The Choate News

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STUDENT ART CELEBRATED IN NEW PMAC GALLERY EXHIBIT

Photo by Helena Yang/*The Choate News*

The work of Choate students involved in the Arts is on display in the Paul Mellon Arts Center gallery. The image by Joey Hong '19 (above) represents misperceptions of mental health issues.

By **Sasha Bocek '19**
Reporter

The students of Arts Concentration and special arts programs did not fail to entertain their eager peers and faculty members who came to the PMAC for an intimate gathering of the students' gallery opening on Friday night after classes. The exhibit was fresh and full of thought-provoking artwork that was evidently a culmination of months of hard work put in by the students during the fall term.

The artwork was just as diverse as the group who created it. The pieces ranged from colorful splotches of paint on dark canvases to powerful collages relating to current events and recent developments. Each piece was so well-crafted a that one could stand for hours merely admiring the talent of the artists and considering the impact of each work. The colors, the figures, the objects, and the brushstrokes formed realistic, geometric, and abstract pieces. All of the artwork on display was eye-catching and worth the long walk to the other side of campus.

There were a few exceptional pieces that were especially hard to miss. Joanna Ding '19 created an overwhelmingly powerful piece that few could pass by without taking a second look to analyze it. The piece, composed of three white canvases, depicted a gun on the first, a bullet on the second, and empty white space on the third. Both the gun and the bullet were filled with red and black magazine clippings of various words and phrases pertaining to recent gun violence in the country. Words like "White America", "Bigots", and "Tired" were bold and known. Though disturbing, the piece is very commanding in that it causes the viewer to reflect on what the image means to them, and it forces the viewer to consider what the third blank canvas symbolizes by its emptiness.

On the other spectrum of things were Sarah Gurevitch's '19 pieces. She created a mobile- like ladder made up of silver, blue and gold rungs. "I'm very interested in architecture and I just wanted to make something," said Gurevitch. One of Gurevitch's other pieces hung from a wooden block like a chandelier. Gurevitch explained the piece was borne by accident as the process was very experimental, and one decision led to another. Both pieces seemed fairly simple, but brought calmness and peace upon the viewer by their constructions and coloring.

In contrast, the work of Lucy Carpenter '20 was bold. Carpenter used a palette of mostly primary colors that draws one's eye to her work, which includes a notebook that hangs from the ceiling and can be opened to reveal pages of colorful strokes and patterns. The component was something different, and by interacting with the piece, many attendees felt closer to the artwork.

The art exhibit is nothing short of amazing. The students who put it all together deserve every bit of recognition that the student body of Choate has to offer!

Sasha Bocek *may be reached at sbocek19@choate.edu*

Choate Robotics To Launch New Signature Program

By **Samantha Stevenson '19**
Staff Reporter

On December 1, a new signature program, Advanced Robotics Concentration (ARC), was approved by Choate's administration to go into effect for the 2018-2019 school year. This program is a year-long sequence of courses consisting of two core classes – one in the fall and the other in the spring. The program is centered around the FIRST Robotics Competition in the winter. In order to prepare for it, students will take a winter class and participate in the afternoon lab in lieu of a sport. The competition itself applies more advanced skillsets than the VEX competition that the Choate Robotics team currently does.

Participants of the program will be accepted based on an application process. It is open to rising fourth, fifth, and sixth formers who have approved experience or have taken prerequisite courses such as Intro Robotics, Robotics II, Reverse Engineering, and Topics in Engineering. Mr. Andrew Murgio and Mr. Kyle Di Tieri, faculty advisors to the Robotics team and key coordinators of the program, hope that ARC will improve Robotics at Choate as a whole by letting students take on greater challenges and apply knowledge to real life examples.

The first course of the ARC program is Robotics Design and Fabrication held in the fall term. In this class, students will learn how to be accountable for their own work rather than relying on a team. They will learn to design their own robots from the ground up and will be taught valuable skills including "soldering, testing circuitry, CAD design, wiring, electrical prototyping with a breadboard, fabrication with power tools, programming with appropriate languages, and project management," as states the course description.

The second course is Autonomous Robotics during the spring term of the program. This course builds off of the fall term, as students will use their personally designed robots and make them autonomous, meaning the robots will be programmed to move and interact on their own. Mr. Di Tieri said, "We were worried when we were making this signature program that the goal for autonomous robotics would fall to the wayside, so we wanted to make sure there was a course specially created for students to hone in on it, because autonomous robotics is a current hot topic. Autonomous cars and drones have becoming increasingly popular. Students who graduate from Choate should be prepared for that."

The purpose of having a course in the fall and another in spring is to supplement the skillsets that the FIRST Competition lacks, such as self-reliance and an understanding of autonomous robotics. Mr. Murgio and Mr. Di Tieri took the material that this advanced competition lacked and put it together in their own courses. Students not in the ARC program will be allowed to enroll in the fall and spring classes if spots are available, but ARC students will have priority.

The focus of the entire program is the FIRST Robotics Competition in the winter. To prepare, students will program their robots during a class period, in addition to focusing on it outside of school during the afternoon lab portion of the course. This competition is a step up from VEX Robotics, which is the current focus of Choate's team. Each year, the challenge of the VEX Competition is announced the

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Choate Students Travel to Osaka, Japan for Global Symposium

Photo courtesy of Abbie Chang

Choate students interact with students from schools in Vietnam, Japan, and the Philippines.

By **Siri Palreddy '20**
Reporter

In the second to last week of fall term, when most Choate students were studying for tests and making up homework, Abbie Chang '19 and Owen Orthwein '19 went on a week-long trip to Osaka, Japan as Choate's student representatives at the Think For The Future Global Symposium.

The Think For The Future Global Symposium is an annual global conference that began two years ago. Choate has been invited since its beginning by the host school, Seifu Nankai Senior High School. Along with Choate, students from Colegio de San Juan de Letran, in the Philippines, and Le Hong Phong High School and Marie Curie High School, both in Vietnam, attended.

Chang and Orthwein each had slightly different reasons for applying to the program that wanted students who were "willing to communicate with people from different countries and enjoy sharing ideas and opinions with them through various activities."

Orthwein said, "I felt I would get a better feel of the culture going to school in Japan than just going as a tourist." Chang had similar thoughts, but was additionally attracted by the actual program. Chang said, "I looked into the website from the school and their pamphlet from the year before, and it sounded really interesting."

When Chang and Orthwein arrived at Seifu Nankai, they and the other students were split up into four groups, three groups for scenario planning and the last for a panel discussion. "I was in the scenario planning group," Chang said, "which is what I'd been really interested in when I looked

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Women in STEM
Examining gender disparity in STEM at Choate.
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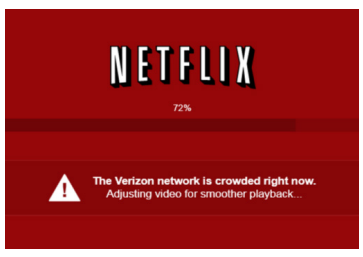

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Read it then recycle it.

Visuals by Choate Rosemary Hall, Huffington Post, Kathryn Phillips, and Helena Yang.

Examining Gender Disparity in the STEM Fields at Choate

Despite strides, female students remain underrepresented in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math at Choate

By **Nicole Yao '18**
Reporter

In January 2005, then-President of Harvard University Larry Summers spoke at a conference about diversifying the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) workforce. Addressing the lack of women in these fields, he said, "There are issues of intrinsic aptitude, reinforced by what are, in fact, lesser factors involving socialization and continuing discrimination." Summers's insinuation that women are "intrinsically" inept at math and science drew rebuke from the majority of the audience, a clear indication of people's broadening perspective towards a historically underrepresented group in STEM.

While society has made significant strides towards equity in STEM workplaces since 2005, the lack of female representation remains unresolved. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics last year, women make up nearly 50 percent of the U.S. workforce, but only 35 percent of scientists and 15 percent of engineers on average. Since 1991, the percentage of women in computer science has actually decreased.

A closer look into Choate Rosemary Hall illuminates issues that may deter women from pursuing STEM and steps the school's administration has taken to overcome them. Such measures have aimed to increase female students' interest in science and math courses, but are they working?

An analysis of Choate's annual departmental prizes, awarded to students who have excelled in a certain subject, reveals disparities in gender. In the past 28 years, female students have won only 37 percent of math awards and 35 percent of science awards. The gender imbalance is even more pronounced in computer science courses: girls received less than 10 percent of these prizes since 1990.

Certain disciplines are also unevenly split between students of different genders. "Our top-level physics classes have traditionally been some two-thirds to three-fourths boys, whereas our upper-level biology classes tend to skew towards girls," observed Mr. Ben Small, head of Choate's science department. But why are there such notable differences?

60% male

Is the average gender ratio in a math class at Choate.

"There is absolutely an issue of participation," explained Dr. Matthew Bardoe, Head of the Math and Computer Science department at Choate. "That's been something that we've been looking at over the past several years and talking about ways to ameliorate."

Indeed, enrollment records in non-required math and science electives reflect the inequality in Prize Day awards. In the past five years, boys have represented more than 60 percent of students in the average math class and 55 percent of students in the average science class. Computer science and robotics are particularly male-dominated fields. This academic year, female students make up only a third of those enrolled in programming-related classes, with past years faring similarly.

Another prominent club on campus, Choate's Robotics Team, is also predominantly male. This year, less than 40 percent of participating students are girls. However, when the club began in 2013, there was only one girl on a team of seven. Likewise, when Elise Hummel '18 joined robotics in its second year, there was only one other girl. Hummel said, "As a freshman with no robotics experience, I definitely felt intimidated on the team at first. I had a ton of questions, but as one of the only girls, I didn't want to ask them. Admitting that I didn't know the basics of how to build a robot would reflect badly on a girl's potential for STEM-related activities. Luckily, my teammates at the time were extremely supportive, and I was able to learn quickly."

Now in her senior year, Hummel is one of the two female co-captains. Though the team is still not divided evenly gender-wise, it's significantly better than it was in its earlier years. Hummel said, "Generally, I think the team has grown to the point where girls aren't as apprehensive in joining, where they aren't afraid to ask questions or make suggestions to their male teammates. Honestly, that's more important to me than winning championships."

Rebekah Agwunobi '19, who has taken college-level computer science classes since her freshman year, shared many of Hummel's sentiments. "I was the only girl and freshman in my Application Development class, and it was an unbelievably intimidating and difficult environment to succeed in," she said. "It made me question my passion for and ability in computer science several times throughout the term."

Notably, two of Choate's science signature programs have maintained nearly equal numbers of male and female students. These are programs to which students must be accepted, however, and faculty members may be artificially evening the numbers.

First is Choate's Science Research Program (SRP), which offers a select group of students the opportunity to conduct research at university laboratories. In the past three years, boys have comprised nearly 55 percent of students in the Quantitative section, while girls made up the same percentage in the Biology section. Likewise, applicants to the program are nearly equal in terms of gender. For the class of 2019, 55 percent of interested students were girls.

Students in the Environmental Immersion Program (EIP) at the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC) are usually split evenly between genders; however, there has been a recent skew toward women. Since the program's inception in 2013, just over 50 percent of participants have been girls. The past two years, however, have been particularly female-dominated, with only a third of EIP students being male. The first-floor dormitory — originally intended for only boys — was even partitioned into two this year, so the program could accommodate more girls.

I had a ton of questions, but as one of the only girls, I didn't want to ask them .

