



Displaced, teachers adjust to new spaces

By Sonia Bourdaghs
Editor-In-Chief

One of many teachers displaced by the demolition of Belfield Hall in preparation for the school's new Arts Wing, Art Teacher Brian Wildeman has moved to Blaine 117, from his former student-art-covered room, Belfield 154, in Art Alley, the long corridor linking art rooms.

Demolition of the historic Belfield is about to begin. Several U-High teachers including Lucija Ambrosini and Allen Ambrosini, theater; Liese Ricketts, photography; and World Language teachers who had offices in Belfield Hall have moved to temporary spaces during construction of the building.

Small class sizes in most art classes and a lack of 7th grade classes will ease the transition, Mr. Wildeman pointed out.

"I was worried at first, but this room is bigger and has a mini computer lab for Design Communication class," he explained. "They say the move is temporary but if not it's okay."

"What was special about the last room was that students decorated it and felt that it was theirs. The slated Arts Wing and Earl Shapiro Hall might have a bit more space and modern-looking facilities. However, I think we will lose much of the quirky Hogwarts-like charm and personality that is truly special."

Mr. Wildeman's former neighbor across Art Alley, Ms. Ricketts, has been transferred to Judd 208.

"They moved earth to make it happen. I didn't have walls two weeks ago; now there are computers and air conditioning," Ms. Ricketts said. "I'm very pleased; it's a positive experience. Being in a new space allows you to change how you teach. I really think I have to give a lot of credit to Associate Director Dave Stafford, I was really happy with how he handled it."

"The new room is huge, it's twice as big



Photo courtesy of Joe Kallo

At a Faculty Planning Week opening ceremony, Director David Magill gave a speech on the rooftop of the new Early Childhood Center, Earl Shapiro Hall, located between 58th and 59th on Stony Island.

with air conditioning, all-new furniture and computers. There are also new scanners and printers. I couldn't be happier."

Principal Scott Fech hopes construction will bring U-Highers together.

"A couple of years are going to be really difficult as space will be at a premium," Mr. Fech said. "Routes you're used to won't be available. Certainly there is going to be a noise level we have not experienced before. Earl Shapiro Hall was the first priority to get it ready to open. Because the high school is less affected, moves have been done in the last couple weeks. It's been stressful."

Relying on teachers to tell him when noise levels are too high, Director David Magill hopes to manage volume levels and cleanliness throughout construction.

"It's going to be a challenge; it's a lot easier to build on a campus with nobody there," Mr. Magill said. "It's already a challenge because of different walking routes that need to be taken. We may have to ask the construction company to stop their loud work, like jack hammer drilling, while school is in session and

come resume their work after school hours."

Earl Shapiro Hall, on the new Early Childhood Center campus between 58th and 59th on Stony Island, houses nursery through 2nd grade classes. At the opening ceremony of Faculty Planning Week, Mr. Magill spoke from the building's unusual rooftop play space.

"It was a beautiful day and a great beginning," Mr. Magill said. "People were very happy with the opportunity to be there and amazed with how nice the school was. You don't get a sense of how big it is until you see it finished."

"The only thing constant in life is change, sometimes more than normal. I view this as being constructive change. We are gaining new learning spaces that can finally match the quality of the program that has been around for years."

Christopher Jones, executive director of finance and operations, said he has been focused on logistics and maintenance in the move to two separated campuses.

"We are making a shuttle service during the morning drop off and afternoon during

(continues on page 3)

Principal travels to bring school new initiatives

By Mike Glick
Editor-In-Chief

Fostering a new exchange program for Mandarin students and connections with prominent colleges on the East Coast, Principal Scott Fech made trips to Beijing, China and Massachusetts this summer.

In China, Mr. Fech visited Beijing Number Four High School (BFHS), one of the country's most prestigious schools. Hoping to help the Chinese program here grow, Mr. Fech visited the potential exchange partner's campus.

