



## Purefoy-Craig Wins Pratt-Packard

By **Christine Mason '19**  
Associate Editor

On Tuesday, February 13, this year's Pratt-Packard Declamation finalists shared their speeches with the Choate community during school meeting. This year's winner was Medina Purefoy-Craig '20, followed by Samantha Stevenson '19, Hannah Huddleston '19, and Sabastian Chacon '19. The four finalists were chosen by a group of faculty members after submitting their speeches to the contest and making it through the semi-finals.

Mr. Ed S. McCatty, an English teacher, who is in charge of Pratt-Packard for the second year, described the contest as a long-standing tradition created because "Choate used to be known as a school that prided itself on public speaking." He spoke of the great opportunity that the contest provides, but added that the most challenging aspect of the contest is "for the students to present their speeches in front of the whole school." Nevertheless, each of the four finalists amazed the School by linking a personal story to the larger world.

Purefoy-Craig, the only sophomore among the Pratt-Packard finalists, spoke about her search for identity and the struggles that have come with such a pursuit. Purefoy-Craig's speech was not solely written for the competition alone; she explained, "I originally had written part of my speech for an English assignment." The prompt for the essay was, "Write about an epiphany you've had." Because Purefoy-Craig so coherently wrote about the realization of her identity, her teacher, Ms. Brooke Fichera, encouraged her to expand the written work.

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## CHOATE WELCOMES FILMMAKER KEN BURNS



Top Photo by Helena Yang/The Choate News, Bottom Photos by Alex Yoon/The Choate News

On February 20, Elliot Sawyer-Kaplan '18 and Ananya Karanam '18 interviewed Ken Burns on the PMAC main stage. Earlier in the day, Burns spoke with students in the Sally Hart Lodge.

By **Vincenzo DiNatale '19**  
Associate Editor

Last Tuesday night, students and faculty hurried to the PMAC to see a riveting presentation from world renowned filmmaker Mr. Ken Burns. A part of the Ambassador S. Davis Phillips '61 Family Lectureship, Mr. Burns was invited to campus to offer insight on his astounding documentaries and fascinating backstory.

Mr. Burns was born in 1953 in Brooklyn, New York, and is well known on campus for an iMovie feature — the "Ken

Burns effect." However, aside from inspiring the tool that substantially increases the quality of Choate students' history projects, Mr. Burns's reputation truly lies in producing dozens of astonishing documentaries.

The program opened with a synopsis of Mr. Burns's works, which featured clips from *Brooklyn Bridge*, *The Civil War*, *Prohibition*, *Baseball*, *Jazz*, *The West*, *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*, and *The Vietnam War*.

Prior to producing these films, Mr. Burns was a cinematographer for the BBC and

worked for Italian Television. His first film, *The Brooklyn Bridge*, was inspired by David McCullough's book *The Great Bridge*. The film eventually earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary. Later, in 1985, Mr. Burns received an Oscar nomination for *The Statue of Liberty*. However, Mr. Burns's success did not end there. In 40 years of making films, he has been awarded 30 honorary degrees.

Mr. Burns's most recent work, *The Vietnam War*, was released in September, 2017. The introduction to the 18-

hour series was showed during the program. Aside from the applause *The Vietnam War* received from students and faculty, it also garnered national recognition. According to *Esquire*, it is "perhaps the most definitive cinematic depiction of the complex and controversial topic." The *Washington Post* said, "The experience of watching *The Vietnam War* includes terror, horror, disbelief, discovery, disgust, marvel, pride, ambivalence and tears." The film critic and historian David Thomson called it "the best film I have ever seen."

Bringing Mr. Burns to campus was largely the inspiration of Mr. John Connelly, a Choate HPRSS teacher, and Ms. Lorraine Connelly, the school's Associate Director for Marketing and Media. The pair worked closely with Ambassador Phillips, the School's Special Programs Committee, and Mr. Burns's company, Florentine Films.

Before *The Vietnam War* was released, Mr. and Mrs. Connelly heard Mr. Burns speak about the documentary at a

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## PARENTS WELCOMED TO CAMPUS FOR COLLEGE INFORMATION WEEKEND



Illustration by Chandler Littleford/The Choate News

College Weekend helps families better understand the college process.

By **Owen Collins '19**  
Associate Editor

Last weekend, from Friday, February 16, to Sunday, February 18, the College Counseling Office held the annual College Information Weekend for both parents and students of the fourth and fifth form. The College Informa-

tion Weekend gives fourth and fifth form students and parents an early look into the college process. The weekend has been going on at Choate for quite a while, and it predates all current college counselors here on campus. The structure of the weekend has changed over the years but has remained under the current

structure for the past four years. The weekend began with a parent and guardian social gathering at the Sally Hart Lodge & Alumni Center. Sponsored by the Parent Relations Office, parents and guardians who were already on campus were invited to an informal get-together.

The weekend truly began on Saturday, when fourth and fifth form parents attended a number of events and sessions about the ins and outs of applying to college. The day began in the Paul Mellon Arts Center, where students and their parents were present for a panel of college admissions officers who talked about the college process. The admissions officers this year were Mr. Manuel Carballo, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid at Oberlin College; Ms. Joy St. John, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid at Welles-

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## Community Service Requirement To Be Distributed Evenly Over Four Years

By **Kate Spencer '20**  
Staff Reporter

Along with the additional entrance tests for Choate applicants, starting this fall, students matriculating at Choate will experience new diploma requirements. The requirements will ask students to complete ten hours of community service each year, not, as it is now, a total of thirty hours throughout their career.

Director of Community Service Ms. Melissa Koomson created the new system along with student, faculty, and administrative input. Ms. Koomson said of the new system, which was approved by three quarters of the faculty, "We are really trying to emphasize that it is community service, and it should be very much engagement-based interaction with people. It is not volunteering to complete hours, or just doing task oriented things like sweeping, raking, or doing things on an

assembly line. Students are really evaluating their place in society."

Students can complete the new requirement of ten hours per year either during the academic year or over the summer. "This requirement change is not for any current students. It is only for new students that matriculate next year," added Ms. Koomson. "The summer before a third former arrives, they can do their ten hours and then focus on schoolwork during the academic year. Students could definitely do all of their hours in each incremental summer, but we are asking for the reflection to be written within a month of the community service."

The change in community service requirements originates from a program analysis last year that proposed recommendations that service become a more significant part of a student's experience. Ms. Koomson said, "There were recommendations in the review that community service be-

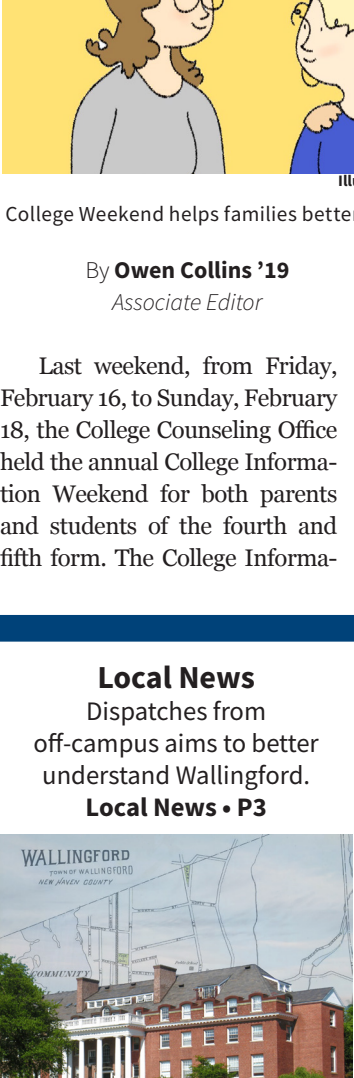
come a more integral part of the Choate education." Ms. Koomson wanted to make sure that the requirement wasn't just something that students could coast through to get done; she wanted to make it a real experience.

As the community service requirements were reconsidered, various Choate groups contributed to the formation of the proposal. "I shared the proposal with the deans before it went to senior officers," said Ms. Koomson. "Senior officers had to sign off on it, and then all of the faculty had to vote on it. Before that, I had shared the proposal with some students such as members of the student council to get their input. Overall, people have been really supportive of it and have felt like this is not a huge change."

The mission statement of Choate's community service

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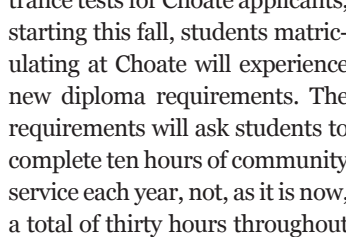
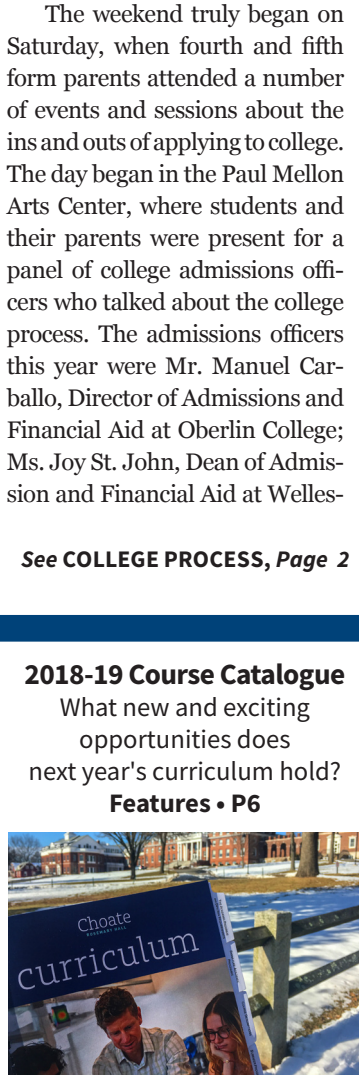
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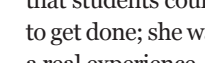
**Farewell, À La Mode**  
Jeanne Malle '19 files her final column before she takes over as Arts Editor.  
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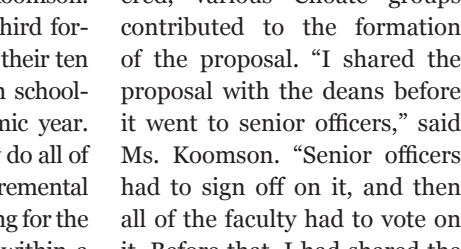


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## PRATT-PACKARD FINALISTS DELIVER INSPIRING SPEECHES TO STUDENT BODY



Photo by Kathryn Phillips/The Choate News

Medina Purefoy-Craig '19 won first place in this year's contest.

