



## ELLENBERG ENCOURAGES UNCERTAINTY IN MATH

By **Grace Gibbs '18**  
Staff Reporter

Students and faculty eagerly listened to mathematician Dr. Jordan Ellenberg's address to students and faculty on the power of mathematical thinking on Tuesday, March 22. As the Charles Krause '51 Fellow in Rhetoric, his speech expertly tied personal anecdotes with math, encouraging the community to accept uncertainty.

In his introductory remarks, Mathematics and Computer Science Department Head Dr. Matthew Bardoe noted the reason for inviting Dr. Ellenberg to speak. "I hope that he inspires you tonight and instills an appreciation of the power of math and a better understanding of the role it plays in all of our lives," Dr. Bardoe said.

Dr. Ellenberg launched into his speech by saying, "I want to complicate the way you think about math and what it means to do math to solve a problem." He elaborated, "Mathematics is not just about getting the right answer to a question. It's about asking the right question. And even about rejecting the question that's being asked to you, if it's the wrong question."



Photo by Elle Rinaldi/The Choate News

During his talk, he challenged students to "put pressure on all your beliefs, not just your mathematic beliefs, your social beliefs,

your political beliefs, your scientific beliefs."

He added, "Believe whatever you believe all day long, but at night try to reason the opposite of what you believe by day. You might change your beliefs, but if you don't, if you can't talk yourself out of the things you believe, you will come to understand much more why you believe what you do."

Dr. Ellenberg was a child prodigy who grew up in Potomac, Maryland. He commented, "I started reading at two, and I could multiply two-digit numbers in my head when I was five. One of my earliest memories is working out a way to generate Pythagorean triples."

When his classmates were learning algebra in eighth grade, he was doing college-level work. Later, Dr. Ellenberg competed in the International Mathematical Olympiad three times, winning two gold medals and one silver.

### I want to complicate the way you think about math.

Dr. Jordan Ellenberg

Currently the John D. MacArthur Professor of Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Ellenberg received his A.B. and Ph.D. in mathematics from Harvard University, as well as a Master's degree in fiction writing from Johns Hopkins.

Afterwards, Dr. Ellenberg wrote two books, the *New York Times* bestseller *How Not to Be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking* and *The Grasshopper King*, a humorous

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## POTENTIAL STUDENTS FLOOD CAMPUS



Photo by Elle Rinaldi/The Choate News

Prospective students and their parents walk towards the Winter Ex to attend the special interests fair.

By **Alyssa Shin '18**  
Staff Reporter

At the beginning of every Choate student's career stands the open doors of Archbold. On Tuesday, March 29, the Choate community welcomed 87 families of newly accepted students to campus for the first of three Spring Revisits, an important and busy day of classes and activities.

Although tours introduce Choate life to applicants, revisit days provide prospective students a fuller sense of what attending Choate entails. Sometimes, the experience only reaffirms one's confidence in their choice, but often times, conflicted students make their big decision on which school to attend based on their revisit experience. While it can be difficult for international students or those who hail from far destinations to attend revisit day due to the

extensive travel, many prospective students hail from a multitude of countries and states to participate in the day's activities.

"The most exciting thing about revisit days is traveling from state to state or fair to fair, interviewing students in a hotel lobby or here on campus, getting through the committee and the highly intensive selection process, and finally getting to a beautiful spring day and seeing the students' smiling faces and their families who are super thrilled about Choate."

She added, "It is very comforting to work in a profession that can take a student from the early stages of choosing to attend a new school to a hopefully completed stage. It is a rewarding job, to work with a family from September to April, and then watch them grow in this community for years," said Ms. Dana Brown, Senior Associate Director of Admission.

The day kicked off with registration for prospective students and their families followed by a question and answer session by a panel of current students.

### Campus is more lively and fun with the new students and parents.

Samantha Rusanak '18

Registration is held in the Paul Mellon Arts Center every year, and prospective students and their families are greeted with flags from all countries from which Choate students hail. These flags line the pathway to the PMAC, representing Choate's geographic diversity. Students on the panel are carefully chosen to represent a cross-section of the student body, and these students have had diverse experiences at the school.

Simon Jimenez '18 said, "Before I went up to the

panel, I was a bit nervous, but when I got there, I felt calm. I thought the crowd was going to be much bigger. The parents asked really good questions; no question was too challenging or hard to answer. It was fun, I had a wonderful time." He spoke on the student life panel on Tuesday.

Although the audience is usually friendly, the panelists have faced tough questions about the realities of high school, and those of private high school in particular, in the past.

"This year, the crowd was definitely calmer and quieter. Last year, we had challenging questions from the parents about drugs and alcohol. This year, it was more about academics and student life in general," reflected Coco Kulle '16, who spoke on the panel this year and last year. She continued, "We had a practice

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## ROBOTICS TEAM GEARS UP FOR WORLDS

By **Samantha Stevenson '19**  
Reporter

While many Choate students spent their spring breaks watching Netflix, the Robotics Team competed in a crucial qualifying tournament for the 2016 VEX World Championships in Kentucky. From March 5-6, Choate Robotics Teams 202A, 202B, 202C, and 202D participated in the VEX Southern New England Regional Tournament in Worcester, MA.

Of the 75 robots at the tournament, the 202A robot managed to snag the gold, and the Robotics team

is now heading to the VEX World Championships in Louisville from April 20-23.

The other robots Choate crafted also did well. Teams 202B and 202D were semifinalists; both missed qualifying for the World Championship by one point. Co-coach of the Robotics Team Mr. Kyle Di Tieri said, "It was saddening to see them lose by one point, but there's a bit of luck that happens at these, and they were just dealt bad cards."

During the Southern New England Tournament, each robot was randomly paired with another robot in an alliance to compete

against others. Groups aimed to fire an object about ten or thirteen feet across a field into a net in a competition aptly named, "Nothing But Net." Afterward, if time permitted, robots levitated their partner robot for extra points.

This challenge was not nearly as simple as it may sound. According to the leader of 202A, Katrina Gonzalez '17, "There are a lot of inconsistencies and mechanical issues that needed to be fixed throughout the season." For example, 202B had motor issues in the middle of the tournament from colliding into

other robots repeatedly.

Some of those mechanical issues occurred during the tournament itself, leading to the downfall of the 202C robot. After a fantastic first day, 202C's robot was accidentally dropped; the robot's aluminum frame morphed, changing it detrimentally. As Mr. Di Tieri explained, "If you change an angle by even half a degree, your shot from ten feet away is completely off the park." Though the team tried to fix the problem, they couldn't salvage the robot, and 202C's ranking

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## SIGN-OUT PILOT TO RUN IN SPRING

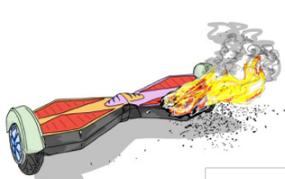
By **Neve Scott '18**  
Reporter

After nearly a year of discussion on converting the current archaic sign-out system to a convenient electronic version, Director of Residential Life Mr. Will Morris hopes to implement the REACH Boarding School Software spring term.

Earlier this school year, Choate had to decide whether or not to use software from REACH or from Choate students; the school eventually decided on the former due to its increased capabilities.

Originally, Choate considering using sign-out software that Patrick Kage '16 created. In December 2015, Kage talked to Dean of Students Mr. James Stanley about an idea he had to modernize the sign-out process: "I talked with Mr. Stanley and tried to get something in motion. I wrote the application over a few weekends. It wasn't super intricate," Patrick recalled. "Essentially, the Dean's Assistant would initiate the process, and the students would do the next

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Visuals (from left to right) courtesy of Kevin Xie, Ryan Shephard, Julian Yau, Ross Mortenson.



Read it then recycle it

# CHOATE NO LONGER PERMITS HOVERBOARDS

By **Pinn Chirathivat '19**  
Reporter

Citing various safety concerns, Dean of Students Mr. James Stanley announced the school's decision to ban hoverboards on Choate's campus at an all-school meeting on February 23.

Mr. Stanley said, "It's hard to ignore the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission declaring that 'no hoverboards currently on the market can be deemed safe.' When the government says there isn't one of them that is safe, it is hard to go ahead and say, 'Hey it's safe. It's okay.'"

In February, the product safety commission has reported more than 48 incidents of the hoverboards catching on fire, destroying furniture and homes, despite hoverboard popularity. Though hoverboard companies claim the low quality lithium-ion batteries are to blame, the product safety commission is investigating the products as a whole. As of January, the commission was investigating 13 hoverboard brands.

Mr. Stanley went on, "Nobody was in favor of continuing to allow it. The senior officers, including Mr. Stanley and Headmaster Dr. Alex Curtis among others, made the ultimate decision, but it was also discussed by form deans, and everyone agreed that hoverboards should be banned."

However, he added, "Choate has talked about finding the right time to ban them. We wanted to do it near a vacation, so students could take them home. We tried to ban them when students could adjust quickly. We did not think there was a need to act midwinter." Mr. Stanley's announcement came just before the start of Choate's Spring Break.

The idea arose after the Dean of Eleven Schools Conference the Choate deans attended in January. Deans from Choate, along with those from Phillips Exeter Academy, Phillips Exeter Academy, St. Paul's School, Deerfield Academy, The Hotchkiss School, Northfield Mount Hermon, The Taft School, Loomis Chaffee, Blaire

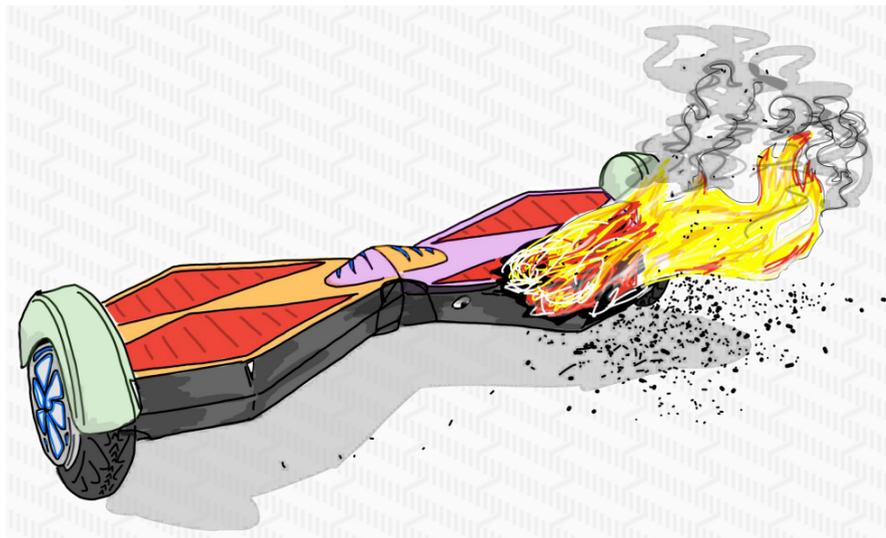


Illustration by Mckynzie Romer

Cases of hoverboards combusting compelled Choate to ban hoverboards.