One result is BFHS Chinese teacher Miao Liu is at U-High teaching this year.

"We wanted a program for the Chinese students similar to what we have in Stuttgart for the German students," Mr. Fech said. "We're hoping to have up to 12 kids come here in January from China and have 12 U-High students go there later in the year."

"I was sent to Beijing because it's a high school program, and we needed someone to work with BFHS's lead administrator. BFHS is the number one or two school in all of China, so it made a lot of sense to partner with them."

"What's important is that the Mandarin program is still in its infancy at U-High, and this is a natural growth in progression. This is a maturing of the program."

Later in the summer, Mr. Fech visited colleges located near a Harvard University leadership program he attended in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"I chose the Boston area because I was already going to Harvard," Mr. Fech said. "Had I been in California I would have visited West Coast schools. I talked to Jim Nondorf, the University of Chicago's Dean of Admissions, and he told me this was a key way to build stronger relationships with colleges."

"It was also discussed with Associate Director of Educational Programs Jason Lopez, Lab Schools Director David Magill and the Board of Trustees, specifically the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, one of the Board's standing committees."

Mr. Fech also consulted the college counselors prior to his visits.

"I applied to the Harvard program before deciding which schools to visit, so I worked with the college counselors to go to the schools where U-High kids frequently apply," he said. "They are also schools where we have kids currently enrolled. It's good for me to see what types of students excel at those places."

"I stayed for several days to visit with the deans of admissions at Harvard, Tufts, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Wellesley and Brandeis."

"Much like we did with our juniors on the Day With the Deans, it helps us enhance our application process. It makes sure we get kids into the colleges of their choice. It also shows the deans why U-High students would be strong at their colleges or universities."



Mr. Fech

New faculty come from as far as China

By Natalie Holley
Associate editor

New U-High faculty includes a teacher from Beijing, China, Chinese Teacher Miao Liu.

Also joining the faculty are Dean of Students Ana Campos, Community Learning Coordinator Hannah Evans and Learning Coordinator Kevin Von Eron, and new teachers Lizabeth Joseph, math; Carrie Wren Prystalski, math; Matthew Martino, physics; Christine Wilson, English; and Jin Yin, Chinese.

For the past 13 years Ms. Campos served at the University of Chicago

as the Director of Undergraduate Student Housing, helping students adjust to living away from home.

"I focused on creating a safe and comfortable environment for all, but most importantly a place where everyone felt like they belonged to a good community," Ms. Campos said.

"I think that my focus on community is exactly why I'm prepared for this job- I want to work with and for the students, by working with and for the faculty, I hope to create an exemplary experience in and outside the classroom for everyone at U-High."

Raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia,

Ms. Joseph moved to Washington D.C. and worked as Head of the Math Department at Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn before coming to U-High.

"I'm looking forward to teaching full-time and getting the chance to reconnect with students," she said. "It's easy to lose focus on the teaching aspect of things once you become an administrator. Lab has a great faculty, and a really creative and collaborative math department."

After 18 years in the business world, Mr. Von Eron decided to return to Clinical Psychology, a subject he had been fascinated by as an undergraduate. He received a master's and doctoral degree from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology and has been working with inner city students for the past 10 years.

"I thought all I was going to do was work with adults, but my field work for my degree ended up being in inner city schools and I fell in love it," Mr. Von Eron said. "I really enjoy helping kids be successful, and helping the teachers and parents that want students to succeed."

Editor's note: The next issue of the Midway will include a feature on Chinese teacher Miao Liu from Beijing.



Photo by Jeff Li

During a two-day planning session new faculty members enjoyed a picnic. From left, were Dean of Students Ana Campos, Matthew Martino, physics; Lizabeth Joseph, math; Hannah Evans, Community Learning; Kevin Von Eron, Learning Coordinator; Jin Yin, Chinese; and Carrie Prystalski, math.

