



THE HOTCHKISS RECORD

"A day without sunshine is like, you know, night."
— Steve Martin

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THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT



KEITH MOON

Mr. Keith Moon, Henry Rowe '27, and a group of students cleaned up the Vietnam Memorial for Eco Day this year.

Highlighting the Vietnam Memorial

Henry Rowe '27

This Eco Day, the Veterans Club led a group of student volunteers in cleaning up a quiet and often overlooked corner of campus near the William and Martha Ford Indoor Tennis Courts: the Vietnam Memorial.

As Memorial Day approaches, the Veterans Club wanted to raise awareness for and honor our Vietnam War veterans, and restore a quiet place of thought and reflection for the six alumni who gave their lives as a result of their wartime service.

Prior to Eco Day, I decided to search the archives and investigate the origins of the memorial to uncover the identities of these six men. What I found was a narrative as jagged and remarkable as the story of the memorial itself, a story defined by complicated and often overlooked pieces of the history of our school and nation.

The origins of the school's Vietnam memorial are as unconventional as the era that brought them about. From 1965 to 1972, college students across the United States protested the Vietnam War and the military draft. Many were furious that the U.S. government would throw citizens' lives away for a war that they perceived to be meaningless. These protests spilled over to our school.

In the spring of 1971, a small group of students decided to organize their very own Vietnam War protest and skipped a full day of classes. They met in an open field north of the Tom Schmidt rink (now the area in front of the indoor

tennis courts) to build a monument from limestone boulders excavated during the construction of the rink. At the time, the intent was not to create a permanent memorial, but to protest the war's expansion from Vietnam into Cambodia. Bradley Lauderdale '72 later recalled in a letter to the school that the event "drifted into farce as the half-dozen students realized that, without tools or a plan, their pile of rocks looked much the same at the end of the day." Yet, Lauderdale noted a profound truth in his letter, observing that there was no real conflict between protesting the war and honoring those who died in it.

The monument reminds us that patriotism lies in the willingness to engage with the uncomfortable questions of our time.

The archives of *The Record* from October 1969 reveal a campus deeply divided by the Vietnam War. In an article, Seniors Harley Earl '70 and Gordon Burns '70 passionately debated the stark realities of the time.

Earl, who intended to enlist, argued that while a war might be morally wrong, the cause of defending individual freedom was morally right. He viewed service as a price he was willing to pay in return for his freedom. Conversely, Burns sought status as a conscientious objector (which allowed citizens to refuse military

service for reasons of religion or conscience) and asked why the government was killing off the very people who might make us great: our own citizens. Ultimately, neither served in the war. Both went on to successful careers in finance after attending Yale and Princeton.

The school has a long history of military service by students and alums, from the pioneers of flight in WWI to the estimated 3,000 who served in WWII and Korea. However, in the decades following Vietnam, from the Gulf War to the Global War on Terror, a new trend has emerged. While some in our community continue to choose the path of military service, for the vast majority of students, service has turned into something that is someone else's responsibility. While thousands of citizens have perished in Iraq and Afghanistan, the school has seen no recent names added to our memorials.

After cleaning up the Vietnam Memorial in 1997, students researched the names of the fallen and added a plaque to the pile of rocks. Among those honored on it are Donald Pearson '62, whose mental wounds claimed his life a decade after his service in Vietnam ended. By cleaning the memorial again this year, the Veterans Club and its volunteers did more than just rake leaves. We reclaimed a space where the virtue of service and the conscience of the dissenter meet.

In an age of disconnection, these stones remind us that patriotism lies in the willingness to engage with the uncomfortable questions of our time, ensuring that for every name on that plaque, "in remembrance is redemption."

Matthew Yao '19 Returns as Philharmonic Soloist

By XAVIER AN '28

As the final chords of Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* echoed throughout Elfer's Hall on Saturday, May 2, 2026, the applause that followed marked the closure of the '25-'26 Philharmonic season. The evening of music served as a tribute to Mr. Craig Bradley as he approaches the end of his 10-year tenure as head of school. Under the baton of Neil Thomson, principal conductor of the Goiás Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philharmonic performed Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine*, Mozart's *Concerto in A major for Clarinet & Orchestra K.622*, and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*, alongside the Chorus. Clarinetist Matthew Yao '19 returned to the school as the featured soloist.

