Thirty-five Intel Science Talent Search finalists, including U-High’s Rahul Mehta, met with President Barack Obama at the White House. They all arrived for the judging interviews, but then I realized that it would be better just to go ahead and have fun with it. The judging interviews ended up being quite interesting; the questions were well thought out and they were good thought exercises to work my way through. The society for Science and the Public and Science’s website. A subsequent 40 finalists, sponsored by the Society and Science for participed at the Intel Science Talent Search Fina- lals, have been awarded to the 2,920 finalists and the importance of STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

A scientific adventure

By Grace Anderson

Midway reporter

Drumming his fingers against the side of his wooden chair, senior Rahul Mehta, an Intel Science Finalist, faced four empty chairs in a small, brightly lit, white conference room in the Regis Hotel on the morning of Friday, March 7 for his judging interview. Soon, judges with PhDs in fields ranging from physics to astrophysics, such as Dr. Balamurali Ambati, entered the room and drilled Rahul with questions on anything and everything related to science. Among the judges was Steve Alvey, the society for Science and the Public’s director of programs.

“Hi Rahul, how are you?” Ambati asked.

Rahul took a deep breath and responded, “I’m doing fine, Dr. Ambati.”

Ambati introduced several other judges, including Regis University’s Dr. Robert Davis, and told Rahul he had a lot of work to do for the interview. “I think you’re going to have a lot of work to do,” he said.

Rahul nodded his head.”I think I’m going to have a lot of work to do,” he said.

“Okay, we’ll get started,” Ambati said.

Rahul’s project focused on using computer simulation of the hypothesized motion of molecules in photosynthesis. “I thought that I was going to be nervous for the judging interviews, but then I realized that it would be better just to go ahead and have fun with it.” The judging interviews ended up being quite interesting; the questions were well thought out and they were good thought exercises to work my way through.

“I thought that I was going to be nervous for the judging interviews, but then I realized that it would be better just to go ahead and have fun with it.” The judging interviews ended up being quite interesting; the questions were well thought out and they were good thought exercises to work my way through.

Between interviews, Friday, March 7, finalists gathered at the White House in the luxurious state dining room, for a meeting with the President of the United States.

“It was extremely fun. We all congregated and President Obama spoke to us for about 20 minutes about our projects, our futures and the importance of STEM education to his administration. After that we each got to shake his hand, individually introduced ourselves and take a picture with him. It turned out that he was headed out of the country as we actually got to watch him take off in Marine One, his helicopter.”

Freshmen find they rose to challenge of workload

By Marissa Martinez and Eliana Waxman

Midway reporters

While freshman year seemed daunting in September, by Winter Quarter, freshmen felt they finally were getting the hang of school.

Freshman class president Mat Ferraro came from Chicago City Day School on the North Side. He found that he could quickly keep up with the fast-paced courses because he knew he could take more classes.

“I REALLY LIKE a challenge,” he said. “I came to Lab because the classes here are more my speed. With the fast-paced curriculum, being organized is really important. I learned to make homework plans, which helped me manage my time and stress more effectively since September.”

Lab Life Sarah Markovitz said that she was prepared for the potential stress of high school. “I don’t feel like there’s a lot of homework, not as much as people say there is. I do many extracurricular activities like Chinese school and piano, and I can finish my homework, all before eleven at night.”

Elisabeth Schmidt-Ott came to Lab from Germany to visit her father in January, and admits that it was a big shift.

“There are differences between here and my German school,” Elisabeth said. “For example, in Germany, I only had about an hour of homework on average, when I wasn’t studying for tests. I had free time, and could balance extracurricular activities and homework. When I go back, I’ll be more relaxed. One hour of homework a day will be easier to handle, compared to my experiences here.”

“Here, in addition to studying for big tests, I get up to five hours’ worth of homework to do. My organization has gotten better since I arrived here. The students are very motivated at this school, so that helps me keep up with my work. U-High is a really great experience, and I’m glad I came here.”

Sarah agrees that the drive adds a lot to the high school process. “There are definitely pressures here to do well,” she said.

U-High has long Science Talent Search history

By David Hedges

Midway reporter

The 68th University High School student to make the finals, Rahul Mehta adds to a history of success at the Intel Science Talent Search.

