



# THE CHOATE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CHOATE ROSEMARY HALL SINCE 1907

Choate Rosemary Hall  
333 Christian Street  
Wallingford, CT

VOL. CXI • NO. 11

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

THECHOATENews.CHOATE.EDU

## School to Survey Seniors This Spring

By **Grayce Gibbs '18**  
News Editor

Last spring, just over 50% of sixth formers completed the Senior Survey, a mix of multiple choice, rating scale, and open response questions designed to give seniors a chance to reflect on their experiences at Choate. The survey takes about ten minutes to complete and includes questions about experience, impact, and future suggestions for Choate. Mr. Corey Wrinn, the Director of Institutional Research, created the survey last year, and he plans to send the same survey to this year's senior class in early April. Said Mr. Wrinn, "The Senior Survey gives students an opportunity to share their experiences, how they have changed over time, and what worked or didn't work for them over their time at Choate."

In addition to the Senior Survey, Mr. Wrinn created a survey for incoming students that the current freshman and sophomore classes took, as well as any new juniors or post-graduates. Around 80% of students from the class of 2021 and 2020 completed this survey, which was administered two weeks before they arrived at Choate. Mr. Wrinn said, "The timing is purposeful so that we can get a sense of where students are before they move on campus, meet their

See **SURVEY**, Page 3



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Roshni Surpur '20 performs as character "Scab" in one of the Fringe Festival plays, *The Last Burrito*.

See **FRINGE FESTIVAL**, Page 7

## THE NEW SCHEDULE: A MID-YEAR CHECKUP

By **Vincenzo DiNatale '19**  
Associate Editor

After about five months into the school year, many students and faculty have fully recognized the effects of the schedule change. Although there are some clear benefits, faculty members have noticed disadvantages as well.

Dr. Selena Gell, a Biology teacher, shared her opinion: "Overall, I really like the new schedule. I think the long blocks allow for a lot of flexibility, so you can introduce new material, prac-

tice it, and do a bunch of different things in one class period." Dr. Gell also commented, "The other thing I like is that it makes it much more possible to do labs any day, and particularly for my advanced science courses, the flexibility of being able to do labs all the time rather than once a week is great."

Although the schedule change has some positive outcomes, Dr. Gell added that "there are some activities for which the long lab block is really necessary." In previous years, science teachers had two short periods available

to them, creating the "long lab block" that Dr. Gell referred to. For instance, Dr. Gell wanted to incorporate a specific lab into her Cell and Molecular Biology class but had to split it between two class days. As a result, the lab turned out to be unsuccessful.

Moreover, Dr. Gell feels that adjusting homework assignments has proven difficult. She commented, "I've struggled with how to keep up having appropriate practice for big ideas, with only having three assignments per week, and trying hard not to just

make three longer assignments out of what was once four." Additionally, Dr. Gell feels that in her honors biology class, she is covering slightly less material this year. However, Dr. Gell believes that this is only a result of adjusting to the new schedule and is nothing permanent.

Dr. Gell concluded, "I'm overall a fan of the new longer blocks, but I think there are still some kinks that need to get worked out."

See **SCHEDULE**, Page 2

## Choate Hosts Robotics Tournament

By **Siri Palreddy '20**  
Staff Reporter

While most students relaxed into long weekend on February 2, the Choate Robotics Team was preparing for the annual Choate Robotics Tournament. This year's tournament was the second that Choate has hosted. The competition was held in the Worthington Johnson Athletic Center, where 49 high school teams, including nine Choate teams, competed for a chance to advance to the Southern New England Regional Tournament.

Mr. Kyle Di Tieri and Mr. Andrew Murgio, the coaches of the Robotics Team, organized the logistics for the event. The coaches coordinated with the event partners and VEX — the robotics league Choate competes in — to ensure that the tournament ran smoothly. "We dealt with all the teams that registered, had to get all the volunteers, lined up the judges, and lined up the other team coaches," said Mr. Murgio. SAGE, Choate's dining service, provided meals for the competing teams and students who volunteered and earned community service hours.

However, it was the students themselves who were responsible for the bulk of the

See **ROBOTICS**, Page 2

## 2018-2019 School President and Vice President Elected

By **Grace Zhang '20**  
Staff Reporter

The votes are in, and the student body has spoken: Itai Mupanduki '19 and Tommy Wachtell '19 are Choate's 2018-19 Student Body President and Vice President, respectively. Mupanduki summed up his plan for his term in three simple words: "For the people." Mupanduki explained, "I will be here to benefit you, to facilitate change, and to work to make Choate a place where the focus is more about the students." Their terms will begin at the start of Spring Term and continue through next year's Fall and Winter Terms.

All candidates gave two-minute speeches during school meeting on Tuesday, January 30. Then, the student body voted the next day. While student council passed a proposal regarding the possibility of current sixth formers voting in the schoolwide election, the possibility was not realized by the time of this year's election.

"It feels great. There are a lot of things I want to do for this school, and now I have the platform to get what I want to get done, done," reflected Mupanduki on how it initially felt to be elected. Said Wachtell about receiving the congratulatory email, "It felt good, but it's not too different for me; it just means I'm go-



Photo by Pinn Chirathivat/The Choate News

School President Itai Mupanduki '19 (left) and his Vice President Tommy Wachtell '19 (right).

ing to keep doing what I normally do — my job. That's about it." Wachtell has served on Student Council for two consecutive years and will now begin his third.

One week later, candidates for additional Student Council positions gave speeches during form meetings. For the Class of 2019, Tippa Chan '19 is Class President, and Carly Casazza '19, Arjun Kat-echia '19, and Clay Zachery '19 are each Form Representatives. For the Class of 2020, Vikram Shar- ma '20 is Class President, and

Caroline Rispoli '20 and William Robertson '20 are Form Representatives. Shane Baldwin '21 is the 2021 Class President and Ula Lucas '21 is one of the Form Representatives. After Nico Campbell '21 and Anesi Ojior '21 tied, a runoff election was held, and Ojior elected as the second Form Representative. Elections for Day Student Representatives will take place later in the term, and the new Student Council will choose a secretary in the spring.

Both Mupanduki and

Wachtell already have concrete plans regarding the beginnings of their terms. Mupanduki said, "Through my meetings with Mr. Stanley and the Board of Trustees, I'm going to work to reinstitute the 9-9:30 study break. I think that's the first thing that I want to get done, so we can have that for our next school year, as well as changing the schedule a little bit to include longer lunch blocks, and introduce a forum for the student body." In the long term, he plans to institute "a more

transparent environment where things are being done for the sole purpose of benefiting the student body. I want that to be a larger concern, to take into consideration what benefits the students."

Wachtell plans first to meet with Mr. Will Morris, Associate Dean of Students and the Director of Residential Life, about the possibility of students requesting visitation electronically. "The REACH app we have on our phones can actually be used to sign in and out of your dorm

in the day, they just haven't activated it yet. I met with the head of ITS and I'm going to meet with Will Morris this week to talk about maybe opening up the possibility of requesting visitation from that app," explained Wachtell.

Though Mupanduki has never been on the Council, he believes he is capable and willing to learn. "I don't have prior experience with Student Council, but I do have prior experience with leadership work around campus. I'm the president of Choate Young Democrats and have worked with organizations around campus. So, I have worked with faculty and the Administration and I know how to get things done and organize events and get things through the bureaucracy that is Choate. I think that experience will be extremely helpful," he reflected. "A lot of the people I will be working with have been on Student Council for years, so I think that combination of leadership experience and helpful advisees will be very useful."

The president and vice president know each other personally, have worked together in the past, and foresee effective cooperation for their upcoming term. "Itai was my wrestling partner freshman year. We were dormmates in Mem. He's in my American Studies class, so I've worked with him

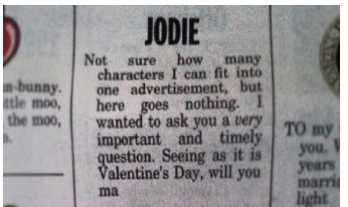
See **STUDENT COUNCIL**, Page 2

**Green Cup Returns**  
Read more about the annual school-wide conservation challenge.  
**News • P2**



**Reflection on Junior Spring**  
Haley Chang '18 discusses the dangers of neglecting one's mental and physical health.  
**Opinions • P4**

**Love at First Read**  
In a series of informative snippets, the 111th Masthead endeavors to scrounge up a little romance.  
**Features • P6**



**Time Management for Student-Athletes**  
Exploring the open-ended question of balancing commitments on and off the field.  
**Sports • P8**

### What's Inside

News.....	1-3
Opinions: Campus.....	4
Opinions: Nation/World.....	5
Features.....	6
Arts and Leisure.....	7
Sports.....	8



Read it then recycle it.

Visuals by Psychological Science, Chandler Littleford, Adweek, and Choate Rosemary Hall.



**BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY**  
**DELIVERY AVAILABLE**



(203) 269-9507  
WWW.COLONYDINER.COM



## MUPANDUKI AND WACHTELL TO LEAD THE 2018-2019 STUDENT COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

on projects in English and history. I know him personally as well as professionally,” said Wachtell. He continued, “I’m really happy to be working alongside Itai. I think everyone who was running for president was very qualified. He’s a really smart, bright, passionate, efficient kid, and I’m really looking forward to working with him.” Wachtell plans to see the project he’s been working on since his freshman year through: installing laundry machines in Hill House basement so that laundry machines are available to the many dorms surrounding the Hill complex. “I’ve been working on this since about January of 2016. It’s now 2018, and it’s getting voted on this March. That’s my biggest thing: if that can happen and get passed through, we can get laun-

dry machines in the basement of Hill House.” Mupanduki, like most candidates, did not take on the position lightly. “I thought about running for a while, but I hadn’t really decided, because I was kind of conflicted on whether or not I was the right person to get those things done. I really felt that I was. When I realized there was nobody else who was speaking up for these issues in the student body, I felt that I would be the one to get this done and to be the one to speak about this,” he said. Not only did Mupanduki want a voice on Student Council, he felt that the role of president in particular was fit for him. He explained, “I wanted to be president because I feel that the role of president at Choate is extremely unique, in the sense that your job is kind of to facilitate things. Your

job is to get the ball rolling and get things done. The form reps and vice president, their job is to institute that agenda and get things through on the minute level, but the president’s job is to overall facilitate the new agenda – to work with the administration, and to get things passed.” **The president's job is to overall facilitate the new agenda – to work with the administration and to get things passed.** *Itai Mupanduki '19* Likewise, Wachtell felt the vice president position suited him. “As a president, you’re not an active voting member of the council. And what hap-

pens is you end up managing a lot of the meetings instead of participating in them. I think I have had a really valuable experience at Choate in my three years here, and I want to be able to run on that and have a voice for my constituency that I represent. If you can’t vote, which is what the president does, I feel like it loses a lot of power that comes with the position,” he said. Wachtell said, “Change takes time, so be patient. But it will come.” The student body will begin to see evidence of these changes when the new student body president and vice president begin their term in the beginning of this coming spring.

**Grace Zhang** may be reached at [gzhang20@choate.edu](mailto:gzhang20@choate.edu)

## New Schedule Affects Curriculum in All Departments

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, the language department has seen other effects. Mr. Oliver Morris, a Latin teacher, said, “I think it’s still impacting my teaching in ways that I don’t yet know about. I am still trying to figure out the best way to handle changes.” For example, Mr. Morris explained that although there is less homework time, there is still more time in class. Because of this, as a teacher of high levels of Latin, Mr. Morris suspected that he’d still cover the same amount of Latin translation. However, he found that his students aren’t necessarily doing the same amount of work as in previous years. Rather than completing more translation for homework — where students are expected to translate the entire text themselves — students are doing more translation in class, with assistance from their teacher and classmates. Therefore, students are receiving less practice and are less prepared for assessments. Mr. Morris added, “The question becomes how do I figure out how to make sure you’re doing the same amount of practice or enough practice.” Mr. Morris has also seen the impacts of the new schedule on students: “I’ve noticed that some of my advisees who are taking six courses, particularly in the fall, really were having a hard time, particularly coming out of long weekend and when teachers hadn’t really accurately gaged how much time they had left.” He explained, “[Students] got really overtaxed in that period of time because of six courses.” Mr. Morris felt that the workload for many students piled on later in the term as teachers were still unfamiliar with the schedule change.

