



Senior Prank Offends Many

By **Carolina Vargas '21**
Reporter

Following decades of tradition in high schools across America, as well as many of their Choate predecessors, the Class of 2018 pulled off a senior prank two weeks ago. After several months of planning and delaying, sixth formers staged a walkout at the beginning of School Meeting on Tuesday, April 10, exiting the PMAC in mass as they chanted the school song.

The seniors came back from spring break determined to carry out what some many of them call a rite of passage. This one, though, was not uniformly well received. Many students and faculty took offense to the mass exodus, a gesture that seemed to them less fun-loving and more contemptuous.

School Meeting is one of the rare times when the entire student body assembles. If agendas are often filled with quotidian announcements, the meetings are also designed to celebrate and honor life here—awards are presented, students sing, dance, and play music for their peers. At the April 10 meeting, sixth-former Alan Luo '18 delivered a speech, a voluntary endeavor known as a Choate Talk, but only after he watched his classmates exit.

Still, many seniors said that the prank was not intended to hurt anyone, but rather

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C-PROCTORS ASK STUDENTS TO TAKE ACTION FOR EARTH WEEK



Photo by Alex Yoon/The Choate News

Amisha Iyer '19, Giorgie McCombe '19, Angela Zhao '19, Mia Katz '21, and Mr. Gary Lynch dress in style for the annual Choate Trashion Show.

By **Ariel Kim '20**
Staff Reporter

Choate's Earth Week began this past Friday, April 13, organized by the Choate C-proctors. Every day of the week, there is a small and interactive event for the Choate community to take part in. The week began with a screening of *The Lorax* and pizza-making at the KEC on Friday. On Monday, April 16, there was a local food tasting in the dining hall, during which local food companies came and demonstrated to the students what kinds of food options are available locally; on Tuesday during conference period, the C-Proctors, namely Hannah Paridis '18, organized the Trashion Show in the dining hall. On Tuesday evening, students had the opportunity to stargaze from

the science center. Today, there will be a screening of *Chasing Coral* in the SAC, with free snacks. Tomorrow, students will come together at Mem Field to roast some s'mores using solar ovens; and on Sunday there is a trash pick-up and an invasive species removal around campus. Throughout the whole week, there has also been an Instagram photo competition for the best nature photography.

A specific group of C-Proctors has been in charge of this and has been planning this week in detail since winter term. "We've been thinking about and talking about Earth Week since winter term, so it's definitely all the C-Proctors' work. We also reached out to some clubs to co-sponsor some events," commented Sophie Mackin '18, one of the students in charge of or-

ganizing Earth Week.

Regarding her role in the organization and running of the Earth Week events, Paridis commented, "The personal event I organize every year is the Trashion Show. I run that every year — I run the music and organize the contestants, the food, and the judges. I also email with other clubs to co-sponsor events, like other environmental clubs on campus as well as Young Democrats or Young Republicans — sometimes they help with those events."

While the C-proctors have not decided on a single theme for this year's Earth Week, many of them agreed that one of the primary goals of the week was to better engage the Choate community with the week's events. Mackin remarked, "We definitely tried to

have activities that were interactive, like stargazing or the trash pickup — people are there doing things and learning about things. We tried to engage Choate students in a more fun way."

PJ Sethbhakdi '20, another student who took part in organizing the week's events, had a similar stance: "Our main focus is to explain the importance of sustainability." He continued, "We hope that these events could be a way to connect students. This is a time of the year when students would have the opportunity to learn or do something."

The C-Proctors organized Earth Week for the sake of the students' engagement and participation, but the most important

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Choate Hosts Model UN Conference

By **Amanda Li '21**
Reporter

This past Sunday, over 150 students from 12 schools all over New England arrived at Choate to attend Choate-MUNC IV, the name for the fourth annual model U.N. conference hosted by Choate. Throughout the day, attendees broke up into five committees that varied in size, topic, and complexity. In these committees allowed the student delegates a place to voice their own opinions on the issues at hand while following parliamentary procedure.

This year's theme, chosen by Choate MUN's Secretary General Melody Li '18, was environmental issues. The theme of environmental issues was first proposed after Li attended a Yale Environmental Law Panel while at the KEC last year. Specific committee topics from the day included natural disaster relief, the South China Sea, and Arctic security.

For many, ChoateMUNC offers an opportunity to learn from others. Shade Mazer '19, who has been working with the Crisis Committee since her freshman year noted that throughout the day, "You really see growth in the way the [delegates] debate with one another. They get more and more confident with themselves."

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Inside the College Process: Extracurricular Activities



Graphic by Chandler Littleford/The Choate News

By **Haley Chang '18**
Editor-in-Chief '17-'18

In February, the writer moderated a conversation about the college process among 11 sixth-formers. Their comments served as a starting point for this article.

Choate students, with their many interests and aspirations, are bound to have different experiences here. And yet there seem to be certain unspoken

rules governing the college application process, which reveal themselves in many aspects of school life, such as a student's perspective on the value of extracurricular activities, his or

her interaction with peers in regards to applying to college, and associated levels of stress. This article aims to uncover the intricacies of the college process at Choate, and present the community with various perspectives to consider, as it thinks about how that process operates and whether it needs to be improved. This is the first article in a series that will be published over the coming weeks.

Today's article looks at the culture surrounding a student's extracurricular activities, and the related pressure to secure leadership positions.

At the beginning of every school year, the green patch of

land between Hill House and the library serves as the locale for Club Fair — an exhibition of over 100 organizations on campus that allows new and returning students to connect with student leaders and search for avenues to express their talents. Each organization tries to entice students to come to its booth and eventually join the club, while prefects and other upperclassmen advise underclassmen to join as many clubs as possible.

Choosing which organizations to dedicate time to is a daunting and exciting task for many Choate students. In the short run, extracurricular life will occupy a significant portion of their daily routine, from the end of classes to check-in at 8:00 p.m. Often, students will end up committing to between two and five organizations out of the dozens they initially joined.

In the long run, extracurricular activities will supplement their applications to colleges, showing their engagement with their communities beyond the classroom. Nils Lovegren '18 reflected on the pressure stemming from this expectation, saying, "Most of the stress for me during the college application process has not come from the academics side of it, but rather from the

extracurricular side of it. Trying to add on all of these extracurriculars for the colleges has been tough." James Rose '18 added, "As a prefect in a sophomore and junior dorm, people talk about the stresses that they have about college before they've even started looking at colleges, most of which has been about their extracurricular activities."

This pressure seemed to infiltrate many students' minds before they are even fully immersed in the Choate community. Michelle Zhuang '18 described her interactions with some students, saying, "At Club Fair, both my sophomore and junior years, there were a lot of new students who approached me at my booths and asked me, 'If I join your email list, will you give me a Blue Card? Is it easy to get a leadership position?' I think this culture of joining clubs just for the sake of college applications is underground and not talked about much, but is very much prevalent across campus. I think the school is filled with passionate, motivated people, but I do think that the 'college thing' is something at the back of their minds."

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Student to Walk Out, Urging Change in Gun Laws

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

Students and faculty from more than 2,000 schools across the United States will walk out in protest of gun violence today, Friday, April 20, the nineteenth anniversary of the Columbine shooting. Alice Volfson '19 organized Choate's own walk-out, which will occur at 10:00 a.m. this morning. Volfson also planned Choate's participation in the March for Our Lives protest last month, in New York City.

The goal of the walkout is to pressure U.S. representatives to pass gun-reform regulations. These regulations include legislation to strengthen background checks, allow family members to request the issuance of a gun-violence prevention warrant for those they fear may pose a danger to themselves or others, ban bump stocks, and raise the minimum age to buy an assault rifle from 18 to 21.

The walk-out will serve as a unique opportunity for the community to unite as one and also has the potential to garner outside attention. "One thing we hope to achieve at the walkout is to have students and faculty

members share speeches, poems, and memories, and personal experience with gun violence and school safety," said Volfson. She explained that the Choate walk-out is trying to get national media coverage so that "people outside the Choate Rosemary Hall community know that we care about this issue."

In addition to the walkout, Volfson will be setting up a table in the Dining Hall in the coming weeks where students can write letters to state representatives. Volfson summarized her goals, "Instead of just staying here in Connecticut, we're expanding nationally." Volfson will also be helping students preregister to vote.

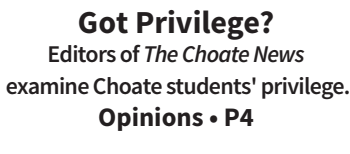
Volfson spoke of her initial hesitation in planning the walk-out. It was controversial, and she questioned whether people would be motivated to participate at all. However, she decided to go through with it based on the community's desires. "People kept asking me, 'Are you planning the walkout?' People wanted it to happen. They wanted something to happen around campus," said Volfson. She explained that many

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Students Begin the Search
College representatives visited Choate during the College Fair last Monday.
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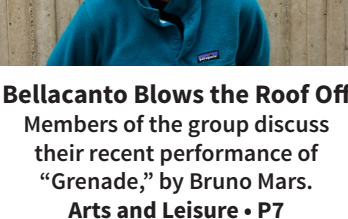
Got Privilege?
Editors of *The Choate News* examine Choate students' privilege.
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Inside the Boar
The former Wild Boar reflects on his time as Choate's mascot.
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Bellacanto Blows the Roof Off
Members of the group discuss their recent performance of "Grenade," by Bruno Mars.
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Student Council

Recap

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

Reducing food waste, delivering Chick-fil-a and Chipotle to students, and hosting trustees are all in the works for Student Council as it continues to formulate a myriad of projects and proposals. Rising Fifth-form Representative Caroline Rispoli '20 met with Mr. Joseph Scanio, Director of the Environmental Immersion Program, about the potential reallocation of leftover Dining Hall food to dorms to prevent food waste. Although some faculty expressed concerns over sanitation and methods of disposal for leftover food in dorms, Rispoli still plans to speak to administrators to determine whether funds could be allocated to providing Dining Hall food in dorms.

