

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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Lab, Woodlawn students connect

New partnership fosters mutual understanding between schools

BY JACOB POSNER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

A new program between the Laboratory Schools and the University of Chicago Charter School Woodlawn hosted its first event at the Logan Center on Jan. 6, featuring bonding activities similar to those found on school retreats that examined diversity and identity.

The event attracted 35 students, with about equal numbers from Lab and Woodlawn, and successfully brought students together, according to the founders of the partnership on the Lab side — Talia Goerge-Karron, Megan Moran and Alexis Tyndall.

Attendee Jacob Mazzearella, a senior, thought it went well and enjoyed the atmosphere.

“There was an atmosphere of togetherness and of humor — people were smiling, it wasn’t super serious,” Jacob said. “I got the sense that the group could get along well together and could move forward together.”

He thought one activity in particular, known as “crossing the line,” helped break the ice and neutralize assumptions about other people in the room. Students stood in a circle, and a moderator would say things like, “step into the circle if you have one sibling.”

“What this did is that it broke down superficial judgements in

the room and expectations of the experiences of other people. I found that really refreshing — not only when it came to Woodlawn kids, but also to Lab kids,” Jacob said. “I often find that I can make snap judgements about people who go to Lab because I feel like I know them a lot better than I actually do.”

The Lab-Woodlawn Partnership was founded to foster more communication between students at Lab and Woodlawn. Both schools are affiliated with the University of Chicago, separated only by a short walk, yet they have almost no interaction.

According to Alexis, the founders of the partnership hope to get rid of this divide and connect Lab and Woodlawn in the way sibling schools should be.

Talia thought of the idea for the partnership, inspired by the Seeds of Peace camp she went to last summer. The purpose of the camp is to teach high schoolers how to lead by effectively communicating with others.

With this idea in mind, Talia approached Megan and Alexis and asked if they wanted to join her in creating this partnership. They agreed because they both found her idea to be exciting and interesting, each for different reasons.

Megan said that she was inter-



MIDWAY PHOTO BY CHAVON HUSSEY

GETTING TO KNOW YOU. Junior Megan Moran talks to student Jay Jamison, a student who attended Seeds of Peace, during a get-to-know-you activity at Logan Center on Jan. 6.

ested because she did the Internship for Civic Engagement Program at Lab over the summer with Woodlawn and other Lab students. She hoped to foster individual connections between other Lab students and Woodlawn students similar to the one she already has.

Alexis said she was excited by Talia’s idea because she was interested in hearing the perspectives of Woodlawn students juxtaposed with Lab students. She wants to facilitate dialogue between the two

groups of high schoolers.

“I am very interested in the types of conflicts that happen on the South Side — ones that concern race and socioeconomic status,” Alexis said. “We’re taking kids that don’t identify the same on both of those things and having them talk about their experiences.”

The leaders of the partnership plan to host other events — including an open mic, peace circles and panel events on police brutality. Megan said the first events will

help Lab and Woodlawn students get to know each other, while later events will focus more on discussion and dialogue between the students.

The partnership needs more Lab students to join. More students provide more perspectives and more perspectives provide deeper discussions and more satisfying conclusions.

Contact Talia, Alexis or Megan for more information about the February meeting.

Community members give millions for scholarships

BY MICHAEL RUBIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

John Rogers and Karen Putman, two lifelong Labbies, have demonstrated their unparalleled commitments to the Lab Schools through multi-million dollar donations toward financial aid, making it easier for students to learn at Lab.

After dedicating more than four decades of her life teaching students and giving to the Lab community, Karen Putman truly left a long-term impact, bequeathing her entire estate of over \$1.5 million to Lab after she died from cancer in 2016.

Soon after her graduation from Barnard College, Ms. Putman joined the Laboratory Schools as

a German teacher in 1971. According to the Lab school’s website, Ms. Putman demonstrated her innovative and creative nature by founding Lab’s computer science education program in the early 1980s, bringing a new department to the school.

“She had been with Lab since she graduated from college, so this was really her home and her family,” John Damer, development operations manager, said of Ms. Putman’s bequest. “It was really a very touching and emotional thing to think about that someone would leave all of that essentially to her employer.”

Known throughout the school as a leader and as an innovator, Ms.

Putman served in various capacities throughout her time at Lab. She served as Faculty Association president, foreign language department chair, computer science department chair, assistant middle school principal and interim middle school principal, demonstrating her outstanding commitment to the schools as well as her wide range of abilities and areas of expertise.



Teacher Karen Putman bequeathed \$1.5 million in her will



Alumnus and parent John Rogers donated \$4 million

After graduating from U-High in 1976, Mr. Rogers earned a B.A. from Princeton University before returning to Chicago to start Ariel Investments, the first minority-

University Trustee and former Lab Schools Board chair John Rogers has committed to donating \$10.5 million to the University, \$4 million of which will support a scholarship fund for Laboratory Schools students.

owned money management firm in the nation. His daughter, Victoria, graduated from U-High in 2008.

“I think this most recent gift is the latest demonstration of his real passion for students,” Alice DuBose, interim executive director of alumni relations and development, said. “He already has a scholarship fund established, and we have had some fantastic scholars able to thrive at Lab thanks to the John and Victoria Rogers Fund.”

Mr. Rogers’ recent donation is the latest of many generous gifts to the Lab Schools, which honored him with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1998. He served on the Lab Schools Board twice.

Course updates bring more choices in English, science

BY SAMIRA GLAESER-KHAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

As students submit 2017-18 course requests beginning Feb. 6, they will have new options in science, English, history and world languages.

Sophomores will have two options for English: Expository Writ-

ing or Literary Analysis. These options replace the uniform English 2 class. According to Assistant Principal Asra Ahmed, Literary Analysis will be identical to the traditional English class, while the Expository Writing curriculum is new. Students taking Expository Writing will have the opportunity

to take more time to thoughtfully read literature, she said. They will practice explanatory and descriptive writing rather than argumentative writing.

Students looking to complete their third-year science credit can now take Neuroscience and Behavior. The new class will focus on

the human mind and will expand on the knowledge students acquired in chemistry.

“Over time, there has been a solid interest in the human behavior elective,” Ms. Ahmed said, “so we wanted to offer this new course because we recognize that students are interested in science in a

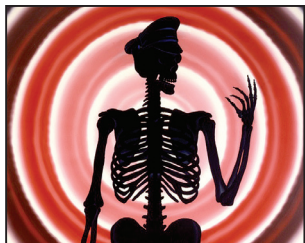
diverse way.”

Other new courses include Greek 2; Spanish for Heritage Speakers, now open to all grade levels; and a three-course history elective. The history elective will cover The Bill of Rights, American history at the movies, and gender and politics in world history.

INSIDE

5 • ARTS

“Art AIDS America,” a new art exhibit on the north side, showcases how the art community responded to the AIDS epidemic from the 1980s and ‘90s.



6-7 • IN-DEPTH

Whether tragedy or personal hardship, students have shown perseverance. See five examples of U-High students who have struggled — and survived.



11 • SPORTS

Squash is life for junior John Grissom, squash team captain. He plays intensely, motivating his teammates to do play harder and improve their skill.



Chinese exchange canceled this year

BY SONNY LEE
FEATURES EDITOR

For the past three years, U-High students and their families have hosted students and teachers from Beijing No. 4 High School. This year would've been the fourth, but due to insufficient U-High families willing to host, the Chinese exchange students withdrew from the program.

Frances Spaltro, world language department co-chair, explained that hosting foreign students is a big commitment, and with the Chinese program being so small relative to the other language departments, it's hard to find enough families willing to host students from abroad.

"Getting host families has always been difficult. It's always difficult even for larger programs like French and Spanish because it's a big commitment," Ms. Spaltro said. "It's a time commitment and it's a money commitment, but it's particularly difficult in the Chinese program because it's a much

smaller program, and so the same families over and over again often host and that also becomes difficult for them."

Although this year's program fell through, Ms. Spaltro said she is hoping to meet with administration and the Chinese teachers to strategize how to sustain the relationship between Beijing No. 4 High School and the exchange program.

Ms. Spaltro believes exchange programs are important because they help to provide a fully immersive experience to students within a culture that cannot be provided anywhere else.

"Any exchange for any of the languages serves a couple of purposes," Ms. Spaltro explained. "The first is that you actually get to know individuals, you create bonds of friendship that many of them last a lifetime — not all — but it's the opportunity for a real exchange. It's an exchange of ideas, but it's also the opportunity to practice a language."

HONORING DR. KING



MIDWAY PHOTO BY EMERSON WRIGHT

HOLD IT STEADY. Freshman Jeremy Ng and sophomore Alex Stevanovich package food at Ida Noyes on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, which took place on Saturday Jan. 14 with the University of Chicago community. The meal-packaging event was hosted by the Kraft Heinz Micronutrient Campaign in conjunction with Stop Hunger Now.

End of winter quarter will also have special schedule

BY LEAH EMANUEL
MIDWAY REPORTER

As a result of overwhelmingly positive feedback on the new schedule that ended the fall quarter, a similar schedule will be composed for the end of winter quarter, said Assistant Principal Asra

Ahmed.

What remains to be decided is the actual schedule for the final week, Ms. Ahmed said. Winter quarter is shorter, and spring break begins on a Tuesday, so unlike fall quarter, winter quarter does not end with a full five-day week.

Ms. Ahmed also commented that one of the difficulties in formulating the schedule is ensuring that it works for all of the cross-divisional teachers who teach lower or middle school classes in addition to high school, such as P.E., music and world language.

Ms. Ahmed stressed that it is important for faculty and students to understand the objectives of the week. It is not intended to be an exam week, but a time for students to have the opportunity to focus more intensely on fewer subjects per day.

Junior Jeremy Chizewer said, "The new end schedule took away a lot of the stress that usually happens at the end of a quarter."

Jeremy, among many other students, thought the additional free time was helpful, and lended to a more stress-free end to fall quarter.

CLUB NEWS

MUN delegates place high at Michigan

With two conferences this January, MUN competitors placed high at their conference at University of Michigan. This weekend, MUN members will attend the conference at Harvard University, the most competitive conference of the year.

Although the conference at University of Michigan didn't have team rankings, five individuals received first place gavels, and four people placed second.

"The majority of delegates placed even if they were freshman. It was really impressive to see people who have never been to a conference before place," Teresa Xie, who is on the junior board, said.

This season has been especially outstanding for MUN, including for new freshmen who have shown strong skills.

"This year the team has had one of its most successful seasons. Because of that this conference didn't stood out even though it was very successful. This season has stood out," said Secretary General member Alexander Azar said.

— KATERINA LOPEZ

Green Team introduces compost bins to Café

Lab now composts, thanks to the Green Team. On Jan. 7. Cafeteria workers began composting all food products except for dairy, and the Green Team hopes to expand its compost initiative to the rest of the school as soon as members get approval from the administration.

The Green Team spent the end of fall quarter preparing to implement its compost system and now that their initiative is in place, they are already seeing a huge reduction in cafeteria waste.

