



## Drug and Alcohol Policy Overhauled, Ending Era of No Chance Approach

*Students Protest as School Continues To Enforce Old Policy for Now*

**By Carrie Cao '23, Lauren McLane '23, Benjamin Who '24, and Amelie Zhang '23, Editors-in-Chief.**

School administration announced a major overhaul to the Drug and Alcohol Policy in early March, culminating a decades-long effort for reform revitalized nearly a year ago by all-school president Sydney Goldstein '22, who formally proposed the revision to the administration. The change marked the retirement of the long-standing No Chance Policy, which had maintained a perennial hold over the school's disciplinary guidelines since its establishment in 1986.

The No Chance policy originated in 1980 following a widespread drinking incident on campus that resulted in the suspension of 40 Seniors, according to a 2000 report by *The Record*. The suspensions frustrated faculty members, who were burdened with keeping the suspended students caught up with schoolwork. In response, the school — led at the time by Headmaster A. William Olsen Jr. — implemented a two-strike system, in which students who were caught in possession of drugs and alcohol for a second time were expelled.

The two-strike system, however, was soon replaced as faculty believed it exacerbated drug and alcohol use on campus by emboldening students to take advantage of their first chance. Headmaster Arthur White, who replaced Headmaster Olsen in 1983, shared the sentiments of the concerned faculty and implemented the No Chance policy in 1986.

Proponents of the overhaul argued that this previous No Chance approach was outdated and failed to reflect the school's responsibility as an institution of education. "This is a policy that has long outlived its usefulness," said Mr. Stephen McKibben, dean of community life and a self-described advocate of the change. "I don't think there's any sort of educational value to [the

No Chance policy]."

Goldstein, who ran for all-school president with a promise to reform the Drug and Alcohol Policy, moved quickly to propose a change after being elected. In September, she presented the proposal — which punished students with general probation and removal of leadership opportunities — to the community. "We believe this is a more comprehensive and inclusive reaction toward a policy that impacts the most vulnerable members of our community," Goldstein wrote at the time.

After months of discussion and revision, the administration approved the change to the Drug and Alcohol Policy and formally announced the new policy — which will take effect in the fall of 2022 — on March 4. In the announcement, Mr. Craig Bradley, head of school, proclaimed, "[The] new policy reflects well on our community's capacity for open-minded, thoughtful collaboration and communication as we work together to evolve our community standards and disciplinary responses."

With the new Policy, the role of the Health Center has also been expanded— it now provides substance use evaluations and coordinated counseling with offending students — was a priority for the school, according to administrators. Goldstein said, "The inclusion of the Health Center in the new policy is important so that the policy can work to provide the necessary medical attention to the student under the influence of substances in the moment."

Supporters of the No Chance policy's removal dismissed concerns that more lax punishments would encourage illegal substance use on campus. Mr. McKibben said he believed the new policy actually established a stronger deterrent. "Students [who face discipline] are going to remain a part of our community," he said. "And as a result,

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Mr. Steve McKibben, dean of community life, speaks to *The Record* about the Drug and Alcohol Policy.

## In Rousing All-School Presentation, Asian Students Detail Bias Incidents

**By ANJI ASHAYE '24  
News Editor**

During Community Time on Tuesday, April 5, Triple-A and the Pan-Asian Affinity Group organized and presented a project addressing the biases faced by Pan-Asian students.

A group of volunteers read anonymously submitted testimonies that detailed the unique experiences of this community with prejudice under various prompts. The submissions depicted a range of Pan-Asian students' perspectives, as well as their diverse backgrounds and stories. After the presentation, the volunteers hosted an affinity space in the Multi-Cultural Center for Pan-Asian students to share their thoughts on the project.

The project was inspired by the conference "Let's Talk" directed at teachers and mental health professionals to highlight the voices of pan-Asian students. Annie Dong '23, who came up with the idea for the project, said, "At the con-

ference, they showed a video of student responses to 'What I wish my teachers understood about me,' and I was really inspired by it...so I wanted to do the same thing at Hotchkiss."

Dong pitched the idea of the presentation to the Pan-Asian Affinity Group and Triple-A. After agreeing on prompts like "What I need from the Hotchkiss community," they sent an anonymous survey to Pan-Asian students and began compiling responses over Spring Break. The group of volunteers who presented at the all-school meeting met before and after Spring Break to edit the submitted testimonies for clarity. Additionally, they met with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion office, which suggested they present

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## Seniors Organize Conference About English Literature

**By YIXI ZOU '25  
Staff Writer**

Dr. Kathryn Fleishman's Honors Senior English class hosted the inaugural Literature in Time Conference (LiT) on April 10, culminating months of preparation during which students analyzed literature, reviewed student essay submissions, and planned seminars. The organizers sought to provide the community with a space to share academic work outside the bounds of grading and attracted a guest speaker from Princeton University, Dr. Monica Huerta, who spoke about her own work as an author and professor.

Dr. Fleishman's students created the LiT Conference as part of their capstone project. Organizing an event of this magnitude required intensive planning. Stella Ren '22, a student organizer in Honors English, said, "We've been preparing

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**Jump on In**  
Dozens of students participated in St. Luke's Society's annual Polar Plunge. Page 2.

## OPINION Florida Takes a Step Backward with 'Don't Say Gay'

**By SOPHIE ELLIOT '24  
Staff Writer**

Florida governor Ron DeSantis's most recent socially conservative policy, dubbed the "Don't Say Gay" bill, completely censors LGBTQ-related discussions in schools. The legislature ensures that such topics are eliminated from the pedagogical arena until the third grade; older students may only engage in conversations related to sexual orientation or gender identity when deemed "age appropriate or developmentally appropriate". While the vague wording of the law makes it impossible to tell what education around the subject will actually be permitted, one might suspect teachers, who are at risk of professional retribution

if found violating the law, to abandon such discussions completely for the sake of self-preservation.

The bill bestows more influence to parents, who may sue school districts if dissatisfied with their teachings—this is also why, in the effort to avoid costly legal battles, many schools have started removing books related to LGBTQ+ topics from their libraries. Under the new legislation, educational institutions must also inform children's parents if they request mental health services. Consequently, it removes the role schools play as a safe haven for students, who may be uncomfortable facilitating these critical conversations at home, to question gender identity or sexual orientation with parents who may not be accepting of either of those

things. Effectively, the law marks LGBTQ+ identity a taboo subject, inappropriate for the classroom.

What limited defense of the legislation has surfaced is, as one may assume, completely absurd and illogical: DeSantis's press secretary Christina Pushaw has chastised opponents of the bill for not "[denouncing] the grooming of 4-8 year old children". There are several things wrong with this. When did discussing divergence from heteronormativity become a form of sexual exploitation? In fact, one should recognize this commonly deployed right-wing rhetoric of demonizing opponents as pedophilia sympathizers—the GOP's recent line of questioning against Supreme Court

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# News

## Ketanji Jackson Confirmed in Landmark Vote

By **FRANCESCA FARMAN-FARMAIAN '24**

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson was confirmed as the nation's 116th Associate Supreme Court Justice after a narrow 53-47 Senate vote on Thursday, April 7, with three Republican Senators joining the Democrats to vote in favor. Justice Jackson will take the seat of liberal Justice Stephen Breyer, who, after serving 28 years on the court, will retire at the end of the 2021-22 term.

Justice Jackson's confirmation cemented her place in history as the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court for over two centuries of its establishment and delivered on Biden's promise to diversify the federal judiciary. Dr. Thomas Fisher, instructor in humanities, spoke on the significance of Justice Jackson's confirmation. He said, "It's a big problem that women and people of color have been historically excluded from the Supreme Court. It's not just a problem in that their views are not represented in the Supreme Court, but it's a problem for the legitimacy of the court. It is tough to argue that a court that doesn't look

### Cements Her Place in History as First Black Woman on Supreme Court

like the country [with regards to race and gender] is in a position to tell the country what it means to follow the constitution."

