



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

On May 1, fifth- and sixth-formers, including Madi Epstein-O'Halloran '18, sign steel beams that will soon become part of the new Colony Hall.

GEOFFREY FLETCHER '88 WINS ALUMNI AWARD

By **Amanda Li '21**
Staff Reporter

On April 23, Choate Alumnus Geoffrey Fletcher '88 arrived on campus to speak with students and faculty about his journey as a screenwriter. During his visit, he was able to speak to the student body during school meeting and meet with students and faculty from RISE, CALSA, Arts Concentration, Fringe Festival, and screenwriting class. He spoke in depth about his time at Choate and the obstacles that he was presented with, and he was able to provide his own perspective on the world of cinematography.

Mr. Fletcher enrolled at Choate as a new fifth former, having

transferred over from Waterford High School. At Choate, he was an avid athlete, on both varsity baseball and football teams, as well as a distinguished scholar. Mr. Fletcher received his undergraduate degree in Psychology from Harvard College and went on to receive a Master of Fine Arts from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He has been behind the production of many films such as *Precious*, *Room* 8, and *Violet & Daisy* as either a screenwriter or director. Currently, he is working on a screenplay set to release this year called *Trial By Fire*.

In his inspirational speech, Mr. Fletcher talked about his own experiences, from successes to rejections, as well as how they have shaped his life. For

most, if not all, of the audience members, the message that he conveyed was both inspirational and candid. His focus on failure allowed for many to take away an important moral about difficult times in one's life.

"He knew what rejection was, but he had a passion to do something and he did it, and I think that was the message that he gave," said Ms. Monica St. James, Director of Alumni Relations. Niki Gummadi '21 commented, "He delved into his struggles and emphasized how they had helped him rather than just focusing on the highlights of his career, which was very commendable and respectable." Shamari Harrington '18 also noted that the speech was "very relatable, especially regarding

how Choate teaches you to accept failure and the fact that things are not always going to be effortless and that you have to learn how to persist and never change your target, but rather adapt your path." Not only were the students and faculty able to gain valuable insight and life lessons from Mr. Fletcher's talk, they were also able to see his love for cinematography. "You can tell just how much effort and dedication he puts into his work; I thought that was really inspiring," said Supriya Chang '21.

In his meetings with Fringe Festival, Arts Concentration, and Playwriting/Screenwriting students, Mr. Fletcher was able to provide helpful feedback for each of the budding writers and actors. When Mr.

Fletcher visited the screenwriting class, he was able to listen to the "overnight shorts" that the students had written and join in on the discussions.

He reminded the students about how "screenplay is about what you see and hear rather than a narrative that has backstory or psychological reflections," according to Ms. Doak, the screenwriting teacher. "He also emphasized the importance of writing from the inside out, to create a script that comes out of something inside of you, that you then consider moving it towards an audience, as opposed to taking in a lot of external pressures and ideas and putting them into your work," she commented.

See FLETCHER, Page 2

StuCo Launches Delivery Service

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

It's a Wednesday night, and many Choate students traipse through their dorms looking for something to eat after a long afternoon of away games and long bus rides. Maybe they will find stale brownies from the mug night the day before or a friend's Doritos. This will no longer be a problem because as of Wednesday, May 9, students will be able to have food delivered to them by the Student Council. Students will be able to place an order every other Monday and expect food delivered to their dorms two nights later by Fifth- and Sixth-form Day Student Representative Matt Anastasio '19, with help from other day student members of the Council, including Ryan Doyle '21 and Ula Lucas '21.

The delivery service is an extension of the Daily Grind, a historic Student Council initiative traditionally run by the Vice President, which sells food to students weekly and donates all proceeds to a predetermined charity. This year, the Student Council will be raising money for FoodShare, a charity which simultaneously minimizes food waste while providing food to the Connecticut homeless.

The first round of the delivery service will deliver only to the Hill quadrant of campus, to the dismay of many boarders who live in other areas. "We are using the first round as a test run, and then hopefully expanding it to one hundred orders. We're starting small and growing it bigger. We'll switch to other quadrants continuing through the year," said Anastasio.

See DELIVERY, Page 2

Hilary Knight '07 To Deliver Commencement Address

By **Kate Spencer '20**
Copy Editor

Each year, the entirety of the Choate community gathers at Commencement to wish the seniors well as they leave Choate, and each year, Choate brings in a Commencement speaker to inspire the graduating class in their future endeavors. On April 24, the Administration announced that Hilary Knight '07 would be the 2018 Commencement speaker. Ms. Knight, who is a member of the United States Women's National Ice Hockey Team and played on the national team while at Choate, is a three-time Olympic medalist and a seven-time IIHF World Champion. Ms. Knight was a critical and powerful voice in the U.S. Women's National Hockey Team's fight for equal pay in 2017, and she continues to advocate for women's and LGBTQ rights.



Photo courtesy of Choate Communications

Before winning Olympic gold this February, Knight '07 (second from left) honed her game in Remsen Arena.

Ms. Knight provides a unique perspective for a commencement speaker, as she is a Choate graduate. As a female professional athlete, her story is inspiring and will undoubtedly encourage the Class of 2018. "I'm really excited. I think she's a really good

choice, and I think that it is also pretty helpful that she is a pretty recent Choate alum, so we will be able to relate to her a lot," Sophie Mackin '18 said. "We often don't see Choate alums, especially females, go on to do professional sports. It is an amazing thing that

Choate got her to do this," said Serena Levin '20.

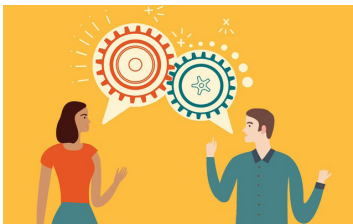
Past commencement speakers include former NFL player and talk show host Mr. Michael Strahan in 2016 and former NASA astronaut Dr. Catherine "Cady" Coleman last year. This

year, rumors that singer Khalid would be speaking spread throughout the student body; it was also heard that a member of the band Nickelback would be the Commencement speaker. Given the star-studded history of recent speakers, it is not hard to believe many rumors like these, but these rumors were squashed with the announcement of Hilary Knight's selection. Despite this, some students still would have liked to see someone else.

"Honestly, I have no strong thoughts on Hilary Knight, other than the fact that I feel like her commencement speech would just be about more generic stuff," added Sonali Singh '20. "I love Khalid, so if he had come to commencement as the speaker, I think it would have resonated with more people. A teenage example of success is more inspiring and relatable

See HOCKEY, Page 2

Why Take AP Exams?
The editors of *The Choate News* explore the pros and cons of taking these tests.
Opinions: Campus • P4



The Great Debate Returns
This week's topic tackles bank deregulation — will it hurt or help the nation?
Opinions: Nation/World • P5

Can We Survive the Storm?
The online game, Fortnite, has invaded campus — with no signs of retreating.
Features • P6



Sailing Secures Victory
Choate Sailing glides to success, seizing the state championship.
Sports • P8

What's Inside

School News.....	1-2
Local News.....	3
Opinions: Campus.....	4
Opinions: Nation/World.....	5
Features.....	6
Arts and Leisure.....	7
Sports.....	8



Read it then recycle it.

Visuals by:
Chandler Littleford, TED.com,
Pinn Chirathivat, and
Joseph Coyne.



**BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY
DELIVERY AVAILABLE**



(203) 269-9507
WWW.COLONYDINER.COM

Student Council Rethinks Delivery Service Amid Chick-fil-A Controversy

Continued from Page 1

sio. Student Body President Itai Mupanduki '19 added, "Our goal is to have a delivery service running, hopefully once a week, if it is a success. We would also want to expand the number of restaurants we do to eventually include Chipotle and other student favorites."

There are still some logistics of the delivery service that Student Council is tackling. They initially chose Chick-fil-a to be the restaurant associated with the service. "There was a desire to not go to a place where UberEats already goes, or any place that already delivers. The idea was to go to some place that would be more challenging to get food from otherwise, and yet still some place that would have a relatively simple order process. The target was a restaurant that was a little bit further away, that doesn't have delivery, but that does have a simple 'burger and fries' model," stated Mr. Oliver Morris, Faculty Adviser to the Student Council. Added Anastasio, "This also gives people more incentive to order because they couldn't get it delivered already. For practicality purposes, it's easy to get a standardized menu from Chick-fil-a." This choice, however, has faced opposition from the student body.

Choate is a community that should be as progressive as the most progressive person.

Jessie Goodwin '20

Mr. Morris explained the origin of the controversy: "There has been some response from the students to the choice of Chick-fil-a. It's hopefully no secret to our students that there have been some practices by the CEO of Chick-fil-a, and the company itself gives money to organizations that some of the students aren't in favor of." Mupanduki added, "The Choate LGBTQ+ community and many of its supporters have spoken up about how they do not feel comfortable with Student Council doing an initiative supporting a company whose CEO uses company funds to support homophobic organizations."

Continued Mr. Morris, "The question is whether or not we feel that the school and/or Student Council as an organization

should be seen as promoting that company. What no one is saying is that individuals shouldn't eat at Chick-fil-a. That's a choice for those people in particular. But it's a different thing if the student council is endorsing or promoting that company."

Students have varied opinions on the subject. "There are people at this school who don't support LGBTQ+ for whatever reason, whether that's family, religion, culture, whatever it is," said Jessie Goodwin '20. However, Goodwin also understands the opposition to Chick-fil-a. "On the other hand, Choate is a community that should be as progressive as the most progressive person."

Student Council is discussing several options besides Chick-fil-a, including Chipotle, McDonald's, and Cheeks Chicken. The issue with Chipotle is the complexity of the menu. About McDonald's, Mr. Morris said, "It's not a great choice, but it is simple and close, and we know they can handle a big order like that. I don't think anyone knows where they're ultimately going to end up, because the whole idea is to test it and see how it goes. But I don't think anything's off the table as a possibility." He continued, "Some students are interested in going with more local, non-chain restaurants to promote Wallingford business, and to make a greater connection between Choate and Wallingford." Cheeks Chicken may be compatible with this idea. Mupanduki stated, "For our trial run of the delivery service this coming week, we are most likely going to deliver from Cheeks Chicken."

The initiative in general is difficult in more ways than just logistics. "Personally, I'm not in love with the idea of encouraging our students to spend money on what maybe is not the best food in the world. But the motive is pure; the goal is a good one: to raise money for different organizations that need help. I think that's a worthy cause, and I admire the idea that they're willing to try new things to make that work," stated Mr. Morris. "It's hard, because every company, whether it's private or not, has some sort of political leaning, and not everyone's going to happy with any choice. What is the right decision for Student Council is what's being deliberated over right now."