"We've been trying to think of

ways to make Lab more Green," President Victoria Gin said. "We felt that this was one of our best options."

By the end of the year, the Green Team hopes to have made compost a part of daily life for Lab students.

— SAM FLEMING

Debate team misses bid to nationals by a hair

The debate team attended two January tournaments, almost attaining a bid to nationals at each conference.

Three teams competed at the varsity level at the Lexington Winter Invitational in Lexington, Massachusetts, Jan. 14-16.

The junior team of Michael Hellie and Alex Blocker earned fourth place ranking and advanced to octofinals, a national bid round, but lost. The junior-sophomore team of Dheven Unni and Soundjata Sharod reached 12th place and advanced to sextofinals. Michael was awarded 6th speaker, Dheven was 7th speaker, and Alex was 11th speaker. A sophomore team of Elena Liao and Roshni Padhi did not place.

Two novice teams, Jasmine Wang/Gershon Stein and Neha Ramani/Lisa Calejari, attended Lexington as their first tournament. Both teams reached octofinals.

Two teams attended the Billy Tate Southern Bell Forum, held in Nashville, Tennessee, Jan. 7-9, and historically is considered one of the most competitive tournaments, according to debate team captain Jennifer Jiao.

"There are a lot of qualified teams, and it's a really small amount of entries," Jennifer said. "If you can get to the top 16, you get a qualifier to nationals, and you need two of those to get to nationals."

Michael and Alex finished 3-3, while Dheven and Soundjata finished 0-6.

Coming up, debaters have two larger tournaments with potential to reach a national bid: Emory University, Jan. 27-29, and Harvard University, Feb. 18-20, the last tournament of the regular season.

"We've had a junior team get very very close to reaching that nationals," Jennifer said, "and we're all hoping that they can get the next two bids necessary at the next two tournaments."

— EMMA TRONE

Refugee Club fundraises to settle Syrian families

Hyde Park welcomes two new families — refugees from Syria. The Refugee Club sponsored two families' resettlement. The first family arrived in late December, while immigration to America is still in the works for the second.

Refugee Club took on full responsibility for stocking their pantries for their first six months in America, made possible through donations of around \$8,000, according to club president Olivia Issa.

Olivia began to get to know the first family by tutoring the three children in English.

"It was so amazing to meet them. I spent six hours with them their first Tuesday here at the doctor's office getting vaccinations," she said. "They are such a super sweet family."

Refugee Club decided to sponsor a second family after this success. They hoped to resettle a family that was originally set to resettle in Tennessee because the children of both families are cousins.

Club members hoped that in bringing these two families together, their transition would be easier.

But complications in the second resettlement mean the two families were unable to be reunited. However, Refugee Club is working with resettlement organization RefugeeOne to bring a second family to Hyde Park.

Olivia, reflecting on the importance of a smooth transition, said, "to leave your home and be maybe emotionally homeless, I guess, for so long, but to end up with your family is so crazy and I'm sure it'll help them adjust."

Looking to the future, the Refugee Club hopes to slowly sponsor more families. However, Olivia's main goal for Refugee Club this year is for the members to educate themselves and those interested about the state of America, assimilation, the identity of a refugee, and the refugee crises of other nations.

— PRIYANKA SHRIJAY

Scholastic bowl suffers at first tournament

Competing against some of the nation's top-ranked scholastic teams, Lab's team did not fare well at its first competition at the New Trier Scholastic Tournament Dec. 17. With the varsity competing in the uber division consisting of college-level questions, and the JV team in the regular division, both teams scored 0-6.

Senior Emma Mueller said the group hopes to compete in six more scholastic competitions throughout the school year.

The main focus of the New Trier tournament was to help the students build up the confidence to answer the questions, senior Emma Mueller said.

"This was the first scholastic competition ever for most of the students on the team," she said, "so it was more of a learning experience."

To prepare for competitions

the students on the team practice twice a week by reviewing questions from old tournaments, and working on answering them quickly and confidently.

A scholastic team is consists of four or five people, and at a competition each team competes in 6-8 rounds.

— LEAH EMANUEL

Journalism department launches fundraiser

"Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of the press," according to the Constitution's First Amendment. By the end of February, those words will be on a wall outside the journalism department in Judd Hall.

A crowdsourced fundraiser will bring in \$12,000 by the middle of February, which will not only put the First Amendment on the wall but will help send Journalism students to a national high school journalism conference.

"Lab students are going to benefit not only from being reminded of their freedoms every day," journalism teacher Logan Aimone said, "but also from the better journalism that they're going to get after these students go to the conference and learn to improve their writing skills."

The fundraiser will be based solely on small donations from donors. This is the first time that the school has had a fundraiser using crowdfunding. The Development Office wanted to see how well crowdfunding would work, so they're using this project as a test case.

"The University will be showcasing this fundraiser as part of a campaign to let all of the alumni, friends, and family know about what we're doing," Mr. Aimone said.

The website is c-fund.us/ala.

— KATERINA LOPEZ

After inauguration, millions march worldwide

United in protest, huge crowds take to streets demanding to be heard

BY NATALIE GLICK
ARTS EDITOR

Pink cat hats cover nearly every head in the train car on the way into Washington, D.C., while the sound of women and men yelling, “Fired up, ready to go,” fill the small train car. Getting off the train, the trail of pink hats moves up the small space on the escalator. As we exit the dark subway station and move into the blue sky, the pink hats grow larger and larger in numbers. The crowd from the subway flows onto the streets. Thousands of men, women, kids — people of all ages — flood the streets, and walk carrying signs.

Analysis



Natalie Glick

One sign caught my eye the most, it was a coat hanger saying we won’t go back. Surrounding that sign that read “my body my choice,” and another: “Our rights aren’t up for grabs and neither are we,” which both signify abortion rights.

I was one of thousands of participants in the Women’s Marches that took place across the nation and world on Jan. 21. The march wasn’t just about women’s rights, it was about coming together and standing against the hate President Trump spread during his

campaign.

Energy around me grows as we continue down 5th Street. Call-and-response chants erupt: “Tell me what democracy looks like! This is what democracy looks like.” People stop to compliment each other’s posters. Excitement about fighting back covers the crowd.

The crowd and I push our way through the crowd to get closer to the speeches, but we are cut off by protesters. They chant at us, “Jesus saves all. Look toward Jesus.” Without hesitation, we chant back, “Love trumps hate,” and soon there are more people standing by our side chanting back. Many times during the day, love was shown.

We push our way through thousands of people. They cheer as we pass, the positivity and support showering us. I heard Ashley Judd’s speech, and she said, “I am a nasty woman; a loud, vulgar, proud woman.” Her words sum up the feelings of the millions of people who showed up to march, across the world. But what she said perfectly sums up the feeling of the millions of people who showed up to march.

Soon after, the crowd moved toward East Capitol Street, where I meet the people I didn’t want to meet: “Bikers for Trump,” who were there for the inauguration. Playing country music and smoking cigars, the bikers wear American flags and have “Make America Great Again, Trump Pence 2016” flags draped around their bodies.

“Looking in every direction, pink hats cover every inch of any surface. Across America, millions of people came together to fight back against the hate that was created during the election.”

The Women’s March protesters surround them, we hold our signs high, filled with pride. We are not scared of bikers. We stand proud and tall defending freedom. One of the Trump supporters threw a punch, so my group left before anyone of us get hurt.

Seeing the Trump supporters turn towards violence creates more energy toward our causes, more reason to fight. Looking in every direction, pink hats cover every inch of any surface. Across America, millions of people came together to fight back against the hate that was created during the election.

The march finally starts, and people move down the streets chanting, “Hey hey ho ho, Trump has got to go.” Pride envelops my whole body. Thousands of people of all ages, genders and races are standing by my side chanting the same thing. My next challenge can be heard from a few feet away. Pro-life women are standing at the corner taunting the group of marchers, yelling “pro-life.” I join a group to yell back, “My body, my choice. My body, my choice,” and again I am filled with pride.

The march allowed pride to be



MIDWAY PHOTO BY PAIGE FISHMAN

MAKE AMERICA THINK AGAIN. Women’s March Chicago participants scream chants and hold signs on Jan. 21 across from Trump Tower. With as many as 250,000 participants, Chicago’s was one of the nation’s largest marches.

reinstalled in me. I am not scared anymore. I have a lot of pride that I got to be a part of the largest march

that took place in Washington in all of history. Proud to be a woman and proud to be an American.

Low approval ratings lead to difficult presidential transition



MIDWAY PHOTO BY PAIGE FISHMAN

ONE LAST TIME. President Barack Obama gives his Farewell Address in Chicago at McCormick Place on Jan. 10. In his speech, he called for unity among Americans and focused on issues such as racism, inequality, job growth, health care and climate change.

BY MARISSA MARTINEZ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After November’s election, millions of Americans were concerned with what President Trump’s first moves would look like. However, experts say it is hard to analyze the unusual election by comparing it to previous elections.

A collection of five national polls showed public approval for President Trump at an average of 41 percent, one of the lowest ratings in contemporary history.

Steve Edwards, executive director of the University of Chicago Institute of Politics, explained that these numbers are unusual for a new president.

One reason for this is Trump’s lack of necessary political capital, said Mr. Edwards, which is the amount of trust and influence a politician has with the public and the government. According to Mr. Edwards, the presidential position isn’t just a matter of power, but rather of what relationships Trump holds.

“This isn’t just like operating a corporation or company, where the word of the CEO or board of directors matters most,” Mr. Edwards said. “Among the things that

will be a learning curve for him will be how political relationships and political alliances and decision making differs from that in the business world.”

After low approval numbers, politically inexperienced cabinet picks and polarizing comments before President Trump’s inauguration, thousands of people in the United States and across the world gathered in protest.

Dr. J. Mark Hansen, a professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, called the number of protests unusual. While there are always some protesters across from the White House, he said, organizations took advantage of a “heightened level of activism.”

Despite demonstrating the level of anxiety about the presidency, Dr. Hansen said protests are only a start to change.

“Standing out there and shouting slogans might make you feel good, but that doesn’t really hit the people who make decisions where they live,” Dr. Hansen said. “[Politicians] depend on voters and people who can influence the future of their political careers. If it’s going to make a difference, it’s going to have to be a start, not the

end of it.”

Both Mr. Edwards and Dr. Hansen agree that students should pursue both intangible and tangible approaches to affecting change. They suggested encouraging voter turnout, calling senators and representatives, and learning about policy. Former President Obama will try to accomplish some of these things after leaving the White House.

He plans to stay involved in issues that are important to him, including My Brother’s Keeper and a large-scale effort to promote Democrats to state-level positions across the nation by 2018 and 2020 elections. Dr. Hansen predicted President Obama may also spend time building up his presidential library and center in Chicago.

“This is a really momentous time,” Mr. Edwards said. “I would encourage all young people to get more involved, not less, and to fight for the things they care about. The work doesn’t stop after election day. In fact, the work really begins after election day, and in this country, it’s imperative that people roll up their sleeves, dig in, and continue to stay involved in our democratic process.”