Mr. Fabio Witkowski, artistic director of the Philharmonic, said, "Seeing Matthew perform with the Philharmonic was a moment of great pride. He was part of the orchestra. The surroundings of Hotchkiss gave him the courage and the foundation to go to Northwestern as a clarinet major. He played in the very first Philharmonic concert. For him to come back as the first Hotchkiss alum—I could not be happier. He played so beautifully."

Matthew Yao '19, originally from Hong Kong, was principal clarinet in the orchestra during his time at the school. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in music from Northwestern University and a master's from the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he is currently completing a professional diploma.

How did you get involved with music?

I was at the Hong Kong Chinese International School (CIS) when I learned to play the clarinet. The orchestra there didn't light the spark for me, but it introduced me to music. I also did the ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) exam, and I made it up to grade seven before coming to Hotchkiss. It's ironic to think about how I'm at the Royal Academy of Music now, which is one of the schools that founded the exam.

I'm grateful to my parents, because they were the ones who encouraged me to go to boarding school. I had not wanted to leave Hong Kong—I thought I was going to stay at CIS, because I went from kindergarten all the way up to year 10. I think if I hadn't come to Hotchkiss, a lot of this would not have happened.

Can you tell us a bit about your time as a musician here?

I came here as a clarinetist and played in the orchestra. When the Philharmonic was formed midway through my time here, I was also part of that. The school was transformative for me as a musician, because I got great opportunities to play in the orchestras. I was also part of the very first Hotchkiss at Carnegie Hall concert in 2018, and went on the Hotchkiss in Florence summer program three times. It was amazing to play in such an artistic and culturally rich city.

What are some of your favorite memories from your time here?

There are too many memories. The first time I conducted the orchestra for a concert was a really big deal, because I was the first student conductor. There are too many memories, with all the numerous instrumental recitals that we've had here over the years, but playing at Carnegie was really something.

For non-related music memories, I was in Dana for three years in a row. Back then, Dana was a lowerclass boy's dorm. It was mixed my first year, then upperclass, and I became a proctor there. I was in Flinn my last year. The dorm community and dorm life were really good core memories.

What advice would you give to students who want to pursue music in college?

I would say practice. Start early with the fundamentals, and try to perform as much as you can. When I was at Hotchkiss, I also was involved in Songs for Smiles. Having the opportunity to play for people is what it's all about.



COMMUNICATIONS

Yao was the first student to conduct the orchestra.

NEWS 2

School Honors Staff Service

Charlie Frankenbach, Doug McCarthy, and Dennis Grandell received awards.

38 Schools Attend AAFC

Hotchkiss students led 19% of the workshops & affinity groups at the Asian American Footsteps Conference.

Arqoub '14 Speaks in All-School

Amr Arqoub shared reflections for Arab American Heritage Month.

FEATURES 3-4

Gotcha!: A Review

David Ayodele '27 and Andrew D'Ambrosio share thoughts on Gotcha!

A History of the Bow Tie Bowl

Founded by Lou Pressman P'98, Roger Wistar P'26, 29 continues the tradition.



BELLA CHEN '29

OPINION 5

Editorial: Thank You, Mom!

The Editors-in-Chief share Mother's Day reflections and gratitude.

Nostalgia: A Political Weapon

Watch out for how politicians use nostalgia, Izzy Liang '29 warns.

Offer H&SS Honors to All

Arya Samat '29 argues lowerclass students should have the opportunity to take honors classes in the Humanities.

ARTS 6

HDA Presents *Romeo and Juliet*

The Record looks behind the scenes at the preparation for the Spring play.



COMMUNICATIONS

AOI: Violinist Yobin Kim '26

Concertmaster Kim shares her inspirations.

SPORTS 7-8

Alum of Issue: Avery Doran '24

The former co-captain of Girls Varsity Field Hockey plays for Duke University.

Varsity Track & Field Finish 2nd

The team competed in the Founders League Championship in the rain.



COMMUNICATIONS

News and Features



Supervisors shared personal stories about the award recipients.

Faculty and Staff Honored For Decades of Service

By EMILY HWANG '29
Social Media Manager

On April 21, 2026, faculty and staff members were recognized for their lasting contributions to the community, and special awards were given for dedication, care, and service.

