



Retiring Head of School Craig Bradley Looks Back

By ANNABELLE CHU '28
Editor-in-Chief

June 2026 marks the last month that Mr. Craig Bradley will reside on campus as the 15th head of school. Mr. Bradley has made a tremendous impact over the past ten years, helping the school achieve distinction in academics, admissions, athletics, and the arts. Before arriving in Lakeville, Mr. Bradley was an assistant dean and class dean at Dartmouth College, a dean of students at Kenyon College and Bowdoin College, and a senior manager of strategy and planning at the Aga Khan Development Network, a global network of schools.

On May 22, the class of 2026 hosted a special all-school meeting to celebrate Mr. Bradley's "graduation," which featured a video of previous all-school presidents and alumni reflecting on their time working with him. The meeting ended with a clap-out for Mr. Bradley.



ARYA SAMAT '26 AND EMILY HWANG '26

Mr. Craig Bradley came to the school in 2016 as the 15th head of school.

When you first arrived here, what did you think the school needed most? How have those needs changed over time?

I was the fourth head of school in five years (Mr. Peter O'Neill was here for one year as an interim, Mr. Kevin Hicks was for two years, and Mr. Malcolm McKenzie was here for six years). So I would say that the first thing that the school needed from a head of school was stability and visibility. I think it's very important that students are at a high school that knows them and is present for them.

As a head of school I think, what do students need? What do they need to get a good education? What do they need to feel a sense of belonging? What do they need to feel a sense of joy?

I think students need a certain kind of normalcy, a certain predictability to school life. And a head of school being

present a lot is part of it. You're going to find him standing out in front of his office, you're going to see him in the Chapel, you're going to see him in the Dining Hall. He shows up at things—he'll be at recitals, and he'll be at theatre performances. Students' purpose here is to learn and grow, and they deserve a stable, predictable environment to learn and grow in.

How did you become head of school?

I worked for the Aga Khan Foundation for ten years in Paris, building boarding schools in the developing world. I was hiring heads of school, building schools, setting them up, and so on. Every year I was there,

I would get called by headhunters in the United States asking me to consider being head of a school. And I said, "There are very small numbers of schools I would actually consider." Because being a head of school is not just a job: it's like a marriage. It's almost your whole life for a period of time.

The thing that really appealed to me about Hotchkiss is the excellence here—it's the quality of the students and faculty, the benefactors who can sponsor the school, and the resources we have that enable us to create initiatives like the Philharmonic and high-quality programs like Hersey Scholars. Excellence is, by definition,

rare. Back then, I viewed Hotchkiss as excellent, but as having the opportunity to be even more so. That's why I responded to that call and said, "Okay, I will interview for this." And here we are.

What are some fun memories from your time here?

Four years ago, I had lunch on a Wednesday with the all-school presidents. Richie Mamam Nbiba '23, one of the all school presidents, said, "Mr Bradley, we really need a holiday. Is there going to be one tonight?" And I said, "I won't call a holiday unless I'm on campus. I have to go to a Founders League followed by a dinner at Miss

Porter's this evening, and I have to be in Boston first thing tomorrow. So there's no holiday tonight." She said, "Okay, got it."

At Hotchkiss that evening, there had been the Powder Puff football game. A rumor got started that everyone was to go to Frank House after the game and ask for a holiday. So, 20 minutes later, I'm driving along the road, and [my wife] Dr. Webb calls me back. She says, "The students are here outside Frank House, and they want a holiday. They're asking for you." But I was already halfway to Boston.

So I said, "Is Richie there? Have Richie come on." I told Richie, "Since you're all there"—(it was Dr Webb's birthday)—"all of you can sing happy birthday for Dr. Webb. But there's no holiday tonight." Poor Richie was surrounded by all the disappointed students, but it was funny to me. I thought, "Is this really happening?"

I was surprised by the head of school holiday two weeks ago. I had the Council of Pluralism and Community down for ice cream on Thursday night. We were all sitting around the living room, and at 7:30 p.m., someone got the email from Mr. Tim Sullivan saying we've got to come to Frank House. I thought, what is happening?

And then I remembered the experience with Richie, and I thought, oh, there's a rumor going around or somebody has hacked Mr. Sullivan's email. Then Mr. Sullivan comes into the room. I had no idea he was even in town; I had just talked to him at midday when he was in New York. But he walks in and says, "Happy holiday!" I had no clue what was going on, but it has become a lifetime joyful memory.

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ARYA SAMAT '26 AND EMILY HWANG '26

Seniors gathered at Fairfield Farm on Sunday May 26 for Senior Dance.

A Heartfelt Farewell to Our Faculty Advisors

Ms. Ann Villano and Mx. Emma Wynn joined The Record in 2017. After advising and mentoring the EiCs and Editorial Board for nine years, they are retiring from the paper. In their time, they supervised the publication of more than 100 issues. Mr. Roger Wistar and Dr. Lennox Debra will take over as faculty advisors at the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

"Ms. Villano and Mx. Wynn, thank you so much for your guidance during my time as EiC! I will always treasure the memories of us gathered around the table, finalising the layout, laughing at potential article titles, and discussing everything down to the finest details. You have left behind such an amazing legacy!"

— Angela Li '24, Editor-in-Chief of the 125th Editorial Board

"The long layout nights in our freezing office were filled with easy laughter. Maybe Ms. Villano thought of a brilliant title for the front page. Or Mx. Wynn pointed to another hilarious typo with their ever-watchful editor's eye. Then we thought of how much longer we would stay here. A part of us was filled with immense gratitude. A part of us wanted to remain longer."

— Anthony Hu '25, Editor-in-Chief of the 126th Editorial Board

EDITORIAL

"We will never be able to fully express our gratitude for Mx. Wynn and Ms. Villano. We three have faced no shortage of difficulties thus far, and through it all, they have stayed patient and forgiving with us. They have taught us everything they know, and we will carry that knowledge into the rest of our time on the paper."

— The Editors-in-Chief of the 128th Editorial Board



JEREMY FANG '26

Mx. Emma Wynn & Ms. Ann Villano advised the paper for nine years.

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See where Senior recruited athletes will be playing next year.

News

Illick and Nam Reflect on Their Time as All-School Presidents

By IZZY LIANG '29

Dwyer Illick '26 and Serena Nam '26 ended their term as all-school presidents at graduation on Friday, May 29.

Illick came to the school as a Prep from New Haven, Connecticut. He lived in Coy for three years, played on Boys Varsity Squash for four years, was co-head of School of Thought and the Random Acts of Kindness Club, and was a proctor in Dana Dorm.

Nam arrived as a Prep from Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey. She was co-head of Calliope and Bluestockings, a proctor, a member of the Council of Pluralism and Community, and participated in the fall musical for four years.

Why did you decide to run for all-school president?

DI: For me, it was two things. Firstly, I started on class council my Prep year, and then Serena and I were Lower Mid class presidents together. I wanted to take the next step along that path. Secondly, being all-school president felt like the thing I could do with the biggest impact that made the best use of what I like doing, which is working with people, planning events, and changing systems. And I really wanted to make an impact here.

SN: I also started out on class council Prep year. I was the Lower Mid class president with Dwyer and then was on class council again Upper Mid year. Student government has been a really central and positive part of my experience here. I loved the opportunity to collaborate with other students and faculty members and plan events for the class. It's a great way to get to know more people in your grade and in the school. The opportunity to serve as a role model for younger students is really appealing, because I know how



COMMUNICATIONS

The student body comes together every year to vote for their All-School presidents.

much I looked up to the all-school presidents before me. I was honored to be able to fill that role.

How did you choose to run with each other?

DI: In our Prep spring, Pahal Bhasin '26 suggested that the two of us run for Lower Mid class presidents. I was friends with Serena at that time, and I knew we'd make a good pair. And then we just went from there, as Lower Mid class presidents and this year, as all-school presidents.

What were some of your favorite things about being all-school presidents?

SN: I think one was definitely the Stu-Fac meetings, because we were able to get to know a lot more people within the student body. For instance, we had two Stu-Fac meetings that were exclusively class council members, and it was cool to

talk to and meet people from other grades that I definitely wouldn't have otherwise. Planning events like the Back to School Bash was also a lot of fun. It was rewarding seeing everything come together in the end and behind the scenes was also really fun: things like getting all the songs together, figuring out the food, coordinating, getting face painters, etc. I feel like we also got to know a lot of faculty members we wouldn't have otherwise, like Mr. Bradley, for instance. We had weekly lunches with him throughout the year. Those lunches were a huge highlight of my year.

DI: Those were some of my highlights as well. I especially liked the moment when events picked up momentum and started working. The Fair Hotchkiss Sing-Off we did at the start of the year was quiet up until 9:02 p.m. and then all of a

sudden about 200 kids showed up, all of them in costumes, screaming. That was a fun moment for us, because it's something we'd worked towards that worked out in the best way. Beyond that, I've liked getting a deeper understanding of the student body through knowing more people and a deeper understanding of the school through working with adults on campus to coordinate and plan things.

What initiatives are you most proud of?

DI: The Back to School Bash was one. The Winter Wonderland dance was another. Also fun and games on Tuesday nights; during 9-to-10, we started putting games and music out. Last Tuesday, we put s'mores out, too. Although that's a smaller thing we've done, I think it has brought some energy to Tuesday nights.

SN: All-school events were fun as well, like the Bachelorette with Sofia Clark '27 and Keven Luiru '27 and turning that into a series and ultimately recording a video of their first date. Or even the Guess the Faculty game, based on a picture or a tiny feature of their face at the start of the year to announce our dorm sing-off judges.

What were some of your biggest challenges?

DI: Getting enough participation for events we would run was a challenge. A lot of events, like dances or the Back to School Bash, needed a help from many people to work properly and you can't control how many people show up. You can advertise as much as you want, but then you have to sit through the anxiety of that maybe people won't come and it'll flop.

SN: I would say that Senior fall time-management was a bit difficult with everything going on and college applications. Adjusting to a new role was overwhelming, but we had a good support system between adults and our communications officer, Maddie Sada '26. In addition, getting the planning process started when you have an idea is challenging. The Back to School Bash, for example, was quite a heavy workload, especially since we had to do so much of it over the summer.

What is your one biggest piece of advice for next year's presidents?

DI: Mr. Brashears always says: "big dumb fun." The goal for all-school presidents is simply to create a lot of big dumb fun. It can be easy to get busy in Senior fall and stressed about a bunch of different things, but it's worthwhile to remember that you're just here to create fun.

