



## SMASS Hosts Interschool Conference

By ALYSSA SHIN '18  
News Reporter

Choate's Sexual Minorities and Straight Supporters (SMASS) hosted its fifth annual interschool conference on campus on Sunday, March 19. Several other independent schools in New England, including the Taft School, Deerfield Academy, the Hotchkiss School, the Lawrenceville School, and Cheshire Academy attended the conference. The schedule for the day consisted of many activities including discussions and presentations from renowned speakers. Alex Myers, the author of the book *Revolutionary and trans-advocate*, visited the school to give a keynote speech. According to his website, he was "the first openly transgender student at Harvard." Noah Freeman '15, co-president of the club said about the presentation, "He is such a respected scholar on the subject, it was really impressive to have him here." Internet sensations and LGBT activists, Kristen Russo and Danielle Owens, were also on campus for a presentation. Milly Battle '15, another co-president of the club said, "They were really cool speakers, and I was personally really excited, because I have been following them since freshmen year. They did a really good job of doing a really funny, engaging presentation."

The objective of the conference was to give an opportunity to students on campus and from other independent schools around New England to become more aware about the LGBTQ community and create a comfortable environment open to discussion. According to Battle, "I feel like our conference was a chance for our community to learn more about the gay, trans community, being comfortable with who you are, being unapologetically themselves, because everyone was judge-free."

Noah Freeman '15 said, "We still have big steps to take. Sometimes, at other schools it's harder, and the administration is less accepting. We have one of the best Gay Straight Alliances (GSA) in the New England prep school community and having the conference was an opportunity to show them that this kind of community is possible. People that don't feel comfortable coming out there can come talk to us."

The conference was one of the biggest events for the club, and the preparation for the conference began during fall term. Some of the many challenges the presidents had to face were finding a speaker, getting in touch and scheduling with the speaker, and keeping within budget. Battle said, "It was

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PHOTO/MICHAEL JONES

Students from various independent schools around New England attended the fifth annual SMASS interschool conference. At the conference, students learned about LGBTQ issues through provocative discussions and presentations.

## Mr. David Kohler '84 Discusses Corporate Sustainability at the KEC

By JUN JANG '17  
News Reporter

On April 15, the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC) welcomed Mr. David Kohler '84, President and Chief Operating Officer of Kohler Company and Mr. Davor Grgic, Chief Information Officer and Vice President of Sustainability at Kohler Company. Kohler and Grgic's presentation, "The Kohler Company Sustainability Strategic Plan and Developing a Corporate Sustainability Culture," was presented to Choate students and faculty at the KEC.

Mr. David Kohler graduated from Choate Rosemary Hall in 1984 and went to Duke University for his undergraduate education. He then went on to attend Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and earned his MBA. In 1993, he joined the Kohler Company and was elected as President and Chief Operating Officer in 2009.

As part of the presentation, Mr. Kohler gave a history of the Kohler Company, which was established in 1873. Mr. Kohler explained the

Kohler Company's sustainability strategy to Choate students and faculty. He pointed out that reducing the company's environmental footprint, such as greenhouse gas emissions and landfill disposal of solid waste to net zero by 2035, creating more environmentally favorable products, and increasing awareness of sustainability and conservation issues were the three most essential aspects of its strategy.

These events of inviting leaders in the field of sustainability to speak to Choate students and faculty are not new. In fact, Mr. Joseph Scanio, a teacher at the KEC, stated that the main goals of the KEC is "to bring speakers to provide opportunities for the KEC students and for the broader Choate community, to benefit from leaders and industries on academics about the issues of sustainability, and to make academic steps outside the classroom." He added that allowing students out to see the real world and seeing how issues of sustainability are played out in the world today and how relevant they are in their applications are crucial parts of the KEC. Overall, it is not just the matter of learning but

how that education is combined and used in the real world.

Generally, most of the events regarding sustainability are open to everyone in the Choate community. However, because the presentation organized by the Kohler Company was given during the academic day, only those who were directly involved in Choate's sustainability program, such as the C-Proctors and Environmental Immersion Program students were able to attend. Steffi Acevedo-Barradas '15, a C-Proctor, commented that she was surprised to learn that despite the stereotypical and negative images a corporation can give, it can aim for deduction of energy and waste; the Kohler Company is a prime example of a corporation that makes sustainability one of its primary goals.

"I found the presentation very effected and helpful, and it inspired people who are interested in the environment but aren't sure what careers it will lead to," noted Acevedo-Barradas. "At least for me, I was inspired to think about environment in my career of civil engineering and hope to also major in environmental engineer-

ing," said Acevedo-Barradas. She also noted that she wished that the presentation had been a more open event, believing that anyone could have been inspired by the presentation. She added, "You can be just as involved in environment and be successful; the future holds in the environment."

The presentation focused on the way the Kohler Company is approaching sustainability, and also the ways in which a corporation can be environmentally responsible but also profitable at the same time. A main goal of the company is to become waste neutral by 2035, serving as a leading example of environmentally responsible corporation. Choate students and faculty noted that it was a well-organized presentation, presenting what the Kohler Company is currently doing - involving waste material in new substances, increasing energy efficiency, and trying to create benefits for those who do not have quality sanitation. For Mr. Scanio, insight into an international corporation such as the Kohler Company was the most impressive and valuable aspect of the presentation.

"Hearing directly from the people involved in decision-making, product development, and corporate culture especially in the era of major corporate culture change and learning how to mash sustainability and business model were invaluable parts of the presentation," said Mr. Scanio.

Mr. Scanio also added that although Choate students may have very busy schedules, they must try to take advantage of these invaluable opportunities. "It is really important in the busy Choate life and schedule that students take opportunity to learn, go to conferences and presentations, documentaries, and other events at Choate because if they are too focused on classes they will miss the big picture. I think that having events like this is a key to their success in society or society as a whole."



PHOTO/CHOATE FLICKR

Mr. David Kohler '84 emphasized the importance of corporate sustainability in his presentation to Choate students and faculty on April 15.

## CHOATE GIRLS ATTEND STEM SUMMIT

By TRUELIAN LEE '17  
Copy Editor

On April 12, four students and two faculty members had the opportunity to attend informational sessions led by science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) professionals, tour lab facilities at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and connect with presenters and STEM professionals in group sessions and a career mixers as part of the inaugural Girls Advancing In STEM (GAINS) Conference. Ms. Kathleen Wallace and Dr. Lauren Martini chaperoned the group of girls, which consisted of Zemina Edmondson '16, Truelian Lee '17, Khanh Vu '16, and Kristi Wharton '16. The inaugural conference was held at the MIT Whitehead Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Over 90 girls from 18 schools attended the conference.

Dr. Ann Decker, a teacher at the all-girls Greenwich Academy, established the conference. Initially, Dr. Decker did not realize that gender was an issue in the field of science. While she was researching for her doctorate degree, the lab she worked at had "a really good balance of gender." Because of this, Dr. Decker never noticed the gender disparity in the field of science.

**"There were a lot of girls who suddenly stopped being interested in these classes, and I was surprised."**

- Dr. Ann Decker

After her research, Dr. Decker was drawn to the classroom, where she started teaching students. It was during this time that she realized the full extent of the gender disparity in advanced math and science classes. "There were a lot of girls who suddenly stopped being interested in these classes, and I was surprised," noted Dr. Decker.

Upon further reflection, she came to the conclusion that there were many factors that caused girls to be reluctant to pursue higher-level math and science courses. In particular, Dr. Decker believed that it was the "soft factors," or factors that are not necessarily quantifiable.

Dr. Decker explained that there were a myriad of soft factors that discouraged girls from pursuing careers in STEM, including insufficient exposure to the idea and a lack of a cohesive support network. Thus, she aimed to provide "a solid education in science and math, which builds confidence and integrates in images of and experiences with women who do these kinds of jobs." In effect, the benefits are that "the girls know that for one, these types of jobs exist, and for another, that women are working in these

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**New Pup on the Block**  
Meet Franklin, the newest member of the Choate family.  
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FEATURES

**Just Dance!**  
Choate dancers show off their unparalleled moves in the Paul Mellon Arts Center.  
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ARTS & LEISURE

**The Bear Speaks**  
Jackson Elkins '18 interviews baseball player Jacob "Bear" Stevens '15.  
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SPORTS



PHOTO/PAUL MYERSON  
Nicole Chavez '15 recently received a Certificate of Accomplishment for the Princeton Prize in Race Relations because of her extensive research on diversity and its implications in her directed study.

# CHAVEZ '15 HONORED WITH PRIZE IN RACE RELATIONS

BY HANNAH LEMMONS '16  
News Staff Reporter

Early this spring, Nicole Chavez '15 received a Certificate of Accomplishment for the Princeton Prize in Race Relations. As one of two recipients, Chavez, accompanied by Dean of Students Mr. James Stanley and former HPRSS teacher and current Director of Diversity and Community at Green Farms Academy Ms. Kristjiana Gong, attended the 2015 Connecticut Recognition Dinner and Awards Ceremony for the prize on Thursday April 9.

One of the presidents of the Choate Diversity Student Association (CDSA), a Diversity Day coordinator, and a prefect in Bernhard House, Chavez is known on campus as a devoted student leader—particularly in her work to promote diversity and inclusion on campus. After returning from the National Student Diversity Leadership Conference (NSDLC) in December of her sophomore year, Chavez and several other students who attended NSDLC were inspired to create Diversity Day, a celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day dedicated to addressing issues of diversity and inequality. “An opportunity in which students feel open and willing to share in a safe space is really unusual in this world, and Nicole and the others were able to help make that happen at Choate,” said Mr. Stanley. Diversity Day has now become an annual event, with the Diversity Day Planning Committee already starting the planning process for next January. Aside from this, Chavez also helped to establish CDSA, one of Choate’s primary clubs for diver-

sity issues on campus. According to Chavez, her primary motivation to facilitate the creation of Diversity Day and CDSA was to increase the number of people talking about diversity on campus. “We were all just really committed to promoting regular discussions of diversity here at Choate,” said Chavez. In addition to her extracurricular commitments, Chavez created three unique Directed Study projects examining the intersection of race and politics, gender and sexuality theory, and poverty and public policy.

Chavez first became aware of the Princeton Prize last year while working on organizing Diversity Day. Director of the John Joseph Activities Center Mr. Jim Yanello encouraged the group to apply as a possibility for their work to be recognized.

“Unfortunately, because of all the work surrounding Diversity Day, we realized we didn’t have time to apply as a group; however, we encouraged each other to apply individually,” said Chavez. That year, former president of Choate Slam Poetry Association and Choate Afro-Latino Student Alliance Ryan Shepard '14 was one of 25 recipients nationwide.

For the first part of the application, Chavez wrote four short essays outlining how her involvement in Diversity Day and Choate Diversity Student Association (CDSA) helped to promote racial harmony and understanding on the Choate campus. After learning that Chavez was planning to apply, Ms. Gong quickly agreed to write a recommendation letter for the second part of the application. Winners were eligible to receive up to \$1000 in a cash prize and an official certificate

of recognition. Chavez, however, emphasized that she did not apply for the acknowledgment. “The main reason I applied was actually to try to attend a symposium on the Princeton University campus on race relations that the regional winners are invited to,” added Chavez.

