



# THE CHOATE NEWS

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CHOATE ROSEMARY HALL SINCE 1907

Choate Rosemary Hall  
333 Christian Street  
Wallingford, CT

VOL. CXI • NO. 6 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2017 THECHOATENews.CHOATE.EDU



Photo courtesy of David Schamis

On Saturday, November 11, Choate athletes competed in Deerfield Day, taking part in the 75 year-old tradition of cheering, sports, respectful rivalry, and school spirit.

## INTRODUCTION OF IPAD PRO DEEMED A SUCCESS

By **Sarah Gurevitch '19**  
Staff Reporter

The iPad Pro Program, implemented at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, has been a success among students and faculty thus far. While only new students and half the faculty are using iPad Pros at the moment, use of iPads in the classroom has significantly increased. The use of Apple Classroom has led to increased productivity and efficiency in the classroom. Next year, Choate will reach the final stage of the program when the entire

school, all students and faculty, will have an iPad Pro. On his initial assessment of the program, Mr. Joel Backon, the Director of Academic Technology, said, "I think it is going extremely well, considering that the entire school is not on the program yet. This is a two year phase project." The momentum of this program has far exceeded expectations, as returning students have increased their iPad use as well: "We expected to see the use of iPads increase among new students, but we are also seeing it in junior and senior year class-

es," said Mr. Deron Chang, a science teacher and academic technology support specialist. The Academic Technology group hopes to maintain and build upon the momentum that the iPad Pros have garnered. Mr. Backon added that the biggest selling point for the iPad Pro Program would have to be the Apple Pencil and Notability, as they allow students to take notes in a different way than the past. Digital notes are proving to be more effective and efficient than taking notes on actual paper, as students can move the text around and

even copy and paste. A big piece of the program's success is the efficiency of it in the classroom, as time is precious for both teachers and students. The Apple Classroom piece was not expected to gain much traction this year as everyone is not yet on the program, but it has proven to take off because it works in conjunction with most iPads. Apple classroom is an in-classroom management system. The teacher can get control of your iPad and see the screen of ev-

See iPad Pro, Page 2

## Choate Joins the Mastery Transcript Consortium

By **Deanna Tan '20**  
Staff Reporter

As stated by the 2013 Choate Rosemary Hall Strategic Plan, "Choate cultivates a vibrant community of principled individuals from diverse backgrounds and unites them through common purpose, active engagement, and mutual respect." The variety of backgrounds of Choate students means that students have different strengths and weaknesses. Simply placing students of different ability in one classroom can cause many conflicts and can be perplexing for a teacher to match everybody's ability. This is why Choate has joined the Mastery Transcript Consortium (MTC). The MTC is a group of schools that hopes to modify the process of planning for university and college admissions for the benefit of students.

The members of the MTC believe a student's transcript should consist of more than a course title or a grade; instead, they believe transcripts should focus on mastering specific content areas. The transcript will be able to be read by college admissions officers in less than two minutes. Most noticeably, there will be no letter grades on a student's transcript, just specific skill mastery levels.

Dr. Katie Jewett, Director of Curricular Initiatives, and Ms. Katie Levesque, Dean of Faculty, have been communicating with the MTC since last winter. Dr. Jewett described the MTC as a group of over 80 different schools around the country that are exploring the best ways to represent student learning and students themselves through a transcript. Ms. Levesque described the MTC

as a group of independent schools that have conversations on how to adjust their transcripts in order to address problems raised by their current systems. "It all started with a conference call last winter that Dr. Curtis and Ms. Levesque and I had with Scott Looney, one of the founders of MTC," Dr. Jewett stated. "He walked us through the idea of the consortium and many of his ideas overlapped with Choate ideals. We believed it was worth exploring." Ms. Levesque noted, "We decided to join MTC because we have many smart faculties already on campus that have already been concerned about problems MTC has already been addressing, and it was good to be able to discuss with a larger group about these issues and to not be alone in this." "Dr. Jewett and the department heads are probably the ones most aware of the existence of MTC. However, we hope to get the faculty involved in the future because it's the faculty that determine Choate's curriculum." Ms. Levesque commented. Though many teachers have not yet heard of the MTC, some have already been applying MTC concepts into their lessons. "Many English teachers have been applying this concept," Dr. Jewett affirmed. "For example, many sophomore teachers use this technique in the mastering of grammar. Let's say you are currently learning where you place your semicolons. If you're okay with it, you can move onto something else; however, if you are not, the system will provide you with more practice problems until you are familiar with using semicolons."

See Transcript, Page 2

## Science Department Adjusts to Less Class Time

By **Ariel Kim '20**  
Staff Reporter

Until last year, lab blocks were an integral part of many Choate students' schedules — students in any lab science class had one extra designated period per week for labs besides the regular four class meetings. Because of this system, Choate's science program flourished. Through various conducting experiments and various forms of research, both independently and in groups or pairs, students were able to get a more hands-on and intensive learning experience through the weekly labs they enjoyed throughout the year.

Like students, science teachers also had to dedicate an extra free period per week for the labs. Besides teaching during the extra lab block itself, science teachers had to spend additional time each week planning the lesson or activity to take place during that block. For this reason, in order to provide this unique kind of classroom experience and focus on giving students the best



Photo by Helena Yang/The Choate News

Science faculty teach three, not the standard four, classes.

quality science education possible, science teachers, instead of teaching 16 class periods a week, taught 15, and used that one extra free period as time to prepare for these lab experiences. Ms. Katie Levesque, the Dean of Faculty, commented, "This system has been in place for several years now."

With the new schedule,

however, there are no extra lab periods that science teachers need to prepare for — science teachers now teach in the same format as faculty in other departments. Yet, all science teachers are still only teaching three courses each rather than four, the standard teaching

See Science Teachers, Page 3

## Choate DJ Association to be Recruited for SAC Dances



Illustration by Chandler Littleford/The Choate News

SAC dances host both student and professional DJs.

By **Brandon Zhang '20**  
Reporter

There are many elements that need to be present to make up a good SAC dance — a big crowd, creative lighting, and the theme of the dance, to name a few. However, the most critical part of the dance is the music. The crowd can flip

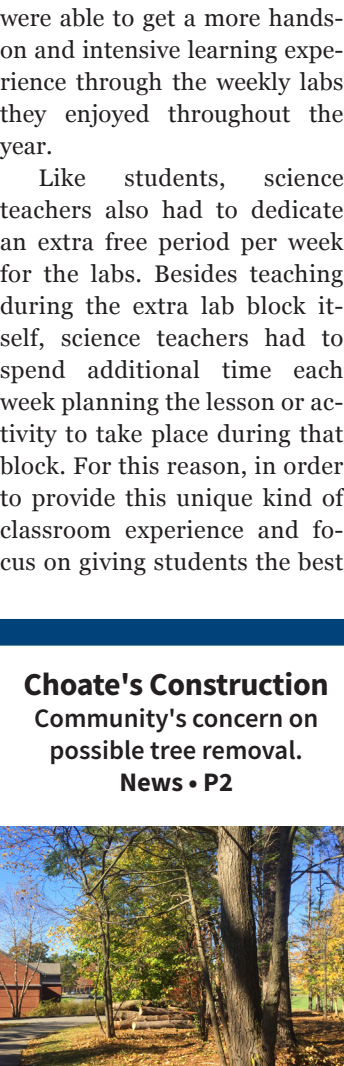
moods quickly when an unpopular song comes on, and it can be extremely discouraging to see streams of students leaving the dance floor. DJs at Choate often encounter a tough crowd; though it may not be common knowledge, there is a process to picking who DJs at SAC dances. On this process, Mr. Jim Yanelli, Director of Student

Activities, said, "The first thing that we try to do is work with the club that is sponsoring the dance to see if they have any music or DJ preferences." With most sponsored dances, the club chooses a theme and bases their music choices off of that. For example, the dance hosted by the Hispanic Latino Forum (HLF) was able to produce their desired theme by playing both Spanish and popular mainstream music. After considering the preferences of the club sponsor, the next step in the process of picking the SAC dance DJ is a hotly contested topic on campus — should the DJ be a student or a professional? Ahmed Wise '20 commented, "Student DJs, such as Kid Lacey [Matt Lacey '18] are much better than the professional DJs they bring in." Mr. Yanelli shed some light on the topic: "We obviously prefer student DJs, but sometimes, when there is a low population of student DJs, we have to employ a professional." He continued, "Generally, when we are

See DJ Association, Page 3

### Choate's Construction Community's concern on possible tree removal.

News • P2



### Degendering Colloquial Speech

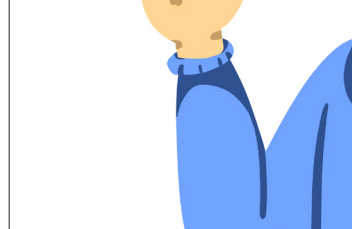
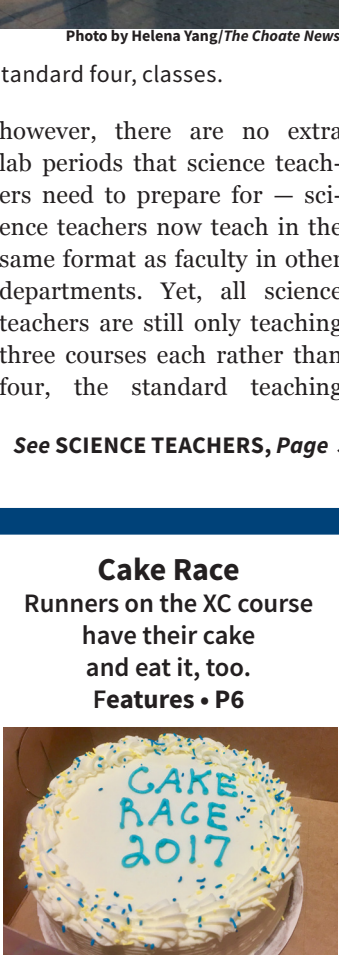
Examining our everyday language at Choate.

Opinions • P4

### Cake Race

Runners on the XC course have their cake and eat it, too.

Features • P6



### One Last Dance

Recap of the spirited choreographies from the Pep Rally.

Arts and Leisure • P7

### What's Inside

News.....	1-3
Opinions: Campus.....	4
Opinions: Nation/World.....	5
Features.....	6
Arts and Leisure.....	7
Sports.....	8



Read it then recycle it.

Visuals by Gracey Gibbs, Austen Rogers, Kristen Altman, and Helana Yang.

Write for  
**The News**

Third floor of St. John Hall  
Tuesdays, 6:45 pm



## Updates on the New iPad Pro Program

*Continued from Page 1*

every student's iPad while in the classroom. Apple Classroom also has the ability for teachers to open a link, document, or video on everyone's screen and even project what is on the student's iPad screen. "Before this year, a lot of teachers would not give tests on a computer because they were afraid students would go to a browser and look up information," said Mr. Backon. "Apple Classroom allows teachers to lock students into a single app and not do anything else. So if you're using Socrative for a test or quiz, students can't go to safari and look up an answer because they are stuck in Socrative."

Switching to the iPad Pro Program the same year as the schedule change was done strategically. Teachers who would not have considered bringing the iPad into their classroom with a 45 minute class would be willing to consider doing it in a 70 minute class, especially when they are revamping other parts of their curriculum. Mr. Chang said, "if teachers already have to

make one big change they might as well just go ahead and change everything."

**We expected to see the use of iPads increase among new students, but we are also seeing it in junior and senior classes.**

*Mr. Deron Chang*

*Science Teacher and Technology Consultant*

Before school, teachers went through training for Apple Classroom. A subsequent workshop was held a few weeks ago, and the new faculty were introduced to the program in their orientation training. There have also been several one-on-one sessions and ad hoc trainings for teachers who have particular questions. As everyone moves over to the use of iPad Pros, more trainings will follow to run this program as well as possible.

