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Move-In and Orientation

By **JOONYOUNG HEO, LUCY JUNG, NHAN PHAN, ANNA KIM and CATHERINE WU**

The Exeter student body, new and returning alike, arrived on campus in the first weeks of September to a bustling period of move-in and orientation.

On Sept. 4, the first wave of new students set foot on campus, engaged in either the International Student Orientation Program (ISO) or the Equitable Exeter Experience (E³). Over the course of three days, they took part in activities that were designed to help them acclimate to campus life, explore aspects of their social identity, have fun with their new friends, and introduce the Academy's core values of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice.

A day after the orientation programs concluded, the rest of the student body arrived on Sept. 7. Student Leaders who were on campus a week prior and faculty were present to help new and returning students move into the dorms. Following a series of class-based orientation activities, sports, music, and dance tryouts, an Opening Assembly featuring the new addition of an International Flag Procession officially opened the new school year. Students and faculty members expressed their thoughts on orientation programs, move-in day, and hopes for the year ahead.

New international students had the option to sign up for a three-day orientation program to help them transition to Exeter. Students were grouped with older students and met new friends through a variety of activities. "The main purpose of ISO is to help international students have more time to adjust, and this adjustment is in many areas: jetlag, culture shock, and learning about the Academy," International Student Coordinator Jennifer Smith explained. "It's a robust program and a lot of work, but it's the best way to start a new academic year!"

Chinese instructor and ISO faculty Ning Zhou shared a similar sentiment. "It's a great opportunity for the new international students to join together," he said. "I think this is also a great friendship for them to form. During the ISO, we had a lot of discussions with parents and students on how to adjust to the school and how to get to know the campus and its resources. I'm also very grateful to the ISO leaders for coming to school a little early and helping these students and building relationships with them."

Senior and ISO Leader Sofia Coelho said, "We had some new additions to the program, including more DEI work, which I think is very important when you're traveling, not only across the country or across the world, but also

culturally. We had some explanations about different customs that you should follow and what to do in potentially uncomfortable situations that you might face as an international student. We had some very deep talks about fitting in and our names, but that was intertwined with lots of fun conversations and activities that I thought really added to the program."

The program encountered some challenges. "We did have some factors that were out of our control, such as drenching rain for the first time in weeks," Smith said. "I was disappointed that we were not able to close the program with our traditional picnic by the ocean. We instead closed it with a Target run."

Senior and ISO Leader Joy Chi added, "I think I would definitely appreciate ISO being extended a little bit, so it feels like there's time to actually get to know people and not feel stressed about missing something because you're tired and need your sleep."

New lower and ISO participant Alyssa Villanueva agreed. "Maybe make ISO a day longer, with either a free day or the activities spread out a little more. I feel like we barely had time to get settled."

Despite a few hurdles, the participants largely enjoyed the program. "Meeting other international students helped me relate to people so I felt way more comfortable here for the first couple days," prep Rebecca Nguyen said. "We went to the Arcade, we did some community-building activities, had a pizza dinner, a bonfire, a Target run, stuff like that."

Prep Andy Song also enjoyed most of the ISO activities, despite struggling with jetlag on the first day. "We did a lot of group activities like scavenger hunting that helped to get to know people. My favorite was going to the Hilltop fun center."

"The icebreakers were probably my favorite part of the program," new lower Tejas West said. "ISO was really special because there were people from all over the world. I think I met about a hundred people in those three days."

New lower Evie Gaylord agreed, "I liked the activities when we were in groups because it meant you got to meet loads of people, rather than just sticking with the person you met first. It was a really good way to move into the community."

Lower and ISO leader Hemani Stallard said, "ISO helps make them feel more at home in their surroundings and with a situation that they're not so familiar with, like an American school."

Smith agreed. "It's also normal for students to feel a bit unsure or anxious about such a new place, so far from home," she said. "We always say that the relationship does not

end with ISO and I am hopeful students will seek out their leaders and OMA for support in the coming year."

E³ was the second orientation program and the newest implemented by the Academy. "E³ is a pre-orientation program for new students of color, low-income students, and students who identify as LGBTQ+ that shows them the resources that they need in the school," upper and E³ Mentor Advay Nomula said. "It just gives them the headstart that they need just to get started on campus. A boarding school like Exeter, even if you're a day student, is a completely different environment!"

E³ Faculty and Director of Equity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett provided some thoughts on how the program unfolded: "This was the second year of the program in its current iteration. We grew from about 50 new students last year to 81 new Exonians this year. Our mentor team and faculty are amazing! They are really the backbone of the whole E³ experience."

As with ISO, the E³ program also had its difficulties. "A large part of the E³ program revolves around identity," lower and E³ Mentor Maemi Carrillo said. "I think for students who aren't used to talking so much about their background, it can be difficult and overwhelming. This year, however, I think the program was able to deal with more serious topics in a lighter way."

Bramlett added, "Time is always the challenge at PEA. We strived to strike a good balance between a meaningful program where students get connected with campus resources and each other and not being too overwhelming and overscheduled. I think we did it."

Other mentors took inspiration from their own past experiences in orientation. "I actually took part in the E³ program last year as a mentee," upper and E³ mentor Alexander Luna said. "This year's training was on Saturday and Sunday before the new mentees arrived. Then we basically spent the next three days getting them adjusted. We did an event where we recreated some of the affinity spaces on campus and allowed the mentees to come in if they felt comfortable. It was a great experience to get closer with the mentees and give them a good head start, as I did last year."

Many upperclassmen shared their experiences as proctors or student listeners, two notable positions of leadership within their dormitories. "I'm really happy that I can give back to the community as a proctor," senior and Amen Hall proctor Cindy Su said. "I've met some of the new students and they're all super sweet and I'm really excited that they are finding a community within our dorm."

"As a prep, I was overwhelmed at the start of school with the new environment, and I didn't know who to turn to. But now as a senior, I want to be there for new students and help them out in any way I can," senior Krish Patel said.

Senior and Peabody Dorm Proctor Charlie Edwards agreed. "In my first year, my dorm's proctors were integral to my Exeter adjustment. On my first day, I was greeted by an older-looking student, who, before even asking my name, immediately offered to help with my luggage. His name was Jon Bradbury. In hindsight, being in a completely new place, disoriented and scared, to be welcomed with open arms by such a proctor immediately made me feel at home."

Edwards highlighted how his prep year proctors still stuck with him to this day. "Jon Bradbury, Ervin Williams, Alex Urquhart, Josh Riddick, Kyle Marshall. I'll never forget these names, as they shaped my Exeter and Peabody-Hall experience into something special."

"I'm an upperclassman now and I'm also a student leader," Nomula, also a day student proctor for Webster Hall said. "It feels kind of weird, but I do have a role on campus now. So I have to be a good role model, and I'm excited for what's to come. I introduced myself on move-in day, and we were just all chilling on the Webster front lawn talking, having a good time, and eating some donuts. Later I toured the new day-student affiliates."

Student listeners found that they shared a similar sense of leadership on campus. "The purpose of student listening is to be a good resource for students and to provide them with whatever help they may need," upper and student listener William Newby said.

"The program is meant to support other students' mental and emotional wellbeing," senior Dan Han said. "I think our program went well. We did an adequate job, and they picked a number of students who are well suited to support their peers' emotional and mental wellbeing."

"It's right there in the name," Luna said. "We're there to listen. If any students come in wanting to chat, or if they're struggling with some homework or their daily lives, we're there for them. If they need someone else, we connect them with the right people. We're just there to be friendly."

Despite some challenges, many student listeners have already found a rhythm in their role. "I'm the only student listener in Abbot, so I thought it might be a stretch," upper Ayaan Akhtar said. "But it's a smaller dorm in general, and a smaller day student population of ten or so. It hasn't been too bad because there aren't so many people to look over.

And I did my training with the proctors, so I had a support team with me through the process."

Some had challenges of their own in New Hall. "We don't have too many new kids in the dorm," senior Montana Dickerson said. "At this point, it's mostly been about bridging the gap between Merrill and Langdell and trying to make one cohesive community. But it's been easier than I thought—for one thing, we have the experience of being kicked out of our dorms in common. The dorm itself is fine. The elevator's not functional and I had to carry my boxes to the third floor, but not awful by any stretch. And if anyone has rich parents, please donate and get us a new name."

Leadership training was required for every student listener, scheduled a few days before the new students arrived. "The program was very well done," upper Sangye Sherpa said. "I learned how to be a better person for others and help students thrive in the rigorous Exeter environment."

"I really enjoyed our training because we learned how to help out students in our community," senior Enzo Nakornsri added, "which is important to make sure students on campus maintain a healthy relationship with their peers and themselves."

Other student listeners provided some feedback to improve next year's training. "For next year's program, I would suggest less orientation because it was a bit of a drag," Hahn said.

"I would have the student leaders come back a little later so that it wasn't two hours of meetings and then just the rest of the day with nothing open," Newby said.

New students shared their most memorable experiences with their orientation. "I really enjoyed the class activities during orientation," Su said. "I got to know some more people including the postgraduates, and I think it's always fun and easy to start off the school year. I'm feeling excited."

Some students commented on the things the Academy could improve in future years. "I see the value in these orientation programs for underclassmen, but most upperclassmen, especially seniors, are already familiar with each other from past years. Excluding the new students in our grade, I would suggest other practical ways of bonding than activities we have done since prep year," Patel said.

"The Academy seemed to have overenrolled this year," lower Emily Chai-Onn said. "We don't have the facilities in certain dorms, Amen included, to accommodate all those people out of the blue. Most of the singles are considered emergency doubles; my room definitely wasn't meant to fit two people in it. This dorm situation is something the Academy should reconsider in the

future."

"Personally, I think we could have maybe a day after move-in where we don't have any required appointments," lower Finn Lorgen said. "But I don't think it's too big a deal and I can see why the administration wouldn't want to do that. It could be nice, though, and it would accommodate people who arrive later because of a flight."

New students discussed some highlights of the move-in process. "My favorite part was moving into my dorm," prep Shawna Jiang said. "I really like Amen because it feels like you're living in a big mansion with all of your friends."

"I like the system they had for Dunbar, where you drive up and put your stuff down and they bring it to the dorm," lower Kenzie Carty said. "I think it's such an amazing process. The proctors have to work pretty hard to bring stuff up and down constantly, but it definitely sets a good impression for your dorm when you first move in."

"My move-in was awesome," new lower Bella Bueno said. "I didn't even know Clare, but she came in and helped me move in and Evie did too. I met new people through the move-in and it was pretty smooth."

Lamont Hall Faculty and Latin Instructor Lina Wang shared her perspectives on move in day. "Each of Lamont's dorm faculty had a two-hour shift on move-in day, but I have to give the proctors most of the credit! They were all so helpful and warm to new and returning students alike," she continued, "I found the practice of moving students' belongings to their dorms via golf carts to be a great one—it lightened the burden on students and their families, and it reduced traffic on campus."

Nguyen also talked about her excitement for the upcoming year. "My favorite part is probably my classes and my friends," she said. "Even though the campus itself is also really beautiful, the most exciting things are getting started with my classes and meeting all my new friends. In terms of workload, I think it's manageable, though I'd say it's a lot more than what I'm used to."

New lower Hazel Mutindwa shared her excitement for the new year. "The most exciting part was seeing the campus and the people. Although I had been on campus for admissions tours, I had never felt what it was like to be a student, not a visitor."

"I hope everyone has a good year," lower Dylan Schwab said. "The first two weeks are either the easiest or the hardest, depending on what year you're in, obviously. But I think everyone has a place here, and I'm looking forward to the term ahead."

Family Weekend On Campus

By HANNAH PARK, LUCY JUNG, DUSHANT LOHANO, SELIM KIM and ANDREW YUAN

This year, Family Weekend was held from Friday, Oct. 21 to Monday, Oct. 24, featuring activities for family members to participate in.

From Friday to Sunday, families could choose to attend a series of panels and speakers to learn about campus life. In addition to those events, family members were allowed to spectate classes on Friday and Saturday, marking the return of a long-standing tradition that was put on hold in 2019. The following Monday was designated as a no-class day to accommodate family visits.

Both faculty and students have shared positive reactions to the return of family spectators in classes. “I think it’s cool for parents to be able to get to experience Exeter because there’s such a disconnect, especially for those who live farther away,” upper David Goodall said.

Upper Nicholas Lin shared similar sentiments. “It’s really fun to see what [the parents] have to add or just the reactions on their faces when they listen in on our really long tangents.”

Instructor in English Emily Quirk agreed. “I think, in a boarding school environment, it’s good for parents to get to see what Harkness is and what their kids are up to. Especially in an English class, it could be something that the parents feel like they can understand or get excited about as well.”

Instructor in Visual Arts Tara Lewis looked forward to iterating with families during the weekend. “I enjoy welcoming families to the art studios! It’s a unique approach to using the Harkness table and a fantastic opportunity for families to have an experiential window into the daily life of their kids and [their] creative minds at work,” Lewis said.

Though many students look forward to Family Weekend, some students have admitted that the presence of parents in class can be intimidating. “Personally, if I were participating in classes, I would find that it’s a bit scary because I would want my parents to see the best version of myself. I feel like I’d be sad if they didn’t see the 100% best version of myself, lower Samantha Halbower said.

Halbower continued, “But

I think that it’s a really good opportunity for parents to see what’s up with their kids and catch up with their children, especially since they go to a boarding school... So I think the concept of it is really very nice, and it’s also really cool, having an older perspective in the classroom.”

Lower Sarah Hanson believes that there are both “positives and negatives” to family spectators. “I think it’ll be cool for parents to be able to see what their kids do each day, especially for those who are away from their kids for most of the year. But also it might be just a little strange to have your mom and your dad watching you in class. So it’ll be interesting to see how that goes,” Hanson said.

Additionally, some faculty members noted that the presence of family members in class may raise difficulties.

For Instructor in History Sally Komarek, her “apprehension” about Family Weekend “stem[med] more from the planning side of things.” Komarek explained, “We haven’t had families able to come observe class in three years, and I think there’s a lot of built up excitement and enthusiasm around that. With

the instructions that two family members per student can come to class, realistically, we can’t fit that in my classroom... I don’t think everybody that wants to come is gonna be able to come. Hopefully, that’s not the case.”

Komarek added, “I wish there was a clear way to have signups, in the sense that you would know how many people to anticipate, and if you needed to switch classrooms, then you could do that in advance. Or to at least to say like, ‘can half of your families come Friday, half Saturday?’ Things like that. But, I think parents coming is exciting, and it’s really cool that we’re offering that again because Harkness is so unique and so special... and to be able to see that is pretty special.”

Despite parents being present during classes, some faculty planned to operate classes like normal with small adjustments.

Instructor in Math Eric Bergofsky said, “I like to have as normal a class as we normally do, so they see the real thing, and once in a while I’ll look for opportunities, particularly in the younger classes to see if we can get the parents involved in doing some of the math with the students.”

Like Bergofsky, Quirk planned to find possible spaces for parent involvement. “The only class that I teach that day will be my prep day, and I think we’re just gonna Harkness and their parents can see what that looks like and maybe even participate in the community circle,” Quirk said. “I’m just gonna think about which texts might be most fun for parents to observe or which texts might best showcase what my students have learned.”

Others planned on keeping the role of family members solely to observation. “The dynamic shifts a bit, as it always does with visitors,” Lewis said. “I like to consider the nature of the dynamic and offer an authentic day of working in the studio so that everyone is comfortable and natural. I try to make the agenda purposeful to the progress of the course and fun to observe. I definitely enjoy rearranging the décor in my classroom space!”

Komarek shared similar plans. “I plan to structure it like a regular class. So, I always frame the classes in a way that makes the expectations clear for the families, which is that they are there to observe and listen, and not actually participate

themselves,” Komarek said. “I also try to assign students material that they have confidence in. So, it’s not like the most puzzling reading or assignment because that can be intimidating with family members in attendance.”

Following classes, many students looked forward to spending the weekend out-of-town with their families. “My parents are coming and we’re going to Boston for the weekend. We might see the head of the Charles race since some of my friends are doing that,” lower Laura Saldarriaga said.

Students without families visiting them over the weekend had scheduled activities and fun events planned for the weekend as well. “[My parents] are not coming and I don’t really mind since I’ll see them over the winter break,” Lin said. “[I’m] going to Boston with a few of my friends. It’s a trip set up by OMA... I’m thinking of getting hotpot.”

For all students, the weekend will be one of rejuvenation as they prepare to face the rest of the term ahead. “It’s really just resting and sleeping and spending time with each other,” Saldarriaga said.

The Academy Welcomes George Bennett Fellow Raisa Tolchinsky

By ANVI BHATE, AVEEN BURNEY, ANNA KIM, LAUREN KIM and ARIANA THORNTON

Every year, the Academy awards the George Bennett Fellowship to one writer, who, as part of the fellowship, resides on campus during the academic school year. The George Bennett Fellow is asked to make themselves informally available to students. This year, poet Raisa Tolchinsky was selected as the George Bennett Fellow.

Hosting events such as personalized poetry in EPAC and speaking in assembly, Tolchinsky has started her fellowship strong by connecting with Exonians. She also has plans to initiate further pop-up poetry events and office hour meetings with student-writers. English Instructors and students involved in creative writing alike look forward to Tolchinsky’s upcoming events.

English Instructor Todd Hearon elaborated on the George Bennett Fellowship application process. “Each year, the Bennett Fellowship Committee reads the 100+ anonymous manuscripts that arrive in September and winnows them down to separate categories—semifinalists, finalists and, ultimately, the winner,” Hearon said. “The quality—especially in the latter stages—is very high, which makes decisions difficult and the competition fierce.”

Tolchinsky shared her own experience of the fellowship application process. “I was Googling fellowships after my last year of grad school, and I saw that there was this amazing fellowship where there was no formal teaching but still an ability to write within a community. And that I would be supported, given a house, and given food at the dining hall. I was like, ‘This looks amazing.’ I went to college really close in Maine, so it felt exciting to come back to the East Coast. The actual application was sending a sample of my work, a statement of

purpose, and I think some recommendations. The application itself felt pretty easy to do—gathering my work and sending it over, but it was also the culmination of years of writing.”

“It’s a dream to be supported just to write,” Tolchinsky continued. “People say it’s a little bit like winning the lottery—you hope for [a fellowship], but you don’t depend on one after graduate school. So it felt really exciting to get a call from Mr. Hearon.”

Tolchinsky accredits the beginning of her writing journey to one third grade experience. “I had an amazing third grade teacher who had us lay on the floor and listen to Nora Jones. I was amazed. I was like, ‘What is this thing? Poetry is so cool,’” Tolchinsky recounted. “And then I just kept going. I never thought about being anything else, because [writing] was the thing that brought me the most joy.”

“If I was alone on a desert island, I would be writing poetry,” she joked.

During her childhood and teenage years, Tolchinsky evolved from writing on the floor in a third grade classroom to submitting her work to writing competitions. Mentors and educators were a cherished and valuable part of Tolchinsky’s growth as a writer. “I was really lucky to have amazing teachers and supportive parents,” Tolchinsky said of her high school self.

In college, she went on to major in English and Creative Writing. “After college, I went to the University of Virginia’s graduate program for poetry, where I got to study with some amazing poets like Rita Dove, Kiki Petrosino, Lisa Russ Spaar, Debra Nystrom, and Brian Teare,” Tolchinsky said. “Not to mention extremely talented graduate students. I think their eyes on my work helped me see things that I wouldn’t have seen otherwise.”

While honing her craft at Exeter, Tolchinsky hopes to have a strong impact on the Academy’s writing community. “High school



students are my heroes,” Tolchinsky said. She felt honored by the outpouring of positive student reactions to her writing. “When I was in high school, sometimes I felt like I wasn’t taken seriously or treated like a real person. I think that if you guys like my work, that means a lot.”

When asked about her plans for Academy events this school year, Tolchinsky highlighted poetry pop-ups. “The main thing will be doing poetry pop-ups. I don’t know if it will always be in the same place, but I’m hoping to do those one to two times a month. I think I’m also going to work with the library to do a workshop with typewriters,” she said. “Beyond that, I want to meet with students and whoever wants support. My goal is anyone who wants a poem will have a poem—written by me, for them—by the end of the year.”

When asked for her advice for young writers,

Tolchinsky emphasized perseverance and self-reflection. “If you say you want to be a writer, you’re going to be met with a lot of people asking you ‘Well, how are you going to do that? What are you going to do for a living?’ And to that I say, ‘If you love it, there is a way.’ Don’t let other people’s fears stop you from believing that you can do it.”

Tolchinsky continued, “I think that to turn inward and to know yourself is the most powerful tool a writer has. Whether that’s journaling or meditation, there are many ways to get to know yourself and what you believe about the world. And I think those things change over time. But the life of a writer is learning about what matters to you and what moves you. When we learn to write for ourselves first and then we share it, it comes from a place of authenticity and honesty. Because there’s been periods in my life where I’ve written

to try to impress people and it feels bad.” She laughed.

“Go inward and trust yourself, and don’t let people scare you out of what you love.”

“I’m here as a resource,” Tolchinsky added. “I spend a lot of my days writing and in my own rhythms of creativity, but I’m here if students need me. So, even if you only see me when I’m doing the pop-ups or at the dining hall, I’m really here for people to reach out to if they need something.”

Senior Phil Avilov shared what he felt was most inspiring about Tolchinsky’s recent public talks. “She talked about the capacity for amazement and awe as one of the essential human qualities and that really resonated with me. And during the assembly, there was one line I wrote down,” Avilov said. “‘The medicine was in deciding I could not do it.’ I feel like that’s a really helpful thing in life.”

Lower Aymeric Dauge-Roth shared his thoughts

Courtesy of Bowdoin College

on the poetry pop-up event. “It was super fun,” he said. “I would like to see more interactive student poetry events that are more broadly advertised. That way, more people take time out of their day for something this special.”

Upper Amber Zou added, “I am excited to have [Ms. Tolchinsky] as a resource throughout the year to look up to as a mentor for honing my poetry skills outside of the classroom. It is a blessing to have a fellow at our school throughout the entirety of the year.”

Hearon concluded, “I hope she has a healthy influence on the culture of student writing. All indications so far point that way. Her assembly reading and her meditation were stellar and provide wonderful and inspiring examples to us all.”

Boundaries Training

By ANVIBHATE, SELIM KIM, SOPHIE MA and ASHA MASOUDI

Over the past two weeks, students took part in a mandatory boundary training on navigating student-teacher relationships. The sessions were divided amongst grade levels, with preps and lowers attending on Sept. 29, and uppers and seniors attending on Oct. 3. A few weeks prior, faculty members participated in similar training centering on legal responsibilities toward students.

Presentations featured conversations between Attorney Djuna Perkins and Psychologist Dr. Deb Offner, and student leaders representing Exonians Against Sexual Assault (EASA), Transitions, and Feminist Union.

Perkins and Offner explained that they taught boundaries to school faculty at various independent schools before adapting a curriculum for students, at Director of Student Well-Being Christina while Palmer's suggestion. "Students are the ones who are most affected and most impacted," Perkins said.

Offner detailed her passion for her work. "I worked at an independent high school

in Boston, and saw very personally two very serious cases of emotional violation of male teachers and young female students," she said. "I was really, really alarmed and disturbed by what happened and what the cost was to the kids."

She continued, "I just like the idea of preventing things from happening that cause a lot of pain. And so, just going to this and then having some kids come up afterwards and ask us some questions—I feel like if I can make this not happen at other schools, it's really worth my time."

A new addition to this year's boundary training was the involvement of student leaders in the organizing process. Palmer, Perkins, and Offner invited student leaders to a conversation before the presentation. Upper and co-head of EASA and Feminist Union Stacy Chen shared, "in that [planning] process, I was very adamant about having student input within the presentation. We felt that it would be more beneficial for students to see their peers on the stage... last year there was no student input and it had been received really poorly."

Lower Advika Verma felt the inclusion of student moderators was a definite improvement from last year. "I

feel like having the students up there was a lot of help because last year the people that came were from an outside source, so they didn't know anything about the school. People had questions about the school rules and they didn't know how to answer them... they were a lot better at clearing up what is right and wrong this year."

"We wanted to be a lot more clear with the language," Chen said, "This year, we wanted to remove any ambiguity and rewrite things so that people had a much more concrete understanding of different red flag signs and terms... We wanted it to feel more like a conversation rather than students being straight up lectured or as if this just felt like a required class that they had to be at."

When asked about the effectiveness of the presentation, prep Maya Piluski said, "I appreciate the thought behind it. I think it's really important to talk about any relationship that's going on."

"They taught us about the ways to identify when a teacher can take it too far and also the fact that it's not the student's fault, it's always the teacher's fault. I feel like that's pretty good for some people to hear if they ever feel guilty about

being in that situation," prep Siena Saavedra-Bagdonas added.

Prep Nick Limoli agreed, saying that the examples provided in the presentation aided its effectiveness. "Some of the examples were kind of obvious, which makes sense since you don't fully know that something like grooming is happening until you actually realize it. So going over those examples was good. I think it was just overall a good thing to have just in general," Limoli said.

Senior Priya Nwakanma shared similar sentiments, "Not everybody can recognize grooming and I think it was helpful to have it laid out for you by somebody who you could trust rather than just the Internet, or a TikTok video."

The focus on helping students recognize unhealthy boundaries was an intentional decision from the student organizers. "One thing that we really stressed was that the student's safety is the most important thing," Chen said. "These types of situations are hard, reporting can be difficult, and speaking out can be difficult. We wanted to make sure every student recognized and understood the signs, red flags, how they [can be] supported, and what they could do if they see something [problematic]."

However, to students like Nwakanma, the presentation's focus on recognizing unhealthy

boundaries seemed to be too narrow. "There should have been a broader topic list to cover. I feel it mainly focused on grooming, which isn't the only concern students have about boundaries on campus," Nwakanma said.

Other students had concerns about the presentation's scope as well. Piluski said, "I have to be honest, I didn't feel like I gained any information that I didn't already have. I think that it could have been far more in depth. There was an opportunity to talk about something really important and that opportunity was missed."

Upper Coco Kim also brought attention to the redundancy of the boundary training. "I think that the faculty were a little bit redundant in how they spoke about things," Kim said. "I also feel like I was being talked down to. They kept talking to us like we didn't already know some of this stuff. And they kept asking what the students were thinking even though they're the professionals and they're the ones who are supposed to be talking about it."

Kim continued, "There was a section that threw me off where [the presenters] were saying all these things about grooming — very true things that are awful — but then they were like, 'Oh, sometimes the groomer doesn't do it on purpose.' If your whole point is that grooming is bad, then don't try to defend the groomer

like that... I feel like that invalidates a lot of people's experiences."

Further, some students hoped the advertisement surrounding the event would have been better. "[The Academy] sent out one email and didn't send out any reminder emails or any follow up emails. People basically got there through word-of-mouth," Nwakanma said. "I just don't feel like people gave enough notice for an event of this magnitude."

"In the middle of the assembly, I saw people literally just getting up and leaving. I feel like that really sums up what people think about the assembly," Kim said. "[The current redundant content] could be explained in 15 minutes, but they dragged it out to 45 minutes. We know all this and it is important and yes, we need to talk about it, but it's discouraging people from listening if you make it too long."

"I do think there were things that could have been changed or altered that we just didn't know how it was going to be received," Chen concluded, looking forward to feedback from students. "For one, [we could] make it more interactive or even more engaging. Now looking back, there's feedback that we're looking to implement for next year."

General Alumni Association

By AUDREY DENT, ASHLEY JANE, JUNHYEOK JANG, LUCY JUNG, LAUREN KIM, EMILIA KNIESTEDT and LAUREN LEE

On Friday, Sept. 16, the Academy welcomed alumni back to campus for the Senior-Alumni Dinner and Exeter Leadership Weekend, offering in-person opportunities for students to connect with the alumni body. Over the next year, the General Alumni Association (GAA), a board consisting of over 22,000 former Academy students, hopes to develop more opportunities for students, Trustees, and alumni to connect.

Among members of the GAA, 25 are annually elected to serve on the Board of Directors. The board is led by four Executive Officers, who also represent the Academy's trustees. Many of the GAA's duties include planning class reunions, strengthening alumni relations with the Academy community, and hosting the annual Exeter Leadership Weekend. This year's newly-elected Board of Directors include Julian Bobb '90 P'24, Veronica Juarez '00, Lori V. Lincoln '86, and Kwabena Safo-Agyekum '02.

Bobb shared his understanding of the purpose of the GAA. "The [role of the] GAA [isn't] necessarily a change agent with respect to Academy policy and plans," Bobb said. "We are a portal through which ideas and thoughts can be communicated to the other side, and hopefully through that communication, the alumni will have a better sense of what is going on at the Academy, and the Academy can get a pulse of the alumni's feelings on certain issues."

Principal Bill Rawson '71 P'08 described his role in engaging with the GAA. "... GAA Directors help identify opportunities to strengthen the connections alumni have with the school and with each other," Rawson said. "I typically meet with the GAA Directors when they are on campus and met with them last month during Exeter Leadership Weekend. They are a diverse and committed group of alumni, and I find it helpful

to hear their perspective on a wide range of issues."

"The GAA is really valued as important thought partners to the Academy's leadership, faculty and staff. The idea is that we are in touch with a number of alumni and can bring that messaging and work back to the school. It's super important to be able to have that line of communication towards the Academy administration," Juarez added. "There is ... opportunity for us to evolve as a GAA board and show up in the ways that alumni and students would like us to."

President of the Trustees and alumnus Morgan Sze '83 described the GAA as having "its own governance and operates independently of the trustees, undertaking various initiatives to serve and honor our alumni community, including recommending each year's John and Elizabeth Phillips Award recipient to the trustees and selecting each year's recipients of the Founders' Day Award and GAA President's Award."

"The selection of these awardees from among all our distinguished alumni is an important responsibility and an important way the Directors support the mission of the school," Rawson added.

Many GAA Directors credited the Academy for instilling communication skills and broadening their perspectives. "Exeter was the first place [where] I gained an appreciation for people from different walks of life than myself," Juarez said. "Having friends from different countries that I had never visited, friends from other states, and friends from different socioeconomic backgrounds really opened my eyes to a global world that I had not experienced before."

"[Additionally,] what's most dear to my heart is that Exeter gave me skills to be able to explore my intellectual curiosity in a way that I could emulate throughout my life," Juarez continued, "It's what keeps me really engaged and allows me to create new opportunities for myself professionally."

"My time [at Exeter] let me know that whatever my passions were, I could work towards them and would

have the support to be able to achieve any goals that [I wished to pursue]," Safo-Agyekum agreed.

"One thing you would hear a lot of Exonians say is that we learned how to write at Exeter. That is a skill I have leaned on, even in my first career in a trade," Lincoln said.

The skills and perspective which she gained at Exeter motivated Juarez to serve as a GAA Director. "Because Exeter gave me so much, I am really motivated to give back. The other piece that's very salient for me is that Exeter as an institution at the center of enormous power, privilege, influence, access, and opportunity. It sits at a very unique position, not shared by very many educational institutions, and so my personal interest is to be a part of the community that is going to continue to have an impact on the world."

President of the General Alumni Association and Trustee of the Academy Betsy Fleming '86 shared her involvement in the GAA. "A vibrant alumni network enhances the whole Exeter community," Fleming said. "Since becoming a GAA Director, I have been actively involved in improving communications between the Academy and alumni, growing alumni engagement around shared affinities and interests, and selecting awards recipients."

The GAA works with various institutions on campus, including the Alumni Relations team at the Office of Institutional Advancement. "The GAA Directors work closely with the Office of Institutional Advancement—helping to spread the word about the Exeter experience today to the broader alumni community, providing feedback on alumni engagement and fundraising initiatives, and sharing with the Institutional Advancement team what they are hearing from members of the general alumni association," Rawson said.

Director of Alumni Relations Michelle Curtin described the collaboration between the Alumni Relations team and the GAA. "I work very closely with the

[GAA] Board of Directors on opportunities to connect alumni to each other and then back to the academy, whether that be regionally or when they're here on campus," Curtin said. "Most recently, we've worked with the GAA Directors to develop these three subcommittees that are focused around affinity engagement, communications and community, and participation."

Fleming elaborated on the goals of the three GAA subcommittees: to "create opportunities for dialogue and community-building," Fleming said. "I am very excited about the work of all three of these committees. With such intentional focus, it is my sense that we can make a significant difference in all three areas over the next two years."

Bobb shared his goals as a GAA Director on the Affinity Engagement committee. "As a member of the Affinity Engagement Committee, I am personally interested in acting as a bridge for other Black and Brown Alumni of the Academy. The Afro-Latinx Exonian Society Community played a major role in my experience at the Academy, and I feel a strong kinship with all of its Members through the generations of Exonians," Bobb said.

In planning initiatives focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, such as affinity groups on campus, the GAA also closely collaborates with the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA). "The things that we do on our end further the GAA's mission to strengthen alumni connections to one another and to the Academy, and often in many ways, our work will benefit current students. For example, the golf tournament that we host here in DC raises funds for scholarships that support diversity, equity, and inclusion— in particular, the William H. Bolden Scholarship Fund. Mr. Bolden was from Washington, DC, and was Exeter's first Black faculty member," Lincoln said.

Fleming described the role of Trustees in supporting initiatives of the GAA. "There is strong support around the GAA Directors' initiatives

among Trustees, with a keen interest in continuing to strengthen alumni relations with the Academy and among alumni," Fleming said. "There is also an openness to listen to the feedback and insights of GAA Directors, particularly in relation to what we hear and experience when engaging with alumni beyond the Academy."

Many GAA Directors plan to utilize social media platforms and focus on social media strategy to increase interactions between students and alumni. "I think that this tenure of the GAA is more tapped into how [students] are communicating and interacting with each other," Safo-Agyekum said. "We are really trying to leverage the infrastructure that already exists into creating new connections, and really working to create a pipeline for Exonians."

"One of the goals that we have is to raise awareness on social media. Hopefully, you'll be able to see a GAA handle on Instagram, a GAA presence on LinkedIn, and on other [platforms] where we know that both students and alumni are participating," Safo-Agyekum continued.

Juarez shared the factors she considers in order to strengthen the GAA's social media presence, saying "We're excited to look at our social media strategy and see if there's ways that we can really deepen the social media strategy and how we're connecting with folks... [we're focused on] how we [can] engage alumni and get them to participate with the school."

GAA Directors also hope to implement more inclusivity measures within the Academy, especially in accordance with the DEI Vision Statement.

Juarez also shared her excitement at the multitude of affinity spaces on campus. "There's so many amazing initiatives and things happening that I had no idea about. For example, all the affinity groups didn't all exist when I was there. To hear about affinity groups from so many of the students, everything from ethnic identity affinity groups to the number of business clubs that now

exist, there are so many ways in which I feel like the students are showing up," says Juarez.

"I'm open to contributing to the Academy and in any way that I'm uniquely able to support initiatives that are important to students. But, I really believe that the DEI vision statement shows that we as an institution are very serious about leading the way as an inclusive and equitable organization," Juarez continued.

This year's board is working to connect students with alumni whenever possible, especially through in-person events such as Senior-Alumni Dinner and Exeter Leadership Weekend. "I had the chance to attend the Senior-Alumni Dinner and learned a great deal about what's happening on campus...[and] how the students are feeling and what their sentiments are with regards to COVID-19 learning and living. [Our role] is really about fostering more of those interactions," Safo-Agyekum said.

Looking ahead, this year's newly elected GAA Directors are hopeful to engage with and better understand the Phillips Exeter Academy of today. "Something that I didn't have any appreciation for when I was a student is you're going to be an alum of Exeter for a lot longer than you're going to be a student," Juarez reflected. "Because [as students] we don't really talk about what kind of alumni you're gonna be or think about and how you're gonna be engaged with the school."

"I'm learning more about [current student] experiences, especially after Assembly, and hearing from so many of you. It's really important for me to educate myself on what is happening at the Academy and not jump to conclusions," Juarez continued. "I have been really inspired by a lot of the work that has been taken on by Principal Rawson, a number of faculty members at the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the Dean of Students office with Dean Weatherspoon."

Sze applauded the GAA on their past and future initiatives. "The GAA plays an invaluable role in engaging with our alumni locally and globally," Sze said. "We are very fortunate to have such a vibrant community of dedicated volunteers supporting the Academy and our students."

Winter

Mathematics Department Changes Grading Policies

By **IZYAAN BURNEY, RISHI GURUDEVAN, ROX PARK, TANYA SYED, and 145th NEWS EDITORS**

A number of departments and instructors at the Academy have recently re-evaluated grading policies and department practices in response to concerns about grade inflation.

Discourse surrounding grade inflation and changes to grading policies have been ongoing amongst faculty for a decade and have recently picked up traction as departments began experimenting with new ideas and policies. Notably, the Math Department implemented a grading pilot program for winter term which eliminated test corrections and retakes for credit. Other departments, such as the History Department, have also discussed adjusting their grading policies.

The Math Department specifically implemented the grading pilot for courses using the Math 2, Math 3-4, and Math 4-5 textbooks. In addition to the removal of retakes and corrections, the stipulations of the policy include that “at least 80 percent of a student’s grade will be computed using scores on in-class assessment,” whereas “20 percent of a student’s grade may come from take-home assessments, presentations, hand-ins or journals.” Every instructor is required to adopt the policy when computing a student’s final grade.

Dean of Academic Affairs Laura Marshall explained that the grading policy was made in hopes of providing more stability for students. This comes as a result of Marshall receiving complaints from

students that there are inconsistencies in practices from one teacher to the next, which has made the transition to new teachers at the start of each term challenging. “Historically, in the Math Department, teachers develop their own policies on how to calculate grades,” Marshall said. “When I came to Exeter, most math teachers tested regularly every two weeks and the grade was based on that. There were exceptions, but for the most part, there was consistency across teachers.”

According to Marshall, teachers have been including other factors into grades such as participation, test corrections, retakes, and weekly quizzes in recent years.

In response, Marshall said that the Math Department agreed to provide more consistency this winter and claims that this agreement was made based on the “best learning practices, collective centuries of classroom experience, and current research. Ultimately, Marshall said that “the final grade should be a reflection of the mastery of mathematics.”

Although it was set in place to enhance students’ learning experiences, the pilot math departmental grading program has been met with much frustration from students. An anonymous prep said, “I think it’s very important to provide kids with the opportunity to assess their work and improve upon it, to [let them] get that satisfaction on getting those answers right, and...feel confident in their ability to do the problems.”

“[These changes] are prioritizing [grades]

instead of students actually learning,” the anonymous prep continued. “[Corrections] really help[ed] me learn skills that I could carry on to the next term. If I didn’t get a problem, I could go back [and] look at it. But if there [were] no retakes, I don’t know if a student would [do that].”

Prep Abe Webb agreed, elaborating that the change in grading may have a greater negative impact on the student body. “[The change] is gonna hurt their grades and that’s gonna hurt their college chances as well,” Webb said.

Upper Elizabeth Catizone acknowledged both the benefits and setbacks of the pilot policy. “I was in a class with a very generous corrections policy the term before they got rid of it altogether. I think that encouraged me to relearn material that I didn’t grasp on the test. Without corrections, I’m not as likely to go back and do that. However, I do study more the first time now, so I think there’s pros and cons to both ways and I don’t think that one emphasizes grades over the other.”

Senior Hope Flowers believes that the new policy may disincentivize struggling students from learning math. “I think [the change] will discourage students who are already struggling in math to just kind of stop really trying for the most part,” Flowers said. “Already with Harkness, there’s less incentive to ask questions in class. So, if you’re struggling and you do badly on one of the tests, it’s easy for you to throw your hands up and give up.”

At the same time, Flowers said that the change “goes 50-50 [where] it hurts

some people, and helps others.”

“For math specifically, I think [the changes] will help certain students because a lot of students don’t really thrive in math in a Harkness setting,” Flowers said. “So I think in that way, maybe they would be benefited by a math where everything is standardized. But if you’re not a good test taker and if you’ve been mostly relying on having second chances or relying on asking questions in class, I think it’d be bad for that specific type of student.”

Like Catizone, lower Miyu Nakamura has viewed the policy change as a source for motivation. “I’ve heard that they’re not allowing retakes. It’s a little hard, but for me, it pushes me to do better.” Nakamura said.

Yet, Nakamura is also cognizant that the sudden change in policy may be a difficult transition for others. “Especially when you’re a new student in a higher grade, I think it might be a little hard to transition,” Nakamura said.

Marshall noted that the Math Department pilot “is not permanent” and that “individual teachers may determine their own practice.”

Although other departments, including the History Department, have not yet pursued any pilot programs this term, Instructor in History J. Troy Samuels shared that the department has held discussions around grading and how to implement measures preventing plagiarism. Especially considering the rise in AI writing platforms like ChatGPT, many faculty have discussed implementing more in-class

writing assignments.

Samuels said, “Having used ChatGPT a lot, I’m less concerned. I think in the long run, this is an educational opportunity. We’re gonna have to think about how we use [AI]. But I also think that this idea of in-class writing is good, as a pedagogical discussion. It’s a different way of activating your brain, a different way of thinking. It also does remove some of the stress of long research projects.”

“If I assign a hundred pages of reading over two weeks, my assessment should be testing how we’ve come to understand that,” Samuels continued. “Asking you to just sit down and write what you know, what you think, is a really effective way of testing that. Now the question is, how do I assess it? Am I expecting you to write beautiful prose? No, I don’t think that would be fair. But I think that if we focus on learning and not grades, it can be a really good exercise.”

Although he said he understands that many “students want A’s,” Samuels wishes he could incentivize a yearning for knowledge rather than for grades. He’s not sure if grade deflation is the best way to get there, and he also discusses that he’d be open to exploring the removal of grades in order to get to a place where students are optimizing their resources for authentic learning.

Either way, Samuels believes that “there is nothing worse” than the entitlement some students may feel towards getting an A, and that many teachers would rather have students who are struggling but genuinely trying to learn, or students “without the expectation of an A [rather]

than the ones who expect A’s [for] showing up.”

“We’re all so lucky to teach and to be students at a place like Exeter,” Samuels said. “This is not a normal high school. If you’re always looking for where you’re going next, you’re going to miss where you are right now.”

Despite the lack of an official pilot grading program in the History Department, many students feel that their courses have become more difficult.

“I know that they’re trying to crack down on inflation in the History Department specifically, but also in the U.S. history sequence. I don’t really know how to feel about it,” Flowers said. “On the one hand, if everyone’s getting A’s then that kind of cheapens the value of an A, and Exeter A’s are hard to come by. It could lower stress for a lot of people, but then [again] it’s just a complicated thing.”

“Even though the History Department [changes] are not permanent, we should probably get more grace,” Webb said.

Amidst varying student perspectives on the recent changes in grading policies, Samuels emphasized the vitality of learning for the sake of learning at the Academy.

“Success is everywhere,” Samuels said. “It’s more about you and less about these external pieces. It is not easy to redefine things that way, but I would love [for] us to have some critical conversations and really think deeply about what we are preparing you for, what you’re being prepared for here and what it means to be at Exeter.”

Does the Academy’s Schedule Disadvantage Athletes?

By **LAUREN LEE and ELAINE QIAO**

A number of departments Athletes, like many Exonians, balance intense course loads, multiple clubs, social lives, and sleep in their academic schedules. With two-hour daily practices (excluding Sundays), full-day trips for competitions and games, and the need for adequate sleep and nutrition, concerns have been raised about whether the rigidity of the schedule places athletes at a disadvantage in other aspects of student life at the Academy.

Some athletes have reported that having both their coursework and sports commitments combined under the current schedule has increased their stress and decreased their focus. Additionally, junior varsity sports and varsity track meet during class periods after lunch, which some students claim has disadvantaged them during their afternong classes.

“With track practice taking place during E and F format in the winter, it’s definitely harder for me to focus in my evening classes, especially math, which takes place during H block,” says upper and track runner Zuzanna Szul. Though most student

athletes are able to finish their assignments without any issues, many have found that they must sacrifice their sleep, social time, and hobbies to do so.

Upper and track runner Advay Nomula adds, “If you are a consistent athlete—all three terms—devoting a lot of time to extracurriculars can be tough. I know many robotics teams, for example, meet during the time after Wednesday classes or Saturdays to work, and this interferes with a more structural sports block. I can’t devote enough time to a robotics team, so I wasn’t able to be on one.”

“I have to put a hundred percent effort into school and a hundred percent effort into my sport. And there’s only so much time in the day,” says prep and boys’ hockey athlete Brendan Petraco, who often finds himself sleeping less to ensure he completes his assignments.

[Introduce faculty perspective here]

“[A] lack of sleep impedes athletic performance and raises the chances for injury,” Instructor in English and crew coach Rebecca Moore said. “Athletes may communicate with me as a coach about their

need for sleep, and I may understand, but PEA girls’ crew will always send the athlete to the health center for a fatigue or health excuse.”

Other faculty members who coach sports have shared their perspectives about the Academy’s schedule. “Athletes — at least at the varsity level — should understand that their sport will require a significant time commitment,” Instructor in Math and varsity boys’ hockey coach Brandon Hew said. “Because of this, they’ll need to be very conscious and intentional about how they manage their time and work.”

Instructor in Math and varsity boys’ lacrosse coach David Huoppi shares a similar perspective. “I hope [athletes are] not affected differently than other students. If everyone taking the same class has the same amount of work to do, hopefully, student-athletes can manage their time no differently than a student who’s in a bunch of music groups that meet after dinner. Those students have to manage their time around those commitments. I would hope that student-athletes can do the same and figure out their overall workload and how to work that into how they spend

their free time during the day.”

Senior Lally Lavin, who plays both tennis and squash, agrees. “I don’t think the workload is any different for athletes than non-athletes,” Lavin said. “That’s how it should be. We have a little less free time, but being a part of the squash and tennis teams is worth it.”

Other athletes also felt that they should not be treated differently from the rest of the student body. “In terms of assignments, I don’t think athletes should have a different workload or anything like that; we’re still academic students,” upper and swimmer Ellie Wang said. “I think teachers should teach the material that students come here expecting to learn, and while homework sucks sometimes, it is a part of the Exeter education that we came here for. You have to commit a lot of time and energy to your sport, so between homework and sports, I’ve found that I have less free time to participate in clubs. It’s all part of the balance that we’re juggling.”

With all that said, some athletes believe the Academy’s schedule is actually convenient for athletes. Upper and rower Jamie Reidy says, “I think

the schedule at Exeter works well for athletes. There are never more than two classes in a row, so I have time to snack in between classes, which is important for staying fueled before practice. Many athletes take advantage of free blocks and breaks to get ahead on work or go to the gym.”

Other athletes also do not feel as much of a time rush during the day. “Normally, practice isn’t too bad since we’re just using some time that I usually have class in and instead doing a sport with that. The only time that [the workload] does get a bit tough is when I have to miss class because we’re going a really long way for a meet or something like that,” said lower and swimmer Lang Gou.

Some athletes have shared that playing their sport actually improves their concentration and performance in class. Wang said, “Being a swimmer has actually helped me academically, believe it or not. After practice, I feel way more energetic and focus better on my homework. Because I spend so much time in the pool, I have to be efficient with my homework, and that time pressure helps me squeeze out just a little more time I wouldn’t have if I didn’t swim. And just in

general, swimming helps me feel physically well and makes me pay attention to my food and sleep quality, which definitely helps my academics as well.”

As for how the schedule could be improved, Wang has practice during G/H and describes her ideal schedule as having swim practice first thing in the morning “because, at the end of the day, I’m usually worn out from my classes before I even get in the water.”

Additionally, Gou said having extra office hours so that athletes can meet with teachers during the season would be helpful because “it’s a tight turnaround to get from classes to practice already, and there’s not a lot of time with teachers when I have questions to ask.”

Moore adds, “I think a way that PEA could help all students make better choices about their time would be to continue requiring physical activity as many terms as possible and more actively enforce the expectations that clubs do not meet for students of any age during study hours from 8pm to 10pm.”

“The Academy makes changes to the schedule from term to term and tries to create a structure that is manageable for students while maintaining Exeter rigor,” Reidy said. “It is important for the Academy to listen to the sports teams on campus and be open-minded to changes that would better support them.”

Academy Bids Farewell to Wetherell Dining Hall



By **TEDDY CAPOZZI and LILYRAMPE**

On March 2, students gathered to say farewell to the Wetherell Dining Hall — a campus staple for over fifty years.

Wetherell was the Academy's first dining hall, located on the Northside of campus. The second dining hall — Elm Street — remains on the Southside. Wetherell was a place for students, faculty, and administration to dine and chat, and was a central breakfast and lunch spot for many students given its proximity to academic buildings.

The Farewell Wetherell event welcomed students, faculty, and administration to enjoy some baked treats and learn about the history of the Academy's oldest dining hall.

The Exeter community was fortunate enough to have members of the Wetherell family come and commemorate the building. Among them was Chuck Wetherell, a recently retired machinist. While starting a new chapter of his life in retirement, Chuck has found a strong fascination in genealogy. Last year he learned about his cousin

and the dining hall he gave to the Academy.

At the Farewell Wetherell event, Chuck was able to enjoy the various selection of baked goods, fruits, and refreshments offered, as well as interact with a piece of his family history. During his speech, he discussed how he admired the building and Exeter's rich history.

"Well, I don't live here or anything, but I feel right at home here," Wetherell said. "Driving around Exeter, you can see all the history, and they try to hold on to that as much as they can. It's just a beautiful town, and a beautiful school."

Heidi Dumont, who serves as the Manager of Dining Services, explained what went into planning Farewell Wetherell.

"We created a dining planning committee with volunteer dining team members to help with ideas for a fun event," Dumont said. "We also invited archivist Magee Lawhorn to research the history of dining and display her findings on the walls in [the] North and South [sides of the building], as well as [display] the motto 'Goodbye for Now' on the

wall. As we were planning the Farewell event, we were also planning the move out for the renovation project and thought to move all the tables and chairs to create a dance space[, which] was the original idea."

Overall, students seemed to enjoy themselves at the event. Prep Jesse Ball said, "It was a chill and peaceful event, quiet, and interesting. I toured the basements and enjoyed learning about the history of the Wetherell family."

Prep Corinne Welling also expressed her appreciation. "I love that the staff wanted to share their farewell with us because I can only imagine how it would feel for someone that has been working in Weth[erell] for 20+ years to have to say goodbye."

A crucial part of the event was the vast food selection, which consisted primarily of baked goods made in Wetherell's bakery. "We wanted to showcase our bakery and the work of our bakers Cindy Amabile and Mary Smith because it is very rare to have an in-house bakery on campus," Dumont said. "The executive chefs, Cindy and Mary, and I decided on all the sweets menu."

Students generally liked the food and the variety of treats offered. Welling said, "I absolutely loved all of the mini snacks and desserts. They were so cute! I am so thankful towards the staff that took the time to make us all that stuff."

Students on the north side of campus have generally enjoyed the convenience of having Wetherell nearby. Upper Hansen Tsai, who resides in Ewald, said walking to the Elm Street Dining Hall has been very time consuming for him. "I think it's better than Elm Street because of its proximity to classrooms, and it's also closer to EPAC (Elizabeth Phillips Academy Center)."

Upper Lianna Yang found that the Wetherell experience was more intimate and provided a sense of home for her that she felt is missing at Elm Street. "Just the onset is so much more homey and comfortable than the design that Elm has. It's sort of anxious and stress-inducing just because of how cold the design is with all the brick and concrete. It's not really a warm and welcoming

environment."

Students also appreciated the versatility of Wetherell's (north and southside) dining rooms, as well as the student-dubbed "fishbowl" dining room in between. Upper Emilie Carranza designated each side for different occasions. "Eating, socializing, and department meetings are for the right side." However, Yang and Carranza said they strictly eat on the left side for their habitual breakfast. "We go every morning at 7 a.m. when it opens, and we are on the left side at one of the roundtables working. It was a really nice place to work and not having that has made me less productive."

Students are slowly adjusting to dining in Grainger Auditorium, which is being used as a temporary dining hall in lieu of Wetherell. Prep Asha Masoudi said, "I think it's definitely strange without Weth[erell]."

"While we still have Grainger, it's a lot more cramped and chaotic. Weth also had amazing ice

machines that I'm gonna miss." Carranza said, "I feel like the food in Grainger is just always the same. Like it's just the quality of the food has gone down."

Other students seem to be enjoying the dining experience at Grainger Auditorium. Ball said, "I find Grainger now to be more conveniently located for me and my classes."

Welling shares a similar sentiment. "I really like being able to get food in between my classes. Grainger is so accessible."

In terms of the new dining hall's renovation plans, Dumont said, "The renovation will take 16 months. We hope to get some drawings of the renditions so we can display them to the community. The dining team has worked with the architects and design team to create a dining experience that will be welcoming and updated to be efficient, and I cannot wait to see the final project done in the fall of 2024."

Student Council Passes Constitutional Reforms

By **ASHLEY JANE '24**

At their latest meeting on February 21, Student Council members voted in favor of passing a series of constitutional reforms. These reforms were introduced to the council over two days. The first reform focused on ensuring each dorm is represented equally in StuCo, by altering the formula used to calculate the number of representatives per dorm. As a result, six dorms will lose a representative. The second reform allows Student Council members to gain voting power as a select representative through a new, simplified process. Potential select representatives now must apply to and appear before the Student Council Assembly. The next reform implemented a new voting procedure for Student Council members, that aims to provide class representatives with more voting power, as they represent a much larger group of students

than dorm representatives. The final reform discussed on January 31 outlined a clearer role and responsibilities for the Executive Board Vice President.

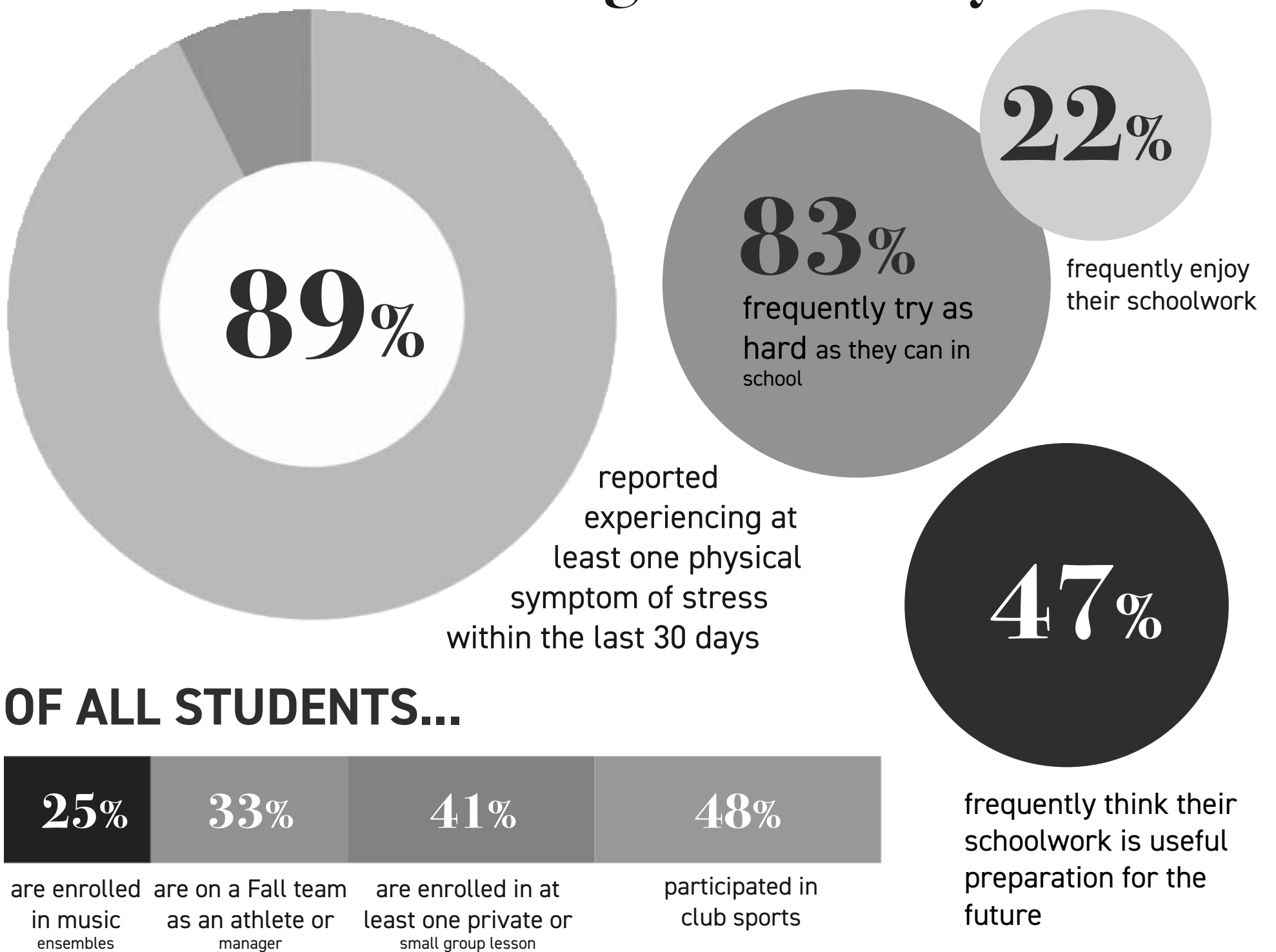
On February 7, three more reforms were presented. The first reform allows the Student Council Assembly to break election ties through an anonymous vote. The second reform aimed to increase trust and transparency in Student Council elections, by establishing certain protections from "political influence" and defining disqualification procedures. The final reform established the Constitutional Conflicts and Issues Caucus, whose members will include the Executive Board, Student Council advisers, Elections Committee chairs, and one class representative. This sweeping set of reforms represent the first significant edit to the Student Council Constitution since 1998.



Dearest Chaney your journey through life thus far has been beautiful.
Magnificences epitomizes you.
We are the proudest parents. Continue to dream and go for it!
With love,
Madre y Padre

Spring

Academy Releases Findings of Student Time Management Study



By **JOONYOUNG HEO, MAX MANTEL and ROXPARK**

Following weeks of investigation, the Academy administration released to the community on April 4 the results of a study on student time management. *The Exonian* reached out to several members of the faculty for more details and future plans.

The study drew largely from the student survey conducted this past fall and was supplemented by Shadow Day, when volunteers from the faculty were selected to “shadow” Exonians through a normal school day. The findings were published online and shared during advisory.

Among other data points, 69 percent of students reported dropping an activity or hobby because of schoolwork; 61.8 percent reported their workload “frequently” or “almost always” kept them from time with family and friends; and 71 percent reported “frequently” or “almost always” being stressed about their academic experience. Further, students spent an average of 3.9 hours on a typical weekday doing homework and a 5.7-hour average on weekends. In terms of sleep, Exonians averaged just under 7.0 hours on nights prior to a first format class, 7.6 hours when they did not, and 9.1 hours when there were no classes at all the next day. The most frequently reported major sources of stress were academic assessments (88.0 percent), overall academic workload (80.0 percent), and a specific class or classes (72.5 percent).

As part of the study, a number of students took part in a pilot schedule that made for longer class periods meeting fewer times per week. Their reactions

varied; one student who preferred the pilot schedule said that “meeting three times a week helped the class be more energetic and not burnt out,” while another preferred the conventional Exeter schedule “because it felt more consistent, and classes aren’t as long.”

The Academy administration initiated the study to discover how Exonians grapple with the current schedule. “For many years there has been uncertainty about how Exonians use their time and what drives the pace of life here,” Director of Studies Scott Saltman said. “We know that there is no easy answer, as every student is different and things evolve year by year. But we wanted to look for major patterns. Additionally, knowing that class time and homework time are major time commitments for all students, we wanted to better understand student perception of how those are part of the learning process.”

Their interest also extended to understanding students’ mental health in relation to the Exeter environment. “We wanted to understand better how students spend their time, how much sleep they are getting, how they are experiencing their time here, and other factors bearing on their health and well-being, as part of our ongoing efforts to support student health and well-being,” Principal William Rawson said.

Director of Institutional Research Kari Hart mentioned similar motivations. “The study sought to provide greater perspective about the daily experiences and time usage of students at the Academy,” she said, “and to inform ongoing community conversations about the daily schedule, academic calendar, and student well-

being.”

Members of the administration were open about their reactions to the findings. “I think the results overall were informative and helpful — I would not necessarily say they were surprising,” Rawson said. “I think there is more to be learned, such as how elective student activities contribute to students’ joy and sense of belonging at Exeter, and the impact of these elective activities on student pace, sleep, and total workload.”

For her part, Hart approached the study with an open mind and let the data tell the story: “It’s important to avoid relying on preconceptions when conducting student research,” Hart said.

Among the student body, the survey results were met with a mix of both surprise and agreement — a testament to the diversity of experiences with workload, engagement, stress, and time management at Exeter.

To senior Jessica Huang, the results were shocking but also enlightening. “It was not so much because of the stress part, but because of the sheer amount of work,” she said. “I was surprised to see the average time that it takes for total homework because I’ve never timed it before.”

Lower Claire Han, on the other hand, found the results to be very relatable. “I honestly wasn’t at all surprised by the results and was anticipating many of the answers to be what they were. For the most part, I thought they accurately represented my own schedule and workload.”

Others discussed feeling overwhelmed by the study. “The results were a bit short on the hours I spend studying every day, especially on the weekends,” lower Nicholas Li said. “However, I think it’s a consensus that students our age need to be

getting more sleep and time away from the computer or desk.”

“The results may also show a discrepancy between the ideal amount of sleep and the amount of sleep we get, but it didn’t fully reflect to the administration what the student body thought about it,” Li continued.

Despite mixed opinions about the personal applicability of the results, it was generally agreed that the workload and subsequent lack of sleep indicated were frustrating. “I know we enrolled in this school to be academically challenged,” upper Indigo Ogiste said, “but at the same time, we are 15 to 17-year-old children, and the amount of sleep we get is quite literally not healthy. I feel like the school doesn’t really take into account how we don’t get time to rest, in the sense of sleep, but also to take a break.”

“I think the Academy should start to realize that although we are ‘Exonians,’ we are still teenagers,” Han said. “Even though we made it to this school and endure higher academic pressure than most students, we are still the same as any other adolescents and have lives outside Exeter. The label ‘Exonian’ shouldn’t be used to justify the high expectations of teachers. We are not machines that don’t need sleep to work hours on end.”

“Unfortunately, I feel like Exeter has a culture where it makes you feel like it’s not okay to not be doing work,” Huang said. “You feel you have to keep doing work.”

Prep Tiffany Sun credited this mindset to a combination of mounting teacher expectations and the high-achieving nature of Exeter students. “As for time spent on homework,” she said, “teachers should adhere to the homework time limit policies for each

class. For example, even if a teacher says a student can stop doing their homework after 50 minutes, students at PEA all want to perform well in classes, making it hard to simply ‘stop’ after the allotted time.”

Yet even here, there was some disagreement from students. “I think it’s just the price you pay for going to Exeter,” senior Enzo Nakornsri said. “What separates Exeter from a normal high school is you work that much harder, and you reap the rewards. I feel that’s how things are supposed to be here.”

In terms of future surveys, students had a few suggestions. “We should have surveys for teachers and more specific questions, such as exactly which subjects take up the most time,” lower Bryan Huang said. “I think it accurately depicted our schedule and workload, but I feel like the different years could have also been more distinguished.”

Others agreed. “They could have been more specific,” Nakornsri said. “They took everything else into account, but they could’ve given us the entire report so we have a better idea of the breakdown. Who’s struggling — is it the preps? The uppers? It would be helpful to know.”

For the time being, Rawson was unable to offer specific details as to how this survey will affect the Academy schedule. “I think the results are still being examined, and I know Dr. Hart only recently shared results with students and faculty to hear feedback. It is important to understand the limitations of studies like this, as well what they do tell us. It is premature to say how the results might affect decisions about schedule, but we do continue to look for ways our schedule might be improved to support teaching and learning at Exeter,” he said.

This sentiment was

echoed by other faculty. “The first step was to gather the information and understand the findings,” Assistant Principal Karen Lassey said. “As is usually the case in researching a question, we often uncover more questions that prompt us to dig deeper to gather more information. We are in that important process now.”

While potential changes to the schedule are still under consideration, the faculty expressed that they are open to having similar studies in the near future. “Without a doubt, more could be learned about how students spend their time and how they feel about their experiences here, and I suspect further studies will be undertaken,” Rawson said. “Our experience with this study also might help inform our approach to surveys in the future and lead to refinements in the questions we ask and improvements in the information we gain.”

“There are many areas in which we would like to gather student input, in addition to time use,” Saltman said. “We are also trying to avoid ‘survey fatigue,’ so we have to prioritize what we do and when.”

“The Academy will continue to use research to make informed decisions in support of institutional priorities,” Hart said. “For example, an all-student survey focused on health behaviors and well-being will be administered during Advising on April 26. The survey will be administered with an external partner, Authentic Connections, to ensure anonymity and allow for comparisons with peer institutions.”

Change is not set in stone, and much is still up in the air, but the broader study into student life and its ties to the Exeter schedule will certainly continue.

Academy Reveals New Environmental Action Plan

By PHIN GIBBS,
JOONYOUNG HEO and
LILY RAMPE

At the start of the Climate Action Day assembly on April 30, Principal William Rawson presented a new sustainability plan that outlined the Academy's commitment to combating climate change and supporting environmental conservation.

The plan itself was published on the Academy's website in late April. Outlined into three different sections, it signifies a major first step toward a greener future for the campus. The first section ensures that every Exonian, by graduation, is aware of the importance of sustainability and the looming threat of climate change; the second identifies tangible goals of limiting carbon emissions by 75 percent by 2031 and going zero-carbon by 2051; and the third looks to integrating eco-friendly principles to life on campus.

The Academy's administration had several goals in creating this plan. "The purpose was threefold: develop an updated environmental mission statement, define our overarching goals for sustainability and climate action, and provide a road map for a community-wide commitment to action," Rawson said. "More fundamentally, I hope we will foster a strong culture of sustainability in our school community and live up to our environmental mission statement."

"It compiles a list of what the school has done to date in terms of improving its efforts around sustainability," Sustainability Coordinator and Instructor in Science Andrew McTammany said. "That allows us to go check, check, check, and okay, this is what we've done and this is what we need to do. It tells us



where we need to be in the future if we're going to be committed as a school to sustainability. It's written down in the plan, so now we have to hold ourselves to it."

Other members of the community

"I feel like 'better safe than sorry' is the right sense. Especially when it's such a big dance with such a large amount of the student population,"

certainly recognized the significance of the plan. "This is PEA's first sustainability and climate action plan," Manager of Sustainability and Natural Resources Warren Biggins said. "By adopting this plan and formalizing our commitment to sustainability, we're doubling down on our progress to date with a map for a community-wide commitment to action."

"It's a major step forward for the Academy," Instructor in Science Elizabeth Stevens said. "It means that when important decisions are being made that will impact the future of PEA, this document will be brought out and

referred to. It means that with every new project on campus, we will need to revisit the climate action plan. It means that in new curricula we will need to consider whether the educational goals are being met."

In terms of executing the plan itself, the administration has set goals in the short term. "Responsibility for implementing the plan will be widely distributed among faculty for educational initiatives and Facilities Management, and other non-academic departments for initiatives pertaining to operations and infrastructure," Rawson said. "Leadership certainly will be provided by Mr. Biggins as our Manager of Sustainability and Natural Resources, and by Mr. Kelly as our new Sustainability Education Coordinator. Many others will contribute or play leadership roles in their respective areas of responsibility. I expect students to be engaged and play leadership roles as well."

"Of immediate interest, we will integrate geothermal heating and cooling in our new dining hall construction and renovations of Davis Building and the Academy Building," Rawson continued. "New global

studies programs with a sustainability theme are already being developed. Many other ideas, actions, and potential strategies are outlined in the 'Way Forward' portions of the plan."

Some folks emphasized the importance of community engagement in implementing this plan. "I think our bigger task as a community is thinking about how to shift the focus from individual success to collective and community success," Sustainability Education Coordinator and Instructor in English Jason BreMiller said. "We're a school that thrives on the individual trajectory of each of our students. That's a big part of the culture and value system here. And there's a lot about the climate conversation that shifts that focus to the collective. I think that's a challenge — how do we start to shift culture to get students to slow down enough to think about their individual actions?"

As with my ambitious projects, of course, the administration expects a few challenges ahead. "I think the most difficult goal to achieve will be reducing PEA's emissions by 75% by 2031 and reaching zero emissions by 2050," Biggins said. "In order to reach

both goals, we'll have to address our central heating plant, which currently burns natural gas and occasionally #2 fuel oil to generate steam for heat and hot water in our campus buildings."

"To reach the 2031 goal, we'll most likely have to identify an alternative, low-carbon fuel source, or pursue carbon capture technologies," Biggins continued. "Both strategies may require large upfront costs, as well as retrofits to our plant. While we don't know exactly how we'll reach the 2050 goal yet, we do know that there will be significant costs involved and that decarbonizing the campus will be a lengthy process."

Many components of the plan were also left largely open-ended, with the intention to allow future students and faculty to adapt the plan to fit their circumstances. "The plan doesn't lay out an intricate map that tells you exactly how to get from point A to point B," McTammany said. "We couldn't do that because we don't know how technology will evolve. So we deliberately left it up to future actors enacting the plan — future students, faculty, trustees. This process is going to take a lot of time, and we tried to account for that. It

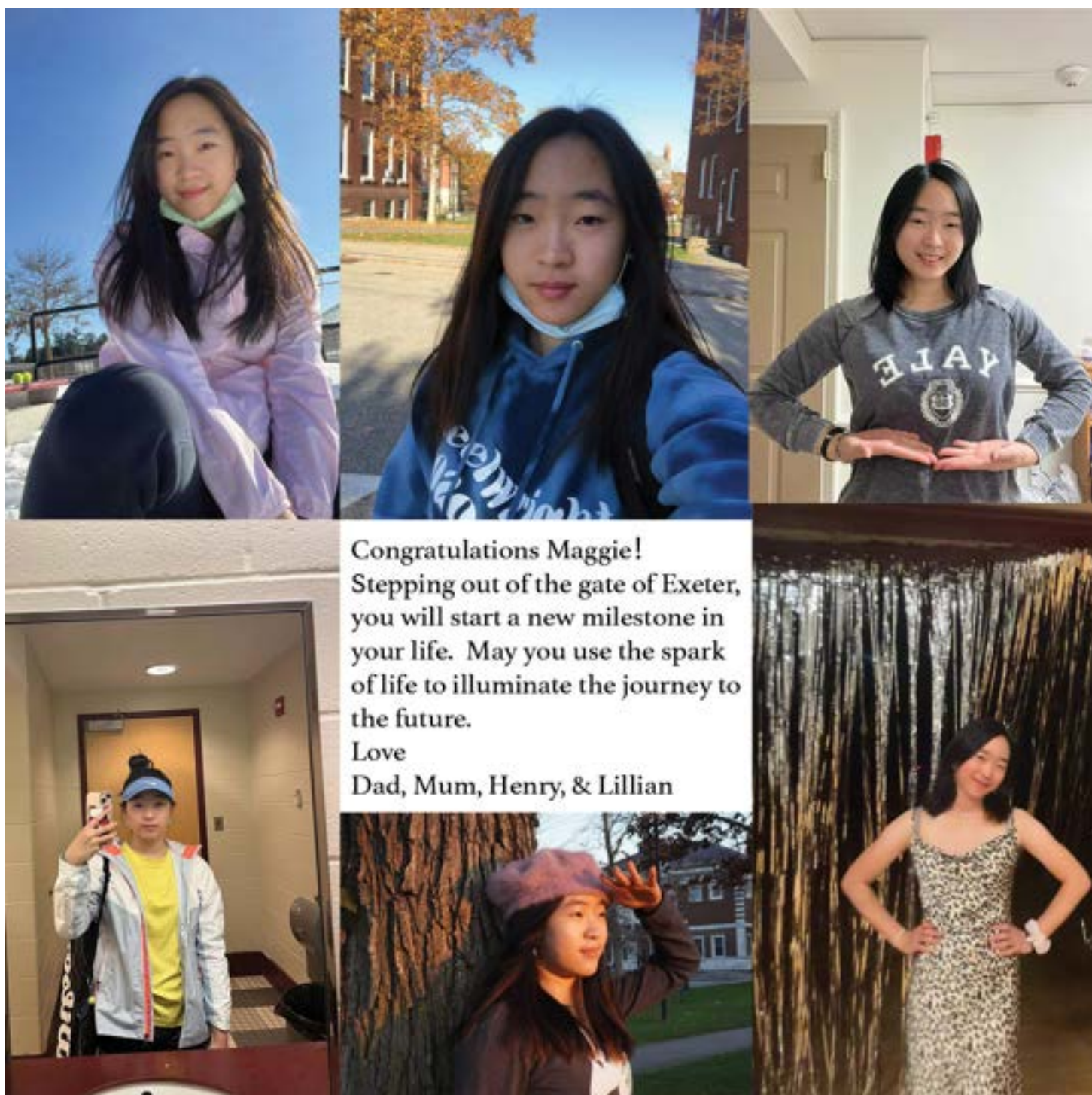
may seem a little vague, but we're really leaving room for imagination and potential growth in the future."

Albeit in a relatively limited capacity, student voices had a hand in making the plan. "I met with student leaders of the Environmental Action Committee several times, as did Mr. McTammany, and their perspective certainly influenced my thinking, especially regarding the educational components," Rawson said.

"The administration consulted us," senior and former co-head of the Environmental Action Committee Alysha Lai said. "We were invited to some of the board meetings with the teachers and trustees, and they asked us for suggestions on what to include in the plan. I do wish we could have played a bigger role in making it, but I understand that, as students, it's a bit hard for us to have that kind of job. I'm glad we were able to contribute regardless."

