



## In Season Debut, Rowing Program Displays Strength

*From Fledgling Project to  
Robust Team in Three Years*

By VIRGINIA WOOD '25  
Staff Writer

After three seasons without competition, the rowing team anticipates its first season filled with races. The team is comprised of 75 rowers and coxswains. The schedule with multiple full regattas is a key milestone in the development of the fairly new rowing program.

Ella Mohanram '23, a coxswain, said, "I think it's really exciting with this large of a team to be finally racing. We have a lot of really great boats who have been working really well together as a team and boat."

Although there is a larger emphasis on the competition this season, the team is constantly committed to maintaining its core values of working hard, supporting and respecting each other, as well as having fun.

Head coach Victoria McGee leads the team with her newfound philosophy of empowering young student athletes and giving them the confidence to succeed. The philosophy stems from Coach McGee's experience coaching at the Division 1 level at Duke University where she worked directly with the 3rd Varsity 8 boat.

"I was totally in love with rowing — the intensity, the camaraderie, the feeling when you hear the bubbles flow under the boat," she said. "And I have always been inspired by coaches, especially Pat Summit. Some of the most important lessons in my life are from my coaches."

Coach McGee has also set some personal goals for the season that include familiarizing the team with a racing schedule, fostering an environment where everybody feels valued, and qualifying boats for championship regattas.

For younger and less experienced students, the rowing team can appear daunting. However Coach McGee actively encourages them to feel like a part of the team.

Helena Inzerillo '25, a new coxswain said, "It is a very close knit team, and I genuinely feel like everyone has my

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LEIGHTON SMITH '24

**ROW YOUR BOAT** The rowing team practices before dawn on Lake Wononskopomuc.

## New Directors Named to Lead Diversity Office

By ARMAAN HAJI '23

Dr. Lisanne Norman '94 and Ms. Kinyette Henderson will become co-directors of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) next year — an important step towards expanding the office's impact on campus among both faculty and students.

They will replace the current director, Mr. Yassine Talhoui, who recently announced his decision to step down and accept a new position as the Director of Enrollment Management at The Rivers School in Weston, Massachusetts.

After graduating from Hotchkiss, Dr. Norman attended Harvard University, earning a degree in African & African American studies and social anthropology. She now teaches in the Humanities and Social Sciences department and is a dorm affiliate in Dana.

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## Ethics Bowl Team Finishes In Top Eight At National Championship

By CARRIE CAO '23 and  
REBEKAH OPPENHEIMER '24  
Editor-in-Chief and News Editor

The school's Ethics Bowl team finished in the top eight at the National Championship in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, the culmination of a breakthrough year during which the group surprised competitors by first winning the Connecticut Championship and a playoff round against the Rhode Island Champion — all in its first year of official competition.

In reaching the quarter-final round of the National Championship, the team outlasted 15 other regional champions — including Philips Exeter Academy and University of Chicago Lab School — and solidified its place as a formidable opponent on the national stage.

The team's first nationals appearance marked the successful conclusion to a months-long effort of preparation. In Ethics Bowl, teams are tasked with

## They Defeat 15 Regional Champions Across the Nation

presenting responses to philosophical questions about current events. For example, one question the team posed during preliminary rounds was, "Is minimizing tax payments using legal methods morally permissible?"

Preparing a quality response to each question — which are given to participants weeks in advance — required the team to analyze different moral frameworks, consider the stakeholders, and weigh different ethical factors.

Led by Instructor in Philosophy Dr. Thomas Fisher, the group — comprised of Rahul Kalavagunta '22, Stella Ren '22, Ben Who '24, Yixi Zou '25, and Ishani Kalavagunta '25 — met throughout the school year to collaborate and organize their thoughts.

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## MAMAM NBIBA AND MUDRY ELECTED AS NEW CO-PRESIDENTS

### A POPULAR CAMPAIGN

By YIXI ZOU '25  
Staff Writer

Chris Mudry '23 and Richie Mamam Nbiba '23 were elected as the next all-school presidents on April 14, emerging victorious over three other candidate pairs and marking a successful campaign heavily predicated on accessible, popular ideas.

They will succeed current all-school president Sydney Goldstein '22, who created many administrative changes during her tenure, including the return of interdorming and the retirement of the No Chance policy.

The student body listened to speeches delivered by each pair in Walker Auditorium on April 13 and voted shortly after — the culmination of a campaign during which candidates wrote statements, created presentations, and fielded questions from the community in a Q&A session.

All students, including Seniors, re-



DASHA POST '23

**Mudry and Mamam Nbiba.**

ceived one anonymous vote in the election. Unlike in previous years, voters were instructed to rank the candidates, eliminating the need for a run-off election. Goldstein, who announced the winning pair of the election in an email to the student body, did not disclose what share of the vote Mudry and Mamam Nbiba received.

In electing Mudry and Mamam Nbiba, the student body chose a pair of

*Continued on page 2*

## Expert Musicians and School's Best Performers Converge to Form Special Philharmonic Concert

By EMILY HELLQVIST '24  
Staff Writer

Students and professional musicians from all around the country will share the stage on April 30 after a two year pause. For the upcoming concert, the musicians will play Verdi's "Prelude to La Traviata," Mozart's "Piano Concerto in G Major, K. 453," and Beethoven's "Symphony No.7," with German pianist Andreas Frölich as the guest soloist.

With the performance day approaching, students have already begun to learn the pieces. Specifically, they have started reading sessions, where the performers come together to try and work through the compo-

## Concert Returns After Two Year Break

sitions before being joined by professionals. Mr. Fabio Witkowski, head of the visual and performing arts department, said, "My hope is that once we are on stage, we are at the same level of preparedness as the professionals who have played these repertoires countless times in their careers."

The preparation process for some has been stressful yet rewarding, as the compositions are lengthier and more technically challenging than

the orchestra pieces students are accustomed to. Cellist Jeffery Shi '24, who spent majority of his practice times rehearsing the varied rhythms in the music, echoed this sentiment. He said, "With such a short time to prepare so many pieces of music, I'm learning the importance of practicing wisely and efficiently... When incorporating my sections of the pieces together with the rest of the orchestra, I'm reminded of how important it is to really look at Mr. Witkowski when he's conducting."

A crucial component of cohesion and unity, Mr. Witkowski always emphasizes to his orchestra the importance of watching the conductor.

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COMMUNICATIONS

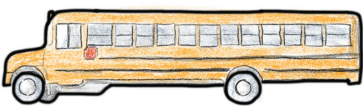
## Eco Day

With classes canceled, students took part in conservation projects. Page 2.

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#### Following Course Trips

Explore where students went and what they learned on their trips to nearby museums and exhibits.



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#### Brooklyn Shooter Captured

The attack by Frank R. James stoked fears about the safety of New York's public transit system.

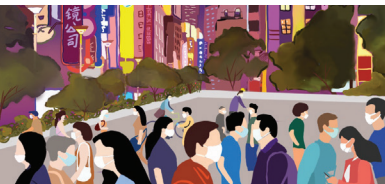
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#### Welcome to the Era of Inflation

Aaliyah Wang '25 writes that we must understand the root of inflation. PAGE 4

#### China's Zero-Covid Policy

Chinese citizens start to doubt the harsh policy, writes Anonymous. PAGE 4



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#### Student Recitals in Elfers

Piano students presented their latest work at a series of recitals.

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#### Girls Lacrosse Off to Hot Start

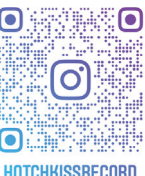
The varsity team is 7-0 after the first few weeks of the season. PAGE 7

#### F1 Season Promises Excitement

Matias Acevedo '24 breaks down this year's top contenders. PAGE 8

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# News

## On Eco Day, Students Give Back to Community

By SANSAN YU '25

With classes cancelled, students rode midbuses and donned gloves to participate in conservation projects around campus and the surrounding community. This year's Eco Day marked the return of the traditional in-person format, following a virtual Eco Week in 2020 and an optional service day in 2021.