Winners were announced mid-March, with the number of Certificate of Achievement recipients varying from state to state. In Connecticut, the three selected winners (Prize winner Cameron Burns of the King Low Heywood Thomas School, Certificate of Accomplishment winner Areesha Irfan of the Kingswood-Oxford School, and Chavez) were invited to attend the 2015 Connecticut Recognition Dinner and Awards Ceremony with their advisers or mentors. Held at the Yale Graduate Club, the dinner included speeches from not only the award winners and notable Princeton alumni, but also a guest appearance from Ronelle Swagerty, Chief Executive Officer of the New Beginnings Family Academy in Bridgeport.

For many of the Choate community, Chavez’s passion for diversity education and the improvement of race relations will not diminish any time soon. Said Mr. Stanley, “I see ceaseless, genuine commitment in Nicole. She’s always looking for opportunities to be engaged in diversity-related work and make this school a better place, and is doing this because it truly matters to her.” For students interested in pursuing diversity work, Chavez remarked, “Don’t worry about what other people think when you set a goal that seems impossible to reach. Take your passion and use it as motivation to follow through.”

# Biology 400 Introduces Ecology Video Challenge

BY JULIE TAMURA '16  
News Staff Reporter

Students in Biology 400 classes recently submitted their biology videos on ecological issues as part of the inaugural Choate ecology video challenge. The students worked on their projects for the last two weeks of the winter term. The winners of the first ecology video challenge were Bryce Wachtell '17, Anna Diffley '16, O’Neil Brown '16 and Brad McPherson '15. The group researched about the dead zones that occur when one uses an excessive amount of fertilizer. In order to commemorate their accomplishment, their names will be carved on a plaque, a new tradition in the Choate community.

Biology 400 teachers gave their students a list of ecological issues to research and report on. The students were then asked to create a 12-minute video and write a collection of paragraphs about the effects of their assigned ecological issue on the environment and other people.

English teacher Mr. Trevor Peard, who created this new event, explained, “The purpose of the

competition is to increase participation in public speaking. This is a little bit different but we are broadening it to public communication. We see it as a technological time where communication is based on things like this.”

Mr. Deron Chang, a biology teacher who helped organize the contest, said, “Mr. Peard came to me last year indicating to me that he would like to have a Pratt-Packard-like contest for fifth-form science students. He thought that the Biology 400 students would be a good place to start. Every student has to take biology so we thought it would be a good class to start with.”

Prior to this year, the science department asked biology students to create a blog in groups on ecological issues during the last three-and-a-half weeks of winter term. “Together with my other Biology 400 colleagues, we eliminated the blog piece. Although there was a big writing component in the blog, we decided to shift from the blog to the video. The students had to tell something to the audience,” said Mr. Chang.

This was the first time the Choate ecology video challenge

was held. The video covered the same aspects the blog did. The videos were about 12 minutes long, and students could use any format to make the video. About 30 videos were made from the nine Biology 400 classes, and every teacher selected the best video from each of their classes. From that selection, five faculty members then narrowed the pool down to four finalists. The four videos were shown to the Biology 400 students, science faculty, and four judges. The judges were science teachers Mr. Ben Small, Mr. Joe Scania, Mr. Todd Currie, and Ms. Lena Moser.

According to Mr. Chang, the biology teachers often graded the videos differently than the actual judges for the competition did.

“I gave the judges a list of criteria to consider, but that group of judges had to consider on their own what would be the most important thing,” explained Mr. Chang. “What is interesting is that the judges decided that one of the most important things was how much the group put their particular creative energy into the

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# REPRESENTATIVES DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS AT CLI

BY HALEY CHANG '18  
News Staff Reporter

On Monday, April 13, newly elected members of Student Council and Judicial Committee (JC) attended the Choate Leadership Institute (CLI). Initiated eleven years ago by former headmaster Mr. Edward Shanahan, CLI aims to teach elected and appointed student leaders the philosophy of leadership, as well as the specifics of their new position in the community.

Each CLI session is tailored to a group’s specific needs and responsibilities. According to Jaylin Lugardo '16, a rising sixth-form Judicial Committee representative, “the CLI experience really helped me to understand exactly what the Judicial Committee does. I never realized how much of an asset the JC was meant to be until I participated in the CLI my sophomore year.” The two CLI sessions in spring are reserved for Student Council, Judicial Committee, Assessment Team, Peer Educators, and C-Proctors. New team captains and prefects have their own sessions a few days before the start of the academic year.

The students started the day by learning about the philosophy of leadership. “We first talked about the foundation of what it means to be a leader at Choate, and a lot of it was based on the Statement of Character and the Statement of Expectations. Then the students discussed what their new roles were in the community, and what each group stood for,” explained

Mr. William Morris, Associate Dean of Students.

The students then took those answers and prepared a short video expressing the roles, values, and the function of their particular group. The program also had a segment on the crisis intervention plan. “It is very important that all of our students understand how crisis intervention works, and this really starts with the student leadership. The group went over the crisis intervention plan in the student handbook so they can get familiar with it,” said Mr. Morris.

The group also had a chance to plan and discuss ways to run effective meetings. “Some of the things that we talked about during the meeting were how we would make the best out of our meetings, and how we can have a swift execution of our ideas. Now that we have established what our goals are, and what our values are, we can go out and implement them in a pragmatic manner,” said Mpilo Norris '18, a rising fourth-form Student Council President.

Since Student Council and Judicial Committee are two groups that have to function well together, the program also gives the elected members an opportunity to bond. Yoonjong Lee '16, Vice President of the Student Council, commented, “It was nice to see another part of the student leadership at Choate, as well as other Student Council members; before the conference, I felt that we hadn’t really consolidated ourselves to a single group yet. The

CLI was a good opportunity to meet people that I hadn’t know before.”

At the end of each CLI, there is always a survey asking the participants for feedback. “From the feedback, we are able to constantly adjust and modify the program. This year, we tried to leverage technology. For instance, we were able to launch the video project because of the adoption of iPads. Also, all the materials were provided electronically through Canvas,” explained Mr. Morris.

Regarding potential improvements, Lee commented, “We spent a lot of time learning about the Choate values and spending that much time on Choate values was a bit redundant. At the same time, I know how important it is. However, I believe that we did not have much time to interact in a smaller group with other members and share our ideas.” In addition, Lugardo said, “A suggestion for this program would be to find a way to make the lecture portion of the program more dynamic and interactive.”

Amanda Hartman '17, a rising fifth-form Judicial Committee representative, added, “We didn’t have time for case studies for members of the Judicial Committee this year. It was on the schedule, but we just didn’t have enough time to get around to it. Activities like that should be prioritized, as they are more applicable to our position, opposed to the team-building activities, which are also applicable, but more in an abstract way.”

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jobs.” Lastly, Dr. Decker also hoped to “help these girls connect with their peers who feel the same way.” These goals fueled the creation of the GAINS organization and consequently, the GAINS conference.

The issue of gender disparity in STEM sectors also manifests itself at Choate. Girls are often outnumbered in advanced physics and computer science courses. According to Ms. Wallace, the motivation for Choate’s participation in the conference was “because we are very aware that there is a dearth of females at all levels in those fields that people categorize as STEM.” This trend continued even though girls at Choate have the interest and the ability. The question that arose was then, “How do we get girls more involved?”

Because of this, Choate sent a group of girls to the conference, hoping that they would learn from what was offered. Meanwhile, the

school was curious about what the conference was going to offer to the students and the teachers. Ms. Wallace stated, “We were interested in all of the facets of the issue.”

To Dr. Martini, a chemistry teacher in the Science Department, watching the attendees’ enthusiasm and “realization that STEM careers could be so many different things and that it is important for the future” was particularly enlightening. The boundaries drawn between STEM and other fields “are not black and white,” noted Dr. Martini.

Dr. Hazel Sive, a member of the MIT Whitehead Institute and the keynote speaker at the conference, encouraged people to “go for it.” “There is a major myth that a STEM-based career means you want to be a scientist and do research. There are huge numbers of important and interesting other careers in STEM,” noted Dr. Sive. Dr. Sive added that these careers are also powerful and pervasive. During her talk, Dr. Sive showed the girls a slide of possible careers involving

a background in STEM, which included the fields of law, finance, and consulting. She emphasized the versatility of a STEM education and shared with the audience her journey in science. Dr. Elizabeth Pegg-Frates, a clinical assistant professor at Harvard Medical School and a lifestyle medicine specialist, was another speaker at the conference. She stressed the importance of exposure to STEM to bolster motivation. “Finding female role models is important, even if it’s only reading about women in books like Elizabeth Blackwell. There are many ways to get exposure to STEM,” said Dr. Pegg-Frates.

“Believing in yourself is a critical piece to overcome any obstacle,” Dr. Pegg-Frates stated. She emphasized that “even though there might have been mistakes or missteps along the way,” learning from the experience is vital to growth. “It’s possible for a girl to successfully pursue a career in STEM. This conference shows these girls that everything is possible.” Dr. Frates stated.



PHOTO/TRUJILIAN LEE  
Choate students and faculty stand with alumna Emily Reid '05, the current curriculum director at Girls Who Code, an organization that aims to motivate girls to be more involved in coding and other computing skills.

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helpful that the conference was an annual thing because last year I was able to meet kids, invite them and their schools this year to the conference. Networking with other schools was helpful in arranging this conference.”

SMASS is one of the biggest and most active student organizations on campus today, with about one-fourth of the school population signed up on the mailing list.

However, until a several years ago, SMASS did not have as many followers on campus as it does today. The co-presidents, Milly Battle '15 and Noah Freeman '15 described 2013 as the turning point for the club, when the video “Find A Different Word” was created and introduced to the community. Moreover, the community started sporting tank tops and t-shirts to publicly show support for the club. The recent influx of club members and advocates shows that Choate Rosemary Hall as a whole has

become more progressive and open-minded to celebrate its diverse community, instead of being restricted by past perceptions.

Mia Rubenstein '18, an attendee, said, “I think there was a lot of hype around meeting kids from other schools and relating to people as allies or as LGBT people. It was cool to meet people who are standing up for the same kind of stuff you are. Everyone was really open-minded and at times it got pretty deep.”

# ANNUAL SPRING BLOOD DRIVE ANOTHER SUCCESS

BY CAROLINE DONATELLI '18  
News Reporter

On Thursday, April 17, Choate hosted its annual blood drive for the Red Cross. Many faculty members, students and local Wallingford residents participated in the blood drive. By the end of the day, Choate had collected 61 pints of blood. The number of student donors this year increased in comparison to last year's numbers, but the number of faculty and staff donors in fact decreased compared to the number of faculty and staff that participated in the blood drive in 2014.

According to Director of Community Service Ms. Mary Pashley, Choate's blood drive has existed for 32 years, if not longer. To increase the effectiveness of the blood drive, Choate has recently opened these drives to the public, giving more people the opportunity to donate blood and give back to the community. Blood drives were originally arranged in the fall, but since they became so popular among the Wallingford and Choate residents, the Red Cross decided to offer a blood drive in the spring as well. Ms. Pashley explained that Choate decided to start doing blood drives because they are ways "to give back to the community that do not involve fundraisers."

Each participant in the blood drive usually gives one pint of blood. However, there is sometimes a double red cell donation that allows an individual

to donate two pints of blood. The Health Center staff does not draw the blood; the Red Cross provides Choate with experienced staff. The blood drawing staff has to make sure each person is eligible to donate blood. Recently the requirements for giving blood have changed. The Red Cross wants people's height and weight to be proportional so that people who are too thin do not become faint or ill after giving blood. Also, if one has lived or visited a country other than Canada, he has to wait anywhere from 12 months to three years before he or she can donate blood. This regulation exists because diseases such as malaria or Ebola may be present in other countries, possibly contaminating one's blood. At Choate, there were about 62 donors who passed these strict regulations. Seventy-five to ninety people signed up for the blood drive, but many were turned away because they did not pass the requirements. Nonetheless, Choate donated about 61 pints to hospitals in order to help cancer patients and accident victims.