As the Midway sees it

Big challenges in a time of change

Amid renovations, the new Earl Shapiro Hall, a new Dean of Students and a second-year principal, U-High will have many new additions to balance with old traditions this year.

The opening of the contemporary-looking Earl Shapiro Hall this Fall on Stony Island Avenue continues a string of renovations at the Lab Schools. This new Early Childhood Center campus is designed specifically for younger students to provide many benefits not available on what is now known as the Historic Campus.

In a few years, a new Arts Wing will replace beloved Belfield Hall on the Historic Campus. The short-term changes to student life during this construction period will include classes moved to temporary locations and, resultingly, longer treks between classes. Surely U-Highers can adapt to these changes easily.

While all the the improvements will surely benefit student education, hopefully U-High culture will not change to fit its new exterior. To many U-Highers, Belfield Hall was full of niches they had created. A prime example of a Lab Schools tradition, the hall was also home to paper-maché gargoyles made by 6th grade art students. The creatures gave the hall a unique feeling, and helped the interior of the school live up to the gothic style of the buildings.

The beloved Art Alley held generations of student artwork (and graffiti), creating a comfortable space for artists to explore. Years from now when current students come to visit U-High, they will find unfamiliar new facilities where they once made handprints on the walls.

A new Dean of Students, Ana Campos, also promises change after a 42-year era (in several roles) with the previous dean, Larry McFarlane. The new dean will be working with second-year principal Scott Fech, who learned the ropes of U-High last year. The combination of two relatively new leaders in the U-High community suggests policy changes could accompany facility renovation at U-High.

Although students from current and past years will remember Belfield Hall nostalgically, this is an exciting time for the Lab Schools community. Improvements in facilities and fresh policies will help U-High grow. While preparing for these additions however, U-Highers need to pass down the sense of community unique to U-High, so that the spirit of the Lab Schools is not torn down with Belfield Hall.

You have a voice in the U-High Midway

Welcome back to U-High, and to the 90th volume of the U-High Midway.

This year, as in the past, journalism and photojournalism students will produce nine issues—about once a month—covering people, events and both in-school and community issues which impact U-High, the University and Hyde Park. This year we particularly plan to focus on feature-based writing and national and global news as it affects the U-High community.

Our goal is to provide U-Highers and all our readers with an accurate, relevant and vibrant news source valuable to you, our readers.

Our readers are part of the Midway, too. We invite and encourage students, faculty members, parents and all community members to submit story ideas, guest columns and letters for consideration for publication. It is easy to do; just place what you have written in Wayne Brasler's mailbox in U-High 106. The editors will in return contact you.

Throughout its history the Midway always has focused on providing a big picture of school life, and it has never hesitated to cover controversial topics. That said, the paper cannot print libel, material legally considered obscene or any content that could be construed as possibly disrupting the running of the school.

Though it has never once happened in the history of the Midway, U-High administrators do have the legal right to review the paper before publication because ours is private school. But our tradition has been for administrators to be part of the news team, offering story ideas and advice on handling complex topics. Our advisers, Mr. Brasler and Liese Ricketts are the only adults see stories and photos before the paper appears and that is in their role as teachers, not censors.

So let the Midway's 90th year begin...and prove a great one.



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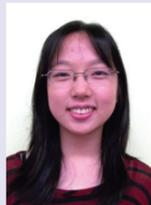
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Cartoon by Lydia Cochrane

Quick Q

What are you looking forward to at U-High?
(asked of new students)



Kellie

KELLIE LU, sophomore (Hunter College High School, New York City): Of course I'm looking forward to making new friends, but also the social and academic atmosphere here at Lab. I've also heard funny things about some of the teachers.



Matt

MATT FERRARO, freshman (Chicago City Day School, Lakeview): I'm looking forward to the music program and academics.



Tomohiro

TOMOHIRO SAWADA, freshman (Kougyokusha Middle School, Japan): I'm excited about doing mathematics and stuff.