Elise Hummel '18
Choate Robotics Co-Captain

Gaby Garcia '19, a current student in the EIP, offered her opinion on why more girls than boys at Choate have lately pursued environmental science. "Girls have been taught to be more emotional, so they've developed a connection to the environment because of aesthetic appeal," she said. "Meanwhile, boys haven't necessarily been taught that through the masculine perspective."

While being emotionally aware of the environment may be associated with girls, excellence in math and natural sciences has historically been a male trait. A quick look at the professional STEM world reveals such a trend: of the 328 Nobel Prizes in Physics, Chemistry, and Medicine awarded since 1901, only 18 of the recipients were women. Nobel Committees have done little to recognize more outstanding female contributions in science; this year's Nobel Laureates in those same fields were all men.

While multiple studies have disproved this concept of male superiority across various contexts, these stereotypes appear to be still ingrained in today's society. The general consensus among students and teachers at Choate is that sexism, if it exists on campus, is implicit. Rather than people being outwardly sexist, their biases are subtle, shaped by remnants of a societal stigma that dictates men to be more fit for STEM fields.

"We live in a world that goes far beyond Choate, and this isn't necessarily an issue of sexism at Choate," said Dr. Bardoe. "It's definitely an issue of sexism in the world, and this is a way Choate, at times, reflects the world in which we are in."

Over the years, as society has arguably become more supportive of women in STEM, the gender inequality in Choate's Prize Day awards has decreased. From 1990 to 2000, female students earned only 26 percent of prizes related to math or science, significantly lower than the average of 35 percent across the past 28 years. Since 2000, however, that number has remained relatively stable at 37 percent, indicating minimal progress in almost two decades. Ms. Irma LiVigni, a data analyst at Choate's Registrar's Office, also noted the narrowing gap between genders in enrollment in math and science electives.

Ms. Yuxin Xie, a Chemistry and Biology teacher, said, "I don't think this is what any of the teachers are pushing forward, or that this is what Choate wants. It is occurring as a result of the culture that we are living in as a whole. However, if we do not directly address it, we're just letting the problem continue."

It's definitely an issue of sexism in the world, and this is a way Choate, at times, reflects the world in which we are in.

Dr. Matthew Bardoe
Math and Computer Science Department Head

While there is no doubt that Choate has progressed over the years, female students nonetheless continue to be underrepresented in various STEM fields — perhaps due to lingering social stigma. Different cultural impressions of women in STEM may also impact Choate students, who hail from over 40 countries.

At school, internal bias toward male students may manifest through the Pygmalion effect, or self-fulfilling prophecy. In this phenomenon, first discovered in a study conducted by psychologist Robert Rosenthal and educator Lenore Jacobson in 1968, higher expectations unconsciously lead to an increase in performance. In the case of education, teachers who were raised to implicitly believe that men are dominant in STEM may project this belief in their teaching, leading boys to more success and perpetuating the narrative that they are better suited for such fields.

Of course, this is only a possible explanation for the gender disparities at Choate. Several teachers have, in fact, undertaken measures to prevent themselves from being biased.

"As a teacher, I try to treat every student equitably so that they each have the same opportunities," said Mr. Small. "I've even directed some of my classes, particularly my physics classes, towards girls to make sure that they participate and don't feel like it's a male-orientated class." Some teachers make note of each person they call on to make sure the gender ratio is even, while others use random number generators to decide which student to call on. When grading students, Mr. Small evaluates assessments without first looking at the student's name.

Faculty at Choate have also taken steps to promote certain courses even before students enter the classroom. Both Mr. Small and Dr. Bardoe cited hiring similar numbers of male and female teachers as an attempt to combat gender imbalance. "It was very important of us to hire a computer science teacher somewhere who would be a woman. It's important to hire math teachers who can teach upper level courses who are women," Dr. Bardoe said. "And we did that." Currently, Choate's gender ratios for math and science teachers are 43 percent and 52 percent women, respectively.

Ms. Xie has been working closely with Mr. Small to help create a more inclusive environment for female students in the sciences. The department has been discussing issues that arise when trying to support girls in STEM, and how girls might not even be getting enough support. They're also reviewing the curriculum, examining which scientists are discussed and trying to incorporate more female scientists.

Mr. Small added, "I hope that teachers and advisers will actively promote those courses for younger students," he said. "I'm afraid that there might be a gender bias there – an instinct to say to a girl, 'drop down to regular,' and to a boy, 'you're not working hard enough. Tough it out.' "

But how do Choate students actually feel?

"I have been in STEM classroom environments where I felt like me and my female counterparts had to overtly express our own competence for our contributions to be considered valid," said Agwunobi.

Michelle Zhuang '18, on the other hand, denied any negative experiences. "Choate really goes out of its way to be inclusive of all people and all interests," she commented.

Fritz Legaspi '18 echoed a similar sentiment. "Possibly coming from a place of privilege, I honestly cannot say that I believe sexism against females in STEM is present at Choate," he said. "Some of the people I've admired the most in STEM are females, like Stephanie Chan '16."

Agwunobi concluded, "I think we as a community must cultivate learning environments based on respect and not allow our implicit biases to dictate the way we treat women in STEM. I also think we need to support girls further in their STEM classes and create classroom atmospheres that enable everyone to succeed regardless of gender, race, or sexuality."

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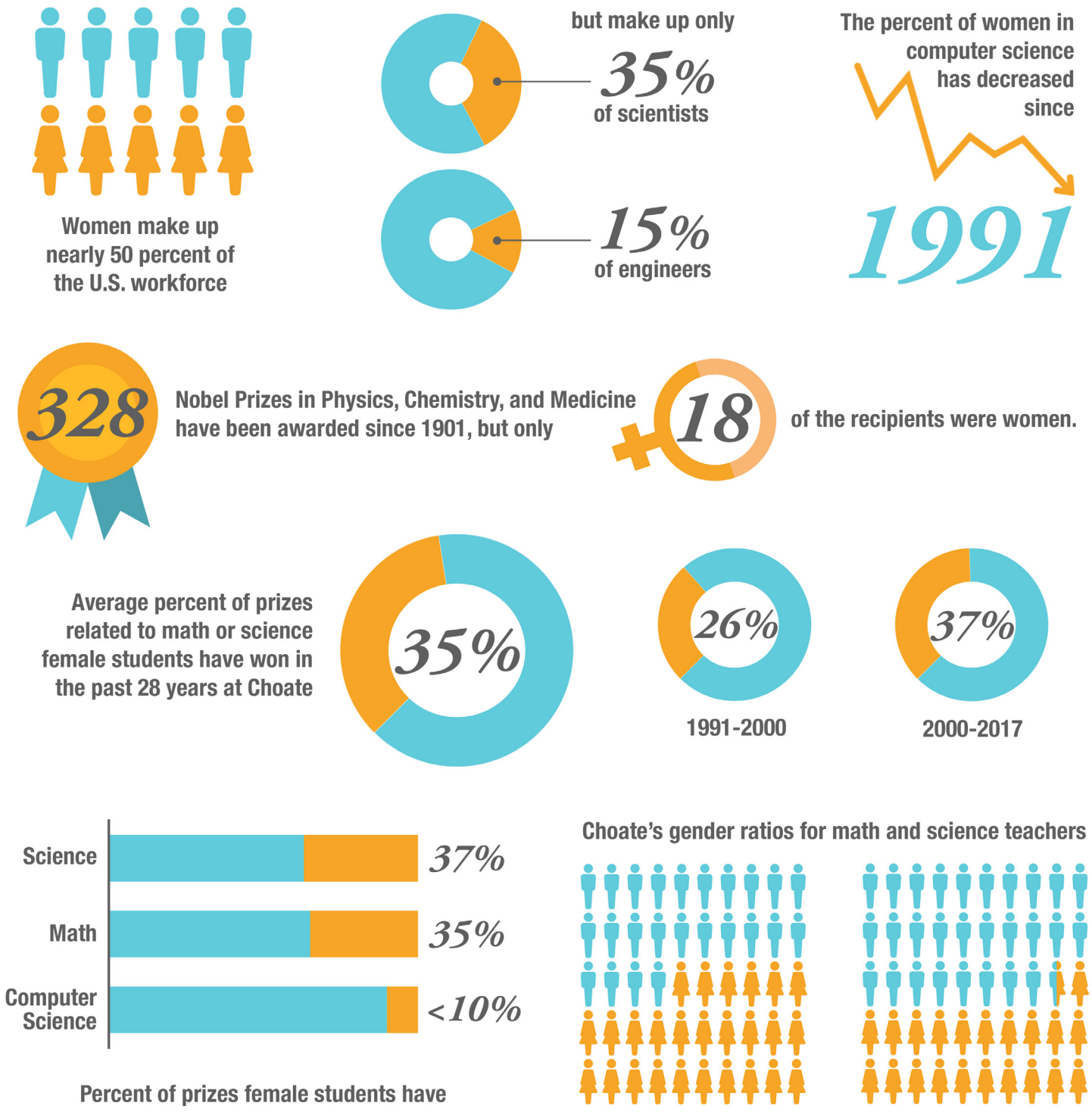

Graphic by Ariel Zhang/*The Choate News*

There is a lack of representation and recognition for women in STEM both around the world and at Choate.

Faculty Spaces Added to Gunpowder Creek Parking Lot

By **Abbie Chang '19**
Associate Editor

Many junior and senior day students who drive themselves to school were surprised to recently see a row of new signs at the head of the parking spaces in the familiar Gunpowder Creek parking lot. This section of the lot, as Mr. James Stanley, Dean of Students, explained during school meeting, is now reserved for arts faculty members, as the previous PMAC parking lot is now within the bounds of the construction zone for the new building.

While the change may have been jarring for day student drivers, it is equally, if not more impactful for PMAC faculty. With the PMAC parking lot out of commission and about fifty faculty members who need to get to and from the Arts Center every day, a sizable number of parking spots is essential.

"Deighna [DeRiu] and her team working props and costumes will have a particular challenge," said Director of the Arts Department Ms. Kalya Yannatos. As some arts faculty need to carry large instruments from their cars to the building, the proximity of the Gunpowder Creek lot makes it the most ideal substitute.

Though the reserved spots are the closest to the Arts Center, arts faculty will still need to anticipate this slightly lengthier commute, especially with music or theater related materials in tow. However, Ms. Yannatos is optimistic about the transition, saying, "Eventually they will adjust to the additional time necessary to ensure they make it to their lessons on time."

Even in the brief amount of time the signs have been installed, day students have become alarmed. "When I came in for school meeting on Tuesday, I couldn't find anywhere to park," described Kobe Tray '19.

As the parking spaces for arts faculty take up a significant portion of the lot, some day students will need to park in the lots near the ice rink, a proposition that some are opposed to due to the additional time it will take to walk to classes. The safety of the spaces farther from the PMAC has also been contemplated by students, both in terms of their increased distance from academic buildings in bad weather, and the poor lighting near the pool and old student activities center.

Some day students had suggestions for relieving congestion within the Gunpowder Creek parking lot. Tray recommended the reinstallation of the gravel parking lot that once existed between the football field and North Elm Street, saying, "I think that would maximize space and would be way more efficient for students." Affected community members will be pleased to hear that the current parking arrangement is only a temporary solution. "The long-term goal is for a new lot to be built off Rosemary Lane at the top of the new building," said Ms. Yannatos. However, the Gunpowder Creek parking lot is currently set to remain shared parking for day students and arts faculty for the duration of the PMAC construction.