According to Alex Patel '16, he saw the sign at the dining hall and realized he wanted to help people in need. He believes that more people should donate blood because "it is accessible, easy to do, and does not have much impact on you." He hopes that in the future, Choate will be able to better promote and encourage more people to donate by putting up more signs and making more announcements

at school meetings, so people are thoroughly aware of the blood drive.

Math teacher Mr. William Nowak '06 explained that he decided to give blood because he is a believer in karma. He thinks everyone should "do something good for the world." Mr. Nowak hopes more people will give blood and believes that more people will give blood once they start "hearing that it is needed and hearing stories about how it helps, and that it exists and its purpose."

Dean of Students Mr. James Stanley said that he decided to give blood because he got into the habit of donating blood at a previous school he worked at. "Giving blood is easy to do and is good for other people," said Mr. Stanley.

Mr. Stanley also hopes that more people will donate blood, though there are many regulations that people need to pass. He thinks Choate can encourage this by moving the blood drive to a more accessible location in the middle of campus. However, he notes that there is currently no area in the middle of campus that could serve as a blood drive station due to all the appliances that are needed. Mr. Stanley also feels that a greater number of people would donate blood if more coaches encouraged their athletes to give blood instead of going to practice for one day. Additionally, Mr. Stanley believes that more people would donate blood if teachers allowed students to be late to class if they were donating blood.



PHOTO/CHOATE FLICKR

As part of the Annual Transition Dinner, seniors began to transition from students to alumni and joined the ranks of over 16,000 Alumni Association members.

## SIXTH FORMERS TRANSITION ONTO THE NEXT CHAPTER

BY DAGNY BELAK '16  
News Reporter

While third, fourth and fifth formers trekked over to the SAC or Ruutz-Rees Commons for dinner, the sixth formers welcomed themselves into the alumni ranks and joined over 16,000 Alumni Association members as part of the Annual Transition Dinner last Tuesday. The transition dinner occurs annually in Hill House Dining Hall in which sixth formers are inducted in the alumni association. The dinner generally takes place fifty days before graduation to serve as an unofficial kickoff to spring term festivities. Because the Choate community is so large, the alumni network works with sixth formers to give them the opportunity to gain professional advice, find internships and jobs, and locate classmates when they move and travel to new cities.

Sixth formers had the chance to enjoy a nice dinner and talk amongst friends and alums as to what the future might hold. Various members of the Choate community, including various alums, delivered speeches regarding what comes after Choate.

This year's dinner featured plenty of photo opportunities with the Wild Boar mascot, as well as the much-anticipated handout of the blue alumni vests. In addition, this year's transition dinner introduced the "Show the Love" culminating video. The campaign's highlight reel announced the impressive

grand total that the class of 2015 contributed towards the Students for Students Scholarship Fund.

Choate is famous for its alumni's incredible generosity, and one of the goals of the dinner is to celebrate the generous alumni family. The dinner also hopes to instill in seniors a sense of dedication to their alma mater and to encourage them to give back in a number of ways.

Director of Alumni Relations Ms. Monica St. James was one of the chief masterminds behind the dinner and worked hand in hand with the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, as well as with Annual Fund Volunteer Coordinator Ms. Carolyn Garibaldi, Assistant Director of the Annual Fund Ms. Heidi Conner, and K.C. Maloney. According to Naylee Nagda '15, "it was simple, quick, and fun. The speeches were minimal and to the point, which made it a nice occasion to chat with other alums on our table." For Nagda, the transition dinner was a memorable experience. "We had to fill out our details on an invitation to join the alumni network, and then we received our alumni vests. It was certainly more casual than I expected, but they made us feel like adults and that we were joining the incredibly diverse and spread out alumni network," noted Nagda.

Senior Sarina Bhargava '15 felt similarly. "We officially joined the Alumni Association and can now begin to network with others within the Association. It is, of-course,

hard to feel like an alum when we still have some of the term left to go, though," she said.

Many seniors were impressed by the variety in careers options represented, and they felt inspired by them as they heard about their Choate experiences. According to Leyla Abdella '15, "I got the chance to meet a really cool alum. The alumna at our table was in the fashion industry, and she told us that the connections in the Choate network are really cool and she enjoys remaining connected to Choate."

While many view the dinner as the beginning to the end, there were no crestfallen faces to be seen around the dining hall. Instead, many seniors started to look forward to the various benefits that come with senior spring. Abdella mentioned, "It kicks off a series of traditions, like senior bingo, senior mug nights, and Last Hurrah, which everyone is really looking forward to."

The transition dinner continues to be an important tradition for sixth formers as they start to make the much-awaited transition from students to alumni. Although the outside world may seem intimidating, sixth formers are now assured by the fact that there are thousands of alumni who have made the transition before them and who are eager and happy to share their experiences and guidance as the sixth formers prepare to move onto the next chapter in their lives.



PHOTO/SOPHIA GILLIES

In his speech, titled "The Body," Mpilo Norris '18 inspired his classmates to realize that each member of the Choate community has special qualities that better the school as a whole.

## Norris '18 Takes First in Krause-Stevens Contest

BY SOPHIE MACKIN '18  
News Reporter

The finals of Choate's annual Krause-Stevens Declamation Contest took place on Wednesday, April 14 during the third form meeting. Four freshman, Mpilo Norris '18, Libby Wilson '18, Julian Yau '18, and Helena Yang '18 were chosen as the four finalists of the contest. Ultimately, Norris emerged as the winner of the 2015 Krause-Stevens Declamation Contest.

The speech contest was named after two generous alumni, Charles Krause '51 and Roger Stevens '28, both huge supporters of public speaking. The purpose of the Krause-Stevens Declamation Contest is "to encourage and train young people to speak in public with clarity of thought, confidence, and enthusiasm and to use this talent throughout their lives."

The selection process for the declamation contest began at the end of winter term. Every third former was required to write a speech on a topic they felt passionate about and then deliver it in front of his or her English class. In each class, the students voted for one person that they thought should move on to the semi-finals. Fourteen students participated in the semi-finals and were judged by Director of Com-

munity Service Ms. Mary Pashley, math teacher Ms. Andrea Sorrells, and Mr. Peard.

Norris inspired the form with his animated speech titled "The Body," which related the human body to Choate Rosemary Hall. He explained that each part of the body has a specific job and is needed for the body to best function. Similarly, he claimed that each member of the Choate community has special qualities and makes unique contributions that better the school as a whole. Norris's speech stressed the concept of self-worth and reminded everyone that his or her impact is necessary in order for Choate to best function. "I hope people realize the importance of community. My main message was that without each other and without developing ourselves, we don't have Choate," explained Norris.

Wilson moved the third formers with her speech entitled "Family Changes," which was about the thoughts and experiences she had during her parents' divorce. Wilson recounted how she was able to get past the confusion and anger she had originally felt and finally begin to forgive her parents for what they put her through.

Yau filled the auditorium with laughter during his speech, "A Hidden Evil." He began his

speech by explaining why various statistics and facts about ketchup led him to believe that ketchup will eventually kill everyone. He then, however, concluded that ketchup truly does cause global warming in the sense that it is a delicious condiment used around the world and a part of several authentic meals in different cultures. "I wanted to go for something outside the box. My goal was to surprise people," explained Yau. He continued, "Ketchup causing global warming was most absurd idea I could think of. Then, I split the idea into two questions: What evil will ketchup commit, and how will it kill us? After that, I worked backwards with my research."

Yang empowered the grade with her speech entitled "Masks." Yang's speech was centered on the idea that although it is human nature to hide behind masks, they prevent others from seeing our true selves. She explained to the form that everyone has insecurities, so we don't have to pretend otherwise. "I've always thought about how our actions and relationships are affected by our insecurities. It is something that we all have in common and each of us has some sort of struggle with," said Yang.

## Ecology Video

Continued from Page 2

videos, such as if they made their own footage or if they simply took footage that was already created professionally online somewhere and spliced it up together."

Mr. Peard added, "Presentation and originality on what appeared on the film were important. It is a balance between using the visual and using the speaking." Students picked from 40 topics concerning ecological issues, or students could also create their own topic.

"We tried to utilize several different media within the film like stop motion and interviews around the campus. Dr. Curtis was one of our interviewees. But for the tools, we almost solely used an iPad to film the movie and used iMovie to edit it and get the final product," said Wachtell.

Rebecca Bernstein '16, a member of the group that placed second in the contest, said, "I think the contest was a really awesome way to motivate our projects, and it was so cool to be able to see other people's final projects. Although my group didn't win, we were all really glad to have made it to the finals after working extremely hard on our videos. Some challenges were the organization of the video and making sure it was fluid. Also it was challenging to use the software to make the video." Her group's video focused on how shrimp aquaculture destroyed mangroves. She worked with Will Keller '16, Michael

Waters '16 and Sophie Weil-Roth '15. The group used the animation software PowToon to create graphics and animations.

"One thing we need to emphasize a little bit more is that students put more of their creativity in the process. Another thing is that this can potentially be seen worldwide because we post this on YouTube. So students should be accurate about what they have to say and cite things properly," said Mr. Chang.

Wachtell said, "I think the contest was a fantastic concept, especially during the winter when classes can get boring. I loved it because I realized very early on that several of my classmates in

the same classroom or within the course were studying very different things than I was. That really provided me an opportunity to learn from them and understand things that we would not be able to get from the normal course settings."

With this project, Biology 400 students were able to explore outside of their textbooks and study actual ecological issues. As it is a new event, however, it is still not well known among other students yet. "It would be nice for us to broaden it up beyond the Biology 400 class, like the physics flotilla. Also, it would be nice for other students outside of the Biology 400 classes to see other students' work," explained Mr. Chang.

# THE NEWS

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

### ABOUT THE NEWS

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# "Coed" Widens Student Divide

By BRYCE WACHTELL '17  
News Writer

We all know the story. Unless you're a senior, it goes something like this: a friend of the opposite gender comes into your dorm's common room late one Saturday night, and you awkwardly approach the adviser on duty to ask for coed. You introduce your friend, explain that the two of you will just be watching a movie, and, after the adult's consent, hurry to your room to turn on the lights and prop open the door. This doesn't seem like something significant; you are just spending some downtime with your friend, who just so happens to be of a different sex. Why then, is coeducation visiting, or coed, such a big deal?

Currently, Choate is set up in a gender-separated way. For the most part during sports and past 7:30 p.m., one is only surrounded by those of the same sex. That is more than half of the day. Regardless, this separation is understandable; Choate has been doing it since 1971, largely because of societal norms practiced for centuries before. But this is not the problem. The issue lies in the way we interact with the other gender and interpret relationships that form between genders, even aside from the institutional separation.

Though restrictions exist on the sports fields and in the dorms, the nature people develop goes beyond just these barriers. Dining hall tables are separated by sex, classrooms are divided in the middle, and even clubs are often gender weighted. It appears as though girls and boys can't interact with each other, unless it is in pursuit of an intimate relationship.