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Stevenson took a different approach to her speech, talking about her 21-year-old brother Taylor, who lives with a mental disability that makes speaking and other activities difficult. She opened the speech with a story about shining a flashlight through a person's hand, creating the analogy that many of us are alike despite how different we may appear on the outside. She explained, "We often judge people without taking a second glance." Stevenson also recognized the unfair disadvantages that come with mental disabilities: "Taylor is inherently deprived of the life that everyone should be privileged to."

Huddleston's speech explored the idea of the United States' image, answering the question, "What does it mean to be American?" She told an inspiring story about biking across the country and witnessing many different cultures and people. In one particularly powerful moment, Huddleston explained that she did not understand religion before meeting people who relied on it. In the end, she came to the conclusion

that "it's impossible to generalize a whole group of people."

Chacon spoke of the gradual gentrification of Inglewood, California, a place that has been special to him for many years. He discussed the destruction of his hometown by wealthy people who pushed out the poorer Hispanic and Latinx community. Additionally, he spoke of the construction of an arena and football stadium in Inglewood; these additions would be constructed to appease tourists, but would destroy the homes of many people native to Inglewood. When speaking of the movement of Inglewood's residents, he said, "These people don't disappear or change. They only move."

Chacon said that he decided to take part in Pratt-Packard because he was inspired by Richard Lopez's '18 speech from last year, as he saw it as an opening for voices of minorities. Chacon summed up this idea, saying, "I see something that I don't find right, and I want to say something about it."

The finalists' speeches did not fail to mesmerize the Choate community; however, reaching the final product of these

speeches did not come without difficulties. Chacon said, "I remember the day of the second round, and thinking, 'I hate my speech.'" He then strove to make his speech more empowering by making it more personal, despite the emotional challenge he had with putting such a spotlight on Inglewood. Once he reworked his speech and made it to the PMAC Main Stage, he said, "When I was up there, everything felt right."

Stevenson faced a different challenge in the competition, which was the delivery of her speech to the community. She was worried how her speech would be accepted, as well as how it would compare to the others in the competition. "In the end, you just have to do the best that you can do regardless of others," she said.

While Purefoy-Craig's speech began as an English assignment, the final speech was the product of three drafts. In terms of the challenges she had in the contest, she said, "The hardest part was the emotional aspect of it."

**Christine Mason**  
may be reached at  
cmason19@choate.edu

## Ken Burns Visits Campus

*Continued from Page 1*

talk sponsored by the *New York Times*, in June of 2017. The Connelys decision to invite Mr. Burns to Choate was in large part due to Mr. Burns's ability to channel his strong historical perspective into filmmaking. "Mr. Burns's perspectives on historical sensibilities and his skillfully produced documentaries — particularly *The Vietnam War* series — figured significantly in our decision to invite Ken Burns to come to Choate Rosemary Hall," Mr. Connolly said.

Mr. Connolly continued, "Without question, Mr. Burns's documentaries provide uniquely palpable ways to encounter history, especially the different perspectives and voices that are important parts of the historical narrative."

On the importance of Mr. Burns's work, Mr. Connolly said, "Mr. Burns's documentaries are all about revealing the fuller truths of history." He continued, "Whether the subject is the Vietnam War, the Civil War, or Prohibition, that is, perhaps, the most enduring lesson that one can learn from his work."

Mr. Burns has several ties to Choate. Choate alumnus Mr. Don MacKinnon '86 is Mr. Burns's digital curator. In addition, a current Choate parent, Ms. Sheryl Shade P'19, has known Mr. Burns for several years. Ms. Shade and Mr. MacKinnon helped coordinate Mr. Burns's visit to campus.

During the program, Mr. Burns addressed a wide array of topics, from his latest film to the importance of exploring history.

Mr. Burns recounted his experience making the film and admitted that he was dumbfounded by the lack of knowledge he had prior to making *The Vietnam War*. "I was humiliated by what I didn't know," Mr. Burns said.

**I am so privileged to have had the opportunity to speak with him and learn from him.**

*Charlie Yockey '19*

Additionally, Mr. Burns discussed his views on history. He explained to the community that although history doesn't repeat itself, human nature does. This aspect of the program seemed to resonate with the community and become a topic of conversation among students and faculty.

Students left the PMAC in awe. Charlie Yockey '19 said, "He exceeded my high expectations tenfold, and I was absolutely floored by his commentary at both the reception and during his lecture. He seems to be both a brilliant historian and documentarian — the full package."

Yockey went on, "Furthermore, he is extraordinarily thoughtful about how he shares his stories and cognizant of the complexity of history. The respect he brings to the discipline amazes me, and I am so privileged to have had the opportunity to speak with him and learn from him. He is mindful of the impact his work has on the population and his energy was palpable; he truly cares."

Ellie Latham '18 agreed. "He was articulate, intelligent, funny, interesting, relevant — literally everything you can ask for in a speaker," she said. "I think a lot of my peers were concerned that a historian might be boring, but they were 100% proven wrong. A lot of the time history gets a reputation for being not useful and relevant to the present day, and I think Ken Burns absolutely proved it wrong."

**Vincenzo DiNatale**  
may be reached at  
vdinatale19@choate.edu

## Fifth Formers and Families Begin Navigating College Process

*Continued from Page 1*

ley College; Mr. Jon Westover, Senior Associate Director of Admissions at University of Massachusetts, Amherst; and Mr. Jonathan Williams, Associate Dean/Director of Admissions at New York University. Ms. Marcia Landesman, Choate's Director of College Counseling, moderated the panel.

The panel spoke of what makes a good candidate and how students can showcase that to colleges. "We invite deans and directors of admission from a cross-section of colleges and universities," said Ms. Landesman. "We like to have representation from urban and rural schools, research universities and small liberal arts colleges, public and private schools, and single-sex schools." Dean St. John was the only panelist from this year to have spoken in years prior; all the other panelists have not spoken at College Information Weekend.

Ms. Landesman emphasized that the group came simply to help. "They are not here to talk about or promote the colleges they work for," she explained. "They are here to provide general information and advice regarding the college admission process."

After the first meeting, parents attended mock admissions committee meetings across campus, where an admission officer and a college counselor led parents through a simulated meeting. They reviewed several fictional applications, allowing parents an inside look at how certain admissions decisions are made. Later, parents of fourth-form students were given an overview of Choate's college-counseling program. Although their children will not be given college counselors until winter-term of the students' junior year, parents seemed excited to begin to familiarize themselves with what can often feel like a daunting process.

After the college counseling overview, the fourth form parents headed to lunch while the fifth form parents went to small group meetings, which were led by the college counselor of their child. "This is an opportunity for parents to learn about the counselor's philosophy, counseling style, and what to expect over the course of the next year or so," commented Ms. Landesman on the meeting. She continued, "While all of the programming is important, we find that this meeting is especially helpful for parents." After this, all parents reconvened at the auditorium in the PMAC for an explanation on how to find the right college for a student and an introduction to Naviance, the software that the College Counseling Office uses. An emphasis was placed on how a student's goals fit with a certain institution. The format of College Information Weekend was once much longer, where it took place all day on Saturday, with addi-

tional meetings for the parents on Sundays. As feedback was given about this former structure, the College Counseling Office learned that it was simply too much for those who came. Parents who attended found it to be too much information, which led to the shortening of the weekend. "The feedback about the current length and timing is positive," stated Ms. Landesman on whether or not the structure would be changed in the future.

Brent Valentine '19 attended the Saturday morning panel, and it exceeded his expectations. He said, "I was thoroughly surprised. It had good information, and I was definitely impressed by the team that they selected to talk and the diversity of the colleges that they selected as well." Despite this, he added, "There was only one question about athletics, and I think athletics pertains to a large majority of the school." Valentine had hoped that there would be

more questions about athletics and their impact on admissions, something that will apply to many Choate students.

Though the students are the ones who go through the college process, the parents attended the majority of the weekend's events. Ms. Landesman explained, "This weekend is beneficial for students, but geared primarily toward parents. Much of what is discussed during the weekend will be covered [with students] by counselors in group and one-on-one meetings."

The parents of the students certainly received a large amount of information this past weekend, and when asked what parents could do now, Ms. Landesman answered, "Support their child through the college search and admission process."

**Owen Collins** may be reached at  
ocollins19@choate.edu

## Community Service Requirement Changes

*Continued from Page 1*

states that the requirement is meant to "inspire and empower Choate students to positively impact local and global communities of service." It continues, "We encourage students to develop a deeper understanding of their own identity and privileges."

The statement goes on to stress the importance of "promoting sympathetic engagement and collaboration between individuals both within and beyond Choate's diverse community, teaching awareness of social justice and the responsibility of environmental stewardship, and facilitating participation and the solution to real world problems and fosters a lifelong commitment to thoughtful and responsible action." Ms. Koomson said, "We wanted to get this language in the forefront of people's minds to think about what community service means."

The change to community service expectations is expected to bring a deeper understanding of service to the Choate community. "It is really great to see the students' excitement about something come to fruition for a student: to hear them say, 'I went into this thinking that I would just check off some hours, but this per-

son that I interacted with in my project really made an impact on me and we really connected," explained Ms. Koomson. "I am also very excited for students to learn the difference between reporting and reflecting. A lot of times I will get a step-by-step report by the student, whereas we want the reflection piece, which is more of explaining why a given organization needs to be in place."

The written reflection component of the community service requirement will remain the same in format, but the School hopes that the shift in how hours are earned will inspire a deeper understanding of the work students are doing. "Reflections get at understanding the crux of whatever the issues may be and why such an organization is needed. They also reflect on the impact that you as a server have had on a community, as well as the impact that the community has had on you," Ms. Koomson added.

"I get really excited to see what students do and where they do it, whether that be here in Wallingford or across the globe," concluded Ms. Koomson. "We want students to see the bigger picture and how they can change the world."