This year's theme, "Sustainability at Hotchkiss," highlighted the school's long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship.

The day began in Walker Auditorium with the former and current medical directors, Dr. Jared Zelman and Dr. Zach McClain's "Tick Talk" — a message about taking precautionary measures against ticks in preparation for the afternoon activities.

Four keynote speakers addressed the theme "Sustainability at Hotchkiss": Mr. Josh Hahn, assistant head of school and director of strategic initiatives; Mr. Mike Webster, general manager of dining services; Ms. Bridget Lawrence-Meigs, manager of the Fairfield Farm; and Mr. Allen Cockerline, farmer and owner of the Whippoorwill Farm in Lakeville, Connecticut.

Chosen for the significant roles they've played in promoting environmental awareness at the school, they spoke about the school's green infrastruc-

ture, renewable energy sources, land management, and ethically sourced organic food products, either homegrown or from local farms.

Ms. Amy Sidran, the farm education coordinator, said, "We thought about bringing someone in from the outside [as the guest speaker], but then we realized that students don't really know very much about what sustainability is here at Hotchkiss."

Following the adult panel, a group of student panelists shared their opinions on the environmental initiatives and reflected on how the school has influenced their views on sustainability. The panelists — Ein Jun '22, Nithya Chundi '23, Fati Salifu '22, Aurora Zhang '24, Sophie Davis '22 and Sada Schumann '22 — represented different voices brought together by their common passion for sustainability, either at the farm, in environmental science classes, through independent projects, or in the Students for Environmental Action (SEA) club.

"Taking agroecology and conservation biology has made me think more about the socioeconomic aspects of practicing sustainability and focus on the human side instead of just the science," said Zhang.

After an outdoor lunch served at Bissell Common, students and their advisors worked on service projects on



Mr. Mike Webster speaks during the all-school Eco Day presentation.

campus or in the local community. They went to the Beeslick woods to work on trail maintenance and picked up trash along Route 41, while others cleaned up the beachfront and removed invasive species. Over 80 community members went to the Fairfield Farm to weed and prepare the fields for the spring.

Many students also went to the surrounding communities like Sharon, Millerton, and the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center to participate in other environmental initiatives.

"It [was] a lot of community work, but it [was] also really service-oriented so that students are doing physical ac-

tions to improve their environment and habitat," said Ms. Sidran.

Eco Day provided all members of the community opportunities to spend time in nature and positive contributions to their community. Eliza Ross '22, a head of Students for Environmental Action (SEA), said, "We often forget how privileged we are to be on a campus that focuses this much on environmentalism. By sending people out into the community, we [can] actually make a tangible difference in our local community and on campus."

Going forward, Eco Day will continue to be an annual event at the school.

## New Directors Lead DEI Office

From Cover

Ms. Henderson, currently an instructor in English and assistant director of diversity and inclusion, graduated from George Washington University. She came to the school in 2021 as one of the first Walter Crain Fellows, a role that allows her to pursue a degree in private school leadership from Columbia University while teaching at Hotchkiss.

Although Dr. Norman and Ms. Henderson will separately address the faculty and students respectively, they will coordinate DEI initiatives

***Together, they hope to serve as a support system for students and guide the community on how to best address prejudice of all kinds.***

for the larger community. Together, they hope to increase communication and transparency, serve as a support system for students, and guide the community on how to best address matters of racism, cultural appropriation, misogyny, and prejudice of all kinds. They also hope to more effectively establish a culture of acceptance and inclusivity among new students.

Additionally, they hope to bring back inter-school events to promote DEI within the broader boarding school community. These events between schools, such as mixers and conferences, would encourage the exchange of ideas between students and increase awareness about stereotypes and misconceptions that students may have about each other.

Dr. Norman and Ms. Henderson will officially become the co-directors of the DEI Office at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

## Mamam Nbiba And Mudry Win All-School

From Cover

experienced leaders who had already made an impact on the community. Mamam Nbiba is the current Upper Mid class president, co-head of the Black and Hispanic Students Association (BaHSA), and a board member of the Hotchkiss Dramatic Association (HDA); Mudry serves as a member of the Upper Mid class council and a head of the male *capella* group, Bluenotes.

Their election comes as students look for a return to normalcy after the pandemic disrupted on-campus life for more than two years and as the community simultaneously grapples with shifting views over discipline issues and the implementation of the new Drug and Alcohol Policy.

A key facet of their campaign was embracing pre-Covid traditions. The two hope to reinstate Chapel Talks, a space for students to share personal stories and present topics they're passionate about. Mudry said, "We had a lot of fun things before [the pandemic], and I really want to bring them back with this opportunity."

Mudry and Mamam Nbiba also proposed initiatives such as allowing students to volunteer in the library, which would extend its open hours — a key issue for students who lack study spaces at key times. In addition, they suggested overhauling the rules around detention, and removing WiFi restrictions for Upper Mids during the second semester, stating that the limitations don't align with the workload and responsibilities that come with being an upper class student.

Mudry and Mamam Nbiba will begin their responsibilities as all-school presidents next fall.



The team at the National Championship in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

## Ethics Bowl Team Places 8th at National Championship

From Cover

Kalavagunta '22, who is a co-captain of the group, attributed the team's success to this vast preparation effort. "I believe our thorough review of each case was a key aspect of our success," he said. "It allowed us to have deep, quality discussions with our competitors because we were so in-touch with the topics."

However, the team also focused on practicing impromptu speaking skills: a large portion of an Ethics Bowl round is dedicated to fielding questions posed by a panel of three judges, who are often phi-

***"Our responses to the judges' questions solidified the notion that we understood complicated ethical concepts," said Ren.***

losopher professors or Ph.D. students.

"Our ability to think on our feet really benefited us," said Stella Ren '22, who is also a co-captain of the team. "Our responses to the judges' questions solidified the notion that we understood complicated ethical concepts."

The team also grappled with the unique format of Ethics Bowl during its preparation. Unlike in debate, where opposing teams take directly contradicting stances

and are judged on their ability to refute all of their opponent's points, teams in Ethics Bowl are scored on their ability demonstrate an understanding of different ethical concepts. Judges determine a winner based on the breadth of topics covered, clarity of presentation, and and professionalism.

Because three of the five members of the team are veteran debaters, the group put a special emphasis on avoiding the refutation-heavy style of speaking they had grown accustomed to.

"Straight refutations are frowned upon and penalized in Ethics Bowl, so we needed to practice demonstrating our understanding of a topic without rebuffing everything our opponent presented," said Zou.

Dr. Fisher, the team's coach, praised the format of Ethics Bowl, saying that it teaches participants how to discuss complex and controversial topics without defaulting to argument.

"I don't think that Ethics Bowl will bring about world peace or heal partisan divides, but there is still a lot to like about its model of searching for the truth together while still pointing out deficiencies in each other's reasoning," they said.

The team hopes to continue their success next year, albeit without the veteran presence of Seniors Ren and Kalavagunta '22.

"I've learned so much from our Seniors, and I'm confident we can keep winning like this next year," said Zou.

## Brooklyn Shooting Stokes Fears

By KATE CHOU '25

Staff Writer

Frank R. James unleashed a barrage of bullets in a crowded Brooklyn subway train on the morning of April 12, injuring 18 people and critically hurting another five. The attack marked the most severe instance in a recent outbreak of violence on the city's public transit system, heightening concerns among New Yorkers about its safety and frustrating government officials, who were already struggling to assuage such fears.

Videos posted online show panicked subway passengers in smoke-filled train cars where officials say Mr. James released two smoke grenade canisters before opening fire with a handgun. Bystanders attempted to help by applying pressure to gunshot wounds while others led victims to safety by directing them to exits once the train pulled into the 36th Street station.

