



Photos by Kathryn Phillips/The Choate News

The spring musical, *Bring It On!*, opened in the Paul Mellon Arts Center last night. Performances take place tonight and tomorrow.

Excitement Builds as Colony Hall Construction Progresses

By **JeeHwan Kim '21**
Reporter

Where there used to be a vast green landscape full of tall grass and trees, there are now piles of dirt and wandering gigantic vehicles behind the iconic Paul Mellon Arts Center. Although it may seem as though it has stayed that way for weeks, leading the students and faculty members who frequently pass by the building to become slightly impatient, the highly anticipated 51,000 square-foot Colony Hall — the magnificent complement to the Paul Mellon Arts Center — will soon be erected. Mr. Rick Saltz, the Chief Financial Officer, is happy to report that construction is proceeding just as planned.

Currently, school meetings cannot hold the entire student body. Colony Hall, planned to officially open in the fall of 2019, will rectify this problem. The brand new complex will allow Choate's arts programs to expand and improve. Although construction has been ramping up in the past few weeks, it has not been a dis-

turbance according to those who use the Paul Mellon Arts Center to practice music, work on projects, or attend rehearsals or lessons.

Tony Zhou '21 said, "I practice the piano in the PMAC for hours almost every day. Each time I walk past the construction site, I wonder what it would feel like to finally practice in Colony Hall."

Mr. Saltz said, "We are in the beginning stage, putting up and reinforcing the rear wall of the building. Next week, steel structures will start to be delivered and installed over the next couple of months through the summer. Then concrete sides, called pre-casts, will be put up, and by the end of September, the building should be weather-tight so that we can start working on the inside."

He went on, "It will open a little bit over a year from now. 'It gets exciting when the building starts to take shape and you can really see the structure of the building, but it gets very quiet for a while because everything happens

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Four Students Win John Kirby Simon Service Awards

By **Siri Palreddy '20**
Copy Editor

On April 3, all students received an email from the community service department encouraging them to "lift up and celebrate our community members who have made, and continue to make, great contributions to our local and global communities through service to others" by nominating classmates they believed would fit the criteria for the 19th Annual John Kirby Simon Service Awards.

The John Kirby Simon Service Award is in honor of alumnus Mr. John Kirby Simon '79, a notable member of the U.S. Foreign Service. The award is presented to one student from each form, taking into account the nominations the student has received as well as their recorded community service projects and activities. This year, the award recipients were Kelly Moh '18, Ethan Wedge '19, Haley Strom '20, and Ula Lucas '21. Although each recipient received the same award, all of them took different paths in their community service.

For Lucas, community service is what makes her feel useful to those around her. "Before I came to Choate, I did a lot of work with the iPad program at a retirement home. We would go to the retirement home across the street and show seniors how to use technology. I did that for three or four years, so that was my really big experience with community service."

While Lucas has participat-

ed in many community service projects, her favorite memory is when she helped one senior citizen in particular during the iPad program: "I worked with one senior every single time. She was so excited each time and kept coming back. There was just this excitement when she got something — it was just so encouraging and infectious."

Lucas recalled the time she helped the older woman find a video of herself at a salsa dance showcase at the retirement home, and then aided her in sending the video to her kids. "The next day, her kid called saying thank you. It showed me that I didn't have to necessarily be skilled to help someone; it was literally finding a video on YouTube. It was those little moments, knowing I was there making a difference with her."

Like Lucas, Strom enjoys the purpose that community service gives her. "Typically at Choate, it's been more about getting to know other people through a bunch of projects at school," said Strom. While Strom appreciated and supported the organizations that she is a part of at Choate, she found her most meaningful service experiences to be during the summer as a volunteer at the Coral Restoration Foundation, an organization with bases across the globe. "Its mission is to clean up the oceans: we go down under and help rebuild the coral beds by growing and planting coral," explained Strom.

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CHOATE WELCOMES ALUMNI BACK TO CAMPUS

By **Hadley Rogers '21**
Reporter

Last weekend, May 10 through 13, Choate hosted hundreds of alumni for its annual Alumni Weekend, a time for Choate graduates to reconnect with their old classmates and celebrate their Choate spirit.

Alumni Weekend was packed with fun activities and ceremonies. This year, there were three alumni athletics contests, including a co-ed alumni Frisbee game, a co-ed alumni soccer game, and an alumni vs. Boys' Varsity Lacrosse game.

Jim Dwinell '58, Gavin Jefftha '88, and Allison Kessler Year '03 were inducted into Choate's Athletics Hall of Fame. There were also three alumni panels held for students interested in certain jobs and topics. Other class-specific events were held, such as gatherings, dances, and golf trips.

The Alumni Relations Office is responsible for planning every Alumni Weekend to match the desires of the visiting classes. Director of Alumni Relations Ms. Monica St. James, who oversaw much of the planning for the weekend, said, "Every Alumni Weekend is always different because classes get together and ask for a different type of event."

Every Alumni Weekend is always different because classes...ask for a different type of event.

Ms. Monica St. James
Director of Alumni Relations

This year, the Class of 1968 requested a gathering in the chapel as one of their events in order to commemorate the



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Alumni listen at an event in the Lanphier Center during Alumni Weekend.

time they walked out of the chapel as a form of protest. Ms. St. James commented, "The Class of 1968 was reflecting on an event that happened when they were seniors. It was a student protest by walking out of the chapel and forming a circle. That's something that no other class had ever done, and

so we're going to talk about the year 1968 with them in the chapel, and Mr. Connelly is going to speak with them about what was happening in 1968 historically."

Alumni Weekend is an occasion that many Choate grad-

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BoarCast to Replace Schoolwide Emails

By **Victoria Esquibies '20**
Student Council Correspondent

Say goodbye to the floods of daily emails that come from the Student Activities Center (SAC) reminding you of club events, meetings, and other activities. With the introduction of BoarCast, students will receive only two of those emails a week, on Monday and Thursday, with information presented in a compressed, more organized fashion. The BoarCast email will efficiently compile all of the week's events, along

with special schedules and other important announcements. Ms. Alex Long, the Assistant

All you have to do is search 'BoarCast' in your email to find all the announcements.

Ms. Alex Long
Asst. Director of Student Activities

Director of Student Activities, believes BoarCast will relieve stress from both the SAC and the students. She said, "Everybody is so busy, so if you want-

ed to see what was going on, all you have to do is search 'BoarCast' in your email to find the announcements in one place." Ms. Long mentioned that BoarCast will also feature an emoji button on the Thursday email to differentiate new announcements from the ones already included in the Monday email. This feature will make BoarCast even more helpful to those on campus wishing to see the week's new upcoming events.

The process of student's submitting their announcements to appear on BoarCast

is simple but could take some getting used to. Currently, students send their announcements to Mr. Jim Yanelli, the Director of Student Activities, and he requests that it to be sent to the student body at a certain time. With the new system, students will post their announcement on a link from the Student Activities portal on the school website, which will be followed by an approval or editing by Ms. Long.

Another option students

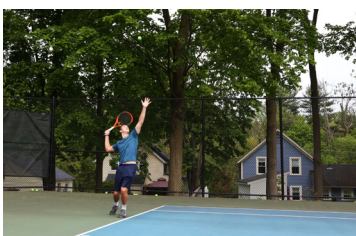
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Princeton Prize Winner
Abigail Drummond '18 has been honored for her work on race relations.
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Take Time to Chill Out
We've got the scoop on local ice-cream shops.
Local News • P3

Singing for the Top Spot
In an annual tradition, Choate's A-cappella groups recently raised their voices for charity.
Arts and Leisure • P7



The Grind Never Stops
The Choate athletes who compete in more than one varsity sport.
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Read it then recycle it.

Visuals by Kathryn Phillips,
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Student Council

Recap

By **Grace Zhang '20**

Student Council Correspondent

Student Council examined a widely discussed, controversial issue on Choate campus: visitation rules. Though visitation hours are from 6:00-8:00 PM Monday through Friday, dorm advisers are not on duty until 8:00 PM. This makes visitation on weeknights impossible for much of the student body. The visitation policy also became stricter this year; breaking visitation rules out of visitation hours is now a violation of a major school rule. Rising Fourth-Form Representative Anesi Ojior '21 spoke with Dean of Students Mr. James Stanley about the reasoning behind the rule: "I see how probation seems like a big punishment, but Mr. Stanley explained to me that the thinking behind that was that, with sexual assault being brought to light more, the visitation rules are for your safety."

Ms. Kyra Jenney, faculty adviser to the Student Council, then questioned visitation as a tool against sexual assault risk, posing the question: "Is it a danger for two students to be alone in a visitation setting without an adviser checking up on them?" Several student representatives immediately said "yes". Ms. Jenney went on: "If so, that is a culture issue among our school. If it's dangerous for two students to be alone together unsupervised at this school, that is an issue visitation is not going to fix. Visitation cannot be the only way to fix issues related to sexual assault."

Ms. Jenney also raised another fundamental issue about visitation at Choate. She brought up the fact that it is an incredibly heteronormative policy. If the rules are for the sake of student safety, it may not be sending the message that Choate cares about all of the students.

Other topics discussed at the meeting include a more efficient payment method for the delivery service, bringing food to dorms outside dining hall hours, and amendments to the seventy-minute classes.

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Weekend Reunites Alumni

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uates look forward to. When asked about how many alumni returned for Alumni Weekend 2018, Manager of Alumni and Parent Programs Ms. Andrea Solomon said, "About half of the class of 1958 is coming, and for the younger classes, about half of those classes will come, too. We actually have five people coming back from the class of 1948."

Organizing Alumni Weekend is no small feat. Ms. St. James, Ms. Solomon, and their colleagues put in hours upon hours of work to pull off the event and make sure everything goes according to plan.

When asked what goes into the planning of Alumni Weekend, Ms. St. James said, "Everything from making sure there's grass on the lawn to paving the path from the arts center goes into this. We'll have 900 to 1,000 extra people on campus, so it involves virtually every office in the school. It is a huge undertaking."

