

Who is doing
what May Project

PAGE 2

Popular teacher
bids 'Adios'

PAGE 3

Fighting to save
local schools

PAGE 5

At the core
of a complaint

PAGE 7

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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Spring play upholds theatre traditions in new setting

Photo by Emma Polson

"The show must go on" and "break a leg!," two famous show business sayings, came alive at the opening performance of "Godspell," the Spring Production in a new setting, Kovler Gym, May 12. Just as the show began junior Jack Reece, portraying Jesus Christ, experienced a dislocated knee-cap. He was rushed to a hospital but the next night the show did go on, with Jack, his injured leg propped up on a chair, giving a dynamic performance. Fast-moving, colorful and melodic, the richly-acted, -choreographed and -orchestrated production drew repeated applause from audiences and standing ovations. From left, are Autumn Espinoza, Alex Soto, Julie Murmann, Maria Privitera, Jack Reece, Adam Kelsick, Charlotte Elfenbaum and Sarah Pan. Also in the cast were Zoe Briskey, Will Kent, Loren Sosnick and singers Maya Daiter, Valentina Gardner and Maya Blackstone.

Great Gatsby! Senior Prom will celebrate the Roaring '20s

By Marissa Page
Associate editor

Less than a month after the debut of director Baz Luhrmann's film of "The Great Gatsby," this year's Senior Prom 7-11 p.m. Saturday, June 8 at the Ballroom at School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 112 South Michigan Avenue will feature a Roaring '20s theme.

A Prom committee began meeting last September to plan the dance; its members are Jaime Toepp, Alejandro Guevara, Jordan Davis, Thanh Hien Ngo, Graham Lewis, Jessie Gimpel, Kaiwen Luan, Charlie Green, Willa Green, Moira Differding and Amol Gundeti.

After previewing several spaces, Committee members settled on the new Ballroom, Jamie said.

"At the beginning of the year we had bounced around a couple of theme ideas, one of them being the Roaring '20s," Jaime explained. "Once we saw the SAIC Ballroom, we were immediately drawn to its gorgeous art deco feel and decided that it would fit perfectly with that theme. We took a vote among Prom Committee members and a majority agreed that it was a beautiful, reasonably-priced space."

Dean of Students Larry McFarlane, Prom adviser,

said he has heard some complains about ticket prices.

"But, honestly, \$95 is not that much as far as prom tickets go," Mr. McFarlane observed. "I've heard that Prom tickets can run as much as \$140. The price is determined by the venue and catering, and Prom Committee has been trying to fundraise as much as possible to make up the difference."

The Prom Committee worked hard on fundraising, Alexandra said. "Of course we've had the standard bake sales, but we also sold wristbands for the senior class and sold food and drinks at sporting events."

Senior girls on the Prom Committee also set up a Prom dress Facebook group, on which girls could post pictures of their dresses to get feedback and avoid wearing the same outfits as other girls.

"We started the group in November, way before anybody had started looking for a dress," Jordan said. "People have been really supportive and nice in the group so far this year."

A simple but elegant dinner will offer salad, chicken and chocolate dessert.

A d.j. will provide music for dancing and a professional photographer will be available for photos. The evening will also who is crowned as Prom King and Queen.

Labstock to celebrate year's end with music, barbecue, alumni

By Clay Surmeier
Associate editor

Enthusiastic sounds of student bands and vocalists will resound across Kenwood Mall 3-6 p.m., Friday, June 7 for the annual year-end celebration Labstock. The event draws a crowd from the school, community, and Alumni Weekend participants.

"It's a nice way to relax and enjoy music. There will be hot dogs and burgers as always, free of charge, with drinks available for purchase," points out senior Lucas Buccheim-Jurison, who has been organizing the event.

JUNIOR SONIA BOURDAGHS will be performing for the third year.

"My band 'Note to Self' consisting this year of Carah Alexander, Charles Chamberlain and Max Archer plan on performing at Labstock," Sonia said. "We have about four songs, which we have prepared throughout the year and since I've had such a great experience performing my freshman and sophomore years I look forward to playing there again. Labstock is a great opportunity for 'garage bands' to perform in front of an audience."

U-Highers and U-High alumni will also mix at the annual Alumni Weekend Jazz Picnic, noon-2 p.m. Saturday, June 8 in Scammon Garden. Tickets are \$20 and includes a buffet catered by the Hardy Boys.

EARLIER IN the day, Lab Schools Director David Magill will present the Distinguished Alumni Award to Andrea Ghez, Class of 1983, professor of physics and astronomy at UCLA. Rising Star Professional Achievement Awards will go to Wendell Lim, also '83, professor of biochemistry and biophysics at the University of California at San Francisco, and Sarah Hanck, '96, a director of Rabin Martin, a global health strategy firm with long experience working in Asia.

About 500 alumni are expected to participate in the weekend of informative panel discussions, social events and reunions for classes from the 1940s, and every five years from 1953 onward.

Following Alumni Weekend, the annual awards assembly will take place 9 a.m., Monday, June 10 at International House and the senior luncheon 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 12 in Ida Noyes Hall.

One more issue

A graduation preview, where seniors are headed for college and a full page of Prom photos will highlight the final Midway this year, coming out the morning of Wednesday, June 30.



Lucas

Newly-elected officers ready to lead

By Elena Carroll-Maestri
Midway reporter

Helping grade-level officers plan stronger class events is among newly-elected Student Council



Phil

Healy's goals for student government elections May 8. "These officers have lots of great ideas that do not always work, so I want to help them see these ideas come to fruition," Phil explained.

With extensive government experience, Phil served as class vice president freshman, sophomore and junior years.

Forty-two students ran for office, delaying the election until all could speak at lunchtime cafeteria forums

for three days.

Class presidents are Lillian Eckstein, senior; John Williams, junior, and Willis Weinstein as sophomore.

Elected Cultural Union president, junior Tiffany Davis said her main goals are to bring Spring Fling back next year, and to schedule more activities and assemblies for U-Highers.

"Next year, I want to do a lot of school unity stuff, so maybe some assemblies that gather students and have friendly competitions among grades," she explained. "Our barbecues tend to go really well, especially if they're broken up by freshman-sophomore and junior-senior. Everyone always loves free food and it's a great way to be outside."

Lillian hopes to make senior year less stressful.

"I want to have the senior class go to more sporting events like maybe a Bulls games and throw a Senior Scavenger Hunt," she said. "Also, I

want to continue the Assassin game, which is where everyone has a partner and they shoot other partners with water guns until there's only one winner. It's all about the fun!"

John said he hopes to sit in on faculty meetings as class president, something the faculty so far has never agreed to, citing a need for privacy in its discussions.

"We always promise to represent the staff to the students and vice versa, and we do that, but it's obvious we need to be much more involved with the faculty," John said. "I want to make my grade feel comfortable and excited in their school year, and to feel in touch with Student Council."

Willis Weinstein, current freshman class president re-elected for next year, said he hopes to have Principal Scott Feh sit in on a few Student Council meetings to speed up the process of getting school approval for proposals.

"While in office I want to improve the quality of events and ensure that the sophomore class has events of its own," Willis explained. Also elected were:

STUDENT COUNCIL – Vice President:

Louis Harboe, **secretary:** Tommi Tsao, **treasurer:** Noah Braendel, **Cultural Union vice president:** Sabrina Holland.

SENIOR CLASS –

Vice president: Bolu Johnson, **Cultural Union representatives:** Natalie Kampf and Kahan Modi.

JUNIOR CLASS – Vice president:

Maya Ben-Shahar, **Cultural Union representatives:** Katie Adlaka and Whitney Beach.

SOPHOMORE CLASS – Vice president:

Julia Hedges, **Cultural Union representatives:** Leah Umanskiy and Daniel Zhu.



Tiffany

From glass sculpture to making films, music, May Projects cover wide range

By Hebah Masood
Associate editor

Placing glass into a boiling hot furnace, Senior Kira Fujibayashi, is learning how to manipulate melted glass into complicated sculptures in the Talisman Glass Studios, pursuing an art she has been fascinated with since last summer for her May Project.

After taking seven classes last week at Corning Museum of Glass in New York City, Kira said she learned basic glass blowing skills that she brought back to Chicago and used in an advanced class the last week of her project.

EXPLORING A NEW activity, Kira is one of 104 seniors out 112 pursuing a May Project, coordinated by World Language Teacher Francis Spaltro. May Project was founded by the Class of 1969 offer seniors the opportunity to pursue career interests, do community service and design individual study projects..

Kira said she found out about Glass Blowing when she was in New York last summer and saw a portable glassblowing truck from Corning Glass Incorporated doing a show.

"I think it's really cool how versatile of a material glass is," Kira said. "It's been around such a long time but it can be used for so many different things, especially now. It's used for science and technology. They made glass instruments for science experiments."

"ANOTHER REASON I became really interested in the Corning Company was because they also make the glass used in smartphones not just sculptures and other things. I was researching the company and I kept finding cool new projects they were doing. On their website there are videos of a future house made of glass and gorilla glass on the counter

and table tops so you can use those flat surfaces as computers basically."

Other May Projects are as follows:

Catherine Adams, making a guide to healthy eating and living; **Homum Ahsan**, Recording Artists for 30 Days: acoustic song covers; **Emily Altkorn**, learning to play the pipe organ; **Francesca Baio**, teacher's aid at St. Symphorosa Catholic school.

Nadja Barlera, making a street food documentary; **Maya Baroody**, making a video commemorating 17 years in Hyde Park and at Lab; **Cat Ben-Shahar**, building a gaming computer; **Ava Bibergil**, cooking, photographing, eating and blogging food; **Lauren Blacker**, shadowing Sports Medicine Doctor Holly Benjamin; **Maya Blackstone**, making a street food documentary; **Jordy Breslau**, learning to play the banjo; **Lucas Buchheim-Jurisson**, interning with attorney David Selig.

Rachel Buikema, "Outdoor Education" at Camp Roger; **Ellyn Butler**, researching and documenting family history; **Helen Cain**, making a documentary on 4th Graders in Hyde Park-Kenwood; **Meryl Charleston**, Gravity Tank Internship.

Ramona Chatman-Morris, shadowing the CEO of Gilda's Club Chicago; **Kyle Chow**, learning to cook for college; **William Chung**, learning the art of boxing; **Annette Cochran**, Ariel Investments Internship; **Sarah Curci**, being a tourist in Chicago.

Amartya Das, learning to read and write in Bengali; **Abby Daum**, a cooking blog; **Jordan Davis**, making cupcakes; **Michele De Maio**, weight training; **Nathan Decety**, greenhouse gardening; **Jason Deng**, photography road trip.

Anastasia Dervin, anime and manga costume play; **Kayla DeSouza**, studying music and memory; **Moira Differding**, volunteering at the South Suburban Humane Society; **Michael Dowdy**, cooking with Bea Harris; **Jillian Dreixler**, studying ASL and exploring deaf culture.

Jordan Einhorn, Harris School intership; **Nora Engel-Hall**, mastering pottery and ceramics; **Mia Epner**, mastering the rubik's cube; **Shira Fishbach**, blogging and studying Buffy the Vampire Slayer; **Erica Frank**, community service in Costa Rica.

Emanuela Frankel, shadowing a physician; **Jacob Gasyna**, building a gaming

computer; **Sophia Gattton**, Youth Violence Protection Program at St. Edmund's; **Jessica Gimpel**, teaching Zumba; **Natalia Ginsburg**, accordion study.

Steven Glick, learning Krav Maga; **Stefania Gomez**, Arctic trip preparation; **Charlie Green**, urban farming; **Nathaniel Green**, urban farming; **Willa Green**, cupcake creations; **Alexa Greene**, greenhouse gardening.

Addie Grosse, building a chicken coop; **Rex Gu**, preparing for a piano recital; **Alejandra Guevara**, learning how to cook; **Amol Gundeti**, studying places and perceptions of Chicago and India; **Maya Hansen**, creating a teen fashion magazine.

