



The Exonian

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Permit Number 78

"The Oldest Continuously Running Preparatory School Newspaper in America"

Vol. CXLI, Number 19

Thursday, September 5, 2019

Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire



Senior and proctor Samuel Chang welcomes prep Anderson Lynch to Front Street House.

JaQ Lai/The Exonian

Faculty Pass New Visitations Policy

By ANNE BRANDES, DANIEL CHEN, VERONICA CHOULGA and EMILY KANG
Staff Writers

During the final faculty meeting of the 2018-19 academic school year—the day before graduation—the faculty voted to pass a new, more inclusive visitations policy that prohibits students from visiting dorm rooms they are not affiliated with, except during designated hours.

Visitations will begin Monday, Sept. 16 at the start of duty hours and continue until 7:55 p.m. for preps and lowers, and 8:55 p.m. for uppers and seniors on weekdays. On weekends, visitations extend from the beginning of duty hours to five minutes before check-in. Students may still visit one another in common spaces, from 9:50 a.m. to check-in, without permission.

Additionally, the new policy bans overnight visits between “students from different dormitories, residents or affiliates.” Relationships between “dormitory residents and/or day student affiliates” that are deemed to be “intimate, sexual, or exclusive in nature” have also been banned.

Consequences for violating the policy are similar to the previous policy; however, a new “Dean’s Warning” may be applied. “Three weeks of restrictions has historically been the most common response for first time visitation violations, but it is possible that in some cases “Dean’s Warning,” the new Community Conduct system response, could be used,” Dean of Residential Life Carol Cahalane said.

Dean of Students Brooks Moriarty emphasized that the timing of the vote, which occurred after most students left campus, was not intentional. “The hope was to pass the policy while school was in session last spring,” Moriarty said. “But circumstances pushed the vote later than intended and hoped.”

According to Principal William Rawson, student input from past dialogue was factored into the new policy’s creation. “Student Council worked with faculty on several proposals over the course of those years, and the student input gathered from discussions and proposals guided the development of the proposal that passed,” he said.

Cahalane elaborated that the new policy allows for

Welcome Back! Administration Revises E Book

By MOKSHA AKIL, ERIN CHOI and MAEGAN PAUL
Staff Writers

From the scaffolded facade of Wentworth to a restructured discipline process, the summer of 2019 has brought many changes to the Exeter campus.

One notable change is the updated assembly check system. On Aug. 16, Dean of Students Brooks Moriarty announced in a school-wide email that the Academy would be implementing an electronic attendance system using the phone app Sched. Similarly to past years’ attendance checks at MLK Day or Climate Action Day events, the new system will require students to check in with any faculty as they leave the Assembly Hall.

Last spring, Exeter piloted an attendance system where students were assigned to various sections of the Assembly Hall by grade level and alphabetical order. Additionally, at the beginning of assembly, they had to check in with faculty members through paper lists.

After this pilot program, Assembly Committee Chair and English Instructor Alex Myers received feedback from students

and faculty via a survey; the general consensus was that while the program led to a spike in attendance, the check-in process “was chaotic and inefficient.” Myers also noted that “students really wanted the ability to sit where they chose, not in assigned seats.”

Myers believes that the new system will serve as a smoother, more efficient solution to the problem of low attendance while also allowing students to sit wherever they please.

Principal William Rawson emphasized that the goal of the policy was “100 percent attendance so the assembly program can fulfill its intended purpose.” Additionally, he acknowledged the challenge of the Assembly Hall’s limited seating space, expressing hopes that future Academy Building renovations will address this problem.

Myers elaborated on the value of the entire community’s unified presence at each assembly, saying, “we will fall into the pleasant rhythm that assembly allows: showcasing, exploring, and hearing from our campus community and inviting outside speakers to share their experience with us.”

In addition, the Academy’s discipline system has been

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Exeter Police Department Denounces Hate Crimes

By JEANNIE EOM, BONA HONG and FELIX YEUNG
Staff Writers

For years, Academy students have endured harassment from some local residents shouting racial slurs from their cars, throwing cigarette butts and perpetrating other targeted acts in downtown Exeter. This summer, Exeter Police Department (EPD) Chief Stephan Poulin formally responded to these reports in an open letter in *The Portsmouth Herald*, designating such acts as “hate crimes.”

“The purpose of the letter was to announce outright that the Exeter Police and its citizens of all races, religions, genders, ethnicities... are a united force,” Poulin wrote. “Anyone who may be a victim or subjected to these types of crimes [has] a solid ally with the Exeter Police Department.”

This past summer, six Exeter Summer students reported four separate incidents. A Nigerian student was called the n-word while walking to Walgreens with her friends. A black pick-up truck repeatedly drove by a student playing basketball near Main Street and yelled racial slurs. Multiple students reported drivers making barking noises at them. A passenger in a vehicle threw a bang snap, a type of novelty fireworks, and hit a student’s leg.

Because the student victims were unable to provide identifying information, no suspects were charged upon further investigation. Poulin noted that these were the first incidents reported recently to police, though previous reports from the Academy led to one arrest.

