



BIOSAH '16 AND LAWAL '16 AWARDED PRINCETON PRIZE IN RACE RELATIONS

By **Grayce Gibbs '18**
Staff Reporter

Long active in encouraging and accepting diversity on Choate's campus, Uzo Biosah '16 and Tomi Lawal '16 were awarded the 2016 Princeton Prize in Race Relations on March 2. One or two students from each of the twenty-six eligible regional areas won the \$1,000 cash prize along with an invitation to Princeton's annual symposium on race.

According to Princeton University, the goal of the award itself is to "promote harmony, understanding, and respect among people of different races by identifying and recognizing high school age students whose efforts have had a significant, positive effect on race relations in their schools or communities."

Biosah and Lawal are active in many different race and diversity related clubs and activities on campus. They helped create and remain active participants in the Choate Diversity Student Association (CDSA). In addition, they have been



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Biosah and Lawal are involved in promoting discussions regarding diversity as members of the Choate Diversity Student Association.

part of the Choate Diversity Day planning committee since it was founded their sophomore year.

According to Biosah, "I think a large reason why I

won had to do with my involvement in planning and facilitating Diversity Day, but I talked about a lot more than that in my application. I'm vice president of CALSA

(Choate Afro-Latino Student Alliance), and I talked about my engagement with poetry on campus."

Biosah added, "I help run a lot of different events

for students on campus. In the past they have had to do with issues of systemic oppression, institutionalized racism, and police brutality — a lot of things that

students on campus and across the country may have to confront. Making Choate students aware of these issues was probably one of the reasons why I was chosen."

Elaborating on their role in Diversity Day, Lawal commented, "We made a lot of changes to Diversity Day: the outreach of people we were able to get, the structure of the day, and how we structured the conversations to be more engaging and for students to pick up on all aspects of diversity — race and ethnicity included."

Lawal also thought being Student Body President was a factor in his winning. He said, "The last time we had a black student body president was in 2005, with Queenette Karikari, who was on the Diversity Day panel last year. I can't remember the last time we had a black male president. Just because the school started as an all boys' school for white guys, it doesn't mean that they're the only people who can thrive here and do good work here."

See Princeton Prize, Page 2

ART CURATOR AND COLLEGE PRESIDENT WIN ALUMNI AWARDS

By **Maria Ma '19**
Reporter

Carrying on the tradition that started with acclaimed alumnus John F. Kennedy '79 and Mr. Dodge D. Thompson '66 received the 2016 Choate Rosemary Hall Alumni Award for outstanding accomplishments in their professional fields. The presentation ceremony occurred

during an all-school meeting on Wednesday, April 6. After the ceremony, Mr. Thompson gave a speech, while Dr. Patton sat down with Choate alumna Claire Abbadi '12 for an onstage conversation.

Both recipients recalled their transformative experiences at Choate. "The award caused me to really reflect upon the formative experiences I had at Choate. I had to sum up my thoughts to the

student body and faculty," Mr. Thompson remarked regarding his speech.

The Choate Rosemary Hall Alumni Award was created in 2010 when the Rosemary Hall Alumnae Award merged with the Choate Alumni Seal Prize.

The Choate Alumni Seal Prize originated in 1958, and the first recipient was future President John F. Kennedy '35. A few years later, in 1965, Rosemary

Hall created the Rosemary Hall Alumnae Prize.

Each year, a number of prominent alumni are nominated by fellow alumni or by the school. These nominees are presented to the Alumni Association Nominating and Prize Committee as candidates. According to Ms. Monica St. James, Director of Alumni Relations, several

See Alumni Awards, Page 2

CHOATE STUDENTS TRIUMPH AT COLT POETRY CONTEST

By **Ananya Karanam '18**
Reporter

Choate sent students to the CT COLT Poetry Recitation Contest on Wednesday, April 6 for the first time in two years. Twenty-four Choate students traveled to East Haven High School to compete against hundreds in the "Super Bowl" of high school foreign language contests, as the Choate website calls it. Out of the 24 Choate students that attended, 15 of them were medalists in their categories.

Saloni Jaiswal '16, a participant that won second place in Arabic, commented, "The COLT competition is a really wonderful learning experience. There aren't very many opportunities in the language department to showcase your skills, so this was just a really great channel to improve my ability and my understanding of the language."

Sponsored by the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (CT COLT), a nonprofit aiming to promote language proficiency and knowledge of world cultures, the contest drew approximately 600 students

from 53 schools to compete in 16 different languages, from Polish to Japanese.

COLT, a nonprofit organization founded in 1968, provided a slate of poems, grouped by level and language, from which students could pick. Some teachers chose to grade students on their recitations, while others used them as an enjoyable class activity.

Reciting poetry doesn't feel the same as presenting a project in front of your classmates.

Ms. Patricia Antunez

In most classes, students either voted for a winner, or the teacher decided on the best recitation. However, some of the upper-level classes were so small that students simply volunteered to perform their poems.

Michelle Zhuang '18 remarked, "I'm in AP Chinese, so I was one of the students who volunteered to participate in the contest. Public

See Students Find, Page 2

SENIORS INDUCTED INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AT TRANSITION DINNER

By **Alyssa Shin '18**
Staff Reporter

The day after the Alumni Transition Dinner on April 7, a sea of seniors proudly showed off their blue alumni vests. The Alumni Association has existed for 10 years. Pictures of grinning groups of students wearing these vests emblazoned with "Choate Rosemary Hall Alumni Association" surfaced on social media as well.

Ibrahima "Ibro" Mbaye '16 reflected on the significance of these vests. "I think the vests are just like one of those many items that large groups of students get here



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Seniors celebrate their impending graduation at the tenth Alumni Transition Dinner.

like class shirts or boar pen shirts that hold far more significance that their utility or aesthetic qualities.

People wear these items a lot, because they are reminded that they all belong here, and that we are all one

collective entity. I think the vests evoke a similar feeling," he said.

The dinner, which took place on April 6 this year, is a long-standing tradition at the school. It is also one of the biggest occasions in the spring term for seniors, as it represents one of the last formal chances for them to get together as a class and celebrate embarking on the next stage of their academic careers. The dinner included a speech and watching the "I Love Choate" slideshow.

Many current seniors agreed that the occasion was

See Seniors, Page 2

On Competition
Esul Burton '16 continues her investigation of mental health at Choate.
News • P3



Ethics of Veganism
Quinn Brencher '16 advocates for veganism.
Opinions • P4

Haiku By You
Looking forward to National Haiku Day on April seventeenth.
Features • P6



Hockey Balboa
Sabrina Huett '16 shares her experiences on the ice.
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.

Visuals by Marg Handler, Bryce Wachtell, Angie Makes, and Ross Mortensen.



thechoatenews
.choate.edu

STUDENTS FIND SUCCESS AT COLT

Continued from Page 1

speaking has always been one of my strengths, so I just wanted the opportunity to practice that in a different way than through poetry recitation.”

There's something really exciting about being in a huge auditorium with hundreds of students.

Ms. Diana Beste
Language Department Head

Only the first place winners in the school competition advanced to the state competition. At the state competition, one room contained ten students of the same language and level and two or three teachers volunteering as judges. Students were judged on memorization, diction, interpretation, and body language.

As judges decided on awards, the school offered entertainment and the opportunity for students from across Connecticut to meet each other. Entertainment included piano and chorus performances.

Although Choate has been participating in the COLT contest for more than 20 years, students

didn't have the opportunity to travel to the state finals the last two years because the event occurred during Spring Break.

Even though Choate does not send students to the contest each year, teachers still find value in incorporating poetry recitation into the foreign language curriculum.

Spanish teacher Ms. Patricia Antunez said, "Reciting poetry doesn't feel the same as presenting a project in front of your classmates. You look at the words in a different way and really bring out the musicality of it, which is why I think that students tend to enjoy poetry."

Ms. Carol Chen-Lin, who represents the Chinese language teachers on the CT COLT Board of Directors, said, "I like to say that poetry is the marriage between literature, music, and drama."

Language Department Head Ms. Diana Beste echoed this statement. She commented, "As a language teacher, there's something really exciting about being in a huge auditorium with hundreds of students and colleagues who are all there for one reason: to celebrate language and poetry."

Ananya Karanam
may be reached at
akaranam18@choate.edu.

SENIORS TAKE PART IN ANNUAL TRANSITION DINNER

Continued from Page 1

memorable, and alumni believed that the festive atmosphere has remained consistent through the years the dinner has been held.

David Shan '15 commented, "The alumni transition dinner was a great experience, because it was a rite of passage for seniors. Plus, we got pretty nifty vests. My favorite part was taking pictures with my friends and peers."

He elaborated, "Everyone kind of internally realized we were reaching the end of our time at Choate, and that this would be one of our last big moments together. Old friends who had not talked in a while got together to take pictures and savor our last moments as peers together."

Scott Ji '16 said, "I think the dinner is nice because we get to sit down with friends and talk to each other, it is a tradition that should definitely continue."

Ms. Emily Lovejoy '06, Dean of Third Form Girls, agreed for the most part. She said, "I really loved the alumni transition dinner when I was a student." However, she remarked that the dinner had changed in the years since she was a student. "The dinner had much higher quality food



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Many alumni were present at the dinner, including 2016 Alumni Award winner Mr. Dodge Thompson '66, pictured above speaking to Mr. Patrick McCurdy '98, President of the Alumni Association.

than the dining hall typically fed the students; it felt a bit more special than the dinner does now. For example, they had really creative, delicious, and fun desserts. The dinner now feels a bit forced and I think that the speech from the President of the Alumni Association could be shorter."

The dinner was also an opportunity for the seniors to start donating to the school. The Senior Gift Challenge continues during the week before the transition dinner, asking to give back to the school through financial means. The Class

of 2016 raised a total of \$2086.14 for the Students to Students Fund.

They will leave our campus, but not the community.

Ms. Katherine Maloney
Associate Director of Alumni Relations

Associate Director of Alumni Relations Ms. Katherine Maloney commented, "We hope the graduating class is inspired to take advantage of the Alumni Association's networking opportunities and also to give back to the school by volunteering

their time and continuing the financial support that they started with the Senior Class Gift Challenge."

Khanh Vu '16 agreed, "The alumni transition dinner is a way to encourage incoming Choate alumni of Class of 2016 to be comfortable and remember to give back to the Choate community in the future."

Ms. Maloney said, "They will leave our campus, but not the community. We hope they find excitement and possibility in that."

Alyssa Shin may be reached at
ashin18@choate.edu.

