



THE CHOATE NEWS

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Photo courtesy of Hannah Price

Choate's Symphony Orchestra performs at Carnegie Hall. See Arts Page 7.

BILL MCKIBBEN VISITS CHOATE

Celebrated environmentalist and author encourages student action on climate change

By Vincenzo DiNatale '19
Copy Editor

At a time when environmental dilemmas continue to have devastating effects on climates around the globe, Bill McKibben, an environmental activist and bestselling author, addressed the Choate community.

Mr. McKibben began his presentation by describing the current environmental circumstances, such as the devastating impacts of global warming. He mentioned that recent temperatures recorded at the North Pole were 50°F above normal. In addition, torrential rains in tropical regions have been among the most considerable in history, and in the sections of Scandinavia above the Arctic Circle where it should not rain it does rain. Mr. McKibben asserted, "This is all a trailer for the gruesome movie moving forward."

However, Mr. McKibben emphasized to the students in the audience, "None of this is your fault, but it's the world your quickly coming of age in."

With that, Mr. McKibben stressed that humanity is able to recover from the effects of global warming seen thus far and that it is still not too late to act. He asserted that humanity possesses the means to contain global warming.

The science department was responsible for hosting Tuesday night's event as part of the fourteenth annual Charles A. Krauss '51 Lecture Series. Mr. Ben Small,

Director of the Science Department, headed the selection process for this year's speaker. On why he chose Mr. McKibben, he said, "Global warming is one of the most important issues faced in the world today. At a place like Choate, it's easy to forget about it: One can turn up his or her air conditioning or drive to a cooler place. However, it's important that we keep it at the forefront of our interests."

Numerous organizations have recognized Mr. McKibben's outstanding work. A graduate of Harvard University, Mr. McKibben holds honorary degrees from 17 other colleges and universities. At Middlebury College, he is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies. Foreign Policy added his name to its list of the world's 100 most important global thinkers. And, in 2014, biologists named a newly discovered species of woodland gnat after Mr. McKibben: the Megophthalmidia McKibbeni.

Mr. McKibben uses his work to demonstrate the problem with avoidance and the power of action. According to the environmental activist, many regions across the planet have demonstrated that progress is possible. For instance, Denmark produces half of its power from wind energy. Mr. McKibben suggested that the answer to the issue of global warming is taking existing technology and putting it to use.

See BILL MCKIBBEN, Page 2

SPIRITUAL LIFE TEAM CELEBRATES PASSOVER AND EASTER

By Grace Zhang '20
Staff Reporter

The traditions of Passover and Easter mark a spiritually significant period for Jews and Christians around the world — and many students on campus. Choate's Spiritual Life Team held a variety of events to celebrate these traditions and bring communities of students together.

Leading up to Easter Day, Holy Week took place. On Monday, Choate's Christian Fellowship celebrated the "foot washing" tradition, which, according

to The Reverend Ally Brundige, Choate's Director of Spiritual Life, "reminds Christians of Jesus's command to his followers to love one another as they've been loved and to serve others."

There was a service in the chapel for Good Friday, "with a time of prayer and scripture, reflection, and song commemorating what Christians believe is the crucifixion of Jesus," as described by The Rev. Brundige. For Easter, an Ecumenical Christian service was held in the chapel Sunday evening, followed by a dinner open to the community. The

Rev. Brundige said of the dinner, "A festive meal, whether one is Christian or not, is just a nice time to come together." The night concluded with Easter Mass at 8 p.m.

As for Passover, "Our biggest celebration is on the first night. We have a Seder together, and Rabbi Barbara [Paris], our Jewish Chaplain, leads us," said The Rev. Brundige. "There's a focus on justice, compassion, and caring in the present, while remembering and retelling the story of the Passover from Exodus," she explained. "That is followed by a festive dinner open to the whole community

in the Sally Hart Lodge. Additionally, for those keeping the dietary restrictions of Passover, there is a table set up in the dining hall with traditional Passover foods.

"Hillel does a good job of providing events to celebrate Jewish holidays. We had a great Passover Seder, and it reminded me of home," said Nicole Weinrauch '20, a member of Choate's Jewish Hillel. "It was very in-depth. There was a relatively large attendance as well, so I could learn who the other Jews

See SPIRITUAL LIFE, Page 2

SPRING COLLEGE FAIR PROVES INFORMATIVE

By Se Ri Lee '19
Reporter

More than 150 colleges and universities across the country trickled into the Winter X on Monday to participate in the biannual college fair. Open to fourth, fifth, and sixth formers, the fair allowed students the opportunity to interact with college representatives from a wide range of schools, such as UCLA, New York University, and Hamilton College. Organized by Ms. Megan Jackson, Receptionist and Administrative Assistant at the College Counseling Office, this fair was the second of two college fairs held this year, the first of which took place in the fall term.

I left with a better sense of which colleges matched my academic interests.

Michael Zhou '18

According to the Director of College Counseling Ms. Marcia Landesman, the event is designed to give students the opportunity to hear directly from colleges. She said, "Students are encouraged to do substantial

research about colleges before they go to the fair. This way, they can ask in-depth questions and go beyond information that can be obtained from books and websites." Ms. Landesman also noted that the fair was "a wonderful opportunity for students to demonstrate their interests to prospective schools, an important factor in admissions at some institutions." When asked how the event is organized, Ms. Landesman said, "Most of the time, Choate reaches out to colleges, but some colleges do request for a table."

Many students who attended the event left with an overall positive experience. For fifth former Mehreen Pasha '18, it was an opportunity to hear more about the programs unique to each college. She said, "I learned much more about special academic programs each college had to offer — more than what I would have learned from the website." Fifth former Michael Zhou '18 agreed that the fair was both informative and helpful, saying, "I left with a better sense of which colleges matched my academic interests."

The fair lasted from 7 to 8:30 p.m., avoiding conflict with the ac-

See COLLEGE FAIR, Page 3

New St. John Brings Delight and Questions

By Pinn Chirathivat '19
Staff Reporter

The world-class, state-of-the-art St. John Hall Student Center officially opened to the community on Monday, April 10. This 37,000 square foot building, located in the heart of campus, was designed to enhance the student experience at Choate. Director of Student Activities Mr. Jim Yanelli said, "Students always interact collaboratively, but this building gives us a setting in which to do it, whether it be in the Game Room, Bay Room, or Media Room."

I think it is incredible and powerful when there is no division between boarders and day students.

Mr. Jim Yanelli
Director of Student Activities

St. John Hall enables students to cooperate and connect with new spaces for activities and events. The high ceilings, windows, and general open-air feel of the building were intended to create a good flow. Parth Mody '19 said, "At first, I thought that the building was massive because of the openness of the space and the amount of furniture and rooms in it. It is really comfortable and a great place for both boarders and day students to hang out."



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Students enjoy the new Tuck Shop in the recently opened St. John Hall.

One exciting new aspect of the building is that day students and boarders are united under the same roof. Mr. Yanelli said, "Day students can be at home here, and boarders can be at home here. The lines between those populations have blurred." Prior to the opening of St. John Hall, day student lockers were in designated spaces in the basement of Hill House, where the student lounges were divided by form in different corners of the building. However, St. John Hall fits the whole student body. Mr. Yanelli continued, "I

think it is incredible and powerful when there is no division between boarders and day students."

Abbie Chang '19, a day student, explained, "The day students are now in the center of student life rather than hidden in the basement of Hill House. It helps to foster connections between day students and boarders, and it creates an environment in which day students feel more involved in the community, despite the fact that they don't live on campus."

Mr. Yanelli commented, "One question I keep on getting is:

Where will the dances be held? It isn't apparent in a room full of furniture." The furniture that was chosen for this building is light and can be moved easily to clear the floor when events are held. Mr. Yanelli said, "The sound and light systems have been improved, and the space is gorgeous. We can expand all the way to the Tuck Shop if there are large dances. In the middle of the year, when the dances are smaller, we can shrink the dance floor in re-

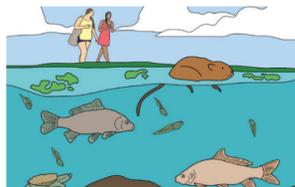
See MINOR ISSUES, Page 3

Spring College Fair Clueless? Stressed out? Never Fear! News • P3



Politics at Choate Through the lens of an international student. Opinions • P4

Science Center Pond Find out what's really inside! Features • P6



Nonviolent Protest Posters Learn more about its backstory. Arts • P7

What's Inside

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



Read it then recycle it.

Visuals by Jackson Elkins, Business Korea, Austen Rogers, and Helena Yang.



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Economics Students Win Business Competition

By **Mehreen Pasha '18**
Staff Reporter

Eight Choate students traveled over 200 miles to attend the 2017 Penn Business Case Competition at Swarthmore College on Sunday, April 9. Choate brought two teams of economics students, winning first and second place. During the competition, teams planned and presented business strategies based on a case study. The winning team was a group of five juniors — Jack Bergantino '18, Jonah Berman '18, Nikhil Davar '18, Dilibe Iloje '18, and Imad Rizvi '18. The runner-up team was comprised of Matt Diemand '17, Andrew Garver '17, and Alex Overmeer '17. Choate competed against three New England schools: Germantown Academy, Friends School Select of Philadelphia, and The Hun School of Princeton.

Choate economics students, mainly from the entrepreneurship class, were invited to enter a preliminary round of the competition. Several teams from New England private schools were asked to come up with a business plan based on a 2007 case study of Netflix. The teams had one week to compose the four page plan and email it to the hosts of the event. According to Mr. Sam Doak, the groups utilized a common framework known as SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) to analyze the company.

On competition day, the teams were asked to conduct a similar task. Teams were challenged to compose a draft of recommendations for Uber based on a case study from 2016. With the Internet, Powerpoint, and a twenty page guide at their disposal, the teams prepared a ten

minute presentation for a panel of judges followed by five minutes of Q&A. Bergantino said, "Crafting and presenting a business proposal was an excellent real world experience."

The judges used a rubric to grade each presentation. The judging hinged on coming up with a comprehensive and creative proposal, the feasibility of that proposal, and good presentation skills. In each category on the rubric, judges gave a score from one to ten. Mr. Doak believed that Choate students did well during the presentation portion of the competition because of the presentation skills they developed in economics classes.

In the end, the winning group had the most creative and novel business plan. Although they were a "wild card team" according to Mr. Doak, since they had to step up when one of the teams could not attend the competition, they won first place.

Rizvi said, "One takeaway was the importance of creativity: Our presentation was not the best, but our ideas were unique, which ultimately helped us win."

Mr. Doak added that students had "the opportunity to immerse themselves in the history of a young company and collaborate on a team project together." Many students also thought that the competition improved their improvisation skills and ability to work under a time crunch. Berman said, "We gained experience communicating our ideas under time pressure." Iloje concluded, "I was able to enjoy an intense day of competition with a great group of funny and intelligent people."

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CHOATE ATTENDS ASIAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE

By **Owen Collins '19**
Copy Editor

Two weeks ago on Sunday, April 9, a group of eight Choate students and one faculty member, Ms. Yuxin Xie, traveled to Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts for the Seventh Annual Asian American Footsteps Conference. The purpose of the conference was to provide students of Asian descent with a safe space to explore and discuss issues relating to their experience. Phillips Academy organized the inaugural conference in 2011, and since then, it has been hosted at a variety of other schools. This was Choate's first time attending the conference.

The conference, consisting of 24 schools and over 280 students, lasted from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. It began with a keynote speech, and the rest of the day consisted of different workshops that students could attend.

The keynote speech was delivered by Ms. Tina Chang, an American poet, teacher, and editor. In 2010, she was named Poet Laureate of Brooklyn. In her speech, she talked of her experience as an Asian American growing up, and she discussed activism as both an Asian American and a person of color.

The workshops, 13 in total, ranged from the mixed heritage experience to Asian sexuality. Students had three blocks and were able to attend one workshop during each time. Ms. Xie said, "The different workshops basically discussed issues that were relevant to students."