The delivery service, spearheaded by Fifth- and Sixth-form Day Student Representative Matt Anastasio '19, is approaching fruition. Potentially with the help of Third- and Fourth -form Day Student Representative, Ryan Doyle '21, and rising Fourth-form Representative Ula Lucas '21, Anastasio will deliver Chick-fil-A and Chipotle to the dorms on Wednesday nights twice a month, at 8:30 PM. Students will be able to place their orders on a first come, first served basis. When the service is launched, around thirty students will be able to order on any given evening, although Anastasio hopes to be able to expand his service in the future. If all goes as planned, the delivery service will kick off following Long Weekend.

While trustees are on campus next week, they will tour with members of the Student Council. Former Vice President Julian Yau '18, former Sixth-form Representative Katherine Burgstahler '18, and current Vice President Tommy Wachtell '19 will attend a meeting with the Board of Trustees. Two of these three representatives participate in Choate's Arts Concentration Program, as arts is one of the driving topics of this year's meeting.

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C-Proctors Encourage Eco-Action

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purpose of the week is to promote the student body's awareness of the environment. "We hope that Choate kids are thinking about the environment and thinking about their impact all the time, but this week is a good time to pay extra attention to the habits that they have," Mackin commented.

Sethbhakdi added, "We want them to understand that every bit of effort could make a difference in the world. We want them to look at the problems that occur in the world not in the perspective of a regular Choate student, but a person that could help and influence other to help the main causes to our problems."

Paridis said, "I want the Choate community just to learn that it should be part of your daily life and that it's not just something you do for a week to have fun, but it's something that's important to keep going. That's also why we do Green Cup and Hydro Cup for so long — that's meant to ingrain those habits in you. I really hope people take away from Earth Week that it's really important to do these things."

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Model UN Presses Students to Contemplate Global Issues

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Not only do the delegates gain experience through this event, they are also able to enjoy themselves and create lasting friendships. "It's really amazing how much passion these delegates have," said Ananya Karanam '18, who was the Director for the Crisis Committee. Mazer said, "It offers the unique opportunity for kids from completely different schools to find ways to work together."

Each committee meeting is split up into two parts, a two-and-a-half hour session before lunch, and a three-and-a-half hour session after, leaving ample time for the delegates to relax, take a break, and chat in between. Inside each committee, delegates are given time for moderated and unmoderated caucuses, in which they are able to discuss and debate the viewpoints of their country, in both formal and informal settings. The ultimate goal at the end is to be able to take some sort of action for



Photo by Jenny Guo/The Choate News

Participants in last Sunday's Model United Nations Conference exchange ideas in Elman Auditorium.

the issue that is given. For each committee, there is also usually a moderator, who interacts with the delegates, and a co-chair, both of whom make sure the committee is running smoothly and act as judges who ultimately decide as to who should win the awards.

Intricate planning went into the event. "We wanted to make our conference fun for people," commented Li. The main coordinators of this event, or the Secretariat, included Li, Amanda Lin '18, Saleha Farooqui '18, Joanna

Ding' 19, and Polina Ermoshkina '19. This group, along with 25 other student staff members created name tags, background guides, information packets, and a detailed website, along with much more, for the delegates.

"We're a very committed group of people," Li added. "[The staff] has been very dedicated throughout the process." The staff, which is composed of Choate students from every grade, offered another way for experienced and not-so-experienced MUN members to be able to gain insight into how different committees are run without having to participate. Not only does Choate boast one of the most student-run MUN clubs, but ChoateMUNC has grown exponentially since it first started just four years ago, gaining increasing momentum and popularity. In the end, it's all about the experience. "Choate's MUN motto is to have fun and win prizes, in that order," said Karanam. Li added, "I hope that delegates walked away having sharper MUN skills and cultivate a new consciousness regarding the intersectionality between environmental and geopolitical issues."

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MORE THAN 160 SCHOOLS ON HAND FOR COLLEGE FAIR



Photo by Pinn Chirathivat/The Choate News

Admissions counselors provide information about their respective schools to students.

By **Brandon Zhang '20**
Staff Reporter

On Monday, April 16, the College Fair took place at the Worthington Johnson Athletic Center (WJAC), with over 160 colleges attending. The fair is a crucial moment in the college research process for current juniors. Although the College Fair was most pertinent to the juniors, students of all ages were welcome to attend. Furthermore, Choate extended this invitation to all the other schools in the area to come as well.

A college fair can be an intimidating experience for many students with hundreds of teachers, alumni, admission office rep-

resentatives, and fellow students filling up the Athletic Center. During these fairs, a sense of urgency and competition often arises, with students trying to present their profile instead of building a relationship with the representatives.

Ms. Marcia Landesman, the Director of College Counseling, provided some insight and advice for all students at the College Fair. She wanted students to remember that "the colleges generally bring alumni members as well as the admissions officer representatives that read the applications from Choate, so students should make sure to structure questions based on whom you are asking."

She also wanted students to

"make sure to ask questions you are genuinely interested in knowing the answer to, and that reflect who you are, not questions that you think the college would want to hear." Finally she wanted everyone to remember that "some colleges will have longer lines than others, so students should make sure when they are at the head of the line not to monopolize the conversation but rather give others a chance to speak. The college likes to see that you care about your peers as well."

The College Fair process can provide each person with a different experience. As a Senior who has been through the process, Matt Kim '18 said, "College Fair is really useful as a time to ask your questions and meet the reps. I got to meet up with representatives from schools I was interested in. Also, they are the people that read your applications, so it's good to meet, so they can put a face to an application."

Eamonn Welliver '18 added, "Although the College Fair is not as useful as a visit to the college itself, it is still a great place to learn more about a college."

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Despite Criticism, Seniors See Prank as Success

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put a smile on people's faces. "It wasn't meant to be a controversial thing. It was meant to be funny, and it was. We had a good time," said Shamari Harrington '18. Caden Dumas '18 said that he was expecting the prank to be taken light heartedly; he said the seniors did not intend to do any harm or offend anyone.

When asked about the thought process that went into the school meeting walk-out, Calvin Carmichael '18 said, "We decided to pick something fun to do. We wanted everyone to laugh and enjoy it as much as we did. All the kids were laughing, and most people seemed to enjoy it."

Last Wednesday, on the morning after the prank, Dean of Students James Stanley and sixth-form deans Ms. Nancy Miller and Mr. Mike Velez held a meeting with the sixth form. The faculty members told seniors that many in the community took offense to their prank, and they urged the seniors to be on their best, most respectful behavior in the final weeks of school.

Over the years, senior pranks have ranged from the

whimsical to the dangerous. Three years ago, students arranged for a petting zoo to be set up in front of the Humanities Building one morning. Another prank involved wrapping the furniture in the Humanities rotunda in aluminum foil. Campus old timers remember when a car was surreptitiously parked on the Science Center bridge.

Although the School Meeting prank got mixed reviews, many seniors seem to feel that it was much more effective than anything the Class of 2017 managed. "This one already is better than all the business cards that last year's class put around campus," Dumas said. "That one wasn't great, in my opinion."

As for whether the Class of 2018 has another prank coming, the seniors have neither confirmed nor denied their any future plans, leaving the community to wait and see if they come up with anything else. For the Class of 2018, this prank marks the beginning of a bittersweet end to their time at Choate.

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Student Walkout Urges Action on Gun Control

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students and faculty shared a similar mindset: "The march happened, but what now? What can we do to continue the conversation about school safety and gun control on campus?"

The march happened, but what now?

Alice Volfson '19

Some do, however, question the potential impact of the event. "I don't know that I am going to participate. I don't really see what it accomplishes. It's one of those things where people are trying to make a point with activism, but I don't know that it's necessarily sending a strong message to anyone," said Sam Brown '20. "Do I think it's a bad idea? No. But do I feel like I'm really making a big difference by doing it? No."

Volfson '19 continued to emphasize the significance of the walk-out: "For me personally, I think school safety is something that everyone should be concerned with, not just liber-

als or Republicans. I think it's non-partisan issue."

She explained why those less involved in the movement would feel the need to participate: "I think it's a good way to get the community involved, especially those who didn't have the chance to attend the march, but still want to do something important to make a change."

Mr. James Stanley, Dean of Students, also met with Volfson to settle the many details of the walk-out. After their meeting, Volfson said, "Approval has been given directly from the school, so no punishments will be given to students who choose to participate in the walkout." The walk-out will be taking place at 10:00 a.m. on Friday in the Seymour St. John Chapel. At the walkout, Connecticut State Representative William Tong will be speaking. In addition, all students were invited to speak if they wanted to, making sure anyone who felt that they had something to share were given the opportunity to do so.

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Club Life Influenced by College Process

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Moreover, every year, especially between the winter and spring terms, there is an influx of new club proposals to the Committee on Student Activities (COSA). On this phenomenon, Ms. Judie Bender, the school's Associate Director of Counseling, said, "There seems to be a zillion clubs now, and I think a part of the motivation to create new clubs is to get a leadership position for that club. And I don't blame kids for it. Every year, the process gets more competitive and harder. And the college process is almost the ultimate competition. Here, we're very goal- and achievement-oriented, and it's almost like the ultimate reward for working really hard — while giving up sleep and fun — is the college acceptance."

The apparent need to "officialize" one's interests and become the "founder," the "president," or the "editor-in-chief" is an aspect of Choate culture deeply rooted in the college application process. Ananya Karanam '18 noted, "People here try to make things very official with

this very niche interest, when they could follow this interest without having it officially be a club." Many times, students are more concerned about how colleges perceived them — ideally, as an "involved individual" and a "leader" — than making a meaningful contribution to school life.

There have been pushbacks to this culture, albeit in a more understated manner, first from COSA, an organization frequently villainized for setting strict protocols on club formation. "What we've been trying hard to do in COSA is to push forward the process of starting clubs and push kids into a sufficient amount of thinking before they start the clubs," said Mr. James Yaneli, Director of Student Activities. If a proper amount of time and thought is put into a club before forming it, it will hopefully be something meaningful to students, rather than just a nice addition to a resumé.

Ms. Bender reflected on how she advises students who come to her office, saying, "It's hard to change the perception and it's hard to change the culture. What I've tried to do is to

ask, 'Where are we right now?' and allow the student to stay in the present. You can't go back and change your last two years here. I remind students of the importance of moving forward in your own life and finding fulfillment in success rather than through college admissions." Ms. Bender summarized, saying that she believes students should do what they are passionate about, not what they believe colleges want to see.

