



# THE CHOATE NEWS

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## Community Service Day Canceled

### Shifting leadership inhibits annual food packaging event

By **Haley Chang '18**  
Copy Editor

For many students, the month of October is usually associated with Community Service Day, an annual service event in which students, faculty, and staff all gather at the Worthington Johnson Athletic Center (WJAC) to pack food destined for parts of the U.S. and Haiti. Unfortunately, there will be no Community Service Day this year. The decision was made last spring due to a combination of logistical and monetary reasons, as well as the retirement of previous Director of Community Service Ms. Mary Pashley.

**We should continue Community Service Day as a way of honoring Ms. Pashley's service to the School.**

Mirialie De Jesus '18

Ms. Melissa Koomson, current Director of Community Service, explained, "First of all, the coordination of the Day is a huge undertaking. Also, the Harvest Pack itself costs an armful of money — it is shocking how much money is spent on it. From what I've heard, there was a lot of talk on how we should look into doing some other kind of service project together. And with Ms. Pashley retiring and a new person coming in — it's a lot to organize in the first few beginning weeks of school."

Many students expressed

disappointment about this decision. Mirialie De Jesus '18 said, "I just remember how Ms. Pashley was so passionate about coordinating Community Service Day. It's wrong to just let this go after she leaves. It's a big part of her legacy, and I feel that that we should continue it as a way of honoring her service to the School. Also, it was just a good way to bring the whole community together, while at the same time, doing some good in the world." She recalled, "I remember being in a group that had people who I didn't even know before, and we would simply bond over the fact that we were working together to combat world hunger. It was effective in bringing us out of the Choate bubble." However, Ms. Pashley was actually involved in the decision to cancel Community Service Day this year.

Kurtis Yoon '17 believes that the idea of cancelling community service day is at odds with the purpose of the event. He said, "I think it was a lame excuse from the school. The whole purpose of having Community Service Day was to give back to our community, but the reason for not having this event — the fact that it's the cost and the logistics that prevents it from happening — it just doesn't make any sense to me."

As of now, according to Ms. Koomson, there are no concrete plans for a service event in which the whole community can participate. "During my past experience as a service

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Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

A fan cheers on the Boys' Varsity Football Team on October 8, just before a 49-7 victory at home against Phillips Andover Academy.

## STUDENTS PROPOSE FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT TO INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

By **Grayce Gibbs '18**  
Staff Reporter

Last Thursday, Lucas Ferrer '17, Zoe Reid '17, and Anselm Kizza-Besigye '17 presented in front of the Board of Trustees Investment Committee, knowing that no student divestment movements at peer schools have succeeded yet. At their nearly hour-long presentation, the three seniors asked the committee to commit to halt future investments in fossil fuels and slowly phase out existing investments. Currently, 10% of Choate's \$350 million endowment is invested in fossil fuels, which is about \$30 million. The Choate divestment movement started last spring, culminating in this meeting.

According to Reid, "I think the committee was pretty impressed. I don't think they were expecting us to come out with a reasonable argument. I think they were expecting eco-warriors, like people coming at them with the climate change side of it, but we only touched upon that part because we didn't want to lecture them. Our whole presentation was focused on the values of Choate, our sustainability commitment which promises a future of sustainability for Choate, and how we have the Kohler Environment Center (KEC), and how investing in fossil fuels is completely contradictory. We talked about why we came to Choate, because it's a school that acts on its values, so we want to make sure it follows

through with that." Mr. Jason Raiti, the Chief Investment Officer, commented, "I thought the divestment presentation was a great meeting. The students were amazing, very articulate, well prepared, and had clearly put a lot of thought into what they were going to say and how to respond to questions from the trustees. The trustees asked great questions, and there was a really good conversation about divesting. It went really well from my perspective: good conversation, good discussion, and a lot of really good thought."

According to Reid, the committee was primarily concerned with the extent of the impact of divesting.

Reid added, "This meeting

isn't the end of it. We knew going into it that it wasn't going to be one meeting. I think it's going to take a while; we have to first meet with the entire Board of Trustees. But I think that the fact that we've been listened to means that there is an interest in divesting, and that action will be taken."

When asked how Choate would go about divesting, Mr. Raiti said, "There are so many ways that you could divest, and different steps you would have to take for each way. It's a great question and one that ultimately the trustees will have to answer. The investment committee would not set this policy; rather, it would be the broader group of

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## PREFECTS URGE STUDENTS TO AVOID ANONYMOUS POSTING APP

By **Kate Spencer '20**  
Reporter

In recent weeks, some Choate students have been spending their after-school time with After School, an anonymous posting app that critics contend is a breeding ground for harassment and cyberbullying. The presence of this app on campus led dorm prefects to ask students to remove the app from their electronic devices.

Dean of Residential Life Mr. Will Morris explained that Choate's Statement of Expectations "calls on each of us to treat all human beings with respect, refraining from behavior that insults, humiliates, or demeans; to use words constructively, avoiding gossip; and to cultivate compassion."

He went on, "These principles apply to our personal interactions as well as to all forms of electronic media. The veil of anonymity, no matter the medium, often undermines our efforts to live up to these expectations."

After School, released in November 2014, is a location-based app geared toward high-school students. Before students can access the restricted message



Photo courtesy of The Southern Illinoisan

board for their school, they must verify their identities, often done by linking their Facebook accounts to the app.

Sam Stitt '20 said, "The posts cause unnecessary gossip and unintentionally hurt the school community."

Laila Hawkins '19 thought the app was more foolish than anything: "After School was kind of pointless because everyone said, 'Oh, I like this person; I think this person is pretty hot,'" she said. "There was nothing really mean that was said, but it was just creepy because students were confessing their love for each other. We couldn't respond though because it was all anonymous. Overall, it was just a circle of idiocy."

Since its release, After School

has drawn widespread criticism. After an online petition led Apple to pull the initial version of the app from its iTunes store in late 2014, After School released a new version the following spring, with features designed to combat harassment. According to *The Washington Post*, however, many high-school students still reported that cyberbullying and harassment on the app occurred frequently.

Many students had raised concerns to their prefects and advisers about the use of the app on campus. Head Prefects Jerri Norman '17 and Chris Birch '17 played large roles in leading the response of the School. The faculty members involved included Mr. Morris; Mr. James Stanley, Dean of Students; Mr. Jake Dellorco and Ms. Courtney Destefano, Co-directors of the Prefect Program; and Ms. MaryLiz Williamson, Director of Day Students.

Instead of addressing the issue during a school meeting, Choate decided to use a more direct approach. On the evening of Sunday, October 2, prefects in each dorm facilitated a

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## DINING HALL COMMITTEE TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By **Lauren Dorsey '18**  
Reporter

Most members of the Choate community are not aware what happens behind the doors of the servery. The members of the Dining Hall Committee, however, are students, faculty, and SAGE Dining Services staff who meet during every Thursday during F block to work behind the scenes, facilitating communication between Choate and SAGE Dining Services. Anna Deitcher '18, Gus Gatton '18, Arjun Katechia '19, and Lizzy Mitchell '19 will be joining the committee this year.

Promoting communication between SAGE Dining Services and the Choate community is not the Dining Hall Committee's only goal. They also tackle issues such as educating students about nutrition and sustainability. Dining Hall Committee member Ms. Nicole Stock said, "It is important to start to understand our foods, where they come from, and what nutritional value they have to us." Additionally, they create surveys

for the students to share their opinions about the dining hall.

The other members of the Dining Hall Committee include Executive Chef Mr. Ryan Citarella, Administrative Assistant Ms. Kelly O'Connell, Director of Sustainability Ms. Katrina Homan, Science Department Head Mr. Ben Small, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Faculty Ms. Kathy White, and Asher Zelson '17. Ms. Stock said, "I joined the committee in order to share nutritional information and really help our community learn about our food."

The process for selecting new applicants each year starts with the Committee making an announcement at school meeting. The Committee then sends students who express interest via email a short survey. There are two main criteria for the selection of new student members: schedule and commitment. Members must have F block free. Student representatives must also be genuinely interested and invested in the Committee's objectives. Mr. Small said, "We want to have students who seem to have a real, genuine interest in food

and the dining hall." The Committee also puts an emphasis on representing the diverse opinions and preferences of the Choate community, so they choose students from different forms who participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. Mr. Small said, "We want the Committee to be representative, but not so big that we don't all fit around the table." This diversity helps the committee navigate issues that the community does not unanimously agree on. Ms. Stock said, "We want a chance to really connect with the students and create a product that Choate as a community will enjoy."

Asher Zelson '17, one of the student members, remarked, "I joined the committee simply because of my love of food. Food is incredibly important in a place where you need to be focused and attentive, and I wanted to make sure students were getting healthy, nutritious, and tasty food options at Choate. Food is a way to experience different cultures and bond with friends, and I think

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### Women in Education

Choate hosts a Women's Leadership Seminar for female educators in independent schools.

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### HRC: The Only Choice

Jack O'Donnell '17 explains why he, a conservative, supports Hillary Clinton, and why you should, too.

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### Alumni in the Arts

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Girls' Volleyball reigns supreme in their Dig Pink match against Loomis

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Read it then recycle it

Visuals (from left to right) by The Heads Network, Matt Rourke/AP, hollywood.com, and Lani Uyen

## SMALLER SCALE SERVICE TO REPLACE HARVEST PACK

### A Timeline of Community Service at Choate Rosemary Hall

#### Before

Choate's community service initiative starts with the Choate boys who attend a summer camp where they plant potatoes to provide food for people at war.



#### 1950

A fierce storm strikes New England and devastates its inhabitants; many residents did not have heating, electricity, or, in some cases, water. In response, the Choate boys were instructed to clean up the debris from the storm.

#### 1985

Student Council members from Choate Rosemary Hall, Mark T. Sheehan High School, and Lyman Hall High School collaborate on a collective effort to rake up leaves in Wallingford.



#### 2013

Community Service Day becomes a fixture in the calendar. Choate Rosemary Hall originally works on meal packing with Kids Against Hunger (KAH), then with Harvest Pack.



#### 2016

Community Service Day is cancelled.

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coordinator at a school where I held the position for about eight years, the same problems came up each year. Logistics like providing transportation and meals for 1,100 people — people don't always think in terms of the details like that, but it is quite an undertaking. Many organizations just can't accommodate that number of people, and I think that was one of the reasons why Harvest Pack was so appealing — because it was something that could be held here on campus, where meals and transportation weren't a problem."

She added, "In terms of accommodating something from the whole school, I don't know of anything right now that would accommodate 1,100 people. That's not to say it's not out there. I just haven't

### I really want to foster student enthusiasm about service and service projects.

*Ms. Melissa Koomson  
Director of Community Service*

heard of it yet. I'm definitely open to new ideas and suggestions from the community."

Instead of planning an event for the entire community, Ms. Koomson is currently looking into coordinating events that are more realistic and smaller in scale. "If we can't do it as a whole school, maybe we could do it in smaller groups such as forms, dorms, and athletic teams. I'm certainly open and ready to talk to folks about service projects that are done in groups as such. I really want to foster student enthusiasm about service and service projects. I really want our students to take initiative and ownership of the events."

Ms. Koomson will try to differentiate between what activities are considered service and what aren't. She added, "I'm currently evaluating what projects I've learned about that students have participated in. And when trying to identify where they fit on the charity vs. community service vs. service learning spectrum. Because the far end of charity work, that's very different from service learning. I come from the philosophy of meeting a real community need that is including face-to-face contact with whom you are serving. So while your organization or club is doing great fundraising work, I really want students to have that face-to-

face contact with, for example, the people who are receiving the monetary donations."