Academy, and The Hill School, gathered to discuss issues at the schools, including hoverboards.

By January, St. Paul's, Exeter, and Brooks had announced that hoverboards were not allowed on campus. According to Mr. Stanley, "Every other school that attended the Conference had already banned hoverboards."

Choate has a similar ban on motorized vehicles in the student handbook. Mr. Stanley remarked, "In my

years at Choate, we have never allowed students to have motorized scooters."

Students who have used hoverboards on campus agree with the rationale behind the ban, to ensure the safety of the Choate students. Asher Kassinove '19 said, "I think that they need to take precautions and banning them was part of it. I believe they took the necessary measure to ensure students' safety."

He added, "Of course I wish I still had mine, but in

all honesty I believe it was for the better."

Hoverboard owner Grayson Brunjes '18 said, "Considering the inherent design flaws in hoverboards, and the damage they may cause, I think that the school's decision is an entirely responsible one. However, though the decision was justified, it took some fun out of the dorms."

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# CHOATE TO PROVIDE FREE TAMPONS

By **Nathan Chang '17**  
Staff Reporter

Upon returning to campus next year, girls may notice a subtle change in the school: there will be dispensers containing free tampons and pads present in the girls' bathrooms in some buildings. The school plans to install these dispensers in academic buildings, the library, the Winter X, and Archbold over the summer, and they will install them in dormitory bathrooms after.

Michelle Bolt '16, a student who initiated the idea, noted its significance. "It means we're making progress for the school. A lot of the time people say 'You can talk about something, but what are you actually doing?' This is concrete proof of something that we've done to advance gender equality at this school, so I definitely think it's a step in the right direction."

Zemia Edmondson '16 and Esul Burton '16, two other students involved with the initiative, agreed. They stated that the school is not only recognizing the needs of its students, but it is also responding to current debate in the world.

Recently, a handful of states have ended the luxury tax on tampons.

The proposal to offer free tampons and pads was student-driven. Bolt, Edmondson, Burton, and Michelle Lopez '16, drafted a proposal during winter term to offer directly to the administration.

As Edmondson remarked, "We all looked at each other and said, 'This is a no-brainer. Why don't we do this?'" In February, Edmondson proposed the idea of providing free sanitary products in bathrooms to Mrs. Kathleen Wallace, the Associate Headmaster.

After hearing the students' proposal, Mrs. Wallace then presented the idea to the Senior Officers, a group of administrators which includes herself, Dr. Alex Curtis, the Headmaster; Ms. Katie Levesque, the Dean of Faculty; Mr. James Stanley, the Dean of Students; Mr. Daniel Courcay, the Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations; Ms. Allison Cady, Director of Strategic Planning and Communications; and Mr. Richard Saltz, the Chief Financial Officer.

Ms. Wallace noted that after she introduced the

idea, "We immediately supported the initiative, but what we decided to do was to introduce all these feminine produce in public buildings first."

**This is concrete proof of something that we've done to advance gender equality at this school.**

Michelle Bolt '16

Ms. Wallace added, "It is a recognition that females are different biologically from males. It's just another way of supporting our girls on campus. I'm just glad that there was a group of students that felt like they could come forward and ask about this and make a request. I think that shows a certain amount of self-awareness among those students and confidence in those students that the school will listen to them and act appropriately in response to a request, which I think we did."

Before proposing the idea, the students met multiple times to discuss the reasons for the school to implement this change. Ed-

mondson commented, "We realized that other schools have tampon dispensers for free, such as Deerfield and Andover, but we don't."

She added, "I think it's kind of ridiculous that we give out free condoms in the Health Center, and that we have toilet paper that's accessible in all bathrooms, but we don't have another medical necessity, a health necessity, and a sanitation necessity, such as tampons or pads. If we want the community to be on equal playing grounds for both sexes, then we need to have them."

Burton drew an analogy with a tampon dispenser to Purell dispensers. "I think it's also the fact that almost every building — dorm building and academic building alike — has Purell hand dispensers. You could make the argument that those are a health item, but they're not a necessity. Yet, obviously, the school feels like that's important to have for students to access on a daily basis," she said. "I would say that since women menstruate monthly, and then I think we should extend that courtesy, and we should provide tampons and other sanitary materials for free."

In contrast to other initiatives currently in front of the school administration, such as one overhauling Choate's dress code, the process to accept the initiative to offer free tampons and pads was swift. The students involved were grateful for the quick process, and they attributed the success of their initiative to their decision to go directly to the administration, instead of distributing a petition or working with Student Council. As Bolt commented, "I think that if we went through Student Council, it would have taken a little bit longer, though I think that they would have agreed to it as well."

Bolt believes that the change was long overdue: "I came from an all-girls school in New York City, and we had free pads and tampons absolutely everywhere. You wouldn't walk into a bathroom and expect to be charged for toilet paper, but you're still charged for something you have absolutely no control over. I think it's just one consequence of the stigma surrounding periods."

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# CHOATE'S 202A ROBOT VICTORIOUS

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dropped 10-15 places in the tournament rankings.

Despite this upsetting incident, Mr. Di Tieri says, "We're different squads and it is hard to remember we're still all the same team. Whereas one team does well, everyone does well in my mind."

Robotics Captain Adham Meguid '16 was still proud of 202C. He said, "I'm very proud of the whole team, not just 202A, because we are still one team — just with four different robots. Everyone has put in a lot of time and effort. They've been working



Photo by Audrey Powell/The Choate News

Students worked tirelessly on robots for up to 20 hours per week.

really hard, and I'm happy that they get to have this amazing opportunity."

Mr. Di Tieri also emphasized the importance

of maintaining camaraderie. "When one team does well, everyone does well in my mind," he commented. "The one thing that I

knew was going to come up is that we're different squads, and so it's hard to remember we're still all the same team. However, we're all here at Choate. We're all Choate's robotics team. That's what we should continue to be and always remind ourselves of that."

Meguid added, "I always tell every team before they get on to a match is 'Good luck and have fun,' and I think having fun is one of the most important parts of being in Robotics."

In the spirit of camaraderie, the Robotics team plans to select 11 people from the whole team, not just 202A, to represent the

school in the VEX World Championships. Interested members have to fill out a form, and Meguid, Mr. Di Tieri, and Co-coach Mr. Murgio met to decide whom should go to compete in Louisville, Kentucky.

Co-coach Mr. Murgio remarked, "We hope to have a good showing at Worlds. We don't expect to win it, but we hope to do as well as we can. In the future, I hope to continue to build on the success this year and have even more robots qualify."

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## Ellenberg

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novel. Because of his work, he was New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award finalist.

Dr. Ellenberg has also written articles for the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Boston Globe*, and other publications. Additionally, he writes a regular column for *Slate* column called "Do the Math."

The Charles Krause lecture series is a lecture series sponsored by different academic departments each year. Charles Krause '51 sponsored this series in order to encourage young people to speak in public with clarity of thought, confidence, and enthusiasm.

**Dr. Ellenberg encouraged us to be more concerned about our ability to ask the right questions.**

Dr. Matthew Bardoe

This year, it was the math department's turn to host a Charles Krause '51 Fellow. Dr. Matthew Bardoe also worked with HPRSS teacher Mr. John Connelly and Associate Director of Communications and Media Communications Mrs. Lorraine Connelly, who are co-coordinators of the Charles Krause '51 Lecture Series, to invite a guest to speak at the school.

"Dr. Ellenberg was easily relatable to a high school audience. What was especially effective about his talk was his discussion about uncertainty and contradiction. We usually associate math with getting right answers, but Dr. Ellenberg encouraged us to be concerned about our ability to ask the right questions," Dr. Bardoe said.

He also shared other qualifications that factor in a decision to choose a speaker. "There is also a financial aspect to how it all works. In all, based on the direction of the Krause fellowship, which tells us how we should be picking people, my recommendations of candidates who would be good to have, and a sense of how much each candidate costs, we make a decision of who would be the best," he said.

Dr. Ellenberg's talk warranted mixed student reactions. Ava Hacker '18 remarked, "I thought Dr. Ellenberg's talk was really good, but he introduced too many points. I wish he had instead focused on a few so that he could have gone more in depth."

Henry Jacobs '17 agreed. "I liked the program. I thought he had some very interesting ideas, but I thought he could have been more organized." He continued, "From the middle of the program to the end, he seemed to lose the focus of the audience."

Alan Luo '18 said, "I really enjoyed the speech. He was able to bring at least the foundations of statistical thinking to an accessible level, which was good."

He added, "When I stayed after, a lot of people asked questions, and whereas most speakers would start making things up when they were obviously out of their comfort zone, Dr. Ellenberg said 'I don't know.' I appreciated this."

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# CHOATE WELCOMES FIRST ROUND OF REVISITING STUDENTS

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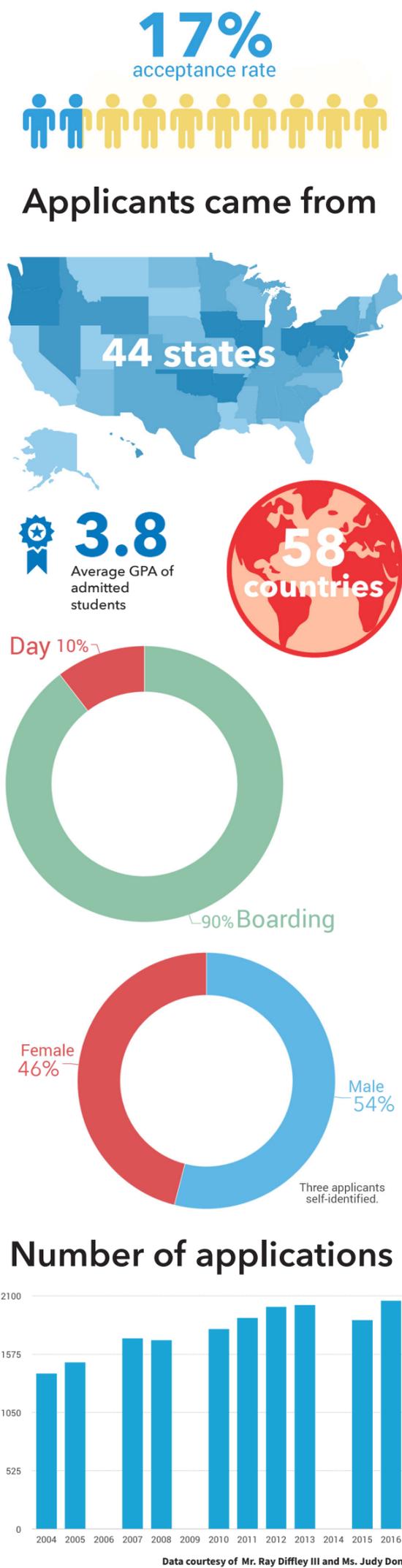
meeting at the admissions office yesterday, during which they talked to us about how to handle tough questions, such as those about drugs or alcohol, for example. Otherwise, we didn't really prepare for the panels. I think it's better not to prepare so the answers are honest."

