



# THE CHOATE NEWS

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Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Students from the annual Spring Dance Concert perform "Sing! Sing! Sing!," choreographed by ballet teacher CK Shelley Cook. **See Arts, Page 7**

## SPECTRUM Hosts Colorful Conference

By **Anjali Mangla '20**  
Reporter

High schools students from around southern New England gathered together in Ruutz-Rees last Sunday to discuss issues around gender and sexuality. Over one hundred students attended SPECTRUM's 8th Annual Conference at Choate on Sunday, April 9, 2017. The conference brought a variety of students, from fellow boarding schools like Andover and Deerfield, in addition to local public schools. SPECTRUM also hosted three speakers prominent in the LGBTQ+ community, Mr. Daniel Friedman, Ms. Rae Tuter, and Mr. Schuyler Bailar.

The conference consisted of four different workshops run and written by the SPECTRUM Cabinet along with the speakers' keynote addresses. One workshop focused on being a queer individual in the new political climate that has changed drastically since the Obama presidency, under which marriage equality for all people was issued. The second workshop focused on queer people in media, noting the presence of Laverne Cox, the first openly transgender person to be nominated for an Emmy in an acting category, as well as an increasing number of gay couples on television. The third workshop focused on drag, the prejudices around this tradition, and the evolution of it. The last workshop focused on Crisis Intervention, and how drugs come into play in the gay community

if queer people are faced with social rejection or homophobia.

Mr. Friedman and Ms. Tuter, the speakers of one keynote address, are the founders of Bindle and Keep, a tailoring outfit in Brooklyn, New York that specializes in making clothes for those outside the gender binary. Bindle and Keep was recently featured in the 2016 HBO documentary "Suited." About this initiative, Ms. Tuter, in a recent Times article, said, "It wasn't so much having the suit as it was that the suit introduced me to my body and made me treat myself differently every day."

Mr. Bailar gave the other keynote address during the conference as the first openly transgender National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I swimmer at Harvard University, and the first publicly documented transgender man to compete in an NCAA Division I sport.

"Meeting Schuyler Bailar was a dream come true for me," said Ben Wendel '17, Secretary Treasurer of SPECTRUM's Cabinet. He continued, "His story was fairly insignificant up until the point he said 'I'm a man, and I'm going to be the worst male athlete on the Harvard men's swimming team' and made the pretty big decision to switch from being one of the best female athletes to one of the worst male athletes. That sort of change really inspired me to see that what we are doing, talking to these kids, is right."

**See SPECTRUM, Page 3**

## CHOATE REPRESENTED IN DISARMAMENT FORUM

By **Vincenzo DiNatale '19**  
Copy Editor

While most Choate students spent their Wednesday afternoons catching up on homework or at athletic competitions, Arin Kaye '17 and Noah Hermes de Boor '18 traveled to Nagasaki, Japan, for the Critical Issues Forum on Nuclear Disarmament. The two students, along with HPRSS teacher Mr. James Davidson, were in Japan for seven days, from March 31st until April 5th.

The conference took place over three days. Each delegation group – four from the United

States, four from Russia, and four from Japan – prepared a presentation. Following the presentations, experts came to the conference to offer insight on nuclear technology. Professors from Nagasaki University, a survivor of the Nagasaki Bombing, and Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO, spoke to students at the conference.

The forum was hosted by the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, in Monterey, California. The event, begun in 1997, has taken place in several locations around the world, including Geneva, Monterey, and Hiroshi-

ma. High school students from Russia, Japan, and the United States have attended the conference. Choate has been involved for ten years.

The conference began as a high school program meant to educate students about the current circumstances of nuclear weapons and to discuss their benefits and disadvantages. This year, students attending the conference discussed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Adopted in 1996 by the United States General Assembly, the treaty bans nuclear explosions for all purposes. Major nu-

clear forces, including India and Pakistan, have still not signed the treaty.

During their time in Nagasaki, Kaye and Hermes de Boor immersed themselves in the Japanese culture by staying with host families. About her host family, Kaye said, "They were absolutely fabulous. They were really over-eager and really excited to talk to me and show me around their city. I went to so many family dinners where I met grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. It was so exciting."

**See STUDENTS SPEAK, Page 2**

## STUDENTS STARTLED BY 6 A.M. FIRE ALARM

By **Kate Spencer '20**  
Staff Reporter

Mondays are tough. For the residents of West Wing, Hall, and Hill House, Monday, April 3, started earlier than expected when an abrupt fire alarm went off around 6:00 a.m. The alarm, which originated in West Wing, forced students and advisers to evacuate and leave the dorm for an hour. Because of the electrical wiring that runs through the three dorms, Hall and Hill House were affected by the alarm in addition to West Wing, where it originated.

A malfunctioning light in a West Wing hallway set off the alarm. However, it took Community Safety officers an extended amount of time to find the source of the problem, partly due to the interconnectedness of the dorms' electrical systems. West Wing's head adviser Ms. Kolina Koleva explained, "First, the fire department went in and inspected everything to find out where it was coming from. It took them a bit of time, and once they found that it was from that light, they called the electrician. He came, and essentially replaced everything."

Students in the three affected dorms, half asleep and

still in their pajamas, were then told to wait in the lobby of the Library as Community Safety looked for the cause of the alarm. The process took about an hour. Ms. Koleva said, "Basically, they had to go through the whole dorm and check all of the rooms. They checked my apartment and Ms. [Judi] Williams's apartment to see where the problem was coming from." Community Safety and the fire department, as well as Choate's facility management team, worked to find the source of the problem and shut off the alarm.

**See ELECTRICAL, Page 2**

## SAGE Revamps Dining Hall Menu

By **Se Ri Lee '19**  
Reporter

"The trips up to the dining hall now seem somewhat less tedious," Kaki Su '19 said of the improved mealtime experience through changes introduced this term. After weeks of planning and organizing, SAGE Dining Services and the Dining Hall Committee created a new calendar of events for April. Whether it be the make-your-own donut bar or the assortment of bite-sized pretzels and dipping sauces, the dining hall this term now offers a variety of new food options for the Choate community.

According to Dining Hall Committee member Anna Deitcher '18, the improvements on the menu and high frequency of special events were the products of a dining hall survey sent to the student body near the end of the winter term. In the survey, students were asked what they felt the dining hall lacked.

"We found out from the survey that berries were a popular breakfast choice for many students. That's why you see berries more frequently in the dining hall this term," Deitcher explained. She continued, "We've also gotten a lot of positive feedback on the chicken nugget dinner that took place last term, so we considered holding more events like that in the spring."

SAGE Director Paul Kikosicki said of implementing the changes, "There's a lot of work involved in the menu-selecting process – a



Photo by Pinn Chirathivat

A wide array of fresh fruit is part of the dining hall's recent changes.

lot more than you think. In the case of berries alone, we had to spend more time managing our budget, since berries are generally more expensive." In addition to managing finances, Mr. Kikosicki had to communicate with local food distributors to ensure that the food is of the best quality, as well as train SAGE staff members for various working stations. Despite the endless hours invested in this project, Mr. Kikosicki believed the process was worth the time and effort. "We know that Choate is a home away from home for many students, so we want to provide a variety of dining options," he explained.

Many students reacted positively to SAGE's efforts. Mint Sethbhakdi '18 said, "I like how there's more fruits, not just in the salad bar but also in the new baskets. The baseball-themed popcorn and pretzel lunch was

also very creative." Sophie Mars '19 said of the pretzel and donut bars, "The food is not healthy, but it definitely tastes good."

However, along with positive reactions came speculation on why these changes were happening so rapidly, especially at this point in the year. Some say that these improvements were implemented mainly to impress the guests on campus during Spring Visits. Sarah McAndrew '20 said, "The visitors on campus seemed impressed by our dining hall, so if that's what SAGE was trying to do, it worked."

Nevertheless, fans and doubters alike agreed that their dining hall experience was a much more positive one, a goal the SAGE staff strove to attain since the start of the school year.

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## Surveys to Improve Student Life

By **Grace Zhang '20**  
Staff Reporter

Director of Institutional Research Mr. Corey Wrinn began a project this academic year that will tie together the entire experience of a Choate student. The project will consist of two major components: the new student survey administered, which was administered for the first time last August, and the sixth-form survey, which will be sent out just before graduation.

"The idea is that we build a baseline for what students want and expect from the school in general when they come in, and then we'll mea-

sure it again as they go out, in the senior survey," Mr. Wrinn said.

All new students completed a survey that assessed their initial perceptions of Choate, their goals for their time here, and their expectations for both themselves and Choate over the next four years. The senior survey, which all current seniors will take, is centered on takeaways. It will attempt to gauge what has been significant or meaningful in students' lives throughout the years, and it aims to gather their suggestions – about what they thought worked well in their time at Choate and what might be improved. Mr.

Wrinn said that areas for improvement might include the dorm lottery, visitation rules, and the daily schedule.

To make sure the survey was catered to bettering the lives of students, Mr. Wrinn consulted with four senior data science classes. In terms of what the survey questions would encompass and what information would be gathered, the seniors told Mr. Wrinn "what they would want to be able to share with the school, and also what they think faculty would want to know" so he was able to incorporate those types of questions into his survey.

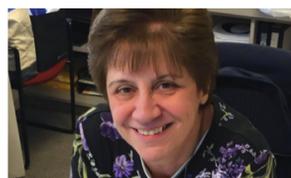
**See STUDENT SURVEYS, Page 2**

**A Ring to Remember**  
Learn more about the decline in class ring sales.  
**News • P2**



**The Defeat of Democracy?**  
Hong Kong's "election" may sway global politics.  
**Opinions • P5**

**Exploring Sally Hart Lodge**  
Have you ever been to Choate's very own hotel?  
**Features • P6**



**Rose Camire Retires**  
Taking another look at the career of one of Choate's unsung heroes.  
**Sports • P8**

### What's Inside

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



Read it then recycle it.

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THE CHOATE NEWS



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## STUDENTS SPEAK FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT



Photo courtesy of Web Chutney

France tests its newly improved nuclear weapons.

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Davidson, who acted as a “coach” this year for Kaye and Hermes de Boor, has directed the program since Choate sent its first students to the conference, in 2008. Choate first became involved when a trustee member familiar with the program recognized Choate’s profound commitment to international awareness and suggested the school participate. Moreover, Choate has long had a Model United Nations program, which helps enhance the skills necessary for students to contribute to the discussions at the conference.

Mr. Davidson also heads the selection process for this program. Students who demonstrate strong public-speaking skills, proper independent research skills, and

the capacity to collaborate are selected to participate in the forum.

“Many Americans, even many high-school aged Americans, are unaware of the status of nuclear arms in the world and the risks that they pose,” Mr. Davidson said. “Nuclear weapons pose such an incredible risk, but we act as a country as if they may never be used. However, they still continue to be developed.”

As North Korea and Iran inch ever closer to acquiring nuclear weapons, Mr. Davidson said, “it is crucial for students to understand how treaties and international relationships work.” Recently, North Korea tested rockets capable of carrying nuclear warheads, flouting the terms of the CTBT. The country is unlikely to agree to negotiations. “It was hard for anybody to propose

a feasible solution knowing that North Korea wouldn’t agree,” Kaye said.

