

## Semiformal theme puts it down in black and white

By Marissa Page and Sonia Bourdaghs  
Editors-in-Chief

Streamers, necklaces and bubbles decorate this year’s Semiformal Dance with a Black and White theme, tomorrow 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the International House.

Tickets will be sold for \$10 at the door until they close at 9:15 p.m. Royalty nominations took place last Tuesday and Wednesday, and voting was scheduled to take place yesterday and today.

**HOSTING THE DANCE** at the International House instead of Upper Kovler Gym should improve attendance and audio, according to Cultural Union President senior Tiffany Davis.



Tiffany

“After Homecoming happened I had to contact the I-House just to confirm that there was a date that we could have,” Tiffany said. “Once they said yes we just set it up, and it was pretty easy. That kind of avoided the problem of having bad sound because we’ve never had problems with sound at I-House.

“As far as the DJ, Student Council President Phil Healy, who ran the music at Homecoming, voluntarily said he does not want to do it, so we knew that we should just go back to DJ Jamalz Smalls.

**“FOR ATTENDANCE**, I’m expecting to probably have more people just because it is back at I-House. Then again it’s kind of hard to tell because homecoming didn’t

necessarily leave a good impression. I just think that having the I-House avoids a lot of the issues that we ran into at Homecoming.”

After debating themes including “Casino Royale,” Student Council decided on an easier theme instead, according to Tiffany.

“We knew in general that people never really follow the theme that much,” she explained. “We wanted to do black and white to kind of try to promote people to try and dress cohesively slash to the theme because a lot of girls wear black dresses anyways. We were also hoping to make it distinct from Homecoming by promoting a little more formal dress than usual.”

**ROYALTY NOMINATIONS** have traditionally seen a low turnout, Tiffany said.

“The voting is by hand, like usual. We’ll have a list by each grade and just do it manually,” she explained. “I think our struggle with getting people for elections might just be because dance royalty isn’t as big of a deal at U-High like it is at other schools.

“For Homecoming we had to nominate Fiona Potter, senior, and Michael Horio, junior, as the ‘unofficial’ king and queen because hardly anyone voted! I remember specifically asking people to and being told things like, ‘I don’t care.’

“So, even though we’re expecting less technical problems and less loose ends and changes - after all, we’re back with a venue and a DJ that we have experience with. I still don’t see much of a change in this dance as far as royalty goes. I guess we’ll have to see.”

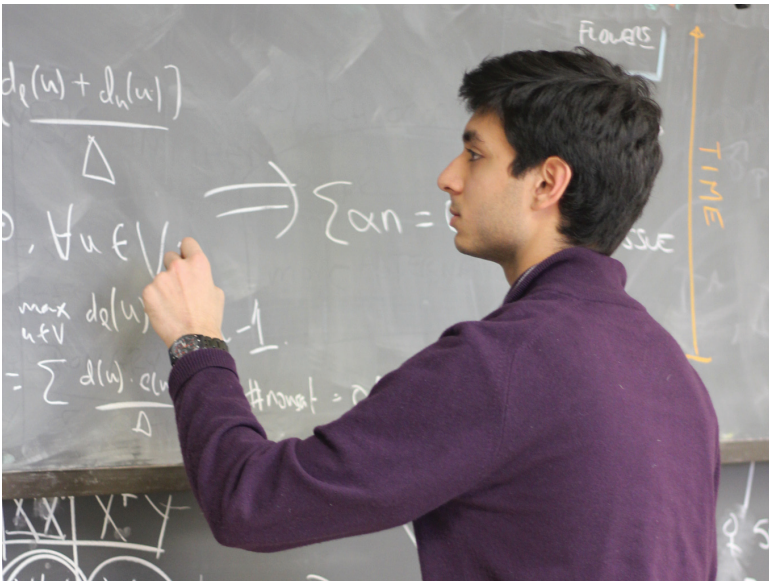


Photo by Francine Almeda

The only finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search competition from Illinois, Rahul Mehta entered his algorithm for sparse networks in computer science.

## Senior science wiz heads to Intel award finale in D.C.

By Raghu Somala  
Associate Editor

Excited he will meet professionals in algorithms in computer science, senior Rahul Mehta will be the sole Illinois finalist at the final rounds of the Intel Science Talent Search held in Washington D.C., March 6-12.

Rahul and senior Mohammed Munim were the only Illinois students to make the semifinalist round; Rahul later became the only finalist. Intel STS is the nation’s most renowned science research competition for seniors in high school. Each year, judges pick 300 semifinalists and later 40 finalists. Finalists go to Washington D.C., earning \$7500 in addition to the \$1000 semifinalist award. The winner of the competition will be awarded \$100,000.

**RAHUL SUBMITTED** his algorithm for sparse networks in computer science for the competition.

“My project was in the field of theoretical computer science, and specifically involved designing a new algorithm for the so-called ‘maximum flow problem’ in sparse networks,” Rahul said. “It has significance in routing, scheduling, and image processing applications.

“I got the idea from my independent study with Professor Janos Simon of the University of Chicago Computer Science Department. I took a graduate Algorithms course with him the winter of my junior year, where I was introduced to various research level open problems through his lectures. After that class, I started an independent study with him, originally to study approximation algorithms, but he suggested I read journal articles on max-flow problems.”

**AT WASHINGTON**, Rahul joins other finalists for further consideration.

“Our schedule says we will be judged by a panel of four judges, two from the specialty in the field of our project, for example computer science for my project, and two generic scientists,” Rahul said. “Essentially they are trying to glean on my knowledge of my work and my general ability to problem solve. We will also have two-poster presentations one open to the public at the National Geographic Building and the other for the judges. I’m looking forward to them because it’s a more intuitive way to present my project than through a paper, because some of the more complex ideas can get lost on paper.”

Mohammed qualified as a semifinalist with his project in nanotechnology and material science.

**“I STUDIED** the physico-chemical properties and applications of synthesized biomaterials,” Mohammed explained. “The innovative advantage of the novel nanostructures I developed lay in their inlayed patterns of gold structures on the silicon nanowire, ultimately enhancing the nanowire’s electronic interaction with cells and laying a better building block for more effective circuits, and better diagnosis and medical treatments.

“Professor Bozhi Tian at the Department of Chemistry at the University of Chicago opened me up to an abundance of resources and opportunities at his lab. He helped me develop my premature idea into a working research project, and guided me through the whole thing. Physics teacher David Derbes and biology teacher Sharon Housinger were the ones who really pushed me to work on the project over the summer.”

After working through Summer Link last July, Mohammed continued working independently throughout the summer and school year.

**“EVEN WITH** the packed hours, it was completely worth applying to Intel,” he explained. “Not only was I able to demonstrate my scientific passion but I was able to show my abilities in the context of some of the brightest minds in the country.”

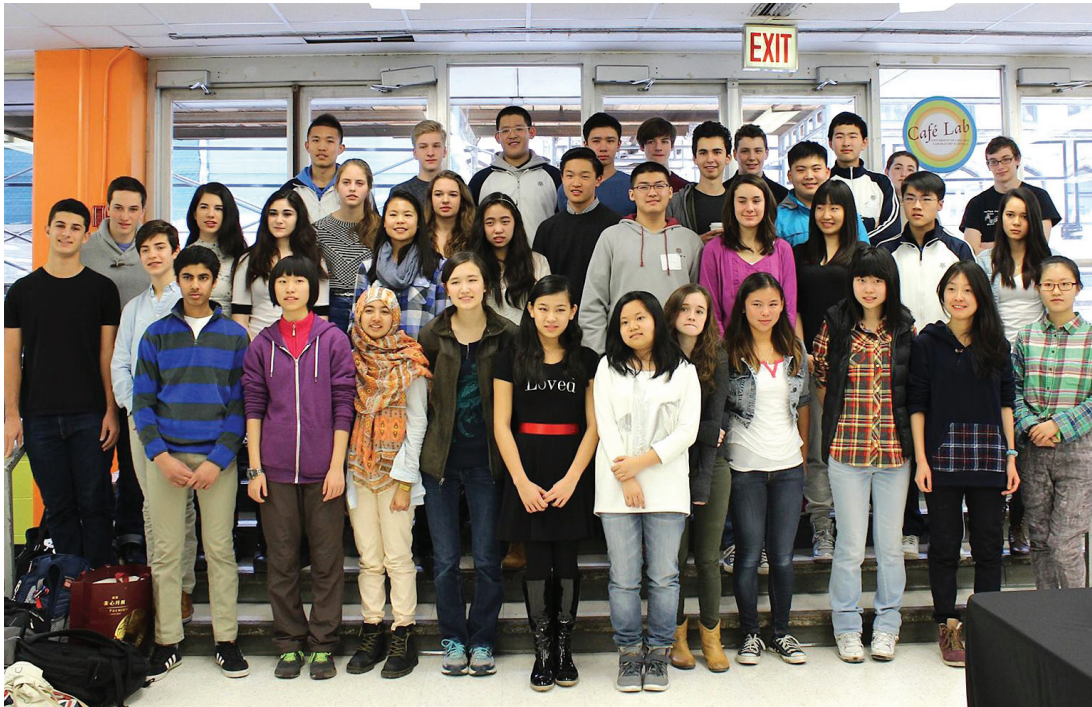


Photo by Monica Valenzuela

## Warm welcome, frigid weather greet Beijing visitors

At a welcome breakfast, 13 exchange students from Beijing No.4 High School and their host students were welcomed by Director David Magill, Associate Director Jason Lopez, Principal Scott Fech, Dean of Students Ana Campos, and Assistant Principal Asra Ahmed. Arriving January 11, the Chinese exchange students visited Chicago for three weeks and leave Sunday morning for a week in Los Angeles before they head back to Beijing.