The school amended the usual 8-period 45-minute block class to accommodate visitors. Conference block was removed, leaving a school day that was 40 minutes shorter. The Admissions Office paired each prospective student with a current student who shared similar interests. The admissions office expected hosts, who were informed ahead of time via email about their assigned visitor and asked to pick up information packets, to meet their prospective student between second and third period. As a result, prospective students would get a chance to experience what a real Choate class is like, something most had only read about. Oftentimes, the visitors would actively participate in-class discussions or other activities, fully immersing themselves in the school's academic experience.

The general consensus among the potential students about their revisit experiences was positive.

Prospective student Rohin Shivdasani commented, "My experience has been great. Choate is very welcoming, and the classes were detailed; I saw a lot of critical thinking and a lot of discussion. There was not a lot of busy work, and everything seemed like it was really meaningful. All the kids seemed really motivated, individual, and special. Each person has his or her own talents. It is a very vibrant community."

While the accepted students were taken to classes and got a taste of rigorous Choate academics, parents attended information sessions covering many facets of Choate life from the sciences to college counseling. Afterwards, parents and visiting students reassem-



bled at the Seymour St. John Chapel for a performance by the Choate Symphony Orchestra. "Boars Explore" groups then departed from the Chapel.

After classes, an ice cream social took place in the Worthington Johnson Athletic Center. Members of all student clubs and sports teams gathered to discuss Choate life in unstructured conversations outside of the classroom with parents and prospective students. The social marked the end of the official schedule planned for revisit day, but athletes and musicians were invited to witness extracurricular activities in action by observing sports practices or music rehearsals.

Revisit day is largely a cooperative endeavor between the Choate community and accepted students. Members of the Choate community, as hosts, have to be welcoming, but visitors also have to be open to getting to know Choate in order for revisit day to be productive. Revisit day is also a day when the entire Choate community collaborates to create a special and unforgettable experience.

The Admissions Office collaborated with other and worked tirelessly months in advance to create the perfect and feasible day. Without the hours of work that the Admissions expended when organizing the entire day, including information sessions, class visits, the social, and performances, the Choate community would not have been able to take part in the truly remarkable Spring Revisit Day.

"On Revisit Day, there are a lot more people, the dining hall food is substantially better, and campus is more lively and fun with the new students and parents. Classes are more interactive. Even the weather cooperated!" Samantha Rusanak '18 said with a laugh, "I think revisit day was a definite success."

The Choate community can expect more students to arrive on Monday and Thursday of next week.

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# CHORUS FILLS MUSIC GAP IN NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOL

By Namsai Sethpornpong '17  
Staff Reporter

From 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day for four days over spring break, members of the Choate Chamber Chorus taught music classes to children of all age groups in a Bronx public school called PS154. This marks the second year that chorus has travelled to PS154.

Choral Director Ms. Allysoun Kegel hopes that this trip to PS154 marks a deepening relationship between PS154 and Choate. She commented on how the trip resonated with her. "I have always been really aware of what a great privilege it is to have access to a musical education. I grew up in a lower-income household but had scholarships to go to private schools that had music, and I was also a part of a church choir that gave me a lot of musical training," she said. "Having such a rich musical experience really elevated my quality of life as a child. So sharing that with young people is something that I am especially passionate about. In addition, music is also very important for cognitive and neurological development."

Evan Robison '16, Co-President of the Vocal and Choral Program, described his experience. "I actually went to a middle school in New Haven, so I have similar experiences with that of the students from the school we visited. I went to school with people who have a lot of social and financial issues." He remarked, "For the people who've had sheltered lives, it must have been great to go in and experience a whole new environment with people who aren't like them and share music with them."

Over the past 60 years, music programs in public schools have faced nationwide cuts in funding due to the emphasis on ameliorating falling testing scores. Music education is often the first thing removed from public school curriculums in an effort to find quick solutions to budget problems. Additionally, many school

administrators don't recognize the importance of music. "A lot of schools don't have any music at all, and often those are schools in which students could benefit the most from musical education," said Ms. Kegel.

**For the people who've had sheltered lives, it must have been great to go in and experience a whole new environment.**

Evan Robison '16

PS154 nearly fell victim to this trend. Four years ago, it was nearly forced to close. Despite this, PS154 made a remarkable recovery and now houses an after-school music program, an initiative that last year's Choate Acapalooza helped make possible. "Last year, we took the funds from Acapalooza to help PS154 start an after-school program in which kids get to learn the keyboard, guitar, and drums," says Ms. Kegel. After the chorus students finished teaching their classes, they held a culminating performance featuring the PS154 students singing songs that Choate students taught them. The Choate chorus also sang a few pieces during the concert.

Kevin Auman '17, a member of the Choate chorus, said that the experience "was truly enriching."

Moving forward, Ms. Kegel emphasized that her goal is to create a lasting and prolonged connection with the school. "I'm hoping that this trip is going to have some longevity because we were working with many of the kids this year who we worked with last year. The ability to go back there repeatedly and with the same Choate students to serve the same PS154 students is very important." She stressed, "We're serving people who have very similar backgrounds and identities with our students here."

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# REACH SOFTWARE SIMPLIFIES DORM SIGN-OUTS

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step, which would be filling out their information, then locking that into the database for the house adviser and dean to sign it."

There were some problems with Kage's proposed application. "Virtually anyone could log on." He elaborated, "There was no system to verify whether the e-mail was valid or not. There were similar problems with determining the identity of the adviser and dean."

Nevertheless, the school approved the idea to modernize the sign-out process. Mr. Will Morris, Dean of Residential Life, explained, "It is well known that the current sign-out system is byzantine. We recognized the problem and knew that there had to be a better way to sign out that was efficient for both the students and the faculty alike."

Kage continued to work

on this project, talking to the school's Information Technology Services. Together, they developed a system that was ready to beta test.

At about the same time, an outside vendor called REACH Boarding School Software contacted Choate. ITS compared the REACH software with the software Kage developed, and by September, the department had decided that REACH was more robust and secure.

According to Mr. Morris, "The current system accomplishes a clear chain of accountability — it is the responsibility of a boarding school to know the whereabouts of every single student at curfew each night. The new system maintains this accountability, but do it in a way that is more efficient for everyone involved, particularly students." He noted, "Peer schools have run pilots with this software and have been pleased."

However, the conversion to the REACH sign-out system hasn't been simple. Mr. Morris stated, "The biggest obstacle has been incorporating everyone that is involved in the sign-out process in an organized manner. All of the actors in the process needed to be able to connect efficiently: the student, the parents, the house advisor, the dean."

**It is well known that the current sign-out system is byzantine.**

Mr. Will Morris  
Director of Residential Life

Moreover, several scenarios were possible in the sign-out process, based on an individual's circumstances. Mr. Morris explained, "A student missing more than one class day required more people, for example, a teacher, a coach, or the Director of Studies."

After trying to set up the software in November, REACH realized that its program could not accommodate the large number of people that are usually in the Choate sign-out process. The company began developing a more robust system, which is currently in the beta-testing stage. Mr. Morris anticipates a conference call with the go-ahead to begin internal testing to a couple of dorms, and, if that is successful, he hopes to implement a pilot test for the entire school.

A benefit of the new system will be the ability to access sign-out permissions simultaneously by all parties. The forms can be accessed via iPad, iPhone, or laptop; house advisers, deans, and parents will be able to either approve or deny the sign-out that at their fingertips.

However, according to Mr. Morris, the sign-out system will still require a form of face-to-face interaction

with a Dean's Assistant to verbally verify the details.

REACH will also be able to inform house advisers and prefects who is on campus throughout the week via a digital house log to expedite checking-in during the start of study hours and curfew. Mr. Morris commented, "In principle, the new system will give us the flexibility needed to replace the current sign-out system effectively. It remains to be seen what it will look like." He elaborated, "There's always a dip of issues encountered in the implementation

of any system, and this system is no different."

Mr. Morris plans to incorporate features of the new sign-out system in stages, depending on the success of the system. He aims to run pilot tests in dorms such as Tenney and Bernhard House in the spring, followed by more tests during the summer.

Mr. Morris hopes that the whole campus will adapt to this new sign-out system by fall 2016.

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## THE CHOATE NEWS

110<sup>TH</sup> MASTHEAD

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### EDITORIAL

## WALKING A LINE

Now that we, the 110th Editorial Board of *The Choate News*, have completed our transition the helm of the paper, we would like to thank our predecessors for their support throughout the handover. Your instruction and guidance has allowed us to begin our tenure on a strong footing; in the past month, we developed a logo, created a video section, polished a new website, and continued longstanding efforts to improve the impact and legacy of this paper.

At the beginning of the winter term, we poured through the archives and examined the history of this publication. We were not only struck by the legacy of the newspaper at Choate, but also by the ways in which each Editorial Board has crafted the paper. Even in our time at Choate, different Boards have added social media accounts, made major layout changes, built a production team, and added editors. As we wrote, edited, designed, and laid out our first issue, we looked to the work of our predecessors for guidance. We also recognized, however, the importance of making the paper in our own vision, for *The Choate News* must continue its legacy of constant evolution and improvement.

*The Choate News* is one of the longest-standing organizations at Choate. After more than a century of operation, the paper has evolved with the ages, seen hundreds of editors, and had more than a few names. The one thing that it has lacked, however, is detachment from its institution. Choate pays our bills, gives us space to work, and determines our publishing schedule. We are gracious for the continued support from Choate that has been granted to the paper throughout the years, including the interviews faculty and staff almost always grant our reporters. Without that support, the paper never would have grown to where it is today.

However, the very support that puts *The Choate News* into existence puts it into difficult situations when it comes to controversial issues. In its farewell editorial published in the final issue of 2015, the 108th Editorial Board of *The News* wrote, "We are a newspaper in the unique position of reporting on its own institution. We are subservient to the entities we're covering."

While some of our peer newspapers have been granted considerable autonomy from their schools, *The Choate News* does not have this level of independence. Every issue, we walk the line between independence and dependence, between balanced, honest, critical reporting and meeting the needs of the school. This Editorial Board will not seek to depart from this delicate balance. Rather, we will seek to improve it. To ensure the lasting impact of *The Choate News*, we aim to lay a foundation for future Mastheads to craft their own legacies — legacies that will surely be greater than our own.

We, the 110th Editorial Board of *The Choate News*, are out to make neither friends nor enemies. We are here to discover and report the untouched truth and foster conversation in the Choate community. While we may not always be successful in this endeavor, we ask the entire Choate community — students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni — to work with and support us.

