



# THE CHOATE NEWS

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## CHOATE ROBOTICS TEAM: BEST TEAMWORK IN THE WORLD



Photo courtesy of Kyle Di Tieri

The Robotics Team traveled to Louisville, Ky., for the VEX Worlds Robotics Tournament where it won the Teamwork Award.

By **Samantha Stevenson '19**  
Staff Reporter

The Choate Robotics Team lived up to its legacy this spring term, becoming the only New England team to accept the Teamwork Award at the VEX Worlds Robotics Tournament. Twelve members of the Choate Robotics Team spent five days, from April 19 through April 22, in Louisville, Kentucky competing in the tournament. The team's two coaches, math teachers Mr. Andrew Murgio and Mr. Kyle Di Tieri, accompanied this group of students, all selected based on their affiliation to the competition robot and their in-

dividual dedication to the team. The captain, Katrina Gonzalez '17, led the Choate Robotics Team to place 38 among the 96 teams within their high school division, a great improvement over last year's performance at Worlds.

The students also received the Teamwork Award, which was presented to a team that has "implemented a system of cohesion within all of the members" and that "demonstrates a season-long commitment to cooperation, unity, and mutual respect." The captain of each team was required to write an essay on their team, and members were interviewed by judges. Elise Hummel '18, a member of

the drive team for Choate's robot and the social media director, said, "I think we stand out because we're such a diverse team, and we all respect each other and work collaboratively." The Choate Robotics Team was thrilled to be honored with this award.

Each year, VEX Robotics designs a challenge in which students program a robot with which to compete. This year, the objective for the event was to have the robot pick up a cube and jacks and throw them over a fence. Specific point values were assigned based on where the objects landed on the other side of the fence; the

winning team had the most objects thrown to the other side.

During the first round of the competition, teams were paired up randomly, and by the second round, the top eight teams were allowed to select alliances. Each individual team consists of a student who drives the robot, students who instruct the driver, and students who ensure that the various parts of the robot are running efficiently.

The process of building Choate's competition robot started in fall term under the leadership of Weston Miller '17, who served as the captain of the A team — 6106A. The

team began with a blank whiteboard and started to brainstorm various mechanisms that they could implement into the design of their robot.

**We stand out because we're such a diverse team, and we all respect each other and work collaboratively.**

Elise Hummel '18

According to Nandini Erodula '18, a member of 6106A, the team experimented with various mechanisms. Erodula said, "There are several dif-

ferent types of drive that will make your robot run faster or be stronger enabling it to throw as many objects as possible during the competition."

Choate's robot was unique in its design. The student programmers created a catapult that would launch objects over the fence at a far distance. Hummel said, "Most of the robots there were replicates of a single dominant design, so we were happy that we were able to have success with a unique robot."

The Choate team got off to a difficult start on the first day at Worlds. Similar to what occurred

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## CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYER WINS 2017 ALUMNI AWARD

By **Vincenzo DiNatale '19**  
Copy Editor

For her dedication to combating discrimination and promoting civil rights, Ms. Kristen Melissa Clarke '93 was presented with the 2017 Choate Rosemary Hall Alumni Award last Wednesday, May 3. From Brooklyn, New York, Ms. Clarke is the President and Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, one of the country's most important civil rights organizations.

Before matriculating at Choate in the fall of 1989, Ms. Clarke attended Prep for Prep, a leadership development and gifted education program, from which 12 current Choate students graduated. At Choate, Ms. Clarke was on the cross country and track team, as well as the wrestling team. She was also a Gold Key tour guide and served on the Judicial Committee. Having taken advantage of the many opportunities Choate offered, Ms. Clarke said, "I am proud and grateful for the opportunity to have spent four years at this incredible institution."

After Choate, Ms. Clarke attended Harvard University and later received her law degree from Columbia. At Harvard, she continued to spread her positive influence by heading the Black Students Association and raising awareness about race and inequality.

Before taking her current position, Ms. Clarke was Chief of the



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Kristen Clarke '93, left, returns to Choate to receive the Alumni Award. Civil Rights Bureau in the New York Attorney General's Office, Co-director of the Political Participation Group of the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund, and a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Throughout her career, Ms. Clarke has been motivated by one question: "How can we create a world in which there is more justice, greater opportunity, a level playing field, and equal access to opportunity?"

Not only revered by Choate, Ms. Clarke has also been recognized by several other organizations. She was the 2016 Alumni of the Year by the National Black Law Students Association. She has written for several publications and is the author of several books, including *Barack Obama and African American Empowerment: The Rise of Black America's New Leadership*. Ms. Clarke

has been featured on a variety of media organizations, including CNN and MSNBC. The alumni award was first given to former President John F. Kennedy in 1958 after he was elected to Congress. Until 2017, the Alumni Association chose one male and one female winner each year. However, from this year onward, a single candidate will be picked, regardless of the candidate's gender. Furthermore, according to Ms. Monica St. James, the Head of the Alumni Association, "The award is completely divorced from donors. The recognition is completely relevant to the recipient's own work."

Ms. St. James said, "Ms. Clarke headed the pack of candidates for this award because she is so inspiring. Every year, we want the recipient to have achieved something incredible. We also value the message given to the

students." In addition, it is important that the recipient's work parallels the values of the school. Striving to combat inequality in the American justice system, Ms. Clarke does just that.

In her address to the community, Ms. Clarke stressed the positive impact Choate had on her life. One of her favorite teachers was the late Mr. Zach Goodyear, who taught political science and advised *The News*. In particular, she recalled an experience when Mr. Goodyear took her, along with her classmates, to sit on a hearing for the *Sheff vs. O'Neill* case in Hartford, Connecticut, which concerned racial segregation in school systems. Ms. Clarke explained, "That experience and that class truly sparked my interest in civil rights lawyering. It was a game changing moment for me."

Citing her choice to join the Boys' Wrestling Team, Ms. Clarke said, "Choate was a place where I learned to make bold and courageous choices." Ms. Clarke also placed an emphasis on the important friendships she formed in high school. "The real value of my friendships lay in the fact that they prepared me for the real world — a world that requires that you know how to deal and connect with people who are different from you."

Fifteen of Ms. Clarke's classmates attended the event, one traveling from as far as Florida.

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## Gender Designations Removed from Prize Day

By **Kate Spencer '20**  
Staff Reporter

Every year, in the last all-school gathering before graduation, the entirety of the Choate community comes together to celebrate outstanding students. This is Prize Day, an event that traditionally centers, however subtly, on a binary system based on gender. The School Seal Prize, for example, has long been won by at least one female student and one male student who "has made an outstanding contribution to the School during his [or her] sixth form year."

Although prizes will continue to be given out, the Choate administration recently decided to remove gender distinctions. The change, one part of a larger effort by the school to increase its awareness of gender issues, will affect this year's Prize Day on May 26.

Ms. Katie Levesque, the Dean of Faculty, was one of the leaders of the change. "We have taken any of the prizes that were distinct by boys and girls and have merged them," she explained. "In some cases, where the citations were a little different, we have retained both prizes, and both are open to students regardless of gender identity."

The degendering of the priz-

es originated from a school-wide concern that the awards excluded students who did not identify on the gender binary scale. "The reality is, and as many of our community members have learned as we are increasing our education on this topic, we have students on our campus right now, and I expect we will have more in the future, who do not identify on the binary as male or female," added Ms. Levesque. The changes are part of a movement throughout many schools and campuses to move toward a broader, more inclusive understanding of gender.

Choate has a particularly complex history of gender and prizes. The school's prize system is the product of two separate institutions: the all-boys Choate School and all-girls Rosemary Hall. "The biggest reasons why our prizes were the way they were was because of the history of the Choate School and Rosemary Hall, being a boys' school and a girls' school," Ms. Levesque said. "When the two schools merged, we kept the two different prizes. Part of the system we are seeing differently because the world has changed."

The Choate Administration started to look at its gender policies around two years ago, and most changes have involved

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**Choate Leadership Institute**  
Bringing together next year's student leaders.  
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CHOATE ROSEMARY HALL  
**STUDENT HANDBOOK** 2016-2017

"Will" to "May"  
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Read it then recycle it.

Visuals by Independent.ie, Choate Student Handbook, Ariel Zhang, and Marja van Mierlo.



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## STUDENTS ATTEND LOCAL DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

By **Laila Hawkins '19**  
Reporter

On Sunday, April 23, 27 students represented Choate at the annual Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) held at the Loomis Chaffee School. This conference consisted of students from various independent schools across Connecticut, both day and boarding. "Our school brought a diverse group of kids, which is great. I think it would be awesome to get even more students and different groups of students involved," remarked Mr. Charlie Fuentes, faculty organizer and Adviser to Students of Color.

**The whole point was to get conversations started about different topics.**

*Kamsi Illoeje '19*

Director of Equity and Inclusion Dr. Keith Hinderlie, adviser to SPECTRUM Mb Duckett Ireland, and Mr. Fuentes accompanied the students to the conference. Mr. Fuentes described the event as "a space where students feel comfortable to speak about different issues surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion." This being his first year as an Adviser to Students of Color, Mr. Fuentes was excited to be able to participate in SDLC this spring. He has previously attended partner conferences such as The People of Color Conference.

Through attending these events, he noticed that there are many key tools that the students can take from conferences of this nature, such as "understanding what other people are going through and at the same time being welcoming to those different stories." He added, "There are vocabulary things, like when we are talking about race, what it means to be Latino or gender non-conforming. Those are different

terms that we might not have conversations about, but we should."

Early Sunday morning, a bus departed for Loomis, where the students spent the whole day in small and large groups comprised of many different students; they discussed social problems they have each faced and ways to effectively confront these issues. Kamsi Illoeje '19 said, "The whole point was to get conversations started about different topics, and I think they did a good job with that." She did, however, wish that they had more time to finish their discussions.

Lloyd Williams '18, another Choate representative, got involved this year because he has become increasingly passionate about issues regarding diversity. He explained, "Three other boys and I wanted to initiate a Men of Color affinity group, sort of like RISE, to get a bonding situation started with the men of color on campus. That's why we started to consider going to the conference."

Matt Lacey '18, who also attended the conference, said he enjoyed talking to a wide variety of people about issues of diversity. "It reminded me a lot of a more expanded-upon Choate Diversity Day with a bunch of different schools," he said. Both Williams and Lacey commended the conference for providing a safe space to voice opinions and personal experiences.

Many attendees felt that listening to people tell their stories, express their ideas, and provide insight to certain topics promoted a sense of understanding within the groups. A select few were chosen to be facilitators. As facilitators, they will encourage other students to think more critically about their school's diversity and how they can address many of the issues discussed at the conference.

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## PRIZE DAY DEGENERATED

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not only the senior officers but also faculty, students, and alumni. "Issues of gender and gender-expansive policies have been something we have been working on at this school for a couple of years, including some of the changes you've seen this year around bathroom stalls," explained Ms. Levesque. "We had a committee look at prizes last year who did great work and made some recommendations about examining gender and prizes. We have also had a gender committee working last year, and they continue their work looking at our policies around gender across campus."

Ms. Levesque continued, "Ultimately, the decision to move away from gender in prizes came from the senior officers of the school. We have

had conversations as faculty. The faculty did vote on and approve the specific changes that we made to the prize citations."