In conjunction with the administration and sustainability-driven committees on campus, such input has created a plan that affirms in writing the Academy's commitment to taking real environmental action in the future, and one that the community can be proud of.

"If I were to say one thing, it would be that the plan was meant to inspire our faculty, our alumni, and our students to challenge us to be better," McTammany said. "And I really hope, as people read the plan, that they know how they want to contribute and how to make Exeter stay committed to the goals outlined here. The plan inspires the entire campus to think about environmental action on a day-to-day basis."



Senior Reflections



To Whimsey

“What is the use of a book,” thought Alice, “without pictures or conversations?” - Lewis Carroll

The first lines we read in Ms. Desmond’s prep fall English class were about digging holes. “Between my finger and my thumb / The squat pen rests, snug as a gun,” wrote Seamus Heaney. This was a fun time. Suddenly, we were allowed to draw in our books (in fact, we had to). Instead of sitting quietly, we had to talk. That class wreaked havoc in my head and corrupted me into poetry.

Since then, my friends and I wrote poems on the roofs of the world and moose hooves, beaches and beeches. We’ve run to the Enchanted Forest and the Wester Front (both real places on the map). We blew bubbles, ugly-cried on each other’s shoulders and frolicked in the grass. All the while, we tried to figure out who we were.

In “Through the Looking Glass”, there’s a scene where Alice gets lost in a forest and forgets her name. There, she

meets a fawn, who does not fear her (for it doesn’t know its own name, either).

So they walked on together through the wood, Alice with her arms clasped lovingly round the soft neck of the Fawn, till they came out into another open field, and here the Fawn gave a sudden bound into the air, and shook itself free from Alice’s arms. “I’m a Fawn!” it cried out in a voice of delight, “and, dear me! you’re a human child!” A sudden look of alarm came into its beautiful brown eyes, and in another moment it had darted away at full speed.

That’s when I learned that sometimes we must leave one another. One night, after a particularly nasty heartbreak, I sauntered off to Swasey Parkway. It was damp. Streetlights squinted through the fog, the muskrats squeaked. And the river carved into its banks - never the same, but more of a river every day. When I came back, I wrote in my mile-long Notes document, “Though I can’t swap the East and West (all for their left), I flip the right and left.”

My friend Clark once said that the woods at night are humbling. In the choir of spring peepers, you forget about your college essays, and start wondering who’s going to bite your leg off in the dark. There, you already know where to go when the straight way is lost. Let’s return to Alice as she inquires the Cheshire Cat about her itinerary.

“Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?”

“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,” said the Cat.

“I don’t much care where—” said Alice.

“Then it doesn’t matter which way you go,” said the Cat.

If Exeter has taught me anything, it’s that we wither without whimsy. In the cycle of work-sleep-work, it can be difficult to plunge yourself daily into the great unknown. But something in the way y’all smell flowers and argue about limericks tells me you can do it.

Well, I’ve had my fun here. Now off you go, run to yourself with great abandon!

Maggie Chang

I’ve always been quite independent and felt quite confident about my time management, so I didn’t feel too worried about adapting to Exeter as a new Lower and was super excited to experience boarding life. However, the Pandemic broke out, and I had to do remote learning in Taiwan for the whole year. The time zone difference made everything hard in all aspects, especially during spring term when

most people were back on campus and I find myself the only one on Zoom, having trouble participating in the Harkness conversations due to ambient noises. I couldn’t really socialize too. I had lost my sleep schedule due to the divergence from my normal routine and always felt tired. Amid all these challenges, I still felt the good of the academy and felt it even more when I got on campus. My teachers

were very understanding and were always available for extra help. I met some of my best friends in my dorm Wheelwright and through weekend events. Additionally, Exeter promotes student diversity, equity, and inclusion and offers many workshops. I am grateful to have the opportunity to attend conferences like SDLC and AAFC and learn interesting materials in my history courses. I love the non-sibi spirit

embodied all over the campus like ESSO clubs and Learning Center as well as our Big Red spirit at dance showcases, pep rallies, and E/A day sports competitions. I have grown so much through the years at Phillips Exeter Academy. I had ups and downs and will cherish all the memories I’ve made at this place I would call home. I wish all the best to my fellow Exonians.



Departing Faculty

Holly Lyne - Admissions Intern

I will always be grateful for a joyful and enriching two years at Exeter. I'd especially like to thank my Admissions colleagues, faculty friends, advisees, the Dunbar dorm team and our wonderful Dunbar students, and last year's Moulton House faculty and students.

Raisa Tolchinsky – Bennett Fellow

This year has helped me know, in my bones, we do not have to constantly be making something impressive to be worthy, to be loved. That knowing is the greatest gift a writer could ask for. My gratitude is as big as the moon. Big as the skyscrapers the first time I saw New York City. I will be saying thank you to this place, and to all of you, forward and backwards in time, not just today, but placing that thank you in my grandmother's hands, in my great-great-great-grandmothers hands, in my future students' hands, in the hands I will shake in greeting next year.

Rebecca Pempek – Art Intern

Karlee Koswick – Computer Science Intern

Rob Morris – Human Health and Development

10/5 Rule... within ten feet of you, SMILE... within five feet, say "Hi"
 Listen
 Run from the echo chamber
 Read
 Keep your head up and your shoulders back
 Be Present
 Do something physically hard every day
 Forgive
 30 min of sunshine on your face every day
 Take walks
 Say "I love you" a lot
 Take naps
 Go to bed on the same day you woke up
 Freedom of speech and thought is the hill to die upon
 Show up
 You are never the smartest person in the room
 Be moderate – being extreme is lazy
 Purpose over pay
 "Together"

Austin Washington – Religion

Christina Zeigler – Science

Aaron Fenyes - Mathematics

In my whirlwind of a year here with all of you, the times when I've felt I've understood PEA the most have been the ones when I saw you do or heard you describe something you're passionate, curious, earnest, or joyful about. From the biggest and most intensive projects and performances to the smallest and least expected moments of community and discovery, those are the times when I see the energy that hums behind everything we do—even behind the blariness of an 8 a.m. Saturday class. Whatever it is that animates you personally, and whatever part of it I've been lucky enough to see, I know it's there, and I appreciate it. Take care of it, and each other, and yourselves.

Jace Jones – OMA Intern

Aidan Wolff-King – English Intern

Mika Court - Modern Languages - French

We create, therefore we are! It has been an absolute joy and honor to engage in collaborative pedagogies of discovery and empowerment with each one of you! Echoing Ruha Benjamin, have we not seen that classrooms are "laboratories of social change"? I'll always remember your presentations and essays. Remember that when things get tough -- as they often will, "welcome to earth" -- gratitude, connection, and play can get us through. Keep being kind to yourself and others, even as you stretch your imagination into new realms. I've enjoyed our inquiries-- whether playing surrealist games in French class, editing drafts in the Writing Center, decolonizing History textbooks, exploring etymology, or marveling over the revelations that can come from cross-cultural discussions of grammar and metaphysics. Every day each of you has reminded me why I chose to be a teacher. Thank you. What empowering connections we've built, even while working with difficult truths or seemingly arcane points of grammar or painful parts of history! Keep asking questions! Keep being astounded!

With much love and hope, Mx. Court

Alison Hobbie – Science

Colleen Brodsky – Computer Science

Aviral Pathak – History

Dear Exonians,

When I first visited PEA as a candidate, I was deeply impressed by the confidence with which the student body carried itself. Indeed, ours is an extraordinary place that makes possible an unmatched sense of agency in young people. Diligently preserving, nurturing, and celebrating this agency is the great responsibility of PEA faculty. Thank you for challenging me every day to be better in this work, and for welcoming me into this remarkable place. It has been a professional honor for me to be an Exonian. The spirit of non sibi makes an indelible mark on those who have had the privilege of calling PEA home. I will always carry with me and champion this ethos of Phillips Exeter.

Sincerely,
 Dr. Aviral Pathak

The Exonian

We would like to acknowledge the Squamscott/Penacook peoples who were the first peoples of this land. We would like to honor their ancestors, descendants and future generations for caring for this area and allowing us to be here today.

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Senior Reflections Cont.

Sinna Oumer

The Making of a Hero

After four years of living, learning, and loving Exeter's campus, it's little surprise that I know its buildings so well. I've not timed any of the routes I've unearthed across my four years. I remember the dorm seniors offering to tour us preps through our classes on our first day on campus. We declined, but I went out on my own later.

That was the first time I went to the Academy Building at night. The high ceilings and marble floor become ominous and imposing, and the dusty, maze-like basement transforms into a Labyrinth worthy of legend, a strange new adventure waiting around every corner. I didn't explore much that night. Frightened and alone, I fled the building after ten minutes of searching for my math classroom.

The Greek princess Ariadne is best known for her role in another hero's myth. For years, she watched her father throw sacrifices into the Labyrinth, never to leave. She gave the hero the strategy that allowed them to safely escape the Labyrinth of the Minotaur. What was the Labyrinth to that hero then? Just a puzzle, inevitably to be solved.

What is a Labyrinth to a crew of fresh young heroes?

Back in winter term, on my way to Wetherell from Lamont Hall, I sprint across the snow to the back first-floor entrance into the Phelps Science Center. After dragging myself up a floor, I cross through a hallway to take the stairs at the side of the building. I jump the last two steps before exiting. Emerging onto Tan Lane beneath the sign that still bears the name of the old Fisher Theater, I sprint on.

Last year, I would've run back down the road and up the Academy Building's stairs into the Art Gallery. Two years ago, I would've continued up those stairs directly into the Academy Building. Three years ago, I would've climbed to the top of those stairs and paused to gaze down from the railing. The view, filled with lawns and excited children, is fit for a mythic hero.

Now, I always prefer to run down Lamont Hill. That's not an official name or anything, just what I like to call it. There's something exhilarating about sprinting down the hill just to force myself to a harsh stop.

Most of all, Lamont Hill is what counts for the divide between my school and my home.

Today is not one of those days. Snow blankets campus, keeping students tucked away into buildings. Come

passing period, people will miraculously find it within themselves to make it to class within the allotted 5 minutes. I'm not headed to class right now, though, just to the dining hall, and I'll be damned if I don't spend as much of that time inside as possible.

Maybe it's a bad idea to sprint across Tan Lane. Right after that thought hits me, I skid over a ribbon of black ice and nearly trip into a snowbank. This is why I'm taking the inside route. College Counseling is a great place to pause. I can stomp the ice out of my boots and snag a piece of candy as a reward for my efforts. Then I stroll on through CCO and the Lamont Art Gallery into the basement of the Academy Building. It's good to take my time in the winter. This way, I can warm up and appreciate the little details. There's a pink sticker that says "question everything" on one of the glass windows of a math classroom I dart past. I take the time to examine the bulletin board outside a history classroom. It has clippings from the last election, and a couple of photos of last year's Washington interns. I leave the Academy Building about as warm as I was when I left Lamont Hall.

I'm lucky enough to have a whole library of trips to Weth from Lamont Hall. Last spring, when the sun smiled on campus and lawn chairs found themselves clustered in loose circles across the quad, I loved taking the most direct path. I sprint down Lamont Hill and knee open the double doors to EPAC's Agora. On this path, I'm bound to run into a friend or two. Sometimes I'll sneak up behind someone and surprise them with a hug. Sometimes they see me coming, calling out my name, and inviting me over for a chat. Sometimes I'll just slip into a cushy armchair next to a friend and jump into the conversation. It's a rare day that I burst out the other side of EPAC's double doors onto the quad and I haven't greeted anyone yet.

There are two kinds of people who yell to their friends loud enough for the entire quad to hear. The two groups are preps, who don't fully realize other people live here, and seniors, who know everyone else who lives here. It's that knowledge that gives me enough confidence to cry out across the quad when I recognize the kid in the green jacket typing away at their computer on the steps of Phillips Hall and the blonde girl that's sitting next to them, who is systematically pulling apart a yellow leaf. When I cross that central path and start smelling fried



food, I feel like I'm crossing a finish line.

We Exonians often fret that we're not doing enough with our time at Exeter. We worry we don't deserve to attend the school. We become certain we don't belong among the interesting, storied cast of 1000 kids that walk our paths. The truth is the heroes of myth weren't defined by how worthy they were. When we think about the heroes of the Labyrinth, we remember the maze they conquered. They were defined by their journey, not who they were at the end of their stories.

That desperate, senior spring feeling began taking hold of me in early February. There would be no more memories to leave across campus, no more stories writing and overwriting this home we've made with love. Across this winding path of four years, hundreds of thousands of steps trekked across campus and back, Ariadne's string has been unwinding, trailing behind us all. I wanted to grasp at it, hold it in both hands. Too many times, I found myself mumbling, "This is the last time I'll introduce myself at the beginning of class. This is the last time I'll go to the gym. This is the last time this club will meet. This is the last time

I'll go to a dorm event."

We talk about how much of Exeter is its community. Every time I climbed the stairs of Phillips Church to lay out our prayer rugs, I did it with love for our Muslim Student Association. I did it for every person who has ever filed in that door on a Friday or sat around a fire at a faculty member's house. I did it for all the times lower fall we didn't have enough kids for service - but at least we had them. I did it for all the times in the following years we've had more kids than prayer rugs. In every step up the Music Building's stairs, past the Bowl, and through the church parking lot lives the love for my community.

I'm not worried about leaving behind friends. The class of 2023 knows what it means to stay connected when you're forced apart. We will always be bound together by our tumultuous four years on this campus. We will always be bound by this time of wild growth. We will always be bound together because we taught each other how to navigate a hurricane.

I've spent four years walking Exeter's paths day in and day out. I don't know if you can spend that much time in a place

without littering precious bits of yourself across it.

Anyone who knows me knows how much I love the Lamont common room. It's not for the cramped but homey couches and the ability to play the Wii. To me, the room is alive with the memory of 2 am cookie-baking sessions. It's alive with Aletheia humoring my midnight ramblings. It's alive with the tea I've shared with friends and other familiar faces.

If I curl up on one of the couches in the Science Center's mezzanine, memories of sitting here with Clara whisper in the back of my mind. I only take up half the couch with my stuff, just in case anyone I know comes by and wants to sit. If I flop into one of the couches in the nook, I always sit in the one in front of the window that looks out to the Academic Quad. Here, I've spent so many hours huddled with Clara over a computer, watching silly videos or scary movies, that it's earned its own name: the "apartment".

Exeter taught me how to adapt to every new situation. Exeter taught me the confidence to tackle any problem. Exeter taught me when to get help and when to keep pushing forward.

Ariadne didn't give the hero the string so they could stay in the Labyrinth forever. She gave them the string so they could retrace their steps and leave. I'd mar the young heroes' names if I dared run back down the path I've already walked.

I know most of the kids I've lived with across these four years. Each of us has left our own invisible Ariadne's string. They tied together four years ago, in the tree outside Bissell House where I looked up at a girl reading in a tree. They tied together at the feet of a girl in a classroom in the Computer Science wing of the Science Center.

Exeter's Academy Building has stood as the heart of our Labyrinth since 1794. Thousands of other heroes have walked its halls before we did. There will be thousands more. No one can spend four years somewhere without leaving their adventures across it.

We can all see the string that trails behind us. We will always be bound together. Ariadne's strings will always connect us to the years we shared at Exeter. Thank you, heroes, for writing this legend with me.

Prize Bulletin

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THE ART PRIZES

The Francke Prize in Art, established in memory of Henry Gilbert Francke, Jr. of the Class of 1939, and awarded to Exeter students who, because of their imagination and skill, give promise

of creating beauty in architecture.

Marina Avilova
Asha Bryant
Asa Campbell
Claire McConnell
The Paul P. Gelles Memorial Art Scholarship Prize is awarded for outstanding work in art.

Chia Chi
Joseph Doherty
Hope Gantt
Lionel Hearon
Ina Mason
Delaney Miller
Jacqueline Subkhanberdina
Ariana Thornton
Finn Tronnes
Aletheia Zou
The Lt. John A. Larkin, Jr. Memorial Prize in Art is awarded for outstanding work in drawing

and ceramics.
Alia Bonanno
Madison Collins
Jesalina Phan
Casey Realini
Nick Rose
The Ralph Bradley Prize is awarded for excellence in Art.

Alysha Lai

THE LATIN PRIZES

Prizes for excellence in Latin are maintained from funds given in 1925 by Samuel W. Bandler in honor of John C. Kirtland; in 1932 by William H. Rand of the Class of 1885, in honor of Robert F. Pennell; and in 1956 by Mrs. William J. Gabel in memory of her son, William H.

Gabel, of the Class of 1940.

Latin 110-130
First Prize: Forrest Zeng
Second Prize: Audrey Dent

Latin 210-230
First Prize: Junhyeok Jang
Second Prize: Pippa Pflaum

Latin 411-431
First Prize: Aruli Pillai
Latin 210-401
First Prize: Harry McGovern

Second Prize: Stanley Huang
Latin 310-400
First Prize: Priya Nwakanma

Second Prize: Juno Cowans
Latin 510-530
First Prize: Anamika Seth

Second Prize: Sam Creelan
Latin 511-531
First Prize: Rajiv Raval
Second Prize: Vi Matheos

Latin 611-631
First Prize: Jasper Chen
Second Prize: Holden Quaresma

From the income of the George Herbert Pollock Memorial Fund, established in 1974 in memory of George Herbert Pollock, of the Class of 1953, for that student who has shown the greatest interest and improvement in Latin Literature:

Holden Quaresma

Prizes in Greek are funded in part by the Prentiss Cummings Book Prize Fund, established in 1906 by Prentiss Cummings of the Class of 1860.

The Joline Prizes, established by O.D. Joline, of the Class of 1885, for excellence in First Year

Greek, are awarded as follows:

Greek 411-431
First Prize: William Turner
Second Prize: Maame Dufie Awuah

Greek 511-531
First Prize: Blake Simpson
Second Prize: Vi Matheos

The Hatch/Phillips Award in Latin and Greek, established in 1980 by David Edgar Bayer, of the Class of 1942, in honor of Norman L. Hatch, Morison Professor of Latin and Henry Phillips, Cillye Professor of Greek, is awarded each year to that graduating senior enrolled in courses in both Latin and Greek during his or her senior year who, in the judgment of the Department of Classical Languages, has shown outstanding dedication to and significant improvement in these areas of study at the Academy. The award this year is given to:

Blake Simpson

THE GAVIT PRIZES

From the income of the Lucy Lamont Gavit and the Joseph Lamont Gavit Classical Fund, given by Mr. Thomas Lamont of the Class of 1888, for the benefit of those students who commend themselves to the Faculty and Trustees for performance and promise as students of scholarly attainment in the Classics, the following awards are made:

High distinction to: Ashley Jane

Blake Simpson
William Turner

THE HAIG RAMAGE PRIZES

The Haig Ramage Classical Scholarship Fund was given by Mr. William Haig Ramage, of the Class of 1905, to support annual awards to students who are pursuing studies leading to the Classical Diploma and who excel in their studies. He gave as his reason the opinion that "any student becomes a better citizen if he has a broad liberal education before entering the university and specializing." These awards are traditionally considered to be the highest recognition of attainment in the Classics at Exeter; they are as follows:

High distinction to: Ryan Kim

Vi Matheos
Highest distinction to: Kaylee Chen

Sophia Zhang
Chloe Zhu

THE ENGLISH PRIZES

The English Prizes consist of the prizes established in 1896 by Dr. Abner L. Merrill of the Class of 1838, for excellence in English Composition and established in 1925 by Samuel Cony Manley of the Class of 1885 and

established in 1949 by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Lamont, together with friends, in memory of their son, Thomas W. Lamont, II, of the Class of 1942 and in 2007 by Jane and Basil K. Vasilou of the Class of 1967. Each year students choose to submit their work in competition for these awards.

First-Year English
First Prize: Ethan Benenson

Second Prize: Lauren Lee
Third Prize: Cecily Reed

The Vasilou '67 Writing Prize in Second Year English

First Prize: Jannah Maguire

Two Equal Second Prizes: Roxanne Park

Pranavi Vedula
The Vasilou '67 Writing Prize in Third Year English

First Prize: Hannah Park
Second Prize: Maeve Kennedy

Third Prize: Molly Lankler

Prize for Short Fiction in Third and Fourth Year English

First Prize: Kodi Lopez
Second Prize: Maeve Kennedy

Third Prize: Chengyue Zhang

Fourth-Year English
First Prize: Adalie Burton

Second Prize: Marina Avilova

Third Prize: Zoë Chang
The Thomas W. Lamont II Prize in English Composition for the best extemporaneous essay in

Senior English.
First Prize: Adalie Burton

Second Prize: Sheala Iacobucci

The Lewis Sibley Poetry Prize for the most promising collection of original poems.

First Prize: David Chen
Second Prize: Amber Zou

Third Prize: Kaylee Chen

The Dolores Kendrick Prize for the best essay on writers of color or issues of race in literature.

First Prize: Lianna Yang
Second Prize: Lucy Previn

Third Prize: Nicholas Li

THE HISTORY PRIZES

The Prizes for the Study of History at the Introductory Level,

For academic achievement to:

Ethan Benenson
Evan Fan
Katherine Knox

Sophia Marya
Anushka Noori
Andy Song

Celine Zhang
Sophie Zhu '26

For attitude and approach at the Harkness table to:

Luca Domingos-Worth
Lulu Henault-Bassett

Elsa Janicki
Anna. Keeling

Rebecca. Nguyen
Shiwani Paudel

Sophia Qiu
Lorax Reed

Siena Saavedra
Bagdonas

Tiffany. Sun

The Prizes for the Study of History at the Intermediate Level,

For academic achievement to:

Rima Alsheikh
Lauren Lee

Dhruv Nagarajan
Eli Pratt
Elaine Qiao
Paloma Sze
Pranavi Vedula

For attitude and approach at the Harkness table to:

Peyton K. Atherton-Henry

Jaylen D. Bennett
Kenzie Carty

Ethan Henry
Cam Khater
Yuvan Rasiah

Chloe R. Richards
Andrew J. Voulgarelis

The Prizes for the Study of Economics,

For academic achievement

Kenny Chen
Colin Clark

Kaitlin Clark
Charlie Holtz
Eden Welch

The Prizes for the Study of History at the Senior Level,

For academic achievement to:

Azavia Barsky-Elnour
Ophelia Bentley

Alia Bonanno
Montana Dickerson

Tucker Gibbs
Lauren Jibraili

Aaron Joy
Emi Levine

Hannah Rubin
Alexa Wingate

The Sherman Hoar Prizes are awarded for excellence in American History.

These prizes will be awarded in September 2023.

The Blackmar Prize in American History, given in memory of General Wilmont W. Blackmar, Class of 1864, is awarded for the year's best work in American History.

These prizes will be awarded in September 2023.

The Frederick Whitman Prize is given by The Phillips Foundation in honor of Frederick

Whitman, a teacher at the Academy, is awarded to that individual studying American History who, through application, grades, and interest contributes the most enthusiasm for the subject among students at Exeter.

Charlie Holtz
Jessica Huang

Yasmin Salerno
The Negley Prizes in American History is awarded for the year's best essays.

These prizes will be awarded in September 2023.

THE MATHEMATICS PRIZES

The Mathematics Department prizes are sustained by the William Allen Francis and George A. Wentworth Fund, the Maurice R. Scharff and the Lindsay Crawford Prize Funds. The prizes are for outstanding contributions to the mathematics program, and the awards are made by vote of

the Mathematics Faculty.

The Maurice R. Scharff Prizes for contributions to our Harkness math classes:

Vera Aiumunmondion
Ayaan Akhtar

Hisham Alireza
Rima Alsheikh

Kamsi Amaechina
Debbie Ang

Jesse Ball
Eloise Benchley

Alia Bonanno

Alan Bu
Isabella Bueno
Anna Byun
Andrew Carratu
Kenzie Carty
Freddie Chang
David Chen
Jonathan Chen

Claire Chetwynd
Alejandro Cordero

Nicholas Crevier
Lizi Darchia

Joey Dong
Eric Drouart

Mike Durkin
RJ Edmonds
Evan Fan

Jack Farah
Kaitlynn Farkas
Henry Fipp

Tucker Gibbs
Jack Gordan

Lang Gou
Clara Gulick

Angel Guo
Tallis Guthrie

Eliana Hall
Claire Han

Erin Han
Sarah Hanson

Reggie Harris
Ava Helbig

Lulu Henault
-Bassett

Charl
ie Holtz

Matteo Huish
Malachi Johns

Jaewon Jung
Allison Kelly

Cam Khater
June Kim

Haakon Kohler
Jack Kugler

Olivia Lang
Sylvia Langer

Gretchen Lannon
Emi Levine

Xingyi Li
Roy Liu

Yuan Liu
Dushant Lohano

Finn Lorgen
Michael Lu

Lucy Lukens
Alexander Luna

Sophie Ma
Valentina Martinez

Lexi Meyer
Lucy Meyer

-Braun
Cedric Moecklin

Collin Moore
Corinne Morrison

Sean Murthy
Kantapon Nakornsri

Anushka Noori
Beverly Oleka

Jaansi Patel
Adora Perry

Olivia Pierre
Aruli Pillai

Trevor Piltch
Maya Piluski

Sophia Qiu
Kiran Raval

Lorax Reed
Anna Rissi

Joshua Rohloff
Siena Saavedra

Bagdonas
Dylan Schwab

Anika Sivarasa
Andrew Smith

CJ Smith
Sami Smith

Stella Song
Rodrigo Spinola

Castro
Shaoshao Tang

Ariana Thornton
William Turner

Nora Unger
Neil Varwandkar

Harini Venkatesh
Jane Vernon

Isabella Vesely
Rook Vessenes

Ishaan Vohra
Andrew Voulgarelis

Karsten Vun
Sean Walker

Ellie Wang
Zifei Wang

Abyssinia Waritu
Zijing Wei

Owen Welch
Alexa Wingate

Clark Wu
Catherine Yan

David Zhang

Sophia Zimmermann
Amber Zou

The Lindsay Crawford Memorial Prize to the seniors with the most outstanding work in mathematics this year:

Max Xu

THE MODERN LANGUAGE PRIZES

The Modern Language Prizes are sustained by the Annie C. Benton Memorial Fund, the Alumni Modern Language Prize Fund, the Gomez Prize, the Hugh Corby Fox Prize, the Fish French Prize Fund, the Frates Prize Fund, Independence Foundation Romance Prize and a gift in honor of Percy C. Rogers.

THE ARABIC PRIZES

Blake Simpson

THE CHINESE PRIZES

First-Year Chinese

Asha Masoudi
Sean Murthy

Sophie Yu
Second-Year Chinese

Janelle Bobb
Teddy Duncker

Jessica Phan
Alinne Romero-Torres

Third-Fourth Year Chinese

Sam Benochi
Lucy Jung

Masaki Muneyoshi
Eli Pratt

Celine Zhang
Fifth-Year Chinese

Charlie Edwards
Jack Kugler

Fifth -Year Chinese Electives

Steven Chen
THE FRENCH PRIZES

First-Year French

Shaib Abubakar
Claire Chetwynd

London Kinder
Shiwani Paudel

Jane Vernon
King-Dior Willsun

Second-Third Year French

Grace Benson
Lianny Camilo

Ethan Ding
Whitney Pickett

Ava Spaulding
Anders Toresjo

Pranavi Vedula,
Kamara Williams

Third-Fourth Year French

Hisham Alireza
Claire Han

Lucy Lukens
Jannah Maguire

Lexi Meyer
Sean Walker

Catherine Yan
Fifth-Year Electives

Lucy Meyer-Braun
Advanced French

Studies
Jaden Yun

THE GERMAN PRIZES

First-Year German

Aymeric Dauge-Roth
Second-Year German

Cam Khater
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Third-Fourth Year German

Beeke Fock
Nelson Meaney

Fifth-Year German
Oliver Brandes

Will Durawa
Tucker Gibbs

THE ITALIAN PRIZES

Agatha Prairie
Leyla Unver

THE JAPANESE PRIZES

First-Year Japanese

Tiffany Sun
Second-Year Japanese

Cole Meyer
Third-Fourth Year Japanese

Hannah Park
Fifth-Year Japanese

THE GREEK PRIZES

Leo Mizuno
THE RUSSIAN PRIZES
 First-Year Russian
 Jesse Ball
 Second-Year Russian
 Abigail Sears
 Third-Fourth Year
 Russian
 Dea Yavich
 Special Achievement in
 Russian Language
 Sav Bartkovich
THE SPANISH PRIZES
 First-Year Spanish
 Sofia Chaudrey
 Allegra Lai
 Sophie Low
 Collin Moore
 Maya Piluski
 Yangchen Sherpa
 Anika Sivarasa
 Spanish Transition - 220
 RJ Edmonds
 Evan Fan
 Sophia Marya
 Anushka Noori
 Second-Year Spanish
 Rima Alsheikh
 Arianna Bocchino
 Leo Braham
 Anna Byun
 Joonyoung Heo
 Finn Lorgen
 Dhruv Nagarajan
 Advika Verma
 Third-Fourth Year
 Spanish

Alan Bu
 Aven Burney
 Kenzie Carty
 Elizabeth Catizone
 Charles Dobbins
 Jack Gordon
 Zach Khambatta
 Thomas Leopold
 Alexander Luna
 Colin Maloney
 Carter Otis
 Vir Shrestha
 Sonia Soloviova
 Fifth-Year Spanish
 Atishay Jain
 Siena Saavedra
 Bagdonas
 Luca Shakoori
 Alexa Wingate
 Special Prize for
 excellence in two or more
 foreign languages offered
 by the Modern Language
 Department:
 London Kinder
 Agatha Prairie
 Sophie Raskova

THE MUSIC PRIZES

The E.S. Wells Kerr Prize
 is awarded annually to one
 or more students who, in the
 judgment of the head of the
 Department of Music, seem
 to excel in both proficiency
 and interest in the field of
 music:
 Hannah Rubin
 The William G.
 Saltonstall Prize is awarded
 annually to the student who
 produces the best original
 music composition as
 determined by the faculty of
 the Department of Music:
 Aiden Sanchez
 The Edward C. Echols
 Jazz Prize recognizes
 outstanding jazz musicians
 during the academic year:
 Ayaan Akhtar
 The A.A. Landers Prize
 recognizes any student(s)
 found by the head of the
 Department of Music to be
 the most proficient in music:
 Haakon Kohler
 Jesalina Phan
 Blake Simpson
 Polly Vaillant
 The Eli J. Loranger
 III Prize recognizes those
 seniors whose musical
 excellence and generosity
 of spirit have significantly
 enhanced the life of the
 school:
 Chloe Becker
 Charlie Edwards
 William Newby
 Clark Wu
 Bai Xue

THE RELIGION PRIZES

The Religion department
 annually awards prizes for
 student achievement from
 three separate funds. The
 first, at the level of Preps
 and Lower. The second

and third at the level of
 uppers and seniors. The
 Arthur L. Merrick Memorial
 Fund Prize is awarded to
 the Prep or Lower having
 demonstrated excellence in
 the study of Religion.
 Anna Byun
 Tallis Guthrie
 Cam Khater
 Collin Moore
 The Abbie Manton
 Polleys Memorial Fund
 Prize is awarded to those
 students who have shown
 significant achievement in
 the curricular offerings of the
 Religion Department.
 Azavia Barsky-Elnour
 David Chen
 Malachi Johns
 Delaney Miller
 Jack O'Brien
 Ryan Pate
 The Nathaniel Gordon
 Bible Fund Prize is awarded
 to students who have
 demonstrated excellence in
 the study of Religion.
 Hisham Alireza
 Dylan Almeyda
 Hannah Dirs
 Eva English
 Andy Horrigan
 Leyla Unver

THE SCIENCE PRIZES

The following prizes
 are funded by the Fisher
 Fund, the E.P. Holder Fund,
 the D.J. Killian Fund, and
 the Wentworth Fund. The
 John and Irene MacKenty
 Astronomy Prize, awarded
 to graduating Seniors who
 have made an outstanding
 contribution to the
 advancement of Astronomy
 at Exeter.
 Rodrigo Spinola e Castro
 The Fiske Memorial
 Prize, given in memory
 of Winthrop E. Fiske, an
 instructor in physics at the
 Academy from 1899 to 1938,
 is awarded for excellence in
 Physical Sciences.
 Michael Chen
 Emilie Dubiel
 Jennifer Finkelstein
 Aidan Hanson
 Daniel Jeon
 Lucy Meyer-Braun
 Anish Mudide
 Nick Rose
 MC Schantz
 Max Xu
 Jaden Yun
 Aubrey Zhang
 The David M. Bitman
 Prize, given in memory of
 David M. Bitman of the
 class of 1978, is awarded
 to students who show
 excellence in a wide range of
 science subjects.
 Amy Benson
 Ophelia Bentley
 Maya Cohen
 Cam Guthrie
 Ella Kim
 Gabriel Marcoux
 Bridgette Martin
 Brooke Ottaway
 Hannah Rubin
 Leyla Unver
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 The Fisher Prize,
 established by the Fisher
 Foundation, is awarded to
 recognize excellence in
 advanced courses in
 Biology, Chemistry, and
 Physics.
 Alia Bonanno
 David Chen
 Reggie Harris
 Sheala Iacobucci
 Sanisha Mahendra-Rajah
 Zach Quitkin
 Vibha Udayakumar
 Kevin Wei
 The Corning Benton
 and Dr. Corning Benton, Jr.
 Science Department Prize, is
 awarded to a
 student of two or more
 years in the Academy who,
 in the opinion of the Science
 Department
 Faculty, shows
 outstanding promise as a
 future scientist.
 Joey Dong
 Clara Gulick
 Jack Kugler
 Lally Lavin
 Ciara McNamara
 Rodrigo Spinola e Castro

Isabella Vesely
 Aletheia Zou

THE COMPUTER SCIENCE PRIZES

Computer Science prizes
 are funded by an anonymous
 gift from a member of the
 Class of 1975. Computer
 Science Lower Classmen
 Awards are given to students
 at the Junior and/or Lower
 level who have demonstrated
 a propensity for and superior
 understanding of the
 computer science field:
 Avaninder Bhaghayath
 Rina Fujii
 Peter Morand
 Laura Saldarriaga
 Altan Unver
 Shiqiao Zhang
 Computer Science
 Upper Classmen Awards
 are given to students at the
 Upper and/or Senior level
 who have demonstrated a
 propensity for and a superior
 understanding of the
 computer science field:
 Bennett Brown
 Michael Chen
 Chaney Hollis
 Nathan Khuu
 Enzo Nakomsri
 Isabella Vesely
 The Special Award
 in Computer Science is
 given to students who have
 demonstrated not only
 expertise in the field of
 computer science but have
 also given of themselves
 freely to further the
 goals of the Computer
 Science department.
 Liam Brown
 Joey Dong

THE THEATER AND DANCE PRIZES

The J. Carmen '92 and
 Natalie S. '95 Stewart Prize
 in Dance recognizes the
 student who exemplifies the
 passionate spirit of Carmen
 and Natalie held for dance
 as a means of self-expression,
 a form of physical fitness,
 membership in a group
 in which all members
 are considered equal,
 and a vehicle for cultural
 awareness.
 Highest Distinction:
 Petra E. Orloff
 High Distinction:
 Jennifer P. Finkelstein
 Brooke H. Ottaway
 With Distinction: Zoë
 Chang
 Lily Hagge
 Daniel Han
 Ki Odums
 Honorable Mention:
 Riches Afolabi
 Nur Almajali
 Keanen Andrews
 Reggie Harris
 Grace Nivera
 Lydia Osei
 Jade Pierce
 The Meir Z. Ribalow '66
 Theatre Prizes
 The Meir Z. Ribalow
 '66 Theatre Prize is given in
 recognition of outstanding
 contributions to theater.
 Highest Distinction:
 Adalie Burton
 Tucker Gibbs
 Clara Gulick
 High Distinction:
 Ophelia Bentley
 Asha Bryant
 Zoë Chang
 Maya Cohen
 Jennifer Drevitch
 Delaney Miller
 Sinna Oumer
 Lexi Pelzer
 Aiden Sanchez
 Delaney Schlegel
 Yifei Zhao
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 R. W. Ellis "Anvil"
 Prizes for Storytelling
 are supported by a fund
 established in 1983, by
 Fred Grandy '66 "to
 foster storytelling at the
 Academy".
 Highest Distinction: Sav
 Bartkovich
 Chloe Becker
 John Henry Holcomb
 Charlie Knight
 Alysha Lai
 Daisy Newbury

High Distinction: Stellan
 Aalto
 Veruka Salomone

OTHER PRIZES

The Turner Exonian
 Prize, given by Mr. and Mrs.
 Ralph Turner, parents and
 friends, is given annually
 to students who do the best
 writing and/or reporting
 for the Exonian during the
 school year.
 Alia Bonanno
 Jessica Huang
 Safira Schiowitz
 Clark Wu
 The Gordon Editorial
 Award, given by Dr. and Mrs.
 Gene Gordon, is awarded
 annually to an Exeter student
 who displays through
 editorial journalism in
 publication emanating from
 the Academy, a passionate
 dedication to personal
 freedom, particularly
 freedom of conscience and
 its expression.
 Highest Distinction:
 Clark Wu
 High Distinction: Minseo
 Kim
 With Distinction: David
 Chen
 Kaylee Chen
 Maya Cohen
 William Hackett
 Andrew Horrigan
 Sheala Iacobucci
 Arya Palla
 Nick Rose
 Athena Wang
 Angela Zhang
 Sophia Zhang
 The Exonian Staff
 Award, given by the faculty
 advisors and student editors
 of the Exonian for the year's
 most innovative and unique
 newspaper feature over the
 past year is awarded to:
 Cha Yu Joy Chi
 Jonathan Jeun
 Nina Kellogg
 Nathalie Kpodonu
 Andrea Nystedt
 Gbemiga Salu
 Arhon Lihengwen
 Strauss
 Michael Jingchu Yang
 Ava Zhao
 Chloe Zhu

The Debating Prizes

The Charles Theodore
 Russell Bates Debating Prize
 Elle Cohen
 Maeve Kennedy
 Amy Lin
 Keon Osci
 Sophia Qiu
 Ezra Segal
 Andy Song
 The Academy Debating
 Fund Prize
 Leo Braham
 Catherine Chen
 Katelyn Cui
 Meishu Han
 Adrian Mittal
 Sarah Sargent
 Emma Sordi
 Class of 1882 Debating
 Prizes
 Eamin Ahmed
 Ophelia Bentley
 Anvi Bhate
 Kaylee Chen
 Matthew Dame
 Montana Dickerson
 Aaron Joy
 Tina Li
 Lydia Osei
 Elaine Qiao
 Holden Quaresma
 William Soh
 James Yun
 The Glazier Speaking
 Prize
 Sam Altman
 Joonyoung Heo
 Lauren Lee
 Dhruv Nagarajan
 Gbemiga Salu
 (Oluwagbemiga)
 The John O. Heald
 Debating Prize
 Colin Jung
 Sachin Shetty
 The Gifford Pinchot
 Prize, given by Gifford
 Pinchot, class of 1884. This
 prize is given annually to a
 student who, like Gifford
 Pinchot, demonstrates
 dedication to the
 conservation of the nation's

natural resources.
 Montana Dickerson
 The Hunter V. Farnham
 Prize, established by the
 Farnham Family to honor
 Mr. Farnham's
 love of Africa, developed
 in his many trips for the
 Agency for International
 Development, for
 students who intend to
 continue the study of Africa.
 Azavia Barsky-Elnour

The Scharff Prize
 is awarded to sons and
 daughters of alumni who
 also won prizes while they
 were at the Academy in
 the same or closely related
 disciplines.

Azavia Barsky-Elnour,
 who has won a prize in
 Religion, whose mother,
 Amy Barsky '97, also won a
 prize in Religion.

Eloise Benchley, who has
 won a prize in Mathematics,
 whose father, Clayton
 Benchley also won a prize in
 Mathematics in 1984.

Freddie Chang, who has
 won a prize in Mathematics,
 whose father, Derek
 Chang also won a prize in
 Mathematics in 1983.

Nicholas Crevier,
 who has won a prize in
 Mathematics, whose father,
 Christopher Crevier also
 won a prize in Mathematics
 in 1983.

Evan Fan, who has won a
 prize in Mathematics, whose
 father, Pan-Dian Fan also
 won a prize in Mathematics
 in 1983 and 1985.

Cam Khater, who has
 won a prize in German,
 whose father, Russell Khater,
 also won a prize in German
 in 1985.

Katherine Knox, who
 has won a prize in History,
 whose father, Thomas Knox
 '95, also won a prize in
 History.

Roxane Park, who has
 won a prize in English,
 whose father, Andrew Park,
 also won a prize in English
 in 1992.

Paloma Sze, who has
 won a prize in History,
 whose father, Morgan Sze,
 won a prize in History in
 1982.

SPECIAL PRIZES

The Philip Curtis
 Goodwin '25 Athletic Award
 The award is presented
 annually to the four year
 male and female who
 best embody the qualities
 of Sportsmanship and
 Participation:
 Sami Smith '23
 Cam Guthrie '23
 The Frank A. Weil '48
 Prize for Exemplary Growth
 and Promise
 Given by Mr. Frank
 A. Weil '48, this prize
 recognizes students who
 have shown through their
 efforts and improvement a
 drive and capacity for life
 long growth. This prize seeks
 to emphasize that the value
 of an Exeter education is not
 measured only by a record of
 specific achievements, but
 by the growth and character
 that is developed through
 "the journey taken."
 Jett Goetz '24
 Sharmarke Khalid '23
 Andrea Hernandez '23
 The Harvard Book Prize
 Given by the Harvard
 Club of Boston in memory of
 Lt. Colonel Joseph Ganahl,
 Exeter Class of 1922, to
 an outstanding member of
 the Upper Middle Class, is
 awarded to:
 Ayaan Akhtar '24
 The Smith Book Award
 Given by Smith
 College to a member of the
 Upper Middle Class "in
 recognition of outstanding
 academic achievement and
 leadership," is awarded to:
 Sophie Ma '24
 The Wyzanski Prize
 Given in honor of Judge
 Charles Wyzanski, this prize
 is awarded "to a student

whose ethical beliefs and
 practices have contributed
 significantly to the welfare
 of the Academy or
 community."
 Jack Kugler '23
 Clark Wu '23

The Warren Burke
 Shepard '84 Award In
 the spring of 1980 a boy
 named Warren Shepard
 was admitted to Exeter's
 prep class for the following
 fall – the Class of 1984.

At the time Warren was
 a student at the American
 Community School in
 Halandri, Greece, where
 his father was stationed in
 the United States foreign
 service. Warren Shepard
 never realized his dream of
 attending Exeter; in June
 1980 he died of fulminant
 hepatitis. Knowing how
 much Warren had looked
 forward to being a student
 at the Academy, his family
 and friends established at Exeter
 a prize to be given annually,
 in his name, to a student at
 Phillips Exeter Academy
 who tries hardest to realize
 the Exeter opportunity,
 as the award's namesake
 would have. In addition to
 the award presented today,
 a plaque that signifies the
 award and its recipients
 hangs in the Office of the
 Dean of Students. This year,
 the award is presented to:

Ale Murat '23
 Isabella Vesely '23
 The James A. Snead '71
 Memorial Prize

This prize honors a
 distinguished alumnus, as it
 annually recognizes some
 of the qualities and areas of
 interest that were essential
 to him. It is given to students
 who have written effectively
 on multicultural themes;
 who have contributed to the
 evolution of a non-racist
 culture in the

community; or who have
 exemplified a passion for the
 humanities that promises to
 be lifelong.

Clara Peng '24
 The Powell Prize
 Given by Frank T.
 Buchner '30, in memory
 of his grandfather, Omar
 Powell "for recognition of a
 student or group of students
 who has conceived and
 carried out some creative
 idea which has resulted in
 a new and useful addition
 or benefit to the Academy
 community through his
 or her entrepreneurship,
 persuasiveness, innovation
 or leadership," the prize is
 awarded to:
 Tucker Gibbs '23
 Kevin Treechan '24
 The Gavit Cup
 The Gavit Cup is
 presented annually at Prize
 Day to a member of the
 Upper Middle Class selected
 by members of the Class and
 the Principal in recognition
 of outstanding character as
 displayed in all phases of
 school life. Each year the
 recipient of the Gavit cup
 for the previous year assists
 in presenting the cup. I will
 ask Krish Patel to please
 come up to the stage. This
 year the Cup is awarded to:
 Advay Nomula '23

David T. Swift Award
 Established to honor
 David T. Swift, the award
 reads "In recognition of
 significant contributions
 as Dormitory Proctor, in
 helping to create a positive
 residential experience at
 Exeter." This year the award
 is presented to:
 David Chen '23 (Ewald
 Hall)
 Tucker Gibbs '23 (Ewald
 Hall)
 Josh Johnson '23
 (Webster Hall)
 Anderson Lynch '23
 (Front Street House)
 Lucy Meyer-Braun '23
 (Wheelwright Hall)
 Sage Murthy '23
 (Wheelwright Hall)

Promenade 2023





Cum Laude Society

Benson, Amy	Joy, Aaron*	Rose, Nicholas
Bentley, Ophelia*	Kim, Ella	Ross, Atticus
Bonanno, Alia	Kim, Ryan	Rubin, Hannah*
Cai, Tony*	Kinder, London	Salerno, Yasmin*
Chang, Maggie	Kugler, Jack	Spinola e Castro, Rodrigo
Chen, David	Lai, Alysha	Udayakumar, Vibha
Chen, Kaylee	Lavin, Lally	Unver, Leyla*
Chen, Michael*	Mahendra-Rajah, Sanisha*	Vesely, Isabella
Chi, Joy	Marcoux, Gabriel	Welch, Eden
Dame, Matthew	McBrown, Nana	Wingate, Alexa
Darchia, Lizi	Moecklin, Cedric*	Wu, Clark*
Dickerson, Montana	Mudide, Anish*	Yun, Jaden
Dong, Joey	Ng, Jolie	Zhang, Angela
Dubiel, Emilie	Ngai, Michael	Zhang, Aubrey*
Durawa, Will	Nivera, Grace*	Zhang, Eric
Finkelstein, Jennifer	Pate, Ryan	Zhang, Sophia
Gulick, Clara*	Pearson, Clark	Zhu, Chloe*
Harris, Reggie	Phan, Jesalina	Zou, Aletheia*
Huang, Jessica	Quitkin, Zach	
Iacobucci, Sheala	Redinger, Tucker	

* denotes *Early Cum Laude* distinction

I have lived and worked in Exeter and the NH Seacoast for 30 years and my three sons are Phillips Exeter Academy alumni. I was lucky to have one of the best high schools in the country in my backyard so my sons could be day students. I enjoyed seeing them every morning and evening and attending all their sporting events. I admire the parents who are willing to sacrifice this time with their children in order for them to attend the Academy. Clearly, it is a difficult decision to send your child to boarding school. It is no surprise that many of the parents choose to either move here or purchase a second home while their children are boarding. If you are thinking of buying in the area, or, are selling a home that you purchased to provide private family space while visiting your student who is now graduating, I would appreciate the opportunity to help you explore your options and provide your local real estate needs.



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Four Years in Review

By JOONYOUNGHEO and MAX MANTEL

2019 – 2020

Rawson Renames Elizabeth Phillips Academy Center

At the end of his Opening Assembly speech, Principal Bill Rawson announced that the Academy Center, formerly known as the Phelps Academy Center, would be renamed as the Elizabeth Phillips Academy Center to honor the female co-founder of the Academy. After the leading donors proposed to rename the Academy Center, Dean of Faculty Ellen Wolff created and chaired the renaming committee.

Elizabeth Phillips Academy Center became the first building on campus to be named after a woman. The name change celebrated Elizabeth Phillips' often-overlooked legacy at the Academy, including the donation of one-third of her interest in John Phillips' estate to found the Academy. Both faculty members and students favored the name change, citing the importance to recognize the erased history behind the Academy's foundation.

Students Contest Dorm Visitation Policies

Policies regarding visitation in the E-Book were heavily contested in the 2019-2020 school year. Areas of concern included the gender identity of students in same-sex dorms, how far doors should remain open when requesting visitations, and when the visitations hours can begin. These conversations led to comparisons between previous Academy policies and fellow boarding schools' policies.

Students Protest Gun Violence and LatinX Alienation

In the fall and winter terms, concerns regarding gun violence in school environments exacerbated around the country - manifesting within the Exeter community as well. Students and faculty alike advocated for preventing further violence beyond the Exeter community.

After a triggering incident at the Halloween assembly on Oct. 31, in which several Grill staff members mockingly dressed-up as President Trump's wall dividing Mexico and the US, students protested Grill by locking arms outside of the snack bar, and sought for awareness on LatinX alienation.

Academy Begins Constructions and Continues Renovations

With some projects having been started the summer of 2019, the Academy continued the renovation and constructions of several buildings around campus. Elm Street Dining Hall, College Counseling Offices, and Wentworth Hall were among the locations undergoing renovations. The Academy also began construction of a new telescope in the astronomy tower.

Student Council Elects Co-Presidents Due to Tied Vote

The 2020-21 Student Council Executive Board elections resulted in a tie between presidential candidates Charlotte Lisa '21 and Senai Robinson '21. Both would go on to serve as co-presidents of Student Council for the next year. Siona Jain '22 and Seth Amofa '21 were elected as co-secretaries, and Phil Horrigan '21 as vice president.

Students and Faculty React to the Novel Coronavirus

In early March, the Academy first began reinforcing stricter policies regarding international travel and to those experiencing symptoms of the novel coronavirus. Until spring break, as stated in an early March email from Dr. Lilly, students' travel plans were affected by the virus, and normal life continued on-campus. However, prior to the cancellation of an on-campus spring term, the Academy canceled its annual Revisit Day and pulled students from travel programs in China and Italy, which were early hotspots of the pandemic.

On spring break, however, students found that they were not returning to campus for the 2019-20 spring term, and that all classes would be held online instead. Principal Rawson announced in a YouTube video that spring term would occur through remote learning, with a new schedule and a pass/fail grading system. Rawson's decision came in response to the risks posed

by the coronavirus pandemic to both faculty and students if the school reopened in-person. The Academy changed policies with the goal of decreasing both student and parental stress. All classes offered asynchronous options to boost equity and inclusion. In addition, the Academy halted distinctions between excused and unexcused absences, and clubs except *The Exonian* were halted for a two-week period. The community then adjusted to the quarantine routine of Zoom classes, international student timezones, etc.

The pandemic not only provided a social and academic challenge for students, but it also impacted the financial security of faculty and students alike. Low-income students found themselves struggling to quarantine in areas with limited space and resources, far from the food and residential reassurances being at Exeter brought. Students were also impacted by the economic crash following the pandemic, and from the nature of businesses closing due to COVID-19. International students also faced the difficulty of being unable to travel home, due to the travel border restrictions.

Academy Freezes Staff Raises and Funds for 2020-21 School Year

By early-May, faculty members were also informed that all faculty and staff raises were to be frozen next year as part of the Academy's response to the financial crisis. In the face of a dwindling economy during the coronavirus pandemic, the Board of Trustees opted for the option of reducing staff funds, instead of having to unemploy the staff. In times of economic distress (a situation that has not occurred since the 2008 financial recessions), faculty remained disgruntled about the lack of raises, however they understood the economic situation and possibility of unemployment at hand.

Exeter Students Raise Money for COVID-19 Fund

Alumni Benjamin Cai '20 and Gannon McCorkle '20, along with an Exeter Student, created the COVID-19 Fund, an independently-financed fund that supported students through the pandemic, whether it be affording rent or purchasing food. Donations from students, faculty, and alumni supported this fund, which aimed to raise \$10,000 for the Exeter community. By May 27, the fund had raised over \$8,000.

Academy Responds to Anti-Racism Movements

On May 25, 2020, George Perry Floyd, a 46-year old Black man, was murdered by police officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Floyd's murder sparked national protests over racial injustice in the United States. The Academy received criticism for its response to Floyd's murder and its perceived failure to create a supportive and nurturing environment for Black students.

In response to the rise in anti-Black police shootings and racism, @BlackatExeter, an Instagram page, was created on June 14, 2020. The page gave Black students, alumni, and faculty an anonymous space to share their stories of racism during their time at the Academy. The account was inspired by similar anti-racism accounts at peer boarding schools, also created around the same time period. Submissions were sent anonymously through emails, Google Forms and Direct Messages. Their 309 posts and 4,979 followers inspired other accounts such as @AsianatExeter and @QueeratExeter to be subsequently created and shared to support the anonymous stories of members of marginalized groups.

Academy Implements Anti-Racist Block

The Academy responded to these accounts with an email from Principal Rawson and the Trustees on June 5, as well as a follow up on June 29 outlining the Academy's plans for future anti-racist work, including the implementation of an anti-racism block in the schedule. Principal William Rawson wrote in an all-student email on May 29, "I urge that, even from a distance, we try to hold each other more closely, that we support our students and adults of color and that we act together against racial hatred violence and injustice."

Academy Announces In-Person Fall Plans

After newly-admitted Exonians were welcomed to the community on March 10, plans were released in early June informing students of a possible in-person fall term that combined a hybrid of online and in-person learning.

2020 - 2021

Anti-Racist Policies Implemented in Response to Black@Exeter Posts

During the summer, racist incidents were anonymously shared by PEA students on the Instagram account @BlackatExeter. In response to the posts, administrators and individual academic departments worked during the summer to implement anti-racist policies and practices.

The new policies implemented extended across multiple departments. Director of Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Dr. Stephanie Bramlett, Dean of Faculty Ellen Wolff, as well as other administrators, staff, and faculty, spearheaded the respective changes in their departmental policies.

The Classics Department modified the cultural portrayals of the language to include the diverse societies of Ancient Greece and Rome. The department's introductory Latin textbook, *Ludus*, was also reworked to include narratives outside of those from male characters. Meanwhile, the History Department saw many of its instructors reworking their syllabi to decenter whiteness. The Mathematics Department worked on paring down materials to create space for different voices. The Modern Language Department selected new readings that departed from a traditional, centralized focus on France and Spain. Instructors in the Science Department were encouraged to devote a substantial portion of their professional development to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion-related work.

In response to many of the Black@Exeter posts that detailed specific instances occurring in English classrooms, the English department released a statement that outlined steps taken in the summer and policies that would be put in place as a commitment to anti-racism. Such actions included: readings and discussions of Black@, Queer@, and Asian@ Exeter posts by all department members, participation in summer anti-racist education and professional development, and an adoption of an official departmental policy eliminating the n-word from class discussion. Additionally, the English department noted efforts to implement an open forum series for student input, ongoing faculty training, and an examination of hiring and retention practices to increase BIPOC faculty.

Efforts to implement anti-racist policies were also seen in non-academic departments. The Health and Human Development Department committed to dedicating one of their three units for new students to anti-racism, cultural competency, and identity. The Athletics Department affirmed their commitment to anti-racism and planned for department-wide discussions in the fall, while the Art Department developed a new anti-racist curriculum and an exhibition that focused on identity. Like the English Department, the Art Department made an addition to their departmental student policy prohibiting racist ideology in artwork. The Music Department created ten commitments to anti-racism which included engaging guest Black and Brown artists, programming greater diversity of repertoire, and supporting the creation of affinity groups for student musicians of color. Finally, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) participated in professional development training around issues of equity and inclusion. Acknowledging the many posts that detailed encounters with CAPS, the department additionally implemented a feedback form on Exeter Connect where students can anonymously submit feedback about their experience.

Anti-Racist Blocks Established and Piloted

After coordination between the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett, and Dean of Students Brooks Moriarty, Exeter's schedule saw the addition of a weekly anti-racist block, replacing one of two weekly Assemblies.

The first anti-racist block was piloted on the second Thursday of the school year, September 17, 2021.

Details of Kaminski Case Revealed in Affidavit

On August 24 of 2020, the Exeter community received information on the charges arraigned to former Mathematics Instructor Szczesny Kaminsky. Kaminsky was arraigned on three charges of Class A felonious pattern aggravated sexual assault and three charges of Class A misdemeanor sexual assault against an anonymous Academy student, who was enrolled in the fall of 2013.

Upon request, the Brentwood Circuit Court gave *The Exonian* access to the arraignment and to an affidavit by the Exeter Police Department Deputy Chief Michael P. Munck. The affidavit revealed extensive information about the case. Such information included: the start of Kaminski and the student's interactions, the circumstances concerning the abuse, Academy action to concerns regarding Kaminski, and details around Kaminski's arrest and eventual set bail. Additionally, the affidavit included excerpts from past text exchanges between Kaminski and the anonymous student, as well as Kaminski and the student's family.

Exeter Inn Allocated as Temporary Dormitory

Due to COVID protocols restricting the amount of suitable spaces available for residential life, the Academy rented out the Exeter Inn as a temporary boys' dormitory. Those eligible to stay at the Inn included former Front Street Residents, male-identifying postgraduates, and other interested male-identifying students. The empty Front Street dormitory was soon converted into a temporary girls' dormitory.

Fall Hybrid Learning Piloted — 8 P.M. Classes Established

After a fully remote spring term in the past school year, the Academy designed a hybrid learning system intended to accommodate students situated across global time zones. Schedules were designed with ample asynchronous blocks, with specific asynchronous formats being assigned according to one's time zone. The new schedule also introduced 8 P.M. classes. Additionally, classes were conducted entirely over Zoom for the majority of the term. In-person classes with distancing and masking in effect did not become an option for faculty until the end of the term.

COVID-19 Protocols Change Daily Life for Exonians

The start of the 2020-2021 school year saw a completely different Exeter. Instead of the usual arrival of all classes in the first week of school, arrival to campus was instead scattered: Students Leaders came first on September 7, followed by uppers, seniors and postgraduates on September 9, and finally preps and lowers on October 7.

Once on campus, Exonians faced adjustment to a myriad of COVID policies. The Student Guidebook, which had recently been updated, stated that adults and students must

remain six feet apart, whenever possible, with masks required at all times. In addition, almost all campus activities shifted to a virtual setting. This included the usual in-person orientation events and the casual opportunities for engagement to be replaced by more formalized online events. Both Exonians and faculty, though appreciative of the new protocols' goal for safety, struggled to adjust to the new day-to-day patterns.

Visitations and Out-of-Towns Canceled

Due to the strict protocols in place limiting any interaction not within six feet, the Academy canceled visitations for the term. Boarding students were not allowed to enter any dorm other than the one they resided in, while day students were not allowed to enter any dorms, regardless of affiliation. The policy pertaining to day students did not change until March 2, where the updated ground rules allowed them to visit the common rooms of their affiliate dorms only on Friday and Saturday nights. Beginning May 23, visitations were brought back for Uppers and Seniors only at designated times and with COVID safety protocols in place.

Sports Undergoes Changes to Accommodate Distancing, Interscholastic Competitions Paused

Prior to the arrival of Preps and Lowers on campus, the Athletics Department piloted a hybrid fall term. This change applied to physical education, club sports, in-season sports, and training for off-season sports.

For Uppers and Seniors who were on campus, in-person training began with social distancing and masking protocols in effect. Preps, lowers, and other remote students participated in a combination of online workouts and Zoom meetings. Those remote students were also registered for the newly-created Fitness and Wellness course. Similarly, remote students registered in a physical education course were connected to an instructor from the Athletics Department through Canvas. Some Athletics classes, however, used STRAVA, an app that tracked exercises while also incorporating social network features.

Additionally, limits on travel and interaction with non-Academy individuals, brought the cancellation of interscholastic sports or the fall and the remote winter terms. This stayed in place until the spring, where only schools with approved COVID restrictions and guidelines were allowed in games with Academy students.

These changes were met with mixed reactions, with some appreciating the flexibility that remote athletics provided, and others expressing concern about the difficulties of online sports.

Contact Tracing App Enforced for All Students

Mandated by the Student Guidebook, the Academy required all students to download a contact tracing application known as SaferME. SaferME was used to identify close contacts of students who tested positive for COVID-19 through its use manual and bluetooth contact logging systems.

Though the Information Technology Department and the Dean of Students office chose SaferME due to its privacy features (those which included not storing any medical information and avoidance of time or location data of users), many students still expressed reluctance to use the app. Others, however, noted the app's possible preventative measures.

Exonians Respond to the 2020 Presidential Election

The race for the 46th presidential election foresaw former candidates Joe Biden and Donald Trump face off for four days, one of the longest recorded times, as voting ballots were counted. Students eligible to vote on Nov. 3, 2020 were given the opportunity to travel to in-person voting booths. Meanwhile, in an effort to provide students ample time to process the emotions that may arise from such a contested election, the Academy canceled school the night of the election and morning classes the

day after. Additionally, Phillips Church and the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) were opened as safe spaces for students to share their thoughts and perspectives. Drop in Zooms were offered for all remote students.

Winter Term to Be Held Online

Contrary to the usual start of winter term on-campus, the Academy announced that winter term would be held remotely in December and January for all students. A mid term break would then be held from February 1st to 10th. During this midterm break, end-of-term comments were changed to be given as midterm comments. After the mid-term break, students were given the option to return to campus from February 11th to 13th, or to stay remote.

Like the fall term schedule, asynchronous blocks were a key part of the schedule with classes meeting 2-3 times a week, including 8 p.m. classes. At the end of term, a four-day weekend replaced the traditional two-week long spring break.

Candlelight Vigil Held in Response to Anti-Asian Atlanta Shootings

On March 16th, eight people, six of whom were of Asian descent and seven of whom were women, were killed by a white gunman in Atlanta. In response to the anti-Asian shootings, student organizers in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), hosted a candlelight vigil on March 22 in front of the Academy building.

To recognize and honor the victims, the vigil consisted of multiple student reflections and works. Sarah Huang '20 began the event with a reflection and was accompanied by a poem read by Lucy Cai '20. Then upper Lina Huang followed the readings with a guzheng performance. The event then concluded with eight minutes of silence to honor each of the eight victims of the shooting.

Spring Term Schedule Undergoes Drastic Change

Rather than the fall and the winter, the spring term saw the arrival of a more pre-COVID like schedule. Unless there were faculty conflicts present, all classes were fully-in person with masking policies in place. Remote students would be connected to Zoom and participate in class as normal.

The initial proposed schedule included every other Wednesday off and was condensed in an effort to accommodate the days off. This thus included a shorter, staggered lunch period, three consecutive classes with no scheduled break, and an absent long reserve format. However, this schedule was heavily criticized by both students and faculty alike. The shortened lunch periods were cause for long lunch lines that made it difficult to eat within the designated period. Further, the immense decrease in free time from previous schedules heightened student stress levels.

After consistent complaints about the condensed schedule, a new schedule was proposed with shorter classes of 45 minutes, as opposed to 50, a longer lunch break, and fewer back-to-back classes. This schedule proved to be the fourth and final schedule of the 2020-21 academic year.

Pfizer Vaccines Provided to All Eligible Students, Faculty, and Staff Members

In an email sent to the student body, Principal William Rawson announced that the Pfizer vaccine would be provided to all students aged 16 and older. On April 28, through sign-ups, the eligible students were able to receive the first dose. The second dose was also provided on-campus. Vaccines for students aged 12-16 were not approved until May 13, after its FDA and CDC approval.

Students who experienced side effects for the vaccine were exempt from school if they were in contact with the Dean of Students and their advisor. However, students who experienced side effects were not allowed to stay at the Lamont Health and Wellness Center due to spaces being reserved for those who tested positive to COVID. The vaccine was available to PEA faculty and staff prior to the start of the spring term.

2021 - 2022

Vanity Fair Article Impacts Exeter Community

On September 13, 2021, an article titled “Mr. Weber’s Confession” by Nancy Jo Sales ’82 was published in Vanity Fair. The article detailed Sales’ experience regarding the Academy’s process for sexual assault reporting, and allegations accusing Ex-English Instructor David Weber of sexually assaulting her. In the article, Sales described the Academy’s continued investigation into the matter against her will, after she denied all the allegations Director of Student Health and Wellbeing Dr. Christina Palmer had shared with her over the phone a few months prior. Eventually, the investigation led to Weber’s confession to “hugging and kissing” Sales in the 1980s.

Following a protest held by student leaders, on September 21, 2021, Principal William Rawson addressed the article and its effects on the student body in an all-school speech, promising to inflict structural changes on the Academy’s process for reporting in cases of sexual misconduct, as well as plans to put systems in place to support the students during the aftermaths “traumatic events”, to ensure the burden does not fall on student leaders.

Exonians Against Sexual Assault/ Feminist Union/Transitions Protest in Response

As a response to Sales’ Vanity Fair article, on September 17, student leaders of Exonians Against Sexual Assault (EASA), Feminist Union, Transitions, and Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) came together to hold a school-wide protest on the Academy lawn, which included multiple student leaders’ speeches expressing disappointment in the Academy and its sexual misconduct policies, and demanding concrete change. Students, faculty, and members of the administration were present.

This sentiment was further expressed in a petition, “hold the Academy accountable for supporting its Student Leaders”, which aimed to change the “unfair burden” that the Academy placed on student leaders due to their “negligence in communications surrounding sexual misconduct.” The petition consisted of 4 concrete demands from the administration: hiring an expert consultant with a background of sexual assault prevention; better supporting student leaders who are expected to provide assistance after the release of sensitive information; reevaluating the position of Director of Student Health and Well-being; and taking responsibility for all the harm the Academy’s failure to handle cases effectively causes students.

A few days later, in an email sent to *The Exonian*, Sales expressed her gratitude and admiration for the students’ activism for sexual assault victims and change in the Academy’s reporting policies, calling their work “stunning and humbling.”

“Thank you for giving us all hope for the future,” Sales went on. “What you are doing is beautiful and important.”

Counseling and Psychological Services Hold Mental Health Forum

Following ongoing tensions between the student body and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), ESSO Active Minds and the Student Council Mental Health Committee held an open forum with students and CAPS faculty on October 6, 2021, to address these issues. Lasting about an hour, the forum was arranged in a question-answer style, with students anonymously sending in questions online to be presented to a group of 5 CAPS counselors.

It began with a focus on medical leave, with students asking for

transparency on the process and intentions for requiring a student to leave campus. Counselors responded that medical leave was established in an attempt to better student’s mental and physical wellbeing, not to be an isolating act. Students went on to ask about forcing a student to return home in cases of domestic violence, and in response, CAPS emphasized that they were required to report anything they heard, and that the ultimate decision was in the hands of Child Protective Services. Continuing the same topic, when students brought up whether medical leave was mandatory, Counselor Chris Thurber responded with a graphic description of self-harm without a trigger warning, causing students to exit the room and delaying proceedings by a few minutes.

The rest of the forum addressed Thurber’s comment, and the harmful effects some of his statements might have had on students. Thurber proceeded to apologize for his actions and “sloppy choice of wording.”

Students and Faculty Collaborate to Implement Core Values Projects

On October 19, 2021, students and faculty at the Academy experienced their first Core Values Project block—which was established as a continuation of the anti-racist workshops from the previous academic year. Occurring every Tuesday, the CVP block offered multiple workshops that hone in on different sectors of core values and social justice, from mental health and self-care to addressing discrimination within athletics or the arts. At the beginning of each term, students and faculty leaders, or CVP “facilitators”, presented their projects in front of the student body, following which students and faculty alike were able to sign up for CVPs of their choice.

The idea for these projects originated earlier that year, and on August 10, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Stephanie Bramlett reached out to former anti-racist workshop facilitators regarding the Academy’s continuation into a second year of anti-oppression work. The blocks were designed to continue to explore the Academy’s commitment to anti-oppression, and how that was represented within the Academy’s mission and core values statements.

Admissions Commits to Need-Blind Admission

Beginning during the 2021-2022 admissions season, Exeter committed to a need-blind admissions policy, as outlined by Principal Rawson in his school-wide email on Nov. 3, 2021. In his own words, “Cost will no longer be a barrier to any qualified students who dream of attending Phillips Exeter Academy.” A shift from their formerly “need-aware” status, this meant that financial aid would not be factored into admissions decisions whatsoever going forward, and all decisions would be made regardless of a family’s ability to pay tuition or other associated costs. As of Nov., nearly half of the school’s student body received financial aid, with average grants being \$50,562 for boarders, and \$37,684 in aid for day students.

The reason for this decision centered around amplifying one of the Academy’s core values, youth from every quarter, claiming that, now, the Academy “shall ever be equally open to youth of requisite qualifications from every quarter.” According to Rawson, much of what made this shift possible included the \$90 million in endowment the

Academy received for financial aid over only the last 2 years, with fundraising being organized by Institutional Advancement Rawson himself. He went on to express his gratitude for the alumni, parents and friends for their support, whether through philanthropy or volunteer service, and thanked them for their “generosity and goodness.”

Students Coordinate Library 50th Anniversary Celebration

SYN (Greek: συν)—“Along or together... Emphasizes gathering and connecting as its primary focus—and how the threads of our intersectionality bring us closer.”

Nov. 5, 2021, marked the 50th anniversary of the creation of the beloved Class of 1945 Library, its celebration organized by the Architecture Club and the Democracy of Sound Exeter (DOSe.) The event consisted of entirely student-produced works: art, films, and dances centering around a theme of SYN, through which they organized their art with seven standard elements — namely line, shape, texture, space, form, color and value. Focusing on speeches by event organizers regarding the deep and extensive history of the library, accompanied by organs and live piano-playing, the event also boasted a dazzling dance performance, spoken word, and live caricatures. Many people even created complex sculptures with deeper meanings etched within them.

Having begun the spring of the previous year, the preparation for the event was vast, and beautifully expressed themes such as “decolonization” or gratitude towards the library staff. The overall theme, syn, was decided because it was a Greek preposition that now served as a prefix in English. As event organizer, Otto Do ’22 commented, “The word encapsulated so much, because it serves as a prefix for English words, while also standing alone most of the time in Greek. I was really drawn to that interchangeable dialogue.”

Construction of Front Street Commons Begin

Construction of what would eventually be New Hall began in summer 2021. A new home to current residents of Merrill Hall and Langdell Hall, the dorm was created as temporary housing for students and faculty while Merrill, Langdell, and Wetherell Dining Hall would be torn down and renovated. The floor plan reveals that the Commons will contain 60 beds, 5 faculty apartments, and a 2500 sq. ft common area, which includes a game room and recreational spaces for day students.

Unlike any other dorm at the Academy, the Commons will also contain four Harkness classrooms on its ground floor — set to be the area for the health education department. According to Director of Facilities Management Mark Leighton, the health department’s need for a fourth classroom and their own academic space was also one of the driving forces to the creation of this dorm.

Students Petition Against Academy COVID-19 Protocol

On January 10, 2022, a few days after the beginning of winter term, Principal Rawson sent out a school-wide email regarding updates to the COVID protocol, including a new system where all families were required to identify a “Covid Pickup Designee” who would be contacted immediately and pick up their student within 24 hours if tested positive. Along with this, the Academy loosened COVID restrictions and returned to in-person instruction. In response, alumna Lekha Masoudi, Alana Reale, and Emily Wang drafted a petition surrounding their concerns with the impracticality and harmful effects of these updated protocols on low-income and international students. The petition received an overall total of over 80 signatures.

In the days that followed, Dean of Students Russell Weatherspoon followed up with student concerns at the week’s Student Council

meeting, and then again in his email to the community on January 15, where he stressed the trend of decreasing COVID cases that backed up the decision to return to in-person activities. In Rawson’s response to the petition, he emphasized that the Academy had made this decision “carefully and deliberately”, but many students remained disappointed that no physical action was taken to address their fears.

Kaminski Retracts Guilty Plea

February 12, 2022, marked the day that Former Math instructor Szczesny “Jerzy” Kaminski was scheduled to plead guilty in court to three counts of aggravated felonious assault and one misdemeanor count of sexual assault. This was part of a negotiated plea deal with prosecutors to resolve the case, after Kaminski had plead guilty in Nov. 2021. The deal he had made with prosecutors included the prosecutors dropping three additional charges against him if he agreed to plead guilty and spend at least 12 years in jail.

As Dean Weatherspoon acknowledged in his school-wide email the afternoon of February 12, Kaminski’s attorney Amy Spencer appeared before the Rockingham County Superior Court earlier that morning informing the court of his plea deal withdrawal. Having gone against Spencer’s advice, Kaminski would now be scheduled for a trial to occur during the week of Oct. 31 to Nov. 7, 2022, although Spencer will no longer be representing him.

Revised Protocols for Sexual Assault Reporting Implemented

Months after the release of Sales’ Vanity Fair Article and the announcement of former Instructor Szczesny Kaminski’s trial, on February 8, 2022, Principal Rawson sent out a school-wide email regarding updates to the Academy’s protocols for responding to student reports of sexual misconduct or assault. As of the new protocols, students would now be able to report to any trusted adult on campus. They would then be given a “support coordinator” to support them throughout the investigation, who could be any professionally trained faculty member. In addition, the reporting student would receive support from their advisor, a trusted adult of their choosing, a HAVEN advocate, deans, counselors and the Director of Student Well-being throughout the process.

The administration has been in communication with external experts, including investigators from HAVEN and RAInN, as well as faculty who have previously been involved in cases to come up with these protocols. They have received feedback and advice from student leaders in EASA, Feminist Union, GSA, and Transitions through these decisions, as well as looked at parallel processes from other prep schools. As Rawson mentions, they will also present these updates at Student Council and faculty meetings to receive input.

Academy Responds to Ukraine Invasion

Beginning February 24, 2022, news of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has taken center stage all around the world. Demolishing critical infrastructure and killing thousands of innocent civilians, numbers of death continue to increase every day, and recently, Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov announced the start of a new phase of invasion. As it has with millions of people around the world, the news severely affected many Academy students, especially impactful to students from countries involved within the conflict or surrounding countries.

Many Academy students have taken their emotions to social media, raising awareness about the conflict and spreading fundraisers for civilians in Ukraine. Other students have started reaching out and helping civilians, through meeting with them and teaching them English over zoom classes. The Academy itself has launched attempts to respond to the conflict, with Phillips Church hosting “Prayers for Ukraine” on February 25, along with some teachers who have taken to discussing the topic in class.