A year ago, Lane Gunderman, now a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, was a finalist in the competition’s Fina- lals and won a total of $5,800 for his computer stimulation of the hypothesized motion of molecules in photosynthesis.

EACH YEAR, 300 Semifinalists who have done exceptional work on an independent re- search project are selected by PhD scientists, mathematicians, or engineers in the subject area of the entry, according to the Society for Science’s website. A subsequent 40 finalists travel to Washington D.C. and compete for the title of winner.

The Society for Science and the Public and the Westinghouse Electric Corporation created the competition in 1922. Originally titled the Westinghouse Science Talent Search, In- tel took over the majority sponsorship from Siemens which had bought Westinghouse, and in 1988 the name became the Intel Sci- ence Talent Search. Since the program’s founding, millions of dollars of scholarships have been awarded to the 2,920 finalista and 22,071 semifinalists.

The first U-High to be named a finalist in the competition, in 1988, going on to win on sec- ond-place, was Annie Penn ’85. That year, she also won the Museum of Science and Indus- try’s Outstanding Young Scientist award and went to the Nobel Prize ceremonies in Stockholm to receive the Flausch and Lomb award.

For her second-place position, Ms. Penn received $10,000 in D.C. for a project in which she produced clones of vi- ral genetic materials to make a gene map for studying viral reproduction in cells. Ms. Penn was greeted as a celebrity back in Chi- cago, with multiple news agencies doing fea- tures on her. According to a feature in the Chicago Tribune, Ms. Penn also was a ballet and jazz dancer in high school.

She told the Midway that she would use her scholarship to Harvard to major in a biologi- cal science. Eventually, I’d like to get a PhD and do research.

Two years later, Louise Chang, 1987, claimed the 1st prize in D.C. at the Science Search. She spent two years on cancer re- search, isolating three abnormal genes and protein-destroying enzyme that could contribute

Connecting

With 955 people attending and an estimated near $900,000 raised for Lab Schools Scholarships, this year’s “Connections” benefit dinner, dance and auction March 8 received universal praise as an elegant and fun evening with fine dining and excellent student entertainment. The glamorous setting of the historic Navy Pier Grand Ballroom rang with conversation and laughter all evening.

With University of Chicago President Robert J. Zimmer, himself a former Lab Schools parent, serving as chairman, parents Kate Collins and Christopher McGowan served as vice chairman, working with the Lab Schools Development Office. All were praised for their dedicated planning and hard work. The evening honored Lab Schools Director David Magill, retiring the end of this year, and Lab Schools Board President John Rogers, Class of 1976, celebra- ting their collaboration over the years.

Entertainment include the Dance Team (pictured), sophomore David Hedges playing a violin concerto accompanied by pianist Sandro Tsomaia, and freshman Alex Lund, singer and guitarist.
Teaching in Ukraine, sent home, U-High grad awaits next chapter

By John Williams
Midway reporter

With tensions high between Russia and Ukraine over Russia’s possession of the Crimean Peninsula, Graham Salinger, Class of 2008, has been waiting to learn if he will be allowed to return to the white-washed walls of Gas Pipeline School and the grey concrete architecture of Novopakov, Ukraine.

For 18 months volunteering through the Peace Corps in Novopakov, Ukraine, Mr. Salinger taught English to 3rd- through 10th-grade students.

Mr. Salinger taught in Ukraine, sent home, his first exposure to local politics, he said.

In Middle School, Mr. Salinger joined the Lab University of Chicago.

Mr. Salinger was born in New York City.

His family moved to Chicago when he was two years old after his father got a position fundraising for the University of Chicago.

After graduating from U-High in 2008, Mr. Salinger attended American University in Washington D.C., studying politics and government.

Mr. Salinger was interested in politics when ‘The West Wing’ came on TV. That was when I really found myself interested in what politicians were saying, and with how they could affect people. When my friend invited me to volunteer with the Obama campaign, I thought ‘why not’. I learned very quickly that government should work for people and it was through the experience that I discovered my calling to public service, to be part of something more important than myself.

After graduating from U-High in 2008, Mr. Salinger attended American University in Washington D.C., studying politics and government.

“We did it for campaign experience. We were interested and just wanted to see what a campaign was like, see people involved in politics and issues people in Illinois were talking about.