**Sarah Gurevitch** may be reached at [sgurevitch19@choate.edu](mailto:sgurevitch19@choate.edu)

## COMMUNITY QUESTIONS TREE REMOVAL ON CHOATE CONSTRUCTION

By **Kate Spencer '20**  
*Staff Reporter*

The Choate community will soon undergo the cutting down of trees in the construction site next to the PMAC, where the new auditorium is to be built. The space ranges from behind the PMAC to near the Great Lawn; in the light of the tree removal near Lanphier, some students and faculty have expressed concern about the removal and eventual replanting of these trees. Head of Facilities Mr. Mark Cappello, who overlooked the project, explained, "The only tree and brush removal that I am aware of is that which is associated with the construction of our new auditorium."

"Everything that is currently in the footprint of the new building will be removed. It is necessary to do this so that the construction can proceed," added Mr. Cappello. "This is the only reason why we are removing the trees in this area." No other trees that are not in the specified area will be removed, and it is hoped by the Choate community that these trees will be replanted on other property.

However, the building plans for the new auditorium do include greenery, and the impor-



Photo by Grayce Gibbs/The Choate News

Facilities cuts down trees for various reasons, but many believe new trees should replace them.

tance of the trees being cut down is not forgotten. Explained Mr. Cappello, "Trees are a wonderful resource and add beauty to the campus. Our trees need to be valued and protected. The landscape plan for the new building calls for the protection and preservation of the trees that are growing outside of the building footprint. New trees will also be planted around the building to add beauty and functionality to the landscape."

Students expressed concerns about the tree removal. "The Choate community should be more aware of this because I do not think that many people are," explained Aurelie Temsamani '20. "After cutting down the tree near Lanphier, I think that the administration should do its best to replant these trees and reinstate the environment that they cut down. However, it is exciting that the development of the new auditorium is taking

place and I am looking forward to that space, despite the environmental repercussions."

The Facilities Department looked to the Choate community to shed a positive light on the cutting down of the trees. Mr. Cappello concluded, "Just like Facilities, members of the campus community place a very high value on our campus greenscape."

**Kate Spencer** may be reached at [kspencer20@choate.edu](mailto:kspencer20@choate.edu)

## THE IDEAS BEHIND VEG-OUT MONDAY



Photo by Pinn Chirathivat/The Choate News

Students choose from vegetarian options inside the servery every Monday.

By **Pinn Chirathivat '19**  
*Staff Reporter*

Many schools and universities have implemented Meatless Monday programs to improve public health and promote environmental sustainability. The Humane Society, the nation's largest animal protection organization and Meatless Monday advocacy group, was the inspiration for Choate to reduce the amount of meat served. Ms. Katrina Homan said, "we had connections to the people working in the Humane Society and there was interest in terms of how we could educate the choate community about the impacts of their food choices."

In 2009, Choate started serving only vegetarian options in the servery on Monday during lunch. There is a reason why it is called "Veg-Out Monday," rather than "Meatless Monday." Staff members of Choate's former dining hall service, Aramark, came up with the name "Veg-Out Monday" because the intentions of this initiation was not to stop serving meat or influence students to be vegetarians. Ms. Homan explained, "The goal of Veg-Out Monday is to make you think about your food choices and encourage people to make a difference."

On Veg-Out Mondays, meat options are always available outside the servery in the salad, sandwich, and soup areas. Even though plant-based diets are encouraged, an array of meat products will always be an option due to some student's dietary restric-

tions and food sensitivity. Ms. Homan said, "We are not trying to send the message that people need to be vegetarians, rather to encourage our community members to be mindful of what they consume."

Many student and faculty groups, such as the Sustainable Committee and C-proctors, were in favor of the initiative for various standpoints ranging from environmental health to animal welfare.

**The goal of Veg-Out Monday is to make you think about your food choices and encourage people to make a difference.**

*Ms. Katrina Homan*

*Science Teacher and Adviser to the C-Proctors*

Most factories modify chickens through beak searing, tail docking, and ear cutting to ensure the best tender meat for people to consume. According to the video shown at school meeting at the beginning of the year, "If all Americans did Veg-Out Monday, it would prevent 1.4 billion animals from being in factory farms per year."

Ms. Homan said, "For some people, food is a huge part of how they view sustainability." By choosing a plant-based diet, people save thousands of gallons of water, reduce water pollution and methane production. The video also explained, "If every American

just replaced chicken with vegetarian options for just one meal, it would be like taking over half a million cars off the road."

Veg-Out Monday has many personal health benefits, as plant-based diets are mostly built around beans, lentils, vegetables, and whole grains, which are rich in vitamins and fiber. These plant-based proteins are less expensive than meat and can also reduce and prevent heart-diseases, cancer, and diabetes.

Many students are in favor of Veg-Out Monday as it reduces environmental impacts. Carly Casazza '19, a current KEC student, said, "I think it helps us be more aware of the impact our daily food intake has on the environment. However, I feel like a lot of Choate students are less inclined to support Veg-Out Monday since they do not know that it has negative environmental impacts."

Hannah Huddleston '19 added, "I hear a lot of people complaining about having no meat for one meal a week. I wish they would be more mindful about the impacts of their food choices. The meat industry has some huge effects on the environment."

Ms. Homan added, "What is great about our community is that we like to be informed and make educated decisions about how our actions affect the world around us, and Veg-Out Monday is another way we can make a difference."

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

## The Purpose of Blue Cards In Doubt

By **Ariel Kim '20**  
*Staff Reporter*

Nearly all students receive Blue Cards for the extracurriculars they do on campus, and yet, many don't actually know what they are. Blue Cards are reports of a Choate student's activities and awards. Ms. Vicki LiPuma, the Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Students, explained, "On the Choate SIS Portal, students will be able to find their Blue Cards, on which their activities and awards will be updated each term by the deans' assistants. Once a student graduates, these Blue Cards will go up into records."

Before the Choate School and Rosemary Hall merged to become Choate Rosemary Hall, deans' assistants at the Choate School would hand-write students' activities on paper. "Now that these cards are digitized, any faculty person has convenient access to any student's Blue Card," said Ms. LiPuma.

Seniors tend to wonder if Blue Cards are significant in the college application process. While these Blue Cards

are the official report of a student's activities and awards, they actually are not sent in with a student's transcript when students are applying for college. Ms. LiPuma said, "Blue Cards do not show up on a student's transcript — strictly grades are sent to colleges."

**I think Blue Cards are quite useful because you can refer to them while writing applications.**

*Taylor John-Lewis '19*

Adding to Ms. LiPuma's explanation, Ms. Marcia Landesman, the Director of College Counseling, explained, "In terms of the college process, Blue Cards are not critical. They are neither sent to colleges along with transcripts, nor are useful for college counselors writing college recommendation letters." She continued, "While it may be useful for the school to keep track of activities that students are involved in, college counselors write letters of recommenda-

tions based on information they learn directly from the students rather than through Blue Cards."

Because these Blue Cards are not an integral part of the college process, many question the necessity of these Blue Cards. Katherine Burgstahler '18 commented, "I don't really see the purpose in Blue Cards. I haven't even had to think about them while writing my college applications."

Other students felt differently about Blue Cards. Taylor John-Lewis '19 said, "I think Blue Cards are quite useful because you can refer to them while writing applications. They provide a written record for activities you may or may not remember doing." Nico Decker '20 added, "I think Blue Cards are quite useful as well. Sometimes I check to see which clubs I am part of because I tend to forget. They're not entirely necessary, but it's just like having your past schedule — they remind you of the activities that you were involved in."

**Ariel Kim** may be reached at [akim20@choate.edu](mailto:akim20@choate.edu)

## Mastery Transcript Consortium Aims to Effect Change On Campus

*Continued from Page 1*

"Sometimes the name and grade of the course does not really say much is happening in the course" Dr. Jewett remarked. "The consortium hopes to go in more detail to say what skills have been gained in the course. Many important aspects of learning, such as public speaking and collaborating, are not yet expressed on current transcripts, and MTC hopes to extend future transcripts in this area."

One of the reasons Choate decided to join the MTC was to adjust to student feedback. "Throughout the curriculum review process, we have heard many students state that they love the Choate program, but hoped that the program was more flexible," Ms. Levesque said. "We also believe that not all students need to be taking the same courses to be able to get a broad and deep high school education."

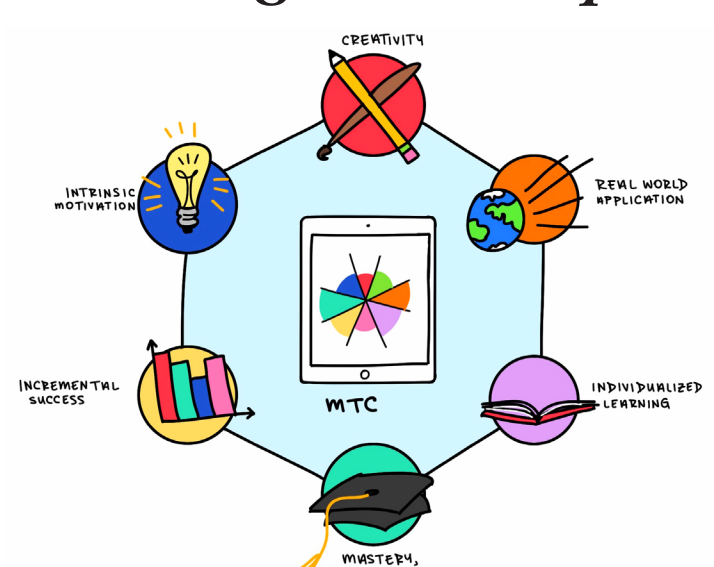


Illustration by Austen Rogers/The Choate News

The MTC focuses on six major forms of enhancing education.

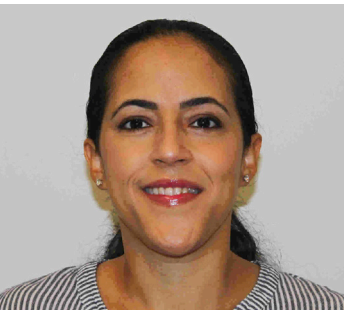
However, as Dr. Jewett stated, "Changing a transcript that has existed over 100 years is not an overnight process." Though the Mastery Transcript Consortium has not yet started playing a major role on campus, its princi-

ples align with Choate's viewpoints in terms of optimizing learning and the student experience.

**Deanna Tan** may be reached at [dtan19@choate.edu](mailto:dtan19@choate.edu)



## New Faculty: Ms. Cindy Okrah



By **Peter DiNatale '21**  
Staff Reporter

This year, Ms. Cindy Okrah has joined the Choate commu-

nity as a World History and Contemporary Issues teacher. Ms. Okrah taught at a public school for more than nine years in New York City, where she grew up, in addition to doing some consulting work. However, Ms. Okrah took some time off from work after having her second child, Hudson. After this, she decided to apply for an open position at Choate.

Majoring in sociology in college, Ms. Okrah primarily taught history and now works

in Choate's HPRSS department. She said of her Contemporary Issues class, "It is very enjoyable. The kids really take away a lot from it while having fun at the same time."

Ms. Okrah has looked forward to the aspects of boarding schools that the majority of public schools don't have. She said, "Aside from teaching, there are a lot of other things to do on campus like advising student clubs and organizations." Ms. Okrah is currently advising one of the

largest clubs at Choate, Model UN.