However impactful we wish to be during our time leading the newspaper, our work is only as valuable as those of you who pick up the newspaper and read it. If we do our jobs in the coming year, we will nudge the line we walk with each issue, moving it a little further from dependence. This will only be possible, however, if each member of this extensive community becomes a part of the legacy of this paper — and we hope you'll come along for the ride.

## A LETTER TO THE CLASS OF 2016

By **Ryan Shepard '14**  
Guest Writer

Dear Class of 2016,

I remember my last moments on Choate's campus. I was standing in the doorway of Memorial House Room 304. It was the room I had moved into my freshman year in 2010 and the room that I had spent my senior year in as a Mem House prefect. Mapei's "Don't Wait" came blasting through my ear buds as I closed the door.

I cried. I'm not afraid to admit that. I had just graduated high school an hour ago and my mom had told me she was proud of me. Things like that don't happen every day. Most importantly, it had started to hit me that I had done it: A little, quiet kid from North Plainfield, New Jersey had just graduated from a school his adviser hadn't even wanted him to apply to. Plus, in that moment, I wasn't just closing the door on the room I lived in during both my freshman and senior years; I was also closing the door on a three-month stretch known as "senior spring."

Senior spring is a different animal. That's the

best way I can put it. It's an emotional rollercoaster that will take you from your last track meet to saying goodbye to your best friends. No, it is not a time when you get skip classes. No, it is not a time when you get to relax all day, every day. No, it is not a time when you get to break school rules and still expect to graduate.

The senior spring you have probably been expecting is a lie. It's a big, fat lie. I know this seems harsh, but I'm going to need you to get out of your feelings. The senior spring you've been told about is about as real as Narnia. With that being said, senior spring will still probably be the best part of your Choate experience.

Senior spring is different for everyone, so I can only speak to my experience. I entered senior spring not knowing where I was going to go to college, whether I was going to be able to finish my Capstone project on time, or whether my high school romance would continue after graduation. I had more questions than answers. Still, I thought senior spring was going to be a movie. I

thought I was going to be going out every night, getting extended curfew, and more. I had unrealistic expectations. But even though senior spring wasn't what I had expected it to be, what did happen was even better than I had hoped.

I ended up finding out why senior spring is so memorable. Your last semester of high school is the last time for a lot of things. For me, it was the last time I ever got to run track. I still remember setting my PR in my last track meet at Westminster and the bus ride back with Remy and Charles and Ofo. I still remember the last time I got to plan an interschool and having my girlfriend surprise me at the dance. I remember going to Mr. D's with Gabe, Simi, Nuha, Breanne, and Monica for the last time. I remember being in the middle of a mosh pit at Last Hurrah and having cuff links break when they played "Turn Down For What." I remember sitting in Mem and talking to my prefect-

ees and thinking to myself, "Wow! They're going to change Choate forever."

There are so many things that will seem insignificant during senior spring, but you will realize by the end of it all that you had been taking a lot of it for granted. Are all of my close friends and I ever going to be in the same place at the same time again after we graduate? Am I ever going to be able to compete on a real sports team again?

The answer for most of these questions is going to be no. You don't get to do these things again. You get one Last Hurrah. You get one graduation. You get one senior week. You get one... unless you're a PG, but you get the point. This moment in your life happens one time. It's going to feel like it can't go by quick enough, but trust me, you're probably going to look back at your senior spring and say that it eventually became the foundation for your experiences going forward.

I hope you enjoy it. Most importantly, don't leave with any regrets. If there's something you need to say to somebody, say it. If there's something you need to do, do it. If it works out, you'll be glad you did it. If it doesn't, you'll have one hell of a story to tell, or you can just make one up.

The bottom line is that it's high school. Don't take it too seriously. Have fun. Live life. Count your blessings and take action. Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% what you do about it. The question is, what are you going to do to make your senior spring special?

As always,  
forever true,

Ryan

**Ryan Shepard** is currently a sophomore at American University in Washington, DC. He may be reached at [ryanmarques1995@gmail.com](mailto:ryanmarques1995@gmail.com).

Illustration by Katharine Li '17



## You Can Say the "C" Word

Political discourse needs participation from both sides – liberal and conservative

By **Pascale Huntsinger '17**  
Opinions Writer

The further we get into the election season, the more space politics takes up in our thoughts and our discussions. This increased political discourse has recently spurred a lot of talk about the lack of conservative voices on campus. While that is definitely not something to take lightly, I think that a lot of people are placing too much blame where it does not necessarily belong. The lack of conservative opinions on this campus is not entirely because liberal voices are shutting down conservative voices; conservative voices are simply being drowned out as popular sentiment shifts towards the left and the number of conservatives at Choate shrinks.

A vast majority of Choate students are liberal, or at least socially progressive, so of course more liberal voices will be present on campus. The skewed representation on campus is in no way the fault of the people speaking — if the minority of conservatives want their opinions to be heard, they must at least be willing to speak up about them. The truth is that conservatives have been less than eager to state their opinions even when offered the opportunity to do so. The Choate Diversity Stu-

dent Association (CDSA) hosted a discussion about conservatism at Choate during winter term where they invited conservatives and liberals to discuss the absence of conservative voices at Choate, as well as to explore how Choate students can make their conversations more inclusive for people all over the political spectrum. Unfortunately, very few people who identified as conservative showed up, and even fewer actually contributed to the discussion. It is frustrating to hear people complain that their voices are not being heard when there are organizations on campus actively working to create opportunities specifically to address that issue. The truth is that conservatives have not been adequately taking advantage of these opportunities to increase their representation on campus.

Perhaps conservatives at Choate need a lesson on the importance of speaking up about their ideals even when they may be met with dissent. Coming from a school where I was one of a very small circle of liberals, I understand how intimidating it can be to voice your opinion when you know you are in the minority. While it is inevitable that people will disagree with you, you must accept this as a consequence of

voicing any opinion, liberal or conservative, and instead focus on what makes the expression of varying ideals so important to a community: differing opinions foster necessary conversations that challenge the status quo in hopes of

*Conservatives at Choate need a lesson on the importance of speaking up.*

finding better solutions to the issues at hand.

I have also noticed that people oftentimes mistake disagreement with refusal to listen, which eventually discourages contribution to a discussion where one's ideas are at risk of being challenged. As Richard Dreyfuss said, "Civility is not the absence of critical analysis" — in other words, someone disagreeing with you is not the same as someone refusing to listen to you. Disagreement must be embraced, as it is fundamental to effective political discourse. Unless your opinion is offensive or disrespectful, I, like most politically active liberals on campus, will gladly listen and respond to it, simply because I enjoy political discussions.

The point of this article is not to shift the blame entirely onto conservatives, although they could certainly make a better effort to make themselves heard on campus. Of course, liberal students at Choate must also work on creating environments that are more conducive to conservative voices, especially in the classroom. I have heard countless stories about — and been a part of — attacks on conservatives during class discussions. While it is not necessarily the expression of liberal viewpoints in the classroom that is the issue, it is crucial to maintain awareness of the harshness of one's attitude to a person with a different opinion. We must be sure to maintain a level of respect for others during political discussions — not only because it is simply impossible to effect change without it, but also because political discourse is neither effective nor interesting if it's one-sided. The unavoidable truth is that increasing the representation of conservative voices on campus cannot be done solely by liberals or conservatives at Choate — it is a collaborative effort that requires the cooperation of both.

**Pascale Huntsinger** is a 5th former from Herndon, VA. She may be reached at [pascalesinger17@choate.edu](mailto:pascalesinger17@choate.edu).



Today in History: US House of Representatives holds its first full meeting (1789)

## ELECTION



2016



**Donald J. Trump**  
@realDonaldTrump

Lyin' Ted Cruz just used a picture of Melania from a G.Q. shoot in his ad. Be careful, Lyin' Ted, or I will spill the beans on your wife!



**Ted Cruz**  
@tedcruz

Pic of your wife not from us. Donald, if you try to attack Heidi, you're more of a coward than I thought. #classless



Photo courtesy of Scott Olson - Getty Images

John Kasich, Governor of Ohio, berates fellow candidates, Sen. Cruz and Trump, for bringing families into political dialogue.



Photo courtesy of Steve Dykes - AP

A bird landed on the lectern of Sen. Bernie Sanders, as he gave a speech in Portland, Oregon.



**Hillary Clinton**  
@HillaryClinton

Raising CA's minimum wage to \$15 is a big win for workers and #FightFor15 organizers. I applaud CA and other states' work to raise wages. -H



**Bernie Sanders**  
@BernieSanders

I agree. But here's the difference: I support a \$15 federal minimum wage. @HillaryClinton does not.



Photo courtesy of Lynne Sladky - AP

Sen. Bernie Sanders has challenged Sec. Hillary Clinton to a debate in New York before the state's primary on April 19th. The Clinton campaign has responded by questioning the increasingly negative tone of the Sanders campaign. Clinton leads by a wide margin in the Democratic Primary, especially when counting super delegates.

## BLACK ELITISM: A LINGERING AFFLICTION

By **Hakeem Angulu '16**  
Senior Writer

Minority communities have strong bonds that are the manifestations of the common experiences of their members. We commonly cite the Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and the LGBTQIA+ communities as prime examples of this phenomenon. However, there exists a beautiful diversity within these communities, along other lines of cultural identification. With that said, not every fragment of a community is benign. The same harmful lines that are drawn out of differences and misunderstandings between racial groups, genders, religions, and the like, are drawn within them. The example that has affected my life, and that can be projected to other minority communities, is black elitism.

"Black elitism" is a term used to address classism in the black community, and is typically used to criticize the black upper and upper-middle classes. Obviously, there is nothing wrong with rising from unfortunate circumstances to achieve financial success, but this group is not indicted for their successes — they are indicted for their consistent attempt to be exclusive, to redefine black identity along the lines of a white canon, to demonize their own backgrounds and to perceive themselves as superior to oth-

er blacks. Black elitism differs from a similar phenomenon, black male elitism, rooted in the rampant sexism in the black community, and the unwillingness of successful black men to challenge and address their male privilege. Black male elitism is a very intricate topic, and is an ongoing conversation on campus within groups of color. Black elitism is a little more encompassing, and explains the inconsistencies in black identity and politics.

*This class division continues to affect the black community today.*

Before examining the effects of black elitism on the black community today, one must first have an appreciation for the history of this situation. The earliest clear example of black elitism is the philosophy of Booker T. Washington. In his numerous public speeches, most notably his Atlanta Compromise address, and in his book *Up From Slavery*, Washington championed the idea that the black community should focus on economic self-determination instead of the acquisition of political and civil rights. This seemed harmless, but the idea could only be facilitated by surrendering black lives and liveli-

hoods to a system of white superiority. He was joined by rich black landowners, and he was adored by white philanthropists like Andrew Carnegie—a pioneer of the library system who also oppressed his workers and was indirectly responsible for the killings of dozens of union organizers. Washington ensured that rival black publications, schools and young intellectuals would be ostracized, blacklisted and rendered unemployed if they spoke against his ideals. He wrote off a huge portion of the black community to defend a system that operated on afflicting civil liberties, and on accommodating former slave masters.

