



Memorial Is Renamed Hurst Hall

By BRIAN LI '29

On Friday, October 24, Associate Dean of Student Life Kinyette Henderson announced during All-School Meeting that Memorial Hall would be renamed Hurst Hall. The following day, a naming ceremony was hosted outside the dorm.

The recently renovated hall is named in honor of the Hurst family: Bob and Soledad Hurst P'97;'23;'24, as well as their three children, Trustee Alex Hurst '97, Jaidyn Hurst '23, and Jared Hurst '24.



A new sign was placed outside the dormitory before the naming ceremony on Saturday, October 25.

BEAYORKE '26

A new plaque in the dorm foyer reads, "This building is named in honor of the Hurst Family, whose extraordinary generosity made its renewal possible."

Memorial Hall, built in 1923 by architect Cass Gilbert, was commissioned by poet Archibald MacLeish, class of 1911, and named in honor of the alumni who lost their lives in World War I (including his own brother Kenneth

MacLeish, who died in Belgium). The dedication was eventually extended to include all alumni who died in foreign wars.

The hall underwent significant renovation in 1963. While the refurbishment updated the hall to adapt to changing residential

needs, its small apartments made it challenging to house faculty families. Mr. Keith Moon, instructor in history and English, who arrived at the school in 1989, was head of Memorial Hall for three years. He said, "My apartment was a combination of six dorm rooms,

so we, as a family, were incredibly cramped."

The building was next renovated in 2022. This renovation updated electrical wiring, expanded faculty apartments, added an outdoor terrace on the building's quad side, and completely replaced the old

Common Room. The Common Room renovations were made possible by a gift from Mr. Larry Flinn '53, GP'22. The Hurst Family's contributions made the larger renovations possible.

The quad surrounded by Hurst, Wieler, and two Cass Gilbert faculty houses has been renamed the Memorial Quadrangle. A plaque was recently installed on one of the campus pathways to indicate the change. Inscribed on the stone is a commemorative statement: "This quadrangle is dedicated to the Hotchkiss graduates who made the supreme sacrifice in foreign wars."

A new plaque indicating the name change for the building itself now hangs in the dorm's foyer.

The plaque reads, "This building is named in honor of the Hurst Family, whose extraordinary generosity made its renewal possible. Originally built in 1923 as Memorial Hall, named in memory of Hotchkiss graduates who lost their lives in WWI, Hurst Hall will continue to serve as a place of learning, friendship, and community for generations of students to come. The Common Room and Memorial Quad honor Hotchkiss graduates who made the supreme sacrifice in foreign wars. Hotchkiss will forever remember the Hurst Family's enduring love for the School."

Restored "Standing Lincoln" Returns to Edsel Ford Memorial Library Reading Room

By ROSE MORLOCK '28
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, October 15, "Standing Lincoln," an important piece of art owned by the school, returned to the Edsel Ford Memorial Library for the first time since the space closed for renovations on April 3, 2024.

The statue is a reduction of a large-scale bronze sculpture of the same name by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, which stands in Lincoln Park, Chicago. The reduction was given to the school in 1939 by Homer Sawyer, class of 1909.

"We decided to have the statue cleaned and additional work done to the base while it was off campus," said Ms. Joan Baldwin.

What prompted Mr. Sawyer to give the school the piece or how he came to have it are questions that are yet to be answered. However, we do know that earlier that year the school's eight-foot tall plaster version of Lincoln, purchased by the second head of school Mr. Huber Buehler from Caproni Brothers in Boston, began to deteriorate. (It was also the victim of numerous pranks.) The plaster Lincoln was given to Housatonic Valley Regional High School, where it still resides. The gift

from Sawyer might have been an effort to replace this plaster version.

The bronze version of "Standing Lincoln" has been placed in many parts of the school; it first stood in the original Main Building, before being moved to the south end of the library in 1953. After the 1996 renovation of the Main Building, it was placed in the Seminar Room and spent time in the hallway outside the math and history wing before being returned to the library.

Conservation was carried out by Williamstown Art Conservation. The work and was prompted by last year's library renovation, which necessitated moving and storing the statue. Ms. Joan Baldwin, curator of special collections, said, "We decided to kill two birds with one stone and have the statue cleaned and additional work done on the base."

