Framework will focus on inquiry, critical thinking

by PETER PU
ASSISTANT EDITOR

A document released in October will set the direction of the Laboratory Schools for the next five years.

The new strategic framework released Oct. 17 is the culmination of months of collaboration among students, administration, parents, alumni and faculty from both Lab and the University of Chicago.

Reflecting on the critical and collaborative process of developing the framework, Laboratory Schools Director Charlie Abele said, “There was an opportunity for us to think about who we are and look at our norms and values in the mirror and think about what we want to celebrate and what we want to improve.”

The beginning of the document emphasizes Lab’s connection to the University of Chicago as such through inquiry.

“Inquiry is critical as a heart of the university. I think the idea of inquiry and critical thinking is really critical here,” Dr. Abele said. “It means potentially different things for a college student than for a 3-year-old, but we want to celebrate and what we want to improve.”

The main priorities of this year will be defining the portrait of a Lab graduate and promoting health and wellness through the newly established Wellness Councils, according to Assistant Director Carla Ellis.

The councils will be guided by the Collaborative for Academic Social, and Emotional Learning framework outlined in the appendices.

CASEL recognizes self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationships skills and responsible decision-making as the five core competencies.

“We academics are critical and we want to be a rigorous school, but we also want a school that’s healthy for students,” Dr. Abele said.

The strategically concludes with “moving forward.”

History teacher Christy Gent attended the Designshop retreat Jan. 15-17, which was a meeting in the process of developing the framework.

Looking into the future, she said, “It’s only just beginning the partnership between all of those groups to implement the strategic framework, so everything is on a going-forward basis.”

Curriculum feedback system to launch this semester

by CALEDONIA ABBEY
MIDWAY REPORTER

Beginning this semester, a new feedback system will provide students the chance to give feedback to teachers and impact the structure of their courses.

The Curriculum Feedback System, a Student Council project nearly five years in the making, will enter a beta phase in December or January.

“Often students are not very candid in their feedback because teachers know their handwriting, or they don’t want it to reflect badly on them, so Student Council is really working to make it completely anonymous,” All-School President Ben Cifu said.

Initially, the system is intended for students to have more information about offered classes prior to registration. According to English department chair Mark Kresewitch, who has advised various students as they developed the system for several years, said that “there were concerns by teachers about the public nature of it and how honest the feedback would be.”

“We want to make sure that faculty know what students think about the class, and we’re working to rebuild trust anywhere we can.” — BEN CIFU

Instead, it will be completely anonymous and teachers will have access to the student responses from their section. This allows feedback to be genuine and target ed for each class.

“We want to make sure that faculty know what students think about the class, and we’re working to rebuild trust anywhere we can,” Ben said.

Ben emphasized that it will happen at the end of the first semester so that feedback can be implemented for the rest of the year.

“A lot of teachers collect feedback, but we want this to be a standardized system so every teacher can get feedback pretty easily,” Ben said. “There will be a set bank of questions that students can know and think about throughout the year.”

At a glance:

After five years, Student Council’s live curriculum feedback system will enter a beta phase in December or January.

The system aims to grant students complete anonymity in their responses to promote honesty.

Feedback submitted by students will be collected in time to be considered by teachers before the beginning of the next semester.

He estimates that there will be 20 questions for students to respond to, but there will be slight variations depending on the subject, so they will be applicable for every course.

Ben said Student Council members also hope to be able to find trends in the feedback that in form “what discussions can be had between students, faculty, and administration about where we want classes to go.”
Club fundraises with string bracelets

Craft proceeds to be donated to Comer Children’s Hospital

by MADELINE WELCH

CRAFT LEADERS: Isabel Randall and Aisha Nayak

Craft proceeds to be donated to Comer Children's Hospital.

BRAIDS FOR A CAUSE.

Isabel Randall of Charms for Champions crafts braids. Driven by family experiences with cancer, juniors Aisha Ziad and Isaha Nayak created the club, and all funds raised from bracelet sales will be donated to Comer Children’s Hospital.

It's really hard.

"We were looking to do something that would benefit the entire community in a way that would allow us to help raise funds," said Mary second-year middle school student Paul Cherian.

"We wanted to be a Desi Dance Party Nov. 7 from 6-8 p.m. in Judd 1108.