Before receiving confirmation from the Senate, Justice Jackson faced three days of confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The hearings featured sharp lines of questioning by Republican senators, who challenged Justice Jackson's opinions on controversial topics such as critical race theory and criticized her work on past cases as a federal public defender. Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) questioned Justice Jackson on her involvement in the sentencing of several child pornography cases, accusing her of treating offenders too sympathetically, to which Justice Jackson responded by arguing that she determined each sentence justly and in alignment with Congressional require-

ments. Many criticized Hawley's claims and a number of similar ones as being factually inaccurate and misplaced in the context of the hearings, condemning the brutality of the questioning to which senators were subjecting Justice Jackson.

Since Justice Jackson's nomination, tensions between senators of opposing parties have grown steadily. Walker Perrenoud '22, head of the Hotchkiss Republicans, spoke on the increasing polarization of the Senate in the context of Supreme Court nominations. He said, "It's gotten to the point where many senators are looking for a Supreme Court Justice that exactly matches their political views when in reality the Supreme Court is not supposed to be a political body."

Although the vote was closely split along party lines, it was not the 50-50 split that many expected. Republican Senators Susan Collins (ME), Mitt Romney (UT), and Lisa Murkowski (AK) crossed party lines to vote in favor of Justice Jackson's confirmation, citing her qualifications, experience, and character.

Justice Jackson will be officially sworn in at the beginning of this summer.



C-SPAN

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson faces the Senate Judiciary Committee.

## St. Luke's Blood Drive Returns to Campus after Three-Year Hiatus

By **KATE CHOU '25**

The St. Luke's Society's annual blood drive will return to campus on April 18, ending a three-year long hiatus of the event due to Covid-19. The drive's reinstatement comes amid a nationwide shortage of blood, amplifying the urgency for many students to donate.

The Red Cross Blood Drive seeks donations from students 17 years or older. During an All-School meeting, St. Luke's organizers encouraged eligible students and faculty members to consider donating.

Each person can donate one pint of blood, which could save up to three lives. St. Luke's hopes to receive 53 pints of blood. A strong turnout is essential, as blood storages have been depleted as a result of the pandemic. During periods of quarantine, many people delayed seeking medical treatment and are now suffering from more advanced disease, causing an increased need for blood donations. Jason Shan, a head of St. Luke's said, "Especially because of Covid, the blood supply in our commu-

nity is incredibly low. Having all eligible students at Hotchkiss donate blood to the blood drive would have more of an impact than ever before and is an amazing opportunity for students to give back to this community."

St. Luke's also hosted the annual Polar Plunge on April 10. Students who signed up to participate gathered on Eilers Patio at 12:30 p.m. and proceeded down to the beach front to rush into the near-freezing waters of Lake Wononscopomuc. Afterwards, students enjoyed a bonfire, s'mores, and hot chocolate.

The Polar Plunge is a fundraiser for the Jane Lloyd Fund, a local nonprofit founded in the memory of Jane Lloyd, who passed away from cancer. The fund provides financial support to cancer patients for medical bills and living expenses. Kiki Henry '22, a St. Luke's board member who helped organize the event, said, "Not only does it bring the community together through doing something challenging, but it also raises money for the Jane Lloyd fund, a foundation that is essential to the community."

## School Overhauls Drug and Alcohol Policy

From Cover

they will be a walking deterrent — a physical reminder of the consequences of making bad choices."

Goldstein also implied that the severity of the No Chance policy led students to believe it wouldn't be enforced. "I believed many were under the impression that the No Chance Policy wouldn't be implemented since it was so harsh," she said.

Celebration of the new rule, however, was overshadowed by the school's continued efforts to enforce the old one. On March 29, five seniors left campus after being caught in possession of alcohol, school officials confirmed to The Record. The move — seen by many students as unfair due to the lame-duck nature of the No Chance policy — sparked immediate backlash.

In a March 27 email to the community, Aliya Nurmohamed '22 implored students to sign a petition in support of the immediate implementation of the new Drug and Alcohol Policy before the discipline of the five students. Nurmohamed wrote, "Be courageous. Help your fellow friends. We need you and consider yourself in the same position. We need your help and we all need a second chance."

The petition, which amassed over 130 signatures, proved futile as the administration refused to accelerate the implementation of the new policy. During the process of deciding the timing of the new Drug and Alcohol Policy's implementation, School officials said they had extensively discussed executing it immediately, but ultimately decided against it.

"There are families who may have chosen the school because of the No Chance policy, believe in it 100%, honor it, value it, and changing the policy midway through

complete until next year. "There are some things which are going to have to take place that we're not quite set up for," he said. "We haven't set up systems for substance evaluation — making sure that people who get caught using substances aren't addicts."

The dismissal of the Seniors came as part of a larger community-wide push to rid the campus of substances. On April 4, the school held a period of amnesty during which students were instructed to discard illegal substances without facing discipline.

Amnesty events typically precede targeted room searches; the school also searched all lockers in the Mars Athletic Center shortly after the amnesty, according to the administration. "Room checks are unpleasant and distasteful," said Mr. McKibben. "But I also know there's substances on campus, and we must address that moving forward."

Mr. McKibben reiterated the new policy's potential ability to radically shift the school's culture regarding substance use. "We're not going to say to someone that just because they made a mistake, they can no longer be part of our community. Instead, we're going to keep you in this community. And we're going to love you as part of this community," he said.

### Administration seeks to shift the school's culture regarding substance use.

the year would be taking away from the school's previous commitment," he said.

Mr. McKibben also emphasized that enforcement of the new policy would require the Health Center to conduct substance abuse evaluations and establish protocols beyond the ones briefly outlined in The Almanac, work the school will be unable to

## Seniors Hold LiT Conference

From Cover

for this conference for a long time. After receiving the submissions, we read through them all, rating them, and selecting the ones to present at the conference."

The class solicited well-written essays focused on works of literature or literary criticism for the conference. In February, Upper Mids and Seniors anonymously submitted essays, which were reviewed for selection by the 11 Seniors. Ren said, "For the conference, we were looking for different nuances of close reading of literature. One of the main goals was to formulate and present essays with themes that clash with each other."

Ultimately, the class chose 12 essays to present at the conference. They further categorized these works into three seminars — "About Time," moderated by Stella Ren '22 and Rex McArthur '22; "Sum of its Parts," moderated by Eric Jin '22 and Yihan Ding '22; and "Just One Thing," moderated by Kasen Mo '22 and Kenny Zhang '22. The essays' authors began each session by reading their work, after which the moderators opened a Q&A



DASHA POST '23

Student moderators and featured writers pose with Dr. Monica Huerta.

panel. Jacqueline Wang '23, whose essay was among those selected, appreciated the opportunity to receive constructive feedback from the community. She said, "I want to improve my skills in general and receive others' feedback. I loved that I had this opportunity to be able to discuss my essay together with others and learn from them."

The conference concluded with a presentation by Dr. Huerta, who is an assistant professor of English at Princeton University. She spoke about and read

from her book *Magical Habits*, which combines elements of a personal narrative with an archive of photographs and menus from her family's Mexican restaurant. Sada Schumann '22 and Allison Lin '22, both members of the Honors English class, conducted a Q&A.

The conference provided a space for the Senior organizers, students whose essays were featured, and the whole community, to learn, admire each other's work, and share ideas with each other.

## Pan-Asian Students Defy Bias

From Cover

their project at the next faculty meeting.

The presenters encouraged the school community to not only attend the meeting, but also to listen to the voices they highlighted. When asked what she hopes the community took from the project, Ella Yu '24, who volunteered to present a segment, said "For me, speaking from an Asian American point of view... I constantly feel like I have to pick a side of my identity, and I feel like people don't recognize that. When they see me they just think, 'Oh, she's Asian,' and that's it. There are these stereotypes looming around us from both students and teachers, and I hope people realize that these stereotypes don't define us."

An affinity meeting held the night of the project presented a safe space for Pan-Asian students to debrief. Dong said, "The affinity meeting was for the organizers and some of the faculty members who were involved to get a sense of how this made the other Pan-Asian students feel because I think in doing ad-

vocacy work it's really important that you're actually asking whether the people you're advocating for feel like what you're doing represents them."

Some students expressed concerns regarding the project. Yu said, "Some students felt like they didn't resonate with all of the comments and that... some of these responses contradicted each other. There was a possible problem that [non-Asian] students who were listening might be a little confused... But, I think what we learned was that the point of this project was to show that we're not just one race, we all have different experiences."