As the new Director of Community Service, Ms. Koomson hopes to communicate the true value of service to the students with whom she works. She said, "I want to honor what is in existence, but I'm also looking at it with a finer microscope — thinking about how a certain event fits into service learning and re-defining what factors make a meaningful service opportunity. I want to make service work at Choate more than just students checking off a box, saying, 'Ok, I finished my requirement.' I want some ownership and investment into it. Do something that you're really excited and passionate about, whether or not that's working with animals or doing some kind of environmental work."

Ms. Koomson also described some of her short-term and long-term plans. "Next up on my list is to research what kind of Habitat for Humanity projects might be out there and get students to organize and do something on the weekend to help build. I also want to stress the importance of discussion and reflection, two very important parts of service learning. Perhaps after doing service work, everyone can come together and reflect upon and share experiences, to help process everything that they have done."

Furthermore, Ms. Koomson is planning to establish a community service committee comprised of both students and faculty. The committee will serve as a liaison between Ms. Koomson and the rest of the community. "Being new to the school and the area, I don't know everything that's out there. I've been looking through the files and checking the local agencies to see what's out there. I'm also keeping my ears and eyes open about various events that might take place on weekends. I thought it'd be a good idea to have student voices on a committee, some of whom may be far more local and familiar with offerings in the area."

She is working on a proposal to take to senior administrators. She added, "I'm just trying to figure out how to have voices from the Student Council and the Service Day Committee. Those are the two groups that come to my mind immediately, but ultimately I'm aiming to have a good rep-

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## AFTER SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE DEFENDS APP

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discussion about students' behavior on the application and how that might affect other users. Seniors likewise discussed the app with their adviser-on-duty that night. On Monday, October 3, day students had a similar meeting with their prefects.

Birch said, "I think we wanted it to be a conversation, instead of a lecture, because if you are going to highlight the negative side of something, it needs to be through talking with someone, not talking at someone."

### The posts cause unnecessary gossip and unintentionally hurt the school community.

*Sam Stitt '20*

Students felt comfortable addressing the problems with After School through these smaller meetings. Caroline Rispoli '20 said, "I thought it was a good idea to have a smaller

dorm meeting with our prefects. It was more personable to talk with the senior prefects, as we've developed relationships with them over time."

Silas Walker '19 agreed. "I was thinking about downloading After School to see what people were saying," he said, "but it was that night where we talked about it." He continued, "Ultimately, I think the School's decision was a good one, because After School could potentially lead to harassment."

Students seem to agree that activity on After School has slowed down in the past few days since the meetings, though the frequency of such activity is difficult to determine.

For many, the situation with After School recalled the way another anonymous posting app riled Choate three years ago: Yik Yak, which allows a user to comment anonymously on posts that were uploaded from anywhere within a 1.5-mile radius. In 2013, some Choate students used Yik Yak to demean their peers.

There are key differences between the school's reactions toward the After School and

Yik Yak situations. According to Norman, "After School has not been on campus that long, so we addressed it earlier, rather than later."

In addition, the School is unable to block the app, as it did with Yik Yak, which agreed to employ "geo-fence" technology to prevent its use on campus. After School does not offer such a feature. (Yik Yak now requires its users to identify themselves by name.)

According to Mr. Cory Levy, one of the founders of After School, the app was created to allow teenagers to express themselves in more unvarnished, honest ways than the self-curated images of Facebook and other social media platforms allow. When the app debuted, harassment and cyberbullying almost immediately followed.

Mr. Michael Luchies, After School's Communication Director, wrote in an e-mail, "After School cares deeply for the teens who use our app, their schools, and communities, and we place a high importance on providing a safe and positive place for teens to be themselves." According to Mr. Luchies, more than

99% of messages exchanged on After School are "positive or neutral in nature."

Since the app's reincarnation, After School has provided features intended to curb harassment. The app offers access to free crisis counseling, and reviews each post for inappropriate content before it is uploaded. The company has also implemented a zero-tolerance policy. "Offending users are blocked and banned from using After School," Mr. Luchies wrote.

Inappropriate posts to the app do appear to occasionally sneak past After School's censors. Less than two weeks ago, at a high school in Arizona, a student posted a bomb threat to After School, forcing the school's evacuation. Employees at After School agreed to help investigators identify the offending user.

Students and faculty are thankful that nothing so serious has occurred at Choate, but many feel the opportunity for abuse still exists. Birch added, "The ability to freely speak in a way that you can't be held accountable can be dangerous."

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## STUDENT FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT INITIATIVE MOVES TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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trustees if we were to divest. And if they said we were going to divest, they would have to make a series of decisions below that in terms of exactly what will divesting mean." He continued, "The students had a great grasp of how the model works here, and the difficulty in that we don't own these fossil fuel assets directly. So to get rid of the assets you'd have to sell the funds that we're invested in. Or change the way the endowment invests totally. Divesting completely is difficult in that nature because we don't actually control what the managers are picking for us."

Divesting from fossil fuels is more complicated than it may seem. Choate does not invest in fossil fuels by directly buying stock in major energy companies. Rather, the endowment is invested by some thirty financial managers appointed by the Investment Committee. These managers invest their portions of the endowment into different stocks, mutual funds, and private equities. Almost all of these financial manag-



Photo by Elle Rinaldi / The Choate News

(Left to right) Lucas Ferrer '17, Zoe Reid '17, and Anslam Kizza-Besigye '17 continued the divestment work of seniors last year.

ers have some money invested in fossil fuels, as many mutual funds hold stock in fossil fuel companies.

Many of these mutual funds require a long-term commitment, which means the investment must be held for around ten to fifteen years. Thus, if Choate decides to divest, the financial managers must slowly phase out any investments in fossil fuels.

In the weeks since the new school year began, Ferrer, Reid, and Kizza-Besigye worked on the presentation to the committee. According to Reid, "We had

a lot of help. We did a practice presentation with Dr. Curtis, and Ms. Homan gave us a lot of the facts on what Choate is already doing for sustainability, such as Green Cup. She also helped us present, spending two hours with us in Ruutz Rees as we rehearsed."

The divestment movement began last year with a group of ten seniors. One of the leaders, Christopher Moeckel '16, said, "In the spring of my senior year, we found that 10% of the Choate endowment was invested in fossil fuels. We thought

that it was pretty disingenuous that Choate built the KEC, emphasized their sustainability initiatives, and then turned around and essentially bankrolled climate change."

After learning this, the ten students created a twenty-point plan, which stipulated meetings with different administrators, plans for a petition, and a school-wide protest. The petition was a success, garnering 300-400 signatures the first night. However, the protest never took place because, according to Moeckel, "We met with Dr. Curtis and he was very receptive to the idea of divestment, so we scratched the protest."

Moeckel reflected on the future of the divestment movement, remarking, "I think what it's going to come down to is if Choate can retain high returns on their investments, while divesting. It's a matter of money — if Choate can continue to sustain the growth endowment has experienced over the past decade while investing in more

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## School Appoints New Onsite Food Director

By *Ethan Luk '20*  
Reporter

Amidst the familiar aroma of burger patties sizzling on the grill, students have noticed a new smiling face in Hill House Dining Hall: Mr. Paul Kikosicki, the new SAGE Onsite Food Service Director. He is ready to contribute fresh ideas to Choate's dining experience with his 27-year career in the food and hospitality industry.

Hailing from Conn., Mr. Kikosicki earned a Bachelor Degree in Business Management Sciences from Western New England College. The journey through his food management career has taken him to diverse places, including: Yale New Haven Hospital, Pine Orchard Country Club in Branford, Conn., Yale University Dining, and Southern Connecticut State University. Mr. Kikosicki began his venture in the food business at age fifteen, washing pots and pans in a tiny pizzeria. He recounts that his first boss at the pizzeria, Mr. Darrel Janis, was an important mentor in his career and the first person to teach him how to perfect a Margherita pizza. He also worked as a

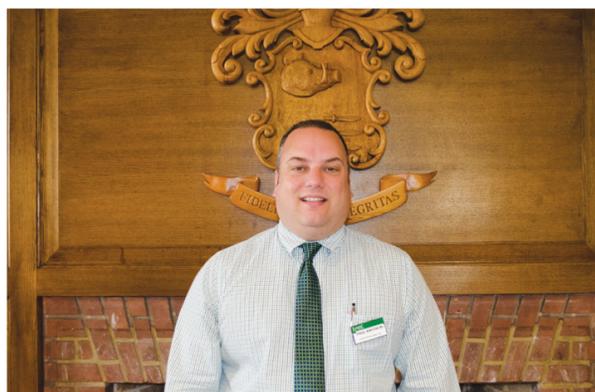


Photo courtesy of Tomisin Oyinloye

Mr. Kikosicki boasts of many skills, including making a perfect Margherita pizza.

server at the restaurant, during which he learned that being part of house staff was no easier than being a chef. He later worked at country clubs, where the level of creativity and talent the chefs displayed in their cuisines there always blew him away. For the past couple of years, Mr. Kikosicki worked at Yale and has been involved with college dining. He also had the pleasure of working again with his former boss at the pizzeria at Yale. Through these job changes, one thing has remained constant: his passion to provide the highest level of food and dining

experience for his clients.

When discussing obstacles in his career, he says he has encountered everything from rude customers at a restaurant to a menu mishap, and people in the industry must be prepared at all times to come up with solutions. His biggest hurdle in his career was managing a group of unionized workers. "When people don't share the same passion or vision as you do when working towards a common goal, it becomes a very challenging situation," he commented. He is especially excited to join the SAGE family and start a new chapter

in his career, as he loves the tight-knit relationship between colleagues and the common passion they share for food.

Mr. Kikosicki first fell in love with food as a young boy. A favorite memory of his childhood is skipping around his backyard garden, picking fresh home-grown thyme. When the holiday season rolled around, he was the first to sniff his way through the kitchen, carefully examining his mother kneading pasta dough or his grandmother adding a pinch of basil to a rich Marinara sauce. The joy food brought to his family made him realize how good, honest cooking can unite people.

As for his ultimate goal working at Choate, he wants to build upon the strong foundation SAGE Dining Services has established for the dining hall and elevate Choate's dining experience to the next level. He also wishes to be an inspiration for his colleagues to come to work everyday not only to fulfill a responsibility, but also to have love and passion for serving and creating quality meals on a daily basis.

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## Dining Hall Committee

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that is especially true at Choate. I wanted to join the committee to ensure that people were utilizing the amazing aspects of the dining hall to the best of their abilities.”

The Dining Hall Committee was established over ten years ago; however, it has not operated continuously. Recently, it resumed activity before SAGE Dining Services arrived. After SAGE was hired in 2014, the committee went on a two-month long recess to allow the company to acclimate to the school, since Choate is larger than most institutions SAGE caters to. This year however, Ms. Stock said, “Now that SAGE has been able to settle into their role with our school and understand the ebb and flow of the school year, we want to be able to implement some of the things that we have had to put on the back burner in order to take care of more pressing issues.”

The Dining Hall Committee’s meetings are discussion-based. Throughout the week, members collect feedback from students who regularly use the dining hall, suggest changes, and voice compliments or complaints they have heard. They also help the members of SAGE Dining Services understand schedule modifications and plan accordingly. Not only does the Committee discuss short-term issues, but it also sets long-term goals and creates plans to meet these targets. Ms. Stock said, “My favorite part of the committee is when we do nutritional or sustainability education. Choate is just a small part of a larger whole that needs to act on change not only for our environment, but also our own health.”

Zelson commented, “Our biggest goal for the upcoming year is to make the dining hall a place that students can’t wait to go to. We strive to make the dining hall a social hub and a place where students and teachers alike can become educated about culinary-diversity, trends, sustainability, and nutrition in the food world.”