**Kate Spencer** may be reached at  
kspencer20@choate.edu

## LUNAR BANQUET WELCOMES THE YEAR OF THE DOG

By **Brandon Zhang '20**  
News Reporter

Almost a month and a half after the Gregorian calendar announced the arrival of 2018, the people of China celebrated Lunar New Year, the beginning of the Year of the Dog. In Chinese culture, it is the most important holiday culturally, and it gives families a time and reason to reunite. During this time of the year, millions of people leave their adopted cities to traverse miles back to their hometowns to celebrate the New Year with their old communities.

At Choate, to celebrate the Lunar New Year, the Chinese Club and the Asian Student Association, along with other clubs, sponsor an annual Lunar Banquet. This banquet gives an opportunity for the Chinese community on campus to recreate the community feeling of a family gathering at home. Though thousands of miles away from home, students celebrate this time of the year with members of the community and to have food familiar to home. The banquet also provides an opportunity to raise appreciation for Asian



Photo by Pinn Chirathivat/The Choate News

Students enjoyed Asian culture and food at the annual Lunar Banquet.

culture, enjoy Asian food, and have fun with friends. Angelina Heyler '18, a cabinet member of the Chinese Club on campus, said, "We hope that the Lunar Banquet was a chance for students of all different cultures to celebrate the holiday with us."

The Lunar Banquet had food mainly from Formosa, a popular Asian fusion restaurant in North Haven, which serves items including dumplings, sushi, Korean rice cakes, and fried rice. Heather Shao '19, a cabinet member of the Asian Students Association,

said that "SAGE also helped with a lot of the setup, tables, and linens, and they also provided the ice cream."

With the allure of good food and new cultural experiences, the Lunar Banquet drew people from all over campus to attend. Samuel Maldonado '20 said, "The food was great. There were so many different types of Asian Cuisine. The 12 dollars were definitely worth it."

**Brandon Zhang**  
may be reached at  
bzhang20@choate.edu



## ONE BOOK, ONE WALLINGFORD PROGRAM UNITES COMMUNITY IN READING

By **Abbie Chang '19**  
Associate Editor

It can be difficult to get every one of the nearly 900 students at Choate to read the required summer-reading book. The Wallingford Public Library (WPL) has taken on an even tougher task: it's invited all of the more than 45,000 Wallingford residents to pick up a copy of *The Reason You're Alive*, by Matthew Quick, as part of its One Book, One Wallingford program.

One Book, One Wallingford is an initiative to promote discussion among Wallingford community members concerning the themes presented in a particular book. To aid productive conversation, the WPL has coordinated a series of related programs to provide readers with a greater contextual understanding of the novel. The program will culminate with a visit from the author, who will speak this spring in Choate's Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC).

"It was something that I've been wanting to do here for quite a while," said Wallingford Public Library Director Jane Fisher. As Ms. Fisher and the library's Head of Adult Programming Ms. Julie Rio explained, the concept of an all-town read was the brainchild of Seattle librarian Nancy Pearl in 1998. The Wallingford Public Library has been planning for the launch of the program since June of 2017. "We're a strong reading community. There are people waiting outside our door every day when we open," said Ms. Fisher. "We already know that we have a community that likes to read, and I think we've seen

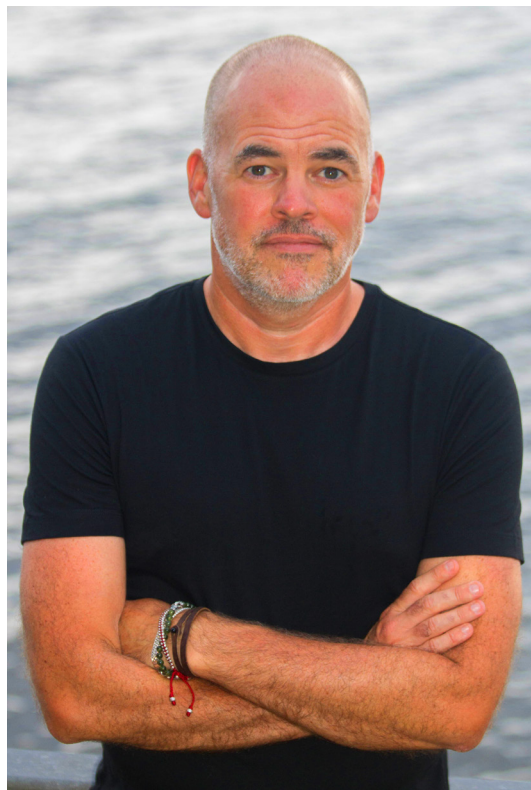
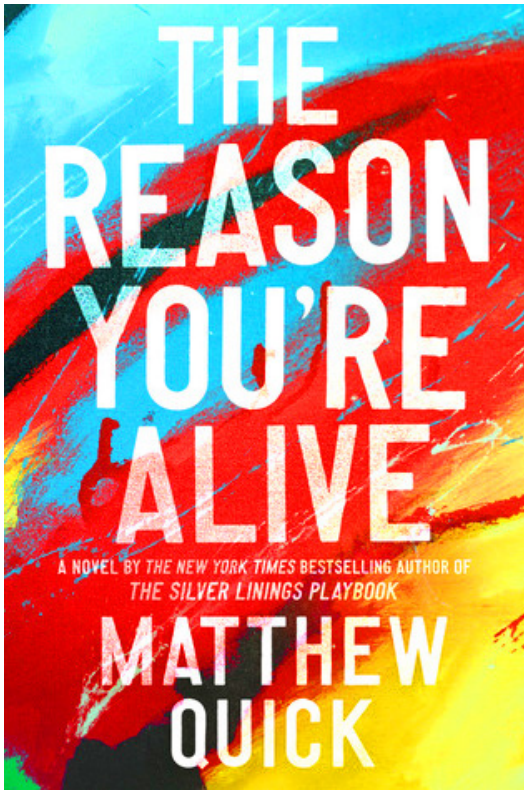


Photo courtesy of Matthew Quick

Matthew Quick's novel *The Reason You're Alive* is the first pick of the Wallingford library's new book club.

in recent years that we have a community that likes to come together to talk about what they're reading."

A planning committee was tasked with organizing all aspects of the event, including the choice of book, types of related programming, and event locations. Rio attested to the experience of inviting author Mr. Matthew Quick for the One Book, One Wallingford finale, saying, "Every author is different. Some want you to go through their publicist; some want you to go through their administrative

assistant; some want you to go through the publishing company. So it's a matter of figuring that out and then contacting the right person. Then it was coordinating between his assistant and the PMAC to get a date that worked for everyone."

Mr. Quick also authored *The Silver Linings Playbook*, among other novels. He wrote *The Reason You're Alive* from the perspective of Vietnam War veteran David Granger, who is far from afraid to speak his mind. Granger's acerbic tone is clear from the forefront, his opinionated nature

and use of expletives prominent from the first page. "It's heavy duty. It's not a hard read at all, but it's 'politically uncomfortable,'" commented Ms. Fisher.

Choate's Instructional and Digital Services Librarian Ms. Courtney Jaser, a member of One Book, One Wallingford's planning committee, added, "It's very political. It's sort of about political extremes, so I think it's especially important in this political climate to be talking about those kinds of things."

The WPL has observed that the book has effectively fostered

conversation within the town and even piqued the interest of some outside of Wallingford. "Our book is starting to really create some buzz," said Ms. Fisher. A book group from a neighboring town has also taken up *The Reason You're Alive* after hearing about its role in One Book, One Wallingford, and a few people came from out of town to attend one of the associated programs.

Those who may have recognized the name "One Book, One Wallingford" likely saw the event advertised in Choate's Andrew Mellon Library, at which one of the related programming events was held last week. This was a presentation given by Ms. Marianne Silva, LCSW and Dr. Jason DeViva, Ph.D., that gave a medical analysis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Dr. DeViva discussed the medical world's developing understanding of PTSD through references to war and its effects as found in literature dating as far back as the *Iliad*. Ms. Silva described the ways in which PTSD can be treated, and both fielded questions from attendees.

Future One Book, One Wallingford programming includes a question and answer session with Vietnam veterans, a discussion lead by Professor Ben Kierman of Yale University, and an event held at The Eatery.

Mr. Quick will be coming to campus on April 4 to speak to the Wallingford community. Tickets for this event can be found at the Wallingford Public Library and are free of charge.

**Abbie Chang** may be reached at [achang19@choate.edu](mailto:achang19@choate.edu)

## Community Calendar

**FEB. 24, 8:00 a.m.**

**Special Olympics Connecticut Winter Games**  
Athletes from across the state compete in Alpine skiing and snowboarding.

Powder Ridge Mountain Park and Resort, Middlefield  
Free admission; \$15 car ride



**FEB. 24, 10:00 a.m.**

**CitySeed Indoor Farmers' Market**  
Local growers offer a range of fresh produce and other food.

Metropolitan Business Academy, New Haven  
Free admission; \$30 car ride



**FEB. 25, 12:00 p.m.**

**Wallingford Shopping and Restaurant Shuttle**  
Check out an array of the town's eateries and shops.

Shuttle departs from St. John Hall  
Free transportation

**FEB. 27, 6:30 p.m.**

**Panel Discussion & Q&A with Vietnam Veterans**  
Join the Wallingford community for this programming event, a part of the One Book, One Wallingford series.

Wallingford Public Library  
Free admission; ten-minute walking distance

**FEB. 28, 3:00 p.m.**

**Yale University Art Gallery Teen Program**  
Explore the museum's diverse collection and participate in drawing, painting, and photography sessions.

Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven  
Free admission; \$30 car ride



## The Dressing Room Brings New Styles to Wallingford

By **Simi Sachdeva '19**  
Staff Reporter

A student could easily go through four years at Choate without really getting to know Wallingford and the impressive small businesses that lie within it. This would be an opportunity missed, as Wallingford, though not the largest of towns, has a vibrant assortment of restaurants, shops, and other establishments. One such place is The Dressing Room, on Main Street, in a location easily accessible to Choate students.