Conrad Harron, learning Chinese calligraphy; **Audrey Hart**, mastering pottery and ceramics; **Cortney Hill**, biking and filming Chicago; **Markus Hoeckner**, Get to the Perch: songbird photography; **Adam Kelsick**, shooting a music video.

Akili King, studying yoga and meditation; **Dan Klonowski**, interning in a biomedical research lab; **Gabriel Knight**, Learning Arabic; **Deborah Krull**, Chicago Board of Trade Internship; **Beverly Lau**, learning Chinese holiday cooking.

Matt Lawrence, cooking with Bea Harris; **Sam Lawrence**, cooking with Bea Harris; **Anna Leopold**, conservation awareness through photography; **Graham Lewis**, biking a filming Chicago; **Jabria Lewis**, studying ASL and exploring deaf culture.

John Lin, Recording Artists for 30 Days: acoustic song covers; **Rolland Long**, into the October Sky: space and rocket launchers; **Natalie Lubin**, Chicago Insider's Blog; **Ellen Ma**, designing skateboards.

Sean Owen Magill, Musician Americana; **Liana Manuel**, studying art and identity; **Amelia Mazzarella**, Chicago Insider's blog; **Edan McDevitt**, making electronic music; **Ben Meyer**, Chicago Bus Rapid Transit Planning Internship.

Katie Rosengarten, writing a Children's book; **Mark Mitchell**, writing a cook book; **Caroline Montag**, learning classical and opera solo voice performing; **Maxine Nesbitt**, interning with Michelle Obama's staff at the White House.

Thanh Hien Ngo, "Going back to my roots through photography in Paris"; **Siobhan**

(continues on page 9)



Photo by Emma Polson

Writers read their words to appreciative audience

More than two dozen Lab Schoolers presented their poetry and a wide range of writing and acting to a large and appreciative audience in Rowley Library May 2 for "Labbeat," a new event sponsored by the English Department and librarians. In addition to scheduled presenters, several members of the audience came to the microphone.

In the photo, senior Akili King reads her poem "Our Eyes," "about my conversations with my grandfather, who passed away my sophomore year, about growing up as Native American. By the end of the poem, people started clapping and some were even crying, so I could tell they felt the energy and emotion I wanted them to."

Other scheduled presenters included the following:

Seniors Maya Baroody, Stefania Gomez, Alexa Greene and Gloria Zingales; juniors Maddie Anderson, Leah Barber, Zoe Brisky, Nell Mittelstead, Loren Sosnick and Angela Zhang; sophomores Alijah Futterman and Aya Nimer; and freshmen Grace Anderson, Autumn Espinosa, Olivia Perozo and Maria Privitera.

-By Raghu Somola

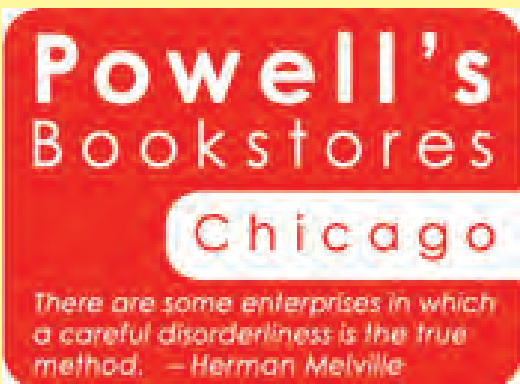
Great reads await you at Powell's



Photo by Jason Deng

Exploring Powell's fascinating collection, freshmanGenevieve Nemeth discovers topics she's never even thought of pursuing.

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Newspaper, yearbook get national, state honors

National and state honors have been arriving for Midway and U-Highlights staff members as the school year nears its end.

In Midway honors, the National Federation of Press Women has given its 1st place award for cartooning in a high school publication to sophomore Lydia Fama. Lydia became a candidate for the national award when she placed 1st in the Illinois Women's Press Association high school contest. She also placed 1st last year. The National award will be presented at a conference August 24 in Salt Lake City.

NATIONAL AWARDS also were won in Quill and Scroll national journalism honor society's annual writing and photography competition. Sonia Bourdaghs won in the in-depth category for a spread in the December 18 issue on senior Kaiwen Luan's journey in surviving leg cancer and Rolland Long won in the news story category for his front page story October 16 on the University of Chicago Police initiative on community safety.

In the Illinois Woman's Press Association competition, besides Lydia's 1st-place award, Luke Murphy won 1st place in the sports feature category. Third-place awards were received by Duncan Weinstein for columns and Rolland Long for news story.

Honorable mentions went to Sonia Bourdaghs for centerspread layout; Fiona Potter for feature photo and for sports photo, and Lydia for cartooning (she had multiple entries).

IN THE Illinois Journalism Education Association's newspaper contest the Midway was named Best Overall Newspaper, even though it was moved to a category of schools with higher enrollment.

First place awards were won by Rolland Long, news story; Lydia Fama, cartoon and also comic strip; Duncan Weinstein, column; advertisement, Luke Murphy and Jeff Li; centerspread, Sonia Bourdaghs; and information graphic, Gene Cochrane, Class of 2012, Lydia's brother.

Second place awards were received by Moira Differding, editorial; and comic strip, and Lydia (each category could have two entries).

Third place awards were received by Hebah Masood, feature story; and Luke Murphy, review.

Honorable mentions were given to Mike Glick, sports story; Marissa Page, editorial; Hebah Masood, headline; Natalie Holley and Aurielle Akerele, advertisement; Sonia Bourdaghs, front page design; and Sonia, Mia Luo, Lili Steffen and Carolyn Voth for a centerspread.

Jeff, Aurielle, Lili and Carolyn won in their categories for their photography.

THE 2012 U-HIGHLIGHTS is receiving the Balfour Publishers Yearbook-of-Yearbook award for overall excellence and innovation and will be featured in the company's annual anthology of high school yearbooks. Only two Illinois yearbooks were selected.

In the Illinois Journalism Education Association yearbook contest earlier this year the 2012 U-Highlights took 1st place honors in overall excellence, copy writing, sports coverage, layout and design, photography and graphics, and 2nd place in coverage of the school year.

In the Illinois Women's Press Association yearbook contest Carolyn Voth took 2nd place for photography and Meryl Charlestonm 2nd place for layout and Maya Hansen received an honorable mention for reporting and writing.

After 46 years here, teacher ready for new adventures

By Natalie Holley
Associate editor

Volunteer work, visit with family in New York and California, and learning Italian (she loves opera)top Spanish teacher Susan Joseph's plans as retires from U-High after 46 years as a pioneering World Language teacher.

Known as an outstanding teacher with a both intelligent and wry personality, Ms. Joseph grew up in the northern New York City suburb of New Rochelle. She became interested in learning languages, first French, in a pilot program in elementary school. "WHEN I WAS in 6th grade there was a language pilot program at my school because back then they didn't really teach younger kids foreign languages," she explained. "The first time I heard French I loved the sound of the language and knew I wanted to study it. We learned the song 'Dites-moi' from the musical 'South Pacific' and I sang it over and over again. I ended up continuing with French through junior high and high school, where I also began taking beginning level Spanish."

Ms. Joseph attended Hunter College in New York City, where she majored in French Literature with a minor in English.

"In my student years, most women studied to become teachers, social workers, librarians and nurses," she said. "I decided to combine my love of the French language and French literature with teaching. I left New York as I was offered full tuition scholarship for graduate studies by the University of Wisconsin, as well as a teaching assistant post."

RECEIVING A MASTER'S degree in French Literature, Ms. Joseph moved to Chicago.

"I often visited Chicago when I was in Madison," Ms. Joseph said. "After I decided I did not want to pursue a doctorate in French literature, I got my M.A. degree and accepted a job at the U. of C. Lab Schools as I wanted to live in a major city."

"I was hired by the department chair, Mr. Roger Pillet, to teach a literature course to native French speakers. At the time there were a lot of students; mostly Swiss, French, Belgian, and French Canadian, who were completely fluent."

dian, who were completely fluent."

About 20 years after her arrival, Ms. Joseph started the school's first high school Spanish program.

"When I arrived here at Lab the languages taught were French, Russian, Latin, and German," Ms. Joseph said. "When we were asked as a department for someone to start a Spanish program and help the newly hired Spanish teacher, I volunteered. I had taken Spanish classes in high school and was eager to hone my speaking skills."

TO CREATE THE PROGRAM and improve her Spanish expertise, Ms. Joseph took part in immersion programs across the country.

"I went to two summer institutes at Middlebury College, took classes at U. of C., and spent a summer in Cuernavaca, Mexico, to perfect my Spanish and to help launch the Spanish program here," she said.

She plans on keeping busy during her retirement.

"I usually see my family three or four times a year, and now I'll be able to see them much more often. I also plan to do volunteer work, tutor French and Spanish students, cook often for friends, play a lot of tennis, and read more than I do now," she said with a laugh.

PURSUING A master's degree in Media Studies from DePaul University, Community Learning coordinator Luis Pascasio will become a full-time student come next fall.

Before his six years at U-High, Mr. Pacasio moved to Ohio from Manila, the capital city of the Philippines.

"I finished my undergraduate studies in the Philippines at the University of Santo Tomas, and then moved to the U.S. and got my Master's Degree in Communication at Ohio University," Mr. Pascasio said. "I moved to Chicago in 1997 after graduate school. I was a social worker at the Asian American AIDS Foundation and then moved on to after school programs."

"MY JOB at Lab has been very rewarding. As the Community Learning coordinator, I have gained a body of experience and knowledge that has broadened my perspective on life and on people and on social issues. My experiences here will serve as crucial a foundation as I continue on with my education."

Learning coordinator Suzan Snook will be leaving the school after eight years. Ms. Snook came to U-High after heading the learning program at Columbia College



Photo by Aurielle Akerele
SUSAN JOSEPH
World Language pioneer

of Chicago. what she'll miss the most.

"I'll miss contact with students on a daily basis, I think that's the only adjustment that will be difficult," Ms. Snook said. "The reward of working with them, their parents, and their teachers was always so great. Everyone here had always been willing to do whatever they can to help themselves and others, it's been a wonderful place to work."

MS. SNOOK plans to take classes at Northwestern University and travel to Mexico, India and South Africa.

At a party yesterday, faculty members celebrated and honored all of this year's retirees and departing teachers, including Nursery School teacher Stacey Hamburg, Kindergarten teacher Sandra Strong, Lower School teachers Jan Bolling and Deloris Beato and Middle School teacher Bea Harris. Mail room coordinator Michelle Cheung, who retired last Fall, also was honored.

Also leaving U-High are English teacher Barbara Wolf and Physics teacher Ellen McCullagh.

(Editor's note: U-High Dean of Students Larry McFarlane announced last week he was retiring after 42 years at the Lab Schools as a teacher, coach, shaper of much-admired summer camp program and dean of students. The last issue of the Midway will feature a story on Mr. McFarlane and his accomplishments.)

Band treks to Cleveland, wins top honor at festival

By Raghu Somala
Midway reporter

Twenty-nine freshmen and sophomores journeyed to Cleveland for the weekend of May 17-20 for the Performing Arts Consultants (PAC) Festival, the first time U-High has participated, and ended up winning the highest honor, Gold.

They traveled by charter bus accompanied by music teachers Francisco Dean, who organized the trip, Catherine Janovjak and Debra Fogelman.

The PAC Festival invites high school and middle schools across the nation to perform and be reviewed by expert judges who provide appraisals.

"We played three pieces," Mr. Dean said, 'Trittico,' 'Apparitions' and 'Electricity.' The judges listened to the pieces and verbally critiqued them and then gave us written comments. One of the judges personally worked with the band based on what he heard while we played."

Mr. Dean said the participating bands had the opportunity to hear other bands perform.

"I hoped the kids could see the different styles and techniques other schools performed. I hope the kids can see the different styles and techniques

other schools employ and listen to the feedback from the judges and learn from them," he explained. "After all, the whole trip is to show the students some of the experiences of being a musician."