Mr. Fenton Receives the 2026 Lufkin Prize

By BRIAN LI '29

"I'm just as surprised as you are. I'm humbled and thankful to Mr. Lufkin, Mr. Bradley, and the faculty that nominated me or at least hit the wrong button on the nomination form," said Mr. Bill Fenton P'26, instructor in physics and astronomy, director of the EFX Lab and the Observatory, and head coach of Varsity Volleyball, at the 2026 Lufkin Prize ceremony on Tuesday, May 12.

Awarded annually, the Lufkin Prize is the school's highest honor for teachers. Established by Mr. Dan Lufkin '49, P'80,'82,'88,'23, the prize recognizes a faculty member who makes a significant contribution to character development within the community and who serves as a role model for students and recognizes excellence in teaching, advising, coaching, and overall service to the community. Past recipients include Ms. Wendy Levithan, instructor in French; Ms. Carita Gardiner, dean of the class of 2027, Class of '42 Teaching Chair and instructor in English; Mr. Charlie Frankenbach, Russel Murray Bigelow Teaching Chair and instructor in English; and Dr. Richard "DK" Kirby, instructor in chemistry and Independence Foundation Chair.

After teaching at Moultonborough Academy, Mr. Fenton joined the school in 2006 as an instructor in physics and astronomy. Mr. Fenton coached JV Volleyball for eight years and ultimate frisbee for nine years. This year, Mr. Fenton is teaching multiple courses, including Intensive Physics, Honors Calculus-based Physics: Mechanics, and Honors Scientific Research in Physics: Astronomy.

Mr. Craig Bradley, head of school, opened the prize ceremony by describing the importance of the

prize and thanking Mr. Lufkin. Dean of Faculty Ms. Shannon Clark, followed, sharing some of Mr. Fenton's achievements and reading student reflections. She said, "One current student writes, 'Mr. Fenton always approaches situations with an open mind and helps students find solutions to their problems.'"

Mr. Fenton then addressed the community. He spoke about his upbringing, notably his fondness for puzzle-solving and experimenting. He said, "I love a good puzzle. If any of you wonder why I don't just come out and tell you how to solve a physics problem or how to attach the wheels on your mousetrap car, it's because I don't want to deprive you of that feeling of solving your own puzzles. There is a lot of learning and joy in that struggle."

He then spoke of his time in

college and his job application and interview at the school. "This place changed my life. I think when I first got here, I thought of it as a job. But somewhere along the way... it became a life. I couldn't tell you what my hours are, but most people that work this many hours don't get to see their young daughters get on the school bus every morning or get to have dinner with them every night. Even though dorm duty often conflicted with bath time, I was always at least around. It's been a great place to raise a family.

Mr. Fenton by asking, "How do you define this amazing group of people that live and work together? That teach and learn together? That solve puzzles together? That take care of each other? It turns out that if they're bearcats, it's called a sleuth. A sleuth of bearcats. I like to think it's because we're all figuring things out together."



COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Fenton directs the EFX lab and the school's observatory.



ARYA SAMAT '29 AND EMILY HWANG '29

Senior Dance is an integral part of the school's graduation experience.

Seniors Enjoy Last Dance Together

By STELLA LIAO '27

On Sunday, May 24, Seniors and their plus-one guests gathered at Fairfield Farm for the annual Senior Dance.

The event marked one of the final celebrations for the Class of 2026 before graduation, bringing together students for an evening of photos, dinner, and dancing.

Tickets for the dance went on sale in late April, and Seniors organized their own table arrangements in the weeks leading up to the event. Students arrived dressed in formal attire, including suits, tuxedos, dresses, and corsages.

Students took photos at Main Circle before departing as well as at the farm and spent time with classmates and friends, making memories before the end of the school year.

The Senior Class Council led planning for the event with support from the Dean of Students office, the Head of School's office, and members of the CulinArt and Facilities teams. Following dinner, the band

Eternity Star performed for attendees. Eternity Star has performed at Senior Dance for the past 14 years.

CulinArt prepared a variety of food stations and desserts for the dinner, including a steak-carving station, creamy pesto tortellini, pretzel stations with chocolate and cheese, and various desserts.

Despite the cold and rain, the atmosphere at Fairfield Farm was both celebratory and nostalgic, as Seniors enjoyed one of their last major traditions together at the school.

Students gathered on the dance floor and around the venue, taking advantage of the opportunity to spend time together before heading in different directions after graduation.

For many attendees, the Senior Dance served as more than just a formal event; it was an opportunity to reflect on the friendships, experiences, and the community they built during their time at the school.

Dr. Abby Fanlo Susk '12 Returns as Commencement Speaker for Class of 2026

By JOY ZHANG '29

Dr. Abby Fanlo Susk '12 returned to speak at the Class of 2026's commencement this morning. She said, "I'm beyond honored. Hotchkiss gave me an incredible education that allowed me to do the work I do today. For everything it's given me, I'm really honored for the chance to give back in a small way by sharing some of my experiences with the class."

In an interview with *The Record* prior to delivering her address, Dr. Fanlo Susk reflected on her time at the school. She said, "The joy of truly just getting to be with my friends all the time was just so special and meaningful."

"Hotchkiss gave me an incredible education that allowed me to do the work I do today," said Dr. Fanlo Susk.

As a Bearcat, Dr. Fanlo Susk played field hockey and tennis. She said, "I remember being on the bus to and from sports, and listening to my iPod. I have distinct memories of listening to Slightly Stupid songs."

She was also an Editor-in-Chief for *The Record*.

While at the school, Dr. Fanlo Susk built a passion for history, civics, politics, and literature. She

said, "I attribute a lot to my Upper Mid year AP U.S. History class with Mr. Tom Flemma. AP U.S. History was probably one of my favorite classes I've ever taken in my life. It was truly at Hotchkiss where I thought, 'Oh, I really am interested in politics and civics and political history.'"

At Stanford, she fell in love with international security and military history after majoring in political science and minoring in military history.

Following the completion of her bachelor's degree, she earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in Stanford's political science program.

Dr. Fanlo Susk said, "As a Ph.D. student, what I found to be interesting was social conflict, international conflict, and communal violence, which were all deeply impacted by communications technology and the way that we communicate."

In college, she was a Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellow, an Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education Fellow and Mentor, and a Junior Scholar at the Carnegie International Policy Scholar Consortium and Network (IPSCON).

After graduate school, Dr. Fanlo Susk pursued policy making at Meta. In 2023, she led policy and strategy for the U.S. government's Department of Defense to ensure AI use is in line with the nation's values.

In 2024, she began serving on the product policy team at OpenAI. She is currently helping create policies for responsible AI use. Dr. Fanlo

said, "I'm proud because I feel like I've built a career that allows me to, on a daily basis, to make sure that these very ubiquitous, very powerful technologies are used in ways that help the average person. I hope I can further our ability to live positive lives."

"How do you find out what your values are, and how do you follow them when life and the world is uncertain?" said Dr. Fanlo Susk.

In her speech, Dr. Fanlo Susk reflected on what she called "the importance of learning how to be in touch with your own North Star, your own values."

As she spends her time writing rules and policies, she thinks a lot about how these rules align with the goals or values of the organization in question.

She said, "How do you find out what your values are, and how do you follow them when life and the world is uncertain? How do you navigate developing your own path, the rules you want to follow, and stay aligned to your values?"

Ultimately, she wanted to remind students of the importance of being yourself. She said, "Stay true to what you want for yourself, and constantly cultivate an understanding of what your own goals and values are."



ABBY FANLO SUSK '12

Dr. Abby Fanlo Susk was an Editor-in-Chief for *The Record*.

Senior Dance Photos



ARYA SAMAT '29 AND EMILY HWANG '29

Mr. Bradley Reflects On His Time At the School

FROM COVER

What changes during your time here have you been most proud of?

For one, we're a much more diverse community. We are also more selective in terms of admissions. Our acceptance rate dropped, and our yield is higher. We were accepting 20% of the applicant pool ten years ago, and about 48% accepted the offer. This year, we took 14% of the applicants and 61% accepted. Mr. Erby Mitchell and his team get a lot of credit for that, but in a sense, all of us get credit for that. People find this place desirable. The *Niche* ranking this year didn't hurt, but our selectiveness has been steadily progressing every year, so it's not all because of *Niche*. I'm proud of that.

We hadn't had a comprehensive capital campaign in over 30 years at the school, while our biggest competitors typically had fundraising campaigns about every seven or eight years. That was a kind of institutional neglect.

Our capital campaign, which will end on June 30, has been very successful; people have been immensely generous, and it's been so heartening to me. I'm proud that we've gained the confidence as a board of trustees and a development committee to do something like this. The school community has done great work and raised well over the goal of \$250 million, which has enabled us to increase the financial aid budget to help talented kids be here and fund projects like the Dining Hall and the renovations for Hurst Hall.

What are your plans for retirement?

Dr. Webb and I have always traveled a lot. Because we lived in Europe for ten years, we used to travel constantly in Western Europe. So travel will be a part of my retirement plan.

I also love building chairs. I've been building furniture for a long time, and I get a lot of satisfaction out of that. There's a blue Windsor chair in my office that I made, and you can't do that as a beginner woodworker. That reflects years and



ALICIA FENG '28

years of woodworking practice, experience, and a certain level of mastery.

I love things that require a long and slow learning curve. I say this to my own daughters: commit yourself to something that you know is going to take a long time to really develop mastery. Do that for your life.

The other thing I'll do is a lot of whitewater canoeing. Dr. Webb and I have done whitewater kayaking together for a long time. We have a trip planned for July on a river in Quebec with a group of friends, running whitewater, living on the river, and camping on the river. A big part of kayaking is the friendships and community.

I'll also have more family time. My nephew lives in New Jersey with his parents, so one of my goals is to be present in his life as he's growing up and spend time with him, since both his parents work full time. Our younger daughter lives in Montreal, so we'll go up to Canada quite a lot, too.

Then we're going to be in Brunswick, Maine. It is a really, really beautiful place, but it's also the poorest state in New England. A lot of charities, especially in regards to newly arrived immigrants and refugees, need people who have language skills. I speak French, so I may work with that population in Portland, Maine. I don't know exactly what that's going to look like yet, but there will be a service element to what my life looks like going forward. I want to make myself useful.

Are there any thank you's you want to say?

The faculty have been really fantastic. I see excellence among our colleagues, and I have great, great respect for what they do. For our faculty, teaching is a full commitment. Many spend their whole working life in this community, so I have a lot of thanks for them and what they do.

I also want to thank my administrative colleagues: we work together day in, day out, at all hours of the week. Some of them you know, but some of them are behind the scenes and are less visible to students. They are highly capable professionals, so I'm immensely grateful to them.