Ms. Okrah is also excited about meeting many different students not only in class, but in different extracurricular activities. She concluded, "I hope that from my time here, I will be able to really be involved with the community and be part of the many great things Choate has to offer."

**Peter DiNatale** may be reached at [pdinatale21@choate.edu](mailto:pdinatale21@choate.edu)

## New Faculty: Mr. Ian Wollman



By **Yu Lee Chung '21**  
Reporter

Mr. Ian Wollman joined the language department this year as a new Chinese teacher.

Before coming to Choate, Mr. Wollman taught Chinese at Phillips Academy Andover for two years. After finishing his teaching fellowship program at Andover, Choate stood out to him from the very first day of his interviews. Having a chance to teach a class once at Choate, Mr. Wollman said, "I enjoyed having and talking to enthusiastic, hardworking, and good Chinese speakers sharing their opinions freely." Mr. Wollman is currently teaching three Chinese classes at Choate.

Mr. Wollman started

learning Chinese for the first time in a class taken in high school and found it interesting and challenging, as it did not resemble English in any way, and the grammar was simple to learn. From then on, his interest in Chinese grew. The benefits from speaking the language attracted him to learn even more. Mr. Wollman considers the process of learning a language essential as it forces people to empathize with people from different cultures, which helps to unlock new perspectives in viewing the world.

Mr. Wollman said, "The students I teach ask interesting and complex questions about China, Chinese language, and Chinese culture, prompting me to think about the language in new ways and learn more about the aspects of Chinese that students are curious about." In his time at Choate, Mr. Wollman said, "I hope to continue to gain fresh understandings of Chinese through the students' curiosity and eagerness for knowledge."

**Yu Lee Chung** may be reached at [y chung21@choate.edu](mailto:y chung21@choate.edu)

## New Faculty: Ms. Raynetta Woods



By **Dasha Asienga '21**  
Reporter

Ms. Raynetta Woods is a new member of Choate's

counseling team. Welcoming and always ready to talk, Ms. Woods's office can be found on the second floor of the Pratt Health Center. Ms. Woods has lived in New Haven, Connecticut her whole life, so Choate is a slight change for her. She previously worked as a therapist at her alma mater Wilbur Cross High School, a public school in New Haven. She was a clinician and worked on individual projects, group projects, workshops, and teaching health education, which is similar to what she does here.

Ms. Woods started at Choate this month, and though she is still figuring out what a typical day looks like, she will be teaching Sophomore Seminar on Thursdays. The reason she decided to come to Choate was because she had done some consultation work on campus in the last couple of years, and when a position was available, she was happy to take it.

One of the most challenging things about Choate, according to her, is finding her way around the pretty big

campus and getting acclimated to her schedule. She said, the most challenging bit about her job "is when students are hurt-- and when what has hurt them is really hard to cope with and really interferes with their ability to grow." However, she continued, "the best part of my job and why I love it so much is that I get to help them and see them smile at the end of it all."

**Dasha Asienga** may be reached at [dasienga21@choate.edu](mailto:dasienga21@choate.edu).

## New Faculty: Mr. Sam Jonynas



By **Esther An '21**  
Reporter

Though this is Mr. Sam Jonynas's first school year at

Choate, this is definitely not his first year of teaching. He has always enjoyed working as a teacher, and started as a high school tutor for swim and ski lessons.

Before coming to Choate, Mr. Jonynas taught calculus at a high school in Maine. Referencing his own past experience as a student, he said, "I attended Williams College, which has a really strong math department, so it was nice that I had lots of good teachers who inspired me and have impacted the way I teach now."

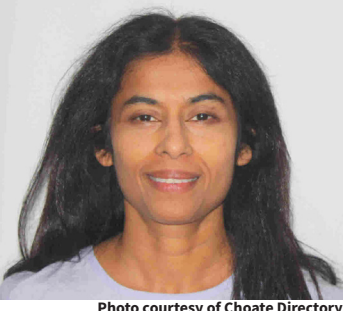
Mr. Jonynas has always enjoyed the challenge of math. In grade school he was placed ahead in his classes and found that he loved the subject early on. He decided to seriously pursue math in college when picking a major. Mr. Jonynas is currently teaching Honors Calculus, Honors Calculus with Infinite Series, and Honors Algebra II; he is excited to be working with Choate's many resources and incredible teaching talent. He believes that the amazing collaboration within the math department

and the dedication of all the teachers here at Choate makes the school unique.

Mr. Jonynas appreciates the motivation and curiosity of all Choate students, and all he wants is a classroom with kids who truly want to learn. His philosophy on teaching -- fostering a sense of collaboration and reaching the end goal with everyone -- will bring a lot to the table in his classes in the years to come.

**Esther An** may be reached at [ean21@choate.edu](mailto:ean21@choate.edu)

## New Faculty: Ms. Sandra Rampertab



By **Esther An '21**  
Reporter

Choate is a very unique place, and Ms. Sandra Rampertab, the new Instruction and Outreach Librarian, can definitely attest to that fact. Ms. Rampertab, a long-time Connecticut resident, previously worked in a public library in Waterbury, Connecticut and learned to help cater to the various needs of both students and adults.

Though she just arrived at Choate this fall, she feels very lucky to be working in such a beautiful, collaborative environment. She loves when students come in, and many do, especially for popular new fiction and electronic materials. She also wanted to emphasize the numerous resources in the library and how many students don't yet know what a gem it

truly is. "We have up to 50 databases, and we even have research classes you can access. You can also schedule individual research appointments with me." Ms. Rampertab hopes to get more students, especially third formers, in the library.

**Esther An** may be reached at [ean21@choate.edu](mailto:ean21@choate.edu)

## Science Teachers Now Responsible For Fewer Class Periods

*Continued from Page 1*

workload for all other subjects.

Mr. Kevin Rogers, the Director of Studies, explained, "With the transition in the new schedule, the school was committed to not firing anyone. While there are the same number of teachers, there aren't that many more sections of science to teach." As a result, when these science sections are divided amongst the faculty in the department for the term, each teacher ultimately is in charge of fewer classes.

Because the new schedule has caused science classes to lose the extra lab block, science teachers must also figure out ways to adjust the curriculum of each class to cover less material. Mr. Rogers said, "The science department is the only department going down in time, so it has a different burden on top of the other burdens that other departments are facing. This system could be helpful in making that transition."

While there are good reasons to temporarily have members of the science department teach fewer classes for better adjust-

ment to the new schedule, this system is most likely to change. Ms. Levesque said, "Given the change in schedule, and the fact that science teachers now teach in the same format as teachers in other disciplines, we will shift toward having science teachers teach the same standard load as other teachers, with appropriate support for lab prep."

On how the new schedule has affected this system, Mr. Rogers commented, "We can provide an exceptional curriculum for students under both schedules. While it is true that it is obviously a challenge to teach four classes versus three, this free period for science teachers has given them more flexibility in scheduling. That idea of authentic activity in class has spread. So I do appreciate the idea that science teachers should be treated the same as everybody else. On the flip side, the science department has lost time, and this is a way to make up for that loss."

**Ariel Kim** may be reached at [akim20@choate.edu](mailto:akim20@choate.edu)

## DJ Association Scores Gigs at SAC

*Continued from Page 1*

looking to employ a professional, we have a company that provides us with a choice of around half a dozen DJs."

When selecting student DJs, Mr. Yanelli explained that he is going to start working with a new club, the Choate DJ Association, to provide DJs for the SAC dances. "As the club really only started to get active around September, it was hard for us to slot in DJs with them in the fall term, but the leaders have already scheduled a time with me to work out the schedule for the winter term dances," said Mr. Yanelli. The Choate DJ Association has already fielded three different DJs in a dance sponsored by The Body Project last month. Additionally, the Choate DJ Association helps students prepare and train for actually DJing at SAC dances. "We usually want to have an experienced or profession-

al DJ with a new DJ if this is their first time, in order to help them field questions or sort out any sort of technical issues," Mr. Yanelli said.

Michael Li '18, a president of the Choate DJ Association, explained that the mission of the club is to "train the interested Choate community on how to DJ and eventually how to DJ SAC dances." On the training of new DJs, he added, "Choate has a pioneer DJ Deck, and we make our members download the Serato app to familiarize themselves with DJing."

With the inception of the new Choate DJ Association, more members of the Choate community will be able to learn about DJing, which will in turn hopefully lead to the production of more student DJs.

**Brandon Zhang** may be reached at [bzhang20@choate.edu](mailto:bzhang20@choate.edu)

## New Faculty: Ms. Tara Burns



By **Camille Grant '21**  
Reporter

Dance has been a lifelong passion for Hamden resident Ms. Tara Burns, a newly hired dance teacher at Choate. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Florida with a B.F.A. in Dance Performance, and she earned an M.A. in Digital Performance from Hull University at Doncaster. Ms. Burns is an active member of the nationally-recognized Adele Myers and Dancers company and currently teaches at the Educational Center for the Arts in downtown New Haven. She said of her teaching specialty, "I think it's ingrained in the dance culture to teach." the Connecticut hasn't always

been home for the mother of two. She lived in New York for seven years prior. "I danced for quite a few companies there before moving and getting pregnant," she laughed. Burns is the mother of four-year-old Leona and two-year-old Ruby. She discovered Choate Rosemary Hall while Adele Myers and Dancers was in residency at the Paul Mellon Arts Center in 2013.

Ms. Burns's upper-level modern dance class will be a welcomed change of pace for her students. Elements of gymnastics, such as inversions and handstands, will take a heavy presence. Modern dance is Ms. Burns' style of choice: "You don't really have any restrictions, and you don't have to dance a certain way. I like to be able to try new things."

She has big aspirations for her dance history class in the winter term. "I remember my history classes: sitting, listening, reading. I'm hoping to incorporate a lot of 'doing' and action into the class." Ms. Burns is excited to help her students achieve their goals in the studio and beyond.

**Camille Grant** may be reached at [cgrant21@choate.edu](mailto:cgrant21@choate.edu)



**Body & Soul** *Day Spa*  
For Men and Women

GRAND OPENING OF OUR  
FULL SERVICE HAIR SALON!  
**20% OFF ANY**  
HAIR SERVICE  
WALK-INS WELCOME OR BY APPOINTMENT

26 N. Main St., Wallingford, CT 06492  
203-269-FAÇE  
[www.thebodyandsouldayspa.com](http://www.thebodyandsouldayspa.com)



**pure alchemy**  
JUICE BAR • CAFE

Tonic & Elixir Bar  
Superfoods & Raw Desserts  
Vegan, Raw, Gluten-Free Friendly

- Smoothie Bowls
- Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Organic Juices & Smoothies

Open 7 days a week!  
See our menu online  
[www.purealchemyjuice.com](http://www.purealchemyjuice.com)  
236 N. Colony Rd (Rt. 5) Wallingford  
PH: 203.265.5000



# THE CHOATE NEWS

III<sup>TH</sup> MASTHEAD

VOL. CXI  
NO. 6



Haley Chang '18  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nikhil Davar '18  
PRODUCTION EDITOR

**NEWS**  
Grayce Gibbs '18  
Nina Hastings '18

**FEATURES**  
Kristen Altman '18

**SPORTS**  
Jackson Elkins '18

**OPINIONS**  
Eben Cook '18  
Liza Mackeen-Shapiro '18

**ARTS & LEISURE**  
Neve Scott '18

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Helena Yang '18

**LAYOUT**  
Alex Yoon '19  
Madeleine Horn '19

**GRAPHICS**  
Ariel Zhang '18

**VIDEO**  
Jonathan Joei '18  
Matthew Lee '20

**ONLINE**  
Alan Luo '18  
Kwan Sirisakunngam '18  
William Wu '19

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Lauren Canna '18  
Anne Miles DeMott '18

**MULTIMEDIA**  
Zev Nicolai-Scanio '18  
Khushi Tyagi '20

**BUSINESS**  
Nils Lovegren '18  
Kailey Marottolo '19

## STAFF CONTRIBUTORS

Riley Choi '18  
Donessa Colley '18  
Caroline Donatelli '18  
Michael Li '18  
Alix Mackillop '18  
Austen Rogers '18  
Julian Yau '18  
Michelle Zhuang '18  
Matthew Anastasio '19  
Daniel Brockett '19  
Pinn Chirathivat '19

Sarah Gurevitch '19  
Jeanne Malle '19  
Audrey Powell '19  
Simi Sachdeva '19  
Inc Thongthai '19  
Cecilia Curran '20  
Skylar Hansen-Raj '20  
Ryan Kim '20  
Ariel Kim '20  
Ethan Luk '20

Derek Ng '20  
Kathryn Phillips '20  
Elizabeth Quinn '20  
Isabelle So '20  
Kate Spencer '20  
Deanna Tan '20  
Nicole Weinrauch '20  
Grace Zhang '20  
Peter DiNatale '21  
Tony Lee '21  
Hadley Rogers '21

To submit a letter to the editor or an opinion piece, please email us at [thechoatenews@choate.edu](mailto:thechoatenews@choate.edu). We welcome all views.