On the contrary, Mr. Morris discussed that there are some benefits of the new schedule, as he has more time to do projects and other large assignments. He also added, “I feel more relaxed everyday,” as he doesn’t have to rush to complete a lesson, which was a potential issue in last year’s 45-minute blocks. Overall, Mr. Morris asserted that “the reduction in homework, I think, is a bad thing.” Mr. Morris also explained that although there is more class time, the lack of frequent class meetings may be harmful to students. A final downside is that there is an increased impact of missing a class day with the new schedule. If there is a special schedule or if a student has an illness, and a student has to miss class, he or she is missing a significant amount of class time. In similar circumstances, Ms. Patricia Antúnez, a Spanish teacher discussed her opinion: “It has been good to have a mix of activities with the longer periods, and also some time for group work during class time. It has increased my attention to include more of a variety of activities, and I feel I am reaching more use of the four skills most days.” With more time in class, Ms. Antúnez feels that her students can practice speaking, writing, listening, and reading — the four skills that Ms. Antúnez referred to. In addition, as Ms. Antúnez teaches beginning levels of Spanish. Regarding those sections, she said, “It does take time to assimilate the material, and three

meetings makes it a bit challenging for the beginning level.” Ms. Antúnez feels that the lack of frequent class time prohibits students from using vocabulary or grammar concepts regularly, putting them at a disadvantage. Ms. Brooke Fichera, an English teacher, discussed her thoughts as well: “The new schedule allows me to have a little bit more flexibility.” She explained, “I can kind of piece it out differently than I was able to with the shorter periods.” In her class, Ms. Fichera feels that there is more time for discussion and in-class work time. The latter permits students to ask questions about assignments and to work ahead. Ms. Fichera commented, “I think ultimately if we all kind of maximize the way it can be used, it will help students a lot.” Similar to other teachers, though Ms. Fichera feels that there are benefits, there are still some disadvantages: “In some ways, it’s harder with only three nights of homework and the homework limitations that we have because it’s hard to get a lot of reading in.” In addition, Ms. Fichera explained that if she wants her students to read a novel, it’s difficult to incorporate writing assignments as well, without assigning too much homework. Ms. Fichera concluded, “I think everybody needs to remember that there’s going to be an adjustment period, for everyone.” Ms. Andrea Sorrells, a math teacher, also understands the advantages and disadvantages of the new schedule. Because of the new class schedule, she spends a lot more time prepping for classes, as all the previous notes and homework assignments have to be redone. However, the additional class time allows for more fun activities and interesting problems. Ms. Sorrells said, “I love learning and finding new ways to teach math that are engaging, valuable, and rewarding.” Several students were also willing to share their opinions on the new schedule. Piper Connolly ’19 explained her thoughts and highlighted the increased impact of missing class, especially in the midst of widespread illnesses on campus: “I’m kind of used to it by now, just because it’s been about five months, but with the flu epidemic I got really scared to miss even one class because so much material needs to be crammed into one period due to blocks only meeting three times a week.” Another student, Lily Bar ’19, explained, “The lunch blocks are a little tricky though just because there’s not really enough time to eat.” In addition, Taylor John-Lewis ’19 commented, “It’s seems like a good change except for the shortened lunch periods. It comes in handy for doing work uninterrupted or taking naps during free periods.” Overall, the schedule change poses advantages and disadvantages for students and faculty alike. Although many feel that they have fully adjusted to the longer periods and less homework time, it is undeniable that the schedule change will continue to have lasting effects.

**Vincenzo DiNatale** may be reached at [vdinatale19@choate.edu](mailto:vdinatale19@choate.edu)

## Fifth Former Wins National Computer Science Award

By **Peter DiNatale '21**  
Staff Reporter

Each year, the National Center for Women in Technology presents an award called the National Award for Aspirations in Computing. This award is for young women in college and high school for their various accomplishments in Computer Science. This past year, 3600 high school women applied for this award. There were 40 national winners, one being Rebekah Agwunobi ’19. “I learned about this program, this award when I attended an artificial intelligence outreach program at Stanford and was encouraged to apply,” said Agwunobi. To be a winner of this award, the National Center for Women in Technology looks into an applicant’s particular skill set, as well as a transcript, a recommendation, and essays regarding computer science. “I think what is most important for an applicant to have is an overall passion for computer science, math, and engineering.”



Photo by Kathryn Phillips/The Choate News

Bekah Agwunobi '19 won the National Award for Aspirations in Computing.

Prior to winning the award, Agwunobi interned at the University of Southern California. She spent two summers at USC’s Department of Computer Science with Professor Cyrus Shahabi’s integrated Media Systems Center. During her time there, she worked on big data and mobile development, primarily geospatial crowdsourcing. “It was one of the first times I was faced with unbelievably

challenging and rigorous computer science assignments, but I am so grateful because it taught me the value of persistence and resilience,” said Agwunobi. Agwunobi completed the high school computer science curriculum by 8th grade. “I just love to understand how things work,” she stated. According to Agwunobi, this is a great opportunity for Choate students to look into if

they wish to pursue the fields of math or computer science. Agwunobi said, “I would encourage every girl at Choate to apply for the award and pursue STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) fields that they are interested in. There are so many support systems for women in STEM, and this award recognizes remarkable women in technology, who undeniably exist at Choate too.”

Like many, Agwunobi has future aspirations and goals. Hoping to pursue studies in computer science and international relations, Agwunobi would like then to run her own tech company after she graduates college. She also hopes to go on to encourage as many other girls to explore or dive deeper into computer science. She concluded, “The key to success is working on projects that you are really passionate about.”

**Peter DiNatale** may be reached at [pdinatale21@choate.edu](mailto:pdinatale21@choate.edu)

## GREEN CUP ENCOURAGES CAMPUS-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY

By **Owen Collins '19**  
Associate Editor

Since January 17, Mr. James Yanelli, Director of Student Activities, has sent out weekly emails providing information concerning every dorm’s energy consumption. This information stems from Choate’s participation in an energy conservation competition known as the Green Cup Challenge. This five-week competition promotes conservation, where each dorm on campus’ energy consumption is measured and compared to their previous week to see if there was an increase or decrease. This challenge is run by Ms. Katrina Homan, Director of Sustainability and a science teacher at Choate, and the student C-Proctors here on campus.

This challenge did not originate here at Choate. The Green Cup Challenge began in 2003 at Phillips Exeter Academy as a dorm-to-dorm competition. Green Cup was quickly adopted by two other schools in 2005: Northfield Mount Hermon and The Lawrenceville School. The competition later expanded to the Eight Schools Association in 2007. The challenge itself was then managed by all of the schools before being handed over to the Green Schools Alliance several years later. The Green Schools Alliance is an organization that emphasizes connecting students and schools to lead to a sustainable future. Today, the Green Cup Challenge is an international

competition that focuses on energy conservation and raising awareness about climate change. The standard Green Cup Challenge is a four-week long competition, though here at Choate, it lasts for five weeks. Ms. Homan explained, “The reason behind the Green Cup Challenge being at least four weeks is because anything that you do for 21 days can become a habit.” Ms. Homan continued by explaining how flexibility was given to the C-Proctors in deciding how long they wanted the challenge to be. C-Proctor Riley Choi ’18 commented, “I think five weeks is a good amount of time for people to be really aware of their habit. So, we decided to just extend it a week longer than other schools.”

The energy that is measured in the Green Cup Challenge is electricity usage, which varies in dorms with different heating systems. The three systems that dorms fall under are hot water radiation, steam radiation, and a hot water fan unit. The hot water radiation systems have electric pumps, but no fans. The steam radiation systems have neither electric pumps nor fans. The hot water fan unit systems consist of both electric pumps and fans. These differences lead to different energy conservation methods that vary in effectiveness in certain dorms. All of these different types of energy consumption are measured by Mr. Steve Cahoon, Manager of Energy Sys-

tems and Project Management. Mr. Cahoon is able to take the measurements for a number of dorms through his computer, though for smaller dorms, like senior dorms that are houses, Mr. Cahoon goes out to take their reading on a weekly basis. As the years have gone on doing this challenge, Ms. Homan and the C-Proctors have made numerous efforts to add new elements to the challenge. Ms. Homan said, “Since we have been doing the Green Cup Challenge for many years, we try to think of ways we can make it new and different every year.” The C-Proctors have aided with this by looking in to a specific component of energy conservation for each week of green cup, with the weekly themes for this year being different from last year.

**I think five weeks is a good amount of time for people to be really aware of their habit.**

*Riley Choi '18*

The first week was about electricity here at Choate, specifically the three heating systems that exist on campus. Posters about these three different systems can be seen in the College Counseling hallway and between St. John Hall and the Dining Hall. The second week was about electricity at home, which tailored towards day students, who could send in fifteen second-

or-less videos about conserving energy to the C-Proctor Instagram. The third week concerns the KEC, and there are additional posters in that same hallway about the building and some of its features. The fourth week was about technology upgrades here at Choate — for example, LED street lamps, LED lights in the dining hall, or the solar panels at the KEC. The fifth and final week is about different inventions in energy conservation around the world.

The overall goal of this competition is to make students and faculty alike more aware of how they’re using electricity and of energy consumption in general. The world’s energy sources which Ms. Homan referred to as a savings account, are becoming depleted; she explained, “What if someone took money out of your savings account for things that really weren’t necessary? Why leave the lights on that are using the electricity when you’re not there?” Ms. Homan continued, “We’re not going to earn anymore.”

When asked about the single most important way in which students could reduce their energy consumption, C-Proctor Matt Aguiar ’18 said, “Being vocal about it; to step up when you see someone doing something wrong or, not wrong, but wasteful. Be able to talk about it.”

**Owen Collins** may be reached at [ocollins19@choate.edu](mailto:ocollins19@choate.edu)

# Body & Soul Day Spa

For Men and Women

**MEN'S WASH, CUT & STYLE: \$20**  
**WOMEN'S WASH, CUT & STYLE: \$30**  
\*first time clients

26 N. Main ST., Wallingford, CT 06492  
[www.thebodyandsoulspaspa.com](http://www.thebodyandsoulspaspa.com)  
203-269-FACE



## MISSTIQUE DRIVE COLLECTS FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS



Photo courtesy of Lauren Canna

The editorial board of *Misstique* poses with the feminine hygiene products collected from the Drive.

By **Anjali Mangla '20**  
Staff Reporter

From January 30 to February 13, large bins were placed around campus as a part of *Misstique's* pad and tampon drive. *Misstique* is a feminist magazine which empowers women by talking openly about female struggles. Abigail Drummond '18, Editor-in-Chief of *Misstique*, formed the publication last year. *Misstique* hopes to inspire female students by encouraging this drive and giving back to women who don't have basic rights. The cabinet of the publication partnered with the organization I Support the Girls to sponsor this initiative, which collected menstrual products to donate to women who can't afford them.

"We realized that a lot of women around the world don't have access to tampons and pads, and so we came up with the idea to do a drive," said Krystal McCook '20, Communications Officer of *Misstique*.

The products that the drive hoped to collect were pads, tampons, and other menstrual products. Gently-used bras were welcome, as comfortable extra-large sports bras can last a long time for women who can't afford lingerie. Training bras for daughters of these women are also a necessity, since over 60% of homeless women have children.