2022 - 2023

Academy Over-Enrollment Pressures Housing Capacity

As the Academy opened its doors for the 2022-23 school year, the community heard many student reports of emergency doubles and triples in dormitories—, especially in Dunbar, Amen, and Wheelwright. While Dean of Enrollment William Leahy stated that total enrollment was relatively consistent as in previous years, with an increase in day students and a proportional decrease in boarding students to alleviate the pressure on campus housing, some new Exonians found themselves in makeshift quarters.

Despite the obvious drawbacks to sharing a cramped space, many students came to appreciate certain benefits of emergency doubles and triples. Lowerclassmen reported much success in forming close ties with multiple roommates and dividing their rooms appropriately.

General Alumni Association Discusses Diversity During Exeter Leadership Weekend

On Sept. 16, Academy alumni were invited back for the Senior-Alumni Dinner and Exeter Leadership Weekend. Students were given the opportunity to connect with the alumni in person. The General Alumni Association (GAA), comprising more than 22,000 former students, made plans to further develop ties between students, Trustees, and alumni. Held in particular focus were initiatives focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA).

Raisa Tolchinsky Selected as George Bennett Fellow

In every school year, the Academy presents the George Bennett Fellowship to one writer who lives on campus and helps the student body. Raisa Tolchinsky was chosen for 2022-2034, and she spoke at an all-school assembly in late October. Since then, she has connected with Exonians through pop-up poetry events and office hours with student writers. Tolchinsky's arrival on campus was welcomed amongst students and the English Department alike.

The Exonian Investigates Grade Inflation

With rising concerns of grade inflation since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, faculty began discussing plans to move away from lockdown standards. Before the Academy reopened in 2020, departments adopted a pass-fail policy and

significantly lowered expectations for their students. Now, departments have been asked to lead their own conversations about grading standards, and some — the Math and History Departments, for instance — have already looked to raise expectations across the board.

But these developments have led many to question the Academy's high standards in the first place. From their personal experiences, instructors described a general shift from its former "sink or swim" mentality to learning catered to the student's needs. Others believed those standards detracted from their teaching. In any case, Dean of Academic Affairs Laura Marshall stated that there were no official plans to change school-wide grading policy yet.

Environmental Action Committee Launches "Big Red Goes Green"

During assembly on Oct. 18, the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) announced the new "Big Red Goes Green" initiative and an inter-dorm competition to encourage habits of sustainability. Broadly, members of EAC also shared plans to implement environmentalism in the next year as one of the Academy's core "pillars."

The competition was hosted in brackets between participating dorms. Students could earn points by making efforts to be sustainable, including shorter showers and visiting the Exeter Exchange, the campus thrift store. At the end of the year, the dorm with the greatest number of points would be honored at Prize Assembly and awarded \$500 extra in the following year's dorm funds, among other prizes.

Exeter Democratic Club Hosts Chris Pappas

On Oct. 31, re-elected New Hampshire Representative Chris Pappas, given the state's first congressional district seat, was invited to speak at Exeter's Water Street Bookstore. The event was hosted by the Academy's own Democratic Club and opened to both Exonians and townspeople alike. Campaign staffers were present to give out T-shirts, stickers, and campaign pins for the Nov. 8 midterm elections.

At the event, Pappas spoke about the New Hampshire economy and an "assault on personal freedoms" as a result. His proposed solution was a "concerted effort to address those rising costs"

in the various sectors of government. He also addressed other topics, including *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

Mathematics Department Changes Grading Policies

Following intra-department discussions on post-pandemic grading standards, the Math Department decided to implement several changes. The new policy stipulated that "at least 80 percent of a student's grade will be computed using scores on in-class assessment," and "20 percent of a student's grade may come from take-home assessments, presentations, hand-ins or journals." Every instructor in the Mathematics Department was required to adopt this policy.

Dean of Academic Affairs Laura Marshall explained that these standards were intended to universalize instructor-specific policies, meaning that some classes had previously included Harkness discussion participation, test corrections, and test retakes in their final grades.

Student Council Reforms Elections Process

In early December, members of the Student Council voted on a new policy for election reform, which proposed two amendments to the Constitution. The first allowed for three presidential candidates in the primary election and the second established the Election Remedy Group (ERG) to address the security and legitimacy of future elections.

Driving this initiative was a mandate from Principal William Rawson, but it was mostly led by students nonetheless, with President Ale Murat and Election Committee Co-Chair Tucker Gibbs playing the most prominent roles. These new policies were part of a broader initiative to improve the elections process at the Academy, following controversies and reports of negative student experiences in recent elections.

Former Instructor Kaminski Pleads Guilty to Sexual Assault

Content Warning: The following contains mentions of sexual assault.

Former Academy instructor Szczeny "Jersey" Kaminski pled guilty to three counts of aggravated felonious sexual assault and one count of sexual assault under a negotiated plea deal in court. He was sentenced to a minimum of 12 years in state prison and immediately taken into custody at Rockingham County Courthouse. Upon his release, Kaminski will have to register as a sex offender. The deal followed his sudden withdrawal from a similar plea deal the year before.

In a statement to the

Academy's community, Principal William Rawson stated, "Jerzy Kaminski is finally being held accountable for his crimes and the harm he has caused." The survivor hoped to continue her work with the Academy to maintain a safe campus environment for its students.

Academy Reflects on Student Matthew Clemson

Content Warning: The following contains mentions of a student death.

On Jan. 16, in the midst of required programming for Martin Luther King Day, the Academy learned of the loss of upper Matthew Clemson. A memorial service was scheduled for Sunday, April 2. For weeks, academic expectations were loosened as the Academy community mourned together. The administration met with the Student Council Executive Board, along with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), to facilitate a healing period for students and faculty alike.

Various groups around campus, including the upper class representatives, discussed plans to honor Clemson's legacy and a tribute in his name. Wentworth Hall, where Clemson lived, held its own remembrance event a few months later.

Community Unites Following Turkey-Syria Earthquake

A large earthquake struck Turkey's southeastern city of Gaziantep near the border of Syria on Feb. 6, and regions in both countries were devastated. The earthquake had a magnitude of 7.8 and was complemented by a 7.5-magnitude aftershock. The death toll shot past 40,000.

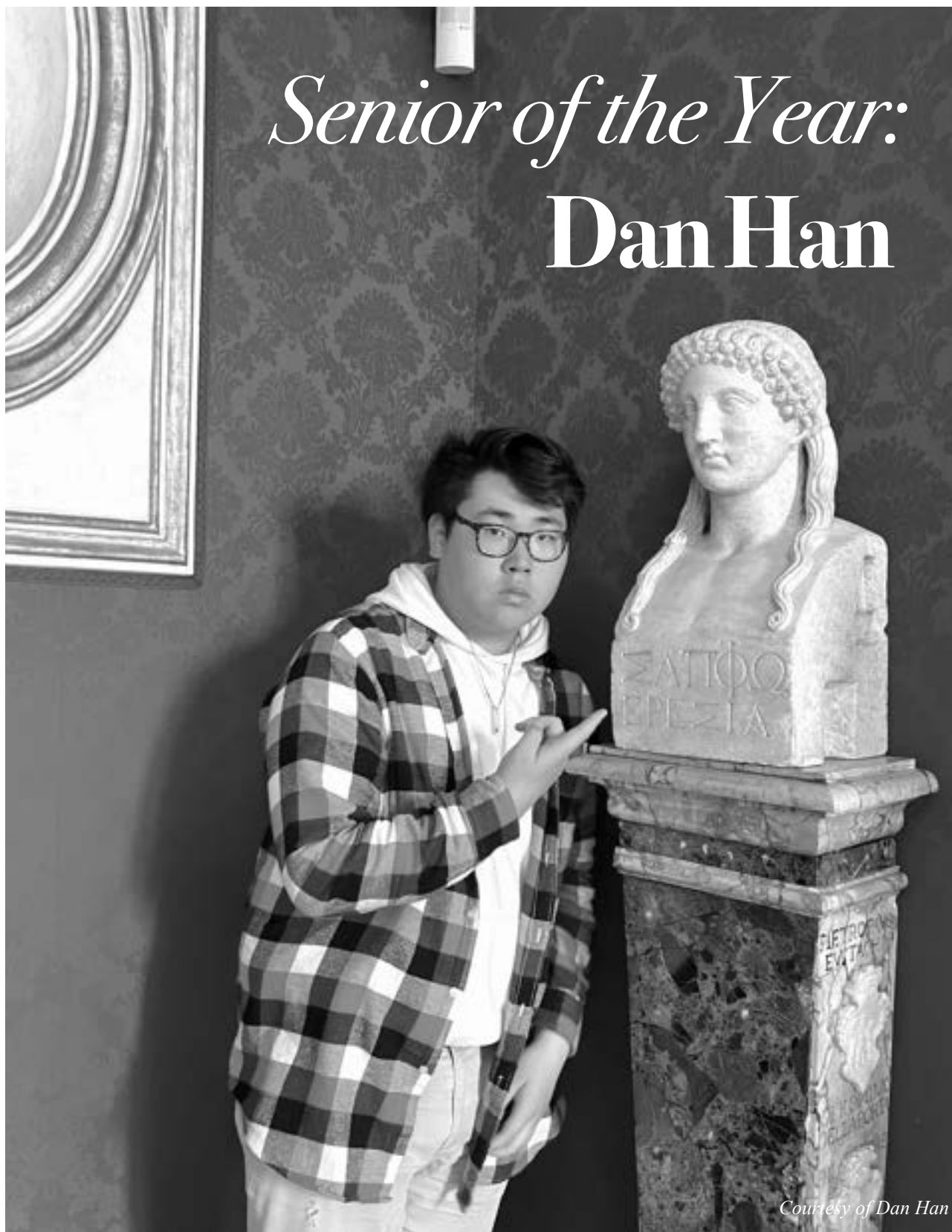
The Academy responded with a two-day drive for survivors over the weekend. Instructor in History Aykut Kilinc and Instructor in Modern Languages Diego Ardura led the campaign to collect and donate the items to the Turkish consulate in Boston. The community united to donate food, clothing, and other essential items.

Wetherell Dining Hall Closes Temporarily for Renovations

On March 2, the fifty-year-old Wetherell Dining Hall was closed down for construction. For one final event, a Farewell Wetherell event was hosted by dining staff that featured baked treats and showcased the building's history. Members of the Wetherell family, including Chuck Wetherell, attended were able to attend the gathering and commemorated the dining hall.

The renovation is expected to take 16 months, and the dining hall staff will work extensively with the design team to create the best dining experience for the Academy community. In the meantime, alongside Elm Street Dining Hall, meals lunch will be served in Grainger Auditorium.

Senior of the Year: Dan Han



Courtesy of Dan Han

By MAX MANTEL '25

Dan est in horto, in quo Caecilius fuerat. Hic explorator stat in Roma, sed finis origine pendet — and for graduating senior Dan Han, expeditions in Rome, sanskrit, dance, a capella, etcetera do not come without the trials and tribulations it took to reach these heights.

In conversation, Han recalled his experience when his brother was accepted to Exeter. “I remember I was in fifth grade when he was a new lower and I came for a family weekend. I’d never seen a school campus that had multiple buildings, number one. I didn’t realize what a campus was like. And truly I was like, ‘Wow, this is better than most college campuses that I’ve seen.’”

These new opportunities were not just centered around the campus, however. “I grew up in these classrooms of like 35 students or so where you raise your hand to go use the bathroom, and you’re in these lines and these clumps and you’re not supposed to talk. So when I came to Exeter and then I saw they were going around in a Harkness table, that was a totally weird idea to me but it looked like a lunchroom conversation,” Han said. “After that I just knew I had to come here. I just had such a good impression, you know, there’s a whale in the science building. I thought, ‘Wow, I can’t say no now.’”

Having said yes to Exeter, Han entered as a prep and tried to immerse himself in the school as best he could. “What I did here in my prep year was Mock Trial and StuCo and stuff like that. And see, here’s the thing. I played basketball and football before I got to Exeter but I knew that wasn’t my lane. I was just experimenting, you know what I mean? I didn’t really know what I was doing. And so I was doing theater. I feel like my prep year, I was so

lost. I didn’t really know what I was doing. I was just running headfirst into whatever I saw without really thinking about what it was that I saw and just running headfirst into it with open arms.”

This eager spirit didn’t apply to everything Exeter, however, as Han ran away headfirst from several things he was interested in. “I always thought people who could dance were so cool. Like, I always wanted to be in dance and be in the middle of the circle and be able to do something cool. And so I was always dancing in my room and I was always singing in my room. I thought I had a good voice, but nobody ever told me I had a good voice. Because I never showed anybody because I didn’t think that was cool. I didn’t think that was something that I should or could do. And the same thing with dance. I mean, dance is even more vulnerable than singing. And so around prep spring, my future roommate basically dragged me to Beats of Asia and they’re like, ‘You said you wanted to try dance, try it.’”

Those first dances still showed Han he had a bit further to go before becoming the life of any party. “I was booty cheeks. I was so horrible at it. But then I just showed up the next week and then I just showed up the next week. And I really wanted to try it for so long and not be immediately shut down. Through that community, I was able to grow into somebody who’s now a leader in the dance community.”

That leadership has allowed Han to be the person creating the space that welcomed him in the first place. Reflecting on this, Han remarked about his evolution as a dancer, singer, and leader. “Oh, it’s so weird. I mean, it makes me feel really grateful. Truly. That’s the biggest thing. It makes me feel like, wow, I’m so lucky to have had this community. And I think any co-head of any club that they love

will tell you this. The work you’re doing is a labor of love. And I never did the things that were supposed to get you into college, for example. I never did the typical Exonian stuff. Like I just did what I liked, like I did K-pop dance, I sang barbershop songs with some boys, and I went to Christian fellowship. I just did things and went to spaces and was in community with people that I loved—and spaces that I loved.”

Instructor in Dance Amberlee Darling reflected on Han’s growth throughout his time at Exeter. “The true growth I have seen in Dan is his confidence in teaching,” Darling said. “He is able to hold the space for creativity and learning, while being supportive and excited for his fellow dancers. It’s awesome to see!”

Besides the dance studio, one of the defining spaces of Han’s time at Exeter was that of the classics: “I mean, every young kid, every five year old, six year old, seven year old, eight year old boy—we all nerd out over Star Wars or like Lord The Rings. I guess when I was that age, I thought the Romans were so cool, the Spartans. Oh my gosh. So cool.”

Having grown a bit from eight, Han was able to join the classics at Exeter. “Coming from a middle school experience, when I took a year of Latin in that school, I learned three chapters of Cambridge Latin, and that’s Cambridge Elementary Latin. And I thought I was good at Latin, but, by day three of the Ludis textbook, I had learned everything I had covered in the last year and I was learning new things.”

Han did have struggles with the classics at times, but some odysseys can’t be completed without trials and tribulations. “Basically midterm prep spring, Mr. Langford gives me back a C minus or something. It was heinous,

you know, I was like, ‘Oh.’ And so it really made me actually start spending time with the textbook and I really drilled my vocabulary and all of a sudden, by the end of the term, I was always taking on the hardest sentences. I was trying really hard in that class. I guess just spending more and more time with the book, and seeing how much more universally it could be applied, and as you learn more, it’s cumulative. It’s a language. That’s how it works, you know?”

This passion carried over to the study of history and the ancient Romans. Instructor in History Troy Samuels had a few tales to give on Han’s escapades enjoying the history. “I had him play Marcus Antonius in a role-playing game we do in Latin 314. He was the perfect Marcus Antonius, but I think it also low-key ruined his life for about six weeks — because he became living life as Marcus Antonius. I would get emails from him: Dr. Samuels, every time I wake up I’m thinking about Marcus Antonius. Every time I go to sleep, I’m Marcus Antonius. How do I destroy holding charisma? I’ve never seen somebody inhabit a role and also have to now give a caveat before we do this role-play, give every term a disclaimer to not become this. To borrow the phrase from the classic movie *This Is Spinal Tap*: when Dan does things, he takes it to 11.”

These studies would culminate in Han creating a Sanskrit primer with both friend, former roommate, and fellow senior Gianluca Audia with Samuels advising, and a term abroad spent in Rome. In their presentation, Audia and Han created both a presentation on the context of Sanskrit in the ancient world, as well as several lesson plans for Sanskrit at the Academy. Han’s portion largely focused on presenting Sanskrit in the ancient world. “I mean it was academic standup comedy, which is not a

genre I knew I needed in my life,” Samuels said. “But it was very well done and thoughtful and I think the impulse to examine the questions that it did was right. This is trying to bring Sanskrit teaching into the curriculum, which was laudable. I mean it’s a really cool project. The original proposal was incredibly ambitious and I love that ambition. I think that’s something else that Dan has, if he wants to do it, he wants to do it and that’s amazing . . . It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, I’ll put it that way.”

Audia also touched on his and Han’s partnership in learning the language. “Dan made it a very fun learning process, and I think it was, it was really cool that we got to dive into something that Exeter doesn’t currently offer. Now I understand more why they don’t currently offer really difficult languages . . . We were not the students at the Harkness table, but we were very much the teachers, devising the textbook, and teaching ourselves in many respects. I think we balanced it very well in that, we were each other’s teachers and students, and I think that was really cool.”

Han’s opinions of the classics have matured throughout the years with his work. “That’s the real work of the classics — it allows you to go back into that world. Now it’s an accessible world, not just like a fantasy from when you were young. But now, you have the language, you have the written accounts, even if those written accounts are so often not a place where they recognize the invisible lives of women and slaves and, and immigrants and whatnot. Even though it has so many flaws, the text, at least you have something to bring this world to life.”

Chances to connect with the past would culminate in Han’s trip to Rome in his senior year. “You are living in remnants. You are certainly surrounded by the same air as the Romans,” Han said. This immersion wasn’t quite complete, though; Han recalled “playing subway surfers when I was on the train — you know, they didn’t have that.” Being in Rome wasn’t just about the classics, though. Modern culture also surrounded them.

Audia also shared comments on Han’s strengths in Rome. “Dan’s really gregarious nature came to light because he was so apt at connecting with the Italian people in Rome,” Audia said. “Despite the language barrier, when the rest of us maybe felt very inept and out of place, he was able to communicate with them. And I think it shows that he really is a people person. He was passionate about the culture and understanding the language and I think that just displays his general curiosity, but especially his curiosity for other cultures and ethnography and anthropology.”

Han is a strong classics scholar not because of his understanding of the text, but of the people who wrote it. “It’s not a study of the classics. We’re studying humanity. It’s just a different time, but it’s so universal in their humanity. I just love the classics because of its accessibility to the heart of learning about the human condition.”

As a senior having

experienced many of Exeter’s offerings, Han was ready to move on from the illusion of Exeter. “The fact is Phillips Exeter Academy in an ideal world does not exist. It was built on perpetuating the exploitation of those in need and the perpetuation of that system that those who don’t need Exeter can have Exeter to continue reaping the benefits for their prosperity . . . That reinforces the system that continues to exploit people in need.”

Samuels shared sentiments about Han’s growth over his years here. “Many people here at Exeter are singular, but I think I can more comfortably say there will not ever be another Dan Han in this campus — that he is going to be etched in my memory, at least as someone who taught himself for a long time. And it’s been a lot of fun getting to work with him.”

Instructor in History Alexa Caldwell remarked further on Dan’s growth. “Every year I have known him, Dan has matured a different aspect of his identity, while still maintaining his sense of self,” Caldwell said. “He is still goofy, ambitious, and driven. And he has gotten better at prioritizing work, issues, and commitments. He has learned how to let some things go.”

Fellow Senior and friend Colin Ellis had similar things to say. “I feel like some people will end up getting summa cum laude with a plaque on the wall and they’ll be there for a hundred years, but no one actually knew them or thought they were interesting or funny. They’re just some random guy that got straight As. But Dan’s actually an interesting and funny person that is layered. And the more you get to know him, the more interesting he becomes. He’s also one of the nicest fellas I know.”

Han had some reflections about his time at Exeter. “When I repeated my lower year, that year I won the Frank A. Wilde prize for exemplary growth and promise. They only give that to three kids in the whole school — it’s nominated and voted on by faculty — that’s a huge award right there. I always feel pretty uncomfortable giving myself compliments and things like that, but like truly I hold onto that prize dearly with my whole heart, because really, I think that’s the biggest prize I’ve ever won that has really mattered to me. It showed me that yeah, I put in a lot of work to make this work for me. This was not the place for me. I was not supposed to succeed here. And most people in my position never even get to be here. But I did so much work to get to a place where I do belong. I can do the work and not only belong but exceed. Like, I really love learning. I try my best in all my clubs. I feel like I’m starting to try.”

Although Han gets to say goodbye to the Academy, that doesn’t mean he didn’t have some final wisdom to share. “You make Exeter. You are the ones really living in those buildings. You are the ones making the concerts and performances on campus, you are the ones making the points in class. You are the ones teaching other people. Exeter is not a collection of brick buildings. It’s you, and you deserve to be here. Your voice matters.”

Congratulations Athena!

We Are So Proud Of You!



长风破浪会有时，
直挂云帆济沧海！

Love, Mom, Dad, Adalyn, Allan



Dear Shauna, Congratulations on your graduation! You have shown exceptional diligence, determination, and perseverance with your academic and athletic endeavors at Exeter. We can't wait for the next chapter at Brown University! We love you and are so very proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad, Jake, and Evan

Congratulations Andrew,



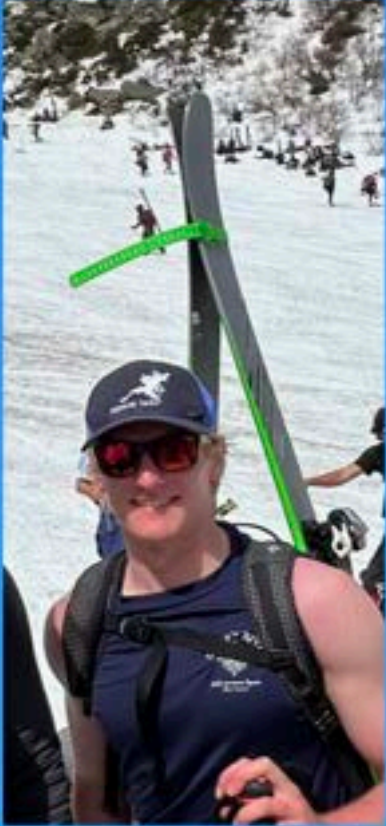
We are very proud of you and look forward to your next chapter!

We Love You Mom, Dad, Liddy & Maddy



Congratulations Nicholas!

“Life is a gift”
- Mike Cutter



“The best view comes after the hardest climb”

We love you and are so proud of you! Love, Mom and Dad, Kate, Duke, Gracie and Shadow

Senior of the Year: Ophelia Bentley



Courtesy of EJ Barthelemy

Courtesy of Ophelia Bentley

By ELAINE QIAO '25

As the cool, bluish light of winter reflects across the graying, week-old snow, senior Ophelia Bentley sits in Grill, stylish maroon hair clipped back and green grapes in hand. She converses with friends and soaks in the warm, yellow glow of EPAC, adding only more warmth with a bright smile and cheery tone.

She types as she sits, the clicking of keys on her laptop mixing with the crunch of the notoriously pricey Grill grapes. “I have a financially crippling addiction to those fruits,” Bentley joked. “For my 333, I think I had two to three a day, which is like \$12, I do not suggest. It is so expensive. I swear they must put something in them; there’s no way grapes could ever be that good. They are one of the things I will miss most from Exeter.”

When asked about her favorite place on campus, Bentley replied, “I love working in Grill towards the afternoon when there are people filtering through and it’s a bit quieter. There is a nice influx of people, and I always end up catching up with people I haven’t had a chance to talk to in a while.”

Bentley builds on this sentiment with the duality of her Exeter experience. “I think Exeter’s given me so much, but it’s also a very, very intense place. Most of the time that is incredibly conducive to learning. Other times it can be frustrating because I’ll be taking the coolest class ever with such an amazing teacher and such great people and I wish I could savor the moment more, instead of being wrapped up in the stress of it all.”

Bentley is a four-year senior. Originally from the UK, she has lived in Exeter since she was five. She is a day student proctor in Lamont Hall, living five minutes walking distance

away from the Academy. Bentley comes from a large family with five siblings. Co-head of Exeter Debate, Environmental Action Committee (EAC), Democratic Club and member of the Community Conduct Committee (CCC), Bentley wears many hats on campus.

Bentley is well-loved by peers and faculty alike. Senior Delaney Miller described Bentley. “She is the most serious and funniest person I know. I love how she is able to switch from one thing to the next; she’s efficient. She knows when to put on a serious face when it’s time to get work done, and when she knows she can relax, she’s cracking corny dad jokes and laughing at the dumbest things.”

“I think she’s very caring,” said senior Joy Chi. “I know it’s very casual to be like, ‘how are you doing?’ To someone. And be like, ‘Yeah, good. How are you?’ That casual response. But some days we’ll just be walking to class or out of class and she’ll really check in and be like, how are you actually?”

“She is an authentically good person,” said senior Jennifer Finkelstein. “She sticks to her word. She is kind, and she cares about so much more than just herself. I think she embodies like, oh, it’s so tacky, but she does embody non sibi in a really genuine way. She’s one of those kinds of people that you just feel lucky to know.”

’22 Alumni Riley Valashinas said, “She has really great music tastes... always clowning on me for not quite having her standards. But she’s always introducing me to new songs and everything.”

“She is the iconically British girl,” said senior Sanisha Mahendra-Rajah. “Even after all this time, I can’t help myself from laughing when she tells

me she’s just a little bit peckish... she has a wicked sense of humor.”

“I think she’s a very honest person. She’s very truthful with who she is. She doesn’t try to change herself for other people. I think when you meet her you kind of get like the full deal,” said senior Mateo Connelly. “She really likes olives, like in her food,” Connelly added, “which I find kind of repulsive.”

Instructor in Science Mr. Townley Chisholm described, “Phe is intensely thoughtful, ethical and fair-minded and presents her point of view with perfect clarity.”

“She always puts people first!” Alumni Emma Finn said. “She is the world’s most supportive friend and the nicest person on the planet! I can’t say enough good things about her! One of the other things I admire most about her is that she has a way of being really serious and thoughtful when the situation requires it and also being able to see the humor in everything!”

“Although we are very different people in many ways, our friendship quickly blossomed,” says senior Christine Staller. “I think this can be accredited to Phe’s remarkable ability to compliment many different personalities and people of all backgrounds, no matter how different or similar they are from her. We’ve been super close ever since, and I can confidently say that my friendship with Phe is one of the reasons I decided to stay at Exeter when things got really hard,” Staller said.

Bentley’s adviser, instructor in English Jane Cadwell said, “There are some causes that she’s very committed to. And so whenever there’s an election, she’s up really early, going door to door. She’s calling people, you know, she’s doing things at odd hours that other people

aren’t always willing to make the sacrifice for...I’m on the CCC with her and she’s a really good listener and she doesn’t go in with any sort of preconceived notions. I think she’s very fair and open-minded.”

“I think just one of her biggest assets that I didn’t always know was she has a certain way with words,” said senior Gbemiga Salu. “Whether it’s in debates, on the podium, like the way she speaks, and the way in which she addresses people. And also, I recently discovered that she’s a really good writer, like I went to her meditation in the church the other day and it was just really good. I think her words will definitely have a very big impact on the world,” concluded Salu.

“Seeing her with other preps and lowers in Lamont, setting a really good example for them and being a mentor,” upper Sylvia Langer shared, “and I see her in the common room, she’s helping perhaps with their homework and we all know she has so much on her plate, but she takes that time out of her day to go and help others and really, she just helps. She really goes out of her way to help other people.”

“Phe is just so thoughtful and so caring about everybody and she’s so intelligent and she really does so much for everybody around her,” said ’22 alumni Grace Valashinas. “But I think also more than that, she’s just such an interesting person. She’s always kind. She has so many interesting stories to tell and she’s really passionate about what she does...There are just so many reasons why I think Phe is like such a great friend and beyond that even like all of the different work she does for different clubs at Exeter to get things going in her classes, with her friends, outside of

Exeter, stuff like that. She’s so hardworking and I really don’t think Exeter would be what it is without her.”

“A lot of my time at Exeter has been about finding my self-confidence,” said Bentley. “Going into Exeter, I had a bit of a, not pessimistic mindset per say, but what I thought was a realistic one. Before the first day of classes my parents sat me down and said you’re going to get C’s and you’re going to have to be okay with that. And Everybody’s going to be miles out of your league and will likely be incredibly intimidating, and you’re going to have to learn how to manage that.”

Bentley continued, “A lot of the last four years has been a lesson in how to have a little bit more faith in myself and what I can do. Take debate for example. When I was a prep, the old board terrified me. I thought they were the coolest people ever, so put together and sophisticated. Never in a million years could I imagine being in the same sort of leadership position as they are. But somehow, now I’m here. Being at Exeter, surrounded by so many amazing and ridiculously talented people and still being able to do well here has been a great way to learn and grow into myself.”

“One of my only regrets at Exeter is spending too much of my time intimidated by older students and not telling them how important they have been to my Exeter experience and growth at this school. There have been so many upperclassmen who were incredible role models, who shaped how I tried to lead once I got to my senior year, and who I miss dearly, and I wish I had gotten over my initial intimidation of them sooner. What I have really realized my senior year is that, despite how put together so many people at this school appear, everyone is still very much figuring themselves out,” reflected Bentley.

“It’s such a special thing to be surrounded by so many people that care so much about what they’re doing,” Bentley added. “In middle school I was surrounded by a huge amount of apathy. It’s really special to be able to interact with people who care about what they do and the people around them so much constantly. From an education point of view, it’s taught me a huge amount, and on a personal level it has allowed me to connect with people so much more which is incredibly special.”

On the flipside, Bentley shared, “Working on CCC, I have seen a lot of what could be perceived as the negative side of Exeter. It’s certainly been a very fulfilling experience, however it’s also led to a lot of frustrating situations, because a lot of the time if a student gets in that spot it’s because some part of the school has let them down a little. Obviously, students make mistakes, which is a part of being a teenager, and there has to be a level of necessary consequences for doing so, but that doesn’t make those situations any less difficult to navigate.”

Over the years, Bentley has contributed to many communities on campus and built numerous memories. “There are a lot of PODS [practice-of-debate rounds] that I’ll remember,” said Bentley. “I once did a debate where I was the only person who signed up for PODS that night. I pulled up expecting them to cancel but the cohead just said, ‘Let’s maverick, one-on-one round, self judged and the topic is ‘this house regrets the rise of Girl Boss’ It was probably one

of the worst debates I’ve ever done, but it was very funny.”

Bentley continued, “We have this reoccurring issue in debate where, since we don’t have a specific designated room for PODS, there’s always a hunt at the beginning to find somewhere to practice. hat has led to debates in some very entertaining places. I had to do a debate about US relations with China in the middle of the quad once. We were close to screaming and people were just walking by on their way to Weth like, what the hell. Once walked all the way to Goel, just to end up debating in the hallway. Funnily enough that round actually turned out being one of my best debates,” said Bentley.

“Charles, Sylvia and Phe, because the four of us were really close in our bio class and we kind of branched off and would do study sessions together,” said Chi. “But we would always make fun of her like relationship with Chisholm because she’s on CCC with him. And so they’ve known each other for the past two or three years and have worked on CCC on Thursday nights. So we were just making fun of that part of her life. Our group chat is a source of entertainment. It’s also a very nerdy moment where we would just be like, pull up. But you know how it’s like, when you have a hybrid in genetics, you do like a hybrid cross and then it’s like P P U U...It’s so nerdy.”

R. Valashinas said, “We would just kinda like get in my car, drive around or go get coffee or whatever. She has great music tastes, so she’d always be on aux. And yeah, just kind of like aimlessly driving around, always going to Me and Ollie’s. Also over this winter break when I was home from school because I had like a month-long winter break. I got to spend a lot of time with Phe and her friend group, which was just so awesome to be able to hang out with them.”

“Earlier this term, during a particularly hard week, [Phe] invited me over to her house and we watched 10 things I Hate About You, a totally classic romcom,” shared Finkelstein. “It was really nice to know there was someone who’s willing to open up their space and invite you over. It was before we were close friends, and I think it was a catalyst for becoming closer, so that’s definitely a sweet moment. Oh, and also just like eating lunch or dinner at Weth with a whole group and laughing or talking about whatever. That’s a good memory. Last week we had this whole debate about the mind-body problem, and it’s kind of rare that you get in a group and talk about these big nerdy ideas when it’s not for class, which I think is also meaningful,” Finkelstein said.

“During senior winter,” began Mahendra-Rajah, “Phe and I spent a number of Sunday evenings working upstairs in EPAC. We debated our philosophy readings, commiserated over our math problems, laughed over boys and so much more. Those evenings are some of my favorite memories of Phe, and I will miss them, and her, so dearly,” Mahendra-Rajah said.

“[Phe] has a lot of like hot takes... like assemblies and movies, stuff like that. So she’s definitely full of opinions,” said Connelly.

“This is such a weird thing to come to mind, but I remember one of the first times I was talking to Phe she told me the story about how when she was like five or six, she almost bit her

Bentley Cont.

whole tongue off, and then she would've been like, mute for her whole life. Which is so crazy to me because like, I think Phe is like such an eloquent speaker and someone who is really obviously very thoughtful and stuff, but really knows how to communicate. And so it's so interesting to me that like, and with debate being such a big part of what she does, that there might have been a time where she wasn't gonna have it," G. Valashinas shared.

"One of my favorite times that I had with Phe was in the last couple of months when I'll be home on break and stuff," said G. Valashinas. "Me and my twin sister and Phe and Christine Staller, well sometimes Phe and Christine's other friends will all hang out. One

night in like December or January, the four of us went to Boston and we went, I don't remember what the place is called, but we just went and got dinner and we walked around, we got ice cream and we just kind of drove around and talked for a while and just caught up."

"Me and my friends, who graduated last year, Riley, we always used to do runs to get food at the most random times," shared Bentley. "So after prom last year, we ended up going to a McDonald's that was like 40 minutes out of the way at like 2:00 AM because it was the only food open. At Exeter, the lack of food options can make you desperate sometimes, which is one of the reasons I can be glad to be a day stud sometimes," Bentley said.

"Coming up with superlatives was very,

very funny for debate last year," Bentley continued. "I remember the new board was still kind of figuring out our dynamics. We've probably wasted a little bit of time just like having a ton of fun and messing around, sitting outside on the metal tables at Weth and like, just kind of thinking about where people fit in the community, making a lot of jokes around that was really fun."

Miller shared, "This was from upper spring during prom. One part I really loved about that night was when they played Mr. Brightside. Phe and I couldn't find our other friends anywhere, and my date was somewhere in the mosh-pit. The music started playing and me and Phe held hands and started singing along. We were screaming the lyrics, and our legs hurt from jumping up and down so much. At this point, I think we had just taken our shoes off because they hurt from jumping around, so we were

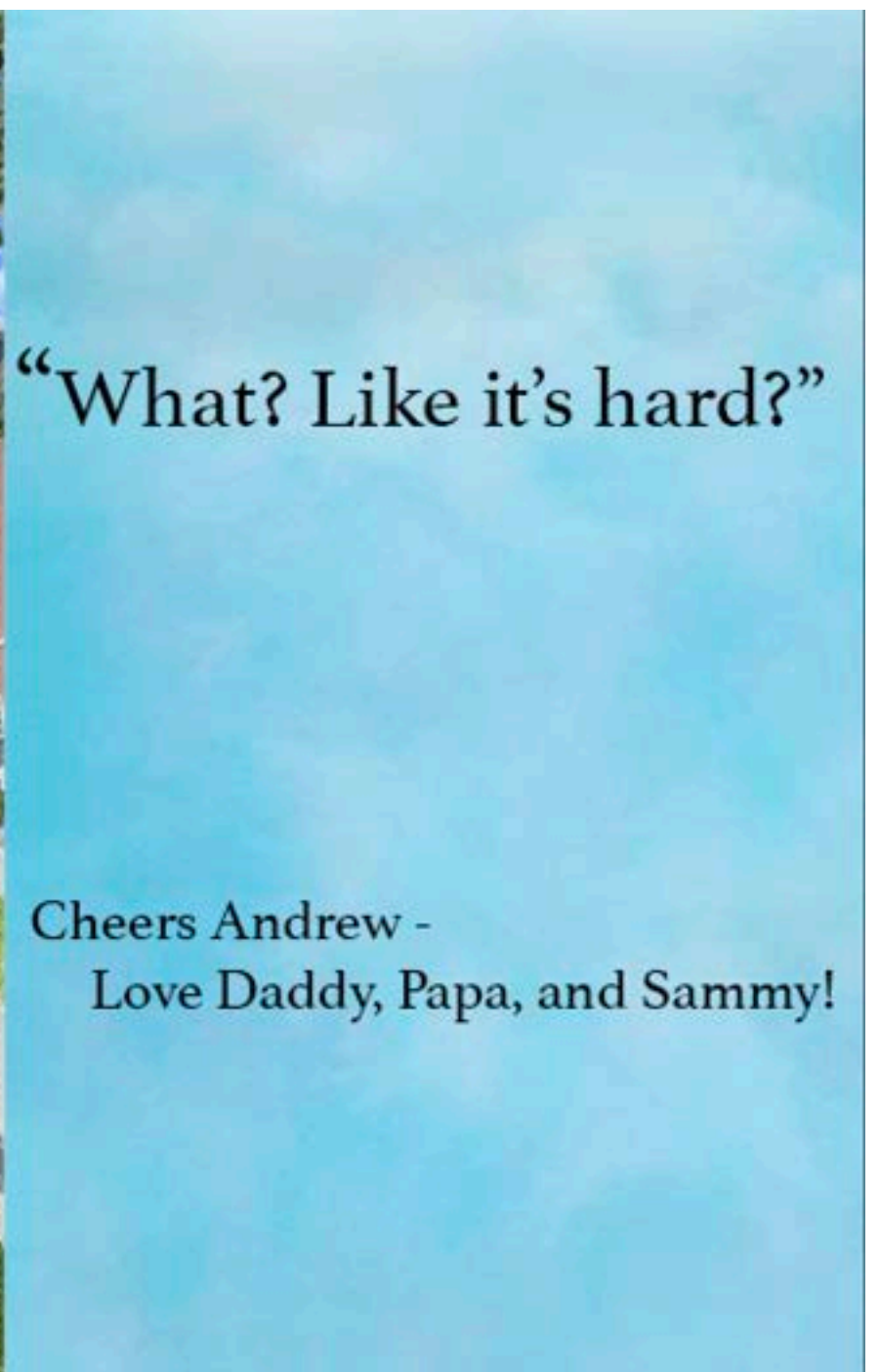
just barefoot and holding onto our dresses, not caring if people stepped on them. We were screaming with a mix of sadness that our '22 friends were graduating, relief it was the end of the school year, anxiousness for college essays, but happiness that we were there together. I think we both knew after this that life was going to get stressful again, and having this one night was perfect. In that moment, we were both just screaming so loud and singing along until our voices cracked, and then laughed when both of us couldn't speak. Whenever that song comes on, Phe gets emotional but I smile so much remembering that night."

"Exeter has many an imperfection, but that has helped shape me and how I interact with people. Dealing with what we have had to deal with has created a lot of connections that I wouldn't have otherwise made. The people at Exeter

have created the sort of community that supports one another when we go through difficult events as a school, so they end up bringing us closer together," Bentley concluded.

Bentley talked about her Intro to Philosophy course. "We were talking the other day about whether or not defining truth is inherently linked to morality. It was a really helpful discussion because it made me uncover the subconscious assumptions in the approaches I bring to analyzing arguments in a way I never would have without that class. The class was also a very fun environment. I'm definitely gonna take some philosophy courses in college since I found it so interesting, though I'm sure I will miss Harkness." Bentley continued on her passions at the Academy. "One of the biggest sources of passion for me is seeing other people around me getting excited about things

I'm excited about. Things like the dorm competition with EAC has been really fun because I've had lowers and preps in my dorms coming up to me and telling me about an environmental article they just read, and it will jumpstart an entire conversation about a National Park that they learned about. Somebody the other day was telling me how they were walking through Grill and saw a group of kids watching a video about coral bleaching, which was crazy and very cool. I have a similar experience in Dem Club watching lower classmen finish their first phone bank. I remember when I was younger the empowerment that I felt of being able to impact something that for so long had feet so far out of my control, especially when I couldn't vote."



Congratulations Ina!
We are so proud of
you and look forward
to seeing the path you
create for yourself.



Love,
Mama,
Papa,
Lola,
Whiskey,
and
Pickle



Congratulations Montana!
May you always be bold,
original, courageous and kind.



"There's a million things I haven't done, just you wait." - Alexander Hamilton
We love you, we are so proud of you, and you inspire us all to be better.
We can't wait to see what's next!
With much love, Mom, Dad, John, Graham, Erin Purr, Lola, Pickles & Bowie

CONGRATULATIONS, LILY!

We are SOOO proud of
your achievement and
what an amazing person
you are!



We love you!!!
Mama, Daddy,
Lucy and Olivia

Congratulations, Sophia!



We love you!
XOXO - Mom, Dad
and Abi



Congratulations
Henry!
Lots of love,
Mom, Dad,
Annabelle & Eliza






Congrats
ON YOUR GRADUATION

Congratulations
Riches!

For I know the plans I have for you," says the Eternal, "plans for peace, not evil, to give you a future and hope - never forget that. Jer 29:11 (Voice)
Your life is surrounded in beauty; You are gifted with abundance and a RICH legacy. Psalm 16:6 (Voice)
We are all proud of you Richoo.

Love from:
**Dad, Mom,
Revival, Rest & Reward.**

Congratulations, Nate and Grace!



"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined" -Henry David Thoreau

It is such a joy to watch you both grow into the wonderful people you are today. We could not be more proud of you both!

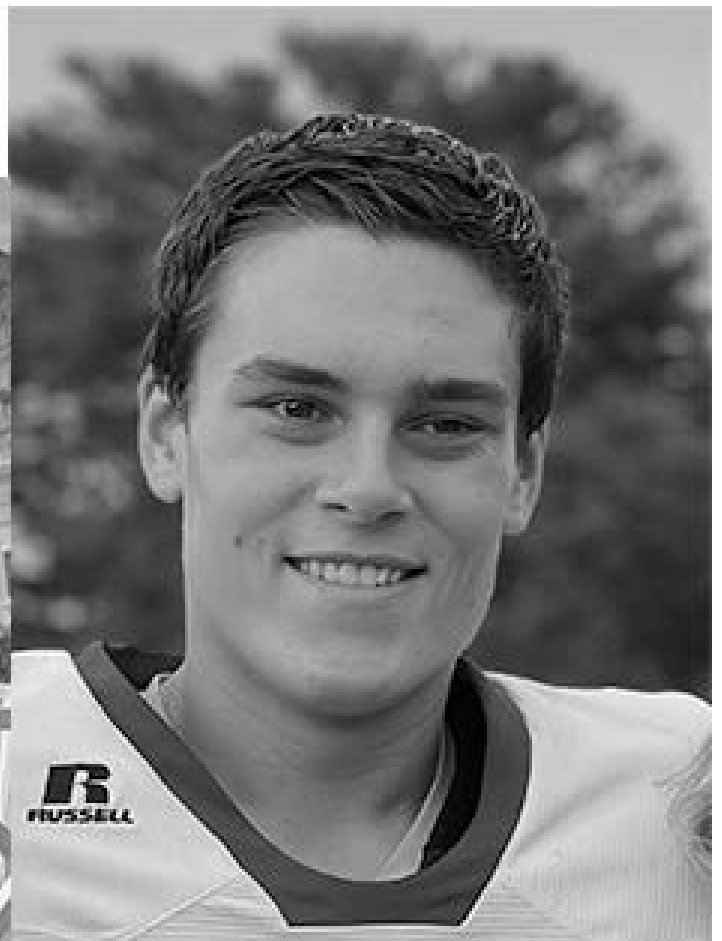
We love you so much, Mom, Dad, Jack and Claire



Congratulations Brooke!



Gratulations Christopher!
We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished!
Bona fortuna in futurum!
Love you! Mom & Dad





**Congratulations Charlie!
We love you!**



Congratulations on completing this amazing part of your life's journey! We can't wait to see the next chapter begin! Love, Mom, Mico and Dad
Alia Bonanno



**Congratulations
Noah! We are so
proud of you, your
true goodness and
of all that you
have
accomplished. We
love you so much!
Mom, Dad, Sam,
Bella, Charles and
Hera.**





CONGRATULATIONS

Enzo Nakornsri

Enzo Nakornsri

Class of 2023!

We are so proud of the hard work and dedication you put into achieving this milestone. Here's to a bright future ahead!"

From Nakornsri
Family



CONGRATULATIONS

class of 2023

GABRIEL!

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

LOVE MOM & DAD XXX



Oh, the Places



You'll Go!



Duke Story Garschina



We Love You, Mom, Dad, Edward, and Dagny

Senior of the Year: Nina Kellogg



Hillary Yoon / The Exonian

By **TEDDY CAPOZZI '24**

As the final hurrah before the gloomy winter term, students wedged themselves into the yellow school buses set for Andover, MA. As the sun dipped under the horizon and flood lights cast over the stadium, Exeter students charged the field following an overwhelming football victory. Students donning kilts, facepaint, and all things maroon participated in the celebration, led by Red Bandit Nina Kellogg.

The 18-year-old Vermont native is a proctor in Amen Hall. Known by many as a big sister-like figure, and the senior class vice president, her affable and curious nature has led her to interact with many subsets of the Exeter community.

Having lived in Vermont her whole life, freestyle skiing, river rafting, windsurfing and hiking have occupied much of her time. The outdoors have served as an important part of her life. She will stay in her home state and attend Middlebury College next fall.

Before Exeter, boarding school hadn't been on her mind. "I never really even considered boarding school. I'd never even heard of Exeter," she said.

As Kellogg's intellectual curiosity and strong academic level surpassed her Vermont public school, she had to accommodate her learning through supplemental classes outside of school. "So starting in middle school, I was basically augmenting our regular school with outside tutors. I've gotten to the point of doing math, English, and writing entirely by myself." Mindful of this, Kellogg's parents suggested that she apply to several boarding schools.

Upon her acceptance to the Academy, Kellogg was delighted, but held doubts about leaving home. Her hesitance was fostered by a tight family bond and an allegiance to the Green Mountain State. When Kellogg visited in March, Charlotte Lisa, her Experience Exeter guide, made the choice easy. Lisa was also a senior lacrosse captain and proctor in Amen, which would one day come full circle for Kellogg. That afternoon, on her way home, Kellogg decided Exeter would be her new home.

Arriving at the

Academy as a prep can be an intimidating process, but fellow Amen dormmates welcomed Kellogg and formed a connection with her early on. "We have a lot of traditions. A lot of things we really cherish like 'Under the Stars' in the fall, which is basically a spill-your-guts-out session on Hatch and playing sardines in the Academy building," she said. Now, four years later and a proctor herself, Kellogg looks to create similar bonding experiences for the underclassmen. "I would sit in Charlotte Lisa's room doing homework, crying my eyes out and now I do that for the little girls in the dorm, and I love that. It really feels like a family," she reflected.

As Kellogg has embraced her role as a leader in her community, she admits that there are pressures that come with the position. "Move in day [is] a really crazy day to be a proctor because you're running around moving bunk beds and luggage. I'm in there with a new student and her mom trying to change this whole bed and I'm like, this girl is going to slam her hand down, and it's gonna be all my fault. I have no idea what I'm doing."

However, her ability to work well with others has been a way for her to balance the stresses that come with leadership. "I like working with other people. There's no position I hold that is just me," she said.

Lacrosse coach and Associate Dean of Student Life Christina D. Breen noticed these qualities in her early on, back when Kellogg was a prep. "She came to Exeter already with an incredible sense of herself. She's incredibly mature, really worldly," Breen said.

Her ability to work with others is clearly displayed in sports. Athletics has played a large role in Kellogg's life at Exeter, whether that be for girls junior varsity soccer or at Phelps Stadium with the girls lacrosse team. "The lacrosse team is so integral to my day," she said. "The team genuinely feels like a friend group"

Beginning her athletic career at Exeter in junior varsity lacrosse, Kellogg has worked her way up the ladder to become the captain of this year's girls varsity lacrosse team. Upper Gigi Lannon recalled spending time

with her on the sideline last year, and how she has made the transition to becoming a captain. "We were on the bench together all last season. We made it a fun time and now she's a captain and a starter. She always has a great attitude and even when she was on the bench she was positive and you always need a captain like that."

Coach Breen has similarly seen Kellogg and her leadership abilities flourish since prep year. "She's made her way all the way up the ranks to be a captain of the varsity team, now as a senior," she said.

Kellogg's commitment to the team extends further than lacrosse. Despite pursuing avenues other than athletics in college, she was nominated to be a captain. Breen noted, "Three of the [co-captains] are going on to play in college. Nina, you know, was pursuing other interests, but she's still such a leader that her teammates chose her to be captain as well."

Off the field, Kellogg's various interests make for a busy schedule. In the height of all her commitments, which include Prom Committee meetings, senior representative duties, proctor meetings and a capella, she ensures that she leaves time for others. Fellow Amen Hall resident and upper Laurie Chung admires the senior's availability for others. "I know a lot of people in my dorm always call her specifically for advice or anything related to life. Even when she's having a bad day, I feel like she always tries to make other people have a better day," Chung said.

Mr. Leger, affiliate faculty in Amen Hall and former teacher of Kellogg, has also noticed her strong compassion for others. "She loves people. She cares how you feel and takes the time to be with you. She is, I am sure, many people's best friend."

This trait has always been an integral aspect of Kellogg's character, and has developed throughout the past few years. As a prep, her timid self realized how a small act of empathy could have a large impact on those around. Kellogg reminisced on this early moment of realization. "I was having a hard time. I think I just failed a biology test and was not in a good place," she said. Her prep year roommate Josselyne Fregoso had found her sobbing in the closet, and she prompted Kellogg

with the idea of releasing some anger by throwing snowballs. "She was super quiet, too, but knocked on the door and asked if I needed a hug. Then [Fregoso] was like, 'do you wanna go throw snowballs against Amen?'"

Four years later, Kellogg still reminisces this moment. "I still think about it now, such a thoughtful Exonian moment in so many ways. Being totally overwhelmed, overworked, and stressed out but also having a lovely friend and making a hysterical memory."

However moments like this felt distant in the wake of Kellogg's most difficult days on campus. As students prepared to return home, and spring break was approaching, Kellogg faced her biggest challenge yet. Beyond the stress that every Exonian faces between school work, upkeep of social image, parents berating you over the phone, and keeping a healthy sleep schedule, Kellogg's challenge was incomprehensible for almost any teenager. Her upper year, she was faced with the stark reality that her father was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Even with Kellogg's personable demeanor, she found this time very isolating. "It was especially hard for me to connect with my friends at this time because so many of them couldn't relate," she added. "It became a really big facet of just everyday being here while being apart from my family."

In an attempt to channel her emotions, Kellogg decided to perform at Luminaria during Relay for Life. "I ended up reading and writing my own poem and speaking at Luminara last year. That was a great alleyway for me to take something that I was passionate about: creative writing."

Dr. Marianne C. Zwicker, Kellogg's advisor, expressed deep admiration for Kellogg's ability to cope and channel her emotions. "Nina has had to grow more and faster than anyone should have to as a teenager through loss. Through all of this she has kept her gentle way of using humor to uplift others and herself. She's also grown so much as a writer and a thinker."

Amongst this, Kellogg has continued to be available and someone her peers can confide in. "She has all this hidden baggage that you would

not necessarily know about and she makes time for you and she's always been a role model for me in this way," Lannon noted.

"She's always there to answer anything and I feel like Nina takes a lot of priority for the other Amen girls," upper Lianna Yang added.

Her desire to provide for her dorm community extends to the rest of the student body, most notably as senior class vice president. Despite her role being very rewarding, she admits it can also get frustrating sometimes. "We'd work for a couple weeks having lots of meetings just to get a popcorn machine and some movies in grill, and then people would complain that they don't like popcorn or couldn't make it to the event," she said. Still, she recounted the fruits of her labor paying off during this past fall term. "There's nothing that makes me happier than seeing smiles on people's faces from a McFlurry during the end of college app season."

Amongst the pressures that come with leadership positions, Kellogg has often reminded herself that the activities she participates in should have an element of fun and something she can enjoy. "Not everything I do is super serious, or a super leadership position. I'm just doing it because it's fun."

Fellow junior varsity soccer team members and seniors Emilie Dubiel and Grace Puchalski applaud Kellogg's easy-going nature. Dubiel and Puchalski recalled, "On one of the first days [of the season], Nina kicked herself in the face with the soccer ball and gave herself a bloody nose. She took it like a champ because she laughed about it and made it funny. Unfortunately she got a concussion later that week, but again took it like a champ, speaks volumes for Nina."

Friends of Kellogg noted this when reflecting upon her time here and how she has grown into herself. "I don't think she has changed, I just think she has grown into herself. She's evolved. She's become even more outgoing, funny, and I have always been able to look to her for advice. I just go to her for everything," Dubiel said.

"I think Nina has been a great person since the day she came here. More people over the years have had the

chance to experience that. On campus she's known as someone to go to for advice. I know any time I have a problem, I always go to Nina," Puchalski added.

Leger's first impressions of Kellogg were that she was a "cheerful, happy person with a lot of charisma." As she has gotten to know Kellogg over the years she has found her immanent leadership qualities. "She is a proctor and is doing a wonderful job at taking care of everyone in the dorm. She is friendly, responsible, dependable, and someone you can count on."

Zwicker admired her ability to connect with others. "Nina has so much empathy for and genuine interest in other people, and she has a way of making everyone feel at ease, heard, and understood. She finds a way to connect with each person, no matter how young or old."

"She has kept her gentle way of using humor to uplift others and herself. I know she reflects deeply on what is important to her and how she wants to live her life, and I admire how much she has grown in this regard over the years," Zwicker added.

As Kellogg's time at Exeter winds down and she looks forward to college, many uncertainties exist. "Yeah, I mean, there's so many things I'm nervous about. One of them is that I'm not going to be an athlete in college. My team now is like a core of my friends. It's where I find a lot of meaning. It's where I spend a lot of my time, frankly."

Aside from sports, Kellogg questions whether her next destination will be able to live up to the sense of community she has enjoyed at Exeter. "You know, I'm not going to a school with 60,000 kids but I do worry about knowing people. One of the things I love here is knowing people and people knowing me and feeling like I'm not one fish in a giant ocean."

Kellogg plans to bring the skills she has acquired to her next venture. "But also, I think there's a certain level that you bring as a person – all the skills that we've learned here about how to get involved. We all have a certain level of agency that we have to use."

Senior of the Year:

EJ Barthelemy

Courtesy of EJ Barthelemy

By FORREST ZENG '26

Chants ring through the air, repetitive. He shuffles through the crowd, wading through a sea of posters and stretched hands. A man, clutching a palm microphone, holds it close to his mouth. Senior EJ Barthelemy approaches and brings the camera to his eye. Through his viewfinder, the faces of the crowd behind the man blur, forming a ring around the man's dreadlocks, falling loosely across his broad shoulders. Barthelemy stands with the man, at the heart of the protest, pulsating voices all around them. Blood rushes into Barthelemy's ears, and his camera clicks.

A senior of four years living in Ewald, in addition to being a proctor, Barthelemy is an avid photographer, varsity soccer goalie, and activist. Barthelemy, who worked as a photographer for *The Exonian* and PEAN, as well as served as co-head of the Photography Club, specializes in street photography. He had an exhibition in the Lamont Gallery of a portfolio he completed over the summer, titled "Proximity," capturing scenes of protest and community. Barthelemy was also an OMA proctor in his upper year, in addition to being a vocal activist for social justice. An active member of the African-Latino Exonian Society (ALES) board and UNITE!, Exeter's social justice organization and publication, Barthelemy was formerly the founder and executive director of the Exeter chapter of the national racial justice non-profit Diversity our Narrative (DON@PEA).

An intense motivation to impact the world and his community, deriving deeply from his Haitian heritage, drives everything that Barthelemy does. "To me, being Haitian means living and working relentlessly to lead an impactful life to do things not just for yourself, but for others," Barthelemy said. "It's not just about how far I go as an individual. It's about the things that I do along the way that impact others' lives for the better." His developed confidence gives him the ability to carve his own path, whether through his photography or activism without restraining himself with expectations.

This passion matured itself over his years at Exeter. "When I got here, I was dead set on going into computer science, and that ended up changing," Barthelemy said. "I can comfortably say I would not be the person I am right now if I did not come to Exeter. It is amazing the way I've grown, how my beliefs, my character, and my outlook have grown."

He identifies a pattern

among his peers, and in himself—that we oftentimes try to model ourselves on others, instead of modeling ourselves on what we want to be. Barthelemy said, "In my prep year, I was wandering around looking at others to see who I was supposed to be. And I got frustrated doing that. The moment I started leaning into who I was, what I actually liked, I was happier overall and I was able to accomplish more."

"I regret being too hard on myself in the very beginning. Now I see that you don't always need to have everything together and it's okay to be confused at times. It's okay to have to figure things out."

Among the aspects of Barthelemy's character, one particular activity stands out. "I am proud of going as far as I did with photography. I leaned into it and I never stopped," Barthelemy said. "Where it led me is incredibly valuable."

Barthelemy's progression as a photographer started in an unexpected place. "I was on a cruise with my parents," Barthelemy described. "I had recently gotten a smartphone, and it had a pretty nice camera. I began to just take pictures of everything I saw. Something about how things fit into a frame made sense to me."

"After, I attended a camp in Massachusetts. One of the counselors ran a media company, and he had a DSLR camera. At that point, I had never touched a real camera except for my phone. During my free time at camp, I would go out with him, and he would teach me how to use it. That experience changed my life. Later that summer, my parents surprised me with my first camera and I was so thrilled."

Photography came to the forefront of Barthelemy's identity upon coming to Exeter. Barthelemy described a momentous encounter with a senior during his prep year. "I was walking around in Agora one day, and I saw a senior holding a camera. Even though I was just a tiny prep, I walked right up to him and asked about his camera."

"I will forever be grateful that I made that decision to do that because I think that moment changed my life. His name was Thomas Wang, and throughout the year he would take me along with him to places to shoot different campus events that were going on."

Wang, who graduated in 2020, consistently encouraged Barthelemy to maintain his passion. "He was always encouraging me to take as many photos as possible and to continue pursuing it as a genuine passion. That's what he instilled in me. It sparked one of my best friendships," Barthelemy said. "They

tell you that you will make friends for life, and you get a little skeptical at first. However, I soon understood that there was a lot of truth to that claim, and it all started with stepping out of my comfort zone and meeting someone new."

Barthelemy began to take photography classes at Exeter. "In my lower year, I got the chance to take ART405 with Ms. St. Onge, and she is a phenomenal teacher. She had such an instrumental role in cultivating my passion," Barthelemy said. "Now, the photography room is my favorite place on this campus. And it's really because of her."

"When I first met him he was making good work, but it was his drive and ambition to be an artist that got my attention," Photography teacher Cheryl St. Onge said. "As an artist, you must be optimistic because often you see things differently—your vision is ahead of the curve. Artists are often told 'no' a great deal, but EJ manages to push through it all and focus on his art."

"He takes photography very seriously and I admire him for that," Senior Erin Sackey said.

Barthelemy described art, particularly visual photography, as a medium that encompasses all. "Art is the ultimate form of expression. It's such a powerful way to express yourself because there are limitless possibilities. With photography, it's getting a chance to display how I see the world and how I perceive reality around me."

Throughout his time as a photographer, Barthelemy finds himself most fluent in capturing moments in media res. Many of his photos are from frequent trips to New York, finding himself face-to-face with a diversity of perspectives that he says necessitates a significant degree of close engagement. "On June 24th the Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* came out. I saw that this was a historic moment, and I went to New York City that same day to attend a protest in Washington Square Park," Barthelemy described. "By just holding on to my camera and saying 'excuse me' a million times, I managed to make it right in the center of the entire crowd to where the organizers were giving speeches. That's where I got the photos."

"I couldn't take them from afar, I couldn't hang back. I had to be a part of the action to get them because I had to be put in a foreign position to go out and document this."

His engagement with whatever he is photographing directly extends to his interactions while making portraits of people on the

street. Barthelemy said, "I got to meet and talk to some really cool and interesting people, and they were complete strangers. In a protest, you can't stop and talk to people. But for the other portraits that I did, a conversation is part of it. Photography teaches you how to interact with people. It forces you to engage with others in a way you wouldn't have thought to before."

"We stumbled across this group of friends having a rap battle. We asked if we could take pictures, and we joined in as well, spitting some bars, and taking some pictures. I think it removed a kind of separation and taught me to cherish other people's presence."

"He really enjoys photography," Senior Tucker Gibbs, who proctors and lives in Ewald with Barthelemy. "He's taken some truly amazing pictures that he has won awards for."

In his recent exhibition at the Lamont Gallery, Proximity, Barthelemy merged the method of photography as a method of expression with another significant dimension of his: social justice. "I intertwined my role as the observer with the fervent interest in social justice and advocacy I have cultivated over the past few years," Barthelemy said.

Barthelemy described what seemed to activate his urge towards activism and making a worldly impact. "The summer of 2020 leading into my lower year was a very tough time for me. I think during that time I was struck by this feeling of powerlessness that came over me," Barthelemy said. "I was watching everything unfold from behind a phone screen, and I felt like I couldn't do anything about it. I told myself that I wanted to effect change in any way that I could."

Barthelemy began to work towards contributing to making Exeter more inclusive. "It's something where you can start small. I told myself that my way of contributing to the broader movement would be to help make Exeter a more inclusive environment," Barthelemy said. Barthelemy went on to be an active board member of the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society and the Unite! Publication and Coalition, as well as cofounding DON@PEA with senior David Chen.

Barthelemy said, "We founded it in the spring of our lower year because we both had a vision and a dream to make Exeter a more inclusive environment to promote social justice on campus."

"EJ started the chapter, and while he was figuring out the logistics of being able to work everything out, he brought me on board. We decided to become co-executive directors," Chen

said.

"The founding of DON@PEA was the beginning stages of bringing my actions for social justice to life. It was a long journey and it took a lot of hard work, but bringing that vision to life was something I will always be proud of," Barthelemy said.

In addition to DON@PEA, Barthelemy is involved greatly with OMA, finding support in his efforts to bring about inclusion at Exeter. "During this time I got very close with Dean Camilus. He is someone who is so deeply invested in supporting the multicultural community at Exeter in both macro and micro ways. For example, he started the hair emporium years ago so that students of color could have access to a barber and hair stylist. Many people don't realize that certain basic necessities like getting your hair cut can be challenging when you're a person of color in Exeter, New Hampshire. Dean Camilus is one of the most impactful people I've ever met, and I am so grateful to have been graced by his presence."

Associate Dean of Multicultural Affairs Hadley Camilus said, "I got to know EJ as a result of his visits to the Hair Emporium. When students come through the shop, I use it as an opportunity to get to know them. EJ shared a lot with me about his roots and his interests, in general. That led to many other exchanges which allowed me to learn a lot more about him."

Fostering a sense of community is essential to inclusion, Barthelemy believes. "I've had the pleasure of working on many events, including the recent Black History Month Gala. It brought a lot of people together to have a great time and celebrate our heritage and presence. A sense of togetherness is one of the strongest forms of support for minorities in predominantly-white institutions," Barthelemy said.

Coming from a Haitian background, Barthelemy attributes his determination for social justice to his Haitian heritage. "Haiti was the first Black nation to gain independence. It had the second successful revolution in the western hemisphere, following the United States. Being from the first Black nation comes with a lot of pride and significance," Barthelemy said.

"Haitians have a culture of paying for the sacrifices of those who came before you. I think that translates to my wanting to live an impactful life. My ancestors went and fought for their freedom and sacrificed their own lives so that one day their progeny could be free. It's the inherent selflessness in it that I value the most."

"Knowing that I come from a lineage of leaders, of strong, tenacious, impactful people, I am motivated to carry these values forward." Senior Atticus Ross said, "I think he's fiercely competitive no matter what we're doing. I think it's always a good time when he is determined."

EJ's drive to make an impact is reflected across all his activities, but it also reflects a deep tenacity, developed throughout many years of experience. "Throughout our time at Exeter, I have seen how hard he works both academically and through the extracurriculars he is a part of," Senior Jack Fallon said.

At a larger scale, Barthelemy's goals reflect his ability to start a conversation and to give advice to others stems from a natural disposition as an extrovert. "I'm definitely an extrovert. People and relationships — that's what I value the most. I

just love talking to people and hanging out with people," Barthelemy said. "I lived in a hallway with Tucker Gibbs and David Chen last year, and we would get out in the hallway and eat ramen. I have this method where I take a spoon and I put the fork on top of it together," Barthelemy said. "Then, the fork is picking up the noodles and then the spoon is picking up the broth. David and Tucker started laughing. Only afterward, when I saw the photo they took of me, did I realize how odd it looked. That was funny."

Fallon said, "EJ is very outgoing and social. Everyone enjoys being around him and talking to him. Throughout my time knowing EJ, he always makes time for me when I needed a friend to talk to."

"His relationships aren't transactional. He genuinely values relationships and doesn't see them as a means to an end," Camilus said. In other words, Barthelemy sees value in genuine relationships with others.

Barthelemy offers his peers valuable advice and insight. "He's such a lighthearted guy, yet so meaningful and impactful." Upper Lucas Rodriguez said. "Some days you might find him hopping out of the shower at 7:40 with music blasting out of his JBL Speaker somehow making it to class on time, and others you might find him entrenched in some late-night philosophizing about the deepest facets of life."

Director of Athletics and Physical Education Jason Baseden, who is Barthelemy's advisor, said, "He's the type of person you want to spend time with because you know you are going to laugh and have a serious conversation about an important topic in any given moment."

Students describe Barthelemy's friendly aura as gravitating. "He is very talkative," Gibbs said. "He is a very good storyteller. I love hearing any story that comes out of his mouth. I think it's entertaining and very useful. He gives good advice as well."

"EJ just has an eloquent way of talking and he's able to keep you engaged for a long time," Chen said. "He's a friendly face that you see."

"EJ can light up a room! He walks in with an air of happiness," St. Onge said.

This is perhaps highlighted best by his humor. Sackey said, "He's goofy. He likes to make jokes too. He's silly."

"EJ is an outgoing person and a very humorous guy," Prep Alex Trotman said.

"He went through a little phase where he would go around playing J-pop from a speaker in his backpack. Anywhere. Everywhere. With his hood on." Rodriguez recalled. "The breaking point came when he played his music in the middle of Grill while buying his kombucha, at ear-deafening volume. At that point, we knew we really had to stage an intervention for his own good. His J-pop habits had gotten out of hand."

Within his dorm community, Barthelemy is a major presence, especially as a proctor. Trotman said, "One time around January, someone printed out pictures of EJ and taped them to a bunch of walls in the dorm. It was hilarious."

"I lived in a hallway with Tucker Gibbs and David Chen last year, and we would get out in the hallway and eat ramen. I have this method where I take a spoon and I put the fork on top of it together," Barthelemy said. "Then, the fork is picking up the noodles and then the spoon is picking up the broth. David and Tucker started laughing. Only afterward, when I saw the photo they



Senior of the Year: Kaylee Bennett

By ETHANDING '25

For five years, Exeter has been home for senior Kaylee Bennett. During her time at Exeter, she has not only distinguished herself as an outstanding athlete and an exemplary scholar but is also a supportive friend of the highest caliber and an integral member of every community she is a part of. As an Amenite, she has proven herself to be an important mentor figure to many younger students within the dorm and has a large group of people outside of her dorm community that look up to her as well. A devout Christian as well, Bennett is also known for her dedication to her faith and the role she plays in guiding other Christians to become closer to their faiths. “I’m originally from New Jersey, but I later moved to Maryland,” K. Bennett said. “I loved my community there, and as I grew up, I came to appreciate the diversity there. The reason I decided to come to Exeter was definitely the community. At my previous school, people weren’t all nice to me, and no one would smile and wave on the paths the way that we do here. I would rather go to a school that wasn’t particularly strong but had nice people compared to a strong school. The thing about Exeter was that it was both, which was great, though the main reason that I decided to come was definitely the people.”

Of all the activities K. Bennett excels in, she is probably best known for her presence in athletics. Both a star soccer player and a speedster on the track, K. Bennett has established herself firmly in her sports. “I started playing sports when I was very young, and I didn’t understand really well what that meant as a kid, but over time I’ve realized that sports have helped me break through barriers,” K. Bennett said. “It doesn’t matter what your race is, or where you’re from, you can just play and have fun. From elementary school through

high school, I’ve come to love the freedom of playing soccer and running track.”

K. Bennett started playing soccer when she was four, learning from her father and her brother. “When I got to Exeter as a prep, I was one of three preps that made it onto the varsity team, which was cool. Initially, I thought that because I was a prep, I wouldn’t be able to play, but I was actually given a lot of opportunities. I was very grateful for being able to have some playing time.”

In the fall of her upper year, K. Bennett became a captain of the soccer team and saw herself thrive. “I really enjoyed playing, and I felt a lot of freedom came as I played. I learned that instead of playing for someone else, like a coach, I was playing for myself and for my team. That’s the most important thing,” K. Bennett said. “I became really great friends with a lot of my teammates. Many of my senior friends from last year, whom I played with, still call me from time to time to catch up.”

K. Bennett is also equally known for her achievements on the track. Track runs in K. Bennett’s blood, as her father is a track coach, and other members of her family are also prolific track athletes. “I’ve done a lot with track over my time here at Exeter. I’ve set school records, qualified for nationals, and I’m not in the Hall of Fame in the field house. Beyond that, I’ve met some of my best friends from the track team as well,” K. Bennett said. “I started my prep year, and I continued in my lower year when I realized that I really enjoyed it.”

K. Bennett recognized the role that enjoyment played in her success in track, as well as the support of her coaches. “The thing about track is that it’s not always consistent. I’ve seen myself get faster and slower, but at the end of the day, the team is just so supportive, and Coach Hall is such a great coach,” she said. “The team spirit is always so high, and I’m always motivated to do my best. Of the different

sports teams on campus, I think that the track team is the greatest, without a doubt. The co-ed, the support, the hard work we put in, and the honesty all come together to create a great experience. I couldn’t ask to be a part of a better team.”

As a captain of the track team, K. Bennett has pushed others on the team to be the best versions of themselves. As a leader on the team, she is looked up to by many. For upper Anna Kim, K. Bennett is such a figure. “I’ve known of Kaylee since I was a prep, but it was only this track season that I’ve really gotten to know her,” Kim said. “We were training together, and so we started hanging out together. That eventually progressed to the point where we would get meals together and talk more and more both at and out of practice.”

Kim recalled an experience during a meet when K. Bennett drove her to run her fastest. “Kaylee pushes herself to be the best person she can be, encouraging me to push myself,” Kim said. “I remember at our first outdoor meet, we were right by each other in touching lanes, and when we passed each other, I could feel the motivation. Halfway through the race, when she started to catch up to me, that kept me going. I could tell that she was so excited for the both of us, and that really inspired me. After, Kaylee and I talked about how seeing each other work hard in the moment made us want to run even faster.”

For lower Eliana Hall, K. Bennett was an influential figure starting from the very beginning of her time at Exeter. “I actually met Kaylee online before I came to Exeter. It was my interviewer that introduced me to Kaylee, and we started talking then, which provided me with a lot of confidence in my making the decision to come to Exeter,” E. Hall said. “Since then, she has become a mentor to me.”

E. Hall also runs with the track team and credited K. Bennett with helping

Hillary Yoon / *The Exonian*

her build confidence in her running. “I had never run before, but she really helped me and was a source of support and guidance on the team,” E. Hall said. “I would always come to track meets and just watch people and support my friends, and I would say that I only started doing that because of Kaylee.”

“One of the reasons I started track at all was talking with Kaylee,” lower Jannah Macguire added. “I was picking a new sport, she told me how much fun track was, and I was convinced since she spent so much time doing it. I ultimately decided to try out, and she was super supportive and helpful the whole time. She’s been a great track captain, and an excellent leader and friend.”

“One thing that sets Kaylee apart from other Exonians is really her outgoingness and willingness to help people,” senior Willa Hock said, echoing others’ sentiments. “On the track team, she’s definitely a really strong leader, and she’s truly integral to the function of the team. Without her, the team wouldn’t be itself — even Coach Hall relies heavily on Kaylee. Travelling with her to meets and training with her has been a great privilege, and I’ve really enjoyed getting to know her.”

Instructor in Physical Education Hilary C. Hall was one of the first teachers K. Bennett met at the Academy. Overtime, H. Hall has seen K. Bennett develop as a runner and teammate. “Kaylee has a special way of quickly finding common ground with people and building off that. She makes most people feel special. For Kaylee and me, it was the shared respect for her older brother, parents, soccer, and track,” H. Hall said. “There are very few people who are selfless enough to be truly gracious and happy for other people’s success. Kaylee has that quality, and it is a big part of her magic.”

For K. Bennett, her religion has always been at the center of her life. From

a young age, she was taught to hold her faith close to her heart, and it has remained an essential aspect of her identity ever since. “When I was younger, I would go to church with my family, and so my religious identity slowly developed from that,” K. Bennett said. “Since I’ve come to Exeter, I think my faith has really deepened through the Christian Fellowship. I’ve been co-head of the club for three years now, and it has been amazing. I’ve really loved it, and the kids are just so nice and willing to learn.”

