The Choate News

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Choate Implements Renewed Housing Plan

By **Amelia Sipkin '25**
Copy Editor

For nearly 100 years, Memorial House has housed the entirety of male-identifying freshmen. Although slight variations have been made since its addition to Choate's campus in 1921 — sprinkling in a few post-graduates or moving a few freshmen to Atwater or West Wing — Memorial House has been a significant part of the traditional first-year experience of Choate boys. In a radical change of events, Dean of Residential Life Mr. Pat Dennehy announced that in the coming 2022-2023 school year, this dorm — the largest one on campus — will take on a co-ed model. Memorial House will be home to 37 girls and 33 boys in the fourth and fifth-form.

In addition to the changes made to Memorial House, ten separate dorms will also be adjusted. Eight new faculty homes are also being built, implementing more residential life changes in one year for the Choate community than in decades.

According to Mr. Dennehy, the discussion to stray from tradition by changing Memorial House's housing model had been ongoing for a few years.

Graphic by Brian Yip '24/*The Choate News*

"There has been a lot of positive feedback from students in Mem about their experience," he said, "But there's also been a lot of negative feedback. I've heard from a lot of students saying 'my experience was toxic.'" He listed various issues accompanied with having more than 70 freshmen boys in one dorm, the first being that, "We didn't think it was a very equitable model for boys to have this experience [of living in one big dorm], while the girls are split up into four spaces."

Dean of Equity and Inclusion Dr. Myers echoed this sentiment, although she interpreted the inequity within Memorial House a little differently. She explained that this massive, concentrated group of boys, bustling with energy, is great for the extroverted but uncomfortable and scary for the introverted. "It just seems like if you get a large group of teenagers in a place, and they're all living together, some people try to assert themselves as the leaders or, you know, the most popular, but not everybody is extroverted in that way. That can be really uncomfortable."

Ultimately, the goal of the change was to eliminate this toxic "Mem culture" while maintaining Choate's freshmen bonding experience across multiple third-form housing facilities and fostering healthier and happier relationships between students. Mr. Dennehy anticipates a major cultural shift throughout the entire school. "Hopefully, it will be a cultural shift in a healthier way," he said. "The interactions between students that are of different genders will be healthier, which we've seen in the Hill House model. My hope: to make more connections between more kids."

Although the change has resulted in much excitement from Choate community members, it has also sparked conflict and concern. While Memorial House adviser Ms. Kimberly Finn Bolster is excited to be a part of the all-gender and co-ed housing initiative, she is concerned about next year's freshmen boys. "I'm actually really conflicted. I really like Mem as it is." She explained that having all the boys in one place forces them to find someone they are comfortable connecting with. "When they're feeling homesick or they're struggling, having them in a place where they can connect with other people, it forces them to make

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Fourth-formers Present Goodyear Speeches

By **Tess Taetle '24 and The 116th Masthead Choate News Copy Editors**
Reporter and Copy Editors

On April 5, four finalists gathered to present their Goodyear Presentations in the Getz Auditorium. This year, the winner was Delcy Asienga '24, whose speech was centered on the effects of tribalism in Kenya.

The Goodyear Presentation took its name from Mr. Zachary Goodyear, a former faculty member who taught history, political science, and public speaking. After approaching the HPRSS department with an initiative to create an annual speech competition for fourth-form World History students, former English teacher Mr. Trevor Peard decided to commemorate Mr. Goodyear's dedication to public speaking and history at Choate by naming his newfound competition "Goodyear."

In the annual competition, fourth-form students across all sections of World History classes have been tasked with researching and creating a presentation consisting of both a thesis-driven speech and visual aid on a preferred topic related to the material covered in the winter term. The experience is an opportunity for students to practice and further develop their public speaking skills by focusing on SPATE techniques introduced by Mr. Goodyear himself — stance, projection, articulation, tone, and eye contact — and dive into the course material through a different lens. This year's finalists and their speech topics included Asienga, "Tribalism in Kenya," Yuki Zhang '24, "Western Mathematics: The Result of Imperialism," Lauren Kee '24, "Linguistic Imperialism: Vietnam and India," and Melody Qian '24, "The Oriental Woman."

Asienga's speech focused on tribalism in her native country, Kenya — a topic she was inspired to pursue after witnessing the effects of tribalism in her daily interactions and within the experiences of her own family. Asienga discussed the effects of tribalism and the political ideologies that surround it. "Since my parents are from different tribes, their marriage was not smiled upon. You can see the effect of tribes on jobs and politics. It's subtle, but it's everywhere," explained Asienga. With her speech, she hoped to educate her audience on the complexity of European influence on tribal Africa, especially stressing the fact that Western media often oversimplifies portrayals of African culture and society. She said, "It is interesting to observe how it has been influenced by the West, and how communities have tried to become more modern and lost touch with how they originally were." Through conducting research for her speech, Asienga has also obtained a greater understanding of her own culture. "I learned how tribalism shapes a lot of people's thinking back home. I hope to help them realize the influence of tribalism, even in their day-to-day lives," she concluded.

Drawing from her interest in STEM fields, Zhang decided to focus her speech on mathematics. Through research on the history of mathematics, Zhang learned

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Choate Hosts First TEDx Event

By **Semilola Obayomi '23**
Reporter

On Sunday, April 10, Choate hosted its first TEDxYouth@ChoateRosemaryHall event featuring six alumni speakers: Dr. Mary Branch '03, Mr. Chris Chambers '13, Hon. Leeland Cole-Chu '67, Hon. Katherine Forrest (fmr.) '82, Mr. Craig Kramer '79, and Dr. Larry Thomsen '87. Commemorating the challenges faced during the pandemic, this year's theme was "re:INVENT."

The idea for the event was largely inspired by the strong feelings of separation within the Choate community due to the reality of virtual learning. Experiencing this first-hand, Yoyo Zhang '24 was inspired to create a TEDx event at Choate to foster connection within the School. The theme fit this narrative, representing new beginnings and the opportunities for personal and communal growth that come from various experiences. Nearly a year later, she was finally able to witness her ideas come to life, uniting both alumni and current Choate community members.

Along with co-founder Annika Lee '23, Zhang created a TEDx committee which consisted of smaller departments: the Creative Department, which houses the Content and Visual teams, the Technology Department, which houses the Online and Production teams, and the Outreach department, which contains the Communications and Business subcommittees. For the first few weeks of planning, the committee worked on writing member profiles, creating graphic ideas for future merchandise and badges, and drafting the plan for the event itself. Nearing the end of the winter term, the committee, with the help of the Communications team, had selected the six speakers through an application process in which interested Choate alumni filled out a form to explain their proposed topic. At the start of spring term, there were 21 days left until the final event. These last few weeks involved several large tasks — finalizing speaker speeches, creating a publication, working on the website, and designing merchandise.

The next step was finalizing the speakers' speeches through collaboration with the Content team. While reflecting on her experience working with the speakers, Chloe Jacobs '23 recalled, "I initially found it difficult to challenge their authority. Part of my responsibility was to edit Mr. Kramer's speech and collaborate with him to make it better. I had to get over that hump to be willing to challenge him." Despite the initial challenges, members of the committee enjoyed the experience. On a similar note, Nicholas Ng '23 mentioned his obligation to uphold the relatability of his speaker's speech, adding that "getting towards the final draft was probably the most rewarding thing. I underestimated how challenging everything would be."

The speakers were blown away by the organization and dedication of the entire committee. "I love the transparency, the honesty, the easy-going nature that [they] brought to the table," said Mr. Chambers. Other speakers found that the orga-

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Photos by Carson Ling '24 and Toffy Prakittiphoom '24/*The Choate News*

TEDx Event united alumni and the current Choate community.

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Read it, then recycle it.

Visuals by Yujin Kim '23, Josh Brown, and Toffy Prakittiphoom

Students Present Goodyear Speeches on "Imperialism"

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the connection between imperialism and mathematics. Zhang said, "I found this article talking about how math was a weapon and also a result of imperialism. That part was really interesting to me, so I decided to do more research on it." As a mathematician herself, Zhang noticed the effects of imperialism in her studies. "I started to recognize that math wasn't just European despite all the European names that we see in mathematics today." With this knowledge, she hopes to share that math isn't completely computational but also has an interesting cultural and historical aspect. "I feel that because westernized mathematics comes from imperialism, the cultural side of mathematics is taken away. I hope to show that math isn't just a painful subject just filled with equations, but there is culture and history behind it," she shared.

Lauren Kee '24 focused her Goodyear presentation on the impact of colonization on the use of language in India and Vietnam. Growing up in Hong Kong, Kee was very interested in how certain terms in Cantonese were derived from English. As a long-standing linguistics lover, it is when Kee decided to explore the effects of colonization on language in imperial colonies for her Goodyear speech that she came across the British rule in India and French rule in Vietnam. After long hours of in-depth research in the Andrew Mellon Library databases, Kee compiled equal amounts of information for both countries. Presenting in front of her classmates and later in Getz Auditorium, for a larger audience, was a very rewarding aspect of Kee's experience. Standing behind the podium to deliver her Goodyear speech to an audience of supportive friends and peers was an invaluable learning experience for Kee.

Qian's speech addressed the effects of New Imperialism and Orientalism on the stereotyping and portrayal of "Oriental" women. She was first introduced to this topic in her World History class with Ms. Cindy Okrah, where the class watched videos discussing the concept of Orientalism. "I've always been fascinated by how marginalized groups have been systematically and historically oppressed and the remnants of that in our society," she shared.

Photo by Yoyo Zhang '24/*The Choate News*

Delcy Asienga '24 won with her speech "Tribalism in Kenya."

Through her extensive research, Qian was astonished to discover the overwhelming extent of Orientalist influence and its deep-rooted origins. She was encouraged to use her speech to educate others on its widespread impact and harmful history. Qian stated, "A topic is often so much more impactful when you're actually passionate and interested about it. It sort of takes you down this rabbit hole where you start finding sources and then you start digging some more and you're deep in the databases ... and you want to fit all of it into what you want to make available to the public." Ultimately, Qian's speech was a huge success, and she was grateful to have garnered so much interest from her fellow students.

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INTRODUCING NEW HOUSING OPTIONS

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contacts. In a smaller dorm, it might be harder for them to find somebody that they can connect with."

Another Mem adviser, Ms. Aliya Cox, believes there is something special about the freshmen boys starting their experience together at Choate all in one dorm. She said, "You definitely can't sugarcoat the idea that there's something special about having everyone in one building, but that doesn't necessarily make it better."

As a direct result of the Memorial House change, other dorms will also change the age and/or gender to be housed next year. These are Logan Munroe, East Cottage, Atwater, Mead, Squire Stanley, Archbold, Pratt, Spencer, McCook, and West Wing. "In my 18 years [at Choate], this is the biggest number of shifts I've seen," said Mr. Dennehy. The freshmen boys that would've once been placed in Memorial House will be spread across Atwater, Logan, and East Cottage. Sophomore and junior boys will no longer live in Logan; hence, Archbold will transition from a sophomore and junior girls' dorm to a boys' dorm of the same age. Since sophomore and junior girls will no longer live in Archbold, Squire Stanley will become a new option for them.

The root of all this change is the School's desire to create more co-ed and all-gender housing options. Considering the success of Hill House (one of three currently co-ed dorms), the administration and Board of Trustees wish to further explore these new housing models. "From our senior officer position, they wanted to see how this Hill House model went. And the feedback we're getting from students and the advisers in the dorm has been really positive in terms of the interactions between those students," explained Mr. Dennehy. He hopes that with the increase of co-ed housing options starting with Memorial House, life at Choate will improve. "I have faith in our students, and faith in our faculty. I am excited about these shifts and hoping it makes our community healthier."