"This is the high school tryout with the results. The club's emphasis is on active learning, access to influence opportunities, and the ability to build skills that can be applied beyond finance itself. This year's membership has surpassed numbers from previous years. The club's emphasis and ability to learn actively is a big part of what makes it so unique, according to members.

"We're going to eventually start planning to host the UChicago Model United Nations conference in February," Sara said. "My goal is just to set them up in the best way possible for them to win at a conference.

"When I was little my grandma was diagnosed with cancer, so I didn't really know what was going on — it was just chaotic. But now that I'm older, I kind of feel helpless. It's taking his treatments and everything, but I don't know what else to do to help him," Aisha said. "So, we decided that we could keep the bracelet idea and donate the money to Comer Children's Hospital."
Teachers go ‘gradeless’

Teachers attempt to demphasize value of grades

by NIKHIL PATEL

by ABBAGI SLIMMON

The admissions process for the next school year has begun, but it will look a little different than in previous years. This year, only students who have already been accepted will have the opportunity to shadow and spend a full day at Lab.

Admissions offices added five tour dates for prospective students and their families. The tours are held during school days, so applicants can still get a feel for what it’s really like to be a student at Lab.

The admissions process will remain the same. All applicants will still get the chance to interview with a faculty member.

According to Ms. Reed, around 600 people attended an open house for prospective students and their families Oct. 26.

Admissions process experiences changes

by ABBAGI SLIMMON

The admissions process for the next school year has begun, but it will look a little different than in previous years. This year, only students who have already been accepted will have the opportunity to shadow and spend a full day at Lab.

Admissions offices added five tour dates for prospective students and their families. The tours are held during school days, so applicants can still get a feel for what it’s really like to be a student at Lab.

The admissions process will remain the same. All applicants will still get the chance to interview with a faculty member.

According to Ms. Reed, around 600 people attended an open house for prospective students and their families Oct. 26.

Admissions process experiences changes

by ABBAGI SLIMMON

The admissions process for the next school year has begun, but it will look a little different than in previous years. This year, only students who have already been accepted will have the opportunity to shadow and spend a full day at Lab.

Admissions offices added five tour dates for prospective students and their families. The tours are held during school days, so applicants can still get a feel for what it’s really like to be a student at Lab.

The admissions process will remain the same. All applicants will still get the chance to interview with a faculty member.

According to Ms. Reed, around 600 people attended an open house for prospective students and their families Oct. 26.

Admissions process experiences changes

by ABBAGI SLIMMON

The admissions process for the next school year has begun, but it will look a little different than in previous years. This year, only students who have already been accepted will have the opportunity to shadow and spend a full day at Lab.

Admissions offices added five tour dates for prospective students and their families. The tours are held during school days, so applicants can still get a feel for what it’s really like to be a student at Lab.

The admissions process will remain the same. All applicants will still get the chance to interview with a faculty member.

According to Ms. Reed, around 600 people attended an open house for prospective students and their families Oct. 26.
Andy Warhol is known as the public face of the Pop art movement, and his influence is still felt today. His work is characterized by a desire to capture the essence of American life, often through the use of popular imagery. Warhol began his career in the early 1950s as a commercial illustrator, creating advertisements and covers for magazines. His work featured quickly changes to the mass production of his art, and he is known to the public as the artist who chose to “paint” Campbell’s soup cans and bananas, whose work was so impactful that it is now featured on Uniqlo T-shirts and société who incorporate his surrealism into art even before the gay rights movement. Through this view of Warhol, one might falsely believe that the one-side of him is the only one that counts. However, Warhol’s “From A to B and Back Again,” a retrospective exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago through Jan. 26, 2020, is perhaps the most holistic exhibit since his death in 1987. Visitors can finally see how his self-image was transformed during his career.

Warhol began his career in the early 1950s as a commercial illustrator. His sketches for school and from ad campaigns, most notably his golden shoe collar advertisements for Miller shoes, are shown early in the exhibit, demonstrating his skills before he developed them. “From A to B and Back Again,” first shown at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, opens with Warhol’s distinctive cover for a play that covered the entrance’s walls. Moving into the exhibit, the tone of the art work featured quickly changes from a series of celebrity portraits hanging near the ceiling to Warhol’s sketches and advertisements. According to Jay Dandy, the Art Institute’s curator of Warhol, “Warhol was the department of modern and contemporary art before it even existed. He was an artist who liked to subvert and kind of overtly challenge the way we view art.”

