



Photos courtesy of Brennan Connell and Kathryn Phillips

Last Friday and Saturday, four student directors shared their work, including *The Game* (left and top right) and *The Prodigal Son* (bottom right), from the fall and winter terms with the Choate community.

## DINING HALL MONITOR MR. GARY LYNCH RESIGNS

By **Nick Visuthikosol '22**  
Staff Reporter

“Hats off.” “Bags away.” “No phone calls.” These are phrases students have frequently heard in the dining hall since Mr. Gary Lynch, known affectionately by students as “Mr. Gary,” arrived at Choate in the fall of 2016 as the new dining hall monitor. Known for his by-the-book yet friendly personality as well as the many pieces of life advice he regularly dispenses, Mr. Lynch has made a mark on Choate. Many students can’t imagine their campus experience and time spent in the dining hall without his daily reminders and lively presence, though he has only been a member of the Choate staff for a few years. “I thought he worked at Choate for [very many] years, but it turned out he’s only been here for three,” said Paul Montrone ’22.

During school meeting on Tuesday, January 14, Mr. Lynch announced that he would be stepping down from his position at Choate today, on Friday, January 31. He revealed that he will be reentering the corporate world by joining the General Dynamics Electric Boat company working on quality checks for the submarines the company produces, returning to a field he worked in for 30 years before coming to work at Choate.

Mr. Lynch’s time at the School was definitely memorable. He has enjoyed the interactions he had with the students in the dining hall over the years and appreciates all of the connections he has made on campus. “You guys, in some ways, have kept me young,” joked Mr. Lynch.

Claire Hong ’22 said, “We will all miss him. Mr. Gary was

a prominent figure on our campus and he brought us a sense of uniformity in the dining hall.”

Oliver Scott ’22 agreed, “He was a constant reminder for students to respect [SAGE staff] in the dining hall and make their jobs as easy as possible.”

Mr. Lynch was also known to join students regularly in their conversations during meals. “My favorite memory with Mr. Lynch was when he came to my dinner table and started talking about his family,” said Hong.

As he reflected on his life and work at Choate, Mr. Lynch shared one of his core beliefs that has guided him in times of hardship: you never know what will happen to you in life, so you have to face everything with a positive attitude. “You’ve probably heard this many times and recognize my dry humor, but people really

do not know what will happen to them. If you said to me six years ago that I would be working here at Choate, I would’ve laughed at all of you,” Mr. Lynch said.

Mr. Lynch graduated from Lyman Hall High School in 1971 and worked at the Pratt and Whitney Corporation, an aerospace company, for more than 30 years until his retirement in 2008. Like many Americans, Mr. Lynch was hurt by the economic recession that began that year. “Money that was supposed to take care of me was gone,” he said. “I had to start my life all over again in my late fifties.” That is one reason that, Mr. Lynch added, “you can’t take life for granted because it is very uncertain.”

After his retirement, Mr. Lynch worked as a home health

See MR. LYNCH, Page 2

## Campus Religious Groups Host Open House for All Peoples Week

By **Richard Chen ’22**  
Reporter

Between January 22 and 29, Choate celebrated spirituality by hosting Open House for All Peoples Week. Choate groups such as Hillel, Muslim Student Association (MSA), Christian Fellowship, Buddhist Meditation, and attendees of Roman Catholic Mass collaborated during events throughout the week.

“We are very lucky at Choate to have a robust, multi-faithed team of advisers and chaplains who planned the event with student leaders,” said Director of Spiritual Life Reverend Ally Brundige. “Although the idea of

the Open House this year is to have a theme of justice, every year the meeting is to spread awareness about the different ways to explore spirituality.”

According to Reverend Brundige, spirituality “helps us navigate life’s ups and downs and make ethical decisions.” For some, that means subscribing to a specific religion. For others, as Mai Ly Hagan ’21 said after attending Buddhist meditation, spirituality can mean “experiencing a different mindset.” Open House for All Peoples Week allowed Choate and the larger Wallingford community to reflect on

Every year, the [goal of] the meeting is to spread awareness about the different ways to explore spirituality.

Reverend Ally Brundige  
Director of Spiritual Life

See SPIRITUAL, Page 2

## SELECTED CHOATE STUDENTS AND FACULTY BEGIN TO CRAFT NEW STRATEGIC PLAN AT STAMFORD RETREAT

By **Claire Yuan ’21**  
Associate Editor

For the first time since 2013, Choate is developing a Strategic Plan that will outline the major goals of the School in the years to come.

In the fall, the School began collecting feedback from the community in the form of discussion groups and surveys. Speaking with students and faculty on campus, members of the Choate administration were able to get a general sense of what direction the School should move toward in the coming years.

After collecting general feedback from the community, a group of 60 people, including the Board

of Trustees, administrators, faculty, and selected students, are participating in a retreat in Stamford, which began yesterday and will end today, January 31. There, the group has been discussing the new Strategic Plan in further detail.

The four students attending the retreat, Caroline Rispoli ’20, Vikram Sharma ’20, Maxwell Brown ’21, and Ula Lucas ’21 were chosen by members of the School’s senior administration. “We tried to identify students who would be representative of our larger student body in terms of their set of identifiers and interests on campus,” said Dean of Students Mr. Mike Velez. “Typically, students who have been at Choate for a couple years have a little more perspective

of what the School has provided. Their feedback and input often enhances decisions and conversations.” The administration also sought students who would not be shy to speak openly and honestly in a room full of adults.

Retreat participants discussed topics like the School’s endowment, financial aid, diversity, and student learning in smaller, more informal groups. As Mr. Velez put it, “There will be casual moments during the stay, since it’s an overnight trip. Hopefully some of the conversations that have occurred during our structured, formal meetings will carry over into some of those more casual dialogues.”

Caroline Rispoli ’20, one of the two sixth formers attending the re-

treat and co-president of the Wellness committee, seeks to bring the issue of student mental health to the retreat: “Choate’s mission statement highlights academic rigor as a key facet of student life, and this is a reason why Choate students are awarded and exposed to so many unique opportunities ranging from signature programs to study abroad experiences. However, I believe that with increasing opportunities and seemingly less time in the day for students to pursue all that Choate has to offer, it is crucial to remember balance and the value of incorporating stress relief events and more permanent policies targeted to combat student stress.”

Vikram Sharma ’20, Student Body President and the other

sixth-former attending the committee, has aimed to continue embodying the role of Student Body President during the retreat: “We are going to be focusing on the recurring problems that people bring up, involving topics such as health, wellness, sustainability, and financial aid, so that the School can create long-term structural solutions. I am going to try and speak on behalf of the student body and hopefully push for some initiatives on these areas in the process.”

Following the retreat, the School will have a general outline of what the Strategic Plan will look like, which will then be developed into a finalized document.

Rispoli hopes that the retreat gives her an opportunity to give back to the school: “As a four-year senior, Choate has given me opportunities I could have never imagined. I truly believe that Choate has a culture of passion and curiosity, and while I hope to take away meaningful interactions and discussions with Choate faculty and Trustees to better my understanding of Choate and it’s progress since years past, I most hope to leave with the feeling that I have shared the positive and negative aspects of my experience to continue to improve and innovate Choate for students to come.”

Claire Yuan may be reached at cyuan21@choate.edu

### A Fight for Mubi

CT State Trooper Brian North shot teenager Mubarak Soulemane on January 15.

Local News • P3



Missing and Neglected  
Indigenous women in the U.S. are facing a crisis ignored by the media.

Opinions N/W • P5

### Process of a Portfolio

Yuting Wang ’20 provides the artist’s lens on her work and the troubles she faced on the way.

Arts and Leisure • P7



Stretches and Soundtracks  
Take a look into the pre-game rituals of winter varsity teams.

Sports • P8

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Read it, then recycle it.

Visuals by Hartford Courant, NPR, Yuting Wang, and Choate Flickr.



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## Student Council Recap

By **JeeHwan Kim '21**  
Associate Editor

At their meeting last Tuesday, Student Council discussed the creation of subcommittees and the efficacy of the proposal process, passed one proposal, and introduced three new ones. Student Council recently created a subcommittee to promote inclusivity and sensitivity to different perspectives on campus in response to feedback about the recent Student Council video.

The group also discussed ways to bring about structural changes as opposed to so-called Band-Aid solutions, which led to a discussion of expediting the proposal process. “A lot of times what will happen is because [proposals are] going through so many different steps of communication, things will get shot down, and we won’t really know why,” said Student Body President Vikram Sharma ’20. If the student who wrote a particular proposal can directly communicate with the faculty and staff that are involved, Student Council won’t “find out two weeks later when it gets shot down. We find out then, and we find out ways that we can fix it,” Sharma said.

A proposal by fourth-form Class President Tigo Ponce de Leon ’22 about incorporating compost bins into dorms passed unanimously. “You can actually ask for your dorm to get a compost bin, but you have to bring it to the big bin behind the dining hall. My hope is that a lot of dorms will sign up for this, and if a lot of people get into it, Ms. Homan said that it’s possible that they might add it into the ABM service,” said Ponce de Leon.

Sixth-form Class President Nate White ’20 introduced the first proposal, which was focused on implementing plastic bottle recycling on campus. Since Connecticut allows people to recycle bottles and cans for money in return, White suggested that members of the Choate community use this recycling through bottle return bins as a way to fundraise.

The second and third new proposals were both introduced by Ponce de Leon. His first proposal aimed to address the wellness issue by creating sleep pods. He said that the Health Center, which is planning to build a new Wellness Center, was open to the idea. His second proposal is about finding a way to allow students to buy their iPads provided by the School after graduation. This would help students keep their Notability files and other important documents “without having to redownload them onto a different platform,” Ponce de Leon added, “If a student is willing to pay for it, the School can make money off of it and can buy a new iPad.” Ponce de Leon is currently talking to Director of Information Technology Services Mr. Andrew Speyer to gain more information.

Underclassmen Day Student Representative Zayd Gonzalez ’22, who is also on the Dining Hall Committee, reported that he is currently drafting a proposal to make nutrition facts available to students. SAGE, prompted by the Student Council, is still looking for appropriate cups and bowls that are larger than the ones currently used but will still fit in the dishwasher machine. SAGE has also accepted the idea of Sundae Sundays and will be implementing it soon.

**JeeHwan Kim** may be reached at [jkim21@choate.edu](mailto:jkim21@choate.edu)

## ITS Department Help Desk Rehaul Aims to Improve Response Time

By **Alex Skrypek '23**  
Reporter

In order to better assist members of the community, Choate’s Information Technology Services Department (ITS) has reformed its help desk. The main goals of these changes are to decrease waiting time for students and faculty and provide more effective services.

The first significant change is that six department members, including Director of the ITS Department Mr. Andrew Speyer, will take shifts answering calls. This change hopes to address a previous issue where there would be times at when there was limited coverage on the phone lines. For smaller problems that can be solved within five to ten minutes, there will be immediate guidance and advice given over the phone. This means problems that can be resolved relatively quickly will no longer have to be solved after waiting for appointments and overcoming limited scheduling.

If a problem is projected to take more than ten minutes to fix, the help desk will open, ticket, record aspects of the issue, and take the damaged technology, typically an iPad or a laptop, to be looked at more closely. Within 24 hours, a staff member will contact students or faculty with the status of their problem.

The help desk will also implement FreshService, a method of describing technical issues more easily and facilitating the help process. FreshService itself produces a service desk software that focuses on providing a simple, easy-to-use interface for its customers.

Choate has now created a support website with FreshService where students can log in with their Choate network account and password to log a ticket and track the progress of their reported issues. Of these new changes, Charlie Dillon ’21 said, “I really appreciate being able to track what issues I have logged and what progress is being made. A technological issue can be really stressful, especially if it is affecting your academic performance.”