Grace Zhang may be reached at gzhang20@choate.edu

SCREENWRITER GEOFFREY FLETCHER '88 DELIVERS MOTIVATIONAL SPEECH TO STUDENTS

Continued from Page 1

tinued. Mr. Fletcher's ability to engage in deep and thoughtful conversation with each group provided a unique opportunity for them to truly learn about a new perspective from a person with intimate and experienced knowledge about the current industry.

At a luncheon in Sally Hart Lodge with members of CALSA and RISE, Mr. Fletcher was able to reflect upon his experience at Choate student as an African American male and how his racial and cultural identity has influenced his own writing. Remaining very open and down-to-earth, Mr. Fletcher's thoughtful answers to many important topics of conversation allowed him to have a meaningful impact on many students.

"He talked about his obligation, as a person with a voice and a following, to keep in mind the audience of his work, and how that audience is impacted by his work," said Anesi Ojior '21. Other subjects that arose included the representation of African Americans in films, the usage of black entertainment to fight systems of oppression, and the importance of allowing the audience to have their own interpretation of the



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Academy Award winner, Mr. Geoffrey Fletcher '88, brought his expertise back to the Choate classroom.

work. Although he was an accomplished student that had both athletic and artistic talent, his Choate experience was tough at times as well. "Navigating a space like this, as a new junior, a black male, and an athlete, he was able to recall how he wasn't always happy to be here, but that Choate allowed him to figure out how to fail," said Harrington. Although the issues that were raised during the event were often serious, Mr. Fletcher's conversation left nothing but respect and positive feelings in the participants.

Even though Mr. Fletcher has left us with an abundance of invaluable messages and respect, his most admirable quality may be his personality. Students and faculty that were able to meet and talk to him in person described him as "down-to-earth," "humble," "thoughtful," "charming," "kind," and "generous." "In spite of the fact that he is so busy, he gave more than 24 hours to Choate, and his giving of himself and his time to students is really something to be applauded," stated Ms. St.

James. "I really, really liked him, he was bold and humorous, and it was a pleasure to meet him," said Ojior. It's safe to say that his visit to Choate influenced the community in a very positive manner, and we are immensely proud to have such a respected and honorable alumni that continues to impact the filmmaking industry. "It is no question that he absolutely deserved the alumni award," concluded Gummadi.

Amanda Li may be reached at ali21@choate.edu

Choate Completes Reaccreditation Process

By **Anjali Mangla '20**

Staff Reporter

From April 22-25, 12 NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) Committee members, administrators from various New England schools, visited the Choate campus. The week-long visit takes place every ten years and is an important step in Choate's reaccreditation process. The visitors spoke to students about various aspects of campus life and visited classes, sports practices, and ate meals in the dining hall in order to absorb the full Choate experience. Committee members then drew up a report that highlights aspects of Choate life which they appreciated, as well as some future recommendations for the school.

The NEASC Committee members, mainly administrators from the NEASC, arrived on Sunday by 5:00 for Gold Key tours of the campus. On Monday and Tuesday, Com-

mittee members visited classes and spoke with student government. Throughout the week, committee members chatted with students about Choate life in order to gain insight into people's opinions and investigate the school thoroughly. The NEASC Committee oversaw about fourteen categories of campus life, and each were investigated in order to affirm whether Choate was carrying out its duty as a secondary school in New England. Choate has certain standards it must meet as a high school, Choate must meet every standard so its accreditation can be renewed.

"There's a whole bunch of logistics because they have such a finite amount of time on campus. So aside from the tours, we set up meetings for them with different contingencies like head coaches, or heads of house," said Mr. Kevin Rogers, Director of Studies. Aside from this, committee members

were free to travel about Choate as they pleased. "They fan out as a team to try to get all of their questions or all the things they want to investigate answered, done or reviewed," Mr. Rogers remarked.

After their visit, the committee sent the school a report of their trip as an observation of the school's own report to NEASC which had been compiled through faculty efforts beforehand. The official NEASC report takes the Choate report into account in the final report. Choate has a chance to review NEASC report and correct any factual errors that might appear in it. Once that is done, the report is sent back and will make its way back to NEASC Commission. "The report mixes both recommendations and recommendations. The recommendations largely echo the pieces that we've already laid out," Mr. Rogers explained.

The faculty who arranged the visit and managed the process of compiling the school report were Mr. Rogers and Teacher Ms. Kim Norman. The process to prepare the logistics for this short trip took 18 months. Mr. Rogers and Ms. Norman asked for the collaboration of the faculty in determining different aspects of student academic life to highlight in the report. Faculty were placed in fourteen different committees, each focusing on one standard. This feedback was then synthesized into the report that was sent to the NEASC members.

"I think probably the biggest challenge for the visitors was covering the scope of the campus. They often try to meet at least all of the adults in the community, and I think that the time scale and the size of our campus didn't mesh there, so that was the hardest part," Mr. Rogers concluded.

Anjali Mangla may be reached at amangla20@choate.edu

INSIDE THE COLLEGE PROCESS: FAMILY IMPACT

By **Haley Chang '18**

Editor-in-Chief '17-'18

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

Hailing from 35 states and 40 countries, Choate students have drastically different backgrounds, which inevitably influence how one views the college application process. Interconnected factors such as culture, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and knowledge of the American education system all influence one's outlook towards the process as well.

When asked about their major source of stress at Choate, nearly all of the 18 student interviewees, like clockwork, emphasized the pressure they feel to "pay back" their parents with college acceptances. Many of these parents pay a significant portion, if not all, of Choate's \$60,000 tuition. Health Center Associate Director Ms. Judith Bender explained, "Whether students are aware of it or not, the stress associated with the college application process is often driven by family and parental expectations. There's the kid whose parents

have worked three jobs in order to send them here, and how do you appreciate them for all the hard work that they've put in? And then there are parents whose expectations are really high, and who compare their children's acceptance letters with all their friends. At an environment like Choate, where there are so many high-achieving people, these situations aren't uncommon."

Katie Lee '18 shared a similar observation, saying, "When I visited my old friends in Naperville, IL, I realized how stressed people are here at Choate in comparison. This was a group of people that I have known for a very long time, going through a completely different list of schools, and having a totally different experience and expectations. I was able to put things in perspective."

For some, family played a more active role in the college application process. Lee benefited from the help of her parents when writing her personal statements. However, she found that the added voice sometimes complicated the matters. "While I was writing and editing my essays, it was so stressful when opinions of my parents and my college counselor were directly the opposite of each other. Sending it back and

forth, it was just so much going on, and there were just a lot of voices and conflicting opinions," she commented. Parents, some found, were a great support system. Zev Nicolai-Scanio '18 said, "I actually didn't feel quite as stressed [with the process]. One of it, I had great, productive interactions with my parents around the college process. I had this support, which not everyone necessarily is lucky enough to benefit from."

Other students chose to navigate the process without their family's influence, albeit for different reasons. In response to Nicolai-Scanio during the panel, James Rose '18 said, "My parents were sort of the opposite of Zev's in that they were very, very stressed about always starting early, and that added a lot of stress to the situation. Because of my older brother, who was a student athlete, they wanted me to shape my high school experience in a certain way. They would always try to find ways to try to change my activities from things that I enjoyed, and it caused a lot of friction along the way. When it got to that winding down of the college process, I ended up shutting my parents out of it, focusing in really hard by myself." Because

of some parents' lack of knowledge about the process, some students felt more comfortable and understood on the Choate campus. For Donessa Colley '18, the difference between home and Choate was "the difference between being in the driver's seat alone and being in a car with people supporting [her]." She added, "My parents didn't have a good idea of how the app process really worked, and I felt an immense amount of stress explaining to my parents the different aspects. My counselor would help me a lot, and I did feel more supported at Choate, just because a lot of people knew what was going on. I think that, in a sense, yes, there is a sense of competition, but I also just liked being in a place where I didn't have to explain anything."

Ananya Karanam '18 described a productive interaction with her parents. "My parents left me on my own to make the list, mostly. There were schools that I really liked and felt that really had a great institutional fit for me, and even though they may have not felt the same way, they recognized how I felt and respected my decisions."

Haley Chang may be reached at hchang18@choate.edu

Choate Hockey Alumna to Speak at Graduation

Continued from Page 1

than an Olympian who recently won something."

Other students had a more excited outlook on the decision. "Personally, I think that she will be an interesting and engaging speaker for me because she did do very good things in terms of standing up for hockey and equal pay. I have heard that some people have mixed feelings because they feel as though she is just an athlete and is not qualified to give a speech. I personally don't feel that way," explained Stewart Egan '18.

Ms. Knight's work as a notable advocate for women in sports and the LGBTQ community makes her a very appealing speaker for many students. "She is super interesting. She does a lot of great work with women's rights in sports, like when the women's hockey team protested for fair pay," said Grace Lawrie '19. "From people that have met her and know her, they all say that she is a super great person." Egan added, "She is also a huge LGBTQ advocate as well, and also advocates for body image in terms of muscle and women's figures."

Although some members of the Choate community ques-

tioned Ms. Knight's qualifications, other students felt differently. "I feel like the only reason that someone would say she isn't qualified is because she is a woman. For example, when we had Michael Strahan come speak, he was definitely mostly a football player with a good face. Would someone who is 'just an athlete' really fight that hard for equal pay?" explained Gabby Henry '18. "Especially because she went to Choate — imagine all of the perspectives that she will be able to bring. She will be able to put in anecdotes about her experience here, and how she was on the national team while she went here. She is relatable and an amazing athlete."

Overall, it is hoped that Ms. Knight will provide an insightful and inspiring message to the Choate Class of 2018. "She will understand how it feels to be like us, sitting in the audience, because she went to Choate," added Sarah Bonnem '19. Egan concluded, "I think she is going to provide a sentimental way to connect to us and will also be an inspiration in terms of her accomplishments."

Kate Spencer may be reached at kspencer20@choate.edu

WORDS ON WOOD INTRODUCES CREATIVE OUTLET TO WALLINGFORD

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

In our increasingly digital world, some hope to find solace in creating something tangible. Located on 144 Center Street, Words on Wood is a workspace where one can create custom signs. From open workshops, fundraisers, to children's birthday parties, the spacious studio gives room for one to express one's creativity on a wooden surface. Most signs range from \$35 to \$75.