Entering the exhibit, visitors experience Warhol’s earliest days where he wasn’t yet rebelling against the norms of art in the mid- to late- 20th century. Progressing further into the exhibit, his methods begin to encourage viewers to question their self-expression, the media they consume on a daily basis.

Warhol is known for incorporating material sources into his art, which many assume stems from his work in the media early in his career. However, scholars and the public are beginning to understand Warhol’s use of media images differently now. “The myth of Andy Warhol is shifting now,” Mr. Dandy said. One of Warhol’s pieces, “Before and After,” illustrates a woman’s profile before and after having surgery to reshape her nose. In the painting, Warhol did not paint his own image of women, but rather an ad of a woman he saw in the media. While he struggled with his self-image and even underwent nose surgery himself, he emphasized to his viewers that what the media presents to them is not based off of real people, but rather what people imagined and hoped to be.

Through this exhibit, Warhol’s representation of himself in his art is clear throughout his many works. “He was someone who sort of lived his own art and he was sort of his own product,” Mr. Dandy said. “So obviously what he was releasing or what he was presenting to the world was under his control.” Moving forward, “From A to B and Back Again” on display at the Chicago Art Institute until Jan. 26, 2020, and demonstrates the creativity of his art and his influence. Image © 2019 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

By Olivia Griffin
Assistant Editor

New political Netflix show proves amusing, satirical

While some people dream about being a rockstar or making it big in Hollywood, Payton Hobart, the main character in the Netflix comedy “The Politician,” started dreaming of the Oval Office at 7 years old. But to him it was not just a pipe dream — it was a wake up call. After spending his life obsessedly researching past presidents, recording their trends and building an impecable point of view to the Oval office, it was time for Payton’s story to be written. His first chapter: to be high school class president.

In terms of a comedy, “The Politician” is worth sitting down and watching. But, if you are looking for a strong storyline, not so much.

Payton, played by Ben Platt (yes, he does sing in the show), is mocked by the show through for his hyper-competitiveness and some questionable decisions in his linear life plan. Most of these jokes come through in slight details that make a high school scenario much more dramatic than it would be otherwise.

Because of his commitment to his aspirations, Payton lacks a genuine personality — he coordinates everything according to what makes him look better for those around him much like how a politician would. Because of his everyday polish, monic and strategically crafted over-the-top decision-making, he neglects his own internal feelings as a human being and never really develops his emotional core.

The show is riddled with plenty of dark, subtle and ironic humor that is really the backbone of the series, which is iconic of a Ryan Murphy directed show. Because of this, some of the plot feels shallow and unrealistic just so the writers could pull off a funny scene. As protagonist, Payton gets the most attention in the series, while other characters feel largely undeveloped and just seem like situation-al props to be used when needed to support Payton’s storyline and for humor. Each episode’s structure is consistent, which several times ruins the set up of twists and turns. After a few episodes the show becomes predictable, but is still generally funny. There were moments while watching where I could easily say what was going to happen before it actually did because I became aware of the overuse of its filmmaking strategies.

Another problem with “The Politician” is its general episode composition. In some scenes, especially later in the eight-episode season, there is simply too much going on at the same time to really absorb what is being portrayed. The overall gist of the show remained the same, and jokes were well-timed, but the show moved too quickly through its storyline. There was too much transitioning from peculiar situations that make you forget about certain characters until they actually pop up again. This may be a good strategy for a mystery but not a comedy.

Overall, if you are looking for a good laugh without too much dedication to the quality of plot or material, “The Politician” is enough to sit down and enjoy from a satirical point of view, despite its lack of depth and on-screen character development.

POLITICALS GET PERSONAL

“The Politician,” a conical new Netflix show, describes the process of student government elections for a driven and competent student politician played by Ben Platt. It is a well-timed, but the show moved too quickly through its storyline. There was too much transitioning from peculiar situations that make you forget about certain characters until they actually pop up again. This may be a good strategy for a mystery but not a comedy.

Overall, if you are looking for a good laugh without too much dedication to the quality of plot or material, “The Politician” is enough to sit down and enjoy from a satirical point of view, despite its lack of depth and on-screen character development.
Student designer makes it work

Anya Gazes, a senior, attended the Art Institute’s fashion course, sparking her interest in designing...

by ELLA REISSER
SPORTS EDITOR

“When I was younger, I would get inspired and design clothes that I'd like to own. I never thought of it as that other people might want to wear it too,” Anya Gazes said. "In high school and in middle school, I got very shy, and I just wanted to dress like everybody else and wear what was popular.”