"It's important to contribute because it's a basic right that women have, and something everyone should care about," Anna Ely '19, a *Misstique* member involved in the drive, stated.

The products collected in the drive will be given to women in need of these products. The luxury tax on tampons and other expensive hygiene products prove an obstacle for many women in their monthly menstrual cycle. A single box of 16 tampons, which may not even last a woman's cycle, can cost up to nine dollars, and, according to a Huffington Post

Study, the average woman spends around \$18,000 on her period over her lifetime.

"The initiative comes from a desire to give back in the name of women's rights. There are over 1,000 homeless women in the Bridgeport area itself, and it would be great if we could help at least a portion of these women," Ely said.

The cabinet of *Misstique* came up with the idea when the masthead first convened in the beginning of the year. They realized that many women around the world don't have access to personal hygiene products — a basic right — and got in touch with the Connecticut representative of I Support the Girls, the organization that will distribute the donations to the women in need around the area. McCook concluded, "No girl should be robbed of the basic hygiene products they need."

**Anjali Mangla** may be reached at [amangla20@choate.edu](mailto:amangla20@choate.edu)

## Choate Ethics Bowl Club Tackles Moral Dilemmas

By **Joseph Coyne '19**  
Associate Editor

No one can deny that the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is known for great basketball, but it is also, less conspicuously, known as the founder of the National High School Ethics Bowl. The Ethics Bowl is an annual competition intended to "create spaces and framework for students to gather and prepare stances around ethical challenges" and foster "collaboration to create a shared ethical vocabulary and expand your ethical consciousness," according to Rohin Shivdasani '18, the founder and President of the Ethics Bowl Club on campus. "Basically," he said, "it's a debate that discourages the spirit of true debate. You aren't locked into a side; it's just about who discusses better."

Shivdasani started the club last year, his first year at Choate. Hailing from North Carolina, just minutes from the original founding place, Shivdasani had first competed his sophomore year of high school, and when he got to Choate, he wanted to bring the spirit of the competition with him. He immediately looked for a way to start the club, and after doing so, he quickly noticed interest in other students.

Imran Hyder '18 was one of the first people who committed to the club, and he and Shivdasani currently run the team together: Shivdasani is the president of the club while Hyder is the captain of Choate's top team. The team consists of six juniors and seniors: Shivdasani, Hyder, Baji Tumendemberel '18, Reade Ben '18, Theo Silverman '18, and Giorgie McCombe '19.

The team, only in its second year, recently won the Yale Bowl, allowing them to qualify for a playoff against Phillips Exeter Academy for the New England Championship and the opportunity to

compete in North Carolina in April for the National Championship.

Moreover, the team's commendable achievements are a result of tremendous hard work: "The team meets two to three times a week to discuss the ins and outs of each case and the moral framework that they will bring to the case," said Ms. Amy Foster, the faculty adviser to the club.

**Basically, it's a debate that discourages the spirit of true debate.**

*Rohin Shivdasani '18*

Ms. Foster continued, "The cases are all real cases, or they are based on real things. At the recent competition we discussed the programming of driverless cars and whether, in the event of a crash, the car should protect the people inside or outside. Sometimes there are more personal issues too. For example, if your friend is engaged and you're the best man but none of your friends like the woman because she is isolating him, what should you do? There really is a good mix of these personal moral dilemmas and these broad problems facing society today."

Aside from its own competition, the club is also working as a promoter for the Ethics Bowl in the area. Both Shivdasani and Hyder explained that Ethics Bowl hasn't become popular in the area yet. Because of that, they have taken it upon themselves to try to grow the competition.

The club's first initiative towards this goal was its work in founding the Yale Bowl, the first competition in Connecticut and a much closer alternative to the Tufts Bowl. Ms. Foster described the club's work behind the competition, "What [Shivdasani] wanted to do was to get a bowl in Connecticut, and I give him huge credit for his work. He com-

municated with the people at the national headquarters, he sent emails to all sorts of people, he looked up and contacted people at universities in the area, and, finally, he got a few graduate students from Yale who were interested."

Hyder added, "The reason we made another bowl here was that there were a lot of schools in the Connecticut area that couldn't make it all the way up to Tufts. While we have the resources and the amenities to go to Tufts if we need to, but with the bowl in Connecticut, we were able to open up the competition to a number of public schools in New Haven who couldn't travel all the way to Boston. We are really just trying to bring the competition to a new area and open it up to new people." Shivdasani concluded, "There wasn't a lot of organic interest in the Yale Bowl. We had to really reach out to a lot of schools to make them aware of the competition, and hopefully we can continue to grow it."

**There really is a good mix of these personal moral dilemmas and these broad problems facing society today.**

*Ms. Amy Foster  
HPRSS Department Head*

Looking towards the future, the club hopes to continue growing and drawing more interest, especially in younger students, some of whom have already made their mark. The B team this year was third at the Yale Bowl, an amazing accomplishment for a group of all freshmen. Its development throughout the competition will allow it to really take off in the coming years, and Hyder, Shivdasani, and Ms. Foster all agree that the club is in good hands.

**Joseph Coyne** may be reached at [jcoyne19@choate.edu](mailto:jcoyne19@choate.edu)

## Successful Robotics Tournament Over Long Weekend

*Continued from Page 1*

preparation. Building robots to compete in the tournament was no easy feat, given the strict criteria established by VEX.

VEX tournaments focus around a game where teams play against each other and score points. This year's game is called In the Zone, which is played on a 12' x 12' square field. The red and blue sides, both consisting of two allied teams, compete in matches with multiple stages. First, there is a 15-second autonomous period, "during which robots operate and react only to sensor inputs and to commands pre-programmed by the students into the robot control system," according to the VEX Game Manual. Followed by the autonomous period is 1 minute and 45 seconds of driver-controlled play. Participants earn points by stacking cones on goals, scoring mobile goals in goal zones, stacking cones on top of each other, and by parking their robots at their designated spots by the end of the match. The difficulty of the goal determines the number of points a team receives.

As co-captains of Choate's 6106 A team, Nandini Erodula '18 and Elise Hummel '18 led the team through the first qualifying rounds of the tournament. There are two sections to the contest, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The morning session is for the qualifying matches, which rank

the teams. "Team selection is completely random," Hummel explained. "You're paired up with another robot team, and you and your partner compete against another randomly selected alliance," she continued. Based on a team's performance in the morning, alliances between two teams are formed. Only the top eight teams choose their alliances for the elimination rounds, which take place during the afternoon. "That's why the qualifications matches are so important, to allow you to be in a higher rank and choose your team pair," said Erodula. Each alliance plays each other until two remain.

The number of competing teams gradually dwindles once the afternoon session begins. Alliance numbers change, with three teams composing the alliance instead of two. Teams have to win two out of three matches to advance, and every team has to compete at least once. By the end of the tournament, two of Choate's teams progressed to the top ten, with 6106 A placing second and 6106 B placing seventh. Choate also placed in the top ten for the Skills section, mini-challenges where teams have 60 seconds to score as many points as they can. The skills tasks additionally test driver control and programming.

Yet, these were not the Robotics Team's only accomplishments: Choate team 6106 A also won the Excellence Award: "the highest honor of the VEX



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Members of the robotics team test their robot at the competition.

Robotics competition," elaborated Hummel. This award signifies that the team had a well-documented Engineering Notebook and was in the top ten of the tournament. "Our goal in this competition was to qualify for New England and through the Excellence Award, we accomplished that goal," said Erodula.

In the future, the team hopes its accomplishments can propel them to the VEX Robotics Worlds Championship again. However, there are some new developments that may change the way Choate Robotics participates in tournaments, namely the Advanced Robotics Concentration (ARC) Program. ARC is one of the newest signature programs on campus, where selected students pursue an intense study of robotics. "The ARC program is going to change the way we compete," said Mr. Murgio. ARC students will form the Robotics

**Siri Palreddy** may be reached at [spalreddy20@choate.edu](mailto:spalreddy20@choate.edu)

## Surveys to Give Better Understanding of Choate

*Continued from Page 1*

roommate, or start classes. It's a way for us to understand what they are concerned about, excited about, and what they want to get out of Choate."

The goal is to be able to collate these two surveys so that seniors will see the results of their freshman surveys and be able to reflect back on their time at Choate. Mr. Wrinn said, "It will be a great opportunity for us to see a before and after. We want to see what students do here that they feel has been impactful and if that could help us in the future. This is a way to figure out what works, what doesn't, and what we need to tweak." Mr. Wrinn also hopes to send a survey out to alumni to be able to examine Choate's long term effect on graduates.

The set of surveys was originally Mr. Wrinn's idea, but a variety of people were involved in the creation. Ms. Kathleen Wallace, Associate Head of School, was an important contributor, as well as an advisory group made up of faculty, staff, and administrators who continue to meet with Mr. Wrinn once a month. Mr. Wrinn said, "More than just a sounding board, it's a nice way to hear about everything that is happening on campus since I can only be in so many places at once."

In addition to Mr. Wrinn, the advisory group, and a number of administrators, two data science classes helped come up with questions for the Senior Survey.

These classes provided feedback on aspects of Choate that they wanted the survey to address. Mr. Wrinn said, "The Senior Survey is an opportunity for students to share their feelings confidentially knowing we're going to be seeing what they say and acting on the results."

Though there are results from the Senior Survey administered last year, Mr. Wrinn is waiting for more results before doing a large-scale analysis. He said, "Since we only have one year of data, I shared it with the senior officers, and we have reviewed some of the big points, but we're going to wait a little longer before we look for trends. If you have just one year's snapshot, it's hard to know if a result solely relates to this group of students, or if it's something that applies to everyone."

Before these surveys, Choate often relied on college matriculation and career placement to measure the success of Choate, so they were unable to comprehensively measure a students' experience. Mr. Wrinn concluded, "I think these surveys are a good way for us as an institution to really put some meaning behind our statements. Every school says that they are distinctive and different and important, but hopefully we'll be able to point out some of the ways we're special based off of these surveys."

**Grayce Gibbs** may be reached at [ggibbs18@choate.edu](mailto:ggibbs18@choate.edu)



THE CHOATE NEWS



111<sup>TH</sup> MASTHEAD

VOL. CXI  
NO. 11

Haley Chang '18  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nikhil Davar '18  
PRODUCTION EDITOR

NEWS  
Grayce Gibbs '18  
Nina Hastings '18

FEATURES  
Kristen Altman '18

SPORTS  
Jackson Elkins '18

OPINIONS  
Eben Cook '18  
Liza Mackeen-Shapiro '18

ARTS & LEISURE  
Neve Scott '18

PHOTOGRAPHY  
Helena Yang '18

VIDEO  
Jonathan Joei '18  
Matthew Lee '20

LAYOUT  
Alex Yoon '19  
Madeleine Horn '19

MULTIMEDIA  
Zev Nicolai-Scanio '18  
Khushi Tyagi '20

SOCIAL MEDIA  
Lauren Canna '18  
Anne Miles DeMott '18

BUSINESS  
Nils Lovegren '18  
Kailey Marottolo '19

GRAPHICS  
Ariel Zhang '18

ADVISERS  
Mr. Mike Peed  
Ms. Cathryn Stout

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Daniel Brockett '19  
Abigail Chang '19  
Pinn Chirathivat '19  
Owen Collins '19

Joseph Coyne '19  
Vincenzo DiNatale '19  
Jeanne Malle '19

Christine Mason '19  
Derek Ng '20  
Audrey Powell '19  
Alex Yoon '19

STAFF REPORTERS

Riley Choi '18  
Donessa Colley '18  
Caroline Donatelli '18  
Michael Li '18  
Alix Mackillop '18  
Austen Rogers '18  
Julian Yau '18  
Michèle Zhuang '18  
Matthew Anastasio '19

Sarah Gurevitch '19  
Simi Sachdeva '19  
Inc' Thongthai '19  
Cecilia Curran '20  
Ryan Kim '20  
Ariel Kim '20  
Ethan Luk '20  
Anjali Mangla '20  
Siri Palreddy '20

Kathryn Phillips '20  
Elizabeth Quinn '20  
Isabelle So '20  
Kate Spencer '20  
Deanna Tan '20  
Grace Zhang '20  
Peter DiNatale '21  
Tony Lee '21  
Hadley Rogers '21

To submit a letter to the editor or an opinion piece, please email us at [thechoatenews@choate.edu](mailto:thechoatenews@choate.edu). We welcome all views.

