

Photos courtesy of the Choate Archives

As head of school, Mr. Charles Dey spearheaded initiatives like Choate's financial aid program and Diversity Day.

## FORMER HEAD OF SCHOOL CHARLES DEY DIES AT 89

By **Alexis Lien '23**  
Staff Reporter

Former head of school Mr. Charles Dey died on April 16 in his home in Walpole, New Hampshire. He was 89.

Mr. Dey, as President and Principal of the School from 1973 to 1991, played a crucial role in merging The Choate School and Rosemary Hall, as well as introducing new programs to the School and promoting greater diversity on campus and in the broader world of education.

Mr. Dey's death was first reported by the School's Department of Communications, which published a remembrance detailing his legacy on the School's website.

Mr. Dey came to Choate from Dartmouth College, where he had served as a dean. Soon after he arrived in Wallingford, he began working to establish a single co-educational institution through a formal merger of The Choate School and Rosemary Hall. He consol-

idated the two schools' boards, which then developed a school handbook, diploma requirements, a grading system, and an admissions office. Mr. Dey liked to joke that his greatest accomplishment was removing the hyphen from "Choate-Rosemary Hall."

"To lose someone who has played such an important part in the School's history and also in my own personal life feels like a double blow," said current Head of School Dr. Alexis Curtis, who frequently sought advice from Mr. Dey, his predecessor. His death leaves "a huge void in my life both professionally and personally."

Under Mr. Dey, Choate worked to provide greater financial assistance to its students, working with a program that Mr. Dey had created at Dartmouth known as A Better Chance, or ABC, to assist economically disadvantaged students in attending independent secondary schools.

See **DEY, Page 2**

## Dr. Keith Hinderlie Steps Down, New Equity Director Announced

By **Grace Zhang '20**  
Editor-in-Chief, 113th Masthead

In early March, Director of Equity and Inclusion Dr. Keith Hinderlie announced that he will not be returning to Choate for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Since 2016, as Choate's inaugural Director of Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Hinderlie has focused on bringing equity and inclusion to the forefront of conversations on campus. He will be succeeded by The Hotchkiss School's current Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Rachel Myers, who will begin on July 1.

Given recent social distancing restrictions due to Covid-19, interviews of candidates had to be conducted over the video-conferencing platform Zoom. This, however, did

not deter Dr. Myers from her interest in Choate.

"Each of those Zoom interviews just made me more excited for the position," she said. The advisory group tasked with finding Dr. Hinderlie's successor consisted of Associate Director of Equity and Inclusion Mr. Filipe Camarotti, Dean of Students Mr. Mike Velez '00, and Associate Head of School Ms. Kathleen Wallace, among others.

Dr. Myers has a Ph.D. in African American and African Studies from Michigan State University and has been involved in equity and inclusion work at Hotchkiss since 2014. She is a Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) Certified Leader and has spoken at many conferences focused on equity and inclusion.

Dr. Myers said that she looks forward to bringing to Choate some of the programs she has started at Hotchkiss, particularly "Community Conversations," in which the school community discusses various facets of identity.

"Students can submit questions anonymously. The 'headline' for these conversations are 'Everything You Always Wanted to Know, But Were Afraid to Ask About.' Sometimes we're a little bit afraid to lean into the discomfort, so [these events are] taking that fear away," said Dr. Myers. She hopes not only to bring ideas that have proved successful in the past but also to continue what has been successful at Choate.

Dr. Myers decided to pursue this position at Choate because

See **EQUITY DIRECTOR, Page 2**



Photo courtesy of Hinderlie and Associates

After four years as Choate's Director of Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Hinderlie is leaving his position.

## CHOATE SUMMER PROGRAMS TO GO VIRTUAL



Graphic by Sesame Gaetsaloe/The Choate News

"We are basically starting a new program from scratch," Ms. Eera Sharma, Director of Summer Programs, said.

By **Heidi Li '23**  
Reporter

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Choate Summer Programs will take place online this summer. The modified program will offer all of the originally planned courses, but teachers will now be converting classes traditionally taught on campus to virtual classrooms.

Choate Summer Programs coordinators are working hard to prepare for the upcoming summer and make it as enjoyable as possible. Director of Summer Programs Ms. Eera Sharma explained, "We are doing a lot. We are basically starting a new program from scratch. We are trying to recreate as much as possible of what we were doing before online [classes]. What is it that's special about the Choate Summer Programs that we can show in an online format?"

To accommodate the program's transition, a larger array

of courses has been made available for students. Choate Summer Programs will offer Choate classes only offered in the academic year, such as Algebra II and Contemporary Issues, along with "bridge courses," which act as a preface for courses that are scheduled to take place during the school year, to support Choate students preparing for their classes come the fall.

Day-long signature programs will be modified to hourly courses that everyone can take, providing students with both more course options and a break from their screens. The Theater Art Institute signature program has been expanded to include art classes offered in the academic year, such as acting and playwriting. The Choate Summer Programs Office is also finding ways to continue teaching traditionally hands-on courses like robotics with online tools.

The Summer Programs are also adopting a new daily schedule. Programs are now scheduled

to begin at 7:00 a.m. and run until 10:00 p.m. to accommodate students in different time zones.

The program also had to address the loss of opportunities for students to socialize with one another. An important part of the experience has always been meeting new people and establishing a close and diverse community. So, for this purpose, Choate Summer Programs has created plans for social events such as virtual dances. The office of Choate Summer Online Programs is working on rebuilding a community similar to the one in the normal school year, according to Ms. Sharma. The office hopes to represent "who we are at Choate," she said.

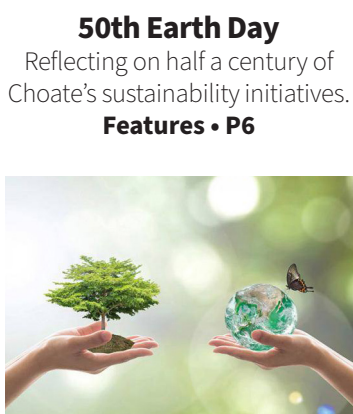
If the Choate Summer Programs run smoothly, more online courses may be offered during upcoming years in addition to on-campus summer programs.

Heidi Li may be reached at hli23@choate.edu

**A State's Joint Efforts**  
CT responds to the pandemic with a united front of hope.  
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**Covid-19 in Saudi Arabia**  
Sabahat Rahman '21 on her home country's response to the pandemic.  
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## Hotchkiss's Dr. Rachel Myers New Equity Director

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of the breadth of resources Choate has dedicated to equity and inclusion, such as the Diversity Education Committee, which works alongside the Director of Equity and Inclusion.

“There are a lot more structures at Choate in terms of having the equity and inclusion team,” said Dr. Myers. “Right now at Hotchkiss, I’m a team of one person. It’s really important that at Choate, they provide those titles and job descriptions to acknowledge those roles.”

Dr. Hinderlie’s decision not to return was based on several reasons. “When I first came to Choate, Choate was looking at other schools to figure out how to be a more inclusive community. Within that four years, now Choate is a school where other schools look at us,” he said.

He said he was satisfied with his accomplishments over the past four years, and has come to feel the desire to work with several schools at a time. “I always get requests to work with other schools on consulting projects and independent projects,” he said. “I thought that I could have more of an impact working with more schools.”

Dr. Hinderlie’s major initiatives include the Pathways Program, a student mentorship program for new students of color; the creation of the Young Women of Color Conference, the first of which was hosted at Choate; accompanying students to off-campus events, such as the Student Diversity Leadership Conference and the Asian American Footsteps Conference; and improving the content of Choate’s annual Diversity Day. He has also been instrumental in training

faculty in issues of diversity and inclusion.

Through these programs, Dr. Hinderlie has touched the lives of many students. Ben Cho ’22, who came into Choate as a member of the Pathways Program and is now a rising Pathways Mentor, said, “Dr. Hinderlie, along with the Pathways Program, has consistently helped students of different racial and cultural backgrounds. Dr. Hinderlie has emphasized the importance of equity and inclusion of all races at Choate, and I see our community progressing towards this ultimate goal.”

Head of School Dr. Alex Curtis praised Dr. Hinderlie’s contributions. “I’m very grateful to Dr. Hinderlie,” he said. “He did a lot of very spectacular work, created some important programming that I hope we can continue to build upon.”

Dr. Curtis added that the new Strategic Plan, which he and the rest of the School’s administration is currently drafting, “maintains our commitment to a fair, just, equitable community that’s welcoming to all.”

Dr. Hinderlie said that he is saddened that, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, it appears he will not be able to say a proper goodbye to the community.

“I anticipated that we would come back and that I would have a chance to connect with students that I’ve come to know and developed positive relationships with,” he said. “I think the thing that I miss the most is that the last time I saw students was in March, and I won’t have a chance to say goodbye and be with them in person.”

**Grace Zhang** may be reached at [gzhang20@choate.edu](mailto:gzhang20@choate.edu)

## CHOATE QUIZ BOWL WINS ONLINE TOURNAMENT

By **Nathan Nicholas ’23**  
Reporter

On April 19, Choate Quiz Bowl won its first trophy after participating in the Scholastic Community Outreach Program (SCOP) Novice Online Tournament 2020, the largest online quiz bowl tournament in history.

All three of the Choate teams that competed in the tournament performed exceptionally well. The Choate Lava Lizard team beat the other 28 teams and won the tournament, and Chandler Littleford ’20 and Nathan Nicholas ’23, who placed among the top 10-15 individual scorers, won scoring prizes. Ethan Bardoe ’21 was also recognized for placing 17th individually.

The four members of Choate Lava Lizard are co-captains Andrew Lee ’21 and Emma Hermacinski ’22, Joy An ’23, and Nicholas. The team did not enter the tournament expecting to win. Among the team’s most challenging opponents were The Hotchkiss School and Stanton College Preparatory School.

In light of the victory, An felt “so proud and, honestly, a little shocked.” Before the tournament began, she believed that all games were still “winnable” even though most opponents were more experienced than Choate’s teams. This proved to be true when Choate won ten of its 11 games, including the nerve-wracking finals.

