The potential candidates were reduced until the committee arrived at two finalists, Mariama Ruchanda and Isa Pernick, who visited the school for in-person interviews, Jan. 7-8 and Jan. 11-12, respectively. As the committee discussed and collected feedback regarding the reception of the two candidates, there was little overall agreement. It was the final decision of Robin Appleby, Lab’s director, that neither candidate would be a good fit for Lab.

“We had hoped to be able to hire one of the people who came in,” Ms. Appleby said, “but in an environment like Lab where community feedback is so important, you want to feel a significant amount of support for whichever candidate you bring in to ultimately do the job. We weren’t in a position with the feedback that came in to really feel that either candidate had enough significant support from the community overall to make a job offer.

A search last spring also brought two finalists to campus, but neither was hired. Despite this, Ms. Appleby is hopeful that the committee can still find a replacement principal efficiently, and is continuing the effort to find the best person for Lab.

“So, what we’re doing now, is again, Skype interviews with candidates that look like they have high potential to be successful in the role. We hope to bring finalists in again for the same two-day visits within the next couple of weeks. We remain confident that we will find somebody to take on this important role, but we will not hire somebody who isn’t the right person.”

Charles Disantis, history teacher and committee member, also shares Ms. Appleby’s confidence in the process, and hopes to see specific characteristics from a candidate.

“Personally, what I think a good principal will do is bring people together in meaningful ways,” Mr. Disantis said. “A good principal will find points of connection between students and teachers, between teachers and administrators, and other teachers, whatever the case may be. It will make people come together, but I think about what other people are doing, understand the position that other people are in. So, that to me is critical. That ability to synthesize what’s most critical as a principal in my opinion. We need to be brought together so we can achieve our full potential as a community.”

David Derbes, a science teacher who doesn’t serve on the committee, doesn’t share the optimistic attitude that a new principal can be hired in time for the next academic year.

“It’s not like I think this is a serious problem, it’s just irritating as hell,” Mr. Derbes said. “The later it gets in the school year, the more difficult it becomes to find good candidates. Personally, I think that the window for finding someone good for the full of 2016 is probably very close to closed. It may not be closed yet, but it isn’t going to stay open very much longer.”
New restaurant offers fresh take on dumplings

By Clyde Schwab
FEATURES EDITOR
Packed isn’t your typical dumpling experience.
Founded by Chicago chef Mike Sheerin and restaurant manager Aaron DiMaria, Packed opened on Jan. 11 with a range of dishes including pan-Asian, buttercup squash and pear dumplings. Pricing ranges from $2.00 to $11.50.
According to DiMaria, the restaurant isn’t just a quirky new spot but a restaurant “reimagined in both its food and mission. We want to make this kind of delicious restaurants affordable, and not just something for people who can afford to go to a fancy restaurant.”

DiMaria noted that his commitment to responsible restaurant experience possible, and not just something for people who can afford to go to a fancy restaurant.

The menu changes monthly, depending on what foods are seasonally available. However, Packed’s innovation extends beyond the recipes. DiMaria explained that a central part of the restaurant is its commitment to being environmentally responsible.

“Everything we serve is minimally non-GMO with over 90 percent being organic and the only meat we serve meets the requirements for certified humane and we try to purchase from local farms as much as possible,” DiMaria said.

“Plus, everything we serve is in and it is compostable. The beef we serve comes from cows whose only ever known grass, and the first time they touch concrete is on the day they are being processed.”

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“First, the price and quality of Sheerin’s dishes make taking a chance easier. According to DiMaria, the menu is designed so that people can come and share several dishes with friends at a reasonable price.

While packed has a casual atmosphere, DiMaria said that one of the most common gripes he gets is that the restaurant has a corporate feeling, a label he opposes.

“When people describe Packed as corporate,” DiMaria said. “I think it shows that they’re misunderstanding the restaurant. The pictures on the walls aren’t just stock photos, they are pictures of real local farms with real local animals, I was there during the whole process.”

“I think that’s natural for the new guy on the block to get strange looks, but the nearby restaurants have been really supportive and over time, I hope that packed becomes as institutional as other Hyde Park spots.”

Blast from the Past.
Senior Ilana Dutton and junior Bailey Garb dance to old school songs at the Winter Semi-Formal dance on Feb. 6 at the Chicago Theological Seminary.