Viewpoints of various delegations at the forum sometimes clashed. For instance, a Russian student argued that the United States should not involve itself in foreign affairs to the extent that it does. He suggested that the United States not concern itself with Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. American students, perhaps unsurprisingly, disagreed, though by the end of the conference, students were able to overlook their diverse standpoints and develop valuable friendships.

The duo returned to campus having learned a lot about nuclear technology and its effects on international relationships. One of Kaye’s most valuable takeaways was coming to understand the perspectives of those from

other countries. “In America, we don’t think about war in the way that others do,” she said. As other states around the world have been more directly affected by nuclear technology, Kaye agrees with Mr. Davidson that Americans aren’t aware of the importance of the disarmament of nuclear weaponry.

Kaye and Hermes de Boor plan to share their experiences with the rest of the community during an all-school meeting in the coming weeks. They were given a presentation from one of the Russian delegations and hope to share it with the student body. They also hope to have time at third and fourth form meetings to elaborate on the topics discussed at the conference.

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## STUDENT SURVEYS TO INFORM CHANGE

Continued from Page 1

The driving force behind this survey project is to create a full-circle picture of the student experience, so that departments know what to do to create the best school possible. “The idea is that in a couple years, the two surveys will link up,” explained Mr. Wrinn. “It’s kind of a cool way to measure what students need and want when they come in, and how those needs change over time, but also how the institution was able to support them through the process.”

**My hope is to share more with students, because I think we need to do a better job with that.**

*Mr. Corey Wrinn*  
Director of Institutional Research

Mr. Wrinn intends to share the results of the two surveys with the Choate community. “My hope is to share more with students, because I think we need to do a better job with that,” he said. “We do a lot of surveys here that you should hear back, not only what the results are, but what we’re doing about it.” Mr. Wrinn believes that it’s important that students recognize that the School values the time students take to complete these kinds of surveys. “That’s something I want to put more effort towards.”

Since becoming the school’s first Director of Institutional Research in 2015, Mr. Wrinn has come to be thought of as something of an in-house consultant. The primary aspect is surveying

and collecting data. Last December, he oversaw a school-wide technology survey focused on Choate’s use of iPads and computers.

Mr. Wrinn will soon ask faculty to take a campus climate survey, geared toward enabling the best faculty experience, so that adults can do their jobs as best way as possible. Mr. Wrinn also works closely with the School’s admission office. This includes working with their data, such as the number of applications, admits, and students confirming and declining. “Almost all the surveys that we do come through me, and I look at everything,” he said.

The new student and senior surveys, as well as all the other survey work Mr. Wrinn does, is evaluated by a variety of adults, from different departments on campus. All surveys are conducted for a reason: to improve the work of Choate, and life at the School. Ms. Kathleen Wallace, Choate’s Associate Headmaster, cares about both the academic and social sides of survey information. Mr. James Stanley, Dean of Students, is also working with Mr. Wrinn, on examining Choate’s social life and researching how better to support students outside of the classroom.

“The idea is that I’ll get the results, I’ll put together some takeaways —what was surprising, either positively or negatively, and what the main, important parts were,” Mr. Wrinn said. “And I’ll share it with almost everybody.”

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## ELECTRICAL PROBLEM CAUSES FIRE ALARM

Continued from Page 1

Alyssa Shin ’18, a Hall resident, explained, “It was definitely an interesting start to the morning. At first, I thought it was a drill, but I realized soon enough that it wasn’t. I think it was frustrating for a lot of people because it was a school morning and because of how long it took to find what triggered the fire alarm. It was cold out, and all of us went into the lobby of the library and waited for forty to fifty minutes.”

Although not all students were affected by the faulty alarm, there was still a wave of concern throughout the student body. “If a fire alarm went off in my dorm, I would follow all safety procedures. However, it would be very annoying and probably not the best start to my day,” Skylar Hansen-Raj ’20 said. She continued, “I think this event should set a precedence for future fire alarm checks, and Community Safety should learn from this.”

“Residents of the dorms must have been quite unhappy and tired. I would hope that this does not happen again,” said Gigi Sherbacow ’20, who resides in Nichols but heard the complaints

of students in the affected dorms. “Personally, I would’ve thought it was my alarm if it was that early. I honestly would’ve cried.”

Jamie Shin ’20 said, “If it were a drill, I would be annoyed due to the fact that it woke me up. If it weren’t a drill, I would be scared for my life.”

For West Wing, Hall, and Hill residents, the experience was proven to be surprising. Because of routine checks on dorms and their respective electrical systems, incidents born of faulty wiring have rarely occurred. Ms. Koleva explained, “Usually it’s kids burning popcorn in the microwave, not putting water in their electric kettles, or a hairdryer – things like that that usually set off alarms.”

The dorms are expected to continue with maintenance checks as usual, as it has proven effective in the past. Ms. Koleva said, “We do inspect rooms to make sure that they are within the code and that they don’t have things that they shouldn’t have. Other than that, I think the School does maintenance on a regular basis. That is why this was surprising.”

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## SENIORS HESITATE TO BUY CLASS RINGS

By **Laila Hawkins ’19**  
Reporter

Senior class rings, once a treasured tradition at Choate, have significantly declined in sales recently, as students have started to see them as impractical and unaffordable. The tradition is not regarded as “out-dated” by students; many seniors believe that class rings would serve as a great reminder of Choate. However, many factors contribute to the decline in sales; in particular, they are not equally accessible to all students financially. As a result, each year fewer and fewer people are filling out order forms for these mementos.

Class rings were initially created to serve as a reminder of and a connection to students’ alma maters, now popular throughout the country. Members of the graduating class at the United States Military Academy, West Point, created the first class ring in 1835. The tradition caught on during later years and soon influenced academic institutions like The Choate School and Rosemary Hall to start a tradition of their own.

The first Rosemary Hall class ring was cut in the early 1900s; the rings were made of precious stone and 14 karat gold. Most seniors purchased a school ring during their sophomore or early junior year, as they would arrive during the spring to be received at a ring ceremony and worn throughout their senior year.

As time has gone on, however, the sales of class rings at Choate have dwindled down. One reason is the impracticality of such a piece of jewelry. Calla Chan ’17 explained, “I think it’s cool that the school gives us the option of buying one. However, I don’t know a lot of people who got them because it’s high school, so it’s not that big of a deal.” Leah Salzman ’17 said, “I wouldn’t wear it often. And I tend to lose things, so I think it’s



Photo courtesy of Jim Yanello

The design and order forms for last year’s class rings were sent to students in the spring term.

a really small artifact to buy and keep somewhere.”

Across the board, many seniors are choosing not to purchase a class ring this year. However, despite initial thoughts, the reasoning goes far beyond simply not wanting a large, clunky piece of jewelry. Larisa Owusu ’17 said that the reason she is not purchasing a ring is because “it is not accessible to everyone that wants one.”

A good portion of the campus has received help through the financial aid programs at Choate like the Beyond the Classroom Fund, which can cover tuition, book fees, and even team items. However, Owusu said, “I don’t think the students would ever use the program to spend five hundred-plus dollars on a ring they don’t necessarily need.”

Chiazam Nzeako ’17 agreed. “A lot of my friends are not getting a ring because they are expensive. If they want to use Beyond the Classroom Fund, there are better things they can use it on experiences that are going to be more valuable than just getting a piece of metal,” he said.

Several students agree that the price of class rings is too

high, despite the offerings of the Beyond the Classroom Fund. Diva Jain ’17 said, “It’s really ugly and overpriced. My friends and I were talking about how we would like to have a joint class momento, but the ring is so expensive.” Blair Cox ’17 added, “I have one, but I think it’s kind of obnoxious. It’s a status symbol because it says that I have money to drop on a 600-dollar ring for no reason. I think it creates a division. I feel bad sometimes because I have one.”

Nell Shaper ’17 said, “I’m not buying one. I think it’s a weird thing to buy; getting a class ring for your high school graduation is a bit much. I personally associate class rings with an ivy-league, elitist vibe that I’m not crazy about.”

Other students hold a more positive perspective on class rings. Kate Moore ’17 said, “I have bought and ordered one. Although very expensive and possibly overpriced, I think that they are an important memento of your senior class experience, and I wanted something to remember Choate and my class by.” Thomas Barone ’17 commented, “I think class rings are essential to foster a sense of

community within your class.”

Yavar Moien ’17 explained, “Personally, I think class rings are a valuable part of the Choate experience, and I would encourage everyone to buy one. Although they can be rather pricy, students can reach out to Beyond the Classroom, a service that can aid students in their purchase.” He continued, “Not only is the class ring a beautiful memento that represents one’s time at Choate but it also just looks fresh. I can’t wait to rock mine at graduation, and I hope to see everyone else with a ring too.”

In terms of why class ring sales have diminished over time, Anna Deitcher ’18 said, “If only a small number of kids in the class above you buy a ring, interest in owning a class ring declines in the subsequent classes because the younger classes follow the seniors’ lead.”

Nicole Sellev ’17 concluded, “The resurgence of this tradition through heightened sales depends on the School recognizing and addressing student concerns for the design and cost.”

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## SPECTRUM Conference Inspires Students



Photo by Marja Van Mierlo

An audience member asks a question during the conference.

Continued from Page 1

SPECTRUM cabinet members put a lot of time and preparation into the conference, working right up until the last minute. One of the biggest challenges Wendel found in organizing the conference as arranging for the speakers. “Setting yourself up for failure because of persistently emailing these people to come and speak is hard. It’s one thing to think about who should come and speak, but actually asking them and expecting a reply to come and talk to some high school kids was scary to think about,” said Wendel.

SPECTRUM is a club that helps serve and represent the LGBTQ+ community at Choate. “It acts as a support space, a social space, an activist space, and even a learning space,” Wendel said. SPECTRUM hosts multiple social events and attends simi-

lar conferences at other schools, however the Choate conference is their biggest event. The Cabinet members, along with the faculty adviser Ms. Mb Duckett-Ireland, work hard to make sure that meetings pertain to different issues regarding the school’s LGBTQ+ community, and that events like this conference all help to advance Choate’s LGBTQ+ community.

Though the workshops and entire day were well received, the major highlights from the conference were the speakers. “We were all super fortunate to get a chance to learn about the impact they have made on the LGBT community,” Phillips said. SPECTRUM plans to continue hosting informative and thought-provoking events throughout the year.

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By **Samantha Stevenson '19**  
Staff Reporter

Students, faculty, and families packed into the Mellon Library Reading Room last Sunday, eager for “One Thousand and One Flavors,” a Middle Eastern dinner hosted by the Arabic Club. Co-presidents Amira Nazer '17 and Lucas Ferrer '17 and their faculty adviser, Mr. Georges Chahwan, Choate’s Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies teacher, worked with the rest of the club to make the event possible. Middle Eastern food was brought in and arranged “family style,” while authentic Middle Eastern music pulsed in the background. Round tables covered with the ethnic delicacies were placed around the room, and guests sat on cushions around the tables.

