The Choate News

The official student newspaper of Choate Rosemary Hall since 1907

Choate Rosemary Hall
333 Christian Street
Wallingford, CT

Vol. CXI · No. 9 | Friday, January 26, 2018 | thechoatenews.choate.edu

Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

During Choate's second schoolwide Wellness Day, the community took part in a variety of activities, including yoga (see pg. 3).

In Wake of Conference, Student Council Proposes Drug Rule Change

By **Grace Zhang '20**
Staff Reporter

Last Tuesday night, Choate's Student Council approved two proposed changes to the school's one-strike drug policy. The first proposal states that the purchase, manufacture, possession, or use of marijuana is only grounds for Probation or Suspension, though distribution will continue to lead to dismissal. The second proposal changes the wording of the Student Handbook from "will lead to dismissal" to "will likely lead to dismissal," in regards to the purchase, manufacture, possession, or use of illegal drugs, non-registered prescription drugs, and chemical substances.

Having been approved by Student Council, the proposal will now move to the Deans and then to Dean of Students Mr. James Stanley for review. According to Mpilo Norris '18, President of the Student Council, the administration has long been against changing Choate's drug policy, for a variety of reasons. Although the larger culture appears to relaxing its stance against marijuana—the drug is now legal, for either recreational or medicinal use, in 30 states and the District of Columbia—the substance remains illegal in Connecticut. Moreover, since it is unregulated, students might unknowingly purchase marijuana that is laced with other substances.

Student Council is also looking at ways to prevent drug abuse and strengthening students' support system. Members are looking to broaden the scope of Crisis so that it can be used in more situations. The Council also wants to expand counseling services to address domestic drug abuse.

Choate's Student Council is not alone in its examination of these issues. On January 14, the Student Council examined the policies and cultures of Choate's peer schools at an inter-school student council conference at Loomis Chaffee. Katherine Burgstahler '18, a Sixth Form Representative to the Student Council, learned a lot about the drug policies of other schools in particular, an issue that Choate's council has been looking at for some time now. She said, "They all seemed to be more lenient than Choate's."

Seven schools attended the conference: Loomis, Avon Old Farms, Westminster, Northfield Mount Hermon, Taft, Deerfield, and Choate. Each school had between two and ten representatives which were divided among four rooms, each assigned a topic. The topics were major school

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Community Weekend Includes i.d. Lab Adventure

By **Abbie Chang '19**
Associate Editor

Community Weekend featured a variety of activities aimed at bringing the campus together to participate in everything from a skating party to an international food court. One item on the weekend's itinerary was the i.d. Adventure held in the Worthington Johnson Athletic Center. Though the event did not have quite as high a turnout as hoped for, it nonetheless embodied the spirit of community weekend, as it was frequented not only by students, but by faculty members and their children.

Some of the i.d. Adventure offerings included a robot, which was programmed via the Logo computer language. Mentioned at school meeting, the drone dome was an inflatable arena within which students were able to operate a drone. A spin on the traditional game of parachute that incorporated a ball utilizing a microcontroller and processing sketch to produce different musical notes with each bounce was also available. Dr. Travis Feldman, Director of the i.d. Lab, explained that the idea was to create a parachute game that "was interactive and digitally integrated." Another highlight of the i.d.Adventure were iPads equipped with structure sensors. This allowed students to create three-dimensional scans of themselves that could later be shared or even printed as action figures on the i.d.Lab 3D printer. "I knew we wanted to do something with cutting edge technology, so VR was an important part of it, but I wanted it to be maker-themed in the sense that I wanted all the activities to have some component that students could be creative with," said Dr. Feldman.

> **I knew we wanted to do something with cutting edge technology, so VR was an important part of it.**
>
> *Dr. Travis Feldman*
> *Director of the i.d. Lab*

Dr. Feldman explained how he and others began planning the day over a month ago, saying, "The planning took shape over a few meetings where we just figured out how we would use this space." The event featured activities clustered about the volleyball and basketball

See **i.d. LAB**, *Page 3*

Course and Signature Programs Fair Highlights Academic Opportunities

Photo by Lauren Canna/*The Choate News*

Dr. Chris Hogue explains the Science Research Program.

By **Owen Collins '19**
Associate Editor

Just after the end of classes one week ago, on Friday, January 19, the area outside the Tuck Shop was filled with both students and faculty. To those who didn't know what was going on, it may have looked like a strange social gathering. In actuality, that gathering of students and faculty was the Course and Signature Program Fair, which lasted for about 40 minutes prior to the Wellness Day programs.

This year's Course and Signature Program Fair was the second annual event of its kind. Department heads, as well as the heads of the various signature programs, were present to give information about the courses in their field or their specific program, as well as to answer any questions that students may have had. This differed from last year because of the presence of the signature program heads, who were not very involved at the fair a year ago. This fair marked the start of the advising process for selecting courses for next year, providing students with the necessary background about certain programs and classes to make educated choices about which classes they want to take.

Dr. Katie Jewett, Director of Curricular Initiatives, expressed the importance of planning ahead and gaining information from a fair like this. She stated, "We want to make sure that people invest the right amount of time in it, so it shouldn't be just sitting down for five or ten minutes and picking out a few courses that might work. Especially if you might want to be involved in a signature program, you should plan things out."

Mr. Kevin Rogers, Director of Studies, added that it is important to get the information into the minds of the students. He commented, "You do always see a handful of students who are like, 'Oh, I didn't know.' And so, it's just an effort to combat that."

Choate has seen the addition of many new courses and pro-

See **FAIR**, *Page 2*

ITS Takes Action to Fight Meltdown and Spectre Bugs

By **Vincenzo DiNatale '19**
Associate Editor

Many individuals take for granted the high speed their devices operate at. Especially at Choate, where technology is present in nearly every facet of our lives, devices meet our demands at seemingly instant rates. However, this comes with certain costs: The mechanisms that permit high speed operation make devices susceptible to security breaches.

Shortly after break, the community received an alarming email from Information and Technology Services (ITS), warning about Meltdown and Spectre. Meltdown and Spectre are security vulnerabilities that nearly all iPhone, iPad, and computer processors have. More specifically, Meltdown refers to issues with Intel processors, while Spectre applies to almost all processors.

A member of ITS, Manager of Infrastructure Mr. Tom Hulley, explained the sources of these vulnerabilities in greater detail. Many processors have a local memory capacity, designed to promote high speed operation of a device. These local memory reserves preload memory from the hard drive or the regular computer memory, anticipating its use. For instance, when one is working on his or her device, such as writing a paper or scrolling through a bank account, that information is stored in the local memory to speed up those processes. Overall, this makes using the device much quicker. However, since information is stored in these local memory reserves, it becomes much more susceptible to security breaches. In a nutshell,

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March to Equality
Many students participated in Women's March in Hartford and NYC last week.
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The Daily Grind
Ng '20 questions students' involvement in deciding charity.
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New Application Component
Choate applicants will now take an additional entrance exam.
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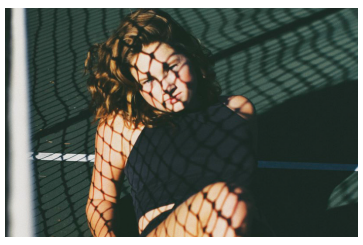

Photographer Extraordinaire
Learn more about Phillips '20 and her approach to her work.
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Read it then recycle it.

Visuals by Anne Miles DeMott, Austen Rogers, and Kathryn Phillips.

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CHOATE HOSTS DEBATE INVITATIONAL

By **Amanda Li '21**
Reporter

Last Sunday, over 50 four-person teams and 15 schools participated in the annual Choate Invitational Tournament. This competition held its place amongst other tournaments hosted by members of the Debate Association of New England Independent Schools's (DANEIS) tournaments as the last qualifier for the World Universities Debate Championship (WUDC) in South Africa this spring. Independent schools from all over New England send both novice and advanced division teams to compete in these parliamentary, unprepared debates. This year's Choate Invitational Tournament marks the ninth year since it began in 2008.

Having set the date almost a year in advance, many months of planning went into the tournament. Jack Miley '20, Kailey Marottolo '19, and Hannah Paridis '18 were the student coordinators along with faculty advisors Ms. Kyra Jenney and Mr. Neil Shimmield. Miley oversaw all the emails correspondences and organized the debaters and teams, while Marottolo and Paridis arranged information folders for the participants containing the locations of the debates and other necessary information. Ms. Jenney and Mr. Shimmield worked with SAGE and ABM and came up with the resolutions for each of the three rounds of the debate. Captain Ellie Latham '18 and Mr. Shimmield worked to create the pairings for Choate's team, matching debaters with similar experience and overall ability. "It's tacky to win at your own tournament, so we don't always use our best debaters," Mr. Shimmield joked.

On Sunday morning, teams began arriving at 10:00 a.m. to register and eat brunch in the Dining Hall. Around 11:00 a.m., Latham welcomed the debaters and announced the locations of the debates: the Lanphier Center, Steele Hall, and the Humanities Building. During this time, Mr. Shimmield also ran a Judges Briefing in the library, where judges learned how to score debates. Throughout the day, each pair of debaters competed in three rounds, matched against pairs from other schools. During each debate, pairs were given ten minutes to prepare their case before presenting to the judge, who scores the debaters on a scale from 70-100. This year, resolutions included "this house believes that gun manufacturers should be liable for gun related deaths," "this house is not ready for driverless cars," and "this house believes that Donald Trump is making China great again." Each round was scheduled an hour apart, starting at 12:00 p.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m. Most of the debaters finish edearly and went to the Dining Hall to eat an early dinner before the Awards Ceremony.

Behind the scenes, six to eight student volunteer runners transported the score sheets from the debate to the tab room, located on the first floor of the Humanities Building. There, Ms. Jenney and the student coordinators, along with the help of Mr. Robison from Loomis Chaffee, corrected scoring mistakes, ran down missing score sheets, and finalized winners. At around 4:00 p.m., the top three four-person teams, two-person teams, and individual speakers from each division were announced and awarded. Choate dominated the novice division, with Giorgie McCombe '19 and Joanna Ding '19 winning first place novice pair, as well as third and first place individual speaker, respectively. Overall, Hotchkiss, Andover, and Exeter were awarded first, second, and third place school, in that order.

Mpilo Norris '18, a debater in the advanced division, described the event as an "arena for learning and competition." Reade Ben '18, Vice-Captain of the team, especially loved the third round of the competition, which involved resolutions such as "this house believes that zombies are more dangerous than werewolves." In terms of what the hopes for the team were going into the event, Latham said that she always wants to use tournaments as a chance to improve the team's novice debaters as well as prepare the juniors to become captains and pod leaders next year.

Photo courtesy of Reade Ben

Debate Team members pose after a successful run of the invitational.

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Students Attend Hartford Women's March

Photo by Anne Miles DeMott/*The Choate News*

Choate students join other marchers in Hartford to stand for women's rights.