Interested students should attend an assigned meeting, held on most Tuesdays, at 6:45 PM in the Newsroom of St. John Hall. Opinion pieces represent the opinions of their respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board or the School. Unsigned masthead editorials represent the view of the majority of the members of the editorial board of *The Choate News*.



/choatenews



@choatenews



@choatenews

Email us: [thechoatenews@choate.edu](mailto:thechoatenews@choate.edu) || Call us: (203) 697-2070 || Find us: [thechoatenews.choate.edu](http://thechoatenews.choate.edu)

## Taking the Time to Appreciate Our Teachers

By **Matthew Anastasio '19**  
*Opinions Staff Writer*

While this aspect of their job is commonly overlooked, teachers play the essential role of helping students properly develop into mature, hardworking adults. Teachers are more than just people who stand in front of a class. At places like Choate, they are heavily involved in their students' lives. Teachers help us deal with both academic and personal problems and, in many cases, are parental figures in our lives. Despite the significant role teachers play in our everyday life, they often do not receive proper recognition.

Although rewarding, being a teacher is a very stressful and difficult job. They are required to run an efficient and successful class by making sure students understand the material that is being taught, as well as fairly assess and give feedback to students. At Choate, teachers are given even more responsibility with having to supervise students as well as being there for students' physical and mental support. Many Choate teachers also participate in coaching sports, which can add another level of time commitment.

What many students at Choate and other schools forget is that in most cases, teachers have a family that depends on them as well. Many teachers have spouses and kids that rely on them financially and emotionally. Teachers are faced with the challenge of having to balance their demanding work life with their domestic role as a wife, husband, father, or mother. For such a demanding job that teachers perform, they are often left without a lot of gratitude. This is not to say that Choate students do not respect and acknowledge their teachers, but the School tends to forget that teachers are just as busy and stressed as students.

Many schools have a designated week that emphasizes teacher appreciation, but evidently, students tend to only genuinely care about showing gratitude to their teachers in that

given week. Instead, students should show their appreciation for their teachers each and every day. Although students do appreciate their teachers, they generally do not show it. Taking that extra step to show recognition for the impact that teachers have in their students' lives goes a long way. Students could purchase a small gift for their teachers, but simply taking the time to have a personal conversation with them can be even more effective. Students may be reluctant to do this because they may not want to busy or annoy their teachers, but in reality, teachers will really appreciate a student's acknowledgement.

Moving forward, students graduating from high school should take the time to look back on their careers and remember the teachers that helped them be the successful and well-rounded people that they became. Teachers encounter hundreds of students in their careers, and they do their best to make sure that they impact each of them for the better.

As students, we may not always agree with our teachers' decisions. They may give too much homework or too many hard assessments, and they may not always grade tests and papers as soon as students would like them to, but just remember that teachers have a life outside of school. They may have personal problems with their families, they may just be going through a hard time, or they may simply be too busy. Although it is hard to realize this as students, it is essential that we take the time to show a little gratitude to our teachers. By taking only one minute every day to have a personal conversation with a teacher about something besides school, students can have a tremendous impact on the lives of teachers who work tirelessly for the betterment of their students.

**Matthew Anastasio** is a fifth former from Woodbridge, CT. He may be reached at [manastasio19@choate.edu](mailto:manastasio19@choate.edu)



**BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY  
DELIVERY AVAILABLE**



(203) 269-9507  
[WWW.COLONYDINER.COM](http://WWW.COLONYDINER.COM)

## The Battle of Degendering Colloquial Speech

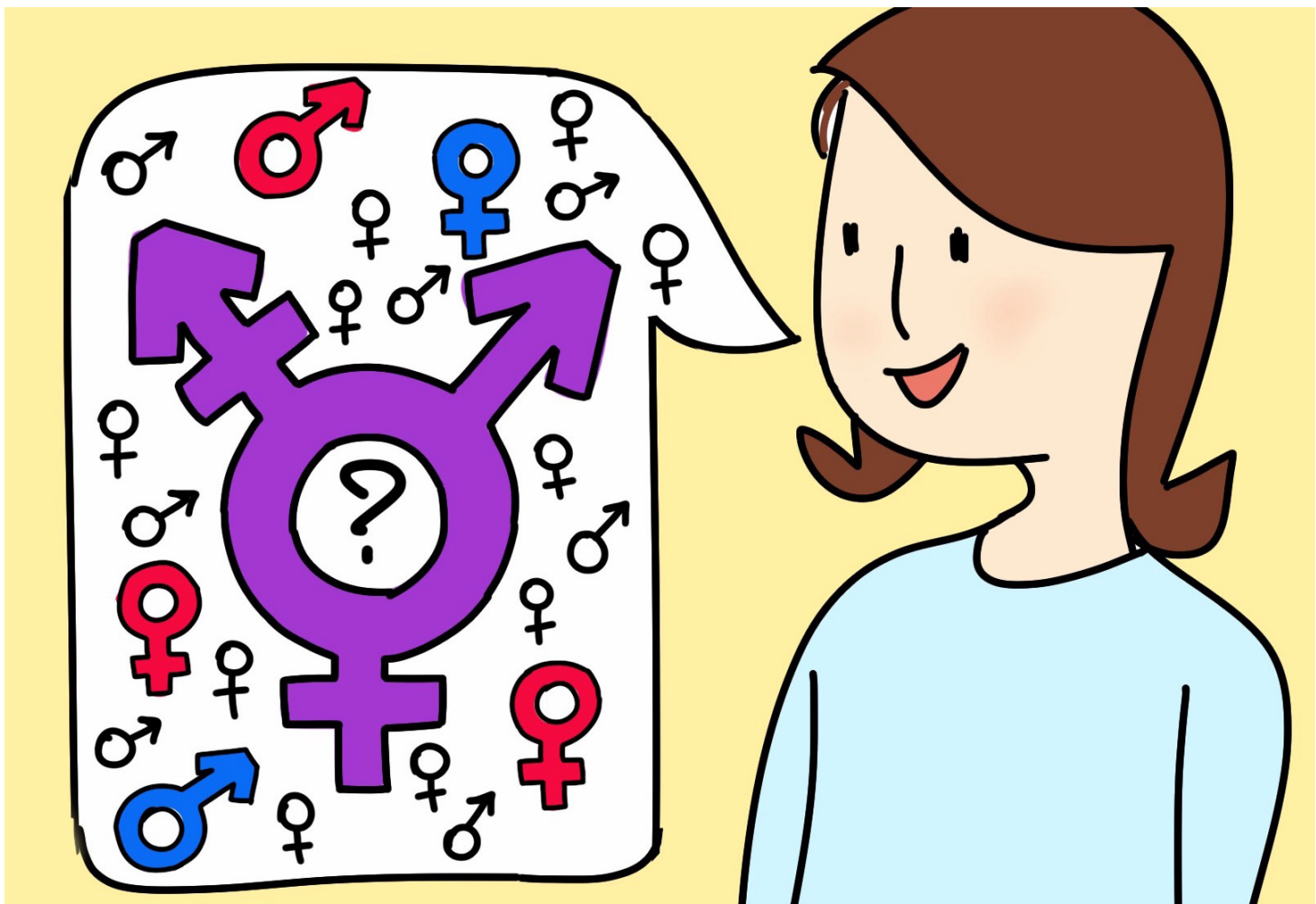


Illustration by Austen Rogers/The Choate News

Members of the Choate community need to make a more conscious effort to degender language in everyday conversation.

By **Derek Ng '20**  
*Opinions Staff Writer*

"Alright, guys, I'll see you later."

A while back, I ended a conversation using this phrase with a few friends, all of whom were female. Admittedly, when I said it, it sounded ordinary to me. It was only upon guilty retrospect did I realize how awkward it sounded to address them as "guys," given that none of them would have identified with the male gender.

After the incident, I gave myself a challenge. I began to pay close attention to the conversations of people around me, compiling a list of gender-specific words and phrases that popped up in everyday chitchat. Before much time had passed, my list rapidly accumulated: "man up," "oh man," "wing-man," and "mankind" were only a few of the many phrases I had amassed. Eventually, after I had started documenting gender-

specific phrases in everyday conversation, I became sharply more aware of the downsides to using these phrases.

Modern-day colloquialism perpetuates gender norms, even though this may not seem obvious at first. Take one of the most commonly used phrases in society: "hey guys." On the surface, nothing seems too wrong with saying this. However, in doing so, we unintentionally associate males with being the default gender, marginalizing females and gender-fluid people. Although we may claim to view all genders as being equal, most would nonetheless find it odd to address people with a "hey girls" in place of a "hey guys." Even this subconscious bias is a manifestation of gender inequality.

I suggested to my friends one time that we would benefit greatly if instead of addressing people by saying "hey guys," we greeted them with a "hey y'all" and briefly explained the effects of this minor tweak. While a few

of my friends promised offhand that they might "try it out" in the future, most didn't recognize the harm in sticking with "hey guys."

A few asserted that this proposition was "political correctness gone crazy." Some friends — both male and female — thought that going out of their way to re-appropriate these phrases with gender-neutral terms was "extra," claiming that using "hey guys" in everyday conversation was, in itself, harmless. To an extent, this thinking is understandable: After all, these phrases have been so deeply ingrained in society that we are numb to their effects.

However, the use of these gendered phrases is inherently problematic. In doing so, we effectively regard males as the default gender, excluding females and gender-fluid people from our day-to-day conversations. By pegging the male gender as the norm, any other gender is

consequently treated as deviant from this standard. Though not apparently obvious, our continued use of gendered language undermines the struggles which marginalized groups face within society, especially one already historically dominated by men.

Degendering language is the first step to undoing the discrimination that has existed in our society for so long. Luckily for us, the solution to this particular problem is quick and straightforward. If we notice how much our words influence others, and we shun phrases in conversations that marginalize minority groups, we would enact meaningful change within our community. Henceforward, if we began to refer to people not as guys, but instead as what they literally are, people, the battle of equality would be half-won.