The goal of the restoration was to remove active areas of corrosion, repair damaged coating, and reintegrate areas of patina loss. A protective sacrificial paste wax coating was also applied to the surface of the sculpture.

Ms. Baldwin reported that there are 16 or 17 other reproductions of the "Standing Lincoln" in existence, including at Yale, Harvard, and in the American Wing at the Metropolitan. Astrid Bingham '28 said, "I feel proud that Hotchkiss can sit next to those other big names."

One reduction, presented by the American ambassador to the U.K., currently stands in Parliament Square in London; another, presented by former president Lyndon Johnson to the people of

Mexico, is located in Mexico City.

There has generally been a positive reaction to the restoration and return of the statue. Ms. Baldwin said, "I hope people think about Lincoln—the person he was and the way St. Gaudens chose to represent him." Charlotte Macaffee '28 said, "I really like how they've kept it through the years. The renovation definitely made the library more modern looking, but I think the statue brings back some reminiscence of old Hotchkiss."



BEAYORKE '26

The original large-scale statue stands in Lincoln Park, Chicago.



LEON LI '26

MP1 Is Just a Practice Round!

Sienna Hwang '27

Marking Period 1 grades just came in, but don't panic. These early grades are exactly that: early. MP1 is just one scene in the movie of your school year—a snapshot of where you are now, not where you'll end up. My chemistry

OPINION grade from last year is definitive proof of that (pfft, I'm not sharing what it was!).

For new students acclimating to the school, there's always a learning curve. Adjusting to new expectations and study habits takes time, so it's completely normal that your initial set of grades reflects that transition. And even for returning students, it can take time to settle into higher-level courses.

But here's the good news: there are so many chances in a semester and throughout the rest of the year to improve. Our grading system is designed this way because learning is about progress, not perfection. Teachers use MP1 as a checkpoint—a time to offer feedback and help us see where and how we can do better.

Think of it as the academic version of a practice round. Sometimes it takes some lousy practice to give you the insight and motivation to perform better in the real game.

And by the end of the year, those MP1 grades can make for a very satisfying "told you so" moment with your parents—not that I'm speaking from experience, of course.

NEWS 2

Debaters Attend Internationals
Teo Everts '26, Shayee Lee '26, and Andrew Roraback '27 placed at IISPC.

Community Service Award

Mr. Scott Busby '77 was honored for his dedication to human rights.

FEATURES 3

Happy Halloween!
Take a look at how students celebrated the spooky season on campus.



LEON LI '26

OPINION 3

Keep Memorial Hall's Name
Veterans Club co-head Henry Rowe '27 objects to Hurst Hall renaming.

Patriotism Isn't Dead

Americans are defined by our defiance, argues Tate Collins '27.

ARTS 4

AOI: Albert Chen '26
The Art Club co-head discusses his visual art, music, and dance.



LEON LI '26

SPORTS 4

Alum AOI: Nell Dwyer '24
Dwyer is a starting defender on the women's soccer team at William Smith.

Football Wins Under the Lights

Varsity Football earned a convincing 53-14 win against Trinity-Pawling.

News

Students Travel to Maine for International Public Speaking & Debate Competition

By TRACY PHAM NGOC '28
Staff Writer

From October 16 to 19, Teo Everts '26, Shaye Lee '26, and Andrew Roraback '27 traveled to Portland, Maine to represent the school at the International Independent Schools Public Speaking Competition (IISPSC).

IISPSC draws students primarily from Canada and the United States, along with participants from several other countries. This year's tournament brought together 118 students from 37 schools in six nations.

The tournament consisted of two rounds and featured a variety of events, including parliamentary debate, extemporaneous speaking, after-dinner, and persuasive speaking.

Lee, Everts, and Roraback each made the finals in at least one event. Roraback earned first place speaker for extemporaneous speaking, which gives students 30 minutes to prepare a speech on a randomly assigned current event. He said, "Extemporaneous speaking was challenging, since I had never done it before. I really enjoyed it, though, and was able to adapt quickly. Other than

that, the experience was fantastic."

Everts and Lee qualified for the parliamentary debate finals, with Everts earning second place overall speaker in that category. Everts also qualified for the impromptu speaking finals, where he placed fourth. "I'm proud that we put our best foot forward and represented Hotchkiss well while still managing to have a good time," said Everts.