By **Isabelle So '20**
Reporter

On Saturday, January 20, several Choate students attended the Women's March in Hartford, CT. The Women's March trip was co-sponsored by 350CRH and Young Democrats. Itai Mupanduki '19 from Young Democrats and Baji Tumendemberel '18 from 350CRH organized the march. Mupanduki said the reason why he wanted to organize this event was because he believed that the movement for women's rights was in parallel with the spirit of American Democracy. He also said that through "furthering the cause of women's suffrage, we are helping to mold our nation into 'a more perfect union.'" On his reason for organizing the march, Tumendemberel said, "I wanted 350 to be involved in organizing this trip because while the issues of environmentalism and women's rights seem separate, the intersectionality of the progress both movements seek is an overlap worth advocating for."

A variety of students who attended the march shared their experiences.

"It was honestly an unreal experience. I can't even explain the energy that I felt being surrounded by women (and men) who came out to march. It was incredible!"

—Anne Miles DeMott '18

"The women's march was amazing – it was really special to be part of something so inspiring, surrounded by so many incredible women (and men!) all supporting something so meaningful. As a woman and as someone who spends a lot of time thinking about and trying to work to help other women and girls it was really powerful to be there and know that there were so many other people who were willing to come together and show their support and dedication to creating real change. There was so much energy and power walking along the streets that is so hard to describe in words but it was really amazing just being there and being apart of it."

—Danielle Myers '18

"I thought that it was a group of normal women and men doing their part to incite much needed change."

—Vidhya Pathy '20

"It was really powerful and united because people of all ages were there. There was conventional speeches that addressed daily issues. But there was also this girl who just graduated from college who read two self- written poems. Her poems were really powerful and straightforward that hits the points."

—Wilson Wang '19

"The women's march was a marking event that symbolizes the unity of feminism. Women and men along with everybody else came together in a momentous occasion to celebrate the beauty and hard work of women all over the world."

—Jessica Pablo '20

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Choate Represented at Interschool Student Council Conference

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rules, campus culture, student council, and miscellaneous.

Burgstahler '18 remained in the "major school rules" room for the majority of the two-hour conference. "I learned that Choate has pretty much the strictest drug policy of all these schools, especially in terms of our marijuana policy, because when the schools were presenting their policies, a lot of them specifically grouped marijuana with alcohol, and Choate doesn't do that. The punishments given were usually either probation or suspension, or it was taken to a disciplinary board that resembled the JC." She continued to explain some of the rules at other schools: "I know at Loomis, the standard punishment for marijuana is a two-day suspension. At Avon, it's usually suspension or dismissal. At Westminster, it's usually expulsion, but you would never get expelled for any paraphernalia or just failing a drug test. At Taft, it's a two-strike system, usually probation. At Deerfield, a three-day suspension."

Will Robertson '20, a Fourth Form Representative to the Student Council, attended the conference for the first time this year. "One thing that really interested me is how polarized Choate is in terms of some of their rules. For example, with things such as Uber and going to town Choate seemed to be very relaxed, especially compared to other schools. They're very relaxed in those policies, but they're stricter, for example, with our one strike policy. Choate was one of the few schools that actually had a one-strike policy."

Burgstahler '18 enjoyed the conversations she had and reflected on its importance to the Council: "It was important because our student council, in my opinion, has been very active, and we have been able to work on a lot of proposals and have a lot of conversations in my time here. Just talking to other schools is really helpful, because they're having these same conversations, and they're finding out if something is working well." She went on to explain the differences she observed, saying, "Just seeing how everything is structured so differently at each school was really interesting… There are a lot of setups and a lot of other disciplinary systems and campus cultures that have been effective for other schools."

One of these differences includes the prevalence of counseling at one of Choate's peer schools. "Deerfield talked about how their counseling system is working really well, and that it has been really helpful for students, which I thought was really great," said Burgstahler '18. Around 70% of their student body utilizes and benefits from counseling.

Robertson '20 found that by understanding other schools, he gained valuable information for himself as a Student Council member. "At student council meetings here, what's brought up a lot is other school's policies. So It was really nice to just sort of be able to definitively meet and hear what other people's opinions are, and how people see things."

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Students Explore Courses and Programs at Fair

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grams here on campus, and just recently, there has been the addition of two signature programs. The first was the JFK Program in Government and Public Service. This program lasts five terms and is designed for students who are interested in government and politics. For the participants, the program starts in the fall of their fifth form year and ends after the winter term of their sixth form year. There is required public service off-campus, as well as a talk that the student gives towards the end of their senior year.

The other new signature program, which was present at the fair, was the Advanced Robotics Concentration (ARC) program. This program lasts three terms and is for students who are experienced in robotics and interested in higher levels.

Mr. Rogers said, "One of the things that I've certainly seen over the last couple of years here is that the curriculum has expanded and there are tons of opportunities, and you have to be savvy about how you want to structure your program." The structuring of one's personal program can be made easier through attendance of the Course and Signature Program Fair and other events like this one.

Despite the obvious benefits of this fair for some students, its effectiveness may not have expanded to all four forms. Dr. Jewett noted, "You could say that it's geared slightly more towards third and fourth formers because fourth form is the time when you apply to several of the signature programs." Dr. Jewett did also address the usefulness of this event for fifth formers, though: "If you are a junior looking to make the most of your sixth form year and maybe you want to do a capstone, for example, but just haven't had the chance to hunt down that faculty member you want to work with, this is just another opportunity to set that time aside and have that conversation."

There were mixed reactions from the students who attended the fair. Matt Lee '20 felt that the fair was a great help to him in getting the process started for his interest in Arts Con. Lee said, "I didn't really know who to talk to before, and now that they're all kind of in one place advertising their special programs, so it was a lot easier to find them and talk to them."

Despite the helpfulness of the fair, Lee thought some elements of the event that could be improved. "I think a bigger space would be very helpful because a lot of students came, and I don't think they were expecting that. Also maybe booths or just tables that are labeled with what special program it is," he explained.

Lizzy Mitchell '19 found that the fair might have been difficult for underclassmen. She said, "As a junior, I knew who I should be asking, but I think if I was younger and didn't know, it's a pretty disorganized fair."

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Talented Alumnus Shares Experience in i.d. Lab Maker Alumni Series

By **Anjali Mangla '20**
Staff Reporter

The second presentation of the i.d. Lab Maker Alumni Series was presented by Mr. C.J. Bell '10 on January 17. The Maker Alumni Series is new this year, featuring recent alumni who pursue careers in design and engineering. These presentations happen once a term. Mr. Bell works as an engineer in the Ship Signatures Department at a company called Electric Boat in New London, Connecticut. In his presentation, entitled "Basic Signal Processing, Submarines, and LEDs: How They Come Together," he discussed topics including Fourier analysis and sonar.

The faculty behind this series are Dr. Travis Feldman, Director of the i.d. Lab, and Dr. Katie Jewett, Director of Curricular Initiatives, with help from the Office of Alumni Relations. Dr. Jewett explained, "I realized after being at Choate for fifteen years that there are a lot of talented alumni out there that have intersections with the i.d. Lab." Dr. Feldman added, "We wanted them to have things to talk about that wouldn't be encountered in students' normal classes."

Mr. Bell was an active participant of the Choate community while attending the school. He played varsity squash and lacrosse and was in a variety of clubs. He attended George Washington University for undergraduate and graduate studies, majoring in Aerospace Engineering. Some classes that Mr. Bell took at Choate geared him towards his career in engineering. "The robotics class I took in my senior spring really set me on the path of coding, and I hadn't done any coding before that class," Mr. Bell said. He also remembered the unique ways of teaching waves in his freshman physics class with Mr. Doug Wolf. Mr. Bell enjoyed coming back to campus and witnessing the changes in campus buildings, including the new St. John Hall.

Currently, Mr. Bell is involved in the computer-based model validation of components of U.S. Navy nuclear submarines. "We predict what's going to happen, and eventually we get test data to compare what we predicted to what's out there," he said.

The presentation Mr. Bell gave was a 90-minute summary of submarines, sonar, and Fourier Transformations. It included videos of wave files in which programs could detect frequencies played out loud. His presentation also had an optional project students who attended could complete on their own –– they could experiment with WAV files and code he made in GitHub.

Although the presentation included complicated mathematics, Mr. Bell explained every aspect of his presentation with detail. Students learned about different types of submarines and small-scale computational fluid dynamics of submarine defections. Mr. Bell also described the inner workings of a submarine, covering the importance of ballast tanks and compressed air.

Mr. Bell's advice to aspiring engineers in the Choate community is to "come in the i.d. Lab and just mess around. If you have an idea, just show up and try it."

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Choate Unwinds During Wellness Day

Photo courtesy of Ross Mortensen

Students participate in a Drum Circle, one of the activities offered for this term's Wellness Day.

By **Brandon Zhang '20**
Reporter

A new addition to the Choate curriculum this year, Wellness Day has been a welcome break in the busy lives of many students. Though Wellness Day is the most obvious change for students, it is only part of a revamp of Choate's wellness program. 14 months ago, Choate underwent a curriculum review, which happens about every 10 years. In this review, faculty members look at Choate's diploma requirements and the array of courses to determine if the School is offering the best experience for all of its students.

After taking in more advice from students and teachers, there was a consensus that wellness at Choate needed to be reviewed. According to Dr. Katie Jewett, the Director of Curricular Initiatives, "We got another group of faculty members together to make wellness more of a priority in the curriculum." This group of faculty members introduced the concept of the third form sophomore seminar equivalent as well as Wellness Day activities. The main reason behind creating Wellness Day was that it did not make sense for students only to be educated on wellness in seminars during their first two years at Choate. The committee of faculty decided that wellness should be prioritized all four years. Schoolwide Wellness day now occurs once a term.

Another organizing principle behind these activities was the wellness wheel. Dr. Jewett said, "One of the organizing principles that we have for our wellness is a wellness wheel, and it encompasses different dimensions of wellness such as financial wellness, emotional wellness, and social wellness." These varied dimensions of wellness are why the activities at Wellness Day are so wide-ranging. Ms. Alex Long, the Assistant Director of the Student Activities, said, "Student feedback was really helpful in determining what activities we wanted to have in the winter, for example, we took out the nutrition seminar as the feedback we got seemed to suggest that it did not fit. Furthermore, at student request we added options such as self-defense, free skate, and pickup basketball."

Like any new program, Wellness Day was not perfect when it was first introduced in the Fall Term. Some of the major complaints that were voiced about the Fall Term Wellness Day was that it was in the middle of the day. Dr. Jewett provided an example of how this could be a problem: "One student told me through the survey that they were at Yoga, which was meant to be a relaxing activity, however, they couldn't relax because they had a physics test next block." To combat this problem, Dr. Jewett and Ms. Long moved the Wellness block to the end of the day in the Winter Term.

This change proved to be popular among the student body, Ahmed Wise '20 said, "The winter term activities were much better, because they were longer and at the end of the day." Zaid Ball '20 echoed these sentiments stating that "I think that the survey and the student feedback were important in making the winter wellness day better than the one in the fall."

Even with good reviews of the day Dr. Jewett and Ms. Long still see improvements that could be made, specifically in the signup process. Dr. Jewett said, "The signup process this time got a bit clogged with the amount of students trying to sign-in. I was thinking of not announcing a specific time the signups would be released."