K. Bennett expanded on how she has deepened her connection with her faith through the Christian Fellowship. “I’m much more of a follower of God now, and I’ve been trying my best to be a good follower. Through the Christian Fellowship, I’ve been inspired to get baptized. It was exactly during Easter last year, and the whole experience was just great,” she said.

Christianity, to K. Bennett, is all about love and caring about each other. “This school is very liberal, and I’ve known some people to think certain things about Christianity, but through my experience, the Christian Fellowship is a really nice, loving group of kids,” K. Bennett said. “My fellow co-heads have been so great, and our advisor Mr. Bartkovich has just been so supportive. Whenever we fall down, we’re always ready to help each other up. When we have doubt or a bad day, we always call or text each other to lift ourselves up.”

The Christian Fellowship has become a place where E. Hall feels comfortable as well. She acknowledged the role that K. Bennett has played in her spiritual life. “Kaylee is really involved in Christian Fellowship, and I’ve learned so much from her,” E. Hall said. “When talking about God, her inspirational and encouraging nature really shines through.”

E. Hall described how she had felt disconnected with her faith in the past but was reconnected with it through the Christian Fellowship and with the help of K. Bennett. “Kaylee has made Christian Fellowship a place that has really guided me in terms of my religious journey. Whenever I needed help, she was there for me, and we’ve become accountability partners for each other. Every Sunday, we’ll watch church service together. In so many ways, she has helped me reinforce my faith.”

Outside of a religious context, K. Bennett is also known by many as a person to go to for guidance. As one could find out very quickly in a conversation with K. Bennett, she’s very involved in her dorm community. A prominent resident of Amen Hall, K. Bennett says that she feels as if the dorm is a second family. “One aspect of dorm life at Exeter that attracted me when I was initially applying was the vertical housing system,” K. Bennett said. “The fact that preps, lowers, uppers, and seniors all live together in the same space meant that I have become great friends with people from across grade levels. Over my five years in Amen, I’ve stayed on the fourth floor, and I’ve loved the environment, even as it has evolved. I have stayed good friends with all of my previous roommates, and I have so many great memories with everyone.”

To K. Bennett, the Amen community is unique and special in a different way from any other dorm. “I would say that we have the nicest girls. Out of all the girls on campus, Amen girls are some of the sweetest,” she said. “One of our dorm

traditions is angeling, when we gift each other presents in secret. Through special dorm events like these, I’ve had such a great time, and I’ve truly been moved. Some of my best friends have changed my life through the dorm, and these memories are ones that I’ll keep for the rest of my life,” she said.

“In the dorm, she’s definitely a leader,” E. Hall said. “When we have dorm meetings, she’s always the main person that ensures everyone is listening, and she makes an effort to keep the dorm on the same page. In a more intimate setting, she becomes a dorm sister that you’re able to reach out to if you need anything.”

For everyone that knows K. Bennett, she is a constant inspiration. If senior Erin Sackey could describe K. Bennett in one word, it would be “leadership.” “Kaylee characterizes leadership in every sense of the word,” Sackey said. “There are a lot of leaders on campus, but I think she exudes every quality of what it means to be a leader. She’s a very confident person, and she’s been through a lot of experiences that have made her who she is today. They make her stronger and also make her able to provide good advice to everyone.”

Sackey also commented on K. Bennett’s friendliness and amiability. “Whenever we see each other, she’s always willing to strike up a conversation, and I chalk that up to her. She has a very personable nature, and she’s the type of person that’s willed and passionate,” Sackey continued. “You can tell how that shows through in every conversation she has.”

Perhaps no one can better attest to K. Bennett’s positive attributes than her own father. “I have had the privilege of knowing Kaylee for 19 years, as her father first, and then as her coach,” Instructor in Physical Education Marvin Bennett said. “I have watched her grow, both as a person and as an athlete. I know Kaylee not only by what she says but also by watching what she does. I often see her demonstrating her commitment and drive. When she sets a goal for herself, she actively works towards it. I have watched her overcome adversity with her positive attitude and growth mindset. My experience with her has been filled with joy and laughter. She’s a generous person who genuinely cares about others,” M. Bennett said.

That much has echoed true in many people’s experiences with K. Bennett. For senior Angie Wah, for example, K. Bennett has inspired her through her attitude toward life. “I think she brings a lot to Exeter through her overall attitude, both to school and to other people. She’s very warm and is someone that you just want to be around,” Wah said. “In class, she brings a lot of spontaneity since she’s so experienced. I’m a three-year senior, so she’s been here for quite a while longer than me. Even though we’re both seniors, I still find that I rely on her to guide me. She’s a mentor figure to me that I really appreciate.”

“In terms of her legacy, she’s definitely leaving a mark on every single thing that she’s a part of,” Wah continued. “Kaylee’s legacy in sports is undeniable. She’s in the hall of fame in the Field House, and she’s left an impression on all her teammates that will last a long time for sure. What I think most people are going to remember best though, is her unwavering kindness and compassion. She’s changed a lot of lives here, and that’s something that no one will forget.”

Senior of the Year: David Chen



Hillary Yoon / *The Exonian*

By ERIN HAN '25

Senior David Chen's voice echoes from a voice memo on his phone. He speaks the words 'bass,' 'tenor,' and 'alto,' before he plays each part's starting note abruptly on a piano. While the familiar recording plays, he visibly cringes each time his pre-recorded voice nonchalantly speaks the parts, each one of his expressions prompting a wave of laughter from the a cappella group members. He lets out an "okay" of relief once the last starting note is played. Chen then reaches both of his relaxed hands out in front of him, and the co-head of both a cappella groups PEADs and Exeteras stands shoulder-to-shoulder between fellow PEADs members, together circled around one of the pianos in a dimly-lit Powell Hall. As Chen begins to conduct, syncopated 'dum's begin to resonate throughout the hall.

Chen was born in Duluth, Minnesota, growing up in his parents' Chinese restaurant. In addition to serving as co-head of both a cappella groups PEADs and Exeteras, Chen is an Ewald proctor, A-team Mock Trial witness, and avid writer on campus. In addition to serving as a news editor of *The Exonian*, he has also co-founded the Phillips Exeter Academy chapter of "Diversify Our Narrative," a national social justice nonprofit pushing for holistic change, as well as "Aster-Lit," a literary magazine he founded with seven others as graduates of a summer writing program outside of Exeter.

Speaking about his experience growing up in his parents' restaurant,

Chen said, "Yeah, I think it's really impacted the way I see the world and think about things. It's the first place that I started writing basically." Chen outlined how his day typically went for much of his childhood. "Basically, every day after school, I would go to the restaurant and I would sit at one of the tables and do my homework, and then when it was the dinner rush, I would take orders, answer phones, bus tables. And then as I got older, maybe seventh and eighth grade, I started doing a little bit of cooking in the back, and packing that kind of stuff. And then after the dinner rush, I would continue to do homework or sit at one of the far tables, and just write."

When asked about any core memories that came to mind during his time at the restaurant, Chen said, "Because [the restaurant] was such a big part of my life, it is one big core memory instead of just individual core memories. My entire time at my family's Chinese restaurant has just been one blob of experiences for me."

Chen arrived as a prep in 2019, and he reflected on his prep self that first stepped onto campus four quickly-passed years ago. "I think prep David was generally more closed off, less of his own person; I think he really looked up to the upperclassmen and there were upperclassmen that he wanted to be more if possible in any way. So I don't think he had really figured out any of himself yet. He hadn't really developed any passion for anything at a deeper level. He was lacking a lot of reflection, which is always important. Self-reflection,

especially."

"Prep David was maybe a little stuck up. I think we can say that," he continued. "Generally a rule-follower to the best of his abilities. Pretty timid, honestly, really afraid of overstepping and coming across as irresponsible, messing up his entire future, that kind of stuff."

Since coming to Exeter, writing has become increasingly a more integral and material part of Chen's life. "Writing is a way for me to reflect. I usually write essays, creative nonfiction, and personal experiences. Even if it's in a fictionalized concept such as in a play or in a more metaphorical concept such as in a poem, there's still some tie back to my real life." He added, "My writing is usually just a reflection on something that I've been thinking about — I tend to write a lot about relationships, so I write about my relationship to my parents, my sister, to myself, etcetera, etcetera, or to some aspect of the world around us." Chen has begun a poetry collection titled "fo(ur) him(s)," where he writes about four prominent male figures in his life, including his father, friends, and family relatives.

After speaking even briefly with his teachers and friends, it becomes clear that Chen, and his expression of himself through his writing, has had a profound effect on the circle of people in his life. Instructor in English L. Todd Hearon spoke about Chen's talent as well as a consistent critical mindset towards his writing. "David's always pressing himself to discover and establish for himself the contours of a new form."

He added, "I've watched David move from analytical writing during his upper spring, to the personal essay and senior meditation, to creative assignments in his senior electives that allow him to continue to exercise and explore his imagination. The constant thread through all of these forms is David's earnestness of voice and fineness of ear. He wants to say what for him is true, and he searches for the most eloquent and convincing way to do that."

Instructor in English Willie Perdomo also spoke about Chen's writing. "David's writing has the necessary element of risk. Give him a traditional structure of a literary model and he will try to work outside of that model with stunning results. Growth in a writer is measured by the progress of their vision and skill, their ability to balance story with idea, symbol with exposition, setting with metaphor, and so on."

Co-founder of Exeter's chapter of Diversity Our Narrative, Ewald resident, and senior EJ Barthelemy spoke on Chen's dedication to his role as an Ewald proctor. Barthelemy and Chen together founded the organization their lower year in one of the basement hallways of Ewald. "We wanted to bring something to Exeter that was focused on social justice because I feel like you have a lot of affinity spaces around, and sometimes things can be very specific. So one avenue for people to come and contribute to making a change — I think it was what we wanted to establish. So we came together, we thought of it, we came up with ideas, and we just ran off from there."

Since first meeting Chen in prep year and then becoming close with him in his lower year, living in the same hallway of Ewald, Barthelemy described how he has seen Chen grow through their four years together. "I think it's remarkable how David's really come into his own." He added with admiration, "His confidence has come up so much over the years, and I think he knows now that he's a force to be reckoned with. I'd say David is one of the most hardworking people I know. He's also one of the most passionate and caring people I know as well. He has such a big heart, honestly — he cares so much about other people. I just think that the growth overall, the leader he's become both in the dorm and outside the dorm, is incredible."

Close friend and fellow Ewald proctor and senior Tucker Gibbs recalled meeting Chen for the first time on the first day of prep Fall. "Wow, this kid seems cool. He talks quickly, but he seems nice."

As Ewald residents, their upper and senior years were both years of great bonding for Gibbs and Chen. Gibbs spoke about how he has seen Chen contribute to the communities he is a part of, especially as a member of Ewald. "David is, in a word, passionate," he said. "He cares really deeply about the communities that he's a part of and that's really special. He will work tirelessly to make a place better."

Over the last four years, Chen has left a lasting mark on the communities he is

a part of, whether it be as a witness in Mock Trial, the co-head of an a cappella group, or a proctor in Ewald.

"I think he'll be leaving a legacy of really engaged proctorship, of being a great Mock Trial witness with terribly funny and very, very good characters that have made me cry, and an excellent writer whose meditation made me cry," Gibbs said.

Chen's friends also described him as full of energy, as well as an incredibly thoughtful listener, two traits that don't always come linked.

Close friend and senior Alexa Wingate said, "He's a very thoughtful guy. He prides himself on being a writer and he's empathetic. He always thinks before he speaks... and he's a really good listener. One of the best listeners I know, really."

She added, "David might not be the showiest person on this campus... but David is the kind of guy where, if you have a chance to speak with him, [you can tell he's that] hidden gem."

Close friend and senior Clark Wu described the image that came to mind when he thought of Chen now, at the start of his senior spring: Chen confidently standing at the podium in a silently mesmerized Phillips Church, delivering his meditation to the school. The two first grew close in their prep year both as a part of the cross-country team's 'delta group.'

Wu spoke about some moments he remembered from their time together running cross country. "He would often burst into song — that is a recurring theme — and we would talk just about really random stuff." As he recalled a specific memory, he said, "This one time, I think we ran by this place where there were a lot of cicadas, and we were talking about cicadas. Since we both enjoy poetry, or just literature in general, he just said a few lines that I felt would work well into a poem. And then, a few days before senior fall started, I decided to just take some of his words and then make it the first and last lines of a poem. It's just these small things [that I feel show just how] incredibly deep he is as a person."

Wu continued to speak about having Chen as a great source of care and understanding over the years. "I think he also leaves a legacy of being incredibly humble and incredibly caring for his friends," he said. "He has a certain energy of understanding you, being able to talk to him and he finds a very special balance between what we can do next and how the situation is."

In addition to being an incredibly caring and understanding friend, another theme in interviews with Chen's friends was his tendency to break out into song, as close friend and fellow Mock-Trialer Angela Zhang put it, "He frequently breaks out in song and dance in the middle of literally anything. And I think there's a level of social awareness that most people have that prevents them from living life to the fullest. And I think he completely ignores social norms and decides to forge his own happiness. I think that's really admirable."

To describe Chen further, Zhang added, "I

think he is very quirky. He is unabashedly himself and I think he's very self-aware, and introspective. David's a little bit of a drama queen and it's something that he's proud of, too. He's very empathic and dramatic, and he just brings excitement."

"There was this one night last year we were doing Just Dance in the basement of Ewald, and someone was coming to Ewald," she continued. They texted David and he left to let them in. When he came back, he was like, 'Someone just shot me,' and we were like, 'What are you talking about?' And then he was like, 'Someone just shot me with a water gun.' And we were like, 'You might have been able to word that a little bit better.' And he was totally panicking, saying that this guy literally just shot him with a water gun. And I was like, 'Okay, well what did you do about him?' And he was like, 'I chased them down.' So he chased after that person as they continued to shoot water at him. Then he came back, and then dorm fac Mr. Leahy came asking what was going on. And David said someone shot him but he failed to mention that it was a water gun, and it caused a mini panic amongst the dorm fac and campus safety."

In contrast to Chen's description of his prep self that he believed had yet to come into his own, Zhang described him now. "I think just someone who doesn't care about things, but not in a negative way. He is so sure of himself, and puts in the hard work of understanding himself better."

She added, "And that kind of thing does take time. You don't just suddenly become self-aware. So I think he's really willing to sit down and parse through his experiences and emotions. He's able to better handle relationships and how he perceives the world and how the world perceives him."

Close friend and fellow Minnesotan Cindy Su described Chen similarly. "I think he's such an exceptionally talented and caring person. I think it'll be so hard to find people like him where they're able to be so in touch with their friends and with their emotions and also with their talents [altogether]."

English instructor Todd Hearon said, speaking about the legacy he believes Chen will be leaving as he graduates, "David will be among the students here who have been truth-seekers, who have set their personal egos aside for the collective good, who have believed in our common enterprise [of student-driven learning] and have helped to advance it. That's the best legacy an Exonian could hope for, in my opinion."

Once a capella rehearsal ends, after every member has left for their dorms or late dinners, Chen walks out of the music building, spontaneously beginning to sing the music he just rehearsed through the entire walk back to Ewald. Even though the prickly grass is brushed with cold rain and the sun has already set, the dull winter sky just one gray void, he keeps singing, making his way through the quad.

Barthelemy Cont.

took of me, did I realize how odd it looked. That was funny."

Chen remarked on how Barthelemy has changed during his

time at Exeter. "He has changed a lot. And for the better. In his prep year, he was closed off a little bit. He hadn't quite discovered his

passions. But EJ has really taken Exeter's instruction into stride and matured in his critical thinking."

Next year,

Barthelemy will be attending Harvard as an undergraduate. "I can't wait to watch who EJ becomes as an adult," Baseden said.

Reflecting on how he has changed while at Exeter, he implores current and future

Exonians to seek out their own paths instead of modeling their passions upon others. "What draws people here is the possibility of becoming 'the best'. It's interesting to think about. If you're constantly worried

about where you stand over someone else, it's not sustainable," Barthelemy said. "It's about being the best version of yourself, improving yourself as much as you can, and exploring the things you genuinely want to

explore. That's how you'll find fulfillment."

"Come to this place because you could never even imagine what you might become," Barthelemy concluded.

Senior of the Year: Clark Wu



Courtesy of Andrew Piercey

By JOONYOUNG HEO '25

When the lights turn on and the giant peach rotates on its pedestal to reveal a hollow cavity, James Trotter meets a number of creatures. He sees the grandfatherly Old-Green Grasshopper first, then the mean Centipede. The sweet and protective Spider he sees next, then the giant Ladybird with black spots and a Southern accent. And finally, he sees the Earthworm — played by a boy in a loose brown shirt, baggy overalls, and hiking boots complemented by a pair of pilot goggles strapped to his head. This, standing before an enthralled audience in the Goel Center for Theater and Dance, is senior Clark Wu.

Hailing from Shanghai, China, Wu is a proctor in Webster Hall and leads several clubs on campus, including Science Olympiad and Entrepreneurship Club. In the Music Department, he sings for a few different groups, including Concert Choir, Gli Scalatori, and one of the Academy's acapella groups, the Exeteras. Previously, he ran on the track team and, of course, served as the co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Exonian* on the 144th Executive Board. As a lower, he won the Negley Prize for his work in the U.S. History sequence. He was also awarded the Harvard Book Prize last year and subsequently recognized with the Early Cum Laude distinction.

To those familiar only with Wu's reputation, then, his role as the Earthworm in the winter production of James and the Giant Peach came as a great surprise. With so many positions and achievements under his belt, it's little wonder that many Exonians share a very specific image of him: the stoic Editor-in-Chief and model student, driven purely by his academics, who doesn't know how to laugh. As it turns out, Clark Wu is just the opposite.

Before he came to Exeter, Wu attended Shanghai American School for several years, where he explored everything from the robotics team to the school choir. As he finished the ninth grade there, he decided on going to high school in the United States.

"When I decided on Exeter, I didn't know for sure that this was going to be the

school for me," Wu said. "That changed when I came back for my revisit. I actually got to know quite a few lowers who took me around because my assigned host slept through the welcome programming. I'm still quite close with many of them now. I loved going to all of their classes, and I saw how Exeter's authentic brand of Harkness cultivated a true sense of compassion. I wanted to be part of that."

"I think something that's underappreciated about Exeter is the freedom we have in choosing what we want to do," he continued. "We often pride ourselves on our hard work, but we forget how we have a spectacular staff on campus who make sure we don't have to worry about any of the behind-the-scenes work that happens at this school. Their hard work gives us the opportunity to do what we can do here. The school is also designed to give us a lot of autonomy, starting from how we choose our own classes. Our school schedule is the way it is to make sure it's easy for us to get in the classes we want, to study what we want. This principle reflects in *The Exonian* as well. Our paper can report on a lot of the work that goes on in J. Smith, and not every elite preparatory school newspaper is given that freedom."

Getting used to Exeter did not prove to be a great challenge for Wu, having built up a good deal of experience being away from home through the several summer camps in the United States he had attended previously. Nevertheless, certain aspects of life at the Academy took some time to get used to.

"Boarding school, in its first years, was a bit hard to swallow," Wu said. "The biggest challenge I faced was the cold and dreary New Hampshire weather. I wasn't used to going to class at four when it's pitch black. Once in prep winter, my friends and I got lost in the woods during track practice and I panicked thinking I might miss my afternoon formats. Running through thick snow was also generally horrible."

"But I've noticed more recently that, in my time here, I've developed a greater tolerance for cold, and also a greater appreciation for winter," he continued. "The skies here are clearest then, and I have many fond

memories of my friends and I stargazing. Beginning upper winter, my friends and I also began exchanging coats and we took it quite seriously. What struck me was the degree to which wearing the different coats made me move and interact with others differently, almost as if coats have their own personality and flair that rub off on you. I've come to love this way of sharing some warmth with people I care about."

Beside the weather, Wu quickly fell into the rhythm of the Exeter lifestyle. He has become passionate in certain subjects over the years—even some he did not enjoy from the very beginning—and has worked to further his interest in these fields.

"English, or rather the language arts in general, is another one of those things that grew on me in my time here," Wu said. "I'm thinking of poetry, in particular. When Terrance Hayes visited, I think he captured the root cause of my attachment to poetry: they are containers for my fits of transient passion. Interestingly though, when I try to visualize poetry as containers, I think of glass jars or vials. Perhaps I associate poetry with clarity and an almost scientific level of distillation, or perhaps I believe my poems are ultimately fragile and therefore unequipped to contain something as full and tense as an emotion."

"Nowadays, I see poetry more as a billowing clothesline in the wind and poems as pieces of clothing, hung to dry," he continued. "It does not contain emotions, nor does it contain someone's past. It's just a place where people come back to and wait for the sticky, murky parts of their day to fade. I'm currently working on a senior spring chapbook of poems for all my friends, and I'm hoping to publish it before I graduate. It'll be in the documentary poetics style, focusing on my relationships with all the people I love. I'm excited."

His talent for poetry has earned the recognition of his friends. "All we do is argue about poetry," senior Phil Avilov said. "That's actually how our joint senior project got started—and how I first got to know him. It was the middle of the night, and he sent me this short story about a seagull melting, and I really enjoyed it. I sent him some of

my work, and soon we were just sending stuff to each other back and forth. That was a lot of fun. Excellent poet."

"Clark might be the most talented writer I've met," upper Clara Peng said. "For Valentine's Day, for example, the poetry club did a thing where you could request poems to be written about other people, and Clark was assigned by pure chance to write mine. My friend, who had put in the request, had listed some topics the two of us had talked about, almost like a series of inside jokes. And the poem that Clark wrote was so painfully accurate to the situation. Every adjective, every line he wrote was plain true. It sounds incredibly corny, but that's how I knew—this is someone who understands me and can capture that perfectly on paper. He's just incredible."

Wu's interest in poetry also attests to his love for connecting different ideas and ways of experiencing the world. "I do complain about having to think about multivariable calculus and billiards, but these topics genuinely inspire me," he said. "Working with Dr. Davis for both terms, I found it really cool to witness her passion for the subject. Teachers here are really fascinating people; everyone has a different way of making a class unique."

Wu's instructors could all agree on his dedication to his academics and excellence in the classroom. "Clark is in my Strangers in a Strange Land class, which focuses on travel writing," English Instructor Erica Lazure said. "It was great to read about some of his travels, like an anthropology trip he took to China along the Silk Road. At the table, he's very thoughtful. He'll be a bit quiet but then he finds a way to offer a perspective that makes everyone think, 'oh, of course.' He's a natural student of Harkness."

"Any experience with Clark is an enriching experience," English Instructor Willie Perdomo said. "He's curious, generous, and wicked smart. I can still summon the isolation I felt after reading his fantastic, almost novelistic personal essay on being a young person in New York City during the lockdown. He managed to find grace and humor in solitude. And as for

the Harkness table—I think of it as the ultimate jam session, and Clark always comes to the studio prepared."

Such distinction that Wu has achieved in his classes reflects in his extracurriculars. His tenure as co-Editor-in-Chief of *The Exonian* cemented the school newspaper as his biggest commitment at the Academy. Shortly after his first encounter with the paper, when he accidentally picked up a copy during a Revisit Day for incoming students, Wu developed an extensive passion for the club.

Wu's first article assignment won him over. "I went to Portsmouth with a group of students who also attended the protest, and we even had to petition to miss classes. I found the entire experience really refreshing and hands-on. Altogether, working on the paper made me feel more informed about the school and bolstered my sense of belonging here."

The paper was appealing primarily as a means of conversation. "The biggest reason I chose to stick with *The Exonian* was probably that I loved doing interviews," Wu said. "You can sit down with someone and very honestly listen, and it feels really nice. My favorite ones are group interviews. I interviewed the musical cast two years ago, with six people on the other side of me. By then, my experience allowed me to foster a great atmosphere and they enjoyed talking about their work. It made me wonder what life might be like for a talk show host, but specifically one with less of a conversational agenda. Interviews were really what made the paper fun."

During his tenure as co-Editor-in-Chief, Wu worked to develop a better schedule for the graduation issue published every June and lessen the workload for writers by adopting a biweekly publishing cycle. These and other changes largely reflected his vision for the paper.

"I never wanted *The Exonian* to be something stressful," Wu said. "The Phillipian, as I know it, still keeps some writers in the newsroom until 1 a.m. I never wanted that to be us. The biweekly schedule, in my opinion, was a great move on our front. It helped make workflow a lot less stressful for editors, especially."

Others working under *The Exonian* appreciate all that Wu has left behind through his leadership and commitment to the publication. "He's a great leader," senior and fellow co-Editor-in-Chief Safira Schiowitz said. "He knows how to command people's attention, and that's admirable. It's something I've gotten to observe frequently, since the co-editorship meant that we had to work very closely with each other. I know he's done a lot, especially to introduce new writers to the paper and make them feel comfortable."

"He's done a wonderful job as co-Editor-in-Chief with Safira," Lazure, who also serves as a faculty advisor to *The Exonian*, said. "He's very collaborative in nature, very careful with his approach to stories. He exercises strong judgment and is always sensitive to as many sides of a story he can find. I think those traits have done him well, even beyond his role at the paper."

Peer contributors to the paper have recognized Wu's commitment. "I started writing for the paper my prep year," senior Tucker Gibbs said. "He was the one I wanted to be paired up with for an article because he'd always get everything done. He's an excellent interviewer and an excellent writer. In a word, competence. You definitely need that to be a successful Editor-in-Chief, which he did

really well."

"Clark is someone who's very non-confrontational," senior Angela Zhang said. "That worked out for him, because he's someone who doesn't need to be confrontational to get things done. People just respect him the moment he starts talking, and you know he's serious about his work. That made him great at handling conflicts. He was also very honest with himself in what he did. He always strived to do better next time."

"Everything he does, he does to the best of his ability," senior Nat Kpodonu said. "I've worked with him before, and he's really intent on passing the torch down to the younger students and making sure they can do it just as well as him."

Following the 143rd Executive Board, Wu's tenure was less than conventional. What he calls "an experiment of co-Editor-in-Chiefs" has not been seen in *The Exonian's* masthead for nearly two decades. Nonetheless, he was never deterred by the circumstances.

"It wasn't a typical year," Lazure said. "But Clark and Safira did a great job. Having a board so invested in the well-being of future boards and the chemistry between them was so critical in making sure the paper remains vibrant. The paper's been running for 145 years, and it was exciting to see Clark wanting to continue that tradition and help the next generation of writers and editors."

"*The Exonian* can certainly be stressful at times," Lazure continued. "But I think he was able to find a balance in navigating those challenges as a decision-maker for the newspaper. Being in charge of the club is a bit like running a business that you don't get paid for, and it can be really difficult in ways you don't expect. Clark did it marvelously."

Aside from *The Exonian*, Wu spends much of his time in Powell Hall, a rehearsal space in the Forrester-Bowld Music Center. There he sings as an integral member of Concert Choir and two smaller groups—Gli Scalatori and the Exeteras. The community of vocalists he has created carries a great deal of significance.

"When you sing in a chorus, your heartbeat literally syncs up with the people around you," Wu said. "Mr. Johnson, our choir conductor, often says that when you sing with other people, you get to know them in a way that's impossible to do in any other context. You get to know how they breathe, for example, and how their mood may connect to their way of making sound. It's a very intimate way of learning how someone functions."

Wu has found his footing as a vocalist over the past few years. "I'm someone who mirrors a lot, so I think I'm more suited to ensemble singing," he said. "My voice is never the one that really pops out, but I'm able to adapt the tonal quality of my voice to match the other singers. It feels good to celebrate others while contributing to it, if that makes sense."

To an outsider, then, Wu's time at the Academy will be easy to remember. They need only to flip through his transcripts or scroll down the Wikipedia page of *The Exonian*, marveling at his impressive academic record or his name listed as an "Editor-in-Chief," to build a picture of Clark Wu, the model Exonian. They wouldn't be wrong. But there is yet another side to Wu, left untold by facts and figures and lists of accolades.

"He cares. He will always care," senior Arhon Strauss said. "And that's his legacy. Sure, he was Editor-in-Chief of *The Exonian*, and so on and so forth, but I think he'll be remembered as someone

Senior of the Year: Minseo Kim



Owen Dudley / The Exonian

By ELLEN JIN '26

If you ever go to D Squared Java, a coffee shop in town, you will most likely see senior Minseo Kim there with her friends, sipping her London Fog, listening to K-pop and working on her latest coding project or admiring a *strophotography*. Around campus, Kim can also be found viewing the art exhibits in Lamont Gallery, relaxing in the New Hall common room, practicing her violin in the music building, or sitting in Grill with her friends.

Kim is a four-year senior, born in Seongnam, Korea, spent much of her childhood growing up on the west coast in Seattle, Washington, as well as Cupertino, California. “Especially growing up in California, I was near Silicon Valley. My dad also really likes coding, and worked

Wu Cont.

who was good as a person, an individual.”

Wu’s character stems largely from his personal philosophy. “When I got here four years ago, the seniors and uppers in my dorm were really willing to help out any way they could,” he said. “A few uppers just swung by to say hello and answer any questions about teachers and schedules. I was also close with Jack Liu ’20, the proctor on my floor. Their goodness and willingness to put down what they were troubled with or working on for me was what inspired me to try and be good whenever possible—and it’s almost always possible.”

“I think the goodness we talk about here at Exeter is an elusive ideal,” Wu continued. “Sometimes I worry that I’m too idealistic and even arrogant when I think that I can find some resolution that is good for everyone. I also worry that I’m being naïve when I choose to make good decisions or decisions that adhere to my principles and values but at great cost to myself. I worry that others take advantage of my trying to be kind. But Harry Gorman ’22’s senior reflection helped me think through some of those worries. He wrote: ‘Why not like someone? What’s the harm? We can choose how to interpret other people, and we can choose the kindest option.’ Exactly. We can choose the kindest option. For others and ourselves. It’s choosing to believe in the goodness of others that we can allow ourselves to be good, no? Even if others may say we are weak and feeble.”

And it certainly seems that Wu has succeeded, leaving an impression on all those around him. “Through all his work and his time as Editor-in-Chief, Clark maintained his dedication to his friends,” Peng said. “He never seemed to put any of his stress or negative energy onto other people. He was always able to discuss it healthily or take time for himself. I don’t think he’s ever lashed out at someone with everything going on, and that’s really, really special.”

Wu’s readiness to help is a common theme that his friends appreciate. “He’s genuinely one of the most caring people I know,” senior Maya Cohen said. “I’ve gone to him about so many things, and I’ve seen other people who barely know him go to him about so many things. He always sets aside the time to listen

and do his best to problem-solve. That’s really beautiful, and it’s so rare that a senior who’s been here four years still has the energy and still puts in the effort to help anyone who needs it.”

“He really cares about the people around him,” senior David Chen said. “He’s always willing to put himself in less-than-ideal situations if it means helping someone out—even if that means staying up until 2 a.m. to talk and not doing his homework. That’s Clark.”

“He’s a very compassionate guy,” senior Joy Chi said. “He’s very good in social settings, especially about noticing when someone’s feeling out of it and checking in. He knows how to read people. If he thinks a friend isn’t feeling too well, he’ll be the first to follow up with them and ask if they’re okay. That’s a wonderful thing, and it speaks to how good a friend he is.”

Others commented on his special kind of sociability. “He’s a really fascinating person to talk to,” alumnus Toby Chan ’22 said. “Last summer, he was living in Connecticut and became my neighbor for a while. It was such a pleasant surprise because we got to go on walks and just talk. He’s someone who thinks and feels deeply—and I’m incredibly glad to have shared many conversations with him.”

“He’s a great person to sit around and do nothing with,” senior Monty Dickerson said. “That probably makes up most of my favorite memories with him. We’d just sit together during senior grill, or in the newsroom. And he’s very deliberate in our conversations. He brings a certain care and consideration to even his day-to-day interactions that I’ve rarely seen.”

“There are times when the mood is more serious, but what he says is always really helpful and makes a lot of sense,” Kpodonu said. “It’s practical advice, and it probably comes from him having had so many leadership roles and having to deal with many different types of people. So it’s very helpful to have someone like him around, especially when you need a friend to lean on.”

Others commented similarly on the depth of their personal conversations. “Last year, he randomly stopped by the WPEA station and we ended up having this super deep talk about the future,” senior Ina Mason

said. “We talked about his interest in journalism and not needing to devote yourself to just one thing. It was a really powerful conversation. He said he learned a lot from it, and I definitely did as well.”

“Clark is really good at putting down that sense of pride and dignity and not being afraid to let his guard down,” Zhang said. “Just a few days ago, I was telling him that I was frustrated with myself because I felt like my ego was holding me back and that I’m really afraid of humiliation. And he told me youth is supposed to be humiliating, and if you’re going to be humiliated, there’s no better time to do it than now. I think this shamelessness really captures who he is.”

And, even besides his academic record—his tenure in *The Exonian*—his compassion and devotion to his friends—there is still another side to Wu. It is a side that may seem, to some, contrary to his reputation, yet it is a side as integral to his character as the rest.

“Many people assume, looking at him, his extracurriculars list, his GPA, that Clark Wu is this serious nerd who doesn’t laugh,” senior Enzo Nakornsri said. “The truth is, he laughs. He laughs a lot. And I suppose it’s understandable that many Exonians don’t know that. I was pretty intimidated when I first met him because he seemed almost cold and distant. But once you get to know him, once you get through that hard outer layer, the batman facade, he’s anything but. He’s the Clark Knight.”

“He can obviously be a very serious guy,” Schiowitz said. “Even with his friends, he knows how to have a serious conversation when you need advice or when he’s getting deep into a topic he’s passionate about. But he’s also quite goofy once you get to know him, and that’s a side of him I really like.”

Much of this is easily seen in Wu’s comedic spontaneity. “He has all these little quirks I love about him, like his signature distinguished laugh,” Chen said. “He also gets scared very easily, whether it be from loud noises or from you coming up behind him when he’s not expecting it, and when he does get scared, he screams extremely loud. It’s really funny. He also gives you this wide-eyed look, and you’ll do it back at him, and it’s like a staring contest.”

“He has the nose of a bloodhound,” Chi said. “Monty and Clark were sitting together in the library, and she had no idea I was coming, but then Clark

suddenly said he could smell me. And that’s more than a little insane, and hilarious at the same time.”

Wu has cultivated a special interest in birds. “In Puerto Rico, we were at this coffee farm and there was a peacock making very strange noises,” Zhang said. “Clark was very unabashed in imitating those noises. There was no shame in it at all. He dove into imitating that peacock headfirst.”

Wu may also be a bird. “Clark has a wingspan,” Dickerson said. “Of course, having a wingspan doesn’t make you a bird, but he makes great bird sounds. So he has a wingspan and is also a bird.”

His friends recounted several other memories. “A couple of weeks ago, we spent a dinner designing fake campaign posters for him,” Mason said. “There are three kinds around campus. One is a fake Uncle Sam poster, one’s just a deep-fried meme poster, and one is the Obama election poster. Then, on Monday, I got Clark to wake up at seven in the morning and put up 45 copies of the posters around campus. That was really fun.”

“There was one night before E/a and we were determined to be the first at the bonfire,” Avilov said. “So we ran out into the rain with a half-empty pizza box, because we were planning to distribute it by on-site demand. We stood there in the rain for a while, holding the pizza box together, and then realized the bonfire wasn’t going to happen.”

“Our friend group was watching an episode of *Too Hot to Handle in the Forum*,” Gibbs said. “Because Netflix doesn’t allow you to project their stuff, Clark went on some Chinese website for pirated films and found a season with Chinese subtitles that you couldn’t hide. It had English audio, but Clark turned it off and just translated the subtitles. It was really, really funny because the dialogue in that show is crazy. At one point we questioned his translation, and he played the actual audio to prove it.”

Even in his sense of humor, Wu’s dedication and hard work frequently carry over. “Clark and I went to Bancroft Tea together last spring,” Cohen said. “The theme was bees—don’t ask me why. Before the event, Clark found a big box and painted stripes on it and showed up dressed as a giant bee. It was hilarious, one of those moments where he doesn’t take himself too seriously. But he also put in so much effort. He found that box and painted it in a day. He went the extra mile.

That says a lot about him.”

Wu’s role as the Earthworm in *James and the Giant Peach* allowed him to channel this side of himself—a stand-out burst of creative expression under the spotlight that few in the audience might have expected from him.

“It’s his first term doing theater,” Chi said. “I think it’s something that means a lot to him. He wants to bring his own to the role, and he did it very well. I really did enjoy watching him perform on stage.”

“Working with him on the play has been great,” Peng said. “I got to see a new side of him. I knew he sang for the Exeteras, but I didn’t know he knew how to act. I remember seeing him at the audition and being confused. The rest is history, of course. Clark was incredible in the final performance. In my mother’s words, the Earthworm stole the show. Everyone I’ve talked to since has said, ‘I didn’t know Clark could sing,’ or, ‘I didn’t know Clark could act.’”

“And I’m glad people are getting to know him this way,” Peng continued. “When you’re in a position of a lot of authority and honor like Clark, it can be hard for everyone around you to see you in any other setting. It’s hard to unleash your inner Earthworm in history class. He has a lot of fun quirks and he’s naturally humorous, almost playful. That’s who he is, and he never had the chance to show it to people. So I think it was great for the Exeter community to see him in a light where he’s still equally dedicated to something, but he’s playing a different part, literally and figuratively.”

Here again, Wu’s sense of commitment and hard work carried over to his preparation for the play. “He’s the only person who just knew his lines, never had a problem with them,” Cohen said. “He also leaned in so much. Even if it was silly or embarrassing, he was always willing to do what was best for the show. He actually became the Earthworm, and that’s incredible for someone without any acting experience.”

In a sense, Wu’s performance is indicative of his growth at Exeter as well. Over the course of four years, he has perhaps seen the most growth in his sense of confidence and his willingness to open up to his friends.

“Everyone changes when they come to Exeter in one way or another,” Nakornsri said. “For Clark, that meant becoming more comfortable with people around him, and

he’s done it to perfection. He was a great guy when I met him. He’s an even greater guy now.”

“Clark was very closed off as a prep and a lower,” Strauss said. “I didn’t get to see much of what he really thought, but he became more willing to share with others and talk about himself—goals, ambitions, his past, that kind of stuff. He’s largely emerged from an introvert and reshaped that role to become a strong leader on campus, someone willing to talk.”

Wu himself is well aware of how he has grown. “There was an incident in my prep year that I was reminded of recently,” Wu said. “For my prep fall choral concert, I was singing for the Concert Choir when I felt really sick on stage. All I could see was a dark purple haze. I froze on the risers. The sweat came flooding down my back, and for 25 minutes I just mouthed the words. I needed to run to the health center right after we ended. When I got back to my dorm, I wrote a letter to myself to put in my time capsule. I told myself that my resolution to not pass out or run out of the concert means that I can get through this school no matter what.”

“I think I’ve lived up to that in my time here,” Wu continued. “Exeter is not easy. It’s about getting through some really tough nights, learning to live with and to negotiate with your ego, learning to let go and live like an actual teenager and do teenager things. Fall in love. Fall to your knees when something goes wrong. Make mistakes. Be stupid. And we deserve to be happy here. You have the time to choose yourself and to choose the brilliant youth you deserve, and don’t let anyone tell you otherwise.”

The lights dim on the crowded streets of New York City, casting the giant peach in darkness, as the closing number fades away. The theater erupts in cheers and whistles and fervent applause. By the time the lights shine again, the entire cast is arranged in a line across the stage. The audience grows louder.

When their turn comes, the creatures step from the line and into the spotlight. There stand the Old-Green Grasshopper, the Centipede, the Spider, and the Ladybird. Sandwiched between them is the Earthworm, his pilot goggles hanging from his neck, a large smile on his face. They take a bow.

Kim Cont.

there. I think that's where I really developed a lot of interest in technology and innovation in general." As she entered middle school, her family moved back to Korea and she attended an international school there.

Kim said that her application to Exeter wasn't planned at all. "My decision to come to Exeter was very last minute. My dad just mentioned to me, 'Do you want to try boarding school?'" and I looked into Exeter more after that. Since I was interested in comp sci I said 'Sure' and we started preparing in January just a few weeks before the deadline." Kim was very happy with her decision to apply and would not change anything about it. "I would never make a different decision; I've never regretted coming to Exeter."

As a new prep, Kim had to adjust not only to living in a new country, but also to the dorm life. "I remember coming in and I was like, there's a lot of trees, and not many apartments. In Korea, there's a lot of high rise skyscrapers and apartments." Kim was placed into Merrill Hall and described her thoughts as she first came in: "My first impression when I went in was 'Oh, there's a musty smell coming from the walls,' but over the years it's become such a home. Forever love Merrill even though I'm in New Hall now."

"I was in an emergency double so it was a single-sized dorm room, but I was with one of my best friends now, MC." Senior Mary-Candler Schantz reflected on that experience as well. "There were two beds, desks and everything. There was one two-foot corridor between them. We were trying to move everything around, [and] it was really funny."

Kim and Schantz have grown their friendship since prep year. Schantz said, "We were actually closer when we weren't roommates than when we were. I think it was just a product of when you're forced to be together it's awkward, but when you're not forced to be together, you actually hang out with each other."

Kim described the dorm community and the upperclassmen that helped her adjust. "I just remember all the seniors were really iconic. They were really inspiring to me while I was trying to find my footing; a lot of it was adjusting to time management." She tries to match that energy now as a dorm proctor and give back to lowerclassmen the same way upperclassmen previously did to her. "Now into senior year, it was going onto the flip side, thinking about those seniors I met in prep year, and kind of taking the role as a dorm proctor."

Kim always wants to help out her dormmates as

much as she can. "It's just really fun to, whenever people have questions they want to ask or even math or comp sci problems they don't understand, I just love inviting them to my room and solving it out together and talking, it's [a] very full circle moment," she said.

Friend and senior Brooke Ottaway commented, "I see her working in the common room a lot. I think one, it allows her to get work done, but two, it opens her up. So if people need help, they can ask questions."

As an international student, Kim's experience of the pandemic and going into online school was unique. "It was definitely really tough. Especially since I was in Korea the whole time. So the time zone difference was classes in the evening." However, she describes how this made it seem like there was more time in the day to pursue her passions "During that time, I had a lot more time to write articles for The Exonian and interview people. Since the U.S. phone numbers don't really work from Korea, I got an international phone and dialed a forensic scientist to talk with him and a few others."

COVID-19 also saw the start of one of Kim's biggest projects called Dream Catcher, combining her love for technology, biology, and psychology. "It was looking into helping people sleep better, which was especially hard during COVID. A lot of it was researching stress, and sleep deprivation, why people face insomnia, what that problem is. And I think stress is also a big study that people do in psychology." She described how it all came together with the tech aspect as well. "It was an app connected to a forehead sensor, which again, another sensor which measures your electrocardiogram (ECG), and AI is involved in it too. It's a long explanation."

Kim's love of biology was able to flourish even further with a class that she took, BIO999: Malaria Research. "Not only did I learn more about doing genetics research and labs, or conduct PCR, DNA extraction, but also to observe a disease like malaria from the lens of not only science, but through social economics, history, and culture. It just really opened my mind to how interconnected everything is with science." Senior and friend Angie Wah said that Kim's experience in this class will be passed onto future generations of Exonians: "The 999 class about malaria she pioneered will be enjoyed by future Exonians."

Even after taking on such huge projects, her friends say that Kim stays humble through it all. Senior Sheala Iacobucci

said, "You don't really realize how hard she's working and how talented she really is because she doesn't make it known." Iacobucci commented on a certain memory about Dream Catcher. "There was an article about Minseo in the Exeter Bulletin and I was sitting with her, and I was reading it, and it was talking about this computer, she designed this program to track sleep, it was just something insane, and she was just sitting right there. It was something I would never know about her."

Iacobucci and Kim first met through The Exonian, where Kim was able to pursue art and writing interests. Being involved in The Exonian, one of the first articles she ever wrote was about the Lamont Art Gallery: "One of my first article missions was to go to the Lamont gallery and explore the art there. I really loved art, so that article kind of stood out to me. I went there and had a notepad of questions and my phone to record and was asking people." The Lamont Gallery would later become one of her favorite spots on campus "I love going there because I love looking at art and multimedia. So whenever they have a new exhibition I'm almost always at their opening reception event."

One of Kim's favorite articles she wrote was about the need for more BIPOC literature in the English curriculum. "There was an article I wrote called Show and Tell: Going Beyond Whiteness in Literature, talking about how minority experiences are expressed through literature. And how sometimes labels are kind of forced upon, or certain stories or stereotypes are forced upon those pupils."

She goes on to mention that her advisor, Instructor in English Elizabeth Dean, told her it was being discussed in the department. "A few days after it got published, I learned from her that the English Department had talked about it in their meetings, it was really cool. And also quite surprising in the sense that it's like 'Wow, something I wrote actually touched some people's minds.' They said they would try to make more initiatives that would diversify the curriculum, which is really wonderful."

Dean commented on Kim's impressive skill with writing "I was lucky to be her teacher in her prep year when she was already writing well beyond the narrative. Her piece mashed up her experiences in Seoul and Cupertino and read like something an upper or senior might do. She's that good, that inventive when it comes to the subject."

In her artistic endeavors, Kim is an enjoyer of photography. History Instructor and New Hall dorm faculty, Khalid Madhi, commented on one of Kim's projects, saying "I had the honor of seeing her amazing summer photography

project in the streets of Seoul with colorful roofs and animal figures on top of Gyeongbokgung Palace." Kim was also able to take her passion for photography to The Exonian. "The impact through the paper was really nice, also enjoying the whole process of writing and taking photos."

Kim's role in The Exonian evolved over time and eventually she became The Exonian's Director of Visuals. Madhi commented on Kim's involvement in The Exonian. "Minseo's experience as an active member of The Exonian editorial team is evidence of her outstanding leadership skills and admirable work ethic."

Kim commented on what her role entailed "A lot of my role became writing articles, and then also trying out new ideas. A lot of that came on the visual landscape." Kim described how her role name shifted a few times. "At the end, it became Chief Technology Officer, it kind of switched around. But the reason for that is because when our board was just thinking of the titles we felt like that name encompassed both the visual as well as technological aspects."

As Kim immersed in the Exeter community, student council was another way she found to do that. "I've also done StuCo for a while. I've been a class rep since lower year and kept doing it because I felt like it was a really nice place to help out my classmates, and make a lot of fun things happen on campus."

Wah says that she first met Kim through her lower rep campaign. "She was very welcoming over text and answered any messages I had about her campaign platform. I thought she was a really nice and welcoming person and in the end even voted for her," Wah said.

As her role progressed from lower to upper to senior representative, it allowed her to represent her class in a way that meant a lot. "There's a lot of speeches and events to run. But I felt like it was really meaningful because last fall, we had a senior alum dinner. I thought that it was just so cool seeing people who almost look like our future selves or future possibilities."

Kim gave a speech at that particular dinner: "When writing that speech, I was thinking a lot about not only appreciating everyone that came to the dinner, but also just adding a lot of humor to get people to laugh and have fun." Wah commented on Kim's dedication to StuCo: "She's very passionate about the student body and leaving Exeter better than when she came. She will fight for what the student body wants."

Along with art, Kim also described her passion for music and playing violin in Exeter's Chamber and Symphony Orchestras.

"I've been in the orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Symphony for the past four years. In Chamber, I learned a lot about really connecting with other people." Wah described the experience of watching Kim play. "Seeing her

play is truly amazing. You can see the concentration in her brows; they're quite expressive," Wah said.

Kim described how the recent Music Department trip to Puerto Rico was a great memory for her: "I could really feel that they [the people of Puerto Rico] were making music from the soles of their feet to above their head and beyond. I almost cried with them. For one of the pieces, the conductor stepped off, and we just played by ourselves. It was a lot about looking at each other and not looking at each every single little note and copying that but more of like seeing 'how can I make a story out of this?'"

Juggling all of these activities and vast interests was definitely a challenge. When asked what she knew before she came to Exeter, Kim said, "Something I wish I knew is workload balance and you can't do everything you want to do. Especially for someone like myself because I have a lot of interests. I learned the hard way that I can't overload myself and my body and my brain." Her friends commented on her work ethic and her ability to balance everything. Schantz said, "I think she's really figured out over time how to balance things and keep everything in line." Ottaway also said, "She's very accountable and responsible for what she does. She doesn't overbear herself to the point where she spreads herself too thin. I think she's expressed herself enough to the point where she's really doing impactful things."

Wah talked about the diversity of Kim's interests. "I wish people knew how diverse her interests are. Not only does she draw but also does photography. She enjoys economics, but also is very interested in researching malaria. She's an amazing representative, but a formidable video game player," she said.

Many of Kim's friends lightheartedly commented on her skill and interest in a certain game she plays in her freetime, Genshin Impact. Wah said, "She is passionate about Genshin Impact and the lore and character building behind the world. After a few days she has already risen to adventure rank 16, which is amazing."

Schantz said something similar. "She has just gotten into Genshin, and she keeps telling me about it."

Ottaway said "She is really really good at this game. She is astronomically good. She plays this game all the time."

As a way to get work done while enjoying some caffeine, local coffee shop D Squared Java is one of Kim's favorite spots in town. "We go to D Squared like every day," she said. "Maybe not that much, but a ridiculous amount. She's definitely gotten me addicted to it but it's great." Many other of Kim's friends talked about her love for D Squared and their frequent trips there. Wah said "I love going to D Squared with Minseo. We do this on the regular, but each trip is always different. We talk about differing subjects, from developments in AI to her newest drawing, and each conversation is as engaging as the last."

Her friends and teachers also described Kim as always having a positive mindset and outlook on everything. Dean described the joy that Kim brings wherever

she goes: "You know that cartoon rain cloud that follows characters around on a bad day? Reverse that, and you've got Minseo. She carries around a lot of sunshine, and her vibe is as calm as it is carefree even though she's lighting it all up all the time."

Iacobucci agreed, saying, "She's always someone who tries to maintain a good attitude, she always tries to find the positive in everything. I think that's really special, especially here."

Schantz shared her thoughts. "She has more positive views on things which is nice to be around and it definitely makes me want to be more like that."

Kim even commented on her mindset: "My friends often told me and I think so myself, but I'm a pretty positive thinker. Even if doing some things are hard, like reading a passage for homework, there's always interesting things that I can take out of that."

Ottaway talked about the impact that Kim leaves on people. "I think she's made a really positive impact on the people she's met. I think that warmth will stay with people, they'll take a piece of it and keep it with them," she said.

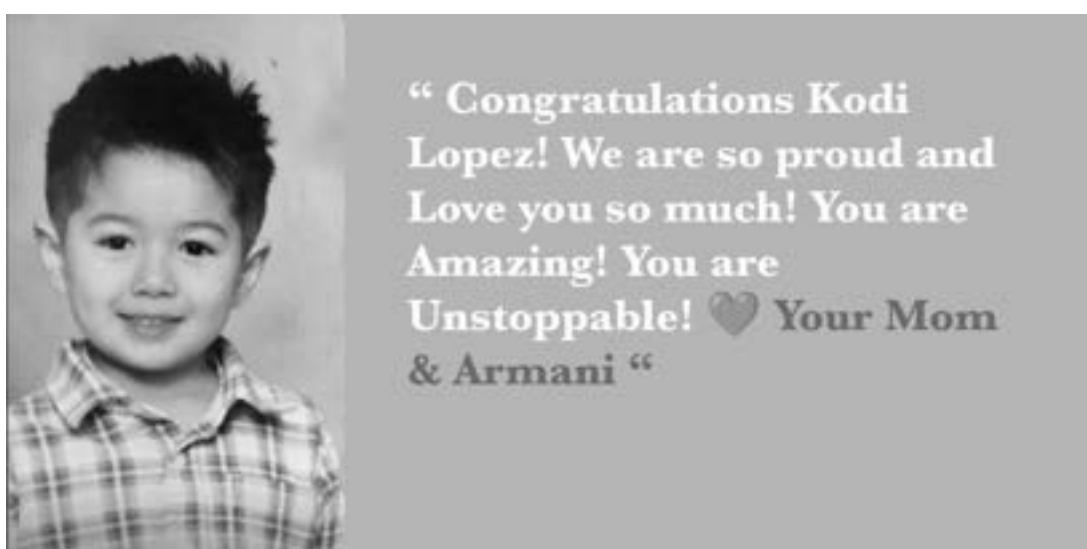
Even as Kim leaves Exeter and starts on her new journey, her teachers are confident that she will thrive wherever. Madhi said, "Her future, both in college and beyond, looks promising as she will undoubtedly continue to be a valuable and contributing member of her new college community, just as she has been to ours. I am confident that her college professors, mentors, and advisors will appreciate and acknowledge her unwavering dedication."

Dean said she hopes to bump into Kim in the future. "I hope I see Minseo next year or in two or three years at E/a. Maybe even by accident — in a city, in an airport, in a place called the Midwest — and when I do, I hope she'll understand if I run or wave or jump up and down with excitement. She's such a big heart. Such a big mind. And it's easy to feel that when you're with her!"

Kim is a valuable member of the Exeter community in many ways. She's a student, a proctor, a friend, a mentor, someone to look up to. Anyone who knows her can attest to her kindness as well as drive to work hard and not being afraid to explore anything. Madhi commented, "Minseo exhibits many admirable qualities as an ambitious and diligent student, a thoughtful dormmate, a talented artist, and an aspiring journalist."

Kim's friends commented on the impact she has had on the community. Ottaway responded, "I really admire her as a person. I think she's one of the hardest working people I know. But yet she's one of the kindest people I know, as well." Wah agreed "She's always available to listen. She has influenced me to be unapologetically myself, expressing my style, interests and passions without regret."

Iacobucci shared that she knows Kim will have a lasting impact on people. "I think people will remember her attitude and how easy she was to talk to and I think people will be talking about her for a while," she concluded.



Senior of the Year: Tucker Gibbs



Hillary Yoon / *The Exonian*

By LUCY JUNG '25

If someone walked into Ewald Dormitory, they might see him on proctor duty. If they walked into the Elizabeth Phillips Academy Center (EPAC), they might see him presenting his new constitution to the Student Council in the Forum. They might see him giving his testimony as a witness during Mock Trial competitions. They might see him in the tech booth in the Goel Center for Theatre and Dance, ensuring that James in the Giant Peach runs smoothly. But above all, they would see a remarkably capable yet modest individual, always willing to help or listen to anyone: senior Tucker Capability Gibbs.

T. Gibbs' journey prior to Exeter was packed with multiple destinations. "I was born in London and lived there for the first seven years of my life. I am a British citizen and I went to a British school in London. Our family then moved to Johannesburg, South Africa for two years and I went to another British school there. We then moved to Dubai for three years, then to Providence, which is where I live now," T. Gibbs said.

T. Gibbs shared his motive for applying to Exeter. "The spring of my seventh-grade year, I wanted to settle down. I thought, 'I want to stay at a school and have a somewhat normal high school experience,'" he said. T. Gibbs' parents first got him to research boarding schools, which led to his first encounter with Exeter. "I started looking at the Courses of Instruction and I was fascinated. All the classes I am taking right now are ones I wanted to take in eighth grade when I applied. The courses and opportunities that weren't available at my middle school were the two things that really got me hooked on Exeter."

T. Gibbs took advantage of Exeter's opportunities and is leaving with a successful legacy. Of his many club involvements, T. Gibbs has developed a special and unforeseen bond with Mock Trial, a club he is now on the board of. "One of the things that's actually surprising is that I tried out for Mock Trial. I didn't think I was going to do that, but it worked out," T.

Gibbs said.

Fellow Mock Trial teammate and senior Arhon Strauss echoed T. Gibbs' sentiments. "I've known Tucker since prep year when we started doing Mock Trial together on the C team. We both had an upperclassman friend drag us in and ended up having a lot of fun. Though we were the worst team, being there with Tucker was a great time," Strauss said.

T. Gibbs values teamwork, particularly in Mock Trial. "I don't play any team sports, but Mock Trial carries that team aspect. Everyone needs to come together and give their all to be successful, which is what I've really loved about Mock. We've become like a family. I've gained so many of my close friends through that club. It's a really special club in that way because you just spend an inordinate amount of time together, whether it's dinners every other night or meetings, then you go to the competition together and you win or you lose, but it happens together and it's a sum of all the team facets," T. Gibbs said.

Many involved with the Mock Trial team appreciated T. Gibbs' amiable personality and strong leadership.

"Mock Trial was new to me last year and though [Tucker had] been on the team for much longer, he was one of the people who immediately made me feel welcome to the club," teammate and senior Priya Nwakanma said.

"I remember in my lower year, our Mock Trial team would be on Zoom until really late at night, so all of us were tired, and wished to go to sleep. But Tucker was always attentive and kept us energized and motivated," teammate and upper Jenna Wang noted. "It's always a fun time being on a team with Tucker. He's definitely a big part of the Mock Trial community and brings us together. Before trials, he'll make a slideshow with some funny pictures of team members to relax us and get us excited."

Teammate and senior Angela Zhang added, "Tucker has been great at handling logistics for [Mock Trial], and he jokes that he's become besties with Ms. Goldknopf in the process."

In addition to Mock Trial, T. Gibbs has also been

heavily involved with Model United Nations (MUN) and is secretary-general for the club this year. "I'm really interested in International Relations, and I think that probably stems from living abroad. I got into MUN near the end of my prep year and started going to conferences. It's been great ever since. I love doing crisis committees — causing chaos or helping solve it is always a lot of fun, especially when you can do it with your friends," T. Gibbs said.

Not only did T. Gibbs assume multiple delegations for different conferences, but he also organized Exeter's in-house MUN conference, known as Phillips Exeter Academy Model United Nations (PEAMUN), at the beginning of this school year. "Tucker made significant contributions to running and facilitating PEAMUN, which was incredible. He brought together so many different schools to form a conference, for which he organized committees, planned lunch, etcetera," lower Phin Gibbs, T. Gibbs' younger brother, said.

"I think Tucker's also made significant contributions to improve the well-being and unity of the club. He's worked really hard to drive the club toward the idea that we aren't necessarily competing against each other for awards, but we're competing with each other," P. Gibbs continued.

MUN coach and senior Cindy Su noted T. Gibbs' successful performance at the Harvard Model United Nations conference this past winter. "Tucker went as a delegate in a crisis committee (his strong suit), representing Mikhail Gorbachev," Su said. "It was so fun to see his plans unfold, from establishing the sovereign nation of Gorbachevia, trying to become the president of the United States with a fake U.S. birth certificate, and eventually being killed by the committee," Su continued. "He left the committee room after laying on the floor 'dead' for an extended period of time. Shortly thereafter, he came back as Mrs. Gorbachev, his late wife, with a beautiful headwrap."

T. Gibbs' passion to give back to the community does not stop with these clubs; he also served as the Student Council Election Committee

co-head for the past two years. "I started doing the Elections Committee my lower year, just sort of going to meetings and counting signatures," he said. "We count signatures every time there's an election, and there are 3,500 signatures at least to count for major elections. [All committee members] go into a room, we order pizza, break the library rules about having food in the library, and my other co-head gets the speaker to play his bad collection of 2012 Pop and Hamilton. It's a really eccentric group of people who show up for around two hours to count signatures."

Despite his passion and enjoyment for the Elections Committee, however, T. Gibbs also addressed the downs that working for Elections entailed. "The last presidential election was tough. So we had to work through that with the last executive board, figuring out what to do in a way that balanced all of the stakeholders and the seriousness of the situation."

P. Gibbs added, "There's definitely been a flurry of challenging times for Tucker and his participation in Elections [Committee]. An example is during the presidential election last year. Tucker was in the room with the advisors in the administration almost every single day of that week. He's really committed himself to make sure that elections are safe, making sure that the students' voices are really heard."

In addition to his devotion to ensuring elections run smoothly, T. Gibbs also rewrote the Student Council Constitution and became the first to pass an overhaul since 1988. T. Gibbs shared his motive, saying, "My lower year, I was talking with Charlie Holtz about how the Student Council doesn't function well. And so I started writing a constitution in February of my lower year to change some of those aspects." He also elaborated on the changes he made. "[The constitution has] gone through a couple of different iterations, but it originally was a direct democracy. We were going to eliminate all the representatives and make it so that all students who wanted to show up could vote. That

evolved over time, and two years later we ended up passing a much more toned-down version, though it still contains important changes. We changed how the election committee works and it has more political protection now. We also made the legislature more efficient and clearly defined the roles of everyone in the Student Council a bit better. Now, we have more transparency, more accountability, and more clarity, which I hope will serve us well in the future," T. Gibbs said.

T. Gibbs' peers and teachers applauded the efforts that he put into the constitution reform. Senior Montana Dickerson described, "For the past three years, Tucker has worked tirelessly to turn student dissatisfaction with student government into tangible change in the form of the revised StuCo Constitution. Throughout the project, Tucker has truly demonstrated his determination and genuine care for Exeter and the members of this community."

Fellow Ewaldian and upper Michael Nardone said, "I don't know anyone else who knows the Exeter E-Book and the Student Council Constitution better than him."

Instructor in Spanish and Ewald dorm faculty Diego Ardura agreed. "Tucker knows every single line of the E-Book."

"He spent all his years trying to get [the edited constitution] ready. I think the final version was something like 40 pages, but he knew all of it like the back of his hand.

The new constitution is truly going to be Tucker's mark on Exeter," Strauss added.

Former Student Council President and senior Ale Murat remarked on how she knows she can always count on T. Gibbs to lead a project for Student Council. "He will always go above and beyond for something that he cares about," Murat said. "Specifically, when he drafted the new Student Council Constitution, he worked alongside three executive boards and it finally passed this year. It goes to show how patient and dedicated he is to his work."

The same diligence permeates T. Gibbs' involvement with theater. "I started doing [stage management] in middle school because I really like all the buttons, lights, and sound. The new theater at Exeter seemed like a perfect opportunity, and I've done theater almost every term since. I've worked on 15 shows total, I think 13 at Exeter. I started as an assistant stage manager and continued doing some tech crew. I've been a soundboard operator, follow-spot operator, and ultimately, stage manager. I have stage managed five shows, where I coordinate all the technical elements into the grand vision of the faculty and cast."

Some of T. Gibbs' responsibilities as stage manager include ensuring the cast shows up on time, keeping the crew on schedule, and during tech week coordinating all the technical aspects that run the show. T. Gibbs also spoke on what he views as the beauty of theater. "We've got 28 cast members, five different adult designers, and a crew of like seven to 10 people all helping figure out how the show works. And when that all comes together perfectly, that's amazing to watch," T. Gibbs said.

Upper Clara Peng shared how she first met T. Gibbs in the theater and his influence on her theater career. "Tucker was stage manager for *She Kills Monsters*, and he has really shaped my experience with the Drama Department ever since. [Theater crew] would go on walks as a thirty or so person group, and I ended up walking with Tucker and

Amelia Tardy most days."

"I thought he was intimidating at first," Peng continued, "but he's quite the opposite. He's full of warmth and so incredibly friendly. Tucker has stage managed almost every show I've been in the tech crew for, and I can definitively say that he is the best stage manager you could ask for. He is professional but fun, you can rely on him for anything, and he's incredibly consistent."

Peng also shared her favorite memory, once again in the theater, with T. Gibbs. "Last year in the Spring during the Alice in Wonderland dance show, we were both in the booth. There was one particularly catchy song in the show that Tucker and I really liked, and so every show we would get up and follow the dance as best as we could, comforted by the fact that nobody could see us. Those were just moments of pure joy," she said.

Similarly, upper Nora Sharma spoke on her experiences as a member of the cast in past productions T. Gibbs managed. "I was in the cast of the two fall mainstages he managed, *The Short Tree* and *The Bird who Could Not Sing* and *She Kills Monsters*, and I was one of his assistant stage managers this winter for *James* and *The Giant Peach*. When I was acting in his shows, I got to know him as a strong, kind, compassionate leader and role model, as I was hoping to manage a show myself sometime at Exeter. He's fun to work with and I've learned a lot from him while doing so."

Sharma continued, also sharing her favorite memory with T. Gibbs. "One day after a *Short Tree* rehearsal, Tucker, Eli Brotman ['21], and I were sitting in the Green Room in the basement of Goel while doing work," she started. "They decided to order lunch to Goel and Tucker invited me to join them. I was a very anxious prep and wasn't expecting it, so I was surprised and really appreciative that he included me even though we barely knew each other. That was the first time I got to know him. I hadn't spent time with him outside of theater before, and even then, I hadn't gotten to know him as a person, only as a manager."

Sharma continued elaborating on her first impressions of T. Gibbs. "Because of COVID and because I was always on stage, we were very distant in rehearsals. I found out that day that he's really easy to talk to. I felt like I struggled with making friends but getting to know him and Eli didn't feel awkward. He's still really fun to hang out with."

T. Gibbs' legacy does not stop at his numerous extracurricular achievements; his unique and kind personality will surely leave strong imprints on all those who will remember him. His friends, classmates, and mentors remarked on some of T. Gibbs' personal qualities they admire.

"Tucker is an outstanding student known among his peers as a kind and caring friend and a trusted confidant. His impressive academic achievements are matched by his admirable character, making him a valuable member of our community. The Exonian would be remiss not to celebrate such a legend," Instructor in History and MUN advisor Khalid Madhi echoed.

"I see Tucker as someone whose generosity of spirit seems to just be stuck in the 'on-switch,'" Dean of Enrollment William Leahy described. "I have seen him tutor kids in the common room, work for hours with fellow club members, manage through stressful debates about student government, ensure birthdays are celebrated in the dorm and always be able to take time for a one-on-one conversation



Senior of the Year: Joy Chi

Hillary Yoon / *The Exonian*

By FINN TRONNES '24

Raised in Hong Kong, senior Joy Chi came to Exeter as a prep by means of a three-hour car ride, a long wait at the airport, and a 16-hour flight: “Your typical 24 hour journey.” She describes her impact on Exeter simply: “I guess I’ve made photos that people can look at in the future. They go, ‘Wow. Picture.’ They’re like, ‘By Joy Chi. No way.’”

But everyone else had a lot more to say. By taking pictures for PEAN, the school’s yearbook, and *The Exonian*, she has become an artistic powerhouse on campus. Upper Catherine Zehner, who first met her in their dormitory, Hoyt Hall, said, “I think something that’s worth recognizing is how much student art really impacts our life here at Exeter. Joy has been a very consistent figure improving Exeter life through art. Through every gallery I go through, Joy’s name is on there, literally. And I think it’s deserved because she’s an amazing artist and it shows her dedication to her own craft.”

Joy started taking pictures during her prep spring when she found herself at home, skipping online classes. “Rough 12-hour time difference — I did

not go to half of my classes. I watched some of my class recordings at 2x speed to get through it. I think I would stay up until like 2 a.m. every night, and thus began my staying up until two. That has not changed too much.”

She said, “I was like, ‘I’m spending too much time in the house.’ I think every time restrictions were relaxed, I would go outside and I was like, ‘Why don’t I take photos of people hanging out and connection or whatever?’ And my dad had a camera. So I picked that up, and I started taking photos then. So, when I came back to campus, I was like, ‘I really enjoy photography and I kind of want to do it more.’” She found that opportunity in *The Exonian*, where she set out to tackle every position her lower year. “I can do everything and I will do everything. I wrote for it, I edited it, I photographed for it, I drew for it and I laid it out. So, I hit all the marks, and I think there’s one issue sometime in the winter of 2021 where I did all of it.”

From then on, she mainly focused on photography for *The Exonian*, and joined PEAN, too. She explained, “I guess *The Exonian* I wanted to join the whole time, but for PEAN, in all honesty, it

was because I knew they had cameras you would rent out and use. And I was like, ‘My dad’s 2005 Sony will not cut it. I’m sorry. I’ll join the club and get a Cannon.’”

Since then, she’s been counted among the most important people involved in the yearbook. In upper Clara Peng’s words, “That yearbook would be empty without her.” While she might’ve joined as a way to upgrade her camera, Chi stayed in the club because of the people. Will Park ‘22 talked about when they first met, saying, “We met at the beginning of my upper year, her lower year, when we just happened to go to the same PEAN meeting, and we were looking at the cameras that they had. This was my first time doing anything with a camera. I was really scared, really nervous, and Joy was already in there, looking at the different cameras and like, ‘Oh, is this this lens, and is this this type of camera?’ And I was like, ‘Oh my god, that girl knows her stuff about cameras.’”

Even so, her clear knowledge and skill haven’t distanced her from others interested in art at Exeter. Zehner appreciated Chi’s approachability since day one. She said, “I think it would be so easy for somebody who’s so good

at so many things and has so much direction to be unapproachable or intimidating, but she’s just so open about the things that she loves and I think she finds the pure joy in having interests that you’re supposed to have.”

There’s definitely a sense that Chi spends her time doing what she was meant to, echoed by Instructor in Photography Cheryle St. Onge. “I mean, I think it’s something that we spend a lot of time, obviously in school here and then in college and just in life, trying to get people to see it differently, to understand how to compose something within a frame, right?” St. Onge said. “And then there are people that just kind of do it. Joy is one of those people.”

Within Chi’s artistic practice, there lives an expression of love to the people around her. By taking pictures for the yearbook, *The Exonian*, and for her friends, she uses her talent to capture and preserve other peoples’ memories. “When I think about Joy, the first thing I think about is that she just has so much compassion for other people,” Park said. “And the way she feels towards everybody else, it’s just this ever widening like breadth of love that

just envelops everybody as she meets them.” He held his arms out, showing the conceptualization of her love, and continued, “You can see that in the work that she does through photography and obviously in her daily interactions with her friends, but she wants to serve and help use photography to do what she can to help others.” He went on, highlighting the impact of her work on the larger community. “She goes to a bunch of sports practices and cheers them on, or performances, and she’s doing that really because one, she genuinely cares and is excited at seeing what other people are doing. And then two, she wants to give back in whatever way she can.”

Balancing creative projects with the needs of others, she’s perfected her art from every angle. Describing the span of her practice, St. Onge noted, “I would say some people don’t do them both well, you know? Maybe they can make the pictures that are needed every day, but then when it comes to making something on their own, they maybe feel a little lost about that, or vice versa. Joy, not so much. She’s fine. She can pound it out on both ends.” While filling up PEAN and *The Exonian*, she continues to pursue projects that are meaningful to her, which showcase the depth of her talent while more importantly, conveying what she’s feeling.

Park described the emotional weight of her collection, *Can You Keep a Secret?*, saying, “She came to this idea of like, just revealing how she was feeling in this super honest, raw way that you can see into those photos. You can tell that this wasn’t an art piece where it had vain or self-indulgent motivations behind it. It wasn’t sort of like bragging, oh, look at this cool thing that I can make. It was genuine, ‘I want to share what I’m thinking right now.’”

Chi described this vulnerability in her work, saying, “I had a very edgy spring term project. I wrote poetry and it was bad poetry. It was so angry, but it was of the time and I still like it. I think I appreciate my artistic past because it’s who I am. It’s what I’ve thought at different times. I do think I’m very vulnerable in my art and that’s one of the things I admire most. I had a realization the other day. Obviously a lot of people write about love in music and in books and do so in art or whatever. But I think why it appeals to so many people is because of its vulnerability and I think it’s really brave. And I think that’s something I really admire in art.”

Joy’s admiration of artists’ bravery left an impact on her own personal life, too, as she connected more with those around her. Senior Arhon Strauss, a friend of hers, said, “I think she’s learned how to

deal with it well and how to balance, like going to friends and talking to them, and she’s learned to be more open.”

Chi described her expectations coming to Exeter, saying, “I was like, ‘Ah, the place where I can get more balance in my life.’” And while it seems overly optimistic, that’s exactly what she’s accomplished during her time here. Through her immersion in her passions, Joy has cultivated an incredible and valuable community on campus, made up of artists and non-artists alike.

Looking forward, Chi has a very long bucket list. She’s going to freeze her hair so that it sticks straight up like a teletubby; she’ll be traveling and living out of a van at some point (if she can manage a minimalist life); maybe one day she’ll go to bed early. She said, “I think after four years of boarding school and through lockdown, you have hay fever. You’re like, ‘I want to get out and just do.’” Before graduation, Chi’s planning on making a short film or two, centered around the end of her Exeter experience and more importantly, the end of her friends’ Exeter experiences. Her goal is to create memories for the people she cares about, giving them something to look back on. (She’s mad that Dua Lipa took the title “Future Nostalgia.”)

Park related her future goals back to her nature, saying, “I think that represents a lot of who she is. She’s making [things] not for herself. She’s making that so that other people can see it and they can be proud of themselves. The joy that she creates that other people experience — that’s what she gets out of it.”

When asked about the future and the type of person she’d like to be, Chi replied, “I’ve written about this extensively across my six journals.” She continued, “I think fundamentally I want to be someone that kind of goes after things more. In some ways I do feel a little bit restricted. Sometimes out of fear, out of anxiety, but being mostly realistic. I want to have the space to be unrealistic... I want to do things more and not live within the constraints of reality.”

That’s the dream, right? For now, portraiture can provide an escape from that reality, as she manipulates it in her work. She said, “Photography is supposedly the most realistic form of art, right? Like photojournalism, it’s supposed to represent the present. But I don’t know, there’s a lot of physical manipulation that could go on behind the scenes. You frame things in a certain way to convey something. Or at least I do — I try to.” Until Chi can be recklessly creative and achieve all that she deserves, she’ll keep creating pictures, for others, but more importantly, for herself.

Tucker Gibbs Cont.

with a fellow student who is in need of support and counsel.”

“Tucker embodies the very best of non-sibi and he does so always with great humility and empathy,” Leahy continued. “Tucker does so much for this school, for his friends, and even for the faculty. There is true kindness and true empathy in all that he does — and he does it always with a smile.” Nardone shared his fascination regarding T. Gibbs’ leadership as both club leader and proctor. “Tucker is a strong leader in a lot of the clubs on campus that I am a part of, and I’m hoping to follow in his footsteps in that sense. I also admire how

he acts within the dorm. He is someone who we all feel comfortable talking to for any reason, and who can direct students, especially younger students, to resources around campus,” Nardone said.