Head Prefect Zara Harding '18 is one of the many seniors who give helpful advice to underclassmen, encouraging them to approach the subject in a more even-keeled manner. She explained, "When I talk to underclassmen, I try to tell them that they don't need to be taking six classes, trying to be on a varsity sport every term, participating in a million clubs. Yes, the colleges do see your four years, but they're really looking for improvement and commitment, and that doesn't necessarily have to start out as doing a million things right off the bat."

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WALLINGFORD PLANS JUBILEE TO CELEBRATE 350 YEARS SINCE TOWN’S FOUNDING

By Will Zhu ’20
Copy Editor

While students may think Choate has been around for a long time, the town it calls home has an even more extensive history. Wallingford, founded in 1670, was established long before Choate. The historical town will mark its 350th anniversary in 2020 with a Jubilee Week from June 20 to 27. Choate has decided to partner with the Wallingford 350th Jubilee Committee to host a non-denominational service in the Chapel, a women’s art show in the Humanities Rotunda, and a ball during the week-long celebration.

Each day of Jubilee Week will have a theme. Sunday, June 21, will be Religious Day, dedicated to the variety of cultures and religions in the town of Wallingford. The Jubilee Committee requested to use Choate’s Chapel because of its non-denominational status. The Religious Day service will involve local leaders from many different religious backgrounds.

Mrs. Lorraine Connelly, Choate’s Associate Director for Marketing and Media, and Ms. Alison Cady, Director of Strategic Planning and Communications, are working with Choate alumnus Jerry Farrell ’86 to plan the service. They plan to invite religious representatives from across Wallingford to read passages from holy texts. “It’s very nice because we’re going to involve all of the chaplains in town and the rabbi in the local synagogue, who happens to be a Choate parent,” said Mrs. Connelly. “There are these



Photo by Pinn Chirathivat/The Choate News

The celebration’s planning committee has invited the community to engage in a week of events showcasing Wallingford.

many wonderful connections between Choate and members of the community.”

Choate will also host the art show for Wallingford’s female artists on Tuesday, June 23 and the ball on Saturday, June 27. These two events are still in preliminary planning stages.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in the festivities in many ways. Jubilee week will begin with a parade for which Choate students are invited to build floats. “I think putting together a float would be really amazing,” said Mrs. Cady, “I think the Wallingford community really appreciates the energy that Cho-

ate students bring to town, and they miss that when it’s not here, so I think something representative of the diversity of backgrounds and hometowns of Choate students would be really interesting.” In addition, the religious service will require a chorus, another opportunity for Choate students to engage in Jubilee Week.

The brunt of the planning is being handled by the Wallingford 350th Jubilee Committee, whose leaders, Ms. Christine Mansfield and Mr. Jerry Farrell, have already organized a few local events. In 2016, the Governor’s Foot Guards, accompanied by the Wallingford

Police and Fire Department Honor Guards, marched across town in a military parade, from Moses Y. Beach Elementary School to the town’s Main Street post office. The parade commemorated the Honorary National Guard membership of three Wallingford government representatives. In 2017, the town held a car show sponsored by local car dealerships. This year, the committee plans to arrange a ceremony for the 100th anniversary of the death of Major Raoul Lufbery, a resident of Wallingford who was a flying ace in the First World War. According to Mrs. Mansfield, the purpose of these celebrations

is “to honor our history, to celebrate our legacy, to record for our future.”

Choate has a long history with the town of Wallingford. Mrs. Connelly and Mrs. Cady have taken the opportunity to celebrate this shared history and give back to the community they call home. Mrs. Connelly explained that Choate has “been part of the town’s history for more than a hundred and twenty-five years. A good portion of our history and Wallingford’s history is a shared history. That’s important.”

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By Peter DiNatale ’21
Staff Reporter

Offering a wide range of choices for breakfast and lunch, the Center Street Luncheonette is a comfortable diner-style restaurant located in the heart of downtown Wallingford. Mrs. Amy Fortin, the owner of the establishment, always had the dream of opening her own restaurant. However, her journey to achieve this goal wasn’t without its challenges. Mrs. Fortin suffered from alcohol addiction prior to opening the Luncheonette. According to Mrs. Fortin, God saw her going down the wrong path in life and gave her the hope to come back and start over by following her dream. She opened her restaurant in 2013.

Mrs. Fortin has been in business for almost five years now, offering American-style breakfast and lunch dishes such as customizable omelettes, signature breakfast sandwiches, and several breakfast specials. One of the most popular items on the menu is the Corn Beef Hash, which consists of meat, potatoes, and an array of spices. The Luncheonette’s enormous pancakes, customizable with

blueberries, chocolate chips, and a variety of other add-ins, are another big hit.

The Center Street Luncheonette also offers a variety of lunch options with salads and specialty burgers. “Our salads are made to order and our dressings are homemade and ever changing,” explained Mrs. Fortin. “The burgers are half-pound, fresh, and hand formed in house.”

Center Street Luncheonette

18 Center Street

Open for
breakfast and lunch
everyday except Tuesday

The building that the Center Street Luncheonette occupies has housed a string of breakfast and lunch restaurants, the oldest dating as far back as the 1930s. When Mrs. Fortin opened the Luncheonette, however, she wanted a design that she felt would create a more comfortable and more enjoy-

able dining experience. Mrs. Fortin decided to decorate the place to give it the feel of an old-fashioned diner.

The restaurant’s quirky decor adds to its relaxed feel. The breakfast element of the Center Street Luncheonette is highlighted even before diners enter its doors, a sign displaying the restaurant’s name overlaid on an egg hanging just outside. From the long counter or the booths that line the Luncheonette’s walls, customers can watch specialties like grilled muffins and inch-thick pancakes being cooked.

After being laid off from her previous job, Mrs. Fortin decided to start over with a fresh beginning. “The mission of my restaurant is different from other restaurants,” said Mrs. Fortin. “My goal is to not only provide a friendly, healthy, and comfortable environment for my customers to eat, but to also give people hope to follow their passion in life. I want to inform people that even if you head down the wrong path, there’s always a chance to come back and follow your true passion.”

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Photo by Peter DiNatale/The Choate News

The Center Street Luncheonette offers breakfast and lunch in booth and counter seating.

Book Seller Expands Reading Opportunities for Community



Photo by Pinn Chirathivat/The Choate News

The Book Seller, a bookstore beneath the WPL, provides literature to locals as well as schools and prisons.

By Wavy Griffin ’21
Staff Reporter

Though many are familiar with Wallingford’s innovative public library, they may not be aware that its basement is home to the Book Seller. This book store collects gently used books from the Wallingford area and sells them for low prices, with profits benefiting the library. The Book Seller has been a huge success in making book ownership more readily available to those in the Wallingford community. However, one of the biggest challenges for the Book Seller has been exposure.

The Book Seller is run by volunteers who collect, sort, shelve, and sell the books. “Here, the volunteers are part of the library family,” explained Wallingford Public Library Director Ms. Jane Fisher. “They come in, know their way around, and feel comfortable in the staff areas. And they do amazing work that raises so much money for the library.”

The Book Seller volunteers are very passionate about their work. Ms. Peggy Drew is a volunteer and one of the original leaders of the Book Seller. Though she works a full-time job, she continues to make time every Saturday to come and volunteer. She said, “This is my heart. No matter what kind of day or week I have, I just come here, and I am like, ‘Yes! This is wonderful!’” The Book Seller

has welcomed a wonderful community of people who are passionate about books, the library, and serving Wallingford.

All of the time and energy the volunteers have dedicated has made the Book Seller a great resource for Wallingford. The low prices of books at the Book Seller make them more accessible to a variety of people and organizations. “I have little kids who come in looking for Magic Tree House, and we have a ton of them,” explained Ms. Drew. “You have the best books ever!” they say, and they are only 50 cents each, so they can buy a couple.” The Book Seller also donates books to local schools, hospitals, and prisons.

The Book Seller’s greatest challenge is publicity. “Sometimes people discover the Book Seller and are like, ‘How long has this been here?’ Our goal is for it not to be Wallingford’s best kept secret,” explained Ms. Fisher. “We want people to know about it.” Ms. Fisher and Ms. Drew encourage all members of the Wallingford community, including Choate students, to use the Book Seller as a resource for buying and recycling gently used books.

The Book Seller has already opened doors for many local readers and hopes to continue to do so in the future. It has worked to establish a community of book-lovers and volunteers, helping to foster the importance of both reading and giving back.

Wavy Griffin may be reached at wgriffin21@choate.edu

Community Calendar

APR. 20, 7:00 p.m.

EatAbout: New Haven
Get a taste of New Haven’s diverse restaurants. Sign up link on the student activities portal.

Shuttle departs from St. John Hall
Free transportation

APR. 23, 7:00 p.m.

R.J. Julia Book Discussion
Join authors Jhumpa Lahiri and Domenico Starnone for a discussion of Mr. Starnone’s novel Trick, translated by Ms. Lahiri.

R.J. Julia Booksellers, Middletown
Free admission; \$29 car ride

APR. 25, 3:00 p.m.

Yale University Art Gallery Teen Program
Explore the museum’s diverse collection and participate in drawing, painting, and photography sessions.

Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven
Free admission; \$30 car ride

THE CHOATE NEWS



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EDITORIAL

The Ignorance of the Privileged

Our quick-paced, hectic lives at Choate make it too easy for us to lose sight of our privileges. We joke about how unpleasant some dorms are when there are people in the world with no housing. We grumble about waking up early to go to class when there are people who don't have schools to attend. We criticize E&R because our clothes don't come back smelling pristine, even when there are people who can't afford clothing, let alone a laundry service.

A phrase one often hears on campus is *Why Choate?* We are all well-versed in its answer: Choate is a "place of many paths" — where passionate, creative, and dedicated students work tirelessly to achieve their goals. As Admissions puts it, Choate is "where amazing things begin. Where anything is possible." These statements, though perhaps true, are rife with buzzwords and slogans that detract from the true answer.

Then — *why Choate?* Because a Choate education is one of privilege. We go to class in beautiful buildings on a picturesque campus; we have a crew of Community Safety members to ensure our security; we have a tuck shop *and* a cafe to purchase food from, as if the copious offerings of the Dining Hall food aren't already enough. But even beyond this, we are offered countless resources. We have an 84-page course catalogue spanning the likes of jewelry, Arabic, and game theory. We have, on top of our teachers, an adviser and dean to ensure not only our academic success but also our mental wellbeing. We have a team of experienced, supportive college counselors that guide us through an intimidating college admissions process. In every way, the School satisfies our needs, wants, even whims.

