friend who's the trainer at the Latin School and they've been doing it for a couple years now. So I thought why are they doing it and we aren't? Latin is similar to ours in that it doesn't have any football or wrestling teams — so if they're doing it maybe we should."

Another supporter of the new testing is Nurse Martha Bagetto, who manages and treats concussions for the schools while Ms. Mahalov assesses them.

"The trainers and coaches wanted something measurable for them to be able to see if a student had recovered from their concussion," Ms. Bagetto said, "because much of the symptoms of concussions are objective. I think that this testing will raise people's awareness about how to prevent long term consequences by making sure that kids are back to their baseline before reentering the game, and maybe before they sustain another concussion. Also, it's measurable. You might have thought you were fine, but numbers don't lie."

"You might have thought you were fine, but numbers don't lie."

— Martha Bagetto, nurse

For busy teens, staying fit isn't time-consuming

BY JACKIE WALKER
HEALTH EDITOR

Though school and homework may get in the way of many U-Highers' other activities, that shouldn't be the case when it comes down to your body and your health. Staying fit does not have to mean a two-hour session of grueling pain and discomfort.

With the right attitude and a great ability to manage time, any student who doesn't play team sports can stay fit. Even simple things like replacing soda with water can give your body the extra energy to get through the day. Taking the stairs, walking to the store or even playing with a sibling can mean a couple more calories burnt.

These tips from Cosmopolitan can help you stay fit with all the

other activities and work U-Highers have to do.

- Exercise. The goal isn't to run a marathon next week. The goal is to stay active and fit. You don't need a gym to exercise.
- Invest in a Fitbit, Jawbone, or other fitness tracker. These can motivate you to stay fit.
- Sleep. Sleep improves athletic and creative abilities. It sharpens your attention, lowers stress and helps you maintain a healthy weight.
- Mix up your routine. Exercise different parts of your body and make it fun for yourself.
- Eat well. Protein, calcium, and other vitamins and minerals are key for muscle growth.
- Just do it.

Fall months offer a chance to increase health knowledge

- OCTOBER**
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
 - Down Syndrome Awareness Month
 - Eye Injury Prevention Month
 - Health Literacy Month
 - Healthy Lung Month
 - National Physical Therapy Month
 - Domestic Violence Awareness Month
 - Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

- NOVEMBER**
- National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month
 - American Diabetes Month
 - Lung Cancer Awareness Month
 - Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month
 - National Stomach Cancer Awareness Month
 - Prematurity Awareness Month
 - National Healthy Skin Month
 - Health Literacy Month

SWIM, SKATE, SCORE

Kendra Nealey discusses dedication and time commitment to her sports

BY ELENA MAESTRIPIERI
MIDWAY REPORTER

“There are times when my friends ask me if I want to hang out,” junior Kendra Nealey says. “A lot of the time I have to tell them that I can’t because I’m have a game or something. But it’s OK, because I know I’m going to have so much fun at the game anyway. I know I’m missing out, but I’m participating in something awesome, so it’s totally worth it.”

After having virtually no days off between hockey practice, swimming and homework, Kendra’s become very familiar with the notion of commitment. Last may she committed to Cornell University, a NCAA Division I school, for hockey.

Kendra plays defense for the Chicago Mission, a top-tier ice hockey team out of Woodridge, Illinois, and swims on the Chicago Wolfpack, a team affiliated with the University of Illinois at Chicago. At 5-foot-11.5, Kendra is the tallest defenseman on her her hockey team. Last year she was bumped up in advance from the 16-year-old team into the 19-year-old team and is in the starting defense pair on that team again this year.

Committing early to schools for hockey is not uncommon for girls on her team, Kendra explained. Her team won the national championship in Green Bay, Wisconsin, last year.

“Some of my teammates are going to Mercyhurst, Ohio State, Harvard, Dartmouth — many D-1 schools,” Kendra said. “I was talking to many schools, but I chose Cornell because I loved their campus, their academics, and I loved their hockey team. I went and saw their facility, I met their coach — that’s usually the biggest part, meeting their coach and looking at the campus to see if you’ll fit in academic-wise.”