Preparation for the IISPSC is quite different from the speech and debate team's usual tournaments. Most fall events are parliamentary debates. Coach Thomas Fisher and advanced students prioritized helping novices prepare and gain experience debating this fall.

For IISPSC, students write and prepare speeches for events such as after-dinner and persuasive speaking and practice them in advance. The students selected for internationals are therefore typically the most experienced debaters.

Ideally, students prepare these speeches over the summer, but in practice, most continue to work on them during the first months of the school year. Dr. Fisher said, "I'm an affiliate at Teo's dorm, so he would

come by the common room and pitch ideas for his persuasive speech. Shaye would also share topics for her after-dinner speech to get my feedback on them. Impromptu speeches are especially enjoyable to watch, because students can be very creative with their speeches. I'm happy to see everyone finding something they enjoy at debate practices."

The team meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. "It felt amazing to represent Hotchkiss on such an important stage, but I don't want the team's only goal to be producing impressive individual results. Debate club should be a fun and welcoming community that people look forward to joining and enjoy being part of," said Everts.

The school also had a strong showing at past tournaments this fall. Connor Gardner '28 and Asher Blake '28 placed second overall team at the St. Sebastian's Debate Tournament, a novice-only event, with Gardner earning second place speaker.

Luis Guerra '28 and Tracy Pham '28 also placed second as a novice pair at the Choate Invitational Debate Tournament. Guerra said, "The tournament is a great place to get feedback on the way you argue. Overall, I learned a lot about the organization of my argument and how I should pose counterclaims better."

The team looks forward to upcoming Debating Association of New England Independent Schools (DANEIS) competitions, including a home tournament on January 11, followed by tournaments at Kingswood-Oxford on February 1, St. Sebastian's on February 22, and Hopkins on March 1.

Dr. Fisher said, "I'm optimistic about the program this year. It's a matter of finding time and opportunities for new people, because I really believe in spreading out tournament participation across all skill levels. In the long run, this helps the team grow as a whole."



DR. THOMAS FISHER

Andrew Roraback '27, Teo Everts '26, and Shaye Lee '26 represented the school.

Admission's Fly-In Program Welcomes 17 Student Visitors

By GUINEVERE BARRIENTOS '29

This year's Admission's Fly-in Program took place from Friday, October 31 to Saturday, November 2.

The Fly-in Program was an initiative created to make it possible for students who may not have the resources to visit campus on their own to get to know the school.

The program was started five years ago by former Director of Equity and Inclusion Yassine Talhaoui and Mr. Erby Mitchell,

assistant head of school and dean of admission and financial aid.

During this year's program, students from around the country shared meals and attended classes with past fly-in program attendees.

They also attended talks by faculty to learn about interview tips, life beyond the classroom, supports at the school, and travel opportunities. Some students also had their interviews while on campus.

This year, the school welcomed 17 fly-in students, every one of whom,

in contrast to previous years when some students drove, actually flew in to attend the event.

Current program organizer and Coordinator of Multicultural Outreach and Recruitment Souleman Toure '19 said, "The program was created to try to get students on campus who maybe didn't have the ideal resources to get here. We know that it's really important for families to see and experience being on campus in order to be convinced to eventually apply."



COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Busby served in the U.S. Department of State.

Scott Busby '77 Receives Community Service Award

By RIKAKO UMEZAWA '27
Staff Writer

Mr. Scott Busby '77 has been named the recipient of this year's Community Service Award by the school's Alumni Association.

Established in 1992 to commemorate the school's centennial, the award recognizes alumni who have made a profound contribution in their spheres and serve as inspirational role models for the entire school community.

For over three decades, Mr. Busby dedicated himself to advancing human rights and supporting refugees through his work with the U.S. Department of State and the United Nations.

Until his retirement in September 2023, Mr. Busby served for ten years as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, where he led efforts to promote labor

rights, hold perpetrators of human rights abuses accountable through sanctions, and strengthen democracy institutions in regions across East Asia, Africa, the Americas, and beyond.

His leadership helped shape U.S. and international politics by protecting vulnerable populations and promoting global cooperation.

The Community Service Award honoree is selected each year by the Nominating Committee for Awards of the Alumni Association Board of Governors. This year the nominated committee was co-chaired by Ms. Cameron Hough '09 and Mrs. Whitney PakPour Zeta '04.