Mrs. Jackie Valentine, a Wallingford local and third-grade teacher, and her husband Mr. Doug Valentine opened Words on Wood a little less than two months ago. She began making signs on wood in 2016 when one of her daughters went abroad to teach English in China. "When she first left, I missed her a lot. I didn't know what to do with myself, so I decided to teach myself how to make a wood sign," explained Mrs. Valentine. "In the process of making the sign, for the first time, I wasn't worried about anybody. I wasn't thinking about my daughter in China, I wasn't worried about my children here, I was just making this beautiful thing, and it was very therapeutic."

Mrs. Valentine made her first wood sign for her daughter and, needless to say, her daughter loved it, posting a photo of the sign on Facebook. Mrs. Valentine's business took off from that moment. She said, "[On Facebook] someone commented, 'I love the sign!' and the next thing you know, I'm selling signs. And a year ago, a friend suggested that we host a party where we'll walk everybody through the



Photo courtesy of itsasignct.com

Words on Wood's Center Street studio allows customers to create personalized signs for all occasions.

steps of making wood signs. People started posting photos on Facebook, and the next morning when I got to work, I had six parties booked, having no intention of even starting this business." Now, she employs 13 people throughout the East Coast who help her book sign-making parties in homes.

"Some people come inside and buy a custom sign, but more of our business comes from sign-making parties where people create the signs themselves," said Mrs. Valentine. She explained the steps customers go through when designing a sign, saying, "They have an idea of what they

want, they go to our website, they click on a link to whatever event it is they're going to, they put in all the specifics of what they want on their sign. And then we prep everything — get the wood, stain the wood with color they choose, design and cut stencils — and when they get here, we walk them through the process of making it. Often, people are very apprehensive initially, but everyone ends up making a sign that they love, which is very rewarding and a ton of fun. And it is addictive, so most people who make signs become regular customers."

One of the aspects Mrs. Valentine loves most about her

work now is getting to meet new people and learning about their experiences. "Behind every sign, there's a story," she said. "People may order a certain quote to be in the sign. I don't know what that means when I'm designing the stencils for them, but then, during the process of creating, they will share the meaning behind that quote. I love doing wedding signs and other family-related ones, because those are so celebratory."

Though she has aspirations to expand her business to other states beyond the East Coast, Mrs. Valentine said, "I always say to my husband, no matter

how big we get, I still want to make some signs. It started in our house — our house started to become 'words on wood,' and it started to take over one room at a time. It was just me making a sign for someone, and my husband doing all my woodworking. I want to continue making custom signs for people, because I love the process of doing so."

With Last Hurrah and other year-end events quickly approaching, consider visiting Words on Wood to create lasting keepsakes for yourself and your friends.

Haley Chang may be reached at hchang18@choate.edu

Community Calendar

MAY 12, 9:00 a.m.

CitySeed Outdoor Farmers' Market
Local growers offer a range of fresh produce and other food at the market's Wooster Square location.

Wooster Square, New Haven
Free admission; \$27 car ride

MAY 12, 10:00 a.m.

Mother's Day Cake Decorating Workshop
Lyman Orchards invites children to decorate cakes at the Apple Barrel store.

150 South Street, Middlefield
\$20 admission; \$15 car ride

MAY 13, 10:00 a.m.

Annual Mother's Day Brunch
The Library Wine Bar and Bistro provides a selection of brunch favorites.

60 North Main Street
Reservation required; \$7 car ride

MAY 13, 1:00 p.m.

Yale University Art Gallery Family Program
Families are invited to hear stories and view art in the Yale University Art Gallery.

1111 Chapel Street, New Haven
Free admission; \$30 car ride



By **Vincenzo Dinatale '19**
Managing Editor
and **Peter DiNatale '21**
Staff Reporter

Located at the intersection of North Colony Road and Church Street is Los Mariachis — one of Wallingford's favorite Mexican restaurants. Locals frequent the venue for a wide variety of Mexican food staples, including tacos, burritos, fajitas, and chimichangas. The restaurant has been in business for more than a decade, injecting new flavor into Wallingford's restaurant scene while offering restaurant-goers a family-style dining experience.

Some of the biggest hits on the menu are the Mariachis Platter and the Classic Burrito. The Mariachis Platter consists of one soft taco, one tamale, one enchilada, and a tostada. This dish is most popular as an appetizer. The Clas-

sic Burrito consists of a choice of meat — steak, chicken, or pork — rolled up in a flour tortilla and topped with beans, rice, onions, and cilantro.

Los Mariachis

105 North Colony Street, Wallingford, CT

Open daily for lunch and dinner

Other classic dishes include the fish tacos, the enchiladas, and the chicken and shrimp fajita. The fish tacos are notably flavorful, and the crispy, fresh greens complement the soft texture of the grilled tilapia. The enchiladas are coated with a tangy,

rich mole poblano sauce, and the shrimp and chicken fajita, served on a cast iron plate, has a juicy texture coupled with zesty flavor.

The restaurant presents a clean and welcoming atmosphere, and the decor features traditional Mexican sombreros. The main dining room, family-friendly, is separated from the bar by a wall. Los Mariachis also offers outdoor seating in warm weather.

"We have authentic Mexican food. We are not a Tex-Mex — it makes a difference," said the owner of Los Mariachis, Mr. Loren Aguirre, told the Record Journal. "A lot of people might think it's like a Taco Bell. It's nothing like that. All of our food is home-made and cooked to order."

Vincenzo DiNatale and Peter DiNatale may be reached at vdinatale19@choate.edu and pdinatale21@choate.edu



Photo by Abigail Chang/The Choate News

Los Mariachis offers authentic Mexican cuisine.

Wallingford Restores Town's Oldest House, Once Owned by Choate



Photo courtesy of en.wikipedia.org

Nehemiah Royce House, built in the late 1600s, has recently been restored.

By **Sarah Koljaka '19**
Reporter

Located at 538 North Main Street, the Nehemiah Royce house (also called the Washington Elm House) is both a fundamental piece of Wallingford's history and a former Choate Rosemary Hall faculty residence. The architecturally admirable two-story frame Colonial saltbox is the oldest house in town.

The home was established in 1672, only two years after the founding of Wallingford itself. Built by Mr. Nehemiah Royce, who was given the lot on Main Street after his family moved from New Haven along with 37 others, the house was inhabited by the Royce family for nearly 200 years. In 1850, ownership was transferred by Royce's descendants to the Society for Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA), currently known as Historic New England. Prior to the transfer, the home was restored and filled with period antiques by Ms. Helen and Ms. Lucy Royce, preparing it to serve as a museum.

The home's other moniker, the Washington Elm House, arose following George Washington's visit to Wallingford in 1775, a stop he made while traveling from Philadelphia to Cambridge, Massachusetts to take

control of the Continental Army. While many students may be aware of the Founding Father's visit to what is now Homestead, it was at the Nehemiah Royce House, next to the large elm tree in front of the yard, where Washington addressed the residents of Wallingford.

In 1924, the house was moved 300 feet by horses to what is now its current location, and in 1963, The Choate School began using the home as a faculty residence. Choate's headmaster at the time, Mr. Seymour St. John, "had long admired the house," according to Mr. Lee Sylvester in a 1989 overview of the Royce House's history, and had pushed for the home to become Choate property. The home was eventually deeded to Choate in 1962, thanks to a friendly relationship between Mr. St. John and Ms. Helen Royce, the homeowner at the time.

The house became home to Choate faculty members following minor repairs and refurbishing. Teacher Mr. Deron Chang, who visited the home, said, "I recall it being a classic New England farmhouse. Wide plank wood floors, old warped glass in the windows. It has been 20 years since I stepped into the house, however." The School's doctor, Mr. Leonard Krassner, lived in the Nehemiah Royce House during the period of The Choate

School's ownership. "By the time [Ms.] Penny [Post] and I visited Royce House, it had already been sold to the town, and therefore was not a faculty residence," explained Mr. Chang. "I was told by Grady Bohen's dad that it was really charming, but really drafty."

Choate Rosemary Hall donated the home to the Wallingford Historic Preservation Trust in 1999. Choate's archivist, Ms. Judy Donald, explained why Choate transferred ownership of the house, saying, "These homes needed a lot of maintenance, and we did not own any property contiguous to it."

Currently, the home is being restored by the Wallingford Historic Preservation Trust, headed by Mr. Jerry Farrell, Jr. "I think people will be surprised by how things have changed," says Farrell, eager to reveal the home as a historical house later this year. Restoration of the exterior and interior of the building have recently been completed, and Mr. Farrell is excited to announce that the home will be open to visitors in September or October of this year. Choate students interested in visiting the home should email Mr. Jerry Farrell at jerryfarrell68@gmail.com.

Sarah Koljaka may be reached at skoljaka19@choate.edu

The Choate News



112TH MASTHEAD

VOL. CXI
NO. 17

J. Alex Yoon '19
Editor-in-Chief

Vincenzo DiNatale '19
Managing Editor

School News
Owen Collins '19
Joseph Coyne '19

Local News
Abigail Chang '19

Features
Christine Mason '19

Opinions
Derek Ng '20
Audrey Powell '19

Arts & Leisure
Jeanne Malle '19

Sports
Daniel Brockett '19

Photography
Pinn Chirathivat '19

Graphics
Chandler Littleford '20

Online
Bekah Agwunobi '19
Zhi Wei Gan '19

Layout
Madeleine Horn '19

Business
Kailey Marottolo '19

Video
Matthew Lee '20
Liam Podos '20

Multimedia
Zev Nicolai-Scanio '18
Khushi Tyagi '20

Copy
Alexandra Alkhayer '20
Siri Palreddy '20
Kate Spencer '20
William Zhu '20
Esther An '21

Social Media
Raddin Ivanov '19
Shade Mazer '19

Advisers
Mr. Mike Peed
Ms. Cathryn Stout

Student Council
Grace Zhang '20

Staff Reporters

Matthew Anastasio '19
Ian Bamford '19
Sarah Gurevitch '19
Sini Sachdeva '19
Cecilia Curran '20

Skylar Hansen-Raj '20
Ryan Kim '20
Ariel Kim '20
Ethan Luk '20
Anjali Mangla '20
Kathryn Phillips '20
Elizabeth Quinn '20

Isabelle So '20
Deanna Tan '20
Peter DiNatale '21
Tony Lee '21
Hadley Rogers '21



/choatenews



@choatenews



@choatenews

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

EDITORIAL

AP Exams Require Reconsideration

The college process entails many tedious expectations — one being Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Currently, a significant portion of the student body is in the midst of the AP testing period. Although AP exams may have foreseeable benefits, the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages.