Her interests in hockey and



MIDWAY PHOTO BY PAIGE FISHMAN

SWIMMING STRONG. Junior Kendra Nealey, multi sport player, rises to the challenge of school, friends, and two sports: hockey and swimming.

swimming, began at a very young age, and her commitment to both sports have lasted throughout middle school and high school.

“I started both of my sports after my brother did,” Kendra said. “He’s four years older than me. He

started hockey when he was about five, so when I was like five or six I learned to skate. I played on a boys team for a while, until I was about 10 or 11, and then I joined the girls team. My parents put me in swimming right away because

they thought it was an important life skill.”

One of her Mission team’s goals, junior Alex Rodman, explained that Kendra was one of the most committed and hardworking girls on their team.

“You know you meet those kids that are good at everything? Well, Kendra’s one of those kids,” Alex said. “We’re always joking around at practices and even at tournaments, but on the ice she’s intense. She’s not aggressive like some other defensemen, but she blocks tons of shots, she wins every battle in front of the net, and if I lose my rebound, she clears it out so the other team doesn’t score. Then on top of that, she does swimming and wins awards for it.”

Between two sports and six classes, including AT World History, Kendra said she doesn’t get a whole lot of free time, and explained that her social life depends largely on her teammates.

“It’s very difficult to manage Lab and two sports,” she said, “but basically you just have no time to procrastinate. You just have to do things, even if you don’t like it. Typically my downtime is at hockey tournaments in hotels, between games, after school. My social life is in the sports. My friends are on my team, and we hang out all the time. On the weekends we have homework sessions where we all just do homework and help each other even if we’re in different classes.”

While the lack of free time means fewer chances to spend time at home or with school friends, Alex explained that she and Kendra’s relationship has maintained since before they were freshman, three years ago.

“Kendra and I spend every second of our lives together,” Alex said. “She always calms me down, and I get really anxious when we have to go into overtime, but

she’s always like, ‘it’s fine, we got this!’ She works hard and does her thing, but she’s never going to be screaming at you. I’ve never heard her bark at anyone on the bench. When you’re losing and you’re frustrated people get really nasty, but I’ve never heard Kendra do that to anyone.”

Despite being a devoted athlete, especially in an aggressive contact sport like hockey, Kendra said she is surprised she hasn’t had more injuries — the most severe of which was a torn ACL her freshman year in gym class.

“I actually didn’t know I tore it,” Kendra said, “When I finally went to the doctor two months later, they were like ‘Oh, you can’t play. You’re done.’ And I just said, ‘No, I’m going to play.’ They eventually agreed because I had so much muscle around my knee to keep it sturdy. I played state, regionals and nationals just fine. Then two days after nationals I had surgery and I recovered over the summer in three-and-a-half months instead of six so that I could play in the first game of the season.”

On the ice, her teammates call her “Cornell,” and is the one they count on to keep a positive attitude and the puck away from their goal. In college Kendra wants to go into pre-med, and although she knows she’ll be spending a bit more time studying than her teammates, she said she feels like it will be worth it.

Alex said Kendra’s work ethic and commitment in all the things that she does is “insane,” but that she, if anyone, can manage it.

“She’s really good at organizing her time and she has her priorities set,” Alex said. “She’s such a good defenseman. She’s an awesome teammate. When we’re at tournaments she doesn’t get distracted, she does her homework. She’s the kind of person who decides: she likes hockey? She’s going to be good at it. That’s it.”

RECENT RESULTS

BY MARISSA MARTINEZ
MIDWAY REPORTER

CROSS COUNTRY

Results not available and will be printed in a future edition.

SAILING

Placed fifth out of 16 in the Great Oaks Qual Championship; placed second out of 14 in the Great Oaks Qualifier (Group A) Sept. 26; placed third and second out of 24 schools at the Pewaukee Fall Scramble Sept. 19-20; placed 6th place out of 20 at the Kickoff Classic Sheridan Shores Yacht Club in Wilmette Sept. 12-13.