The past two years Anya, a senior, has begun expressing her fashion sense at school by not being scared to wear outfits that made a statement, which has helped build confidence in many aspects of her life.

In summer 2019 Anya spent two weeks at the Art Institute’s Fashion Design and Construction course designing a boxy, light blue two-piece suit. Anya’s design was elaborated on.

“We all had to present like three options second day of class for like, what we were going to make, and I think I went a little more out there than other people did in my original designs,” Anya said.

In the end, Anya simplified her design, so she could focus on improving the quality of her work. For two weeks she and her fellow design campers worked on their projects while receiving instruction on the basics of clothing design and construction.

“It was brutal. I thought it would go a lot faster than it did. It held up like we were all on ‘Project Runway,’” Anya said.

Anya said that she was so stressed that she felt like she was working harder than she did at school, as the steps involved in making clothes were foreign to her.

“I didn’t realize that in hand making clothes, not factory made, you kind of have to make it twice because you gotta do the rough draft, and then you have to start the process of cutting them out and sewing them together all over again but for your final,” she said.

From using stencils to measuring fabric to the numerous drafts, the workload was intense. At the end of the camp, Anya participated in a runway show to exhibit her work from the summer. Walking down the runway, Anya posed for photographers and smiled at cheering friends and family in the crowd. She wore her completed light-blue, boxy two-piece suit with white buttons.

“Since finishing the camp, Anya has found her new skills very useful. ‘I’ve offered to design stuff or offer stuff for my family and friends since I know how to sew. And sometimes I would cut apart old clothes and try to hand sew.’”

Anya is applying to design schools and hopes to major in fashion design. Ultimately, her goal is to create her own fashion line.

“If I can bring more color and happiness into the world through my clothing, I want to do that. Fashion for me is like showing you who I am on the inside on the outside too,” Anya Gazes said. "Fashion for me is like showing you who I am on the inside on the outside too.”

Campus sound show provides new art experience

Sound show uses unique ambiences to enhance surrounding soundscapes

by PETER PU
ARTS REPORTER

While the ventilation of the Searle Chemistry Laboratory blasts in Searle-Hitchcock Quad, pairs of speakers on six nearby benches play subtle accompaniments to the buzz of the surrounding environment.

Each pair of speakers plays a different sound and presents a different experience that provides listeners a new outlook on the local ventilation.

“Six Accompaniments for Solo Voice” by Stephan Moore, and eight other sound installations located around the University of Chicago Campus, will be featured daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. until Dec. 29 in The Chicago Sound Show. Organized by the Smart Museum of Art, each installation seeks to complement the location and enhance the ambient sounds.

“Parallel/Series” by Sam Pluta, and Andrew Norte took their students to experience the sound installations.

According to Mr. Brickner, the sounds presented by the installations share common themes with other types of music.

“I think a lot of music boils down to emotion: communicating an emotion or emotions,” Mr. Brickner said.

At the same time, Mr. Brickner said the sound installations also possess qualities that differentiate them from other types of music.

“Reflecting on the effects of the sound by the visitors, the sounds by Mr. Brickner,” said, “Those composers are really in a way forcing you to think about your environment, and in a way they are forcing you to be more in the moment or present.”

Noticing the musical expression of the sound installations requires taking the time to listen, according to Dr. Pluta.

“The expression here is how so many ideas and worlds can be portrayed through sound,” Dr. Pluta wrote in an email because he is in Europe for several months.

“Each piece bags a bit of time from the listener so that they can figure out what the composer is saying. It is not a simple journey, but if the listener puts in a bit of time, it is a beautiful one.”

Anya Gazes, a senior, attended the Art Institute’s fashion course, sparking her interest in designing...
From Chinatown to Logan Square, students use Chicago’s ethnic neighborhoods to connect with their heritage

Greektown provides taste of home

by NIKEL PATEL

Nikel Patel

Located in the heart of Hellenic Village, Greek Town, the area around 18th Street, is home to many small ethnic restaurants. As a student of Greek heritage, Patel found it comforting to visit her family’s traditions in a physical space.

“Parthenon” is one of the oldest restaurants in the area, serving Greek cuisine from the 19th century. Patel said that “it’s like being transported to Greece.”

Patel also visits Papas Bros. for their delicious Greek rolls and souvlaki. She enjoys the atmosphere and the way the food is served, which is different from other places.