PRINCETON PRIZE IN RACE RELATIONS HONORS RECIPIENTS

Continued from Page 1

Two years ago Ryan Shepard '14 won the Princeton Prize in Race Relations for Connecticut, and last year, Nicole Chavez '15 received a Certificate of Accomplishment.

The prize application required four short answers, each fewer than 350 words. The questions asked about the applicant's particular race relations activities and how that affected them and their school.

As part of the application process, Ms. Libby Peard, the Director of Parent Relations & International Students wrote a recommendation for Biosah.

According to Ms. Peard, "Uzo has been pivotal in starting and keeping important conversations going about race, social justice, equity, and inclusion."

It's humbling to have received the prize, but it would be an injustice to assume that we got here by ourselves.

Tomi Lawal '16

She elaborated, "Whether through Choate's Diversity Student Association, CALSA, Diversity Day, or her school-meeting poetry recitations, among other

things, Uzo has contributed to our collective education and to a growing commitment to make our campus one where difference is not merely just tolerated, but also celebrated."

Director of Faculty Development and teacher Mr. Tom White wrote Lawal's recommendation. He said, "Tomi's work on making this a more inclusive community involves both formal venues such as CDSA and Diversity Day and countless individual conversations in a variety of settings. His commitment to improving race relations and others types of diversity has been tireless, and I felt that he should be recognized for the work he has done."

Notified of the award in the midst of winter term-end experiences, Uzo recalled, "It messed up my studying for that night because I was so excited." She added that the woman who informed her that she had won also said it was a "competitive year."

Each year, there is either one winner or two co-winners for each of the eligible regions in the United States. Other noteworthy applicants receive a Certificate of Accomplishment.

To celebrate the winners and recipients of honorable mentions in the Connecticut area, there will be a banquet at Yale University. In addition, along with receiving a

cash prize, Biosah and Lawal are invited to Princeton University for an all-expenses paid trip to attend the 2016 Princeton Prize Symposium on Race.

According to Princeton University, "the two-and-a-half-day event includes conversations and workshops on race relations with local high school students, Princeton students, alumni, and faculty." As it happens, the Symposium takes place during Choate's spring long weekend on April 29-30.

Lawal said, "I think the symposium will be very interesting for us, especially in terms of seeing what we can grasp from it and bring back to share with the com-

munity before we head out."

Biosah also looked forward to the event. She commented, "I really want to emphasize that I'm thankful for not only being able to win the award but for being in a community that provided the opportunities for me to be able to win the award."

Lawal then concluded that, "There's no way that we could have achieved it without the support of the community in all different aspects. It's extremely humbling to have received the prize, but it would be an injustice to assume that we got here by ourselves."

Grayce Gibbs may be reached at
ggibbs18@choate.edu.

ALUMNI AWARDS RECOGNIZE DISTINGUISHED WORK

Continued from Page 1

factors are considered when selecting recipients. She explained, "We would like to honor alumni for their major accomplishments."

She added, "I also think that other alumni feel good about honoring the recipients. What we do is we send the honoree a letter, and then we send a similar letter to members of their class, informing them and inviting them to the presentation. We have some extraordinary people who go far out of their way to come back to this school."

After Choate, Mr. Thompson earned a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and, later, an MBA from Harvard. He went on to oversee the preservation of artwork at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, his first step towards a distinguished career in curatorial work. As the Chief of Exhibitions at the National Gallery of Art, he has organized more



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Alumni Award winner Dr. Laurie Patton '79 and Middlebury senior Claire Abbadi '12 discuss education during the awards presentation.

than 600 exhibitions over the past 30 years. For his work, Mr. Thompson has received multiple awards, including the Chevalier of Arts and Letters from the Republic of France, and the Order of Merit from the Republic of Italy.

In an interview with *The Choate News*, Mr. Thompson advised, "Always remember you can look through both

ends of the telescope. You can gaze at the stars, but also turn the telescope around and enjoy the different view."

Mr. Thompson credited his accomplishments to former faculty member Mr. Johannes van Straalen. "He was keenly influential on me for a special knowledge of Russian language and history at a very daunting time considering our

international relations. In addition, he taught me a life lesson of how to support myself," said Mr. Thompson.

As for his love for art, Mr. Thompson mentioned the mandatory art history course taught by Mr. Jean Pierre Cosnard. This course introduced Mr. Thompson to what would become a lifelong interest at a time when "these young gen-

tleman believed that an interest in art must betray a degree of femininity," as Mr. Cosnard wrote in his proposal for this course in 1983.

Similar to Mr. Thompson, Dr. Patton kindled her passion for education, culture, philosophy, and the arts during her three years studying at Choate.

Dr. Patton, a scholar on religion and a translator of the classical Sanskrit text the Bhagavad Gita, currently serves as the seventeenth President of Middlebury College, and is also the first Choate graduate to head a college or university.

Abbadi interviewed Dr. Patton on stage. Talking about her realization of Choate's uniqueness after she graduated, Dr. Patton encouraged everyone to fully enjoy the freedom to explore at Choate, a community that she described as exceptionally close and supportive.

She encouraged the students, "Make sure that you remain as rigorous as you are

at Choate, but remain open to possibilities in life."

Both current students and alumni found Mr. Thompson and Dr. Patton's remarks inspiring. Yuhan Wang '15 related to Dr. Patton's words. "There were times the exhaustion and all these challenging things were just being thrown at you and they were probably so overwhelming that you would forget what an amazing opportunity and what an amazing community Choate is. When you look back after you graduate, it'll only be the sunshine and unicorns," she commented.

"The presentation gave me great insights about how to utilize our opportunities here at Choate." Kaki Su '19 commented. "It's interesting to hear how both of them went through the same thing as I did, and how their experience at Choate continues to live with them."

Maria Ma may be reached at
hma19@choate.edu.

COEXIST WEEK SOUGHT TO PROMOTE DIVERSE OPINIONS AMONG STUDENTS

By **Kevin Chyun '18**
Reporter

Participations from over 20 clubs, including Young Democrats, Young Centrists, Young Republicans, Conservation Proctors, and Model United Nations, discussed various current issues during the first annual Coexist Week, initiated by Aiden Reiter '16.

There was one topic assigned for each day to create a focus point for high quality discussion. The week started off with discussing Immigration in America, followed by the political implications of climate change, the role of the United States in International Policy, closing with a discussion about Israeli and Palestinian Conflict.

Coexist week is going to change how Choate students view clubs and how clubs interact.

Aiden Reiter '16

Reiter wanted to host a huge event that would serve as a platform for students to exchange ideas without being judged before he graduated. He yearned to have an open discussion and diversify the perspectives of students at Choate.

Reiter commented, "We try to associate ourselves only to people of our own interests. We are supposed to be a diverse community."

Choate students benefited by hearing diverse perspectives regarding a variety of current issues. While students at Choate come from a variety of backgrounds and hold different perspectives, many felt that they did not have an opportunity to share their opinions. Reiter wanted to break this wall and get students to realize that there are many solutions to international problems and none of them are right or wrong.

However, student reactions regarding coexist week vary. While many enjoyed the event's intentions of creating an open environment for discussions, some wished that the discussion topics were more varied. All four of the discussion topics revolved around politics, but many wished that other hot topics not directly related to politics were discussed. Ryan Dant '16 added, "There were not as many people as we expected."

Nevertheless, Reiter and other students involved are expecting a positive shift towards inclusion in club culture at Choate.

Reiter said, "Coexist Week is going to change how Choate students view clubs and how clubs interact." Reiter hopes that the shift towards more inter-club exchanges and discourse between students holding different opinions will continue even after he graduates, which is why this coexist week is the first of many more to come. Addi-



Illustration by Pennsylvania Guilds of Craftsmen

Clubs gathered to discuss topics such as the role of the United States in international Politics during Coexist Week.

tionally, Dant continued, "However, CALSA brought more personal stories and about the issues regarding immigrants in America."

Participant Shiva Sachdeva '16 commented, "To be able to address relevant issues that extend beyond Choate is truly essential and something that needs to be continued after Coexist Week ended."

A variety of students hope Coexist Week was the turning point of Choate club cultures. Currently the president of Young Centrists, Choate Amnesty In-

ternational, Choate Friends of Israel, and Choate Model United Nations, Reiter has always tried to host an event that requiring collaborations between different clubs. In the past, Young Centrists, Choate Amnesty International and Choate Friends of Israel club has sometimes held joint meetings to share their thoughts about a certain issue. Because each club has different members with diverse perspectives, holding a joint interview would create a passionate exchanges of views between students.

Reiter expended huge efforts behind the scenes to ensure that this event could happen. First he emailed Dean of Students Mr. James Stanley about why and how he would host the event. He also completed forms for the event. Most of his Spring Break was spent scheduling and ensuring coexist week would flow smoothly and without any mistakes.

Reiter's sister, Gavi Reiter '13, inspired him to organize the event. She originally tried to create this event during her senior year at Choate, and even dis-

cussed the idea of hosting it with Reiter '16. While it never happened during her time at Choate, her failed attempt became the basis for the successful Coexist Week this year.

Reiter concluded, "The goal of Coexist Week was to collaborate discussion and utilize the variety of clubs and special interest groups we have on campus to make sure the discussion we have is not only multifaceted, but also productive."

Kevin Chyun may be reached at wchyun18@choate.edu.

COMMUNITY CONTEMPLATES WIDESPREAD COMPETITION AMONG STUDENTS

Does the intensely competitive academic, extracurricular, and social environment do more harm than good?

This is the second part of an ongoing exploration by Esul Burton '16 into Choate's mental health services.

Last week, I examined support systems for mental health at Choate and varying perspectives of students, faculty, and other community members. This week, I explore a factor that many on campus cite as detrimental to mental health: competition, inside and outside the classroom.

Over the course of four weeks, I interviewed almost a dozen people — students, faculty, staff, and alumni — for this series. Their opinions on mental health at Choate were disparate; many interviewees were skeptical, while others were more optimistic. However, they were almost unanimous in stating that the competition and stress at Choate are not conducive to good mental health.

Hadalee Goodman '17, a President of the Mental Health at Choate club, remarked, "I feel like the focus here at Choate is pulling ahead of everyone else and working as hard as you can. Things such as sleep, which are important to health, are not as prioritized because we're focusing so much on our academics and extracurricular activities."

Though she has not experienced any competition at Choate directly, she said, "I definitely feel that there are people who compete with each other, in a respectful way or

otherwise, and I think you can only keep it for so long. There's a certain point when the constant competition will get to you, and you can't handle it anymore. And that point may not happen at Choate, and it may not happen in college or the workplace — but our state of mental health at Choate can really set the tone for us when we're farther down the road."

Courtney Cook '15 remarked, "Students compete with each other by sleeping less and working more for better grades, tossing a healthy mentality to the side."