While in Chicago they went to museums and tours including the Chicago History Museum, the Shedd Aquarium, the Field Museum, an architecture tour and the skydeck tour.

Senior Hebah Masood’s exchange student, Jianing Yao said she enjoyed the Willis Tower skydeck the most.

“I was fascinated by the transparent floor and the view of Chicago,” she said. “I got really excited standing on the glass looking down at the foggy city.”

In the picture are the exchange students, hosts and members of the Chinese 4 class, which performed a song at the welcome breakfast. From left, they are:

Back row–Haoxiang Xu, Micaiah Buchhim-Jurisson, Xiyuan Cui, Kelvin Xie, Jonathan Lipman, Ben Glick, Jinggu Yao, Yunjia Bao, Isabel Levin, Tobias Ginsburg.

Middle row–Julian Bendelac, Andrew Chizewer, Reed Rosenbacher, Maria Privitera, Thomasina Fizdale, Paula Herbst, Elizabeth Stolze, Sophia Fioramonti-Gorchow, Helen He, Nigel Van Ha, Ziting Wang, Zoe Baum, Xiaojue Zhu, Xiachuan Ding, Lilia Wilson.

Front row–Avik Herur-Raman, Jianing Yao, Hebah Masood, Sarah Pan, Grace Broderick, Yifei Wu, Mary Brady, Reece McCormick, Ziyu Dong, Di Xu, Yuchen Xiang.



# Teacher with a lot to say gets award for saying it a lot

By Grace Anderson  
Midway reporter

Leaning back in his chair against a wall covered with newspaper clippings and photographs, history teacher Paul Horton talked about becoming a recipient of the Upton Sinclair Award for his advocacy on education issues, published papers and the work of his students. Mr. Horton described learning that he received the award. “I was visiting in Madison and was in the hotel room when I found out,” he explained. “I actually just saw it online, I was completely surprised.”

The award is given annually to six recipients by the Haberman Educational Foundation for exceptional contributions in the field of education and “worked to help children pursue the American Dream.” William Korach, Class of 1962, also was a recipient.

“I think a big reason I received the award is because I’ve taken on a lot of education advocacy issues, particularly through publications and newspapers,” Mr. Horton said. “I fight for history education and against corporate education, particularly the Common Core legislation which is national curriculum that essentially dictates that a school’s quality is determined by its standardized test scores.”

Mr. Horton said he is part of a national network attempting to combat corporate reforms and raise public awareness of them.

“Before Christmas I gave the faculty information through email on how some legislation was rewritten in order to allow unqualified teachers to take care of special needs kids,” he recalled. “I also tied in some other aspects of corporate education reform like the declining role of the teacher.”

## Yearbook tops State contest

Named Best Overall Year, the 2014 U-Highlights also won five First Place honors in individual categories in the Illinois Journalism Education Association’s annual competition.

Yearbooks competed in six divisions based on school enrollment. U-High’s individual category honors were for Best Copy Writing, Best Sports Coverage, Best Use of Photography, Best Graphics and Best Coverage of the Year. The U-High book also received 2nd place honors in layout and design and divider pages.

Editors were Maya Hansen, Meryl Charleston and Jordan Einhorn, seniors last year, and Sabrina Holland, a junior last year who this year, as a senior, is again a U-Highlights editor-in-chief.



## Assembly evokes King’s vision in words, song



Photos by Della Brown

How teenagers encounter racism in news coverage and popular music but may not realize its impact, was among topics discussed in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. assembly sponsored by the Black Students’ Association (BSA). School organizations, music groups, singers, poets and musicians contributed to the nearly two-hour assembly in Rockefeller Chapel.

The board of Spectrum (above), an organization devoted to celebrating and educating others about diversity, performed an original poem, “The Struggles We Face,” which included references to the importance of marriage equality for all people. Participating, from left, are Isabel Mitchell, Maevae Potter, Sheridan Small, Valentina Gardner, Nell Mittelstead and Fiona Potter.

Guest speaker Cathy J. Cohen (left), professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, not only spoke about media and music, but also pointed out that many popular songs work off black stereotypes in otherwise offering valuable messages. The program concluded with John Lennon’s “Imagine” performed by the Concert Choir and Chamber Collective.

BSA President Portia Williams, senior, said the six months put into planning the event proved worthwhile.

## U-Highers come face to face with crime, get safety advice

By Ariel Gans  
Midway reporter

In the wake of several U-Highers experiencing robberies, refraining from using technology on the street is the best way to reduce the likelihood of victimization or injury. Director of Security Fountain Walker is again advising.

In the past two months, three U-Highers have been robbed in Hyde Park. So far two men have been brought in as suspects for a late November robbery of a Lab Schools junior. The men have neither been identified as the robbers nor charged for the crime though they are currently being questioned.

**AT 10:30 P.M.** on Friday, November 29, two males approached a junior boy, alone on 50th and Dorchester.

“I had just closed the front door of my friend’s house and was listening to my iPod and walking my bike,” said the junior boy. “I then noticed two guys on the steps who looked suspicious.”

“I jumped on my bike and started peddling but one of them grabbed my backpack and asked me like five times ‘why you peddling G?’ Then I jumped off my bike and threw it to the side. I was about to punch them when two more came from across the street.”

**“ONE SAID, ‘We have a knife’.** I remember getting nervous when I heard that because I realized that they could do some serious damage. Then two of them put their hands on my neck and brought me to the ground. They said, ‘empty your pockets,’ and I did.”

“They told me to make this as easy as I could for myself. They took my wallet, iPhone, hat, sweatshirt, my dad’s bike, and left. They were loud, comfortable, and employed intimidation. They kept

threatening me until they got what they needed.”

At 3:31 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, a senior boy and junior girl crossing at 55th and Kenwood were on their way home when an unknown male came up from behind them.

**“I TURNED AROUND** and saw part of a gun, not pointed at me but enough to recognize what it was,” said the senior boy.

“I didn’t see the gun,” the junior girl said. “I couldn’t understand what the man was even saying at first and I ignored him because I assumed he was crazy. Then I heard him ask, ‘Do you wanna lose your life?’

“He was quick, calm and friendly, I didn’t know what was going on. Then looking at my friend he said, ‘Give me your phone.’

“My friend thought he was joking. He gave him his phone and the guy ran off to a waiting car that drove off super fast. He never even looked at me.”

**“IT ALL HAPPENED** in less than 10 seconds. Then we stood there confused. When I talked to my mom she freaked out, I wasn’t that upset until later. It was just weird because it happened in broad daylight.”

Added the senior boy, “He was so nonchalant and not threatening, neither of us were scared. But guns have never really scared me.”

“The first thing that I thought when he showed me the gun was, ‘fudge, I just got this phone’. I gave it to him and just like that in 10 seconds it was over. He just sprinted away and jumped into the passenger seat of a waiting car and

(continues on back page)

## A Great Spot for a Quick Stop



Photo by Jarrett Lampley

Escaping the frigid chill of one of Chicago’s coldest winters, Anna Bakwin and Fu-Cheng Jansen prepare to enjoy the warmth of lunch at the Medici on 57th. We’re here for dinner, too!

If you’re looking for a treat to dazzle your taste buds, stop by Medici! Just a block away from U-High, we offer the perfect choice for a quick and enjoyable lunch with friends, after-school snacks and satisfying dinners. And everyone knows about our famous deep dish pizza, savory pastas and our enormous hot fudge sundaes. See you soon!