Another example is Congressman Charles Rangel, a vocal voice behind the War on Drugs, mass incarceration, and what the legal scholar Michelle Alexander has termed *The New Jim Crow*. Rangel was in a closed-door meeting at the White House with President Richard Nixon when he was planning his drug war strategy. Instead of offering solutions based in actual sociological and psychological analyses of the problem (like drug rehabilitation instead of incarceration), Rangel offered numerous ways to ramp up the drug war efforts. When he led the Congressional Black Caucus, that group voted in favor of some of the most punitive legislation, defunding rehabilitation centers, funding more

prisons, boosting penalties for crack cocaine, and expanding mandatory minimum sentences. That same group went ahead to support successive administrations, like the Clinton Administration, with legislation and rhetoric that disproportionately criminalized, stereotyped and damaged the black lower class.

This class division continues to affect the black community today, and in a lot of the same ways. For example, there is a limited number of black Americans in traditionally middle class professions, like law, healthcare and engineering. Those that exist serve as role models to a community of black students below them, but there is an oft-cited widespread lack of desire to disseminate information about opportunities for blacks. Organizations like Jack and Jill and 100 Black Men of America are historically exclusive and relatively unhelpful. Organizations that do thrive are the "Black Diamonds" social group in New York City that seeks to elevate blacks who already possess large amounts of money, or who have Ivy League degrees. The founder of this group, Pamela Pickens, said of the requirements, "You have to be upwardly mobile and exhibit a certain class, a certain way of being that's sort of mainstream and dignified, and a way that's not going to create fear in people." This shuts out the majority of the

black community, and contributes to the continued economic polarization of black Americans.

Yet another example of the dichotomy is the difference between the high profile supporters of Senator Bernie Sanders and Secretary Hillary Clinton. People like Al Sharpton and John Lewis, two black men who have terrible records with black elitism, have come out strongly for Secretary Clinton. People like Dr. Cornel West, Ta-Nehisi Coates and Michelle Alexander, black activists who have consistently addressed issues of blacks of every class, have endorsed Senator Sanders. The reasons for their endorsements differ, but nonetheless the political dichotomy of the black community echoes a split during Bill Clinton's presidency.

The problems the black community faces are the results of systematic oppression by white America, but also the compliance of black elites who seek to raise themselves to synthetic success based on a lack of class consciousness. Until we dismantle this idea of "bitterness" derived from how close one is to "whiteness," elitism and fragmentation in all communities will persist, to the detriment of the community as a whole.

*Hakeem Angulu is a sixth former from Kingston, Jamaica. He may be reached at hangulu16@choate.edu.*

## GOP INEPTITUDE SHOWN IN SCOTUS BLOCKADE

By **James Rose '18**  
Opinions Writer

In the wake of President Barack Obama's nomination of Chief Justice Merrick Garland to fill the vacancy left by the late Justice Antonin Scalia, the Republican-controlled Senate has once again proven itself averse to action and efficiency of any sort with its refusal to vote until the end of the election. Galvanized into idleness by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Republicans have valiantly reaffirmed their commitment to preventing the current President from fulfilling his constitutional duty as acting chief executive of the country. Their justification? Since the American people will soon come to select a new leader, the decisions and actions of the one they have already chosen twice are no longer founded.

McConnell's stiff-necked position on the response for Senate Republicans can only be the result of misinformation or intentionally bull-headed partisanship. When asked about his feelings on the President's nominee—a widely known moderate described by SCOTUSBlog publisher Tom Goldstein as "essentially the model, neutral judge"—the majority leader replied that he would under no circumstances support a vote

to confirm or deny Garland, maintaining the justification that the appellate justice's confirmation would result in a dramatic shift of the court to the left. McConnell also said, "I can't imagine that a Republican-majority Congress in a lame-duck session, after the American people have spoken, would want to confirm" Garland. Seemingly, despite their leader's confidence in a favorable outcome for conservatives, Senate Republicans refuse to allow the rest of Congress to pass its judgment of Garland for itself, preferring to circumvent the process entirely, without any legal, ethical, or rational basis for their inaction beyond neglectful party politics.

Unsurprisingly, alongside the dreaded tenets of reason and common sense, precedent, too, sides with the President's decision: in 1968, an election year, Lyndon B. Johnson immediately met the retirement of Chief Justice Earl Warren with a new suggested appointment, upon whom the Senate had no trouble voting. Similarly, Dwight Eisenhower's 1956 appointment of William Brennan was met easily with Senate approval in 1957, demonstrating that, even through a purely historical perspective, the current Congress's action is entirely unfounded.

So then, one might ask, what justifies Senate Republicans' current inaction? The



Illustration by Julian Yau '18

answer, quite simply, is nothing. It is the act of a party so blinded by gimmicks and strategic recalcitrance that it refuses to acknowledge even an unequivocal political concession and attempted push towards bipartisanship. As Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid told NBC, McConnell is "marching these men and women off a cliff."

But the consequences of Senate Republican inaction are not restricted to the Republican Party; the Supreme Court bench seats nine justices, and it does so for a reason. With Scalia no longer present, the Court now consists of an even number of justices: four liberal and four conservative. The end result is easily predictable: as such landmark ideological cases as transgender citizens'

rights, abortion, and affirmative action steadily climb to the top of the Supreme Court's docket, the bench will be perfectly divided along political lines—a classic recipe for deadlock. Already, Senate Republicans' stalling has resulted in a 4-4 decision on the case of *Hawkins v. Community Bank of Raymore*, an unremarkable case dealing with a certain bank's policy on wives' guaranteeing of their husbands' loans. Though relatively inconspicuous, this case demonstrates perfectly the ultimate result of a Senate voting block on Supreme Court Nominee Merrick Garland: utter, top-to-bottom government inefficacy.

Taking into account the recent rhetorical attacks on Washington gridlock from establishment-contested

GOP frontrunner Donald Trump, Senate Republicans' decision to perpetuate and exacerbate Congressional inefficiency is clearly a grave mistake even politically. The Republican establishment has been blindsided by the bombastic business mogul and continuously shocked by the sheer quantity of voters drawn to his populist rhetoric, but in reality, they created the conditions for his ascent. Republican voters have noticed the sluggishness and lethargy of the Washington behemoth, and they have realized that the Republican establishment is to blame. The same bewildered party leaders bawling the popularity of candidates like Donald Trump or, formerly, Dr. Ben Carson are wholly responsible for their rise, and the block on Garland is just one installment in a steady plummet to total establishment incompetence. If the Republican Party still hopes to regain the credibility it needs to compete in the General Election or even take back its own primary, it must immediately end its embargo on productivity and vote on the president's nominee. The American people demand action, and Senate Republicans have no more time to waste.

*James Rose is a fourth former from Locust Valley, New York. He may be reached at jrose18@choate.edu.*

## BERNIE OR BUST? PREPARE FOR A BUST

By **Liza Mackeen-Shapiro '18**  
Opinions Writer

As Hillary Clinton's delegate count creeps up, it is looking increasingly likely that she will beat out fellow candidate Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination. Clinton's probable victory has angered Sanders's passionate fans, many of whom have declared Sanders as a write in candidate. This movement—unofficially named "Bernie or Bust"—has quickly gained traction among Sanders's supporters. A pledge bearing the "Bernie or Bust" name has received over 64,000 (and counting) signatures, and the "BernieOrBust" hashtag has taken off on Twitter. While these voters' commitment to their candidate may seem admirable, those who

choose to write-in Sanders in the general election are actually acting irresponsibly. By doing so, Bernie supporters would effectively split the liberal vote, paving the way for a Republican to take the White House.

The main argument Sanders supporters use to justify not voting for Clinton is that she is not very liberal, especially when compared to their candidate. There is truth to this argument: Clinton supports fracking and the death penalty—hardly liberal policies. Additionally, there is no denying that Wall Street exerts a strong influence over Clinton and her campaign. Because of these conservative positions, advocates for the "Bernie or Bust" movement believe that a Hillary Clinton presidency would harm America

and that the only solution is to write in for Bernie Sanders for president.

The problem with this strategy is that Sanders could not win by the write-in campaign. For one, he does not have enough name recognition to win over those outside of the "Bernie or Bust" movement. Moreover, his base — the youth vote — does not traditionally turn up at the polls. These factors make it virtually impossible for Sanders to beat Clinton in the general election, rendering the "Bernie or Bust" movement not only useless but also pernicious. Although Sanders does not have enough voters to win the election, he has enough to make a significant dent in Clinton's tally—and therefore, facilitate a Republican victory.

Even Bernie Sanders himself realizes that he could split

the Democratic vote, which is why he does not plan to run as an Independent candidate. As Sanders told the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, "If it happens that I do not win that process the Democratic primary, would I run outside of the system? No, I made the promise that I would not and I will keep that promise. And the reason for that is I do not want to be responsible for electing some right-wing Republican to be president of the United States." Unlike many of his supporters, Sanders understands the consequences of splintering the Democratic Party in such an important election.

The sad truth is that Democratic voters must sacrifice some of their progressive ideals for the greater good of the party. Whether you support Hillary Clinton

or not, the only responsible choice is to vote for her in the general election. America is currently facing a potential Donald Trump or Ted Cruz presidency. Both of those candidates are indisputably less liberal than either Clinton and Sanders alike. When Democrats are up against such adversaries, they cannot afford to be picky. Both Trump and Cruz support defunding Planned Parenthood, repealing Obamacare, and building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. If you are a Democrat who would risk having either of these men as president just to vote for Sanders, you are betraying your party—plain and simple.

*Liza Mackeen-Shapiro is a fourth former from New Haven, Connecticut. She may be reached at lmackeenshapiro18@choate.edu.*

## Choate Chats: Student Political Leaders



Photo by Lauren Canna/The Choate News

Campus politicos Grace Tully '16, Dylan Stafford '16, Aiden Reiter '16, and Ryan Dant '16 reconcile differences to discuss political climate.

By **Riley Choi '18**  
Staff Reporter

Meet the illustrious student political leaders of Choate: Dylan Stafford '16, the president of the Young Democrats; Grace Tully '16, the president of the Young Republicans; and Aiden Reiter '16 and Ryan Dant '16, the founders of the Young Centrists.

### What inspired you to become involved with politics?

DS: I've always gravitated toward politics. I would read biographies in first grade about presidents and political leaders. I was sparked by Obama's election in 2008, and I remember ditching school to watch the inauguration in 2009.