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CONFERENCE EMPOWERS YOUNG WOMEN OF COLOR

By **Carolina Vargas '21**

Reporter

On Sunday, May 6, more than 100 students from various prep schools came to Choate for the inaugural Young Women of Color Conference, giving students the opportunity to participate in workshops and discussions. The participants were also given the opportunity to hear Ms. Shanterra McBride, the keynote speaker for the conference, speak about her book, *Love Your Jiggle; The Girls' Guide To Being Marvelous*, which focuses on guiding teen girls through common issues like self-empowerment, diversity, and friendship. In addition to writing her book, Ms. McBride is a motivational speaker and founded Marvelous University, a program that helps teens develop their leadership skills. Abigail Drummond '18 and Shamari Harrington '18, the



Photo courtesy of Dana Brown

Author Shanterra McBride (center) delivered the keynote address at the inaugural conference.

student leaders and founders of the event, contacted Ms. McBride and, with help from Choate faculty, organized the event. "Abigail had the idea to have a conference for Women of Color and she

asked me to help; we've been working together since last spring to execute it," said Harrington. Choate worked with schools including The Ethel Walker School, Loomis Chaffee School, and Miss Porter's

School to create a conference where young women of color could share and listen to each others experiences.

Camille Grant '21, one of the students who attended the conference, learned much from

Ms. McBride's words. She said, "She really preached the message that students, specifically females of color on campus, should not feel the need to justify their presence. I thought that was a really good message that girls here don't usually hear." Harrington said, "She brought a lot of energy to the conference — everyone could relate to the things she was saying."

Along with the keynote speaker, the students were able to share stories during their activities. The girls were split up into affinity groups based on self-selected identifiers and connected through their experiences, creating a sense of community. This conference gave teenage girls of varying ethnicities the opportunity to share their resilience and strength through fellowship.

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Choate Recognizes Four Students for Service to the Community

Continued from Page 1

Strom stated that the most valuable lesson she retained from her volunteering experiences is to learn whenever possible. "Often, community service is something where you're a leader and being the communicator. It's more of a unique experience when you're just there proctoring and still meeting people. I've learned so much from just being there during a project and doing little jobs."

Likewise, Wedge has had much experience working his way from an observer to a leader through his time being a Boy

Scout. Currently a Life Scout, Wedge is fulfilling necessary requirements to achieve the highest attainable rank: Eagle Scout. To become an Eagle Scout, Wedge must organize and manage an extensive service project. For his project, he is collecting personal supplies for Project Cure, an organization that distributes medical supplies worldwide to those in need.

"Over spring Long Weekend, I executed my entire project, which I actually started last summer," Wedge explained. "This summer, I'm going to deliver what I collected to the Nashville headquarters. Through Boy

Scouts, I've found a real passion for community service."

Even with his Boy Scout commitment and involvement in community service at Choate, Wedge is dedicated to giving back at home. His family volunteers at a local organization, Hands On Atlanta. In fact, before Boy Scouts, Wedge was inspired to serve his community by his family. "Community service was something I was kind of born into: my mom and sister always did it, and I saw its positive, fun experiences. Community service has not only provided me one of the most heartwarming, thought-provoking, and enjoy-

able moments of my life, but also the ability to be an agent of change in my community for the things I'm passionate about."

As a senior, Moh has accumulated more than 300 hours of community service. "I really started getting into community service junior year. I found a camp for people ages 5 to 22 with physical and/or mental disabilities, and I volunteered there for two to three weeks."

Moh elaborated that her role was to interact with campers as communication was difficult for many of them. She helped the kids get acquainted with social interactions, be

able to talk to others and comprehend social cues, and have fun playing outside.

"A lot of my work has made me especially like working with children, animals, and people with disabilities," she said. "I just love what I get to do."

Community service has influenced Moh's decision to major in psychology and work in the field of special education. "With community service, I've not only been able to help other people; they've been able to help me see what career I want."

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ABIGAIL DRUMMOND '18 WINS PRINCETON PRIZE IN RACE RELATIONS

By **Ariel Kim '20**

Staff Reporter

On May 2, Abigail Drummond '18 received the 12th Annual Princeton Prize in Race Relations. According to the Alumni Association of Princeton University, the prize "recognizes and rewards high school students who have had a significant positive impact through volunteerism on race relations in their schools or communities." Drummond, who lives in Queens, New York, was honored with a Certificate of Recognition for committing much of her time as a student at Choate promoting diversity.

At Choate, Drummond was a cabinet member of the Choate Afro-Latino Student Alliance and an organizer of the 2018 Young Women of Color Conference. According to Ms. Shonda Dailey, her college counselor, "Abigail's work in the area of race relations has been incredibly impactful, and it extends beyond her elected leadership



roles, proving that you don't have to hold a position in order to create change."

Ms. Dailey said of Drummond's work at Choate, "She was a key voice in RISE [Responsibility, Intellect, Sisterhood, and Empowerment], a women of color affinity group,

one of the organizers of our Inauguration Day workshops, and helped plan a faculty professional development session on diversity. Abigail is a difference maker and this award is fitting. Our community is a better one thanks to her passion and dedication."

In order to win this prize, Drummond completed an extensive nomination and application process. She was nominated by Ms. Dailey, who recommended her to apply. A major part of the application is several essay-like questions about the significance, scope, and impact of his or her race-related activity.

Regarding the significance of the award to her, Drummond explained, "This award is special to me because diversity work is very tiring and oftentimes thankless, so it was nice to know that people see what I do and give me some acknowledgement. I don't do it for the credit, but it was a nice motivator to continue this type of work."

She went on, "I encourage more people to apply for the prize from Choate, but more importantly to continue doing work in race relations and social justice in general."

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BoarCast to Replace Schoolwide Emails

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have is to email their announcement to the SAC office before the deadlines of 8:00 p.m. on Sunday and 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday. "If you don't send it to us in the time frame, it's not going to be on BoarCast, and we are not going to send out an all-school email. Obviously, we'll give a little leeway in the first couple of weeks as we get used to it, but by next fall and next winter, you either hit the deadline or you don't," said Ms. Long.

"I'm just really excited for the opportunity to be able to send the students information once," said Ms. Long. "It looks really cool, and I hope that the students like it."

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Colony Hall Exterior to Take Shape Over Summer

Continued from Page 1

on the inside, so you wonder what's going on. Between now and September, you will really see the building take form."

According to Mr. Saltz, construction has so far not suffered any major setbacks. "The biggest setback was the weather this winter," he said. "As soon as we started, we had some really cold days — a little bit more snow than we expected." He added, "Also, going into the hill, the rock was softer, so we just chose to dig it out. Nothing unexpected has happened up till this point."

Mr. Saltz also proudly mentioned that Colony Hall will be rated LEED-Gold, just like Lan-

phier Center and St. John Hall. It will include geothermal wells and solar panels to maintain and promote the sustainability efforts of the school.

The building, once completed in the fall of 2019, will benefit the entire Choate community, not only students engaged in the arts. Not only will the new practice rooms and studios allow students to hone their artistic talents more sharply than before, the spacious auditorium will be able to accommodate various gatherings and performances, from school meeting to the symphony orchestra concerts.

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Photo courtesy of Richard Saltz

Colony Hall is scheduled to open in the fall term of the 2019-2020 school year.

READY FOR SUMMER? GET THE SCOOP ON LOCAL ICE CREAM



Photos (clockwise from top left) courtesy of yelp.com, Abigail Chang/The Choate News, Pinn Chirathivat/The Choate News, and Derek Ng/The Choate News

By **Abigail Chang '19**
Local News Editor
and **Peter DiNatale '21**
Staff Reporter

Arethusa Farm Dairy

Located on tree-lined Chapel street, in New Haven, Arethusa Farm Dairy offers ice cream made fresh from the farm's 300 cows. Even on an overcast Saturday, Arethusa is packed with customers eagerly awaiting favorites or seasonal flavors.

Arethusa's ice cream offerings range from classics, like vanilla and chocolate, to more unusual flavors, like almond-toasted coconut and coconut with dark chocolate chunks. Seasonal options, including raspberry and maple walnut, are rotated throughout the year.

Though it provides fewer ice cream options than many of its competitors, what Arethusa lacks in quantity it more than makes up for in quality. The milk with which the ice cream is made, sourced from Arethusa's idyllic Litchfield farm, gives the ice cream an incredibly fresh and creamy quality, and various mix-ins enhance its flavor and texture. The almond-toasted coconut couples a floral, nutty flavor with heaps of coconut, and the pale pink raspberry is satisfyingly tart.

Arethusa Farm Dairy also sells several kinds of milk in the

refrigerated shelving of its New Haven store, as well as yogurt and cheeses such as Arethusa Diva and Arethusa Blue. The menu, a large chalkboard complete with hand drawn flowers and decorative lettering, also features grilled cheese and coffee.

Arethusa's New Haven location has a clean and bright aesthetic with a hint of classic ice cream parlor. White beadboard and black granite countertops, paired with the monochrome checkers on the store's floor keep the location's color scheme in line with that of the Holstein's displayed in the framed photographs on the walls. The ice cream parlor is a little bit cow crazy, with cows emblazoned on everything from its sign to the labels on its cheese, but rightly so. Arethusa Farm in Litchfield is home to hundreds of Jerseys, Holsteins, and Brown Swiss, and their website features images of square-nosed calves romping in verdant pastures.

With rich ice cream, large portion sizes, and efficient service, there's nothing not to love at Arethusa Farm Dairy.

Ashley's Ice Cream

Named after the famous Ashley Whippet, a dog who gained national recognition after infiltrating a Dodger Stadium to perform a few tricks with his owner,

Ashley's Ice Cream's devotion to canines is obvious in its York Street location's quirky decor. Framed images of dogs enjoying Ashley's ice cream cover a significant portion of the wall, and photographs of Ashley hang near the line. According to the Ashley's Ice Cream website, the famous dog once visited the New Haven shop.

Ashley's offers a huge variety of ice cream flavors and toppings. Flavors range from heath bar to lemon pie. The ice cream is smooth and rich, the cookie batter with generous gobs of cookie dough, and the chocolate chip maintain a perfect balance of chips to ice cream. Seasonal flavors, including red white and blueberry, which contains blueberries, cherries, and white chocolate chips, give Ashley's Ice Cream's already large number of options even more variation. Customers have the option of enjoying ice cream in checkered cups or wavy-edged waffle bowls. Ashley's also sells other ice cream based treats, like ice cream cake and pie, and gives customers the option of purchasing hand-packed pints or quarts of their favorite flavors.