**Derek Ng** is a forth former from Fort Lee, NJ. He may be reached at [dng20@choate.edu](mailto:dng20@choate.edu)

## BOARS KNOCK DOWN... SPIRIT?

By **Sarah Gurevitch '19**  
*Opinions Staff Writer*

Overall, Choate had — at best — a mediocre spirit week. I came from a high school where spirit week was an all-school affair. If you did not participate, you were the odd one out. However, at Choate, you are the odd one out if you dress up. A few years ago, when the dress code was not as relaxed, spirit week would give students an excuse to dress down. Without that incentive, however, minimal students dress up during spirit week. Why does there have to be an incentive to make spirit week successful? It should simply be known by all students and faculty to go all out for spirit week.

This lack of school spirit begins with the senior class. Seniors need to set an example for the underclassman and show what spirit week should ultimately look like. If all the seniors were to dress up, it would arouse spirit among all the underclassmen. Given my previous spirit week at my former school, I could not believe how few students I saw dressed up as I walked through the senior section of the dining hall. Why would the underclassmen dress up for spirit week if the seniors don't?

*At Choate, you are the odd one out if you dress up for spirit week.*

Another possible fault is the spirit week itself. The themes for each day of the week were not original. In fact, they were the exact same themes as last year, with the exception of twin day instead of decades day. How are you even supposed to know if someone has dressed up for twin day if they are not next to their twin? Instead, why not go with a theme such



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen/The Choate News

Choate students "cheer on" the football team at a home game.



# CALIFORNIA STANDS UP FOR ITS NON-BINARY RESIDENTS

By **Kiki Kim '20**  
*Opinions Writer*

California has long housed some of the strongest LGBT+ communities in the world: San Francisco is known as the gay capital of the world; Los Angeles had the first openly gay mayor in America; and the first legally married gay couple were wed in California. The list goes on, and the point stands. California has an incredibly accepting, forward-thinking history in terms of the LGBT+ community.

On October 15, the state extended this legacy, when Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the Gender Recognition Act, giving people of non-binary gender a third gender option on all official forms. This option is gender-neutral.

*The Gender Recognition act will bring the everyday issues of non-binary people into the spotlight.*

In America — and the whole world, in fact — LGBT+ voices have been silenced throughout history. People are squeezed into restrictive categories of ‘male’ or ‘female’ based on outward appearance and forced to love whomever society tells them to. If a boy wants to wear a skirt, he may be shamed for liking ‘feminine’ things. If a girl cuts her hair short, she may be called a ‘dyke.’ Someone who is neither a boy nor girl isn’t likely to find the appropriate gender bubble on, say, a standardized test.

Californian law is trying to change that; now, when non-binary people look at their drivers’ licenses, they need not see a gender that they no longer identify with. They need not see an ‘F’ or ‘M,’ legally pinning them to something they are not.

The Gender Recognition Act won’t take effect until September of 2018. But then it will al-

low transgender or gender non-conforming people to request a new birth certificate, showing a gender-neutral option rather than one that does not reflect the individual. This legal ‘re-birth’ is also an opportunity for figurative ‘rebirth’ into the proper gender. Henceforth, Californian birth certificates, IDs, and drivers’ licenses will allow for inclusive representation of a traditionally overlooked minority.

Beyond the simple act of acknowledging gender non-conforming people, I believe that the Gender Recognition act will bring the everyday issues of non-binary people into the spotlight. Many gender fluid people, transgender people, intersex people, and others struggle with gender dysphoria and misrepresentation. To them, a letter denoting the correct gender may mean much more than it would to a cisgender male or female. It could mean closure after years of doubting themselves, maybe even doubting their fundamental right to belong to a society. It could mean reassurance that they and their gender identity are valid or that they have a right to identify however they feel.

Still, if the Gender Recognition Act is a step towards a more accepting and inclusive world, it is also, on its own, far from enough. Deeply entrenched stigmas remain against members of the LGBT+ community, and those citizens who do not conform to the gender binary. These stigmas are strong enough for Chechen authorities to round up and detain gay men in secret detention camps, as was reported earlier this year;; they are strong enough to justify discrimination based on “religious freedom” and they are strong enough to justify the more than forty percent of transgender adults that have attempted suicide at least once in their lives, according to the National Center for Transgender Equality.

Every state, every country should follow California’s lead by taking steps to ensure the inclusion of the marginalized LGBT+ community.

**Kiki Kim** is a fourth former from San Francisco, CA. She may be reached at [kkim20@choate.edu](mailto:kkim20@choate.edu)

# One Year After Trump, Progressive Recovery Is In Sight



Photo courtesy of Associated Press

Governor-elect of Virginia Ralph Northam strides onto stage at a campaign event.

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

November 8, 2017 marked one year since Donald Trump’s election as the 45th president of the United States. As one of the many blemishes marring America’s history, his election is often a painful memory that lingers in the minds of millions across the political spectrum. Despite the horrifying decisions Trump has made, many of his plans have been vetoed by various bipartisan legislators. Though Trump’s presidency will forever remain a blemish, not all hope should be lost.

Over the past twelve months, one consistent theme has been ever-present in American politics: empty promises. Trump campaigned on the prospect of “making America great again,” but what does that actually mean? For him, it might mean maintaining his fortune and protecting his oversized ego. For many others, the idea of American greatness revolves around equality, thereby making the phrase “make America great again” a bit of a false advertisement. Equality is part of the U.S.’s future, not its past.

That might have been one of Trump’s first and biggest

mistakes — to focus his campaign on the past rather than the future. The job of the president is to make changes that will improve the quality of life in America, so that future generations can have access to an even greater country. When you turn to America’s past rather than its future, you take steps backward, and, as we all know, American history is teeming with racism, sexism, ableism, classism — the list goes on. Therefore, it is simply foolish to use history as a model.

*When you turn to America’s past rather than its future, you take steps backward.*

This is why our job now is to generate a future in which men like Trump cannot become President of the United States. Not only does that job involve working to improve the distant future by educating younger Americans, but it also includes making change for the near future, specifically before 2020’s election.

Recently, some of the first steps were made toward this goal of political change. On

November 7, elections were held across the country for various state and local government positions. Despite the current Republican majority in Congress, many new Democrats were elected. For example, Ralph Northam won the Virginia governor’s seat over Republican Ed Gillespie, a big victory for the Democratic Party. In addition, Phil Murphy won the race for governor in New Jersey, a seat previously held by Republican Chris Christie, turning one more post blue ahead of the subsequent elections. Danica Roem was also elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. She will be one of America’s first openly transgender government officials, after defeating the conservative incumbent Robert G. Marshall, who had attempted to use her transgender identity against her as a campaign tactic. These results will most likely play a significant role in the coming years as they will inspire donors to invest in Democratic candidates rather than Republicans. Furthermore, it may restore faith to some Americans who had given up on the Democratic Party.

These three elections also indicate a changing political climate in the United States. But, for once, Trump is actually to thank for this positive

redirection. His invidious methods and rhetoric have managed to shift individuals toward the left on the spectrum so as to avoid another president like himself. One hopes this shifting climate will help sway the 2018 congressional elections in favor of the Democrats so that they can eventually regain a majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

*Our job now is to generate a future in which men like Trump cannot become President.*

We are now responsible to continue this trend of opposing the administration’s proposals, educating the younger generations, and voting in favor of progressive candidates. Together, these three steps will help ensure that Trump leaves office as a completely ineffective president, rather than the president who permanently altered the future of America.

**Audrey Powell** is a fifth former from Bronxville, NY. She may be reached at [apowell19@choate.edu](mailto:apowell19@choate.edu)

# To Manage Gun Violence, Advocates Must Become Moderates

By **Nate White '20**  
*Opinions Writer*

On November 5, gunman Devin Patrick Kelley, clad in all black tactical gear and armed with a semi-automatic tactical rifle, entered the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, and began firing on churchgoers, killing 25 people and an unborn child and wounding 20 others. The shooting was the fifth deadliest in United States history and came just a month after the country’s deadliest mass shooting on record, the Las Vegas shooting, killed 58 on October 1.

Recently, mass shootings have spiked in every statistic, from total deaths per year to the number of deaths per shooting. Seemingly every study seems to point to the conclusion that mass shootings in the United States are becoming increasingly common and increasingly deadly. The Texas shooting is only the latest mass shooting to spark a new debate over gun control and the laws surrounding guns, but, as we have seen over and over, not much has come out of these debates. Proper discourse is of course necessary to pass any law, but the issue with gun control is that the extremes of both sides are pitted against each other rather than more moderate positions. Being pro-gun control has suddenly turned into being anti-gun rights, and being pro-gun rights has suddenly turned into being anti-gun control. This kind of spin, seen on both sides of the political spectrum, is both extremely damaging to actual solutions to gun violence and is rather incorrect.



Photo courtesy of Associated Press

Two children visit a memorial for the victims of the Sutherland Spring shooting at a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

The reality is that, according to Gallup, only 5% of Americans believe that gun regulations should be less strict than they are now, yet only 28% of Americans believe that handguns should be banned for all persons other than law enforcement agents. A mere 4% of Americans believe that background checks for all gun purchases should not be required. These statistics show that the majority of Americans do believe in the right of all Americans to own firearms, yet they also show that an even larger majority believe that some form of gun control is

necessary.

Unfortunately, the common opinions that the majority of Americans share are often ignored in the debate over gun control. In today’s society, you are either a gun-toting fanatic or a tyrant determined to strip away the rights of Americans, and this is no way to actually make any progress on the issue.

Pro-gun control advocates must understand that any sort of full ban on firearms is expensive, impossible to enforce, and only opens up a new black market. People looking to do evil can and

will find ways to avoid the law. It is also important to acknowledge that the Texas gunman was shot by an armed bystander, proving that there is in fact a benefit to legal gun ownership. The man who shot Kelley was a former firearms instructor, is mentally sane, has no history of violent criminal behavior, and is someone who deserves the right to own a firearm. While the 2nd Amendment guaranteeing the right to bear arms to all citizens is certainly flawed in wording, clarity, and modern day relevance, it still is the law of the land and is not

something that can be changed very easily, especially with the majority of citizens and government officials against any such change.

However, anti-gun control advocates must also understand that the purchase of many of the firearms used in mass shootings in recent years could have been stopped by stronger background checks and more laws that prohibit certain individuals from purchasing firearms. In the case of the shooting in Texas, Kelley was by law prohibited from obtaining a gun due to past charges

of domestic violence and due to a bad conduct discharge from the Air Force. Kelley also had documented mental health issues, and even escaped from a mental health facility in 2012. Still, a lack of communication from the Air Force about these obvious red flags allowed Kelley to purchase the guns used in the shooting legally. While Kelley was stopped by an innocent bystander, it is important to understand that the line between responsible and legitimate self-defense and pure vigilantism is often blurred, and that, as in the case of the Las Vegas shooting, self-defense is not always possible.

If the United States truly wants to put an end, or at least a damper on the rate of gun deaths in the United States, both sides need to start small and see what kinds of laws they can agree on rather than propose overly ambitious objectives that serve only to deepen the divide between Americans. An overwhelming majority of Americans support the strengthening of background checks and the gun purchasing process that would, if better enforced, have stopped Kelley from purchasing the weapons he used in the shooting. On top of this, most Americans believe that violent criminals and people flagged as dangerous individuals should not be allowed to purchase weapons. There is no reason (aside from lobbying) that these bills should not be passed. To stop gun violence, everyone must first “get real.”

**Nate White** is a fourth former from Cheshire, CT. He may be reached at [nwhite20@choate.edu](mailto:nwhite20@choate.edu)



## The Perks of Service Academies

By **Michelle Zhuang '18**  
Staff Reporter

By now, seniors are all too familiar with the stress and rush of the four-year college application process — we've heard the words "Common App," and "holistic" repeated ad nauseum, and most of us simply can't wait for the entire process to be over. However, there's another, albeit smaller, subset of schools that many Choates are unfamiliar with: military academies. Compared to the exhaustive process that applicants to these schools go through, merely writing a few supplement essays and sending standardized test scores suddenly doesn't seem so bad.