The Dressing Room is a fashionista's dream: Beautiful ball gowns and dresses line the prominent window displays. The boutique is currently owned by Ms. Chris Rinere, the mother of Choate alumna Ashley Rinere '10 and the third owner of the business. The store has been open for twenty-five years. Ms. Rinere bought the boutique almost ten years ago with the intention of selling her own athletic wear pieces. She did not heed the warnings of those around her and purchased the boutique despite the less than ideal 2009 economy.

"I wasn't looking to buy a whole business," Ms. Rinere said, "but they were selling it as a women's boutique, so I bought it with the thought that I would convert it to my line." Initially, Ms. Rinere did sell her line, but the The Dressing Room "took on

a life of its own" as her daughter's peers and teachers heard about the store and became frequent customers. The store has grown since then, as it is now twice the original size and carries a range of globally known designers. Ms. Rinere said, "It's really like great New York shopping in Wallingford."

Ms. Rinere's determination and courage has brought her tremendous success with The Dressing Room. Many people were skeptical of her prospects as a business owner in a small town like Wallingford. "I did the exact opposite of what people said," Ms. Rinere recalled with a chuckle. With a degree in finance and a deep-rooted love of fashion, Ms. Rinere merged her talents to put the boutique on the map, advertising the store on social media and participating in fashion shows or other community events. The store focuses on personal connection and helping customers explore their relationship with fashion. "Styling people, that's what we really do," said Ms. Rinere, continuing, "It's quality, it fits well, and people keep coming back."

The store has had a notable influence on Wallingford, Ms. Rinere saying, "We have changed the fashion game around here." People from all over the state come to shop at The Dressing Room, and Choate's clientele brought an international presence. "People would walk in here



Photo by Marja van Mierlo '18/The Choate News

The Dressing Room is located at the corner of Main and Center Streets, just under a mile away from Choate.

that live in Hong Kong, live in Manhattan, live in California, and be like, 'Wow, I can't believe this store is here,' and they loved it," Ms. Rinere explained.

The boutique owner described Connecticut fashion as typically two years behind, so trends have often not been successful in Wallingford at the same time they are successful in bigger cities. The store carries world-renowned designers and clothing from the West, such as Cult of Individuality

Jeans, Suburban Riot, and Bed Stu Boots, which are only sold in one other brick and mortar store in America.

The Dressing Room has done a seamless job of weaving together an on-trend, chic store with the New England charm of personal connection and community. "You kind of go on a journey with people through their life," Rinere explained, "I've been through breast cancer with customers, death with customers. It's al-

ways something in people's lives that you are dressing them for."

Not long ago, a customer entered the Dressing Room in need of some joy, having just come from signing her divorce papers. Ms. Rinere showed her a Nicole Miller Skirt. "She put it on and it just changed how she felt about herself and about that day."

**Simi Sachdeva** may be reached at [ssachdeva19@](mailto:ssachdeva19@)

## WALLINGFORD IN ACTION



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

*On Broadway!* The Wallingford Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Mr. Phil Ventre, will perform a selection of hits from Broadway musicals on March 4, at 2:00 p.m., in the PMAC.

## BEYOND THE TUCK SHOP



Wallingford Food Reviews



### Christo's Restaurant & Bar



Photo by Abbie Chang/The Choate News

The dining room of Christo's Restaurant & Bar offers a spare and modern aesthetic.

By **Michelle Zhuang '18**  
Staff Reporter

Trying to find New Haven-style pizza in Wallingford? Look no further than Christo's Restaurant & Bar, a family-run establishment that serves up classic, hearty American-fare. Though known for its pizza, the chicken parmesan and shrimp dinner are also

popular orders. According to Chef Bryan Russo, "Our mashed potato and bacon pizza is really popular and has taken off quite well. We normally cook our pizza New Haven style — that is, well done, but will also do light orders for our customers. We're very accommodating." He added, "There's whole wheat pasta, gluten-free pizza, and pasta. We will really try to go out

of our way to accommodate those with dietary restrictions." So next weekend, if you're salivating for some great pizza, head over to Christo's — or better yet, order through the online ordering portal and have your pizza delivered to campus fresh out of the oven.

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







# PELOSI'S FILIBUSTER HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR DEMOCRATIC UNITY



House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi speaking to reporters following her record-breaking filibuster, which lasted eight hours.

By **Audrey Powell '19**  
Associate Editor

On February 7, House of Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi spoke on the House floor for over eight hours to push for a vote on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, an Obama-era initiative that protects the children of immigrants who came to the United States illegally from being deported. Her filibuster, now the longest one to occur in the House in over a century, represents the goals of the Democratic Party: to fight for the equal rights of all Americans, regardless of their status on paper.

Pelosi's ultimate goal was to persuade Speaker of the House Paul Ryan to grant the House of Representatives the opportunity to vote on the future of DACA. In order to do this, she used the impending spending bill that was to be voted on following her speech as leverage; the bill would provide funding for the government for two years. After the government shutdown

that occurred on January 19 because Congress couldn't agree on a spending bill, many legislators were eager to enact a more long-term solution to the issue of government funding. The spending bill proposed on February 7 included many Democratic initiatives and priorities, such as infrastructure, disaster relief efforts, child care, and aide for the opioid crisis; however, the bill lacked a promise to preserve DACA, making it quite controversial among the Democratic Party. To help save DACA, Pelosi argued for the program throughout her eight hours at the podium, asking for a debate on the program in exchange for her support of the spending bill.

Though Pelosi's goals and effort were admirable, her leverage of the spending bill was ultimately an ineffective method to earn a vote on DACA. Many Democrats were already planning on supporting the bill because of its domestic spending plans, so losing Pelosi's vote didn't make a large enough difference for Republicans to be persuaded by her argument. Ul-

timately, her filibuster seemed to not make any concrete progress for the participants of DACA, dubbed the Dreamers. This seemingly ineffective attempt has angered some legislators and citizens at what many believe to be a divided and incompetent Democratic Party.

Currently, the party is divided between legislators who want the kind of economic progress that was included in the spending bill and legislators like Pelosi who want to focus on marginalized groups like the Dreamers whose status and rights are being questioned by the Trump administration. Moreover, the Democrats are divided between strong oppositionists who believe that they must vote against all Republican bills and moderates who want to focus on making some progress by negotiating with the Republicans. In this case, Pelosi represented the oppositionists, while other Democrats just wanted to pass the spending bill first, thereby accomplishing several economic goals of the party, and then

move onto a long-term debate on DACA. These conflicting sides illustrate the paramount dilemma of the Democratic Party: a lack of unification.

Even though Pelosi didn't achieve her terminal goal, we must still admire and support her overwhelmingly difficult accomplishment. To stand and speak without a break for over eight hours is a feat that takes vast amounts of courage and determination—even more so to speak in support of the Dreamers.

However, the primary goal of the Democratic Party must be unification. The party must be undivided in support of the American people in order to win back a Congressional majority in the 2018 midterms. If the Democrats win back the House and Senate in November, they will gain the power needed to make the kind of change Pelosi fought for in her powerful filibuster, and more.

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

# Layoffs Won't Slow Amazon's Rise to Monopoly

By **Nate White '20**  
Opinions Writer

Over the past few weeks, Amazon has laid off hundreds of employees from its headquarters in Seattle. While no official reason was given, in a statement, Amazon claimed that the firings were "head count adjustments" and that such adjustments included "small reductions in a couple of places and aggressive hiring in many others." Still, Amazon's layoffs were its first major reduction in its workforce in several years, going against the trend of mass-hiring that Amazon underwent last year when it added over 130,000 jobs. Nonetheless, the firings had some worried that they were only the beginning of a massive gutting of some of Amazon's older departments in favor of newer areas such as its voice-assistant, Alexa. However, Amazon's sudden cuts are not something to worry about, and its more pressing issues must be addressed.

Certainly whenever a company begins laying off employees, it spells out bad news for the future of the company. However, for a company like Amazon, which currently employs over 560,000 employees globally, a few hundred workers hardly make a difference in the company as a whole. Additionally, the cuts are not indicative of a downturn in Amazon's performance or stability, but rather a strategic move to move the company forward. In fact, Amazon currently has over 3,900 job listings in Seattle alone, so clearly the overall status of the company is not in question.

One of the more pressing issues in the company, however, is the location of "HQ2," a second headquarters to help Amazon accommodate for its massive size and consumer base. Amazon has played the decision as a sort of contest between cities, giving attention to cities and states willing to offer tax cuts and other benefits in order to attract the tech giant to their city. The competition favors larger cities that can offer considerable tax cuts and a large workforce, but many

cities, including five cities in Connecticut, cannot compete with the sheer size or economic strength of larger cities like New York and Washington, DC. Amazon opening a new headquarters is a non-issue, but the method of pitting cities against cities is somewhat indicative of the influence the company has in society.

On the subject of influence, Amazon also threatens entire industries in the U.S. via its monopolistic tendencies. For example, Amazon's rise in success considerably damaged the bookstore industry by driving many chains and stores out of business. Now, seemingly playing a cruel joke, Amazon is opening physical bookstores that are replacing the very stores that Amazon forced to close. Hiding behind a masquerade of innovation, Amazon thrives on capitalism. The company is venturing into nearly every sector and industry, most recently announcing it would be forming a healthcare insurance company, creating a massive monopoly. While Amazon manages to avoid responsibility for monopolies and putting other companies out of business by maintaining a positive consumer image, it actively and rather savagely works to become a part of everyone's lives, whether they like it or not.

*Hiding behind a masquerade of innovation, Amazon thrives on capitalism.*

Amazon's firings are certainly upsetting for those affected, but in the large scale, uproar over small changes like those serve only to draw the light away from society's increasing dependency on the company. With almost \$2 billion in profit in the last quarter, Amazon is going nowhere fast, but the company's long-term effect on the average person remains to be seen.

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

# Obama Portraits Commemorate Historic Presidency



Former President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama unveil their new portraits on February 12 at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

By **Camille Grant '21**  
Opinions Writer

My first thought was: that's not Michelle Obama. Certain differences struck me: her nose was too pointed, her nostrils were too large, her cheekbones were too low. Still, I found myself curious about the former First Lady's new portrait in the National Portrait Gallery. When I discussed my opinion with a friend, she responded that the painting itself didn't matter as much as the symbolism. I concur, because the painting really doesn't resemble her.