“I REALLY BECAME interested in politics when ‘The West Wing’ came on TV. That was when I really found myself interested in what politicians were saying, and with how they could affect people. When my friend invited me to volunteer with the Obama campaign, I thought ‘why not’. I learned very quickly that government should work for people and it was through the experience that I discovered my calling to public service, to be part of something more important than myself.”

After graduating from U-High in 2008, Mr. Salinger attended American University in Washington D.C., studying politics and government.

By Clyde Schwab
Midway reporter

Surprise, disappointment, and nostalgia from U-Highers have greeted renovations recently completed in eastern Blaine Hall.

During a cloudy mid-March week, several Lifers (students who have been at the Lab Schools since Nursery School or kindergarten) toured the renovated East Wing of Blaine and showed the newly renovated area.

CONSTRUCTION IN Blaine, part of a schoolwide modernization, has included classroom renovations, redesigns and re-configurations, removal of some rooms within rooms, and movement of the eastern Blaine staircase to make way for a new exit.

Several facilities previously housed in the West Wing of Blaine last month were moved to the East Wing, with construction beginning on the West Wing, including the Nurse’s Office, the Lower School office and the Lower School Principal’s Office.

“There was a lot we attempted in Blaine, and there was lots of built in casework that we tried to keep but was in poor shape so we had to redo it or get rid of it entirely,” Lab Schools Associate Director David Stafford said.

“There’s a lot to contend with when trying to update a building like this.”

AMONG THE LIFERS getting a Blaine preview, senior Julian Ehsan, observing the freshly painted walls and hardwood floors, recounted his days in the Lower School.

“The building definitely had an aged look to it, but it was really nice to be in unique rooms with so much history,” Julian said.

“Think they did a pretty good job in keeping the same style of the rooms, modernizing the necessities and not adding too much extra fluff. It doesn’t look exactly like the old Lab, but I think that the old place needed an update, and it looks pretty good.”

Senior Sam Kaplan said the majesty of Blaine made a lasting impression on him.

“I LIKE the new renovations. The floors look really great, and the classrooms are pretty sweet. It will be great to have air conditioning, plus the building was decaying. A lot of the memories I have of Blaine are in the library. I remember progressing through the different librarians for story time as we grew up, and how they would always make the joke that the carpet was shrinking as we got older.

“There was a sense of history in every room. You could see the steps and where people had walked on them and know how many people had stepped there.”

SENIOR NATALIE KAMPF remembered Blaine classrooms as spacious and comfortable.

“I always liked the old classrooms the way they were,” she said. “The new ones are smaller, and some don’t have two parts, a front room and a small back room.

“I remember being able to go into the back room to read, and I think that the teachers might like the new classrooms less because they have less space. Now it looks more modern. But I understand that the classrooms needed to be updated and that renovations were necessary.

“I always remembered feeling very at home. The rooms had a very cozy feeling to them.”

AS SENIOR Alex Cohen started astonished at the new walls, classrooms and stairwells of Blaine East, she noted that although the change is apparent, it won’t necessarily change the experience of Blaine.

“The renovations themselves seem weird,” Alex said. “A completely modern design. The white halls feel like a hospital, and without the artwork everything just feels a bit blank. But the changes don’t make Blaine worse; it’s just a little different.

“My experience in Blaine wasn’t completely affected by the old atmosphere that it had. The atmosphere was really only a side part of it. The actual teaching, learning and community was what made the experience so great for me, not the feel.”

Blaine Hall veterans find changes interesting, unsettling

Spring has Sprung!

Take a tip from Jiji Plecha and Nikita Dullin and celebrate the joys of a beautiful Spring day or evening dining at the MediCi, either inside or on our beautiful rooftop.

After a truly terrible Chicago winter, celebrate the return of sunny, warm days at the MediCi. Enjoy our famous fresh made Croissants or share our deep dish pizza with a group of friends. Come on over during open periods. We are just a block away and you are just five minutes from a delicious treat on a beautiful day!

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By Urania Almeida

Photo by Fiona Potter

Photo courtesy of Graham Salinger

Teaching in Ukraine for a year-and-a-half on a Peace Corps assignment, Graham Salinger, Class of 2008, found both the familiar and unfamiliar during his experience.