The cuisine was from a Middle Eastern-style restaurant in New Haven, including hummus, falafel, grilled halloumi, fu medames, and manakeesh. Shrenik Agrawal '17 said, “I thought the food was really good. It’s unique to me, so I was excited to try it.”

While eating, the guests watched performances from students taking Arabic. Sam Curtis '20 went first, reciting an Arabic poem. Afterwards, classes came up to perform songs in Arabic that they had memorized. Throughout the evening, students performed music and poetry, and they also gave presentations on aspects of Arabic culture, such as sports and politics.

Ferrer said that the Middle Eastern dinner aimed to invite the Choate community to appreciate cultures from the Middle East that they would not normally get to experience. He added that before the dinner, many people did not even know what Middle Eastern food was. He hoped that through this event, Choate students achieved

## A TASTE OF THE MIDDLE EAST



Photo by Shamari Harrington

A group of students enjoy Middle Eastern cuisine in the library Reading Room.

a better appreciation for Arabic cultures. Ferrer started off the evening by sharing a brief summary of the history of the Arabic program at Choate.

### The students wanted to establish a platform to celebrate the Arabic language and culture beyond the classroom.

*Mr. Georges Chahwan*  
Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies Teacher

The Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies program (known as AMES) began in 2010. Previously, the Arabic program at Choate had been limited to a single level 150 language class. The School decided to develop the program to not only teach the Arabic language but also to foster an appreciation for Middle Eastern cultures. Now, AMES students study Modern Standard Arabic as well as the history, art, architecture, and current politics of the region.

Mr. Chahwan said that he wanted “to give students a win-

dow through which to understand the Middle Eastern region: its customs and traditions.” He continued, “It is essential for Choate students to gain knowledge of the world through the languages of its peoples and develop a genuine appreciation for the culture.”

In 2012, two students – Alexander Sassoon '12 and Gabriella Flax '13 – approached Mr. Chahwan about their interest in starting an Arabic club at Choate. With the creation of the club, these students also established the Middle Eastern dinner to celebrate Arabic culture. Mr. Chahwan said, “They wanted to establish a platform to celebrate the Arabic language and culture beyond the classroom; a platform that connects the Arabic students at Choate to the entire community through cultural activities and events.”

Virginia Stanley '17, an AMES student, said, “I think the Middle Eastern dinner is important because it’s a chance for the Choate community to experience the Arabic cultures which is something that the AMES students do through their classes. We get to share it with everyone else through this dinner.”

With the political tensions in the Middle Eastern region, Nazer anticipates that events on campus such as the Middle Eastern Dinner will bring awareness to the conflicts in those areas and, more important, spread Middle Eastern culture through the enjoyment of the Arabic arts, literature, and history.

Nazer, along with the rest of the Arabic club, AMES students, and faculty members, hopes that this event will look past the political image of the region and allow the Choate community to appreciate Middle Eastern culture. She said, “It’s a very rich and deep part of the world that isn’t necessarily looked at in a very positive light at the current moment, so I think that, more than ever, it’s important to celebrate the beauty of it.”

Nazer continued, “I think that being a little bit more aware of the greater world gives you a better perspective of who you are and what you enjoy.” And, she joked, “I was just excited to eat Arabic food!”

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## SECOND CERG FORUM FOCUSES ON MENTAL HEALTH



Photo courtesy of EXPLO blog

Dr. Olivia Moorehead-Slaughter spoke at Choate about the importance of personal wellness.

By **Skylar Hansen-Raj '20**  
Staff Reporter

“Wellness in a time of uncertainty,” Dr. Olivia Moorehead-Slaughter said, “is learning how to quiet your mind in a time when it is not so quiet.” This statement opened the latest forum hosted by Choate’s Current Events Resource Group (CERG), Wellness in a Time of Uncertainty. The forum mainly focused on how to generate wellness in one’s life. Dr. Moorehead-Slaughter, one of the two speakers, is a licensed psychologist who specializes in Child Psychology. The other speaker, Dr. Maria Trumpler is the Director of Yale’s new Office of LGBTQ Resources.

During the forum, both speakers stressed the importance of tuning in to one’s body, as it benefits students both academically and athletically. Dr. Moorehead-Slaughter gave several examples of indicators of high stress levels, including changing sleep patterns, dras-

tic changes in appetite, feeling emotionally fragile, isolation, high anxiety, or simply feeling as though your mental stamina has drained. In order to bring down high stress levels, she recommended finding a calming activity such as yoga, meditation, or aerobic exercises and emphasized the importance of sleep. Dr. Trumpler explained, “Ultimately, everything you do for your own wellness has to be personal. Finding your happy place is a lifelong challenge, and knowing which practices work for you is key. Anticipate change, and develop good habits before you head out into the real world.”

Director of Equity and Inclusion Dr. Keith Hinderlie added, “The community as a whole can take away the idea of wellness in general. Institutions like Choate can promote wellness in many ways. However, the talk really spoke to individuals and encouraged them to take better care of themselves. I think being connected and using general well-

ness strategies is an important lesson that the two delivered.”

The idea for a forum on wellness took shape around the time of the presidential inauguration. Dr. Hinderlie said, “The first step we took as a group was generating different topics to have for the series of forums. This happened after the inauguration, and we wanted topics that would address the problems present on people’s minds. We identified the need for a wellness forum.”

Generating wellness can be hard to do in a fast-paced environment such as Choate. However, Kathryn Phillips '20 said, “The speakers did a great job of acknowledging that Choate is a busy place that you will be stressed in but then moved forward by giving tips and advice on how to improve your wellness.”

Dr. Hinderlie said on choosing the speakers for this event, “The Rev. Ally Brundige decided to bring in an expert on wellness within the LGBTQ community, Dr. Maria Trum-



Photo courtesy of Yale News

Dr. Maria Trumpler talked about the importance of tuning in to your body’s needs.

I have known Dr. Olivia Moorehead-Slaughter for many years, and I thought she would be a good person to have, as she works as a psychologist at an independent school and is a parent of kids who attended independent schools.” He continued, “They have had experience with communities impacted with change, and we thought that the messages they deliver would be great to have at Choate.”

Indeed, both speakers are highly respected and well-known. Dr. Moorehead-Slaughter is a psychologist specializing in child psychology at the Park School, an independent school in Brookline, Massachusetts. In 2014, she received the APA Society for the Psychology of Women’s Bonnie Strickland and Jessica Henderson Daniel Award for Distinguished Mentoring. Dr. Moorehead-Slaughter was the former Chairperson of the American Psychological Association Ethics Committee and now focuses on supporting communities of color in independent schools.

Dr. Maria Trumpler received her Ph.D. from Yale in History of Medicine and Life Science, having explored the fields of gender and science, feminist critiques of science, scientific studies of sexuality, and food studies. She has taught at Middlebury College, Yale University, and Harvard University, and currently functions as the Director of Yale’s Office of LGBTQ Resources.

Ms. Mb Duckett-Ireland, who attended the forum, said, “I think there were a lot of really good messages about personal wellness. I think often times we get so caught up in the amount of stuff that we have to do and the number of commitments that we have that we don’t focus on self-care in the way that we should.” She continued, “Learning about how to take care of yourself helps in the long-run, especially when times seem bleak.”

Dr. Moorehead-Slaughter reminded the room to find a circle of people and to remember

that they are not fighting alone. To this Dr. Hinderlie replied, “The Health Center is active in trying to create a wellness culture in the school. There are other resources for educating students such as Sophomore Seminar and the Peer Educators. Choate as a whole can learn and generate wellness activities but everyone has their own way of bringing wellness into their life. The message of the talk was that even if it is small, any wellness activity that works for you will go a long way.”

Phillips concluded, “One of the biggest things that stuck with me was the metaphor that life is not a sprint but a marathon. Both speakers talked about how important it is to listen and connect to your body over time. As a community, I think we can all take a moment every once in a while to listen to ourselves to better our wellness.”

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# THE CHOATE NEWS



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# FAR FROM HOME, CLOSER THAN EVER



Photo by Helena Yang/The Choate News

The Wachtell brothers sit on the Hill House steps.

By **Bryce Wachtell '17**  
*Opinions Writer*

The single most defining feature of my childhood? Sharing a bedroom with my younger brother. The bond between Tommy '19 and me grew stronger with each midnight discussion that bounced between our twin-size beds and matching duvets. In that time, he taught me countless lessons: I learned how to cultivate empathy for a roommate; I came to understand what it means to be neat; and I made my first and longest friend in life.

Then, at 14, I decided to travel 3,000 miles away from our home, in Boise, Idaho, to boarding school in central Connecticut. I felt giddy about all that awaited me, but, after 12 years of sharing a room with Tommy, my heart ached at leaving him alone in that room.

For me, as I think is the case for most Choate students, coming to boarding school represented an opportunity to start anew. I loved and will always love my family, but when I hit 13 I became somewhat distant, and my parents grew frustrated. We

were slowly falling into the clichéd rebellious and aloof teenager trope that every parenting book crusades against. Boarding school was the perfect peace treaty.

Upon my arrival on campus, to my own surprise, I didn't feel homesick — not for a single passing-period second. And when I returned to Idaho, after having adjusted to the independence of freshman year, I felt drowned in attention and rules: always hang your towel up, always make your bed, go to sleep by a certain hour, don't eat waffles for breakfast every day. Returning felt like rewatching my favorite childhood television show. It was nice to be reminded of the way things had been — to dip my toe into the pond of nostalgia for a minute — but soon I grew annoyed. Where was the freedom I'd been given at Choate?

Halfway through my sophomore year, Tommy made the decision to join me in Wallingford; the news made me both ecstatic and apprehensive. Idaho and Wallingford were distinct worlds, at odds with each other in my own mind and never

meant to mix. They both struck me as home, yes, but in radically different ways. I worried that Tommy's arrival would permanently reshape my time at Choate — that I would be thrust back into the rituals and routines of Idaho, all that I dreaded whenever I flew back.

That anxiety, of course, proved unfounded. Tommy came at the beginning of my junior year, and my two homes collided for the better. In fact, having a familiar face on campus helped me through some of the worst moments of stress and sleeplessness throughout junior year and senior fall.

Tommy's arrival showed me that we, Choate students, often bid farewell to our families too nonchalantly; we grow up too quickly here. In the rush and excitement of freshman year, we can forget that we're still 14, that our parents and siblings are still resources, and that relying on family as we transition to independence and adulthood is a sign of strength, not weakness.

I tell everyone who asks that coming to Choate was the

best thing to ever happen to me. Seeing my brother following in my footsteps is a close second. Experiencing Choate with a family member, and in the meantime reconnecting with Idaho, has made these last two years exceptional.

So, with just two months before I graduate, here's a bit of old-man advice: Don't ignore your parents' calls. Don't ghost your childhood friends. Don't hop off Facetime as quickly as possible. Don't dread going on breaks. Use Choate to grow and mature, to become independent and learn to live alone, but don't yet let go of home.

I made a mistake in my first two years here: I tried to compartmentalize Idaho and Wallingford, thinking that's the only way to reach adulthood. But it's never wrong to appreciate family and revel in the bonds of childhood. Indeed, in junior spring, I'm emphasizing just that.