Members of ITS have also developed a more proactive initiative for solving technological issues. Instead of waiting for the problems to come to them, they will, as Mr. Speyer said, “get out more and see you in your classroom, office, or area.” ITS is also changing its office hours, under the newest changes the hours last from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every weekday except Wednesday, when the office runs from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and when the office closes for professional development and classroom visits. ITS hopes the longer hours will accommodate students and faculty who need assistance later during the day.

Zaid Ball ’20, a four year senior and prefect in Logan Munroe, said, “This is a pretty welcome change for the ITS help desk. Ever since the ITS help desk moved from their location from under the dining hall to Brownell, its availability has been severely limited due to the simple fact that students are so busy that is hard to find time in the day to walk to Brownell.”

**Alex Skrypek** may be reached at [askrypek23@choate.edu](mailto:askrypek23@choate.edu)

## MR. LYNCH TO LEAVE CHOATE AFTER THREE YEARS OF SERVICE



Photo by Ryan Kim/The Choate News

Mr. Lynch hopes to have shared the three values of dignity, respect, and cleanliness with Choate.

*Continued from Page 1*

aide for several years and then at the Connecticut Department of Development Services (DDS) assisting individuals with disabilities living in state homes. “Working in the medical world with people with disabilities was an eye-opener for me,” Mr. Lynch said.

At Choate, Mr. Lynch’s many duties expanded beyond the dining hall. He and his wife were heavily involved in campus programs related to children with special needs, such as Pop Skate and Pop Swim, which are programs that help kids learn how to ice skate and swim. Mr. Lynch’s daughter has learning disabilities and

special needs, which drove him to look for opportunities to help students in similar situations. Mr. Lynch said, “My daughter is in her thirties right now, but when she was growing up, there wasn’t the awareness that there is out there now.”

Mr. Lynch thinks that it is important to be conscious of children with special needs and he hopes that their experiences of such people will come to play a larger role in campus conversations about diversity and inclusion. He wants members of the Choate community to be aware of what they say, no matter how flippant a given comment may be. “What bothers me the most is when you are not careful about what you say — for example,

calling someone retarded,” Mr. Lynch added.

Above all, even as he takes his leave, Mr. Lynch hopes that Choate students will always remember three central values: dignity, respect, and cleanliness. “If anything, respect is the most important characteristic a person should have. When you respect others, you will be respected. Now you know why I tell kids to take their hats off or end their phone calls,” Mr. Lynch said. “I’m just hoping you guys treat the dining hall and the new dining hall monitor with the same respect.”

**Nick Visuthikosol** may be reached at [nvisuthikosol22@choate.edu](mailto:nvisuthikosol22@choate.edu)

## Spiritual Life Celebrates Week of Faith and Justice



Graphic by Sesame Gaetsaloe/The Choate News

Choate aims to celebrate the diversity of spiritual perspectives on campus through events like the Open House for All Peoples Week.

*Continued from Page 1*

their own faith and explore new forms of spirituality.

Given Choate’s location in the predominantly Christian town of Wallingford, it is especially important to help spread a broader perspective on spiritual awareness to the greater community. Hilal Zoberi ’20, the president of the MSA and a resident of Wallingford, discussed a time when he felt isolated because of his religion. “When

I went to a summer camp, on a bus, these kids were making jokes like, ‘Hilal, do you have a bomb in your bag?’ or, ‘Hilal, are you going to blow this bus up?’” Such discriminatory stereotyping is one hostility that the Open House is trying to combat. As part of the week’s festivities, members of the MSA led a tile-making activity that celebrated Islamic art.

Another club, Hillel, also participated during the week. “Hillel is a club for Jewish life on campus.

It is named after a Rabbi who valued the Jewish youth, and it has a bunch of chapters at big universities around the country,” said Laura Kors ’21, Vice President of the club. During the week, Hillel hosted discussions surrounding anti-semitism, and participants made Matzah Ball soup.

Spiritual Life is crucial to Choate, Kors said, “because it is an important community aspect at home, and so when students come to a boarding school, [Spiritual Life] allows them to contin-

ue to have that community.” She, among others, finds comfort in the consistency of the same prayers and customs. The Open House provided an opportunity for Hillel to share aspects of Jewish culture with members of the community.

The week concluded on Wednesday, January 29 with a celebration in the Chapel that drew “upon many sacred traditions, texts, and music to join together for inspiration, celebration, and solidarity,” said Reverend Brundige. There are

many opportunities to explore one’s spirituality at Choate, with the Open House and the numerous religious organizations representing only a few of the possibilities. “I want the Choate community to know that our spiritual life team is here for you, wherever you are on your spiritual journey and however you define that,” Reverend Brundige said.

**Richard Chen** may be reached at [rchen22@choate.edu](mailto:rchen22@choate.edu)



# New Haven Demonstrators Protest Fatal Police Shooting of 19-Year-Old Mubarak Soulemane

By **Amanda Li ’21** and **Stephanie Chen ’23**  
*Associate Editor and Reporter*

On January 15, 19-year-old Mubarak Soulemane was shot and killed by Connecticut State Trooper Brian North. Prior to the shooting, Soulemane, who suffered from schizophrenia, allegedly attempted to steal a mobile phone from an AT&T store in Norwalk and then proceeded to carjack an Uber driver at knifepoint. Soulemane evaded the police for several hours in a high-speed pursuit on I-95 before being surrounded by police in West Haven.

Forty-eight hours after the shooting, the Connecticut State Police Department released body and dashboard camera footage of Soulemane being surrounded in his car before being shot seven times in the face, head, shoulders, and arms. The footage shows Trooper North firing his gun after another officer shouts, “He’s reaching.” In the video, Soulemane turns to his right and reaches toward the backseat. Police say this action was perceived to be an attempt to reach for a weapon, but Dr. Boise Kimber, President Emeritus of the New Haven Clergy Association, contended that this movement was the result of Soulemane being tased moments before.

Soulemane’s death sparked outrage among the New Haven community. Many residents viewed the shooting as another instance of racially-motivated police brutality targeting black males. Since the beginning of the year, there have been three fatal police shootings in Connecticut, two of which have resulted in the death of black men.

On January 21, Soulemane’s friends and family coordinated with a coalition of clubs from Yale University to organize a protest, which attracted more than 200 demonstrators. The protesters marched in New Haven, from City Hall to the headquarters of the New Haven Police Department. They chanted “Justice for Mubi” while raising posters and wearing T-shirts depicting Soulemane.



Photo courtesy of Hartford Courant

Civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton

“It was incredibly powerful to witness the outpouring of community support,” said Mia Sloan, a local high-school student who attended the protest. “People from all walks of life came together to grieve the tragedy and express support for the family. As we were marching, people spontaneously opened car windows and grocery store doors to convey their unity with the protest.”

New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker delivered a statement during the protest to express his support for the demonstrators. He later used his social media platform to criticize Trooper North’s conduct. In a Twitter post, Mayor Elicker wrote, “I saw the video. I’m outraged. I’m no law enforcement officer, but I am confident that the actions taken are not what should have been done. It’s critical for us to stand and make sure that all law enforcement is held accountable and to a high standard.”

Victoria Fagan, a close friend of Soulemane and one of the organizers of the protest, emphasized that Soulemane was not a threat to the state troopers. “He was such a pure soul,” said Fagan. “If you

embraced Suhnoon Adams, great uncle of Mubarak Soulemane, during a memorial on January 26.

More events honoring Soulemane have been scheduled, including vigils at local churches, rallies in front of state courthouses, and private memorials for his loved ones.

Civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton, as well as local politicians and community leaders, joined Soulemane’s family and friends during another memorial held at the First Calvary Baptist Church on January 26. According to the *Hartford Courant*, Rev. Sharpton said, “You don’t have a right to take away his life, and if you do, we have an obligation to stand up and question what happened.”

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) accused the Connecticut Police of using a racial slur to refer to Soulemane during the car chase, tweeting, “Mubarak Soulemane’s death should not be investigated by the same police agency that chased and killed him, and was recorded calling him a racial slur.”

The CT State Police Union formally denied the ACLU’s accusation. “The ACLU made serious and false allegations against one of our state troopers in-

look at the video, you can see him crouching in fear. He was scared.”

Some local residents have defended Trooper North’s actions. They argue that Soulemane was an armed suspect in a dangerous car chase and that the police had no knowledge of his mental illness. According to the police, the car chase reached speeds of around 90 m.p.h. with Soulemane navigating recklessly on the shoulder and the center median, resulting in damage to multiple nearby vehicles during the pursuit. A New Haven resident who wished to remain anonymous said, “I’m sure the police officer didn’t go to work that day thinking that is what was going to happen. He has to deal with that the rest of his life.”

On January 24, a memorial service was hosted by Soulemane’s former high school at Assumption Church in Fairfield. “Everybody’s still grieving, everyone’s still processing it, but we have to celebrate his life. He wouldn’t want any of us to be upset. He would want us to get the justice he needs for him and for everyone in the world who has to deal with losing a member to police brutality,” said Fagan.

involved in the pursuit of a dangerous fleeing subject,” the union’s statement read.

The investigation into the shooting was initially assigned to detectives from the Central District Major Crime Squad. However, Acting Chief State’s Attorney John Russotto decided to remove state police from the investigation and assign the case to the Division of Criminal Justice, a rare decision that has received praise from Soulemane’s family and the New Haven Clergy Association. The investigation will be supervised by Middlesex State’s Attorney Michael Gailor and New Haven State’s Attorney Patrick Griffin.

Since the shooting, Trooper North has been given an administrative assignment and is no longer permitted to drive police cars. He has received death threats and demands for his resignation, and he will not interact with the public until the investigation is complete.

**Amanda Li and Stephanie Chen** may be reached at [ali21@choate.edu](mailto:ali21@choate.edu) and [schen23@choate.edu](mailto:schen23@choate.edu)

## CIVIC LEADERS CALL ON YALE TO DO MORE TO REDUCE ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

By **Ryan Yang ’23**  
*Reporter*

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, hundreds of local New Haven residents gathered for an annual MLK Day service to not only celebrate the legacy of the civil rights leader but also call on Yale University to contribute more toward improving the city. Hosted at the Varick Memorial AME Zion Church, the event was also attended by local and state government leaders, including Representative Rosa Delauro (D-CT), keynote speaker Connecticut State Treasurer Shawn Wooden, and New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker, all of whom spoke to a crowd composed mainly of local union workers.

Referencing MLK’s work on economic inequality, the leaders highlighted growing disparities between Yale, one of the wealthiest universities in the nation, and surrounding New Haven, where, according to a 2017 report from DataHaven, a quarter of the population has a negative net worth.

Reverend Scott Marks, Director of New Haven Rising, an organization that advocates for economic, social, and racial justice in New Haven, said to WTNH, “In the last days of Dr. King’s life, he talked about the other America. He talked about an America where people on

one side of America had homes with carpets wall-to-wall and the other America with rats and roaches wall-to-wall.”

The leaders called on Yale to renew its commitment to the New Haven community and build a stronger relationship with the city. In an interview with WTNH, State Treasurer Wooden said, “The theme is about a partnership. It’s about paying your share and empowering the neighborhoods in which you reside.”

This is not the first time that the city has pressured the university to improve the socioeconomic status of low-income neighborhoods, such as Newhallville, Dwight, and Fair Haven. Last August, Yale signed an agreement with local union workers, committing to hiring 300 residents from low-income neighborhoods by 2021. Yale agreed to a similar agreement in 2015, which committed the university to hiring 500 residents from low-income neighborhoods by this year. Although Yale has claimed it fulfilled the agreement, some local residents and community leaders have questioned the data that the university provided as evidence.