For third formers, the general excellence prize and the earnest and persistent effort prize are now open to all genders, as are the general excellence prize and enthusiasm prize for fourth and fifth formers. The James A. Spencer departmental science award, previously for one girl and one boy in the fifth form, will also move away from gender. Seven prizes are now open to all sixth form students: the School Seal prize; the William Gardner and Mary Atwater Choate Award; the Rassweiler Award; the Owen Morgan Prize; the Flora B. Macdonald Bonney Prize; the David T. Layman Prize; and the Classes of 1976 and 1980 Leadership Award.

The debate among the faculty highlighted the challenges of removing gender from prizes. "There were very relevant questions around how this would work logistically and what it means for the number of students that we are honoring," Ms. Levesque said. "If you have a prize for a boy and a girl in the same form, then you are going to have at least two winners, as well as honorable mentions. With a combined prize, there is now only just one prize. And, most likely, fewer overall students will be honored." She went on, "I think that our faculty wants us to be able to honor all of the wonderful students that we have. One of the interesting layers of removing gender is that in some cases, there are now fewer prizes. It may be that we end up giving more winners and having co-winners more often."

There have also been various discussions among alumni, some of whom help endow awards. "For some of our alumni base, some of these prizes are rooted in history for them," explained Ms. Levesque. "We honor our history in so many ways, and I think that it is really important that we are not going to remove any of the prize names."

Despite these concerns, Ms. Levesque said, "It felt morally unacceptable for the school that we would have a prize that either forced a student who does not identify as male or female into one of those categories, or have a student not be eligible to win that prize." She concluded, "I am excited that we, as a school, can be responsive to our students and to our world as things change."

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## Freshman Advances to International Linguistics Tournament

By **Sarah Gurevitch '19**  
Staff Reporter

Competing against over 1,500 students in the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad, Heidi Lei '20 came in third, placing her into the International Linguistics Olympiad. For the competition, Lei had to solve a variety of linguistic puzzles, through which she learned about the diversity and consistency of languages, as she exercised her logic skills.

For example, for one type of question Lei was given a couple sentences in a very rare language and their English translations. She was asked to translate other phrases from English into the unknown language, and from the unknown language into English. Doing this involved solving the complicated inner workings of an unknown language. In the International Linguistics Olympiad, which will take place this summer, in Dublin, Ireland, Lei will have to compete in an individual round and a team round. The individual round will consist of five questions in which Lei

will have six hours to solve. The team round consists of a single question that must be solved in no more than four hours.

Lei, from Beijing, China, said her interest in linguistics "started with the beauty of the Chinese language." She continued, "After I learned how to speak English, I realized how diverse the components of different languages are. Each language is like a different person with different skill sets and personalities. Although they each have different skills sets and personalities, each person is capable of conveying the same message, just like different languages are able to. I first started with an interest in the different dialects of Chinese and how they are distributed geographically, which is what started the initial formation of my interest in linguistics. There wasn't a particular moment when I discovered my interest in linguistics. It sort of was always just there."

Lei's favorite subset of linguistics is typology. Typology, similar to the classification system of biology, involves a lot of grouping. Typology explains

the grouping of words and rules of languages. Lei is also interested in computational linguistics, which includes translators and language processors such as Siri.

In order to be good at linguistics, Lei explained, one does not need to speak multiple different languages. Though Lei could prepare for hours upon hours for a linguistics competition, the practice puzzles could be nothing like the puzzle received in competition. She said, "It's important to have good logical reasoning skills." However, Lei does prepare by doing

practice problems from previous years, giving her a feel for the actual competition.

To prepare for the team round in the international competition, Lei has been having weekly meeting sessions with her team over the phone and doing team problems with them. Lei is excited for the international tournament this summer and will continue to prepare as much as she can to get as good of a result as she had from the North American tournament.

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## FRESHMAN ORGANIZES P-CUP FOR GIRLS' DORMS

By **Anjali Mangla '20**  
Reporter

For much of Choate's history, there has been an annual boys' dorm softball tournament known as President's Cup, or P-Cup. Over the years, there have been many attempts at getting a girls' competition started, though none have ever been successful. This year, a new girls' dorm soccer P-Cup initiative hopes to become a tradition in its own right. The date set for the first round of games is Sunday, May 21, but that is subject to change based on the amount of interest.

Cici Curran '20, a member of Choate's Varsity Girls' Soccer Team, was chosen by Ms.

Alexandra Long, Assistant Director of Athletics, to organize the event. Not long ago, Ms. Long sent out an email asking if anyone wanted to help out with the girls' soccer tournament, and Curran took her up on this opportunity. "Soccer is something I'm very passionate about, so I thought I'd give it a try," Curran said.

A student brought up the idea last year and talked to Dean of Students Mr. James Stanley about it. Since then, Ms. Long has been working to launch the initiative, working alongside Curran to plan organization and logistics. They have weekly meetings talking about how to ramp up the appreciation and advertisement of the event, attempting to

draw school-wide attention to the tournament.

Early in the term, an all-school email was sent with an online sign-up sheet for all the girls' dorms who wanted to participate. At first, the opening date was before Long Weekend, but it was moved. Similar to the boys' P-Cup softball tournament, the event will feature soccer competitions between girls dorms, occurring each weekend until a winner is announced. Every dorm that signs up will have all of the girls in that dorm play a game of soccer against another girls' dorm, just like in the boys' President's Cup. The prize for the champions is a pizza mug night.

"It's been hard getting it started, as this is the first year. A lot of people don't understand that it's supposed to be kind of a universal sport, and a lot of people haven't been open to the idea of playing the sport. A lot of people just want to watch the boys' P-Cup instead," Curran said. The initiative has had a bit of a slow start in terms of sign-ups, but there has been talking and discussion with dorm advisers about participation. "We really hope this will work out and more people will sign up," Ms. Long said.

Years ago, there was a Presidents' Cup for every

sport, with participants signing up for any of the competitions within their interest. However, as the tradition developed, participation dwindled, leading to the current P-Cup system as a boys' dorm softball tournament. Introducing a new sport as well as a new gender demographic, the girls' dorm soccer P-Cup aims to strengthen community bonds and provide an entertaining spring activity for many.

**It's been hard getting it started, as this is the first year. A lot of people don't understand that it's supposed to be a universal sport.**

*Cecilia Curran '20*

Curran said, "If this doesn't work out, I just want people to know for next year that this isn't supposed to be super intense — it is supposed to be fun. A lot of people are afraid that they need to be experienced players. Again, soccer is a pretty universal sport, so you shouldn't have to worry about being good to participate."

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## Robotics Receives Teamwork Award

*Continued from Page 1*

last year, the team experienced a few mechanical errors with their robot, which caused them to lose their first three matches. The next day they picked up speed and won four out of five matches. During the last day of competition, they finished with one win and one loss.

Mr. Di Tieri said, "The team performed better than they ever had before. We had some mechanical issues, which unfortunately repeated from last year. However, we've gained a lot

of knowledge on the situation, and hopefully we can avoid it next year."

Mr. Di Tieri concluded, "I'm very proud of the team and what they accomplished this year. I think they've done dramatically better than last year and the years beforehand. I think we're only looking at improvements in the program and the successes that we will have as a robotics team."

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## ALUMNI AWARD TO KRISTEN CLARKE '93

*Continued from Page 1*

Ms. St. James said, "The fact that her class supported her, that she had such a big impact, was inspiring in itself."

On the award's importance, Ms. St. James commented, "I think that for students, who are here for up to four years, it's important to realize that what one does at Choate impacts his or her entire life-long career, and that each individual is part of a larger Choate network."

In her presentation, Ms. Clarke asserted that she was clearly influenced by her Choate career. In addition, Ms. Clarke is one of many who remains part of the perpetual

"Choate network" and has the ability to inspire the rest of the community through his or her own fields of work.

Above all, Ms. Clarke was a fitting candidate for the annual alumni award. She conveyed a powerful message to students and showed how one's Choate experience can have a major impact on his or her life. Her passion and dedication in her work has allowed her to hold a prestigious and important position in her field of work, and Choate was proud to recognize her for her achievements.

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Photo courtesy of Springtown High School

A soccer ball patiently awaits the start of the girls' P-cup.

## Spring CLI Trains Incoming Leaders

By **Se Ri Lee '19**  
Reporter

Newly elected C-Proctors, returning and new members of the Assessment Team, and Peer Educator Committee attended a day-long conference to develop and hone leadership skills for the upcoming school year. This conference, the third Choate Leadership Institute (CLI), was held this past Monday, May 1, in Getz Auditorium.

Mr. Will Morris, the associate Dean of Students and Director of Residential Life, organizes CLI. He explained that CLI is an opportunity for selected and elected student leaders to “develop empathy” and “to promote self-awareness among leaders.” Various indoor and outdoor activities, designed to accommodate these purposes, ranged from simple introductions and greetings to physical activities building trust.

CLI takes place four times a year: late August, late April, early May, and late May. Various leadership associations were assigned to one of these four training sessions based on similarities in leadership roles and the timing of the election or selection process. The training session in late August is designed specifically for new prefects to prepare them for the New Student Orientation Program, which occurs in early September. The session held in late April trains Student Council officers and Judicial Committee representatives, elected in February and April respectively, on school policies and communication skills. The final CLI of the school year, planned for new athletic team captains, takes place shortly after the results for captainship are finalized. C-Proctors, Peer Educators, and Assessment Team members, who attended the most recent CLI, were grouped together because of their mutual responsibilities in taking care of the community.

Sabastian Chacon '19, rising fifth-form Judicial Committee representative and C-Proctor, attended both the session in April and early May. Chacon described the days as being “fun and insightful.” He continued, “As a Judicial Committee representative, it is crucial to have listening and critical thinking skills. The CLI trained me in these skills through activities that encouraged people to initiate conversations and diligently listen to others.”

Some activities, according to Mr. Morris, required student leaders “to select ways to represent what they understood.” Other activities helped students “understand their own roles and responsibilities as leaders.”

Chacon explained, “In one of the projects we did in April, each leadership group was asked to create artifacts that represented what it hoped to accomplish next school year and how it viewed itself as a group. The Judicial Committee composed a rap to the song “Mask Off,” by Future, and the Student Council created a timelapse of its members drawing on the whiteboard.”

Commenting on this same activity, Ananya Karanam '18, the Student Council Secretary, said, “I think it was really interesting to see how distinct aspects of Student Council and the JC were apparent in the way we approached this activity.”

Chacon also explained an activity done last Monday called Ponias and Chispas. “We were divided into two groups of people, each modeling a type of society. One group resembled a matriarchy — more reserved and formal, with their women being the mediators for men and the only ones talking to women from other cultures. The other group did not have this kind of gender divide, was more informal, and were always willing to initiate conversation.”

CLI was also a time for students to get to know each other and meet new people. Samantha Stevenson '19, a newly admitted member of the Assessment Team, said, “I enjoyed meeting my fellow members on Assessment Team. We collaborated on various activities that were helpful team-building exercises.”

However, the CLI for Student Council and Judicial Committee felt more divided. According to Tommy Wachtell '19, “During the day, Student Council and the Judicial Committee were separate, often competing against each other in healthy competition. I wish we worked together more as a cohesive unit. If this were done, collaboration between the SC and the JC could spark, and possibly start to take place outside of CLI; And legitimate impactful change should occur from this co-operation.”

Baji Tumendemberel '18, a new member of the Judicial Committee, said, “CLI was a great opportunity for student leaders to meet each other in a casual setting, but the actual activities were a bit abstract.”