Ashley's Ice Cream has locations throughout Connecticut, including in Hamden, Branford, Guilford, and Madison. The York Street parlor is nestled between

other favorite eateries, like Donut Crazy and Blue State Coffee.

Ashley's New Haven adheres to a red, white, and black color scheme. Counters and elevated tables provide seating beneath the ice cream shop's many awards, advertising their nearly 30-year winning streak for Best Ice Cream in New Haven Advocate's Readers Poll. Ashley's is relatively small and can fill up quickly when busy.

With award-winning ice cream, an enormous selection of flavors, and a fascinating backstory, Ashley's Ice Cream is a celebrated New Haven favorite.

Mr. D's Bakery

Located in downtown Wallingford, Mr. D's bakery serves a wide variety of custom-made ice creams, ice cream cakes, cupcakes, and assortments of candy. Known for its wide selection of ice cream flavors, Mr. D's mission is to serve its customers with fresh, homemade products. The ice cream menu consists of numerous flavors, including swiss chocolate almond, banana, beez neez, with swirls of graham cracker, coffee, and maple walnut. The store's most popular flavors are cookie dough, the brownie chip, and Reese's nightmare, comprised of chocolate ice cream and peanut butter cups. Some flavors tend to be more popular during different seasons.

With summer just around the corner, the bakery's suggested flavors are refreshing banana, strawberry and sorbet.

Mr. D's offers its wide selection of ice creams in a choice of a cup or one of five different types of cones. Several different types of toppings are also offered. Customers have the option of choosing from sprinkles, crushed cookies, shredded coconut, chocolate chips, nutella, gummy bears, cherries, and more. In addition to toppings, Mr. D's also offers a selection of sauces including caramel, chocolate sauce, marshmallow sauce, and peanut butter sauce.

Aside from its ice cream, Mr. D's is also known for homemade cupcakes. These confections are prepared in the bakery and sold at a reasonable price. Some popular cupcake flavors include red velvet, oreo, and coconut.

Sweet Cream's Ice Cream

Located on 565 Center Street in Wallingford, Sweet Cream's Ice Cream offers a wide selection of homemade ice cream. Sweet Cream's has been in business for about three years. Their mission is to provide their customers with fresh and delicious ice cream that can be enjoyed in a friendly and clean environment.

"Our main goal is to make our customers happy by offer-

ing them their favorite ice cream flavors," remarked Mr. Raul Hernandez, the shop's owner. "We realize that everyone likes different types, so that is why we try to offer a wide selection of choices for our customers to choose from." Some of the flavors Sweet Cream's offers are cookie dough, mango sorbet, peanut butter cookie, classic vanilla, classic chocolate, and strawberry. Sweet Cream's has found that their top selling flavor is the peanut butter cookie, a delicious blend of Oreo cookie and peanut butter. For those with peanut allergies, Sweet Cream's also recommends their Nutella swirl, another top hit, or the mango sorbet, which is especially refreshing in warm weather.

To accompany their various flavors of ice cream, Sweet Cream's offers a wide selection of topping, including chocolate and rainbow sprinkles, crushed cookies, cherries, homemade whipped cream, and coconut. Like most ice cream shops, Sweet Cream's also provides its customers with the option of either a cone or a cup.

Ultimately, Sweet Cream's Ice Cream's main goal is to satisfy Wallingford's sweet tooth.

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CHOATE STUDENTS HELP PREPARE NEW HOUSE FOR REFUGEE FAMILY

By **Amanda Li '21**
Staff Reporter

On April 21, a dozen Choate students traveled to South Meriden, Connecticut, to spend the day helping out with a local Unity House. In 2002, the South Meriden Trinity United Methodist Church, with help from other churches in the Central Connecticut Cluster, began turning the two-story apartment into a transitional house for refugee families, formally creating the Unity House Refugee Resettlement collaborative mission.

With the help of Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (known as IRIS), Unity House was able to house its first refugee family in 2005, and has since housed eight more refugee families from Liberia, Egypt, Cuba, Congo, and Iraq. Currently, the house is undergoing renovations in preparations for the arrival of another family. This is what Choate students were able to help with.

Throughout the day, students worked on refurbishing the inside and cleaning the outside of the house, either by cleaning walls, raking leaves, or sawing branches. By the end of the day, the stairs and upstairs rooms were washed, the backyard was no longer

filled with leaves and twigs, and the work accomplished by the students could be clearly seen by the trailer full of black plastic trash bags containing rotten wood, sawed-down trees, leaves, and garbage.

"It was surprising to look back and realize how much the team was able to achieve in just a few hours," said JeeHwan Kim '21. Even the church volunteers were impressed by how efficient the

day had been. Ms. Kagee Hubbard, a member of the Unity House Leadership Team, said that "the students unselfishly donated time, asked what else could they do when a task was finished, saw what was needed and shared responsibilities in completing the tasks."

As for the students, the hours passed by quickly, and each was able to enjoy the time off campus. Roshni Surpur '20, who had also volunteered last

year, said, "It was nice to work with people you wouldn't normally see every day, both students and church volunteers, and I learned a lot."

From this opportunity, volunteers felt themselves being inadvertently benefited, either by knowing that they had helped somebody out, by being able to forget schoolwork for a few hours, or even through a combination of the two. "I realized how impor-

tant and urgent our help was for the future refugee family," said Kim. "I was able to gain a greatly worldly understanding," added Surpur.

What sets this opportunity apart from others is definitely the cause. Not only is a student able to help out with a great program, they can also witness, as Ms. Melissa Koomson, Director of Community Service, put it "how U.S. involvement overseas also impacts our community."

As with any community service experience, students were able to create new relationships or deepen their relationship with the community around them. "It provides an opportunity for students to learn about the world around them and the needs around them and gives them a break from their everyday routine," Ms. Koomson commented.

"Those who help others, without even knowing who those others might be, are an especially wonderful bonus to a community," said Ms. Hubbard.

As for the future, Ms. Koomson hopes to continue to provide this experience, and perhaps even create an opportunity for the students to meet the refugee family.

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Photo courtesy of Melissa Koomson

In late April, students cleaned the yard of Unity House, soon to be the residence of a refugee family.

Community Calendar

MAY 22, 11:00 a.m.

American Red Cross

Blood Drive

Schedule an appointment to donate blood in the Wallingford Public Library Community Room.

Wallingford Public Library, Appointment required

MAY 23, 8:00 p.m.

Wallingford Restaurant Hop

Take part in Wallingford's 6th Annual Restaurant Hop, featuring Michael's Trattoria, Alyssa's Cakery, The Eatery, and others.

Tickets available at HUBCAP of Wallingford, Yankee Cloth, and Wallingford Lamp & Shade, \$25 (adult), \$12 (children)

MAY 28, 9:00 a.m.

Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade

Watch local schools and organizations participate in the town's observance of this national holiday.

Opens at Dutton Park, Parade cancelled if inclement weather

THE CHOATE NEWS



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As another year draws to a close, our writers reflect on what it means to conclude.



Graphic by Chandler Littleford / The Choate News

LOOKING BACK ON FOUR YEARS

By **Will Raccio '18**
Opinions Writer

Four years — four intense, terrifying, exciting, testing, rewarding years — and only ten days left. It seems only fitting to reflect on everything that I've learned.

Choate means something different to everyone. For me, it was a balancing act; I found that it was quite the challenge to simultaneously maintain a fun social life, cope with the heavy academic workload, and manage a busy extracurricular schedule.

Freshman year was where it all began. I knew nothing about balance — all I knew was that I wanted to join Choate's theater community and meet new people. I auditioned for Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, joining a cast that would quickly become family. I'd definitely say that school had not been in session for two weeks and my social life was already thriving. It would have been perfect — that is, if it weren't for my academic performance. It was all fun and games until I saw my first set of midterms. Let's just say that my priorities freshman year weren't

necessarily what they should have been.

I returned to campus sophomore year with the plan to meet higher academic standards while maintaining the social life I had already developed. With a larger commitment to good grades, I eventually learned how to balance my schoolwork with a healthy social life.

But that wasn't all — I also decided to audition for the Arts Concentration program. Being a theater junky, I knew that this was where I belonged. After I was accepted, I met some of the most interesting, oddball, and theatrically talented people I've ever known.

In junior year, I joined a directing class (which you must consider taking, if you haven't already). Our end-of-term project was to direct a scene in which fellow students are cast. My project was successful — but there were still areas I had to work on. I acknowledged retrospectively that many of the directorial choices I made were the result of me trying to do what I thought the audience would like, not what I myself would have done. It was after this project

that Tracy — the most loving acting teacher you'll ever meet — said, "The more choices you make, Will, the more successful your play will be. This important lesson stretches into life as well: while it is good to be selfless, many times, it is okay to take care of yourself before you worry about others."

This year, when it came time for the ultimate project — writing, directing, and performing in a one-person play — I kept Tracy's advice in mind. I made every decision for myself, and, as Tracy predicted, the final result was far more successful than anything else I had ever created. I will be forever grateful to everyone in the Arts Department who has helped me grow. Each is a big part of who I am today.

If there's a lesson that I'd pass on to the next generation of Choate, it would be to live spontaneously. When I was younger, I hated when my days didn't go as planned. Choate uprooted this attitude: I've now learned that you can never truly plan out how your life will go. During the most recent Long Weekend, my plans were canceled last-minute. I certainly wasn't going to spend my

last Long Weekend killing time at home. So, I called up my friend and told her that we were going on an adventure. We got in my car, and we drove. We ended up in a quaint town in Rhode Island. Embrace the unplanned.

Looking back, I still don't know how I managed to do it. I suppose what finally did get me through four years were my friends. I love that there isn't a pressure to conform, to be part of only one crowd at Choate. Throughout my Choate career, I never really had a "friendship group" — I was intentionally a floater. I made friends everywhere: in the PMAC, playing sports, and, of all places, in a study-abroad classroom in China.