**Bryce Wachtell** is a sixth former from Boise, Idaho. He may be reached at [jwachtell17@choate.edu](mailto:jwachtell17@choate.edu)

# The Inconvenience of Spring Visits

By **Vincenzo DiNatale '19**  
*Copy Editor*

Once Choate applicants receive their acceptance letters, they are enthusiastically invited to revisit campus, so they may better make a final decision on whether or not they will come to our school. During each annual round of Spring Visit days, the Choate community puts a tremendous effort into welcoming accepted students and their parents to campus and encouraging them to enroll for the upcoming fall. However, along with Spring Visit days comes a great deal of inconvenience for both faculty members and students.

cover what was missed, they may incur the same challenges. Finding a mutual free time to meet is an additional inconvenience in itself. Furthermore, those on student panels and in ensembles miss class time even if they're not hosting a student. For many students, Spring Visit days mean missing class time.

In addition, students are told if they're a host only a few days prior to the Spring Visit day. Because of this, students are unaware if they will miss class until the last minute, leaving teachers uncertain if they should alter their weekly plans accordingly.

A final drawback of Spring Visit days is the schedule change: there is no conference block on Revisit Days. Conference blocks are vital when many students are missing class to accommodate their prospective students. Without the free period, many students are unable to meet with teachers for extra help or makeup work.

Spring Visit days are exciting times to celebrate one's acceptance into a competitive and prestigious school, and they are great opportunities to meet incoming students and to promote school spirit. However, they come with a great deal of inconvenience. A significant portion of the student body misses class, and without prompt notice, teachers are unable to adequately prepare for those absences. Schedules without conference period also make it difficult for students to find time to meet with their teachers.

A Spring Visit day can and should be an event that is positively anticipated by students. If adjustments were made so that students missed less class time and free time, more would look forward to hosting a student rather than complain.

**Vincenzo DiNatale** is a fourth former from Wallingford, Conn. He may be reached at [vdinatale19@choate.edu](mailto:vdinatale19@choate.edu)

# BOUNTIFUL COURSES, LIMITED CHANCES

By **Kristen Andonie '17**  
*Opinions Staff Writer*

Imagine taking Spanish 100, Chinese 100, and French 100 in three consecutive years. That would likely not prove very productive.. A student would be unlikely to learn enough material to sustain a meaningful conversation and, odd are, he or she would soon forget whatever small elements of each language were studied. So it seems to make sense that Choate requires its students to complete at least three years of a single language. That's a sustained study.

What needs improvement instead are the curriculum requirements in the Arts, Science, and HPRSS departments. The justification for our current system of diploma requirements is reasonable because it lets students dive into a wide array of subject matters they might not otherwise explore. However, students would benefit much more from a deep knowledge of a few areas than from a superficial knowledge of many.

The Arts department dictates that students take a total of three courses in at least two different disciplines. While the tenet that such diversity leads to intellectual versatility is valid, three miscellaneous terms of arts do not constitute academic diversity. Taking introductory courses in three different art disciplines is analogous to completing the first year of three different languages.

A key difference between an Arts course and a Language course, however, is that students in Chinese 100 knows they cannot yet fully appreciate Chinese culture because of the ever-present language barrier. Meanwhile, students in Acting I may mistakenly believe they have gained a proper understanding of the art form and potentially develop ill-conceived notions.

Low-level arts courses are necessary for providing a foundation to set students up for further study, but a single term of learning terminology and surveying basic techniques is not enough. We should instead require students to take three courses in a single discipline to maximize their appreciation of the material.



Illustration by Austen Rogers

Students often face the predicament of taking courses they are not necessarily interested in.

Let's look now at the requirements in the Science Department: one year of either physics or chemistry and one year of biology. Unless a student is an aspiring biology major, chances are he or she will forget the difference between myelin basic protein and myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein as soon as the biology exam is over. Simplifying the requirement to allow students to pick any two laboratory courses they desire instead of prescribing specific ones would expand many students' horizons.

*Even a small amount of extra freedom would enable students to take all the chemistry courses they ardently want.*

Suddenly, the physics and astronomy fanatics could fit in more electives and upper-level courses in their area of interest, while the future biology major could have more room in

their schedule to focus on the biological course offerings.

Students often view openings in their schedules as valuable real estate, spending hours meeting with their advisers and deans to discuss which courses are worth taking and which are appropriate to skip. Even a small amount of extra freedom would enable students to take all the chemistry courses they ardently want.

Finally, in the HPRSS department, students should not be limited to studying world history and American history. Those two courses combined with a single religion or philosophy class constitute a tremendously oversimplified requirement, given the sheer amount of HPRSS courses Choate offers. The course catalogue features a wide variety of elective courses, covering everything from 20th Century African History to Environmental Economics and Cognitive Neuroscience. Yet, because of the inability to fit these courses in with the required classes, under-enrollment often leads to course cancellations.

Instead of requiring two specific courses and one elective, Choate should require students to take a greater number of HPRSS classes and increase the

flexibility for students to choose among the offerings. Personally, I would have enjoyed taking Social Psychology and Modern Japan, yet I did not for lack of space in my schedule.

While it's vital to ensure that students cover a broad range of academic areas, Choate should recognize that allowing more freedom within the requirements would lead to a more personalized and stimulating experience for many students.

Ultimately, what matters most is not so much the content of the School's courses, but rather the skills its students learn from them. In five years, will a student remember the intricate details of chemical nomenclature or the causes of the fall of the Ottoman Empire? Or will he or she remember the multifunctional analytical and writing skills? Choates are better off taking the courses that they feel most passionate about, and that will enable them to gain a more profound understanding of themselves and the world in which they live.

**Kristen Andonie** is a sixth former from Key Biscayne, Fla. She may be reached at [kandonie17@choate.edu](mailto:kandonie17@choate.edu)

# CORRECTIONS

**NEWS**  
An article last week on Señor Bao misspelled its author's name, Vincenzo DiNatale '19.

**OPINIONS**  
A caption last week incorrectly stated that Sebastian Chang's '18 directed study in anime was rejected. He, in fact, did not apply for one.

**SPORTS**  
An article last week on Boys' Varsity Baseball's season opener misspelled the name of Will Eichborn's '19.

The Choate News regrets these errors. To submit a correction, email [thechoatenews@choate.edu](mailto:thechoatenews@choate.edu)

## President Trump's Policies Are Destroying Our Planet

By **Audrey Powell '19**  
Opinions Staff Writer

For President Donald Trump P '00, the environment is a trivial concern. While he has ranged from having an "open mind" about climate change to describing it as a hoax created by China, Mr. Trump has been adamant that reinvigorating the coal industry and preserving American jobs are some of his highest priorities. These beliefs were recently put into action on March 28, 2017, when Trump signed an executive order at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to roll back some of the Obama administration's progress on climate change initiatives, such as the Clean Power Plan.

After meeting with approximately 200 other countries to discuss climate change regulations at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2015, the United States entered an agreement to cut down on carbon emissions. Eventually, this Paris accord led to the cre-

ation of the Clean Power Plan just weeks after the COP occurred. The plan addresses the concern of carbon pollution by reducing carbon emissions from power plants, defending the planet from harmful greenhouse gases and protecting humans from polluted air. The EPA estimated that by 2030, the Clean Power Plan (CPP) will cause 32% less carbon emission than in 2005, as well as 90,000 fewer asthma attacks every year.

*These new policies are ignorant of the developing nations that will suffer due to global warming.*

Despite all of these beneficial environmental changes, Mr. Trump has decided to review and most likely slash these Obama administration policies to make way for the abolishment of "federal over-

reach." Additionally, he mentioned that he believes clean air and clean water should be the EPA's chief concerns, which is ironic because increasing carbon emissions guarantees that the air will become more polluted.

Aside from his scientific knowledge and understanding, this executive order calls Mr. Trump's international relations skills into question. While the United States once signed an agreement with 132 other nations to cut down on carbon pollution, we are now headed in the opposite direction. Not only will this legislation create tension between the United States and other global superpowers at the 23rd Conference of the Parties in November, but it will also make us seem dishonest and untrustworthy. Of course, this is all assuming that Mr. Trump attends the conference at all, which remains entirely uncertain. Remarkably, he has also threatened to completely remove us from the Paris climate deal altogether.

In addition to changing the CPP to create "energy independence" via his executive order, Mr. Trump released part of his 2018 budget proposal on March 16, 2017. The proposal indicated an extreme slash of 31% of the EPA total budget, a transition from their current \$8.2 billion to \$5.7 billion; its number of staff members would also be cut by 20%. Thus, Mr. Trump is making the EPA's job nearly impossible. Their funding will simply not be enough to make any tangible changes to the current environmental situation, and they will be utterly incapable of researching climate change. Moreover, any United Nations climate change programs will lose all American financial support.

Both the executive order and the proposed budget would severely impact the United States' role in global environmental initiatives. Not only will this decrease chances of curbing greenhouse gas emissions and global warming, but it will negatively affect relationships between the United

States and other nations. Our possible absence from the 23rd Conference of the Parties and lack in effort to slow climate change will most likely come across as negligent.

These new policies are ignorant of the developing nations that will suffer due to global warming. Poorer countries simply do not have the resources to deal with extreme weather changes and especially rising sea levels; conversely, more than 10% of nations — those who are emitting the most greenhouse gases — will end up in the bottom 20% of susceptible regions. While the CPP and the current EPA budget may not be perfect, ultimately, they are our best options. It is imperative that Mr. Trump amends the egregious policies and moves to reduce greenhouse gas emissions — if not for the sake of the American people, then for the health and safety of other nations.

*Audrey Powell is a fourth former from Bronxville, New York. She may be reached at apowell19@choate.edu*



### First 100 Days

**Donald J. Trump** @realDonaldTrump

Congratulations to our great military men and women for representing the United States, and the world, so well in the Syria attack.

**Elizabeth Warren** @SenWarren

If @realDonaldTrump truly wants to help Syrians fleeing murderers, he should drop his effort to ban their children from America immediately.

**President Trump** @POTUS

Peaceful protests are a hallmark of our democracy. Even if I don't always agree, I recognize the rights of people to express their views.

**Ann Coulter** @AnnCoulter

Bannon out. Nunes out. Flynn out. Sessions recused. We won WH & both houses! Imagine if we lost. GOP would be picking up Dems dry cleaning.

**Bernie Sanders** @SenSanders

We must learn the lessons of the disastrous war in Iraq and not continue to get sucked into perpetual warfare in the Middle East.

**Steve King** @SteveKingIA

@realDonaldTrump Steve Bannon is the lynchpin to your energized base. Conservatives are an endangered species in your White House.