Cook previously expressed disappointment with the peer-based support structures — she believes a lack of support among friends and fellow students created an unhealthy environment. "I remember someone asked me, 'So why are you here? What's your special thing?' and when I was confused, he replied, 'Everyone here has his or her own thing.' Not having a special attributed seemed to make me inadequate. I couldn't appreciate that I was pretty good in most subjects and sports, because that didn't give me recognition among my peers," recalled Cook.

Cook believes that Choate's competitive ethos was a primary reason that she developed an eating disorder and depression during her sophomore year and why she eventually started seeing a counselor and psychiatrist during her junior year.

Fellow alumna Sitara Zoberi '15 echoed, "Choate is the type of place where you always have to be doing some-

thing, either socially or academically. It's almost subtly looked down upon to take care of yourself and just chill out," she said. "Choate brainwashes you into thinking that the quality of your life is directly proportional to the ranking of the institution which awards your undergraduate degree. It's an environment that fosters feelings of inadequacy and worthlessness if you can't keep up with the high academic excellence and social involvement."

Students compete in sleeping less and working more for better grades, tossing a healthy mentality aside.

Courtney Cook '15

David Labonte '15 disagreed with these opinions to a certain extent. While he doesn't deny that Choate fosters a competitive environment, he still believes that students tend to support each other. "In the classroom, Choate students can be competitive with schoolwork and grades, but outside of class and in the dorm is where I formed friendships that helped ease the stress of classes," he remarked.

However, a competitive environment still took a toll on Labonte's mental health. Like Cook, he went through a period of depression his freshman and sophomore year. He reflected, "I wanted to try and enjoy my time at Choate, but I felt as though I was hurried and bogged

down with the idea of getting into college."

This feeling of lacking time was something that Martha Zhang '16 also mentioned. She said that before taking medical leave last spring, she felt "motivated to like myself based on my grades or based on how a teacher perceived me." During medical leave, "The separation from Choate gave me space, and I finally had time to reflect. There was mental clarity. I was more self-motivated after."

The concern regarding the degree of competition in Choate's environment is not limited to students. Ms. Judith Bender, the Associate Director of Counseling, remarked, "What I worry about on a day-to-day basis here is that this place is so competitive. How does that interfere with our ability to really be together?"

She added, "Does competition interfere with students' ability to really be close to each other and cheer on a friend who gets the spot when you don't?" Ms. Bender cited the Assessment Team application process as an example of a competitive environment, mentioning that it was often difficult to limit the number of positions because of the inevitable disappointment some students would feel when denied a place on the team.

In contrast, Mr. Will Morris, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residential Life, noted the advantages to a competitive environment. "I think that at times competition can be motivating, so I don't know that a world that is competitive is a world where

it is difficult to thrive or feel success," he said. "That drive that you see in so many of our students, whether it is internally motivated or motivated by some of those competitive forces, is something we celebrate."

However, he recognized that competition can be a double-edged sword. "There is a balance that you need to strike. We don't want to be such a hyper-competitive environment where students feel like they are isolated from one another."

Competition doesn't only affect individuals' mental health; it also fuels many of the existing stigmas surrounding mental health on campus. Regardless of whether they need to access counseling services or not, Choate students are often reluctant to reveal any issues they have with their mental health because they fear that they will be seen as less competent.

Cook said, "I told very few people about how I was seeing a counselor, since that can be seen as a sign of weakness or defeat." The competition and its resulting stigma make it difficult for many members of the community to have an open dialogue concerning

mental health. Jerri Norman '17, a leader of CDSA's Mental Health Campaign, said, "I think it's hard to know whether or not you should ask for help, and that keeps people puzzled about whether their stress levels are large enough to talk to someone about."

Zoberi agreed, believing that any community that cares about the mental well-being of each individual must have ongoing conversations about mental health.

Ms. Bender emphasized that Dr. Diamond and the health center staff seek to create a "safe space" in both the counseling office and the health center. She commented, "We do consult to the deans as well as faculty our impressions of competition, high levels of stress, and the impact of a demanding lifestyle of kids." She cites sophomore seminar as a place "where we address these concerns."

As Labonte remarked, "While I love Choate and consider myself forever true, I think that Choate has a long way to go before it has an environment that is conducive to good mental health."

Esul Burton may be reached at eburton16@choate.edu.

THE CHOATE NEWS

110TH MASTHEAD

VOL. CIX
NO. 15

J. Bryce Wachtell '17
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Lucas C. Ferrer '17
MANAGING EDITOR

Sabrina Xie '17
PRODUCTION EDITOR

NEWS
Varshini Kumar '17
Truelian Lee '17

OPINIONS
Katharine Li '17
Jack O'Donnell '17

FEATURES
Jessica Shi '17

ARTS & LEISURE
Camila Borjesson '17

SPORTS
Rachel Hird '17

PHOTOGRAPHY
Elle Rinaldi '17

COPY

Kristen Altman '18
Haley Chang '18
Nina Zanuttini '18
Daniel Zanuttini '18

PRODUCTION & DESIGN

GRAPHICS
Ariel Zhang '18

LAYOUT
Nikhil Davar '18

ONLINE
Alan Lio '18

CIRCULATION
Nils Lovegren '18

SOCIAL MEDIA
Sophie Ball '17
Arielle Kassinove '17

ADVISERS
Mr. Austin Davis
Mr. Mike Peed

SENIOR WRITERS

Hakeem Angulu '16
Dagny Belak '16

Esul Burton '16
Hannah Lemmons '16

Victoria Li '16
Julie Tamura '16

STAFF

Shrenik Agrawal '17
Maya Birney '17
Emilia Furlo '17
Jun Jang '17
Lauren Lamb '17
Gabby LaTorre '17

Catherine Moore '17
Nicole Sellow '17
Namsai Sethompong '17
Eben Cook '18
Riley Choi '18
Jackson Elkins '18
Grayce Gibbs '18

Sophie Hare '18
Meheen Pasha '18
Imad Rizvi '18
Alyssa Shin '18
Nicole Yao '18
Julian Yau '18

Interested students should attend an assignment meeting, held on most Mondays, at 6:45 PM in the I.d.Lab of the Lanphier Center. To submit a letter to the editor or opinion piece, please email us at thechoatenews@choate.edu. Opinion pieces represent the opinions of their respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board or the School. Unsigned masthead editorials represent the view of the majority of the members of the editorial board of *The Choate News*.

f /choatenews @choatenews @choatenews

Email us: thechoatenews@choate.edu || Call us: (203) 697-2070 || Find us: thechoatenews.choate.edu

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

An article in last week's edition, titled "The Perfect-Pitch Bellacantos," included the following quote from Ms. Alysoun Kegel: "Bellacanto is not sexualized, unlike single gendered groups, and they are appreciated solely for their music. Single gendered groups are often objectified." What she said about sexualization and objectification of single gendered groups really struck a chord with me. This is my third year in The Whimawehs, one of the all-female capella groups on campus — a group that has been a family, support system, and safe place for me here at Choate. I love to sing, I love a capella, and I love the Whims beyond everything. But sometimes, being in an all-girls group is very frustrating. As Ms. Kegel stated, often the girls a capella groups on campus have to worry about whether their songs are too sexy or too prudish, whether their dresses are too provocative or too boring. Though boys' groups face some of the same pressure, it is to a lesser degree.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with being sexy. For too long, women have been told that being sexual is bad or dirty. Unfortunately, girls are still often over-sexualized to the point that when they are performing, their image is the only thing that matters, and the importance of the music is forgotten. Outside the Choate bubble, this kind of over-sexualization is also evident in the music industry: watch any music video and you can see the common short, tight clothing and very high heels that women wear to garner views and likes. Women are told that they need to dress this way in order to have success while they simultaneously get judged and torn down for it. There is a constant struggle between trying to get appreciated and knowing the only way to get that is by adhering to the very narrow norms our culture sets in place.

As a female performer, I, along with the rest of the members of Choate's all-girl capella groups, feel this pressure. We work extremely hard on our music, but in the end we worry that the only thing people remember is how we looked and if we were cute or sexy. Too often, the Whims choose to sing certain songs that we think will be popular, or we wear red lipstick because it's what is considered hot. We wish our talent would stand on its own, but we know that is not usually the reality. The worst part of this, however, is that when people place too much value on how we look, we feel pressure to respond to that. We get labeled as the slutty group even though we are just trying to satisfy others' expectations. The double-edged sword between being too sexy and not sexy enough is only evident because we, as a society, place unhealthy value on appearance. This is extremely difficult to work both with and around, as it feels as if we can never be good enough.

Hopefully, one day in the future, over-sexualization of women and their actions will cease. I hope that, for now, the Choate community can be sensitive to the battle that girls groups face when they perform. I am so happy Ms. Kegel spoke out about this issue, and I hope that the conversation will continue.

Sincerely,
Lily James '17

CORRECTIONS

NEWS

A photo credit misspelled Tomisin Oyinloye's '17 name.
A photo credit misspelled Elle Rinaldi's '17 name.

OPINIONS

An illustration credit misspelled Julian Yau's '18 name.
The masthead incorrectly stated the issue number of the paper. It was issue number 14, not 13.
The name of a staff reporter, Grace Gibbs '17, was misspelled on the masthead

WANT TO BE MORAL? GO VEGAN

By **Quinn Brencher '16**
Opinions Writer

At Choate and around the world, veganism has begun to enter the mainstream. In the past, refraining from consuming animal products has been a movement marred by stereotypes and misconceptions, espoused only by a small number of dedicated animal rights activists. Today, it has become a popular lifestyle choice endorsed by scores of celebrities, including New Jersey Senator Corey Booker, founder of Def Jam Recordings Russell Simmons, and world record-holding strongman competitor Patrik Baboumian. Despite its common misconception as a "fad diet" and its role as the butt of constant jokes, veganism remains a relevant topic in sustainability and ethics. The truth is that plant-based diets are here to stay, as they offer solutions to many of the most pressing problems facing our world.

While there is a plethora of compelling reasons to become a vegan, I only want to cover one in this article: the dreaded ethical argument, or the belief that it is morally wrong to eat animals or their products. Many believe that veganism is morally the right thing to do. Animals used to create the products that vegans choose not to consume often live lives full of immense suffering. Beef is mostly raised in factory farms, where cows are tightly cramped in squalid conditions for their entire lives. Broiler chickens, or chickens used for meat, are kept in hot, dark sheds. They regularly develop disfigurements due to their inability to move about, and frantically peck each other out of neurotic boredom, leaving large wounds that regularly be-

come infected. The solution to this for many chicken producers is a process in which the beaks of the chickens are burned off. It is not unusual that the only time these birds see sunlight is when they are taken out of the shed to be slaughtered. Other animals, such as pigs and sheep, are treated just as poorly. Few contest the fact that the animals we use for food suffer greatly. For anyone who has doubts on this, the documentary *Earthlings* on YouTube reveals graphic footage of the inhumane treatment of animals that eventually become our food.