We also have such a devoted group

of volunteers. Being a trustee is a voluntary role: these are busy people who don't all live around here, but have been such a great help to me and my senior administrative colleagues in terms of the big strategic choices and major decisions in the school. I'm inspired by their devotion and their full commitment. During Covid, this was especially evident. I have felt full support from the Board of Trustees from the very first minute I started in this role, and I continue to do so.

And thanks to our students. I take huge pride in the students. When I'm off-campus talking about the school, I often just talk about you. Your moments of mastery and excellence inspire me, because I know the discipline required in achieving them. People have been asking me a lot this year about my legacy because it's the end of my career as an educator. And on one hand, there's a beautiful dining hall, a renovated Walker Auditorium, really impressive admissions results, and college outcomes. But the real legacy is in what the students will do with their lives. I've been here ten years, so I can see the sorts of things young alums are getting involved with and the impact they're beginning to have.

Seeing students go out there and make their mark reminds me that the marriage to this work and this life that I've lived fully for the last ten years in this place matters, because the work that you and your predecessors will go and do out there doing matters. I take immense pride in that.

As you prepare to leave, what are some moments that you really cherish or look back on with joy?

There's so many. I love calling the head of school holidays. That's joyful for all of us.

I also quite like the simple pleasures of the place. Sometimes, I'll just sit at a table with students at dinner. It's spontaneous, and I really enjoy those conversations. I love the diversity of this community. I really hope we never take that for granted. I love hearing people's stories of where they're from. Personally, it's so enriching to get a sense of people from all walks of life, all backgrounds, and geography, and so on. I find that very stimulating. So there's a lot of joy in this for me, truly.

Features



ETHAN CHOI '26

Ethan Choi

When I was choosing my first co-curricular, I made sure that I would be part of the Boys Thirds Soccer team. The legends of a goat cookout at the end of the year and a great communal environment made me think it was the perfect place for me to start. I gathered much of what I remembered from my time playing youth soccer in second grade and decided that this team would be the home for me. Unfortunately, as try outs passed, I started to realise my chances were extremely slim.

That year, players found a bigger appeal in playing for fun at the thirds level, leaving the JV team with around six players at the start of the season and thirds with forty players. So the Thirds team ended up emulating what the JV team was supposed to look like.

Then, my golden opportunity arrived. Mr. Hadzima said that if anyone wanted to play for JV, they could make the team. My Prep self could not swallow the possibility of getting cut from a Thirds Soccer team at Hotchkiss. So, I immediately said yes.

But every time I said, "I play on JV," it was a gut-wrenching feeling—because I knew the truth. I had covered up the fact that I was going to get cut from a Thirds team by replacing it with an "ambition to play better soccer." I felt like a liar.

The JV team lost 11 games that year. We scored one single goal in our 7th game, making the previously sad coaches and bench light up with joy. We got so excited about putting a number up on the score board that we rushed onto

the field. Ultimately, we ended up losing that game 2-1. And after that game, we continued losing, up until the athletic department decided to cut the JV program. They split the team into two halves: one would join Thirds, and the other would join Varsity. I ended up in the same Thirds team that I had decided to leave.

Even though I had first joined Thirds for the glory of winning and seeming like a good soccer player to others, the reasons for why I'm sad about our disbandment are much different now. It wasn't a win or even that goal that made me proud of the team; it was the many practices and ten games we lost that allowed my team to gather with a sense of purpose, goal, and comradery. Those times of embarrassment remain the most memorable and vivid.

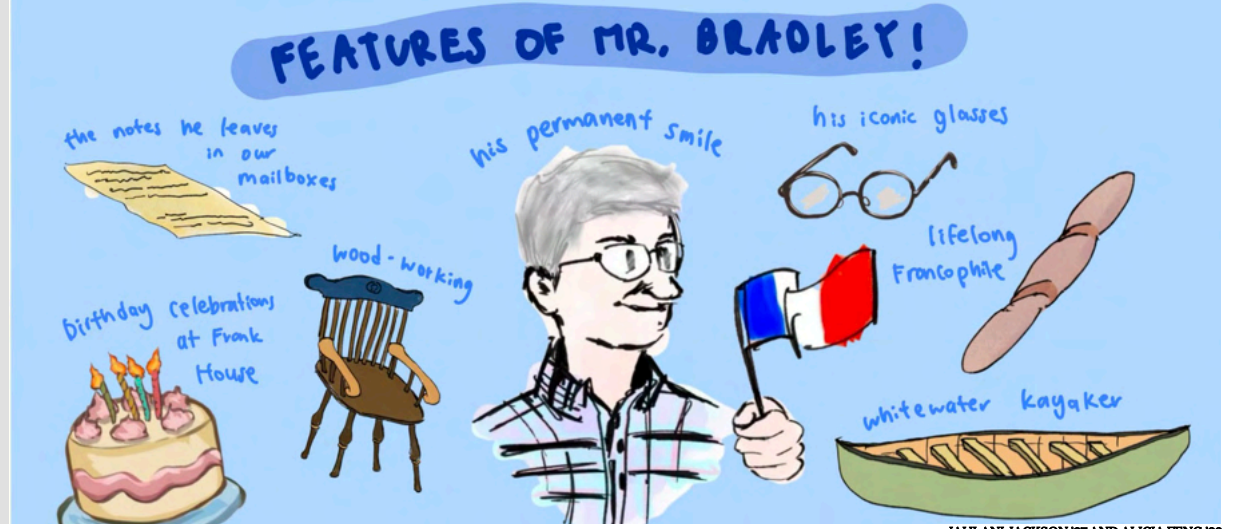
This year, I decided to join wrestling, even though returning wrestlers kept warning me about how challenging training would be. In some ways, wrestling to me felt like JV Soccer all over again. I couldn't even complete a smooth back roll until after winter break. But this time, I knew what moments to look forward to: the small moments of victory.

I hit a take down my first time ever wearing a onesie in front of a home crowd. My friends and teammates were cheering as I prepared to go for a pin against my first ever opponent. And then the inevitable event happened...I got pinned and lost.

In fact, I lost every single wrestling match I had that season. But I enjoyed those losses, not just because they brought a good laugh to the dinner table, but because improvement is rewarding, and being vulnerable to yourself and the others around you is joyful.

I pray that we won't shy away from our true selves for the pursuit of who we want to become, because it is in the moments when you think you have broken down that great things arise.

So, thank you Hotchkiss, my friends, family members, those coaches who lost with me, faculty members who helped me become who I am now through the times of struggle, vulnerability, and sometimes... embarrassment.



JAHLANI JACKSON '27 AND ALICIA FENG '28



EVELYN ANDERSON '26

Evelyn Anderson

"...and this is our Chapel. Hotchkiss is non-denominational, but we meet in here once a week. It's such a beautiful space, one of the oldest on campus..." I say absent-mindedly two to three times a week to my tour groups, as if the room and its significance are lost on me.

One Saturday night, in September of my Prep year, I decided I would ride the shuttle to church that next morning. Having been raised and eventually confirmed a Presbyterian, going to church and Sunday school my entire childhood, I was disappointed to learn that there were no Presbyterian Churches nearby.

Nevertheless, I hopped on the mid bus that Sunday morning, where Mr. Fall promptly greeted me, "Good morning! Where are you going?" to which the only other student on the bus

responded "Salisbury Congregational Church." I had intended to go to the Episcopal service, but Prep me did not have the wherewithal to voice that, so I followed Isaiah Stephens off the bus into SCC.

Sitting down with a student I did not know, in a pew of a church that was not my denomination, I figured I would leave this service and resign myself to simply going to Church on the weekends I went home. However, after the service, I wandered into the Coffee Hour, where Pastor John asked me all about the school.

After three consecutive Sundays at SCC, I began making church friends, such as Ms. Cathey, who runs the Church's volunteering programs, and Mr. Charlie Noyes, a former Hotchkiss Art teacher, who made it a point to keep tabs on my Thirds Field Hockey career.

Sadly, after those first few Sundays, getting wrapped up in life at the school, I stopped prioritizing God, instead getting bogged down by brunch, laundry and work on Sundays. I went to church once every other month at best, until I had an epiphany this summer on my Hotchkiss in Andalucia trip.

As I looked up at the altar in Toledo's cathedral, I realized how warped my priorities had become. I realized that I had grown away from God, getting wrapped up in Earthly things: grades, clothes, and drama occupied my mind more than my relationship to the Lord, which was a terrifying realization.

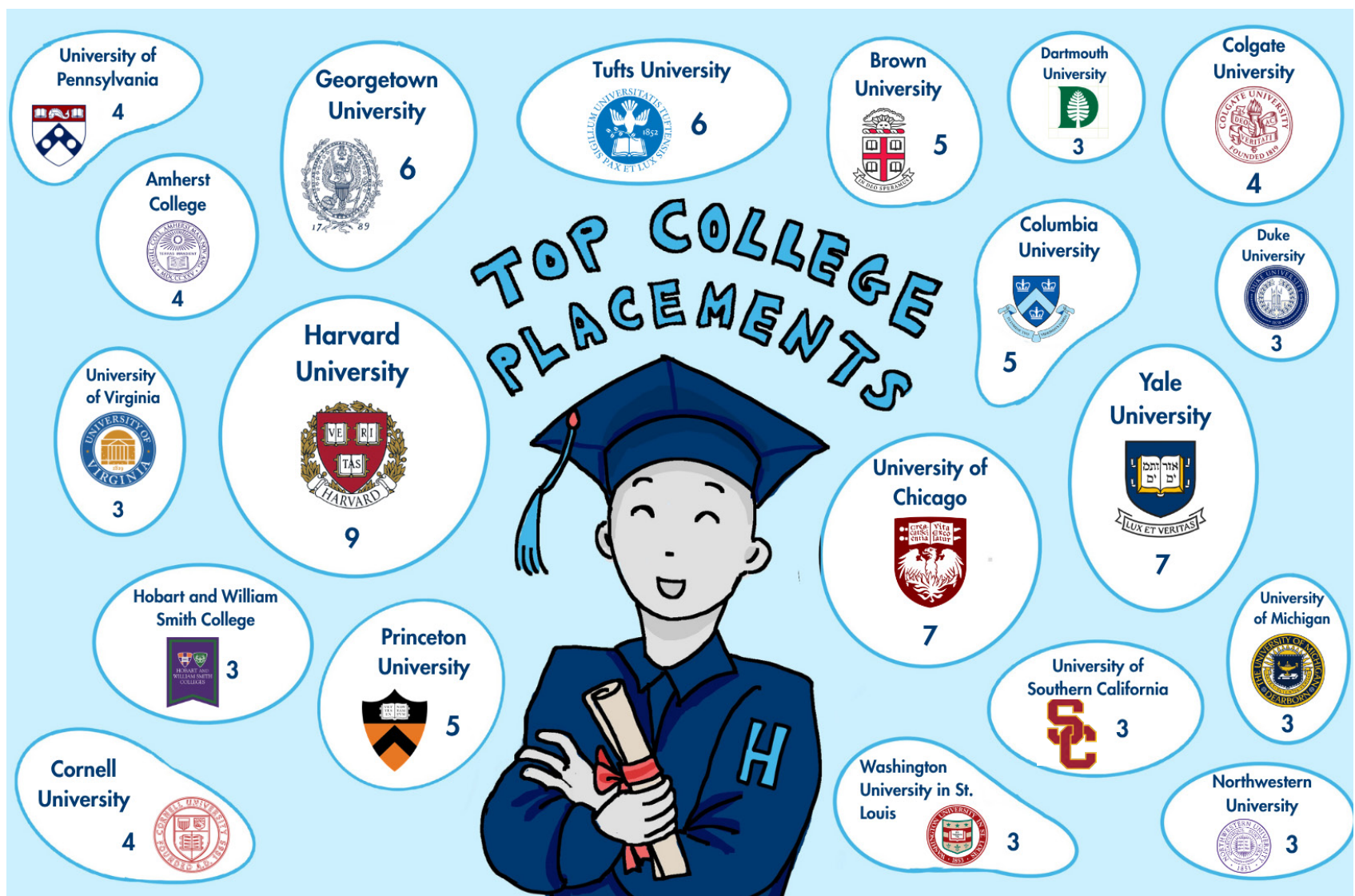
Many Hotchkiss students would classify themselves Christian: whether