AP exams allow students to demonstrate their abilities in a particular discipline, and they are supposedly advantageous as a commendable performance on an exam may exempt a student from having to take certain courses in college. Because of this, many Choate students feel that taking an AP exam is advantageous, and in most cases, even necessary.

However, it is worth considering whether these exams truly accomplish anything. These exams are becoming increasingly irrelevant to college admissions officers; many colleges are beginning to deny course credits to students who might have otherwise qualified for an exemption with a commendable AP score.

Moreover, taking AP exams are unexpected of students who attend schools that do not offer AP classes. Being one of those schools, Choate does not require its classes to prepare students for any corresponding AP exams. Consequently, studying for said exams entails studying topics students have never covered in class — only exacerbating the extreme levels of stress caused by AP exams. Arguably, they are pointless.

Aside from being somewhat meaningless in the college admission process, taking AP exams is notoriously inconvenient. Choate's stringent academic schedule makes AP exams incredibly hard to prepare for — in addition to preparing for the exam itself, students must also make up work for missed class periods. As one can imagine, a student taking multiple exams would find himself struggling to stay on top of all his other academic commitments.

Moreover, the AP testing period occurs at an incredibly inconvenient point in the academic calendar: the spring term. Students must find time to study for other standardized tests — SAT subject tests, the ACT, and the SAT — in addition to reviewing for AP exams. A Choate student must also struggle to complete end-of-year projects, papers, and exams.

As if this weren't already enough to worry about, the costs of AP exams are outrageously high. Students are charged a hefty \$110 per AP exam. As many students opt to take multiple exams, the expense can quickly become unrealistic.

Even though Choate stopped offering AP courses, the campus still cultivates the expectation that our students must take AP exams. In fact, many students begin taking exams as early as the third or fourth form, eventually taking several exams that may not even benefit them in the college admissions process. Given our new designation as a non-AP school, taking AP exams should no longer be the norm. Instead, AP exams should be offered as an additional opportunity to highlight certain skills for students who truly want to take them.

Therefore, we encourage our peers to consider thoroughly whether AP exams present any realistic advantages. Before you sacrifice time to prepare for the pricey exam, ask yourself whether it is truly worth taking in the first place.



Body & Soul Day Spa
For Men and Women

MEN'S WASH, CUT & STYLE: \$20

WOMEN'S WASH, CUT & STYLE: \$30

*first time clients

26 N. Main ST., Wallingford, CT 06492
www.thebodyandsouldayspa.com
203-269-FACE



JUICE BAR • CAFE

- Tonic & Elixir Bar
- Superfoods & Raw Desserts
- Vegan, Raw, Gluten-Free Friendly
- Smoothie Bowls
- Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Organic Juices & Smoothies

Open 7 days a week!

See our menu online

www.purealchemyjuice.com

236 N. Colony Rd (Rt. 5) Wallingford

PH: 203.265.5000

LISTEN — MY OPINION IS NO OPINION

Instead of mindlessly adopting a political stance, slow down and pay attention to what others have to say.

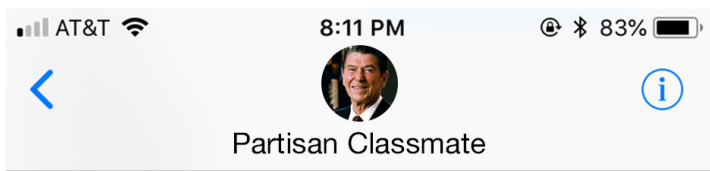
By **Ariel Kim '20**
Opinions Staff Writer

It is unfortunate that our community is so politically inclined. Most conversations at Choate are rife with passionate, opinionated arguments on current events — a few popular topics today including Trump, gun control, gay rights, or immigration laws. Everyone seems to have an opinion about everything. And while it is commendable that we can express our thoughts so freely, it becomes problematic when we refuse to recognize opposing arguments.

Well, what if you have no opinion to begin with? What I've learned, unfortunately, is that political neutrality is not an option at Choate.

I grew up in a family that distanced itself from politics. Yes, we would keep up by watching the news — but we didn't feel the need to engage in political discussion. We never spoke (and certainly never argued) about such issues at the dinner table. In retrospect, I don't think it was a lack of knowledge or interest that created this emptiness of political conversation. Rather, such discourse was avoided because our family insisted on listening to others and maintaining an open mind.

I only noticed this about my family and me after arriving at Choate. I had never been placed in an environment where it was commonplace not just to have a political opinion but also to have the freedom to voice it. In honesty, I didn't even know that people could have so many differing opinions. I'd certainly call it a culture shock.



Graphic by Chandler Littleford/The Choate News

When I attended my first discussion-based classes in freshman fall and was presented an immense diversity of opinion, I keep my mouth shut out of habit. I suppose I was too busy listening to each of my classmates' ideas, and I did not think that it was in my place to share my opinion.

However, when several of my teachers in these discus-

sion-based classes so politely notified me that I needed to speak up, I stopped focusing on what others had to say and began forcing myself to create opinions — even if they didn't properly represent my views. My input in class discussions grew more frequent, but they simultaneously lost the quality and proper analysis that they had when I'd paid full atten-

tion to others' opinions. In essence, I had stopped listening and started arguing.

One of Choate's most prominent values is its sheer diversity in opinion, interest, and knowledge — and it is prominent only because Choate students so eloquently voice their arguments. Yet, if there's one thing that Choate students have a hard time doing, it is the ability to stay quiet and pay attention to others. If we want to make more valuable contributions to our discussions, we need to learn to become a better audience. We must respect all opinions, even if they are at odds with our own.

If there's one thing that Choate students have a hard time doing, it's listening.

We must learn to listen — to listen respectfully, to listen without prejudice, to listen before providing others your own thoughts. If there's one thing that Choate students still lack, it is the ability to maintain an open mind in discourse, especially that which is politically inclined.

So, the next time you find yourself debating with another on whatever topic, I urge you to pause and listen. I assure you that you'd be surprised to hear what others have to say.

Ariel Kim is a fourth former from Seoul, South Korea. She may be reached at akim20@choate.edu

THE LESSONS DYSLEXIA TAUGHT ME

By **Marja van Mierlo '18**
Opinions Writer

As one of the few students at Choate with dyslexia, I feel lucky to be a part of this campus and to share my unique perspective with my classmates and teachers alike.

Dyslexia is often misunderstood. The term refers to any disorder that involves difficulty in learning to read or otherwise interpreting words. But it does not affect intelligence. In essence, it does not stop people from learning — though it makes academic tasks more difficult.

I was officially diagnosed with dyslexia in seventh grade after my parents asked that I be tested. Both my parents and teachers had expressed concerns about my academic progress. I was a diligent and hard-working student, but I wasn't getting the results that I wanted.

To clarify, the disorder is different for each person who has it. For me, it means that I struggle with working memory, which impedes my problem-solving and reading comprehension skills. Moreover, I am

a slow writer; I find it difficult to dissect texts and explain my conclusions compellingly.

I also struggle with foreign languages. Even though I was raised in a bilingual household (where my parents speak both English and Dutch), language acquisition still comes as a struggle to me — after all, rigorous memorization is inherent to learning a new language.

Yet, I am two weeks away from graduating. I have thrived here.

Choate is a challenging school for everyone. When I began four years ago, frankly, I wasn't sure how I was ever going to manage the workload. How did I do it? By skipping some events on campus and trips with friends, I managed to get my work done in about double the time it took my peers.

Sure, I may work slower when it comes to homework, tests, and in-class activities, but I have strengths in other areas. I am creative in my problem-solving. For example, I have fallen in love with theater, where many issues inevitably arise. As both an actor and a techie, I have contributed

a lot of my creative reasoning and problem solving abilities to make campus productions run smoothly and efficiently.

In my time here, I've never felt discriminated against in any way. My teachers have almost always accommodated me, making themselves available for extra help and otherwise understanding my disability. My peers view me as just another student, which is great because it means I'm keeping pace with them.

But the lack of awareness can also be frustrating. When my classmates see me staying after class to finish a test, they seem to roll their eyes, questioning why I receive extra time. They don't know that I have dyslexia and am allowed "time and a half" for all assessments. In addition, it isn't uncommon for some of my peers to gripe about getting an A- on a paper having worked on it for an hour and half, when I've worked on that same paper for more than four hours and am thrilled with a B+. If my classmates knew what it took for me to stay afloat here, maybe I wouldn't feel so underappreciated.

Ultimately, I think dyslexia may have affected my grades at Choate — but not my success. I've come to understand that grades don't determine how much I have learned or how accomplished I might be one day. I've learned not to measure myself by test scores or other standardized benchmarks. Even in light of the extra time I spend on assignments, I still take part in the wider Choate community through clubs, technical theater, chorus, and other outlets.

People with learning disabilities offer perspectives that benefit the Choate community in many ways. Whether it's unique problem-solving skills in the theater, a different approach to a math problem, or a creative flare in class, students with learning differences should be celebrated and appreciated in our community. Sure, dyslexia might have made my Choate experience a little more difficult — but my desire to learn has made it all more than possible.

Marja van Mierlo is a sixth former from Wallingford. She may be reached at mvanmierlo18@choate.edu

My Choate Decision: In Remembrance of the Journey

By **Kiki Kim '20**
Opinions Writer

Where I come from, boarding school is an unconventional choice. Only two people left my school after the eighth grade: a girl who went to Thacher, and I. After considering boarding schools in eighth grade, I chose to attend a local high school for two years before finally deciding on Choate.

So, how did I — a girl born and raised in Northern California — end up across the country, away from my family and lifelong friends in an environment completely different from what I had ever known?

My path to Choate was far from straightforward. For a long time, I vacillated between staying in San Francisco or going to boarding school. I was only sure that, were I to attend boarding school, I would go to Choate. What, then, set Choate apart from other schools?

In hindsight, it is nearly unbelievable that my first impression of Choate was positive. My tour happened on one of those dreary winter days — cold, rainy, ground covered by ice. My mom had driven us the two hours from Boston to reach a campus that seemed to be in the middle of nowhere. Moreover, I was an all-too-

young eighth grader with no clue of what to expect; boarding school was a concept wholly foreign to me then.

I still don't know what exactly it was that set Choate apart from other schools. I suppose that I liked all that I had seen on the tour — the atmosphere, the people, the campus. I could envision myself at Choate, perhaps a varsity player on an athletic team or a member of the SRP. But, as I was completing my application two years after that visit, I barely remembered those things. What I did recall, however, was an inexplicably good feeling — the intangible sense that if I came to Choate, I would find something new.