BOYS SOCCER, VARSITY

Beat Elgin Academy Oct. 8, 7-3; lost to Romeoville High School Oct. 7, 0-2; lost to the Latin School of Chicago Oct. 3, 0-2; lost to Eric Solorio Academy High School Oct.1, 1-2; lost to St. Ignatius Sept. 28, 0-3; beat DeLaSalle High School Sept. 25, 2-1; beat Morgan Park Academy Sept. 24, 6-0; beat Northridge College Prep Sept. 24, 4-0; lost to Mt. Carmel Sept.15, 2-3; lost to Riverside-Brookfield Sept. 11, 0-1; beat F.W. Parker Sept. 10, 1-0.

BOYS SOCCER, JUNIOR VARSITY

Lost to Eric Solorio Academy High School Oct. 1, 1-2; lost to St. Ignatius Sept. 28, 1-4; lost to North Shore Country Day School Sept. 25, 0-1; beat Lane Technical High School Sept. 24, 1-0; beat Northridge College Prep Sept. 22, 3-0;

tied with DeLaSalle High School Sept.18, 0-0; lost to Mt. Carmel Sept. 15, 2-7; lost to Riverside-Brookfield Sept. 11, 0-3; tied with F.W. Park Sept. 10, 2-2.

GOLF

Second place to Lincoln Park High School at the first-ever Maroons Golf Invitational in Schererville, Indiana; lost to Northridge College Prep Sept.15, 186-179.

GIRLS SWIMMING

Placed third at the Urbana Invitational Oct. 10; placed first at 1st Annual Maroons Swimming Invitational Oct. 3; placed third at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Sept. 26.

GIRLS TENNIS, VARSITY

First place overall; first place in first singles, first doubles, second doubles; second place, second singles; and fourth place, third doubles at the ISL championships Oct. 10; beat F.W. Parker Oct. 8, 5-0; beat St. Ignatius Oct. 7, 4-1; beat North Shore Country Day School Oct. 6, 3-2; beat Latin School of Chicago Oct. 2, 3-2; beat Morgan Park Academy Sept. 28, 5-0; lost to Walter Payton College Prep Sept. 21, 2-3; lost to Fenwick Sept. 16, 1-4.

GIRLS TENNIS, JUNIOR VARSITY

Beat F.W. Parker Oct. 8, 1-0; beat St. Ignatius Oct. 7, 4-1; beat North Shore Country Day School Oct. 6, 3-1; beat Latin School of Chicago Oct. 2, 4-0; beat Morgan Park Acad-

emy Sept. 28, 2-0; lost to Fenwick Sept. 16, 2-3.

VOLLEYBALL, VARSITY

Beat Chicago Agricultural Science High School Oct. 7, 2-1; beat Morgan Park Academy Oct. 6, 2-0; lost in the DeLaSalle Tournament Oct. 2 and 3, 2-3; beat Elgin Academy Sept. 30, 2-0; lost to Walter Payton Prep Sept. 29, 0-2; lost to Jones College Prep Sept. 25, 0-2; beat Woodlands Sept. 24, 2-0; beat North Shore Country Day School Sept. 15, 2-1; beat F.W. Parker Sept. 10, 2-0.

VOLLEYBALL, JUNIOR VARSITY

Lost to Chicago Agricultural Science High School Oct. 7, 0-2; lost to Morgan Park Academy Oct. 6; lost to Walter Payton Prep Sept. 29, 0-2; lost to Jones College Prep Sept. 25, 0-2; beat Woodlands Sept. 24, 2-0; beat Southland College Prep Sept. 21, 2-1; lost in the Westminster Christian Invitational Sept. 19, 2-3; beat North Shore Country Day School Sept. 15, 2-0; lost in the Latin JV Tournament Sept. 12, 1-3; beat F.W. Parker Sept. 10, 2-0.