“When interested me about politics was the (continues on page 6)
ISO results for U-High varsity competitors were as follows:

Competing in topics ranging from Anatomy to Geologic Mapping, Science Team proceeds to State this Saturday, April 12 at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

By Micaiah Buhheim-Jurisson

Although we just moved up to the top division this year, we're still having practice debates, and though we faced several obstacles, I think we accomplished our goal and prepared ourselves well.
U-High catches Media eyes

BY SONIA BOURDAGHS
OPINION COLUMNIST

“Go Maroons” foam fingers and a bus scheduled to shuttle students to a boys’ basketball game—something has changed at U-High.

Starting with the boys’ sections soccer game last fall, I became aware of a rise in sports attendance. The bleachers at several boys’ basketball games in the winter were also near-filled, and although the boys scheduled to shuttle students to an away game March 5 got canceled, the gesture itself was a novelty for U-High. Some students did however travel to the away sections semifinals game March 11.

SEEING STUDENTS at these games is thrilling to me, and makes me think about the future of Lab. Without a football team, students focused on boys’ cross-country and basketball rallying points for the school. In addition to a continued effort to keep swing sports high, we can use the energy U-Highers have invested in to promote other Maroons teams and events.

Promoting some sort of peer pressure seems like the best way to get U-Highers to events. Students don’t flock to these games to see their friends perform, just as they come to see their friends compete on the field or in the court.

A relatively simple way to get even more students to games, for instance, could be to have student performers sing the national anthem prior to games rather than playing the recorded versions used this year at basketball games. Boy basketballers already gain added audience members from the halftime Dance Team performance, and by adding a second performance to such games, sporting events can be more attractive to the Lab community.

U-HIGHERS, LIKE most teenagers, also don’t like being forced to do things, so that the event feels like a privilege and not an obligation. This was made most clear to me at Art in the Dark when so many people chose to attend and enjoy the committee’s hard work.

Well-promoted but not mandatory events based on student performances and competitions have the potential to add to the already improved U-High spirit.

As the Midway sees it

U-High catches Media eyes

The President of Spectrum told the Midway she felt most students at the school are not open to discussing issues of sexual orientation. An assembly or other forum where students of various sexual orientations could share their personal experiences and challenges, she claimed, might foster more awareness of and openness to sexual orientation issues on campus.

Other perceived problems may not be as problematic as meets the eye. The Midway’s most recent editorial lamented, “U-Highers seldom have experienced or thought about life at other high schools.” But nearly every high school student in the world has little exposure to everyday life at schools other than his or her own. The editorial also lamented that Lab students live “in a different orbit than the rest of Chicago and its suburbs.” But the population of any school that charges tuition or has a selective admissions process necessarily will not mirror the population of society as a whole. And it is impossible for even large public high schools to include students who represent the cultures, identities, and experiences of all earth’s 7 billion residents. Some things in life must be learned and experienced other than by attending high school.

It is also worth remembering that Lab has educational objectives beyond exposing students to “diversity” and teaching them about “social justice” – for instance, teaching students to speak and write clearly, perform basic quantitative analysis, and think critically and creatively. That is, until critical thinking involves questioning the importance of diversity at Lab. Such diversity of viewpoints would be a bridge too far.

Compared to most elite private schools, Lab’s student body does indeed reflect a broad range of racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. This is a good thing, and it is something the school should be proud to claim. Where there remain concerns of problems with the way certain sub-communities feel treated, the Lab administration should probe those problems and develop thoughtful solutions to address them. But over-the-top rhetoric and meaningless pronouncements about “social justice” or “diversity” will do nothing to make Lab a more respectful or open-minded place.

If you want to discuss these issues further, I will be “voluntarily” spending some time in the Lab’s high school basement singing happy songs about the virtues of diversity. I will emerge ready to rid Lab School of homogeneity and unjust imperfection.

Quick Q

What are you most looking forward to during Spring Quarter and why?

ALEX COHEN, senior: While snow is beautiful, it generates a lot of negative feelings, and puts people in a slump. I’m also looking forward to the end of this winter.

JAMES ZHANG, junior: Because I walk to school, I really want the snow to be gone. The ice on my route slows me down a lot.

KELLIE LU, sophomore: Since Winter Quarter is so short, I really enjoy spending time in the gym and staying active. I wish the weather was warmer, though.

NIGEL TELMAN, freshman: I’m very excited for the Jazz in the Lab tour. We’re going to see jazz museums and play at a concert, which should be really fun. I really want to try the food, too.