With so much privilege, one would assume that the least a student could do is appreciate the luxuries he or she has been given. Unfortunately, that is not always the case at Choate. We are quick to focus on the School's negative aspects. We are disenchanted with our classes because of how much homework we receive. We take the beautiful campus for granted and complain about having to walk so far between classes. We carp about the community service requirements we have to fulfill without considering the reasons behind those requirements. Sometimes, we overlook our privileges and settle into a rut of entitlement — we lock ourselves within the Choate bubble.

Not only is the misuse of privilege selfish, but it is also unhealthy. Once we surrender ourselves to entitlement, our senses of self begin to erode. We ignore that our posts as Choate students are contingent on many factors beyond our control. We fail to look beyond ourselves and empathize with the hardships of others less fortunate. We carry ourselves in a way that could be interpreted as superiority — a manner in direct contrast to how we should be acting.

The status as a Choate student awards one many privileges, none of which should be misused. Instead of wasting time over minor issues, we must put our privilege to proper use. Imagine what we could bring about were we to concentrate our education and knowledge on doing good. At the very least, we must try our hardest to renounce the stigma of entitlement and adopt what we should be reconciling with our many privileges: humility.



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Correction

Sports
An article last week identified Vincenzo DiNatale '19 as a member of Varsity Track. Last year, he was a member of Junior Varsity Track, and, in fact, no longer participates in the sport.

The Choate News regrets this error.
To submit a correction, email thechoatenews@choate.edu

My Experience at Choate as the...

"Model"

Minority"

Graphic by Chandler Littleford / The Choate News

By **Kiki Kim '20**
Opinions Writer

On April 8, I and five fellow Choate students woke up bright and early on a Sunday morning and boarded a bus to Deerfield to participate in the Asian American Footsteps Conference. We went to connect ourselves a little more with the Asian-American experience.

The day started on a high note: a K-Pop dance performance and an interview with Wong Fu Production's Wesley Chan and Philip Wang, who talked about being children of immigrants, coping with both Asian and American expectations, and blending in with many cultures at once. Most interestingly, they spoke about their experiences "painting themselves red" — emphasizing their Asian-ness instead of trying to blend in with American culture.

Then I met Asian students from other boarding schools. We danced to K-Pop, talked about college admissions through an Asian perspective, and addressed the challenge of breaking down the idea of the "model minority" — that Asians are the "acceptable" minority, that they are the ones who end up as doctors and lawyers, that they are the ones who care only about good

grades, that they don't cause trouble. The perspectives and ideas that I gained at the conference have lingered in my head. A few weeks on, and I am still pondering and contextualizing them.

*People, even here
at Choate, often
turn a blind
eye to harmful
prejudice against
Asian people.*

I think that the best conversations happen over food. So I wasn't surprised when, a few days after the conference, the topic of Asian representation came up over dinner. The conversation had shifted to people of color, and a friend had listed black and Latinx people under the category. I interjected, saying, "And Asians, right?"

Even if Asians aren't often at the center of the people-of-color discussion, it doesn't mean they aren't, in fact, people of color. America, of course, is made up of many racial minorities. Asians, along with those of other minority groups, are frequently forgot-

ten. People, even here at Choate, often turn a blind eye to harmful prejudice against Asian people.

The Choate community is incredibly diverse and very accepting. Yet, Asians are reduced to a "model minority," microaggressions such as "You're Asian; come help me with my math homework" and "Of course you play piano — you're Asian" occur. Sure, those microaggressions may be seen as "good things" — after all, it is a mark of accomplishment to be good at math or proficient in an instrument.

Microaggressions are not compliments; on the contrary, they are damaging. These assumptions discredit the hard work that goes into being academically proficient or musically skilled. No Asian is good at something because she is Asian; she is good at something because she worked for it.

Moreover, for every Asian who does well at a stereotypically "Asian subject," there is another that doesn't. At Deerfield a few weeks ago, Philip Wang admitted to feeling frustrated that, as a younger man, he couldn't completely claim his Asian identity because he wasn't good at math. The Asian stereotype inadvertently casts Asians whose interests happen to lie outside of math

and music as rejects. And it suggests, however indirectly, that one's worth depends not on an innate humanity but rather on a skill or so-called talent.

I, too, am guilty of attributing my traits to the Asian stereotype. Too often, when faced with a compliment, I brush it off by saying, "Of course, I'm Asian." At some point, I'm sure I meant that as a point of pride — taking ownership of my identity. However, the way that my statement manifested itself was not empowering but restrictive. It was as if I had only done well because I was Asian, and not because of anything else.

To me, "model minority" sounds like saying, "Well, Asians are 'better' than other people of color. But they're still a minority; they're still 'other.'" Asians may be approved, but they're not accepted.

Luckily, there is more than enough space in this world to work on the problems of multiple people, multiple races, and multiple ethnicities. Now is a more fitting time than ever to address these problems, including those unique to Asians in America.

Kiki Kim is a fourth former from San Francisco. She may be reached at kkim20@choate.edu

BE A LEADER FOR YOUR COMMUNITY, NOT YOUR RÉSUMÉ

By **Samantha Stevenson '19**
Opinions Writer

Most of us understand leadership as the ability to successfully guide a group of people. At Choate, leadership positions take many forms. On every athletic team, there are usually at least two captains. One can apply for prefectship, the Assessment Team, or Student Council. Every club offers leadership positions. There are many ways to get involved.

However, a plethora of leadership positions doesn't benefit the community — it hurts it.

First, students tend to spread themselves too thin. By nature, most Choate students are overachievers; it is not uncommon for one to occupy several roles on campus. Ideally, this system would allow students to demonstrate initiative and responsibility.

However, the unfortunate reality is that most holding multiple positions don't manage their time well. At Choate, it is easy to overstretch and pile on too many commitments. As a result, those with multiple positions tend to prioritize certain clubs, or worse: they disregard them altogether. This results not only in sloppy leadership but also in inactive clubs.

Furthermore, in Choate's club system, the standard of selectiveness has been raised far too high. One applying for a leadership position must have unique qualities — responsibility, accountability, and ambition — that distinguish her from her peers. In the cases of some publications, one must also prove her worth by com-



Graphic by Chandler Littleford / The Choate News

pleting excessively challenging test edits and needlessly lengthy written applications. Leadership positions, especially of the more competitive clubs, are far too hard to come by — resulting in unhealthy competition for those vying for the same spot.

Another drawback to having so many "leaders" on campus is that the idea of leadership, in itself, is lost. A leader is not only defined by the skills she possesses, but also by a group of attentive, respectful followers. Yet if all students are leaders, who is left to be led? The idea of leadership only works because a leader has followers — not everyone can be a leader.

What, then, makes a true leader?

True leaders are fueled by passion, not by alternative desires.

At Choate, determination to receive leadership roles is often interchangeable with the desire to mark down an important title to present to colleges. "Leadership" has become nothing more than another bullet point on résumés.

This system is morally incorrect. One should only consider being a leader if one is passionate about the topic at hand. Choate students should keep in mind that leadership positions are not stepping-stones to a perfect CV.

Become a leader for the right reasons. If you are a Gold Key representative, don't feel sad because there are many

more who share the same title — appreciate the service you're providing for the School.

If you're a copy editor of a publication, don't think about potential promotions — worry instead about the grammar on the pages you're supposed to edit. If you're running for JC Representative, don't fill your speech with empty promises to secure your position — tell your peers why you're passionate about representing the student body on the committee.

Always bear in mind that leadership roles are ways for you to prove your ambitious zeal to yourself, not to colleges.

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

The U.S. Must Stop Killing Civilians in the Name of Democracy



Photo courtesy of The Washington Post

American missiles target Damascus, Syria in retaliation for President Bashar al-Assad’s chemical attack on the citizens of Douma.

By **Sarah Bonnem ’19**
Opinions Writer

On April 7, a chemical attack on the Syrian region of Douma left more than seventy civilians dead. On April 12, after an intense seven-week offensive, the Syrian army regained control over the area which had been held by rebel forces since the civil war broke out in 2011. As the last remaining rebel-stronghold near the nation’s capital, Damascus, Douma has been targeted by intense government bombardment over the past three months, destroying over forty percent of the city and forcing its 200,000 inhabitants to retreat underground. In January, Iraqi-lead coalition forces reclaimed Mosul after three years under brutal Islamic State occupation. Since then,

Syria has witnessed heightened levels of conflict between pro-Assad forces and rebel groups; in February, Eastern Ghouta—in which Douma is the largest municipality—was attacked relentlessly by some of the worst air assaults in the civil war’s seven years.

After horrific images of the attacks’ aftermath swept the internet, the matter of chemical weapons in Syria has come to occupy the front page of every major news outlet. In a rare criticism of Russia, President Donald Trump P’oo eagerly joined other leaders in condemning the Assad regime for using chemical weapons against citizens. Although the President is known for empty threats, these ones proved to be legitimate when the US, Britain, and France ordered 110 missiles against the Syrian government.

This was the second airstrike the Trump Administration has conducted in retaliation against the Assad regime. The President stated: “I ordered the United States armed forces to launch precision strikes on targets associated with the chemical weapon capabilities of Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad.”

Although Mr. Trump released the tweet “Mission Accomplished!” after Defense Department officials confirmed that the strikes had landed, this act of interference doesn’t bode well for the US. Since the country erupted into internal turmoil in 2011, Syria has been transformed into a free-for-all battleground in which regional and foreign players can pursue their national interest. Yet, this was the seven-teenth documented time that the Assad regime has used chemical

weapons since 2013. Other attacks have amassed attention, but what is different about the attacks in Douma that elicited such an intense reaction from the international community? It has nothing to do with body counts, or that children were targeted; Mr. Trump is certainly not motivated by moral or humanitarian imperatives.

Even though both the chemical attack and the airstrikes complicate international relations, it would be foolish of the US to insert itself into Syria any further than it already has. It is tried and true that America cannot police the Middle East. Secondly, airstrikes are not going to be an effective deterrent against Assad. If nothing else, the regime has demonstrated that it is willing to put its citizens in harm’s way. While showy feats

of military interference are U.S. convention, there is no chance that a ruler that has stayed in power despite being challenged on every possible level—including by the Islamic State—would be brought down because of retaliatory missile strikes.