Despite having to endure this daily inconvenience, day students and faculty members alike have expressed that the benefit of the future building far outweighs the hassle of parking. "The fact that we'll have a space for the entire school in which to meet all together is a blessing," said Ms. Yannatos.

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Conference Offers Exposure to Japanese Culture

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at their pamphlet." Essentially, Chang's group was given a topic, The Future of Air Travel, and then had to make a plan for what they thought that would look like in the future based on different factors while having the opportunity to collaborate with many people from a variety of nations. "Even though I do have that opportunity at Choate, which is amazing, it's a really different experience to do that in the home country of some of the people you're doing that with," said Chang.

Meanwhile, Orthwein was a part of the panel discussion, which focused on the subject of Global Leadership. "We were given a couple different questions to think about before we came to the discussion, like, 'Do you want leadership?' and 'What values does your country look for in leadership?' We talked about that for most of the time," said Orthwein.

Chang and Orthwein also got to see how different Japanese schools were from Choate. Orthwein commented, "I think everyone there was really motivated, similar to Choate, but at the same time, home, school, and outside of school were all separate."

Cleanliness was also a priority in Japan. For instance, all students had two pairs of shoes, one for inside, and one for outside, to keep the floors clean. Even the public transportation system was very different. "It was very quiet, and everywhere we went it was super-clean," Chang noticed. "People would fall asleep on the train and have their stuff sitting in front of them without worrying it would get stolen."

After presenting their work in front of the entire school, Chang and Orthwein reflected on their trip and what they learned. Orthwein said, "Everyone was very nice, friendly, respectful, and sometimes at Choate, we kind of forget about that."

Chang said, "For me, I think at Choate we sometimes come into things with preconceived notions about people." She continued, "But with this, there's no way to do that, because we didn't know who the others would be, so it eliminated that possibility and allowed us all to become really close friends. The whole experience made me want to live in Japan."

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STUDENTS ATTEND DIVERSITY CONFERENCE IN CALIFORNIA

Photo courtesy of Saleha Farooqui

Several representatives from Choate traveled to Anaheim, California for the Student Diversity Leadership Conference.

By **Peter DiNatale '21**
Staff Reporter

From November 30 to December 2, a group of Choate students and faculty traveled to Anaheim, California to attend the Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) and the People of Color Conference (PoCC) to learn about the topic of diversity. The conference was focused in part on how to bring new perspectives back home and raise diversity awareness. Participant, Saleha Farooqui '18, explained, "We did a lot of activities surrounding core cultural identifiers: race/ethnicity, gender, religion, socioeconomic status, ability, and sexual orientation. Each of them sparked a lot of discussion, and over the course of the three days, we covered all of these identifiers."

At SDLC, students were separated into groups to discuss topics surrounding diversity and share personal stories. One activity, in particular, involved forming "affinity groups," in which participants were separated by an identifier of their choice for the discussion. Mr. Filipe Camarotti, a Choate science teacher who went on the trip, explained, "This is a time for you to be with people like you, so you can talk about the experience of being you."

One of the biggest aspects of the conference that Choate students took away from this experience was reflecting on their own lives and personal privilege. Lani Uyeno '19, another student at the conference, said, "After hearing people's personal stories with diversity identifiers, I realized that I am privileged in more than just a financial way."

While the students took part in their respective workshops, the faculty in attendance had their own scheduled day of activities. After dropping off the students with their chaperones, the faculty attended PoCC. Here, adults met and listened to different keynote speakers, many of whom are activists. One example is Kimberlé Crenshaw, a scholar of law and cultural studies who popularized the term intersectionality.

After hearing presentations from the speakers, faculty had the choice to go to workshops that taught how to better diversify the curriculum and support students. "It is an amazing opportunity to be with people that excite you and that you can learn from in numerous different ways," said Mr. Camarotti.

After attending SDLC, students and faculty were inspired to bring what they learned back to Choate and possibly alter our Diversity Day. "Back on campus, we want to change how Diversity Day is done at Choate, though we are not sure how we will be able to recreate the same atmosphere as SDLC," explained Farooqui.

Mr. Camarotti added, "Diversity is just not talked about or integrated into independent schools as much as we would like it to be or as we feel is necessary."

This year's SDLC participants agree that the conference is a great way for any student to learn about the personal experiences of others and reflect on their diverse perspectives. Uyeno said, "I think these conversations will bring the community closer together and help us realize that we are privileged in many different ways."

Farooqui concluded, "It is truly intense yet rewarding because of the open and honest atmosphere, and I hope every Choate student is able to go to it."

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#NOMORE CAMPAIGN FEATURED ON CAMPUS

By **Laila Hawkins '19**
Reporter

Choate's Diversity Student Association (CDSA) invited students to participate in the photo series campaign "#NoMore." All around campus there are posters with photos of faculty and students holding up signs. The signs have handwritten messages like "No more bystanders," "No more calling victims LIARS," and "No more network of enablers."

NO MORE, an organization started in 2013, provides a "visual way to express support for ending domestic violence and sexual assault," as said on its website. Its mission is to bring issues of domestic violence and sexual assault and abuse of men, women, and children to global attention.

Rebekah Agwunobi '19, a CDSA member, said NO MORE's hashtag "is a specific response to 'justifications' of rape and sexual assault used to blame survivors, and the campaign requires all of us to stand as allies against 'victim-blaming' and rape culture in our own communities." The purpose of #NoMore is to "ignite a student-led initiative against sexual violence and change the conversations about rape and consent on our campus."

In addition, Kathryn Phillips '20 said the long-term goal of the photo series campaign is "to all work together in the community to solve problems and try to take steps toward taking action." Agwunobi added, "In an extremely privileged community, we often fail to recognize the realities of domestic violence and sexual assault in our community".

CDSA began their photo series by contacting a variety of student groups and teams to participate. One problem CDSA faced in terms of student participation was the lack of student diversity. "What we are trying to do is bring people from the whole school, not just people we know are supportive of the topic," explained Phillips. She continued, "A trend I have noticed is that people don't know what to say, so they avoid the campaign entirely."

Despite this, CDSA received a good turnout. Dominic Thomas '21 said that he participated in the campaign "to help end sexual assault and encourage others to stand up and speak out."

Sam Kaplan '19 said, "I read about the campaign and decided I wanted to be a part of it. I have seen similar things around campus and their impact on people."

Similarly, Shraya Poetti '19 said, "Every single person who participates is important." She also said that fostering more candid conversation about domestic and sexual violence is important because "we are not always going to be in a community that fosters protection for people in those situations. I think only addressing part of the issue, which is sexual assault — the umbrella term — is not enough. You're not going to be in the Choate bubble forever, so you need exposure to these hard topics."

Participant, Matt Brown '19, wrote "No more excuses" on his poster because he feels as though "there are a lot of stigmas that are covered up by just being able to explain your way out of it or saying, 'it's just the way it has always been.'" Brown decided to get involved because of his motivation to stand against sexual violence and bring awareness to the problem. He says that "it never hurts to have more exposure and for more people to know about issues like this, just because that can stop something from happening in the future."

Pictured beside Brown, Alice Volfson '19 decided to get involved with the campaign because "the slightest bit of activism brings attention to the problem and brings us closer to the solution."

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ARC Program Takes Robotics to the Next Level

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spring before, giving participants months to prepare. However, the FIRST Robotics Competition allows only six weeks of preparation. During those weeks, high school teams around the world create robots weighing up to 120 pounds with advanced technology. Mr. Di Tieri said, "Choate is very rigorous, and time is hard to come by. When deciding whether or not to establish ARC at Choate, we looked at peer schools to see if they have implemented similar programs and not many have, which made us question whether or not we should. However, we found that the schools that do have it have very strong students in their programs. The value behind it is extremely important in terms of the skills that you learn in the program."

Will Wu '19, an active member of Choate Robotics, is excited to see what the new program will offer. "For the students who already have had experience before, it will be a step up and an extension to what we have learned in the past curriculums. It will be a more challenging course for us, and as Robotics people, we definitely love the challenge," he said.

Nandini Erodula '18 is one of the captains of the Robotics Team and has taken all of Choate's Robotics courses. Though she will graduate in the spring, Erodula is thrilled that Choate is making great strides in improving the robotics program, especially concerning the autonomous portion. She said, "The program is made for students to create robots that are autonomous, which means that they can adapt to the environment based on their initial programming. This is something we've never done at Choate."

Mr. Murgio has wanted to get Choate involved with the FIRST Robotics Competition and create an ARC program since the start of Choate Robotics. He said, "We want to get a larger number of students involved in taking robotics courses rather than just being involved with the team in the club. Most significantly, we want to expose the most interested students in a higher level of competition and design and more advanced work than they are currently doing, which will be better preparation for students that might want to go into engineering."

Photo courtesy of Choate Robotics

Next year, Choate will participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition.

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The Choate News

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Finding Connection Through Religion

By **Mpilo Norris '18**
Opinions Writer

What are your religious or spiritual beliefs? Why do you adhere to them? What's your story? Growing up in a religiously devoted Christian family, church, home, and social life were almost inextricably intertwined. Living with a single mom, I consider my church community as part of my actual family, leaning on them for support, encouragement, and counsel. Even at Choate, being separated from that community, I try to maintain a connection through attending weekly services and having personal devotion. But I continue to wrestle with a question that I've simply tossed aside in the past: "Why am I Christian?" The beauty that is our cultural and spiritual diversity often conflicts with the notion of there being one correct religion, and my interactions over the years with students on this campus continue to highlight that conflict. Recently, I asked a variety of Choate students about their reasoning for their spiritual convictions. My goal was to identify patterns and use that to better understand why I adhere to my own religion.

Religion often carries a cultural affinity, and this relationship attaches religion to our very identity. Said Roshni Surpur '20 of the Hindu faith, "When I do not follow the daily prayers or other rules I should have been practicing, [I feel I am] losing touch with my culture and background. It's something I hope to work on." As her family is devoted to Hindu traditions, she "never really had a say in what she believed" and although today identifying as "not very religious," she says, "I am still grateful for having been able to learn about a religion based off of my culture [— a culture] I'm proud of."

The relationship between religion and culture is a reality for many at Choate, yet beyond that, some cite that they find social good through their religious devotion. Sophie Hare '18 says that what she loves about Judaism is its "emphasis on forgiveness." Although growing up in a Jewish home, Sophie says she wasn't forced into it: "I chose [it]."

Mark Su '18, a Buddhist, also made a personal decision to follow his religion. He reported, "In Buddhism, there are four precepts: Do no harm, say no lie, don't steal, and don't consume anything that clouds your mind. I choose to follow all four. I especially enjoy that altruism is essential to the development of a true Buddhist." As a Christian, such rhetoric resonates with me, reminding me of Jesus's counsel to love others as one loves oneself because such is the fulfilment of the whole law.

Illustration by Chandler Littleford

The Director of Spiritual Life, chaplains, and faculty advisers in Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, and Roman Catholic traditions guide students in a variety of religious expressions.

In addition to external, communal good, religion often improves personal well-being. Katie Lee '18 said, "I can't imagine life without Christianity; it's where I get my joy, perspective, gratitude, and stability. Knowing I'll always have Christianity in my life no matter what I'm doing, or whom I'm with gives me such comfort." And this sense of fulfillment encourages Katie to share her faith with others. "My responsibility as a Christian is to spread the love of Christ." Su agreed, claiming that Buddhists "actively spread their [good] karma to others to make others' lives better as well."