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## Institutional Research Department to Examine Dorm Diversity

By **Grace Zhang '20**  
Reporter

Since its implementation three years ago, the dorm lottery system has been met with acceptance; however, some faculty are now questioning potential problems the new system might cause in regards to dorm diversity. Director of Residential Life Mr. Will Morris reached out to Mr. Corey Wrinn, Director of Institutional Research, to run an analysis to pinpoint any patterns regarding diversity across all metrics in Choate’s dorm communities.

After spring 2015, the school combined a majority of fourth and fifth form dorms as part of a strategic plan focused on cohesion and culture. Mr. Morris said that the dorm-assignment systems in Choate’s peer schools inspired the changes in the school’s lottery system. “Our system is unique in that we permit essentially random chance to determine where our students live. The housing lottery is truly a lottery based on luck and chance. And, in most cases, our peer schools are exerting more influence over that outcome.”

The new system was designed to allow students to strengthen relationships with their advisers and dormmates. While students may still choose to move dorms between their fourth and fifth form years, the current ‘tiered’ lottery encourages them to stay by prioritizing the preferences of those who choose to remain in the same dorm for consecutive years. “The benefit of moving every year is that you get a fresh start. You get a chance to meet and develop a relationship with a new adviser, and new peers, who you might not have met otherwise,” continued Mr. Morris. Students may no longer be motivated to pursue these benefits with the current ‘tiered’ lottery system.

Mr. Morris estimates that about 70% of fourth formers opted to stay in the same dorm for a second year. While pleased with the students’ pos-

itive response, Mr. Morris also worried how that trend might affect the makeup of dorm communities. “We now face the situation where it becomes increasingly likely that a student’s tenth grade placement will be replicated in the eleventh grade year — so we don’t have this reshuffling going on, and that raises the question of clustering.” After conducting a study with Mr. Wrinn and Dean of Students Mr. James Stanley, Mr. Morris said, “We saw that a large number of students were deciding to stay where they were, so we wanted to look into this a little more.” Ethan Luk '20 said, “I think having sophomore and junior dorms helps bridge that divide between the forms. I really feel strongly that it’s a good thing and I would really like to know that there are always people I can reach out to who have experienced whatever I feel, in my dorm. People who live in the same dorm will always stay together. Living in separate houses won’t stop clumping.”

### 70%

Estimated proportion of fifth formers who are staying in the same dorm for a second year (courtesy of Mr. Morris).

A follow-up study to be conducted this year will concentrate on fourth and fifth formers, in an attempt to understand the effects of integrating grades on the diversity of dorms. The study could provide insight on how to proceed with the lotteries for third and sixth formers.

Mr. Wrinn and Mr. Morris agree that diversity is a nuanced concept, and the study on dorm diversity is meant to be open-ended. Diversity is not only about race or ethnicity, but also about students’ hometowns, interests, and other traits. “We don’t have an exact question,” Mr. Wrinn affirmed, “We have to see what ends up happening.” Mr. Wrinn described it as a “da-

ta-mining project” rather than an analysis geared toward trying to answer a specific question. His goal is to discover patterns that might exist in the residents of each dorm.

Mr. Wrinn plans to have results of the new analysis by the end of the fall term so that conversations between Mr. Morris and other faculty about how to move forward can take place during the winter term. Mr. Morris hopes to be able to notify students about any changes the Deans’ Office decides to make to the dorm lottery sooner rather than later, giving students time to plan before they must apply for dorms in the spring.

It is entirely possible that the analysis coming up in the next month will not yield any noteworthy patterns. “Once we dig into it, we might not find anything. That’s a part of research,” explained Mr. Wrinn, who has a strong background in statistical projects. “There might not be any differences, there might not be any trends. We won’t know until we get more into it.” Mr. Morris explained, “We need to decide whether or not clusters, if they exist, are clusters that we feel are beneficial to students. Once we have the data, we can be more specific.” The tiered lottery system could be preserved following this analysis — it is all a matter of the results of the study and the conversations that will subsequently take place between faculty, students, and parents.

Mr. Morris knows that a balance between facilitating stronger relationships in dorms and exposing students to a range of perspectives is difficult to achieve. He said, “The current system recognizes that a student will sometimes need a change of scene, whatever the reasons are. So the system does not prevent that — it still permits that.”

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Photo courtesy of The Heads Network

Conference attendees listened to a variety of presentations aimed at enabling women to succeed as heads of schools.

## CHOATE HOSTS EMPOWERING WOMEN’S CONFERENCE

By **Jessica Shi '17**  
Features Editor

Over thirty women from anywhere from across the Mid-Atlantic, from New Jersey to Maryland, gathered in Rutz-Rees on Friday, September 30 for the 2016 Fall Women’s Leadership Seminar, an annual event led by and for the use of women educators in independent schools. The goal of the three-day seminar was to provide both the practical skills and support systems needed to allow more aspiring women leaders to become heads of school.

According to a study done by the National Association of Independent Schools in 2009, only 26 percent of heads of school are women. And even among those heads, many tend to lead schools with younger students or all girls. To counter this trend, the Heads Network brings together teachers, administrators, and other independent school members from across the U.S. and Canada to participate in programs such as the recent seminar. The Network’s mission is to promote “the education of girls and advancing women’s leadership.”

The location of the seminars rotates from year to year, and for the 2016 event, Headmaster Dr. Alex Curtis, who has been on the board of the Heads Network since February of 2015, volunteered Choate as the host.

Four members of the Choate faculty were in attendance: Ms. Sara Boisvert, the Director of Global Programs; Dr. Katherine Jewett, the Director of Curricular Initiatives; Ms. Eera Sharma, the Director of Summer Programs; and Ms. Kathleen Wallace, the Associate Headmaster.

The attendees spent the bulk of their time in a series of seven “sessions,” each led by a different female head of school. The session topics included how to read and balance budgets, what a Board of Trustees looks for in a head, and the expectations held for female heads.

Dr. Tekakwitha Pernambuco-Wise, Head of School at the Sea Crest School in California and leader of a session titled “Women’s Ways of Leading: Navigating the Lab-

yrinth of Headship,” emphasized the importance of this format. “Learning from the experiences of female heads of school, especially the ones who were trailblazers, inspires other women to overcome the various obstacles that are in our paths to both attain headship and to thrive in the position,” she said.

The sessions allowed for varying degrees of interactivity. In one of the sessions, for example, Dr. Jewett participated in a “simulation fundraising conversation.” She role-played as a head of school approaching potential donors, under scenarios set by the session leader. Dr. Jewett reflected, “It was not easy, but it was kind of fun and interesting just to imagine all of the different possibilities and challenges of approaching people.”

The session leaders served as mentors to a variety of attendees. On Saturday afternoon, the mentors held individual meetings to discuss each mentee’s goals and how to get there.

Later that evening, all of the heads held a “Public and Private Personae” panel for the group as a whole. Ms. Boisvert noticed how their paths to headship varied in terms of “how long it took them, what they were doing before, and how much they switched schools.”

“Most of them had worked in independent schools. Some had been a division head; some had been a director of admissions,” Ms. Boisvert said. However, she noted, “All of them were in their second or third headship.”

In addition to providing information, advice, and resources that educators need to advance their careers toward higher leadership positions, the conference showed the importance of our community places on ensuring equal representation. Ms. Wallace concluded, “We should have role models in our teaching faculty and administrative faculty for all of our students. It makes sense that we try to have the same representation in the faculty that we do in the student body.”

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## REACH ELECTRONIC SYSTEM TO TRANSFORM SIGN OUTS FOR 2017-2018

By **Pinn Chirathivat '19**  
Staff Reporter

The current — some say archaic — sign-out system is soon to become obsolete, with an electronic system being adopted by the school to replace it. While Choate’s administration has long toyed with this notion, it is set to become a reality for the 2017-18 academic year. This effort has been spearheaded by Mr. Will Morris, the Dean of Residential Life.

**The face-to-face conversation with the dean’s assistant is something we are going to preserve.**

Mr. Will Morris  
Dean of Residential Life

The new system, REACH, will facilitate both off-campus and daily sign-outs for dorms. REACH is a residential campus software designed by boarding schools to help monitor student sign-outs. Clients of REACH include The Hotchkiss School, Miss Porter’s School, and St. George’s School. An annual subscription to the system will cost \$9,000 a year, according to Director of ITS Mr. Andrew Speyer.

For weekend sign-outs, students will no longer need to shuffle a piece of paper around to their advisers and deans. Students will simply submit a sign-out request via an electronic device, and their school will process the request. The system will accommodate

recurring dorm sign-outs. For example, if a student goes home every Friday after classes and returns every Sunday, the system will not require students to create a new sign-out every week. Mr. Morris said, “It will not run the weekend sign-out and dorm logs as separate systems; it brings them together.” The ‘prep-slip’ process students currently complete to obtain excused absences from class will continue to happen on paper. While it is possible to integrate this in the system, it would be very complex.

Andrea Qi '17 believes that students will be more easily able to sign out: “Slips are easy to lose, and I am so glad that we are changing it to an electronic system.”

Kathy Lee '19 believes that the new system will be more convenient: “I think this new electronic system it will be beneficial towards the school. It will be more convenient for the students and the faculties.”

However, some students are not looking forward to the implementation. Inc Thongthai '19 said, “I prefer the old system because back then I could physically see the table. I could remember it more, rather than have a virtual online one where I can’t see.”

The electronic system will allow administrators to collect information and use it to make long-term plans for the school. Mr. Morris explained, “With our current system we could have over 30 students from different dorms signing out to use the Lanphier Center, but we don’t have a

central way of knowing the total number of Lanphier Center sign-outs we have.”

Mr. Morris and the Director of ITS Mr. Andrew Speyer have collaborated to consider the feasibility of this project. Additionally, both have worked with other schools in the Eight Schools Association. “We are one of the biggest boarding schools to attempt to put a system like this in place. Because we have so many dormitories and students, our system is more complex and requires more customization than those of smaller boarding schools,” said Mr. Morris.

He continued, “That is something to be careful about as we build the system to meet Choate’s needs. We are not allowing a software to change what we have developed as best practices. This is not going to materially change the students’ experiences about who they need to get permission from and in what order; the only change is in the medium.”

Mr. Morris added, “We have been working very closely with REACH as their engineers have been developing a more robust and sophisticated product.”

However, the administration still deems the conversation between a student and dean or dean’s assistant crucial to the sign out system. Mr. Morris said, “Submitting a clearance slip is something you do with integrity and with your honor; none of that changes with this electronic system. The face-to-face conversation with the dean’s assistant is something we are going to pre-

serve as one of our best practices.” The in-person aspect of the system is meant to increase efficiency for deans’ assistants, who often find that there are problems with a students’ sign out requests that can be remedied more quickly in person.

This system will not be, as some students have feared, a GPS or other location-based application, through which the school will instantly know where a student is because he or she is carrying a smartphone with the app. Students will still have to intentionally sign-out through the website or through the mobile application for the school to know where they are, similar to the way that students currently have to go to their dorm spreadsheet or paper log to specify their location.

The administration remains optimistic for how the school will adjust to this new sign-out system. Mrs. Laura Lynn van Mierlo, fourth form dean, said, “My anticipation is that there will be a learning curve. The faculty and students will learn the system, and it will seem as if we have always done things that way.”

Mr. Morris expressed the same sentiment: “I am optimistic that we will make some progress. We don’t have a strict deadline, but we have a strong interest in moving this out as expediently as we can without compromising our responsibilities in keeping track of our students.”

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## DAY STUDENTS HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

By **Maya Lewis-Hayre '20**

Deep in the basement of Hill House is the third form lounge, also known as the day student lounge. At the end of the school day, its occupants are members of a tightly knit community, all chewing bubble gum. When afternoon commitments are over, this 25% of the student population can travel home for the evening, eat a home cooked meal, and use the Wi-Fi as late into the night as they want, before going to sleep in their own warm beds. The other 75% is stuck at school, eating whatever is served in the dining hall that evening, and cramming in homework before the Wi-Fi turns off for the night.