Yes, you can get an education at Lab, but you certainly can’t get one that is defined by a narrow vision of society and how to define and navigate the line between race/ethnicity and humor in American society and how to define and navigate the line between humor and intolerance. Bringing in a well-known African-American or Hispanic comedian to help lead the discussion could help draw in and engage students.

A reporter from the Hyde Park Herald interviewed history teacher Paul Horton for its March 26 issue for a story entitled “U. of C. Lab teachers show support for CPS test opt-outs.”

Also making news, “Star Wars” creator George Lucas and the Lucas Education and Investment Management Executive Melody Hobson contributed $25 million in dollar contribution toward the development of the University of Chicago’s new Science Center. In February article, “George Lucas, Melody Hobson donate large amount.”

The Labs have also attracted less positive attention from the media. The Chicago Reader published an article “Are Chicago’s elite private schools diversified enough as they claim to be?” concerning allegedly insufficient socioeconomic diversity at the Lab Schools, Latin and Parkside.

Faculty members have also received recognition. Search.

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Faculty members have also received recognition.
Science Search winners have long history (continued from front page)

to the behavior of malignant cells.
Louise won $20,000 for her work, and when she returned to Chicago from D.C., victorious, the school held a ceremony in Kenwood Mall in her honor.
She too was featured across the media and appeared on NBC’s “Today” show, and in the New York Times. After graduating, Ms. Chang also went to Harvard.

THE THIRD U-High in four years at the competition, Ben Abella, Class of 1988, was named a winner of $20,000 for his juvenile research on working kids and education.

MR. ABELLA researched a soil bacterium which acts as a natural fertilizer for certain plants in the context of genetic engineering, discovering and characterizing two genes essential to cell life.

As Dr. Abella, he worked a few years at the University of Chicago Hospitals, and currently is on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania in the Department of Emergency Medicine.

“The experience showed that anyone can make an impact and do something both worthwhile and exciting in the sciences,” Dr. Abella said of the science competition. “I was amazedly lucky to get to quickly. There was a two-week break where his editor looked over things and we weren’t really talking. But in the end they just wanted to confirm everything with me.”

Despite the careful interviewing process, Louise believes the story included an error. THERE WAS a quote used in the article about Carnegie Mellon University where they switched what me and my Dad said,” he explained. Professor Gary Becker, a University of Chicago economist and a Nobel laureate, was also interviewed for the story. He is Louise’s grandfather.

As for reactions at school, many people told Louise he was sure to get into the college of his choice with his fame. But he missed “A lot of colleges don’t necessarily value developing an app as much as they value a 36 on the ACT or straight A’s. It’s not like every admissions officer is going to understand what I do.”

Science Adventure

Science Team winners

(continued from page 5)

Emily Xiao, 3rd, Descriptive Geom. Emily Zhao and Lily Zhao, 2nd, Disease Detectives; Carol Alexander and Melika Beekin, 4th, Dynamic Plants; Bregu Soronda and Justin Whiteman, 5th, Botany; Lily Zhao and Joy Danzor, 4th, Forensics; Melika Beekin and Hollis Leonis, 4th, Geologic Mapping; Tiffany Suwatthee and Jordan Scorfo, 3rd, Forensics; Daniel Baugniet and Joy Dunny, 6th, Technical Problem Solving; Lenia Umoh and Jonathan Southen, 3rd, Water Quality; Tiffany Suwatthee and Carol Alexander, 3rd, Life in D and It; Jonathan Scorfo and Tiffany Southen, 3rd, Forensics; Sophie Weaver, 1st, Engineering; Malaq Agah and Jasmine Dayal, 2nd, Math (constructed by Jay Omosa and Jasmine Dayal), and Jasmine Dayal and Bregu Soronda, 3rd, Macer: Franklin.

This Thursday, the Environmental science team will travel to Wheaton for its competition.

In Flame in New Mexico

U-High's student-produced history journal, InFlame, has won nationwide attention since its first issue appeared in the Winter of 2013. At a National Council for History Education conference March 20-22 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, staff members Sophia Weaver, left, Edward Litwin and Mimi Lipman gave a presentation on creating and publishing such an in-house high school history publication. The conference theme was “New Frontiers.”
More than 500 teachers, college professors and historians attended.