## FOR HUMANITY'S SAKE, AMERICA MUST END THE WAR IN SYRIA

By **Imad Rizvi '18**  
Opinions Staff Writer

Last week, the world was left shocked by the news of Bashar al-Assad's Syrian regime using chemical weapons on its own people. This attack destroyed communities, deprived children of their parents, and inflicted major brain and nerve damage upon survivors. Even more disheartening is that this was only one incident in a brutal civil war that has lasted since 2011, and has since resulted in over 400,000 deaths, 4.8 million refugees, and 6.3 million internally-displaced citizens, according to CNN. Indeed, the war has only been exacerbated by Mr. Assad's brutal tactics such as chemical attacks and barrel bombing, and the rise of terrorist groups like ISIS and the al-Nusra front in the region. This brutal conflict is destroying millions of civilian lives, and it is time for the United States to intervene.

In the 20th century, some of the United States' greatest foreign policy failings came from its reluctance to intervene in cases of genocides. During World War II, the government turned away thousands of Jewish refugees trying to escape the Holocaust. Additionally, the United States was also slow to intervene during the mass slaughters in Rwanda and Bosnia during the 1990s. If the United States does not take urgent action in Syria, decades from now, Americans will wonder why we didn't rush to the aid of those who experienced senseless suffering during the Syrian Civil War.

The United States, with airstrikes and ground troops, would easily be able to end the



Syrian men carry children through rubble in Aleppo in September 2016.

war. Unfortunately, Russia supports the abusive Assad regime, thereby complicating any United Nations (UN) efforts to solve the problem. Therefore, any military action that the United States takes would have to break UN protocol. While doing so sets a dangerous precedent, the war has caused the deaths of too many innocent citizens, making it essential to end the conflict as soon as possible and by any means necessary. The United States must make clear that it is willing to negotiate with Russia in order to reach a compromise, but it also will not

tolerate any Russian support of the al-Assad regime against moderate rebels. Ending the war should not devolve into a proxy war between the United States and Russia.

Another problem is figuring out what to do after Mr. Assad is deposed. After the Iraq War, the United States created a huge power vacuum in Iraq when they disbanded the Baath party. As a result, ISIS was able to take advantage of the chaos. Defeating ISIS will have to be a central focus in ending the Syrian Civil War to prevent further conflict. Despite the need for

change, the Trump administration will likely not take the right steps to end the war. Although President Trump fired retaliatory military strikes at Syria, they were purely symbolic and were ultimately an expensive way to do absolutely no damage. Deposing the Syrian government and then abandoning the nation will leave the region vulnerable to ISIS — therefore, an end to the war must involve the defeat of ISIS with multinational help and the establishment of a strong Syrian state. Compromising with Russia will prove essential to ending the

conflict, as Russia is correctly concerned that defeating Mr. Assad will leave the region vulnerable to extremist groups. Finally, a large financial investment will be necessary in the aftermath of the war to prevent the region from becoming a breeding ground for terrorism. Certainly, it will be costly in more ways than one to end the Syrian Civil War. However, this cost does not outweigh the price of countless lives.

*Imad Rizvi is a fourth former from Glastonbury, Conn. He may be reached at irizvi18@choate.edu*

## DEMOCRACY: A DYING BREED IN HONG KONG

By **Nicole Weinrauch '20**  
Opinions Staff Writer

March 26 was a sad day for democracy — a concept that, these days, has become somewhat of an endangered species. In Hong Kong, thanks to the puppet masters in Beijing, Carrie Lam was "elected" the new chief executive. In fact, election is a rather loose term to describe Mrs. Lam's appointment. To select her, a committee of 1,194 Beijing-approved eligible voters — 0.003% of the population — chose from three candidates. As the candidate supported by the Politburo, Mrs. Lam was awarded her position by voters who benefited from business connections with Beijing. The popular opinion of the Hong Kong people lay not with Mrs. Lam, but with either John Tsang, an establishment figure with an occasional independent streak. The other much discussed option was a boycott movement that dummied all three candidates puppets of Beijing.

Mrs. Lam, is forever tainted by the previous administration's repression of democratic activists, which it displayed to the world with its response to the student-led Umbrella Movement. She knows that she's unpopular. No surprise, however, that she now calls for "uniting our society." In the traditional,

iron-fisted Chinese government style, this is only unity through fear and absence of choice. Hours after Mrs. Lam's victory, nine democratic activists were arrested for being "public nuisances." In her acceptance speech, Mrs. Lam announced her administration will not engage in any negotiation of political reforms. Her stance couldn't be any clearer — the hardline approach lives on.

Here lies the heart of Hong Kong's dilemma. As many predicted it would, the slogan "one country, two systems" has evolved since 20 years ago. Recently, only the first part of that slogan has materialized. Take Mrs. Lam's predecessor's recent perspective on democracy: "Just because a candidate is leading popularity polls doesn't necessarily mean you should vote for that person." Not very subtle, right?

*Now, the days where public opinion can overrule an autocratic leader are disappearing.*

Indeed, it's interesting to see how, given its colonialist history, China increasingly views democratic movements



Citizens of Hong Kong gather for the pro-democracy Umbrella Protest.

as a Western threat. The reality is that in 1997, Beijing had no intention to ever allow a hint of democracy into its territory. Somehow, Hong Kong — at least its young people — is just realizing this now. Once fiercely independent, Hong Kong is now less different from Shenzhen a few miles down the road. At this point, Hong Kong has little choice but to accept its fate or face the People's Liberation Army.

Ideally, Hong Kong should be the perfect candidate for democracy — educated, cosmopolitan, high-tech, and distinctly capitalist. While independence may not be the best

alternative, as China has legitimate sovereignty claims over the territory, something must be done to reinvigorate the fading promise of democracy. As a hub of energy and innovation, Hong Kong has remained a special place in China. Now, the days where public opinion can overrule an autocratic leader are disappearing. Hopefully, democratic advocates will prevail — however, it appears unlikely that a few umbrellas will be able to successfully fight the power.

*Nicole Weinrauch is a third former from Singapore. She may be reached at nweinrauch20@choate.edu*

Are we missing something?

# Write for the News



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## SALLY HART LODGE: CAMPUS CENTER AND HOTEL



Photo by Lauren Cannal/The Choate News

Located at the center of campus, the Sally Hart Lodge serves prospective students, parents, and alumni alike.

By **Nicole Yao '18**  
Reporter

As one of the most central buildings on campus, the Sally Hart Lodge and Alumni Center is also one of the most obscure. Built in 1850 by Roderic Curtis, a descendant of one of the 38 founders of Wallingford, what is now known as the Sally Hart Lodge served as the home of Choate headmasters from 1908 to the mid-1990s. It was first purchased for The Choate School in 1906 by Judge William Gardner Choate and his wife, Mary Atwater Choate. Two years later, the succeeding headmaster, George St. John, declared the building the house of the Headmaster and his family, naming his new home The Lodge. The building retained its name until 1973, when it was dubbed Curtis House after its original builder. Its name was changed to the Sally Hart Lodge in 2002.

The name honors Sally Hart, the late wife of Larry Hart '32. A generous donation from the Harts allowed the building to be renovated as a guest house and alumni center in 2001, a function that the Lodge continues to serve today. Larry Hart was also an active benefactor to Choate's Annual Fund and the Larry Hart Pool.

Furnished with seven guest rooms, a kitchen, and an outside patio, the Sally Hart Lodge stands at the center of campus at the corner of the four-way intersection. The three-floor building also houses a living room, a dining room, and a study area — all of which are available for guests to use. Modeled after Sir Walter Scott's Abbotsford in Scotland, the Sally Hart Lodge is a fine demonstration of Gothic Revival architecture with its front-facing gables, shuttered windows, and steeply pitched roof. Inside, the building is just as aesthetically pleasing. The Lodge's leather-bound armchairs, arched windows, and framed paintings on solid-colored walls evoke a traditional yet comfortable feel. There are still modern aspects to the house, however: for example, an in-room cable TV and an elevator.

Currently, the Sally Hart Lodge and Alumni Center hosts special events and Choate-affiliated guests. Events include department head brunches, retirement dinners, cocktail parties, and dinners for guest speakers. "Oftentimes, alumni will have their wedding receptions on the patio outside the Lodge," Mr. Brian Sahlin, the innkeeper of the Sally Hart Lodge, described.

Four dedicated ABM employees are responsible for keeping the guest rooms and common spaces clean and immaculate.

**It seems like a little cottage house; it's very comfy and cozy.**

Mirialie De Jesus '18

Guests who stay at the Lodge overnight are typically parents of current students, prospective students and their families, alumni, friends and family of Choate staff members, job candidates, members of the Board of Trustees, and guest speakers or performers brought in by Choate. Those affiliated with Choate Summer Programs are also welcome to stay at the Lodge during the summer.

Regarding his most memorable experience running the Lodge for approximately seven years, Mr. Sahlin said, "The nicest thing is just the guest interaction. Some of the notable guests were fun to meet, and a lot of them are graduation speakers, like Seth Meyers and Chris Matthews. Most guests, regardless of their station in life, are very nice and just happy to be here because you're

just in the middle of campus; it's very convenient."

According to Mr. Sahlin, October, April, and May are the busiest months of the year, when events such as Parents' Weekend, revisit days, and graduation occur. During other months, typically one to two rooms out of seven are booked each night, with the Lodge closed every August for renovation. With each room having existing space for two residents — three with a cot — the Lodge's guest capacity is between 14 and 18 people. Each room is equipped with its own bathroom, queen or twin beds, and other amenities typical of a hotel. Each guest is also afforded privileges to specific Choate facilities, such as the Hill House dining hall and Worthington Johnson Athletic Center.

To make a reservation, one can book a room online on the Choate website, through email, or over a phone call to the Lodge. Prices are set depending on the resident.

"If you're faculty and staff, you get a special rate, and that's \$110 per room per night," explained Mr. Sahlin. "Everybody else pays \$180 per night from Sunday to Thursday and \$200 per night on weekends." No taxes or fees are added to this cost.

Caroline Donatelli '18, who stayed in the Sally Hart Lodge last year during Parents' Weekend, commented, "The beds are very comfy, and the staff is very warm and helpful. The ambiance is comfortable, and the decorations work. I would definitely recommend it to a friend." She also noted that there was no significant difference between the Lodge and a regular hotel — except the fact that "it's on Choate campus."

Mirialie De Jesus '18, who has visited Sally Hart Lodge before but not stayed there as a guest, said, "It seems like a little cottage house; it's very comfy and cozy. It feels like you're in someone's house. It gives a very warm feeling."

As new architectural additions populate Choate campus, the Sally Hart Lodge and Alumni Center has proven the test of time, existing for more than 100 years as a center for lodging and accommodations.

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## Choate Women's Initiatives

### Advocate Change

By **Riley Choi '18**  
Staff Reporter

Since the 2016 presidential election, there has been a call for women's rights across the country. Choate is no exception to this phenomenon, with several new women's advocacy initiatives across campus including Girl Up and Like a Girl.

Girl Up is an organization existent outside of Choate that supports girls in Guatemala, Ethiopia, India, Liberia, Malawi, and Uganda by fundraising, advocating, and educating. The mission of Girl Up is to empower young girls who lack resources and a voice to be educated political leaders. Across the world, more than 1,000 Girl Up chapters communicate to make a significant impact on the government's decisions regarding laws on women.