Principal William Rawson visited Poulin recently to thank him for his statement. “It means a great deal when the Police Department makes clear how seriously they regard such incidents,” Rawson said. “I believe the town of Exeter stands firmly with Chief Poulin on this matter.”



Seniors James Long, Noel Gomez and Billy Menken chat in front of Abbot Hall. JaQ Lai/The Exonian

A few Exonians expressed doubt over whether the letter would make any tangible impact. “I don’t feel a whole lot safer, just because I know the makeup of the town has stayed the same,” upper Nahla Owens said. “People may be deterred from verbalizing their racist ideologies, but I know I’ll probably still get stares while in town, and I definitely won’t walk through town alone.”

Despite the recent incidents, the EPD believes that racist behavior is not representative of the town community. “Are we finding or suggesting that there is a systematic problem or a culture of hate within our community of Exeter? Absolutely not,” Poulin wrote. “However, we can all agree that just one of these reports is too many. These interactions can be far reaching and also affects the victim’s families and friends, as well as the entire Exeter community.”

Upper Senai Robinson, who has been a victim of hate crimes, believes more substantial deterrents are necessary. “I go to school feeling unsafe and, as a result, am tasked to fix such issues myself. The larger community isn’t doing the best they could,” he said.

A number of minority students interviewed by *The Exonian* have been on the receiving end of hate crimes, and alumni have detailed similar incidents upon their return to campus. Playwright Charly Evon Simpson ’04 said that she was called racial slurs multiple times during her campus visit on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day last year.

Upper Hassane Fiteni recalled being too

shocked to react when a racial slur was called out at him. “There was this moment where I looked around to see if there were any other black students, anyone at all. And I was the only one. And that’s when it hit me that those [perpetrators] intentionally wanted me to feel bad.” While Dean of Residential Life Carol Cahalane was present during the incident and conducted an investigation, Fiteni was not contacted by the EPD for further questioning and is unsure whether his case was reported.

According to Cahalane, all incidents that come to the Academy’s attention are immediately reported to the Police Department. “We encourage anyone who experiences or witnesses such abusive behavior to call Campus Safety or the Exeter Police as soon as possible with a report,” she said. “The more details they can share the better, but even if they only have relatively little information, we urge them to report.”

A few town residents expressed regret and frustration about the reported incidents on a Facebook community forum. “I think a lot of racism and other discrimination comes from fear, but I still don’t ‘get’ what people are afraid of,” Exeter resident Ceci Haynsworth wrote. “I guess perhaps they fear becoming a minority and losing their sense of white privilege.”

However, the community was divided on whether the recent report of hate crimes amounted to a trend. “Having a kid that went to [Exeter] for four years, I have never heard of this happening,” parent Bella Phillips wrote.

EPD, 2

Staff Shortage Closes Writing Center Program

By ANNE BRANDES, LINA HUANG and MARY TIMMONS
Staff Writers

Due to staffing difficulties, the Writing Center, a three-year pilot program that provided writing support through individual student-teacher conferences, will not continue into the 2019-20 school year.

Beginning in 2016, the Writing Center gave students access to scheduled workshop sessions during most daily class formats and evenings with English, History or Religion department volunteers. Last year alone, the Center facilitated more than 700 meetings, according to English Department Chair Nathaniel Hawkins, helping students with writing assignments across disciplines, college essays and other literary projects.

Participating faculty were allowed a one-course reduction for one term per school year to compensate for the additional time commitment. Despite this accommodation, increased workloads still posed a challenge for many volunteers, such as History Instructor Betty Luther-Hillman, who described her hours with the Center as “difficult” atop her existing duties advising the Debate Club, manning dorm duty and teaching a full course-load.

Discouraged by their strained schedules, many instructors, particularly in non-English departments, discontinued their involvement in the program. “Last year, only one faculty member from outside the English department agreed to work in the Center, which was problematic because the Writing Center pilot was created as a cross-disciplinary program,” Hawkins said.

Despite demonstrated value and student demand, Hawkins explained that the staffing shortage compromised the original vision behind the Center and mandated its closure. “To continue the Writing Center pilot, we would need more stable, regular and interdepartmental staffing, which would likely involve revised workload compensation or additional faculty,

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WEB



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Assembly Attendance, DC, Day Student Proctor Changes

Continued from [E BOOK, 1](#)

modified. The Discipline Committee has been renamed to the Community Conduct Committee (CCC), and its policies have been updated to promote student learning and to allow more tailored outcomes. The Discipline Review Committee (DRC) had been meeting since Dec. 2017 to discuss and compile these policies.

Previously, the process labeled cases as either major or minor cases. In an effort to allow more nuanced responses, there will now be three categories, Levels 1, 2 and 3. Moreover, the reforms add two new outcomes to cases—Community Restoration and Dean's Warning—in addition to the five current outcomes: No Action, Restrictions, Restrictions with Review, Probation and Requirement to Withdraw. Community Restoration is a potential response to a major offense that entails five weeks of restrictions followed by five weeks of additional reflection, as well as some customized restorative work or learning. It was designed to help first-time rule violators atone for their mistakes and repair relationships; such violations are not reported to schools or colleges.