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The Andrew Mellon Libary's Newest Additions and Programs

By **Nilan Kathir '25**
Reporter

Many students see the Andrew Mellon Library only as a quiet place to study or get some work done. Yet, the library is not just a space for completing homework, but also home to a myriad of resources and programs. Boasting a wide selection of books and resources, the librarians are always looking for feedback and are continuously working to diversify the collection and support from the library.

While the most popular types of books are the young adult and adult fiction novels, Choate is a place with a diverse range of student interests, a fact the library undeniably recognizes. "We're looking at having books in other languages, having different viewpoints, and making sure it's a diverse collection," said Dr. Sherry Newman, the director of the Andrew Mellon Library. According to Dr. Newman, the library is looking to expand their collection of multicultural authors and working on adding STEM books specifically written by women. Ms. Courtney Jaser, the Instruction and Digital Services Librarian added, "We also have an Arab American Heritage Month display out for April. Next month, we're doing a Jewish Heritage Month display."

In order to encourage more students to engage with the resources, the Library has introduced many new programs. Ryan Froeb '23 said, "I love chatting with the librarians. They suggest new books to me all the time." A recent program hosted by the library had students go on a blind date with a book. The book's title and cover were hidden from students and only the genre of the book was revealed. "That was the most popular display, with the most checkouts," noted Dr. Newman.

The library hopes to not just be the go-to location for overwhelmed students looking for a less distracting place to work, but also a place where they can relax and unwind. Recently, the library hosted an event where students were tasked with finding ducks hidden throughout the first floor to trade for prizes. Dr. Newman said, "It's a fun activity where one doesn't have to engage too much. You can come in and not think of the library as a stressful place." Many students have taken advantage of the relaxing, versatile environment the library provides. "I think it's cool that the library has a dual purpose. Originally, a library is usually just for reading books, but ours has a quiet section, a collaborative section, and just a lot of resources," said Valerie Guadian '23.

The library provides an ample amount of resources and equipment available for student use. An important resource in the library is its collection of archives, home to the artifacts containing the School's rich history. Students who are interested in delving deeper into the School's history and learning about its past may wish to come here to explore. One other recent event hosted by the library was an opportunity for students to decipher manuscripts from the archives. Ms. Jaser remarked, "It's the funniest thing because people get really excited about it. It's like a puzzle and there's a fun element of competition that goes along with it."

The library is still looking to expand its vast collection of resources in the near future. One of the ways in which they are planning to approach this is the implementation of a tech bar. With this new addition, Dr. Newman hopes to "provide guidance for students that might have questions whether it's tech support or just how to navigate or software." Dr. Newman stated that "events to spark curiosity, creativity, and engage in information seeking" will continue to happen.

The Andrew Mellon Library is not just a place for students to check out books and get some work done, but also a home to diverse stories, a treasure trove of resources, and a place for students of all backgrounds to connect.

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Choate Hosts TEDx

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nization of the process helped them to stay on top of the commitment, especially while juggling their work and personal lives at the same time. During the short press conference following the event, they went into depth about the timeline of their speeches and the numerous helpful suggestions and edits made by each of their personal teams. They also expressed a desire for future TEDx events at Choate, which may potentially include student speakers.

Final preparations began on Saturday night and continued through Sunday morning with various tasks being completed such as creating gift bags for audience members, ensuring accommodations for speakers, and holding a few quick speech rehearsals. The reality of the event started to sink in when the speakers arrived and then as the audience members began filing into Colony Hall.

The hard work was received well by audience members, many of whom were touched personally by some speech topics and speakers themselves. Jada Dixon '24 shared, "I really took a lot from the last speech which was about mental health and the movement towards erasing the stigma of mental health." The speech touched them on a personal level and so did many of the other topics. Maya Chiravuri '23 also had a personal connection with one of the speeches, specifically the one given by Dr. Mary Branch '03, who discussed her difficult journey towards finding peaceful success in her career in cardiology. This speech inspired Chiravuri as they are also interested in pursuing cardiology. Hearing Dr. Branch's experience strengthened their motivation to pursue their dream.

The inaugural TEDxYouth@ChoateRosemaryHall event was admirable for numerous reasons. From the hours of hard work poured into the project, primarily organized and led by students, to the collaboration with invested alumni speakers, the event was the first of its kind at Choate. Everyone, from those who engaged in challenging yet rewarding collaboration, to others who were given the opportunity to learn and resonate with dynamic speeches given by powerful speakers, benefited from the experience. This event surpassed Zhang's initial vision of bringing the Choate community together. The program was able to unite generations of Choate students who shared different ideas about reinvention, many of whom were influenced by their time on campus. The success of the TEDxYouth@ChoateRosemaryHall event speaks to the importance of collaboration, communication, and the opportunities that come with testing new ideas.

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Choate Students Attend Advanced S.J.L.I.

By **Helen Ryan '24**
Reporter

The 2022 Advanced Social Justice Leadership Institute (SJLI) took place on April 9 at The Governor's Academy in Byfield, MA with four Choate students in attendance: Chloe Jacobs '23, Simone Johnson '23, Ryan Kim '23, and Heidi Small '23. The retreat aimed to create a space for students to improve their organization and leadership skills as well as deepen their understanding of racial, gender, economic, queer, and social justice.

Dr. Rachel Myers, teacher and Dean of Equity and Inclusion at Choate, noted, "This is the only advanced opportunity that I have seen for students. Most conferences and workshops start at a '101' level, and students who have been engaged in social justice work before have been craving something more advanced."

The program provided many opportunities for students to further develop their skills in social justice and activism. Small said, "I wanted to attend the SJLI so that I could immerse myself in an environment with other youth to gain a deeper understanding of how systems of race, class, and gender impacted my life and those around me." Jacobs added, "All the students in attendance had some experience with activism, but don't let that deter students who consider themselves new to this space. We're all going there to learn."

Attending the event meant getting the chance to interact with other students who have similar passions and engage in constructive discussions and workshops — a major part of what drew students to SJLI. One exercise at the event focused on looking at how privilege plays out in school districts. The attendees were split into three groups, named "vanilla," "chocolate," and "strawberry." Participants were able to connect the simulations to current urgent issues and collaborate and discuss solutions. Small's favorite part of the event was "connecting with [her] cohort and getting to know why and how they engage in activism and social justice work." Every student brought new and personal perspectives and ideas to the table, which, according to Small, "really emphasized how although we have different definitions of justice, our definitions all are a subset of a broader coalition to create change."

The impact SJLI had was significant on students who attended. Small expressed, "I was deeply impacted by the profound knowledge, wisdom, and enthusiasm of everyone who attended. These activities expanded my scope of knowledge about racial and social justice, particularly in the systems and institutions that surround me. I hope to bring back some of the conversations and workshop activities that I participated in, to create collective action." Johnson concluded, "I think my biggest takeaway from this workshop is organizing. What can I do to work with and support the communities that I'm fighting for? What can we do to kind of build upon the groundwork that we've already set down?"

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Photo by Ryan Kim '23/*The Choate News*

Students attended the Advanced Social Justice Leadership Institute at the Governor's Academy.

Connecticut Celebrates Autism Awareness Day

By **Eva Li '24**
Copy Editor

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD), more commonly known as autism, represents a broad range of neurological conditions characterized by difficulties in repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication, and social interactions. With approximately one in every 44 children in the U.S. being diagnosed with ASD, every individual with autism has their own distinct set of strengths and challenges that corresponds to the varying amounts of support required in their daily life.

Yet, the stigmatization and discrimination associated with ASD creates obstacles in diagnosis, therapies, and issues like employment opportunities. In response to the injustice, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly established a World Autism Awareness Day in 2007 that takes place every year on April 2. The primary purpose of this day is to spread awareness about the need to promote equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for those with autism, allowing them to live more meaningful and joyous lives.

Each year, the UN assigns one of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals as the theme of the year's Autism Awareness Day. This year, for the 15th World Autism Awareness Day, the UN held a moderated virtual panel discussion under the overarching theme of "Inclusive Quality Education for All," along with brief presentations by self-advocates, educators, and other experts.

The 2022 theme was chosen in response to the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on students with autism; those with the disorder have been affected by disruptions of routines, as well as the unavailability of services and support systems that they usually rely on. "Inclusive Quality Education for All" is also intrinsically connected to last year's observance of "Inclusion in the Workplace." The panelists in 2021's Autism Awareness Day event pointed out the importance of fostering inclusive, quality education for people on the autism spectrum, to help them fulfill their potential and achieve long-term success in the labor market. Ultimately, as the UN stated, "Inclusive education is the key to the transformative promise of the Sustainable Development Goals, to leave no one behind."

To celebrate this year's Autism Awareness Day, organizations worldwide have hosted a diverse variety of events. The International Chess Federation (FIDE) held a virtual supervision panel of their Infinite Chess FIDE Project, which is based on spreading awareness and knowledge of chess to children with ASD. The event was organized in partnership with the leading projects supporting children with autism, and is currently running in Turkey, France, Spain, Gibraltar, Norway, and South Africa. Similarly, the National Foundation for Autism Research organized a "Race for Autism" fundraiser event in San Diego. The event consisted of running courses, accompanied by an educational resource fair, commemorative medals, and many other activities.

> **"If the neurotypical community can be welcoming, supportive, and embracing of the neurodiverse community, then I think it allows everyone to grow."**
>
> *Ms. Sarah Taussik*
> Director of Programs & Training at Autism Services & Resources CT

The support for Autism Awareness Day is just as widespread in the state of Connecticut. On May 2, Autism Services & Resources Connecticut (ASRC) will be hosting the "Walk and Festival for Autism" event as one of their largest fundraisers and celebrations of Autism Awareness Month. While the event used to be held at the end of April, it has, over the years, been moved to May due to weather conditions and planning purposes.

Activities being featured to make the walk inclusive and family-friendly include dancing, opportunities for students to meet different animals, a big raffle, and a DJ. This year's event will also include an inclusive-employment showcase. ASRC is planning to have vendors that are inclusive employers to the neurodiverse community set up tables at the walk, where people can approach them to learn about employment opportunities. Ms. Sara Taussik, Director of Programs & Training at ASRC, said, "This is a new idea that we're putting out there and hopefully is something that's going to broaden the horizon of future opportunities for folks on the spectrum."

During the entire month of April, ASRC is also helping the New Haven Police Department and Yale Security develop programs intended to educate officers about autism. "We've been providing vignettes, like mini webinars, to inform officers of who people on the spectrum are and how to best interact with them to keep all parties safe. It's been a really cool development," Ms. Taussik expressed.

Apart from the main events in April, ASRC has also been hosting information sessions and a wide range of structured recreational and social programs for all ages of the community, most of which are free. As an individual with autism, Ms. Tiff Vasale is grateful for the help that ASRC has provided. "ASRC has great support, like social groups and support systems. There's like the walks and everything ... I think all of those are really important," she said.

When asked about her thoughts on the purpose of Autism Awareness Month, Ms. Taussik explained, "It's really about educating the public, providing an understanding of what autism is and isn't. People historically think of autism as characters like Rain Man and things from their TV shows that they see — a very pigeon-hole version of what [autism] is ... If the neurotypical community can be welcoming, supportive, and embracing of the neurodiverse community, then I think it allows everyone to grow."

