



PHOTO/JOSEPHINE MAH

Representing the geographic diversity of current and accepted students, a colorful display of flags welcomed Spring Visit families to the Paul Mellon Arts Center.

CHOATE TO FULLY FUND ICAHN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

By TRUELIAN LEE '17
News Reporter

One of the most iconic programs at Choate, the Icahn Scholars Program has been going through some financial changes in the past year. In fact, the current school year marks the first year that the program has been entirely funded by Choate. As a result, the administration has made and suggested various changes to the program to reflect this new situation.

The Icahn Scholars Program was launched in 1997 with Mr. Carl Icahn as the program's principal benefactor. The scholarship is a four-year financial aid program that covers all of a student's school expenses, including tuition, boarding fees, school supplies, transportation, along with other stipends.

Ms. Kathleen Wallace, the Associate Headmaster, stated, "The goal of this program was to bring outstanding students to the school who would not otherwise have been able to be part of an institution like this. The principal benefactor was Carl Icahn, hence the name of the program." However, Ms. Wallace also noted, "Choate has always shared a part of the costs of the program."

The financial agreement between Mr. Icahn and Choate set boundaries that changed over time. "Part of the donation agreement was cost-sharing, and that cost-sharing has shifted since the launch of the program such that the Icahn Foundation for Greater Opportunity will be making its last grant payment in the spring of 2016."

To reflect this change, the name of the Icahn Scholars Program has been slightly changed. "The name has been changed to the Choate Icahn Scholars Program in order to indicate this change. We still want to use the Icahn name because the philosophy and intent of the program are still similar," added Ms. Wallace.

The transition from the Icahn Scholars program to the Choate Icahn Scholars program

has been seamless; the repercussions of the shift in funding are not wholly apparent.

Ms. Connie Matthews, an English teacher and adviser to the Icahn Scholars Program, commented, "The changes in funding haven't impacted us, really. We're still able to take care of the kids, just the way we usually do, financially."

Icahn Scholar Jaylin Lugar-do '16 remarked of the change, "I thought there would be immediate effects, but the same benefits are there, and the advisers are the same. I haven't seen a change." She continued, "I think that it's a very renowned program and Choate is well-known for it. Choate is reaching out to a community it doesn't normally reach out to. I think it will still maintain the same benefits to preserve the face of Choate, and also to get students from all types of different backgrounds."

"We still want to use the Icahn name because the philosophy and intent of the program are still similar."

— Ms. Kathleen Wallace

Also, the Choate administration is in the process of implementing a variety of changes in the Icahn Scholars Program as a result of the shift in funding. "While we started to plan, it ended up that we weren't as able to do as much planning as we wanted to last year for the changes this year. However, we are honoring the success of the program by continuing to use the Icahn name," Ms. Wallace remarked. Thus, though the administration decided to continue the program this year, Ms. Wallace formed a committee to examine the scholarship program.

The purpose of the committee was to "review this program to learn more about the history, the effectiveness, and the opinions of students who had been in

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Admissions Hosts More Than 250 Accepted Students for Spring Visit Days

By HALEY CHANG '18 AND CAROLINE DONATELLI '18
News Staff Reporter and News Reporter

This year, the Admission Office reviewed more than 2000 applications from domestic and international students for the 2015–2016 admissions season, a record high for the school. Eventually, the Admission Office accepted just over 20 percent of those applications, one of the lowest acceptance rates in Choate history.

In the applicant pool, sixty-five countries and forty-three states were represented. Of the total applicant pool, 42 percent were from public schools, 54 percent were from private or independent schools, 3 percent were from parochial schools and 1 percent identified as home schooled.

Among accepted students, the average GPA of accepted students was 3.81, which increased from prior years, and 20 percent identify themselves as people of color. Meanwhile, 31 percent were offered some sort of financial aid from the school, amounting to nearly \$4,771,000. Applicants were notified of their decision on March 10, during spring break.

According to Director of Admission Mr. Ray Diffley, the main obstacle admissions officers faced when selecting potential students was that "they are all good, so the challenge is deciphering which ones can best thrive in this environment."

The high caliber of this year's applicant pool was shown in the fact that the average GPA of waitlisted students was 3.8, which is almost the same GPA of the accepted students. The Admission Office closely evaluated each applicant with great level of scrutiny, as most of the applicants' academic records were so similar.

According to Mr. Diffley, admission officers look for "motivation, love of school, appropriate confidence, maturity, responsibility and the ability to contribute to the community in a myriad of ways." Mr. Diffley also noted

that the school wanted "to enroll the most outstanding people and to promote the excellence of the Choate community."

Accepted students were invited to visit campus on one of three visit days. On March 30, April 2, and April 7, accepted students were paired with Choate students, sat in on classes and listened to a panel of student speakers before finalizing their enrollment decisions.

The Choate community welcomed approximately 100 families to campus on March 30, 85 families on April 2, and 90 families on April 7.

"The Spring Visits aim to show the kids and their parents what a typical day at Choate is like. I think it's really important for the kids to spend a whole day here, so they can see the flow of the classes and get a sense of what the students' lives here are like," explained Mrs. Hillary Nastro, Senior Associate Director in the Admission Office.

On the visit days, families registered at the Paul Mellon Arts Center and were then welcomed by Headmaster Dr. Alex Curtis and Director of Admission Mr. Ray Diffley.

After a brief greeting from Mr. Diffley, a panel consisting of ten students arrived at the Main Theater to answer questions about student life at Choate. The student panel provided the visiting families with the opportunity to meet current Choate students who shared their personal experiences and perspectives about life at Choate.

"The student panel is one of the few times during the day when the kids and the parents are together while getting to know more about Choate," said Sonja Eliason '15, one of the students on the morning panel. "In general, people just want to know what life is like and how it feels to be at Choate."

According to Mrs. Nastro, the Admission Office tried to arrange a panel of students with diverse interests and backgrounds. "I think that the panel was very effective in answering questions from the

audience because we had a variety of voices and experiences to share," added Alex Eades '18, another student on the morning panel. "You can easily get the idea of diversity at Choate, which is hard to grasp if you just shadow one person."

After listening to the student panel, the admitted students were then excused to find their student hosts at the PMAC Courtyard. The prospective students shadowed their hosts and followed them to the next four classes.

The school wanted "to enroll the most outstanding people and to promote the excellence of the Choate community."

— Mr. Ray Diffley III

To compatibly match the prospective students with current students, Admission Officer Ms. Carolyn Traester, along with her colleagues in the Admission Office, sent an online survey that asked for the current students' interests and extracurricular activities. Furthermore, to train students for Spring Visits, all third and fourth formers were required to attend a mandatory workshop. The hosts were also given a profile sheet with their prospective student's hometown and interests to help them more easily connect with their guests.

While the admitted students visited classes with their hosts, the parents attended various information sessions. There was a session for academic departments, as well as for college counseling, community life, arts, and athletics at Choate.

"The parents, compared to the kids, are usually looking into different things during the Spring Visit days. Generally, the kids tell us that they want to see what the students here are like. The parents, however, are looking more into things like how the school is going to take care of their child, both academically

and residentially," said Mrs. Nastro.

Each information session included student panels that gave parents a greater understanding of a department's curriculum.

"The student life panel and the department panels are intended to share to the parents what we learn in a more personal way by talking about our own experiences. Personally, I think this method comes out more organic and natural than just having a PowerPoint presentation," argued Victoria Li '16, a Science Research Program (SRP) student who was a part of the science department panel.

"Our panel consisted of three students from the SRP program, and one student from the KEC program," remarked Nazar Chowdhury '16, another SRP student on the science panel. "After we talked about the basics of the sciences at Choate, we went deeper into Choate's signature programs. Although I think the panel was generally effective, one of the things that Admissions and the students can work on is guiding the parents to ask more questions to the students rather than to the teachers. I think some of the parents may have been a little apprehensive about it, and so they directed more questions to the teachers."

The Admission Office changed a few aspects of the Spring Visits program this year. On the first day of Spring Visits, the second floor of the Student Activities Center (SAC) was overcrowded with athletic booths and visiting families. In order to address this issue, the Admission Office moved all of the athletic booths into a white tent that was set up outside of the SAC.

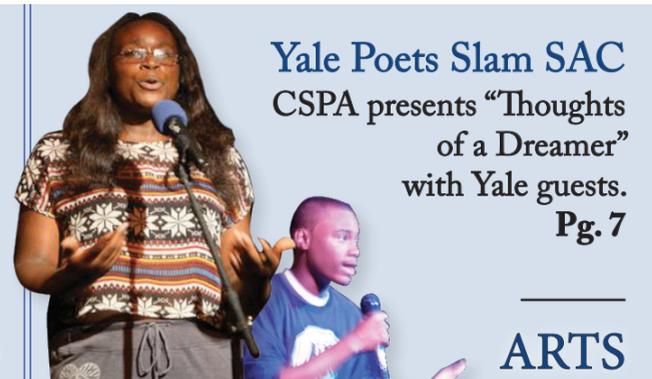
"Although we keep most parts of the Spring Visits, in terms of the class visits and the information sessions, the same, we are always open to change and better methods of presenting our school to the prospective families," concluded Mrs. Nastro.

Raindrops on Roses
These are a few of Rachel Hird's '17 favorite spring things. Pg. 6



The West's Saudi
Testing Western perceptions of Saudi Arabia. Pg. 4

OPINIONS



Yale Poets Slam SAC
CSPA presents "Thoughts of a Dreamer" with Yale guests. Pg. 7

ARTS

FEATURES

Students Elect New Judicial Committee Representatives

By NAMSAI SETHPORNONG '17
News Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, April 1, the third, fourth, and fifth formers gathered together in their respective form meetings to listen to the speeches of candidates running for Choate's Judicial Committee (JC), a student-elected body that reviews violations of academic or personal integrity.

The new set of Judicial Committee members consist of rising sixth formers Nazar Chowdhury '16, Keziah Clarke '16, Jaylin Lugardo '16, and Singhei Yeung '16. Lugardo will be returning for her second year on the JC and Yeung for this third. The rising fifth form representatives to the Judicial Committee will be Amanda Hartman '17 and one-year returner Kevin Shen '17, and the youngest members-to-be of the Judicial Committee will be rising fourth formers Josephine Mah '18 and Nils Lovegren '18. Later in the spring, the newly formed committee will elect two rising sixth formers as the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Judicial Committee.

The hearings function in accordance with the severity of a student's offense. Most of the hearings are form hearings, in which only the form representatives, chairs, and faculty adviser to the Judicial Committee attend. However, if the breach of academic or personal integrity is possible grounds for dismissal, then the entire committee will convene. For each hearing, the Judicial Committee members recommend their decision to the Dean of Students, who then decides the final sentence.

The election process for the Judicial Committee requires the aspiring representatives to collect four signatures from existing Judicial Committee members and interview with the faculty adviser to the committee. Then, the students must write and present a speech in front of their entire form.

"I was a little nervous for re-elections. I didn't think many people would be running again this year, but I was wrong. I wrote my speech twice and practiced for hours in front of a mirror to make sure I was getting my message across," said Shen.

Hartman decided to run this year because she has gained a better understanding of the Judicial Committee's function and the cases that come to the Judicial Committee. "I didn't run last year because I wasn't as immersed in the Choate

community as I am now. This year, I've encountered a lot of people who have been 'JC-ed,' and who felt their sentences were not appropriate," explained Hartman.

At the end of the 2015 winter term, Mr. Edward McCatty stepped down as faculty adviser to the Judicial Committee, a position he has assumed for 15 years. Since Mr. McCatty is currently on sabbatical, history and English teacher Ms. Amy Salot, who was the faculty adviser to the Judicial Committee back in the 1990s, started the spring term as the new faculty adviser to the Judicial Committee.