On Wednesday, April 13, the same volunteers presented the project at a faculty meeting.



CARRIE CAO '23

Pan-Asian students gather to discuss the all-school presentation.



Opinion

In Defense of the Disciplinary Committee

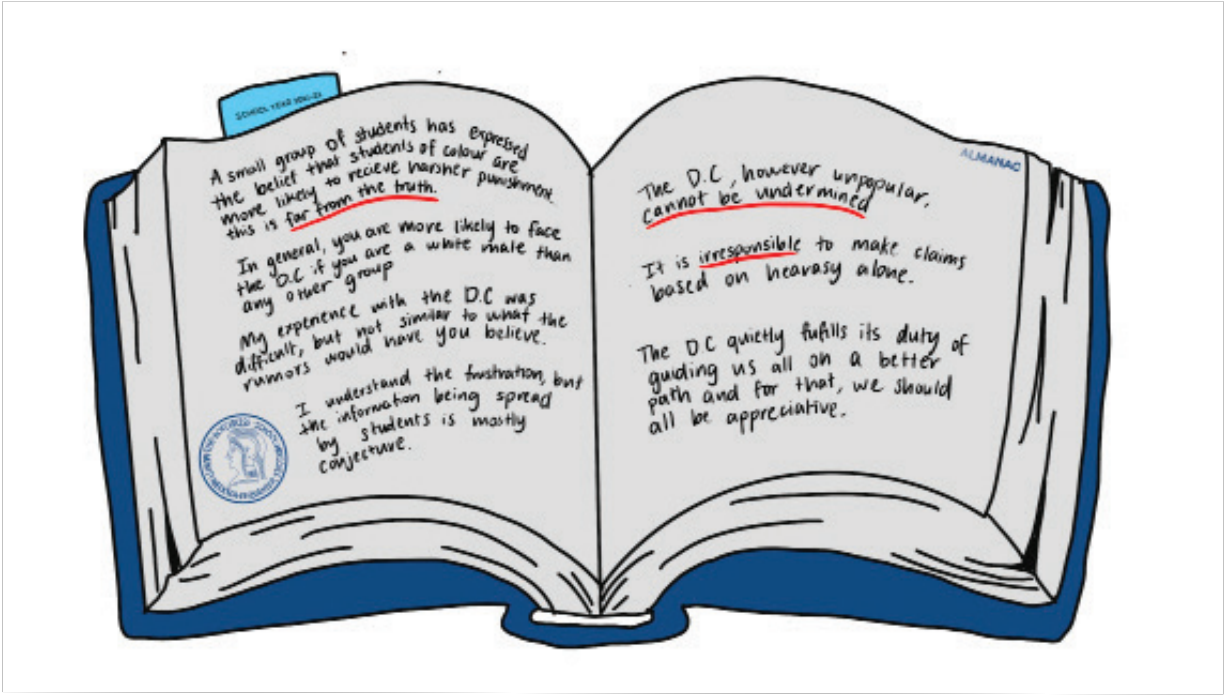
Anonymous

This spring, many members of our community have criticized the Discipline Committee for handing down punishments they believe are unfair and unjust. This backlash has put the Committee under intense scrutiny, inspiring students to discuss and debate every aspect of its inner workings.

I ask that you separate fact from emotion while reading this article. I know it is frustrating to lose your teammate, proctor, or friend to this process, but we must analyze this topic with logic and reason. After facing the D.C. myself and thoroughly investigating this system, I can only conclude that it represents a just and equitable disciplinary process.

In recent days, regarding an incident involving a student who identified as a minority, the D.C. has been accused of systemic racism. A small group of students has expressed the belief that students of color are more likely to be D.C'ed or are more likely to receive harsher punishment. However, if you look at the statistics sent by Mr. Stephen McKibben, dean of community life, to the student body on March 22, you can see that this is far from the truth. The ratio of white students to minorities appearing in front of the D.C. is more than 2:1 (13 to 6). The ratio of males to females is more than 2:1 as well (13 to

The Record is taking the rare step of publishing an anonymous Opinions essay. We have done so at the request of the author, whose identity is known to us and who could face harmful repercussions by its disclosure. The Record does not grant anonymity to writers merely seeking to avoid accountability.



6). Taking into account the schools demographics (1:1 male to female ratio, and 1:1 white students to minority students ratio), these statistics indicate that, in general, you are just as likely if not more likely to face the D.C. if you are a white male than any other group. Therefore, the myth that students of color are more likely to be D.C'ed is statistically false.

As for the assertion that students of color are more likely to face harsher punishments, we have no statistics regarding punishments doled out; we do, however, have statistics regarding students who have chosen to withdraw. While we cannot know the reason for a student withdrawing, it is often to avoid expulsion. Here,

the ratio of males to females choosing to withdraw is close to 1:1 (6 to 7) and the ratio of white students to minorities withdrawing is more than 3:1 (10 to 3). These tallies include recent events. Moreover, the D.C. is not given any financial information regarding students' background; therefore, whether a student's parents have made a significant donation to the school or whether a student is on financial aid is not taken into consideration.

In an open-discussion about the D.C., Mr. McKibben and Mr. Craig Bradley, head of school, explained that the school utilizes an outside consultant to evaluate whether there is any systemic racism in the discipline process and ensure that the process

is legal and ethical. All members of the D.C. also undergo mandatory bias training. Members, who are elected by their peers, represent a diverse cross section of our community and there is no shortage of minority representation.

I myself have faced the Disciplinary Committee. My experience with the D.C. was difficult, but not similar to what some rumors might have you believe. Here is my story.

I knew I had made a mistake. As soon as it happened there was not a doubt in my mind that I would have to face the D.C. I was petrified. The stories of the D.C. are beyond terrifying – hours of deliberations, students not getting into colleges because

of something they did their Prep year, and a board filled with people who ask the toughest questions you have ever heard.

Despite these myths, which make the D.C. sound like a punishment in itself, I was surprised to find out how mild the process actually is in comparison to the stories. You write a statement, dress nicely, bring an advisor, and answer questions. The committee does ask tough questions, but their questions are designed to understand your thought process in your moment of weakness. They are designed to help you evaluate what could have been done differently and most importantly how to grow from this experience. One of the questions I received was “What does leadership mean to you?” A difficult question for certain but a far cry from rumors of scolding and shouting. It was clear to me from the moment I entered the room to the moment I left that this process was not biased against me, in fact if anything it was designed to my benefit. It was structured to give me the final word and to allow me to reflect in front of a jury of my peers. They had no intention of causing malice but rather spurring maturity.

After leaving the meeting, the breath of relief I sighed might have been heard across campus...



Scan to read the rest of this article.

In October, Brazil Must Pick Its Poison

Devon Christian '24

The future of Brazil looks dark. Brazil has gone from being a military dictatorship to a republic, from being one of the most promising countries in the developing world to being tainted with corruption and international embarrassment. And now there is an election that is spearheaded by the current and former presidents. These two characters leave Brazilians to make a tough decision with no upside.

Serving Brazil from 2003 to 2010, President Luis Inácio Lula da Silva, known as Lula, steered Brazil into a future of promise. With the boom of commodities in Brazil and the Brazilian Real trading at an all-time high against the Dollar, President Lula gained enormous support for himself and his party. However, these actions came with drawbacks. Marina Silva, who served as the environment minister for Lula, said, “They didn’t do what was necessary for the country, but what was necessary to remain in power.” For example, Lula used infrastructure funds to reward his voter pool in the northeast region of the country. His goal was to develop a respectable naval industry to become a major exporter of oil. The project failed disastrously, causing permanent environmental problems, damage to local economies, and an embarrassing depiction of Brazil’s supply chains. The president was more concerned with PR and re-election than the benefit for Brazil. Brazilians should reevaluate if Lula really values the entirety of his country, or just his supporters. Another facet of Lula’s presidential career was the “Carwash” case allegedly tying President Lula into a bribery scheme involving many leaders including Dilma Rousseff, his successor and member of the same party, and the State-owned oil company Petrobras. President Lula has denied all responsibility or connection to the case, but

investigators uncovered a beachside apartment in Guarujá thought to be a bribe. Petrobras was the face of a once emerging economy with the discovery of untapped oil fields off the coast of Rio de Janeiro, now known for its involvement in one of the largest bribes schemes in history. The company bribed lawmakers with houses and other luxury items to allocate government funding to the company, and billions of tax dollars went missing. In 2017 the court overturned Lula’s involvement in the corruption scandal, allowing him to run for president, but it is still uncertain if Brazilians can trust a man who denied responsibility for faults in his own government. Being president of any group requires a person of integri-



Former President Lula speaks.

ty and the complete trust of his people, however, shields of questions still surround President Lula.