The Margot Hooker Award was presented to Mr. Dennis Grandell, electrician supervisor. Established in 1996 in memory of Margot Hooker, a 28-year member of the staff, the award recognizes a member of the staff who reflects thoughtfulness, reliability, cheerfulness, kindness, and a deep attachment to the community. Director of Facilities Mr. Mike Virzi said, "Mr. Grandell is the calm, capable person quietly making sure life at Hotchkiss keeps working."

Mr. Doug McCarthy, director of alumni and development operations, was honored with the Robert and Candice Barker Staff Recognition Award. This award, sustained by an endowment honoring the Barkers' decades of service, recognizes those who display dedication to the school similar to that of the Barkers. In a statement shared by Interim Chief Advancement Officer, Ms. Gretchen Dwyer, colleagues said, "Doug is the glue that keeps Alumni and Development running. If an answer comes from Doug, you can count on it."

Mr. Charlie Frankenbach, instructor in English, received the Safe, Seen, and Supported Award. This award

recognizes adults who foster a strong sense of belonging in the community. Pahal Bhasin '26 said, "I remember walking into his class for the first time, and immediately felt welcomed by his cheerful laughter and contagious energy."

The ceremony also recognized the 25 years of service of Ms. Kim Gnerre, associate director of the Edsel Ford Memorial Library; Mr. John Reed '81, senior advisor; Mr. Danny Smith, associate director of admission; Dr. Anju Taneja, instructor in physics; and Ms. Renee Sartori, executive assistant to the chief financial and operations officer and contract administrator.

Instead of moving between institutions to advance her career, Ms. Gnerre chose to remain in the community. She said, "I found fulfillment in the space that I'm in. Hotchkiss has been more than just a place of employment. My daughter, growing up, visited this campus often. Former head of school Malcolm McKenzie used to push her around in a chair in the dean's wing."

This ceremony recognized a range of contributions across the community, from daily operations to long-term service. Recipients were honored for their roles in maintaining campus life, supporting colleagues, and contributing to student well-being. The event brought together students, faculty, and staff to formally celebrate these contributions.

Students Attend Asian Footsteps Conference

By JAMES ZHOU '28
and SIENNA HWANG '27
News Editors

On April 26, 19 students attended the 15th Annual Asian Footsteps Conference (AAFC), hosted this year at the Windsor School. They attended and led affinity groups and workshops.

The school provided the greatest number of student leaders among the 38 schools at the conference, with 12 Hotchkiss students leading 19% of all student workshops. These workshops included "Thriving Asian: Mental Wellness Explained," led by Sia Reddy '26 and Ethan Li-Kato '27, to "Confucius to Plato: The Bridge Between Western and Asian Philosophies," led by Katherine Lu '28 and Khloe Kim '28.

Jerry Fan '27 and Alex Choi '27 led a workshop called "Stories Through Stanzas: Poetry & Relating the Pan-Asian narrative." Fan said, "It was nice to see people from other cultures connecting through interesting workshops about food and literature."

Students, accompanied by Mr.



Students led workshops at the 15th Annual Asian Footsteps Conference.

Piere Yoo, co-director of pluralism and community, Ms. Nora Yasumura, and Dr. Lennox Debra, instructor in English, left campus at 5:30 a.m. and returned at 8:00 p.m.

The school has historically played a major role in the AAFC, with Mr. Yoo training affinity group leaders from all participating schools before the conference. Hotchkiss hosted

the conference in 2019, when over 500 students attended. "I am so proud of our Pan Asian students for their positive energy, leadership, and spending a whole Sunday to lead and serve others," Mr. Yoo said. "The students displayed our motto of 'Guided by each other, let us seek better paths' by helping and learning from others by leading affinity group sessions and workshop sessions."

Amr Arqoub '14 Reflects on Arab American Background

By ANNABELLE CHU '28
Editor-in-Chief

On May 5, Mr. Amr Arqoub '14 returned to share his experiences at the school and beyond as an Arab person in America. He highlighted the importance of understanding Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) identity in a multifaceted manner and looking beyond what is presented in the news.

When providing an example of a Middle Eastern cultural practice, Mr. Arqoub described a time he invited a classmate to Palestine during his Senior year and surprised him with Arabic hospitality. He said, "If you find yourself a guest at an Arab home, you should consider yourself very lucky."