This conflict has endured for eight chaotic years: if it has any chance of coming to a close, it is not going to be with convenient tactics and feeble policy. For the sake of the innumerable Syrian lives, families, and communities that have been left behind or devastated, we must recognize that hawkish and ill-deliberated military gestures have nothing to do with “spreading democracy.” Each time civilians in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, or Yemen are killed by American-backed airstrikes it becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish between

the tyranny our nation represents and the tyranny we fight in continual war. The dead are no more or less dead whether their murders come by way of Syrian, American, or Russian arms. Foreign powers must put aside their own national interests in Syria if there is to be any end in sight to the bloodshed between government and opposition forces.

At its core, the Syrian Civil War was born out of the ideals of democracy and representation. If America’s actions on the international level undermine the same principles it presumes to champion then it does so in dishonor of all the many lives that have been sacrificed for the promise of freedom.

Sarah Bonnem is a fifth former from Bronxville, NY. She may be reached at sbonnem19@choate.edu

FORTIFYING THE SOUTHERN BORDER IS ANTI-AMERICAN

By **Niki Gummadi ’21**
Opinions Writer

For those that followed the 2016 election, it was difficult to avoid hearing the words “build the wall” come out of President Donald Trump P’oo’s mouth at one of his rallies. And while Mr. Trump has fallen through on many of his campaign promises, the border wall is something that he remains adamant on. However, the president has run into many bumps in the road on his way to building the wall. He has yet to address conflicts over funding, logistics, and most importantly, the lack of support for the wall. Debates over the wall have been relatively uneventful, but recently Mr. Trump took another step closer to securing the nation’s border by deploying the National Guard, an American reserve military force, to defend it. This action will prove to be problematic for many reasons.

The anti-Trump movement often cites Mr. Trump’s disdain towards immigrants, specifically those coming from Mexico, as a reason why he is unfit to lead the country. The United States has long been known for accepting those who have faced hardships in their past lives and helping them build a new one in America, an ideal that has since been contradicted by the election of Mr. Trump.

The two main sides of the immigration debate are that Americans should welcome all immigrants with open arms or Americans should only accept immigrants that are deemed “beneficial” to society. This belief that only certain humans are beneficial to us is morally wrong. Each person brings their own characteristics to the table, even if it is just their humanity, making each of them valuable to us. However, whether or not immigrants should be welcomed into the country, deploying the National Guard to the border between Mexico and the United States will not help the situation. Even if all Americans did believe that the border should

be fortified, this decision still would not be in the best interest of the country. Sending the National Guard to the border would accomplish little to nothing. There have been many attempts to send federal officers to secure our borders and they have all proven to be unnecessary and redundant. Not only are these officers sacrificing their time, but the deployment of the National Guard is also wasting taxpayer money on something that does not protect citizens whatsoever. If Mr. Trump wants to actually secure the border, he and his cabinet must come up with a way to prevent people from coming in while using taxpayers’ money efficiently.

Mr. Trump has ordered Governor Jerry Brown of California to send 400 National Guard troops to the Mexican border. In response, Mr. Brown has stated that while he will be accepting funding for these new troops to be deployed, their mission will not be “to build a new wall,” as said in a letter released by his office on Wednesday, April 11. Brown has acted in the appropriate manner. States should not be expected to support federal orders that have not been approved by their citizens. In addition, California has been known for its liberal stance on immigration. It is not logical for Mr. Trump to expect the people of a state to go against their own beliefs and morals to carry along his xenophobic agenda.

This deployment is actively working against the best interests of the country. It has not been proven to be supported by the American people, it is wasting taxpayers’ money, and it goes against the American ideals of welcoming those who are in need. After all, the statue of liberty, an American symbol of freedom, says “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to be free.”

Niki Gummadi is a third former from Ocala, FL. She may be reached at ngummadi21@choate.edu

2018 Midterms: An Inevitable Blue Wave



Photo courtesy of Speaker.gov

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan recently announced that he will not seek reelection in the 2018 midterm elections.

By **Ian Bamford ’19**
Opinions Writer

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI) announced his resignation on April 12, citing his desire to spend more time with his family. The likelier reason is that Mr. Ryan is afraid that the Democrats will gain a majority in the House of Representatives, meaning that he would have to cede the Speaker’s gavel for the much less powerful position of Minority Leader. Mr. Ryan’s fears are well-founded: Democrats should expect to regain the House of Representatives in the 2018 midterms.

Recently, enthusiasm and passion for liberal causes has soared, demonstrating newfound support for the Democratic Party and its values; the #MeToo movement and the aftermath of the Parkland shooting have generated a lot of grassroots liberal support. The increased political activism of younger voters with the March for Our Lives will likely increase the turnout rate of millennials, a predominantly liberal generation. Moreover, the midterm elections are oftentimes considered a report card on the president’s performance. Because of President Trump P’oo’s low approval rating and the difficulty that Republicans have in separating themselves politically from the president, liberal and independent voters dissatisfied with Mr. Trump will take out

their anger at Republican candidates in the midterms. This will yield results similar to the 2010 midterms when Tea Party conservatives were outraged by the increased government interference associated with Obamacare. The growth of liberal enthusiasm will generate the grassroots support and voter turnout necessary to flip the House blue.

Union workers also seem to be reviving their support of the Democratic Party. Democrat Connor Lamb’s victory in the deep red and unionized Pennsylvania 18th District Special Election last month largely is attributed to the steel union’s renewed support for Democrats. While steel workers are among the few manufacturers who benefit from Mr. Trump’s recent trade war, districts that stand to suffer from the trade war—especially manufacturing districts that do not produce steel or aluminum—will most likely also start supporting Democrats.

This year, the Democrats are running a successful fundraising operation. More than eighty Democrats in Republican-held districts had raised at least \$250,000 by the end of 2017, and 55 have outraised their respective Republican opponent, despite the fact that the Republican Party nationally has a slight advantage in fundraising over Democrats. Donations to specific candidates are oftentimes more important than

donations to the national political organizations because direct donations to candidates indicate grassroots support within the district for that candidate. Citizens typically donate to candidates who they truly believe in, so more grassroots donations translate into more volunteers and a higher turnout rate for that candidate. The outside source of money can help purchase advertisements and pay staff members, but these purchases are less important than the local support that large donations indicate. Connor Lamb, the victor in the Pennsylvania 18th, out-raised his opponent by a 5-to-1 margin, indicating widespread local support. The Republican National Committee dumped \$9 million into the race, yet Lamb, with the higher amount of local donations, but less money overall, still prevailed. Democrats are receiving funding from the source that actually matters: the voters.

In addition to political activism and strong funding, new gerrymandering laws in Pennsylvania will also help flip the House. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania ruled that the Congressional districts in that state were unconstitutionally gerrymandered to favor Republicans, forcing a redistricting process to balance out the number of Democratic and Republican congressmen. The new districts are more compact, more competi-

tive, and more of them are majority Democrat. Just as a result of the Pennsylvania redistricting, Democrats can expect to pick up four seats out of the twenty-four they need to flip the House.

Republicans in the House know that a Blue wave is about to hit them, causing about forty Republicans, including Mr. Ryan, to announce their resignations. This mass exodus of Republican incumbents has created its own problem for the Republicans. Ninety-seven percent of incumbents won reelection in 2014, so the advantage that accompanies incumbency is undoubtedly real. Since many of the retiring Republicans are from competitive districts, these districts will be much easier for Democrats to flip. By comparison, fewer than twenty Democrats have announced their retirement.

Mr. Ryan’s resignation is confirmation of the Republican Party’s well-founded fear that Democrats will retake the House in 2018. Mr. Ryan would rather leave Congress altogether than try to fight for Mr. Trump’s agenda against a Democratic majority. Similarly, when the blue wave arrives, it will bring with it obstruction of Mr. Trump’s plans and hopes of impeachment.

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

Choate Students Immerse Themselves in Chinese Culture



Photo courtesy of Carol Chen-Lin

Maya Lewis-Hayre '20, David Vasquez '19, Josephine Hong '19, Revant Kantamneni '20, Sarah Gurevitch '19, Kaleah Haddock '19, and Nate White '20 with their host at the Terra Cotta Warriors Museum in Xi'an.

By **Sarah Gurevitch '19**
Reporter

Having been abroad in China for just about four weeks now, the transition process has come to a close as I have welcomed in a new way of daily life. At first, I was shocked by the ten hours of Chinese class a week and very little American food, but this was soon overshadowed by a loving host family and exciting field trips and weekend outings. Slowly and surely I have learned my way around the city of Beijing with the help of the subway system and my handy-dandy Beijing metro app, saving me from getting lost among the masses of people, except for just one situation that we'll pretend to ignore. My use of translators has finally started to lessen as I rely more on my Chinese vocabulary in conver-

sations with my teachers and host family. New customs have formed: a fork and knife begin to feel foreign in my hands and grabbing my facemask before I rush out the door each morning has become a habit just like brushing my teeth. In the process, I've accepted and learned to embrace an entirely new culture with the support of the now tightly-knit group of six Choate students who have joined me on this thrilling journey.

Since I'm only in my second year of Chinese, immersing myself in a language I'm not very familiar with came as a culture shock. Experiencing an entirely different language and culture is very overwhelming at times, but the experience thus far has brought so many memories and has allowed my Chinese to catapult beyond what I thought possible. My larger understand-

ing of China itself and the daily life of people in Beijing has blossomed, something I never would have experienced if I were not here on term abroad in China. As I learn about China's dynasties throughout the centuries and forms of Chinese traditional art and read literature from China's cultural revolution, I have started to understand the very complex history and culture the Chinese language envelops. My host family certainly helps with this realization. Living my day-to-day life with a family in Beijing has pushed me far beyond what a typical Beijing tourist encounters. I now feel like a temporary resident of China, rather than the visitor I felt like the first day I arrived. I have made Beijing my home and have found a family not only with my hosts, but also with my Choate peers with

whom I've shared many laughs and experiences with.

I've accepted and learned to embrace an entirely new culture with the support of the now tightly-knit group of six Choate students who have joined me on this thrilling journey.