Another problem with the signup process was that while you were browsing the activities you could join, the website did not update if the activity was full or not, so oftentimes students would find themselves not being able to join an activity and having to reload the page. To combat this, Dr. Jewett suggested to place a list of the activities in the email so students can get an idea of what they want to sign up for before logging into the web page. With these continuous improvements, Wellness Day is expected to become a staple in the Choate schedule.

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ITS Fights Viruses

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Mr. Hulley said, "It's a design flaw." However, he assured that still "there are not that many programs or websites out there taking advantage of it."

Mr. Hulley expressed the concerns he has for the Choate community in the context of Meltdown and Spectre: "We don't want your information getting out; even if it's just a term paper, you don't want anything exposed." As the School holds student information, such as addresses and names, ITS is doing everything necessary to prevent any information exploits from affecting the community. In addition, Mr. Hulley also commented on the financial information that the School holds. The School Store, for example, processes credit cards and debit cards, and it is essential to prevent any of that information from being released. As a side note, although there is certain information at a high risk, no social security numbers are stored on campus.

Mr. Andrew Speyer, the Director of Information and Technology Services, added that another concern surrounding Meltdown and Spectre is ransomware, which is a software that takes over a device and refuses to release data without pay. In addition, if a personal computer is hacked, it could be used to invade Choate's network.

Several students responded to the measures ITS has taken, specifically to the email Mr. Speyer sent to the community. Claire Gussler '19 commented, "I was concerned about my security and acted quickly."

CiCi Curran '20 said, "I personally didn't know much about it, but as soon as I saw it I was nervous. If it can reveal my personal information and banking info, that's a big deal. That said, I trust ITS and think they've got a handle on it. But for the time being I'm being careful with my information and computers."

Other students were less worried. Regarding the email that Mr. Speyer sent out, Jack Fiala '19 said, "I just ignored it."

To lessen the chance that Meltdown and Spectre affect the Choate community, ITS strongly encourages all users to update their devices, regardless of whether they are personal or school owned. Mr. Hulley commented on the reasoning behind these requests: "All the manufacturers — Microsoft, Apple, Google — they're all updating their software to prevent this. The sooner everybody updates their devices, the sooner they're protected from the exploits that we know will be coming down the road." Mr. Hulley added that updates are beneficial regardless of any imminent threats: "It's always a good idea to keep your software current because there are security updates not only for these flaws, but those that come out all the time." Aside from updating devices regularly, there are many other ways in which the community can maintain its security. Mr. Hulley advised students to refrain from using websites that aren't reputable. Lastly, he warned of fake updates, which ITS actively tries to prevent. According to Hulley, "We try to train our faculty and staff on what's real and what's not."

ITS has taken several measures itself to prevent security vulnerabilities, such as updating all of its internal systems; each time a system's manufacturer releases a security update, ITS is quick to install it. ITS also continues to update its firewall daily and has updated its servers. Furthermore, it assists members of the community who are uncomfortable updating their devices by themselves. Lastly, ITS has been actively updating computers in laboratories across campus.

Mr. Hulley assured, "It's good that this came out before there were a lot of exploits." ITS plans to continue working on its end to ensure maximum protection. In addition, it hopes that students recognize the urgency in acting to prevent future issues.

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I.D. LAB OFFERS DRONE DOME, VIRTUAL REALITY, AND BUBBLE

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courts of the athletic center. "When it was clear that we might be able to get a drone dome, we knew right away that we wanted to do that, so we had to dedicate part of the space for that," explained Dr. Feldman.

Among the people who attended the event were Jaymes Dec, Tracy Rudzitis, and Josh Burker. All were Stanford Fablearn Fellows, a group that, as stated on their website, strives to "bring together experienced educators from around the world to create an open-source library of curriculum and contribute to research about the 'makers' culture and digital fabrication in education."

Fifth-former Sarah Gurevitch '19, who is currently working on a project in the i.d.Lab, participated in the i.d.Adventure activities and said, "I think this is really nice that Choate brought in all these activities." Gurevitch added that she wished more of the community had come to the event. Sophie Hare '18 agreed, saying "I'm wondering if they should have done it in a smaller time span, so people would come in a more concentrated manner."

The event was meant to display the philosophy of the i.d.Lab with its collaborative environment, as well as attract more students to the makerspace. Though Dr. Feldman says he wishes more students would begin projects in the i.d. Lab on their own, he has been pleased with its success since it was introduced with the opening of the Lanphier Center in the winter of 2015. The space offers a great number of fascinating gadgets to the Choate community, but it recently gained a plethora of printed resources, with everything from books on how to fold paper airplanes, to an encyclopedia of Greek mythology.

The space is about creative exploration and collaboration that goes beyond academics. Dr. Feldman explained, "If your project involves computer programming, world history, or global politics—say you're interested in developing nations—and you've got an idea, you've read how rechargeable batteries are crucial. So, you start researching that a little bit and start to realize that this is technology that any high school student can understand and can start to use and maybe even improve." He added, "Well, that's suddenly exciting; there's a way in which that's serving real word issues."

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Alumni Remember Julie Goodyear's Career

Photo by courtesy of Choate Rosemary Hall

Edward Lanphier (left) and Julie Goodyear (right) at Lanphier Cafe.

By **Samantha Stevenson '19**
Staff Reporter

A few weeks ago, on January 6, a memorial service was held for Ms. Julie Goodyear, long a beloved member of the Choate Community. Ms. Goodyear was a member of the Rosemary Hall Class of 1965, when the school was based in Greenwich, Conn. After graduating from New York University in 1969, she moved to the Choate School with her husband, Mr. Zack Goodyear, who was a faculty member.

Ms. Goodyear was a devoted dorm mother for many years, well noted for her personal care and attention for each student within her dorm as well as for her various baked goods — particularly the lemon squares. Two of her former students in Hill House, Steve Bogardus '72, now a Broadway star, and Kim Oler '72, who went on to become a renowned pianist and songwriter, were extremely fond of the Goodyears and both performed at Ms. Goodyear's memorial service.

In the 1980s, after giving birth to two sons, Trevor '95 and Justin '91, Ms. Goodyear began to work in the Office of Admission, interviewing and otherwise helping to select future students. She loved her work, and her talents were soon recognized by Carl C. Icahn, a benefactor of the school. In addition to donating the science center, Mr. Icahn also created the Icahn Scholars Program, which gave full scholarship to students from low-income families. Mr. and Ms. Goodyear and Ms. Connie Matthews, an English teacher who retired in 2016, were selected to help recruit new students for the program. In her years of service, Ms. Goodyear traveled across the country, meeting and interviewing students of various backgrounds for potential spots at the school.

Through this program, Ms. Goodyear transformed many lives. Several Icahn scholars attended her memorial service and distinctly remembered the kindness with which Ms. Goodyear treated them. One Icahn scholar, Ms. Sheila Adams '01, spoke at the service. Partly on account of Ms. Goodyear's influence, Ms. Adams rose from a low-income background to graduate from Choate, Harvard University, and Columbia Law School. (She is now a litigator at Davis Polk in New York.)

At the service, Ms. Adams read directly from a letter that she wrote to Ms. Goodyear just a few days before her death. She said, "I truly do not know how my life would have turned out had you not come into it way back in middle school and, importantly, had you not seen in me what took me an even longer time to see in myself — namely, the promise of a future far different than the present that I knew at that time. I credit you for having a gift of seeing the best in others, particularly young people, even when they could not yet see the same."

After working for Choate for many decades, Ms. Goodyear took her talents to New York City, where Mr. Icahn had seven charter schools. For the last few years of her life, she worked with students, as well as developing and managing these schools, which were recognized as some of the city's highest performing.

Mr. Goodyear passed away four years ago, in 2013. Mr. and Ms. Goodyear each requested that their memorial services be held in the Seymour St. John Chapel.

Ms. Goodyear's contributions will live on not just through the School's archives but also through the memories of those who loved her. One of those people, Ms. Adams, said at the end of her speech, "I wanted to tell you that I love you, Julie. I don't know if I have ever told you that, but I do. I love you as a daughter loves a mother, as you were like a mother to me — and so many other Icahns."

Samantha Stevenson *may be reached at sstevenson19@choate.edu*

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NO. 9

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WANTED: Speaker with Non-Liberal Viewpoints

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

Graphics by Chandler Littleford

Choate Rosemary Hall brings in many speakers to teach, inspire, and influence its students. Even though speakers play an important role at Choate in the eyes of many students and teachers, the speakers invited to campus almost always present ideas and opinions that align with those of the administration. Choate and many of its students stand on the left end of the spectrum. Of course, there is nothing wrong with that, but Choate tends to forget that there are still many students who have opinions and beliefs that lean towards the conservative side.

Although the messages of the speakers resonate with most of the student body, regardless of their political leanings, the Choate administration has excluded a subset of its students from having their opinions spread to the entire community. Choate Rosemary Hall prides itself on having a very diverse community of people. For example, the activities and discussions held on MLK Day emphasized the importance of diversity and difference in the Choate community. However, although Choate acknowledges this diversity, it fails to acknowledge that Choate is comprised of students diverse in thought. If Choate brings in speakers with opinions that embody the ideals of Choate, then Choate should also bring in speakers that have differing opinions than the majority of the student body. By doing this, Choate will provide a platform for an unacknowledged group of students and teachers.

Choate should still bring in speakers who exemplify the beliefs and opinions of Choate and the majority. However, there should be a fair balance between speakers who have liberal ideas and speakers who have conservative ideas. This does not mean that Choate needs a one-to-one ratio of liberal and conservative speakers. But it does mean that if Choate is going to require attendance for a liberal-minded speaker, then it is only fair that Choate require attendance for a conservative-minded speaker as well. Although a conservative speaker might not be accepted by the majority of the student body, a significant group of people would enjoy their message. Students that may complain of sitting through a spiel they disagree with need to realize that many Choate students do that on a consistent basis.

By not bringing those who have more conservative thoughts to share, Choate is not only dismissing the beliefs of some of its students and teachers, but also doing a disservice to the majority of the student body. How can Choate expect its students to form an argument behind their own ideas and opinions if they never expose them to ideas that contradict them?

It will not be easy for Choate to bring in speakers with opposing viewpoints. There will likely be some form of protest from members of the community. Even though this may be a difficult process, it is unjust and unfair for Choate to ignore a subset of the population. It is time for Choate to realize that not every person in the Choate community has the same opinion. It is time for Choate to give a voice to the students and teachers whose opinions and beliefs remain unnoticed and unacknowledged.

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

The Ineffectiveness of Adviser Conversations on Hookup Culture

By **Vincenzo DiNatale '19**
Associate Editor

First and foremost, it is important that our administration recognize and understand certain aspects of student life. If there are issues that the School can amend, it is imperative to be cognizant of them. In order to accomplish this, the School often organizes adviser meetings to spur discussions and collect feedback. Most recently, the School requested that adviser meetings be held regarding hookup culture and healthy relationships.

However, these conversations, especially those on personal and intrinsically private topics such as sexual relationships, are ineffective. When a topic of discussion between students and adults are centered around hookup culture, students may feel that being asked to share personal information with faculty members — for example, the frequency that students have intercourse — is uncomfortable. In many instances, faculty and students have different opinions about hookup culture, given considerable differences in age, and potentially in beliefs and background, between them. What a student might consider acceptable, a faculty member might consider unacceptable. Of course, people can have different opinions, but when there is an inherent power dynamic at play between those who are discussing the same topic, some may find it difficult to speak openly. Regardless of whether students respond with their own experience or with that of others, hookup culture is a sensitive topic that perhaps is not best discussed with faculty.