Speaking specifically about his adjustment to the school, he talked about the difficulty of adapting to the English curriculum. Mr. Arqoub said, "I basically didn't sleep for a whole semester because of *The Scarlet Letter*.

The fire alarm went off one point in Coy, and I slept through it. I woke up from Mr. Kneeland saying, 'Dude, are you okay?' But I don't think my English would have been at this level if I didn't spend those nights trying to understand what was going on."

He thanked the Humphrey family, who include John Humphrey '67, for being his host family. He said, "They were my safe harbor while I figured out how to navigate this completely new world."

He also mentioned the importance of food to him, recalling memories of crying while eating the spicy food Mr. Abdoulaye Fall, instructor in French, served at his house and times when Mr. Tom Drake, instructor in history, took him to eat KFC when he missed Palestinian fried chicken.

Despite the challenges of coming to America, Mr. Arqoub said, "I left this campus with an expanded worldview and a profound sense of belonging."

His talk was part of a larger celebration of Arab American Heritage Month, which included Middle Eastern food in the Dining Hall and an open MENA dinner.



Arqoub shared anecdotes about Mr. Tom Drake and Mr. Abdoulaye Fall.



BELLA CHEN '25

Bow Ties and Buzzers

RIKAKO UMEZAWA '27
Staff Writer

Every spring, the Dining Hall transforms into a battleground for the final round of the Bow Tie Bowl. Tables are pushed aside, and chairs are dragged closer together. Conversations die out, and heads turn toward the front of the room. Organizer and instructor in math, Mr. Roger Wistar's voice cuts through the air with a signature call—"Toss-up, question one!"—and the room snaps to attention. This is the culmination of the weeks-long Bow Tie Bowl, an annual academic trivia tournament that has become one of the school's most well-known traditions.

The Bowl was founded roughly 30 years ago by Mr. Lou Pressman, former chaplain and instructor in philosophy and religion. Mr. Pressman wrote every single question himself each year, reading the newspaper each morning to add current events

questions before each evening's round. Current host Mr. Wistar said, "I tried writing all the questions one year, but it was way too much work for anyone." When Mr. Pressman retired in 2018, Mr. Wistar stepped up to carry the tradition forward, eventually updating the event with a new format and modernized equipment like buzzers.

The event also serves a charitable purpose: each year, proceeds typically between \$400 and \$500 are donated to a local organization. Last year's beneficiary was Project Sage, and this year's is the North East Community Center.

This year, 21 teams signed up to compete, with the final match set for May 19, 2026. For Mr. Wistar, the Bow Tie Bowl is deeply personal. He said, "As a lifelong trivia fan who grew up watching Jeopardy!, I spent eight to ten years competing in the event before taking over as host. I love trivia. It's a lot of fun, and it gives people the

chance to put their skills to the test."

Mr. Wistar said, "The most memorable moments come from the matches themselves." This year delivered a number of dramatic turns: one team, consisting entirely of underclass students, came back from a 45-point deficit to tie in the final round, while another match saw a solo competitor outlast a three-person team in a sweep finish. "When the matches are really exciting," Mr. Wistar said. "You feel it in the room."

The energy from audience members cheering and clapping makes the Bow Tie Bowl a community-building event. Mr. Wistar said, "There's something about being in the Dining Hall and watching students do something really great together. You feel the support and appreciation people have for each other in this community."

Ella Yin '26 competed this year alongside Ms. Serena Oh-Castellano, director of college advising, and Serena Thompson '27, who is in her second year at the Bow Tie Bowl. Yin said, "I love how closely you bond with teammates. Sharing whatever niche thing you happen to know with others is so fun. If you are not playing with someone you know well, it's still a good opportunity to get closer to them. I'm super competitive, too. My favorite moment is smashing the buzzer at the exact same time as an opponent and being the one who gets it right."

The Bow Tie Bowl speaks to something genuine at the school: the community shows up for each other, whether through fundraising, friendly rivalry, or simply being in the room to cheer someone on. As long as there are questions to ask and teams ready to answer, the tradition, "bow ties and all," isn't going anywhere.

Community Remarks on Gotcha!