Despite having been a CO-SA-approved club only since the winter term, Choate Quiz Bowl has already competed in multiple tournaments, including events at Harvard and Yale. Although two of its teams have qualified for nationals in the past, this is Choate Quiz Bowl’s first tournament win.



Photo courtesy of Andrew Lee

On April 19, the Choate Lava Lizards beat 28 teams in the largest online quiz bowl tournament in history.

An said the reason for this success is that “in addition to all loving quiz bowl, we all also love spending time together. Quiz Bowl meetings are one of the highlights of my week, and I’m sure other people in the club feel the same way. We’re all so passionate about the activity and loving of each other, and that makes us not only a strong club but also a strong community.”

Quiz bowl is a game of knowledge in which questions are answered to score points. Lee said, “Quiz bowl consists of two roughly equally weighted parts: toss-ups and bonuses. Toss-ups are the nerve-wracking buzzer races, where a moderator reads aloud a question and both teams try to buzz in with the correct answer. Questions start off with obscure clues and get progressively easier until the last sentence, rewarding deep knowledge of the subject.”

When, during a toss-up, a player buzzes in and correctly answers a question, their team moves into a three-part bonus question that is typically worth ten points. Quiz bowl questions cover a wide range of topics, including everything from literature and science to pop culture.

This format was altered for online competition, which has been a new development in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. There were much stricter timing rules put into place to prevent cheating. Additionally, club meetings have been cancelled, and time zone restrictions have made it difficult to hold online events, although virtual competitions are now becoming more common. For the SCOP Novice tournament, Nicholas and Lee, who both live abroad, played into the night, until 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., respectively.

“I honestly think Quiz Bowl has become an even bigger part of my life during the Covid-19 quarantine,” An said. She specified that Quiz Bowl is not merely a club for trivia competitions. “Choate Quiz Bowl is a lot more than a club. Honestly, this club is a second family to me. I’ve met some of the most important people in my life through Quiz Bowl and made connections strong enough to last a lifetime,” An added.

Members of Choate Quiz Bowl have not allowed the pandemic to deter their love for the game. With plans for future merchandise and tournaments, the club expects to enjoy a lively season of competition, despite the transition of all events onto online platforms.

**Nathan Nicholas** may be reached at [nnicholas23@choate.edu](mailto:nnicholas23@choate.edu)

## Charles Dey, 89, Merged Choate and Rosemary Hall

Continued from Page 1

Choate also began to collaborate with Prep for Prep, which offers underprivileged New York City teenagers the opportunity to study at an independent school. Under Mr. Dey’s leadership, Choate saw the creation of a financial aid program, Diversity Day, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and term-abroad and foreign-exchange programs.

“When he came to Choate, he always told me that it was a commitment to change the nature of the institution, diversifying and opening Choate up to people who had not traditionally been at the School,” Dr. Curtis said. “The Choate that we look at today has obviously happened over a period of time, but he was very much the foundation of that.”

Mr. Dey inspired many faculty during his tenure. English teacher Mr. David Loeb said, “At convocation, Mr. Dey always gave a talk, and his talk was always so stirring that I wanted to run straight from the Arts Center into a classroom and start teaching people things.”

HPRSS teacher Mr. Jim Davidson said that Mr. Dey is the reason that he has taught at Choate for more than four decades, praising “his insight into what students needed, his commitment to a style of education that the independent schools can offer — small classes, student-focused.”

Mr. Dey developed a counseling team in 1977, and later, a peer counseling team for students to support their classmates who are struggling with issues such as substance abuse and eating disorders.

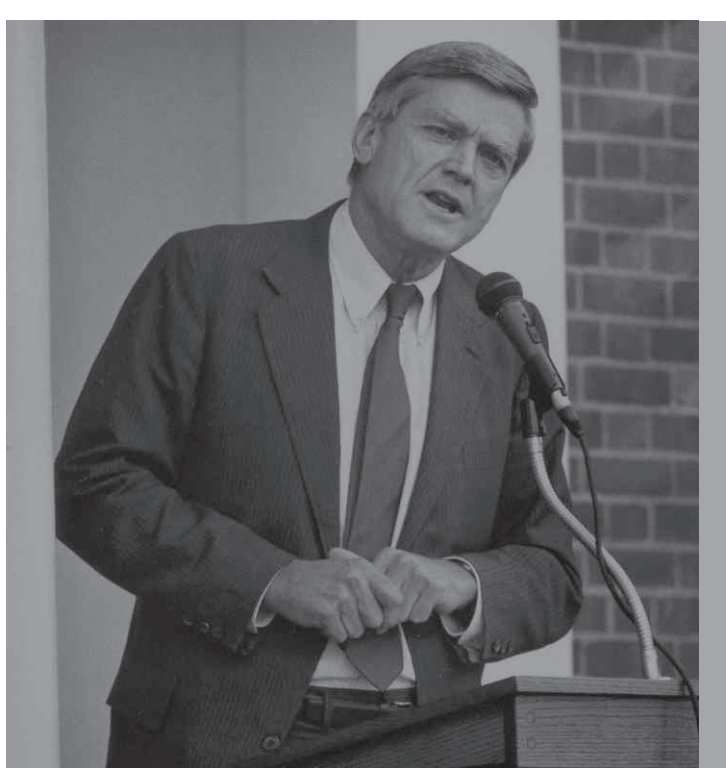


Photo courtesy of the Choate Archives

Mr. Dey was committed to diversifying Choate’s student body.

Mr. Dey led the dedication of the Larry Hart Pool in 1979, and in 1990, he dedicated the Carl C. Icahn Center for Science. He led the conversion of the former Science Hall into the Paul Mellon Humanities Building, and under his leadership, the former gymnasium became the Student Activities Center, and the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra took up residency in the Paul Mellon Arts Center.

“I hope that I can be worthy of sitting in the seat he sat in,” Dr. Curtis added. “I see him very much as a mentor, as a beacon of how to handle the position, especially during difficult times.”

As Dr. Curtis leads the School during an unprecedented pandemic that has closed

campus and thrust a system of remote learning upon students and faculty, he acknowledged, “I do fall back on ‘What did Mr. Dey do?’ What he did was remain calm, keep the core values of the School at heart, and chart a clear course. That’s been important to me.”

Dr. Curtis and his family now live in Phoebe House, named in honor of Mr. Dey’s wife, Phoebe. In addition to Ms. Dey, Mr. Dey is survived by his four children and four grandchildren, who will be organizing a celebration of Mr. Dey’s life at Choate in late summer or early fall.

**Alexis Lien** may be reached at [alien23@choate.edu](mailto:alien23@choate.edu)

## CHOATE APPOINTS NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

By **Joy Bang ’22**  
Staff Reporter

On April 8, Head of School Dr. Alex Curtis notified Choate’s faculty and staff of Mr. Patrick Durbin’s appointment as the School’s next Chief Financial Officer (CFO), effective July 1.

Mr. Durbin currently serves as the Senior Associate Dean for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer at the Georgetown College of Arts and Sciences, the largest academic unit at Georgetown University. There, he provides strategic management and oversight pertaining to the finances of the university, which include budget, human resources and staffing, and systems infrastructure.

The position of CFO at Choate entails similar duties. The current CFO of the School, Mr. Rick Saltz, ensures that the School has sufficient resources to fulfill its mission to provide the highest quality education for high school students. This includes managing the financial resources to hire and pay faculty and staff; provide students access to food, sports, and extracurricular activities; construct and renovate buildings; maintain facilities and grounds; and manage tuition, financial aid and support such as the Beyond the Classroom fund.

Having worked at Choate since September 2006, Mr. Saltz expressed his desire to retire from his position in October 2017. He started working part-time on the construction management of Colony Hall in July 2018. He returned to his previous position after his replace-

ment, Mr. Walt Schaeffler, left Choate in June 2019.

Mr. Saltz said that the decision to return was relatively easy, as he enjoys working at the School and supports its mission. Now, leaving the position he has held for years, Mr. Saltz is looking forward to what the next stage in life will bring him, as well as seeing the character, experience, and skill Mr. Durbin will bring to the administrative position.

“I know Choate will be in good hands,” Mr. Saltz said. “Mr. Durbin is an intelligent and experienced financial professional. I am sure he will learn Choate’s culture and processes quickly. I am equally sure Choate will benefit from his experiences and knowledge.”

Mr. Saltz is not the only one leaving a long-held position and anticipating a new phase in his career. Having not only graduated from Georgetown University but also devoted 20 years of his career to his alma mater, Mr. Durbin — along with his wife and four children — is excited to join the Choate community.

Mr. Durbin was especially attracted by Choate’s mission to shape leaders, provide top-quality education, and make learning accessible. He interprets the responsibilities of his position as “ensuring that all the things students and families love about Choate continue to grow and thrive. The amazing faculty, the engaging extra-curricular activities, the remarkable facilities, and, importantly, the financial aid make this education possible for so many of our students.”

Mr. Durbin also understands that the unprecedented situation of a pandemic will make relocation challenging, but he is determined to serve the community as a colleague, neighbor, and financial administrator. Mr. Saltz will be available for Mr. Durbin to reach out for help and ask questions to ensure a smooth passing of the torch.

Although recent stay-at-home orders derailed Mr. Durbin’s scheduled visits to campus this spring, he is engaged virtually. According to Dr. Curtis, Mr. Durbin is in a training process that will ensure an easy execution of his duties once everyone is back on campus (though it remains unclear when, exactly, that will be).

The new CFO will work to make sure Choate continues to be financially viable to fulfill its mission. Mr. Saltz said, “My job, and one that Mr. Durbin will continue, is to make sure [the fulfillment of Choate’s mission] happens with the appropriate level of financial resources, risk tolerance, personnel, facilities, technology, and student engagement.”

Given the current pandemic, both Dr. Curtis and Mr. Saltz emphasized the importance of risk tolerance. It is crucial, they said, for the School to be financially prepared for a variety of situations, whether that be the ongoing pandemic or a deepening economic crisis that may unfold in its wake.