A common argument used against veganism is that since animals are not human, their suffering does not matter. Discussion of ethics can be difficult; moral beliefs are formed by a variety of factors, including an individual's upbringing, culture, religion, and personal reflection, all of which can fluctuate drastically from person to person. There is a huge body of legitimate viewpoints and differing opinions. However, it is not controversial to say that most people in the world believe that avoidable torture and killing is morally wrong. The majority will agree that it is morally wrong to needlessly torture or kill a dog, cat, or other domesticated animal commonly seen as a pet. In comparison, a much smaller group of people are willing to extend this assertion to animals we use as food, like cows, pigs, or chickens.

Lack of intelligence is often brought up as a justification for the suffering of these animals: "Since nonhuman animals are not as intelligent as humans, it is not wrong to cause them suffering?" If one is willing to live by this idea, one must also be willing to acknowledge that "dumber"

people deserve to suffer more than smarter people — in other words, that it would not be as wrong to cause suffering to someone who is severely brain damaged as it would be to cause suffering to a human without a disability. Few in our modern culture would agree to this, and it is exactly this sort of flawed reasoning that has repeatedly justified genocide of human beings perceived to be inferior.

Few contest the fact that the animals we use for food suffer greatly.

As a society, we strive to uphold the egalitarian doctrine that all humans have fundamental rights — including the right to be free from torture. These rights do not stem from a person's intelligence, but from the fact that he or she is a sentient being with the capacity to suffer and be happy. Ideally, one would not afford more of a right to not suffer based on one's intelligence, athletic prowess, or any other arbitrary qualifier. Why then, do we not take animals into consideration when affording certain fundamental rights, like the right to be free from torture or needless killing? A human infant has the right to be free from torture. A brain-damaged person has the right to be free from torture. Yet a pig, which could theoretically have the same cognitive abilities as either the infant or the brain-damaged person, is forced to lead a miserable life in a metal box. The pig has the same capacity to suffer as the infant. It feels physical pain just as much as a brain-damaged person would, or

any of us for that matter. Furthermore, a pig's needs are simple and easily met. Our discrimination toward sentient nonhuman animals is completely arbitrary, similar to the arbitrary discrimination of racism, sexism, and ableism. These are "-isms" that Choate, as a community, works ceaselessly to combat. And the reason why the color of one's skin or one's sexual preference should not subject that person to torture is the same reason why one's existence as an animal should not subject it to torture. To ignore the discrimination that allows billions of animals yearly to suffer with reason other than to satisfy human demand for tasty food is utter hypocrisy.

Ethical veganism is most closely tied to "preachy vegan"; no one likes to be preached to against their will, and perhaps this is why the word "vegan" has a negative connotation for many people. Re-evaluating one's own moral principles is never easy. In fact, I first went vegan because of the immense environmental benefits. It was only after I had become immune to the criticism of the movement that I was able to truly accept the moral implications of the animal industry. I sincerely believe that Choate is a community of open-minded people who are willing to consider views different from their own, and even change their pre-existing beliefs when presented with new information.

I am not writing this because I think that meat-eaters are evil people who need to be harangued, condemned, and bullied into my way of thinking. I'm writing because I think people generally want to do the right thing, and if one chooses to become vegan, or even reduce one's consumption of meat and other animal products, I believe that that person will be doing the right thing. They won't be alone — at Choate, at likeminded institutions, and across the world, supporters have together created a powerful animal rights movement. Whether or not to join it is a tough decision. Tough decisions like these separate those who are committed to justice from those who are simply in it for the image or self-comfort. It's easy to be an apathetic member of the crowd — no one will call you out if you don't take a stand. I implore you to think about who you want to be.

Quinn Brencher is a sixth former from Killingworth, CT. He may be reached at gbrencher16@choate.edu.

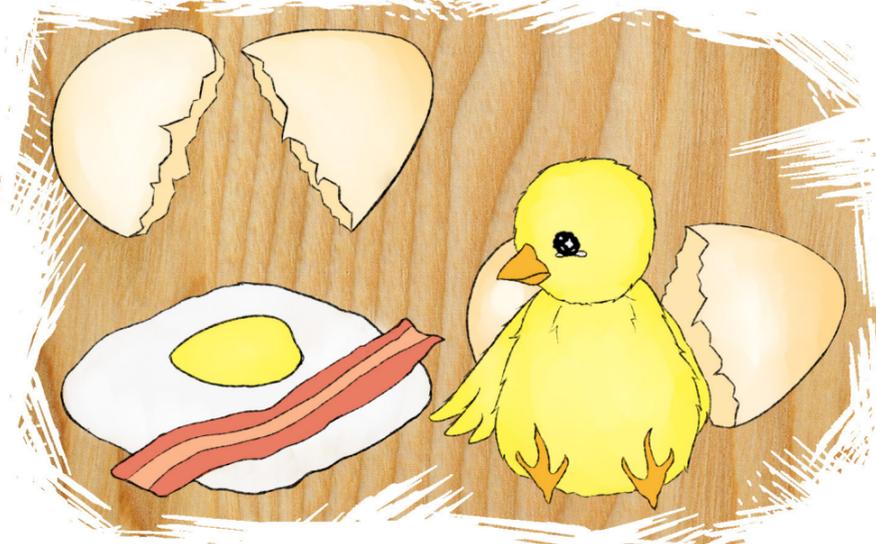


Illustration by Norman Peng

THE PERNICIOUS PREP-SCHOOL PATRIARCHY

By **Antigone Ntagkounakis '17**
Opinions Writer

Perhaps the worst part of feminism is its prefix, "fem." The inherently female nature of the word often scares us, and it insinuates a fundamental exclusion of male perspective. At Choate, there is an unspoken understanding that feminism is limited to females. In our warm bubble filled with Diversity Day discussions and social justice clubs, the issue is not that we do not discuss feminism — the issue is that somewhere along the line, as a campus and as a community, we have made feminist issues synonymous with women's issues. The problem with this false analogy is that it only fuels the misconception that the movement opposes men.

On campus, this misconception means that we are silencing conversation about how the patriarchy hurts men as well as women. On a large scale, this means we easily forget that men also experience issues like rape, sexual assault, or suicide and depression, as these are topics we typically and comfortably associate with women. From a more immediate perspective, this also means we forget that guys feel a pressure to conform to gender norms, too;

while these are vastly different from the gender roles girls conform to, they are no less damaging.

We are silencing conversation about how the patriarchy hurts men as well as women.

To be a community that truly values diversity, we must take a look at the patriarchy through the lenses of all genders. Just as girls are expected to subscribe to certain expectations, so too are guys. Just as a junior girl on campus is expected to be chased, her junior male counterpart is (in most social circles) expected to chase. We see this hyper-masculinity manifest itself in different realms on campus, whether on a sports field, in a dorm, with friends in the dining hall, or with a girl over Snapchat. There are certain roles that are expected of each of us, and we all play our part; yet when it comes to discussing gender roles and issues, we persistently hear from only one gender.

No matter what group of people — male, female, or nonbinary — a certain issue

pertains to, the likelihood of solving it through an exclusive discussion with only one demographic voicing its dissatisfaction is slim. As with anything else, a solution warrants compromise and collaboration. Yet meetings for clubs like Students Advocating for Gender Equality (SAGE) consistently draw a crowd of liberal, female, self-proclaimed feminists. Although these members are helpful in sharing the knowledge they've gained from free hours spent examining online articles at everydayfeminism.com, meetings often end up being a reinforcement of already-realized ideology. Males who do attend are also the few expected representatives of male feminism on campus.

Like many topics on campus, feminism has been restricted to a single perspective. Feminism, however, has its roots in resisting female oppression and thus should seek to recognize all voices that have been silenced. In order to persist on our modern-day campus and in a modern-day world, it is essential to extend the intersectionality of the movement towards men as well. On campus, male students should feel comfortable acknowledging their struggles with gender stereotypes, just as female students often do.

In order to solve problems that pertain to all genders, students of all genders must step up to acknowledge their own role in both perpetuating and falling victim to existing norms. It is often said that girls feel pressure on campus, whether it is to dress or act a certain way or to participate in hookup culture. What we must examine next are the pressures boys at Choate face, in regards to hookup culture and beyond, and how these pressures compare and contrast with those faced by girls; only then can we begin to deconstruct the hyper-masculine expectations that affect so many students on this campus. We must do this by reminding ourselves that the dominant liberal point of view is neither the only nor the best point of view on campus. We must make spaces dedicated to inclusion truly inclusive, and above all, we must strive to reach a point of which people of all genders can openly discuss their experiences at Choate without fear of ridicule or rejection. As always, the task of becoming a more empathetic and inclusive community is ongoing, ever-changing, and ever-challenging.

Antigone Ntagkounakis is a fifth former from Hampden, MA. She may be reached at antagkounakis17@choate.edu.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE
THECHOATENews.CHOATE.EDU

Today in History: The American Revolution begins in Lexington, MA (1775)

AMERICAN BRIDGES ARE FALLING DOWN

By Jack Bergantino '18
Opinions Writer

Although some see the issue of America's crumbling infrastructure as little more than a talking point for the presidential candidates, it is, in fact, a problem that needs immediate attention for two main reasons: it poses a threat to the safety of everyday Americans, and it stifles further economic growth.

The U.S. has long been a model nation. Its infrastructure was once something that would have been foolish for aspiring leaders of other countries to overlook. Yet, the U.S. infrastructure's current failure to guarantee safety to the citizens that depend on it everyday is far from exemplary. One in ten bridges is considered "structurally deficient," meaning that they have been restricted to light vehicles or closed to traffic. This precaution, however, is only sometimes observed. Another 14% of bridges are "functionally obsolete," meaning that they are still in use, but lack the necessary safety features to properly suit their current task. The collapse of I-35W Mississippi River bridge in 2007 was the first case of its kind to grasp

public attention, especially because engineers deemed the bridge "structurally deficient" nearly twenty years before the collapse. Six people died in this particular event, and poor transportation infrastructure has contributed to half of fatal motor vehicle accidents in the United States.

The United States's bad infrastructure poses a threat.

The paramount purpose of a democratic government is to ensure the safety of the people it represents. American authorities, however, have not done nearly enough to counter these growing problems.