Clark Devoto '18, who attended the most recent CLI as a C-proctor, agreed, saying “Although it certainly felt well organized and managed, and gave us general instructions on leadership, I felt that it should have been more specified towards the roles that students are pursuing.”

Overall, the activities organized by Mr. Morris received positive feedback from the student leaders, and the CLI was a memorable and worthwhile experience for many who have attended. Wachtell concluded, “I enjoyed CLI. A host of basic aspects that come with being a leader, such as social skills, problem analysis, and teamwork are stressed throughout the day. Additionally, we are also reminded that voicing your opinions and representing the student body is just as important as listening to them. It is easy for us as leaders to forget our task and roles on campus, CLI reminds us to stay on track right from the get go.”

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## KEC Wins Prestigious Architectural Award



Photo courtesy of Peter Aaron Architectural Photography

The Kohler Environmental Center, a leading environmental research and education center, opened in 2011.

By **Pinn Chirathivat '19**  
Staff Reporter

The home of Choate’s cutting-edge environmental research and education program, the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC), was awarded the 2017 AIA/CAE Educational Facility Design Award of Excellence by the American Institute of Architects on Wednesday, April 26. AIA’s awards committee chair wrote in a letter, “If you believe, as I do, that how we build reflects our deepest values and in turn shapes those who engage with our work, I cannot think of a more important project type. You touch the lives of young people. What a responsibility, but what a privilege and honor.”

**The award also considers how the structure meets the needs of the program.**

Mr. Joseph Scanio  
KEC Program Director

The KEC, a 31,325-square foot academic and residential center, designed to attain LEED Platinum certification and net-zero energy usage, has enhanced the educational experience for Choate students,

especially those interested in conservation and environmental science. Associate Headmaster Ms. Kathleen Wallace said, “Some schools build environmentally responsible buildings; some schools teach environmental responsibility. At Choate Rosemary Hall, the KEC brings these two objectives together.”

The Award of Excellence recognizes architectural designs that create state-of-the-art learning environments. The KEC demonstrates outstanding practices in the major facets of educational facility design. It integrates the functional needs and aesthetic details of the building, while respecting the surrounding environment. Mr. Joe Scanio, the KEC’s Program Director, said, “What is special about this award is that it is not just for the structure of the building; the award also considers how the structure meets the needs of the program.”

Winning the well-renowned award offers an opportunity for the KEC to be nationally recognized. Ms. Wallace said, “I am thrilled that the KEC won this award. I believe that it is truly an amazing award.”

The Saturday after the award was given, Mr. Graham Wyatt and Mr. Kevin Smith, two partners of Robert A.M.

Stern Architects, along with Mr. Scanio and Ms. Wallace, attended a reception as part of the American Institute of Architects’ National Convention in Orlando, Fla. Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Smith, Mr. Scanio, and Ms. Wallace held a presentation regarding the facilities and goals of this environmental project. Mr. Scanio explained, “We hope that the KEC’s receiving of this award will inspire other architects and schools to build similar structures. This will help to spread beautiful and sustainable architecture throughout the educational community.”

One hundred percent of the building’s energy is generated from a 294-kilowatt photovoltaic array, solar panels, and waste cooking oil. Mr. Wyatt said, “When Choate approached our firm about the design of a net-zero, LEED Platinum environmental center, their project mission was clear.”

Located in 268 acres of agricultural, second-growth forest and wetland east of the Choate campus, the KEC allows students to explore the land’s natural habitats and ecosystem. Ms. Wallace said, “The land, after all, is our largest classroom and laboratory.” Conducting research in laboratories and growing plants year-

round in a computer controlled greenhouse grants unlimited opportunities for students to pursue intensive environmental study and research. Ms. Wallace continued, “We implemented an environmental program that is itself environmentally sustainable and does not exacerbate the environmental impact of the school.”

**The land, after all, is our largest classroom and laboratory.**

Ms. Kathleen Wallace  
Associate Headmaster

The architects established an energy budget based on known user behaviors and characteristics of high-efficiency building systems. The KEC is designed to have natural light ventilation, as well as a highly effective building envelope. The solar panels optimize the building’s performances, while the monitoring system encourages students to exercise individual and collective initiative to minimize their energy consumption.

Pinn Chirathivat may be reached at [pchirathivat19@choate.edu](mailto:pchirathivat19@choate.edu)

## One Man's Trash, Another Man's Fashion

By **Owen Collins '19**  
Copy Editor

During the midday conference block on Friday, April 21, a major commotion in the Dining Hall had many captivated. Tables were moved to the sides, and students could be seen strutting down the massive aisle in colorful, unusual garments for the annual Trashion Show, organized by the C-Proctors.

In this conservation-focused fashion show, designers use recycled materials to create the outfits and accessories that their models wear. Students can sign up and have the choice of either designing their own outfit or having a friend model their work. Head C-Proctor Calliope Angeletti '17 said, “The rules are that you can only use recycled materials that have been used in some way. It’s basically straight from the recycling bin.”

The show had upwards of ten models, each with their own unique pieces to showcase. The show saw tissue boxes for shoes, graded tests as part of a dress, and other clever designs. Each person won a specific award, ranging from best accessories to “Ready for Paris.” The overall

winner of the event was Amy Hagan-Brown '18, who sported pizza box shorts, a water bottle-adorned sombrero, and a cereal box tie designed by Mirialie De Jesus '18.

**People make really crazy stuff that doesn't have to be that aesthetically pleasing.**

Emilia Furlo '17

However, the experience was not just about the results. Designer Emilia Furlo '17 commented, “People make really crazy stuff that doesn’t have to be that aesthetically pleasing. I think people more appreciate the creative aspect than the final product.”

The show allowed for a mix of ideas between fashion and recycling. Angeletti explained, “It’s a creative and enjoyable way to get the word out there to recycle, and also with fashion, to show the interesting alternatives that are coming out.”

Designers were able to express themselves however they pleased in a stress-free environment, which was a nice change for many. On making her dress, Furlo said, “It’s a

fun way to make an easy outfit because it’s much less intensive than making and sewing an actual piece.”

The models also took advantage of the relaxed atmosphere of the event. Mpilo Norris '18, who danced his way down the runway, said, “You see all these people watching you, and you could be boring and just walk down and walk back, but I was like, ‘Let me have fun with this.’” The fun certainly radiated outward, with onlookers entertained by the students going up and down the middle of the Dining Hall.

The students and their outfits may have stolen the show, but Mr. Gary Lynch, Choate’s Dining Hall Monitor and one of the judges, turned some heads with his outfit. He donned a vest, cape, and hat made of water bottles.

Mr. Lynch had no shortage of fun judging the show, commenting, “The imagination to me was just phenomenal.” He added, “There wasn’t just one enjoyable part of it — it was the whole thing from start to finish.”

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Photo by Anne Miles Demott

Trashion Show models line up in preparation for their runway debut.

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# THE CHOATE NEWS



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## “WILL” To “MAY”: A SIMPLE EDIT FOR THE DRUG POLICY



Photo courtesy of Paper Masters

A change in the language of the drug policy would prevent unjust punishment, according to The Popular Front.

By **The Popular Front**  
*Opinions Writer*

In its Statement of Expectations, Choate demands that the members of its community “cultivate compassion and seek to serve others, both within and beyond Choate.” Unfortunately, Choate’s policy on drug abuse, which decrees that the “purchase, manufacture, possession, distribution, or use of illegal drugs (such as marijuana, cocaine, and steroids) will lead to immediate dismissal,” is neither compassionate nor in the service of others.

The hypocrisy of this policy lies in one word: *will*. Sure, Choate must look after the students under its care, but the inflexibility of its drug policy belies the empathy that the school elsewhere heralds. It seeks to punish with no attempt to understand.

This zero-tolerance policy fails to recognize the fundamental difference between a student who makes a foolish mistake and one who threatens Choate’s “healthy academic and social environment.” Worse, the draconian policy is also archaic. The 1980s, the era of Choate’s shameful cocaine scandal, saw an increase in zero-tolerance policies against drug use, which eliminate a school’s freedom to review disciplinary options case by case, and instead mandate expulsion for a single offense. That was thirty years ago.

The cocaine scandal of 1984 directly resulted in this rule change: The student handbook for the 1983-1984 school year reads, “Possession or use of any controlled drugs ... *could* result in immediate dismissal.” The following school year, the handbook was updated to read, “Possession,

sale or use of controlled drugs, and abuse of any other chemicals and possession or use of drug paraphernalia result in immediate dismissal.” The use of the word *could* is a small but important distinction that allowed the administration to effectively consider context, intention, severity of offense, and a number of other factors when deliberating their disciplinary verdict. The change made in the 1984-85 school year removed this ability, forcing the administration’s response to such offenses to be entirely stringent. Choate’s rule change seems to have been inspired by reasons beyond a simple concern for student health.

Zero-tolerance policies follow the unsubstantiated belief that, by removing students who are felt to be problems, a school generates a safer, more focused environ-

ment. But, according to a report published in 2013 by the independent Vera Institute of Justice, “no studies show that an increase in out-of-school suspension and expulsion reduces disruption in the classroom and some evidence suggests the opposite effect.” Moreover, there is no statistical correlation between the “overall success” of schools and their commitment to zero tolerance.

Let’s look at Choate’s peer schools. Neither Groton, Andover, Exeter, nor Deerfield have zero-tolerance policies on drugs. Loomis Chaffee has perhaps one of the most progressive policies on drug abuse, providing counseling and drug education to students found to be using illicit substances. Reformed drug policy does not inevitably lead to the moral disintegration of a prep school.

The school needn’t immediately rewrite its policy on drug abuse. But why not turn that *will* into a *may*? “Any purchase, manufacture, possession, distribution, or use of illegal drugs ...*may* lead to immediate dismissal.” We simply believe that the lives of students could be substantially improved by a simple change in language. That seems a good place to start.

**The Popular Front**, a leaderless student collective, is comprised of six members of the Class of 2018: Noah Hermes de Boor, Palmer Hudson, Tristan Jamidar, Esteban Mogollon, Baji Tumendemberel, and Dani Zanuttini-Frank. It may be reached at [popularfrontfp@gmail.com](mailto:popularfrontfp@gmail.com)

## 13 REASONS WHY NOT

By **Alyssa Shin '18**  
*Copy Editor*

Welcome to your tape. This cryptic line has circulated among teenagers and decorated the top of countless memes since *13 Reasons Why* debuted. Although the news and attention surrounding the Netflix original show seems to have recently spiked, the web television series launched with much anticipation. Not only is the show a visual rendering of Jay Asher’s best-selling novel, but it was also created with Selena Gomez as executive producer.

When I logged into my friend’s Netflix account, my eyes landed on *13 Reasons Why*, which graced the top banner of the website. Recognizing the title, I had a vague memory of reading the first few chapters of the book and never finishing it. Jay Asher’s book captures the life of Hannah Baker, a high school student that commits suicide and leaves seven double-sided tapes for her classmates and teachers about why she decided to give up her life. Intrigued by the concept, I fell into the trap and clicked on the first episode.

While I cannot assess the fidelity of the show to the original book, as I never finished reading the novel, I can attest to the entertainment value of the show. Not only have I watched the show myself, but I have also heard many of my peers discuss it. I have even seen people watch the show in the Lanphier Cafe,

drowning out the real world to indulge in that of Hannah Baker.