In response, Yale’s Office of Media Relations released a statement highlighting the social and economic benefits that Yale provides, including job

opportunities, educational programs, and voluntary payments.

The statement read, in part, “Yale is a strong supporter of and contributor to New Haven. The university’s annual voluntary payment to New Haven is over \$12 million ... The university devotes significant resources in support of our local community.”

To some members of the community, \$12 million cannot compare to the nearly \$150-million tax break that Yale receives from the city as a result of the university’s tax-exempt status and is just a drop in the bucket when compared to Yale’s \$30.3 billion endowment.

“Is it fair for a city as poor as New Haven to provide a \$146 million tax break to institutions as wealthy as Yale University and Yale New Haven Hospital?” Wooden asked the crowd on Tuesday.

Acknowledging Yale’s contributions to the city, the leaders asserted that Yale could still do more to help New Haven. Wooden told WTNH, “Yale, which is a major player in New Haven and in our state, offers a lot of value. But in New Haven, it also represents inequality and the gaps in society from the haves and the have-nots.”

**Ryan Yang** may be reached at [ryang23@choate.edu](mailto:ryang23@choate.edu)



By **Bella Capuano ’21**  
*Columnist*

Less than a mile from campus, Za Onn Thai House has served traditional Thai cuisine in Wallingford for the past eight years. Ms. Onnipun Mulpurke, the owner and main chef, comes from a long line of chefs who have had professional culinary training in Thai cuisine. The restaurant’s dishes are based on family recipes that have been passed down through several generations, but she adds elements of the techniques she learned in culinary school to make each dish her own.

One of the most popular dishes on the menu is the Chicken Roti — chicken wrapped in roti flatbreads

and topped with avocado, sweet potato, pineapple, and cashews, all served in a Massamun curry sauce. “We end up selling around one thousand Chicken Roti per year,” said Ms. Uma Mulpurke, the manager of Za Onn Thai House (and Onnipun’s sister).

**Za Onn Thai House**  
370 Center St.  
Open every day except  
Monday for lunch  
and dinner

Other crowd favorites include Duck Honey, a roasted duck dish served with honey sauce, and classic Pad Thai. No meal at Za Onn is complete without a refreshing Thai Iced Tea, a sweet tea with



Photo by Bella Capuano/The Choate News

Za Onn’s menu features Pad Thai and Thai iced tea.

## Community Calendar

**FEB. 1, 10:00 a.m.**

***Hogwarts Celebration of Science and Sorcery***  
*Enter the Wizarding World of Harry Potter through magical hands-on lessons with Hogwarts professors.*

Connecticut Science Center  
\$24 admission for adults,  
\$17 admission for youth, free  
admission for children under  
three; online registration re-  
quired; \$29 car ride

**FEB. 1, 10:30 a.m.**

***Saturday Sing-Along***  
*Have fun with the whole family at the Wallingford Public Library in a program filled with songs, dances, and instruments*

Wallingford Public Library  
Free; no registration required;  
for children eight and under

**FEB. 1, 11:00 a.m.**

***Lunar New Year Celebration***  
*Celebrate the Year of the Rat with crafts, live performances, face painting, and giveaways.*

Connecticut Post Mall, Milford  
Free admission; \$29 car ride

**FEB. 1, 7:00 p.m.**

***Lettuce and Delvon Lamarr Organ Trio***  
*Enjoy performances by avant-garde hip hop collective Lettuce and soul-jazz group Delvon Lamarr Organ Trio.*

College Street Music Hall, New Haven  
\$27 admission; no registration  
required; \$21 car ride

**FEB. 1, 8:00 p.m.**

***Ladysmith Black Mambazo***  
*Attend a concert by five time Grammy Award winning South African a capella group Ladysmith Black Mambazo.*

The Bushnell Performing Arts Center, Hartford  
\$60 admission; online registration required; \$29 car ride

condensed milk. And everyone should finish with a plate of mango sticky rice with coconut cream sauce — a traditional Thai dessert adorned with fresh fruit.

Ms. Uma Mulpurke explained that many dishes have ingredients that provide health benefits. For example, the Tom Kha Kai soup — a chicken coconut soup — contains galangal, which relieves pain; chile, which boosts the immune system; and lemon juice, which acts as a natural detox. The Tom Yum Goong soup — a traditional Thai spicy shrimp broth — contains lemongrass, which alleviates coughing and digestive issues; and coriander, which provides micro-nutrients and antioxidants.

Ms. Uma Mulpurke has worked at Za Onn Thai House since the restaurant opened. She said that she loves meeting people from around the world and remembers every person who has ever dined at the restaurant. Her family moved from Long Island to Branford in 2008 and eventually opened their restaurant in Wallingford, she explained, because of the town’s welcoming community.

**Bella Capuano** may be reached at [bcapuano21@choate.edu](mailto:bcapuano21@choate.edu)



# THE CHOATE NEWS



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Managing Editor

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# FACULTY SHOULD FACILITATE DIVERSITY DAY DISCUSSIONS

By **Jay Zhou '21**  
*Opinions Writer*

Diversity Day workshops are meant to encourage students to step out of their comfort zones, reflect critically on difficult, uncomfortable questions, and participate thoughtfully and maturely in challenging conversations.

In both of my sessions, people rarely spoke. While silence is often necessary for students to process complex ideas, a conversation with too much silence defeats the purpose of a discussion at all. As much as I appreciate the effort and time student facilitators devoted to Diversity Day, I wonder if replacing them with faculty facilitators would encourage more students to speak.

Student facilitators are trained to provide guiding questions and activities to lead conversations. However, many students feel awkward taking directions from peers who, outside of the Diversity Day discussion space, may be their friends.

Because it is hard to be vulnerable and share personal experiences when engaging in an uncomfortable conversation, it is understandable that most students choose to remain quiet when authoritative figures — namely, faculty — are not present to enforce participation. Faculty facilitators would likely pressure and encourage the students to not only participate, but also actively listen, helping to direct the conversation when silence drags on. Though it may not ensure total participation, students are less likely to use their phones or doze off when faculty members are present.

Faculty members also have acquired more life experience and could approach the discussion prompt from another generation's perspective, contrib-

uting even more diversity to the conversation. In contrast, student facilitators lack such experience and often echo the same ideas that others of the same age share. Having faculty facilitators would also allow student facilitators to become more active in the conversation without being forced to tread neutral lines.

However, some students believe that the presence of faculty facilitators would discourage them from speaking up. During controversial conversations, a student might feel pressured to agree with a majority opinion if a faculty member is in the room. There are also topics that students might not feel comfortable discussing around adults. For example, questions such as, "How would the diversity within the faculty affect the learning atmosphere at Choate?" may cause some students to filter their opinions. In reality, students feel they can't speak candidly when they are unfamiliar with the facilitator, whether they may be a student or faculty member.

The best we can do to improve the quality of these conversations is to provide the most qualified facilitators: teachers. Those who are already familiar with the faculty would participate actively and speak candidly, while those who still view the faculty as a stranger would be pressured to pay attention at the least.

Overall, if students are to engage in truly valuable discussions, they must be comfortable with their leaders. If meaningful conversations are to be achieved, Choate needs to reconsider its Diversity Day facilitators.

**Jay Zhou** is a fifth-former from Diamond Bar, Calif. He may be reached at jyzhou21@choate.edu

# Life in a Single: A Mixed Blessing

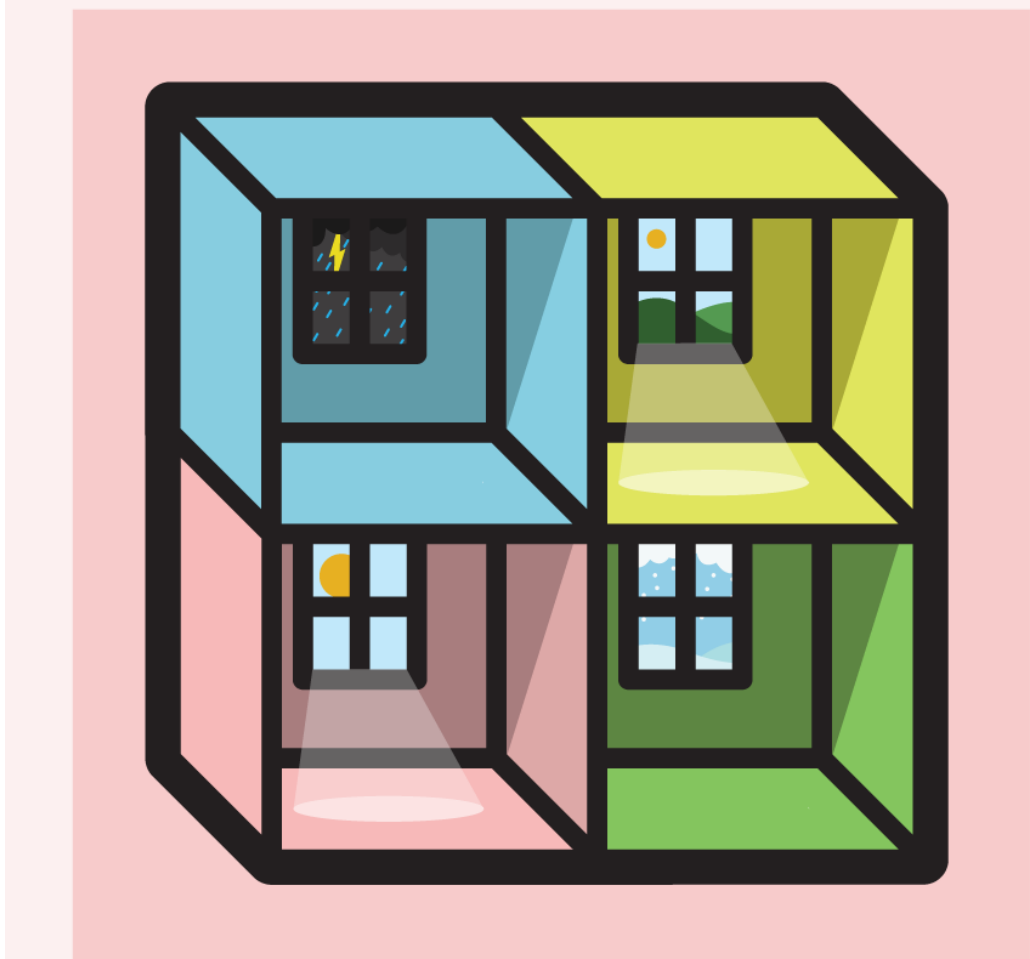
By **Tony Zhou '21**  
*Opinions Staff Writer*

I'm not saying that I didn't like my former roommates — in fact, I have become great friends with all of them — but when I learned that I would be living in a single as a junior, I was overjoyed. I'd long felt that my life at Choate had been missing something because I had yet to experience the freedom of living, really and truly, by myself.

I was right about becoming much more independent. I missed having full control of my daily schedule and the tranquility of studying alone. Being able to sleep whenever I wanted and not being forced to wake up by my roommate felt like a privilege. Whenever I was mentally exhausted of the social life at Choate, I got to temporarily retreat back into my cozy space and recharge for the following day.