Social Justice Week to include more faculty participation

BY EMMA TRONE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Students with an interest in social justice have until Feb. 15 to submit workshop plans for Social Justice Week, which will be held Apr. 17-21. The annual weeklong event with a goal to initiate and facilitate dialogue about current issues affecting the Lab community, is built on student passion for social justice and student-run workshops.

Committee members have also

“Our goal is to have a place where students can bring up issues important to them.”

—Elizabeth Van Ha, Social Justice Week Organizer

reformatted Social Justice Week from last year to accommodate the lack of an extended assembly period and encourage more faculty-student collaboration.

“Our goal is to have a place where students can bring up issues important to them,” according to junior Elizabeth Van Ha, one of the week’s organizers, “So with that said, I’m hoping to find a diverse collection of issues about identity and culture. I also hope to find some creative proposals on raising awareness and discussing those issues as well.”

Social Justice Week is receiving proposals for workshops as well as T-shirt design ideas through

Feb. 15, and the Google Form can be found on the Facebook pages for Social Justice Week and for Low Down at U-High.

During the Thursday assembly period, the Jewish Students’ Association will host the Holocaust Remembrance Assembly. Social Justice Week 2016 utilized an extended Thursday assembly schedule, where students attended two mandatory workshops, which students chose beforehand. However, this year’s workshops will be held

during lunch periods or open periods throughout the week and are voluntary.

Faculty members have also been encouraged to be more involved in the creation and facilitation of workshops alongside students, based on student feedback.

Faculty members who opt to participate will be matched with student leaders with similar interests after proposals are received, and have the option to integrate a workshop into class time.

WRITING LINES & DROPPING RHYMES

Chauson Dam finds identity through music

BY ALEX LUND
OPINION EDITOR

If a Lab student searched the internet for yearbook photo memes, they might be surprised to find thousands of photos of a kindergarten who looks familiar. No longer a round faced, bowl hair-cutted and crooked smiled kid, U-High sophomore Dam Son is now known for reasons other than his name.

Soon to be 15 years old, Chauson Dam is classically trained in piano, a former member of math team, a fan of nature walks with his family and most of all, a beat-maker and lyricist.

"I made myself a sandwich, Cuz I really need it, I facetime'd my grandma just to show her that I'm eating: Fried rice and dumplings — yeah I ain't traditional. They be giving me weird looks, as if I'm despicable, been always treating me like I came fresh off the boat, they asked me who I voted for — I said I can't vote. Bord Bia Pork with no spice fried broccoli with brown rice, got 12 boxes of moon cakes I bought that cuz I can't bake."

These words punch through

the heavy bass and synths of his song "Thanksgiving Dinner" with Lab hip hop collective, "DFWU" (Don't F**k With Us), composed of Chauson and his friends. Chauson (Young Chang or Silk Road Killah), Thomas Smith (T-Time), Asahd Hamilton (Fukibuki), Blade Clarke (MC Razr) and Neal Khosla (Chef Curry) have put out two singles so far on their SoundCloud page.

"We had always messed around in the squad taking turns freestyling and dissing each other," Blade said, "so then one day we decided to get semi serious and actually record stuff. In the collective I help make beats, write verses and at times help record tracks. Working with Chauson is really fun, as he is always hype. He has a vision of what he wants each song to sound like in his head, as he is a creative genius."

With a laptop and towel between himself and its microphone to ease the pop of his consonants, Chauson does most of mixing in Garageband but has dabbled in other programs as well. He generated his first keyboard loops in Finale Notepad, but now uses MuseScore: a free composition and notation software.

Lyricaly influenced by his own experiences, Nas, J Cole, Kendrick Lamar and to a lesser extent, Kanye West, Dam Son credits his classical training in piano as his first introduction to music theory and as something that informs his beat making. He started making beats at nine years old in Seattle, creating keyboard loops on

Artist Information

SoundCloud:
soundcloud.com/dfwuofficial/

GarageBand and Finale Notepad. Sounds from his childhood are particularly inspirational to his creative process.

"There's all that stuff about being classically trained," Chauson said, "but if some of you remember, around the mid-2000s there was like this whole ring tone era, like sounds that were really popular for ring tones for flip phones. Examples include 'Party Like A Rock Star', 'Crank That', 'Walk It Out' — all that kind of stuff. I had to hear that basically anytime I walked through my school's cafeteria back then."

Since releasing the two singles with his collective, Chauson's music has captured the attention of Lab students across grade levels. Dam Son is currently working on a full mixtape with his collective.

"I was boolin' in the cafeteria on a Monday morning when I saw Chauson on his computer," senior Sam Adelman said, "so I pull up and he's like excitedly telling me about all the work he's been doing on this new song called 'Thanksgiving Dinner'. I was curious so I let him show me, and it was surprisingly lit. You wouldn't expect him to have bars but he kinda does have bars, and it was cool seeing Chauson doing something he clearly really loves doing. His production is fire. It was unique."

SERVING UP A NEW KIND OF RAP.

Chauson practices his verse on the song "Thanksgiving Dinner." He has dropped three singles on SoundCloud. His first track, "Hit That," proved to be most popular with more than 2,000 plays.

MIDWAY PHOTO BY
EMERSON WRIGHT

Harlem comes to Hyde Park with Court Theater play

'Blues' brings to life dreams, despair during 1930s Harlem Renaissance

BY SAMIRA GLAESER-KHAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Court Theater presents a beautiful rendition of Pearl Cleage's "Blues for an Alabama Sky" with subtle acting that highlights Cleage's message about the importance of abortion rights, the despair surrounding lost African-American dreams, and the iniquity of homophobia.

Court's colorful set design and captivating visual details make "Blues" entertaining to watch. The play leaves the viewer with a fresh perspective on modern life, making it worthwhile to see. Many scenes involving Cleage's still-polarizing themes are relatable for the 21st century viewer.

The plot centers around five characters: Angel, Guy, Delia, Leland and Sam. It is set during the end of the Harlem Renaissance and the onset of the Great Depression in Harlem, New York. Angel is a broke nightclub singer who was just fired from her job and dumped by her boyfriend. While she looks for work, Angel moves in with her gay best friend Guy, a fashion designer who one day hopes to dress Josephine Baker.

The plot reveals that Guy often financially takes care of Angel when she encounters hardship, even though he is not always financially stable himself. Toya Turner, Angel, brings out the manipulative and greedy aspects of Angel's personality, presenting her as a multi-dimensional character.

Play Information

Location: 5535 S. Ellis

Cost: \$15 for students (must show ID when getting tickets.) \$38 for adults

Runtime: 90 minutes

Open Until: Feb. 12

Phone: 773-753-4472

In walks Delia, a social worker who wants to open a family planning clinic for African American women. She offers to help Angel by teaching her typewriting so that Angel can become a secretary. Angel rejects this idea, preferring to chase her dreams as a singer and develop her romantic relationship with Leland, a conservative Christian gentleman whom she met on the street.

As Angel and Leland's relationship develops, he reveals that Angel reminds him of his own wife whom he lost during childbirth and that he still dreams of starting a family.

Meanwhile, Delia chases her own dreams of opening the clinic. She enlists the aid of Sam, a doctor who tirelessly helps delivers babies at a local hospital. As Sam attempts to help Delia, a romantic relationship between the two begins to blossom.

As Delia moves closer to her dreams, Guy moves closer to his. After sending Josephine Baker a portfolio of his sketches, he eventually receives a letter from her. Although the letter promises nothing



PHOTO PROVIDED BY COURT THEATER

REJOICING IN BLUES. Angel, farthest right, performs a blues song for Guy, Delia and Sam. Angel takes advantage of her audience to practice for an upcoming audition, which Guy arranged for her after Angel lost her job. "Blues" focuses largely on Angel's dreams as singer, Guy's dreams as a fashion designer, and Delia's dreams of opening a family planning clinic.

in specific, the overjoyed Guy makes plans for himself and Angel to move to Paris.

Although the first part of the play is slow at parts, Pearl Cleage does a good job showing the parallel development of her characters' respective dreams. The second part of the play, however, rapidly picks up speed.

Tensions build between Angel, Guy, Delia, and Sam on the one

hand and Leland on the other. These lead to a chain of events that eventually crush Delia's happiness and destroy both Leland and Angel's dreams.

In this highly intense ending to the play, the actors present a heartfelt yet not overly-theatrical performance.

This allows room for the viewer to focus on the powerful events unfolding and leave the themes

of women's rights, homosexuality, and racism in the forefront of the viewer's mind.

Accompanying the Court Theater's effort to celebrate the Harlem Renaissance through producing "Blues," The University of Chicago and The Ancona School are teaching a course and a unit respectively on the time period. The Ancona School is a private Hyde Park elementary school.

Art reveals beauty that came from horror

1980s HIV/AIDS epidemic fueled artists to create works that could heal, protest

BY NATALIE GLICK
ARTS EDITOR

The HIV and AIDS epidemic, which swept through the American gay community in the 1980s and '90s, caused millions to live in fear. Initially, medical experts and the public did not know how the virus was transmitted, let alone a cure. Being diagnosed with HIV or AIDS was essentially a death sentence.

During the time of the epidemic, the art community used their art to give a voice to the voiceless. Much of the art created was a call to help, from the community and to the government. Art was also used to show the effects that HIV/AIDS had on the human body, effects that can still be seen on some bodies today. While medical treatment has improved, HIV/AIDS is still incurable, and tens of thousands of people contract HIV annually.

"Art AIDS America," which opened Dec. 1, World AIDS Day, uses art to take its viewer on a journey through loss and hope at the Alphawood Gallery.

The exhibit showcases art by artists who were affected in some way by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Many of pieces demonstrate the hardships that came with having HIV/AIDS, expressed by a community that dealt with fear, anger and loss throughout the epidemic. These pieces represent a coping mechanism, and a protest to the lack of support from the government during the time it was needed the most.

To enter the gallery's main room, the viewer must pass through strands of beads hanging from the ceiling. At first glance, they appear simply decorative. However, this symbolizes the act of cleansing oneself after touching



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ALPHAWOOD FOUNDATION

BARE BONES. "Peach Light," created by Roger Bown in 1983, is one of the many paintings in the "Art AIDS America" exhibit. The exhibit traveled from New York and Washington state before it came to Chicago in December for World AIDS Day.

a person who was HIV-positive, according to the artist, Felix Gonzales-Torres, one of many to take an indirect protest to the HIV and AIDS epidemic. The work, "Untitled (Blue)," is one of five pieces that force the viewer to break the conception that viewers shouldn't touch art, encouraging the interaction instead. It forces the viewer to confront the experiences of the artist head on, rather than looking from a distance.

One of the first pieces of protest art catches the eye immediately.

The bright, white neon words "Silence = Death" sit below a large pink neon triangle, titled "Let the Record Show." The piece was originally displayed in the window of The New Museum in Manhattan. It draws the viewer into the parallels of the Holocaust and the AIDS epidemic. The pink triangle is the same symbol that gay people were forced to wear in Nazi Germany.