The conference was a means for some students to reexamine their culture. "In my time in England and America, I took my Asian heritage for granted," said Michael Li '18. "This was an interesting experience for me to

dive back into my roots."

The conference discussed ways in which, moving forward, the attendees could build on the critical conversations that they had at the conference. Ms. Xie described her conversation with other faculty from various schools regarding the form of leadership that independent private schools usually promote. She said, "We were trying to think of ways so that leadership doesn't have to be such a visible position; we should also acknowledge students who are leading in a way that is not obvious too."

This was an interesting experience for me to dive back into my roots.

Michael Li '18

Ms. Xie added, "We are planning to try to go for the subsequent years because I think it's a great way for a lot of these students to get a place to talk about these things and discuss issues that they may not feel that they can talk about here at Choate."

Sebastian Chang '18 agreed. Chang said, "I've never been in an environment with so many Asian people before and so many people who sympathize with that experience."

When asked if he would go again, Chang enthusiastically said yes. "It's not that hard to give that kind of answer, because obviously the workshops change, but the people stay the same, and there are new people too, so you get to continue to rebuild that experience. You get to continue learning and interacting with that community."

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BILL MCKIBBEN ENCOURAGES ACTION



Bill McKibben speaks powerfully about the environmental crisis the world is facing.

Continued from Page 1

Moreover, leading environmentalists possess the data and evidence to prove that there is a prevailing issue desperately in need of action.

Mr. McKibben explained to the audience that those with power — money and resources — are often not on the side of those

who recognize the problem. Mr. McKibben's lifelong mission is to address this divide. He has spent an innumerable amount of time and effort leading the fight against the world's most powerful fossil fuel corporations in order to contain global warming.

Described by the Boston Globe as "America's most important environmentalist," Mr. McKibben

has done extraordinary work throughout the entire country, sparking movements across the planet. In 2008, Mr. McKibben, along with seven Middlebury undergraduates, founded 350.org, a planetwide climate change movement that has sparked rallies in several nations. He led major resistance groups to the Keystone Pipeline and also contributed to

the fossil fuel divestment movement. The number, 350, was the amount of carbon in parts per million that the atmosphere could contain without having drastic effects. Mr. McKibben claimed, "This may be the most important number in the world."

The organization has been responsible for some of the most potent movements against climate change. As many saw in the photos presented during the program, on the weekend of September 22, 2014, 350.org organized more than 20,000 rallies in more than 150 nations.

These movements brought unfathomable numbers of people together for one cause: to surmount the power of the world's leading fossil fuel corporations.

Although making tremendous progress in the effort to reverse climate change, Mr. McKibben has his doubts, "I cannot guarantee that we will win this fight. We are behind. I can guarantee, however, that there is a fight. But if we do not win soon, we do not win at all."

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SPIRITUAL LIFE TEAM SEEKS TO SUPPORT ALL TRADITIONS

Continued from Page 1

are in my community."

The Easter dinner this year was a relatively new tradition. "I thought this dinner would be important for those of us who are away from families," explained The Rev. Brundige. She added, "For those who are not religious, the meal is still a cultural tradition. To be able to come together at one table and celebrate Easter is a beautiful, symbolic thing."

Another recent alteration of annual tradition was initiated. The Rev. Brundige said, "This year, Rabbi Barbara invited all of us in attendance to take off our shoes in honor of those who wander and go without a home, especially those affected by the Syrian refugee crisis."

The Rev. Brundige was overall satisfied with the celebrations. "The events were well attended. We had about thirty people at our Passover Seder and about twenty-five at our Easter dinner. For Mass, I heard that, like our Easter Rejoicing Service, numbers might have been down from previous

years, perhaps due to students choosing to go home this year to celebrate," she explained. "We were also blessed with the contributions of a student horn quintet, as well as our hired musicians, for the opening hymn for the service."

Some, however, feel that more clarity of communication would have increased attendance. "They should have gone beyond sending out an email. I definitely would have gone but didn't know when it was," explained Isabelle So '20.

The Rev. Brundige said, "Our whole point with Spiritual Life at Choate is that we meet every person where they are. There's a variety of spiritual traditions, including those who don't have a particular tradition. We seek to support each person, in whole body, mind, and heart," expressed The Rev. Brundige. "For those who are celebrating religious holidays while on campus, we hope to provide the opportunity for religious observance with some of that family feel if they're not able to be with their family."

Students seem to receive this intention well. "Since being here,

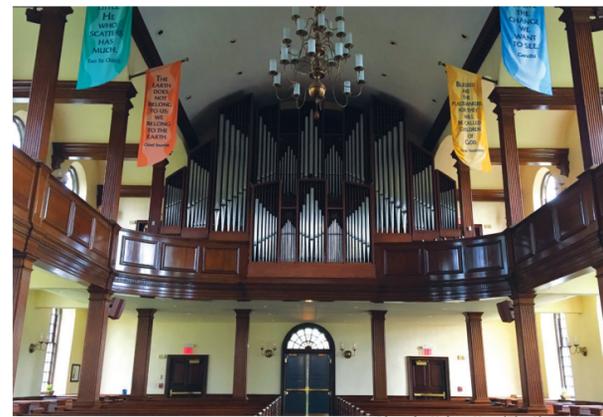
I've felt really connected to my roots. At my old school, I was one of the only Jews, but here, I feel like I'm a part of a community," explained Serena Levin '20.

The Spiritual Life Team is always looking for ways to support students and improve their spiritual experience here at Choate. "Where we don't have programming that might enable those questions or support to readily be available to some, we invite you to come talk to us, because we want

to create them," The Rev. Brundige said.

She concluded, "When we have these big holidays, it's a great chance to find out more about one another, from cultural, spiritual, and religious perspectives. These many traditions have much in common, but also distinguish us and make us the beautiful, diverse community that we are."

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Several celebrations were held in the St. John Chapel.

Revisions of Policies for Starting Clubs

By **Sarah Gurevitch '19**
Staff Reporter

As of this school year, Choate's Committee on Student Affairs (COSA) is rethinking how to achieve its mission of creating a thriving club life on campus. Many students have viewed this reworking as COSA becoming stricter. In reality, COSA is now going to act as a resource for leaders of both existing clubs and those proposing new ones.

Mr. Jim Yanelli, Director of Student Activities, said, "The club policies at Choate are determined by the Student Activities Center in conjunction with the School. They aim to establish the best practices for clubs, just as there are best practices in all the academic departments here at Choate." He continued, "There are certain established benchmarks for excellent work here at Choate, and club life should be as managed and articulated as any other aspect of the school. Choate knows what it has to do in order to produce a winning football team, and now COSA is trying to find out how to produce a winning club life."

COSA's most recent change addresses how they plan to advise students who come up with new club ideas. Previously, Choate had been operating under a system in which students would fill out a proposal form and then meet with

COSA as a group to be questioned about their proposal. Following those meetings, COSA would send a follow-up email with their decision — an acceptance, referral, or denial. COSA Head Truelian Lee '17 said, "In each one of these cases, there was a concrete list of tasks for the students to complete in order to be accepted as a club or resubmit their idea."

In reassessing how it functions and in what ways they can improve their productivity, Lee explained that COSA is getting rid of many bureaucratic processes that had existed. "Rather than sending an email with a long list of tasks and extensive paperwork, COSA wants to help grow and nurture club life on campus by helping and guiding clubs to make their goals a successful reality," she explained. Students will now pitch their new ideas to the COSA Head and faculty advisers to discuss their ideas in a more personal setting, rather than with all of COSA. "This allows for more tailored feedback for students on how to take their idea to the next level and get it accepted as a club on campus," Lee said.

Each of these students will also have to run a pilot of the club. This will help to get an ideal launch on campus when they officially become a club. Ms. Alex Long, Assistant Director of Student Activities, said, "The purpose

of this is to ensure that the club has interest on campus and that it will grow and be beneficial to the community." If the students run their pilot period successfully, then they will have earned a designation as a club on campus.

COSA previously allowed any student with a good idea to start a club and measure its success over a six-week probationary period. Mr. Yanelli said, "COSA realized quickly that once a club becomes a club, it becomes blue card worthy, whether it is a good club or a relatively mediocre club. COSA simply wants to have credible clubs with good leadership and have the sum of club life be a benefit to the Choate community."

COSA is moving away from their previous model of simply accepting clubs, now helping students if they have a club proposal to test their idea out. Lee said, "Everyone has the potential to successfully start a club because COSA is no longer filtering these ideas at the forefront. If anything, COSA is trying to be more helpful and encouraging as students come up with their ideas and want to implement them on campus."

She continued, "COSA realizes it is unfair to take someone who has never led an organization and expect them to run an effective club because they have written a one-page proposal." COSA acknowledges that it takes time and

organization to plan meetings, communicate, and publicize to get active members of a club. Mr. Yanelli said, "Clubs can very easily get 100 students into a room if they have pizza, but not many will go back to a second meeting if the leadership in the first meeting was lousy, regardless of pizza."

COSA is specifically concerned about clubs that have a tradition of being handed down from sixth to fifth formers year after year with very little happening in between handout periods. Mr. Yanelli explained, "There are many clubs that haven't had viable activity, meaningful service, or community engagement on any level, and it just doesn't make sense to perpetuate those clubs year after year." After talking to club advisers and leaders this year, before they had elections, many clubs had to meet with COSA to discuss the reality of their club going forward.

COSA does not want the reworking of their mission statement to be viewed as a crackdown. Rather, the members of the committee want Choate students to feel that they are now able to get more support when trying to form a club; if students want to form a club, they will be more likely to succeed due to these changes.

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College Fair Educates, Though Some Complaints Follow



Photo by Jackson Elkins

Students visited the booths of more than 150 schools at this year's Spring College Fair.

Continued from Page 1

ademic schedule. For some students, this was simply not enough time. "The lines were really long, and I wasn't able to meet every college representative I was hoping to meet," Pasha '18 said, adding that she regrets that the fair didn't last longer.

Ananya Karanam '18, another fifth former who attended the fair, also noted the brevity of the event. She said, "I think it's an incredible opportunity that we get over 150 colleges and universities to visit twice a year. However, I actually wish the college fair had been a little bit longer, maybe two hours instead of an hour and a half. That would give people time to get used to it and also talk to so many more schools.."

Another important aspect of the college fair is about discovering colleges less known to

students. Grant Corso '18 said, "I think that it's an awesome opportunity to talk to representatives from schools that you might be interested in and have some preconceived notions about. And at the same time you get to learn about some schools that maybe you've never heard

about, that you might find have a lot of things that you're very interested in."

Much of the reactions to the fair has been positive, though some suggested changes like Pasha's '18. According to Zhou '18, the fair would have been better had it been held at a place other

than the school gym.

There were also considerably more fifth formers than fourth formers. This was partly because many fourth form students considered it too early to begin the college process. Additionally, though, misinformation about the fair circulated among some members of the sophomore class, causing them to think the event was just for juniors.

Overall, the college fair seemed to be a meaningful experience for those who attended. Through one-to-one conversations with college representatives, students were able to appreciate both the individuality of each college or university and the diversity of options that surrounded them.

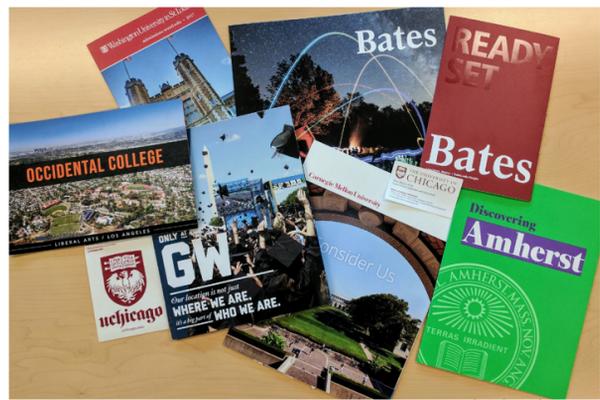


Photo by Cathryn Stout

A variety of colleges were represented at the college fair.