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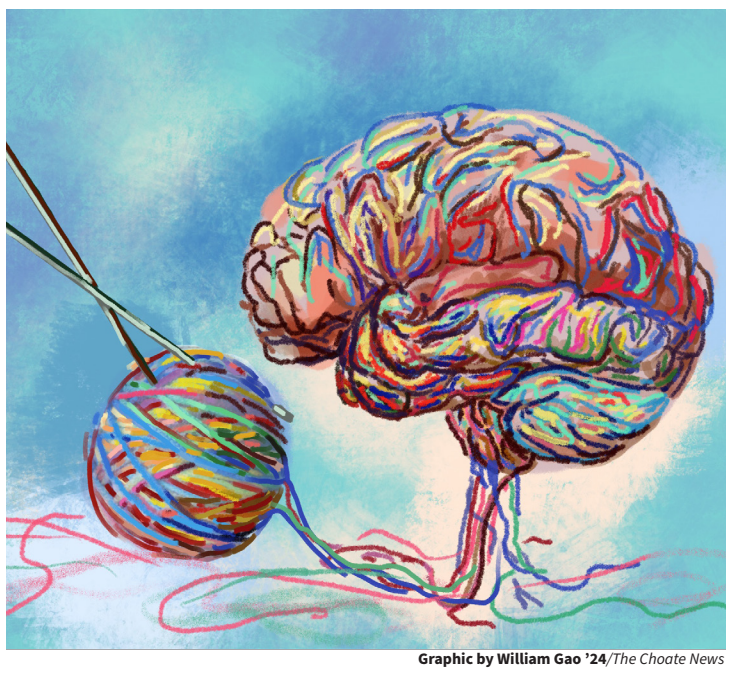

Graphic by William Gao '24/*The Choate News*

Celebrating Connecticut's Black Poets

Photo courtesy of Josh Brown

New London Poet Laureate Mr. Josh Brown performs for the audience.

By **Adrienne Chacón '22**
Local News Editor 115th Masthead

When creating a community, it is critical to develop engaging events that unite people over a common interest. In the spirit of hosting local events to build community, there has been an effort to coordinate programming that builds connections in a population that is often overlooked and underserved: Black teens, especially those interested in the arts. On Saturday, April 9, New London's Lyman Allyn Art Museum hosted "A Celebration of Black Poets in Connecticut," an event aimed to "highlight the work and knowledge of six award-winning contemporary Black poets," according to the Museum.

The event was an endeavor organized through the Lyman Allyn Museum with the financial support of the CT Humanities nonprofit and the Connecticut Office of the Arts. Hartford Poet Laureate Frederick-Douglass Knowles II and New London Poet Laureate Josh Brown began the event with a youth writing workshop and later hosted an open mic for young writers to share their poetry.

The event was also attended by invited speakers, such as fellow Antoinette Brim-Bell, from the Cave Canem Foundation, fellow Kate Rushin from the Artists Foundation, and the 2017-2021 New London Poet Laureate Rhonda Ward.

The Art Museum touted the event as a tribute to the "challenges and triumphs as writers, and the idea of shaping a legacy for young poets," as described by the Art Museum. This celebration of Black poets in Connecticut is the first of its kind for New London, arising from the collaboration between Ms. Eileen Donovan, Director of Learning and Engagement for the Lyman Allyn Art Museum, and the current Connecticut Poet Laureate Margaret Gibson.

According to Ms. Donovan, Ms. Gibson was inspired to coordinate this event because she wanted to showcase the "future of under-represented poets, but wonderful, powerful poets of Connecticut and so we shaped together the idea of the celebration of Black poets in Connecticut." Using Ms. Gibson's network as Poet Laureate, she was able to assemble a panel of notable local Black poets.

Ms. Donovan noted the timing of the event, which has been in the works since the fall: "April is National Poetry Month and so a great time to have a poetry event is April, ... we like the idea that we can have the story that is also Black history, Black stories. That it's not in February, and you know, to continue to promote the idea that Black history is all year long."

Ms. Donovan explained that the Museum, as a well-established part of the community, felt obligated to uplift the under-represented voices in the Connecticut community. "The Lyman Allyn as a museum is a bit of an older traditional white organization, and so it is part of our job to promote the voices of concurrent contemporary artists and people of color in order to show that art can take place in so many different forms by so many different people; and is excellent in so many ways and that these voices are valuable and that we want to support these voices."

In this spirit, the Museum handpicked and reached out to speakers. Ms. Adriane Jefferson, the moderator of the event, explained, "I think it's so important that we are amplifying and giving a platform to Black and brown artists. And that we are preserving the rich culture and stories that they create through their work. So it was really an opportunity for me to also honor a lot of the people that I respect who are going to be sitting on this panel," she said.

Just as racial identity was a significant factor in the event's audience, so was age. For workshop leader Mr. Brown, there was a unique significance in the demographics. Throughout his extensive experience as a poetry teacher, he noted the scarcity of young Black male poets like himself. With this event, he hoped to spread the idea of private writership to youth at the event, especially Black males. "It's not a lot of people writing, or if they do, it's almost like a secret. ... I think there's a big difference between being a private writer and a secret writer," he said. To combat this issue of secret writership, Mr. Brown hoped that the event, the workshop he led, and the presence of other passionate artists would inspire young people to participate in creating art.

Ms. Jefferson hoped the celebration would have a large impact on young people. "I hope people go away seeing something. Seeing themselves." She continued, "be inspired to go and do more within your own community. Through whatever you're passionate about ... I just want people to walk away inspired ... and seeing their own potential."

The event's theme, "The Power of Words," conjured strong connections to simple but everlasting rules for the panelists. Ms. Jefferson referenced the saying "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me," to express her disagreement. "Words are the most powerful tool that we have in order to communicate, in order to effectively use our voices to amplify change," she countered.

Mr. Brown was reminded of the adage: "the pen is mightier than the sword." For him, this took the form of using discomfort as a source of inspiration. His stance fell in line with his interpretation of the event's theme, "The Power of Words."

"Now more than ever, we avoid things that make us uncomfortable ... It's important to hear these bits even if they make us uncomfortable. The words are powerful; that's why we started avoiding them because they make us feel some kind of way ... I encourage people to lean into being uncomfortable. Lean into having to relearn some things and not to avoid those. There's healing in that too," he said. "Not only is it that words are impactful and that words can be raw, but it's also that they could be healing. You can find more unity if you really take the time to listen to one another."

The significance and tradition of Black poetry are an inexorable component of the celebration. To Ms. Jefferson, Black poetry means "Black joy and Black pride. It means cultural preservation. It means advocacy."

Mr. Brown's goal and words of advice to young writers aspire to encourage creation. "Go create. Whatever it is, do it. Stop waiting for a sign. Stop waiting for permission. We need you to write more. And we need to hear your experience, what you've seen, what you've observed. Your solutions. Your questions."

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Yale e-NABLE Creates 3D-printed Prosthetic Arm

By **Sarina Fernandez-Grinshpun '25**
Reporter

e-NABLE is a group of volunteers around the world who work to give the world a helping hand by using 3D printers to print and distribute prosthetic replacements for upper-body limbs. These prosthetics are provided to adults and children who have lost limbs in accidents, conflicts, and illnesses. e-NABLE's volunteer base has representatives from every field and background because everyone, from engineers to students to artists, can volunteer for this organization and make an impact. The importance of this organization lies in the inaccessibility of prosthetic limbs. e-NABLE prosthetics aim to provide a multitude of widely accessible, low-cost alternatives.

In order to cover a variety of geographical locations and get more volunteers, e-NABLE has a chapter program where people can apply to start their own chapters and print prosthetics within their organization. There are currently 140 chapters internationally, with branches in countries such as Sierra Leone, Hungary, Japan, and Australia. Closer to home, Yale University in New Haven has its own chapter, run by Grayson Wagner, which was founded in 2020. Although it was only recently started, the Yale chapter of e-NABLE has already made headlines in the 2021-2022 edition of the Yale Engineering Magazine for their "cello arm" project.

The "cello arm" project originated when the father of Emily Reid, an 11-year-old cellist who required an arm prosthetic, sent an email to Yale Engineering. He hoped a student could design a more functional prosthetic to allow Emily to play the cello with ease. The students of e-NABLE jumped at the chance to make such a specialized prosthetic and went to work. Despite their determination and eagerness, the process was challenging, especially in the midst of a pandemic. During the design process, the Yale e-NABLE team struggled particularly with durability, as Emily's first prosthetic broke after only a week of playing. To address the fragility of the material, the team tried using more durable plastic and changed the infill pattern to optimize the prosthetic's strength. Wagner reflected on the challenges involved with the creation of the "cello arm." She said, "It was difficult since we weren't all on campus. There was a lot of mailing of parts, and trying to spread the word was difficult without having in-person meetings." Despite the challenges of communicating virtually, the team was able to produce a working prosthetic that Emily has since enjoyed.

Although Emily's prosthetic meets her needs, the e-NABLE team is still improving the device. The affordability and convenience of 3D printing, enables the group freedom to create new prototypes and model new ideas.

As Yale e-NABLE's Vice President Christy Zheng advised, "I definitely encourage students to just mess around with 3D printing and see what comes out of it!"

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Photo courtesy of Yale e-NABLE

Photos courtesy of Grayson Wagner

The Yale e-NABLE team collaborates to design the "cello arm."

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Dear Archbold, I Miss You Already

By **Tess Taetle '24**
Opinions Writer

Ever since they were announced on April 1, the new dorm assignments have been on the forefront of every Choate boarder's mind. As the 2022-2023 school year approaches and students begin contemplating their living situations for the next year, these recent changes have become an obstacle to many who thought they had a clear idea of where they planned to live next year.

I do not like the new dorm assignments; however, as someone who currently lives in Archbold, a dorm that will be for fourth and fifth-form boys next year, it's important to note my very obvious bias. These changes may be in the best interest of those planning on switching dorms, but this news is far from ideal for those — including my roommate and men— who were planning on remaining in the same dorm. We no longer have priority in a dorm, and we now must completely reconsider our residential situation. Archbold had the perfect location and was the most ideal option for the two of us. Her easy access to the PMAC for musical rehearsals and my — less vital but still extremely important — ability to get coffee at Lanphier Cafe will now be compromised. Along with the picturesque nature of the lower side of campus, I will definitely miss leaving for math class two minutes before it starts and still being on time.

Living in Archbold has spoiled me. As a sophomore, I had one of the last picks for dorm rooms but still managed to be placed in a spacious room with an optimal pondside view, allowing my ears to be graced with the relaxing sounds of the fountain each night. Additionally, Arch bathrooms were recently remodeled, and the kitchenette is stacked with two refrigerators, a freezer, a microwave, and a sink. The common room is full of comfortable chairs and is a popular spot for late-night studying. The best part: each floor has its own kitchenette and common room. A key card is necessary to travel between floors, so each floor essentially feels like its own dorm. Sometimes, it's nice to have that close-knit feeling of a smaller dorm while also having more people to see on the floor either below or above you.

In addition to the change in Arch, Logan Munroe will now house freshmen boys, Squire Stanley will house fourth and fifth-form girls, and Pratt will be a co-ed dorm for sixth formers. However, for those who have seen the list of new dorm assignments, I am sure the changes to Memorial House are the most shocking. One of Choate's most notable dorms that, for the past 100 years, has housed all boarding third-form boys, will now be open to fourth and fifth-form boys and — this is the real kicker — GIRLS. Essentially, the dorm notorious for housing, arguably the School's most rambunctious students, will now adopt the same living arrangements as Hill House. I think Archbold would have been a great option for a new co-ed dorm. After curfew, the key cards only work on the floor to which you're assigned. If a few similar safety measures were added to make the dorm co-ed inclusive, it would have made perfect sense to make one floor exclusively for girls and the other for boys, similar to the design of Hill. Despite the change, the culture and reputation of Mem have stuck with me, and the possibility of living in a room that's housed generations of freshman boys is unsettling, to say the least.