Six quotes underneath the triangle, from U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, AIDS Commission President Cory Servaas, an anonymous surgeon,

Gallery Information

Location: 2401 N. Halsted St.
Cost: Free. Getting timed tickets in advance is recommended. Available at www.artaidsamericachicago.org
Hours: Monday-Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday-Thursday: 11 a.m. -8 p.m.
Friday to Sunday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Open Until: April 2

televangelist Jerry Falwell, columnist William F. Buckley and President Ronald Reagan, show the attitude and persecution that many faced during the time.

President Reagan's card stands out most, as his card is left blank. This is because Ronald Reagan didn't say the word AIDS publicly until 1987, six years after the disease became known to the world. The other quotes show the lack of respect and rudeness, that many people had toward anyone infected with HIV/AIDS.

While there were artists who were in the crowds fighting and using their art to show their anger, there were also artists who were fighting death. Larry Stanton was one of the many who ultimately lost the battle of HIV/AIDS. Mr. Stanton was born in 1947 and died in 1984.

A pair of drawings created by Mr. Stanton sit one on top of another on the wall. One was made before he entered the hospital, and the other right before he died, thus showing how he coped with the disease. Both of the drawings use crayons to demonstrate his childish side.

The first drawing shows signs of hope, with its bright blue background and the words "I am going to make it" drawn in different colors, but in his last drawing, the signs of hope seem to have disappeared. With minimal color and lack of hand control, the sentence "Life is not bad, death is not bad. I am not afraid of dying a little sad, but not defeated." is sprawled across the page.

Mr. Stanton had come to terms with the understanding that he would not live, that all hope he

"The exhibit showcases art by artists who were affected in some way by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Many of pieces demonstrate the hardships that came with having HIV/AIDS, expressed by a community that dealt with fear, anger and loss throughout the epidemic."

once had was gone. During the epidemic, many artist came to the same understanding that Mr. Stanton came to.

The exhibit's themes of beauty, sex, loss, courage and politics come across very clearly to the viewer. According to Anthony Hirschel, director of exhibition for the Alphawood Foundation, the hope is to start a conversation.

"I would be very happy if people walked out of the exhibit and started talking about AIDS and HIV," said Mr. Hirschel. "These diseases still exist, people still die from them. People live, but they die also. Conversations about the diseases is the ultimate goal."

"Art AIDS America" brings the opportunity to have these conversations and to gain a new understand of what happened in the '80s, and how it could happen again.

The Alphawood Foundation has worked with community organizations across Chicago to facilitate discussions about HIV and AIDS. The foundation has also worked with medical organizations to provide free HIV testing at the gallery space.

Art AIDS America is a shaking exhibit that shows both the horror and beauty that came out of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It demonstrates how a community came together in the face of death and became stronger. The beauty that comes with loss is shown clear, and it's impossible to see a collection of work this powerful anywhere else.

Lego sculptures steal show at science museum

BY DHEVEN UNNI
SPORTS EDITOR

Children spend five billion hours playing with Legos every year, but it takes less than two hours to check out the "Brick by Brick" exhibit featured through Feb. 28 at the Museum of Science and Industry.

The display is courtesy of Adam Reed Tucker, a former architect that left his job to become a Lego Certified Professional. "Brick by Brick" features Lego replicas of famous buildings and sculptures, including landmarks from Chicago and around the world.

Although Legos appear to be the selling point of "Brick by Brick," several activities center around understanding physics and architecture. People are supposed to learn from the exhibit, and the museum attempts to use Legos as an introduction into design and engineering using interactive games. For instance, one game teaches visitors about architectural sturdiness by having them build foam structures on an earthquake simulator that shakes them. Another seats people on a pulley system to have them pull themselves up in order to demonstrate how pulleys reduce weight.

Despite the number of activities centered around architecture,

Exhibit Information

Location: 5700 Lake Shore Dr.
Cost: Museum admission plus an additional \$18 for adults, \$11 for kids.
Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Open Until: Feb. 28

the Lego sculptures steal the show. Upon entering, the first structure presented is a 60-foot-long model of the Golden Gate Bridge. Further along, visitors see a variety of replicas from all around the world. The 9-foot model of the Burj Khalifa — the tallest skyscraper in the world — is particularly impressive, requiring 16,500 bricks and 60 hours to build. While most of the replicas are delicately made and not to be touched, the exhibit also features a separate area for children, complete with larger Legos and plenty of things to build.

Similar to the children's section, adults also get a place to channel their inspiration. This is probably the area with the most appeal to high school students, allowing them to build their own replicas. Miniature models of landmarks including Chicago sculptures like "Not in Kansas Anymore," "Vertical Reef" and "More with Less" line the wall in glass cases, surrounded by a large circular tub holding



USED WITH PERMISSION MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

"PLAY ON." A model of the Pyramids of Giza is on display at the "Brick by Brick" exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry. This model took 50 hours to design and 45 hours to build. The exhibit closes Feb. 28.

Legos of every shape and size. Visitors are encouraged to replicate the models, or go on a new track and build something completely their own. If someone thinks their creation is particularly good, they can place it in a small alcove under the glass cases. After walking through a hall full of the gorgeous Lego sculptures, it's undeniably fun to turn any inspiration into a project.

This area ends the exhibit on a

high note, but it doesn't change the fact that "Brick by Brick" appeals to a narrow audience. Legos are fun, but the visitors that get their money's worth will be the architecture buffs and the childhood Lego fanatics.

There's certainly a lot for anyone who is interested in buildings, and anyone who loves playing with Legos will have a field day with all of the bricks.

For a student who isn't particu-

Free admission now available to Art Institute of Chicago

Matisse. Monet. Magritte. As of Jan. 1, teens living in Chicago can now view any of these artists and more at the Art Institute of Chicago — and continuing for the next 25 years.

A donation from Glenn and Claire Swogger of the Redbud Foundation will fund free admission for teens 14-18. Attendees under age 14 are already eligible for free admission.

Mr. Swogger was a 1954 University of Chicago graduate.

larly fascinated by architecture and is no longer interested in Legos, one of the Museum's other exhibits might be a better place to check out. Anyone that is interested in either topic, however, is sure to have a great time at Brick by Brick.

For a student who isn't particularly fascinated by architecture and is no longer interested in Legos, one of the Museum's other exhibits might be a better place to check out. Anyone that is interested in either topic, however, is sure to have a great time at Brick by Brick.

STRUGGLE & SURVIVAL



MIDWAY PHOTO BY RACHEL SCHONBAUM

BAILEY LITWIN. Bailey, at right, helps a middle schooler during an Eye to Eye meeting, where she helps students advocate for themselves in spite of learning disabilities.

BY TALIA GOERGE-KARRON
NEWS EDITOR

As far back as second grade, Bailey Litwin just couldn't sit still, especially when her teacher, Michael Wilson, was teaching math. "He told my mom he was going to sell my chair on Ebay," she said, "because I got up every five seconds to sharpen my pencil or go to the bathroom. I couldn't sit down and focus. I would read the problem over and over again."

When she was 11, Bailey learned she had a processing disorder, which clarified that her work did not match her level of understanding. During middle school, Bailey said she would take a few hours to finish one math homework assignment.

"In middle school, I know it was difficult because I was noticing a lot of people," Bailey said. "It was not the same. Even in middle school, all my other friends would only have a few hours of homework and I would be staying up really late to work on my homework, and I could not get it done." In summer 2014, before her freshman year, Bailey was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), which again clarified the experiences she was having.

Today, as a junior, Bailey is resilient. But it wasn't easy to get here. Now, she wants to use her knowledge to help others at Lab.

"I would like to generate more awareness at Lab and within the Lab community," Bailey said. "I don't think there's enough within the student body, but also with the teachers."

During the end of her sophomore year, Bailey learned about Eye to Eye, an organization that pairs middle and lower school students with high schoolers to learn about their disabilities and advocating for themselves. Bailey was chosen to open up the chapter at Lab.

"The person who came and spoke to us about Eye to Eye, she had exactly what I had," Bailey said. "ADHD and a processing

disorder. She was talking about the stuff that she struggled with in school. It was such a cool moment for me because I had never heard anyone speak about it like that. I didn't know there were other people who dealt with their disabilities the same way that I did."

Learning Coordinator Leslie Scott, faculty adviser for Eye to Eye, said Bailey is a leader who helps others advocate for themselves.

"Bailey as a leader is modeling her experience," Ms. Scott said.

"She's modeling her sense of determination for a younger group of students, and I think that is one of the most powerful aspects of being a leader. It is the legacy that they bring to others."

In order to move past hard situations, Bailey has worked to find her survival skills and her flourishing skills in order to do well in school and excel. For Bailey, she is constantly learning about tactics that help her read faster and study more effectively.

Survival skills are things that help in during school, such as accommodations like extra time on tests, Bailey said. Flourishing skills are the strategies that not only help you get through your work, but help you succeed to the best of your ability, Bailey commented. To be successful, Bailey has worked to find her flourishing and survival skills.

Now, Bailey works hard to advocate for herself and find ways to strategize through her disability. For example, she listens to audiobooks while she reads and looks at the SparkNotes right after. Bailey has grown as an advocate for herself during her time in high school.

"I think a lot of that is self-awareness and self-understanding," Bailey said. "I still struggle with the same things: finishing things on time is really difficult, sitting still because I'm a really hyper person. it's not only about getting the accommodations that you need, but also making little changes for yourself. I am all about trying new strategies."



MIDWAY PHOTO BY PAIGE FISHMAN

EMERSON WRIGHT. During lunch in the cafeteria, Emerson, a sophomore, smiles and jokes with friends.

BY JACOB POSNER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Emerson Wright is confident, articulate and self-assured as he describes his mother.

"She was in the hospital a lot, and sometimes she would be at our house. Since I was a bit younger, I didn't really understand," he said. "While it happened, I remember waking up and then going to the hospital and then just seeing her after she had passed. I didn't really do much because I was so young. Afterwards, the gravity of what happened started to hit me, and the not having her like I did before started to weigh on me." She had cancer and died. He was 5.

Today he no longer bursts into tears when he thinks of her.

The next several years after she died were the hardest. Emerson mainly remembers the feeling of something missing from his life.

"Everyone else had a mother, but I was stuck only having a dad," he said. "So it was kind of weird for me when people said, 'We need your mother to sign this.' It was just weird not having a mother."

The memory that has caused him the most grief and stays with him to this day is when she put him to bed each night.

"I remember her coming into my room when it was time to go to bed and telling me good night and that she loved me," he said. "That's what I miss the most. When she died, I really noticed how that was never going to happen again."

Emerson feels that his mother's death made him draw in on himself, and he found it difficult to share his emotions.

"I was kind of private about it — I didn't tell a whole lot of people," he said. "It really didn't change how people saw me. When I came back to school, people were sad for me. But after the first month or so of school, things went back to normal."

