



CHOATE STUDENTS STAND FOR CHANGE ON GUN LEGISLATION

Students joined the March For Our Lives to honor school-shooting victims and protest gun violence



Photos by Audrey Powell/The Choate News

Students who marched included (clockwise from the left) Sam Kaplan '19, Shraya Poetti '19, Laila Hawkins '19, Alice Volfson '19, and Max Gingher '19.

By **Grace Zhang '20**
Student Council Correspondent

More than 200,000 people marched through the streets of Washington, DC, last Saturday, March 24, in protest of gun violence, while activists held another 800 sister marches across the country. Collectively, the event, known as March for Our Lives, was one of the largest student-led demonstrations in American history. It was a part of the ongoing anti-gun violence campaign in the United States, a movement which has gained prominence in the wake of the February 14 school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

Speakers at the Washington march included three students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland, where one of their former classmates shot and killed fourteen students and three adults. Choate chartered a bus to the New York City march, taking fifty students and five faculty members, the maximum number of students allowed to sign up.

Max Gingher '19, who marched in New York, said, "I just remember standing there, holding hands with my friends, and listening to people speak. There was not a dry eye in sight because it was so moving and inspirational. We all kept looking to each other and saying, 'This is

history. This is what is going on in our childhood. This is what's going to be written in the history books, and we're a part of it."

The movement's basic goal, as Alice Volfson '19, who organized the Choate trip to the march, explained, is to pressure "representatives in Congress to pass a common sense law for gun reform."

The movement hopes to increase background checks, raise the minimum age to purchase a gun from 18 to 21 years old, and increase screening for individuals with a history of violent mental health. Volfson added, "The sale of ARs should definitely not be just for recreational use."

Not every student on campus

supports the movement. Brent Valentine '19 said, "I fully support people using their rights to protest and share their opinions, but I disagree with the movement. I believe much of the anti-gun movement is a fear-driven reaction devoid of knowledge on the subject."

Choate students have been involved in other gun-control initiatives. Many students recently made cards for the families of victims of the shooting in Parkland. Alex Hakim '19, who organized the card drive, said of the shooting in Parkland, "This is so heartbreaking. I want to run down there and say, 'We love you, it's going to be okay, I'm here for

you.' I just wanted to make cards just to put a smile on their faces."

Hakim set up a station in the dining hall on March 4, and students of all grades contributed. Hakim then went to Parkland while on her preseason sailing trip and met the media specialist of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Diana Haneski. "I gave her the cards and told her they were from Choate Rosemary Hall, just sending our love, and she really appreciated it," Hakim said.

Grace Stapelberg '20 and Sam Brown '20 are currently running another initiative on campus — a video project in collaboration with Liam Podos '20. "We were inspired by a social experiment

video we saw on YouTube that compared people who are pro- and anti-gun legislation. We thought it would be even more interesting and passionate if the discussion was between Choate students," Stapelberg explained.

While there is a political divide on the topic of gun control, many students do not see the anti-gun violence movement as purely political. Gingher said, "I think that people should look at the youth of America, and see that people are sitting in classrooms in fear. My awakening was sitting in a classroom having this run through my head and knowing that there are

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Choate Robotics Qualifies for Worlds

By **Kate Spencer '20**
Copy Editor

Continuing its three-year streak of VEX Worlds Championship attendance, the Choate Robotics team recently had two robots qualify at the VEX Southern New England Tournament for the World Championship. The VEX Worlds Championship, which is held in Louisville, Kentucky, runs from April 25 to April 28 and hosts a number of international teams. Although five Choate teams made it to the semifinal rounds at the Southern New England Tournament, only 6106B and 6106C qualified to Worlds. Robotics captain Brian McGlinchey '18 stated, "6106C is a pretty new team, and it includes mostly freshman and a PG. Because we have two teams going and we have more than the members on those teams going, we have divided up other members who have contributed to their teams a lot throughout the year onto B and C."

The team has been preparing for the tournaments since earlier this year. "We started in September with building the robots, and we had our first competition in November. From

there, every couple of weeks, we would have a competition," explained McGlinchey. Robotics faculty adviser Mr. Andrew Murgio added, "We went to six local tournaments throughout Connecticut, and we had five robots qualify for the New England tournament either by winning one of the events, winning an award at one of the events, or posting a high score in our region."

At the Southern New England Tournament, five Choate teams attended and competed for a spot at the World Championship. Robotics adviser Mr. Kyle DiTieri explained, "We got all five of our teams to the semifinals. Any teams that made it to the quarterfinal round would end up qualifying for Worlds. We were in an extremely fortunate position. In the first round, we actually had two Choate teams versus two Choate teams. It was kind of bittersweet."

Although the team proved to be successful, students encountered challenges that involved adjustments to robots. "The hardest part was that this year was very much changing your

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Spring Break Trip Immerses Students in Cuban Culture

By **Amanda Li '21**
News Reporter

This past spring break, 14 Choate students were accompanied by Ms. Jessica Cuni, Dr. Yaser Robles, and Ms. Sarah Boisvert on the first ever Choate trip to Cuba. The ten-day excursion, which was in the making for the past two years, focused on art, history, and full cultural immersion.

[The trip] definitely centered on aspects that one would only be able to understand while in Cuba.

Ellie Latham '18

In Cuba, each day was filled with activities from snorkeling and swimming to visiting the studio of a local artist or learning how to cook authentic Cuban food. But along with "touristy" activities, the group had the unique opportunity to visit an elderly home, tour a prestigious medical school, and converse with primary school students, allowing the Choate students to profoundly interact with the Cuban people. "In my opinion, the whole trip was more about understanding how Cubans see Cuba. It definitely centered on

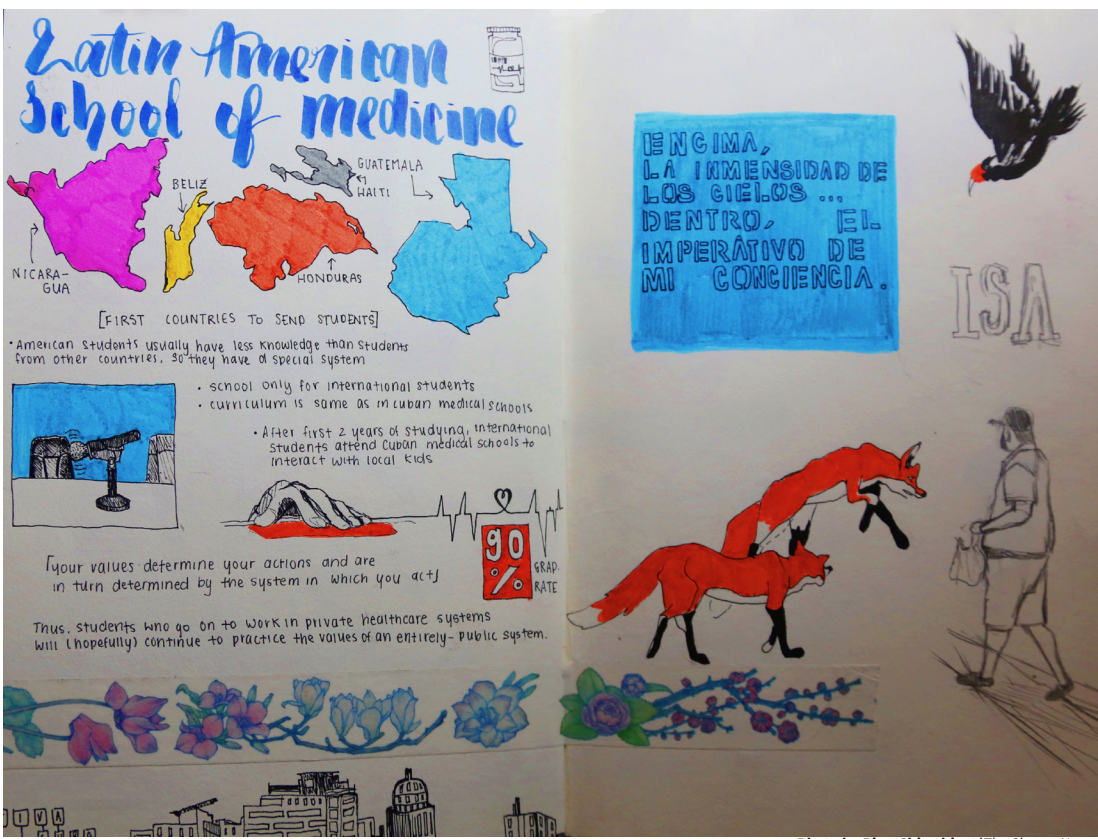


Photo by Pinn Chirathivat/The Choate News

Joanna Ding '19, a participant in the trip, illustrated her thoughts after visiting the National Art Institute in Cuba.

aspects that one would only be able to understand while in Cuba," said Ellie Latham '18.

Through these interactions, students found that there was a strong sense of national pride among Cubans. "Cubans are really patriotic about their government," Latham continued, noting how open they were to

talking about political issues.

"Although there might be political tension, Cubans are able to make a very clear distinction between the American government and the American people," added Donovan Lynch '18.

Students experienced firsthand the vibrant culture of Cuba and the candid spirit of the Cu-

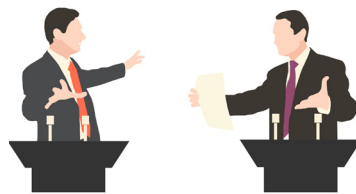
ban people. Voicing the same idea, Ms. Cuni and Dr. Robles stated that the purpose of the trip was "not only to educate, but also for the students to be able to view Cuba through a 'raw lens.'"

The trip taught students new artistic concepts, and the new

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Campus Reflects on Gun Violence

Recent school-shootings divide student body.
School News • P2



The Great Debate

This week, two students write opposing views on repealing the Second Amendment.
Opinions N/W • P5

Meet the 112th Masthead
Learn more about the new editors of *The Choate News*.
Features • P6



Boys' Basketball Claims Title
The Boars defeated Milton Academy 59-56 to clinch the New England Championship.
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Students March for Change

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other kids who are horrified to go to school. Unless you have not an ounce of empathy in you, or no compassion, how can you argue that nothing in our country has to be done to change what's going on?" He continued, "It's hard to argue that we should just sit back and have our thoughts and prayers because that's not going to fix the problem."

The goal of the movement is not to ban guns altogether. Laila Hawkins '19 said, "I stand by the Second Amendment. I do believe that people have the right to access handguns and hunting rifles because those can be hobbies and can make people feel safe."

Valentine agreed that lawmakers should take a thoughtful approach to crafting new gun laws. "Gun legislation should not focus on any particular weapon or feature. Too many times the government fails in enforcing an existing law, so why would adding another law change that? There are many more possible laws that could be effective, but banning guns or arbitrarily calling something an assault weapon won't do anything," argued Valentine.

Differing opinions are where Stapelberg and Brown hope there video will be most effective. "With our video, we are hoping that minority opinions and voices are heard as loud and as frequently as those of the majority," Brown said. "A lot of what students are doing has a particular agenda in mind, and I really respect and admire that. However, we simply want to give people a platform to voice their opinions."

Grace Zhang may be reached at gzhang20@choate.edu

Choate Offers Unique Trip to Cuba

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landscape sparked their creativity. Each day, students were given time to sit and draw, which allowed them to reflect on their day, take notes, draw the Cuban scenery, or capture photos of the beautiful architecture.

Through visits to multiple famous art museums, the students learned about the diversified artistic style that is Cuban art. "It's different from Cuban-American art. It's very colorful, positive, and unique," commented Jeanne Malle '19. "There's definitely an influence from the culture and history; it's very traditional."

From a historical aspect, Dr. Robles provided the background to many of the structures that the group visited, focusing on the history of the Cuban sights. The expansive museums were also able to give the students a more in-depth understanding of the history. "The museums were fascinating in terms of getting a grip on how Cubans view the history of relations with the U.S.," reflected Lynch. Other historical landmarks such as the Bay of Pigs gave the students a closer look at historical moments concerning not only Cuban-American relations, but also the entirety of Cuban history.