**Joy Bang** may be reached at [jbang22@choate.edu](mailto:jbang22@choate.edu)



LOCAL GOOD NEWS

Graphic by Sesame Gaetsaloe/The Choate News

OPENING UNIVERSITY GATES FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

By **Linda Phan '22**  
*Copy Editor*

On March 20, New Haven Mayor Mr. Justin Elicker contacted Yale University and the University of New Haven (UNH) about assisting efforts against Covid-19 by offering dorms to first responders and healthcare workers who have vulnerable family members, are awaiting test results, or have been exposed to the virus. Fearing the possibility of spreading the disease to their family members, these workers need a temporary place to stay.

After Mayor Elicker reached out to UNH for aid in housing 180 firemen

and police officers, UNH President Mr. Steven Kaplan immediately agreed to house first responders in the university's residence halls. "To be able to serve police and fire personnel in this way was an honor for the university," UNH Associate Vice President for Marketing and Public Relations Mr. Doug Whiting said. "Whether it's making empty rooms available for first responders or medical personnel, it seems the least our institutions of higher education can do in this time of need."

UNH focuses on providing housing for workers from four municipalities — New Haven, West Haven, East Haven, and Milford, and as of last week, several dozen fire and police personnel have already moved in. Utilizing five different residence halls, UNH prepared 300 beds in total.

Only completely vacated rooms are being used, with each room disinfected before and after occupancy. Workers that test positive for Covid-19 will be moved to nearby medical facilities. "I am very grateful to President Kaplan and UNH for their partnership at this time," Mayor Elicker said in a public press conference over Zoom.

Yale University has also made its rooms available to both healthcare workers and first responders. The university had initially declined Mr. Elicker's request, stating that the school's closure during spring break did not allow for students to move out their belongings. But, on March 28, after receiving backlash from the community and the Mayor, the institution turned back on its decision and has since

opened up 300 rooms, with more still being prepared.

Following the new announcement, President of Yale University Mr. Peter Salovey said in an official statement, "Now, more than ever, Yale and City Hall need to be on the same page. I know how committed all of us across the city and the university are to implementing an effective response to Covid-19, and I will do all I can to support this shared work." With the help of volunteers and movers, the school moved students' belongings out of dorms, opening them up to healthcare workers and first responders.

With the number of Covid-19 cases rising, New Haven is de-

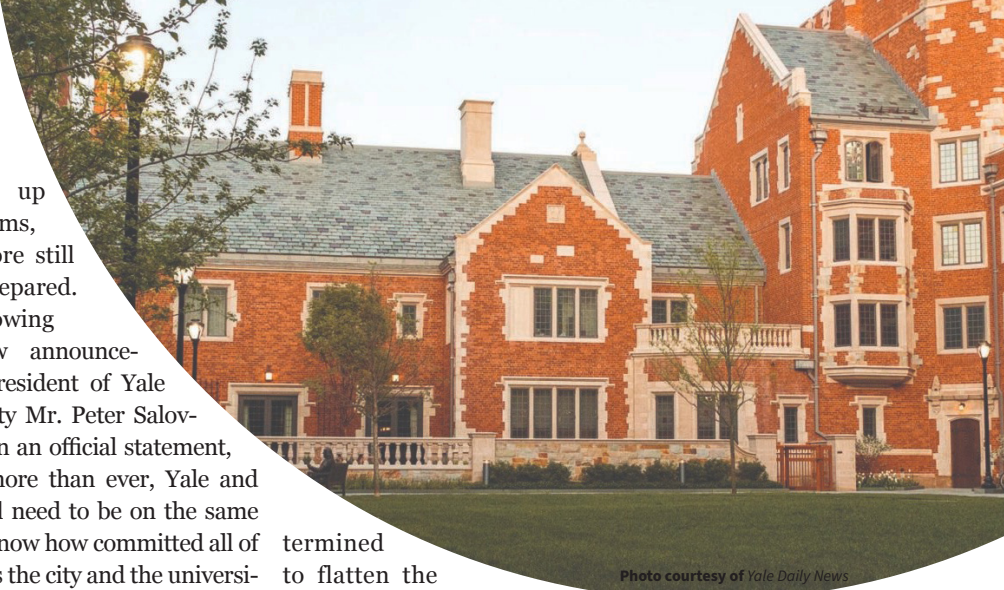


Photo courtesy of Yale Daily News

termined to flatten the curve as quickly as possible with the help of the community. Many other institutions, such as Southern Connecticut State University, Western Connecticut State University, and Hill Regional Career High School have also stepped up to help by housing not only Covid-19 patients but also high-risk citizens such

as those with underlying health conditions. "It has been gratifying to see that virtually every college and university in the area has stepped up in meaningful ways to assist," said Mr. Whiting.

**Linda Phan** may be reached at [lphan22@choate.edu](mailto:lphan22@choate.edu)

YMCA LETTER CAMPAIGN UPLIFTS HIGH-RISK RESIDENTS

By **Praj Chirathivat '22**  
*Copy Editor*

Launched in late March, the Wallingford YMCA's "Letters of Kindness" project aims to spread hope and support to local high-risk citizens during this pandemic. The campaign delivers student-written letters to patients and elderly residents in self-isolation at Gaylord Hospital and Masonicare.

Delivering upon the organization's mission, the YMCA strives to strengthen the foundation of the community by uniting people of all ages and backgrounds and by bridging the gap through activities and programs. After meeting together in early March to brainstorm ideas about potential projects, members of YMCA's leadership team collectively agreed to launch the campaign, along with many other projects, to support the community during this time.

The project members, led by Wallingford YMCA Swim Team

Head Coach Ms. Amber Albe and Aquatics Director Ms. Megan O'Connor, spread the word by calling local institutions, emailing families, and writing articles. Many kids in the community have already participated in the initiative, creating a positive impact on the lives of isolated patients.

Especially during a period of isolation, Covid-19 patients who are quarantined in their rooms have limited social interaction. "I hope that these letters will reach those people in isolation whether it be seniors at Masonicare or individuals who are hospitalized over

Gaylord. They don't have the support of family members and friends who go in and visit; it does leave a void," Ms. Darrow noted. She hopes that by receiving these letters of hope, lonely patients undergoing tough medical sessions will feel comforted knowing that the whole community supports them.

Grace Furtado '23, who heard about the project through Ms. Albe, her swim coach, participated in the project by sending in a drawing of two hands forming a heart, complemented by a personal message. Writing the letter, she said, "may take five minutes

out of your day, but it can brighten someone else's whole day. It's a great thing to do."

The participants are also able to gain awareness about the impact of Covid-19 on others in their community and form a connection with the recipients of their letters. "I do think that it has a special impact on the community in terms of teaching [the youth] to give back and [to feel] lucky that they are not sitting alone in isolation at this time," said Ms. Darrow.

**Praj Chirathivat** may be reached at [pchirathivat22@choate.edu](mailto:pchirathivat22@choate.edu)



Graphic by Sesame Gaetsaloe/The Choate News

By **Nathan Lang '22**  
*Reporter*

As Covid-19 continues to send shock-waves throughout the world, many have started initiatives to help with the demand for personal protective equipment (PPE). In New Haven, local residents have started a campaign called "PPE for CT" to contribute toward the cause.

Spearheaded by Hopkins School Modern Language Department Chair Ms. Lan Lin, fellow Hopkins parent Ms. Lois Pan, and other Hopkins teachers

and alumni, this fund has raised over \$20,000 toward acquiring surgical masks and N95 masks through both a GoFundMe page and the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven.

PPE for CT started in early March from a small effort within the Hopkins School. When Ms. Lin, a Wuhan native, spoke with her family members, friends, and colleagues stuck in her hometown, she became inspired to help take action. Ms. Lin reached out to the Hopkins Chinese-American WeChat group to raise money for Wuhan and parts of the U.S. This simple idea eventually

turned into a multilateral operation to donate supplies to China and local hospitals.

Ms. Lin said, "I have my advisees' parents, grandparents from Texas — everybody is donating." This effort has grown beyond just the community of the Hopkins School and has expanded globally.

As of last week, PPE for CT has been able to order 10,000 surgical masks and 4,500 N95 masks to be shipped to hospitals in Wu-

han. These masks are currently in-transit towards their destination; however, Chinese regulations have hampered the speed at which these masks are being delivered.



Photo courtesy of Lisa

By **Trista LeBlanc-Serbyn '22**  
*Reporter*

In an effort to support local health care workers, Xavier High School sophomore Mitchell Wollen is spreading appreciation with his project, "Hearts for Healthcare Helpers" (HHH).

The project began in early April, soon after the number of Covid-19 patients began to surge in Connecticut, increasing demand for medical assistance. Wollen, who usually keeps himself busy as a competitive swimmer, wanted to make use of his free time during quarantine by coming up with ways to help his community.

Additionally, 5,000 surgical masks are heading to Yale New Haven Hospital, and 15,000 more will be shipped to other local hospitals in Connecticut and New York. Ms. Pan reached out to a few of her friends in Hong Kong to place orders from manufacturers in the Shandong province of China. These producers have been able to ensure a stable supply of FDA-approved PPE.

Although much progress has been made, Ms. Lin and her team are still working hard to donate more PPE to hospitals around the world. Although they have set a target of \$30,000 on their GoFundMe page, Ms. Lin and her fellow team members are considering the launch of a second campaign after that goal is reached.

"If we can make it to \$30,000," she said, "we are going to re-evaluate the demand for PPE and potentially organize a second campaign."

**Nathan Lang** may be reached at [nlang22@choate.edu](mailto:nlang22@choate.edu)

CHESHIRE FAMILY CRAFTS COVID-19 MASKS

By **Bella Capuano '21**  
*Staff Reporter*

In an effort to support front-line workers, local Chinese-Americans in Cheshire have been making and collecting large quantities of personal protective equipment (PPE). The Tan family began the project in early March in light of the racism that many Chinese-Americans have been facing during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We learned how to make the masks from a YouTube video, and we have been using old bed sheets and fabric we have around the house," Ms. Jiang Tan told the *Record-Journal*. She contacted members of the Cheshire Chinese-American community to ask for help. By April 16, the group included nearly 100 people.

Once the project gained momentum, Tyler, Tan's son, began hosting online violin performances to raise money to purchase materials for the masks, attracting more volunteers. The Tan family's efforts even caught the attention of Cheshire Town Councilman Mr. Jim Jinks. In order to help the group expand its platform, Mr.