Interested students should attend an assignment meeting, held on most Tuesdays, at 6:45 p.m. in the Newsroom of St. John Hall. Opinion pieces represent the opinions of their respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board or the School. Unsigned masthead editorials represent the view of the majority of the members of the editorial board of *The Choate News*.



/choatenews



@choatenews



@choatenews

Email us: [thechoatenews@choate.edu](mailto:thechoatenews@choate.edu) || Call us: (203) 697-2070 || Find us: [thechoatenews.choate.edu](http://thechoatenews.choate.edu)

EDITORIAL

T-100: A Message from  
the 111th Masthead to 2018

To the Class of 2018,

With a mere two weeks left in the winter term and exactly 100 days left at Choate, we are on the horizon of the most glorious time in our Choate careers: Senior Spring. Our time at Choate has built up to this moment, and now it is time to celebrate how far we've come. For our penultimate issue of *The Choate News*, we, the seniors of the 111th Masthead, would like to impart some words of wisdom for you to consider as you wrap up your time on the hillside.

Choate is one of the most fantastic, unlikely, and ridiculously exorbitant opportunities in the country. Be mindful of the people who've helped you get here, and don't lose who you were at home for who the culture of our school urges you to be. — *Kristen Altman, Features Editor*

We all have those faculty and staff members who've made our Choate experiences irreplaceable. Give them the recognition they deserve. Express your gratitude — write them a note, give them a hug, shower them with gifts from exotic places (maybe not) — before it's too late! Keep them updated on your plans after Choate. — *Haley Chang, Editor-in-Chief*

Ever explore the hidden gems of upper campus? Gather a few friends on a weekend evening, plop down on the hill by the track overlooking campus, and take in the picturesque view we have become so acquainted with from a different angle. Sunset preferred, Mac DeMarco or Tame Impala highly recommended. — *Eben Cook, Opinions Campus Editor*

Let's start prioritizing the things that really matter to us, but that we haven't been able to do as much as we would have liked due to the last couple busy and fast-paced years. For me that would be showing my appreciation, spending time with, and relaxing with friends that have been so supportive and helpful throughout my years here, as well as living spontaneously every day. — *Nikhil Davar, Production Editor*

As difficult and trying as Choate can be at times, remember that our time here is limited and that it will come to an end faster than we can imagine. Understand and embrace the fact that our time here is finite, and have no regrets come graduation. Spend as much time with your friends as you can and have as much fun as possible leading up to May. — *Jackson Elkins, Sports Editor*

Stay up late talking with friends on Monday night. Get ice cream from the gas station on Wednesday. Skip burger day and B Block to go out for lunch on Thursday. Explore Wallingford on the weekend. A year from now — when your best friends live around the world instead of down the hall — there is no way you'll wish you had stayed in and finished the math homework your teacher has never once checked. — *Grayce Gibbs, News Editor*

Take a minute to think of what you'll really miss about this place. Then spend as much time as you can taking advantage of those things while you have the chance. Do your homework on a blanket by the pond when the weather is nice. Swim at the waterfall in the winter while your friends watch and call you crazy. There's a lot you can recreate once you've moved on from Choate, but if you pick out the parts that are unique to here and now and take the time to appreciate them, you won't regret it. — *Nina Hastings, News Editor*

Modern smartphones can record higher resolution video than the average DSLR camera. You don't need a camera to be a videographer — you already have that power in your hands. Don't hesitate to challenge yourself. Use your senses. Use your imagination. Be creative. Go out and make magic happen! — *Jonathan Joei, Video Editor*

Push yourself out of your social comfort zone. Sure, make friends with a kid you've always thought was cool, but also try talking to someone that you've never really thought about. One of the biggest lessons I've learned from Choate is that people will surprise you, and some of the most meaningful bonds I've forged this year have been with people I would have never expected myself to be friends with. Everyone here is so special, even if it isn't immediately obvious. Try to find out what makes them that way before it's too late. — *Liza Mackeen-Shapiro, Opinions Nation/World Editor*

In a community that constantly demands that you live at a fast pace, slow down. You have more time than you think you do to achieve everything that you want. I've learned through my time here that nothing is out of my reach if I take the time necessary to achieve it; whether that be getting an A in a class, making a new friend, or doing an extracurricular that I love. Don't waste your time anxiously waiting for Choate to give you a moment to catch your breath. — *Neve Scott, Arts Editor*

Find your people. Hold on to them. Let them be your starting point to learning, to sharing, and to being the best person you can be. Try something new. I promise it won't hurt. Don't have a spring sport? Audition for the musical. Don't have a fifth class? Try jewelry making or even history of jazz. Don't want to eat in the dining hall? Explore Wallingford's hidden gems. Stop complaining. Instead, find joy and hope in small victories. Don't think too much. Just be, and cry or laugh about it later. It'll be an experience either way. Laugh as loud as you can whenever you can. And don't forget to live life sunny side up! — *Helena Yang, Photography Editor*

CORRECTIONS

Opinions Nation/World

The "Today in History" photo last week depicted the Nagasaki atomic bomb detonation, not the first hydrogen bomb, as suggested.

The Choate News regrets these errors.

To submit a correction, email [thechoatenews@choate.edu](mailto:thechoatenews@choate.edu)

HOW TO NAVIGATE JUNIOR SPRING:  
ONE SENIOR'S PRO TIPS AND ADVICE

By **Haley Chang '18**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Before a Cinderella-like dash to my dorm as the clock strikes midnight — although it's a white Community Safety sedan rather than a horse-drawn carriage ferrying the heavy-eyed passenger — I lock the doors to the Newsroom: a forgotten room on the second floor of the Library, where it's not uncommon to see a group of gung-ho teenagers scrambling to perfect even the most minute detail before we put our beloved paper to bed. It's spring of 2017, and our editors and I have just finished the layout for our second issue as a masthead.

I, however, am not going to bed any sooner. Though *The Choate News's* weekly layout night has ended, I have follow-up emails to draft, a St. John Hall special issue to plan, and — how can I forget — homework that I haven't even started. When I sat at my desk that night with a seemingly endless list of tasks, I felt, for the first time in my life, like I'd lost a grip on myself.

As I adjusted to this new role as Editor-in-Chief of the paper, I spent almost every afternoon and night in the Newsroom assisting its production, muting everything else that was important to me. Finishing work in the wee hours of the morning became my new norm. I took six courses, including a Directed Study, so I got a six-course exemption. I peer-tutored in four subjects, which is something that I love doing, but it ate up my free blocks. When I did have free time, I usually chose to stay in my room and get ahead of work, often ordering fast food to be delivered. Translation: I was fully aware that I was deprived of sleep, exercise, and good nutrition. However, I was unaware of my mental state. The classes and activities that I relished most became almost unbearable. But I felt that I was



Illustration by Chandler Littleford/The Choate News

doing what I had to do. Simply put, I made a critical mistake of holding myself to a superhuman standard.

*Your academics,  
extracurriculars,  
and test scores —  
they're important,  
I agree. But you  
must put both  
your mental and  
physical well-being  
above all else.*

It wasn't until meeting Mr. Ford, my biology teacher, for extra help that I realized what I really needed wasn't help on the class material, but on managing my life. Mr. Ford told me he knew that, too, but he was rather worried about how sustainable my workload was. After mulling over what he said throughout the day, I decided that I needed professional help. I walked into the

counseling office without an appointment, and Mrs. Davidson took me in without question. I vented — not something I usually do, though it felt nice to have someone listening without passing judgement. She did not lecture or admonish me. Instead, she helped me process what I was putting myself through and reflect, for myself, what I should do in the coming weeks, an experience for which I'll forever be grateful.

Later, I was fortunate enough to have a platform through which I could share this story. During New Student Orientation last fall, I and some other prefects worked with Health Services to hold a forum on student resources on campus. During the forum, I recounted this experience, and emphasized how students must not be ashamed to seek help.

I am writing today in a similar vein, particularly for juniors who will soon assume leadership post across campus.

Your academics, extracurriculars, and test scores — they're important, I agree. But you must put both your mental and physical well-being above all else.

Enhance the Student Council Election Process

By **Derek Ng '20**  
*Associate Editor*

I view the student council as the liaison between the student body and the administration — it enacts social reform aligning with the general interests and concerns of students. In general, the Choate council has proved effective in addressing the needs of our student body, having in recent years benefitted it in various ways. However, I was dismayed at the many problems that had arisen as the student council election season commenced — there remain many flaws that require attention in the system Choate currently employs.

The most obvious flaw Choate's student council faces is inherent to any similar institution: the election process is exceedingly biased. Frankly, the extent to which students exhibit nepotism during election season at Choate is egregious. While some of my peers waited to hear campaign speeches, many had already decided whom to vote for beforehand. Some even tried to convince me to vote for people whom I myself do not know. "He's my friend, so naturally, you should vote for him too." Not only does such an approach perpetuate the social hierarchies of high school

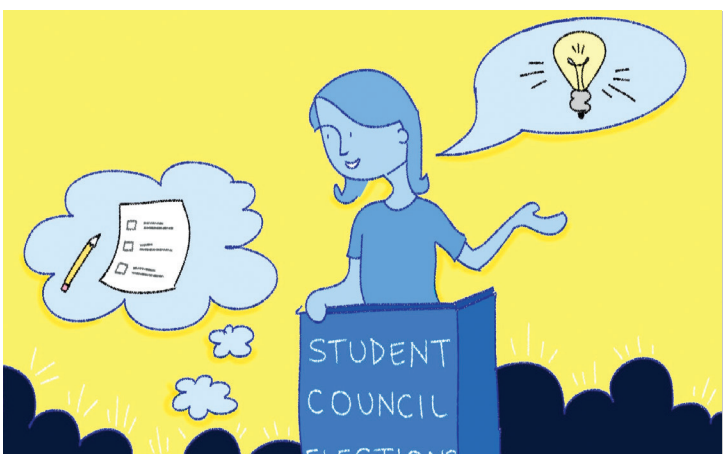


Illustration by Austen Rogers/The Choate News

many wish to deconstruct, but this approach also nullifies the efforts of other candidates, who work just as hard to be elected. By allowing the election process to degenerate into a popularity contest, we effectually suppress the values of equal representation which groups like the student council rely heavily upon. If we choose to condone such favoritism, we might as well eradicate the system altogether.

Nepotism isn't the only issue in the election process. In many ways, campaign speeches are far too limited an outlet for candidates to introduce themselves to the student body. Two minutes may certainly reveal the best

public speaker among the nominees, but they won't reveal the best candidate — students need more. The community should be entitled more chances to acquaint itself with the students running, certainly more than a set of speeches and an hour-long Q&A session. The Choate community should consider alternate ways to enhance communication between candidates and the electorate — whether it be establishing a forum for students to converse with them individually, hosting a more comprehensive Q&A session, or exploring other means of campaigning.