While the acclaim of Jay Asher’s book raised my expectations for the show, they were not met. First of all, I found the high school portrayed and the interactions that took place in it highly unrealistic and stereotypical. For example, when Hannah senses that Tyler, a photography geek, is stalking and taking photos of her, she promptly invites her new friend Courtney, the “popular” student council representative, to sleep over and catch the perpetrator. Their grand plan was to shine a flashlight on the mysterious stalker. Teenagers act in inexplicable ways sometimes, but I could not believe that the only option that she even entertained was catching and confronting the stalker herself, armed with a flashlight.

It also concerned me that I was able to forget so easily that Hannah Baker had taken her own life. The primary objective of the show is to depict depression as painful and suicide as an option that can be avoided. However, with never-ending conflicts between parents, teachers, and students, and cliffhangers at the end of every episode, I was more focused on watching the next episode and seeing the shocking events unfold, rather than how Hannah was getting help or how she could be handling these situations. Part of the blame can be placed on one of the main themes of the show: revenge. This theme carries on until the end of the

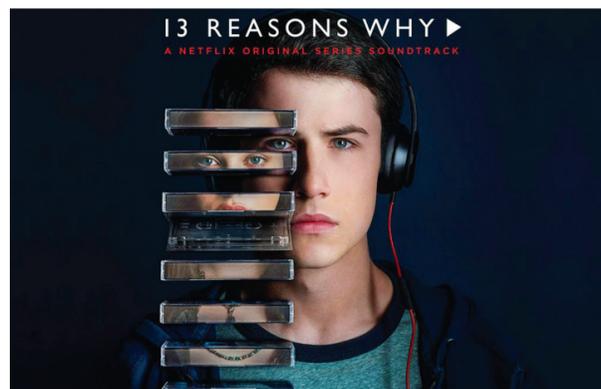


Photo courtesy of The Odyssey Online

An image promoting the Netflix show *13 Reasons Why*.

show, when Clay is vengeful on Hannah’s behalf.

Justice for Hannah and punishing the offenders was important, but I was disappointed to see that in the process, the focus was shifted away from providing support for rape victims, better counseling for students, or spreading awareness about suicide prevention. The theme of vengeance makes the concept of suicide palatable to the viewer and eclipses many pressing issues in the series. After every episode, I had to remind myself why she even made the tapes: She was explaining the tortuous events of her life that led to her paying the ultimate price. By portraying her “reasons why” as a puzzle and prompting viewers to piece it together before the show ends, *13 Reasons Why* merely capitalizes on the opportunity to bring

in a profit; instead, it should be capitalizing on the opportunity to emphasize the issues of mental health. The very appeal of the show contradicts its objective.

Despite its obvious shortcomings in its first season, the show has a chance at redemption. On May 7, given the attention the debut of the show received, Netflix announced that a second season would be released. This is a second chance for the producers to depict teenagers and the struggles of depression accurately; I hope that the producers take this opportunity to work more closely with professionals and students to shed light on the struggles of teen depression.

**Alyssa Shin** is a fifth former from Seoul, South Korea and may be reached at [ashin18@choate.edu](mailto:ashin18@choate.edu)

## CORRECTIONS

**NEWS**  
A caption misspelled Jonathan Joei’s name on page two.

Jackson Elkins, a visuals contributor, was misspelled on page one.

An article last week inadvertently mentioned that Richard Bershtein '20 is a member of the Maiyeros; he is a member of the Kaprophones.

**SPORTS**  
Last week’s field report reported an incorrect score for Boys Volleyball; the correct score was 0-3 in a loss against Exeter.

Last week’s field report colored “Girls’ Water Polo” red, which should have been green after a win against Hotchkiss.

Last week’s field report reported a score for Boys’ Lacrosse incorrectly; the correct score was 14-5 in a win against Albany Academy.

The Choate News regrets these errors.

To submit a correction, email [thechoatenews@choate.edu](mailto:thechoatenews@choate.edu)

## President Trump Will Not Let Girls Learn

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

One of the most inspiring role models for young women in America, including myself, is undoubtedly former First Lady Michelle Obama. She is the epitome of strength, intelligence, eloquence, and so many more remarkable qualities — making her the quintessential First Lady. However, recently, President Donald Trump P'oo has attempted to tarnish her legacy by deciding to end two of Mrs. Obama's most prominent initiatives: Let Girls Learn and healthy school lunch regulations.

Last Monday, CNN revealed a document showcasing an email sent from the Peace Corps' Director Sheila Crowley to her employees. This email explained that the Peace Corps "will not continue to use the 'Let Girls Learn' brand or maintain a stand-alone program." However, hours after, the White House denied making any changes to the program.

The Let Girls Learn initiative was established by the Obamas in March of 2015 to spread awareness about educational disadvantages for girls worldwide, especially in developing countries. According to the website for the program, Let Girls Learn "encourages community-led solutions by empowering local leaders to put lasting solutions in place." With the kidnapping of 276 female Nigerian students taking place during the previous year, Let Girls Learn

*The prospect of dismantling Let Girls Learn is utterly mystifying.*

captivated the nation and became a symbolic brand of hope.

The prospect of dismantling Let Girls Learn is utterly mystifying — why would anyone want to get rid of a program that works towards creating a more equitable world? After all, educating more young girls is not

simply a "liberal" cause — it is (or at least, should be) a bipartisan issue with support from legislators across the political and social spectrums. Any attempt to undo this progress towards female education in impoverished countries is unjust and reactionary.

Furthermore, discontinuing Mrs. Obama's school lunch regulations is a step backwards on the path towards a healthier America. As many know, Mrs. Obama championed a program known as Let's Move, which encourages children to exercise and eat healthily to reduce childhood obesity. The campaign included the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which stipulated that federally provided school lunches decrease in sodium, fat, and calories and increase in whole grains, non-fat milk, vegetables, and fruit.

While the program is more expensive than giving fish sticks and chocolate milk to students every day, it is the right choice for the wellbeing of all American children. Because so many students depend on school lunches

as their main (or only) source of daily nutrition, they must be provided with the proper components of a healthy diet. Currently, approximately one-third of American children and teenagers are overweight; adjusting school lunch menus is the first step to reducing this statistic.

Although some may say that serving 1% milk instead of non-fat or increasing sodium levels in food is not going to make much of a difference, anyone making this assumption needs to focus on the big picture: This decision is the first of many more drastic ones that will likely be made. Additionally, the children eating these meals are developing lifelong eating habits, and starting their education by reinforcing unhealthy choices will only increase the number of overweight Americans.

Is initiating this chain reaction worth spending a little less money every year? Is the health of our nation's future leaders worth the government adding another few billion dollars to the overfunded national budget? For me, the answer is no.

Unfortunately, these important decisions often go unnoticed. Most Americans are aware of big changes in major issues such as health care or taxes, but many forget or don't notice these seemingly small choices.

Ultimately, these minor decisions will add up. The budget adjustments and underpublicized discontinuation of education programs will eventually cause gradual but major effects on our country. Now is the time to educate ourselves on the administration's decisions, no matter how insignificant they may seem. While we certainly should call our representatives about the big issues, we should also call them about the small ones. In the end, changing decisions such as the elimination of the Let Girls Learn program and stripping of lunch regulations will have a momentous impact on the future of the United States.

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



**Donald J. Trump** @realDonaldTrump

The Russia-Trump collusion story is a total hoax, when will this taxpayer funded charade end?



**Hillary Clinton** @HillaryClinton

Victory for Macron, for France, the EU, & the world. Defeat to those interfering w/democracy. (But the media says I can't talk about that)



**Emmanuel Macron** @EmmanuelMacron

Vous avez choisi l'audace. Nous continuerons à porter l'audace. C'est ce que le monde attend de nous !



**Marine Le Pen** @MLP\_officiel

"Je le félicite de son élection, et parce que j'ai à cœur l'intérêt supérieur du pays, je lui souhaite de réussir." #Presidentielle2017



**Bernie Sanders** @BernieSanders

The Republican "health care" bill is a disaster. It has nothing to do with health care and everything to do with tax breaks for the wealthy.



**Tomi Lahren** @TomiLahren

Nowhere in the Constitution does it say, taxpayers shall pay for other people's healthcare. Just saying. #healthcare



**Michael S. Schmidt** @nytmike

WH and DOJ had been working on firing Comey since at least last week. Sessions had been working to come up with reasons.



**Evan McMullin** @Evan\_McMullin

Trump's firing of Comey seriously jeopardizes the only credible investigation of Trump/Russia currently being conducted by the government.

## Too Many Allegations: Why Fox Had to Fire O'Reilly

By **Siri Palreddy '20**  
*Opinions Writer*

Although workplace harassment is a phenomenon that should have been left in the Madmen era, it is unfortunately still present in this day and age. As announced on April 19, Mr. Bill O'Reilly was fired from his position of host of *The O'Reilly Factor*, a top-rated cable show on the conservative channel, Fox News. Reportedly, the decision to fire Mr. O'Reilly came from the Murdoch family, who own 21st Century Fox, the parent company of Fox News. After observing the multiple testimonies of harassment and mounting public outrage against Mr. O'Reilly, the network made the conclusion that he must be fired.

However, while firing Mr. O'Reilly was the right decision for Fox to make, it did not necessarily stem from the most noble motivations. The choice was not made purely out of moral obligation, but mostly the desire to maintain the network's reputation.

If Fox News was truly concerned about Mr. O'Reilly's inappropriate behavior, they would have fired him as soon as they became aware of his reputation of abuse. However, this was not the case. Even after five settlements against Mr. O'Reilly were made, Fox News continued to defend his position at the network. Eventually, female activists and protesters took to opposing the Fox News corporation, and more women from Fox News were encouraged to come out with their sexual harassment allegations.

The stories of Mr. O'Reilly's victims were all similar — he had made inappropriate advances upon each of them, and once a



Bill O'Reilly sits at his desk on the set of his former television show, *The O'Reilly Factor*.

settlement was reached, the women weren't allowed to talk about their experience legally. However, many of these stories did not come to light until Emily Steel, a 33 year old journalist from *The New York Times*, exposed them to the public. Ms. Steel published an article on April 1, 2017, revealing that five women had settled with Fox News over allegations of harassment against Mr. O'Reilly. Additionally, Ms. Steel revealed the experiences of these women — the most high-profile being Wendy Walsh, a former host of a segment on Mr. O'Reilly's show. Ms. Walsh stated that O'Reilly had at first taken her to dinner,

and then inappropriately suggested that Ms. Walsh come to his suite. After she declined, Ms. Walsh recounted to ABC News, "All his charming-ness went away, and he said the words, 'You can forget all the business advice I gave you, you're on your own.'"

Stunningly, Ms. Walsh's horrifying story was only one of five cases brought to the public's attention. Recently, as more allegations have come forward, more of the affected women have found the courage to share their experiences. In late April, Perquita Burgess revealed that she too had been harassed by Mr. O'Reilly. In an on-air interview, she recount-

ed that Mr. O'Reilly would grunt at her when she was at her desk and take longer route to his destination just to pass by her. Ms. Burgess additionally stated that O'Reilly would call her "hot chocolate," a phrase both racially and sexually offensive.