GT: My dad is in the Navy. He taught me the importance of serving this country, and I believe politics is just another form of public service.

AR: I don't really know what I want to do with my life, but I know that I want to have a positive impact in the humanities, and politics is a version of that.

RD: CNN has always been on in my house. My dad is liberal while my mom is conservative, so I was always hearing both sides and trying to figure out where I lie.

### What three things are you most passionate about?

DS: Human rights, equal economic opportunities, and making sure the fundamentals of democracy are in place.

GT: My family, lemonade, couponing.

RD: Economics, gun regulations, and America's foreign policy.

### As a political leader on campus, what do you think is your most important role?

DS: So often we see that people are very apathetic toward politics. I think if we can change the conversation so that regardless of what your beliefs are, you can really challenge yourself, challenge your notions, and learn something — that's the most important thing.

GT: My most important role is making discussion and learning accessible. That's why Young Democrats and Young Republicans host debate-viewing parties. There's no excuse for being uninformed!

RD: The role of Centrists on campus is not only to promote discussions but also to present the counterargument or the more central view. I want to make sure that people understand both sides of the story and make an educated assessment.

### In five words or fewer, describe this presidential election.

DS: Populist, terrifying, bluster-filled, monumental.

GT: Unprecedented, unexpected, unruly.

AR: Destroyed by debates and media.

### What is the best thing about the way American elections work?

GT: The most appealing and special part of our election system is the freedom. Our elections are not rigged or predetermined. Voices are equal in Amer-

ica, and we often take that for granted.

AR: You can have somebody who starts out poor in whatever state and makes it to the presidency. Barack Obama came from a single-mother household. Although that's one in millions and millions, it's still cool that our system allows that to happen.

### The worst?

DS: How much money is involved in the system. You have this cycle of people not caring, not holding their leaders accountable, and then more money can buy more power and influence.

RD: The role the media plays. The 24-hour news cycle means that politicians are less likely to adhere to what they say because they are always worried about polls.

### Construct your ideal candidate.

GT: Ronald Reagan.

AR: I care a lot about international relations and foreign policies. Honestly, I love Obama. It would be an Obama term three, but with a little more open rhetoric on social justice. Also in terms of domestic issues, I want somebody able to bridge parties. I would like to see somebody who actually has strong ties in Congress, will get things passed, and will properly represent the nation in times of trouble.

### Objectively, who do you think will win the general election?

GT: Hillary will get the Democratic nomination. It's still up for grabs with Republicans. If Trump doesn't reach the minimum number

of 1,237 delegates by the RNC Convention in July, there will be either a brokered or contested convention. This means new nominees can be appointed and voted upon by delegates. This is where things get exciting. I don't know who will win the election, and I don't want to guess.

RD: Hillary Clinton. It would be a Hillary-Trump match-up, and Hillary would win.

### Other than the presidential election, what other political issues should we be paying attention to?

DS: There is such a huge focus on the presidential election every four years, we basically forget about every other election. Most people never turn out on the state or local level, and I think that is so important because people forget that the federal government and the president do not have all the power.

GT: Homeless veterans, bringing clean water to Flint, Russia in Syria, ISIS. The usual.

AR: We need to talk about our relationship with China. We need to talk about the Israel-Palestine crisis. We need to talk about refugee crisis. I think it's good we are talking about immigration, I just don't think we are talking about it the right way — walls are stupid.

### And finally, what is your favorite election or political hashtag?

DS: #ImWithHer.  
GT: I don't hashtag.  
AR: #StayMadAbby.  
RD: #FeelTheBern.

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## Kage's New Frontier: Explorations at NASA

By **Kristen Andonie '18**  
Reporter

Computer programming: the seemingly incomprehensible series of letters and symbols that lies at the heart of our technology-dependent society. Most take it for granted, but not Patrick Kage '16. No, Kage has taken his interest and skill in computer science to a whole new level: he is an intern at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), a government-funded National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) facility run by the California Institute of Technology that focuses on building and sending out spacecraft.

Kage has been interested and involved with computer science since around sixth or seventh grade. Before JPL, he took full advantage of the opportunities to pursue computer science at Choate, excelling in the most advanced courses offered and taking on the role of co-founder (and later, co-president) of the Choate Programming Union. This past fall term, he took a directed study in artificial intelligence, in which he created a program to read a text input and determine which letters it contained based on certain measurements.

Last summer, Kage worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he became involved in a remote JPL project dealing with the infrastructure of a spacecraft. JPL then contacted him and suggested that he apply to a ten-week, on-site internship at the NASA laboratory this summer.

Readily admitted, Kage was also invited to first go to JPL during spring break to learn how to navigate the unfamiliar territory. For two weeks, Kage attended conferences, took notes, and became acquainted with his future summer co-workers. Regarding accommodations, he said, "I figured out the nitty-gritty of how I'm actually going to live there, because I know *nobody* in California."

Kage shared that his spring break experience was a valuable prelude to what he anticipates will be a thoroughly enjoyable summer, as it helped him learn "how to collaborate with people" and "see what's going on there." As a bonus, he also took away a fair share of knowledge on trajectory physics, which he picked up from a fellow intern.

During his summer at NASA, Kage will be working on a project divided into two



groups: Team A and Team X. Team A will complete the task of determining the project's tradespace — the set of boundaries that show how to maximize efficiency and how much of certain resources can be used. Then, Kage will work with Team X in using that tradespace to create a specific design and software for the spacecraft.

While the NASA employees place a good deal of trust in interns like Kage, who had to undergo a background check, the reality remains that he is a high school student with much left to be learned. He comically noted, "I work for people who actually have degrees in theoretical physics. I only have a theoretical degree in physics." In fact, some of the work at NASA is classified and not shared even with the interns.

What part of the internship excites Kage the most? "I mean, you know, it's literally rocket science. And I get to do programming all day, so that's a big plus for me," he said. On the other hand, a challenge is collaborating on projects with unfamiliar workers, though he is confident that once he is sufficiently exposed to the new environment, the collaboration will come naturally.

Regarding his career, Kage plainly revealed, "I don't know what to do with myself. I'm interested in medicine, I'm interested in computer science, and I'm interested in aerospace." At a younger age, when his dreams were more defined, "I used to tell people I wanted to be a fire truck when I grew up." Alas, he has somewhat realized the impracticality of that venture.

Wherever the internship may lead Kage, and whatever career he decides to pursue, he is sure of one thing: "My dream job is something that I genuinely enjoy doing," he said. Given the passion he oozes for computer programming, NASA seems like a great place to start.

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## Springtime Wonders and Woes

By **Caroline Donatelli '18**  
Reporter

After a brisk winter full of Netflix, Domino's Pizza, and unexpected snowstorms, Choate faculty and students are gladly welcoming the warm weather of spring term. Having emerged out of hibernation, the Choate community is once again bustling as people begin to take advantage of Choate's blossoming campus, breathing in a new air of refreshed optimism. A host of Choate faculty and students shared with me their opinions on spring and their plans for the final term of the year.

Esther Clayton '16 shared wise insights on the different seasons at Choate, which she has gained after living on campus for four years. Clayton characterized the fall term as the "giddy" term, in which everyone is excited to see his or her friends after a long summer. She noted that the anticipation begins to wear off after the reality of the copious amounts of schoolwork ahead sets in. However, the term soon rolls by. Winter term is notoriously unpleasant and stressful, with less than desirable weather taking a toll on students' mood and motivation to do work. However, spring term eventually arrives, a welcome "light at the end of the tunnel." Clayton hypoth-

esized that the warm weather allows for shorts to reenter students' wardrobes and for motivation to reenter students' lightened mindsets.

Both Ariel Zhang '18 and Mirialie De Jesus '18 enthusiastically agreed that spring term is their favorite term. Zhang looks forward to sailing the most, which motivates her to push through to the end of the year. However, Zhang's love for sailing is slightly dampened by her dread for spring term finals, which are usually cover three terms worth of material. De Jesus is excited for the warm weather — for now. By the end of May, temperatures become so high that she "cannot even breathe" in her stuffy room. She also finds it hard to stay focused on schoolwork because the weather reminds her of summer.

From a faculty member's viewpoint, Ms. Judi Williams spends spring term coaching girls' JV lacrosse and enjoying the increase in daylight hours. Ms. Williams is also excited for her two new courses: Global Contemporary Issues and The Black Experience in America. Respectively, she looks forward to the opportunity to teach younger students and to present another facet of United States history. However, she is sad that seniors will graduate soon, since she has many close relationships with students in the sixth form.

Mr. Zachary Kafoglis, a first-year teacher at Choate, expressed a wholeheartedly enthusiastic view of his upcoming spring term. He looks forward to the academic and social implications of the new term for the Choate community, and sees the spring as "an opportune time to build on a lot of the learning that has occurred over the previous two terms." Having heard quite a bit about spring traditions, he is excited to see for himself what all the "hype" is about. Mr. Kafoglis is not teaching any new classes but has a few new students, who add a new spark to his classes. However, he also appreciates the opportunity to maintain the same core group of students, as he has enjoyed getting to know them throughout the year.

Evidently, the overwhelming stance by both Choate faculty and students is that spring term is the warmest and most vibrant term at Choate. Of course, it is not without challenges: Thoughts of the rapidly approaching summer are accompanied by uncomfortably hot temperatures in dorm rooms, loss of motivation, and the end of the seniors' Choate career. Until then — enjoy.

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## The Spring Break Slump

By **Kristen Altman '18**  
Staff Reporter

Many students return from spring break with exhilarating accounts of their adventures in faraway lands. Others have worked ahead and learned course materials through their freshman year of college. Still others have completed daily triathlons or discovered the 119th element in the periodic table.

And then, there is me. Here's a glimpse of how I spent that glorious fortnight:

### Day One

My hopes are high, and my motivation is strong. This break will be *the* break: I will work hard and disprove all the cynics who proclaim, once a couch potato, always a couch potato.

### Day Two

I lied. The cynics are right.

### Day Three

Contrary to common belief, browsing through YouTube videos is a challenging task. If I lie down, my mother constantly reminds me of the havoc I am wreaking on my eyes. If I sit up, the physical exertion begins to overwhelm me, and I realize I would much rather be lying down.

### Day Four

Sometimes, I wish Mr. Yanelli would send out an

e-mail so I can confirm that Choate was not just a dream.

### Day Five

Having become somewhat disillusioned with the constant cycle of doing nothing and doing nothing, I spend the course of today contemplating the meaning of life. I am suspicious that it might be a complicated issue.

### Day Six

I believe that, at some point during these two weeks, I will come to the realization that the 152 pages of my reading assignment will not read themselves. This is unfortunate. What is also unfortunate is my lack of willpower to act upon that realization.

### Day Seven

I stay in bed and watch Netflix.

### Day Eight

I stay in bed and watch Netflix.

### Day Nine

I stay in bed and watch Netflix.