One of the student council's obligations is to vote on which

policy changes to present to the administration; yet, sometimes, the votes which council members cast may not accurately reflect what the rest of the student body actually wants. Certain debates — take, for example, the one-strike policy — are much more clearly resolved if all students are allowed a say. In such cases, a school-wide referendum vote would work far more efficiently than a decision the council makes on behalf of the students. A democratic system would not only substantiate the interests of the student body but would also generate far less pushback from opposing parties. The popular vote speaks for itself.

Because council members are elected representatives of the student body, we students must hold each member accountable for every action they take. Additionally, we must make proper use of the group. Personally, I hope that as the new council begins its term and carries us into the new year, it recognizes and addresses the aforementioned issues with the system, as well as any others that may arise.

**Derek Ng** is a fourth former from Fort Lee, N.J. He may be reached at [dng20@choate.edu](mailto:dng20@choate.edu)

The Inconvenience of Special Schedules

By **Matt Anastasio '19**  
*Opinions Staff Writer*

Starting this past school year, Choate Rosemary Hall has made several changes to the daily schedule. Along with the establishment of longer blocks, the Choate administration has also added weeks with special schedules. Whenever a school week is cut short because of long weekends, service days, vacations, and other days, Choate has made it a priority to create a special agenda for that shortened week, which has both positive and negative effects on certain aspects of Choate life.

One of the more beneficial features of the special schedule for both students and teachers is that they ensure every class meets an equal number of times throughout the term. This goes

a long way in helping teachers make sure that one of their classes does not fall behind or forge ahead of their other sections. Special schedules have also helped many Choate students by lessening their stress and overall workload. By having fewer classes overall in a week, Choate students are able to get their work done in a timelier manner.

Even though special schedules at Choate benefit students and teachers in terms of time utilization, they also have negative impacts. During the fall term, out of a total 11 weeks of classes, there were four weeks of special schedules. This may not seem to be too significant; however, three of the four weeks of special schedules were consecutive. During the winter term, which is more broken up than the fall and spring terms be-

cause of winter break and long weekends, there are five weeks of special schedules out of a total 12 weeks of classes. To a certain extent, special schedules are becoming what some may consider normal schedules.

In many cases, Choate students' schedules are made more difficult and stressful by the seemingly interminable implementation of special schedules. Having altered schedules can be very disruptive for many classes, forcing teachers to adapt their class plans to fit these schedules. Classes that are mostly learned from repetition and practice, such as mathematics and languages, suffer the most from inconsistencies in the weekly class schedules.

Furthermore, special schedules often include more class

blocks in a given school day. This results in more work for teachers and students, meaning less time for students and teachers to prepare for their next upcoming class. The attention and effort that the Choate administration has put into improving scheduling — and thus the lives of Choate students and teacher — is noteworthy. Nevertheless, the Choate administration should also use this year's new scheduling methods as an opportunity to receive feedback from students and teachers. By doing this, they can better understand what works and what needs improvements, therefore benefitting the Choate community.

**Matt Anastasio** is a fifth former from Woodbridge, CT. He may be reached at [manastasio19@choate.edu](mailto:manastasio19@choate.edu)



# SPACEX LAUNCHES NEW ERA OF INNOVATION



Photo courtesy of Teslerati

SpaceX launches the Falcon Heavy rocket, the most powerful rocket in history, on February 6 at 3:45 p.m.

By **Alex Yoon '19**  
*Associate Editor*

And with an earth-shattering roar, the Falcon Heavy blasted off the platform—the very same platform NASA used to transport astronauts to the moon decades ago—and into space, cheers erupting from the spectating crowd. The colossal rocket, designed and built by SpaceX, launched into the sky on February 6 at 3:45 p.m. The company, owned by billionaire innovator Elon Musk, had launched the most powerful rocket system in history, commencing the start of a new Space Age.

This revival of a space program by the Falcon Heavy launch and its adventurous endeavors is

showing promise, both in technological terms and economical terms. The number of new successes achieved by the Falcon Heavy launch last week has only scratched the surface of new possibilities for society that may come as a result of progress in the space and satellite industry. Thus, our society must support entrepreneurs like Elon Musk and invest time, trust, and money in the space industry—an industry that holds the key to new, important, and exciting possibilities.

The Falcon Heavy’s innovative and cost-saving design was a huge advancement in the production of rockets in the space industry. In contrast to big and bulkier rockets used in the past

by crafts such as the Space Shuttle, the Falcon Heavy uses less bulky and more efficient “Merlin” engines, allowing it to be cost-effective, reliable, and powerful at the same time. By using these engines, the Falcon Heavy can generate the thrust power equal to that of eighteen 747 aircrafts, and it’s able to lift and deliver almost 141,000 pounds of payload into space—a weight 2.7 times larger than the Space Shuttle ever could. This substantially increases the chances of manned missions to Mars in the near future—a huge step toward a voyage that will reap great rewards for the scientific world.

SpaceX’s current price of \$90 million per space launch may seem obnoxiously large,

but compared to the \$300-\$400 million that their nearest competitors offer, SpaceX’s price tag seems generously low. This was made possible by the cost-saving specs of the Falcon Heavy. For example, the Falcon Heavy uses guided retro rockets on its main space launchers (used at liftoff) to safely return them to Earth for reuse, rather than discarding their main launchers into the oceans, as previous space crafts did. This effort significantly reduces launch costs and allows SpaceX to inch closer to its goal of affordable, accessible, and sustainable space flight. Previously, almost all significant space missions (such as the Cassini Probe launch and the Hubble Telescope) have been so

costly that the government was the only viable option for funding. SpaceX’s innovation opened the doors to multiple low-cost space missions that can be funded by private corporations rather than the government. Many company executives have already entertained the thought of space travel in future expansion of their corporation. With all this advancement also comes significant growth in the American economy — investments banks such as Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch have indicated that the space industry will become a multi-trillion-dollar field in just 30 years. As shown by SpaceX’s recent launch, the space industry can create cheap, groundbreaking space missions

and new breakthroughs in scientific discovery, all while creating American jobs.

The evidence is clear: Falcon Heavy’s latest test launch has created a pathway for extreme breakthroughs that can massively benefit the scientific community, the global economy, and the human race and society as a whole. SpaceX has shown what they can do with the correct resources—it is now our job to support companies like SpaceX and the space industry as a whole, thereby bringing in significant future profit and innovation.

**Alex Yoon** is a fifth former from Suwanee, GA. He may be reached at [ajyoon19@choate.edu](mailto:ajyoon19@choate.edu)

## TRUMP'S PRAISE OF ROB PORTER PROMOTES VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Photo courtesy of the Associated Press

Former White House Staff Secretary Rob Porter hands a document to President Donald Trump P'00.

By **Audrey Powell '19**  
*Associate Editor*

On February 9, President Donald Trump P'00 praised former White House Staff Secretary Rob Porter despite accusations of domestic abuse by Porter's two ex-wives. Porter had resigned from his position just two days previously, after his former spouses, Colbie Holderness and Jennifer Wiloughby, stated that they had been emotionally and physically abused by him throughout their respective marriages. Holderness also released an image of her bruised and swollen face to The Intercept in response to her interview, further legitimizing the allegations. Mr. Trump's praise of an accused domestic abuser is another example of what is an extensive pattern of condoning violence against women.

When speaking of the accusations against Porter and his subsequent resignation, Mr. Trump vouched for his staff secretary rather than condemning his horrific behavior. According to Mr. Trump, Porter is going through a

“tough time,” which is the President’s way of excusing and trivializing domestic abuse. Furthermore, he stated that “we wish him well” and reminded the people that Porter “says he is innocent, and I think you have to remember that.” Mr. Trump also praised the work Porter had completed during his time in office. The President apparently has nothing negative to say about a man who has emotionally and physically abused at least two women. Nor did he offer sympathy for the victims or solidarity with the larger, national movement in protest of abuse of women. Why does our president refuse to condemn this kind of violence? The answer is obvious—Mr. Trump can’t condemn violence against women because he supports it.

In the past, we have witnessed Trump’s sexist notions come into play numerous times. Perhaps the most notorious example of this behavior is the 2005 Billy Bush tape. Though I won’t restate the disgusting, immoral words of Mr. Trump, as they are already permanently ingrained in our memories, I will

remind you again of the gravity of that tape. In it, the President-to-be condones, supports, and jokes about sexual assault. Over time, many Americans have forgotten about the Billy Bush tape, but it is perhaps one of the most critical examples of how Mr. Trump blatantly doesn’t care about women’s safety or health. Second, Mr. Trump defended and vouched for Republican Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore, a man accused of molesting numerous young girls. Again, he supported an individual known for abusing women, even minors. Last, Mr. Trump himself has been accused of rape and assault by at least 13 women, and his first wife, Ivana Trump, accused him of domestic assault in their divorce papers. So, not only does he condone violence against women, but Mr. Trump also inflicts violence on women; therefore, he is both a supporter and a perpetrator.

Because of these examples, I was nowhere near surprised that Mr. Trump only had lovely things to say about Rob Porter. Though that is disheartening, no

one can deny that the presidential endorsement of sexism and violence against women has become a norm in the U.S. However, the fact that it’s now a norm should not prevent the government from pursuing some real justice in the White House for the women who can speak up and those who cannot.

Just as we are thoroughly investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election, we should be thoroughly investigating the allegations against Mr. Trump. Harvey Weinstein witnessed the end of his career, Al Franken resigned, Roy Moore lost, Rob Porter resigned—so what about Mr. Trump? Where is the justice for the 13—or more—women who were assaulted by the president? Mr. Trump must stand trial, however informal, for his actions in order to progress toward a more equal and safe United States for all women.

**Audrey Powell** is a fifth former from Bronxville, NY. She may be reached at [apowell19@choate.edu](mailto:apowell19@choate.edu)

## Iranian Protests Must Grow to Eliminate Corruption

By **Nate White '20**  
*Opinions Writer*

Since late December of 2017, sporadic protests have erupted in Iran challenging the current government. The protests are the biggest in the country since 2009, when large demonstrations sprung up over claims that the country’s presidential elections were manipulated in favor of the incumbent candidate. The current protests specifically challenge Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, and the theocracy of Iran. Since December, over 3,700 people have been arrested, and 23 protesters have been killed.

One of the protest’s major concerns is with Iran’s handling of the relaxation of United Nations sanctions against it in 2016. While Iran did receive much more money from oil exports, international trade, and previously frozen funds held abroad, very little is reported to have made it into the hands of the people. Instead, many protesters claim that the newfound money went into Setad, a state-owned enterprise operated by the Supreme Leader which, in 2013, was valued at more than \$95 billion.

The new economic frustration is only the latest in a string of lower- and middle-class dissatisfaction in Iran. 33% of Iranian’s live below the poverty line, and many are growing tired of what they feel is refusal by the government to help them. Some 2.5 million college graduates in Iran are currently unemployed, and educated youths in Iran suffer under a 35% unemployment rate. In mid-December, Iran proposed a new budget for 2018, which included cuts in fuel and food subsidies and increased funding of Iran’s controversial Revolutionary Guards, as well as many religious groups that are often seen as corrupt and overly conservative.

While protests have since quelled, the general sentiment in Iran has become increasingly anti-government, and future protests are very likely. President Donald Trump P’00 tweet-

ed his support for the uprising, reminding Iran’s government that “the world is watching” its handling of the situation. Even as the protests begin to fade, Iranians must continue to push to reshape a society that oppresses its people and threatens peace and stability in the Middle East.

The recent protests, however, lack what previous protests in Iran, such as the demonstrations in 2009, did not: a central leadership and a clear message. While some protesters are against the religious conservatism of Khamenei, they are also against President Hassan Rouhani, who vouches for pro-reformist ideologies. In order to progress, Iran’s protesters must have a clear message, and it should be against Supreme Leader Khamenei.