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# Grad tenaciously pursues getting chess into public schools for its multiple values

By Sonia Bourdaghs  
Editor-in-Chief

Hoping to increase interest in the game of chess in Chicago, Jerry Neugarten, Class of '65 and board member of the Illinois Chess Association (ICA), started working towards making the sport available to Chicago Public Schools (CPS) in January 2010.

After graduating from U-High, Mr. Neugarten attended New College in Sarasota, Florida and later Harvard Law School. Now retired, Mr. Neugarten is an active member of the chess community and has been pushing to offer free or inexpensive chess instruction in CPS.

ICA took back control from private companies, Mr. Neugarten said.

**"CHESS HAS BEEN** in the CPS sports department since 1923, but has never been given any emphasis, he said. "This is to the point where chess coaches get paid less, about \$440 a years."

A classmate of Mr. Neugarten's at U-High, John Levi connected the chess association to then-CEO of CPS, Ron Huberman. Since then, the ICA has been involved in a long series of negotiations with CPS.

"The efforts seemed to sputter," Mr. Neugarten said. "We were working quietly and behind the scenes, sending them memos and written material they requested, doing whatever we could to answer their questions. There were ups and downs. There were times we thought we were close to getting agreement on a new program.

"But on several occasions the staffer we were dealing with would leave town for another job, and we'd have to start all over again with someone else."

So ICA started in a new direction.

**"WE PUBLISHED** an editorial last August on our website laying out what had happened and criticizing the CPS plan as too small," Mr. Neugarten said. "Of course CPS is going through horrible problems and budget cuts, and no one is saying that chess should be a top priority. But CPS took it a step too far when they issued a public statement saying they couldn't afford the program we were proposing. We were offering it



Jerry Neugarten in the 1965 U-Highlights with journalism teacher Wayne Brasler.

for free!"

Mr. Neugarten hopes to utilize what he calls "tiered" coaching for chess programs.

"The model we advocate is that once you get a group of kids at higher level, you bring in a new coach," he explained. "There are many chess players in the area who will coach for modest fees. In my program in Highland Park we bring titled players in to teach the strong kids, and an International Master teaches the best players in multiple schools. This notion of tiered coaching is important."

**EFFORTS TO** expand the chess program in CPS schools continue as ICA urges the city to consider setting up a new program patterned after the Chicago Debate Commission, a successful partnership between CPS and an independent nonprofit. The Commission raises most of the money and supplies much of the staff. Meetings have taken place recently to consider the Debate Commission model for chess.

Despite difficulty in getting various parties to agree on any one proposal, Mr. Neugarten said that he has encountered little trouble convincing people why there should be more chess programs in the first place.

"There are now a raft of studies showing what chess does for kids," he explained. "The short version is that chess rivets children's attention because it's an enormously fabulous battle game. Then kids quickly learn that to win trophies they need to slow down and think out their choices. That imparts an important set of life skills to kids.

**"THE STUDIES** flesh this out and it is now widely accepted that chess improves grades, test scores, strategic and critical thinking, ability to deal with loss and patience. Another significant benefit of chess is that most chess programs are held after school, when the rates of violence are the highest. Chess clubs usually become a city's most popular after-school activity as well as a safe haven."

A top-100 nationally ranked chess player, senior Arjun Nandy started playing chess when he was 5 years old.

"If you look around internationally, a lot of places have mandatory chess in schools, and the reason why they do it is that they use it more as a life lesson," he said. "They want you to learn chess to develop the sense to think ahead and plan because that's the only way to win at chess. It can all translate to school. When you win a chess game you feel great. It's a great way for kids to develop a work ethic for future years."



Photo by Della Brown

Performing Miles Davis' "Flamenco Sketches," this year's Jazz Band made its U-High debut at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly January 16.

## Jazz Band gets in groove for New Orleans getaway

By Will Kent  
Midway reporter

Led by band teacher Francisco Dean, the U-High Jazz Band, comprised of entirely new members this year, will embark on a trip to New Orleans, Louisiana .Thursday-Sunday, May 1-4.

Jazz Band consists of sophomores Max Kramer, Stefan Rehkemper and Ryan Zimmerman; junior Jane Maunsell; and senior Jack Reece, all of whom are new to the program as most of last year's Jazz Band graduated. The new group, which lacks a brass section, rehearses during 4th period. It has given so far two performances, December 3 at the Checkerboard Lounge and January 16 at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly.

A percussionist in the Jazz Band, Max said he has enjoyed playing and performing with the group.

"It has been interesting. We are all at different levels and have different backgrounds in music, some people have never played jazz and others are more experienced, but we have very quickly become comfortable playing together.

"Mr. Dean does a great job at arranging the music to the instrumentation. It would be much better if we had more people but we have to work with what we've got."

Calling the experience "a jazz musician's dream," bassist Stefan is excited about the band's New Orleans trip.

"I can't wait for the trip," Stefan exclaimed. "We'll do a clinic with Jazz Fest musicians, take a tour of Preservation Hall and perform at a jazz club."

## Brief-ly

### Senior Lounge never destined for Blaine Hall

After several complaints from administrators the mystery of a mention in a Midway story in the December 17 issue about the Senior Lounge being relocated to Blaine Hall has been solved.

The headline on the story did not mention Blaine Hall (the secondary head did) and the story did not until a quote from a student commenting on a relocation there.

The reporter, who was doing his first story for the Midway, explained to the editors he had been told the Lounge would be relocated to "where the art rooms are now" and, since Mr. Brian Wildeman's art room is now in Blaine Hall, he assumed that meant Blaine Hall and so he asked students for their opinion on such a move.

But no one actually had told him the Lounge was being moved to Blaine Hall.

The writer of a photo caption accompanying the story then picked up "Blaine Hall" from the quote.

Ironically, the space into which both the Dean of Students and the Senior Lounge are actually moving, west of the cafeteria, originally was constructed as a faculty cafeteria for the University's School of Education and the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student's Office, Student Activities Office and Attendance Office and, later, a Senior Lounge. Later that suite became for many years the Journalism Department office, according to Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler

**■ ANOTHER STATE SCHOLAR**—In another error, the list the Midway received of Illinois State Scholars was missing one senior, Elizabeth Garrett-Currie.

**■ FOR OUT LOUD WE HOPE A CROWD**—Last year's popular Poetry Outloud competition will be returning this year, Thursday, February 14 during assembly period, 10:10-11 a.m. More information is available from English teacher Carolyn Walter.

**■ BIG MOMENT QUIETLY NOTED**—A historic event in Lab Schools history was reached earlier this month when the Lab-Plus Campaign met its \$55 million goal in

partnership with the University, already physically manifested in the opening of Earl Shapiro Hall on Stony Island for Nursery School and 1st and 2nd-grade students, the demolition of 110-year-old Belfield Hall and land cleared and construction underway on the new Arts Hall which will occupy its space and link the two towers which will stand and be renovated.

Lab Schools Director David Magill made the announcement to the community January 14 by email.

**■ FAR AWAY PLACES**—Opportunities for travel this summer are being announced in the school, among them weeks in Argentina and in Ghana.

The trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina June 21-July 4, will include U-Highers living with host families, attending school with their host students, guided tours, cooking classes and a fango show.

The school is the Institute for Higher Education in Modern Languages Juan Ramon Fernandez, with an enrollment of more than 3,000 students in its Lower, Middle and High Schools. Like U-High it is also affiliated with a Univeristy.

Cost of the experience is \$3,600 with a limit of 12 participants, most of them already signed up. Information is available from World Language teachers Laura Damer and Dinah D'Antoni.

The trip to Ghana, likely June 13-24, is being escorted by librarians Susan Augustine and Jamelle St. Clair.

The estimated cost is \$4,960, much of that for air fare. Middle and High School students in grades 7-12 are eligible.

In Ghana, participants will help villagers in Jukwa build a library. They also will choose activities which could include learning African drumming and dancing, hiking the Kakum Rain Forest and visiting Cape Coast Castle. They will stay at a hotel.

The trip is being organized through Amizade, an experienced organization which provide a guide.

## Cut the drama out of haircuts!



Photo by Stacy Stern

Looking to give his hair extra flair for the winter season, Miles Grogger discusses Hair Design International's hair gels with stylist Imogene Santiago.

Tired of spending too much time getting your hair cut? It's time to stop in at Hair Design International. Our efficient and experienced stylists will have you looking good and out the door in no time. With great options for better prices, Hair Design International is the place to go.