Like any high school, Choate is sexually charged. Intimate relationships are common among all forms and genders. Unfortunately, however, many interpret any relationship between two people of different sexes as being inherently sexual. There is a common stigma associated with getting coed, and actively displaying your comfort and friendship with someone of the opposite gender.

I will admit, these assumptions are far more common among groups of guys than girls. There is a large culture at Choate that promotes hooking up and "pulling," so it is no wonder that for many, it is a fast assumption that something scandalous is going on when you invite a girl into your room. Largely, the

concept that one can be in a platonic relationship with their gender counterpart is uncommon and unpopular. We are restricted from interacting with the each other, and when we do, the nature of those interactions is implied to be sexual.

The word platonic isn't used enough on campus today. We need to stop assuming something intimate is going on between friends of different genders, and we need to start encouraging completely friendly relationships between the sexes.

At a place like Choate, which preaches diversity, individualism, and learning from each other, we are far too voluntarily separated than we should be. The wooing and whistling that comes with an open door and a name on the house log needs to stop.

We have all had different experiences in regard to coed and friendships across genders. For many, it is not a big deal to get coed or openly display a platonic relationship. Unfortunately, though, it is clear that for a large population at Choate, friendly relationships are inhibited by our current culture that immediately sexualizes them.

Engaging with someone who doesn't share the same sex organs as you shouldn't immediately imply sexual desire and an intimate relationship. Being nice or sitting down with someone shouldn't immediately imply anything more than friendship and basic humanity.

I understand this is a largely a cysnormative and herteronormative opinion. Yes, sexual and non-sexual relationships occur between those of all genders and sexual orientations, but for the current structure of gender separation at Choate, most often assumptions are made between opposite binary genders.

I'm not advocating for mixed sports teams, coed dorms, or forced interaction, just a different culture. Open doors, lights on, and adult permission is completely understandable from an administrative perspective. I just want to go to a school where my choice in friendship does not have anything to do with my relationship status. I want to be able to get coed without an uncomfortable buzz around the dorm. And I want to stop inhibiting friendships and encouraging separation. What's the good of coming to Choate for exposure when half of the population is immediately isolated simply be-



PHOTO/SARAH GELBACH

For over 30 years, Choate has sent students across the globe to explore, study, trek, and aid.

# STUDY ABROAD AND EXPAND YOUR WORLD

By SHIVA SACHDEVA '16  
La Coruña Correspondent

Three years ago, when I accepted my offer of admission to Choate, little did I know that my limited exposure to the world would grow so vastly. Sure, there is a strong prevalence of international students as well as various religions, ethnicities, and backgrounds represented and embraced by our campus in Connecticut, but to truly experience these traditions, travelling abroad is essential. With Choate, I have been to Curaçao, a small Dutch island in the French Caribbean; Oaxaca, Mexico; and Spain, where I am currently on a term abroad. Although I was accompanied by different people on each occasion, and visited each part of the globe with a different agenda, the end results of each trip have been the same—a better understanding of my community, the world, and myself.

Although my first trip abroad, with the tennis team, was primarily spent relaxing, improving tennis skills, and building team camaraderie, I was immediately struck by the difference in quality of life in Curaçao. Just driving from the airport to our resort gave me an impression of the difficulties, some much more extreme than the common challenges faced in America, associated with living on a small, relatively poor Caribbean island. Moreover, it was extremely interesting to experience and witness the calmer, less stressful culture exemplified by the people who lived on the island.

Two years later, this past spring break, I travelled with Choate and SimplySmiles, Inc. on a service trip to Oaxaca, Mexico—one of the poorest states in Mexico. Joining me were fifteen other Choate students and two faculty members—all of whom I now consider to be close friends. For the week we were in Oaxaca, we worked on various tasks. These ranged from playing with children at a large orphanage, to feeding nearly one thousand people throughout the week in the remote jungle of Santa Maria Tepexipana, a location that does not even exist on Google Maps. For this week, we were almost completely disconnected with the rest of the Choate community and the United States, as we did not bring our cell phones, and did not have Internet access. Not having these amenities of usual daily life allowed us all to absorb our interactions with the people, understand our actions further, and become closer as a group.

Oftentimes at Choate, we become so concerned solely with our lives, our social interactions, our meals, and fail to acknowledge major issues—poverty, lack of education opportunities, extreme thirst and hunger—faced by our fellow man, both in the United States and the world. Travelling with Choate to Mexico allowed me to grow more as a person in one week than I had in a large portion of my adolescence.

**I am left with a deeper understanding of our world and have a greater appreciation for the opportunities provided by Choate.**

One week later, I ventured to La Coruña, Spain, a port city in the northwest corner situated along a beach, with twelve fellow Choate students for a two-month term abroad. Having made it to the midterm, I can acknowledge that the opportunity to study abroad, to be able to take all of my classes in a language that I have studied since I was eleven years old, and live in a country with such a rich and proud history, has been remarkable. Prior to this month, I had never been to Europe before, and although we all have briefly learned various aspects of culture in our language classes, I had never paid close attention to the life and tradition (outside of history) of Spain and Europe as a whole. Because this trip was almost immediately following my trip to Mexico, it has been even more interesting to be able to recognize the similarities and differences between the two nations.

Having vacationed, volunteered, and studied with Choate's programs abroad, I am left with a deeper understanding of our world and have a greater appreciation for the opportunities provided by Choate. The ability to witness and live in different cultures has allowed me, and the other students who travelled with Choate, to recognize and empathize with issues faced by the United States, the nations we travelled to, and the interactions between these places. Touring with my high school has, early on, provided me with greater insight and experiences that I will never forget, and I strongly encourage the entire Choate community to take advantage of these opportunities—whether they be involving cultural exchange (such as the recent trips to Shanghai and Saudi Arabia), service (such as those in Mexico and Ecuador), or to study in a term or summer abroad program.



PHOTO/ARIANNA GONZALEZ-WAGNER

Lecterns, the tell-tale sign of a lecture class, remain commonplace in many Choate classrooms.

# POOR CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT: TOO MUCH LECTURING, TOO LITTLE SPIRIT

By SHRENIK AGRAWAL '17  
News Writer

When people are asked what they would most like to change about Choate, a host of ideas arise. One response that I have never heard is a complaint regarding the class atmosphere. That surprises me, because at Choate, many classrooms offer environments that I feel are not sufficiently conducive to learning. It is important to note that while this does not represent the majority of Choate classrooms, it does represent a significant enough minority of classes that most students will experience it at one time or another. The problem is that classes turn into lectures more often than not. Lectures work in college classes when there are 100 students and active class participation from all the students is not practical. However, at Choate, where the average class size is closer to twelve kids, lectures are comparatively ineffective. Lectures do not foster questions, and questions are how people actually learn. We clear up topics we are unclear about and strengthen our understandings of topics. Not every class is going to benefit from major discussion;

for example, discussions in math classes might be less necessary than in a humanities course. But if a humanities course is basically a lecture, then it can also be monotonous and boring for the students in attendance. Then why is it that we have lectures? The answer to this question is more alarming than the problem itself. The learning environment problem takes root from two issues, one that is very well documented and one that is ignored.

The first and more obvious reason for lectures is that kids are quiet; simply put, we're tired. Sleep deprivation is universal at Choate. The school day usually ends at 2:55 p.m., and then after sports, clubs, dinner, and homework, students (and upperclassmen, in particular) might not be sleeping till 1:00 a.m. The alarm rings six hours later, and students are forced to make it through another grueling day of work despite not being fully recharged. It is easy to imagine how students might not be inclined to participate and ask questions when they are mentally drained and physically exhausted.

The second and more frightening issue is that students are afraid of appearing stupid in front of their

peers. They would rather keep quiet during class and go to extra help than speak up during class. Why is that? The atmospheres of the classes that do run monotonously are filled with students that do not want to be there. These students stare and glare when a curious student asks a question. They find it funny when someone gets something incorrect. They want nothing more than for the day to be over, and their attitudes can inhibit the learning of others. In a matter of weeks, a productive classroom can be transformed into a battlefield where the class is keeping quiet in order to save face. There are those who are unaffected by those who stare or mock, but many students are not that brave, and they keep quiet even when they have something to say.

Many teachers have tried to address this problem by creating a class participation grade. The more contributions you make, and the more meaningful your contributions are, the higher your class participation grade will be. There are two flaws with this solution. First, many students feel teachers do not weight their participation highly when grading. The second problem with re-

warding class participation in the current system is that there are those who are painfully aware of the class participation grade and end up dominating proceedings. Students who perhaps might not do as well on tests, or those who are perfectionists and want a perfect grade end up monopolizing discussion and grossly overshadowing their peers. I am sure that these students do not mean to hurt their peers, but the more they talk, the less the rest of the class is able to participate.

This problem is summed up by a running joke that I have with one of my classmates. It is a reference to a time where I tried to answer a question in class and answered incorrectly. Today we have no idea what the question was, or what the answer to that question was. The only thing that I remember is that I was incorrect. I do not take it personally, but the fact remains that what should have been a learning moment has been turned into a means of ridicule. Simply put, the solution to the above-mentioned problem is two-fold: teachers much refrain from the urge to lecture and students must become engaged and be held accountable.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1944 CE Nelson Mandela is elected President of South Africa

1861 CE West Virginia secedes from Virginia

# Cuban Embargo Must be Lifted

By IMAD RIZVI '18  
News Writer

Picture this: a country with an economy worth less than one percent of that of the United States and a population of only 11 million people. This nation does not threaten the security of the most powerful nation in the world. Yet, the US still refuses to trade with nearby, communist-led Cuba. Even though relations are easing with recent reliefs in sanctions and a joint conference between heads of state, the tensions remain piqued.

The Cuban embargo along with other sanctions on travel has lasted for over 50 years. The United States' attempt to isolate the Castro regime in order to promote democracy has proved unsuccessful. At the moment, with the US facing issues such as an explosive Middle East with the emergence of ISIS, the threat of a country the size of Virginia with an armed force of 60,000 people should seem insignificant. In addition, despite having unfavorable allies such as Iran and Venezuela, Cuba poses no direct threat to US interests.

Both nations would benefit from lifting the embargo that has strained the Cuban economy by preventing American businesses from trading with Cuba. Relations have already improved in the last couple of years with prisoner exchanges. Furthermore, travel restrictions have been eased, and US visitors are even allowed to bring home up to 400 dollars in Cuban goods, of which 100 dollars can be in cigars and alcohol. President Obama supports lifting

the embargo, stating, "Neither the American, nor Cuban people are well served by a rigid policy that is rooted in events that took place before most of us were born. Consider that for more than 35 years, we've had relations with China—a far larger country also governed by a communist party." However, only Congress can act to remove the embargo, and the President alone can only lessen some of the sanctions.

Many other countries disapprove of the embargo. For example, when the UN suggested a resolution to strike the embargo, 186 countries supported it, while only the US and Israel opposed it.

The purpose of the embargo, set in place at the height of the Cold War, was to dislodge the communist party from power after the takeover of Cuba by Fidel Castro. However, decades later, it is clear that the tactic of isolation has had no significant impact on the government in Cuba. While Cuba has struggled with poverty and a poor economy that is dependent on other nations, the embargo has given the Cuban government an excuse to blame the US for its poor economy—perhaps a justifiable claim. By lifting the embargo and normalizing relations, the US would have more influence in Cuba, which would be the only way to promote democracy in the country. The embargo is outdated and should be lifted if the US wants to achieve its goal of ending the rule of the communist party in Cuba.