*Going home at night makes the Choate life even better.*

Going home at night makes Choate life even better than it already is. This school is full of amazing new experiences, but sometimes you just want a familiar environment to return to, a familiar smell to breathe in, and a familiar bed to sleep in. Being a day student also allows you to “recharge” away from school with friend groups outside of Choate. Day students often talk about having the best of both worlds.

While the commute may not be ideal, in a hectic, busy environment, it's nice to have some time with no obligations other than getting to or from school. For many day stu-

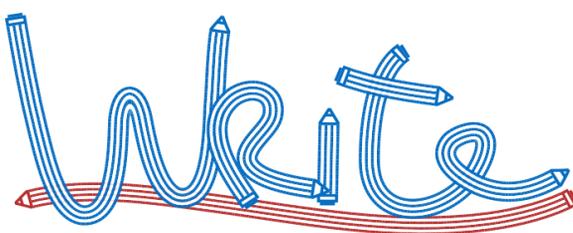
dents, going home means being able to do whatever they want, whenever they want: eating when they're hungry, using Wi-Fi when they want, and being in (or not in) their room whenever they want. As an added bonus, day students also never suffer from the issue of homesickness.

Day students have over-all much more freedom than boarders, and have less structured days. As a day student, one doesn't have to sign out to leave the campus, and can leave the campus without the permission of their dean. While boarders have a limited scope of non-Choate activities they can take part in, day students, while free to go to any events at Choate, can go to a number of events unavailable to Choate boarders as well. While boarders have the opportunity to go to New York every once in a while through SAC-sponsored daytrips, day students can go to the city with their parents or by themselves much more often.

Being a day student also affects life at school. Day students form a very close community at Choate. Many day students spend their free periods in the day student lounge, allowing for a very close group of people, all united by day student life. Usually day students can spot someone they know from the day student lounge wherever they go.

There are so many reasons that being a day student at Choate is better than being a boarder. After all, who would want to trade in the comfort and freedom of home for a

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# MAKE PUBLIC SPEAKING RELEVANT AGAIN

Anselm Kizza-Besigye '17 offers a reminder of the inherent value of speaking well to a crowd

By **Anselm Kizza-Besigye '17**  
*Opinions Writer*

From the day of the impassioned speech that began her bid for the school presidency, Cecilia Zhou's '17 defining trait has become her brilliant public speaking ability. Cecilia, also known as Cece, draws the full attention of her audiences, becoming the focus of an auditorium through her purposeful gestures and deliberate elocution.

Despite the seemingly effortless execution of her speeches, Cece relies on years of hard work to command a room like she does. She, like so many great Choate orators, took advantage of Choate's public speaking clubs, some of our school's most woefully underutilized resources. Clubs like the Debate Team, in which Cece honed her skills, exercise students' public speaking and critical thinking skills, which are crucial to future success.

Public speaking clubs sharpen their constituents' ability to present an argument to a crowd, a skill with great benefits. Few would deny the importance of being able to stand before a crowd and deliver an effective message. This skill empowers one to persuade large groups, garner sympathy, or even inspire outrage by utilizing vocal inflection, hand gestures, and other debate minutiae. The significance of these skills is without question: one finds glaring disparities between an orator with command of these skills

and one like Donald Trump, whose “air-traffic-control” hand signals and violent vocal undulations only distract from his message.

*Public speaking clubs are some of our school's most woefully underutilized resources.*

Yet the impact of good public speaking extends beyond the traditional speaker-crowd scenario. Public speaking skills also enable one to contribute meaningfully to class discussions and propel conversation. Balanced class discussions require many of the pillars of public speaking: conciseness, decorum, structure, and more. In parliamentary debate, one learns these principles by performing eight-minute speeches, in which one must construct a brief, organized argument with respectful refutation and convincing explanations. If each Choate student approached Harkness-table discussions with this level of scrutiny, we all would have to sit through fewer awkward silences and unwarranted lectures by our more loose-lipped peers.

Furthermore, public speaking teaches one how to refute another's arguments while maintaining mutual respect. In a debate, you can't call someone a pejorative or

physically tear up someone's argument when you disagree with that person. Trained public speakers learn to avoid derisive and unproductive lines of argumentation, focusing on above-the-belt clashes. Shifting argumentation to more respectful, restrained discourse would benefit Choate, where some have complained of being shut down in conversations or attacked personally, rather than intellectually.

Increased use of Choate's public speaking resources would also improve the student population's critical thinking skills, by teaching students how to consider an issue from multiple perspectives. At a formal debate, one is without the luxury of choosing their own argument, and, often, one must argue against their conscience. At a tournament last year, I delivered a forceful argument in support of the constitutional right to bear arms, a constitutional right on which I think the framers of the constitution ought to have saved their ink.

*Good public speaking extends beyond the traditional speaker-crowd scenario.*

We often define ourselves as living in the “Choate bubble,” a description that I be-

lieve is fitting. While studying abroad in Jordan, I exposed myself to ways of thinking that bore no similarity to those present at Choate, and, in doing so, I recognized the importance of exposing oneself to foreign opinions. After living with Jordanians who became my friends, I felt able to empathize with those from backgrounds dissimilar to mine and those with opinions that opposed my own. Choate students lack this ability. I am sure of this when I see so many obdurate students refuse to consider contrary opinions or even to offer arguments against opinions with which they disagree.

Beyond its technical beauty, Cecilia's convocation address excelled in its accurate diagnosis of Choate's biggest problem: disunity. Unhealthy discord and silent aggression too often take the place of meaningful dialogue and respectful debate. Our collective preference for either vitriol or passive aggression is propagated by our inability to empathize with contrary beliefs and, therefore, with one another. These issues that act to detriment our community are those with which public speaking training equips one. And while public speaking clubs may not seem sexy, school-wide unity and mutual consideration always are.

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Cecilia Zhou '17, left, and Noah Hermes de Boor '18, right, demonstrating the power of good public speaking.

## COMM LUNCH: IT DOESN'T HAVE TO RUIN YOUR FRIDAY

By **Anjali Mangla '20**  
*Opinions Writer*

Most Choate students have a common reaction to Community Lunch: “Ugh, it's basically forcing you to make friends,” or “Ugh, you have to sit with and talk to people you've never heard of before! I'd rather sit with my friends!” It's widely known that Community Lunch is something Choate students love to loathe. As a new third former, I had never really encountered anything like Community Lunch before. Whenever I asked what it was about, I was told to ready to hate it.

*The secret to conquering Community Lunch is to take it in stride.*

The goal of Community Lunch is for people to meet new people on campus and learn about them while talking to

them over a meal. Without actually going through Community Lunch, one already feels a sense of awkwardness when conversing with random people. I felt nervous going to my first Community Lunch, thinking that it would be the worst thing that would ever happen to me. Turns out, I actually knew the people at my table, and we couldn't stop chatting the whole time. The secret to conquering Community Lunch is to take it in stride. Treat it like the first day of high school, when you were eager to make friends. If you go to it already with an annoyed attitude and an apathy toward the people you don't know, Community Lunch will just make you more miserable. If you show up with a positive attitude, people will gravitate to you and join in the conversation.

If, in fact, no conversation is able to happen, what's the harm? It's just 45 minutes a week—really, not even once a week. You'll have a sporadic, slightly awkward experience to add to your list of awkward

experiences. Most likely you've already got a lot of these. I certainly do. Community Lunch is likely far down on the list.

In any case, Community Lunch will probably get you to meet new people or see people on campus that you'd never thought to talk to. You get to bond over the awkwardness of being forced to mingle. Together, roll your eyes at the idea of Community Lunch. It's a pop of color in the monotonous, black-and-white, work-work schedule of Choate life. It can be perceived as a time to relax and chat. And eat, of course. The food at Community Lunch is intentionally of a higher quality than regular lunches. A lot of people would rather be doing work during their free period, I know. But who can oppose the one time you get good food in a buffet at the Choate dining hall?

After I decided to embrace the notorious Community Lunch, I didn't feel so scared to make friends anymore. Sure, it's forced friend-making, but why not go with the flow in-

stead of opposing it? Seemingly like a pleasant person in front of people — or at least not openly abhorring sitting with strangers — has never been a bad thing. The idea of Community Lunch itself may be irritating, but at least it provides some variation from the normal lull of going to class, going to lunch, sitting with the same friends, and going back to class.

*If you show up with a positive attitude, people will join in the conversation.*

Plus — it's required, so there's no point in skipping it and getting an unexcused absence. Just enjoy it for what it is and try and make some new friends while you're at it.

**Anjali Mangla** is a third former from Cheshire, CT. She may be reached at [amangla20@choate.edu](mailto:amangla20@choate.edu).

## My Fellow Conservatives, Vote for Hillary Clinton

By **Jack O'Donnell '17**  
*Opinions Editor*

I'm not with her — I just hate him. This represents many attitudes at Choate and in the greater United States towards the coming presidential election, including my own. It's the first presidential election during my political consciousness and that of my generation, and I want nothing more than to close my eyes and scream for the rest of this travesty. I don't understand how we got here. We've chosen two candidates who to many represent everything that is wrong with American politics and mass media: a crook and a reality TV star. What a fantastic roster for this year's ballot.

Just take a step back and look at the candidates. Secretary Clinton is an old Washington politician: she's experienced, her interns make great campaign ads, and she didn't know that 'C' stood for classified. She's been embroiled

in scandal from the day she announced her candidacy, and according to a New York Times/CBS poll 67% of voters don't view her as trustworthy. According to CNN, 11% of her supporters say that Trump is more trustworthy, and polling data this cycle suggests that trustworthiness is as important an issue to voters as foreign policy and jobs.

I don't like Clinton, but do not take that as an endorsement for Trump. In fact, it's anything but. Trump has the potential to be the worst American executive since George III. He's a racist, sexist, sometimes-bankrupt bully. He's changed political parties at least five times, he's called Mexicans rapists, and he's spoken lewdly about women in public too many times to count. A tape of him making disgusting comments about women surfaced last week, and it just solidifies the fact that this man would be an atrocious president. This egomaniac did what the Tea

Party seems to have been trying to do for a decade: make a mockery of the GOP, the party of Lincoln, Eisenhower, and Reagan. We owe it to ourselves and our future children to deny this man the office of the presidency. In case President Putin and Rosie O'Donnell ever hang out, I don't want "the Donald" anywhere near the nuclear football.

That being said, I and many voters like me are left in a bit of a pickle. I'm really not a fan of Hillary. I don't like her capital gains tax plan; I don't like how she stigmatizes "Wall Street" and then turns around and speaks at Goldman Sachs about how it's awful that people in Washington demonize them because of their success; and I don't like how her Twitter bio so obviously went through two polls, four focus groups, and a PR firm before being posted by an intern. She doesn't seem genuine, and she represents the type of career politician that controls Washington who I simply don't like.

But — and this is a big but — she has experience. Successful lawyer. First Lady. Senator for New York. Secretary of State. Self-proclaimed pantsuit aficionado. That's a hell of a CV, even for a presidential candidate.

Let's compare that to Trump. Wealthy heir to a real-estate fortune. Failed casino investor. Reality TV star. Fear monger. Shameless liar. Male chauvinist. Racist. Republican in name only. I honestly have trouble thinking of anything that qualifies this man for the most powerful job in the world. I guess I heard that Celebrity Apprentice was good. His lack of qualification, deplorable statements on just about everyone except for white, Christian men, and awful hair should disqualify Trump as a viable candidate for anyone voting in this election. I'm a strong fiscal conservative, and I'd rather write in Senator Sanders than vote for Trump.