I came to Choate not knowing what to expect, just knowing that I wanted to follow the feeling, the atmosphere that I got from being on campus. Now that I am a student here, I've noticed Choate's shortcomings — flaws in the administration, rules, and system. My peers do too. Admittedly, life at Choate is not perfect.

Yet, whether we notice it or not, we are all getting something out of our time at Choate. We all chose Choate to fulfill some part of our life. Everybody was drawn to Choate for a reason; for me, it was



Graphic by Chandler Littleford/The Choate News

the unexplainable feeling that I got during my tour. For others, it may have been the academic rigor, the breadth of extracurriculars, or the intensity of athletics. Whether or not the reality of Choate turned out exactly as we expected is beside the point. That's not to say that we shouldn't take steps to better our lives at Choate.

Rather, we should remain mindful of the school's benefits and take steps to maximize those aspects. The areas that the school lacks in should not remain as inadequacies — they should be areas of improvement. It is so easy to adopt

the mindset that the school against the students, that the system is out to get us. When I feel myself submitting to that train of thought, I try to remind myself of what brought me to Choate in the first place — *What drew me away from San Francisco? Why did I come? What was that indescribable, special feeling I had when I first arrived?*

Something drew each and every one of us here. I think that it would do us all well to remember that.

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



The Choate News presents...



The Great Debate

Should the United States Deregulate Its Banks?

By **Ian Bamford '19**
Opinions Staff Writer

After every financial crisis, the government examines what went wrong and then tries to instill regulations to prevent such a crisis from occurring again. The two largest moves to regulate the banking industry came after the Great Depression and the Great Recession. The latter crisis resulted in the passage of Dodd-Frank in 2010, which increased government regulation of banks. Maintaining bank regulation is crucial to preventing another financial crisis.

Advocates of bank deregulation often mischaracterize the motives of the participants in financial markets. Contrary to conservative thought, banks are profit-seeking institutions willing to make risky investments that yield more profit. According to Minsky's Financial Instability Hypothesis, which accurately modeled the Great Depression and the Great Recession, in the euphoria of an inflationary boom, banks will start to



Graphic by Chandler Littleford/The Choate News

extend loans for overvalued assets — stocks in the 1920s and mortgages in the 2000s — betting that asset prices will rise. Eventually, market participants realize that assets are overvalued, leading to a Minsky Moment, which leaves banks on the verge of insolvency. Thus, banks endanger the health of the financial markets through their risk-taking.

Two separate insurance mechanisms allow banks to assume more risk. First, the money that banks risk belongs to depositors and is insured by the Federal Insurance Deposit Corporation, meaning that if banks lose depositors' money, the government will reimburse the depositors for their loss. Second, large banks are so integrated into the world economy that they know that the government has to bail them out to prevent the crisis from becoming worse. To maintain the health of the financial market during recessions, the government assumes risk by insuring banks. When banks cashed in on their insurance in 2008, the government spent more than \$15 trillion to bail-out them out. Because of this, bankers take the profit from booms and taxpayers pay for bankers' irresponsibility during financial crises.

Since the government must insure banks for recklessness, the government should ensure that banks are being responsible. In Dodd-Frank, the government established a regulatory infrastructure to prevent banks from making the risky investments that could cause their collapse — and a government bailout. Regulators focus on the "too big to fail" banks, whose insolvency could cause the collapse of the financial market because of their interconnectedness with other firms. As a result of Dodd-Frank, banks have to conduct stress tests which ensure that banks can weather a financial crisis and must have a living will that establishes a plan to prevent a bank's insolvency from causing a collapse of the financial system. Dodd-Frank also regulates bank cash flow, asset composition, and loan quality. All of these regulations come in direct response to either the Great Depression or the Great Recession so that America can avoid the same mistakes.

Critics of Dodd-Frank claim that government regulations overburden the banks and that banks can always find a way around the regulations. However, the federal government, as the insurer of the banking industry, is responsible to the taxpayers for preventing a financial crisis that can only be fixed with their money.

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

By **Charlie Yockey '19**
Opinions Writer

In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, lawmakers scrambled to ensure that the mistakes made by banks would not be easily repeated. The result was a 22,000-page set of regulations called Dodd-Frank, which heavily increased regulatory oversight of the banking system. Eight years later, it is time to roll back substantial portions of this once necessary legislation by deregulating banks; the well-being of consumers, banks, and the economy depends on it.

In an ideal world, no regulation would be necessary to protect the welfare of consumers and businesses from the excesses of capitalism. Unfortunately, our world is far from perfect, and Dodd-Frank once served the necessary purpose of deterring institutions from carelessly assuming exorbitant risk. However, the local economies of America — not larger institutions — have borne the brunt of this policy, which has led to a sluggish economic recovery and the consolidation of financial power. Low-income communities have also suffered substantially, as between one and three billion dollars is transferred from poor families to retail banks annually because of Dodd-Frank.

Those most severely hit by Dodd-Frank were community banks and the small businesses and consumers they serve. Since 2010, only three new banks have opened in the U.S.; one in every four community banks has closed its doors; and, in 2015, a small bank went insolvent every single day. These closures are a direct result of heightened regulatory scrutiny intended to "punish" big banks but has instead decimated firms without the lawyers and resources to comply to these laws. The con-

sequences of these insolvencies directly harm businesses and consumers in the communities they serve — the compliance expenditures for small business alone has increased by 15% since 2010, and there are fewer banks to issue loans to them.

Larger banks, furthermore, have only grown as a result of these regulations because smaller banks cannot afford to operate independently and must consolidate. Financial risk is more concentrated today than it was in 2008, and market share continues to skew toward megabanks that have the capital to endure regulation. When regulation drives consolidation, risk is multiplied and concentrated in a few institutions. Regulation intended to check big banks has done the opposite, forcing small banks to close their doors and irresponsibly creating more organizations that are too big to fail.

Last, other actors in the financial system have been allowed to run wild in the marketplace because banking has been labeled as the scapegoat for all economic problems since 2008. A shift toward

monitoring other non-bank firms would be a far better use of regulatory resources, especially because poor public perception of banks — largely brought about by legislative fearmongering — has severely damaged the integrity of the industry. Banking regulation should not be weaponized as a way to discipline large banks because the collateral damage is too great, and the purpose of regulation should solely be to enhance financial stability.

In today's imperfect economy, banks are crying out for relief. It is time to roll back the burdensome regulation of the post-recession era and allow banks, small and large alike, the freedom necessary to serve the public interest. Regulation has its merits, but Dodd-Frank, among other regulations, serves more as shortsighted retribution than a constructive solution to the problems of banking.

Charlie Yockey is a fifth former from Springfield, IL. He may be reached at cyoockey19@choate.edu



Graphic by Chandler Littleford/The Choate News

MICHELLE WOLF'S JOKES: ONLY AS RIDICULOUS AS OUR POLITICAL CLIMATE



Photo courtesy of The New York Times

Comedian Michelle Wolf's controversial performance at the White House Correspondents' Dinner sparked outrage across the political spectrum.

By **Niki Gummadi '21**
Opinions Writer

Each year, the White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA) hosts a gala for celebrities, journalists, and White House administrators to raise funds for journalism scholarships and grants. This event is known, oddly, for its comedy routine. It usually starts with the president himself delivering a comedic monologue, light-heartedly poking fun at himself and the press and is followed by a prominent comedian. Despite the absence of President Donald Trump P'oo, the WHCA continued with the comedy routine this year and chose Michelle Wolf for the role. After her routine, Ms. Wolf was criticized more harshly than entertainers in previous years, with some even calling for the end of the White House Correspondents' Dinner.

This backlash was brought about by today's tense politi-

cal atmosphere and the public's strained relationship with the press. In her monologue, Ms. Wolf did not hold back, making jokes centered on hard-hitting topics such as immigration and the Roy Moore scandal. She ended simply with, "Flint still doesn't have clean water."

While Mr. Trump abuses his power, Ms. Wolf used her platform to raise awareness about political issues.

In today's political climate, comedy is more important than ever. Political comedy seems to have reached a new peak — late-night talk shows have become almost as reliable of a news source as news outlets themselves. People are turning to comedy in an attempt to help them understand what is going on in the world today.

One of my teachers says that comedy doesn't disprove stereotypes — it reinforces what is already there. That is exactly what Ms. Wolf did. She joked about our current situation in an attempt to point out how ridiculous it is. If her jokes were inappropriate, it was because we are in a situation that is equally as inappropriate. While her language may have been crude at times, it may have been the most effective way for her to deliver her message. In a political climate where the president faces minimal repercussions for his actions, it is ironic that Ms. Wolf faced such strong criticism in the wake of her performance. While Mr. Trump abuses his power, Ms. Wolf used her platform to raise awareness about political issues.

In addition, much of Ms. Wolf's castigation was based on the fact that her jokes made individuals uncomfortable. For example, with White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders sitting a few feet away from her, Ms. Wolf delivered scathing remarks about Ms. Huckabee Sanders's waning credibility. Ms. Wolf also poked fun at NBC and Megyn Kelly for their lack of gender equality, which made some in the audience uncomfortable. However, this was something we needed. Perhaps her jokes could serve as a wakeup call for Ms. Huckabee Sanders and Ms. Kelly.

Ms. Wolf was simply doing her job. She was hired to go up and tell jokes, and that's what she did. People like her are not the problem. The problem is the politicians that put us in this situation in the first place.

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

Russia Must End Digital Censorship to Preserve Free Speech

By **Alex Alkhayer '20**
Copy Editor

On April 13, a Russian court decision outlawed Telegram, a popular and highly secure messaging app. The Kremlin's prohibition of Telegram stems from creator Pavel Durov's refusal to grant Russian authorities access to encrypted chats. In an effort to shut down Telegram, Roskomnadzor, the Russian communications and technology regulator, blocked more than 18 million IP addresses.

Although the Kremlin claims it attempts to gain access to all private communications in Russia to combat terrorism, it is likely that the Russian government instead hopes to gravitate toward a society without internet freedom. In the past, Russian authorities have implied that they plan to construct a "Great Russian Firewall," similar to the firewall built by the Chinese government. This firewall would serve as a domestic internet infrastructure isolated from the global web. Additionally, Roskomnadzor head Aleksandr Zharov shared that if Facebook refused to comply with a law requiring that all personal data of Russians be stored in Russia, the platform would be investigated and potentially blocked. Twitter has already agreed to oblige. Clearly, the fierce battle to censor the Russian internet has erupted.