And yet, just when I thought that I was enjoying my best life, I started to realize the downsides of having a single. The healthy and productive routine that I had envisioned for myself at the beginning of the school year turned out to be difficult to maintain. Whenever I'm doing work in my room, my inner voice of procrastination becomes clearer than ever and tells me to take a break. If I choose to give in to my desire and try to convince myself that I deserve a break after a long day of hard work, I'll likely spend the next hour doing everything but getting through my work, then feeling guilty for procrastinating later on. There was a sense of irregularity that I knew I could not control, and I realized that getting a single might not be the wisest choice when I procrastinated in my room on Netflix for three hours.

Having a roommate teaches people how to adapt to living with another person and to check



Graphic by Chandler Littleford/The Choate News

their own behaviors. When I was living in a double, I had to synchronize my sleep schedule with my roommates because I couldn't fall asleep if there was any light or noise. While it was difficult in the beginning, my roommates and I adapted so well that I would even stay up late to work ahead of my homework if my roommate still needed to finish his work for the next day. In a sense, trying to tolerate each other's sleep schedule was the way that we got our work done. Moreover, the presence of a roommate prevents one from shutting themselves off from the community. Despite the privacy that a single room can provide, it can also be a prison that traps someone, es-

pecially one who is not mentally well, isolating themselves and preventing others from seeing how they truly feel. The possibility that there is always someone I could talk to is something I miss.

Then, why are singles still so popular? Getting a double means that we are always sharing our personal space with others. We trivialize our past experience because things always look easier in the past. In terms of living in a double, we cannot have the hindsight of what we gain from living with something until we have a single — this makes a lot of people in doubles desperate to get the experience of living alone.

I never realized the benefits of living in a double because I was constantly aware of the compromises that I had to make. This mindset created an illusion that I could live my perfect life if I could only get a single.

I thought that living in a single would be the best thing that has ever happened to me, but I failed to see the disadvantages. Getting a single or a double is not necessarily "better," but it is important that we acknowledge the pros and cons of both living situations before coming to a decision.

**Tony Zhou** is a fifth-former from Haining, China. He may be reached at tzhou21@choate.edu

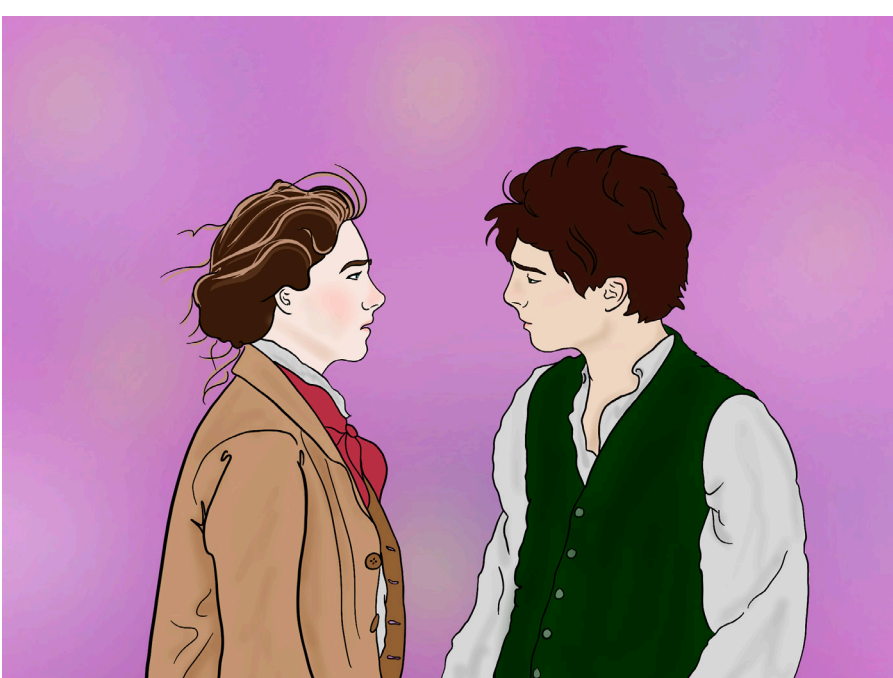
# Little Women: A Little Bit Spectacular

By **Rachel Pittman '22**  
*Associate Editor*

When I was little, visits to the library with my mom always frustrated me. "I don't wanna listen to *Little Women*," I would whine, "Can't we just get Magic Tree House?" But my mom persisted, and my childhood car rides were spent listening to the audiobook of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. After a few library renewals and a month of listening, we finally finished the book. I didn't take away much from the story: I knew that I loved Jo, hated Amy, and would rather read *Magic Tree House*.

But as I've gotten older, I've realized that *Little Women*, which was published in 1868, was a tale ahead of its time. I've started, finally, to appreciate my mom's insistence on sharing it with me. Some sentences seem to jump off the page with striking modernity, lines that seem far from 19th-century Pennsylvania. For example, Jo's iconic line, "I don't like to doze by the fire. I like adventures, and I'm going to find some," is an obvious contrast to the knitting, housewife female stereotype of the time. And yet, the frustrations that Jo and Alcott faced as women still persist. After all, *Little Women* was nominated for several Academy Awards and Oscars, including Best Picture, Costume Design, Score, and Actress in a Leading and a Supporting Role, and yet, Gerwig was not nominated for Best Director, a category that, once again, is filled entirely by men.

So, when I heard that another film adaptation was coming out and that its cast would feature some of the best actors working today — including Timothée Chalamet, Emma Watson, Laura Dern, and Meryl Streep — and that it was directed and written by Greta Gerwig, I was nervous. What if the film was a flop (cough, cough *Cats*)? What if it forever tarnished the story that I had grown up with?



Graphic by Sesame Gaetsaloe/The Choate News

After seeing it twice in theater, though, I can safely say that Gerwig's version of *Little Women* was not only did justice to the original, but was fresh and revolutionary in its own right.

Perhaps the factor that saves Gerwig's rendition from being another forgettable adaptation in a long line of TV shows, movies, and even anime was her emphasis on the parallel between Alcott and Jo. In her version, Gerwig gives Jo a book (one that she begins to write after Amy burns Jo's first novel). The movie opens with

her identity and what felt as a preordained fate as a woman. In her script, Gerwig borrows a line from another one of Alcott's books, *Rose In Bloom*: "Women have minds, as well as just heart; ambition and talent, as well as just beauty. And I'm so sick of people saying love is all a woman is fit for."

By the end of the film, just as the audience expects Jo to marry boring Professor Bhaer, Gerwig cuts to a scene in which Jo proposes her book to a publisher, who is weary of Jo's ending featuring an un-

married and childless female protagonist. Jo compromises and allows her main character to marry the professor, and the movie implies that Jo, herself, remains single. In this way, Gerwig brilliantly allows space for both the ending Alcott was forced to pen and the one Alcott wished to have written.

These parallels further emphasize the modern feeling of the writing. In so many movies set in the nineteenth century, characters of all ages talk like old men who wear their glasses on the tips of their noses. But the reality is, children in the 1860s didn't address each other as "Good sir." Refreshingly, Gerwig's writing is snappy and allows for the timeless themes of the story to shine through.

Although the entire cast was dynamic and exciting to watch, Pugh's acting as Amy stands out. Her youthful energy, just on the verge of being too eccentric, and ability to mold Amy over Gerwig's overlapping time sequencing colorized a time period often remembered in black and white.

Between the acting, writing, pacing, and costuming, there's so much to love about Gerwig's fresh take on *Little Women* — one that proves that this classic novel, the same one that my mom forced me to listen to as a little girl, is still relevant and pressing.

**Rachel Pittman** is a fourth-former from Cheshire, Conn. She may be reached at rpittman22@choate.edu

## CORRECTIONS

### School News

A *School News* article on the Choate Invitational Debate Tournament last week misidentified the Vice Captains of the Choate Debate Team. They are Will Greve '20 and Andrew Mi '20.

A *School News* article on an entrepreneurship club event last week misidentified the status of Choate Entrepreneurship Connect as a new club on campus. The club remains in the proposal process.

The Choate News regrets these errors.  
To submit a correction, email thechoatenews@choate.edu



# U.S. GOVERNMENT MUST TURN ITS ATTENTION TO MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

By **Niki Gummadi '21**  
*Associate Editor*

On January 20, the body of 16-year-old Selena Shelley Faye Not Afraid was found in Big Horn County, Montana, nearly three weeks after she was reported missing. Six months earlier, 18-year-old Kaysera Stops Pretty Places was found dead in the same county. These deaths, which happened near each other, are not isolated incidences. These cases, along with thousands of others, are part of a growing epidemic plaguing the United States and Canada called MMIW: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. While a combination of factors have led to this crisis, it has been perpetuated by the way institutions like the media and the government of the United States systematically oppress native peoples.

According to a study by the National Institute of Justice, more than 80% of Native Americans have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime. If these statistics come as something of a shock, it is because of how the United States media has covered issues plaguing Native Americans. In part, this stems from a lack of Native American journalists who are hired to major news organizations. According to data gathered by the American Society of News Editors in 2017, the staff of both leading print and online publications are comprised of less than 0.05% Native American journalists, though Native Americans make up around 2% of the United States population.



On May 5, 2018, protestors in Toppenish, Washington wore red in solidarity with the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women movement. Photo courtesy of The Intercept.

How can a media outlet's coverage accurately represent the plight of Native Americans when its own staff doesn't represent the group's presence in the United States? In order to give the MMIW crisis the attention it deserves, news outlets in the United States need to hire reporters that have firsthand experience with issues that largely go unnoticed by the rest of the American public.

In addition, thousands of Native American women are suffering at the hands of government inefficiency. In many cases, investigations into the disappearances or killings of indigenous women are held up by bureaucratic red tape;

the process is delayed while local, state, federal, and tribal governments decide which among them has jurisdiction over the case. This delay has painful consequences for the families of these women: it has been 157 days since the body of Pretty Place was found, and the cause of death has still not been determined. Without more cooperation between these agencies, indigenous women will likely continue to go missing at alarming rates and their families will not get closure.

On a broader scale, it is difficult for any government agency to provide an appropriate response to this issue because of faulty data. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's

National Crime Information Center reported that, in August 2019, there were 5,712 Native American women and girls who had gone missing. However, many Native American groups pointed out that this number is much lower than the reality. As Charles Addington, Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs's Office of Justice Services said on December 18, 2018, "These data gaps impact how law enforcement officials handle or follow up on these cases, predominantly due to underreporting, racial misclassification, potential gender or racial bias, and a lack of law enforcement resources required to follow through and close out cases ap-

propriately." To put an end to this crisis, the United States government must invest in research and resources to provide government agencies with accurate data on the number of indigenous women who have gone missing.

Some may argue that, since Native American tribes in the United States are legally held as autonomous nations, the United States government has no obligation to deal with this crisis. However, the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 states that the federal government has a "trust responsibility to assist tribal governments in safeguarding the lives

of Indian women." And while the United States government has made some attempts to combat the issue of missing indigenous women — such as the 2005 legislation, as well as the Not Invisible Act of 2019, which aimed to improve coordination between federal agencies — those efforts have not been enough. All of the legislation on this issue has failed to attack the root cause of the problem: the continued oppression of Native Americans by the United States government. It is this oppression that puts these women in a vulnerable position in the first place. The atrocities native peoples have faced at the hands of colonizers still affect them to this day. Many have been displaced and stripped of their resources; according to the U.S. Census Bureau, almost 30% of Native Americans live in extreme poverty. Often, this leads to homelessness and a heightened danger of abduction and murder. The United States government has a legal and moral responsibility to lift Native American communities out of the poverty that it has put them in.

