





Editor-in-Chief: Alexis Lien '23 Managing Editor: Tiffany Xiao '23 Photography Editor: Toffy Prakittiphoom '24 Graphics Editor: Yujin Kim '23 Layout Editor: Austin Zhao '23

TIMELINE 2,3

SENIOR SPEECHES 4,5

DEPARTING FACULTY 6,7

COVID-19 8,9

MONUMENTAL EVENTS 10,11

YEAR IN PHOTOS 12

Hill House Re-Opening

Sept 9

After being struck by lightning in 2019, Hill House sustained significant damage from water used to extinguish a fire, leading to the need for major repairs. Two long years later, Hill House reopened this year to much fanfare. The dorm now houses both boys and girls, becoming the first co-ed dorm on campus. Situated right next to the Student Activities Center (SAC) and the Dining Hall, Hill House has six common rooms, two for each gender and two shared, and utilizes fingerprint locks instead of keys. The advisers in the dorm are Mr. Dan Proulx, Ms. Laura DiCarlo, Mr. Bari Robinson, and Head of House Dr. Chris Hogue. Alex Skrypek '23, a resident of the dorm, commented, "Besides the brand new amenities, being in a co-ed community has provided a lot of unique experiences that other dorms at Choate just can't emulate."





Opening Days

Sep 9 - 11

For the past two years, opening day traditions have been put on hold due to Covid-19 concerns. This year, as restrictions begin to loosen, the School has resumed these activities, fostering a sense of community among new and returning students. The Pathways Program and International Student Mentor Program hosted a scavenger hunt and ice cream social. The New Student Dinner created an opportunity for new students to meet and talk with their prefects. Playfair, a yearly tradition for new students, is an event held on the Great Lawn consisting of multiple games to help students get to know each other. The opening days culminated with Convocation, where the student body listened to remarks by faculty members to kick start the school year.

Ross Gay Visits Choate

Oct 29

Ross Gay, author and professor at Indiana University at Bloomington, joined the School virtually in Colony Hall to discuss his book and the School's summer reading selection, "The Book of Delights." During the school meeting, Gay discussed his writing process and shared some of his unpublished poetry with the student body. He focused most on his process of coming up with ideas rather than putting pen to paper. Gay discussed how his unusual gardening practices led to him writing an entry on them in the book. He fielded questions about specific passages from the book and his inspiration for writing. When asked about why he believes his writing resonates with so many, he said he believed that it's because it's so "particular."





TEDx at Choate

April 10 Remembering the diverse and unique challenges faced throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the School hosted its first TEDxYouth@ChoateRosemaryHall event under the theme "re:INVENT." Six alumni speakers were invited to campus to talk about their experiences, from working in business to raising awareness about mental health. The six speakers were Dr. Mary Branch, Mr. Chris Chambers, Hon. Leeland Cole-chu, Mr. Craig Kramer, Hon, Katherine Forrest, Dr. Larry Thomsen, experts in the fields of law, engineering, busiand mental health.

Revisit Day Returns

April 4, 7, and 8



After a three-year-long hiatus, new sounds of laughter rang across campus as Revisit Day returned for a full-fledged, in-person program. The whole campus worked together, shifting class schedules and events to give prospective students a taste of Choate life. With performances from the Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Combo, and student dancers, the event was an opportunity for the admissions department, faculty, and students to share their love for the Choate community with a new cohort of prospective students.





Stevenson Lecture: Kwame Owusu-Kesse

Feb 22 Chief Executive Officer of the Harlem Children's Zone, Mr. Kwame Owusu-Kesse, came to speak on campus as part of the annual Stevenson Lecture. He talked about his experience on Wall Street, which he left to pursue charity. An annual program for students and faculty involved in history, political science, and economics courses, HPRSS teacher Mr. Jonas Akins said Mr. Owusu-Kesse was selected for his work "at the intersection of public pol-

icy, education, and
social services."

Photo by Tiffany Xiao '23/The Choate News



Dorm Changes

April 21

Departing from nearly a century of tradition, the School announced that Memorial House will become a co-ed dormitory for fourth and fifthform students, instead of being the sole home for third-form boys. The North wing of the dorm will now be for girls, while the South wing will be for boys, with about five prefects on either side. Besides Mem, ten other dormitories have been adjusted to accommodate new residents, reflecting the School's desire to provide more equitable housing models between forms and accommodate the admitted students of the class of 2026.





Phillips Family Lecture: Juju Chang

April 26
Choate kickstarted Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) month

with a guest talk by renowned Asian-American journalist and Emmy winner Ms. Juju Chang. Selected specifically for her accomplishments as co-anchor of ABC News' "Nightline" and relevance across multiple generations, Ms. Chang spoke to the community about issues regarding diversity and microaggressions. She discussed recent anti-Asian hate crimes, their imthe stance and response we should have. participated in an affinity lunch with tifying Choate students and faculty.

First Hurrah & 3/4

May 7



For the first time since May 2019, in-person indoor dances took place on campus in the form of First Hurrah for fifth and sixth-formers and 3/4 for third and fourth-formers. First Hurrah was held in the dining hall, with some small snacks and drinks, a dance floor in the sophomore-junior section, and a few tables set up. 3/4 was held in the hockey rink. Decades-old traditions marking approximately 100 days until graduation, both events signaled a return of the vibrant parties that are a highlight of Choate student life.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Friday, May 27, 2022 Page 3 || The Choate News



Student Lecture Series

Nov 9, 11

Each year, the Science Research Program (SRP) culminates in presentations for each of the participants in the program. After spending two years dissecting scientific writing, conducting experiments, and spending their summer in a lab, the sixth-formers discuss their summer experiences and the important work they carried out. For the first time in two years, SRP presentations were open to students in-person instead of returning to last year's online format. Among the presentations were Joy Bang '22's research on the fibroblasts of aging lungs and Dan Xiao '22's research on the prevention of axonal regeneration.



Deerfield Day 2021

Nov 13

Students headed over to Deerfield Academy on November 13 to compete in the 99th annual Deerfield Day. Hundreds of students took buses down to Deerfield to cheer on the fall sports teams. Nick Visuthikosol '22 said, "The energy during the games was fantastic." Though the day didn't go as Choate students had hoped, Choate secured wins in a few games, including an impressive win in Girls' Varsity Soccer, and enjoyed the yearly tradition.



12 Angry Jurors & Xanadu

Oct 30, Nov 4 - 6

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, theater performances were held either online over Zoom or outside. This fall, the Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC) brought back indoor, masked performances. The mainstage play was *Twelve Angry Jurors*, adapted from *Twelve Angry Men*, which follows the deliberations of 12 jurors on a murder case and highlights how the interactions between the jurors influence each of their opinions. *Xanadu*, the smaller fall term musical, follows Kira, a Greek muse, as she falls in love with a mortal artist named Sonny. Though *Xanadu* was initially scheduled to be held in Gelb theater, due to technical difficulties, the performance was moved to the Chase Bear Theater under the PMAC.



Largest-ever Lunar Banquet

Jan 28



Led by a collaboration between the Chinese Club and Choate Korea Friendship Association (CKFA), this year's Lunar Banquet was the largest ever hosted on campus, with diverse food, performances, and activities. Supported by the SAC, Arts Department, Global Programs Department, and DEI task force, students had an invaluable opportunity to connect with their culture or experience an important tradition of another. As part of this, students performed various forms of art. Wendy Huo '23 performed a Chinese sword dance, known as Jian Wu. Joy An '23 did a musical performance on the flute. They also partook in Chinese New Year traditions, such as handing out red envelopes.



Global Engagement Program

Jan 21

In an effort to bolster the Study Abroad signature program at the School, the Director of Global Programs Ms. Ashley Sinclair, along with a new committee, introduced the Global Engagement Program (GEP). The new program combines aspects of community service and a local and abroad off-campus experience, which could involve a term abroad. Students are also required to take six globally-focused courses offered by the School. Mr. Charlie Fuentes, the Language Department Head, said, "GEP is a phenomenal way to augment our offerings and programs both abroad and domestically outside of Choate."





Diversity Day 2022

Jan 17

This year, Diversity Day took on the slogan, "Leveling Up: Black Power in the Next Generation." The School hosted workshops and film screenings facilitated by both students and faculty members. These workshops included a debate on the merits of performative activism, a discussion on Afrofuturism in the movie Black Panther, and a screening of The Black Power Mixtape, a Swedish documentary on the Black Power Movement in the United States. The film screenings were followed by discussions about the film, its history, and the applications of its ideas. This year's Diversity Day keynote speaker was Dr. Angela Davis, a renowned civil rights activist and scholar. In her speech to the student body, Dr. Davis spoke about her experience in the Civil Rights Movement and our collective responsibility to systemic inequality. fight

Grandparent's Day

May 13



Choate students brought their grandparents to campus to show them around their second home and participate in classes. Grandparents also had the opportunity to have breakfast with Dean of Students Mr. Mike Velez 'oo, tea with Head of School Dr. Alex Curtis, participate in campus





Footloose: The Spring Musical

May 19, 20, and 21

The Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC) hosted Footloose for the annual spring term musical. There were four performances, one on Thursday and Friday, and two on Saturday. A story about hope, love, freedom, and forgiveness, the Choate musical mirrored the storyline of the 80s cult classic film of the same name but also introduced exciting new songs created exclusively for the performance.



Physics Phlotilla

May 25



Resurrected from its prior iteration in 2019, Physics Phlotilla returned to campus with a splash following an announcement during School Meeting by Dr. Chris Hogue. Students were challenged to use just cardboard and tape to build a boat able to transport at least one student across the lower Archbold pond.



SENIOR SPEECHES

Page 4 || The Choate News Friday, May 27, 2022

JESSICA WU



"Finding your people at Choate is hard, but it's not impossible. My freshman year, the seniors told me that I would most likely not be friends with the same people for all four years of Choate. Of course, I did not believe them. After only two weeks at Choate — which to be fair, felt like an eternity — I was certain that I had already found my permanent friend group. But, to no one's surprise, a month or two into freshman year, I grew apart from the friends I made during orientation. After that, I made new friends, thinking, "Yes, now I've finally found my people," but again, we ended up growing apart only a few months later.

My first two years at Choate, this happened to me over and over again. Each time, I left those friendships feeling discouraged, thinking it was unlikely for me to find yet another group of people at Choate I would feel at home with. Yet, each time, I met new friends and proved myself wrong. Maybe my freshman year friends were my people at the time, but people change, and inevitably friendships will change too. Choate may be small, but four years is a long time, and people will come and go from your life when they are meant to.

So, here's what I've learned from my friendships at Choate over the years:

Right person, wrong time can be true for friends, too. Rhea Shah was one of my first friends at Choate, but amid the drama of freshman year (which I promise will seem more and more dumb as you get older), we fell apart. Actually, Rhea, I think there was a solid two terms of Choate when we absolutely hated each other. During sophomore winter, however, when I think it's safe to say that we had both changed a lot, we bonded over a shared experience and became best friends — and we've been friends since. Moral of the story, if you don't want to be judged for who you were freshman year, don't judge others for who they were freshman year.

First impressions aren't always accurate. As someone with a really horrible resting bitch face — like really bad, like people frequently ask me if I'm okay or they think I'm glaring at them — I don't always give the best first impression. Add my resting face with the fact that I'm quiet when you first meet me, and many people stuck up (my friend Orville can attest to this — she told me that she thought I was a bitch when she first met me). Take the time to get to know people beyond what their first impression is, and they might surprise you.

Value the friendships where you can pick up right where you left off. Kayce Madancy and I were

friends before the pandemic hit, but during the quarantine and throughout junior year, our only form of communication was through sending each other cat TikToks—literally just cute videos of cats sitting there doing nothing. Sometimes we would respond "awww" or "omg so cute," but we really didn't talk much other than that. During prefect training this fall, we started talking again and picked up right where we left off. It was like that two-year gap in our communication never even happened. Understand that you don't have to constantly talk to someone to stay friends with them, especially as us seniors are going our separate ways for college soon.