Clearly, the Fox News corporation had known about Mr. O'Reilly's pattern of sexual harassment for a long time, but only chose to act under the pressure of media attention. This decision reveals the immorality of Fox — they were only willing to act against injustice when overwhelmingly urged to do so. Although the

network did dole out settlements to some of Mr. O'Reilly's victims, this financial compensation is not enough to make up for his abusive behavior. The only way for the network to make things right was to fire Mr. O'Reilly — which, albeit for the wrong reasons, it thankfully did. Hopefully, the removal of Mr. O'Reilly serves as a catalyst for other prominent corporations to depose their own employees guilty of sexual harassment.

*Siri Palreddy is a third former from Avon, Conn. She may be reached at spalreddy20@choate.edu*

## WHY AMERICANS ARE MARCHING TO SAVE THE PLANET

By **Alex Coletti '20**  
*Opinions Writer*

While scientists have proven that the global temperature of the earth is changing, there still remains skepticism as to whether production of fossil fuels is escalating the global warming process. Scientists have discovered evidence suggesting that humans are increasing the effects of global warming, and they have also taken action against further use of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas. Although their efforts to increase awareness for the climate change issue have been relatively fruitful, their attempt to produce environmental-friendly policy change within the government has been less successful.

In order to combat this disconnect, environmentalists are attempting to raise awareness of this issue through marches, protests, and petitions. However, since the election of President Donald Trump P'oo, things have become more complicated for the environmental community.

Since the turn of the century, many organizations such as 350.org, The People's Climate Movement, and IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) have been fighting against the use of fos-



Protestors demonstrate at the People's Climate March in Washington, D.C., on April 29.

sil fuels, and they have used scientific evidence to support their cause. One example is a *National Geographic* study that found that by the summer of 2040, there will be no ice left in the Arctic Ocean. Although there is clear evidence that the earth's climate is changing, little had been

done about the steady increase in global temperature until former President Barack Obama released his climate action plan in June 2013. His plan imposed regulations on the emissions of greenhouse gases, which greatly reduced the overall release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Thus, companies had to resort to other methods to create energy that were within Mr. Obama's climate action plan, such as solar and wind power, both of which harm the environment less than oil and coal. Before Mr. Obama's plan, the United States was responsible for 80% of the total amount

of fossil fuel consumed every year — however, since it was implemented, that amount has decreased.

Recently, America's current President Trump P'oo has dismantled Mr. Obama's climate action plan, leaving companies with the capability to produce unlimited fossil fuel.

Additionally, he has permitted the production of the Dakota Access Pipeline — a 1,172-mile oil pipe stretching from North Dakota to Illinois. This pipeline will endanger animals, as well as harm the environment. The Obama administration declined to build this pipeline, but now Mr. Trump has signed an executive order demanding its production.

These actions have left environmentalists and concerned citizens angry with Mr. Trump. Already, hundreds of people have gathered in North Dakota and marched to show their resentment for the production of the pipeline. Furthermore, on the 100th day of Mr. Trump's presidency, more than 300,000 people across the country joined together in a powerful movement against climate change.

This global movement must continue in order to pressure politicians to support environmental legislation. However, marches alone will not be enough to prevent any further climate effects. People within the government need to take action and prevent the increasing temperature of the earth. Otherwise, the destruction of Earth will be inevitable.

*Alex Coletti is a third former from Madison, Conn. He may be reached at dcoletti20@choate.edu*

## RAISED ON CAMPUS, FACULTY CHILDREN REFLECT

By **Christine Mason '19**  
Copy Editor

The average Choate student remains on campus for four years. For faculty children, the duration can be much longer — living in Wallingford for, say, eighteen years before leaving the Choate community. Because of their many years on campus, faculty children have an evolving perspective on Choate as a community, a school, and a home.

Eben Cook '18, son of English teachers Mr. Cyrus Cook and Ms. Megan Shea, fondly remembers his time growing up at Choate. He said, "I miss the days of playing wall ball outside of the Dining Hall, sitting in my dad's office in Humanities when my parents had department meetings, and attending school musicals that felt like I was on Broadway."

Cook vividly remembers watching and playing sports during his childhood, waiting to be part of a Choate sports team. He said, "Having a free gym at my fingertips has given me a place to play basketball. In fact, many of my fondest memories of my pre-student life at Choate have occurred on that wood court." He joked, "As a pre-teen five-foot-tall middle schooler, I never thought I would be invited by Choate students to play pickup games with them. Although I certainly could not compete with them physically, those seemingly insignificant games at the top have made me a more competitive player."

In addition to enjoying the school's facilities, faculty kids also have relationships with a variety of teachers on campus. Abigail Chang '19, daughter of biology teacher Mr. Deron Chang, remarked, "Teachers treat you differently as a faculty kid. Before you've been in class, they know who you are as a person and feel like they understand you already." Cook agreed, "I

have a network of high school students and faculty around me 24/7. It's definitely an advantage, as now I feel comfortable engaging adults in conversation on campus."

On the other hand, there are sometimes drawbacks of being a faculty kid. Chang explained, "When other students find out that I'm 'Chang's daughter,' they expect me to be like my dad." Sam Curtis '20, son of Headmaster Dr. Alex Curtis, remarked on the attention he receives due to his father's position on campus. Specifically, he noted people's stares whenever Dr. Curtis gives a speech to the Choate community. Curtis laughed, "I mean, I know that he's my dad. It's like people want you to be embarrassed about it."

**Teachers treat you differently as a faculty kid. Before you've been in class, they know who you are as a person and feel like they understand you.**

Abigail Chang '19

Although officially considered day students, faculty students have the unique opportunity to live on campus in faculty apartments. Regarding the difference, Chang described her experience as "the same life as other Choate students, but with fewer rules." Likewise, Curtis expressed gratitude for "the best of both worlds," reaping the benefits of both day and boarding life.

For faculty kids, the convenience of having an on-campus location without having to abide by boarders' rules proves to be an ideal combination. Cook summarized the experience: "Growing up on this campus has been a blessing for me."

**Christine Mason** may be reached at [cmason19@choate.edu](mailto:cmason19@choate.edu)

## Students Push for Change at People's Climate March



Holding a handmade sign, Baji Tumendemberel '18 advocates for environmental change.

By **Riley Choi '18**  
Staff Reporter

Many enjoyed the hot, sunny day on Saturday, April 29, while the People's Climate March surged in Washington D.C. Held on the hundredth day of President Donald Trump's presidency, the protest voiced against the Trump administration's many controversial environmental policies including the defunding of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). At the march, thousands gathered to advocate "climate, jobs, and justice." Many in the Choate community were among them.

The first People's Climate March was held on September 21, 2014, in New York City, along with a series of sister marches worldwide. The founder of climate advocacy website 350.org, Mr. Bill McKibben, organized the march and started planning the march as early as May 2014 as a response (but not a protest) to the U.N. Climate Summit in New York City. According to Mr. McKibben, the march served as "an invitation to change everything," and over 1,500 organizations — including both international and

national environmental organizations, churches, schools, and communities — and over 600,000 people participated.

**One of the things said during the march is that young people are not the future; they are the present.**

Elise Hummel '18

This year's People's Climate March hosted over 200,000 people in D.C. with tens of thousands more taking part at over 370 sister marches across the country. The participants ranged from students fighting for environmental justice to Iraq veterans supporting a clean environment. The rest included labor activists, indigenous people facing severe ramifications of climate change and harmful legislation such as the reopening of the Dakota Access Pipeline, and children and young people who will live with the effects of climate change as long as the Earth continues to warm. Unlike the march in 2014, this year's march consisted of protests against specific policies and executive orders enacted

by the Trump administration.

The march in D.C. began at sunrise with a water ceremony led by indigenous people, including Cheyenne River Sioux tribal members who traveled 1,536 miles by bus from South Dakota. In the opening press conference, representatives from various communities directly impacted by climate change and pollution voiced their concerns regarding the Trump administration's actions. They spoke about the potential of new renewable energy economy that could help low-income and people of color communities, who are often the victims of climate change.

The event was led by young people of color and indigenous leaders across the country as they marched for over 20 blocks down Pennsylvania. Art was on full display during the march. Posters read, "Like the Sea Level, We Rise," "Indigenous Rights = Climate Justice," and "There Is No Planet B." Some groups held sunflowers, a symbol of climate justice community, while others raised their fists.

Passionate about social justice and environmental activism, Elsa Rose Farnam '18 and her parents rented a van to participate in the Climate

March in D.C., taking several other Choate students with her. They stayed at a hotel in D.C. the night before the march and attended the march all day the day after. Farnam has been actively involved in environmentalism, attending the People's Climate March in New York City in 2014 and participating in the Environmental Immersion Program at the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC) this year.

Farnam attended the march to raise awareness of the environmental conflicts surrounding us. "Climate change is an important and serious issue," Farnam said. "The only way to fix it is getting into the streets, protesting, and acknowledging that it'll require a lot of help from various communities to solve it."

Elise Hummel '18, another student at the KEC, attended the march in D.C. with Farnam. Hummel attended the march to show the world that climate change is a real issue that affects many people around the world. "The march was very inspiring," Hummel commented. "It was great to see so many people with the same ideas and values as I do." Hummel added that she hopes the march shines light on complicated issues surrounding climate change and the urgent need for youth participation.

Grayce Gibbs '18 felt that the march was an important way to exercise her dedication to environmental issues. Gibbs, who attended with Hummel and Farnam, described, "I went to the march for two main reasons. First, selfishly, I had never been to a protest before, and this sounded like a lot of fun. A van trip to DC to march for the planet was hard to pass up. The other reason I went was because I think taking an active role in your government is incredibly important. I wanted to show the current administration that climate change is not an issue they can ignore."

Hummel commented, "One of the things said during the march is that young people are not the future; they are the present. It's up to us to make changes in the world now."

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## INSIDE MR. VENTRE'S OFFICE

By **Mark Su '18**  
Reporter

Mr. Phil Ventre, a music teacher and conductor of the Choate Symphony Orchestra and the Wallingford Orchestra, has inspired myriad students in his 47 years at Choate. His office, tucked away in the basement of the Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC), displays nuanced details of a vibrant legacy.

The office sits near the PMAC Concert Hall, where Mr. Ventre assists growing musicians in orchestra almost every day of the week. The space is filled with posters, keepsakes, and photos, granting observers the opportunity to explore.

Regarding his musical legacy, Mr. Ventre pointed to a black-and-white photo of an orchestra. He explained, "I come from a very rich musical heritage. Since 1930, my father has played in the Radio City Music Orchestra, and all of his four brothers are musicians too. One is a violinist, one is a clarinetist, one is a conductor, and the last one is a pianist — people call him the Eddy Duchin of Boston."

Behind the door hangs a Bermuda flag, which Mr. Ventre and his jazz ensemble earned after winning first place in a music competition in the country. Rows of trophies fill the shelves, displaying the first place awards from the All-Northeast Jazz Competition, as well as from the Connecticut College Music Festival.

Though limited in space, Mr. Ventre's office presents a variety of gifts from his former students, family, and friends. On the shelves sit two humorous keepsakes: the statue of a conducting Yoda and a black-and-white conducting penguin. Motioning to the penguin figurine, Mr. Ventre joked, "Why do penguins conduct? Because they are always dressed to perform!"

On Mr. Ventre's desk sits a dotted alarm clock that mimics the mooing of the cow, a gift from a friend. Mr. Ventre added, "The man who gave me this was the one who invented the



Photo by Helena Yang/The Choate News

Mr. Ventre's office displays artifacts from his 47 years at Choate.