Both of the Obamas' recently unveiled official portraits are shockingly unique. In the 21st century, theirs are the first

portraits commissioned by black painters. Kehinde Wiley, former President Obama's portraitist, and Amy Sherard, Michelle Obama's portraitist, were chosen out of a pool of artists because of their long histories of painting portraits of black individuals in an empowering and novel manner. Not too long ago, Sherard was a waitress struggling to support herself; the recent unveiling of the portraits has already catapulted her into the spotlight. She has also had to overcome many hurdles in order to get where she is today, including her own heart failure and her brother's death from cancer. Wiley, on the other hand, has work hanging in the Museum of Modern Art in New York and has already achieved international notoriety.

Wiley and Sherard made interesting artistic choices when painting the Obamas. For example, Sherard chose to forgo painting Michelle brown; instead, Sherard's signature gray was used to fill in Obama's body. Sherard chose to do so to avoid "making a political statement" by painting brown skin: the grey, she thinks, removes the possibility of marginalization. It's an interesting way to depict a presidency that was irrefutably affected and occasionally defined by race. The style of the painting was unique; especially when you compare Obama's with the official portrait of her predecessor, Laura Bush. While powerful, Obama isn't formal or stiff – her composure doesn't convey restriction. Her posture

evokes femininity and reminds the viewers of Auguste Rodin's "The Thinker," conveying the message powerful women can think for themselves. This message also fits Michelle Obama's personality. She wasn't a traditional First Lady; she wasn't docile, she wasn't silent, and she wasn't afraid. Though Sherard's portrait may not represent Obama's face accurately, it's fair to say that Sherard nearly perfectly depicted Obama's character and individuality.

President Obama's portrait, on the other hand, was more accurate. Upon first glance, one can identify the global powerhouse based on his facial features. He leans forward, juxtaposed against

a wall of greenery. Underneath him is a wooden chair. His arms are crossed and his thin wedding band is visible. Unlike Michelle, Barack was painted brown; his portrait is decidedly more vibrant than his wife's. Chrysanthemums poke out from between the leaves; they're the official flower of Chicago, Obama's hometown. Wiley, the painter, acknowledges that "there is a fight going on between he and the foreground and then the plants that are sort of trying to announce themselves underneath his feet." He describes the relationship between the background and the foreground as being symbolic of the control of the narrative of Obama's presidency saying that "it's all chance-driven."

While the Obama's portraits differed greatly from each other in style, they shared a similar mission. Artists Amy Sherard and Kehinde Wiley both attempted to capture the Obama's presidency and influence the way that the Obamas will be remembered for centuries to come. For now, it looks like they were successful, but it's too soon for us to tell. If you're ever in Washington, D.C., you can pop into Smithsonian Museum's National Portrait Gallery—President Obama's on the second floor, First Lady Michelle Obama's on the first.

**Camille Grant** is a third former from Oak Park, IL. She may be reached at [cgrant21@choate.edu](mailto:cgrant21@choate.edu)



## A Look into the 2018-2019 Course Catalogue

By **Michelle Zhuang '18**  
Staff Reporter

Winter term is coming to an end, and the longer and warmer days of spring mean that it's time to check out the new course catalogue if you're not a sixth former. Each year, the catalogue is reviewed by a panel of faculty members, including Academic Department Heads; the Director of Curricular Initiatives, Dr. Katie Jewett; the Dean of Faculty, Ms. Katie Levesque, registrar Ms. Catherine Velez; and Director of Studies Mr. Kevin Rogers, who discuss recommendations for updates. According to Mr. Rogers, "The depth and breadth of our offers is one of the things that sets our curriculum apart from many other institutions. The academic program at Choate is a tremendously powerful tool that students can use to advance their learning, especially if they are willing to take advantage of all of the ways to personalize it." And indeed, this year, the addition of two new Signature Programs — the John F. Kennedy Program in Government and Special Service and the Advanced Robotics Competition — along with several new courses means that now, more than ever, students are able to tailor their education to their intellectual interests. Below are some changes that you can expect to see in the 2018-2019 course catalogue.

### Arts

According to Department Head Ms. Kalya Yannatos, "The biggest change this year is in visual arts. We more clearly defined that you can take anything that we offer as a foundation level course and that you can continue into the upper level courses. If you really love something, you can continue doing it. We basically opened up the potential for a continuum of study." Although that's all for this year, stay tuned: there are a lot of new hires, and with that should come new changes. "I predict that we'll be headed towards some gradual shifting in the near future," added Ms. Yannatos. "But for the present, remember to always put in a second choice because if you don't, we have to guess what your second choice would be."

### English

Beginning from next year, Advanced Creative Writing will satisfy two terms of the senior English requirement. On the flip

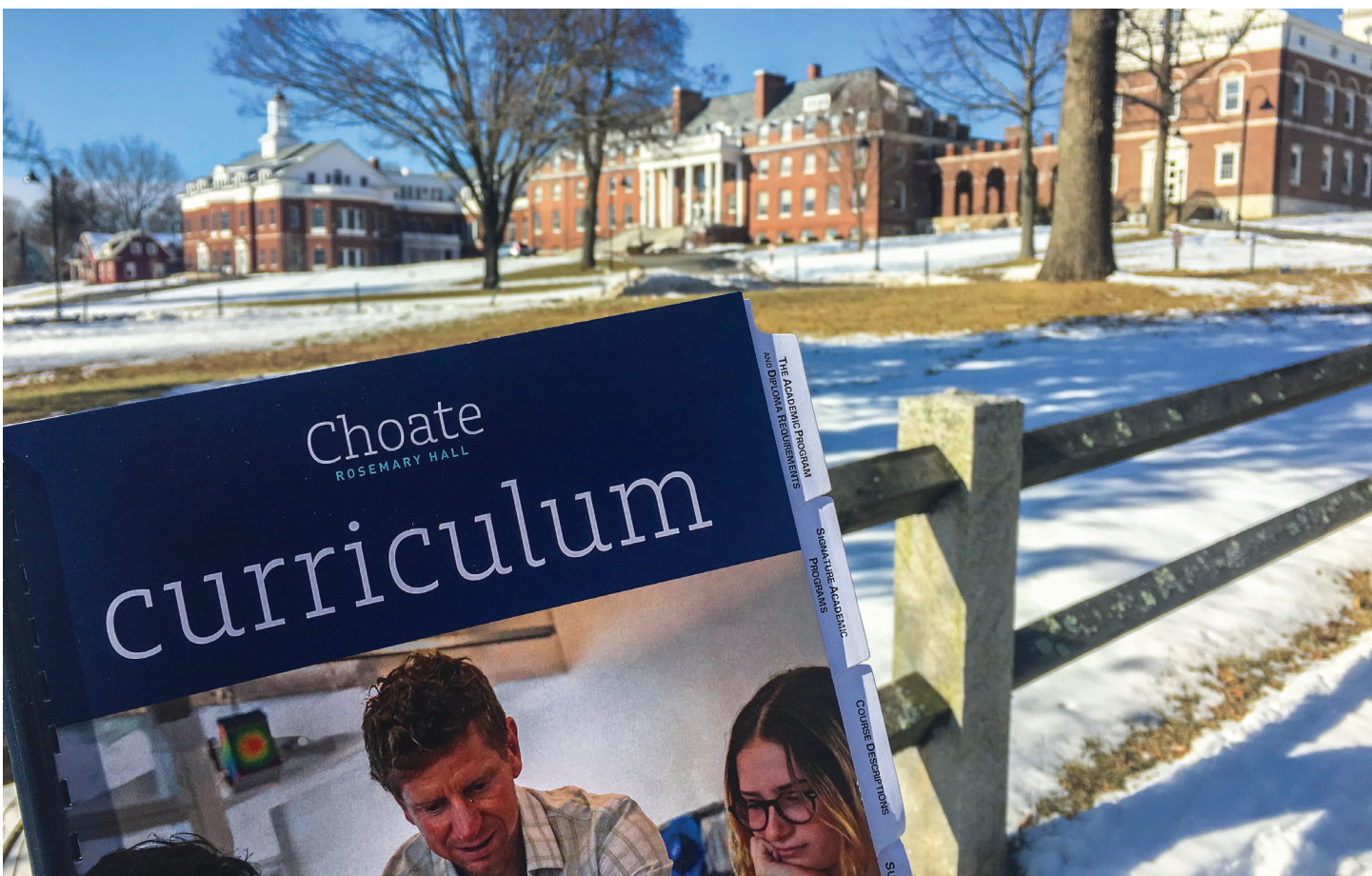


Photo by Lauren Canna/The Choate News

Choate's new curriculum includes a robotics signature program and an additional ten hours of community service.

side, Intensive Creative Writing will no longer be offered. According to Department Head Ms. Ellen Devine, the main reason for the first change was flexibility: "The English Department granted Advanced Creative Writing English graduation credit to provide greater choice in students' overall course selection. Previously, students had to take Advanced Creative Writing in addition to another English class. That requirement created limits on what other classes students could take. We also made the change to acknowledge the significant and meaningful work students in Advanced Creative Writing do over the two terms." For students who planned to take Intensive Creative Writing next year, Ms. Devine suggests to look into Reading and Writing Short Fiction or Reading and Writing Poetry instead. Both courses are offered in the fall and spring terms, and may be taken by fifth formers with departmental permissions.

### HPRSS

Far and away the greatest change for HPRSS is the addition of the JFK Program in Government and Special Service. Accord-

ing to Department Head Ms. Amy Foster, "We had a lot of students interested in government, politics, and public service because of the classes that people sign up for and the capstones that they are interested in. We wanted students to explore these interests in more depth by creating a special program with a classwork, tutorial and internship requirement. We've been talking about this for a couple years and it finally got approved this year." But that's not the only change in HPRSS. There's also a new course in Behavioral Economics that will be co-taught by an economics and psychology teacher and some minor designation changes. Political Ideologies is now an honors course, and American West is no longer an honors course.