In a week, I will be gone. Choate was many things: long, tiring, stressful, formative, and rewarding. Now, it is time for the final test — the last and most difficult assessment Choate will throw at me — parting ways with the people that have made this place my home.

Will Raccio is a sixth former from North Haven. He may be reached at wraccio18@choate.edu

Endings, Beginnings, Transitions — They're One and the Same

By **Samantha Stevenson '19**
Opinions Staff Writer

Conclusions — they're not just the end of an era but also the start of a new one. They are transitions from a stage of one's life to the next, forcing people to morph and adapt to a new, perhaps daunting environment. For me, such an adjustment occurred when I graduated from a same-sex Catholic school in Manhattan to Choate Rosemary Hall. As one might imagine, those of the Convent of the Sacred Heart are homogeneous in almost all respects. For the most part, students share the same ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic background, and gender. My transition to Choate was a complete culture shock.

One thing I noticed immediately about Choate was that there are boys everywhere. They sneak up on you in the dining hall; they fill the pathways with oversized, not-yet-controlled teenage bodies; they monopolize the gym; and

they charge classes with an air of pubescent testosterone. In middle school, something so much as a shoulder bump would've convinced me that I was in love. It was at Choate that I finally learned that cross-gender friendships were not only real but normal — a valuable lesson that many of my peers at Sacred Heart have yet to learn.

The flexibility of the dress code was another bombshell. At the Convent, we were required to wear uniforms all the time. Clear nail polish was frowned upon and makeup was utterly forbidden. Teachers would use tape measures to ensure that skirts were no more than two inches above the knees. If a girl were to violate this rule, she was subjected to the "Skirt of Shame," a ghastly uniform stretching lower than any girls' ankle. So, naturally, I was shocked by all the freedom I had been given at Choate. That there was no commandment for any girl to wear a skirt was a revelation — suddenly, I could wear virtually anything

I wanted. Slowly, I veered away from the steadfast philosophy that showing skin was immoral. I discovered that dressing for the day could be more than a routine; it became a way to express myself.

Perhaps the hardest change to accommodate was the sudden need to defend my religion. In my youth, I'd only be surrounded by other Christian girls, people who shared and understood my faith. Following the transition to Choate, however, I quickly learned that many outside the Convent held misconceptions about Christianity. It was up to me to debunk these fallacies. For instance, people assumed incorrectly that I was homophobic and pro-life. In fact, while it is true that lesbians at the Convent were shunned and abstinence was heavily promoted in health class, I, personally, hadn't even begun to grapple with such politically-charged issues. It was only after coming to Choate that I slowly adopted my opinions on these issues and learned to defend

them against critics. Gradually, I took the Christianity that I was taught as a child and shaped it in accordance to the lessons that I have learned elsewhere — eventually forming my own worldview.

Though Choate has taught me to open my mind, it remains a bubble. Granted, it is a much more diverse bubble than the Convent, but it is a sheltered one nevertheless. Seniors will soon matriculate into a new bubble: college. But the conclusion of their high-school experience doesn't mean that they've learned everything there is to know or that their ideologies must be set in stone. So, a word of advice: embrace the changes life throws at you. As you enter new environments, you'll come to realize that nothing is really concluding — it's just starting anew.

Samantha Stevenson is a fifth former from New York. She may be reached at sstevenson19@choate.edu

A Letter to My Past Self

By **Esther An '21**
Copy Editor

Dear Esther,

Here you are, about to start freshman year. I know — you're nervous but excited. Lots of things are running through your head at the moment. After all, this is high school, and everything is changing.

Entering Choate, it's inevitable that you'll be encouraged to try a myriad of new things. You'll be told on numerous occasions that freshman year is the time to experiment, fail, and learn. This comes as no surprise. But I know that it will still be a message rather difficult to internalize. After all, when faced with a challenge, it's hard to reflect on the bigger picture and to simply "enjoy the process." Throwing yourself into the new, the different, and the unknown will seem terrifying.

But if there's one thing

that you really should take to heart, it's that the scariest experiences just happen to be the most formative ones. Putting yourself in those situations opens up more opportunities to be humbled and awed by the amazing people around you. You're lucky enough to be in a place where everyone is encouraged to pursue her passions. You'll find it thrilling to see your peers grow and develop their unique expertises.

You'll dance, where you'll discover that doing the cha-cha is likely not your true calling; you'll enroll in film photography, the most fulfilling activity one can do while spending countless hours in the darkroom in the Humanities basement; and you'll join clubs and activities you'll grow to love, especially the ones you didn't expect yourself to join in the fall — these are precisely the things that'll make your year that much more enjoyable.

Things won't be easy all the time. Take cross country, for instance. You signed up for it over the summer completely on a whim, with absolutely no idea of what it was actually going to be like. You'll be utterly shocked after discovering that you'll start with a "casual" three-mile run on the first day of practice. It will seem even more impossible when you're faced with that struggle up Mount Doom for the fifth time in practice. You'll be completely bewildered, slightly lost, and very, very tired.

Nonetheless, you'll recover. You'll even find an odd sense of fulfillment as, on one late fall evening, you're caught in the pouring rain while dragging your exhausted self back to Nichols. That feeling of uncertainty — of being on the precipice — thinking, "This is a new adventure, altogether" will make each new experience worthwhile.

Plus, the people you'll meet —

the team of passionate, talented runners you'll get to work with — will get you through everything. Even long after the season's over, you'll remain eternally grateful to have been a part of that caring bunch of friends.

Embrace the activities that you aren't confident in, the ones that really challenge you. Throw yourself into that run. Double over laughing every time your photos develop strangely. When you mess up the stag leap that everyone else in dance class knows how to handle, treat it as a learning experience. Try anything and everything. This is when it all begins, Esther. Make the most of it.

Love,

Esther

Esther An is a third former from Los Angeles. She may be reached at ean21@choate.edu



Graphic by Chandler Littleford / The Choate News



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Correction

What's Inside

A graphic last week on AP exams incorrectly credited Chandler Littleford '20 as its illustrator. The image was, in fact, created by Austen Rogers '18.

The Choate News regrets this error.
To submit a correction, email thechoatenews@choate.edu

RUDY GIULIANI: NOT THE LAWYER AMERICA NEEDS



Rudy Giuliani, former mayor of New York City and current lawyer to President Donald Trump P’00, greets Mr. Trump at a campaign rally in 2016.

By **Niki Gummadi ’21**
Opinions Staff Writer

For those that don’t know him as the former mayor of New York City, Rudy Giuliani is widely recognized as a fervent supporter of Donald Trump P’00. Around the time of the 2016 election, he could be reliably found at Mr. Trump’s rallies, energetically urging Americans to vote for the infamous businessman. After Mr. Trump’s election, rumors suggested that Mr. Giuliani would be rewarded for his loyalty with a cabinet position like many other Trump supporters. Yet, these rumors never came to fruition. However, it was recently announced that Mr. Giuliani will be joining Mr. Trump’s legal defense team in response to Robert Mueller’s continuing Russia probe. While Mr. Giuliani has the legal, political, and bureaucratic competence to take on the position

as a former mayor and federal prosecutor, his appointment to Mr. Trump’s team has still left people with more questions than answers.

Mr. Giuliani is not good for Mr. Trump, and he definitely is not good for America.

Mr. Trump’s legal team, much like his cabinet, has seen a comical amount of departures and replacements. These were mostly brought on by disagreements on how to deal with the Russia probe. This infighting will only worsen with the introduction of Mr. Giuliani’s combative personality. The question many people have

been asking is what exactly Mr. Giuliani brings to the team. Of course, he has plenty of experience in the courtroom, but this choice seems deliberate. After the office raid of his personal attorney, Michael Cohen, Mr. Trump needs more than just a good lawyer.

In reference to his joining Mr. Trump’s legal team to help with the Russia investigation, Mr. Giuliani said to the Washington Post, “I’m doing it because I hope we can negotiate an end to this for the good of the country...” However, what Mr. Giuliani brings to the table could do Americans more harm than good. Days before the Federal Bureau of Investigations announced that they would be reopening the investigation into Secretary Hillary Clinton’s emails, Mr. Giuliani appeared on television boasting about his ties to the FBI and claiming that the public would soon be made aware of information

that would dramatically hurt Ms. Clinton’s campaign. These actions insinuated that there is a leak in the FBI feeding information to Mr. Giuliani concerning ongoing investigations.

If this is true, it could be damaging to Americans for a number of reasons. First off, leaks from the FBI, no matter who they’re giving information to, are harmful to the security of the nation. In addition, if Mr. Giuliani is secretly receiving information from the FBI while being legally involved with the Russian investigation, that automatically destroys the credibility of the case. Not only will this damage public trust in the Justice Department and the FBI, but it will damage America’s reputation in the eyes of other countries. It is seen as nothing but a weakness when the leader of a country is fighting corruption charges with corruption.

Even if we give Mr. Giuliani the benefit of the doubt by assuming that he does not have someone in the FBI feeding him information, he is still a bad choice for Mr. Trump. In the short time that he’s worked as Mr. Trump’s lawyer, he has already made a number of comments that have only caused more trouble for his client. For example, Mr. Giuliani claimed that Mr. Trump paid Mr. Cohen back for the \$130,000 payment to porn star Stormy Daniels, which contradicts what Mr. Trump previously said about having no knowledge of the payment. Mr. Giuliani is not good for Mr. Trump, and he definitely is not good for America. In fact, one of the only people who has something to gain from this arrangement is Mr. Giuliani himself.

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

Melania Trump’s “Be Best”? We Should “Be Embarrassed”



On May 7, First Lady of the United States Melania Trump unveiled “Be Best,” her children’s initiative that will target social media, well-being, and the opioid crisis.

By **Camille Grant ’21**
Opinions Staff Writer

After being in the White House for more than a year, First Lady of the United States Melania Trump officially announced her first initiative, Be Best, on May 7. Be Best is a program for American children that promises to target the opioid crisis, improve overall well-being, and eradicate cyberbullying through a singular haphazard agenda. These three goals are described as the pillars of her program, but their link to one another is unclear. Mrs. Trump has essentially stated that “healthy living, encouragement, kindness, and respect” will prevent online bullying as well as drug addiction, a rather unsubstantiated argument.