Sophia, a senior, is credit-in-chief with senior Grace Fioramonti-Gorochow. Edwin and Mimi, juniors, are editors alongside Kristin Omosa and Karen Huppy. InFlame publishes history and economics papers by U-Highers twice yearly on the Lab Schools website and annually in print. A board of four students and two teachers reviews submissions anonymously and selects which will be published.

“The conference was an amazing experience,” Edward said. “And we got an overwhelmingly positive response from a lot of the educators we talked to, who were really interested in the journal and what we had to say.”

History teachers Paul Horton and Charles Branham were delegates to the convention.

Freshmen say they rose to challenge (continued from front page)

Sarah said, “Everyone talks about college and their majors. Parents, teachers and students all add some sort of stress about school, but I understand where it comes from. We are connected to a top university so we get notice from there. This gives me more reason to be organized. In freshman year, I would leave my textbooks in my locker or forget a homework assignment at school. Now, I definitely care more.”
Ukrainian adventure

(continued from page 2)

active role government can play in bettering the lives of other people," he

During the summer before freshman year, Mr. Salinger taught theatre in Hungary; after senior year he taught in Italy.

"THEATRE IS GREAT because it helps you experience being with people. It tests you to experience human nature and psychology, teaches you to develop an understanding of other people.

"I chose Italy because it was a very specific program. It only ran in one country, which is just what I wanted. I wanted to volunteer in Hungary and I wanted to see what it was like."

Completing his four years at U-High, Mr. Salinger immediately joined the Peace Corps.

"I WAS ALSO influenced by my family’s background there. My grandmother chose Hungary because I have family in Hungary; after senior year he taught in Italy."

The people who assigned volunteers assigned my location because I have a background in teaching English. The people who assigned volunteers to locations knew that Ukraine, and Novopskov in particular, needed English teachers.

"I had teacher’s training as well as training in Russian, in a small town called Baikal, until December 12, 2012, when I left to go to my assignment location of Novopskov.

NOVOPSKOV, UKRAINE is about a 10-hour drive east of Kyiv, located between the Kam’yanka and Aidar rivers.

"Many residents of Novopskov were incredibly welcoming," Mr. Salinger said. "As soon as I arrived, I went to meet my students. I took them out to eat and filled with theatre masks as a gift, which made me feel very welcome."

The school also had a Pipeline School, had about 250 pupils or so. Most of their parents worked for a local beer company, gas company, as a result of the main industry in eastern Novopskov.

"But with the political unrest and potential for political unrest and potential for political unrest, was evacuated. He left Novopskov February 21, eventually arriving back home in Washington, D.C."

"It was very disappointing to leave. I couldn’t say goodbye to anyone besides the other English teachers and the director of the school. On the morning before I left, I worked with came and hung out with me at home before I left. In Ukrainian tradition, you sort of sit around for hours, and you don’t let the person you are seeing for departures on their trip."

"I’m still a Peace Corps volunteer so I can’t comment that much on the political issues, because Peace Corps is a nonpolitical organization," he added. "I can say that opposition to the Ukrainian government is very real. There are many different interests and many different parties."

HE LAMENTS his early departure. They have a place in its second spring, "an unexpected event because of the evacuation. Although it’s hard to measure my impact in 18 months of service, I can say that I have learned a lot.

"Optimism is not common when your country has such a late determinant by other powers, whether European or Soviet. In the end I found that Ukrainians believed that things should and can get better."

"However, when I told the two other English teachers ‘tomorrow, I am leaving,’ one of them came to me and she said that I taught her that if you are optimistic about things you have to talk about things, you know they will be okay."

"SHE WAS very optimistic. If I had any impact in Ukraine, I think that’s what she was optimistic about during a time as volatile as now was something."

"Part of our job is to exchange culture and ideas, and to teach Ukrainians to love their country as much as we love our is important as well."

On his arrival in Washington DC, Mr. Salinger met with the security head of the Peace Corps for three days.

"I was in Washington up to 60 days, when he finds out if he can return to Ukraine, or otherwise apply for asylum."

The political future for Ukraine remains unclear. So, consequently, does the future for Graham Salinger.

Editor’s note: Mr. Salinger was interviewed using Skype, email and telephone.