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# We vote for a strong student government

Ever since its inception more than a century ago, U-High has been known for its strong student governments. Prominent judges, lawyers, presidential speech writers and other well-known leaders have emerged from our student council, and many talked about their high school leadership experiences as graduation speakers.

Student government officers in the past initiated programs in which teachers would coordinate test dates and workloads, oversaw who could and could not leave campus for lunch, pursued proposals to change the grading system, promoted conversations on whether Physical Education requirements could be adjusted for members of varsity sports teams and suggested a work-study credit program for seniors.

**OFFICERS ACTIVELY** brought proposals to administrators and faculty, even debating the proposals with administrators in public.

“I see no limit to what student government could suggest and cause to be carried out provided the ideas are carefully thought out and carefully presented,” said one principal, herself a U-High graduate and student leader.

Student government advisers have included some of the faculty’s most outspoken teachers, including two faculty union presidents.

**EVEN AS RECENTLY** as the 2010-2011 school year, when student officers vocalized their dislike of the new schedule with a petition against it, student government was able to represent the wants and needs of students in a powerful way.

But a change in the nature and quality of the student government program seems to have taken place. Mostly Student Council has been folded together with Cultural Union, its social and cultural-planning arm, to produce school dances and Spirit Weeks.

What used to be tough election campaigns for coveted government offices, complete with a special Midway election issue profiling the candidates with in-depth interviews, by last year had become three days of speeches, many of them basically humor pieces, from a large number of candidates.

Student government doesn’t command the respect it once did.

**NOT THAT THERE** aren’t topics Student Council could pursue, including students’ concerns about insufficient time for clubs to meet, students on one hand being told they need less pressured lives but on the other hand getting more and more school time devoted to assemblies—some valuable, some questionable— and other special programs, and the school becoming more and more rule-oriented.

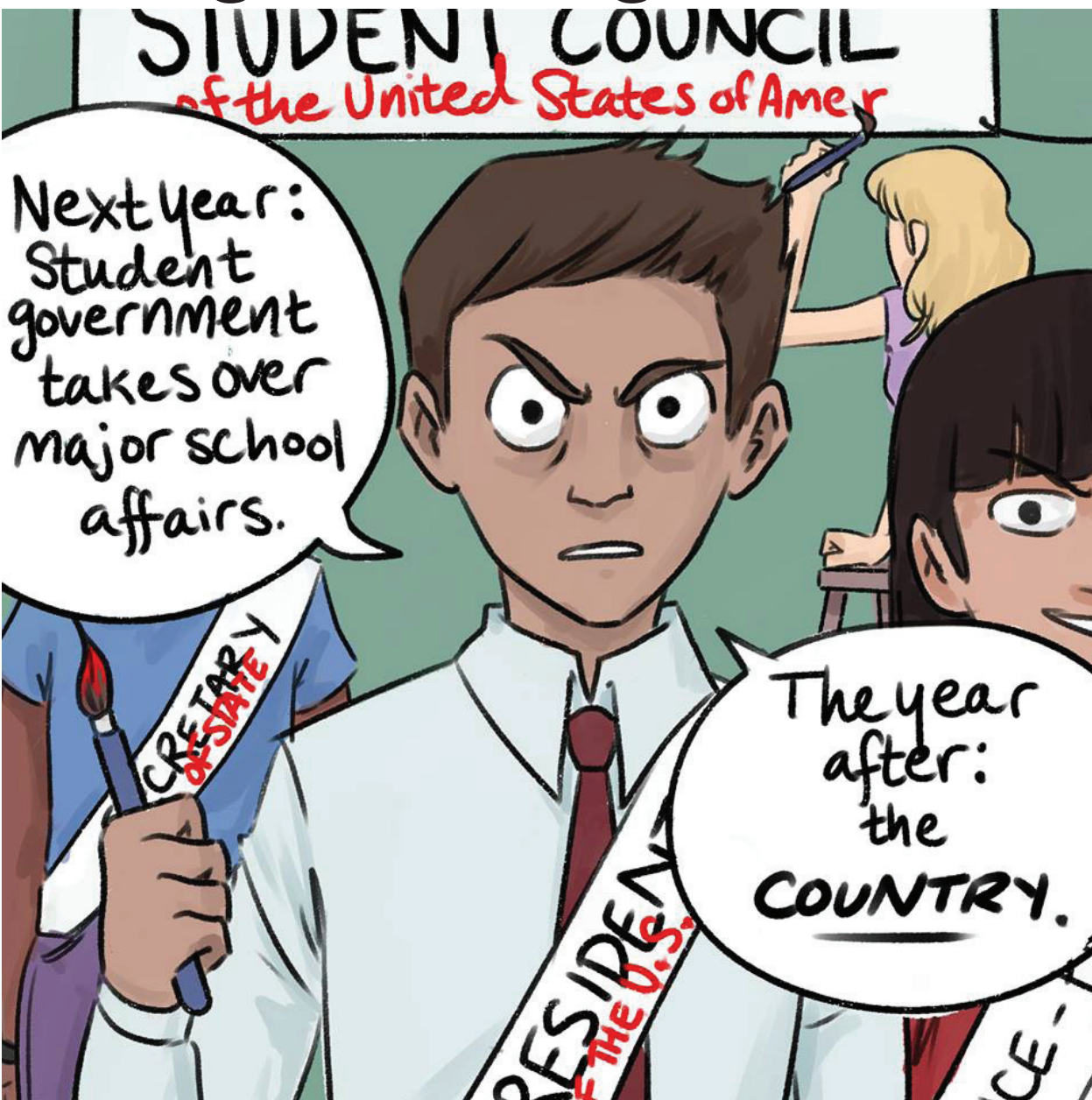
We’ve reached the point where most U-Highers have never seen an activist student government or witnessed a meaningful student government election. Or seen student government initiating the projects it easily could initiate, such as making sure lunchtime activities don’t result in the school being littered and hard for people to navigate.

Adults have stepped into the void student leadership once filled.

**STUDENTS RUNNING** for office should be required to substantiate a history of leadership in the school and be able to offer specific goals if they are elected.

And voters, in turn, must consider long and hard about who to elect to office and what to expect of them. And that’s not a criticism of the current officers, it’s a necessity if student government is to be strong.

And perhaps one of them too will speak at a future U-High Graduation, fondly remembering a dynamic and life-affecting year of leadership.

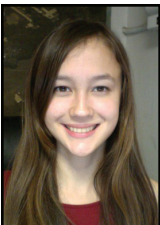


Art by Lydia Fama

## With younger students gone to their new building, life at U-High loses some charm

By Sonia Bourdaghs  
Midway columnist

With limited spaces on behalf of construction this year, U-Highers bump into many younger students on their way to class these days—but not that much younger.



Sonia

The smallest Lab Schoolers are in Earl Shapiro Hall now, and while it wasn’t something I noticed every day, there was a certain charm to seeing kindergarteners on my way to classes. The tiny boots and ankle-high benches in Blaine were a reminder of carefree days.

I always thought that the little buddies program in middle school was a delight;

it was like having a younger sibling in the school.

I still have the handmade, red construction paper Valentines I received from my “buddies” in Middle School.

The mixture of ages among students was one thing that made the Lab Schools unique. U-Highers received constant reminders of how far they had come when they heard five year olds screaming on playgrounds through

the windows of their math classrooms.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Earl Shapiro Hall facilities are a great improvement for their occupants. On a Bel Canto trip to the new building, I was amazed by the modern feel of the place, the playgrounds perfectly tailored to younger children and all of the low furniture in the classrooms.

Apparently, even the bathrooms are miniature sized for the young ones. Parents entering the Lab Schools must be thrilled.

I wonder if there will be a new graduation ceremony for moving from Earl Shapiro Hall to the now “historic” campus. It certainly will seem like a big deal, whereas in previous years the flow from grade to grade, elementary to Middle to High School was probably smoother.

Learning to adjust to new environments at a young age is an added bonus of the separate campus.

Knowing all of these advantages, I can’t help missing those brief pauses in the hallways as near-toddlers skipped to their classes in front of me.

Those interactions always left a smile on my face. It seems that Earl Shapiro Hall achieved all it could for younger students. Still, it’s leaving some of us big kids feeling nostalgic.

## Quick Q

With Valentine’s Day approaching February 14, if you had the opportunity to send a Valentine to a famous person, who would he or she be and what would you say?



Mira

**MIRA PHILIPSON, senior:** It would be to Eve Ensler, the writer of “The Vagina Monologues,” and say, “I worship you. Your work inspires and empowers women every single day. I can’t wait to meet you one day so that I can profess my love in person.”