Students give new life to old words

Lab students find success and fun in Shakespeare competitions

By Marissa Martinez
MIDWAY REPORTER
Showing their literary and performing talents, two U-High students have been selected to represent Lab at the Poetry Out Loud competition and the National Shakespeare Competition respectively.

Four-time winner Grace Anderson, senior, will go to the Chicago Regional competition at the Poetry Foundation building in downtown Chicago. She won her spot in the fourth annual Poetry Out Loud! competition on Feb. 4 in front of a panel of four faculty judges. Seven students memorized a piece from the Poetry Out Loud! company’s catalog of contemporary and classic poems ranging from sonnet length to three pages.

T r ee s t u d e n t s also p a r t i c i p a t e d in Lab’s fifth annual Shakespeare competition. Sponsored by the English Department, the competition’s preliminary round was held on Jan. 26, giving performers a chance to practice reading in front of and receive feedback from a faculty panel.

Panel members included Drama Lucia Ambrosini and college counselors Patty Kozuch and Melissa Warehall, each of whom have backgrounds in theater. They performed again on Jan. 27.

Junior Lucy Ordman won this year’s Lab competition with her Much Ado About Nothing monologue, compiled from various Beatrice lines from a scene with her uncle, Leonato. She was drawn to Shakespeare from studying to understand the restaurant. The pictures on the walls aren’t just stock photos, they are pictures of real local farms with real local animals, I was there during the whole process.”

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“I like seeing all types of students who throw their whole selves into it, whether they’ve ever been on stage or not,” said Rachel Welles, English teacher. “For the second part of the competition at Roosevelt University, Lucy will perform ‘Sonnet 62’ about the sin of self-love, along with Beatrice’s monologue.

‘I love Beatrice because she’s not your typical Shakespearean woman,” Lucy said. “She’s more of a泼皮ish woman who pratically marries the first man she sees, but Beatrice claims she’ll never get married, giving reasons for why men aren’t good enough for her.”

‘I’m really excited to meet kids from all around the Chicago area who take Shakespeare as much as I do, and to get a chance to hear what they’ve been working on.”

Students throw back at winter semi-formal

By Drew Venner
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
The Chicago Theological Seminary held its annual Poetry Out Loud dance on Feb. 6, its second U-High dance.

The dance was preceded by a throwback-themed Spirit Week during which students dressed from different decades. Monday was ‘50s day, Tuesday ‘60s day, and so on.

In the past, dances have been held at the International House and Sunny Gymnasium. The Chi-

cago Theological Seminary, however, is the largest in recent years.

Students also had the option of playing games at the Semi-Formal on Feb. 6. Student Council members and Cultural Union representatives planned the dance, came up with the throwback theme and found the appropriate decorations. Additionally, the representatives booked the venue and decided on the music.

Come the dance, Student Council had bedecked the Chicago Theological Seminary with glowing balloons and decorations. Students had their pick of accessories as they entered the main dance hall, including beaded necklaces, rubberband bracelets, netted gloves and scraper-framed colored glasses.

Students enjoyed beats from yesteryear, courtesy of DJ Jamal Smallz. Songs from across the re-
decades included “Hey Ya” by Outkast, “Scrubs” by TLC, “50s” by Rihanna, “Sunday Candy” by Donnie Trumpet and the Social Experiment, “Single Ladies” by Beyoncé and “Boom Clap” by Charli XCX.
Contests, karaoke welcome Year of the Monkey

ASA celebrates Chinese New Year with four days of lunch activities

By Elizabeth Chon

2016 is the Year of the Monkey, and U-Highers celebrated the Lunar New Year with food, eating contests and karaoke from Feb. 8-11.

The Asian Students’ Association hosted a series of activities each day in the cafeteria during lunch, starting off by serving fried egg rolls, fried rice and noodles. In the following days, they held an M&M-moving contest with chopsticks, karaoke singing and a dumpling eating contest. According to ASA President Elizabeth Stolze, the goal was to create a new tradition that would hopefully bring more attention to the Lunar New Year with food, eating contests and karaoke.