ELLIE MATASAR '29
Staff Writer

From April 27 to May 4, Blue & White hosted a school-wide Gotcha! event. Students were randomly assigned targets to "get." David Ayodele '27, a new Upper Mid, participated and got out six people in three days. Ayodele and Mr. Andrew D'Ambrosio, the dean of students, both had differing perspectives about Gotcha!, but thought its impact was positive.

DAVID AYODELE '27:

What do you like or dislike about Gotcha!?

I like how it gets the entire school involved. I get to meet new people who I don't really talk to. I like the strategy part of it. I don't like some of the rules, like some places, such as the Science Building, being off limits. If there were no limits, there would be more spontaneity.

How has playing Gotcha! affected your relationship with others?

I don't trust people. Some people messed with you for fun.

Do you think the school should do anything to revise Gotcha!?

They should have made more hype about it. We only got one email sent out, and a lot of people didn't sign up because they didn't know about it.

MR. ANDREW D'AMBROSIO:

What are some of the impacts of Gotcha! on community life?

In general, it's a net positive any

time there's an event we can have fun and engage in. From my perspective, it's all upside, because students enjoy themselves and engage in a lot of fun. The other upside is that kids get to figure out who each other are.

What do you think are some of the problems adults have with the game?

I think some adults would say they wish that they saw students trying as hard in their classes as they do to figure out how to get targets. In certain years, we've had issues in certain spaces that are now off-limits—like the art wings and the library. Maybe some people think it's disruptive, but I don't know.

Do you think there should be any additional regulations on activities like Gotcha!?

I'm fairly happy where Gotcha! is. I wish we had been a little bit more considerate of faculty in the initial rollout, as it was just one email. Multiple emails can be challenging. In general, I think the faculty would appreciate a little bit of an advance notice.

Do you think there are any situations you've seen this year where students have gone too far?

I have not. I'm willing to bite the bullet for a little community distrust in the name of fun. I think everyone else is as well, because people still sign up and do it. I'm all for stuff like this, provided students want to have initial conversations about it.

I think people feel that the administration's anti-fun. I'm not fun personally, but I think in general I'm for fun.

Opinion

Be Careful of Nostalgia

Izzy Liang '29

One of my favorite memories is of my sister and me on the trampoline in mid-summer, practicing flips we had absolutely no business attempting. In my version of this memory, we are fearless and laughing, and that perfect afternoon lasts forever. What I often leave out is that a few moments later, I fell and sprained my ankle.

This idea of a perfect memory is called nostalgia. It's not a lie, exactly, but definitely not the whole truth either. Rather, it is a memory with the inconvenient and uncomfortable parts removed, leaving only the warmth, the light, the feeling that things were simply better back then. Nostalgia is one of the most human impulses, and because of this, it is vulnerable to manipulation.

The same subconscious alterations I make to that summer afternoon, politicians may do to entire decades of history. Entire eras and entire histories are replaced with carefully curated narratives. They hand us the "highlight reel" and label it history, promising to take us back to when times were "better." And we tend to feel this pull before we ever think to ask: back to what, exactly? And better for whom?

Psychologists have studied nostalgia for decades, and what they have found is more complicated than simple sentimentality. According to Professor Constantine Sedikides and his colleagues at the University of Southampton, nostalgia is not just a passive daydream; it is an active emotional response, triggered specifically by dysphoric states: loneliness, anxiety, uncertainty, and loss. In other words, we don't feel nostalgic randomly. Psychological discomfort tends to trigger nostalgia: the worse we feel about the present, the more powerfully the past calls to us.

This research shows that nostalgia, in itself, is not harmful. Rather, it fosters social connectedness as an effective coping mechanism that has helped humans navigate grief and fear for centuries. Unfortunately, the benefits of nostalgia are precisely what make it vulnerable to politicians taking advantage of this human instinct in times of unrest. In the hands of those who know exactly when to invoke it, nostalgia ceases to be a mere psychological comfort and becomes a tool of

manipulation. Examples of leveraging nostalgia to serve personal political means

are not subtle across history. Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" campaign implies that there was a time when the United States was great, that it is no longer great today, and that it can be great again if only the people follow the right leader. Across the Atlantic, Nigel Farage held up his new non-EU passport in 2019 and tweeted, "We got our passports back," thus evoking a time when Great Britain still maintained the pretense of being a great power. In France, politician Marine Le Pen promised voters a road back to "our glorious history" in her 2026 campaign. The change these movements offer is not innovation, but restoration: of old values, old identities, old hierarchies.