The Kremlin's pursuit of Telegram will not merely decide the fate of one messaging app. The outcome of the government's attack on Telegram may determine the future of the Russian internet. If the Russian government successfully blocks Telegram, it may soon take more extreme lengths. Blocking Telegram from Russia will deliver the message that the Russian government holds the power to restrict the knowledge and resources of the people.

Not only will digital censorship suppress the Russian population, but it will also encourage other nations to follow suit. In fact, a judicial order to block Telegram recently ignited protests in Iran. During his

campaign for re-election in May 2017, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani promised to retain free access to Telegram. Yet on April 30, web service providers began to restrict access to Telegram in Iran. This comes as no surprise, given that the Kremlin continues to prosecute the messenger app despite Mr. Durov's countless methods of thwarting the attacks. The Kremlin has shown the Iranian government that digital censorship is possible when overlooking national protest. This message that restricting web access can be implemented easily and without consequence may expand on a global scale, thus endangering the people's free speech and free thought throughout the world.

Though the Russian government insists that Telegram is only harming the nation's welfare, its attempts to block Telegram have already hurt the country. Roskomnadzor created collateral damage by blocking a vast range of IP addresses. As a result, a variety of other sites were wrongly shut down, Volvo dealerships were unable to access their service records, Kremlin museums were forced to suspend ticket sales, and a variety of social media platforms were shut down, to give only a few examples. Many of these sites suffered financial losses. Moreover, the Kremlin has displayed great hypocrisy in their pursuit of Telegram. While the government pushes the idea of developing Russian technology and innovation, it aims to sabotage Telegram, a Russian brand achieving success worldwide; instead, Russia is encouraging the use of slower apps as alternatives. In this case, the Kremlin is undermining Russia's own ambitions.

It's clear that the Russian government's actions toward stricter digital censorship in Russia will only hurt the prosperity of the nation. By banning Telegram, the Kremlin has ignited the battle for internet freedom, and from here on, it will only intensify.

Alex Alkhayer is a fourth former from South Windsor, CT. She may be reached at aalkhayer20@choate.edu

Question of the Week

with The Choate News

Should Choate Have Cheerleaders?



The cast of *Bring it On* practice cheerleading routines for its upcoming performances.

By **Ethan Luk '20**
Staff Reporter

Before I came to Choate, my view of American culture was limited to three things: the Statue of Liberty, the Hollywood sign, and *High School Musical*. Like many international students, I thought that cheerleading was a staple of the quintessential American high school experience: bleachers filled with students on a Friday night, a rousing football game on the field, and cheerleaders in pony tails leading chants with the help of brightly colored pom poms. However, that was not the case when I came to Choate. Instead of death-defying flips and tricks, I was welcomed by a student in a sweaty boar suit. It was later when I found out that within the world of boarding schools, cheerleading squads are not a common culture. In the spirit of the upcoming spring musical *Bring it On*, some members of the community shared their take on whether Choate should have cheerleaders.

Shraya Poetti '19:
“I think it would be an exciting addition to the community, but I’m not sure how well it would mix with the dance program since there are many groups like Step Squad or Hip Hop that perform at the pep rally or home games to promote school spirit. The effectiveness of a cheerleading program at Choate also depends on whether or not it is an after-school sport or a club because it could potentially coincide with a lot of existing commitments.”

Kate Spencer '20
“Although having cheerleaders on campus would closer resemble the high school experience portrayed in the media, I think that the boarding-school environment would be less cohesive for cheerleading because there are so many activities and varied interest around campus. Boar Pen is pretty much our cheer team, and I think they cater well to the campus’s attitude towards school spirit.”

Jonathan Joei '18:
“The success of a cheerleading squad depends on how the cheerleaders and the School define the program, which can trickle down to whether it’s a competitive cheerleading squad or not, or something as minor as the uniform cheerleaders have to wear. Seeing a lot of college level football games and cheerleading squads, I’ve noticed that the provocative clothing can objectify cheerleaders, and that is a problem that needs to be addressed. I also think that school spirit at Choate is an issue. In other boarding schools, like Andover, they have huge turnouts to games and have pep squads and drum bands that cheer athletes on. Although athletes normally focus more on the execution of plays rather than the energy of the crowd, Choate needs a serious improvement in its overall school spirit. The administration and students have to cooperate to figure out how the cheerleading squad can enhance the level of student support and enthusiasm for our sports teams.”

Kate Newhouse '18:
“A lot of people forget that cheerleading takes a great deal of athleticism, and it could be a great addition to our sports program. I think that a cheerleading squad at Choate could definitely coexist with Boar Pen because Boar Pen can cover the logistics part of cheering like figuring out game schedules, while the squad can execute the actual tricks. The program should start as an intramural sport or a club to garner interest, and if students want to take their cheerleading to a higher competitive level, the School should be able to find the resources for that.”

It seems that many students believe that a cheer squad would amp up Choate school spirit, while others think that a cheerleading team would not mesh well with the current environment of Choate extracurriculars. What do you think?

Ethan Luk may be reached at eluk20@choate.edu

THE JUNIOR YEAR SURVIVAL GUIDE

By **Deanna Tan '20**
Staff Reporter

The general consensus surrounding junior year seems to be nothing but stress, exhaustion, and pressure. Many say it is unarguably the most important and the toughest year at Choate. Yet are there ways for underclassmen to better adjust to the high demanding workload of junior year? Current juniors provide their perspectives and advice.

Sarah Bonnem '19 expressed the importance of using strategic time management skills. She explained, “I get into a kind of aggressive, hyper-cognizant micro-managing cycles in which I overthink how to use literally each minute to its maximum capability for productivity.” Similarly, Niraj Desai '19, a student at the Kohler Environmental Center, also experienced a sense of lost time due to the high demanding workload of junior year. He said, “I’m the kind of person who has to watch Netflix for an hour before starting homework, and during junior year there are nights where I just can’t afford to watch Netflix because of the workload.”

Wilson Wang '19 wishes this is what someone told him before entering junior year: “Get rid of procrastination!” Wang asserted. “I procrastinated a lot at the beginning of the year. I wasn’t using my study hours and free blocks wisely. But as workload got heavier, I started to realize that I will never finish my work if I procrastinate. Now I’ve really gotten better: I started using my time wisely and actually getting things done effectively.”

Unlike Wang, Bonnem received advice before going into junior year. “I would say the most important things to keep in mind is that getting a B is not going to stop you from getting into college — there is only so much a person can compromise their health, wellbeing, and sleep for grades — and that junior spring is only as soul-crushing as you allow it to be. So much of the junior spring conundrum is about your mentality. If you tell yourself everything sucks, then everything is probably going to suck. If you can make it to spring term alive, then you can certainly make it out of spring term alive, too,” Bonnem expressed.

Many juniors also face the realization that their time at Choate is slowly coming to an end, and therefore they try to juggle a mass of coursework

with clubs and extracurriculars. Bonnem explained this mentality: “I think my overall level of involvement has increased this year, whether that’s through clubs or music ensembles. Obviously, anyone can think back and say, ‘I wish I had done x and set myself up to get y leadership position,’ but I *really* try not to entertain any what-ifs or regrets. That being said, I have a habit of missing opportunities because I didn’t assert myself. If you get an email about an opportunity, and it grabs your interest, don’t let things slip by because you were unsure or lazy. You just end up feeling lame.”

Despite the stressful and seemingly negative aspects to being a fifth former, there are also perks to becoming a junior. Bonnem remarked, “Simply being an upperclassman is great, and you are perceived differently by the community. I can’t really explain how, it’s just a feeling. I was definitely getting more sleep last year, but having Wi-Fi until 12:00 a.m. makes a huge difference. It feels like I’m more in control of my life this year overall. Also, being able to take upper-level electives is fantastic, especially in humanities, because that’s an area where Choate really excels. If you’re someone who’s interested and feels comfortable with the workload, definitely take advantage of electives junior year.”

Desai also commented on the academic experiences available to him as a fifth former. He shared, “Living at the KEC and being able to bond with a small group of kids is the best part for me. I think sophomores should just look forward to junior year because you start to really become a leader of the school with things like prefect-ship, student council president, and many other positions.”

Junior year will likely be a tough year for most people. The Choate experience, in general, is a competitive and arduous journey. For underclassman, the mindset to transition into junior year should follow under what Bonnem summed up from her time as a fifth former: “Everything about this year also comes with a heightened sense of importance, but you learn to finesse work so well in fall, and, even if you’ve procrastinated for two weeks and do a project the period before it’s due, everything works itself out.”

Deanna Tan may be reached at dtan20@choate.edu

HOW FORTNITE TOOK OUR CAMPUS BY STORM

By **Alex Coletti '20**
Reporter

Video games have long been a popular way to unwind, hang with friends, or even procrastinate. Some games, such as Madden, NHL, or NBA 2K, allow you to compete against your friends in sports games, while others, like Call of Duty or Halo, prefer to play intense combat games. Choate is no different. Students here are lucky enough to have easy access to consoles such as Xbox and Wii in St. John Hall, where a wide variety of games can be played. While popular games such as Madden NFL, NBA 2k, and — a Choate favorite — Super Smash Bros. have been around for many years and are continuing to gain popularity, it seems they might have competition for the most played game at Choate.

Fortnite on iOS has made \$15 million in its first three weeks in the App Store — \$126 million in the month of February alone — for its producer and has easily surpassed other popular games as the most played this year. However, the game is far from maxing its popularity; it consistently adds new features and changes that keep old users interested and draws new users to the game. It is certainly safe to say that Epic Games’ Fortnite is the game of the year and may continue to be for many years to come.

For those who do not know how Fortnite Battle Royale works, it can best be compared to a videogame version of *The Hunger Games*. The game begins when one hundred players drop from a flying bus onto an island to gather materials and survive as long as possible. Throughout the game, a storm begins to condense the large map into a smaller area, bringing the players into closer combat. You can win the game by being the last person remaining on the island. In addition to playing solo, the game can also be played in duos, groups of four, and even in a 50-versus-50 mode.



Jana Godbole '19 and Carly Cassaza '19 have fun while playing Fortnite.

It is certainly safe to say that Epic Games’ Fortnite is the game of the year and may continue to be for many years to come.

Alex Coletti '20

With a game like Fortnite Battle Royale, one has to ask how the game has become so

popular and what features it has that makes the game so entertaining. First off, it’s free, and people like entertaining games especially if they are free. Epic Games makes its money from users buying costumes for their characters, and there are additional bonuses by paying significant amounts of money.