Mr. Busby's lifelong commitment to service stands as a reminder of how one person's dedication can create lasting impact far beyond our walls. He was honored on campus during a ceremony on Tuesday, November 4.



COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Busby meeting with former President of Taiwan Tsai Ing-wen.

THE HOTCHKISS RECORD Est. 1893

127TH EDITORIAL BOARD

EXECUTIVE BOARD

KATHARINE ELLIS '26 *Editor-in-Chief*

SHAYE LEE '26 *Editor-in-Chief*

JACK MCCARTHY '26 *Editor-in-Chief*

FACULTY ADVISORS

ANN VILLANO

EMMA WYNN

NEWS

JACKSON GRACE '26 *Editor*

DEVEN PATEL '27 *Editor*

OPINIONS

ANNABELLE CHU '28 *Editor*

CLEMMIE MORLOCK '26 *Editor*

ARTS

JEREMY FANG '28 *Editor*

EMMA LIU '26 *Editor*

FEATURES

ELLIE KEUM '26 *Editor*

JULIAN ZHANG '26 *Editor*

SPORTS

SHAAN PATEL '27 *Editor*

BEN WISTAR '26 *Editor*

GRAPHICS

LEON LI '26 *Editor*

LAUREN NIEM '26 *Editor*

PHOTO

TRAV APPLE '28 *Editor*

BEA YORKE '26 *Editor*

DIGITAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

THEA DUNCKEL '26 *Director*

WEBSITE

KEVEN LUIRU '27 *Manager*

STAFF WRITERS

JEREMY CAO '28, THEA DUNCKEL

'26, SIENNA HWANG '27, KHLOE

KIM '28, STELLA LIAO '27, KEVEN

LUIRU '27, TAYLOR PANG '27,

TRACY PHAM NGOC '28, RIKAKO

UMEZAWA '27

DISTRIBUTION

Student Population: 625; Faculty: 124.

600 copies are printed. Scholastic press

affiliations: CSPA, NSPA.

Features and Opinions

Dance & Haunted House Offer Halloween Thrills

By SOFIA CLARK '27

On Saturday, October 25, princesses, devils, and “cereal killers” gathered in the MAC foyer for the annual Halloween Dance, organized by the Lower Mid class council and Ms. Marcie Wistar, director of student activities and clubs. The ordinarily tidy MAC foyer was a spectacle of flashing lights, giant spooky inflatables, and Halloween-themed decorations. CulinArt offered a table of candy, snacks, and punch. Silas Warren '27 said, “The dance was a huge hit! Also, the haunted house was worth the line. I was very scared! I stayed from the start to the end to enjoy the great music, and so did all of my friends.” WKIS provided the soundtrack to the dance. They collaborated with the class council to make a significant change to this year’s dance: moving the DJ booth to the second floor MAC balcony. Class council member Margaret Marcum '28 said, “We hoped it would elevate the

vibe and provide necessary space for the student DJs.” The dance was accompanied by a haunted house in the Field House. Inside a rented blow-up maze, animatronics, mannequins, and student volunteers manned corners to spook students. Class president Ryan Lee '28, said, “It was fun to create a scary and entertaining atmosphere for everyone through the decorations and aesthetics.” The holiday celebrations extended into the next week. On October 31, students, faculty, and staff wore costumes to class and members. Librarians created a Halloween-themed book display and offered games, treats, temporary tattoos, and Halloween cards to students. Members of the Lower Mid class council decorated Main Hallway and distributed candy. Lee said, “It feels great to bring Halloween spirit to the school, because of how isolated from celebrations we can be at boarding school.”

FEATURES EDITORS/LEON LI '26/COMMUNICATIONS

Make America Patriotic Again

Tate Collins '27

Last spring, I went through a months-long phase when every time I walked to and from class, I would stare geekily at the American flag on Senior Grass. I was fascinated by its vibrant colors and its unwavering strength in powerful winds. I was unable to tear my eyes from its crinkling folds. While I do not feel the same unbreakable pull each time I pass it now, my feelings remain unchanged: I love the American flag, and I’m proud of what it represents. Unfortunately, not enough people are.