In the future, both Ms. Cuni and Dr. Robles hope to continue this program, making it a Choate tradition that extends not only to students, but to faculty as well. Based on this trip alone, this program clearly offers an immensely insightful and unique opportunity for the Choate community.

Amanda Li may be reached at ali21@choate.edu

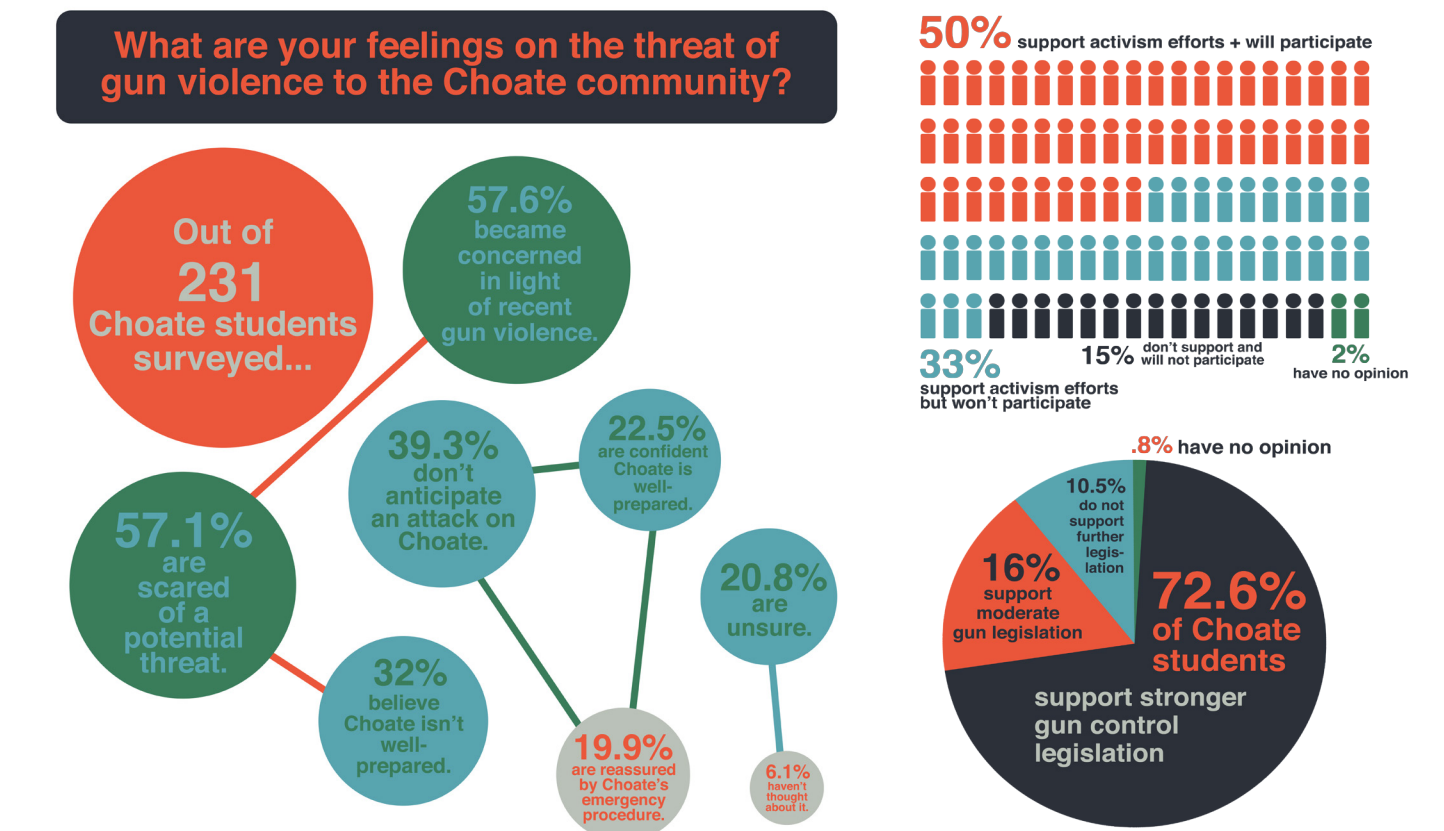
Recent Gun Violence Divides Choate Campus

By **Laila Hawkins '19**
News Reporter

In the wake of the Parkland shooting, young people from across the nation have taken the national gun violence conversation into their own hands, specifically regarding school safety. On campus, many individuals, from freshmen to science teachers, have joined in on the conversation.

Many in the student body agree that gun violence legislation needs to become more strict. Kamsi Iloeje '19 said, "The fact that it is easy for people to buy guns, regardless of age, regardless of criminal background, regardless of your mental instability, is really frightening. And I think that we need to crack down on that to make sure that the people who have guns are responsible."

Right now, America has one of the highest populations of gun carrying citizens; consequently, America's gun homicide rate surpasses that of any other developed country more than three times over. This is why Alice Volfson '19, a known activist on campus, believes that gun violence legislation should be more strict: "It should not be this easy to have access to military grade weapons, such as an AR-15. Yes, people should have the right to have access to handguns and hunting rifles for protection sake, as that is their Second Amendment right. However, at this point, there needs to be a change in the vetting process for these weapons." Lily Ball '20 went on to say, "A lot of people use the excuse of 'You can't take my guns away.' Well, yeah, you like them, but people are dying now. Yes, I support some gun owner-



Gun violence has caused mixed feelings around campus.

ship; no one is trying to take all guns away. This is just common sense action for safety."

Due to the high number of recent shootings, schools across the country have been preparing students for the chance of an active shooter on their campus. These preparations include the lockdown drill. An alarm and technology blast will be sent out to the whole school, telling its members to stay where they are, secure their location, and hide in silence until help arrives. Students at Choate have had many lockdown drills, like the one on Thursday, March 22, in the wake of shootings like Sandy Hook, Columbine, and Virginia Tech. However, the reality is that Choate is an open campus, which is

concerning for some students. "I don't feel 100 percent safe just because it is an open campus and someone could just walk on if they really wanted to, but the School, and our general schooling from elementary school to now, has prepared us for the chance something like that could happen," said Iloeje.

Ian Mentz '19 agreed, stating, "Choate is just as prepared for a threat as any other school, which is as good as you can be. I've heard a lot of people talk about arming guards on campus. I've seen people say a solution to the problem is to have armed veterans on campus, acting as security personnel. I think having more guns on campus will only add to the problem. The reality is that if

a shooter comes on campus, assuming the guard isn't right next him, something will happen." Students know that the number one priority of the School is the students' safety, and the administration has shown that throughout the years.

I believe activism is a very powerful tool used to enact change in our country.

Max Ginger '19

Now, young people across the world are becoming activists, determined to put an end to gun violence and school shootings. Max Ginger '19 said, "Choate students need to know that it is

okay to have a strong opinion and they need to express that. I believe activism is a very powerful tool used to enact change in our country." As the organizer of the Choate trip to the New York March For Our Lives, Volfson has had a lot of experience with on and off campus activism. She stated, "Although our school does not take a political stance, the issues at hand are not political. I think that us, students, need to be more active in issues like this because it is our lives we, the Parkland survivors, and the many other passionate activists are fighting for."

Laila Hawkins may be reached at lhawkins19@choate.edu

ROBOTICS SENDS TWO TEAMS TO WORLDS

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robot and making it optimized. In past years, there was a certain variety in designs that were 'meta' that you didn't really see this year." Added McGlinchey. "This year, making the small things about your design better than other people's really was the hard part."

As for the specific design of the robot, team members have done their best to optimize their robot to meet the challenge. "This year, we are having both teams redesign their robots before Worlds," stated McGlinchey.

"There is a little bit of inter-team competition, but I think when it comes down to it, particularly going into Worlds this year with two robots, there is a lot of collaboration between the people working on the different robots," added Mr. Murgio. "The members of the team take to the idea of working on their particular task, whether that be a driver, a programmer, a builder, or a scout."

The team hopes to continue their success and perform well at the World Championship. "My goal for this year is to get one of

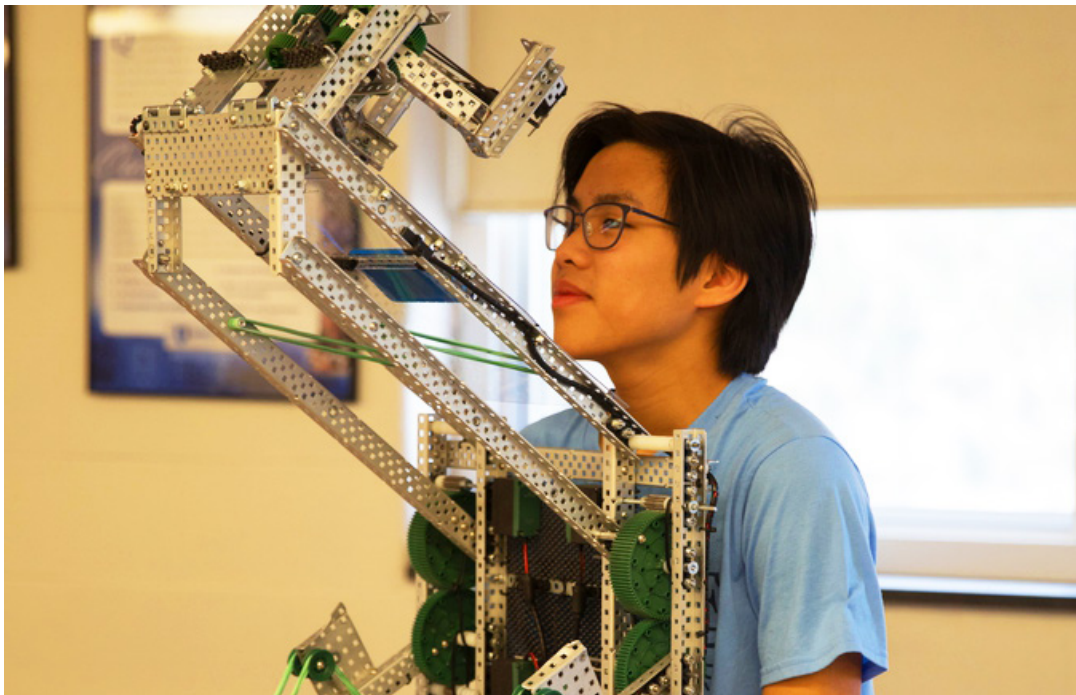


Photo courtesy of Jerry Wang

Alex Du '21 completes final checks of his robot in preparation for competition.

these robots onto the alliance at Worlds and get into the elimination rounds." McGlinchey expressed. "It has been a great season and I am really proud of this year." added Mr. DiTieri.

"This is our last year in this competition, because with the new program next year, we are moving to a different competition," Mr. Murgio stated, in reference to the

new Advanced Robotics Concentration program. This program will entail the FRC competition, which uses more real-world components and applications. "There is a Worlds Championship for FRC, but there is a very large likelihood that we would not be going because we are very new to the FRC competition. One of the reasons that we are pretty good at

VEX and are able to go to Worlds is that we have experienced members who know what they are doing and how to use their parts to their fullest. With the new FRC robots, we don't really know how to do anything with them. We built a test robot over the summer. It was a prototype, and I don't feel like it was an efficient process," added McGlinchey.

"We do very well at implementing good designs in the VEX tournaments, but the biggest limitation I've seen is that the VEX Robotics components and systems are limiting factors. They aren't really used in the real world," explained Mr. DiTieri. "We are trying to keep the VEX program in our academic courses, but now we are trying to go to a different competition that should have a larger focus on outside equipment, larger designs, better designs, and more realistic world challenges."

"We have quite a few members who put in twenty to thirty hours a week into robotics and that really helps them." Explained McGlinchey. Both the experience and the determination of the Choate Robotics team will be put to test during Worlds; however, the team has remained positive and looks to succeed. Mr. Murgio concluded, "They have done very well, and the kids have done a great job in terms of advancing the achievements of the team. It has been very much their doing."