Miranda

**MIRANDA SCARLATA, junior:** It would be to the actor Andrew Garfield and say “Hit me up.”



Arun

**ARUN SHARMA, sophomore:** It would be Hannibal from the TV Show and I would say “Let’s get dinner.”



Mohammed

**MOHAMMED ALAUSA, freshman:** It would be to Mila Kunis and I would say, “I love you.”

## Write us!

The Midway staff welcomes letters to the editor. You can express your opinion on any topic and be part of the Midway. The only requirement is you must sign your name. Letters can be placed in Mr. Brasler’s mailbox in the High School office. The editors will contact you about your letter and get a photo of you to with it in the Midway.



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# Already a winner, actress shines in complex film

By Christine Obert-Hong  
Film critic

With a Critics Choice Award for Best Actress and a Golden Globe for Best Actress in the Drama category already in hand, Cate Blanchett has a great chance of winning the Oscar for Best Actress for her performance as Jasmine Francis in Woody Allen's film, "Blue Jasmine."

Jasmine, a formerly wealthy Manhattan socialite with a penchant for drinking and talking to herself, moves from New York to San Francisco after her husband is arrested for fraud and her stepson cuts all connections to her. Now broke, and with no prior career experience, she goes to live with her adopted sister, Ginger (Sally



CATE BLANCHETT  
in "Blue Jasmine"

Hawkins), in hopes of starting a new life. And Jasmine unmistakably is a reference to the equally alcohol-loving and talkative character Blanche DuBois from Tennessee Williams' play "A Streetcar Named Desire."

Blanche and Jasmine share similar experiences. Both consistently try to hide their lack of money, have a glass of liquor in hand almost all the time, stay with their sisters while they look for a new life, and most prominently, are emotionally and psychologically unstable.

This allusion to another theatrical work isn't anything new for Allen. While "Blue Jasmine" is a very good film, earning Allen an Academy Award nomination for Best Original

## Still 'Scandal'ous, series continues to intrigue

By Natalie Holley  
Television critic

Season three of ABC's "Scandal" has proven a blowout of extremes. In 12 episodes Olivia Pope and Associates, the crisis management firm owned by main character Olivia Pope (Kerry Washington), has experienced a national emergency, the outing and consequent murder of a politician's spouse and the exposure of Olivia's parents. After several melodramatic moments per episode, "Scandal" has earned its reputation as a late-night soap opera.

Although last season ended with a great cliffhanger, the reveal of Olivia's father as the head of secret government-organized torture group B613, "Scandal" failed to cash in on the anticipation it had established among its audience, explaining the bombshell minutes into the season opener with minimal fanfare.

Considering "Scandal" is known for its over-the-top reveals, this was a missed opportunity. The moment that had captured the audience's attention for an entire summer was swept under the rug, with the show instead opting to start new, complicated storylines.

As the season continued, plotlines surrounding missing people, military secrets and more clouded the

main focus of the show. Most scenes seemed overacted and characters got pushed aside for showy action scenes and over-the-top flashbacks.

"Scandal" has begun to get back on track. Episode 8, "Virginia Is for Lovers, Too," featured the hot and heavy romance between Olivia and Fitz (Tony Goldwyn), evil political plotting between Cyrus (Jeff Perry) and Mellie (Bellamy Young) and new revelations about Olivia's parents. The show is back to what it does best: displaying the lack of morals within Washington, D.C. By focusing on plotlines the audience already cares about instead of idling on unknown people and places, "Scandal" is already reverting to its old self.

# Dolor Sit Amet.....by Lydia Fama

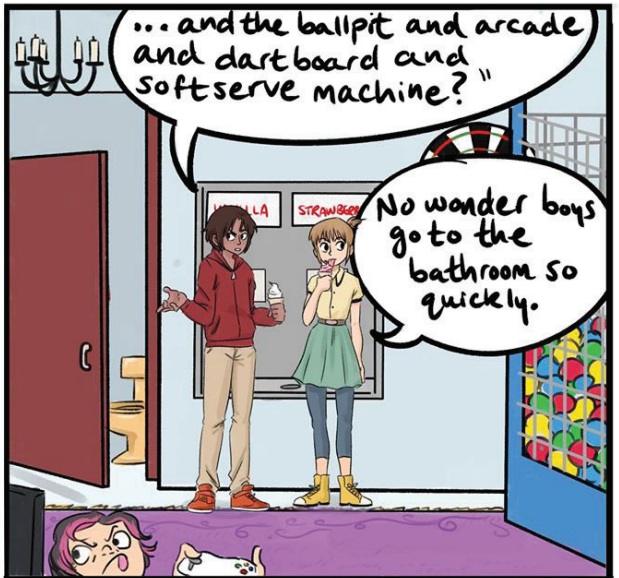
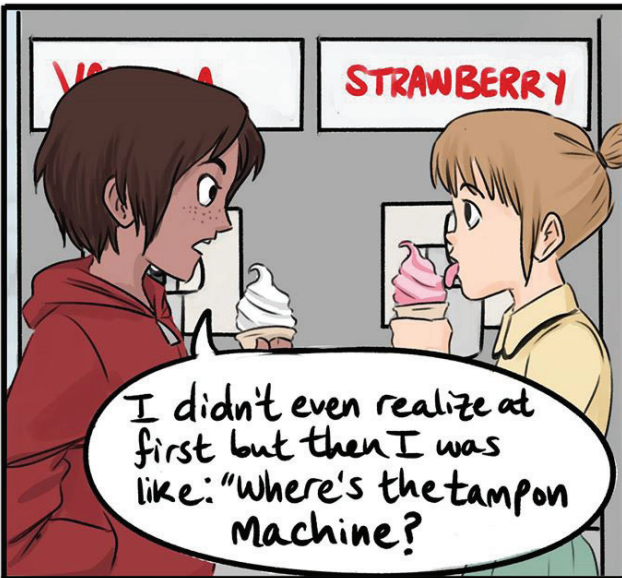
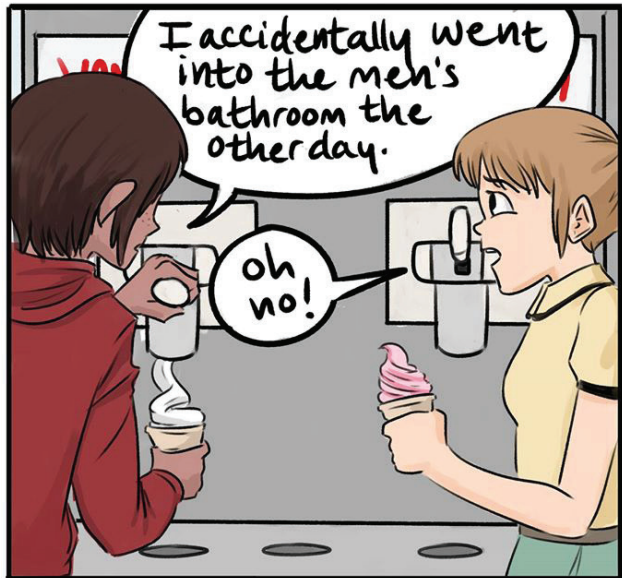


Photo by Jeff Li

Enjoying a romantic meal, U-High couple Ruby Koontz, senior, and David Yunis, junior, munch on fruit, pretzels and marshmallows dipped in warm chocolate fondue.

## Valentine treat fun to make, eat

By Mia Luo  
Food columnist

Nothing says "I love you"—or "Cheers to the single life"—like a fun homemade meal. Whether you plan to make U-High's day off on Valentine's Day the biggest date night of the year or to hang out with your single friends, these two simple recipes for a fondue dinner are sure to be a hit with any company.

For cheese fondue, you will need:

- 1 medium-sized saucepan
- 1 fondue dish or crockpot (to keep the fondue warm)
- 2 cups half-and-half
- 2 teaspoons ground dry mustard
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and crushed
- 3 tablespoons all purpose flour
- 6 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- Any dippables you prefer (I recommend slightly tart apples, broccoli, slightly stale bread squares, or ham)

**FIRST, PEEL** and crush your clove of garlic with a large knife. Then, in a medium-sized saucepan over low heat on the stove, mix together the half-and-half, ground dry mustard, garlic and flour. Heat this mixture until it is almost boiling. While this is happening, mix in a little bit of flour with your shredded cheese. That will smooth the texture of the fondue. Then, start gradually stirring in the cheddar cheese into the mixture until all the cheese has melted.