Even though Congress recently passed a bill that allocates \$305 billion to road repairs, it is still hundreds of millions of dollars short of what is needed to properly restore bridges and highways. The government must provide more money to the infrastructure budget.

The United States's bad infrastructure poses a threat larger than an imminent safety risk — it also

threatens future economic development. If more money is not invested in American infrastructure, the U.S. will continue to lose nearly one trillion dollars of business and 3.5 million jobs every year. Trucks are a fundamental part of delivering raw goods to manufacturers and supplying consumer goods to stores. The Federal Highway Administration has estimated that congestion increases the cost of delivering goods by 50 percent to 250 percent. Current deficiencies revolving around America's infrastructure are forcing businesses to relocate, and damaging the economy greatly.

Altogether, improving current transportation and power structures would return \$1.44 for every dollar invested. Furthermore, investing money into American infrastructure would not only save jobs from escaping the U.S., but also add 2.7 million more. In addition, the investment would also increase the GDP by approximately \$377 billion.

American infrastructure needs to be fixed and it needs to be fixed now. Our bridges are falling, our roads are crumbling, and our canals are clogging. But how does the federal government, particularly the president, go about doing that?

Uprooting the bureaucracy that currently mandates infrastructure projects is the first step that needs to be taken.

Inefficient government organizations contribute to, on average, six-year delays for major projects, which increase costs by over 100 percent.

The next essential step is to increase funding, particularly for highway-related repairs and improvements. \$305 billion simply will not meet the amount of money needed to effectively fix American roads. The federal government should expand spending on infrastructure in the US and reduce spending in other sectors of the budget.

Uprooting the bureaucracy is the first step that needs to be taken.

The government should repeat the actions of President Eisenhower and embark on a tremendous public works and transport campaign, which would modernize our infrastructure, provide more electricity and

water to US citizens, and decrease goods prices due to lower transportation costs.

Improving American infrastructure has received lots of attention in this election cycle, especially from Democratic hopeful nominee, Sen. Bernie Sanders. Sanders has said that rebuilding "our crumbling infrastructure" is crucial to creating new American jobs and increasing the efficiency of our economic transportation system. Besides repairing roads, bridges, and tunnels, new highways, railroads, and waterways would be built for the benefit of the greater American economy.

Infrastructure has, indeed, become a talking point for presidential candidates and rightfully so. It is a matter that deserves immediate attention. We will have to wait until a new president sets foot in the Oval Office, however, to see if improving American infrastructure is just a talking point, or something that will actually materialize as a great boon to our economy in the long and far off decades ahead.

Jack Bergantino is a fourth former from Cromwell, CT. He may be reached at jbergantino18@choate.edu.

ELECTION



2016

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

The people of Colorado had their vote taken away from them by the phony politicians. Biggest story in politics. This will not be allowed!

Paul Ryan
@SpeakerRyan

The #Constitution is clear: Presidents don't write laws. Congress does.



Photo Courtesy of Bill Pugliano - Getty

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont plans to visit Pope Francis. He plans to do this shortly before the New York primary. In New York polls, Sanders trails Clinton heavily. If elected, Sanders will be the United States's first Jewish president.

Bernie Sanders
@BernieSanders

Americans understand that our gov't is dominated by big money. Glad to see people taking action to restore democracy. #DemocracySpring

Hillary Clinton
@HillaryClinton

We can protect our Second Amendment rights AND take commonsense steps to prevent gun violence. It's just a question of whether we choose to.



Photo Courtesy of Julio Cortez - AP

Sec. Hillary Clinton campaigns in New York, NY. Clinton is preparing for an extremely important primary in New York on April 19. So far, Clinton is polling ahead of her opposition, Sen. Bernie Sanders. Clinton served in the US Senate as a senator for New York before serving as the Secretary of State.

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

I win a state in votes and then get non-representative delegates because they are offered all sorts of goodies by Cruz campaign. Bad system!

HOW CHINA STEALS ITS CITIZENS' RIGHTS

By Jack O'Donnell '17
Opinions Editor

In the wake of a battle over civil liberties and technological privacy rights in the United States, an extremely similar and important crisis is occurring in China: the right to the freedom of speech. Hong Kong citizens' freedom of speech is protected by the hand-over treaty. This treaty guarantees that Hong Kong citizens will continue to live under British law for 50 years after the British turned the colony over in 1997. The Chinese Communist Party's denial of freedom of speech and expression for its citizens violates Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and it is essential that the People's Republic of China (PRC) gives the right to its citizens.

Chinese civil liberties are being trampled on by party officials in Beijing.

The last two years have been tumultuous in China, and Hong Kong has been the scene of massive protests. In the fall of 2014, hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong residents shut down most of the city to



Photo Courtesy of Bobby Yip - Reuters

A young demonstrator in Hong Kong protests Beijing's involvement in Hong Kong elections.

protest for universal suffrage in the election of the city's Chief Executive.

In the early winter and spring of 2015, separatist movements in Xinjiang Province in north western China attacked train stations in major cities.

This winter, Hong Kong publishers who criticized the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) were kidnapped, and for the first time since the 1960s, Hong Kong police officers fired shots to break up a riot.

Chinese civil liberties are being trampled on by party officials in Beijing. China is not a free, socialist republic, but rather, a controlled, semi-capitalist oligarchy.

The first part of the problem is the absence of free press. In China, the largest news source is *China Daily*, a Chinese Communist Party paper that is pro-government and anti-dissenter. Hong Kong's largest English newspaper, *The South China Morning Post* (SCMP), has, for a long time, been a face of the free press in China. It has published scathing articles about the CCP, and especially about the Tiananmen Square massacre. However, it was purchased by Alibaba, a company whose spokesperson has said, "What's good for China is also good for Alibaba." This means that the SCMP has been corrupted, and that

one of the last bastions of free press in China has disappeared. China must have independent and unbiased news sources if its people want to gain the right to the freedom of speech.

Furthermore, newspapers in mainland China are controlled by the wealthy or the CCP. According to the U.S. Congress, to publish a newspaper or other written work in China, one must have \$35,000 of starting capital. In the PRC, the average worker only makes \$1,200 per year. The press in China is controlled by the Chinese elite, whose interests line up with those of the CCP. The laws restricting publishing are so strict that in 2003, two men were

imprisoned for nine and seven years respectively for printing love poems. Publishing laws in the PRC need to be rescinded as a step in gaining the freedom of speech in China.

In denying the freedom of speech to its citizens, the CCP is actually straying from some of the legacy of its original members. In the beginning of the "Socialist Republic," Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai started the 100 Flowers Movement, which aimed to encourage intellectuals to criticize the CCP in efforts for self-improvement. Mao, a paranoid dictator, was scared by the critiques of the intelligentsia and ordered a massive purging. However, old party officials such as Li Rui have called for democratic reforms, universal suffrage, and the freedom of speech. With the support of "old guard" CCP leaders like Li Rui, China has a better chance in attaining the right to the freedom of speech than it has had over the past half-century.

The international community needs to openly support Chinese movements for the freedom of speech and expression. Chinese citizens, with the support of old revolutionaries and new activists, must take the initiative in order to take back their press, their nation, and their birthright: freedom of speech.

Jack O'Donnell is a fifth former from Hong Kong, China. He may be reached at jodonnell17@choate.edu.

GOP CONTESTED CONVENTION IS INCREASINGLY LIKELY

By Liza Mackeen-Shapiro '18
Opinions Writer

Essentially since he entered the Republican race, Donald Trump has been the GOP frontrunner. However, after experiencing a remarkably successful campaign season, he finally appears to be losing momentum. Following the recent Wisconsin primary, in which Ted Cruz emerged victorious by a margin of 13 points and 36 delegates, Trump's path to the nomination has narrowed significantly. In order to receive the nomination and avoid a contested convention in which he could lose, Trump must reach a total of 1,237 delegates by July 18 (the date of the Republican National Convention's first ballot) — a fate that looks less and less likely each day. Trump remains the frontrunner, but, as evidenced by his recent loss in Wisconsin, he is no longer the presumptive nominee of the GOP.

Currently, Trump possesses 758 delegates — in comparison, Cruz holds 499. Although this gap may seem insurmountable, if states such as New York and Pennsylvania go the way of Wisconsin, Cruz could easily inflict serious damage on Trump. In Wisconsin, Trump gained a mere six delegates — 12 delegates behind the target set for him by the statistics website FiveThirtyEight. Cruz won Wisconsin with 36 delegates, beating his target by three. To gain the nomination, Trump must now win 69 percent of the remaining bound delegates, which is a formidable feat.

Indeed, Trump could suffer major losses in important states of Pennsylvania and New York. Between his recent comment on abortion and the assault charges levied against his campaign manager, the notoriously unpredictable candidate has experienced a disastrous two weeks. Although his core base of fans

remains faithful, ordinary GOP voters are growing tired of Trump and his campaign. Trump's favorability rating has plummeted to 24 percent. Evidently, Republicans are no longer enamored by his reckless behavior, and are instead turning to Cruz.

Ordinary GOP voters are growing tired of Trump and his campaign.

While it is unlikely that Cruz will surpass Trump's delegate count, he need not do so in order to edge him out. Instead, his task is to take as many delegates away from Trump as possible so that he falls short of the 1,237 threshold. So far, Cruz is doing an excellent job, as he is catching up to Trump and more importantly blocking Trump from getting more delegates in the

nomination race.

If Cruz succeeds, he will force a contested convention. This would be extremely beneficial to the Cruz campaign, as most of the delegates present at the RNC, once freed from voting with their state, will likely choose Cruz over Trump. Unlike Trump, Cruz has done an excellent job campaigning to delegates, giving him an innate advantage. Cruz's appeal amongst delegates was recently demonstrated in Colorado (a state that does not have caucuses or primaries), where he absolutely swept Trump.

Furthermore, a contested convention could prove to be a great opportunity for Gov. John Kasich's campaign. Kasich is often regarded as a much more liberal candidate in the GOP race, and has been holding onto his campaign in hopes that he will win a contested convention. Kasich is more popular in the Republican establishment in Washington than Cruz is, and is regarded by many GOP mod-

erates as a preferable choice to the more conservative Cruz and Trump. However, due to Cruz's wins in Wisconsin and in other primary states, he is widely regarded as the likely establishment candidate, rather than Kasich, who has won far fewer states and only has support from the GOP in DC.

Of course, Cruz's victory is far from assured. He is currently polling poorly in the delegate-rich states of Pennsylvania and New York, and is running out of the evangelical-heavy states that comprise his voter base. Wisconsin may have been an anomaly, and Cruz's momentum may fade. There is still time for Trump to capture the nomination; however, he will have to work harder, show more discipline, appeal to a broader Republican base, and win more delegates from here on out.