The U-Highers' itinerary also included visiting the Con Selmar instrument factory, in Elkhart, Indiana; the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland; a Cleveland Pops Orchestra concert and a music clinic at Cleveland State U.

"I planned the various museums and concerts in-between to show the kids that there are more things to playing in an ensemble than the Winter and Spring concerts we do every year," Mr. Dean said. "I hope visiting an instrument factory and listening to world class music will helped the students appreciate the diverse world of music."

Students on the trip were as follows: FRESHMEN—Nick Audrain, Micahiah Buchheim-Jurisson, Grace Cain, Merrick Fahrenwald, Sophia Firoamonti-Gorchow, Alexander Foster, Ben Glick, Julia Hedges, Rachel Housinger, Paul Lastra, Emma Lichter, Nora Lin, Phoebe Lincoln, Joe Neal, Dylan Olthof, Olivia Perozo, Maeve Potter, Samir Shekhawat, Eve Skosey-LaLonde, Elizabeth Sullivan, Leah Umanskiy, Nigel an Ha, Kerry Vinson, Daniel Zhu, Ryan Zimmerman.

SOPHOMORES—Glenn Decety, Walker Melton, Sam Van Loon.

U-Highers pile up honors in academic competitions

U-Highers have been piling up yearend academic honors in recent weeks.

In the fifth Midwest Chinese Speech Contest sponsored by the Midwest Chinese Teachers Alliance April 27 at Northside College Prep, a Gold Medal was won by Stephan Peng in the Chinese 4 category. Silver Medals were won by Grace Broderick, Chinese 3, and Leah Rosenzweig, Chinese 2.

The contest is sponsored by the Taapei Economic and Cultural Office and the Confucious Institute.

Among other schools participating were Northside, Walter Payton and Latin.

U-Highers also triumphed in the National Latin Exam. Winners were as follows:

LATIN IV—Maximum cum laude Silver Medal: Jillian Dreixler, Sheridan Small; magna cum laude: Lane Gunderman, Ben Meyer, Katie Ragsdale; cum laude: Charles Chamberlain.

LATIN III—Summa cum laude Gold Medal: Maude Jensen, Maggie Sullivan, Emily Xiao; maxima cum laude Silver Medal: Rosie Ellis, Cameron Harter, Gregory Kerr; magna cum laude: Max Archer, Clea Braendel, Eric Giger, Gabrielle Rosenbacher, Tommi Tsao, Sophia Weaver; cum laude: Cat Eng,

Lucy Huang, Jack Neal, Delan Penn.

LATIN II—Summa cum laude Gold Medal: Lydia Fama, Walker Melton; magna cum laude: Hajira Afreen; cum laude: Aya Nimer.

LATIN I—Maxima cum laude Silver Medal: Theo Ando; magna cum laude: Joanna Cohen, Max Kramer, Logan Young; cum laude: William Bremer, Harry Ni, Mose Sreenby.

In the National Greek Exam sponsored by the American Classical League, Charles Chamberlain was awarded Highest Honor on the Beginning Attic Greek Exam.

In the National French Contest sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French, sophomore Clara De Pablo placed 1st in the nation in Level 1 competition.

At Illinois Council of Math Teachers State Competition May 4 U-High's Math Team placed 1st in its division with 913 points, 167 points ahead of the 2nd place team. U-High placers were as follows:

1ST PLACE—Geometry, Algebra II, Calculator, Junior-Senior Eight-Person team; junior-senior eight-person team, Adam Fine for geometry.

2ND PLACE—Algebra 1.

3RD PLACE—Precalculus, freshman-sophomore eight-person team; orals team; Kahan Modi, Eliot Levmore,

Brief-ly: New faculty member, new photo editors

Kevin Van Eron, a clinical psychologist presently clinical director of diagnostic assessment services at the Claret Center on 55th and Everett, will join the faculty next fall as learning coordinator, replacing Suzan Snook, who is leaving after eight years here.

Principal Scott Fetch made the announcement May 17.

Mr. Von Eron also has a private practice and has served as consultant in Chicago Catholic schools.

NEW EDITORS—Next year's Midway and U-Highlights photo editors have been named by Photojournalism teacher Liese Ricketts. They are, Midway, Jeff Li; U-Highlights, Matthew Garvey; and sports and sports team photos, Fiona Potter.

"We are very lucky to have the outstanding Photojournalism we do," said Journalism teacher Wayne Brasler, who advises student publications with Ms. Ricketts. "All these photographers are

talented, professional in attitude and a pleasure to work with. They work hard and devote enormous time to their photography."

CORRECTION—A senior barbecue photo last issue should have been credited to Lili Steffen. The editors apologize for the error. It occurred because, late on a deadline night, editors were not aware Lili had turned in a C.D. with photos of the event and assumed another photographer had taken them.

Juniors get first-hand college advice



From “useful” to “silly,” juniors offered a range of reactions to “Day with the Deans” Wednesday, May 22. Deans of admissions from Amherst, Stanford, Chicago, and Michigan universities offered their wisdom about the college admissions process.

Morning workshops involved groups discussing fictional applications to fictional Fairbanks University with the deans and college counselors, discussing what schools search for in applicants.

A panel discussion in Palevsky Theatre followed with the deans answering questions ranging from disciplinary records to parental involvement and stressing not every student need apply to top colleges such as their own.

Students and parents from the nearby Woodlawn Secondary School, a U. of C. Charter school, were invited to be part of the program. After the panel discussion, The faculty and guests enjoyed lunch before the visitors departed.

In the photos, Principal Scott Fech (top) introduces the discussion panel, Tom Parker (behind Mr. Fech), Amherst; Ted Spencer, Michigan; Rick Shaw, Stanford; and Jim Nondorf, Chicago.

In the morning workshop (bottom), with participants intently at work, junior Leah Helpingstine, right with her mother Delia, reads the fictional applications to discuss first with their roundtable and then the deans.



Photos by Jeff Li • Story by Mia Luo

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Photo courtesy Julian Ehsan

The U. of C. Bookstore’ amazing colection will keep your summer reading interesting, as sophomore Ross Tizes learns on a recent Saturday visit.



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2007 math whiz returns, as teacher

By Christine Obert-Hong
Midway reporter

For Harley Chang, Class of 2007, coming back to U-High to teach alongside his own previous teachers, felt a bit odd.

“Everyone seems to ask me what it’s like teaching alongside people who were my own teachers while I was at Lab,” said Mr. Chang, a cheerful and engaging young man.

“IT WAS a bit weird at first, but really, I’m quite comfortable around them now. I think the main reason for that is because the Math Department and all the Lab teachers in general have treated me as a professional, as an actual teacher with all the responsibilities that come with it, instead of a student at the teacher’s desk.

“So, yeah, I very much feel like a teacher in the Lab community now. At the same time, in my mind, I still view all of the teachers as my teachers, just in a different sense. I’m still learning from them every day on how to be a better educator.”

Mr. Chang is substituting for Julia Maguire, who went on maternity leave and then gave birth May 3 to Vivian Grace Maguire.

Next year Mrs. Maguire’s classes will be taught by Lizabeth Joseph from the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, New York, where she has been math department chairman five years. She previous taught at Memorial High School in Pelham, New York, and the prominent Beacon School in New York City.

AS A U-HIGHER Mr. Chang participated in numerous activities and became Anne Club president senior year.

Freshman and sophomore years he did swimming, but then switched to cross country and track for his last two years.

Junior year, Mr. Chang joined the Midway, and senior year he became a news section editor and video game reviewer.

DURING HIS SUMMERS he did something few U-Highers ever get to do; he taught in China. His parents both were born in China and have family there.

In 2005 Mr. Chang taught English at Guangxi Normal University in Gulin, Guangxi, along with his classmate Jason Hu; in 2006 he taught at the Inner Mongolia Normal University High school in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia; in 2008 he taught at high school in Beijing, and in 2009 he taught at the Blue Tassel School in Suzhou, Jiangsu.

“My parents are both well known professors,” he explained, “and they’ve always taken the opportunity to go to places, mainly China.” Mr. Chang, “Wherever we went though, it was also like a vacation. But while my parents love traveling, I actually despise it. I hate planes.”

MR. CHANG’S FATHER is Xiao Si, who goes by the name Josh, and his mother is Jie Qi, who goes by Jackie.

Xiao Si is a professor at the College of Lake County. He teaches philosophy and humanities, and specializes in East Asian Philosophy and Ethics.

Jie Qi teaches at Erikson Institute, and specializes in Early Child Assessment.

AFTER MR. CHANG graduated from U-High, he left for China and taught English for a year in Beijing before beginning college at Grinnell in Iowa.

“My mom mentioned teaching in China in passing,” Mr. Chang said, “but I thought it was a good idea and really latched on to it. So my family worked our connections a bit and got me a position as an English teacher at Beijing #12 High School. Most of the foreign language teachers that taught at the school were native English speakers.”

Mr. Chang graduated from Grinnell last



Photo by Jeff Li

HARLEY CHANG teaches an Algebra class in U-High 302, where he once was student in the Class of 2007.

year with majors in Math and Chinese.

“THE REASON WHY I went to Grinnell was because I always knew that I wanted to go to a small school, where I could have a personal relationship with my professors and classes that weren’t taught mainly by grad students.

“Looking back, the dedication of my professors, my education professors in particular, really helped prepare me as a teacher and become the person I am today.” Mr. Chang said, “I’m eternally grateful to all the people who were a part of my life during my student teaching.”

MR. CHANG SAID he wanted to become a math teacher because, for him, definite answers have always made more sense.

“Math was something I understood,” said Mr. Chang, “it was something I had a lot of experience in tutoring before I ever started formally teaching, and at least for me, I witnessed more *aha* moments when teaching math than with other subjects, so it brought me the most joy. I also wanted to teach it because it helped me understand the subject better, by discussing the subject with others.

“NOT TRYING to be cliché, but I loved that feeling of being thanked for something I was able to help someone understand.

“Another reason why, is because I was always a shy kid, and I always thought being a teacher would allow me to talk to people more, joke around with my students, instead of being a computer programmer or sitting in a cubicle all day long.”

“After I realized I wanted to teach math, I knew the next thing I had to do was gain some teaching experience, because that’s a big factor in whether a school will hire you or not.

“I USUALLY SUBBED for the Chicago Public Schools before I took this job,” said Mr. Chang, resting his arm on the chair at Mrs. Maguire’s desk. “Before Mrs. Maguire, I’ve subbed for a couple of other teachers.”

“Fortunately, Mr. Scroll hired me to be the TA for the Summer Geometry course that Summer Lab offers and I did that for two summers. He was kind enough to not only let me teach a few lessons but also went over my lesson plans and helped me reflect on the lesson after I taught it.

“I grew up in a very education-based environment, so it was kind of natural for me to become a teacher. Basically, my parents had a constant influence on me.

“MY DAD is a community college professor and the students would always say how he changed their lives so much through his philosophy and ethics courses. Many of them are older, so they have family or they’re also working at the same time, and many of them tell him that they’ve learned how to treat their family, or how they need to teach their kids how to treat them.

“That’s why I decided to teach, because I wanted to have that same feeling of being able to help.”

Fighting to keep schools open

Relocation of Wadsworth Elementary to Dumas Technology Academy facilities causes a stir as many oppose the consolidation of three schools onto one campus.

By Sonia Bourdaghs
Editor-in-Chief

Chicago public school closings result in next year's relocation of Wadsworth Elementary, which shares facilities with University of Chicago Woodlawn Charter School on 64th and University, to Dumas Technology Academy facilities.

Dumas Technology Academy on 66th and Ellis and Canter Elementary School on 50th and Blackstone are two of 49 schools scheduled for closure in Chicago because of underutilization. Dumas facilities will be converted into a relocated Wadsworth, and students from Wadsworth, and some from Fermi Elementary School on 70th between Dante and Dorchester, will join former Dumas students on the campus.