Catholic or Protestant, many students wear crosses and celebrate our holidays, without ever really practicing or engaging with their faith. However, reflecting on my trajectory of faith as I've been here, I realize how scary this "lukewarm Christianity" really is; how sidetracked and sad I get focusing on GPAs and SAT/ACT scores, gossip and drama, clothes and trends, often feeling surprisingly alone in such a lively, active place.

In one of my lowest moments at Hotchkiss, I sat on my bed, feeling utterly alone after having attempted to call five of my friends, none of whom were free to talk. In this state of dejection, I reached for the Bible that has sat on my nightstand all four years, but had not been opened on any recent occasion.

In that moment, late at night, in the trenches of my Upper Mid year, I turned to Jesus, to prayer, and to scripture, finding solace and peace in the reassurance of God's love for me. I do not say this to try and convert anyone or to push my faith upon others, but to reveal and remind you of the friend you have in God.

So, each time I enter the Chapel, whether showing it to a family or taking my seat in the front row on a Monday morning, I gaze fondly at the small cross clutched in the beak of the bird above the curtain, a reminder, in a now-secular room at a non-religious school, to keep my faith and to always turn to God's unconditional love when things are hard.



BELLA CHEN '29



JACK MCCARTHY '25

Jack McCarthy

On a trip to New York City, my mom and I went to Bloomingdale's to purchase white pants for graduation. I had my backpack with me, containing my laptop, wallet, and other valuables. If I spotted a potential pair of pants and tried them on in the fitting room, I'd leave my backpack unattended on one of those conveniently placed velvet chairs. It hadn't occurred to me that it wouldn't be safe unattended.

I've gotten used to leaving my bag everywhere. I'll toss it to the side of the Dining Hall foyer or drop it outside Dana. Two nights ago, I left it in Main overnight, and in the morning, it was right where I left it. Aside from leaving out a plethora of valuable belongings, I also never lock my dorm room. (I probably shouldn't announce it to the whole school, but I'm leaving today, so it's too late to rob me now!)

My eighth-grade self, who came to Hotchkiss after fourteen years in New York City, would be appalled by my backpack behavior. Yet my backpack is perfectly safe at Hotchkiss. If anyone were to steal something, it would be as benign as a piece of gum.

The opportunity to attend high school in an environment with this sense of utopian security is something I've been thinking about as I prepare to reenter the real world. It's certainly better to go about one's life hoping for the best, rather than assuming the worst. At the same time, the innocence I've been imbued with by Hotchkiss concerns me. I worry my naivety will make me an easy target. What will I do next year without my mom's reminders to be wary? For a while, the pressure of this question made me dread leaving.

A couple of days after returning from the city, there was a bear in Bissell Quad. I joined a small crowd outside the science building to watch the bear high up in a tree in front of Redlich. There were hundreds of feet between me and the tree, but after I got there, Security arrived and ordered us inside.

At that moment, Hotchkiss' safety felt stifling. I realized I look forward to the freedom afforded by leaving this place. It's the ideal environment to attend high school in, and I worry about transitioning out of it. But there's something rewarding, to living with the understanding that every decision you make has consequences, positive or negative. I'm ready to see the bear from closer up.



OLIVIA KWON '26

Olivia Kwon

I watched a press conference Eileen Gu did after she had won two silver medals and one gold at the XXV Winter Olympic Games. She said, "You can control how you think, and therefore, you can control who you are."

On a day-to-day basis, though, we often fail to realize the deeper implications of positive thinking. With neuroplasticity on our sides, the way we think, the thoughts we have, quite literally mold our brains. As Gu goes on to highlight, you can literally become exactly who you want to be.

In my four years here, I've had all sorts of experiences. Prep and Lower Mid year were especially difficult. Coming to Hotchkiss felt like leaving an old life behind. I had a crippling lack of confidence and would quit things if I felt I wasn't good enough at them. For those reasons, I look back on those two years with more distaste than fondness; in retrospect, I was my own obstacle.

Upper Mid year saw a small shift. Though notorious for being one of, if not the hardest years, I stayed pretty happy. That's not to say I didn't get swamped with work, quarrel with people, or have late-night breakdowns. But slowly, after every math test I bombed, every bad interaction with someone, or every sigh I made after seeing my acne in the mirror, I would divert my attention to the things that were going right in my life.

I didn't notice in real time, but implementing positive thinking and gratitude in small moments like those increased my overall satisfaction so much so that I'd classify Senior fall as one of the best times of my Hotchkiss career (hot take, I know).

High school is not supposed to be easy; when things get hard, the easiest thing to do is to wallow for days (bonus points if you get your friends to join in). There are hundreds of things at Hotchkiss you could complain about—but there are equally as many wonderful things about this place that we take for granted. Your experience is a product of what you choose to see. In fifty years, when you look back on your time here, I guarantee you do not want work or college results to be the only thing you remember. Do what you love, be who you want to be, and try to find beauty in everything.



CLEMMIE MORLOCK '26

Clemmie Morlock

In the field behind my home, supple blades tingle-tickle between my toes as I wobble to avoid the wildflowers—spots of yellow, white, sometimes purple.

In Brooklyn, where I grew up, I weaved through the throng, absorbing each honk, shout, and billboard flash reverberating over the sparkling, gritty concrete.

As I cross Bissell Quad at Hotchkiss, copper leaves crunch underfoot and trees murmur overhead.

These are my routes; these are my roots. The ones I love and have walked now hundreds of times—moving, breathing, absorbing, grounding, observing, wondering, reflecting. How many different things have I noticed, or thought up, or realized along these familiar walks?

I have had some of the most meaningful conversations on walks and some of my favorite laughs. When I walk with someone, we walk and we talk. Or we walk and we just are, and that can be another form of listening.

We're fully present, because that's all there is. Me and them and the world around us; there is infinitely more to take in. But I also can't help peering off the path and wondering what lies beyond? The lines on my map have grown, crossed, and layered—then started to reach blank pages.

Walking has allowed me to take things in just as they are and as they are ready. When I walk, I meet the world before me; my inside world and the outside world as they are at present. Each shifts slightly as I pass through, and that's why I walk.

I'm not a finished person—I don't think anyone ever is—and in walking I discover myself and all that is around me as we go.

What started as only a sprinkle of routes—my roots—has now grown into a sprawling, ever-so-colorful map. I aspire to keep re-reading it, sharing it, and adding to it—one step at a time in this whirlwind world of leaps and bounds.

I welcome you to join me.

Departing Faculty & Staff



Charlie Frankenbach
Instructor in English
37 Years



Andrew Murphy
Housekeeper
31 Years



Richard Kirby
Instructor in Chemistry
30 Years



Charlie Tokarz
Instructor in Saxophone
29 Years



Thomas Herold
Instructor in English
27 Years



Shirley Hoffkins
Admission
Administrative Assistant
25 Years



Mike Traggio
Director of the Forest J.
Mars Athletic Center
23 Years



Matthias Weiss
Instructor in Mathematics
19 Years



Charlie Godfrey
Carpenter
16 Years



Wendy MacKenzie
Associate Director of
Human Resources
13 Years



Phyllis Schneider
CWCC Childcare Giver
13 Years



Craig Bradley
Head of School
10 Years



Michael Flynn
Safety & Security Officer
10 Years



Dave Paton
Safety & Security Officer
8 Years



Nicholas Seiser
HVAC
8 Years



Kathryn Fleishman
Head of the
English Department
7 Years



Brenda Catalano
Assistant to
Alumni Engagement
7 Years



Sharon Johnson
Housekeeper
7 Years



Ninette Enrique
Chief Advancement
Officer
6 Years



Hope Cobera
Chief Communications
Officer
6 Years

Not Pictured (by length of service): Cristin Rich, Kinyette Henderson, Jeffrey Hinz, Joshua Leary, Stacey Capriozzi, Suzanne Wagor, Hope Boyer, Maria Kimsey, James Gillispie, Kylie Bartlett, Mary Plummer.

Opinion

Seniors Look Back

My Grandmother, the Reason I Won't Give Up

Mark Zhu '26

For those of you who don't know what an Ironman is, it's a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride, and a 26.2-mile marathon—back-to-back-to-back, all in one day. People train for years to do this. I am not one of those people.

I came to Hotchkiss as a skinny kid who doubted his own self-worth. And while I've met some of the most incredible people here, there were also moments that stuck with me for the wrong reasons. I was called "intellectually incapable" in a classroom. I was called "mentally insane" by a coach. More than once, I was made to feel like I just didn't belong.

But there is nothing that excites me more than proving people wrong. So, naturally, my logical response was to attempt one of the hardest endurance events on the planet.

On October 12, 2024, the journey began in the Hixon Pool. I've been swimming most of my life, so staring at the black line for hours is something I'm weirdly comfortable with. One hour and 20 minutes later, I hit 169 laps. 2.4 miles down. Then came the bike.

I decided the Millerton Rail Trail was the best venue. It started like a walk in the park—rock music, good scenery, feeling strong. But at mile 111—one mile from the finish—I crashed straight into a curb. I stood up with throbbing wrists and bleeding knees. My only thought was: finish the last damn mile. So I did. Afterwards, I went to Sharon Orthopedics and met with Dr. Yaghobian. He took one look at the X-ray and said, "Your wrist is dislocated and broken."