Table hard to find at MingHin Cuisine

by NICKY EDWARDS-LEVIN

Located in the heart of Chinatown, MingHin Cuisine is one of the most popular restaurants in Chicago, offering a variety of Chinese dishes. As a student of Chinese heritage, Levin found it comforting to visit her family’s traditions in a physical space.

“Being Chinese makes me feel as if my experience with the restaurant is getting me in touch with some aspect of my parents’ and my culture,” Levin said.

“Of course, I love the variety of Chinese foods, like the dim sum, and the normal dishes are all really good,” Levin said. “But since I use it every once in a while, it’s nice to have that taste of home.”

Polish spot provides comfort

by MADELINE WELCH

Polish food is a staple in many countries, and for some students, it is a reminder of their heritage. Stephanie, a student of Polish heritage, found comfort in the Polish food she found in Chicago.

“Polish food is comforting, especially when you’re homesick,” Stephanie said.

While many of these students may feel foreign in some of their ethnic neighborhoods, they find comfort in the food and the traditions that come with it. For these students, Chicago is their home away from home.

Tryzub offers Ukrainian taste

by REBECCA OTO

Located in Logan Square, Tryzub offers a taste of Ukraine in the heart of Chicago. As a student of Ukrainian heritage, Oto found comfort in the Ukrainian food she found in Chicago.

“Ukrainian food is very comforting for me,” Oto said.

While many of these students may feel foreign in some of their ethnic neighborhoods, they find comfort in the food and the traditions that come with it. For these students, Chicago is their home away from home.
By encouraging growth, Math Team sustains interest, success

by AUDREY MATZKE
FEATURES EDITOR

It’s a well-understood equation: the more effort something requires, the more satisfied you’ll be since it’s finally finished.

For members of the Mathematics Team, there’s nothing like the thrill of unraveling complex patterns and — after working for hours — discovering a solution. But math is a lifelong journey, and they say they’re only getting started.

At the American Mathematics Competitions last winter, one student beat the entire U-High math team, a group that achieves among the top in Illinois and the nation. The student was Jeffery Chen, then a Lab eighth grader. He said he’s always enjoyed math, but experiencing this level of success helped to feed his passion.

“After I did well, I liked it more,” Jeffery, now a U-High ninth grader, said. “If you get good at something, you definitely will like it.”

For most students, spending lunch period writing proofs sounds, at best, like a chore.

For Julia Anitescu, however, Math Team meetings are a unique and valuable bonding experience for the dozens of students in the group.

“Is it fun to talk to people who are like-minded about nerdy things?” Julia, a junior, said. “Math needs a special bond to find its people, who think the same way you do, and at the very least, have a similar outlook on life. It’s a bunch of people who are really committed and driven, and also understand other people who are committed and dedicated.”

During competitions, Julia said students are given problems quite different from the ones most math students would expect to find on a test. In school, exam problems are meant to be understood, and are written to — with enough preparation and studying — be easily solvable. Competition problems are a little less straightforward.

“Math in competitions is a lot more about the answer. You’re being scored on whether or not you get the right answer, not how you got there,” Julia said.

Jeffery echoes this sentiment, but adds that the strict time limits and frantic rush to finish problems helps to improve his test-taking skills.

“It definitely helps me with test taking in general. There’s a lot more time pressure in competitions,” Jeffery said. “If I don’t know how to do a problem, I skip it, then come back to it at the end.”

Both Jeffery and Julia say they’ve been studying math since they were young. For Julia, it took some time to love.

“I went to math team, initially and primarily because my dad said, ‘You know what, I think you should do more math because you’re good at it and I think you could like it.’ I’m gonna use my dad’s metaphor here, because he said he’s always enjoyed math and was driven.”

Jeffery hopes to one day become a math professor, where he plans to help students experience math as a joyful process, not a grueling means to an end.

“In most schools, mathematics is taught as a set of instructions and not a creative work,” Jeffery said. “If it were taught more creatively, maybe like art or music, more people would probably like it. I probably would give them a pretty hard problem, and they’d have to really think through it. It’d probably take hours, maybe days, to solve, but once they solve it, it will be really satisfying.”

Julia is less certain about where math will lead her. No matter what, she said her skill and passion will inform everything she studies.

Julia said, “Math is, inevitably, everywhere, and I find it kinda cool.”