Nowadays, patriots dress in ruby red and those in blue have faded from the limelight. According to a Gallup poll, 92% of Republicans today say they are “extremely or very” proud of the U.S., while only 36% of Democrats agree. Yet patriotism wasn’t always so partisan. In January 2001, a similar poll found that 90% of Republicans and 87% of Democrats described themselves as “extremely or very proud” to be American.

It’s no mystery why so many are struggling to stay patriotic. Even when the government isn’t shut down, it’s unstable. From the deployment of the National Guard in Oregon to the demolition of the East Wing and Jackie Kennedy’s beloved Rose Garden, it can feel like our country has lost all sense of normalcy.

I don’t agree with the values of the current administration and don’t excuse their actions. Indeed, we must bear in mind that they do not define us.

I solemnly—and of course, unbiasedly—still believe that America is the greatest country, and the facts agree. According to Companies Market Cap, eight of the ten largest global companies are American. Both economically

and militarily, the United States is a powerhouse. We are lauded globally as a country of greatness, and for good reason, because even in difficult times, Americans don’t give up. We fight back.

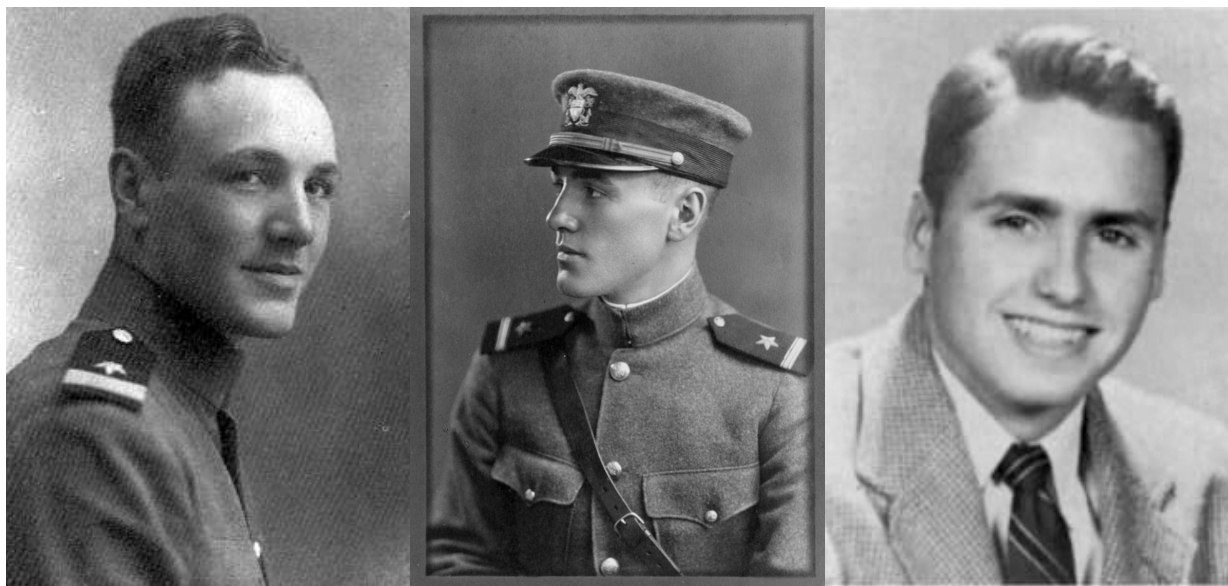
Just weeks ago, millions of peaceful protesters flooded streets across the country in “No Kings” protests. Crowds from Austin, TX to New York City hoisted signs condemning the administration’s actions and urging citizens to resist. This protest, the second-largest in our history and the single largest in 55 years, was an encouraging display of American spirit. More than anything, demonstrations such as these are what define America.

When I say I’m proud to be American, this is what I’m talking about: democracy in action. I just wish more people viewed it this way. Some at the “No Kings” protest hoisted signs reading, “Protest is Patriotic.” But others—my grandparents included—held signs that said, “I am an American, and I am embarrassed.”

Yes, our country is facing a hard time. But we will recover. We have made it through hard times before. We made it through Nixon—hell, we even made it through King George. Politics swings like a pendulum. Sometimes we need the Nixons and Georges to get the Reagans and Obamas.