Mr. James escaped on foot amidst the panic, inciting a city-wide effort to identify and apprehend him. According to Mayor Eric Adams, a malfunctioning security camera in the station obstructed the police's effort. Consequently, officers scrambled to cover subway exits and locate security footage that might have captured the shooter fleeing.

Shortly after the attack, police found the U-Haul vehicle Mr. James had rented to carry out the attack, along with several firearms and numerous rounds



Mr. James was arrested on April 13.

of ammunition. He was named as a person of interest by Mr. Adams on the evening of April 12, a designation that was elevated to "suspect" hours later.

The 29-hour manhunt, involving hundreds of police officers and a \$50,000 reward for information leading to an arrest, ended when police captured Mr. James in the East Village on the morning of April 13 after he called Crime

### Officials Struggle to Assuage Riders Back Onto Subways

Stoppers to turn himself in.

He was charged by the Federal District Court for committing a terrorist act on a mass transit system. Prosecutors accused Mr. James of methodically planning the attack, donning a construction worker's vest and carrying a gasoline canister, fireworks, smoke grenades, and handguns onto the packed subway car. Mr. James had previously been arrested twelve times for low level offenses, including possession of illegal weapons, trespassing, and disorderly conduct.

Investigators later uncovered videos Mr. James had posted to YouTube in which he criticized racism and the city's new mayor, and spoke openly about his mental health struggles. The videos grew increasingly violent in the days leading up to the attack. One accused Black women of instigating violence among the Black community and another criticized Mr. Adams, the mayor, for allowing homeless people onto the subway.

The April 12 shooting came amidst an increase in violence on New York's public transit systems, a trend that has concerned city officials. In February, a man killed 40-year-old Michelle Go by pushing her onto the subway tracks, marking the second violent murder on the trains over the course of two weeks.

Students echoed the sentiments of fear and concern. Giulia Hurlock '23, a New Yorker, said, "There needs to be less easy access to guns and there should be more of a background check on purchasers."

Another troubling pattern for authorities is the correlation between these violent attacks and the perpetrators' mental health struggles. Mr. James's lawyers have requested that he receive psychiatric treatment while in custody. They have also questioned whether he is fit to stand trial in his current mental state. Jack Bourdeaux '22, the head of Hotchkiss Democrats, believes the lack of ample mental health support may share some blame for the attack. He said, "People should have mental health resources, people should have economic resources. The number one way to go to prison in the United States is to be poor or have a mental illness."

The trial will take place in the coming months. If convicted, Mr. James will face a life sentence.





Features



CLASS TRIPS

In this issue, Features Editors highlight several course offerings from the spring. From projects, to research, to excursions, departments creatively use resources to engage students across disciplines and subject areas. For more information about courses, consult the course catalog for the latest offerings and opportunities.

In NYC, Econ Students Give Presentation to Startup

By ANTHONY HU '25  
Staff Writer

In recent years, consumer experience has risen to be a top business priority. This is exactly what 27 students are focusing on in Human Centered Design, an upper level spring semester class led by Mr. Adam Lang, instructor in economics.

The class applies many of the concepts from the first semester Foundations of Economics and Policy class to the real world. In the course, students investigate the best approaches to providing products and services for targeted audiences. Mr. Lang said, “We’re trying to understand what [our clients’] anxieties, ambitions, and attitudes are. Then we can design [solutions] for them from the bottom up.”

Students use an iterative design process, which consists of making assumptions and testing them, as well as ana-

lyzing human behavior. Taylor Hemelt '23 said, “Using empathy is important in understanding the user experience. Instead of seeing problems from a corporate point of view, it’s more thinking about the end user’s point of view so our solutions are the most effective, while being reasonable and beneficial.”

Mr. Lang stressed the importance of creative problem-solving in this course,

as students identify issues in public policies, businesses, and communities, and bring different approaches to the solution. Nithya Chundi '23 said, “[The course] really brings the client in, and we can get into the mindset of entrepreneurs in real life scenarios.”

For the past ten weeks, students have been working with Morty, an online mortgage brokerage company, to iden-

tify areas of future growth from three aspects: using cryptocurrency in mortgages, social media strategies, and client education. Students interviewed a real estate agent, marketing executive at Disney, and current and future homeowners to gather insights and data.

On March 31, the Human Centered Design class visited Morty’s office in New York City. Students presented to Morty executives, asked questions, and received feedback. Mr. Lang said, “This was an opportunity to showcase their human-centered methodologies midway through the project, and get feedback from Morty’s perspective.”

Afterwards, students heard from Abby Levy-Westhead, senior operations associate, about startup culture and career advice.

The class’ next project is with 3x3, a women-owned social impact design company. Students will travel to Prospect Park in New York City on May 1 to learn about urban planning. Mr. Lang said, “[In future years], we look forward to more embedded work with clients: getting off-campus more, visiting enterprises more, and helping local businesses more.”

James Yae '23 said, “I would encourage future students to keep an open mind and not jump straight to conclusions, as the design process can be long and repetitive, but ultimately meaning-



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Members at a NAACP conference in Amenia, NY, in 1916.

Students Research Local Roots of NAACP

By AMBER BRETZ '23

In an effort to diversify students’ history experiences, Dr. Lisanne Norman '94, instructor in social sciences, is teaching a class this spring in which local historical landmarks are used as teaching pillars over textbooks.

Eight students are enrolled in the inaugural course — HI486S Honors Early Years of the NAACP & its Local Historical Roots — which studies the longest-running civil rights organization in American history. Students discuss different historical events and the context surrounding the organization’s inception.

Dr. Norman chose to teach the class to expose students to relevant Black history in Northwestern Connecticut. She said, “There is history that connects to the larger African-American experience. [I was getting] students to think beyond our little bubble here at Hotchkiss [since] there is a larger community that we are a part of.”

Each student works on a culminating project of their choice about local history. Dr. Norman invited experts, including a

professor from Amherst College and a documentarian to introduce students to potential research topics and methods. All students will present their work at the Troutbeck Symposium on Friday, a student-led collaboration in which local history is expressed through student exhibitions, art displays and documentaries.

The Troutbeck Inn, located in Amenia, New York, is a historical landmark that hosted two critical NAACP meetings in the early twentieth century. In hosting this event, Troutbeck seeks to sustain a legacy of supporting creative thinkers and next-generation advocates. The event will include Q&A sessions with Pulitzer Prize winner Dr. David Blight, Artist Nona Faustina, and Author Dr. Hasan Kwame Jeffries. Olivia Taylor '22 said, “I am excited to talk to other people that are also passionate about African-American history.”

Interested in delving further into a topic from Lower Mid U.S. History, each student pursued a different topic to deepen their perspective. Olivia Taylor '22 chose to research Marcus Garvey and

his relationship to the NAACP and W.E.B Du Bois. She said, “I ended up picking a research-based class over a traditional history class because I was more into the independent curriculum.” Billy Meneses '22 is examining the role of art in the NAACP through a particular exhibition, “An Art Commentary on Lynching”.

He said, “I am interested in the topic because art can have intentional, political motives, and simultaneously have a transformational impact on the viewer.”

Other student projects include “Lesser-known artists of the Harlem Renaissance,” and “Investigating Mahogany face carvings on Troutbeck Manor House exterior.” The objective of the event — which school community members are encouraged to attend — is for attendees to leave with a deeper understanding of slavery and racism in America.

Anika Balwada '23 said, “While we have a lot of amazing courses at Hotchkiss, students should be better informed of these opportunities that focus on non-eurocentric history. It’s important to learn more about the history of our surrounding area.”

In Cape Cod, Molecular Biology Research Class Works at Marine Lab

By DARINA HUANG '23 and  
PARTH JAIN '24  
Features Editors

Six Senior biology students explored their inner marine scientists through a multi-day laboratory trip. From March 22 to 25, students from BI490, an Honors Molecular Biology Research, traveled to the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, for a research trip.