Jair Bolsonaro has been serving as Brazil’s President since 2019. He has been globally criticized, some even going to say he has committed crimes against humanity for his management of the Covid-19 pandemic. His incompetence, though, raises questions as to whether he is fit for the job. When Brazil ran out of oxygen tanks during the height of the pandemic, Bolsonaro sent

hospitals unproven drugs which the hospitals did not need. A by-the-book populist, Bolsonaro has prioritized his reelection over protecting Brazil’s National Treasures. Bolsonaro is backed by many farmers who want more cattle grazing land. Under his administration, the Amazon Rainforest hit record high deforestation and wildfire levels due to declining protections. Bolsonaro’s cling to power is causing irreparable damage to the Amazon’s biodiversity, global health and economy. His failure to protect important resources for Brazil and the world shows his true priorities. Leaked documents show Bolsonaro also has had a role in spreading misinformation surrounding the upcoming election in October. Politicians from 27 different countries warned Brazilians that Bolsonaro has planned a January 6 style insurrection if the election does not go his way. Brazilians should question a potential vote for a person who would risk democracy itself over an election.

This September President Bolsonaro signed a decree which temporarily did not allow social media companies to remove content from their platforms inside Brazil. Many believe this effort was to increase his misinformation campaign and reduce confidence surrounding the election. However one week after Bolsonaro signed this, Brazil’s Senate and the Supreme court overturned the order. This action by Brazil’s politicians supported by the people shows that the citizens of Brazil want a fair and truthful election. It is imperative that Brazilians continue this type of behavior throughout the election period and beyond. They are faced with two untrustworthy candidates, and their future depends on the citizens themselves holding their democracy together regardless of October’s outcome.

Florida’s ‘Don’t Say Gay’ Bill is a Step Backward

From Cover

nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, for example, attacked Jackson’s sentencing of child pornography offenders, though Jackson’s convictions fall in the range of the judicial mainstream. And of course, underpinning her allegation lies Pushaw’s more sinister implication, that while heterosexual relationships are benign, acknowledging non-heteronormativity immediately runs the risk of child exploitation. By claiming that grooming is a symptom of LGBTQ+ existence, conservatives perpetuate the myth that gay or transgender people are more likely to commit acts of sexual violence, which has been used as the grounds of trans-phobic arguments; such as, for instance, the allegation that cisgender women are threatened by trans-inclusive bathroom policies, which has been proven empirically untrue.

The debate surrounding the bill is re-dolent of the teaching critical race theory controversy, which many conservatives have opposed. Instead, they have pushed for the use of the 1776 Commission—which

peddles the right-wing ‘woke authoritarian’ narrative, defines ‘progressivism’ as fascist, and Jim Crow racism as analogous to modern-day ‘identity politics’ — in place of The New York Times’ 1619 Project.

Likewise, the new law serves a similar function: stifling conversation that aligns with a socially progressive societal vision, in which pluralism and tolerance are promoted. The discussions the legislature forbids are vital, especially in the educational domain, to ensure that young people feel welcome to express their identity openly without fear of judgment or discrimination. In order to foster a social environment in which all students are equally recognized and represented, such rules cannot be permitted. Ironically, DeSantis claims the new law means schools can return to providing “an education, not an indoctrination”, which is funny, considering the governor, who is responsible for one of this century’s most abhorrent political advertisements, has not attempted to mask his support of indoctrination of the youth in the past—that is, as long as it’s in the form of reading newborns *The Art of the Deal* or teaching them to build a wall out of toy bricks.



Ron DeSantis speaks at CPAC.



# Community Voices on the Russia-Ukraine Crisis

For this issue, the Features and Opinions Editors gathered thoughts and opinions from community members on the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine. The narratives include an interview with Mr. Keith Moon, instructor in Russian history & literature, Peter Berlizov '24, and other students and faculty.

Graphics by Quisha Lee '24 and Hanna Sun '24

The Russian invasion is a tragedy for the Ukrainian people. It is a war of choice that fulfills Putin's vision of a revanchist and resurgent Russian hegemony and undermines shared principles of sovereignty around the globe. It will have a profoundly destructive impact on the world order, incur economic harm and undeserved stigmatization to Russian citizens, and will likely prove far more costly than any gains it may provide Putin's government.

MR. MIKE FITZGERALD, instructor in history and social sciences

It is evident that Putin will continue his fruitless pursuit of a strategic advantage in eastern Europe, though Ukraine will respond to his endeavors with heroic resistance. The United States must now focus on what will soon wreak havoc on the world order following the Russia-Ukrainian War.

JAMES SUM '25

While Russia's blatant invasion of Ukraine cannot be justified, Russia is not the sole bearer of responsibility. NATO's relentless efforts to expand eastward has provoked tensions between Russia and its neighbors.

JEFFREY LIM '25

If this was a quarrel over resources or wealth, there could be a clear-cut and foreseeable end. But because this is purely an ideological war over perceived territory and patriotism/the restoration of a world power, Russian aggression will not end until the Kremlin gets what they want—Ukraine. We're in it for the long haul.

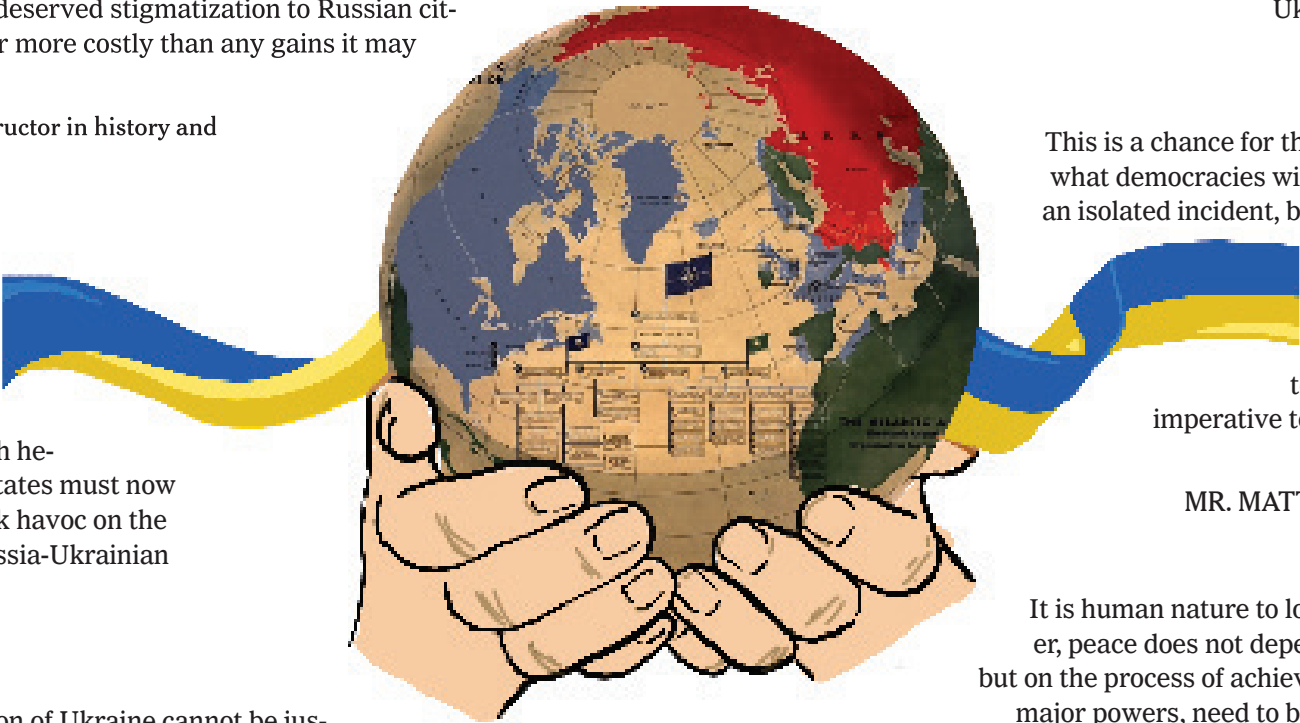
CHRIS MITCHELL '24

This is a chance for the US and NATO to show the world what democracies will stand up to and stand for. It's not an isolated incident, but a true turning point. If Russia is allowed to do this, they will persist and further violate the security and sovereignty of a free country. They already illegally took Crimea several years ago. It is imperative to accept nothing less than Russia's full withdrawal from Ukraine.