The United States will endure for hundreds, if not thousands of years. In the grand scheme of things, this administration is just a speck in our history. The country’s legacy cannot be stained by a singular semi-tyrannical ruler. Rather, our country will be remembered as what it is: a country of freedom, democracy, and progress.

Our president does not define us. I just hope it doesn’t take long for us to realize that we are so much more than what he believes us to be.



Left and center: Kenny MacLeish, class of 1914; right: Randolph Ford '53, a naval aviator during the Vietnam War.

ARCHIVES

Memorial Hall: Let Us Be the Generation That Remembers

Henry Rowe '27

As one of the heads of Veterans Club, I feel a responsibility to speak out against the decision to rename Memorial Hall. In 1923, Memorial Hall was named in honor of the 23 Hotchkiss alumni who passed away in World War I. Over time, it has come to commemorate all Hotchkiss alumni who have died in service to our country—59 in World War II, 4 in Korea, and 6 in Vietnam. The building stands as a physical reminder of the permanent and ultimate sacrifice these 92 alumni made.

I want to preface my remarks by acknowledging that donations are essential for institutions like Hotchkiss to thrive. The facilities and opportunities we benefit from owe much to the generosity of donors. But we must recognize that the prosperity our country enjoys—and the very freedom that allows such generosity—was secured by those who served and sacrificed for it. It is hard to imagine our donors’ successes and abilities to give back without the freedoms protected by the 92 alumni and countless others who

gave their lives for our country.

Renaming such an integral part of our history is a line we should not cross. There are other spaces on campus—for example, the new Dining Hall—that could be renamed to recognize the generosity of donors without erasing a monumental piece of Hotchkiss history.

This issue is personal to me. Last year, I conducted a research project on the men for whom Memorial was named. Through their stories, I gained a deeper understanding of and connection to these alumni. One story that has stayed with me is that of Kenneth MacLeish, class of 1914. MacLeish was a naval aviator, a founder of the Yale Aero Club, and U.S. Navy officer who was shot down over Flanders, Belgium in 1918. He left behind a fiancée, a promising future, and a family who would never see him return. Kenneth is one of the 23 World War I alumni commemorated on the plaque in Memorial Hall. His older brother, Archibald MacLeish, class of 1911 and a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, survived the war, and his legacy endures at Hotchkiss through the MacLeish Scholars program.

Each of the names on the plaques in the dorm’s common room represents a wperson. They were teenagers, students like us, with hopes and dreams for the future. They shared the same Hotchkiss experience we do now. Yet, in service to a cause greater than themselves, they made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might enjoy the freedoms we have today.

By renaming Memorial Hall, the school is disregarding the sacrifice these young men made. I fear that choosing to honor a donor at the expense of our fallen heroes reflects misplaced priorities and raises serious questions about our values as a community. As Mr. D’Ambrosio said earlier this year, “Culture is what we tolerate.” Is this the culture Hotchkiss wishes to shape—one where financial contributions outweigh the memory of those who gave their lives in service?

Just because these alumni died over a century ago does not mean we should forget their sacrifices. We, as a student body, cannot stand by idly as the legacies of 92 fellow Hotchkiss students are diminished.



LEON LI '26

Arts & Sports

Brahms: Boring or Brilliant?

By JEREMY CAO '28
Staff Writer

I used to think Brahms was an aimless composer without relevance to modern times. I thought that he simply copied Beethovenian rhythm and harmony and lacked the drive to push boundaries. Most of all, I thought his music was emotionless.

Yet I realize now that people have misunderstood Brahms. Listeners who don't put effort into listening to his music believe he lacked any musical direction. From the 19th century to modern times, critics complained that his pieces were sterile and boring. These people desired the overly flashy ways of programmatic music by Liszt and Wagner. Brahms by contrast wrote absolute music with an emphasis on form and structure, rather than a narrative or story.

What these critics are doing is judging music by surface appeal and labeling what they do not like as "boring" music. In fact, what seems "boring" to some is actually deeply structural craftsmanship. These critics clearly did not put an effort into understanding the music of Brahms. Brahms's meticulous attention to form, counterpoint, and thematic development ensures that his works have value. Furthermore, this dedication to his music gives him a reputation as a composer who has stood by his values and was serious about making the best music.

His attention to detail creates layers that reveal themselves gradually. The movement of themes, subtle harmonic shifts, and careful pacing generate a sense of inevitability and coherence. Rather than relying on dramatics, Brahms evokes emotion through structure and development, allowing his works to resonate across centuries.