Although only a handful of students apply to service academies each year, according to college counselor Mr. Eric Stahura, "Interest in military academies seems like it's increasing." The most popular options for Choate students have been the U.S. Military Academy (known colloquially as West Point), the U.S. Naval Academy, and the U.S. Air Force Academy. The application process for these schools is very different and much more comprehensive than the application process for traditional four-year colleges. In addition to an academic component, there's also a physical test, as well as a nomination process in which the applicant applies to receive a formal recommendation by a sitting U.S. Senator, member of Congress, or the Vice President.

Applying to military academies means starting early. According to college counselor Mr. Mauricio Zelaya, "You need to start planning in the spring of junior year. Some of the academies offer a summer academy that's linked to them, and oftentimes, students experience that to get a glimpse of life at the academies." Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to attend in the summer because, according to Mr. Stahura, "Students often have an impression about what it's like to be at the academy and wear a uniform. But once students experience it in the summer, they realize that it's really a life choice."

Mr. Stahura emphasized the seriousness of attending a military academy. Unlike traditional colleges, the experience at a military academy doesn't merely last

four years. According to Mr. Stahura, "There is a five-year active duty and three-year non-active duty commitment to the U.S. military." This means that students are actually signing up for 12 years in total. If the service is completed directly after graduation from the academy, most applicants can expect to be 30 by the time that they have fulfilled their service.

However, Mr. Stahura also pointed out the unique benefits afforded by a military academy. "For a student that has a real goal to serve the U.S. military in some capacity, it's really a phenomenal opportunity. They'll have employment and tuition is fully funded plus stipends. There's engineering and science and research and the opportunities to have a job after graduation. To be grounded in your employment — that's amazing. There's only a few college opportunities that offer that."

Prospective military officers don't necessarily need to attend a military academy. Through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program, students can gain officer training at a traditional four-year university. According to Mr. Stahura, "ROTC application is a separate application as well. Students are essentially applying for a scholarship. If they receive the scholarship, they need to enroll in a member institution." Mr. Zelaya added, "It's like another major. There are certain requirements and protocols attached directly to the campus program. There's usually also an affiliated club."

In addition to getting a traditional college experience in tandem with officer training, the other benefit of a ROTC program is that you don't have to commit to service while still in high school. According to Mr. Zelaya, "You can also apply for and pursue ROTC after entering college."

Evidently, there are many options for those considering service after Choate. If this sounds interesting to you, make sure to attend the U.S. Naval Academy's visit on December 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the College Counseling Office to find out more about the military academy application process.

**Michelle Zhuang** may be reached at [mzhuang18@choate.edu](mailto:mzhuang18@choate.edu)

## FROM INTERNATIONAL VISITS TO INFO SESSIONS, ADMISSION IMPROVES OUTREACH



Photo provided by Jeff Beaton

Mr. Jeff Beaton presents to students in Los Angeles with the Ten Schools Admissions Organization.

By **Peter DiNatale '21**  
Staff Reporter

As the admission season progresses at Choate, students from all over the world and from many different backgrounds regularly fill our campus. However, there is a long process that goes on behind the scenes in Archbold to make sure everything fits into place. Some of the biggest projects are the trips Choate admissions officers make to spread information about Choate. Mr. Jeff Beaton, Associate Director of Admissions, said, "We are traveling to different places both domestically and internationally to attract kids to our community."

The Choate admissions team travels all over the country. They make trips to the West Coast, visiting California, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Arizona. Popular Midwest states include Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, and Ohio. They also visit most Southern states like Florida, North and South Carolina, and Georgia, along with every state in New England. When traveling internationally, the admissions team does work in Asia,

some European countries, Canada, and countries in Africa and South America.

While the admissions team journeys across the globe, they visit all types of schools. When they go, they first present the idea of a boarding school because not every kid is familiar with that type of school. Then, they introduce Choate. Mr. Beaton said, "First we have to talk about why a boarding school. Now, once you are now convinced on the idea of a boarding school, here is why Choate is the best boarding school that you should go to." This is critical when visiting schools because, unlike colleges, not everyone is familiar with the structure and benefits of a boarding school.

Though the admissions teams travels around the world, they mainly speak at middle schools rather than at other high schools. Mr. Beaton said, "For example, I cannot go to a local high school in Los Angeles and take kids away from their school. The school won't let me through the door. So we are forced to visit the lower grades." To attract new sophomores, juniors, and post-graduates, Choate spreads its name through word of mouth or other forms

of advertisements.

One of the main goals of admissions is to diversify the student body. Mr. Beaton said, "One of our biggest selling points is that we have kids from all over the world, so that when you're in classes, in the dorm, or in the dining hall, you're able to sit down with kids with different perspectives, different values, and different ideas."

**One of our biggest selling points is that we have kids from all over the world.**

**Mr. Jeff Beaton**  
Associate Director of Admissions

This year, Choate has hosted a new type of event for prospective students, known simply as an information session, to give families basic knowledge about Choate. Delivered by admissions officers, information sessions summarize Choate's most important offerings and synthesize them under common themes. Each of the tour guides and interviewers have their own stories

and interests to share with prospective students. However, by presenting uniform information directly from admissions officers, the information sessions are meant to bring all of these attributes of Choate together in order to provide families with the most comprehensive details possible.

"The information session is really to have a level playing field so that people leave Choate knowing every single aspect of this school," said Mr. Beaton. What is also important about the information sessions is the way Choate's unique signature programs can be uniformly introduced, reducing the variation of information that may be conveyed among different tour guides.

Students apply to Choate with a variety of interests, and information sessions are also a time when students can learn more of what Choate has to offer regarding these specific interests. Mr. Beaton said, "We want everyone that comes to our campus from all over the world to know who we are and what we do."

**Peter DiNatale** may be reached at [pdinatale21@choate.edu](mailto:pdinatale21@choate.edu)

## To the Choate Mailroom, A Letter of Appreciation

As of November 9th, there have been a total **10,539** packages delivered to the mailroom.

**\$25** Average price to send a package

**150** Average visits per day

The heaviest personal package was **180 lbs** of clothes!

The most expensive package ever sent from the mailroom, a cello being sent to China, was **\$1,400**

Graphic by Ariel Zhang and Zev Nicolai-Scanio/The Choate News

By **Elizabeth Quinn '20**  
Staff Reporter

The Mailroom, which last summer was relocated underneath the Dining Hall, is a means for students and faculty members to send and receive packages and mail. All of the students have their own mailboxes, and faculty members also receive packages from this space. It might seem shocking that the Mailroom staff is able to sort through almost 200 packages a day, but Mail Services Supervisor Mr. Peter Dupont has been doing so for ten years.

The job of a Mailroom staff member consists of "sorting packages and mail in a timely manner, since there is a deadline to everything we do," according to Mr. Dupont. Mr. Dupont said that the Mailroom staff members "have to

be at certain places on campus at certain times." This is even the case during severe weather, specifically during these New England winters, where the heroic staff members take on the chills of winter to deliver mail and packages. Mr. Dupont said, "Most of the interesting stories happen during inclement weather; it's just driving around campus that's fun. I shouldn't say it's difficult, but it's fun."

**We can always rely on the Mailroom being open in any weather, as it has never had to close down on a scheduled day.**

Now we all get those emails saying that we have a package to be picked up in the

Mailroom, but have you ever wondered what happens when it isn't picked up? Mr. Dupont delves into the three steps of dealing with a left package: after three days, another reminder email is sent to the recipient; after ten days, a final notice is sent; and if the package is not picked up a week after the final notice goes out, the package is returned to its sender. The Mailroom staff has never, however, returned a package to a sender, because, as Mr. Dupont sheepishly admits, he and his staff "don't have the guts to do it." In any case, the package is normally picked up after the second reminder email.

Since both students and faculty members use the Mailroom, it hosts a range of visitors, from upperclassmen and teachers to faculty children and their pets. Mr. Dupont is fond of the faculty

pets that come into the Mailroom, "They can jump right up on the counter and we've had some really unusual dogs." Also, the children of teachers that follow along with their parents do nothing less than brighten the days of the working Mailroom staff members.

We can always rely on the Mailroom being open in any weather, as it has never had to close down on a scheduled day. Whether they're underneath the Dining Hall sorting through the week's hundreds of packages or driving around campus to ensure that mail is delivered in a timely manner, the Mailroom staff are always out and about, working with dedication to ensure that each piece of mail is delivered to its rightful owner.

**Elizabeth Quinn** may be reached at [lquinn20@choate.edu](mailto:lquinn20@choate.edu)

## Want Cake? Run the Cross Country Course

By **Caroline Donatelli '18**  
Staff Reporter

If you ran the cross country course last Wednesday, November 15, you may have been met with an unexpected gift: a free cake for your efforts. The Cake Race, taking place the last Wednesday of the fall term, is a yearly tradition encouraging runners both in and out of cross country to run the Choate cross country course. Participants with the fastest times from each form win a free cake made by SAGE, making it a fun and rewarding event each year.

The Cake Race began in the 1960s, started by a few previous boys cross-country coaches as a way to share the sport of running with Choate students who may not have tried it before. According to Mr. Jim Davidson, Head Coach of Girls' Cross Country, "The race was also created to raise the visibility of cross-country." The race has existed continuously since at least the fall of 1974. Choate's greatest participation occurred in the 80s when close to 300 students ran the race.

Currently, the race is hosted by the girls' and boys' cross country teams. Mr. Davidson feels the Cake Race is "a really good way to invite students to do a healthy athletic activity at the end of the fall and can provide a study break." However, he wished that the event would reach more people. He said, "When the old cross-country course existed, the race would end near the football

bleachers and that would draw a crowd. People would come, and there was more of a good-natured competition." Mr. Davidson added, "I think it certainly still is a good event, but I wish more people were aware of it and would choose to participate in it and give a try at running 5,000 meters."

Mr. Ned Gallagher, Boys' Cross Country Coach, feels the race is "a nice tradition" and "for the kids on the cross country team, it's the last chance they have to lower their personal record time on the Choate course." Mr. Gallagher continued, "Some would probably say it's a little anticlimactic because it happens right after our championship meets. It's fair to say some are already beginning to shift their focus to winter sports."

Kay Ingulli '18, Co-captain of Girls' Cross Country, participated in the race her sophomore year but was either "too busy, cold, lazy, or injured" in other years to participate. Ingulli earned a cake her sophomore year for her efforts.

Mehreen Pasha '18, another Girl's Cross Country Captain, has never actually ran the race but has enjoyed cheering on the participants during her three years witnessing the event. She said, "I think it's great that we have this tradition. It's a nice opportunity to run the course after the regular cross country season has ended."

**Caroline Donatelli** may be reached at [cdonatelli18@choate.edu](mailto:cdonatelli18@choate.edu)



Photo by Marja van Mierlo/The Choate News



## The Choreographers Behind Pep Rally Routines



Photo courtesy of Girl's Varsity Volleyball

Every year, Choate's best dancers choreograph Pep Rally performances for varsity teams.

By **Tony Lee '21**  
Staff Reporter

"I believe that we will win! I believe that we will win!" Last Friday night, the WJAC overflowed with cheers and blue-and-gold spirit during the annual Deerfield Day pep rally. This year, the administration asked athletic teams not to film a video to air at the rally but instead to perform a dance routine, live on stage.

"They told us to not to videos because they're not interactive," Ellie Kim '19, choreographer for the Varsity Volleyball team said. "We originally wanted to do a dance and a video with bloopers of rehearsals — it would have been funny since none of us are dancers."