VOLLEYBALL, FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE

Tied with the Chicago Agricultural Science High School Oct. 7, 1-1; lost to Uno Charter School-The Soccer Academy Sept. 29, 0-2; lost to Southland College Prep Sept. 21, 0-2; lost to Uno Charter School-The Soccer Academy Sept. 15, 0-2; lost to F.W. Parker Sept.10, 0-2.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY IMOGEN FOSTER

REACH FOR IT. Freshman Jackie Brown jumps and returns a ball over the net at a game against the Latin School of Chicago on Oct. 8. The team heads to sectionals tomorrow afternoon at St. Ignatius College Prep to compete for a spot at the state tournament.

SWITCHING ROLES

Senior Cohen transitions from starting freshman to assistant coach

BY ALEX HARRON
MANAGING EDITOR

"I'm probably the most competitive person you'll ever meet," said senior Joey Cohen, who played basketball, soccer and ran track in middle school.

"Regardless of the sport, he was always the most athletic kid on the field or court," senior Andrew Chizewer said. "He could beat just about anyone at anything especially when it came to soccer and basketball. It was clear that he was the best and most intelligent player on the field or court."

At the beginning of his freshman year, Joey's doctor told him, because of his lanky body type, he looked like a patient who could have Marfan Syndrome, a connective tissue disorder that also causes bones to break easily. They scheduled an MRI for later that year after Joey's basketball and travel soccer seasons ended.

"Then I broke my collarbone during a basketball game from a hit from behind, which is unusual," Joey said. "The doctors decided to move up the MRI to make sure the collarbone, which went in, didn't puncture my heart and to check out my doctor's previous concerns."

Five weeks later, Joey found out he was cleared to play from the collarbone injury.

"That same day, the MRI results came back and I was told I was done with competitive sports," Joey said. "They found that my aorta, the main blood vessel in my heart, was dilated, expanded and weak, and it could tear easily."

Joey can't be hit in the chest and is supposed to keep his heart rate below the recommended rate of 120, as a higher rate means more blood pumping through his heart and a higher risk of the aorta tearing.

"There was a rough period of time when I didn't want to do anything," Joey said. "But then my travel team coach said to my team 'we are going to dedicate this season to Joey.' That, along with the fact all my friends were still playing, gave me the feeling of whether you're involved or not it's still fun to go to the games and see your



MIDWAY PHOTO BY NIKITA DULAN

SIDELINE ASSISTANCE. During practice on Jackman Field, senior Joey Cohen works one-on-one with forward Max Rochester, a fellow senior, to advise him on his positioning and strategy, and how to avoid an offside trap.

friends, maybe go to the occasional practice. I realized I didn't have to leave something I loved."

He began going to the practices of his travel team, Chicago Magic, more and more. The coaches were open to letting him give advice to any individuals. Joey said because he knew how to help his friends on the field as captain, off the field it felt natural.

"He's a direct line to the coaches," said senior Chris Healy. "He can relate to many of the situations we come to him with and, because of that, he is often a better outlet than going straight to a coach."

In the fall of his sophomore

year, Joey began to help out on the U-High team as well. He said the coaches were welcome to having him as long as the players weren't seeing him as head coach over themselves.

Then, junior year, there was a coaching change on Magic.

"The guy they brought in was way more welcome to having me do whatever I wanted," Joey said. "I was officially given the title of assistant coach. I can make substitutions, run practices, anything short of yelling at refs because I can't get a red card."

According to senior Nick Audrain, Joey plays a key role on the

team.

"It's incredible how involved he still is," Nick said. "He has an amazing ability to recognize and explain to other kids what they're doing well and what they need to work on. On Magic, we play with some academy-level players from different countries and when they listen to him they're sure he's well in his 20s because he's so knowledgeable about the sport."

Now, in his last season with U-High, Joey shared a few of his goals for himself and the team.

"I'd like to win ISL and go as far as possible in playoffs," Joey continued. "But at this point, my goal

"He's a direct line to the coaches. He can relate to many of the situations we come to him with and, because of that, he is often a better outlet than going straight to a coach."