Keep an open mind: you can meet unexpected people in unexpected ways at unexpected times. By the time I entered senior year, I didn't really expect to meet anyone new. My advice for you is to take a chance with the people you are randomly paired up with in class for a group project, or, in my case, randomly paired up with as day student prefect partners. I don't think anyone could have predicted that Dan Altschuler and I would become such good friends (just kidding!), but those surprising connections you form with people you never would have expected to get along with often lead to the best relationships.

Basically, all of this is to say: find the people at Choate who let you be unapologetically yourself. Surround yourself with people who are positive and supportive and loving and funny — the people who you can sit with for hours in the dining hall and not get bored. I don't know many people who would want to stay up late on FaceTime popcorn reading Sabrina Orah Mark's column in The Paris Review just for fun, but I'm glad that I've found the two people at Choate (Rachel and Henrik) who would happily agree to do that. Find a Charlotte Weinstein to walk around campus with during a snow storm, taking pictures of each other posing in front of every lamp post and bench you pass. Let people come into your room and complain about random things when you both should probably be doing homework instead (this was Irene's favorite activity in Hall junior winter). Join Senior Soccer or Ultimate Frisbee even if you don't have a single athletic bone in your body (shoutout to JV ultimate stars Chiara and Angela). Become friends with people who will go with you to SkyZone an hour before curfew because why not or play kickball in the rain on Mem Field or run around at night playing hide-and-seek around campus.

I didn't find most of these people until the end of sophomore year or even this year, but I'm eternally grateful that somehow in this big world our paths crossed here at Choate — so grateful that I start actually crying everytime I think about leaving this place (I'm honestly surprised that I'm not in tears right now). With each friendship that I've gained or lost, I've learned to stop valuing the number of friends I have but instead the quality of those relationships. I've learned to stop trying to hold onto friendships that aren't meant to be. I've learned assume that I'm intimidating, intimidated BY them, or to accept that not everyone is going to like me or want to be my friend, and that's okay.

> I'm happy to say that I have finally found my people at Choate. And, with patience and an open mind, you will too. Once you do, spend every moment you can with them. I can't wait for these last five days with the people who made Choate my home."

PALEY ADELSON-GRODBERG



- "Anyways, that brings us to today I have for you all 25 tips for success at Choate.
- 1. Don't be afraid to go to the gym because everyone's looking at themselves so much they won't even notice you.
- 2. Dining hall traffic can be avoided by staring straight ahead, walking quickly, and pretending you are late to class needed to print something.
- 3. Wait three seconds one, two, three before saying hi to someone on the path so you don't
- seem too interested. 4. Don't bring pizza to campus during Covid-19 quarantines at Choate and then wave to your dean
- or you may get suspended. Sorry about that Ms. Van Mierlo 5. Dining hall coffee may not taste good but it's unbeatable for mobilization purposes. If you
- know what I'm talking about you know what I'm talking about. 6. The walk from Gunpowder Creek to the
- fourth floor of humanities cannot be done in less than six minutes.
- 7. If you're a day student or have a house nearby, host your boarder friends because sometimes all they need is a home cooked meal

- 8. Although my boob bag may get me compliments, I've officially decided tote bags are not functional for school and I will be getting a backpack for next year.
- 9. Be your own person even though the blondes keep getting blonder.
- 10. RESIST YOUR FOMO, there will always be more social events.
 - 11. We're all just teenagers
- 12. Stay off TikTok if it makes you feel bad. I'm talking to all 850 of you.
- 13. Be close to the people on your sports teams. You guys are there to win and compete but also to bond and be there for each other.
- 14. We are all better than someone else at something and so comparing does no good.
- 15. If nobody else is hosting or making plans,
- 16. Stay on the lookout for things that you might be interested in. Freshman me did not think I would have 48 plants in my bedroom or 36,000 photos on my camera roll but look at me now.
- 17. Being a day student actually does get so much better if you get a car.
- 18. And on that note You can drive from the day students parking lot to the Shell gas station on zero miles of gas.
- 19. If you're going to go out with someone make sure to treat each other well.
- 20. As you get older, the line in the servery becomes a lot more optional.
- 21. The friendships you make here will go in phases but that's just high school.
- 22. New York long weekends are not actually forgive and forget.
- 23. Say what's on your mind, and if others don't agree, that's their problem.
- 24. Colony dinner has the best French toast, and I will forever miss doing brunches there.
- 25. Give Choate your all. The four years go by quickly and when you're done you're going to

IAN HAILE



"During my time at Choate, I've learned a thing or two... which is really only like half a thing per year... so not a great ratio. Really this is more about my mindset than something I have learned, which brings me down to ¼ thing per year... Let's not get distracted by how few things I have learned.

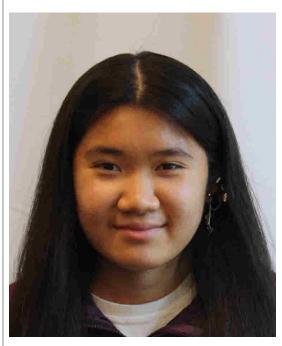
One of the biggest changes that I have seen in myself from when I first started at Choate is that I now say yes to things. In my early days at this school, I would always find an excuse not to do something. Dance party form event? Too cool for that. Evening club meeting? Too much homework. And it was true; I did have a lot of homework that night, and I most certainly was too cool to be dancing in the Humanities Rotunda. But I have a lot of homework every night, and -I don't know if you can tell — but I am always too cool. You can always find a reason not to do something, but if you spend too much time listening to those reasons, you end up missing out on some really amazing moments.

I couldn't tell you the exact moment of this shift, but some time in my sophomore year I realized that I was suddenly doing things. I had been to every Choate theatrical production that year, I was going to club meetings, I had just applied to a signature program. Something in me had changed — whether induced by a lack of sleep or legitimate personal growth, we may never know.

It turned out I liked doing things. Who knew! Practically every time I took part in an activity despite the numerous reasons against it, I ended up having a great time. Looking back, it would be painful to have missed that magical journey through the snowy cross country course 2 with my friends or to have skipped a hilarious performance of Noises Off. Even for the things I didn't like — wrestling, for example — I was still glad to have tried, to have eliminated any future regret that I had missed an opportunity.

And so I reach what is the heart of my speech, what I hope that you will learn so that some of you can beat my record of learning ¼ thing per year. When given the choice between doing something and not doing something, consider, truly consider, doing it. You're always going to have a math test to study for, a history paper that needs to be turned in by midnight, or a Chinese presentation you need to prepare for even though you're going to have to repeat everything in English anyway. I implore you, set those things aside every now and then to experience everything that Choate has to offer. Go to a chess club tournament, stop in at that form event even though you think it's stupid, try a new sport that you'll probably suck at. I have never ended up regretting taking the initiative to do something. What I regret most from my time at Choate are the things I never even bothered to try."

LINDA PHAN



"My parents came from a harsh background. Me, having the time and space to explore what I want to do is a privilege that they never got to experience. As children, they were forced to reconcile with the fact that the world around them was crumbling to no fault of their own. As children, they were forced to be adults in search of some sort of permanence. However, their approach may not be the best for me who lives in a different time and place.

I don't believe that there is a linear path to anything. Many of us will encounter twists and turns, thorns and all sorts of trouble, so why not enjoy this path as we go. Why not gain skills that can help us ride the waves and trek the snow? Why embark on a journey without a toolkit? Why let the fear of uncertainty dominate? There is no path that is truly safe, and with only a concentration in academics, I will never develop into a person capable of looking at life in different, beneficial perspectives.

So I tried a bunch of new things that all went under my parents' scrutiny at Choate.

First, I got a D on one of my earliest physics tests at Choate (except I didn't try for this and it just sort of happened because physics likes to be physics). A D, don't come home. I mean, I am at Choate anyways, there was nothing to lose, so I might as well see what else this place has to offer than the momentary panic that I didn't belong in this community because I didn't understand the concept of projectile and inertia. Unlike inertia, I want to change and be in control of my life although it seemed like my life was derailing in my parents' eyes.

When I decided to try intramural hockey, I think they experienced heart attacks. I didn't know how to ice skate, and sticks in hindsight can be very dangerous, but Dr. Cohen made it fun even though it was always sus with how we scored with our hands or prevented scoring by moving the goalposts. Ultimate frisbee, I have to say Team gold, you make my day on the daily. Sure, our passes could use some work, and our plays can be a bit questionable, but we got where we needed to be, and our wholesome vibes were just great in general.

My parents didn't think I would amount to anything doing these activities, but I never wanted to professionally get sponsored by Nike or sign million-dollar contracts. I joined Urinetown and Fringe, but I wasn't particularly good at acting, dancing, or singing. You most definitely won't

find me on Broadway. However, I think those

times helped me anchor myself in the backdrop of such a stressful academic setting like Choate. There was no end goal to these pursuits, but I grew as a person nonetheless. I met new people, saw new things, learned new social and physical skills, and had fun. I matured in doing things my parents thought were futile for their planned future for me. They didn't understand that years of just thinking about academics have made their child somewhat oblivious to body language, facial expressions, emitting confidence and working in a team, which all happen to be a big part of acting, cross country, ultimate, and hockey.

Academically, physics made me realize engineering will not bring me joy, and I questioned whether the other career choices my parents have given me were the ones I actually wanted to pursue. So, I explored other classes. Since I have been told there is only one way to achieve success in life, it has truly been a thrilling experience to go on a treasure hunt and find the things I want to

do. Besides, what even is the definition of success? I don't think I was initially taken to psychology, but intro to psych. Hooked me in and next came abnormal psych. and cog neuro. I wanted to explore environmental studies, so next came a year at the KEC. And then in senior year, I want to take some type of bio through anatomy. I dibble dabble in as many things I felt even slightly attracted to, and I am glad I did that because I figured out what I truly want to pursue, which ended up becoming a mix of all of these things I wouldn't have known of if I didn't ven-

ture out of the structure I was told to stick to. Of course, I am not sure of anything yet. However, we should normalize the idea that not everything needs to be a linear progression, that not everyone needs to know what they exactly want to do or be stepping foot into high school, which can sometimes be the sentiment, especially in a place with so many driven individuals like Choate. When you're at Choate, where there are so many things to partake in and explore, it would be a waste to lock yourself up in a box. I don't have any details of my future other than this gut feeling in my soul, but there is so much more time left to explore.

My parents have grown to be supportive of my endeavors over the years. The grit that they accumulated through their lives lends me strength in times of confusion. While some of their wise words of encouragement may have made me go against their wishes, they never gave up on me even as I stumbled along the road I had built for myself. If anything, I am glad that their resistance constantly challenged what I felt and thought, which made me have this burning desire to explore. They have only wanted so much structure in the first place out of their own love and affection for me. I completely understand, and I don't hold any of this against them. They have stimulated my growth. They want me to be safe and happy, so I have been on that journey... just at my own discretion.

At Choate, I have used my independence as an opportunity to discover my values, interests, and identity, and I encourage every one of you in the crowd to do the same. There is no need for an end destination when the trip itself has brought happiness and growth. It's great if there is one, and it's just as great if there isn't. Find who you are and what you want, and it may take time. Dibble dabble, a piece here, a piece there, and you will find yourself in an ever-growing mosaic."

Page 5 | The Choate News Friday, May 27, 2022

ISABELLA GRAU



"Being the third sister out of four girls, I could not define myself at school without being referred to in the context of my family. Choate meant that nobody knew who I was and that I could establish myself as my own person. I could be anonymous. I was surprised to find out in my first year of Choate that these feelings of inadequacy did not disappear. I cried about my grade in world history, called myself talentless, and developed anxiety that made it hard for me to participate in class. I lacked external pressure and the person who made me suffer most was myself. Two terms in, I hadn't really found the answers to these questions and I felt lost. I didn't know who I was or how to define myself.