In order to create dances for the performances, student choreographers were brought in from outside the sports teams to help craft routines.

"It was really hard coming up with ideas because Senior Soccer is a really big group — 40 people — which is much larger than groups I'm used to choreographing for," Katie Lee '18 said. However, nothing stopped her from taking on the challenge. "It was especially difficult because no one had much experience. I wanted to make it easy, really fun, and

have people feel comfortable on stage."

"In general, when doing choreography, the process is different for each person," Ellie Kim '19, both an athlete on Varsity Volleyball and a choreographer said. "I need to be inspired and not be annoyed by the song."

"For Senior Soccer, we really just wanted to let loose and kick a ball around," Donessa Colley '18 said. "Dancing in front of the whole school was really only for varsity teams, so we wanted to take this opportunity to have some fun."

**Dancing in front of the whole school was really only for varsity teams, so we wanted to take this opportunity to have some fun.**

Donessa Colley

Song choices for the choreographies ranged from catchy "Team Lilman Anthem" (Senior Soccer) to "Mi Gente" (Volleyball) to ever popular pop songs like "Fergalicious" (Field Hockey) and Beyoncé's "Single Ladies" (Senior Soccer).

"I talked with the captains about what music they wanted me to do," Madi Epstein-O'Halloran '18, the Varsity Field Hockey choreographer said. "I picked the music, mixed it for them, and sort of created very simple moves emulating zumba — something that would make them look good, and at the same time be easy for them to do cleanly. It's important for the athletes to feel confident on stage dancing. I didn't want my choreography to make them feel uncomfortable."

**It's important for the athletes to feel confident on stage dancing. I didn't want my choreography to make them feel uncomfortable.**

Madi Epstein O'Halloran

For the choreographers, creating a routine for inexperienced dancers was a drastically different experience.

"It was definitely really hard for me and Katie," Colley said. "We've both been dancing for a number of years, and moves that come naturally to us do not come as naturally

or easily for them. We had to simplify or slow some things down, which was a hard process, but we got used to it."

"The hardest part was getting people on board since they didn't have the experience of learning a routine and performing onstage," Lee said. "But everyone learned really fast. If anyone had questions, we would just walk over it slower."

"I don't think I had any problem getting them to work for me. This group was really good in terms of listening to me and being serious with getting the dance down. They wanted to look good, so with everything I told them, they listened and followed," Epstein-O'Halloran said. "They're really fun to work with. I really enjoyed choreographing for them."

Although making the dance routine and rehearsing it proved to be both challenging and fun, everything came to fruition at the pep rally.

"My favorite moment in the dance is definitely the two boys doing 'Single Ladies.' There's a booty pop and a little roll over," Colley said. "One of them even got kicked in the head during a cartwheel at rehearsals, and he just kept going. He didn't let a minor concussion slow him down."

**Tony Lee may be reached**  
tlee21@choate.edu

## ANNIKA CHANG-BOECKMAN '19 STUNS AT SINGING RECITAL

By **Simi Sachdeva '19**  
Staff Reporter

Throughout a student's time at Choate, it would be almost impossible to not either perform or attend a musical performance. This past Sunday, extremely talented Choate students participated in the Piano and Voice Recital in the Chapel to singing music from a broad range of styles, genres, and languages. For Annika Chang-Boeckmann '19, this recital was one of many musical performances not only throughout her Choate career, but throughout her entire life.

Chang-Boeckmann performed the song Au Bord de L'Eau, which was composed by Gabriel Fauré and has been re-recorded by notable singers such as Roger Vignoles and Sylvia McNair. Although Chang-Boeckmann is fluent in German and is taking Chinese at Choate, she did not have much familiarity with the French language, making this operatic song particularly difficult to sing. In the past, Chang-Boeckmann has sung in both Italian and German. However, this performance is just a small portion of her musical achievements throughout her life.

Sitting down with Chang-Boeckmann, her dedication, humility, and passion for music was inspiring. She began when she was very young and participated in the program "Music Together," a group where parents could sing with their children. From that point on, she participated in school choirs and began music lessons in the seventh grade with a friend's mother who was an opera singer. Now, at Choate, Chang-Boeckmann participates in Chamber Chorus, is a member of the Whimawehs, and was in the musical last Spring. Classical musical, out of all the styles she has tried, is Chang-Boeckmann's favorite style to sing.

"It's my passion," Chang-Boeckmann declared with a smile on her face. "It's a release of emotions because you can channel your feelings and emotions into singing to make it sound better and give the

piece feeling and your own interpretation."

Although the life of any Choate student is difficult, Chang-Boeckmann never fails to set time for music. "People always ask me why I do chorus and why, even though I am so stressed, I don't quit chorus. I don't because it gives me kind of a calm peace with everything going on, and life is so busy. There is so much stress, but when you go to chorus you kind of take a step back and can enjoy the music and forget the outside world and just focus on the music."

Her favorite memory with the chorus was traveling to Scandinavia over the summer. "In chorus, you create such a tightly-knit group by singing together. It's a family. Being able to travel with that family abroad and visiting these cool places and getting to experience music over there in the Greek Core. They were all really good and it was super cool to have workshops with them." Chang-Boeckmann loved the opportunity to sing with the Greek-Core and learn folk music. Scandinavia was a highlight, but she has dealt with her fair share of setbacks.

Chang-Boeckmann faced some artistic struggles last year with a voice change. "I was going through a voice change so I was kind of insecure about my voice, because I could not sing at a high pitch. I got really nervous to sing high notes. Dr. McClain really helped me get over that fear and have confidence in my voice." She has proven that her setbacks have only made her stronger. Chang-Boeckmann will be participating in a Voice Directed Study next term.

Chang-Boeckmann has left a huge mark on the voice community at Choate, and her love for music and performing is heartwarming. Although she claims that performances are nerve-wracking, she suggests that performers trust themselves and trust that they are well-prepared and that their instincts will kick in when they are performing.

**Simi Sachdeva may be reached at**  
ssachdeva19@choate.edu

## The Intricacies of Recordings in the College Process

By **Wavy Griffin '21**  
Reporter

As seniors this fall go through the ever difficult college application process, those particularly music-oriented will make recordings displaying a particular talent, whether it be instrumental or voice. These recordings are only made by certain students who are performing at an extremely high level, and have hopes of going to a conservatory or performing professionally in college. Recordings are by no means required, and if the student is not an accomplished performer these recordings often can end up hurting applications and prevent them from getting in.

Choate offers services to create these recordings, but you can also get them done by a music school, a private producer, or create them on your own. About fifteen Choate students per year create these recordings, and about ten use the school's service. The rest use some other method.

Choate has no official program or staff for this, but Ms. Kegel and Mr. Bozzi volunteer to help Seniors create the recordings. Ms. Kegel, a chorus instructor, said, "It is just something generous that Mr. Bozzi and I do to help the students." Ms. Kegel coordinates the process of college recordings, and Mr. Bozzi films the students. Ms. Kegel and Mr. Bozzi both do this for free, but most students need to pay an accompanist around one hundred and fifty dollars to rehearse and record with them.

Since Ms. Kegel and Mr. Bozzi do this for free, creating a recording through

Choate is generally cheaper than hiring another school or producer.

Hannah Price '18, who plays viola, created a recording this fall at a local private music school. She told me that she chose to not record at Choate because the places where you can record at Choate, the Chapel and the Recital Hall, I are not best suited to recording, in her opinion. She said, "The Recital Hall doesn't have very good acoustics, and the Chapel can be kind of iffy." Similarly, she also argued that the process was arduous, expensive, and incredibly time-sensitive.

Another senior sending a recording is Daniel Zanuttini-Frank '18. He is a classical guitarist who is applying a music conservatory. Zanuttini-Frank created his recordings by himself. As he has been creating recordings of himself on his own for a number of years, and his rationale for not using the service Choate provides was based around time pressure as well as quality. He said, "I have my phone and my microphone, and frankly, the quality I get is better than the quality of these other recordings, and I can do as many recordings as I want."

The Music Department at Choate provides a less expensive way to create college recordings, but students often still choose to record outside of Choate due to personal preference. No matter the manner of recording, it is amazing to be surrounded by such dedicated and talented musicians and watch them pursue their college goals.

**Wavy Griffin may be reached at**  
wgriffin21@choate.edu



By **Jeanne Malle '19**  
Columnist

You've probably noticed Medina Purefoy-Craig '20 on campus — and maybe not just because of her radiating personality and exquisite acting talent, but also her stunning collection of hijabs.

"I remember being a freshman and always feeling kind of weird because I was new, and had another thing that set me apart. So it was strange in the beginning, but it's totally fine now, because it just kind of meshes into who I am as a person," said Purefoy-Craig happily.

Purefoy-Craig wears a hijab because she is a Muslim. A hijab is a head covering worn by Muslim women. Some religious codes within the Muslim faith demand that a hijab be worn, but not all Muslim women choose to wear one.

The sophomore's overall style has developed throughout her Choate first and second year at Choate, for she no longer has the obligation of wearing a uniform.

She explained that her recent purchases of hijabs directly correlated with the evolution of her fashion sense: "The thing is, when I was younger and first starting to wear my scarf, I always matched them with my outfits. I would usually wear a black or blue one, very neutral colors, because my uniform was khakis and a white or blue shirt. Very basic

## À LA MODE

but it matched. And then when I got into middle school I had another uniform, which was crimson and grey and white, and so I just updated my collection of hijabs to match my school uniform."

Here, at Choate, Purefoy-Craig is free of a uniform, and therefore has more freedom to experiment with her hijabs. She said, "Over the summer, I bought some really cool ones. I decided that I wanted to have brighter colors and so I bought a yellow one, a bright blue one, and then I got a polka dot one."

Purefoy-Craig has worn a hijab since she was 12 years old. She explained, "It's something that my mom brings up sometimes. Like when I go to a different place she asks me if I want to wear it, or if I'm fine with it. Usually I just do it because I made the commitment, so I might as well follow through with it. So it wasn't something that I thought about, like 'am I gonna wear it at Choate, or not?,' it was kind of like a 'I'm gonna wear it.'"

Purefoy-Craig's personal decision to put on her hijab everyday can be further explained by the fact that she made her own choice to convert to Islam. "I did convert when I was 12," she said. She explained, "I was Christian for most of my life, but I decided to become Muslim because my mother converted when I was about four, and then my dad converted a little bit after. I was kind of raised in a Muslim-Christian household, because my grandparents are Christian and the rest of my family, too but not my mother and father."

With age and experience, Purefoy-Craig has found her favorite way to tie her scarf many times.

She explained, "When you're younger, it's kind of like a scarf that you just pull



Photo by Jeanne Malle/The Choate News

Purefoy-Craig says that her hijab now meshes into who she is.

over your head. It's already in the shape of your head. But then when you get older, I guess, you're able to do it, so it's just like a square of fabric, and you just fold it and pin it however you want. You kind of get more freedom with it. My mom taught me how to tie it, so I wore it the way she did. I struggled with it at first, so I kind of developed my own thing. I remember when I was in middle school, I always had it over my eyebrows, and it would be really tight on my neck, because that's how you're supposed to wear it.

And so then I decided to pull it back a little bit so that my eyebrows weren't covered anymore. Now I just take off the pin that's usually in the middle so that it hangs out into two parts." With time, she has developed ways to experiment with her looks.

Purefoy-Craig's fashion sense has been noted by every student on campus. Over the course of her next few years at Choate, it will be exciting to see her style develop.