At Choate, Laura Solano-Florez '20, Samantha Scott '20, and Izzy Peel '19, have started their own Girl Up chapter on campus. Each month, the club is given a goal to complete from the official organization, which ranges from fundraising to writing letters to the U.S. government to amend bills in favor of young women.

Solano-Florez wanted to not only fundraise for Girl Up, but also to educate Choate students on the issues women face today. "I hope to create a club that builds leaders and friendship and helps girls realize the power they have," she explained.

Scott mentioned, "Choate is a very diverse place, filled with fortunate people. We want to help open their eyes to the realities of our world through firsthand experiences granted to us by these young ladies. It is important for everyone to understand that some people don't have the resources we have, and that every little bit we do to help them matters."

The Choate Girl Up Club plans to collaborate with UNICEF to host fundraisers and community service events. The club also plans to discuss the book *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai, which discusses Yousafzai's struggle against sex-based educational restrictions in her Pakistani hometown. She continued her advocacy even after being shot by the Taliban.

Like a Girl is a club founded by Shamari Harrington '18 with the goal of creating a space for women in the weightroom. Harrington, a track athlete who makes frequent use of the gym, commented, "One day, I was working out by myself in a gym full of males. I always saw women working out outside, but they never came in. I asked whether they felt uncomfortable being in the gym, and they replied that they did. That's why I started the club: so that female athletes can engage with one another and have fun."

Like a Girl's future plans include a SAC dance collaboration with the Body Project and a Zumba class open to the entire school.

These initiatives reflect increased interest in advocating women's rights. Larissa Owusu '17, co-president of the Choate Diversity Student Association (CDSA), explained, "The campus needs some space for women to come and share their experiences, seek support, and ask for advice. This space will attempt to make women equal to men, and if it doesn't, it will at least come up with solutions and campaigns to do so."

Solano-Florez added, "Advocacy is the act of learning about an issue and spreading the word around your community, specifically to government officials; it pushes for changes in legislation that are the basis for the issues women face today."

Along with the clubs and initiatives, Choate has improved resources for women on campus. Jerri Norman '17, another co-president of CDSA, explained, "Choate is a community where if students feel that there is something lacking, they can ask for it and get it. This year, we've seen a lot more support from the community among women and those who support women."

Owusu commented, "I hope that these calls for women's rights don't stop. There are many ways of helping women in many different subjects, like women in STEM and reproductive rights, and as we have more conversations regarding women's rights, I hope this momentum perpetuates."

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## PICTURING MR. ROSS MORTENSEN



Photo by Lauren Cannal/The Choate News

By **Elizabeth Quinn '20**  
Reporter

Look at any photo on the Choate website. It likely came from one source: Mr. Ross Mortensen, Manager of Media Resources and a dedicated observer of campus life. Mr. Mortensen can be found in a variety of locales across the Choate campus, photographing Choate students from afar.

Mr. Mortensen was drawn to photography because of its enlightening perspective on the surrounding world. He explained, "Photography, for me, is a wonderful way to experience occurrences from a different angle in life. Looking at people and places with a different eye than you normally would have otherwise is fascinating to me."

Mr. Mortensen worked at several internships after college, including work with Hartford public schools, the Bushnell Performing Arts Center, the Hillstead Museum, and Connecticut Public Television. At Connecticut Public Television, Mr. Mortensen met many like-minded staff in the Media Lab department, who encouraged his creative aspirations in digital media. There, Mr. Mortensen learned that "media is constantly evolving and changing," realizing that photography was about "studying, reading, and learning as much as you can about many different fields that are related to one another."

After working in the Communications Department at the Taft School, Mr. Mortensen thought that it was time for a

change. Mr. Mortensen wanted to combine his love of media relations with a prep school environment. Choate was a good fit for both.

Mr. Mortensen's day-to-day job is dependent on the happenings around campus. He can typically be seen working with school departments to fulfill arising multimedia needs, filming events, planning media projects, and collaborating with web and print departments to curate Choate's online media presence.

Since his arrival at Choate, Mr. Mortensen has built a digitized system of all the photos and videos that he takes. Mr. Mortensen said, "All this data has become effectively an archive of Choate media from the past few years. We now have quite a collection and assist with people's needs for media requests."

Although Mr. Mortensen has experienced many interesting moments since his arrival at Choate, one stood out to him. He described, "About two months after I started, I was tasked with photographing the all-school picture for Choate's 125th anniversary. From a cherry picker. High in the air. With no real idea how to use the thing. I wouldn't say I'm afraid of heights, but when you get some elevation in one of those things on a cold, windy day, it can certainly be interesting."

From cherry pickers to photography runs, Mr. Mortensen has found his Choate experience deeply meaningful. He commented, "Working with my associates in the Communications Department has been a very positive experience for me. The department is larger than other ones I have worked with in the past, and we work on a much larger variety of tasks. But we all collaborate with one another and get things done, regardless of what comes our way."

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## Longstanding Traditions Send off Senior Class

By **Michelle Zhuang '18**  
Reporter

As seniors finalize their college plans, senior spring traditions encourage students to end their time at Choate and think about their exciting futures ahead.

### Incendium

Founded approximately ten years ago by Mr. James Yanelli, Director of Student Activities, this tradition of burning rejection letters on the SAC patio started when Mr. Yanelli conversed with prefects who lamented the fact that they had "all this negative information." Back then, some of the seniors would post the letters on their doors, while others would tear them up and throw them away. Mr. Yanelli thought, "Why don't we just go ahead and burn them? So I said that seniors should go up to the SAC patio, bring all the negative news from colleges, and burn it." The letter-burning was always combined with a mug night to give seniors a chance to socialize and focus on all the positive news they have received. Mr. Yanelli explained, "The tradition was created so that seniors can collectively get over the college application process and think about college itself." Regarding student impressions of the event, Mr. Yanelli stated, "It's always really well attended. 'Cathartic' was a word that was often used. It allows seniors to put disappointment behind them and think about the rest of the spring instead of what they didn't like over the winter." This year's Incendium was postponed from Thursday, April 6 to Sunday, April 9 because of rain.

### Mr. D's Rejection Letter Cupcakes

Another tradition aimed towards getting seniors to put their college rejections behind them is Mr. D's rejection letter cupcakes (tradition named by the writer of this article). Students can go to the Wallingford candy store with a rejection letter, put it into the rejection letter box, and get a complimentary cupcake. Accord-



Photo courtesy of Karen Shure

Seniors gather for Incendium, a mug night in which students burn their college rejection letters.

ing to shop owners Mr. and Mrs. D, the tradition began because of two reasons: "One reason was because our Choate customers come to Mr. D's, and we want to give back the students. The second reason is because getting a rejection letter isn't something that makes you happy. We wanted to put a smile back on people's faces." Although both Mr. and Mrs. D did not have any out of the ordinary stories to tell about the tradition, they did note one interesting behavior shared by many Choate students. "When a Choate student gets a rejection letter," said Mrs. D, "they have a certain way of putting their rejection letter into the rejection letter box. They don't slide it in; they thrust it in. It's a cathartic event, especially when the college is one that the student really wanted to get into. It's kind of like a book burning."

### Senior Bingo

Contrasted with the two previous traditions, Senior Bingo has nothing to do with college. Instead, it is a night of high energy fun in the dining hall. Taking place on Thursday, May 4, the event will signal a time of casual entertainment for many among the senior class. According to Mr.

Yanelli, "Teachers call numbers, and seniors win a wide variety of prizes ranging from clothing and other items from the school store to Thursday D passes." Regarding the detention passes, Mr. Yanelli paused. "I know that we're asking for trouble," he said with a smirk.

### Alumni Transition Dinner

This tradition marks seniors' transition from students to alumni. The dinner, which takes place in the middle of spring term, is one of the last formal gathering events for seniors, featuring a speech and slideshow presentation on the impact of becoming a Choate alumnus. Each senior is granted a vest from the Choate Rosemary Hall Alumni Association, marking the shift from being a Choate student to becoming a burgeoning young adult in style.

### Senior Class Trip

The end of senior year is celebrated with the Senior Class Trip, a one-day outing that allows seniors to get off of campus and enjoy a fun-filled day of bonding and free time. According to Mr. Yanelli, this tradition, which started about 20 years ago, is a nice way to end the academic year for seniors and is purposely

meant to be "something close and unstructured so that seniors can get off campus and enjoy each other's company." Recent locations include Hammonasset Beach, Rocky Neck Beach, and Quassy Amusement Park.

### Last Hurrah

Beginning with four nights of senior ballroom dancing lessons taught by Ms. Foster before the actual event in May, Last Hurrah — a formal social event for the entire senior class which features a professional orchestra — is perhaps the most well-known senior tradition. According to Mr. Yanelli, it has evolved considerably since he arrived at Choate in the early 1980s, when Last Hurrah was still hosted by parents. The much-anticipated event begins with a dinner, continues on to dancing and a dance competition, and finally, ends with an after party which lasts until one in the morning. According to Mr. Yanelli, "Unlike in many schools, Last Hurrah isn't just a date night. Instead, as the name suggests, it's a celebration of the entire senior class."

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## FROM ALGORITHM TO ART

By **Inc Thongthai '19**  
Staff Reporter

Encountering art is inevitable. Everyone has seen some form of art in his or her lives, whether that is through symphonies, exhibitions, dances, writing, or musicals. However, Zev Nicolai-Scanio '18 has developed a new form of art through an algorithm.

Nicolai-Scanio completed a Directed Study with his project advisor Dr. Matt Bardoe on machine and computer learning last term. The result of his project now decorates the stairwells of the Lanphier Center.

According to Nicolai-Scanio, his passion lies in computer science. He said, "I have always been interested in the algorithm side of computer science. It's just been something that I have done in my free time, like taking CS50, which is Harvard University's Introduction to Algorithm online. Last year, I took AP Computer Science, here at Choate, which had some basic algorithms, but we never had any electives that were specifically designed to teach the theory or concepts much further than what was the surface. So I decided to do a Directed Study in the fall, which was basically a college level course of computer science." He added, "One of the things, in terms of family algorithms, that really interested me was artificial neural network or artificial intelligence. What it does is it stimulates the cognitive process of rows and rows of neurons propagating information. So I decided to continue my Directed Study in the winter, centering around artificial neural networks and their application in practical cases such as image recognition and handwriting transcriptions."

Nicolai-Scanio's work can be seen all throughout the Lan-

phier Center and exceeds the practical image recognition and handwriting transcriptions that are basic to computer science. Instead, his work takes a very artistic and complex form. He said, "I have always been interested in the way art morphs reality. If you look back in history, as the different art schools rise and fall, the 'trend' in art also changes. There is a long lineage of creative differences that moves from the still life to landscape paintings, so the idea of the human approaches to painting morphing over time, has always fascinated me."

With this interest in mind, he began to work with algorithms and technology to replicate such art forms. Nicolai-Scanio said, "I wanted to use these new technologies that seem to have such a versatility with images. I wanted to see, theoretically, if people, separated by generations in time and by different art schools, could paint the exact same thing. In essence, I wanted to see two painters' techniques being used on an identical composition."