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DESPITE MINOR ISSUES, ST. JOHN PROVES A SUCCESS

Continued from Page 1

lation to the size of the event. There are many opportunities that were just not ever possible in any other building." A brief first dance in St. John Hall took place on the night of April 13 for a half hour.

The goal of this project is to have all the spaces available to the students as much as possible. Conference rooms are available for reservations throughout the day. However, Mr. Yanelli explained, "There are some issues we are still trying to figure out, and those are the safety and risk management around the kitchen and the project room. There are some spaces that only adults or a faculty member can reserve for students, and they would have to monitor the students to ensure that they stay injury free."

Mody added, "I think St. John Hall will greatly enhance student life. With only four days into using the new building, it's already becoming hard for me to remember what Choate was like without it. I'm looking forward to dances, club meetings, and

other activities in St. John."

In terms of both location and activity, St. John Hall is at the core of the Choate community. Lani Uyeno '19 commented, "I think that the location is great because St. John is attached to the Dining Hall and the Library, so you don't really need to walk far or go outside if all you want to do is get food and then study."

Students will shape and dictate how this building is managed; the possibilities for student activities in St. John are much greater than at the previous facility. Mr. Yanelli said, "I think when you are in a perfect setting, you think more about creative opportunities, and you see things differently. [Headmaster] Dr. [Alex] Curtis has an incredible ability to see things that can be and the ability to make them happen. I think he has done an extraordinary job in hearing from students and knowing what it is for them to have a great time."

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New Junior Launches Mentorship Program

By Anjali Mangla '20
Reporter

A new junior at Choate Rosemary Hall, Theo Silverman '18, recently launched a mentorship program initiative in partnership with Ulbrich Boys and Girls Club, which is only one and a half miles away from Choate. The initiative's mission is for Choate students to become role models and form relationships with the middle school students who visit the boys and girls club. The initiative seeks to get Choate students more involved with community service and have a positive impact on the Wallingford community by fostering good relationships with the club's younger children.

Having an older role model can help guide you and help you answer questions.

Theo Silverman '18

"I think it is important not to be isolated in this Choate bubble from the rest of the community," said Silverman. He continued, "We should be able to spread this wonderful Choate experience and the knowledge we've gained from this experience. Having an older role model can help guide you and help you answer questions." Choate students who are a part of the program receive community service hours, which count towards the graduation requirement. The Ulbrich Boys and Girls Club has a mentorship program, though it mainly consists of staff. Silverman's initiative will be done in conjunction with that program.

An email was sent out by Mr. Yanelli to the student body with the application form in the beginning of spring term. As of now, the initiative has attract-



Photo courtesy of The Record Journal

Theo Silverman '18 recently announced his initiative to the community.

ed five students, but Silverman hopes to see more students join. Ms. Megan Lenzo, the Director of the Community Service Initiative at Ulbrich Boys and Girls Club, is helping Silverman to work out the details and schedule of the program. There will be more middle schoolers than mentors, so each mentor will be paired with multiple kids. At first, three or four children will be paired with each mentor, and after getting more comfortable, the children can decide which mentor they would like to stay with and which mentor exhibits similar interests and qualities compared to each kid. Mentors may play sports or do other fun activities, like painting and art, with the middle school students so that the kids have something to look forward to for each visit. There may be discussions or circle talks afterward, in which mentors can answer any questions their mentees may have and help them through anything when advice from an older companion would be useful.

Silverman got the mentorship idea from a community service experience at his previous high school. He and his twin brother started up a similar program to collect sports equipment and donate those items to

different community centers, while making a brief yet memorable connection with the kids there.

One of the main obstacles in the process of creating this program was finding a way to fit the schedules of the Choate students with the schedule of the Boys and Girls Club. The times set out currently are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 4:30 to 5:30, which is a difficult time to get Choate students to come. Silverman tried to work around this and proposed meeting on the weekends, but the Ulbrich Boys and Girls Club does not have a formal program during weekends.

At first, the idea for the program was for an athletic equipment donation to the Ulbrich Boys and Girls Club. Silverman presented this idea for approval in front of COSA, and after some advice from Mr. Yanelli, the faculty adviser to COSA, the idea evolved into the mentorship program it is today.

Silverman said, "The goal is that in the future, when I have graduated, the program continues. I hope that more kids think

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Spanish Helps Bridge Cultural Divides

By Alyssa Shin '18
Copy Editor

On Thursday, April 13, the *iAdelante!* American youth group of the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW) and Ms. Adriana Rodriguez, the Children & Youth Program Director for SCOW, visited Ms. Angela Weston's AP Spanish Language & Culture class. This group consisted of Wallingford public high schoolers on their spring break. During class time, they participated in two activities. First, Choate students and *iAdelante!* students were paired and given the opportunity to rotate through partners "speed-dating style." Each pair was given an envelope with conversation starters in Spanish. After this, the group travelled outside to participate in a "barometer activity," in which they responded to "would you rather" questions presented in Spanish. The class concluded with a group picture.

This collaboration, which was immersive academically and culturally, allowed the AP class to fulfill requirements set by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). The ACTFL sets national standards for language learning, including interpersonal (i.e. conversation), interpretational and presentational communication, cultures (relating to cultural practices and products to perspectives), connections, comparisons (language & cultural) and communities (outside the classroom and lifelong learning). Ms. Weston said, "This activity is directly related to essentially all of these standards."

However, the meeting accomplished more than just goals set by the ACTFL. Throughout the meeting, Choate students were able to en-

gage in a cultural exchange, deepening their understanding of Spanish language and culture while getting to know the greater Wallingford community.

Imad Rizvi '18, an AP Spanish student, commented, "In terms of cultural differences, one of the activities was a type of game that was like 'would you rather.' There were two options for each question, and you had to go to the side you thought was better. The activity showed that a lot of us had the same ideas and values. We also had a list of different questions to ask each other. One difference I noticed is that a lot of them had jobs during the school year, which the vast majority of Choate students do not."

Regarding student reactions, Ms. Weston said, "Students on both sides reacted very positively to this activity both last year and now. It was joyful to see them laugh together and to hear them negotiating conversation in Spanish while explaining their worlds to each other."

Not only was Ms. Weston thrilled to see her students grow as Spanish speakers and Wallingford community members, but students were also excited about this opportunity. Alyssa Zhou '17, another

AP Spanish student, said, "We talked in Spanish about our lives and opinions. It's weird because those students from *iAdelante!* live here in Wallingford too — really sweet and smart people — and yet we don't know them at all. I would love another class like it. Instead of lectures and assessments, it was really just about practicing Spanish with kids our age in a very interactive manner."

Although these encounters have a lot to offer to both the Choate students and the *iAdelante!* students, scheduling conflicts do not allow for regular visits. Ms. Weston lamented, "The AP Spanish Language & Culture course requires our students to periodically converse with Spanish-speaking members of our CRH community. But the logistics of our students' schedules make it difficult for them to get to know the local community."

This was the second annual meeting between Choate AP Spanish students and *iAdelante!* students. Hopefully there will be many more that strengthen the Spanish skills of the Choate students and the bond between Choate and Wallingford at large.

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THE CHOATE NEWS



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Seoul to the States: My Political Journey

By **Alyssa Shin '18**
Copy Editor

I am not a particularly political person. I have never been to a Young Republicans meeting, a Young Democrats meeting, or even a Young Centrists meeting. Growing up, I did not discuss politics at the dinner table the way I do every day at Choate. I have hazy memories of TV anchors reporting on different parties and flashing pictures of congressional meetings across the TV screen, but I have trouble recounting any memories of discussing or engaging in politics throughout my childhood.

So when I arrived at Choate and was thrown into bipartisan politics, I was culture shocked. Not only was I confused and overwhelmed by all of the political jargon, but I was also surprised to learn that so many people my age already had concrete opinions about where they fell on the political spectrum. In and outside the classroom, students passionately expressed their opinion through art, social media posts, debates, articles, and other media.

Here I was, perpetually confused about where in Korean society I fit in and where in American society I fit in. I could barely articulate who I was, so who was I to comment on the state of American society? While I educated myself and felt passionate

about certain topics, I kept these thoughts silent and internalized. My initial reaction to American politics was intimidation, and I shrunk back into a corner of American society where I felt out of the way; I withdrew from the American identity I felt like I had no right to claim.

In retrospect, this process of doubting my role in American society was a painful but necessary part of accepting with conviction that I had a right to have an opinion. In fact, this allowed me to reflect on who I was and what my political beliefs were. Becoming more involved in American politics later in life, I have had the chance to thoroughly educate myself and formulate thoughts independent from my family members and friends.

The greatest testament to my beliefs struck this year. At home in South Korea, the first female president, Park Geun-hye, was faced with charges for bribery and abuse of power. In the United States, my second home, President Trump P '00 won the 2016 election despite all odds. In 2017, I feel the need to speak up. I was pleasantly surprised that when I decided to speak strongly on political issues, I was comfortable. I was ready to claim my American identity and fight for my right to participate.

Ms. Park was an incompetent leader, not stable, independent, or worldly enough as an individual to lead a nation. Mr. Trump sends the message that sexism, bigotry, and divisive rhetoric should be condoned. I wasn't ready to categorize these beliefs into neat little packages with the labels "liberal" or "conservative," for my views were more multi-dimensional than these terms could possibly encompass. How would Ms. Park's impeachment influence other women's chances to participate on the main stage of Korean politics?

I was pleasantly surprised that when I decided to speak strongly on political issues, I was comfortable.

Drawing a parallel between Ms. Hillary Clinton's campaign and people's scrutiny of Ms. Park's capabilities as the first female president, how did sexism influence how people viewed her mistakes? Would the recognition of the accomplishments of female politicians be more rare to find? And would the denigration strike down harder on female

politicians that make a mistake? Questions swirled around in my head, and I sought to find answers in the world around me. I started at home, tentatively introducing politics into dinner conversations. I gradually became more open to talking with my friends and family. I opened myself up with every conversation, allowing others to take a look into my views, and people most often reciprocated. I have found some answers, but I still seek to find answers to these questions and many others. In turn, I strive to answer others' questions to the best of my ability, hoping to add depth to their perspectives.

I am not writing as a liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican. I am simply claiming my right to have an opinion — to be, feel like, and be proud of being an American. More than ever, it is important to have an opinion; being a bystander doesn't exempt you from responsibility. So no matter what gender, age, or ethnicity you may be, jump into discussions. Educate yourself. Speak about your experiences. You might be surprised by what you find out about yourself and others.

Alyssa Shin is a fifth former from Seoul, South Korea. She may be reached at ashin18@choate.edu

COLLABORATION IS NECESSARY IN THEATER

By **Kaitlyn Dutchin '17**
Opinions Writer

Art is made with a purpose. Each and every piece is crafted to perfection and presented with an intent. Of course, not everyone would describe one piece of art as perfect. This is the purpose for art: It is interpretational and pertinent to our world.

Ever since the time of the Greeks, art has been made to add social commentary, enrichment, and fulfillment. Here at Choate, the theater program prides itself on its inclusion and ability to bring life to stories. In my first year at Choate, the musical *Pippin* was an ensemble-based show that focused on togetherness, creativity, and expression. Being a part of the ensemble in *Pippin* was a pivotal moment in my life; before that show I had never felt accepted in any community before. My experience on the main stage of the PMAC has transformed over the past few years, and I find that my true solace lies in student theater.

That being said, there are moments when the productions we choose to put up for the community feel restricting. Mainstage theater productions need to make a profit in order to maintain the theater program. This often puts up barriers for both the students and staff alike. There is a need to cater to a certain community in terms of show choice, as the



A group of actresses prepare for their *The Love of Three Oranges* rehearsal. Photo by Helena Yang / The Choate News

mainstage productions reflect onto the school and its beliefs whether people like it or not. That being said, mainstage productions can often be limiting.

This fall, while participating in the production of *The Odyssey*, the once colorful, energizing, and liberating black box felt like an imprisoning, empty, and dark room. I felt myself searching for more. I wanted to express myself, and I wanted to tell my story through my eyes — not another person's.