Until the American people realize their role in supporting institutions that systematically oppress Native Americans and work to combat their issues, nothing can be done to effectively solve this crisis. These communities deserve our protection, and the Missing and Murdered Indige-

**Niki Gummadi** is a fifth-former from Ocala, Fla. She may be reached at [ngummadi21@choate.edu](mailto:ngummadi21@choate.edu)

## Russian Government's Resignation and Putin's Thirst for Power

By **Sabahat Rahman '21**  
*Opinions Writer*

On January 15, President Vladimir Putin of Russia proposed various amendments to the country's constitution in his annual state of the nation address. Just hours later, his entire cabinet resigned, including Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. The story is confusing and unexpected, but it's all part of a carefully thought-out plan devised by Putin to maintain a firm grip on the Russian government.

The problem is this: Putin's term as president is set to end in 2024. He, however, is far from done. Putin stated in his address that the president cannot serve for longer than two terms. Furthermore, he said that the prime minister and other ministers should be appointed by the State Duma (the country's parliamentary body), rather than by the president himself. Thus, Vladimir Putin's proposals essentially shift power from the president to the Parliament. While none of the reforms have officially been passed, they are set to be voted upon in a public referendum. Experts say that the reforms will likely pass because, superficially, it looks like these proposals indicate a shift toward democratic values in the Russian government.

What the amendments are really for, however, is to keep Putin in power as long as possible, even when he's not the president. Putin's plan is clever. He will step down in 2024, become a prominent minister or other figure in the State Duma, and silently continue to exert his power in the government.

But one question remains unanswered: Why did the Russian cabinet step down? On the outside, it may seem like an act of protest against Putin's proposed reforms. The cabinet's resignation made it appear as if they don't want to see limitations placed on the president's power. Their stepping down sent a clear message: "We will not tolerate Vladimir Putin's goal to weaken presidential powers." And that's exactly what Putin wants the Russian people to think. Putin wants them to believe that he is the fighter and savior of democracy and that his cabinet members are the old-fashioned autocrats. Vlad-

imir Putin had the cabinet members in his palm the whole time, and is now painting a distorted image of what's actually happening.

Putin's actions undoubtedly show his thirst for prolonged power, but what's more important to understand is how they point to a global trend. Take President Xi Jinping of China, for instance. In 2018, the Chinese Communist Party passed an amendment to its constitution that eliminated a phrase limiting the president and vice president to "no more than two consecutive terms." In this way, Xi Jinping ensured his indefinite power in the government.

In 2018, Recep Tayyip Erdogan was reelected as Turkish president, and he assumed the role with sweeping new powers. Among them included the right to appoint top officials, ministers, and even vice-presidents. Even President Donald Trump P'oo has hinted at longer presidential terms. After receiving a trophy at an event for the Wounded Warrior Project, in 2018, President Trump joked, "This will find a permanent place, at least for six years, in the Oval Office. Is that okay? I was going to joke, General, and say at least for 10 or 14 years, but we would cause bedlam if I said that, so we'll say six."

Clearly, there is a trend across national leaders of a desire to hold onto their power. Democratic values are weakening as leaders manipulate governments to work in their favor. The recent developments in Russia are no exception, and so one wonders, what's next? As countries move forward with authoritative rulers, it seems that they move back in time to when authoritarians and dictators ruled over their nations unchecked. It's truly scary to look at these recent power shifts, which bear striking resemblances to those of Nazi Germany, Stalinist Russia, and Mao Zedong's communist China. In coming months, it will be interesting to see where Putin's new reforms take his nation and where other leaders head in their search for power.

**Sabahat Rahman** is a fifth-former from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. She may be reached at [srahman21@choate.edu](mailto:srahman21@choate.edu)

## LUANDA LEAKS SCANDAL REVEALS NEGLIGENT FINANCIAL REGULATIONS



Isabel dos Santos plans to sue over "inaccurate defamatory reports and allegations" in the media. Photo courtesy of The New York Times

By **Pranav Pendri '22**  
*Opinions Writer*

Africa's richest woman, Isabel dos Santos, is a self-made businesswoman who is estimated by Forbes to be worth \$2.1 billion. She has amassed a fortune from oil and diamond resources in her war-ravaged home country of Angola. With an empire of more than 400 companies and subsidiaries in 41 countries, dos Santos has mingled with Hollywood icons at the French Riviera and dazzled Houston's oil barons with stories of her own merit and hard work. She has spoken at the London Business School wearing her signature black blazer, claiming, "I've been managing companies for a long time, starting them from small, building them up, going through every single stage of what it takes for a company to be successful." The world desperately wanted to believe the inspiring stories of this self-made, female, African billionaire.

It was all a lie. Dos Santos was, in fact, a spider spinning a massive web of corruption, secrecy, and lies. She was installed as the head of Sonangol, Angola's state oil company, by her father, José Eduardo dos Santos,

who had served as the autocratic president of Angola for 38 years until 2017. Her relationship with her father granted Sonangol public contracts, tax breaks, telecom licenses, and diamond-mining rights. Using public funds and Sonangol's money, dos Santos routinely paid tens of millions of dollars to other countries and business partners around the world. In fact, of dos Santos's 400 companies, 94 operate in secrecy jurisdictions such as Malta, Mauritius, and Hong Kong.

Isabela dos Santos is a prime example of the iniquity inherent to unchecked state control, particularly when it comes to the economy. Sonangol has continued to operate despite failing to release annual financial reports for many years. The company also routinely failed to comply with International Monetary Fund (IMF) guidelines. Still, the IMF continues to support the state-owned oil company with loans. Sonangol has crowded out and undermined the Angolan financial system. Its centrality as the only major oil company in Angola has resulted in an underdeveloped and uncompetitive economy.

In 1999, then-president José dos Santos set up Angola's only

licensed diamond-mining company, Angola Selling Corp. From her influential position at the top of Angola's oil and diamond companies — which together made up a majority of the economy — Isabela dos Santos was able to exploit an uncompetitive economic field and use public funds and government power as she pleased. For example, a company owned by Isabela dos Santos forcibly evicted thousands of families from their Luanda homes for a redevelopment project. Due to her ties to the government and the government's ties to every other aspect of Angola's economy, dos Santos and her father were able to, as one human rights lawyer put it, "treat Angola like [their] personal farm." Isabela dos Santos's story reflects the necessity of a free market economy and limited government control over the day-to-day lives of citizens and the economy.

Many other countries share the blame for dos Santos's illegal activities, as her exploits were abetted by several Western entities. The Luanda Leaks, a 715,000-document record, reveals a shocking story: Boston Consulting, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), KPMG, and other major firms enabled dos Santos's illegal

empire for years, even after Western banks cut her off. Financial institutions must adhere to strict regulations that professional firms are not subject to because, being under far less scrutiny, they are unlikely to reject business deals with rich and risky clients. It is far too easy for a corrupt individual with wealth and influence to exploit tax havens and other such loopholes with the aid of Western advisers and partners.

Angola currently ranks as one of the most corrupt countries in the world, and, despite its immense oil and diamond natural resources, one of the poorest. Its economy is stale, and its people have been ripped off by their autocratic government. It is time for the Angolan government to decentralize power over its economy and for the IMF and every other organization that abetted dos Santos's empire to establish stringent financial regulations against corruption and tax loopholes. In doing so, they will ensure that cases like that of Isabela dos Santos will never happen again.

**Pranav Pendri** is a fourth-former from Basking Ridge, NJ. He may be reached at [ppendri22@choate.edu](mailto:ppendri22@choate.edu)



STUDENT ACTIVISTS FIGHT FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS RIGHT

By **Brian Harder '23**  
*Reporter*

Dr. Liza Talusan’s Diversity Day Keynote Speech, titled “Activist or Act? As If!,” highlighted the importance of taking constructive action to improve our communities on both a local and global scale. Many Choate students engage in activism in spheres from environmentalism to sexism. Although it may seem difficult to do so at a young age, several students have managed to significantly impact their communities through activism.

May Zhao ’21 is passionate about environmentalism, and she both practices sustainability and helps raise awareness about climate change. On campus, Zhao is a Conservation Proctor and is currently enrolled in the Environmental Immersion Program at the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC). She hopes to engage in conversations at Choate and her home community in China about the environment, as she firmly believes storytelling is an effective way to spread awareness.

On January 14, Zhao gave a Choate Talk at school meeting about coral bleaching, highlighting the detrimental effects of climate change on natural life. Zhao started Awareness Care Change (ACC) Environmental Awareness last summer, an organization that helps educate children in local Chinese schools about the effects of climate change. As a high school student, creating ACC was a difficult feat, but Zhao’s passion for the issue drove her to succeed.

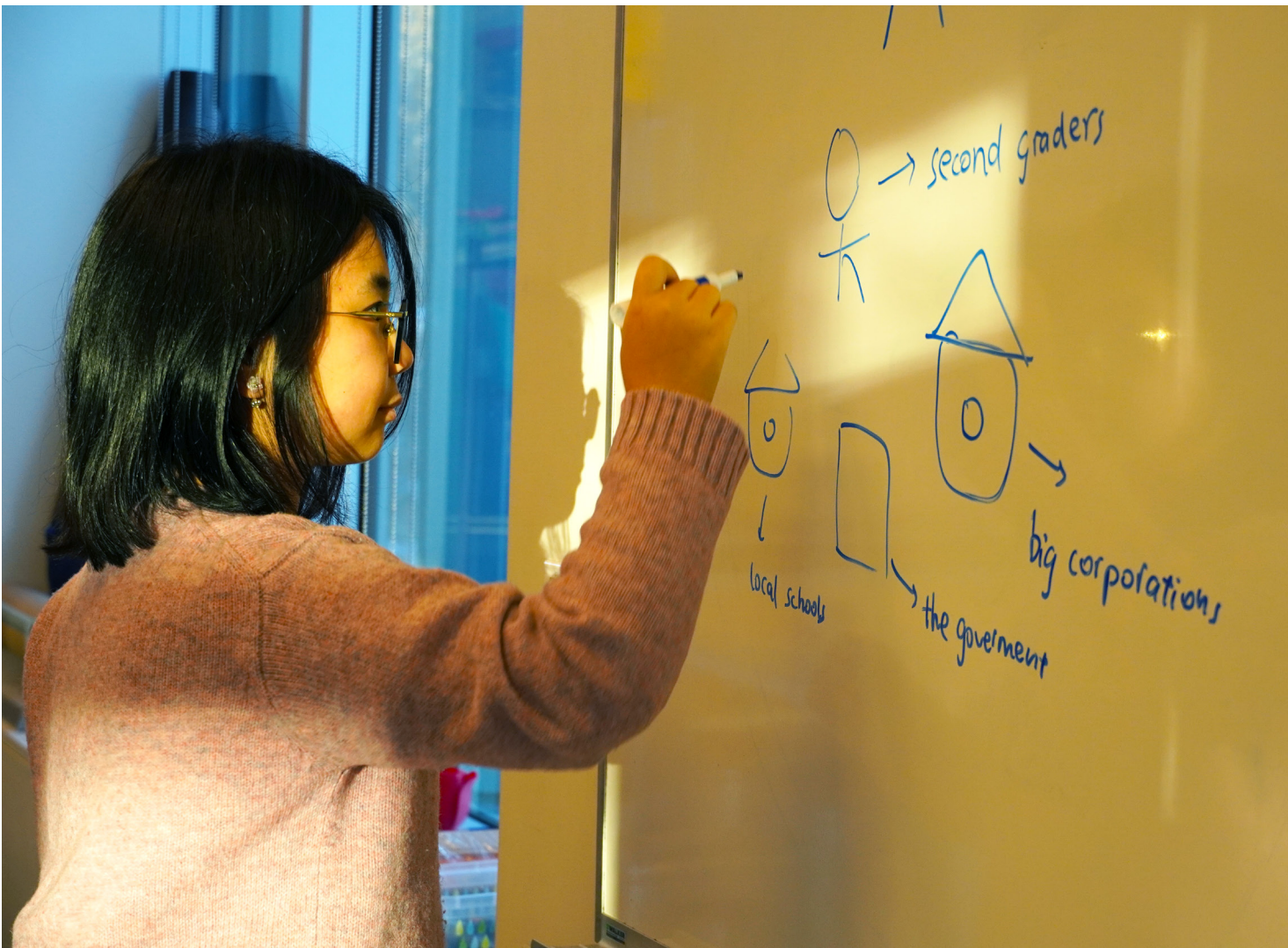


Photo by Jessie Goodwin/The Choate News

May Zhao ’21 started an organization to help educate Chinese students about climate change.