Despite all that religion achieves for many on campus, perhaps religious devotion is not all that necessary to access those things. Said Alan Luo '18, a professed atheist, "To me, religion has always been about faith. There are some things you're just supposed to believe. On the other hand, one of my values is to always be critical and questioning of everything, to never take anything at face value. Therefore, religion poses a fundamental philosophical difference in the way I think about things. This is not to say that I am not spiritual. I think that religious spirituality is too focused on finding peace in something you can never observe. Rather, I prefer to take solace in concrete, observable things, like nature, knowledge, or music."

So why am I a Christian? Through the values of Christianity, I feel a meaningful connection both to my loved ones and community. It gives me foundation, influences my identity, and guides me through life. I doubt I'll stop being a Christian, but what I continue to learn every day, is that across all different cultural and spiritual backgrounds, our shared commitment to appreciate and cherish life is what should bind us all together.

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The Sixth Course Conundrum

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

Taking six courses has grown in popularity at Choate. The simple process of adding a sixth course to a student's class has given all students an opportunity to add an extra course to their typical load. This change in attitude encourages taking a sixth class and has created an impression that students taking five classes are at some sort of disadvantage compared to students taking six. While five courses was the average course load at Choate, the average course load has gradually become six, which the new schedule does not aide because of the extra time spent in the classroom.

Taking six courses has become a burden that students now feel is necessary to have in their lives.

Students taking six courses with the new schedule have two and a half fewer free hours than they did with the old schedule, which means that students are expected to do more work with less free time. Last year, students taking six courses had eight 45-minute free periods during the week, which amounted to six hours of free time during the school day that could have been used to get ahead on homework. Students taking six courses with the new schedule now have three 70-minute free periods during the week, which amounts to three and a half free hours during the school day. This cuts free time from the old schedule roughly in half, making a sixth course an extremely hard feat to tackle with schoolwork from the other five courses and extracurriculars.

Oftentimes, free periods aren't even free for many students. Knowing the average Choate student, those frees periods are often consumed by music lessons, tours, or tutoring sessions. All in all, the work that comes along with taking six courses is quite strenuous without much free time in the new schedule to complete it.

With the new schedule, there are two ways the schedule of a student taking six courses can play out. The first potential scenario is having three classes for three days of the week, four classes on one day, and five classes on one day. The second scenario is having four classes everyday except for one, which will consist of two classes. Last term, I was dealt the former option. I quickly found that this was the better option, as there is only one tough day during the school week. While this schedule was still difficult for me to maintain, I found it manageable if I planned in advance.

This term, I had six courses on my schedule again, but my sole free period changed. I now shifted to the latter option of four classes everyday, except on Wednesday when I had two classes. No matter how far in advance I found I had planned, I could not seem to catch up with the workload. This led me to drop my sixth course. Preparing for four classes almost everyday wreaked havoc in my life, and I was simply looking to avoid the stress that each day brought.

Of course, there are certain circumstances in which students must take six courses. After all, new sophomores and juniors have to fulfill their requirements somehow. However, taking six courses has become a burden that students now feel is necessary to have in their lives. Six classes is now a norm on campus, which only adds to an already stressful environment. By all means, students should be able to take the economics or music theory course they have been longing to pursue since arriving at Choate. They simply must beware the time commitment and stress that may come with it.

Sarah Gurevitch *is a fifth former from Naples, FL. She may be reached at sgurevitch19@choate.edu*

ART IS A CATALYST OF ACTIVISM

By **Derek Ng '20**
Associate Editor

I play Lloyd in this year's winter production at Choate, *Blue Stockings*. Lloyd could not be more different from me: he is a white undergraduate studying at Trinity College, a constituent college of Cambridge University in England, and he is overwhelmingly misogynistic. The title of the play refers to the word bluestocking, a derogatory term used frequently in the late 1800s, meaning an intellectual woman. Lloyd's deep-rooted antifeminism directly correlates to the theme of the play: the ongoing journey of humankind to equality. *Blue Stockings* alludes to the New Woman feminist ideals of the late 1800s, ideals that marked an increase in the number of educated women in Europe and the United States. I joined this production not only to widen my horizons as an actor, but also to make my own personal statement about the importance of art as a means of sparking dialogue.

Art is perhaps the most wondrous tool available to us. It is a cheap and boundary-free way to enact change. Not only is this highly convenient, but it is especially necessary for us given the many problems we face as a population today. As mere constituents of a large global community, it becomes easy to feel uninfluenced by or useless against problems like world hunger or climate change. But the fact of the matter is that these problems are, or will soon be, affecting us if we don't come together and initiate change. This is where art comes in — an effective piece not only informs us of the issue at hand, but engages our emotions on a deeply personal level.

Without a doubt, art makes us feel. Once we begin to feel, we begin to think. And when we begin to think, we begin to take action. We all know the feeling of being overwhelmed and inspired by a novel, a movie, perhaps a painting, or even just our favorite song. They all touch us in ways no other mediums would be able to. The transformative experience art provides us with is arguably the most effective method in inspiring us to pursue change.

Art is the best vehicle for connecting people. In a world already full of divisive issues, all forms of art remain an effective method for people to connect with one another over difference. Art can be interpreted in any number of ways, and as a result, engenders a different response in everyone. Art doesn't impose a system or binary to which we must conform. Art doesn't discriminate. Despite all of this, however, art is still capable of carrying a message and conveying it. Its inclusivity is why it transcends the many differences of belief worldwide and provide new insights to problems that we otherwise wouldn't be able to solve on our own.

This year's winter production is one of the many excellent examples of art as a method of driving change. It carries an important and relevant message, one that should continually be reinforced. Inspiringly, *Blue Stockings* isn't the only instance of this on campus; currently, in the PMAC hang pieces of art intended to promote awareness for issues such as children affected by police brutality and racism, or the hardships that refugees endure. My hope is that as a community, we continue to create more pieces of art in order to spark dialogue and change. As a society, we interact and respond to art on a regular basis; if only we realize art's limitless potential to stimulate change and translate this to solving the manifold problems we face as a society today, we would cultivate the strong participation we need to solve these problems on a global scale.

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The Inconvenience of Junior Work Duty

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

During their time at Choate, all students are required to do at least one term of aide. Most third formers at Choate take part in dining hall duty for one period each week. During these times, students are asked to help out the dining hall staff by cleaning tables and dishes. Although generally an inconvenience in a student's schedule, this form of work teaches new students to learn humility and appreciation.

Generally, freshmen at Choate have a lot more mobility in their schedule, allowing them to do dining hall duty without it affecting their academic work. However, freshmen are not the only students who are required to participate in aide. A significant amount of juniors are required to do library aide, lost and found aide, or PMAC aide for one period each week. This brings unnecessary stress to the already stressful lives of many juniors. Instead of being able to study for a test or complete a homework assignment during a free block, many fifth formers have to stack and organize books or collect items around campus that people have lost.

The new change of schedule, which extends blocks from 45 minutes to 70 minutes, makes being an aide even more time-consuming. Many students realize that participating in these various forms of aide help out staff and faculty members at Choate. But by having to do aide for one period a week, many juniors' academic lives are made more difficult. In a time in which juniors are being asked to balance a rigorous academic life with a strenuous social life, an extra 70 minutes each week to get work done would go a long way.

Some may argue that students would not do work that 70-minute block anyways. But in reality, even if students do not do work during their extra free time, using that block to relax and rest could go a long way in helping a student's mental health. This is not to say that library aide and lost and found aide should vanish entirely from Choate. Instead, the Choate Administration should have junior aide moved to sophomore year. Fourth formers do lead a stressful life, but they are not yet plagued with preparing for the college application process, including the need to study for standardized testing. By moving aide duties to sophomore year, juniors will be relieved of that extra stress while faculty and staff will still be assisted.

Being a Choate student consumes time, and we knew that when we decided to attend Choate. While at Choate, we must maintain good grades, sustain relationships with friends, and participate in extracurricular activities. The more time spent at Choate, the harder each student's social and academic lives get. Eliminating work duty from the schedules of hardworking and stressed-out juniors will not only reduce stress in their lives, but it will also lighten the burden of their academic, social, and extracurricular lives.

Matthew Anastasio *is a fifth former from Woodbridge, CT. He may be reached at manastasio19@choate.edu*

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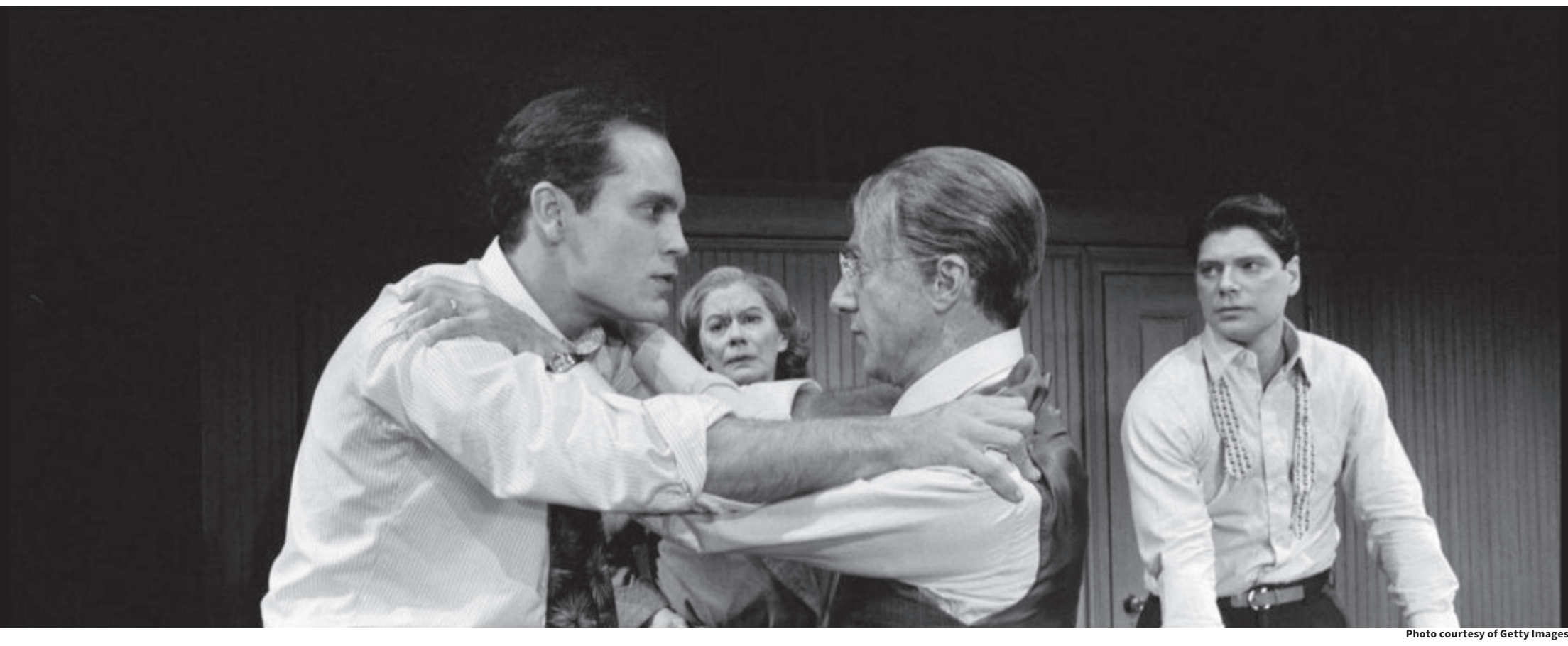

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Dustin Hoffman in the 1984 Broadway production of Death of a Saleman, the play during which he has been accused of sexual assault.