For example, in the final movement of his Symphony No. 4, Brahms develops a Passacaglia built on a bass line of a chromatic theme originating from Bach's Partita in D minor. Through the development of the counterpoint against the base line, he naturally creates

suspense and emotion without needing to rely on compositional techniques such as writing virtuosic passages, extreme thematic transformation, and free form.

Another example of his mastery of emotion through structure is in his Piano Quintet in F minor. In the Scherzo movement, the listener hears a mastery of contrapuntal interplay where a rhythmic motif is passed between the instruments. This interweaving of sound gives the audience a sense of dialogue or struggle between instruments. When a listener pays attention to these interplays, they will achieve a satisfaction through the perfect cohesion of music.

These details, if heard carelessly, will only translate to a painful jumble. One must sit down and clear the mind of all distractions. Then, we will be rewarded by pure euphoria. True, his music is not something that I enjoy listening to in an elevator or in a grocery store. He demands patience and deep thought from his listeners. He is not a poster boy whose pre-chewed melodies lack depth.

But is slowing down just to listen to some Brahms even worth the rewards? We live in a fast-paced world in which instant gratification is the only way to satisfaction for many. They argue that music should entertain, not demand patience or deep reflection. If so, is there any point in experiencing joy through "boring" music? For me, I think the experience of clarity and intellectual satisfaction will outweighs any instant gratification.



LEON LI '26



Chen showcased his painting, "The Heart of My Home: Washing Dishes in the Kitchen Ballroom," in the art display that he curated for AAPI month in 2024.

AOI: Albert Chen '26

By JEREMY CAO '28
Staff Writer

Albert Chen '26 is a four-year Senior from Overland Park, Kansas. As a Prep and Lower Mid, Chen took music lessons and played violin in the orchestra. He currently takes Honors Portfolio. Chen is co-head of the Art Club and has curated two AAPI month exhibitions at the school. He is also co-head of GSA and co-president of the Pan Asian Affinity Group.

When did you start studio art? What drew you towards this art form?

When I was in preschool, we had coloring sheets, and I would always be the one in the corner drawing and coloring away. In my basement, I still have all of these drawings that I did. I was also in many group art classes at my local recreation center. My teacher was always warm and welcoming. Her energy and encouragement really inspired me to keep going.

What is one piece you've made that you're particularly proud of?

One of my recent paintings is called "An Afternoon Oasis: Recentering My Womb in Candlelight." I'm most proud of this piece, because it really captures my emotional psyche at the moment.

The painting depicts a day in the summer when I was feeling really down. After laying in bed until 4 p.m., I gathered my shampoo, conditioner, and some food and went to take a bath to decompress. The painting is about finding pockets of breath and serenity in the emotional chaos of everyday life.

In what ways do your artistic talents influence one another?

The skills that I gained from choreographing dance, music studio art all inform each other. One of the skills is being able to create something dynamic or novel to capture people's attention. Another way my artistic talents have influenced each other is through my ability to balance smaller systems and how they interact with each other in a bigger picture.

In my painting "An Afternoon Oasis: Recentering My Womb," I

was balancing organic gestural strokes with more linear composition. This translates to music in terms of the balance of smaller components (like phrasing in a certain section of music and how it fits into the larger concept), as well as fluidity versus a strict rhythm.

What advice would you give to younger artists?

You need to be really in tune with your inner and outer worlds and figure out the relationship between those two worlds. Sometimes influences from the outer world can prevent you from hearing what is truly going on in your inner world and make it difficult for you to express that inner world. Outer world elements often come from judgment or thinking about what others might think of your work. I try not to overthink what the audience may perceive and instead draw from the center of myself. It takes a meditative practice to reflect and invite those feelings to come in and be able to funnel them into your work.



COMMUNICATIONS

Alum Spotlight: Nell Dwyer '24

By AIDAN SONG '27
Staff Writer

Nell Dwyer '24 is a sophomore at Hobart and William Smith College, where she is a starting defender on the soccer team. From Amherst, Massachusetts, she was a four-year Senior at Hotchkiss and played on Girls Varsity Soccer all four years. She received All-State honors her Upper Mid and Senior years, was a Western New England All-Star three times, and was First-Team All-NEPSAC as a Lower Mid. At HWS, Dwyer started all 25 games as a freshman. She was named Liberty League Rookie of the Week six times and scored three game winning goals in the NCAA tournament.