Kate Spencer may be reached at kspencer20@choate.edu

NASA Engineer Rachel Schwartz Visits Choate Campus

By **Camille Grant '20**
News Reporter

Ms. Rachel Schwartz, a key engineer for NASA in their push to put humans on Mars, stopped by campus last Friday, March 23 to talk to students about her career and her experiences working with the space program. Ms. Schwartz is the Senior Project Engineer on the Orion program, a program tasked with building the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV). This will be "NASA's first spacecraft designed for long-duration, human-rated deep space exploration," according to Lockheed Martin, the contractor

for the program. Ms. Schwartz was invited to campus by her former classmate and Choate teacher Mr. Kyle DiTieri, who wanted to give Choate students the opportunity to hear what being an engineer is really like. In her presentation, Ms. Schwartz encouraged students to pursue their interests and provided advice concerning career paths.

Ms. Schwartz works on life support systems in the Orion spacecraft. These include carbon dioxide removal and urine management systems. In her words, her job is to ensure that the crew will be able to go to the bathroom and breathe while on deep space exploration

missions. In 2014, Ms. Schwartz and her colleagues were able to launch the MPCV on its first, unmanned test flight, the footage of which was used in *The Martian*. In addition, her team recently concluded work on their part of Exploration Mission 1, another unmanned test launch that is scheduled for the first quarter of 2020 and is the next step towards the program's completion.

Speaking about her career path, Ms. Schwartz maintains that she knew what she wanted to do from a young age. She grew up looking at the stars, and this interest sparked her passion for science. Her role as

a project engineer was decided when she discovered her interest in communication during college. As a project engineer, Ms. Schwartz is responsible for directing and helping a group of coworkers in designing certain systems in the MPCV.

During her presentation last week, Ms. Schwartz included invaluable advice for high schoolers who aspire to be engineers. One of her biggest pieces of advice was to read books, especially those outside of one's comfort zone. Ms. Schwartz also suggested that students learn skills like time management and communication. As an engineer, she found herself using these skills and

resources. Furthermore, Ms. Schwartz expressed enthusiasm about the progress being made in closing the gender gap in her field, remarking that she'd noticed more gender-balanced meetings and teams. Finally, Ms. Schwartz encouraged students who are interested in engineering to pursue their passions as engineers.

Although initially Mr. DiTieri did not plan on creating a continued lecture series, he said, "Based on the feedback from everyone here, it sounds like it might be a good idea."

Camille Grant may be reached at cgrant20@choate.edu

LOCAL STUDENTS CONDEMN GUN-VIOLENCE THROUGH WALKOUT

By **Will Zhu '20**
Aisha Pasha '20
Copy Editor and Reporter

The tragic Stoneman Douglas shooting stunned the nation. In its wake, high schools across the United States have taken the opportunity to speak out against gun violence. Both students and faculty participated in a nationwide walkout, leaving classes for 17 minutes to remember the 17 people killed on February 14. On March 14, about 200 students from Lyman Hall joined these voices and participated in a walkout to condemn gun violence.

Students held the walkout to respect the victims of the Parkland shooting as well as to protest the lack of change in gun control laws. Junior Class President Eric Lipka explained, “As students, we are tired of losing our brothers and sisters to the epidemic of gun violence plaguing our nation and destroying our communities. We marched in order to demand justice for the victims of not only Parkland, but for all those innocent lives which we have lost to gun violence.” The controversial issue particularly touched students in schools in Connecticut, like those at Lyman Hall, after the nearby Sandy Hook shooting.

The protest began as a walk-in organized by the administrations of Lyman Hall and Sheehan High. During a discussion between students and school administrators, many students suggested planning a walkout instead, but the administration rejected the idea. Lipka explained, “We had met with the Superintendent to notify him of our position against the walk-in alternative which was handed to students the weekend prior to the event. While it was a respectful meeting with lots of discussion, in the end we agreed to disagree.” According to Lyman Hall Student Council members, administrators threatened students with disciplinary consequences if they participated in



Photo courtesy of Olivia Mandy

Around 200 Lyman Hall students participated in a walkout organized by Student Council members.

a walkout. Nonetheless, the Lyman Hall Student Council continued planning the walkout. “The whole principle of the matter was that the administrators agreed on it, not the students,” explained Student Council President Hollianne Lao.

Lipka explained that the administration threatened to suspend any student who exited school property during the demonstration, so the student body planned to walk to the senior courtyard, a location outside the building but within school grounds. The event was largely publicized through social media. Lao and Lipka created a graphic which spread through Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook. On the day of the protest, between 150 and 200 students participated in the walkout, while only about 30 students participated in the walk-in. According to Lao, “The walkout shows that the students are able to support what they believe in, in any capacity.”

Student opinion on the walkout varied. “Many students were on board with the idea of a walkout,” said Alexis Rodriquez, a member of Lyman Hall Student Council. “As for others,” she continued, “the walkout was viewed as disrespectful towards our principal and the idea of respecting the victims.” However, there appeared to be more frustration about the school’s walk-in, which some viewed as an attempt to silence student voices disguised as a protest. The superintendent did eventually issue a statement preventing the punishment of walkout participants after the march had taken place.

“We are hoping for the walkout to be the first step in making change in our schools and across the nation, so overall we can feel more safe and stop the consistent shootings,” said Lao, elaborating, “We are planning to have more events focused on the issue, such as letter-writing sessions to the survivors of

Parkland and to members of Congress, and voter registration sessions, so this was the first step in raising awareness.”

Another one of the many schools that participated in the March 14 walkout was Sheehan High School, a public school here in Wallingford. In response to why Sheehan participated in the walkout, Sheehan student Carolyn Biel said, “We felt as students we should have a voice. Being told we were not allowed to walk out when a large number of other schools were allowed was not fair.” She continued, “The goal of the walkout was to prove students have a voice and can make a difference.” Gregory Dirkson, Sheehan’s Assistant Principal, was in charge of the walkout and supported the students’ interest in participating in the protest.

Biel explained that, in order to organize the event, “a meeting was held at the town hall,” at which student leaders from Sheehan and Lyman Hall dis-

cussed what would take place during the walkout. Though told by the police department that an organized walkout outside would be unsafe, the students were still able to gather in their auditorium and honor the students lost in the Parkland shooting.

Biel explained that, in addition to a video presentation honoring the Parkland students, Sheehan pupils were able to participate in “a mindfulness session, voting registration, letter writing to families at Parkland and local authority figures — superintendent, [the] board of [education] — a peer to peer session in a classroom, and open mic in the auditorium after the presentation.”

Through collaboration with their peers, students at Sheehan were able to organize the walkout and condemn gun violence.

Will Zhu and Aisha Pasha may be reached at wzhu@choate.edu and apasha@choate.edu

Community Calendar

MAR. 30, 7:15 P.M.

EatAbout: New Haven
Get a taste of New Haven’s diverse restaurants.

Shuttle departs from St. John Hall
Free transportation



APRIL 1, 11:30 A.M.

FunJu Noodle Bar Opening
Try pho and ramen from the newest edition to Wallingford’s restaurant scene.

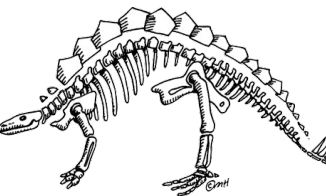
FunJu Noodle Bar
Free admission; \$8 car ride



APRIL 3, 4:00 P.M.

Peabody Museum Behind-the-Scenes Collection Tours
Explore Peabody collections rarely on display to the general public.

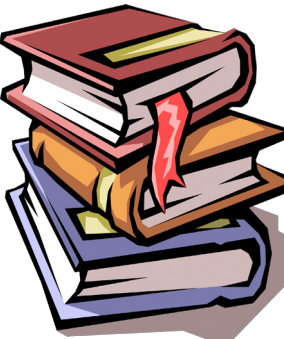
Peabody Natural History Museum,
New Haven
Tour free of charge; \$23 car ride



APRIL 4, 7:00 P.M.

One Book, One Wallingford Author Event
Author Matthew Quick visits Wallingford for the culmination of the town-read program.

Paul Mellon Arts Center
Free tickets available at Wallingford Public Library



Noodle Bar Opens Tomorrow in Wallingford

By **Peter DiNatale '21**
Staff Reporter

This April 1, FunJu Noodle Bar, a new restaurant on 20 Ives Road, will open its doors for the very first time. Mr. Tommy Zhou, the owner and manager of the restaurant, wanted to bring his passion for food to the Wallingford community. “The part of the opening which I am most excited about is having the customers taste recipes that I have personally developed from scratch,” he remarked. Though the opening of the restaurant certainly is exciting, it is also an enormous responsibility throughout all stages of its development.

The first step taken toward bringing Mr. Zhou’s ideas to fruition was construction. Mr. Zhou wanted to create a layout with a bar adjacent to a section of arrayed tables for casual eating. Mr. Zhou had many other responsibilities aside from ensuring the renovation process accurately illustrated his design. “In the second step, I had to develop recipes. Then, I had to enlarge the menu by add-



Photo courtesy of FunJu Noodle Bar Facebook

FunJu Noodle Bar offers ramen, pho, and other Asian cuisine.

ing a variety of recipes so the customers would have many choices,” he explained. Mr. Zhou has a lot of passion for the FunJu Noodle Bar menu because the recipes are homemade. After he had collected enough recipes, Mr. Zhou began the hiring process. Mr. Zhou looks for employees who

he thinks will bring life to the restaurant by showing a true passion for the food service.

While developing the restaurant, one of Mr. Zhou’s main goals was to figure out how he could best contribute to the Wallingford community. One of his ideas was to serve customers with healthy

food. “Since we cooked all the dishes and soups from scratch without any artificial flavoring, I think we will be contributing to the community by promoting natural and healthy cooking,” stated Mr. Zhou. Some of the food FunJu Noodle Bar will be serving includes Japanese ramen, Viet-

namese pho, and an assortment of snacks, which will be served as appetizers.

Though the opening of the restaurant has almost arrived, there are still a few last things to fit into place. Because of the profound amount of work that has already gone into creating this restaurant, Mr. Zhou wants to hire the right employees for the job. When these employees arrive, the next vital step will be to instruct them the proper ways in which to cook, serve, clean, and bring their personalities to the restaurant in order to build a friendly environment. “Eventually the process will become easier. But, when new employees come in, we will have to train and teach them. As they spend more and more time there, they will eventually get used to the flow of everything,” Mr. Zhou concluded.

Mr. Zhou is very excited to finally bring his passionate contribution to the community. Join the grand opening on April 1 at FunJu Noodle Bar.

Peter DiNatale may be reached at pdinatale21@choate.edu



By **Abbie Chang '19**
Local News Editor

In downtown Wallingford, the stone edifice of The Library Wine Bar and Bistro might stand out to restaurant goers. Its menu tells the story of not only the restaurant’s satiating tapas and saffron-infused paellas, but also of the building’s previous owners and roles. The volumes on the mantelpiece and

book-shaped plates are a nod to the restaurant’s former occupation as Wallingford’s public library. The building, now owned by the Gouveia family, was dedicated to the daughter of 19th century Wallingford resident Mr. Samuel Simpson.

The Library Wine Bar and Bistro is the intersection of American, Portuguese, and Mediterranean cuisine. The menu features brick oven pizzas with literary

names, including “Animal Farm” and “Huckleberry Fig,” as well as tapas like Steak Crostini and a mushroom and burrata dish which — though advertised as small plates — are rich enough to be considered meals in their own right.

The bistro also offers brunch on Sundays and a dessert menu complete with Italian and French favorites.

Meals proceed at a leisurely pace at The Library, giving diners an opportunity to engage with their tablemates.

The Library Wine Bar & Bistro

Location: 60 North Main Street
Hours: Monday-Thursday 4-9 pm
Friday & Saturday 4-10 pm
Sunday 4-9 pm



The Library Wine Bar and Bistro blends historical architecture and contemporary recipes.