Emma

EMMA MUELLER (The Avery Coonley School, Downers Grove): I'm looking forward to the academics because this is a great school with a cool atmosphere and community. Most people are high achieving but not overcompetitive.

The life of a senior, pre-itis

By Sonia Bourdaghs
Opinion Columnist

Want more? One four!

Yes, our senior class has finally decided on a cheer. It's hard to imagine that the big, scary seniors our freshmen year are now my classmates.

I also can't believe that college applications are no longer "just around the corner." They're right here.

Last year's senior class seemed to grow closer throughout the process, and I hope this becomes a trend. Hopefully we as a grade will learn to comfort each other and congratulate each other as the year goes on. We should support all decisions our classmates make and hope that individually, we are a more decisive class than collectively. After all, we are the grade that took three years to come up with



Sonia

a cheer (our indecisiveness was finally ended thanks to former class president Alex Cohen) and almost erupted in all-out war when trying to pick a grade color.

Even with the best grade atmosphere, though, I know I won't be without envy and stress. That stress to "keep up" in the big bad college race isn't even confined to U-High. It's pretty incredible how many people think they have a say in where we go to college. At least a hundred people asked about my plans for college this summer. It has to be the most personal small talk I've ever experienced.

Every grade seems to have its own characteristic, and I think the application process will teach us about the Class of 2014. With renovations taking over Belfield Hall, there may be a somewhat chaotic atmosphere this Fall as well. Therefore it will be all the more important for seniors to be good leaders so that we can maintain a sense of community with all of these changes happening around us.

Let's make this a year where no one is wanting more than one four.



Photo by Fiona Potter

Early starters

Returning to school two weeks early, this year's four Midway editors-in-chief began work on this welcome-back issue. From left are Mike Glick, Marissa Page and Sonia Bourdaghs; Hebah Masood had gone out of town when the photo was taken. Sonia is in her second year as editor-in-chief, a rarity in Midway history.

From Arusha to Minnesota, U-Highers hike, canoe their way through summer

By Hebah Masood
Editor-in-Chief

"There were 27 kids crammed into two rooms. The orphanage didn't have a kitchen or bathroom. They don't have anything like a soup kitchen or a homeless shelter there. But what I found amazing was that you don't see people asking for anything there. The people are generally very happy but that's probably because they don't know any better.

"They also try to help others for the good of others. But people like us don't understand that it's so hard to help. I mean, yes you can send a package or something but even then there's such a high import tax that they can't afford to pay, so there's no real way to help without being there directly."

Senior Sabrina Holland was recounting her experiences in Arusha, Tanzania, June 19-July 4 visiting an orphanage, just one unusual experiences for U-Highers this summer. Besides volunteering at an orphanage and teaching English to 5-11-year-olds as part of a Global Leadership Adventures program, Sabrina took a seven-hour opportunity to hike partway up Mount Kilimanjaro.

"I think I just fell in love with the country, and climbing the rest of Kilimanjaro would be an incredible and unforgettable experience," Sabrina said. "My friend and I actually got lost at one point and we found ourselves in the middle of this village like on Kilimanjaro and we just hung out around there

and it was just so unexpected that it made me want to see more of it."

Scuba certified, sophomore Sophia Fioramonti-Gorchow worked with the Coral Restoration Foundation to do coral and turtle restoration as well as beach cleanups on Bonaire Island in the Carribean June 30-July 20.

Diving to restore coral made the trip stand out, said Sophia.

"I wanted to do this because I had been scuba diving before and I loved it, and I really just love the ocean and wanted to do some environmental service," Sophia said. "I think the experience that stuck out most to me was one dive we did. It was a local cleanup dive under the town pier, and my trip was among about 100 locals that all joined together to clean up under the pier. It was just a great experience because it showed how much could get done when everyone works together, because we cleaned up over 2,000 pieces of trash and it was just so fun to be able to interact with all the locals and work together."