Furthermore, when students feel that they simply do not want to respond to such questions or give a limited response as to not reveal personal information — which is a very likely scenario — these conversations accomplish little. In addition, since there is a wide range of experience or knowledge of hookup culture among the student body, students whose responses exhibit a certain degree of experience and knowledge may feel embarrassed or even ashamed in front of adults. Though I understand that this was not the School's intention, I believe that there could be more effective ways to encourage discussions and collect necessary information for the School to act upon.

A potential alternative could be to organize student-led discussions. If conversations were facilitated as such, students would feel more comfortable communicating honestly and comfortably. Similar to Diversity Day, if conversations about hookup culture were led by students and anonymity was strongly encouraged, student facilitators could gather and share more reliable information with the administration. Furthermore, this could serve as an opportunity for underutilized resources on campus — namely, the Peer Educators — to facilitate pertinent discussions and educate the Choate community.

Again, it is imperative that the School better understands aspects of student life so that it can adequately provide students the necessary support and guidance. However, the School must make discussions about personal and sensitive topics feel safer and more approachable.

Vincenzo DiNatale *is a fifth former from Wallingford, CT. He may be reached at vdinatale19@choate.edu*

PUT THE "STUDENT" IN STUDENT COUNCIL

By **Derek Ng '20**
Associate Editor

The Daily Grind, a student-led group at Choate, raises funds by selling food and drinks to students during Tuesday conference periods, social events, and other special occasions. A subcommittee of the Student Council, led this year by Julian Yau '18, the Daily Grind donates all earnings to a charity of choice. As recommended by Joseph Coyne '19, the funds from last year are being donated to Call To Care Uganda, an organization that responds to the needs of Ugandan children. All previous funds have been used to purchase forty new bunk beds for Ugandan students.

While it is undeniably true that donating our funds to Call To Care Uganda was an excellent decision, the selection process for which charity received the funds should have more actively involved the student body. Like many others, I was excited to find out that the money was being put to good use. However, I do wish that I had been notified of the decision-making process prior to the announcement, and that I had the option of suggesting a charity to which the funds could go. As diversity is inherent in the Choate community, many of us have different causes to which we are devoted, and while donating all of the money to Call To Care Uganda was an indisputably noble act, some agree that it could have been a more rewarding experience had the rest of the student body been more involved in the selection process.

The Council must find better ways to approach the Choate community with its ideas.

For one, I was unaware that the Daily Grind was a charitable organization until after the announcement was made; I was also unaware that as a student, I could have provided input as to where the funds could have gone. As the Daily Grind is a subset of the Student Council, it falls upon the council itself to improve communication about such matters between themselves and the rest of the student body.

This issue speaks to a larger problem which our community faces: the lack of communication between the Student Council and the rest of the school. Some have told me in informal conversation that aside from electing peers to be part of the Student Council, they feel relatively uninvolved with the proceedings of the group. Personally, I frequent the Council's meeting notes on Facebook, but I understand why they might feel that way. Unless students visit the Facebook page, the bulletin board outside the dining hall, or the Student Council website (whose location on the Choate website is somewhat hard to locate), the only times when non-Council members receive any progress updates are during announcements in all-school meeting, which students are mandated to attend anyway. As a group of students voted on to represent the rest of the student body, it is imperative that the council consistently informs students of what it has been up to.

As shown by the charitable efforts of the Daily Grind, it is clear that the Council has good intentions. However, the Council must find better ways to approach the Choate community with its ideas, so that each member of our community remains fully informed of its progress. Some possible solutions include sending a regular all-school email out, delivering frequent announcements at all-school meetings, or posting meeting agendas and notes in more noticeable places. If the whole student body had been asked for suggestions as to where Daily Grind funds could have gone before the last all-school meeting announcement, the student body would have felt much more included in the decision-making process.

That being said, we should nonetheless be appreciative of this year's Student Council. It is obvious that members of the Council are loyal and dedicated to the work they do for the student body. As we move into a new election season, I hope that new council members will not only share the passion of this year's representatives, but also work together on establishing more solid methods of communication between themselves and the student body.

Derek Ng *is a fourth former from Fort Lee, NJ. He may be reached at dng20@choate.edu*

Would Student Jobs Diminish Socioeconomic Gaps on Campus?

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

One of my favorite aspects of Choate is the diversity of the population. I am always amazed by the different kinds of people I converse with in my classes, my extracurriculars, and my dinner conversations. Choate prides itself on its diverse community, as it 100% should, but is Choate doing a good job of providing equal opportunity to all students?

For Diversity Day this year, I facilitated a conversation on the socioeconomic discrepancies among the student body and how it affects the Choate community. My group diverged into a discussion regarding job opportunities for students and if there should be more flexibility for students to have jobs during the school year. We even considered the idea of offering jobs as substitutions for sports. This conversation came about after concluding that many opportunities offered by Choate — like food, mall, and New York City shuttles — involve spending money that many Choate students cannot afford. We ended in agreement that those of different socioeconomic classes have different experiences and opportunities at Choate. We set out to come up with a solution to fix this.

At the moment, there are very few student job offerings on campus. Some of the jobs Choate provides include calling alumni in the alumni office and ushering for different performances at the PMAC; aside from these, on-campus job opportunities are quite sparse. Could Choate possibly benefit by having more student jobs?

Many students who can't participate in SAC weekend events due to monetary reasons would benefit from making a salary through a student job. Unfortunately, this would potentially lead to more of a socioeconomic divide on campus, as those on financial aid would hypothetically be the only students with jobs. But honestly, who really knows how this would play out? If students could work a job at McDonald's or Mr. D's as an after-school activity or even on weekends, this would gain the attention of many students on campus, not just those on financial aid. The students of higher socioeconomic statuses in the discussion I facilitated said they would jump at the opportunity to have a job. "It feels good to earn your own money rather than have money handed to you from your parents," as one student in the discussion put it. Student jobs could even the playing field — as student of all backgrounds would be interested in working — but could also imbalance it if only students from less privileged backgrounds work.

Photo courtesy of Lauren Canna

Lauren Canna '18 works at the Larry Hart Pool during a free swim.

Like every proposed idea, there are pros and cons. From what I have seen, the current Choate community and students do a good job at including and befriending one another regardless of socioeconomic difference; there is no apparent divide. We are all students that work through the continuous grind Choate demands of us; we carry on with our daily lives on campus without thinking about one another's wealth. Student job offerings could potentially expose the wealth discrepancy among the student body, but it could also further unite the student body. If anything, we should continue to hold more discussions about student job offerings on and off campus, and see how the implementation of more job opportunities could impact our community.

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

Corrections

News
A pull quote from an article last week about Dr. Matt Bellace's talk should have been attributed to Parth Mody '19, not Sam Kaplan '19.

Arts and Leisure
An article last week about the Golden Globes was written by Wavy Griffin '21, not Abigail Chang '19.

Sports
Last week's Field Report did not list the complete scores of Wednesday games. For the most recent scores, please see pg. 8.

A caption incorrectly attributed a photograph of Boys' Varsity Basketball to Ross Mortensen; it was, in fact, taken by Marja van Mierlo '18.

The Choate News *regrets these errors.*
To submit a correction, email thechoatenews@choate.edu

TRUMP'S COMMENTS ON AFRICA YET AGAIN REVEAL HIS RACISM

Photo courtesy of *The New York Times*

President Donald Trump in a meeting at the White House on January 9, 2018.

By **Audrey Powell '19**
Associate Editor

Ever since Mr. Donald Trump P'00's began his campaign for President of the United States, his supporters have denied his blatant racism. Over and over again, he has proved those supporters wrong by using derogatory remarks to describe certain races and identity groups. The latest example of this occurred on January 11, when Mr. Trump reportedly referred to Haiti and some African nations as "sh*thole countries." This comment further exemplifies Mr. Trump's white superiority complex, making it more and more impossible to pretend that he is not extremely racist.

One of the most disappointing but unsurprising aspects of these comments is that Mr. Trump made them during a meeting to determine the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA is an Obama-era program that protects individuals who came illegally to the United States as children from being deported. The people protected by this program have been raised in the U.S. — they are inherently American and wish to stay in the country where they grew up. Despite this, Mr. Trump refuses to keep the program in place. So, instead of simply negotiating with bipartisan legislators to protect DACA and accept the offered increased border security in exchange, he questioned why Americans would want people from Haiti and African countries in the U.S. He would propose that we deliberately exclude children from countries such as those from the program, instead encouraging more people from places like Norway to move here. In other words, he wants to keep people from majority-black countries out of the U.S., while citizens of Norway, a nation that is 83% white, are more than welcome to emigrate here.

How can these remarks be called anything but racist? According to his ex-wife Ivana, Mr. Trump is not racist, but only merely confused. However, confusion is not an excuse for calling other nations what he did. Those vulgar remarks are blatantly rooted in Mr. Trump's supremacist belief that white people are more civilized and educated than black people. Furthermore, given the overwhelming pre-existing evidence of Mr. Trump's racism, there is no logical or moral way to say that Mr. Trump isn't racist. For example, throughout his campaign, Mr. Trump labeled Mexicans as rapists and drug dealers, essentially generalizing a country with a population of 127.5 million people as criminals. This is the definition of racial prejudice.

Moreover, Mr. Trump criticized both sides of a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, VA, essentially disapproving of activists protesting the discrimination against black people. In fact, his target of Haiti and African nations is not unprecedented. Last year, he criticized allowing Haitians into the U.S., claiming they "all have AIDS." He also complained about Nigerian immigrants, stating that they would never "go back to their huts" after seeing America. The evidence is indisputable: Mr. Trump is a racist.

As CNN's Anderson Cooper put it, Mr. Trump's comments are "not racial. Not racially charged. Racist. Let's not kid ourselves. Let's not dance around it. The sentiment the president expressed today is a racist sentiment."

There's simply no point in pretending that these comments are anything but racist — that is pure ignorance. To deny the racist nature of these remarks is to accept and endorse racism in the Oval Office. It supports the discrimination against people from Haiti and African countries simply because of the color of their skin and where they were born. It disregards the significant work that people from those countries have done for the United States and beyond.

> *When racists like Mr. Trump are granted that level of power, it normalizes white supremacy.*

Presidents are supposed to properly represent their country, acting as role models for youth. When racists like Mr. Trump are granted that level of power, it normalizes white supremacy. This will ultimately breed more racism within our country if all legislators do not officially condemn Trump's behavior. After all, racism should not be a partisan issue.. Trump's behavior needs to be openly condemned by all.

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

On Russia, Should We Trust Steve Bannon?

By **Camille Grant '21**
Opinions Writer

Earlier this month, Robert Mueller III subpoenaed former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon in the Special Counsel investigation of Russian collusion in the 2016 election. The House Intelligence Committee also subpoenaed Bannon in early January in its separate collusion investigation. However, with the notoriously sneaky Bannon, it's difficult to know if he's telling the truth. What does he really know about Russia?