When the embargo was set, the intention was to harm the Cuban government, not the people. However, the Cuban economy has suffered without any trade

from the US, thus lowering the standard of living and availability of many goods for Cubans. According to Reuters, the embargo has done over 108 billion in damage to the Cuban economy. This has directly impacted the lives of millions of Cubans and caused poverty throughout the nation. In addition, the US Chamber of Commerce predicts that the embargo costs the US over \$1.2 billion every year in possible sales to the country. If relations were normalized, a new market of over 11 million people would be opened up for American businesses. A new opportunity in Cuba could stimulate the economy and provide more jobs for Americans. There are obvious benefits for the lifestyle of Cubans by lifting the embargo and improving their economy, but the US economy will also benefit from a new market.

Overall, the embargo is outdated and has proved unsuccessful in its goal of punishing the communist party in government to help promote democracy. While it has done harm to the Cuban economy, this has only lowered the standard of living for Cubans and not caused any change in the country's government. The only way to promote democracy is to become involved in the country by lifting the embargo. Normalizing relations would allow information to be spread about the lifestyle in the United States, which could accomplish the goal of causing reform in Cuba. The embargo should be lifted for the benefit of these countries and to improve relations of two neighbors separated by only 90 miles of water.

# ACTIVISM LOSES POWER BEHIND A HASHTAG

By HAKEEM ANGULU '16  
News Writer

#KONY2012, #stand-withpp, #BlackLivesMatter, #icebucketchallenge, #Bring-Back-Our-Girls – have these movements worked? Can these social media campaigns even be classified as movements? It would be naïve to deny that social media has changed society and how we interact with each other. Fortunately, now our voices are globalized and we are connected to each other on a scale previously unimaginable. Regrettably, though, now we also have an abundance of propaganda and social campaigns that have devolved into decorations for our online profiles.

Just over a year ago, 276 Nigerian schoolgirls were kidnapped from their high school in Chibok, Nigeria by the Islamist extremist group Boko Haram. 53 girls escaped and 219 girls are still missing today. Unfortunately, those numbers don't add up—one girl was found hanging from a tree near Chibok and three others were found in shallow graves. The girls who escaped recounted being held in camps and forced into marriage, and the "bride prices" for these girls hovered around US\$12.50. The girls said that they were raped daily, with knives held to their throats, and that they were constantly threatened with terrible beatings. Boko Haram militants raped "unmarried" girls as well because the leaders of the group believed that the girls should be punished for being Christian and for attending school. The name "Boko Haram" loosely translates to the phrase "Western education is a sin," and this name reflects the extremist and often misogynistic ideals of these militants.

It seems impossible to encapsulate the mission of the movement to fight this group's atrocities with four words and a hashtag. However, that continues to be the trend – à la

#BringBackOurGirls. One year ago, we saw droves of people flocking to Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, holding up a piece of paper with the well-known hashtag on it. Even celebrities and political figures, from model Cara Delevingne to First Lady Michelle Obama, have expressed their support for the cause on social media. It was trending for several weeks, and the campaign grew healthily. Many political responses to the tragedy, like those of the US, UK, France, China, and the UN sending intelligence experts to Nigeria to help with the search effort, have been attributed to the "activism" on social media.

**What we do not need is people sitting behind screens clicking "like," "share," and "retweet," feeling like they have made a huge difference.**

Yet, one year later, 219 schoolgirls are still missing. Over 100 more women and children were abducted mere months afterwards. And, all of the girls who escaped had to do so on their own, some traveling for over three weeks on foot to get back home. More than 600 people were killed in a Boko Haram attack on Gwoza, bringing their death toll in 2014 to over 6000. In January of this year, Boko Haram attacked Baga and killed over 2,000 people in one day. These death tolls are on the same scale as those of the Islamic State, but while the President and Congress have declared war on ISIL, they've remain relatively uninvolved in the crisis in Nigeria. The Nigerian government has treated the Boko Haram problem as a political power move, with candidates in the recent Nigerian presidential election making promises and using the tragedy to build their platforms. Basically, there is a loud voice that accompanies the activism against Boko Haram, but there is no action.

Analyzing all of this, we must ask ourselves: has the #Bring-Back-Our-Girls campaign accomplished anything? It has made millions of people more aware of the atrocities last year, and social media has given many more people amplified voices. But as I said before, at this point we do not need any more voices; we need action. We need people to convince our politicians that although the US relationship with Nigeria is strained, the Nigerian people deserve as much help as those in Syria or Iraq. We need people to convince the Nigerian government to stop hiding behind empty promises and silence. What we do not need is people sitting behind screens, clicking "like," "share," and "retweet," feeling like they have made a huge difference.

This is not to say that every social media campaign for social justice is inadequate. Since July 29, 2014 the #icebucketchallenge campaign has raised \$115 million dollars for the ALS Association. #BlackLivesMatter and other hashtags relating to incidents of police brutality have sparked ongoing protests and responses from politicians and people in power. However, it is important to note that this digitized model is not for every movement. When we condense a movement into a hashtag, what it gains in visibility and mobility, it loses in individuality and meaning. Even as we share and retweet, let us remember that the extent of our power reaches far beyond the confines of our Facebook and Twitter feeds; let us remember that these hashtags are people's realities.



Walter Scott's funeral was attended by notable civil rights organizers and leaders. Many view his death as another example of police violence against unarmed African-American men.

# CAUGHT ON CAMERA: UNARMED KILLINGS CONTINUE

By LAUREN LAMB '17  
News Staff Writer

Walter Scott. We can tack him to the list of unarmed black men killed for no reason other than the institutionalized racism that targets them for being black. But there is one key factor that distinguishes the Walter Scott case from other similar cases like those of Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin: camera footage from a bystander that documents the killing.

Walter Scott, a 50-year-old black man from South Carolina, was shot and killed on April 4 by officer Michael Slager, 33. The video, filmed by Feidin Santana, shows exactly what occurred, clarifies any possible obscurities regarding the shooting, and discredits any other possible accounts of the events that occurred.

Before the video was released, Slager stated through his attorney that he felt threatened by Scott and fired his weapon. On the record, Slager stated that Scott took control of the officer's taser and as a result, Slager fired his gun. However, Santana's footage clearly shows what occurred after Scott was pulled over for driving with a broken taillight. In the video, Slager fires his taster and Walter Scott proceeds to run. According to *The New York Times*, Scott was 15 to 20 feet away from

# VOTE FOR CLINTON, NOT FOR HER GENDER

By NICOLE SELLEW '17  
News Writer

Hillary Clinton recently announced that she is joining the 2016 presidential race. If elected, Clinton will not only make history as the first female president, but could also change the future of women in politics. However, winning the race will not be easy for Clinton, especially regarding the recent scandals in which she's been involved.

Clinton is entering the race with an extremely strong base of support. According to a poll taken in February, 81 percent of Democrats said they would consider voting for her. That level of support is far greater than that of her potential rivals, Jim Webb, Martin O'Malley, and Lincoln Chafee. However, she is also entering the race shrouded in controversy. She was recently under scrutiny for using a private email account to discuss government matters and then subsequently deleting those emails. Factions have also blame Clinton for the events in Benghazi, saying that she did not respond quickly enough and is responsible for the deaths. In addition, Clinton has been accused of paying female staffers 72

cents to every dollar that a male makes. These controversial issues certainly do not display Clinton in a positive light, but nothing has been able to take her out of the running. Her presence in the public eye and the fact that she is a woman are eclipsing her flaws and mistakes. The American people should perhaps take a step back and examine Clinton's actions before deciding whether or not to support her in the race. Is she receiving such high levels of support based on her gender? While this is hopefully untrue, the level of attention that the possibility of a female president has been receiving would suggest otherwise.

As the first woman to have a legitimate chance of becoming president, Clinton raises an important question: is it important for females to be involved in politics? While lots of feminists and women would say yes, it is more critical to have a capable president than a female one. If Clinton is going to be the best thing for this country, then by all means she should win. However, if there is a man who will do a better job, then he should win. The fact that she is a woman should not be a factor in anyone's decision. Just because

Pantaleo puts Garner into a chokehold, then forces his head to the sidewalk as Garner says multiple times, "I can't breathe." The names of Walter Scott, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, and many more will be forever memorialized in articles regarding these cases. And in the coming weeks, months, and years, hopefully they will not be forgotten, as they are the fuel for justice and the end to injustice against black men. In the future, hopefully no other names will be added to the list black men slain for no other reason than being black, and hopefully black victims of police brutality will no longer be depicted as "ghetto" or as "thugs."

I am hopeful that cameras will stop officers from shooting unarmed people; however, I believe that officers will be dissuaded from shooting an unarmed person only if they could possibly be implicated by solid evidence, rather than due to their own morality. Officers should be made to wear body cameras to ensure proper police behavior, which has certainly been questioned with the recent killings of unarmed black men. At the very least, even if the cameras do not directly solve the issue of racially motivated police violence, body cameras will be a crucial first step to providing much needed closure and insight.

there is gender inequality in politics does not mean that women should be given a larger role simply based on their gender; ideas, policy, and character must matter more. The system should be entirely merit-based. The amount of attention and hype that Clinton's gender has been receiving is, quite frankly, concerning. As an advocate for equal pay and gender equality, Clinton appeals to a variety of feminists and females. However, a man advocating for equal pay should be given equal consideration. This does not mean that Clinton is incapable. She has done a lot of great work in politics and would be perfectly qualified as president. Despite her mistakes, she has remained prominent in the government.

Women, and the American people in general, should not vote for Clinton just because she is a woman. People should give Clinton their vote because they believe she would be a good president, just as they would do for a man. Her faults, her accomplishments, and her opinions are all things to consider when deciding to vote for her. Her gender, however, is not.

# DAY STUDENT DELIGHTS

BY RACHEL HIRD '17  
News Staff Reporter

The perks of being a boarder are pretty clear. You get to spend more time with your peers, participate in school activities that don't happen on a weekday, and do a ton of other fun things that I won't get to do. Whenever the inconvenience of day student life sticks its tongue out at me—too often, it seems—I like to remind myself of a few key facts. The truth is, day students have it pretty good:

## Vehicle of Your Choice

This is a big one! Sure, day students are allowed to drive to and from campus on a school day, but that's nothing compared to the freedom of having access to a car while classes aren't in session. You are not restricted by WKND activity buses, and you dish out minimal taxi fees. Plus, if you're still working on getting that license, you can improve your driving skills during the entire school year, as opposed to solely on your vacation time.

## Sick Days

The health center cannot compete with the comfort of taking a sick day away from campus. As a day student, if you're lucky enough to have someone that will cook for you and bring you comic books, you're living the dream. If not, you can still get yourself whatever your sick heart desires. I should also mention that you're able to escape campus when a virus breaks out, so there's a smaller chance that you will catch it and experience the related horrors. It's a win-win.

## Assorted Activities

Of course, the main upside of being a day student is taking part in life outside of Choate. You can flee from the New England prep school scene and experience the simple pleasures of your hometown, for example, fairs and festivals, concerts, barbecues, and birthday parties. You can even go on impromptu weekend trips with family and friends. Also, it is considerably easier to have sleepovers with your friends who live off-campus. No permission forms required.

## Alone Time

While the company that boarding provides is wonderful, it's also difficult to get away from. The hustle and bustle of the center of Wallingford isn't much help. If you're a day student who feels like being solitary, you can find time to yourself that doesn't involve searching for an open study room.