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

HOORAY FOR HAIKU DAY

Sunday, April 17 is International Haiku Day. Yes, the name implies it all: Enthusiasts from around the world gather to write, read, or otherwise share haiku. This year, we've brought the celebration to Choate by asking students and faculty to contribute haiku about anything and everything. Here's the first (and final?) compilation of Choate haiku:

A gust came and I
Laughed with joy, only to get
A mouthful of sea.
- Olivia van den Born '17



Rubik's cube not done.
Manipulating faces.
Perfect symmetry.
- Dr. Matthew Bardoe



I confess. I've killed
A plant or two. Red handed,
Green thumbs in progress.
- Ms. Grace McGee

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
This is not a haiku.
- Norman Peng '17

Blue bird in the sky
Lovely like a summer storm
Creeps past my window.
- Issy Hnat '16

It's Tuesday practice
Too tired for anything
Varsity napping
- Girls' Cross Country Team

Afraid of myself
Falling — deep, deep into you
God can't pull me back
- Sydney Jones '17

Donald Duck is my
Only source of joy in this
Depraved, empty life.
- Sabrina Xie '17

Nine espresso shots
Panda Garden, four a.m.
Nihilism, tears
- Rachel Hird '17

I can't write haikus.
I don't know which words to use.
Illuminati.
- Patrick Kage '16

And the youth chanted
Hark, establishment fathers
May you feel the BERN
- Alex Rupp-Coppi '16

Leisurely reading
On a cloudy afternoon
Listening to rain
- Ms. Kate Slavinski

Thoughts etching caverns
Filled with whispered promises
Of new tomorrows
- Lauren Dorsey '18

Haiku's not my thing.
I just don't really get them.
Wait, that was easy.
- Sam Markowitz '17

Our masks are ancient
Masterpieces: grandiose
Yet falling apart.
- Haley Chang '18

You wake up at night
Cold and disoriented
You go back to sleep
- Kristen Andonie '17

Who took my ice cream?
It's all that makes me happy.
Hope: gone for tonight.
- Lauren Lamb '17

Non vult orare,
Sed si diu laborem
Noctu dormiam
- Ethan Della Rocca '16

My dad's forehead is
Way brighter than your future
Now how sad is that?
- Katherine Chae '18

What poet am I
Who lacks a voice of beauty?
I'll just stick to prose.
- Ian Wolterstorff '17

Each morning I wake
Anticipating my class
Students make me smile
- Ms. Amy Salot

No news to edit,
I have too much free time and
Not enough to do
- Eduard Muñoz-Suñé '16

You've been on my mind.
I have thought of you a lot.
You're heavy. Get off.
- Alan Luo '18

Nothing says it's spring
Like discs flying in the air
Ultimate fris-bae
- Noah Hastings '15

What we think we know
We really want, but not need
Like dew on a branch
- Mr. Jim Davidson

Gentle force 'neath Hill.
How great was Land Before Time?
I say ten wild boars!
- Courtney Pal '14

Illustrations by Ryan Kish

THE VIEW FROM MY BEDROOM WINDOW

Tuesday, 4:24 p.m.

Well, Rome wasn't built in a day.

Grace Tully '16
Bungalow 202



WHERE CHOATE'S WILD THINGS ARE

By Riley Choi '18
Staff Reporter

Walking around campus, nature is everywhere: willow trees tower over the Lanphier Center, turtles tan on the logs, and daffodils signal the arrival of spring. Join us this week as we meet Mr. Ian Morris, a Choate biology teacher of thirty-four years who has dedicated much of his time to photographing, preserving, and expanding campus wildlife for the entire community to enjoy.

According to Mr. Morris, Choate's campus is a "wildlife oasis in a spreading fragmentation of industrial development and commercial housing development." Unlike the rapidly disappearing Wallingford farms, Choate has maintained a place where wildlife can prosper and thrive. It acts both as a corridor and a bridge: wildlife can move to and from campus, linking the campus to other habitats.

The diverse ecosystems on campus, including wet-

lands, conifers, fields, and regenerating woodlands, encourage diverse animal wildlife. "I have seen coyotes when they were cubs, adolescents, and adults. They fascinate me. I love turkeys, and I like red-tailed hawks, mainly because of their interesting way of building the nests," said Mr. Morris. He has even found raccoons residing in the (now cut-down) trees outside Mead House.

From mammals to birds to insects to microscopic life, Mr. Morris has photographed it all. His passion is especially evident in the wildlife display on the second floor of the science center. He took every one of the photographs. In fact, he humorously proclaimed, "I am a king photographer, and one of the reasons I chose to stay at Choate is the wildlife."

Mr. Morris also emphasized the importance of preserving and looking after campus wildlife. On Earth Day, volunteers cut back invasive species, sometimes

deliberately stopping the natural progression of vegetation in order to give space for various plant life.

"You can think of the few hundred acres of Choate as a giant garden in which we continuously plant, weed, and protect," said Mr. Morris. "A significant portion of the school community studies Choate wildlife during the course of the year. Students can take courses in environmental science, global sciences, and woodland ecology, or participate in the KEC program. They see wildlife with field trips or simply by walking around campus."

In some cases, Choate creates artificial environments for wildlife to prosper in. As Mr. Morris explained, "Ponds in front of Archbold and between Lanphier and the science center are artificial. The turtle logs are anchored by a rope, and the big willow trees next to Lanphier are planted by my children, who graduated from Choate over a decade ago. All the daf-

FREEDOM, FONER, AND THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT



Photo courtesy of Ms. Amy Salot

A U.S. history triumvirate: Dylan Stafford '16 and Zemia Edmondson '16 stand beside Mr. Eric Foner, a renowned professor and author.

By Sophie Mackin '18
Reporter

History students trudging through reading assignments or struggling to memorize a hodgepodge of dates and facts may often forget one particular beauty of the subject: its inseparable ties to reality. Two Choate students — Zemia Edmondson '16 and Dylan Stafford '16 — recently reminded themselves of this point by attending a Yale event highlighting the implications of the Fourteenth Amendment.

On Thursday, March 31, a common interest in Constitutional Law and the Reconstruction Era brought six renowned history scholars to Yale University for a discussion titled "Equal Protection: Origins and Legacies of the Fourteenth Amendment." They hailed from Yale University, Yale Law School, Harvard Law School, University of Chicago, and Columbia University. Among their ranks was Mr. Eric Foner, a name fifth- and sixth-form students may recognize as the generally beloved author of their U.S. history textbook series, *Give Me Liberty!*

Edmondson and Stafford first heard about the event from Ms. Allyson Brundige, who teaches The Civil War and Reconstruction, on that very morning. Despite the short notice, the students immediately decided to go. They traveled to Yale by taxi as soon as classes finished in the afternoon. Edmondson, who is very passionate about this time period in history, added, "I think it would have been a shame if I knew this event was going on and didn't go."

So what exactly is the Fourteenth Amendment, and why should we care? Ratified on July 9, 1868, it theoretic-

cally guaranteed all citizens, including recently emancipated African Americans, full and equal protection under the law and the right to life, liberty, and property. This monumental addition to the Constitution has served as the basis for many Supreme Court decisions in the decades following.

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) showed how interpretations of the amendment could limit its effectiveness. When a Louisiana law required African Americans to sit in different railroad cars, passenger Homer Plessy voiced his protests. However, the Supreme Court ruled that the notion of "separate but equal" was not a violation of the Constitution. Justice Henry Billings Brown argued that the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment "could not have been intended to abolish distinctions based upon color."

I love seeing students who view historians as intellectual rock stars.

Ms. Amy Salot

It was not until the case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954) that the Supreme Court finally eliminated the "separate but equal" mantra and classified segregation in schools as unconstitutional.

The Fourteenth Amendment also played a significant role in the Civil Rights Movement, acting as the foundation for subsequent pieces of legislation such as the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

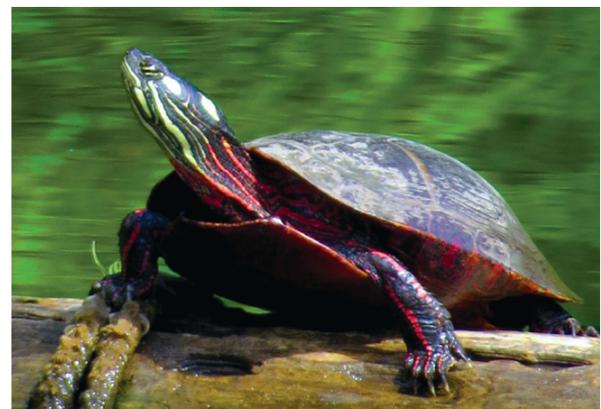
The very fact that the Fourteenth Amendment is still being actively discussed in 2016, as the Yale panel demonstrated, is a testament to its significance. The panelists made several points that forced the audience to think about the Fourteenth Amendment in new ways. For example, in their discussion about past and present definitions of freedom, one panelist argued that access to leisure activities and general fun is an important part of being free.

Overall, both Edmondson and Stafford were very impressed. "Being able to listen to people who have dedicated their entire lives to learning about the Reconstruction Era and American history in general was truly incredible," said Edmondson.

Of course, the students also cherished the opportunity to see the author of their U.S. history textbook in person. According to Stafford, "Foner was very insightful and witty. He didn't miss the mark by any measure." Indeed, Mr. Foner is very popular in the Choate U.S. history community. Ms. Amy Salot, who taught both Edmondson and Stafford, said, "I have been a big Foner fan for a long time, and I love seeing students who view historians as intellectual rock stars, too."

Later in the evening, the students returned to Choate with an even greater appreciation for the significance of the Fourteenth Amendment. As Stafford concluded, "The legacy of the Fourteenth Amendment lives on. Our daily lives are completely affected by the way it is interpreted by Supreme Court justices and other judges all the way down."

Sophie Mackin may be reached at smackin18@choate.edu.



All sorts of wildlife can be found on campus if you know where to look. Clockwise from above: an Eastern painted turtle, a pair of raccoons, deer twins, and a barn swallow family.

Photos courtesy of Mr. Ian Morris



Riley Choi may be reached at schoi18@choate.edu.

PMAC Paint Night Splatters Color

By **Sophie Hare '18**
Staff Reporter

The night before the ACTs, Choate students gathered in the PMAC gallery to participate in Choate's first-ever "Paint Night." The event was led by local artist Ms. Megan Lenzzo and organized by Mr. Vincent Jones of the Student Activities Center.