In four years, I challenge my readers, students, faculty,

and alumni, to work to have two good candidates vying for the presidency. I want to choose the best candidate, not the lesser of two evils. It's up to us, the future of this country, to effect change in the political system and to clear out the primary election clown car before the general.

All this being said, I implore those of you on the fence to vote for Clinton. She's flawed, she's awkward, she's like that aunt on Facebook who really wants to understand social media but just doesn't understand what Pokes really mean — but she is the better candidate. She has experience in Congress, with foreign policy, and with crisis situations. I don't like her, but I hate him. So I ask those in the center of the aisle, like me, to step out, to make history, and to elect our first Madam President.

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## WHY EVERY WOMAN DESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

By **Liza Mackeen-Shapiro '18**  
*Opinions Staff Writer*

The issue of abortion has long been at the forefront of global political discourse. For years, people have been divided into the categories of "pro-life" and "pro-choice." While pro-lifers believe that abortion should be prohibited at all costs, pro-choicers think that it should be free and legal. Ultimately, being pro-choice is the only way to protect the rights and well-being of women.

As many pro-lifers fail to realize, being pro-choice is not the same thing as being pro-abortion. Supporting another woman's right to choose does not mean that you would personally make that same choice. You may privately believe that

abortion is cruel because killing "babies" (fetuses) is wrong — and that is completely okay. You are absolutely allowed to have your own qualms about the issue.

*Pro-life policies do nothing but restrict and harm women.*

However, what is not okay is letting those qualms infringe on the rights of others. Being pro-life is an unrecognized luxury. Most of the staunch anti-choicers would never be in a position in which, for financial or personal reasons, they would desperately need to

abort their baby. Surely, many women receiving abortions have the same moral qualms about the procedure as pro-lifers do. However, they do not have the privilege of taking a principled stance about it. As such, being pro-choice is the only unselfish way to approach the issue of abortion.

Being pro-life is not only selfish, but also dangerous. As numerous studies have shown, banning abortion does not actually prevent abortions from occurring. A 2003 study conducted by the World Health Organization found that the abortion rate in Uganda (where abortion is entirely illegal) was 54 per every 1,000 women. In contrast, the rate in the United States (where abortion is more easily accessible) was 21 per every 1,000 women, and the

rate in Western Europe (where abortion is legal) was only 12 per every 1,000 women. As Dr. Paul Van Look, director of the World Health Organization Department of Reproductive Health and Research, said, "What we see is that the law does not influence a woman's decision to have an abortion. If there's an unplanned pregnancy, it does not matter if the law is restrictive or liberal. Generally, where abortion is legal it will be provided in a safe manner, and the opposite is also true: where it is illegal, it is likely to be unsafe, performed under unsafe conditions by poorly trained providers." Once the law imposes restrictions on abortion rights, women are forced to turn to unprofessional and hazardous underground alternatives. An

estimated 21.6 million women worldwide undertake unsafe abortions every year — out of this, 47,000 die. Clearly, pro-life policies do nothing but restrict and harm women.

Ultimately, being pro-life fundamentally impedes the rights and safety of women. Imposing restrictions on abortion not only perpetuates the idea that women are incapable of making decisions about their own lives and bodies, but also forces them to endanger their wellbeing to exercise reproductive autonomy. In order to truly respect and protect women, we must all become pro-choice.

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## TAKE A STAND, DON'T KNEEL IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

By **Reade Ben '18**  
*Opinions Writer*

As of late, San Francisco 49ers Quarterback Colin Kaepernick has taken a knee during the National Anthem to protest recent racially-influenced police shootings. As a result, high school athletes have emulated Kaepernick's actions in a trend that does more harm than good and is highly offensive.

Although taking a knee might appear to be a noble cause, it is really a cause with no good outcome. At best, this behavior is misguided and rude; at worst, it is anti-American. This form of protest doesn't accomplish anything, and it hurts more people than it helps. Taking a knee does nothing but facilitate disrespect.

While it is certainly an athlete's right not to stand, that

does make it right or acceptable at all. The National Anthem is a display of homage to the United States and those who served this great country at the risk of their lives. Standing up, singing, and facing the flag with a hand over your heart is a symbolic, almost effortless way of showing immense respect for America and its brave defenders.

Kneeling supports the unhealthy stereotype that all police officers are trigger-happy lunatics. Nearly all police officers are brave, selfless patriots who lay down their lives in the defense of civilization and our rights. When student athletes refuse to stand, it seems to be because of the actions of a few unruly policemen who are not representative of the greater body at all.

Taking a knee blatantly disregards, dishonors, and of-

fends the massive majority of brave soldiers and police officers who have risked their lives defending freedom. Many injured veterans cannot even stand for the anthem themselves, so the least these athletes can do is stand in their stead — or pick up a rifle, fly thousands of miles from their loved ones, and defend their freedom for themselves.

For the officers and troops who have died in the line of duty, this action gravely upsets their families and friends. In a school system in which students are taught not to offend others, it is shameful that student athletes disrespect the millions of brave men and women who have defended American rights and values simply to prove a point.

When an athlete takes a knee, he rejects his American identity,

or the common values and ideals of this nation that unite people despite their differences, in favor of a personal belief.

*When an athlete takes a knee, he rejects his American identity.*

This is ultimately selfish, and it is a way for the self-absorbed to make a statement and disregard the feelings of others. It does nothing to solve police violence. If the most one can do is kneel during an inspiring 117 second song about America, then people will still be victims of police shootings and people will still disrespect law enforcement.

This is the most useless form of protest ever conceived. It is even worse that athletes choose to send this message on the playing field, bringing politics into a place that is supposed to connect people through the friendly spirit of competition. It is the wrong environment to take a stance on civic issues.

Furthermore, taking a knee is a sign of defeat; it shows deference to the problems that plague our nation. As an athlete should know, giving up does not ensure victory. It is not time to yield to adversity, but rather time to stand up in respect and support of America, its rights, and everything this great country values.

**Reade Ben** is a fifth former from Albany, NY. He may be reached at [rben18@choate.edu](mailto:rben18@choate.edu).

## Colombians Deserve More Than Peace — They Deserve Justice

By **Imad Rizvi '18**  
*Opinions Staff Writer*

The plundering of cities, kidnapping of civilians, and extortion of businesses that has occurred for decades in Colombia seems to be headed into a decline. The conflict between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the Colombian government has led to the deaths of over 220,000 and the displacement of millions of citizens. President Juan Manuel Santos has worked through his time in office to establish a peace agreement that could end over fifty years of conflict between the two sides. An agreement was reached between the FARC and then, suddenly a nationwide vote led to the rejection of the compromise. And the nation voted correctly. Colombia has seen too much war, and peace has been long overdue, but the terms of peace in current agreements need to be reconsidered. War crimes cannot be forgiven.

The damage that has been caused to Colombia's population and infrastructure by the violence has been immense. The FARC started as a group composed mainly of poor workers who had no economic opportunity and wanted land reform. Now, they have resorted to illegal activi-

ties including the ransoming of citizens, smuggling of drugs for revenue, raids of towns, and killings of civilians. These despicable crimes cannot go unpunished, and the Colombian government must crack down hard on the perpetrators.

While an agreement that ends the conflict should be negotiated, the leaders of the FARC who have committed war crimes should not be given freedom and impunity. This agreement was not fair to civilians whose lives have been altered or who have lost family members as a result of the FARC's actions. In fact, the Colombian government seemed to be kowtowing to the FARC.

That terrorists who committed war crimes would be given lesser sentences and even be able to run for offices in the future — that's disgusting. The Colombian government should never have lowered itself to this sort of the compromise with terrorists, and it is good that the Colombian people enacted their will.

Hopefully, the opposition to the deal, led by former President Álvaro Uribe, will come up with changes to the agreement that will not allow those who have committed major crimes to go unpunished. Right now, it is thought that the difficulty



Colombian citizens protest their government's peace talks with the FARC, concerned with the small amount of criminals brought justice will be in getting the support of the FARC in a deal in which many of its leaders would be imprisoned. The FARC, an already declining and weakened organization, should be given an ultimatum: surrender unconditionally, or be destroyed. The Colombian government issued similar ultimatums to Pablo Escobar, the notorious drug kingpin, and made good on its promise to destroy him and his operation. President Santos recently received the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in forming an agreement with the FARC. Hopefully, the prize will provide motivation for all groups in favor and against the agreement to express their views and work to achieve peace together. If not, the country must destroy the FARC in its entirety.

**Imad Rizvi** is a fifth former from Glastonbury, CT. He may be reached at [irizvi18@choate.edu](mailto:irizvi18@choate.edu).

## ELECTION 2016



**Donald J. Trump** @realDonaldTrump

Wow, @CNN got caught fixing their "focus group" in order to make Crooked Hillary look better. Really pathetic and totally dishonest!



**Paul Krugman** @paulkrugman

Let's be clear: a candidate for president promised to put his opponent in jail if he wins. Everything else is secondary.



**Eric Holder** @EricHolder

In the USA we do not threaten to jail political opponents. @realDonaldTrump said he would. He is promising to abuse the power of the office



**Hillary Clinton** @HillaryClinton

Trump owes the country an apology for all of the horrible things he's said. It's time for him to take responsibility for his words.



**Nate Silver** @NateSilver538

The operative question is: "Is Trump toast?". I don't mind if you disagree on the answer. (I'm ambivalent.) But that's the question to ask.



Photo Courtesy of Getty Images

Hillary Clinton reacts to a comment made by Donald Trump during the heated debate on Sunday, October 9. Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton exchanged heated words during the second presidential debate at Washington University in St. Louis. The debate, held in a town hall format, featured questions about the candidate's policies and temperaments.



**Donald Trump Jr.** @DonaldJTrumpJr

Ironic since Hillary has gotten a lot more of that "dark unaccountable money" into her campaign. #debates



**Kellyanne Conway** @KellyannePolls

How you know @realDonaldTrump won the debate:

- 1) you watched it
- 2) Hillary (and media) spin will be about him standing behind her #yawn



**Hillary Clinton** @HillaryClinton

"Trump is the worst major-party candidate this republic has ever produced." —@ForeignPolicy

# Club Life: The Lay of the Land

## Q&A with Mr. Ethan McDonnell



By **Oliver Brown '18**  
Reporter

Choate graduate Mr. Ethan McDonnell '09 made his way back onto campus in the fall of 2012. As a student member and later faculty adviser, Mr. McDonnell was a part of the Committee on Student Activities (COSA) for many years, playing an integral part in the approval and development of numerous club ideas.

Mr. McDonnell has also worked as a dean in the summer school; coached football, lacrosse, and wrestling; and currently works in the Alumni Relations and Development office in addition to doing some admissions-related work. Today, however, he is here to share his experiences with COSA and how it has changed over time.

### What was it like being in COSA as a student?

It was good, but a lot different than it is now, being way more on the practical side of things. The tech crew was super involved with setting up events. As clubs began to increase in size, COSA morphed into an administrative and logistical group by channeling and filtering new club proposals and supporting them through their initial stages by helping them draft a constitution.

### Describe the typical day of a COSA adviser.

The adviser works closely with the Chair of COSA on setting weekly agendas, filtering through club and event proposals, and some more "hands-on" advising of clubs, such as assisting with event set up, coordinating co-sponsored events, and the like. The adviser also completes room reservations as submitted by club presidents, compiles recent club proposals for review at the next COSA meeting, and is in charge of keeping up to date the club and organization database, which includes leadership, mission statements, and constitutions.

### What is it like being a student in COSA versus being its adviser?

It was much more faculty-led when I was a student here. I have always tried to, as the adviser, make it about the kids, so I rarely spoke at meetings unless there wasn't a strong consensus or I needed to step in. I was present to simply serve as the institutional memory and make sure we had the same policies regarding new clubs from year to year.