As a research institute, the MBL uses marine organisms to further develop research in sectors such as conservation biology, neuroscience, and cell biology, among others. The three-day trip included a marine vertebrate and invertebrate anatomy and physiology course with Dr. Lisa Abbo, a marine biologist at the laboratory, as well as hands-on work.

BI490Y, taught by Mr. Paul Oberto P'24 '25, focuses on molecular biology and lab research. Students work on independent projects based on a research question and learn about different lab techniques to conduct research and find solutions. Many research questions investigate DNA sequencing, genetics, and their correlation to phenotypic traits.

Students Attended Lectures and Talked to College Students

Margo Donohue '22 worked on a project that studied the molecular neuroscience of memory, such as the structural and functional components of working memory and its genetic influence. “I knew the class would offer me the flexibility to design my own research project, and I [enjoy] working on something I have a vested interest in,” she said.

Others appreciated the individualized attention.

“The experience was fantastic,” said Carter Levine '22. “We only had a handful of kids, so we each got incredible hands-on experience as well as one-on-one instruction.”

While the trip itself wasn’t directly related to class projects, students gained the opportunity to witness research science in practice. Dr. Abbo gave instruction and guidance on how to pursue research projects in various topics of interest. Students attended lectures on the biodiversity of Woods Hole, saw organisms being cultured for advanced research, and talked to college students

about their research. Donohue said, “We learned about biomedical use of horseshoe crabs, then got to (carefully) draw blood from them ourselves.”

The location of MBL also contributed to their experience. Mr. Oberto said, “The marine ecosystem in Woods Hole is uniquely diverse which allows [researchers] to support a wide array of organisms and research interests.”

Students also addressed this unique opportunity to broaden their scope in the sciences. Donohue said, “Field work is the most immersive and effective way to do research... While Hotchkiss has a plethora of in-depth, frequent opportunities for research in the Humanities (Macleish, Hersey, the LiT conference), much less emphasis is placed on the sciences. Our group agreed we would love to see Hotchkiss be more proactive in offering opportunities like this, encourage donors to help ... and make them accessible to all — beyond just students in BI490.”

BI490 is open to Upperclass students who have taken a full-year high school biology course.

Students from BI490 at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA.



PAUL OBERTO P'24 '25



Opinion

China’s Zero Covid Policy Has Done Enough Harm



KATE CHOU '25

Residents in Shanghai have faced strict quarantine restrictions as part of the government’s attempt to rid the country of Covid-19.

Anonymous

Ever since the first Covid-19 outbreak two years ago, China has taken hard-line measures to contain the pandemic. As the rest of the world returns to normal, with many countries lifting restrictions and making masks optional, China continues its Zero-Covid policy. Each time a few cases appear, entire compounds and districts are put under lockdown. As a result, schools shift constantly between online and in-person on short notice, and society has been halted to a stop.

While many previously thought the strict policies were necessary, public opinion has now shifted from supporting the hard-line policies to opposing them. Despite an increase in Covid-19 cases in mainland China, the government does not have the resources or infrastructure to lockdown households and the larger economy.

The most recent municipality to be placed under strict lockdown protocols is Shanghai, which has faced restrictions for over a month now. During this lockdown, many office buildings and schools were converted into quarantine zones for the infected, and citizens were restricted from leaving their households. Shanghai looks like a ghost town right now. Recent reports and footage of its citizens being starved and deprived of sanitary supplies have surfaced, calling into question the ethicality of China’s strict Zero-Covid policy. A global metropolis of 26 million cannot rely on government workers, active service members, and civilian volunteers to sustain itself. There is not enough cohesive logistical planning from the government to support such an extreme response.

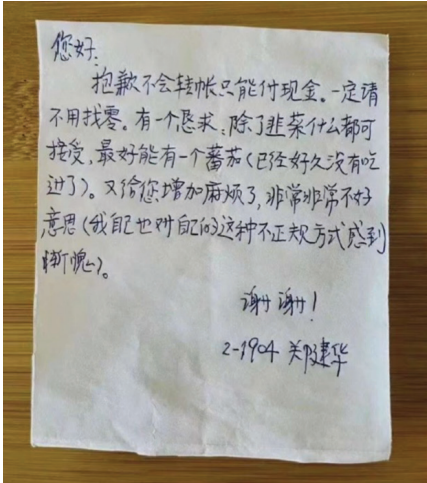
The reality is clear: China’s Zero-Covid policy is not sustainable.

Many citizens of Shanghai have had to rely on the kindness and willingness of friends and neighbors who suffer from the same problem. While supply distribution efforts continue to be inadequate, a current student from Shanghai recalled how his family has managed by trading supplies with other families and stretching supplies for as long as possible. These exchanges range from toiletries for flour, pasta for paper towels, and even

go as far as slices of homemade bread for bottles of water. For lower-income families, however, the reality is much harsher. With the high demand for almost everything in the city, lower-income families do not have enough resources to trade, nor enough money to purchase supplies. The government response never arrived, and entire residential buildings are commonly skipped during the process of food distribution. The student’s family said, “Before enacting the policy, three conditions must be met. 1, there needs to be a guarantee of supplies and food for everyone in the city. 2, those who are infected with the virus must be provided with the necessary medication immediately. Front line workers must also have access to the supplies that they need when they need it. 3, testing and locating infected members of the community needs to be fast and efficient. Rapid testing equipment, as well as accommodation for those in quarantine, is also essential.”

The policy is further hindered by the corrupt “councils” that manage different districts and the distribution of humanitarian aid. Some councils have taken donated relief supplies and put them up for sale privately with ridiculous price tags. Some poor families are not able to afford these commodities, and as a result, many

are surviving off of as little as one cob of corn a day. Residents in Shanghai are suffering because of China’s Zero-Covid policy. It must be re-examined.



WEIBO

In a note to a neighbor, one elderly man pleaded for food. “I do not know how to wire money, so I can only pay with cash,” the man wrote. “I can accept anything, but would appreciate garlic chives and one tomato. I haven’t had one in ages.”

Welcome to the Era of American Inflation

Aaliyah Wang '25

Today, we live in an economy that is constantly changing. However, the most salient change is the increased prices for almost everything we purchase in the past few months. The high inflation rates will only aggravate before they slow down, and as of now, most economists predict that the current trend could last for years. With sophisticated tools to turn the data into useful information to strategize for future decisions, inflation is predicted to persist. Thus, economic managers and the federal government need to consider raising interest rates, wages, and selling assets.

It is crucial to understand the root causes behind high inflation rates as businesses struggle to adapt to the re-opening economy, and people’s daily lives are being immensely affected. Some of the main problems we can see today include rising energy prices, gas prices, supply chain disruptions, corporations’ struggle with finding qualified employees, and the shortage of goods for the rapidly increasing demands. High inflation rates are caused by high consumer demand in the economy met with a low supply of resources. The re-

cent quarter of high inflation was mainly encouraged by the rise in prices for services, durable goods, and nondurable goods. Lower-income households spend most of their income on services and durable and nondurable goods. However, as they represent a smaller share of overall spending, they are underrepresented in the price indexes that track average consumer spending. Although lower-paying jobs offer wages exceeding the pre-pandemic norm to preserve their current workforce, the rapidly increasing prices of goods have not been controlled to meet the salary raises. The imbalance between wage spikes and price increases could also directly impact the country’s economy as consumers may delay purchasing demands if prices continue to rise. These factors have caused a rapid increase in overall inflation, followed by higher prices of goods that put a significant economic burden on many families across the country.

Most supply chain issues are expected to resolve by themselves when the supply begins to align with demands. To prevent the “wage-push” inflation from occurring in the future, it will require more labor productivity in promising

production industries to ameliorate the situation. If the investments in industries such as information-processing equipment generate sufficient future productivity growth to rise and offset wage increases, then wage increases can be supported without increasing labor costs. To resolve the current dilemma, the federal government should raise interest rates, control wages, and start shrinking or selling their assets to put economic growth on hold. However, if the government perseveres with controlling inflation, there will be the possibility of a mild recession, while the growth of inflation rates will be put on hold. But if inflation is not dealt with now, the postponement will only keep the pain away for some time before the government will have to shrink its assets further to deal with the inflation. As a result, this may lead to an even more severe recession.