## Internet

We've all had that experience with surfing the web when, suddenly, an error message comes up because the site violates Choate's Internet usage policy. The site is completely innocent, but the school mistakenly denies you access. What's worse is when hundreds of people are trying to access the web at the same time, clogging the school's server. Day student life requires less Internet frustration.

## Curfew

It's magical: Day students are allowed out of their houses even if it's after 9:30 p.m.

## Food

Is the food delivery service being scummy? Does your favorite place not deliver? Don't fret, day student. Your appetite always reigns superior to the restaurant, regardless of the hour or distance to travel. You'll often find me eating Subway with my carpool at 10:30 p.m. on a Monday. No regrets.



PHOTO/ARIANNA GONZALEZ-WAGNER

Mr. Bill Murphy on the job at the Student Activities Center mailroom.

## Q&A Around Campus: Mr. Bill Murphy

BY JESSICA SHI '17  
News Staff Reporter

*Students live busy lives. We are forever scurrying between commitments and rarely have the time to stop and interact. Each member of the Choate staff makes incredible contributions to this community, yet we often do not even know their names. Among these staff members is Mr. Bill Murphy, who supervises Choate's mailroom. If you have ever been to or even passed by the mailroom, you have no doubt met Mr. Murphy: his invariably cheerful persona never fails to brighten up the day.*

**Worked at Choate:** From 2010-present

**Favorite movie:** *A Few Good Men*

**Favorite TV show:** "Jeopardy!"

**Favorite food:** Porterhouse steak and stuffed shrimp

**Fun fact:** For some reason, I know all the state capitals.

**What was your life like before coming to Choate?**

I'm a lifelong resident of Wallingford. I served for four years in the U.S. Navy, and then graduated from Hartford Institute of Accounting. I worked at Allegheny Technologies for 32 years, as the Test Lab Supervisor.

**Why Choate?**

I've always had a special feeling about the campus, as I have lived nearby for the past 45 years. I was on campus on Deerfield Day in 2010 and found out about an opening in the mailroom.

**What is an average day for you like?**

The workload is steady, as U.S. mail and packages arrive in the mornings and the majority of it gets picked up in the afternoon.

**What do you enjoy most about your job?**

The students picking up their packages each afternoon is by far the most enjoyable part of the job. Remembering their names is the biggest challenge, but I enjoy trying.

**What do you do in your free time?**

I refereed high school and college basketball for twenty-seven years. I was selected to my high school hall of fame for soccer, basketball, and officiating. I was fortunate to work ten state championship games. I also enjoy golfing and vacationing in Cape Cod and Naples, Florida.

**The world wants to know—what else?**

I've been married to my high school sweetheart for 43 years. We have two daughters, both married, and we all live within a mile of each other. My favorite activity is spending time with my two grandchildren.

## Students Procrastinate, At Times Positively

BY KRISTEN ANDONIE '17  
News Reporter

Ah, procrastination! That is the phenomenon with which any seasoned Choate student can identify. Procrastination can be a major contributor to many students' high stress levels, but it can also relieve stress by taking their minds off obligations. Although the act of procrastinating is universal, there exists a wide spectrum of activities students do as means of delaying homework.

Often, a student simply does not wish to do homework and will do everything in her power to avoid studying. Charlie Dean '18 gave a piece of advice when he stated, "To avoid feeling horribly guilty about yourself, you need to occupy your time with meaningless tasks, like watching TV, fiddling with your lacrosse stick, or playing outside with friends to some music. If you just sit, you realize how guilty you feel and eventually that feeling will force you to do work, which is what you want to avoid."

Some students procrastinate as a result of fatigue and a need to rest after participating in the rigorous activity of a class day at Choate. Brian Hnat '16 speaks for many athletes when he says, "I do crew and I noticed that after I row and get back to my room I'm really tired and I just sit in my bed for two hours before I do anything else."

Athletes are not the only ones who find themselves procrastinating. Indeed, even students who have no time-consuming extracurricular activities procrastinate a lot. Many find

that more free time does not equal a higher level of productivity. "Sometimes, if I don't have a lot of work, I'll procrastinate more because I think I have more time," says Morgan Cockrell '16.

Much of the student body also spends its time on social media or watching TV. Jessica Shi '17 comments, "My main method of procrastination is multitasking. While I'm doing certain subjects of homework, I'm watching Netflix or calling my mom." Hannah Beebe '15 says she enjoys watching "feature-long films" in addition to TV shows when she should be doing homework.

**"To avoid feeling horribly guilty about yourself, you need to occupy your time with meaningless tasks."**

— Charlie Dean '18

In truth, procrastination is not necessarily a bad thing. All too often, students procrastinate because their bodies and minds need a break. Alex Rupp-Coppi '16 believes that "you need to procrastinate at some level, because you're going to do it eventually, so you might as well let it happen, but in the most productive, safe environment—relatively speaking—that you can. Some procrastination is healthy." Rupp-Coppi is not the only one who thinks in such a way. Cockrell fervently wishes Choate would hold "a designated time to procrastinate."

# A LETTER FROM SPAIN: MICHELLE BOLT '16

BY MICHELLE BOLT '16  
Opinions • Nation/World Editor

La Coruña has been amazing these last three weeks. However, last weekend I traveled outside of La Coruña with my host family for the first time since my arrival. The trip was filled with the beauty of Spanish landscape and the kindness of my host family that have made my time in Spain such an incredible and transformative experience.

That day, my host mother Camino and I left the apartment at 9:00 a.m. to catch a train headed to visit my host family's home in A Pobra do Caramiñal, which is a tiny seaside town about an hour south of La Coruña. As we left La Coruña, the concrete buildings morphed into a mountainous green landscape, with terra cotta roofs sprinkled through the valleys. From the train, I could see an occasional cow or horse, and I was amazed by La Coruña's proximity to what appeared to be the rural countryside. As we passed the city of Santiago de Compostela, I was in awe of the city's ability to combine rustic mountain life with a thriving city—the two features morphed seamlessly into each other. After about an hour, we finally arrived in Padrón, where my host father Juan warmly greeted Camino and me with *dos besos*, a kiss on each cheek. It's how they do it in Spain.

Once we left Padrón, we headed for a lookout point in Ribiera, a nearby village. I was stunned by the beauty of the view; imagine the rustic quaintness and smells of Vermont pines, breathtaking ocean views, a scattering of sloped Spanish-style roofs, verdant mountains adorned with bushes of bright yellow ulex flowers, and palm-lined cobblestone streets. We embarked on a short hike through the trails of a Galician park, where we were greeted with sunshine, the cheerful twittering of birds, and the

comforting smell of eucalyptus trees. The serene ambiance of the park seemed similar to that of an Ojai retreat. We walked by an amphitheater, Roman ruins, and, somehow, each place that we visited was even more remarkable than the last.

Just before *la comida*, the main meal of the day, Juan, Camino, and I visited two more magnificent sites: the Dunes of Corrubedo National Park and

**Somehow, each place that we visited was even more remarkable than the last.**

Castro de Baroña, a seaside fort and ancient settlement. To get to Castro de Baroña, we briefly hiked through shrubs to a peninsula, which had a cluster of round, stone houses dating from 1 BCE. It was easy to understand why an ancient community would choose to live in a beautiful area surrounded by the open Atlantic. After basking in the sun and gazing at the gentle waves, we hiked back up the hill to enjoy a *torta española*, otherwise known as a Spanish omelet.

Around 2:00 p.m., we finally arrived in A Pobra do Caramiñal, or "Puebla" for *la comida*—lunch. We had a delicious meal of *navajas* (jack-knife clams), *pulpo á feira* (boiled octopus drizzled with olive oil and sprin-

kled with paprika), and *calamari fritos* (fried calamari). After eating, we lingered in a beautiful garden adorned with jasmine, pines, palm trees, and camelias, and walked through the marina admiring the variety of boats.

During the afternoon, Camino and I lounged on a beach near the house for an hour before grabbing *helado* (ice cream), and driving up the nearest mountain and returning to Padrón, where we explored the downtown area. With the well-deserved hype of Andalucía, Madrid, and Cataluña, it may be easy to overlook Galicia, which is in the northwest of Spain, but I'd recommend Galicia to anyone with an appetite for seafood, beaches, mountains, and adventure.

So, what's study abroad like? You might bond with your host mother over a discussion of politics and immigration in Spain, and you might eat the best *pulpo á feira*, *torta española*, or *calamari fritos* you've ever had. You might embark upon a leisurely stroll along two beaches after *siesta*, have your 9:30 a.m. history class in a churrería—a churro shop—and mistakenly claim that the main character of the book that you read was killed by a *cucharilla*, or a tiny spoon, instead of with a dagger. But why would you want to be seaside in Spain when you could be at Choate, eating Dorito-encrusted chicken and hiking up to Brownell for Sunday D?



PHOTO/ALEXANDRA BRUNJES

Alexandra Brunjes '16, a Library resident, plays with Franklin.

## MEET FRANKLIN

BY GABBY LATORRE '17  
News Staff Reporter

Ms. Casey Kelsey, a new faculty member who teaches biology and lives in Library, has recently adopted a lovable rescue puppy named Franklin.

This pint-size pup has been the subject of adoration by every human she crosses paths with; Franklin's cuteness cannot be denied! What Franklin lacks in size, she makes up for in dynamic personality. Franklin is not afraid to interact with dogs five times her size and to boldly snatch bones and toys, hoping to instigate a playful scuffle. She can be spotted around campus frolicking through fields, playing with other canines she encounters, and tagging along to crew practice, where Ms. Kelsey is a coach. From day one, Franklin captured the hearts of everyone on the crew team. Always in search of snuggles, Franklin was eagerly welcomed with open arms when she accompanied Ms. Kelsey to crew practice.

While Franklin brings joy wherever she goes, having a puppy on campus has its challenges. As a barely house-trained puppy, Franklin must be let outside at least once every three hours. Franklin requires constant care, attention, and vigilance, as all new puppies do. Jinny Yoon '16, a Library

resident, said Franklin "barks a lot because she's not fully trained yet; she's so young." Yoon also added, "Her paws are really soft."

Although Ms. Kelsey was considering getting a puppy and was fully prepared to take care of one, her decision to adopt Franklin was spur of the moment. Being a rescue dog, Franklin's exact breed is unknown. Ms. Kelsey does not know how big Franklin will grow to be or anything else about her backstory.

As for her name, Franklin was actually named by English teacher Ms. Marybeth Duckett. One evening, while talking to a few fellow faculty members at dinner in the dining hall, Ms. Kelsey mentioned the small house she is building in the summer that will be heated by a Mini Franklin propane stove. In response, Ms. Duckett said, "You don't need a stove! Get a dog. The dog will run around the house and heat the house up. You can call the dog Mini Franklin." Ms. Kelsey decided to take her advice.

Whether it's snuggling on the bus with the rowers, playing with the other crew coach-owned dog, a collie named Colby, mingling with the girls in Library, or simply wandering around campus, Franklin is a fluffy bundle of fun sure to immediately find a place in your heart.



PHOTO/CHOATE FLICKR

The Student Dance Concert featured a solo performed and choreographed by Kiara Olmeda '15.

## CHOATE DANCERS STUN IN CULMINATING CONCERT

By NAMSAI SETHPORNPOG '17  
News Staff Reporter

Last weekend marked the performances of the widely anticipated annual Student Dance Concert, an event featuring all dance groups on campus. On Friday April 17 and Saturday April 18, the Paul Mellon Arts Center filled to the brim with eager parents, faculty, and students, all waiting to see the event that had been in the works since the very beginning of the school year.