Photos courtesy of tripadvisor.com and thelibrarywinebar.com

The restaurant is divided into multiple dining rooms: a white-paneled space off the dignified foyer with oriental rugs and a lit fireplace, a bar and overlooking balcony area, a quieter room toward the back of the building, and outdoor seating in warmer weather. A place for celebration, The Library commemorates birthdays with a chocolate lava cake topped with ice cream and a candle. The at-

tractive food appeals to both the eyes and the flash photography of customers.

Catering to a variety of palates and located in the center of town, The Library Wine Bar and Bistro combines warmth and flavor into an elegant dining experience with a touch of history.

Abbie Chang may be reached at achang19@choate.edu

The Choate News



112TH MASTHEAD

VOL. CXI
NO. 13

J. Alex Yoon '19
Editor-in-Chief

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EDITORIAL

A Call to Action

First and foremost, we, the 112th Masthead of The Choate News, express our disappointment over the lack of gun restrictions in the U.S. and frustration with pro-gun representatives. We also declare our support for the recent demonstrations against gun violence in the local community and in the nation at large.

We commend the School's recent efforts in condemning gun violence: namely, the School's participation in the Eight Schools Association's statement (which read, in part, "We join with those voices demanding meaningful action to keep our students safe from gun violence on campuses and beyond.") and students' involvement in the March for Our Lives Rally.

However, we urge the School to take more action in organizing outlets for students to protest gun-violence, especially amid the seemingly endless national epidemic of school shootings.

In 1999, the Columbine High School Massacre — frequently cited as the beginning of a continuous thread of school shootings — claimed 13 lives. In 2007, a college student killed 32 people at Virginia Tech. Close to our own community, in 2012, a Newtown resident killed 20 young children and 6 teachers at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Most recently, the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, took the lives of fourteen students and three staff members.

However, these are only a handful of school shootings that the nation has suffered in the past few decades. The Parkland Shooting is 1 of 17 incidents of gunfire at schools in 2018 alone. According to The Washington Post, since 1999, more than 187,000 students attending at least 193 primary or secondary schools have experienced a shooting on campus during school hours. Moreover, these statistics say nothing of the innumerable cases of gun violence that take place off campus, in our homes, our workplaces, our alleyways, our movie theaters and concert venues.

The students of our country — whether in Parkland or Newtown — must not fear that an institution designed to provide the mind with knowledge will fail to provide the body with protection.

The massacre in Parkland seems to have rallied support in condemning gun violence. Here in Wallingford, as in New York, Denver, Washington D.C., and other communities across the U.S., many students at public high schools participated in organized demonstrations.

We, the 112th Masthead of the Choate News, stand in solidarity with these voices that condemn gun violence. But while other institutions have organized passionate and meaningful protests, we feel that the School could be making a bigger effort in addressing this issue. We cannot pride ourselves in being the best nation on earth but fail to act when lives are lost at the flash of a gun's muzzle.

We encourage both the administration and student-led groups to take initiative and bring about change. Members of our community could take action, whether it be organizing protests or urging pro-gun representatives to deny funding from the NRA and focus instead on protecting students. Enough is enough; the Choate community should do everything in its power to make a difference.

As a masthead, we aimed to incorporate several pieces related to gun-violence into our first issue. Whether it be a Campus News article detailing the March for Our Lives Rally or a Features article discussing Choate's emergency plan in the event of a school shooting, we hope to raise awareness regarding an issue in desperate need of universal attention.

STUDYING ABROAD, ESTABLISHING A GLOBAL LENS

By **Sarah Gurevitch '19**
Opinions Staff Writer

We've all heard of the "Choate bubble", a term loosely meaning the sense of comfort we all share at Choate; but we usually just brush the idea off our shoulders and ignore the thought. While there is nothing wrong with enjoying this nicely-constructed, utopic bubble, being in China for the past week has opened my eyes far beyond the scope of Wallingford, showing me many different offerings of the world. You could say that my bubble has disappeared, or even bursted, allowing me to lean into discomfort. Willing to do this and to experience a different way of life, I believe, has many advantages on one's global context and insight into the world beyond the United States.

Having been abroad just recently, I'm still in the process of transitioning and adjusting to the many different cultural and social norms China has. From not drinking cold beverages, to not being allowed to wear shoes around the house, or even having to wear a facemask outside of the house due to air pollution, living in Beijing certainly feels very different to living in America.

The moment I step outside my bedroom for the day, I'm not only immediately immersed in Chinese, but I also need to adjust quickly what the day brings me. Each day brings new stories to tell as I continue to make China my home for this spring. Instead of eating omelets for breakfast, my host family has been preparing me rabbit. Instead of pedestrians having the right of way,



Photo courtesy of Luis Bao

Owen Collins '19, Jana Godbole '19, and Emma Mears '18 interact with an instructor in Galicia, Spain.

cars do. Both the little things and big things have completely flopped upside-down for me, but I've continued to grow and gain more resilience each day.

*Studying abroad
leaves you with
no other choice
but to adjust*

Studying abroad leaves you with no choice but to adjust and open your eyes to the world outside of the norms in your home, school, and country. Seeing people go about and live life so differently continues to be interesting. I've picked up on

many things here. For example, in the Chinese culture, no does not always mean no. There is a big difference been a solid no and a polite one. For example, every night my host says no when I ask if I can help with the dishes — this is a polite no. This polite no in the Chinese culture actually welcomes me to do the dishes with her if I insist hard enough. Not only is the language itself different, but answers and responses may also mean very different things.

Adjusting to life in any new culture comes with various struggles, but after being abroad for just a short period of time, I would say these issues come with a very meaningful reward. The growth I have experienced

thus far has already left me with an invaluable gift — the new "global lens" I have gained to see the world. Every conversation I have turns into a learning experience. Every meal brings new foods and tastes to my palate. Every car ride not only shows me a different piece of the world, but also brings a newfound appreciation of my surroundings. After just my first week in Beijing, I have learned that immersing oneself in another's culture offers so many advantages that our "Choate bubble" simply cannot encompass.

Sarah Gurevitch is a fifth former from Naples, FL. She may be reached at sgurevitch19@choate.edu

DANTE'S *INFERNO*? HE MEANT JUNIOR YEAR

By **Samantha Stevenson '19**
Opinions Writer

Junior year is not a marathon. It's a collection of short and stagnated sprints, each one leaving you more breathless and exhausted than the last. Some people enter their junior year of high school dreading the stressful times to come. Others have been "senior-springing" since freshman fall. If you belong to the latter category, I would advise you to stop reading now — it sounds like you've already got everything figured out. Otherwise, read on.

I've realized that the different obstacles one may encounter in junior year parallel the Nine Circles of Hell in Dante's *Inferno*. For your convenience, I will condense it to five stages.

The college process is what makes junior year so hellish, and this is on the forefront of everyone's mind. Basic prerequisites for getting into college include qualifying for the Olympics and winning a Pulitzer Prize for theoretical physics, otherwise known as the race to build up a college résumé. You may be a repeat, or perhaps you've skipped a grade — no matter who you are, in the end, we're all still in the same boat.

The first stage is college counseling. In order to guide you through this thrilling/horrific process, each junior is assigned a college counselor. One part of the college counseling job is to

read over your essays. While you struggle to recall "a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure, how it affected you, and what you learned from the experience," your college counselor will remind you that your personal essay should be an accurate depiction of yourself and not of that crazy person who threatened to throw herself in front of a moving vehicle for the sake of the "experience." Additionally, don't allow counselors to crush your soul when they describe your dream school as an "extreme reach" — your parents are probably doing enough of that already.

The second stage is college visits. Something your college counselor will inevitably and repeatedly tell you to do is to conduct research on schools. One of the best ways to do that is by visiting the institution firsthand. However, after seeing numerous colleges, you will begin to realize that they all blend together — not only in your mind but on page as well. By the end of the whole ordeal, you may feel the urge to strangle the next admissions officer who tells you about the all-too-familiar tidbit, like the school's faculty-to-student ratio. Among Choate's Class of 2019, one student visited nineteen schools in two weeks. I certainly hope that person enjoyed their spring break.

The third stage is standardized testing. Juniors have the

choice between taking the SAT or the ACT. Although each test is allegedly different, both are similar in that they set standards by which colleges measure you. In short, all the knowledge you've acquired in your many years of schooling — starting with the ABC's in kindergarten through advanced calculus in high school — is assessed in three tedious hours. As it happens, there are schools that don't require said test scores. However, don't get your hopes up; schools that don't look at your standardized test scores will most inevitably direct their attention to your GPA — incidentally, the fourth stage of junior year hell.

Your junior year GPA is the most important of them all because, guess what, that's the one reported to colleges! (Please, note that a 4.0 at Choate is not as easily attainable as one at another school because at the Rosemary, we don't believe in grade inflation.) Some students, apparently to further their junior year struggles, choose to take advanced courses in special programs such as SRP or the EIP at the KEC. These special people are unlike most in that they seemingly enjoy torture. Still, don't feel bad if you're not a masochist. After all, there's no need to quantify or assess yourself by your GPA and testing scores (even if college admissions officers will).

The final stage is the most brutal. Its equivalent in *Infer-*

no is the ninth circle in which those who commit treachery are subjected to eternal torture under ice. Well? You've guessed it: "crunch week." This seven-day marathon at the end of the spring term combines all the struggles of junior year into one mythological monster of a week. In addition to cramming for final exams (for those junior year grades that do matter), you have to prepare for the SAT Subject Tests, which will round off the week. And, eventually, when you do manage to drag what's left of your soul into summer vacation, it won't be long before you're hit with the reality of senior fall.

However, unlike the Nine Circles of Hell in *Inferno*, junior year doesn't last forever. Eventually, you will get into college and move on from Choate. The truth is, junior year is what you make of it. So keep your head up, smile at your GPA, and, when the time comes, remove Naviance from your list of bookmarked sites. Instead of worrying incessantly, try to stop for a moment and enjoy your high-school experience. Before you know it, it'll be senior spring, and you'll be wishing you still had time left to spend with the people who made this school your home.

Samantha Stevenson is a fifth former from New York, NY. She may be reached at sstevenson19@choate.edu

Spring Visits: A Time to Welcome and Reflect

By **Esther An '21**
Copy Editor

If there is one thing that all Choate students have in common, it's the shared experience of completing a long, thorough application process. All students share the same adventure: taking the standardized test, writing the essays and numerous short-answer responses, and going in for the interview. Personally, every moment played an instrumental part in my journey. Such experiences, therefore, are important to reflect upon occasionally, especially in an environment as quick-paced as Choate's.

Looking back, it's hard to remember a time when the view outside my room window wasn't that of Mem Field. Change, I suppose, is tied intrinsically to all of our Choate experiences. However, despite the many changes that have gone on in our lives, what has not changed is the sense of self-motivation the community seems to share. The common thread shared between Choate students is a willingness to seize opportunities and take



Photo by Ryan Kim / The Choate News

Student Council representatives talk with a prospective student.

advantage of all the resources given to one. This is shown not just by the application process all current students have completed, but also by the way all consistently push themselves to improve. It's what I love about Choate: the unique, inexplicable feeling that this is a place where one can truly discover her own potential.

As members of the community go about a busy routine, however, they often forget to live in

the moment. As a result, it may be hard to be appreciative of the opportunities one is given, especially since it is easy to get caught up in the perpetual routine of rigorous classes, extracurriculars, and athletic commitments. We place so much focus on getting through challenges successfully that we go about the whole process without ever really enjoying the full experience. Recently, I've discovered that even when discussing some of my courses

with peers, the excitement for academics that once dominated conversation seems to have died back to make room for other concerns. While we may still be the same eager students as we were before coming to Choate, I fear that in some ways, we may have lost our spark.

