



THE CHOATE NEWS

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Photos courtesy of Ross Mortensen

The Diary of Anne Frank, which played in the Paul Mellon Arts Center from November 5-7, explores the fraught dynamics between families forced into hiding during the Holocaust.

GUEST SPEAKER EXAMINES PRIVILEGE

By **Grayce Gibbs '18**
Reporter

The Choate community gathered in the Paul Mellon Arts Center auditorium last Tuesday to hear the renowned speaker Ralph Wales deliver a talk entitled “Race, Identity, and Privilege.” Wales’s message focused on discussing the history of racism and white privilege in America—and how those issues are still a central part of Americans’ lives today. “The conversation on race and privilege should spark your curiosity,” he said, encouraging students to contemplate how these topics have affected their own lives at Choate.

Holding both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Education at Harvard, Wales is currently the Head of School at the Gordon School in East Providence, Rhode Island. The school teaches students from nursery school to eighth grade and has been nationally recognized for its achievements in multicultural education and racial diversity. Wales devotes much of his work to fostering diversity and increasing minority representation in American independent schools.

Wales began his talk by defining white privilege in the words of influential anti-racism activist Peggy McIntosh: “an invisible package of unearned assets, which [a white person] can count on

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‘ANNE FRANK’ BRINGS CLASSIC TEXT TO LIFE

By **Sophie Mackin '18**
Reporter

A hush of silence descended upon the audience in the Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC) theater as the stage lights brightened, marking the start of Choate’s 2015 fall production, *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

The production, which ran from November 5-7, was inspired by the diary of Anne Frank. Anne was a Jewish girl who went into hiding with her family during the Nazi occupation of Holland. From 1942-1944, she and her family, along with the van Pels family and Mr. Pfeffer, lived in a secret annex. During those two years, Anne Frank wrote down her experiences and thoughts in a diary that survived the Holocaust. Her diary was found after the

Holocaust and published. The book quickly grew famous as millions of people reflected on the Holocaust.

Ms. Tracy Ginder-Delventhal, the director of the fall play, said that she chose the topic of this production because she wanted to “inspire the community to reflect.” She commented that the world tends “to dismiss people, become aggressive toward people and judge people, because they’re different.” About nine months ago, after reading the diary three or four times, Ms. Ginder-Delventhal concluded that Anne Frank’s story had the potential to powerfully affect Choate. She remarked, “Unless we, individually, decide that we are not going to hurt each other anymore, nothing is going to change. We need to collectively move in that direction.”

The cast of 15 students enthusiastically prepared for their roles in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. The cast scrutinized Anne Frank’s diary and watched various movies about the Holocaust. Everyone “felt an extreme responsibility to tell this story well and do these people justice,” Ms. Ginder-Delventhal commented.

One of the greatest challenges for the cast was trying to connect with their characters emotionally. Chloe Khosrowshahi '18, who played the lead role of Anne Frank, found it difficult to initially understand how it felt to be “trapped with no way out,” living in the secret annex for two years, as put by Khosrowshahi.

However, Khosrowshahi soon realized that there

were many similarities between Anne’s personality and her own: “We’re both very outgoing. We love people. We both have a very child-like wonder about the world.” She remarked that once the actors were able to find similarities and connect with their characters, the cast was able to thrive as a family.” Realizing how similar each of the actors was to their characters was one of the best parts of the show for Khosrowshahi.

The cast dedicated themselves to providing the audience with a realistic depiction of their characters. According to Khosrowshahi, the goal was for the audience to “know the characters and have empathy for them.” The cast was able to capture each char-

acter’s range of emotions and express them to the audience. The suspense, the impatience, the desire to escape, the anger and, most importantly, the constant fear that Anne and the others felt during their time in the annex were conveyed and illustrated to the Choate community.

The set design and the costumes also helped the audience connect with the show. Each element of the production was well thought through and served a purpose. The technical aspects such as the lighting and the audio enhanced the performance and helped the audience fully experience the characters and their situation.

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DIFFLEY TO DEPART AFTER 23 YEARS

By **Haley Chang '18**
Staff Reporter

After leading the Admission Office for 23 years, Director of Admission Mr. Ray Diffley has announced his plans to leave Choate at the end of this academic year. He will assume the role of the Director of the Association of Independent School Admission Professionals’ (AISAP) Center for Admission and Enrollment Management Leadership in July 2016.

Established in 2005, AISAP brings together and supports admission officers from independent schools all over the U.S. and abroad.

According to Mr. Diffley, AISAP leads professional development efforts (e.g. conferences, workshops, webinars) to train and certify admission professionals on how to attract and select the best applicants. The Association also offers consulting services to admission offices, advising them on how to improve their services in a variety of ways.

On his decision to leave the Admission Office, Mr. Diffley explained: “I’m leaving for an incredible leadership opportunity that did not exist until it was recently created to help catapult this professional organiza-

tion into the future. The organization’s mission coincides with my belief that the admission profession still has great opportunity for growth, and now is the time. As gatekeepers for education, one of the world’s greatest resources, there is a strong need for admission professionals to be the best they have ever been.”

Since his arrival in 1993, Mr. Diffley has reviewed and revolutionized the system of assessing prospective students. Along with Dr. Robert Sternberg, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and professor of psychology at Tufts University, Mr. Dif-

fley has helped to introduce an assessment tool called the Choate Self-Assessment in the application process. The Choate Self-Assessment includes 40 multiple choice questions that evaluate a student’s motivation, self-efficacy, and locus of control.

Additionally, Mr. Diffley has helped recruit a growing number of minority and international students who not only meet Choate’s academic standards, but also contribute to Choate’s diverse student body. As a result, Choate now has a record number of students of Asian, African, Native American, and Middle Eastern descent.

With the support of Headmaster Alex Curtis, Associate Headmaster Kathleen Wallace, and Dean of Faculty Katie Levesque, Mr. Diffley has also promoted similar demographic changes to the personnel of the Admission Office itself.

At AISAP, Mr. Diffley will work with hundreds of schools and admission professionals, interacting with admission officers, prospective families, and institutions. By combining these three entities, he aims to enhance the task of attracting and evaluating prospective

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Now in its 109th year, The Choate News is written, edited and designed by students to cover events at the school and to offer a forum for opinions of significant interest to the Choate Rosemary Hall community. The Choate News is published weekly on most Fridays while school is in session.



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