By **Audrey Powell '19**
Associate Editor

Throughout the public sector, particularly in politics, men claim to be "advocates for women." For some, such as those who participate in writing laws that protect reproductive rights and that works towards eliminating the gender pay? gap., this statement is legitimate and believable, However, many politicians and public figures who are supposed to be feminists are either pure hypocrites, such as Al Franken, or they make no tangible efforts to further the rights of women in America, like Donald Trump P'00 — who fits into both categories easily. So, if many individuals are not true advocates, what does it actually mean to be an advocate for women? It means that people must not shy away from confronting those who inhibit the advancement of women. John Oliver, the host of HBO's "Last Week Tonight,"showed such courage recently.

On December 4, Oliver hosted a panel at the Tribeca Film 20th Anniversary screening of the film Wag the Dog, starring Dustin Hoffman and Robert De Niro. The panel guests included the two actors alongside producer Jane Rosenthal and director Barry Levinson. During the discussion, Oliver brought up recent allegations made by writer Anna Graham Hunter regarding cases of Hoffman groping and sexually harassing her amidst her 1985 internship on the set of Death of a Salesman. She was seventeen years old at the time of the incident. The late-night TV host claimed it needed to be discussed because it was "hanging in the air."

Throughout the conversation, Hoffman continued to mention that he didn't think his actions were wrong, and even said that they were "not reflective" of who he is. In response, Oliver explained that "it's that kind of response to this stuff that pisses me off. It is reflective of who you were... It feels like a cop-out to say 'It wasn't me.' Do you understand how that feels like a dismissal?" Not only did Oliver accurately address the horrifying lack of accountability and remorse expressed by Hoffman, he also nailed the issue of assaulters simply dismissing their allegations so as to avoid the conversation. Later on in the discussion, Hoffman asked him if he "believe[s] this stuff you read," to which Oliver replied by saying "Yes, because there's no point in [an accuser] lying." By saying this, Oliver reaffirmed his support for survivors and victims, rather than simply accusing them of lying. This positive support for survivors and victims makes him a much more genuine advocate for women than most public figures.

> *Men must also be brave and participate in both movements if they intend to be called advocates for women.*

While Hoffman believed mentioning the allegations was inappropriate and blindsiding due to the lack of warning, it was ultimately the responsibility and duty of any legitimate advocate for women. Contrary to the silence and victim-blaming that are prevalent in media and politics today, Oliver chose to use his influence to confront another powerful man. While this discussion was undoubtedly uncomfortable for him, it needed to be done for the sake of Graham Hunter and the innumerable women who have experienced similar situations. In fact, this idea of using his influence for good is a common theme in "Last Week Tonight." Each week, he addresses pressing issues that range from the well-known to the under-recognized. While he includes humor in his segments, the bulk of his material is crucial information and spot-on opinions. Recently, he began a campaign known as "Catheter Cowboy," which is a series of TV commercials airing during "Fox & Friends," President Trump's favorite talk show. In these commercials, the cowboy speaks to Trump about mistakes he has made or facts he should know. This is just one example of the many ways that Oliver uses his status to enact social change.

As the "Me Too" movement continues to shine light on sexual harassment and assault, a new movement needs to form in its wake: a campaign of legitimate advocacy involving uncomfortable confrontation of accused individuals. The "Me Too" movement has proved the incalculable strength of women; however, men must also be brave and participate in both movements if they intend to be called advocates for women. Exposing assaulters' and harassers' despicable behavior is only one side of the coin; they must also be held accountable. It does not do anyone proper justice to simply reveal their wrongdoings without following through, even if that means mentioning allegations while simply discussing a movie.

As these movements take shape and spark global social change, we must call out faulty advocacy efforts. We must also recognize individuals like John Oliver -- real male feminists who do not simply mention their daughters as excuses for not initiating real change. We must recognize these real deal feminists who want to create a world where their daughters won't be harassed and assaulted by men like Dustin Hoffman.

Audrey Powell *is a fourth former from Bronxville, NY. She may be reached at apowell19@choate.edu*

Protecting Net Neutrality Means Protecting Our Rights

By **Kiki Kim '20**
Opinions Writer

How would you feel if you knew that you could no longer access the Internet as you pleased? For many of us, the Internet is a whole world of diverse viewpoints and an abundance of information. Recent developments suggest that soon, it will no longer be that. Net neutrality has protected our freedom to access information, but the December 14 vote may change that, possibly repealing net neutrality and giving Internet service providers (ISPs), such as AT&T, Verizon, and Comcast, free reign to filter the sites and services we have access to.

Net neutrality is the expectation that all users of the Internet receive the same access to all websites, services, and other sources of information. Under net neutrality, everyone can watch Netflix or Hulu, browse Reddit, Instagram, or Facebook, and the list goes on. ISPs are not allowed to decide which sites are eligible for access and which are not; they must treat every type of traffic equally. Net neutrality is enforced by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), an agency under the American federal government.

In 2005, the FCC released a policy statement declaring their aim to "preserve and promote the open and interconnected nature of the public Internet." One of their outlined principles was that "consumers are entitled to access the lawful Internet content of their choice." The same FCC that claims to "promote" an open Internet may now allow network providers to pick and choose what they will allow customers to access.

> *Without net neutrality, Youtube, Netflix, or any other site your ISP dislikes may just become a series of loading symbols.*

As of January 23, 2017, Ajit Pai was the chairman of the FCC. In April, it was discovered that he proposed a rollback of net neutrality rules and that ISPs should, instead of being required by law to do so, voluntarily follow the guidelines of net neutrality. One might ask, is it too much to ask that suppliers simply don't choke out any services? The answer is yes. Even under net neutrality, ISPs attempted to "throttle" certain sites, giving their users exceedingly slower access to said sites. Without net neutrality, YouTube, Netflix, or any other site your ISP doislikesmay just become a series of never-ending loading symbols.

Advocates of the net neutrality rollback argue that the government should not have a heavy hand in regulating ISPs and that a repeal of net neutrality will incite more competition between ISPs. However, without government regulation, nothing is stopping service providers from filtering opposing views out of your network. Additionally, with cable companies' monopoly over the market of network provision, it is unlikely that competition will change much between them. Despite all this, it is possible that they might just get their way, depending on the outcome of the December 14 FCC vote.

Supporters of net neutrality have long been organizing efforts to halt Pai's progress. Advocacy groups such as Fight for the Future, Demand Progress, and Free Press have amassed followings of millions of people, urging them to contact their representatives. Recently, people have gathered in protest of the upcoming vote. Many are concerned that it is already too late; however, despite their frustrations, these supporters of net neutrality continue to try in the hope that somehow, our free access to information will remain protected. They call their representatives, show up at protests, and exercise their rights as activists to protect free speech.

Until December 14, net neutrality remains — hopefully, however, it will continue to exist long past then.

Nicole Weinrauch *is a fourth former from Singapore She may be reached at nweinrauch20@choate.edu*

By Scaling Down Their Monuments, Trump Attacks Native Americans

By **Kate Bailey '21**
Opinions Writer

On December 4, President Donald Trump P'00 shrank two national monuments located in Utah. These two monuments, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, were cut 85 percent and 50 percent, respectively. This is the largest reduction made by any president, the total area of land stripped of protection being larger than the state of Delaware. This land, which is no longer federally protected, has significance not only in its environmental diversity and archeological sites, but also in its essential importance to numerous Native American tribes. To roll back protections on this land is harmful and, quite frankly, insulting to Native Americans.

For years, Native American tribes have fought, advocated, and petitioned for sacred and significant areas to be protected as national monuments. They argued that having national monument status would prevent potentially dangerous mining and drilling, as well as other harmful human actions, while allowing tribes and tourists alike to continue activities such as fishing and performing ceremonies on the land. In December 2016, then-President Obama agreed. Native Americans rejoiced and have been enjoying the land ever since. That is, of course, until recently.

The basis of Trump's argument is that, without federal protection, Native Americans and visiting families will gain the right to hunt, hike, and generally enjoy what the national monuments have to offer. Here's the thing: The Antiquities Act, the act that outlines laws regarding national monuments, already fully allows these activities. So what is his motivation? The answer lies, at least in part, in the mining and drilling industries. It is no coincidence that there are deposits of coal and uranium, as well as oil, beneath the areas Trump rolled back protections on. With no more protections, it is likely that drilling and mining on this sacred land will soon begin.

The President should not sacrifice the significance of these monuments for something that will tear up the land Native American tribes have known for so long. For centuries, this land has been the home of ceremonies, art, and medicine among the rocks and plants. For example, there are ceremonies that can only be performed with certain plants from Bears Ears specifically. If the land is ripped up by machines seeking the natural resources hidden below, Native Americans will be forced to abandon their long-standing traditions and land.

Trump cannot possibly make this strip of protection out to be a "good thing" for Native Americans, especially after how hard they fought to get the national monument status. Suggesting that he and his Administration know what is best for Native Americans and their sacred land is ignorant and unacceptable, especially considering the oppression Native Americans have faced for centuries. This is not "freedom" for the people and their land, as Trump has said; it is a death sentence.

Kate Bailey *is a third former from Charlotte, North Carolina. She may be reached at kbailey21@choate.edu*

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

The Bears Ears Monuments in Utah is one of the sites affected by President Trump's actions.

Local Resident to Open Ramen Shop

By **Vincenzo DiNatale '19**
Associate Editor

Wallingford offers a variety of dining opportunities, with restaurants centered around Italian, Chinese, Spanish, Japanese, and Mexican cuisine all within the confinements of town. One local resident hopes to add to this array of dining opportunities: Tommy Zhou, a Wallingford resident, has plans to open Peking Blvd Asian Bistro by the beginning of 2018.

According to Zhou, Peking Blvd Asian Bistro will be a ramen shop. Among competing Asian cuisine restaurants, Zhou hopes to offer a unique and distinguishable experience to customers. He explained, "Certainly there are a lot of Chinese restaurants, but I feel at a lot of Chinese restaurants, there is more of a take-out type of deal. They're not able to accommodate a sit-down experience." Zhou also aspires to develop a menu that appeals to younger crowds. For example, he is hoping to sell a ramen burger. He aims to offer a menu that has a "kind of Asian taste, but still has that American kick to it."

Zhou currently operates Pacific Buffet and Grill, located on Ives Road. He's been in the restaurant business for 20 years and has been the owner of a successful and popular restaurant for 12 years. Zhou has had plentiful experience working in take-out and buffet restaurants, and he graduated from CCI, the Connecticut Culinary Institute. He immigrated to the United States from Fuzhou, China and settled in Connecticut around 2005, where he and his wife raised two sons.

Situated between Route 5 and North Main Street Extension, construction for Zhou's new restaurant is well underway. It is located a short distance from many popular destinations for consumers, including Starbucks, Stop & Shop, Dunkin Donuts, Holiday Cinemas 14, Wallingford Bowl, Walmart, and several more. Route 5 draws many consumers from surrounding towns, bringing much-wanted traffic to the area. Meanwhile, North Main Street Extension provides easy access for Wallingford residents to destinations in one of the most frequented commercial areas in central Connecticut. Above all, consumers often seek Wallingford's dining options on Route 5. Carly Jacobs, a student at Lyman Hall High School, remarked, "Wallingford residents have a wide array of restaurants to choose from. All over town there are bits of different cultural cuisines to choose from." For members of the Choate community, Peking Blvd Asian Bistro will only be a short walk from campus!