So, I propose that the spring revisit days serve a dual purpose. Though it is mainly a time to welcome the accepted and convince them to join our community, I'm hopeful that such an event will also play a part in encouraging current students to reflect on the journeys that brought them to where they are. The revisit day is an opportunity to appreciate the passion and drive of the student body that makes Choate as great as it is. I am hopeful that the many positive emotions felt during the Choate experience will continue to draw more avid students to our campus. We are in a place where new possibilities and opportunities arise each day. I, for one, think that is incredible.

Esther An is a third former from Los Angeles, CA. She may be reached at ean21@choate.edu



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Corrections

School News

An illustration accompanying an article about College Weekend was credited to Chandler Littleford '20. It was in fact created by Austen Rogers '18.

An article about the Pratt-Packard Declaration Contest misidentified the graduation year of Medina Purefoy-Craig. She will graduate in 2020, not 2019.

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



The Choate News presents...



The Great Debate

Should the U.S. repeal the Second Amendment?

By **Edie Conekin-Tooze '19**
Opinions Writer

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads, “A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.” This is now understood as the right of an American citizen to keep a weapon in their home, and the Supreme Court upheld this interpretation in 2008. A decade later, as mass shootings have become commonplace, change is necessary. The repeal of the Second Amendment is the key to this change.

When arguing for gun control, democratic politicians and other advocates consistently defend Americans’ Second Amendment rights. The insistence on the amendment’s contemporary necessity seems nonsensical when put into historical context. At the time of the Constitution’s writing, America had no standing army and relied on militias for

its defense, making the right to bear arms necessary to guarantee the nation’s protection against slave uprisings, insurrections, or the invasion of a foreign power. However, the founding fathers were not all-knowing. How could they have predicted that two centuries later, the U.S. would not only have a “standing army,” but we’d be the world’s largest spender on defense?

Is it not a basic freedom for a child to feel safe at school?

Moreover, the arms that the founding fathers were referring to were of a completely different breed. Revolution-era muskets were capable of shooting one round at a time and three rounds per minute. A typical AR-15 has a magazine capacity of 30 rounds and can fire 45 rounds per minute, making it capable of produc-

ing carnage unimaginable to the Constitution’s writers. My argument should not be mistaken as one in favor of making gun ownership illegal. Countries such as the UK and Australia have gun regulations that have all but stopped mass shootings without outlawing gun ownership. It is the universal constitutional guarantee of an American’s right to own a gun that I disagree with.

Rather than banning guns, we must be more discriminative about who is allowed to own these deadly weapons and what type of weapons should be on the market. As long as they continue to be universally guaranteed, this discrimination can be seen as unconstitutional. People who are properly trained and whose mental health can be vouched for may be allowed to own a handgun or a rifle to be used for sporting or self-defense. However, the status quo, under which the Las Vegas shooter purchased 33 firearms in one year (including 12 weapons that functioned as fully automatic) before killing 58 people and injuring 851, is deeply misguided.

Though I don’t question the intelligence of our founding fathers and the document that they authored, we must not forget that they were men, not gods. The twenty-first amendment, which repealed prohibition, sets a historical precedent for the repeal of amendments that have proved to be mistaken or outmoded. Though addressing a freedom granted by the Bill of Rights may seem drastic, are the lives of the 13,000 people killed each year in gun homicides not worth it? Is it not a basic freedom for a child to feel safe at school? This seemingly “drastic” measure is necessary to end the gun violence epidemic.

Edie Conekin-Tooze is a fifth former from New Haven, CT. She may be reached at econekintooze19@choate.edu

By **Charlie Yockey '19**
Opinions Writer

Few issues in America today are as divisive as gun control. In the wake of tragedies such as the Parkland shooting, in which 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz killed fourteen former classmates and three adults at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in southeast Florida, many have called for stricter legislation surrounding firearms, and a select few have called for an outright repeal of the Second Amendment. While systemic change is necessary, repealing the amendment entirely would be a poor choice.

Repealing the Second Amendment would set a terrible precedent by adopting a consequentialist view of rights, or rather making it permissible to strip away rights if they were not deemed beneficial overall. This is a narrow-minded view of American institutions and rights. If it were determined that voices of political dissent were disrupting the national security interests of the federal government, would a repeal of the First Amendment be justified? Absolutely not. The Second Amendment is no different and repealing it would make repealing other amendments permissible for similar reasons.

Repealing the Second Amendment outright would also not be in the best interest of society, for it would not deter criminals. Conversely, it would allow criminal enterprise to flourish by further decentralizing the law. In Chicago, criminals cross state lines to obtain firearms while law-abiding citizens are left defenseless. No second amendment would create a patchwork of different rules across different states and cities. Criminals who want to purchase guns could exploit geography. The reality is that so many guns exist in America today that the supply most likely

cannot be eradicated, and criminals have access to guns through the black market anyways. The only people left without firearms would be law followers who most need them for self-defense.

The government needs to effect lasting change without destroying this essential right.

Finally, repealing the Second Amendment is not necessary to eradicate many of the problems surrounding gun ownership. Common sense gun control policy is constitutionally permissible within the status quo. Federal court systems, contrary to popular belief, have ruled that the Second Amendment is not a blanket protection that extends to all individuals. Additionally, the Supreme Court has ruled in favor of restricting gun ownership for cer-

tain individuals in cases such as U.S. v. Hayes and Voisine v. U.S.

Most tellingly, however, the Supreme Court has consistently declined to hear second amendment cases and has allowed restrictive lower court rulings to stand. Because of these decisions, enough flexibility exists under the current system to accommodate sufficient legislative change without abolishing the Second Amendment. Universal background checks, mandatory waiting periods, and age limitations are not unconstitutional proposals, and it is possible to have such policies without forfeiting the right to gun ownership.

The status quo is imperfect; however, repealing the Second Amendment would be a grave mistake. The government needs to effect lasting change without destroying this essential right.

Charlie Yockey is a fifth former from Springfield, IL. He may be reached at cyockey19@choate.edu



Photo by Audrey Powell / The Choate News

Protestors demand stricter gun laws at a New York City march.



Photo courtesy of The New York Times

Demonstrators advocate for gun rights at a rally in Salt Lake City, UT.

TRUMP’S TARIFFS WILL ONLY HELP THE DEMOCRATS IN THE 2018 MIDTERMS



Photo courtesy of The New York Times

President Donald Trump P’00 signed tariffs on imported aluminum and steel on March 8.

By **Ian Bamford '19**
Opinions Writer

President Donald Trump P’00 signed proclamations on March 8 to impose a 25% tariff on steel and a 10% tariff on aluminum in an effort to protect American manufacturing. Trump’s announcement, following a week of hints, rattled the stock markets and sent the United States’ trade partners scrambling to negotiate exemptions. The tariffs were the first step of Trump’s efforts to solve the United States’ \$566 billion trade deficit. While tariffs may sustain the United States’ steel and aluminum industries, protectionism will ultimately hurt the American economy and damage Trump and the Republican Party politically.

Steel and aluminum tariffs will hurt American industries that use these goods in production. Steel and aluminum are important materials used in manufacturing industries such as cars and planes. As the costs of raw material rise, the cost of producing final products will also rise. Since American wages are higher than developing countries’, the steel and aluminum tariffs will only aggravate the high costs of manufacturing in the United States compared to other countries. Faced with higher

costs and the necessity to maintain profits and competitiveness, firms can either close factories in the United States and move manufacturing to other countries or cut other costs by negotiating lower wages with the union. Both options — outsourcing and pay cuts — will harm blue-collar workers outside of the steel and aluminum industries, as well as the local economies surrounding these factories. This would be a significant political blow to the swing states of the Rust Belt, whose normally Democratic union members voted for Mr. Trump in 2016.

The economic reach of Trump’s steel and aluminum tariffs extend beyond manufacturing. Construction — faced with higher material costs — will likely slow, and factories will need more expensive machines to produce goods. Services related to the goods produced by steel and aluminum will also suffer, including those offered by car salesmen. Large numbers of factory workers losing their jobs will leave local economies devastated. Consumers will also face higher prices as firms will increase their prices to match the cost of the tariff. These tariffs will have a far-reaching effect throughout the American economy, decreasing growth and increasing prices.

The steel and aluminum tariffs were just the first step for Mr. Trump. On March 22, he ordered up to \$60 billion worth of tariffs on Chinese goods. Later that day, China announced \$3 billion in retaliatory tariffs, resulting in tumbling stock prices of American exporters to China, including U.S. Steel. The European Union is also considering retaliation for the steel and aluminum tariffs.

Moreover, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) — a free trade agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico — is under threat. Together, these economic and political tensions indicate the beginning of a global trade war. In little more than a year in office, President Trump has utterly destroyed the foundations of America’s free trade policy for the future detriment of American consumers and producers. While the full extent of the economic ramifications of Mr. Trump’s trade war remain to be seen, it will most likely be disastrous for the United States.

Protectionist trade policies will also likely be disastrous for the Republican Party during the November midterm elections. The first House election conducted after Trump announced the tariffs was the special election in the 18th District in Pennsylvania,

a district with a large, unionized steelworker population. With some steelworkers voting for Trump in 2016, Trump won this district by twenty percent. However, the steel union supported the Democrat Connor Lamb over Republican Rick Saccone, whom Trump endorsed. Because of the steel union’s support of Lamb, he was able to flip this solidly red seat blue (albeit by a razor-thin margin). This win demonstrates the beginning of the return of unionized blue-collar workers to the Democratic Party.

The Pennsylvania 18th district, combined with the trade war, establishes that Republicans will be vulnerable in the Rust Belt, where manufacturing is the heart of the local economy. If Republicans lost in a district that gains the most from Trump’s economic policy, they will perform worse in districts that will suffer from the trade war — districts with a large number of non-steel or aluminum manufacturing workers. The trade war may also hasten the return of blue-collar workers to the Democratic Party, potentially turning the forecasted midterm blue wave into a blue tsunami.

Ian Bamford is a fifth former from Madison, CT. He may be reached at ibamford19@choate.edu

With Putin’s Reelection, U.S.-Russia Tensions Increase Once More

By **Sarah Koljaka '19**
Opinions Writer

In an unsurprising landslide victory, Russian president Vladimir Putin won his nation’s March 18 presidential election, cementing his authority in the country and its surrounding sphere of influence for another six years. Putin’s continued presence in office will undoubtedly worsen the already tense relations between Russia and the West.

By the end of Putin’s fourth term in 2024, he will have spent nearly a quarter of a century in Russia’s highest political office — a reign eclipsed only by Joseph Stalin. Though Russia’s constitution prohibits the president from running for office a fifth time, several pro-Kremlin commentators predict that Putin will either modify the constitution to allow his extended rule or assume another position within the government while retaining his political power and influence. Though he is an undoubtedly controversial political figure, Putin does have many supporters who rally behind him as a symbol of stability following the economic and political turmoil of the 1990s. Even after footage was released of ballot-rigging and reports of citizens pressured to vote by their employers, many Russian voters are still reluctant to elect a new leader and jeopardize this newfound security. The evidence of Putin seeking a lifetime post accumulates with each reelection.