Theater often has many freeing, uplifting, and enlightening effects on adolescents. When you grant students autonomy on their creations, they fly. The entirety of

Choate's student productions are free and open to anyone. The students are rarely limited on what they can perform. Most of these productions are student-written, student-directed, and student-performed. The shows are crafted and performed in good taste. Students are granted the ability to expand their creativity and share their hearts and minds with the entire Choate community. Student Directed Scenes, the Fringe Festival and One-person Plays allow students to achieve theater's main purpose: enrichment.

I can speak from experience from participating in both Student Directed Scenes and One-person Plays. There is no feeling

as rewarding as writing and performing your own show. The feeling of giving students the gift of a theater filled with options is an all-encompassing one.

Collaboration is productive when it occurs in each and every stage of the process. All of Choate's productions, both mainstage and student-produced, could be more successful if people listen and allow each other to collaborate more. After all, isn't that what Choate is all about?

Kaitlyn Dutchin is a sixth former from New York, New York. She may be reached at kdutchin17@choate.edu

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The Choate News published an article about Spectrum's recent conference on April 9. The article outlined the speakers for the conference as well as the workshops that were held. However, there are some serious issues in the details of the article that we, as a club, find unacceptable.

First, the article is titled "Spectrum Hosts a Colorful Conference." We are unsure whether this is meant to be some sort of wordplay, but, regardless, it is extremely patronizing. One of the goals of our club is to work against stereotyping of LGBTQ individuals. With use of descriptive words like "colorful," the article propagates the stereotype that portrays all LGBTQ individuals as flamboyant or effeminate. Furthermore, the word choice itself is curious as there was not anything especially colorful about our event.

Next, the workshop on mental health and wellness in the LGBTQ community was described incorrectly as a workshop that focused on "crisis intervention and how drugs come into play in the gay community if queer people are faced with social rejection or homophobia." This, among other details of the article, shows that little research and insight was included in the article's preparation.

Finally, the use of prefixes in the article is unacceptable. Several times throughout the piece, attendees were misgendered, and individuals who are non-gender conforming were mislabeled. When incidents of misgendering like this occur, the victims may feel discrimination and a lack of acceptance, even if perpetrators may not be conscious of their actions. Misgendering can be extremely harmful and is something that Spectrum consciously works against, so the fact that it happened in an article about our club is disrespectful.

We are disappointed with these aspects of the article and feel they do not represent the mission of our club, the mindset of the constituents, or the leadership of the cabinet.

Sincerely,
The Members of Spectrum

CORRECTIONS

NEWS
An article last week on the Critical Issues Forum on Nuclear Disarmament misstated one of the locations where the Forum was held. It was Vienna, not Geneva.

An article last week on a conference held by Spectrum on Sunday, April 9, misgendered some of the individuals involved.

SPORTS
Last week's Field Report misreported a recent result of Boys' Track. The team defeated Northfield Mount Hermon 3-1-0, not 4-1-0.

CORRECTIONS
A correction last week regarding an article on Boys' Varsity Baseball's season opener misspelled the name of Will Eichhorn '19.

SPECIAL EDITION
An article on Mr. Jim Yanelli, in a April 10 special edition celebrating the opening of St. John Hall, inadvertently omitted the byline. The story was reported by Vincenzo DiNatale '19.

The Choate News regrets these errors.
To submit a correction, email thechoatenews@choate.edu

"AMERICANIZED" DOESN'T MEAN AMERICAN

By **Vincenzo DiNatale '19**
Copy Editor

Over spring break, I traveled with five other Choate students to Shanghai, China for the annual High School Affiliated to Fudan University Exchange Program. In the city, I immersed myself in the Chinese culture by spending multiple days at the high school affiliated to Choate. Spending time at a school modeled after an American boarding school, I anticipated an experience similar to my own. However, my mind would soon change.

Upon arriving at the school, the first differences became apparent to me. As I entered the school's main building, I noticed that each student wore a uniform with the school seal embroidered on his or her jacket. At Choate, we are able to embrace our uniqueness and differing backgrounds by dressing in the clothing of our choice; at Fudan High School, students are unable to express themselves through their attire.

After sitting down in my host student's homeroom, I was immediately told to stand back up and ready myself for "morning exercises." The bell rang, and suddenly I was engulfed in the student body on its way to the courtyard. Before partaking in any physical activity, however, the school turned to the Chinese flag for the national anthem — another routine not practiced at Choate. Students around me be-

gan running to the blaring music, whether or not they were willing to do so. Teachers were also present at the track to ensure that all students completed the workout.

A minimum of nine classes is required for all students, each of which meet daily. Physical education is also incorporated into the school day. Not only do the students of Fudan High School take far more classes than the Choate student, but many also take additional ones after school and on the weekends. Due to their busy schedules, students frequently sacrifice extracurricular activities, including music, sports, and clubs, which are commonly valued by Choate students.

Not only is the daily schedule of Fudan High different, but the organization of the curriculum differs as well. For instance, rather than passing between different classrooms throughout the school day, each student is assigned his or her own classroom. When a period is over, teachers shift to another room to teach their lessons. Each classroom is organized according to a student's ability in a particular academic subject. Those who have strengths in math and science are grouped together, and those with skills in humanities are as well.

In addition, the teaching method among the faculty is strikingly different than that commonly used at Choate. In a typical classroom of approximately 30 students, the



Choate students and faculty stand in front of Fudan High School. Photo Courtesy of Vincenzo DiNatale

instructor selectively calls on a student to answer a question. That student is expected to give his or her response in front of the rest of the class; if that student answers incorrectly, he or she is often made fun of by the teacher without providing an explanation. Instead, the next student is tasked with elaborating.

Like many other Chinese schools, Fudan High School lacks diversity. The student body consists completely of Shanghai residents, none of whom are foreign to China. Because of this, Fudan students rarely see Westerners and were fascinated by the looks of the Choate students at the school. Some of us were even praised and applauded after entering a classroom.

At the end of the trip, a major takeaway from my time in Shanghai was coming to realize the differences that exist between the lives of other students around the world and my own. The High School Affiliated to Fudan University is much more westernized than surrounding institutions, yet still presents significant similarities. Even as a Choate student exposed daily to tremendous diversity, I was unaware of the extent of difference that exist between separate schooling environments. To better understand the surrounding world, one must be conscious of the differences that exist within it.

Vincenzo DiNatale is a fourth former from Wallingford, Conn. He may be reached at vdinatale19@choate.edu

KUSHNER AND BANNON'S RIVALRY: A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

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

As the American people have now seen countless times, President Donald Trump '17 behaves like a child. Unsurprisingly, the company Mr. Trump keeps in the White House exhibits the same puerility. According to leaks from within the Trump administration to various newspapers, Steve Bannon and Jared Kushner, two of the president's most influential advisers, have developed an extremely childish rivalry. However, no matter how ridiculous this conflict may appear on face level, it is actually beneficial in the long run.

Accusing Mr. Kushner of being both a Democrat and a globalist, Mr. Bannon has become increasingly aggressive towards the 36-year-old son-in-law of Mr. Trump. However dismaying it may be, this infantile rivalry is nevertheless predictable. None of Trump's four main advisers, Kellyanne Conway, Reince Priebus, Mr. Bannon, and Mr. Kushner, are very admirable people. In particular, Mr. Bannon stands out for his radical and offensive nature. The former head of Breitbart News, a right wing and factually dubious news site, Bannon has published articles with headlines such as "Would You Rather Your Child Had Feminism or Cancer?" and "Hoist It High and Proud: The Confederate Flag Proclaims a Glorious Heritage." As these inflam-



Jared Kushner and Steve Bannon walk together on December 1, 2016

matory headlines demonstrate, Bannon has a petty and immature nature — one that he has brought with him to the White House.

Another one of Mr. Trump's advisers is Kellyanne Conway, the Counselor to the President and an advocate for "alternative facts." Fortunately, after several embarrassing and widely publicized television gaffes, her position at the heart of Mr. Trump's circle of trust has lessened. Additionally, the White House Chief of Staff, Reince Priebus. Having been the longest-running chair-

man of the Republican National Committee, from 2011 to the present, Mr. Priebus is the most politically experienced member of Mr. Trump's inner circle. Additionally, especially in comparison to Mr. Bannon, he is also a relatively moderate Republican.

Last, Mr. Kushner, the husband of Presidential daughter Ivanka Trump '00, serves as Senior Adviser to Mr. Trump. Inarguably, Mr. Kushner's position in the White House, like his wife's, was gained through nepotism. Considering he has do-

minated to Democrats in the past and has a documented history of social liberalism, Kushner is a glaring outlier in Trump's circle.

Thus, between Mr. Kushner and Mr. Bannon stands a fundamental conflict — one between alt-right conservatism and moderate, at times socially liberal, Republicanism. When inflammatory personalities such as Mr. Bannon and Mr. Kushner are forced to compete for influence over a powerful individual, it is easy to see how infighting is inevitable. However, is this

rivalry between these two men necessarily a bad thing? Ultimately, the answer to that question depends on who emerges victorious. While Mr. Kushner might not have deserved his position, his more socially-conscious views may convince Mr. Trump to sway left on key issues. Although Mr. Kushner has little experience in government, he is certainly a better alternative to Mr. Bannon and his white nationalism.

On surface level, this rivalry is ridiculous, as members of the White House should not engage in petty fights. However, considering it was completely inevitable, liberals might as well view it positively — if Mr. Kushner prevails, Mr. Trump could shift to the left on the political spectrum. Fortunately, as recent leaks have revealed, Mr. Bannon appears to be falling out of Mr. Trump's good graces. During an interview on April 11, 2017, Mr. Trump said that he is "own strategist," referencing Mr. Bannon's position as White House Chief Strategist. Additionally, he reaffirmed that Mr. Bannon has less power than he does. Hopefully, Mr. Bannon will be pushed out of Mr. Trump's inner circle, and Mr. Kushner's slightly more enlightened brand of conservatism will prevail.

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



First 100 Days



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

The Fake Media (not Real Media) has gotten even worse since the election. Every story is badly slanted. We have to hold them to the truth!



Kirsten Gillibrand
@SenGillibrand

Transparency has always been a top priority for me, so I plan to post my tax returns online again next week. @POTUS should too.



Chris Murphy
@ChrisMurphyCT

While reading stories about the MOAB, ask yourself why, after dropping bombs on the enemy in Afghanistan for 16 yrs, they aren't defeated.



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

I did what was an almost an impossible thing to do for a Republican—easily won the Electoral College! Now Tax Returns are brought up again?



Jason Kander
@JasonKander

2017 isn't about Trump. It's about regular people standing up to Trump.

This is the birth of a new progressive era in American History.



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@danpfeiffer

If the public had not pressured advertisers to stay away, O'Reilly would've be back on the air on Monday. Activism works, even with Fox News



Bernie Sanders
@BernieSanders

We need to make the Democratic Party a party not just for the east coast and west coast but a party for all 50 states.



The Associated Press
@AP

BREAKING: 21st Century Fox: Bill O'Reilly won't return to Fox News.



Tom Price, M.D.
@SecPriceMD

Addiction knows no bounds. In 2015 alone, 52,000 people died of overdoses in America, the majority of them from opioids. #RxSummit



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Despite major outside money, FAKE media support and eleven Republican candidates, BIG "R" win with runoff in Georgia. Glad to be of help!

GUTTING FCC GUIDELINES GUTS OUR RIGHTS

By **Joanna Ding '19**
Opinions Writer

More than 87 percent of Americans have sustainable access to internet, and many of those who do spend more than ten hours a day actively online. Under the Obama administration, these people were guaranteed personal privacy and security while browsing, as Federal Communication Commission (FCC) laws required Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to inform their customers in the situation of a system breach, as well as to acquire explicit consent before selling information to advertising corporations. However, all that may be about to change with the Senate's 50-48 vote in late March to gut FCC guidelines on protecting browsing data. Mostly split across party lines, the voting results led to massive public outcry, an effect that ballooned after the bill passed in Congress 215-205 and was signed by President Trump on Monday, April 3.