One of Zhou's main objectives is to draw a sizeable crowd to his business. Regarding the restaurant business, Zhou explained, "Basically, this business is word of mouth. If you're doing something right, you attract more customers." When Zhou first opened Pacific Buffet and Grill, he explained that "In the beginning there were not that many customers. After a few weeks, things started to kick off. Everybody starting noticing who we are and what kind of food we have."

Zhou's inspiration for opening Peking Blvd Asian Bistro originated from a visit to his home country. After returning from a vacation to China in 2016, Zhou was motivated to consider opening a new restaurant. "I got ambitious!" he joked. In the spot that Zhou will open his business, Siam Valee, a Thai restaurant, recently closed. Located in the building adjacent to his other business, the recently opened space was a perfect opportunity for Zhou.

In contrast to the restaurant that he currently operates, Zhou commented, "I think there will be more younger crowds. That is what I'm trying to focus on: from young teens to mid-30 to 40 year olds." Zhou feels that while his buffet restaurant caters to families and younger children, Peking Blvd Asian Bistro will aim to serve younger restaurant-goers.

Regarding opening the new business, Zhou concluded, "It was something that I always wanted to do: to do something like an Asian type of restaurant with more of a modern taste to it." More specifically, Zhou added, "I want the presentation cleaner and a better dining environment that is more attractive to customers." Above all, Zhou will be committed to operating a restaurant that adds meaningfully to Wallingford's diverse dining options.

Vincenzo DiNatale
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CROSSOVER DAY PACK REVIEWS

One faculty member's mission to streamline the backpack selection process

Photo by Lauren Canna/*The Choate News*

In addition to his work at Choate, science teacher Mr. Deron Chang is passionate about reviewing crossover bags.

By **Riley Choi '18**
Staff Reporter

Think about walking to class with a weight on your back and your hands full. Though backpacks are often an unquestioned presence on campus, the type of bag you use can majorly impact your day-to-day life at Choate, making for a highly convenient (or highly scattered!) storage experience. For over three years, one Choate teacher has sought to optimize the backpack experience.Through a blog and YouTube channel called Crossover Day Pack Reviews, biology teacher Mr. Deron Chang evaluates backpacks on their practicality and performance, allowing readers to make informed decisions on their backpack purchases.

In a 2014 blog post, Mr. Chang defined a crossover day pack as "a single bag that does most of what I want it to do, well." He continued, "Most fundamentally, [a crossover day pack] must be able to do well on the way to the office and do well on a weekend hike in the 'wilderness.'"

For Mr. Chang, the ideal backpack must meet six different criteria: The bag must have a waist belt, which can stabilize the backpack's weight during activities such as walking from one meeting to the next and going on a hike; it should have a padded laptop section, which protects technology against impact if the backpack is dropped; it should cost around $130 to ensure that it possesses the first two features yet isn't excessively expensive; it should have a divided organizer pocket so that materials can be compartmentalized and protected; it should possess a frame-sheet or internal structure that makes the bag simpler to pack; and its capacity should be around 28 liters for ideal storage space.

Mr. Chang's website recently hit 180,000 views, and his YouTube channel has almost 900 followers with 320,000 total views.

Mr. Chang evaluates backpacks on how well they meet these standards. Crossover Day Pack's videos visually outline the various features of a bag — including organizer panels, smaller pockets and pouches, shoulder straps, back padding, laptop compartment, handles, water bottle and organizer pockets. Mr. Chang even packs each backpack to show how much the bag can hold and wears the bag so that he can discuss its comfort.

The blog, available at *daypackfinder.blogspot.com*, formed as an extension of the YouTube channel and features written reviews as well as links to Mr. Chang's YouTube videos. Mr. Chang's blog and YouTube channel are successful; his website recently hit 180,000 views, and his YouTube channel has almost 900 followers with over 320,000 total views. He regularly gets feedback from his followers, who ask him to review certain backpacks. Furthermore, backpack company ECBC has even put his review video on its main website as an advertisement, and some companies regularly send him a few bags for the review.

Mr. Chang began reviewing backpacks three years ago, when he decided to switch from shoulder bags to backpacks because he started to have back problems. He looked for specific backpacks that he could use during the weekends when he was hiking or biking and during weekdays when he was at work: as Mr. Chang put it, "Ones that would look fine in a t-shirt and a formal attire." Then he came across crossover day packs.

To find the right bag for him, Mr. Chang ordered a few backpacks and compared them to one another. Immediately, his scientist mindset kicked in. "I made a data sheet for each bag, which was judged based on a specific set of criteria I created so that I could be as objective as possible," said Mr. Chang. "As I was generating these data, I thought it would be a great idea to share them with other people who are interested in finding backpacks. I thought of my own frustration when I could not find any reviews while researching the right backpack for me. That's how I started my YouTube channel, which reviews specific backpacks, and consequently, my blog, which compares different bags." So far, his favorite bag is the bag that he uses primarily, which is the ECBC Lance Daypack.

Mr. Chang hopes to continue reviewing backpacks with his blog and the accompanying YouTube channel. He said, "I can't find time to work on the reviews now because of work, so I would have to wait until the summer to continue reviewing bags. I enjoy making these review videos and posts, and I don't think the blog and the YouTube channel will close." For anybody thinking of getting a new backpack, Mr. Chang's reviews are a great place to start.

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Catching Up With the Faculty Pets

By **Michelle Zhuang '18**
Staff Reporter

Imagine this: You're walking up to the dining hall after sports. At the base of Hill House, you see an adorable golden retriever tied to a lamppost. You sit down next to the dog and pet it for a few minutes. When your impatient friends' texts finally compel you to leave, you find yourself suddenly feeling much better — your chest feels a little lighter and the mountain of work seems a little further away. You've just received pet therapy from one of Choate's many faculty pets.

The Choate community is diverse in every sense of the word. In addition to hundreds of students and faculty, other Choate residents include furry, four-legged companions thanks to the many faculty pets on campus. To better understand the stories of these pets, Michelle Zhuang '18 sat down with four pet-owning Choate faculty members.

Corduroy "Cordy"—Rev. Ally Brundige

Named after the dog from the Corduroy Mansions Series, Corduroy — affectionately known as "Cordy" — is a four-year-old Golden Retriever whose owner is Director of Spiritual Life Chappy B. "I wanted a dog for a long point in my life, but I waited until coming to Choate," she explained. "Over a long weekend four years ago, I went to a farm in New Jersey — where I'm originally from — because I had heard of a litter there. Cordy was the runt, and from that day on she and I have had a special connection." Regarding having a pet on campus, Chappy B said, "It's wonderful. I think it's nice for students to have dogs on campus who they can receive love from. My greatest memories include Cordy playing with other campus dogs. It's wonderful to watch their delight when they play together, roll in the snow together, and get into adventures together."

Photo courtesy of Ally Brundige

Kili, owned by Ms. Fran O'Donoghue and Ms. Amy Salot, is often accompanied by her companion, Winni. She enjoys catching mice and chipmunks, along with the occasional bird.

Photo courtesy of Erik Freeman

Tesla is the third racing greyhound Mr. Ben Small has owned during his time at Choate. Named by Mr. Small's daughter, Tesla enjoys walking the cross country course each morning and exploring the campus.

Cordy, Chappy B's four-year-old Golden Retriever, is named after the dog from the Courduroy Mansions Series. She was born on a farm in New Jersey before being purchased by Chappy B.

Photo courtesy of Amy Salot

Basile, a bunny owned by history teacher Mr. Erik Freeman, enjoys playing in a hutch near the Kohler Environmental Center (KEC). Though he has escaped his hutch in the past, he's always come home unscathed.

Photo courtesy of Ben Small

Winni and Kili—Ms. Fran O'Donoghue and Ms. Amy Salot

If you ever see two cats roaming around campus, it's likely you've just encountered the dynamic campus duo Winni and Kili. According to science teacher and third form dean Ms. Fran O'Donoghue, "We got our cats off a farm in New Hampshire six years ago. We got two because we knew that we wouldn't be around the house during the day and didn't want them to get lonely." The names of the two cats are based on significant locations for Ms. O'Donoghue and Ms. Salot: "Winni" is short for Lake Winnipesaukee in New Hampshire, and "Kili" is short for Mount Kilimanjaro, which Ms. O'Donoghue and Ms. Salot had previously climbed on a Choate trip. According to Ms. O'Donoghue, "The cats often catch mice and chipmunks, along with the occasional bird. Sometimes the chipmunks will still be alive and you have to take it from them and bring it back outside."

Basile—Mr. Erik Freeman

Although dogs and cats are the most common pets found on campus, there are also other campus critters. An example is history teacher Mr. Erik Freeman's Basile the bunny. According to Mr. Freeman, "I'm allergic to dogs, but my kids really wanted a pet. Someone once gave us a bunny, but it died so we bought another bunny. We live in the KEC and built a really large bunny hutch that looks like a barn. Basile mostly plays in the hutch. We say hi to him and pet him." Mr. Freeman added, "One time Basile escaped. We left and when we came back, he was out of his cage. Because we have tons of coyotes where we live, we began to lose hope. Nonetheless, my wife and I began calling Basile's name, and when we called, he hopped right back."

Tesla—Mr. Benjamin Small

Tesla is a retired racing greyhound — the third that Mr. Ben Small has owned at Choate — and was named by Small's daughter, who really loves cars. Mr. Small said, "I feel really fortunate to live on campus; it means that I'm able to sometimes go home and walk her during the day. Every morning, Tess and I take a long walk through the cross country course. Choate is a great place to have a pet because we have so many fields and woods. Kids always love seeing her around. Sometime I leave her outside tied to the lamppost, and oftentimes I'll see three to four kids just sitting there petting her. I feel like they're getting their dog fix."

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CHIP'S IN THE DINING HALL

By **Elizabeth Quinn '20**
Staff Reporter

You've probably caught a glimpse of the enormous taxidermic moose head perched above the senior section of Hill House Dining Hall — it's pretty hard to miss — but have you ever wondered how it ended up there, or even how it got in Choate's possession? Serena Sandweiss '20 has asked herself the same thing, saying, "Huh, I've always wondered why it's there. It's not even our school's mascot!"

Chip the Moose was given as a parting gift by alumnus Terrell van Ingen '1917 before he headed off to war. In a letter written to then-headmaster George St. John, van Ingen stated that he wanted to leave Choate with a going-away gift, so he decided to leave the school the "biggest thing he had." A few days after its arrival, the. moose head was initially set up on the front lawn of the Sally Hart Lodge, which was then the headmaster's home study. Frank Waterman, architect of Hill House and several other buildings on campus, aided Headmaster St. John in deciding the permanent location for Chip. In 1918, Chip was mounted in the dining hall, where it resides to this day.

Besides having first been situated on the lawn of the Sally Hart Lodge and then in the dining hall, Chip has been kidnapped not once, but twice. The first of the moose-nappings took place during the school year of 1982-83. A late 2000s article entitled "A Little Bit of Choate History" stated, "In a daring prank, the moose was kidnapped from its resting place and held for ransom." With the help of the entire campus, who made T-shirts saying "The moose is loose in the Hotel Edsall," Chip was brought back to his home. Ms. Judy Donald, archivist of Choate Rosemary Hall, added, "Chip is such an interesting fixture that students think it would be a fun thing to kidnap, as a sort of senior prank sort of thing."