Beginning in September and continuing throughout the school year, all dancers involved attended weekly practices, making this culminating weekend a true labor of love. The concert featured every dance group on campus: Dance Company, Hip Hop Club, Contemporary Dance, Dance Ensemble, and Step Squad.

Contemporary Dance, which is a winter sport, performed a piece called "Boots," choreographed by dance teacher Adele Meyers. The Dance Ensemble, run by Arts Director Kalya Yannatos and Dance Company director Emily Lutin, performed "Threshold/Between Worlds" and "Instinct." On the other end of the spectrum, the pieces performed by the Dance Company, Step Squad, and Hip Hop Club were choreographed by students.

Samantha Harney '15, co-president of the Dance Company shared, "The concert has been here for six years, and every year it gets a little more intense and draws a little more from the community." Harney is in all Dance Company pieces, including her own stunningly choreographed piece called "Elope." Of her piece, Harney shared, "It's a contemporary and slower modern piece that is performed to a quicker dub-step song. A lot of it was experimenting. I wanted it to be different."

Helena Yang '18, an audience member, said of Harney's piece, "Everything came to-

gether so well! The costumes, the lighting, and the movements all communicated a story."

The infamous week leading up to the dance concert is known as "tech week". During this week, all the dances in the concert are pieced together into a cohesive performance, and dancers are required to be in the PMAC from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. each night. "Tech week for the Dance Concert is one of the most intense, rewarding and magical times of the year for us." Emily Lutin, the dance instructor and the leader of the concert, shared "Our process – which includes: conceptualizing, choreographing, honing performance qualities, as well as designing costumes, sound and lights – finally comes together so we can share the Dance Concert with our community."

**"[In Harney's dance], the costumes, lighting, and the movements all communicated a story."**

– Helena Yang '18

Kalya Yannatos, Arts Director and a retired professional dancer, added, "This final week is always amazing. It's this incredible transformative process. The refinement and the polishing brings everything to a whole new level."

Kiara Olmeda '15, who blew away the Choate community with her performance during school meeting, performed a solo piece in the concert titled "Tolerance."

The piece told the story of the progression of the gay rights movement and was set to a backdrop of slowly shifting images of protests and gay rights events. Olmeda's sharp twists and falls conveyed the discrimination and homophobia that the LGBTQ community faced, but ended with the iconic image of Olmeda breaking these shackles by walking upstage with her fists

held high, signifying how strong the group has become.

When asked why she chose her piece, Olmeda responded, "Throughout my life, a lot of my dance teachers were a part of the LGBTQ community. I wanted all of these influential people to be somehow incorporated into this show, so I came up with the idea of choreographing a piece that celebrated people from that community through dance." Olmeda tied the issue back to Choate by adding, "I've encountered a lot of boys at Choate who have had a lot of past experience in dance but refuse to step into a dance studio because of the stigma that comes with being a male dancer."

However, perhaps most importantly, Olmeda explained that her trenchant piece was inspired by the story of someone close to her: "Tolerance" is also inspired by my friend, whose coming out story made me cry. I tried to put myself in the position of my friend, Josue, when he came out to his family, when he got kicked out of his house and was living on the streets. People need to know how brave the people in this community are. I wanted to reach out to the people in the LGBT community and bring them into dance. I wanted to celebrate them and their fight to have rights and love the way they love."

Ms. Yannatos, whose passion for dance is well known throughout campus, concluded, "Everyone has the instrument — the body — to be able to participate in dance. Martha Graham, who was a pioneer of dance once said, 'Dancers are the pioneers of God.' I think this quote captures the essence of dancing: dance is a profound art form because it combines the athleticism and art. It is a way to speak in a visceral, kinesthetic, and hopefully accessible manner." And the Student Dance Concert did just that.

## PIONEERING PHOTO SERIES DEBUNKS STEREOTYPES

By KATE MOORE '17  
News Reporter

What comes to mind when you think of the New York City housing projects? Hollywood movies, tabloids, and social media have conditioned us to associate low-income housing developments with crime, violence, and conflict, but that's a reductionist view; this is why Jonathan Fisher took it upon himself to change assumptions using only a couple of cameras and some faith.

Fisher's idea, Project Lives, offered a series of twelve-week photography workshops to residents of the New York Housing Authority apartment buildings. Taught by photographer Chelsea Davis, the workshops gave instructions in "participatory photography" and included several professional techniques. After each class, the

students were given a film camera and instructions to photograph their lives and things they felt were important. The editors—Jonathan Fisher, Chelsea Davis, and George Carrano—then collected many of the photographs into a book.

Who better to change societies' opinion of the less-privileged parts of the United States than the people living there? Fisher even commented, in an interview with *TIME*, that "the idea that you can give cameras, equipment and training to people who are marginalized in society and empower them to take their own portraits, find their own narratives, that just seems to be so appealing to us."

The entire concept was clearly a success. Every participant came back with amazing photographs celebrating their lives. According to the editors, none of the pictures were negative. They typically

featured the subjects with people they cared about or enjoying leisure activities. Some participants, like 14-year-old Jared Wellington, were inspired to continue photography in the future.

The book has also been a success. *BuzzFeed* called it "beautiful...an unprecedented and intimate look into the lives of New York City public housing residents," while *New York* magazine deemed it "a startlingly simple and optimistic portrait of family, friends, and neighbors." With the recent press it has been receiving, its popularity is likely to grow.

Though there exist inaccurate stereotypes about every aspect of our society, through Project Lives, Fisher proves that art can be used to remedy this problem; the photos in his series prove that, change can begin with only the click of a button.

## CRH Orchestra Takes Talent to Carnegie Hall

By VERONICA SONG '17  
News Reporter

Located in the heart of New York City, equipped with amazing acoustics and packed with talented musicians, Carnegie Hall has long stood as one of the most prestigious concert halls in the United States. On April 13, the Choate Symphony Orchestra visited this dream stage to participate in the Ensemble & Orchestra Festival. In addition to Choate's current orchestra, alumni performers, including Ashley Kim '14, Bong-Gi Min '14, and Christopher Finis '14 participated in the concert, demonstrating their lasting connection to the Choate music program.

The symphonic series was comprised of eight orchestras, and the Choate orchestra was lucky enough to be chosen to perform. They played "The 1812 Overture," by Tchaikovsky, as well as "Farandole," by Bizet, both delicate pieces.

As for choosing the Overture, which was also played last year, Mr. Ventre said, "I wanted the students to receive a memo-

orable experience at Carnegie Hall rather than stressing about the new music."

As to Ventre's expectations, the concert turned out to be extremely successful. A professional trombone player in NYC, who played with the orchestra in the place of Mr. Thomas Foster, praised the concert by saying, "I was impressed with the overall sound of the orchestra. I played with plenty of orchestras that are professional that would not have done any better than the Choate orchestra."

Many people from the audience even e-mailed Mr. Ventre to praise the beauty of the harmony the Choate Orchestra created. "People came away amazed at how well the Choate Rosemary Hall Orchestra performed. They could not believe that this was a high school orchestra. People keep on asking, 'What college is Choate Rosemary Hall?'" said Mr. Ventre.

The orchestra also participated in a master class with a prominent conductor Mr. Paul Phillips, a professor at Brown University. During the master class, Mr. Phillips taught stu-

dents the importance of listening to others. Many of the students who will be or want to be studying at Brown were also introduced to him.

"It was such an eye-opening experience," commented Agnes Choi '16, a cellist in the orchestra. "I never imagined that I would be able to play on such a wonderful stage. Also, the master class was so helpful for us and I am very thankful of Mr. Phillips for the detailed advice." For Choi, the tour to Carnegie Hall was not only an unforgettable experience, but it also helped her to improve her musical skills.

"I am immensely proud of this orchestra. Having to play in Carnegie Hall without the opportunity to go in and rehearse in Carnegie Hall is very difficult to do. And the orchestra performed absolutely magnificently. I am very, very proud," said Mr. Ventre. He says he won't forget the looks the students had listening to the beautiful acoustics of Carnegie Hall. "They were very happy, pleased and rewarded of what they had done. It was surely a wonderful experience."

## "Google Street Art" Guards Graffiti Around the World

By CAMILA BORJESSON '17  
News Reporter

Graffiti has long been recognized as urban art form worthy of appreciation. Though many view it as vandalism, artists from around the world use graffiti as a means of self-expression that is available to us all: all you need is a can of spray-paint and a bare wall.

However, the downfall of graffiti art is that it can easily be painted over or removed. It is for this reason that the Google Art Project, an online museum that digitally catalogs street art, was created. This project, which provides posterity for a typically temporary medium, was born from the desire to enable artistic overturn – the painting-over of existing graffiti – without the loss of artwork, such as the case with New York City's graffiti hub, 5Pointz.

For over a decade, graffiti artists congregated around a building complex in Queens, New York, to show their artistic potential in a place that did not refer to their work as "vandalism." 5Pointz, as this urban art haven came to be known, was considered an honorable place for both amateurs and professionals to show their creations.

However, in late 2013, Jeff Wolkoff, owner of the site, began a redevelopment plan with his property by whitewashing the building's walls.

In order to avoid confrontation, says Wolkoff, the painting took place early in the morning, but extreme disagreement and opposition could not be avoided. This decision was enough to bring the street artist community together in a common protest against the so-called "art genocide," and only twelve hours later, neon writings were painted on the walls of the former 5Pointz, calling out the tragedy of covering up the irreplaceable art.

Although most of the artists were greatly grieved, they recognized Wolkoff's generosity in donating his property to artists in the past, and in turn he was happy to have the talented artists recreate the works on his other buildings. Nevertheless, the whitewashing of 5Pointz destroyed the legacy of many great artists.

It is because of the events at 5Pointz and other influential museums of aerosol artwork that the Google Art Project was born. With the Google Art Project, the previously ephemeral but meticulously spray-painted walls of buildings in all six continents will live on digitally despite the end of their physical existence.

The project has been actively publishing and cataloguing images of prominent street artwork on their website, including those from artists like INTI in France, El Seed in Tunisia, and Nerf in Argentina. Currently, the website features 10,000 paintings, a number that has rapidly increased since the 5Pointz dilemma.

The project's goal is to give this unrecognized form of art a voice of its own and spread its accessibility to the public. The website has doubtlessly achieved that through a variety of interactive opportunities to give recognition to the works and ensure that viewers are engaged and willing to take a closer look. Audio tours, curated online exhibitions, and original artist stories are just some of the features of the site.

This maximizes the exposure that urban artists will have—it's only a click away. So if you follow street artists and are accustomed to seeing your favorite works vanish before your eyes, the Google Art Project has established a new, innovative way to keep the legacy going.

Thus, when the next wall is whitewashed, the artwork plastered on it will live on in the digital realm, reaching a new level of greatness and acclaim, while the erased wall will make room for new displays, so the cycle of urban art may repeat itself.

Regardless of some opinions that state that Google cannot possibly provide all this support out of sheer appreciation, the Google Art Project definitely provides posterity for works of art that are often temporary and generally undermined, no matter the motive that drives it.

Although it certainly cannot increase the physical life expectancy of these expressions of creativity, the Google Art Project challenges the idea that graffiti is temporary and gives it a new chance to live on.