“We decided to try something new because we didn’t have as many last quarter since we didn’t have as many last quarter,” Stolze said. “It’s a really fun idea turned into a full film. People enjoy themselves in the activities but it was nice seeing people enjoying themselves in the activities and food provided.”

Student council works to update constitution

By Talia Coeige-Karakash

From new positions to an enhanced online presence, Student Council is revamping their constitution and presence at U-High.

Changes to the Student Council constitution are being introduced after final approval by the Student Council, which will clear up attendance questions and the election procedure for the 2016-17 school year. Along with these changes, Student Council positions are now clearer so future representatives may thoroughly understand their position.

“Ratifying the constitution is showing that we’re not just a planning committee, but also dedicated to changing this school,” Student Council Vice-President Fiesta Walter, senior, said.

A new Student Council website is being developed to make Student Council’s agenda and enacted plans available to the whole student body. When the website is created, a Student Council position called “Director of Student Technological Services” will be introduced in the 2016-17 Council. The director will run the website and make sure that voting for elections, suggestions and dance nominations works.

According to David Portugal, junior, “Screenwriting provides students with an opportunity to learn more about writing and artistry.”

“Screenwriting is focused on telling a story in a character and being able to develop them fully in one scene while still having an overall story. The goal is to get a reader to follow a line of the story, and be able to go more in depth for another,” Portugal said.

“I am working with Mr. Jaffe, who teaches film year round, and he wanted me to work on screenwriting,” said Mr. Krewatch. “I pitched the idea of English Department and we could be a part of the overall effort to keep students interested in 10 weeks long, so I don’t expect my students to master screenwriting, but I do want them to acquire some basic skills that will help them continue to write on their own.”

Nickolas Shimmon said that screenwriting was appealing to him because he was interested in the film industry and how an idea is turned into a full film.

“Talia and David Portugal are different from any English class, or any subject with writing, because there is a lot of the work is about crafting a good piece of writing, an art that takes a lot of practice, and skill.”

Screenwriting is focused on taking one idea and being able to develop them fully in one scene while still having an overall story. The goal is to get a reader to follow a line of the story, and be able to go more in depth for another, Mr. Krewatch said. “That way the reader knows who is in your story as well as where you are trying to go. It is very creative.”

“The way to keep students interested in the film industry is through good teachers,” Ms. Williams said. “I don’t necessarily know if I am instrumental part of the club. Jessica is very helpful and works closely with philosophy professors, making her the perfect person to help the club members on their cases,” Ms. Williams said. “Additionally she helps fulfill the purpose of the club, which is to give students a sense of ethical decision making.”

Moving forward, the Ethics Club wants to keep a good team spirit and expand. The club consists of five student currently, but organizers are determined to recruit more members for the next competition.

Guest speakers visit stats, evolution classes

By Soundjata Sharod

Teachers at Lab have turned to guest speakers to bring outside voices into their classrooms.

On Feb. 3, Colm O’Muircheartaigh, Ph.D., spoke to Julia Maguire’s AP Statistics course, and on March 13, Jerry Coyne, Ph.D., will speak to Sharon Houseing’s Evolution class.

A senior fellow in the National Opinion Research Center, Dr. O’Muircheartaigh served as Dean of the University of Chicago’s Harv il School of Public Policy, a co-principal investigator for the National Science Foundation’s Center for Advancing Research and Communication in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

“Dr. Muircheartaigh is just a truly dynamic speaker,” Ms. Maguire said. “He just brought really interesting thoughts about the real world to the classrooms.”

Dr. Coyne, an award-winning biologist, has been featured in publications such as The New York Times, New Literary Supplement and The New Republic.

According to Ms. Houseing, it was a logical approach to ask Dr. Coyne to speak since the class is reading one of his books “Why Evolution Is True.”

Friday, Feb. 19, 2016 • News

U-High Midway • University High School, Chicago, Chicago
Deep, rich sounds resonate throughout the jazz band room as Max Kramer plucks and slaps at his brown bass.

“Freshman year, I played in one little quartet that played at like somebody’s mother’s party and that was the only concert I played all year,” Max said.

Since then, Max estimated he’s played at 250-300 concerts. Though he’s played with a lot of other people, he added that he really enjoys being by himself.

Max explained that in every instrument, a musician brings a certain flavor to the music, and the jazz band room is no different. For him, spending time in the musicower is an opportunity to focus on his music and the messages he wants to put out there.