V-bucks is the in-game currency that players can purchase and then use in the in-game store, which has new items added to it on a daily basis. Epic Games also has a Battle Pass that players can buy, which lets them unlock cosmetic items as rewards when they progress through various tiers by gaining experience points. Because Epic Games makes a lot of money when users buy skins and pay for the full Fortnite experience, it can make its battle royale game mode free for all to download.

Second, it’s a well-designed game. The Fortnite servers work better than most online games, despite the servers holding around 3.5 million players at a time.

Third, the game is available on PC, Xbox, Playstation, and mobile, making the game widely accessible for many different users who prefer a specific playing style.

The only downsides to the game are that it uses significant amounts of storage and requires a computer that can handle the software. If downloaded without the proper computer, it can cause the computer to crash and function poorly.

At Choate and around the world, Fortnite has had an epidemic growth. Kids have been playing more and more since Battle Royale’s release in September 2017 and with the recent Fortnite season four update. Bobby Lomax '21 said, “It’s fun, you don’t get bored of it, and if you win it’s

a great feeling.” When asked how much time he spends playing, he responded: “Too much.”

The Fortnite epidemic has hit Choate students hard. Students are continuing to play more and more as the game adds new features. Fortnite has even inspired other similar games such as Rules Of Survival. Has there been a drop in the overall Choate GPA as a result of Fortnite Battle Royale? Hard to tell, but no one can deny that it’s a great game that everyone who enjoys video games should at least give a try.

Alex Coletti may be reached at acoletti20@choate.edu

In China, Discovering its Distinct Artwork

By **Sarah Gurevitch '19**
Staff Reporter

With my time left in China now down to one week, I can surely say that I've observed a large difference in Chinese culture as it relates to the arts. Entering my term abroad, the extent to which I expected modern China's art, especially in Beijing, to resemble Western art has been completely proven false. I've been exposed to a wide array of more traditional Chinese art — from the fashion trends of the Tang Dynasty to the architecture of the Forbidden City to the paintings in the Huxian Peasant Painting Studios. I've been able to absorb a range of art culture that is not available in the US.

While school taught me about China and foreign influences throughout its dynasties, I observed a common theme: China's capacity to retain their traditions and cultures despite competition with Western powers. China's ability to avoid succumbing to Western pressures and influences permeates Chinese art and architecture and never ceases to amaze me. In my eyes, the resemblance between Chinese and American art is scarce to none.

I've had the opportunity to try Chinese calligraphy as well as Chinese linear art through my art class at school. But aside from classes, what my eyes have taken in serve almost as another class with endless knowledge to be absorbed. I've seen paintings of Mao with civilians bowing at his feet, others of landscapes infused with the color red — a symbol of luck. I even bought a small, colorful painting from an artist in Xi'an, which depicts many school children heading home after classes. I've noticed that many works either represent the Chinese way of life or beautiful landscapes, which both give way to what Chinese culture ultimately values.

My many subway rides, bus rides, and trips to various malls never fail to keep me up to date with the current fashion trends. In terms of this genre of art, I've noticed high-end luxury brands ranging from stores like Louis Vuitton to Supreme to Ferragamo. At the same time, however, with this demand for high-end clothing, I have seen a large amount of knock-off items. Just the other day I saw a young man wearing a shirt emblazoned not with Calvin Klein but Calvin Klien.

What I've found most interesting, though, is the variety of architecture I've been able to see. Each morning on my ride to school I pass some of the top architecture marvels in the world, such as the Bird's Nest, CCTV Tower, and the Water Cube. In my trip to Shanghai, I was able to see other amazing buildings like the Shanghai World Financial Center and all the buildings around The Bund. While my study-abroad experience has placed me alongside some of the greatest architecture in the world, I've also been exposed to the average apartments of common working families. This showed me an aspect of China that I might not have recognized if I had simply visited a couple of days. Furthermore, everyday after school I walk by various banks, printing shops, hutongs (old Chinese streets), and markets that feature the common Chinese architecture made mainly of timberwork and beams covered in carvings and paintings.

My time in China has exposed me to a life of art and culture not encompassed in the U.S. Whether I am walking down the street or going to a museum, my experiences and my surroundings constantly show me new things. From how the way of life is depicted in paintings to the luxury high-end fashion culture to the modern and older Chinese architecture, I am in a completely different world than the United States.

Sarah Gurevitch may be reached at sgurevitch19@choate.edu

Board of Trustees Meeting Discusses the Arts for the First Time

By **Eliana Kim '20**
Reporter

On Thursday, April 19, Choate held a meeting of the Student Life and Athletics Committee of the Board of Trustees. Students and faculty members representing different departments attended with the task of sharing their Choate experiences. Although the Board of Trustees meeting happens once every term, this year's was definitely a special moment for the Arts Department, as it was their first ever attendance.

Representing the Arts Department were Ms. Kalya Yannatos, the Director of the Arts Department; Katherine Burgstahler '18, a student representative of the music division; Medina Purefoy-Craig '20, a student representative of the theater division; Caleb Maddox '20, a student representative of the visual arts division; and Di'Anna Bonomolo '20, a student representative of the dance division. The meeting was centered on student perspectives, which in the case of the arts meant primarily members of the Arts Concentration program. Over lunch, these members and the trustees discussed the pros and cons of studying arts at Choate.

Ms. Yannatos explained, "The Board of Trustees were mostly interested in looking at the campus in the student's lens. One of the conversations I found interesting was when the students shared

their thoughts on whether taking arts classes is decreasing students' chance of going to a prestigious college." One student brought up the concern of how the pressure of the college process limits students from taking arts courses, because students fear that an arts class equates to a less serious, or even easy, choice. However, Lily Kops '18, who attended part of the meeting, claimed that taking a class she enjoyed was more important than college pressures, and that this is what made her Choate experience so special. Ms. Yannatos said, "I was very impressed and proud when she shared her perspective with the trustees."

If you came here for the arts you should be able to do what you love and are passionate about.

Medina Purefoy-Craig '20

The Board of Trustees were also interested in the question, What do students' lives look like at Choate? Purefoy-Craig said, "Honestly it seemed that the board was mostly worried about the students. How are the requirements stopping people, and what do we want from this program [arts concentration] at Choate? I think our concerns were heard and hopefully they will be taken into consideration."

Burgstahler shared her thoughts about the strengths and weaknesses of the arts: "For about two minutes, I talked to the group specifically about the music program that I have been involved with throughout the past four years. I think the trustees were excited to hear all of the positive comments that a lot of us shared. Additionally, we talked about how Colony Hall is going to provide a lot of new facilities for student artists."

The Board of Trustees meeting was not only a time to re-evaluate the school but it was also a way for the students to share their voice. Maddox said, "The meeting benefits the school because it shows that all programs here are appreciated, whether it's athletics, arts, writing, or academics. The people here want to know more about our lives and our hobbies and how they have shaped us over the years."

Purefoy-Craig added, "The meeting benefitted the school by making sure that the students are getting what they came here for. If you came here for the arts you should be able to do what you love and are passionate about and should leave feeling fulfilled. Choate isn't a school that focuses on and challenges you in just one area of your life, whether it be arts, academia, or athletics. We are multifaceted and multi-talented, and it's time that we reflect that."

Eliana Kim may be reached at ekim20@choate.edu

FESTIVAL CHORUS PERFORMS ELIJAH

By **Sasha Bocek '19**
Staff Reporter

This past Friday night, students, faculty, parents, and members of the greater Wallingford community alike gathered in the Seymour St. John Chapel for the performance of a section of Felix Mendelssohn's 172-year-old oratorio, *Elijah*. The performance was conducted by Ms. Alysoun Kegel, Choate's Choral Director, accompanied by Ms. Sara Kohane, a Choate piano instructor, and delivered by the members of Choate's Festival Chorus, as well as three special guests. It was a big hit, with the final number receiving a standing ovation.

A culmination of a year's work by Festival Chorus, the performance served as the group's annual spring concert. The success achieved was the result of hard work and dedication. Preparations for *Elijah* began immediately after "Lessons and Carols" in December. This meant several hours of weekly rehearsal, with listening assignments to become more familiar with the music. Repetition was crucial in the process, as the piece is long and was being prepared over an extensive period of time. On the process Elise Hummel '18, a four-year member of Festival Chorus and representative, said, "The piece was very long, and there were times when it was tough to stay focused."

Nonetheless, the Festival Chorus couldn't have been more elegant. They were graceful and professional, as usual, but this year's performance included a special treat — the current Choate students worked alongside seasoned alumni Katherine Li '17, Charles Colotta '13, and Kurt Loft Willett '81. Though the alumni and stu-

dents met only the day before performing together, the connection was clearly a defining factor in the triumph of the rendition. This was not the first time alumni and current students have worked together, but as Ms. Kalya Yannatos, the Director of the Arts Department, noted, "This year's show was extra special!"

The students and alumni performed the first half of the oratorio: the story of the Old Testament and the Biblical prophet Elijah. Kurt Willett '81 eloquently embodied the latter. There were five other distinct characters, four of which were sung by Choate students. All could agree that the soloists, both students and professionals, were exceptional. Maria Ma '19, a two-year Festival Chorus member, and Elsa Rose Farnam '18, who sat in the audience, had similar feelings of awe. Farnam said, "Their voices were so clear, they were almost like instruments."

The performance was an obvious success, exceeding the expectations of many. Ms. Kegel and her students never fail to put on a show nothing short of a true artistic endeavor. So, with such avid appreciation from the audience, can we expect more collaborations between the students of Choate past and present? Ms. Yannatos says, "Yes, please! There is so much richness to be attained through multigenerational collaborations and opportunities to learn from one another. This concert beautifully exemplified that, and so much more. It was a magnificent moment of art and spirit — delivered to us all through the hard work and conviction of Choate's choruses, under the care and direction of Ms. Kegel."

Sasha Bocek may be reached at abocek19@choate.edu

TRIPPING THE LIGHT FANTASTIC



by Kathryn Phillips

Time for underclassmen to celebrate the end of the year with the annual ¾ dance! Whether you came with a date or only for the cheesecake, it was a night meant to be danced away. "I loved feeling the strong community between the freshmen and sophomore class," Julia Ekholm '20 says. "I feel like I acted as a leader in hyping up the dance." There is nothing like a night of good music, good friends, and good food to get back some energy to finish the year off.