MR. MATTHEW ALTIERI, head baseball coach

It is human nature to love peace and oppose war; however, peace does not depend on the good desire of mankind, but on the process of achieving it. All countries, especially the major powers, need to build a system of universal security in a cooperative and sustainable manner. If we want to curb war and achieve peace, we must give peace commitment, which requires the joint efforts of every nation.

GRACE QI '24



## A Conversation with Mr. Keith Moon, Instructor in Russian History

By KEIRA CASON '24

Keira Cason '24 sat down with Mr. Keith Moon, instructor in Russian history and literature, for an interview on his insights on the Russia-Ukraine war.

**What are your preliminary thoughts or opinions on the war?**

Though I do not think the war is a great surprise, I think it is remarkably sad and frustrating that this is where we are. I was looking at a speech that Putin gave in 2004, where he was talking about a lot of the same things he said in February regarding Ukraine, what belongs to Russia, and so on. Putin has been telegraphing that he was going to do this for the past twenty years, and it is incredibly sad that it came to be true. This war has brought nothing good. Not only have the [Russian forces] been bombing cities, but also intentionally killing civilians. The end of the war would be good for millions of people, including most Russians.

**What are your biggest concerns at the moment?**

Perhaps the biggest concern I have is that I do not see an easy way for Putin back out of this war without losing face on the world stage, which I do not think will happen. We may be looking at years and years of entrenched occupation in parts of Ukraine. I also have a friend who lives in Ukraine, so on a personal level I want him to be safe.

**How do you see the war panning out?**

Thus far, I think Putin has learned pretty quickly that he can not force Ukraine to capitulate. He cannot take the capital city, so now he will focus his attention on the eastern provinces. He is very interested in the land bridge that connects Crimea to Russia, and since he has pretty much got that area right now,

I think he will fight hard to keep it. This, however, will not make the war stop. The Ukrainians will not be satisfied with simply giving up that territory or those people, so they will keep fighting. I think this will end up being a long and bloody mess. Though not mentioned much on the news, there has been a war going on in Ukraine for the better part of the last ten years. It is nothing compared to what is happening currently, but it goes to show the resilience of Ukrainians. They will not give up on fighting for their territory, and Russia will most likely not give it back without a fight. What we will see is a long stalemate where people will continue to be in danger.

**What are the possible implications of this on the U.S. or the world?**

On a superficial level, we are going to feel the war in terms of prices and goods. But in terms of the real safety of the United States, I am not worried. Early on, Putin made some comments about nuclear weapons, but I doubt that will happen. I do not think that the U.S. will really enter this war, though the economic sanctions we placed on Russia are going to have an impact on the prices of things such as gas oil. Ukraine also produces a lot of the world's wheat, so that will affect food prices. Because of these factors, I think we will continue to see spikes of inflation and trouble with other commodities. Russia produces a lot of the world's nickel and minerals, and we need those for all kinds of things. So at what point do we say we are simply not going to trade with this country? This restricted trade will certainly place an economic strain on all countries involved.

**Can you speak to some of your personal connections to Russia and Ukraine, or elaborate on some of your friends and/or family that are deeply affected?**

I have been to Russia twenty times, starting when it was part of the Soviet Union in 1983, and I have been to Ukraine twice. I teach Russian history and literature, and I have a lot of connections with people in Russia. I also have a friend named Evgeny who lives in Ukraine. His wife and kids went to Germany, but he could not leave, so I worry for him and his situation. I am amazed that I have not had much trouble staying in touch with people in Russia and Ukraine, but I'm concerned for all of them. What is happening is really tough for them economically, and they are going to face significant economic troubles – a recession, and probably even a depression coming around the corner. That will be tough on a lot of people, which is a shame because this war seems particularly unnecessary. That is troubling for the people of Russia. As for my friend Evgeny, I'm hoping he can survive and reunite with his family. He has two young daughters, seven and three, and I hope they can get themselves back together very quickly.

**What are the most important takeaways from this crisis so far?**

One of the most important takeaways of this crisis is that we should pay more attention to leaders of countries when they say outrageous things. Putin has been making outrageous claims regarding Ukraine for a long time, and many assumed that he would never actually follow through. As it turns out, he was very willing to follow through, which is extremely dangerous, and something we should pay attention to going forward. We could have seen this coming, and perhaps worked to help sooner. Many think that the era of nineteenth century war was behind us, but we have not truly left it. While Russia is concentrating on Ukraine, Armenia and Azerbaijan, which are former soviet republics, have begun fighting again, and these conflicts

have gotten more serious and bloody. Though these territorial fights are still going on, many have just pretended that they are not. This is a moment where we need to recognize they are still happening.

**How can our community get involved in supporting those affected?**

A great way to get involved is to read the news and pay attention to what is going on. Everyday the news has another headline about Ukraine, and though it sometimes seems impossible to read another article on this issue, I think it is critical for people to pay attention, because this will be something that the world is going to be talking and thinking about for a long time. We must stay updated on the news and the situation so we do not find ourselves in it again.

There are also lots of good organizations that are dedicated to supporting those affected. I have a good friend from Harvard who put together a great list of charities that are aiding not only Ukrainian refugees, but also Ukrainians inside the country. These are all strong, reputable charities that guarantee the money that you give is ending up in the hands of those who need it. There are people who are in desperate need all over Europe. There are millions of people in Eastern Europe, many of whom are at risk of homelessness if the world does not help them. The world ought to do something for the 44 million Ukrainians who are going through such severe and heartbreaking struggles.



Mr. Moon on a travel program with students in Russia in 2017.



# Three Untold Stories of the Russian War in Ukraine

By **PETER BERLIZOV '24**  
Opinion Editor

Human suffering is interpreted through the lens of every individual experience. When we hear stories of people in pain or grieving, our mind naturally makes associations with pain that we know, places that we've seen, and faces that we associate with ours. Although we can try hard not to, in our society, we interpret the pain of others through ourselves. It's for this reason that we often ignore others' pain if we don't know their stories.

A story of a single mother murdered in a city will bring tears to people's eyes, bring people to the streets, bring outrage to the hearts of those reading, especially those that associate themselves or others they love with the experience that she must've gone through. A story of 1000 people murdered over the course of a year will cause no such thing. Large numbers just become abstract. All 1000 of them could be equally struggling single mothers, but you don't know – or really care. They're

strangers. So are the 3,000,000 people that have fled Ukraine. The 250,000 that have fled Russia. The 20,000 and more that have died since the conflict started. They're strangers. It's sad, yes. But isn't it natural that, eventually, apathy will take over? Slowly, the public is going to care more about their gas bills and their health insurance than the statistics on people dying in a faraway corner of the world.

Bridging the gap between knowing and caring requires that familiarity and association that I've talked about before. It's not about numbers – numbers matter, sure. But it's about highlighting individuality and humanizing those caught in a moment of pain. So let me tell you about some of them. These stories come from different sources - one from a personal interview, one from *The New York Times*, another from *The Moscow Times*. But all of them are united by one thing: they involve real people who are suffering because of a crisis they didn't cause.



## Strength

*“All of them are devastated – some more, some less. Some of them (those from Bucha) do not have a home back in Ukraine any longer, as it was destroyed.”*

Alexandra Morozova never expected to end up in this situation. Born in the USSR, the Russian-Ukrainian businesswoman and her Ukrainian husband had roots on both sides of the Ukrainian border with Russia, but despite timeless animosity between the nations and building tensions, they never expected their families and friends to come under attack.

Following Russia's invasion of Crimea in 2014, Alexandra and her husband made the difficult decision to move abroad, eventually finding themselves in Slovenia, on the Austrian border.