When the pandemic hit, I had the opportunity to go home and take myself out of the Choate equation. The fast paced life of Choate was put on hold, and I was able to take a deep breath. I spent a lot of time alone and I recognized I had only escaped my problems momentarily by choosing to switch schools sophomore year. I read books, I spent a lot of time at the beach, and I connected with my friends from home. Life was extremely dull, but it was this dullness that allowed me to look at the world around me in a new light. I was thankful to be alive and I was reminded that my unique existence was simply a gift in itself.

When I returned to Choate the following year, life was similar. I had a balanced junior year and a stableness in my life I had never experienced before. I could get close to eight hours of sleep almost every night and I had never been closer to a group of girls at school. We found comfort in each other as we spent every night in West Wing together due to the pandemic and I made a lifelong friendship with a sopho-

more named Ixchel. I vividly remember her and I sitting in my room together looking out the window and viewing the lights in town together. We imagined we were on a snowy mountain and I felt an internal peace like no other. We wondered when life would turn back to normalcy and to some extent I feared it. Would I return to my state of restlessness and feel miserable?

Honestly speaking, the start of this senior year was extremely difficult for me. I didn't know how to transition back from pandemic life to a comparatively normal one. As I looked at everyone around me, I questioned if anyone felt the same way. I felt the negativity weighing down on me because I could not readjust to life the way that those around me had. Anxiety made me isolate myself and I couldn't control my emotions. I finally gathered the courage to ask for help and attend therapy and I felt a weight off my shoulders. While it's not spoken about often, I recognized that Choate is not always sunshine. It is not recognized that although we are extremely privileged to attend a school like this one, we are asked to sacrifice a lot as well. We live in a place where we cannot separate work and play. We worry about college as if it were an existential crisis and sacrifice our free time.

The way one maintains their sanity at Choate is the people around us. I don't necessarily think I am leaving Choate with a love for the institution itself, but rather the faces around me who have changed me in immeasurable ways. It was through conversations with my friends that I saw the beauty in the world around me. They made me realize that it is okay to live a life without an exact purpose. A meaningful life is one where you do the things that you love. If you try to put yourself in boxes and establish an exact purpose for life, you will never be able to grow. I also began to understand that I needed to take life less seriously. It was okay to go to bed super late because you were having a funny conversation with your prefectees and it was okay to laugh when you did badly on a test you thought you did great at.

I began to start thinking about forgiveness and moving on from the past. I forgave myself more often and I saw that mistakes are part of being human. It is okay to be a work in progress. I am working everyday to better myself and become better for the people around me. I leave here knowing that I did exactly what I wanted. Through going to Choate, I realized that I was my own person and what I found was tons of capacities inside of me. The most important message I leave with is that you are more capable than you think and to follow your own unique path. Be who you are because it is our differences that make us as a community whole."

KALEIGH O'LEARY



"Memories of many different vivid hues come to me when I reflect on my time at Choate. Purple sunsets through the dining hall, treks to the waterfall at dusk, frost bitten noses and hands that grasp hot chocolate after deep dives in the snow, laughs with the lanphy ladies as they list off my order before the words even leave my mouth - awkward physics tests. Ahhh. Many awkward physics tests.

Those memories are beautiful, and I will cherish them forever. But standing before you all today, I'd like to share another. This is a memory that has cemented itself in my mind, one which has an invaluable message.

It was a school meeting, sophomore year. I was new, I didn't really know many people — except for those I had grown close with in my dorm. My favorite prefects, (Anya, Esi, and Jules), my beautiful and kind roommate Rose, and other sophomores in McCook I passed the time with — Kenadi, Skye, and Lara. These relationships meant the world to me, because when I questioned if I belonged here, I realized I had a home with them, a family where I fit like a puzzle piece.

At this school meeting, I vividly remember overhearing an upperclassman comment on how ugly my dorm mate's spiked backpack was, how their hair wasn't well kept, and how honestly, they couldn't understand why they were just so odd, why they didn't present themselves in a "normal" (meaning binary) manner.

This is not a bubbly memory of a purple sunset, or a funny recollection of a friend wiping out on the sidewalk (Lara Stone I'm looking at

you). Still, it is a core Choate memory. I listened to a schoolmate tear into someone I valued, simply for being their own person. In that moment, I was beyond disappointed in a peer, hurt for a friend, and certain that what I heard was not right. How could this happen at what was promised to be an accepting community?

I share this with you all for one reason.

In a time where the world is on fire (literally), and in dire need of acceptance and unity, hostility is the last thing we need to foster on our campus especially as we are the next generation. Nothing is more harmful. This is why I cherish my friends so deeply. They are not the perfect pinterest friend group, or the neat and tidy roommates you see in boarding school dorm tours on YouTube. They don't always have the best grades and highest test scores, or latest lulu lemon shorts... my friends are simply those with enough love in their hearts to fight for and defend what is right and good. The memories of all the times my friends and I have stood up for what is right outshines overhearing someone else tear another down.

Acceptance is the quality that I most admire in "my people." There is no seeking of power, instead, just a simple question of, "Is this right?" We may not always understand another person but we strive to accept and value others for their differences and individuality.

I encourage us all to consider doing the same, even when no one is looking. Speaking for myself, being kind, and cherishing my friends throughout my time here was the best thing I ever did while at Choate. I can assure you that good deeds and kindness will never be less valiant when unpraised. In fact, perhaps it's the lack of acknowledgment that makes the difference. Be there for others, even if it comes with no visible reward.

It is my wish as we navigate out of the challenging environment that has defined the past 3 years, that we can find a way back to love without borders, or the poison of judgement. No challenge or virus can truly endure if we choose to be kind and seek to support each other no matter our differences. Everyone we meet is fighting a battle, an internal struggle that they might not wear on their sleeve.

Be kind, always... We all have a common bond... We said NO to Deerfield. Please remember always to celebrate that and each other!

And remember to always reach before leav-

- Emma Detoc

- Sophie Vulpe

- Michael Gutierrez

- Lauren Ben-Ezra

- Charlotte Weinstein

One word to summarize

your time at Choate:

"Hectic"

"Fun"

"Stressful"

"Journey"

SENIOR SURVEY

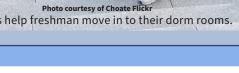
Favorite memory:

"Dinners in the dining hall"

"Any night in Homestead"

"Karaoke nights in Spencer"





Words of advice:

"Do your homework"

"Stay present"

"Do it!"

"Join Model UN"

"Talk to everyone

Wesley Boatwright

- Arjun Singh

- Monty Singer

"Community"

Someone you are grateful for at this school:

Samuel Qin '22-braves the podium during School Meeting.

"My roommate: Lauren Ben-Ezra"

"Angela Deng"

"Niki Ramos"



Yuko Tanaka '22 graces the stage at the annual Dance Concert.

Favorite class:

"Women's Studies w/ Ms. Jenney"

"Moral Reasoning w/ Mr. Harris"

"Environmental Ethics w/ Ms. Jenney"

"International Relations w/ Mr. Johnson

"Religions of Asia w/ JD"



Best place to study:

"Dining hall"

"Quiet section of the library"

"My room"



Page 6 || The Choate News Friday, May 27, 2022

Mrs. Nancy Miller's Lasting Impact on Students & Faculty

By Eva Li '24 and Amelia Sipkin '25

Copy Editors

Third-form Dean and English teacher Mrs. Nancy Miller began her Choate career in 1987 as a secretary in the Summer Programs Office. A few years later, she was promoted to serve as the Associate Director of Summer Programs; however, she had her heart set on becoming a faculty member in the English department. With her degree in English from Mount Holyoke College, Choate eventually allowed her to teach one section of thirdform English. "I was struggling to find what my career path would be. The minute I got into the classroom, I knew this was it," Mrs. Miller recalled.

In 2006, she became a dean and has served as one ever since. "I can't believe someone actually pays me to do this job," she said.

Following her years in the English Department, Mrs. Miller determined she wanted to be more involved outside the classroom by assuming the role of a dean in 2006. Mrs. Miller expressed a love for the Choate community, her job as a dean, and all the young people she has gotten to know over the years. "I don't think an 80-year-old woman is supposed to have this much fun life more interesting." with teenagers," she joked. "I love this school. The school

as an influential role in many smart, ambitious decisions." students' Choate careers. El-

times of trouble."



those spur of the moment deci-

that Mrs. Miller has prepared has been kind to me, and the her for success at Choate and School has been my refuge in beyond with her wisdom to work smart rather than just work parallels her dedication strategically and to make

Mrs. Miller's deanees delie Vatel '22, a student in Mrs. scribed her as spunky, ap-

Helena Burger '24 added, "Mr. Ev-

ans is a really supportive and en-

thusiastic chorus teacher, and I'm

so glad I've had the chance to know

to being a freelance artist, which

was his full-time career before

coming to Choate. "I knew at the

time that I wanted to slow down

and be at one place, and Cho-

ate presented that for me."After

three years at Choate, Mr. Evans

is ready to return to that lifestyle.

He shared, "It'll be therapeutic for

me to be on stage again, and there

will be some rejuvenation from

ed about Evans' new path, his

presence will undoubtedly be

missed in chorus. Chloe Ben-

son '24, a member of the fes-

tival chorus, shared, "Choate

will be missing great energy,

positive spirit, and an all-

around great voice coach when

Aubrie Williams may be reached

at awilliams24@choate.edu

Mr. Evans leaves."

Although many are excit-

that artistic expression."

Mr. Evans will be returning

him over the past two years."

Miller's Classical Tradition proachable, genuine, caring, topics and pop culture woven into marked. Thanks to her passion class, discussed the ways in and filled with quintessential which Mrs. Miller inspired her wisdom. "I was having a rough to live her life to the fullest. time adjusting to Choate, and "She talks a lot about when she Mrs. Miller really saved me," was in her 20's when she lived said Beverly. When Beverly in California and then made a went on to win Student Counspur of the moment decision to cil President of the freshmen move back to Connecticut, so class, Mrs. Miller sent her I learned from her to embrace an email with the caption, "YAHOO,' and a million exone of Mrs. Miller's deanees, Candace Beverly '25 added Beibhinn Geaney '25 added that Mrs. Miller is the polar opposite of a stereotypical, scary prep school dean. Geaney said, "She is very inviting and never Mrs. Miller's love for her hard. "She taught me to think makes you feel small. She's alclear that she genuinely cares."

Vatel expressed her appreci-

the material. "It's such a layered for reading, Mrs. Miller's presclass, and she's just such a downto-Earth teacher," she said.

Devine also admired Mrs. Miller's teaching method, incor- in new contemporary books porating her experiences as a and has been a great resource next chapter in her life, the young woman in the 1960s. In and tool for other people to diclass, Mrs. Miller often touches upon a variety of elements sions because they make your clamation points." Another of social justice work as well dents who oversaw Mrs. Miller's as general significant cultural changes in areas like music and politics. "She was a hippie out in Berkeley, California living this incredible life, and she makes that meaningful and relevant for students who come provided us with a long history ways willing to listen, and it's from obviously a different mo- of Choate, so she helps us to be ment in history and lots of different cultural backgrounds

Photo by Toffy Prakittiphoom '24/The Choate News ence in the English department has been critical to students English teacher Ms. Ellen and faculty. "She's been an incredible resource for bringing

> versify what they teach." As the Associate Dean of Stuwork as a dean for around 12 not having her with us, and years, Ms. Amy Salot, an English and history teacher, said, "She has provided the Deans' Office with institutional memory, which means she has really consistent with past policies."