While this change is overall pretty negative for me, I imagine it's had an even greater effect on my fifth-form friends who are planning to prefect next year. Many of them must consider prefecting in a dorm they've never even lived in. All they have to work off of while considering their choices for next year is word of mouth and, of course, the reputation that each dorm has developed over the years. For example, Archbold has seemed to foster a studious environment, whereas Memorial House has a reputation for being a loud and trouble-making dorm.

Over the past year, Archbold has become a place that I have grown to love, so it will be a little difficult adjusting to the idea of a male-identifying student walking into my old room and calling it their home. Nevertheless, I'm interested to see how these changes will impact Choate's culture as a whole.

Tess Taetle *is a fourth-former from New York, NY. She may be reached at ttaetle24@choate.edu*

BETWEEN INCLUSIVITY AND TOKENISM: A TENTATIVE BALANCE

Photo by Toffy Prakittiphoom '24/*The Choate News*

Mwendwawangai Daisley '23 performs at the Students of Color Showcase for revisiting students of color.

By **Mwendwawangai Daisley '23**
Opinions Writer

Growing up Black in a small school in suburban Pennsylvania was a challenging experience. Throughout my elementary and middle school years, I was always the kid asked to speak at school events or participate in community outreach activities. Oblivious to the concept of social politics, I thought that being selected to represent my school at these events was solely reflective of my notable academic performance and regular participation in the extracurricular activities at my school. What I didn't realize for a long time was that I was essentially a walking advertisement for the school — an advertisement that falsely suggested that the school was a racially diverse community.

For years, I didn't notice, nor did I really care, that I was being used. I was told that it was an honor to have these opportunities and I allowed myself to believe that. I was a young, impressionable, excitable kid — how could I not? While those claims may have had some truth to them, I now suspect that there may have been other motives at play, including those rooted in objectification and tokenization, to which I had been a victim.

What ultimately made me realize that my race was doing more to speak for the school than my words ever could was understanding the difference between meaningful representation and inclusion and their performative gestures. In the same way that there is genuine activism and performative activism, the motives behind promoting representation are just as important as the representation itself. I define tokenism as the practice of substituting genuine efforts to create self-sustaining initiatives that produce representative and inclusive outcomes for those that come from a place of inauthenticity or malice. In most instances, tokenization takes the form of using marginalized and oftentimes underrepresented members of a community to represent a larger group. In my case, it meant picking me — one of few Black students at the school — to speak in an attempt to promote a false sense of inclusivity within the school's community.

Tokenism is detrimental to those that are being tokenized or those who share the same or similar demographics as the token and were not selected as the raffle winner. By participating in the sham, the tokens isolate themselves from others in their minority group, further entrenching the exclusion they already face. Moreover, additional stress is usually placed on these students, as they function as advertisements and are forced to uphold unrealistic standards of excellence. It's as if the reputation and prestige of one's entire race, gender, sexual orientation, etc., is put on your shoulders — that's a lot to expect from anyone, let alone high school students.

Simply existing as an individual from a marginalized group is demanding, but being the token is much more difficult. Tokenization objectifies the individual, effectively strips them of their individuality, reduces them to a prop based on their skin color, gender, etc. and robs them of their voice; all of these factors become valuable assets in the business of advertising and raising the profiles of schools and companies. Often, it's the same schools and companies that actively tokenize their students and employees that are the first to affirm their genuine efforts to help the minorities they are tokenizing. The difficult thing is, when you don't care about the individuals behind those voices, you can't uplift them.

When I was applying to high schools, I found Choate's diversity statistics very attractive, and they played a critical factor in Choate becoming my school of choice. The practice of schools or institutions misrepresenting their enrollment numbers to give the false impression of being more diverse than they really are is not only deceptive, but also immensely harmful to their current and prospective attendees. I am not asserting that Choate is a perpetrator of this disrespectful and harmful inflation, but, from personal experience, I do not see or feel the ethnic and racial diversity that was advertised to me. It is lauded that Choate boasts a student body made up of 53% students of color. It's unclear how that distinction is identified, leading the number to sound impressive but mean very little in actuality. Minority students' participation in events such as functions for incoming students and promotional campaign events can be beneficial for representation; however, efforts must be made to safeguard against exploitation.

I have found that the perception of my "function" as a token makes balancing my social life with my other endeavors more difficult. Guilty and regretful thoughts often creep into my mind, questioning my compliance. Why do I continue to give in and say yes to these opportunities even though I harbor suspicions regarding how and why my abilities are being used?

As Choate boasts of its increased diversity statistics and advertises its eagerness to push for greater equity and inclusion, we need to question what these numbers really represent. We must continue to do what we can to meaningfully include and integrate those who may feel isolated from the tokenization and victimization they face on a daily basis.

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Masks Off: A New Age of Socialization

By **Eva Swanson '25**
Opinions Staff Writer

After almost two years of vigilant mask-wearing, Choate's indoor mask mandate has finally been lifted. Although the change was implemented only two weeks ago, there has already been an immense change in the energy on campus; students have been more outspoken, friendlier to peers, and able to connect with teachers more easily. Though this change has offered its own set of challenges, we have ultimately been able to grow closer as a community.

The most substantial effect that mask-wearing had on us all was a lack of facial connection and recognition. Since masks hide most of your face, the majority of our features are hidden, hindering our ability to effectively interact with and react to those around us. Even though the eyes are often described as "windows to the soul," I think we can all agree that our eyes aren't always reflective of our emotions. Similar to how the most compelling and interesting parts of a book don't translate while only reading the SparkNotes summary, I'm now noticing new facets, emotions, and aspects of my classmates due to finally seeing them with their masks off. From the occasional smirk, to the giggle after hearing a decently funny joke, everything seems brighter and friendlier.

Everything also seems more sincere; the School seems more like a community. Part of the reason I left my old school was a lack of school spirit: nobody went to games, cheered on their classmates, or participated in spirit days. Coming to Choate, my experience has been quite the opposite. I have always been taken aback by the loud cheers at games and the number of people that truly care about the betterment of the School. Still, I felt something was missing. The only thing I can remotely compare it to is the feeling of not being able to find the right word when speaking. I realize now that the missing element was the parts of each other that we couldn't see or understand because they were hidden under our masks — the singing along to the school song at the end of school meetings or the huge smile you'd get after you watched your teammate score a goal. Though a bit hard to explain, there is a drastic difference between then and now.

Mirroring is the subconscious imitation of facial expressions, gestures, and other aspects of speech and nonverbal behavior. This was not possible while we were all masked, but now that we can see each other's full faces, everyone seems much more connected and approachable. In my physics class, for example, there were typically many completely wiped out students who, understandably, could be seen with their heads on their desks. With masks on, an element of human connection was lost, and with that, went a certain level of respect. Now, without masks, people seem more inclined to collaborate and be attentive. It also doesn't hurt that my teacher never fails to bring enthusiasm and energy to the class, ultimately turning a difficult subject into one students appreciate.

Graphic by Brian Yip '24/*The Choate News*

Though the lack of masks has allowed us to bond as a community, this new age of Choate life does have a few setbacks. While wearing a mask, it's almost as though I have a second filter. Though some of my peers may be surprised reading this, I was known for interjecting and speaking without thinking at my old school. Wearing masks gave me a chance to listen more than speak. Now that I don't have that second filter to rely on, I find it more difficult to restrain myself from reverting back to my old interruptive habits.

Finally, after having worn masks for so long, my face feels barren without one. Wearing a mask in school for the past two years has grown into somewhat of a comfort for me, and, after a certain point, I didn't even think of it as abnormal anymore. So, not only do my tablemates see the strange facial expressions I make all the time, they also hear me muttering to myself about the most random of things.

The concept that masking is now so normalized in our world is interesting to consider, and it's one that I don't think will ever completely go away. Especially at Choate, we all have a mutual understanding that wearing, or not wearing, a mask is a personal choice that shouldn't be judged. It's definitely a major change that I believe most of us never thought would come, and one that many have welcomed with open arms. In some ways, this change back to a maskless world resembles the unfamiliarity a masked world once brought to us all. With different flare-ups and variants of the virus, it's unclear whether pandemic life will last forever. However, lifting the mask-mandate is a positive assurance that we are moving into a more connected world.

Eva Swanson *is a third-former from New Haven, Conn. She may be reached at eswanson25@choate.edu*

The Environmental Impact of the Russo-Ukranian War

By **Lauren Hsu '24**
Opinions Staff Writer

In today's interconnected world, the events in one country send a ripple effect impacting the rest of the globe. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is no exception. Not only has the Ukrainian war displaced over seven million people, but it has had a drastic effect on global climate change research, policy, and innovation.

The effects of this war have demonstrated just how precarious the road toward sustainable energy usage is. In order to safeguard against the negative environmental impacts of the war, it is critical that the U.S. preserves its relationship with Russian scientists and continues to invest heavily in renewable energy.

While the Arctic Circle is not known for being the center of global politics, it has become a focal point of the climate crisis as warming temperatures rapidly thaw glaciers.

The Ukrainian War is worsening the situation in the Arctic. In early March, seven of eight Arctic Council members announced a boycott of the council meetings. The only member to remain was the Russian representative, the current chairman.

The Arctic Council was formed in 1996 to arrange "cooperation and collaboration on issues affecting the far North, including fisheries and resource management, conservation, pollution, and climate change," according to Scientific American.

The Council's pause on activities has created gaps in monitoring and data collection in weather, ecosystems, pollution, wildfires, and more. In the past, these studies have been critical in making recommendations for climate policy. It is especially critical that Arctic wildfires be tracked as they emit large amounts of carbon dioxide, change the landscape, and melt permafrost. About 1,500 billion metric tons of permafrost, enough to warm the Earth by 0.3 - 0.4 celsius, are stored in the Arctic Circle. Thawing permafrost could also destabilize the ground. Most of the permafrost is located in Russia, so severing ties with Russian scientists has left a hole in this area of research.

Additionally, cooperation between Russia and the international community is imperative for activities such as managing Arctic fisheries and the transportation of nuclear waste. Fish stocks in the Arctic can only be sustained through coordinated catch limits and fishing practices. Any missteps in this process need to be communicated to all the countries involved, but the doors of open communication are quickly shutting.