As he got older, in middle school and high school, he found himself beginning to forget about her. "[The memory of her] really drifts from me. I don't really remember her anymore or think about her. It's a distant memory that I have, and I have gotten used to not having a mother. And then my dad got married again, so she really just faded within me," he said.

Reflecting back on how he handled his mother's death, Emerson realized that he should have been

more open about it. Whenever he went to therapy, instead of talking, he just sat in a room and played with the toys.

He has advice for others dealing with grief.

"Let yourself be sad about it. Not try to hold it in," he said. "I tried to hold it in a lot and that was pretty hard for me. I feel like if I had been more open about it, then it probably would have gone smoother."

Emerson found that time was what ultimately helped him the most. "It just got easier through time. The therapy didn't really help me personally, though it might help others. For me, it was just time."



MIDWAY PHOTO BY PAIGE FISHMAN

SHARANYA SRINIVASAN. A new student who overcame a challenging overseas relocation, Sharanya, at right, laughs with fellow junior Camille Rehkemper.

BY MARISSA MARTINEZ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Orientation at a new school holds excitements and anxieties for any student. Finding classrooms, organizing an unfamiliar locker, adjusting to the schedule.

Now imagine you had just moved 8,500 miles across the world the day before.

Junior Sharanya Srinivasan and her family relocated from Bangalore, India, to Hyde Park in late August. Her father had worked remotely for the University of Chicago, but was asked to work in Chicago as associate provost. However, Sharanya did not know they were leaving Bangalore until a few weeks prior.

"I think it was hard because it was sudden," Sharanya said. "Obviously, physically it was stressful, because we had to set up the house. For the first month, we had to stay in a service apartment, and by the time we had started to set up things there, we had to move into our new apartment."

Having attended Mallya Aditi International School in India, adjusting to a new culture and its differences was slightly hard in the beginning, she said. It was especially hard when she began to miss her family and friends from Bangalore and faced an 11-hour time difference to stay in touch.

By the second half of fall quarter, she finally started to get accustomed to a new set of people. She said she found it difficult in the early months because of the Lab "lifer" culture, where groups have already formed.

"When I first meet new people, I'm really shy and it takes a lot for me to open up to a person and be comfortable," Sharanya said. "It was hard to fit in, and I didn't want to disrupt groups. It took time to find a nice group of friends."

Despite this, Sharanya, one of only two new juniors, said she felt welcome in the school's inclusive environment. Before arriving, she was skeptical of American high schools after viewing movies filled with "very

shallow stereotypes." Even when she arrived, many of her friends from India asked questions like, "Is your school like 'Mean Girls'?"

"I don't think Lab turned out to be any of those stereotypes," Sharanya said. "I think since many people [here are] very serious about academics, that changes the whole social scene at school. I don't think there's any time to be mean to people in school."

The transition was smoother than expected, Sharanya said. She noted the similar social environments and lack of a language barrier. For example, in the first week, many people asked her how she knew English so well, even though she had spoken it for most of her life, said Sharanya.

"Many people from here think that the whole Indian school system is non-English and people don't speak English in school," Sharanya said. "That perception is slightly off because I think in the big cities, especially like Bangalore, I probably know English more than I know my mother tongue."

One big difference between her old school and Lab is the curriculum, according to Sharanya. She said she enjoys the possibility of choosing her own classes, compared her more "mainstream, theoretical" school in Bangalore.

This is important for her interests in chemistry and art, Sharanya said. In her old school, she wasn't able to take both classes because of scheduling conflicts.

"Here I'm able to do both with full capability," Sharanya said. "The art resources are so much more here, and the fact that we have a whole building just reserved for the arts is cool. I think the facilities are much more developed here."

In her free time, Sharanya participates in ASA and Renaissance, while taking local art classes at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Hyde Park Art Center in preparation for college.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY PAIGE FISHMAN

GENEVIEVE LIU. Leading Model UN prep, Genevieve finds purpose in making impact and helping the Lab community.

BY EMMA TRONE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Human connection is the basis of who we are."

Genevieve Liu, senior, says this with unabated conviction. But perseverance is a complex undertaking, she warns, and sometimes in the face of fear and struggle, it's up to the individual to find the confidence to do great things.

"When it feels like there are too many factors moving against you and too many moving pieces, and when you feel like you can't control the world around you, the crux of perseverance is taking ownership of yourself," Genevieve said.

And Genevieve truly knows what it takes, and what it means, to persevere in the wake of uncontrollable circumstances. As 1 in 10 teens under age 16 in the United States has experienced, Genevieve lost a parent. Her father, Donald Liu, drowned while saving two boys in Lake Michigan in 2012.

Although Genevieve is a bubbly, respect-commanding, eloquent stalwart of the Lab community, her speech takes on a softer but no less articulate quality when she speaks about the trials her family has endured since that day.

Grief is already incredibly difficult to manage, but suffering what seemed almost unimaginable in the Lab community, where events such as her father's death were a rarity, proved to be a further isolating challenge to Genevieve.

"Despite loving Lab, and really feeling at home here, I remember coming back after my dad had passed away and really feeling very foreign," Genevieve said. "And that's something my entire family has had to persevere through, in a way that we never anticipated."

In her desire to find kinship with other teens who have also experienced the loss of a parent,

Genevieve looked to the internet, only to discover the lack of a community or resources for grieving teenagers.

"It was almost intuitive for me, less than a week after my father died, to just Google, and look for anecdotes of other teens who lost a parent and stories," she said. "And I really found nothing, besides medical-type research and religious articles, but nothing really for other teens."

This discovery bolstered Genevieve to a new purpose, to meet the needs of both herself and others in her

situation. As a self-described "tech challenged" 8th grader, she created Surviving Life After A Parent Dies, known as SLAP'D, an online community for teens who have lost a parent. In early February of this year, SLAP'D will even transition into another version, including being featured in Scholastic Magazine.

"I think there's no better remedy to battling grief than just purpose, in general," Genevieve said. "When you're able to look at the broader context, and see that you yourself can make impact in your own life and other people's lives, that you find a way to compartmentalize all the crazy [stuff] that's happening to you and you move forward."

And the advice that she would give to others who are struggling?

"The advice that I give to my siblings, who are just the most important people to me, and a thousand times stronger than I am, and cooler," she said with a flash of a grin, "is that no one comes out unscathed. I lost a parent, but people go through so many things that are uniquely challenging in their lives. And I think that really paying attention to your experiences, and finding something you love, whether it be building a website, playing a sport or helping out in some sort of community is incredibly important."



MIDWAY PHOTO BY PAIGE FISHMAN

BEN LINDAU. Ben dons his Team USA polo, which he received by earning a spot on the U.S. Paralympic National Soccer Team.

BY CLYDE SCHWAB
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It was the middle of the weeknight in 6th grade. Ben Lindau woke up but realized he had a few more hours of sleep left. When he flopped backward on the bed, he hit his head hard on the headboard — "with the force of a thousand trucks," in his words — but he was sure it was no problem and he could sleep it off.

"It's not like I'm dying or anything," he thought.

The next day at school while swimming during P.E., his eyes started burning, everything started spinning and he lost feeling in the left side of his body. He was quickly transported to the hospital with his mother, where things got progressively worse over the next few days. He lost feeling and motion in his arm, leg, and then the ability to talk.

The midnight collision had caused Ben to have a stroke.

"At first, I thought 'Oh I'm feeling weird. I guess I'll go to the nurse and drink some water and everything will be fine,'" Ben said with a laugh. "They took me to intensive care and started doing tests, but I still didn't know what was happening."

Describing the ordeal, Ben, now a senior, seems nonchalant and relaxed — just as he was at the time.

"I was, throughout the whole process, pretty relaxed I'd say. Because I didn't really care. I asked my mom if I was gonna die. She said no, so I thought, 'Whatever. I'm sure I'll be fine.'"

Knowing Ben today, his "fine" is the same as any normal high schooler. Now, he's confident, tall, muscular, the captain of varsity and on United States Paralympic National Soccer Team with goals in competing in an upcoming tournament in Argentina and, eventually, the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. However, it wasn't a smooth road, and he was accompanied by plenty of difficulty, challenges and hard work.

After several months in the hospital doing physical therapy (PT) every day, he was released in December, though he continued PT for months after for four to

five hours each day.

"As things moved forward, it was like 'you'll be able to walk but not to able run,' then you'll be able to run but you can't play soccer," Ben said. "Eventually I was fine, but in the year period where I couldn't play sports, I was really focused on trying to play soccer, which, initially, was completely out of the question."

The moment soccer was mentioned, everything became a bit more serious. Ben began playing AYSO soccer as a little kid, but it

wasn't until the fourth grade that he became more serious about the sport, even entertaining aspirations of playing professionally. Alongside physical therapy, he began working out several hours a day, lifting weights and doing calisthenics, and kicking the ball with his father or against a wall. As the seventh grade season started, he made decided to try playing, discovering that "even though I wasn't the best, I could still hold my own."

Ben has continued playing and improving. He eventually joined the Chicago Fire Juniors where he continues to play, and the U-High junior varsity and varsity teams, where he spent this past season as captain.

"To me, being captain was just another way to be involved," Ben said. "I want to push people to work a little harder, and to always care a little more about the team, especially because there was a time when I thought I couldn't play again."

This past November, Ben attended a US Paralympic Soccer team camp. Despite being nervous playing and practicing with his teammates, many of whom Ben said were previously professional or college level athletes before their disability, but as he continued competing, he felt himself holding his own.

"I remember thinking, why am I so confident, why do I feel like I can compete," Ben said. "These are the guys who are going through the same thing as me. I'm still trying to take things day to day, but the feeling of putting on the USA jersey was just something else, but somehow meant to be."

As the Midway sees it...

Finals schedule should be maintained

Projects, tests, quizzes, deadlines. The last week of any quarter can bring alarming amounts of stress onto students. As teachers cram in last bits of information and assign projects, students can feel overwhelmed with assignments and exams.

Instead of the typical assigning of two testing and due dates for departments, the final week of fall quarter saw a new schedule consisting of 90-minute class periods meeting two to three times a day, with 90-minute free periods in between for studying, extra time on exams or just relaxing and taking a breather. The new schedule was well accepted among students. However, a place to improve and pay attention to is the week leading up to the end-of-quarter schedule.

Many students enjoyed the amount of free time in between classes to decompress or prepare for exams — the overall vibe of the high school was much more relaxed at the end of the quarter than in past years. In addition, students with extra time on exams didn't have to resort to free periods, lunches and other obstacles in order to schedule their extra time.

But this praise should not overlook the stress that many students felt the week prior to the end-of-



ARTWORK BY NEENA DHANOA

quarter schedule. Because the periods were more spread out, classes met less frequently and many teachers felt the need to cram lessons, exams and projects the week before finals to make space for possible activities during the end-

of-quarter schedule. To avoid this issue, it may just take a couple tries for teachers to get accustomed to the schedule and learn how to plan accordingly.