### Are there any clubs you wish you had been a part of as a student?

I wish I was a part of the Choate Student Diversity Association (CDSA) when I was a student here, but it didn't exist. Another club was the C-proctors, who I thought were a really interesting group. But I was a three-sport athlete, and when I wasn't playing sports, I was an actor and an actor in one of the plays, so in general it was hard for me to find free time.

### What are the most notable clubs you have witnessed?

I would say the International Student Society three years ago, as there was one particular student who lead that group and got a really strong following. They did three or four big events throughout the year and were super active. Another one was CDSA, which has also morphed into a really good support mechanism for students and faculty.

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## ON THE ORIGIN OF CLUBS AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES

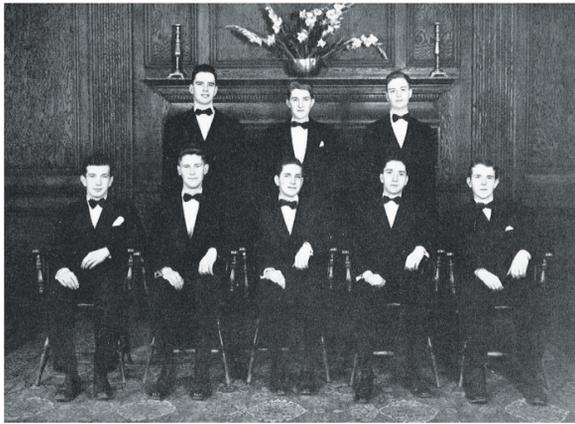
By **Riley Choi '18**  
Staff Reporter

Every September, the dull, grey basketball court on the side of the SAC transforms into a garden blooming with vibrant posters during Club Fair, an annual reminder of the wide breadth and depth of Choate's clubs. But was it always this way? I went to the Archives to find out.

Clubs used to be centered around religious services and academic life. At The Choate School 50 years ago, an organization called Saint Andrew's Cabinet had a lot of responsibilities. The Cabinet supervised the services at the Chapel and took Sunday collections, which would go to charities such as the Red Cross or the Tuberculosis Relief Association.

It also provided transportation for New Haven Tutors, a group of volunteers who taught basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills at The Bassett Street School. Some clubs from the early years of The Choate School still exist today, including the Student Council, the Honor Committee (a predecessor of the Judicial Committee), and *The Choate News*.

Similar to The Choate School, Rosemary Hall had a Chapel



The Debate Council (left) and the Maiyeros (right) pose for a photo in the 1950 edition of *The Brief*, Choate's yearbook.

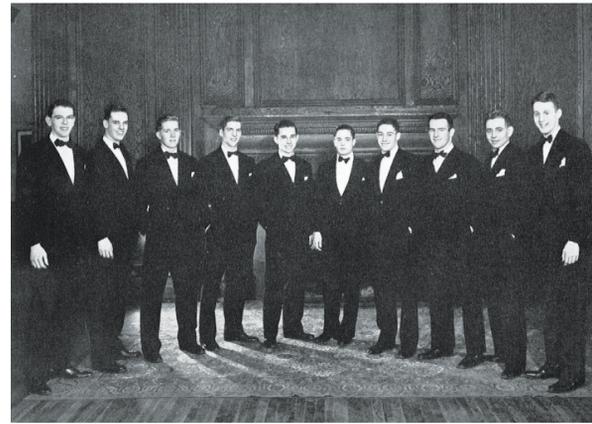
Committee. There were also several publications: *The Wild Boar*, the school newspaper; *Sine Nomine*, the Latin Magazine, and the *Question Mark* and *Answer Book*, which were the school's literary magazine and the yearbook, respectively.

The Whimawehs and the choir groups, Alpha and Omega, filled the school with cheerful and merry songs. The Hospites were a group of girls who served as welcoming hosts of the school, especially during the alumni association meetings, and the Kindly Club Council sought to

spread kindness and generosity around campus by organizing a yearly fair. In general, the scope of most clubs did not extend beyond Rosemary Hall.

However, by the early 1990's, Choate Rosemary Hall's campus culture, along with its clubs, broadened to include values and issues relevant across the nation and world.

The Environmental Action Coalition, for example, addressed the consequences of fossil fuel consumption on ecosystems. As the School's only environmental group, it



Photos courtesy of Judy Donald

organized various activities that could spark interest in sustainability on campus.

The Hunger Task Force was founded in 1984 by Chaplain Dr. Gary Gruber, after he organized a day of fasting to bring attention to world hunger problems. The proceeds from the day went to organizations such as Oxfam America, which provided autonomous educational programs and emergency assistance to families in need.

Other social justice clubs included Amnesty Interna-

tional, Choate Afro-Latino Student Alliance (CALSA), and International Club.

Clubs have formed and dismantled continuously over the years. But one thing has remained constant: clubs reveal the values that the students deem vital to the school community.

Thank you to Ms. Judy Donald and Ms. Stephanie Gold, the school's archivists, for their help and advice.

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## SMALL BUT MIGHTY

By **Caroline Donatelli '17**  
Reporter

In the wide mix of clubs that Choate offers, smaller, newer groups are often at risk of being forgotten. And yet, they have so much to offer: they often bring unconventional, exciting opportunities to students. To show their charm, I have found and researched three such clubs from all corners of campus.

One relatively new club is the Birding Club, which was founded by Asher Zelson '17 in September 2015. The Birding Club's main goal is to "foster appreciation and respect for our local resources and the wild creatures with whom we coexist," said Zelson.

The Birding Club takes biweekly walks to the cross-country course and various hiking trails in the local area, such as Sleeping Giant in Hamden, Conn. Along the way, club members learn about various bird species and behaviors. They are currently in the process of compiling a "Choate Bird Identification Guide," which will include pictures and detailed descriptions of birds throughout campus and Wallingford.

Readers United celebrates a widely enjoyed pastime: reading. The official mission of the club is, "To establish a place for anyone who has an interest in reading to discuss, host movie

events, and fundraise for literary charities."

According to Ava Hathaway-Hacker '18, a member of the cabinet, the club is "a place for those who love to read to interact and share their ideas on books." Readers United meets biweekly for an hour and often hosts "themed" discussions. For instance, the club plans on holding a Harry Potter themed meeting later this year.

Among the lesser known publication on campus is *The Artist*. Editor in Chief Neve Scott '18 said, "Through student profiles, performance reviews, and photo submissions, *The Artist* aims to further general understanding of Choate through an artistic lens."

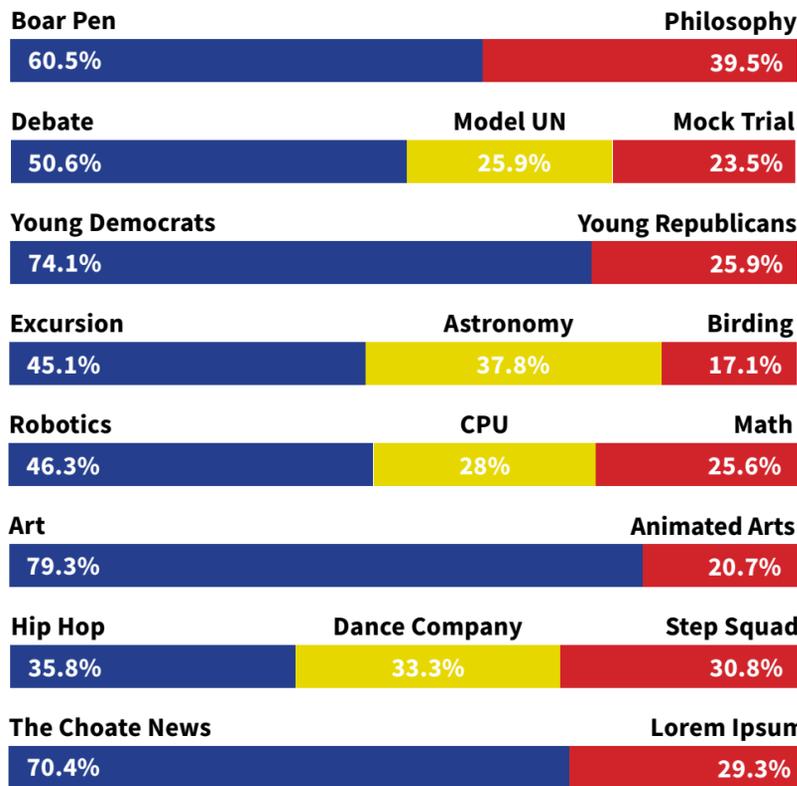
The club meets a few times a term to give out assignments and publishes its approximately ten-page magazine once a term. As for events, the club sponsors functions on campus and trips to art galleries, such as the Yale University Art Gallery.

These clubs are just a few examples of the many unusual offerings at Choate. Next time you are at Club Fair or hear classmates talking about the clubs they are a part of, keep an eye (or an ear) out: who knows what you'll find?

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## Would You Rather?: Club Edition

This week, we sent out a survey to a random selection of Choate students asking them to pick their most preferred club between two or three options. Each cluster of clubs had something in common: a shared constituency, passion, or genre. 82 students responded to the survey, and their results are below.



Confidence interval: 6

## MONEY IN CLUBS: WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, WHERE DO YOU GO?

By **Sophie Mackin '18**  
Staff Reporter

Most clubs sponsor events such as fundraisers, day trips, movie showings, and SAC dances. But where does all the money clubs use come from? And where does all the money students spend go?

Because these events typically involve food, transportation, and equipment, clubs can submit funding proposals to the Student Activities Center (SAC). In order to be eligible to apply for funding, clubs must have a mission statement, a current roster, and a faculty adviser.

"The goal is to spend the money in a way that has long term benefit for the school, not just the individual members of a club," explained Mr. James Yanelli, the Director of Student Activities.

For example, SAC funds cannot be used to buy T-shirts or other items that only benefit individual club members. Mr. Yanelli reviews all the club funding proposals with Ms.

Alex Long, the Assistant Director of Student Activities. "Before approving a proposal, we try to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of the idea," Mr. Yanelli added.

The Students Against Climate Change (SACC) club sponsors the Local Foods Dinner every year. The 2016 event will be held next Friday, October 14 in Ruutz-Rees Commons. Students who wish to attend the dinner usually have to pay \$10 to \$15.

"We don't want students to feel like this event is too expensive, but we want to be able to bring in food from local farms and local restaurants," explained Riley Choi '18, who is the club treasurer for SACC.

The SAC provides initial funding for an event like this dinner, but the club has to charge an admission fee in order to pay for surplus costs.

Of course, not all costs are event-related. The SAC paid for boards and pieces for the Chess Club several years ago. It also provided funding for the Fencing Club to buy equipment.

The SAC is not the only institution on campus with power to regulate club funds. In fact, the student representatives who are a part of the Committee on Student Activities (COSA) are also responsible for keeping track of all the money that comes in and out of clubs.

"We often use COSA as a clearing house. Funds will come into and get distributed from COSA when clubs need to spend their money," Mr. Yanelli explained.

Club leaders and treasurers can contact COSA or the SAC at any time for a summary of what has been added or taken out of their club's account.

Certain clubs also receive funding from external sources. For example, Choate families often subscribe to student publications. Stephanie Grossman '17, an editor of *The Lit*, explained, "*The Lit* primarily relies on family subscriptions, and we need that money to print the issue."

Other clubs have received donations from outside orga-

nizations. For example, the Choate Programming Union (CPU) was the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from Google.

In addition to funding from the SAC and external sources, clubs can organize their own fundraisers. Fundraisers, like all other club events, must be approved by the SAC, but club leaders are given a great degree of flexibility in deciding how to spend the money raised.