**Jeanne Malle may be reached at**  
jmalle19@choate.edu





FIELD  
REPORT

Saturday Games

**Girls' Volleyball** (17-0-3)  
*beats Deerfield, 3-0*

**Girls' Soccer** (11-4-4)  
*falls to Deerfield, 3-4*

**Boys' Soccer** (11-4-4)  
*falls to Deerfield, 2-4*

**Girls' XC** (4-3-0)  
*New England's, 6th*

**Boys' XC** (5-3-0)  
*New England's, 6th*

**Field Hockey** (4-11-0)  
*falls to Deerfield, 0-4*

**Football** (8-0-0)  
*beats Deerfield, 28-7*

Wednesday Games

**Volleyball** (17-3-0)  
*beats Sacred Heart, 3-0*

**Boys' Soccer** (11-4-4)  
*falls to Berkshire, 0-2*

**Girls' Soccer** (11-4-4)  
*falls to Nichols, 0-1*

XC NE CHAMPIONSHIPS

By **Joseph Coyne '19**  
*Copy Editor*

On Saturday, November 11, 2017, while most of the school was at Deerfield, Choate hosted the NEPSA Division I Cross Country Championships. Fifteen teams ran in the boys' races, while thirteen competed in the girls' races, and despite the frigid weather, an exciting atmosphere surrounded the day of racing as the course was surrounded by coaches, parents, and spectators.

Choate Girls' Varsity Cross Country ran in the first race of the day. The team had a great season, capped off by their win at the Founders' League Championship the weekend prior, but the New England Championship hosted some much tougher competition. The girls ran well, finishing sixth, a good result for the team which was plagued by injuries this year.

One of the girls' team's co-captains, Kay Ingulli '18 said of the meet, "We were pretty unenthusiased about running in near freezing weather and the pre-race nerves were a bit stronger for the last race. This didn't bring down the team though and everyone ran really well." She continued, "We went in feeling confident after Founders and hoped to maintain our place in New England. The team got hit with some injuries this season, so we were focusing on placing before the schools



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Mustafe Dahir '19 placed 2nd in New England, breaking the course record along the way.

we had beat in the regular season which we did." Ultimately, Ingulli said she was proud of the way the team ran. The team also was also successful individually: Lilly Bar '19 got ninth overall with a personal best time of 20:04, and Ingulli placed 14 with a time of 20:22 in her last race for Choate Cross Country. These top twenty finishes meant that the girls received All-New England honors.

The boys' team also had a solid day like the girls, getting sixth as a team, beating Deerfield

by only a few points. This performance is definitely something for the boys to build off of, as they have six of their top eight runners returning next year. Co-captain Griffin Birney '18, said of the team's expectations, "We didn't have any set spot; we just wanted to run our hardest. We wanted to go out and leave everything on the course." One of those returning team members is new runner Mustafe Dahir '19. Dahir had a phenomenal first season, breaking the school record on Parents'

Weekend, and then breaking that record again this past weekend. Even more spectacularly, Dahir beat the old course record, which had stood since 2007, when Choate last hosted New England's. Dahir ran a time of 15:59 and placed second, a good ending to his dominant season. Birney also had a solid race, placing eighth. He said of the race as a whole, "I think that the team had an amazing season overall. Everyone put in work, and that really showed at New England's."

For the seniors, this was an emotional race. Co-captain of the girls' team, Mehreen Pasha '18, commented, "Overall, I was comfortable with the pace and ended up getting a PR — despite the weather. New England's was really bittersweet for me. While I did well, I realized that it was my last cross country race. I'm sad that my high school cross country career is over, but I'm looking forward to the Track season in the spring." Co-captain of the boys' team, Matt Kim '18, said, "My goal was to pass out at the finish line, out of sheer exhaustion." Kim also commented, "It was really emotional. Standing on the starting line with my brothers, I just wanted to run the race for them. When we finished, and I saw all of us exhausted from the race, that's when it really set in." Ingulli said of running her last race, "I was more anxious for this meet than any other this season. I felt the pressure to make the most of my last race, and the fact that it was New England's and my senior day only helped to push me during my run. Luckily the extra pressure worked in my favor, and I broke my personal record which was a great way to end my cross country career at Choate."

It was an emotional race for all the seniors, and it was a great way to finish off the season for both the girls' and boys' teams.

**Joseph Coyne** may be reached at [jcoyne19@choate.edu](mailto:jcoyne19@choate.edu)

J.V. Volleyball Loses  
Close Match to Taft



Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Sarah Stern '21 returns during a heated set with Taft.

By **George McCabe '20**  
*Reporter*

Girls' JV Volleyball suffered a tough loss to Taft after staging a huge comeback in the final three sets. Both teams entered with stellar records, but one of Choate's losses came earlier in the season to Taft, falling 3-0 at Taft. Heading into the second matchup against Taft, Choate was looking for revenge.

In the first set, Taft jumped out to an early lead, and they did not look back as they won the set 25-9 over Choate. However, the two volleyball teams played a much closer second set. During this set, Taft again held the lead early, but Choate evened the score at 13-13 after four straight aces by junior Maria Hainig '19. Then, both teams traded points with each other until Choate eventually took the lead off of a spike at the net which put them ahead 24-22. Although they had the lead, Choate was not able to hold on, and they ended up losing the set 26-24.

After losing the first two sets, Choate came out determined in the third set. They held the lead against Taft for most of the third set, but Taft was only one or two points behind Choate at any given moment. Eventually, Choate separated themselves a bit from Taft, and Sarah Stern '21 finished off the set with a beautiful ace, and Choate won the set 25-19.

With momentum from the third set, Choate dominated the fourth set. They jumped out to an early lead against Taft because of excellence on both the offensive

and defensively as Choate had numerous blocks and spikes. They dominated Taft to such a large extent that Choate held a ten point lead over Taft during the fourth set. During one point of this set, sophomore Irie Cooper '20 had an amazing hit to keep the ball in play that resulted in Choate eventually finishing the point. The set ended after Taft served the ball too far that secured the set 25-14 in Choate's favor.

Similar to the previous set, Choate jumped out to an early lead. One long rally in the beginning of the fifth set was finished off by a remarkable spike by Maria Hainig '19 which the Taft player were not able to return. After the spike Choate held the lead 6-1. However, Taft strung together five straight points, and they tied the set up 6-6 after an ace. Taft's momentum did not slow down as they continued to set up and finish multiple spikes in the second half of the fifth set. Eventually, Taft won the set and the match 15-8 after a spike by one of their players.

On the topic of the tough loss, head coach Mr. Filipe Camarotti said, "It was really great to see the team coming back from being down two games and chipping away at it." He then added, "This was one of our better games. Regardless of the win or loss, I think we really fought for it today." Despite the tough loss at home, the girls capped their season with a 3-0 win over Deerfield, ending their season in style by destroying their rivals to the North.

**George McCabe** may be reached at [gmccabe@choate.edu](mailto:gmccabe@choate.edu)

DEERFIELD DAY RECAP

By **Dan Brockett '19**  
*Staff Reporter*

Deerfield Day didn't go as planned this year, but every team still played well. Here's a recap of 5 of the biggest games from Deerfield Day.

**Varsity Volleyball:** The Choate girls dominated from the first serve until the final point. Deerfield made the Choate girls work hard for the win, but Choate handily won all three sets. After the game, Julia Mackenzie '19 said, "We were expecting to win, but Deerfield definitely showed up to play. Their defense was what made the game so much fun to watch and be a part of." After the second set the gym began to fill up with Choate fans, who had just arrived on campus, and the team seemed to get an energy boost playing in the gym filled with Choate fans. The third set was a display of domination by the Choate girls. The excellent play by Lani Uyeno '19, Mackenzie, Zeynep Ozturk '19, Blake Migden '19, and captains Elyse Cornwall '18 and Anabel de Montebello '18 helped seal the victory. The victory was made sweeter by yet another playoff qualification.

**Boys JV Soccer:** Despite their desire for a win and undefeated record, Boys JV Soccer only managed to come away with a tie in a 0-0 game that wasn't as close as the score indicated. The team had a lot of talent this year and it showed in every game, but despite their ability as a team, they just couldn't finish any of their opportunities against the Deerfield defense. When asked about the game Quico Vargas '19, one this team's key players, said, "It was a tough tie. We definitely expected to go out with a bang, but just weren't able to put it in the back of the net. We were definitely the better team." Joaquin Antunez-Tierney '19, Will Wildridge '19, and Tagan Farrell '20 played excellent in the game against Deerfield. Goalie Max Patel '19 was a brick wall at the net once again and he was one of the reasons that they had

a chance to win. The boys had a remarkable season that they predicted back in the beginning of the season when Jake Nadzam '20 and Ethan Wedge '19 said that they believed "there is a good possibility that we go undefeated this season." A disappointing tie on Deerfield Day shouldn't dampen the excellent season that this team had.

**Boys Varsity Soccer:** Boys Varsity soccer exceeded expectations this season and had high hopes heading into Deerfield Day. However, Choate suffered a tough 4-2 loss to Deerfield. One Deerfield player had the game of his life, scoring 4 goals against a Choate team that has the best defense in their league. Choate got both of its goals from freshman phenoms, as Sean Kish '21 and Tife Agunloye '21 both had incredible goals that helped keep the game within reach. As usual, captains Zach Lopes '18 and Sebi Barquin '18 played excellent and they are a big part of the reason that this team had such a good season. Choate was missing starter Dilibe Iloje '18, as he was suspended for receiving a yellow card in the previous game. It was a tough loss, but making the playoffs certainly served as consolation.

**Girls Varsity Soccer:** Girls Varsity Soccer lost a shocking 4-3 game to the Deerfield girls on Saturday. After Choate went up early, Deerfield came back with 3 unanswered goals to take a commanding 3-1 lead. However, the girls performed admirably and almost mounted an amazing comeback. Captain Emily Clorite '18 played an outstanding game. Erin Martin '20 also played an excellent game as she consistently beat the Deerfield defenders. Nicola Sommers '19 was all over the field making plays and keeping Choate in the game. The girls had several scoring opportunities where they came close to tying the game, but they just fell short. Clorite had an excellent volley off a great cross by Martin that just went over the net and Cici Curran '20 had a shot from in close that rang off

the crossbar and rolled towards the sidelines. In the final few minutes Choate tried desperately to move the ball up field to get a shot, but Deerfield was doing everything they could to run out the clock and win the game. The Choate girls had an amazing regular season that had a disappointing ending, but like Boys Varsity Soccer, can take solace in making the playoffs yet again.

**Varsity Football:** The other undefeated team on campus went into the game facing the strongest Deerfield team in years. Deerfield had a record number of post-graduates this season in hopes of providing a real challenge for Choate. Their efforts proved to be futile, as Choate left the Emerald City with a 28-7 win. The game was surprisingly close at first, as the score was tied at 0 halfway through the first quarter. As the offense sputtered, the defense stood tall and continued to shut Deerfield down. Quarterback Joe Young '18 looked excellent, easily evading the Deerfield pass rush all game. Noah Pope '18 scored the first touchdown of the day and terrorized the Deerfield backfield all day. Hunter Burns '19 was a force on defense effortlessly creating turnovers and scoring the second Choate touchdown of the game from one of those turnovers. Shane Sweitzer '18 ran all over the Deerfield defense as Deerfield needed multiple players to tackle him every time. He also played hard, physical defense and at one point annihilated the Deerfield quarterback, much to the crowd's enjoyment. When asked for his thoughts on the game Jaiden Cruz '18 said, "We were ready for a fight, we got one, and we executed our assignments until we came out with a win."

Despite having some tough losses it sets Choate up for a rebound year next year when the rivalry returns to Choate. The Choate teams have a lot to prove on Deerfield Day next year.

**Dan Brockett** may be reached at [dbrockett19@choate.edu](mailto:dbrockett19@choate.edu)