Bannon's comments regarding an alleged Trump Tower Meeting in Michael Wolff's newly released book, Fire and Fury, are believed to be a partial cause for the subpoena. Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya promised Donald Trump Jr. that she had information that would destroy Clinton's bid for presidency. The information was "part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump." Trump Jr., Paul Manafort, and Jared Kushner met with Ms. Veselnitskaya and a former Soviet intelligence officer in Trump Tower. Bannon's take on the meeting was included in the book: "Even if you thought that this was not treasonous, or unpatriotic, or bad s–, and I happen to think it's all of that, you should have called the FBI immediately." After remarks of his detailed in the book garnered controversy, Bannon released a statement diverting his initial criticism from Donald Trump Jr. and toward former campaign manager Paul Manafort.

Bannon's actions and statements in the past don't exemplify honesty. While he was editor of the nationalist website Breitbart, he routinely published controversial and often derogatory content. Articles propagating dangerous conspiracy theories, like the President Obama-era 'Birthergate', have made waves across the internet. Bannon hasn't shied away from exploiting ignorance in the past. Could his statements to Wolff be "alternative facts" ?

As shown by the events of the past few weeks, Trump and Bannon have a rocky relationship. Bannon assisted Trump on the campaign trail, publishing pro-Trump content on Breitbart and becoming the campaign's CEO. After his inauguration, Trump employed Bannon as White House chief strategist and senior counselor to the President. Later, an executive order gave an unqualified Bannon a seat on the National Security Council. If anybody were to know about Russian collusion, it seemed like it would be Bannon.

Bannon left the Trump administration and rejoined Breitbart in August 2017. On January 3, Trump released a statement that read, in part, "When [Bannon] was fired, he not only lost his job, he lost his mind.... he spent his time at the White House leaking false information to the media." Six days later, Bannon left his position at Breitbart.

With luck, Bannon's upcoming testimony will reveal the extent of his knowledge. Mueller's subpoena initially called for testimony in front of a grand jury, but Bannon has reportedly negotiated a private meeting with the investigators. Bannon already met with the House Intelligence Committee, but he refused to answer questions and attempted to invoke executive privilege, which he doesn't have the right to do. Still, Bannon's confusion over executive privilege and subsequent silence has meant that little information has thus far come out. Bannon was expected to return to the House Intelligence Committee on January 16, but that appointment has been delayed indefinitely.

If Bannon is to be trusted, are we excusing his past? Moreover, with his reputation already ruined, it is doubtful that he will want to contribute anything more incriminating than he has already. He is already trying to distance himself from the anti-Trump agenda. Without Breitbart, it's all too likely that he will soon fade from the limelight if the Mueller inquisition proves unsuccessful. It's possible, but unlikely, that the extent of his knowledge has been covered in Fire and Fury. Bannon isn't reliable, and it's difficult to say that he will be accommodating in the Special Counsel investigation. In the end of the day, all we can hope for is Bannon's cooperation — but we should expect very little.

Camille Grant *is a third former from Chicago, IL. She may be reached at cgrant21@choate.edu*

To Tame North Korea, Trump Must Cool His Rhetoric

By **Alyssa Shin '18**
Copy Editor

Over Winter Break, I watched two little kids squabble in a park. They each had a toy car, though one was bigger than the other, and the kid with the big car seemed to take particular glee in ramming his toy against the smaller object. Whack, whack, whack went the big car, the harassing kid cackling as his victim reddened with chagrin. How was my mind not to drift to Donald J. Trump P '00, and his personal battering ram known as Twitter?

A few days earlier, on January 2, Mr. Trump had used social-media platform to respond to Kim Jong Un's New Year's Day speech. "Will someone from his depleted and food starved regime please inform him that I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!" our president wrote.

Graphics by Chandler Littleford/*The Choate News*

While forcing Mr. Trump to be concise, Twitter's 280 character limit could not restrain the problems in how this thought was communicated. Mr. Trump started by describing Mr. Kim's regime as "depleted and food starved" not to highlight the moral and humanitarian problems inherent in a corrupt authoritarian rule, but because they are qualities that make North Korea inferior to the United States. He proceeded to compare the sizes and functionality of the countries' nuclear "Buttons," as if he were assessing toys (or, some say, more intimate belongings) and not devices that could obliterate the world. Trump concluded by pointing out that his button, in fact, works, insinuating that Mr. Kim's does not — in effect, challenging the North Korean leader to nuclear warfare. In one brash and loaded tweet Mr. Trump managed to incite dangerous acrimony in the name of his fragile ego.

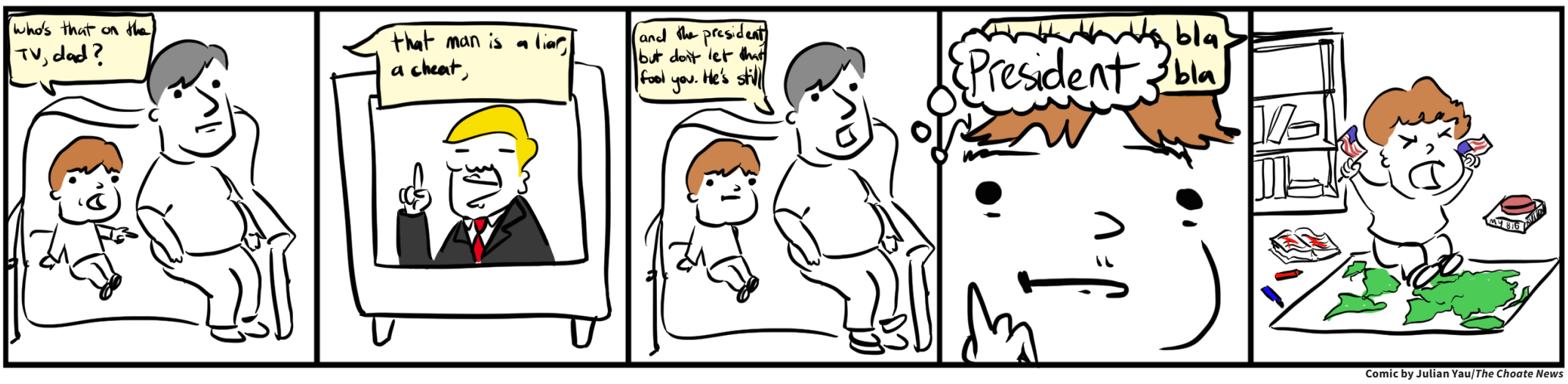
While the absurdity of his tweets and mocking nicknames such as "Little Rocket Man" might evoke hilarity, every one of his taunts are an intentional political move. It is not clear whether Mr. Trump fully understands that pressing a button on Twitter could lead to Mr. Kim using his own "button." However, it is evident that behind Trump's inflated and dramatic rhetoric stands a small and diminished man who must rethink the consequences that his actions have on both American society and the standing of America in international politics.

Granted, Trump's constant barrage of threats may have had an initially shocking effect. Some scholars have even said that this new political "tactic," more overtly assertive than past diplomatic approaches to reducing nuclear armament in North Korea, may be effective in discouraging North Korea from pursuing any action. However, as the unprecedented effect of his rhetoric wears off, it will be even more important for him to abandon emotionally-charged threats and rely on more sustainable means of communication with North Korea to deter nuclear warfare.

Despite tense relations between the U.S. and North Korea, North Korea and U.S. ally South Korea, seem to have an improving relationship. The two nations announced on January 17 that they will present a joint flag in the opening ceremony of the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, and will compete as one nation for several sports. Some analysts have judged this as an opportunity for North Korea to buy time as it continues to improve its nuclear technology. Others applauded this as progress. The true intent of North Korea in reopening discussions will not materialize immediately, but it is important to seize the opportunity to diffuse the political and personal tensions between Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim.

Alyssa Shin *is a sixth former from Seoul, South Korea. She may be reached at ashin18@choate.edu*

Graphics by Chandler Littleford/*The Choate News*



Comic by Julian Yau/*The Choate News*

ADMISSION OFFICE IMPLEMENTS NEW CHARACTER COMPONENT TO APPLICATION

By **Kristen Altman '18**
Features Editor

At many prep schools, admission can be accomplished with a sharpened #2 pencil and a SSAT registration. At Choate, prospective students face standardized tests *and* tests of character. Starting with the 2017-2018 application cycle, the Admission Office will use the SSAT Character Skills Snapshot in its application review.

The Snapshot, a 29-question test assessing applicants' personal traits, is an optional but strongly recommended aspect of a Choate application. It presents students with two types of questions: forced-choice questions, which list three statements and ask students to identify which ones most and least accurately describe them; and situational judgment questions, which ask students to rank the most appropriate and least appropriate reactions to a given scenario. The test is free for students who register for the SSAT, though it may only be taken once per application cycle.

Results from the Snapshot were sent to the student and any secondary schools of their choice on December 18, 2017. The test measures eight personality traits: open-mindedness, self-control, teamwork, resilience, responsibility, social awareness, initiative, and intellectual curiosity. Traits are rated on an increasing scale — ranked in categories of emerging, developing, or demonstrating — then compared with a norm group of students within the same gender and age group who also took the assessment.

Mr. Amin Abdul-Malik Gonzalez, Director of Admissions, said, "All eight of the character skills assessed are of important interest to us and are in line with Choate's mission and values. We care about character because it's a part of our mission. That's why we're assessing it as part of our application process. So I think that we're helping the school, prospective students, and families by looking at critical, non-quantitative parts of the application."

"The overall goal of the Snapshot is for students to provide additional information about their character to schools," explained Ms. Meghan Brenneman, Director of Character Assessment Programs at the Enrollment Management Association (EMA) during a webinar released in July 2017. "It's meant to be a complement [to the SSAT], and to provide schools with a richer, more well-rounded picture of the applicant."