Also in the water, junior Glenn Decety embarked on a canoe trip with two counselors and six other boys July 30-August 21 through the Outward Bound program. They hiked and camped for six days before reaching the first canoe point. After that they would canoe about six miles daily and then hike until they reached a place to camp for the night.



Photo courtesy of Sabrina Holland

Partway up Mount Kilimanjaro, Sabrina Holland and Rachel Hoying from New Trier Township High in Winnetka take in the scenery of the highest free-standing mountain in the world, part of a summer program.

Glenn said his "push day" was the most grueling part of his trip.

"We woke up at 5, then carried the canoe half a mile, paddled a bit, then another mile and a half of carrying. It was awful. We were tired to begin with and this long carry was just the worst."



Photo by Matthew Garvey

Grooving into the new school year

Dancing to a mashup of several songs, including "Jump On It," "The Cha Cha Slide" and "The Macarena," compiled by Student Council President Phil Healy, the Dance Team, and student government members were swarmed by

U-Highers eager to join in a flash mob including faculty at the first-day assembly Monday, September 9 in Kovler Gym. Scooter racing, tug-of-war, class cheering and a performance by Dance Team rounded out the assembly, which ended the day.

Brief-ly: Parent Open House to start with dinner

■ **PARENT NIGHT**—Preceded with a dinner in the Cafeteria at 5:30 p.m., U-High Parent Night will start 7 p.m., Thursday September 26. After performances by student groups and a speech from Director David Magill, parents will follow an abbreviated version of their students' schedules as hear teachers describe their programs and expectations.

■ **YEARBOOK PICTURES**—Juniors, sophomores and freshmen yearbook photos are scheduled for Monday, October 21 in the Journalism Office, Judd 14, with retakes Wednesday, January 15. Senior pictures will be taken October 7, 8, 10 and 11, with the location still to be decided. Makeup photos for seniors will be shot Monday, October 14. Schedules will be posted on class bulletin boards next week.

■ **IT'S A GIRL, TAKE TWO**—Two newborns of the Lab Schools community were welcomed this summer. Kerry Tulson and Kevin LaVoy had Astrid who was seven pounds three ounces and 20 inches. She was born August 31. Chris and Lindsey Harper had Vivienne Kate Harper this summer as well. "She was born August 27 at 4:56 p.m." Mr. Harper said. "She was seven pounds seven ounces and 20 inches. Mom and baby are home, healthy and adorable."



Photo courtesy of Scott Fech

After completing ropes courses and team building activities, freshmen Alana Walker and Alex du Buclet kayaked in Fish Lake at Freshman Retreat Friday, August 23 at YMCA Camp Duncan in far northwest suburban Ingleside. "This is a great class with a great blend," Principal Scott Fech said after the day. "Most of the freshman advisers were there, which allowed students to get acquainted with their advisories early on in the year."

Among 27 newcomers, one from another continent

By Julian Lark
Associate editor

A native of Shizouka, Japan, freshman Tomohiro Sawada traveled the farthest of the 27 students to join the U-High community this fall.

Having studied last year at a private boys' school in Tokyo, Japan, to finish his Middle School education, Tomohiro before that had attended Kindergarten through 5th grade at a public school in Arlington, Massachusetts, just outside of Boston after his father took a postdoctoral job there.

Now living in Hyde Park with his father, a re-

searcher at the Jules F. Knapp Medical Research Center on 57th Street, Tomohiro said his dad's boss recommended U-High as an academically challenging and rigorous environment. His sister is finishing up 3rd grade while with his grandparents in Japan. She will join Tomohiro in Chicago next year.

"It's pretty fun to have lived in both Japan and the United States," Tomohiro said. "You learn a lot about both cultures. I think school here is going to be very different because in Japan, and in a lot of Asia, like China and Korea, tests are everything. All you do is cram, so I think that here maybe it's

Student government leaders weigh possible opportunities

By Julian Lark
Associate editor

Striking a balance between giving students a voice and adhering to regulations set by faculty will present a challenge to this year's Student Council and Cultural Union, officers believe.