"I'll be working with the committee for this spring as well as next year. We'll see how it goes from there," said Ms. Salot.

The Judicial Committee has evolved over the past twenty years. According to Ms. Salot, the Judicial Committee has taken on a more lenient and understanding stance.

"The student handbook says that any breach of the honor code is grounds for dismissal. We've always had the option of dismissing a student and it was more common back in the 90's to do so, but now we're less likely to dismiss a student for plagiarism," explained Ms. Salot.

"We need someone who can separate the person from the case and someone who can look at every case from every angle."

— Ms. Amy Salot

Ms. Salot expects that each member of the Judicial Committee will be thoughtful in his or her analysis of every Judicial Committee hearing. "We need someone who can separate the person from the case and someone who can look at every case from every angle," said Ms. Salot.

Current sixth-form representative to the Judicial Committee Ashley Barrett '15 hopes the incoming and future representatives to the Judicial Committee will fully recognize and take advantage of their voice and influence on the committee.

"The great thing about the Choate committee is that the number of student votes outnumber that of the faculty, so we actually have a greater say regarding the decision that we will pass on to Mr. Stanley," said Barrett.



PHOTO/KEC INSTAGRAM

A few current and future KEC members attend the Green Careers, Women Leaders conference at Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

AT A GLANCE: SRP vs. KEC

By NATHAN CHANG '17
News Reporter

During spring break, about 30 sophomores discovered that they were about to either participate in the Science Research Program (SRP) for four trimesters at Choate or live at the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC) the next year as a part of the Environmental Immersion Program (EIP). In total, for the EIP, fourteen students were selected out of a group of about twenty, while for the SRP, two groups of eight—one group more focused on quantitative, physical science and engineering and another more concentrated on biology and medicine—were chosen out of more than forty sophomores. Although both of these signature programs involve in-depth study of science, they contrast in ways that make the students who participate in the respective programs different and unique.

The most notable difference between the two is that the SRP takes place in the Science Center on the main campus, while the EIP occurs at the KEC. Although the research methods and independent student project sequence of the EIP is based on the SRP, the EIP is an immersion program that promotes the environmental study of not only science, but also computer science, economics, policy, philosophy, and mathematics. On the other hand, in SRP, students focus on understanding what being a research scientist means and how to approach problems scientifically.

The SRP and EIP also contrast in the ways that they are attractive to students and prospective applicants. Dr. Rachel

Gritzer, head of the biology section of SRP, noted that SRP is mainly a "unique opportunity for students to dive into science at an early age and see that if it's a topic they would like to explore moving forward."

"I thought that it would be a really interesting experience, and I was especially interested in the part over the summer where you can work in a lab because I thought that that was something I would not have the chance to do otherwise," said Grace Kortum '17, a sophomore who will be in the biology section of SRP next year.

Max Nobel '17, who will be part of the quantitative SRP, added, "I really like science and the chance to work in a real lab and find out about something that we don't already know. The class itself is really fun; I have heard good things about the way that Dr. [Chris] Hogue runs the quantitative side, and I've heard good things about the biology section too."

The EIP is more attractive to students who wish to focus on the environment through researching certain topics that they find important, but it is also for students who want to participate in a multidisciplinary program that includes not only science but also English and art courses. Mr. Joseph Scanio, Program Director at the KEC, added that students at the KEC value looking at and addressing issues from multiple perspectives, such as from economic and ethical views, rather than just a scientific one.

Alejandro Garcia '17 commented, "When I was first applying to Choate, I was looking for a school that had some sort of environmental science program or sustainability initiatives." The idea of working on an independent project centered around the environment, as well as the sustainable dorms and bathrooms, further attracted him to the KEC.

Another contrast between the programs is that students in SRP must be working at a research lab in the summer after their junior year, whereas in the EIP, the focus on the students' work, such as a designed experiment and research involving collecting data, reading literature, writing a paper, and producing a poster, which happens during the course of the school year. For students in the EIP, continuing research in the summer is not required. Also, in SRP, students

have a whole term to focus on their research paper, poster, and presentation, while there is no fourth term for students in the EIP to focus on such tasks.

Despite differences, the SRP and EIP are similar in that they both offer opportunities and experiences to students who are genuinely interested in science and the natural world. The faculty members who work with the students of each program look for similar personality traits in prospective applicants. Applicants need to be able to work well in small groups and have the motivation to do more work than that which is required of them each night. Dr. Hogue commented, "SRP is as class where there's always something you could be doing; you're never really done with your SRP homework for the night."

Both signature programs require formal applications and at least one interview—the SRP application involves several, one with either Dr. Gritzer or Dr. Hogue, and one with a senior who has finished the program. Kortum noted that she felt more confident about the written application, but was nervous about the interviews. She also said that the interview with a senior was helpful because she was able to ask any questions that she had on her mind.

The SRP and EIP both offer opportunities and experiences to students who are interested in science and the natural world.

"Student interviews are more meant for each student to definitely have made that connection with and talked to someone who has finished SRP and can relate to what it's like from the student's perspective," said Dr. Gritzer.

Regardless of the specific differences, these signature programs both have incredible opportunities and experiences to offer the students involved. Bryce Wachtell '17, who will also be in the biology section of the SRP, remarked, "I'm really excited. It's going to be such a fantastic experience, and it seems like a great group of individuals."

of them," added Mr. Bynum.

Hence, whatever changes the Icahn program goes through, Ms. Matthews expresses her wish for the continuation of the program. "It's interesting that throughout the year, Icahn Scholars get a significant amount of the prizes offered at school," noted Ms. Matthews.

Due to this observation, along with other observations, Ms. Matthews concluded, "I think the program has been successful in bringing motivated and driven students to Choate."

SEVENTY-EIGHT PREFECTS SELECTED

By JUN JANG '17
News Reporter

The newly selected 2015-2016 prefects underwent a rigorous screening process and were notified of the prefect decisions over spring break. Over 150 rising sixth formers applied for a mere 78 open spots, and more than 20 day students applied to be one of the 10 day student prefects. Although the number of interested students in prefecting seems overwhelming, the acceptance rate has remained consistent over the past years.

Prefectship entails a variety of day-to-day responsibilities, depending on the dorm and the students that the prefects take care of.

On top of the daily 7:30 study hour check-ins, prefects serve as the liaisons between the students and the advisers, often required to use their discretion and judgment to address problems that may occur in the absence of faculty members. "Prefects are the allies and the counselors of students," said Ms. Mary Elizabeth Williamson, one of the heads of the prefect program.

"Prefectship is a position that requires a lot of time from students," said Ms. Williamson. She further emphasized that it is essential for the prefects to balance their time and needs with those of their prefectees.

Many factors are taken into account in the selection of prefects. Prospective prefects attended one of the three information meetings held throughout January that outlined prefects' duties, and the interested students also had to complete an application. With help from the deans and advisers, program heads Mr. Nicholas Molnar and Ms. Williamson strove to make the best match between a prospective prefect's dorm preferences and the dorm advisers' prefect preferences.

The process of selecting the two Head Prefects, however, involves direct student voice. The Head Prefects are chosen through approval voting; the 78 prefects vote for the Head Prefects. The Head Prefects are liaisons between the prefects and Mr. Molnar, Ms. Williamson, and Mrs. Laura Milligan, the head of day student prefects. The Head Prefects' primary responsibility is to facilitate the relation between the prefects and their house advisers. On top of that, they attend a weekly meeting with faculty members such as Ms. Williamson to discuss concerns amongst the prefect group.

Selecting prefects is not easy. The most difficult aspect of choosing prefects for Mr. Molnar and Ms. Williamson is that all those who deserve to be prefects will not have the opportunity to do so.

"Complex situations seldom have simple solutions. Prefect selection is not formulaic. So while we aim to appoint the strongest possible group, we do so acknowledging that with limited spaces available and competing priorities, 100 percent satisfaction is impossible," said Mr. Molnar.

The importance of prefectship cannot be emphasized enough. Mr. Molnar explained that the goal of the prefect program at Choate extends far beyond a year of interaction between a prefect and his or her prefectee. "Ideally, a prefect's influence on prefectees would outlive the term of interaction at Choate; the prefect program hopes to attract students with capacity and willingness to positively affect underform students not only during but also beyond the year of prefect service," said Mr. Molnar.

Ms. Williamson concluded, "Prefects are really important to life at Choate and the continuity of our residential and day student programs. We couldn't run if we didn't have prefects. I am very grateful to prefects who have served and will be serving."



PHOTO/KATE MILLER

Former students from both the biology and quantitative sections of the Science Research Program pose for the camera.

Icahn

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it." Various changes were suggested and recommendations are being made to Headmaster Dr. Alex Curtis.

"One of the recommendations the committee made, which will be implemented for the coming year, was not only to consider students who have full need for the program, but to also consider students who have partial need. So we're allow-

ing a range of need, but most of the students demonstrate significant need," explained Ms. Wallace. This decision was made in hopes of getting "more bright and talented students here," added Ms. Wallace.

Even before the committee meetings, subtle changes had been made to the Icahn Scholars program. "Earlier, we took an occasional student from programs like Prep-for-Prep or A Better Chance (ABC), but eventually, we stopped. However, one of the decisions we

made last year and one that we're continuing this year is that we will accept people from some of those programs," said Ms. Wallace.

Though various changes have been made in the Icahn Scholars program, at its core, the program is still the same. For Lugardo, the experience has been phenomenal. "The Icahn program completely changed my life. It would have gone in a completely different direction had Choate not accepted me."



PHOTO/CAROLYN GARIBALDI

Noah Freeman '15, Sonja Eliason '15, Monica Collazo '15 and the Wild Boar mascot encourage passersby to contribute to the "Show the Love" campaign. The class of 2015 raised over \$2600 for Choate's Students for Students scholarship.

SENIORS "SHOW THE LOVE"

By JONATHAN JOEI '18
News Reporter

With the aid of a few plastic tables, a smattering of chocolate candies, and the entire class of 2015, the "Show the Love" senior gift challenge raised over 2600 dollars in a few weeks for Choate's Student for Students scholarship. The aptly named program campaigned throughout February to convince sixth formers to donate, and nearly 240 students, representing 94 percent of the senior class, ultimately participated in the event.

With about three years' nurturing by Ms. Carolyn Garibaldi, the Annual Fund Volunteer Coordinator, and Ms. Heidi Conner, the Associate Director to the Annual Fund, the "fun, informative, and educational" program has blossomed into what it is today. Many other people pitched in to make the program a success, including the class gift committee and Mr. Tom Hill.

The 2015 campaign was more successful than previous campaigns in terms of dollars raised, but participation numbers were down from last year. "The class of 2014 had 98 percent of their class participate. This year we had 94 percent," noted Ms. Garibaldi. "We had a few kids who were being a little stubborn," added senior Turner Uppgren '15, a member of the class gift committee.

Though these statistics might indicate a decline, both Ms. Garibaldi and Ms. Conner were not concerned with numbers.

"It was not how much money we raised, but it was about getting kids involved and getting them to learn about the Students for Students scholarship," explained Ms. Conner. "The senior class gift serves as an opportunity for the class to give back to the school and also for current students to learn a little bit more about how philanthropy has impacted their time at this school."

As for the amount of money given, some people stressed that it was not how much one gave, but the fact that one actually gave. "It's more about getting a majority of kids to do it. It's more about if you donate, not what you donate," said Uppgren.

All of the donations received in the program went to financial aid.

The scholarship fund was the main recipient of the accrued funds in this year's event. All of the donations received in the program went to financial aid, which Ms. Conner explained, "allows fellow students to participate in activities they might not have the opportunity to." Overall, 11 million dollars, which have been accumulated throughout the years from the scholarship, have been pivotal for the success of many past and current Choate students.