Jinks used social media and email to spread the word to more members of the Cheshire community, encouraging them to join the cause. "I [wanted] to help get their story out because they're Chinese-Americans [and] Asian-Americans have been unfairly targeted or blamed for the virus," said Mr. Jinks. "This group's efforts in Cheshire needed to be highlighted and told."

The group has made it easy for anyone to participate in the project: upon sending the organization an email, an automatic reply directs you to a YouTube video by Jo-Ann Fabrics that teaches viewers how to make a simple mask. Additionally, the Tan family set up a drop-off center in front of Cheshire Town Hall, where participants can leave masks and other supplies that will benefit healthcare and other front-line workers.

The organization has created over 1,000 masks thus far, and the effects of their efforts can already be seen. The majority

of masks and other PPE have been donated to Yale New Haven Hospital Intensive Care Units (ICU) doctors, MidState Medical Center, and Hartford Hospital, while local police officers in Cheshire have also received a batch of N95 masks. Their efforts will continue until PPEs become available to all front-line workers.

"I've never done anything like this before, and it's been really heartwarming to see how appreciative everyone has been of us and what we are doing for them," Ms. Tan told the *Record-Journal*.

**Bella Capuano** may be reached at [bcapuano21@choate.edu](mailto:bcapuano21@choate.edu)



Photo by Trista LeBlanc-Serbyn/The Choate News

HEARTS FOR HEALTHCARE HELPERS

Wollen said, "I just felt like there's a lot of people struggling out there right now, and I needed a way to spread some positivity. So, my family and I were kind of brainstorming when we came up with the idea of these hearts."

Wollen decided to sell wooden heart-shaped signs that featured a hand-painted "Thank You" — an expression of gratitude to the brave essential workers during this pandemic. The signs cost \$15, with an additional \$5 for delivery, and all proceeds are used to provide food and beverages for local healthcare workers.

Wollen has worked on this project for over 100 hours, and, with the help of family and friends, he has created and sold more than 350 signs to date. As of April 21, he has raised more than \$3,500. Wollen has used some of these profits to deliver packaged snacks to nursing homes around Wallingford, such as Masonic, Regency House, Genesis, and Skyview. Wanting to do even more, he has also made plans to provide free coffee to the healthcare profes-

sionals working several hours a day at Gaylord Hospital.

To spread the word about HHH, Wollen and his family posted an explanation of the project on Facebook. Gradually, as more users liked and shared the post, more people became aware of the project and donated. Eventually, the project caught the attention of local news channel FOX 61, which led to statewide attention. "We didn't really expect it to blow up like it did," said Wollen.

Wollen plans to continue making signs, raising money, and spreading gratitude until quarantine orders are lifted. "A lot of people are struggling immensely during these challenging times, and spreading positivity is a really good thing to do," Wollen said. "It will help keep these people afloat and give them the courage to keep pushing on [and] see an end in sight... It's good to spread love and donate."

**Trista LeBlanc-Serbyn** may be reached at [tleblancserbyn22@choate.edu](mailto:tleblancserbyn22@choate.edu)



# THE CHOATE NEWS



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## Problems with Standardized Testing Changes

By **Richard Chen '22**  
*Opinions Writer*

Anxiety over the college admissions process is hardly a new struggle for Choate students. Some have focused their entire high-school career on accumulating club leadership positions, stressing over their A to A+ ratio, and training to snag varsity letters. Others are less worried; they focus on their relationships first and attempt to make the most out of their social life at Choate. However, Covid-19's effects on standardized testing are stirring panic among many students, no matter where their priorities lie.

The College Board, which controls many aspects of the college-admissions process, including SAT tests and Advanced Placement (AP) Exams, has canceled testing dates in March and June. Now, students can only take their standardized tests after summer break.

In past years, many teachers have helped students review SAT Subject Test material during the final weeks of classes. By registering for the June SAT Subject Test date, which usually follows Term-End Experiences at Choate, students avoid having to re-study what they just learned for their finals. But because of the later dates, students no longer have the opportunity to take the tests when the material is fresh in their minds.

Although some students might utilize the extra time to study and review more with tutors, students who are unable to afford or access such resources will be left at a disadvantage.

Furthermore, if juniors are willing to take tests after the summer, they will be taking them during senior fall. This, in turn, limits not only the number of tests students can take but the number of times they can retake for a better score as well. Notoriously one of the most difficult terms at Choate, senior fall is when students are pushed the hardest, as they apply to college, tackle difficult course loads, and adjust to their new responsibilities as leaders on campus. The extra burden of taking an SAT Subject Test

or the SAT on a weekend only heightens these anxieties.

A better solution would be to test virtually on the original dates. In fact, the AP Exams, another exam administered by the College Board, is hosting online tests across multiple dates.

However, these modified AP Exams will be shorter and cover less material than usual. AP Exams are supposed to help students prove that they have mastered a subject enough to not retake it in college, but shaving off the last few units of each test would prove this goal impossible. How could a college admissions office compare two students with identical scores if one took a modified version of the exam while the other took the original version before the coronavirus pandemic? Although a few colleges have released statements claiming they will look at the scores the same way, a student who passed the modified version of an AP Exam might find gaps in their knowledge when taking upper-level college courses with prerequisites they were exempt from.

What can we do as students? Well, there are many ways to prove proficiency to colleges beyond standardized tests, including competitions and Olympiads — many of which have become virtual since the coronavirus outbreak began.

The ACT, another testing organization, seems to have a better grip on the situation than the College Board. Although the ACT has also been forced to reschedule tests, students have the option to take the main section of the exam virtually. Because of this, students from all over the world can take the ACT over the summer when the material is fresh in their minds.

Although none of us planned to take virtual standardized tests this year, we must focus on the silver linings — even if it just means that you can now take the ACT from your bed.

**Richard Chen** is a fourth-former from Lexington, Mass. He may be reached at rchen22@choate.edu

## DRESSING TO IMPRESS MYSELF

By **Jessica Wu '22**  
*Copy Editor*

Choate's recent transition to remote learning has caused substantial changes to our daily lives. Since quarantine started, the amount of attention I've given to my physical appearance has dropped precipitously. I've made some questionable fashion choices for my Zoom classes — if you can call wearing the same outfit three days in a row fashion.

My daily outfit consists of an oversized sweatshirt and baggy sweatpants in varying shades of gray. I haven't touched a pair of jeans in at least a month. Despite accidentally cutting my hair too short a week into quarantine, I hardly care how about its length. And, without the pressure of possible judgement from my peers or the lingering feeling that I have to look a certain way to fit in, my concern with my self-image has moved to the backburner.

It's not that my sense of fashion has changed during quarantine — I still like the clothes that I used to wear regularly to school — but without people around to see my outfits, it feels pointless to dress nicely. Part of me feels as though I'd be wasting a perfectly good outfit if it doesn't receive appreciation, or at least acknowledgement, from others. Why take the time to dress to impress when there's no one to impress?

Over the past month or so of social distancing, I've come to realize how heavily my "personal" style is influenced by the opinions of others. Subconsciously, I'm constantly looking to online influencers and celebrities to see



Graphic by Sesame Gaetsaloe/The Choate News

which styles are trending or out of season. When I see my favorite YouTuber wear mom jeans instead of skinny jeans, I suddenly believe that the pair of skinny jeans I bought just last week are ugly and out of style.

Still, this hunger for validation extends far beyond my fashion sense — the need for external approval is at the heart of everything I do. I choose my outfits based on trending styles that will help me fit in. I perform the piano for judges who decide if the music I'm playing is beautiful enough. I write essays that I'm not proud of but that I know will receive a good grade and positive feedback. I post pictures on social media because being in the moment with my friends is not enough — I need people to know

that I'm having fun. It's come to the point where I can't even differentiate between the things I genuinely enjoy from the things I do to please others.

Growing up, I was constantly told to be myself and to ignore what others think, but no one ever talked about how difficult doing that actually is — how difficult it is to ignore the pressure from my parents, friends, and teachers who expect more out of me than I can give. How difficult it is to stop feeling like I'm living in my brother's shadow. How difficult it is to lower my own perfectionist expectations and go easy on myself once in a while.

To compensate for this internal struggle, I look to others for validation. And it wasn't until I

took a break from my nonstop, day-to-day life and spent some time alone that I realized not only how my style is affected by others but how much of what I do is to please others.

Building patience and trust in ourselves is the only way to fight the need for external validation and to realize that our own satisfaction is enough. Despite the chaos of the Covid-19 outbreak, quarantine is a detox from the judgemental eyes of society. It's the perfect time to confront the insecurities confining us and to be who we want to be — whether that means wearing skinny jeans or sweatpants.

**Jessica Wu** is a fourth-former from Wilton, Conn. She may be reached at jwu22@choate.edu

## Later Class Start Times, Healthier Students

By **Calvin Walker '21**  
*Staff Reporter*

With Covid-19 scattering Choate students across the world, the Choate administration has faced a new problem: How can we make the daily schedule convenient for as many students as possible while our community is spread across various time zones?

The short-term solution was to start classes later, allowing students from the West Coast to start classes at 7:00 a.m. instead of 5:00 a.m., while pushing start times for those in Europe to the afternoon. The recent schedule shuffle has allowed students in Asia to have fewer classes after midnight. With these new schedule changes, students on the East Coast now attend classes starting at 10:00 a.m. — and it's amazing.

Even before the current crisis, I had argued for pushing back class start times by rearranging the schedule to put conference block first. Scientific evidence supports later start times, and we can now use the virtual class schedule as the trial run for a delayed schedule. Once we return to regular, in-person classes — whenever that may be — we can greatly improve students' mental health and overall well-being by starting classes later than 8:00 a.m.

Although we're no longer physically at school, the workload we are all used to hasn't completely disappeared. Still, because of later start times, I've found that I can stay up late to complete homework without worrying about being exhausted the next day.