How did you get involved in soccer?

My parents introduced soccer to me at a very young age. In their eyes, it was very important for my siblings, Darcy '25 and Hudson '28, and me to participate in sports, as they believe sports teach us lessons for life. Therefore, growing up we all tried basically every sport available, and I liked soccer the most.

Why did you decide to come to Hotchkiss?

As cliché as it sounds, I knew Hotchkiss would help me become the best person I could be. I knew that it would provide me opportunities and force me to grow socially, academically, and athletically in ways I would never have available to me if I had stayed at my public school.

What were some of your most memorable moments at Hotchkiss?

I loved brunch with my sister, Darcy, every Sunday. We had a tradition of "family brunch," which was always a space where we could spend time together and catch up. I loved spending time in nature: swimming in the lake,

going on walks in the woods, and fishing with friends are some of my favorite memories.

I also loved spending time with everyone in my grade. Even if it was just at the Dining Hall, or sitting at Senior couches in between classes, I feel grateful for our time together and miss those moments.

What was your college recruitment process like?

My commitment process was a long and difficult, but rewarding, one. It made me constantly consider my worth as a soccer player and, in many ways, as a person. The process helped me learn a lot about myself and what matters most to me. I further developed my conversational skills through constant emailing and phone calls. I also strengthened my resilience and my time management.

What are some of the biggest differences between high school and college soccer?

Going into college soccer, especially as a D3 athlete, I thought playing high school and club soccer would have prepared me to balance academics and athletics. Hotchkiss and club soccer helped my transition, but it was not as fluid as I had expected. In the fall, with film, recovery, practice, and lift, my days are mainly consumed by soccer, whereas in high school, there was more of a balance between athletics and academics. I have definitely developed skills to help manage everything, but I was surprised during my freshman year by soccer's time commitment.

How is soccer going in college?

Soccer is going great. I love my teammates, and I feel like I have made some of my best friends for life. Being able to go to Las Vegas last year to

compete in the national championship was one of the most surreal experiences of my life. Growing up, I always dreamed of playing college sports, and it feels incredibly full circle and gratifying to be a college athlete. This fall, I got injured and missed four games, but I am back playing and am very excited for the rest of the season.

What are some of your goals for the rest of college and beyond?

After my freshman year, we had a massive coaching change. The woman who recruited me, who had been the head of the William Smith soccer program for 45 years, retired; so did our head assistant coach. We have two new coaches whom I enjoy working with. The next few years are definitely rebuilding years for us, as we graduated serious talent last year and will be losing a lot of talent in our Senior class. Over the next few years, as we look to rebuild, I look forward to supporting our new coaches and being a part of the new William Smith soccer legacy.



ADAM FARID



TRAV APPLE '28

After victories over Trinity-Pawling and Choate, the team's record is 2-6.

Football Wins Under the Lights

By STELLA LIAO '27
Staff Writer

On Friday, October 24, Varsity Football earned a 53-14 victory over Trinity-Pawling.

The win brought the team's record to 2-6. Head Coach Dempsey Quinn said, "The game was a good turning point for us. We really hope to finish on a high note these last two weeks and maybe put together

"It was rewarding to see the team's preparation translate into on-field success," said Head Coach Dempsey Quinn.

a three-game winning streak."

Heading into the matchup, the team focused on improving the run game, which quickly showed results once the game began. Coach

Quinn said, "I was proud that our guys really executed well from the opening play of the game."

In the first half, running back Jaylen Johnson '26 led the offense, with 167 rushing yards and four touchdowns. Wide receiver Freddy Conyers '27 made two long touchdown catches and had over 100 receiving yards. On the defensive side, the team limited TP to only 14 points.

In addition to the offensive and defensive performances, many younger players had opportunities to gain playing experience. Coach Quinn said, "It was rewarding to see the team's preparation translate into on-field success. I was proud of their effort and commitment to getting better each week."

The team hopes to carry the momentum into the final game of the season against Taft on Saturday November 8. Coach Quinn said, "The goal is to finish the season strong and build on the progress made over the past few weeks."