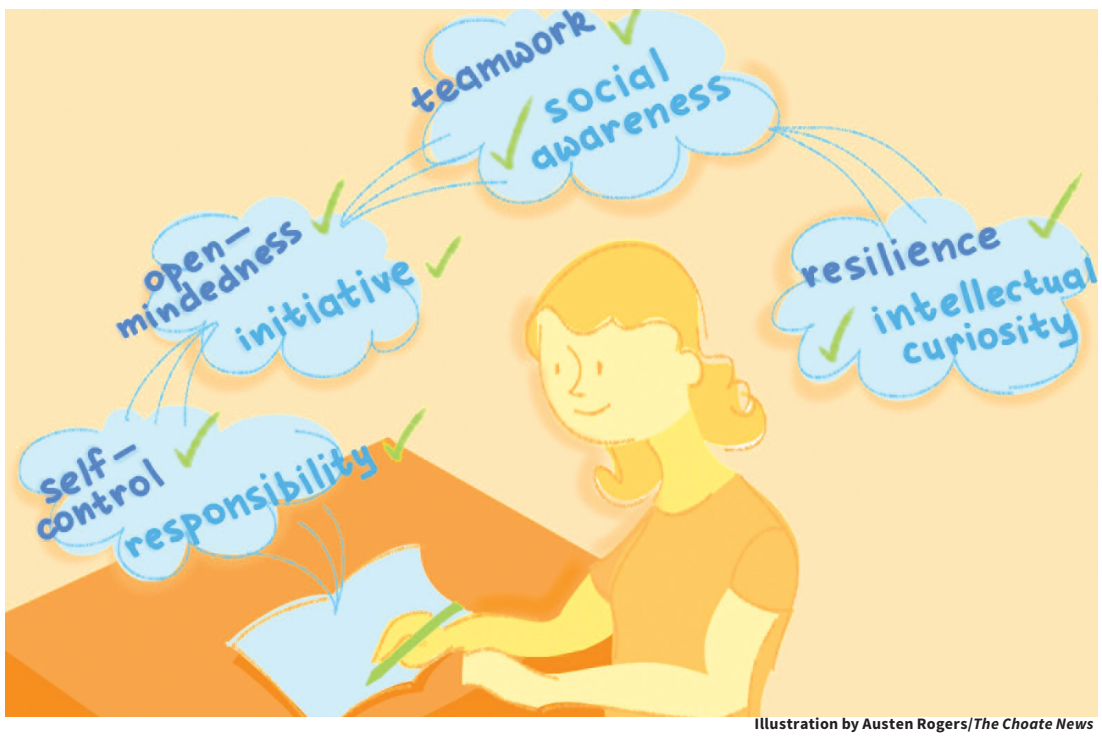


Illustration by Austen Rogers/*The Choate News*

As the 2017-2018 application review continues, the weight Choate will give the Snapshot remains unclear. Mr. Gonzalez said, "Because it's still early in the admissions cycle, we haven't seen very many of them. How it'll be weighted is still to be determined. However, when we consider the Snapshot, we're seeing it in the context of the rest of the application. But when it's not there, it's not going to disadvantage a student."

Development of the Snapshot began in 2014 from collaboration between the EMA, Educational Testing Service, and a group of 46 independent schools, including Choate, The Groton School, and Phillips Exeter Academy. Through collaboration with admission directors, heads of schools, and independent school teachers, the Snapshot formed preliminary test questions and underwent a rigorous trial period. By 2016, more than 12,000 students had pilot-tested the program.

Although important questions about character assessments still exist — among them, the complications of having a standardized test evaluate character — Mr. Gonzalez is optimistic about the Snapshot. He said, "There are questions that have come up and will have to be revisited. The test is somewhat standardized, but it's also individualized. The student takes it in their own time, in their own space. You don't study, because there's no right answer. There are degrees that are measured. The test runs have shown that it has reliability and credibility, and there's no 'perfect score' like there is a 2400 on the SSAT."

Choate has long advocated character tests in admissions. The Choate Self-Assessment, initiated in 2000 by former Director of Admissions Mr. Ray Diffley III, paved the way for character assessment models in independent schools. During the ten-year project, Mr. Diffley collaborated with Dr. Robert J. Sternberg P'97 '98, then a professor at Yale, to develop a tool that would assess potential success at Choate. Research behind the Choate Self-Assessment was published in the fall 2009 edition of *Journal of Educational Psychology* under the title "Are SSATs and GPA Enough? A Theory-Based Approach to Predicting Academic Success in Secondary Schools."

The Choate Self-Assessment consisted of 40 questions measuring self-advocacy, locus of control, and motivation sources. It was offered to prospective students until the 2017-2018 application cycle, when applicants had the option to take the SSAT Character Skills Snapshot instead.

In a 2016 interview regarding the Choate Self-Assessment, Mr. Diffley said, "We hope, at Choate, that we are trying to make the most informed decisions and evolve the way that admissions offices and educators look at a student." He continued, "There's some great things happening right now that may be evident in the application process in the near future. A lot of those things happen to do with what makes one successful in and beyond school — and how that can be both part of the admission process and the school itself in teaching these traits."

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Kwan Sirisakunngam '18 Speaks on Postgraduate Experence

By **Isabella Mandell '21**
Reporter

Although the most prominent transitions for Kwan Sirisakunngam '18 when beginning her postgraduate year at Choate were with the school system, one surprise Sirisakunngam experienced at Choate was a cultural difference. It occurred early in the year, when Sirisakunngam sneezed during a class. She was shocked and confused when the entire class turned to face her and simultaneously mumbled "bless you," before returning back to work. She explained that in Thailand, nothing is customarily said following a sneeze, and that it has taken adjustment and observation for her to understand when to say "bless you" to someone else.

Sirisakunngam is the only female PG currently at Choate. Last year, Sirisakunngam was awarded the King's Scholarship, a program that chooses nine students from Thailand to study abroad. To be awarded this prestigious scholarship, Sirisakunngam first took five two-hour subject tests, ranging from math and sciences to Thai language and English. Two months after placing in the top ten students (of more than one thousand), Sirisakunngam was interviewed and, soon after, selected.

The next step for Sirisakunngam was choosing a high school. Choate's extracurricular options first drew her to the school. "In Thailand, we don't really have activities like this," she said recently, "You can only attend one club per year," a stark contrast to the diversity of club choices at Choate.

In addition to Choate's variety of clubs, the difference in athletic systems influenced Sirisakunngam's decision to matriculate. At Sirisakunngam's previous school in Thailand, each grade is assigned one sport to play per term, lessening the opportunity for individuality among students. At Choate, Sirisakunngam chose to play senior soccer during the fall, and recently decided to try archery for the winter term.

Sirisakunngam also noticed a change within the classrooms. Sirisakunngam had studied with the same 34 students for three years in a row, the students remaining in one room for the day while teachers traveled there to meet them. The classes were mainly taught through lecture, while the tests were often solely multiple choice. Experiencing a transition fostered Sirisakunngam's appreciation for Choate's discussion-based classes and skills-based assessments.

Last year, Sirisakunngam was awarded the King's Scholarship, a program that chooses nine students from Thailand to study abroad.

Although Sirisakunngam's PG year has presented many different challenges, she has discovered similarities between her school in Thailand and Choate to make her feel more at home. Just as the town center of Wallingford is an integral part of Choate to many students, Sirisakunngam explained that after classes, she would often walk to the shopping center in Thailand's capital, Bangkok, to eat with other students. The international students at Choate have also created a comforting environment for Sirisakunngam to adjust, especially those who can talk to her in Thai.

Moving to a new country without the same native language, and entering a new high school as the only female postgraduate would be a difficult challenge for most. Sirisakunngam handles all of this with both grace and a sense of humor, expressing her love of Choate by saying, "I wish I could stay [at Choate] for four years. I want to be a freshman here!"

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Tonight, Get Your Freak on at St. John Hall

By **Elizabeth Quinn '20**
Staff Reporter

At Choate, the term "Freaky Friday" does not refer to the popular 2003 movie starring Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis '76. Rather, Freaky Friday is an event of singing, skits, and fun that will take place tonight, January 26, in St. John Hall.

Freaky Friday was developed in the early 1990s by a group of sixth-form leaders on student council who wanted to have a skit night for dorms, teams, and other campus groups. Initially, when Choate had a larger campus, Freaky Friday took place in the Ruutz Rees commons, where a stage, lighting, and sound systems were set up. Mr. Jim Yanelli, Director of Student Activities, explained that the kitchen of Ruutz Rees was used as a "backstage area for performers to set up their equipment."

Over the years, however, Freaky Friday became "more of a talent show and open mic night, like the spring term's Coffeehouse," said Mr. Yanelli. "There are more talent opportunities, less comedy, but more singing, poetry, and musical acts." Although still a night for the Choate community to gather, the event morphed into an opportunity geared toward students with specific talents to perform. Mr. Yanelli said, "It's great for students to show their talents, but it used to be goofier and more team or dorm-based, where the focus was less on performance than it was on funny skits. This performance now, I think, is more enjoyable for the students."

As Choate's Director of Student Activities, Mr. Yanelli knows the student body quite well, and yet he is always impressed by students who unexpectedly astonish the Freaky Friday crowd with a hidden talent. "It's always nice to have that element of surprise," he said. "I'm just so impressed by kids' abilities to get up in front of a large group of peers."

In previous years, Mr. Yanelli recalls some students doing magic acts or comedy skits, with all acts unique and great fun to watch. Mr. Yanelli particularly favors an act once performed by a sophomore dorm in which students simulated a surgery. The performers used a sheet as a blanket and removed a student's organs in a wild manner.

In more recent years, Freaky Friday's turnout has been quite large, with around several hundred students in attendance. Serena Sandweiss '20 said, "While it's daunting to perform in front of such a big group of students, it's always nice to see a few friendly faces in the audience."

Mr. Yanelli added that Freaky Friday is "one of those great punctuation marks in the school year — like Harvest Fest, the Holiday Ball, the Deerfield Pep Rally, or the Last and First Hurrahs — that are just a big part of the Choate community." These traditions are, as Mr. Yanelli put it, distinct as part of the "annualized Choate experience."

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Andrew Mellon Library: Where the Historical Things Are

Photo by Lauren Canna/*The Choate News*

Located on the library's second floor, the Harold L. Tinker Rare Books Room houses first editions of *The Great Gatsby* and *Little Women.*

By **Riley Choi '18**
Staff Reporter

The Andrew Mellon Library is many Choate students' favorite place on campus. Its uniquely warm and cordial atmosphere welcomes all members of the community, who find themselves relaxed and comfortable in this space. As the center of many academic resources, the library houses various objects, such as portraits of the past heads of the school, the model of a ship housed in a glass case, and documents about the school history in the Archives. However, a relatively unknown aspect of the library is the special collections of books in honor of a few Choate alumni and faculty members.

One such collection is the John F. Kennedy '35 Collection, which is found in the basement of the library. The JFK Collection was formed while Kennedy was President of the United States, and the collection marked the beginning of the Choate Archives. The collection contains scrapbooks, news clippings, and books about Kennedy, and they continue to be used by researchers who investigate his life.

The collection honors Kennedy's lasting impact on the Choate community. Kennedy came back to The Choate School as a speaker for the 50th anniversary event, and he spoke about the importance of teaching the students public affairs, including the government and politics. Shortly after the speech, then-Headmaster George St. John gathered faculty members to create a course called Public Affairs. This later evolved into American Political Institutions (API). "The API program is an important and lasting educational legacy of Kennedy that is being utilized within the school community to this day," commented Ms. Judy Donald '66, the school Archivist and an alumna of Rosemary Hall.

The Harold L. Tinker Rare Book Room is found near the Archives on the second floor of the library. The room has a unique old book smell, as it houses two major collections, the Adlai Stevenson II '1918 Collection and the Haffenreffer Autograph Collection. Stevenson was an Illinois governor, presidential candidate and UN Ambassador. In honor of his work and contribution to the government, the school has a biennial lecture series in which an alumnus of the school gives a speech in front of the school.

The Haffenreffer Autograph Collection is comprised of old wooden bookshelves with glass slides. These shelves are filled with scrapbooks and autographed first editions of books, including *The Great Gatsby* and *Little Women*. The collection also houses samples of early American prints, books by Malcolm Lowry and the Concord Authors, and books by and about Stevenson. Most books in this collection were donated by Mr. Harold L. Tinker, a Choate faculty member who had a hobby of collecting rare first editions of 19th-and 20th-century American books.