Those who voted yes argue that FCC regulations stifle innovation and limit profit, while disagreeing lawmakers assert that strict regulations are necessary to protect consumer information and maintain corporate transparency. Information such as nationality, sexual orientation, political viewpoints, and personal interests can now be collected and potentially sold to massive companies to hyper-focus product marketing, without receiving explicit consumer consent. The privacy and transparency concerns will continue to escalate as large corporations (e.g. AT&T, Verizon, and others.) exploit widely-used broadband technology for profit. While a few large ISPs such as Comcast have promised not to sell personal information, the lack of legal repercussions and the ISP's prominent role in removing existing regulations have generated skepticism. Previously established FCC guidelines also legally bound ISPs to inform customers in the situation of a suspected data breach, par-

ticularly one in which sensitive financial information such as security codes, credit card numbers, and account passwords may have been leaked. Repealing these laws, many argue, will provide ISPs with no incentive to publicize information leaks and thus decrease consumer confidence, meaning that customers who find themselves with large credit card bills or an empty bank account will now be doing so without prior warning.

By stripping the FCC guidelines, the government is taking away from citizens the right to choose.

Since his inauguration on January 20, Mr. Trump has signed more than ten bills under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), allowing him, along with Congress, to overturn recently passed federal agency

regulations and prohibit the re-establishment of such laws without substantive modifications. Because of this, many states such as New York, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, Wisconsin, Washington, and Connecticut have taken internet privacy into their own hands. Connecticut Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff proposed an amendment requiring ISPs to obtain explicit consumer consent before collecting or selling information, and barring ISPs from refusing to offer services to non-consenting customers. Similar amendments and regulations have been introduced on the state-level across the U.S., under the premise that federal entities will choose not to respond. However, while some politicians are treating the federal law as a floor rather than a ceiling, many lawyers are expecting the situation to become more litigious, especially given the role that the government assumes within the telecommunications sector.

Ultimately, the removal of internet privacy regulations will likely force people towards third-party software such as virtual private networks, or VPNs. Independent software developers within the private sector are jumping on the opportunity, releasing new technology such as the Tor Browser with claims of concealing user identities and rerouting internet traffic to protect online activity from surveillance. The disadvantages of non-federally supported alternatives include slower internet speed and potential scams. In exchange, however, people receive the potential to protect specific geolocations, browsing habits, and other personal data. While supporters of the bill claim that the innocent should have nothing to hide, the bottom line here is that by stripping the FCC guidelines, the government is taking away from citizens the right to choose.

Joanna Ding is a fourth former from Shanghai, China. She may be reached at jdning19@choate.edu

FOR GLOBAL STABILITY, THE FRENCH MUST VOTE MACRON

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

In two days, on Sunday, April 23, French voters will head to the polls for the first round of voting in their country's presidential election, after a long and tumultuous campaign season. Last November, facing a historically low, single-digit approval rating, outgoing President Francois Hollande decided not to seek reelection. Currently, the field is dominated by with candidates from emerging parties such as En Marche! and the National Front achieving widespread popularity.

The two candidates who emerge on Sunday with the greatest popular vote percentage will advance to a final round on May 7th, and while the race has tightened in recent weeks, centrist Emmanuel Macron and far-right leader Marine Le Pen appear the most likely to make it to the next round. For the sake of French, European, and global stability and prosperity, voters should not succumb to the pressure from Ms. Le Pen's radical National Front movement and instead elect Mr. Macron as president of France.

Undoubtedly, the French people want a change from the current Hollande administration. Having risen steadily since the 2008 financial crisis, France's unemployment rate is now around 10%. Additionally, many French citizens are concerned about national security after recent terrorist attacks in Paris and Nice. Even Mr. Hollande's own party has accused him of abandoning his principles and shifting to the right due to increased pressure. As a result of Mr. Hollande's follies,

the road to the presidency has become very difficult for any member of his socialist party. For many French people, this election is an opportunity for drastic change. However, that change should be provided by the centrist, Mr. Macron, rather than the demagogue, Ms. Le Pen.

Mr. Macron has built his campaign on a message of hope and progress. He has called for an increase in public spending to boost the French economy, which includes plans to invest 50 billion euros in sectors such as clean energy, education and training for workers, infrastructure, and healthcare. Additionally, he wants to cut taxes to further help combat the high unemployment. These expansionary policies will improve the French economy while also helping promote initiatives such as the clean energy movement.

Additionally, Mr. Macron believes increasing spending in education will help him decrease class size and raise teacher pay to promote productivity in the classroom. Although he is promoting fiscal expansion, he also hopes to increase the efficiency of the government to cut costs and balance the country's deficit. He plans to shrink the size of the government bureaucracy by reducing the number of lawmakers and local authorities and cutting spending by getting more people working and off unemployment benefits. Overall, Mr. Macron's policies are pragmatic and promote economic progress for all French citizens.

Furthermore, Mr. Macron's vision for France promotes a culture of inclusion. He wants to promote secularism and the



French presidential candidates stand on stage before a debate on March 20, 2017.

separation of church and state in public policy. He is firmly against a ban on the Muslim veil. He is also open to allowing immigrants and refugees into France, so he wants all asylum requests to be processed within six months of application.

In contrast, Ms. Le Pen has based her campaign on hatred and divisiveness. She is strictly opposed to multiculturalism, whereas Mr. Macron wants to give every 18 year old a 500 euro subsidy to experience different cultures through movies, theater shows, concerts, and

other artistic experiences. She also is a big threat to the stability of Europe, as she has promised to remove France from the European Union. Ms. Le Pen is a hardliner when it comes to immigration, proposing to only allow in 10,000 people a year. With such strict policies on immigration, even the British far-right UKIP party has been quick to distance itself from Ms. Le Pen's National Front. Like our own President Trump, her platform opposes globalization, as she believes it poses a threat to France's wellbeing.

After recent far-right victories in the Brexit referendum and the U.S. Presidential election, it is more than the right time to halt the trend toward fervent nationalism and isolationism, to protect the E.U. and international relations. Ultimately, in this election, Mr. Macron, not Ms. Le Pen, is the only candidate to ensure stability for not only France but the rest of the world as well.

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

The Depths of the Science Center Pond

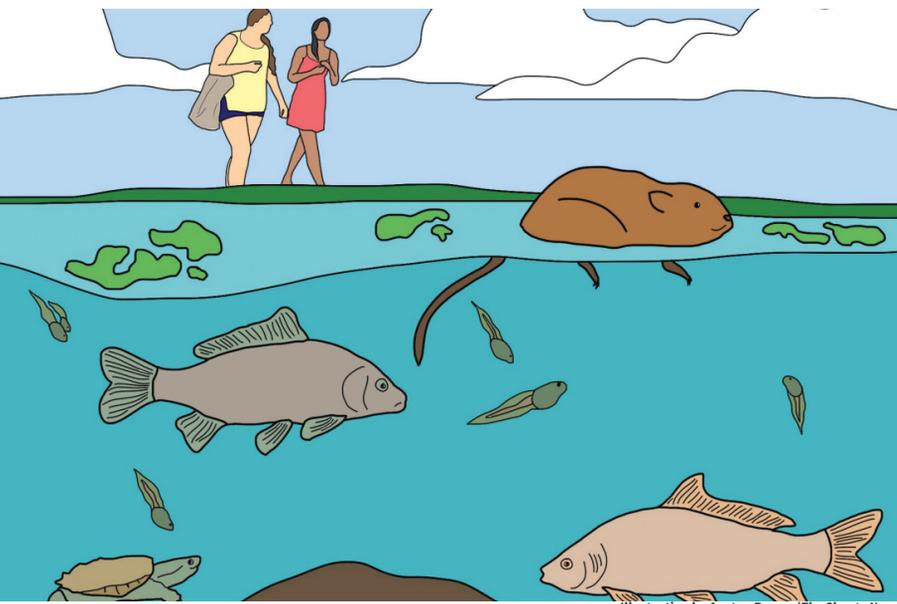


Illustration by Austen Rogers/The Choate News

Students frequently pass the Science Center Pond between classes, unaware of the life within.

By **Riley Choi '18**
Staff Reporter

Imagine crossing the bridge from the Lanphier Center to the Science Center. On the right side, you see several turtles sunbathing on a log; on the left, you see a giant koi splashing water in its wake. This is only a sample of the many organisms that live in the Science Center pond — a thriving ecosystem in our own backyard.

There are many fish species in the pond, including koi and American eels. However, the koi fish did not reach Choate naturally. Mr. Joseph Scanio, Director of the KEC, explained, “Kois that live in the pond are not native to Choate. People buy them, and, when they feel that they cannot afford to care for them, they do not kill them but abandon them in the pond.” Kois have been known to live for 50 years, which may explain their longstanding presence on campus.

Also found in the pond, American eels migrate to sea to lay eggs and return to freshwater — journeying as far as 3,700 miles after mating. These animals live up to 25 years and are nocturnal. The American eel faces a very high risk of extinction in the wild due

to a lack of habitat availability and a sensitivity to low dissolved oxygen levels.

The turtle species within the pond include snapping turtles and eastern painted turtles. Snapping turtles can be 20 inches long and have a combative nature when out of the water, using their powerful jaws to attack. They can move their head and neck freely, allowing them to actively hunt invertebrates, fish, frogs, reptiles, birds, and small mammals. Eastern painted turtles, on the other hand, are much smaller — only about ten inches long. The eastern painted turtles hibernate in the mud at the bottom of water bodies during the winter.

Along with these organisms, there are salamanders, dragonfly nymphs, flies, beetles, hawks, cardinals, and many other species that take advantage of the pond. Micro-organisms like daphnia (or water fleas) are also present. These miniscule, transparent, aquatic crustaceans mainly feed on algae and bacteria.

These organisms form an expansive network of symbiotic relationships. “You can see many different interactions among various organisms in the pond,” Mr. Scanio commented. “You

can see every single interaction you can imagine: competition, predation, parasitism, mutualism, and pollination.”

You can see every single interaction you can imagine: competition, predation, parasitism, mutualism, and pollination.

Mr. Joseph Scanio

The pond’s success as a hub for campus life can be attributed to its recent renovation, which has allowed for a variety of life to flourish. During the summer of 2010, the pond, which had not been dredged since the Science Center was built in 1989, was dredged to remove sediment that had accumulated over the years. “After dredging, Facilities decided to design both the vegetation and the contour to be a good environment for many species living in the pond,” Mr. Scanio said. “Different species require different habitats. Amphibians prefer shallow areas, whereas big fish and their predators live in deeper areas.”

There are several factors that can alter the pond ecosystem, including seasons, predation, and human activities. During the winter, as the weather becomes colder and daylight gets shorter, many of the species hibernate or migrate. However, the species that stay in the pond adapt to cold weather. Dr. Heather York, a Biology and Environmental Science teacher, said, “Only the top of the pond freezes, and the ice acts as an insulator for the water below. This allows the tadpoles, fish, insect larvae, and other aquatic organisms to stay warm during the winter.” The pond’s muskrats, on the other hand, build burrows to prepare for winter, and snapping turtles bury themselves in mud.

Prey-predator relationships affect species as well. Mr. Scanio theorized that the pond’s frog population decreased when fish were introduced to the pond. The fish were likely eating the pond’s tadpoles, causing their numbers to fall. Many bird species, especially the singing birds, visit the pond to escape from the predators, namely red-tail hawks and Cooper’s hawks, which specifically target small birds for predation.

Although small, the pond and its many organisms represent the biodiversity of Choate as an ecosystem. Why is it important to maintain the biodiversity on campus? Sophie Mackin ’18, a Head C-Proctor, said, “An ecosystem has an interconnected system, which allows different species on campus to live. Disruption in one species may disrupt the ecosystem, and it would lead to many devastating effects. The disrupted ecosystem not only disrupts animals, but also us.”