That left one small problem: I still hadn't run the marathon. And I had to finish what I started. Running 26.2 miles on the track in a shoulder-high cast was the hardest thing I've ever done. My three years of cross country here taught me how to hold an eight-minute pace, but maintaining it for three-and-a-half hours in that condition was pure agony. Looking back, I honestly don't know how I pushed through the pain.

There is a backstory to this all. My grandmother, Zhang Yuezhen, was fearless. When my dad was in his twenties, he was working as a bank teller when a robber burst in, ran up to his counter, and stole the cash right out of his hands. As the guy scrambled

outside, my grandmother sprinted out the door, chased him down, and beat him until the police arrived.

When I started running in middle school, she was at every single race—always smiling at the finish line. She told me she wanted to live long enough to see me do something big. But in the fall of 2022, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor—a death sentence. When I went to see her, chemotherapy had changed her physically, but in her eyes, there was no fear, only determination. When I left, she squeezed my hand, and I knew that would be the last time I ever saw her.

My grandmother is the person my grit comes from. When I'm at mile 90 on a bike and my legs are screaming, I think about her eyes. I think about how "giving up" simply didn't exist in her world.

At Hotchkiss, I've had to practice that mindset every day. After a brutal math test? You show up the next morning. After a tough practice when your body is wrecked? You get back and push harder. Because that's what this place demands of us. And Grandma, if you're listening—I hope I've made you proud. Because as long as that's true, I don't know how to give up.



MARK ZHU '26

My Heart Is On My Sleeve, but That's Okay

Lily Siris '26

When I was a kid, my mom didn't have to be particularly observant. I was unapologetically emotional, wearing my heart on my sleeve for everyone to see. All I knew were open arms waiting for me to come home, getting off the bus from school, loving my happiness and sadness and everything in between.

Then I came to Hotchkiss. What was once a myriad of emotions were narrowed to just three: stressed, sad, and homesick. I didn't know how to tell my mom that I was being crushed under the weight of the school we'd thought would be perfect for me, so I didn't. On April 22nd, 2023 when she came up with my little brother for an early birthday celebration, I pretended everything was fine. I smiled and blew

out my candles, hiding any clue that my room was a biohazard, I couldn't find the motivation to brush my teeth at night, and reading a single chapter of *The Samurai's Garden* felt like climbing Mt. Everest.

I was sitting in the common room where I'd spent the last three hours trying and failing to write a single comment for my annotated bibliography when, suddenly, I couldn't breathe. I sat with my dorm faculty desperately trying to count five things I could hear, four things I could smell, three things I could touch... I thought that this was it. I wasn't cut out for Hotchkiss. I wasn't smart, or talented, or strong enough to be here.

I started this reflection last spring, and I thought I knew how to end it. I had just become a dorm proctor and a Blue Lead Ambassador after two years of

being rejected as an orientation leader. I'd become the head of St. Luke's after being rejected, not just from their board, but from every board I applied to my freshman year. Looking at my list of accomplishments, it was easy to feel like I had grown.

But when I got into college this fall, something shifted. I had spent so long evaluating myself the way schools do: through achievements, roles, and titles. Now that I was in, I realized I didn't know who I was without them.

But if Hotchkiss has taught me anything, it is that it's okay not to know. I don't know who I am yet, I don't know how to fit these four years into the neat, sequential story that life refuses to be, and I don't know if the only thing people will remember from this reflection is my hardships.

But I do know that struggling doesn't

make you weak, and it doesn't mean that you're in the wrong place. As I look back to who I was as a freshman, I'm so proud of how much I've learned. Hotchkiss showed me how to love life, even when it's hard.

I love looking up at the sky as I'm walking back from rehearsals, black and beautiful, as if it exists just for me. I love showing the faculty kids how to cross the monkey bars, knowing that I can play a small part in teaching them that they are appreciated and important. And, most of all, I love the people who've stuck with me through some of the best and worst years of my life.

I wouldn't have traded any of this for an easier high school experience.

So if you're ever sitting in a common room, unable to breathe, and thinking that no one could possibly understand, I hope you know that you're not alone.



LILY SIRIS '26

Who I Am Beneath the Noise

Sia Reddy '26

It's a Saturday night during my Lower Mid year. I'm sitting on the edge of a friend's bed, holding my phone like a prop, half-listening to a conversation I have nothing to add to. The room is full, the music is loud, and I remember thinking: I don't want to be here.

And then, almost immediately after: but what if I leave and something happens? So I stayed for another hour, acting like I was having a good time. Because that's what you do at Hotchkiss: you stay present, stay available, stay in the mix, always.

I grew up as an only child, probably the most introverted person you'd meet. I built things in my garage, tinkered in my basement, read afternoons away, sang badly, made up my own dances, and did anything else my young mind dreamt of at the moment.

Then, I came here. No one explicitly says being alone is a bad thing. It happens through hundreds of small moments, in the way a loud, full table feels safer than an empty one, being busy signals that you're thriving, a Saturday night alone in your dorm, even if you genuinely wanted it, carries this faint shame, like you're someone things aren't happening to.

I had developed, without realizing it, a reflexive need to ensure there was always something between me and silence. A show, a scroll, a conversation I didn't particularly want to be in. The cruel irony is that the more I filled

the space, the lonelier I felt. There is a version of loneliness I've come to understand that has nothing to do with how many people are around you.

But this past winter, I read a book, *The Comfort Crisis*, that put words to something I hadn't been able to name. It argued that despite the fact that people today are rarely physically alone, we are lonelier than any generation before us—not because there's a scarcity of company, but because we've lost access to real solitude. Most of us have never actually sat with ourselves long enough to know who we are underneath the noise.

This semester, I started small. It began with walks down Race Track Road, to the lake, around town, out to the farm. No music, no podcasts, nothing. Just me and my thoughts. The first few times, I had no idea what to do with myself. I kept reaching for my phone, thinking about what I was missing or what I should be doing.

But slowly, as I stuck with it, I started noticing things I'd walked past a hundred times: the way the light sits on the lake in the late afternoon or the smell of the path by the farm after it rains. I started sitting in the chapel for a few minutes during the school day to let the sunlight soak in or walk to the VS beach in the evenings to swing and watch the sunset. Of course, none of these are grand. Instead, it was a series of small, deliberate decisions to take ordinary, quiet moments and protect them.

What I found in those walks, to

my surprise, was not loneliness, but a version of myself I had almost completely lost track of: one who knew what she thought and what mattered to her, not just what she had absorbed from the noise around her for years.

When you are never alone, you never really find out who you are. But I think the reason most of us resist being alone goes deeper than habit. Being alone feels like evidence that you have nowhere to be, like no one wants you. We are so afraid of being perceived as lonely that we never sit with ourselves long enough to find out we're not. And in avoiding solitude to escape that perception, we guarantee the very loneliness we were afraid of showing.

Once you've sat alone on a swing watching the sunset and genuinely not needed anything from anyone at that moment, the other pressures get smaller. You stop filling the silence out of panic. You stop showing up to people, needing them to complete something for you. And when you arrive whole instead of empty, that's when your relationships and social interactions become so much more meaningful.

Hotchkiss gave me the noise that made me lose that version of myself, but it also gave me the space that helped me find her again. It gave me friends who, through their own admirable examples, showed me what it looks like to be happy in your own company. It gave me teachers who pushed me hard enough that I had no choice but to figure out what I was actually made of.



SIA REDDY '26

Finding Joy & Making Space



Remy Lee '26

I came to Hotchkiss with a fever—I carved my path so intensely that at some point my dedication bordered on insanity, and my discipline, asceticism. My drive didn't come from external pressure or validation, but rather, an impulse for self-actualization. Madness is somewhere between chaos and having a dream; somewhere between intellectual passion, perfectionist fear, and bohemian yearning to break free, I built my life around a monk-like routine.

People say every greatness requires sacrifice. Olympic athletes. High-profile leaders. But it is difficult to be that great without focusing your vision so severely, like Tom Brady and his seventh ring. As any driver of men, dreams, too, are addictive and consuming. So immersed in the metaphysical, I forgot that, before vessels for higher production, we were

humans: flesh, bones, and heart. Life offered sensations and excitements that gleamed just as brightly as those pleasures of the abstract. Those spheres of life slowly seeped into me. Much like the reverse of Plato's cave, I opened up to a larger world, and slowly, I became more whole, more lucid, more humble. I dedicated myself to the company of friends, finding love, and enjoying life.

There, in this new mode, I found healing, joy, and meaning. I felt alive, captivated. We can only think so much. Ideas are seductive, but our brains can only optimize our future so much. Experience is the one currency I believe in, and to earn it, you must wade into the water and wet your sleeves. Throw your heart into things and care deeply. If I have children, I'd tell them: be good, be interesting, and live with passion. Choose your life before time chooses it for you. And lastly, do not forget to be grateful. When you are racing at two hundred miles per hour, it is easy to let your surroundings blur away. Every race car needs a pit check.

They say every end is sweet, and this one, too painfully so. But what I am certain of is that this place and these people are where I first found living. Thank you, Hotchkiss. I will miss your many faces. Your evening sun, blue distances, and little pearls in the sky that have blinked for me. And last of all, your spring—its warmth, laughter, and goodbyes. I have loved you all, and I will think of you often. Hail and goodbye, Hotchkiss.



Alessandro Araujo '26

Try not to roll your eyes when I say this: I proudly play ultimate frisbee. One of Coach Dave Thompson's most frequent phrases is "make space to take space." You have to open up the field by moving out of the easiest throwing lanes into the harder lanes, so you can crash back in to take the disc for yourself and your next receiver. A crucial part of my development as a community member was following that principle.

Among my peers, there are a few groups where I feel completely secure.

As much as I may smile and crack up conversations with anyone, I still get that grating sensation in my heart when I know I'm not wanted in certain spaces. I know I'm not the only one dealing with this; in Dining Hall and Snack Bar tables, group projects, and certain classrooms—things can get dicey quickly. Regardless, I take up those spaces, since you can foster community by being an unusual face within a familiar group. You open up the field for others to take it—to greet and maybe invite you to converse—so that you can be the second person down the field to grab the deep throw into the endzone. That's a new person to talk to, a new face to smile at in the halls.

"No one's raising their hand, and I have a question about something I'm curious about?" That's easy space.

"No one's an Assistant Music Director, and the director for musicals invited me for the role?" That's an easy space, made by Ms. MK Lawson, inviting me in.

"No one's performing at dinner hours, and I'm a jazz pianist?" That's an easy space. Taken, taken, and taken. And the best part about taking space is that people always want to join you and follow up on your

momentum.