Unlike in years before, Conner and Garibaldi tried a slightly different approach to the "Show the Love" senior challenge this year by creating a class gift com-

mittee. Comprised of fifteen dedicated seniors, the group was instrumental in ensuring the success of the campaign by raising awareness among their classmates throughout the entire event.

Ms. Conner commented, "The student committee was super engaged and excited and they did a great job in getting the class involved." Ms. Conner added, "We had posters hanging up all throughout Hill House and the Johnson Athletic Center, we had the kids putting door hangers on their dorm doors to advertise the campaign, we had committee members speaking at school meetings and community lunches, we had e-mails going out to class to inform them how it worked, and we had a student-run Facebook page." The committee used a multitude of methods to collect funds from the senior class. "It was a great effort by the kids, and we are happy that we were able to help them," concluded Ms. Garibaldi.

As for the future, Ms. Garibaldi wishes that the program will soon become part of the Choate culture and the senior class initiative. "Just like Last Hurrah and Garden Party, we want this to be a tradition," she said. "We had awesome kids. Hopefully the next grade will be as awesome." When asked what they would like to see in next year's campaign, both faculty members instantly piped up. "One-hundred percent. We want one-hundred percent next year," they exclaimed.

Choate Model UN Wins Best Small Delegation

By ALYSSA SHIN '18
News Reporter

Eleven members of the Choate Model United Nations (MUN) team, led by MUN President Morgan Harris '15 debated pressing international issues such as the reunification of North Korea and South Korea and international pandemic and epidemic control as part of the Eagle Model United Nations Conference (MUNC). The conference took place at Boston College, with students participating in forty-minute simulations during the mornings of March 27, March 28 and March 29. The Choate MUN team announced their impressive result on their Facebook page, stating, "We couldn't be more proud and hope that each delegate, regardless of committee awards, recognizes their invaluable contribution to the team and its success."

Choate students Morgan Harris '15, Lubna Farooqui '15, Tyler Williams '16, Mehvish Khan '15, Arin Kaye '17, and Noah Hermes de Boor '18 all returned to campus with victories, and the Choate delegation as a whole won Best Small Delegation. Harris represented Mt. Olympus in the Trojan War Committee and won Best Delegate. Farooqui represented Samuel Adams in the Second Continental Congress and won Honorable Mention. Khan represented George V in the World War

I Allies Committee and won Best Delegate. Williams, representing the United Kingdom in the World Health Organization, won Outstanding Delegate. Hermes de Boor represented Nigeria in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and won Honorable Mention. Kaye, representing the United Kingdom in the same committee, won Best Delegate.

In order to prepare for any MUN conference, a delegate is previously assigned a country, historical figure, or position to represent in a specific committee. At EagleMUNC, delegates could participate in committees such as the International Summit on Disease Prevention or the African Union. Prior to the conference, delegates are expected to prepare and research their specific topics. The eleven members of Choate's delegation each represented a position and participated in eight different committees. In order to prepare for the conference, the Choate MUN Team met regularly in training pods throughout the week, honing their public speaking and debating skills. As time went on, members spent more time researching their specific topics, running mock conferences, and writing position papers. According to Kaye, some members took up to two hours preparing for the conference, while others took up to eight hours.

Around the world, MUN conferences are dedicated to simulat-

ing the conferences in the United Nations by debating the best interests of different nations regarding a set of previously debated topics. MUN allows high school students from various countries around the world to debate controversial topics, while also improving debating and public speaking skills and meeting fellow students with similar interests in international issues. Currently, the Choate MUN Team has many regular members that are passionate about the club. According to Kaye, "I do MUN because it gives me an opportunity to debate topics that I care about with others who do as well."

Although the impressive results may give the impression that Choate students did not run into any challenges, they in fact faced challenges that any student at a MUN conference is susceptible to, such as staying up until midnight for a crisis committee, waking up early the next morning, or debating for side they did not personally agree with. On the other hand, they also

PREFECTING PROGRAM PREMIERES AT THE KEC

By JESSICA SHI '17
News Staff Reporter

In the eyes of the main campus students, the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC) is a place filled with passionate students, exciting classes, and, of course, good food. Students at the KEC can take courses such as Environmental Economics, Environmental Policy, Research Methods, as well as other environmental-related courses. However, something that the KEC has never had, however, are prefects.

For the first time since its debut, the KEC will host prefects (3 of them) for the 2015-16 school year. Mr. Joe Scanio, who is the program director, a teacher, and a live-in adviser at the KEC, is excited to welcome this addition. He says the possibility was considered since the KEC first started, but they ultimately decided to begin without any prefects and consider making changes in future years.

Mr. Scanio commented on the importance of prefects for students: "Students often comment on how valuable prefects were in shaping their time at Choate." He added, "Prefects are meant to be empathetic student counselors who set a positive tone in the dorm."

Prefects will not participate in the Environmental Immersion Program (EIP) and will assume most normal prefect duties, including sharing experiences with students, organizing dorm activities, and, as Mr. Scanio said, "being liaisons between the students and faculty."

Three rising seniors will prefect in the KEC next year: Dean Arredando '16, SoJeong Lim '16, and Khanh Vu '16. Arredando and Vu were both participants in the EIP this year, and thus have already had a taste of KEC life. "Frankly,

it's been the best year I've ever had school-wise," Vu said. "The KEC is a really close-knit community."

She also fondly recalled group activities such as two-hour snowball fights (with hot cocoa afterward, of course) and sleeping overnight in the woods together. Dorm life was also a very positive experience. During her time, Vu noticed that both advisers in the KEC are male, which she believed made it slightly harder for female students to find someone to confide in. Thus, Vu thought the new prefect program is a good way to remedy the stress of KEC life: "It takes a lot of getting used to. The way of life is so different from the main campus." On this front, the prefects can provide support and advice for the new students and help to organize activities for the dorm community.

Although Lim has spent time in the KEC—a few times to visit a friend or for school events—her involvement with the program has been relatively limited. She said, "I haven't been there all that much, but I've always been intrigued by the environment that they have there and the experience that it gives students." When filling out the prefect application, Lim listed the KEC as her first choice and could not be more delighted to have this opportunity.

"The prefects would have a role equal to that of the other students at the KEC in making community decisions."

— Mr. Joe Scanio

Not only do the prefects hope that their arrival will benefit the students in the EIP, but they also see it as a win-win for

the prefects themselves. As Lim put it, it's the "best of both worlds." As someone with diverse interests that include but extend beyond environmental studies, Lim looks forward to taking all of her classes on campus while also experiencing the KEC community. Lim added that her prefects have always had a considerable impact on her and she is excited to have a chance to step into their shoes.

Reactions to this addition of prefects are mixed. Part of the KEC's culture is its independence and looser regulations, such as a relaxed dress code.

Danielle Young '17, who will be a part of the EIP next year, said, "The new program has the potential to be a good idea, but having prefects could change the set-up in the environment. I feel like that, with prefects, a hierarchy exists."

Vu addressed similar concerns, citing a goal to fulfill her duties as a prefect without being too strict. However, those involved with the KEC are aware of and addressed such potential issues. Mr. Scanio said, "The living situation at the KEC is unique. The prefects would have a role equal to that of the other students at the KEC in making community decisions." With luck, the prefects and the EIP students will be able to find a happy balance and provide mutual support and assistance next year.

According to future EIP participant Liv Elmore '16, who will transition from a day to boarding student next year said, "At first I was unsure if having prefects that are in my grade would be strange, but I'm excited to live the full boarding experience, prefects included." Elmore added that even though she is not a prefect, she hopes that won't stop her from supporting her classmates next year.



PHOTO/CHOATE MUN

Members of Choate's MUN team recently received several honors and awards at EagleMUNC, which was held at Boston College. Overall, the team won Best Small Delegation at the conference.

faced problems specific to Choate students. Kaye said, "If you go to a conference with a lot of private school kids, generally speaking, they will recognize the name Choate and automatically either decide if they want to work with you or not."

"EagleMUNC is an interesting conference because it combines the typical aspects of a regular MUN conference, but it emphasizes more creative thinking and rapid responses to various crises that are thrown into the conference as soon

as you walk into the committee room," said MUN president Harris.

Despite some of the challenges Choate students faced, they were able to use their interest in the topics as an impetus not only to overcome these barriers, but also to perform their best and even return with several awards. Harris concluded, "I would just like to say how proud I am of the entire delegation that went with me to EagleMUNC. As the conference was the weekend right

after spring break, we all had to pull together over the break to ensure that deadlines were being met, preparations were being made, and that in general everyone felt ready for the challenges that they were going to have to face in their committees. Winning Best Small Delegation was a great victory for the entire team, and personally it somewhat validated my role in leading the delegation. The team is stronger than ever and I am just so proud."



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WRITE FOR THE NEWS

Interested students should attend an Assignment Meeting, held on Mondays at 6:45PM in Lanphier 106. To submit a Letter to the Editor or opinion piece, please email or write us. Opinion pieces and cartoons on the Opinion page represent the opinions of their respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.

ABOUT THE NEWS

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ELECTIONS MARRED BY NEPOTISM

By SHRENIK AGRAWAL '17
News Writer

The spring term is here; the snow is melting, the Lanphier Center is open, and, most important to us students, the Judicial Committee elections took place. Moments like JC elections are what make Choate a great place. Brave, trustworthy students vie to be in an uncomfortable situation, where they have to make difficult decisions concerning their friends and peers. The brilliant part is that JC representatives are not hand picked students that the administration likes; rather they are peers that the student body votes for. There is only one problem: Choate employs approval voting, which is an ineffective voting system that leaves voters confused and qualified candidates out of office. Playground politics tend to prevail over logic. Thankfully we are at Choate, and we are lucky enough that all of the candidates are smart people, so we end up doing just fine. This does not change the fact, however, that the voting system is ineffective.

Those that are in favor of approval voting preach that it allows for the most approved person to be in office, but if that were what we wanted in our leaders, then Neil Patrick Harris would be president. As students we only have so much

power. From that perspective our situation is bleak. The administration decides 99% of our lives for us, and then when it comes to the 1% of affairs in which we have a say, we operate convolutedly. There is a reason why the number of major institutions that use approval voting can be counted on one hand. If there is so much going against approval voting, then why do we still use it?

The biggest reason approval voting is still in effect is because it is so much easier. Approval voting means less thinking on our part. When we vote, we are not compelled to ask ourselves who the best candidate was. We can vote for as many people as we please, and more often than not, students vote for multiple boys and multiple girls. The people that are running are our friends, classmates, and teammates. No one wants to vote against his or her friends. Imagine what would happen if a friend found out that you voted against them. They can take it the wrong way and feel betrayed. Our teachers and advisers are always saying that we should try to do the right thing instead of the easy thing, but then they institute approval voting. The fact that approval voting exists at Choate is hypocritical. A common sentiment that is expressed after the speeches is "I'm gonna vote

for him because he is my friend, but I'll vote for her because she gave the best speech." We are encouraged to step out of our comfort zone at Choate, but not when it comes to electing our representatives. Approval voting is democracy watered down by nepotism.

The solution is not difficult: Choate should institute elections where each voter has two votes. Each student should have one vote for a guy, and one vote for a girl. The upside is that the most qualified candidate will win and the voters will not be able to have any real qualms with the results. I think the only real downside will be that students will have to put a more effort into making thoughtful decisions.

Choate is a community where most aspects of community members' lives are astronomically better than that of the average person. People are respectful, conversations are intelligent, and life is pleasant for the most part. We are frequently reminded that life outside of the "Choate Bubble" is very different. We are reminded that things are different in Wallingford, in Connecticut, and throughout the country. The Choate Bubble effect works against us in this case; in fact, it dilutes our democratic rights.