Friend-finding apps can be paradoxically isolating

Apps like Yubo and Omegle have the power to bridge situational and geographical gaps — but at what cost?

by LEELAND CULVER
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

Settling down in the library for her free period, Lanh Matriki pulls out her phone like so many others around her. She opens up Snapchat and sends off a message to one of her friends. A few minutes later, her phone buzzes with a reply. She opens it and smiles at the return joke, happy for the extra bright spot in her day that this friend provides.

But Lanh isn’t chatting with one of her U-High friends, she’s messaging with a new friend from far away.

This is the promise offered by “friend-finding” apps and websites such as Yubo and Omegle, the promise of non-romantic personal connection both nearby and far away. Yet some people are discovering the reality of these sites is morea more complex, from a feeling of isolation and objectification to outright danger.

“It can be really heartwarming when something sweet comes up, but you never know,” said Stela la Heron, a junior who used to use Omegle.

Omegle anonymously connects a user to one other person through video or text chat. The site has no restrictions on who can use it, and although there is a moderated video chat, it is still possible to run into inappropriate or upsetting content.

“You don’t get to choose who you see,” Stella said, “so you might get somebody playing their guitar, just trying to brighten somebody’s day... or sometimes you’ll get something really messed up.”

Yubo, another friend-finding platform marketed to teens, has users select and filter their interactions with a swiping function, similar to dating apps like Tinder. Indeed, according to Lanh, many users treat the app as a dating app.

“I’d say about 50% of people are looking for romantic relationships, 40% of people are looking for just friends or for people to send them messages, but then there’s this really shady 10%, that you just can’t tell,” Stella said.

That shady portion of the users base can, like with Omegle, contain adult predators or even teens exhibiting questionable behavior.

“Even when the people on there are real,” Stella said, “You don’t know exactly what they want from you until you’re with them.”

The swiping function can also make some feel objectified or like they are objectifying others.

“Part of it feels good, because there’s the validation that people think I’m attractive,” Lanh said. “But then also part of it feels weird, because it’s like I’m judging these other people who, if I knew them in real life, I might not even want to talk to them.”

Both Lanh and Stella felt that their experiences on these sites were ultimately hollow. Lanh said that she started using the app to feel more connected during a difficult time in her life, but ultimately felt ashamed and more disconnected.

She said, “I honestly think that the people who don’t use apps like that are lucky because they don’t feel a need to resort to apps like that to make friends.”
A WHOLE NEW ANGLE

Traditionally, signing with a modeling agency meant losing control over your own image. Nowadays, young models are starting to take that power back.

by MIRA COSTELLO
NEWS EDITOR

A
n age where self image can be fragile, it’s hard to imagine being styled, posed and photographed by a team of near-strangers. For some people, the modeling world looks confrontational and toxic.

But what is the industry really like for teenagers, and what does this visual cur- ration mean for their self-perception? These high school models agree: it’s not what people see an “America’s Next Top Model.”

Zuzana Jenkins has pursued professional modeling since August. She said her mother, who also modeled, knew her daughter would follow in her footsteps — and after years of resisting, it happened.

“I guess I saw a closer look into the industry,” Zuzana, a U-High sophomore, said. “You know, from the outside it looks like pure competition, and once I saw this agency I realized that it was more of a ‘work together to bring each other to the top’ kind of thing.”

Zuzana said her agency, Genesislev- er, has unexpectedly provided her with an affirming experience. While bigger agencies can be more intense, she said, “it’s best for aspiring models to start small, especially if they’re dealing with insecurity.”

“I originally thought that it was going to give me horrific body issues, I realized that actually, instead, it was validating. In the agency I work for, there is no ‘cut your hair this way. Do your makeup this way.’ Everybody, and people don’t care. I am a canvas. As dehumanizing as it sounds, it’s actually very comforting,” she said. “I’m more comfortable being faced by 10 cameras than I am being faced by 10 students, because I know the cameras aren’t going to hear my opinions, or how I’m doing in class. High school is much harsher.”

Drayona said she feels comfortable as an African-American girl, too, especially as the industry has progressed beyond solely Eurocen-tric standards.

“Today in our commercial world, diversity has become a very important key that companies want to display,” she said. “Everybody who enters the modeling industry will face obstacles at some point in time — it is all about how we can overcome these obstacles and charge things for the better.”

Zuzana also encouraged anyone inter- ested to try out modeling, because representa-tion outside of the tall, white, thin stereotype would be positive.