— Chris Healy

is to help improve the guys that are going to play at the next level, as in college, and help them improve on whatever to reach that level. For the younger guys, I want to really set them off to be leaders for the team."

Captains lead girls swimming team to impressive start

BY WILLIS WEINSTEIN
MIDWAY REPORTER

Whether getting awards or hosting meets, this has been a season of firsts for U-High's girls swim team.

Coaches Kate Chronic and Mirko Mirkov and captains Ilana Dutton and Olivia Perozo, both seniors, lead the team. For the first time, the team held its own invitational at Gerald Ratner Athletic Center Oct. 3, placing first against Whitney Young and St. Francis high schools.

"I think we have a great venue [at Ratner] and we should make use of it," Coach Kate said. "There are not enough local invites around for teams to participate in, so we decided to use the space. I think next year, it will be even bigger."

The team is tailoring practices to work on individual improvement by devoting time to stroke work and assigning shorter workouts to sprinters and longer ones to distance sprinters. So far, the extra effort during practice has

yielded solid results.

"Our ability to have specialized practice is a sign of progress," Coach Kate added. "We're only able to devote practices to specific training because the team is in good aerobic shape. Through continuing this type of practice we hope to get as many team members in this shape as possible, so we can score well at sectionals and maybe even send a team to state. We've made great progress this season, and it's exciting to see how far we can go."

The team recently placed fourth at the Riverside-Brookfield Invitational Sept. 19. Junior Zoe Rebollo-Baum and senior Maia Boussy placed second and fourth, respectively, in the 100-meter backstroke.

The team also attended the Urbana Invitational for the first time, hosted at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on Sept. 26, where U-High placed third overall.

At the Illinois Math and Science Academy Dual Meet Oct. 6,



MIDWAY PHOTO BY TERESA XIE

GASPING FOR AIR. Junior Alexis Porter swims the 100-meter breast stroke at the first-ever University High Maroons Invitational Oct. 3 at the Gerald Ratner Athletic Center.

the girl's junior varsity team won, while the varsity team lost.

The team returned to Urbana for the Urbana Invite Oct. 10, where it received third place.

Although suffering from a hip injury, Olivia was nonetheless thrilled with the team's progress.

"Because of my injury I am unable to do breaststroke and can't swim to my full potential," Olivia said. "I'm in pain a lot, but the team is swimming well. I remem-

ber people aiming to swim six-minute 500s at sectionals their senior year, and now juniors swim under six minutes regularly."

As the intensity of U-High swim practices increase, so does team chemistry. In Ilana Dutton's opinion, it's a hallmark of a good season.

"Our team is smaller this year, but we're performing far more consistently compared to past years," Ilana said. "I'm optimistic for this

year, and my goal is to break all the records in Upper Kovler. The team is in great shape, we're capable of beating them, and it would be a great legacy to leave behind."

The next meets for the team are the Maine East Relays Oct. 17; the St. Ignatius meet Oct. 20; the Latin School Invitational, at the Latin School Oct. 24; Latin School meet, at Ratner Athletic Center Oct. 27; and against Whitney Young at Ratner Athletic Center Oct. 30.

HAVE AN AWESOME AUTUMN

From pumpkins to corn mazes, Chicago offers plenty of fall festivities

BY GRACE ANDERSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

1 Lions and tigers and pumpkins, oh my! Alongside the big cats lying in the autumn afternoon sun and monkeys swinging excitedly from branches, Lincoln Park Zoo presents Fall Fest on Fridays to Sundays through Oct. 18.

Walking through the main entrance of the zoo, the first item to catch my eye was the tri-colored 'Fun Slide' as it sent cheering passengers down atop burlap sacks. After a trip down the only slightly stomach-dropping slide, we kicked off our shoes for a bouncy castle challenge course. Kids became the real obstacle in the course as they dashed forward and backward through the series of slides, rock climbing walls and tunnels.