Therefore, business corporations and the federal government should consider shrinking interest rates, wages, and selling their assets to slow down the economic growth, along with investing in informational equipment for a thorough analysis of the current inflation trend.



Consumer Price Index in the United States

Source: US Federal Labor Bureau





Panelists speak during all-school presentation.

COMMUNICATIONS

EDITORIAL

# What About Mental Health?

At the school, poor mental health has become the norm. Most students — even faculty — describe life at the school as a constant race. Work never stops, and neither does time. Students are forced to choose between sacrificing a social life for time to work, or vice versa. Part of this dynamic can be attributed to the school's reputation as an elite prep school, and the issue is further compounded by school policies such as Saturday classes.

The administration has ostensibly attempted to address mental health on campus. Students have taken numerous surveys regarding the mental climate at the school, listened to guest speakers, and attended fishbowls and discussions about improving the situation. Still, not much has changed.

Last November, the school administered a survey with Authentic Connections, a third-party organization hired to help collect data on the state of mental health on campus. The results of this survey were presented by the Authentic Connections team during an all-school meeting, during which various issues — such as rates of bullying and anxiety — were discussed. However, the programming that followed glossed over many topics that students expected it would cover, including substance use, sleep, and depression. Many students left the meeting doubting the school's willingness or ability to change policies and enact change in response to real data.

In April, Dr. Anne Hallward spoke at an all-school wellness program, another effort by the school to address mental health issues. Prior to her presentation in Walker Auditorium, Dr. Hallward met with members of Peer Listeners, Bring Change to Mind, faculty members, and counseling staff to learn more about the school culture, during students and

teachers raised major concerns about student stress and anxiety. However, to the dismay of many, the presentation was largely focused on abstract themes of stigma and shame. While informative, it lacked relevance to the school community and failed to offer concrete recommendations for change and self-improvement.

These two events epitomize the school's surface-level attempts to create change while no actual plan to do so exists. As such, we believe a chasm of miscommunication exists between students and the administration. Even with initiatives in place such as the all-faculty Wellness Committee, avenues for expressing student opinion to faculty and administration are scarce. Most students rarely get the chance to engage in serious conversations with administrators such as Mr. Steve McKibben, Ms. Amanda McClure, or Mr. Craig Bradley. Thus, students feel left out of the conversation about change at school, further discouraging them to speak up.

We propose allowing students on the Wellness Committee and highlighting mental health at StuFac. We want the administration to genuinely listen. These initiatives will give students the confidence to share their thoughts while increasing the pressure on the administration to act.

We understand that students may sometimes come off as too idealistic or too demanding of the administration, which creates both frustration and animosity.

Nevertheless, we believe that the common ground of student wellness and excellence still stands, and thus that administration, students, and faculty must work together to better our school for all of us.

# The World's Next Grave Threat Isn't Getting Enough Attention



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Ryoto Furutani '25

Amidst a multitude of issues that our generation must tackle, one of them stands out. It's not a hot-button topic — like climate change, violence, poverty, or pollution — that receives endless coverage in the news. It's not another problem caused by something humankind did. Rather, this issue stands out because we've created it by our mere existence. It's called overpopulation, and unless we take quick, innovative action to curb it, we'll start to feel the consequences — many of which we're already experiencing — of a planet filled with too many of us.

A few centuries back, our ancestors likely couldn't fathom that we would ever overpopulate the planet. But over the course of a couple generations, we've gotten quite good at staying alive. Agricultural advancements in the 20th century allowed us to expand food production using fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides — making it cheaper and faster to grow and harvest crops. With more mouths fed, populations — once limited by nutrition — exploded.

Scientists in the medical field have obsessed over discoveries that prolong human life, and as a result, we've developed an arsenal of vaccines, antibiotics, and medicines to defeat a wide range of diseases. Illnesses that once claimed thousands of lives have been eradicated, and medical procedure has transformed previously life-threatening

conditions into routine practice. Life expectancy around the world skyrocketed, and the global population growth rate peaked at 2.02% annually in 1967.

There are many negative effects of overpopulation. First, it contributes to an overall degradation of the natural environment. The over-use of fossil fuels will lead to a rise in CO2 emissions, which would result in the melting of glaciers, changing climate patterns, and a rise in sea level.

Overpopulation diminishes the availability of resources; when this occurs, starvation and malnutrition rates increase.

Furthermore, the impact of overpopulation on the world's wildlife is severe. As demand for land grows, we will deconstruct natural habitats such as forests. Some scientists warn that if the present trend continues, as many as 50% of the world's wildlife species could be at risk of extinction.

Unfortunately, overpopulation could start wars as well. Conflicts over water are becoming a source of tension between nations, and it is possible that these conflicts could develop into wars. Although this effect is not as important, overpopulation would also raise the un-

employment rate, as the rate of population growth would outpace that of job creation. This would increase the crime rate as well.

Finally, overpopulation diminishes the availability of resources; when this occurs, starvation and malnutrition rates increase.

There are several ways to solve this problem. One of the better ways is to educate people about family planning and birth control.

Education for girls is especially imperative. Currently, over 130 million young women around the globe are not enrolled in school. The majority of these girls live in male-dominated societies — particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia — that do not give women ample access to education. Girls who receive less education are more likely to have children at a younger age, and they become more vulnerable to exploitation.

In addition, the government could implement various economic policies to curb overpopulation. One of them might be to waive a certain part of income tax or lowering rates of income tax for those married couples who have one or two children. As we humans are motivated by money, this may produce some positive results.

Earth could support up to 9 to 10 billion people. If the population keeps on increasing at this rate, it is estimated that we will reach the population limit in 2100. Time is ticking, and we need to take action now.

## Corrections

### FEATURES (April 14, 2022)

Because of an editing error, a quotation in the Community Voices Special Feature was misattributed. The quotation came from Jeffrey Lin '25, not Jeffrey Lim '25.

### SPORTS (March 4, 2022)

The final season records graphic misstated the Girls Varsity Basketball record. The team's record was 10-9, not 3-8.

### Contacting the Executive Board

To submit a corrections request, email us at [recordexec@hotchkiss.org](mailto:recordexec@hotchkiss.org).

### Letters to the Editor:

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Arts

Student Soloists Showcase Latest Work in Elfers

By CALLUM RODIN '25  
Staff Writer

Student pianists and instrumentalists gathered in Elfers Hall on April 22 and April 26 to perform their solo pieces for the community. With another upcoming concert on May 3, these three recitals aim to showcase the soloists' work and growth since the first instrumental concerts earlier this school year. Mr. Witkowski, head of the visual and performing arts department said, "The quantity and quality of talent on the campus is a direct reason for the need to split everyone into separate concerts."

Behind the scenes, Mr. Witkowski

ki requested for the student musicians to submit recordings of their solos prior to their performances. The recordings, meant to assess performers' readiness and preparation, highlight the technical and emotional relationship musicians have with their pieces. To this end, Mr. Witkowski said, "If a student [fails to support] their piece, either verbally or through their recording, then being able to perform is out of the question."

For pianists, such as Daniel Li '24, rehearsals consisted of running through their pieces daily for up to hours at a time. In addition to private rehearsals, Li also invited his peers to attend his practices to gain insight

about his performance and audience reactions.

In preparation for these student recitals, it is common for performers to practice daily.

"I've been practicing a lot," said Bill Wang '25, assistant concertmaster in the Hotchkiss Orchestra. "Our performances must include physical expression so [the audience] can further visualize the music in conjunction with our playing. I struggle with this at times because I try to be the least theatrical as possible. However, in most cases, the music speaks for itself."