Freedom to Believe is Infringed Upon at Choate

By ALEX MICROULIS '16
News Staff Writer

Anyone who attends or works at Choate Rosemary Hall is aware of the fact that, for the most part, Choate is a fairly progressive and liberal school. However, over the past few years, it has begun to feel as though Choate has become so progressive that students' ability to think for themselves and voice their opinions on controversial issues has been hindered by the aggressive nature these progressive ideas are conveyed to the student body.

Though programs like Diversity Day are important and valuable, the aggressive nature in which these ideas are conveyed, create an atmosphere of hostility toward any ideas contrary to the "Choate vision." Stories of racism and discrimination make many feel singled out and guilty and any sort of dissent for the most part is unwelcomed. Time and time again, I saw students voice their true feelings about controversial issues such as race, gay marriage, and wealth, and every time these ideas did not fit the

ideas of the Choate populous, they were attacked. If students are not able to speak freely, how will it be possible to create a safe and positive learning environment?

This same aggressiveness was seen throughout this year whenever gender roles, gay marriage, and even discussions about the tragedy in Ferguson were brought up. Apparently, now at Choate if you're not a pro-gay feminist who is horrified by the actions in Ferguson, you are immediately labeled a racist bigot.

At this point, I'm sure many readers have already decided to label me as one of these racist bigots. What may surprise you is that I actually support feminism, gay marriage, and consider what happened to Michael Brown to be a homicide. So I'm not advocating for racism and discrimination and trying to get rid of Diversity Day. I think that as a community, we must recognize that it is a problem when students no longer feel comfortable expressing their beliefs, especially in a place like Choate, where free thinking is a necessity.

The issue of race and discrimi-

nation is almost unimportant to my point in this article. The more pressing issue is how students, and sadly even faculty, react to student's beliefs. In my opinion, everyone is entitled his or her own opinion. These opinions can be misinformed or ignorant, but it is someone's belief and in a learning community like ours, everyone has a right to his or her own opinions, and those opinions deserve respect. However, if someone is misinformed about an issue, I think that there are much more constructive and positive ways to correct him or her besides simply attacking the misguided beliefs.

Although emotions can run high and many of us are very passionate and hold our values close to us, we must be conscious and respectful of each other. When students no longer feel comfortable expressing their opinions, the learning environment Choate hopes to cultivate can no longer exist. However, by constantly being aware of others' feelings and seeing both sides of an argument, we can return to the enriching learning environment Choate can be.

DRESS CODE TALK PERPETUATES CHOATE SEXISM

By HANNAH LEMMONS '16
News Staff Writer

Spring term at Choate tends to mean different things for different people. For the athlete, spring term might mark the start of a new season; for the senior, spring term could mean lounging on Hill House's steps; for the artist, spring term may represent musical rehearsals. For girls at Choate, however, spring term means being strongly encouraged to bend to the age-old norm that women are responsible for how men respond to the exposure of their bodies. That, at least, is what the administration unintentionally implied with its informal dress code announcement to female students last Wednesday.

After dismissing the male half of the form, the deans told us to "be aware of our clothing choices." They told us to watch out for unfortunate clothing mishaps and to be careful of revealing accessories.

According to the deans, the boys were dismissed from the dress code assembly in order to avoid any chuckles, snickers, or otherwise unnecessary comments about how girls should dress. But that is precisely the reason why they should have stayed. By dismissing the boys, the administration missed an

opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the entire form. We could have discussed the immaturity of these childish responses and the idea that the dress code offers boys an opportunity to show respect towards girls' clothing choices.

As soon as the deans dismissed the boys and introduced the topic, I, along with many of the 5th form girls, immediately questioned why our hem lengths had to be discussed in a separate conversation away from the boys. Are guys not also shedding layers in these coming weeks? Are girls the only ones who violate dress code in the spring term? Why must girls be aware that what we wear influences the way others perceive ourselves and Choate? Does that responsibility not also apply to the boys? Although the administration's intent was to keep an announcement that didn't seem to be a big deal from becoming a larger "girls vs. boys issue," splitting the grade by gender naturally created a girls vs. boys situation.

First, the situation implied that a conversation about hem length does not concern boys because boys don't usually wear skirts. This cisgender attitude itself is a problem, as cisgender norms not only reinforce stereotypes on gender binary people (e.g., a girl being seen as more feminine or "girly-girl," if she

frequently wears skirts, and thus seeming less likely to play sports or excel in STEM subjects—anything that doesn't fit the girly-girl image), but also completely ignore and exclude non-cis people.

Second, the situation implied that it's only girls who, by exposing parts of their bodies in the springtime, embarrass themselves and the school. Staying in dress code applies to everyone. But splitting us up implied that a girl wearing a short skirt on revisit days is considered a much bigger no-no than a male infraction, as it reflects badly on herself and the school when a person makes a judgment about the type of person she is (which in itself calls into question unfair stereotypes), and thus the type of person Choate accepts. And when that is the case, the blame is tacitly placed on girls for tarnishing the image of Choate, as well as implying that it is the sole responsibility of girls to uphold Choate's ethos with female dressing habits. Why can the exposure of my thigh be considered embarrassing? Isn't it more embarrassing if people react to my exposed skin, when their attention should be focused on the academic learning environment? And if so, why aren't we addressing people's inappropriate and distracting reactions instead of

my 'distracting' anatomy?

This question is perhaps the most important to consider when trying to understand why I feel so frustrated about the dress code announcement. The boys were primarily dismissed to remove any jeering, clowning, teasing, or "oohs and aahs" that might have arisen—as a result, that behavior, which is disruptive and tasteless, goes unaddressed. And in that inaction, everyone in this community passively condones that type of behavior. We must take a step back and acknowledge that this is reflective of something much deeper than the simple matter of what girls at Choate are wearing: underlying the embarrassment that we are encouraged to feel about what we are wearing has more to do with male dominance than it does Choate's dress code.

I am not suggesting that anyone intended to cause this issue to manifest itself, nor do I seek to blame or shame anyone. I am also not insinuating that the true philosophy behind the dress code is anything other than creating a professional and focused environment for students and faculty. However, although these patriarchal ideals are not purposefully foundational to the dress code, the influence of those values can still be encountered in Choate's dress code.



PHOTO: LUCAS FERRER

A group of fifteen Choate students and faculty members ventured to Saudi Arabia to test Western perceptions of the nation. As displayed, the nation is developing rapidly in contrast to common belief.

WEST IS WRONG ABOUT SAUDI

By LUCAS FERRER '17
News Writer

Extremists. Bombs. Terrorists. Oil. ISIS. War. Turn on CNN, Fox, MSNBC, or any other major news network, and these images seem to dominate Western perception of the Middle East. In the West, we are constantly bombarded by the media with images of a Middle Eastern culture that appears to be more savage than civil, which leads to a lack of appreciation and understanding of the rich culture and history deeply rooted in Arab nations. No country is more subject to this gross misrepresentation than Saudi Arabia.

As a member of the Choate trip to Saudi Arabia over spring break, I, along with seven other students and seven faculty members, was granted the unique opportunity to travel to one of the most isolated countries in the world. Because of my interest in Middle Eastern Studies, one of my biggest goals of the trip was to gain a deeper understanding of a country that I had only experienced through readings in class and through its representation in the media. More often than not, the West boils Saudi Arabia down to three aspects: oppression of women, a lack of understanding and tolerance of other religions, and excess wealth brought by oil. Saudi's seclusion has prevented westerners from accurately perceiving Saudi culture. The only knowledge that most Westerners have of Saudi Arabia relates to Osama bin Laden and his orchestration of the attacks of September

11, 2001. These views of Saudi Arabia have unfortunately become pervasive in the West, and when combined with the fact that it is nearly impossible for Westerners to enter the country and learn about it firsthand, it is unsurprising that the common perception of Saudi Arabia is a negative one.

This perception, however, differs greatly from what I saw and experienced during my time in the country. Currently under the rule of the recently crowned King Salman, Saudi appears very much to be becoming a more progressive nation than it has historically been. While restrictions on women remain in the country—women have yet to receive the right to drive and must be covered by an abaya and scarf in public—the pure resolve, willpower, and resilience of Saudi women was evident during my visit.

Saudi appears very much to be becoming a more progressive nation than it has historically been.

We toured Bupa Arabia, one of the leading healthcare providers in the Middle East. Bupa is considered to be the best working environment for women in Saudi—32 percent of the Saudis employed by the company are female. The company even provides advanced nurseries with a full nursing staff to care for the children of female employees as they work, which is a service that companies in America should take

note of. Committees within the government are currently working to create legislation to encourage and boost female participation in the workforce. By talking with Saudi's former oil minister, chairman to ARAMCO, and ambassador to Egypt, we learned of Saudi Arabia's commitment to investing in its own future. The Saudi government is currently bolstering the nation's commitment to building the country's education system into something that goes beyond simply providing education for all. The Saudis are also well aware that oil will eventually run out and are investing in the development and implementation of renewable energy sources.

There is no question as to whether or not Saudi Arabia is a socially conservative country. Rights for LGBT people in Saudi Arabia, for example, are nonexistent, and the punishment for identifying as LGBT in Saudi can go as far as capital punishment, something difficult to ignore. The country, however, is fortunately on a forward-moving trajectory. The average person in Saudi is much more similar to us Westerners than they are different. Saudi has a fascinating history, and its culture is one of the richest I have ever had the privilege to experience. As a society, we must move past the stereotypes presented to us by the media. While the turmoil plaguing the region should not go unrecognized, it is imperative that we acknowledge Saudi history, culture, and progressive track into the future in order to begin to understand one of the world's most misunderstood countries.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1912 CE RMS *Titanic* sets sail from Great Britain ❁ 1916 CE Jim Barnes wins the first PGA Championship

PHOTO/TODAY ONLINE

Mourners watch in sorrow as the casket of Lee Kuan Yew, who served as Prime Minister of Singapore for 31 years, travels through downtown Singapore. Mr. Lee passed away on March 23, from pneumonia.

LEE KUAN YEW: SINGAPORE'S SAVIOR

By HARRY O'DONNELL '16
News Writer

March 23, 2015 will forever be a day of remembrance in Singapore as the country said goodbye to its founding father, Lee Kuan Yew, who passed away from pneumonia in Singapore's General Hospital. Although viewed by many Westerners as a controversial figure, it is essential that the world remember Lee as a leader dedicated to improving the lives of his people.

Dubbed as the "architect" of Singapore, Lee transformed an impoverished ex-British colony into a thriving multi-cultural state during his 31-year tenure as Prime Minister. Although his time in office officially ended in 1990, Lee continued to have significant influence on Singaporean politics up until the day of his death.

Sitting at the very bottom of the Malay Peninsula, Singapore has no deposits of natural resources. Thus, the success of this micro-nation has, and will continue to, depend solely upon its people.

Born in 1923, Lee created the People's Action Party (PAP) in 1954 and became Prime Minister in 1959.

Under Lee's rule, the government promised to create a desirable living environment, provided that the people worked to the best of their ability. Lee strongly opposed social warfare, believing that it promoted laziness. He once remarked, "The principle is that you must work. We are not going to pay you for lying around."

Although social welfare is not available in Singapore, its government housing is consistently ranked as the best in the world. Moreover, Singapore has some of the lowest

crime, murder, and corruption rates in the world—even though it is located in a region where all three issues are widely prevalent.

Lee believed that education was fundamental to Singapore's future, saying, "In the long run, it is the quality of our youths that will determine our future. And we have to invest in them more than any other sector."