Number One Foam Finger that people wear in games."

Pointing to a dark hat on the top of the shelf, Mr. Ventre said, "Since I'm an orchestral conductor, one of my best friends in China wittily gave me a conductor's hat from the Beijing underground subway as a gift." After he began conducting in China in 1998, Mr. Ventre developed an international career, bringing the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra to China in 2000. Later, when Japan suffered from a devastating tsunami in 2011, the Choate orchestra organized concerts in a series titled "Music for Japan" and raised more than \$10,000.

Choate students who embarked on the 2012 Symphony Orchestra trip to China summarized Mr. Ventre's teachings on one t-shirt, displayed on his office wall. The shirt, a collective gift from the orchestra, states, "Nothing 'Ventred' Nothing Learned."

Mr. Ventre's profound impact on his colleagues is exemplified by his numerous and varied recognitions. In 2011, Mr. Ventre won the Teacher Recognition Award from the U.S. National Scholar Program. Mr. Ventre was also nominated for the Grammy in the Schools Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in the music industry. Tarn T. Granucci included Mr. Ventre in his book *Legendary Locals of Wallingford*, citing

his impact on the community. Freddy Cole, the leader of the distinguished jazz ensemble Freddy Cole Quartet, has also performed with the Choate Rosemary Hall Orchestra under Mr. Ventre's conducting.

Moving busily from one interest to the next, it's fitting that Mr. Ventre also shares a great passion for cars. Pointing to miniature car models on his desk, he said, "When I was in middle school, the house next to mine had a car in its garage that I had never seen before. One day, when I had enough courage to ask the owner about the strange-looking car, he told me that he served in the military force in Germany and fell in love with Porsche, so he brought one back." Mr. Ventre now drives a Porsche and displays the miniature models on his desk.

Outside of these interests, Mr. Ventre is also an avid fan of basketball. He said, "In high school, I was the power-forward, and my best friend was the center; he was six-seven. Local newspapers sent a photographer to take our picture because we were very tall."

Looking at Mr. Ventre's accomplishments, this sport is perhaps most emblematic of Mr. Ventre's character. As Mr. Ventre summarized, "Basketball is a team sport, where it is not only about you."

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## Morris Ecology Video Challenge Highlights Ecological Disruptions

By **Caroline Donatelli '18**  
Staff Reporter

After several weeks of ecological research, students in Choate's Biology 400 program culminated their work through the Morris Ecology Video Challenge. The competition, taking place during the last few weeks of winter term, required students to create a 12-minute video about an ecological disruption that interests them. Each video was evaluated by the Biology 400 department, choosing the best projects from each class for the semifinals. Then, three judges — Ms. Amy Foster, Mr. Andrew Mellon, and Mr. Joseph Scanio — and all members of the Biology 400 program viewed the top four videos before a winner was announced.

Biology teacher Mr. Deron Chang, who has overseen the competition since its founding in 2015, said, "The Morris Ecology Video Challenge is a great opportunity for students to work collaboratively on something that is going to be shown publicly. It's no easy task — learning how to take a large research project and distill it to something that's accessible to an audience is a real challenge."

Mr. Chang started the Ecology Video Challenge with the assistance of Mr. Trevor Peard, a former English teacher who managed public speaking competitions on campus until his retirement in 2016. Mr. Chang said, "We wanted to turn what the kids are doing right now in biology into a modern day Pratt-Packard like project." Combining independent ecological research with a required video presentation, the video project is currently the only public speaking presentation required of the junior class.

The competition begins in biology classrooms, where all Biology 400 students work in small groups to research, write, and ultimately film a video regarding an ecological dis-

ruption. Biology student Alix Mackillop '18, who researched the dwindling population of sea otters, said, "I thought the project brought up some really important issues in the world. We usually don't work in groups for research projects, so the project taught me the lessons about working with other people."

**The Morris Ecology Video Challenge is a great opportunity for students to work collaboratively.**

Mr. Deron Chang  
Biology Teacher

After the biology department determined the top four videos, judges Ms. Foster, Mr. Mellon, and Mr. Scanio were responsible for selecting the winning video. Looking for ecological accuracy, creativity, and production value, the three faced a difficult decision. Ms. Foster said, "The competition allows students to explore ecological topics and to learn about things within their interests. Public presentations are a different method of learning and help students gain an appreciation for collaborating with a group."

Mr. Scanio commented, "On top of helping students learn about ecology, the video challenge is a way for students to think about how to engage a wider audience while also conveying accurate information." He emphasized the crucialness of scientific literacy, describing the videos as "important to find ways of conveying scientifically accurate information to the broader public."

On Monday, May 1, the results of the Morris Ecology Video Challenge were announced via an all-school email. The winning video, titled, "Burgers: The Blood is on Our Hands," was created by Dilan Bozer '17, Lauren Canna '18, Blair Cox '17,

and Austen Rogers '18. The video demonstrated the livestock industry's impact on climate change, a topic Canna described as "commonly overlooked in the conversation regarding global warming and the earth."

"The livestock industry accounts for the production of up to 51% of greenhouse gas emissions," said Canna. "It's a subject that no one seems to ever talk about, despite so much information being so readily available."

Calling Choate students to action, the video suggested a wide array of potential solutions, ranging from skipping burger Thursdays to outright veganism. Canna said, "It's easy to fight oil fracking companies when you don't feel the impact so directly, but it's a lot harder to walk in the other direction from the grill on burger day."

For their win, Canna's team will have their name engraved on the Morris Ecology Video Challenge plaque, located in the Humanities Building. Their video will also be stored in the Archives for future Choate students for reference. Canna stated, "It was more about getting people to really listen to our video because the issue became pretty important to me. I can't say I've suddenly gone vegan, but I do really try hard to make more conscious decisions in and outside of the dining hall. When we heard about the award, it was great, but it really wasn't about winning for me."

Students and teachers alike are grateful for the lessons of the video project. As Ms. Foster summarized, "The videos help students and audience gain a deeper understanding of the topic that they chose. The more information we can share about the environment and our interconnectedness, the more likely we are to solve major problems that we are facing."

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## SENIOR RECITAL: DAVID PARK '17

By **Inc Thongthai '19**  
Reporter

David Park '17 is one of the most recognized pianists at Choate. We have all heard him on the piano at least once before, either through his various performances during weekly school meetings or his participation in orchestral works. Students and faculty alike have praised Park on his musical talents, regarding him as "brilliant" and "hardworking."

Park is a senior from Glastonbury, Connecticut. Over the course of his four years at Choate, he has contributed immensely to the art community. He partakes in the multitude of Chamber Music Ensembles at Choate, performs with the Jazz Ensemble, and serves as a pianist for the Choate Orchestra; additionally, he is a member of the Art's Concentration program and is one-third of its Jazz Trio. However, music has been a part of his life for a much longer period of time than just his four years at Choate. He said, "I was introduced to music at a very young age. My dad was a self-taught pianist, and my sisters also played the piano." Unlike most pianists, Park was not classically trained. Instead, he started with playing the saxophone, then moved on to piano. He said, "I was always interested in playing the piano, but it was not until my first lesson that I truly fell in love with it. I think that the saxophone provided me with a background in jazz, and the style of the compositions translates to the way I improvise and play on the piano."

This term, Park was finally able to show his ability as a solo pianist. His hard work of four years has finally come together in this senior recital. He explained, "As a freshman I watched my own friends perform their recitals, and I have always thought about that stage ever since." He added, "A part of music itself is the performance. My end goal was always performing at my own senior recital; it was something I knew I needed to accom-

plish. I wanted to be able to share the way I feel, the way I think through my expression."

Park took his artistic expression to the next level by showcasing nine of his self-composed musical pieces. Park explained, "I wanted people to connect and see my world. Music acts as a portal; it is a window into my life that I cannot express through any other form. I think this is the way it will always be." When asked about the future of his music career he responded, "I really don't know. I do not want to pursue music professionally, but I want it to always be a part of my life; something that continues to inspire me and bring me peace."

Through his music, Park is able to convey moments that hold great meaning in his life to the audience. He brings his own quirks and habits to life. His piece "2 am" was inspired by his love for late night walks. He said, "I really like the silence and the serenity that comes during the night. It makes me feel like I am the only person in the world, not in a narcissistic way, but in a peaceful way. I like the stars, and how big the sky is. It puts me in my place."

Although it is very easy to get lost in the beauty of Park's improvisation skills, the composition that was most touching was titled "For My Mom." He extrapolated on the title, saying "I never thought that I fully thanked my mom adequately enough. If she did not push me to take my first piano lesson I would not be where I am now. I wanted to thank her for supporting me through everything, and this was the only way I saw how."

Park's recital was filled with love; it was his goodbye to his friends, classmates, and teachers that have touched him at Choate. His recital was only the glimpse of what is to come in senior recitals.

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## ARCHITECT AND FRIEND OF CHOATE, I.M. PEI, TURNS 100

By **Erica Chang '19**  
Reporter

Renowned Chinese-American architect, Ieoh Ming Pei or I.M. Pei, turned 100 years old this past Wednesday. Mr. Pei's career began when William Zeckendorf, a New York City real estate luminary, recruited him in 1948. Just seven years later, Pei established his own firm called I.M. Pei & Associates in 1955, which later became I.M. Pei & Partners, in 1966, then Cobb Freed & Partners, in 1989. Pei retired from full-time work in 1990, but he continues to work as an architectural consultant for his son's own architectural firm, Pei Partnership Architects, proving that age is no barrier.

Mr. Pei's accomplishments are innumerable. His famous work can be seen in the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Colorado, the chief architect for the John F. Kennedy Library in Massachusetts, the Dallas City Hall and The East Wing of the National Gallery of Art. In China, he designed Fragrant Hills and a building for the Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong. He is seen as a pioneer of contemporary art for his glass-steel pyramid for the Musée de Louvre in Paris. For these major accomplishments, (and a plethora of smaller ones), Mr. Pei has won numerous awards in his field of architecture, including the AIA Gold Medal, the Royal Gold Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Not only is Mr. Pei's work well known in the professional world, but also in the Choate community. The Science Center and the Paul Mellon Arts Center, some of the most prominent buildings on the Choate campus, were designed by Mr. Pei. He began designing the Science Center in 1989 and the PMAC in 1972. Both buildings were built with Paul Mellon's '25 grateful donation to the education of students in arts and sciences. These buildings are staples to the Choate campus and provide many services to the learning of students, which Choate would be incomplete without. Some examples of the daily advantages of these buildings are the laboratories for science classes,

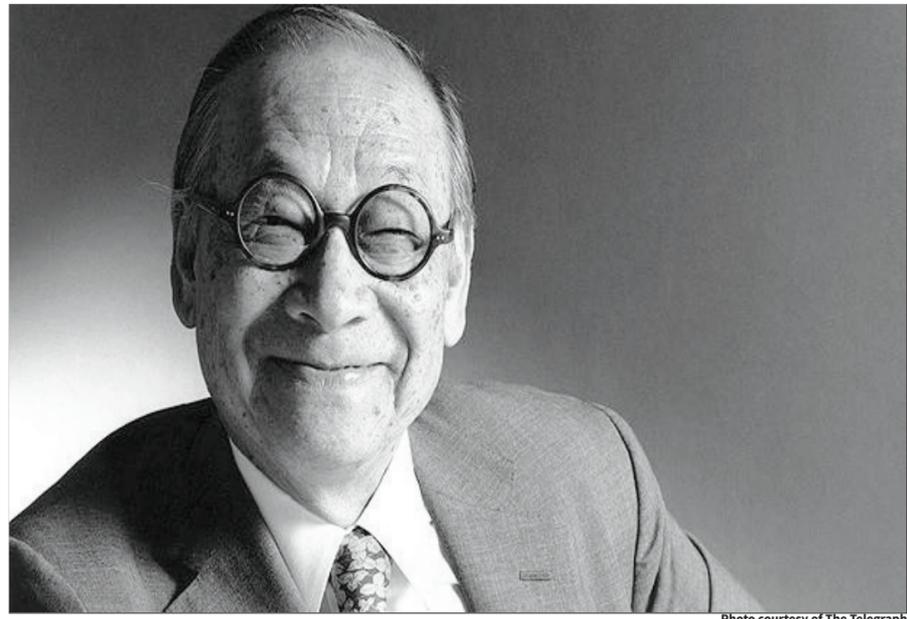


Photo courtesy of The Telegraph

Legendary architect I.M. Pei is responsible for the design of the Science Center and the PMAC.

the 770 seat Little Theater, and practice studios for gifted student musicians.