When asked about his faation for all of the contemporary and contexts," Ms. Devine re- vorite memory of Mrs. Miller,

Mrs. Miller's creativity and thoughtfulness in her speeches at the previous Garden Parties, in which she created a short poem for each girl in her form. "I thought it showed that she really did know each girl in her form in a very personal and not just in an academic sense, but in a very close personal way."

Mr. John Connelly mentioned

Ms. Emily Osterhout, who has collaborated with Mrs. Miller as third-form deans since the fall of 2019, accredits Mrs. Miller as the reason for her motivation in joining the Deans' Office. "I knew she was getting close to retirement, and I had the opportunity to work with her and learn from her, and that's really why I got into this job in the first place," Ms. Osterhout said.

She further elaborated on her rewarding experience working with Mrs. Miller, "She was always so encouraging, and whenever I doubted myself, she would build my confidence back up and always knew the right thing to say."

As Mrs. Miller says her farewells and moves into the Choate community wishes her all the best for her retirement. Ms. Devine reflected, "The School will be lesser for she has informed and enriched the school in more ways than many of us know. The School is better for having had her, and it's hard to imagine this place

Eva Li and Amelia Sipkin may be reached at eli24@choate.edu and asipkin25@choate.edu

Mr. Charles Evans



By Aubrie Williams '24 Staff Reporter

Since 2019, Mr. Charles Evans has worked as the Choral Director, conducting both Chamber and Festival Chorus and mentoring students one-on-one, especially those in the Arts Concentration program.

"One of my most important roles was working with [Arts Concentration students]," explained Mr. Evans. "Many of them aspire to have some sort of a music career, so I thoroughly enjoyed guiding them." During his time at Choate, Mr. Evans introduced changes to the choirs and student experiences as singers. He expressed his excitement at singers taking their skills to higher levels, saying, "During my first year teaching, few students in the choirs would choose music as a major in college, and I'm proud to say that there have been six or

Members of both Chamber and Festival Chorus attested to Mr. Evans' impact at Choate. Harper Knight '23 said, "He really helped me improve as a singer in terms of

seven since I got here."

Mr. Filipe Camarotti

By Carolyn Chen '25 Reporter

ate Dean of Equity and Inclusion, Mr. Camarotti has been an integral part of the community and will be missed by many.

Dr. Rachel Myers, Dean of Equity and Inclusion, said, "He has this gift with young people, helping them feel comfortable and sharing their concerns in being who they are and helping them navigate challenging situations."

Bryant Figueroa '23, a former student of Mr. Camarotti's, agreed with that sentiment. "He always prioritizes a welcoming environment, making sure everyone is comfortable over learning a concept." Figueroa, who also knows Mr. Camarotti as a JV volleyball coach, stated, "As a coach, he's been really understanding, funny, and energetic. I don't know if I would have played volleyball at Choate or enjoyed it as much if he wasn't the coach."

Another one of his former students, Angel Guo '22, said, "He's been a really supportive teacher and house adviser. As a new sophomore coming in, having him as a teacher really made my transition into Choate a lot easier, and it gave me a lot of confidence in recognizing what are the things that I can do and what are the things that I could maybe do more of."

Reflecting on their time to-As a beloved member of the gether in the department, Mr. Tom Choate faculty for five years, Mr. Larsen shared a fun anecdote about Filipe Camarotti will be depart- Mr. Camarotti. "At Physics Phlotiling this year. Taking on roles as la a couple of years ago, someone a physics teacher, dorm advisor, thought that it would be fun to put volleyball coach, and the Associ- a GoPro on their boat and it sank. Mr. Camarotti is an avid scuba diver and he has the equipment, so he popped home and grabbed his scuba diving gear then went diving in the pond and retrieved it."

Some advice that Mr. Camarotti wants to share as he departs from Choate is for everyone "to continue trying to see humans as humans and not just as vehicles for interactions." He said, "Science and physics may seem like everything is objective and there are laws that govern the physical universes but at the center of it all, our understanding comes through the lens of human beings. So, we're all influenced by humans and we should never lose sight of the fact that there's a human doing so much to keep the society going."

Although making the decision to leave was not easy, Mr. Camarotti ultimately decided to take a leap of faith. He continued, "There's not going to be a lot of opportunities in our lives where we get an opportunity to move to the Bahamas so let's really consider it. So we did and decided, 'Let's go for this, let's try this new adventure!"

Carolyn Chen may be reached at cchen25@choate.edu



Dr. Francisco Lopez

without her."



By Sofia Muñoz '23 Staff Reporter

Dr. Francisco Lopez has served as Director of Counseling at Choate since 2018 and is responsible for managing all mental health services, along with being a faculty adviser to the Wellness Committee. Originally hailing from Puerto Rico, Dr. Lopez grew up in New York City and received his Master's Degree in Psychology from the Yale School of Medicine and his PhD in Psychology from the State University of New York College at Buffalo. Subsequently, he

moved to the town of Wallingford. As Director of Counseling, Dr. Lopez strived to destigmatize behavioral and emotional mental health. He worked towards not only improving students' general mental health, but also meeting the specific goals of each individual, whether those were personal or life goals. Ms. Judith Bender, Associate Director of Counseling, stated, "He thoroughly enjoyed working with individual students as well as establishing a critical voice in the various administra-

tive roles he played. In the years

that Dr. Lopez served as the Di-

rector of Counseling, he became fully immersed in the Choate community - always wanting

the best for all members." Through both his guidance and patience, Dr. Lopez has had a resounding impact on his students. Joshua Ramon '24 remarked, "Dr. Lopez was always patient and understanding. He has allowed me to perceive my mental health in a positive light and has helped me realize things I didn't know about myself." Dr. Lopez will be leaving Choate at the end of this year to offer psycho-legal representation in a wide range of immigration and legal issues. He said, "As a Spanish speaking provider, born in Puerto Rico by immigrant parents from the Dominican Republic, this work is an important extension of my desire to continue to serve the needs of young people." He continued, "Choate is a wonderful community and I have loved my work at Choate. As I will still be living here in Wallingford, I hope to remain connected with my friends and colleagues from Choate."

Sofia Muñoz may be reached at smunoz23@choate.edu

YEAR IN REVIEW

Page 7 || The Choate News Friday, May 27, 2022

40 YEARS LATER: MR. JOHN CONNELLY DEPARTS

By Jacqueline Yan '24 Copy Editor

After 40 years of hard work, dedication, and laughter in the classroom, Mr. John Connelly will be retiring from Choate at the end of this academic year.

Initially coming in as a coach for Boys' Varsity Football and Track and Field in the fall of 1982, Mr. Connelly soon made his way into the classroom where he began teaching in the HPRSS department. "One of the reasons I came to Choate was because of the academic opportunities for growth," noted Mr. Connelly. "I had been a head coach at my old school and found that I wanted to spend more time on academic studies."

Mr. Connelly came to Choate with the goal of expanding [his] teaching areas, and he did just that during his 40-year-long Choate career. He has taught a variety of courses and electives in the HPRSS department, including American Studies, United States History, World History, The United States in Vietnam, 1961-1965, and The Rise of Modern China. He has also taught Second Year Chinese in the language department.

Mr. Connelly has been devoted to making both his own teaching experience and the learning experience of his students more enriching and engaging. As a sociology and history major with a focus on European and American colonial history in college, Mr. Connelly had little exposure to Asian history. However, when an opportunity to teach Chinese history arose, he was the first to volunteer. Mr. Connelly shared, "I had to be autodidactic. I had to teach myself, and I also had opportunities to study."



history course, he traveled to Oxattended many workshops since. At the midpoint of his career, Mr. assistance when the School needed help transitioning Chinese from a club activity to a course of study. After studying at the Middlebury Language School and at the Yale Summer Language School, Mr. Connelly officially began his four-year-long appointment as a Chinese teacher.

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Connelly and his wife, Mrs. Lorraine Connelly, have also contributed largely to the development of several lecture series. They have served as the facilitators of the Krause Lecture for 12 years and up a robust curriculum for the Ambassador S. Davis Phillips World History and U.S. History, impossible to replace."

American storyteller and filmmaker Ken Burns in 2018. The impec-Connelly once again offered his cable timing of Burns' release of The Vietnam War and his vibrant delivery at Choate made for what Mr. Connelly describes as "the best speaker I'd ever seen." Mr. Connelly's work ethic and genuine character have had a major impact on his colleagues in the HPRSS department. "His wisdom, leadership, and mentorship in the department has influenced the work and direction of the department in significant ways over his 40-year career," shared Ms. Kyra Jenney, Head of the HPRSS Department.

Mr. Connelly helped build

In preparation for the Chinese '61 Family Lecture Series for 18 as well as many of the electives years. One of Mr. Connelly's most he has taught over the years. ford for a private tutorial and has memorable invited guests was He has also worked as an adviser to the Student Council and made important contributions to Choate Summer Programs. As Ms. Jenney described, "Mr. Connelly is someone who tries to support students, help them grow, challenge them to learn new skills, and champion their successes along the way." Mr. Neil Shimmield praised Mr. Connelly for being both a treasured friend and colleague. He said, "We've worked together on World History for many years, exchanging ideas and teaching materials. He's always been extremely helpful, especially when I had questions about China or Vietnam. He's a great guy and

Mr. Connelly is warmly thought of as a caring and supportive teacher and has been an irreplaceable figure to many of his students. Kenny Tang '22 shared, "Mr. Connelly has been my academic mentor for two years. As my American Studies teacher, Rise of Modern China teacher, and Capstone adviser, he has given me invaluable insights and guidance on an array of different topics. His great knowledge of history and Chinese politics has allowed me to grow tremendously as a student."

Heidi Li '23, another student in Mr. Connelly's American Studies class, expressed her gratitude towards Mr. Connelly, saying, "I think what makes Mr. Connelly's class at Choate so special is how his passion, knowledge, and genuine enthusiasm for history and teaching shines through in the thoughtful questions he poses, the detailed insight he provides, and the puns and jokes he makes in class. He genuinely cares about his students."

As an integral member of this community, Mr. Connelly has made countless fond memories here at Choate. He recalled, "You see different cohorts of students come through this school, but that kind of ongoing relationship of young learners is something I've come to depend on. The rhythms of my life have been set by the academic schedule at Choate."

In fact, Choate made its way into the heart of his family by setting up Mr. Connelly and Mrs. Connelly's first meeting in 1996. According to Mr. Connelly, Mrs. Connelly recruited him to write a book review when she worked as a writer and editor in the Communications Office, and their relationship grew from working intensively on the editing of the book review together. Mr. Connelly suspects she may have used the opportunity for the two to get to know each other but states that he is "ever thankful for the connection." The two were married in 1999 and have made Choate their home ever since.

"I'm very thankful as I get into retirement for the kind words of my colleagues, and I think it's been overwhelming to a degree to get notes from them, to talk to them about what our relationship has been like. I'll never forget those messages," shared Mr. Connelly. The Choate community will miss Mr. Connelly's energy and guidance, and wish him all the best for his retirement.

Jacqueline Yan may be reached at jyan24@choate.edu

Ms. Amanda Gilbride

By Mwendwa Daisley '23 Reporter

Amanda Gilbride has worked coming to Choate, Ms. Gilbride explained, "I taught Chinese, coached JV field hockey, and advised students in Nichols. Prior to coming [to Choate], I never played field hockey. It was nice to learn the rules for a new sport."

Ms. Gilbride's aptitude for change has been demonstrated in the many different spaces of her Choate life and is particularly exemplified through her willingness to coach field hockey. Especially during the Covid-19 epidemic that occurred during her first year teaching at Choate, drastically changing school life, Ms. Gilbride's ability to adapt and acclimate was tested. She recounted this experience and said, "I don't know if I would call this a special moment, but having started in 2020, I had an interesting start to teaching at Choate. Learning to adjust to a new job while trying to follow all of the new rules was

I don't think I've experienced a 'normal' year at Choate."