Compromises made in the past two years between Student Council and faculty and parents has led some students to feel their voices weren't being heard, believes Student Council President Phil Healy, senior, who suggests that students become more involved in student government proceedings if they want to be heard.

"Non-Student Council members can sit in on meetings and contribute," Phil said. "Student Council members are all ears. If someone comes up to us and tells us 'we don't have a room for Science Club, or something like that, we will make sure those complaints are heard.'"

Citing past compromises, Cultural Union President Tiffany Davis, senior, said the faculty's input is often just as important as the students'.

"Before, I was upset that it seemed like students didn't have a voice," Tiffany said. "But now that I've had a chance to hear the faculty side of things I think it's really important to compromise with faculty on things to make certain they go smoothly."

"For instance, because Student Council compromised with the faculty on changes to the way dances were run, we managed to have two smooth dances last year."

Tiffany wants to address Cultural Union over recent years losing its separate identity from Student Council and mostly sponsoring dances.

"Years ago, before I was a representative, Cultural Union and Student Council met separately and were very separate entities," Tiffany said. "Most of us were completely unaware that Cultural Union did more than just organize dances until former Dean of Students Larry McFarlane told us late last year."

"I would like to start having separate meetings again so we can talk about other culturally-oriented things."

Earl Shapiro Hall

(continued from front page)

dismissals between the campuses," he explained. "Even though we have had a second campus for years with the Woodlawn Nursery homes, having a fully-integrated school campus with all of the administrative, teaching and learning functions is inevitably going to bring some change and impact to the Lab Schools. We're working hard to maintain and grow and build tradition new and old between the two campuses."

He noted that one important feature of Earl Shapiro Hall is it a custom-designed facility.

"It is explicitly tailored to nursery, kindergarten and primary school education," he said. "Things like play spaces designed for those ages; from these items down to the simple, mundane things like the bathrooms. Each nursery classroom has a bathroom with fixtures easily used by 3- and 4- year-olds. Everything has been thought through."

better." Other newcomers this year are as follows:
JUNIORS—George Hamilton, Jane Claire Maunsell, Mikal Muhammad

SOPHOMORES—Jason Charles Lin, Kellie Lu, Signe Catherine Odelbo

FRESHMEN—Andrea Benitez, Tamara Sierra Cora Carter, Lucas Anthony Chase, Mathew Lane Ferraro, Daniela Garcia, Julia Seng Gately, Andrew Baldwin Heyman, Alexandra Lundsgaarde, Oliver Peyton Maciak, Emma Joan Mueller, Rhea Peddinti, David Matthew Portugal, Sarah Qadir, Maiika Ramani, Jenelle Rubinstein, Alexander Tyska, Jacqueline Rose Walker, Eliana Patrice Whitehouse, Elie Gavriel Wise, Myra Ziad.



Photo by Fiona Potter

One of several returning varsity players filling the void left by Laura Anderson's graduation, sophomore Grace Anderson slams back a forehand at practice September 3.

Tennis team focuses on new star power

By Mike Glick
Editor-in-Chief

With top young players replacing standout Laura Anderson, girl tennis players will face De La Salle at 4:30 p.m. Thursday at home.

Laura, now at the U. of C., went undefeated in last year's regular season, leading the Maroons to a 2nd place Independent School League standing. But the Maroons (0-1 as of Midway press time) now have Freshmen Dhanya Asokumar and Alex Lund, as well as top returning players—including Cocaptains Della Brown, junior, and Jen Xue, senior.

In their first matches, both varsity and j.v. fell to Sandburg 2-3 September 4. Julijana Lazarevich coaches varsity, and Chelsea Trader coaches j.v.

Dhanya and Alex will play singles, shifting Della to play doubles with Sophomore Monica Lewis.