Reflecting on a series of successful student recitals and performances,

Mr. Witkowski said, "Of course there is an improvement since the last recital. Every year we have more and more talented students."

Student musicians gain valuable experience during these recitals that help them improve from one performance to the next. "Learning how to make [nerves] and butterflies work in your favor is the most important part of performing," said Mr. Witkowski.

Student musicians will have more opportunities to perform throughout the spring, including in performances by the Hotchkiss Choir and the Hotchkiss Philharmonic Orchestra.

*"I'm excited for the community to see the hard work we've been putting into our pieces," said Boffi Lin '24.*

*"I will use this performance as a way to gauge my improvement since my past solo recital," said Clara Ma '23.*



Students perform in Elfers. From bottom left, clockwise: Oliver Chen '22, Tomo Furutani '23, Daniel Li '24, and Jacqueline Wang '23.

Philharmonic Concert is Back After Two Years

From Cover

He said, "Being able to have students working with these musicians will be an amazing opportunity to develop great habits. The more you engage with the pace and atmosphere of a professional orchestra, the more natural it becomes."

Reflecting on the impact of the Hotchkiss Philharmonic Orchestra on her growth as a student musician, concertmaster Gracie Beatty '24 said, "The [Hotchkiss] Philharmonic was a huge factor in my decision to come to Hotchkiss. The orchestra provides such a great opportunity to advance my performance skills and work alongside professional musicians. While the pieces are daunting, the

*"...It provides such a great opportunity to advance my personal performance skills..."*

Concertmaster Gracie Beatty '24

demanding environment mimics that of a professional orchestra. It teaches us to come to rehearsals extremely well prepared and to maximize the limited time we have together."

Mr. Witkowski cites the Philharmonic Orchestra as a selling point to many prospective musicians. Looking into the future, he envisions several philharmonic concerts per year as Covid restrictions continue to lift. Working closely alongside professional orchestras, he plans to invite several professional conductors and soloists from all over the world and colleges to perform at the school.

The concert will be live-streamed and is open to both the community and the public.



Allison Lin '22 in the Philharmonic.

Ilene Park '22 Finds Ceramics Inspiration Within Nature

By CHARLOTTE WOOD '25

Ilene Park '22 is a four-year Senior from Seoul, South Korea. She is a head of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Humane Society, and is an Editor-in-Chief of The Hotchkiss Review. She currently takes ceramics and previously played flute in the Hotchkiss Orchestra.

Did you have any experience with ceramics before coming to this school?

I didn't have any experience, but I had previous exposure from my mum, who has always done ceramics. A lot of the pieces in our house are either traditional Korean ceramics or things she's made. Hotchkiss is the first time I got to do ceramics myself, even though it's always been a large part of my life.

How did you first become interested in the arts, specifically ceramics?

I used to play the flute in the Hotchkiss Orchestra, but when I started to explore

ceramics in the spring of my Prep year, I became really interested in pursuing it at a deeper level. So, I did a non-credit independent study with Ms. Christine Owen, instructor in ceramics, my Lower Mid year. I moved on to fully committing to ceramics as a course during my Upper Mid year. My interest in ceramics at Hotchkiss was fostered not only by the great facilities, but also by the beautiful view from the ceramics wing.

How has the school helped you grow as an artist? What has the school been able to provide you with to excel in your designated interest?

Hotchkiss as a space itself has helped me grow. On top of the facilities, there is inspiration from the nature at Hotchkiss and from my peers. I was in Honors Ceramics this year with only four other people, and we have served as inspirations to each other. The main way I have developed is through Ms. Owen, who



Ilene Park '22 trimming a bowl on the wheel.

guided me through finding what I like to do in ceramics and how I can become a better artist. She comes up with creative and effective ways to express my ideas.

What's your favorite part of ceramics?

My favorite part is how you can transform a mound of clay into something useful, like a mug or a bowl, or sculptural and artistic. Just witnessing and being part of this transformation is my favorite part.

What is the favorite piece you've created recently or has had the biggest impact on you?

As a part of my collection, *Metamorphosis*, I created these mugs, and the

bodies of the cups have handles attached to them that represent stages of the butterfly's life cycle. That piece has had the most impact on me because it reflects

*"My favorite part is how you can transform a mound of clay into something useful, like a mug or bowl."*

my personal interest in animal welfare. It was also a way for me to intersect my passions for ceramics and the Humane Society.

What advice would you give to younger students who are interested in ceramics?

With ceramics, you have to experiment with what you do. You can't be afraid of messing up or not getting it right the first time. Throwing on the wheel is a difficult experience, but I promise that you'll get a hang of it. Sculpting and handbuilding are also just avenues for you to express your creativity. Keep doing it.



# Sports



ANNA TRAGGIO

Zinn-Keane competing in a Cross Country meet in 2021.

## Owen Zinn-Keane '22 Crushes the Competition

By HOLDEN BURNS '25  
Staff Writer

Owen Zinn-Keane '22 is a three-year Senior and co-captain of the Boys Varsity Track and Field team. During the fall season, Zinn-Keane also ran for the Boys Varsity Cross Country team. Co-captain Huck Whittemore '22 said, "Owen is a great leader to have around on the team. He leads by example and can always make the team laugh. He works hard and everyone on the team wants to replicate that. He pushes me in practice and never gets complacent."

**How long have you been a member of the Boys Varsity Track team?**

I've been running track since seventh grade, but I came into Hotchkiss as a new Lower Mid. So, I haven't experienced a real season at Hotchkiss because of the pandemic. The other captains, younger guys on the team, and I are really excited for this spring season with a full schedule.

**How were you introduced to Track?**

My dad was a pretty big-time runner back in the day, however, he didn't push it on me. I played soccer and baseball in elementary school, but when I made it to middle school I decided to make the change. I'm really glad I did because I've loved it ever since.

**What motivates you?**

I know for the Cross Country team, we've been working so hard for so long, and we placed second against Loomis at the Founders League meet. Coming into my Senior year, our team went all in this season and luckily we won at Founders. That was a big moment and we all motivated each other to achieve this goal. I'm going into the track season with a similar goal. Following what we did in the fall, I want to have fun and win in the last season of my career here.

**What do you love most about the Boys Varsity Track team?**

I would say meeting people you don't really see throughout the day, especially the younger people on the team. Our team is extremely close this year in comparison to years past, which has been an amazing part of Hotchkiss for me. Just always having that fun team environment you can rely on when you're on the track and off of it. I'm glad for those relationships because it makes the season much more fun.

**What has been your greatest challenge as a runner for the Hotchkiss Track team and how did you overcome it?**

My greatest challenge would probably be not running in a real track season since my freshman year at my

old school, which is pretty crazy considering I've been here for three years and am now a captain. It's just a really unique experience. Staying focused, putting in the work, and continuing to train even when there's not a meet in sight has been hard. However, I'm so glad that I have been because now we actually have a real season. It's going to be fun to compete and showcase all of our work.

**How has Hotchkiss supported you as a runner?**

My Lower Mid year, we were all sent home because of the pandemic but our coaches still had fun training events for us to do at home. It was hard, but it gave me something to do while away from campus. Last year, our coaches made it really possible for us to improve with virtual meets. Our coaches have definitely been with us all this time, and I'm thankful for how they handled the pandemic situation. I also want to shout-out

*"Running is all about trusting the process and continuing to put in the work because over time, it really makes a difference."*

Mr. Pierre Yoo; he was a big reason why I really ended up liking Hotchkiss when I first came, and he's just always been there for me. It's gratifying to go out there and make him proud.

**Is there a particular highlight or favorite moment from your time as a member of the Boys Varsity Track team?**

Last year, I was close with a few seniors on the team. Although it was a virtual meet, it was a lot of fun to run with them one last time before they graduated because I knew I was never going to see them again. It's nice to cherish those relationships with the Seniors. I'm hoping that I can do the same at the end of this year.