Ms. Gilbride's flexibility and For the past two years, Ms. adaptability, especially in times of difficulty, is a trait that students in the Language Department as often ascribe to her, making her a a Chinese teacher. When asked great teacher, adviser, and coach. what roles she took on when Edwin Lopez '23 noted, "When you fail a test or a presentation, she doesn't reprimand you or shame you. She is caring and flexible in making sure that you are comfortable and learn the material properly. This, for me, actually motivates me to do better in the class." He continued, "For kids at Choate, where life is so stressful and busy, it is very valuable to have a teacher like that." Bella Young '22, a former Chinese 300 student, shared some similar thoughts, commenting that, "Ms. Gilbride genuinely cared that her students understood the material deeply and was willing to spend extra time helping us to ensure that we could do our best."

> We say goodbye to Ms. Amanda Gilbride and thank her for being a great community member in all the areas that she was participating in. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Mwendwa Daisley may be reached at mdaisley23@choate.edu



Dr. Sergio Lopez



By Aria Ramnath '24 Reporter

At the end of this school year, Mr. Sergio Lopez will be departing after concluding three years at Choate. A beloved Spanish teacher, JV girls' volleyball coach, and adviser in West Wing, Mr. Lopez has made an impact on Choate in ways that will stick around even after his departure.

Mr. Lopez states that after his first year at Choate, he quickly realized that he wanted to help as many students as he could. He said, "I wanted to be supporting more specific communities that I think need support here. So, from the first year, I volunteered to be an adviser at the all gender housing." Mr. Sam Jonynas, a fellow adviser in West Wing, said, "Sergio was a wonderful addition to the West Wing advising team. He brought a deep, lasting concern for his students, his good humor and cheer, and his lovely dog, Spice. He will be greatly missed!" Inside the classroom, Mr. Lo-

pez has made efforts to immerse his students in Latin American culture. Amidst the new academic background of the Covid-19 pandemic, he chose to change the setup and material in his classes by incorporating more inclusive and well-rounded perspectives in his lessons. Mr. Lopez tried to bring

in cultural material by women and Latin Americans in order to fully immerse his students in Hispanic culture. Ixchel Hernandez '23, a student of Mr. Lopez said, "[Mr. Lopez] would constantly play us songs in Spanish to immerse us more into latino culture ... one day he played this one song called 'Cancion Para Mi Muerte' that everyone loved." She added, "to this day me and several other classmates still listen to the song."

Mr. Lopez is very involved outside of the classroom as well. During his time at Choate, he became a leader of SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity), DEC (Driving Equity at Choate), and the instructional tech committee. He said, "It was very clear we were lacking things, small things that we could do that would have a big impact, like adding the pronouns in the directory." He elaborated, saying, "the part that is also important to me, being an immigrant is like, hey, name pronunciation is important."

In the future, Mr. Lopez plans to continue living in Connecticut but will teach at a new school. He will be moving to a position at the Hopkins School, where he is bound to make as great of an impact as he did here at Choate.

Aria Ramnath may be reached at aramnath24@choate.edu

Mr. Eric Freeman

By Adrian Torres '25 Reporter

worked as a history teacher, an been my role." adviser in Tenney House, and the in Choate's summer programs where he acted as the Department Chair of History and a dean.

Over the years, Mr. Freeman has made many notable contributions to the HPRSS department, including an incorporation of local Wallingford and southern New England history into the Greening of America course curriculum, which Mr. Freeman wrote the textbook for. "He's brought all of this amazing scholarship directly into his work with students," said HPRSS Department Head Ms. Kyra Jenney. In athletics, in addition to being the head wrestling coach, Mr. Freeman has been an assistant coach for football for five years. "I do feel that I've helped individual wrestlers and the team do well over the last eight years and develop their skills and love for the sport," reflected Mr. Freeman. Regarding his other responsibilities Mr. Freeman has taken on

while at Choate, he added, "I've been doing the same kind of thing, teaching, advising, coach-Since he joined Choate in ing, and sometimes in slightly 2013, Mr. Eric Freeman has different roles, but that's kind of

Sachi Mehra '23, an athlete head coach of the wrestling team. on the Girl's Wrestling team. He has been additionally involved shared, "Mr. Freeman was very supportive at the beginning of my wrestling career. He took us to all the tournaments, even to the ones that only the girls wrestled, staying overnight at the tournaments to coach us." Member of the Boys' Varsity Wrestling Team Mike Seward '24 added, "He is a phenomenal role model and leader for the team. He is great with the newer wrestlers and helps them with the intricacies of the sport."

One of Mr. Freeman's advisees, Philip Harris '24 added, "Mr. Freeman has a calm and comforting demeanor to him and has always been helpful and supportive to me. He is known around the dorm as a chill presence and an interesting man to talk to."

As Mr. Freeman takes on new endeavors, the Choate community wishes him the all the best.

Adrian Torres may be reached



COVID-19

Delayed Opening

For the 2020-2021 school year, students were set to return to campus in September. However, due to the rising number of Covid-19 cases in Connecticut and the United States, in-person learning was delayed until October. Classes were conducted on Zoom, and students met with their sports teams or for extracurricular activities through a virtual format.

2020

No Term **Reports**

While teachers usually provide term-end reports for students to reflect on their performance, the reports were canceled in the fall of 2020 in light of the need for faculty and staff members to "recalibrate, reassess, [and] reevaluate," as Mr. Velez said. The decision allowed faculty to recharge during break under the stress from Covid-19, U.S. presidential election results, and the outside threat against Black-identifying Choate community members.

Schedule During the 2020-2021 school year, to accomodate students in different time zones, Choate added two new class-blocks: H and I running from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. and from 8:40 - 9:40 p.m. Instead of having five 70-minute blocks in a day, there were seven 60-minute blocks. While some students appreciated the shorter class times and the afternoon break from 2:30 - 3:45 p.m., night classes required some students and teachers who were on campus to adjust their routine. Another difference was the incorporation of music ensembles — traditionally evening activities — into the block schedule.

ICSRF

In June, a group of Choate students launched the Independent CRH Student Relief Fund (ICSRF) to assist Choate students and families who have been struggling financially due to the pandemic. Their mission was to "address the immediate non-academic financial needs of students and their families" by accepting "donations from the greater Choate community" through PayPal and Venmo. In 2020, the fund raised more than \$19,000 for students in need.

Masks

When students finally returned to campus in the fall, a strict mask mandate was implemented, which enforced rules for students that required them to remain masked indoors and outdoors, including at sports practices, in dorms, and in common spaces.



Early Response

On February 27, the first email addressing the Covid-19 crisis was sent out by Choate's Dean of Students Office, acknowledging the fluidity and severity of the pandemic and encouraging students to raise their awareness for personal travel plans and safety during spring break. A week later, Dean of Students Mr. Mike Velez 'oo and former Director of Health and Wellness Services and Director of International Students Ms. Libby Peard announced the cancellation of all previously planned school spring break and study abroad trips, including those to Cuba, Spain, and Mexico. During spring break, on March 10, 2020, community members received an announcement from Head of School Dr. Alex Curtis, which explained that the break was to be extended by an extra week until Tuesday, March 24 and that campus would reopen to boarding students on April 5. With the evolving pandemic and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggestions, Dr. Curtis sent a follow-up on March 17 describing a plan for extended remote learning that was anticipated to last for the remainder of the spring term to prioritize the safety and wellbeing of the community.

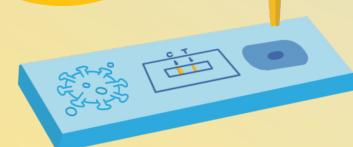
Dining

Since community members were required to remain masked while indoors, SAGE dining services altered the way they served meals during quarantine. In contrast to the normal buffet-style dining hall, food was packaged in large aluminum trays and transported to dorms in large heat-regulated containers. Some dorms were required to pick up the food themselves, while others had their meals delivered to them, but all dorms were equipped with disposable plates, bowls, cups, and utensils, and pre-packaged condiments such as ketchup or hot sauce. Students had the option to eat in their rooms or outside with other dorm members, if weather permitted. Many breakfast items, such as bagels, muffins, or protein bars, were individually packaged for students to take. SAGE also introduced late night snacks during this time, with popular options including

chicken sliders and popcorn.

Library and **Practice Room Bookings**

In order to limit traffic and ensure safety, designated times and spaces were created for students to study in the library or practice in the Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC) or Colony Hall. The seats in the library were rearranged to ensure at least a six-foot distance in between, and each one came with a number and QR Code. To take a seat, students had to register for a time on a digital portal. To practice an instrument, a student would receive a time slot and a room after submitting a Google Form, in which they indicated their instrument and the amount of time needed.



Holball on Zoom

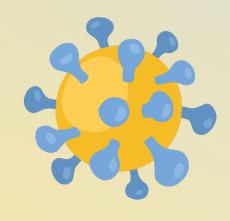
A tradition at Choate, HolBall was held through a virtual format for the first time. The event is usually extremely popular, but students didn't show up in large numbers due to Covid-19 and the shift to Zoom. The event consisted of music and games, but the energy was incomparable to in-person dances.

Move Out Process

After Choate announced students would no longer be returning to campus in the spring of 2020, the move-out process became a leading issue for many students. Students had left most of their belongings in their rooms, necessitating Choate to develop a solution to ensure seniors received all their items and returning students had their belongings transferred to their dorms for the following year. Students who lived nearby were also able to pick up their belongings during assigned times. House advisers and the Deans' Office helped to pack the belongings of students who were unable to gather them personally.

Zoom

With a shift to online learning in the spring, Zoom became an indispensable resource cherished by all. Tools like the screen-share function allowed teachers to share presentations and notes through their screens, while breakout rooms allowed students to work in small groups, so teachers could focus on creating a collaborative atmosphere in a virtual space. Some assessment styles were altered to adjust to the online learning format, like a preference for group problem sets or tests in a PDF format, which students completed on their iPads in Notability. Advisee meetings, School meetings, workshops, invited speakers, and debrief sessions were also hosted via Zoom.



COVID CULTURE

By Erin Li '24 and Tyler Kuo '23 Copy Editors

Ever since the first lockdowns of Covid-19 in March 2020, the pandemic has had detrimental effects worldwide, leading to isolation, loss, and disconnect. Choate, a community where cheers ring loud and true at sports games, where laughter resonates throughout the dorms, and where the school song is sung proudly during school meetings, is no exception. While the onset of the global pandemic has interrupted the typical operation of the Choate community, it has also provided opportunities for reflection, appreciation, and growth.

The pandemic has strained the livelihood and the spirit of many members of the Choate community. With the past years' restrictions and changes in methods of learning, many Choate students have yet to experience the traditional Choate way of life. Class of 2024 Dean Mr. Zachary Kafoglis said, "All current fourth-formers, even a lot of the fifth-formers, and certainly the third-formers, don't necessarily know the way things were before." Students

ate pre-pandemic aren't aware of some of the traditions. Rhea Shah '22 shared, "I was talking in the dorm — because I'm a Nichols prefect — about how my freshman year, right before Last Hurrah, while the seniors were gathered and taking pictures in front of Arch and Hill, I went down to go see them, send them off, and take pictures with them. And they had no idea that that was even a tradition."

Many students have felt a lack of connection with Choate last year. Prim Tangaravakoon '24, an international student from Thailand, said, "Seeing people living together in a dorm, being close together all the time, and just being able to hang out whenever they wanted made me feel disconnected because I was at home alone in a different time zone." The disconnect between day students, on-campus boarders, and those studying in their home country remotely caused a great divide between Choate's community and the overall social life of students.

While it was difficult to continue with events from a typical school year, the School attempted to adjust under the given cir-

who haven't experienced Cho- cumstances. "We did have some senior events like senior dancing lessons on Zoom in the spring of 2020. In 2021, there was the ability to have a version of garden party and also the senior faculty dinner but not as formally," said Mrs. Laura Lynn Van Mierlo, Form Dean of the Class of 2022.