While collaborating and performing together, Max said, “It’s very clear, I’m very happy for this,” Max said. “I’m not. I wanna be very, very happy for the future. If there are any stars for the slides on the bass, the melodic chords, and the feelings of music resonating through him.

Through music Max Kramer finds his thrill...
Oscars strikes nerve with controversial omissions

By Marissia Martinez

MEXICO CITY—In an attempt to diversify its award shows, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is hoping for a surge of diversity this year. Although the changes won't be immediate, the 2016 awards announcement has set the stage for future diversity initiatives.

Despite the Academy's attempts to diversify the awards, many point out that the industry still has a long way to go. The Academy's recent revamp of its diversity initiatives comes in the aftermath of the #OscarsSoWhite campaign, which called for more diversity in the Academy's membership and leadership roles.

In May, the Academy announced that it had added 2,000 new members, including a mix of non-white, non-male, and non-Hispanic-Latino individuals. The Academy also announced that it had launched a new diversity and inclusion task force, which will work to increase diversity in all aspects of the film industry.

The changes are part of the Academy's ongoing effort to diversify its membership and leadership roles. In 2015, the Academy announced that it would no longer require nominees to be members of the Academy in order to be eligible for an Oscar.

In January, Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs announced that the Academy would stop requiring nominees to be members of the Academy in order to be eligible for an Oscar. The change was part of the Academy's efforts to diversify its membership and leadership roles.

In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Boone Isaacs said that the change was a step forward for the Academy, but that there is still work to be done.

"It's an important step," Boone Isaacs said. "But we still have a long way to go. We have to do more to ensure that the Academy is truly representative of the film industry."
DECISION 2016

Tightest race in Illinois will be March 15 U.S. Senate primary between
Republican Kirt L\n
Who’s your vote? The 2016 election is the corner, so here’s your guide to the first results, the issues ahead, and what to expect from the Illinois primary March 15.

Not clear yet whether Trump, Sanders are their parties’ future

FOLLOWING the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 1 and the New Hampshire primary on Feb. 9, the 2016 Republican and Democratic primaries have emerged in either party).

The Iowa caucuses on Feb. 1 yielded 11 candidates for the Republican’s nomination and 12 candidates for the Democratic’s. In the Republican caucuses, Sen. Ted Cruz swept poll leaders with 28 percent and former Gov. John Kasich received 23 percent. Sen. Marco Rubio came in close behind Cruz with 19 percent, followed by former CEO of God’s John Kasich with 15.8 percent and Senate Majority Minority Whip John Cornyn with 11.2 percent. The Iowa caucuses were widely believed to be a test of the candidates’ ability to turn out their base, and Rubio came in close behind Cruz with 19 percent, followed by former CEO of God’s John Kasich with 15.8 percent and Senate Majority Minority Whip John Cornyn with 11.2 percent. The Iowa caucuses were widely believed to be a test of the candidates’ ability to turn out their base, and Rubio and Cornyn came in even closer behind them with 15.8 percent and 11.2 percent, respectively.

However, Trump came back with a strong second-place showing in New Hampshire, winning 35 percent of the vote, followed by Jeb Bush with 24 percent. Rubio came in third with 22 percent, followed by Kasich with 15 percent and Cruz with 11 percent. The New Hampshire primary was believed to be a test of the candidates’ ability to win in early states, and Trump came back with a strong second-place showing in New Hampshire, winning 35 percent of the vote, followed by Jeb Bush with 24 percent. Rubio came in third with 22 percent, followed by Kasich with 15 percent and Cruz with 11 percent. The New Hampshire primary was believed to be a test of the candidates’ ability to win in early states, and Rubio and Cornyn came in even closer behind them with 15.8 percent and 11.2 percent, respectively. The New Hampshire primary was believed to be a test of the candidates’ ability to win in early states, and Rubio and Cornyn came in even closer behind them with 15.8 percent and 11.2 percent, respectively.
Rules shouldn't stray from Lab values

Girls and boys sports teams deserve equal attention

As the Midway sees it...