How education can change a life

The value of girls’ education is leveraging change around the world, Jo Budzilowicz, Class of 2001, explained at an all-school assembly March 13 in Paley Auditorium as she showed part of the acclaimed documentary film, “Girl Rising” in celebration of the International Year of the Girl. The excerpt told the story of a Nepalese girl, Sima, leased out by her parents from a young age to work as a domestic, suffering abuse from numerous masters. The story changes when Sima goes to night school, where women’s rights activists take an interest in her plight and break her obligation to her master. Girl Rising is an international initiative to get girls everywhere quality education.

Ms. Budzilowicz is content development head at the Documentary Group New in New York City, Shiraz Mahanty, the effects of education.

“The organization ‘Girl Rising’ worked with non-governmental organizations in the countries where we wanted to film, and paired them with a native author to record their story and tell it with an authentic voice,” she explained. “For this chapter we hired some actors to help reconstruct scenes from her childhood, but her story is true, she plays herself, and there are thousands like Sima.”

Briefly

$25 million gift becomes largest donation in Lab Schools history

DONATION—Winning the top spot on the Chicago Tribune’s front page, the biggest gift in Lab Schools history, $25 million, was announced February 25. The gift came from famed filmmaker George Lucas and Chicago investment executive Michael F. Martin.

The building will be named after the late Gordon Parks and reportedly be the first school in Chicago to house a museum of African American art. The couple have also pledged $25 million to the education charity After School Matters. Ms. Hobs graduated from St. Ignatius College Prep, going on to graduate from the Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

As president of Ariel Investments she has numerous ties to Lab Schools graduates. She also serves as chairman of DreamWorks Animation, appears on “Good Morning America” and hosted the ABC-TV program ‘Unbroken: What You Need to Know About World War II’

SILVER HONORS—Three U-High seniors have won National Silver Medals in the 2014 National Scholastic Art and Writing competition. They are Maddi Green and Emily Hsee for both her poetry collection and a drawing. She also serves as chairman of DreamWorks Animation, appears on “Good Morning America” and hosted the ABC-TV program ‘Unbroken: What You Need to Know About World War II’

POETS REIGN—Extending a winning streak, U-High’s InVerse team took first place in the prestigious National Spoken Word Competition Saturday March 8 at Metro Chicago, 3730 North Clark Street. There the U-Highers did not advance further.

U-Highers had won their first round Friday, February 22 at Columbia College. "Leader Than A Bunch" is a Chicago youth poetry festival; this year’s programs took place February 15-March 15. The sponsoring organization, Young Chicago Authors, was founded in 1991 as a Saturday program for students excel in writing and creative reading. U-High’s competitors include seniors Leah Barber, Emily Hsee and Maddie Anderson; juniors Janis Ingrias, Julia Mearsheimer and Leah Rosemeier; Sophomore Liza Edwards Levin. The coaches are Nina Comas and Natalie Richardson.

In the Illinois Poetry Out Loud competition sponsored by the Poetry Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, sophomore Grace Anderson competed at State March 14 at the Hoiland Art Center in Springfield. She finished in the top five. Grace had placed last in a U-High competition and then won the Regional competition February 15 in a local competition at the Columbia College. Next up came the Sweet 16 team’s competition in the semifinals of the Leader Than A Bunch Competition Saturday March 8 at Metro Chicago, 3730 North Clark Street. The U-Highers did not advance further.

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By Luke Murphy
Sports editor and columnist

Spearheaded by a combination of upperclassmen leadership and an influx of transcendent young talent, winter teams did not skip a beat despite having underclassmen-honed rosters.

With a strong core of freshmen and sophomores, high swimmers triumphantly shattered 12 school records on their way to a 3rd place finish at Sectionals. Confident that their success this year will carry over to the next two seasons, senior Eliot Lesmore says the team has enough young talent to send swimmers to State.

"We have incredible potential as a team with great upperclassmen," Eliot Lesmore says. "Given that they have been two more years together I think it is conceivable that we could send a relay to State."

"ONE OF MY FAVORITE things about the team is that it never felt like one person was outshining everybody else. Everybody had his role on the team that he worked hard to fulfill."

"Sectionals actually provided some frustration for the underclassmen who were frustrated with their individual times, but I have full confidence that they will rebound in the Sectional meets in years to come."