> With the uncertainty of evolving modifications around Covid, Dean of Students Mr. Mike Velez 'oo added, "I think for many students it was challenging to pivot from remote life to on-campus life being where conditions were changing and dictating what dorm life, extracurricular life, and what eating in the dining hall was like."

> Reflecting on the change in traditions that Choate has experienced since Covid, four-year student Claire Fu '22 stated, "A school activity that we lost was sleepovers. Day students and boarders used to be able to sleep over in each other's rooms over the weekend, and that still has not come back. For those that haven't ever experienced a sleepover, it may not seem like a huge loss, but I remember them being a very fun bonding experience and hope that Choate will one day bring it back."

Especially since social gatherings were paused, many pre-Covid events were postponed for artists and athletes. Gavin Doak '22 said, "A big tradition is the winter acapella performance. It really felt like a celebration and nice way to end the year, so I really hope that they can get that back and running in the future." Priam Alataris '22 reflected, "One tradition that has changed is the P-Cup. Having just spent a long Sunday out in the sun playing baseball, I had a great time. However, I remember the P-Cup being a much more organized and widespread event than it was this year and I hope the underclassmen can work to bring it back to its former glory and include all dorms in the championship."

Although the loss of some traditions has been disappointing, the steady moves toward normalcy this spring have led to greater excitement and made students value the experiences more. "People are more willing to put themselves out there and try new things. If there's an event, people will show up, and they will propose ideas," President of the Student Committee of Programming and Engagement (SCOPE) Annika Lee '23 noted. "The Lip

Sync Battle [in May] was a great example of how people are showing up to events and more eager

to return to normalcy." Rekindled traditions also spurred enthusiasm among students. Elsie Ng'eno '22 added, "I never got to experience Garden Party, so I am especially looking forward to it this year." Having lost time has ultimately brought students closer together, placing greater emphasis on the limited time they have together. Juliet Lin '22 said, "With graduation coming so soon, I'm making friendships a priority. I can hang out with my friends and enjoy the time first, and then I

can catch up on work after." Not only have students been affected by Covid, but teachers have also experienced major disruptions in their lives and classes. Ms. Ashley Sinclair, Director of Global Programs and an advisor to international students, reflected on the changes to the International Student Mentor Program, "It has been hard to find space to get everyone together while still maintaining the necessary distance. Our pre-orientation this year had some changes over past years with Zoom sessions, kids on campus but in isolation for

ten days, inability for mentors to meet before coming to campus, inability for mentors to help students move-in, difficulty for parents to attend indoor events ... the list goes on, but it was done with our students' safety in mind. Still, our mentors tried their best to forge one-on-one connections, and I'm hopeful that next year, we will be able to be together and include parents

so much more." Time and time again, we have seen the Choate community standing together in solidarity, trying to form a new normal in a time of uncertainty. Colony Hall is once again filled with voices singing the School Song, Hill House is once again populated with students enjoying brunch together, and vivacious cheering can once again be heard under the lights on the turf. The Choate experience has been abrupted by the pandemic, but the resilience and enthusiasm of the community has proved that through challenging times, the spirit of the School is as strong as ever.

Erin Li and Tyler Kuo may be reached at erli24@choate. edu and tkuo23@choate.edu Friday, May 27, 2022 Page 9 || The Choate News

REACH Daily Survey

and Community Compact

All students were required to fill out a

daily survey on the REACH Boarding app. The

survey screened students for common symptoms

associated with Covid-19, including a fever, cough,

or breathing difficulties. At night, advisers would check

to make sure students had filled in their surveys and had

passed. All students on campus were also required to sign

the Community Compact, which outlined their commitment

to "a shared responsibility" as the Choate community navigated "these challenging and unprecedented times." The

compact outlined guidelines and protocols to promote

the health and safety of community members,

including hand-washing, masking, disinfecting, testing, limiting unnecessary traveling,

cooperating with contact tracing,

and more.

2021

Quarantine

At the beginning of every

term of 2020-2021 and winter term

of 2021-2022, classes were held remotely

for a week. Boarding students quarantined in

their dorms, while day students stayed home. In

the 2020-2021 school year, dorms were divided into

family units. During quarantine, boarding students

were only allowed to gather indoors with their family

units in the dorm. Food deliveries and dorm-to-dorm

visitation were also prohibited. Restrictions placed

on students varied depending on alert levels indi-

cating the severity of Covid-19 transmission at Choate and in Connecticut determined by

the School, which were classified by

blue, yellow, orange, and red risk levels.

Covid-19 Testing

Prior to returning to school in the fall, winter, and spring, students completed at-home Phosphorous Diagnostics PCR tests. Students also tested upon arrival on campus and completed weekly outdoor tests throughout the fall term. In the winter, all students, faculty and student-facing staff completed PCR tests twice a week as part of the Covid-19 precautionary measures. Day students reported to the Health Center to conduct testing.

Vaccine Clinics and Mandates

On April 25, 14 teacher chaperones accompanied over 400 students above the age of 16 to a vaccine clinic at the Pratt and Whitney Airfield in East Hartford to receive their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine. A second clinic was held on May 16, 2021 for vaccinated students to receive a second dose or for newly eligible students to receive their first. Some faculty and staff had already received their vaccinations in March of 2021.

For the 2021-2022 school year, all students, faculty, and staff were required to be vaccinated before their arrival to campus, since the vaccine was authorized for those ages 12 and above. Sports, arts, and off-campus activities were restricted to vaccinated community members only, with safety protocols in place for those with vaccine exemptions. The School hosted a Pfizer vaccine clinic on September 10 for students who were unable to get vaccinated in their home countries before the start of the school year.

Classrooms

The classroom space
was rearranged to allow for
social distancing, with harkness
tables removed and individual desks
and chairs in rows. All classrooms were
equipped with a Virtual Student system
consisting of a TV screen on wheels to allow
for hybrid learning. Without the ability to
conduct round-table discussions, the
collaborative element of learning
was adjusted to minimize
group work.

Covid-19 Out-

breaks

Throughout the school year, there have been waves of Covid-19 outbreaks.

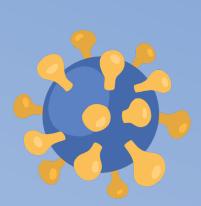
In the middle of the spring term, the Health Center operated at maximum capacity to house students who had contracted the virus but could not return to their homes. Some rooms in Sally Hart Lodge also needed to be allocated to satisfy the demand. Thankfully, the timely intervention of school policy — including swift adjustments in masking, visitation, and day permission — mitigated the impact of Covid-19 spread around campus, and community-wide events were still able to take place as planned.

Healing Project

In the spring term, a team of faculty and staff started a community-curated mural on display at the main entrance to Hill House. As a collective reflection on the uncertainty, distance, and loss of control caused by the pandemic, the project aims to help community members acknowledge their suffering and start the healing process. Soon after the launch of the project, the white wall started to be covered with sticky notes of various colors. Each note represents someone's thoughts, feelings, or memorable moments that speak to their experience during the two and a half years of Covid-19.



In the fall and spring terms,
day students were each assigned
family unit rooms. These spaces, scattered around campus, allowed designated
day students to mingle throughout the day. In
the winter term, however, the school adopted
a boarding-only policy to reduce the chances
of bringing Covid onto campus. Day students
were offered the option to board in a school
dorm at no extra cost or stay remote for
the term. Day students across all forms
were able to have a taste of boarding
life while being included in the
"Choate bubble."



Dining Changes

To ensure the safety of community members, the dining hall setup was drastically changed — instead of having eight seats around a table, only two people were allowed to sit at opposite ends. The serving stations, including Crossroads, The Main Ingredient, and Mangia! Mangia!, were also closed. The entreés, sides, and vegetables were served at one station where the salad bar would have been. Instead of using silverware, glassware, or ceramic plates and bowls, compostable alternatives were offered. The 40-minute lunch blocks were extended to an hour or 45 minutes for early or late lunch, respectively. During the two and a half hours when dinner was served, each student was assigned a 45-minute block to reduce the traffic. In addition, there were seven dining locations in total — Hill House 6, 4-5, and 3; Tuck Shop; Ruutz-Rees; Lanphier Commons; and the PMAC gallery - the assignment of which came with students' dining schedules.

Trace

During the 2020-2021
school year, all students were
required to download the Trace contact tracing app onto their phones. Using
Bluetooth technology, the app tracks high-risk
interactions between individuals. The data from
the app is then used by the Health Center to identify
close contacts with individuals who tested positive for
Covid, instead of data collected by the tedious manual
contact tracing process. Choate Programming Union
(CPU) raised concerns about the app's use of GPS
to track students after reverse-engineering the
app, but the administration and the app's
developer assured students that
users' privacy is protected.

Masks Off

For the start of the 2021-2022 school year, students were still required to wear masks indoors, except for when eating, performing personal hygiene, or in their own dorm rooms. After a long period of anticipation, the indoor mask mandate was officially lifted on Tuesday, March 29, through a school-wide email from Health Director Dr. Miriam Cohen. The dynamic within the community shifted, as the major policy change indicated another step in returning to "a new normal." Nevertheless, masks are still recommended as a safety measure and are required in large gatherings such as school meetings and musical performances. Boarding students are again allowed to travel to the town of Wallingford during their free time or even to farther towns with day permission

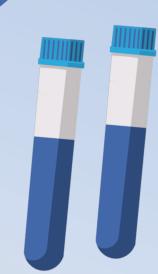
2022

Vaccine Boosters
A third-dose walk-in
booster clinic was held on
campus in Rutz-Rees Commons
on January 13, 2022. Due to high
demand, more were scheduled on
January 21 and February 3. All
community members were required to receive the booster
by March 16, 2022.

Inter-

national Students Leave Early

Before winter break, the School offered international students the opportunity to return to their home countries early due to travel restrictions. Without having night classes, students who departed early needed to observe classes either through Zoom or a recording.







Page 10 || The Choate News Friday, May 27, 2022

50 Years in the PMAC: Highlights and History

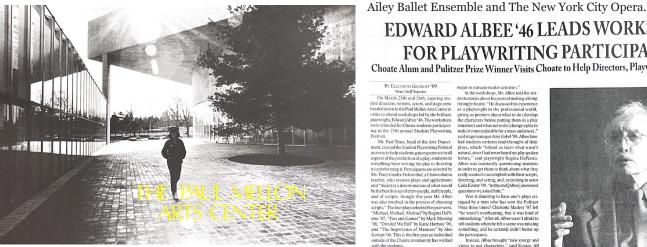
By Laya Raj '24 Copy Editor

Since 1982, the Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC) has been the hub for both the visual and performing arts, allowing artists at Choate to hone their craft. Here is an overview of how the PMAC has served the Choate community over the years.



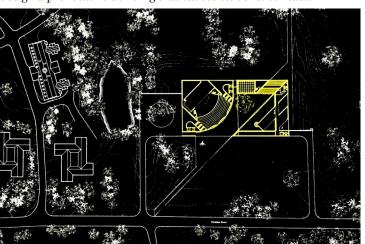
The front page of the PMAC Dedication Ceremony guest book.

"You can walk through it without ever going into it, but you cannot walk away from it without knowing you've been there,' said former Choate Headmaster Seymour St. John. The impressive structure of the building was designed by the renowned architect, I.M. Pei, 50 years ago. The dedication festivities for Mr. Paul Mellon '25's gift to the School were held from May 12-15 in 1972. In a speech at the dedication, Mr. Mellon said, "I see this building as a symbol of a meeting place of the fine arts with the liberal arts: the fine arts acting as catalyst to vivify and heighten the impact of the liberal arts — including science — in the learning experience." The PMAC was built before Choate Rosemary Hall, and it was situated between the Choate School and Rosemary Hall campuses. Thus, it was the meeting place for students at the two schools.