While Singapore continued to flourish, Lee became increasingly wary of all surrounding threats. To the north and south, the poorer states of Malaysia and Indonesia were enraged by the rate at which Singapore was developing. Either country could have easily taken over the tiny nation and seized its wealth.

When describing these potential threats, Lee said, "We knew that if we were just like our neighbors, we would die. Because we've got nothing to offer against what they have to offer. So we had to produce something which is different and better than what they have." That is precisely what Lee would eventually do.

To safeguard Singapore from its neighbors, Lee passed the National Service Act of 1967. Regardless of race, class, and wealth, every Singaporean man was (and still is) obliged to complete two years of military service immediately after graduating high school. Contrary to other militaries that aim to dehumanize soldiers, National Service (NS) humanizes its soldiers. During their time in Uniform, NS soldiers not only improve their physical states, but also build relationships with Singaporeans that they would otherwise never meet. By passing the NS Act, Lee provided Singapore with protection, along with

an eye-opening experience for the protectors themselves.

Thanks to Lee, Singapore currently stands as one of the world's most prosperous melting pots. Today, Singapore's population of 5.4 million is mainly comprised of four races, ten religions, and several languages. To guarantee that all of these different groups could live together in harmony, Lee created laws prohibiting the use of hate-speech and racism.

Furthermore, Lee instated English as the national language to ensure that all Singaporeans spoke a universal tongue.

Lee believed that racial integration was essential to the development of Singapore, once saying, "Crucial [to Singapore] is interracial, inter-religious harmony. Without that, quarreling with one another, we are doomed."

Other than Singapore, there are no other Asian countries where these demographics peacefully coexist, let alone coalesce. In the neighboring countries of Malaysia and Indonesia, citizens of Chinese descent are resented by natives of the Peninsula and Islands. Meanwhile, in other ex-British colonies such as Hong Kong, ethnic Indians are refused citizenship simply because they are not racially Chinese. Thus, the diversity of race, religion, and language is an aspect that appears to be truly unique to Singapore.

During his life, Lee Kuan Yew cared little about whether he was liked or not. In Lee's mind, the prosperity and future of Singapore were far more important than the opinions of a few journalists.

LET'S TURN THINGS AROUND WITH IRAN

By DYLAN STAFFORD '16
News Writer

Last Thursday, the United States and Iran, along with five other world powers, announced that they had agreed upon a framework for a nuclear deal. In return for scaled-back economic sanctions from the West, Iran agreed to serious concessions that would prevent it from building a nuclear weapon anytime in the foreseeable future.

For far too long, the United States has been steadfast in its refusal to negotiate with terrorists. What we must realize, however, is that by leaving Iran to its own devices, we hurt our security here at home. Neither our military nor our contempt for Iran will slow its path towards a nuclear weapon. But diplomacy just might, and last week's announcement signaled the United State's willingness to try it out.

The deal came after eight days of tireless negotiations in Lausanne, Switzerland that extended a day beyond the already twice-extended deadline for the framework agreement. The meetings were riddled with diplomatic maneuvers, technical details, and unforeseen issues. Yet considering how many setbacks, doubters, and outright opponents stood in the way of a deal, Thursday was a remarkable, surprising step forward that wouldn't have been imaginable just a few years ago.

Of course, the deal isn't final, and a number of key details have yet to be resolved. In the coming months, negotiators will have to settle on the timing of sanctions relief, the scope of the inspections to take place, and where Iran's existing nuclear stockpile goes. They'll have to figure out how to re-impose sanctions if Iran falls short of its promises, and they'll have to appease hardliners in their respective countries. All-said, there remains a lot to be dealt with, and the full deal, due June 30, will not easily be reached.

But the framework that has been reached is an important step forward and means a great deal for America and its interests. Iran has agreed to cut its number of centrifuges used to enrich uranium by two-thirds (from 19,000 to 6,000), and they will only be allowed to maintain the oldest and least efficient of those centrifuges. They've promised to reduce their stockpile of low-enriched uranium from 10,000 kilograms to just 300 — a 97% reduction. Iran has also agreed to use its existing nuclear facilities for civilian purposes only. It's offered to alter its plans for a reactor at Arak,

preventing it from producing plutonium, and it has agreed to unprecedented inspections of its sites by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Aaron Stein, a Middle East and nuclear proliferation expert, highlighted how favorable the deal could be if signed. In a recent interview with Vox, he said that, "When I was doing my non-proliferation training at Monterey, this is the type of inspection regime that we would dream up in our heads."

Since its announcement last week, the deal has been met with a wide range of reactions. A swarm of Iranians celebrated the return of its foreign minister to Tehran. Hardliners in both the U.S. and Iran criticized the deal, calling for further talks to come to a stand-still. Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, came out with predictably harsh words, as did the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, Congressman John Boehner. Democrats in the U.S. have been generally supportive of the deal, and President Obama has trumpeted it as the only viable way of preventing Iran from getting nuclear weapons.

And he may very well be right.

What opponents of the deal fail to provide is an alternative that would keep Iran from developing nuclear arms. After years of refusing to make any concessions to Iran in relation to its nuclear program, we have witnessed its increased capacity to enrich uranium and its boldness to go ahead and build more facilities.

We ought to commend the Obama administration — and the Iranian government — for having the boldness to pursue a good, old-fashioned diplomatic solution. In light of all the partisan gridlock

and bickering here in America and around the world, this deal offers a refreshing change of pace — and a reminder of what good foreign policy looks like.

In recent decades, we have increasingly relied on our military to solve our greatest international problems. Right now, we spend about 18% of our budget on defense, and less than 1% on diplomacy and foreign aid. It's time we change that.

We don't have to agree with everything, or anything, Iran does. But we shouldn't allow our historic enmity with the nation to blind us to a real opportunity to turn things around. Even if a finalized deal falls through, we will have broken down some of the wall separating our countries. If Americans and Iranians can witness cooperation between their nations, we will have already accomplished something.



SOLDIERS' SEXUAL ASSAULT DISGRACES AMERICA

By HAKEEM ANGULU '16
News Writer

It's hard to disagree with the statement that the United States of America is the most prosperous nation in the world. Look at how far we have come! We are undisputed world leaders in culture, politics and freedom; we have the best movies, and an endless variety of hamburgers. Ignore the radical and pessimistic statistics that get thrown around, like the fact that of developed countries, we have the highest child poverty rate, greatest income inequality, highest homicide rate, largest prison population, and are ranked 47th on the UN Gender Inequality Index. However, we should be most ashamed of our hypocrisy and disregard for accountability.

The Colombian government recently released a report stating that when American troops were on Colombian soil in the early 2000s for a diplomatic aid initiative called "Plan Colombia," they sexually abused at least 54 underage Colombian girls. Not only did they physically abuse these girls, but they also filmed most of the sexual acts and sold

the material as pornography. A mother of one of the victims said that when she confronted one of the perpetrators, because the Colombian government couldn't, the soldier said, "Your daughter is a little slut; nothing has happened here."

The troops were all granted diplomatic immunity under bilateral agreements between Columbia and the U.S., so not a

Instead of reporting the shame that the troops brought upon our country, news outlets were silent

single one of the perpetrators has been prosecuted. Not one. Many questions arise after hearing this, like: "Are the girls okay?" or "Where are these men now? Do they still serve?" However, the question that many are asking is: "Why haven't I heard about this before?"

At the time of writing this article, not a single large American media outlet has reported on this issue. These soldiers who went to fight drug cartels in a foreign

country but actually raped dozens of minors are still free men, and CNN is still reporting on why the blue and black (or white and gold) dress went viral. Even *The New York Times*, one of the most prestigious and trusted newspapers in the world, has not yet made space for such a shocking story. We pride ourselves on freedom of the press, and the media jumps on cases of terrorism against the U.S. by Middle Eastern extremist groups, but what happens when the American soldiers are the terrorists? Silence.

American citizens deserve to know about this. The U.S. military budget is the highest in the world, and the military is known to be an honorable, respectable and necessary component of American defense and culture, so why are we allowing rogue troops to get away with tarnishing the reputation of such a well-established institution? CNN, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and even the beloved Fox News have failed us. While they focus their agenda on demonizing foreigners and highlighting trivial political inadequacies, stories like this are ignored. Three-hundred and twenty million people are left ignorant of the hor-

rors that members of the military are committing, and we are oblivious to our true world image.

In case you're wondering, this was not a rare incident. Recently, an Army Sergeant and a Mexican contractor drugged and raped a 12-year old girl inside an Air Force Base in Colombia. Immediately, America plucked them both out of Colombia, claiming that they had diplomatic immunity, so neither of them faced the consequences of their actions. Once again, U.S. media outlets were radio silent. Instead of reporting on the dishonor and shame that the troops brought upon our country, the news outlets continue to spread American imperialism and superiority.

These soldiers are disgusting, and not a true representation of our military; yet America defends their behavior with ambiguous international laws, and our news outlets fail to inform the general public. Our level of freedom of the press is astounding, and we have a responsibility to make sure that no matter the issue, once it affects the American public or the American image, our media outlets should inform the citizens.

Spring Things

BY RACHEL HIRD '17
News Reporter

Winter blues be gone! Here are some signs of spring to look out for—and get psyched about—besides more daylight hours, open windows, flowers growing around campus, and Connecticut no longer smelling like stale dirt and despair:

1. Spring fashion. While a few brave souls wear warm-weather clothing all throughout the year, most of us will find it refreshing to store away winter coats and start wearing open-toed shoes.
2. Going outside is no longer scary. Now you can walk into town or to the Lanphier cafe without becoming a popsicle! Basically, spring means easier access to food.
3. Garden Party and Last Hurrah: enough said.
4. And the Physics Phlotilla! As someone who got disqualified for painting her boat and then sank not four feet into the demonstration race, I can testify that the Phlotilla is fun regardless of your skill level.
5. The humans! People walk their dogs, kids play outside, students occupy the benches, and bikers and scooterers come out of hibernation.
6. Congratulations! You no longer need to spend your time in the ugliest member of the fifty states. Connecticut can be a real drag in the winter, but she cleans up nice.
7. Spring events start popping up. People can't wait as Coachella approaches and then Six Flags opens back up!
8. The sun is out. (You know it's spring when you spot the tan lines people are getting from their sport uniforms.)
9. Class outside! Even the faculty can't resist class in the grass.
10. There are also lots of spring movie releases, including *Furious 7*, *The Longest Ride*, *Unfriended*, *Mall Cop 2*, *Pitch Perfect 2*, *Spy*, and a new *Avengers*. Get excited.

STUDENTS GET ANIMATED FOR ANIME CLUB

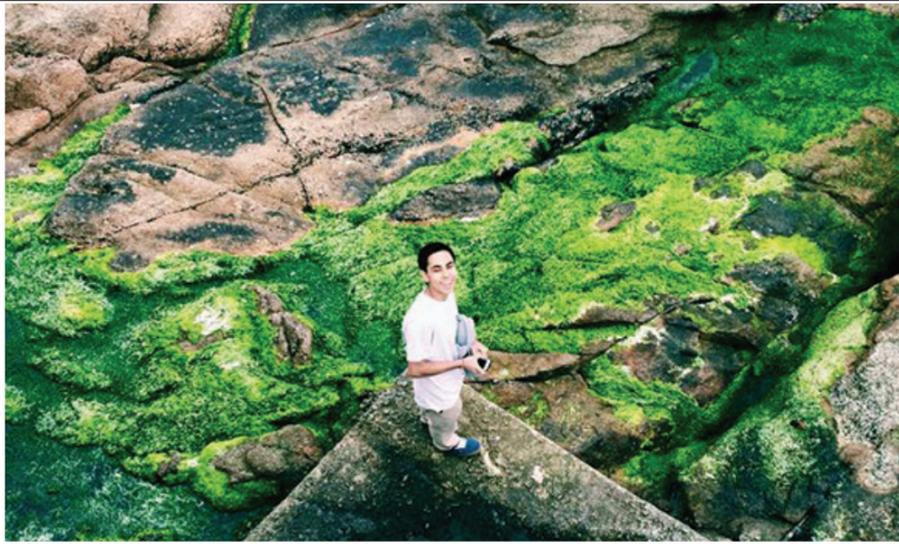
BY NICOLE SELLEW '17
News Reporter

There are many different clubs on the Choate Rosemary Hall campus, ranging from the Chess Club to the Harry Potter Club and countless other choices in between. One new club that was created in the spring of 2014 is the Animated Arts Club, or the ARC for short. The Animated Arts Club was started by a small group of students who all shared the same interest in anime and the animated arts. The club is for anyone who is interested in any type of anime, although there is a focus on eastern animations.