Choate's Financial Office also sets up agency accounts for clubs that have regular fundraising as a part of their mission. This year has already seen several fundraisers. For example, Helping Hands sold donuts and hot chocolate at the Choate vs. Andover football game last Saturday, October 8.

Helping Hands, led by Megan Small '18, is a new club dedicated to working with children and adults with special needs. The proceeds from Saturday's fundraiser were donated to the research of Apraxia, a motor speech disorder.

"The SAC, along with COSA, was able to give the club

a loan to pay for the expenses. Then, we had to come up with a reasonable selling price for the donuts that would yield enough money to pay back our loan and have some left over to donate to Apraxia research," Small said.

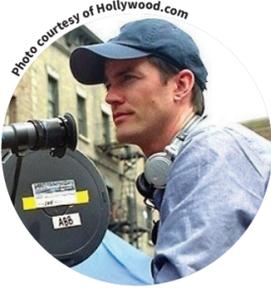
Clubs can also participate in school-wide events like HarvestFest or SpringFest. Each club can sponsor a food booth or activity to raise money. These events are done on a first come, first serve basis. This year's HarvestFest is on Sunday, October 16.

In general, however, as Mr. Yanelli put it, "The SAC tries to make sure fundraising on campus is somewhat controlled and stable. We don't want to have major periods where there are six different groups raising money."

He concluded, "There are lots of different ways that money can come into clubs. Our goal is to steward it appropriately."

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## ALUMNI IN THE ARTS: Tom Dey '83



By **Namsai Sethpornpong '17**  
Staff Reporter

At Choate, we are taught to be independent thinkers, to work hard for the things we love, and not to shy away from a challenge, no matter how seemingly insurmountable. Someone who embodies this very spirit is Choate graduate Mr. Tom Dey '83—screenwriter, director, and producer.

Some of Dey's notable works include *Shanghai Noon* (a comedy film starring Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson), *Failure to Launch* (a romcom with Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew McConaughey as the leads), and *Marmaduke*.

The son of former headmaster Charley Dey, the theater was in his back yard: "I grew up at the Curtis house, which was one hundred yards away from the theater in the basement of the chapel. They showed a lot of movies from the early '70s, a golden era of American film." Dey continued, "When I was directing my first movie, those movies and their images came rushing back to me."

"The Gelb Theater was my first film school — in the basement of the chapel. It was something that I carried with me," he recalled.

Despite his love for films, Dey did not initially pursue directing in college. At Brown, his alma mater, he majored in philosophy of religion. However, he took advantage of the array of film courses offered at this university and, in his final semester, went to Paris to study film at the NYU affiliated Center for International Education Exchange. It was there that he began screenwriting and assisting directors.

"That was my second film school," stated Dey, "I was watching films every day. I also learned — ironically — to appreciate classic Hollywood movies in Paris because there were a group of French writers who recognized and

championed a number of Hollywood directors from the studio system."

Dey worked in Paris for a few years after receiving his degree, and then enrolled at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles, California. He then began working in the film industry as a production assistant on films and commercials. After graduating with a Master of Fine Arts degree, Dey was offered a job as a director at Tony and Ridley Scott's production company, R.S.A. Films.

"I was sleeping on a friend's couch at the time, I couldn't even afford to update the plates on my car. But I got this great opportunity and that was my big break," Dey narrated.

Dey, who grew up on the East Coast with no prior connections in the film industry said, "For many years, the possibility of becoming a director was so remote that I didn't allow myself to entertain it. So I put together a cinematographer's showreel instead, shot primarily with a 16 mm camera borrowed from a friend. Eventually this friend said to me, "You know, you wrote these things, shot them, and edited them, so why aren't you directing?"

"The death of the mid-budget cinema industry provided an opportunity for me to get back to my roots, writing to direct, so that I can tell stories that are more personal to me," said Dey. Over the past several years, Dey has written three scripts, all of which are in different stages of production.

Dey is also working with his father on a documentary honoring the pioneers of a program in the 1960s. *A Better Chance* was an experimental scholarship program created to enable talented kids from low-income backgrounds find their ways to independent schools in order to ultimately succeed in college and beyond.

"In some ways, this stage of my career is about finding my way home again. As a faculty kid at Choate I learned about the world and life through movies. I've gone on this long journey and now I realize I'm just trying to create films that might make people feel the same things I did, back in that theater in the basement of the Choate chapel."

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## School Cancels Mandatory Fall Ensemble Performance



Photo courtesy of Mr. Ross Mortensen

The String Orchestra performing at a special program last fall.

By **Nicole Yao '18**  
Staff Reporter

Traditionally, Choate has held a mandatory special program featuring student music ensembles on the Tuesday night before Parent's Weekend. On the following Friday night, the concert is then performed for the parents. This year, however, it was confirmed by Mr. Stanley that Choate will not be having the concert for the students. This decision was reportedly made over the summer.

The special program, which typically features Choate's orchestra, wind ensemble, jazz ensemble, chamber chorus, festival chorus, and the Arts Concentration chamber orchestra, among other musical groups, run for approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Choate began this annual special program around 5 years ago when Mr. John Ford, a science teacher and former Dean of Students came up with the idea for the ensembles to perform for the student body and faculty before performing for the parents. Mr. Ed Maddox, the former head of the Arts Center, helped to implement this idea. "Although every term we have concerts that are open and available to anyone who wants to come, Mr. Ford recognized that few stu-

dents tend to attend the concerts, and he felt like that was a shame," explained Ms. Kalya Yannatos, the current head of the Arts Department.

Mr. Phil Ventre, the orchestra and jazz ensemble director, added, "I thought the program was a wonderful thing to do because our students love to play for their colleagues, and their colleagues love to hear them. Our student musicians here play at a very high level, so it's very important I think for the school once a year to hear everyone."

**This fall, it was observed that it was going to be a very packed September, in particular with the special program we had not so long ago.**

Ms. Kalya Yannatos  
Director of the Arts

There were reportedly several reasons why this year's concert was cancelled. "This fall, it was observed that it was going to be a very packed September, in particular with the special program we had not so long ago (Slut and Now That We're Men) and initially there was another special program scheduled that same week,"

Ms. Yannatos explained. "It was just going to be a very dense period in the calendar, and it was determined that this would be a year to take a time out from the usual rhythm of offering this program."

There was also some concern regarding the mandatory attendance for students. "Although the initial intention was to ensure that students hear their talented peers, force unfortunately made them take it the other way," commented Ms. Yannatos. In fact, there is a common consensus among students that the mandated attendance made the performance feel less personal.

Reactions have been mixed. Sophie Hare '18 agreed with Ms. Yannatos and Mr. Ventre. "As a member of the orchestra who practices at least 3 days a week, my hard work deserves to be showcased in front of the school," she stated, expressing her disappointment. "We work really hard, and this performance is the only chance we have to show the community all that we have doing. It's not like a play or student production where people just come."

Another orchestra member who prefers to stay anonymous, presented a different opinion. "To tell you the truth," she said, "I think both orchestra members and students found it kind of annoying. It

gave us less time to prepare for the 'real' concert for the parents." Brian McGlinchey '18 agreed, saying, "I think it gives students more time to prepare for the second performance and especially a chance to prepare for their parents' arrival."

**We work really hard, and this performance is the only chance we have to show the community all that we have been doing.**

Sophie Hare '18

Although there will not be a performance for the students, there will certainly still be one on Friday night. This program, despite being regarded as only for parents, is in fact open and welcome to everyone. "I obviously feel the disappointment of our ensemble students that they're missing out on the chance to share their hard work and talent with a guaranteed everyone," concluded Ms. Yannatos, "but I hold out the hope that everyone will show up for Friday's performance, and our students will feel supported by a strong, robust audience of engaged listeners."

**Nicole Yao** may be reached at [nyao18@choate.edu](mailto:nyao18@choate.edu).

## WHEN ARTS AT CHOATE TAKE A BACKSEAT

By **Neve Scott '18**  
Reporter

At Choate, everyone comes from a different background racially, religiously, socially, culturally, and economically. Sometimes, within our community, it can be tough to relate to other people because of these ingrained boundaries. However, Choate is failing to acknowledge one of the most important and outstanding connectors that we have between students: the universal language of the Arts.

When the major focus at Choate is centered around academics and athletics, many fail to notice the dedication and constant hard work artistic members of the Choate community are putting in. The Arts are seen as something just done in a person's spare time and not as the focus of a person's life. These artistic people are certainly not the minority at our school, so why are the cre-

ative talents of such individuals being discredited and underappreciated in our community?

**The arts are seen as something just done in a person's spare time and not as the focus of a person's life.**

Everyone seems to acknowledge that the Arts are an esteemed means of expression, an avenue to share stories across cultures and move people via the power of entertainment. We admire our artistic icons, whether they be actors, literary authors, or painters, but we also limit the opportunities for people seeking careers in the Arts at Choate and in broader society.

Those involved in sports at Choate don't receive any kind of judgment for their willingness to

put off school work to dedicate their time to their sport, but those who are seen spending hours writing or singing or practicing their instrument may be told to do something "more productive" with their time. This double standard contributes to the idea that Arts are solely a hobby for people and do not qualify as a "real" profession in the future. Creativity is an inimitable aptitude that cannot be so easily taught in a textbook or in a one term class. It is galling how our society glorifies our child intellects and aspiring football players yet the value of a student possessing a gift for writing, music, or dance pales in comparison. There seems to be a major disconnect between how creativity is valued in society and the career advice that is given to us to avoid these fields, when businesses, no matter what area of the workforce, need creativity.

The idea is perpetuated that a person can do anything and still

write, draw, sing, or act on the side when that person needs to really become a master of their skill is to dedicate the majority of their time to it. There is no way our cultural icons would have been as successful as they were if they had not given up certain things in order to practice their trade and improve upon their work.

Next time you go to criticize the emphasis a person is putting on their art above their schoolwork, think of any song you've recently played, any TV show you've been binge watching, or any book that you've read, whether in school or for pleasure — all of which have been created by artists who have dedicated their lives to perfecting them. Members of the Choate community could be the patrons of your future artistic enjoyment, so we must start acknowledging them.

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## Marimba Markowitz '17

By **Simi Sachdeva '19**  
Staff Reporter

It takes a lot of courage to play an original piece in front of the entire Choate student body. Sam Markowitz '17, who you might remember from his outstanding performance on the marimba at the last all-school meeting, is not only a percussionist in the jazz band, orchestra, and wind ensemble, but also a leader to those around him.

Markowitz began percussion in middle school when he chose band as an elective. "I wanted to play saxophone, but when I tried to blow into an instrument, I couldn't make a coherent noise," he recalled. He then tried percussion and explained, "I've loved it since."

Markowitz came to Choate as a new sophomore. "The main reason I actually came to Choate was because I wanted better music experience," he said. For his first two years, Markowitz took part in the orchestra playing the bass, drums, and cymbals. This year Markowitz began the timpani. In addition to his classical experience, Markowitz has been playing the pongas and bongos in the jazz band. "I have been trying to expand a lot more," he said regarding his new steel pan lessons. Markowitz's favorite experience is playing in the jazz band. "For me, music is one of those things where when I'm feeling stressed or I'm just having a rough day, it's something I can go back to and have a lot of fun with just to center myself. That's the role I want it to have going into the future."

"Composing my own music is something I had been interested in for a while," he explained. Markowitz completed a summer program that his roommate previously attended college for composition. "He was telling me about a lot of



Photo by Audrey Powell/The Choate News

things, and honestly it just seemed really cool to me. I got more and more experience with these contemporary percussion ensemble pieces, these very weird pieces. Those were some of the most fun I had playing outright, period." Markowitz started composing himself, but nothing seemed to work out. This summer he forced himself to start a piece and finish it. "I just had a month of grinding and a lot of improvising and coming up with ideas," he said. This is how the marimba piece students heard came to be.