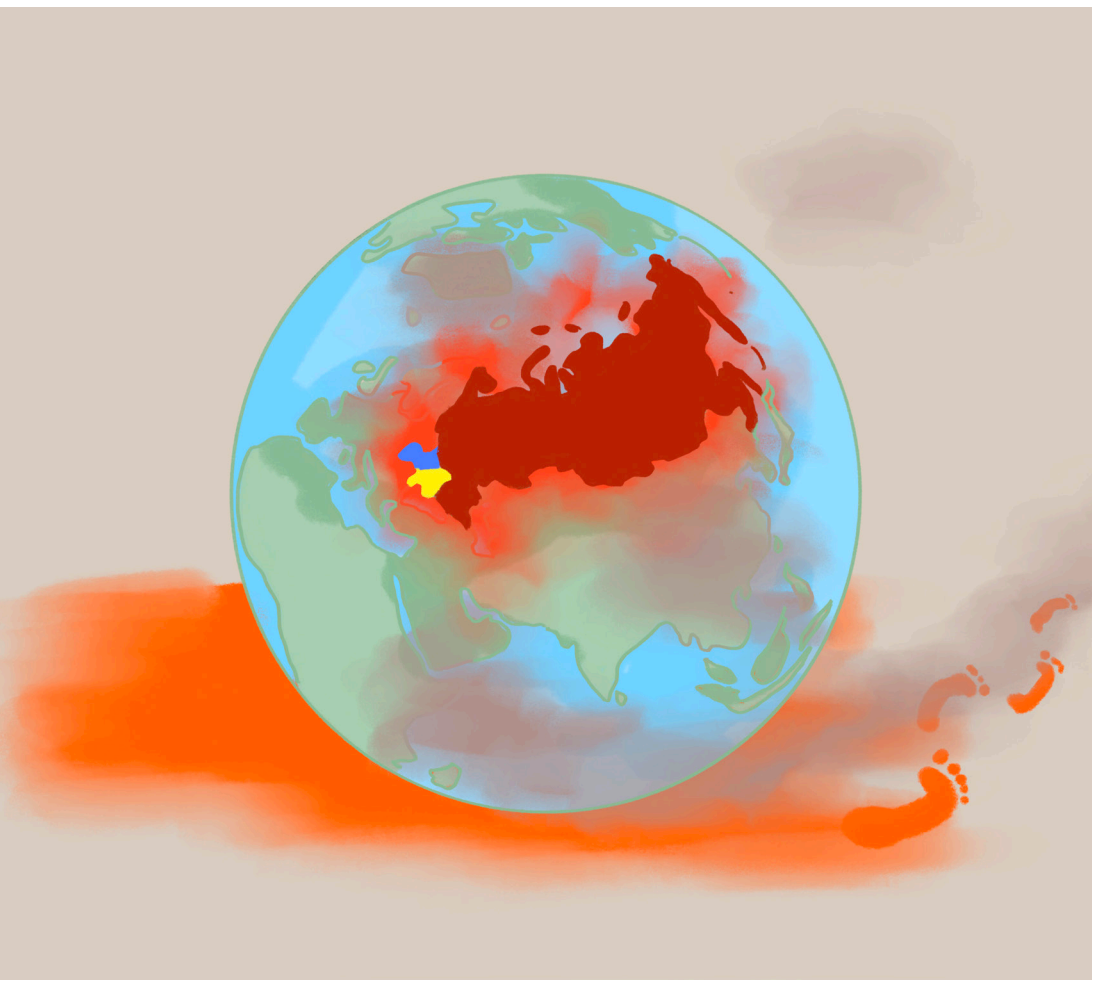
On March 25, U.S. President Joe Biden and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced a plan to reduce Europe's reliance on Russian fossil fuels. Prior to this announcement, 40% of natural gas and more than 25% of crude oil was imported from Russia. By turning away from Russian oil exports, these countries hope to accelerate progress towards clean energy. Instead, the U.S. announced an increase of 15 billion cubic meters (bcm) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments to Europe. To contextualize these numbers, the U.S. sent 22 bcm of LNG to Europe in 2021, the largest amount that has ever been traded between the U.S. and Europe. The more LNG exported, the more infrastructure and LNG terminals will spring up, making it harder to decrease dependency on non-renewable energy. With that, the world is set on a concerning trajectory into full-fledged fossil fuel reliance.

Finally, sanctions on Russian metals could have implications for the development of green technology. Current plans to transition away from fossil fuels rely heavily on finding new energy sources and switching to electric vehicles, both of which require large amounts of metal. Russia is a leading copper, nickel, and platinum group metal producer. Rising metal prices and lowered supply will hinder progress towards a zero-fossil -fuel future.

Losing supplies of Russian metals, oil, and gas have exposed just how unprepared the world is for the major switch to renewable energy. Sanctions and bans on Russia should remain in place, but governments should invest equal effort into the adoption of renewable energy sources. On the research front, it is imperative that research projects and communication with Russian scientists resume. While it is important that governments around the world put economic pressure on Russia to stop the atrocities in Ukraine, doing so at the expense of climate change innovation only makes the global warming crisis more lethal. A destabilized planet will exacerbate political tensions, leading to more human conflict and suffering.

The consequences of warfare and climate change are intertwined and so are the solutions — the United States must prioritize changing the course of the climate crisis over scoring points in global politics through the war in Ukraine.

Lauren Hsu *is a fourth-former from Hong Kong. She may be reached at lsu24@choate.edu*



Graphic by Jewon Im '23/*The Choate News*

The U.S. Has a Responsibility to Curb El Salvadoran Gang Violence

Graphic by Jewon Im '23/*The Choate News*

By **Stanley Cho '25**
Copy Editor

El Salvador declared a state of emergency in response to the death of 62 civilians in a series of horrific gang-related murders following March 26, the most violent day in the last 20 years of its history.

Organized crime groups pose a serious threat to the stability of El Salvador and to the safety of its citizens, yet according to the US Treasury, the Salvadoran government continues to participate in secret negotiations with these gangs. In response, the United States imposed sanctions on the administration under President of El Salvador Nayib Bukele. However, we must realize that it's the United States' responsibility to interfere and mitigate the effects of these gangs due to its role in creating the issue.

The prominence of organized crime groups in El Salvador makes it one of the most dangerous countries in the world. As a result, many nationwide attempts have been made to combat gang violence and control drug routes across Central America. Though it may seem that the most recent effort led by Mr. Nayib Bukele to reduce gang violence has been effective, the purportedsecret meetings between the government and the gangs paint a more sinister picture of the situation.

The two most prominent Salvadoran gangs, MS-13 and Barrio 18, were originally bred on the streets of Los Angeles in the late 90s. During former President Bill Clinton's immigration crackdown, the United States deported foreign-born residents convicted of wide-ranging crimes, including members of crime groups from Latin America. Thousands of convicts, some of who were members of MS-13 and Barrio 18, found an export mechanism into the Northern Triangle — the neighboring Central American countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala — through their deportation. The deported gang members brought gang culture, urban warfare tactics, and extensive criminal networks into the institutions of El Salvador, causing incessant conflict, alarming poverty, and ingrained corruption.

Many believe the United States relieved their burden of dealing with violent gangs at El Salvador's expense, and in return, must assist El Salvador in combating criminal gangs. Recently, the United States declared Salvadoran gangs a "transnational threat" and accused the Bukele administration of corrupt negotiations with these gangs. The United States then imposed sanctions on multiple government officials accused of negotiating with notorious local gangs.

Through several modern global conflicts, such as the war in Afghanistan, U.S. participation resulted in nationwide financial and political repercussions. American-bred gangs pose this same threat to El Salvador, obligating America to help fix the problem it created.

The United States should continue conducting thorough investigations to reveal the corrupt nature of the Bukele administration, aiding non-government organizations with resources and law enforcement to mitigate Salvadoran gang violence, and imposing sanctions on corrupt political leaders to emphasize the need to cease their negotiations with gangs. The United States must reevaluate its methods of immigration control and the severe impact that mass deportations may have on the stability of neighboring countries. Though deporting convicts to the Northern Triangle may seem to efficiently remedy overpopulation and gang violence, in doing so, the United States has exacerbated extensive damage and suffering to its neighboring countries.

If the United States is to intervene in the ongoing corruption and gang violence in El Salvador, they must prioritize providing aid to the civilians of El Salvador. Through the proper incorporation of law enforcement and the creation of youth crime prevention programs, the United States will be able to contain the violence caused by Salvadoran gangs and stifle their growth. Diplomatic efforts must be made with the affected nations of the region — El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico — to establish coordinated, comprehensive approaches to dealing with local gangs. Through the collective criminal history and gang affiliation of the United States with the affected countries, they will be able to identify the vulnerabilities of transnational criminal gangs and disrupt their criminal activities. The U.S. will be able to help identify, prosecute, and incarcerate transnational gang members while preventing the growth and birth of new local gangs.

The United States has had an extensive history of gang violence within its borders, whether it be organized crime during the Prohibition era or the ruthless drug cartels of the modern-day. It is this history and the connection to transnational gang origins that cause harm in the Northern Triangle. Considering the U.S.' role in creating Northern Triangle gang violence, the government is obligated to intervene to limit the prominence of gangs in El Salvador. However, it is imperative that instead of punishing and censuring countries with the inability to properly deal with gang violence, the U.S. provides direct support by working to limit gang activity.

Stanley Cho *is a third-former from Busan, South Korea. He may be reached at scho25@choate.edu*

The Proper Response is Clear: We Cannot Negotiate with Russia

By **Tyler Kuo '23**
Copy Editor

As the Ukrainian war continues, Russia's failure to achieve a quick victory and the horrors of their brutal campaign are becoming evident. The pullback of Russian troops from Kyiv and the heavy casualties that Russia has suffered have come as a surprise to Western analysts, many of whom predicted a quick victory for Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Firstly, Ukraine's ability to withstand Russia thus far is the result of the Ukrainians' remarkable resistance, led by its President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Second, Western financial and military aid has helped Ukraine to uphold resistance and enabled them to defend and counterattack with unexpected effectiveness. As the war rages on, it has become increasingly clear that a treaty is not enough to prevent a similar invasion in the future. An outright defeat of the Russian army is necessary.

The war has removed any illusions surrounding the true nature of Putin: that of a brutal dictator willing to kill civilians in pursuit of geopolitical gain. His campaigns have resulted in thousands of deaths for both sides of the conflict. The United Nations estimated a total of 4,400 civilian casualties. While military deaths are expected to be inflated, Ukraine estimates 19,600 deaths in the Russian army, while Russia estimates 14,000 on the Ukranian side of the fight. As the Russian troops' withdrawal from the outskirts of Kyiv has revealed horrifying atrocities of civilian murder, it's clear that Russia's actions are not going as planned and that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) financial aid and economic sanctions are causing major blows to the Russian economy.

In an effort to expedite Russia's defeat, the West should consider even tighter sanctions. More countries should place embargoes on Russian energy exports in order to cut off one of Putin's most significant sources of war financing. The Western allies should consider expanding this ban to natural gas and oil to deal an even harsher blow to Russia's economy. Of course, this type of measure will require significant economic sacrifice on behalf of the Western European countries. Moreover, the U.S. should be far more open to becoming a larger player in oil exports as the oil supply decreases. This could mean raching into its oil reserves to drive down the global price of oil. An effort along these lines will help make other countries more willing to cut off Russia in the meantime.

There continues to be a debate over the motivation behind Putin's war. Was it instigated by NATO or his own desire to reestablish the glory of a Russian Empire? Nevertheless, the war has involved indiscriminate shelling of civilian sites and chilling evidence of targeted executions. The brutal nature of this war makes it clear that Putin is not a counterparty with whom the U.S. should negotiate with. The U.S. should not leave Russia with tracts of Ukrainian land in exchange for peace. While it is unclear if a loss in Ukraine would lead to issues for Putin in Russia, a clear defeat will make it very difficult for him to restart a Ukrainian war in the future.

The U.S. must continue to lead the unified NATO opposition and use the turn of events in these last few days as a rallying cry to continue and intensify support for Ukraine. By increasing military aid to Ukraine and refusing to participate in negotiations with Putin, the U.S. can provide Ukraine with the best opportunity to achieve victory on the battlefield while demonstrating a resolve to deter Putin from future aggression.