In this project, every seriously dedicated artist has an opportunity to show his or her talent and potential, which is, in essence, what urban art embodies. Some may call it vandalism, but street art is rapidly transitioning from the work of urban outlaws to a sophisticated and highly acclaimed form of artistic expression, and we mostly have Google to thank for taking on the responsibility of naming itself, as Google partner Isabel Rojas-Williams claims, the "mural conservancy team."



PHOTO/GOOGLE STREET ART

So far, the Google Street Art Project has mapped over 10,000 pieces of street art from 34 countries.

## Varsity Team Records

as of Monday, April 20, 2015

Boys' Track and Field	4-1	Boys' Golf	4-4
Girls' Track and Field	4-0	Girls' Golf	2-2
Girls' Water Polo	7-3	Boys' Tennis	2-3
Ultimate Frisbee	1-3	Girls' Tennis	2-3
Boys' Volleyball	0-2	Baseball/Softball	4-4/0-3
Boys' Lacrosse	4-3	Boys' Crew	2-0
Girls' Lacrosse	3-4	Girls' Crew	0-2

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## GIRLS' WATER POLO CLINCHES TWO MORE WINS IN CRUCIAL DOUBLE HEADER

BY EMILIA FURLO '17  
News Reporter

Don't bother yelling “Marco” because we've already got polo.

Unless you've been spending countless hours at the Larry Hart Pool, you might not know that the Girls' Water Polo team is currently undefeated this season in their league. Sitting down with captain and goalie Kat Moeller '15, I got a true insight as to just how impressive and dedicated these ladies are.

Moeller is a long-time member of the water polo team and one of the fearless leaders of this year's squad. Under Moeller and fellow captain Eliza Romeyn '15, an aquatic sports specialist, the girls water polo team is riding a

three game winning streak and holds a 7-3 record overall.

Other crucial members of the team include Allie Bazinet '15 and Venus Law '16. This core of older student-athletes in combination with Choate's new, young talent have been pivotal to the team's success this season.

**“The girls kept their energy up, despite having just played a match.”**

— Katherine Moeller '15

While most of us were enjoying an unexpected long weekend, the girls' “WoPo” team drove up to Phillips Exeter Academy this past Saturday for a

double header against Williston and Exeter. Already tired from the bus ride, the girls kicked off the competition by playing Williston first, while Exeter humbly took a break in between playing Williston and Choate.

As Williston had just played a game against Exeter, Choate used Williston's exhaustion to their advantage and quickly racked up the points. Although Williston posed to be a very aggressive team, they were not nearly the caliber of swimmers that Choate players were. By the second half, Choate increased the pace of the game, had many breakaways, and outswam Williston to every ball.

With such a lead on Williston, it allowed for everyone on the team to get experience and time in the pool. Moeller shared her thoughts on the team's dynamic after the game. “The team really came together and played as a unit. The veteran girls were able to help out the newer girls in the pool, allowing everyone to play.”

By the time the buzzer sounded, Choate had put away the game 8-2 and enjoyed a lengthy ten-minute break before Exeter hopped in the pool.

Tensions were already high after last year's semi-finals in the New England tournament when Choate bested Exeter, despite the fact that Exeter was 1st seeded and Choate was 4th seeded. Out for revenge and well rested, Exeter came out strong and scored the first goal of the game.

From this point on, Choate kicked it into high gear and focused their energy where it mattered. Moeller went on and said, “The girls showed a lot of energy, despite just having played a match. They were able to maintain this strong energy level throughout the whole game.” Their tremendous stamina, an advantage the team holds, has and will continue to play a large role in the team's success going forward.

Moeller, reflecting back on the Choate's slow start, also mentioned that two of their starters were unable to play as one was hurt, and the other ejected later in the game.

The game continued to intensify as the second half started, and with seven seconds left, Moeller made a game-winning save and brought Choate home with a 6-5 victory.

Moeller is immensely proud of her teammates for working well together under pressure and for pocketing a second win, continuing the team's undefeated streak. She particularly mentioned that teammate and co-captain Romeyn played extremely well in the crucial moments of the weekend's matches and scored a fantastic goal against Exeter.

When asked to comment on the Water Polo team as a whole, Moeller smiled, saying, “This year, we are undefeated in the league so far, and I think that's due to our team dynamic. They're a wonderful group of girls to play with, and I'm excited to spend my last season with them.”

With a long and difficult stretch ahead in the second half of the season, teamwork and chemistry, two of the team's strengths, will be essential to the success of these dedicated aquatic Wild Boars.



PHOTO/JACOB STEVENS

Boston College commit and Choate Baseball Captain Jacob Stevens '15 prepares to crack a ball into play.

## On the Mound With Jacob “Bear” Stevens '15

BY JACKSON ELKINS '18  
News Staff Reporter

This week we hit the pitcher's mound with Jacob “Bear” Stevens '15. A four-year member of the Choate Rosemary Hall community and a baseball prodigy, Stevens is a force to be reckoned with on the diamond. Capable of throwing a blistering 95 mph fastball, Stevens is not only Choate baseball's top pitcher and captain, but one of New England's premier baseball players.

Stevens recalls the beginning of his baseball career, saying, “I played every sport growing up, and baseball just seemed to be the one that kind of stuck; my parents and other family relatives played baseball, too, so it was something that connected well with my family.” Soon, however, “Bear” began to notice a particular advantage to his play: his arm. “At a young age, the coaches around me noticed that I had a stronger arm, so as I continued to develop, pitching became more of a relevant thing; I considered it to be something I should try out.” Today, Stevens's arm is his best asset on the field, striking fear into the hearts of opposing batters who step into his path.

Obviously, Stevens is an incredible asset to the Wild Boars' pitching staff, but perhaps his best contribution comes from his undeniable leadership. Three-year Choate baseball player Parker Goldstein '16 said of Stevens' leadership, “Jacob has been a co-captain for the last two years, and he's been simply great. Not only is he one of the best, if not the best player on our team, but he has also been a great leader and motivator as well.” This outstanding and hard-to-acquire trait will surely serve him well as his baseball

career continues in the next few years and beyond.

In regards to the team this year, Stevens discussed the importance of building off of last year's successful campaign. “We're looking pretty good; we're 3-0 in the league right now, and after co-winning the Founders' League the past two years, we're looking to at least do that, if not win it outright this year.”

**“My goal is to make it to the major leagues and make a living out of baseball.”**

— Jacob Stevens '15

He also thinks that Choate has the depth needed to be successful this year. He told *The News*, “We have a good, strong team of seniors, as well as a couple young kids working up. We've got a really well-rounded team this year.” So far, the team sits at a 4-4 record, with a few tough losses along the way. With ten games remaining in the season, as well as the Walker Tournament, which Choate won in 2014, the Boars are looking to capitalize on the fact that all but two of these games are within the Founders' League.

Stevens is now a senior, and he faces a decision to make regarding his baseball future. He's committed to play for Boston College, but the idea of entering the MLB draft to fulfill his dream of playing professional baseball is tempting, to say the least. When asked about what motivates him, Stevens replied, “just the idea of playing professional baseball and making it to the highest level; I mean, it's something that most kids who play baseball want to do,

but something that if you work at everyday is likely to become possible.”

The dream right now for Stevens is all too real. At many home games where Bear is pitching, one can see upwards of ten MLB scouts in attendance. Yes, you read that correctly: double-digit numbers of scouts from the highest level of baseball on the planet. “My ultimate goal in baseball is probably to have a successful career at the professional level and make it to the major leagues, and hopefully stick around for a couple years and make a living out of it.”

As incredible as Stevens's career thus far has been, there's more to the man than just a pitcher on a mound. In regard to his nickname, “Bear” stated, “The origin of the nickname “Bear” is kind of funny; when I was 9 or 10 years old playing travel baseball, one of my coaches gave me the nickname, just out of nowhere, because I was a big kid, and I moved well. Originally the nickname was “Dancing Bear”, but as the years went on, I just kind of knocked it down to Bear, and it's stuck ever since.”

Stevens's favorite pitch of the three he throws is the fastball; he says, “It's nice to be able to throw it past someone.” His favorite team is the St. Louis Cardinals, but his favorite pitcher of all time is Roger Clemens. “He had a good presence on the mound, really dominated the game,” Stevens said. However, dominating the mound is one thing that Stevens has in common with Clemens, his idol. As Stevens's Choate baseball career begins to come to a close in his senior season, the Choate ace looks to lead his team to victory this spring and achieve his maximum potential after his Wild Boar years.



PHOTO/WENDY LEONARD

Choate Boys' Lacrosse has struggled recently, with losses to rivals Avon Old Farms, Deerfield Academy, and Westminster School.

## BVL Falls to Avon in Last Second Thriller

BY JACK TENNEY '16  
Sports Editor

After falling to both Deerfield Academy and Westminster School in the same week, Choate Boys' Varsity Lacrosse looked to rebound with a major Founder's League win against Avon Old Farms on Saturday, April 18. Entering the game with a 3-3 record, this would be a huge test for the Wild Boars and a turning point in the team's season. Unfortunately, Choate came up just short, losing 10-9 in the dying seconds of the game after a heroic comeback.

Choate took a 3-1 lead early in the first quarter, thanks to great play from Duke University-bound goalie Turner Uppgren '15. For the last three seasons, Uppgren has been a wall between the pipes, and Saturday was no exception. Uppgren made almost 15 saves in the effort and was an absolute game changer.

Soon, however, the Winged Beavers from Avon fired back emphatically, taking an 8-4 lead by the end of the first half and deflating the Wild Boars.

Coming out with a new resolve in the second half, Choate went on quite the run. With huge goals from midfielder Bobby Goggin '17, postgraduate attackman Andrew Gallahue '15, and attackman Tanner Williams '15, the Wild Boars found themselves down by one goal with two minutes left and a one-man advantage.

Cycling the ball around the Avon end with speed and accuracy, the ball arrived in the stick of Matthew Picard '15, who stepped in and fired an overhand shot to the upper right-hand corner to tie the game at nine-nine, igniting the

crowd and the Choate team. Injured Dartmouth-bound midfielder Liam O'Connell '16 said, “We've struggled with coming back from deficits this year, so I thought we did a great job of being resilient and staying in the game.”

However, just when it appeared that the game was destined for overtime and a comeback had been completed, Choate received an offside call with less than ten seconds left while trying to call a timeout. With the clock ticking, an Avon defenseman scooped up the ball and hurled it towards the net, where an attackman was readily waiting. Slipping the ball in the low corner, Avon went up by one goal with only one second left on the game clock, clinching the win for the Winged Beavers. Said spectator Eduard Muñoz-Suñé '16, “It was absolutely devastating.”

Obviously, Choate was disappointed with the loss, as the team came so close but fell just short, thanks to a fluke play in the final seconds. Long-stick midfielder Albie Austin '16 told *The News*, “It was a heartbreaking loss, and after working so hard throughout the game, everyone was extremely disappointed.” However, having only let up 2 goals in the entirety of the second half, Choate saw how they are capable of playing. If they can mimic this play for a full four quarters, the sky is the limit for the rest of the season.

The Wild Boars will look to direct their feelings from last Saturday against their next opponent, Taft, which and has bested Choate the last two seasons. Hopefully, Boys' Varsity Lacrosse will direct their feelings from Avon Old Farms toward the Rhinos of Taft.

Varsity Softball vs. Kent School

Wednesday, April 29, 3:15 P.M.

@ Choate Softball Field

**BOAR PEN**  
GAME OF THE WEEK