Beside a pumpkin patch starring professionally carved creations with fangs, glasses and goofy grins, lays the corn maze. While the appearance of the maze did not impress (it consisted of dead corn tied strategically together to create hedges since there isn't a real corn field in the city), its twists and turns created a fun diversion.

The true highlight of Fall Fest comes in the form of a slightly rickety looking, bubble-gum pink Ferris wheel. Passengers catch views of the classic Chicago skyline and huge waves in Lake Michigan as they the wheel spins around. While admission to the zoo itself is free of charge, individual activities cost 1-2 tickets, priced at \$3 apiece.

2 Just 30 minutes southwest of Hyde Park lies Odyssey Fun Farm, a transplanted patch of rural Illi-

nois located between a shopping complex and Interstate 80. While the plain boxy buildings in the surrounding area do not scream "fall fun," this "Wizard of Oz" themed site features a corn maze, jumping pillow, corn cannons and midnight hay rides.

3 Come prepared to lose your way as you head into a 15-acre corn maze! Heading to the entrance of the maze, I faced the choice between the easier maze, which takes about 15 minutes, and a harder maze, which takes 25-30 minutes. The short corn stalks towards the beginning of the maze were quite deceiving, as a few quick turns and walkways lead to tall shoots of corn whose height confused the more directionally challenged, such as myself. Fairly soon, the maze became what one would expect—hard dirt paths, confusing turns and dead ends, occasional spots to cut through the lanes, and a massive sea of corn. In case of emergency, spotters peered out over the mass from sporadically placed towers throughout the maze.

After exiting the maze, get ready to embrace your inner child at this highly family friendly site. Some of the highlights included hopping on to the rainbow jumping-pillow, which launched jumpers several feet into the air as they performed 180 degree spins. Loud popping noises occasionally broke up the strumming of guitars and southern accents that pervaded the air as country music played over loudspeakers.

Curious, we headed away from most of the attractions down a winding dirt path to an area near the edge of the corn maze. There, a teenage boy loaded dry corn husks into plastic cannons. With the touch of a gi-

ant red button and some strategic aiming, I launched the corn several hundred feet into the air and it smashed into a round metal target with a satisfying pop.

4 If you get your pumpkins at the grocery store for Halloween, you're doing something wrong. Instead, look no further than the grassy fields, bales of hay and hordes of pumpkins located in many Chicago public parks. In addition to featuring a wide range of pumpkins, gourds and squash for purchase, many of these parks take on a carnival theme. While these events may be geared more toward a younger group, U-High students ready to channel their kindergarten selves will enjoy pony rides, arts and crafts, hayrides and face painting. Wrightwood Park located in Lincoln Park hosts a pumpkin patch Oct. 17, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and Veteran's Memorial Park 15 minutes south of Hyde Park holds one Oct. 25, noon- 4 p.m.

5 However, if pumpkin patches aren't your style due to the hoards of screaming children, an alternative to the giant box of sad pumpkins at Jewel can be found at your local Farmer's Market. Grab a cup of hot chocolate or coffee and wander through a variety of stands featuring items like apple-cinnamon crepes, pecan sticky buns and caramel apples on a chilly Saturday morning. Of course, my favorite part is hauling my family's dilapidated red wagon over and loading it up with giant pumpkins, yellow squash and orange or green gourds.

In addition to more traditional Halloween themed events, U-High students can look

forward to the inaugural Halloween festival that provides a more artistic take on the holiday.

Creative and dramatic spirit abounds this year at the first annual Halloween Gathering, an event meant to celebrate Chicago's creative community in a "powerful and playful" way, according to the host of this event, the Chicago Cultural Mile Association. On October 24, the combined efforts of the Art Institute, Symphony Orchestra, Field Museum and Columbia College will produce an art and Halloween festival from 2 p.m.- 5 p.m. followed by a parade from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Vividly painted masks, a multitude of colorful lanterns, musical performances and spirited dance will line the streets of downtown Chicago as the celebration moves down Michigan Avenue.