“Tucker’s a great example of what it means to be an Ewaldian and Exonian to our community,” Ardura said. “Proctors had the tradition of choosing first for room selection and thus usually pick the best rooms. Tucker decided to choose a room in the lower hallway so he can be there with them, as opposed to being in the senior hallway with his friends. At the same

time, he also understood that it would be best for

everyone if he was only a proctor, and not both proctor and student listener, so that way he would allow others to have leadership opportunities as student listeners.”

Nwakanma expressed her sentiments regarding T. Gibbs’ amiable personality. “My favorite thing about Tucker has got to be the way he goes out of the way to treat everyone with kindness and compassion,” Nwakanma said. “He’s got a really infectious laugh and he uses it liberally. He once told me that he’s happy about 95% of the time. That seemed like an insanely high percentage to me, but thinking back on it, he

brings the mood up wherever he goes. He’s definitely brought up my percentage.”

“He’s very kind to everyone but is never afraid to take a stance on something he believes in,” Su agreed. “He constantly empathizes with the people around him and is a great friend and co-worker I always know I can depend on.”

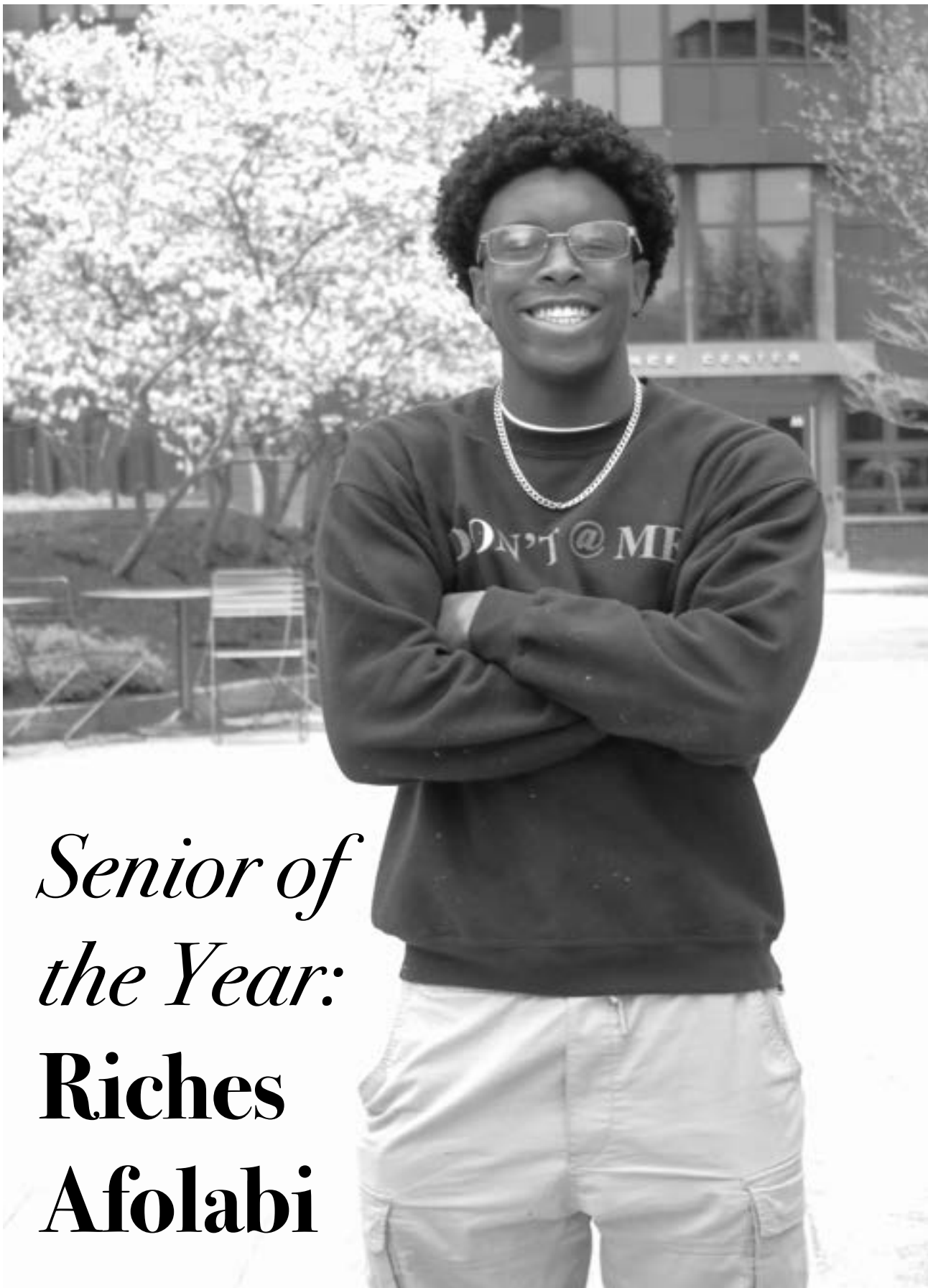
Zhang added, “Last summer, he planned FaceTime calls with all of his friends so that he could stay in touch with them and be up to date on what’s going on in their lives. I always looked forward to our bi-weekly, sometimes weekly, calls that lasted for hours, where he’d tell me about his exciting adventures in D.C., and he’d listen to my stories

about New York. That’s the other thing about Tucker — he is a great listener. He genuinely listens to understand, and he does so without judgment.”

Senior Charlie Holtz commended his work ethic. “Tucker is the most efficient person I know. His time-management skills are actually out of this world. To this day, I have yet to uncover how he balances an extremely rigorous course load, a slew of leadership positions, and still manages to get a good amount of sleep!”

Dickerson described T. Gibbs’ modesty, despite his incredible capabilities. “He possesses the wit to outsmart anyone in the room, yet he carries himself with humility,” Dickerson said.

T. Gibbs concluded with advice for his fellow Exonians. “Don’t take yourselves too seriously and try everything that you can,” T. Gibbs said. “I think Exeter’s the sort of place where there are so many opportunities, but it’s really easy just to sort of insulate yourself and focus on studying instead of going to Grill to be with your friends.” T. Gibbs continued, saying, “Just try to be the best student you can be to have a really good Exeter experience. Exeter’s not just about the grades, it’s about the people. It’s about the opportunities [outside of schoolwork] and about the fun that you can have here.”



Senior of the Year: Riches Afolabi

By CLARA PENG '24

Infectious positivity, strong leadership, and phenomenal step dancing, all come together in Riches Afolabi. As a proctor in Webster, a co-head of Black Students of Excellence (BSE) and OutKast, and a standout dresser, he has more than made his mark on Exeter. Whether he's choreographing routines, shooting hoops with friends, or hanging out in Club Room B, he brings an energy that lifts up everybody around him.

Upper Dubem Akunyili says his favorite thing about Afolabi is that same positivity. "He lights up the rooms he's in and he has a big personality. He's very social so he loves to meet people and he's very outgoing," said Akunyili.

His advisor and dorm faculty, Instructor in Health Brandon Thomas, commented as well. "He always was really positive, he was a dorm favorite the moment he stepped on campus. Everybody really loved him, really thought highly of him from the minute he came to school," Thomas said. "I don't think there's a person in the dorm who would say anything bad about Riches. I remember during proctor selection everybody was like, we gotta have this guy, so mm-hmm, he's been amazing from step one."

Senior EJ Barthelemy cited his first impression of Riches. "Riches is someone with so much positive energy. I remember meeting him and thinking, he's a really chill guy. It's so much fun being around him and I vibed with him from the very beginning."

Senior Danna Lara added, "He's a big presence. He gives good, big energy. People know when he's in the room, which is really fun. He inspires me to always keep smiling. He has a great smile and he broke his leg, but even then he kept smiling through it all."

Afolabi's spontaneous

energy is a favorite on campus, spreading happiness and laughter to everyone around him. Akunyili shared, "He loves the song I just wanna rock. Anytime he hears that song, no matter how many people are around, he starts doing a whole dance. That's pretty cool."

Lara similarly valued his dancing. "I loved going to one of the dances that we have, even though they're kind of lame. It's fun because I'm with Riches and we're jumping together in the middle of a dance or something somewhere."

Senior Abby Babalola said, "He'll laugh at anything. My jokes are usually unfunny, but he'll always laugh. I've never met somebody who laughs as loud and as often as Riches and it's so fun to hear some laughing. With Riches, I feel when he walks into a room, the whole place lights up. His energy kind of infects the atmosphere. He's always smiling, always laughing, always dancing too. It's actually kind of scary sometimes. He's a positive influence."

A number of his friends made sure to compliment his style, which he remained humble about. Senior Lydia Osei said, "His fit game is barely rivaled on this campus. Very on point. The school will be losing a very fashionable person when he graduates. He has so much style. His hair is always on fire. His fits are always on fire."

Afolabi remarked, "I wouldn't say I'm the best-dressed person on campus, but I'm saying if I need to, especially for big events, like formal events, we just had the gala and springfo, I like dressing for things like that because that's when you get to see everybody in their best fits. So whenever I feel like giving the people, you know, something to look at, just something I admire, I put it on a fit. I don't feel like dressing up every day but catch me on

a good day and you'll see why they said that."

Afolabi continued on, "I always try to match what I'm wearing. So me, I'll say my style inspiration is about colors. When I have time, I like to take my time to get my fit ready. I like playing with the colors to see what works. It's like J Cole said he said, 'Hey, should I get fresh or should I keep it humble?' My closet like Dover Street, used to be bummin' Some days, I'm still bummin', the difference is now, it's by choice So to break down that quote, sometimes I will be putting on stuff just to put on stuff, you know what I'm saying? Like a lazy fit. But I say when I feel like giving the people something to look at, I throw something on a little bit. Showing off my fashion sense."

As a four-year senior, friends of Afolabi have seen him grow and change both physically and emotionally.

When telling the story of her favorite memory of Afolabi, Babalola said, "One time, this was for the pep rally, fall assembly. He was stepping because he's co-head of OutKast, and I was recording it and he was in a tank top and I was like, wait, when did Riches get so muscular? And I said it on the recording and he was like, yeah, 'I'm growing up getting strong, going to the gym.' Prep year Richards was tiny and like, we're seniors and he's stepping and it's like, when did you get so strong?"

Akunyili said, "I've seen him get taller, which is a big thing, but I've seen him grow as a leader, cause I didn't know him when he was a prep, but a lot of people told me he was quieter and stayed in his room. But you kind of see as he's grown, gotten older and become an older student on campus he's kinda taken a role as an advisor to the younger students but also a leader to them. He has definitely grown in that way."

Hillary Yoon / *The Exonian*

Mr. Thomas added, "He's much taller. Much much so. I think he grew up a total of four inches. The level of seriousness that he's operated with over the last year, year and a half has been completely different. And that's been fun to watch, right? To see him mentor younger students and kind of give them the same knowledge that he got from other people. That's been really unique."

Barthelemy mused, "I've seen Riches grow into such a strong leader. To witness someone grow into becoming the backbone of a community is actually a really impressive thing. The energy that he has brought people together in a way that I've never seen before."

As a co-head of OutKast, Afolabi has played an integral role in expanding the step team and its presence on campus. His journey began even before Exeter, bringing his passion all the way from New Jersey.

"Step was a really big thing for me coming into Exeter because my team in middle school was highly ranked. I came into Exeter. I was like, oh, we got a step team that's lit. Like, we were about to be doing the same thing that we were doing in middle school, but it was completely different. Back in middle school, we were going to competitions every weekend. We were mad competitive, we were competing nationally. Coming to Exeter was a transition because we have a performance once every term. I still enjoyed it."

Afolabi spoke about the difficulties with the pandemic. "Then Covid hit and then came back to campus lower spring and a lot of our members graduated. So it was me, my boy, Akili, and Will Weber. It was three members lower Spring. We had one performance, the pep rally in the spring. There was some dance component to it and we performed.

It was just the three of us. We are trying to get it out of the mud. I was trying to recruit all of my friends, but nobody was budging. So we performed in spring, we did our thing. And so I'm thinking like, okay, it's a challenge, but we gonna get through it. Right? So, upper fall came around, and I got about three of my other friends to join as well. Keenan and Reggie and my boy Chris Coleman, uh, Keenan and Reggie are our co co-heads now."

His resilience and relentless optimism were key when he was injured. "We were supposed to make a little comeback in Fall term, but I broke my leg a week before the performance. So it's like we still put in all that work. I put all my trust in my, in my brothers to perform regardless. But it hurt me that I couldn't be there, because we doubled our numbers from three to six. So we did, and we did perform pretty well. So after that, we practiced and I was making my comeback from breaking my leg. Upper spring comes around and we have this big dance showcase in April. And we prepare for that all the time, like three practices a week, some weeks we do practice every single day. I was choreographing almost every day trying to make everything goes right. I was mixing all the music. I was getting all the recordings. I was really adamant about making OutKast make a comeback. So, in upper spring, the showcase came around. It was amazing. Shut it down. It was a showstopper performance. I'm so proud of the progress that we made, from having three members in my lower spring to now this year we have around 12. So even though 12, it's not a large number, it's a solid 12. We have 12 people that go out there and perform and leave everything out on the stage. So I'm so proud of where we came from. A lot of people when you say OutKast on campus now, everybody knows who we are. So I'm really proud of that."

In the same manner that he approaches his dorm community, he values OutKast like a family. "It's not even a club to me. It's a brotherhood. Cuz I spent so much time practicing choreographing with these, with these guys. Laughing, sharing moments, getting serious, and doing all of this. Coming up with ideas. These are really my brothers. I really messed with them heavily. And so when we go out there on the stage, it's a chemistry that goes along with it. We've been doing all of this practice, doing all this work. So when we go on the stage, it's easy. The chemistry, the flow, and the synergy comes easily. And so you could feel that when you perform it. And I'm pretty sure the crowd could feel that when we performed it. To me, it's the brotherhood."

Current member Akunyili agreed. "We're on the OutKast step team together, he introduced me to step as a concept which was pretty cool. He's the co-head of BSU, a pretty big part of my Exeter experience. Specifically for OutKast, he has to make all the choreography, plan everything, choose the songs, and he's very vocal about when we need to meet, or what we need to have prepared. Also, he taught everyone how to step, which is pretty cool. He's definitely a really good leader."

His other academic interests include physics, as well as engineering. His interest has been deep, ever

since he was young. "Ever since I was a kid, I always had a passion for taking things apart. Looking at internal structures, I always was big into Legos. Big into every toy you could name: a blade, hot wheels, all of that. And then I also combined that with my love for cars. I have always wanted to build cars ever since I was little and that stuck with me."

Osei added, "He's really into physics. I didn't realize it. It's not something he talks about very often, but he's very into physics, very into mathematics. He's a huge STEM person. And I wish I had known that about him earlier, I feel as though that would've been something else that we would've been able to connect to. I feel there are a lot of black students on campus who are really passionate about STEM, but don't really talk about it as much. I really think that he will make a lot of waves inside the science and technology community going forward. Seeing how passionate he is about the subject and how much he knows and how much he cares like that's one of the spaces where I was able to see how much he gives attention to detail inside of his work and how much effort he's willing to put in as well. Because physics here is probably harder than physics at any other school. He's a very studious and academic person. He's one of the smartest people I know."

When talking about the future, Afolabi said "Well, I want to go to school for mechanical engineering. I've always had a passion for building cars. So that's why I want to study in school. Socially though, I think very similarly to Exeter and what I've done at Exeter. I want to be able to communicate with as many and as diverse people as possible because I feel it's helped me so much in my Exeter career. That communication skills are those social skills that allow me to branch out and reach out to so many different people. I want to continue doing that. I feel like that's gonna get me far on its own. Just being able to connect with so many different people. Not only is it rewarding on a personal level, but it's rewarding externally as well because it can get me so many different opportunities."

Reflecting on gratitude in his life, he shared his favorite song. "Love Yours by J Cole. First of all, J Cole's my favorite artist. I love all of his music, but Love Yours, sends a personal message. No matter what you always like, obviously you always thinking about how life could be better. This and that could be better. And it goes along with my message of don't worry about the things you can't control. Be grateful for everything that's around you. I gotta take a step back and absorb everything around me because I'm extra right now. Where I'm from, Newark, New Jersey, a lot of people don't get to go to places like Exeter. I'm really grateful. So Love Yours for sure."

Riches Afolabi is a one-in-a-million Exonian. In all of the ways he contributes on campus, he changes lives and lifts up everyone around him. With OutKast, he has inspired another generation of step dancers, sharing his passions with the entire campus. His energizing optimism is reflected in his reflection on his Exeter experience, "I don't regret anything. I live with no regrets. I live with no regrets. That's what got me here today."



By ELAINE QIAO '25

She sits in front of her mirror, stroking on eyeliner, dabbing glitter and shadow over her lids, lining her lips and gliding on lip gloss. They fix their braids, too, then pose, angling their phone in the best light across the window. A selfie. Each one is different. Thick graphic liner. Champagne satin eyeshadow. Plum red lip. Nothing at all. Senior Lydia Osei is experimental. Dynamic. Confident. And yet, they aren't.

"The most common assumption about me is that I'm confident," Osei said. "I'm really not. Like people will go up to me and be like, Lydia, you're so confident. You just take up so much space and you always speak your mind, blah, blah, blah. I do that because I'm not confident and I try to speak my mind as often as possible to get more comfortable with that and try to make that a norm for myself, because I don't think I've ever really been comfortable with, not only with my ideas, but just how I express myself. I used to find my voice annoying. I used to find the way I looked irritating. I remember back in middle school, my friends literally would tell me I had a 'very punchable face'. And so coming into Exeter I was like, okay, if that's how my close friends back at home see me and they just think that me talking is annoying, me expressing myself is annoying, then people at Exeter are definitely gonna think that's annoying. And I realized I didn't want that for myself. I didn't wanna feel embarrassed to exist," Osei reflected.

Over her four years at the Academy, Osei has become a keystone of the community. In Goel, she dances, sneakers scuffing on the marley, radiating a vigorous zeal on-beat with the music. They sing, too, with friends in acapella, harmonizing and backing one another in a raw, free-flowing ambiance. You see her on the podium in Assembly Hall on Tuesday nights, giving performance debates, projecting their voice out to every member of the audience. In the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), she organizes hair kits for textured hair to combat hair discrimination. In affinity groups, they take on leadership roles, bursting forth with bright energy and a keen sense of humor.

It's difficult to imagine the Academy without her presence for these past four years. And yet, Osei reflects on their beginnings

at the Academy, "I came into Exeter not really knowing how exactly this experience would go. I just knew that it was going to be very different from how it would've been if I stayed in Virginia. I came in as a student who had only gone to public school. I lived in the same town my entire life. And so I was very used to that same routine. And so I was very anxious about coming into Exeter. I didn't know how exactly I would look compared to all of my classmates who have national titles who are, to some degree, world renowned individuals. And I'm just coming from a tiny town in Virginia, not really knowing what I'm doing."

Originally from Virginia, Osei is a four-year senior who lives in Dow House on campus and previously in Langdell. Both their parents immigrated from Ghana and they are the youngest of three children.

Vividly present in many facets of the Academy, Osei is well-loved by faculty and peers alike.

"She carries a lot," said Instructor in Health Education Courtney Shaw. "And this is something that I'm always telling her like, 'you gotta do it for you first.' But I think that a lot of people get that wrong about her, about how much she actually cares for empathic abilities, to really connect with people and feel their hurt the same way that they would feel it or maybe even more. And so I think a lot of people misconstrue that and sometimes I also think that the way that she gives herself, and a lot of people may see that as a sign of weakness, but it is actually a sign of strength that she can lend herself to people and show up for people in ways that they wouldn't even show up for themselves, which I think is huge," Shaw concluded.

"She's very outspoken. If she believes in something, then she's going to stay true to that belief, and I really respect that," said senior Nathalie Kpodonu. On the other hand, Kpodonu said, "she's just a very understanding person. I guess at the table, I've had a few classes with her, she seems to have very set beliefs, but that isn't actually the case. She does speak about what she believes in, but she's also very open to other people and other ideas."

"I think honestly the thing about Lydia is she has all her cards out on the table," Kpodonu shared. "So I think everything that she is, she shows to others. Maybe those that

don't know her don't know how hard she works. In all honesty, she makes it look very effortless, but she works extremely hard."

Osei's adviser, Director of Global Initiatives and Instructor in English Patricia Burke Hickey, agreed. "Lydia's honesty and self-awareness is inspiring. She speaks up in truthful, frank ways that communicate her point of view while considering alternative ways of understanding a situation. I really admire that about her."

"Lydia models what it means to engage with a community fully and passionately," Burke continued. "Not only is she an academic powerhouse, but she has been involved in so many clubs and activities during her four years at Exeter that matter to her and where she has made a difference — OMA, Transitions, Fermatas, Student Council, debate, MLK committee, Exeter Socialist Union, Afro Shade, mainstage plays, to name a few!"

When asked their favorite thing about Lydia, senior Ki Odums replied, "Lydia's general self-expression. Like whether it's her outfits, her makeup, just their general way they carry themselves is very joyful."

"I don't know anybody who works as hard as she does. Just with everything, like in maintaining her extracurriculars, which are a lot and she has a lot of leadership positions here on campus, but also in her academics, like putting up with courses that she didn't want to take because of pressure. Like taking courses that even if she doesn't like, she's still going to work really hard to succeed in them," reflected senior Yasmin Salerno.

Senior Riches Afolabi said, "One of Lydia's biggest things is that she brings the energy to every room she steps in. I think her biggest impact on campus is the energy. 'Cause with that, when you see Lydia in the room, that energy is different. Like when she isn't, you could see that there's an apparent difference because she brings a certain type of energy, certain type of loudness, certain type of funness, and comfortability to a room." Afolabi added, "And to be even more specific, I'll say that energy that she brings into Black affinity spaces on campus — into any room in general — but I want to specify into making people of color on campus feel more comfortable because I think

that that's very essential because being a person of color on this campus is not easy. We're surrounded by people that don't look like us, but people like Lydia out here giving all good energy, good vibes all the time that make it easy for people like me that look like me and other minorities to just be comfortable on campus and be themselves."

Odums concluded, "I mean as a Black student coming to Exeter and being unapologetically confident and self-assured and taking up space that would otherwise be taken up for her is, I mean, that's the best representation of being a Black student on this campus. Especially a non-male Black student. It's just really important to see that as someone who occupies similar identity traits as her, and then also just as a student leader, largely seeing someone be able to take up space and hold space at the same time so gracefully is gorgeous."

On the subject of her identities, "A little story I guess is like prep year," Osei began. "I was super scared of entering affinity spaces. I was terrified. I thought I wasn't Black enough for Black Students of Excellence (BSE). I was too scared that I wouldn't be able to bond with people inside of Transitions well enough. I was still exploring my gender identity and sexuality. And so I didn't really know how to interact with the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA). I went a couple times, but I didn't feel like myself inside of that space. I felt like I was invading even though GSA is a cultural space, not an affinity space. But I think that coming to terms with your identity takes time. And I think that's something that I really want to emphasize for people because people sometimes will come up to me and be like, oh my gosh, you seem like you're so in touch with who you are and you're so comfortable, blah, blah. I wasn't for a very, very long time, I was not whatsoever comfortable with certain titles or like holding certain titles and being in touch with my identity. That's just something that wasn't me. And I think that allowing yourself to have the grace to explore who you are is very important," Osei concluded.

Salerno shared, "[Lydia and I] both co-head Transitions together, which is the affinity space for Black and Latine non-men at Exeter. I would say that those meetings are always really fun. Like we always just have really chill

discussions and I just get to spend a lot of really quality time with Lydia in that space and we'll co-head it together so we can work meetings together," Salerno said.

She added, "Over my lower year I was online the entire year and so the second half of that we used to just Zoom together and play video games and stuff. And to me that always felt really nice because I hadn't really been interacting with people because I was at home and so it was nice to be able to have that outlet with her and we just had like a lot of good conversations on a good time, even though it was like online," Salerno said.

Afolabi said, "Well there was this one time where we were staying at BSE after hours, because it goes from seven to eight. But we were seniors, so we stayed up. It was me, her, my boy, Reggie, Atticus, Ki, and a couple other seniors. And we were just talking and it was really just vibes. We were just talking like, it was like a simple conversation, some tea to the conversation, some spiciness to the conversation I'm not gonna reveal, but I'm saying it was just the fact that we were all there as seniors and just vibing, talking, and connecting with each other."

"We started talking more upper year," said Kpodonu. "I remember walking into the common room one day and her and another girl were having a discussion and I think I joined in. I don't really recall what it was about, but by the end of the night we were friends. So, we've been pretty close ever since then."

"At the end of upper year, we, her and another girl," Kpodonu continued. "We would always be in the common room with each other until like 2:00 a.m. We'd all watch movies together. We also go on walks, sometimes around campus at night. I even went on one with her last week," said Kpodonu.

Co-head of Fermatas, Osei talked about being involved in music. "How can we recreate the sounds of instruments with our voices? I feel like it's something entertaining and something that I love, being able to share an experience with other people."

"Last year when she sang [at Unsilenced], that was the first time I ever heard her sing, and I was just blown away by her voice, but also the message behind it. Just everyday interactions with her, it's never a dull moment. And she has a certain jovial disposition about her that if you are having a bad day, interacting with her or appearing with her helps," Shaw said.

Speaking about her extracurriculars, Osei shared, "I have started to use debate spaces to come out of my shell as a person and to tap into ideas that I, to put it bluntly, I'm not comfortable sharing in other spaces. Sometimes I think, okay, maybe my friends aren't really ready to have really, really deep philosophical conversations about how the world can change or this is definitely something that I shouldn't bring up in Harkness or else everybody is just going to attack me for having this belief. Or the room's gonna go silent and things are gonna get very awkward very fast. And so I think I've tried to use debate as a vessel for exploring new ideas on how the world can work and also just going as radical as possible because if we don't tap into radical outlandish ideas that people

aren't putting to the table, we might miss out on some fantastic philosophies that we should really consider implementing into the world. And I think it's important to get those thoughts going early on so then you can get more comfortable actually bringing them to the table as you get older."

Osei reflected more on their relationship with debate and interpersonal connections. "I think that, especially when I came into Exeter, I was someone who tried to be as impatient as possible, especially coming from a debate background. I think I just made it part of my philosophy. A philosophy to be as surface level with people as possible, or view people as surface level as possible and not really see people as complex individuals. But I think over time I've just become a lot more patient with not only myself and just my level of humanity, but also just those around me. And seeing that no one is really doing anything perfectly at any time. And perfection is not something that should be expected of others all the time. And so it's important to be patient with those around you because you never know what someone's going through, or you never know what someone's capable of until you just wait for them to shine."

Osei spoke more on their experiences as a Black student at the Academy. "Coming into Exeter, I was a huge math person. Math is my favorite subject. I was really excited for Exeter Math and just how it would work, having a certain set of problems and then talking about it with other students and then using that to figure out just how the world of math works. That just sounded so cool to me. And that's part of the reason why I came to Exeter, because other schools that I was planning on going into were lecture based," Osei said.

"And then during my first term at Exeter, I had a horrible math experience with my teachers. That was my first term. I had to de-link from my math teacher because I was getting made fun of by him inside of my classes. I was getting insulted throughout my classes and I just feel as though I was — it was a lot of emotional labor that I was not ready for and I don't think anyone should have to be ready for coming as a 14-year-old to high school. And something that I noticed was that that class was one of my few math classes where I was not the only Black student and I had three other Black classmates. My teacher was white. I forget what the rest of the racial makeup of the class was. And I noticed over time that my teacher would make jokes about the students going in order of darkest to lightest. And that was something where, me being on the darker end of the spectrum in terms of students inside of that class, I would get made of fun of very often for tiny things in terms of issues with my solutions or just certain actions I would do if I was talking to someone, talking in a certain accent or just did certain things that the teacher ended up racializing and making fun of me for. That's something that I've never forgotten and that's something that has caused me to just have a general hobby of observing how STEM courses work here," Osei shared.

Osei continued on her observations of race at the Academy. "And I've noticed a pattern of especially being a Black or brown student, no matter where you come from wanting to be a STEM



Senior of the Year: Sofia Morais

Courtesy of Lally Lavin

By AMY LIN '25

Jump. Spike. Kill. The crowd erupts with cheers and chants as the girls varsity volleyball team bounds towards each other for a huddle. Feeling a new rush of adrenaline, they high-five and congratulate senior Sofia Morais. As an outside hitter and the team's co-captain,

Morais has played a major role on the team throughout her four years at Exeter.

Morais is a four year senior residing in Lamont Hall. She hails from College Station, Texas, a city located an hour north from Houston. At Exeter, she has undertaken important roles and left imprints on the communities she is involved in. She serves

as a proctor in Lamont Hall, co-captain of the girls varsity volleyball team, co-head of the architecture club, co-head of La Alizana Latina (LAL), and the manager of boys varsity volleyball team. A curious and passionate individual, Morais has developed many interests such as crafty, hands-on activities: knitting, crocheting, woodworking,

and has recently started learning to play the steel drums.

Morais's family and cultural background growing up is a fundamental factor of who she has become today. She lives with her parents and brother who is a sophomore in college.

"My whole family is from Brazil, and I feel like I was around a lot of different Latino cultures growing up. I lived in Texas, so there's a huge Latino community there but [it's] also very Southern Texas-like. In fourth grade, I lived abroad in Finland for a year since my mom did a sabbatical there. I've been exposed to this melting pot of people from everywhere with all the different nationalities and ethnicities. It has given me a big appreciation for meeting new people and being very curious to find out about where people are from, what they like to do, and how their families are like," Morais shared.

Morais recognizes her father as a significant figure in her growth. "My dad has a very big thing on reflections. He wanted me to not dwell in the past but think about what I did and be conscious of what I'm doing, so that I make better decisions going forward and grow from certain experiences," she said. She also shares a love of Studio Ghibli movies with her dad. Keeping a poster of Totoro in her room, she is fond of the quiet and peaceful atmosphere of the movies along with the lessons behind them.

Before coming to Exeter, Morais had attended public

school and never had much exposure to New England culture and life in boarding school outside of videos on Youtube and scenes from movies. "I thought everyone at boarding school was going to be very preppy-like. I remember being very surprised at my Experience Exeter to see a lot of regular high schoolers and that Exeter was just another high school. There were so many different types of people coming together," she said.

Morais originally discovered boarding schools through her older brother who had applied before her, as it was uncommon for people to attend boarding schools in Texas. "It was my first exposure when I saw him applying, and I thought it sounded kind of cool. My school at home was a very big public school that I would've gone to. A lot of people there end up staying in the same city, for college as well, so I wanted to get out of the bubble of College Station. Going to the East Coast and being at a school like Exeter where there's people from everywhere really helped," she said.

Originally torn between two schools, Morais ended up choosing Exeter because of Experience Exeter, where she met the swim team and volleyball players as well as her tour guide, who seemed to genuinely enjoy her time at Exeter. From then on, Morais's journey at Exeter officially began.

Athletics has been a salient facet of Morais's identity, even prior to Exeter. She started swimming in a club around the age of seven and played volleyball in a league in fourth grade. "I've been swimming for the majority of my life. One thing I always liked about swimming is how it made me very disciplined, because mostly it's an individual sport. If you made a mistake or added time in an event, it's on you," Morais said.

When asked about her

motivation to continue developing her interest, she said, "I'll always remember the swim captain from my prep year. Her name was Wynter Sands. I was in her lane, and we did the same stroke. We'd always be competing for the backstroke spot on the relay. I remember looking up to her so much. I think that was my first exposure to a good leader."

During the pandemic, Morais put swimming on hold, and focused her attention on volleyball. Morais said, "I've been on varsity volleyball since prep year. I made a lot of really close friends through the team, and the volleyball group is very tight. Volleyball definitely gave me the leadership qualities I have now, because I found that it's an easier place to lead on the court. Even if I wasn't a captain yet, I could still encourage people and give them advice."

Coach Bruce Shang, the girls varsity volleyball coach, agrees and spoke about his impression of Morais as a volleyball player. "On the court she is reliable. She is going to get her aces, pass well, dig some amazing shots, and hit balls that most humans could never hit. She has all my confidence in her and she earned that by performing day in and day out for the last four years."

Shang recalled a moment where Morais exemplified a fierce competitor and solid player, "We had a playoff game against Loomis. We knew that we could attack a certain spot on the court for serving. We were losing by like five and Loomis had game points. Sofia served seven in a row, tough and without error for us to come back and win. I remember the celebration, pure joy, and the relief on her face after we won. She is so amazing as a person and volleyball player that she can never be replaced. She is special and I look forward to hearing about all of her future success."

Osei Cont.

student or someone who's very successful in that space on campus, you end up getting pushed into humanities because moving to the humanities side of things, I go from being someone who is not seen as intelligent, someone who is seen as less than inherently because I usually don't have as many resources as other higher income students do. Going to humanities class, all of a sudden I'm a teacher because I'm Black. That has happened too many times in too many English classes. I can recall times where I've had to educate my classmates on appropriate methods of discussing issues of race, issues of sexuality, gender, all of those things. How to be sensitive reading texts that have extremely deep and potentially triggering information, having to teach my or tell my instructors how to handle things in history classes, certain texts that have to do with slavery and such," Osei said.

She continued, "And I feel as though oftentimes when someone brings something insensitive to a humanities class, it's just out of ignorance because I think that's what happens in most cases, especially being at a school where I try to believe most students go into their classes not wanting to start issues with other kids and trying to be the best people that they can. Whenever students do something that ends up having harm on another student, it's something out

of ignorance. And so, all of a sudden, I have to be the mature one. Whenever someone makes a highly insensitive comment about Black people, I have to be the one who's going to be patient and educate those around me about extremely traumatic incidents throughout history and just throughout general experiences. I have to be the one who's comfortable about talking about my fears regarding my race and such. I have to be the one who feels as though, and especially when it comes to graded work, I have to feel as though I'm comfortable talking about extremely traumatic incidents throughout history or just throughout my experience as a person in order to feel as though I can get a good enough grade inside of a class. The number of times I've thought is this really heavy enough to get me an A on this assignment is crazy."

Osei concluded, "And I feel as though that's something that should be actively discouraged and that I should feel as though I'm a teenager and not an instructor inside of a humanities class. But because I end up having to sort of moderate how those discussions go inside of those classes, I end up being seen as someone who's just very good and very cognizant inside of a humanities class," Osei said. They reflected on their growth. "I don't know. I think over time I've had to develop a tougher skin in

terms of the STEM spaces that I take up just because if I become someone who's vulnerable inside of those classes, students will start making fun of me. Which in a way, I think because of my Blackness and because I'm very confident in my Blackness, people don't try to make fun of me because they know I'll bite back."

Osei shared a particularly sharp memory of class. "One of the most liberating things I've ever done in a class when someone will say something insensitive is, I will look at my friend who's in that class, or I'll just stare blankly at the ceiling and I will start cackling. I will start laughing and I'll just be myself. I'll try to just let go in that moment. I remember once a student made a joke about deporting me, knowing full well that I'm part of an immigrant family. And I, thankfully, didn't curse them out. I was in a Zoom class. I started yelling at my screen. I yelled at my screen for a solid five minutes, grilling that person on how insensitive that comment was, telling them they should never say something like that again. And guess what? They never said that to me again," Osei said.

"But I know that for certain students and for certain situations, you just have to establish that you're not going to take someone's BS," Osei said. "And I know that that's hard and I know that that's not something that you should have to do for yourself, but that's just how life is going to go. That's not going to leave you when you leave Exeter. That's not going to

leave you when you leave academic spaces. There's nowhere in this world that you're really safe from insensitivity and backlash. And so sometimes you just have to be yourself. You just have to let yourself feel emotions in the moment and not feel as though you have to censor yourself for other people. Feel free to yell, feel free to laugh, feel free to cry in the moment and show your emotion. Because if you try to cover that up, people won't see you as human. People won't believe that you're human. You sometimes just have to show your humanity fully in the moment. And so that's what I advocate for. I advocate for realness."

When asked to reflect on her impact on the Academy, Osei responded, "I feel even weird saying that cause it's like, what have I done that's so dramatic?"

"But I hope people just remember me as someone who wasn't scared," Osei said. "As someone who wasn't scared to take up space. Someone who wasn't scared to be irritating. Someone who wasn't scared to say stupid stuff. Someone who wasn't scared to bite back at people and someone who wasn't scared to stand up for other people. Which to be honest, I don't think I've really done any of those things quite perfectly except for being irritating sometimes," they said.

Over their Exeter career, their growth has been witnessed by all around them. Salerno said, "She's grown into herself a lot, so prep year I was a bit surprised because she didn't have as much

confidence, she was a lot more sheltered. But, as the years have passed, she's just really grown into herself and grown into who she is," Salerno said. "I think she's just experienced a lot of growth and I've got to witness that."

Osei also reflected on this growth over their time at Exeter. "I think prep year me was also very insecure," they said. "Very insecure. Probably the most insecure I've ever been in my life. I was terrified of meeting new people and interacting with new people. And even though I was making friends, I was scared of the idea of being alone. And I think that that fear of loneliness just forced me to associate being around people with happiness," Osei explained. "What I think I needed was to know that I am good enough as a person, as is, and I'm also imperfect, but so is everyone around me. Being around other people is not going to be the source of your happiness. You will be the source of your own happiness. And I think after COVID hit, I really started to discover new aspects about myself and really just started looking inside, which I think was a blessing in disguise because sometimes Exeter just brings so much to the table and it brings so much work and so much activity and so many things to do that it's hard to focus on yourself. But I think that's something that's essential to any sort of teenage development."

They also looked towards the future, and shared their aspirations for their future-self. "And I think after college, I don't

really know too much about where exactly I'll go, but I think that hopefully after Exeter, there is even more self-growth," Osei said. "I don't want to ever stop growing as a person. Even on my deathbed, I wanna feel as though I've lived a life that has just been a constant upward trend of learning new things about myself. And so I think after Exeter, I also want to just stay in touch with people from Exeter because this is a campus of some of the most brilliant lives on this planet and some of the most kind hearts on this planet. And I think that that's something that I'm just happy to have experienced because I think everyone here forgets how unique people are. And while I think nobody is better than anybody else, I think it's important to appreciate certain aspects of yourself and appreciate how good of a person you are," Osei explained.

Osei concluded with some advice for other teenagers and some of their hopes for the future. "I don't think that's something cocky. I think that's something beautiful," Osei said. "And especially as a teenager, it's hard to really believe that you're a good person or believe that you're a person that's worth being talked about, or a person that's worth being given attention or giving attention to yourself. So I'm excited to stay in touch with underclassmen that I'll be leaving this year. And also just being able to see where all my other senior friends will go on to in life. That's something that I'm excited to observe throughout my life."

Morais Cont.

On campus, Morais consistently demonstrated her commitment to LAL, the Latinx affinity group on campus, and architecture club. As a co-head of LAL, Morais actively plans events on campus including the Day of the Dead event in Grainger, the different country booths, and a hot-wings challenge between LAL, Black Students of Excellence, and Asian Voices, two other affinity groups on campus.

As a prep, Morais was hesitant to join LAL. “There was a proctor in the beginning of my upper year who was one of the co-heads at the time and ended up convincing me to attend the first meeting,” Morais said. That seemed to open a new side to Morais as she began dedicating herself to the club. “And then I just kept going since, and I recruited a lot of people to come and be part of the club.”

“I grew up in a Brazilian household, so my parents spoke Portuguese to me, and we ate a lot of Brazilian food at home. My Latina identity was there, but it was more just kept inside my house, because a lot of my outside friends weren’t Latina. After coming to Exeter, even though the Latino population here is pretty small, just having a group where we meet every Thursday to talk about different things within Latino identity and culture helped me become a lot more open about my identity, and at the same time learn about different subgroups within Latino culture and variations of traditions from friends,” Morais said.

Although without sufficient experience in architecture, Morais enjoyed hands-on work and designing, and immersed herself in the architecture community on campus. “I like going to architecture club, because we do a lot of 3D modeling

of different buildings on campus. My lower year we reimaged a model of Grill, so I really enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the club. This was definitely an interest I had before coming to Exeter, but with the architecture club, it was able to grow a lot more than it would’ve if I just kept it to myself.”

As a proctor and four-year resident in Lamont Hall, whenever someone asks Morais about her favorite thing at Exeter, her answer is always the dorm community. However, this was not the case in the beginning. During her prep and lower year, the dorm community was aloof with everyone staying in their rooms, the common room exclusive to certain friend groups, and proctors not connecting with fellow Lamont students. Despite a nagging thought to move out, Morais and her best friend and fellow senior Claire Fu changed their minds. “And then we decided we’re going to stay. We’re going to try our best to foster a really good dorm community,” Morais said.

They worked to change Lamont’s sense of home. “We made a conscious effort to be extremely inclusive in the dorm, like talking to everyone, inviting people into our rooms, and suggesting fun things to do. Even though we weren’t proctors yet, we still wanted to help create a really inclusive environment in the dorm so that new students coming in won’t have the same negative experience we had in the beginning,” she said. “I live right across the common room, so my door is always open.”

“As a proctor, now I have an official title to create dorm culture and helping out younger students by helping them with homework, giving them advice, or just going over friend drama,” Morais

said, reflecting on her roles as a proctor.

“I lived in Lamont for four years, so it feels very homey. I’ve grown very fond of Lamont, even if it has leaky faucets and the toilet exploded on the second floor. That’s Lamont, and you love it for how it is.”

Reflecting upon her time at Exeter, there are moments where she wishes she could go back in time and advise her younger self. “I wish I joined one of the big, developed clubs, like yearbook or mock trial, because I would’ve found a whole nother group of friends and discovered another interest. I would be curious to see how my time would’ve turned out if I had done something completely foreign to me,” she said.

“Looking back now, some of my friends and who I hang out with stayed the same, but a lot of them have changed. When you’re in that very moment of switching friend groups or going through something with one person, things can seem very big and dramatic. But in the long term, you’re going to find your people that you really mesh with, whether it’s someone in your dorm, someone on your sports team, or someone in your English class. If I could go back to prep year, I would tell myself it’s okay, your friendships are going to change, don’t stress about it,” Morais said.

Throughout her Exeter journey, Morais has accumulated lessons from her experiences. “Your experience here is so dependent on who you surround yourself with. Boarding school has a very competitive nature to it, and there have been times I feel like I surrounded myself with certain people who feed into that unhealthy competitiveness. Now, I’ve really found a good group of people who care a lot about their work, but they also care a lot about maintaining good relationships with friends.”

Morais acknowledges the

importance of work ethic as an Exonian. “You have to listen to yourself and see what works best for you. To me, sleep is very important, so I prioritize going to bed early, and waking up early to do my work. Having my own dorm room means having to make my own decisions. There’s no one to tell you to wake up or go to class. You need to be very self-disciplined. Exeter helped me become a lot more disciplined with how I organize my time.”

Beyond Exeter, Morais envisions herself with several possibilities. “This is where I get really divided. I see myself with two different paths. One, I’m very interested in sustainable architecture, so focusing on being more sustainable when designing buildings. So, if I were to be an architect, I’d really want to focus on that aspect, and try to think of new materials to incorporate into buildings. I love design, so I could definitely see myself as an architect and having my firm. On the other hand, I’m also really into biomedical engineering. I could see myself being a doctor or [pursuing a career in] material science. I have a love for both STEM and design. Maybe if there’s some way I can combine those two, but as of right now, I’m a little split” Morais said.

Furthermore, Morais has personal goals after graduation. “I hope I can remain goal-oriented, whether it’s a career thing or social goals. I like to think of myself as a curious person, so I hope that even when I’m older, I’m still adventurous and curious to learn new things, [but at the same time] I can maintain smaller passions on the side that makes me happy.”

Throughout her Exeter career, Morais has left impacts and strong impressions on many fellow Exonians. Her close friends reflect back on the first time they met her, and remembered their first

impressions of her.

“Sofia and I first met in the dorm, and we went to Stillwells at some point during the first week. I just remember her being extremely upbeat and had super high energy,” Fu shared.

Senior Heewoo Jung remembers Morais’s welcoming presence when he first arrived on campus. “The first time I met Sofia was on the second day of school. I was a new lower, and I was playing basketball with Kenny Chen in the gym. Sofia was on the second floor looking down at us and just said, ‘Hello, are you guys new Lower?’ I was like ‘Yeah’, and we played basketball. Then after that, I became close with her when we were playing volleyball. She’s always smiling, [and] a very happy individual.”

“Sofia taught me how to care for other people. I really admire her willingness to help others. I think she truly embodies our institution’s value of non-sibi,” he continued.

“She’s really kindhearted. She gives me a lot of good advice when it comes to anything in my life. She’s a really empathetic person, and would help you whenever you need,” senior Kenny Chen said.

When asked about how Sofia has changed over the years, Chen jokingly laughed, “I thought she was a really funny person at first, but then later on she could be quite corny at times.”

“Something interesting about her is that she wears a lot of jewelry, and when she plays volleyball, she has to take them all off. Then afterwards, it would take her a lot of time to put them back on. I don’t know why, but she has to put them all on.” Chen shared.

“I appreciate how she’s so attentive to meeting with her friends. She has really good relationships with everybody she knows. She tries to really listen to you and she

cares about her friends very deeply,” commented upper Corinne Morrison.

As Morais’s teammate on the volleyball team, Morrison acknowledges Morais’s strength and talent in volleyball, “I want to be a better player when I see her. She’s incredible in volleyball and just as a person, with how she gets to know everybody.”

Dormmate and friend, upper Esme Eberstadt, talks about Morais’s presence in the dorm. “Whenever she’s on duty, her door is always wide open. She always has people in her room, and she says hi to everybody on the path. So I’d say her role is a proctor, but she’s also a friend to a lot of people in the dorm.”

When asked about a favorite memory with Sofia, Chen recalled, “I went to Texas with her this winter to visit her friends from home and her family. I loved getting dinners with her family— her parents and her brother, Eric, are all really nice people.”

“She has always been an outgoing person, but I think as time has gone on, she has grown into it more and has become more and more confident. I think the way that she’s been changing has really positively influenced the people around her. She shows her confidence and her personality—she’s not afraid to be honest with the people around her. As a leader, she has a commanding but also very comforting presence, and that’s very important. I want to be like her in that sense,” Eberstadt said.

Witnessing Morais’s growth throughout her time at Exeter, Shang said, “Over the past four years she has matured. She has had many stressful situations thrown at her during the season and it has molded her confidence. She just seems so confident in her ability on the court to win and get her teammates to play better.”

“She is an absolute joy to work with and we are so lucky to have her in our dorm. She helps create a supportive and welcoming community with her genuine smile and thoughtful nature,” Instructor in Science and Morais’s current advisor Jeanette Lovett said.

When asked to describe Morais in one word, Fu assuredly said “Family.”

“I genuinely see Sofia as family to me. I have never regretted Exeter for a second, and one of the main reasons is because of Sofia. I love her very much, which I think she knows, but it never hurts to tell her more,” Fu said.

Reflecting upon a favorite song that accompanied her and played in the background of countless memories, Morais settled on “Japanese Denim” by her favorite artist Daniel Caesar.

Morais called attention to a lyric from the song that highlights her core value and fulfillment at Exeter—

My blue jeans
Will last me all my life

“In this song, Daniel Caesar refers to Japanese Denim, which is known for its high quality and durability,” Morais explained.

“He’s talking about his lover, but for me it’s different. I feel like this lyric ties with friendships and forming really strong connections. In the Exeter community, if you put in a lot of time to form friendships that make you feel good, they are going to last you a very long time, past Exeter and past graduation. I made a lot of friends here that I know I will still be talking to ten years from now. In the future, after leaving Exeter, I hope I can remain someone that my friends can still go to and rely on. I hope I’m the type of person that could maintain those relationships,” Morais said, connecting her favorite song and lyric to her core value of friendship and discovery of diverse communities in Exeter.



Happy Graduation,
Charlie!
We love you!
Mom and Dad

Senior of the Year: Cindy Su



Courtesy of Cindy Su

By LUCY JUNG '25

The first time someone walked into the forum on a Wednesday evening, they would see a director-general at the podium, preparing Model UN delegates for their upcoming conference. The next time they walked into the forum on Sunday afternoon, they would see the director of competition at the podium, elaborating on the upcoming DECA and FBLA competitions. The first time someone went online, they would see a remarkable source for Exonians and new Exonians alike, put together by the founder of Exieblog during the height of the pandemic. The next time someone went online, they would see an empowering publication, publishing under the lead of a Wevision cohead. A single person assumes these roles: Cindy Su.

Su briefly spoke on her journey prior to Exeter. "I'm originally from a little suburb called Shoreview in St. Paul, Minnesota. My family moved over to Massachusetts when I started prep year because both my sister and I were attending school on the east coast."

Since her prep year, on campus, Su has lived in Amen Hall, "on the first floor the entire time, with an exception in my lower year when I lived on the third floor."

Fellow senior Kate Nixon, Su's prep-year roommate, recalled the times they spent together. "Cindy is actually one of the first people I ever met at Exeter. She was my prep year roommate! I remember my first impression of Cindy was how intelligent she was. At first, I felt a little intimidated by Cindy but from the get-go, she was so incredibly kind and always willing to help me out. I'll always remember her pink flower wall decorations and her scrumptious vitamin gummies."

Nixon continued, speaking on a favorite memory from their time together as roommates. "During the evenings of our prep year, we would set our phones up between

our beds and click on the timer, then try to capture an 'in-motion' picture of us leaping from bed to bed in the middle of the air. With both of our beds lofted to their maximum height, we must have been at least seven feet from the ground. We undoubtedly had the best snap 'streaks' photos."

Currently, Su is a proctor on the first floor. "I really enjoy Amen because I love all the people in there. They're so hardworking and kind to each other," Su said. She continued on the culture of Amen Hall: "Everyone enjoys spending time with their dormmates. Sometimes we'll hang out in the hallway, we have birthday parties every month. Overall I think it's such a great and supportive community and I've really enjoyed my time in Amen."

When asked to detail her motive for becoming an Amen proctor, Su said, "I wanted to be a proctor ever since my prep year because of all the amazing upperclassmen in the dorm. They were a true inspiration because they always gave time to lowerclassmen, hanging out with them and genuinely caring about them. And so I wanted to express that in the same way by building a strong, supportive community and by being a senior that lowerclassmen could depend on."

Su mentioned a particular proctor, Cristal Reyes '20, who was her role model. "Cristal was also on the first floor, and we would talk about anything and everything. We bonded over those conversations and our similar music taste, and in general, she was an incredibly kind person." Su continued, talking about how Reyes changed her for the better. "I was very hard on myself academically because I was adjusting to Exeter and felt like I wasn't doing as well as I did at my old school, just like many others feel. But Cristal helped me understand how to study and learn while being less harsh on myself. She taught me to focus on learning rather than just the results."

In addition to her dorm proctorship, Su is the beating heart of numerous

clubs on campus and entrepreneurial programs outside of Exeter. "I genuinely feel like one of the most important takeaways I have from Exeter comes from the extracurriculars here. I'm a completely different person that the person I'd have been at Moundview High School, back at home. I feel like I was able to tap into so much more of my leadership potential here because I was given opportunities and I rose to the challenge. Without those opportunities, I wouldn't have discovered what I'm capable of or who I am now," Su said.

"After I graduate and enter the business world, I'll make an endowed fund for extracurriculars here, because I care about them so much. They've changed who I am, how I carry myself, and what I see myself as in the future," Su added.

Among the plethora of her extracurricular achievements, one of the most noteworthy is that Su brought DECA, an outside-of-school business competition, to Exeter Business Club for the first time.

"I started off by doing FBLA tests and events, but over Covid, the will to participate in FBLA died out because everything went online. During the pandemic, Joseph Chen ['21] suggested we make a change and add DECA to the club the following year. So it was his idea, but the implementation ended up being done by Andrea Hernandez and myself because we were the co-curriculum directors at the time," Su said. She continued to further elaborate on the work that went into the DECA integration. "I ended up taking on somewhat of an advisor role, doing all the nitty-gritty work like registering people, gathering permission forms, doing other paperwork, etc. I emailed a lot back and forth with Lisa Depin, the NH DECA State advisor, and we ended up getting the Exeter chapter set up and started teaching our club members the curriculum," Su added.

"Everyone did a great job of preparing through our workshops and training, so I'm glad that DECA's worked out," Su said. Su also served as the New Hampshire DECA Co-President for the past year, which she reflected on: "I worked really closely with my other co-president Dylan Valk, and we established an NH DECA leadership council."

"I think [DECA] was so much more fun this year since we got to attend in person and I feel like I see a future for the club now. I'm very happy that my impact made these clubs a more routine part of people's lives and something that will hopefully be a cornerstone of their time at Exeter," Su concluded.

In addition to Exeter Business Club, Su assumed the role of director-general for the Model United Nations club during her senior year.

When she started the club as a prep, Su admitted she did not have the greatest impression of Model UN. "But BosMUN changed my idea on everything," Su said. "I was in the Women in Sports committee, representing Serbia, and I learned so much about collaboration and navigating relationships with people I had just met."

When asked what her proudest moment as director general was, Su replied, "When someone comes back to our delegation's committee debrief room and asks for advice, then manages to take that advice into committee. It's such a proud moment when we visit our delegates in their next committee session and they've become a power delegate." Su added, "Being a director-general is so rewarding because you can help somebody do better. I don't even know how to describe it. It's just very rewarding to see somebody else succeed, and know that you had like a small part in that."

Su is also incredibly committed to female empowerment and giving back to the community. "A summer camp I did with my sister in eighth grade, during which we taught young girls how to code,

sparked my interest in a female representation," Su said. "I joined We Vision just off of whim, but I met so many great people that were part of the club and had to continue!"

"I think We Vision was one of the first chances I was given to lead at Exeter and I really owe a lot to the club. I become co-head when I was a lower and I was shocked at first. I have to owe that to Summer (year/last name?) for giving me a chance to lead," Su said. "I still talk to Summer now and she and I are both incredibly happy that the club is still running and in great hands."

On a similar tangent, Su also founded 'Exie Blog' when the Covid-19 pandemic hit, and it came to her attention that the incoming Class of '24 did not have many sources to consult as they made a decision for their offer. "[The Class of '24] was mostly left on their own. They didn't get a revisit day because of Covid, so all they got were virtual webinars and information posters. I saw that and truly empathized because I didn't know anyone that went to boarding school or private school for that matter. So I reached out to Tyler Caldwell, my English teacher back then, and asked if we could make a blog to give people transparent advice about making their Exeter decisions," Su said.

"Over Covid, it gave me something that I could work on every single day. I saw the results happen: students showed up to the webinars that we hosted and panels with seniors were successful. I was so invigorated by the fact that I was doing something that made an impact on people, even those who hadn't yet joined the Exeter community," Su added.

Su spoke on how she faced some backlash from the administration at first, as they "told [her] that Exie Blog needed to get off the internet." Regardless, however, she continued persevering and eventually got around the opposition. Su managed to collaborate with the administration and IT department, which led to adding Exie Blog on Exeter Connect. "I just turned over the board last week, and am feeling very optimistic about the club's future. I love everyone on the board and have full confidence in them. It's scary to give your brainchild away, but I'm happy that we found ways to continue Exie Blog, even after I leave," Su said.

Su's founding of Exie Blog is closely related to her role as a head tour guide for the admissions office. "Because I recognize that the school has given me so much, I try to show other people what the school can give them. I want them to see their potential at this school. I want them to be able to see a better version of themselves or someone that they aspire to become here, and if they don't see that, maybe they're just not fit for the school. But I do the best of my ability to show them what the school can offer," Su said.

In addition to the numerous on-campus activities she has taken part in, Su has also participated in numerous entrepreneurial programs outside of Exeter. "I started 'Dream AI' with Anish, Joey, and Isabella. Though it was a non-profit, it also taught me a lot about start-ups. I also did a special education app startup called 'Specifi,'" Su said.

Su started 'Specifi' at Berkeley Business Academy for youth in the summer of 2022. "I and a couple of others were

assigned to work on a project where we had to solve a problem using a business. We were very lost at the start, but one of the guys proposed special education and I completely agreed that there was a serious problem with it," Su said. Su's motivation sparked even more after she listened to one of her groupmates talk about the inequitable education opportunities in Dubai. "So I was like, I want to do everything I can to try and solve this. During the camp, we wrote the actual business plan and just started on business basics, and ended with a pitch competition. Our app 'Specifi' is a mobile application, with the goal of decreasing the amount of time that special educators spend on paperwork and taking down data, since that way, they'll have more time to focus on all the students that they have," Su added.

"After the camp, we realized we had all the resources necessary to start 'Specifi,' and that there was a real market for it. We had done a lot of interviews with special educators and they were all very receptive to this idea. So we decided to try it, and I was particularly excited because I always am for doing things rather than ending with making hypotheticals," Su said. So even after her summer camp ended, Su participated in even more pitch competitions with her group to receive more feedback on her group's business plan. When she returned to school, she recruited Trevor Pill '23 to work on the actual mobile app development. "We were like, 'Yo, why don't you come and be our Chief Technology Officer and build out this app?' He was up for it, so he did the coding while I integrated the business ideas and product markups," Su said. Su has created a pilot app and plans to resume her work with it over the summer.

Su spoke about her plans for the future, which once again highlighted her non-Sibi side and stemmed directly from her entrepreneurship experience. "I want to be someone who is going to make a good social impact on the world because I know I can. I know that I am capable of more than just existing, more than just putting food on my own plate and on my family's plate. I know I can do something that will genuinely benefit humanity. Specifically, I really care about equity and access to good education for everyone, something else that stemmed from coming to Exeter. Ideally, I want to become a social entrepreneur."

Su, apart from her numerous extracurricular experiences, will leave Exeter this coming summer with many treasured memories and friendships.

"I remember our lower year, a group of us would spend our afternoons outside Dutch House just talking. Lower Spring was chill and fun, and I would walk around town with Cindy, just enjoying the weather. She is such an easy person to talk to. One time we craved ice cream, so we walked to the gas station and got drumsticks - they were so good! My favorite memories are when I'm just walking and talking with Cindy, it's so comforting and it feels like a movie," senior Alysha Lai added.

When asked what they value or admire most about Su, multiple individuals gave heartwarming



Senior of the Year: Eric Zhang

Courtesy of Eric Zhang

By PHIN GIBBS '25

The sound of the ball hitting the wall echoed through the space as Eric slammed the rubber ball into the front wall over and over, practicing his shots and movements with dedication. Despite it being 10 p.m. on a Saturday, a smile was painted on Eric's face as he felt energized and determined, enjoying the thrill of the game.

Eric Zhang is the epitome of determination. Hailing from New Jersey and a senior and proctor

in Soule Hall, Eric brings a remarkable level of tenacity to every activity he engages in. He serves as the captain of the Squash team, participates in advanced STEM classes, and contributes his writing skills to the MATTER magazine. However,

what sets Eric apart is the kindness he exudes toward those around him. He is always available to chat, assist with biology or math classes, or help refine one's squash serve. Eric is incredibly generous with his time, making him a truly exceptional individual.

Zhang has been surrounded by school his entire life: "My mom's a teacher at a local private school where I live in New Jersey. My whole life I've been pretty much just following my mom around." Zhang had grown up with a lot of the same kids since kindergarten, saying "That's what was so different for me at Exeter, was the process of meeting new people, given that I had always been with the same people."

When talking about why he came to Exeter, Zhang mentioned, "I was kind of just looking for a

place because [of] the way the ladder works and how you're always playing up and down against your own teammates. People get competitive with each other. This can cause animosity between players, which is not conducive to the team environment."

Zhang articulated how he has aimed to shift the culture. "Ben Ehrman, Sean Wu, and I worked on making sure the team is close and focusing on our matches against the other schools rather than the matches between

ourselves." Upper Ryan Breen, a member of the squash team, talked about Zhang's contributions to the team. "He was a great captain that always encouraged people to do their best and consistently perform at the highest level possible. He induced a very positive environment on the team and he is just a great all-around guy."

Eric's ability to lead the squash team is in character with his personality. As senior Henry Liu expressed, "Eric is what you call a natural leader, people always gravitate toward him and you can always find him in all aspects of Exeter, on the sports field, or in the classroom always helping and teaching people."

Another incredible quality of Zhang is his dedication to helping others in a myriad of subjects. Upper Rohan Radhakeesoon experienced his generous help first-hand and remarked, "Eric is one of the most talented people on campus, Eric helped me in Organic Chemistry, which was not my strong suit, and helped me tackle that class." Zhang's commitment to helping people to make sure that they are the best they can be is one of the most admirable things.

Senior Kaitlin Clark articulated a similar special characteristic. "Eric Zhang made BIO560 almost manageable, and together we scraped through that class. Eric is one of the most intelligent people I know and is always willing to share that intelligence, which is something you do not find enough of at this school. People who genuinely want to help others and expand their knowledge are few."

Eric Zhang's actions of helping others are a testament to his character. He serves as an inspiration to those around him, demonstrating the value of hard work, perseverance, and a willingness to share one's knowledge with others. It is individuals like Eric who make the Exeter course load bearable.

Zhang continued, "They had a great coach and she helped me get started with the sport and what had just started, which turned into playing some squash tournaments, traveling around the country, and meeting some great people."

Zhang articulated what drew him to squash, "Squash is a really small community, so when I go to tournaments, and when we play school matches, I know a lot of the kids."

Eric Zhang's actions of helping others are a testament to his character. He serves as an inspiration to those around him, demonstrating the value of hard work, perseverance, and a willingness to share one's knowledge with others. It is individuals like Eric who make the Exeter course load bearable.

Zhang continued to talk about his lower year which, for the most part, was conducted online and off-campus. "I think lower year was a little bit isolating. Because of zoom classes, even though we were in our own dorms, there were just a lot of restrictions. One was not being able to go into other people's rooms in your own dorm. But I think that my friends and I made a really great effort to

stay connected with each other."

For his upper year, Zhang said, "I was able to meet a lot of different people that I hadn't met before because we were all back in person and seeing each other. Joining a lot of different communities and trying new things was a big part of my upper year."

Although Zhang only completed two terms of his senior year on campus, he described the year. "Everything's come full circle. I really enjoy our class and I think everyone is just trying to enjoy their final year at Exeter. People have college applications and all that stress, but people have tried to put that aside, and get the most out of their senior year."

While I would be hesitant to say that Zhang completed a metamorphosis over the course of his four years, he was not averse to changing his outlook.

One of the discoveries that Zhang found during his time at Exeter was his interest in biology and genetics. "I spent a lot of time in upper year with biology, such as advanced bio. An upperclassman in my dorm who was interested in biology as well brought me into the different bio-related clubs. I think the highlight of my STEM interest was the genetics fly class."

Senior Anish Mudide commented on Eric's ability to conduct the experiments. "I got to know Eric through BIO670. We studied flies and sequenced their genomes and spread that information to other scientists. Eric was very good at taking care of his flies and was very talented at the theoretical understanding of the genetics of the fly."

Zhang's time with the flies also connects to his commitment to helping people. Mudide continued, "He also created fly kits that enabled kids to learn about genetics. Not only does he care about STEM, but he also believes in community service and helping people through STEM and spreading his knowledge to others."

Zhang placed a high level of importance on his ability to gain independence through Exeter. Zhang described, "Another big thing from my four years here has just really been the dorm community for me. The squash team, the cycling team, different clubs, activities, and all of the other seniors have seriously helped me become a different and independent person."

Cindy Su Cont.

comforting and it feels like a movie," senior Alysha Lai added.

When asked what they value or admire most about Su, multiple individuals gave heartwarming responses.

Su's advisor and dorm faculty member Carla Collins remarked, "Cindy is always interested in making the world a better place. Her work with teaching girls to code, empowering women in the workplace, and her Exie blog are just a few examples." She continued, "Cindy is also an empathic individual and an excellent listener. On her proctor duty nights, you can always find her with a large group

of girls huddled around her in her dorm room, along with all sorts of yummy candies."

Similarly, Senior Mansa Awuah added, "My favorite thing about Cindy's personality is her selflessness and ability to put others first. I also greatly admire her willingness to reach out to people and be a resource for those who need it. Cindy makes it known that she can always provide help for anything friends might need."

Lai also said, "I love her smile! Cindy's smile makes me feel so welcomed and comforted. It's real."

"Cindy's the most

friendly and easiest person to talk to. Her attitude is always open and welcoming, brightening any room," senior Chloe Zhu added.

"Cindy is an optimistic realist who never looks to the past. When something goes wrong, she quickly recenters and focuses on the next possible solution. She's never afraid to ask for help or for something that she wants, whether this be from her peers, adults, or standby tickets on an earlier flight, something I remember from spending hours together at the Chicago O'Hare airport," senior and fellow board member

of Exeter Business Club

Kaitlin Clark said.

Clark continued, adding, "I admire Cindy's organization more than anything else. It is truly delightful to run a club with her. I have never once worried that she wouldn't pull her weight, get her work done, or take on more than she had time for, though I have really no clue how she has time for all of the work she does in her studies and especially extracurriculars. Conferences in particular have always gone smoothly with Cindy leading them."

Nixon added, "I admire the dedication and reliability that Cindy carries with her every day. Cindy has goals set for herself and she is always steadfast in working to achieve them. She also is the best shoulder to lean on. Anytime I have a problem

or need to talk something through, Cindy is who I go to. She is levelheaded, logical, and brings a lot to any conversation that involves problem-solving."

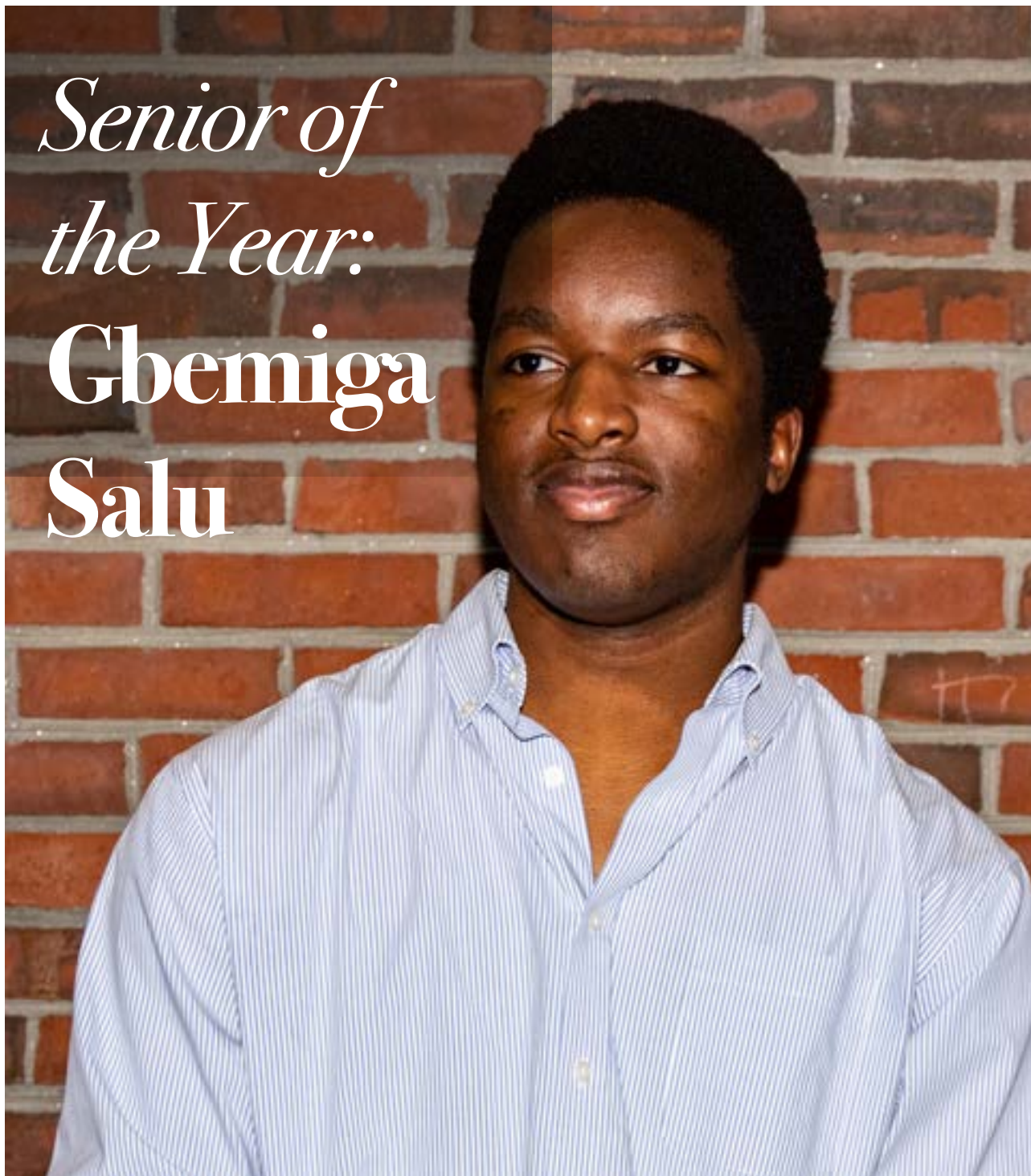
Senior David Chen said, "I think Cindy's a great conversationalist and really easy to talk to. You never run out of things to say to each other and she's always able to keep the conversation going. She also cares a lot about other people and she's a great listener. I think in general Cindy's very aware of everything that's going on, especially people's feelings, and I really appreciate that about her."

Su, a valued member of the Exeter community, will be departing campus after graduation this coming June. When asked for some final words for the community, Su replied,

"My senior quote was, 'Youth is meant to be burnt with passion.' Whenever I do things, I never do them half-heartedly. Either I don't do them at all, or I do them with everything I have. So I hope everyone tries their hardest and does things that they truly feel are worth their time and matters to them."

"There is truly no one like Cindy, and her shoes are far too big to fill. They're like metaphorical clown shoes," Clark said. She continued, saying, "There is no one thing I wish everyone could know about Cindy. I wish everyone could know everything about Cindy. I feel sorry for the people in this world who will never get to meet her, learn her, and love her." We will miss you, Cindy.

Senior of the Year: Gbemiga Salu



By JOONYOUNG HEO '25

It's a brisk Friday evening and the wind is picking up, but it's warm inside. Senior Grill is packed tonight. Bunches of Exonians are huddled around every table, sipping from cans and tall bottles and fishing through boxes of chicken tenders and fried mozzarella sticks. Backpacks and jackets are strewn on the benches or across the floor. The more time passes, the louder it gets. At a table in the far right corner sits a particular group of seniors locked in conversation — and at the center of it all is Gbemiga Salu, enjoying the food, enjoying the company. Nothing will distract him for the next few hours.

Hailing from Lagos, Nigeria, Salu is a proctor in Abbot Hall. He has spent much of his time at Exeter in the Music Department, as a member of both the Exeter Jazz and concert choir. On occasion, he also performs with the Jazz Ensemble and the Exeter Association of Rock (EAR). Elsewhere on campus, Salu was a previous captain of the Daniel Webster Debate Society (DWDS) and is a well-respected thrower on the Track and Field Team. And, of course, he served as the Cruciverbalist under the 144th Executive Board of The Exonian.

But perhaps what is most incredible about Salu is his title of two-year senior, having joined the class of '23 as an upper. To an outsider, that seems practically a challenge impossible to surmount — to become part of and to excel amongst a tight-knit body of students who have known each other for so long. Yet Salu attempted it, and he has seen remarkable success.

Boarding school was not a new experience for Salu. In Nigeria, he had five years to get used to being away from home. He came to Exeter in search of a number of things.

"I was looking for more opportunities, both in the academic sense and not," Salu said. "I just wanted to be at a school where I'd be exposed to more in terms of coursework and extracurriculars, but also in terms of people. I wanted to meet and interact with kids my age from all over the world."

"I chose Exeter

specifically for the Harkness," he continued. "The whole idea of people talking in class as opposed to listening to the instructor or sitting in a lecture — that was stimulating. I was really drawn to it because I've always loved discussing and debating things with other people. So once I saw I could do that every day in every class, I was sold."

As to why Salu only came to Exeter in his upper year, he did not have an exact reason. "After the tenth grade, it felt like the right time felt home," he said. "I just felt comfortable leaving. And that's how things were done. I have an older brother and he did the same thing. Senior year felt too late and freshman year too early."

Once he arrived on campus, Salu certainly did face a number of challenges. "Obviously, there are few new uppers, and by the time you get to upper year, most people have formed their friend groups and they know how things go at Exeter," he said. "You don't have the pass-fail term like the preps do, either. Even now, in my senior spring, there are still moments when people make a reference to something and I have no idea what they're talking about. There are also certain traditions that came back after COVID hit, and I'm experiencing them for the first time, while other people just know what those are."

"But I think I've been able to adjust," Salu continued. "At least somewhat successfully. I've come to be a lot more comfortable here."

Salu credits his familiarity with Exeter to the things he does on campus, particularly in the classroom. Harkness and the humanities have largely been responsible, allowing him to come to grips with a new environment by drawing from his background in speech.

"Before coming to Exeter, I always saw myself as a very math- and science-oriented person," he said. "But I think Exeter and Harkness have made me a lot more interested and involved in the humanities. I took a philosophy class last fall and I'll probably never forget it. It was my first term at Exeter and also the most discussion-heavy class. I'll remember it for throwing

me into the deep end of Harkness and forcing me to learn how to swim."

"I've also grown to really enjoy poetry electives," Salu continued. "Last winter in upper English, with Mr. Hearon, all we did was just read poems and talk about them. Because I liked that class so much, I signed up for two senior English electives, poetry and song in the winter and documentary poetics in the spring."