Vera Feng '15, one of the club's co-presidents, said "people tend to be hesitant" when they hear about the club because of a stigma that anime is childish or strange. Feng remarked that many people seemed to think anime is usually either extremely "violent or cutesy," but assures that it can be as versatile as western cartoons.

The ARC meets most weeks, and the meetings usually last about an hour. During the meetings, everyone watches one long episode of anime or an animated movie and then some animated shorts. The club tries to stick to a specific theme each meeting, which is discussed at the preceding meeting.

Although Feng is interested in art, there are many members of the club who have no artistic



PHOTO/SHIVA SACHDEVA

Shiva Sachdeva '16 explores the Paseo Marítimo, a 10 km-long road on the coast of the La Coruña peninsula.

'EL PERIODICO' DESDE ESPAÑA: SHIVA SACHDEVA '16

BY SHIVA SACHDEVA '16
La Coruña Correspondent

Stepping onto an Iberia Airlines flight from New York's JFK Airport en route to Madrid, I did not know what to expect from the next two months—but I did know that I was hungry. So, fifteen minutes into the flight, the airhostesses walked through the plane carrying a tray filled with miniature bags announcing something in fast-spoken Spanish that I could not understand. Naively, I used my limited Spanish to ask for four of the bags, thinking that they were the standard American airline pretzels served on flights. Hesitating, she gave me what I asked for, along with a strange look. And as I opened the bag, I knew why—they were earphones for the in-flight televisions, coupled with some quiet laughter from the surrounding Spanish passengers.

If at times my experience in Spain thus far has been comical and challenging, it's also been, overall, quite positive. After retrieving our bags at the small airport in La Coruña, I was welcomed by my host mother and soon found out that three other Choate students including Noah Hastings '15 and Matt Kaye '16 had lived with the family in the past. Within a few hours of my arrival, my host brother challenged me to play him in various games on his PlayStation, and

I learned that he had lived for a few months near my house in Chicago. The kindness of my family has allowed me to acclimate to my new city and become more comfortable with living abroad.

La Coruña itself is a beautiful port city. Located on a northern, grassy peninsula, near a beach, the city boasts a diverse population and cultural influences as a result of the many ethnic groups that have, over the centuries, called Spain home. According to one local legend, the Greek mythological figure Hercules arrived to battle a monstrous king, quickly defeated him, built the flagship symbol of the city—a lighthouse (La Torre de Hercules), named the city Coruña, and buried the king's head under the building. While exploring La Coruña, I can easily see the sincere appreciation that the local people hold for the city's vast history and culture. The diversity is expressed in the food and music (while running along the beach I even heard some bagpipes being played in the distance), pride, patriotism, and tradition. Many locals live where their own ancestors, the Romans, Celts, and Arabs (to name a few), once thrived.

Perhaps the greatest difference I have experienced between living in the United States and Spain is the daily schedule. Although this first week we have been in Spain was La Semana Santa (Holy Week), and much of the young population did not have school, we began classes at 9:30 a.m. Sure, at this point it seems that we exchange students can sleep an extra 90 minutes each night, yet this will soon be proven false. After having classes in Spanish history, Spanish art history, and Spanish global contemporary issues, which end at 12:30 p.m., we journey back to our homes (a twenty-minute walk for me) to eat lunch with our family, the heaviest meal of the day. In Spain, there is a two to three hour break during the day, called the siesta, during which most commerce and work pauses,

so people can share lunch with their family around 2:30 p.m. In the afternoon, our Spanish grammar and literature classes begin at 4:00 p.m. and end at around 6:00 p.m. Following classes, most of the Choate students in Spain can be found eating and studying at one of the many cafés in the city. Around 9:00 p.m. we have a lighter meal with our families and begin to do homework. Although a literature assignment may only be five to six pages of reading, it takes us non-native Spanish speakers around the same amount of time it would to complete and comprehend a long English-class reading. By this time, it is around 12:00 or 1:00 a.m., which may seem late but for Spain is still a decent hour. So, the 90 minutes gained in the morning is lost to late-night homework. Although I go to bed "early" in Spain, my family watches television and continues to eat dessert and fruit until 2:30 a.m., though there is work the next day.

I have realized in my first week in Spain and during my service trip over spring break with Simply Smiles that we Americans are consistently concerned solely about the United States and often fail to realize that other nations face the same, if not worse, problems than those that the United States is encountering. In Spain, the unemployment rate has hovered around an astonishing 20 to 25%, causing great concern in the country. In our Spanish global contemporary issues class, we are currently learning that Spain also is in a period of adjustment because of the recent increase in immigration rates, and the population has mixed opinions on how to approach and solve immigration issues.

As I begin my second full week in Europe, I look forward to experiencing the new culture more, practicing and improving my language skills, and investigating further the diverse and deep history of the Spanish nation. Stay tuned, Choaties!

RECONNECT WITH NATURE; IT'S GOOD FOR YOU

BY RILEY CHOI '18
News Reporter

I look around Choate's campus and realize that spring is coming. The beautiful blue sky embraces the whole campus, and the grass and trees begin to regain their vivid green color. Although belated winter chills disturb my spring mood sometimes, realizing that nature is waking up from the winter slumber uplifts my spirit. I have loved nature for my entire life; when I was younger, I immediately ran to big, strong trees. I hid under the shade of a tree and sat down on the soft ground. I leaned against the trunk, closed my eyes, and felt the gentle breeze tickling my face. I was a part of nature, and nature was a part of me. Now, the connection is almost gone. I no longer immerse myself in nature; I am too focused on academics and extracurricular activities, and sports are the only way to be in nature during school days. Many of us at Choate feel the

same; unless we are on breaks, we do not spend as much time in nature. When was the last time you allowed yourself to be enthralled by nature?

According to Richard Louv, the author of "Get Your Mind Dirty," an article published a few years ago in *Outside* magazine, many of us—including adults, adolescents, and children—are facing what he calls "nature-deficit disorder." Louv defines the term as "an atrophied awareness, a diminished ability to find meaning in the life that surrounds us." Nature-deficit disorder happens to almost every one of us; we spend less time in nature than we did when we were younger. Although we realize how important it is to be around nature, we value other things more. Both students and faculty members realize this problem: "Choate is one of the few schools across the nation that integrates nature into the campus," Sam Lee '15 mentioned. "However, students—myself included—

REASONS TO CELEBRATE

BY CAMMI CHESTER '17
News Reporter

After munching on chocolate eggs and matzo, what's next? Don't worry, there's plenty to celebrate in spring term; this year, don't miss out on the most exciting holidays of the season.

Hairstyle Appreciation Day, April 30: Look around you. If you are on Choate campus, I can almost guarantee you are no more than ten yards from a boy with the classic prep flow. Wearing lacrosse and hockey helmets all year can do that to you. On April 30, take a moment to truly admire it. It takes commitment to achieve that look: long hours with a helmet, and months of never going near a barber. So on this day, compliment someone on their hair, whether it be a mullet or a bob, long locks or a shaved head, or even the few with blonde dye from winter still in their hair. Stay golden, swimmers.

Suggested Activities:

- Admire.
- Appreciate.
- Envy.

National Teachers' Day, May 5: I know they give you homework and tell you to tuck in your shirt or that "pixie pants and leggings are the same thing," but, come on, it's their job. Teachers risk their sanity everyday to ensure that the world will be safe in the hands of generations to come, going above and beyond the curriculum's demands. Make sure to give all your teachers the day they deserve (a.k.a. no back-talking). If you're feeling especially appreciative, I'm sure your teachers wouldn't complain about presents.

Suggested Activities:

- Show up to class.
- Slow clap when they enter.

National Lost Sock Memorial Day, May 9: A moment of silence for all of those we have lost... to the dryer. On May 9, people all around the country search high and low for the missing half of their favorite pair of socks. This upcoming holiday, though lesser known, reminds us all not only to appreciate the socks we have, but also to mourn our fallen foot warmers.

Suggested Activities:

- Look for Socks.
- Realize you'll never find them.
- Cry.

Eat What You Want Day, May 11: With summer right around the corner, many people are eating healthier (well, at least not more than two Mr. D's sundaes a week) in order to prepare for swimsuit season. With the salad bar more crowded than usual, it's time for a day to make your way back to the frozen yogurt machine. On May 11, go for it—don't think, just eat. Although you may feel a twinge of regret, just remember: it's a holiday!

Suggested Activities:

- Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream (Half-Baked, of course).
- At least four churros.
- Double Fudge Brownies.

Fatigue Day, May 12: I'm sure you have asked yourself lately, "Is there a holiday that celebrates the constant tired feeling I experience everyday at school?" Well, have I got news for you! On May 12, Fatigue Day recognizes that it's okay to want to sleep in until 10 a.m. or noon. Luck has it that this year the holiday falls on a Saturday. So, sleep in or stay in bed all day.

Suggested Activities:

- Sleep.
- Sleep.
- Netflix.
- Sleep.

Cross 'Em Off

BY GABBY LATORRE '17
News Reporter

With one term left for the class of 2015 and ten more for the class of 2018, Gabby LaTorre interviewed seniors and freshmen to find out what they think should be on everyone's Choate bucket list.

According to Seniors:

- Speak at school meeting.
- Go to the PMAC roof.*
- Climb a tree.*
- Sing at Coffee House.
- Go to a Jam session.
- Submit to *The Lit*.
- Plan an awesome senior prank.
- Win the Skip the Plastic Bag raffle.
- Climb to the top of the Chapel bell tower.*
- Jump in the pond.*

According to Freshmen:

- Study abroad.
- Apply to the Kohler Environmental Center.
- Earn a varsity letter.
- Make Deans' List.
- Captain a sports team.
- Get asked to Last Hurrah.
- Lead a club or create a new club.
- Act in the spring musical.
- Give a Choate Talk.
- Become a prefect.

* These activities are against school rules and are not endorsed by The News.

don't take advantage of it." Mr. Jonathan Gadoua, a physics teacher, said, "We don't slow down; we are always busy. We often forget that we are surrounded by nature and how much of an impact it has on us."

Why is it so important to spend time in nature? What do we lose when we are consistently apart from it? Mr. Trevor Peard, an English teacher, says that all of us are a part of nature: "Every animal—including humans—comes from nature and is connected closely to it. It is important to maintain this relationship. Spending time in nature is one way of staying deeply human." In his article, Louv presents scientific evidence that shows the benefits of being aware and close to nature: improving our five senses (and even developing a sixth sense), thinking clearly, and many more. Being in nature would also help us to be more informed and more aware of nature's significance. Or simply, the presence of nature would

make us feel better, physical and mentally. "I feel connected to life in a more profound way when I am in nature than when I sit at a desk while working," Mrs. Lena Moser, a science teacher said. "Nature is a little amusement park for me, for it fascinates me as a biologist and a naturalist."