Criticism of pushing back start times often sounds something like, "Students will just stay up later, and no one will get more



Graphic by Sesame Gaetsaloe/The Choate News

sleep." While this may sometimes be the case, it's scientifically proven that after puberty, adolescents' circadian rhythms are lengthened, making them less sensitive to morning light compared to other age groups. Therefore, adolescents naturally fall asleep later and wake up later than both adults and children, as they are biologically more sensitive to morning light. As University of Washington Professor Horacio de la Iglesia has put it, "To ask a teen to be up and alert at 7:30 a.m. is like asking an adult to be active and alert at 5:30 a.m."

To be clear, I'm not advocating for classes to start at 10:00 a.m., as our usual 70-minute blocks and sports schedule would make that impossible. Instead, I believe we should move the conference block to the beginning of the day, allowing students to have their first classes 30 minutes later, but still have the opportunity to meet with teachers as needed.

While this may seem like a trivial change, giving students the option to sleep in 30 minutes later would serve as an excellent first step in improving general health and well-being on campus. This adjustment would also return the Thursday sleep-in to its former glory, something universally enjoyed by Choate students before conference block was moved to after the second block of the day.

Some teachers may worry that students might choose to sleep through conference block instead of attending scheduled meetings. However, our current online schedule effectively has a conference block at the beginning of the day through morning office hours, and students have utilized that time for extra help or meetings.

Furthermore, having conference at the beginning of the day would actually give students more opportunities to meet with teachers prior to tests or other

assessments. With the current in-person daily schedule, there is a two in five chance that a student's test will happen before conference, eliminating the opportunity for students to meet with a teacher to ask a last-minute clarifying question.

Ultimately, as a student living on the East Coast, the online schedule has boosted my energy throughout the day. Despite the peculiarity of staying home for school, the increased amount of sleep the new schedule provides has definitely improved my overall wellness. In the past few years, Choate has made great strides in prioritizing students' wellness, and the next step in this health journey should be to keep in place this spring's later start times whenever we return to campus.

**Calvin Walker** is a fifth-former from Rhinebeck, NJ. He may be reached at cwalker21@choate.edu



# Governments Stand By As Virus Invades Prisoners' Cells

By **Irene Garcia Gutierrez '22**  
*Opinions Writer*

As the number of Covid-19 cases continues to rise, incarceration systems pose a serious threat to containing the spread of the virus. Because of the close proximity of the prisoners, contracting and spreading the coronavirus becomes very easy — prisons in the U.S. are now among the largest sources of infections.

A study by American Civil Liberties Union Analytics found that “models projecting total U.S. fatalities to be under 100,000 may be underestimating deaths by another 100,000 if we continue to operate jails as usual.” Ultimately, if the U.S. wants to save lives, it needs to take swift action.

On April 3, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet told the Human Rights Council, “Authorities should examine ways to release those particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus, among them older detainees and those who are sick, as well as low-risk offenders.”

For instance, Germany released prisoners who were close to fulfilling their sentences to avoid overcrowding in jails and make space for quarantine areas. In the U.S., states such as New Jersey followed similar recommendations, releasing around 1,000 low-risk inmates. This is a necessary measure to protect inmates from contracting the disease and spreading it to others. In fact, the U.S. should have started releasing inmates months ago, before prisons became petri dishes for the virus.

By imposing strict isolation measures, such as forbidding entry to all visitors and issuing health assessments to essential workers who enter the prison,



Photo courtesy of ABC News

Families of inmates at the Rebibbia prison in Rome protest quarantine measures that eliminated visitation rights for inmates. countries like Spain and Italy have managed to curb the spread of the coronavirus in prisons.

However, these measures are far from ideal, evoking anxiety and fear in prisoners who have lost their tether to the outside world. In response to losing visitation rights, Margherita Coppola, an Italian prisoner, told *Deutsche Welle*, “It was everything to me, the only moment to talk with my father

for real. You don't tell the most intimate feelings in a letter.”

In Italy, inmates violently protested the new restrictions, setting papers on fire, ripping electric cables, and breaking water pipes. After beginning in Salerno, riots spread rapidly across the country. If the strict visitation measures put in place were justified given the unhygienic conditions and overcrowding inside jails, so were these

revolts. The Italian government has long disregarded the horrible conditions within prisons.

Despite many jails in the U.S. implementing similar measures, the virus proved harder to control there. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the country has by far the highest incarceration rate in the world with one admission to jail every three seconds. This makes mitigating the pandemic inside jails

increasingly difficult because people who may have been exposed to the coronavirus are admitted every day.

To decrease the number of people admitted to prison, the U.S. needs to revoke low-risk pretrial detentions, which make up more than half of the jail population. This would drastically diminish the number of people who can spread the disease upon their release, despite

the little time they've spent in jail — the main reason so many cases trace back to prisons.

Additionally, the U.S.'s unpreparedness is a leading reason that prisons have become epicenters of the pandemic. John Pfaff, a criminal justice expert at Fordham University, told *Vox*, “If you're going to keep people contained, at least make it possible for them to clean their hands and give them face masks.”

Most prisoners have no access to essential hygiene products such as soap and hand sanitizer, and face masks are often out of the question. Such conditions make it nearly impossible to contain the disease in an already overcrowded space.

Governments are responsible for finding ways to make life inside prisons safer and more hygienic. For example, Italian prisons hold on average 10 to 14 people in every cell. Inmates have almost no sense of personal space, and, in light of the pandemic, no way to practice social distancing. Other prisons are no different — the Hamblen County Jail in Tennessee houses 439 inmates even though its maximum capacity is a mere 250.

Ultimately, while the measures implemented by Italy and Spain, and later adopted by the U.S., have helped isolate the coronavirus in prisons, they've also revealed the ugly truth behind an often overlooked system. The coronavirus puts into perspective its many injustices — from the condition of jails to the incarceration rates themselves.

**Irene Garcia Gutierrez** is a fourth-former from Villahermosa, Mexico. She may be reached at [igarciagutierrez22@choate.edu](mailto:igarciagutierrez22@choate.edu)

## Sheltering in Far-Off Places: SAUDI ARABIA

By **Sabahat Rahman '21**  
*Opinions Staff Writer*

With more than 21,000 confirmed cases of Covid-19 and 150 deaths from the virus, the stringent measures taken by the Saudi Arabian government to curb the spread of the virus have paid off. For over a month, a majority of the country has followed a strict curfew — my mom and I live in Dhahran, on the Persian Gulf, and go for a walk every afternoon, only to be sure to return home before 7:00 p.m.

Such restrictions have only escalated with time; three weeks ago, the government imposed a complete lockdown for many cities, including Dhahran. Currently, we are only allowed to leave the house in the case of an emergency or in order to stock up on essential goods — but even this is difficult. A trip to the grocery store entails calling hours, or even days, beforehand to book an appointment.

I have found myself annoyed by the inconveniences of these strict measures and the changes to my daily routine. However, I understand that the actions taken by the Saudi government have been necessary in order to mitigate the pandemic. Countries that were slow to impose lockdowns and order testing kits — such as the U.S. and the U.K. — are now receiving international condemnation and experiencing exceptionally high death tolls.

On the other hand, the Saudi Arabian government took swift action to prevent widespread infection even when cases were few and scattered throughout the country. To remain in communication with the population through these tough times, the Ministry of Health sends

advisories to every Saudi phone. This week, I received this one: “Cases of the coronavirus are rapidly multiplying. If you don't stay home, you and your loved ones will be at risk. #WeAreAllResponsible.”

Additionally, 150 teams from the Ministry of Health have been regularly visiting communities and residential buildings, cautiously testing citizens for the virus.

For Saudi residents, the coronavirus has brought overwhelming changes to the month of Ramadan. Typically, Ramadan is the most festive time of the year in Saudi. Stores close during the day while people are resting, fasting, and praying, but right before sunset, everything opens. Every table at every restaurant is filled with families, friends, and loved ones who have gathered to break their fast. Later, with full stomachs, people flock to the mosques to partake in special evening prayers. Late into the night, families shop at the mall or host big celebrations.

Despite not being able to enjoy a typical Ramadan, Saudi residents remain full of hope. Ramadan not only serves as a time for celebration, but also a collective time for Muslims to pray, read the Quran, and gain nearness to God. Fortunately, the current pandemic has not prevented the latter. Amid the chaos, families in Saudi have discovered that religion is the one thing that has remained unchanged, the one thing they can always rely on to bring people together.

**Sabahat Rahman** is a fifth-former from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. She may be reached at [srahman21@choate.edu](mailto:srahman21@choate.edu)

By **Anika Midha '22**  
*Opinions Writer*

Instead of recognizing Covid-19 as a common enemy, world leaders have channeled nationalist and discriminatory practices, reflecting a global trend of leaders around the world prioritizing politics and image over cooperation and unity.

For instance, on April 14, President Donald Trump P'oo announced the U.S. would be pulling funding from the World Health Organization (WHO), arguing that the health agency mismanaged the coronavirus outbreak and sympathized with China.

The Trump administration failed to consider the consequences of this decision, disregarding the fact that the WHO is an essential resource for developing nations who are at risk of being severely affected by the coronavirus. In addition, the WHO is responsible for mitigating both polio and cholera in Yemen and stifling the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Thus, pulling funding from the WHO puts more responsibility on the U.S. to control not only the coronavirus outbreak but also many other diseases. The Trump administration is unprepared to assume this role, as demonstrated by the skyrocketing number of coronavirus cases in the U.S.

Insistent on the idea of WHO “taking China's side,” the Trump administration is now conducting an investigation to try to prove that the coronavirus was made in a Wuhan laboratory. This theory is nonsense, denied by the WHO and leading scientists around the world, whose evidence suggests that the disease came from an animal. While the WHO continues

## Hidden Agendas in Governments' Responses to the Coronavirus



Photo courtesy of The Guardian

Checkpoint near Yaotai in Guangzhou, China. The country closed the region to Africans.

to search for scientific evidence, Trump is only looking for a reason to fuel his racist prejudices.

Both the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and French President Emmanuel Macron have made pleas for the U.S. to restore WHO funding. However, the administration has responded with a stubborn and ignorant stance, refusing to compromise.