Attention to student needs is a step in the right direction for the

“Because the periods were more spread out, classes met less frequently and many teachers felt the need to cram lessons, exams and projects the week before finals to make space for possible activities during the end-of-quarter schedule.”

faculty who pushed for the new schedule and developed it with administration. Students received and responded to a survey, distributed by the Student Council, showing the interest of the faculty to comply with and discuss the needs of students.

There now seems to be more frequent dialogue and communication between students and faculty, a sign of improvement from past years when students felt left out of big decisions concerning their own education.

With less stress on due dates and finals, students were able to relax and focus on learning new material — one of the main goals that faculty had in mind when curating the end-of-quarter schedule.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Midway's Editorial Board.

Obama was inclusive towards all Americans

BY PRIYANKA SHRIJAY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

As an impressionable child, I watched the way he carried himself — casual, yet respectable with such an evident strong sense of self. By watching President Barack Obama, I have realized how admirable strength of character can be.



As a girl, I watched Obama pass legislation like the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. As a Hindu, I watched him bring Diwali to the White House as he lit the first diya, a traditional oil lamp, in the Oval Office.

In celebrating Diwali, or any other cultural/religious holiday, Obama broke down cultural barriers and showed that he not only accepts but encourages differences in people. In being the first

“Now, at age 16, he inspires me to become that kind of person, and has taught me that there will always be adversity, but never once should that make me want to stop trying to positively impact other lives as well as the intellectual, physical, and emotional domains to which I venture.”

nonwhite president, he has made strides in history for all minorities.

I watched over the last eight years as this president celebrated, among other facets of human identity, my identity. In his sheer quality to both be charismatic and sophisticated, he provides a model for the kind of person I want to be.

As Donald J. Trump began his presidency, I found myself reflecting on President Obama — the

first president whose policies, decisions and effect on the people of his country I was aware of. It was easy for me to take for granted his affinity for making Americans feel accepted and his bona fide respectability. As I witnessed his leaving office and the succession of a president whose ideals differ from mine, I cannot help but consider how much the 44th president's terms have shaped me and how grateful I am to have grown up during the Obama Administration.

I was 8 years old when Obama was first elected president. I did not truly understand how great of a feat it was that an African-American man was elected to the highest seat of office because, at that point, American history was largely unknown to me. I did understand that people around me seemed genuinely moved that this man had just become the president of the United States of America.

As the years passed and the 2012

election arrived, I, at age 12, began to pay more attention to Obama's legacy and how significant his presidency was.

Now, at age 16, he inspires me to become the kind of person who encourages cultural progress as well as other people, and he has taught me that adversity should not make me want to stop trying to positively impact other lives as well as the intellectual, physical and emotional domains to which I venture.

There is nothing more heartwarming than seeing the man who represents the country that I am from making an effort to represent me and every other American who looks up to him. While I am unsure of what the future holds now that Barack Obama is no longer the president of the United States of America, I sincerely hope President Trump chooses to recognize the significance of all American identities, and facilitate further progression in our acceptance and encouragement of one another.

High school without the musical is hard work

BY LEAH EMANUEL
REPORTER

I remember staring at the TV screen watching Vanessa Hudgens and Zac Efron sing through the halls in “High School Musical.” I watched with wide eyes as they managed the complicated social dynamic of high school. I couldn't wait for that day. Singing in the cafeteria and never doing homework seemed pretty ideal.



As children, we form preconceived notions for what high school should be like. We create a picture in our heads of high school developed through social media and pop culture. In reality, high

school is a mass of complexities that could never fully be portrayed in a movie or TV show. High school is not about assuming a role or portraying a character. It is about becoming an individual.

While I'd hoped I'd be fully prepared for high school by analyzing the characters in the movie, no amount of planning can fully prepare you. Maneuvering through the halls for the first time as a freshman is a whirlwind of nervous excitement. The concept of high school, mixed with the confusion and unfamiliarity of what lies ahead, looms over you as you venture into your first high school classes.

Though you work to please your parents and your teachers, you can't conform to who they want you to be. Through advice, expectations and observing, a predetermined idea of what a Lab student

“As children, we form preconceived notions for what high school should be like. We create a picture in our heads of high school developed through social media and pop culture.”

should look like becomes engrained in your head. You begin to contemplate what being a U-High student truly entails, and you start to formulate who you believe you should be, but through your years in high school you can't force yourself to become this idea.

I remember trying to join numerous clubs and teams, trying to be involved in every way possible. However, I learned it is impossible to survive high school like this. You

can't force yourself to fit into a specific category or group, you need to independently discover what you want to do.

Through the social pressures, the academic rigor, and the overarching stress of college, you have to ensure you don't conform to a specific image. High school is not about satisfying an idea, but it is about discovering who you are.

Although life at Lab does not parallel life at East High in “High School Musical,” similar academic and social stressors are replicated. While managing the intensity of Lab, it may seem as though you're crumbling under the stress. However, someone new emerges at the end of your four years. Don't just work to conform to an idea of an idealistic student. Experience high school, and enjoy who you become during it.

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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CORRECTIONS • ISSUE 4, DEC. 15, 2016:

- Page 6: Hillary Clinton's percentage of popular vote was 48.1, not 46.3.
- Page 9: Curt Lieneck's name was misspelled.

QUICK Q

What did you think of the end of quarter schedule and how did you spend your extra time?

NICKY WOODRUFF, SENIOR:



“I thought it was really confusing and different but I've been here for four years and have never had that before. I wasn't really used to it and had a lot of holes in my schedule, so basically I had too much open space between classes. I didn't like it that much.”

BRIANNA GARCIA, JUNIOR:



“I really liked it because it gave me time to review what I was studying for. It gave me time to see my friends before I took my tests, and I also liked that you didn't have to come to school for the days you didn't have a test on.”

STEPHANIE MILLER, SOPHOMORE:



“It was really helpful. All of the extra free periods made it so that we had time to do homework and study. It'd be nice to have it again.”

Freshman doodle draws up brand, business

BY CLYDE SHWAB
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It all started with a doodle in Latin.

Freshman Miles Rochester is the head of LMNT (Less Money No Time) Clothing, a startup clothing brand selling T-Shirts and sweat-shirts with Miles's designs which began with a few drawings in class.

"I was just playing around with some drawings I made in in art class, and using this app on my phone called Snaptee, I saw what they would look like on a T-shirt," Miles said. He explained that when his mixed media art teacher, Sunny Neater Dubow, saw them, she offered to help.

The brand, while only a few months old, has already sold more than 30 T-Shirts and sweatshirts, though Miles noted that all profit made had been reinvested into the business. Despite the quick popularity of the designs, Noah List, the freshman in charge of overseeing the production of the clothing itself, noted that it started simple.

"Miles just wanted to make them for himself at first," Noah said, chuckling. "People saw the



Miles Rochester



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAM FLEMING

LESS MONEY NO TIME, the brand that began with freshman Miles Rochester's class doodles, has sold over 30 T-Shirts and sweatshirts. Although a thriving business right now, Miles doesn't want it to be temporary. He explained that the goal was not to make money but was to learn and inspire.

first designs and liked them and offered to buy them, and I was one of the first to do so. Miles told me that he wanted to make a business out of this, so I started to help him and do the dirty work like ordering supplies and helping to make

shirts. It all happened in the span of two days."

After an initial investment of about \$400 from Miles's and Noah's respective parents and the help of Ms. Neater Dubow to press the shirts, Miles began informally sell-

ing shirts and sweatshirts to classmates, communicating through word of mouth and social media.

Miles, alongside business partners Eli List, Quinn Davis, Ben Wolf and Noah List, has begun to expand the business.

Shirts Sold: 30+
Initial investment: \$400
Price per Shirt: \$30
Shirts are made to order

Meeting Miles, the ambition and confidence behind the brand seems effortless, from the description of his designs to his reserved, smooth fashion, yet surprising given his age and fluctuating ideas about the brands future.

While excited about the brand's future, Miles seemed concerned that it was taking on an image of "just another kid on the internet selling T-Shirts" that could disappear soon. He said his goal was never to make money but to learn and inspire.

"Right now it kind of just seems like another internet clothing startup, but I want it to be special and have more meaning than to make money," Miles said. "I know a lot of people who have ideas that are scared of putting them out there and being judged, and one of the things that inspired me a lot is that my teacher, Ms. Neater, told me that, 'If you go through with this I'll help you all the way,' and everyone needs someone like that that will help you. I wanted to share my experience creating something."



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SOPHIE HINERFELD

SAUCED. Senior Will Zich intently stares at his food as he digs into Nando's chicken. Along with Nando's, Roti has been the second new restaurant recently added to 53rd Street. Roti offers assembly line-styled service with Mediterranean flavors. Nando's offers South African and Portuguese peri peri chicken.

Changing dishes in Hyde Park

New South African, Portuguese, Mediterranean flavors in Hyde Park

BY PRIYANKA SHRIRAJ
ASSISTANT EDITOR

With the opening of Insomnia Cookies on 55th Street and Cemitas Pueblas on 57th among other establishments, 2016 was a productive year for Hyde Park in terms of commercial growth. Now, 2017 is continuing the trend with popular chains Roti Modern Mediterranean and Nando's both open on 53rd Street.

For the last few years, the University of Chicago and community partners have made drastic changes to the Hyde Park neighborhood in order to expand commercially. 53rd Street has become a hub for new restaurants and shops, and new enterprises have popped up all around Hyde Park, such as the shopping complex on 51st street and Dollop Coffee on 55th Street. With the opening of Roti and Nando's, the commercial growth is still very much in its prime.

Roti, a Mediterranean restau-

rant chain with six locations in the Loop and West Loop, is the newest addition to Harper Court on 53rd Street and South Lake Park Avenue. Roti offers healthy sandwiches, salads, rice plates and their signature roti bread wraps.

With Roti's assembly-line style service, customers can choose their meal type, like a wrap or rice plate, protein, like chicken or salmon, and additional classic Mediterranean toppings, such as hummus, couscous, feta cheese, greek olives and dill yogurt.

The ingredients are fresh and the flavors are prominent and recognizable as Mediterranean. Healthy food is a trademark for the chain, as is evident in their use of olive oil, vegetables and grain.

Nando's, a South African and Portuguese peri peri chicken restaurant that has been largely popular in Great Britain before it came to America, replaced Clarke's on 53rd Street and South Blackstone

Roti
1526 E. 53rd St.
Hours: Mon.-Sun.: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Nando's
1447 E. 53rd St.
Hours: Sun.-Thurs.: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Fri.-Sat.: 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

Avenue. They offer chicken meals, sandwiches and salads. The style of this casual sit-down restaurant is modern such that while a waiter brings food out to tables, the customer places their orders at a counter and is free to pick up sauces and toppings from stations located throughout the restaurant. A customer simply has to pick their meal and level of spiciness — even the mildest of sauces is immensely flavorful.