"It really gives you a new perspective when you do it. Once you write something and go back to some piece you played, you can look at it in a different way and see what the composer is trying to get across. You can see what they are trying to do. You can really express that in your own playing," he said.

Markowitz is an inventive musician who is respected by his peers and who dives into his percussion headfirst, said Arielle Landau '17, who plays in the orchestra with Markowitz.

"He usually knows what he's doing, and he helps out the other percussion players who are new this year," said Landau. "He is just a good musician because he follows dynamics."

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## EAT ABOUT WALLINGFORD: LOS MARIACHIS

By **Asher Zelson '17**  
Reporter

Recently, my older brother and I traveled deep into the heart of rural Wallingford to indulge in some legitimately authentic Mexican food at Los Mariachis. As a result of their utterly unique ability to meld culinary delight with a fiery style and personal flair to create a wonderful experience, Los Mariachis is one of the top restaurants in Wallingford CT. Los Mariachis has won two Reader's Choice Awards in 2012 and 2013 for their authentic Mexican Cuisine, and has been praised by many of the locals in the area for having some of the best Margaritas in Connecticut (don't worry, I didn't have any).

Los Mariachis has a vast selection of various Mexican classics, along with an assortment of original creations thrown together by the glorious chefs. Although the restaurant lacks a touch of style, the restaurant is pristinely clean, which allows the customer to concentrate solely on the most important aspect of any restaurant — its food. After being seated in a booth near the restaurant's accordion player, we took a second to observe the menu.

To start off our Mexican Feast, my brother and I ordered queso dip and pork tamales. The queso dip was served in a small white bowl and was slightly disappointing. The dip was silky and velvety, but the lack of a true cheesy flavor and the slightly thin and watery presentation proved to ruin the dish. Presented with a scattering of chips with thick slices of spicy jalapenos on top, it lacked creativity.

We thought we were in for a rough night of eating — but, boy, were we wrong. The creamy, rich, maroon red corn base of the pork tamales was melded together with a smattering of juicy, salty, tender pork and then formed into the perfect shape. They were served with a cooling, pure white dollop of sour cream to balance out their slight heat.

For our entrees we ordered a spicy pork chimichanga and three steak enchiladas. The chimichanga was marvelous — the golden deep fried flour tortilla was filled to its absolute brim with a wide assortment of spicy, saucy Mexican delicacies, including succulent, juice-filled pork, hot, steamy pepper slices, and was served with a pile of brown, smooth refried beans; melted, oozing cheese; perfectly cooked rice; and a deep, viv-

id green guacamole. Wonderful!

The steak enchiladas were incredible — Juicy, tender, moist bundles of perfectly seasoned steak tucked gently beneath warm, steaming blankets of soft, fluffy, pillow-like flour tortillas. They were doused in a hefty, thick layer of delicate, airy, palate-cleansing green sauce and were served with the classic rice, beans, and guacamole sides. My brother and I devoured both of our dishes in the blink of an eye and were left hankering for more.

Overall, Los Mariachis was a wonderful addition to my lineup of restaurants in Wallingford, and will surely be atop my list of places to take my younger brother. I would give it 4 Z's. Delish!

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Game of the Week: Girls' Varsity Cross Country vs. Deerfield & Loomis • 10/15 • 3:30 p.m. • Cross Country Course

## FIELD REPORT

### Saturday Games

**Field Hockey** (4-2-0)  
falls to Andover, 1-4

**Football** (4-0-0)  
beats Andover, 49-7

**Boys' Soccer** (5-3-1)  
falls to Andover, 1-2

**Girls' Soccer** (7-0-1)  
beats Andover, 3-0

**Girls' Volleyball** (7-1-0)  
beats Andover, 3-0

**Boys' Water Polo** (8-2-0)  
beats Andover, 16-7

### Wednesday Games

**Field Hockey** (4-2-0)  
beats Loomis, 3-0

**Boys' Soccer** (5-3-1)  
beats Williston, 1-0

**Girls' Soccer** (7-0-1)  
beats Pomfret, 3-1

### BOYS' VARSITY WATER POLO

## BOARS SNAG SECOND VICTORY OVER BIG GREEN

By Jackson Elkins '18  
Staff Reporter

After a 15-4 blowout victory against archrival Deerfield on September 17, Boys' Varsity Water Polo aimed to take home another win over its foe from the Emerald City on October 5.

The first three quarters of the game consisted of the two teams trading goals, with the boys in Blue and Gold leveling the score at 8-8 going into the final quarter of regulation.

**A big win against any closely-matched opponent is huge, but one against your rival in your own pool is particularly special.**

Jake MacKenzie '17 stood on his head in net, turning away multiple shots from Deerfield's offense. Helping out in both ends of the pool, Tristan So '17 and co-captain Omar John '17 netted a combined eight goals and nine steals for two incredible performances. John also drew an ejection, further aiding Choate's cause. Co-captain Stefan Kassem '17 potted two goals, Charles Bellemare '17 nabbed one goal for himself, and Ben Zhao '18 provided an important assist.

By the time the final buzzer sounded, the Wild Boars had put up thirteen goals to twelve from the Big Green. With that close score, the result of a nail-



Boys' Varsity Water Polo huddles around Assistant Coach Selena Gell.

biting match, Choate brought its season record up to 6-2.

This game proved to be a much closer match than the last time the two teams met. Kassem said, "Deerfield put up a really good fight, but it was pretty nice to beat our rivals from up north." He was particularly complimentary of his co-captain John, who

scored four goals. Kassem cited John's will to "get in and fight hard for the ball" as an important part of the game. "He put in a couple of shots where the goalie got the ball, and then Tristan sprinted to clean up the rebound for a few important points," Kassem said.

Kassem pointed to when the game was tied at eight as a

huge turning point for the Wild Boars. "It was big for us. We were down a point right before that, and to get the score back to a tie let every single one of us know that we could walk away with a win."

A big win against any closely-matched opponent is huge, but one against your rival in your own pool is particularly

special. The boys are trying to get some good rest and practice this week before their big tilt against Canterbury on Saturday, October 15. The team will next play at home on October 26 against the Williston Northampton Bobcats.

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### BOYS' VARSITY SOCCER

## ANDOVER PREVAILS, KEY BOARS INJURED



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Abdoul Diallo '17 rattles his opponents' offense with a powerful kick on goal.

By Joseph Coyne '19  
Staff Reporter

Last Saturday, Boys' Varsity Soccer played at home against Phillips Academy Andover. In a hard-fought game for both teams, Andover ultimately came out on top, beating Choate 2-1.

Saturday's game was a defensive battle, with few offensive opportunities for either team. During the first half, the Boars struggled to keep the ball out of their defensive zone. However, after Head Coach Charlie Fuentes and the boys made some adjustments during halftime, the team was able to find more room to play. A duo of juniors was responsible for Choate's first and only goal: Dilibe Iloge '18 scored off of a header, the result of an assist by Sebastian Barquin Sanchez '18. Both Jack Hutchinson '17 and co-captain Gavin Coulson '17 said that the game could have improved its play in front of both goals, defending their own more aggressively and finishing more scoring chances.

Coach Fuentes also made a concerted effort to help the offense in the second half by taking Hutchinson out of the goal and putting him in the field, in order to push Zach Lopes '18 forward. Coach Fuentes was especially happy with the performance of goalkeeper Julius Chiang-Boeckmann '19, who came in after Hutchinson was moved into the field.

After the game, Coach Fuentes said, "Andover has a good team with a lot of talented players, so we know that mistakes could lead to goals." Co-captain Jack Hutchinson '17 said he hopes the team can learn from this game and "get a little more physical on guys running through the back of the defense."

Injuries played an important role in the outcome of this contest. Fifty-four minutes into the game, striker Abdoul Diallo '17 went down on a play near the goal and did not return. Coach Fuentes said, "Hopefully, he can come back and play this week. Offensively, he is a big part of what we try to do, so

his absence certainly has an impact. But at the same time, he is only one player, and we try to play like a team. We did score without Abdoul on the field, so it is not necessarily true that we can't play without him."

In addition, Zach Lopes '18 was visibly in pain and limping during the game. Afterwards, he was attended to by trainers.

Co-captain Lucas Lilley '17 has been out for the last three games, after pulling a calf muscle against Kent on September 24. Coulson said, "Lucas is a very important player to our team and especially to the midfield, so it's obviously a shame that he can't play because of his injury." Boys' Varsity Soccer has played well recently, despite being disadvantaged by these numerous player injuries.

Hopefully, the team will be in better health when they take on Brunswick tomorrow, October 15, on Maguire North field at 6:30 p.m.

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## GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL: COMRADES IN CONQUEST

By Laila Hawkins '19  
Reporter

On October 5, Girls' Varsity Volleyball's won 3-0 against Loomis at the Dig Pink charity game, marking the Boars' sixth win of the season. The money raised through the game went to the Side-Out Foundation for breast cancer research.

Team captains Liv McCulloch '17 and Jackie Kluge '17, along with head coach Mr. David Loeb, have already led the team to victories against Loomis and Exeter, the reigning two-time New England champions. This is, in part, due to an influx of new talent onto the team. McCulloch said: "One of our new kids is a libero, Lani Uyeno '19. She's honestly such a great addition to the team." McCulloch also noted the overall strength of the returning team members.

As of now, the Boars have an astounding seven wins and just one loss under their belt. The players partly attribute that record to the team's closeness and camaraderie.

Uyeno commented, "I always knew I had the team. From preseason, I knew that if I went to the dining hall, I would have someone to sit with."

From team dinners to trips to Brownstone Park, Girls' Varsity

Volleyball has slowly become a family. With seven seniors on the team, compared to last year's three, players know each other better than they have previously. Nicole Scruggs '17 said, "Everyone on the team just works so well with one another. The dynamic is one of the best I've seen since I've been at Choate."

The bond of a team does seem to affect its performance. This is especially true in the sport of volleyball, in which communication is key. Player Anabel de Montebello '18 noted, "As a team, we communicate very well. We're always talking to each other. Also, we have gotten to a place where we can give each other pointers without being condescending or coming off as shady."

Zeynep Ozturk '19 attested to the spirit and friendship guiding the team. "We are one of those teams that, even if we are losing, still has a lot of energy on the court and continues to support each other," she said.

Now with the first month of the season behind them, Girls' Varsity Volleyball continues to work hard towards the goal of winning the New England Playoffs.

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Photo courtesy of Lani Uyeno '19

The Boars help raise money for breast cancer research through their charity Dig Pink match against Loomis.

## Boar Pen's Big Plan

By Sarah Gurevitch '19  
Reporter

By now, you may have noticed Boar Pen's influence on the Choate campus, whether you have followed their lead in "Whose house? C-House!" chants, or you heard them at school meeting, encouraging fans to watch that week's football game.

According to co-president Emilia Furlo '17, Boar Pen is making an effort this year to encourage all classes to get involved with school spirit. The members of Boar Pen hope to increase student turnout at sponsored games and prove that each individual is an integral part of Choate's school spirit. Boar Pen is encouraging underclassmen, in particular, to motivate their friends to attend games.

In addition to increasing fan turnout, the club hopes to boost the energy that supporters bring to games. Looking ahead, Boar Pen will energize the community by holding spirit competitions, which include giving out prizes to the winners. They will also continue the club's practice of selling T-shirts for certain games.

Furlo hopes to revive a previous Boar Pen tradition: trash can drumming. The club used to take trash cans, spray them blue and yellow, and beat them with drumsticks as a way to make noise at games. This activity has been absent from campus in recent years.

The heads of Boar Pen know that they are responsible for promoting school spirit, but they also emphasize that the success of the organization depends on other members of the Choate community. Their advice: Join Boar Pen at sports events, and bring your crazy energy in support of the Blue and Gold!

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