“Having biodiversity is a great indicator of whether the environment is healthy or not because biodiversity implies a healthy environment where many species can live,” Danielle Young ’17, the President of Students Against Climate Change, added. “The environment is a reality that we all have to face. It intersects with many realms of identity and invites many different communities to come together.”

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KEC STUDENTS CONDUCT SELF-DIRECTED RESEARCH

By **Michelle Zhuang '18**
Reporter

Choate campus is surrounded by nature — yet students seldom get the chance to study the environment directly. This term, 14 juniors embarked on their research methods experiments at the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC). Students came up with a list of questions they wanted to study in the fall term and narrowed that list to two proposals by the end of the term. During winter term, the students finalized their decisions. This week, take a look at three such students — Kelly Moh ’18, Ananya Karanam ’18, and Melody Li ’18 — who are conducting studies that pique their interest.

Walking around campus, you may have seen Moh’s posters asking for student volunteers for her food journal experiment. For Moh’s experiment, participants are required to keep a food journal of the type and amount of food they eat for four weeks. They will watch a TED Talk after the first week, and complete a two-to-five minute survey at the beginning and end of the study. Because of Moh’s desire to minimize experimental bias among her participants, much of the information regarding her study will remain confidential.

“I turned vegan this summer,” Moh said. “Food consumption and choices of food and agriculture really interested me.” She added, “A lot of the time, we are so busy that we don’t think about what we put into our bodies, although it’s what fuels us. It affects how we feel.”

Karanam’s project certainly has an impressive title. Her study, “The Influence of Biodiversity on the Nitrate and Phosphate Phytoremediation Potential of Non-Invasive Aquatic Macrophytes in Eutrophic Waters” investigates the effects of pollution on the absorption abilities of different aquatic plants. This is important, because when agricultural products leak into water, they create a low-oxygen “dead zone.” Phytoremediation

refers to the use of green plants to clean up contaminated systems. The plants absorb the pollutants and are then removed to clean up the water.

“I was really interested in how we can use biomass to clean up pollutants,” Karanam said. For her study, Karanam will be using American Waterweed, Hornwort and Duckwort — three different aquatic plants species native to the area — and testing the effectiveness of different combinations of these three species in absorbing and removing pollutants. “My goal with this experiment is to prove how important and beneficial biodiversity is, and how we should improve it,” said Karanam.

For her experiment, Li will test “the ability of oyster mushrooms to break down the compostable Greenware cups used at the café and Tuck shop.” Li became interested in this study after she watched a video from a lifestyle science studio on mushrooms eating plastic bags.

“The cups are made from a kind of green plastic called polylactic acid (PLA) and are compostable under commercial composting conditions, which require high temperatures.” However, because Choate’s composting facility does not take the cups, they are “treated as trash here.”

Regarding her experiment, Li said, “I want to see if the mushrooms can help break down PLA in backyard composting conditions with lower temperatures than the commercial facilities, so that we can eliminate the need for commercial composting facilities in this process.”

Li will spend eight weeks collecting data. She said, “To carry out the actual experiment is just a lot of time spent on manual labor. I spend hours cutting straw into small pieces. The executing is not very difficult for my experiment, but deciding how to execute it to fit the goal was.”

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Meet Max, the Science Center Snake



Photo by Lauren Canna/The Choate News
By **Deanna Tan '20**
Reporter

For six years, Mr. Benjamin Small, Head of the Science Department, has courageously lived in the same quarters as a corn snake, a pet not usually seen around campus. Mr. Small’s snake, named Max, has inhabited the Science Center for six years. Last week, Mr. Small agreed to comment on his scaly companion.

How long have you owned Max? What type of species is he? The pet snake was given to the science department six years ago by the grandson of a former teacher. Max is a corn snake, which is a very common snake throughout the United States.

Where does Max live? Max currently lives in the second floor of the science center. His home is displayed through glass so that students may watch him. Sometimes students will ask me or others to take him out and hold him, and we let people do that.

What are some advantages of having Max? A lot of students are curious about Max, and I want our science building to be a place that has many interesting things in it. I want students to be inspired and curious about the natural world. That’s why he’s in the science building, and that’s why he’s on display there.

Do you think there are any disadvantages? There aren’t many drawbacks towards keeping Max. Someone has to clean

his cage, which is what I do, and feed him. He eats mice about once a week, which means I have to purchase mice, raise them, and kill them specifically for Max. It’s a little bit of an ethical issue: killing all those mice to feed a snake. But aside from that, there aren’t many drawbacks. He is very easy to take care of.

People often feel insecure around snakes; how do others react towards the pet? Some people do have a very strong aversion to snakes, but they don’t have to hold him or pet him, and, even if someone did, he’s not dangerous. I think, actually, when I’ve brought him into classes, there are students that are sometimes squeamish, but then, by actually interacting with Max, students can sometimes get over their squeamishness. I’ve seen students come over and say, “I’m afraid, but maybe can I pet him?” and they’ll touch him really gently. After a while, they’ll ask, “Can I hold him?” Maybe, with some familiarity and time, some students can get over that fear and see that he’s just another animal.

Has Max ever bit anyone? He bit me one time, but he has never bitten anyone else. It was completely my own fault. I had been handling mice, so my hands smelled like mice when I went in to feed him. I just reached in, and he bit my finger. His teeth are incredibly small — probably less than a millimeter long. So it didn’t really hurt very much.

What would be an interesting encounter with Max? The most interesting story is probably the time when Max escaped and disappeared in the science building. He was missing for almost a month. We looked everywhere and couldn’t find him, and then he just came back. We found him on a teacher’s desk — right next to his cage. He basically came home. He was very hungry and very thirsty.

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Choate Environmental Initiatives Advocate Change



Melody Li '18, Matt Aguiar '18, Kelly Moh '18, and Sophie Mackin '18 gather to discuss Earth Week.

By **Mark Su '18**
Reporter

For many years, C-Proctors, Environmental Action Coalition (EAC), and Students Against Climate Change (SACC) have helped Choate become more sustainable. Not only do these groups organize activities, like the Green Cup and the Hydro Cup, but they also educate the school about the environment. Each spring, they organize more environment-related events for the school.

Last Monday, April 17, marked the beginning of Earth Week — a celebration of environmental awareness and respect for nature. Culminating with Earth Day this Saturday, April 22, Earth Week is one of the most important times for environmental committees on campus. During Earth Week, the C-Proctors planned on-campus events such as dyeing shirts with natural coloring, making eco-friendly beauty products, and baking pizzas with sustainable ingredients. Moreover, the C-Proctors will start the annual Hydro Cup competition on May 1, to educate students and faculty about water usage and geopolitical water issues.

To further their environmental initiatives on campus, the C-Proctors divide into subgroups, each responsible for a particular environmental topic. Riley Choi ’18, the head of the “Cups” subgroup, explained, “The Cups team organizes competitions like the Hydro Cup, Recycling Cup, and Green Cup. The Media team is responsible for updating Instagram and making videos. Starting last week, the Earth Week Group has been working to finalize the various activities in that week.”

Choi went on, “One thing my group has been interested in is environmental justice, which says that everyone deserves clean air and water regardless of their socioeconomic status.” In a recent meeting, the C-Proctors watched a TED Talk on the lack of environmental justice in New York City. That, Choi said, “inspired the us to find ways to help lower class people to have access to the clean environment.” She added, “The reality is that people who are in the lower class directly face the consequences of global warming and air pollution while the upper class does not feel the danger at all.”

Another member of the C-Proctors, Richard Lopez ’18, and his team are working to reduce the

school’s beef consumption. Richard said, “When I came to Choate, I learned how detrimental eating beef is for the environment; not only are lands used to grow crops to feed the cows, but the lands for ranching causes deforestation. The antibiotics that farmers add into cows’ food make them grow quickly, but also stimulates them to produce more methane, and methane is four times as bad for the environment as carbon.”

By informing the community about the danger of eating beef, Lopez has persuaded many students to reduce their consumption. “By not eating beef, we are also saving water and land,” Lopez added. “If we change the amount of beef we consume as a dorm, we can then challenge other dorms to do the same. By lowering the total beef consumption of the school, we can eventually reduce the amount of beef we buy.”

The Environmental Action Coalition (EAC) also plans to raise environmental awareness on campus. In the winter, the EAC planned a sale of succulents — small plants that have thick leaves to retain water. The proceeds from this sale went to the United States National Marine Sanctuary, which designates and protects

specific marine areas with conservation and education efforts. Grace Kortum ’17, the president of EAC, explained, “We had a club event after the sale where we gathered the plants and potted them. We combined that with watching TED Talks about conservation, so it was both a fun event and an educational experience.”

Students Against Climate Change (SACC), another campus environmental group, not only runs activities but is also working on bringing physical changes to the school. The SACC hopes to get rid of disposable plastic cups distributed in St. John Hall. “Working with the chief financial officer, the SACC is working to reduce the amount of plastic bottles sold in St. John Hall,” said Melody Li ’18, a C-Proctor and member of the SACC. SACC also hopes to make graduation more environmentally friendly, by asking faculty and students to bring their water bottles instead of providing plastic bottles.

“As the only school with the Environmental Immersion Program, Choate gives the students a unique opportunity to learn extensively about the environment,” Choi said, “I am also grateful that the faculty at the schools are very open to new ideas, which allows student-driven activities to have major impacts.”

How can Choate become even more sustainable? Choi said, “Renovating some old buildings, building water filters, so students do not need to buy boxes of water, and changing light bulbs to LED lights would certainly make a difference. The Lanphier Center is very environmentally friendly, and we should have more buildings like it.”

“One thing that the C-proctors have been working toward is accomplishing the goals that the school has on its website,” said Li, referring to the School’s statement of purpose regarding sustainability. This statement, available on the Choate portal, outlines a vision of long-term conservation that is both taught and lived in the Choate community. Li said, “The advisers for the C-Proctors have been very helpful in helping us to achieve the carbon goal and making green renovation on the buildings.”

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THE BANKSY OF CHOATE

By **Leila Cohen '19**
Reporter

Armed with the phrase, “My art isn’t attacking you; it’s just something that you are looking at,” an anonymous political artist has taken to campus, provoking widespread chatter. Because of the artist’s choice of locations, the Lanphier Center, the Science Center, the PMAC, and the Humanities Building, you have undoubtedly seen these controversial pieces around campus.

The artist agreed to speak to *The Choate News* only on the condition that their identity not be revealed to ensure the continuation of their work without personal and possibly offensive or demeaning backlash. “My only goal with the public art is that sometimes looking at certain images and words can make you consider something a bit differently. There are a lot of different ways to fight for what you think and believe in, and they don’t all have to be arguing.”

What we want is to make people’s interests go a little bit further than debating. We want action.

Artist

After the election, the artist began displaying their work because of a political environment on campus that she felt was dire. They decided that posting nonviolent art would make people think about opposing views without the option of overheated reactions. “Because my work is visual and you are only looking at it and reading it, you’re a lot less likely to get defensive. I’m not an extroverted person, so I would rather argue with people in my own visual way.”

“I love it,” Zara Harding ’18 said. “Whichever side of the political spectrum you fall on, you have to just admire the art. There is no way you can look at this art and just see politics because this artist is also displaying the entire human experience.”

Katie Lee ’18 agreed. “The art definitely makes me stop and think while I’m walking from class to class. I think it’s really cool that the artist stays anonymous because being unidentified makes the art more impactful.”

Nonviolent protest through art and other means of expression has inspired many on campus to take on their own projects. One new club in particular, the Choate Nonviolence Resistance club, has aligned their club with the political art of our campus Banksy to show how much change can be derived from people coming together and using visuals to communicate effectively.

The artist said, “Even though we have a lot of amazing organizations at Choate, many of them are focused on being more informed on campus. What we want is to make people’s interests go a little bit further than debating. We want action. We want to allow people to get involved in political resistance as easily as possible in a real world kind of way.”