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A Dive into the Dorms

The Roadmap to Determining Dorms

Entering the Housing Lottery

With the arrival of beautiful spring weather, 73% of Choate students will soon face the decision of ranking their dorm preferences for next year. What you put on the rooming card is vital, but, ultimately, the housing lottery is more random than the Mega Millions. Thanks to our form deans, it doesn't matter whether you draw a high or low number. They make sure to switch up the selection system each year — low to high, high to low, or somewhere in the middle. Once the deadline arrives, the deans forward their rankings to Mr. Pat Dennehy, Director of Residential Life.

Seismic Shifts

The 2022-23 school year will be one of major housing changes. The disbanding of Memorial House, the only third-form boys' dorm, will take place as recommended by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force. "[It] aligned with our mission, what we wanted to do on the residential life side of things," said Dean of Students Mr. Mike Velez '00. In addition, Archbold will be a fourth and fifth-form boys' dorm; Logan Munroe, East Cottage, Atwater, and Mead will be third-form dorms. More changes can be expected in the coming weeks.

Singles/Triples/Quads vs. Doubles

Two separate rounds of housing lottery occur: first, the singles/triples/quads, and second, the doubles. For both rounds, students fill out a rooming card where they rank all the available dorms. They will then head to the Deans' Office to get a number that determines which dorm they will live in or, in some cases, whether they are admitted for a single/triple/quad. For doubles, two roommates will submit a matching rooming card. The form deans will grant special accommodations to students with medical exemptions.

Potential Aftershock

With the changes to the housing model, some ripple effects are expected in terms of student reactions and lottery implementation. For instance, in the past, rising fifth-form students students have been offered priority for dorms that they stayed in. The drastic shifts, however, would disable some students from obtaining that advantage. "We are trying to figure out what the most equitable way would be to provide that same kind of level of preference and opportunity," said Mr. Velez.

AGH Application

Students who wish to live in All Gender Housing (AGH) submit a separate application before the regular housing lottery. Now in its third year, Choate's AGH program continues to create an inclusive boarding community. Unlike last year, applicants are no longer required to inform their parents or guardians of their choice, although it is still strongly encouraged. The results of the AGH application will be released in the coming weeks to allow those who are not selected to enter the regular housing lottery.

By Olympia Wolff '25
Reporter

Cutest Roommates Awards

By Erin Li '24
Copy Editor

Many factors play an integral role in one's Choate experience — athletics, course load, advisers, etc. However, one overlooked and greatly influential aspect is having a roommate. Roommates accompany each other during long nights of studying and share deep conversations about their campus life. Beyond this, they are built-in friends, providing emotional support as a family away from home.

Martha Chessen '22 and Naomi Fleisch '22

Residing in Homestead, this pair has been rooming together since sophomore year. Chessen and Fleisch recall meeting in freshman year on the first day of school. Since then, they have been inseparable. They enjoy the stability in their relationship and always having someone to talk to at the end of a long day. "If I've had a super long day and I haven't talked to anyone, and I feel super isolated, I know that at a certain point, Naomi will come back, and we'll get to hang out," Chessen said. This pair has grown together throughout their time at Choate. "We have gone through random phases together over the past three years," they shared. "We had a corn nuts phase where we excessively ate ranch corn nuts; we had our ramen Friday nights; and we were watching The Voice videos every night." They enjoy each other's easygoing energy, and they complement each other's personalities. "We're just goofy, and we've never had big drama or anything. But obviously, [we] can talk about serious stuff with each other sometimes," said Fleisch.

Gigi Chen '24 and Isabella Wu '24

Over in West Wing, the All Gender Housing, we can find Chen and Wu. This pair became friends during their freshman year through Choate Quiz Bowl. At the time, Chen, an international student, was attending classes virtually, but this pair didn't allow distance to stand between their relationship. Through being in Quiz Bowl together and sharing many interests, Chen and Wu became closer. They enjoy each other's presence and positive energy. "Gigi really helps me stay centered and on track," said Wu. Chen also shared her appreciation for her roommate through "getting a lot of emotional support and just having someone to chill with." In their room, they enjoy having a chance to "comfortably exist with each other late into the night without really having to do anything," as Chen put it. This pair can be distinguished by their hair-cutting antics. In freshman year, Chen cut Wu's hair in the Student Activities Center (SAC) bathroom and has been doing it ever since. If you see Wu around campus, be sure to compliment her haircut, courtesy of her roommate.

Ryan Lee '24 and Kevin Yi '24

This next pair can be found shooting hoops on the court behind Spencer or joking around in their room. As first-year roommates, Lee and Yi are a lighthearted pair that always bring a fun type of chaos to the room. Even without sharing any classes last year, they bonded through communicating with each other in basketball. "We had a lot of commonalities that we didn't know about," Yi said. They enjoy each other's companionship and having conversations so much so that "every night feels like your sleepover with your best friend," as Lee put it. At times, Spencer 215 becomes a music studio. Yi and Lee share a love for music and transform their room into "Spencer Freestyle Nights," where "kids will come into the dorm and put on a beat, trying their hardest to think of bars — just freestyling and having fun," said Yi. Ultimately, they hope to "influence younger kids, especially incoming students, to form authentic, trustworthy, and reliable bonds [with] each other."

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DORM SUPERLATIVES

1. Loudest: Memorial
2. Quietest: Squire Stanley
3. Neatest: Bernhard
4. Messiest: Memorial
5. Friendliest: KEC
6. Most overrated: Nichols
7. Most underrated: Spencer
8. Most musical: McCook
9. Most dramatic: Library
10. Most aesthetic: Archbold
11. Most athletic: Tenney
12. Most laid back: Woodhouse
13. Most studious: CK
14. Most mysterious: Walsh
15. Best location: Hill
16. Best dressed: Homestead
17. Best view: Archbold
18. Best vibes: West Wing

Graphic by Yujin Kim '23/*The Choate News*

A Guide to Dorms for Rising Fourth-formers

By **Grace Liu '23** and **Jacqueline Yan '24**
Reporter and *Copy Editor*

Hill House: If you live here, you are in the center of it all. Want to get a quick snack at the Tuck Shop? Just walk down a flight of stairs. Want some quiet time to study? Turn in the other direction, and the library is right in front of you. Newly renovated this year, Hill House features fingerprint locks, solitary bathrooms, double shower curtains, and a clean white-walled aesthetic. As the first co-ed dorm on campus, Hill hosts two separate wings, each complete with its own miniature common room, plus two main common rooms and *many* private bathrooms.

Clinton Knight: Although this small, gray-roofed house may not seem so appealing at first glance, Clinton Knight certainly has its perks. Situated in one of the most convenient locations on campus, it neighbors Lanphier Center, the Carl C. Icahn Science Center (CISC), the Paul Mellon Arts Center (PMAC), Colony Hall, as well as the Worthington Johnson Athletics Center (WJAC). It also has its own washing machines *and* a ping-pong table, a necessary accessory in every home.

Tenney: Don't come to Tenney unless you really, really enjoy long walks or grinding it out at the gym. This two-story, double common room boys' dorm is surrounded by athletic fields and, well, other dorms. Twin to Bernhard, Tenney can house forty or so residents within its wide walkways, high-ceilinged common rooms, and sizable rooms. On the not-so-plus side, don't expect to be able to sneak back for a quick nap during your free blocks — you will likely spend half that time on the run.

Memorial House: As the grandest of 'em all, Memorial is a four-story building that can house up to 70 students — the perfect home for party animals. However, this can also pose a problem to those who might want to grind out some school work in the middle of the night. With that being said, the best part of all has to be that this dorm has its very own mini terrace and private garden. Perhaps with the peeking buds of spring, residents may be able to enjoy a game or two in the green outdoors.

Archbold: If you are a Lanphier Cafe regular and hate waking up early, you've found your home. Situated in the heart of campus, Archbold grants its residents the privilege of sleeping in and waking up every day to some well-made coffee. If you live here, you'll never have to worry about sprinting to class in the morning — unless you, unfortunately, have a humanities or language class first. Living on top of the Admission Office, Archbolders also have the privilege of enjoying the best view on campus — two ponds of glittering blue water occasionally greeted by the family of ducks.

Woodhouse: Though not the most impressive in design, this dorm will grant you access to the most important places on campus: the Student Activities Center (SAC), the dining hall, and the health center. Despite its relatively small size, Woodhouse's coziness and homeliness are unmatched. Housing just over a dozen students, this is the place to be for those who enjoy some quality bonding time.

Squire Stanley: If you're a history buff or a sucker for a 1700s aesthetic, Squire is the place for you. George Washington took tea in Squire (or The Red House as it was known at the time) when he was passing through Wallingford during the Revolutionary War. So, basically, every time you boil water to make ramen, you'll be following in the footsteps of one of our nation's founding fathers!

Bernhard: This large, stately dorm is situated perfectly between the Hill House complex and the WJAC, making it the choice for avid athletes. Be prepared, however, for some grueling 8 a.m. walks up the hill if you're a humanities buff. *Soho*, as it is colloquially referred to, boasts sizable rooms and wide, comfortable hallways that serve as the perfect space for mingling with dormmates or prefects.

Library: Library, or Lib, is positioned right in the main hub of campus — only three floors above the ground. Look on the bright side: every day is leg day for Lib residents! This mid-sized dorm strikes the perfect balance for those who enjoy a vibrant social scene but also occasionally need moments to themselves. Its maze-like layout is confusing to visitors but has a haunted mansion-esque charm. Unfortunately, all 30 residents have to share one bathroom; but, this is more than made up for by the two fridges they can enjoy!

Combination: From the outside, Combination appears to be a typical Connecticut single-family home, perfect for homebodies who are thrown off by the overbearing feeling of typical dorms. Although Combination has no singles, its ten or so residents enjoy uber-large rooms, complete with real closets. Gone are the days of stuffing clothes into drab wooden wardrobes and suitcases under your twin XL bed! The common room, though small, contains a brick fireplace complete with a wooden mantlepiece — does it get any more idyllic than that?

McCook: For STEM-oriented folks, McCook arguably has the best location of any dorm: the CISC and Lanphier are both within earshot. The PMAC, Colony Hall, and the WJAC are also within close proximity. The astoundingly tall trees around this building give it the feeling of a fairy tale cottage, complete with a door that opens to a pond with a waterfall. In McCook, rooms wrap around the central common rooms, which are often bustling with activity.

West Wing: West Wing is a foodie's dream: it could not be any closer to the dining hall. You'll be transported back to when you were in elementary school, walking down the stairs to your kitchen after your alarm clock goes off, with a bowl of cereal waiting for you on the counter. Be sure to get lots of cuddles with Simon, the mini Australian Shepherd puppy who calls this wonderful dorm home.

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Choate Presents *Romeo and Juliet: The Choice*

By **Laya Raj '24**
Copy Editor

Colony Hall was honored on April 7 with a performance of the ballet *Romeo and Juliet: The Choice*, where the audience voted to replace Shakespeare's classic tragedy with a happy ending by a margin of 20.

Composed on the piano in 1935 by Sergei Prokofiev, the ballet reflects his vision of an alternate, light-hearted ending to this infamous tragedy, with Friar Laurence stopping Romeo from stabbing himself just in time for Juliet to awaken.

Mr. Frederick Chiu, the pianist who single-handedly accompanied the two-hour-long ballet, learned of Prokofiev's score, written with a happy ending, 30 years ago in Paris. However, the Soviet government insisted that Prokofiev rewrite the ending of his score for the production that they commissioned. The inaugural performance of *Romeo and Juliet* by the Ballet of the National Theater Brno in what was then the Soviet Union ended tragically, adhering to Shakespeare's original ending.

