For the 32nd year, the Choate community celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with Diversity Day. This year’s theme was “United for the 32nd year, the Choate community celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with Diversity Day. This year’s theme was “United for the 32nd year, the Choate community celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with Diversity Day. This year’s theme was “United for
**SPORTS**

**Choate Teams Win Deerfield Day (November 12, 2022)**

After a long and hard day of competitions, Choate’s sports teams successfully secured the 2022 Deerfield Day victory. Varsity Football went 30-2 and Boys’ Varsity Soccer won 2-1, while Deerfield defaulted Girls’ Varsity Volleyball and Girls’ Varsity Field Hockey. Girls’ JV Soccer, Girls’ JV Field Hockey, and Girls’ JV Volleyball also suffered losses for the School. The 6-6 breaking game came down to Girls’ Varsity Soccer. After a thrilling match with an ambitious crowd, the team won 3-4, and students screamed the pitch in celebration.

**Soccer Succeeds at Championships (November 19, 2022)**

Girls’ Varsity Soccer hoisted a season record of 15-2-1. The team earned the 2022 Founders League and Women’s New England Prep School Soccer Association (WNPSA) titles. Furthermore, on November 16, they advanced to the semifinals of the New England Prep School Soccer Athletic Council (NE- SAC) Championships after beating Miss Porter’s School 2-0 in the quarterfinals. Co-Captain Emma Kirk ’23 said that next year’s Girls’ Varsity Soccer will “continue to thrive.”

**Wrestling Competes at Nationals (February 24-26, 2023)**

Wrestling had a strong showing at the National Prep Wrestling Championships, which was held in Maryland from February 24 to 26. Post-year Head Coach Ryan Ruddy led the girls to a fifth-place standing, while the boys finished in 31st. Co-Captains Sami Mehra ’23, Max Holmes ’23, and Lazarus Li ’23 placed each fourth in their respective classes and earned an All-American status, with Mehra becoming a two-time All-American. Pearson Bill ’24 placed eighth in his class to become a three-time All-American.

**Varsity Softball Showcases Excellence (Spring 2023)**

Despite having a small team composed of just 11 athletes, Girls’ Varsity Softball had a successful season with a 12-2 record. Co-Captain Elena Lysiuk ’24 had 87 runs-batted-in (RBI) and nine home runs over the course of the season, becoming Choate’s all-time record holder for home runs in both a career and single seasons. Teammate Bella Hassett ‘23 and Co-Captain Alana Akst ’22 had perfect game against Miss Porter’s School on April 3, contributing to the team’s decisive win. They ended the season with a win against Westminster School at the Western New England Championship Game.

**Squash Wins New Englands (February 17-19, 2023)**

Boys’ Varsity Squash’s impressive season culminated in a victory at the New England “B” Division Championships. After a series of competitive matches against Westminster School, Milton Academy, and Cogston School, the winning game came down to Elias Starr ’26. With an incredible comeback and an inspired final game, Starr’s win secured Choate’s 4-3 win against Groton. “That’s the best moment I’ve ever experienced as a part of the team,” said fellow player Zach Starr ’24. It was so surreal watching that happen.”

**Boys’ Varsity Lacrosse Beats Deerfield (April 15, 2023)**

For the first time in 17 years, Boys’ Varsity Lacrosse won against Choate’s biggest rival, Deerfield Academy. A nationally ranked top-15 team, Deerfield was the favorite going into the match. However, with hard work and a robust team culture, the Wild Bears achieved a 14-13 upset. Attacker Alex Walde ’23 said, “We plan to continue to beat [Deerfield] in the future. This is just the start.”

**Music from the Sole (October 7-8, 2022)**

In the fall, New York City-based music and dance ensemble Music from the Sole visited the Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC). The group performed F. D’Hondt’s Come in Step, an intricately choreographed work featuring samba, tap, and contemporary dance to live funk and jazz music played by a five-piece band. In addition, they held a workshop teaching students in Choate’s Dance and Arts Concentration programs integrated parts of Afro-Brazilian dance. During their visit, Music from the Sole not only gave an exhilarating performance but also challenged students while imparting their valuable knowledge.