According to Mrs. Trump, Be Best will help educate children on how to live healthier, kinder, and happier lives. Given the vague and over-optimistic nature of the initiative, in addition to the nonsensical convergence of the three goals, Be Best seems already guaranteed to fail. The sloppy initiative will barely serve Mrs. Trump’s ego, much less the children that need help. The program was poorly received by the general public. Among other criticisms, the awkwardness of the phrase “Be Best” was noted. Why not “Be Better” or “Be the Best?” While the name itself is poorly phrased, the connection between the name and the content of the program is also unclear. Be Best

supposedly lies atop three pillars, yet references none of them in its name. Mrs. Trump’s initiative is not only poorly thought out, but also pales in comparison to Let’s Move!, the program created by Former First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama. With dedication, Let’s Move! became a nationwide success for Mrs. Obama. Some of its accomplishments included the implementation of the Presidential Youth Fitness Program, the HealthierUS School Challenge, and the creation of MyPlate, among many others. Mrs. Obama held an undeniable drive and passion for her cause. On the other hand, Mrs. Trump barely knows what kind of change she is trying to effect. Let’s Move!

originally held five goals and was announced in the middle of President Barack Obama’s first term. To some extent, these goals were vague and open to interpretation such as “increasing physical activity” and “creating a healthy start for children.” Still, these goals clearly related to one another. If Be Best adopts more harmonic and logical goals, it may be more capable of achieving success. At the present moment, Be Best is destined for failure. It lacks a cohesive agenda, a driven leader, or real purpose. These problems are theoretically fixable, but they are unlikely to be properly addressed under the care of Mrs. Trump. The opioid epidemic isn’t easily fixed or prevented by a mere discussion. In fact, the opioid

crisis seems to have been lazily tacked onto Be Best, unrelated to the other goals in any way. While focusing on improving social media for children is undoubtedly a valid idea, the presence of Mr. Trump’s Twitter account directly contradicts any interest in ameliorating social media etiquette. Be Best claims that its mission is “to focus on some of the major issues facing children today.” This utter and appalling lack of direction and purpose exemplifies the self-serving nature of the program. What will Be Best accomplish in the remainder of Mr. Trump’s term? Given its rocky start, most likely very little.

Camille Grant is a third former from Oak Park, IL. She may be reached at cgrant21@choate.edu

Think Before You Impeach

By **Edie Conekin-Tooze ’19**
Opinions Writer

Like many of my liberal peers, I have spent the last months, post-election, flirting with the idea of impeachment. In doing so I have found myself facing many questions: “Is Pence a better alternative?” “Will a push to impeach President Donald Trump P’00 turn independents away from the Democratic Party?” But, until recently, I believed that impeachment was not the right route. I was committed to respecting our American democratic system, and impeaching our political enemies seemed to undermine this. Thus, I didn’t think it was right to call for the impeachment of a democratically elected official, even if I considered his or her views to be despicable. Yes, Mr. Trump’s character clearly rendered him unfit for the presidency, and his poor judgment has led to loathsome policies, but that does not make him constitutionally impeachable. It’s important to remember that we have a tradition of peaceful electoral transitions — going back to 1800 — of which our country should be proud. Moreover, to impeach Mr. Trump would likely further polarize his supporters, which would be a large step in the wrong direction. This being said, in recent days it has become increasingly clear that there are legitimate reasons to impeach Trump.

First, it’s important to understand what the Constitution says about impeachment and our history with it. The U.S Constitution grants the House of Representatives the sole power to impeach an official and makes the Senate the only court for impeachment trials. For Congress to impeach a president, he or she must be convicted of “treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.” Only two presidents have been impeached by the House of Representatives: Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998, and both were subsequently acquitted by the Senate. Richard Nixon, probably the first president to come to mind when you hear the word impeachment, was not actually impeached; he resigned before the house could vote on his impeachment.

In this age of #MeToo, it comes as little surprise that Mr. Trump had paid for the silence of a pornstar, Stormy Daniels, with whom he had an affair. But this week, when Mr. Trump admitted that he had repaid his lawyer Michael Cohen for the money paid to Daniels, he admitted to a felony. This repayment can be seen as a kind of donation, which therefore needed to be reported in Mr. Trump’s campaign finance paperwork. The fact that Mr. Trump lied about the payment and failed to report it in his federal election returns makes it a felony. Moreover, Mr. Trump furthered the case against him when Rudy Giuliani, another lawyer for the president, told “Fox & Friends” that the payment was necessary, saying, “Imagine if that came out on October 15, 2016, in the middle of the, you know, last debate with Hillary Clinton.”

Clearly, this payment was meant to influence the results of the election, which is the definition of a campaign donation. The administration’s admissions either suggest their gross incompetence or their understanding that Mueller has already uncovered this wrongdoing. This being said, we still know only a tiny amount of what Mueller knows. Trump is rightly concerned about the investigation. If he succumbs to his predictable impulses and attempts to fire Mueller, he will evidently be obstructing justice, which is yet another impeachable offense.

The impeachment case against Trump is strong. I think the time is coming for Congress to take action, but my concerns about impeachment remain. Though we are nearing the point where it can be seen as constitutional, it must be approached with tact and caution. In 1998, Clinton’s impeachment trials were clearly a partisan exercise, which resulted in no real action. Clinton is remembered by his supporters as the victim of a Republican campaign of vilification and slander; we don’t want to inadvertently martyrize Trump. The right to impeach was intended to check the power of the executive branch, a power essential to safeguarding the Constitution. But given the polarized world we inhabit, it would also be a partisan issue. Trump and the complicit Republican administration have already done enough damage to American democracy. When rightfully exercising the legal power to remove this disastrous president, Democrats should be careful to avoid doing further harm.

Edie Conekin-Tooze is a fifth former from New York City. She may be reached at econekintooze19@choate.edu

GET ON PAR WITH CAMPUS GOLF



Graphic by Chandler Littleford/The Choate News

A bird's-eye view of Choate's tennis-ball golf course.

By **Lizzie Quinn '20**
Staff Reporter

Choate's very own golf course has recently risen to popularity after the official nine holes were set in place earlier this year. Patrick Mullooney '18 and Crawford Sargent '19 first began playing campus golf last spring, and others soon began to dedicate time after school and on the weekends to "hitting the links," as Spencer Witter '19 puts it. Mullooney and Sargent designed the 9-hole golf course, where the first tee is in front of the steps outside of the St. John Student Activities Center and the other eight holes loop through the library, the Humanities building, down to Atwater, outside of Lanphier, onto the varsity football field, and end in front of the Combination dorm.

Many on the Choate Cam-

pus Golf Team decided to play campus golf — where golf clubs are used to hit tennis balls rather than golf balls — because it was less of a time commitment than playing golf on a regular course. Mullooney said that while he and campus golf course co-creator Sargent both enjoy playing and watching golf in their free time, "At Choate there aren't that many opportunities to play real golf, so we compromised and designed our very own campus golf course." Crawford, a lifelong golfer who began playing golf at a young age, similarly added, "This year we decided it would be more fun if we had a set course that we could play and keep track of scores for. Since we designed the course, a lot more people have started playing campus golf and using the course." Most times, a large group forms on the weekends or after classes on

Wednesday, and they attack the course. Sargent said, "If you are playing at a reasonable pace, 9 holes takes about 30 minutes on this course." Witter agreed, adding on, "[We play] any chance we get. It's always a good time when we round up the boys and hit the links."

Since we designed the course, a lot more people have started playing campus golf and using the course.

Crawford Sargent '19

Caden Dumas '18 was introduced to campus golf last year when he arrived as a new junior. Dumas said,

"I fell in love with the game instantly. You could say I'm married to it at this point. I love to just head outside and hit the links on a nice day to clear my mind. The beauty of Choate Campus Golf is that it doesn't take a great golfer to play. I'm awful, but I'm a pretty good campus golfer to say the least." Whether you're like Charlie Barnett '19, who plays a good amount of golf off-campus during the summer, or like Dumas, who claims that he is "lit at mini golf," while "real golf" isn't his strong suit, campus golf encourages inclusivity. It also helps that one doesn't need a caddy, a golf cart, or more than one golf club to play the campus's 9 holes; it's a quick and interactive way to spend half an hour.

Lizzie Quinn may be reached at lquinn20@choate.edu

Question of the Week with The Choate News

What are Your Summer Plans?

By **Deanna Tan '20**
Staff Reporter

For some, summer is a time to relax and enjoy time away from Choate's demanding workload. However, for others, the summer is jam-packed with everything they wanted to do but could not during the academic year. It seems to be that every person on campus has planned a slightly different agenda, so what are some people's summer plans?

Supriya Chang '21

"I am going to multiple camps during the summer. One of the camps is a week of playing my oboe, developing new skills, and learning how to make reeds! Then, I am going to two separate squash camps, each one lasting a week as well. I'm thrilled to go to both. One camp has the first interactive squash courts of the East Coast! It's going to be insanely cool playing games with the screen and seeing the accuracy of my shots. The next camp I will be attending with one of my close friends, and this will be our third year of squash camp together! I can't wait to spend more time with her and progress in squash. Finally, I am planning a squash program for my hometown. Because my town has so little squash, I want kids to have the opportunity to fall in love with the sport like I did. Although the program may not be able to start this summer, I'm excited for the possibilities."

Bekah Agwunobi '19

"I believe summer camps are a scam and no one should waste their money on them. I will be working in a lab that works with artificial intelligence, and we will be analyzing criminal data to show how we can improve the court watching process. I will be doing both a combination of lab work and grass-root activism, as I will be actually watching trials and collecting data. I

hope we can make more unbiased decisions pre-trial so people who shouldn't be held accountable have their constitutional rights. In the case of many pre-trial cases, most people plead guilty because they would rather do so than go to trial as there is a greater punishment once you go to court. Cases can go on for so long that you might be held for a really long time. I've always been very interested in criminal advocacy and as someone who has done lab work in the past, a lot of lab work with tech is so technical and lacks legit human purpose. I really wanted to spend my time this summer with social advocacy and machine learning."