### Day Ten

Today, I decide to give existentialism a second chance. After all, if there is one thing Choate has taught me, it's that no problem is too nuanced to be oversimplified.

I am pleased to announce that the meaning of life (and

the universe, and everything) is, without a doubt, forty-two. This idea is most certainly original and not at all a rendition of the cliché that has been in popular use since the publication of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* in 1979.

### Day Eleven

Who is Vicki LiPuma?

### Day Twelve

What if productivity were relative? The less I work during break, in comparison, the more I work upon returning to school. So in a way, being lazy now will actually boost efficiency later.

### Day Thirteen

I have reached the point in my life where filling out BuzzFeed quizzes seems a perfectly viable way to spend an afternoon. If you were wondering, I cannot tell the difference between Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber lyrics, my secret power is invisibility, and I am destined to stumble upon a useful coupon.

### Day Fourteen

Alas, I am now traveling back to campus as yet another break has stumbled to a close. I feel some regret, but not to worry, the next break will be *the* break.

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## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH BEN WENDEL '17



Photo by Taylor Christiana / The Choate News

By **Namsai Sethpornpong '17**  
Staff Reporter

Ben Wendel '17 is truly a gem. An Arts Concentration student for theater and performance, Wendel has been a powerhouse both behind the scenes and onstage. Since his time in Arts Con, Wendel has developed his skills in stage management, acting, and directing.

Known for his theatre expertise, Wendel aptly described that "directing is a combination of all the other aspects of theater that include tech, staging, and acting."

Wendel also explained the differences between each role: "For me, acting is difficult and easy: as an actor, you only have to care about yourself and what you're doing. But when you're working in tech, or directing, you have to care about the entire show. An actor gets a ton of attention; they get a ton of applause. However, if a tech person does his job correctly, he won't be noticed. If he does it poorly, it's really obvious. The same goes for stage managing."

His first experience stage-managing was in *The Diary of Anne Frank* this fall. "I had to figure out everything on the spot, but it was a learning experience," he shared. "Us stage managers hadn't seen any renditions of the show, so we had to learn everything from a book." This job can range from writing down a director's blocking to creating lights for the set to scheduling, he adds. "Every cue — every light, sound, special

effect — that's what the stage manager is responsible for."

Wendel has been involved in almost every school theatrical event since the beginning Choate career: last year he was involved in *As You Like It* and *Hairspray*. This year, he participated in Student Directed Scenes, Fringe Festival, *Robin Hood*, and will be in the spring musical *City of Angels*.

Within the creative process, Wendel says: "Each director has a different way of directing, and the way that I found to be very effective is just to come in and trust my actors." Some parts of his plays resulted from the ideas and actions of his actors. "We build and grow from each other. In Fringe, I had everything in my mind, and I just needed to find that moment in the person to really make the piece. Once the actors got it, they could add their own individual flourishes to it."

Wendel believes in the cyclical nature of the theatrical performance: "Art is a collaborative process, and it starts with the writer's words. Mattie Drucker '17, the director of the Fringe play that Wendel directed, probably had an idea that changed as she wrote it down, and this idea changed when I directed it, and it changed when the audience viewed it."

Ms. Tracy Ginder-Delventhal, who has been working with Wendel since his sophomore year, stated: "He used to be afraid to give direction to the people who were working for him. That has totally changed. He's not only learned to communicate his vision for the piece, but he's also started to make bolder and more surprising choices. His work was interesting before, but now it grabs you by the throat and doesn't let you go. He has a very distinct aesthetic; he thinks visually."

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## NEW SOUNDS FOR CHORUS AT THE LARRY HART POOL



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortenson

The Choate Chorus — pictured above singing at a Parents' Weekend Concert — performed a number of water-themed pieces.

By **Nicole Yao '18**  
Staff Reporter

On Saturday, February 27, *Water Night*, Choate's winter term student choral concert, took place at the Larry Hart Pool. The concert was conducted by Choate's choral program director, Ms. Alysoun Kegel, and featured both the Festival Chorus and the Chamber Chorus. The ensembles performed a wide repertoire, ranging from early music to African American spirituals to opera, all of which shared the common theme of water. The pieces performed included "Sicut Cervus" by Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina, "Water Night" by Eric Whitacre, and "At the River" by Aaron Copland, among many others.

The thought of having the choirs hold a concert at the pool occurred to Ms. Kegel at the beginning of winter term. She was inter-

ested in observing how the acoustics of the Larry Hart Pool could add another layer to the music being performed, thus providing the audience with a new, profound, and different musical experience. An added benefit of holding the event at the pool was familiarizing the performers with a new space and completely different acoustics than what they were accustomed to, finding ways to pair the space with the music itself.

**When there is thirst for beauty, I will jump in.**

*Katharine Li '17*

A strong believer in the power of music as a tool for activism, Ms. Kegel found how to incorporate into the program the way Choate students want to change the world as well. The final song of the concert, "Making Waves," was

performed by the Chamber Chorus and was an original piece composed by Ms. Kegel in collaboration with the members of the choir. Before performing "Making Waves," Ms. Kegel asked the audience to close their eyes in an effort to let them more profoundly appreciate the way different sounds resonate in the concert space. It also involved singers jumping into the pool while other singers remained on land and improvised chords. Eventually, each singer would also shout a "proclamation" stating how they intend to change the world for the better, such as "I will jump in" or "I will make waves." Katharine Li '17, for instance, proclaimed: "When there is thirst for beauty, I will jump in."

The chorus heavily studied Pauline Olivero's work over the course of winter term, and so "Making Waves" was inspired by this 20th-

century composer whose whose music contains a high degree of improvisation and calls for a high degree of self-reflection. According to the concert program, "Olivero's pieces often inspire social activism and address the problems that currently face humanity."

For many who attended the concert, "Making Waves" created a lasting impact. Riley Choi '18 commented, "I thought closing my eyes really emphasized the sounds. They formed a sort of harmony that really let me appreciate the different things that were going on around me in a way that I had never appreciated before. It was such a cool piece, and definitely my favorite song of the night." It is safe to say that the concert did, in fact, "make waves" with the audience—and the ripples will certainly continue.

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## STUDENT ART SHOW GRAND OPENING

By **Inc Thongthai '19**  
Reporter

The Paul Mellon Art Center gallery walls are already adorned with the soon-to-be inaugurated exhibition of photographs, drawings, crafts and paintings that showcase the great talent of our peers, regardless of experience. In fact, as Ms. Jessica Cuni, the director of visual arts, states, "The purpose of the exhibition is to celebrate how much beginners can accomplish." The creativity of crafts and charcoal drawings, the rawness of the black and white photographs, and the beautiful colored pictures capture the essence of Choate Rosemary Hall. The exhibition displays the hard work of students and Choate life in an artistic form.

Haley Williams' '18 charcoal drawing of mason jars is an interesting take on an otherwise ordinary object. She explains "I chose the drawing I did to display my develop-



Photo by Andrew Garver / The Choate News

Students' artwork from the past fall and winter terms were displayed along the gallery's walls.

ment in the class." Tatiana Louis '19, another featured student, created a poster that pushes back the stigmas of being a black female, stating, "I wanted people to know there is more to being black than the stereotypes that are perceived. I want people to know that I am proud to be black." Though perhaps simple, her work makes a statement — it is a carrier and a medium of expression.

Students in every area of visual arts chose the artwork that best represented themselves and their personality. Nathan Chang '17, for instance, submitted some of his favorite photographs of architecture of the many that he took in class. Nathan's approach is incredible: it is simple, but the angle of the camera makes the architectural elements seem more complex. The black and white photog-

raphy is also candid, raw and incredible to the eye. Mr. Robert Mellon, who teaches black and white photography, states that "The photos come from a variety of assignments and there is no unifying theme that each student was trying to display in this show." The featured photography thus is beautiful in its sincerity, for it takes seemingly simple things, like architecture, to a whole different level.

The student art exhibition captures a thread of diversity and personal thought from each Choate student. With the differences in artistic fields and the varying themes showcased, the exhibition is a mosaic of our community. It is a microcosm, or a miniature representation, of our society here at Choate, so if you have not taken an art class, make your way down to the PMAC to see our community's artistic self-expression.

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## Fashion by Furlo



Welcome to Fashion by Furlo, your weekly fashion fix at Choate. This week, we'll be focusing on how to get you out of the winter blues and into the swing of spring.

In the month of March, outfits can be seemingly hard to put together with mornings of 30°F and afternoons of 55°F. In the morning you might need a winter coat, but by the second half of the day, you'll be shedding it just to stay cool. So how do you combat this volatile New England weather? Layers is the answer!



For boys, wear a lightweight and long-sleeved shirt with a pair of pants. For chilly mornings, add a pullover and/or vest to stay warm. If the temperature really rises, keep your vest open rather than zipped or buttoned, and remember that sweaters can be cached in your backpack if you don't want to wear (or carry) them around.

(Bonus tip: If you're trying to keep your spring break tan for as long as possible, wear a shirt that contrasts your skin tone. Wearing clothes that are too close to your own coloring will "wash" you out, essentially making your hard-earned tan nonexistent!)

For girls, simply adding a cardigan, blazer, or vest to your outfit will make it wearable in both the chilly mornings and warm afternoons. If you're itching to dip into your spring wardrobe, try wearing a dress or skirt with a pair of tights. If you're not sure whether to wear tights with an outfit, remember that they are easy to take off and stash in your backpack if the weather really heats up!

(Bonus tip: Always keep hair elastics around so that you can easily sweep your hair up and off of your neck in warmer weather to cool off.)

Until the last leg of this chilly weather lets up, layering is key to making your outfit work in this unpredictable March weather.

Article by **Emilia Furlo '17**. may be reached at efurlo17@choate.edu.

Illustrations by **Julian Yau '18**



## JOINT LANGUAGE TRIP TO SOUTHERN SPAIN

By **Ananya Karanam '18**  
Staff Reporter

For a week over spring break, a group of fifteen Choate students traveled to southern Spain to explore the Arabic influences present in the Al-Andalus region. The trip, which was organized and chaperoned by Ms. Eera Sharma (Spanish) and Mr. Georges Chahwan (Arabic), included stops at cities such as Madrid, Córdoba, Granada, Malaga, and Sevilla. Students had the opportunity to participate in guided excursions with native tour guides, visit historical landmarks, and explore the cities on their own.

Mr. Chahwan initially planned the trip as an opportunity for his Arabic students to immerse themselves abroad, and in an attempt to expand the study of Islamic cultures beyond the Middle East. Choate holds programs in Jordan and Oman, but due to Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of prayer and fasting, falling in the summer this year, the trip was cancelled, and Ms. Sharma joined Mr. Chahwan to expose Spanish students to the culture as well.