Khamenei is a destructive figure in Iran’s government, siphoning money from the government to fund the enterprise he controls and pushing for the funding of Iran’s violent and extreme Revolutionary Guards. He constantly fights with Iran’s democratically-elected presidents and emboldens the country’s extremist organizations. Khamenei is also behind Iran’s support of violent groups such as Hezbollah, in Lebanon, and the Houthi rebels, in Yemen. Khamenei also supports Syria’s violent dictator Bashar al-Assad and constantly threatens Israel, increasing the already strong tension between the two nations. Khamenei is in no position to help his constituents, let alone the international community.

As destructive a figure in Iran as Khamenei is, he still commands the majority of support in Iran, and many pro-government rallies have been held to counter the anti government protests. However, if Iran’s people want to advance both their own well-being and their nation’s status in the global community, protests against Khamenei should not only continue but also grow.

**Nate White** is a fourth former from Cheshire, CT. He may be reached at [nwhite20@choate.edu](mailto:nwhite20@choate.edu)



## “Under the Sea” First Hurrah Marks 100 Days to Commencement



In 1991, students at First Hurrah were treated to a miniature ice castle.

Photo courtesy of the Archives

By **Michelle Zhuang '18**  
Staff Reporter

What do you get when you combine a chocolate-covered strawberries, upperclassman, and dancing? First Hurrah, of course! This year, the dance took place on Saturday, February 10, with the theme “Under the Sea.”

While many understand what the tradition entails, its long and storied history that draws from traditions at both the Choate School and Rosemary Hall is less familiar. According to School Archivist Ms. Judy Donald, “Both First and Last Hurrah were created to combine the traditions of the Choate School and Rosemary Hall following the merger in 1971. Festivities was the major dance for the boys. It was held in February or March and began in 1915. Meanwhile, at Rosemary Hall the major dance was called ‘The Mid’ because it was a huge event held in the middle of the year.”

To combine The Mid and Festivities, students established First and Last Hurrah in the early 1980s. Last Hurrah was created by the class of 1980 as a formal seniors-only event. According to Mr. James Yanelli, Director of Student Activities, “When I first came to Choate in 1983, Last Hurrah

was arranged by the Parents’ Committee. It was their gift to the senior class. But for the last 20 or so years the school has been managing the event. The Last Hurrah includes a live orchestra and an afterparty and has a very different vibe from First Hurrah.”

First Hurrah soon followed the creation of Last Hurrah, in 1982. According to archives from that year, the dance began as a special event to benefit the Choate Rosemary Hall Student Council Scholarship Fund. The event included a special dinner, a capella performances by The Whimawehs and group The Six Pack, as well as an auction that sold events such as the “preparation of special dinners or parties, dessert by the fireplace, or a tennis lesson from the varsity coach to the highest bidders.” Proceeds from the event totaled \$1,200. It was judged a success and soon became an annual tradition.

Thirty-six years later, First Hurrah is still going strong. According to Mr. Yanelli, “First Hurrah is one of the major markers in the course of someone’s Choate career. It’s a celebration for juniors and seniors that marks about 100 days before graduation, when the seniors are start-

ing the move toward graduation and juniors are starting to ascend to new leadership positions on campus. It’s traditionally been a formal dance that’s slightly different each year with great food, great lighting, and interesting decorations. In the past, we’ve had a retro Las Vegas, Mardi Gras, and Valentine’s Day themes. It’s one of those benchmarks, those landmarks that really characterize the experience of every Choate student. It’s like matriculation — one of those things that help define the culture of the school.”

**First Hurrah is one of the major markers in the course of someone’s Choate career.**

Mr. Jim Yanelli

Mr. Yanelli added, “It’s always fun to see kids having fun. There’s always a lot of anticipation. We’ve moved away from a dating component. It’s welcoming to as many people as possible regardless of whether they come with a date or a group of friends.”

Both fifth and sixth formers echoed Mr. Yanelli’s sen-

timents. Se Ri Lee ’19 said, “It’s my first First Hurrah and makes me feel like I’m not an underclassman anymore.” Michael Zhou ’18, who attended the dance last year, decided to attend because of the positive experience he had as a fifth former. He described First Hurrah as “really fun,” and stated that he especially enjoyed the food and dancing.

In the dusk of his term as school president, Mpilo Norris ’18 reflected on the milestone First Hurrah represents: “I hope it will be in many ways the commencement of senior spring in the sense that I’ll have more time to really hang out and connect with friends, and especially those in the senior class. I hope a lot of people come out and that there’s really a lot of excitement. I’m hoping it’s fun, I’m hoping that a lot of people are going to come out. I hope that there’s a lot of excitement and good connections.”

And to top it all off, Imran Hyder ’18, known colloquially on campus as the rapping sensation “Sauceboy,” summarized his experience like this: “First Hurrah’s pretty saucy.”

**Michelle Zhuang** may be reached at [mzhuang18@choate.edu](mailto:mzhuang18@choate.edu)

## SUMMER PROGRAMS TO MOVE TO CARRINGTON

By **Elizabeth Quinn '20**  
Staff Reporter

The Summer Programs Office, which is currently located at Gables House on Memorial Circle, is set to move to Carrington House in the near future. Before moving to Gables, the four faculty members who work at the Summer Programs Offices were settled in the basement of the old St. John building. When given the opportunity to move to a location above ground with an abundance of natural light at Gables House, Ms. Susan Farrell, Ms. Laura Panico, Ms. Eera Sharma, and Ms. Ann Votto readily agreed. That move took place in February of 2009, and the upcoming move to Carrington House — at the corner of Christian and North Elm Streets — will take place in time for the 2018-2019 school year.

Not long ago, Ms. Sharma, the Director of Summer Programs, was approached by some of the school administrators who offered Carrington to the Summer Programs team during the near future. Carrington House used to hold the College Counseling Offices, but when St. John Hall opened last spring, these offices were moved to the long corridor connecting Hill House to the new student center. Ms. Sharma said that Carrington is “pretty much prime location on campus and it’s been sitting empty for a couple of months now.”

This new space will allow for the summer faculty and staff to fit comfortably, and its central location on campus is definitely a big



Photo by Kristen Altman/The Choate News

Located at the heart of campus, Carrington House is currently unused.

plus, too. Ms. Sharma added, “There’s an easier access for our students, parents, and faculty. During the academic year, it’s quieter because we have an office of only four adults who work here, but during the summer, we have a full office with multiple deans and deans of students also in the office with us.” There are an astounding 125 faculty who work for the Summer Programs during the summer months.

Ms. Sharma and Administrative Assistants Ms. Panico and Ms. Votto are thrilled about the upcoming move, and they hope it will happen at a fortuitous time; however, the exact date has not yet

been announced.

Now, during the offseason of Choate’s Summer Programs, the four staff members work tirelessly to prepare for the summer months.

**Carrington is pretty much the prime location on campus, and it’s been sitting empty for a couple of months now.**

Ms. Eera Sharma

Ms. Sharma discussed the specifics of what goes on with Summer Programs during

the academic year: “We are a school within a school, so we read over 1,000 applications, we enroll over 600 students, and hire over 125 faculty. We get the curriculum ready, we work on our student handbook. I travel during the academic year to help promote some of our programs. We basically do what the admissions office does every year.”

While moving will require some adjustment to a new space, Ms. Votto said that the team will adapt, just like it did nine years ago when it moved from the old St. John to Gables.

**Elizabeth Quinn** may be reached at [lquinn20@choate.edu](mailto:lquinn20@choate.edu)

## THE LONELY HEARTS CLUB

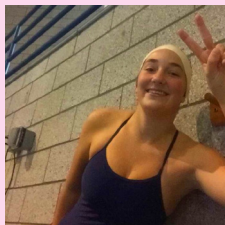
Reported by Kristen Altman '18/Features Editor

Need a soulmate to fill the void — or maybe just help with your writing? Valentine’s Day may be two days gone, but these editors of *The Choate News* are still searching for love.



**HALEY CHANG** (*Editor-in-Chief*): Academic powerhouse seeks equally formidable companion to assist in future endeavors. Must enjoy writing semi-professional emails, saying “Thanks so much!” when only mildly appreciative, and complimenting lifelong enemies on cashmere sweaters. Professional working proficiency in Adobe InDesign and espresso machines preferred. Dealbreakers: painfully saccharine texts and excessive blathering.

**GRAYCE GIBBS** (*News Editor*): Resident investigative journalist seeking square-jawed intellect to review *Record Journal* alongside. Extensive knowledge of NPR, ice-cream scooping, and the first floor of the KEC a must. Will date only in the style of *The Bachelor*. If interested in receiving a rose, submit an application to [thechoatenews@choate.edu](mailto:thechoatenews@choate.edu).



**NINA HASTINGS** (*News Editor*): Dreamy, day-student swimmer seeks environmentally-minded partner with strong interest in the open sea. Preferably enjoys a cappella performances of songs about rivers. Must drive a white Acura RSX or dune buggy. Lifeguards permissible; mermen encouraged.

**EBEN COOK** (*Opinions Editor*): Wallingford resident looking for level-headed compatriot to support his eventual run for Town Council. Must enjoy impromptu singing, feminist analysis, and long walks on the Quinnipiac River Trail. Employment at Chick-fil-A highly desirable. Ideal date: Gold Key tour.



**LIZA MACKEEN-SHAPIO** (*Opinions Editor*): Feminist, Democrat, and New Yorker seeks like-minded companion to discuss life’s deep questions over \$8 lat-tés. Horn-rimmed glasses a plus. Must be knowledgeable on public policy, Trump/Russia collusion, and crepe cakes. Ideal partner will cover laptop camera with small piece of tape.

**KRISTEN ALTMAN** (*Features Editor*): Acerbic writer seeks sharp wit to analyze inner world over green tea. Justified misanthropy and extensive knowledge of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe a must. Potential takers, keep note: in the event of mediocre first date, will have no qualms with leaving partner on street corner.



**NEVE SCOTT** (*Arts Editor*): Sarcastic Wisconsinite seeks set of strong arms to carry her through senior winter. Rippling muscles and ability to make banana cream layer cake a bonus. Must be willing to embrace puppies, a Moleskine notebook, and a passing appreciation for the arts at all times.

**JACKSON ELKINS** (*Sports Editor*): Varsity heartbreaker looking for sideline to help celebrate final high-school hockey season. Ability to pack and hold 68-oz. Midnight Blue Stainless King Thermos © with minestrone soup preferred. Love of country music a must. Should be willing to name four children after influential American street signs — Fortune, Ulrich, Carnaby, and Kalama — and move to the Ontario countryside by age 32.



**NIKHIL DAVAR** (*Production Editor*): Chronically chill InDesign guru seeks brunette with Red Bull addiction to tide him over until spring. Extensive knowledge of economics, Rubik’s Cubes, and the number of classes one can miss before losing course credit preferred.

**HELENA YANG** (*Photography Editor*): Cheerful volleyball player seeks creative partner and local muse. Must wear square glasses that fog at all temperatures. Calm energy and frequent food runs a must.



**ARIEL ZHANG** (*Graphics Editor*): Ex-KEC sailor seeks crewmate to navigate the open seas. Night-owl tendencies and dyed hair appreciated, as well as a deep reverence for our Lord and Savior Doc Marten. Must be willing to circumnavigate the globe at short notice.

**JON JOEI** (*Video Editor*): World-renowned videographer seeks under-the-radar companion preferably situated beneath local rock. Rote memory of Eminem’s “Lose Yourself” a plus. Partner should be versed in deception, intrigue, and have the power to cancel class each year in the winter term.





## Fringe Festival Returns to Gelb

By **Wavy Griffin '21**  
Staff Reporter

On February 9 and 10, Choate's annual Fringe Festival was performed in the Gelb Theater. The Fringe Festival is mostly a collection of short plays, but it also includes comedy acts and music. It is almost an entirely student written, directed, and performed show. This year it was, once again, full of hilarious and powerful performances that left the audience on the edge of their seats.