**Salvation Road (November 4-5, 2022)**

This year’s fall production on the PMAC Main Stage was Salvation Road. The play follows Cliff and his friend Duffy as they search for Cliff’s sister, who ran off her family after joining a religious cult. Focusing on the difficulties some communities face in making friends and finding family, the play spoke to the hardships many boarding students face at Choate. Music by Choate graduate Dara Jar ’19 was also featured. A successful run with positive audience feedback, Salvation Road hoped to highlight the vulnerabilities that students face in new environments.

**Dance Concert (March 30, April 1-2, 2023)**

Evelyn in the spring term, the annual spring dance concert showcased 16 works choreographed by students, faculty, and dance clubs on the PMAC stage. The concert also consisted of a wide variety of genres, from hip-hop and contemporary to ballet and traditional dance. Each piece was introduced by a short video that shared the choreographer’s inspiration and glimpse of the rehearsal process. The performers garnered the appreciation of energetic audiences. After a long year of hard work, the show was a culmination of the dedication and passion exhibited by all members of Choate’s dance community.

**ARTS**

**Acapulooza (May 14, 2023)**

At the end of the spring term, Choate’s first a cappella group came together in Seymour St. John Chapel to perform at Acapulooza. The biggest a cappella performance of the year, the event has become a showcase to celebrate the groups. This year, groups performed covers of classic and current hits. Moreover, performed in a new way, the Whimawehs performed “The House of the Rising Sun” by The Animals. The camara- dier and support between the different groups encouraged from the lively audience made for a spiritual night of singing.

**Mamma Mia! (May 18-21, 2023)**

The cast of Mamma Mia! performed four shows after rehears- ing and preparing throughout the spring term. The much-anticipated show was directed by Ms. Deighna DeRiu and featured songs from the Swedish supergroup ABBA. With a student-led costume team, background crew, and set designers, the production highlights both the performing and visual art talents of Choate students. In addition, instead of performing in a depressed area of the stage, the live band was able to play under the stage in a closed-off room to accommodate the musical’s larger cast this year.
Over Winter Long Weekend, Dr. Rachel Myers and Dr. Yasser Shabazz accompanied 16 Choate students on a trip to Philadelphia. Sponsored by Emory, an organization with the goal of “creating programs that challenge, inspire, and empower students to become better citizens of the world,” students explored the Fells and Liberty Discovery Center, spoke to President of the Korean Adoptees Association Mrs. Jia Wee, and participated in numerous other cultural excursions to develop an understanding of the Korean diaspora.

Accompanied by Spanish teacher Ms. Le’ah Griggs and Director of Student Activities Ms. Alex Long, 14 students visited Seville, Spain from March 3 to 11 to learn about art, identity, and history. The students were visited by Artistic Director Stacey Plaskett ’84, and more, students broadened their political horizons and explored the country’s capital.

For the first time in two years, members of the John F. Kennedy ‘35 (JKP) Program in Government and Public Service and students enrolled in Haney U.S. Government and Politics II took part in the annual Capitol Hill Trip to Washington, D.C., from January 30 to 31. Through meetings with officials such as Senators Kirsten Gillibrand, Chris Murphy, and Richard Blumenthal, as well as House Representatives Stacy Plaskett ’74, and more, students broadened their political horizons and explored the country’s capital.

TRIPS AND SPEAKERS

Washington, D.C.

Philadelphia

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Department of Education

Mr. John Ford

By Edwin Tang ’25

Biology and Chemistry teacher Mr. John Ford has left a considerable impact on the School throughout the decades. His classes have covered a myriad of interesting topics and content, but also the personal connection that building memories with his students has helped him.