Each of these politicians builds their campaigns around the notion of a golden age. But the question is: whose golden age?

Trump's rhetoric, for instance, idealized the mid-twentieth century as an era of American prosperity and cultural homogeneity. However, this selective memory ignored systemic realities like racial segregation and gender discrimination, offering a distorted view of American history. The 1950s in America were golden—but only if you were the right color, the right gender, and on the right side of the tracks. For millions of Americans, that celebrated decade was not a high point, but rather something to escape.

But there is a profound difference between a memory you return to and an idea of one that somebody else sells to you. When a politician stands at a podium and invokes a golden age, they are not merely sharing a memory; they are selectively constructing one to serve an ulterior purpose. When that construction erases those who suffered in the eras being celebrated, it stops being remembrance and wielding it becomes a weapon.

The fact is that nostalgia will always feel true to us; it's simply human to seek the familiar in times of anxiety. What we can do, however, is to stop letting other people decide what we are nostalgic for and whose version of the past gets to stand in for history.

Feel the pull of the past. Then ask who's pulling. The answer will tell you everything you need to know about the present.



ALICIA FENG '28



DOREEN ZHANG '29

Preps & Lower Mids Deserve Honors Humanities Too

Arya Samat '29

Lowerclass students may explore honors and advanced courses in STEM fields from the moment they arrive on campus. A Prep who's ready for a higher-level math or physics class can take advantage of those opportunities. But in Humanities, every Prep and Lower Mid is placed in the same course.

I don't believe that this is an equitable system, however; it is important to consider some of the reasons as to why the school may have chosen to

implement it. One reason for this likely lies in placement tests. For STEM courses, the placement is much more straightforward to standardize. You take a test, and the results determine whether an honors or regular course is best for you. But with the Humanities, it isn't so straightforward. Finding out whether a student is prepared for an honors English or history class depends on their writing ability, discussion skills, and analytical depth, which are much harder to assess. Even asking students to write or submit an essay would not capture the full skill sets of a student.

EDITORIAL

A Thank You to Our Mothers

ANNABELLE CHU '28:

I'm ashamed to admit that out of all my chats, the one with my mom is the only one marked as unread. Not because I didn't read her texts, but because I didn't feel like replying to a reminder to get my work done or a text asking me how school was going after bombing my 551 Math test.

It's hard to stay in touch with people outside of the campus when there's so much going on inside of it. But staying in touch with your mom feels even more impossible. For me, my mom isn't just my mom: she's the person whose opinion I care about the most and the one I'm most afraid of disappointing. Maybe I avoid talking to her on my bad days because I'm afraid she'll find out my life isn't perfect here (ironic, because that's when I need her the most).

There are so many things I want to tell her—about how much I look up to her, how thankful I am that she still loves me despite my terrible response rate, and a host of other things that are too difficult to put into words. If you're reading this, Mom, 母亲节快乐. 我爱你.

DEVEN PATEL '27:

In honor of Mother's Day, I wish I was able to fully thank my mother for everything she has ever done for me. However, the truth is, I will never fully understand everything my mother has sacrificed for me and my brothers. I will never be able to fully comprehend all the time, effort, and love my mother has spent helping me grow into a young man. Yet, despite this, I still want to try my best to show my appreciation for her never-ending unconditional love.

I know my mom's journey as a mother definitely hasn't been the easiest. From finding out she was having a twin set of boys, to finding out she was having another set of twin boys, it has undoubtedly been hard. Even though my mom was dealt a difficult hand, she never let the challenges stop her from giving my brothers and I an amazing life.

On Mother's Day, I am reminded to not only give thanks to my mother, but to honor her by living with the same kindness, selflessness, and love she has given me.

JEREMY FANG '28:

It hit me Sunday morning that, even though my mom had visited me the night before, I forgot to wish her "Happy Mother's Day," or worse, to give her the carnations I had bought.

With most of us away from home at a relatively young age, Mother's Day is different. I, for one, don't call my mom nearly enough, a distance most people don't develop with their moms until after college.