Once I started performing jazz nights, people kept asking when the next night was. Some even asked to join, so I helped them rehearse and perform. By being an assistant music director, I contributed to my colleagues' performances—performances I'll always remember fondly.

Sometimes I get asked, "Why do you ask so many questions? What motivates you to perform?" And although it is in part for my own sake—to satisfy my insatiable curiosity, to fulfill one of my duties as a scholar-musician, it would be disingenuous of me to say that I don't do it for others too. Whenever I raise my hand and ask my questions, it motivates others to ask questions as well. They might follow up on the instructor's response to my question, or maybe they needed more time to think about how to articulate their question. Maybe they just didn't want to be the first one to pierce through a crowd. And so I do.

Make space to take space. It's an ethos for a team. A community. Everyone should make space so that anyone can take space. As my time at Hotchkiss comes to a close, I understand the legacy and many melodies I leave behind. This is me ensuring that you can adapt and improvise over them.



ALICIA FENG '28

Just for A Moment, We're All Together Now



LARA JAYANTI '26

Lara Jayanti '26

People say that the more often you do frightening things, the easier they become. Unfortunately, standing here today feels just as intimidating as it did two years ago when I gave my first Chapel talk. Despite the evidence to the contrary, I actually have a lot of anxiety about performing in public. I find I'm a lot better at convincing actors to perform than I am at commanding a stage myself.

When I gave my first Chapel talk, I shared a very painful event that I was still processing—the early death of a close friend. It was my first real experience with death, and with the grief that follows loss into our homes, leaving holes and empty spaces where there should be none. It doesn't get easier.

I could still tell you everything I did that day, down to the hour, because by the time I went to sleep, the world was

changed from what it had been that morning. I took the plunge and bared myself to many of you. What's crazy is that in writing the angry, frustrated, tear-stained journal entry that became my Chapel talk, I was processing. As I remember that moment now, I have reflected on why I chose to do that in front of all of you: I had a feeling that this community could become a place where I truly belonged.

Looking back now, I was right. Even in the hard moments, all of you were there. It may have been hard to spot, but when some of you last saw me at Chapel two years ago, I wasn't entirely sure if I was meant to stay at Hotchkiss. I was struggling with the people around me, and in turn I was questioning my own worth, and my mistakes felt like they were outweighing who I really am. Even through that you were there: proctors in a new dorm giving me a tiny space to feel welcome, friends guiding me to make better decisions, and adults continuing to trust me.

The last time I stood up here I told you to be kind to everyone, because you don't know what they're going through. That's true. Strive to see the best in those around you. See the best in those who are unkind to you, see the best in those who don't believe in you, just as you see the best in those who do. Knowing that, here are my favorite moments.

To my friends, thank you. I don't know where I would be without you. In making friends here, I learned more about myself and built this community into a space I am proud of. Thank you to the people I have been friends with,

and those with whom I still am. Thank you for making me better. Thank you for being here when I am at my lowest. And most importantly, thank you for pushing me to see the beautiful qualities in the world around me when I struggle to do so.

To my teachers, wow, what a ride. Coming from a school where I had existed in the shadow of an overachieving older sister, I always thought I'd spend my school years trying to live up to that. But you gave me the freedom to carve out my own path, and I have spent the last four years trying to do exactly that.

Thank you for nurturing the things I love and letting me exist as I am, and more importantly, as I could be—whether by helping me manage the looming pile of work after a concussion, or nurturing a 15-page paper on Lolita, or explaining why we should find the definite integral by hand, or pushing me to think through why Rasputin wasn't a hero.

Thank you to the dining hall staff, the grounds crew, security, housekeeping, the health center (even though every time I come in, you send me home), and all the other people striving to maintain the small moments. Often, you are the ones creating our most lasting memories.

Of course, being in the center of an 800-acre campus with the lake, the trees, and all the natural beauty and seasons of New England is a whole other thing to reflect on. I am sure some of us were not so enthralled when the temperature failed to crack ten degrees for weeks on

end earlier this year, but you have to take the good with the bad!

We will never again all exist together in this place at the same moment. Beyond college, many of us will head on to city centers and suburbs; I myself go to a completely new city. But I will always carry a kaleidoscope of images of my walks here inside me. So much of the inspiring art that adorns our hallways is a constant reminder that this is a special, soulful place on earth.

I learned a lot of the good stuff here: how to win, how to grow, how to succeed, how to form friendships, how to love without fear, how to keep trying. But maybe more importantly, I learned the bad stuff too: how to fail, how to lose, and how to recognize that even if I had put my best effort into something, I needed to know how to accept defeat. I learned when I needed to cut my losses.

So now we reach the end. Here are five predictions I had when I first drove through the main gates for the first time.

One: coming from an all-girls school, I was going to have a boyfriend.

Two: I was going to make the volleyball team, even if I had to pitch the coach every day of every week my Prep year. It took a year, but I made it. (Mr. Fenton, thanks for teaching me that sometimes the best quality is the ability to be everything. You truly transformed me into a shapeshifter this season.)

Three: my best friend and roommate was going to be a Korean violinist; of course I didn't predict that, but life at Hotchkiss throws you some curve balls.

Four: I was going to make movies.

And lastly, five: I was going to turn

this place into my home. And it really has become that. It's hard for me to imagine that I won't be moving back into one of the dorms here in August. I think that fact will only hit me once I'm moved into what will hopefully become my new home.

Being here has taught me that home is not where your family is, it's not where your childhood books are, it's not where your clothes are. Home isn't in stuffed animals or old art projects. It's where you find people who make you happy and safe. It's where you can fall in love, build connections, play sports, sit out on main steps listening to country music, and take photographs. From Wieler and Tinker to the Chapel and the 49's, and most importantly Elfers Patio, thank you for being home right now. It won't always be that way, sure, but, as they say in Our Town, just for a moment we are all together now—we're happy.

Let's really look at one another, and take it all in. Because after this, we'll be off to new homes. Bilbo Baggins once said, "It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to." Well, I hope that's the case. I hope I get swept off to perfect places and so do all of you. But it only happens if you go out your door.

So as we walk out these doors together, let's carry with us the nostalgia of leaving this place, the excitement of what lies ahead, and the certainty that long after we leave Hotchkiss, some part of us will always belong here. Thank you.

THE HOTCHKISS RECORD Est. 1893

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Arts

Last Curtain Call for Seniors

By HELEN LIU '29



COMMUNICATIONS

Olivia Kwon '26 arrived at the school with no prior acting experience, but after joining Prep theatre, she quickly discovered a passion that she will pursue in college. Kwon said, "If I could credit Hotchkiss for who I am today, I would attribute it to theatre. It's really helped me find who I am."

Kwon has participated in productions ranging from *Black Boxes* to mainstages such as *Pippin* and *Frankenstein*. She said, "The beauty in live theatre is that it's never going to be the same each time you perform. There's beauty in just doing it and moving on, even if you make a mistake."

Jack McCarthy '26 has been passionate about theatre since childhood, starting professional acting when he was eight. During his time at the school, he has been a lead in every musical since his Prep year and other mainstage productions, including *Chicago*, *Frankenstein*, *Pippin*, *Into the Woods*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

"The theatre program has grown a lot in my time at the school," he said. "Over the past four years, we've done a lot of theatre that has challenged audiences. I think we've done a really good job of striking a balance between shows that audiences will love but will also make them leave thinking or even a little uncomfortable."



COMMUNICATIONS



COMMUNICATIONS

Philip Fauver '26 joined theatre during his Lower Mid year and quickly found both confidence and community through performance. He was a cast member of *Hamlet* and led *Romeo and Juliet* as Romeo.

He said, "I joined theatre my Lower Mid year after a subpar Prep photo performance. Theatre has been essential in shaping who I am today. It has allowed me to become more confident as a speaker as well as give me an appreciation for the English language itself. It is an incredibly open and welcoming place. People from all walks are welcome—the only requirement is that they are dedicated and passionate."

Isabel Schlaack '26 has explored nearly every aspect of theatre at the school. From stage managing *Hamlet*, co-costume designing *Pippin*, writing directing a Black Box production, to performing in *Frankenstein*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Chicago*, Schlaack has discovered a love not only for performance, but for the creative process behind the scenes.

Schlaack said, "Theatre combines many different arts—there's a visual aspect, an architectural aspect, fashion design, music, and acting. Being able to know what everybody does and then bring that together into one working machine is definitely something I'm going to take beyond theatre."



COMMUNICATIONS



COMMUNICATIONS

William Becker '26 has been involved in multiple sides of theatre throughout all four years here, from acting in productions such as *Chicago* and *Pippin* to co-directing *Frankenstein*.

"Theatre has been such a big part of my life at Hotchkiss that has been essential in shaping who I am today," he said. "I will miss the people who I primarily interact with through theatre. The community is truly so special, and I don't know if I will find one like it again."

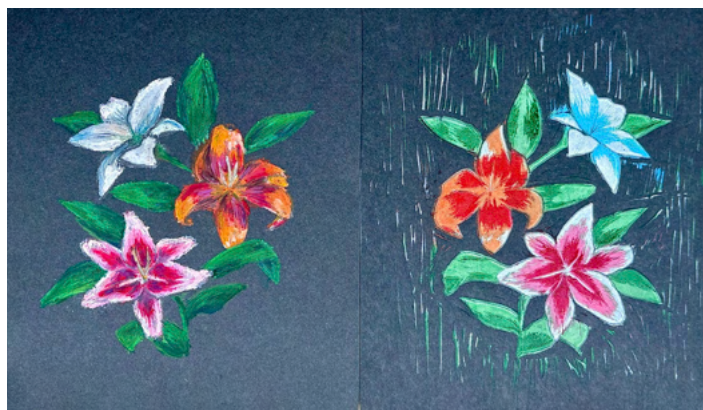
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MATTHEW HONG '26



ELLA GOLDSMITH '26



ELLA GOLDSMITH '26



MATTHEW HONG '26

Exhibiting Studio Artists

By YINING JIANG '29

You might have seen the name **Matthew Hong '26** on the corners of paintings and sketches in the main hallway. Hong was born in Singapore and moved to the U.S. at a young age. Several of his pieces in the Senior Art Show depict nostalgic scenes of a young boy's everyday life in Singapore. He said: "My art is a way to re-experience memories that I've forgotten because I was there when I was really young."

Hong started the process of creating his paintings by sketching out different compositions before moving on to working with acrylic paint. Hong said, "Art is multi-faceted and not something that's one and done. I feel like the more I practice patience, the better my art becomes."

Hong has taken studio art all four years at the school, including Humanities Studio Art and both Honors Portfolio and Honors Advanced Portfolio classes. He said, "In my classes, my peers and I always support each other and give feedback.