In India, where there are more than 32,000 confirmed cases, the Muslim community — 14% of the population — is facing additional marginalization and bigotry. This anti-Muslim sentiment stems from propaganda falsely claiming that the Muslim community is deliberately spreading the virus to the Hindu population. In response, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, “Covid-19 does not see race, religion, colour, caste, creed, language, or borders

before striking. Our response and conduct thereafter should attach primacy to unity and brotherhood.” However, out of the limelight, Modi has been furthering the agendas of his right-wing political party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), stepping aside as Muslims are targeted.

Similarly in China, racial tensions emerged after Chinese officials warned the public that the rising number of imported coronavirus cases could be attributed to Africans. Hundreds of Africans in Guangzhou, China have received quarantine mandates even though they haven't been in contact with known coronavirus patients or recently traveled abroad.

On April 12, a McDonald's in Guangzhou displayed a sign that read “Black people are not allowed to enter.” Africans in Guangzhou have testified to

facing other hostilities, such as unjustified eviction notices. In response to fears among the African community, the U.S. Consulate in Guangzhou said in a statement, “As a part of this campaign, police ordered bars and restaurants not to serve clients who appear to be of African origin.”

Even while combating a virus that doesn't respect boundaries or borders, governments and leaders continue to promote discrimination. In an atmosphere of frustration and widespread economic hardship, the only solution is unity. We must overcome whatever artificial differences we may have in order to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

**Anika Midha** is a fourth-former from Singapore. She may be reached at [amidha22@choate.edu](mailto:amidha22@choate.edu)



## Students Join Efforts to Fight Covid-19

By **Linda Phan '22**  
Copy Editor

As remote learning leaves many Choate students with more relaxed schedules, some have started using their extra time to support efforts to combat the novel coronavirus (Covid-19). From arranging online fundraisers to establishing non-profit organizations, these students are striving to make an impact on other people's lives.

In Alexandria, Va., Mealy Cronin '23 has started a GoFundMe campaign, "Let's Help Those Who Are Helping Us," in order to support first responders and healthcare workers in her community. "I started the GoFundMe page to regain some sense of control over my life — to find a purpose," Cronin said, "I wanted to help my community and to say 'thank you' to all of those who were making it possible for me to stay inside and safe with my family."

Although quarantine has put many restrictions on what Cronin can do, she is determined to show her appreciation for frontline fighters and work with others through these troubling times. Since the start of her campaign on March 24, Cronin has received \$7,460 in donations. Last Friday, April 24, she used these funds to collaborate with Mexican restaurant chain Dis-



Photos courtesy of Mariposa Masks Initiative and Chloe Lewis

Many students have fundraised in their home communities to combat Covid-19.

tribut Taco, providing a total of 300 lunches for emergency personnel in six hospitals. After an initial delivery on May 1, Cronin plans to carry out more on May 6 to the Virginia Hospital Center. Cronin hopes to convert the remaining funds into gift cards for grocery store employees, pharmacists, police officers, and firefighters. "I will be delivering 144 gift cards in the next week or two to a local police department," said Cronin.

Five hundred miles away in Greenwich, Conn., Juliet Lin '22 is packing masks for her non-profit organization, Mariposa Masks

Initiative. Founded by five friends, the organization aims to distribute masks for the homeless, immunocompromised, and marginalized populations. "With everything going on during these hard times, my friends and I realized that there are many underrepresented people who are receiving lower-quality help and PPE [Personal Protection Equipment]," said Lin.

With a mission to make more masks available, the organization has partnered with a manufacturer to produce reusable cotton masks with the help of donations on GoFundMe, amounting up to

\$7,259. Mariposa Masks Initiative accepts donated and handmade masks as well. The masks are available in all sizes — from infant to adult — with adjustable straps, triple-layers, interchangeable filters, and a wire-fit nose.

At home, the five founders work to sanitize, pack, and label every mask by hand before shipment. The organization received its first shipment of 330 masks on April 9 and has distributed 1220 masks to 19 shelters across Massachusetts and Connecticut as of April 21.

"The initial plan was to continue our initiative for a few

weeks, but considering the circumstances, we honestly have no idea how long this whole situation will last. Regardless of how long this initiative will continue for, we hope that we can help as many people as we can," said Lin.

While Choate students have had the opportunity to continue schooling through Zoom and other online platforms, many children around the world are at risk of losing their education. Chloe Lewis '22 and Orville Amankwah '22 are part of Outreach360, an educational non-profit organization active in the Dominican Re-

public and Nicaragua, and have become advocates for raising awareness and funds for the children affected by the pandemic.

Looking at the children in Outreach360, Lewis is reminded of herself. "Growing up, I lived in a household that was not financially stable, so I was very unsure of what my future was going to look like," said Lewis. "For the short time I was in the Dominican Republic, I was able to see how some of the children I taught felt unmotivated because they didn't believe that the future they dreamed of was attainable, which I, too, had felt."

With learning centers supporting more than 200 students, Outreach360 is projected to lose \$400,000 this year due to the coronavirus. Without enough funds, the organization may have to close its learning centers. Lewis and Amankwah, alongside five other friends, started an online fundraiser and have currently raised \$6,550.

"For some of these children, their education is the only thing that gives them hope for means of a better life," said Lewis. While they are not on the frontlines themselves, these students are trying their best to make a difference.

**Linda Phan** may be reached at [lphan22@choate.edu](mailto:lphan22@choate.edu)

## AT MIDTERM, AN ONLINE SPRING GETS MIXED REVIEWS

By **Natarsha Yan '21**  
Staff Reporter

The transition to remote learning has forced students and faculty alike to adapt and adjust. One of the biggest challenges so far has been the changes in the class curriculum and the newly-implemented Pass/D/Fail grading system.

Many students are grateful for the School's decision to forgo letter grades this term. Sabahat Rahman '21 was initially worried about the time difference affecting her ability to participate in class and effectively complete assignments. Rahman lives in Dharan, Saudi Arabia. "This new grading system has really helped decrease my stress a lot," she said.

Other students have found that the new grading system has given them an opportunity for more equitable success, especially for those with patchy internet, nonoptimal learning environments, and insufficient resources, such as tutors or financial struggles, back home.

Nevertheless, the new grading system has come as a disappointment to some students. Jack Sun '21 said, "The Pass/D/Fail system, while necessary, definitely has its downsides. For example, people who want to raise their GPA will not be able to do so, and people may be less incentivized to put in as much effort."

The new system has also forced teachers to reevaluate their curricula and methods of assessment. Science teacher Mr. Ben Small explained, "I've been grading most assignments as complete/incomplete and giving students more written feedback on what I think they could do better. Then, those students who get an 'incomplete' have an opportunity to resubmit."

As a physics teacher, Mr. Small also faces the challenge of reorganizing labs. "I'm trying to be creative, and we still are doing 'labs,'" he said.

Before Choate officially closed its campus, Mr. Small took videos of himself performing labs in the Science Center. "Now, I'm having my students watch the videos, record the data, do the data analysis, and write summaries and conclusions themselves," he said. "Though it isn't as good as physical labs, it allows them to get some good experience."

Math teacher Mr. Sam Jonynas noted how the abruptness of this whole situation has caused some daunting challenges for his department. "Things like calculators and calculus textbooks often don't make the Spring Break packing [list], believe it or not," he explained. "Our Department Head [Dr. Matt Bardoe] has been really responsive to our input and I believe we've managed to move all of the necessary files and information online."

Mr. Jonynas has found that the grading system has not really affected student effort. "I think what we have seen in practice is that our students, by and large, have kept up the same level of rigor and discipline as they have every other term. I'm really impressed and thankful for the maturity and flexibility with which I've seen our student body handle everything."

HPRSS teacher Ms. Cindy Okrah said that the transition to online learning has given her an opportunity to experiment with different pieces of technology. "When we're in regular class, I'm usually less inclined to try out different apps as we can get most things done in person," she said, "Now that we've transitioned to virtual learning, however, I've really enjoyed trying out a variety of different apps that I believe really encourage creativity in my students." By way of example, Ms. Okrah explained that she has begun to use Flipgrid, an app that allows students to create video responses to questions. "It's worked out really well so far," she said.

French and English teacher Dr. Katie Jewett has similarly in-

corporated more variety into her everyday classes in order to boost student enthusiasm. "Even more than in a face-to-face classroom, I think variety is important," she noted, "With students sitting in the 'same' Zoom classroom for several hours a day, I imagine that, in their shoes, I'd want to shake things up." Dr. Jewett has focused on incorporating French songs, Kahoots, scavenger hunts, and breakout rooms in lessons to keep students engaged.

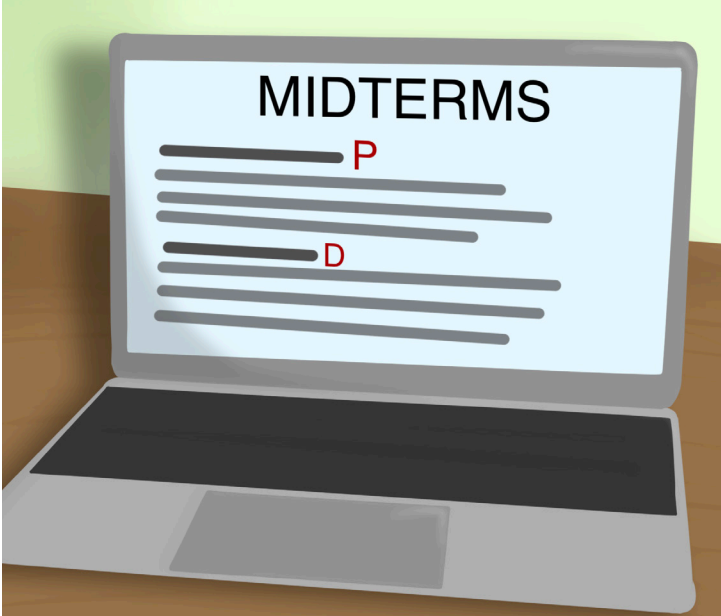
As teachers cope with the sudden emptiness of a campus, Mr. Small is eager for students to Zoom in to class early, explaining, "Often the few minutes before class, when there are only a couple of kids there, are some of the most natural interactions and spontaneous conversations!"