Choate is already doing a great job of connecting students with nature through sports and classes, such as biology and environmental science. Outside of these areas, though, it is important for us to involve ourselves in nature and escape from Choate's stressful and rigorous environment. For example, one could connect with nature by doing homework on a field when the weather gets nice or by exercising outside during the weekends.

We cannot go back in time and enjoy nature as much as we did when we were younger, nor can we always find enough time to spend in nature. However, we can gain much from experiencing the outdoors.



PHOTO/ROXANNA NJOMO

The CSPA-hosted slam poetry event in the SAC featured Choate students as well as Yale's group "Teeth."

YALE POETS SLAM THE SAC

By NAMSAI SETHPORNONG '17
News Staff Reporter

Friday nights usually ring with the excited jitter of Choate students who have been newly liberated from the rigorous routine of the school week. However, this past Friday, April 3rd, was a quiet one, with most students heading home for Easter Weekend. This calm created the perfect setting for Choate Slam Poetry Association's "Thoughts of a Dreamer," a night of song and slam poetry.

Slam poetry, a form of expression in which poets recite original works, is a popular art form among today's youths. The Choate Slam Poetry Association (CSPA) feeds this popularity through their own performances, as well as events such as this one.

The event, which took place in the Student Activities Center, featured student performers at Choate as well as the Yale slam poetry club, "Teeth." These performances ranged from carefully chosen songs that voice social issues, such as Hannah Lemmons's '16 rendition of "Summertime" by George Gershwin, to lighter songs such as Stephen Ankoue '17 and Katharine Li's '17 rendition of Rihanna's "Four Five Seconds."

ISRAELIS TRANSFORM AGONY INTO ART

By NICOLE YAO '18
News Reporter

Fifteen years ago, Omer Golan was hugged by a suicide bomber. It was an afternoon in the West Bank and Omer, a 20-year-old soldier serving his mandatory time in the Israeli Army, was playing backgammon against another soldier. Moments later, a Palestinian man came running toward him, shouting incoherently. He grabbed Omer, embracing him from behind.

"I had a suicide bomber hugging me with 15 pounds of explosives between us," Omer said later. "It felt like a hug. Maybe he didn't want to die alone."

As it happened, the man spared Omer's life by grabbing him. The bomb, designed to travel up and out, ripped apart the suicide bomber's body but left Omer's intact.

Omer's dream of becoming a musician was lost. The explosion left him with chronic tinnitus, a left hand with no feeling, and shrapnel entrenched throughout his body.

Today, however, Omer is a successful artist known for using unusual media. He and his partner, Tal Golan, are known as OMTA, an acronym of their first names. The couple has been together for almost thirteen years; Omer proposed after only five days of dating.

Tal and Omer became painters together. "It was magical, it was fun, it was everything I was looking for in creation," Omer said on the first time they painted. "So we started painting every day." The

The guest performers from Yale's "Teeth" brought a different air and feeling to the event.

"Teeth" is a group of 15 spoken word artists who hold performances at Yale, including collaborations with various other artists. This was Teeth's first visit to Choate; they came at the invitation of Esther Inoyo '15, the president of CSPA.

One Yale performer, junior Eli Benioff, wrote a piece about how Italian artist Lorenzo Benini's 1625 baroque sculpture of Apollo and Daphne affected his perception of happiness. The poem, which took Benioff over nine months to finish, blew the audience away with not only its poignant words but also through Benioff's expressive enunciations. "This poem destroyed me. I worked so hard on it and the whole time I was writing it, I knew that I needed it to be as good as the Benini. I wanted people to feel what I felt when I saw the sculpture for the first time. I wanted my poem to do him justice," said Benioff.

Another Yale poet, Opelo Matome, spoke about her connection to South African Apartheid. Matome, who is from Botswana, frequently addresses issues of institutionalized racism in her po-

etry. "I wasn't directly affected by the Apartheid, but I do have family members who were fighting in the movement," said Matome, adding, "My piece was especially inspired by Steve Biko, who was one of the leaders of the movement against intense racism." The college freshman went on, "My father was in university in the U.K. at the time, and was disconnected with the things that were happening at home. I'm at college in the States now, and am largely unaware with the things that are going on in Botswana, and my poem plays on this."

Mr. Vincent Jones, who works in the SAC, shared his thoughts "It was a remarkably powerful event tonight. I think it was great for the Choate students to form a connection with students that are on the other side of the fence, in college. They shared experiences tonight, both through talking and through their poetry."

Kwabena Ayim-Aboagye '16, Vice President of the CSPA, said "I wanted the atmosphere to more of a more intimate one, and less like an activities center. But overall, it went really well and I'm so happy with the event."

Benioff joked about the movie *22 Jump Street's* take on slam poetry. "This is a poem...about Cynthia. Cyn-thee-ya," he laughs, "It's great that the makers of *22 Jump Street* gave a shout-out to slam poetry: It's in the early stage of its artistic development as a medium and I think that's what one of the main things that Teeth strives to do: spread slam."

couple soon moved from Israel, as living there was difficult. "Everything was tarnished because of my injury," Omer said. He suffered from severe PTSD, exacerbated by living near the scene of the crime. As Tal and Omer moved from country to country, attempting to make a living off their paintings, they became willing to experiment with new media. Two of their more famous pieces, "Plant a Comment" and "Between You and Me," were built with virtual or digital media that used the viewers own faces as inspiration. "People connected to it immediately," Omer said. OMTA now lives in New York City, where they are working on a piece called "We Live for Tomorrow." This project, inspired by the explosion, is a design for a children's playground made from life-size replicas of the shrapnel extracted from Omer's body. The couple was motivated when messing around with Omer's X-rays and turning them into striking photos. "We thought, let's take it to the next level, a physical object you can touch and experience," Omer said. "From there, an idea of a playground arose."

On the message behind this project, Omer asked, in an interview with *Vice*, "How do you take objects that cause you grief and anxiety and stress and trauma, and make them something with positive connotations? How do you break the connection between trauma and the object?" He then answered himself: "One way is to make it beautiful."

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ADS ADDRESS WOMEN'S RIGHTS

By CATHERINE MOORE '17
News Reporter

Society makes assumptions about women based on the height of their heels, the length of their skirts, or the dips of their necklines. An ad campaign from the Swiss nonprofit group "Terre Des Femmes" exploring stereotypes that accompany women's clothing has been catching eyes lately.

Designed by Theresa Wlokka, the pictures depict a pair of heels, a skirt, and a neckline lined up to modified rulers with negative adjectives ranging from "prude" to "whore," equating the lengths with the sexuality of the women. These photos are accompanied by the slogan "Don't measure a woman's worth by her clothes" and are sparking global attention.

Wlokka hopes the images will mock the stereotypes surrounding women's sexuality. Sophia Millares '15, one of the presidents of Choate's "The Body Project," commented, "I find it jarring that none of the adjectives are desirable, revealing that women can't seem to please no matter what length their skirts are." Kate Miller '15 agreed, adding "We're not rulers!

CYCLISTS GO UNDERGROUND

By CAMILA BORJESSON '17
News Reporter

One of the major challenges that engineers and modern thinkers face today is finding a method of transportation that is green and efficient. Although electric cars and other vehicles are doubtlessly headed in the right direction, what can be more environmentally friendly yet extremely artistic and innovative as using what we already have?

This idea puzzled many until the British design firm Gensler found the answer literally beneath our feet. From the empty and unused London subway tunnels in a section of the Piccadilly Line, the Jubilee Line, and even underground World War II bunkers, this past year Gensler has proposed creating an underground bike and walking path for workers rushing to beat the early-morning traffic.

Not only is this idea a creative

use of otherwise futile space, but it also incorporates cutting-edge technology to keep up with our increasingly sophisticated and industrialized society. A system that generates electricity to light the spaces using only the kinetic energy of the footsteps of the walkers is embedded in the tunnel floors and is an effortless way for people to interact with the environment of the subway line and contribute their grain of sand to the project. Thus, the paths effectively reuse abandoned space without needing traditional energy sources. Thanks to Gensler we are closer to developing a sustainable environment that is independent of short-lived and harmful fossil fuels.

Despite the obvious benefits of giving these desolate underground passageways another life, many claim they would miss the excitement of walking on busy streets and observing what a city

has to offer. However, the tunnels would provide affordable retail, commerce, and entertainment for the walkers and cyclists.

Imagine walking through what was once a World War II safety bunker and finding yourself looking at intricate works of art plastered on the walls, stumbling upon an art gallery in an old subway platform, or biking past a secret little coffee shop on your way to work. Simple, but it takes some thinking to come up with an artistic way to attract people out for a stroll in the underground tunnels of one of the busiest cities in the world.

This vision of a sustainable London also challenges the idea that after a city expands too rapidly, it must build up instead of out. It seems as if no one has thought about building down. If there is space underground to keep growing, why not utilize it? The project thus also owes its existence to the space demand that the growing population of London requires.

It is the creative combination of all these elements that has granted The London Underline Project the Best Conceptual Project award at the London Planning Awards, an awards ceremony recognizing innovative architecture in the capital.

Until now, there has been no better way to solve the surplus infrastructure issue in the growing London, deal with the correlation of traffic and individual safety, and move toward the seemingly utopian idea of self-created energy to sustain a community. As they say at Gensler, "Design is transformative," and innovative thinking has proven that this might well be the case.



PHOTO/MORGAN MCDUGAL

McDougal '16 frequently performs with Choate's orchestra as well as with the Lincoln Park Symphonette in Chicago, as is shown above.

McDougal Makes Musical Waves

By KURTIS YOON '17
News Reporter

We all know about Choate's amazing art program, but oftentimes we don't think about what makes it that way: the students involved. Morgan McDougal '16 is a fantastic example of this.

Upon arrival at Choate, Morgan quickly made a name for herself as a gifted pianist and became a proud member of the Arts Concentration program.

Morgan began playing when she was only three years old, so her skills have been fostered from a young age. Back home in Chicago,

a private teacher taught Morgan and other competitive pianists in a class called the Lincoln Park Music Center.

Despite such training, Morgan was not the most serious pianist when she was young. In fact, she lost the annual competition each year until 7th grade, when she began a winning streak that has yet to be broken.

On that note, many remember Morgan from her performance of the Mendelssohn Piano Concerto with the Choate Symphony Orchestra at the fall term concert. Philip Ventre, orchestral director, shared his thoughts on the performance, "Morgan played the Mendelssohn exceptionally well. It was an outstanding performance in every way: articulation, phrasing, everything. It was wonderful."

Though all agree that Morgan is an accomplished musician, it is lesser known that she is an equally great peer. "She has been a great peer and a role model for me as a musician in terms of dedication. But more importantly, she has become a great friend to all of us, and has made Arts Concentration a more enjoyable experience," expressed David Park '17.

As a testament to her character, a few years ago Morgan and her Chicago classmates fundraised for charity by performing for less privileged areas in America and South Korea.

Through Arts Con, Morgan's piano skills have grown exponentially. "She is supremely focused on achieving her goal in order to grow forward and develop her technique and sense of phrasing," Shared Mr. Ventre, adding, "She does those with great sincerity, which is very important. Morgan has an enormous potential. She is an outstanding pianist."

When asked what the tip is to her grand performance, Morgan claims that practice is her solution. "Piano has taught me patience. Good things come to those who wait. I'm not as talented as Ming Wilson '14 or David Park '17, or at least as hard working as them, but I have a lot of patience, so if I keep on doing it, I will get it."

Though she herself may not always see it, Morgan's talent – musically and otherwise – is evident to the Choate community, and it seems that she has nowhere to go but up.