The second incident occurred in 2001 with collaboration between the parent of a Choate student and a school official. After the Choate parent purchased a boar's head, the two put together a plan to swap the heads, mainly "to see if anyone would notice." The two schemers remain to this day anonymous, but after a month, the moose head was once again returned to its rightful place.

"Chip" the Moose was given as a parting gift by alumnus Terrell van Ingen '1917 before he headed off to war.

Strange as it may sound, "Chip" has been a mascot for longer than the Boars. The moose head was pictured on the crest of Rosemary Hall (first the family crest of the founding headmistress Caroline Ruutz Rees), while The Choate School conquered rivals with its own mascot, the Choate Judges.

Although some might question this moose head's place in the Choate community, it serves as a daily reminder of the school's storied past. If Chip were to go missing again, there would be more than a literal gap in the senior section: there would be a gap in Choate Rosemary Hall's history.

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A FRESH TAKE ON STUDENT DIRECTED SCENES

By **Inc Thongthai '19**
Staff Reporter

Photo courtesy of Alix Kirby

One of the plays in last year's SDS was Graysen Airth's '18 *Foreplay, or The Art of Fugue.*

The Student Directed Scenes are back and better than ever. This year, the Gelb Theater will be greeted by both fresh and familiar faces on the Choate stage. Last year, the directors took the audience for a game on the golf course, through an adventure in a rocky maze, into the living room of a lazy artist, and on loops around the world. This year is no different. Leading the production are directors Lily Kops '18, Calvin Carmichael '18, Avery Lutter '18, Jack Fuchs '18, Connor Barnes '19, Simi Sachdeva '19, and Journee Brown' 19.

This year's directors are recognized for their unique and vastly different styles. Kops is known for her visually appealing shows; Lutter is known for her exciting and laughter-inducing performances; Carmichael's show truly reflects who he is; Fuchs's performances carry a deeper meaning and are often a commentary on philosophies; Brown is known for her creativity and amazing visualization; Barnes is insanely creative and abstract; Sachdeva is known for her precision and artistic intuition.

Sachdeva is directing *Perchance*. She chose it based on her final directing project for her class. Sachdeva said, "I think each member of the directing class went through a lot of options before settling on their plays. Some people knew exactly which play they wanted to do, but I had a very specific image in my mind. While I was doing my final project, I was reminded of the three-dimensionality of love: I immediately remembered reading Perchance and seeing it reflected in this idea of love. I knew then that this was the play that I wanted to direct."

Avery Lutter, like Sachdeva, picked her play to portray a lighthearted message. Lutter's performance, written by Ron Burch, is titled *The Origin Story of Lewis Hackett*. She said, "The play is so fun and interesting. It involves two different realities in a sort of way. It also incorporates a ton of jokes and great character development." Connor Barnes, on the other hand, chose his play, *What Remains of Youth* by Erik Gernand, for a completely different reason. He said, "The reason I picked it was because I found it extremely relevant to today's society and culture. If you don't know, my play is about a college student who writes a story about a school shooting. Gun control is definitely a controversial topic in America and this play is just one of the many answers to the question of why these tragic acts of violence occur."

To be able to carry such messages and specific visions of the directors on stage, a selective casting process must occur. On December 3rd, 80 Choate students auditioned for the roles of "Antonio", "Robbie", and more. Out of the 80, 25 actors were casted. All the directors had specific traits they looked for in cast members. Barnes saids, "My cast members have the ability to deliver my vision and have already shown great range in their performance." Sachdeva commented, "The moment I saw the auditions I knew who I wanted. Because everyone at the audition was talented, it came down to who fit the role best."

Many familiar faces are making a return to the Choate stage. Max Patel '19 performed in last year's show as well. He said, "I decided to audition again because I had such an amazing time last year and grew to be very close with the cast members. There is just something cool about being on stage with friends, acting out stage direction given by a friend." Leila Cohen '19 echoed this sentiment. She said, "I auditioned because I love acting. Also, my friends convinced me to try out. I am really excited to see the final product and how the audience will react to my character." Skylar Hansen Raj '20, a newcomer to the SDS stage, said, "I decided to audition because I like to act but have a commitment to sports in the fall, winter, and spring terms." She added, "I am excited to be able to perform in front of my peers and get more acting experience."

This year's show will definitely be another memorable performance at Choate. Be ready for unique performances and incredible talent on the Gelb Theatre Stage. Make sure to be on the lookout for Student Directed Scenes this winter and the talented people involved in bringing them to fruition.

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MISSTIQUE MAGAZINE LAUNCHES

Photo by Kathryn Phillips/*The Choate News*

Krystal McCook '20 and Medina Purefoy-Craig '20, communications officer and junior editor, respectively, of *Misstique,* a magazine that allows women to share their views on feminism.

By **Simi Sachdeva '19**
Staff Reporter

The shocking 2015 statistic that female full-time, year-round workers made only 80 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts — a gender wage gap of 20 percent — demonstrates the stark inequality that still exists in today's society. In regards to women's voice through publications, Abigail Drummond '18 felt that gender inequality existed for females at Choate. And instead of accepting the problem, Drummond decided to start *Misstique*, a feminist magazine.

At Choate, Drummond saw a negative connotation towards feminism, and a lack of female voices expressed on campus.

"I wouldn't go as far to say that I felt women were being censored, but there were things that the culture of the school that prevented people from saying. It was hard to have discussions I wanted to," said Drummond. "*Misstique* is all about being the medium for women to say what they would otherwise not be able to talk about through art, photo series, interviews, essays, short stories, and poems."

I wouldn't go so far as to say that I felt women were being censored, but there were things the culture of the school prevented people from saying.

Abigail Drummond

Feminism is an extremely crucial issue, and many patriarchal constructs still exist throughout Choate. *Misstique* is not a solution for that, but rather an outlet for improving gender equality at Choate.

"Feminism affects Choate in every way. More and more, I begin to see girls identify as feminists, therefore there is increasing pushback against the harmful effects of the patriarchy on campus, such as the toxic hookup culture that exists and more voice for women in STEM," said Drummond.

Misstique has kicked off to a great start, according to Drummond. "It is always exciting to be able to print and distribute", Drummond said, although more school participation is still needed through submission to *Misstique*.

The name *Misstique* comes from "a play on the word mystique from Betty Friedan's, The Feminine Mystique, and the name is not affiliated with other feminist magazines. Although the name is independent from past popular and influential magazines like Ms., magazines have made a great impact on gender equality and *Misstique* is following in their footsteps.

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À LA MODE

By **Jeanne Malle '19**
Associate Editor

Photo by Kathryn Phillips/ *The Choate News*

Zachery believes we all describe ourselves as horses, hence his logo.

Have you ever wondered the identity of the person behind Northeast Elegance, the clothing line known for its white outlined horse logo? Clay Zachery '19 founded this "low cost clothing line" in the beginning of the year, selling what he called, "kind of preppy, yet very casual items with preppy colors tones." "The cost of the lowest item is $15 and the highest is $28," Zachery explained.

Zachery felt the urge to start this project when he faced the well-known trouble of finding a nice piece of clothing in a store, yet being disappointed by the number on the price tag. He said, "You see that it's $60 for some socks and you're like 'Wow,' which is why I started doing Northeast Elegance and it just got rolling." Zachary's line received a good amount of attention from the beginning, pushing him to pursue his newfound interest. "It felt like a great sense of accomplishment," he added. Zachery has even begun research into how to professionally run social media accounts, furthering his interest in the line. Unfortunately, with his increasingly difficult and busy Choate schedule, Zachary has found it harder to be fully engaged in this project. However, he said that his "goal is to just keep it moving, never settle."

Northeast Elegance's legendary name and logo make up one of the pivotal reasons that it has already made its mark on our campus. "I got the idea for the logo from the football team, actually, because we all describe ourselves as some horses," said Zachery, continuing, "we don't stop until we reach our goal." He explained that he then thought, "we're in the Northeast, and when I went back to horses for the elegance part, I thought that horses are beautiful, but 'Northeast Beautiful' didn't sound good." He continued, "I then looked up synonyms for beautiful and saw elegance. It just rolled off my tongue and I know that that was the name right there. It was then very easy to find a logo on a website.

Zachery's brand has grown relatively quickly, receiving good reviews and continuous purchases. Nevertheless, Zachery admitted, "It's less about the money side of it and more about doing something and putting your mind to it. Also, just seeing people wearing your stuff is great." However, Zachery shared that he had an initial plan to donate the money he made to charity. He explained, "At first, I needed to get it off the ground to get more production, but the original idea was to eventually be able to donate to "RAINN" and other charities for women who have been sexually assaulted or harassed. Unfortunately, I can't really do that right now because of the production rates. If I did it, I would want to go all out and give them a lot of money."

Northeast Elegance sets an example of the limitless opportunities that we have as students and young adults. Zachery's fashion line not only channeled his creative side and pushed him to experiment in an activity that he had never done, but will also benefit charities outside of our Choate bubble.

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Brundibár's Historical Impact Influences Choate Arts

By **Wavy Griffin '21**
Reporter

This past weekend, Choate students performed an opera called *Brundibár* with incredible historical significance. Brundibár was originally written and performed by Jews imprisoned in the Theresienstadt (Terezin) concentration camp in Czechoslovakia.

This opera was a powerful act of resistance in the camp; it was and continues to be a symbol of courage and hope. *Brundibár* is the story of a brother and a sister whose mother is very sick. They go to town to get milk to try to heal her ailment, but they don't have money for the milk. So, they sang in order to garner money from the people of the town. The organ grinder Brundibár won't let anyone perform because he wants to play his organ, so he plays so excessively loudly that no one can hear the children.

The children then retreat to the forest for the night, where forest creatures help them come up with a plan to defeat Brundibár. Together, they defeat the organ grinder and get milk for their mother.

This show is full of symbols of the Holocaust and the hardships that Jewish people endured. The children who need milk for their sick mother are a symbol for the Jews and how they needed help to heal their people. For the children to heal their mother they had to overthrow the tyrant Brundibár, just like the Jewish people needed to overthrow Hitler.

The Czechoslovakian concentration camp, Terezin, from which *Brundibár* originated, happened to be where many of the artist and performers from Eastern Europe were imprisoned. As an act of rebellion, the people of the camp wrote a children's opera and had the children in the camp perform it. It became wildly popular in the camp and a source of optimism for the people imprisoned there.

When the Red Cross came to inspect concentration camps, they went to Terezin. The Nazi's made Terezin look like a normal, happy town and forced the children to perform *Brundibár*. They filmed this performance and sent the copies of it all around the world to show how "great" the concentration camps were. Shortly after this performance most of the children in the opera were sent to Auschwitz and murdered. In the version of the show that was performed last weekend, actors pretended to be filming the performance as if they were the Nazis and the audience was the Red Cross. At the end of *Brundibár*, the actors of the children performing put on their identification badges and were instructed by the Nazi's filming it to return to their barracks. They sang one last song as they organized to leave and as they sang, the film of the original performance was shown in the background. This was one of the most powerful moments in the play.

Jessica Lage '19, who played one of the children, described the moment the film reeled in the background. "It was opening night, and I actually saw the video playing behind me, and I started to cry. I looked at Lucas , who was playing my brother, and I actually felt it, what this actually was, and what actually happened to those kids."