“Everybody else has been told that they shouldn’t even apply,” she said. “And if those people did, the industry would actually change.”

While Zuzana said her self-confidence hasn’t changed drastically since model- ing, her outlook has.

“It made me consider myself in differ- ent lights, but none of them are neces- sarily good or bad,” she said. “It just gave me an outsider’s perspective. You know, if I was looking at this as someone who didn’t know me, what would I think? It provides us a way to learn, change and grow.”

I would say the healthiest way to enter the modeling industry is by branding yourself in a way that truly shows your individuality,” she said.

Drayona Rollins, a senior at De La Salle Institute, agrees.

“I originally thought that it was going to be like pure competition, and once I saw this agency I realized that it was more of a ‘work together to bring each other to the top’ kind of thing.”

Drayona said she feels comfortable as an African-American girl, too, especially as the industry has progressed beyond solely Eurocen-tric standards.

“I originally thought that it was going to give me horrific body issues, I realized that actually, instead, it was validating. In the agency I work for, there is no ‘cut your hair this way. Do your makeup this way.’ Everybody, and people don’t care. I am a canvas. As dehumanizing as it sounds, it’s actually very comforting,” she said. “I’m more comfortable being faced by 10 cameras than I am being faced by 10 students, because I know the cameras aren’t going to hear my opinions, or how I’m doing in class. High school is much harsher.”

Drayona also encouraged anyone interested to try out modeling, because representa-tion outside of the tall, white, thin stereotype would be positive.

“Everybody else has been told that they shouldn’t even apply,” she said. “And if those people did, the industry would actually change.”

While Zuzana said her self-confidence hasn’t changed drastically since model- ing, her outlook has.

“It made me consider myself in differ- ent lights, but none of them are neces- sarily good or bad,” she said. “It just gave me an outsider’s perspective. You know, if I was looking at this as someone who didn’t know me, what would I think? It provides us a way to learn, change and grow.”

“I would say the healthiest way to enter the modeling industry is by branding yourself in a way that truly shows your individuality,” she said.

Drayona said she feels comfort- able as an African-American girl, too, especially as the industry has progressed beyond solely Eurocen-tric standards.

“Today in our commercial world, diversity has become a very important key that companies want to display,” she said. “Every person who enters the modeling industry will face obstacles at some point in time — it is all about how we can overcome these obstacles and charge things for the better.”

Zuzana also encouraged anyone inter- ested to try out modeling, because representa-tion outside of the tall, white, thin stereotype would be positive.

“Everybody else has been told that they shouldn’t even apply,” she said. “And if those people did, the industry would actually change.”

While Zuzana said her self-confidence hasn’t changed drastically since model- ing, her outlook has.

“It made me consider myself in differ- ent lights, but none of them are neces- sarily good or bad,” she said. “It just gave me an outsider’s perspective. You know, if I was looking at this as someone who didn’t know me, what would I think? It provides us a way to learn, change and grow.”
As the Midway sees it ...

"These classrooms allow for increased conversation and collaboration between teachers and their students. However, these courses need to implement strict guidelines to ensure that students don’t slack off..."
First time for first place

In title game, boys soccer team ‘rides the wave’ to overcome rocky start, earn historic championship

by NICKY EDWARDS-LEVIN and CRICKET GLUTH

Early in the season, the U-High boys soccer team lost 8-3 to Timothy Christian. That game secured a fact that most players already knew: the season was off to a bad start.

After that game, according to senior Sean Smith, the team decided they needed to make some changes. Not to their lineup, but to their mentality.

“We were pretty scared about what was happening in the season,” Sean said. “We knew we had to pick things up.”

Pick it up they did. After a rocky start to the year, their momentum built as they won 14 out of their next 15 games, propelling them to a conference championship and, ultimately, to make school history.

The Maroons defeated the EastSide Charter School 2-1 at the EastSide Centre in Peoria Nov. 2.

After finishing the conference season undefeated and riding a six-win streak, the team’s momentum carried into the postseason with considerably one-sided victories over Noble Street and Montini, where U-High scored an impressive combined 10 goals.

This led them to a rematch with Timothy Christian in the sectional final; the same stage and stadium where they lost the previous two years.