Saleha Farooqui '18, one of the students who went on the trip, commented, "I was really interested in the Arabic aspect of the trip. I never

thought that a place like southern Spain would have those influences." Some of the major sights that the group visited included the Mezquita Cathedral — a mosque converted into a church in Córdoba — and the Palacio De La Madraza — the Muslim school of Koranic law in Granada. Keziah Clarke '16, an Arabic student on the trip, added, "It was really cool to explore Spain from the perspective of searching for Arabic influences because the more you looked, the more you found."

"I joined the exploration for exploration's sake," says Kristen Altman '18, "As diverse as the Choate commu-

nity is, it doesn't substitute for real-world experiences and exploring different cultures. It's something that we as humans are drawn to, being able to see how the rest of the world lives." Ms. Sharma remarked, "The world is flat nowadays, as they say, and it really is essential to travel and explore different cultures. You learn so much about yourself, your own culture, your own language, and how it is so different from the way other people live. It really is a formative experience for so many students."

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Game of the Week: Varsity Softball vs. Miss Porter's at 3:30 p.m. on 4/06 at Gunpowder Creek Field

VARSITY BASEBALL

## WILD BOARS GROUND XAVIER FALCONS

By Joseph Coyne '19  
Reporter

Last Saturday, March 26th, Choate Varsity Baseball took on the Xavier Falcons in its second scrimmage of the year. The skillful pitching of both teams initially kept the scoreboard low. However, once the Boars got the ball rolling, there was no slowing them down.

Jack Hodgson '17 started the game on the mound and allowed only one run in three innings while striking out six batters. After that first run in the top of the third, Choate quickly retaliated with a run of its own. In the bottom of the inning, Will Eichhorn '19 drove in Kevin Nusdeo '17.

Choate really opened the floodgates in the bottom of the fourth inning when it scored four runs to put the Wild Boars up 5-1. In that inning, Patrick O'Leary '16 scored two runners on his RBI single, and Tyler Daly '17 brought in a pair of Boars on his RBI double. Choate continued to dominate with

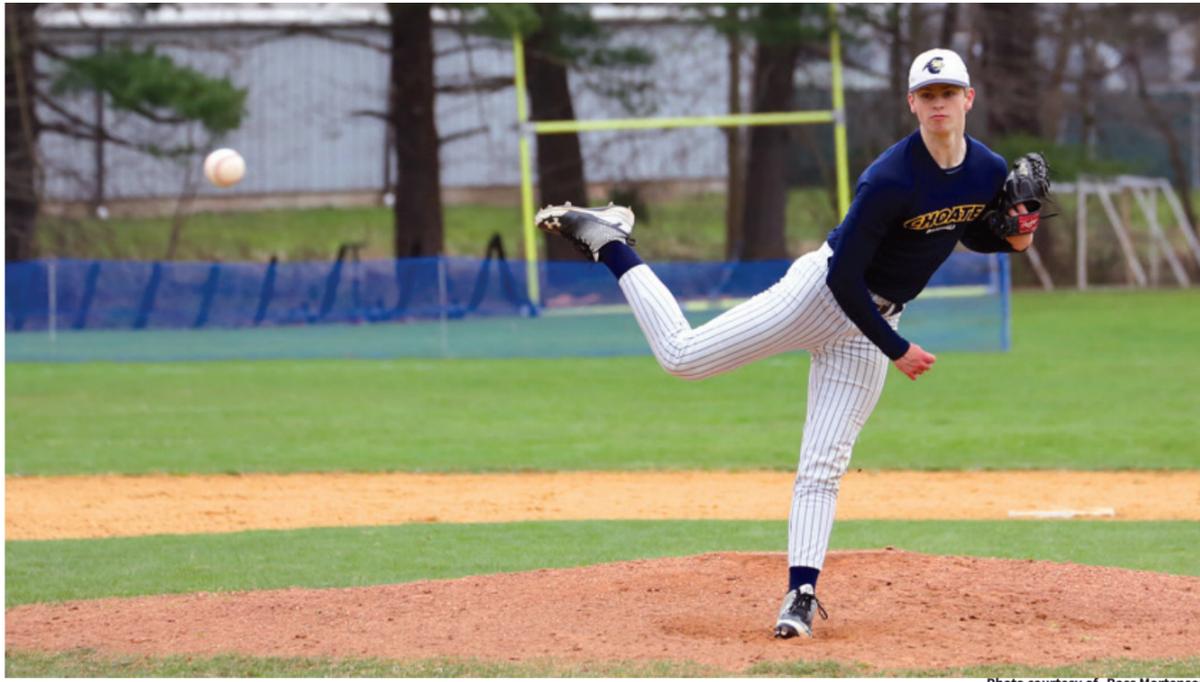


Photo courtesy of Ross Mortenson

Seasoned pitcher Jack Hodgson '17 kick-started the Boars' impressive win against Xavier, striking out six batters and allowing just one run in the first three innings.

strong pitching by Lloyd Hill '16, who gave up no hits while striking out five batters in two innings.

Daly then came in to pitch, giving up two walks in his first inning while still trying to find his groove. Once

he found it, though, Daly made quick work of the Falcons, getting out of the inning unscathed. He then finished his second inning on the hill without allowing a run, as.

Afterwards, Choate's great pitching seemed to

fuel its offense. Following a solid inning from Billy Schulz '17 in the bottom of the eighth, the Boars struck again, scoring three runs. After that surge, Nick Catandella '17 came onto the field to finish off the Fal-

cons. In his one inning, the Xavier batters gave him a run for his money, suddenly knocking in three runs. Still, Catandella was able to shut down the opponent. Choate came out for the bottom of the inning de-

termined to boost its score. The Wild Boars made two more runs, giving Choate a 10-4 win.

Head Coach Mr. Douglas James noted that his team played reasonably well for this early in the season, and he seemed optimistic that the boys will undergo significant improvement. When asked about his team's steals and whether being aggressive on the base paths was a point of emphasis before the game, Coach James said, "In general, it has been. We have some pretty good athletes, some pretty speedy, athletic, strong people. I think base running is one of our strengths, and I think they did a really good job at it."

Taking down the Falcons was a bright moment for the Wild Boars, despite the game being only a scrimmage. Now, Coach James and the team are looking ahead and working hard to get primed for the rest of the season.

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## ATHLETES TRAVEL FOR PRESEASON TRAINING



### ALL PRESEASON HOTELS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL

By Jackson Elkins '18  
Staff Reporter

We've just launched into spring term here at Choate, and a new season of sports is taking over campus. Students have tossed away their basketballs and hockey gear for baseball bats and lacrosse sticks. Many of the teams are fresh off a week or so in warmer climates, where they prepared for the upcoming season. Although all teams braved suicides in the scorching heat and gave their all during scrimmages, the squads had vastly different experiences when it came to their hotel stays. The quality of lodging that Choate supplied varied significantly, depending on the team. Upon re-arrival to campus, this became a source of aggravation for many of Choate's athletes.

Trent Schwab '18 traveled to Florida with the baseball team, and in 80 degrees (or higher) weather, experienced the unlikely: "It was a really fun trip, and it was great to be with the guys, but the AC broke three days into the trip, so it was hot in our room every night. But it builds character, so I was okay with it." Schwab shared the room with two other players, which added to

the already boiling heat. Unfortunately, baseball wasn't the only team to experience uncomfortable living conditions while on their trip. Members of the boys' lacrosse team were also displeased with their hotel experience, stating that they would prefer returning to a better hotel after exerting themselves on the field three times a day. Poor food quality in the area, subpar hotel service, and the questionable location of the hotel were among the teams' qualms.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, the crew teams seemed to have no complaints about their living arrangements over the break. Rower Tristan Jamidar '18 commented, "My hotel was not what I expected, but it was more than sufficient. I shared a pretty large room and a kitchen with three other guys. There were two queen beds, and we doubled up. Sure, it wasn't the Ritz, but it definitely got the job more than done." Girls' crew can attest to this; while they didn't get kitchenettes, their rooms were still equipped with mini fridges and that enviable air conditioning. In fact, Gabby LaTorre '17 expressed that this hotel was far nicer than that of previous years.

This begs the question: why is there such a large discrepancy between the different teams' living accommodations? While the selection of a hotel for preseason may simply depend on availability and pricing, it seems unfair that some teams get better hotels than others. One athlete who would speak only on the condition of anonymity, for fear of upsetting his coaches, said, "I thought it was really unfair that some teams got low quality hotels while other teams lived in nice hotels for a week." Of course, a hotel may not make or break a vacation. Still, for athletes that pay a substantial amount of money for a preseason trip, it would be expected that solid accommodations be provided. Although complaints about kitchens and bed size are trivial, a lack of air conditioning after sessions of strenuous exercise can be a legitimate problem, if not just uncomfortable. With luck, in the future, the school will address the issue of living inequalities and ensure that all teams are satisfied with their hotel experiences.

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### TROPICAL TRAINING TAKEAWAYS

By Eben Cook '18  
Staff Reporter

During spring break, many of our teams traveled to Florida to get ready for the upcoming season and enjoy the sunny beaches. However, not every team member attends preseason, since Choate does not pay for each trip and some players have already made spring break plans. Is this a disadvantage? Are the benefits of team-bonding and skill-building worth the time, money, and effort?

According to athletes who attended a spring training session, the main benefit of taking part is forming stronger bonds with teammates. Preseason is the perfect time to meet new players and improve the overall team dynamic. Rower Sam Wendel '17 commented, "The crew team lives together in one hotel and spends almost every waking moment together. Through this, we become a closer and more amicable team, one that is ready to enjoy huge amounts of success this spring." Preseason also al-

lows them to get back in the swing of things and row longer pieces. This is critical for the team, since the Connecticut lake that they practice on is frozen through most of March.

**We become a closer and more amicable team, one that is ready to enjoy huge amounts of success this spring.**

Sam Wendel '17

The experiences of the crew team mirror those of the baseball team. Jack Fuchs '18 commented on the benefits of spending time together. "This helps the team bond as a unit off the field so that our chemistry can increase on the field, as well," he said.

While team bonding is a significant benefit to preseason, it is the physical training that gives a big advantage to everyone that attends. "I think that preseason is extremely beneficial for all teams, as it engages players in a period of intensive practice,

allowing them to improve and sharpen their skills more quickly than during the regular season," water polo player Cecilia Zhou '17 said. She continued, "Because most teams conduct at least two practices a day during preseason, athletes get much more experience and playing time than usual." In addition, Captain Venus Law '16 commented that the intensity of spring training allows newer kids, in particular, to quickly learn the rules of the game and improve their performance. Zhou added that because the preseason group is smaller than an actual team, players receive more individualized feedback from coaches.

So is it all worth it? Athletes seem to say a collective and resounding yes, mainly based on the skill improvement and fun team bonding that takes place during the week. If nothing else, it's hard to argue against a tropical vacation with friends. Let the spring games begin!

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