COMMUNITY LIAISON and Parent Coordinator for Dumas, Yolanda Harris runs the parent room there. The room offers workshops, CPR certification, computer classes and help in filling out job applications, among other things. As the mother of four children attending the school, Ms. Harris expressed concern for students, parents and teachers at Dumas.

"The students are not naïve," Ms. Harris said. "They know what's happening. They are feeling stressed and abandoned. We have a lot of crying, and a lot of older kids are angry. The smaller ones are going to the rallies with their parents but they're discouraged."

"If they decide to pursue with the Wadsworth students coming to Dumas, our students will stay here, unless their parents take them out, and become Wadsworth students."

"ALL THE THINGS they are saying on TV they'll bring to Dumas, we already have. We have three four-day pre-kindergarten classes, three Mac labs and teachers certified on online classes. Pre-kindergarten has a computer lab; we are starting that young."

"They're saying they're bringing all this technology but we already have it. It looks good on paper but we know the truth. CPS is doing a lot of lying."

Concerned about the sudden change in management, Ms. Harris said she was especially concerned for the Special Education program.

"SPECIAL EDUCATION KIDS at Dumas are still in class with other kids. They get pulled out of class for required classes, but they're still with other kids. At Wadsworth, Special Ed is all in one class. That's going to be ugly. You can't have the kids cooped up, that's going to be a big issue."

Wadsworth and Dumas credentials are essentially equal, said Ms. Harris.

"Dumas has been on probation, that's true, but

Wadsworth has been on probation the same number of years," she said. "What logic that they did to say those teachers are more qualified is none for me because it's the same situation."

"I'm confident in our teachers and our staff. People are making decisions who never stepped into the building I don't think Wadsworth's teachers are any better than ours. I don't know how it'll work if they don't bring some of our teachers in to keep it stable."

"IT MAKES ME think it's a political thing because Wadsworth shares buildings with the U. of C. Makes me think they have requirements to Wadsworth that the university will not mess with its students. That's what has them a job. Some strings were pulled. If that's not true, prove it. I don't see any other way."

"If they bring Wadsworth and Fermi kids we're going to be overcrowded. Right now they are saying we are underutilized but there are at least 35 in the kindergarten class. My child is in the class, and it's not under-utilized at all."

SHAYNE EVANS, director of University of Chicago Charter School and managing director of Urban Education Institute, said the University's charter schools had no connection to school closings.

"We have no involvement in that," Mr. Evans said. "None. Our school is already in the Wadsworth building and we won't be using any additional space next year. We are currently in the Wadsworth building and have been for the past seven years."

"We are not currently looking to expand. It's not clear in this case how we would be charged, since charters have to pay a fee to be in CPS buildings. It's not clear that even if we wanted to use additional space we could, it would probably be cost prohibitive. We pay a per student fee and we don't really need the space."

"IN THE LONG TERM we are looking into building a brand new high school. We don't know



Photo by Jason Deng

Dumas Elementary is one of 49 Chicago public schools scheduled for closing next year. Next year, students from Wadsworth Elementary, Dumas Elementary and some students from Fermi Elementary will occupy former Dumas facilities.

if we can do it, but that's what we would really like to do. Ideally we'd keep it in Woodlawn. It would replace the current Woodlawn high school, if we build a new one we will take the kids and the staff and move them there."

Providing a quality education for students is the most important issue, Mr. Evans said.

"I can't speak for the University as a whole but at U. of C. charter we are focused on serving our students, and preparing a hundred per cent of our students for college preparation. One hundred per cent of our seniors were accepted this year to college and last year. It was 96 per cent the year before, and 98 per cent in 2010."

"We had a request to bump our enrollment up from 590 to 650 students but that wasn't because we needed more space, but because we've had such demand from the community for access to University of Chicago Woodlawn charter school in sixth and ninth grade. We just want good schools for everybody, that's the goal."

HISTORY TEACHER Paul Horton, however, believes the University is also trying to increase influence in the Woodlawn neighborhood.

"The University is interested in creating high quality education," Mr. Horton explained. "Through a charter school it can use its resources to make a good school. However, the pact with Woodlawn was that they wouldn't go below 62nd. The University has been subsidizing staff in Woodlawn with forgivable loans."

"They want to do that because it would make the property they own more valuable and stabilize the community. Whenever you do something like this, people who rent in these areas will have a problem paying the higher rents."

MR. HORTON'S PRIMARY concern for Wadsworth students relocated to Dumas facilities is the lack of green play space there.

"These kids are sent from Wadsworth which is a huge school with the capacity for 1200. The grounds are designed for little kids. There are 300 kids at Dumas, and they are getting 400 from Wadsworth and 100 from another school."

"The real issue with Dumas as a facility is that there is no green space. The playground is asphalt. 67th, immediately south of the school, is busy, and across the school there's a cemetery. Every school should have green space. There's more room for kids to run around and stretch their legs."

CPS has avoided closing schools in Hyde Park due to the U. of C.'s political power, believes Mr. Horton.

"The University has a huge interest in Ray School so that faculty have an option for their kids," he explained. "If they don't close Ray they can't close Kosminsky or Kenwood. Real estate agents in Hyde Park want to keep property values up, and whenever a school closes property values go down."



Photo by Jason Deng

Wadsworth Elementary, which shares facilities with the U. of C. Woodlawn Charter School, will be relocated to former Dumas facilities next year. History Teacher Paul Hor-

ton worries that the students, accustomed to green spaces at Wadsworth's current location will find the asphalt playground at Dumas facilities lacking.

As the Midway sees it Now you see it, now you don't

Several weeks ago a representative of one of U-High's most prominent organizations tried to find the person to sign up with so the club could have an ice cream booth at the Rites of May.

The answer she got startled her. There would be no Rites of May this year.

After 44 years, the Lab Schools' cherished spring festival disappeared without so much as a sentence in the Daily Bulletin.

Gone are the rows of student-run food and game booths dotting the courtyard. Gone are roving balloon and other sellers of years past. Gone are student musicians and singers. Gone are the malleable "wedding rings" scattered across the playground.

True, the three-night festival, which at one time drew upwards of 300 people a night, had been shrinking and drawing smaller and smaller crowds over the past few years.

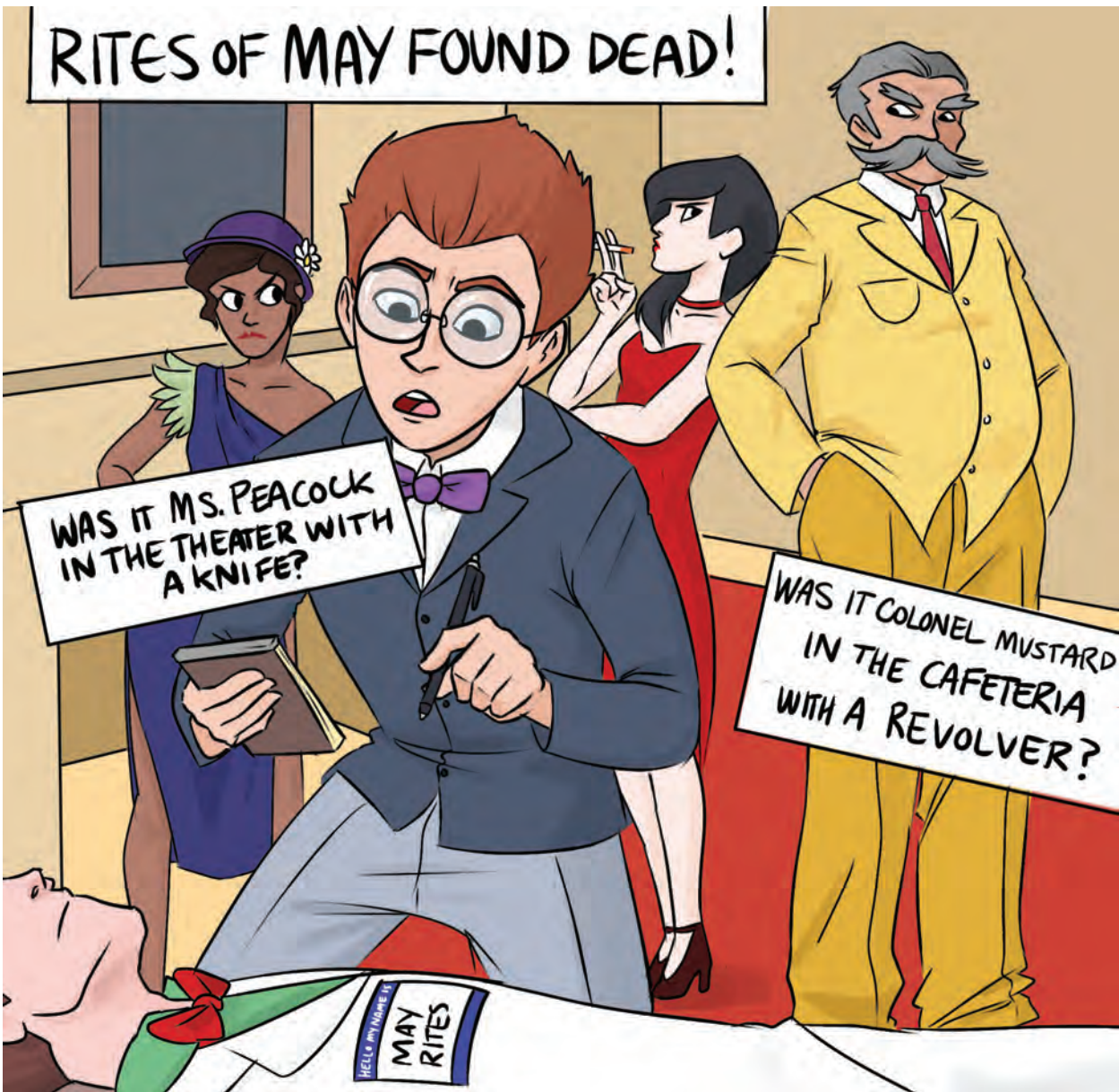
That decline began when parents came up with a Saturday afternoon "International Festival" in Kenwood Mall and in the gyms, intended for younger students. They appropriated the name "Rites of May" for it, too. As the International Festival, with its carnival-type attractions, educational and entertaining international booths and international café, grew, the Thursday, Friday and Saturday original Rites shrunk, dropping Saturday night.

The original Rites of May began in 1969, when a production of "The Tempest" was presented in Scammon Garden. More than 700 people attended.

The next year the play and the Rites moved to the courtyard and more and more student organizations joined in the planning and the festival became a gigantic event packed with people, food attractions, games, entertainers and a May Pole dance. As it got bigger, more and more adults got involved and the sense of a student-run event became diminished.

The Rites of May carried with it years of Lab Schools and, on a larger scale, Hyde Park, Kenwood and Woodlawn history. The event drew families from around the neighborhood to enjoy evenings of picnic suppers together, socializing with friends and, to cap each evening, the Spring Production, always family friendly and top quality.

This year's Spring Production, "Godspell," moved



Cartoon by Lydia Fama

from the courtyard to weather-proof Upper Kovler Gym and drew enthusiastic audiences, but did not have the advantage of getting a crowd from the festival. Kovler Gym is a two-minute walk from the courtyard, so the festival and gym being physically separated really does not qualify as a logical reason for discontinuing the festival.

Not that anyone ever heard a logical reason for discontinuing it. Even the drama teachers were not given the courtesy of being told the Rites were being

dropped. Or if it was just being dropped this year in anticipation of relocating it somewhere else, such as the new early childhood campus on Stony Island, or even back to Scammon once the new art wing is built. We've heard both possibilities.

How can an event with such a wonderful history simply vanish with students and teachers having no idea someone had made a decision it wouldn't take place? And no opportunity to voice their opinions or save event? Something is not Rite.

A school in a time of change

By Duncan Weinstein
Opinion columnist

A few months ago, I was chatting with former Midway editor-in-chief Rachel Sylora, Class of 2011. "How's Lab?" she asked.

Then it hit me.

In the two years since she was a senior, U-High has undergone dramatic change. We have a new principal, a new weekly schedule, and a new arts wing on the way. It was so different, I struggled to give her a picture of what daily life was really like.