FIELD REPORT

Saturday Varsity Games

Baseball (8-7)
falls to Kent, 5-9

Ultimate (6-3)
beats North Haven, 11-3

Girls' Golf (6-3)
beats Williston, 3.5-1.5

Boys' Lacrosse (6-5)
beats Berkshire, 6-5

Girls' Lacrosse (6-8)
falls to Williston, 8-16

Softball (4-7)
falls to Williston, 2-11

Boys' Tennis (6-4)
falls to Deerfield, 2-5

Girls' Tennis (4-6)
falls to Exeter, 2-7

Boys' Track (9-2)
1st out of 3

Girls' Track (6-6)
3rd out of 3

Saturday J.V. Games

Baseball (3-6)
beats Kent, 12-10

Boys' Golf (2-3)
falls to Taft, 273-245

Boys' Lacrosse (5-4)
beats Eaglebrook, 6-3

Girls' Lacrosse (3-5-1)
falls to Williston, 4-5

Softball (4-1)
beats Ethel Walker, 22-9

Boys' Tennis (5-2)
falls to Deerfield, 0-7

Girls' Tennis (2-5)
falls to Exeter, 0-9

HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE? IT'S REAL

By **George McCabe '20**
Staff Reporter

In any sport, playing a game at a team's home athletic venue can be an asset because of increased fan support and familiarity with the facility. At Choate, student athletes may experience some negatives when participating in an athletic competition at home, but playing at home is mainly associated with positives.

When Choate students participate in home athletic contests, they don't have to acclimate to their surroundings. Practicing and playing at the same venue all season helps build a familiarity that cannot be replicated in an away game. For example, Choate lacrosse teams play away games at schools with different types of field conditions, ranging from long grass to turf. The difference in playing surface can affect the way the lacrosse ball bounces on the ground, which can be particularly important for lacrosse goalies.

Similarly, hockey rinks at other New England schools can have different dimensions or ice surfaces than Choate's hockey rink, The Remsen Arena. Taft and Hotchkiss have Olympic-sized hockey rinks, which means they are wider than most, including The Remsen Arena. Choate Boys' Junior Varsity Hockey Head Coach Mr. Jesse Minneman said, "In hockey rinks, the dimensions are all a little bit different. The puck bounces a little bit differently, and the ices are all a little bit softer or harder."

In addition to the conditions, the athletic resources at Choate are definitely an asset on game-day. The trainers at Choate can



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Sean Dennehy '19 receives a pass in the game against Deerfield.

provide any treatment that student-athletes may need before games. Varsity Hockey and Varsity Baseball player Chris Guyette '19 said of the resources at Choate: "As an athlete at Choate, I am fortunate to have access to our amazing trainers and facilities. Thus, an advantage of playing at home is that I can go to the trainers to get treatment for any injuries before a game." Many Choate student-athletes also have their own pre-game routines. Guyette said, "Playing at home makes these routines easier to accomplish because you know where everything is, and you know how the facilities work. So, you can focus all your attention on the game, instead of worrying if you'll be able to do your pregame routine."

Another positive aspect of having a home game is having more fans. For games at Choate, many local families regularly attend home games because of the convenient location. Choate stu-

dents can also easily support their classmates at home games. More home fans at athletic competitions can provide motivation for home teams. Girls' Varsity Lacrosse player Liza Diffley '19 said of the fan support at home games: "It also helps that, at home games, we often get a larger crowd of fans than we do at away games, even if it's just local parents."

Oftentimes at Choate, not enough students show up at games. Many Choate students participate in sports with athletic competitions or simply have other commitments that can prohibit them from attending some Choate home games. Girls' Varsity Hockey Head Coach Ms. Nicole Stock said, "Overall, we do not get a large number of fans at the games. Usually, it is just parents from both teams."

At some marquee home games during the year, the Boar Pen will decide to feature a specific game in an attempt to increase fan sup-

port from Choate students. These games are usually between Choate's league rivals or for teams that are doing particularly well in their seasons. Mr. Minneman commented on the marquee games: "For things like the Friday night or Saturday night games in the winter or Under the Lights in the fall or the spring, I've seen that really makes a difference. When our fans are there, and there is a game that the Boar Pen has picked as a marquee game, I think it has a huge impact."

A promoted game with a large attendance of Choate students can also act as a type of social gathering, like a SAC dance. Guyette said, "Every year we play Deerfield on a Saturday night, and every year since my freshman year there has been 100+ students packed into the Remsen Arena." He continued, "A Saturday night hockey home game acts almost as a social gathering for Choate students, which I believe is a reason that

many students attend our games."

While there are certainly benefits to playing a home game at Choate, there are also some negatives. Especially on Wednesdays, many Choate student-athletes have other classes or commitments right before an athletic event. A bus ride to an away game can allow student-athletes to spend some time focusing on the game. Ms. Stock said of the negative aspects of a home game: "The only negative to having a home game is that you do not have the bus ride to nap or focus in on the game. You can be doing other things on campus right up until you need to be at your game, which can mentally be challenging for some athletes."

Mr. Minneman shared a similar sentiment, explaining, "There is something to be said for having everyone together as a team an hour or two in advance. In some ways, it can force setting aside time to prepare before warmups."

Overall, the advantages of playing a home game at Choate outweigh the disadvantages. Specifically, the greater fan support at home games provides motivation for Choate sports' teams playing at home compared to teams playing away games., Guyette added, "Most importantly, as a player, there is nothing more memorable than looking into the crowd during the game and seeing your best friends and classmates making signs for you and attentively watching you play the sport you love. That in itself is a huge reason why home-field advantage exists at Choate."

George McCabe may be reached at gmccabe20@choate.edu

ON THE COURT WITH MATT KIM '18

By **Greer Goergen '21**
Reporter

Matt Kim '18 is the Boys' Varsity Cross-Country captain, ranked number three on Boys' Varsity Tennis, and going to Amherst College next year. In his final term at Choate, Kim has been downright dominant on the tennis courts and he is a big reason that Boys' Varsity Tennis has a 6-4 record at this point in the season. He was kind enough to sit down with reporter Greer Goergen '21, and talk about how he got started in tennis, his goals for the future, and his favorite things about the tennis team at Choate.

Greer Goergen: How long have you been playing tennis?

Matt Kim: I started in the fifth grade, so about nine years I'd say.

GG: What inspired you to start playing tennis?

MK: I don't think anything inspired me. I was just trying out different sports when I was younger, and then I tried tennis with one of my close friends from home, and I ended up really liking it. I thought it was a fun sport, so I decided to keep playing it.

GG: Do you play other sports?

MK: At Choate, I run cross country in the fall, but I play other sports with my friends, like soccer and basketball.

GG: Do you have any personal goals for this tennis season?

MK: Right now, I would say first off make it to New Englands, and then after we do that, which I'm pretty sure we are going to do, place top three or maybe two in New England's.

GG: What is your favorite thing about playing tennis and playing on the Choate team?

MK: My favorite thing about playing tennis would probably be the independence. It's a very independent sport. It's tough at times, and you have to focus mentally and physically, and you're all by yourself, which is also the fun part

of it. My favorite about tennis at Choate is being part of the team because you have other people there to support you. Especially after I finish my match, one of my favorite parts of the overall match is going to support my other teammates who are playing and cheer for them when they're on the court because I think that's an important part of being a part of any team.

GG: What lessons have you learned from playing tennis?

MK: To always be confident and believe in yourself because when you doubt yourself, you start missing shots and not playing as you should. You just always need to believe in yourself and never second guessing your decisions.

GG: What are your future goals for tennis?

MK: I'm already into college, but I hope to play in college. I want to walk onto the tennis team at Amherst. I'm also just going to continue to play for the rest of my life because I think it is a really great sport.

GG: Do you think tennis has changed you at all?

MK: Yeah, I think it's taught me a lot of lessons that I can take into other parts of my life. It has really taught me a lot about independence and focus. Also, off the court, you have to take care of your body and make sure you're not doing things that will harm you on the court. Preparation is just as important as the actual playing.

GG: What is the most difficult thing for you about tennis? Why?

MK: There are a lot of things, but I would probably say staying consistent. All players have off days and on days and what's difficult for me is putting that into perspective. If I have a bad day one day, I have to be like "Ok, this happened, and it sucked, all players go through slumps and you just have to work hard and bounce back."

Greer Goergen may be reached at ggoergen21@choate.edu

Choate Triumphs at Connecticut Sailing Championships



Photo by Joseph Coyne/The Choate News

Sailing celebrates its second state championship in its six-year history.

By **Isabelle So '20**
Reporter

Over long weekend, Choate's sailing team competed in the Connecticut State Sailing Championships. There were 18 different teams at the race. Most teams were from Connecticut; however, there was a team from Maine in attendance. Even though there was no qualification needed to enter this competition, this is one of the most important and competitive races that Choate's sailing team attends each year. Now, Connecticut State Championships is always fleet races. In other words, the boat that finishes first wins.

In the Connecticut State Championships there is an A division and a B division, where each team is allowed to enter one boat. Each division races separately. The A fleet started off the race, but while the A fleet was racing, the B fleet started its race. After two races of each fleet, the sailors rotated boats. Everyone sailed into the dock, and they switched into a

different boat that was assigned to them. This is what happens at most large regattas, as it ensures that no one has an advantage due to the boat that they're sailing. The race is scored by adding up the points from the A fleet and B fleet of each team, and whichever team has the lowest score wins.

The sailing team spent a lot of time preparing for the race physically and mentally. The team came into the season knowing they wanted to perform well in this race. They knew that they they were going to have to work hard to accomplish what they wanted to this season. Tagan Farrell '20 said, "At the beginning of the spring, we wrote down our goals for the season. One goal that everyone shared was to win the Connecticut State Sailing Championship. It was just something that we really wanted to accomplish as a team."

Choate competed at the O'Day Qualifiers for the New England Schools Sailing Association Fleet Racing Championship at Indian Harbor Yacht

Club the week prior to the state championship. At the NESSA Fleet Racing Championship they finished sixth out of 15 teams. Choate was the underdog going into the CT State Championships. When asked how the team felt about their larger competition at the state meet, Ariel Zhang '18 and Farrell said they felt optimistic and excited to see what could happen. With that mindset, Choate was ultimately able to finish in first.

Tommy Styron '20 and Farrell were able to win the A fleet race, while Joe Coyne '19 and Zhang came close to winning the B fleet race. The team overall had a very good day on the water, which is one of the biggest reasons that the team emerged from the Connecticut State Sailing Championships victorious. Choate's sailing team won one of its biggest races of the year due to its hard work and perseverance, which are key reasons to the team having such a successful season.

Isabelle So may be reached at iso20@choate.edu