The cover page of the PMAC Dedication Ceremony brochure.

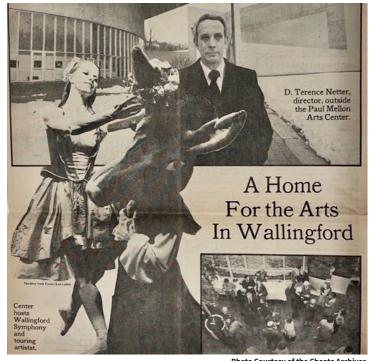
Mr. Mellon hired Mr. Pei to design the building, which is made of architectural concrete mixed with aggregates and additives indigenous to Wallingford. Speaking on the complexity of the building's geometric design, Mr. Pei said, "We hope that the building encourages students to think about their relation to space — and that raises questions about the art for the students to consider. We wanted to design a provocative building that causes students to react."







Images of the PMAC in the PMAC Dedication Ceremony brochure.



An article in The New York Times details the PMAC's role in and impact

Since its opening, PMAC has spread the joy of art beyond the Choate community with many guest artist concerts and student performances open to the public. A New York Times article on the building from 1978 reads that the PMAC has become "something of an oasis of the performing arts for the residents who otherwise would have to travel to New Haven or Hartford." In 1978, Connecticut residents were able to attend shows at the PMAC by the world renowned Alvin

EDWARD ALBEE '46 LEADS WORKSHOPS FOR PLAYWRITING PARTICIPANTS

Choate Alum and Pulitzer Prize Winner Visits Choate to Help Directors, Playwrights, and Actors

on the Wallingford community.

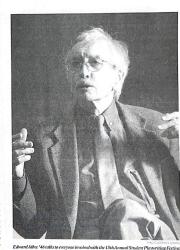


Photo Courtesy of the Choate Archives

An article in The Choate News details Edward Albee '46's playwriting workshop in the PMAC.

Among the most notable events that have taken place at the PMAC include when Mr. Edward Albee '46, a three-time Pulitzer winning playwright, visited the School during the 15th annual Student Playwriting Festival held on March 25 and 26, 2006. As former Choate drama teacher Ms. Tracy Ginder-Delventhal put it, Mr. Albee was invited so that the "company [of students in the festival] would get a bird's eyeview into what it's like to make a living in professional theater."

During the workshop, Mr. Albee conducted read-throughs of four chosen student-written scripts so that they could be edited for fluidity. He also encouraged students to think about what they were trying to achieve through their art. Students admitted that Mr. Albee was intimidating to work with, as he never sugarcoated his opinions on their work. Nevertheless, Regina DePietro '07 said that he made her "feel proud to be a writer."

SPRINGSTEEN

in CONCERT

PAUL MELLON ARTS CENTER Saturday - April 10, 1976 8 P.M. \$6.00

A ticket to Bruce Springsteen's concert at the PMAC in 1976 for \$6.

Over the past 50 years, many guest artists have performed for the Choate and Wallingford community in the PMAC, but Bruce Sprinsteen's concert in 1976 remains one of the most noteworthy. Springsteen performed at Choate upon a request from the agent who mentored him on his rise to fame - Mr. John Hammond Sr., the vice president of the talent management agency Columbia Artists. Mr. Hammond was a family friend of Mary Harrower Whyte '76, who asked him to see if Springsteen would come to campus for a reduced price of \$4000, which was the School's allotted budget for the spring concert. Many students invited their friends to sleep over at Choate for the weekend to watch the three-hour-long concert, with tickets selling for a mere \$6. The audience loved the consuming energy that Springsteen brought to the PMAC stage, "I could literally, literally, hear the concert from across the street," said Mr. Phil Ventre, the former Director of Instrumental Music.



Former Director of Instrumental Music Mr. Phil Ventre sits in his office in the PMAC.

Mr. Ventre started his journey at Choate in 1970, where he spent 50 years growing the Instrumental Music Department to what it is today. During the PMAC dedication celebrations, he brought Mr. Victor Borge, a renowned Dutch classical pianist based in Greenwich, to campus. He also invited the Boston Pops, a world famous orchestra that Mr. Ventre played the trumpet with in college, to perform for the event. Mr. Ventre regards the PMAC dedication ceremony as one of the most memorable events that he has witnessed during his time at Choate; he loved seeing all his talented students in the Choate Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, and Chorus perform. "The cherished memories are working with these very gifted young men and women and seeing how their lives were changed by performing with the Choate instrumental music ensembles, and how now they've moved on with their careers and are doing things that are really very important in the world of the arts today," he said.



Former Director of Arts Ms. Kalya Yannatos by her office in the PMAC.

Ms. Kalya Yannatos directed the Arts Department from her office in the PMAC lobby from 2011 to 2021. Ms. Yannatos considered Choate's 125th anniversary celebrations as one of the most notable events that she witnessed in the PMAC. The School dedicated a year to celebrating Alumni artists and put together an expansive visual exhibition of Choate's history for the occasion. "It really was an opportunity to kind of go, 'hey, Choate actually makes artists who go out into the world to become artists; they're successful and they're extraordinary, and we should recognize them and celebrate them," reflected Ms. Yannatos. The PMAC hosts many inspiring artists, but its primary purpose is to provide the Choate community with a loving and welcoming environment. "I always hoped that the arts center would just be a home for anybody who was seeking out a place to belong, whether or not they were an artist," she said.



Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Chorus perform Handel's "Messiah" to commemorate the PMAC's 50th anniversary on May 13, 2022.

Mr. Gene Wie, the current Instrumental Ensembles Director at Choate, honored the PMAC's 50th anniversary with a collaboration between the Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Choir on a performance of the "Hallelujah" movement from Handel's "Messiah." This piece was also performed by Choate students under the baton of Mr. Ventre at the first concert held in the PMAC. Mr. Wie noted how Choate's Instrumental Department has grown tremendously since the opening of the PMAC. About 20 students were a part of the Orchestra in 1972, whereas around 70 students are part of today's Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Wie keeps in contact with Mr. Ventre and values the work he has done for the department. "I feel that in doing this 50th anniversary recognition, it's not just about celebrating that first year ... it's about recognizing the fact that [Mr. Ventre] has been able to continue delivering a program of that quality for half a century," he said.

Since its inauguration 50 years ago, the PMAC has served as a place to cherish and practice the arts for the Choate community. Over the years, Choate faculty members have worked to grow and evolve the Arts Department within the chambers of the PMAC, a work of art in and of itself.



Photo by Austin Zhao '23/The Choate New

Students walk through the PMAC Courtyard in 2022.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Page 11 || The Choate News Friday, May 27, 2022

352 Years Young, Wallingford Celebrates Its 350 Anniversary

By Adrienne Chacón '22

Local News Editor, 115th Masthead

A central tradition in Wallingford history is the town's anniversary jubilees, a quarter century observance planned by the Wallingford Jubilee Committee. Since these celebrations occur every 25 years, they give every generation of Wallingfordians an opportunity to enjoy and reminisce about the town's history, legacy, and community.

In a typical cycle, the jubilees would happen 25 years apart and the latest one would have taken place in the summer of 2020. Due to the ramifications of the Covid-19 pandemic, the jubilee was postponed not just one year, but two the festivities will commence on June 18, 2022 and will run until June 25. This gave rise to the upcoming celebration and its name – the Wallingford 350 + 2 Jubilee.

There will be feature exhibits at Wallingford Public Library and Wallingford Historical Society and major events will be hosted throughout the week, including Parade Float Day, Faith Day and Juneteenth, History and Diversity Day, Women's Day, Business and Agriculture Day, Senior Day, Youth Day, and finally a black tie gala ball.

The celebrations incorporate the whole Wallingford community, with organizations such as the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), The Wallingford Record-Journal, and local schools including, Choate Rosemary Hall.

The committee began preparations for the jubilee five years before the 2020 date, but with the two year postponement, this event has been seven years in the making. This current date and event roster is the third iteration of the jubilee due to the unpredictability of the pandemic.

field, explained the scale of the celebration and just how much restructuring the pandemic necessitated. When the committee reconvened in December to discuss their next moves, the Covid positivity rate in the state was over ten percent, which would have triggered the immediate cancellation of the event, but because of Connecticut's high vaccination rate -75% at the time — they proceeded.

Furthermore, the community major factor in the reasoning to hold a 350 + 2 celebration rather than a 375 anniversary. "We decided by popular demand ... people really felt with the pandemic that there was something to celebrate." Ms. Mansfield likened the naming of this event with the Olympics, as the 2020 Summer Olympics were postponed yet retained their 2020 Olympics title.

Celebration of the Wallingford community played a significant role in the decision to have a 352 anniversary for the town. "There's a rich tradition in celebration and recognizing the history that's come before ... there's also a celebration of diversity. We were hearing from residents and businesses, whether they were here for a year or for hundreds of years there was just so much interest [in a town-wide event]," said

Ms. Mansfield. The jubilee committee garnered attention and publicity by enmeshing itself in other community traditions. For example, they had booths and spokespeople at Celebrate commemorate together. [Choate Wallingford and the Holiday Stroll. This led to much public support for the jubilee. According to Ms. Mansfield, "People kept writing [to] us and emailing and asking us 'what if,' and 'can you.' So we said, well if the committees are willing and our sponsors are willing and our town officials are willing, then let's do this. And everybody returned, every sponsor, every volunteer. It's been amazing."

Ms. Allison Cady, Choate's Chief Communications Officer, also stressed the importance of community in this celebration. "I think it speaks volumes that Co-chair of the Wallingford Wallingford is able to galva-350 committee and owner of lo- nize enough community supcal business Discovery Training port and interest. Many com-Services, Ms. Christine Mans- munities are not as cohesive or spirited as the town of Wallingford. They really are excited for the opportunity to come together and celebrate."

The relevance of Ms. Cady and the Communications Office to the jubilee is significant. Historically, Choate has been a partner in the planning of the Wallingford anniversary celebrations, as well as an active participant in Wallingford affairs. Although these efforts

uary, we were able to recom- numerous boards — the chammit," the co-chair explained. ber of commerce, the United Way — we're involved in the aspect of the celebration was a library and the school district and some of their initiatives, [we're involved in] the Hubcab. We try to be a partner and support town activities and make Choate a resource and integrate what we're doing into the town." The School has also supported the jubilee in other ways: it has a member on the jubilee planning committee and donated \$25,000 to support the efforts.

> This year, Choate is hosting two events on its campus, the Faith Day and Juneteenth Observance in the Seymour St. John Chapel and the gala ball in the Hill House Dining Hall.

> The School offered its facilities for usage by the committee, and the chapel was chosen specifically because of what it represents as a non-denominational, interfaith building on a day when the town plans to bring together local religious leaders from all different faiths.

> Ms. Mansfield elaborated, "[this] frames beautifully the duality of what we appreciate about you, bringing us all together in a safe space and we can is] just a very natural partner."

> Part of this mutual affinity between the two entities comes from their similar missions

vened all committees, we revis- plained, "We have some full- to diversity, equity, and inclu- Hungarian Club will be part- Ms. Mansfield was particularited all town officials, and held time people dedicated to being sion (DEI). Ms. Cady believed nering with the Spanish Comendless meetings. Then in Jan- involved in town. We sit on that the increased importance munity of Wallingford (SCOW). of DEI has to do with timing, both from the last anniversary celebration of diversity takes and with the original 350 jubilee being postponed from 2020 to 2022. "They were almost ready to launch these events in the spring of 2020 and then there was Covid and George Floyd and all the movements, and the country came to unfold while [the committee] was paused. So they had time to reflect and think about these events and their approach to all of their events."