### Languages

In the Language Department, the most significant changes are the revision in 5th year courses across the board and the addition of a 6th year French course in digital humanities. According to Department Head Ms. Diana Beste, "Since the school has moved in the direction of not designating courses as AP, we con-

tinue to revise and refine our 5th year courses so that they are really courses that reflect what is of interest intellectually to our faculty and students. We also have been revising the 6th year curriculum in French. We've added a course called Statistique Et Numérique: What Computational Tools Can Tell Us About What We Read. In it, kids apply computational tools to the interpretation literature. By using basic coding, they can use the power of technology to illuminate the nuances of expression. This will be a huge gain for French students and we'll want to see if we can extend it to Chinese and Latin and Greek and other languages." On the study abroad front, there will be spring break trip to Southern Spain for the second time. Due to the large Islamic influence in the area, the trip will bring together Spanish and Arabic students. "It's really exciting to have a spring break program that brings together two languages from very different traditions and two cultures together in the same spot," added Ms. Beste. Finally, she stressed the ability to take fourth, fifth, and sixth level courses term by term. "Students should really know that they have

flexibility. You can take a fourth year language course for the entire year, or for two terms or even one term. We're really trying to make language more accessible to kids, and I'm hoping that students understand the flexibility they have."

### Math and Computer Science

Congratulations, lovers of robotics and budding engineers. There's a new special program for you! The Advanced Robotics Concentration allows students to work collaboratively to design and create mechanical, electrical, and control systems with the goal of competing in the world-renowned FIRST® Robotics Competition. However, the one-term statistics course and four-term Honors Calculus will no longer be offered, though Honors Calculus will continue to be offered as a three-term course.

### Science

With the exception of Cell and Molecular Biology moving to Winter-Spring from Fall-Winter, there are no changes for science this year. However, if you're part of the class of 2020 or 2021, stay tuned. According

to Department Head Mr. Ben Small, "We have teachers thinking about making courses in advanced physics, courses exploring materials science, changes in our chemistry electives, and potentially a course on the physics of sound and music."

### Community Service

All new students next year will have to complete ten hours of service for every year that they're here. Ms. Melissa Koomson, Director of Community Service, explained the change as follows: "The idea behind it was a response to a curriculum review from a couple of years ago, in which folks wanted community service to be a more integral part of our community. There was also a general feeling that people could do a little bit more. Hours wise, it's not as much of a change. It's now spread out over all four years because there's lots of developmental changes that happen between ninth and twelfth grade. What students get out of the experience will change over the four years -- that was the rationale behind spreading it out."

### Wellness Program

If you enjoyed your wellness activity in the last two terms, you're in luck: You can expect to see even more All-School Wellness Time next year. As Wellness Coordinator Dr. Holly Hinderlie and Dr. Jewett explained, "The goal of this programming is to provide a break in the busyness of students' lives at Choate and to encourage them to try new activities that they may want to commit to doing as a regular way to de-stress." The transition from Sophomore Seminar to Lifelong Wellness classes will also be completed next year. As stated by Dr. Hinderlie and Ms. Jewett, "The Lifelong Wellness committee is hard at work designing a four-year curriculum to be introduced next year through Wellness classes and/or programming at every form level. Lifelong Wellness classes will replace Sophomore Seminar in the Fourth Form. Topics covered over the four-year sequence will include: stress management, relationships, time management, identity, and sex education among others."

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

## MAKING USE OF CHOATE'S ALUMNI NETWORK

By **Deanna Tan '20**  
Staff Reporter

Choate is known for having a welcoming environment, and this reputation translates to the alumni world. Believe it or not, there are currently 16,000 living Choate alumni, and most still remain connected with one another.

Ms. Monica St. James, Head of Alumni Relations, has a keen perspective on the alumni network. She expressed, "Choate alumni remain connected to each other and connected to the School years after they graduate. For example, on Reunion Weekend, we will host over 175 alumni from The Choate School and Rosemary Hall who are celebrating 50-plus years of friendship that were forged at their Schools. 'Alumni network' is simply a term describing connections that allow Choate grads to access the people who share common experiences and values, commonly in professional arenas."

Being able to connect with a Choate graduate in a professional environment has always been beneficial. Ms. St. James explained, "There are several ways that alumni connect professionally. The easiest is through the Choate Alumni Portal on the main website. Alumni can search by class year, location, company, industry, etc. and find contact information. We also have an active LinkedIn page where nearly 3000 alumni share information and professional opportunities. The Alumni Association Executive Committee, which is made up of 25-30 active and dedicated alumni, is singularly focused on enhancing the career networking aspect of the alumni network. If all goes well, this spring we will launch ChoateConnect, an app that will greatly enhance the Alumni Directory and allow alumni to network easily."

Many colleges have special programs which facilitate current students working or interning alumni. Choate students are



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Alumni reunite in the dining hall during Choate's 2017 Reunion Weekend last spring.

often curious about whether Choate alumni have done anything similar.

When asked about networking, Ms. St. James remarked, "My colleague Ms. Ruthanne Snelson is specifically focusing on enhancing the career networking aspect of the Alumni Relations Office. When we have finished ChoateConnect, an app that will allow easy access to the Alumni Directory, alumni will be able to search, connect and schedule meetings themselves. The Alumni Relations Office also offers a robust series of networking events across the country. One of our specific programs, 'StartUp,' is a Choate event series for young alumni and those changing professional focus. We have an upcoming event at LinkedIn offices in NYC for young alumni to network."

Ms. Snelson, who is currently in her first year working at Choate, is well-versed in alumni relations. Ms. Snelson explained, "For the past ten years, I have been running the Alumni Relations program for The American School in England which sits

in the leafy suburbs of London, England. Our base of more than 17,000 alumni, former students, former parents, and the staff is an international community spread across the globe. While in this role, I started a formal Alumni Speaker program, facilitated our Career Shadowing & Mentoring program, developed a mentoring and networking program for alumni, in addition to alumni programming, events, and working with my assistant to keep the school database up-to-date. It was an amazing place to work. I loved it there."

On her transition to Choate, Ms. Snelson commented, "I moved back to the U.S. after living in England for the past 15 years. I was married this past summer and live with my husband at Avon Old Farms School where he teaches biology. Upon returning to the U.S., I took some time off to get settled. During this time, I was keeping my eye out for a position within an alumni team. I found the Choate job listed and applied. It was exactly the job I had been searching for. I was hired here in

January and feel very fortunate. This is a great community, and every day I am amazed by another aspect of the school." She remarked.

There are, in fact, many interesting stories of past Choate students who have been positively impacted by the alumni network. Ms. St. James said, "In recent years, we have helped quite a few graduates. We have helped two alumni with jobs on the news network 'Good Morning America,' a summer internship at a Boston biotech company, and an alum's first position in the financial sector."

Many recent graduates don't realize just how connected and useful the Choate alumni network can be. An alumnus is welcomed and encouraged to contact another alumnus for almost anything, whether it be for a big or small reason. Being able to consult accomplished experts in virtually any field is an opportunity that Choate students should not pass up.

**Deanna Tan** may be reached at [dtan20@choate.edu](mailto:dtan20@choate.edu)

## Mixed-Heritage Students Find New Outlet on Campus

By **Elizabeth Quinn '20**  
Staff Reporter

At the end of her second term at Choate, Camille Grant '21 has kick-started two new student groups: *Origins*, a campus publication about race and ethnicity, and Mixed Heritage Association, a club centered around those who identify as having a mixed heritage. While focused on racial and ethnic diversity, both organizations are open to all Choate students. In fact, it is highly encouraged for people from all kinds of backgrounds to participate in one or both of these clubs to stimulate enticing conversations.

To Grant, a new freshman this year, it seemed that while Choate "had a lot of clubs for people of other ethnicities, like Asian club or HLF," she didn't quite feel like there was a club for people with mixed heritages. From a mixed background herself (having one Black and one Chinese parent) Grant sought to create a "safe space on campus for people who identify as having mixed heritage," where students can discuss ways to overcome adversity and methods for further empowerment.

*Origins* will accept "almost anything: photography, personal narratives, poetry." Grant said, "If you want to write about current events or a topic that is near and dear to you, we care about it." Currently, *Origins* centers on race, but Grant hopes that the journal, which will be published once a term, will vary its themes from issue to issue. How *Origins* evolves depends on the interest of the student body, specifically how many submissions are received.

Mixed Heritage Association, Grant's second large club-based endeavor this year, will meet once every two weeks;

meetings will be an opportunity for club members to discuss a specific topic, possibly watch videos or read articles about the topic, and study contemporary heroes with mixed heritages. Through Mixed Heritage Association, Grant hopes to "give people who identify as mixed heritage a place to connect with others and learn about themselves in a positive environment, because not everyone has the same ethnic background."

**If you want to write about current events or a topic that is near and dear to you, we care about it.**

*Camille Grant '21*

Kathryn Phillips '20 said of Grant's work, "It's amazing that someone so young in our community is putting their energy towards something so meaningful, influential, and needed on campus." Irie Cooper '20 agreed. "If you're passionate about it, you might as well pursue it further by starting your own club," she said.

Grant admitted that while she hasn't been at Choate for long, she noticed that "many students of color have different experiences than their peers" and that "there are many issues that people in the world face that I personally feel that Choate hasn't really addressed." She said that while *Origins* and Mixed Heritage Association by themselves will not solve these wide-scale problems, she does hope that they will help bridge the gap by informing students and acting as avenues for personal expression.

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



# À LA MODE



By **Jeanne Malle '19**  
Columnist

Hi, readers, if you exist. What you're currently reading is my column, A La Mode. More specifically, however, it is its 18th and very last article. My time as Choate's fashion reporter has come to an end, for I will soon become this wonderful page's editor. Although a slightly selfish desire, I made the decision to write number 18 about myself and my experience as a columnist.

In the opening of my sophomore fall, I got the idea to walk up to my editor, Camilla Borjesson '17, and explain all of the reasons why I thought there should absolutely and undoubtedly be a fashion section in The Choate News. For my underformer self, this took a lot. She could easily have rejected my proposal and told me to give room to older students, pushing me and my naive optimism away. But into that assignment meeting I went, with my head held high and my heart beating slightly too fast. I pitched my idea and she hardly hesitated before expressing her enthusiasm.