S

tudents, faculty and alumni of Lab can all recognize the school's rapid growth over the past century. As we celebrate its 120th anniversary, Lab has always been a place where students can find out who they are. After all, the first part of Lab's mission statement is to "provide a rigorous, creative, well-rounded education for a diverse student body." Lab stands at a home game and finds itself at a place where students who abide by the rules, but it creates resentment toward the administration. Ultimately, this will hack away at the foundation of respect and trust between students and the administration.

We need to work together to follow Dewey’s philosophy of free thinking and independence. While the dynamic of the relationship between students and the administration has changed recently. With more restrictions, many students feel more stressed than ever. This is a unique community. On top of that, one of the most distinguishing characteristics of Lab is the trust between the administration and students. At many schools, students are required to earn a certain number of credits on them and cannot wander around the halls during free periods or leave campus. Lab’s philosophy of free thinking and independence is what allows students to have the trust that most adults would not have in teenagers.

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Freshman creates fitness club

BY MAJA BOUSSY
MANAGING EDITOR

Seated in the trainer’s room on Feb. 4, three students and one gym teacher gathered for the first meet-
ing of Fitness Club.

Founded by freshman Louis Broussard with help from gym teach-
er Pete Miller, the new Fitness Club would have as a goal to help stu-
dents stay active and in shape.

Still in the planning stages, the club members also had plans to meet midway the week of Feb. 18.

Inspired by his own interest in exercise, Louis has been working on creating the Fitness Club since the start of the school year.

“I was going to the gym almost every day since the start of the year,” Louis said. “I thought it was a good idea to get other people into a club, especially for cardio and fitness. Also for people who just want to do cardio or build muscles, this club could be good for them. Also, I’ve been interested in making a club for fun.”

The club is starting up later than most other clubs because of scheduling conflicts, said Louis.

“I was setting up the club around a month after the beginning of the year, but the meeting took a while to arrange,” Louis said. “There were a lot of assemblies around the time that I had enough signatures to make a club.”

Excited about helping create this club, Mr. Miller wants to make sure the club caters to a wide va-
riety of student interests in fitness.

“My perspective,” Mr. Miller said, “it would be great if this included a focus on multiple things, such as weight training for conditioning, cardio exercise for people who want to focus on both, people who want to condition for sports-specific stuff. In my mind, I would want to cover all of these interests, be-
cause when it comes down to it, training is training, regardless of what your purpose is.”

After hearing about the club through the bulletin, freshman Zoe Dervin attended the meet-
ing hoping to find a way to stay in shape for more than just the soccer season.

“I thought that it was a really cool idea because I play soccer for Lab,” Zoe said. “I really like being fit because it feels good to be in a shape.”

It’s no secret that the college process brings a great deal of stress to high school students, especially for students who are paying for their education, who are in the top 1% and are in the top 10% of their class.

High students vie for limited spots into prestigious universities, to go for walks and listen to music. I just wander randomly downtown or here in Hyde Park when I’m stressed.”

“I think the most stressful part of the application process was when I had to click ‘Submit’ because after that point I wouldn’t have control over any of the documents anymore. After I submitted my last application I went and ate some chocolate as I do after most important events in my life. During the actual process I played ping-pong with some of my friends in the senior lounge to avoid stress.”

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“We try to get this thing semi-established so that we are ready to do something more sub-
stantial in the fall,” Mr. Miller said. 

Telling students not to stress only brings more in a culture that prioritizes stats over sanity.

BY MICAIAH BUCHHEIM-JURISSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Anniversary provides chance to reflect on past

ab’s cultural roots continue to develop from the days of John Dewey to now. Although U-High has improved its racial diversity, the community feels there still needs to be improvement on counseling of students, as well as economic diversity. This 120-year anniversary acts as an opportunity to evaluate at the past, remember the evolution of the Lab schools and plan for the future. 

by Micaiah Buchheim-Jurisson

Founded as a lower school in 1896 — 120 years ago this year — Lab has undoubtedly changed a great deal since it was founded. But what defines Lab, and how has it changed? In her recent book “Negroland: A Memoir,” writer Margo Jefferson, who graduated from U-High in 1984, writes, “The Lab School combines seventh and eighth grade to produce a class of academically precocious 11- and 12-year-olds who are profoundly disoriented socially.” However, Lab Schools progress continues to supercede itself with increased competition and diversity.