Every time people ask me if I miss my mom at school, I sheepishly laugh and say, "I have too much stuff going on." In reality, I do miss her. A lot.

When I called her, she told me that she did see the flowers in my room. I know it's hard for her to be so far away from me, especially since I've been in boarding school since 7th grade. Her understanding of who I am is rebuilt from stories and photos every time I go home.

The carnations are still sitting on my desk, and by next week, they will begin to wilt. Happy Mother's Day; I love you so much.

THE HOTCHKISS RECORD Est. 1893

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Correction: Izzy Liang '29 wrote the

Features article in Issue #2, "For Mr. Tom

Herold, It Has Truly Been a Family Affair."

Arts and Sports

Artist of the Issue: Yobin Kim

By WYATT GROVES '29

Yobin Kim '26 is a four-year Senior from Seoul, Korea. She is co-head of the International Awareness and Service Organization (IASO), a member of Girls JV Volleyball, JV Hockey, and is co-managing Boys JV Lacrosse. She plans to pursue her passion for violin and biological sciences next year at Northwestern University.

it was simple. I've stuck with it since six years old.

Who's your inspiration, and how have they impacted your music career?

My favorite violinist is Itzhak Perlman. There's so many other violinists out there, but I tend to still look for his recordings. He's an inspiration for me; I haven't changed my favorite violinist since elementary school.

What have you learned from playing the violin?

Discipline. It's just very technical and you do need to put in the time and effort.

There's no such thing as pure talent for music; the effort has to be on top of all the talent that you come with. I set a goal where I would have to do at least two hours of practice a day.

What advice would you give to young and aspiring musicians?

Don't give up. I've had many ups and downs, but hard work does pay off.

I've had so many instances where I've worked so hard and ended up playing really well in performances, which shows that you really can beat the hardships.

Even if I don't want to become a musician, I'm still going to keep music as a really important aspect of my life.



COMMUNICATIONS



COMMUNICATIONS

Romeo (Philip Fauver '26) and Juliet (Carla Oudin '26) meet at her family's party.

Behind the Curtain: Preparing Romeo and Juliet

By EVIE LIU '29

On May 8-10, 2026, the Hotchkiss Drama Association (HDA) brought Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* alive in Walker Auditorium. However, preparation for the performance began months in advance.

The set design was traditionally Shakespearean, with a balcony, pillars, and tiring-house: a back

wall with two main doors for entrances and exits and a central curtain. Director Andrew Knight, instructor in English & theatre, said, "The style is a loose recreation of the layout of the Globe Theatre and the Blackfriars Theatre," where Shakespeare's company performed.

In preparing Shakespeare's plays, students must work to make his language accessible to modern

audiences. Mr. Knight said, "The goal is to have clarity and help performers and audience members follow the meaning of the dialogue as it unfolds, rather than getting caught up in the language as a barrier."

Phillip Fauver '26, who played Romeo, said, "I think a lot of people (including me) are intimidated by the language. Our goal was to bring the words to life in a form that can be appreciated by the audience."

The production included a number of fight scenes with elaborate choreography. Fauver said, "The sword fights are by far the most challenging scenes—they're kind of like dancing."

The Elizabethan costumes also reflected the traditional approach to the play. Juliet, played by Carla Oudin '26, wore two different outfits. She said, "We wanted to implement different physical representations of the transformation and tone switch of the show; the costumes get darker, the house lights dim, more dramatic lighting, etc. After the wedding, the show turns from comedy to tragedy, and the costumes were one way of representing that."

Kate DeAngelis, the costume designer for the Sharon Playhouse, designed the costumes for *Romeo and Juliet* as well as *Pippin* and *Frankenstein*.

On Saturday night, residents of Noble Horizons joined students for dinner in the Dining Hall and attended the production.

Alum Athlete of the Issue: Avery Doran '24

By JACK MCNULTY '29

Avery Doran '24, from Wilton, Connecticut, was a Girls Varsity Lacrosse attacker whose success at the school has carried on beyond her high school years. She played for Brown University and now plays for Duke University. Doran is also a member of the Haudenosaunee National team and competed at the international level for the Haudenosaunee/Iroquois Under-16 and Under-18 teams, representing the Mohawk Nation.