> Ms. Mansfield collaborated with Ms. Cady, outlining a week-long observance that had taken place at the 325 anniversary in 1995 when men grew out their beards and women wore long skirts that she decided to discontinue. "We felt that in a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion we didn't feel it was an appropriate piece of former traditions to continue."

Instead, the jubilee will have more events that showcase the diversity of Wallingford's community including a panel series on notable Wallingford women in the library, an attempt to put Wallingford children in the Guinness Book of World Records for a "Simon Says" competition, an exhibit of female artists, a history of diversity event, and blocked out time for a Juneteenth observance.

The committee also invited

All of this attention and care to also recognize somber local history.

silence and laying of witness stones for the lives of enslaved people, an interfaith day will recognize religions worshiped in Connecticut, and a reflection on what the town has recovered from recently, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the racial justice awareness movements of Black Lives Matter and Stop Asian Hate.

A sub-committee, called the Moments Committee, tabulated 315 significant moments in Wallingford history. According to Ms. Mansfield, the pivotal moments from the Moments committee haven't "all been fantastic, but we've learned from that. So, preserving those lessons was really important for us too." Accordingly, two local authors published a book on Wallingford stories.

Ms. Mansfield also stressed that many of these diversity events, though not necessarily in the blueprints from past jubilees, were designed in an effort to have "all voices represented."

"Whether you've been here 60 seconds or you've been with a family for hundreds of years, everybody is part of us, this is our town. We're really excited every local ethnic organization to celebrate every person and

"In December, we recon- are often unseen, Ms. Cady ex- and goals, especially in regard like the Polish Alliance and every piece of that," she said. ly enthusiastic about another library event that would encourage community members to pinpoint their ethnic origin on a community map.

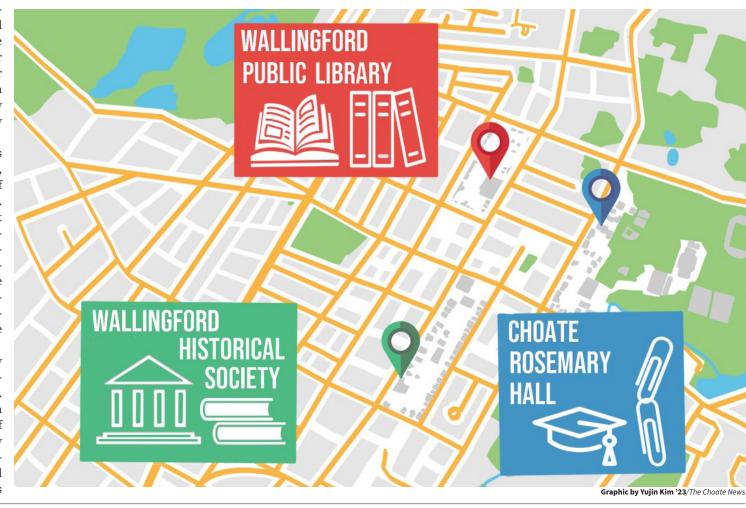
Ultimately, Ms. Mansfield There will be a moment of cites the jubilee's commitment to inclusion and recognition of the community as a major part of the celebration's success in the planning stages as well as projected turnout for future events.

"I literally have the chills, the fact that we're able to come together as a community safely – every event has something special. I'm in tears to think that we can have a child come here and feel like they're a part of their town. Any age, any ethnicity, any person, any business is gonna find a connection to something bigger than what they are."

The Wallingford 350 + 2 Jubilee takes advantage of nearly all the available resources, from the public library and local ethnic groups to Choate Rosemary Hall and the YMCA.

With observances that will incorporate a broad range of ages, gender and ethnic diversity, and many celebratory events, the jubilee promises a commemoration of the community and its history as well as an auspicious eye towards the future with the Wallingford 350 time capsule.

Adrienne Chacón may be reached at achacon22@choate.edu



50 Years of Title IX at Choate

By Stanley Cho '25 and **Grace Walters '24**

Copy Editor and Reporter

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the premise of sex in any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Since going into effect on June 23, 1972, Title IX has aimed to provide equitable opportunities and representation for victims of sexual discrimination. Throughout the years, Title IX has been amended and reissued to more effectively respond to claims of sexual harassment in educational programs.

Title IX changed the landscape of modern athletics programs, shifting once exclusively male sports to include equitable female participation. In fact, Title IX was initiated only one year after the unification of Rosemary Hall and The Choate School to form what we now know as Choate Rosemary Hall.

Title IX prohibits sexual discrimination in education programs varying from elementary schools to universi-

ties. It is applied to all educa- towards gender equity from the tional buildings on campus and passing of Title IX and in an locations off-campus that are effort to support its students, managed by affiliated student Choate Rosemary Hall has takorganizations and on digital en deliberate actions towards extensions of the school.

defined by Title IX, includes, but is not limited to: "denying admission of a person into an education program based on sex, disqualifying a person for a research position based on sex when it is irrelevant to the ability to perform the job, providing unequal educational resources to students of one sex compared to another, and engaging in sexual harassment including making unwelcome sexual advances and/or sexual assault."

Though Title IX's nondiscrimination protections apply to admissions, educational programs, research, housing, counseling, financial assistance, and health services, the regulations have seen the most impact in sports.

Choate is not a federally funded institution; thus, it does not formally operate under the Title IX policy. Howev-

increasing the representation Sexual discrimination, as and equitable treatment of individuals from diverse backgrounds. In addition to having an immense impact on Choate's sexual misconduct policy, Title IX has helped boost representation and diverse participation in academic institutions within the past 50 years, especially in the previously male-dominated field of sports. Though the regulations continue to focus primarily on female athletes, recent amendments promise that necessary changes will be made to help support transgender and nonbinary athletes in sports. Furthermore, Choate has begun shifting attention towards allowing members of the LGBTQIA+ community to participate in sports alongside their peers without discrimination and unequal representation.

Before the unification of Rosemary Hall and The Choate School in 1972, Rosemary Hall's one ather, inspired by the movement letic activity was cheerleading.

mary Hall added field hockey and volleyball to its arsenal of sports. In fact, before 1972, Rosemary Hall's yearbook, the Answer Book, did not have a sports section, only an "activities" section — a compilation of clubs, arts, drama, and cheerleading. The first joint yearbook between Rosemary Hall and The Choate School in 1973 had several new additions, revealing changes made by the administration to enforce the new set of restrictions and expectations created by Title IX. For example, the 1973 Choate Rosemary Hall yearbook consisted of new athletic options such as co-ed lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, and the IX led to a significant increase in preexisting field hockey and volleyball programs.

According to Choate Rosemary Hall: A History of the School, the Larry Hart Pool was Choate Rosemary Hall's first athletic facility to be co-ed right from its inception because it was constructed following the 1972 changes. When the new changes were implemented, Choate squash player Keen and 2016, Title IX was mod-

It was only later that Rose- inclusive, [with] women and consistent with their gender men, boys and girls." Butcher added that this new trend was the "best team concept" he had

ever experienced. Today, Choate Rosemary Hall has a wide selection of sports played by both boys and girls on their respective teams and a smaller selection of gender-exclusive sports. Choate offers 17 interscholastic sports for both boys and girls and only two sports provided for only one gender or another. Title IX changed the foundation of athways many athletes today would have a hard time imagining.

The implementation of Title the number of female athletes. The law developed programs to promote feminist principles responding to concerns surrounding sex equality in sports. Apart from helping to increase the participation rate of female student-athletes, Title IX also allowed for a notable increase in the representation of female sports.

More recently, between 2010 Butcher '83 recalled that he ified to ensure that schools had "never been on a team that treat transgender students

identity. However, the United States has rolled back on some of its transgender athlete policies, limiting the representation and advocation for transgender students. With the recent 2020 amendments, one could hope for the necessary changes to allow transgender and nonbinary athletes to receive the support required to obtain equal representation as their male and female peers.

Title IX must strive for equal letics at Choate Rosemary Hall in representation and support regardless of an individual's sex. As the 50th anniversary of Title IX approaches, many institutions around the United States continue to implement gender-inclusive policies. Although Title IX has allowed for progress towards a more inclusive educational environment, the system continues to fail those who don't identify with the institutions of the binary system used to apply Title IX policies.

> **Stanley Cho and Grace** Walters may be reached at scho25@choate.edu and gwalters24@choate.edu

YEAR IN PHOTOS

Page 12 || The Choate News



FROM THE EDITORS

As journalists, we seek to be attuned to the happenings in the world; our "news radars" are always searching for stories to highlight and voices to uplift. We have a responsibility to not only document notable moments and inform readers of current events, but also compile an archival memo for future generations. Our work is critical to providing perspective, allowing people to observe progress, and simultaneously regression, in the ever evolving political and social landscape. With the arrival of advanced technology, our job, in some ways, has become easier than ever. We reel in a fleeting thought by jotting it down in our Notes app and capture vanishing scenes through our phone's camera.

An issue arises when we become so caught up in the documentation of it all—the photos, the videos, the writing, the posts, and the memories—that we forget to do the immeasurably more important duty of living. Oftentimes, it seems we care more about remembering an event than enjoying it in the present. But, how can we document and tell the story of our lives without truly living them? Memories are candid and fleeting recollections of our lives; they model the transient nature of time and complexities of human emotion.

If we stage memories, what value do they hold? Think back to your camera roll — how many of your photos have a story behind them, a moment you truly remember, and how many of them are simply photos, artistic snapshots of moments that have lost their meaning? One day, when we look back at the mosaic of our lives, it's important that we associate our photos, videos, and Notes app entries with real life experiences — not versions of them seen through the distorting lens of a camera.

Undeniably, the perpetrator of our disconnect with the real world is our virtual presence. The Covid-19 pandemic and the advancement of technology in the 21st century has shown us how these worlds can intersect, for better or for worse. Pre-pandemic, many of us chose to live our lives through a screen. As such, the term "screenagers" came into being. We adopted a mindset of "post it, or it didn't happen" and "don't forget to tag me." We created online avatars, constructed exclusively from the best aspects and moments of our lives, and with each follower we earned, another outsider was brought into our virtual universe. Though we vehemently denied accusations of being "addicted to our phones," our lives belonged to the ever-growing varieties of social media platforms and the cloud that always seemed to run out of storage.

Then, at the peak of the Covid-19 outbreak, our dependence on technology — the good and the bad — became less of a choice and more of a necessity. Rather than using our devices to document connections we had with people, places, and ideas that we didn't want to forget, we were forced to use them as our only method of connecting with those same people, places, and ideas. Technology was our portal to the real world. We longed for human contact — the hugs, kisses, and pats-of-encouragement. And, to many of us, this isolation was eye-opening, providing an opportunity for us to realize what we had lost. In our solitude, we learned to admire and acknowledge being in each other's presence and cherish the gift of sharing time with those around us.

If the pandemic taught us one lesson, it is that life comes with staggering curveballs, and while we've resumed lives of semi-normalcy, where screens don't stand guard between us and the world, we've also lost touch with an integral part of the human experience: simply existing and allowing time to take its course. During quarantine, we found ourselves scrolling through old photos and videos, nostalgic for a world we couldn't access. In that, we've found the value of truly experiencing the world when we have the privilege to. As we emerge from the depths of the pandemic, and the joy once again begins to outweigh the darkness, we need to find and hold onto all of the good moments. Trust us: you can afford the time to put your phone down, take a deep breath, and feel at peace, instead of chasing something you feel you might soon lose. The world isn't going anywhere — for now.

As journalists, we are so preoccupied with looking for "news" — for the interesting and insightful fresh stories to report on — that we often miss many subtle moments of life, which can often be equally as profound and newsworthy, unfolding all around us.

We must now remind ourselves to not only document the good, the bad, and the ugly, but to live in it as well. We must live in the jubilation, the discomfort, and the insecurity, because it's the realizations we have in those moments, the new lens through which emotion and authenticity allow us to view the world, that are truly worth documenting.