Students maintain quality

Physics teacher David Derbes thinks students have largely stayed the same since he came to Lab in 1986 — in his words, they’ve always been smart, hardworking and able to secure employment or success. “A lot of people think that high school was the worst years of their lives,” Mr. Derbes said. “That’s not usually true of Lab school graduates. They might come out with an inferiority complex, but I think in general, kids that are a little weird get a better shake at Lab than they do at other places. By and large, the kids here are wonderful students, and that has not changed.” Longtime faculty member Fran Spaltro, currently the acting associate principal, thinks the school, though quite competitive, has a strong sense of community. “I think there’s a fair amount of civility that veils that competition,” she said. “And not just civility, I think a real sense of community. So you have this sense of community and competition that are always there.”

Economic diversity

In the last few years, ethnic and racial diversity have come to the forefront of issues to be improved at Lab. Another type of diversity — economic — has also suffered recently, according to Mr. Derbes. “It does seem to me — and it’s not a complaint, just an observation — that the economic diversity is not as great as it was,” Mr. Derbes said. “And a big part of that is that it’s gotten very much more expensive, but that’s been the national trend in terms of education. Every time tuition goes up, fewer people can afford to go here, but the school has been working hard to improve scholarships.”

Perhaps related to the shifting economic diversity, alumna Patricia Schulman saw a number of differences between the Lab she graduated from in the late 1960s and the one her children graduated from in the late 1980s and early 2000s. “When my kids went to Lab, I felt that there was the same kind of style to the school, that it nurtured kids’ creativity, and freedom of expression and thought,” Ms. Schulman said. “But it had changed in that it no longer seemed like a neighborhood school, with kids from all around the city. It felt more like a brand-name type school, and that people were in essence buying an education for their kids. Not that there’s anything wrong with that.”

Reputation for quality

Nationally, a trend among universities is increased emphasis on presentation and outward image, that it nurtured kids’ creativity, and freedom of expression and thought,” Ms. Schulman said. “But it had changed in that it no longer seemed like a neighborhood school, with kids from all around the city. It felt more like a brand-name type school, and that people were in essence buying an education for their kids. Not that there’s anything wrong with that.”

Next issue: “Lab Beyond 120”

The image of Lab used to be a brilliant, crazy intellectual professor, but now it seems more preppy, more ‘do everything to get into an Ivy-League school’ mentality,” Reed Rosenbacher, senior Reed Rosenbacher, who enrolled in the Lab nursery school at age 3, thinks Lab seems more focused on its image than it used to be. “It seems like right now the school is more focused on its representation and outward image than anything else. We’ve built nice buildings, but there seems to be little emphasis on actually improving and funding programs,” Reed said. “I really think there’s been a shift of the culture of what we are. The image of Lab used to be a brilliant, crazy intellectual professor, but now it seems more preppier, ‘do everything to get into an Ivy League school’ mentality. It’s less about knowledge and ideas, and more about how we look.”

Senior Grace Cain, who has also attended Lab since she was 3, shared similar sentiments with regard to Lab’s changing ethos. “Maybe this was just the impression I had as a child,” she said. “I felt like there was not as much achievement building, but actually cultivating knowledge.”

One possible upside of these shifts is the ability to attract better teachers, contributing to an overall increase in the quality of Lab faculty, according to Mr. Derbes. “Certainly a number of wonderful people have retired, but I think the average teacher now comes off better than the average teacher 30 years ago,” Mr. Derbes said. “Part of that is I think that Lab’s reputation has grown.”

GOOFING OFF WITH LONG STANDING TRADITIONS. In 1986, Cultural Union’s spirit week traditions raged on with tug-of-war. Other events for the year included ’50s day, a tradition still carried on in the 2016 Spirit Week with decade-themed dress-up days.

Evolution of pressure

However, this cultural shift may well be related to what many see as increased pressure on students to do well balancing classes and activities. It also reflects the notion of “community and competition,” Ms. Spaltro mentioned. “I think it’s always been difficult for students to navigate.” Ms. Spaltro said. “I think some look like they navigate it with ease, but there’s a cost to that that not everybody sees. And maybe that’s more pronounced, if I were to speak about how Lab has changed, there’s a tension there, and it’s one that I don’t think is entirely healthy, but it’s there.”