Make sure to keep the mixture warm and melted in a fondue dish or crockpot while enjoying your meal.

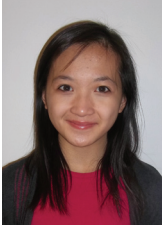
What else could top off this dinner except some classic chocolate fondue? If you really want the night to be a knockout, rinse your saucepan and fondue dish and whip up some melt-y dessert.

For the chocolate fondue, you will need:

- 3/4 cups heavy whipping cream, with 1 / 4 saved just in case the fondue gets too thick
- 1 and 3/4 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- Any dippables you prefer (I recommend strawberries, cherries, pretzels, marshmallows or cake).

**HEAT 1/2 CUP** of the cream in a medium sized saucepan over moderate heat on the stove until it comes to a low boil. Then remove the pan from the heat and add the chocolate. Let the chocolate stand in the hot cream about 3 to 5 minutes to soften, and then mix. If the fondue becomes too thick, stir in the reserved amount of cream, 1 tablespoon at a time, until it is the consistency you want.

Finally, keep the mixture warm and melted in a fondue dish or crockpot while you dip, eat, and savor the sweetness!



Mia

## Magazine showcases photo teacher's project

By Jackie Walker  
Midway reporter



Ms. Ricketts

Ricketts has returned there many summers to do special photo projects.

For "The Magic Bench" Ms. Ricketts draped

a large, dark-colored cloth with a leaf pattern behind a bench. "The Magic Bench," she explained, "was inspired by the itinerant photographers who worked in plazas in South America when I was there in the '70s. I knew I wanted to work that way some day and, by the time I returned to Peru to do the project, there were no itinerant film photographers left, just guys taking digital snapshots of people and selling them."

"Many of the same local people came every day to the park. We became friends, drank Cokes together, talked, told stories and laughed. When another subject walked by, I would pause, get up, and start my introduction. The others would wait until the session was over and we would continue our social hour."





Photo by Jeff Li

Looking to feed the ball to Max Rothschild, Jon King keeps the ball from Parker’s Noah Wolff in U-High’s 39-37 victory January 14 in Upper Kovler.

# Boy basketballers flying high in ISL, take down Northridge

By Mike Glick  
Editor-in-Chief

Before playing their final four Independent School League games—against Elgin, North Shore, Latin and ISL power Northridge—varsity boy basketballers will travel to Orr High School to face Westinghouse in the Orr High School Shootout tomorrow.

The 13-4 Maroons, 7-0 in the ISL as of Midway press time, have competed in two tournaments, the Lisle Thanksgiving Tournament and the McDipper Holiday Tournament. Led by new coach Marlo Finner, U-High won the Lisle tourney and finished with a 1-3 record at McDipper.

Excited to showcase the team’s talent against Westinghouse, a perennial CPS power, three-point specialist Jon King, senior, says U-High has set its sights on a victory.

“There will be a lot of good teams at the Orr Shootout,” Jon said. “We got into a lot of different tournaments this year, including the McDipper Tournament, which is a huge tournament with a ton of great teams. We’ve been looking forward to sending a message to other teams in the state of Illinois and showing them that we can compete with the best. We’ll have that on our minds when we play Westinghouse.”

The Maroons defeated conference foes North Shore 51-41 January 10 away, Parker 39-37



Photo by Liv Rhodes

As he brings the ball forward, Jordan Moran looks up to find a teammate in the Maroons’ 58-35 win over Latin in front of a jam-packed student section in Upper Kovler.

January 14 at home, Latin 58-35 January 17 at home and Northridge 53-39 January 22 in front of Northridge’s always passionate fan section to gain momentum heading into the final stretch of the season. Despite starting off the games against Parker and Latin slowly, U-High used defense to produce comebacks in both games.

“We played North Shore coming out of McDipper and got a big conference win,” senior Logan Crawl, cocaptain with senior Max Rothschild and junior Jordan Moran, said. “To beat Parker and Latin in front of our home crowd was huge. We came out slow in both games, but the rust came off and we pulled it out.

“In the Latin game, our big run all started on defense. A lot of the runs we make start with three-pointers, but this one started from getting it going on the defensive end. We got a lot of steals off the press, especially Jordan, and we finished them off with several and-ones. We were really flowing.”

With the IHSA 3A playoffs approaching, Logan says Coach Finner has instilled in the Maroons confidence that they can make a deep run.

“Coach Finner stresses everyday the fact that we are better than just about any team at the 3A level,” Logan said. “We can beat any 3A powerhouse if we just play the way we played against Latin. We’re not scared of anyone.”

# Swimmers taking down records at torrid pace heading into final stretch

By Luke Murphy  
Sports editor

In the second portion of their home-and-home, swimmers will look to defeat Jones College Prep for the second time this season today at Ratner, 4:30 p.m.

Captained by seniors Rex Hughes and Eliot Levmore, the Maroons have encountered a rigorous schedule early on. Assisting returning coach Paul Gunty, new JV coach Kate Chronic has also contributed to the varsity team in her first year at the school.

Senior Noah Braendel has been impressed with the team’s performance so far this year.

“We’ve begun the season by facing some tough opponents such as Latin and St. Ignatius,” Noah said. “We have been performing very well, which I feel stems from our ability to rise to the occasion and swim to the level of our opponents. Since the swimmers we are facing off against are so fast we are able to pace ourselves at a faster time.”

Much of the team’s success can be credited to the underclassmen, says Eliot.

“The underclassmen will smash or have smashed all of the underclassmen records,” Eliot said. “In particular, sophomore Jason Lin has already broken a frosh-soph record, the 500-free, and is on track for the varsity record, and the frosh-soph 200-medley relay team improved on the previous record by a lot at the Riverside Brookfield Invitational January 18. It’s clear to everyone that they are the fastest underclassmen we have ever had.”

After fearing a rough turnover after losing last year’s seniors, Rex has been pleasantly surprised with the unity of the squad this year.

“Before this season started, I was worried that the swim team would not be as much fun without the seniors from last year,” Rex said. “But just as always, swim team feels like one big family. We wouldn’t be anything without Coach Gunty, though, who I want to thank for four wonderful seasons. We all appreciate his patience with us and the incredible amount of time he spends with the team.”

## America SCORES honors U-High soccer coach

The Chicago chapter of America SCORES, which uses soccer, writing, creative expression and service to inspire city youth to be engaged in their lives, health and communities, has named U-High coach Mike Moses winner of its 2014 Calliope Award for Teamwork.

“By bringing your U-High soccer team for the past 12 years to volunteer at America SCORES’ game days, you have modeled for our students the importance of turning your passions into opportunities to support others,” said Executive Director Brian Bullington in announcing the award.

Mr. Moses will be honored Thursday, February 27 at the SCORES Red Carpet Poetry Slam at the School of the Art Institute. A multiply-honored U-High coach and phys ed teacher, Mr. Moses is also a U-High grad, Class of ’81, and played soccer, basketball and baseball at U-High.



Photo by Francine Almeda

Ready to dive into the water, Sam Adams situates his body atop the diving block in the Maroons’ meet against St. Ignatius January 16 at Ratner.

# Life in China helps senior find niche in the dojo

By Christine Obert-Hong  
Associate editor

Sounds of friends and family cheering and the shuffling of hundreds of bare feet cannot nearly drown out the booming sound of thrown competitors hitting the big competition mats.

Adrenaline fills the atmosphere, along with the sickly, sweet smell of sweat from more than 200 competitors, coaches, friends and family, which seem to thicken the air of the rented-out school gym in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

According to senior Hiroki Lori, this is an average judo tournament.

Born in Chicago, Hiroki attended Lab until he was 10, when his family moved to Shanghai, China because of his father’s job. About a year after they moved, he began to learn judo, a Japanese martial art in which the goal is to throw and immobilize the opponent. The first to throw his opponent onto his back or hold him in a pin he can’t get out of wins.

“I first started learning judo because my dad wanted me to do something constructive because I played soccer at school, but I was kind of terrible at it,” Hiroki said. “So, he just dragged me to where I learned judo in China.”

When he was 13, Hiroki’s family moved back to Chicago. He said he did not start competing until about two years ago.

“At first my coach was like, ‘Yo, Hiroki, you should do this,’” Hiroki said. “He wanted me to compete because it’s kind of a way to greatly improve your judo, and I think that he saw that I could do well in competitions. Honestly speaking, I started competing because he kind of pushed me into it, but it’s become



Photo courtesy of Hiroki Lory

As he receives some pointers from Aleksei Budolin, the national coach of the Estonian Judo team, Hiroki trains with another judo competitor.

something I’m thankful for.