The creative process starts with students writing short plays, poetry, comedy, or whatever they want to be performed. Lily Kops '18 wrote a play for Fringe called *Princess Club*, about women who work at the Magic Kingdom in Disneyland as princesses. During their breaks they hang out in tunnels under the Magic Kingdom, smoke marijuana, and discuss sexual assault.

Kops talked about what inspired this play, "I read an article by a girl who worked at the Magic Kingdom, and she talked about how stressful it was, how you had to put up with creepy dads and uncles touching you, and not react to it." The topics in this play are very fitting for all of the recent news about sexual harassment. Kops said, "I went back and added a bit more about sexual assault, because of the #Metoo movement and all of that news lately." Once Kops had her play selected to be a part of Fringe, she discussed it with the assigned student director. However, since she was not involved in the production, she was just as curious to see the performance as the rest of the student body.

Another key contributor to Fringe was Austen Rogers '18, the student director for a short play called *The Last Burrito*, written by Ben Wendel '17. As the director, Rogers' role is to take what the playwright gave her and make it into a show. Before the winter term, the directors get the scripts, discuss the scripts with the writers, and start to make a plan. Then, at the beginning of the

winter term, the directors cast the show and start rehearsing.

While this is a great opportunity for young writers and directors, it does come with challenges. Kops said, "Because it is such a difficult topic and I have a lot of opinions, I had a hard time getting started, and then as soon as I did, I couldn't stop."

Rogers said, "The hardest part about directing has been the time constraint. I feel like there are always small details I want to add, because each time I watch the actors, I think of something new I want to see them try. But, unfortunately, we don't have unlimited time."

Though this is a very hard process, it is also an engaging and rewarding one. "We got going on character development," Rogers said. "That was probably my favorite part of the process, since the characters in the play are so fun and unique." This is a culmination of a lot of hard work for many Choate students. Rogers added, "I am very excited to see the performances. There is nothing more fun than getting to sit in the audience and not only watch my work, but also the actors' work, come alive."

Graysen Airth '18 was in the audience on Friday night and had great reviews of the show. When asked about what could be improved upon, Airth said, "I just wish there was more!"

Airth added that this year was even better than the past, "They worked in even more student work in this year. I really loved Amy Hagan-Brown's stand up act."

The acts themselves left people laughing and crying, but by far the most powerful part of the evening was something more than that. Airth said, "For me, the most powerful part of Fringe was not one show, but the fact the students and students that have graduated wrote the plays and have such power and say in what happens here."

**Wavy Griffin** may be reached at [wgriffin21@choate.edu](mailto:wgriffin21@choate.edu)



By **Jeanne Malle '19**  
Columnist

Last week, I was both sad and surprised when I heard that a majority of my friends were unsure whether or not they would attend First Hurrah. I couldn't imagine why people would skip this event. As someone who enjoys getting dressed with my friends for any high-school tradition or party, I was disappointed to hear that the primary reason girls decided not to go to First Hurrah was fashion. After putting some thought into it, however, I understood why outfit choices might worry certain students.

It's rather difficult to stay perfectly fashionable throughout all formal occasions of one's Choate career. If each a girl attended every dance possible during her Choate career, she would go to four Convocations, four Holiday Balls, two 3/4s, 2 First Hurrahs, 2 Garden Parties, one Last Hurrah, and three graduations while not graduating, and one graduation while graduating. Even though this totals up to 20 events, girls are still expected to attend every dance or event wearing something original and, more important, new. Even though I counted all the major events up, when you include smaller events like special program, I calculated that every female student is expected to purchase around 24 outfits throughout her four years here. For a lot of us, it has become normal for us to ask our parents to buy all of these clothes. Because of this, I hardly ever hear stu-

## À LA MODE

dents complaining about the need to constantly buy new dresses. Rather, students justify not attending events like First Hurrah by citing a lack of fashion inspiration.

Maybe this reasoning could be defended if students remembered what their friends wore to every occasion, but the truth is that after a couple of weeks, few individuals will recall what you wore. As a matter of fact, hardly any of my friends remember what I wore to Holiday Ball freshman year, or even what I wore to it this year! What students don't forget, however, is when an outfit is worn twice. This pushes people to put excessive amounts of time and energy into finding pretty things

that are not too expensive but original enough that nobody else would be wearing it. For example, many students recall Angela Zhao '19's arrival to 3/4 freshman year in jeans and heels. Many others choose to go the same route, choosing to wear joke outfits instead of spending an unnecessary amount of money on a new one.

People fear wearing things that are out of their comfort zones, scared of what others would think, and scared that they would stick out too much. Although I am always the first to say that dressing up in chic clothing is special and fun, it is also O.K. to forget to buy the perfect dress and have to improvise at the last minute.

Furthermore, why has it become so difficult to recognize that these are just high school events? Nobody should really care about outfit repetitions or underdressed students, because feeling comfortable in what you're wearing is what truly matters. If a student decides that he or she doesn't want to put as much effort into one dance's outfit and feels comfortable with that decision, then why should it be an issue?

The Choate student body adores all of the traditions and events given to us, yet we should cut ourselves some slack when it comes to what we wear to them.

**Jeanne Malle** may be reached at [jmalle19@choate.edu](mailto:jmalle19@choate.edu)



Photo courtesy of Choate Rosemary Hall

Students in the Class of 2017 convened at the St. John Hall to take photos before heading to Last Hurrah.

## Ken Burns To Visit Choate

On February 20, Ken Burns, one of the world's most influential documentary filmmakers, will visit Choate and deliver this year's Ambassador S. Davis Phillips '61 Family Lecture. A panel of Choate students will interview Mr. Burns on the PMAC stage, as part of an evening special program. A question-and-answer session will follow the discussion. Additionally, Mr. Burns will speak with students in the Lanphier Center's Elman Auditorium during A and B blocks that afternoon, and the faculty of the HPRSS department and invited students will have dinner with him in the Sally Hart Lodge.

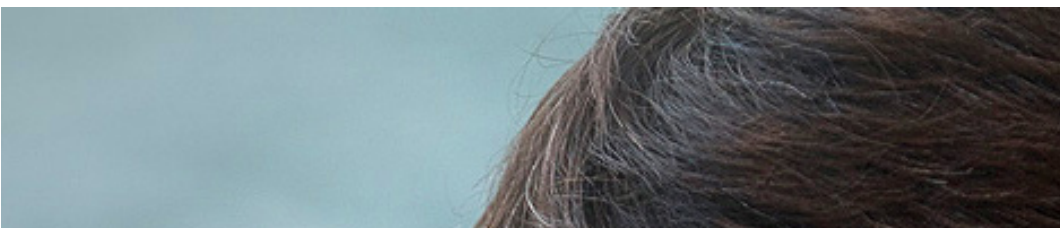


Photo courtesy of Tauca

## Senior Priority in Casting? Choate Says No

By **Sasha Bocek '19**  
Staff Reporter

Age and seniority play a big part on Choate's campus. As a result, underclassmen are often excluded from holding certain positions of greater responsibility, such as School President, prefect, and Assessment Team member. Many people seem to think that these same practices of seniority also apply to the casting of theatre productions. This is because seniors who have participated in the program for several consecutive years often appear more likely to be awarded the part than a freshman who has just arrived to campus.

Ms. Tracy Ginder-Delventhal, the head of Choate's Theatre Department and the director of *Blue Stockings* (which opened last night), weighed in on the topic. Ms. Ginder-Delventhal began by stating that casting for every play is different and what the director brings to the work is one of the biggest factors. She added that she has no "hard rule" for the way she conducts her casting. For the most part, Ginder-Delventhal says she looks for the student that best fits the character. The

only time Ginder-Delventhal says seniority influences her decision is when two students with the same qualifications are in different grades. Typically, she gives the role to the older student. Otherwise, Ms. Ginder-Delventhal said, "The way casting works isn't mysterious, I cast the person who is right for the role." According to Ms. Ginder-Delventhal, casting is a matter of talent, hard work, and appropriate fit.

**The way casting works isn't mysterious. I cast the person who is right for the role.**

*Ms. Tracy Ginder-Delventhal*

This year, Ms. Ginder-Delventhal cast Will Flamm '21 as one of the male leads in *Blue Stockings*. When asked, Flamm didn't think that age is a deciding factor in many things on the Choate campus and in the community, including the plays and theatre showings. He also mentioned he is not the only freshman to have recent success in the casting process. The spring musical will also star a freshman in a leading role. In fact, in the past, there have

also been numerous underclassmen cast in more significant roles than their upperclassmen counterparts. Even if a student is in Arts Concentration, they are not guaranteed any lead or role; it's all about the fit.

Will Raccio '18, a seasoned performer at Choate, echoed both Ms. Ginder-Delventhal and Flamm's views. "I feel as though in casting a show at Choate, whoever is the best fit for a lead role will be cast regardless of age," he said. "At the same time, I do feel that seniority plays a role. In *Blue Stockings*, a couple of the major male characters are played by freshmen and sophomores. Even though there were several seniors who auditioned, those who were best for the roles were cast despite being under formers." Raccio also recalled that in *Anne Frank*, staged in 2016, a fourth former played Anne.

Siri Palreddy '20 and Wavy Griffin '21, who are both newer members of the theatre scene at Choate, look at the matter a little differently. Palreddy said, "seniors definitely get major roles most of the time, but there are also really good reasons for that. Seniors usually have the most acting experience and skill needed. The seniors who get the leading roles are most often those who are very passionate about acting and have done a lot of plays. There is a seniority thing going on, but it's for a good reason."

Griffin's said that the reason for seniors often being cast is because of the hard work they've put into the program and the relationships they may have developed with directors.

Most students involved in Choate's theater program agree that age has little effect on casting decisions. If anything, when age comes into consideration, it is only for fair reason and to break a stalemate in the casting process.

**Sasha Bocek** may be reached at [sbocek19@choate.edu](mailto:sbocek19@choate.edu)



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Kate Newhouse '18 amazes audience in the fall play, *The Illusion*.

**pure  
alchemy**  
JUICE BAR • CAFE

- Tonic & Elixir Bar
- Superfoods & Raw Desserts
- Vegan, Raw, Gluten-Free Friendly
- Smoothie Bowls
- Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Organic Juices & Smoothies

*Open 7 days a week!*

See our menu online

[www.purealchemyjuice.com](http://www.purealchemyjuice.com)

236 N. Colony Rd (Rt. 5) Wallingford

PH: 203.265.5000



FIELD REPORT

Saturday Games

Boys’ Basketball (15-3)  
beats Green Farms, 62-38

Boys’ Hockey (5-13-1)  
falls to Exeter, 1-4

Girls’ Hockey (3-10-1)  
falls to Loomis, 0-4

Wrestling (9-4)  
6th of 12

Wednesday Games

Boys’ Basketball (16-3)  
beats Salisbury, 57-48

Girls’ Basketball (15-5)  
beats Hotchkiss, 66-47

Boys’ Hockey (5-14-1)  
falls to Avon, 1-4

Girls’ Hockey (4-10-1)  
beats Berkshire, 6-1

Girls’ Squash (9-4)  
beats Hopkins, 7-0

Boys’ Swimming (3-4)  
beats Loomis, 97-89

Girls’ Swimming (6-2)  
beats Loomis, 106-84

SPORTS VS. ACADEMICS: STRUGGLES OF CHOATE ATHLETES

By **Dan Brockett ’19**  
*Associate Editor*

For students at Choate managing all of their commitments is hard enough, but for athletes playing winter sports it gets even harder. There is a limited number of indoor facilities for athletes to practice on, so teams have to practice at unusual times. There are 4 hockey teams on campus and only one rink, so teams could start practice as early as 3:50 or end as late as 9:00. Having a practice start at 3:50 is about the best case scenario for a team as they can be done earlier and do their homework during study hours, but sometimes practice happens during study hours and players have to do homework at other times.