Possibly as a result of this increased pressure, U-High counselor Ron Tunis has seen an increase in students suffering from anxiety and depression. “The mental health of the high school is significantly worse now than it was 15 years ago,” he said.

Mr. Derbes thinks the increased pressure stems from high schools’ fears that if they do not attend top institutions, they will be unable to secure employment or success. “I think that kids here have become more serious students, and that’s not necessarily a good thing, which sounds strange, but because the motivation now is fear. And I’m concerned about that — it’s not just local to Lab, it’s across the nation.”

Standing true to Lab’s roots

Despite these shifts, however, Ms. Spaltro feels that Lab is much the same as it’s always been. “Lab is still very much a U of C microcosm,” she said. “You still have a mix of students, you have a mix of faculty, but I don’t think the culture at Lab has changed at all much … the things that make this place Lab are still there.”

Robin Appleby

David Derbes

Fran Spaltro

Reed Rosenbacher

Grace Cain

Ronald Tunis

1986 U-HIGH YEARBOOK

STUCK IN A TIME MACHINE. Pictured in 1944, Blaine Hall’s exterior has been virtually unchanged for the past 72 years, with the same sight able to be seen today.
Fighting in combat, participation on professional sports teams, and now possibly running the country, women and girls are rapidly breaking into what we have up until not too long ago been considered a male domain. With such a rapidly changing world, it is incredibly important that Lab to prepare young women for leadership. President Fikayo Walter-Johnson, who is also Student Council vice president, believes that the focus for Lab may not need to be on preparing female students to lead, but to prepare the male.

"I'm not so sure that it's about preparing women to be leaders, but preparing men to see women as leaders," Fikayo said. "I think really what it's about is preparing men to see women as leaders, but preparing men to see women as leaders, but preparing men to see women as leaders, but preparing men to see women as leaders."

Women dominate Lab administrative positions

BY ELENA MAESTRIPE
FEATURES
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From a country where a woman might just not be the president of a school, to a country where women are now running the country, the possibilities are endless. At Lab, 120 women are in a place where women have historically been in minority, in administrative and academic positions (from director to the principal of the lower school). Since 2006, when the school began to represent all levels of people, Lab has been able to have a more diverse array of topics within the school’s curriculum.

"There's a push in leadership in general to be more collaborative, to support entrepre-

neurial thinking, to be more group oriented, rather than the one strong person at the top telling everyone else what to do, and that's perceived as a kind of 'female' approach to leadership," she said. "There has been a change in the way that leaders in general recognize how good work gets done. The kind of top-down, traditional model of decision-making doesn't work in a very fluid environment, where other people's voices are being heard. I think it's very hard at Lab to meet the needs of every body and that a lot of leadership here tries to do that."

What remains is the question of how these changes can be realized in the broader community. With growing student interest in activities that promote and explore diversity, such as Feminist Club or the independent student course "Herstory," and gender-related conflicts such as the removal of a breast cancer awareness poster earlier this year, female administrators find themselves at the forefront of the leadership role-models and possible sources of empa- thy and empowerment for female students.

"I think there is this tendency amongst male students to talk over female students and I don't think it's intentional or even that they realize that they're doing it," Mr. Disantis said. "It's indisputably a cultural thing. Even in a regular discussion you do get people, tra-

ditionally male students, that just jump in, and I don't know what there is to do about it other than just try to promote a culture where democracy is in the same way — which is tough because you're looking at uneven ground."
Every arrow hits a different target

Junior Alec Kaplan finds his passion in competitive archery

BY ALEX LUND
ARTS CO-EDITOR

One arrow at a time.
This is the mantra of junior Alec Kaplan—a student, team member, and, rising, competitive archer. Alec has many passions, including Finance Club, "Game of Thrones," Model UN, New Wave bands and playing tennis. However, unlike many kids his age, he is also a stand-out archer who recently competed in an International Championship in Las Vegas.

Alec picked up a bow and arrow for the first time in the summer of 2007 at North Star, his summer camp, and fell in love with the sport immediately.

Two years later, at age 11, he won a statewide tournament in Indiana. Alec has since trained fervently, learning about all of the different facets of the ancient, epic sport of archery. Last fall, Alec became Level 1 Certified as an USA Archery Instructor and spent last summer teaching archery in the very camp that he discovered it in.