Michael Kreye ’23, who was in his biology class, remarked, "Mr. Ford infuses every class with humor and a genuine love for his students, which made me interested in getting to know who we were outside of the classroom and building memories with the student body as a whole, but also as individuals." During his four years at the School, Mr. Ford started an up-and-coming student advising program as an Academic Advisor. By improving the sound board, he also developed a model for class production and taught other students in his craft.

As an excellent quality education as Head of the Science Department. As a result of his extensive time and influence on the School, many students have voiced their disappointment over his retirement. Joe Moon ’23, a resident in Woodhouse, reflected, "Mr. Ford's presence was a constant reminder of the culture and friendliness of Woodhouse. Mr. Ford, shared that he has stayed at Choate for over four decades because of his affection for working with youth and getting to know students throughout the years. Edwin Tang may be reached at et17@choate.edu

Mr. Paul Bozzi

By Lauren Kee ’24

In the Byrds of Choate, Mr. Bozzi will be retiring after six years at Choate, but he plans to continue playing with his band Moto, of which he is the founder, leader, and drummer, as well as doing freelance audio work. He also hopes to enjoy the outdoors, grow more vegetables, and spend time with his two granddaughters.

Mrs. Judith Bender

By Stan Cho ’25

With her passion and love for working with students, Mrs. Bender has made a significant contribution to the School, and her role in building memories with students through her work as a mentor to a diverse group of students will be missed. However, Mrs. Bender explained, "Just ready for this chapter of my life." Through her dedication to the School, many students will always cherish her work, and her presence will be greatly missed.

Ms. Sydni Marmor

By Stan Cho ’25

Opinions/World Section Editor

Ms. Sydni Marmor, a member of Choate’s Counseling Team, will be retiring to Columbia to work at the Upper School Counseling Center at The Bryn Mawr School. In her one year at Choate, she has been an integral part of the School’s counseling community.

Mr. Matthew Ferraro

By Stan Cho ’25

Opinions/World Section Editor

During her time at the School, she focused on building connections with students to support them throughout their time at Choate. Moreover, she noted that “she brought more compassion and concern for students into her work and her relationships with students have been the greatest memories, reflecting, “truly struck by the genu-

Mr. Ryan Strange

By Alex Hong ’19

Reporter

Mr. Ryan Strange has been working in the Admission Office for nearly five years. Upon coming to Choate, he took over the directing of the postgraduate applications, work-in-progress, and graduate/transfer Recruitment Team. During his time at the School, Mr. Strange has involved himself in Clinton Knight, a coalition of alumni and supporters of Choate Athletics, and co-leader of the Black Faculty Advisory Council (BFAC). He also ran the Choate Alumni Admission Instagram account, which showcased student and faculty/alumni memories. As an interested individual in building memories with the student body as the student body and the student as a whole, but also as individuals. During his time at the School, he focused on building connections with students to support them throughout their time at Choate. Moreover, he noted that “she brought more compassion and concern for students into her work and her relationships with students have been the greatest memories, reflecting, “truly struck by the genu-

Mr. Jack Flanagan

By Katherine Chong ’25

Reporter

Mr. Jack Flanagan has been involved with Choate’s varsity hockey team for nearly two decades. He has also helped out with the information technology department. In the Admission Office, he has interviewed prospective families and students, and served as a resource for academic year. He has also developed an online system for acceptance. Moreover, he took the leadership in getting the school around, primarily the Western U.S. region, to many prospective families and guided them through the process of enrolling at Choate. For the past two years, Mr. Flanagan also oversaw athletic recruiting in the Admission Office.

Chantal Wang

By Reynh Le ’24

Copy Editor

Math and Computer Science teacher Chantal Wang is graduating from their two-year Bachelor’s-Master’s fellowship at Choate this year. Right out of college, she chose to teach computer science in a high school, where she taught two or three sections of Introductio

Ms. Sydni Marmor is immensely valuable to the School, and many students have benefited from her support. Moreover, she took on a mentor role for students, and her presence will be greatly missed. However, Mrs. Bender explained, "Just ready for this chapter of my life." Through her dedication to the School, many students will always cherish her work, and her presence will be greatly missed.