To many people, computer science may seem like a scary term. They may assume that designing such a project would have taken at least a year; however it took Nicolai-Scanio four weeks to write the proof for his project from scratch. He said, "Developing the first component of the project, which was the mathematical proof of why it should work, took me around four weeks before the end of the term. The project was two weeks of mathematical underpinning and two weeks of code. The rest was just training the models to do what you want it to do. Once that is achieved, the actual 'painting' only takes around five seconds."

Nicolai-Scanio's project breaks the barriers between art and science. He merged

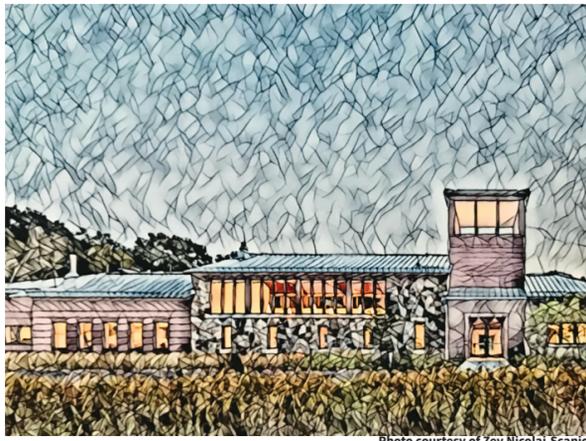


Photo courtesy of Zev Nicolai-Scanio

Nicolai-Scanio's graphic interpretation of the KEC.

the two, blending the lines of mathematical theory and artistic expression. His work is the product of that fusion. Nicolai-Scanio said, "Even within art itself, there is a historical division between photography and painting. I tried to capture almost a timeline or a compression of artistic and computational history." There are ten art pieces currently in the Lanphier Center.

As Nicolai-Scanio talked about his creative process, he explained it in terms of human learning. He explained, "The machine learns art the way humans do, just a little faster. The model makes guesses of the composition then reevaluates the errors and makes corrections. It imitates a certain painting style that I have put in the algorithm, then it compares it to the actual landscape and then again to the abstract technique of the imitated artist." The machine repeats this process millions and millions of times, however with the input of mathematics and is able to create a matrix of the content and the perceived style.

## Student Art Exhibition Showcases New Talent

By **Erica Chang '19**  
Reporter

The Paul Mellon Arts Center, Choate's artistic hub, has recently given an opportunity to students who do not typically do work there to display their artistic talent. The annual Student Art Exhibition opened on March 24 to all members of the Choate community. Most of the student pieces are on display in the PMAC Gallery, as well as the Chapel and Hill House Lobby.

The exhibition features artwork that was made by students from all forms who took visual art classes in the fall and winter term. Many of the art courses are in the exhibition, including Core Concepts, Black and White Photography, Digital Photography, Weaving, Ceramics, Jewelry, Digital Media Design, and Life Drawing. The work that is on display ranges from beautiful, intricate weaving designs to digital collages. The exhibition allows prospective students to see the diversity of artistic talents and opportunities student have at Choate.

Kathryn Phillips '20, who took Black and White Photography during winter term, is one of the many students in the show. The class was a chance for Phillips to explore her artistic side of photography. The end of term assignment was for the students to pick their three favorite pictures that they took during the term. Phillips seized the opportunity, saying, "I chose three photos that I felt represented my favorite type of photography: portraits." Phil-

lips' final project consisted of three photos and her inspiration was "reflections and pictures that represent multiple perspectives." One of the portraits is of Andrew Garver '17. "The picture of Garver was ultimately to get people who know his fun personality to see another side of him," said Phillips. She added, "The class was a great way for me to explore my passion of photography more professionally."

Diva Jain '17, a supporter of the visual arts, took Figure Drawing with arts teacher Ms. Jessica Cuni this past winter. She believes in the importance of "all student work being shown, even (that of) introductory classes." She added, "Many students make visual artwork after school that isn't being shown."

The exhibition is one of the few opportunities that students who do work for classes or after school get to publicly show their work. Jain said "Visual art cannot simply be shown at school meeting as easily as theatre or music, so to be able to have it displayed openly is really cool." Jain offered a suggestion to make student artwork more prominent on campus. She said, "It would be amazing to have more events like this on display in the PMAC more frequently. The support it fosters is truly amazing."

The next time school meeting ends early, stay afterwards and go see the fantastic artwork that your peers have put on display.

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## À LA MODE



By **Jeanne Malle '19**  
Fashion Columnist

Since the very start of Chinese history, fashion has always demonstrated the various changes the country has undergone. From the traditional Da Xiu Shan (meaning "Big Sleeved Dress") of the Tang Dynasty to the widespread black color of the Han Dynasty, every era in China brought about a new style that subsequently fell at the end of that empire. Nevertheless, the bright colors, fun shapes, and bold patterns of each epoch make it impossible to confuse China's fashion with any other.

After the fall of the Qing Dynasty and the start of Mao Zedong's rule, style changed like never before. With the communist ideal of equality in mind, a national dress became required amongst the entire Chinese population to ensure fairness. To exemplify the drastic change in government, the outfit worn

by men and political figures at that time is remembered today as the "Mao suit." This dress consisted of a high necked grey long-sleeved jacket and four large pockets. Contrary to China's history, this uniform had no diversity, color, or excitement apart from the widely known red communist star often seen on hats. Recently, this long standing trend has faded.

**Chinese patterns and silhouettes immensely influenced American and European designers.**

It is interesting to notice the western world's style parallel after these years of communism. As portrayed in last year's exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art "China Through the Looking Glass", both today and in the late 20th century Chinese fashion was at the forefront of style. Chinese patterns and silhouettes immensely influenced American and European designers. In the '80s, although no longer obliged to wear certain things, the Chinese population was not exposed to the West and thus, developed a unique style. Vice versa, this was not the case. Chinese fashion began to have a huge influence on Europe. In 1978, one of the world's most well known French designers, Yves Saint Laurent, made a line

of clothing inspired by Chinese fashion, borrowing classical floral patterns and materials such as silk to portray the old style with a modern twist. While the stereotypically known Chinese style was put on hold after the fall of the Qing Dynasty in 1912, the West began appropriating the looks and incorporating them into its own.

Today, at a time in which China has opened itself up to the rest of the world and is progressing alongside other countries, what has happened to the classic idea of ancient Chinese fashion? Although not often represented on men and women today, the well known style has evolved in an intriguing direction. To me, the most striking difference between a typical Chinese dress thousands of years ago and now is its cut. Throughout the course of history, the basic dress has not only become more and more slimming on the female body, but also shorter on the leg. These differences are widely viewed as Westernized, but contrary to this belief, the changes truly developed on their own in China.

In recent history, alterations in Chinese fashion have been more in sync with the rest of the world than ever. The impact of new Chinese style exceeds the boundaries of the country itself, influencing designers from countries such as France and the United States.

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Photo courtesy of The Scene New York

A display of ornate dresses in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's "China Through the Looking Glass."

## ANNUAL DANCE CONCERT GRACES PMAC



Photo by Ross Mortensen

This year's dance concert included a mixture of student and faculty choreography.

By **Sasha Bocek '19**  
Reporter

Each and every spring, the annual Student Dance Concert is performed in the Paul Mellon Arts Center. It is the culmination of a year of hard work by the dance faculty and students, resulting in a two-hour production that goes on twice. This year, the concert featured 17 dances choreographed by students, dance faculty, and guest choreographers.

The show opened with a piece by Dance Company's co-President, Lily James '17, "Whist." Her dance was prefaced with a short clip of her explaining her process of choreographing. She mentioned that the process was very collaborative and that the help of her dancers was crucial to the creation of the final dance. The song used was "Still" by Seinabo Sey. It was a fresh and upbeat tune that set the perfect tone for the rest of the concert. The costumes were simple, comprised of white flowy shirts and black shorts.

The dance was a lyrical piece, and the 22 dancers were graceful in all their jumps and turns. Kitan Ayeni '19 stated, "Lily was an amazing choreographer, and it was really cool to see people with varying levels of experience come together to make such a fluid piece."

Another student group to grace the stage was Hip Hop Club. Its 21 members were clad in camouflage t-shirts and black leggings. The music was a medley of various hip-hop artists including Drake, Nicki Minaj, and Missy Elliot. The transitions between each song were seamless, and the group used a number of triangular formations in their piece. All of

the movements were precise, sharp and in sync. The audience was entranced, and people everywhere were moving to beat, as if under a spell cast by the rainbow lighting.

Choate was lucky enough this year to have the help of professional dancer and choreographer Lacina Coulibaly in choreographing a dance for select members of the Dance Company, "We Are Then I Am." His piece was accompanied by the song "He Ran All The Way" by Bobby McFerrin. The song's rapid drum beats and clicks influenced the dancers in their brisk movements on the stage. One very interesting moment in the dance was when the music faded to a complete silence, and the dancers shuffled in a diamond shape until the next song began. The piece was unique and allowed room for interpretation in the audience.

Zara Harding '18 contributed a new dynamic to the Choate community with her piece, "Dip Low." It featured the Jamaican style of dance music, Dancehall. Both "Jet Blue Jet" and "Pon De Floor," songs by Major Lazer, provided strong and electrifying beats. Harding utilized a number of different formations in her piece. The costumes consisted of black tank tops and shorts with a flannel shirt tied around the dancers' waists. The piece was a hit with the audience, receiving outrageous applause. Emily McDermott '19 said, "The piece was a really great experience for the audience to view a new style of dance from a different culture."

Another popular and complicated dance was "Trap-pist 1." The piece was choreographed by the Thursday Dance Company in collaboration with

Emily Lutin and was a "group effort" according to Katie Lee '18, who explained the dance in a video played during the performance. The song accompanying the dance was "I Miss You" by Ta-ku. The backdrop for this dance was the work of Dilan Bozer '17, a visual arts concentration student, who created video art to be played behind the dancers. It was bold, with saturated images of eye irises, jellyfish, roses, and other colorful objects. All of the elements of this piece combined together creating something that was reminiscent of an "artsy" pop music video.

The final dance of the night was "Sing! Sing! Sing!" with choreography by dance faculty member, Shelley Collock. The costumes, which were created with the help of Deighna DeRiu, were typical flapper dresses in a variation of colors, and the song for the dance was "Sing, Sing, Sing" by Benny Goodman. The ensemble danced in front of a blue backdrop with transparent white splotches. The dance was a high note and the perfect way to end the night of entertainment.

This year's Student Dance Concert was nothing short of amazing. Jalah Scott '20 commented on the whole production saying, "It was really fun to work on the project from the beginning to the end. It was really cool to work slowly from the beginning of the year and build up a presentation for the entire school." All of the hours of hard work put in by the students and faculty translated on stage in the well thought out and captivating dances.