Deteriorating relationships between Russia and Western nations have recently reached a new low since the Cold War. The tension began to rise in the past decade between Russia and the U.S. due to disagreements over involvement in Syria. Along with the recent exclusion of Russia from the 2018 Winter Olympics and British Prime Minister Theresa May’s accusation that Russia poisoned a former spy on British soil, these situations have fueled production of anti-Western propaganda, portraying Russia as the victim of Western hostility and pushing the nation

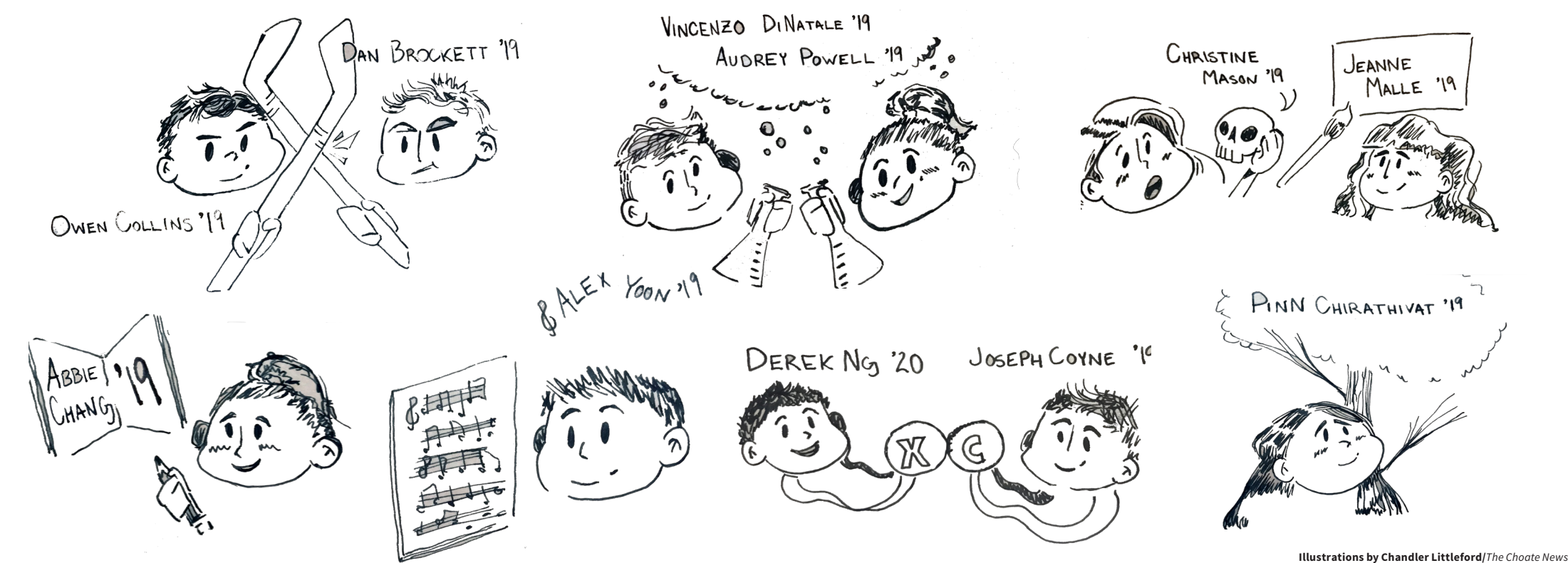
into further isolation from the Western world.

All of this evidence illustrates a Russian population that is consolidating into a unified front behind Putin, hailing him as a defender of Russian ideals against “Western aggression.” With his fourth term secured, Putin shows no signs of becoming a lame duck and retiring from this campaign, but rather will likely step up the anti-Western rhetoric. This is apparent in his plans to increase interference in Syria in support of President Bashar al-Assad, despite the potential for military clashes with U.S. forces in the region. Putin has also touted Russia’s newly developed weaponry as an attempt to establish military superiority over the US; in his annual address to the Federal Assembly last month, the Russian president showed simulations of missiles targeting Florida to demonstrate their range and accuracy. By attempting to undermine America’s position as a global leader in military strength and tact, Putin is further increasing already problematic tension between the nations.

Putin’s actions during his time as his nation’s leader have centered around an anti-West agenda. With his reelection and plans to extend his time in power beyond even the loose constitutional limits of an already authoritarian government, there is little doubt what his next steps in office will be. Relations between Russia and Western countries — especially America — are worsening, and we as a nation need to be prepared to deal with the foreign policy challenge. America needs to utilize its influence as a world power and place pressure on Putin to reduce his misinformation campaign without further deteriorating current relations. This will be a difficult political and diplomatic issue to resolve, but action from the current U.S. administration is necessary to find the right balance.

Sarah Koljaka is a fifth former from Branford, CT. She may be reached at skoljaka19@choate.edu

Introducing the 112th Masthead of *The Choate News*



Illustrations by Chandler Littleford/The Choate News

By **Christine Mason '19**
Features Editor

Alex Yoon Editor-in-Chief

Alex Yoon '19 (Korean name Jin Sung), known on campus as simply “Yoon.” Frequently consumes LAYS® Kettle Cooked Mesequite Barbecue® chips from the Choate Store and sends aggressive messages to *The Choate News*’s group-chat via Whatsapp. Can often be found wearing his classy wool coat on the Choate campus.

Vincenzo DiNatale Managing Editor

Vincenzo DiNatale '19 (aka Vinny or Nintendo), Chair of COSA, and honorable day student at Choate. Renowned scientist in SRP’s biology section and grammar guru in the Writing Center. Learned his grammar skills after sitting next to Christine Mason '19 and Joe Coyne '19 in English 200. Known for his impressive academic genius

and striking resemblance to Peter DiNatale '21. Can be found running cross country, swimming in the winter, or stressing-out in the library.

Owen Collins News Editor

Owen Collins '19, resident fashionista and fifth former at Choate Rosemary Hall. Known on campus for his environmentally-friendly clothing and photo-ready poses. When asked, “Would you name your future son Collin?” answered yes without hesitation. Spends his time playing on Choate’s Varsity Hockey team.

Joseph Coyne News Editor

Joseph Coyne '19, lanky cross country-running day student at Choate Rosemary Hall. Threw a snowball at Christine Mason '19 sophomore year, which has deeply scarred her. Was in the play *Blue Stockings* and fell down the stairs — a sight which re-

ceived thunderous laughter. Can be found singing acapella in Bellacanto or navigating through the open seas via Varsity Sailing.

Abbie Chang Local News Editor

Abbie Chang '19, curly-hair model and fac-brat at Choate Rosemary Hall. Daughter of renowned backpack aficionado Mr. Deron Chang. Can be found eating M&Ms out of a fish bowl in the newsroom or being too loud in the library.

Derek Ng Campus Opinions Editor

Derek Ng '20, talented writer, actor, and the only fourth-form section editor on the 112th masthead. Known on campus for his spiky jet-black hair and vowel-less last name. Acted in the Choate production of *Blue Stockings* in which he slapped a kid back into 2017. Likely found sporting another school’s sweatshirt (stolen expertly

from unsuspecting friends) and/or wearing a pair of beloved white Crocs.

Audrey Powell World Opinions Editor

Audrey Powell '19, cabinet member of Young Dems and scholarly student at Choate Rosemary Hall. Notable talents include an ability to quote any line from “The Office” and having a brother who goes to Deerfield. Willing to engage in a heated debate on politics or “Game of Thrones” at all times. Is often found reading long SRP papers or complaining about people wearing sunglasses indoors.

Christine Mason Features Editor

Christine Mason '19, theatre geek and student at the prestigious Choate Rosemary Hall. Once tripped over a squirrel running a cross-country race at age 13 and has not run since. Regularly gets creamed by Joseph Coyne '19

in foosball. Appreciates people who know random dates in history. Can generally be found in the PMAC acting or in the library whilst pretending to do work (she’s actually on Facebook).

Jeanne Malle Arts & Leisure Editor

Jeanne Malle '19, visual Arts Con member and uniquely fashionable student at Choate Rosemary Hall. Former citizen of France and current resident of New York City. Known on campus for her adorable bangs and unique jewelry from the Chinese airport. Regularly reminds her AmStuds class that she is 25% Mexican. Can be found in the PMAC or the Archbold dorm.

Dan Brockett Sports Editor

Dan Brockett '19 (formerly known as “Dan the DSL Man”), sports enthusiast and fifth former at Choate Rosemary Hall. Known on

campus for stacking cups in a widely-shared Instagram video. Attended middle school with Vincenzo DiNatale '19 and Abbie Chang '19. Can be found in the ice rink playing JV Hockey or in his car as he exercises his day-student rights.

Pinn Chirathivat Photography Editor

Pinn Chirathivat '19, tree hugger at the KEC and notable student at the Rosemary. Did not laugh when told the joke, “Why did the tree cry? Because it was a weeping willow!” Known for various club leadership roles, such as ASA president, photography president, and editor for the news. Cannot be found on main campus but rather in the KEC while eating plants or taking photos of said organisms.

Christine Mason may be reached at cmason19@choate.edu

“WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WISH PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT YOU?”



Photo by Pinn Chirathivat/The Choate News

Allie Santiago '19 wants her teachers and classmates to know that she works at the Durham Dari Serve.

By **Sonali Singh '20**
Reporter

Take 30 seconds right now to think about this question: what is one thing you wish people knew about you that they likely do not? Whether your answer is that you are more approachable than you seem or that you love to run or make music, there is an unlimited variety of replies. Last week, some members of the Choate community took a moment to share their own answers to this question.

Raine Williams '20: “One thing I wish people knew about me is that I am not just a ‘day student’ – I’ve had so many experiences outside of America. For example, I’ve traveled to about ten countries in Asia, including Malaysia, Vietnam, and Korea. I lived in Shanghai for five years, and I consider it to be where I grew up because it is the place I have lived the longest. I even applied to Choate as an international student, even though I now am a day student!”

Mr. Andrew Arcand: “I wish that people knew that

I do not like loud noises or celebrations or some people all that much. I do wish that people knew I really like soap.”

Lucas Eggers '21: “Something that I wish other people knew about me is that I dabble in writing and recording music. As for describing my process, I would say it goes like this: I put notes inside the computer. Many hours of work produces more notes. At last! Beep boop, beep boop, it happens. I smile. My work is finally complete.”

Mrs. Julie Oxborough: “One thing about me that has confused many people is that I love to run – I really like to move fast. Maybe it started with racing with the neighborhood kids or having the honor of being ‘fastest girl’ in elementary school, but if I see an open space, I want to run! It does not mean I am late! Believe it or not, I was criticized by one superior who said it looks unprofessional, but do I tell them that walking looks a bit stodgy?”

Siri Palreddy '20: “One thing I would like people to know about me is that I am the

first woman in my family to go to school in America. I was the first person to be born here, and seeing other first-generations at Choate makes me proud of this aspect of my identity.”

One thing I wish people knew about me is that I am not just a “day student” – I’ve had so many experiences outside of America.

Raine Williams '20

Aidan Concepcion '21: “Something that I wish other people knew about me is that I really like to sing. I have been singing since I was about ten or eleven, and though I am not really a fan of the radio, I love music. Come watch the chorus perform!”

Sophie Ray '20: “I wish that people knew that I am an approachable person. I love being friends with and meeting new people. I feel that students do not approach me or do not really feel like getting to know me

because I am new, and they have known me for a smaller amount of time than they have most of their classmates.”

Allie Santiago '19: “One thing that people do not know about me is that I love working at the Durham Dari Serve. Every weekend I probably eat about seven cups of different kinds of ice cream because it is free, so why would I not?”

Jessie Yau '20: “Something that I wish other people knew about me is that my brother, when he was two, named me after Jessie from *Toy Story*. I think that is one of the coolest things about me.”

If you stumble upon something about yourself that you wish other people knew, join these Choate members by going out and sharing it! In a community so large, for every person who wants to share, there is someone else who wants to listen. Consider this your official invitation.

Sonali Singh may be reached at ssingh20@choate.edu

Students Wonder: Is Our School Safe?

By **Hannah Paradis '18**
Reporter

Tragic mass shootings at schools in recent years have left many students at Choate wondering: is our protective boarding school in small-town Connecticut safe from a shooter? Since the fall of 2016, Ms. Risa Vine has been Choate’s Director of Risk Management. Ms. Vine works closely with Choate Community Safety and the Wallingford Police Department to ensure the safety of Choate students, including in emergency situations such as an armed individual on campus or an extreme weather event.

Each year, Choate students are instructed to install an emergency app on their devices with information about what to do in the case of a crisis and numbers to call for each situation. However, this app gives no instructions as to what students should do in the case of a shooter on campus, and it provides minimal advice in the case of a suspicious person. Choate’s student handbook also does not have a section advising students on this issue. The most accessible information about what to do when an armed individual is present is an emergency procedure handout hung up on dorm common room boards and found under Fire Safety Resources on the Student Information and Forms page of the Choate portal.