Max Su '21

"This summer I will hopefully be interning at Istrategylabs and also in social media and marketing, probably in New York City."

Jeanne Malle '19

"I am planning to write a screenplay with my brother who works for a production company in Los Angeles. The script will be for a whole movie, and we plan to submit it to Netflix and HBO to see if they even look at it. I will be doing a 16-day backpacking trip with my sister in the south part of China. We will be exploring and understanding the countryside of China."

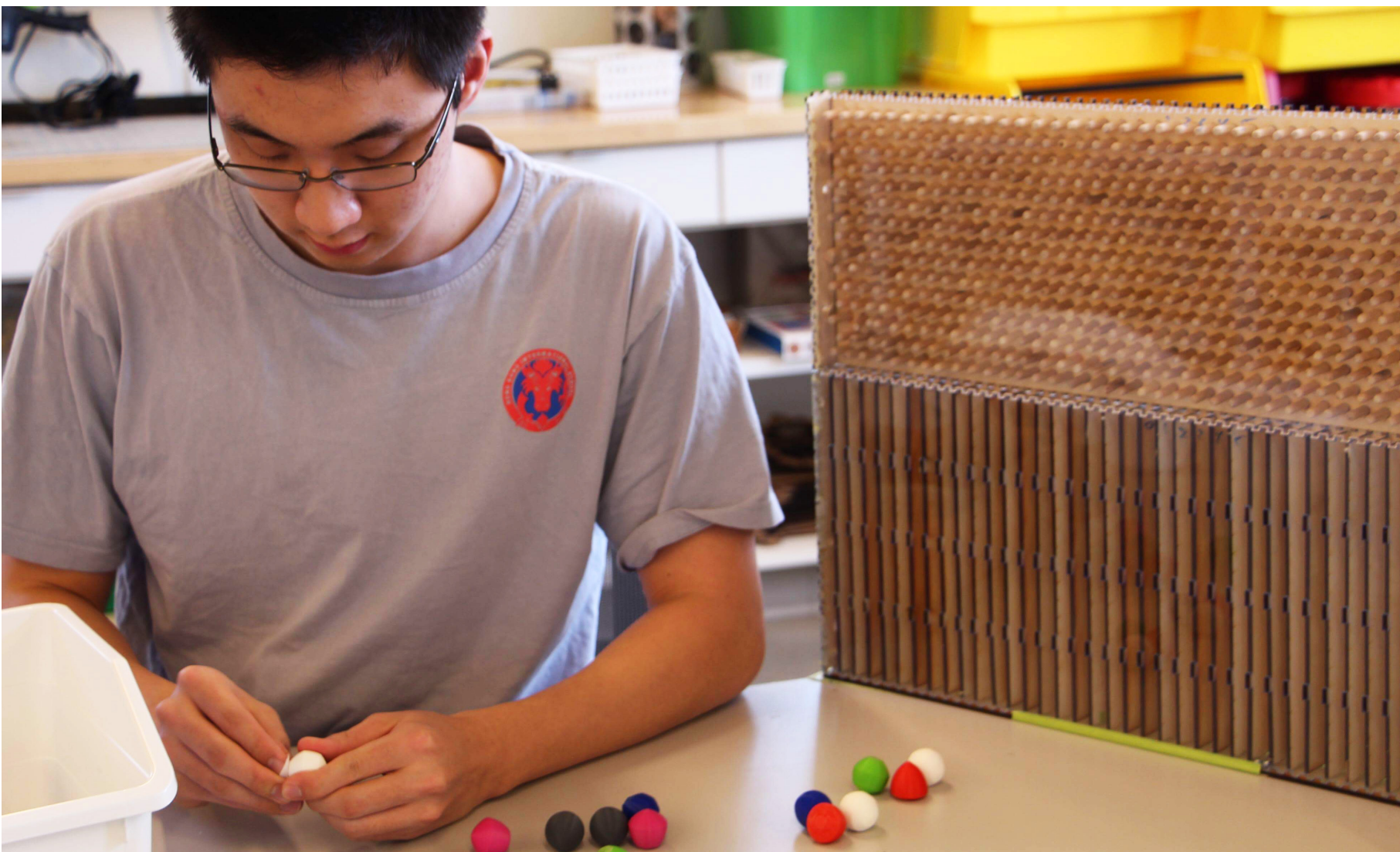
Katherine Burgstahler '18

"I am just going to be spending time with family and probably do some hiking with my dad."

Many are very excited to come to the end of the school year and embark on a three-month long vacation. Others, seniors in particular, find this a bitter-sweet time that they know they will miss. Whether one is excited or sad, it is without a doubt that the 2018 academic year is coming to an end.

Deanna Tan may be reached at dtan20@choate.edu

INFINITE DELIGHT IN ALAN LUO'S MUSEUM OF MATH



Photos by Ryan Kim/The Choate News

Alan Luo '18 has curated a museum of mathematics, now open in Lanphier Center. The exhibit includes designs for non-circular wheels for small geometric bicycles.

By **Will Zhu '20**
Copy Editor

Math can be a particularly frustrating and confusing subject for many Choate students. Alan Luo '18 is trying to change that mindset by creating a "Museum of Math." The museum will consist of four to five exhibits exploring unconventional areas of mathematics. Luo plans to display the exhibits throughout Lanphier Center during the last two weeks of May. The project will be open for viewing to everyone.

In his museum, Luo will assemble a series of math experiments accompanied by informational documents. In one exhibit, he will display a bike using non-circular wheels. He explained, "There are certain objects that roll smoothly like a sphere but are not spheres. So, I might make a bike with those shaped wheels. The ability to construct a shape that has such properties is not easy to do by hand, and therefore, you need math to solve it." In another exhibit, he hopes to arrange a pattern of strings that

blend to form a circle. According to Luo, "You can have a grid of pegs and make a lot of straight lines and each of the strings represents a tangent line to the circle and therefore a derivative at a certain point. When you have a lot of them around one point, it looks like a circle. So what I plan to do - if facilities lets me do this - is take up the entire Lanphier courtyard and turn that into a demonstration." The size of exhibits will range from the size of a courtyard to a laptop. Luo created the museum to display fascinating ap-

plications of mathematics and combat negative mentalities toward the subject. He described, "The Museum of Math is an effort to make math more interesting for people and therefore make them want to learn it. And more importantly, to show that math isn't this weird thing that exists in a vacuum; it actually has useful applications."

Luo also has many disagreements with how math is taught in school curriculums. He specifically dislikes the linear nature of progress from

Algebra to Calculus. High schools very rarely allow students to deviate from this path despite the vast amount of mathematical knowledge excluded from Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, PreCalculus, and Calculus. Many excluded areas of math do not exist beyond Calculus but rather exist parallel to these courses in terms of comprehensibility. The Museum of Math aims to expose viewers to these areas of math not covered by high school curriculums.

The project has been a work in progress since the

beginning of spring term, and Luo has already faced many challenges in its creation. Most of his complications have stemmed from his doggedness to manufacture all the components of his project by himself instead of buying components from manufacturing companies. "Because I'm trying to restrict myself to the i.d. Lab's resources to demonstrate how the i.d. Lab can be used, I end up having to narrow down all the designs," he said. Despite long wait times in 3D printing amongst other issues, he has persisted in creating his museum.

The Museum of Math is an effort to make math more interesting for people and therefore make them want to learn it...to show that math isn't this weird thing that exists in a vacuum; it actually has useful applications.

Alan Luo '18

Luo is stubborn in his use of self-manufactured materials because he wants viewers to realize the utility of the i.d. Lab. According to Luo, "I don't want to outsource my production. I want to make everything by hand to show that anyone can develop the skills to make these things that are interesting and useful." Most importantly, Luo wants to exhibit the more interesting aspects of mathematics. "I hope to rejuvenate interest in math and also show the applications of math and technology," Luo said. "I just want them to think that

Will Zhu
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Cuba Through an Artistic Lens

By **Sasha Bocek '19**
Staff Reporter

This past spring break, 14 upperclassmen, alongside Ms. Jessica Cuni, a visual arts teacher, and Dr. Yaser S. Robles, a humanities teacher, traveled to Cuba for Choate's first cultural immersion program there. The week long program was held in partnership with Academics Program International (API) and "sought to immerse students in the day-to-day life of Cubans beneath the tourist veneer."

This trip was art-focused, meaning that students had to constantly produce art during their time there. An exhibit of their work, which opened on Thursday of last week, is currently on display in the corridor connecting the Dining Hall to St. John Hall. Titled "Esta Volò!", a Cuban saying that translates to "That's amazing!", the show is a colorful combination of sketches, photographs, and paintings.

I'm really excited for people to see all sides of Cuban culture.

Erica Chang '19

Some of the photos and paintings are what you would expect of Cuba — vibrant and beautiful yellows, greens, and reds. Other works show the authentic portraits of the Cuban people. A few photos are of Choate students in Cuba. Seeing familiar faces in the midst of all of these new surroundings allowed the audience to better connect to the exhibit.

Creating the art proved to aid the students in understanding the country better. Each day, students were given at least half an hour to sketch

their surroundings. The art making happened everywhere, whether in museums, parks, or by famous monuments. Wherever they were, the students let their minds wander and their pencils draw freely. Ethan Wedge '19 recounted the time given as very peaceful. He even noted that despite having little focus or success in his sketching, the work that he produced "elevated [his] sense of Cuba." Many others on the trip echoed this sentiment and were very grateful that the trip was indeed very art focused.

The students were glad to be able to share slivers of their experiences through their work. Erica Chang '19 said, "I'm really excited for people to see all sides of Cuban culture. Cuba has a lot of historical and artistic significance that many people don't know about. The whole point of sketching, taking photographs, and journaling in Cuba was so that we could remember our experience and then share it with the rest of the community."

Not only are students pleased to show and share their work, but they are also proud. Austen Rogers '18 said, "The exhibit is important. As a group, we got to represent Choate for the first time in Cuba, and I hope Choate continues the tradition. I hope students see that there is more to Cuba than old cars and colorful buildings, although we did put up a fair number of images of these." This trip is unlike others that Choate has conducted in the past. Students traveled to a country which most Choate students have yet to see. The pieces of artwork that they brought back provide us with a glance into another world.