Prokofiev's piece, which unintentionally featured two possible endings, presented Mr. Chiu with an opportunity to create an interactive production of the ballet, *Romeo and Juliet: The Choice*. He envisioned an ending to the ballet that could be voted on by audience members, followed by a debate carried out among a panel of academics. They could determine the fate of the production by choosing between showcasing Prokoviev's originality with the happy ending or staying authentic to Shakespeare's tragic ending.

At a Prokofiev symposium at Louisiana State University in 2016, Mr. Chiu approached Mrs. Sandra Parks, Director of the Arts at Choate, to bring his vision to life after seeing her choreography for Prokofiev's "Music for Athletes."

"When I saw that, I was like, 'Wow, she's got the whole spirit,'" recollected Mr. Chiu. She understands what's going on with Prokofiev: the era, the style, and I asked her and right away, she knew what I was talking about. So we really connected — we were on the same wavelength."

After two years of working together on the piece, the premiere of *Romeo and Juliet: The Choice* took place at Drexel University in 2018, where Mrs. Parks directed the Dance Department. Mr. Chiu and Mrs. Parks intended for this piece to break the fourth wall and foster a deeper connection between the performers and the audience. The performances at Drexel University were presented in a college lobby with movable art-display screens used for projections. The audience sat next to Mr. Chiu as he played, with an eye-level view of the performance. In order to increase audience interaction, Mrs. Parks also created short sections wherein audience members were invited to dance with the cast. "There is a kind of intimacy that I'm trying to create. The interactive element kind of ties in with that as well," said Mr. Chiu. Aria Ramnath '24, reflecting on her experience, said that the live piano music "made the whole performance feel more authentic and as though the dancers were real people [she] knew."

Photo by Garrett Curtis '24/*The Choate News*
Órla Baxendale and Jack Murphy dance in *Romeo and Juliet: The Choice*.

Mrs. Parks's choreography highlights the differences between the opposing Montague and Capulet families. "For me, the music for Montague seems very sharp and straightforward, so their movements are more linear and straightforward and more line-driven. The Capulet music, for me, sounds more circular. So their movement feels more wavy, like up and down movement," said Mrs. Parks. She also incorporated motifs unique to the two sides to reflect the score. "Hopefully the audience can recognize [that] 'Okay, this is a motif happening,' and hear it [in the music]," she added.

Preparations to bring this piece to the Sacred Heart Community Theater in Connecticut began towards the end of 2019 when Ms. Rima Dael '91, General Manager of WSHU Public Radio, joined the project. This show marks the first ballet that WSHU, a radio station owned and operated by Sacred Heart University, has ever produced, as well as the first one to be performed at the community theater.

For the production, Ms. Dael coordinated transportation for the cast and purchased a dance floor for the venue. She also worked with the Director of Development as well as the Communications and Fundraising Department at WSHU to publicize the event. She shares Mr. Chiu's vision of using this work to introduce new audiences to ballet and music.

"We're looking to make sure that classical music isn't just for an older audience — that classical music is really accessible to the broader community," Ms. Dael said. She has also invited students from the Suzuki music schools and the Connecticut Youth Orchestra to attend the performances.

Coincidentally, Mrs. Parks assumed the position of Director of Arts at Choate when the show at Sacred Heart Community Theater started to come together. Mrs. Parks and Ms. Dael wanted to bring the production to Choate and showcase a diverse cast to the school community. Originally from the Philippines, Ms. Dael respects that Mrs. Parks "is casting against type," citing that Mrs. Parks "has people of different nationalities and ethnicities in the work that she does, [and] she has cast women in men's roles and vice versa."

Auditions for the Connecticut production were conducted in Manhattan in December of 2020. Jack Murphy (BFA, The Juilliard School) was cast as Romeo and Órla Baxendale (Scholarship recipient, Alvin Ailey School) as Juliet. "To have dancers right next to me dancing and following the rhythm and landing on a big downbeat — wow, that's powerful," said Mr. Chiu, reflecting on the interactive experience of rehearsing with the dancers. As they usually have to dance to recordings, Baxendale and Murphy valued the experience of dancing to Mr. Chiu's live music. "The fact that he can play that all by himself is amazing," said Baxendale.

Both dancers were most excited about the possibility of having two different endings featured in one piece. "That's like nothing I've ever done before ... You don't know whether you're going to be dying or whether you're going to be living," said Baxendale.

Murphy shared how he and the rest of the dancers only learned which ending they would perform during the intermission after the audience's votes were tallied. Both leads expressed their fondness for Shakespeare's ending over Prokofiev's, stating that the tragic nature of the original ending allowed them to dance with more intense emotions on stage.

In favor of Prokofiev's ending was English teacher Dr. Amber Hodge, one of the four panelists in the performance at Choate. Having focused a lot of their work on adaptation studies, Dr. Hodge made the argument that "Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet is in itself an adaptation based on two earlier works." They stated, "In adaptation studies, you say there was not an original, there was a source. Because everything's really coming from data that takes from all sorts of influences."

Ms. Dael is eager to continue working with Mrs. Parks and Mr. Chiu on future projects and hopes that *Romeo and Juliet: The Choice* is the first of many collaborations between Choate and WSHU. She hopes to bring renowned speakers, performers, and artists that visit Choate to the Sacred Heart Community Theater and the broader Fairfield County community. She said, "I deeply believe in partnering with people and with organizations that have shared missions. And so that's where I see that this is a catalyst [for] some really wonderful partnerships and friendships moving forward."

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Getting Jazzy with the Jazz Combo

By **Katherine Chong '25**
Reporter

Revisit Week was filled with lively music programming by Choate musicians for prospective students and families. Greeting them at the entrance of Colony Hall bright and early was the Jazz Combo, a small group of dedicated and skilled musicians selected from the Jazz Ensemble.

While the Jazz Ensemble typically performs music from the early 1900s, the Jazz Combo delves into more contemporary jazz with a focus on improvisation. Instead of a written score, the group performs on a rhythm or standard that acts as the groundwork on which individual members can improvise and add their own layers to the music. Jazz Combo Director Mr. Matt McLean shared, "We're largely playing without notated music ... You're not playing someone else's music, you're really in control of what you want to play."

The advanced level at which the Jazz Combo plays can be compared to the caliber of professional jazz musicians. Live jazz requires students to have keen mastery over their instrument, a thorough understanding of jazz forms, and a robust music vocabulary, all of which will allow students to successfully improvise in the moment. Jazz Combo drummer, Henry Kops '22, said, "There's a lot less planning, it's a lot of just 'pick up and go.'"

Kops believes that the most crucial element of a successful jazz performance is tacit communication between musicians. Members listen carefully and coordinate with each other to create music that is cohesive and innovative. "It is all about this communication without speaking. And that is a very difficult thing, but the one thing we tried to get better at a lot," said Kops.

Confidence is another key aspect of live jazz. Students need to perform with self-confidence and faith in their skills for their music to make an impact on the audience. Mr. McLean explained that when members improvise, they need to have a "this-is-how-I-meant-it-to-be" type of attitude.

Since Jazz Combo performs live jazz, their rehearsal process is different from a standard Jazz Ensemble rehearsal. Students come together for an hour every week to analyze the music theory behind different songs they are improvising on. Members then use their free time to practice and hone their techniques individually. Jazz Combo pianist, Hugh Holmes '22, likes to spend his hours exploring music. "It's really just going over standards and chords and kind of messing around on the piano, which I already like to do," he said.

Squeezing practice into limited rehearsal time, the Jazz Combo puts together performances at school functions, art openings, admission events, and musical concerts. Mr. McLean believes the most unique aspect of improvisation, which lies at the heart of jazz, is its spontaneity and unrepeatability. "I think part of what draws listeners to jazz is that it's something that lives in the moment. If the same jazz group was going to play the next day, it would sound different," he explained.

Holmes maintains that Jazz Combo is a great way to experience a "different kind of jazz." The Jazz Combo has helped him flourish as a musician and develop both his playing style and preference. "I think everyone should at least give it a shot and listen to live jazz because it's really changed me as a person. And I think it'll probably do the same to other people," said Holmes.

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Photo by Junho Lee '24/*The Choate News*
The Jazz Combo performs at the welcome reception on Revisit Day.

JONNY ALLEN '07 MAKES HIS MARK IN MUSIC

By **Erin Li '24** and **Audrey Lim '23**
Copy Editor and Staff Reporter

When Mr. Jonny Allen '07 picks up his mallets or sticks, audiences watch in awe at the edge of their seats as he thrives in his element. Based in Brooklyn, Mr. Allen travels the world to share his love for music to a wide audience with his percussion quartet, Sandbox Percussion. He also shares his expertise with aspiring percussionists as a percussion teacher at Choate and the University of Missouri - Kansas City. The Grammy-nominated, award-winning percussionist is the latest addition to Choate's list of applauded and accomplished alumni.

After receiving degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Yale School of Music, Mr. Allen proceeded to play with orchestras worldwide and has won prizes in multiple international competitions. He has performed in some of the world's most prestigious concert halls, most notably Carnegie Hall in New York City. While cultivating his global presence, Mr. Allen built his musical reputation in the U.S. He is part of jazz trio Triplepoint, a founding member of the American Modern Opera Company, a member of Sandbox Percussion, and co-director of New York University's Sandbox Percussion Seminar, which takes place every summer.

Despite the many accolades to his name, Mr. Allen was once a Choate student with his fair share of challenging moments. As a new sophomore day student, he worried about how he would make friends, but he found his community within Choate's annual spring musical productions. The productions of Sweet Charity and The Sound of Music "were a really great way to instantly be a part of this group of people," said Mr. Allen. "I've always enjoyed making art with people and being a part of that communal energy."

Mr. Allen also reflected on Choate's inspiring student body. "When the orchestra sounds like a million bucks and your physics class is full of little geniuses, you want to be in an environment where you're not the best one," he said. He was continuously challenged to become a better version of himself. "I was surrounded by people who were all smarter, better, cooler, faster than me, so I was feeling really, really inspired to be like that myself." Choate's rigorous environment had a profound impact on Mr. Allen. His relentless search for communities that challenge him has continued long past his graduation.

Beyond Choate, Mr. Allen has continued to challenge himself and put himself in uncomfortable positions to stimulate greater growth. "In order to feel comfortable being uncomfortable, you should only be afraid to make a mistake that you don't correct," he said. To Mr. Allen, making mistakes is not a setback, but rather, a chance to grow and readjust. This mindset plays an important role in his professional music career. He shared that "one of [his] best performances came after a terrible dress rehearsal," because making mistakes during the rehearsal helped him feel "extra plugged-in and a little on edge." When faced with an inevitable obstacle, "rather than sitting paralyzed by the magnitude of the task," he tackles it by "setting manageable goals that are achievable and doable in bite-sized amounts of time," he said.

Mr. Allen has found a supportive family in Sandbox Percussion, the percussion quartet he joined ten years ago. What first began as musicians paying out-of-pocket to rent their studio space became a nonprofit organization that tours the nation. He expressed appreciation for his fellow members and the close connection they've built. He said, "[It's been] ten years of just really refining our sound and our communication skills, our aesthetic and what we like. There's a sense of pride as you watch it grow." In collaboration with composer Andy Akiho, another Yale School of Music alumnus, Sandbox Percussion composed, recorded, and produced their album Seven Pillars, which was nominated this year for a Grammy in Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance and Best Contemporary Classical Composition.