With luck, an increase in Choate’s safety drills and emergency procedure awareness under the guidance of Ms. Vine will make students feel prepared in an emergency situation. In an interview, Ms. Vine said that students should be aware of their surroundings at all times and should remember the mantra, “If you see something, say

something.” Ms. Vine expressed her confidence that students are safe here, with “two community safety officers patrolling campus 24/7.”

While students may have felt that the double drill on Thursday, March 22, was spurred by recent school shootings in Florida and elsewhere, Ms. Vine clarified that Choate had planned the combined lockdown and emergency gather drills over a year ago to practice safety measures. Practicing lockdown procedures is important to ensuring the safety of the Choate community, as the campus would be put in lockdown immediately if there were a shooter on campus. In the instance of a gun threat, Ms. Vine assured that our school “would be in immediate communication with the Wallingford Police Department, which is less than a quarter mile from campus.” Choate’s mass notification system that includes loudspeaker announcements, texts, and emails to all students is effective in keeping students informed and protected in any emergency.

Choate’s peer schools, such as Exeter and Andover, have similar emergency procedures, which can be readily found in their student handbooks. Andover even has a handy acronym for their emergency response protocol: ALICE, which stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter, evacuate.

In the expert words of Ms. Vine, “The most any community can do is to plan, prepare, and practice. The Choate administration is committed to making sure that we are ready for any campus crisis.”

Hannah Paradis may be reached at hparadis18@choate.edu

Student Dedication Shines Through in Dance Concert



Photo by Pinn Chirathivat/ The Choate News

Students performed their final dance, choreographed by Zara Harding '18, who grounded the piece in Jamaican dance culture.

By **Eliana Kim '20**
Reporter

On March 23 and March 24, Choate held its annual dance concert, a yearly showing of Choate's dance clubs. Step Squad, Dance Company, Dance History, and Hip Hop began preparing their various performances at the beginning of fall term. Students in the clubs worked with different guest artists, faculty members, and student choreographers, and they also spent most of their afternoons rehearsing in the dance studio. This effort truly paid off, as the show was one of the most popular performances this year.

Dance concert preparation was long and tough. Since September, students rehearsed every Sunday for at least two

hours. For some dancers, rehearsals started as early as 9:30 a.m. and ended as late as 4:30 p.m. Dancer Di'Anna Bonomolo '20 said, "As much as I am a part of all of the dance clubs at Choate, including the Dance Arts Concentration Program, I had to sacrifice a lot of my time to dedicate myself to the concert. For me, it was about 11 hours of practice a week, not including any additional practices called. I am also constantly practicing in my head or in my room sometimes. Though it is a lot, I chose to do this. I can't imagine a life without dance."

Heather Shao '19 added, "The desire to make the concert perfect stressed the dancers, but I think the hard times the group went through together made us better as a team."

The dance concert contained different types of music and dances choreographed by a wide array of individuals. Ms. Kalya Yannatos, Arts Department Head, choreographed numerous dances for the concert. These included a dance to the Dvorak Piano Quintet, portraying the lightness and playfulness in the music.

The uniqueness of each piece in the dance concert grabbed the audience's attention. Bonomolo said, "Many of our dances have a story behind them, whether they are fun and spirited pieces or deeper and not as joyful. I hope that we also try and connect with each other enough to tell our stories more effectively."

A great example of diverse music and dance was "Fly," choreographed by Katie Lee

'18 and Tiffany Lin '18. Of the piece, Ariel Kim '20 said, "I enjoyed the vividness of the dance. The bright colors, the piece, and the movements all went together really nicely."

The energy put in by students, guest artists, and faculty members shone brightly in the show and once again reminded the Choate community of the beauty and importance of dance. Ms. Yannatos wanted to congratulate all dancers for a wonderful concert, as well as for their dedication. She said, "Without the dancers and their love for dancing, we could not have prepared this amazing concert. I want to tell all my dancers that I am very proud of their hard work."

Eliana Kim may be reached at ekim20@choate.edu

The Distinct Exhilaration of Performing at School Meetings

By **Dani Zanuttini-Frank '18**
Reporter

Performing at school meeting is unique. For an artist, the whoops, hollers, and name-shouts that they elicit simply by stepping foot on stage are thrilling. This may not be the sort of energy one often associates with classical music or jazz. At school meeting, however, this energy is generated by even the most experimental music. It provides an opportunity for Choate's student musicians to feel rewarded for the toils of their practicing, as well as for the community to glean insight into the work of a small but committed part of the student body. Students who have never performed at school meeting should understand what this fantastic experience feels like.

The wait in the doorway on the wing of the stage is exhilarating. You see Mr. Stanley and Ms. Kegel standing in the other wing, from which they will gesture for you to walk onto the stage when the audience is sufficiently full. In the crowd, a few friends have spotted you and start smiling and waving. Traditionally, classical music or jazz performances rarely involve any mystery – the audience always knows what they're in for. There is often a predetermined order of music, and performers are visible to the crowd only during their piece. Their arrival is a surprise to no one. School meeting performances are the antithesis of this – most audience members don't know who's about to perform, let alone what piece will be played. This energy results in a sentiment for the performer that is different from any I have experienced from performances in

concerts, recitals, gigs, competitions, masterclasses, or private lessons.

Once you walk on stage, the crowd is immediately uproarious. There is no program or emcee to introduce you; instead, it is the screams of your fellow students that set the stage for the music. The crowd eventually settles to a silence, and you are immediately reminded of your monumental task: produce music that is enjoyable to teenagers who mostly have little to no experience with classical music or jazz. Most musicians enjoy the music they play, or at least play it in the way that they find most agreeable. However, pleasing any audience is a daunting task; I feel added pressure to entertain an audience of my peers.

I've never had a truly great performance at school meeting. I've performed alone, in a duo, with a small ensemble, and with a whole jazz band, and never have I felt that I conveyed my musical intentions as clearly as I do in my best performances. The acoustics of school meeting are rather different from traditional student performance venues. However, nothing feels quite as good as a standing ovation from hundreds of your friends, classmates, and teachers.

One of the things that keeps me playing music is the thrill I get from performing for others. The buzz of school meeting performances is special, and those of us who have had the honor of getting up to play in this setting know how much of a positive incentive it is to continue pursuing our craft.

Dani Zanuttini-Frank may be reached at dzanuttinifrank18@choate.edu

Valour Club: A Fashionable Platform For Building Confidence

By **Medina Purefoy-Craig '20**
Reporter

The start of the spring term always brings an array of new clubs; one notable addition is the fashion club Valour. Introduced to the school with its video "Denim In Motion," Valour promises a fun, vibrant new way to look at the clothes students wear. However, the club's president, Krystal McCook '20, didn't want the club to be just for those who consider themselves "fashionable." "The main goal of the club is to help people feel confident enough to express themselves through their clothing and not feel that they have to dress a certain way to be fashionable," she explained. She also credits her own past insecurities as her source of inspiration. "I felt I couldn't wear certain things because of my body type. I don't think anyone should have to feel that way," she said.

When creating this club, McCook felt apprehensive, worrying about the school's reaction and Valour's similarity to existing clubs. "I was afraid people were going to say it's stupid, especially since In Moda is a thing," she said. "But I got support from my friends, which was very helpful. It made me realize if I'm passionate about something, I should do it and shouldn't be afraid of what others will say."

The club members have different reasons for participating. For some, it is to ex-

press their love of fashion; for others, it is to enjoy the people involved. Javier Castillo '20 said he joined to satisfy his interest for everything stylish. "As time has passed, I have slowly gained a love, attraction, and appreciation for everyone's style," he said. "I acknowledged that the way one dresses can say much about a given person. I decided that I wanted people to see who I was just by looking at me, and my style really helped me go about this."

In the end, Valour wants to leave the student body feeling better about itself. Lily Ball '20 said, "I think that it's not just fashion or dressing a certain way or photoshoots. I think it's about confidence and inspiring other people."

I want to leave the school knowing some of my peers won't feel insecure anymore.

Krystal McCook '20

McCook said, "I want to leave the school knowing I helped people feel comfortable. I want to know I made a difference in somebody's life. I want to leave the school knowing some of my peers won't feel insecure anymore."

Medina Purefoy-Craig may be reached at mpurefoycraig20@choate.edu

STUDENT EXHIBITION SHOWCASES ARTWORK FROM FALL AND WINTER TERMS



Photo by Reeve Sobol/The Choate News

Photographs taken during fall- and winter-term art classes are currently being exhibited in the PMAC.

By **Sasha Bocek '19**
Staff Writer

Vibrant colors and textures fill the walls of the PMAC galleries, where student work from the fall and winter terms is currently on display. Faculty and students alike marveled at the pieces at last Friday's exhibit opening. Featured works include ceramics, digital and film photography, drawing, mixed media, and painting.

The wide array of work made the exhibit particularly interesting. One of the pieces on display could be described as disturbing. On a canvas mounted in a window-type frame and painted in all hues of amaranth, a girl appears to be screeching. Like most in the exhibit, the work did

not have an artist's name attached, which only added to its complexity.

The variety and amount of pieces in the exhibit displayed the time Choate students have spent in a wide variety of art classes. Ms. Catherine Adams, an art teacher who has taught mixed media, ceramics, and drawing this year, emphasized the importance of artists' curiosity in all art courses. It is this kind of support from faculty members that pushed students to experiment and create original pieces of art.

Mixed media was a particularly interesting subject of art on display. For instance, a bright assortment of magazine clippings and tissue paper carefully arranged to create an image of a girl holding bal-

loons while looking out into the skyline captivated Caleb Maddox '20. He commented, "I think it's so cool because it experiments with different mediums, and all the colors that pop out make it very aesthetically pleasing." Genuine appreciation of student work by Choate peers was seen throughout the exhibit's opening night.

Piecing together an artist's intentions is one of the most interesting parts of observing a piece. Isabel Sorrells '19 had an entire wall at the back of the gallery dedicated to her drawings of ten torsos. All are unclothed, and the shading of graphite on the paper reveals bodies of various shapes and sizes. Sorrells stated, "I think it's wonderful that programs

to promote women's body positivity are becoming more prevalent in society. Not a lot of people acknowledge male body image issues and it was important for me to encourage the same self love and positivity for everyone in this piece." Her work attracted a sizeable crowd that pondered the gravity of the images.

This year's student art exhibit does not fall short of any that have preceded it. The amount of hard work put into these pieces can be felt just by stepping into the gallery. All students should stop by the PMAC to recognize the dedication and time it took to produce such a wonderful show!

Sasha Bocek may be reached at sbocek19@choate.edu

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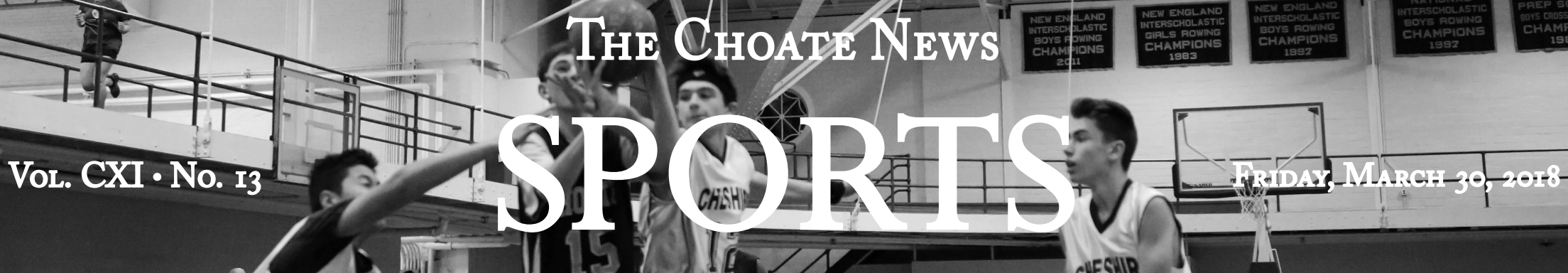
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SPRING VARSITY SPORTS PREVIEW

By **George McCabe '20**
Staff Reporter

Boys' Baseball

Despite the loss of 12 seniors from last year's team, Boys' Varsity Baseball still seems to have a competitive season ahead of them due to both returning and incoming talent. Co-captain William Eichhorn '19 said of the team, "The group is continuing the reputation of hard-working players that dominate every facet of the game that Choate baseball is known for." An outfield comprised of Sean Dennehy '19, Matt Brown '19, and Chris Guyette '19 looks to be one of this team's greatest strengths.