Next to the Stevenson Collection is a smaller bookshelf, which is the Haffenreffer Autograph Collection. The collection was donated to the school by Karl '58, Rudolf '56, and David '57, and it consists of famous autographs, documents, and pictures related to early American history. One of them is the leather-bound autographs, sketches, and handwritten documents of the early presidents, including John Adams and George Washington.

At the end of the hallway on the second floor, there is the Hardy Room, which contains a collection of first editions by and about English author, Thomas Hardy. The collections include *The Return of the Natives*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *A Changed Man*, and many more. The collection was also given by Mr. Tinker, and it is protected in the glass room cabinet.

In addition to specific rooms that keep the collections, study rooms on the second floor also have various collections. There is a collection in honor of Don Diebel '85, who died in a car accident when he was 35. His family provided funds to make the study room and donated autographed books. Stanley Sanger's Room has a collection for New Directions Publishing, which is an independent book publishing company founded by James Laughlin '32. The collection contains various literature and poetry published by New Directions, and enclosed in the glass cabinet are the children's books with intricate drawings, including *Diary of a Goose Girl*. The Wallingford Study Room has a collection of information about Wallingford, including history books, documents, and pictures. In the common space on the second floor, there are School Collections, which are books by Choate faculty members, including the dissertation of Caroline Ruutz-Rees, the first head of Rosemary Hall.

The challenge of the librarians and the school archivist, Ms. Donald, is to preserve and conserve these collections in good shape. "I hope that these collections are implemented into the school curriculum," commented Ms. Donald. "It would be amazing to see students utilizing these valuable historical records to learn more about American literature and history."

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Step Squad Hosts Master Class

Photo by Marja van Mierlo/*The Choate News*

Step Squad leaders Zara Harding, Donessa Colley, Shamari Harrington, and Tiffany Lin lead a dance in their classic ensemble.

By **Inc Thongthai '19**
Staff Reporter

Every time this group performs, the Choate community is immediately stunned by their talent and precision. Everyone stops and stares at the Timberland boots and fierce facial expressions. This past year, the group has already impressed the Choate community with multiple performances, most notably during Pep Rally and the Winter Festival: this is Step Squad.

This past week, the presidents of Step Squad organized a Step Masterclass to teach their members a short routine that would be performed at the basketball game. One of the leading choreographers was Madi Epstein-O'Halloran '18. For several years, Epstein-O'Halloran has been at the forefront of the dance scene here at Choate. She says, "It was so fun to see the steps finally come together and everyone understand it. It's a pretty iconic step so people were pretty excited to learn it." She added, "I think it was a cool moment for people to see themselves doing a step they had watched before."

Kamsi Iloeje '19, who has been a long time member of Step Squad, led the choreography. She said, "My favorite moment was the first time everyone managed to do the step together. Everyone was cheering and smiling, and it felt really energetic and lively in the room."

Another participant was Mila Hill '21. Hill has had a significant presence in Step Squad, spending this year honing her stepping skills. However, she has not learned one of the most important choreographies. She said, "Even though I am in Step Squad, I hadn't had the chance to learn the 'Let's Go Choate' step we performed today." She added, "Being at a Step Masterclass to learn and not teach was really interesting. Everyone at the Masterclass was really excited about learning one of our steps and picked it up really quickly." However, learning the steps was not her favorite moment of the Masterclass. Hill said, "My favorite moment was probably when we all performed the step together at the end of the Masterclass. I always love when it all comes together. There's something about the synchronicity of the steps and how the beat flows that always makes me smile."

Trista LeBlanc-Serbyn '21 is a newcomer to the Step scene. She, like Hill, is a prominent dancer in Step Squad. She said, "My favorite moment was at the beginning of the master class. It was great to see all the people who wanted to come and participate and were willing to try something new." She added, "A lot of people seemed skeptical at first, but nevertheless, everyone was willing to reach out of their comfort zone and learn the step."

No matter how awkward, the result of the Masterclass stunned her. She continued, "My other favorite moment was the first time that we all did the step correctly and in sync. It looked and sounded amazing, and you could tell everyone thought so by the huge smiles on their faces! Everyone was just radiating pride and it really made the class worth it."

As one of the presidents of Step Squad, Shamari Harrington '18 has big plans for Step Squad. She said, "Our goals as a Squad are to be more active on campus this year, to get the school more involved in what we do, and to share the culture and art of step more." At the same time, she acknowledges what the club has achieved. Harrington said, "We believe that we have made tremendous progress in accomplishing these goals as we had our first appearance in the Holiday program and will appear for a halftime show this weekend."

Step Squad has already conquered 2017 and this year will be no different.

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À LA MODE

By **Jeanne Malle '19**
Associate Editor

People often mock the fashion world either for trying to be the most important industry on the planet or dismiss those who believe that fashion is the center of life. What people don't often admit about fashion, however, is its tremendous power to aid individuals in finding how they want to present themselves to their communities. No matter how much or how little effort people put into creating an outfit every morning, they are obliged to decide what impression they want to make on the people around them

In her time at Choate, Mayumi Kuze '19 has unexpectedly recognized the power that fashion plays in her life. "I never thought that I was very into fashion or even had any particular style," she said. She continued, "I had to wear a uniform in my old school, so I never thought about the things I wore."

Before Choate, Kuze was not only unaware of how much fashion interested her, but also how it could help her define her self-image. She explained, "I'm from Tokyo, Japan. Most of the things I wear I buy from there, but I look different from most Japanese teenagers. All of my friends back home pursued looking pretty and young. Here at Choate, I started exploring the world of fashion. I just saw so many fashionable people here. Before I came here I never thought that I would even care about fashion, because I just didn't like what I wore. I thought it was just how I was. When I was wearing things that I didn't really like, I didn't really like myself in terms of my appearance either. I thought that everyone else looked prettier than I did, and I didn't have self confidence. I basically thought that I could change my self image by changing what I wear. Fashion is about the way that people see you but also about the way that you see yourself."

A place so different from home, Choate let Kuze explore the ways in which she could show herself in a completely independent way. She said, "In Japan, the trend is always very clear. I don't really like the trends these days. Here, it's more diverse. At Choate, people wear so many different things. You see some students wearing suits and others wearing sweatpants. I feel like here, everything is accepted because everyone is really different. That's what I really like about the dress code without the dress code here!" Kuze describes most of the new things that she wears as things that "were trends years ago, like in 1980s Japan. I don't know, it's weird."

At Choate, a place where she feels safe and able to grow, Kuze came to understand that despite what she thought in middle school, fashion plays a crucial part in her life. Without it, she might not have been able to find peace within herself, or able to find a way to show our community what she's about.

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Kathryn Phillips: Choate's Resident Photographer

Photo courtesy of Kathryn Phillips

Phillips (not pictured) has been taking photos since she was a child, using her father's camera as her tool.

By **Tony Lee '21**
Staff Reporter

When she was younger, Kathryn Phillips '20 would furtively take photos using her father's camera. Phillips attributes the start of her photography work to a childhood trip to New York. "It started when I was 12 or 13. I was in New York for the first time, and my dad had his camera throughout the trip. I would always sneak a picture or two," Phillips said recently. "A few months later I found that taking photos explained and relieved a lot of emotions I was feeling at the time."

In particular, Phillips praised the precision of the messages that photos can deliver to the viewers.

"Of course I love photography, why else would I do it? It is a language that always has a way of saying exactly what I need or want to say," Phillips said.

Now, pursuing her art here at Choate, Phillips draws inspiration from her emotions — particularly, her anger.

"Anger inspires me," she said. "Anger is so wasteful when expressed through yelling or negativity. I find that when I am really angry about something, photography helps me clearly explain why. It makes me want to do something with that anger."

Phillips looks up to photographers who have developed a distinct style.

"I am also really inspired by Man Ray and Sally Mann --- both black and white film photographers," she said. "They are very unique. When you see a photo by them, you instantly know it is their art."

Phillips described her creative process as organic and spontaneous. "I turn on my camera and start shooting. The best photos are when I am capturing a moment. If I am doing something about fashion, the look of the photos comes naturally. I try not to manipulate my style. Instead, I just take photos of what looks good."

Phillips is now working on fashion pictorials. "I am currently working on a project with a few students on campus. We are working together to create an artistic fashion street look," Phillips said. "I first come up with a look, vibe, or theme that I want to portray. After that, it is just about scheduling."

Phillips said that she enjoys this type of photography because "it is also fun to photograph people you know. When you show them the pictures, the faces are priceless."

Looking ahead, Phillips holds many plans and projects for her photography work. "I want to work towards fashion editorials in a studio or the City. It is a lot of preparations a makeshift equipment, but it would look amazing if I can pull it off. I also want to do a film project that I print and arrange as a part of a theme," she said.

More important, Phillips hopes to find the story she would like to tell through her photography. She said, "Funnily enough, I really don't like my work. I haven't yet found the story I want to tell. Until I do, the photos will feel bland and the same to me."

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Not Your Grandmother's Quilt: Chawne Kimber's Radical Knits

Photo by Lauren Canna/*The Choate News*

Kimber's artistic quilts are embedded with her personal family history.

By **Sasha Bocek '19**
Reporter

At a glance, the artwork currently displayed in the PMAC gallery looks like an assortment of quilts made by the worn but nimble fingers of an aging woman. However, upon closer scrutinization, anyone can see that these quilts are not your grandmother's thick and flowery blankets, patched together lovingly to cover innocent newborn babes. These quilts are full of color, activism, and history.

Arts Concentration's Ellie Latham '18 is quick to note that there is "so much more meaning behind the quilts than you can see when you look at them. You can admire them technically in their aesthetic appeal, but what each one of them means to Chawne Kimber is so important and adds so much depth and personality to the art." Arguably, the artwork and the artist on display in the gallery could be one of the most unique that the school has hosted to date. Chawne Kimber, the artist, steeps her work full of significant meaning.

For one, her quilting is inspired by the decades-old tradition of quilt-making in her father's family in a small Alabama town. Kimber, a mathematics professor, first turned to making quilts when hoping to earn tenure. That period of her life was stressful, and she hoped that learning to quilt would ease her mind.

As one does, Kimber picked up a bright yellow "Quilting for Dummies." Staying up late after returning from teaching, Kimber slowly picked up the art of quilting. Her first pieces were more conventional: mostly blue and white with no words or phrases. Kimber quickly realized that she had the power to push the boundaries.

Kimber's most recent quilts are vibrant and intricate, with all sorts of images and phrases. Two of the more eye-catching pieces on display hang side by side. The first is simpler, yet ever so striking. Two thick, brown horizontal lines run along the quilt's top and bottom edges. A stark white middle surrounds bold, brown letters that spell "Oreo". The quilt is meant to be more than just the image of the cookie. It's a reference to the racial epithet that claims African-Americans can betray their race by being "white on the inside." Kimber has experienced the term firsthand.