Of course, it's not completely altered. Half the students and most of the teachers remain the same, and the buildings still stand.

Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler, who will soon complete his 49th year here, continues to stay after school for hours with the editors-in-chief.

But the school has changed in subtler ways. With the addition of Associate Director Jason Lopez, Asra Ahmed's move to assistant principal and now five principals for the Lab Schools instead of four, the number of administrators has expanded significantly.

For the first time, the school has a full-time security chief. Since faculty and staff salaries constitute the a large part of the budget, according to Finance Director Christopher Jones, and tuition increases every year, adding extra personnel matters.

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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depth feature, Marissa Page;
sports, Mike Glick and Luke Murphy.

COLUMNISTS

City life, Clay Surmeier; opinion, Duncan Weinstein; food,

But at the same time, some new additions have been a long time coming. A third college counselor was added last year, increasing seniors' access to their college counselor. Because the new schedule, U-High added some part-time teachers, such as Physics teachers Michael Wong and Ellen McCullagh.

Also, technology has become increasingly present in student life, though in some cases less beneficial than others. I've never found that the interactive SmartBoards in the Language Lab contribute more in class than a regular blackboard. Every room has a computer, most never used since teachers have their own laptops.

At the same time, U-High provides plenty of computers and printers in school, which helps students make the best use of their free periods. Between the Computer Lab, Language lab, library and iCarts, all replaced every few years, I've thankfully never had trouble finding functional computers.

Ultimately, running the school is expensive: the Lab Schools' operating budget exceeded \$40 million last year, according to the annual development report. And costs matter to the type of school U-High wants to become.

As always, the Lab community discusses, strives for, and almost obsesses over diversity. But if U-High wants to attract not just racial diversity, but class diversity, the economics of attending the school matter. I'm not convinced that's been a real goal.

Moirra Differding; **music**, Marissa Page; **student opinion**, Michele George-Griffin; **sports**, Mike Glick and Luke Murphy.

CRITICS

Film and television, Luke Murphy; **music**, Marissa Page; **dining**, Clay Surmeier.

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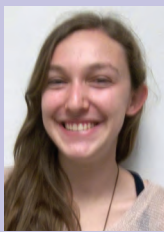
Say What?

What would you have done
differently this year
if you could do it over?



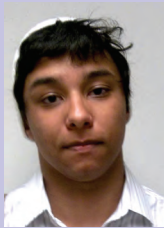
Amol

AMOL GUNDETI, senior:
I would have turned in more work on time and in general.



Alex

ALEX COHEN, junior: I would have made more of an effort to keep a balance between my schoolwork and social life. It is very easy to get alienated by schoolwork, especially junior year.



Tristan

TRISTAN ACEVEDO, sophomore: I would have gotten to know people sooner, and more deeply than I did.



Jamie

JAMIE WILLIAMS, freshman: I would probably not stress as much about getting good grades, and joined more clubs.

—Compiled by Michele George-Griffin

THE CORE OF PAUL HORTON'S DISCONTENT

*National education standards?
Test-score driven curriculum?
Standardizing teaching despite
student differences?
A history teacher says 'no!'*

By Julian Lark
Midway reporter

"Democracy has not been allowed in our city."

So said U-High History Teacher Paul Horton to CBS 2's Mike Parker in a T.V. interview May 15 during a school-closing protest near his Woodlawn home. Mr. Horton has on his own time been fighting what he feels is destructive school reform both in Chicago and across the country.

"MY OLDER BROTHER ran an underground newspaper when I was in college, and now he's a contributing editor to Harper's Monthly," Mr. Horton said in a recent interview in the U-High history office.

"He used to also be the president of the International League for Human Rights. My great-great uncle was the judge in the Scottsboro Boys case in Alabama, his decision overturning racist precedent in the South from over a century. My ancestor was a colonel in the New Model Army who signed the death warrant of King Charles I. So in a way, I guess fighting the establishment runs in my blood."

Mr. Horton cites his over 30 years of teaching experience as an influence to his career as an activist.

"I STARTED OUT teaching in the early '80s at a middle school in the small town of Elgin in Texas near Austin," Mr. Horton said, looking up from behind his laptop adorned with a bumper sticker reading "frack the plutocrats." "By the mid '80s I was in graduate school in Austin, and there I became active in the com-



community. Austin was a hotbed of social activism and I took part in everything from the anti-apartheid movement to fighting the U.S. involvement in El Salvador and Guatemala at the time.

"For the first couple of years that I taught, I was working up to 17 hours a day teaching and coaching, and couldn't make enough money to cover rent, gas, clothes, and food. So I ended up working in a restaurant for six hours a day as well as at school just to make ends meet.

"You sacrifice a lot, working 12-, 13-hour days, and often you feel like you're not being rewarded for your work. There's an opportunity cost to the whole thing, which is something none of the propaganda you see today shows."

FOLLOWING GRADUATE school in 1985, Mr. Horton got a job at a San Antonio public school. After five years he left that position because of his opposition to standardized testing and began teaching history at U-High. After the birth of his child, sophomore Taylor Horton, in 1998, Mr. Horton and his family moved to Cedar Falls, Iowa.

While in Cedar Falls he taught both high schoolers and student teachers at an experimental school run by the University of Northern Iowa. Because of downsizing, he had to get a job at an Episcopal school in Atlanta, Georgia until he was requested to return to U-High in 2007.

Leaving his job in San Antonio came because of the way exit-testing was being forced on teachers, Mr. Horton explained.

"TEXAS BEGAN to adopt a standardized testing regime in the mid-'80s, and I felt that teachers were being forced to teach to the test," he said. "It became a game of memorization, which turns kids off to learning. Also, most of these tests are designed with the assumption that everyone is starting at the same starting line, but that's just not the case.

"From 1985 to 1990 I taught at a school in San Antonio where 70 percent of the 3,500-person student body were English-as-a-Second-Language students. Standardized tests didn't show their mastery of the content, it showed how well they spoke English. Basing life achievements on a flawed assumption like this is practically criminal."

The fight against standardized testing has become a widespread movement, according to Mr. Horton.

"PEOPLE ARE UP in arms all over the place," he said. "In fact, many mothers in Texas have already forced school districts to drop exit-tests. Many have formed protest groups so that their children do not attend school on standardized test days.

"The idea that you can measure a school's success by test scores is absurd. In fact, when we look at the school districts that have been outstanding in these



Art by Lydia Fama

tests, D.C., Atlanta, and Austin, we also see the eruption of massive cheating scandals."

PROMISING THAT U-Highers will not have to deal with the pressures students at other schools do, Director David Magill opposes standardized testing.

"We're not here to create excellent test-takers, we're here to create excellent thinkers who love learning," Mr. Magill said. "Standardized testing does not measure those qualities, and I really don't believe it adds value.

"More than anything about this controversy, I am confident that students at U-High will continue to excel with their scores on the SAT and ACT regardless of whether they are or are not aligned with the latest standards pushed by some entity not affiliated with the Laboratory Schools."

OUTRAGED BY the effect of reform on schools and teachers, Mr. Horton believes the educational system is being crushed by special interests and non-educators.

"There are very legitimate reasons for very reasonable Americans, conservative and liberal, progressive and libertarian, to be concerned about increasing top-down control of education," he wrote in an entry on the teaching blog "Living in Dialogue."

"In a lot of districts, across the country, investors and Wall Street types are pushing for the closing of schools because they can be replaced by charter schools, which are profitable, and virtual schools, like one in Florida which has been created in replacement of hundreds of real schools," Mr. Horton said.

"It's become education for investors, not students. They say they prioritize students first, but what that really means is they're demonizing teachers. What they're really trying to do is bust unions and weaken teachers so that they don't have to pay them as much.

"**ADDITIONALLY, NOT ENOUGH** resources are supplied to schools in poor areas. Many of these schools are being intentionally starved, including many in Chicago, because instead of increasing investment, people in charge want to destroy the public school system. City Hall, and Mayor Rahm Emanuel in particular is trying to starve low-income schools so that they can close them, and not have to pay for their upkeep.

"They don't want to pay for kids that are, 'failing.' Besides, many of Mr. Emanuel's biggest contributors are the same people who have invested in Charter Schools."

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that the cost for Navy Pier's the remodeling of Navy Pier is estimated to be around \$278 million, and the cost for a new DePaul University Basketball Arena bankrolled by the



Mr. Magill

city could reach \$173 million.

"When people in poor communities, in black and brown communities, see Emanuel underwriting expensive projects like the arena at the McCormick Convention Center and the remodeling of Navy Pier, and then turning around to say that City Hall has no money for their local schools, they feel like they're being abandoned. It's not fair."

MR. HORTON BELIEVES Mr. Emanuel will prove a one-term mayor, suggesting that he might run for senator.

"I think Emanuel is politically savvy enough to know that it's not smart to close 49 schools," he said. "Because he's alienated at least 30 percent of Chicago's population, he's got to know that overriding negative public opinion decreases his legitimacy. I doubt he'll run for re-election, maybe he'll run for senator, but his support in Chicago is slipping away quickly."

As of this year, Mr. Horton has become active in opposing a wave of new education reforms called the Common Core Standards Initiative. Written mostly by College Board CEO David Coleman, the standards represents an outline of baseline skills on which students can be tested to monitor the success of their teachers, schools, and districts. Tied to development grants from the federal Race to the Top program, the Common Core, as it is colloquially known, is in effect a federal initiative, according to Mr. Horton.

"**I'VE ALWAYS** published historical writing, but since January I've taken to writing against the Common Core," he said. "I do it on my own time, naturally, and it helps that I have a network of journalists that I correspond with regularly including Ben Joravsky at the Reader and Valerie Strauss at the Washington Post. In reality, though, everyone who is involved in the education 'reform' debate shares stuff with one another.

"Why is it that so few national papers are writing about this? Well, Students First, the organization run by former D.C. superintendent Michelle Rhee gave \$250,000 to NPR for 'education' reporting, and this is like drops in a bucket for them, Students First got \$8 million from the Walton Foundation for this purpose.

"The implementation of the Common Core Standards was never discussed by the Illinois Legislature, has not been debated publicly," Mr. Horton said. "And the federal government has its hands tied because the Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, is empowered through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to make exemptions and fudge the effect any legislation has. The way it was presented, the Common Core was shown to be a state initiative, but it really was something that the federal government persuaded states to adopt because, without it, they would miss money from the Race to the Top grant program."

"The idea that you can measure a school's success by test scores is absurd."

Senior Prom fashions turn simply elegant



Brightly colored and textured dresses fill the racks in Macy's on State Street's Prom selection.



Floor length gowns continue to prove popular as U-Highers go towards more subdued styles.

This Prom U-Highers move away from flashy, sparkly dresses, for a more sophisticated look.

Many senior girls have opted for more subdued gowns this year, focusing on elegance when selecting attire for the "Great Gatsby" themed Prom.

Finding and purchasing her dress in one day at the Macy's on State Street, senior Sarah Curci's gown is a floor length strapless dress in varying shades of blue.

"I looked online a lot before so I knew what styles I was interested in," Sarah said. "I just wanted a long dress because you only get to wear long dresses on a few occasions. I was looking for a nice reasonable price, but was pretty open-minded. I had no dream Prom dress.

"When I got there I just tried on a billion dresses. My mom suggested the store because it has reasonable prices and a big selection.

"Mine is definitely a Prom dress but I didn't want something too blinged out. There's the stereotypical Prom dress that's really out there and huge.

"The vibe this year is very classy and elegant and there are a lot of neutral colors; a surprising number of white and tan dresses. But there are some bright dresses. It's a good variety.

"I think there are a lot of stylish people in our grade with their styles set out, and the dresses reflect that. With the 'Great Gatsby' theme I know some people were thinking more



Some U-Highers have opted for dresses in neutral tones like the tan dresses shown above from Macy's on State Street. Sarah Curci selected a dress at there, noting the wide selection available for Promgoers.

classy and vintage, but I don't know if that actually happened."