In terms of the future, the artist’s main goal is to get more people involved in their work; they explained, “I think people have a weird idea that it’s not something they can do, but people should definitely know that they can do whatever they want, especially being at Choate.” With spring coming, the artist’s new collaborative projects will focus on women, photography of actual protests, and an expansion of her work beyond the confines of school buildings to the outdoors.

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Photo by Helena Yang/The Choate News

The artist plans to upon the size and change the subject of her art in the future.

How Do You GET TO CARNEGIE HALL? GO TO CHOATE.

By **Ariel Kim '20**
Reporter

Apply to Choate, and, sooner rather than later, you’ll notice the arts program. Choate Rosemary Hall boasts an extraordinary program, which includes the Choate Symphony Orchestra (CRHO), composed of passionate and talented musicians from all over the world. The Choate Symphony Orchestra, led by the “mighty maestro” Mr. Phil Ventre, has recently been extremely busy with so many concerts and performances scheduled for the first few weeks of spring term. Already, they have performed for prospective students during Spring Revisit Days, for senior citizens in a retirement home called Ashlar Village, as well as for musicians, music-enthusiasts, and parents at the legendary Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Ashlar Village is a retirement home in Wallingford. On Tuesday, April 4, CRHO performed three pieces at this retirement home: “Uke Can’t Be Serious,” “Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2” featuring David Park ’17, and “Dvořák Carnival Overture Op. 92.”

The Ashlar Village concert was special for the orchestra — although it was not the first time that the musicians in the orchestra had performed for a group of senior citizens, it was a memorable and heartwarming experience for many of them. Se Ri Lee ’19, a violinist, commented, “Playing at a retirement home felt completely different. It felt more personal and intimate — literally, some of the senior members of Ashlar sat only a few feet away from me and my stand partner. During our time at Ashlar, I came to understand how music can bring warmth and joy into a community, how it completely transforms the atmosphere into which it enters. I was glad to have been part of this wonderful experience.”

Noah Lee ’20 was also very touched by this performance. He remarked, “The Choate Orchestra plays at some of the most famous venues all over the world. However, I think that this concert was special because we are able to give the gift of music to people who are unable to go out to concerts.”

Ashlar Village was a special concert for not only the orchestra, but for Mr. Jim Beloff ’73. He, playing the ukulele, joined the orchestra in performing “Uke Can’t Be Serious,” a piece composed by Mr. Beloff himself and commis-



Photo by Hannah Price

Each year, CRHO takes to Carnegie Hall to display its talent on one of the world’s best venues.

sioned by Mr. Ventre, to celebrate his mother’s birthday.

This performance received raving reviews from the audience. At Ashlar Village, the seniors who came to watch were all incredibly satisfied and impressed. Ms. Sandra Gilbert, the Activities Coordinator at Ashlar Village, wrote in an e-mail to Mr. Ventre, “Your concert was positively wonderful! Our residents have been raving about for the last two days. They were so impressed with the quality of performance by all the players... I will tell you that it brought tears to one resident’s eyes.”

Lee also noted, “After our performance, we had the chance to talk to some of the seniors at Ashlar Village... I still remember one of the seniors who loved David’s solo performance saying how much he wanted to learn the piano.”

Another major event for CRHO was performing one of the world’s most famous music venues: Carnegie Hall. This was not the first time that the orchestra had performed at Carnegie Hall — in fact, the orchestra had performed there two years ago. However, it was a first for many third and fourth form students, and for several fifth form students as well. It was Se Ri’s first time visiting and performing at Carnegie Hall. She commented, “The acoustics, the grandeur of the hall, and just everything about it was all so

amazing. I’m glad we were given the opportunity to perform in such a marvelous place.”

Even the students who had been there before marvelled at the wonders of the hall. Lee said, “This was my third time performing in Carnegie Hall. The first two times I performed in the smaller performance hall, but this was my first time in Stern Auditorium. The hall is beautiful and has a lot of history behind it. The acoustics in the hall are some of the best I’ve ever heard. It’s an honor to play at a concert hall with so much history behind it.”

At Carnegie Hall, the orchestra performed two of the three pieces they performed at Ashlar Village: Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2 featuring Park as the soloist once again, and Dvořák Carnival Overture Op. 92. They had already performed these two pieces several times prior to Carnegie Hall, at one school meeting as well as during Spring Revisit Days, so many members of the orchestra felt as though they were well-rehearsed, even though they did not get a chance to rehearse on stage before the actual performance. Chloe Choi ’19 explained, “The orchestra has spent almost two full terms rehearsing for this performance, so most of us had all the necessary muscle memory down for Carnegie Hall to be a great success.”

Overall, the orchestra was

satisfied with their performance at Carnegie Hall. Reflecting on the performance, Emma Lien ’18 remarked, “I think we performed well because the audience was highly appreciative — they gave us a standing ovation, and that is a huge compliment.”

Lee added, “I think we played very well. There were a few spots, especially in Dvořák, where we weren’t exactly all together, but I think we played well, considering that we didn’t rehearse before our performance. Also, the audience loved David’s solo!”

Not only was the experience wonderful for the musicians, but it was also a great bonding experience for the orchestra as a whole. Annett Ho ’18, concert master, expressed her content with having performed alongside some of her closest friends, including the seniors who would soon be graduating. “Being able to perform in Stern Hall, the biggest hall in Carnegie Hall, was a nice experience for me because I got to share it with my friends. The whole bonding experience with the orchestra afterwards at the Russian Tea Room was also nice. One other thing that was special about it was that I got to play with David — he’s leaving, and I got to play with him.”

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Bershtein and Patel: Pop Stars in the Making

By **Inc Thongthai '19**
Staff Reporter

Recently, two Choate students have taken their love for music to a different level. No longer sticking to simply covering a song from a different artist, Richard Bershtein ’20 and Max Patel ’19 have gone above and beyond and written their own songs. The two songs they have written thus far have gained momentum on the Internet, collectively earning over 1,000 views on YouTube, their preferred platform for expression. The two have collaborated with Liam Podos ’20, who produces music videos on his own YouTube channel. Their hard work has earned them a spot in the limelight here at Choate.

Even through the struggles of freshman year, Bershtein has already written his own song titled “Used To Be.” The song is an upbeat, rhythmic piece with guitar and drum instrumentals that give the relatively sad song life. The video begins with a dialogue about neglecting conversation in exchange for the all-too-consuming world of technology. This serves as a prologue to the song and is a thread that continues throughout the lyrics of the song, as well as the music video.

“Used To Be” is a song that I wrote about technology and the way it interferes with personal relationships,” Bershtein said. “I thought it was ironic that social media was supposed to connect people together, but, instead, it creates a distance between you and the person holding the screen.” The music video itself is set in the dark, reflecting the mood of the lyrics and symbolizing the shallow relationships behind the facade of vibrant connections on social media.

As the title suggests, Bershtein expresses how he wants so-

cial interactions to revert to the way they “Used To Be” before technology. The lyrics and the video are used to emulate this theme. Bershtein drew inspiration from his personal experiences. He stated, “Used To Be” is my first song that is not purely about love and romantic intimacy. It’s more about my resentment towards social media, more specifically, Snapchat.” He added, “I wrote the song about a girl who I had an internet relationship with. We started to Snapchat one another, but our friendship never went further from there. I asked if she wanted to meet in person, to grab pancakes or something, but she asked to just be Snapchat friends.”

“Used To Be” focuses on Bershtein’s confusion on this topic. He said, “That inspired me to write ‘Used To Be.’ It was not the distance that drove us apart either — we lived a town away from one another — it was the social media that brought us together, then later divided us.” Bershtein has a collection of songs written over love and sadness. He said, “Used To Be” is a little different from my other songs. Although I was sad when I wrote this, that emotion came from my frustration and disgust with social media.” He joked, “I usually get my heart broken before writing a song.”

Bershtein’s collaborator and fellow member of the Maiyeros, Max Patel ’19, is already an established singer here at Choate, being a part of Chamber Chorus, a capella member, and performing at numerous school meetings and coffeehouses. His song “Laugh With You” is featured on Liam Podos’ Youtube channel. The composition features a soft acoustic tune and an overlay of Patel’s voice. His song is also drawn from his personal life experiences.

“In writing songs, I connect to my personal experiences and emotions that I find hard to explain through simple words,” Patel said, adding, “‘Laugh With You’ is a dialogue with life. It talks about living in the moment and finding a way to laugh through all the bad and good times, and to dance with life, even with all the obstacles it throws at you.” He joked, “Really, ‘Laugh With You’ is ‘Laugh With Life’.”

In addition to songwriting, Patel is an aspiring singer. He said, “Songwriting started as a hobby for me. But, ultimately my goal is to be able to become a singer and songwriter. I want to produce more songs and create content with higher quality.” However, starting the process of songwriting proved challenging. Patel commented, “I wanted to write songs, but I didn’t play any instruments. So I began to take guitar lessons over the summer, and I have not put it down since then. I think it’s such an interesting instrument. It’s a lot of fun to explore all the chords that a guitar can produce, and the sounds that comes from it.” Patel’s music video reflects the very themes of life. Set in the city with clear skies, it reflects the message of overcoming and laughing through troubles. He says, “Although the content of the song is important, the vehicle which carries it is just as vital. I realized through other aspiring artists that something like a YouTube channel would be essential in constructing a career.”

Although their Choate careers are relatively short, both Bershtein and Patel’s talent has proved inspiring. With the help of Podos, their artistic possibilities are boundless.

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SENIOR RECITAL: KAITLYN DUTCHIN ’17

By **Simi Sachdeva '19**
Staff Reporter

Kaitlyn Dutchin ’17 amazed yet another crowd on Sunday, April 9, at her Senior Recital. Dutchin sang an array of musical theater songs, as well as a duet with Stephen Ankoué ’17. Dutchin proved her talent once again through her impeccable acting and beautiful voice.

“I really just wanted to have that ability to really culminate everything that I had learned at Choate,” Dutchin explained. As an Arts Concentration student, Dutchin stated she wanted to merge her singing and acting skills by singing musical theater songs. Dutchin did not begin her vocal training until she came to Choate, although she did sing the song “Fame,” which she performed during her recital, in middle school when she played Carmen.

Reflecting on her performance, Dutchin gushed, “I was really happy with it. It was a lot, but it went by so fast -- it really did, and there was a really great crowd. My family was there, people I really love at Choate were there—teachers, friends. I felt really supported. I was really able to show what I could do.”

Dutchin was not the only one who was proud of her performance. Jacob Meyers ’17, one of Dutchin’s closest friends, said, “I think Kaitlyn completely blew all of us away. It’s clear her career is nowhere close to ending and that she is just getting started in the theater business. I look forward to seeing her on Broadway one day.”

Dutchin picked all of the songs for her senior recital by word of mouth and with help from her voice instructor at Choate. She kicked off the recital with the number “It



Photo courtesy of Kaitlyn Dutchin

Dutchin’s passion for singing and acting will continue at Northwestern.

Won’t be Long Now” from the musical *In the Heights* - a very exciting number. She stated, “A lot of songs really touched me. I felt a connection to each and every one of them.”

It’s clear her career is nowhere close to ending and that she is just getting started in the theater business.

Jacob Meyers ’17

One of the most moving pieces in the recital was Dutchin’s closing number, “I’d Give My Life For You”, from the musical *Miss Saigon*. Before she began, Dutchin told the audience the song reminded her of her two little brothers, who after the song ran up to Kaitlyn with flowers.

Kaitlyn gushed, “Whenever I sing that song, like I said in my recital, I think of my two little brothers who are three and five because I truly

do feel like I would give my life for them. I want them to have the best possible life that they could have.” Dutchin explained the song is about a girl singing to her child during the Vietnam when she falls in love with an American soldier and becomes pregnant, but the soldier has to return to America. The song is the mother telling the child that he is loved no matter his poor familial circumstances.

In the fall, Dutchin will be studying at Northwestern University, and plans to double major in Theater and Sociology. She said, “Wherever the road takes me, I really hope to continue singing and acting.”