Unsurprisingly, Salu's passion and talent for the subject left a strong impression on his instructors. "Hearing him read poetry aloud makes for some of my best memories of him," English Instructor Todd Hearon said. "He has an impeccable sense of phrasing. Also, hearing him sing in class, watching the jaws drop and the hearts melt, has been wonderful. This place was broken, fragmented, isolated by the pandemic. He worked to heal the fractured relationships, the loneliness, and bring the community together again."

Aside from his classes, the Music Department has helped Salu find his footing at the Academy. "Obviously I sing in the concert choir, but I'm also in this small group called Gli Scalatori," he said. "It's got a very long Italian name, and there's eight of us, all audition-based. We sing old chamber pieces from hundreds of years ago, sometimes in English, sometimes in French. It really is an interesting group. For one, the music is so unique, and it just sounds good. It's stuff I've never encountered before. Singing is something I've always done and enjoyed, but the opportunities at Exeter have definitely allowed me to explore more avenues of music."

"But I've also made so many great friends through choir and Gli Scalatori and my a capella group," he continued. "I met some of my closest friends there, like Clark and Polly. And the relationships with the music faculty, too — I've become so close with Mr. Johnson. I even got to go on the Puerto Rico tour this past spring, where I was exposed to new food and music and got much closer with people I already knew. So I've managed to form a lot of relationships today through my singing."

Courtesy of Gbemiga Salu

Just as with poetry, Salu's instructors have frequently taken note of his work. "Gbemiga is a talented tenor, a very strong musician, and an important leader in our vocal ensembles," Chair of the Department of Music Kristofer Johnson said. "Rather recently, I have indelible memories of Gbemiga on our performance tour to Puerto Rico. It was great to get to know him away from the stresses of campus. His legacy will be one of leadership and high musical expectations for his section and for the choir."

Peer singers have equally appreciated Salu's influence in the choir groups. "I first met him at the introductory concert choir meeting," senior Clark Wu said. "That was our upper year. I was just happy to see another tenor in the section because it can always use more people. Many directors would agree that tenor is the hardest to sing at our age, since our voices are still very much developing. But Gbemiga has proven to be a fantastic singer, and I'm so happy to have gotten to know him through our music."

"He's such a joy to be around," senior Angela Zhang said. "There was one day that he wasn't at choir rehearsal, and someone said his name and everyone cheered. People just know who Gbemiga is. Often Mr. Johnson asks us questions like 'Who's someone you look up to?' or 'Who's inspiring you today?' We all go around and share, and Gbemiga always answers with his own name — not in an arrogant way, but in a way that he knows it's going to get everyone laughing. He always wants to make us laugh."

"Gbemiga's extremely talented and all that, but he's always late," senior Maya Cohen said. "Everywhere. We were just in Puerto Rico and he was always dead last to get ready. We'd be waiting downstairs and his roommate would tell us he was in the shower. Even in normal rehearsals, he always cruises in late and acts like he's gracing us with his presence. He obviously does it to make us laugh, and it works. That's such an important strength. He's always productive when he needs to be, but he also knows how to lighten

situations when people are just really tired, which can happen a lot in music."

Salu's tenure as debate captain under the previous DWDS board has also played an integral role in getting used to life here. "I did debate long before I came to Exeter, but I can definitely say that DWDS has only helped me grow my appreciation for it," he said. "There's debate even outside the club, too. It's everywhere. I've had countless arguments with Arhon Strauss in Grill, often about the most insignificant things, but it's those little moments that got me used to Exeter."

"The other captains were great," Salu continued. "It was an awesome team to work with and I've become very close friends with all of them. We'd talk a lot about our meetings and make each other laugh. And my time as captain let me interact with everyone in the club. That's one of the most rewarding things about debate leadership — giving debaters feedback and watching them grow. It's been an incredible experience."

Salu's role as Cruciverbalist for The Exonian has proved to be similarly gratifying work and opened the door to his involvement with the Academy's publication. "I really enjoyed solving crosswords before Exeter," he said. "I started doing them religiously during the pandemic. Then I had math with Chieko Imamura, the senior last year who made the crosswords previously. And I'd just be sitting in class and watching her working on them. I became friends with her, and when turnovers came around she encouraged me to apply. Really appreciated her."

Even apart from all of these passions and extracurriculars, it's the spirit of community at Exeter that spoke to him the most. "My first E/A was here and everyone was out in red," Salu said. "And that was the best school spirit I'd seen anywhere. Back in Nigeria, that kind of thing never happens. It really opened my eyes and made me grateful to be at a school that so many people love. That experience made me feel closer to this community than anything else."

Indeed, Salu's appreciation for community has been recognized by all those around him. His natural affinity for conversation and camaraderie frequently shines through in every aspect of campus life.

"Gbemiga exemplifies goodwill and serving others in his daily routine," throws coach Stephen Holmes said. "He is often seen with a cluster of students engaging in meaningful and upbeat discussion. There is always fun and laughter emanating from these occasions. He brings a leadership quality as an ambassador of goodwill with a blend of genuine warmth and good humor."

Likewise, students have taken notice. "He's a role model, especially in the dorm," upper Ayaan Akhtar said. "There are so many things he does and so much he can be proud of, but you'll never see him gloating about them. He's just so humble. The energy he brings to Abbot as a proctor and how easily he makes people laugh are not going to be forgotten."

"He's an incredibly enthusiastic person," senior Tucker Gibbs said. "He's really funny as well. His energy is definitely something special. This winter, we were in senior grill and he decided to share his meditation, which as really touching and special moment."

"He's a super loving force," senior Ina Mason said. "He gets along with everyone. He's always around different people, and he's the kind of person you see around and you remember you have a place on campus. Just a few weeks ago, we randomly decided to play Just Dance with a projector. I just remember it was a lot of fun and a great evening with him."

"I've seen him in class and around campus, and I can definitely say he's one happy person," senior Rodrigo Spinola e Castro said. "It's something delightful to watch. We all know he's really, really smart and does very well in his classes, but he also never fails to bring up the energy everywhere he goes. Whenever I'm in a class with him, I just know it's going to be a great time."

Perhaps the most noticeable change in Salu — and one directly tied to the extent of his comfort at the Academy — is the readiness with which he interacts with people on campus. Now, spontaneous discussion occupies hours of his time each week.

"When I got to Exeter, I'd go to my room to eat and just sit there when I didn't have any classes or things to do," Salu said. "But now I like to go outside and walk around campus, stop by Grill, and see if there's anyone I can stop and have a chat with. And these sorts of interactions have grown into hours-long conversations. That's what I do in my free time. I just love talking with other people."

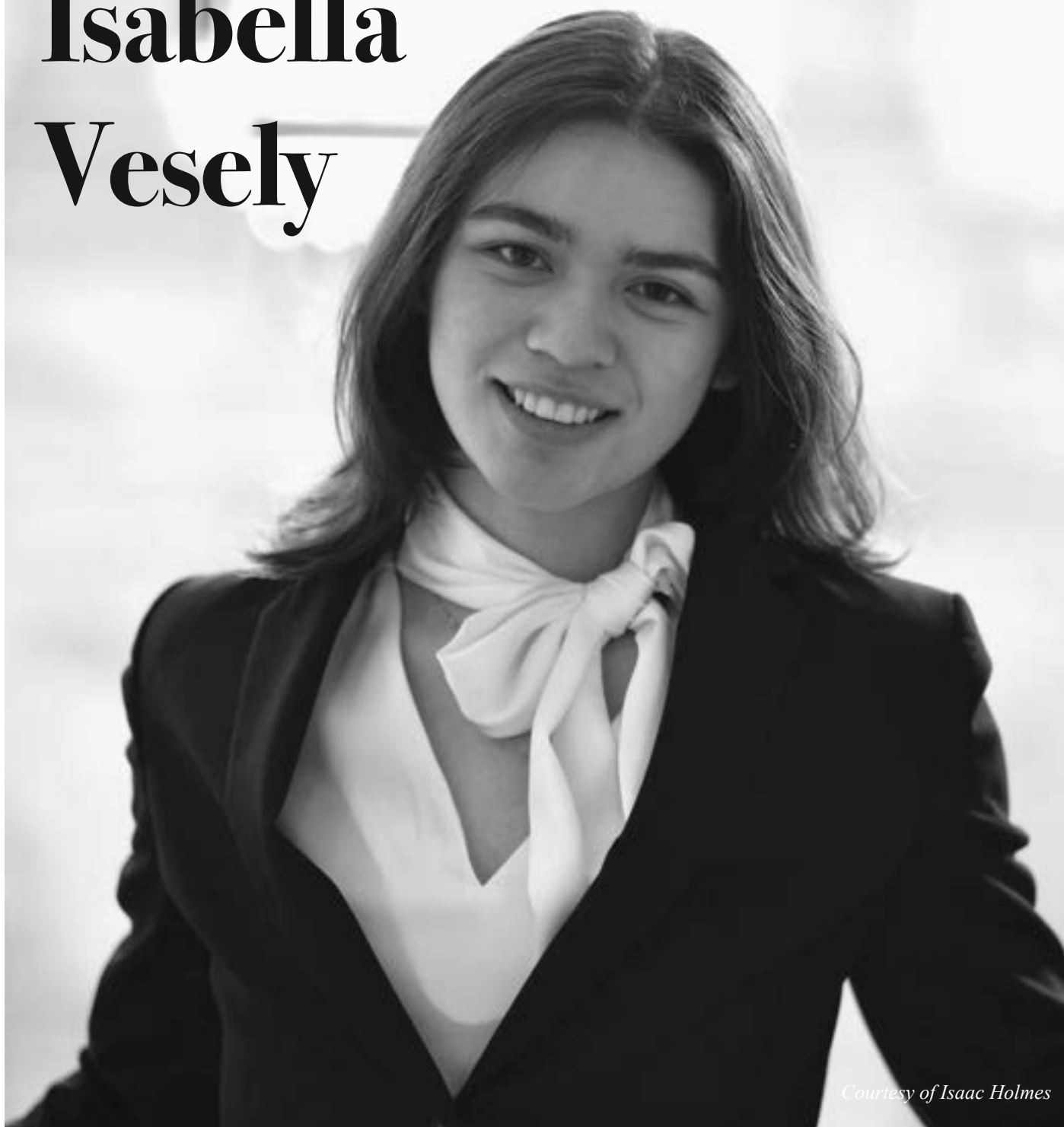
Equally, these conversations have long been the center of many friendships with Salu. "Sure, Gbemiga is one of the best singers Exeter has ever had, but I think he's really going to be remembered for his jokes and all the time he spends in Grill," senior Arhon Strauss said. "He loves to argue just for the fun of it and disagree for the sake of disagreeing. He's also a little smug, but in a really funny way. Three of us were gathered around a table in Grill and we were talking about how smug he looks, and all the while he was looking quite smug. I really love those kinds of moments."

"He always has something to say, something to clap back with, something to do," upper Neil Varwandkar said. "Rarely will you get a quiet Gbemiga, who sits back from a conversation, which is something I greatly admire about him. He's never afraid to voice his opinion and he can always back them up with witty arguments that always seem to convince you."

These discussions do not always feature the most serious issues — just the opposite. "My favorite memory is when he asked if ice cream is a soup," senior Enzo Nakornsri said. "The bigger question at stake was when ice cream is considered a liquid. That's when it's melting, or when it finishes melting or stops somewhere in between. So can you drink ice cream? The debate got pretty intense, and I enjoyed every bit of it."

"One day, I was talking with him about the new Paramore album that was coming out," upper Clara Peng said. "That's not a band a lot of people I know enjoy, and I remember being really surprised that he told me he loves it too. And from then on, whenever I see him throughout the day, we exchange notes on new Paramore music. It's just really nice to know someone who shares your interests and whom you can bicker about favorite and least

Senior of the Year: Isabella Vesely



Courtesy of Isaac Holmes

By ETHANDING '25

Senior Isabella Vesely is everywhere. If you want to seek her out, head to the top floor of the science center in the evening before check-in; you might find her working hard on the latest version of the Robotics Team's competition robot. Or, head over to the squash courts on a Wednesday afternoon to spectate one of her matches, leading the girls varsity squash team to victory. You can find your way to Physics Club in Instructor in Science James DiCarlo's room on a Friday night to attend one of Vesely's lectures. If you happen to be walking by the Music Building on a Monday or Thursday night, you can find her leading the Symphony Orchestra, preparing for their next big concert. This spring, she was in Washington, D.C., working as a congressional intern. Next year, she'll be in Cambridge, amongst the world's brightest at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"I'm from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but my background is half Czech, half Taiwanese, so I spent a lot of time visiting family in both places. I have a pretty equal Czech and Chinese background," Vesely said. "I speak both Czech and Chinese, and French too

since my family lived there for a while when I was in fifth grade."

Ever since middle school, Vesely has shown much devotion to things she has been interested in. "My main extracurricular before Exeter was the violin. I consistently played in five music ensembles, and I was just always practicing. Maybe one to two hours a day and even three on weekends. In addition to practicing, I played in my school orchestras, a chamber orchestra, a quartet and another larger orchestra."

In fourth grade, Vesely discovered robotics and was immediately hooked. "I started an FLL team, a robotics team, and then I also did all the robotics activities my school offered. We weren't very good. I was the main person doing mechanical, and I was just starting to learn how to program simultaneously. I found that it was really enjoyable, and I liked the fact that I was learning stuff," Vesely said.

Although she was already an exemplary student in Wisconsin, Vesely found herself wanting more. "I was at the top school in Wisconsin, but I was already on track to finish my math classes by 10th grade, and I had also finished all their French language classes," Vesely said. "My teacher in

seventh grade knew about Exeter and recommended that I go. I realized it would be a better opportunity to be with people who enjoyed similar extracurriculars as I did. I wouldn't be the only one interested in math, and I wouldn't be the only one interested in robotics. I decided to apply because of all the great people I knew I would meet and to expand my horizons."

Becoming a student at Exeter uncovered a whole bunch of new opportunities for Vesely. Despite being mainly a tennis player before coming to Exeter, she discovered squash in her prep year, made the varsity team, and is now co-captain.

"It was my prep year, and I picked up a racket less than a week before tryouts. I'd never held a squash racket before," Vesely said. "I ordered a \$30 one off of Amazon, and I tried out because people said it was a racket sport. Since I played tennis, I thought, 'this could be fun practice for tennis season.' Unfortunately, it's not practice for tennis season and it messes up your tennis stroke, but it's very fun."

Despite joining the team as a beginner, Vesely improved quickly.

"Even though you play against other people, squash is also somewhat of an individual sport. You can practice entirely by yourself

and build up your skills," Vesely said. "We had E- and F-block squash, so I would eat lunch in 20 minutes and then go play squash until training started. I would also keep playing after training, and sometimes I would almost be late for my next class. Every day I would do as much squash as possible just because I wanted to improve, and I could see the growth over time. I had started close to the bottom of the ladder, but I ended up seventh by the end of my first year, meaning I had qualified for varsity."

In addition to her individual experience and progress in squash, being a part of a team was meaningful to Vesely.

"When you play against another team, you're being refereed by someone on your own team. When you practice, you're being coached by someone on your own team, and in the same way, you also coach your teammates."

Through squash, Vesely has become a part of a supportive group of teammates and friends. Lower Byran Huang works closely with Vesely in the robotics team, but he met her through squash.

"The first time I really got to interact with her was last year when there was a squash event," Huang said. "As the event was wrapping

up, I challenged her to a match, which I promptly lost. I got to know her more as I bumped into her on the squash courts since we had practice at the same time. She's a great player, and I feel that we've become very close through squash."

Reflecting on her experiences with squash, Vesely is grateful that the opportunity was provided at Exeter and that she took advantage of. The sport is one aspect of her life that has taught her that hard work pays off.

"My prep year proved to me that if I truly wanted to work hard, I didn't have to have to be super experienced. Even if I ranked behind people that have been playing for years and years, if I had the right mindset and dedication, I could get there too. I'm glad I've been able to play throughout all four years, even with the pandemic in the middle. Exeter squash has certainly been a big part of my learning experience here."

Another interest of Vesely's that flourished at Exeter was robotics. Although she had developed an interest in robotics in fourth grade, it was only at Exeter that she could explore it further. Her prior experience made her eager to join the team.

"I liked that robotics was both something hands-on as well as more analytical. Thinking about it from a more organizational viewpoint and then being able to put everything together and work with programmers to make it come to life was really appealing to me," Vesely said. "I specifically applied for the team that was known to have the highest time commitment and was at the highest competition level. I joined because the people there were the most interested in and passionate about robotics. I would be surrounded by kids with much more experience and knowledge than me and who were just as interested, so I knew I'd learn a lot there."

The robotics team at the time had different designations for team members, such as design, mechanical, and programming. Initially, Vesely did a lot of work relating to outreach.

"Something that people usually don't know about robotics is that we do a lot of community outreach,"

Vesely said. "I actually started on the team with mainly community outreach with some mechanical, and it was cool because we worked with local schools and even international schools."

After becoming a leader in the robotics team, Vesely made big structural improvements. One goal was to make the team structure less rigid and limiting.

"When I started, we had a very structured team. You had to be on outreach, mechanical, or programming, and there were very few opportunities for outreach members who might be less experienced to get involved in mechanical," Vesely said. "Right before transitioning into leadership, I received complaints that people weren't working on what they wanted and that there should be more fluidity...I changed the team structure so that everyone on outreach is affiliated with either mechanical or programming, and we have more teaching workshops."

A second matter of change was to make the club more welcoming to newer and less experienced members.

"Back when I applied to the team, we rejected over 50% of people that applied. As a result, many interested people couldn't participate," Vesely said. "We started two new FTC teams, largely due to Ms. Stallings helping us with our budget and getting a grant. I also lead the FTC of those two teams, ensuring that we're all working simultaneously. This way, we're not rejecting anyone from this robotics team. Now, everyone can do some sort of robotics at Exeter."

Under Vesely's leadership, the robotics club has flourished, claiming the state title in the first Tech Challenge and qualifying for the world competition. She has also successfully fostered one of the closest club dynamics at Exeter.

"I first met Isabella through robotics," upper Riya Tyagi said. "I think she's just a big presence in terms of her leadership and organizational skills. She had a lot of great ideas, and she worked closely with the team to ensure we accomplished everything we set out to do."

In addition to being her captain, Vesely is also a good friend to Tyagi.

"She always makes time to talk to me whenever she sees me around. We'll hang out, we'll chat, we'll go skating, all those sorts of things. I think that's something that's pretty universally described by a lot of people," Tyagi said. "She's both a leader and a friend in a lot of capacities."

Being a part of the team as a member alongside Vesely last year and witnessing her rise into the role of captain this year, upper Deborah Ang has seen her develop into a leader she not only looks up to, but is also close friends with.

Gbemiga Salu Cont.

favorite songs with."

From his status as a two-year senior, Salu's friendliness initially even surprised his friends. "I had no idea he was a new upper because he's literally friends with everyone," upper Amber Zou said. "It's crazy to think that he's connected with so many people in such a short amount of time. I don't know a single person who doesn't like Gbemiga for the funny, intelligent guy he is."

"He's going to be

one of those new upper and senior graduates who show you that time doesn't have anything to do with the type of person you become at Exeter," senior Ale Murat said. "It's really about the mindset you have and the determination to forge the right connections — just look at how far he came. He's just an admirable person. Everyone likes to be around him. We always make fun of him, but he's actually good at

everything he does."

Salu's attitude toward these day-to-day interactions has reflected a personal philosophy. "People come and go in Exeter, and the Academy will always be the same," he said. "But I hope, in my time here, that I've been able to help people take themselves and others not as seriously and have a bit more fun, to enjoy the time they have. And hopefully, through these small interactions, I've been

able to lighten the load for people stressed over their work."

Besides his openness around campus, Salu has grown in other ways as an individual, drawing particularly from his disorientation as a new student last year.

"I was definitely unsure when I got here," he said. "I was just overwhelmed and took things day by day. Before Exeter, I was never sure of who I am, and being here

has only made me more confused about that. Seeing so many different perspectives and experiences made it much less defined. I've constantly been trying new things that I thought I wouldn't enjoy in prior years. Exeter taught me to be more open to change."

And, in the past two years, it certainly seems that this attitude has served him well. "There's a hierarchy where it's harder for non-four-year-seniors to earn the same kind of reputation and status at the Academy," Zhang said. "But that never

stopped Gbemiga. People look at him and they think he's been here four years. He's been very intentional with his choices, and I'm sure the school will remember him."

"I learned from Gbemiga that Nigerians give first names an important meaning," Holmes said. "His name means to 'lift up.' And that's his legacy. His presence is uplifting, his smile is contagious, he's respectful and insightful, and he has the ability to promote goodwill and acts as a consummate peacemaker. I am

honored to be his coach and lasting friend."

The room is mostly empty now. A few stragglers crumple up their empty chip bags and toss their drinks into the trash. Six minutes from check-in, the last threads of conversation in the far right corner fade and the seniors rise from their seats. The building is nearly silent. "Good night," Salu calls, leaning against the door. They wave at him, and he waves back. The door swings shut behind him.

Isabella Vesely Cont.

“When I first met her, we were both just members of the team, and now she’s the team captain. She’s become one of the most welcoming people and humble people, and she’s definitely done a lot to make robotics, and STEM in general, at Exeter more open and give more opportunities to people who haven’t had much previous experience.”

For lowers Huang and Teddy Duncker, Vesely has been even more of a role model.

“Over the time that I’ve known her, I’ve seen how she motivates the team. She was always able to find the right words to calm us down when we were getting ahead of ourselves, getting out and getting stressed out. She’s always that captain who’s super friendly and that everyone looks up to,” Huang said. “I admire her work ethic, patience and especially her ability to lead the teams without coming off as intimidating. She puts herself on the same level as everyone else, and she has created an environment where everyone treats each other as good friends. Isabella pays very close attention to everyone and really looks out for us. Even if something is slightly off, she’ll notice it.”

“Isabella brings so much to Exeter. She is not only one of the most hardworking people I know but also very inclusive and kind,” Duncker said. “Last year, she was one of the people who helped me become much more involved in the robotics team. This year, she prioritized teaching the new members, even those on the other teams, making them feel much more capable and included.”

Despite only working with Vesely for one year, Instructor in Science Wendy Stallings has had a great experience facilitating the robotics teams.

“Isabella is not only brilliant but also a skilled and compassionate leader. She is the perfect example of merging intelligence and integrity. Her wisdom and grace in working with students are exceptional for a student her age, and her leadership will be missed greatly in robotics next year,” Stallings said.

On campus, Vesely has become known for her physics prowess. She has done physics research with the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) as an intern, is a cohead of the physics club, and is a learning center tutor that many have sought help from. But, as with squash, Vesely was only first introduced to physics at Exeter.

“I liked robotics and math, but I was completely unfamiliar with what physics was before I came to Exeter,” Vesely said. “My prep year, I knew I had to take either biology or physics. I had never taken physics before, and I told myself, ‘Even if I’m really bad, I’ll be fine because it’s pass-fail, right?’”

It only took one class for her to fall in love with the subject. “Ms. Waterman taught me during my prep year, and that was a great start to physics,” Vesely said. “Much of my first year was building confidence in my abilities to learn physics, and I felt I was always lacking because everyone else seemed to know so much more than me. Although some people did come in with prior knowledge, I ended up really liking the experiments, the lab aspect of classes, and realizing that what I can do in math is applicable to real life.”

After a strong first year,

Vesely decided to dive even deeper into physics. In her upper year, she took the advanced physics sequence, as well as the modern physics and quantum mechanics courses.

“My quantum mechanics class size was pretty small, and I was friends with a lot of the older kids, so it was cool to get to class early and ask each other questions and have discussions,” Vesely said. “I loved asking big questions about the world around us, and physics could answer many of them very concretely and directly.”

A big source of physics inspiration for Vesely during this time was one of her teachers, DiCarlo. She credits DiCarlo for sparking her interest in astrophysics and particle physics, as well as introducing her to research topics.

“Mr. DiCarlo was really impactful during my upper year,” Vesely said. “Somehow, he always has time to talk to you after class. He teaches so many courses, but he always has time.”

Vesely recalled a memorable experience from her modern physics class. “The course doesn’t utilize calculus, so we could only partially derive the $E=mc^2$ equation. I remember us saying, ‘there’s some finicky calculus, and it ends up being this.’ Over lunch, I went online and read some stuff, and I derived the full equation. I went to class early, and we had a great conversation about it.”

Outside of the classroom, Vesely is heavily involved in Physics Club. She is active in both aspects of the club: the United States International Young Physicists’ Tournament (USIYPT) and the lecture group. This year, Vesely led Exeter’s USIYPT team to California, winning second place in the international tournament.

“I joined the club in my lower year, and I’ve enjoyed being a part of it and working with the people since,” Vesely said. “USIYPT is especially interesting. We have multiple months to work on only four problems, so it’s very focused. We look at these problems theoretically and experimentally. Theoretically, it’s a lot of math and a lot of thinking, but it’s also complex experimentally. I could use what I learned in robotics to create experiments more catered toward what we needed to find.”

Vesely leads a large part of the lecture group. She described the lecture group as covering similar material as a physics class and completely different material at other times.

“Lecture groups are meant to have a low barrier to entry where anyone who, for example, doesn’t know calculus could still learn about basic quantum mechanics or general relativity — things that we don’t learn at Exeter. Being able to break down those big topics into concepts that we understand; that’s the goal of the lecture group,” Vesely said. “It’s cool because I started out as one of the people being lectured to. I learned a lot outside the classroom from the lecture group, and I got to know people through the lecture group. It’s definitely a valuable part of Physics Club.”

Vesely is also known for her physics research and her work as an intern with Fermilab. “I actually had yet to do any physics research before my upper year. Before I fully realized that I was interested the most in physics, I applied to a bunch of programs, my top choice being one at Fermilab, the

biggest lab in the country for particle physics,” Vesely said. “I applied, and thankfully, I got it. I have to give credit to Mr. DiCarlo for a lot of it since a lot of what we talked about outside of class made me interested in physics, and some of the different research projects were related to what Mr. DiCarlo and I used to talk about.”

Vesely studied galaxy clusters, cluster simulations, and neural networks over the summer and presented her project to scientists at Fermilab.

Upper and fellow Physics Club co-head Achyuta Rajaram talked about his admiration of Vesely as a friend and a partner. “Double varsity captain, concertmaster, physics club cohead; she’s just involved in so much,” Rajaram said. “Isabella’s a very hardworking and absurdly organized individual. She has an incredibly detailed Google calendar, and she is always on top of everything.”

Having taught Vesely for two terms during her prep year, Instructor in Science Tatiana Waterman said that she distinguished herself in and out of the classroom, as well as over Zoom.

“To all of us at PEA, Isabella brings her first-rate talent and character to match: brilliance coupled with intellectual humility; kindness; patience; and joie de vivre,” Waterman said. “Over Zoom, during the spring term of 2020, she never missed anything, as if everything were real and in-person. She gave an excellent solo violin performance that term, and our paths crossed again when I followed up on what she did during her upper summer internship at Fermilab. All of us who are in her presence are enriched by her influence.”

A faculty advisor to the physics club and a teacher to Vesely for four classes last year, DiCarlo recalls her being a unique presence in his classes. “Right off the bat, I was very impressed with her tenacity and independence. Moreover, she’s curious, and she has the firepower to actually follow those questions wherever they may lead. She doesn’t hit up against a wall and gives up; she just keeps plugging away,” DiCarlo said. “She’s just innately curious and is able to see those connections between topics.”

DiCarlo also attested to Vesely’s independence and humility.

“The physics groups are definitely not run by teachers. We talk to them occasionally, and we ask what’s going on, but we’re not leading the show. Isabella and the other student leaders are in charge of what they’re doing, and the state of the club depends on the amount of drive and curiosity that they have. Isabella has brought a lot of passion for it,” DiCarlo said. “Isabella faces a lot of adversity from all over the place, and she responds to it by just being really good. She’s a great collaborator in class and is someone who helps a class move forward. She’s not the type of person to say, ‘Look at all this fancy stuff I figured out because I’m so smart.’ It’s the exact opposite of that. She’s a good lab partner, team collaborator, and buddy at the whiteboard. She’s able to have an opinion and defend it but is willing to entertain the fact that other people have other ways of doing things.”

Serving her community and improving the world has always been important for Vesely. Over her time at Exeter, she founded two non-profit organizations to combat issues that she

noticed around her. During her prep year, in the midst of the pandemic, she founded Girls STEM-It to help nurture young girls’ curiosity and confidence in STEM fields for their long-term success.

“A big issue that Wisconsin faces is the deteriorating public school systems. It’s a massive educational crisis. Then, over the pandemic, there was a lot of news about how kids were especially going to struggle because some teachers simply couldn’t keep up with 30 or more kids on a Zoom call,” Vesely said. That was combined with the fact that over 50% of girls lose confidence in their math abilities by third grade. These are eight-year-olds not already thinking they can’t do math.”

Vesely focused on project learning and put the girls into small groups so they would get to know each other and bond over STEM. “What’s miraculous is that three years later, a lot of them are still programming almost every day, having no experience before working with me,” Vesely said.

Excelling in such a wide spectrum of activities, Vesely possesses a particular set of qualities that people who know her well have picked up on. Most characteristically, these are her outstanding time management skills, her hard work and dedication, and compassion to introduce those less experienced, especially girls, to subjects that have brought her so much joy.

During her upper year, Vesely co-founded Dream AI with three other Exonians: seniors Cindy Su, Joey Dong, and Anish Mudide. Their mission was to empower middle school students, especially students of color, to explore computer science and, more specifically, AI. Sponsored by Stanford’s AI For All (AI4ALL) program, the team held a two-day event called The Dream AI Learnathon 2020, and planned and executed The Dream AI Summer and AI Business Academy 2021.

Looking back on the experience, Su talked about their efficient work energy and their relationship as one of mutual respect.

“I originally had the idea of Dream AI, but I knew that Isabella would be a huge asset, and would be an optimal co-founder,” Su said. “She’s always been very clear on communication, and overall just a very professional and mature person. I feel like if I left anything to Isabella, I could trust that she would get it done to the highest caliber in quality. She’s someone that doesn’t settle for average. It shows through, especially when she’s teaching kids and giving them feedback. I can really tell how she lights up and cares about how to help others get better and improve themselves.”

Having interacted with Vesely in shared classes, Dong has always been impressed by Vesely’s “warm-hearted enthusiasm for helping others.” Dong continued, “Creating and hosting Dream AI with Isabella, Cindy, and Anish were some of my favorite memories outside school. The four of us worked brilliantly together, and it was so rewarding to create something that had the potential of helping to solve a cause that we care about — underrepresentation in the field of artificial intelligence. Isabella was an amazing teammate to have. She always volunteered to tackle the most complicated jobs, like helping us keep track of our finances and making sure that our spendings were within AI4ALL funding given to us. It was absolutely no

small feat, and she managed to design the best advertising strategies on social media, the best quality of merch for our students, etc. Within our budget. Dream AI would not have been the same without Isabella and her immense dedication to her work.”

Mudide, who is also a Physics Club cohead, has worked extensively with Vesely on various projects. They met in a shared English class their prep year, and the pair also had physics class together. Mudide worked with Vesely on a separate project before Dream AI called WrightRight as part of the Conrad Challenge, and have been good friends since.

“We’ve been friends for four years, and we’ve gotten to know each other both inside the classroom and out. We run clubs together like Physics Club and we compete in competitions together such as the Conrad or the recent Young Physicist Tournament in California,” Mudide said. “I admire her work ethic, and she has the ability to just get things done quickly. She has great social skills and is able to make friends quickly and is a nice person to have on your team. She has it all in terms of being well-rounded but is also very talented at the same time.”

Tyagi noted Vesely’s infamous calendar, where she keeps track of her time, down to the minute.

“I really admire how she has found ways to really be efficient here on campus. I remember her saying that she would mark down specific times for her to go to everything. She would essentially micromanage her time very skillfully,” Tyagi said. “To be able to find a way to effectively manage her time is really incredible because she made time to do so much.”

Su and Vesely bonded over their shared appreciation for spreadsheets and other organizational tools. “We’re big Google calendar and Apple Calendar girls,” Su said. We always send invites to each other for meetings and other get-togethers. Even if it’s for lunch, we’ll put it in our calendars and say to each other, ‘I have you marked in!’”

Vesely’s time management and organizational skills have stood out to Mudide as one of the things that make her such a helpful person to all her teammates.

“I think Isabelle’s primary asset to the school is her organizational skills. She’s very organized in the way that she works. You can see this in her schedule; she plans out every hour and every minute,” Mudide said. “I think a lot of people know this about her and it’s what makes her such a good partner to have when working on these different initiatives. She’s basically the one that makes sure that we get things done and have success in whatever we do.”

Vesely’s work ethic is described by some to be the foundation, and driving force behind a lot of their favorite clubs. That hard work extends to the relationships she has with her friends, such as Duncker, who truly appreciates it.

“I admire how she gives her 100% to everything: clubs, classes, sports, and with her friends. She is the busiest person I know, but she somehow can always make time for the people she cares about,” Duncker said. “For me, it has been as simple as just talking through something on my mind or playing squash or frisbee together. I know that whenever anybody else needs help with their work they go to her, and she will always help them for hours before even starting her own things. Wherever she is, the people around her naturally

look up to Isabella.”

Ang echoed, “I commend how hardworking she is. She’s so humble, even though she’s the smartest person I’ve ever met.”

From her robotics work to her nonprofit organization, Vesely has always made an effort to make the spaces she is a part of more inclusive and welcoming. These efforts have not gone by unnoticed by her peers.

“I think she’s really inspired a lot of people. Physics club was a largely male-dominated group, and she came in there and she made a place for herself. I think a lot of girls come to the club meetings, and now they have many more girls than they had in previous years,” Tyagi said.

Although Dong isn’t directly involved in the physics club, she follows their progress and activities. “I often see photos of the work that they do and their meetings. The photos are mostly of men, which is a reflection on how male-dominated the STEM field is. But then, you see Isabella with all of them, often in the center of the photo, too!” Dong said. “I think her leadership in that club and the physics department as a whole is going to be very inspirational for all the girls who want to pursue physics in the future but are potentially scared about how skewed the gender ratio is. That is for sure a great, long-lasting legacy that she will leave behind.”

“Isabella is a reminder to those around her that excellence does not have to be earned at the expense of others,” Stallings said. “As she pursued excellence, she continued to find ways to encourage others and raise them up. She was always willing to go the extra mile to get another girl interested in STEM and always willing to share her passions with younger students.”

Vesely shared some advice for Exeter students that she received from her parents years ago. “My parents never pushed me to do anything in particular. They’re my support and they’re a big part of my life, but they never told me that I had to do an activity or get rid of one. They told me, ‘you gotta play, and have more fun.’ Every single activity I do, I do it because I find it fun. I always try to find more time to hang out with friends and I try to schedule that into my day,” Vesely said. “I had fun all of my four years here, and focusing on that has been a good guide for what I wanted to spend my time on.”

“We’re all going to miss her because I don’t think there will ever be someone like Isabella Vesely in terms of just how incredibly unique she is,” Su said. On top of her obvious intelligence, she’s just such a kind person and always willing to share her knowledge with others.”

“One of the most impressive things about Isabella is how focused she can be while still maintaining a side of her that is able to relax, enjoy, and just not take things too seriously,” Duncker concluded. “Isabella will leave behind a legacy proving that hard work and supporting others is the best way to make a long-term impact on something or someone you care about. She never has an issue doing something difficult if it helps others to grow, and she is the ultimate embodiment of non sibi. Although she will be missed next year, her commitment to helping students such as myself grow will stick with us, and we will continue to make Exeter a stronger place in exactly the same ways as she would have.”



RYAN

**CONGRATULATIONS ON FOUR GREAT YEARS AT EXETER!
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU.
LOVE, MOM, DAD, ALEX AND MATTHEW**



Senior of the Year: Angela Zhang



Courtesy of Angela Zhang

By LAURENLEE '25

She walks into the courtroom, her black heels striking the hardwood floor. One, two. One, two. One, two. Her strides are confident and purposeful. Walking to her place at the prosecution bench, she opens a binder almost overflowing with case material. Her fingers brush the sharp corner of the pre-trial files that she, as leader of Exeter's Mock Trial A-Team, keeps in meticulous order. She puts her arms around her teammates, giving their shoulders a soft squeeze. She hands another teammate a bright pink post-it note with a few reminders, including not to be nervous. This is senior Angela Zhang, and this is where she shines.

A. Zhang's work within Mock Trial is what she prides herself in the most. She is a seasoned, incredibly fast-thinking, confident, and articulate lawyer, decorated with four Outstanding Attorney awards. Having been on the State Championship team and competed at Nationals during the 2021-22 season, A. Zhang spent this past year trying to lead her team into doing the same. More importantly, A. Zhang worked relentlessly to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion within the club and overall culture of Mock Trial.

"It's a very male- and white-dominated space, and this isn't just the case at Exeter, either. There are a lot of entry barriers, elitism, and exclusivity surrounding Mock Trial and the actual practice of law, so when my team this year ended up consisting mostly of women of color, I felt like I had to win because I had the burden of representation," A. Zhang explained. "More rewardingly, though, I felt like I had the opportunity to empower these women and challenge stereotypes of passivity. I loved being able to build these young girls' confidence and inspire them to be more assertive."

Unfortunately, A. Zhang's team lost by just two points to another Exeter

team during the State Finals, which was a crushing and painful defeat. Still, A. Zhang held her chin up high and encouraged her teammates to forge on in those emotional moments, helping them understand that wins in life shouldn't be defined just by a trophy.

"Even though we didn't win the state finals, we won in a lot of other aspects. We all became so much closer with each other and essentially functioned like a family. I'm proud that we were able to foster that kind of environment for people, and I feel that my co-leader and I have successfully shown younger members how a team should be run." In those tough moments of loss, A. Zhang continued to celebrate Exeter's winning B-Team. "This is what I want the people in this club to take away: it's not about how you fall down, but how you get back up. You're not always going to win in life. It's important that you lose in a graceful and respectful manner, and celebrate other people's wins."

Fellow senior and A-Team member David Chen affirmed A. Zhang's selflessness and strong leadership. "The loss was undoubtedly painful for her, but she pulled herself together and was there for us when we needed it, when we needed her."

Not only does A. Zhang display maturity and leadership, she also inspires those around her to do the same. Reflecting on having A. Zhang as her team leader, upper and fellow attorney Selim Kim remarked, "She was such a good leader. She was so dedicated. She was really committed to making sure that every single team member understood what was going on, understood their strengths, and she helped us develop our strengths accordingly. And the number of times that she would sit with us through meetings, answer any questions that we had in such a patient way was such an admirable thing to see."

A. Zhang's fierce passion and desire to empower others extends beyond just

Mock Trial, though.

"She's one very headstrong girl," senior and long-time friend of A. Zhang Alexa Wingate said. "She lets nothing get in her way if she wants to do something." It turns out that throughout A. Zhang's life, there have been countless somethings. She's held leadership positions in various spaces on campus, and even this feature will not cover all that she has done. She is someone who wants to do everything, and somehow, makes that a possibility.

"Last summer, Angela had this great idea where she decided she wanted to become a runner," Wingate added. "For the record, none of us are runners. But Angela was like, 'We're going to become runners.' So that summer, she set up a running goal for us. She [got me and two other friends] to set up our Strava accounts and track ourselves and go on these really long runs."

While running is a newly piqued interest, A. Zhang's fitness journey first began in lower year, when she began weightlifting. Having been a dancer all her life, she's spent countless hours in front of a mirror. "I loved it. It gave me a form of expression and communication that didn't require language. But all that time spent in front of a mirror eventually led to me becoming overly self-conscious and critical of myself," she reflected.

Through the journey of weightlifting, though, A. Zhang was able to heal her younger self's relationship with body image. "It's so much more important to have a body that is strong enough to allow you to do the things you love in life rather than a body that 'looks good,' and we need to unpack what 'looking good' even means."

A. Zhang shared that her rigorous weightlifting regime is like a form of meditation, and she finds freedom in the physicality of the sport, in the mind-to-muscle connection. Wanting other girls to also experience the positive impact of weightlifting, A. Zhang has served as co-head of the

Girls Powerlifting Club.

"A lot of girls say that it's really intimidating to be in the gym, or that they don't really know where to start. Through the club, we try to alleviate that issue by reserving the gym as a women's only space and also teaching proper form," she explained. "Being able to empower girls to be a better and stronger version of themselves every day has been really meaningful for me."

Since finding that meaning, A. Zhang has also reconnected with her dance roots by rejoining the Phillips Exeter Dance Company, and also Imani, an audition-based hip-hop performance group on campus. But dance has been a part of her life for so long that she brings this side of her to spaces outside of just dance. Kim recalled a Mock Trial meeting in which A. Zhang wordlessly slipped away from the team after determining they needed a fun, energy-releasing dance break. After a few clicks on her phone, Webbie's "Independent" began blaring from her speakers. Soon, the entire team was up on their feet, mimicking A. Zhang's fluid yet powerful movements as she attempted to teach the team the Imani choreography. She is electric. Her face radiant, it is clear that dancing brings out her inner child and a most pure form of joy. Her laugh — as described by dormmate and upper Solei Silva-Carin as "from the chest, and from the heart" — is unapologetically loud. There is nothing but the music. There is nothing but the dance. There is nothing but laughter and joy, because for A. Zhang, the arts aren't just a hobby or an activity. "It is very much an intellectual pursuit," she explained, and it is when she is most free.

Besides dance, A. Zhang is also heavily involved in the music scene at Exeter. She began playing the piano when she was five years old, taught by her mother, who funnily enough, actually isn't a pianist, but plays the accordion. "It was really interesting to learn through

that angle," A. Zhang said. While she only pursued formal classical training at Exeter, A. Zhang had already performed twice at Carnegie Hall in middle school via winning music competitions.

"I think what's so beautiful about music is that it's another way of living life and it's another way of knowing. It is an unconventional form of knowledge. It teaches you how to feel and how to experience. It's very difficult to claim knowledge of a world beyond what you can feel and experience, so by expanding your capacity to feel and experience, I do feel like music is a very important form of knowledge that people need to take more seriously," she explained. "And plus, because my mother is the one who taught me piano, I feel as though it's a form of generational knowledge for me. It's a piece of her wisdom that I'll have with me forever."

A. Zhang is also a skilled singer in Concert Choir and Gli Scalatori, an audition-based vocal chamber music group that sings Italian madrigals. "The thing that I love about choral music is the communal aspect," she said. "There's a certain level of catharsis that you feel when people linger on a major third together. It brings people together in a way that you might not have been able to otherwise. Even though you're not speaking to each other, it's that feeling of just knowing where the music is heading and how we are working together to create something very orchestral using just our voices."

In just listening to A. Zhang speak about all her endeavors, there is a tangible passion that is both upbeat and relaxed — she takes her work with a certain degree of seriousness, but also knows how to be laidback and lighthearted. She brings this same energy to Dunbar Hall, where she's a proctor.

"Angela's presence puts me at ease; she is extremely easy to talk to about anything," fellow Dunbar resident and upper Valentina Zhang said. "One day, I made a passing comment about something I had never opened up about before. I had been planning to brush it off, but Angela dropped whatever she was doing to come sit on the ground with me, eye-to-eye, to let me know what I had said was important. When she speaks, her words are calm and assuring. She strikes the perfect balance in being both easygoing and serious. Since then, her room has been a home for me, much more so than my own room. I go to her room when I have something exciting to share, a funny story, a philosophical question, or just want to do some homework."

A. Zhang is a welcoming presence outside of her room, too, often spending time chatting with younger students in the common room. "She's always open to looking at people's papers, even if it's really late, even when she has her own homework to do," Silva-Carin said.

Chen added that A. Zhang is a conversationalist whose support extends beyond just emotional or academic help, too. "While Angela's given me plenty of amazing advice and is always there to talk, we also have fun and quirky conversations about food and senior spring bucket lists or deep and thoughtful conversations about life and philosophy. It's hard for me to imagine a life without Angela."

Holding a raw and beautiful love for those around her, A. Zhang has spent her time at Exeter

being intentional with her relationships. "She is always the one who supports her friends. She is always the one who goes to her friends' shows, dances, and concerts and she is the one who is always bringing flowers. She is always there," Chen explained.

V. Zhang agreed: "She is a truly devoted and genuine friend; she is never afraid to speak her mind, stays fiercely loyal to her morals and beliefs, and has stood up for me when I was too scared to stand up for myself."

A. Zhang has also spent her time being intentional in the classroom, making the most out of her learning experiences.

"She's creative in the sense of not only doing interesting things, but also creative in the sense of creating things," Instructor in Religion Hannah Hofheinz, who has worked closely with A. Zhang, said. "Angela created the Law and Philosophy class this past fall. It was her and another colleague who came to me saying that they wanted to design a class. She stayed in close conversation over the summer in terms of thinking about the central questions she was hoping the class would explore. She just really put a lot of energy into creating that opportunity for everybody, not just herself."

Hofheinz also commented on A. Zhang's collaborative nature. "Once independent field courses like this get off the ground, some students will feel like they have ownership of it in a special way. Angela, however, truly viewed it as everybody's class and engaged in it in that sort of collaborative way." In terms of intellectual growth, Hofheinz shared, "What Angela has discovered, too, through her time at Exeter, is that creativity takes work. She recognizes that it's actually very important to question the boundaries of what we think is possible. That's kind of true intellectual freedom. It's not an easy freedom. It takes a lot of work, and I think we all know that Angela puts in the work, but she also sees the benefit of that work. I think she can be a good role model on what comes out of it — the possibilities and the freedom and the autonomy."

In the fall of 2023, A. Zhang will be off to Harvard College, where she aspires to study both economics and philosophy before pursuing a joint JD/MBA degree.

"I'm really interested in how economics can allow me to use quantitative analysis to study social issues, and I know philosophy will teach me to answer the world's most pressing questions through robust argumentation. I'm hopeful that the intersection of the two fields will provide me with particularly interesting insight as to how we can better allocate resources to make the world a more equitable place, and how we can improve the underlying frameworks of government and law," she shared. "Exeter has really stressed the importance of doing that for me. I want to use my privilege to make a world of difference."

"I'm not sure what extracurriculars I'll be joining yet," A. Zhang continued. "Probably something related to law, and something in music and the performing arts. I don't know, there's just so much opportunity. I'm excited for what's out there, but I'm trying to hold on to every last second of Exeter, too."

Knowing A. Zhang, it's no doubt she'll have made the best out of her last days at Exeter, and she will continue to make the best of what awaits her.



Courtesy of Polly Vaillant

By **AYAANAKHTAR '24**

The lights of the Bowld dim as the leather of senior Polly Vaillant's guitar strap hugs her shoulders. Her statement yellow Cross sit on the floor next to her. It is time to put on the show. After years of work dedicated to creating, now is the time to share her senior project, *Songs in the Key of E(xeter)*, an original album. She strikes the first chord, and soon after, her voice fills the Bowld, hundreds of eyes fixed on her.

In the words of Instructor in Music Dr. Eric Schultz, "We just saw this person realize that she's a rockstar."

A day student currently living in Exeter, Vaillant grew up in North Conway, New Hampshire with her two parents, her younger brother, and her dog Mimi. Her mother is a poet, and her dad is a scientist, and both are avid music listeners.

Due to her parents' shared love of it, music has always been a part of Polly's life. However, growing up in a small town made it difficult at times. "We didn't have a ton of good theater or great schools, so I did whatever I could. I was in musical theater, I sang in lessons, I sang in choir, whatever I could get into. I didn't start playing guitar until we moved to Exeter. At Exeter, I was able to take instrument lessons and continue vocal lessons with different people and do real theater and all that kind of stuff. When I got here, I started to explore classical music, which I really enjoy, and which is what I'm going to school for next year," she explained.

Coming to Exeter, or even boarding school, wasn't something Vaillant initially planned for. "I was raised in a very public school-centered way. We moved to Exeter because Exeter High School is a great school, and is a great public school. And it wasn't until seventh grade that I started considering Phillips Exeter as the place for me. One of my close friends was applying and she really got me interested in the school, and I was really interested in all of the musical opportunities that Exeter had in comparison to Exeter High School. So I applied the next year, and I got in and I didn't really know what to expect. I'd never been open to the whole private boarding school thing."

Yet, Vaillant quickly fell in love with the experiences Exeter has given her. "Even though I'm a day student, I'm here from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. pretty much every day," she said. "And that was a really weird adjustment for me. But in terms of the school itself and the opportunities that the school had, it was incredible. You know, you get here and you're with a bunch of really smart and cool people from a bunch of really different places. And, you are all together and you're thrown into this thing around a table, and you just talk for 50 minutes for eight hours a day. I loved that. And then when I got into concert choir, it was around 50 people that were all from really cool places who all had one thing that they all really enjoyed, which was singing and making music as a group."

For Vaillant, the people around her have defined her Exeter Experience. "You have these circles of people: you have the people you meet in class, maybe your friend group, and then you have your advisory, your dorm. For me, I had my music people, from band, choir, and acapella. I knew dancers and kids who did theater." The wide spectrum of people Exeter allowed Vaillant to interact with made her four years truly remarkable.

Outside of the Music Department at Exeter, Vaillant's time and interactions with people in the school's acapella groups have left an impact on her since prep year. "I cannot be more grateful for acapella. I met some of my closest friends there, and through acapella I met some really cool people. And also my band, which has been a huge part of my Exeter experience. I made three really close friends from acapella, and we started meeting as a band. The three people were Shep Seba, Luke Chimburg, and Will Peeler."

Thus started her band, Will and the Peelers. "The people in [the original] Will and the Peelers specifically are the closest or some of the closest friends I've made that I still keep in contact with, which is so cool and so special," Vaillant said.

As an underclassman, Vaillant reflected on an experience with Paula Perez-Glassner '21 a senior in an acapella group during Polly's

lower year. "I remember when it was time to elect solos, she wouldn't audition," she said. "And I remember thinking, 'Oh, she's so good, why doesn't she audition?' And you know, I got a solo as a prep. But when I was at the end of upper year, I was like, 'oh, I get it.' I've had three years of these amazing performance opportunities, very much in the spotlight. But you know, once you're a senior, it's not really my job to be the person having the solo and singing the song."

Just like how seniors such as Perez-Glassner took Vaillant under their wings, current underclassmen reflected on how Polly has taken them under her wing. Lower Arianna Bocchino said, "It was my freshman year and I saw she was super talented and super nice to me, and automatically, she made our acapella group go really well. I just appreciated having a mentor in the music scene to look up to and to be encouraged by."

Schultz noted similarly, "I think she's become aware recently how other musicians look up to her. Specifically younger female musicians who want to sing in similar styles of music. I think it's been a surprise to her, but I also think that she has taken that on and embraced it."

Her musical impact on people doesn't stop with underclassmen. Senior Colin Clark, who described Vaillant as "like a sister to me," noted, "Polly actually convinced me to join two acapella groups this year. I started for the first time senior year. That's definitely left an impact on me and just kind of seeing her up on stage has made me kind of want to feel that feeling a little bit or just be out there even if I'm just in the background of a group."

Furthermore, her vocal teacher and Choir Director Kris Johnson recognized the impact she's left on him as an instructor. "I think she has helped me be a better teacher to students who follow her. She's going to music school to study classical voice, but she has all these other interests and so I'm always trying to encourage her to be as broad as a singer and to be as much as possible. But she also has this incredibly specific set of musical interests that she's sort of working on in parallel, right? So, it has been a really phenomenal challenge for me to always try to push her in

the areas that are my specialty and make sure that she can continue to thrive in these other areas of music that are of such value and interest to her. So she's made me a much broader teacher."

Though a constant creative person, Vaillant's time at Exeter wasn't all beautiful verses and hard-hitting choruses. Like many Exonians, she faced difficulty. Upper winter was a difficult term for Vaillant for many reasons. Yet, she leaned on her friends and faculty to get through it.

When talking about her advisor, Instructor in English Jane Cadwell, she said, "She was the most supportive person ever. She helped me through the whole thing. We were meeting, we were on Zoom, we were in person, we were just on the phone, we were texting and she was just the sweetest and most encouraging."

Cadwell said in this time of particular difficulty, Vaillant's "incredible maturity and her ability to take a good look at herself, and to really be interested in improving herself and understanding other people's perspectives" stood out.

One of Polly's best friends, senior Petra Orloff, said one of her favorite memories of Polly was "watching her perform her album. Her senior project was amazing. I was so, so proud of her. Watching her vision and the songs she's been working on for the past like two or three years come to life was really special for

me."

Her senior project, an original album titled *Songs in the Key of E(xeter)*, describes "different experiences I've had with people, places, and things at Exeter. And it just kind of outlines my experience as a student growing up here, maybe my family, and kind of everything."

This was a project long in the making. "I started writing my music for the album at the end of my prep year with Shep," Vaillant said. "It was a writing challenge because we were bored and in quarantine. We gave our first prompt, which was to write a song about quarantine. And that's when I wrote *Quarantine Song*."

Quarantine Song was the first song of her album. Vaillant continued writing over the course of her prep, lower, and upper years. By the time senior fall came around, the songs were already made, and it became a matter of solely getting them recorded.

Reflecting on the concert, Vaillant said, "The concert was amazing because so many people came and I was not expecting that much love...The Peelers! [Charlie Scales, Stellan Aalto, Will Newby, Ayaan Akhtar] I mean, that was insane having a band play my songs. And a really good band too."

Schultz also gave his reaction to the performance. "I just remember sitting there mixing her show and feeling the energy of love and adoration behind me. Total support. And I felt

that channel through Polly as she was realizing at that moment that this is what she is supposed to be doing," he said.

Although the songs were written, getting the album together was no easy feat. "I found myself struggling to get it all done in time because it was just life at Exeter. It moves five times faster than normal life. And you know, you're doing homework all day, every day. And the schedule's crazy. So it was tough, but I got it done and it was really, really cool to get to work with [Will and the Peelers]." Vaillant mentioned she'd spend hours and hours recording by herself, trying to get the perfect take.

Schultz also spoke on this aspect of Vaillant as a true artist. "Polly worked independently and I would check in with her a lot. And what I kept seeing was an artist at work. Polly's an artist and she is viewing the world through an artist's lens, and she's doing that at a school which is very intellectual at times. I was really impressed with the way that even though sometimes the work was slow or didn't go the way that she wanted, she didn't ever lose the thread of being an artist," he said.

Though some of her good friends, such as senior Jackie Doucette, lovingly describe Vaillant as "slightly weird," the majority admire her and the energy she brings to campus. Cadwell said, "She shares her love of music and her love of the school with everybody. Polly is generous with her talents and with her friendships. I think Polly brings a real joy to this school." Vaillant is a musician, an artist, an inspiration, but most importantly a dear friend. Whether it was upperclassmen, underclassmen, friends, or faculty, it is the people that surround her that make Exeter so special.

Prior to starting at Exeter, Vaillant's mom told her, "You have to lean in. She says that to me now all the time. She's like, 'Polly, you have to lean in. You have to be there.' Because if you're not there, you're gonna miss something and then you're gonna be sad because you missed it."

Vaillant leaves behind a legacy of an artist, an inspiration to musicians and songwriters, a concert no one will forget, and more. As a piece of soon-parting advice to underclassmen, she said, "You have to have the energy and you have to go out of your way to say hello to people. I've talked to people who are in college right now and most of them say, 'There's nothing like Exeter.' And there really is nothing like it. This experience is so unique. The people you meet here, they're just the closest people that you'll have for the rest of your life. So make sure that while you're here, you do as much as you like and take advantage of the opportunities here that you love."

Congratulations Lucy!! We love you! Mom and Dad

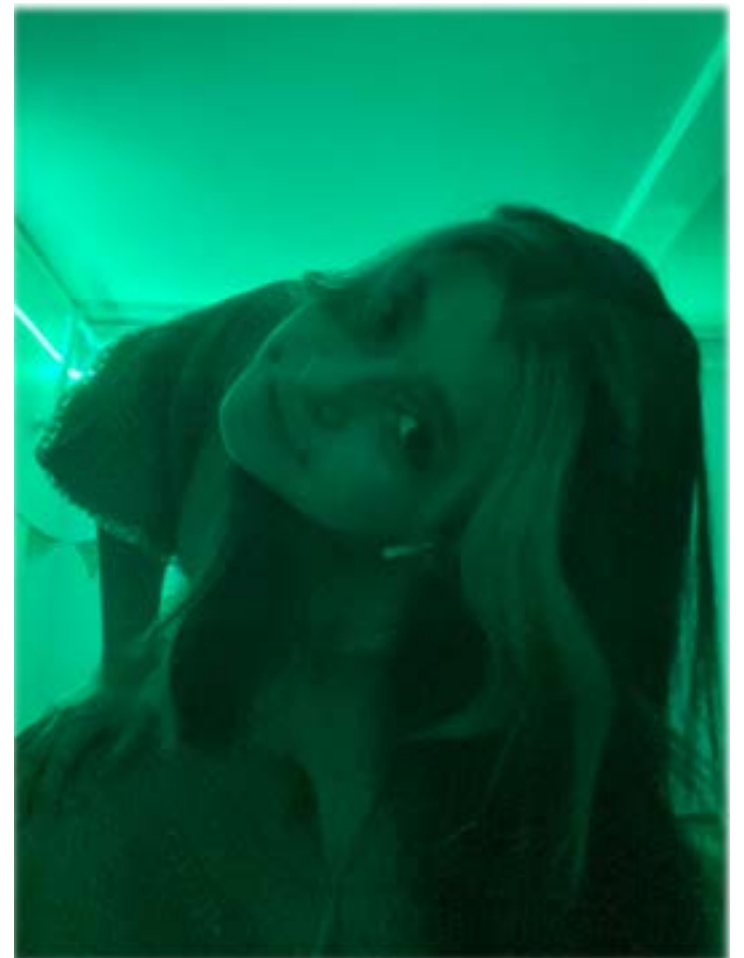


My wish for you is to that you continue. To continue to be who and how you are, to astonish a mean world with your acts of kindness. Continue to allow humor to lighten the burden of your tender heart" --maya angelou



BRAVO ZULU TUCKER!

Love, Nana & Carl



Thank you for taking us on this hazy journey. We are so proud of you. Keep imagining. - Love M. & B.



CONGRATS ALEX!!

We are so proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Petra & Apollo

CONGRATULATIONS WILLIAM!

We are so proud of you!!

Love, Mom, Dad, Matthew, Abou and Ev



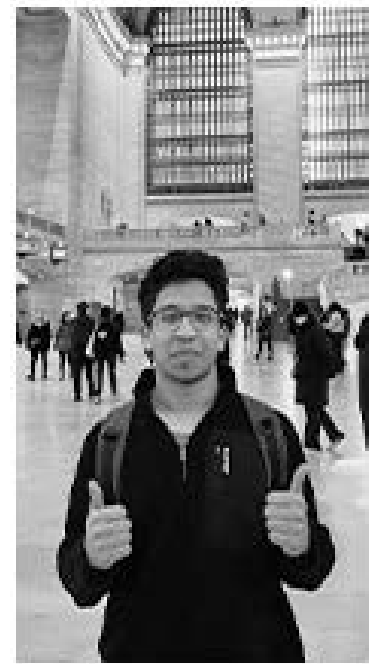
Way to go Clutch! Love Mom, Dad and Morgan



"Congratulations Matthew! We love you beyond measure. - Mom, Dad and Emily"



CONGRATS TY FROM MOM AND DAD. WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU AND WISH YOU ALL THE BEST IN COLLEGE!
TY DIERBERG



Congratulations Anish! Enjoy celebrating all that you have accomplished. We wish you a bright and happy future full of opportunities! With love, Mom, Dad, and Shival



Gratulationes Christopher!
We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished!
Bona fortuna in futurum!
Love you! Mom & Dad



Congratulations Sebastian!



PEA Acceptance day



2019 -2020



2020-2021



2021-2022



2022-2023



Volleyball Roles



We witnessed your hard work, dedication, and perseverance through challenges to reach this fantastic milestone in your life. We are so proud of you; We love you so much!!! Love Dad, mom, sister, and nacho!



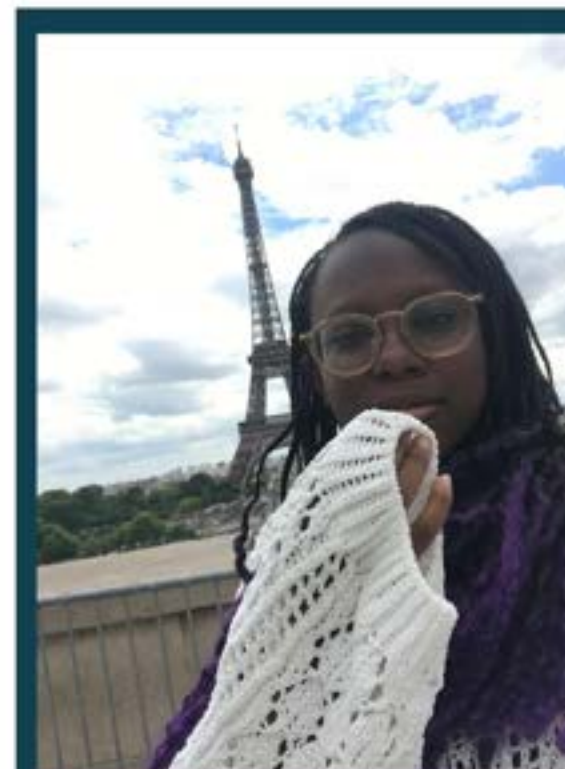
Turned 18



Azzarée "Azza" Uwhubetine



Humanitarian, World Traveler and God's Helper!
It really DOES take a village. We love you and we are all super proud of you!
From the Uwhubetine, Travis and Carter Families, Uncle BB, Ibrahim and Habiba Adamu, Nana Appiah-Korang, Sedi, Eline & Keli Asase, Chinwe Osuji, Hada Kamara and Uncle Fred, Anne Fredd, Sade Aflaka, Robin Fisher, Oyinlola Olabode, Agnès Douillet & Family, The Child2Child Book Foundation, extended Uncles and Aunties, Grandma, Amirrah, Mom and Dad!





Congratulations Coco!

Love
you
always,

Mom,
Dad,
Jade,
Alys
& Alfie



Sami, Dream big and dare to fail. We are so proud of you. Love, Mom, Dad, Abby and Emily



**Tanish, congratulations on graduating!
Our love and blessings for your next adventure!**

Sami Smith

*We're so proud of you,
Riya, Mom, Dad, Nani, Nana, Dadi, Baba*

ready to soar.



So proud of you,
Gracie!
All our love,
Mom, Dad, Felix,
TeeHee, Poppop,
Nana, Grandad, Val,
Steve, Billy, Beth,
Jimmy, Rhonda,
Charlie, Kellie,
Morgan, Taylor,
Merry, Max, Mitch,
and, of course,
Zena.

CAROLINA WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT THEM

*IF THERE EVER COMES A
DAY WHEN WE CANNOT BE
TOGETHER KEEP ME IN
YOUR HEART I WILL STAY
THERE FOREVER. -Winnie
the Pooh*



Jac Doucette

Senior of the Year: Ale Murat



Courtesy of EJ Barthelemy

By FORREST ZENG '26

A suggestion is being made for the upcoming spirit week. As the student speaks, representatives and committee co-heads, seated in a semi-circle around a table and a podium at the front, groan and cheer simultaneously. They snap fingers, heads turned, raw expressions painted on their faces. The room is livid. Knuckles white, gripping tightly onto the brown handle, senior Ale Murat, president of the Student Council assembly, raps the podium desk with the gavel sharply.

Later in the night, she returns to her dorm behind the music building. After finishing her homework, she sits outside her dorm room and chats with her friends. For hours, they speak about Exeter culture and their personal lives, smiling and cracking jokes along the way. Outside, the dark sky slowly turns navy, then blue, then red as they realize the time: 5:00 a.m.

A member of New Hall, Murat, originally from Oaxaca, Mexico, is known on campus as co-head of La Alianza Latina, where she has created a characteristic atmosphere of compassion and positivity, and as president of Student Council.

At home, Murat is an avid FC Barcelona soccer fan. Her enthusiasm for the sport led her to become captain of the JV girls soccer team at Exeter. In addition to soccer, Murat is also captain of the varsity cycling team, a sport she picked up after coming to Exeter.

Since her prep year, Murat has been involved with the Student Council. She served as lower representative throughout COVID-19, co-head of the recreational (rec) committee as an upper, and recently completed her term as Student Council President. As Executive, alongside the executive board, the committee heads, and the class representatives, Murat organized a plethora of events, as well as guided students through a difficult winter term.

She enacted significant

changes in the Student Council, including reform to election rules to limit toxicity in elections and a new constitution in cooperation with the elections committee. She worked closely with the policy committee on collecting information and formulating arguments regarding closed-door visitations. During her sui generis tenure, she developed with the executive board of the Student Council a positive and consistent connection with faculty, meeting with Principal William Rawson and the administration frequently to discuss efforts to improve medical leave, the Community Conduct Committee (CCC), and mental health following the passing of upper Matthew Clemson in January.

Behind Murat's leadership in the forum and her intimate conversation with her friends, lies a deep passion. "I'm not gonna perform half as much as when I'm doing something that I do enjoy," Murat said. "If you don't believe in yourself, then who will?"

Her undying devotion to her activities came at a sacrifice, however. "I wish that I would've tried to enjoy my classes more, especially the ones that I found very difficult," Murat said. "Doing this is something I wish I would've realized earlier."

Murat came to Exeter as a passionate person, yet without an immediate purpose. "In the beginning, I just came to Exeter and I was very scared," Murat said. "My initial goal was to just survive."

Eventually, she developed deeper interests and passions. "I think what drove me to succeed at Exeter was the fact that I really wanted to find happiness on campus and to connect with the community as much as I could. I remember one of my goals as a prep was that I really wanted to be Student Council president," Murat recalled.

Senior Charlie Holtz, who worked with Murat in Student Council as budget committee co-head, said, "In every context, Ale's work ethic is the thing that

stands out the most. She is the hardest worker I have met at Exeter." He added, "Ale has always had an amazing eye for detail, and a creative mind for her writing, especially since English wasn't her first language."

Senior Montana Dickerson commented on Murat's drive and diligence. "I have no doubt that she can and will achieve whatever she sets her mind to," Dickerson said.

"She's always been very driven and motivated," upper Selim Kim said. "She carries such an immense and admirable work ethic, whether towards her classes or any of her extracurricular activities. She never shies away from anything that she is passionate about."

As evident through her time as president of Student Council, Murat is passionate about leadership. In her prep year, Murat participated as a normal student, attending rec committee meetings and being involved. The year after, she was elected lower representative of her class, at the same time the COVID-19 pandemic forced Exeter to online classes. As she was thrust into an environment never played before by the role she had just received, Murat pulled the community together by hosting fun online and offline events, such as playing Among Us and cookies and treat events.

In her upper year, Murat ran for Vice President but lost the election. Murat, however, sees it as an important step in her journey toward her goal to be president. She gained valuable experience as co-head of the rec committee.

"Looking back, I am really glad I lost. Everything works out the way that it's supposed to," Murat said. "I ended up having the honor of serving as rec committee co-head and I absolutely loved it."

Her experience paid off when she ran for Student Council president for her senior year and was elected. "Some people think that the Student Council doesn't do anything, but you'd be surprised by how busy this job gets," Murat said.

"She sets her sights on

her goals and will work incredibly hard to meet them, which is insanely admirable," senior Tucker Gibbs, who worked with Murat as co-chair of the elections committee, said.

A role Murat played as president was to mediate and find compromise in conflict. "I try my best to make sure that all parties feel heard. When working as a team or with a large group of people, it is important that all voices are treated equally and heard," Murat said. "One of my priorities is to try and make sure that we all understand that we are facing a problem, not ourselves."

"As Elections Co-Chair and working on the constitution, I come into disagreement and conflict with the board a lot, but Ale always served as a great mediator and truly had the best interests of students at heart," Gibbs said.

Upper Atishay Jain, who worked as a member of the mental health committee (MHC) in Student Council, as well as participating on the varsity cycling team with Murat, said, "Ale is a leader, a naturally born leader, on the cycling team as well as in Student Council. She has the ability to take charge and direct others in a positive manner."

"Watching Ale absolutely take control of Student Council on Tuesday evenings this year is really something you have to experience firsthand," Holtz described.

"She's always been a great, great mentor and she serves as a role model for many, including myself," Jain added.

Senior Patrick McCann described Murat's tenacity in an anecdote. "I remember her telling me that if Principal Rawson wouldn't listen to her, she'd show up in boxing gloves to their next meeting. She would go to war for those she cares about, which is everyone."

Originally from Mexico, Murat is co-head of La Alianza Latina, the Latin-American affinity group on campus. At the meetings, Murat strives to create a fun and welcoming space. "We really try to make sure that LAL meetings are a positive environment for everyone

and that the meetings are places where we can have fun and relax as well as a space where we can have conversations regarding Latinidad and our identity," Murat said.

Prep Siena Saavedra-Bagdonas said, "Ale is like an older sister. She's one of the only Mexicans on campus, so we have that connection."

Lower Alyssa Villanueva, who lives in New Hall with Murat, described, "We were doing round introductions and I said, 'I'm from Mexico.' She got very excited and came and talked to me. I just felt really happy that there was another Mexican there."

"The most humorous moments I've experienced with Ale usually involve us being together and cracking jokes," lower Isabella Domenech said. "A significant factor contributing to this is our shared Mexican heritage."

"Ale has a warm personality and even though she possesses a great sense of humor, she also displays a notable level of maturity," Domenech added.

Coming from her background, Murat was starkly aware of the lack of celebrations for Latin-American students and members of the community. "I really wanted to be a bigger part of the Latin-American community on campus. I remember my prep year there weren't enough celebrations for Latin-American students" Murat recalled. "I ended up being able to help out with that. These interactions where I can bring to the table something from where I'm from develop the community that is here."

Murat's love for everything she does extends to her deep compassion for her peers. Senior Priya Nwakanma says, "On move-in day, I saw this warm, welcoming presence from Ale, who was also a prep at the time. Somehow, she already felt familiar."

"I always see her walking around, checking in on people," said senior Grace Puchalski, who worked with Murat as Vice President of Student Council and also lives in New Hall. "She knows so many people on campus, not just on a surface level kind of way, but on a deeply caring level."

"She has the desire to connect with people not on a superficial level, but to really understand them," senior David Kim said.

"Ale is so warm and welcoming and she's always willing to be there for you. She is the type of senior who will always invite you to come to her room whenever you need anything," S. Kim said. "She's a very sweet, kind, and generous person."

"Ale is someone who makes you feel like family," senior Tammy Zhu said. "She is someone you lean on when you feel down."

When prompted to describe Murat's passion for the school, Puchalski said, "If I could pick one thing to represent her school spirit, it would be her megaphone. Especially during E/a day, she is cheering into her megaphone. She has the most school spirit of anyone on this campus."

Her compassion indicates the importance of the experiences and perspectives of people to Murat. "I think I've learned to value people's experiences a lot. I really do believe that like 50% of the education that I've received at Exeter has been from interacting with people outside of the classroom," Murat said. "That's one of the biggest lessons I've learned: valuing

people's stories, people's experiences, and people's points of view, even if they might not line up with the ones that you have."

"Ale is a fierce optimist. She manages to find the good in every person she meets and is quick to defend the underdog, even if they are a complete stranger," Dickerson added. "Ale leads with her heart, and I think many people underestimate her because of that."

"She makes everyone around her feel so cared for and loved," Zhu said.

Murat's qualities as an open-minded and amiable person are no clearer than in the small memories she has with her peers. "We lived on the same floor for a couple of years, and when I get up in the morning I always hear her singing in the shower," Nwakanma said.

"Around two weeks before finals Ale, another senior, Priya, and I, just sat in the hallway in front of Ale's room for hours," S. Kim described. "We stayed up till 5:00 a.m. just talking about anything that came to our minds."

Nwakanma added, "We kept saying, 'I'm gonna go to sleep.' But in fact, we did not go to sleep, and by the time we stopped talking the sun was up. You can have a conversation with Ale forever."

Murat participated briefly in the diving team as a prep. D. Kim recalled, "There's a category of dive called the reverse where it's essentially a backflip. She had a really hard time doing reverses, but I have a very strong memory of her joking while at the same time persevering through that kind of difficulty."

Unexpected moments showcase Murat's outgoingness and cheerful disposition. Murat described a situation she found herself in with her peers. "We went to Hampton Beach one weekend and we ended up getting stranded," Murat said. "We had to walk along the highway until Hampton Town and it was so funny."

"I remember walking on the sidewalk and she slipped on ice while wearing these massive red boots," senior Atticus Ross detailed. "It was really funny."

He added, "My favorite thing about her is her energy. When she starts to laugh, she laughs loudly and is a very bubbly person. She has the ability to run a room with her atmosphere."

"The small things count, they add up and I think that's what sets her apart," D. Kim said. "She shows commitment through the small actions and details that she performs on a day-to-day basis."

"She's one of the fiercest people I know, and she always puts the needs of others ahead of hers," Ross said.

Murat implores younger students to reach out more to upperclassmen. "I think that sometimes people are a bit scared to approach me. Especially in the younger grades, I feel like the preps and lowers think seniors are unapproachable," Murat said. "But I'm actually super down to talk to anybody at any point in time or if I can help with anything. More often than not I have an answer to a question that people might have just because I had the same questions before."

As Murat prepares to leave campus in June, she expresses contentment with how she has led her Exeter career. "I think that people get really consumed by grades and academic excellence. Every single activity that I do to this day are things that make me happy."

Senior of the Year: Alysha Lai



Courtesy of Alysha Lai

By ROX PARK '25

If there's one undeniable fact about senior Alysha Lai, it is that she is a creator. A creator of art, opportunities, and change, but also positivity, friendships, and priceless memories. To her, Exeter is a home, but to so many others, she is.