As soon as I got the approval to begin writing, I wrote down the most important thing that I would want to receive with this experience. I couldn't help but smile when I reread it earlier today. It read, "Understand how the style on this campus reflects the identity of the student body." I had no idea how I was going to accomplish this rather heavy objective, yet I wanted it to be spectacular, or at least a little original.

Within a couple of weeks, I was proud to say I had (sort of) found my groove. I came to the realization that to understand the identity of Choate's community through fashion, I could not write articles about general topics; I needed to investigate from within. I therefore began interviewing students individually to grasp their idea of the importance of self expression and style. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is what truly started A La Mode. Getting to know a new student each week is a fantastic thing. Although I'm interested in fashion, it wasn't the actual pieces of clothing that drew me into loving this column. I was much more interested in discovering every individual's reasoning behind what they wear and what event in their life led them up to discovering their personal style. Today, I would say that my new motto reads, "Reveal student stories I believe should be told by employing their sense of style."

Over time, I've come to think of A La Mode as a gift. It has given me the opportunity to view Choate through a lense that nobody else owns. Coming into this school freshman year, I was given an overwhelming

amount of advice on how to take advantage of Choate as best as possible. The problem was that I had never existed within such a large group of people, nevermind such a large group of teenagers. How was I ever going to meet enough students? The answer: talk to people that I would never have had the opportunity to know.

The answer: A La Mode.

I want to close this small yet important chapter of my life by giving a shout out to anybody who ever told me that they liked or even read my column.

I love you all. It's been real.

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



Photo by Kathryn Phillips/The Choate News

Jeanne Malle '19, A La Mode's creator, writes her final column this week. "I've come to think of A La Mode as a gift," she says.

## WIZARD OF OZ BECOMES READERS' THEATER

By **Sasha Bocek '19**  
Staff Writer

Choate is soon to be surprised by a unique and entertaining yet simple work of theatre that will grace the stage this April, introducing something new to the community at large. It will be a children's performance of *The Wizard of Oz* played by Choate students.

Ms. Carol Jones, Choate's Community Program Manager and a music teacher that has worked at the school for almost 20 years, will be directing *The Wizard of Oz* this spring. However, this will not be the typical musical rendition with extravagant sets and costumes, because the children's show will be performed in Reader's Theatre style.

When watching her first Reader's Theater show, *The Princess Bride*, Ms. Jones was inspired by the simplicity of the performance that allowed the imagination to take over. The production will feature no costumes, no makeup, no props and no set. The actors will utilize their vocals and expressions to convey the story. There may be a few student works incorporated in the backgrounds as backdrops for changing scenes, but all else will be left to the imagination of the audience. More importantly, the children will be able to employ their own creative devices in experiencing the magic of the show and story. The production is, to put it simply, a bedtime story on a grander scale.

Ms. Jones chose to direct *The Wizard of Oz* because of its familiarity and reputation as a timeless favorite. She believes it will be a good play to introduce the Reader's Theater to Choate. The show will be based off of the musical yet made more accessible to the child audience, for it would be

difficult for them to sit through two hours of a production without an intermission.

As for who Ms. Jones is looking for in casting she says, "Any actor who is interested in trying something new, telling a story and having fun. It's not just about acting. It's about creating and being part of an ensemble. Anyone can audition to learn and bring something." The show will be centered on the students and what they are able to do with simple elements to create a memorable production. The unique approach to the show highlights the importance of enunciation and articulation in effective acting.

Little if any memorization is required of the actors, for the play will be read aloud like a book. All songs are a sing-along so no one has to feel like it's all on them. In fact, no particular vocal experience is necessary to be casted. The sing-along element also allows for further audience engagement, which facilitates a better show for all. The overall intimacy of the Reader's Theatre style is what contributes to the rareness of the show.

Ms. Jones hopes that the production will be successful and that more Reader's style plays will follow in the coming years. Not only does she believe that the approach is wonderful for a child's imagination, but it will also shine light on the importance of enjoying stories without all of the extra props and scenery that sometimes detract from actor's storytelling.

The production will open on Friday April 20 in the Gelb Theater, and there will be an additional show on Saturday April 21st. Audition material can be found on the Choate portal, as well as the call board in the PMAC.

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

## The Return of the Art Club Drive



Illustration courtesy Sebastian Chang

Sebastian Chang '18 sold this piece at the Art Drive on February 12.

By **Inc Thongthai '19**  
Staff Writer

On Monday, February 12, Art Club held an Art Drive in the dining hall. The booth was set up in front of the fireplace, in the center of student life. The drive began at 5:00 pm and lasted until 7:30 pm. There were crowds of students and faculty lining up to buy posters, pins, stickers, and t-shirts. The prices of the works varied from one dollar to 20 dollars.

The Art Drive has been in the works since the fall, serving as the culmination of Art Club members' two terms. Co-President Sebastian Chang '18 says, "Art Drive was a silly name I came up with. When Tommy Ren and I took over the club, it was not very active, there were not a lot of members, and we were not sure where it was heading. But we wanted to get the members more active in making art, no matter their skill level. We wanted people to see art put together. At first we did exhibitions, but then the idea of a fundraiser came to me." Chang '18 recalls, "I went back to our room one day and I said to Tommy 'let's do a fundraiser.' He said 'what are we going to call it?' and so I started making random names."

Art Club recently started

taking commissions, making things like stickers of lizards and t-shirt designs for Stranger Things. These topics were all part of the fundraiser due to their popularity on campus. Joanna Ding '19 says, "We sold out a lot of the pieces leftover from last year and this year. We ask the club members for submissions since the fall term. We want work that is original, does not violate copyright restrictions, and is also in line with the student handbook. But to be honest it was really about the time we had and the supplies we had." The club had access to sticker and poster printers. Ding says, "You don't have to be amazing at art to submit to the Art Drive. We want variety, creativity, and diversity."

**I think it's the best feeling when people come up and support our hard work.**

Joanna Ding '19

When asked why students should support the Drive she says, "When I came to Choate I saw that the various groups on campus received a lot of support from the student body. Art

Drive is the same. We worked extremely hard and so did the artists. It takes almost an entire year to prepare this event. I think it's the best feeling when people come and support our hard work." Co-president Tommy Ren '18 adds, "Unless you are taking an art class or are a part of Art's Concentration, you don't really get to do art or show it to other people. Choate is also a place where, sometimes, you don't have time to do the things you want to do. That is what happened to me junior year. I was so busy that I did not get time to work on my art, but I feel like if someone had just said to me 'hey, that was pretty cool,' I would have been more motivated to continue with it." Ren '18 adds, "Art Drive is encouraging. I think the more support artists get, the more people will pursue this path of visual arts."

The Art Drive is an annual event that brings together the Choate community. There are talks of another Art Drive in the spring, so be on the lookout for any announcements and make sure to attend the club's weekly meetings to be a part of the event.

**Inc Thongthai** may be reached at [pthongthai19@choate.edu](mailto:pthongthai19@choate.edu)

## Makeup Club Exentuates an Underrated Form of Visual Arts

By **Simi Sachdeva '19**  
Staff Writer

Makeup is a beautiful and awe-inspiring art form. It is a tool in which one's body is a canvas. Choate's opportunities for visual artistic creativity such as Art Club, In Moda, and of course the visual art classes are treasured among the visual artists. What about those whose medium is makeup? Fifth formers Abigail Rivas, Ellie Kim, and Jade Watson started a club to exhibit their passion. Kim explains that "Our mission is to use makeup beyond its everyday use and employ it more artistically and creatively as like an outlet, like a different form of art." Kim also described that "Art is endless. There are unlimited options for however you want to do it. We are just using our face and our bodies as a canvas."

Makeup club has already created one magazine, held a

photo-shoot, and figured out plans for the future. They intend to reach out to the Choate community to find more people than those who are

**Our mission is to use makeup beyond its everyday use and employ it more artistically and creatively.**

Ellie Kim '19

currently in the club. Future plans include producing more magazines, choreographing performance art, and holding a backlight SAC Dance. The future project will provide backlight paint. To this, Kim says with a smile, "We'll all be glowing." Like all forms of art, makeup can be used to create a statement or spark change.

Makeup club has not fully committed to a specific idea of protest art, but Kim has some very powerful thoughts. "My personal idea is drawing quotes and words on bodies about what people say commenting out. For instance, on my shoulders I could write 'too revealing'," she said. Photographers can also contribute to this. Kathryn Phillips '20 has mainly taken the photographs for this club.

Kim wants to emphasize that one does not need to have experience with makeup to contribute to this club. She says, "We are not using makeup in the traditional sense like 'do a winged eyeliner' or 'apply mascara'. You can do whatever you want with it, you can be abstract. It's art so there are no rules."

**Simi Sachdeva** may be reached at [ssachdeva19@choate.edu](mailto:ssachdeva19@choate.edu)

## Photo Feature: *Blue Stockings*, An Unforgettable Performance



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortenson

The winter play, *Blue Stockings*, premiered Thursday, February 15.



# FIELD REPORT

Saturday Games

**Boys’ Basketball** (17-5)  
*falls to Hotchkiss, 60-71*

**Girls’ Basketball** (15-6)  
*falls to St. Paul’s, 58-67*

**Boys’ Hockey** (6-15-1)  
*beats Taft, 3-2*

**Girls’ Hockey** (5-10-1)  
*beats Taft, 3-1*

**Boys’ Squash** (8-12)  
*beats Westminster, 4-3*

**Girls’ Squash** (11-4)  
*beats Hopkins, 7-0*

**Boys’ Swimming** (4-4)  
*beats Hotchkiss, 101-76*

**Girls’ Swimming** (7-2)  
*beats Hotchkiss, 97-81*

**Wrestling** (9-4)  
*New England’s, 16 of 44*

Wednesday Games

**Boys’ Basketball** (17-5)  
*beats Millbrook, 85-56*

**Girls’ Basketball** (15-6)  
*beats Kent, 59-44*

**Boys’ Hockey** (6-15-1)  
*falls to Loomis, 2-4*

**Girls’ Hockey** (5-10-1)  
*ties Hotchkiss, 3-3*

**Boys’ Squash** (8-12)  
*falls to Deerfield, 1-6*

**Girls’ Squash** (11-4)  
*falls to Deerfield, 1-6*

# THE IMPORTANCE OF SPORTS AT CHOATE

By **Jackson Elkins ’18**  
*Sports Editor*

Athletics represent one of the oldest and most important pieces of Choate’s history, and, for the foreseeable future, they will continue to be an important piece of most student’s Choate experience. Our rivalry with Deerfield Academy alone creates a lifetime worth of memories for those who participate and even many who spectate, all the way from a brand-new freshman or teacher to the most veteran of students and faculty. I’ll remember the two overtime victories in my sophomore and senior years against Deerfield down at Remsen Arena that I was lucky enough to be a part of for the rest of my days, as well as numerous victories on the track and the cross-country course.