The place brings a lot of warmth and cooperation, and we always critique each other's art."

Ella Goldsmith '26 has also been deeply involved in studio art both prior to and throughout her four years at the school. She said, "I have painted my whole life. My whole family does art, so I'm always surrounded by it. It was an obvious choice for me to keep doing studio art when I got here."

"The more I practice patience, the better my art becomes," said Matthew Hong '26.

Goldsmith's favorite from her portfolio is a landscape painting of Sucker Brook that she made during her Lower Mid year. The piece grew from a process Goldsmith uses

regularly: she starts by brainstorming mindmaps before moving on to sketches and finally painting. She said, "I liked being down at the brook and working. It was the first painting I've made here that I was super proud of."

Goldsmith has stepped out of her comfort zone during her Senior year in order to explore a new media: printmaking. She said, "I'm usually very informed by nature, and I try to make a lot of my pieces as a response to nature. Printmaking is definitely not what I'm used to, but fun nonetheless." Goldsmith's printed pieces are rich in color and pattern. Often a collage of identical prints in contrasting colors, with a juxtaposed composition of both negative and positive spaces within a single pattern. She frequently integrates elements and themes from nature into her prints.

Goldsmith and Hong's work, along with works by other Seniors from the Studio Art program, are on display in the Senior Show in the Rotunda and Main Hallway.

Glazing the Ceramics Seniors

By ELLIE MATASAR '29

Maya Grogean '26 is a four-year ceramics student whose sculpture and functional pieces are currently on display in the Rotunda and Main Hallway.

How have you grown as a ceramic student?

I was really bad when I first got here. I did not have very much practice when I first got here. I have grown in my appreciation for it, and therefore, in my talent and skill.

What are some of your favorite pieces?

I really like Taylor, which is what I named my big floral vase [currently on display in the Rotunda]. I also really like this one that I did that's in my Senior Show. I'm calling it Grounded, but it's a statue of justice.

I also love a lot of the functional stuff that I made for myself and for my family. I really like having pieces of my own ceramics that work in my daily life.

What are some good memories you've had in ceramics?

I have made a lot of friends. All the other Seniors in my class have been together for four years now. It's been a really long time. Also, finally

figuring out how to throw when I was a Lower Mid.

What advice would you give to other artists?

Keep trying. I know it's really hard at first, and a lot of the time, pieces come out of the kiln not exactly as you imagined them. But it's really magical when you get it right.



THEA DUNKEL '26

Theadora Dunkel '26 has taken ceramics classes every year at the school. She won a Gold Key for her work in the Scholastic Art Competition in 2025.

How has ceramics helped you grow?

It has taught me above all else to never give up. The work demands

time and patience well beyond the classroom, and there are moments when the process feels really tedious, but the end result is always worth it.

When pieces crack, collapse, or fall apart entirely, it is always frustrating, but learning to push through those setbacks has shaped me in ways that extend far beyond the studio.

What are your favorite pieces?

My favorite piece is my House of Cards. I made 45 individual cards with unique faces that had pictures showing my family history, starting from my earliest relatives and places that were important to their stories at the bottom, and working to the top two cards that have my immediate family on it, so the house of cards represents a reverse family tree.

What are some good memories you've had in ceramics?

One of my favorite parts about ceramics is the community that exists in the ceramics room. Some of my favorite memories are the conversations I have had while working on pieces with the other ceramics students. I have gotten to know people across all grades, just by meeting them while working on pieces.

Senior Photographers Explore Both Traditional and Digital Techniques

By OLIVIALI '29

By their Senior year, many photography students have moved beyond simply taking visually appealing images. Through experimentation, critique, and practice, Seniors in photography focus on storytelling and expressing meaning in their work.

The work of **Charlie Collins '26** blends traditional photography and digital editing. One of Collin's favorite pieces features a 70's-style gas station near Photography Instructor Greg Lock's home in Gallatin, NY. "I think the contrast shows this idea of perspective in life, and taking life one step at a time and living in the moment," Collins said.

Over four years in the photography program, Collins said he worked to manipulate and enhance raw photography. "My biggest strength is using digital sources, like 3D Max Pro," Collins said. "I think I've really developed my competence there."

Evelyn Anderson '26 emphasizes experimentation in her photography. Anderson's portfolio earned a Gold Key award from the Scholastic Art Awards. The portfolio features altered images created using an emulsion lifting process.

Anderson's project focused on the theme of "decay." All of the original photographs featured subjects that were old or deteriorating in some way. She said, "The emulsion lifting process exaggerated that effect, so the photograph itself also looked like it was decaying. I thought a lot about obstacles in life and how getting worn down doesn't necessarily have to be an obstacle."

Anderson's perspective on photography has changed during her time at the school. Anderson said, "When I first got here, photography was mostly about taking pictures of things. This year, Mr. Locke has helped me think more deeply about my work. He'll ask questions like, 'You took this picture; it's pretty; so what?' I've been working on composition for four years now, so I

know how to make a well composed image, but it doesn't matter if there's nothing behind it."

Kailyn Chen's '26 portfolio pieces explore on how light can be captured through low exposure. Earlier in her time at the school, Chen often took photographs simply to complete assignments. She said, "Over the years, that slowly changed, and with the guidance of my teachers, I now take pictures with a lot more intention. I take into account the composition, exposure, and more, with a huge emphasis on lighting before I take every photo."

Seniors in the photography program master the technical elements of photography while also exploring what it means to produce not just pictures but art. Mr. Lock said, "By the time you get to your Senior year, there needs to be some kind of intention behind a photograph if you want to call it a work of art. My goal is to get students to be able to do that by the time they leave. It takes self-awareness and many students are able to connect their work to what they are genuinely investigating in life."



CHARLIE COLLINS '26



EVELYN ANDERSON '26



KAILYN CHEN '26



COMMUNICATIONS

A Life-Long Dancer and New Member Graduate from the Dance Company

By ASHLEY ZHU '29

The Dance Company graduates two Seniors this year: **Symphony Shi '26** and **Katie Qian '26**.

Shi joined the dance company as a Senior, after a lifetime of music. Her favorite style is hip hop and jazz.

Qian began dancing professionally at age six and toured with Pacific

Northwest Ballet for six years before joining the Dance Company as a Prep. Qian said, "Growing up, I've always been infatuated with beauty. I like the way bodies can twist and the different shapes they can create. It's so magical. I love dance because I love beauty." Her specialty is lyrical dance.

These Seniors' dance journey will not end when they walk out of the Scoville Gates. Shi plans on dancing in college. Qian, who is majoring in dance, is confident that it will continue to play a huge part in her life. She's anticipating joining a team and also branching out into cheerleading. Qian said, "Learning different types of dance has carried me through a lot of things. By developing courage to try out and step out of my comfort zone I was able to take that courage into academics and sports. Dance is always going to be a place of comfort." Shi said, "Dance is always something I look forward to."

Within the span of 54 years, much has changed within the Dance Department. Qian said, "Even

within the last four years, the dance department has experienced significant shifts." In her Prep year, Alessandra Rinaldo, former dance director, taught ballet. At that time, dance could be taken as an art in the Humanities program, while now, it is only offered as a co-curricular. During Qian's Prep year, the company had regular dance classes, and faculty choreographed many of the pieces featured in performances.

In her Lower Mid year, however, the dance scene started shifting. Ms. Rinaldo left the school. In Qian's Junior year, she studied with Ms. Ellen Fox. Qian said, "She mainly focused on the feeling of moving your body." This year, Claudia McGuigan, instructor in mathematics, supervised the Dance Company cocurricular.

To any new Preps or current members of the Dance Company, Qian leaves one piece of advice. She said, "Honestly, just enjoy it. It's really precious, because the community I found at dance was one that I couldn't find anywhere else."

From Classical to Jazz: Senior Musicians Inspire

By EVIE LIU '29
Staff Writer

Music holds a special place in the hearts of many students.

The art form demands discipline and hours of practice, but creates a space for students to throw themselves into something they enjoy.

"Music has been a major outlet, where I could focus and get away from the stress of classes, tests, or drama," said Ashe Johnson '26.

Years of rehearsals and late-night practices have fundamentally shaped many Seniors' experience and their performances have brought joy to the entire community. For **Ashe Johnson '26**, the principal clarinetist of the orchestra, music has offered a break from the pressures of school.

Johnson is a member of the Philharmonic, and became the principal clarinetist their senior

year. They plan on majoring in physics and music performance at Stony Brook University. They said, "Even during stressful times, it has been a major outlet where I could focus and get away from the stress of other classes or tests or drama. Any time I was freaking out backstage before a performance, there was always another musician to encourage me."

Johnson performed in the Young Artists Concert at Carnegie Hall on January 31, 2026. During this year's final orchestral concert, Johnson played the opening clarinet solo—a languorous glissando—for George Gershwin's composition, *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Bastien Sever '26 has been a trumpeter with the jazz ensemble Right Brain Logic since his Prep year. He said, "Right Brain Logic is a beautiful pocket of joy, community, and freedom to express myself within the structured academic day. I wanted to sing, to play something I could dance to, to communicate something more honest. A single solo would remind me that how I am, how I feel, and how I express myself is fully up to me."

Sever is also co-head of student band MB140 and WKIS, the student-led radio station.



COMMUNICATIONS



ASHE JOHNSON '26



BASTIEN SEVER '26

Sports

Athlete of the Issue: Ben Wistar '26

By AIDAN SONG '27

Ben Wistar is a four-year Senior who has lived on campus his entire life. He is co-captain of Boys Varsity Soccer and Varsity Ultimate Frisbee, and a former Sports Editor for The Record. This year the members of the ultimate team voted Wistar the most valuable player and honored him with the Spirit of the Game award. Next year, he will attend Boston University, where he plans to continue playing ultimate.

Co-captain Luke Warner said, "Ben always brings energy to the field. He knows what we need to improve on and he is a great leader. He is always working with people to help uplift the team."

How did you start playing ultimate frisbee?

I started playing ultimate at Indian Mountain School as an eighth grader.

My dad [Mr. Roger Wistar] had coached ultimate at various points during his time here at Hotchkiss, so growing up, I was always aware of the sport and knew how to throw a frisbee at a young age.

What is your favorite thing about ultimate?

My favorite thing about ultimate is the community it generates. Every year, we have a close-knit

team. I also really enjoy competing and having fun on the field.

Why did you choose to come to Hotchkiss?

My dad has worked here for about twenty years and my mom has been working here as well for a number of years. Growing up on campus has been my whole life. I got to experience all of the different parts of the school, so it became a place and community that I wanted to be a part of.

"Ben always brings energy to the field. He knows what we need to improve on and is a great leader," said Luke Warner '26.