Paint Night was held on Friday, April 8 from 8-10 p.m. and attracted students from the third, fourth, and fifth forms. At the beginning of the class, Ms. Lenzzo set each student up with a blank canvas and an array of different colors to begin their pieces. Ms. Lenzzo painted a simple and colorful silhouette of a bird in front of the class and dictated the steps as she progressed. Students had the option of following along or creating an individual masterpiece.

Mr. Jones, the organizer of the event, noted that the night was a great way for students to "practice seizing an opportunity to tap into their creative energies." At the event, Mr. Jones set up a speaker and streamed pop music in the background. Sebastian Chacon '19 noted, "the music really helped me focus on my art."

Ms. Lenzzo was very impressed with the PMAC, referring to it as "beautiful" and "inspiring." She was also impressed by the independence of the students in attendance, noting that the

particular class "didn't need much instruction," was very "advanced," and "made the class their own."

While multiple students opted to follow along with Ms. Lenzzo's lesson, a few decided to create pieces all their own. Truelian Lee '17 chose to splatter paint and Katrina Gonzalez '17 painted two rolling hills covered in little flowers. Lauren Dorsey '18, another artist in attendance, noted that despite having "no artistic talent, the teacher's simple instructions helped me actually come up with a real piece of art."

For many students, the event was a great way to relax after a long and arduous week. Dorsey commented, "It was such a great opportunity to learn something new while in a relaxed setting. It was especially nice to have down time before the ACT." Chacon also noted that the night gave him an opportunity to simply "take his mind off of schoolwork."

Paint Night was a complete success. It fully achieved its main goal: to provide a relaxing setting for students to explore their artistic abilities. In the future, if you ever need to relax, maybe try painting. If you are not yet convinced of its powers, show up to a Paint Night - Ms. Lenzzo hopes to facilitate another in the future.

Sophie Hare may be reached at share18@choate.edu.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Vincent Jones

Students practice their painting skills under the instruction of professional artist, Ms. Megan Lenzzo.

DANCE CONCERT SET TO PREMIERE THIS WEEKEND



Photo by Andrew Garver/The Choate News

Dance Company diligently practices one of their numbers during extensive rehearsals last weekend.

By **Inc Thongthai '19**
Reporter

As the Student Dance Concert rehearsal began, the Paul Mellon Arts Center buzzed with energy and resonated with music. The dancers, decked in all-black and accented with touches of color, moved to the rhythm of the beat.

On Friday, April 15, and Saturday, April 16, the annual Student Dance Concert premieres at 7:30 on the PMAC main stage. The hour-long concert is the fruit of the progression and achievement of the dancers, who honed their skills and perfected their movement, through weekly practices since fall term.

Comprised of Dance Company, Hip Hop Club, Step Squad and Winter Dance, the Dance Concert features a variety of performances, with the prevalence of Dance Company, a group of student choreographers and dancers. Step Squad, and Hip Hop Club, both student-led clubs, perform one piece each. Winter Dance also makes an appearance with a piece that is collaboratively choreographed by all the students in the class. The

show even features two pieces choreographed by Arts Center Director, Ms. Kalya Yannatos, titled "Magnifica" and "Web," which celebrate the beauty of nature and the interconnection of our society. The dances are elegant, dramatic and full of fresh, vibrant energy.

Everyone should see the concert because it celebrates beauty, strength, and life.

Ms. Kalya Yannatos
Director of the Arts

As rehearsals commenced, stress levels were high, but anxiety was alleviated when the music began. The opening piece is titled "El Hombre Azúcar," a dance to Christina Aguilera's song "Candy Man," is choreographed by Kate Newhouse '18. Newhouse says, "I just wanted people to have fun. I wanted the dancers to enjoy dancing it, and for the audience to feel its energy." The piece is fresh and positive, and its burlesque vibe captures the essence of fun.

This year-long commitment culminates the skill and hard work of the students:

Dancers attend Dance Company workshops, choreographers audition for their piece to be featured, and the casting begins. Ms. Emily Lutin, the Dance Company instructor, coordinates the concert along with Ms. Yannatos.

The Student Dance Concert features a variety of dance styles. "Every piece is so different, that is what makes it so interesting. There is stylistic diversity. The concert is a collaborative piece, taking from each dancer's strength, and putting it all together," claimed Ms. Lutin.

One particular piece, "With Water," choreographed by Zemina Edmondson '16, Co-President of Dance Company, is inherently striking. The dance is to the song "Jazz," by Mick Jenkins. Edmondson said, "I chose it because I really liked the music. It's a cover of Britney Spears's 'Toxic.' Although it's a rap, it's contrasted with a light backtrack."

She continued, "I then thought of the movement. I wanted the dance to flow through the contrasts in the music. I wanted the piece to be a juxtaposition of smooth and sharp movements. I wanted it to convey that our world

exists in dualities. At Choate, when opinions are pushed to the extremes, differences are often demonized." The piece speaks of the acceptance of legitimacy and the value of differing opinions.

Ms. Yannatos, whose enthusiasm continues to awe our campus, stated, "Dance, to me, is as important as sleeping, breathing and eating. It is my life. Everyone should see the concert because it celebrates beauty, strength and life." Inspired by Albert Einstein's quote "Dancers are the athletes of God," Yannatos said, "The dancers are the perfect combination of artistic expression and athletic strength." Ms. Lutin added, "The concert celebrates the students' hard work and commitment to dance. They have grown so much, not just as dancers, but as human beings."

So head down to the PMAC on tonight or tomorrow evening to watch our peers excel in the Student Dance Concert.

Inc Thongthai may be reached at pthongthai19@choate.edu.

MCDUGAL'S PIANO RESONATES FOR LAST TIME AT SENIOR RECITAL

By **Michelle Zhuang '18**
Reporter

On Sunday, April 10, Morgan McDougal '16 amazed crowds in the chapel with her amazing skill at her senior recital. Her variety of abilities at Choate extends from golf to music, but one of her greatest strengths, as those who attended the concert can support, lies in the piano. The recital, which featured pieces such as Prelude and Fugue by J.S. Bach and Etude de Concert No. 3, "Un Sospiro" by Franz Liszt, was sadly McDougal's last concert at Choate.

For the senior, who has been playing piano for fourteen years and is part of the Arts Concentration program for it, the piano recital was quite special. As McDougal explains, "I just wanted a good ending to my musical career at Choate, because this is basically it. I'm not sure if I'm going to play piano at college or not, so this could be my last concert." If this is the case, those who attended were lucky to hear the melodious rhythms that she is so skillfully able to play on the piano keys. McDougal also expressed her gratitude for the music program at Choate, especially to the Arts Concentration program. She shared, "I was initially attracted to Choate because of Arts Con. Instead of having to play a sport, you can audition for this elite group and play with other really great musicians. Mr. Ventre is also an incredible musician himself and it's really nice to be surrounded by such good music all the time. It pushes me to be better myself."

Besides praising the Arts Concentration program, she

also greatly celebrated Mr. Thomas Martin, her piano teacher at Choate, who "makes sure that I'm progressing and developing as a musician." Besides accrediting him with vastly improving her piano skills during her time at Choate, McDougal also said that Mr. Martin "really cares about her person and how she's doing in and outside of school."

Morgan's balance and control blew me away. She played exceptionally well.

Brian Tung '16

Although her performance was outstanding, McDougal did face some challenges while playing, especially since all the songs featured were songs that she learned within the limited time of the course of her senior year. Additionally, even though she was initially supposed to perform a trio piece at the recital, the plans had to be changed because one of her accompanying peers had prior

commitments to go on a college visit.

Nevertheless, people were beyond impressed with McDougal's performance. As Brian Tung '16 phrased it, "Morgan was amazing. As a pianist myself, Morgan's balance and control blew me away. She played exceptionally well, captivating the audience with mesmerizing runs through the pieces. When she finished, she got a well-deserved standing ovation."

Most importantly, however, McDougal herself was satisfied with her work. As she said after the recital, "I thought it went much better than I had anticipated. I always get very nervous when I perform - ridiculously nervous - and as this is my final big performance, I really wanted it to go perfectly. I definitely put way too much pressure on myself, but luckily, I was able to have fun and end my piano career at Choate on a good note, pun not intended."

Michelle Zhuang may be reached at mzhuang18@choate.edu.



Photo by Andrew Garver/The Choate News

McDougal astonished the audience with her innate musical talent.

From the Stage to the Dance Floor with Harley Kirchhoff '16

By **Simi Sachdeva '19**
Staff Reporter

Fans of *The Diary of Anne Frank* may remember Mrs. Auguste van Pels, the equally dramatic and comedic character, perfectly brought to life by one of Choate's most talented actresses. This week we bring to you insight into the life and times of Harley Kirchhoff '16.

Kirchhoff's passion and dedication on and off the stage distinguish her as a leader in the Choate community. A theater Arts Concentration student from Darien, CT, Kirchhoff has played a part in every fall play and every spring musical since her arrival at Choate her freshman year. She also stage-managed this year's winter play, directed in Student Directed Scenes, and is a Co-President of Dance Company.

Kirchhoff's enthusiasm for her art was evident as her face lit up while talking about her experience with the Choate theater program. Some of her favorite experiences in theater include performing in *Pippin* and *Hairspray*.

"The energy in these productions was tangible; I just felt like I was vibrating for the rest of the night because everything was so overwhelming in the best way," Kirchhoff described. In theater, she said, "you have to give it your all. If you aren't, everybody can tell and you are not acting to the best of your ability. You have to be giving it 100 percent of your energy. You have to be giving yourself over to it, and I think that there are few things where you can't be thinking about anything

else. You just have to be completely in the moment."



Photo courtesy of Harley Kirchhoff

She has inspired me with her hard work and the success she has gained from it.

Zemina Edmondson '16

Kirchhoff's theatrical career began when her mother enrolled her in acting classes to outgrow her shyness. Remembering her first musical in third grade, Kirchhoff reminisced, "It was the first time I wasn't scared to be talking in front of a large group of people. It definitely brought me out of my shell and taught me a lot about myself." The reason she eventually started dance was as an aid for theater because "you have to be able to move and understand how your body works. That was when I knew it would be a helpful experience if I wanted to continue in theater."

Zemina Edmondson '16, Co-President of Dance Company and one of Harley's closest friends, said, "Harley creates a friendly atmosphere. She has inspired me with her hard work and the success she has gained from it. She is not afraid to

say 'Yeah, I'm majoring in theater!' I love that she is around me to remind me that you can do what you want and succeed at it."

Ms. Tracy Ginder-Delventhal, who has worked with Kirchhoff extensively, looked back on her performance in *Alice in Wonderland* last fall, explaining, "She was literally on stage for every single moment of that play, which meant she worked and rehearsed every single moment of a nine week process, but there was not a single moment where she gave up or gave in."