Mr. Matthew Ferraro: strived to cultivate a positive atmosphere among students and faculty. Moreover, he recognized the importance of fostering a sense of community and belonging among students. When Mr. Ferraro graduated from their two-year Bachelor’s-Master’s fellowship at Choate this year. Right out of college, she chose to teach computer science in a high school, where she taught two or three sections of Introductio

By Stan Cho ’25

Opinions/World Section Editor

For the past five years, Mr. Flanagan has been an Adjunct Professor in the French Language Department. He has also helped out with the Admission Office, interviewing prospective students and guiding them through the process of enrolling at Choate. For the past two years, Mr. Flanagan has also oversaw athletic recruiting in the Admission Office.

Ms. Chantal Wang: has been teaching computer science and programming in the School, and her presence will be greatly missed. However, Mrs. Chantal Wang explained, "Just ready for this chapter of my life." Through her dedication to the School, many students will always cherish her work, and her presence will be greatly missed.

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Andrew Goddard

NOT NECESSARY. Trust me, one coffee a day is enough. You can thank me later when you no longer have a caffeine dependence. I'll be happy to guide you through the process.

1. The best part of my year was being on the soccer field, but I also played basketball and had a great year in both sports. I was able to contribute to the team and help them win games.

2. When thinking about what to write in my senior speech, I decided to focus on being true to myself. I wanted to share my story and encourage others to be authentic.

3. I was one of the first transgender students at Choate, and I feel very honored to have been a part of this school.

4. I am very grateful for all of the support and encouragement I received from my family and friends.

5. I hope that my speech will inspire others to be true to themselves and to follow their dreams.

Tiffany Xiao

So, why did I exist? Because I was too scared to ever give it up. It was such a part of me, a part of the person I wanted to be—because I was good at something, because I was good at making people feel good, because I was good at making people feel loved, because I was good at making people feel special, because I was good at making people feel valued, because I was good at making people feel happy, because I was good at making people feel content, because I was good at making people feel comfortable.

No one at Choate ever wants to quit, whether it is quitting an activity, dropping out of a class, or saying “no” to any request. We are, for the most part, quite far out of standing boundaries. We are constantly being pushed to the limit, pushed to the breaking point, pushed to the edge, pushed to the brink. We are pushed to the point where we are not sure if we can make it through another day, pushed to the point where we are not sure if we can make it through another week, pushed to the point where we are not sure if we can make it through another month, pushed to the point where we are not sure if we can make it through another year, pushed to the point where we are not sure if we can make it through another lifetime.

But what about when you want to quit? What about when you want to give up? What about when you want to end it all? What about when you want to stop? What about when you want to let go? What about when you want to die? What about when you want to end it all? What about when you want to stop? What about when you want to let go? What about when you want to die?

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Michael Koryakov

Michael Koryakov grew up in Lincoln, Rhode Island and attended Lincoln School. He was a three-sport athlete who lettered in cross country, track and field, and baseball. Koryakov was also a member of the Lincoln School reading team and a founder of the Annual. He graduated from Lincoln School in 2019 and was admitted to the Class of 2023.

Koryakov states, “I was influenced to come to Choate because I knew that the school was a place where I could find my best friends for the rest of my life.”

At Choate, Koryakov continued to excel academically and athletically. He was a member of the Choate men’s baseball team, which reached the New England Championship in 2022. Koryakov also enjoyed participating in the Choate debate team and the Choate Journal.

In his Senior Speech, Koryakov reflects on his time at Choate and the lessons he learned. He states, “I am infinitely grateful for the opportunity to have spent four years here.”

Koryakov ends his speech with a quote from the Annual, “The annual is a time to reflect and a time to celebrate. It is a time to say goodbye and a time to say hello. It is a time to remember and a time to look forward. The annual is a time to celebrate the people who have made this year special.”

Koryakov’s Senior Speech can be found in the July 2023 issue of The Choate News.