But despite being away from the conflict in 2022, Alexandra did not choose to sit in silence and let the horrifying events of Ukraine happen around her. She chose to act. Immediately after the start of the war, Ms. Morozova contacted all of her family members, who were based near Kyiv, Poltava and other parts of Central Ukraine. All of them refused to leave, promising to stay in their homeland. Separated from her son, Ms. Morozova quickly found a way to get him away from the conflict and to safety, although the family has still not reunited in Slovenia at the time of publishing this article.

Ms. Morozova soon decided to devote herself to helping those escaping the battle. Instead of only caring for her family, she offered her home in Slovenia to anyone who

needed shelter. Immediately, 15 people (3 families with 6 kids) were given shelter. Two of those families chose to move on to other parts of Europe (as finding permanent work in a country as small as Slovenia can be difficult), and Alexandra immediately offered to care for others again, with a new family with four kids and an incoming family from Kyiv.

When asked about their experience, Ms. Morozova remains somber, saying: “All of them are devastated – some more, some less. Some of them do not have a home back in Ukraine, as it was destroyed... one family was evacuating from Ukraine on a rescue train which was shot at by Russian troops.”

Ms. Morozova, who I had the great honor of speaking with about her experience, is a hero. Her actions have helped dozens of people fleeing from a warzone and she's voluntarily chosen to give her time, her energy and all of her devotion towards helping these people. Ms. Morozova is not a multimillionaire or the President of Slovenia. She's a person with a heart, great compassion and empathy who stood up in a moment of crisis to help.

When asked what Americans can do to understand the conflict more, she said that the most important thing to do at this time is to recognize the humanity and help those in need in the conflict – either by helping Ukrainians and Russians fleeing with job finding, donating to Ukrainian public organizations, keeping critical thinking on the crisis, and most importantly to recognize the great value in having global solidarity with Ukraine, including that coming from Russia or Russians abroad.



## Suffering

*“Це проспект Лобановського. Тут щойно пролунав вибух, [expletive]. Навпроти нас дим. Це знято, о боже, прямо в центрі Києва...”*

The story of the Perebynis family is a story from the headlines – because no one remains to tell it for them but the headlines. Their deaths in the Kyiv suburb of Irpin were widely documented by Western media outlets because they were truly heartbreaking.

Serhiy and Tatiana met in high school, but never really grew close. Years later, the two recognized each other and reconnected while at a social event in Kyiv. Married in 2001, the couple moved to the suburbs to raise their kids and start a career. They drove a minivan, shared a home with friends and loved their little

garden in their backyard.

They had two kids. Their eldest, Mykyta, was 18 years old and their youngest, Alisa, was nine. They were living with friends and pursuing their professional dreams, all while maintaining a strong, happy marriage and frequently communicating with each other as a family. Serhiy wasn't with them when the war started – he was in Eastern Ukraine trying to help his ailing mother. But he called his wife every night. He felt bad for leaving her alone. She told him not to worry, because she was sure that they'd be able to escape and reunite to pursue their dreams and keep their family together through the difficult circumstances.

Tatiana, Mykyta and Alisa didn't make it. They and a volunteer that helped them escape were killed in the Russian attack on their suburb. Serhiy recognized their bodies when the photos of them lying motionless on the road went viral on the internet.

## Evil

*“Боже мы даже не знаем, они ли это... Никаких объяснений, они просто сказали принять, что его нету...”*

Kirill Ulyashev's story was never told in American media. But if the story of the Perebynis family made you sad, this story should make you mad.

A priest stands over a young, 20-year old man's open casket, swinging a religious symbol. The priest, Father Genady Zaridze, is a favorite of the Putin elite. The church is usually packed with Rolex-wearing government officials. But today, it's more somber. Or so it seems to be.

In front of a grieving family, in front of weeping friends, the alleged servant of God Zaridze begins his speech. “Kirill is a warrior of Christ,” he announces, receiving somber nods from the crowd, “he fought against evil satanic spirits: Ukrainian Nazis, created by American multinational corporations.” Father Zaridze's speech did not

focus on the accomplishments of Kirill Ulyashev. It didn't focus on soothing his family or honoring the dead. It focused on bashing Ukraine and America. The priest angrily made political statements about how bad it was that the Soviet Union fell apart and how evil NATO is. And he wasn't the only one. The Rolex-wearing politicians returned to make their own series of televised political statements supporting death in Ukraine over Kirill's casket. Politician after politician used a person's funeral, where their family was present, to launch into rants about evil Ukrainian Nazis, American sanctions and the glory of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Kirill's life went unhonored. His achievements went unlisted. His death mattered to none of the people present in that church. His friends and family stood there, helpless. Because the people trusted with giving them help were too busy using their pain for their own benefit, before turning around, probably getting back into their Rolls-Royces and driving away, leaving them in the dust.

I hope that, if you've read through these narratives, you had a moment of pain, of sympathy, of pride, or of anger from them. That's what we need. These materials were taken from different sources, because as a society, we should recognize the tragedy that comes with a loss of human life and work to oppose it, regardless of whose life is lost. During this crisis, some people have shown their real sides. Ms. Morozova has shown her-

oism. The Perebynis family, unfortunately, have shown the world real grief and loss. The story of Kirill Ulyashev shows both the humanity of and the exploited nature of some of those in this conflict. So if you became emotional reading this, good. That's the point. Let's channel that emotion into helping and showing our true sides as being good rather than evil forces in this world.



Arts

Alumni in Film and Television Industry Appear in Panel Discussion



Alumni share their experience in the film industry with students.

By AUDREY HELLING '25

Members of the community gathered in the faculty room on April 5 to talk with alumni Claire Brooks '07, Carla Franknbach '12, Kip Kroeger '00, and Taylor Materne '99. After graduating from the school, these producers and writers moved onto the film industry to contribute to well-known productions such as *Despicable Me 2*, *Shameless*, *Ted Lasso*, and *The Longest Week*.

*Hotchkiss in Hollywood: Finding Work in the Film and TV Industry*, was conceived to help the community learn more about these alumni and their careers in the entertainment industry. Mr. David Thompson, director of international programs, organized the event with the help of film club co-heads Margie Bowen '22 and Harry Morelli '23, who moderated the panel. Students and faculty interested in film and media attended the conversation in the Faculty Room. Several recent graduates, some majoring in film, joined via Zoom.

Throughout the conversation, the panelists shared stories about challenges in Hollywood, instability in the industry, and how they found balance in their personal and professional lives. Specifically, Brooks spoke about how she schedules vacations at the end of long, hard projects to maintain stability and regroup before her next project. Boffi Lin '24 said, "I took away a lot from [the event] because I think it's applicable in

a lot of different industries, and their wisdom was very valuable."

One point the panelists raised underscored different paths students can take into their adulthood careers. Neither Kroeger nor Materne anticipated careers in the film industry during their time at the school, but both eventually found their places in the industry after starting as interns, whereas Brooks and Franknbach attended Columbia and USC film school, respectively. All four of them have worked in various roles and navigated different challenges and trials before finding work as producers and writers. Lin said, "I thought it was very comforting to hear [that] no matter how early or late you discover your passion, there's still time and endless opportunities to pursue it."

*Hotchkiss in Hollywood* aimed to be an accessible discussion for the entire school community. Bowen said, "It's [easy] to sit in and just listen to the different stories and not feel any pressure that you need to know anything about film. It's especially beneficial to people who are into other disciplines of arts to see how they could possibly fit into this industry."

Another panel of film professionals will be invited to judge for the Hotchkiss Film Festival on May 28. Any and all students are encouraged to submit a short film by May 18, regardless of their past experience.

COMMUNICATIONS

Voice Students Refine their Craft

By ANTHONY HU '25

On Tuesday, April 12, thirteen student vocalists performed solos in five different languages, the pieces ranging from the Romantic to Renaissance periods. As the community gathered in Elfers Hall, the performances marked a great shift from the first voice recital, which took place last October. Contrasting in both mood and tone, the music students aimed to highlight the joy and pain that comes along with love and relationships in their songs.