"Dhanya and Alex are both very strong players," Della said. "They are all-around good players. They both have a lot of experience competing—they both compete a lot over the offseason—and that definitely helps them when it comes to actual matches. They are going to be big contributors for us this year.

"Latin and Parker will be the toughest opponents for us in the ISL. We're very close skill-wise with both of them, and since they are both in the Chicago area we consider them our rivals. Both teams lost some players from last year, but they have young players who will be good this year just like we do."

Former sprinting star returns to coaching

By Luke Murphy
Sports editor

Under the guidance of new coach and former Division I runner Chris Harper and coach Debbie Ribbens, cross country runners will travel to the Riverside Brookfield Invitational at 4:30 p.m. Friday.

Highlighted by standout performances from Sophomores Lucy Kenig-Ziesler and Jacob Meyer, cross country runners competed at the St. Patrick Invitational September 3. Led by Lucy's 2nd place finish, the girls' team, captained by Senior Sonia Bourdaghs, placed 7th. For the boys' team, captained by Seniors Max Volchenbom and Frank Waggoner, Jacob placed 10th. At the Mather Invitational September 10, the boys placed 4th of eight and the girls finished 4th of 11.

Following the encouraging start to the season, Frank is excited for what is still to come.

"We have a lot of fast runners and our team is better than it has been in a while," Frank said. "For practice we'll usually do a long five- to eight- mile run on the lakefront or a workout at the track, which involves a combination of sprinting and speed work."

Max believes that with enough hard work the team has a chance to compete at Sectionals and State.

"We have a lot of young talent on this year's team," Max said. "We recently acquired Mr. Harper as the boys' coach, which we are really excited about. I think both the boys' team and the girls' team have a solid chance at placing top five at Sectionals and qualifying for State as a team.

"I can't wait for the ISL meet this year. We won the ISL track meet and we want to show Northridge and Latin that we can win at longer distances too."

New coach leaves Tennessee to lead swimmers

By Luke Murphy
Sports editor

With new coach Kate Chronic at the helm, girl swimmers will take on De La Salle at 3:30 p.m. September 27 at home.

Despite losing core members from last year's team to graduation—including 100-yard butterfly record holder Annette Cochran and Patricia Perozo—the Maroons boast a wealth of young talent. Former coach Michael Cunningham also departed following last year after taking a job with Life Time Fitness.

Senior Magda Glotzer feels the extra time she and some teammates spent training under Coach Chronic provided stabilization in the period of change.

"A few of us girls trained with Midway Aquatics during the offseason," Magda said. "During that time, our former coach, Michael Cunningham, was offered a job closer to home, so we were slightly worried. Luckily Mr. Ribbens found us a new coach in

less than a month, and we have been training under Coach Chronic ever since. Because a few of us already knew the coach, we made a smooth transition to this season.

"Coach Chronic is completely refocusing the group. We are getting stronger, more competitive, and even more passionate. We are learning to work off of each other and push each other past our limits."

Through long and tiring practices, Coach Chronic has tested the swimmers' physical and mental capacities.

"We are focusing a lot on technique and endurance," Magda said. "We learn something new in every practice, and we're training not only our bodies but also our minds. We did a month's worth of practice in two weeks by training four hours a day, and we've made so much progress already. I think our competition is going to be surprised by our make-over, and I'm confident that we will do well."

Freshmen-heavy golf squad ready for Elgin test

By Mike Glick
Editor-in-Chief

Led by team captain and three-time IHSA Sectional qualifier Rahul Mehta, golfers will travel to take on Elgin's Hilltoppers at 4:30 p.m. Friday at Elgin.

With four new varsity members—Freshmen Kyle Adlaka, Andrew Beach, Brian Brady and Christopher Kucera—the Maroons sport a young nucleus of players. With coaches Micah Christensen and Grant Gonnerman, Rahul, senior, and Sophomore Andrew Chizewer have mentored the younger players. The Maroons finished 6th of seven at the Independent School League Invitational August 21, suffered a 234-178 loss to Parker at home August 22, fell to Northridge 248-178 at home August 29 and lost to Latin 197-167 September 10.