Lai's story begins in Hong Kong, the city where she was born and raised in a Chinese-Australian household. "My mom and dad both grew up [in Australia], and they both moved to Hong Kong when they were [twenty something], where they met. Since they grew up in Australia, their first language is English, so English is also mine, but my brother and I learned how to write and speak Mandarin in Hong Kong. I'm quite proud of my [home] and my Australian heritage."

Despite her older brother, JaQ Lai '21, already attending the Academy, Lai

initially rejected the idea of moving across the world to board in the small town of Exeter, New Hampshire. "I thought the school was amazing, but it wasn't for me," she reflected. "I was very happy in Hong Kong, and I loved my friends, I loved the city. I had been in my old school since kindergarten, so I was very comfortable and I didn't feel like I wanted to go."

Prep applications passed, and Lai remained at the Chinese International School. But the next year there, she described the process of having to pick her courses for the next few years. "I really did not like how I could only take five classes for the rest of my life. That's when I thought, 'Exeter is a thing,' and I scrolled on the website. I suddenly realized, 'You know what, this sounds so amazing,' and then I applied."

To the surprise of friends and parents who expected her to miss the city life, Lai

immediately felt at home as a new lower at the Academy. "If I had come here as a prep, I would have been a very different person," she said with confidence, "because when I was applying as a new lower, I was already a changed person. I had matured a lot, and by then, I was ready to leave. I wanted more. I wanted to be challenged. I wanted to live in a new place, and I wanted anotConsigliereher experience."

In a literal sense, that home was Gould House, the dorm that neither she, nor any of her friends, had ever heard of before, and the community she was assigned to after asking for a "medium-sized dorm" in the housing survey. "Now I really love it," Lai said with a laugh, now a proctor. "I've never thought about moving out, because it feels like you're going home every day, and I know it's a very special experience that not a lot of Exonians have. We have hooks by

the front door to hang our jackets, a dining table, a really nice kitchen, small bathrooms, small hallway, and a small community; we know everyone and we have conversations with everyone every day."

But Lai was also responsible for creating that home for herself, from her course selection to her roles in the productions and clubs that she shaped. She came to Exeter with overflowing creative curiosity and drive; over the past three years, she has been able to use the school's resources to explore and grow, but never erase them. "Art has always been a passion of mine, but I've never been technically trained," she explained. "I never had drawing and painting lessons, and I knew I was behind technically, but I had all these creative ideas that I wanted to try and make. I've done Advanced Ceramics Art 500, an Art 999 in the fall, and now Art 690. Coming in as a new lower, I knew

that I wouldn't get to take as many art classes as I wanted, so I've worked with the department to try and get into the higher level courses. They've been really helpful and supportive."

Lai's love for art has taken many forms, from painting to crafting, crocheting, and sewing. This year, it has culminated in a display with the Lamont Art Gallery that opened on April 10, an array of pieces that seem to allow their audience a glimpse into her mind. On one wall is a tribute to the women dyers of Yunnan, China, a cascade of naturally indigo-dyed cloths painted with women's hands in white. She named it *The Dying Hands*. On the other, floating shelves of her ceramic pieces hang, and between them are mannequins adorned with her signature clothing pieces: a colorfully knit butterfly top and a spring dress printed with subtle hand gestures on the fabric. Lai has never ceased to amaze others with her intricate and thoughtful work: "She truly pours her heart and soul into her artwork," her friend and fellow senior Angela Zhang said, "and every piece tells a most unique and compelling story."

"My artwork is very colorful, very crafty, and whimsical," said Lai, "nostalgic like a child. I like to incorporate biology and psychology into my work, and also to reuse materials, because I'm really big on sustainability. I like to make big things, like installation pieces that people can touch." The artist's favorite piece in her exhibition is one of these installation pieces, a garden of fabric mushrooms connected by braids of yarn: *A Network of Threads*. "They're a scene," Lai describes her intentions with the piece, "but you can also sit on the mushrooms and touch them. I just had this vision in my head, and I tried to articulate it. Sometimes, my visions are very detailed in my mind, but I can't really draw them out. This time, the mushrooms are exactly how I wanted them to be."

Another scene that Lai has created during her time at Exeter is the kind that appears on the stage. With her collaborative personality and versatile skills, she has played a role in almost every mainstage production since her arrival at Exeter. Lai's mentor and director Robert G. Richards described his first time meeting the actor during the spring of her first year, 2020, on the set of *The*

Short Tree and the Bird That Could Not Sing. "We were doing a show in the middle of the pandemic," he reminisced. "We couldn't have an audience, and we had to be masked—that's when we first met. It was a challenging show, for sure but Alysha played a little [squirrel] and she was great. Sometimes you see something in an actor, just a little something, a sparkle, or a willingness to just be playful and have fun. She played that little [squirrel] beautifully because she gave him a voice, and she got low, and really became that cute little creature. And she was also an actor who was willing to try different, new things, collaborated beautifully, and had a really good soul."

By her senior year, Lai had evolved from playing multiple roles in the ensemble to embodying the leadrole in the production *Everybody*. "I played *Everybody* in *Everybody*, and I really liked the show, because it's the kind of theater I also tend to write. I love interactive theater—the audience sits around the stage, and the actors were in the audience. When the show started, they came onto the stage and no one knew they were actors. The characters were also not real people: *Everybody*, *Friendship*, *Kinship*, *Death*, *God*."

Richards spoke about her role in the show fondly, saying that "Alysha was just so right for the part. Because the audience is there, to empathize with that character, you need someone with a lot of empathy to reciprocate. The rehearsal weeks were a lot of work, but it was also a joy because Alysha just made it so you'd look forward to it. That wonderful sense of humility and openness, I think, was the heart of the show and she did it just so beautifully. *Everybody* loved working with her. It was a challenging show and it was a cool show, and Alysha was the star."

Lai's deep involvement with theater led her to take on an even larger task: a senior project in the form of a self-written and self-directed play. "The *Plane Play* is an interactive play with multiple endings, a choose-your-own-adventure. My advisors for that were Dr. Ullah and Ms. Josef, and I really enjoyed it because I got to tie all my knowledge of theater together into one production." The process was filled with spontaneity, as Lai finished fully writing the script only a week before the show, but that spontaneity only made it better. "I had to cast the actors at the end of fall term, before the script was written. The people, the actors, inspired me of what kind of characters I wanted, and even what play I wanted, because I had no idea what I was going to write. When I started writing, meeting with Dr. Ullah every week, I told myself, I want everything done by midterms. I want these kinds of costumes. I had a schedule, but it was so flexible at the same time. Since it was a staged reading, people were holding their scripts; they didn't need to memorize it. Also, since it wasn't a big production, I was in so much control."

Lauren Josef, the chair of the Department of Theater and Dance at the Academy and one of Lai's advisors for the production, mentioned how proud she was watching *The Plane Play* come together. "She told me when she was a new lower that she wanted to write and direct her own play. We talked through the steps she'd need to take, and

Sweet Jadyn,
Continue to blaze trails... forever + always
We ❤️ you
Mom & Dad



she made it happen. She's the first student to write and direct a play as a senior project at the Goel; that is no small feat. She also did it with respect to the members of the department, her cast, and all that helped make it happen."

Senior Alia Bonanno, Lai's best friend from Gould House and the stage manager for the production, expressed a similar sentiment. "It was good to work with her—we've never really done a project like that, but I was proud that she was able to get approved, first of all, and then it was successful. A lot of people came and it was just a great time."

Senior Cindy Su, agreed. "I know it was something that she wanted to do for a really long time, and I was really proud of her for directing and executing that entire thing. She was able to take her brainchild and make it into something."

Because of her roles in the art and theater departments, Lai has become known as an artist on campus. "But I don't want people to only think that's all there is to Alysha," Su clarified, "because she's incredibly book smart and life smart as well, specifically in science and biology."

In particular, Lai has fostered a love for psychology and considers it as a career opportunity for the future. "I love the combination of biology and chemistry, and I've always been quite an empathetic person who wants to help. Sometimes, I need a scientific reason. Why do things work that way? I wanted to be a doctor, and to heal people, but I get super grossed out by blood. So how do I help people? Through psychology."

"I do love humanities, don't get me wrong," she added. "I love writing, I love English. At first, I was really bad at it, because I'm a terrible speller and reader [because of my dyslexia]. When my autocorrect failed me, I got really sad, but of course, the teachers were super accommodative. But when I can get my words on the paper, I love

it. I'm really proud of my meditation. I didn't think of submitting it when I was writing it, but after I wrote it and read it to my class, I decided to, and I'm really glad I did."

Outside of all of these academic passions, Lai has still found time to participate in many clubs. Along with many other she attends and co-heads—DRAMAT, Mock Trial, the Environmental Action Committee (EAC), the Exeter Exchange, and The Sewing Club—Lai is most dedicated to her role in Mock Trial, a club that she joined on a whim during her first year and has grown to lead and love. "It's really academic acting," she said. "I'm a witness, so it's a lot of acting and so much fun. I love it. I love the club. And it's where I think I found the strongest friends, mentors, and peers." Lai entered on the club's C team for novices, which she described as a stress-free learning environment.

"On the C team, you know that you can win, but you likely won't. All you can do is your very best, and that's what we did. We actually got runner up, above our B team, and I remember everyone crying of happiness." The next year, she was invited to co-lead the C team, a position normally reserved for co-heads of the club. "I really enjoyed spending time with that team," Lai said. "We worked super hard; we'd do three-hour-long meetings, and have fun. We'd have ice cream and Domino's and make slime together. It just made me really happy. We also got a runner up that year, but that was extra sad because that team just really was so outstanding. All our Exeter teams are always outstanding, but that one was something else."

Now in her third year, Lai is a co-head leading the A team. She led the team with Zhang, who said, "I think I can say for both of us that it was one of the most emotionally taxing yet rewarding experiences of our lives. Having led a team of mostly women and POC, we worked really hard to challenge the racial and

gender-based stereotypes that are deeply entrenched in Mock Trial, and even the actual practice of law. It was most empowering to work with her because she has taught me so much about womanhood and what it means to be a role model for younger women."

"I am so thankful and have so much respect for everyone in the club," Lai said affectionately. "I don't think I can imagine my Exeter experience or my life without Mock Trial."

Lai is filled with a similar gratitude for all of the people around her and the experiences she has been able to have at Exeter. "I believe everything happens for a reason," she insisted. "But I don't believe that everything that happens is the best thing for you. What will be will be, and if things happen, they're in the past, you can't change that. So why dwell on it? You're allowed to be sad, but then move on and don't do it again."

Perhaps Lai's many accomplishments can be accredited to the fact that she has never been afraid to ask for help. "All the teachers are super nice. They're always really inspiring, and they feel like they're not just there to teach you, they're there to support you." To younger students, her advice was, "Don't be afraid to ask people how they got to where they are. Be proactive. And it's okay to dream big. It's okay to challenge yourself a little bit."

Richards commended on this fearless, you-only-live-once nature: "Alysha's not somebody who lets fear take over; she chooses to come in with a nice sense of collaboration with everybody. As a student in the classes and around the Harkness table, she is very thoughtful. Good, deep insights into genuinely loving learning, and I think someone who likes being around other people."

Lai's other mentors and friends used many words to describe her—thoughtful, brilliant, creative, confident, organized—but what was mentioned most of all is her authenticity, in her pursuits,

her friendships, and her self.

"Sometimes you meet kids who are really talented and really smart," Richards said. "But on the amount of goodness front, Alysha is—wow, she's really good. That was the special aspect of it, just meeting and working with her. Of course, goodness is in the school's history and ethos. You can be super crazy smart, but I think goodness matters more for sure. It's always been foggy for us teachers to think about how to teach goodness. But with Alysha you know you don't have to teach anything. She's just got that authentic meaning; she's really tangible and kind in person, balanced and grounded."

"I've loved seeing Alysha sink into leadership roles," Josef commented. "As a director, writer and club leader in theater, she is well respected. I've loved seeing her grow into such a pillar at Goel. Alysha also made a little headband for my daughter Lily—she hand-sewed it while I was pregnant, and I can't tell you how special a handmade gift is—it told me so much about her character."

Many of her friends have mentioned her caring nature and willingness to show vulnerability in front of those she loves. Senior David Chen shared that "She's always so willing to show emotion and show that she cares. I think a lot of people think for themselves, but Alysha thinks more for the people around her. She is a really genuine and genuinely good person. I don't think you find many of those people anywhere in this world."

"As a friend, she's always asking, 'What can I do to help?'" Su appreciated. "She's someone that I feel like I can turn to for advice, or to have a heart to heart conversation about the future. She's always very caring about what happens in your life, very easy to talk to, and just an incredibly good friend. I feel like that's what makes her such a valuable friend and someone that I'm really glad that I know and am close with."

"She is one of the most emotionally intelligent and sensitive people I know," Zhang added, "and she's shown me that crying is not a sign of weakness but strength. Her ability to healthily acknowledge and lean into her emotions is so incredibly admirable. Being her friend is one of the greatest privileges I've ever had in my life."

"Alysha is easily and by far the kindest person I've ever met," said one of Lai's closest friends, senior Kaitlin Clark. "She's the kind of person that makes you look back at the kind of person you are and be better going forwards because of it. There is nothing she wouldn't do for a friend, and her many many talents mean there is lots she can do. The best thing about her, though, is that she does it all with a huge smile."

"I think she's really an exemplary person on this campus," Bonanno said. "I really admire the way she doesn't let herself be bounded by any sort of expectations and needs. She is everything. She does everything. She's everywhere. But she's also my best friend and we've been through a lot together and I just really, really appreciate her."

"Even though most of our conversations are about our daily lives, I don't think that's a bad thing," Su referenced while speaking about their biweekly brunches, "She's just someone that I'm so glad that I can 'do' life with and be there for every day. And she's there for me too. I really cherish all those moments that I've had with her."

"I just like spending my hours with my friends," Lai said simply, with a smile.

While the many friends and mentors she has met and made at the Academy regret not having more time with her, they are all excited to see what she will be doing in the future:

I think she'll own a gallery. Or she'll be some sort of researcher combining art and science. Or she might own a mushroom farm.

- Alia Bonanno

I could totally see her having an artsy bakery where you buy food and then you go crochet in the corner and they have pieces on display that you can buy.

- David Chen

I hope theater! Alysha has a voice in the theater that I want to hear more of.

- Lauren Josef

I see Alysha with a fashion label, the next big designer. Forget Dior or Chanel or Valentino, we'll be seeing Lai on the runway.

- Kaitlin Clark

Pursuing art and biology or whatever she wants to do! I can't wait to see what she does in the future—she is capable of anything.

- Rebecca Pempek

I think her major will integrate science and art. I wouldn't be surprised if in the future, she has her own clothing line. Honestly, I feel like she could be doing a variety of things. There's a lot of possibilities for Alysha's future, and I think that's what makes her who she is.

- Cindy Su

Looking towards her own future, Lai admitted, "I don't know, honestly," but then a familiar twinkle caught her eye. "I want to do the things I'm passionate about, to the point where I know so much about them that if the job that exists in the future is there for me, I'll be the best person to do it. People were asking me what job you could even do with art and biology, but you can literally do anything. I like textiles, so I could be making fabrics for NASA, or mushroom leather. There's so much that could be created, but I just don't know because it doesn't exist yet."

Congratulations, Dax!



Go forth
to
Bear challenges
with
Bullish determination,
Hope.
&
Lion-hearted courage.



Your future shines brightly!

Love always Mom & Dad
We are so proud of you!

Senior of the Year:

Ki Odums



Courtesy of Michael Moore Photography

By ROX PARK '25

While leaving their first Harkness English class in the fall of 2019, stunned by the enthusiasm and knowledge of other students, Ki Odums asked themselves, “How the heck did I get accepted?” Their next four years as a student, leader, and friend at the Academy have shown us exactly why.

In the classroom, Odums is a self-proclaimed “Harkness history kid,” and during their time away from Exeter, they live in Kansas City, Missouri, which has always been their home. They attended a small K-8 school and remembered that especially where they grew up, they “didn’t get to hear about non-Western history that much.” After coming to Exeter and finding courses and teachers with specialties in the histories of marginalized communities, however, Odums found their passion.

White supremacy in Roman history, the commodification of gospel music and black voices, religio-politico-linguistic bases of Senegalese resistance to French assimilation efforts. Odums’ original ideas and ability to command Harkness discussions have in turn stunned their history teachers. In the words of Instructor in History Troy Samuels, “I was convinced after two terms of teaching Ki [online] that they were at least 5’7. Just the presence, even through the computer screen—when Ki spoke in class, there was such a force of personality that I thought she was giant. That was not the case! In class, there is something about her that is larger than life and very present. You know when Ki is in your space, and it’s always going to be a better experience because they’re part of it.” Samuels also imparted that “one of the things I’m trying to do is cultivate students who are willing to put themselves out there and to put their perspective into what they’re writing. Ki is really good at doing that, and I know that when I get to read one of their papers, I’m going to learn something.”

Instructor in History Khalid Madhi described them as having “often sought to explore themes in history that are off the

beaten path. Ki is able to tackle serious, and sometimes uncomfortable, issues with a clever mix of courage, humor, and insight.”

Odums used these skills to make a positive impact on the community around them. When they weren’t satisfying their Grill cookie obsession or making use of Wetherell’s panini press, Odums’ presence in the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) and the Black and Latinx affinity space Club Room B has been an integral part of their time at Exeter. “As an OMA proctor and Transitions cohead, I inhabit a lot of the OMA spaces,” they recognized. “I could not imagine what my Exeter experience would have been without them.” Transitions is an affinity group for Black and Latinx non-male students, as well as the club where Odums shared that they found most of their closest friends. As a co-head, they facilitate discussions and gatherings, creating what they call a “fluid space”, creating a home away from home for identifying students.

This leadership carries over to their dorm life as a former resident of Merrill Hall and current proctor in New Hall. “As a proctor and student leader, I kind of take on the mentor role unintentionally. I like being the ‘mom’ friend, or like the ‘bigger sister.’ I like taking care of and being a source of comfort for people.”

Samuels, who also happens to be their dorm head, praised Ki’s ability to “channel the gravitas that they have in a way that’s been really cool to see. They take the range of the dorm community and really shape it in the way that they want it to go.” He recalled a Sunday night when Ki and other students were sharing their perspective on how to improve the community. “Know that if Ki says they’re going to do something, they’re going to do it. That commitment to doing the work, both talking and also doing at the same time, is frustratingly rare.”

“I’ve become a lot more confident in myself,” Odums reflected. “Definitely a lot more outspoken. I was not shy, but I was definitely very quiet at the Harkness table and socially. I had like four friends, all of whom were in Merrill. Then over the course of my time here,

I’ve become the opposite, where I’m an introvert, but whenever I go places I know people, and at the Harkness table, sometimes I feel like a Harkness warrior.”

Dean of Multicultural Affairs Sherry Hernández agreed. “Over the years, I’ve noticed a growth in confidence that allows Ki to relate effectively with students of intersectional identities that come to the Harkness table and their ability to draw them in. As a senior leader, Ki has evolved into a peer that our younger students look up to for support and guidance.”

But at heart, Odums still considers themselves an introvert. “I think that people think I’m more extroverted than I am. I know a lot of people, but that’s because I have a lot of extroverts for friends that drag me around. But in reality, for a good amount of time, I’m in the common room or my room in New Hall because I don’t like loud spaces.”

Perhaps for this reason, a great deal of their role on campus is done behind the scenes. Odums has played a large part in the yearly UnSilenced productions, a student-run social justice show that precedes Martin Luther King Jr. Day. As described by Hernández, “UnSilenced is particularly important because the community knows it to be the night of powerful student performances that brings awareness to continued issues of oppression and harm of marginalized populations. As a performer, I’ve watched Ki use their artistic expression on stage that speaks to their love of dance and Black joy.”

Since performing onstage during their prep year, Odums served last year as a co-director and this year as a head director of the phenomenal shows featuring student performers in various genres and from various backgrounds. “As an OMA proctor, I’m really proud of UnSilenced,” they shared. “It is one of those events that takes so much work that while you’re working on it, you’re wondering why you agreed to do this, or sign up to perform. And then you get to the night, and you see the performances, and you see how much the student body really appreciates it, and you feel so proud and grateful for all the people that helped you make it

happen.”

Senior and good friend of Odum’s, Bronwyn Hall, admires “how dedicated Ki is to absolutely everything they do around campus and at home. I think most, if not all, Exonians have enjoyed some sort of event or performance (through DanceCo, OMA, and more) that Ki’s hard work was behind.”

Another friend, senior Kaylee Bennett, added that “people don’t know how good a dancer Ki is and how much she is the spine of the diversity, equity, and inclusion events on campus.” In addition to dancing in Dance Company for all four years, Odums is often their hip-hop choreographer who shares a love for jazz and majorette. They are a member of an unofficial dance group called the Roaring Tigerettes, which performed in the showcase last year.

Odums was humble about their talents, but their friends didn’t hesitate to rave. “Some people don’t know that Ki is a really great writer,” senior Priya Nwakanma revealed. “People know her for their dancing, obviously, and maybe their work in OMA, but Ki’s poetry always really blows me away whenever she lets me see it. They’re an artist through and through.”

Another of Odums’ hidden passions is their love for music. “I don’t think a lot of people know my music taste—I’m a really big classic rock person, and when you look at me, you wouldn’t assume that. I love Wings, I’m a big Paul McCartney person. Generally, really old music, like 1970s, ‘80s, that’s my era.” Odums has shared their love for Paul McCartney with many of their friends and even teachers, and though some don’t agree that he’s all that, none can deny their “huge obsession.” After starting on the acoustic guitar in seventh grade and finding it impossible, they asked themselves, “What about the bass? It’s only four strings.” Although it turned out that the bass guitar was “so much harder,” they persisted with it until now and play off campus because of the difficulty of transporting an instrument across the country.

Persistence is a common theme in Odums’ story. “Overcoming my mental barriers of not feeling

smart enough, not feeling like ‘an Exonian’ enough,” they said, was one of their largest challenges. “I don’t know if I’ve necessarily fully overcome it, but I’m definitely more confident in my ability and generally more confident in who I am as a person.”

Odums’ mentors have been continuously impressed with her maturity: “Ki possesses a good sense of social and emotional intelligence that is not often seen among high school students,” Madhi commented, while Hernández referenced “a strong sense of self, which allows others in their presence to feel comfortable and show up as they are.” Samuels also appreciated their relationship building skills, “to be able to connect with an adult in a way that you can both learn from each other.”

Similarly, their friends were full of nothing but playful and genuine praise for that idea of who they are. Despite Odums describing herself as the “mom friend,” Scott Johnson, their friend since prep year, had something different to say. “Ki often acts like a child when she’s not in public. She’s very ditsy, wears clothes that make her look tinier than she already is, loves cinnamon applesauce, and adores the children’s show Bluey.”

Senior Brooke Ottaway spoke to how “Ki is especially hyperaware about the well-being of the people around her. Since I can only eat halal food, she’s always the first person to remind the group that we’ll have to find a halal option. She’ll be the first person to correct pronoun usage and casual language that may harm people nearby or people close to her. She is very intentional with her actions and her words. Even if it may go more unnoticed, she cares so much about so many people. She has such a big heart.”

“What I love most about Ki is how real they are. Genuinely one of the most down to earth people I’ve ever met. They are an amazing listener and give some of the best advice I’ve ever witnessed,” senior Lydia Osei said. “Also, their fashion sense is unmatched—we have a supermodel gracing our campus with every fit.”

Nwakanma agreed. “Ki always seems to know

what to do. Sometimes I feel really clueless about the world compared to Ki. If I’m in trouble or need to bury a body, they’re the first person I’m calling for sure.”

Though they may not realize it, Odums’ presence in other people’s lives has been full of nothing but this trust and positive energy. Not to mention, as Bennett says, “I admire the fact that each day she looks stunning. I love her personality, her boldness, and her being confident and unapologetically Ki in all aspects.”

In the future, Hernández predicts that “Ki will continue to combine their love of the arts and their bright mind, making an impact at whichever community they choose. They will have social influence that will bring people together and inspire others to do the same.” If they choose to pursue their passion for history, Samuels anticipates that they will “bring their unique and singular perspective to really changing how people think about the past in some way. I don’t know how yet, but I think that’s the ceiling for Ki as a scholar. I think they’re going to be changing paradigms.”

Ki Odums came to Exeter wondering if they could fit in, but now they are part of a community that can’t imagine itself without her. They still identify as a coffee oreo kid at Stillwells and enjoy breakfast at St. Anthony’s, watching The Princess and the Frog in the dorm common room “way more times than it should for a group of seventeen and eighteen years old.” But they are also a strong presence at the Harkness table, a role model to younger students, a talented dancer, a maker of change, both on stage and behind the scenes, and most importantly, an invaluable friend.

“At the end of the day,” they advise future Exonians in a warm, confident voice, “if you’re at Exeter, it means that you’re going to achieve no matter what you choose to do. Stop beating yourself up so much, especially when it comes to grades, academics, extracurriculars. You will go where you’re meant to go, you will do what you’re meant to do. Deep breaths. It’s gonna be okay.”

Fall Sports



By PHINGIBBS '25

Excellence. That is the one word that Varsity Football captain Brandon Wong used to describe the football team after their incredible 7-1 season.

The Academy's football team surprised everyone with their exceptional performance in the past season. The team had always been an underdog in the league, but they came out strong and determined to prove their worth. With each passing game, they gained momentum and confidence, making a name for themselves as a team to be reckoned with.

Their impressive win over Suffield was just the beginning, as they continued their winning streak against Cheshire, Lawrenceville, and Taft. These were all tough opponents, but the academy's team showed incredible skill, teamwork, and determination, never giving up and pushing themselves to their limits. However, their ultimate triumph came in the final game of the season, where they dominated Andover with a stunning 42-7 victory. The team's

coaches, players, and fans were ecstatic, celebrating the hard work and dedication that led them to this moment.

Wong articulated how the process of building the culture started with the new players coming into the program. "The coaches made a concerted effort to recruit players who were not only skilled on the field but also shared the same values of putting the team above individual accolades," he said. "The result was a group of players who were not only talented but also had a strong sense of camaraderie and a desire to work together toward a common goal. These players came from diverse backgrounds, but they all shared a passion for the sport and a willingness to put in the hard work and dedication required to succeed. The coaching staff fostered a culture of humility, where egos were left at the door and everyone worked towards a common purpose. This created an environment where players were able to learn from each other, support one another, and grow both as individuals and as a team. The team's success was a direct result of this collective

mindset. Each player played their role to perfection, knowing that their individual contributions were crucial to the team's success. They worked tirelessly to improve their skills, and they were always willing to help their teammates do the same."

Head coach Panos Voulgaris commented on a similar continuum. "The 2022 Exeter football team was characterized by its unity," he said. "The camaraderie was exemplary. Selflessness, hard work, and fun were all central components of the team's makeup."

The week of the preseason before classes started was far from easy — frequently two or three practices a day, followed by meetings and film. Despite the large workload, it was a time when friendships were truly bonded. Wong commented, "Pre-season was a pivotal moment that solidified our team's bond. As newcomers to the school, we were all seeking a sense of belonging and were unsure of how to find it. However, we soon discovered that we could rely on each other and work together to create a strong team."

"Being new to the school was a common thread that brought us together," he continued. "We all shared the same desire to make friends and create a community, and we found that we could do that through football. In just a few days, we developed a strong connection over our shared love of the sport and a mutual desire to succeed."

The academy's football team had a remarkable start to their season, achieving an impressive record of 4-0 by midseason. They secured wins over notable opponents, including Suffield Academy (32-2), the Taft School (18-15), and Lawrenceville (21-20) in an exhilarating game that went down to the wire.

As the team entered a week off, they knew they could not rest on their laurels. Instead, they used the time to continue working hard and preparing for their next big challenge: a Saturday night matchup against Deerfield Academy.

During the week, the coaches worked closely with the players to fine-tune their strategies and improve their performance. The team's dedication and work ethic were on full display as they

focused on refining their skills and improving their teamwork. Every member of the team was committed to the goal of achieving success as a collective unit, and they worked tirelessly to make it happen.

The anticipation for the upcoming game against Deerfield Academy was palpable. It was clear that this would be a crucial moment for the team, as they faced a formidable opponent that would push them to their limits, while under the bright Saturday lights of the stadium. However, the team was ready. They had put in the hard work, and they were confident in their abilities. The results of their hard work were on clear display as they pummeled Deerfield 36-7.

The one loss that the team suffered was to an extremely talented and experienced Williston Northampton team, a team which had "turned their record around" by winning significantly more games in the 2022 season than they did in 2021. The game was an offensive showdown, trading touchdowns on almost every single possession, a game that went down to the

Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

wire, but unfortunately, the Exeter team came up on the short end, ending their perfect season. The desire for excellence was absolutely still present despite the loss.

The Andover game is naturally the most anticipated game of the season. Wong commented, "The team brought another level of tenacity to practice, which was coupled with a desire to avenge the loss we had the previous week." The extra preparation for the game absolutely paid off, winning the game 42-7, completing a 7-1 record, and the best Exeter football record since 2012.

Touching back on the opening word of excellence, Wong articulated, "We didn't go undefeated, but the pursuit of excellence every single day in practice was really what stood out. They were just a manifestation of how hard we put into practice, and the results of the season speak for themselves."

Boys and Girls Varsity Water Polo

By MICHAEL YANG '24

Whether they're waist-deep in the pool or gathered around their team at Elm for a post-practice dinner, the boys varsity water polo captains make it their priority to keep their teams' spirits high. The boys team achieved a record of 12 wins and two losses. The boys team was headed by coaches Don Mills and Meg Blitzshaw.

Captain Dax Knoll commented on the spirit of the team. "We're a pretty exuberant group of three that are really able to rally everyone together. During practice, there's never really a dull moment. Most of us are pretty good at keeping our spirits high."

Coming from a competitive swimming background, Knoll wanted to try something new in middle school and he picked up water polo.

Knoll has played on both the water polo and swim teams after arriving at the Academy as a prep and has accumulated a wide array of memories, such as setting a PEA water polo overtime record against Andover during his prep year.

Knoll said, "The first one was the longest recorded regulation over time in our league's history. After five tiresome overtimes, McCann had the honor of scoring the winning goal that day, and that was just one of his many triumphs throughout his water polo career. We played them again a couple of weeks later, and that one ended up going into three extra periods in overtime."

Captain Patrick McCann shares his story of entering the sport. "Coming from California where water polo is very popular, I've been exposed to the sport from a young

age. I had even played club for a few years before coming to Exeter."

McCann and his co-captains often run team cheers, lunches, trips, captains practices, and guide the direction the team takes. Head coach Don Mills reflected on the captains this season. "This group of captains has been outstanding in leading our team and bringing a sense of family to the entire group," he said.

Rosen added, "The team captains are always inspirational. They are the grease that lets the gears of the team flow smoothly. They are very knowledgeable and know how to teach us. They're almost like assistant coaches. For me, they've encouraged me to be a more aggressive goalie and to make better passes." When reflecting back on his water polo experience, some of Rosen's favorite

memories include long bus ride conversations with his teammates and reveling in the energy that the team harnesses in and out of the pool.

Around midseason, Mills said that the captains "stepped up" to keep the team on track and encourage intensity on a regular basis. Although it's hard, Captain Nate Pulchalski said, "My experience playing water polo at the Academy has made me a better teammate and taught me to be a more competitive leader."

Prior to the midseason mark, Big Red played in a doubleheader against Williston and Hopkins. Going into the doubleheader, spirits were running high. Even after a long trip to Williston Northampton (WNH), there was no effect on the team's morale. "The atmosphere, for Hopkins especially, was very

anticipatory. They had beaten us twice last year in some close scoring games and all of us returning players wanted revenge," upper Will Reed said.

A combination of high spirits and skillful play allowed the team to take home a 14-6 win in the first game against Hopkins. "Our Hopkins final score was 14-6 which definitely reflected our drive to win. We played intensely, and our defense was very solid," Reed said.

However, the first game had exhausted the players as they were going into the next matchup against WNH right after. Rosen reflected, "[During] the second game, however, we got complacent, or maybe just a little cocky. That was a much closer game. After the game, I felt a weird mixture of relief and disappointment in myself. I feel like I could've played better but I am

overall happy with how I, and everyone else, did."

The major highlight of the Williston match was Rosen's last-minute save to stop the draw. "We were up by one, 7-6 with only 15 seconds left. We got the ball and called a timeout to set up and reset the shot clock. All we had to do was keep the ball," Rosen explained. "I took a foul but he kept pushing me into the corner . . . He pushed me out of bounds and they got the ball. They, of course, called a timeout and set up. Meanwhile, their bench was cheering like crazy. I felt like I had just cost us the game. We set up and their goalie got the ball. He started walking it in. With three seconds left, he wound up . . . two seconds, got on his legs . . . I second left, and shot, only to be blocked by me. It was a crazy feeling of relief but also fear."

The team entered the

Boys and Girls Varsity Water Polo Cont.

Greenwich Cardinal Cup with an undefeated record, 6-0. Despite battling hard, the team came up just short during overtime in their first game against Greenwich Country Day (GCDS). But Big Red brought it back later that evening with a 16-12 against Staples High School, which placed the team into the second bracket.

On day two of the Cardinal Cup, the boys team won a close match 8-7 against the Greenwich High School B team before losing against YPro. After putting up good numbers against club teams, the team headed into the second half of the season both energetic and confident.

Near the end of the

season, the team competed at Interschols hosted by Brunswick School. Exeter entered the competition as the third seed and in their first game defeated Williston 14-11, which advanced Big Red to the semifinals. The team suffered a loss of 9-14 to GCDS led by USC commit Luke Nelson in the semis. But the team quickly bounced and dominated Choate 12-7 in the third-place match.

Senior captains Dax Knoll, Nate Pulchalski, and Patrick McCann will leave the next water polo captains with a legacy enriched with enthusiasm and true leadership.

Knoll concluded with remarks on the captains' legacy on the team. "There are several facets



Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

of the sport and team life that seniors have a lot more experience with." He continued, "I know a core objective for myself and the other captains is to leave a strong legacy of game knowledge, confidence, and tradition with the group. Nothing would make us happier as captains than to see our team improve not only as

players but as people."

Coach Mills talked about his experience as a coach. "What brings me the most satisfaction each year as a coach is building a team that trusts one another and works well together for a common goal."

When looking back at their season, which includes highlights from

winning 12 out of the 14 games they've played and beating Andover twice, Pulchalski thinks this year's group of boys has been a "good" group. Like many of the other teams at Exeter, the water polo teams are full of young talent, all hoping to dominate the field in the coming years.

The girls water polo

team is headed by head coach Meg Blitzshaw and assistant head coach Steve Altieri with senior captains Claire Fu and Jade Pierce. The girls team are improving game by game, and dominated Andover 12-6 back in mid-April.

Boys and Girls Varsity Soccer



Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

By EMI LEVINE '24

Goaaaaa! The boys and girls varsity soccer teams both score winning goals to close off an amazing pair of games. This season, the boys team had four losses, eight wins, and five ties, while the girls team had 12 losses, five wins, and two ties.

Both teams attended pre-season training at the Academy before the start of the school year in order to prepare for the upcoming season. The boys team started off the season with a scrimmage against Putnam Science Academy, while the girls team started off with a scrimmage against the Brooks School followed by a jamboree against the Rivers School.

The boys team's first game was against Milton Academy, where they lost 1-3. Their next game was against Loomis Chaffee School, where they fought hard and tied 3-3. After another tie with Belmont Hill School, boys varsity soccer took on Rivers at the Albany Showcase. With a strong performance from senior Griffin McGillivray, Big Red took home the victory against Rivers with a final score of 1-0.

The team then went on to play New Hampton, and they crushed their competition 4-0. Teammates reflected on the game, with prep Luca Domingos-Worth saying, "We were able to take a significant lead fairly early on and controlled the game. Our four-goal lead meant lots of substitutions were made to give everyone a really good game experience."

Head coach A.J. Cosgrove shared the strong individual performances

of the game. "We had four different players score goals. Charles Dobbins — who was on the JV team last year — scored his first varsity goal, and so did Solu Ajene. Then [senior] Griffin McGillivray converted a penalty kick. Thaniel Illuzzi scored our first goal. And Jaylen Bennett played very well."

After a strong performance at New Hampton, the teams' next domination was against Deerfield, where they took a big win. With a final score of 5-1, Big Red took home the victory thanks to McGillivray, who scored two goals, senior and captain Atticus Ross, who scored one, and senior Thaniel Illuzzi, who scored two. After a tie against the Dexter School, something in the boys varsity soccer team clicked, and they went on to win their next five games. First, they traveled to the St. Paul's School, crushing their opponents and ending the game with a score of 2-0. The team then played Brewster Academy on their home turf, beating them 3-0. After winning against Holderness again with an amazing score of 5-1, the team beat Kimball Union Academy 1-0. After a long and tiring, but nonetheless victorious, season, the boys team traveled to familiar territory: the land of the Smurfs. It was a tough match, but Big Red came out on top with a final score of 1-0 against Phillips Academy Andover.

The girls varsity soccer team played their first game of the season against Noble & Greenough School, fighting strong and tying 1-1 with them. They then



Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

took a couple of losses, playing Choate Rosemary Hall, Brooks School, and Brewster Academy with final scores of 1-4, 1-3, and 1-5, respectively. However, they were able to turn it around in their next two games. They first played the Holderness School and dominated with a final score of 3-1 and strong performances from prep Morgan Signore and upper Jett Geotz. The team then traveled to Plymouth to play the Holderness School, and they took home the win with a score of 3-2. The goals were scored by seniors Sami Smith and Kaylee Bennett and Geotz.

After a streak of losses against a series of schools, the team performed stellar at Kimball Union Academy with a final score of 5-1. Smith had an amazing game, scoring three of the five goals, and the other two were scored by Geotz and upper Esme Shields. The team then took on Deerfield Academy on their home turf. It was a

tough game and the team fought strongly to achieve a final score of 2-1.

The match was Big Red's first game at home after three away games. Prep Charlotte McFarland explained the impact of the crowd's support, saying, "The atmosphere was super fun. Everyone was really upbeat and cheering the whole time, trying to help those who were playing to gain motivation, and play well."

Deerfield, a stronger squad than their record showed, presented quite a challenge. Prep Paige Sweet explained, "Coming into this game, we knew it would be competitive and a battle for the win. We knew that Deerfield had a few players that would pose a threat to us, so we just had to keep an eye out for them and shut down any opportunities they would get that would be dangerous for us."

Soon after falling behind 1-0, the team got on the

board with a goal from senior Jenna Silvestri. Tied 1-1, Big Red put themselves ahead with a clutch score by Smith. "Kahliya [Clayton] laid off a great through ball to Sami who hit it in. Everyone was jumping up and down cheering," upper Adora Perry said.

After those two wins, the team hit a losing streak against a series of four schools, but they were able to turn it around with a huge win against the New Hampton School. The team won 4-1 with strong individual performances from Smith and upper Kahliya Clayton. Tired and sore, the team traveled to Andover for one last game to close off their season. The girls team fought hard, but they took home a loss against the smurfs with a final score

come from. We also want to improve our set pieces."

Cosgrove also touched on the team's training. "Our goal during practice is to try to simulate game conditions," Cosgrove added. "And to improve pace of play and technical ability."

A tool that the team has been using to help their improvement is videography. "More recently, I have been trying to go over film with some of my teammates to pinpoint what we can improve. It has been useful but also difficult because our video film quality is pretty low, but we are working with the athletic department to fix this," Ross explained.

Both the girls and boys varsity teams had numerous goals for their season. "Our number one goal is to have

of 0-4. The Blue capitalized on their scoring chances by potting one in the first half and three in the second to take a 4-0 win. Although they lost, there were still plenty of strong performances during the game, with senior and captain Bridgette Martin making several saves in the goal for Big Red while Shields was strong in the middle of the field.

This year, the boys varsity team was led by seniors Ross and Cam Guthrie, while the girls captains were seniors Ryan Pate and Martin. The boys were coached by A.J. Cosgrove and Nolan Lincoln, while the girls were led by Alexa Caldwell, Austin Washington, and Kerry McBrearty.

In terms of training, Ross explained what the boys team was working on during the season. "We are focusing on getting the ball wide and crossing. That is where the majority of our goals

fun and to improve as soccer players," Cosgrove said.

Ross also spoke of some of his goals as a captain: "My largest focus as captain is to improve the players around me. I try to demand a little more from each of my players every day."

The girl's team also felt similarly. Prep Charlotte McFarland noted that the team is "just trying to have fun and score some more."

Guthrie concluded by saying, "I'm optimistic about this season. We've put ourselves in about the same position we did last year when we missed the playoff scene by one game. We've given ourselves the chance to improve upon last year and go into the final half of this season with a different mentality and a different energy. Everyone on the team knows what's at stake and is ready to keep working."

Boys and Girls Varsity Cross Country



By EMI LEVINE '24

Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

Bang! The boys and girls varsity cross-country teams dash off from the starting line of the race, leaving a cloud of dust in their trails. Both teams this season have defeated their competitors and consistently placed in the top five.

Members of both teams did extensive summer training and attended pre-season at the Academy prior to the start of the school year. Less than two weeks into the season, the two teams faced over 40 schools across the New England area at the Manchester Invitational Cross Country Meet. Across a spread of eight races, split between freshman, junior varsity girls, junior varsity boys, and varsity divisions, the girls and boys cross country teams placed second and fifth, respectively, in the large schools' category.

The following weekend, both teams competed at the Black Bear Invitational in Northwood, New Hampshire. Boys varsity and junior varsity swept the meet

with a perfect score, and boys varsity finished with a score of 37. Upper Byron Greivous set a course record and a win over the fourth-ranked cross-country runner in the country. Girls varsity also performed well, winning with three tight packs — sixth and seventh place, 14-16, and 19-21. The team won with 55 points over Hanover and Winnacunnet.

Both teams then competed in the Exeter Invitational at the Academy alongside Deerfield Academy, Phillips Academy Andover, and Northfield Mount Hermon School. The boys team had a great day of racing, with Greivous, senior Mateo Bango, senior Oliver Brandes, and upper Max Lacombe placing first, third, fourth, and fifth, respectively. The girls team also had a successful day, with seven out of the top ten spots being filled by members of the team, including upper Tenley Nelson, who placed first.

As the season neared an end, both teams faced familiar opponents: the

smurfs. During their E/a races, the boys team claimed victory over Andover, and the girls varsity dominated their competition, with solid performances from Nelson, upper Daria Ivanova, senior Sophia Green, and lower Kayla Hyett.

Tired and sore but emerging victorious against Andover, both teams had one last stop on their tour of victories: Interschols. Both teams competed at the New England Interscholastic Division I Running Championships, with girls placing second overall. The boys team continued their unprecedented run by capturing their third consecutive Division I title — and sixth in the last ten years — at the race. Exeter had the first four runners cross the line, with Greivous, Lacombe, Brandes, and Bango giving excellent individual performances.

The boys team this season was led by seniors Bango, Brandes, and Mateo Connelly, while the girls

team was led by seniors Tristen Crotty and Lassiter Foregger. The boys coaches were Brandon Newbould, Matt Hartnett, and Nick Unger, while the girls team was coached by Diana Davis, Dale Braile, and Emily Quirk.

Commenting on the boys training, Bango said, "We tried to reserve a certain mindset for racing. There are workouts, and then there's racing. Something that coaches say a lot is: 'If you're on this team, you're not here to work out. This isn't a workout club. This is a space to compete and we're

help runners practice race pace alternating with active recovery running," Quirk continued. "That type of interval workout also prepares their hearts for the type of cardio that happens during the race."

Both teams had a positive outlook throughout the season and focused on improvement and team bonding. "The biggest thing that we need to do right now is making our spread smaller, which means reducing the time between our first runner and our fifth runner," upper Malcolm Courchesne said.

really interacting, but it's so great to see both teams come together on Saturdays for our meets because we take the same bus and we have the same team area," Quirk said. "Seeing the girls cheer on the boys and the boys cheer on the girls has been really valuable and fun."

Upper Michael Zhu also talked about the team culture, mentioning a specific saying of the boys team. "We have a team cheer, *Ache te Vitu*, and its meaning is unknown to most," he said. "I like the fact that not even the preps and the coaches know what



Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

here for the competition."

Quirk also touched on the training for the girls team. "One thing that we did to prepare for races is doing hill workouts every Tuesday. 14 of our runners go to Stratham Hill, which is a really intense, steep hill that they run eight to 10 times. Then the rest of our runners go over to Swayze Parkway and do Crew Hill eight to 10 times, which is a more gradual hill," she explained.

"We also do tempo runs every Thursday that

"It's still very early in the season though, so I'm pretty optimistic about how our four and our five can really get up there in races towards the end of the season."

The competitive environment is bolstered by cross-country traditions and strong team spirit across both teams. "During practices during the week, the girls and boys teams are very separate. We're doing different workouts, and we're not

it means. It really brings the team together."

"Our overarching goal is getting as good as we can as a team while preventing injuries and keeping it sustainable for the future," Ivanova concluded. "We also have a lot of new people, so we're working on building team spirit around that and getting other people to understand what [being a member of the] cross-country team means."



Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

Varsity Field Hockey

By EMI LEVINE '24

The short blare of a horn and a quick pass back from the center of the field marks the start of the Exeter girl's varsity field hockey game. Players make beautiful passes up the field and into the other team's circle to then score the first point of the game and put Exeter up 1-0.

The team this year was led by captains Eden Welch, Kate Nixon, and Grace Puchalski. They were coached by head coach Sam Fahey and assistant coaches Mercy Carbonell and Sarah Nelson. The team had an impressive season with eight wins, seven losses, and one tie, coming closer than they have in years to making the playoffs. In preparation for the season, the team came early to campus in order to train for the season.

The field hockey team scrimmaged several other schools in a jamboree in which they played against Pingree, St. Pauls, and Brooks. "Preseason was fun. We ate every meal together [and] we spent a lot of time together. A lot of bonding. We definitely got really close in those few, couple of days," upper Audrey Sim said.

However, the training definitely wasn't easy, according to Welch: "The conditioning, early mornings, and double practice days were certainly tough, but we looked to each other and kept pushing the whole way through."

Welch continued on to share one of her highlights from the preseason. "We scrimmaged under the lights at our only night practice. The scrimmage brought some of the best energy we have had the whole season,

and it served to set the tone for the rest of the week and for Saturday."

Head coach Fahey added, "[The players] did a lot of work this summer, both with their training program pump from Coach Fisch and from the captains and their leadership group. I try to let the team lead that for them to take ownership, but coming into the preseason, they were in a much better place, emotionally and physically. Connecting was important to them. So we came in really ready to go on that standpoint."

In the jamboree, Exeter, unfortunately, lost the first match against Pingree 0-2. In the second match, things seemed to be looking up, with Exeter and Brooks tied 1-1 for most of the game. However, at the very last minute, Brooks was able to pull ahead and score a goal,

setting the score at 1-2. With two losses under Exeter's belt, the scrimmages were not looking the best for Exeter, but in the third and final game against St. Paul's, Exeter finally came out on top, beating St. Paul's 2-0.

Fahey shared her thoughts regarding the team's performance. "We were still coming off of a focused and hard preseason, so it was really nice to come together as a team. And we progressed as the day went on, which was a big positive," she said.

Fahey also shared some highlights from the jamboree: "We learned that different players can play different positions. We can move some people around to adjust, which is always good to have on a team, you know, different players working well together on attack and on defense.

They started to feel really comfortable with each other."

The first game of the regular season was against Milton, with Exeter, unfortunately, losing 3-2 in an extremely competitive game. However, there were still great individual performances, with upper Sally Hunter driving the attack, making the score 2-2 before Milton scored the final goal to win the game.

After another loss against Middlesex, they secured their first win when they traveled to Cushing Academy. They beat Cushing 1-0, with the winning goal scored by Welch. They then suffered another loss against Deerfield 4-0, but goalie Grace Puchalski had an incredible performance against the very skilled Deerfield offense. They then won against St. Pauls in overtime 1-0. Hunter and upper Adora Perry amped into action in the overtime, with Hunter scoring the winning goal off a corner.

After two more losses against Nobles and Pingree, the team crushed Northfield Mount Hermon with a final score of 5-0. There were many strong performances, specifically from upper Jessica Chen who scored two goals, and Puchalski who had a complete shutout. Continuing their winning streak, they demolished Tilton with a final score of 8-0. Five different players contributed to the 8-0 victory over Tilton, and Puchalski had yet another amazing game.

After tying Brooks, they kept an impressive winning streak against

Kimball Union, Hotchkiss, Holderness, and Brewster. They then ended their streak with a loss against Governors before heading to Andover to play against the smurfs. Andover struck first with a goal in the opening five minutes. Exeter would even the score at 1-1 when upper Kate Rose found the back of the net with a rocket of a shot off of a corner. Andover would then take a 2-1 lead after capitalizing on a corner before halftime, then scoring twice in the second half to earn a heartbreaking 4-1 win against Exeter.

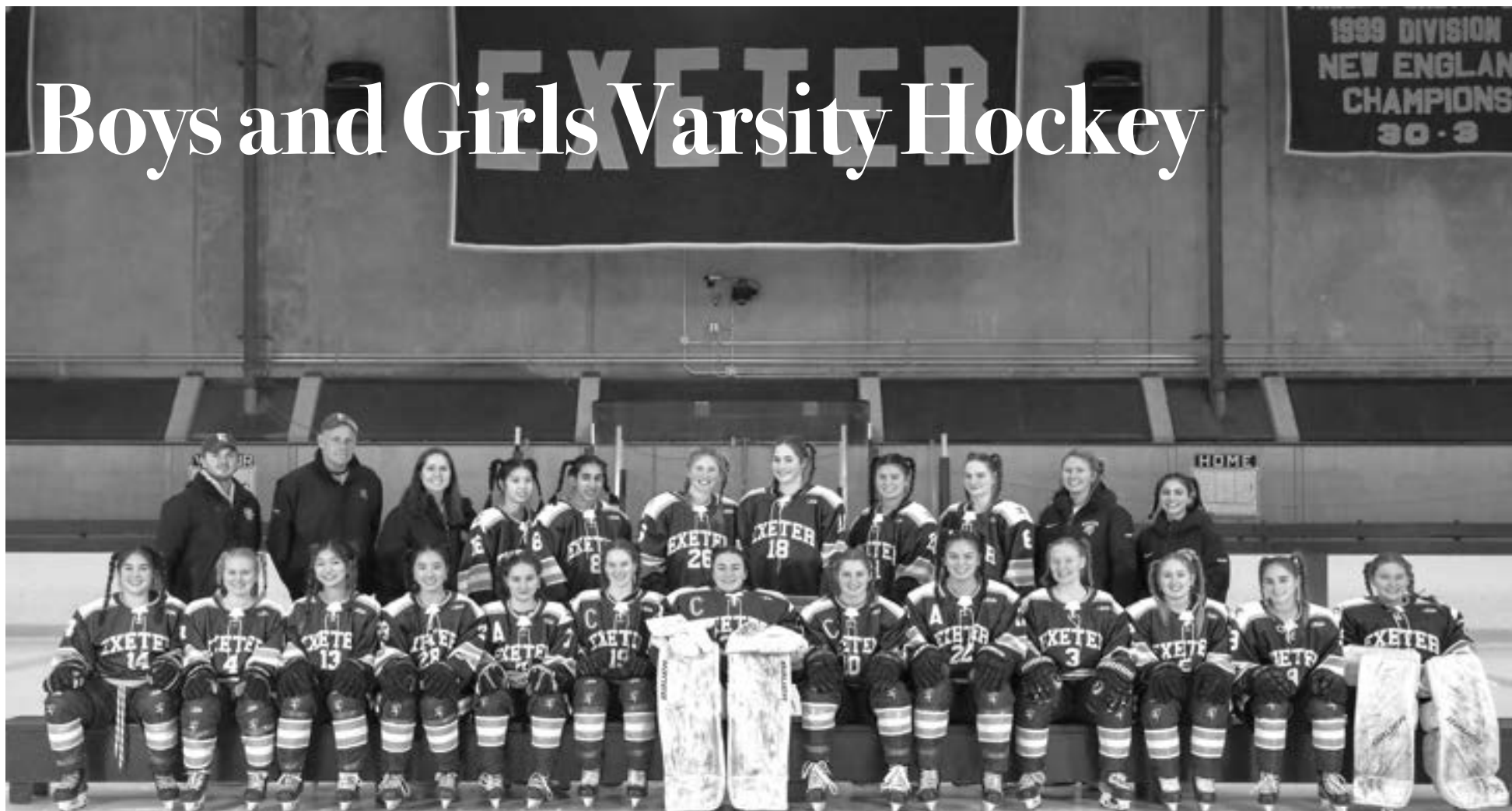
Fahey shared her hopes for the upcoming 2023 season: "We're really taking it one game at a time. Obviously, I hope to have a winning season or above 500 season. That'd be really good for this group because we're still pretty young and we're still young in terms of field hockey as well. I just want them to have fun. I want them to feel good about playing together and playing field hockey in general. So as long as we're stepping on and off the field, feeling good about what we're doing, that's what's important to me."

Many players echoed this sentiment. "I'm feeling pretty good. I think that we still have some things to work on and we also have some comfort to focus on in regard to positioning . . . But, I'm very excited to see how we end up doing in the end. I think overall, despite our stats, I think that we're gonna have a lot of fun working together," upper Freya Busser concluded.

After tying Brooks, they kept an impressive winning streak against

Winter Sports

Boys and Girls Varsity Hockey



By SOPHIE MA '24

Blades rip against the ice as Big Red players rush to the goal, maneuvering the puck between opponents with precision. In a split second, a small black blur hits the net. Score!

This year, the girls varsity hockey team was led by seniors Eden Welch, Sami Smith, and Shauna Vadeboncoeur as captains, with senior Lucy Meyer-Braun and upper Caroline Shu serving as associate captains. Meanwhile, the boys were led by senior Mike Salvatore as captain and seniors Dylan Shapiro and Mike Durkin as associate captains.

Kicking off the season, the boys varsity hockey team faced off Kents Hill School in a riveting home game, winning 6-1. Upper Christian Maro and lower Dryden Dervish had two goals apiece; other

goal scorers were senior Johnny Johannson and upper Beau Elson. Senior Michael Salvatore made an impressive 24 saves, opening Big Red's season with a strong start.

The following day, the team played away at North Yarmouth Academy, clutching another 1-0 win under coach Tim Mitropoulos and assistant coaches Dana Barbin, Mark Evans, and Brandon Hew.

The girls varsity hockey team began the season with a slightly slow start, suffering two losses at Milton Academy and the Hill School; however, they quickly bounced back with a series of five consecutive wins against Proctor Academy, Brewster Academy, Proctor Academy again, Worcester Academy, and Deerfield Academy. This year, they were coached by Sally Komarek and assistant coaches Jim Tufts and Adam Loyd.

The two games against Proctor Academy saw Big Red in high performance, resulting in scores of 6-1 and 3-0. In the first game, Big Red players rocked offense while goaltender senior Sami Smith notched an assist. In the second game, senior Tammy Zhu, prep Emma Shu, and prep Maria Gray each scored to provide the offense while lower Allie Bell was solid in net.

The girls streak would be broken by one loss against Noble and Greenough School, before pulling back with 8-0 and 1-0 wins against Tilton School and Rivers School, respectively.

Following the boys two opening wins, they would battle through a period of six consecutive losses. Afterward, they rebounded with wins against Governors Academy, Austin Prep, Buckingham Browne and Nichols School, and Groton School, witnessing scores of 4-2, 3-1, 9-2, and

3-1, respectively. In the game against Austin Prep, Johannson, Elson, and senior Jack O'Brien each scored while Salvatore kicked away 26 of 27 shots. Following that, at the Groton School game, Maro, Elson, and upper Tristan Fedele each scored a goal.

For the rest of the season, both teams would continue to play with vigor, witnessing alternating periods of wins and periods of losses. After being defeated by St. Paul's School and Governors Academy, the boys team would triumph over Phillips Academy and the Hotchkiss School. In the Hotchkiss game, Elson and upper Riley Piersimoni each had a goal while Dervish scored twice to lead the Exeter offense in a 4-1 win over Hotchkiss. Salvatore performed fantastically once again, kicking away more than 40 shots.

Meanwhile, the girls team matched three

consecutive losses against the Loomis Chaffee School, Dexter School, and Buckingham Browne and Nichols School with three consecutive wins against the Kimball Union Academy, New Hampton School, and Berwick Academy.

The boys team would then persevere amidst some tough losses against the likes of Cushing Academy. Maro said that he was proud of the team's effort to finish the game and carry some momentum into the next game. "I think we responded really well despite taking the loss. In the third period, we came back and we did our best."

Throughout the highs and the lows of the season, both teams found camaraderie with other players. "We all hold each other accountable and we all support each other on and off the ice," upper Jessica Chen said on the team's Instagram account. "I love

Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

all of our inside jokes and how we are each other's hype man. The friendships I've made since coming here have been so special and we truly are family."

Senior Eden Welch echoed Chen's sentiment. "We all lean on each other, cheer each other on, and push ourselves to be our best each day. The hockey team...has an extraordinary bond. I love our crazy superstitions, the pregame locker room hype auxed by Carol Shu, and the incredibly competitive standard we all hold ourselves to."

"I am so grateful to call Exeter my home, and am incredibly thankful for my GVH family," lower Grace Benson said.

The end of the season saw the girls varsity hockey team chalk up a record of 11 wins and 10 losses. The boys varsity hockey team concluded with 12 wins, 15 losses, and 1 tie.

Varsity Wrestling

By NATALY DELCID and HANNAHPARK

The crowd watched breathlessly as a Big Red wrestler pinned their opponent to the mat. The talented boys and girls of the Varsity Wrestling team had won another victory of their successful season with a final count of 10 wins and three losses.

They started off their season strong with two wins against St. Paul's School and The Governor's Academy, and then jumped right into the twenty-one school Battle on the Bay Wrestling Tournament held at Tabor Academy.

After a thrilling day of wrestling at Tabor, four Exeter wrestlers took home medals. Senior Nate Puchalski won all of his five matches and placed first in the 144 lb weight division. Senior Ryan Kim said "Watching Nate win his weight class was one of the highlights. I think Nate's first few matches were pretty easy. He's very talented compared to some of the guys that were at the tournament. His last few matches were more difficult, but Nate's definitely a dog, and you can't keep a good dog down."

Senior Chris MacArthur won three of his four matches and placed third in his respective weight class. Upper Jack Mosley reached the finals and took home a second place medal,

and lower Jack Doherty reached the semifinals but unfortunately had to injury default to claim sixth place.

In the weeks following the Tabor tournament, the wrestling team won against three schools and lost by a mere three points against Andover.

At their second tournament of the season, Big Red placed second overall at the Northern New England Tournament. The team took home 11 medals, and seniors Jonathan Jeun and Chris MacArthur, and lower Jack Doherty were each

individual medal winners.

A week later, Puchalski and upper Sarah Sargent each earned Class A titles at the Class A Tournament at St. Paul's School. Furthermore, 10 members earned medals, and seven qualified for the New England Championships next weekend.

At New Englands, Big Red finished fourteenth place out of over 40 schools. Puchalski, fresh off a Class A title last weekend, finished third overall at 144 lbs, and Jeun and MacArthur each claimed eighth place in their respective classes.

The team got to celebrate the end of the season at the end-of-term Exeter v.s. Andover (EA) assembly. At the assembly, lower Caspar O'Connell joined the audience in a gorilla suit, an Andover T-shirt, and a bag full of bananas, which he then threw into the crowd. Then, he challenged Jeun to a match, in which O'Connell got ruthlessly beaten, and the crowd cheered as he got pinned to the mat.

Amidst all this chaos, the crowd threw bananas across the court, which resulted in a mess of mashed bananas across the once-clean basketball court. Overall though, this match and its banana-related chaos hyped the

school up to compete against Andover the next day.

While all this was going on, Puchalski was away at Washington D.C. to compete at Prep Nationals, where he single-handedly earned the school 69th out of 99 places.

With all that said, these successes are a direct result of the team's grit and hard work at practice. Team practices typically run for around an hour and forty-five minutes. After everyone weighs in, the team usually hits a short jog together around the mats before jumping into stretches, which wrestlers use to get into the right mindset to jump into practice. During stretches,

coach Tom Darrin steps into the middle of the stretch circle with a motivational "Quote of the Day" on a piece of printer paper to get the team pumped for an intense practice.

Then, the team jumps into some real work, whether it's learning new moves or perfecting old ones. Everyone, whether they're a first-year wrestler or have wrestled their entire lives, practices the same moves, just at different intensities. Towards the end of practice, coaches usually either have wrestlers take on some live matches or go for a run before they break it out with a chant.



Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball

By HANNAHPARK '24

The heavy thump of the ball echoes across Love Gym as the players move across the wooden floor, the audience following their every move. The scoreboard timer hits zero, and students leap up from the bleachers to cheer on the boys and girls varsity basketball teams. The boys team had a great season with nine wins and nine losses, while the girls similarly saw improvement with 10 wins and 11 losses.

To start off the season, senior captain Rollie Castineyra led the boys team in the Scholar Roundball Classic, a three-day showcase at Babson College, scoring 16 points. Post-grad Mike Loughnane scored 27 points, bolstering the team's offense. They closed the game with a loss of 67 to Avon Old Farms School's 73 points.

After another loss to Milton Academy, they brought home their first win of the season in a Class A Showcase game against Thayer Academy. Post-grad Aiden Burke scored a game record of 20 points in the boys 67-42 victory.

Under the mentorship of coach Jay Tilton, the

Academy. Loughnane earned his season-high of 33 points out of the 64 points that trumped the 62 of Tabor Academy. Loughnane was on offense while senior Andrew Houghton bolstered Big Red's defense.

Two losses and two wins followed, setting up a season of eight wins and eight losses so far. Finally, the anticipated EA game against Andover arrived on Feb. 25. Held at home, a huge crowd of both Exeter and Andover students filled the bleachers. Big Red's student section was full of pride and energy as they cheered for the boys. The game was hard-fought, with both talented teams going neck and neck until the buzzer rang and Big Red brought the victory home with a score of 56-55.

Finally, the team traveled to the NEPSAC Class A Quarterfinals



Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

scoring 17 in the first half. Upper Stacy Chen and lower Melani Dowling each scored 11 points in the game, fortifying their win.

Only two days later, the team traveled to Loomis Chaffee School for a hard-fought game. Despite their 60-32 loss, Big Red was tough to beat as the defense ramped up in the second half, and successfully stole the ball from Loomis players multiple times. The offense also played hard, with

28 victory.

The girls brought their success to Taft School in the Groton/Lawrence Tournament, winning against Taft with 51 points to their score of 50. After two losses against Lawrence and Groton, the team closed off the tournament in third place. The team saw another loss in their next game against the fierce start of Buckingham Browne & Nichols School.

However, the girls did not lose their

with a score of 41 to 36. After these victorious home games, the team traveled to Thayer Academy. Thayer's strong performances ultimately bested Big Red in a score of 48 to 36.

Next, the team entered a tough game against Governors Academy, their scores lying side by side as they approached the end. In the final minute, Chen finished off the game with two successful free throws, bolstering their win.

This powerful play was then followed by a streak of four losses against Dexter School, Pingree School, New Hampton School, and Holderness School. But the team quickly bounced back in a 45-22 triumph against Austin Prep and brought their success to the Eight School Tournament. Here, they earned perfect victories of 2-0, winning against Lawrenceville and St. Paul's. Doucette's determination and ability showed as she scored 36 out of the total 51 points against Lawrenceville, and 14 out of the total 42 points against St. Paul's.

Despite their losses in the final games of the season against Proctor Academy and Andover, their team displayed immense improvement in both teamwork and game record throughout the season. This difference is clear to Head coach Katie Brule, who noted their improvement from the previous season's record of four wins.

The players shared similar sentiments. "The team this year has improved so much from last year, and I think that's due in part to our working as a team," Doucette said. "We work hard, and we go into games with confidence. We're comfortable around each

other, and that's helped us become more coordinated."

Martin emphasized their strong teamwork, adding that the team's energy from the sidelines has supported players during difficult games. "Our team has done a really good job of working together through tough situations," she said.

"I appreciate the way [the captains] come to practice ready to work on specific skills and ask a lot of questions," Brule added. "But at times, when something happens, we're able to laugh about it. It's not just a super intense environment the entire time. The captains know that — and they know when to bring everyone back to focus."

Assistant coach Kerry McBrearty gave credit to Doucette and Martin's leadership in fostering a comfortable team environment. "One of the main things [the captains have] done is include the lowerclassmen and lead with love and understanding," McBrearty said. "They're encouraging, they're helping, they're going out of their way to make sure the preps and lowers are seen and heard and know they're a valuable part of the team. They allow the team to move forward together as one confident, cohesive unit."

McBrearty continued to describe the true distinction of this season. "The biggest difference now is their confidence. They're playing confidently every single day they come to practice, and that translates into much more success. They embrace failure as a learning moment, and they realize that the only play that counts in sports is the next one."



Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

team continued their strong run throughout the winter, securing wins against Proctor Academy, Austin Prep, and Belmont Hill School. Big Red then locked in a two-game win streak against Loomis Chaffee School, with Loughnane setting a game-high of 26 points. Burke and Castineyra also pushed the team to victory, scoring 20 and 14 points respectively.

After a loss of 66-53 to St. Paul's School, the boys team demonstrated their prowess against Tabor

against Milton Academy. Despite their loss, the season offered strong performances and several personal bests among the players.

Under the leadership of senior captains Jac Doucette and Bridgette Martin, the girls team fought to improve during the off-season. Their hard work showed in the season-opening game, where they earned a towering triumph of 64 to Milton Academy's 33 points. Doucette had a game record of 25 points,

Doucette exhibiting her skills in a team-best of 19 points.

The teams' mindset was undefeated, however, as the close-knit group worked diligently to prove their talent in the next game against Kimball Union Academy. Doucette continued her strong performances, earning a game-high score of 21 points. Martin and upper Stacy Chen supported the team's win with seven points each, with Big Red coming out on top in a 44-

confidence. Their two losses were soon replaced with a streak of two wins against Cushing Academy and Deerfield Academy. At Cushing, Doucette and upper Laurie Chung each scored 10 points. The team fought hard to keep their winning score against Cushing's push near the end of the game and ended with a 43-35 victory.

Despite the cancellation of their next two games, the girls continued their win streak against St. Paul's School

Boys and Girls Varsity Track and Field

By EMI LEVINE '24

Bang! The sound of the gun rings through the air as the boys and girls varsity track teams dash off from the starting line of the race. Both teams this season have defeated their competitors and consistently placed in the top five.

The boys team was led by seniors Oliver Brandes, Owen Dudley, and Jackson Giampa and head coach Hillar Hall. The girls team was led by seniors Kaylee Bennet and Tristian Crotty and coached by Hall as well.

Both teams started off their seasons with the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA), where they raced a number of other highschools in New Hampshire. The boys team placed first overall, with an outstanding performance

from senior Jackson Giampa who finished first in the 55 meter and long jump. The girls team also finished first, with a strong performance from senior Willa Hock who placed first in the 55 meter and 300 meter.

Both teams then competed in the Prep School Meet, and two more NHIAA meets before traveling to Harvard University to compete in the Greater Boston Track Club Indoor Invitational. At the meet, both teams performed very well. Senior Chris Gill placed first in mens shot put, upper Byron Grevious placed first in the mens one mile run, and Giampa placed ninth in the mens 200 meter. For the girls team, Hock placed fifth for the womens 200 meter dash and fourth in the womens 400 meter dash.

Then, over the weekend

of Friday, Jan. 27 to Saturday, Jan. 28, numerous Big Red varsity track and field athletes competed at Boston University's John Thomas Terrier Classic meet. The meet took place over two days, with the men's events held on Friday, and the women's on Saturday. The Terrier Classic is a collegiate-level meet that is available for high schools to compete in. Seniors Willa Hock, Kaylee Bennett, Sophia Green, Owen Dudley, Oliver Brandes, Jackson Giampa, Maxwell Li; uppers Annika Finelli, Tenley Nelson, Solu Ajene, Anna Kim, Cordel Epale, Jack Hutchins, Max Lacombe, Byron Grevious; lowers Jannah Maguire, Sam Benochi, and Jaylen Bennett travelled to compete.

J. Bennett broke the school record for the 200 meter and 400 meter,

achieving the fastest time in the 400 meter for a high school sophomore in the country, and the second-best time in the 200 meter. Brandes broke the record in the 800 meter and broke the school indoor record, and is currently ranked fifth in the nation. Grievous broke his personal record in the 3K, and is ranked first among high school juniors nationally and second in all grades. J. Bennett, Brandes, Lacombe, and Grievous constituted the team for the boys' Distance Medley Relay (DMR) and broke the school record, now ranking first nationally. Many students also qualified for Nationals as a result of their success during the meet.

After stellar performances from both boys and girls track, both teams went back to their home track to compete in two more Prep School

Meets and another NHIAA meet. They then traveled to Boston University again to race in the Boston University David Hemery Valentine Invitational. Both teams performed very strongly.

Then, as the season was nearing an end, both teams traveled to Andover to face a familiar opponent: the Smurfs. The boys team had a very strong performance overall, with Big Red crushing Andover 75-33 overall. J. Bennett also set a new school record in the 55 meter. The girls team fought strongly but in the end, they were not able to defeat the Smurfs. They had a final score of 47-62.

Although both teams had competed against the Smurfs, their season was not over yet. Both the boys and girls teams raced in the USA Track and Field New England Championships,

and performed very well. Now, they only had one more stop: Nationals. Over the weekend March 10 to March 12, both teams traveled to the Track at New Balance in Boston to compete in the New Balance Indoor Nationals. The boys team had an amazing performance, with Big Red placing fourth in the 4x800 meter relay and fourth in the boys distance medley. The girls team also performed strongly with upper Tenley Nelson placing tenth in the girls 800 meter Rising Stars run.

Many members of the team talked about what they focused on during practices to prepare for bigger meets. "A few days before, we were doing a bit of practice, like 300s, 400s, things like that. The day before, we usually do a pre-meet which basically consists of running a little 800-meter

Boys and Girls Varsity Track and Field Cont.



Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

jog, and starting out in blocks,” lower Sam Benochi said.

“For me personally, I usually prepare two days in advance with hydration, stretching, staying loose, rolling out, and other things of the like,” J. Bennett said. “For everyone, [the preparation] is definitely taken seriously, and some of the priorities we have are sleep and nutrition. I know all the athletes on the team really prioritize those when the big meets are coming up.”

“Personally, I wasn’t able to run that much in the winter or spring last year, and it was really nice to compete in a really good quality meet with good competition. It helps me believe in myself and understand that I have experience and that I’ve done this before. I felt like it was really good competition for me mentally and to get back into the waters of track and field at a high level again,” K.

Bennett explained.

Students also spoke a bit on the team culture.

“For the sprinting girls, Kaylee is the captain and I think she’s done a really good job in managing the team and keeping us all on track. I think it’s hard with track because it’s such a big team to actually have everybody on the same page. Even though everybody’s not as involved, I think that the team has done a

great job in welcoming other people for whom it might not be their main sport,” Hock said.

Many student also gave thanks to their coaches who helped them throughout the season. “This has been my first year here, and Coach Hall has really helped me individualize my training while helping others similarly as well. At the beginning of the year, the coaches really

tried to build up our endurance and strength and now we’re building our speed. As a result, we’re seeing more results now speed-wise than we were before because of the training process,” Hock said. “They’ve also been really supportive about injuries and mental health and things like that. I think that they’ve been great.”

“Coach Hall really decides what

we do. She times us sometimes when we’re doing 300-meter runs, for example, and checks that we’re doing technical things correctly. Coach Bennett is also there for support. I know one thing that I personally struggle with is keeping my arms wide and Coach Bennett is really on me. I think the coaches are always there for support,” Benochi said.

“I want to give thanks to the coaches, Coach Hall, Coach Newport, and Coach Bennett for the work that they’ve been putting in. It’s definitely laid out properly and I feel like this season, they know what they’re doing and they want the best for us,” J. Bennett said.