“I didn’t want to do it at first. It’s terrifying if you’re an inexperienced judo player. You’re alone on a mat with

someone you’ve probably never met, and you’re supposed to fight him. I was really bad at it for about a year and a half. My first competition was really bad. I lost all the matches in about 10 seconds.

“It was pretty great,” Hiroki added with sarcasm. “I fought a black belt, and I was a green belt at the time. So, it was pretty terrible.”

Hiroki said that he currently fights in the senior divisions, and that as a purple belt he can fight in both the novice and advanced divisions. The novice division includes the white, yellow, orange and green belts, while the advanced division includes the brown and black belts.

“I guess what changed during that half year was mainly just from progression,” he said. “I put the time in and just started enjoying competitions more.”

Currently, Hiroki practices at Tohkon Judo Academy, on North Clark Street.

“They have a really wide, diverse group of people,” Hiroki said. “One of the teachers there is a three-time Olympian from Nigeria, and my coach, who I practice with almost every day, was an Olympic alternate on the Olympic team for the Moscow Olympics. But since they were boycotted, he didn’t get to go. And there’s a bunch of national champions who go there to train.”

Hiroki also teaches at the University of Chicago Judo Club. He took third at the 2013 United States Judo Federation Junior Nationals in Pittsburgh and has an Outstanding Senior Competitor Award.

“I’m hoping to compete internationally, so Junior Olympics this summer,” Hiroki said. “Basically, I want to go to as many big tournaments as I can, and I guess I’ll see where to go from there.”





Photo courtesy of Mike Glick

With a quick movement, Zach Minor (left) attacks his opponent in the 4th Annual Midway Classic, hosted by U-High January 25. Upper Kovler, Lower Kovler and Sunny Gym housed the tournament.

# Final test looms for fencers

By Mike Glick  
Editor-in-Chief

Prepared to take on the top teams from the Great Lakes Fencing Conference, fencers will travel north to Lincolnshire to Stevenson High School tomorrow for their final tournament of the season, the Great Lakes Fencing Championships.

Coached by Bakyt Abdikulov and assistant coach Damien Johnson, the Maroons participated in the Great Lakes Fencing Conference (GLFC) Team Meet December 7 at New Trier and December 14 at Maine West, with the women's foil team taking 1st place. The Maroons also had several individuals, including junior Jennifer Chien, place highly in the Culver Academy Midwest Open January 11.

**WHILE U-HIGH'S** women's foil took 1st place at the Culver Open, the Maroons also sent fencers in the saber and epee divisions.

"Women's foil went undefeated through the GLFC team tournament, which was really incredible," Jennifer said. "The format is you have a team of four or more people, with the extras able to sub in, and then you go against another school. There is not continuous scoring, but instead it's individual scoring for each person against a person on the opposing team. Each person has four bouts, for a total of 16, and to win your team has to have nine victories."

"We also performed pretty well at Culver. I placed top eight, 6th overall. The Culver Open was not exclusively for fencers from the Great Lakes High School Fencing Conference. There were also people who fence year-round and fence club, and that made it a much harder tournament. Senior Charles Chamberlain performed particularly well, seeding

very highly and placing top 16 in epee."

**AFTER FACING** most of the teams they will face in the Great Lakes Fencing Conference championships in previous tournaments, Charles feels that the women's foil team in particular, as well as the other teams, can place highly.

"I think that for the most part we know and have faced who we will be competing against at the conference championships," Charles said. "We've seen most of the teams."

"New Trier has a pretty well-rounded team for the men's epee, and Culver Military Academy also has a couple good fencers and one really good one. Our women's foil can do really well I think, and I think our other teams can do really well, too."

**THE MAROONS** have benefitted greatly from Coach Johnson, Charles said.

"We have a new coach this year for epee named Damien Johnson," Charles said. "He's just an epee coach, but he has made it easier for us when our main coach isn't there. We don't have a purely saber coach, but Damien's presence has been really good for all of us."

## Away meets add new, positive element to runners' season

By Sonia Bourdaghs  
Editor-in-Chief

Preparing for the first meet of the season February 22 at De La Salle High School, U-High runners began practice January 21.

The meet will be the first away meet for indoor runners. One other away meet in addition to the three Midway Miles races are scheduled. Prior to the official season, distance co-captains Frank Waggoner, Max Volchenboum and Sonia Bourdaghs, seniors, and sprinting cocaptains Bolu Johnson, senior, and Alex Thompson, junior, led preseason practices.

**ACCORDING TO ALEX**, the workouts have included more cross training than in previous years.

"We've been doing a lot of weight training and a lot of work on strengthening our legs and arms," Alex explained. "For the team I hope that we will have a stronger sense of devotion to track among the sprinters, and that we commit more time

to practice."

The addition of away meets provides new competition, said Frank.

"I think it's just another opportunity to race with people we haven't really seen before," Frank said. "Home meets usually have the same people every year. It'll be nice to run on some new indoor tracks."

**ALSO HOPING** to add more cross training to workouts, Coach Deborah Ribbens attended the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association (ITCCCA) for more ideas.

"We will do 7 a.m. Monday morning workouts and a double practice on Wednesdays in the morning and afternoon," Coach Ribbens explained. "We will also incorporate swimming, yoga, pilates and two days of weight training a week."

"We have a large team, with approximately 61 athletes. We want to work this season on field events like jumping and throwing, too. At meets all those points add up."

# Riding hot streak, girl basketballers set for Trinity test

By Luke Murphy  
Sports editor

Winners of 11 of their first 15 games and three of their last four, varsity girl basketballers will take on Holy Trinity today in Upper Kovler, 4:30 p.m.

With an unblemished 4-0 record in the ISL, including recent wins over Parker, MPA and North Shore, the Maroons look poised for a run in the 2A playoffs. U-High defeated the Colonels 46-39 December 17 at the Mather Holiday Tournament, the Warriors 35-23 January 14 at home and the Raiders January 22 at North Shore.

**WHILE RECENT WINS** look nice in the standings, senior Lillian Eckstein believes that the team has the potential for many more decisive victories.

"Our recent games have been wins but not necessarily good wins," Lillian said. "We have started a little shakier than we would've liked but we end up pulling off the win in the end. Our leading scorer has definitely been junior Kendall Rallins since the beginning and it has continued that way."

Practice for Maroons places a large emphasis on fundamentals, according to Lillian.

"In practice we have been focusing a lot on dribbling, passing and shooting technique," Lillian said. "We do not run complicated drills in practices or plays in games, but we are working on perfecting the abilities that we have."

**ONE OF THE** team's best players in recent memory, Sophia Gatton, now a freshman at Grinnell College, has been greatly missed, Lillian said.

"Not having Sophia on the team is definitely a challenge," Lillian said. "It puts a lot more pressure on Kendall to take over all of the ball control, passing, and playmaking, but she has become an even bigger presence on the court."

Kendall says she has placed more of an emphasis on creating offense for the Maroons this year.

"I feel like in my first two years in the program I tried to do a little bit of everything and just help the team however they needed, whether that be as a scorer, rebounder, distributor or defender," Kendall said. "This year I've definitely focused more on creating offense both for my teammates and myself."

## Double Delight



Photos by Wyatt Dandy

With an amazing array of choices before them, Jacob Mazzarella, left, and Clyde Schwab are ready to order at Rajun Cajun.

**A Hyde Park favorite, Rajun Cajun's dual specialties-Indian and soul food-mean that our guests don't have to settle for one type of cuisine. Want tandoori chicken with a side of macaroni and cheese for dinner and peach cobbler for dessert? No problem. Rajun Cajun's central location in Hyde Park means that visiting us is convenient, walking or driving. But with free delivery on orders over \$15, you might decide to enjoy your dining right at home.**

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## Student government may revisit its activist legacy, officers say

By Julian Lark

Political and student government editor

Having sponsored two dances and two Spirit Weeks this year, Student Council officers say they have begun to realize there is more they could do.

Student government at U-High, a historically activist organization, has traditionally tackled major issues, from budget concerns in the late 1960s to schedule changes four years ago.

IN 1969-70 the Student Legislative Coordinating Committee (SLCC), the name Student Council adopted for a time to give it more representative power, represented students worried about school-wide budget cuts by organizing a petition and pushing for more transparency from administrators so that students could understand the process better.

"SLCC Thursday approved a statement drafted by president Steve Pitts, protesting the administration's 'poor communication' with the school community concerning the budget problem. SLCC also decided to write and circulate a petition stating displeasure with the administration's budget solution," a January 13, 1970 Midway story by editor-in-chief Mark Seidenberg, Class of 1970, headlined, "SLCC to discuss budget action today," stated.