Despite the positive aspects virtual learning has provided, teachers are still eager for everything to return to normal.

"Sitting in a chair all day staring at a computer screen is tough," Mr. Small remarked, "I miss moving around the classroom and interacting with my classrooms full of students. I find that I am more tired at the end of the day, yet I feel like I haven't done anything."

Dr. Jewett agreed. "You can tell so much about how a student is doing by the way she drops her backpack and takes her seat in class," she explained. "I miss the gestures, sighs, and snippets of conversation that in the past seemed so marginal, but I now realize are fundamental to tying us all together."

**Natarsha Yan** may be reached at [nyan21@choate.edu](mailto:nyan21@choate.edu)



Graphic by Sesame Gaestalo/The Choate News

## 50 YEARS OF EARTH DAY AT CHOATE



Graphic by Yuko Tanaka/The Choate News

By **Renee Jiang '22**  
Copy Editor

Earth Day celebrated its 50th anniversary last Wednesday, April 22, as people around the world united to commemorate the Earth and raise awareness about the deteriorating state of the environment. Even though we are away from campus, Choate still came together to celebrate Earth Day through social media and a creative art project created by the Choate C-Proctors: Project eARTH.

During the rapid surge of environmental movements in the late 20th century, environmental consciousness had also emerged within the Choate community. On April 21, 1970, Choate celebrated its first school-wide Earth Day in hopes of educating the community about the increasing importance of environmental awareness. On April 25, 1970, *The Choate News* published an Earth-Day-themed issue in which Steve Biddie '70 detailed some of the Earth Day program's activities, which ranged from "a student-run chapel and actual air pollution demonstration to a varied series of five lecture-workshops and seven afternoon environmental action projects." The program, packed with a variety of events, not only fueled more environmental advocacy on campus but also paved the path for future environmental action through policies, clubs, and student movements.

Following the School's first Earth Day celebration, sustainability and environmental protection have remained a prevalent topic at Choate. In recent years, the School has seen a significant increase in environmental awareness and a commitment to sustainable practices. In the spring of 2008, Director of Sustainability and science teacher Ms. Katrina Linthorst

Homan founded the C-Proctors a year after the creation of the Sustainability Committee. "We wanted to have a student leadership group to work as the student arm of that committee and to give students a chance to help educate and encourage the community to be more sustainable," Ms. Homan said.

Since the establishment of C-Proctors, environmental awareness has taken an even greater presence among Choate students with the group being more focused than ever to further promote sustainability. Head C-Proctor Blanca Payne '20 said, "We've increased our media presence on Boarcast and Instagram and improved signage around campus for trash, compost, and recycling. Our ultimate goal as the C-Proctors is to provide students with the knowledge and tools to build good habits and make more sustainable choices from their own volition."

Since the establishment of the C-Proctors, Earth Day events have been hosted to celebrate and involve the community in sustainability efforts — one of them being Earth Week. "Last year, the C-Proctors hosted an Earth Week with different projects each day, such as Project eARTH," C-Proctor Claire Fu '22 said. However, since the Choate community could not gather for the annual celebration, they turned to social media. Fu continued, "The events were restructured to allow for asynchronous participation. Project eARTH was the hallmark of this year's Earth Day celebration, but there were also new activities such as 'Get Outside Day' or 'Look at the Sky Day' in an effort to allow for maximum involvement."

In addition to C-Proctors and their hosted events, the creation of the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC) and the Environmental Im-

mersion Program (EIP) are a testament to Choate's progress in environmental awareness. The KEC, which opened in 2015, is a LEED Platinum environmental research and education center dedicated "to providing support and training for students who want to have a major impact on the world," according to EIP Program Director Mr. Joe Scannio. He added, "The combination of a sound foundation in science and data analysis and visualization with authentic research, ethics, economics, policy, humanities, arts, and the residential experience of living and eating in a sustainable building prepares Choate students to be important contributors to a variety of fields in college and beyond."

Regarding the future of C-Proctors, Ms. Homan also said that they "have a set of Sustainability Goals that have been endorsed by the Board of Trustees, so the goal is to move forward on those." Choate hopes to ultimately intertwine sustainability into the curriculum by teaching environmental literacy, into student life by emphasizing sustainability as a core value in residential life, and into school operations by carrying out a full assessment of the School's carbon footprint and alternative energy plans.

Since the first Earth Day in 1970, Choate has come a long way in its commitment to sustainability. As the world strives towards a more sustainable future, Choate's efforts through the establishment of C-Proctors, the EIP at the KEC, and Choate's long-term sustainability goals all embody the overall message of Earth Day: unparalleled commitment and passion towards transformative change for the planet.

**Renee Jiang** may be reached at [rjiang22@choate.edu](mailto:rjiang22@choate.edu)





Artwork by Alex Denhart



Artwork by Sejin Kim



Artwork by Abby Lu



Artwork by Senching Hsia

## A Hiding Dog and Family Faces: Student Artists Depict Their Surroundings

By **Rebecca Alston '22**  
Reporter

With more free time on their hands, Choate's student artists are finding ways to continue creating art with the resources they have around them.

Charlotte, Vt., resident Lulu Louchheim '21 based her piece on a photo that she took of her dog, Moose, comically hiding behind the plants in the corner of her greenhouse.

"When I look out my window, I feel really happy to be living surrounded by nature, and I've started appreciating how pretty my surroundings are more than I have before," Louchheim said. "I feel like my artistic inspirations are coming from the nature that surrounds me."

Although she is most familiar with watercolors, Louchheim took this opportunity to revisit oil pastels. "I chose the colors according to what I saw from the photo; I think I might have made the objects a little brighter than they were in real life, though, because I love using bright colors

in my drawings and paintings," Louchheim said. "I think the plants in the picture add meaning to the art by demonstrating how powerful a connection to nature can be in uncertain times like right now."

Macie Simmons '22 calls Wrightsville Beach, N.C., home. According to Simmons, sparse sightings of neighbors and eerie silence has pervaded the town. One thing, however, brings the community together each day: the sunset.

"I feel incredibly claustrophobic and stuck. I'm very much an extrovert, so staying in and not seeing people drains me. One of the only good things to come from this is at night, everyone watches the sunset from their porches, so I see my neighbors then," Simmons said.

"I feel incredibly anxious about this whole situation, but I know there's nothing I can do," she continued. "That's what makes me feel so lost. I've been staying in contact with my friends through FaceTime — that's definitely one of the things keeping me going."

By **Angel Guo '22**  
Reporter

Because of Covid-19, many Choate students have found themselves spending less time outdoors surrounded by nature, and more time cooped up inside their homes. With a nod to the *New York Times*, which recently published a similar feature, we invited four students to create art depicting the view from a window of their home.

Alex Denhart '20 lives in the rural town of Durham, Conn. Recently, the orchard near Denhart's house has attracted many people to take a walk or drive down her street, which was unprecedented for her neighborhood.

As Denhart spent more time sitting in front of her desk and looking out the window, she stated that it was easier to notice little details changing. She said, "Outside my office on the first floor, you can see the nest that a bird was building, and you can observe them coming back every day to work on the nest."

With limited access to her usual materials, Denhart has started to create more digital art, and she believes time during the quarantine is a great opportunity to explore a different genre of art. In her piece, Denhart depicts plain walls and blurry trees behind a cleanly cut window with a simple color palette of navy and coral.

"These days, the world feels hazy. The house sparrows keep me company, even if they do not know I'm there," said Denhart.

Sejin Kim '22 is a student from Busan, a port city in South Korea known for its beaches, mountains,

and temples. Peering out from her windows, Kim felt embraced by the undulating mountains in her hometown. Contrary to most urban dwellers who see a view of emptied streets and a vacant city, Kim noticed an increase in people visiting her neighborhood. "Everybody wants to go on walks alone in the forest now," she said.

Though Kim prefers sketching and drawing realistically, the artwork she created from the perspective of her window is an acrylic painting of the beach with a muted brown and blue color scheme — the moment as the glowing sun sets on the Haeundae Bridge, it reflects the quivering waves of the ocean and crystallizes the edge of the horizon.

As the view in Kim's hometown changed from cherry blossoms to verdant meadows over the past month, she has put more time into observing the landscapes from her window. "On other days, I would go outside when the weather is nice," Kim said. "But now since I'm always at home, my only connection with the outer world is through looking out the windows."

Although Abby Lu '22 usually resides in Hong Kong, she currently lives with her aunt in suburban New Jersey. Lu has already begun seeing the effects of social distancing in her temporary neighborhood, noticing fewer and fewer people walking along the streets and the lights inside her neighbors' houses staying on until 3:00 a.m. (which reminded Lu of a mystery novel in which day and night became indistinguishable).

In her painting, Lu used mixed media paper and acrylic paint combined with uncon-

ventional techniques, such as painting with the opening of the acrylic tube, to express herself. She used the contrasting color scheme of warm orange and cool-toned yellow, a juxtaposition that highlights what is alike and different between the two hues. "I want them to be in the same category. But within the category, I want them to be different," said Lu.

The lack of social interaction during quarantine boosted Lu's appreciation for people and nature. For Lu, looking outside the window urges her to reflect on her inner self. "I hear a continuous beat that seems to be waiting and asking, 'When will we go back to normal? Do I miss going back to my life before, or do I enjoy quarantine when I can be relaxed?'"

For North Haven dweller Senching Hsia '21, having an influx of time at home enabled her to notice small, exciting events in the neighborhood that she would have usually overlooked. "One day there were several cars tied with balloons that drove into our neighborhood. Another time, a man who was dressed in a dinosaur mascot uniform showed up," Hsia said.

As a homebody and a day student, Hsia is accustomed to being at home. However, according to Hsia, the lack of social interaction has made her mood dependent solely on the weather. On the occasions when

Hsia saw people outside the window, she felt delighted by seeing the presence of other humans besides her family.

Hsia cited her inspiration as artist David Hockney's recently released iPad drawings, which reminded her of the coming spring season and moved her to create something positive amidst the gloomy, uncertain atmosphere.