Sarah Gurevitch '19

Aside from the usual school day and my homework, my peers and I have bargained at the Silk Market, sang some Michael Jackson at the karaoke night we arranged, and have tried many different food delicacies like Beijing roast duck and chicken

feet. Just this past week, the seven of us have embarked on our one week excursion to Xi'an, Shangri La, and Hong Kong, during which we enjoyed a variety of activities such as joining a Tibetan Dance circle, biking the 13-kilometer city wall of Xi'an, exploring the three pits of Terra-Cotta Warriors, and hiking to observe the golden monkeys in their natural habitat. Our trip is still in progress as I am writing this article: we will soon board our flight to Hong Kong, the final leg of our trip. We just visited Shangri La where we stayed with the China Exploration and Research Society (CERS) and were so fortunate to stay in the traditional lodging of the Lisu people, allowing us to hike and observe the golden monkey and visit Damo Cave, a sacred site for Tibetan Buddhists. Before Shangri La, we were in Xi'an,

where we were able to attend a dumpling banquet accompanied with an evening show like a dinner theatre as well as go to the countryside and learn about life in the Huxian County.

It still feels as though my time in China has just started, and the list of all I want to do while I'm here is not even close to being fully completed. The offerings of Beijing, China will continue to bring more experiences and memories, as well as probably another karaoke night in the near future. As I reach the halfway point here in my term abroad, I feel my transition and adjustment has ended as my host family and the six Choate peers in this journey have become my family.

Sarah Gurevitch
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Class of 2018 Reflects on Time at Choate

By **Alex Coletti '20**
Reporter

The end of the 2018 school year is rapidly approaching, and for the seniors, it will be a bittersweet end to their high school experiences. Although they will be leaving Choate and moving forward with their academic, athletic, and artistic careers, they will constantly have to refer back to the valuable lessons learned and knowledge gained throughout their Choate careers.

The wide variety of classes, sports, and extracurriculars that Choate provides makes it incredibly difficult to complete all of one's desired courses in just four short years. Former school president Mpilo Norris '18 commented, "As much as I loved my computer science class junior year, I probably should not have taken six classes. That was a dumb decision, especially with having lots of extracurriculars... someone also told me that you can't have a complete Choate career without doing some sort of Choate production, so getting involved in the dramatic arts is something I could have done." Norris explained that it is important to balance your academics, sports, and extracurriculars to stay ahead and truly enjoy the Choate experience.

In addition, nearly all the seniors who did not travel on a term abroad regretted their decision. "I haven't been out of the United States too many times, so visiting a new country or a different culture would have been great," stated Andres Ballesteros '18.

While it is difficult to complete all that Choate has to offer, nearly all the seniors stressed the importance of having no regrets and being fearless when it comes to trying new courses or extracurriculars. "Just be yourself, and do what matters to you," Ballesteros concluded.

Although some seniors missed opportunities to partake in the wide variety of classes and experiences that Choate has to offer, seniors entering their final term at Choate provided some valuable advice for all incoming or current freshman students. Matt Kim '18 emphasized the importance of finding your own path as a freshman and socializing ap-

propriately: "You shouldn't care what other people think. Focus on what matters to you: conversing and enjoying the company of others is equally as important as schoolwork."

Norris also provided some valuable advice to new students. He encouraged, "Be outgoing and get to know as many people as possible. Make more time to go out and take advantage of the social opportunities such as going to New Haven and traveling off campus with friends." Hopefully, the incoming and current freshman can follow Kim's and Norris's valuable advice to make their own Choate career more memorable.

While each student must complete all required courses and experience a similar atmosphere, it is clear that every Choate experience is entirely unique. There are hundreds of students from outside of Connecticut and many more from different countries. Every student implements his or her own unique background and experience across the Choate campus.

In addition to Choate's unique ability to create a diverse culture throughout the school, some of the most beneficial lessons can be learned by driving to school each day. Ballesteros reflected on the benefits and struggles of being a four-year day student: "One thing that made my Choate career pretty unique was my 45 minute commute to school in the morning and later that night. I'm sure there are a few other day students who share this situation, but I really had to learn how to manage my time well, especially because I cannot get homework done in a car. Having to get up at six or before every morning definitely isn't ideal, but I think the experience will help in the future."

It's always difficult to see a group of friends, classmates, or teammates graduate, but it is exciting to know that they will be moving forward with their academic, athletic, or artistic careers and use all their Choate experiences. As United States senator Orrin Hatch said, "Graduation is not the end, it's the beginning." Good luck to the class of 2018.

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THE BOY IN THE BOAR? (IT'S JON JOEI '18)



Photo Courtesy of Ross Moretensen

The Choate wild boar shows spirit in the 2016-17 lip dub recording with Kate Newhouse '18, Matias Meszaros '17, and Esteban Mogollan '18.

By **Lizzie Quinn '20**
Staff Reporter

The boar: Choate's mascot and a ferocious, courageous, tusked, pig-like creature.

While the boar has been a long-standing mascot for Choate Rosemary Hall, the boar suit has been largely absent this year, but in past years, the boar made numerous appearances at revisit day to greet accepted students, the fall Deerfield pep rally, and games or races.

Jonathan Joei '18, the most recent inhabitant of the boar suit, decided to "become the boar" because, as he stated, "The people who were in the boar previously seemed to have a really good time, and it just so happened that I was given the opportunity to be the boar by Mr. [LJ] Spinnato, and I figured that this was an opportunity that I couldn't pass up, so I took it." Joei was the boar for revisit day last year and the year before that to welcome admitted students. Having an actual boar present at games or rallies truly boosts the morale of Choate students. Isabelle So '20 agreed, say-

ing, "I think it's great how we have a boar suit, or someone who's in the boar, because it really amps up the spirit during Deerfield Day to during games, and it really brings up the festivity of Choate."

I think it's great how we have a boar suit, or someone who's in the boar, because it really amps up the spirit during Deerfield Day to during games, and it really brings up the festivity of Choate.

Isabelle So '20

In an attempt to get rid of the negative stigma that surrounds stuffing oneself in a furry, unventilated boar suit, Joei claimed, "It's not as bad [being in the boar suit] as people claim it to be, or people believe it to be. The cage, or the athletic center, does a good job of washing the boar, so the boar

doesn't stink. It's not an unpleasant experience. The only bad thing is that there's not a lot of ventilation, so you will sweat. But the main problem is, in my case, that my glasses fogged up, and I couldn't see anything out of the boar, and with so little ventilation I was rendered blind and had to be very cognizant of where I was going." Joei added, "You lose all peripheral vision, and you're limited to a very tight window — between your 11:30 and your 12:30 — of vision, unless you turn your whole neck. It's tight; it's cramped." Since Joei will be graduating this year, he needs someone to carry on the torch by wearing the boar suit at future events, and since the positives of being the School mascot outweigh the negatives, who wouldn't want to be the future Choate boar? To those considering acting as the mascot, Joei recommended: "Prehydrate and stretch out — you'll definitely need to do so to prevent cramping or fatigue. If you're gonna be the boar, make sure the boar is at the location, because fitting into cars while wearing the boar suit is impossible."

One of the most interesting experiences that Joei had in his boar suit-wearing days was during revisit days his sophomore year. He laid the scene, "The boar is usually kept in the art center, and what happened was I made the mistake of wearing the boar suit before heading over to the athletic center where the admission event was taking place. It was pouring rain outside, and I knew that that wouldn't be good for the boar. And so I was wondering, 'I already have the suit on, and there's no one here to help me take it off, and I have to walk from the art center to the athletic center in the pouring rain in a suit that fogs up and has limited vision, so what do I do?'" Luckily enough, Joei successfully made it over to the X after barely squeezing the expansive suit into a utility van, or rather, a Ford Transit rental car. Joei, however, does not recommend to any future boar suit-wearers to attempt to fit themselves into a car smaller than a utility van while wearing the boar suit.

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Bellacanto: Choate's Most Explosive Acapella Group

With a closer look at the group's most recent soloist: Shraya Poetti '19

By **Deanna Tan '20**
Staff Writer

During last week's school meeting, Bellacanto received the first standing ovation for an acapella group performance this year. This outstanding interpretation of the song "Grenade" by Bruno Mars was soloed by Shraya Poetti '19.

She said, "I've known the song Grenade essentially by heart since when I was in 4th or 5th grade, so preparing for the solo in terms of learning the music was only a matter of muscle memory." Poetti continued, "I was a lot more nervous than I had been when performing in front of only members of my acapella group or people roaming around the PMAC at any given time."

Because Poetti's performance appeared so effortless, many might not understand the effort she put into this solo: "From a strictly vocal perspective, performing this song became particularly challenging at times, just because of how high in my range it falls and the fact that the first bunch of times we rehearsed it, we ended up getting pretty sharp. We were able to fix the problem with a little cooperation and harder listening."

It is to the curiosity of many how the song "Grenade" was chosen. Poetti explained the group's process, stating, "Bellacanto always does this thing where either after, or sometimes in the middle of, rehearsal, we'll randomly burst out into song and automatically begin to harmonize with each other, essentially spontaneously forming an arrangement that probably sounded cool at the time. "Grenade" was one of those songs, and we all found ourselves singing it in improvisational arrangements after rehearsals, so Ben [Dreier '18] finally decided to arrange it. It was a really exciting moment for all of us, I think, to have been able to have a spontaneous part of one of our jam sessions realized into an incredible, cohesive, and presentable arrangement."

Another focal point of the performance was the dance choreography. On this, Poetti commented, "Our lovely Sabrina Carlier [21] was actually the choreographer of all of our moves throughout the piece, and a few of us were actu-



Photo by Reeve Sobol/The Choate News

Members of Bellacanto gather after one of their biweekly meetings.

ally originally skeptical and unsure about whether or not we ultimately wanted to execute them on stage. However, after having watched the video of our performance, I — and I'm sure the others — see that it was well worth it. We looked awesome as a group." She added, "I think a massive part of a musical group is its stage presence, and, for the first time in a while, I think we established that really well during "Grenade" thanks to Sabrina's choreography. For me personally, I didn't do any of the moves since I was soloing, but I was constantly conscious of what was going on behind me and recognized how important it was for the performance to come together as a whole."