Dr. Pitts, currently an associate chairman of the University of California Berkeley Labor Center, in a phone interview from his home in Oakland, California, said his experience of student government was limited by the ways in which SLCC could try to change things. They were limited almost exclusively to talking to administrators, and he emphasized that real action was taken outside of student government.

"I'M SURE WHAT kids are feeling today is similar to what we experienced when I was president," Mr. Pitts said. "However, there was a lot of non-Student Council activity going on. A lot of students were engaged in Vietnam War protests, and some were even involved in the Black Panthers organization. Even when there was a student protest in 1970, student government was not involved."

"We mostly just determined what clubs and organizations got what portion of the budget, the real social action happens outside of student government. My vice-president was big on protesting the Vietnam War by posting lists of dead soldiers for instance, but none of that came through to our discussions. Then again, my experience was in the late 1960s, and I'm sure kids are less active, seeing as times are different."

When a new schedule with two fewer class periods and no Thursday double lunch period was proposed four years ago by the school's administrators, former Student Council President Emmy Ehrman, Class of 2011, told the Midway she didn't think the changes proposed would improve student lives so she took action.

A PETITION FOLLOWED in Fall of 2010, started by Shannon Vavra, Nathan Eckstein and Maddie Lindsey, all Class of 2012, and was signed by 290 students. It was unsuccessful.

"I don't want the new schedule to have too much of a focus on taking away freedom from the students and putting them in class for longer," Emmy said in a September 7, 2010 Midway story headlined, "Schedule change gets moving" by Nicholas Phalen, Class of 2012. "All the focus on contact time takes away from the fact that students still need freedom during the school day."

In the December 17 issue, the Midway this year encouraged student government to take action on food in the halls. But Student Council President Phil Healy, senior, said that administrators had dealt with the issue of eating in the halls by establishing U-High 303



Photo by Matthew Garvey

Student government Officers are, from left, President Phil Healy, Senior Class President Lillian Eckstein, Junior Class President John Turner, Sophomore Class President Willis Weinstein, Freshman Class President Matt Ferraro.

as a designated area of study and eating during lunch.

"MS. CAMPOS came to Student Council asking whether we thought having no eating in the halls was a good idea," Phil said. "We hadn't seen it as an issue prior to that, but since the administration had been satisfied with the results of having this rule in place for the Fall quarter, we thought it made sense to continue with that."

"Generally we think kids should use common sense in terms of avoiding a mess, seeing as food on the floors just means more creatures around, and nobody wants that."

Phil described Student Council as running in a way that most of their actions represent suggestions and the goal is to find solutions amenable to both students and administration.

"THAT'S JUST BECAUSE there's been no major issues in our eyes over which we'd have to fight with anyone," Phil said. "There's nothing big like spending cuts or schedule changes over which we'd have to be forceful. I mean, I've never liked filling free periods with assemblies, apart from the awards assemblies and assemblies where there are a lot of announcements to make, but I have been able to finish my work, so I don't think it's too big a deal."

Students around the Journalism Office have talked about other issues that could be addressed, including whether "Challenge Success," a program run by the Stanford Graduate School of Education intended to help students at rigorous high schools balance school work and personal health, when the school adds on assemblies and other obligations for students. Many students also said they aren't sure what message "Day with the Deans," an event where juniors listened to a number of Deans of Students from prestigious universities give application advice, is supposed to send. Many feel the event represents yet another obligation added for overloaded students.

Phil said that he is realizing that students are under-represented in important meetings and decision-making committees.

"IT WOULD BE important to have a student representative at important administrative meetings, I've not thought of asking, as I've not seen this as a problem," Phil said. "I don't think it's fair for students not to be informed about things that are going on that have deep consequences. I should probably be more involved in the future, but I haven't because I trust the decisions made so far."

Ms. Campos said her experience with U-High's Student Council is similar to her previous experiences with student government at the University of Chicago.

"The student government bodies that I have interacted with before were housing organizations," Ms. Campos said. "They were very similar in that their goals were also to build community through events and such as well as deal with making the dorms more livable. There is interest among some current Student Council members to continue to explore the role of Student Council at U-High."

## Safety

(continued from front page)  
drove away."

The senior boy recalls calling his father with the girl's phone and asking him what to do. He then remembers walking to a nearby Starbucks and calling the campus police.

"WE GOT interviewed with my dad at Starbucks and gave descriptions of the car, phone, and gun," said the senior boy. "Then when I got home the Chicago Police Department came over for a follow-up to investigate and ask for more information."

"What was weird about the incident is that the guy only made eye contact with me. He didn't ask for my friend's phone. There were also people on the other side of the street, there just wasn't anything to see."

Director of Security Fountain Walker recommended limiting how often one exposes the contents of their backpacks or bags when outside.

"BY LIMITING one's personal stimuli and paying attention you will increase your personal safety, Mr. Walker said.

"In case of being physically accosted, use the available means to free yourself, escape, and call for help as soon as possible."

"If they lay hands on you bite, scream, holler, fight back, they have gone beyond acquiring your material items at this point."

"If they just want your belongings, don't fight back, just give them to them and don't resist."

"IF IN THE University area use the 'Blue Light' phones to call for help and leave the area as soon as the opportunity arises."

"Notify your parents, school administrators, and call the police as quickly as possible."

"Despite what you hear, Hyde park is the fifth safest community in Chicago."

## Sorting out this year's early college admissions picture

Some seniors express shock at results, but from another viewpoint nothing unusual happened

By Marissa Page, an editor-in-chief; Luke Murphy, an associate editor; and Willis Weinstein, a Midway reporter.

The early bird catches the worm. Early admission college applicants in U-High's Class of 2014, however, feel unsatisfied with their decisions, released throughout December.

Fifty-eight seniors, 46.4 percent of the class, applied under one of the three possible early plans: Early Decision, which is binding; Early Action, which is non-binding; and Restricted Early Action, which is non-binding but limits

which other early plans to which the applicant is allowed to apply. 10.2 percent were admitted somewhere under any of these three plans, while 2.4 percent were denied outright early.

DEFERRED FROM his top choice school in the early decision round, senior Matthew Davis said the news caught him off-guard.

"I was fairly shocked," Matthew

said. "I wasn't initially intending on applying anywhere early, but I looked at my list and decided that if I got in everywhere I applied I would pick this place for sure, so why not toss my hat in the early ring. The college counselors and I thought I had a pretty good chance, and I didn't want to assume anything but I was surprised by my deferral."

Senior Louis Harboe got rejected from his early pick.

"YOU SEE the decision and immediately think, 'is that really right, maybe I read it wrong, there has to be a way to reverse it,'" Louis said. "I kept thinking that maybe it wasn't actually set in stone. It took a few days to really set in and realize that all that work, all that stress over one application is wasted. You are just not going there."

"The worst part is that you wonder if they really got to know you, if they took into account your interview that went so well, if they really read your resume. At this point with so many applications there's no way they can

really be reading everything, and it's basically a lottery."

Remaining optimistic for the Class of 2014, science teacher David Derbes believes this year will prove more brutal with early admissions than the regular round.

"FROM MY impression fewer kids got in than usual, and since previous years applications have been trending worse," Mr. Derbes said. "That being said, less than optimal early decision applications don't mean bad normal

applications. The deferrals were surprising, and seem to stress some kids out, especially based on the prestige of their choice schools."

"Though the amount of people who haven't gotten in to their early decision schools was a surprise, not getting in is okay. The most important part of the application process is finding a good school, regardless of which institution it is. This can be a difficult process, because it takes a while to figure out which colleges might be a good match."

Despite the shared conviction among seniors and some teachers that it has been a disappointing year for acceptances, college counselor Patty Kovacs insists that this is not the case.

"EVERYBODY SEES things through self-reference," Mrs. Kovacs said. "Sure, for the students who were told 'no,' it feels like a terrible year, but for the students who were told 'yes' it wasn't a terrible year; in fact, it was a good year. For the students who were told 'maybe' it

is an uncertain year. In the moment of disappointment we all want to catastrophize. It's a good way to vent."

"A reason for the increased amount of deferrals is that there is a trend in the larger landscape of college admissions for colleges to become more and more cautious of admitting students in the fall cycle. They can see how many students might still submit applications in the regular round as they try to craft the new class and don't want to shut the door for possible outstanding applicants."



Matthew



Louis



Mr. Derbes



Ms. Kovacs