**Any advice for current or future Hotchkiss runners?**

We have some really talented young guys on the team that I have had the chance to run with for at least a year or two. They are great people, and I know they will eventually become great captains and leaders when it is their time. Running is all about trusting the process and continuing to put in the work because over time it really makes a difference. I just hope they enjoy their experience like I have over the last three years.

## Expanded Rowing Program Begins Racing

From Cover

back which only makes me want to work harder."

Moreover, the large size of the team has demanded close coordination between the coaches and the team's five co-captains. One of the strengths of the team is its ability to blend experienced rowers with new rowers who are enthusiastic about the sport. Co-captain Nani Veluchamy '22 said, "It feels amazing to be a mentor on this team. I remember what it was like to be a novice rower and the impact the more experienced rowers had on me and I just want to pass on that connection. It's the start of our very first

racing season and I want everyone to really enjoy the sport."

Since the team started right before the pandemic hit, there have been many ups

*"I feel very supported by my fellow coxswains, who are constantly rooting for my success," said Inzerillo.*

and downs in terms of the team's success. Coach McGee recalls how hard it was to see what direction the program was headed in and if it would even be able to

continue on after Covid. Now that school is back to a somewhat normal environment, Coach McGee has a direct vision on where she wants to take the rowing team. She said, "I have a clear idea of the potential based on what we have done so far and the enthusiasm around the sport. It's exciting to think about the growth I have gotten here as a coach, and every year I find ways to be better and make slight changes to test new ideas."

As the season continues to progress, the team has high hopes for the direction of the program and its strong future.

**The boys team prepares to launch at a regatta.**



WILL LEVY '24

## Coach Traggio Leads Girls Lacrosse to Success

By ALEJANDRO ZHENG '24

Mrs. Anna Traggio is the head coach of Girls Varsity Lacrosse. The team has recently started off the season with a long streak of wins, accumulating a record of 7-0. They've won these games by wide margins: Westminster 14-3, Andover 16-3, Williston 19-4, Millbrook 18-2, Canterbury 18-1, Choate 20-3, and Loomis 16-6.

**What do you enjoy about the team culture?**

The girls; I just have so much fun with them. They are funny, kind, super dedicated, and we just have a great time. It's like hanging out with a bunch of friends.



COMMUNICATIONS

Head Coach Anna Traggio.

**How has the start of the season been?**

The spring trip was great. We had a really good time hanging out together, honing our skills, and getting back into the swing of things. As far as the competitive season goes, the girls have been on fire. They have worked really hard to prevent teams from scoring and have done an amazing job putting the ball in the net. It's been really fun and unselfish: lots of different people are scoring, lots of goals are assisted, and the defense and goalies are playing great.

**What are you looking forward to for the rest of the season?**

I think a lot of our really good com-

petition is coming up, so we're just trying to focus on pushing each other and challenging each other during our practices to make sure we're prepared to play teams who are as athletic and talented as we are. We're really excited for the competition because I think the girls have been sort of sad that they haven't been necessarily pushed as hard as they can be. I think that's the other sign of such a great athletic mind and our intensity. They would rather play a team that's really hard than blow out an uncompetitive team because you can feel better about yourself and have more pride in your hard work.

**What makes this year different from the previous years? Are there any changes being made because of those differences?**

Covid certainly has changed things. Our players experienced the season when Covid broke out, and that was really upsetting. Everybody was pretty sad about that, but I think after coming back last year and being able to coach all year while seeing success in our only eight games, we've also grown and matured. We've gotten some great new players; some of our youth is just outstanding and I'm so excited to be with them for the future. Coming off of not having a full season and being really eager, we have a lot of Seniors who didn't get to play for many years. I've only really coached my daughter for one season and she's a senior. The Seniors are just so excited to leave their legacy and leave their mark.

**Are there any new challenges the team will have to face this season?**

Absolutely. We are playing Loomis, Taft, Greenwich Academy, Sacred Heart, and Deerfield, which are probably the biggest competition we'll be seeing. I think Sacred Heart might be ranked super high nationally. If so, we're going to see really good competition, which will be a great test for us. Taft is also really good this year. They have college commits, just like we do, so I think those will all be really great

games.

**Has the team ever been this successful in past years? Can you talk a bit about the history of the team?**

This is my 20th season and we have had a lot of success. We've won a number of Founders and some Westerns, and tied for some of them. We've always been pretty strong. I think we had one down season, which was just an unfortunate rebuilding year. We've always had really great success. To me, this season feels a little different because of the appreciation to be playing, which is probably due to Covid. It also feels different because we have a really strong senior leadership. All of our seniors are great leaders; each one of them in their different ways. The younger kids are willing to learn and make mistakes, which we talk about a lot. Also, I think I've really matured as a coach. When I first started I only had two kids, but now I have four. My kids are grown and I've been through so many different teams, kids, attitudes, and cultures. With my maturity and the joy they're getting, it's just really special.

**What are some reasons the team has been so successful this season?**

The spring break trip is just awesome for culture. We played a lot of games and had a lot of fun contests involving costumes, singing, or dancing. I think people are always brought together when they're able to make fun of themselves and feel safe in their environment to be able to do that. It also helps to get to know people away from school in a more relaxed space. I think that's really led to a successful season. We have incredible athletes, so that primarily gives us an edge. We have a lot of really great lacrosse players as well, I mean there are people who play lacrosse first (as their first/primary sport), so their lacrosse IQ is really good. They're just super talented and they're having fun, so when you have fun, good things happen.



# Following 99 Day Lockout, Baseball is Back

By GRAHAM PRINZ '24

After the second-longest lockout in the history of the league, Major League Baseball has returned. The lockout lasted from December 2, 2021 to March 10, 2022. The player's union



JUSTIN BROWN

At T-Mobile Park in Seattle, Washington.

and the MLB owners and executives were at extreme odds regarding Minor League systems, salary caps, and other monetary issues. The lockout lasted 99 days and affected the regu-

lar-season schedule. Opening Day was pushed back from March 30 to April 7, canceling each team's first two series. Nonetheless, baseball is back, with all 30 teams roughly 20 games into their 162-game season.

Despite the tension and disagree-

gest name infielders signed with new teams. Some of those include Freddie Freeman (Dodgers), Trevor Story (Red Sox), Carlos Correa (Twins). The struggling Texas Rangers spent the most money, paying \$500 million to build a new middle infield by inking Shortstop Corey Seager (10 yr, \$325 mil) and Second-Baseman Marcus Semien (7 yr, \$175 mil) to deals that keep them in Arlington for years to come.

Another notable change to the league is the introduction of the universal Designated Hitter (DH). Historically, the American League (AL) has always had a DH hit in the place of the pitcher, while the pitchers themselves hit in the National League (NL). This year, a new rule was implemented allowing both leagues to utilize the DH spot, allowing for more offensive power.

The Toronto Blue Jays, who missed the 2021 Postseason by a single game, began the year as the favorites to win the AL. They are led by MVP candidate Vladimir Guererro Jr. and new offseason acquisitions Third-Baseman Matt Chapman and Pitcher Kevin Gausman. On the flip side, the Los Angeles Dodgers are favored to win the NL. The squad features a lineup full of All-Stars, including newly-signed Freddie Freeman, as well as former MVP Mookie Betts.

Despite these popular predictions, many believe that this won't be the World Series match-up in 2022. The Atlanta Braves look to repeat as champions, while their division rivals, The Philadelphia Phillies, are looking to be a dark-horse candidate after major free agent signings. Furthermore, the AL East looks to become one of the most exciting and competitive, with four of the five teams vying for the division championship.



SHANNON MCGEE

Woods prepares for an important putt at the Masters in Augusta, Georgia.