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## FIELD REPORT

### Saturday Games

**Baseball** (4-2-0)  
beats Kent, 7-0

**Softball** (0-2-0)  
falls to Ethel Walker, 1-18

**Ultimate** (0-3-0)  
falls to NMH, 6-10

**Boys' Golf** (4-3-0)  
1st of 3

**Boys' Lacrosse** (3-2-0)  
beats Kent, 16-4

**Girls' Lacrosse** (4-1-0)  
beats Pomfret, 14-3

**Boys' Tennis** (1-0-0)  
2nd of 8 teams @ KO

**Girls' Tennis** (1-1-0)  
beats NMH, 9-0

**Boys' Track** (4-1-0)  
beats NMH, 112.5-31.5

**Girls' Track** (5-0-0)  
beats NMH, 96-47

**Boys' Volleyball** (1-2-0)  
falls to Exeter, 0-3

### Wednesday Games

**Baseball** (4-2-0)  
beats NMH, 10-0

**Ultimate** (0-3-0)  
falls to Xavier, 5-14

**Boys' Golf** (4-3-0)  
beats Pomfret on 6th Scorer

**Girls' Golf** (1-0-0)  
beats Miss Porter's, 3-2

**Boys' Lacrosse** (3-2-0)  
beats Westminster, 9-10

**Girls' Lacrosse** (4-1-0)  
beats Loomis, 18-14

**Girls' Tennis** (1-1-0)  
falls to Sacred Heart, 1-8

**Boys' Track** (4-1-0)  
2nd of 4

**Girls' Track** (5-0-0)  
1st of 4

**Boys' Volleyball** (1-2-0)  
falls to Newington, 1-3

**Girls' Water Polo** (1-2-0)  
falls to Hopkins, 2-12

## Behind the Scenes with Choate Soccer Club

By **Cici Curran '20**  
Staff Reporter

Most soccer aficionados tend to limit their hobby to keeping up with their favorite league or playing pick-up at the park. Some like Dilibe Iloeje '18 start a club. Still a relatively new club on campus, the Choate Soccer Club was brought to the public eye as the perfect platform for all soccer lovers by Iloeje.

While it has become popular in the past term with 15 regular members and counting, it's beginnings were humble. Iloeje, a varsity soccer player and all-around soccer fan, came up with the idea as a way to bring people together. He said, "I started Choate Soccer Club to provide students with an organized outlet with which to enjoy soccer with other like-minded students. Often times, it was too difficult to enjoy games with others and find students to talk about soccer with." As soon as he had the idea, he brought it to his friends Spencer Jimenez '18 and Canaan Case '18. They were delighted by the idea and immediately brought the concept to Mr. Charlie Fuentes, Boys' Varsity Soccer coach, and Mr. James Yanelli, Director of Student Activities, to bring the club to its feet.

While it is easy to assume



Photo by Michael Li/The Choate News

Members of Choate Soccer Club line up on the steps of Hill House.

that a soccer club is one dimensional, Iloeje plans to bring all aspects of the game to the table. "Choate Soccer Club is all about relaxing and enjoying the sport of soccer," he said. "We are all about providing opportunities for members to enjoy soccer-related activities and broaden their experience around the sport."

Iloeje was sure to mention what occurs at every club

meeting. "We'll start off by discussing recent games and sharing which plays excited us the most or which players performed the best. Then, we usually talk about our plans for the future of the club." He added, "We always close the meeting by watching a few highlight reels."

When asked if he had any plans set in stone for this year, Iloeje described finalizing a trip

to New York City to see NYCFC, a Major League Soccer team, play. In addition to the trip, they are "trying to get a soccer clinic together where local Wallingford kids can come, play soccer, receive coaching from experienced players and coaches, and enjoy a fun afternoon. We will have futsal games, trivia contests, viewings of Champions League games and, hopefully, more trips."

Looking into the future, Iloeje commented on his goals for the club, saying, "My goal is to create a long lasting club that continues to uphold our club mission," Iloeje said. "Another one of my goals for the club is to establish an annual clinic. Additionally, he said, "I want to grow our membership." Iloeje hopes to foster an appreciation for professional soccer, a sport that can be overshadowed by other domestic sports, like baseball or basketball.

**Choate Soccer Club is all about relaxing and enjoying the sport of soccer.**

Dilibe Iloeje '18

The club may seem a little intimidating to someone who doesn't know much about soccer, but Iloeje sends a clear message to any interested parties: "Do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to be a soccer expert or even a soccer fan to enjoy the club." The club meets every Friday at 6:30pm in the Lanphier Center, and all are welcome to attend.

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## Boys' Lacrosse Beats NMH and Kent

By **Dan Brockett '19**  
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, April 5, the Boys' Varsity Lacrosse team, riding a three-game win streak, went up to Northfield Mount Hermon for a showdown with the Hoggers. The team dominated from the start, and came home with a massive 16-5 win.

Nick McCall '17 said, "It's always fun to win and see everyone contribute, but I think at the same time we need to shoot more confidently and move the ball more fluidly." The team played well, and the win lifted overall team morale. Choate dominated throughout the whole game. Hunter Burns '19 said, "I thought the biggest play in the game was when Shane Sweitzer '18 went coast to coast and scored for us." Big plays like this drained NMH's will to compete, allowing the Boars to keep rolling on both sides of the ball.

The following Saturday, the boys had a home game against the Kent School. Straightaway, it was clear that Kent was out-matched by Choate, as the Boars took an early 4-1 lead that continued to expand from there. Bobby Goggin '17 scored, making it 9-1 while Choate was a man up. Shortly after that goal, McCall came back with an impressive goal of his own to give Choate a commanding 10-1 lead.

The narrative for Choate in the second half was different. The team had no shortage of goals, but the team was tested defensively. After Choate took an 11-1 lead, Kent had a couple of offensive opportunities that were thwarted by Sweitzer and Selden Leonard '17, but Kent eventually broke through and scored, making it 11-2. Every time Kent would score, Choate would respond with two or three goals of its own, with the game ending in a 16-4 Choate victory.

Everybody on the team individually played well, especially Jack-Henry Vara '17, who did not lose a face-off all game, and goalie George Uppgren '17, who saved almost everything that Kent threw on net. Spencer Witter '19 and Konrad Knaus '19 both scored excellent goals.

After the game, Will Brown '19 said, "We dominated the game from the first whistle. It was overall a great team showing and no one took their foot off the gas pedal. I think we ran our systems efficiently, and we just need to keep getting better everyday in practice and looking forward to the next game."

The Boars are one of the hottest teams on campus right now, and they take on their rivals from the Emerald City this coming Saturday, which is sure to be a heated battle.

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## ATHLETICS MANAGER ROSE CAMIRE RETIRES

By **Joseph Coyne '19**  
Copy Editor

On Monday, April 3, Ms. Rose Camire retired after 16 years as the office manager for the Department of Athletics. "I began in November of 2001, and having never worked in a school or academia atmosphere, I had some reservations," recalled Ms. Camire. "I was tentative and very nervous, but my love for sports kept me focused."

Of her responsibilities, Ms. Camire said, "After receiving the basic sports schedules for each season, I would have to be sure that all aspects of that schedule had what it needed to become our finished product." This meant that she had to schedule transportation for games, meals for teams that had away games, referees to officiate, and overnight arrangements. She also had to work with the Grounds Crew to ensure that the fields were prepared for each home game.

Most athletes never think twice about all of the work that goes into preparing for games, which is a true testament to how well Ms. Camire did her job. Athletic Director Ned Gallagher said, "She was the social glue of the department. She was good at communicating between the office, the equipment room, and the training room and making sure everyone was in the loop."

On her favorite part of working at Choate, Ms. Camire said, "I am fortunate to have had many special memories having worked at Choate, but what stands out the most and what I will take with me are the opportunities I had in meeting so many people. So many students, families, faculty, staff and alumni that make up this incredible institution have all played a role in making my years here at Choate a rewarding experience."

While her work ethic and experience will be missed, it is her presence in the office that will be missed most. Ms. Paula Marcati, a good friend of Ms. Camire, described Rose as a true friend. "We were real buddies! We laughed and cried; our kids played together; we did everything for sixteen

long years. I'm going to miss her, but I'll still see her outside of Choate," said Ms. Marcati. Mr. Gallagher had a couple of things that he would remember Ms. Camire by: "She was a die-hard New York Yankees fan, a foodie, proud of her Italian heritage and her family, thoughtful, dependable, and even-tempered."

**My job gave me opportunities to meet so many wonderful people.**

Rose Camire  
Athletics Manager

While Ms. Camire is excited for retirement, she admitted she is feeling sentimental. "Walking away into retirement is very emotional. Coming in day after day, working with co-workers, staff, coaches, and the students, made me realize this just wasn't the 'office' where I drove to so many mornings, it was a place where I spent more time than being at home! It was a place that was quiet and calm until dismissal, and then the doors would open, and the WJAC came alive," she said.

She went on, "What I am fortunate enough to be taking from Choate are some incredible memories — some wonderful and happy ones and some sad ones as well — and friendships that I hope will last long into the years."

She had some final thoughts on retirement and her 16 years here at Choate: "It will be very different driving to campus to attend a performance or to watch a game and not have to worry about buses or officials. I look forward to returning to Choate as a 'spectator,' and when I stop by the office, I hope that the candy jar is full. I truly hope I made a small difference in all these years because I know for certain, Choate has made my life very different from that first day in November. My job gave me opportunities to meet so many wonderful people. Thank you for all your friendship and kindness through my years here. It's been a great ride. Go Choate!"

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## Girls' Water Polo Earns Two Wins

By **Isabelle So '20**  
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, April 5, Girls' Water Polo had its first home game. After two weeks of hard work, the girls brought their game faces and destroyed Williston Northampton School.

Until nearly halftime, Williston was ahead by three goals, but this didn't discourage the Boars. They visualized what they all wanted to work on, focused on their defense, and made sure they were aggressive on offense and brought the score up to 8-6 by the end of the game.

Though the game was a team effort, Anna Ekholm '17 put away three amazing shots during the third quarter, co-captain Nicole Sellow '17 scored once in the first quarter and three times in the third quarter, while Tippan Chan '19 was good for one in the second quarter.

The team as a whole worked

hard to defend their goal, and Sydney Klakeg '19 made 13 saves on the Boars' way to victory. Adding on to that, co-captain Virginia Stanley '17 played an amazing game defensively and made sure that she didn't give away fouls to the opposing team or let the players from Williston get past her to get in on net.

Taking on Staples High School on Friday, April 7, Choate once again brought its talent to the first away game of the season. Although Ekholm was injured and could not play, the team managed to again defeat their opposition, this time with a score of 6-3. Once again, Sellow put away four outstanding shots, jumpstarting the Choate offense. Cecilia Zhou '17 sprinted her heart out, and her hustle had an impact in every part of the pool. First-year Coach Brooke Rea did a fantastic job equally splitting the team up so that everyone on the team got enough or at

least a decent amount of playing time, while also remaining tactically sound.

As a whole, Girls' Water Polo put in an incredible team effort over the two games, defending and counter-attacking harder with each move. Also, with such a large group of new players and fresh talent, everyone is dedicated to the team's success, whether on deck or in the water.

Sellow said, "I was super proud of the way the team played. It was awesome to see everyone get time in the water after working so hard in practice everyday. I have a great feeling about the rest of the season." Through hard work, perseverance, and continuous improvement, Girls' Water Polo is well on their way to a great season, with the last two results pointing towards a really positive trend this spring.

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