The reputed flame-grilled peri peri chicken is fresh and cooked perfectly. Their sides, such as their Portuguese rice, offer compliments to the meals that blend the Portuguese and South African cultures beautifully.

Behind the scenes Ranjana Patnaik

BY KATERINA LOPEZ
MIDWAY REPORTER

Checking out a book seems like an easy process: pick a book and get it scanned by a library assistant. But for Ranjana Patnaik, an assistant in the high school's Pritzker Traubert Family Library, a lot more goes on behind the scenes.

"It is difficult keeping track of lots of things that are happening simultaneously but need to be performed seamlessly. The library performs so many functions, the ones that are seen and the ones that aren't," Ms. Patnaik said.

Besides checking out books, the library assistants do lots of jobs that one might not think of. All of the books have to be entered into a book record-keeping system. In order to do this, there has to be a

barcode and a spine label which are individually made.

What do you wish people understood about your position/department?

That we're always happy to help, and we'd love anyone to stop by anytime — faculty, staff, students. Everyone is welcome here.

What's your favorite part of your job?

In my years I feel like this desk is a very favorable spot. It often seems like it's not noticed, because you're not using it. But when people come to check out a book I feel like they appreciate the work I do.

What's the most difficult part of your job?

I push myself to maybe finish the race like a runner would. If someone wants a book that isn't available, I'll see if I can do that

job while also checking in and out books and laptops and answering questions. I find that not only a challenge but a fun part of my job.

What's some things that you do in your free time?

I do a lot of art — that has become my side hobby. I make art books and stained glass panels. Art is something I enjoy, so I spend some time with it. I also enjoy print-making. It takes my mind off the here and now and converts it into something that is visually mine.

What's one piece of advice you have for students our age?

Stay motivated. I know it feels sometimes like it's never going to end, but it will. You're just climbing up that mountain now, but you'll get to your peak.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY LILLIAN NEMETH

CHECK IT OUT. Outside of helping students check out books and other related jobs, Ranjana Patnaik also enjoys making art books and stained glass panels in her free time. "It takes my mind off the here and now and converts it into something that is visually mine," she said.

Turning video game play into school work

Players increase friendships and learn engineering skills through online games

BY JACOB POSNER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Many people believe that video games are terrible — that they destroy the brain, fray the nerves and desensitize the player to violence. A group of U-High students would vehemently disagree. These students believe playing video games is a way to learn new skills, find new interests and delve into lore and strategy, creating an immensely satisfying, recreational experience.

After living in the United States for about a year and a half, then-seventh-grader Wanqi Zhu discovered “League of Legends,” a MOBA — multiplayer online battle arena — video game created by Riot Games. Wanqi, now a senior, had always liked board games and card games, but in the United States all of the games were strange and different, so he decided to try out video games because they were so convenient — all they required were a computer and an internet connection.

“League” was the first game he tried and it stuck with him because it was largely based on strategic thinking as opposed to reaction time, and because he said could lose himself in its world.

“I play video games not purely for recreation, but also as something that I can invest time in,” Wanqi said. “‘League’ is not really a story-based game, but nevertheless I feel somewhat invested because I play so many different characters in its world.”

During middle school, Wanqi did not do many school-affiliated activities, so he used video games to connect with people he did not normally see at school.

“I got to meet people, especially people not in my own grade — people I wouldn’t normally interact with,” he said. “‘League’ offers a shared interest, a platform where everyone can immerse themselves in the game and forget about whatever’s going on in their life.”

He has made friends online while competing in amateur tournaments because “League” requires so much communica-



Lukas Blume



MIDWAY PHOTO BY ELENA LIAO

LEAGUE OF GAMERS. Junior Daniel Martinez peers over senior Wanqi Zhu’s shoulder as Wanqi plays “League of Legends” in the computer lab. The lab is a regular meeting area for many people as they go there to play video games with each other during lunch.

tion, another aspect of the game Wanqi said he really enjoys.

He feels that communication adds to the overall experience because it allows for more depth of strategy. Playing with friends does not only provide better strategies, according to Wanqi, it also creates shared memories, which strengthen friendships.

“Every now and then you get really memorable moments — if someone makes a really good play or something funny happens

— and those memories are very valuable, and I really appreciate them.”

Sophomore Lukas Blume plays “Counter Strike: Global Offensive,” a first-person shooter, and has competed on amateur teams as well.

Most of the time he plays the role of in-game leader, which means he must communicate with his teammates to execute strategies.

Lukas said he finds himself drawn to

“CS:GO” because “it’s a thing to do to take the stress out of life. It’s a way to wind down. It’s a way to be competitive — I don’t really do sports, so it’s my way of being competitive.”

He also likes the fact that each game is different. Even though he has played 2,783 hours, he still finds each game exciting — every new opponent presents a new challenge.

Lukas finds that his interest in computer science and technology stems from his interest in video games.

“I played on this really crappy laptop and it was really slow. Because of it, I wanted to play in a more immersive way — that’s what got me into computer technology,” he said. “I built my own PC because I play video games.”

While Lukas built a computer to play video games, he believes that the beauty of PC-building lies in its incredible versatility.

“You can make this really sick gaming tower, or, if you only want to do schoolwork, you can make a really cheap computer that does what you need it to do and nothing more,” he said.

Lukas advises that it is easy to run into space issues when building a computer, as parts from different companies do not always fit together perfectly. He also recommends the YouTube channel LinusTechTips for advice on how to select parts for and then build a PC.

“Basically you just pick out parts — like a CPU and a motherboard — and just put them together,” Lukas said. “It’s not that difficult, but it’s not for everyone. A lot of people describe it as adult legos.”

Wanqi and Lukas have different reasons for playing video games, but they both love them because video games provide them with two rare qualities in Lab’s environment: relaxation and recreation. They have found something to immerse themselves in and block out the stressors of the day — if only for one game.

“I got to meet people, especially people not in my own grade — people I wouldn’t normally interact with. ‘League’ offers a shared interest, a platform where everyone can immerse themselves in the game and forget about whatever’s going on in their life.”
— Wanqi Zhu, senior

Midway rink combines warm memories, cold ice

From childhood to high school, rink serves as meetup spot, stress relief

BY CLYDE SCHWAB
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Whether racing down the ice or enjoying a hot chocolate or nachos inside the adjacent warming house, U-High students can find a fun, nostalgic winter activity at the Midway Plaisance Park ice rink alongside families and neighborhood residents.

Located at 1130 Midway Plaisance, just west of University Avenue, the rink is just a short walk from U-High. Admission to the rink is free, and renting skates is just \$6, making it perfect for a low-budget afternoon hangout for students. It is open for open skating Monday through Friday between noon and 7 p.m., Saturday from 2-5:30 p.m. and Sunday 1-6 p.m. The rink is used at other times by a small hockey league and for skating lessons.

For sophomore Tosya Khodarkovsky, the Midway ice rink means more than just a fun place to hang out with friends — it harkens back to a childhood spent learning how to skate, spending time with family

and being part of her community.

“I’ve been going to the rink since I was three,” Tosya said. “I started on baby glide shoes and slowly worked my way up. Later on I occasionally began to play hockey with fathers and sons on the weekends. The rink provided me with a great community atmosphere, whether skating or playing hockey, and I still go there today.”

U-High freshman Nolan Issa visited the rink at the beginning of winter break and said he enjoyed it.

“I had a big snowball fight with my friends, and it was a great way to start the break for me,” Nolan said. “Because I’m older now, I don’t do as many holiday activities, but that day really got me into the holiday spirit. I went with a big group of my friends, and we had an awesome time. Also, afterwards, me and my friends went inside to drink some hot chocolate and talk.”

Sophomore Jacob Beiser said it’s a Hyde Park favorite.

“The Midway ice rink is wonderful because it’s a great place to meet up with friends and have

“The Midway ice rink is wonderful because it’s a great place to meet up with friends. You can skate around the rink for hours without getting tired and then have a massive snowball fight afterwards.”

— Jacob Beiser, sophomore

fun,” Jacob said. “You can skate around the rink for hours without getting tired and then have a massive snowball fight afterwards. The ice is usually smooth and the staff is super nice. Not to mention you can always get some great food and sit by the fire. You always run into people you know.”

The Class of 2018 also got the chance to visit the ice rink for an unofficial junior class event.

“We chose the ice rink because of the proximity and the fact that ice skating is a fun and relatively accessible activity,” class president Elizabeth Van Ha said. “Whoever wanted to come relax and have fun with our grade could walk with us. It was not an official event, but just a way for us as a grade to hang out outside of school.”



MIDWAY PHOTO BY BAILEY GARB

(LITERALLY) CHILLING. Seniors Benji Wittenbrink and Ilana Emanuel go ice skating at the Midway Plaisance ice rink after school Jan. 20. While admission to the rink is free, renting skates costs \$6. Visitors are permitted to bring their own skates.

Grissom connects through passion for squash

Junior takes unique approach as captain, inspires new teammates

BY TALIA GOERGE-KARRON
NEWS EDITOR

For John Grissom, playing squash is not only a workout, it's also a mental exercise in strategy.

"It keeps me in shape," John said. "Also it's just as much of a mental game as a physical game. It's very puzzling and you have to put the game together as you're going. It's like doing your math homework while sprinting around a box for an hour."

John has been one of two captains for the team since it was created last year. As a captain, John first and foremost wants players to balance improving at the sport and having fun while playing.

"I want people to enjoy it," John said. "Not just to enjoy it and have fun and goof off. I want to see people get better and improve."

Outside the U-High squash team, John, who started playing at age four, still goes to group training two or three times a week at the University Club when U-High squash is in season.

By playing competitively outside of school, John has not only improved his own skill, but he also worked hard to increase the amount of social connections he made. Within the team, John uses

squash as a way to connect with his fellow players.

"For me personally, it opens up a lot of doors and makes new connections," John said. "I meet a lot of very successful people, who I have made friends with and I play with very regularly."

Squash has been helpful for John while he's been on the college hunt, where he has used his already-formed connections to tour schools.

"I went to Brown and they took me around," John said. "Same deal at Amherst College. My dad knows one of the kids on the squash team, so I played around with them and met with the coach. I got to spend the night with them. It really helps seeing colleges, which is what is on my mind right now, and you get an inside view on what it's like to be on the team in college."

His teammates say that during practice John makes sure to push every team member, so that they can be the best squash player they can be. Jeremy Chizewer, a junior, said John takes charge from the start of each practice.

"He sometimes makes it a difficult one despite the certain backlash from the rest of the team," Jeremy said, "because he knows that it will benefit us in the long run."



MIDWAY PHOTO BY ELENA LIAO

RAINDROP DROP-SHOT. Lunging to reach the ball, junior John Grissom prepares for a drop-shot hit against his opponent to win a ladder match. During practices, John encourages players to practice short shots and drop-shots to improve dexterity and coordination before moving on to advanced shots.

During the first squash match of the year, John McKee, a junior, noted John's leadership and ability to pump up the team before they played in a match.