6 If you're hoping to fill your bag full with treats on Halloween night then don your spookiest costume and look no further than Harper Avenue on the South Side or Burling Street in Lincon Park. Both these streets set up barriers and are closed to cars on Halloween evening. Giant spiders hang down from balconies over lawns covered with gauzy webbing and lit with flashing orange and yellow lights. Along with king-size candy bars, some houses on these streets also feature homemade apple cider and sticky caramel apples.

In addition to obtaining a sugar-high, students may also be spooked by the haunted walk to the front door at many of these homes. Silent ghosts, cackling witches and moaning zombies may just jump out at students during their search for candy and other sweets.

Carving a pumpkin made easy Day of the Dead comes to life

BY TALIA GOERGE-KARRON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Starting with the legends to confront the power of death, jack-o-lanterns have become a staple on fall nights throughout America. Carve pumpkins into a standard jack-o-lantern design, the words U-High, or gravestones onto the pumpkin for a unique design. Make your own creepy front porch decorations guaranteed to scare anyone away!

Ingredients:
1 medium pumpkin
Expo markers or sharpie
Medium kitchen knife (For carving facial features)
Big kitchen knife (For cutting off top)
A design or print out



Step 1. Start by viciously cutting off the top of the pumpkin. Make sure to go through to the center of the pumpkin.



Step 2. Empty the pumpkin of seeds and strings (pumpkin seeds can be made into a delicious snack.) This will take a bit of work and I recommend using a spoon/knife but hands work great too.



Step 3. Draw your design on the pumpkin with either a sharpie or an expo marker (for those prone to mistakes.) If this isn't your strong suit, there are many stencils online that can be taped on for easy cutting.



Step 4. Using the knife, start carving out the design, make sure to get all the way through the pumpkin to the center with the knife. Use your knife to cut out around the eyes, nose, and mouth inside the pumpkin.

Step 5. Put candles or electric lights in and glowing display.

MIDWAY PHOTOS BY TALIA GOERGE-KARRON



BY MARISSA MARTINEZ
MIDWAY REPORTER

During the weekend of Day of the Dead in Latin America, streets are often filled with images of calaveras, or decorated skeletons, candles and carnations. And in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, its largest Latin immigrant community, these traditions come out just as brightly as residents celebrate life after death.

The three-day holiday is rooted in Latin American tradition dating back to before Spanish colonization in the 1500s, when it was practiced in the summer. Since then, Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 and 2 have been devoted to honoring the life cycle through community gatherings and shrines to the dead.

Chicago residents can find many ways to observe the holiday with the greater community.

Uno Race of the Dead, unoraceofthedead.org. Organized by the United Neighborhood Organization, this 5K is the only race that runs through Pilsen. It features live music, post-race activities and authentic Latin-American food, and sugar skulls painted by Pilsen artists as prizes. The race takes place Oct. 31st at 8 a.m. Proceeds go toward arts, culture and health initiatives in Chicagoland Hispanic community. Registration is \$49 and is available at the website.

36th Annual Muertos de la Risa, elevartestudio.org. This free event takes place on Nov. 2 and offers an insight to a typical Mexican Day of the Dead parade. There will be a large procession with Mexican-themed puppets and ofrendas, altars made to honor the dead. At the end of the night, the Aztec dance group Nahui-Ollin will perform, while spectators can eat pan de muertos, a typical Day of the Dead sweet roll, and drink hot chocolate.

National Museum of Mexican Art, nationalmuseumof-mexicanart.org/events. Pilsen's most famous museum will host a free showcase, which features art surrounding the outside area as well as in exhibits for the first time. Harrison Park will be filled with ofrendas made by the community, local artists, and organizations from around Chicago. Activities from face painting to performances will be offered, as well as pan de muerto and cocoa. To offer a picture for your own ofrenda, register at chicago-dayofthedead.org.

At the same time, an exhibition called **Nuestras Historias (Our Histories)** is open to the public as a permanent exhibit, and portrays the varied and diverse stories that make up Mexican identity. It will be open until Nov. 30, 2017.