“The past two years losing in sectional finals has just been emotionally awful,” senior Lea Rebollo Baum said. “I think that’s kind of been the fuel for the past couple years and this year especially because we couldn’t lose three years in a row on that field. They would not be stopped at Elmhurst, the site of the sectional championship. Senior Mickey Claffey, who missed a decisive penalty kick at last year’s sectional championship, was the hero Oct. 25 after he delivered the game-winning penalty kick to beat Timothy Christian 2-1 and send the team into super-sectionals for the first time in history.

“It wasn’t until I placed the ball down that I realized the potential magnitude of what I was about to do,” Mickey said. “I thought to myself, ‘Wow, this would be incredible,’ so I decided to score.”

From then on, U-High’s style of play was decisive and one-sided. In the final three games of the season, the Maroons dominated possession and controlled the flow of each game with quick, precise passing and smart movement into space that set up multiple goal-scoring opportunities. The Maroons hammered Joliet Catholic Academy 6-0 on Oct. 29 and cruised past North Shore Country Day School 3-0 on Nov. 1.

“Overall we played good,” midfielder Miles Rochester said. “The first half was a little rough, but after an inspirational halftime speech, we came out and did what we have been doing all season and fixed it.”

SNAGGING THE STATE TITLE. The boys soccer team celebrates after winning state final game against Marquette Catholic High School 2-1 on Nov. 2. After being down a goal in the first half, the Maroons answered with goals from Stanley Shapiro and Alex Bal. In the semifinal game Nov. 1, the Maroons beat North Shore Country Day School 3-0.

Addition of diving team allows for more competitive scoring

by OLIVIA GRIFFIN

The girls swimming and diving team members are silent in the pool at Ratner Athletics Center while they complete their practices. The U-High lanes take up half the pool, each lane filled with at least three sets of identical goggles, caps and swimsuits. Their uniformity in the pool extends even further into their team dynamics.

“Some of the divers used to be on the swim team, and some of the swimmers used to be on the diving team. Since there is this overlap, that allows for a lot of connections between the two groups and we mesh pretty well because of it,” senior Ava McKula said.

While noise from the occasional bounces off the diving board from University of Chicago students sometimes distracts the U-High girls, the swimmers focus on improving their skills in the pool and making sure that everyone on the team feels welcomed.

“I was nervous about joining at first,” ninth-grader Maya Herron said. “But they all immediately took me under their wing and made me feel super welcome.”

Lea credited the diving team as an important asset to the overall swimming and diving programs, particularly when it comes to overall team rankings. Divers are judged on a scale from one to ten. That score is then multiplied depending on the difficulty of their dive for their final ranking.

At the meet against Victory I. Andrew School on Oct. 16, all the divers’ scores, 118 points with multiple ties and at meets, when we all cheer for each other no matter the swimmer or diver!”
A major push for wellness choices is coming to the Lab Schools, with the introduction of the new Lab Happiness initiative. "It's a chance for people to start thinking about how they can be more happy in their lives," said Dr. Elizabeth Kieff, the program's lead psychiatrist. The initiative, which is led by Kieff and a team of health professionals, aims to help students and faculty members develop strategies for increasing happiness and well-being.

The Lab Happiness initiative is the result of a year-long planning process, which involved discussions with teachers, students, and parents. "We wanted to create a program that would be inclusive and accessible for everyone," said Kieff. "We also wanted to make sure that the program was grounded in research and evidence-based practices." The program includes a series of workshops, seminars, and events, as well as a website and app where students and faculty members can access resources and tools for improving their happiness and well-being.

"Happiness is not just a feeling," said Kieff. "It's a state of mind that can be cultivated through intentional practices." The program emphasizes the importance of mindfulness, gratitude, and positive thinking, and provides strategies for incorporating these practices into daily life.

"Our goal is to help people develop a more positive mindset," said Kieff. "We believe that by focusing on what we can change and how we think, we can improve our overall well-being." The program also includes resources for managing stress and anxiety, and for dealing with difficult emotions and challenges.

The Lab Happiness initiative is part of a broader movement to promote mental health and well-being on campus. "The Lab is committed to creating a culture of well-being," said Kieff. "We believe that by focusing on mental health and well-being, we can create a more positive and supportive learning environment for all students." The program is one of many initiatives that the Lab is undertaking to promote mental health and well-being, including a new counseling program, a peer support network, and a series of workshops and seminars.

The Lab Happiness initiative is open to all students, faculty members, and staff. "We encourage everyone to participate," said Kieff. "We believe that by working together, we can create a more positive and supportive community for all."