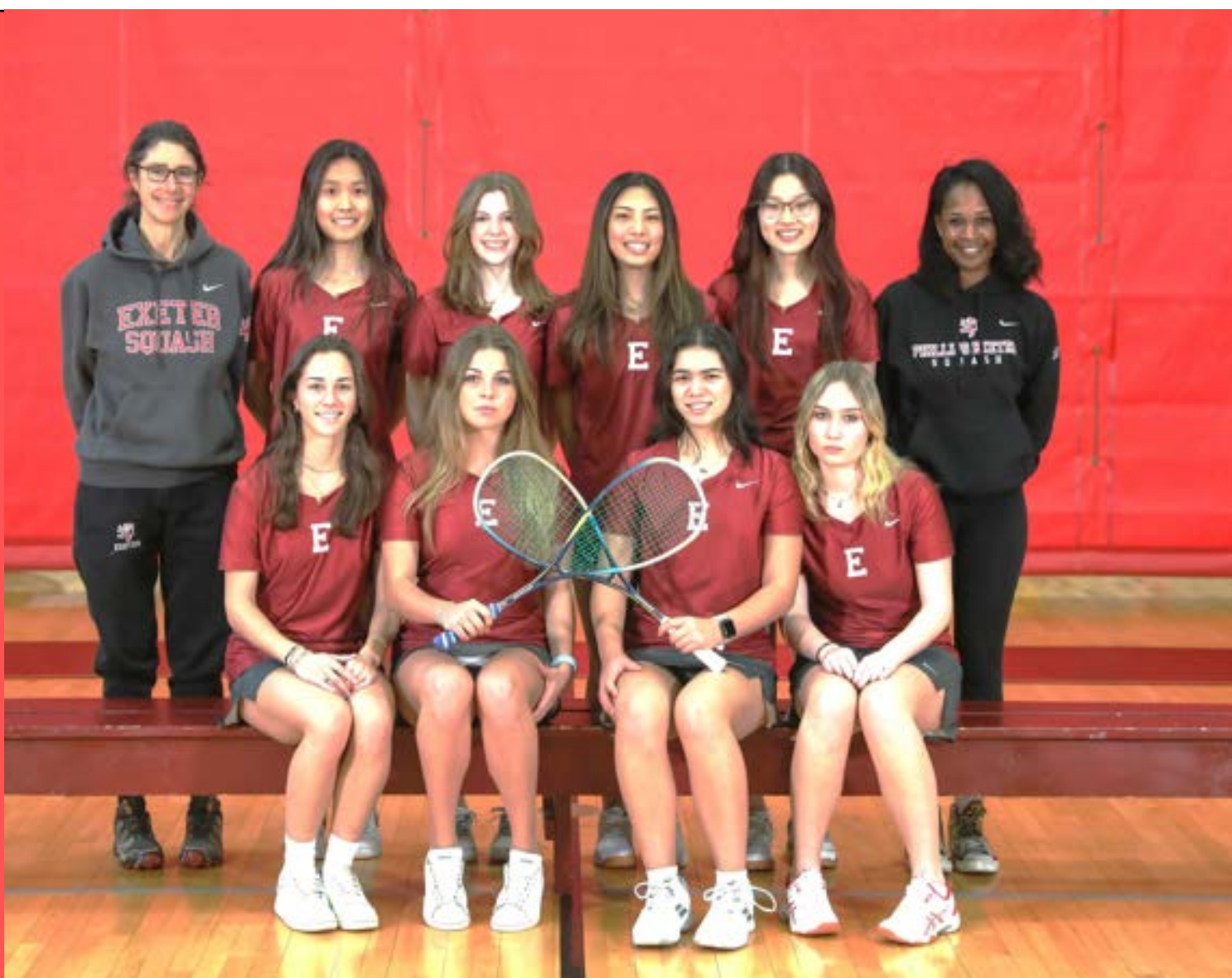
“It’s good to have a team to surround you and lift you up whether

you do good or bad. I feel that [this meet] has shown us the levels that are out there and some of the competition, especially for kids who want to run at the collegiate level,” he continued. “I guess this meet has been good for self-confidence and being able to run under Exeter. It lets you feel school pride and run with your teammates.”

Courtesy of Brian Muldoon



Boys and Girls Varsity Squash



By SOPHIEMA '24

In an enclosed court, a black speck whizzes by and hits the wall. A player rushes to meet the ball with their racquet, hitting it back to the other player. The two remain locked in an intense standoff, leaping around the court with precision, before Big Red delivers a decisive hit and scores the winning point. Game!

This year, the girls varsity squash team was led by seniors Isabella Vesely, Lally Lavin, Grace Pulchalski, and Lassiter Foregger. The boys varsity squash team was

led by seniors Sean Wu and Eric Zhang, who opened the season with a thrilling 4-3 win against Milton Academy. Although they suffered two consecutive losses after, the boys team quickly bounced back with a 5-2 win against Hotchkiss and a 5-2 win against Hopkins while playing at Phillips Academy. The following games against Brooks School and Noble and Greenough School also saw decisive victories for Big Red, with scores of 7-0 and 5-2 respectively.

The girls varsity squash team suffered a series of losses at the beginning of the season. Nevertheless, they

were not deterred and soon came back with a stunning 7-0 victory against St. Mark’s School. This year, they were coached by Lovey Oliff and assistant coach Mercy Carbonell.

Carbonell commented on senior and co-captain Grace Puchalski’s especially exciting match at St. Mark’s, which ended with a triumphant victory for the team. “Grace played an opponent who was feisty, who ran for everything, who was unpredictable. Grace lived into her reputation and her name: she was calm and figured out that all she needed to do was to work

within the basic principles of the game.”

Leading up to the New England Championships, the team was eager to succeed. “From the beginning of the season, we’ve all improved so much. Everyone is really excited about the championship and we are all rooting for our teammates there,” lower ShaoShao Tang said.

Carbonell also expressed her admiration for how hard the team has been working to improve. “They show up every day to work hard, to offer their enthusiasm for practice drills, to change their game, and to support those

around them.”

Under the guidance of coach Bruce Shang and assistant coach Paul Langford, the boys team took another win against the Middlesex School before both teams headed off to New England Interscholastic and US Squash High School Nationals. Notably, upper Ella Brady placed second in her division. The season ended with a record of 6 wins and 13 losses for the boys, and 4 wins and 13 losses for the girls.

Throughout the season, the team has stayed very supportive of each other and

Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

really bonded throughout the year. “When we have games away or at home, there’s usually a couple of people still playing. Everyone will come to watch them play. It’s very supportive and everyone cheers them on,” Tang said.

Coaches and students also expressed praise for the captains. Both Zhang and Wu, for example, bring strong squash skills and leadership to their team, which has boosted their morale and spirit. “They are very different captains but work together to encourage our athletes to improve as

Boys and Girls Varsity Swimming and Diving

By MICHAEL YANG '24

“Take your mark,” Beep! The boys and girls varsity swim teams shoot off the blocks and pierce the water while the divers minimize their splash. Preseason training began days before the start of winter term. Swimmers faced tough double practices daily in preparation for a long season ahead. The boys raced to a record of eight wins and one loss, while the girls achieved a record of seven wins and one tie against Andover.

The boys team was headed by senior captains Henry Liu, Zach Quitkin, and Andrew Van De Water, while the girls team was led by senior captains Amy Benson, Claire Fu, and Nat Kpodonu.

With just two weeks left in the term, both teams spent nine hours on a bus ride



Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

“Easterns is the premier prep school meet in the country,” said coach Benson. “This is a great way to kick off our championship season and provide opportunities for our swimmers to compete amongst the best.”

school record and New England Prep school record while earning All-American status in the 200 medley relay with a time of 1:43.66.

Boardman then went on to claim first overall in the 50 freestyle, posting a

‘23 took fifth place in the 200 free relay with a time of 1:26.96.

Boardman kicked off day two with a school-record swim and a third-place finish in the 100 freestyle with a time of 50.42. Phelps followed by

second place with a time of 3:27.59. Guo led the efforts on the boys side on Day 2, winning the 100 backstroke with a time of 49.75. Liu added a second-place finish in the 100 breaststroke, coming in at 55.53.

At the end of the Winter term, both swim teams traveled down to Andover at their brand-new aquatic facility to compete at the New England Interscholastic Division I Swimming Championships, where the girls team took home the crown and the boys team ended up placing fourth. The girls team outpointed 11 rivals with an impressive 92.5 points separating them from the runner-up, Andover. This year marks Big Red’s first title since a trio of championships from 2010 to 2012. This meet lowered even more school records as well as pool records by both Exeter teams and other competitors at the meet.

Boardman helped lead the way. The prep set a school record in the 50 free with a time of 22.67, which earned her a US-Open cut time, while also claiming first in the 100 free with a time of 50.37. Cong claimed a New England title in the 100 butterfly with a time of 54.97 while finishing second overall in the 100 backstroke, touching the wall at 55.52.

Zhang broke the

oldest mark left on the Exeter record board when she finished the 100 breaststroke in 1:05.57, good enough for third place overall. Zhang also earned a third-place finish in the 200-individual medley with a time of 2:07.26.

The girls team proved their usual dominance in relays, winning the 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, and 400 free relay.

On the boys side, Guo claimed a New England title in the 100 backstroke with a time of 49.80. Guo also finished second in the 200 free when he touched at 1:40.09. After placing second in Saturday’s prelims, Liu swam to a New England title in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 55.08.

Guo, Liu, Gou, and Day earned third place in the 200 medley relay, finishing at 1:33.32. The 200 free relay team of Day, Yang, Van De Water, and McCann claimed fourth overall with a time of 1:25.59 while Guo, Van De Water, Liu, and Quitkin swam to third in the 400 free relay.

“I’m so proud of our team,” said coach Benson. “What a remarkable team experience in what was a remarkable year. Many kudos to our seniors for building a team and building a legacy, and for leaving our program better than when they arrived — a true mark of non sibi.”



Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

down to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to compete at the Easterns Swimming Championships. The team exploded from the energy saved up during a short drop taper before the meet. Many records and All-American performances powered Exeter swimming to a fourth-place finish at the premier prep meet in the country under head coaches Don Mills and Nicole Benson and assistant head coaches Meg Blitzshaw and Kate D’Ambrosio.

“The energy at Easterns always brings out the best in our swimmers, and the entire experience brings us closer as a team,” continued coach Mills. “The meet was full of exceptional swims from all of our athletes.”

Big Red got to work re-setting the record books immediately on the first day of the competition. Mena Boardman ‘26, Audrey Zhang ‘24, Brianna Cong ‘25, and Sophie Phelps ‘25 teamed up to post a

school record and earning All-American status in the process with a time of 22.94. Cong finished second overall in the 100 butterfly with a time of 55.02.

On the boys side, Ethan Guo ‘25, Henry Liu ‘23, Lang Gou ‘25, and Rudd Day ‘25 placed fifth in the medley relay with an All-American time of 1:32.62 before Andrew Van De Water ‘23, Zach Quitkin ‘23, Michael Yang ‘24 and Patrick McCann

breaking her own school record in the 500 freestyle when she touched the wall at 4:58.61, claiming fourth place overall. Cong also broke one of her own school records in the 100 backstroke with a time of 55.84 and earning fifth.

The girls wrapped up the competition with one more record-breaking performance as Phelps, Cong, Zhang, and Boardman teamed up to set a school mark in the 400 freestyle, claiming

Boys and Girls Varsity Squash Cont.

squash players and human beings. For example, Sean will ask the team to clean up after matches and demonstrate drills and teach skills to his teammates. Eric is very calm by nature and will run off-season training and help instruct kids on technique,” Shang said.

This willingness to share advice and tips with younger students has led to strong all-around team morale. “This year’s team has been very hard-working and shown a lot of comradery and goodwill, all of which has produced an especially positive and enjoyable atmosphere during practices and matches. Eric and Sean have contributed a great deal to this situation, and they are very generous in sharing their knowledge of the game and encouraging the younger players,” Langford said.

Both captains have

grown throughout their squash careers as both teammates and leaders. Upper Eric Wu admired Zhang’s persistence. “When I came in as a prep, I think Eric was ranked number seven on the overall squash ladder, but since then he’s grown to be ranked number one overall on the team. Even now, he still has a lot of matches against people ranked higher than him from other schools... often we’ll be tied 3-3 going into his match [for varsity], and it’ll be down to his game, or his set.”

Commenting on the overall season, prep Tiffany Sun said, “The season has been good. Many of our opponents so far have been very strong schools, and even so, we have put up a good fight against them.”



Courtesy of Brian Muldoon

Spring Sports

Varsity Cycling

By EMILEVINE '24

Zoom! The varsity cycling team zips around the curve of the race track as they cross the finish line first. This year, the team was led by seniors Ale Murat and Max Chuang, and coached by head coach Don Mills.

Mills spoke on the team's strength this year: "The team's biggest strength this

year is depth. We have a solid number of experienced and dedicated riders on both the boys and girls side."

He also touched on areas of improvement, saying, "We are still working on our overall fitness but that is coming along."

Mills felt very optimistic for both boy and girl cyclists on the team. "It is going to be fun to watch the top

girls compete. Everyone is fast and they all ride well together. We have a super strong group of A category boys that will be tough to beat. I'm really looking forward to the racing and the long team rides this season" he said.

According to Mills, a memorable aspect of the team this year is the "level

our riders are at coming into the season. We are already having fun with this group."

He concluded with his excitement for the season, "I'm looking forward to bringing along our new riders to the team. Many of our top riders now started as total newbies just one or two years ago."



Courtesy of @exeterathletics

Boys and Girls Varsity Crew

By EMILEVINE '24

Splash! The boys and girls varsity crew teams speed off from their respective starting lines. Their paddles glide elegantly through the water as both teams move in perfect synchronization and take the lead in their individual heats.

The girls varsity crew team was led by seniors Kate Nixon and Izzie Riccardi. They were coached by head coach Sally Morris as well as Becky Moore, Hadleigh Weber, and Eric Saltman. The boys varsity crew team was led by seniors Weiyi Huang and Jack Kugler. They are coached by head coach Albert Leger as well as Townley Chisholm, Tyler Caldwell, and Stephen Carr.

While crew at the Academy is a spring sport, the boys and girls varsity teams trained together throughout the fall in preparation for the annual Head of the Charles Regatta that is held in Boston every October. Exonians competed in the 4- and 8-boat competitions, and all four boats raced well and emerged with stellar results.

On the girls team, the girls 4-boat placed fifth in their event and the girls 8-boat placed forty-eighth. For the boys team, the 4-boat placed sixteenth and 8-boat placed fifty-eighth in their respective events. Attending a competition representing the culmination of weeks of work by the crew team during their fall season, rowers were very excited to compete in their event.

Some rowers mentioned that the experience at the Head of the Charles is so special because of the large scale and importance of the event. "I like to describe it as sort of like the Super Bowl, but for rowing, just in general, both high school and college rowing. Basically every college rowing program shows up and a bunch of high schools. There were some even UK schools that came over. It's like the pinnacle of the sport," senior Hakkon Kohler said.

Others mentioned how they enjoyed seeing old friends and familiar faces at the event. "As the day

went on, it was great fun to see alumni rowers and people I rowed with, plus coaches from other teams against whom I've coached throughout my career," coach Morris said.

Rowers new to the race also noted their excitement at the event. "HOCR was a truly amazing experience! It was my first regatta and an awesome one at that. Getting to see all the different teams and divisions was so exciting, the energy was so high, and watching everyone race was so exhilarating. Warming up on the course as we passed

as you need to be strong physically. Keeping a positive mindset can be very difficult when your legs are sore, your arms are shaky, your abs are straining and your hands are blistering as you're rowing a long piece."

Kohler shared his individual experience, noting, "There's something that happens when you just sort of lock in and as a rower, it takes really training to develop that. When I first started rowing, I thought rowing was all strength, some technique, and no strategy. I think strength, sort of like aerobic capacity and both, both physical

Principal Rawson coming to cheer us on. In addition, there was tremendous support from alumni who were rowing in college, volunteering, or simply watching the event. It is truly special to carry on the legacy of Exeter crew and represent our school."

Although members of the team were proud of their accomplishments, they also noted where they could improve and their future goals. Upper Juno Cowans elaborated on where the crew team could improve. "We need to focus on rowing together, making sure we get some chemistry and we start

get strong for a great spring season ahead. We were undefeated last spring, so I am excited to follow that up this spring with many of the same people. EGC has become such a huge part of my heart, and I can't wait to finish off my upper year and the rest of my Exeter career rowing with the girls on this team."

Flash forward to the days before the start of spring term, the boys and girls varsity crew teams met at Phillips Academy in the last week of spring break for pre-season practice. After a few days of hard training on the water, the athletes left with a stronger team spirit and motivation for the season ahead.

Members of the team found the pre-season session

progressed as athletes, and it was super fun to get back together with friends," upper Edie Fisher said. "The weather mostly cooperated as well. We had three warm days where some of us even wore tank tops. I really enjoyed it."

"A strong pre-season is crucial for the rest of the season," Reidy said. "The work we put in early on is going to be really important, and I think everyone recognized that. We took advantage of the time and space to learn and get comfortable in the boat again. We also brought a larger group, so hopefully we trained some more lowerclassmen for a greater range of strong rowers."

The rest of the team,



Courtesy of @exeterathletics

racing boats was so cool, and passing under the bridges with people screaming from above was by far one of my favorite parts," lower Chloe Richards said.

Many rowers discussed Exeter crew team's overall team performance. "I am extremely happy for every Exeter boat that competed because we really faced many challenges with reduced practice time due to the water levels being too low and the reduced practice days from being a club sport. Exeter probably practiced a quarter the time of the clubs and still managed to place well among them," upper Edie Fisher said.

Miller shared similarly, "Rowing is a big mental sport, and you need to be strong mentally just as much

strength, just overall just general athleticism, technique and strategy are, are really the pillars of any sport. And I originally thought that there really is no strategy."

"And now I realize athleticism is probably the base of that triangle, but there is a crazy amount of strategy and there's a crazy amount of technique. And you gain that as you sort of develop as an athlete... It's all about how you sleep the night before. It's all about how you eat. It's all about how you think about the race. There are a number of different ways you can prepare to train at that highest level," Kohler continued.

Kugler echoed, "The support for Exeter crew was spectacular. The team was highly appreciative of

to gel with each other as a crew." Mabardy also outlined her goals to improve as a coxswain. "I definitely want to improve on being aware of my surroundings and keeping a straight course."

Miller further detailed possible improvements to the crew program at large. "Another goal is making sure we create a safe space for the rowers. People can get very competitive in this sport, and great rowers quit because of that. We want to create a space that keeps us all open with each other and prevents us from turning on each other."

With regards to training during the coming year, Sperantsas noted, "I'm super excited to start winter training with the team this year and

very productive. "Everything was in eights, which meant there were eight rowers and one coxswain per boat," senior Henry Blakemore said. "We had a few mixed boats, so there were members from both teams in one boat. We also used the ergs, rowing simulators, to work out on land."

"Our technique improved a ton from the beginning to the end," upper Jamie Reidy said. "The energy in the boats was excellent, and so was the dynamic between the girls and boys team. Even when it was colder, we were working out so much that it was hard to notice."

Even in their training, the team had a great time. "Everyone on the team

following a great pre-season, shares these ambitions. "I want to win the New England Interscholastic Rowing Association competition, I want to have another undefeated season, and I want to do better at nationals than we did last year," Blakemore said. "I want to stay focused, and make every stroke count, because it would be a real shame to throw away all the hard work we've done."

"I'm excited to once again be with the strongest group of women I know," Nixon said. "The team is gritty, determined, and always in the pursuit of speed and strength. The environment is infectious, and I can't wait to see what this season has in store for us."

Boys and Girls Varsity Lacrosse

By EMI LEVINE '24

Beep! The clock hits zero as the boys and girls varsity lacrosse teams each score the final goals in their respective games. Both teams emerge victorious against their competition.

The girls varsity lacrosse team was led by seniors Eden Welch, Emilie Dubiel, Nina Kellogg, and Sami Smith. They were coached by head coach Alexa Caldwell and assistant coaches Kristen Kjellman Marshall and Kerry McBearty. The boys varsity lacrosse team was led by senior Drew McClutchy and coached by head coach Matt Callahan and assistant coaches Bill Glennon, Jim Breen, and David Huoppi.

Over spring break, the girls and boys varsity lacrosse teams traveled down south to Florida to get a head start on their season.

Upper Adora Perry described their daily routine. "Preseason was a blast for all the girls involved. Our days varied, with a really great balance between work and play. Typically, we woke up and enjoyed a quality hotel breakfast as a team. We then transitioned to buses, went to our two-hour morning practice, then came back to

the hotel. At that point, we enjoyed lunch, then either went for a second practice for the day ("two-a-days") or spent the evening relaxing or enjoying our three-day passes at the Universal Studio Parks. Our days were long but enjoyable, and we were always together as a team."

The boys ran on a similar schedule. Prep Luke Kim gave a detailed breakdown. "A typical day for us would start at around 6:45 a.m., where we would have to get ready and get breakfast at 7:00. Right after breakfast, we would go to practice for about 2 hours. We would get back to the hotel at around 10:45 and have lunch. We would have some time to relax, recover, and bond with the team until about 2:00 p.m., which was when our second practice was. Then once we finished another 2-hour practice, we would head back for dinner until 7:00 p.m.. Then at the end of the day, we had a scrimmage against a school that was also on the training trip."

At practices and scrimmages, the team sharpened their skills. "Everyone on the team was there, so we really got to use that time to plan ahead for the season in ways we hadn't done in past years. This meant getting buddies

earlier, creating motos, and even practicing plays and motions that we'll use in the season," said senior Nina Kellogg.

Not only did the trip help with lacrosse but also with team bonding. Perry explained, "Preseason was essential for team bonding; we had an awesome time together and established a really great connection. Both on the lacrosse field, where everyone grew as players and learned how to work together, to experiences in the hotel and during our free time. We performed skits as classes, which was a really fun thing to put together, and performed those skits in front of coaches and our other teammates. I think the time we spent together was quality, we were all so happy and energized throughout the trip, and really enjoyed our time together."

Upper Teddy Capozzi believes that team bonding was something that needed improvement during the trip. "The downtime and just kicking back with the guys was probably my favorite part of the trip; we got to spend time getting to know each other better. Being paired with different roommates strengthened



Courtesy of @exeterathletics

a lot of the camaraderie throughout the team also," he said.

With preseason over, Perry explains how the team is shaping up as their season begins. "Our team is looking really good right now, especially anticipating our first game this Saturday, April 1. We have a ton of new players

as well as players stepping up to really critical roles on the field. The sense of dedication and commitment to the team right now is strong, and our culture is one of support, consistency, and excellence on the field. Our greatest challenge this season will be adapting to new styles of team play, including a new defensive

strategy, and I think some players are taking huge strides in playing great roles for the team. As we continue to practice and play, I can only see our team growing together, so we are extraordinarily excited for what's to come."

Varsity Golf



Courtesy of @exeterathletics

By EMI LEVINE '24

Fore! The varsity golf team closes off an amazing round of matches and brings home the victory for Big Red. This year, the team was led by senior Jack Fallon and lower Angelina Gong and was coached by head coach Bob Bailey.

In preparation for the season, members of the team traveled to Orlando, Florida over spring break to train. Their first match of the season was against Andover and Belmont Hill. Big Red beat Andover 4.5-2.5 but sadly took home a loss against Belmont Hill with a final score of 4-3. However, they quickly bounced back and crushed Deerfield 6.5-3.5.

Fallon spoke on the team's strengths and areas of improvement this year: "Our biggest strength is our team's many talented and experienced players, who get along very well. The biggest thing for us is really getting the most out of our practices and especially our limited time on the course in between matches. With it still being early April and many courses closed due to the weather, it's difficult for us to get the important on-course and competitive reps we need."

Fallon also touched on some highlights from preseason training, saying, "We played a lot of golf during our preseason in Orlando over the break. But I think the most valuable part of the trip was spending time together and building trust and chemistry between one another. Though golf is a largely individual sport, having trust and support from your teammates is crucial for performing the best in matches and tournaments. We spent substantial time at Universal together on rides and doing different activities, which was great for the team."

"We definitely have a strong team this year," agreed upper Michael Nardone. "But the best part about us is that we all get along really well and work well together on and off the course." Lower Charles Dobbins expressed a similar sentiment: "We all just have a really good time. We're focused on getting better and like being prepared, but we also make sure we're having fun and supporting each other."

"I think my time on the golf team – when I look back later on in life – is gonna be one of the most cherished times. Even though the team has people

from all different places, we somehow come together and we work really well together," Gong reflected.

Along with a sense of community in the team, Fallon also had high hopes for the season: "I am very optimistic about how our season will go. Last year, though we had a lot of talented players, we had several injuries, and many players lacked match experience. This year, with many of our players returning with experience from last season, and the addition of some new players who will also have crucial roles on the team, I think we can have a very successful season and be one of the best teams in New England."

He closed off by sharing what he is most looking forward to in the season. "Though I love competing in matches, my favorite part of the season is practicing at our home course, Breakfast Hill Golf Club. Every day we challenge each other to improve but also have a lot of fun together on the course and in our van rides to and from the course. As a senior, I will miss these moments," he concluded.

Boys and Girls Varsity Volleyball

By CHELSEA ZHAO '24

Boom! The ball hits the opponent's side, and Big Red floods the court as the girls volleyball team finishes a beautiful season with 15 wins and one loss. Impressively, six out of the 15 victories were won in 3-0 sets. The team was headed by coach Bruce Shang, Suzan Rowe, and Sophia Scola.

Starting their season with a bang, the team won against Taft 3-1 and Hotchkiss 3-1 in a doubleheader. The girls team went on to beat Milton Academy, Choate Rosemary Hall, Loomis Chaffee School, and Northfield Mount Hermon School. Then, they crushed Andover in straight sets. They continued their

winning streak against Deerfield Academy, Buckingham Browne & Nichols School, St. Paul's School, Austin Prep, St. Paul's, Dana Hall. The girls concluded their regular season with an exhilarating 3-1 victory over Andover during E/a.

A solid team environment was key to their success this season. Captain Sofia Morais elaborated on the role that the coaches play in team building. "At the beginning of practice, coach Bruce Shang always teaches us to get with a new partner and say things you're grateful for, or what your favorite song is. He's really put emphasis on what being a team means and making sure it's very united."

The team having great

chemistry was a high priority for the captains. "We work well as a team and people are coming in excited to stay longer, get the extra reps in, and I think it's gonna be a good season," Captain Coco Barton said. "[Our close game against Choate on October 1st] was a little rough, but I think that was partly because people were so excited they came like two hours early and played for hours before the game."

Despite the outstanding record, the girls have encountered many obstacles throughout the season. However, the team has kept their perseverance and resilience strong. "We want to keep energy consistently high throughout the game no matter what the score is. I think that's one thing

I try to focus on during games. Just like making sure everyone is hyping everyone up. Keeping everyone engaged and excited," Morais continued.

Jackie Wood outlined a few of her personal goals as a captain this year. "One of my priorities is to be the best role model I can. That comes up a lot in the attitude I have. If I have a bad day at school, I try my very best to not bring that onto the court. I'm not gonna let my attitude bring down everyone cause when one person has a bad attitude, it does just break the whole team apart."

Although Morais, Wood, and Barton have won All-NEPSAC, Tei F. Carpenter '01 Volleyball Award, and All-NEPSAC Honorable Mention respectively, it is

their terrific leadership that made them exemplary role models.

The team shared their applause and appreciation. "I am totally in love with the captains - Sofia, Jackie, and Coco - they are all just the most amazing people that I've ever met," upper Nat Godfrey said. "They inspire me so much and they inspire the whole team. They create such a positive, safe, and welcoming environment and it's incredible."

Upper Sophia Dabney had a similar experience, explaining, "We have a pretty great team dynamic and it starts with the captains, being super supportive of everybody. The team knows that they're always there for us and they're always around to talk."

Senior Willa Hock added, "Coming in as a PG, my captains were very welcoming and created an amazing team atmosphere. I really appreciate everything they've done to foster this amazing team spirit."

The team was undefeated coming into the NEPSAC Class A Championship Tournament. They successfully fought their way into the semi-finals, but were unfortunately defeated by Loomis in a 0-3 match.

Even though the girls did not take home the championship as they had hoped, Wood complimented the team, "Honestly I'm super impressed. Both skill-wise and relationship-wise, the players have exceeded my expectations."

Varsity Baseball and Softball

By EMI LEVINE '24

As spring arrives, the baseball and softball teams have hit the ground running, capturing impressive wins. Baseball captains senior Andrew Houghton and senior Gabriel Marcoux, and softball captains senior Kaitlin Clark, senior Claire McConnell, upper Caroline Ciaschini, and upper Haley Alden have led both teams to impressive victories throughout the first couple weeks of the season.

The varsity baseball team has had a near-perfect season so far, playing six games and winning five of them. They first traveled to Tabor Academy and won 11-10. Then they crushed Kimball Union Academy on their home turf 13-0. Next, they earned the 2-0 and 12-10 victories against Dexter School and Berwick Academy, respectively. Despite their massive winning streak, the baseball team suffered their first loss against Austin Prep with a final score of 4-2. However, they quickly bounced back when they played New Hampton School, beating them 7-6.

The varsity softball team has also had an amazing run in the first couple of games of the season. They have won two out of three games so far. Their first game of the season was at home against Tilton School, where they lost 5-1. Despite this, they found their rhythm and won their next two games against Pingree School and New Hampton School, with final scores of 6-1 and 7-1, respectively.

Clark explained why she wanted to become captain “I love softball. I love playing it, watching it, and teaching it, but most of all, I love the girls on the team. I’ve never claimed to be the best player on the field, but I am always having the most fun, and I want to ensure that my teammates feel the enjoyment of the sport, at least as much, if not more, than their desire to win games, though I do also love winning games,” she said.

Ciashini shared her favorite part of being captain. “My favorite thing so far has been watching our improvement. We have a pretty young team, so it’s been great to see everyone find their place on the team and figure out how we work together well. We have come a long way from our first game during the preseason

trip,” she said.

Clark also touched on the young aspect of the team. “We have a whole lot of young talent on this team, and I can’t wait to see them conquer in a few years. We have a couple of strong upperclassmen as well such as captains Caroline, Claire, and Haley who are leading our pitching with ferocity,” she said.

Reflecting on their first

game, stringing together hits to put six runs up. It was a great win,” Ciashini added.

Clark also spoke on the team’s sense of community and trust. “We had the opportunity to travel to Florida for preseason training, and I think that was a super important bonding experience for so many people who had never played together before. Each day, we’re connecting a little bit

roles. They’re both really great guys outside of the team, and I’m sure plenty of people will attest to that. They reflect that in their conduct during practices and during games. They’re great guys on and off the field and that’s all you really need to be able to fill the role effectively,” he said.

Lower Jack Doherty further explained the captains’ leadership. “I feel

shared similar notions on the captains. “They’re both really good guys. They’re really good about being players, being leaders, and they’re really good about knowing what the team needs. They’re always there on the field, giving high fives after every inning. They really are a good semblance of the team and they really represent the team well,” he said.

While being capable leaders, something that makes the baseball captains so great is that they also feel like regular members of the

the captains this year is the consistency.”

Martin also noted that the small size of the baseball team facilitates community building. “With baseball, you get such a smaller team, right? So you get all sorts of moments. It’s a small team, so every moment on the field is fun. It’s really a fun sport. The captains are always there and we’re always having a good time,” he said.

Looking at the team overall, Bailey had high hopes for the season. “The team’s looking good. As of right now, I believe we are five and one.”

Doherty believes that the team looks sharp for the season. “We have plenty of other pitching, so our bullpens very much stretch everything. Our hitting is good too, like we can hit the ball and get around the bases. So I feel like this year is gonna be a good year and it’s gonna be looking good for the rest of the season.”

Martin also outlined the team’s goals for the rest of the season. “As of right now, we’re doing well. We just came off of two rough games against Worcester, but we have very good pitching. Beau and Andrew are both very good pitchers and our hitting looks good. We want to make it pretty deep in the playoffs at the end of the year and obviously, we want to beat Andover. Overall I think we’re looking good as a team and I think we’re on the right track,” he said.

Bailey also spoke of a particular moment from one of the games that represent the team environment well. “One of the guys on the team, Harry Walker, he’s a swing player and he came up, about a week ago, to the varsity roster. The captains immediately put him in and this guy comes out and he pitches effectively. I think that just speaks to the team environment this year in the sense that it’s the next man up. Everyone’s ready to play. Everyone’s excited about the opportunity to play, and the team is excited about playing ball. That’s what makes the team special this year,” he said.

Clark also shared this excitement on the softball team. She concluded with her goals for the upcoming weeks. “My goals for the season actually have little to do with our athletic success. I want everyone to enjoy what they’re doing and not take themselves or this sport too seriously, as well as support each other and support other teams on campus whenever possible.”

team. Martin touched on this, saying, “I just think that they act well. Their leadership is through acting like members of the team. They always are doing their part. It’s not like they’re making the freshmen go do something. They’re always grabbing the balls. They’re always helping you like that. So they really are members of the team.”

According to Bailey, another thing that makes the captains so great is their consistency. “It is really the consistency that makes them what they are. Every day in practice they’re there early, every day they lead lines, crack a couple of jokes, and they keep things light. I wouldn’t say I have any specific stories at this point in the season that are particularly notable, but I would say just the thing that sticks out when I think about

like they take charge in practices. Usually, Andrew leads the stretches, and that’s a leadership role he takes off on. Gabe is the catcher, so he has a leadership role of directing where things have to go, talking to the players, and having to have good communication with everyone else. So I feel like communication is part of why Gabe and Andrew are good leaders,” Doherty said.

He continued with an anecdote about Andrew’s exceptional leadership. “I knew this one kid who was pitching and after Andrew gave him a few tips, he started to throw a little bit faster even. Overall they’re both great players. I feel like their roles as a captain have definitely been earned, and they definitely shoot for being a captain.”

Senior Ben Martin



Courtesy of @exeterathletics

couple of games, Ciaschini felt optimistic about the rest of the season. “We’ve only had three games, but we’re looking pretty good so far. We’ve been able to string together hits for rallies late in games, and have had overall great energy for these first few weeks. We ended .500 for the season last year, so we’re hoping to finish higher than that this year and be a competitive team in the Big East tournament,” she said.

“Our first two wins have definitely been highlights this season. In our most recent game against New Hampton, we were tied late into the game, but managed to put up a six-run sixth inning. Natalie started the inning off by reaching first on a walk, and Paige kept it going with a hit up the middle. We were able to keep that rally going with two outs late in the

better, trusting each other a little bit more, and having a lot more fun,” she said.

“There has been more energy in the dugout this year, in just the two games we’ve played in the regular season, than I have ever witnessed playing at Exeter. I want to keep this rolling throughout the season,” Clark added.

This sense of leadership on the softball team also extends to the baseball team. Lower Casper Bailey shared his thoughts on the baseball captains this year. “They’re leaders. Every day they’re leading stretches, they’re rallying the team, and they create a fun and easygoing environment on a team. I really enjoy that.”

Bailey explained why the captains are so effective in their roles. “I’d say experience and just natural possession of leadership

Boys and Girls Varsity Tennis

By EMI LEVINE '24

Game, set, match! The boys and girls varsity tennis teams both finish off a strong round of matches and crush their competition. This year, the boys team was led by seniors and captains Clark Pearson and Jayson Tung and was coached by Ron Rodriguez. The girls team was led by seniors and captains Lally Lavin and coached by Nancy Bulkley.

To prepare for the season, members of both teams traveled to Orlando, Florida over spring break and trained for a couple days. The first match of the season for the boys team was against Groton School where they lost 4-3. They then went on to play Loomis Chaffee at home, and they suffered another defeat with a final score of 4-3 again. However, they made a huge comeback when they played St. Paul’s

and won 7-0.

The girls team had a slightly easier start to their season with three straight wins. The first was against Governors, with a final score of 15-0. Next they took on Middlesex and crushed them 11-2. Lastly, they played St. Paul’s and beat them 13-2.

Pearson spoke a bit on the boys team’s strength this season. “I think our team’s biggest strength is the depth of our squad. From our top player to some of the guys near the bottom of the roster, there’s not much of a difference. Everyone is an excellent tennis player who could compete at any spot,” he said.

However, Pearson then went on to talk about some aspects of the team that will need some more attention. “On the flip side, we have a very young team. I think throughout the season, we will have to

make sure, especially the younger guys, to stay level headed and determined,” he explained.

Overall, Pearson was confident about the season, saying, “This season should be our best in the last five years, as we look to win our first NEPSAC A title in eight years. I think this year we have a legitimate chance, so hopefully we can capitalize on the opportunity. On paper, Andover looks to also be one of the top teams in New England, so E/a should be absolutely electric.”

Lavin also touched on the girls team’s strengths: “I think our biggest strength is our depth across grade levels. Our current top four players are each in a different grade! This means we will continue

to have a strong team and won’t take too big of a hit on any particular year.”

She also spoke about areas of improvement for the team. “We are still working on improving our doubles chemistry. We are learning new techniques with new partners and will continue to build trust and confidence in each other throughout the

season,” she said.

A memorable moment of the season is always “the first practice of the season,” Lavin said. “We never really know how strong the team is until that first practice, when everyone has knocked off the cobwebs and we start to build friendships.”

When asked about her hopes for the season, Lavin

was optimistic: “Our season will be tough, as it always is. We compete in a very strong league. With our new coach, Nancy Bulkley, and a few new players, I’m optimistic. I can’t wait for Spring E/a, of course! Last year, I pulled out individual wins in both singles and doubles, though the team lost overall. We are ready for a rematch!”



Courtesy of @exeterathletics

Humor

Why You Should've Taken Me to Spring Formal

By FORREST ZENG '26

Last weekend, I was preparing to go to Spring Formal. I slowly smoothed out my suit, adjusted my belt, and looked at myself in the mirror. I readied a thick book, *The Republic*, by Plato. Not to read, of course, but to use in case anyone dared to touch my adored Cole Hahn shoes. I looked around my room, checking off the list I had prepared weeks before I realized I had forgotten something crucial: someone to bring.

How had I forgotten this essential detail? What was I thinking? Perhaps my lazy self expected someone to ask me out — how experienced I was! Panicked, I quickly measured my options. They didn't look good. Not going was out of the question: I had prepared for this very moment for weeks, months! Neither did I want to go alone and risk being labeled an "NPC" by the peasants. If I went with a friend, perhaps I could still retain a semblance of that precious "relevance," which Exonians treasure as much as their sleep.

As my friends and I walked around the dance, shaking hands with people, the entire fieldhouse began to shake. As the dance was called off, we decided to head to EPAC to enjoy a good game of Risk. I was thankful for the wobbly floor that I did not have to spend more time awkwardly pushing past people to reach

my extroverted friends who actually had the capability to speak to people.

Now, to make up for what I forgot to do in my specific, holistic, and carefully measured preparation, I will try my best and boldest to plant the biggest seeds of regret within your conscience for not taking me to Spring Formal. Be prepared, for I will spite you.

First, I have the most superior fashion. I treat my clothes like gold. Every week, I carefully wash my clothes with the most advanced of devices: the 3rd Floor Cilley Washing Machine 2000. In order to keep their natural shape, I do not fold my clothes: I place them, crammed in my laundry bag so they can enjoy the benefits of socializing with each other. My clothes are delicately selected from the bottom of my laundry bag.

My friends can testify to my impeccable taste. An anonymous prep labeled my artistic usage of the same khakis every day as "absolutely disgusting."

Second, I am intelligent. I have the calculative prowess to evaluate the precise rate at which I must run in order to get from the Classics Department in the Academy Building to the fourth floor of Phelps in exactly 300 seconds. I am a master at evaluation. I can look at any person's backpack and determine which dorm they are in. In fact, I can tell that

YOU, the reader, are from our very dear Cilley Hall. You might be wondering how I could magically know this correct statement! Based on the fact that I probably barged into your room, number 101 on the first floor, and demanded that you read my humor article because "the Exonian is dying," you are probably one of those Cilley gentlemen that asks the most contrarian questions during Student Council and Assembly.

My massive brain aside, I am also incredibly athletic. Allow me to list some of my achievements: running from the ground floor of the library to the fourth floor in only about 30 minutes, the greatest distance traveled ever to interview an annoyed student for *The Exonian* (the trip was long: Grill to EPAC basement), and holding the number-one ranking in wrestling line-cutters out of Elm. I am also the 14th-best player on a team with 14 members at Exeter. Clearly, these accomplishments demonstrate the wide range of my physical talent.

If these virtues do not persuade you, then perhaps one more thing can: I am the most successful Harkness warrior in the world. My loquacity has no limits—my extremely attractive monologues can completely alter the way

A Letter to the Deans

Last Monday, New Hall experienced three fire alarms in succession, between 1:45 and 3:30 a.m. This is a letter, written by New Hall resident Maeve Kennedy, imploring the deans to excuse any missed morning classes.

By MAEVE KENNEDY '24

Dean Griffith,

The fire alarm in New Hall's maw doth peal
From the fair maidens
it, with flashing light
The midnight hour's
sweet repose doth steal
And leaves us, spill-
ing, in the freezing
night.

When we arise, class-
es they obligate
Though thrice awak-
ened well past 3 a.m.
Would states of men-
tal weakness propagate
In suff'ers of the
dorm that betrayed
them.

But the call of this
ghostly carillon —

Whether it should de-
prive from us our rest

Is a thing that you
have some bearing on:
To be rid of our ab-
sences is best!

For why should the
"Fatigue" be called
enough

When morning class-
es two a day comprise?
The 'Cad'my's lov-
ing Dons should not
rebuff

A morning's respite
to our tired eyes.

Yours beseechingly,
The humble residents
of New Hall

that you experience long-
block English. Members of
this school who have had
the honor of hearing my
proliferative contributions
compliment them as
"frustrating," and "as

annoying as the absence of
trash cans in Elm."

In conclusion, since
there will be a new, less
trampoline-like Spring
Formal soon, hopefully you
understand perfectly

what you need to do. And
that is why you should take
me to Spring Formal.

Top 6 Trees on Campus To Eat:

By CALISTA LEE '24

Phillips Exeter has a wide variety of trees on campus— some more edible than others. I ventured out and sampled some of these things to give you the lowdown on which ones are best! Don't try this at home.

1) Eastern Hemlock Tree

Alright, this tree has got the best tasting leaves by far. A pleasant surprise. Tasting the gently piney, sweet yet sour hemlock needles got me a bit nostalgic. In sixth grade, we had a field trip out to upstate New York, where the teachers encouraged us to pluck out hemlock leaves and eat them. I've been thirsting for this since I was 11, and I finally found the tree on campus. Also, Eastern Hemlock is perfectly edible! Not so sure about the others.

2) Unidentified Tree with Soft Flat Needles Behind the Science Building

Really not that bad! Tastes faint-

ly of earthy lettuce and, well, leaves. But the taste was mostly muted, and I had to chew for a while to get any flavor. Hints of lemon, too. I would recommend it, but I'm not really sure if it's poisonous or not...

3) Ginkgo Tree

I tried both the green and yellow leaves, and both tasted similar. The green had a more sharp taste. They were not very good. I don't know what I was expecting. Extremely bitter and sour, yet somehow sweet. Not worth the effort of walking all the way to behind the music building, don't waste your time. Still, it wasn't so bad that I had to spit it out, so, to each their own. Have a go.

4) Unidentified Shrub with Normal Leaves

Tastes fine at first, but the after-taste took me by surprise. A little dry tasting, but not extraordinarily bad. Still, I spat it out. Maybe I was just thrown off guard by of the mint-shaped leaves, but it definitely did not taste like mint.

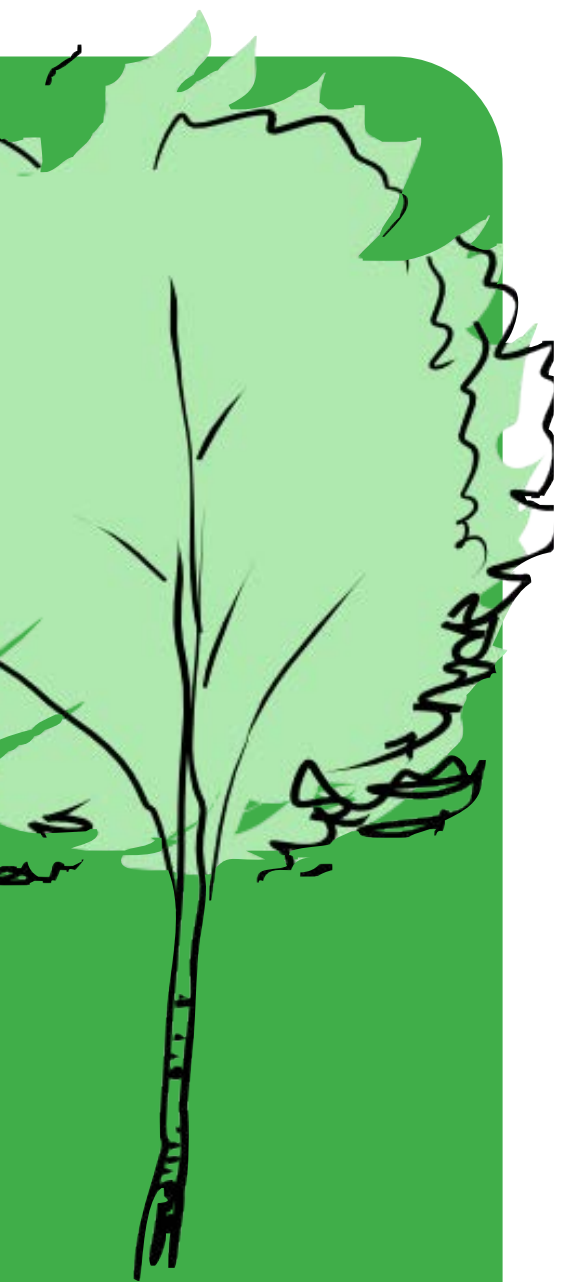
It also lacked the typical leaf taste that I so enjoy, and that was a bummer.

5) Unidentified Shrub with Sharp, Spiky Leaves

No. I had to spit it out. So sour, and I swear I tasted cigarette smoke on there. Never again.

6) Unidentified Bush with Shiny, Spiky Leaves and Red Berries

This one's gotta go last. I swear I would've had more items on this list if it weren't for these things. I remember some sharp, earthy hints to the leaves, but I should've just left those berries alone. I pop one into my mouth and next thing I know, I'm in a ditch in Portsmouth with somebody else's socks on, covered in Cool Whip. I don't even eat Cool Whip! Turns out I had taken out the snacks in my room and started throwing it at people, saying something about trick or treating. I don't know.



Someone must've gotten angry and thrown a tub of the Cool Whip at me, so I was the one who got tricked in the end. Happy start to Halloween, I guess.

Overheard on the Path

By AVEEN BURNEY '25

“How can you cross me like that?” - Cassia Lee '25

“Do you have a pet?”

- Max Albinson '25

“No, I have a husband.”

- Stephanie Girard

“You are dressed as towels.”

- Mercy Carbonell

“Your hat isn't centered.
“Centered where? You have to describe the plane.”
“The x-plane.”

- Anonymous students speaking unironically in Fish Bowl

“Sounds like a bunch of hooley to me.”

- Brooks Moriarty

“She definitely peed her pants.” - Isabella Serna '25

“WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE ME ANY MOUNTAIN DEW?”

- Adam Hernandez

“Let me think about that.”

- Dean Weatherspoon

“I had eggs in my pocket.”

- Freya Busser '24

Declaration of Cutting in Line

By JOONYOUNG HEO '25

The year 1776 witnessed a man named Thomas Jefferson take up his pen and write the American Declaration of Independence, outlining the causes which forced the colonies to separate from the British. Today, we are proud to continue the eternal battle of securing our natural rights; today, those of us who cut the food lines take up our laptops to justify our decision to break from the social conventions of “decency” at Exeter. This is our Declaration.

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one courageous people to dissolve the feeble bands of non sibi which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of their birthright, the separate and superior station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a small pittance to the opinions of lesser people requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that some of us deserve to eat their food before others, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Food, that these rights belong to them first before they may be exercised by lesser people. That to secure these rights, those superior among us may cut the food lines whenever they so choose, deriving their just powers from the cowardice of the masses which keeps them waiting in line. That whenever the Academy

becomes destructive of these ends, whenever it appeals to basic human decency and the consideration of everyone else in line, it is the Right of the superior People to separate from it, and organize their own moral doctrine, under which they may continue to cut the food lines, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Hunger and Happiness.

When a long train of abuses and usurpations evinces a design to reduce a superior people's Right to eat before the masses do, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off those peers and administrative faculty who dare to condemn their “Greed” and “Self-centeredness,” and to make do on their own for their future security.

Such has been our patient sufferance; and such is now the necessity which constrains us to separate from the hollow morals of this institution that keep us from securing our Right to push the inferior masses aside and eat our fill. The history of the student and faculty body is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the confiscation of this unalienable Right and the malign establishment of “Equality” in food lines. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

They have whinnied and whined about their own Right to eat, as though they, in their cowardice and inferiority, should be on equal ground with us.

They have glared at us when we slip into line ahead of them, refusing to accept their plain inferiority to our

superior station.

They have cited “basic human decency” and an “ounce of something other than pure narcissism” as reasons to wait our turn in line, ignoring our unalienable Right to eat bestowed by our Creator.

They have reported us to the deans for taking what belongs to us.

They have spouted the absurd notion that they deserve to eat before us, simply on the grounds that they had actually waited their turn.

Climate change has moved fromThey have often stood too closely to each other, making it more difficult to squeeze into the front of the line.

They have tried to silence and marginalize us by arguing for their own Right to eat.

They have often tracked mud and snow into the dining halls, creating a slip hazard as we hurry to cut the line.

They have tried to drag us to the back of the line, ignoring their inferiority with brute strength.

They have written articles in *The Exonian* to call us out, either directly through argumentation or indirectly through heavy satire, for fighting for our rights.

They have tried to persuade us to “follow the rules,” urging us therein to accept their tyranny and the oppression of our rights.

In every stage of these Oppressions we have petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: our repeated Petitions have been answered

13 Things You Must Do as an Anime Nerd at Exeter

By CHENGUYEZHANG '24

Join the Anime Club. We meet Saturday 4-5 pm in EPAC Basement.

Go attend the convention *Anime Boston* in Spring term at least once.

Proudly ask a faculty if they watch/have watched anime. If the answer is yes, engage in a conversation with them. If the answer is no, turn around and leave. (Alinne, I'm talking about you.)

Finish a 12-episode anime on a school night.

Think about finishing *One Piece* before you graduate from Exeter.

Go to the Design Lab and utilize the resources there to make an anime cosplay for yourself (or make a cosplay for your friend and force them to wear it).

Loudly explain the premise of an anime in Grill during Uni-free.

Join *The Exonian* just to write anime reviews, so we can turn *The*

Exonian into an anime magazine together.

Spam the Library Acquisitions Form requesting manga volumes. (Maybe this time, they will take us seriously.)

Check out the Academy Library's meager and weird manga collections on the third-floor graphic novel section.

Visit the Exeter town library to check out their relatively abundant manga collections.

Ask Tazawa Sensei if you can borrow a volume of *Demon Slayer* from her. And if she says yes, which she most likely will, borrow it but do not read it because *Demon Slayer* is overrated (except for when it's not).

Make plans in your first year at Exeter to take one year of Japanese in your senior year but realize that you do not meet the graduation requirement. Then resort to learning Japanese on Duolingo and give up after ten days.

only by repeated injury. We have warned them time and time again of their attempts to conquer our freedoms, to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have appealed to their native justice, their magnanimity, their reverence for the Laws of Nature. They have been deaf to the principle that people should be given what they deserve. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity of our

Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies should they choose to war, Friends should they stay in their place.

We, therefore, in the Representatives of Exeter's line cutters, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of all that is good and holy in this life, solemnly publish and de-

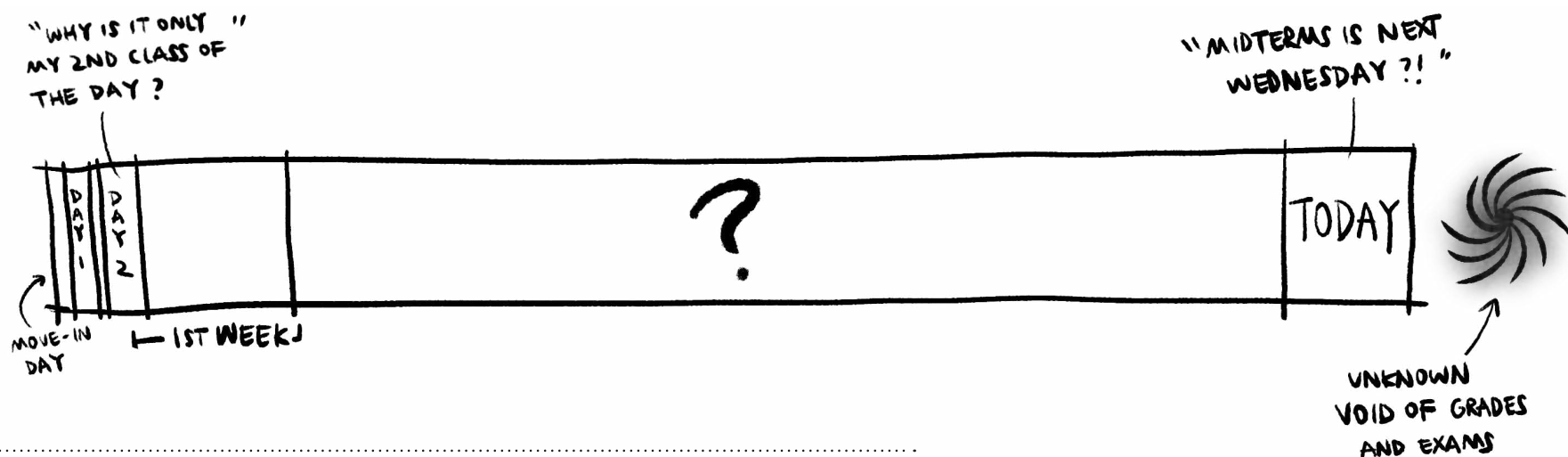
clare, that we are henceforth free and independent of the masses and the institution of non sibi which seeks to constrain us.

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

THE CARTOON CORNER

BY AVA ZHAO '24

The Time Travel Paradox By AVA ZHAO '24



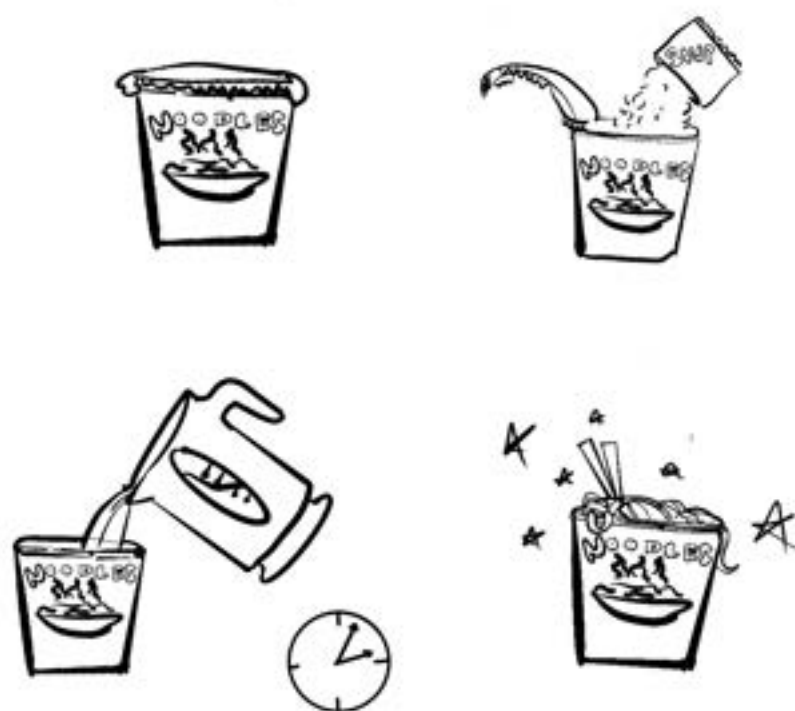
The Note-Taking Warrior By AVA ZHAO '24

By AVA ZHAO '24



STUDY BREAK!!
TUESDAY, 11:43 PM

By CATHERINE ZEHNER '24



Just Save It By AVA ZHAO '24



But I don't wanna read the E book!



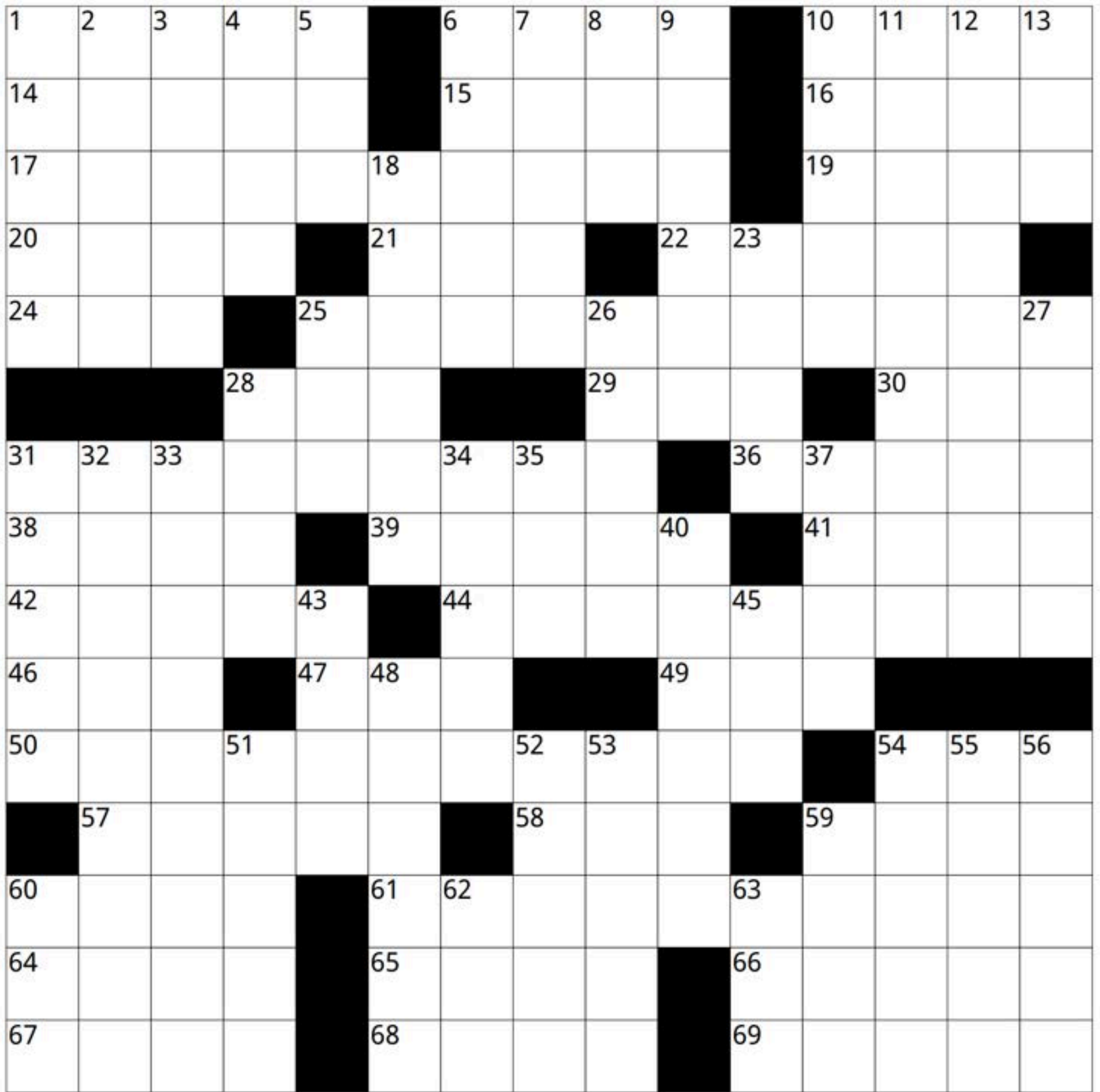
I will read it to you

By ENYA YU '26

After a Mid-day Nap By KATELYN CUI '24



The Crossword Corner By Finn Tronnes '24



ACROSS

- 1- Wakes you up for an 8am
- 6- Pre-hurricane emergency op
- 10- Account, for short
- 14- Like some religions
- 15- Jazz singer Simone
- 16- Small South Asian country
- 17- Looks good in every picture
- 19- "You've Got a Friend ____"
- 20- Gillette razor brand
- 21- Holy Roman Empire, for short
- 22- NASA's Gemini rocket
- 24- University of Pennsylvania swimmer Thomas
- 25- Tired

- greeting in the AM
- 28- French possessive
- 29- Canada's pants, geographically
- 30- Pre-A.D.
- 31- What you might say when you hate something
- 36- Former Iranian rulers
- 38- Viral video, e.g.
- 39- Wounds
- 41- Fútbol cheers
- 42- Rigatoni, lasagne, farfalle, etc.
- 44- Instant espresso machine
- 46- Boston summer hrs.
- 47- "____ is me!"
- 49- Rock club on campus
- 50- "Agreed"
- 54- Taxi

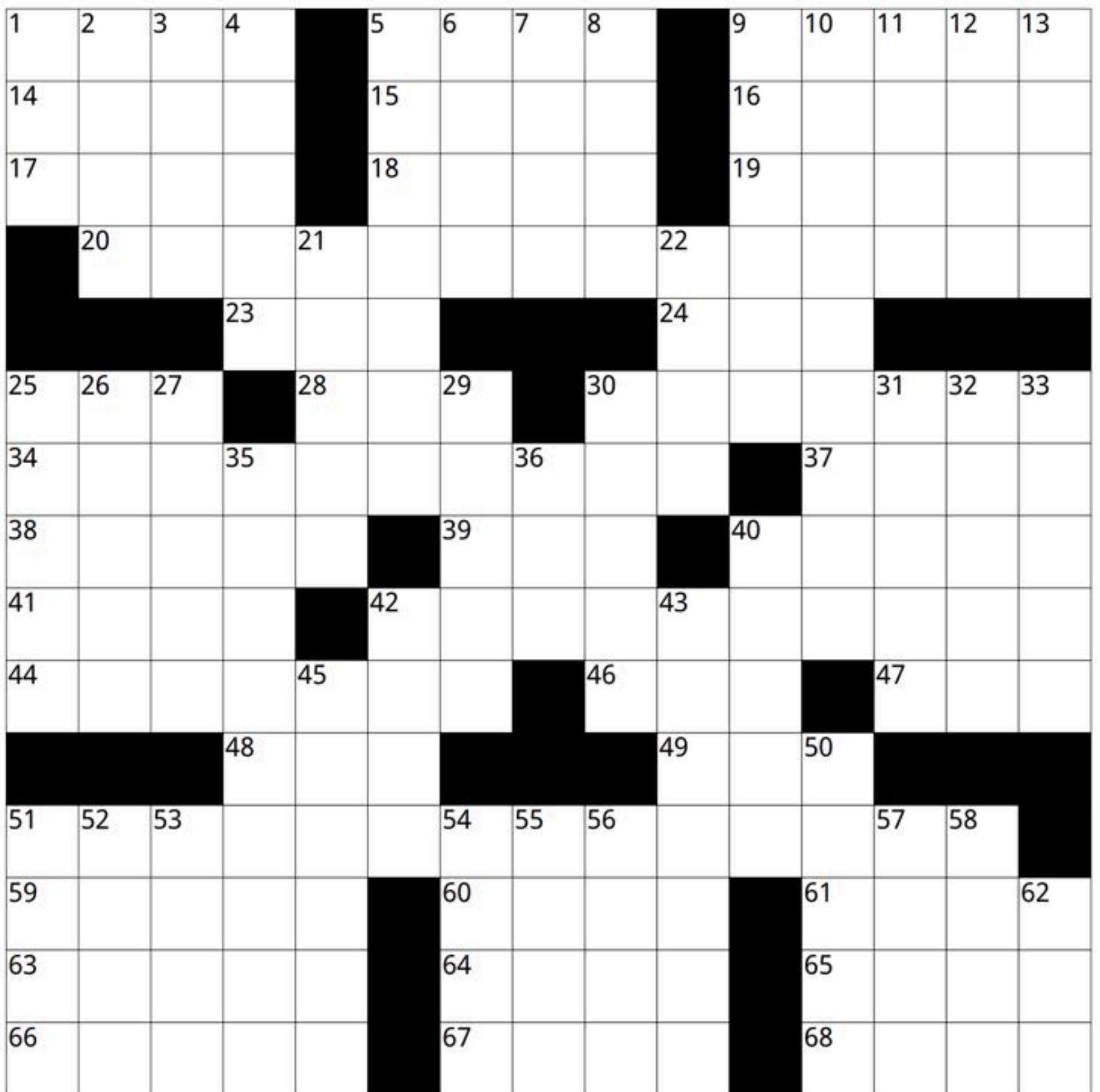
- 57- Asks you to answer his riddles three
- 58- Just fine
- 59- "Pride and Prejudice" actress Jennifer
- 60- Nothing, in Spain
- 61- Word that might replace "describe" in an essay
- 64- Tantrum thrower
- 65- "Little House on the Prairie" merchant ____
- Oleson
- 66- Distant
- 67- Cash dispensers
- 68- Lack of difficulty
- 69- Sloppy

DOWN

- 1- Horrify
- 2- Christine of "Running on Empty"
- 3- EPAC commons
- 4- -touille
- 5- L-P filler?
- 6- Month before febrero
- 7- Ivy-covered trees
- 8- Singer DiFranco
- 9- Chocolate
- 10- Out of this world
- 11- They'll have you for dinner
- 12- Great Plains Native tribe
- 13- "The Waste Land" poet's initials
- 18- Inky, Blinky, Pinky and Clyde in Pac-Man
- 23- Mardi ____

- 25- "Golly!"
- 26- Singers in Hercules
- 27- White stuff you prime a canvas with
- 28- Editor's "let it stand"
- 31- Louvre Pyramid architect
- 32- What a slow person may need
- 33- Dutch city featured in The Fault in Our Stars
- 34- Perfected
- 35- Wrath
- 37- Weed whacker
- 40- What Martha does after eating alphabet soup (children's book lore)
- 43- Military no-show
- 45- Rodent or snitch
- 48- Surfing

- without water?
- 51- Exeter winter essentials
- 52- Starbucks sizes smaller than grandes
- 53- Green block in Monopoly
- 54- Utter disorder
- 55- Voices above tenors
- 56- Like a cow
- 59- Writer ____ Stanley Gardner
- 60- Hoops org.
- 62- Actress Michele of Glee
- 63- -agotchi



ACROSS

- 1- Rainbow flag letters
- 5- "omg u r 2 funny!"
- 9- Most populous country
- 14- One who says "See you in court!"
- 15- Wall St. group
- 16- Book by Jaime Cortez, often read at Exeter
- 17- Story
- 18- Neat
- 19- Labor group
- 20- Quintessence, in other words
- 23- _____ kwon do
- 24- Rock producer Brian
- 25- Issuer of

- 28- Wee boy
- 30- Lizzo "I just took a _____"
- 34- High quality speaker system
- 37- Thought
- 38- Insurance giant
- 39- Name, en France
- 40- Put in a row
- 41- Calf and thigh connector
- 42- "My Tears _____" Taylor Swift (but past tense)
- 44- Earl's jurisdiction
- 46- Prefix with expressionist or natal
- 47- Like a fox
- 48- Period

- 49- Very, for short
- 51- Anthropomorphic holiday cookies
- 59- Like Machu Picchu
- 60- Class struggle?
- 61- Important chowder ingredient
- 63- Noir's opposite
- 64- Against
- 65- Continent home to most people
- 66- Third planet from the sun
- 67- United States Sentencing Commission, abbr.
- 68- Word sung twice after "Que"

DOWN

- 1- WWII craft
- 2- Burrito add-on for a few extra bucks
- 3- What Quasimodo rings
- 4- One of two choices on Halloween
- 5- "Chow down!"
- 6- Twice DVI
- 7- "Highway to Hell" band
- 8- "_____ of little faith"
- 9- Big lizard
- 10- Can't move, like a barnacle
- 11- Swag
- 12- American _____, talent show
- 13- Top-notch
- 21- Dance

- and a tomato-based dip
- 22- Foreign: Prefix
- 25- Lexie's order after dinner
- 36- City south of Florence
- 37- Post
- 29- Jean material
- 30- Exorcism target
- 31- Revises
- 32- Jason of "How I Met Your Mother" (and The Muppets)
- 33- 1989 Oscar winner Jessica
- 35- Not graceful
- 36- Mythical bird
- 40- "Get _____ of yourself!"
- 42- "RAAAAAH-

- HH" from a lion
- 43- Made of clay
- 45- Soak
- 50- Some rec centers
- 51- Taunt
- 52- Visiting Hollywood, say
- 53- Raleigh's state: Abbr.
- 54- Opposite of belle
- 55- Reactions, for short
- 56- Gobbles
- 57- Otherwise
- 58- Hair removal product
- 62- Goat's bleat



Stellan Aalto Tristan
 Aboud Noah Ades Riches Afolabi
 Liam Ahern Uber Ajongo Hisham Alireza
 Nur Almajali Dylan Almeyda Keanen Andrews
 Gianluca Audia Phil Avilov Maame Dufie Awuah
 Abby Babalola Mateo Bango Azavia Barsky-Elnour EJ
 Barthelemy Sav Bartkovich Coco Barton Xaviah Bascon
 Chloe Becker Kaylee Bennett Amy Benson
 Ophelia Bentley Nico Berger Henry
 Blakemore Alia Bonanno Oliver
 Brandes Liam Brown
 Bennett Brown
 Asha Bryant Aidan
 Burke Cooper Burn
 Adalie Burton Abegail
 Byun Tony Cai Angelo
 Campbell Asa Campbell
 Rollie Castineyra Andrew
 Maggie Chang Kenny
 Kaylee Chen Joy Chi
 Kaitlin Clark James
 Coles-Vollmer Madison
 Crotty Matthew Dame
 Joseph Doherty Joey Dong
 Emilie Dubiel Owen Dudley Tommy Dunn Will Durawa Mike Durkin
 Ellis Eva English Jack Fallon Jennifer Finkelstein Hope Flowers Lassiter
 Frary Josselyne Fregoso Claire Fu Morgan Gao Duke Garschina Mason
 Gholston Jackson Giampa Tucker Gibbs Chris Gill Eloise Goedkoop
 Gulick Cam Guthrie Will Hackett Lily Hagge Bronwyn Hall Daniel Han
 Reggie Harris Edward Hawkson Andrea Hernandez Willa Hock John
 Chaney Hollis
 Andy Horrigan
 Michael Hsieh Weiyi
 Huang Cassidy
 Sheala Iacobucci
 Jacob Jamani Aisha Janus Lauren
 Jeon Jonathan Jeun Johnny Johannson
 Joshua Johnson Riley Jones Aaron Joy Heewoo
 Jutabha Nina Kellogg Grace Keyt Shamarke Khalid
 Kim Ryan Kim Minseo Kim David Kim London Kinder Ethan
 Dax Knoll Savannah Ko Haakon Kohler Nat Kpodonu Jack Kugler
 Lally Lavin Ylan Le Katie Lee Tina Li Maxwell Li Ben Lisa Henry Liu Kodi Lopez Mike Loughnane Jacob
 Lulek Anderson Lynch
 Gabriel Marcoux Ben
 Patrick McCann
 McDonnell
 Chris MacArthur Griffin MacGillivray Sanisha Mahendra-Rajah
 Martin Mary Martin Ina Mason Zach Maurus Nana McBrown
 Drew McClutchy Claire McConnell Sam McDonald Aidan
 Ciara McNamara Catherine Merrill Lucy Meyer-Braun
 Delaney Miller Jadyne Mitchell Cedric Moecklin
 Sofia Morais Aaron
 Morris Anish Mudide
 Ale Murat Sage Murthy
 Lara Muyombwe Ryan
 Nagle Enzo Nakornsri
 Daisy Newbury Jolie
 Ng Michael Ngai Grace
 Nivera Kate Nixon
 Priya Nwakanma Jack
 O'Brien Ki Odums
 Petra Orloff Lydia Osei
 Arya Palla Gavin Pate
 Pelzer Jesalina Phan Jade Pierce Aruli Pillai Trevor Piltch Agatha Prairie Grace Puchalski
 Nate Puchalski Holden Quaresma Zack Quitkin Rupert Ramsay Tania Rana Sophie Raskova
 Casey Realini Sebastian Rebeil Tucker Redinger Izzie Riccardi Justin Rigg Jancie Robbins Nicholas
 Rose Alex Rosemann Atticus Ross Hannah Rubin Lidia Rudd Erin Sackey Yasmin Salerno Veruka
 Salomone Gbemiga Salu Michael Salvatore Aiden Sanchez Mary-Candler
 Delaney Schlegel Andrew Sedar-Espinoza Gwen Serrano Anamika Seth
 Schantz Safira Schiowitz
 Dylan Shapiro Sachin
 Shetty Jenna Silvestri
 Blake Simpson Rianna
 Skaggs Braeden
 Skaggs Drew Smith
 Morgan Smith Sami
 Smith Rodrigo Spinola e
 Castro Christine Staller
 Sarah Stein Armanee Stenor Arhon
 Strauss Cindy su Jacqueline
 Subkhanberdina Ashton
 Szarnicki Celine
 Tan Kevin Tazawa-
 Goodchild Kahentaienni
 Thompson Griffin
 Tierney Jayson Tung
 William Turner Tanish
 Udayakumar Leyla Unver
 Vadeboncoeur Polly Vaillant
 Tyagi Vibha
 Azza Uwhubetine Shauna
 T.T. Valosek Andrew Van De Water Isabella Vesely Hannah Vogel
 Angie Wah Athena Wang Kevin Wei Eden Welch Val Whitten
 Alexa Wingate Brandon Wong Jackie Wood Clark Wu Sean
 Wu Jack Wynperle Max Xu Bai Xue Elina Yang Ava
 Yu Jaden Yun Sophia Zhang Eric Zhang Aubrey
 Zhang Angela Zhang Yifei Zhao Tammy
 Zhu Chloe Zhu Alethia Zou
 Cerrato Zoe Chang
 Chen Michael Chen David Chen
 Franklin Chow Max Chuang Colin Clark
 Clavel Sofia Coelho Will Cogan Maya Cohen Leonor
 Collins Mateo Connelly Sam Creelan Madi Cron Tristen
 Matilda Damon Lizi Darchia Montana Dickerson Ty Dierberg
 Jac Doucette Jennifer
 Drevitch Ethan Driscoll
 Charlie Edwards Colin
 Foregger Anjali
 Gaudreau Ryann
 Sophia Green Clara
 Aidan Hanson
 Henry Holcomb
 Charlie Holtz
 Andrew Houghton
 Huang Jessica
 Hurabiell-Trader
 Thaniel Illuzzi
 Jebrailli Daniel
 Malachi Johns
 Jung Matthew
 Nathan Khuu Ella
 Klein Charlie Knight
 Alysha Lai Danna Lara
 Logan Olazabal
 Brooke Ottaway Sinna Oumer
 Ryan Pate Krish Patel Clark Pearson Lexi