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The Choate News

SPORTS

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FIELD REPORT

Saturday Games

Boys' **Squash** (2-3)
beats Loomis, 5-2

Wednesday Games

Boys' **Swimming** (0-2)
falls to Suffield, 78-100

Girls' **Swimming** (1-1)
beats Suffield, 97-88

Girls' **Squash** (2-2)
falls to Greenwich, 0-7

Boys' **Squash** (2-3)
falls to Brunswick, 0-7

Boys' **Basketball** (4-0)
beats Cheshire, 54-45

Girls' **Basketball** (4-0)
beats Williston, 60-51

Wrestling (2-2)
falls to Brunswick, 9-54

WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW 2017-18

By **Joe Coyne '19**
Associate Editor

Boys' Basketball

After a disappointing season last year, this is a team looking for a bounce back season, and all signs are pointing to this happening. The large, athletic team has started the season very well and already has quality division wins over Taft and Andover. Co-captain Brad Landry '18 said of what the team needs to do to reach its potential, "We have to come mentally prepared every single day to push the envelope and force ourselves to get better." It is still early in the season, but this team is hoping to end the year with a championship.

Girls' Basketball

This team lost six seniors from their team last year which lost in the Championship of the New England Playoffs last year. Despite this, the team is ready to get back to redeem themselves. They already have had a few solid wins and are hoping to build as their schedule gets tougher. Jocelyn Polansky '19 said of the keys for success, "Knowing our teammates' strengths and weaknesses is pivotal come game time." If the team can mesh despite their lack of experience together, there's little that this team can't achieve.

Boys' Hockey

Boys' Hockey is looking to make a leap and finish well in the Founder's League and earn a spot in the playoffs come March. These goals are well within reach given the leadership and experience brought to the table by upperclassmen Co-captains Jack Hoey '18, Faisal Alsaif '18, and Cal Stewart '18. Chris Guyette '19 expressed the team's confidence in their ability and their trust in one another: "We have great leadership and experience, so I think it is the year to accomplish our goals." Remsen Arena will be the place to be this winter when the Boys of Winter hit the ice.

Photo by Helena Yang/*The Choate News*

Wesley Fang '19 chases down a shot from his opponent.

Girls' Hockey

This team was oozing with potential last year and look to recognize this potential this winter. Co-captain Nicole McGuigan '18 said of the team, "We all share a common goal of succeeding this season, dedicating ourselves to the team, and bringing our best selves to the practice and games." It will be interesting to see how the program has done developing those younger players who will have to play a major role this winter.

Boys' Squash

The beginning of this season has been encouraging for Boys' Squash. While they already have some tough losses, the matches were closely contested and showed strong potential. Co-captain Wesley Fang '19 said of the team's goals, "We need to work on being good sports during matches and doing a good job representing the school." The team will likely rely on its older players like co-captain Robin Armour '18 and PG Ryan Kelly '18 to compete in the top spots and get the team vital wins.

Girls' Squash

Just one year removed from a Division II National Championship, Girls' Squash is back. Co-captain Keeley Osborn '18 is looking to have another good season, and this year's team is flush with talent. In order to reach their goals, Co-captain Madison Sakheim '18 said the team is "training hard every day and focusing on winning each individual match to have a great match record." This team will be fun to watch as they try to suceed in the upper echelon of high school squash.

Archery

Being one of the lesser known teams on campus never stops the archery team from perfecting their craft. The team has good sophomore archers, as John Geller '20, Will Greve '20, and Kiki Kim '20 all qualified for the team's first match last weekend. The team's leadership, made up of Co-captains Mola Adeyemi '18 and Riley Choi '18, will hope to lead the team to a successful season.

Wrestling

Led by Co-captains Sam Grabowski-Clark '18 and Matt Cuomo '19, alongside Joe Bradley '19, this team has high aspirations. In addition to beating teams like Trinity Pawling and Brunswick, the team is hoping to win a Class A Championship. Grabowski-Clark said, "Our skill and ambition can push us all to do great things as individuals and as a team." As the season progresses, watch for this team to become a top contender.

Diving

All signs from the early weeks of practice are encouraging for the diving team. Top diver Kobe Tray '19, wants to keep resetting his own school record, and hopes to once again be a top diver in New England. Tray said of making sure the team improves as a whole, "We need to work on staying motivated at practice and being able to communicate with each other."

Boys' Swimming

"Our team really has to commit to training over the break and has to maintain a positive attitude," commented Co-captain Ben Zhao '18 on how Boys' Swimming will be successful this year. The team lost three seniors, all of whom were All-Americans last year. Despite these losses, the team has high goals: improve on its fourth place finish at New England's and win the Founder's League c. The team has made use of its offseason, and despite losing top swimmers, will be strongly back in contention.

Girls' Swimming

A deep program with a lot of talent, Girls' Swimming is looking to have another successful season. This depth will have to develop throughout the season. Co-captain Josie Mah '18 explained how the team needed to improve: "We'll have to fully dedicate ourselves to training and have a positive attitude at meets and in practice, as well as be supportive of our teammates all the time." Girls' Swimming is looking forward to reclaiming the Founder's League title and winning a podium spot at New England's this winter.

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Sans Preseason, Winter Athletes Find Alternative Ways to Prepare

By **Dan Brockett '19**
Associate Editor

Before the season, many of the Choate varsity teams spend time preparing for the upcoming season together. The varsity sports in the fall and the spring have a preseason, but in the winter there is no preseason for the varsity sports due to the shorter break than the other two seasons. Without a preseason, the winter sports teams have less time to prepare, but somehow still have to find a way to get ready for the season.

Different athletes of different sports handle their preparation in different ways. For many of the squash athletes, playing intramural squash or practicing in their free time is a great way to get in shape and ready for the season. The Central Connecticut Aquatic Team, CCAT, practices at Choate during the weeknights, so the swimmers without a fall sport will swim with the team during the fall. There is no better way to prepare for the swimming season than swimming, which holds true for the Choate swimming program, as it has had excellent teams on both the Boys' and Girls' sides of the sport the past few years.

For Boys' Varsity Hockey, many of the guys participate in Total Athlete Conditioning, also known as TAC, in the fall with trainer, Mr. Brian Holloway. TAC helps get many athletes from all sports and seasons into peak physical shape with the goal of being in top shape when the season starts.

Outside of working out, it is really important for the hockey team to be out on the ice skating and playing, so when the season rolls around, they are in mid-season form instead of shaking off the rust. Choate provides some ice time throughout the week for players to get out in a relaxed setting; however, most guys like to skate more than once or twice per week, so they join split season hockey teams from nearby.

Boys' Varsity Hockey player Chance Gorman '18 described it simply, "Split season hockey is a great way to spend the fall playing with and against other top players on other split teams that play prep school hockey in the winter."

It's tough to be physically and mentally prepared for the season with only four practices before our first game.

Elliot Sawyer-Kaplan '18

Split season allows them to play competitive games on the weekends without sacrificing their weeknights. Many of the guys on the Choate team play with each other; Gorman and Captain Faisal Al-Saif '18 play for the same split-season team in the Yale program, while Anish Deena '19, Chris Guyette '19, and Patrick Mullowney '18 play for the Springfield Rifles. For most Varsity Hockey players, split season and TAC allow them to get ready for the season as best they can without a preseason.

Many of the school's basketball players also do TAC to prepare for the season. Outside of TAC they will shoot around whether on the courts in the athletic center, around campus, or other gyms. Elliot Sawyer-Kaplan '18 commented on their preparation, "All through the fall we do TAC, play pickup games, and are allowed to have workouts with our coach and three people." He added, "It's tough to be physically and mentally prepared for the season with only four practices before our first game."

Some members of Girls' Varsity Basketball play together on a team in the fall outside of Choate. Just like split season hockey the girls can play competitive games without sacrificing a ton of time during the week. The players just try to find a good balance between competitive games and getting in shape for the season.

The athletes who play winter sports are at a distinct disadvantage due to their lack of preseason, but it's always nice to imagine there is a possibility for one in the winter. When asked about whether there should be a preseason for winter sports, Gorman said, "I think winter sports could definitely use a preseason, so those who haven't played their sport in the fall have a few days to a week to get back into a groove. It would help them get used to the competitiveness day in and day out."

It appears the teams are doing just fine without a preseason, as Boys' and Girls' Varsity Basketball are off to a combined 5-0 start, and while Boys' and Girls' Varsity Hockey have had a few tough losses, the team has played well and seems poised to bounce back. Boys' Varsity Squash is off to a steady, but promising start, while Girls' Squash has collected some strong wins early in the season. Despite the disadvantages, Choate athletes are quick to adapt and make up for the lack of preseason time.

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Choate Takes Two Player of the Year Awards

Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen and Lauren Canna

Both Uyeno '19 and Sweitzer '18 were on a different level this fall.

By **George McCabe '20**
Reporter

Being picked as the best athlete in New England for your sport is a difficult feat to accomplish. However, two Choate athletes, Lani Uyeno '19 and Shane Sweitzer '18, have won the award in their respective sports, Volleyball and Football, during the fall term.

As the Choate volleyball team libero, Uyeno played a significant role in the team's journey to the New England Championships, which ended in both a win for her team and her eventual coronation as New England Player of the Year. The team faced some challenges at the beginning of the season, as they only had five returning varsity players, but they persevered and finished the season as New England Champions. Winning the New England Championship this year was particularly impressive, as the Choate volleyball team beat Exeter 3-2 by just four points after a hard loss to Exeter earlier in the season, getting swept 0-3. On the topic of her season Uyeno said, "This season was a really big year for me just coming off of New England Champs last year." She also said that all of the players on the team were extremely motivated to win New England's for a second time in a row.

When asked about how she won New England Player of the Year, Lani Uyeno '19 stated, "I owe it all to my teammates because they make me better every day in practice. My teammates are the ones motivating me to get the ball up as a libero." Additionally, she added that she could not have had success this season without the leadership and guidance of the team's coach Mr. Loeb.

Looking forward to the next season of Choate Volleyball, Uyeno has high expectations, and the team wants to win their third straight New England Championship. Uyeno said, "I think that it is important to leave a good legacy after you graduate from the program." Lastly, she stated that she wants to help with recruiting so that the team maintains its dominance.

Sweitzer, one of the captains on the football team, has finished his Choate football career with a New England Player of the Year award. On top of this, the team had another outstanding year, going undefeated and winning the New England Championship for a fourth consecutive year. On the topic of the team's season, Sweitzer explained, "It was a good year to be a captain because of the close group that was formed." Despite not having a great statistical season, Sweitzer thinks that he won the award because of his clutch performances on both offense and defense. He added, "I might have won the award because I was able to make big plays in big games."

One of the many things that led Sweitzer to win New England Player of the Year was the fact that he started on Varsity Football for his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons, gaining experience that is difficult to come by in most players. On the topic of his mindset for the season he stated, "I try to play with confidence and not get nervous. When I am playing, I try to think about all my experiences in playing football for ten years." Sweitzer praised his coaches for their impact on his development as a football player. On that subject he added, "Even though we had three new coaches this year, they know what they are talking about and are good at communicating and coaching young players."

Next year, Sweitzer will be playing college football at University of Pennsylvania. He said, "Hopefully I can have the chance to play early in my time at University of Pennsylvania, and I hope I can play with kids as good as players and as good as people that were on the Choate football team this year."

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