Varsity Team Records as of Monday, April 6, 2015

Girls' Water Polo	1-0	Boys' Tennis	1-0
Ultimate Frisbee	1-0	Girls' Tennis	1-0
Boys' Lacrosse	3-0	Baseball	1-1
Girls' Lacrosse	2-1	Softball	0-1
Boys' Golf	0-1	Boys' Crew	0-0
Girls' Golf	0-0	Girls' Crew	0-0



PHOTO/KEVIN ROGERS

Girls' Varsity Tennis Captain Ashley Barrett '15 slams down a serve in her match last Saturday.

GIRLS' TENNIS SERVES NMH

By DAGNY BELAK '16
News Reporter

In their first official match of the season, on April 4th, Girls' Varsity Tennis battled the bitter winds to conquer the visiting team, Northfield Mount Hermon, by a decisive score of 7-2. Coming off of a strong season last year, the tennis team has been working hard to prepare for another great season. Between preparatory scrimmages and a

preseason trip in the Dominican Republic, the team is looking to replicate success on the court. Ashley Barrett '15, a senior captain on the team, was proud of the way the girls played in their first match of the season. “NMH is usually not the strongest team we play, but it was still very important to try our hardest, move our feet, and remember our serves,” she commented. Barrett attributed the win to a strong team effort by ev-

eryone, adding that each team member played competitively, and battled her hardest, in spite of the formidable wind. “I would say we all played really well. We have a new junior, Coco Kulle '16, who's my doubles partner, and we played very well together today. I'm excited to see how we play together throughout the season.” The team retained many key players from last season, and also has an abundance of young talent in freshmen Madison Mandell '18 and Keeley Osborn '18, as well as sophomores Nicole Scruggs '17 and Joyce Tan '17.

Ultimate Frisbee Flies Past Cheshire in Season Opener

By JARED MILAZZO '16
News Reporter

With a 15-1 win on Wednesday, April 5, at Cheshire Academy, Varsity Ultimate Frisbee is off to a very strong start for what looks to be the most successful Choate Ultimate season yet.

Returning junior Ben Wishnie-Edwards '16 was a top player in the game, and, throwing five touchdowns in the win against Cheshire, he is proving to be a dominant force on the field in his third season with the team.

Other hot players in the game include captain Noah Hastings '15, as well as new players Addison Choi '15, Linds Cadwell '16, and Rashad Saleh '15, who have all tremendously contributed to the success of the team so far.

Returning players to watch for are the team's other two captains: four-year player Tom Cannan '15 and three-year player David Shan '15.

Just four years ago, Mr. Jared Liu, the current coach of the team, took over the Choate Ultimate Frisbee team and successfully built one of the strongest Frisbee programs that Choate has ever had. In his first year as coach, the Ultimate Frisbee team was ranked in the top 25 in the country and came in third place at the state tournament.

The Choate Frisbee team has made a name for itself as a league powerhouse. In 2012,

however, the team graduated 17 seniors, which left only 3 returning players for the 2013 season.

Since then, Choate Ultimate has been building step-by-step from the ground up. Although they have had some tough seasons (4-16 in the 2013 season), the Ultimate Frisbee team has managed to rebuild the program and looks forward to a very successful season.

About the team, Wishnie-Edwards said, “This year we have many seniors, upperclassmen, and experienced players returning to the squad, as well as a new assistant coach, Daniel Hartsoe '09, and we should be able to compete against powerhouses of the state like Chase Collegiate, Middletown High School, and Hotchkiss.” Additionally, the Wild Boars have managed to use their lower intramural team as a building program, which will be crucial to the future success of the program.

With one win under their belt and an extremely experienced squad, the future looks extremely bright for the Ultimate Frisbee team. The Wild Boars will certainly be put to the test with an upcoming game against Middletown High School, a consistently competitive team. With high expectations for the season, a core of experienced players, and eager new team members, the sky appears to be the limit for this relatively new yet exciting Choate sports team.

When asked about the team's outlook for the season, Barrett said, “I think we look really strong this season; we have a bunch of good girls coming in.” Returning player Rebecca Wang '16 echoed Barrett's sentiments: “I think we're going to do even better than last season, especially with our promising new players.” Wang also gave particular credit to the strong team dynamic. “Our team is really close this year because we have so many returners, so our team chemistry is really great.”

Coaches Kevin Rogers, a seasoned coach for the team, and Craig Johnson, a new addition this year, have been working extensively with the team throughout preseason and practices to get the girls ready. Wang said, “Our coaches are great, and they know our team very well. They have been working hard to get us into our prime playing condition and to maximize our strengths and minimize our weaknesses.”

With great success in past years and a commanding victory on Saturday, two year team member Stephanie Chan '16 said, looking ahead, “We got off to a great start to the season with the win over Northfield Mount Hermon, and I'm really excited for the rest of the season; we have huge potential.”

The girls will look to keep their momentum going on April 11 against Convent of the Sacred Heart, which will be a great test for this young team seeking tennis glory.

On The Green With Lawson Buhl '17

By JACKSON ELKINS '18
AND EMILIA FURLO '17

News Staff Reporter and News Reporter

As Ke\$ha's “Timber” plays in the background, the sun beats down on the neck of Choate's favorite golfer, Lawson Buhl '17, as he drives another ball deep into the fairway. Enjoying another day on the links, Buhl describes his favorite pastime: “I started playing golf with my dad when I was two years old. I learned everything from my dad, and ever since I have fell in love with the game. I love the difficulty and focus that you need to play, and I love the competition aspect of the game as well.”

Buhl describes his own game as “fast and consistent

in a calm manner,” which isn't a surprise, considering his two favorite golfers, Jason Duffner and Brandt Snedeker, are some of the faster golfers in the PGA. Buhl's consistency, while important in all sports, is particularly important in golf. Duffner and Snedeker are no exceptions, sitting at #50 and #33 in the world rankings, respectively: a clear demonstration of consistency's success. Buhl seeks to take after them, and does; after strong performances in his freshman season last spring, he is looking to continue his success this season.

The team is a relatively new one this year, and as Lawson put it, “It's going to be a learning season, but I think the couple

new young threats will be contenders in matches for sure.” Having been in the same place as these newcomers last year, Buhl will be instrumental in bringing a leadership presence to the team. Already, it seems that the group is off to a good start due to their strong team dynamic. “There are a lot of good guys on the team, old and young. Everyone gets along well,” said Buhl. This team dynamic will be important down the stretch, as Choate Golf looks to improve upon its unimpressive finish at Founders last spring. Still only five years removed from their last Founders League championship, the Boys in Blue remain a dangerous combination of young, hungry talent and seasoned, veteran experience.



PHOTO/WENDY LEONARD

Choate offensive players celebrate after scoring another goal in their 10-1 win over Kent.

BOYS' LAX STAYS HOT, PUMMELS KENT AT HOME

By JACK SHULTZ '16
News Reporter

After a strong 15-4 win on Wednesday, April 1 against Northfield Mount Hermon, the Boys' Varsity Lacrosse team looked to continue their success on Saturday, April 4, against the Kent School at home. Not only did the team extend their winning momentum, they absolutely obliterated their opponents. Long stick midfielder Albie Austin '16 said, “We were excited to finally get out there for our first home game of the year; everyone was ready to go and prepared to play together as a team.” With a final score of 10-1 in Choate's favor, there was no doubt at the end of the game as to who the better team was that day.

“It was a crucial Founders League game, so we had to come out strong.”

—Jared Milazzo '16

After winning their first two games against Lawrenceville and NMH, the boys knew that they had a target on their backs as the team to beat in the early stages of the season. Said long stick midfielder Jared Milazzo '16, “We knew it was a crucial Founders League game, so we had to come out strong, and that is what we did.”

The boys got off to a perfect start, scoring eight unanswered goals in the first three quarters. After this run, the Kent offense was able to score one goal, which proved to be their last.

After letting up the only goal of the game, Choate responded with two quick goals to crush any hope Kent may have had. The Choate players dominated every part of the game. Goals by Nick Katz '15, Kyle Ziegler '15, Bobby Goggin '17, Max Groen '15, and Andrew Gallahue '15 contributed to Choate's offensive power. Goggin was

an especially bright spot on offense, scoring two goals of his own and helping out on many others. Postgraduate attackman Gallahue also played well, tallying three goals for his first hat trick of the season. Choate's offense moved the ball extremely well with several unselfish plays, which allowed them to overpower the Kent defense.

On the other end of the field, the defense played just as strong. Selden Leonard '17 shut down his matchup particularly well, and goalkeeper Turner Uppgren '15 was a brick wall once again, making upwards of 10 saves and allowing only one goal, an amazing save percentage.

Choate's defense has been a constant force throughout the early stages of the season, allowing only ten goals in three games. The team hopes to maintain their consistent defensive focus as the season progresses.

Unfortunately, the team is still riddled with various injuries, with defenseman Will Sullivan '16 and midfielders Liam O'Connell '16 and Michael Solazzo '16 all sitting out with different ailments. Fortunately, however, younger players were able to step up again and make up for their sidelined teammates. O'Connell and Sullivan led the bench mob, showing incredible amounts of team spirit and staying actively involved with the team and the game despite their unfortunate injuries.

Overall, Saturday's game was another step in the right direction for the Wild Boars. The momentum is in their favor right now, as their record now sits at 3-0.

The Wild Boars will need every ounce of teamwork, talent, and chemistry in the next week of their season. Facing lacrosse powerhouses and traditional rivals Westminster and Deerfield will be no easy task. Fortunately, with a brick wall defense and a high powered offense, the lacrosse team will certainly be up to the challenge.

“I love the difficulty and focus you need to play, and I love the competition as well.”

—Lawson Buhl '17

Buhl is a character on the course, to say the least. His ideal outfit for a day on the links would be a pair of “plaid pants, a striped shirt, a visor, and classic golf shoes.” Not exactly your typical Choate outfit, but it's within dress code.

For Buhl, it's all about enjoying the time on the course. His love for the game is unmatched, and having seen first-hand his willingness to improve, Buhl is a tough opponent to beat. His favorite course is The Seminole Golf Club in Juno, Florida. The club is ranked 13th in the nation in difficulty, making it an obvious challenge for a golfer of any skill level. According to Buhl, however, despite its difficulty, it's an extremely fun course to play on. However, when he's not able to play in Juno, he's playing here in Wallingford, at the Wallingford Country Club. The fourth hole at Wallingford is Buhl's favorite, as it presents a longer par 3. “I love the chance to get a hole-in-one; it's really exciting,” said Lawson. And while Wallingford can't offer the Bermuda grass that is ideal in Buhl's dream putting surface, it can offer 75" weather and sun. He also would prefer his greens to be at an 11 on the stimp meter, a device used to measure the speed of a green. A stimp meter's scale measures from 1 to around 15, based on the course. A stimp of 12 is recommended for PGA Tour events.

Buhl has big shoes to fill going into this season. With important players and post-graduates having graduated last spring, Buhl will be a critical member of the team for the rest of his time at Choate. He, along with players like returning junior Henry Marshall '16, will be especially crucial to the Choate Golf's success this season.

Unfortunately, the Wild Boars are off to a tough start with a 10-stroke loss to Avon Old Farms, but that only provides room for improvement. Hopefully, the squad will be able to strengthen and hone its focus as the season progresses. As for Buhl, as long as he continues his hard work and holds his razor sharp focus, the future looks bright for this talented sophomore and his plaid pants, with three solid seasons left in his exciting Choate golf career.

Boys' Varsity Tennis
Vs. Phillips Exeter

Saturday, April 11
@ Hunt Tennis Center

BOAR PEN
GAME OF THE WEEK