The structure of the PMAC is separated by two wings: the Theater Wing and the Triangle Wing. The underground Black Box theater connects the two wings. Mr. Pei's design of the PMAC was modeled from his work in the East Wing of the National Gallery combined with the pyramid structures in the Louvre Museum in Paris. The PMAC was built in 1972, one year after the Choate School and Rosemary Hall combined to become the school that the world knows today as Choate Rosemary Hall. The unification of the two buildings represented the merging of the two schools. Although Choate has been a school and home to both girls and boys for more than 40 years, the PMAC is the symbol of Choate's past.

Faculty opinions have been very appreciative of the (now renovated) PMAC's functionality and design. In a 2015 article, Headmaster Alex D. Curtis said, "We are thrilled, because the Paul Mellon Arts Center is central to campus life. This I.M. Pei building was an architectural breakthrough for its time. The generosity of the donation will

allow us to make the building contemporary again, placing it at the forefront of arts education in America." Furthermore Kalya Yannatos, Director of the Art Department, said, "Students, the arts department faculty, the school, and the greater Wallingford community will all benefit in numerous ways from this incredible gift."

Although faculty sentiment is important, students are the ones who take advantage of the PMAC the most during their limited years at Choate. Kay Ingulli '18 can always be found there after school and "spends practically all of spring term in the PMAC." Ingulli immerses herself in all aspects of the arts while at Choate. A capella, guitar lessons, art classes, and arts concentration bring Ingulli to the PMAC on a daily basis.

Ingulli said, "The PMAC is definitely one of my favorite aesthetically constructed buildings. The PMAC's unique design adds both character to its arts inside, but can also inhibit some of their functions. For me, the biggest downside to the PMAC's architecture, which I've begun to notice more and more this year, is the overlapping of floors." Ingulli is referring to the construction of the

Triangle Wing of the PMAC, which has a balcony on both the second and third floor.

Ingulli explained, "I find that while initially all the balconies seem aesthetically pleasing and make the art center's atmosphere more open, it becomes very distracting when you can hear the clamor of conversations, practices, and classes from above or below while you're trying to work. The wedged stairs in the concrete spiral stairway to the second floor studio make it nearly impossible for more than one person go up or down and the triangular shaped offices and rooms that are too narrow to put proper furniture or storage." Overall, Ingulli acknowledged, "It's all give and take, sacrifices have to be made between design and function."

Mr. Pei's legendary architectural genius lives on in the Choate campus and touches the lives of students everyday. Although the PMAC and Science Center are no longer the newest buildings on campus, their contribution to this community will continue to live on throughout the generations, just as Mr. Pei's work will.

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## THE BEAUTY INDUSTRY'S UGLY TRUTH

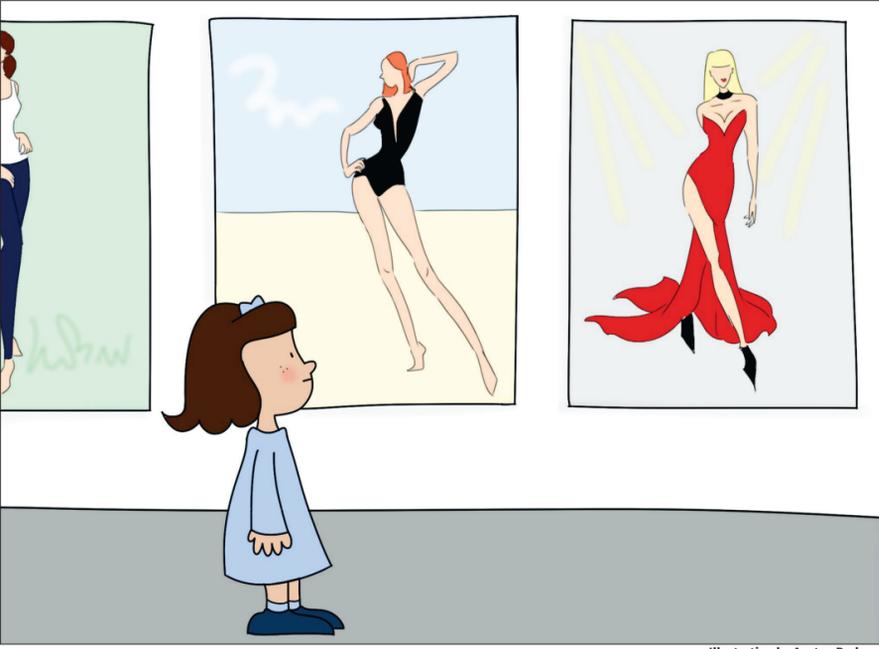


Illustration by Austen Rodgers

Young girls are heavily influenced by the media's standard of the "perfect body."

By **Simi Sachdeva '19**  
Staff Reporter

The self-esteem of a person is largely influenced by social media and, more specifically, the modeling industry. As a teenage girl growing up in a society where beauty is considered to be tall, blonde, and thin, my self-esteem has been largely impacted by what society calls beautiful, and I am certainly not the only one. Striving to be physically beautiful to the standards society sets can lead to extremely negative outcomes, such as eating disorders and low self-esteem.

According to *The Huffington Post*, The National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders stated that nearly 70% of girls in grades five through 12 said that magazine images influence their ideals of a perfect body. In so-called "pro-anorexia" forums, posters write about

watching fashion shows and combing magazines for "thinspiration." I know when I was a young girl, I looked up to what I saw in fashion magazines to be beautiful, and when I did not fit those unrealistic standards, it was extremely detrimental to my self-esteem. In fact, there was not even the slimmest chance I could live up to the requirements, and neither can the majority of women. According to eating disorderhope.com, "the average American woman, according to women's health expert Dr. Pamela Peeke, is 5'4" with a waist size of 34-35 inches. She weighs between 140-150 pounds, which equals a dress size of 12-14, which is drastically different than the average fashion model."

Fashion is an amazing tool to create amazing self-esteem and can make a person feel good about themselves, but the modeling industry has morphed the fashion industry into a self-deprecating

machine. For example, when shopping, sizes for women go until size eight. Sizes eight and up are considered "plus size." As stated before, the average American woman is a dress size of 12-14. It seems completely illogical to make the average size of an American woman plus size.

**The amount of money, time, and energy being "beautiful" takes is alarming.**

I know that growing up I have considered Victoria's Secret Angels as the epitome of beauty. Victoria Secret Angels live lives where their eating, sleeping, and exercise habits are centered around maintaining their "perfect" physique. Victoria Secret models have personal trainers and makeup artists. Setting this unnatural lifestyle as the standard for being beautiful encourages girls to focus on how to be physically attrac-

tive rather than spending their time on their passions, education, and creating relationships that are meaningful with their friends and family. According to *Women's Health Magazine*, the average woman spends three hundred and thirty-five hours self-grooming over the course of a year. The amount of money, time, and energy being "beautiful" takes is alarming. Women's bodies should be celebrated. If every brand and magazine spent as much energy as they do to produce their supermodels on creating a positive impact on the self-esteem on young girls, the impact would be incredibly remarkable.

As much as it has made me insecure, the fashion and beauty industry also built my self-esteem. Wearing clothes that make you feel beautiful and wearing makeup can certainly make someone feel attractive. Fashion is an art and should be used to express someone's creativity. Fashion should be used to build the self-esteem of young girls and it's incredible that brands such as Aerie are seeing that.

Brands such as Aerie, a lingerie store targeted to young women, are taking action to change the unrealistic modeling industry. Their campaign sends positive body image messages, and Aerie does not use any retouching for their models. Their campaign states, "We want every girl to feel good about who they are and what they look like, inside and out. This means (and they wrote this in all caps) no more retouching our girls and no more supermodels. Why? Because there is no real reason to retouch beauty. We think the real you is sexy." Aerie's campaign shows girls of different races and sizes. They show girls with rolls on their stomach and girls without a thigh gap. And, to Victoria's Secret's dismay, they look just as beautiful.

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## Violin Talent: Eliana Kim

By **Ariel Kim '20**  
Reporter

On Saturday, April 29, Eliana Kim '20 performed Saint-Saëns Violin Concerto No. 3 Movement III with the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra (WSO) in the Chapel. It was one special day for her, as she had spent the entire school year rehearsing this piece.

Kim is a third form student from Seoul, South Korea. Currently, she is the co-principal violin player of the Choate Symphony Orchestra, and is planning to join the Arts Concentration program next year. In addition to her musical adventures at Choate, she goes to Juilliard every weekend to participate in the exclusive Juilliard Pre-College program, which consists of private lessons as well as orchestra and chamber rehearsals.

In December of 2016, Kim entered the WSO Mitchell String Competition and won first place, as well as the honor of performing a concerto with the WSO in the spring. She began practicing this piece in September, and only had three months of rehearsing before the competition. She remarked, "Preparing the Saint-Saëns Violin Concerto really helped me develop both musically and technically. There were many events for which I had to perform this piece, and the competition was one of them."

Esi Dunyoh '20, a friend who came to support Eliana, commented, "Overall, I thought the performance was really good. Eliana's solo was amazing. The way she interacts with the orchestra is intriguing."

Not only was the audience incredibly impressed with the performance, giving her a well-deserved, long standing ovation, but Kim was also pleased with her performance. She said, "I was really satisfied because I've been working on this piece since September with my private teacher in Juilliard. Com-

pared to how much I practiced during this school year, I think this performance turned out very well. We only had two dress rehearsals right before the concert."

Although Kim's performance was one that many attended and were awed by, many of her friends and teachers were not there to support her. The long weekend had caused many of her peers to be unable to attend her recital. Kim remarked, "I liked how I had more time to practice because it was long weekend, but all my friends were back home so they were not able to watch my performance. I just wish there were more of my closest friends who had come to see me perform."

**The way she interacts with the orchestra is intriguing.**

Esi Dunyoh '20

Dunyoh commented, "Personally, I think it should have taken place maybe during some school meeting or another time during the week. I feel many students didn't have the opportunity to come see the performance because they were away during this time. I really think this is something more students should be able to enjoy."