In her artwork, Hsia used vibrant and cheerful colors such as pink, red, and light green to portray cherry blossoms, flowers, new budding leaves, and wildlife to evoke the uplifting emotions that she experienced from viewing Hockney's work. "I used a warmer color palette to represent my more optimistic feelings towards the current situation. I wanted to evoke the feelings of springtime and the connotations of rebirth, renewal that spring brings," she said.

"I hope to remind us that we are still able to appreciate the things that are beautiful even though we cannot directly go out and enjoy them," Hsia continued. "Whenever I go on a walk, I pick up the little cherry blossoms or the acorn on the ground to appreciate the nature around us, even though this isn't the ideal spring that we imagined."

Angel Guo may be reached at [aguo22@choate.edu](mailto:aguo22@choate.edu)



Artwork by Lulu Louchheim



Artwork by Macie Simmons

Rebecca Alston may be reached at [ralston22@choate.edu](mailto:ralston22@choate.edu)





# CHOATE KEEPS DEERFIELD RIVALRY ALIVE THROUGH ESPORTS

By **Sam Anastasio '23**  
Staff Reporter

Boar Pen, Choate's student-run hype squad, most recently organized a Choate versus Deerfield Esports tournament in conjunction with Deerfield Academy's hype squad, DSPN.

Boar Pen, headed by Beau Luther '20, Eloise Morgan '20, Sophie Ray '20, and Ahmed Wise '20, has a mission to bring school spirit to the campus by organizing events such as Pep Rally and Silent Night. Most recently, in lieu of remote learning, the group has turned to creative ways to keep athleticism and school spirit alive.

While stay-at-home orders and lockdowns have led to the cancellation of physical sports, many have used Esports and video games as a way of connecting with friends and competing with one another. During the weekend of April 10 and 17, members of Boar Pen and DSPN held an Esports tournament that showcased a variety of games on PlayStation 4 (PS4) and Xbox such as NHL, NBA 2k, Fortnite, FIFA, Madden, Rocket League, and Call of Duty.

The PS4 players competed on Friday night, and the Xbox players followed on Saturday evening. Choate was represented by a wide range of both current upperclassmen and former students. "I know many stu-



Graphic by Sage Setty/The Choate News

dents, especially the seniors, are still mourning the loss of having one last chance to compete against Deerfield this spring," Ray said. "While this obviously wasn't a total replacement for that, I think it helped."

The tournament was originally supposed to last one weekend, but the two schools ended in a 5-5 tie after the first few

days of games. Both DSPN and Boar Pen agreed to host another round of games the following weekend, and Deerfield narrowly defeated the Wild Boars 7-4, winning the tournament 12-9 after two weekends of competitive gaming. The Esports tournament was streamed on the gaming platform Twitch, which enabled students from both

schools to view the competition and tune into the chat section to voice their input or cheer on their friends.

Choate's PS4 FIFA player Samuel Maldonado '20 said, "The tournament was a great idea, but I think the first weekend was better because there was more spirit." More than 200 people tuned into each game

that weekend. He continued, "Being far away from Choate, it's nice to be able to get a sense of the school spirit, whether that's online or in person."

When his FIFA game was over, Maldonado shared how many of his friends and peers called him to congratulate him, and he appreciated that students took the tournament se-

riously. "One might think that because it's a video game, no one is nervous. But because so many people are watching, there's actually a lot of pressure — you'd be surprised." Maldonado played both weekends and won both of his games.

Xbox NHL player Andrew Carmody '21 added, "Although it was Esports, many students were still there watching and supporting, and it just made me even more excited to return to campus and compete next fall."

Although Carmody lost his game the first weekend in overtime, he won 7-1 the following weekend. He said, "It was good to get some revenge. Obviously nothing compares to a real, live game against Deerfield, but it was good to at least get something."

Although geared toward fostering a competitive atmosphere, the tournament also enabled students to enjoy a break from these challenging and isolating times. Boar Pen was also able to establish a better relationship with their counterparts from Deerfield through the process of organizing the tournament.

"From a Boar Pen perspective, it actually helped us create a friendly relationship with our equivalent at Deerfield," Ray said. "We were able to set the rivalry aside, which doesn't happen often between our two schools."

**Sam Anastasio** may be reached at [sanastasio23@choate.edu](mailto:sanastasio23@choate.edu)

## LOSS OF SEASON LEAVES POTENTIAL COLLEGE RECRUITS SCRAMBLING

By **Naomi Fleisch '22**  
Reporter

This year, 22 of Choate's varsity athletes have committed to play a sport in college. Many of these students had found opportunities to connect with college coaches during the spring and summer months of their sophomore and junior years. Athletes who have endured the college-recruiting process often agree that it is stressful and time-consuming. Students have to balance communicating with coaches, improving athletic ability, and maintaining a high level of academic performance. This year, however, Covid-19 has presented uncertainty and additional stress to aspiring collegiate athletes.

Spring athletes who relied on the season to get exposure to college coaches are now scrambling for other options. Mia Scarpati '21, an aspiring college athlete and a member of Choate Girls' Varsity Golf said, "The golf season of junior year is the most important season in terms of being recruited. Right now, all coaches have from me are my scores from last year, which aren't necessarily indicative of the progress I could have made this spring and summer. Not to mention that my performance this season is what had the potential to bring me up to the level of some of my reach schools, and losing the season could mean I lost those schools as options."

Additionally, many sports have, in some form, a summer season or tournaments, most of which have already been postponed or canceled. Many prospective collegiate athletes play at elite camps at the schools they are interested in attending. There, athletes are given

the chance to talk to the coaching staff, meet some players on the team, and familiarize themselves with the campus. These camps are crucial for college coaches to gain a sense of how a player compares against other prospective athletes.

Drew Cormier '22, a tri-varsity athlete with hopes of playing college football, said, "Most of the football camps for the summer, which are important for getting noticed and building connections with college coaches, have been canceled. The only thing we are able to do right now is make videos doing field work and drills to showcase our skills and send them to coaches."

**"My performance this season is what had the potential to bring me up to the level of some of my reach schools."**

*Mia Scarpati '21  
Girls' Varsity Golf*

Many high school athletes have resorted to this method. Some are even filming videos in which they answer questions in hopes of sharing their personalities and a coach's attention.

Although spring and summer sports programs have already been heavily affected, this year's autumn recruiting season may also differ from the norm. Many juniors and seniors commit to schools in late summer and early fall, which poses an obvious challenge if schools are still practicing remote learning next year. Some have proposed the alternative of committing over Zoom or other online plat-

forms; however, most agree that college coaches would likely be hesitant to offer a spot to an athlete whom they have not recently seen perform. This may cause the recruitment timeline to be pushed back by several months.

The current timeline for recruiting differs for each sport and division, so certain athletes will be more affected than others. In most sports, coaches cannot make offers to athletes until September 1 of their junior year. However, if the coaches are still trying to recruit athletes in the senior class, the September 1 date may be moved.

Another factor that may alter recruiting for the next few years is the NCAA's decision to grant athletes another year of eligibility. As of now, it is unclear how many athletes are going to take advantage of this opportunity, but the more they do, the fewer recruiting spots there will be for the following year. Many coaches are trying to convince their star players to stay for an additional year, but they also realize the importance of growing their programs with new recruits.

For many, it seems that the only thing to do is wait until more news comes. Athletes who want to stand out to college coaches know that they must stay in shape. Girls' Varsity Softball stand-out Lauren Ben-Ezra '22 said, "Losing the season definitely feels like a step backward from where I want to be. Working all year to be able to put up numbers for the team and to generate interest from colleges being taken away is hard to deal with, but all that you can do is keep working at home and be ready for next season and future opportunities."

**Naomi Fleisch** may be reached at [nfleisch22@choate.edu](mailto:nfleisch22@choate.edu)

## CREW TEAM GETS CREATIVE WITH ONLINE WORKOUTS



Photo courtesy of Lizzie Quinn

Choate Crew during spring preseason in Tampa, before social-distancing took effect.

By **Bo Goergen '22**  
Reporter

Although remote learning prevents members of Boys' and Girls' Crew from practicing together, the two teams are still working to stay in shape. From grueling circuit workouts to hours spent on the erg machines, both teams have kept up the intensity of their physical workouts from Zoom calls at home. "The Choate Crew Team does not strive to be good, but to be great," said Ella Sklar '22, a rower from the team.

The girls' routine consists of squats, planks, jumping jacks, and other rigorous exercises. Although these workouts are optional, almost the entire team of rowers finishes the circuits and attends each Zoom call.

In spite of their season's cancellation, the Crew team's spirit has persisted. The team has an unwritten pact to stay in shape and outwork all of their prep school opponents. The coaches implemented the use of an

app called Strava, which tracks the girls' running patterns. The coaches send out a different challenge each week, which is eagerly accepted by the team. Last week's challenge was to run one mile as fast as possible in the smallest space. Contestants could run up and down staircases, around kitchen counters, or back and forth in garages. With a new twist to this challenge, contestants can earn additional points if they run a mile in funny or unconventional shapes such as letters, pictures, or people shapes. Lizzie Quinn '20 asked Anna Bonnem '21 to Garden Party during her work-out, drawing out "GP?" on her run. (The School has not yet announced if Garden Party will be held, in whatever format, this spring.)

The Boys' Crew Team has implemented college and Olympic workouts to their daily schedules as well. Head coach Mr. Pat Guelakis has been sending the team links to multiple workouts from the U.S. Rowing Team. These webinars feature every-

thing from how to keep the body healthy and injury-free to motivational talks about rowing at a high level. However, these videos are not the team's only source of inspiration. Rower Harry Margolis '22 said, "We heard the girls' team is working really hard, and we are using their hard work as motivation to continue to push ourselves everyday."

Girls' Varsity Crew Captain Kate Spencer '20 said, "Crew is one of the more physically exciting spring sports, so we are really trying to keep our athletes in shape even without being out on the water. We're really impressed with everyone's commitment to the team, especially in such a strange time."

Although there is much uncertainty about the future and the lasting effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, one thing is for sure — Boys' and Girls' Crew seem set to return to campus stronger, faster, and more determined.

**Bo Goergen** may be reached at [bgoergen22@choate.edu](mailto:bgoergen22@choate.edu)