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Senior Visual Arts Exhibition Opens



Photo by Jenny Guo/The Choate News

The show includes Kay Ingulli '18's take on album covers.

By **Deanna Tan '20**
Staff Reporter

On Sunday May 13, the seniors in Visual Arts Concentration held their end-of-year exhibit. Known as the Senior Visual Arts Exhibition, the show included a variety of works, from papier-mâché sculptures to decorated decks of cards. Throughout the process of producing their final pieces, students pushed themselves to challenge new art forms, resulting in fascinating pieces. What inspired these seniors to create their work?

For Haley Williams '18, inspiration came from moments of raw and intense emotions. "They prompt me to find an outlet through creating visual pieces," she said. Julian Yau '18, on the contrary, based a lot of his artwork on comic books he made when he was in primary school. "Some of my art is just random thoughts or conscious awareness, and others are inspired by different artists. A lot of the work I create is based on the relationships I develop in art programs."

While some artists like to stick to a similar process when producing artwork, Williams uses a different process for each piece. "I usually don't plan anything. If the piece is large I usually work for an hour at a time over the course of a few weeks. Sometimes I will sit down and 'finish' a piece in one sitting. I don't like to stress the details. It's about the mindset while I'm creating more than anything."

Ellie Latham '18 had a completely different mentality, conceiving a plan in the beginning of each project. As a dual arts con student, working in both visual arts concentration and costuming, Latham wanted to incorporate her experience from costuming into her show by creating three-dimensional pieces. "I have three 3D pieces in total. The corset piece expresses a message of being confined, and using sticking on labels from many mass-production brands is used to imply the terrible labor policies for the workers. The butterfly piece, which includes many types of fabrics, is a way for me to demonstrate why costuming is valid, and the last

piece is a reflection of my childhood experiences."

Moe Jannet '18 drew over 80 different people on campus. "At first, it was easy because I could just draw my friends and people I was close with, and most of the time they would say yes. However, as I drew more and more people, I needed to approach people I wasn't very close with, sometimes even faculty members, so it became more challenging."

After many long hours of hard work, most seniors are proud of their final pieces. Williams said, "My work is an honest reflection of what's in my head. There are some pretty things and some disgusting things. I have many sides and I like to allow each to come forward and express themselves. I am always happy with the outcome when it reflects my truth."

Alan Luo '18, who did a one term special project, is also happy about the outcome of the exhibit. Luo did not anticipate his art growing to such a large scale: "In the beginning, it was only supposed to be three to four pieces of art in each building,

with around 20 pages of explanation. Towards the end, it became around 40 pieces of work with explanations surrounding every piece of art."

Although most seniors were very proud of the art they displayed, Julian Yau '18 has mixed feelings about his work. He said, "I'm indifferent about my work. I don't think I hold much value in the art I've created, other than it reminding of certain moments in Arts Con."

The students were nervous about publicly exhibiting their final work. Jannet said, "I anticipated being nervous, yet once I started talking, it was a lot easier to express myself and to tell other people where I was coming from." Williams, in contrast, was not at all nervous. "I get so much support and love that I appreciate greatly. The work I do is for me in the end, so I don't stress when I show my art to the world."

The variety of art forms at the Senior Art Exhibit left viewers amazed, demonstrating the hard work put in.

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ACAPPELLOOZA STRIKES A HIGH NOTE



Photo by Jenny Guo/The Choate News

At the end of the show on Saturday, May 12, a cappella groups came together to sing "Stacy's Mom," by Fountains of Wayne.

By **Tony Lee '21**
Staff Reporter

On Saturday May 12, thunderous applause echoed through the Seymour St. John Chapel during one of Choate's favorite events of the year — Acappellooza.

Acappellooza is an annual competition between a cappella groups at Choate: the Whimawehs, Bellacanto, Lilith, the Melatones, and Maiyeros. During the event, each group presents two songs, rehearsed and arranged by the students themselves. While a cappella groups from peer schools have performed at Acappellooza in past years — the most recent being groups from Hotchkiss and Loomis Chaffee in 2016 — there were no visiting groups this year.

The performances were separated into two rounds, meaning that every group sang two times. After each song, audience members casted votes for their favorite groups with monetary donations. Lily Kops '18 crafted a thermometer chart for each of the five groups, which updated

the audience of which group was winning.

Acappellooza is a unique event because it only features a cappella. While many other high schools host choral or orchestral concerts, not many have an annual a cappella show.

Graysen Airth '18, leader of the Whimawehs, described her feelings for the event. "I love Acappellooza because, other than Parents Weekend, it's the only performance for a capella. The audience is always so much more excited and engaged." She continued, "There's so much more support, energy, and commitment from the audience at a cappella events than at any other performance."

During one performance, the Whimawehs covered "Billie Jean" by Michael Jackson and donned black hats, which were later thrown away as a part of the choreography. Bellacanto performed an Ed Sheeran medley. Lilith harmoniously sang "Yesterday" by the Beatles, without crediting a solo to any group member. Melatones combined song and step to present a powerful interpretation of "Ain't No

Sunshine." Lastly, the Maiyeros performed a wide mixture of popular songs like "Shape of You" by Ed Sheeran and "Havana" by Camila Cabello. At the end of the event, all five ensembles gathered for a special round and took audience suggestions for songs.

On the surface, Acappellooza seems to be a fun occasion that gives the five groups a chance to perform together. However, every "vote" for the performances was a donation that supported a charitable cause.

Scott Romeyn '18, leader of the Maiyeros, said, "Acappellooza is the culmination of all of the a cappella rehearsals. It's, of course, for people to have a good time and listen to what we've been working on, but it's also to collect donations for PS154, a public school in New York. It's in a very, very poor area of New York — one of the poorest areas in the US." He continues, "Last year, [the money] went to buying piano lessons and keyboards. This year, it will go to clothes, like winter apparel."

Needing to communicate with PS154, setting up the cha-

pel for the show, and organizing Acapalooza itself required a considerable amount of behind-the-scenes work.

On this, Romeyn said, "Ms. Kegel does a lot of the work, communicating with PS154 in terms of what they want the money donated for, organizing who will be collecting the money. She chooses the order of the a capella groups and she has done rehearsals with each group. She makes sure that their songs are good and to give any advice because she's the club advisor for all the a capella groups."

Airth concluded with her thoughts on Choate and the school's music programs: "I think Choate's the only school with five a cappella groups — that's a lot for an 800 person school. It's a really unique aspect how supported the vocal programs are, and that's why a cappella has stayed relevant. Students get opportunities to perform and try things that they wouldn't have in other schools, like Acappellooza."

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Final Music Concert of the Year Showcases All Ensembles

By **Eliana Kim '20**
Staff Reporter

On Friday, May 11, Choate's music ensembles continued the tradition of performing during alumni weekend. All of the groups — Wind Ensemble, String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, and Jazz Ensemble — gathered in the chapel after weeks of rehearsals. The standing ovation they received at the end of the performance demonstrated the talent and hardwork of this group of students.

Kiki Kim '20, one of the audience members, said, "I really enjoyed the performance. Everyone was very talented. One of the performances that I really liked was a performance by the Jazz Ensemble. Students and Mr. Philip Ventre [the Orchestral and Jazz Ensemble Director] wore wigs which made a great impression on me. I hope there will be more performances throughout the year like this so that more people can come and hear the wonderful performance together." What the audience might not have realized, however, is that behind the beautiful performance were the hardships students had to overcome.

One of the difficulties the Symphony Orchestra faced was scheduling conflicts. Two weeks before the concert, students found out that due to a timing issue with the Juilliard School pre-college program, the orchestra's principal, Annett Ho '18, and co-principal, Eliana Kim '20, would not be able to attend the concert. Although the co-principal did make it in the end, Michael Zhou '18 and Se Ri Lee '19 were told that they would fill in for their classmates for this concert. Discovering this with such short notice was unfortunate, for Zhou had to prepare an entire solo part from the Rachmaninoff Symphony No 2.

Another hardship was that certain members of the orchestra could not make it to rehearsals due to sports and extracurriculars. Lee said, "I think people played well compared to rehearsals the orchestra had and I think it was

mostly because the people were focused. This concert was definitely one of the successful concerts we've had."

Mark Su '18, a violinist, said, "Having to sit in a position where I have to lead a whole violin section, I learned that it wasn't only about me but it was about having to be responsible for the section. When the section needed help, I was the person they were relying on. Having that kind of pressure, I had no choice other than to push my limits and practice a lot." Many students were thankful that this concert was a success, not just due to the feeling of accomplishment, but also because for some, it was their last experience performing at Choate.

Su, a current sixth former, said, "Realizing that this concert had marked the last performance of not only this year but my Choate career, I had a lot of mixed feelings. I was very pleased with our performance, but at the same time, I couldn't believe that this was my last one. Having to play with the orchestra in Choate, I have learned a lot by being part of this community and environment, especially having to perform in groups. I learned a lot from incredible musicians surrounding me like Annett Ho, who goes to Juilliard every weekend, asking for her advice about different ways I could improve."

Last Friday's performance was a successful and important one for the Choate community. However, Su said, "One thing I would have changed about this event would be the way the Choate community delivered the message that a performance was happening. I think it would have been better if there was a separate email informing the community about our performance so that more people would have showed up, enjoyed it, and appreciated our hard work. Hopefully, next time there is a concert played by our fellow peers, the message will be clearly delivered."

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The Challenges of Playing Multiple Varsity Sports

By **George McCabe '20**
Staff Reporter

Playing one varsity sport at Choate can include many hours of training and practice, in addition to the other rigors of being a Choate student. Some Choate students participate in multiple varsity sports, which brings even more difficulties in balancing commitments. However, Choate student-athletes who participate in multiple varsity sports say they have a better experience playing more than one sport compared to focusing only on one.

Time management at Choate can be difficult for everyone, but it is especially hard for Choate student-athletes who play more than one varsity sport. Balancing a two-hour sports commitment every day with homework and extracurriculars is simply not easy. Varsity hockey and baseball player Chris Guyette '19 said, "For me, since my sports are in back-to-back seasons, I find myself having to use my Sundays during hockey seasons to prepare for the baseball season."