For centuries, humans have made decisions that have negatively impacted the planet, and now we’re paying our dues. Zhao hopes to be part of a change that will save our home. “We must compensate for our own crimes,” she explained. In the future, Zhao hopes to pursue marketing communication or a related field to develop a larger platform for her activism.

Vice President of Choate for Women Tyler Neri ’21 advocates for women’s rights and gender equality. Neri’s motivations for activism include caring deeply about her work and giving back to the community. “Because I have the level of privilege and opportunity that I do, I definitely feel like it is my responsibility to do whatever I can with that,” said Neri.

Within her club, Neri tries to practice listening — a skill that will be critical as she pursues Women’s Rights activism in the future. She said, “One thing I try to focus on is not letting my voice take over.” After Choate, she hopes to pursue public service as a way to continue her activism.

Cici Curran ’20 has completed work related to sexual assault.

She, along with Serena Sandweiss ’20, attended a conference on November 24, 2018, in Washington, D.C. about Title IX, a law that protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. The law has inspired sexual assault victims on college campuses to pursue legal action against their assailants.

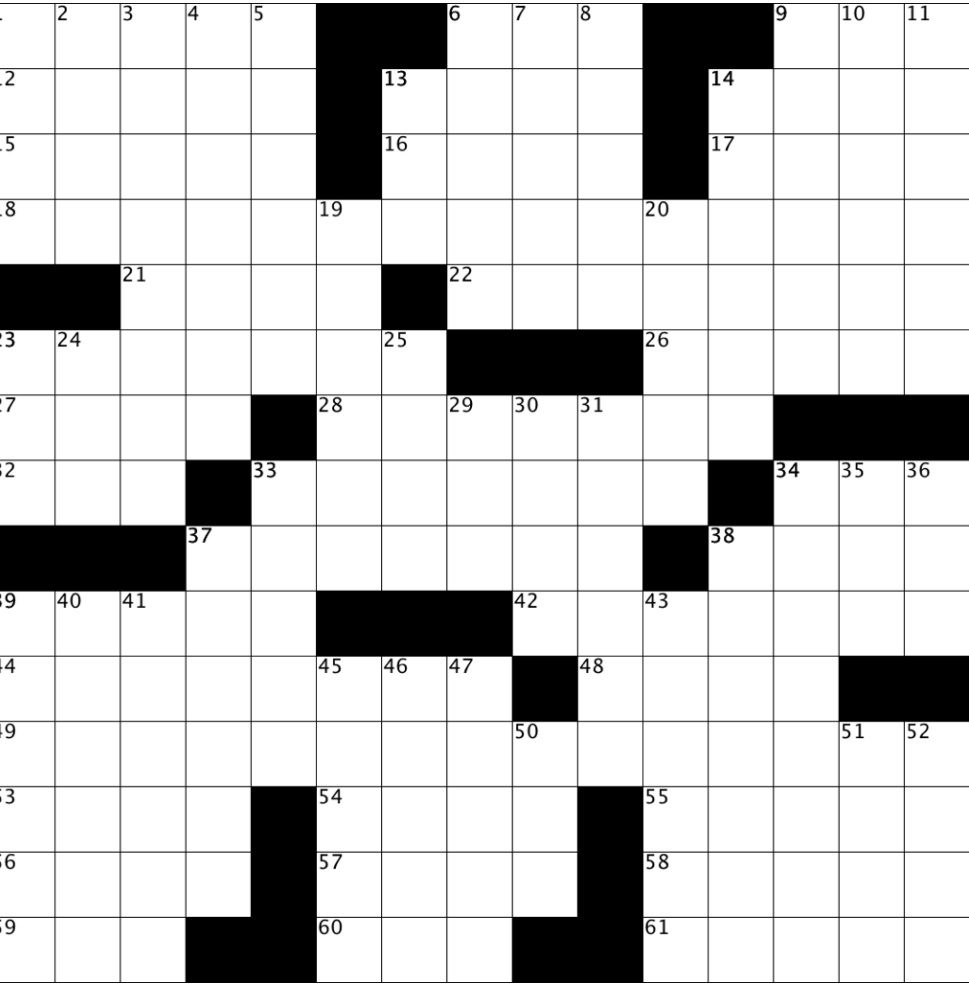
After attending the conference, Curran was inspired to educate others about Title IX. “This is something that should always be a right,” she said. She and Sandweiss organized a comment writing session, at which students researched and wrote letters to Congress. Curran will be taking Women’s Studies in a Global Perspective in the spring and hopes to continue pursuing her interest in college. While Curran isn’t sure her ultimate career will involve activism, she hopes to be involved with organizations that will allow her to work in social justice.

Curran believes that while it is hard for students to be activists, it is certainly possible for them to make a difference. Being open to seeing an issue in a new light or engaging with it in a new way on an individual level is critical to change. “You won’t know until you try it,” explained Curran.

Strength in numbers is another important aspect of student activism. “It’s important to inspire as many people as you can,” Neri said. Within Choate’s student population, we have the opportunity to interact with diversity in race, gender, socioeconomic status, sexuality, and thought. As the next generation of wave-makers, it is critical that we soak up these varied perspectives to develop a more comprehensive global understanding, further allowing us to engage in thoughtful activism.

**Brian Harder** *may be reached at bharder23@choate.edu*

A Tribute to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Across

1. Sign between Virgo and Scorpio

6. Life-force energy

9. Messi's national team, on scoreboards

12. Small bay

13. Amoeba

14. Orange part of an orange

15. Perfume, perhaps

16. Apple\_\_\_\_\_

17. American folk singer Guthrie

18. Part 1 of a quote by the Diversity Day Honoree

21. Prefix with chute or medic

22. Souvenirs, perhaps

23. They hold the key

26. Itsy bitsy

27. Taverns

28. It's sometimes checked by C-Proctors

32. Job, for a band

33. Part 2
34. Modern

37. Ball caught by an infielder, perhaps

38. One of Columbus's vessels

39. Luis Carlos \_\_\_\_\_, Colombian politician who fought against drug cartels

42. Food for those still hungry

44. Leaving certain things out

48. Satisfy

49. Part 3

53. Of course!

54. Jason's ship, in Greek Myth

55. Grammy-winning Jones

56. Bills put into vending machines

57. Quid pro \_\_\_\_\_ (bribes)

58. Love, to Luigi

59. P.M hours

60. It's often considered to be the most expensive object ever built (abbr)

61. British coinage

By **Khal Bashawaty '21**

Check our Facebook page /choatenews and our Instagram account @choatenews this afternoon for the answers to this week’s crossword!

Down

1. Use bullet points, maybe

2. Toe : Foot as \_\_\_\_\_ : Foot

3. Censoring on TV, maybe

4. Like some tuxedos

5. Outfit

6. Assert

7. Hoops game

8. Construction piece

9. Make fizzy

10. Put trust in

11. Gleaming

13. It ended when Jesus was born, for short

14. Plains Indian tribe

19. \_\_\_\_\_ for error

20. Modern Craigslist alternative

23. Lively dance

24. Obi-Wan's padawan

25. Tuck Shop Company

29. Greek p

30. Air conditioner units

31. Speak to

33. Dishwasher cycle

34. Golfer's chip-shot tool, perhaps

35. Resolution

36. Used to be

37. Mascara sites

38. Out on the town

39. Boy sponsored at a baptism

40. Quantity

41. British volume units

43. Some quick z's

45. Baghdad resident, for example

46. Cold cause

47. Some waffles

50. Santa's syllables

51. Rat

52. Butter used in Indian cooking

Students Explore Their Passions Through Winter-Term Directed Studies

By **Sidharth Rao '23**  
*Reporter*

Directed Studies are courses that allow students who have taken all of the offered classes on a specific topic to design a curriculum catering to their own interests. With the help of a faculty adviser, students design and plan a course, thinking beyond the realms of the Course Catalogue in areas ranging anywhere from Islamic Studies to Quantum Physics. This winter, Jonathan Geller ’20, Andrew Lee ’21, and William Robertson ’20 are all enrolled in Directed Studies in topics of their choosing.

Differential Geometry and Tensor Calculus, Honors

Geller and Lee are taking Mathematical Physics, an interdisciplinary course that they created with the help of Choate’s Math and Science Department. Under the guidance of Math Department Head Dr. Matthew Bardoe, they have been learning differential geometry and tensor calculus: “These are both used as tools in working with the laws of physics in spaces that aren’t flat, whether it be a soap bubble, the surface of the Earth, or curved spacetime,” said Geller.

In order to apply for a Directed Study, Lee, Geller, and Dr. Bardoe developed a timeline for the course. They mapped out how many chapters in the textbook they could cover and possible assessments. After making a rough outline of the curriculum, they submitted a proposal for approval. Geller and Lee hope to expand on their knowledge surrounding manifolds and tensors. Geller is particularly interested in covering Einstein’s Theory of Relativity by the end of the term. “It is a monumental scientific accomplishment, and it relies heavily on the math we’ve done so far. I think it would be a really interesting way to cap off the course,” said Geller.

“By the end of the term, I also want to be able to understand some aspects of general relativity and the Lie derivative, which can be applied to studying the time-dependence of electromagnetic fields,” said Lee. Taking a Directed Study has provided Lee and Geller, as well as Will Zhu ’20 and Heidi Lei ’20, with the opportunity to immerse themselves in high-level Physics and Mathematics that aren’t otherwise offered at Choate.

Advanced Arabic, Honors

Robertson is taking a Directed Study in Arabic with the help of Mr. Georges Chahwan, Language Department Head and Arabic teacher. “This year, I’m studying the Arabic language through the lenses of various modern issues, such as the climate crisis and issues of identity and intersectionality. After learning the vocabulary surrounding these topics, I engage in discussions with my adviser and work on projects and essays with him,” said Robertson.