Photos Courtesy of Jonny Allen '07
Jonny Allen '07 is nominated for a Grammy with his quartet, Sandbox Percussion.

Traveling to Las Vegas for the awards ceremony was a particularly memorable moment for Mr. Allen. "Everyone in our category is a huge inspiration for us. They are four groups that I've looked up to and felt like are doing incredible work, so just to be in there with them was a huge honor," he said.

The Grammy nomination brought Sandbox Percussion's career to new heights. "It's a really exciting thing. After the nomination, we were the same group, same album, same projects and aspirations, but we were getting recognized and invited to play concerts." To Mr. Allen, the Grammy nomination provided greater motivation for him to improve and work harder. "Being a percussionist, I'm just practicing and trying to sound better."

Mr. Allen is currently working on a piece, written by composer and drummer Tyshawn Sorey, for Sandbox Percussion and a pianist. "I'm just really excited to see what he comes up with. His music is incredibly unique, and with his percussionist mindset, I think it could be really cool," he said.

Throughout the progress of his career, and even during his time at Choate, Mr. Allen's love for performing has only deepened. He hopes to share his passion with his audiences around the world and spread the joy of music. "There's something that the stage and an audience give a piece that the practice room just never can," he said.

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SPORTS

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FIELD REPORT

Choate Spring Record

27- 22 - 0

Varsity Games

Girls' Softball (4-0)
vs. Deerfield, 11-0

Boys' Golf (4-2)
vs. NMH , 398-407

Boys' Tennis (5-0)
vs. Exeter, 5-2

Frisbee (1-1)
vs. Hotchkiss, 1-15

Boys' Lacrosse (3-2)
vs. Deerfield, 6-8

Girls' Lacrosse (2-5)
vs. Deerfield, 9-17

Boys' Volleyball (0-1)
vs. Andover, 0-3

Girls' Tennis (0-2)
vs. Hotchkiss, 4-5

Boys' Baseball (3-1)
vs. Hotchkiss, 9-8

J.V. Games

Boys' Lacrosse (1-3)
vs. Deerfield, 7-5

Boys' Golf (1-1)
vs. Taft, 235-224

Boys' Baseball (0-2)
vs. Suffield, 7-5

Girls' Lacrosse (1-3)
vs. Deerfield, 0-9

Boys' Tennis (2-0)
vs. Exeter, 5-2

Meet Choate's Fifth-form Captains

By **Bryant Figueroa '23**
Reporter

With spring sports back in full swing, Choate athletes are returning to the familiar schedule of navigating grueling practices and spirited competitions. A select few, however, have the additional task of leading the rest of their team through it all as well. Although most captains are six-formers due to their experience, these fifth-formers have displayed invaluable leadership skills that have allowed them to rise up through the ranks. Leading a sports team to victory is quite the challenge, but these fifth-form captains have taken on their roles with grace and success.

Graphic by Yujin Kim '23/*The Choate News*

Adam Carroll '23

Carroll feels honored to be selected as one of the four boys' lacrosse captains this season. "I have never really been a super vocal person," Carroll said. "At the end of the day, you just have to be yourself and not let it be any sort of pressure." Despite seeing himself as a "soft-spoken guy," Carroll is confident in stepping up as a junior because of the immense time and effort he has put into the sport. "I have grown a deep and personal relationship with the game," he explained. As a team captain, he makes sure to remember "to keep people's spirits up when they're down," and "to congratulate them when they're up." Carroll looks forward to watching his team improve this season, as he loves "watching people succeed and break new ground." For Carroll, "Focusing on staying positive and bringing energy and intensity will be the big things for this season."

Tenzin Bista '23

Bista was elected Boys' Varsity Volleyball Co-captain by his teammates this year, a responsibility that has given him a lot of confidence. Bista said, "The team placed a lot of trust and responsibility on me." Bista's coaches have provided lots of support in helping him learn to balance both roles of team player and team captain. He explained, "[They] certainly understand that being a captain and a junior is difficult, so I am very thankful for their help in making this transition as seamless as possible." In a fast-paced sport such as volleyball, Bista believes it is critical to be "attentive and observant; you really do need to know what's going on all the time." He believes the most outstanding qualities a captain can have are "empathy and open-mindedness," as he understands that "there are a lot of beginners on [his] team and that everyone has different ways of learning." That being said, Bista's favorite part about being a captain is helping his teammates learn and grow along with himself each day. "I can really tell, even just over the last week, the great improvement this team has made ... it shows that we can be a very successful team."

Michael Korvyakov '23

This past fall, Korvyakov stepped up as the only captain of Boys' Varsity Crew as Korvyakov's teammates believe he has done an outstanding job leading the team. Fellow rower, Halvor Suter '23, praised Korvyakov's hard work and dedication to the sport. His expectation is to always be "on the forefront of workouts, giving it his best." Colin Higginson '23, who has rowed alongside Korvyakov since freshman fall, said, "He's really come a long way since the first time we rowed together." One thing Higginson said Korvyakov does very well is "making sure [they] move in an efficient manner onto the boats." Both Suter and Higginson view Korvyakov as an approachable, passionate captain and a role model for everyone on the team.

Mwendwawangai Daisley '23

Daisley joined three seniors this year as captains of ultimate frisbee. Assuming this new position proved to be a challenging task. "Knowing that you have so much responsibility on a team with so many people can be intimidating at times," said Daisley. Nevertheless, Daisley has handled the position exceptionally well by "being confident in [his] knowledge of the sport and about what [he is] saying but also listening to others, especially [his] fellow captains." Ultimate frisbee is unique in that the team includes both experienced and novice players, which allows the discovery of new potential. Daisley enjoys making sure all of his teammates are improving and having fun like he is. He navigates coaching drills, explains the rules and tactics to the newcomers, and is a role model on the field for all players. His motto — something he has learned throughout the years — is, "Live in the game, live in the moment, and don't overthink it."

Alex Hassett '23

Hassett was both honored and surprised to be selected as a softball captain this year. She was thrilled to find out that her teammates "see [her] as a leader, as someone they could go to." Though Hassett has now earned the title of captain, she sees her position as a continuation of her role last year — leading by bringing passion and positivity to the field. As the only fifth-form captain, she faces the challenge of transitioning from being seen as a friend to being seen as a captain. Thankfully, with the help of her fellow, more experienced captains, the shift has become lighter and much more natural. Hassett enjoys being someone her teammates can reach out to and acting as liaison between the other captains, coaches, and the rest of the team. Hassett is also hopeful about the team's potential and believes they will have a great season. She said, "There has been a lot of maturity on the team throughout the past year."

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SAILING IS BACK ON THE WATER

Graphic by Yujin Kim '23/*The Choate News*

By **Anissa Wang '24**
Staff Reporter

After two seasons of being unable to sail due to the pandemic, the Varsity Sailing team has finally returned to the water. The team has thoroughly enjoyed sailing together during the start of this season and are back to their busy schedule of practicing at the Yale sailing facility in Branford, Connecticut and competing in regattas against several of the highest-ranked high school teams in New England.

The team attended their first regatta of the season at Greenwich Super 10's on April 2. Due to canceled practices because of inclement weather, the regatta was the team's first opportunity to be on the water together this year. Undeterred, the team won two series of five during each of the three races.

The team faced high-level competition; however, they remained persistent and strong. Varsity Sailing Coach Mr. Sam Doak said, "It was a rude awakening for us on our first outing to be against such talent – national contenders – but our young and scrappy team fought hard, and I think that's really good." Although the team had to deal with the difficult circumstances of not having been on the water in two years and having varying levels of experience within the team, Mr. Doak was very impressed with their overall performance. He said, "I was very happy and very proud of what we were able to achieve."

Two years off the water caused a lot of uncertainty for the team during the beginning of this season. According to Mr. Doak, "There was a lot of uncertainty about where things would fall in place, but we seem to be progressing pretty well. We're getting back to sort of normal." Although the School is slowly making the transition back to pre-Covid conditions, there have still been safety protocols put into place to protect Choate sailors at Yale University's sailing facility. Nevertheless, in comparison to the constraints that have confined the team to land workouts, chalk talks, and whiteboard explanations of the technicalities of sailing these past two seasons, these comparatively minor protocols have been able to provide some normalcy in the face of the ongoing pandemic. Initially, Varsity Sailing Co-captains Will Stork '22 and Cecilia Connor '22 felt uncertain about the team's readiness to compete because Stork was the only returning team member. However, despite a hesitant start, Connor said, "We are back to what we were doing freshman year with no Covid. Everyone is getting back in the groove."

The team is excited to get to know each other and to improve over this next season. Mr. Doak said, "We are getting used to, comfortable, and happy with each other and getting that team spirit. We are one of the only co-ed sports teams on campus, so that makes things kind of fun. We spend a lot of time together on the bus, so there is a lot of silliness."

For Connor, sailing provides an escape from the stress of school and she is looking forward to "getting to know everyone on the team better while having fun on the water."

Stork noted, "There's a range of skill levels, so watching everyone mesh together is a really good dynamic."

With a competitive schedule filled with water practices and intense regattas, the Varsity Sailing team looks forward to collaborating and continuing a successful season together.

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Lacrosse Game Under The Lights

By **Carolyn Chen '25**
Reporter

After their 9-7 win against Brewster Academy on Friday, April 1, their first game of the season, the Boys' Varsity Lacrosse team has high hopes for the rest of the season. The game was also the first of the "Under the Lights" series this spring term that included food and refreshments courtesy of CRH Grilling.

"It was the first game under the lights in six years, so that was very exciting for the whole team," said Lewis Schrock '22, one of the team's co-captains. "A lot of energy went into it. The environment was really good too, just having everyone show up and support us," he reiterated.

Co-captain Adam Carroll '23 added, "It's different from last year since there were a lot of Covid restrictions, so it was definitely a lot of fun."

The third co-captain of the team, Braydon Ellis '22, agreed: "Last season was a little bit disappointing because we only had four scrimmages and not a lot of time to practice, so everyone was super excited to go out onto the field."

There were several successful moments throughout the game. Juniors Harrison Keith '23 and Ben Wable '23, "both got a handful of goals for us, so that was really good," said Carroll. Ellis added, "We had a bunch of different goal scorers, which was a good testament to the teamwork that we've been working on."

Team member Daniel Mahoney '23 almost lost a tooth during the game. "I got cross-checked in the face and kind of dislodged a tooth and cracked another one," he explained. Fortunately, he was able to carry on playing. "I'd rather lose a tooth than lose the game, so it could have been a lot worse."

The team plans to carry the same energy and excitement from this game throughout the entirety of the season while continuously pushing themselves to improve and learn from past experiences. Ellis said, "It was definitely a game that we should have dominated more; the scoreboard doesn't really reflect how the game really was. I think we were outworking them." Schrock echoed this sentiment. "It definitely wasn't a perfect game; there was a lot of stuff that we wish we could have done differently or played better. But we ended up getting the win, and we had a lot of fun and played with a lot of energy which is what is most important to us," he said. He firmly believes that this year's team is filled with talent, passion, and great potential. "There's a lot of stuff to clean up, but the potential for this team is really high. I think that we have the talent, the athleticism, the culture, and the will to really be a great team this year."

The upcoming schedule is packed for the lacrosse team as they take on fierce competition. The turnout at games so far has been extremely encouraging. The energy fans bring to the turf plays a crucial role in determining the outcome of each game. Please continue to show up for the Wild Boars as they progress through what looks like a thrilling season.

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