Kirchhoff is also a role model to those younger to her. As Graysen Airth '18, another theater Arts Concentration Student, gushed, "She has the show completely memorized by the first rehearsal and has the ability to forget about everything else and be in the moment." About Kirchhoff's leadership, Ms. Ginder-Delventhal said, "Some people lead dictating what to do, but not Harley - she opens her arms and says let's all walk together."

Upon this June's graduation, Kirchhoff will continue to study theater at Northwestern University. Ms. Emily Lutin, Harley's dance teacher, said that "it has been a pleasure to watch her grow since freshmen year. Harley can do anything with her determination, positivity, and grace." Over the past four years, Kirchhoff has truly created a lasting footprint that will remain at Choate long after she graduates.

Simi Sachdeva may be reached at ssachdeva19@choate.edu.

Game of the Week: Boys' Varsity Baseball vs. Hotchkiss • 4/16 • 3:00 p.m. • Ayres-Yankus Field

FIELD REPORT

	W-L-T
Baseball	2-1-0
WIN Kent	14-0
Ultimate	1-2-0
WIN Chase	15-4
Boys' Golf	1-0-1
TIE Avon	213-213
Boys' Lacrosse	3-0-0
WIN Kent	14-7
Girls' Lacrosse	2-1-0
WIN Pomfret	13-10
Sailing	0-2-0
LOSS G'Wich	1-2
Softball	1-1-0
LOSS Walker	0-15
Boys' Tennis	1-0-0
WIN Westmin	7-0
Girls' Tennis	1-0-0
WIN NMH	9-0
Boys' T&F	0-1-0
LOSS NMH	68-73
Girls' T&F	1-0-0
WIN NMH	105-38
Boys' Volleyball	1-2-0
LOSS Exeter	0-3
Girls' Water Polo	2-0-0
WIN Staples	15-12

Saturday's Home Games

- 9:00 a.m.** • Girls' Varsity Water Polo Invitational – Larry Hart Pool
- 12:30 p.m.** • Girls' Varsity Lacrosse vs. Deerfield – Shanahan Field
- 2:00 p.m.** • JV Softball vs. Ethel Walker – Memorial Field
- 2:30 p.m.** • Boys' Varsity Lacrosse vs. Deerfield – Shanahan Field
- 2:30 p.m.** • Boys' JV Lacrosse vs. Deerfield – Mid-Level East Field
- 3:00 p.m.** • Varsity Baseball vs. Hotchkiss – Ayres-Yankus Field
- 3:15 p.m.** • Girls' JV Lacrosse vs. Deerfield – Mid-Level West Field
- 3:30 p.m.** • Boys' Varsity Tennis vs. Exeter – Hunt Tennis Center
- 3:30 p.m.** • Boys' JV Tennis vs. Exeter – Hunt Tennis Center

HITTING THE LINKS WITH CHOATE GOLF

By **Joseph Coyne '19**
Staff Reporter

Peace and quiet at Choate seems for many like a dream, but for the members of Choate's girls' and boys' varsity golf teams, it is a reality. While many students athletes are at batting practice, hurdling on the track, or sprinting down the lacrosse field, members of the golf teams are perfecting their shots and practicing the game they love. However, off-campus practices and games can make teams into something of a mystery. To combat this, Joseph Coyne '19 investigated the dedication, raw talent, and camaraderie that constitute Choate's golf teams.

As soon as Choate's golfers returned from spring break, Boys' Varsity Head Coach Mr. Eric Stahura and Girls' Varsity Head Coach Mr. John Marrinan started prepping the players for the upcoming season. The junior varsity coach, Mr. Stephen Farrell, commented on this year's players, "There's an infusion of younger talent. We'll be better than last year." The varsity teams are looking strong this year, as well. Some

players have only a few years behind them, while others have been playing since they were toddlers."

When asked about a typical boys' varsity practice, Coach Stahura said that the team spends a lot of time on the putting green, gaining confidence and precision on their chips and putts. They can also be found at the driving range, perfecting their swings. In addition, Coach Stahura mentioned that the warm weather this year has made it easier to practice. In past years, players have had to worry about avoiding snow banks while trying to play in freezing temperatures.

The warmer temperatures have also helped the girls' team prepare for the season. Coach Marrinan's team is looking to be very competitive this year, on account of the five returning players. Throughout the week, his team plays four to nine holes daily at the Wallingford Country Club and also spends a substantial amount of time on the putting green. The girls enjoy relaxing and playing together, improving their game all the while.



Photo by Ross Mortensen

Choate's three talented and dedicated golf teams are looking forward to competitive seasons.

Both teams also demonstrate great camaraderie. When asked why he loves golf at Choate, Henry Marshall '16, the captain of the boys' team, said, "The best part about the Choate golf team is the camaraderie between the players and coaches." Answering the same question, golfer Lawson Buhl '17 said that because of the team's smaller size, all the players on the team get to know their teammates very well. He also said that friendly

competition during practices helps to improve everyone's game.

On the girls' side, the answers were similar. When asked what her favorite part of Choate golf is, Morgan McDougal '16 said, "The best parts of our team are the other members and how we're always able to have fun even on the worst days." Alice Xu '18 said, "The best part of the Choate golf team is the support you get from your team-

mates." Both teams have a lot of fun during practices and are each very close groups that help each other become the best golfers they can be. The boys' and girls' teams will be working to improve their skills and beat the competition, starting with their games against Portsmouth Abbey, Northfield Mount Hermon, and Taft this Saturday.

Joseph Coyne may be reached at jcoyne19@choate.edu.

POSTGRAD PROFILE

HOCKEY HERO SABRINA HUETT '16



By **Joseph Coyne '19**
Staff Reporter

For this week's post-graduate profile, Joseph Coyne '19 sat down with Sabrina Huett '16 to talk about herself, the Choate PG experience, and her past and future with hockey.

JC: When did you start playing hockey and why?

SH: I started playing hockey in fourth grade. Before hockey, I used to swim during the winter, but I decided that I wanted to do something else. Since I knew how to skate and I had grown up going to my older brother's hockey games, I decided to try hockey.

JC: What is your favorite animal? What is your spirit animal?

SH: My favorite animals are really chubby squirrels. I'd say my spirit animal is a sloth because they eat and sleep a lot, and I enjoy both of those activities. Also, they don't like being touched, like me. They are also just generally happy animals.

JC: What is life like as a postgraduate at Choate?

SH: It really just feels

like a second senior year but at a new school. This is the third high school I have been to and I have liked it the best. I have made some great friends and I really like my advisers and teachers.

JC: Why did you pick Choate as the school you were going to PG at?

SH: I picked Choate because I really liked the level of academics it offered. I had also heard great things about the girls' hockey team and Head Coach Nicole Stock. I felt it would be a good fit for me.

JC: Were you committed to a college before you came to Choate? Where are you going to college?

SH: I was not committed to college before I came to Choate, but I committed to Dartmouth this past fall. Having an extra summer for recruiting opportunities was really beneficial.

JC: What has been the best moment of your hockey career, so far?

SH: If I had to pick a best moment, I'd say it was committing to Dartmouth. I live ten minutes away from Dartmouth and grew up dreaming of playing on the women's team. It felt like all of my hard work had finally paid off, and I couldn't believe it. My dad, who I have never seen cry before, teared up when it happened.

JC: What about the worst moment of your hockey career?

SH: The worst moment of my hockey career was around the time of my sophomore year, when I realized that if I didn't start working harder, I would not be able to play college hockey. Although that was a tough realization, I am glad it happened because that's when I really dedicated myself to getting better.

JC: What has been your favorite moment at Choate, either in or out of the rink?

SH: I don't have a specific favorite moment. I have just really enjoyed making new friends here and the fun times we have all had together.

JC: What is your favorite part about hockey?

SH: I really enjoy the actual game of hockey, but I'd say one of my favorite parts is getting to hang out with my team.

JC: Where do you hope for hockey to take you?

SH: I hope hockey will continue to open up opportunities for me like it did with Dartmouth. I am not sure if I will play hockey after college, but I know that playing in college will help me to continue to grow as an athlete. It will also help me improve on life skills, like time management, since I will have to balance both a rigorous workload and my intense hockey schedule.

Joseph Coyne may be reached at jcoyne19@choate.edu.

GIRLS' VARSITY LACROSSE

BOARS PUMMEL POMFRET GRIFFINS

By **Eben Cook '18**
Staff Reporter

Last Saturday, April 9, the girls' varsity lacrosse team took on Pomfret School in its first home game of the season. As the final buzzer sounded, the scoreboard read 13-10 in favor of the Wild Boars. However, the pattern of the game was surprisingly different from what the final score indicated.

The Choate girls' superior skill seemed undeniable as their lead steadily increased during the first half. With the help of Emily Clorite '18, Drew Reno '17, and co-captain Claire Marshall '17, Choate drilled in shots left and right.

The Choate girls' superior skill seemed undeniable as their lead steadily increased during the first half.

The Wild Boars completely dominated their opponents until the whistle blew for half-time. Amanda Reisman '16 commented, "In the first half, we were able to run plays, score goals, and shut down Pomfret's offense." The Wild Boars and their fans expected smooth sailing for the rest of the game.

At the break, the Griffins devised a plan to strike back. Pomfret proved itself to be tough competition for the Boars by significantly stepping up their game in the second half. Choate's lead shrunk to just a couple of goals due to the Griffins' sudden demonstration of agility and quick thinking. Still, the Choate girls were

determined not to let Pomfret steal the lead on Wallingford turf. Choate put up a resilient front in the defensive zone until the final whistle. By the end of the game, Choate boasted a 13-10 win.

One MVP of the game was Clorite. She played a critical role on both offense and defense, netting crucial shots in the first half and playing tight defense when it mattered most. Also, goalie Cameron Leonard '17 made many key saves throughout the game and built the momentum that the team would ride to victory.

Choate players were slightly disappointed that they couldn't make the second half as successful as the first. Still, the girls were relieved that they could still pull out the victory. Co-captain Issy Hnat '16 said, "By the end of the second half, we pulled it together; however, I wish we had played with more composure throughout the whole game."

Alex Jarvis '17 added, "It was a great win from my perspective. In the first half, Pomfret didn't know what hit them. They came back stronger in the second half, but we held our own." Reisman agreed. "This win was really important for our team because it was our first home game," she said.

The Wild Boars' record now stands at 2-1. Make sure to show your support for girls' varsity lacrosse this Saturday, April 16, at 12:30, in what is sure to be a thrilling home game against Deerfield.

Eben Cook may be reached at ecook18@choate.edu.