## Tiger Woods Makes Return to Masters, Drawing Crowds

By T.J. PARK '25

Returning from a car crash last February, Tiger Woods made his grand return to the 2022 Masters. Golf fans around the world swarmed to Augusta, Georgia to perhaps watch the former champion rise again to glory. Woods is possibly the sport's most influential athlete and his iconic Sunday red is noticeable anywhere on the golf course. After his struggles with prescription medication, his 5th Master win in 2019 was a defining moment of his career. Even during his practice rounds, fans gathered around the tee box as if the hole was the real deal. However, while Woods managed to make the cut at Augusta National for four days, he ended with 47th place finish and score of 6 over par.

Woods has had numerous back injuries throughout the majority of his career. Multiple injuries and five surgeries have shaped his spine so much that it has become a major liability in his golf game. In addition, the car crash last February injured his right leg and even mentions that he was very lucky to come out of the accident with a right leg at all. His first swing video on social media as well as his performance in the PNC tournament showed that perhaps a 6th green jacket was possible.

Fast forward to Augusta and his practice games seemed on point, making birdies and pars, playing how he had always played. He finished the first day with a

score of -1. This was quite a promising look, however, Woods finished with an underwhelming score of 13 over. Of course, this is completely understandable and perhaps can even be praised for surviving the tournament all four days. Perhaps fans around the world were just happy to see a veteran of the game play at one of the sport's most coveted tournaments. Woods' return is undoubtedly a great boon to the sport of golf as a whole.

But what does this mean for golf? Could Woods perhaps make it to the top again? Woods doesn't have his youthful strength and body to perhaps handle the rigors of the course, at least professionally. Constantly playing the game to perfection and trying to win over and over again at the highest level can be difficult for such an individual who has gone through so much. However, Woods' impact will still be in the game. He revolutionized the sport, turning golf into something deemed as for old folks to a much younger audience. His impact could be compared to Jackie Robinson, Michael Jordan, Muhammad Ali. He is the greatest golfer of all time, and will be remembered that way. Perhaps Woods will continue to make appearances at major tournaments, but a full time career doesn't seem to be something in his future. Either way, Woods will be remembered for revolutionizing the sport of golf forever.

### OPINION

## Formula One Season Begins With Upsets

By MATIAS ACEVEDO '24

After a thrilling finish to the 2021 Formula One season, Max Verstappen claimed his first World Driver's Championship by narrowly edging out the reigning champion and eight-time title winner, Lewis Hamilton, on the last lap of the last race of the season, following a much-criticized rules decision. From start to finish, the 2021 season was nothing short of historical; filled with on and off-track bitterness and animosity as it brought the closest title battle in years. After just three races, this season is proving to be no different as revolutionary regulation changes have provided smaller teams an opportunity to challenge more historically successful teams. With nineteen races still remaining, there is a lot to look forward to for the rest of the 2021 Formula 1 season.

The season kicked off with the Bahrain Grand Prix on March 20, and after a strong qualifying performance, Ferrari seemed to have buried their woes from recent years, following up a strong qualifying performance, with their drivers, Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz, finishing in the first and second positions respectively. Max Verstappen's Red Bull, who was behind Leclerc in second place for the entirety of the race, suffered a fuel pressure failure with three laps to go, causing him not to finish. His teammate, Sergio Perez, suffered the same issue two laps later, ending a Grand Prix to forget for Red Bull. Mercedes, the 2021 Constructor Champions, struggled to carry previ-

ous success over to the opening race of the season; a poor qualifying session plagued by car issues saw them finish in fifth and ninth. Helped by Red Bull's troubles, Mercedes was able to turn their weekend around with great drives from Lewis Hamilton and new signee George Russell. Hamilton secured the last podium spot and Russell finished behind him in fourth. With a powerful Ferrari-made engine under the hood, the only American team in Formula 1, Haas, surprised many after finishing fifth and eleventh, since they had not a single top-10 result last season. Returning for his second stint at Haas, Kevin Magnussen was immediately back at home, capping off the opening race of the season with an impressive fifth place. His rookie teammate, son of the legendary Michael Schumacher, Mick, finished eleventh. Ex-Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas capped off an impressive drive at sixth in his new Alfa Romeo, while Alpha Tauri's Yuki Tsunoda finished in eighth between Alpine's Esteban Ocon and Fernando Alonso. Rounding off the top ten was Bottas' teammate, rookie Zhou Guanyu, China's first-ever Formula 1 driver. A week later, drivers flew to Saudi Arabia for the second Grand Prix of the race calendar. Sergio Perez started in pole position after winning the qualifying session, but he fell short on race day finishing in fourth place. Verstappen however, outperformed his teammate and won the race in dramatic fashion as he was able to overtake Leclerc with three laps to go, securing his first win of the season. The pair of Ferrari's picked

up the last two podium spots with Leclerc once again finishing above Sainz. George Russell finished in fifth while Lewis Hamilton's car was the tenth to cross the finish line, ending another disappointing weekend for Mercedes. The drivers returned to Australia for the first race in Melbourne since 2019, and once again, Charles Leclerc impressed. The Monegasque driver won his second race of the season by following up his top qualifying position with a comfortable win. Sainz, however, spun into the gravel on the first lap, putting an end to his short-lived race. Verstappen didn't do much better, as an engine failure ended his race on the thirty-eighth lap. Perez finished second and George Russell earned the first podium finish of his Formula 1 career, while Hamilton followed him in fourth.

For the rest of the season, I predict Ferrari will be crowned winners of the Constructors Championship for the first time since 2008, despite a late-season resurgence from Hamilton and Mercedes. As for the driver's championship, I believe Charles Leclerc will narrowly edge out Hamilton and Verstappen en route to his first-ever World Drivers Title. Leclerc and Ferrari both hold comfortable leads over their competitors but with nineteen races now left in the calendar, no one can predict the excitement and controversy from now until November in Abu Dhabi.

Drivers race in a Formula One event from the 2010 season.



MORIO

## Boys Varsity Tennis Competes at Kingswood-Oxford Tournament

By MAADHAVAN PRASANNA '25

Staff Writer

During the weekend of April 9 and 10, Boys Varsity Tennis traveled to West Hartford and competed in the Kingswood-Oxford Invitational Tennis Tournament (KIT). In addition to the Boys Varsity Tennis team's successful season so far, captains Keith Matanachai '22, Jerry Qiao '22, and Luke Louchheim '22, along with Jared Leong '23 competed against the top four players of eight other schools including Groton, Deerfield, Kingswood-Oxford, Choate, Lawrenceville, Westminster, and Hall High School. The players came away

### Team Seeks Founders Championship This Season

Chaffee, Taft, and Choate. According to Tennis Program Director Edgar Giffenig, "This year's team is above average ... and has been taking advantage of the school's excellent facilities [indoor courts] to improve on their individual weaknesses. Senior captains Qiao, Louchheim, and Matanachai have been with the team since their Prep year and serve as strong leaders for our team."

Kingswood-Oxford is a distinctive tournament because of its unique format organized in separate flights, which are sets of matches based on a player's rankings on their respective teams. Coach Giffenig believes that Kingswood-Oxford "provides a lot of opportunities to play, which we [the team] haven't had since the start of Covid. It also helps us see the skill of other teams."

While providing the players with many opportunities to play is a big draw of the tournament, it also challenged the players. Matanachai said that "having not played very many tournaments during Covid, it was tough to face the large amount of matches concentrated into a small time...we had a disadvantage against players from day schools who were playing tournaments the whole time [throughout most of the pandemic]." The team battled these challenges by staying disciplined, prioritizing nutrition and sleep, and working hard in practice. Matanachai and Coach Giffenig agree that the goal of the season is "to win founders, and do well at the Southern New England level."



MATTHIJS VAN MIERLO

Jerry Qiao '22 returns a volley.

with 24 points, earning them a strong second place finish behind Groton's 28 points. They also held a large lead ahead of third-place Deerfield, who earned 14 points.

The season so far has included strong performances against Loomis