There are mixed feelings about the varying practice times at the rink. Regarding the practice times Boys’ Varsity Hockey player Chance Gorman ’18 said, “I usually know what days we have late practice and earlier practices. It’s not as challenging as it seems to get work done while dealing with the schedule. As long as I know what days we practice later it’s easy to get work done and to still be very committed to hockey.”

Despite Gorman’s sentiments, some players do not feel the same as they feel it is harder to do homework during the afternoon than it is during study hours at night. The study conditions are very different, as during study hours people are more focused on getting work done, while in the afternoon people are more likely to be distracted because the work isn’t due soon. For hockey players getting dressed for practice takes time, so they have to be down to the rink at least

15-30 minutes before practice. Some people arrive even earlier to the rink if they have to tape their sticks or deal with other equipment issues.

There are 7 basketball teams including intramural basketball, but there are only 2 courts, so again teams are going to have practice at inconvenient times. With a similar problem to the hockey teams the basketball teams have practice at different times depending on the day. Intramural basketball takes the later practices on non-game days, so the basketball teams don’t have to practice as late as the hockey teams do they still have an inconvenient schedule. These practice times don’t include the team meetings and watching of film that some teams do before or after practice. That takes up even more time because it is time that the athletes aren’t doing their work.

As long as I know what days we practice later it’s easy to get work done and to still be very committed to hockey.

*Chance Gorman ’18*

There is only one swimming team with one swimming pool, but there are a lot of swimmers on the team, and they tend to have long and difficult practices leaving them tired before they even start their homework. Practice times can vary, but they regularly start right after classes. There are 6 squash teams that need to share the courts for practice and matches, so scheduling can be hectic and complicated. Complet-



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

The life of a student-athlete at Choate has numerous demands.

ing homework during free periods and being focused and efficient becomes even more important during the winter term. Wrestling has practice right after classes, which is probably the best time for practices for any sport. However, those practices tend to be grueling and the work in the sport doesn’t end in the wrestling room, as the wrestlers have to watch their food and drink intake to manage their weight for matches.

Choate already puts a lot of stress on its students, but during that winter term that stress becomes even greater because of the crazy athletic schedules. Boys’ Varsity Hockey player Trent Schwab ’18 commented, “It’s definitely hard to balance the two, especially when you’re in one of your main seasons.” He added, “You just have to work around your schedule and try to find time to knock out

work so you can be rested for your practices and games.”

Obviously the current system is not preferable for athletes or coaches, who don’t return to their homes from practices until after 9:00. The obvious solution to these problems is to invest in more athletic facilities; however, that seems impractical and unrealistic. Hotchkiss’ athletic center with two rinks, several basketball courts, a pool, a large number of squash courts, and a wrestling room cost about \$1 billion, which seems like a huge price. Shortening practices doesn’t seem to be the solution either because teams already struggle to find enough time to practice together, and shortening practices isn’t fair to either the athletes or the coaches.

There doesn’t seem to be a better system than the one currently in place. When asked about poten-

tial improvements Gorman said, “I personally think the athletic schedules are fine the way they are. I think the only thing that could make them better would be if each day’s practice was the same time. That way there would never be any questions, and students could get into a groove that would be easy to maneuver.” It seems that all athletes can do is deal with the athletic system the way it is. The best that the athletes can do is work hard in practice and then stay focused when they have to work on their homework.

While the system works for some, there is no easy solution to solving the dilemma of student-athletes, but acknowledging there is a problem is a start.

Dan Brockett may be reached at dbrockett19@choate.edu

Boys’ JV Hockey Reclaim The Grim

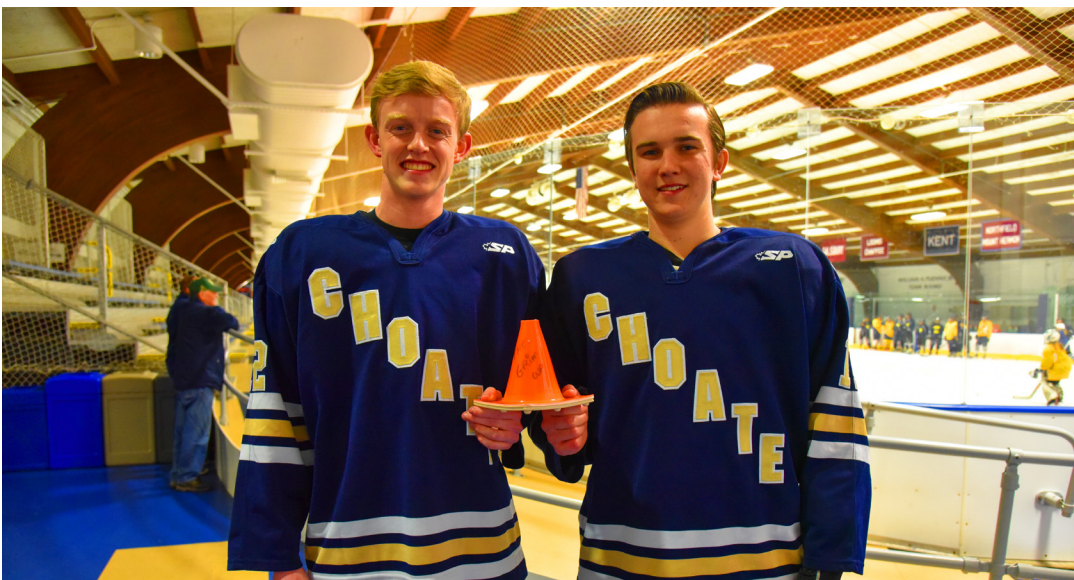


Photo by Lauren Canna/The Choate News

Boys’ JV Hockey Co-Captains John Burt ’18 and Ian Merrick ’18 with the Grim Cup.

By **George McCabe ’20**  
*Reporter*

A few weeks ago, Choate’s JV hockey team beat Loomis Chaffee. However, this game wasn’t just like any other game for the two hockey teams. The two teams faced off against each other in the annual Grim Cup, whose history goes back a few years.

A few years ago, longtime Boys JV Hockey coach at Loomis, Mr. Jim “Grim” Wilson, announced his retirement. Since Mr. Wilson was retiring, former boys JV hockey coach at Choate, Dr. Benjamin Gardner, created the Grim Cup. Dr. Gardner established the cup to commemorate both his rivalry and friendship with Mr. Wilson and the JV hockey program at Loomis. However, Dr. Gardner never created a standard trophy for the game; instead, he wrote the words “Grim Cup” on an orange traffic cone. Ever since then, the traffic cone has been the official trophy of the Grim Cup. In addition, when Dr. Gardner retired a few years ago, his name was added to the trophy as an honor to his role in the rivalry. Although the former JV hockey coaches are not currently coaching, they live near each other in New Hampshire and keep in touch.

Last year, Loomis won the game for the first time against Choate and received the trophy, so heading into this year’s game, Choate desperately wanted revenge. In the beginning of the game, both hockey teams played evenly. Choate scored first, but Loomis was quick to answer with a goal of its own. The second period was similar to the first period as Choate scored again, but Loomis responded with another goal. However, in the third and final period, Choate dominated. During a span of five minutes, Choate scored three goals, including a goal from junior forward Dan Brockett ’19. Then, Austin Propper ’19 capped off the third period with an empty-net goal, icing the game that ultimately finished six to two in Choate’s favor. After coaching the team to a massive victory, Head Coach Mr. Jesse Minneman said, “At the end of the day we got some solid goaltending, and we showed that we had a quite a bit more firepower at the offensive end. A lot of different guys contributed, both in scoring and defensively, which is always great to see.”

In addition to an important win over Loomis, Choate’s JV hockey team has had an impressive season. They hold an eight-three record with wins against

the like of Deerfield, Pomfret, and Taft. John Burt ’18 and Ian Merrick ’18, the only player left on the team coached by Dr. Gardner, are experienced senior captains who have led the team’s younger players. Additionally, goalies James Dunne ’20 and Charlie Tait ’21 have been a reliable duo in the net as they have only let in one goal or less in six of their games.

When asked about how Choate boys JV hockey has played this year, Merrick said, “We are a young team, but a lot of the young players have not had a hard time adjusting from eighth-grade travel teams to high school hockey.”

Mr. Minneman also expressed positivity about how the season is going. The boys have developed some impressive chemistry together. On that topic, he stated, “We’ve got a vibe in the locker room and on the bench. Everyone embraces his role and is super supportive of whoever’s on the ice.”

Choate Boys’ JV hockey looks to carry its momentum from the Grim Cup into their final games and cap off their fantastic season on a high note.

George McCabe may be reached at gmccabe20@choate.edu

Sam Gallo ’19  
Eclipses 1,000 Points

By **CiCi Curran ’20**  
*Reporter*

The 1,000 point club is one of the most exclusive in high school basketball. Choate’s very own Sam Gallo ’19, a member of Girls Varsity Basketball, became one of the select few high school athletes to push themselves to the limit by earning it in her junior year.

While 1,000 points is a huge accomplishment, Gallo started small, first playing basketball in her recreational league. She loved the game and continued to play through high school, beginning her career at Mercy High School in Middletown, CT. At Mercy, she was part of another very strong team that had several title runs. When comparing the two teams, Gallo recalls: “Both teams for the most part are very similar. Each practice was intense with the main goal of bettering ourselves. The main differences really come from the league we played in. There were no shot clocks and the games were played with quarters.”

During her sophomore year at Mercy, Gallo decided to apply to Choate. Gallo commented on her decision, “I ended up coming to Choate for the community and the opportunities the school has to offer. The moment I stepped onto the campus, I knew this was where I wanted to be.”

Once she arrived at Choate, Gallo was a game changer. While the Choate Girls Varsity Basketball program has always been strong, it had been a few years since Choate had made it to the championship. Prior to Gallo coming, Choate went 14-5, but didn’t go anywhere in the playoffs. In Gallo’s first year, Choate made it all the way to the New England finals. Gallo’s influence at Choate was noted, with Mr. Jim Davidson saying, “Her work ethic and hustle are some of her strongest attributes — in practice and in games.”

Gallo reached 1,000 points in Choate’s game versus Suffield Academy, adding to their excellent campaign. Choate’s season is far from over, and Gallo has some high hopes for the team. She stated, “My goal for our team is not just to win games, but to grow as a whole. Winning games is only half the challenge, but there are many other stepping stones along the way to becoming a successful team, especially in the postseason. In the end, my ultimate goal for us is to return to the New England finals, and win a championship.” Mr. Davidson commented on Gallo’s work ethic, stating, “She works hard, listens to criticism, plays big, plays smart, leads by example, and has hit some key shots for us — both from the floor and from the foul line.” Being a captain as a junior indicates her teammates respect of her hard work. With a balance of younger and older talent, Gallo hopes to keep the team strong in coming years.

As far as Gallo’s personal goals, 1,000 points was just the beginning. “My goal in basketball going forward is to push myself to become the best player I can possibly be. I would love to play college basketball, but whatever comes out of my hard work, will be a reward in itself.” Gallo also acknowledges the influence that basketball has had on her life. “Basketball has helped me to grow as a person and to develop a hard work ethic on and off the court. Nothing but positives have come out of basketball being a part of my life.”

Gallo will continue to be a force for Choate Basketball for the remainder of her career and will continue her strong work ethic everywhere she goes. With the 1,000 point mark passed, there’s no knowing where she will go next.

CiCi Curran may be reached at ccurran20@choate.edu