As in past years, senior girls formed a facebook group to share Prom dress photographs, where senior Jordan Einhorn shared the dress she purchased at Bloomingdales.

"I think people are moving away from the typical Prom dress," she explained. "Dresses are less flashy and less beaded and blingy. I think there are more dresses that, you

wouldn't necessarily wear again, but that you could see at an adult cocktail.

"They are still full length, but not as bedazzled. Mine has a little shimmer but it's pretty simple and I knew that's what I wanted.

"When looking at Prom photos you can see a very distinct vibe between Proms in the city and suburbs. A lot of girls in the suburbs wear a lot of flashy blinged-out dresses. The styles are more toned down in city."

Story by Sonia Bourdaghs, photos by Fiona Potter

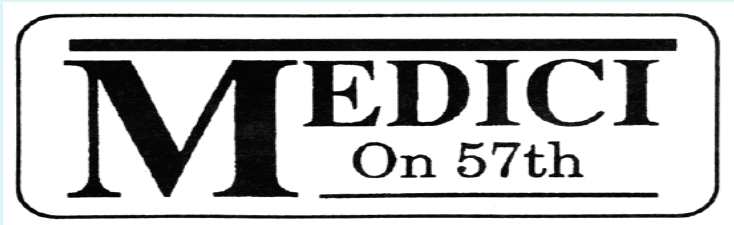
Munch on Medici during the finals crunch!

Stop by Medici to ease your hunger pains and refresh your body and mind as you work towards summer! As the weather heats up, we can help you cool down with our icy refreshments and delicious ice cream sundaes. The best part is that we're just a block away from U-High, so you can stop by during free periods, lunch and before or after school. Try our crispy salads or savory pastas. Or, dig into a yummy reuben and mixed berry smoothie. At the Medici, we have something for everyone!



Photo by Fiona Potter

Stopping by the Medici for refreshments and a snack on a muggy May day, Sophia Weaver, Michael Horio and Max Archer look forward to ice cold strawberry lemonades and a mouth watering, cheesy, deep dish pizza. With the Medici just a block from U-High, they know they can easily stop by at anytime!



1327 East 57th Street ■ (773) 667-7394
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Saturday 9 a.m.-11 p.m.
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Bloody successful

Photo by Daisee Toledo

No, this is not the new Kovler Hospital. It's the Dance Studio in Kovler Gym as the Red Cross Blood Drive organized by senior Deborah Krull got underway Friday, May 3. Deborah's thorough planning and promotion paid off with a healthy response. Identifiable in the photo are Danny Zhang, left, and senior Gabe Osvew. Red Cross drives help insure communities have a sufficient supply to safe and reliable blood, particularly in case of emergencies.

Renaissance editors promise magazine of multiple textures

By Clea Braendel
Midway reporter

Textures will provide the theme for this year's edition of Renaissance, the school's art and literary magazine.

The staff is hoping to distribute the issue before school ends, said Senior Graham Lewis, art board coeditor with Senior Jordy Breslau. Senior Hannah Resnick is literary board editor.



Graham

"We are trying to give everybody a copy in school instead of mailing it out," he explained. "But we had a lot of submissions this year and only about five people working regularly on it

"There were an enormous amount of submissions this year, and we thought the magazine might even be 120 pages. There are about 50 artwork submissions and probably about 65 literature pieces.

"The lit pieces are all over the board. We got creative writing, poetry, nonfiction, science fiction, everything.

Three to receive investigative reporting award

Three Midway editors-in-chief will receive this year's Cecil Denton Award for investigative reporting at the award assembly June 10. They

"We tried to get in as many submissions as possible. For art we got a lot of paintings and drawings. Also a lot of photography, but more mixed media has been coming in the past few publications which has been nice."

Describing the theme of textures, Jordy explained, "All the backgrounds will be ambiguous textures, so we have grass and wax and sweater material,



Jordy

among others. We wanted a design that would be repetitive so that the focus was on the art, but also elegant. "Last year's theme was watermelon, which was really beautiful, and we liked the abstractedness of it, so we wanted to replicate that feel."

Other members of the Renaissance staff are freshmen Luke Herrigal and Genevieve Nemeth and senior Katie Ragsdale.

The adviser is Allen Ambrosini, theater program co-director. Mr. Ambrosini has long experience as a magazine editor, designer and publisher.

are Sonia Bourdaghs, Rolland Long and Duncan Weinstein. Sonia and Rolland also won last year. Mr. Denton was Midway adviser in the 1930s.



Photo by Daisee Toledo

Faces of 'In' Crowd

"Do you know where you're going to college?" was a question no one needed to ask on Senior T-Shirt Day, May 6. "We're in!" signaled, from left, Jamie Toepp, University of Illinois; Jordan Davis, Williams; and Maya Hansen, University of Chicago.



Photo by Fiona Potter

Face to Face

Invited to come in masquerade, about 40 sophomores turned out for a gym lock-in April 26-27. "We watched movies, ate dinner, we basically just chilled out or a long time," said class president J.T. Williams, the man behind the horse mask. The unicorn is Glenn Decety.

Illinois high school press advisers find little protection for keeping their jobs

By Sonia Bourdaghs
Editor-in-Chief

Journalism adviser Stan Zoller evidently will not be returning to Rolling Meadows High School after eight years despite urging by journalism educators that he not be replaced (story in May 3 Midway).

He is the latest in a series of high school publication adviser dismissals in Illinois.

"There are three advisors I know of in the state being threatened with prior administrative review, suspension of their publications or lowered budgets," said U-High journalism teacher Wayne Brasler.

"As far as I can see these people are getting no respect for what they've achieved and feel they have nowhere to go to get effective help. Two of them feel they have no power over their future."

Student journalists' press rights were limited by the 1989 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case *Hazelwood School District vs. Kuhlneier*. Principal Robert Reynolds of Hazelwood East High School in Missouri had asked that two pages of

the student newspaper, The Spectrum, be removed from the May issue because they dealt with subjects including pregnancy and divorce.

The student editors filed a lawsuit, losing in a district court, then winning in a court of appeals. The school district won the 5-3 Supreme Court ruling, which stated administrators could censor student publications in specific circumstances.

Seven states have since passed student press freedom laws.

"There are two states that have very strong state laws that protect advisers against retaliation," Frank LoMonte, executive director of the Student Press Law Center said in a Midway phone interview. "Illinois should absolutely consider that law. There have been several high profile cases of censorship retaliation in the last five years and there is no doubt it is a problem."

Such laws have been pursued over the years in Illinois but a comprehensive measure protecting high school publications and advisers has yet to prove successful.

History Team members going to Nationals

Three History Team members will be the first U-Highers to compete in the National History Day competition, June 9-13 at the University of Maryland at College Park.

The team, advised by history teacher Cindy Jurisson, had won top honors in city, regional and state competitions. Students present original historical research projects, including scholarly papers, but also exhibits, documentaries, performances and websites to be judged by qualified volunteers

In State competition May 2 in Springfield, Natalia Ginsburg, Maddie Rafkin and DJ Smith qualified for Nationals. Sarah

Curci, Rachel Conley and Valentina Gallon also were finalists. Natalia won the George Javaras Memorial Award for superior history, and Maddi and JD won the Margaret Cross Norton Award for best use of primary sources.

Honors also were won by Miranda Garfinkle and Valentina Gallon, ComEd award for history of science and technology; Rachael Conley, outstanding paper in history of public health.

Regionals took place March 2 at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb and city competition March 16 at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Seniors' May Projects

(continued from page 2)

O'Muricheartaigh, being tourists in Chicago; **Gabe Osvew**, photography roadtrip; **MC Pachicano**, religious education at Providence of God Church;

Kyle Parker, Love in Liberia mission trip; **Joey Peng**, cooking with Chef Ramsay; **Patricia Perozo**, Uno Charter School Internship; **Eric Pryor**, screen printing; **Aleeze Qadir**, writing and story boarding a short film; **Katie Ragsdale**, running a short stories and poetry blog;

Adele Rehkemper, creating an Arduino Board; **Ellie Reppy**, studying Christianity and Judaism; **Hannah Resnick**, book project at Murray Language Academy; **Molly Rosenzweig**, veterinary practicing in Germany; **Jacob Rothman**, finding pizza on the road;

Ryan Selig, shadowing GM of basketball operations at Bulls and Sox Academy; **Tony Shaw**, strength and nutrition training; **Angira Shirahatti**, learning to read and write in Hindi;

Elena Skosey-LaLonde, singing songs from the Republic of Georgia;

DJ Smith, cooking with Bea Harris; **Izzy Soble**, illustrating a comic book; **Lili Steffen**, The Life of a Photojournalist: shadowing Marc Monahan; **Rita Stern**, finding pizza on the road; **Maggie Sullivan**, Spanish literature blog;

Egle Tamulynas-Mendoza, Delving into my Lithuanian Roots: language and culture; **Taylor Thomas**, gluten free cookbook; **Jaime Toepp**, photography and poetry; **Hannah Tomio**, creating a mural in the Computer Science Lab;

David Tong, Ariel Investments; Internship **Tommaso Veronesi**, producing an album; **Justin Wanzung**, photography in Chicago; **Duncan Weinstein**, StreetWise Internship; **Dom Wordlaw**, musical production;

Danny Zhang, chinese holiday cooking; **Yaning Zhang**, viola and piano recital; **Catherine Zhou**, exploring long exposure and light photography; **Gloria Zingales**, short music film.



Photo courtesy Marnie Grantham

Faces of Heroes

Among 10 "Unsung Heroes" honored at the annual Community Learning annual appreciation brunch were teachers Daniel Jones, left, and James Catlett. Also honored were:

Faculty members Brian Wildeman, Chris Harper and Louis Coronel; athletic training Mallory Mihalov; support staff member Cynthia Noble; gym attendance Terry Shanks; security office Mike Cephus; and cafeteria executive chef Rodolfo Arellano.

Triumphing over tragedy, tennis star wins Sectionals title

By Mike Glick
Sports editor

Not often does a U-High tennis player bring to mind a Wimbledon champion.

Enter Conrad Harron.

A LANKY sandy blonde senior from Lake View, Conrad came to the Lab Schools in 4th grade with lofty athletic and academic aspirations.

When Athletic Director David Ribbens first heard about Conrad, one thought came to his mind: George Lott. A former U-Higher, Lott won the 1931 and 1934 Wimbledon doubles titles, as well as finishing 2nd at the 1931 U.S. Championships.

At age 12, Conrad ascended to the top spot on the United States Tennis Association (USTA) 12-and-under national rankings.

Then a car crash in Everglades, Florida threatened to end his promising career—and his life—at just 13 years. Conrad underwent months of physical therapy, determined to get back on the court. This year he set out to win the State singles title (results came after Midway deadline).

“I KNEW I wanted to be back on the court after the car crash, but it was tough on me,” Conrad said. “It was hard on my body to recover that quickly. The car accident took me about six weeks to recover from physically, and it took about a year to be back where I wanted to be.

“Today, it affects me on and off the court in much the same way. I feel a lot of gratitude for having the opportunity to improve every day as an athlete and as a student. I want to take advantage of every second of life that I get.”

Conrad opted to stay on the USTA circuit for his initial three years at U-High. Because he could not earn national ranking points playing high school tennis, playing for U-High would discount his ranking and would limit his opportunities to play in larger national tournaments.

“WE DEFINITELY encouraged him to play high school tennis,” Mr. Ribbens said. “The problem was that even if there were 10 nationally-ranked players in Chicago, high school matches don’t count for national rankings. It definitely was disappointing that he didn’t play for us in his first three years of high school, but I certainly understand why he made the decision.”

This season, Conrad joined the Maroons after playing solely on the USTA circuit and won the singles

title at IHSA Sectionals.

“I challenged him to become the next State champion from U-High during the summer before his freshman year,” Mr. Ribbens said. “It’s legitimate to think boys’ tennis is one of our best sports in terms of how many Sectional titles they’ve won. This season, Conrad has blended into and added greatly to the success of the program.”