Girls' Crew

Heading into the spring season, the girls' crew team looks to be abundant with talent and experience. The team will be led by upperclassmen Stewart Egan '18, Arsh Sekhon '19, and Claudia Pagnozzi-Schwam '18, but the team also has its share of hardworking underclassmen. Co-captain Lila Kirchhoff '18 commented, "We've all been pushing ourselves really hard in land practices so far, so I think it will really all pay off once we get on the water."

Boys' Crew

A deep team with a lot of talent, Boys' Varsity Crew will challenge other schools this spring. Captain Tristan Jamidar '18 explained some of the team's goals: "We'll be working hard day in and day out to make sure we bring back some medals for Dr. Curtis." At the end of the season, the boys will certainly be competitive in Founders and the New England Championships.

Girls' Golf

This year, the girls' golf team will have an unusually large team with 12 players, and their blend of experienced and new players should prove to be an asset. When asked about the state of the team, co-captain Anne Miles Demott '18 stated, "This is the strongest team our coach has ever seen, so hopefully this will be our best season yet!" With a lot of returning



Photo courtesy of Matt Brown

Boys' Varsity Baseball on its preseason trip to Vero Beach, Florida.

players, the girls will try place high in the Founders League.

Boys' Golf

After an impressive third place finish in the Founders League last year, Boys' Varsity Golf will look to continue their success this season. When questioned about the players on the team this year, captain Carter Prince '18 said, "Last year we lost some key seniors; however, I think we still have some hope with some new players, including John Russo '20." This season, the boys' golf team will work to maximize its potential.

Girls' Lacrosse

After achieving a 13-4 record last year, Girls' Varsity Lacrosse looks ready to have another great season. Though the team did lose many seniors last year, it's got an influx of new talented underclassmen. On the topic of the team's season, co-captain Julia Mackenzie '19 stated, "We have a lot of new, skilled underclassman that will be playing crucial roles on the field." It will be interesting to see how this group of young players fares this spring, but it has the potential to carry this team to another winning record.

Boys' Lacrosse

The team was successful last season with ten wins, but Boys' Varsity Lacrosse can improve after returning an incredible 23 players from last year's squad. Co-captain Patrick Gallagher '18 commented on some key players for this year: "We will

really rely on returning offensive starters Kevin Edmonds '18], Matt Leone '18], Robrad Armour '18], Konrad Knaus '19], and William Ryan '19]." New goalie Patrick Yowan '21 should play a huge part in the team's success. The boys want to capitalize off last season and make a run at the Founders League title.

Sailing

Despite losing half its team to graduation, the sailing team still looks to have a strong group of returning and new sailors. On the topic of the team, co-captain Ariel Zhang '18 expressed, "The sailing team is looking forward to a promising season together, both on and off the water." The sailing team should place high in the CT Fleet Race Championships after a second place finish last year.

Boys' Track and Field

A wide and diverse team, Boys' Varsity Track and Field will have skilled athletes in all events such as long-distance runner Mustafe Dahir '19 and co-captain Lloyd Williams '18. Co-captain Jackson Elkins '18 said of the team's talent, "The track and field team is looking very solid this year, as we have a really strong group of returners that bring experience as well as talent to the team." Last year, Boys' Track and Field had a successful regular season but a disappointing championship season, so they will look to bounce back this year.

Girls' Track and Field

Led by captain Shamari Harrington '18, Girls' Varsity Track and Field has high aspirations this season coming off a successful season last year. When asked about the state of the team, Harrington commented, "We are happy to have a very fresh team with a lot of raw talent that will help us gain ground on some of our toughest competitors this year and for a few years to come." As the season progresses, watch for this team to develop into a top contender.

Ultimate

This year, interest is higher than ever for the Ultimate team, and the team has a strong group of seniors, such as co-captains Katie Lee '18, Caleb Hastings '18, and Adedamola Adeyemi '18. Lee said, "We're so excited to have built up a team of seasoned veterans in addition to some newcomers." With a large group of experienced players, the frisbee team will compete right away.

Softball

Varsity Softball graduated the majority of its players last year, but the team quickly filled those holes with adept underclassmen. Co-captain Mint Sethbhakdi '18 was enthusiastic about the season: "This year, we have such a great team! Not only are the players talented, but they also all have such positive outlooks on the sport." This group of young players hopes to fulfill their potential this season.

Boys' Tennis

The Boys' Varsity Tennis team will dominate this spring as it brings back its top four players and have talented newcomers to fill the rest of the spots. Co-captain Andres Ballesteros '18 said of the team, "Each year since I joined the team as a freshman, we've continuously improved our performance in the season, and we're looking to continue that trend again now." After losing a close match in the New England semi-finals last year, the team will try to improve on that result.

Girls' Tennis

Girls' Varsity Tennis returns all but one of its players, adding superb freshmen Greer Goergen '21 and Isabella Mandell '21. In order to reach their goals, Co-captain Angelina Heyler '18 stated, "With good practice, we're hoping to finish the season better off than last year, while having fun as a team." The girls look to dominate the Founders League on the courts this season.

Boys' Volleyball

Last year, Boys' Volleyball had numerous seniors who graduated, but the team will remain competitive because of a core of returning players such as Kevin Chyun '18 and Pavin Sethbhakdi '18. Co-captain Nils Lovegren '18 said of the teams' goals, "I think we can certainly improve to the point where we can challenge any team in the New England Championships."

Girls' Water Polo

Led by co-captain goalie Sydney Klakeg '19, the Girls' Varsity Water Polo will be a formidable force this spring. The other co-captain Nina Hastings '18 commented, "We've all been working our hardest since the first practice of the season, and the team is showing a lot of promise with several strong players." The water polo team is off to a strong start and hopes to qualify for the New England Championships.

George McCabe may be reached at gmccabe20@choate.edu

Boys' Varsity Basketball: New England Champions

By **Brendan Sullivan '20**
Reporter

The Boys' Varsity Basketball team had a year to remember, finishing with a record of 22-5 and taking home the New England Championship in the process. The boys' journey to the title was one to be remembered. After entering the tournament seeded fifth, the boys opened the tournament against Suffield Academy. After losing earlier in the season to Suffield 49-63, they were hoping for a better result the second time around. Jaylan "Juice" Sandifer '18 hit a game winning layup with a second on the clock to give Choate a 51-50 over Suffield. In the next round, the boys beat Tabor 62-52, earning them a spot in the championship game against Milton Academy. The boys defeated Milton 59-56 thanks to two threes by captain Caden Dumas '18 and two clutch free throws by captain Brad Landry '18.

When asked about what made this year's team special Dumas felt that, "In terms of talent I think we had a little bit stronger of a team than in years past, and we had some experience this year as well. However, the most important thing for us was chemistry. We all meshed



Photo courtesy of Hunter Jameson

Varsity Basketball after defeating Milton Academy 59-56 in the championship game.

together very well as a team and complemented each other in such a way that the team as a whole was much stronger than its individual parts." The team went into the tournament with the same mentality they have had all season. "We just continued to practice how we had been and made sure to dial our focus in a little more. We knew if we improved a tiny bit each day, we'd be in a good spot," Dumas added. Heading into the championship, Dumas believed, "For the championship we knew how far we had come, so everybody just really wanted to finish the job. Everyone was very dialed in during the last couple practices."

After winning the tournament, several awards were pre-

sented to some of the team's top players. Jayden Nixon '18 was added to the All-NEPSAC Class A team while Dumas, Landry, Sandifer and Jake Sullivan '18 all were awarded All-NEPSAC honorable mentions. Sandifer also won New England Championships MVP, and according to Dumas, "Juice won tournament MVP for his outstanding hustle, defense, and ability to score in the post." Repeating this success will be no easy feat after graduating several key contributors this year, but the team still has a good shot at competing for another title at New England's next year.

Brendan Sullivan may be reached at bsullivan20@choate.edu

Babcock Award Goes to Scott Romeyn '18

By **John Buckholtz '20**
Reporter

The Choate Boys' Varsity Swim team placed second in the Founders League and came in sixth out of eleven teams at the New England Championships. Scott Romeyn '18 proved his excellence as a Choate swimmer one final time at this meet. He was the New England Champion for both the 50 and 100 freestyle sprint events, even breaking the New England record for the 50 free. Romeyn broke numerous Choate, Founders, and New England records throughout four years at Choate.

Romeyn was also presented the Wilbur Babcock Award. Not only does this award represent skill and dedication toward the sport, but it shows great leadership and character. Romeyn

said, "It's an honor; I looked back at some of the people that have won this award — one of my dad's friends from high school won it [...] I met him; he was very nice, and to get the same award that he got was truly an honor."

He went on to say how he always had the support of his coach, Ms. Sara Massa, whom he trained with during the Choate season and on a club team. Besides having his coach's support, he was happy to see his teammates' excitement when he received the award. He said, "I was really excited, and it was great to see the Choate kids go crazy." Romeyn has had a spectacular Choate career with success both in and out of the pool.

John Buckholtz may be reached at jbuckholtz20@choate.edu



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Scott Romeyn '18 swimming in the 50 free at the New England Championships.

Girls' Swimming and Squash Take Founders

By **Isabelle So '20**
Staff Reporter

During the winter season, both the Girls' Swimming and Girls' Squash teams won first in their individual Founders League Championships. Girls' Swimming beat last year's Founders Champions, Loomis Chaffee, and Girls' Squash beat last year's first place team, Hotchkiss. Both teams demonstrated perseverance, determination, and most importantly, passion for the sport.

The Girls' Swimming Founders were held at Hotchkiss this year, and Choate finished in first place with 489 points, while Loomis finished in second with 459 points. Going into the meet, they were determined to win gold, as losing to Loomis last year was heartbreaking. During the meet, Samantha Scott '20, Zoe Tray '21, Isabelle So '20, and Laila Hawkins '19 broke the Founders' record for the 200 Medley Relay. They broke the record and won gold with the time of 1:50.23

Overall, the girls team had an amazing team win. They placed top three in every single relay. Individually, there were a number of outstanding swims. Zoe Tray '21 and Claire Yuan '21 both placed third in their individual events and Samantha Scott '20 placed first in one event and second in her other individual event. Josephine Mah '18 placed top five in two individual events.

Squash's Founders League is slightly different. There isn't actually a tournament for Founders. Rather, it is the season's record that determines who is the champion of the Founders League. According to Ms. Pelletier, the Girls' Squash team worked "incredibly hard, pushing through countless grueling pressure sessions, tabatas, and Ms. P's creative fitness routines."

The Choate Girls' Squash team had their final Founders League game against Hotchkiss, the previous year's winning champions. They were determined and ready for any challenge they were given. They lost Founders in a close match against Hotchkiss in the previous year and they were back, stronger than ever, and looking for redemption. Even though the team knew Hotchkiss was going to be the toughest team they faced all season, they went in with confidence, knowing they had a strong team.

The girls went in knowing they still needed to work hard and focus on their matches. They also knew it wasn't going to be an easy match, so they needed to prepare themselves. Choate rolled over the strong Hotchkiss team on its way to a dominant 5-2 victory.

Ms. Pelletier said that these accomplishments were not only reached through hard work, but also through "dedication to competing with grace, poise, and respect for both their opponents and the referees."

It has been an amazing season for both Choate's Girls' Swimming and Girls' Squash teams. It was only through dedication, perseverance, and passion for the sport that these accomplishments were achieved.

Isabelle So may be reached at iso20@choate.edu