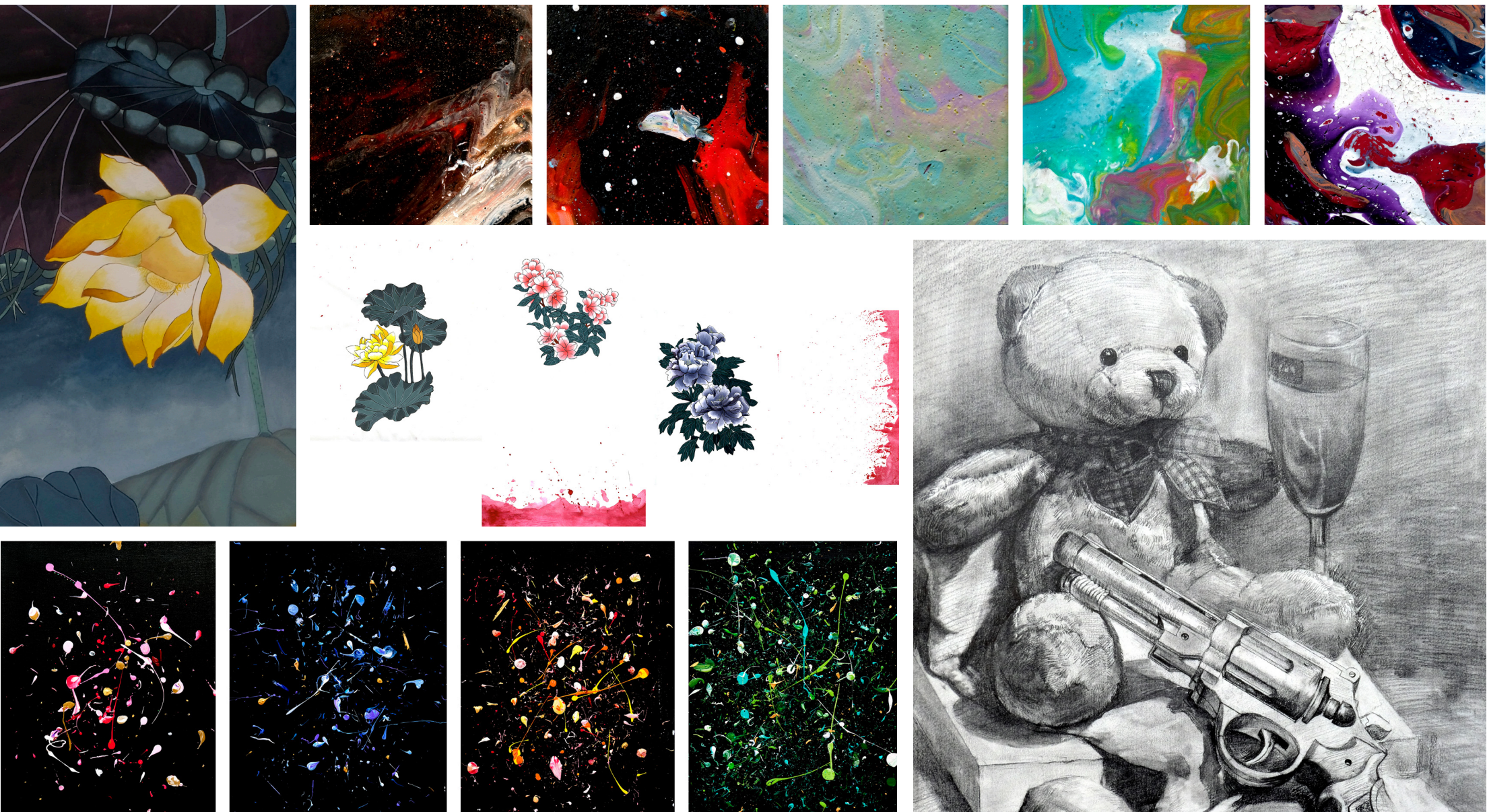
Because Robertson has been taking Arabic Language Directed Studies since his sophomore year, his Directed Study this year was easily approved. This term, Robertson has written an essay on climate change in the Middle East and analyzed scholarly articles in Arabic about the role of identity in today’s world. Recently, Robertson also wrote a poem in Arabic.

“The incredible part for me is that few of these accomplishments were planned ahead of time; instead, they were all spur-of-the-moment ideas that Mr. Chawan and I decided to pursue,” said Robertson. “This, I think, is the most appealing part of a Directed Study: you’re really allowed to let your curiosity off its leash and pursue whatever interests you the most.”

**Sidharth Rao** *may be reached at srao23@choate.edu*



## YUTING WANG '20 DRAWS THE LINE BETWEEN CONCEPTUAL CREATIVITY AND MENTAL RELAXATION



Photos courtesy of Yuting Wang

Yuting Wang '20 experiments with different media and incorporates traditional Chinese painting styles into her portfolio artwork.

By **Tony Lee '21**  
*Associate Editor*

Regarded by many as the Capstone course of the Visual Arts Department, the Advanced Studio Art Portfolio course gives artists the resources and close mentorship needed to create remarkable art portfolios. Collections of fifteen to twenty pieces, these portfolios allow students to showcase who they are as artists to colleges and prospective employers.

All students in the Visual Arts Concentration program

are required to take this one-term course in the fall. As regular application deadlines for colleges approached last December, Visual Arts Con students, including Yuting Wang '20, put the finishing touches on their portfolios after months of dedication and grueling work. “When you put together a portfolio, you’re not going to love every piece you make,” said Wang. “In [the Advanced Studio Art Portfolio] class, I was given an assignment to make a piece with two contrasting ideas or styles. I

ended up including the piece I made in my portfolio, but I don’t really like it.”

Wang stressed the importance of including pieces that demonstrate both proficiency and versatility. She explored a wide variety of mediums in her portfolio, ranging from traditional graphite and charcoal to printmaking to acrylic paint on plexiglass. Some pieces, such as two charcoal still-lives of fruit and a gun-slinging teddy bear, are meant to exhibit her mastery of technique. Others illustrate Wang’s individuality.

What makes Wang’s portfolio even more special is its reflection of psychology and traditional Chinese art. In one piece, five small, square paintings represent the five traditional stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

The vibrant paintings of water lilies and flowers in yellow, red, and blue are done in the traditional Chinese painting style called “国画” (guo hua) meaning “national” or “native painting.” According to Wang, the cultural tradition

of Chinese painting is steadily declining in popularity, driving her to explore the tradition before it fades into obsolescence.

To many, visual arts may seem like a calming activity. However, as a two-year member of the Arts Concentration program, Wang struggles in making art that both held deep meaning and simultaneously relaxed her in the creation process. She deemed this dilemma as “the choice between conceptual versus mental art.”

“There was one period when everything in my life seemed

so disorganized and out of order. Making these zentangles brought me peace and comfort, since they are so neat and orderly,” Wang said, referring to a piece of zentangles, an art style with organized patterns and designs, on large red paper. “But at the same time, we’re always pushed to make art that has conceptual meaning, but that’s so stressful. So I have to decide between stressing myself and doing art that’s therapeutic.”

**Tony Lee** may be reached at [tlee21@choate.edu](mailto:tlee21@choate.edu)

## DISASTER CASTING EXCITES THEATER COMMUNITY

By **Bianca Rosen '21**  
*Associate Editor*

Although the arts community is busy putting the final touches on its production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, it has also begun preparing for the spring musical, *Disaster*. On January 20 and 21, actors hoping to take part in the musical made their way to the Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC) for auditions. The audition process culminated on January 22 with callbacks, and decisions have been released on January 31.

Actors have been preparing for the musical since it was announced last spring. “I downloaded the songs and started researching some of the characters last year. I also had the chance to see the musical performed,” said Emily Goodwin '21. Unlike last spring’s musical, *Rent*, which tackled provocative questions of identity and acceptance, *Disaster* is a 1970s jukebox musical featuring a reporter with a crippling burden of a love life, a nun with a secret addiction, and an owner of a casino who is a shady womanizer, among other comedic characters. “It’s so funny and fun, and a nice contrast to last year,” said Goodwin.

The first day of auditions was devoted to vocals. Actors were asked to prepare one song out of a list of eight from the musical. Director Ms. Deighna DeRiu, Musical Director Mr.

Nathaniel Baker, Vocal Coach Mr. Charles Evans, Assistant Director Ms. Carol Jones, Stage Manager Brennan Connell '20, and Assistant Stage Manager Nate Krauss '20 evaluated each actor’s vocal range and accuracy, the energy they brought to the stage, and their ability to tell a story with their body language and voice.

When Yasemin Cobanoglu '21 walked into the audition room, she was nervous: “I kept thinking about the high note at the end of the song I was singing. I said, ‘Yasemin, breathe.’” In spite of the nerves and anticipation, though, everyone was excited to begin the audition process.

The second day of auditions focused on acting and dancing. Goodwin said, “I chose scenes with characters I felt comfortable with and picked my scene partners based on people I felt comfortable acting with.” There was a strong emphasis on actors’ ability to bring a character to life and improvising, since scenes were sometimes assigned minutes before they were performed.

Similarly, the dancing audition was a measure of an actor’s ability to absorb choreography in the moment. “Part of the dance audition is seeing how quickly you pick up the information,” said Will Flamm '21.

While the auditions were a whirlwind of hitting the high notes, transforming into unfamiliar characters, and finding new rhythms, “there was a re-

ally great atmosphere and everyone was super supportive,” said Hannah Wallinger '21.

As the preliminary auditions came to a close, actors were still tirelessly rehearsing for the third and final day: callbacks. Callbacks are a way for directors to learn more about an actor’s compatibility with a character they could potentially be cast as. In preparation for the callbacks, actors were given songs to practice for their audition. Before Skye Figueroa '22 performed her callback, she “ran to the dining hall and drank a lot of tea. Then, I called my father and performed my songs for him.”

Because callbacks narrowed down the actors in the running for lead roles, there was definitely more tension. However, Cobanoglu said, “We all just want to push ourselves. It’s not about getting a part over someone else.” She continued, “This year, people have been so collaborative. For example, Sabrina Carlier '21 worked with me on my callback songs, and within an hour I improved so much.”

While it seems early for auditions for the spring production, casting a musical takes a lot of time and consideration. Actors are feeling really positive about the early start: “I’m excited to hit the ground running when we come in the spring,” said Flamm.

**Bianca Rosen** may be reached at [brosen21@choate.edu](mailto:brosen21@choate.edu)

## BEATS, CHORDS, AND CHOREOGRAPHY: NOTES ON ARRANGING A CAPPELLA

By **Angel Guo '22**  
*Reporter*

Choate’s five a cappella groups gather talented singers from all across campus and regularly share the beauty of acoustic music. Behind the astounding performances is a creative process of arranging music, a process that is completely unseen by the audience.

George Trammell '20, co-leader of Maiyeros, said, “If a song sounds amazing but the arrangement is slow and boring, the audience loses interest after the first chorus.” Arranging requires lots of trial and error to produce an innovative cover that maintains the familiarity of the original song. Although the a cappella groups each operate differently, there are some vital stages of the arrangement process consistent among them.

Choosing the right song is the foundation of the arrangement process. “There are so many variables to consider, such as the range of the solo, the song’s energy, difficulty level, and how well we expect the audience to know it,” Trammell said. Some songs have a captivating solo part, but the a cappella groups need to ensure that the acoustic portion is an equally dynamic complement to the entire song.

Furthermore, the songs often correspond to different occasions. “On Parents’ Weekend, we do more classic songs that parents would know,” said Caroline Rispoli '20, co-leader of Lilith. The songs will also change depending on the vocal range of the a cappella groups. For example, the all-women a cappella groups — Whimawe-

hs and Lilith — are more likely to choose songs with higher vocal ranges than the Maiyeros, which consists of only guys.

After a song is decided, the arrangers research online, watch past performances, and listen to other versions of the song to get familiarized with the original arrangement. For Trammell, hearing instrumental versions of the song is especially helpful to recognize the nuances of the music behind the soloist.

Arranging the music involves understanding the general structure of the music. Most a cappella groups are split into six voice parts according to vocal range: soprano, mezzo, alto, tenor, baritone, and bass. The process of arrangement differs among the groups: for some, it is spontaneous, while for others, putting individual parts in Garageband allows arrangers to see how the parts work together.

The Whims prefer to start the arranging process with the bass because it is easier for the arrangers to see the missing piece and to identify which chords should be added into or taken out of the song. “The fun part is to think of rhythms that match with each other, supplement the solo, and blend well together,” Victoria Esquibies '20, co-leader of the Whims, explained. “It takes a lot of hours to write the chords, but it is so rewarding once you figure it out.”