How would you describe your experience on the ultimate team?

My experience has been really positive. I made the varsity team as a Prep, and I've been on varsity for four years. My Prep year, we came second in New England; this year, we were second at States and third in New England. So I feel like

I bookended my experience with ultimate here in a positive way.

What are some lessons you have learned here?

The school taught me how to manage my time well and how to interact with people from a broad range of interests and backgrounds.

In terms of ultimate, it really teaches you to move on to the next thing. There are big swings and momentum throughout the games. If you ever go down early, you should never count yourself out, because you never know if you might have a crazy comeback.

What were some of your favorite moments competing for the school?

During my Prep year, we got to compete in the New England finals, which was a very cool experience. This year, competing in the state final was also really cool because they played the national anthem and then read out our names and the starting lineup.

What do you expect to get out of the upcoming All-Star's game?

I was an All-Star last year, but they didn't have a game. I'm happy to be able to go to the All-Star game because it will be a cool experience to play with some of the best players from around the state. I've competed against some of them



COMMUNICATIONS

Wistar was voted the most valuable player by his teammates on the ultimate team.

and have had a great time.

Will you continue playing ultimate in college and beyond?

I definitely hope to play ultimate

in college. There is a team at Boston University that I will probably join. In Boston, there is also a high-level club scene, which I'm also looking forward to getting involved in.



PARTH KHERA '26

Parth Khera

When I think back on my squash career, the first thing that comes to mind isn't a specific match. It's the people—the coaches who pushed me when I didn't want to be pushed, the teammates who became my second family, and the small, ordinary moments around the courts that somehow ended up mattering most.

My first week on campus, I remember stepping into preseason training and realizing very quickly that Hotchkiss squash was going to ask more of me than anything I had done before. The intensity of the conditioning, the standards the older players set, the way everyone seemed to take the sport seriously without taking themselves too seriously—it was overwhelming in the best way. I was tired, sore, and a little intimidated, but I also knew within a few days that I had walked into something special.

I remember playing a drill with two of my teammates we like to call three's, where we rotate players and play points until one of us reaches 15. When I walked out and checked my WHOOP strain, I saw that I had spent 20 of the 25 minutes of the game in zone five, with my heart rate averaging well above 170 bpm. This is the training I am grateful for, as it motivated me to work harder and cultivated my sense of discipline.

The highs were unforgettable. Winning Nationals stands out as the proudest moment of my athletic career—not because of the trophy, but because of what it felt like to look around the team afterward and realize what we had just done together. That last point Simrith Gaddam '28 won, rushing onto the courts, the cheers and the yells—it was a feeling I will carry with me long

after I leave this campus.

The lows shaped me just as much. Losing in a close final last year was, at the time, devastating. What I didn't see at the moment was that the loss would teach me more about competing—and about myself—than the wins ever did. Even though we lost, we didn't let that get us down. Instead, we used that as fuel for this year and our grind paid off. The injuries were their own kind of low—the shin splints, the sprained ankles, all of them. Being on the sideline when you desperately want to be on court is a particular kind of helplessness, and learning to stay a good teammate while not playing turned out to be one of the harder lessons of my career.

The memories I will keep closest, though, are the smaller ones. At the Woodlands dinner this year, the team felt less like a roster and more like a family sitting around a long table. The paper plate awards at the end of the season and the runs to the farm at the start. The off-season hangouts that had nothing to do with squash and staying in touch over breaks turned teammates into the kind of friends I know I'll have for the rest of my life.

To my coaches: Bobby, Abdul, Sandeep, Coach Clark, thank you for believing in me before I knew how to believe in myself, for the corrections that stung in the moment and made sense a year later, and for caring about who we were becoming as much as how we were playing.

To my teammates: you are the reason I love this sport. You made the hard practices bearable, the wins meaningful, and the losses survivable. I'm going to miss running drills with you more than I can put into words. Squash at Hotchkiss gave me a national title, a few scars, a handful of lessons I am still unpacking, and a group of people I will never stop being grateful for.

A Look at the Spring Athletic Season



THOMAS ROLLINS



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ELI GATT '26



TRAV APPLE '28

Course Record Holder Copey Rollins



COMMUNICATIONS

By JACK MCNULTY '29
Staff Writer

Copey Rollins '26 is a four-year Senior from Sharon, Connecticut who grew up in New York City, where he began running as a club sport in fifth grade. Next year, Rollins will continue his athletic career at Wesleyan University, where he will run all three seasons.

Running was initially more casual than competitive for Rollins. That changed in 8th grade when he started taking cross country seriously and changed again when he arrived at the school. He said, "When I got here and did indoor track with Coach Nate Seidenberg my Prep year, that was when I realized I had potential. Then I just got into it."

A key part of that discovery for Rollins was the people around him. During his Prep year, Chase Dobson '23 took Rollins under his wing. "Back then I thought Dobson was insanely fast," said Rollins. "He was beating everyone by like a minute. I thought his times were unreachable, but then I reached them."

The following year, co-captain Axel Nzi '24 helped Rollins find his footing in the 4x400 relay. Rollins said, "Upperclass runners really taught me a lot about the sport."

As a distance runner, Rollins' primary events are the 800 m and the 1500 m. Most distance runners only run long distances, but Rollins has also been a member of the 4x400

relay team since his Prep year. This spring, when Rollins ran the 4x400 for his last time, he used a baton that was signed by every member of the team, which they gave to retiring Coach Richard "DK" Kirby. Rollins says, "The baton was really special; it said "For DK" on it. The race was scary, because I didn't want to mess up his last time."

Not every part of his running career has been easy. Rollins suffered a significant injury the summer before his Upper Mid year and was injured again this past winter. Rollins said, "In Junior year during cross country, I ran badly. Track competitions didn't go great either. I was running slower than I was in my Prep and Lower Mid years. That made running hard to stick with."

Supported by his teammates, Rollins persevered. He said, "I feel like everyone cares, and everyone really wants to succeed. I've had good mentors—the captains my Prep and Lower Mid year and the people I was on the 4x4 with last year. They made track fun and helped me stick with it through some of the rough years."

His roommate and longtime training partner Bastien Sever '26 has run alongside him the entire time at the school. "We've been doing track and cross country together the whole time," Rollins said. "That matters."

Rollins will run next year for Wesleyan University. He said, "For track and cross country recruiting, the process is clear. Coaches tell you the time that you need to run and if you run it, you will get recruited. In one way it's really easy. But in another way, there's no faking it. There's no 'your coach comes to your game and you play really well.' There's nothing like that."

The pressure landed for Rollins on two postseason meets at the end of his Upper Mid year. He ran well in both. "It was stressful, but I was really happy with how it went," he said.

This year, Rollins placed 2nd in the 800 m, 2nd in the 1500 m, and 2nd in the 4x4 at the Founders League Champions on May 9. At New Englands on May 16, he placed 5th in the 800 m and 5th in the 4x4, earning him all-NEPSAC honors. He set a new Hotchkiss cross country course record on Saturday, October 11, with a time of 16:19. "I was lucky enough to do that on Senior Day," he said. "That was a great moment for me."

At Wesleyan, Rollins hopes to make the top seven varsity roster, the group that qualifies for nationals. He said, "I have one of the better cross country times among the incoming recruits. I think I have a real shot to make the top seven and travel to nationals as a freshman. That would be really fun."



THOMAS ROLLINS

Rollins earned all-NEPSAC honors after placing 5th in both the 800m and 4x4.



TRAVAPPLE '28

Webb is a new Senior from Summit, New Jersey.

Juliet Webb: A Champion

This year, I was lucky enough to be on Girls Varsity Lacrosse. We ended being the Founders League Champions, and that never comes easily.

SPORTS REFLECTION

Each game we played, the other team was out for us, but we went into every game knowing this. Each practice was tailored to get us ready for the next game and prepare for our opponent. We competed at every practice like it was a game, working to make each other better.

The energy on the team at every practice and game was always great, especially against rivals like Taft, which helped us mentally prepare. Having a team that is so

close also helped a lot with the team dynamic. Each and every one of the girls on this team made an impact on every win, whether it was competing hard at practice or scoring goals in the game.

I am so grateful for this team and everyone I met because of it. I am so fortunate to have this season be my last.

I want to thank Coach Trag, Coach Giaccio, and Coach Frails for pushing us to be better every day. I want to thank my teammates for everything they have done for me. And I want to thank Managers Jackson, Lucas, and Trag for their support and help every practice and game. I will always hold your rope!

Girls Varsity Lacrosse Wins Fifth Founders League Title

By DEVEN PATEL '27
Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, May 20 on its home field, Girls Varsity Lacrosse beat Taft to win the Founders League Championship.

At the end of regular time, the teams found themselves tied at 4-4. The game ultimately went into triple overtime, when Harper Semlies '27 made the game-winning shot, putting the Bearcats on top 5-4.

The team finished the regular season with a 11-5 record, including another 5-4 win against Taft on April 25. On May 16, the team won 8-7 against Choate in the Founders League Semi-Finals.

While the league title was previously awarded based on regular season play, the league introduced the Girls Lacrosse Founders League Playoff tournament in 2022. With their fifth-consecutive win this year, Hotchkiss remains the only team

to ever win Founders League title through the tournament.



TRAVAPPLE '28

Harper Semlies '27 hit the game-winner.

Montclair State University Baseball Tyler Cassamajor	Washington University in St. Louis Track & Field Stella Goss	United States Naval Academy Rowing Tiger Mutter	Grinnell College Track & Field + Cross Country Ezra Klauber	Springfield College Baseball Aiden Anderson	Emerson College Basketball Walker Allen	Hobart College Lacrosse Macay Jimerson	Amherst College Lacrosse Alex Gibson
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CLASS OF 2026 RECRUITED ATHLETES				Boston College Basketball Jordan Ghee	Massachusetts Institute of Technology Rowing Mark Zhu	Georgetown University Golf George McGlenn	
St. Lawrence University Football Tomas Burianek	Williams College Soccer Lyyli Stern	Yale University Sailing Thomas O'Grady	Dartmouth College Lacrosse Trevor Lewis	Wesleyan Track & Field + Cross Country Copeland Rollins	Cornell University Squash Arvaan Motwane	Harvard University Squash Parth Khera	Wesleyan Lacrosse Coco Sheronas
Harvard University Lacrosse Addison Kosiewicz	Trinity College Lacrosse Katie Diamond	Columbia University Football Jackson Powell	Amherst College Football Tieler Traggio	Fairfield University Baseball Cam Freeman	Massachusetts Institute of Technology Football Owen Rourke	Massachusetts Institute of Technology Rowing Lillian Dase	Emory University Basketball Luke Schorr

Senior Dance