Bellacanto member William Robertson '20 provided his outlook on the performance: "I thought Shraya was outstanding. Throughout her time at Bellacanto, she's proven herself as an amazing vocalist and performer, and I think that her talents really shone through during the school meeting."

As leaders of the group and students in their senior spring, Ben Dreier '18 and Elaine Shen '18 wanted to make an impact on Bellacanto. Dreier explained, "Elaine and I have been focused on continuing some of the great work done by the previous presi-

dents, and this year we've really been focusing on our entertainment value. Singing songs that people recognize and bringing in some interesting choreo to spice up our performances has definitely made for a lot more audience engagement. I've also been spending a lot more time working on arranging the songs that we sing, trying to balance what will sound dope with what's actually sing-able by our group members. I worked for a long time on the arrangement of Grenade, and I'm really satisfied with how it turned out." Dreier finished by mentioning an upcoming event: "Now, we're looking ahead to Acapellooza; as the second-to-last performance of the year, we're hoping to make it our best one yet."

Shen, the other leader of the group and one of the oldest members of Bellacanto, has a unique perspective when it comes to how the acapella group has changed throughout the years: "I joined Bellacanto my sophomore year, so this is my third year in this group. I can't help thinking how much this group has grown. I have a collection of the videos of most our performances in these three years. When I look back every now and then, it's noticeable that we've definitely got stronger vocally, especially our ability to hold harder harmonies.

In addition, we've also improved our speed to learn songs. I was very impressed that we finished learning a pretty long Christmas medley plus choreography in just two weeks this year. The other important thing I noticed is that the bond of this group grew much tighter. In my sophomore year, more than half of the group members were new. Now a lot of members have been in this group for two or three years, so we feel more like a family."

Bellacanto has a unique identity, which many members can attest to. Rebekah Agwunobi '19, a newer member, said, "We're not just a group, we're a groovy family." Robertson added, "Fun fact: it's a recent Bellacanto tradition to refer to leaders of the group as moms and dads, and to the members as their kids. I think this really reflects the way we see each other inside the group!"

Last Tuesday's outstanding performance of "Grenade" by Bellacanto made the group's chemistry, talent, and hard work clear to the entire Choate community. Hearing Poetti's moving voice only made us more curious and excited for the upcoming Acapellooza, where every acapella group will be performing.

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Rigorous Choral Program Challenges Singers

By **Tony Lee '21**
Staff Writer

Chorus is known to be one of the most time-intensive and taxing extracurricular activities on Choate's campus. Both Festival and Chamber Chorus hold lengthy rehearsals throughout the school week, which sometimes limits free time in students' schedules.

Festival Chorus meets from 7:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Chamber Chorus holds rehearsals from 8:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, as well as from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Alice Volfson '19, an experienced member of Chamber Chorus, stressed the importance of the connections she has made in the group: "This is my third year in [chorus]. It's a community, a place where I could take time off from other things and really think about the music we're singing. I've seen myself and other people grow up together. Some of my closest friends are in chorus. They were sophomores, and the next thing you know, they're seniors!"

Volfson continued, sharing her favorite part of the activity: "It's amazing how much the students influence what we're singing. To us, Ms. Kegel [the group's conductor] is much less of a hovering figure of power. She's just a friend, so she'll regularly ask us, 'Do you like this?' and 'What would you like to sing in the future?'. She even lets us conduct the rehearsals sometimes, and it's such a community effort."

For Shraya Poetti '19, another member, chorus is a time to relax and disconnect from the day: "I really like chorus, I really do, especially when we're in the chapel. It sounds cliché, but it's such an escape from everything, seeing most of these people you hadn't seen before or don't have classes with. We're from different grades and come from different sports and classes, and we all just go into the chapel and do something that we all love to do and we're all so passionate about. There is such a beautiful vibe."

Poetti added, "It's one of my favorite things. I even wrote about it in my college counseling survey. There was a question that asked, 'What is your favorite place on campus?' I said the chapel, not because I'm religious, but just because Chamber Chorus meets

there. It's an amazing family."

Despite the strong sense of family and community in the chorus programs, however, the rigorous time commitment remains a heavy burden on the students.

Scott Romeyn '18, a senior in the group, said, "It takes away from studying time. Chorus used to be an honors course and it's not anymore. It was nice to have the honors title since it's four hours a week, not counting the time spent singing and practicing outside of rehearsals. He continued, "Also, chorus is after all other activities in the day. You get to chorus and you're already burnt out from classes or sports or other activities. There's even days where the time I have to be at chorus overlapped with when I want to be eating, which is tough."

Poetti shared a similar sentiment towards the chorus schedule: "The worst part is probably the time — how long it is. Obviously, we're an ensemble, we have to rehearse, we have repertoire to learn by a certain day. We get out at 9:00 p.m. I'm a day student and a junior, so I have lots of work to do all the time. But chorus is something I'm so passionate about, so I've been able to mold my schedule for it and I'm willing to because I care so much about it. I understand why we spend [so much time], and it's definitely worth it."

In addition to less free time and added stress, students in the chorus program are often required to skip special programs in order to attend rehearsals. On this, Volfson said, "It's very frustrating because I had to miss the Stevenson lecture. HPRSS students were required to attend and I take history, so my teacher required me to take it. But Ms. Kegel and the administration ultimately decided that rehearsals were more important."

Ultimately, the pros outweigh the cons for the students in chorus. Despite exhausting rehearsals and conflicts with academic life, chorus remains an incredible program at Choate. The students' proximity to one another and commitment to the group creates an environment unique to this activity as well as a safe space on campus.

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LIBRARY SHOWCASES STUDENT ARTWORK

By **Kate Spencer '20**
Copy Editor

Although an unconventional place to display student work, the Andrew Mellon Library has recently hosted an Arts Concentration gallery. The exhibit, which all members of visual Arts Con contributed to, required students to use materials from the *New York Times* to create a unique piece of art. Because it is widely used by many Choate students, the library was an ideal spot to display student talent. Not only did the artwork fill otherwise empty spaces, but it also highlighted visual themes of the library.

It's been a real challenge for all of us, but it was particularly cool to see how we all came up with such different concepts.

Ellie Latham '18

Ellie Latham '18 was one of the students who submitted art to the exhibit. "Everyone in visual arts concentration did one piece, independently of the group. I think the purpose was to make an exhibit to fill the empty space in the library, and news-

paper as a medium fits with a library and all the books and periodicals around," she said.

The exhibit gave parameters to the artists — each person had to use one entire *New York Times* paper. Latham added, "No paint, inner structures, or anything else was allowed besides clear adhesive."

Despite having the same requirements, students interpreted the parameters in different ways and created distinctly unique pieces. "It's been a real challenge for all of us, but it was particularly cool to see how we all came up with such different concepts," said Latham.

Latham continued, "My piece is the one of the hands reaching out of the wall. Some people based their projects aesthetically but I took my theme from the content of the paper and built from there." Many of the pieces connected art to world events, as seen in Latham's piece. "The hands represent a grasping for justice on behalf of the Middle Eastern countries that have dealt with US interference for centuries, and the piece as a whole represents the rhetoric that we use to discuss foreign relations in the US."

The exhibit is a stunning representation of student artists on campus, and hopefully, its popular location will attract many viewers.

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A Change of Season, A Change of Hairstyle



By **Kathryn Phillips '20**

Panic, stress, a simple yearning for relaxation—these are often the hallmarks of spring term. Choate students Lily Ball '20, Grant Corso '18, Haley Williams '18, and Sam Brown '20 are navigating this mix of emotions by jumping out of their comfort zones to explore new ways of showcasing their identities. They've reinvented themselves for this final term of the 2017-2018 school year by dramatically changing their hairstyle. "I've wanted to do it for a while now, almost a year," said Brown, who recently dyed her hair platinum gray. "I finally did it."