"Before the first match, John brought everyone together for a

team meeting," John said. "Half of us had never played squash before, but John's leadership made the whole team feel confident no matter their ability. We ended up winning 13-1, which started our season off on a great note."

One thing's for sure: Going to squash practice every day has become integral to John's life.

"I wouldn't say that it has changed my life because I started playing at such a young age," John said. "It's become my life."

TEAM RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL, VARSITY

Notable: The boys varsity basketball team has been virtually undefeated thus far, with only one loss in conference season. The team's next game is against Northside College Prep on Feb. 1 in Kovler Gym. Record: 11-2.

Recent Results: Lost to Uplift High School at the Ronald "Chops" Bullinger Memorial Tournament Jan. 21, 68-63; beat Francis W. Parker School Jan. 20, 85-49; beat Latin School of Chicago Jan. 17, 50-29; beat North Shore Country Day School Jan. 13, 55-29; beat Elgin Academy Jan. 10, 81-31; beat Northridge College Prep Jan. 6, 50-28; beat Walter Payton College Prep Dec. 16, 46-31.

BOYS BASKETBALL, JUNIOR VARSITY

Notable: The boys junior varsity team proved victorious after a close game against Francis W. Parker School on Jan. 20. This win reflects the team's continual improvement and dedication. Record: 3-4.

Recent Results: beat Francis W. Parker School Jan. 20, 39-33; lost to Latin School of Chicago Jan. 17, 44-40; lost to North Shore Country Day School Jan. 13, 40-38; beat Elgin Academy Jan. 10, 63-16; lost to Northridge College Prep Jan. 6, 46-45; lost to Walter Payton College Prep Dec. 16, 55-45.

GIRLS BASKETBALL, VARSITY

Notable: According to the team captain Roxanne Nesbitt, the freshmen players on the team have performed extremely well in recent games, with freshmen constituting about half of the team. Record: 6-3

Recent Results: Beat Bremen High School Jan. 20, 52-18; beat Elgin Academy Jan. 17, 43-25; beat Cristo Rey Jesuit High School Jan. 13, 42-20; beat Woodlands Academy Jan. 11, 42-22; lost to North Shore Country Day Jan. 6, 46-31.

DANCE TROUPE

Notable: On January 17, the Dance Troupe honored seniors Alexis Porter, Daniela Garcia and



MIDWAY PHOTO BY LILLIAN NEMETH

TAKE A BREATH. Junior Clemente Figueroa discusses strategies and gets advice from assistant coach Igor Kholopov between matches at a varsity dual meet on Jan. 7 hosted at U-High.

Tamera Carter at their senior night. The seniors were featured in a dance routine during the half time show for the boys varsity basketball game against Latin School.

SQUASH

Notable: A new assistant coach has been hired to join head coach Peter Wendt in leading the squash team. Coach Mark Heather previously played professionally from 1995-2006, earning a national ranking of first overall and a world record of 39th. Record: 1-1.

Recent Results: Lost to Lake Forest High School Jan. 21, 11-10; beat Lake Forest Academy Jan. 10, 13-1.

FENCING

Notable: The fencing team has been especially victorious on an individual level, sending players to both regional and state championships. Junior Clemente Figueroa and Senior Athena Chien have

been undefeated for team events.

Recent Results: Great Lakes High School Fencing Conference Novice Championship Jan. 21, results unavailable; Great Lakes High School Fencing Conference Novice Championship Dual Meet South Division Jan. 14, results unavailable; Results from Great Lakes High School Fencing Conference Novice Championship Dual Meet North vs. South; Junior Varsity Team Meet Dec. 17, results unavailable.

BOYS SWIMMING

Notable: Senior Eamonn Keenan, captain, has verbally committed to swimming at the collegiate level for Kenyon College. Record:

Recent Results: Placed first at Evergreen Park Invitational Jan. 20 with 214 points; Placed 6th at Riverside-Brookfield Invitational Jan. 14, with 114 points; lost to St. Ignatius College Prep Jan. 12, 113-57.

— COMPILED BY MICHAEL RUBIN

New coaches foster team success, allow for growth

BY ALEX LUND
OPINION EDITOR

Shifting dynamics in leadership hasn't tampered with the girls basketball team's successful trajectory thus far. In fact, it's made them stronger. With two new coaches, the team is off to a strong start despite only having 10 players and no junior varsity, according to Athletics Director David Ribbens.

With the help of new head coach Andre Battle and Assistant Coach Kiara Conners the team holds a 7-5 overall record and is currently second place in the conference at 3-1.

Coach Battle says one of the biggest challenges the team faces is the difference in basketball experience among team members, with some being veterans and others new to the sport.

The team's former coach, John Moran, moved to Atlanta after being with the program for two years. Coach Battle, who has coached junior Roxanne Nesbitt privately for years, came on board after coaching varsity boys basketball at Ogden International School, a high school on Chicago's north side. Mr. Battle has also coached players of all levels including the NBA, the WNBA players and Olympic gold medalists.

"I've been able to use my experience," Coach Battle said, "with these different levels of players in terms of developing their skills, while helping our beginner players find their foundation in terms of learning the fundamentals. We're developing those skills so that they can be more successful on the court."

Both Coach Battle and Coach Conners are working to create a focused, driven and successful team this year.

"The girls are committed," Coach Battle said. "That's the major difference for us this year — we demand a certain level of commitment, and a certain level of effort. I think that it's been a successful



MIDWAY PHOTO BY TERESA XIE

INTENSITY. New head coach Andre Battle watches as the girls basketball team executes a drill at practice in Sunny Gymnasium. The girls basketball team will play Mather High School tomorrow at 5 p.m.

start for us."

Ms. Conners says she's observed great improvements so far, and hopes that as the team continues to get better, the Lab community will show more support.

"Coaching at lab has been a great experience for me so far," Ms. Conners said. "It's always fun to teach girls, and help them learn the game. The season's going well, and we've seen great improvements from previous years. We'd love for the students and faculty to come cheer us on."

A CALL FOR UNITY



MIDWAY PHOTO BY JANIE INGRASSIA

A RESOUNDING BASS. Junior Bryce Palmer performs “Amazing Grace,” by John Newton and “There is a Balm In Gilead!” by John Newton. Other performances during the assembly included Bel Canto singing “O Siuni Mungu,” and “People Get Ready,” written and sung by Alex Lund.

Speaker urges audience actively to fight injustice

BY JACOB POSNER
MIDWAY REPORTER

Young people were integral to the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and '60s, and young people can continue to make a difference today, according to Thomas C. Holt, the featured speaker at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. assembly on Jan. 12.

Keeping with the theme of “Be the People,” the assembly included musical pieces and spoken word performances from a range of U-High students in the Assembly Hall of Gordon Parks Arts Hall.

Five affinity clubs performed at the assembly: Muslim Students Association, Jewish Students Association, Asian Students Association, Latinos Unidos and Spectrum.

MSA members spoke about what they aspired to do in life — go to graduate school, for example — sometimes one would speak alone, while to highlight a point they chanted in unison.

MSA member Jamal Nimer felt that the purpose of the performance was to bridge the gap between the audience and Muslim members of the Lab community.

“I felt that our presentation provided insights into the similarities between and the audience and how there were truly very few differences between us. I hoped that by conveying my own hopes and

aspirations, I would demonstrate to the audience the individual behind the label of ‘Muslim.’”

Six JSA members stood onstage and spoke about what Judaism meant to each of them. They touched on the point that being a part of the Jewish community does not require one to believe in God, or subscribe to the Bible.

From Latinos Unidos, Andrea Benitez and Mica Pachicano recited the poem “Yo Soy Joaquin” by Rodolfo Gonzales. The poem discusses the history of Latino exploitation, though the poem culminates on a more hopeful note — that anyone can protest against injustice.

Members of Spectrum told the stories of anonymous LGBTQ+ members of the Lab community. The stories covered topics that included memories about being LGBTQ+ — coming out to parents or friends, for example — actions allies and members of the LGBTQ+ community can take, and intersectionality.

U-High musicians displayed their abilities in four solo and ensemble performances. Singers included the Bel Canto choir, Alex du Buclet, Bryce Palmer and Alex Lund — who composed her own music. In an exciting twist, a student, Nigel Telman, conducted the Jazz Ensemble’s performance of “Nellie’s new Crepuscule,” by



MIDWAY PHOTO BY BENJI WITTENBRINK

BE THE CHANGE. Thomas C. Holt, the featured speaker, encouraged assembled students to be the change for the causes they believe in. Professor Holt teaches African-American history at the U. of C.

Thelonious Monk, with Asha Futterman, who recited an original poem based on Monk’s life during the performance.

Nigel said being on the stage was nerve-inducing.

“There was the fear of messing up,” he said, “but I was calmed by the fact that I couldn’t be criticized too harshly since it was my first time.”

This assembly also included four quote recitations from student and faculty members, a new addition this year.

ASA film showcases racism

“As we’ve seen in 2016, there are things that build up and get worse and become more extreme, so by identifying the smaller things first I think you raise awareness to a problem that could potentially be addressed.”

— Elizabeth Van Ha

BY SONNY LEE
FEATURE EDITOR

The Asian Students’ Association presented a video instead of a typical performance at the Martin Luther King Jr. assembly. Inspired by a New York Times video called “#thisis2016,” where Asian-Americans talked about their encounters with racist moments, ASA members presented a similar video featuring U-High Asian students sharing moments when their race had affected their lives in unforeseen ways.

ASA Vice President Elizabeth Van Ha explained that the purpose of the video was to bring attention to the types of interactions that students sometimes face daily and how these

students are affected by their race.

“These things happen to the ‘model minority’ but people don’t really talk about it,” Elizabeth said, “so the video was really to raise awareness that these things exist and I think if you raise awareness and people know how it affects certain people who it’s targeted towards, it helps.”

Elizabeth thought that the video was successful in showing students’ encounters and bringing attention to racist moments that happen every day similar to the ones in the video.

“There aren’t drastic things necessarily happening,” Elizabeth said, “But there are just little things. As we’ve seen in

2016, there are things that build up and get worse and become more extreme, so by identifying the smaller things first I think you raise awareness to a problem that could be addressed sooner.”

Although not featured in the video, Elizabeth said she related to almost every story that students told in the film.

She said, “Just having that and understanding that you’re not the only person going through these things and also from an outsider’s perspective to understand that these things that don’t seem that bad, actually affect people in the way they act and talk to other people on a daily basis was really important to us.”



WE GOT THE BEAT. Senior Nigel Telman conducts the U-High Jazz Band, which also included senior Asha Futterman reciting an accompanying poem. Nigel explained that the night before the performance, he listened to the original recording over and over again to get the sound in his ear.

MIDWAY PHOTO BY BENJI WITTENBRINK



MIDWAY PHOTO BY JANIE INGRASSIA

A CHANGE IS GONNA COME. Opening this year’s celebration, senior Alex du Buclet captivates audience members as she belts “A Change Is Gonna Come,” by Sam Cooke. The song became an anthem for the Civil Rights Movement after its release in 1964.