During her freshman season at Brown in 2025, Doran made an immediate impact, appearing in all of the team's 17 games. She finished the year with 23 goals and 24 assists, showing her balanced play style as a scorer and a passer. Her performance

earned her national recognition; *Inside Lacrosse* named her the number 19 impact freshman throughout all of Division One lacrosse in 2025.

"It was special to be named captain for a group of girls that truly loved being together day in and day out," said Avery Doran.

At Duke, Doran was named to the All Atlantic Coast Conference third team. She is the second most

efficient shooter in the ACC and 14th most efficient nationally, with a 57.1 shooting percentage.

Former teammate Nikki Ferraro '26 said, "I have never seen a lacrosse player like Avery. She's effortless with what she does, but at the same time, she is the most humble person. She was so good that no one wanted to play defense on her during practice."

Lacrosse has been a part of Avery's life from a young age. Doran's relationship with lacrosse began with her mom, who she says sparked her interest in the game and served as a role model for building the foundation that makes Doran such a strong player today.

At Hotchkiss, Doran started on Girls Varsity Lacrosse as a Prep. Head Coach Brittany Giacco said, "She was able to gain the confidence to work with her teammates and eventually become the leader on the offensive end that we needed by her senior year."

"I have never seen a lacrosse player like Avery. She's effortless with what she does," said Nikki Ferraro '26.

In her senior year, Doran became a team captain. She said, "I really enjoyed balancing the leadership role with making sure everyone was having fun at the same time. It was special to be named captain for a group of girls that truly loved being around each other day in and day out."

The team went 12-1 in her senior year, ending the season with a Founders League win against Taft. Doran said, "One of my most memorable moments was playing Taft each year. Everyone was full of energy for the week leading up to Taft Day, and beating them was such a blast."

From her success as a player at the collegiate and international levels, Doran is a player to watch at the NCAA level, and possibly at the Olympics in years to come.



DUKE ATHLETICS



COMMUNICATIONS

The NEPSTA D1 Championships will be hosted by Choate on May 16 this year.

Track & Field Heads to New England Championships

By YINING JIANG '29

With the end of the season around the corner, Boys and Girls Varsity Track have put together strong seasons competing against rival schools, including Loomis, Choate, and others. As the postseason nears, the teams hope to continue to build off this success.

On April 18, the team traveled to Deerfield for the Hunt Relays & Invitational. Bearcats recorded strong performances in the 1 mile, 400m hurdles, 4x400m Relay, and other field events. Highlights of the day included co-captain Stella Goss '26 throwing a record distance in javelin. She broke the previous school record of 131' 7" with a throw of 140' 2", which, at the time of the meet, placed her 23rd nationally this season. Goss placed 1st in shot put, discus, and javelin.

This past Saturday, May 10, both the Boys and Girls teams went to Avon for the Founders League Championships. Despite the pouring rain, both teams placed second overall, improving on their placements from the 24-25 season.

The final event of the meet, with all of the teams lining the track to cheer, was the 4x400m Relay. Both teams ran for second place, racing their best times of the season. The Boys race was a tight finish, with just a 0.15 second difference between first and second place.

Canon Farrer '27, a member of the Boys Varsity 4x400m relay, said, "Even though it rained for hours and everyone had run multiple races, the lads went out and ran a massive personal best.

We are feeling strong going into New England."

Co-captain Anya Reppa '26 said, "I'm proud of everybody, because there was a ton of rain that day and the team persevered so well. We had some amazing performances and founders champs."

The team has welcomed many new members this year, ranging from Preps to Seniors, across all events. Co-captain William Becker '26 said, "It's been great to see myself reflected in the younger athletes. I remember back when I was their age, so I try to give them the best advice that I would've given myself back then. I think the new athletes have been incorporated really well into the team and are setting the team up for success in the future."

Although track and field may be seen as an individual sport, the team captains emphasized the importance of how the team works together. Co-captain Charlie Wright '27 said, "A lot of people step up and try hard things even though they don't necessarily have to. They support each other and take one for the team when it's hard to run an extra event."

The team also has been facing multiple injuries that have required adjustments in the lineup. Becker said, "We've had various injuries that we've had to adapt to, which I think the team has done a really good job of practicing and working around them."

The team's next meet will be the New England Championships, which will be hosted by Choate on May 16.