The bonds created through the extreme ups and extreme downs of a season are unique to athletics, and those bonds can create some of the longest friendships that any person could ever dream of. The benefits of participating in any sport, whether it be intramural or interscholastic, are well known: students lead healthier lifestyles, become stronger and more fit, carry less stress, among other physical and mental advantages.

But the benefits of sports extend well beyond the science of daily exercise. On the track alone, I’ve witnessed some of the most incredible instances of sportsmanship, respect, achievement, resiliency, and pure grit and determination that is rarely seen outside of athletics. This aspect of sports is what keeps students coming back each year to every level of Choate athletics, no matter an individual’s talent level.



For many students, sports is an integral part of their Choate experience.

Choate offers a variety of alternatives to sports—for instance, community service, theater, music, and art. No doubt, all of those are also integral parts of the Choate experience. Athletics are not everyone’s first choice, and that is okay. Certain sports can carry stereotypes, whether about the individuals or the team as a whole, that may turn someone off of sports. That’s certainly not unique to Choate.

However, as the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang remind us, sports are for everyone, regardless of the color of one’s skin, or one’s gender, orientation, ability, nationality, ethnicity, or any other identifier. Look at Choate athletics: for many students, this school and its sports represent the most

diverse community that they have ever experienced, and yet, that doesn’t hinder or distract or alienate us from one another. It makes us stronger as a community, or in this case, a team. In a world that is devastated by racism, sexism, and hatred of all kinds, there are few things that unite people like sport is able to.

**Going forward, we cannot let our differences divide us.**

*Jackson Elkins ’18*

From the youngest kids that are just picking up a soccer ball, football, basketball, baseball or softball, or hockey stick all the



Photo courtesy of Anne Stewart

way to the highest and most elite professional and international athletes, sports bring people of all kinds together. For that, I could not be more proud to be an athlete, and I hope anyone who participates in athletics in any way feels the same.

Sports represent one of the purest forms of acceptance. Take track and field. I’ll be one of four captains this spring, alongside Matt Lacey ’18, Lloyd Williams ’18, and Shamari Harrington ’18. We captain a team that due to its size is incredibly diverse, whether it be from an athletic standpoint in the form of ability and dedication or from a social perspective, where we have kids from many different races, socioeconomic backgrounds,

and orientations. When it comes to leading this group, we have to take all of this into account, as well as be on the same page as our coaches, who also have a tremendous responsibility to take care of every student-athlete and understand each reacts to the hardships of athletics, as well as the triumphs.

And these aspects aren’t something that is unique to track and field; working as the Sports Editor for The Choate News this past year has shown me that these truths are universal throughout many different sports here at Choate, and working for the newspaper has been one of the biggest honors of my life, and has taught me so much about the Choate community as it relates to athletics. Thank you to the rest of the 111th Masthead, Ms. Stout, Mr. Peed, the 112th masthead, my reporters, and, well, anyone I’ve ever interacted with as a result of the opportunity of a lifetime.

Going forward, we here at Choate cannot let our differences divide us. Too often today, particularly in America, where hatred is perpetrated, perpetuated, and generated between all people, from the top to the bottom of society, our differences must not hinder us. Instead, we must utilize them in order to help to define us as individuals who are part of a collective. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, on the stage, in the dorms, on the sidewalk, or anywhere in between, it comes down to the students to foster a place where the community trumps the individual. There is no “I” in team.

**Jackson Elkins** may be reached at [jelkins18@choate.edu](mailto:jelkins18@choate.edu)

# New Intramural Sport To Teach Self-Defense

By **George McCabe ’20**  
*Staff Reporter*

Many students at Choate participate in traditional intramural sports, such as squash or basketball. However, in the fall term of next year, a new, different intramural sport will be offered to students: self-defense.

Over the course of the fall term, this intramural sport will focus on straightforward tools and techniques that have been proven to work in defending one’s self against real-life attacks. It is not a martial-arts course, but students will learn how to defend themselves if they’re ever caught in a dangerous situation. The self-defense class will also cover general topics such as awareness, avoidance, and space management to help prevent dangerous encounters. Students who take the self-defense course as an intramural sport will participate in some strength training to make the students stronger and more confident about themselves if they were to face an actual attack.

The self-defense course will be taught by new HPRSS teacher Ms. Amy Howland. Ms. Howland teaches a women’s studies course in the winter term and has worked as a personal trainer. She she has a passion for empowering people so that they can live safely. She explained, “I went to Mr. [Pat] Dennehy [Fourth-Form Dean and Associate Director of Athletics] with the idea for the self-defense course, and he approved, so I wrote a proposal for the course. Then I figured out where I could get certified to be an actual instructor.”

When asked more about the specifics self-defense course Ms. Howland stated, “You don’t have to be super strong or a martial artist to perform the techniques. You can use the strengths and

the attackers weakness to get out of dangerous situations.” In addition to the combat aspect of the class, Ms. Howland mentioned, “We will also be doing things on spatial awareness and learning how to perceive the scenes around you.”

On the importance of this class, Ms. Howland believes that self-defense techniques are not available to enough people, but that self-defense is an incredibly important skill for all people. “There are so many situations where I have not wanted to go somewhere or not wanted to do something because I felt like it is not completely safe or that I might be vulnerable.” She added, “As a woman, I have wanted to feel stronger or more capable of taking care of myself, and I think that is really important.” She hopes that the course will create a strong community among its members.

Additionally, Ms. Howland believes that this course is particularly relevant for Choate students. She said, “It is important for Choate students to be able to go to college and feel that they are safe, and that there is not somebody on the street that can take them by surprise.” Because of the large variety of settings Choate students will experience after leaving Choate, it is extremely important, Ms. Howland said, for Choate students to learn about self-defense now rather than later. “Also, for empowerment, it would be great if the kids could feel better about themselves on a daily basis.”

Ms. Howland added, “I hope students leave with very concrete skills in self-defense that they will be able to use for the rest of their lives. Also, I hope that the students have fun participating in the course.”

**George McCabe** may be reached at [gmccabe20@choate.edu](mailto:gmccabe20@choate.edu)

# Boys’ Varsity Hockey Falls to NMH on Senior Day



Photo courtesy of Anne Stewart

Sasha Tertyshny ’18 winds up for a shot.

By **Daniel Brockett ’19**  
*Associate Editor*

Boys’ Varsity Hockey lost a heartbreaker 3-4 to Northfield Mount Hermon this past Sunday. It was Senior Day for the Boars, and the team went down by a mere goal, 3-4. Choate has had a disappointing season so far this year, but it has been turning it around as of late, winning three out of its last five. There are nine seniors on this year’s team and they have all played important roles this season.

Jackson Elkins ’18 got the start in goal for the Boars. NMH took control early and put one in the net in the first two minutes of the game. When asked about the disappointing start to the game forward Patrick Mullowney ’18 said, “I thought we came out a little soft, but as the game went on we carried the play on both ends of the ice.” However, Choate quickly bounced back with a goal from Jack Hoey ’18, to tie the score at one. After the early goal Elkins would remain strong in net until Cal Stewart ’18 was substituted in for him halfway through the second period. The game looked fairly even as the two teams traded chances through the end of the first.

A different Choate team came out for the second period. The Boars notched another goal on the scoreboard as Hoey once again put the puck past the goaltender. Choate took control of the game and dominating. Later in the second John Russo ’20 snuck one past the goaltender to give Choate a commanding 3-1 lead. Of the boys’ dominance after the intermission defenseman Sasha Tertyshny ’18 said, “We played really well in the second period. We set the tempo of the game and really worked them down low.” The boys continued to be dominant through the end of the second period.

Again it appeared as if a different team emerged from the locker room after the intermission as NMH seemed to have found some renewed life. The Hoggars notched a goal early in the third to cut the Choate lead to one. The Choate boys were still playing hard, but NMH was able to generate chances. Tertyshny said, “In the third it seemed like we got a bit too complacent. We let them claw themselves back into the game and that just shouldn’t happen. We just needed to play a full 54 minutes, which we failed to do.”

NMH scored another goal just a few minutes later on a power play, tying the game at three. Choate got chances thanks to excellent play from Cooper Swift ’19, Kyle Sanborn ’19, and Sean Dennehy ’19. On the defensive end, Choate was able to shut NMH down for a short period of time, thanks to some excellent defense and shot-blocking by Chris Guyette ’19. However, the Hoggars found the back of the Choate net one more time with about seven minutes remaining in the game. It proved too much for the Boars to overcome, despite some last second chances by Chance Gorman ’18.

It has been a difficult year for the team as they haven’t done as well as they would have liked. The adversity this team has faced has only made it really close. For the seniors their time at Choate is coming to end, and the players are not particularly excited to be leaving their teammates behind.

Of his time in the Choate rink coming to an end, Mullowney said, “It’s really sad and surreal for me. Some of the guys who I go out on the ice with are my best friends. As a hockey player, I haven’t really thought much about my high-school hockey career coming to an end, so I’m going to make sure I give my best effort in this last week that I have with the team.”

Tertyshny shared similar sentiments. “I’m going to miss it a ton,” he said. “It hasn’t really hit me yet that it’s coming to an end. I’m leaving here knowing I’ve grown, and I’m taking memories with me that’ll last a lifetime. I can’t thank the coaches and boys enough for everything.”

**Daniel Brockett** may be reached at [dbrockett19@choate.edu](mailto:dbrockett19@choate.edu)