The voice students worked for months in preparation for this performance, with some starting their pieces in September. Range, annunciation, emotion, and the flow of their music were among the many challenges the performers needed to consider when singing. Mr. Jack Brown, instructor in voice and the Hotchkiss Choir conductor said, "There haven't been many opportunities for the students to sing outside of class, especially with the pandemic, but they have been working really hard in their lessons. They put great effort in overcoming obstacles: supporting high notes, projecting the voice, and even managing the nerves." Ishani Kalavagunta '25, who performed in front of the community for the first time in the fall said, "I thought I would be nervous, but performing is actually really exciting."

Eloina Christova, master pianist and chamber musician, accompanied the performers on the day of the recital. Mr. Brown said, "The October performances had much simpler pieces and since then my students [have been] continuously challenged in

their preparations as they 'climb up the steps of the musical ladder.'" Reflecting on her progress, Abigail Broome '25 said, "It was a great experience to [start from] where I was back then and, [after putting] in a lot of work, reach where I am now." In October, Broome sang "The Water is Wide", a folk song of Scottish origin which was simpler in melody; in the most recent recital, she performed much more complex pieces, including "Delizie Contente" by Renaissance Italian composer Pier Francesco Cavalli and Asturiana by Spanish composer and pianist Manuel de Falla. The piece calls for sophisticated vocal techniques, such as the stability of higher notes, but also requires the singer to delight the audience with their content for love.

For the musicians, who have been restrained to small practice rooms ever since the pandemic, the recital will be a great opportunity to recognize their own progress and potential. Mr. Brown said, "There's nothing like a live performance to remind ourselves of how we're doing. We're the instrument, and performing in Elfers takes quite a bit of courage. No microphones. No editing." For Mr. Brown's students, the recital, serving as a form of interaction with the community, is not their journey's end. Kalavagunta said, "I see it more as a 'benchmark' for us to check on later and improve from."

As the school year comes to a close, the Hotchkiss community can look forward to enjoying more performances from our Hotchkiss singers and other music students in the upcoming weeks.



Isabella Wei '23 sings in Elfers Hall.

MIKE XU '24



Photos by Paul Mpagi Sepuya and Pixy Liao.

CPW

Photos in Tremaine Feature Work of Diverse Artists

By RACHEL BICCARD '25

From March 31 to April 30, the Tremaine Art Gallery is showcasing *Housed/Altered*, a combination of two photography exhibitions by 17 BIPOC artists from The Center for Photography at Woodstock's (CPW) Artists in Residence program (AIR). Both series explore themes of feminism, race, sexuality, human relationships, basic rights, and belonging in society. Having worked with the CPW on previous occasions, Mr. Greg Lock, director of photography, film, and related media and Ms. Sarah Anderson Lock, former arts administrator, collaborated to curate these two collections pulled from their AIR program.

CPW offers seven residencies per year to BIPOC photographers in addition to one for a curator, scholar, or critic. Artists are given access to facilities, technical support, and a supportive environment to fully immerse themselves in their creative work. For most of these artists, it is their first residency program and a time for them to work free of their day-to-day obligations.

The images from *Housed* were all taken in CPW's studio where various visiting

photographers worked during their artists in residence sessions. These works share the common background of the studio but also highlight each artist's personal expression. In *Self Portrait After*, photographer Paul Mpagi Sepuya portrays himself in the space looking over his work. Another image, *Celda #12* by Alma Leiva shows a studio styled like a still life with religious images and a floor covered deep with origami folded newspapers.

The CPW artists in residence are encouraged to take risks and explore their process during their residency. The *Altered* images highlight works that experiment with process, materials, concept or scale. One of the aims of the AIR program is to give artists freedom to work on their craft as well as to set new goals for their work going forward.

Each of the pieces in the exhibition convey the importance of identity and perspective. One image, *Untitled*, by Motohiro Takeda, was produced with a camera obscura, a darkened room with a small lens through which an inverted image is projected. Takeda's image portrays an intensely dark, almost black setting. One's

Works Highlight Experimental Nature of Photography

eye has to study the image to be able to see the outline of a dark storage room.

In the following weeks, all photography classes will visit the exhibition for discussions and critique. Mr. Lock's Digital Media class helped to set up the exhibit. Jerry Qiao '22 said, "I found the untitled image [by Takeda] particularly thought provoking as it quite literally required one to move around and shift perspective in order to examine the image more deeply." Mr. Lock elaborated on this idea stating, "I hope [the community] will wander in and try to figure out what messages the artists are trying to convey. One should not take what the pieces provide at face value; the different photographs should warrant different reactions from different students."

The exhibition officially opened on Saturday April 2 with a reception held in the gallery for the Hello Hotchkiss dinner for BIPOC parents of prospective students and current students.



# Sports

## Varsity Baseball Pushes for Success Under New Coach

By **MAXINE WEXLER '25** and **ELENI KONTOKOSTA '25**

Varsity Baseball's motto, "Hotchkiss Baseball Versus Everyone," or, for short, "HBVE", runs deep into the attitude of the team, reflected in their pursuit to end this season as Founders League Champions. The team comes into the Spring season with a new head coach, Mr. Matthew Altieri at the helm, under his philosophy—"competing every game, learning how to get into a routine, and how to prepare."

Coach Altieri comes to Hotchkiss as an incredibly experienced coach, working with teams at all levels of the game. Before coming to Hotchkiss, Altieri coached and taught for Sheehan High School in Wallingford, CT, winning five state championships. His coaching was recognized by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association as he was awarded the 2021 Coach of the Year. The prestigious award is, handed annually to only 25 coaches across boys and girls athletics, as well as one athletic director. He has worked with teams at many levels of the game, including at the collegiate level, as well as coaching first base for the Gastonia Honey

**"Coach Altieri has taught me things about the game that can only come through the experience of a veteran."**

CARLOS MARTINEZ '22, Varsity Baseball team captain.

### Team Hopes to Surprise Competitors This Season

Hunters, a North Carolina team that plays in the professional, MLB-affiliated Atlantic League. He explained the difference between past players he has coached and his roster at Hotchkiss, saying, "It's a prep school, which makes coaching here different. I'm dealing with more academically accomplished kids than I have before, and the expectations are a little different here."

Coach Altieri is not only looking forward to competing this season, but also to continue building relationships with his players. The knowledge he brings to the sport has helped improve the team beyond physicality with his mental strategies. Team captains, Henry Emswiler '22 and Carlos Martinez '22, reflected positively on their experience with Coach Alteri. Martinez said, "Not only has he helped me become a better player physically, he's taught me things about the game that can only come through the experience of a veteran. His passion for the game matches mine and has led us to build a very strong connection."

With an experienced coach, and a motivated team, the baseball team has high aspirations for the season. Emswiler expressed his regards when he said, "I'm looking forward to ending my Hotchkiss athletic career with a bang, hopefully the Founders League Championship. Aside from that, I'm pumped to spend days out on Hoyt with the team and enjoy my last few months here. I think we can surprise some people this season."



The Varsity Baseball team gathers on the mound.



ELISE KANG '25

Qatar will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup this November and December.

## Soccer's Premier International Tournament Commences With World Cup Qualifiers

By **VIRGINA WOOD '25**  
Staff Writer

As the world watched in anticipation, 29 of the 32 teams that will be competing in this November's long-awaited FIFA World Cup have been finalized. Played every four years, the World Cup has been the most prestigious soccer tournament since its commencement in 1930. The 2022 qualifiers began nearly two years ago on June 6, 2019. Then, only the host country, Qatar, had a guaranteed spot. Since then, teams from around the world have fought for 13 European, 8 North and South American, 5 African, 5 Asia and Oceania spots. The tournament will take place throughout November and December due to the difficult weather conditions in Qatar during the typical months of June and July.

The qualifying tournaments are organized by FIFA's respective sub confederations and are held within six continental areas. This year, there was no shortage of shock in the tournaments. For example, Italy's loss

### U.S. Returns to Tournament After Missing Out in 2016

to North Macedonia meant that the reigning European Football Champions would not be heading to the World Cup for the second tournament in a row. Sweden also surprised many fans after failing to qualify despite the previously lofty expectations. Many fans were also ecstatic about the U.S. heading for the World Cup after failing to qualify the previous tournament. Headed by Christian Pulisic, dubbed "Captain America," and other rising players such as Gio Reyna, the American team secured decisive results to secure their place in the World Cup.