The quilt to the right of the "Oreo" also has a message. This quilt is populated by small colorful blocks ranging from vibrant yellows and oranges to mellow blues and greens. Throughout the piece there are also black blocks that "ground and center" the spectator. Toward the bottom of the piece, on larger blocks of various colors, eight white words have been stitched on: "In essence, I am a sophisticated cotton picker." A quotation from Eartha Kitt, an American singer, the words are meant to both be taken lightly (Kimber uses cotton grown only in the United States to make her quilts) and soberly (Kimber can trace her roots to slavery). Similarly thought-provoking pieces on display include a self-portrait depicting a hooded Kimber, in tribute to Trayvon Martin, and a pale blue and white quilt heralding, "Stop the War on Women."

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The Choate News

Vol. CXI • No. 9

SPORTS

Friday, January 26, 2018

FIELD REPORT

Saturday Games

Archery (2-1)
falls to Bishop, 148.2-167.2

Girls' **Basketball** (10-3)
beats Exeter, 79-42

Boys' **Basketball** (10-1)
falls to Loomis, 62-65

Boys' **Hockey** (3-10)
beats Deerfield, 3-2 (OT)

Girls' **Squash** (5-2)
beats St. Paul's, 6-1

Boys' **Squash** (4-9)
falls to Deerfield, 1-6

Girls' **Swimming** (4-2)
falls to Deerfield, 90-96

Boys' **Swimming** (2-3)
falls to Deerfield, 82-104

Wrestling (3-3)
6th of 13

Wednesday Games

Girls' **Basketball** (11-3)
beats Porter's, 50-44

Boys' **Basketball** (11-1)
beats Gunnery, 70-37

Boys' **Hockey** (3-11)
falls to TP, 5-2

Boys' **Squash** (2-4)
falls to Hotchkiss, 0-7

Girls' **Squash** (5-2)
beats Westy, 6-1

Wrestling (3-3)
falls to TP, 15-57

ON THE COURT WITH JAYDEN NIXON

POSTGRAD PROFILE

By **Joseph Coyne '19**
Associate Editor

Jayden Nixon '18 has been dominating on the basketball court this season and he is a big part of Choate's hot start this year. Associate Editor Joseph Coyne '19 sat down to talk with Nixon about basketball, life at Choate, and his goals for the future.

Photo by Lauren Canna/*The Choate News*
Jayden Nixon '18 smoothly dodges opponents, dominating the court.

Joseph Coyne: How long have you been playing basketball?

Jayden Nixon: I have been playing basketball ever since I was a kid, maybe five or six years old. I started playing competitively in fifth grade though.

JC: Did you play any other sports growing up?

JN: I played football until sixth grade; I played lacrosse until seventh grade. I also just started running track.

JC: When did you know basketball was the sport for you?

JN: It's kind of hard to say. Sometimes I don't feel like it is the sport for me, but I started getting a lot better at it when I grew into my body and a lot of the growing pains stopped in ninth grade. That was really the first time I actually believed I could get really good. That was when I started working really hard.

JC: Did you play on a lot of travel or AAU teams for basketball?

JN: I started playing AAU in fifth grade on the team in the area with a bunch of kids from around there. Then I started playing on the Nike circuit when I was in tenth grade, and that was when I really started going to a lot of the big tournaments in Las Vegas, Texas, just all over the country.

JC: What are some of the lessons basketball and sports in general have taught you?

JN: Basketball has taught me a lot about humility and confidence. It has also taught me a lot about being yourself and not being just one specific person. A lot of basketball players think they are just basketball players and they can't do anything else, and I don't want that to be me. Basketball opens up so many different opportunities for you whether it be academically, culturally, or socially, so I have just learned to embrace all of those things and good things will keep coming. It has helped me boost my confidence to do what I like and has helped me explore new things, so I can see if I like or don't like them. It has also just taught me about experiencing failure and how to deal with it. In basketball, failure happens a lot, so in the classroom, if I get a bad grade, I know how to deal with that and bounce back because of the experiences I have had over the years.

JC: What has been the hardest part about playing basketball?

JN: The hardest part for me is learning how to keep your composure and not wavering in the face of failure or adversity. Especially playing as a potential college recruit, you will always have college coaches coming up to you and saying that you might not be the right fit for their team, or you might not be good enough.

JC: How has basketball opened doors for you throughout your life?

JN: The biggest one right now is the opportunity basketball gave me to come to Choate. Last year, I had a pretty good season, and a lot of coaches were talking to me about recruitment, but I decided to come here because it offered so many new opportunities both academically and athletically. That's a big one.

JC: How was your transition into Choate?

JN: At first it was kind of hard. Being a new PG you don't know anyone while a lot of people have been together for four years, but everyone took me in with open arms. I have made really great life-long friendships with everyone on the basketball team as well as outside the basketball team. I feel like the whole transition has been kind of rocky at first, because the school itself is just very hard, but overall it has been very good. I am really happy now with the way it has all turned out. I have been able to really embrace the entire Choate community, so I am not just a basketball player. I am able to do a lot of different clubs and make a lot of friends. I have also been able to learn a lot of great lessons from my basketball coach and my teammates. Just being able to have this extra year as a high school student has been great for me.

JC: What are your goals for the Choate team this year?

JN: Right now we are 10-1, so hopefully we can put ourselves in a position to win the New England Class A Title.

JC: What are your goals for playing basketball in the future?

JN: I am not really sure yet. I know right now my main goal is to play basketball in college and have basketball open up opportunities for me, like it did with Choate. Other than that, I don't have much in mind, but I know I want to keep playing because I really love the game and all that comes with it.

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Boys Varsity Hockey Tops Deerfield in Overtime Thriller

By **Eben Cook '18**
Opinions Editor

To cap off an event-filled Community Weekend comprised of several home athletic contests, Boys Varsity Hockey faced off against school rival Deerfield Academy in the second game of a two-day doubleheader.

Going into Saturday night, the team dropped their first game against Deerfield the night before by a score of 6-3. Fire in their eyes, Choate looked to even the series in C-House territory.

This game meant more to the team than any other regular season matchup thus far. Entering the contest at 2-10 and having played five games in a mere eight days, the team had to overcome their fatigue, especially considering the impactful injuries the team had endured up to this point in the season.

Coach Patrick Dennehy commented, "We got back to campus at 12:30 in the morning Saturday, so it was a quick turnaround, but our guys were ready for the challenge." To stick it to the Emerald City rivals and get their season back on track would be cause for celebration and motivation for the rest of the season.

Filled with anticipation of an eventful matchup, the packed student section cheered wildly at the opening drop of the puck. Neither goalie let any shot past them until the second period, when the action began. The Boars drew first blood with a goal from Chance Gorman '18, beginning the scoring for the night. It looked as if Choate would enter the third and final period with a 1-0 lead, until Deerfield put one in at the last second to even it up.

With the momentum on Deerfield's side, Choate had to find a way to regain control of the game...and they did just that.

Within the first minute of the third period, both teams tallied another goal, once again evening the score at 2-2. Trading opportunities back and forth, neither team could gain an edge as the buzzer sounded for the end of regulation.

Tensions ran high as the two teams hit the ice for an overtime period. However, that tension turned into thrill as captain Jack Hoey '18 plowed through three Deerfield players and somehow got the puck to Gorman, who put one past the goalie just ten seconds into overtime to seal the victory.

Who knows, hopefully this win sparks something special for us the rest of the way.

Alex Tertyshny '18

Senior defenseman Sasha Tertyshny '18 credited the team's motivation to the supportive fans: "Having the support of the student section made for a great atmosphere and truly gave the guys an extra push. It's the type of game we all look forward to, and it makes the game fun." At the end of the day, however, the credit for this exhilarating win falls on the backs of the resilient team. Tertyshny added, "Our team has dealt with a lot of adversity throughout the first half of the season, but they have never once complained or stopped working hard, so they certainly deserved and earned this win and this success."

With a win fresh in their minds, the team hopes to create a run out of this win and finish the season on a high note. "We understand that we need to bring the same energy to every game the rest of the season and trust in each other," Tertyshny exclaimed. "Who knows, hopefully this win sparks something special for us the rest of the way."

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INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE GROWS IN SIZE — AND FUN

By **Dan Brockett '19**
Associate Editor

One of the most popular winter sports on campus is intramural basketball, which is known as the Intramural Basketball League (IBL). IBL convenes three times a week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings and this year, the league is made up of 32 students. At the beginning of the season, four captains, usually seniors, pick their teams that virtually remain the same for the whole season. The teams remain the same unless the coaches determine that a team is winning or losing too many games. This year's captains are Donovan Lynch '18, Ryan Burlage '18, Canaan Case '18, and Nils Lovegren '18. All of the captains have been playing for at least three years.

When asked about the most enjoyable thing about IBL, the coaches Mr. John Bjorkdahl and Mr. Tim Bradley said, "The fact that we play basketball. No practices, no drills, no running around the perimeter of the court, nothing. We play basketball. And the students love that. That's why they sign on. They just want to play." Obviously, IBL is not just fun for the players, as Coach Bradley and Coach Bjorkdahl have been running the league at Choate for twenty years now.

Each team plays multiple games each night, and this year, IBL has an 82 game schedule, which culminates in the round-robin tournament at the end where a champion is eventually crowned. The teams have played about half of the season so far and Lynch's team, the Red Team, sits at about .500 with an 18-17 record this season. The coaches just supervise the players, letting the athletes run almost everything with the league, from keeping score to refereeing to keeping track of the uniforms and equipment.

As much as an intramural sport may sound like it is just people messing around, IBL isn't like that. The league is organized and competitive, as many players take it seriously. Lynch said, "The most fun thing is the competitive spirit of each game, which the organized nature of the league helps to foster. You feel like you might as well be playing in an NBA game." It is something the players love because not everybody has a winter sport, but many students still want to do something competitive, and the IBL serves as that option for all. However, fun is still the most important thing about IBL.

One of the other popular things about IBL is the post-season awards dinner, known as the Season Ceremony. The players and the coaches have pizza, cake, and ice cream while they look at a slideshow from the season or even a highlight tape. Mr. Bradley and Mr. Bjorkdahl then give out participation awards, the championship trophy — a trophy for the team with the best record — and special awards. The special awards can vary quite a bit, but they hand out the typical awards too, like Most Valuable Player, Most Improved Player, the Coaches' Award, and Best three-point shot. However, some unusual awards have also been given out. Coach Bjorkdahl and Coach Bradley said, "Over the years, we've had some interesting and fun special awards. Awards such as Most Fashionable, Best Dressed, Best Hat, Best Celebrity Look-Alike, Loudest Team Supporter, Most Argumentation to the Coaches, Biggest Complainer, and the Shadow Man — or the Player who was Hardest to Find."

Photo courtesy of Tim Bradley
IBL poses for a team photo before jumping into the court for a game.

As awesome as IBL sounds, the league has faced difficulty getting enough students to sign up so they can have four teams. A few years ago, only 14 kids signed up to play in the IBL, which is a pretty big problem as there needs to be 20 players in the league in order for there to be four teams of five; however, there have been times when so many people signed up that they needed to create more teams. One year, over 50 students signed up, so a fifth team was added to the league.

The players and coaches get to be pretty close over an 82-game season, so it's a great bonding experience, as a lot of people who play tend to come back and play the next year too. The coaches and players are clearly very passionate about the sport and the league, so anybody without a winter sport that wants to have a lot of fun or play competitive basketball with friends should make sure to check out IBL.

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