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The Choate Annual

SENIOR SPEECHES

The senior speeches are a tradition at Choate, where seniors deliver speeches at the annual, a student-run publication. The speeches are a reflection on the senior’s time at Choate and their future plans. The speeches are also a way for seniors to express their gratitude to the Choate community and to their fellow classmates.

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YEAR IN PHOTOS

What We’ve Learned from School Meetings

A smattering of hugs strewn across couches and floors. A steady rhythm of beeps as students line up to hopefully sign in to School Meeting. The “lame Mac” as they shuffle into the wrong chair. The books furling direct towards those who bewilderingly stray from their assigned seats. Then, the bust of the students, accompanied by an occasional cough, as a student performer begins their piece. Finally, thunderous ovation as they exit. The first speaker settles onto the podium to officially commence School Meeting.

As much as students like to complain about required attendance, School Meetings are a chance for the entire school community to gather amidst the flurry activity of the school week. It is time allotted for students and faculty to retreat from the stresses of daily life, celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of their peers, and hear the voices of those in the community. On a sprawled-out campus with students occupying different pockets of school life, the opportunity to unite as one school body is rare and cherished by the masthead.

Throughout the year, we have gleaned valuable nuggets of wisdom, hoped sound tidbits of advice, and enjoyed memorable moments from our weekly gatherings as a school. Here are some of our favorites:

1. Three crushes
   
   When’s one thing students look forward to during School Meeting, it’s the chance to try on their crush, who may be, perhaps, sitting just a few rows in front of you. According to Ms. Elliott, this would be your crush #1, the one you admire from afar to keep your fantasy alive, for they may not be “the one” you believe them to be. You can imagine everything about them, but you may never interact with them. But do not fret: your heart has space for two more crushes.
   
   There’s crush #2: the person who brings you joy. They are the one who can light up your day with their warm embrace; the one you would risk endorsing the wrath of an angry teacher for to sit next to; or the one you share a chuckle with over a funny meme on your phone before it gets confiscated by said teacher. Then, there’s crush #3: this crush is your romantic crush. They are the one who gets your heart thumping, your face flushing, and your lips pulling up into an involuntary smile. Thank you, Ms. Elliott, for changing the way we think about those around us.
   
2. You don’t have to, you got to
   
   Six-feet-know Dean Mr. William Gilyard ’9 imparted on us these wise words: “You don’t have to, you got to.” As Choate students inundated by our workload, we can lose sight of how lucky we are to receive the opportunities we do. Oftentimes, we see our homework assignments, after-school practices, and late-night rehearsals as obligations foisted upon us by the School and our teachers. But, we forget why we chose to enroll in that specific class, why we tried so hard to make it onto that sports team, or why we play our scales and long tones in Colony Hall. We forget that we chose to do all this to experience the joy of being a part of something bigger than ourselves and feel that we belong to a cohort, team, or ensemble. After all, we don’t have to be at Choate, we got to be.
   
3. Big Daddy MAV
   
   To Big Daddy Dean and Students Mr. Michael Velez: you are the School Meeting comrad, resident Adam Sandler, and all-powerful email list holder. From answering our never-ending questions to sending us updates about the latest campus events, you always held a special place in our hearts and our inboxes. You have worked hard to make this campus safer and sounder for us, and we appreciate all that you have done. We wish you all the best, and we hope to see you, Mr. Velez, your four beautiful daughters, and your two dogs at our graduations and reunions.
   
   Thank you to all the performers, technicians, speakers, and announcers who make School Meeting a space filled with support, laughter, and, occasionally, tears. School Meeting is where our community shows our love for each other and finds the connection we need as humans. Thank you to Ms. Gilyard, Mr. Elliott, and Mr. Velez for enlightening us with your dazzling presence.
   
   Perhaps, one of these phrases will make it to the next presidential elections, when a Choate grad who follows in the footsteps of President John F. Kennedy ’55?
   
   So, the next time you feel like you have to go to School Meeting, just remember how lucky you are to get to.

Yours truly,