He continued, "This takes time away from doing homework on Sundays and getting adequate rest for my body during the rigorous and physically intense hockey season."

Being a multi-varsity athlete at Choate brings high expectations for these athletes and their teams. They are always expected to perform at the highest levels. Varsity field hockey, lacrosse, and hockey player Gina Driscoll '20 said, "As a varsity athlete, you are expected to perform at a high level every practice and game, and always do everything necessary to prepare yourself appropriately."

While playing multiple varsity sports is certainly a large time commitment and requires a high level of play, there are also many benefits to playing more than one varsity sport. If students play more than one varsity sport, Choate student-athletes



Will Powers '19 competes at the varsity level in both football and tennis.

can have different experiences with a more diverse community. Guyette explained, "For one, the diversity of one's friend groups is expanded tremendously as being a part of a team at Choate instills friendships that last a lifetime."

Varsity football and tennis player Will Powers '19 said, "I also have a lot of great friends on both teams that I may not have had from only playing one sport."

Playing another sport in addition to a Choate student-athlete's main sport allows Choate student-athletes to improve as an athlete overall. Different sports require different skills and attributes specific to that sport, and Choate student-athletes can become better athletes by participating in more than one sport. Driscoll said, "Playing different sports with different strategies has enabled me to under-

stand my other sports better. I'm able to apply the concepts I have learned from one sport to help me better understand different plays and strategies in another sport."

Guyette also said, "There is nothing more beneficial for an athlete than playing multiple sports because each sport uses different muscles and different techniques that combine to create an all-around great athlete." He continued, "From skating on ice to running around the outfield, there is a drastic change in physical ability to do both task successfully, and by pursuing perfection in both areas, I, in turn, better myself all around as an athlete."

Although there are many positives in playing multiple varsity sports at Choate, it can also be beneficial to focus only on one varsity sport. At Choate, spending only one term participating in a varsity sport allows



Photo by Pinn Chirathivat/The Choate News (left); photo courtesy of Will Powers (right)

student-athletes to have more time during the other two terms to focus on schoolwork. Guyette explained, "You only have one term in which you are actively participating in a varsity sport. Therefore, your other two terms have more downtime, and you can focus on school and socializing with fellow students."

Choate student-athletes can improve their ability in one sport by participating in only that varsity sport at Choate. Powers said, "The benefit of playing one sport is that an increased focus would definitely make one stronger for that sport. If I devoted all my time to tennis or to football, I would probably be much better at that sport."

Guyette agreed, "Focusing on one sport forces you to put all of your ability into that one sport, and, in turn, makes it more likely for you to reach your physical ability in that sport be-

cause you are not distracted."

Only focusing on one varsity sport, however, can cause Choate student-athletes to become bored or tired of playing that sport. Driscoll said, "Focusing all your time and energy into one sport may make you a great player of that sport, but the best players are those that are great athletes." She added, "Having skill in one type of sport is great, but you may want to try trying your hand at other sports and gaining the skills needed for those sports, which can only make you better at your main sport."

Guyette said of focusing on one sport, "However, a downside would be that many people who focus on one sport in high school find themselves bored with doing the same sport every day and lose motivation."

Choate student-athletes that play multiple varsity sports can avoid overuse injuries. Driscoll commented, "Playing just one sport for an extended period of time can wear on your muscles, which can lead to a whole array of medical problems possibly prohibiting you from playing your main sport." Other sports also required different muscles which can be beneficial for a different varsity sport. Driscoll added, "Additionally, playing different sports can work different muscles than those you would normally use for your main sport. These new gains could help you perform better during your main sport."

Overall, at Choate, playing more than one varsity sport is clearly more advantageous than only participating in one varsity sport. The benefits of improving as an athlete and having a wider variety of experiences outweigh the difficulties of time management. Driscoll said, "Time away from your main sport matters, and playing multiple sports at Choate gives students the opportunity to do just that."

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FIELD REPORT

Varsity Saturday Games

Boys' Golf (5-8)
4th out of 4

Girls' Golf (6-7)
3rd out of 3

Boys' Lacrosse (7-5)
beats Hotchkiss, 9-6

Boys' Tennis (6-5)
falls to Andover, 3-4

Boys' Track (9-2)
3rd at Founder's

Girls' Track (6-6)
4th at Founder's

Girls' Water Polo (6-9)
Falls to Exeter, 7-13

J.V. Saturday Games

Boys' Golf (2-5-1)
falls to Avon, 255-209

Boys' Lacrosse (5-5)
falls to Hotchkiss, 7-11

GIRLS' VARSITY LACROSSE FALLS TO WESTMINSTER

By **Dan Brockett '19**
Sports Editor

On a day fondly known as "Westy Wednesday," Girls' Varsity Lacrosse faced off against a strong Westminster team — and they lost a heart-breaker, 12-13.

The two teams were evenly matched throughout the game as neither could pull ahead for a big lead. Co-captain Julia MacKenzie '19 said, "We knew it would be a good game from the start. They have a very similar record to ours. We fought hard but ended up losing it in the end."

In the team's highest scoring game of the year, it moved the ball up the field efficiently, and capitalized on its chances. Co-captain Emily Clorite '18 contributed a pair of goals to the Choate effort, in addition to excellent all-around play. MacKenzie won game MVP, finishing with five goals. She had a great game and made some spectacular plays, but all 12 goals that Choate scored were a product of excellent team play.

Coach Courtney DeStefano said, "We had a number of beautiful full field transitions, which showed how far we have come as a team. It is a really amazing thing to see the ball travel the full length of the field from a goalie clear to finish in a strong goal. It makes the team feel really connected as a unit." The girls capitalized on their chances and really made the most out of their opportunities. Westminster just happened to execute one additional time.

Despite the fact that it was a high-scoring game, Cho-

ate played excellent defense. Westminster has a very talented lacrosse team and this year it has scored 15 or more goals in a game three times. They have a knack for putting the ball in the net, but the Choate defense slowed them down enough to give Choate a chance at the win. Defensive stalwart Lizzy Mitchell '19 was a big reason that Choate was able to slow down the Westminster attack. Goalie Gina Driscoll '20 was able to stop the majority of Westminster opportunities that got past Mitchell and the stout Choate defense.

At the end of the game, Westminster scored to go ahead of Choate, 12-13. With 40 seconds left in the game, Coach DeStefano called a timeout to set up a play to give Choate one last opportunity to tie the game. MacKenzie said, "Unfortunately, it didn't work out in the end, but we were all pretty fired up."

There isn't a lot of time left in the season, but the girls have had a strong season up to this point in the year and continue to put forth a strong effort in every game. Coach DeStefano said, "Our team's biggest strength is our resiliency. Despite a tough loss, we did not put our heads down. The team has a great ability to push forward and learn from their experiences, even the ones that don't end in a W. That resilient nature is supported by the leaders of our team, particularly our captains, who continue to set a strong example that hard work pays off."

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On the Water with Ian Merrick '18

By **Dan Brockett '19**
Sports Editor

Ian Merrick '18 is a varsity rower, JV hockey captain, and committed to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for crew. This past winter Merrick was the Boys' JV Hockey captain, and he played a great role in achieving the team's 11-6-1 record. He has played a number of different sports during his time at Choate, but seems to have found his calling in crew. He was kind enough to take some time out of his senior spring to sit down with Sports Editor Dan Brockett '19 and talk about how he got into rowing, his other sports, and even his favorite color.

Dan Brockett: How long have you been rowing?

Ian Merrick: I started off my junior fall as a first-year rower, and I was a part of the novice rowing group. I technically rowed for the first time at the MIT rowing camp during the summer before my junior year.

DB: How did you get into rowing in the first place?

IM: I was looking to switch up my spring sport because I had never found one that I really liked. My parents knew MIT was my dream school, and they found the MIT rowing camp. I would get to try out the sport, visit MIT, and get to see what rowing at MIT would be like.

DB: What other sports do you currently play at Choate?

IM: I just play JV hockey.

DB: Which sport of these is your favorite? Why?

IM: I've been playing hockey since I was three years old, and it has always been a huge part of my life. My dad played and my mom worked for a professional team. I think it's always going



Photo by Kathryn Phillips/The Choate News

to be a big part of my life. Crew is definitely growing on me, but I'm never going to give up playing hockey.

DB: What are some lessons that you have learned from rowing crew?

IM: I definitely think rowing is a sport where you don't always have to be the most skillful and you don't have to have the most finesse. It taught me that you can be successful by working hard and keeping at it. You just have to treat every practice as a way to get better. If you keep working hard then success will follow. Also, I think it taught me the power of having a strong group of teammates and being close to them. I do much better when I'm surrounded by my teammates than I do when I'm alone. They create a healthy, competitive atmosphere, and they push me to work harder, and it makes the sport so much more fun.

DB: What is the most difficult thing for you in the boat?

IM: For me personally, I can start a race off really strong, and my form is good, but towards the end of the race I get tired, and my form starts to slip. I need to stay mentally strong, so other

parts of my stroke aren't sacrificed. I don't want to slow the boat down because I'm thinking about how much pain I'm in.

DB: What are your future goals for rowing?

IM: I would say to continue to get stronger and faster on the erg. I just need to work on my technique on the water as well because I feel like I can row harder on the erg than on the water.

DB: What's your favorite thing about rowing?

IM: My favorite thing is when you get to spend a beautiful day out on the water. It's so nice when the water is calm, and it's not too hot and you're racing against another boat. I love the feeling of pulling ahead of another boat.

DB: What's your least favorite thing about rowing?

IM: There's nothing worse in rowing a 2k on the erg. It's something that all rowers dread. In order to win races on the water you have to put in a lot of work on the erg off the water.

DB: What's your favorite color? Why?

IM: My favorite color would have to be navy blue. It's my favorite because I look good in it.

DB: If you could be any person, that has ever existed, for a day, who would you be?

IM: I'd probably want to be Brad Marchand just because he's on the Boston Bruins. It has always been a dream of mine to play in the NHL. Also, Brad Marchand is a skilled player, but he can also lay the body when he needs to. I'd really like it if I got to be a two-way player.

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