Faced with the daunting task of replacing five seniors who graduated this year, girl basketballers exceeded expectations on their way to a 14-7 record. Led by seniors Lillian Eckstein and Max Junier and junior Kendall Allalins, U-High flew through its regular season before faltering in the playoffs.

"IN Hindsight, I would consider it a very successful season, considering how young the team was," Lillian said. "We had a lot of big contributions from freshmen and sophomores and bounces back nicely from a season in which we lost five seniors to graduation. Next season we will be faced with similar challenges but if everyone attacks their offseason with a lot of hard work and intensity the team should be good again."

In his first year as the boys’ varsity basketball coach, Mark Finner helped the team to a perfect ISL record and a 3A Regional title. The Maroons ultimately fell 72-63 to Bogran and the hot hand of Lowane Pipkins against a tough Conard defense.

"My main takeaway from the season is that despite coming in with some doubts and low expectations, we were able to achieve a lot, which will help carry motivation into the next year," junior Jordan Moran said. "I’ll be focusing on my conditioning a lot this offseason so we can play for 40 minutes. Current juniors Ben Rhind and Mikaal Muhammad will also have to be big contributors next year for us to be successful."

FOR SENIOR Frank Waggner and the track team, indoor track proved to be a springboard for the outdoor season. The Maroons also traveled to Florida for a week of spring training.

"Our training has been much harder throughout the season," Frank said. "We view the indoor season as preparation for the outdoor season. Although the results have not always been what we hoped for in the indoor meets, we are confident that the work we have put in will pay off."

Fencers’ hard work spanning the last several years showed mightily this year, with the women’s full team capturing 1st place in women’s foil at the Great Lakes fencing Championship.

Although U-High will lose star senior Eli Hill, it will return ample talent next year.

"There were a lot of devoted, quality fencers this year, such as senior Charles Chamberlain, sophomores Julian Lark said. ‘The seniors were incredibly solid, and it will be interesting to see some of the sophomores, such as Max Kramer and Nora Lin, lead the team more as they develop.’"
Artsfest, Student Experimental Theatre create exciting splash

Leaping and twirling to the tune of Flume’s remix of “You & Me” by Disclosure, Dance Team starred at the closing ceremony of Artsfest, Thursday, February 27, wearing tank tops that read “werk,” bejeweled by their coach, Erin Barnett.

Surrounded by cheering fellow U-Highers, Jarrett Lampley dances to the beat of Kaotic Drumline at the end of the opening ceremony.

Artsfest Chairs Katie Harris, Liv Rhodes and Lindsey Aronson raised spirit with the crowd at the lively opening ceremony of Artsfest.

Kaotic Drumline from Englewood immediately won over the crowd at the Opening Ceremony. Swirling around Kovler Gym as the rhythm of their drums bounced off the walls, the band also selected student volunteers to play their drums. A day of art and music workshops led by students, teachers and guests offered a myriad of choices. Smoothies from Jamba Juice were offered in the cafeteria throughout the day.

Barefoot in the cafeteria, Fen Truitt paints a mural she designed of a girl sitting on a large stool painting for her workshop. The design was placed in the second floor hallway.

Adding final touches, Zoe Rebollo-Baum, Elina Whitehouse and Katherine Zhang complete a cake for their workshop.

While waiting for the henna on her left hand to dry, Alexis Acsola watches intently as Maryam Alausa applies the henna to her other hand in MSA’s “Hands With Swag” workshop.

In their “Lost In Songlution” workshop, Will Kent, Tatum McCormick and Asha Futterman compose music with Tatum’s guitar.

Minutes after a “Save Fort Wars” painting was created, senior Katie Harris smashed it in her workshop, “Creative Destruction.”

Phil Healy, Kahan Modi, Bolu Johnson, Julian Ehsan and Aurielle Akerele gather around a laptop at the DJ station during “Art in the Dark,” the night before Artsfest. It also included performances and finger painting.

Taking a break from mural painting at Art in the Dark, Isaiah Bradley picks up a Coke from Glenn Decety at the concession stand.

As Maya Ben-Shahar crouches, Lukas Mireles, her lover, screams wildly at her through the fence during the Student Experimental Theater play “Polaroaid Stories,” directed by Zoe Briskey.

Charlotte Elfenbaum interrupts Carly Pyle-Gazzotto’s monologue in their SET play “English Made Simple”