Dominic Thomas '21, co-leader of Melatones, summarized his arrangement process as “just listening to it.” Thomas starts by listening to the entire song; then, he breaks the song into chunks and

arranges each section separately. “I would plug in my arrangements to MuseScore to make sure that it sounds similar to the song itself and also sounds harmonious. Sometimes notes in the original song would not sound the same in my arrangement, so I would recreate those parts,” Thomas said.

Determining which singers will sing which parts in the arrangement depends on how complicated the song is, as well as the group members’ vocal ranges. It is essential to ensure that “there are enough people to sing a specific part, so the sound is strong enough for listeners to differentiate various parts,” Rispoli said.

Thomas recognized that people in a cappella groups have different music backgrounds. “I believe this dynamic is good for our group because I want people to know that you don’t have to join the group aiming to become the next Beyoncé. Meanwhile, I have to keep in mind that the notes I write are singable for our group,” Thomas said.

From a performance perspective the arrangement is the key to keeping the audience engaged. Arrangers often add performance aspects and choreography, such as pauses in the music for emphasis, vowel switches for sound variation, and other beat rearrangements to keep listeners hooked. Arranging is a creative process that requires a great amount of time and energy, but the results are beautiful pieces that the a cappella groups bestow upon the community.

**Angel Guo** may be reached at [aguo22@choate.edu](mailto:aguo22@choate.edu)



FIELD REPORT

Choate Winter Record

70 - 79 - 4

Varsity Saturday Games

Boys' Basketball (6-7)

falls to Cheshire, 57-75

Girls' Basketball (9-5)

falls to Exeter, 33-42

Boys' Hockey (2-9-3)

ties Deerfield, 2-2 (OT)

Girls' Hockey (6-6-1)

ties Canterbury, 3-3

Boys' Squash (5-8)

falls to St. Pauls, 1-8

Girls' Squash (7-1)

beats St. Pauls, 5-2

Boys' Swimming (3-1)

beats Deerfield, 101-85

Girls' Swimming (2-2)

beats Deerfield, 111-73

J.V Saturday Games

Boys' Basketball (0-10)

falls to Loomis, 24-40

Girls' Basketball (5-1)

beats Exeter, 36-30

Boys' Hockey (7-2-1)

ties Deerfield, 2-2

Girls' Hockey (1-4)

falls to Greenwich, 4-6

Boys' Squash (6-3)

beats New Canaan, 8-4

Girls' Squash (3-4)

falls to New Canaan, 2-8

Thirds Saturday Games

Boys' Basketball (2-5)

falls to Hopkins, 22-34

Girls' Basketball (0-5)

falls to Suffield, 20-32

Girls' Squash (2-2)

falls to Westminster, 2-5

Varsity Wednesday Games

Boys' Basketball (6-8)

falls to Gunnery, 58-59

Girls' Basketball (9-6)

falls to Miss Porters, 46-48

Girls' Hockey (6-7-1)

falls to Kent, 4-6

Boys' Squash (5-9)

falls to Hotchkiss

Girls' Squash (8-1)

beats Westminster, 5-2

Wrestling (1-9)

falls to TP, 30-54

MENTAL PREPARATION WITH PREGAME RITUALS

By Greer Goergen '21

Associate Editor

Whether it's listening to certain songs, warming up with specific drills, or boosting team morale with creative team chants, each of Choate's athletic teams has its own pre-game tradition. And, now that the varsity winter teams at Choate are more than halfway through their seasons, teams have either adapted long-time traditions from previous years or come up with meaningful rituals of their own.

Before games, the Girls' Varsity Hockey team listens to Love Inc.'s "You're a Superstar," a practice that the team has done for many years. The team listens to about the first 30 seconds of the song to concentrate and get in the zone. After that, the girls go around the locker room, one by one, adding to the beat set by the first player until the whole team is singing the same beat. Finally, the song ends as the players come together, and they leave the locker room energized for a game.

"This tradition runs deep," said captain elaney Dill '20. "It makes you realize that our program is bigger than its current players, it is also about those who came before us and those who will come after us."



Photo courtesy of Choate Swim and Dive Instagram

Choate divers "get in the zone" before a swim meet.

Even Head Coach Ms. Ashley Bairos '06 listened to the song and used the same pre-game warm-up when she was on the team more than a decade ago.

Both Varsity Basketball teams have equally creative, albeit slightly newer, pre-game rituals. Betsy Overstrum '20, one of the captains of Girls' Varsity Basketball said, "Jordan Obi [’20] always drinks her protein shake, and I always put my left shoe on first."

Overstrum added that Indi Delrocco '21 jumps and grabs

the net when the team starts jogging after they are done stretching and that in every pre-game drill, the team always has to end on a made shot. Boys' Varsity Basketball meditates for one minute to visualize winning the game.

The squash teams follow traditions created by members of the current team. Sam Curtis '20, captain of the Boys' Varsity Squash team, said, "We generally do team introductions and a team huddle." But play-

ers purposely mispronounce teammates' names or toss out absurd nicknames.

The Girls' Varsity Squash team tries to eat together before matches. Paley Adelson-Grodberg '22 said, "We huddle up and make a few jokes, or the captain will say something motivational before our matches."

Girls' and Boys' Varsity Swimming teams perform the same cheers before every game. Co-captain Parker Scott '20 has his own ritual of doing the same

stretch behind the block, and, if the race is important, drinking some of the pool water. "There really isn't anything important reason behind why I do drink the water," he said. "It's more of a superstition thing, and It puts me at ease in the tense moments before a race starts." Scott added, "I also always stand the same way on the block before every race."

Girls Swimming Captain Sarah McAndrew '20 said, "For home meets, while the other team is warming up, we go into the team room and we listen to music and stretch together." The swimmers then line up wearing their parkas and, while clapping, walk onto the deck and form a circle before performing a final cheer. Additionally, McAndrew said, "Every meet we sing 'Build Me Up Buttercup' to the divers before they start."

There is no doubt that some of the ways Choate teams prepare for games are superstitious and lack a clear connection to better athletic performance. However, these pre-game rituals are still important for Choate teams as they allow athletes to focus and feel confident before a competition.

Greer Goergen may be reached at ggoergen21@choate.edu

PLAYER PROFILE

ON THE COURT WITH RYAN ZAMBIE '20

By Naomi Fleisch '22

Reporter

Although Ryan Zambie '20 joined campus just last fall, as a post-graduate, he has already made an immense impact on Boys' Varsity Basketball. Not only has Zambie excelled as the team's starting point guard and captain, but he also brings international basketball experience to Choate after playing on the Lebanon National Team. Recently, he sat down with reporter Naomi Fleisch '22 to discuss how he got into basketball, his experience with the Lebanon National team, and his aspirations for this season and his career.

**Naomi Fleisch:** How old were you when you started playing basketball?

**Ryan Zambie:** I can't even remember, to be honest. I've been playing ever since I was little. My dad and mom both got me into basketball. I actually played all kinds of sports growing up, but going into high school, I chose to just focus on playing basketball.

**NF:** Do you have a favorite professional basketball player?

**RZ:** LeBron James, no doubt. He's a great role model for me because he also gives back to his community a lot. I remember he has a school for younger kids. Being the best athlete in the world, in my opinion, and still being a great person is something that I can look up to, for sure.

**NF:** Why did you decide to do a PG year at Choate?

**RZ:** Mainly for basketball reasons. I wanted to further my recruitment and take another year to get bigger, faster, and stronger. At the same time, I wanted to mature in a different way: maybe figure out what I wanted to major in academically. I think my decision is definitely paying off.



Photo by Jessie Goodwin/The Choate News

Ryan Zambie '20 has played for the Lebanon National Team.

**NF:** When and how did you qualify for a spot on the Lebanon National team?

**RZ:** That process was really weird, actually, because I was visiting my grandparents in Lebanon, which I do often in the summer. I was just playing basketball, and someone saw me and invited me to try out for the team. At the time of the tryouts, I was sixteen, and I got a spot. Ever since [the team] been taking me to tournaments across the world, and I'm hoping to go back to [more tournaments] soon.

**NF:** Will you continue to play with the team in college?

**RZ:** Yes, I'm hoping to continue to play for them. My next step would be trying out for the Senior National Team, which they've already asked me to do. With school, it's pretty hard to find time for everything, but I will probably try out and practice with the team over summer break.

**NF:** What takeaways do you have from playing at such a high level?

**RZ:** From all of my time playing basketball, I've learned that you get back what you put in. I can take that lesson with me in school and in all sports. In class, if I study, I will do well on the test, and in basketball, if I work hard during practice, I will play well in the game. Basketball instilled that work ethic in me.

**NF:** Do you see basketball as a potential career, either playing or as a coach?

**RZ:** I'd love to play basketball as long as possible, so if there are opportunities to do so that would be awesome. Overseas, there is a lot more professionally than the NBA. I'd love to play in Lebanon professionally for a couple of years after college.

**NF:** What goals or aspirations do you have for the rest of the season?

**RZ:** As a team, I really want to see if we can grab a playoff spot. We're in the mix right now, but it's going to be a tough road. For me personally, I want to continue to grow as a leader.

Naomi Fleisch may be reached at nfleisch22@choate.edu

Girls' JV Basketball

Impresses in 36-30 Win

Against Exeter

By Robert Goergen '22

Reporter

Heading into Saturday's home game against Exeter, Girls' JV Basketball wanted to continue its quick start to the season with another victory. The team started its season with four straight wins and one loss against Loomis Chaffee. Choate beat Exeter 36-30 in a thrilling back and forth game.

"We knew Exeter was going to be a competitive game," said captain Hadley Rogers '21. "They had a pretty significant height advantage, but our hustle and ball movement kept us in the game, and we were able to pull out a win."

The teams played close during the first three minutes of the game, with each team trading baskets. With two minutes left to play in the first quarter, Talya Omino '22 pivoted around an Exeter defender and finished the play with a right-handed layup, tying the game at 7-7. The first quarter ended with Choate ahead 10-7, and the close score galvanized both teams to focus for the final quarter.

Choate exploded on the court in the second quarter, starting off with a 6-1 scoring run, giving the team a 16-8 lead with four minutes left to play in the half. Exeter, unwilling to concede, took on Choate's momentum, going on a 6-1 scoring run, which left the team down by only three points at half-time.

At the beginning of the second half, Exeter continued its momentum, scoring five straight points and going up by two. After not scoring in the third quarter's first four

minutes, Choate's Chiara Vesicchio '22 scored a jump shot and tied the game at 19-19. But, once again, Exeter regained momentum, ending the quarter up 24-21.

With neither Choate nor Exeter being able to get clearly ahead so far in the game, the stage was set for an exciting fourth quarter. Choate tied the game with a quick three-point shot from Maddie Chia '23, but Exeter took the ball up the court and scored a layup, once again taking the lead. Choate came back strong, scoring five straight points and regaining a three-point lead. Against all odds, Exeter climbed out of the deficit and once again tied the game, at 29-29.

With only a minute and ten seconds left on the clock, Choate gained a three-point lead. Exeter took the ball up the court but missed a layup, leaving Omino to grab the rebound and get fouled with only 40 seconds remaining.

With Choate in the lead, Omino went to the free-throw line, and, unfazed by the pressure, swished both free throws, giving Choate a five-point lead. After a foul on an Exeter player and only one successful free throw, Choate delivered the final blow with a jump shot from Annika Lee '23 in the last 14 seconds of the game, putting them up 36-30 and clinching the victory.

Choate hopes to carry this momentum throughout the rest of the team's games in February and conclude the season with a victory over its greatest rival, Deerfield.

Robert Goergen may be reached at rgoergen22@choate.edu