Following qualifications, the Group Stage Draw for the tournament occurred on April 1. This is a vital element of the tournament as the World Cup consists of 8 groups, each with four countries. Each nation will play every other in its group, and the top two in

each group advance to the round of 16. The U.S. was placed in Group B with England, Iran, and either Scotland, Ukraine, or Wales. While England is particularly strong and Iran can also hold its own, there is a decent chance that the American side may emerge from the group stage.

It is widely expected that Argentina, Brazil, and France will have dominant performances. Argentina is home to the arguable best soccer player in the world, Lionel Messi, and has dynamic players such as Paulo Dybala to lead a potent attack. France, the reigning World Cup Champions, also boast a strong squad with a particularly lethal midfield. France did, however, suffer a disappointing loss against Switzerland in the Round of 16 during last year's Euros. Brazil could be the most well-rounded team of the entire tournament. A lethal sleeper team could be the Shaqiri-led Swiss squad.

Ultimately, however, under the lights of the world's biggest stage, any team may emerge victorious.

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# Kansas Crowned Champions in March Madness Filled With Upsets

By ELEANOR HELM '25

Twenty twenty-two has been a year of upsets for March Madness brackets. From number 12 ranked Richmond beating number 5 ranked Iowa, to the trip St. Peter's took to the elite 8 upsetting Kentucky, Murray State, and Purdue along the way, nothing played out as expected

The St. Peter's Peacocks relished the underdog role, gaining support as they took down more notable teams. They entered the tournament for only the fourth time in school history with a 18-10 record and as winners of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC). Their first upset was Kentucky (2). The two teams battled back and forth but in the fourth quarter St. Peter's pulled ahead to secure their victory with fan favorite Doug Edert leading them to success.

**This team from a tiny college in Jersey City surprised everyone.**

Next up was a blowout win over Murray State (7). This victory surprised many invested fans. This tiny team from New Jersey had just defeated two very strong teams in the biggest tournament of the entire year. The Peacocks next faced Purdue (3), who they previously lost to during the first round in 2011. The entire game wavered back and forth. Fighting for the lead during each play, in the end, the Peacocks clutched free throws to secure the game. Ultimately, UNC pulled ahead early with a 20 point lead over St. Peter's, bringing a re-



St Peter's guard Doug Edert jumps on the scorers' table after upsetting Purdue, becoming the first 15-seed to reach the Elite 8.

cord-breaking run to an end. Although St. Peter's fought up until the final buzzer, UNC was the stronger team and won. Despite this loss, St Peter's still became the first 15 seed in NCAA history to reach the Elite 8. Ethan Shin

'25 commented, "St. Peter's Cinderella run is the greatest in the tournament's history."

The highly anticipated Final Four began on Saturday, April 1. For the first time in tournament history, heated ri-

vals UNC and Duke would play with 16.3 million viewers streaming the intense match live. The ultimate rivalry was finally taking center stage in the Final Four and, on top of that, the end to Duke's beloved Coach Krzyzewski's

career, who announced he would retire at the end of this season. With the end to his 41 seasons of coaching at Duke, many students gathered together in the Faculty Lounge knowing they had to watch. Juliet Kaufmann '23 added, "It was so fun to watch it with all of my friends, the energy in the room was great! It was one of the best matchups in the whole tournament and the first time the teams have ever played each other in the final four, so it was a pretty historic game." Duke ultimately fell to UNC, putting a bittersweet twist to Coach K's farewell.

**The greatest rivalry in the sport, Duke vs UNC, plays out on its largest stage**

A few days later on Monday, April 4, the National Championship game was held. After Kansas's victorious game against Villanova, UNC and Kansas were ready to fight it out until the final buzzer. UNC started the game strong, winning the first half, but Kansas made a 15 point comeback to win the second half, ultimately winning the game 72-69 with their guard, Ochai Agbaji, at the helm scoring 30 points. Kansas cut down the nets for the first time since 2008 making this their sixth national championship win in total.

This certainly was an exciting year for March Madness. From a gripping Cinderella story, to the final game of one of the best coaches in Basketball history, this year's tournament had it all. Now, fans just have to wait 343 days until the next one!

## Varsity Sailing Gears Up for First Post-Pandemic Season



Chapman Petersen '22 and Kate Moran '23 sail during the 2021 season.

By EMILY HELLQVIST '24  
Staff Writer

As the weather continues to get warmer in Lakeville, the Sailing team has returned to Lake Wononskopomuc in full force. Last year, seven members including captains Chapman Petersen '22 and Jeb Bechtel '22 qualified for Nationals, and the team finished in 10th place nationwide. This year, the team has its goals set even higher.

The Sailing team's season began over spring break, when the team traveled to Fort Lauderdale together, getting in eight hours on the water every day for a whole week. The team ran daily practices and drills, and gained valuable experience by racing a local high school, St. Thomas Aquinas High School. Co-captain Sophie Davis '22 said, "With so many new people on the team and many of them never having sailed certain boats before, it allowed for a good transition time before we get into a super competitive mode where we focus more on regattas."

**Team uses Spring Break trip to Florida to hone their craft**

The team has a current record of 8-1, and have numerous regattas to come. In addition to a returning lineup with great experience, there are many new players who have infused the team with new energy. Oscar Emus '23 said, "We have new members of the team who have great potential to compete for the New England and Nation Title. Just to name a few, preps Fynn Olsen '25, Pierce Olsen '25, and Samara Walshe '25 among many others have brought great energy and skill to practice and regattas." Co-captain Chapman Peterson '22 added, "We have a lot of talent on the team, we just need some more time and experience."

As the season progresses, the Sailing team is determined to bring home the New England Championship title and have their eyes set on winning Nationals.

## Eliza Dana '22 Leads Girls Varsity Golf by Example

By DARCY DWYER '25

*Eliza Dana '22 is a four-year Senior and co-captain of the Girls Varsity Golf team. In the spring of 2019 and Dana's first year on the team, the Girls Varsity Golf team earned the Founders League title. Teammate Petal Hammam '25 said, "Eliza has a lot of energy and is an amazing golfer. She guides us, makes us laugh, and has a determination to succeed."*

**How has your experience been with the team these past 3 years?**

When I first joined the team my Prep year, the girls were so welcoming and they helped me adjust to life at boarding school. It was great to meet older girls and become a member of a team that is so caring and loving. Covid derailed the golf season during my Lower Mid and Upper Mid years so it wasn't exactly the same, but I want to carry on the same experience from my Prep year to this season.

**What are your goals for the upcoming season?**

This season, one of our main goals is to grow as individual players and maintain a fun and supportive team culture. We don't

necessarily have a set number of goals for our place in the Founders League. We are more focused on improving our game and being the best players we can be.

**Who has inspired you during your time on the golf team?**

Daphne Chao '20 was a great inspiration to me because she is a really great player with an even better work ethic. In my Prep-Year during the Pippy O'Connor Tournament, Chao was in a playoff to win the tournament. Even though she lost the playoff, she bounced back with an even more determined attitude that was infectious in practice. She was a mentor on and off the course who inspired team bonding through her humor and kindness.

**What is your favorite part about golf?**

One of my favorite parts about golf is the importance of the mental aspect to a player's success. Some players are very skilled physically, but mentally they struggle. Personally, I love the intense focus on various parts of my game. Also, in tournaments you play against the same people and I've often become friends with golfers that I've played with multiple times. The community of girls

you'll meet at tournaments is amazing because despite competing against each other, everybody is so welcoming.

**What advice would you give to future or current golfers?**

You can't change your last shot, so thinking about how to approach the next shot will help improve your scores. Also, play smart. You don't have to take your driver off of every tee or go for every pin because often, a less aggressive tactic will pay off more in the end.

**Can you share a favorite memory at Hotchkiss Golf?**

One favorite memory is winning the Founders League championship my Prep Year. We were the underdogs of the season and didn't think we had a chance, but Lily Yang '21 made a double-breaking forty-five foot putt on the last hole for a birdie, putting us in first place by one stroke. Another favorite memory was the first time we got off campus as a team last year to play against Choate. We were all so excited to compete for the first time since 2019.

**Eliza Dana '22 tees off at a competition.**



ELIZA DANA '22