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FIELD REPORT

Saturday Varsity Games

Baseball (4-4)
beats Hotchkiss, 12-3

Boys' Golf (2-3)
2nd out of 3

Girls' Golf (1-1)
beats Portsmouth, 4.5-1.5

Boys' Lacrosse (3-2)
falls to Deerfield, 9-10

Girls' Lacrosse (2-5)
falls to Deerfield, 11-3

Softball (2-2)
falls to Deerfield, 6-9

Boys' Tennis (3-0)
beats Exeter, 7-0

Girls' Tennis (2-1)
falls to Hotchkiss, 1-8

Boys' Track (5-1)
1st out of 3

Girls' Track (4-2)
1st out of 3

Saturday J.V. Games

Baseball (0-2)
falls to Cheshire, 4-7

Boys' Golf (0-2)
falls to Taft, 273-245

Boys' Lacrosse (1-2)
falls to Deerfield, 4-15

Girls' Lacrosse (1-2-1)
ties Deerfield, 7-7

Softball (1-1)
beats Ethel Walker, 16-13

Boys' Tennis (2-1)
falls to Exeter, 2-4

Girls' Tennis (0-2)
falls to Hotchkiss, 2-5

INSIDE THE ATHLETIC RECRUITING PROCESS

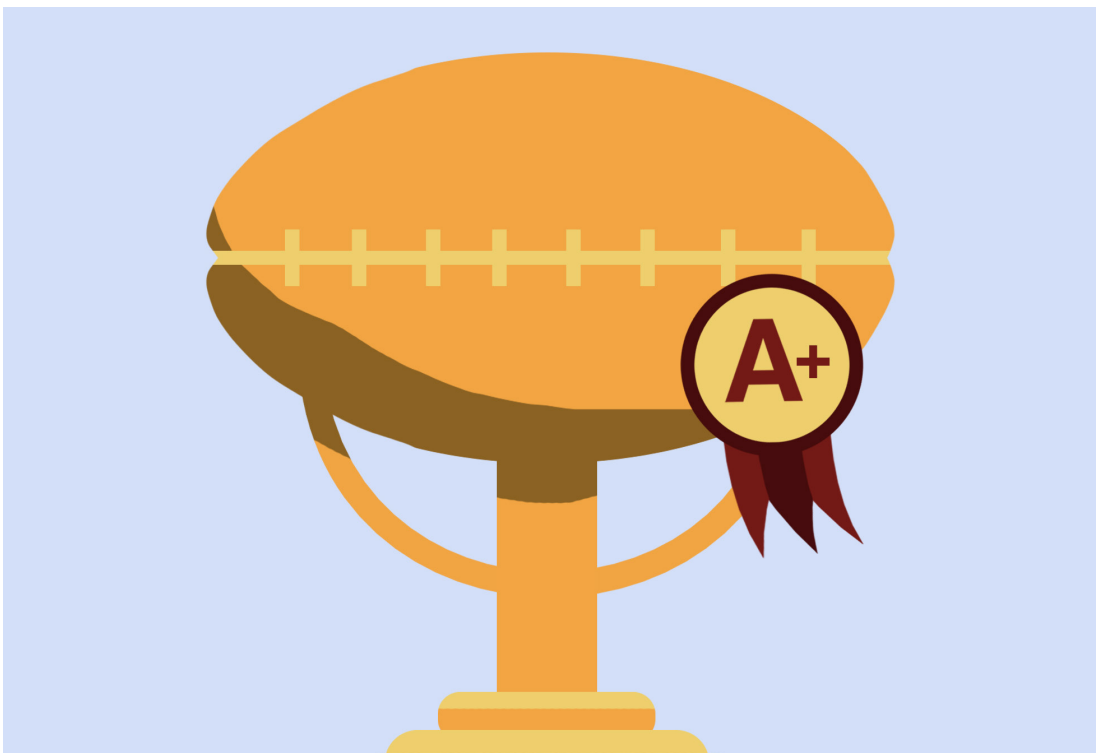
By **George McCabe '20**
Staff Reporter

Many students at Choate apply to colleges and wait for their acceptances to decide where to spend the next four years of their lives. However, student-athletes who want to continue their sport at the collegiate level undergo a complex athletic recruiting process before deciding on a college.

The recruiting cycle for colleges greatly varies depending on the sport. For instance, soccer and lacrosse both have extremely early timelines, but sports like basketball or football traditionally have later timelines. Associate Director of Athletics and Head Coach of Boys' Varsity Hockey Mr. Pat Dennehy said, "Some kids will make verbal commitments in the 9th grade, and others won't know where they are going until even after high school."

Also, because of the wide array of sports offered at the collegiate level, the recruiting process for each individual sport is different. Sports that have specific time statistics, like swimming, cross country, and crew, are easier to evaluate for college coaching staffs. Larger team sports like soccer or lacrosse are harder to evaluate. Mr. Dennehy said, "With sports like swimming, track, cross country, those timed sports, that is helpful. You can immediately send your 100 free time, and colleges can immediately know where you stand compared to other kids."

Communication between student-athletes and their coaches plays a key role in the athletic recruiting process. When asked about the role high school coaches play in the college recruiting



Graphic by Chandler Littleford / The Choate News

Choate students rely on athletic ability and academic success to get recruited by colleges.

process, Mr. Dennehy said, "I'll tell my guys to cast a wide net, and send an email out to these coaches introducing yourself and maybe including GPA." He continued, "I'll send an email right after they send it to the coach, and say my player has written to you and I would love to talk to you more about him when you have time." Mr. Dennehy also said that some coaches are better than others about responding to emails, but it is important to start the conversation.

Many student-athletes have high hopes of playing for a school with Division I sports, but obviously not all have the ability to play on these teams. Mr. Dennehy said, "The key for us, though, is that we have to be honest, and that starts with trying to be honest with the player, too. I think the hardest part about the re-

cruiting process is when a school says that they like a kid but that they aren't interested. It's tough to communicate that to the player."

In addition to the student-athletes' abilities, colleges often seek information from high-school coaches about the student-athlete's character and other intangible qualities. Mr. Dennehy explained, "A college coach can come in and see the player, but then they want to know what the work ethic is like and if they are a good teammate. The athlete might be a good player, but they want to know if the athlete can support the players around them."

While athletic talent plays a role in college athletic recruiting, student-athletes' grades and test scores are incredibly important as well. Student-athletes can cer-

tainly improve their prospects of playing college sports by improving their grades and standardized test scores. On this topic, Mr. Dennehy stated, "The bottom line is the better student you are, and the better scores you get, the easier it is for you to be on the team."

Many student-athletes at Choate use technology to showcase their talents by creating highlight tapes. Many sports at Choate such as hockey, football, and lacrosse use a sports video software called Hudl. Student-athletes can make their own highlight reels to send to schools, which helps if college coaches can not travel to Choate.

Choate student-athletes can also receive exposure from college coaches by participating in tournaments and other athletic events outside of Choate during

the summer. This gives college coaches another opportunity to evaluate the student-athletes. Additionally, some colleges hold prospect camps where players of a specific sport can play directly in front of college coaches.

Emily Clorite '18 experienced an unusual recruiting process. She is committed to Yale to play both soccer and lacrosse next year. During her college recruiting process, she looked for schools where she had the opportunity to play both sports, which reduced some of her choices. Clorite said, "My recruiting process was a bit unique because I was looking to play both soccer and lacrosse in college. At certain schools I would only talk to the lacrosse coach and have to try to walk onto the other team." She added, "The hardest part was finding a school where I liked both coaches. For a bunch of schools, I really loved one of the coaches, but did not get along with the other one."

Clorite started the recruiting process somewhat stressed about having to commit to a school by a certain date, but she realized that she could take her time in looking at each college. "It was very stressful until I realized it didn't need to be stressful at all. It ended up being a really fun experience because I got to meet coaches from all over the country and visit a ton of amazing schools."

Although deciding to play college sports can be a difficult decision, student-athletes at Choate have the resources and support to make the decision that will allow them to succeed at the collegiate level.

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BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU TO DEBUT THIS FALL

By **Zach Manzanares '21**
Reporter

In the fall of the 2018-2019 school year, the Athletics Department will introduce Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, a new intramural sport, to the Choate campus. Dr. Edrik Lopez, who this year joined the School's English Department, holds a black belt in Jiu-Jitsu and will be coaching this sport in the fall. Dr. Lopez also coaches wrestling and softball.

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is a grappling-based sport. The goal is to submit an opponent or win by points, which can be done by getting an advantageous position. There are few rules for the sport, but the most important forbids striking. Through proper technique, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu allows smaller fighters to defeat larger opponents.

Dr. Lopez said, "Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is a highly addictive sport where a participant learns and practices grappling techniques in a friendly environment. It is low-impact on the joints. Participants learn how to grapple and defend themselves on the ground. In our class, we'll follow the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation point system which recognizes the self-defense advantage of various positions."

He continued, "Originally, Jiu-Jitsu is a self-defense art that settled the eternal question of which martial art was actually the most effective. There were experts from all different disciplines like judo, boxing, and kick-

boxing who were going to fight it out in a tournament style setting, and Jiu Jitsu won. That is how modern MMA, or UFC, was born. No worries, we are not doing UFC! Just grappling. Our class is a sport."

When asked about potential injury, Dr. Lopez said, "There's always the risk of injury in any sport. Our class will be especially geared toward beginner techniques. We're going to be practicing the 'catch and release' method."

Lastly, Dr. Lopez addresses who would benefit the most from this new addition. He explains, "I highly recommend jiu-jitsu for current wrestlers or anyone interested in wrestling but were afraid to try something as intense. I believe they'll discover the reason why jiu-jitsu is the fastest growing sport in the U.S. Schools typically charge \$125-\$200 per month. In our small town of Wallingford, there are three academies that are thriving. To be able to take it for free at Choate would be many people's envy. Jiu-jitsu will help your cardio and core. You will find no jiu-jitsuka who is not heart or core healthy. It will help with balance, particularly total body orientation and movement."

Above all, Choate students look forward to participating in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and taking advantage of another unique opportunity on campus.

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Club Teams: An Added Challenge for Choate Athletes



Photo courtesy of Chance Gorman

Chance Gorman '18 carries the puck up the ice at the U.S.A. Hockey National Championships.

By **Isabelle So '20**
Staff Reporter

Many athletes not only play varsity sports here at Choate, but also play on club teams outside of Choate and, of course, manage their school work and everything else they do here. Basketball player Sam Gallo '19 plays for CT Impact; ice hockey players Effie Tournas '20 and Christina Tournas '20 play with the Mid Fairfield Stars; ice hockey and lacrosse player Gina Driscoll '20 plays for the Mid Fairfield Stars and Nor'Easter; and baseball player Jonah Feldman '20 plays with the Cheshire Legion. These five athletes were kind enough to share the insights of their everyday lives.

Gallo said that she tries to take advantage of her frees during the day. Whenever she has downtime, she tries to get ahead on work. With the work of preparing for tests and quizzes alongside homework, Driscoll, who plays on two different teams, finds it difficult to worry about academics especially when they have tournaments and games every so often. Many of these athletes also need to stay up later or get up earlier than most

students, as they need to catch up on work.

Most of these athletes started playing for their club team when they were in middle school. Obviously, as 13-year-olds, these students didn't fully grasp the meaning of prioritizing. When asked what they prioritize now, all five athletes were very clear that academics came first. They said it was hard at first to finish all their work and then go to practices or tournaments, but, through time, they have been able to adapt to the necessary schedule of their busy days.

Gallo said, "Time management is definitely not my strongest skill. Up until the last year I never needed to put much thought into it." Both Tournas sisters mentioned that they started playing in middle school, and life got harder once they came to Choate. It was a difficult transition, as they were playing two sports alongside the homework and club team practices. But through trial and error they have found a balance.

These athletes all have their reasons for pursuing athletics outside of Choate. Feldman said that he started to play for a club team because baseball is one of his pas-

sions and since it's not offered in the fall at Choate. Driscoll stated, "I would love to play hockey and lacrosse in college and the best way to do that is to get as much playing time as possible. Sports have been my life since I was three. It's all I've known. Without sports I would not be at Choate, that is for sure."

All five students agree that the intensity on their club teams is similar to the intensity of athletics at Choate. Feldman said, "The practices are always high-effort and winning games is key." Gallo also mentioned that both Choate and AAU teams ask athletes to push themselves individually. Recently, Driscoll and the two Tournas sisters went to the U.S.A. Hockey National in Massachusetts and made it to the quarter-finals. They played against other high schools in the U.S.A., and the intensity and level of competition was definitely high.

These five students understand the struggles of playing on a club team and going to Choate—and how to find one's way through the challenge.

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