CONRAD SAYS he has made an effort to use his experiences to help team members.

“I’m not the captain of the team—Lucas Bucheim-Jurisson is—but I feel like I’ve found a good role on the team and have really fit in,” Conrad said. “Before this year it was difficult to really get to know people at Lab due to the tournaments, and I was using a lot of my other time for my studies. But my transition to high school tennis has been a great opportunity for me to get to know people better.”

Committed to Williams College, a Division-III tennis powerhouse and top academic institute, Conrad looks to follow in U-High graduate Gabrielle Clark’s path to a collegiate title.

“Last year, Gabby Clark won the NCAA D-III tennis championship as a student at Emory, and it would be very cool for Conrad to win a championship in the men’s division,” Mr. Ribbens said. “Them going to Emory and Williams, it just speak volumes about their combined athletic and academic success. It shows you can do both athletics and academics at a very high level.”



Photo courtesy of Conrad Harron

CONRAD HARRON

Pitcher concludes high school career with super statistics

By Luke Murphy
Sports editor

With his high school baseball career nearing its conclusion, left-handed pitcher Steven Glick, senior, has transformed from a 10-year-old throwing 42-mile per hour fastballs to one of the most dominant pitchers in the ISL.

Steven finished the regular season with a 7-2 record, 40 strikeouts and a 1.74 ERA over 48.1 innings. Although he was not put in the lineup regularly to hit, of his 12 official at-bats he accumulated five hits: three singles and two triples.

STEVEN’S ROUTE to baseball was anything but ordinary, as his little brother, current sophomore Michael Glick, inspired him to pick up the sport.

“When we were growing up, my younger brother, Michael, was the big athlete in the family,” Steven said. “I feel like usually you hear about the younger brother seeing the older brother doing something and the younger sibling wants to follow in his footsteps, but Michael was always big into sports.”

“He always looked like he was having fun, so the following season I started playing in our local Pee-Wee league, the Hyde Park Kenwood Legends.

“I WAS ON the Pee-Wee Reds for eight, nine and 10-year-olds, and even back with the Reds I was solely a pitcher. I’d spent the year between playing catch with Michael in the backyard and playing with this little net we got that you could pitch against and it’d bounce back. I’d throw to it for hours by myself until I felt comfortable with my pitching. I was throwing about 42-miles per hour back then, and that’s where I started off.”

Impressed with his brother’s development, Michael has looked to Steven for guidance on the field.

“When I joined the U-High team, I hadn’t played baseball for about three or four years,” Michael said. “Steven

Athletes get honored tonight

The last great unanswered sports outcome of the year, who will receive the school’s top honor for sportsmanship, civic leadership, scholarship and athletic excellence, the Monilaw award, will be revealed at the annual Sports Honors buffet dinner and ceremony which begins 6 p.m. in Kovler Gym tonight.

Also revealed will be recipients of

MIDWAY SPORTS



Photo by Aurielle Akerele

Leading off second base, freshman Kenny Koenen says he has learned a lot from teammate Steven Glick. “Although he isn’t a first baseman, Steven has played first a couple times and was able to really help my game there.”

convinced me to lace up again, and he’s been helping me every day since. He has taught me how to stay composed on the mound when I’m pitching, and he helped me become creative with my pitches.

“He always agrees to hit grounders for me or any player who wants them after practice, and he has provided the younger players with incredible support and advice. With his pitching and vocal leadership, he has kept the team rolling.”

WHILE HE HOPES to walk on at Pomona College in California, Steven cherishes his U-High baseball memories.

“We won conference last year, we won Regionals two years ago and I’m expecting to do something good again this year,” Steven said. “Last year’s conference championship was the team’s first in 10 years, which was a lot of fun.

“I was not a full-on recruit at Pomona College, so I’ll be trying to walk on the team and hopefully contribute there. Optimally, I’ll be playing for the next four years.”

Soccer sisters say teamwork has brought them closer both on and off playing field

By Mike Glick
Sports editor

“We’re not necessarily as close together at home as some siblings are because most of the time we’re just working on homework, but soccer’s something we can both do and spend time together doing. It definitely brings us closer.”

Girls’ soccer captain Liana Manuel, senior, said soccer has provided her and her sophomore sister Sylvie an outlet in which they can connect. Liana, a defender, and Sylvie, a midfielder, say they link up well with each other on the field. Despite both playing soccer for nearly their whole lives, this season has been the first time the sisters have played extensively together.

“IT’S BEEN a lot of fun having Sylvie on the team,” Liana said. “I’d never really played much on a team with her before this year, but it’s just been a lot of fun. We get along really well.”

Pointing to her sister’s decisive and precise passing, Liana said that Sylvie’s best trait on the field is effectively keeping the ball moving.

“Sylvie does a really good job of distributing the ball, and she’s one of the team’s best strikers,” Liana said. “She’s got a very good shot, and everyone on the team has encouraged her to shoot the ball more. But she really distributes the ball to other players on the team better than anything else.”

AS A WING defender, Liana has shut down the opponents on her side of the field.

“Liana is really good at defending,” Sylvie said. “She really took leadership of the team this year, and she did a lot to prepare for the season. She has kept us together as a team, and she has kept us positive. She does a lot more than is sometimes shown on the outside.”

Coach Mike Moses agreed with Sylvie, saying that Liana has taken strides this year in both her defensive and offensive play.

“LIANA DOES a real nice job of knowing when to commit to tackle the ball, and she defends the left side well,” Coach Moses said. “She does a good job of balancing our defense when the defensive shape changes and the ball is on the right side.

“As a captain, she has been more vocal, which seems to have brought leadership qualities out of Sylvie. The sisters’ camaraderie sets a fine example for their teammates to emulate and be supportive of each other.”

While they don’t spend a lot of time together at home, Sylvie and Liana say they get along well, especially on the soccer field.

“We really connect well on the field,” Sylvie said. “We don’t spend as much time together as other siblings do, although we’re certainly not distant, we’re just always doing different stuff at home. It’s nice to get on the field and play together and hang out with her.”



Photo by Lili Steffen

Releasing the ball high into the air from her position on the left flank, Liana Manuel gets the Maroons’ offense rolling forward in their 3-0 victory over the North Shore Raiders April 30 on Jackman Field.

Air rifle enthusiast aims to make it to Junior Olympics

By Maia-Claire Boussy
Midway reporter

Pop! Wearing glasses, red gloves with non-slip padding, navy blue boots, a tan sling to keep the gun raised, and a hard leather shooting jacket, Christine Obert-Hong aimed and fired her air rifle in far South Suburban New Lenox with the River Valley Sharpshooters on a recent cool spring weekend. Firing at a small practice target, Christine practiced with a few of her teammates.

After attempting to find an extra curricular activity to participate in, Christine Obert-Hong began shooting air rifles two years ago, first competing with a Sporter rifle, then advancing to the heavier and more expensive Precision rifle.

“**ORIGINALLY, I WAS** just trying to find an extracurricular activity to do, and my dad was helping me with that,” Christine said, “So when he suggested that I try Air Rifle, I thought it sounded like a good idea. I shot Sporter for less than a year, then I went to River Valley Sharpshooters and have been shooting Precision for about a year and a half. So in total about two years.”

Air rifles fire projectiles by means of compressed air or other gas. The River Valley Sharpshooters, the club Christine competes with, now in the town of Clifton, is composed mostly of boys and ranges from 8-18 year olds. The club consists of 10 kids in total, four shooting with Precision rifles and Christine usually practices on the weekends for about an hour.

“No matter the range, all shooters wear safety glasses, or at least regular glasses. Protection is very important in the sport, and is always emphasized. We also wear gloves on the hand holding the gun, which depends on the shooter. This helps keep the gun from digging into our hand while we hold it.

“**THE HAND** you shoot with then depends on which eye is dominant. If your right eye is dominant, then you shoot with your right hand. If your left eye is dominant, like me, you shoot with your left hand. This whole factor usually has an affect on how well you shoot because if you’re right handed and your right eye is dominant, then it will be easier for you to force the shot because you’re so used to using your right hand. However, if you are right handed but

your left eye is dominant and you shoot using your left hand, you won’t force the shot as much.

“Practically all Precision Air Rifle shooters wear equipment other than the glasses and gloves though. We wear a special jacket where the material is tough and helps keep our backs straight and still. We also wear pants that are made of the same material, though I don’t have any yet so I just wear jeans.

“**WHEN YOU FIRST** get the pants though, the material is so stiff, that you can literally stand them upright on the ground and they won’t fall over. Then we also have special shoes that are extremely flat that also help keep us straight and still. It’s usually optional to have ear protection on since Air Rifles aren’t as loud as regular guns. I also use a tan sling to help keep the gun up, a gun stand, and a gun scope”

Christine shoots at competitions where she is scored on the precision of the shot.

“All Air Rifles shooters use targets that are about an inch or two in diameter,” Christine said, “In the center is a black bullseye, and inside of that are small rings. Each ring has a number on it, going from one to nine, and the closer to the center you get, the higher the number is. The bullseye, right inside of the 9 ring, is the 10 and is marked by a dot the size of a period for 12 size font.

“**DEPENDING ON** if you’re shooting at a regular competition or practice, the highest score you can get for each bullseye is just a 10. But if you’re shooting at a more prestigious competition, like the competition that decides who goes into the Junior Olympics, then the closer to the very center you shoot, the higher your score.

“So, for example, if you shoot slightly off to the side, but you still hit that bullseye, you might get a 10.7. The highest score you can get for this system is a 10.9. The person who has the most points is the winner.”

Christine doesn’t consider herself an athletically-minded person

“**I DON’T REALLY** practice any other sports,” said Christine, “I used to play soccer for our school, but I don’t anymore. I have a lot of extracurricular activities that I do. I scuba dive, hike, and a few other things like



Photo courtesy Tina Odle

At Clifton Commerce Center in Clifton in Iroquois County, Christine Obert-Hong competes for a spot in the Air Rifle Junior Olympics in Colorado. She plans to try again until she makes it.

writing and drawing.”

Christine participated for the second recently in the Illinois Citizen Markmanship Program in New Lenox.

“I competed in the 2013 IL CMP Three Position Junior Olympics last March 16. It was the qualifying competition to go to the real Junior Olympics. I competed in the second age group, which consists of 14- and 15-year-olds, as I was 15 at the time. I placed second in my age group, but did not score enough points to compete at the actual Junior Olympics.

TO BE INVITED to compete in the Junior Olympics, you have to be in the top 40 scores out of the entire country. Even if all 40 are from the same state, all of the shooters are still invited.

“It was a three-position competition which means you shoot for about 20 minutes lying on your stomach. This is called prone. Then you shoot standing for about 25 minutes, and finally you shoot kneeling for about 20 minutes. Prone is the easiest to shoot because of how much more balance you have and how well your weight is distributed.

“Standing is the hardest because you have so much less balance and you have a much smaller space to distribute your weight. For each position you shoot two sheets of targets, and each one has ten targets, then two practice targets in the center. At competitions, you get about 10 minutes to shoot the practice targets on the first sheet. This way you can set up your position correctly.

“It’s exacting, but really I find shooting relaxing.”

Track teams wind up in championship style

By Mike Glick
Sports editor

“Kids like her don’t come as an accident.”

So said track coach Debbie Ribbens of Sarah Curci, senior. Known at school for her curly hair and always-bright smile and on the track for her long, quick strides, Sarah ran her final races as a U-Higher May 18 at the IHSA State Championship in Charleston, Illinois.

At the ISL Championship May 3, Sarah continued her legacy as the top long-distance runner in the ISL, placing first in the 800, 1600 and 3200 meters and leading the girls’ squad to 1st place. The boys also took 1st.

“**GOING INTO** the ISL Championship, our team goals were to win both the boys’ and girls’ championships,” Sarah said. “We weren’t exactly expecting to win, but we definitely felt like we could.