Alec's mentor, Bill Munson, President of the Lincoln Park Archery Club, coach and professional archer, has worked on and off with Alec for the past five years. Mr. Munson noted the level of intensity required to compete at national tournaments, especially as a teenager. "Alec's outgoing personality, competency in shooting and willingness to help others has made it easy for him to find community in shooting... He's owning his shooting, his choices and his desire to shoot and compete at archery.

Mr. Munson stressed that the key to success in archery is having a positive attitude, self-motivation and focus. "Alec is very results-driven," Mr. Munson said. "He is inquisitive and has an outgoing nature; he also has a very positive attitude. He's positive attitude has allowed him to take on some very intense training, and to deal with adversity without becoming frustrated."

The sport's popularity is validated with mass international and national tournaments such as The Vegas Shoot in Las Vegas, which took place over the weekend of Jan. 29. Alec was one of over 3,000 competitors vying for a piece of the $330,000 cash prize. The Vegas Shoot consisted of three rounds of 30 arrows, and the maximum score one could achieve was 300. Alec averaged an overall score of 273. Out of 250 other competitors in his division, Bowhunter Division, he took home first place.

While anyone can sign up and pay the entrance fee to participate in these tournaments, in order to place well, one must be training on a regular, serious basis... So far, Alec has participated in three tournaments. Although Alec didn't score high enough to win any of the prizes in The Vegas Shoot, he did walk away with a great experience. "Besides training a perfect shot, the best thing from the tournament was watching my coach shoot a perfect 300," Alec said. "He's a fantastic archery coach, but he also has been just a good mentor in general. He's taught me not to stay too focused on the end result, focus on the moment you're in, and focus on each individual arrow."

For Alec, part of the appeal of archery is the room for individuality and self-competition. "You don't necessarily have an opponent, and you are your own worst enemy," Alec said. "In life we're surrounded by so many things that are out of our control. But in archery, you're competing with yourself, and you have complete control over how you do."

Mr. Munson stressed that the no-cut policy may be to blame. "Obviously the more often you practice the better you're going to get," Coach Wendt said. "It's really to their benefit. Obviously I want to win, and we always play to win, but there are physical limitations. Learning to play squash is a big challenge, and don't want to do anything but lay around, but then your sport is suffering."

Girls basketball team captain Autumn Espinosa, a senior, is also frustrated by the effects of the no-cut policy: "I think that the no-cut policy has its ups and downs," Autumn said. "There are more people that can come, and we have a larger team, but then you have people that work really hard and love the sport, and all they see are people who are just trying it out and aren't committed. Since there's a no-cut policy, the people that do work really hard are undermined by the people who are just there because they get to be on the same level, especially since we don't have a JV team—there's no separation."

Additionally, Autumn has noticed the negative affects the attendance of players has on those that attend consistently. "For the people that do show up, they get very discouraged. They might start off the season saying I have to come to practice every day and work my hardest, but then they'll slowly lose that mentality as they see other people trickle off."

Autumn believes that better attendance could ameliorate the team's record. "We would absolutely do better at games if people came on a more consistent basis," Autumn said. "I know that there are other obligations that people have. I understand that. But you chose to join this sport, you should show that commitment. If people had to try out, they probably wouldn't take their spots for granted."

Due to low enrollment, often athletes with poor attendance records still get to play in matches. "There are people on the team who will miss a week of practice and then come to the game, expect to play and then act angry," Autumn said. "But because our start cords still get to play in matches."

This attitude amongst certain student athletes has been brought to the attention of Mr. Ribbens in the past. "I think in some people's minds," Mr. Ribbens said, "the idea of a no-cut policy means that there is some wavery level of commitment to the team and that gets a little frustrating for me."

However, Mr. Ribbens does not foresee the no-cut policy changing in the future. "I believe that that encouragement is important for students to have," Mr. Ribbens said. "The reality is that if a coach had those unrealistic demands of every kid at every practice and every game and said that if you didn't then you were kicked off the team, a lot of our kids simply wouldn't be able to join the teams… I think that if kids knew that there's a chance for them to get cut they would have less interest in joining, which to me this not a very healthy way of encouraging participation."