Despite the team's early season struggles, Rahul expects steady progress throughout the season.

"Towards the end of the season I'd expect to be increasingly competitive as a team, but it's good to see the younger guys getting right into it," Rahul said.

Varsity volleyballers striving for Sectional repeat

By Mike Glick
Editor-in-Chief

Looking to build upon their early-season victories, girl volleyballers will take on Noble Street Charter 5:30 p.m. Thursday at home.

Coming off last year's history-making appearance in the IHSA 2A Super-Sectionals, the Maroons (3-5 as of Midway press time) experienced no drop-off in play. Coached by Lisa Miller and Michael Soapes, U-High defeated Rich East 25-19, 25-17 August 27 and Seton Academy 25-13, 25-8 September 3.

Against top competition at the Timothy/Westmont Tournament September 6 and 7, U-High lost all five matches. But with six returning players from last year's squad and four new varsity players—including Freshmen Averie Miller and Alana Walker—the Maroons look poised for another run in the playoffs.

Senior Ruby Koontz, cocaptain with Senior Gabrielle Rosenbacher, says the team still needs to im-

prove on the court.

"We won the first two, but it was still a little rough," Ruby said. "We're still getting used to the way the team works together with the new people and without last year's seniors. The girls returning from last year have great experience and skill, but we definitely could have passed better."

"Juniors Eleri Miller and Carra Gray, Sophomore Elizabeth Chon and Alana and Averie also play club, so volleyball is a huge part of their lives. The seniors last year taught us to work cooperatively on the court, and I think we can take that with us."

Gabrielle says the Maroons have steadily become more cohesive as a team.

"Our goal this season is to match where we went last year, maybe even further," Gabrielle said. "One huge thing for us this year will be team chemistry. Half the team is new; half the team is old. We just need to keep getting better at working together."

First win keeps soccermen in the running for ISL

By Luke Murphy
Sports editor

After a 2-1 win over reigning ISL champ Northridge September 12, boy soccermen will face Latin at 4:30 p.m. Thursday at Lincoln Park Turf Field.

Coming off last year's 6-10-3 season, the Maroons (1-4, 1-0 ISL) started this year off slowly while adjusting to a new formation. U-High, coached by Mike Moses and Carlos Acosta, fell to Reavis 2-0 August 27, Joliet Central 2-1 August 29, Mount Carmel 2-1 September 3 and Niles West 3-0 September 7. With all but two starters from last year, U-High has set its sights on winning a Regional title in spite of the early defeats.

Despite the Maroons' early-season losses, Junior Max Brown says they produced many more scoring chances in the 2nd game than the 1st.

"In practices we focus on possessing the ball and controlling the midfield, as that is usually our strategy during the game," Max said. "During this season we've done a pretty good job with that, but we only found the back of the net once in the two tournament games. To remedy that we've been working on finishing, which has started to pay off."

Detailing the team's first goal, Senior Jeff Li, cocaptain with Senior Jon King, says the Maroons will score more if they can master their system.

"Against Joliet Central Senior Kelsey Stevens scored off a corner taken by Junior Michael Glick," Jeff said. "We got the corner after Michael took a free kick, which was deflected by the Joliet goalie.



Photo by Fiona Potter

Sliding in against a Joliet Central attacker, senior Kelsey Stevens wins the ball in U-High's 2-1 loss to the Steelmen August 29 in the Windy City Ram Classic at Reavis High School.

We are playing a new formation this year by changing to four defenders, two defensive midfielders, two wing-midfielders, one attacking midfielder and a lone striker, after playing with various other formations in past years.

"We have a very strong defense and midfield this year so our success will be largely contingent on taking smart chances and not just blasting away."