Photo by Jason Deng

Warming up, Senior Sarah Curci takes a few preparation laps to make sure her legs are revving and ready to go for the race.

We knew we could do it.

“On the individual side, I was pretty nervous. I was in a lot of events and I knew it would be tiring and that there would be a lot of other fast girls that would be challenging me. I was really happy with how I did, and I was very happy to add to and help the team score.”

With a team-first mentality, Sarah helped the four-by-800 team—consisting of her, senior Hannah Tomio, junior Sonia Bourdaghs and freshman Grace Cain—to a win at Sectionals May 10 and a trip to State. At State, Sarah took 6th in the 3200 meters and 7th in the 1600.

“**SHE PUTS HERSELF** down on the list of importance and always puts others first,” Coach Ribbens said. “She has so much integrity, and she has a great support system in her family.

“She’s just a wonderful young woman besides being an outstanding runner. She’s really a mentor for the younger runners, and she nurtures them. She helps calm them down. That’s really irreplaceable.

“What you see on the outside is truly what you get from Sarah. That’s really who she is. She thinks about others before herself. But when it comes to race time, she puts on her game face. She is gritty. Her concern this season was to get as many people down to State as possible, and if that meant doing relays she was game.”

ALTHOUGH DONE competing in U-High’s maroon singlet and shorts, Sarah will run next year in college at Washington University in St. Louis.

“I think the reason I liked Wash U. and the team so much was because it’s so much like the U-High track team atmosphere,” Sarah said. “The team was very close, like a family. I look forward to being part of that family atmosphere again. I really fell in love with the close-knit group of runners.”

Coach Ribbens has no doubt that Sarah will add to the great family atmosphere on the university’s team.

“Sarah deserves all the credit for being

able to run in college,” Coach Ribbens said. “She deserves all the accolades she has received, and she’s going to be a great college teammate.”

SCOREBOARD

Track and field

At the Chicago Christian Invitational April 27 Sarah Curci won Female Athlete of the Meet.

Personal records were set by Max Volchenbourn (two), Olivia Perozo (also two), Clay Surmeier, Arthur Chang, Zach Emanuel, Jacob Meyer, Frank Waggoner, Aaron Smith, Charles Chamberlain, and Michele George-Griffin. Maroons placing in the top five in their events included Max, 800m and 1600m; Sarah, 1600m and 3200m; Jacob, 3200; Alex Thompson, 400m; and Lucy Kenig-Ziesler, 300m.

At the ISL Championships May 3 at Benedictine University in west suburban Lisle both girls’ and boys’ track teams came in 1st.

With 146 points, the girls won over North Shore County Day by 8 points. With 126 points, boys beat Northridge Prep with 124 points and Latin with 119. Races were won by Sarah in the 800, 1600 and 3200m, and Alex in the 400; and junior Bolu Johnson in 100-, 200-, and 400-meter runs, junior Max Volchenbourn in the 800-meter, and freshman Jacob Meyer in the 3200m.

Girls moved to Sectional 2A competition May 9 and boys to 1A Sectional competition May 17.

The girls placed 2nd at their Sectional. Qualifying for the State meet May 16-19 were the following: Sarah Curci, 1st in 1600m and 3200m; Lucy Kenig-Ziesler, 2nd in the 3200m; Olivia Perozo, 2nd in 100m hurdles; the 4 x 800m relay team of Hannah Tomio, Sonia Bourdaghs, Grace Cain and Lucy Kenig-Ziesler, which finished 1st.

In downstate Charleston at Eastern Illinois University for the IHSA 2A State Track Championships the weekend of May 17 Sarah finished 6th in the 3200m race (11:18.02) and 7th in 1600m race (5:13.41).

Runs took place in three hours in bad heat. Lucy ran a 3200m race in 12:13.93. Olivia ran a personal record in the 100 hurdles and the 4 x 800 relay of Hannah, Sonia, Lucy and Jax Ingrassia competed.

Girls’ soccer

North Shore, April 30, home: Varsity won 3-0; **Glenbrook North**, May 3, away: Varsity lost 7-0; **Wheeling**, May 4, away: Varsity won 1-0; **Deerfield**, May 4, away: Varsity lost 4-0; **Uno Garcia**, May 7, home: Varsity won 7-0; **Eric Solorio**, May 8, away: Varsity won 5-0, j.v. won 2-1; **Hinsdale South**, May 15, away: Varsity lost 5-0.

Baseball

Latin, April 30, home: Varsity lost 4-0, j.v. lost 8-4; **Grayslake Central**, May 1, home: Varsity lost 3-1, j.v. lost 13-1; **Parker**, May 3, away: Varsity won 5-4, j.v. tied 3-3; **Jones**, May 4, away: Varsity won 9-6; **Northridge**, May 6, away: Varsity won 6-1; **Northridge**, May 7, home: Varsity won 10-0; **Uno Garcia**, May 7, home: Varsity won 9-8; **Chicago Christian**, May 8, Standard Bank Stadium: Varsity won 6-4; **Northridge**, May 8, away: j.v. won 11-3; **North Shore**, May 13, home: Varsity won 14-0; **Latin**, May 14, away: Varsity lost 5-0; **St. Ignatius**, May 4, UIC: Varsity won 6-1; **Urban Prep-Bronzeville**, May 22, home: Varsity won 4-0.

Boys’ tennis

At IHSA Sectionals May 17 and 18, the tennis squad placed 1st of nine teams. Conrad Harron and Lucas Bucheim-Jurisson placed 1st and 2nd, respectively, in the singles division. The teams of James Duran and Jeesae Kim and Matthew Garvey and Kassim Hussein placed 1st and 2nd, respectively, in the doubles division.

No flies on evolving Biology program

Hands-on experiences, technology, University links propel curriculum into future

By Moira Differding
Editor-in-Chief

Hundreds of elongated black fly larvae crawl inside drawers in U-High 213, a biology lab. But don't call the Orkin man. There's no infestation; there's research going on.

Fruit flies share nearly 60 percent of their genes with humans, and so are often used during gene modification experiments; as a result, they're easy to breed. In recent years, however, many scientists have looked to Black Soldier flies to manage waste in impoverished countries, but no reliable breeding instructions are known yet according to the scientific journal "Nature."

TWO YEARS AGO, University of Chicago biologist Urs Schmidt-Ott decided to research Black Soldier flies from an evolutionary developmental perspective. But he faced one problem; according to U-High Biology teacher Daniel Jones. He wasn't sure how to raise them.

So he asked a U-Higher if he knew anyone who wanted to help write protocol for raising the Black Soldier Flies. The U-Higher relayed the message to Mr. Jones and fellow teacher Daniel Calleri, and after purchasing the eggs from a Georgia-based website, the mainly freshman class began claiming drawers in U-High 213 and creating various terrariums to house their flies in.

The goal of having Introduction to Biology students raising the flies is to aid student's understanding of biological research protocols, Dr. Calleri explained.

"EVEN SIMPLE RESEARCH is difficult," he said. "It's not just putting bugs in a box and watching butterflies come out, it's more of can you even get the bugs to survive to that stage? And I think that's a huge part of the Soldier Fly experiments we ran with the freshmen. Biology isn't always easy. And biology isn't something you can just memorize, you have to actually do it with your hands."



Photo by Jason Deng
Holding a skull replica of *Homo ergaster*, one of human kind's closest relatives along the evolutionary chain, science teacher Sharon Housinger explains the species' diet to Michael Horio

Outdoor classroom would offer new dimension to science, nature studies

By Julian Lark
Midway reporter

Located between Kovler Gymnasium and 59th Street, a planned outdoor classroom will feature rocks covered in greenery, a pond with croaking frogs, a running stream of fresh water and a natural amphitheatre carved into an embankment. The first phase of construction should be visible next year.

A 12-person committee including teachers from the Lower, Middle and High Schools faculties, as well as U-High Parent Jill Riddell, Associate Lab Schools Director David Stafford, and U. of C. Associate Director for Campus Environment Richard Bumstead was formed last Fall to discuss an architectural blueprint for the classroom.

Middle School Science Teacher Jeffrey Maharry had developed the idea for an outdoor classroom with Lower School Science Teachers Gerold Hanck and Gwennan Ickes and Nursery School Teacher Stephen Pratt. Mr. Maharry said the group was inspired by naturalist Richard Louv, a visiting scholar at Clemson University in South Carolina, who wrote about the lack of contact between children and nature in his 2008 book, "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder."



Photo by Jason Deng
Preparing a new beetle specimen for mounting, science teacher Daniel Calleri, right, points out his favorites to students Nathan Isaac, second from left, and Luke Herrigul as teacher Daniel Jones chimes in. More than 30 species of fish, reptiles and insects call the science classroom U-High 213 home, with new tenants continuing to move in.

"And I think that's what we're trying to teach them, to get them to think in a proper scientific manner. To have them ask questions about what they hear or see, and wonder why things are the way they are, to have them think in an evolutionary biology perspective."

"They wonder why organisms are still evolving, but that's because their environments are constantly changing. To get them to think like biologists is a key factor in how we teach. They can apply this method of thinking to other subjects as well."

BEFORE RAISING the Black Soldier flies, freshmen were arranged in groups of three to six students each, and were instructed to use whatever materials they found available in the classroom to build fly habitats and take shifts taking care of the fly larvae.

Freshman Mattie Greenblatt had success raising her group's flies to adulthood, but then hit a bump.

"We had no success with mating, though there were groups who did," Mattie said. "We kept our larvae in a small environment, then, when they matured, they were moved to a huge joint cage for maximum mating possibilities. I liked working with live organisms, since it's very different from working with theoretical organisms, and is good experience. My lab group did well, but often the work was not split evenly."

MR. JONES BELIEVES working with the flies has helped students better understand the processes biologists must undergo when researching.

"Last year's class were the guinea pigs in trying to successfully raise Soldier Flies and have them produce offspring," Mr. Jones said. "The process right now is still trying to hammer out a rearing protocol. We got them just fine from larvae to adulthood last year, but getting them to breed was what we strove for this year. Students got larvae and used materials like lights and drawers in the classroom to build habitats that would accommodate

the flies needs.

"One group got theirs to mate this year, and they got so excited and were clustered around the cage snapping pictures of flies having sex. They invested a lot of time building the habitats and monitoring the flies that they got so excited to finally see their efforts pay off."

"ULTIMATELY, THOUGH, the eggs dried out because the light in the cage was too hot. And we learn these things every year so we can apply them for the next round of soldier flies, hoping to get the eggs to grow to adulthood."

"Having students run their own experiments like this, which aren't guaranteed to succeed, is how they really learn how to do research and run experiments instead of just reading the textbook. And it's really what the students put into it. If they didn't check their flies or adjust their habitats, they didn't get them to grow into adults. It's part luck and part hard work, and it's important for them to understand that."

While Mr. Jones believes that research represents a key part of biology, he also believes illustrating the results of experiments is also important.

"WE BEGAN last year requiring illustrations but not to the extent we did this year," Mr. Jones said. "We gave them specific techniques for them to use, and required them to use more technical drawings. Instead of just drawing what you saw, you also had to draw it to scale. Just trying to get them to shade things and give them that three dimensional shape in their notebooks."

"We required them to illustrate the fly larvae under the microscopes, and drawing the tiny details helped them further understand the anatomy of the flies. Making them draw objects they see under the microscope helps them see details of the specimen that they otherwise might have missed."



This preliminary vision of the still-in-the-planning outdoor classroom on the south side of Kovler Gym has students, teachers and parents imagining the possibilities.

The current Lab Logs area will be closed off to make way for eventual construction.

The Parents' Association contributed \$300,000 from this year's Connections benefit to the project, only a portion of the expected \$1 million price tag estimated by the architects from Conservation Design Forum, according to Director David Magill.

"When we asked the architects to draw up a plan with some of our ideas, they presented us with a Cadillac of a design," Mr. Magill said. "And when you are promised a Cadillac, you don't want to settle for a lot lesser car. However, since we don't have enough money we think we'll have to build the space in multiple stages."