Jana Godbole ’19 said after the recital, “Kaitlyn is a goddess and she should forever sing at Northwestern; she is going to be one of the best. We can’t wait to have a Choate alumna like her.”

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FIELD REPORT

Saturday Games

Baseball (7-2-0)
beats Hotchkiss, 11-6

Softball (1-4-0)
falls to Deerfield, 0-22

Sailing (3-2-0)
3 of 4

Ultimate (1-3-0)
beats Newtown, 15-11

Boys' Crew (0-1-0)
falls to Bel. Hill

Girls' Crew (0-1-0)
falls to Cambridge

Boys' Golf (5-4-0)
2nd of 3

Girls' Golf (4-2-0)
1st of 3

Boys' Lacrosse (4-3-0)
falls to Deerfield, 4-18

Girls' Lacrosse (6-1-0)
beats Deerfield, 13-11

Boys' Tennis (4-0-0)
beats Exeter, 6-1

Girls' Tennis (1-2-0)
falls to Hotchkiss, 2-7

Boys' Track (5-1-0)
1st of 3

Girls' Track (5-0-0)
beats Westy, 109-36

Boys' Volleyball (2-2-0)
beats Exeter, 3-2

Girls' Water Polo (3-4-0)
Tournament, 0-3

Wednesday Games

Baseball (7-2-0)
beats Loomis, 3-1

Softball (1-4-0)
falls to KO, 4-11

Ultimate (1-3-0)
beats Hotchkiss,

Boys' Golf (5-4-0)
falls to Bel. Hill, 225-217

Girls' Golf (4-2-0)
2nd of 3

Boys' Lacrosse (4-3-0)
beats Albany, 15-4

Girls' Lacrosse (6-1-0)
beats Sacred Heart, 10-9

Boys' Tennis (4-0-0)
beats NMH, 7-0

Girls' Tennis (1-2-0)
falls to KO,

Boys' Volleyball (2-2-0)
beats NMH, 3-0

Girls' Water Polo (3-4-0)
beats Hotchkiss, 11-10

Catching Up with the Girls' Track Team

By **Joseph Coyne '19**
Copy Editor

Year after year, one of the strongest teams on campus is Girls' Varsity Track and Field. This season is no different. Coming off the Founders League Championship last season and a 5-0 start this year, the team is motivated and prepared for a great season.

When speaking to the captains of the team, they expressed the team's goals for the season. Both Co-Captain Lauren Lamb '17 and Co-Captain Abby Blair '17 commented on the team's lofty expectations. Lamb said, "We are hoping to go undefeated the entire season, win Founders for the second year in a row, and place top three in New England's." Co-Captain Maya Birney '17 went even further, saying she wanted to win New England's. Birney later said that she realizes that the expectations are high, but she believes they are absolutely reachable.

The girls know this season is not going to be a cake-walk by any means. Lamb commented on the necessities for the team's success, saying, "It's going to take the whole team supporting each other, working hard at every practice, and pushing itself." Blair said on the topic, "It means



Photo by Shamari Harrington/The Choate News

Though listed as separate teams, Boys' and Girls' Track and Field collaborate with each other.

taking every practice seriously and working hard every day, whether its on the track, in the gym, in the trainers, or wherever it may be."

We are hoping to go undefeated the entire season.

Lauren Lamb '17
Co-Captain

Off the track, Birney had another goal for the team, and that goal was coming closer together. She stressed the fam-

ily aspect of the team is one of its strongest assets. On what it would take to achieve this goal, Birney said, "Hopefully, we will get some team dinners in. We have a lot of good team chants; we all cheer for each other, and that really helps to bring the team together."

Another aspect of the team that was stressed by the captains was its depth. "We don't have just a few people that are good that carry the team. We have multiple people in most events that are very strong and

can push each other and can go hard in practice," said Blair on the team strength.

On the other side, the captains realized their team has room to grow. Lamb commented on how hard it is to train for multiple events because of the high expectations in each one. Birney said, "For weaknesses, we don't always wear enough clothing when it's cold out. Layering up is important." Blair focused on another aspect, saying, "We are not always the most focused team.

We could be more focused, but it's also just the beginning of the season, and once we get more into it, people will be more focused and be ready to go."

While this year's team may have the same aspirations as last year's team, the roster is certainly not the same. Blair said of new athletes, "We have a lot of great new people on the team that are working well with the returning athletes. For example, Sidney Jones '17 joined us this year. She is a senior soccer player, and she is incredibly fast in the 100-meter dash. She sprained her ankle earlier this season, but I think she is going to help us a lot. Also, some younger students are making impacts too. Another soccer player, Sam Brown '20, joined us and is already excelling at the high jump and in the 400-meter-run." Blair believes the young athletes will help lead, but a strong group of seniors will be a formula for success.

After a fourth-place finish last year at the New England Championships, the Girls' Varsity Track and Field team is on a mission to return and take home the hardware this year. Their individual and team goals are set, and they aren't backing down.

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Girls' Tennis Falls to Hotchkiss

By **Laila Hawkins '19**
Reporter

On Saturday, April 15, Girls' Varsity Tennis suffered a tough loss to the Hotchkiss Bearcats in the first game of their Founder's League season. Despite the outcome of the match, Head Coach, Mr. Kevin Rogers, remains optimistic about the rest of the season, saying that it was "a good match for us."

Notorious for their racket sports, the Hotchkiss girls have been dominating the Founder's League for the last decade. Madison Mandell '18, said "We played a really tough opponent, and they beat a team that we lost to 8-9-0, so they are very strong tennis players. They are top of the ladder, and they're young, but they're really good, so that gave us some tough matches." However, Choate's team is not something to sneeze at. With new additions to the team, both coaches and players say that this season

is looking to be very good, even though it started off a little rocky.

Although they lost, Choate kept Hotchkiss on their toes. Mr. Rogers explained that they had a pretty challenging day because "two of our top six are out, so we have people playing above their spot on the ladder. But we held our own."

The girls played strong doubles matches, despite last minute changes. Caroline Quinn '18 spoke about the hardships that came up prior to the match, saying "the injuries we had affected our doubles pairings. Additionally, people had to move up on the ladder and rise to the opportunity, and overall I think that we all played well." The first doubles team lost 8-5, and the second team lost 8-4, which proved to be very close matches given the tough Hotchkiss team.

Unlike the doubles matches, the Choate girls did prevail in singles matches, with Polina Ermoshkina '19 and Charlotte

Craig '18 winning their respective matches. Other matches were also close; players Caroline Quinn '18, Rachel Proudman '19, and Madeline Horn '19 played strong matches as well. Overall, the girls represented Choate Tennis very well. Assistant Coach, Mr. Craig Johnson, was very proud of the girls; he said, "We are a young team, but we do not play like a young team. We are a hard working team, and as a coach, that's all that you can ask for." He went on to say that the results from Saturday prove that there still lots of room for improvement.

After the match, the girls reflected on the outcome. Mandell said, "Today is a learning experience. Now we know exactly what we need to practice next week." It is still early in their season, so they have time to improve and establish themselves in the Founders League.

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JV Baseball Drops Season Opener

By **Dan Brockett '19**
Staff Reporter

Boys' JV Baseball had their first game on Wednesday at home against Brunswick. Jonah Feldman '20 started on the mound and pitched well. The team gave up three runs in the first two innings, due to some early communication errors. Choate came back in the bottom of the third to tie the game at three, and Ruben Kaplan '20 came in to pitch in the fourth. Meanwhile, the offense began to pick up steam, and Choate capitalized on its momentum, taking a 7-5 lead.

Kaplan said, "A key moment was our big rally in the 4th inning, as several hitters got base hits and walks to bring in runs. Also Chris Guyette '19 made an incredible diving catch in center field in the 4th inning."

During the comeback, Graham Keating '19 and Kaplan had key hits to propel the team.

Late in the game, Zaid Ball '20 and Sungwoo Park '17 came in to pitch, hoping to close out the

game. Despite the team's best efforts, Brunswick was able to push a couple of runs across the plate and take a 9-7 lead. The Boars knew they were going to have to rally again if they wanted to win the game. With one out in the bottom of the seventh inning, Choate loaded the bases after left-fielder Ahmed Wise '20 was walked, second baseman Rodrigo Navarro '20 was hit by a pitch, and shortstop Gordon Clark '19 singled to left field. The Brunswick pitcher was clearly rattled with the bases loaded and only one out. Choate had all the momentum, and the Brunswick pitcher, with two outs, walked in a run to make it a one run game. Unfortunately Choate couldn't complete the comeback, and Brunswick walked away with a one run 9-8 victory.

After the game Coach Zachary Kafoglis said, "We're pretty green at this point. Due to copious rain, we weren't able to get on our field until Monday. As a result, I think we are still figuring out our strengths. We have a lot of depth in the infield which is great, and

I was pleased with how aggressive we were at the plate and that we weren't afraid to take some swings."

Several players echoed Coach Kafoglis' message, specifically Gordon Clark '19 who said, "After a rough start, when things started working on the field and in the batter's box, the team's morale raised quite a bit. Also, when center-fielder Guyette made that incredible diving catch, the team went crazy."

As the weather clears up and the fields dry out the team should be able to get out onto the field more often. With a strong performance in their first game despite the lack of outdoor practice, the team looks primed for a good season. The boys have a showdown with Taft on Friday, April 21. The teams only play each other once this season, so it seems that both sides will give the other its best so far. The Choate team is young, and they will surely get better as the season goes on.

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BOYS' VARSITY GOLF BESTED BY TAFT, BEATS NMH

By **Jackson Elkins '18**
Sports Editor

This past Saturday, April 15, Boys' Varsity Golf travelled to the Watertown Golf Club to take on Taft School and Northfield Mount Hermon. Described as a challenging course on its own, it certainly didn't help that the conditions were both overcast and windy, making for a challenging day for all three teams. The course is Taft's home course and will be home to the nine-team Founder's League Championship later this spring. Historically, Taft has always been a tough match, as they usually tout a strong lineup of golfers each spring. NMH, however, proved to be less of a challenge for the Boars, and Choate matched up far more favorably. By the end of the day, Choate had scored a solid, cumulative score of 428 over 18 holes, leaving them only 28 strokes behind Taft, while solidly disposing of NMH by a 33 stroke margin.

The match was the first 18-hole competition of the season for boys' golf, and both Carter Prince '18 and captain Lawson Buhl '17 performed very well against Taft's and NMH's top players. Prince shot a remarkable 79, managing to close out the last nine holes with a brilliant 35. Buhl also shot a very strong 80, and the two finished just two and three strokes, respectively, off of medalists Jonathan Elkins and Chris Gaeta from Taft. The win and loss brought the Boys' Golf team's record to five wins and three losses, very solid in regards to who they've played so far this season, and with championships not too far away, the boys are shaping up well.

In regards to the match itself, Prince was positive about the results that the team got, saying, "Saturday we played in tough conditions, and the

scores were a little higher than normal. As a team we weren't happy with our scores and we certainly found places of improvement." Prince also mentioned that Leland Ben '17 also put in a solid performance, especially given the tough weather.

I think as a whole though we will all be ready for Hotchkiss.

Carter Prince '18

Going forward, Choate faces off against Hotchkiss on Saturday, April 22, a team that, like Taft, has its own golf course, giving them a distinct advantage over their competition. Currently undefeated and having beat top teams like Brunswick and Salisbury, the Boars face another excellent team in the Bearcats. It will take another big effort from the Choate boys to matchup, but if their results from the Taft match are indicative of anything, Choate will do well to rise to the occasion just as they did this past Saturday. Prince commented on their preparation, saying, "We are working towards our match against Hotchkiss by trying to fix everything that went wrong against NMH and Taft. Some of us need work on the range, while others need to spend some time around the greens. I think as a whole though we will all be ready for Hotchkiss come Saturday, eager to get a big win."

The Founder's League is by far the toughest division in prep school golf, and Choate often plays against teams that, on paper, out-match them. But combined with the coaching of Coach Eric Stahura and spirit of the players, there is no team that Choate can't hang with.

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