Kim was incredibly satisfied with not only her performance, but also the reaction from the audience. The audience recognized and acknowledged her hard work and practice with a long standing ovation at the end of the performance. Hopefully when she performs in the future, it will not be over long weekend when many students are gone, but will take place during a time when more of the community will be able to attend.

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Game of the Week: Girls' Varsity Lax vs. Northfield Mt. Hermon • 5/13 • 11:00 a.m. • Shanahan Field

## FIELD REPORT

W-L-T

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Baseball</b>              | 11-6-0  |
| <b>WIN</b> Kent (5/6)        | 3-1     |
| <b>Softball</b>              | 1-8-0   |
| <b>LOSS</b> Williston (5/6)  | 1-13    |
| <b>Ultimate</b>              | 2-6-0   |
| <b>LOSS</b> Deerfield (5/6)  | 6-12    |
| <b>Boys' Golf</b>            | 9-8-0   |
| <b>LOSS</b> Loomis (5/6)     | 212-194 |
| <b>Girls' Golf</b>           | 10-4-0  |
| <b>WIN</b> Williston (5/6)   | 3-2     |
| <b>Boys' Lacrosse</b>        | 7-6-0   |
| <b>WIN</b> Berkshire (5/6)   | 11-4    |
| <b>Girls' Lacrosse</b>       | 10-2-0  |
| <b>LOSS</b> Williston (5/6)  | 8-11    |
| <b>Boys' Tennis</b>          | 6-5-0   |
| <b>LOSS</b> Deerfield (5/6)  | 2-5     |
| <b>Girls' Tennis</b>         | 2-7-0   |
| <b>LOSS</b> Exeter (5/6)     | 1-5     |
| <b>Boys' T&amp;F</b>         | 8-2-0   |
| <b>WIN</b> Deerfield (5/6)   | 104-36  |
| <b>Girls' T&amp;F</b>        | 10-0-0  |
| <b>WIN</b> Deerfield (5/6)   | 104-41  |
| <b>Boys' Volleyball</b>      | 6-3-0   |
| <b>LOSS</b> Exeter (5/6)     | 0-3     |
| <b>Girls' Water Polo</b>     | 5-10-0  |
| <b>WIN</b> Andover (5/6)     | 7-6     |
| <b>Baseball</b>              | 11-6-0  |
| <b>WIN</b> Westy (5/10)      | 3-2     |
| <b>Softball</b>              | 1-8-0   |
| <b>LOSS</b> Westy (5/10)     | 0-13    |
| <b>Ultimate</b>              | 2-6-0   |
| <b>LOSS</b> Ludlowe (5/10)   | 10-11   |
| <b>Boys' Golf</b>            | 9-8-0   |
| <b>LOSS</b> Deerfield (5/10) | 217-215 |
| <b>Girls' Golf</b>           | 10-4-0  |
| Greenwich, Taft (5/10)       | 3rd     |
| <b>Boys' Lacrosse</b>        | 7-6-0   |
| <b>WIN</b> TP (5/10)         | 14-9    |
| <b>Girls' Lacrosse</b>       | 10-2-0  |
| <b>WIN</b> Westy (5/10)      | 14-5    |
| <b>Boys' Tennis</b>          | 6-5-0   |
| <b>WIN</b> Kent (5/10)       | 7-0     |
| <b>Girls' Tennis</b>         | 2-7-0   |
| <b>LOSS</b> Westy (5/10)     | 1-8     |
| <b>Boys' Volleyball</b>      | 6-3-0   |
| <b>WIN</b> NMH (5/10)        | 3-2     |
| <b>Girls' Water Polo</b>     | 5-10-0  |
| <b>LOSS</b> Hopkins (5/10)   | 6-7     |

## SPRING'S MIDSEASON REPORT

By **Joseph Coyne '19**  
Copy Editor

Midway through the season, many Choate teams are preparing for postseason runs and hoping for end-of-season triumph. Whether a team is enjoying success or still trying to reach its potential, there's still plenty left to play

### Boys' Tennis

Boys' Varsity Tennis is 6-5, experiencing both surprising wins and tough losses. Nathan Chang '17 said of the season, "We started off the season well, and I think a big highlight was at the Kingswood Oxford Invitational, where we tied with Deerfield for second." The team, with a mix of both veterans and new players, is positioned for a great finish.

### Girls' Tennis

Coming off a huge win against Kent, Girls' Varsity Tennis is gearing up for a strong finish. Captain Caroline Quinn '18 said, "A highlight has to include our NMH sweep. It was really great to start off our season with a solid win, as we are a young team. Another highlight match would be Kent. Our team and Kent are both very similar in skill, which made it tough, and we ended up beating them 5-4." After a tough start the season, Girls' Tennis may be heating up.

### Baseball

With a 9-4 record, Varsity Baseball has had a strong season against some tough opposition this spring. "By far our biggest win was against Loomis, in which Tyler Daly '17 pitched a great game," said Captain Jake MacKenzie '17. MacKenzie went on, "Sean Dennehy '19 has been a very solid member of the team this year, and he has been hitting very well for us throughout the year." The team has great leadership and energy and will have to utilize that experience down the stretch.



Photo by Calvin Carmichael '17

Llyod Williams '18 attacks a hurdle en route to the finish.

### Girls' Water Polo

While their 4-10 record may not show it, the Girls' Water Polo team has had a good season. Captain Nicole Sellow '17 said of the season, "Our season is going really well. We have had a couple of close losses, most notably against Sufield and Exeter, and some great wins. Deerfield was a good one!" The team has also been lucky to have contributions from new players Izzy So '20 and Grace Zhang '20. The team must finish well if it wants to make a late season run toward a championship.

### Boys' Crew

Boys' Varsity Crew has had a strong season so far, splitting its first two regattas. Captain David Herman '17 said of the challenges so far, "We have been focusing on developing the newer rowers and dealing with injuries, including that of one of our captains, Alex Overmeer '17. We are looking forward to the rest of the season and NEIRAs, where we expect to do well." Anticipate some impressive results coming off the water from the Boys' Crew Team as their season heats up.

### Girls' Crew

Girls' Varsity Crew has had a strong season, winning two out of three regattas. Captain Alyssa Zhou '17 said of the season, "The team has been working really hard and have been so supportive of one another. We've raced CRLS, Taft, and Berkshire so far, and we've definitely had results that we can be proud of. The first boat had a disappointing loss against CRLS by 0.8 seconds but came back and won against Taft and Berkshire, a long awaited victory." With the championships approaching, Girls' Crew hopes its season of hard work pays off.

### Boys' Lacrosse

The Boys' Lacrosse season has been full of highs and lows, with big wins against teams like Salisbury and Berkshire, while losing tight games to Brunswick and Taft, both nationally ranked teams. With a record of 6-6, the team will look to make a huge push and grab late-season wins.

### Girls' Lacrosse

Captain Alex Jarvis '17 summarized the season: "We are the number one team in the Founders' League and on a nine-game winning streak, and beating Loomis Chaffee,

Greenwich Academy, and Deerfield are our highlight wins, no doubt." With a deep roster, led by key players such as Captain Claire Marshall '17, Kristina Schuler '17, Katie Cronin '17, and Emily Clorite '18, the Girls' Varsity Lacrosse Team is definitely looking at post-season success, perhaps even a championship.

### Sailing

Coming off a few disappointing finishes, Sailing has maintained a solid season. Captain Olivia van den Born '17 said, "One highlight would be in early races against Tabor, where our clean sailing and communication put us in the mix against a good team. Additionally, Arin Kaye '17 and Madeline Simms '19 managed to place fourth at the Hereschoff Qualifiers at the Coast Guard Academy, which was huge." Sailing looks to continue its local dominance towards the end of the season.

### Boys' Volleyball

Boys' Volleyball isn't the most watched team, but they aren't to be overlooked. The team is 5-1 against league opponents, and it will be the second seed in the New England Tournament. Captain Chanin Kitjatanapan '17 said of some

big performances, "The wins included two five-set games against Andover, as well as a 3-0 sweep against volleyball powerhouse NMH in three years." He said that the team is excited for the New England Tournament, where they look to claim a championship.

### Girls' Golf

For an inexperienced team, Girls' Varsity Golf certainly doesn't play like it with an 8-2 record. Captain Anne Miles DeMott '18 said of the group, "Overall, we are doing great. Our returning players have practiced hard and gotten better, while our new players have all improved since the beginning of the year." Emma Fekete '18 said of her captain, "Anne Miles has done an amazing job stepping up this year and has had some really impressive wins." Look for the team to notch more wins by season's end.

### Boys' Track and Field

With only 2 losses, Boys' Track and Field is looking for post-season success at the Founder's League and New England level. Newcomers Hunter Reynolds '17 and Mustafe Dahir '19 have had massive contributions, while veterans Austin Huang '17 and Lloyd Williams '18 have dominated their events, whether on the track or in the field. Expect hardware from this group later this month.

### Girls' Track and Field

The Girls' Track and Field team has dominated this spring going undefeated, beating Loomis Chaffee and annihilating Deerfield. Captains Abby Blair '17, Lauren Lamb '17, and Maya Birney '17 have all led from the front, literally, taking home points every meet. The girls have to be considered favorites at both the Founder's League and New England Championships.

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## IN THE DUGOUT WITH VARSITY BASEBALL

By **Dan Brockett '19**  
Staff Reporter



Photo by Marja Van Mierlo '18

The eclectic and energetic dugout of Varsity Baseball.



Photo by Marja Van Mierlo '18

Jack Hodgeson '17 winds up.

The Varsity Baseball Team will play 19 games this season, a heavy schedule by any standard. The team not only manages to play all of its games at a high level, but it also happens to be one of the most energetic teams on campus.

Trent Schwab '18 said, "It's a lot of fun. We have a good group of guys. I look forward to practices and games everyday. It's just a good team atmosphere."

It's easy for the team to come back to the field everyday because of the light-hearted nature of the group. Walking by field at any time, you can hear the team howling and laughing with each other. Jonah Feldman '20 commented on the energy, "Guys are always cheering each other on. It's definitely an exciting place and an great atmosphere."

The players enjoy themselves, and this approach ap-

pears to work well for them. The team is 9-4 this season, and with the post-season approaching soon, the boys are looking to make a late season push. This makes the dugout players particularly important, as they bring the fire to every game. That energy can help start rallies or focus the team.

Jake MacKenzie '17 said, "The main leaders of the bench mob are Nick Catandella '17 and Jack Hodgson '17."

The team has a couple guys who helps keep things light and make the team laugh when things get tough. Tyler Daly '17 and Hodgson received votes for the most entertaining player, but there were others who were mentioned as well. Schwab said that it could have been Matt Albino '17, Daly, or Hodgson. He added, "There's just so many funny dudes on the team. Everyone has such unique personalities that make for hilarious situations." In addition to Hodgson and Daly, Feldman said that he

thought Catandella's dugout quips were absurdly funny.

Everybody on the team will end the season with a ton of great memories. When the season gets tough, the boys support each other, but there's still plenty of great moments for the team to celebrate. When asked about a funny memory from the season, Schwab paused for a moment before saying, "I like having seed spitting contests with David Monti '17."

When asked how he would describe his experience, Will Eichhorn '19 said, "Everybody supports each other through the really long season. There are a lot of funny and energetic guys. It's a joyful and fun experience, but it's also hardworking and serious."

Look for the boys to finish out the year strong, particularly during the Walker Tournament on May 20.

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