Dean of Residential Life and DRC Chair Carol Cahalane explained that the changes would result in a more constructive process for everyone involved. "The committee hoped to create a process that would include more reflection and learning for students, and would encourage students to examine the impact of their actions on others and consider how they might make amends and rebuild trust," Cahalane said. "We also hoped to find a way to constructively respond to offenses that might be connected to health concerns."

Upper and new CCC member Meredith Thomas explained how this shift in language will lessen the stigma surrounding the disciplinary system. "I think these changes in the language of the process—discipline to community conduct, probation to community restoration—much more accurately depict the goals of the committee, and hopefully put students at ease." CCC members will continue to be non-voting student members who provide critical input on disciplinary cases.

Returning CCC member and senior Matthew Wabunoha agrees with this change. "I think we are taking a step toward the right direction because there are a lot more nuances in these discipline cases," he said. "The new system offers more varied courses of action."

One minor E Book revision is that students now have to request for a petition seven days in advance rather than five. Moriarty felt that the new timeline was still reasonable and would not significantly impact student life. "It's just two more days, after all, and students should be planning ahead well for the kinds of events for which they would submit a petition to miss appointments," he said.

In an effort to integrate day students with dorm residents, day student proctors now work with their affiliated dorms' boarding proctors, assuming similar duties like attending faculty-proctor meetings, doing nightly check-ins and organizing events. Senior and day student proctor Emy Li explained, "Day student proctors and boarding proctors work together as a team—we are there for everyone in the dorm community—day students and boarding students alike."

Senior and day student proctor Lucy Gilchrist noted that due to the novelty of the position, this year's proctors would be able to shape the specifics of the role throughout the year. "The program is brand new, and I predict that each individual day student proctor will have the opportunity to adapt the role to their dorm," Gilchrist said.

Moriarty elaborated that these new stu-

dent leaders are another resource for day students' support. "This plan gives day students another person on campus with whom they can connect and turn to for advice and guidance," Moriarty explained.

Although excited for his new position, senior day student proctor Sam Lew shared concerns about being required to shift his dorm affiliation from Abbot to Webster. "This is probably my one complaint about this system," he said, noting that the problem was exacerbated by the updated visitations policy which stipulates that students can only visit rooms in dorms they are not affiliated with during limited hours.

Concerning policy changes, Rawson expressed wishes to follow through, but said that he would remain open to adjustments. "We want to make the new policies work."

Rawson continued that he looks forward to furthering his engagement with the community in the upcoming year. "My priorities are similar to last year, in that I want to be a visible presence on campus, listen and engage with students in as many ways as possible, work with students on important issues, and support the student experience across all programs and activities," he said.

Students Discuss Implications of New Visitations Policy

A Timeline of the Visitations Policy from 2013–19

September '13 Alice Ju '14 campaigns for StuCo president with strong focus on V's; wins election.

February '14 StuCo proposes to extend V's to 9 p.m. for upperclassmen; this policy fails with no dorm heads voting in favor.

April StuCo passed a new V's policy 63–21 which would allow students to visit the room of any other student from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

September Then-Dean of Students Melissa Mischke announces new clause in 2016–17 E Book: A student leaving an illegal visitation under uncomfortable circumstances will not face disciplinary consequences.

January StuCo and the Gender Equity Task Force each propose revised policies. Both would allow visitations between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

March Administrators Cosgrove, Mischke and Lassey propose new V's policy to StuCo. Students must sign-in with faculty regardless of gender and new students would be subject to restrictions in their first months.

May StuCo passes a V's policy proposal allowing visitations from 10:45 a.m. to 8 p.m. on school nights.

March Wheelwright and Merrill pilot V's policy requiring faculty permission for all V's during regular hours throughout the week, in addition to 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

During this year Faculty committee on visitations is established; Student Council concludes work on V's policy.

August Dean of Residential Life Brooks Moriarty announces new V's policy as outlined in the 2019–20 E Book.

2013–14

...

2016

2017

2018

2019

Jointly compiled by Student Council and *The Exonian*

Continued from [VISITATIONS POLICY, 1](#)

day students to join the dorm community and extends the length of visitations for upperclassmen. "[The new visitations policy] gives day student affiliates some important privileges which will allow pathways for building dorm community, and extends the potential hours for visitations for uppers and seniors. We are also working to further extend the number of hours for all students," she said.

Dean Moriarty added, "the change to the sleepover policy is a product of creating an equitable visitations policy."

However, students quickly condemned the new policy for its ban on sleepovers, restrictions to personal freedom and unintended, subsequent backlash against LGBTQ+-identifying students, whom some

believe are responsible for the changes.

"Exeter is straying away from what 'college preparatory school' means—to prepare us for college," senior Ray Chen said. "As the years have gone on, I have noticed that Exeter is restricting personal independence, which does not allow us to develop skills needed for college."

While the new policy seeks to bring more gender equality to visitations, senior Rosemary Beck, a member of the LGBTQ+ community, felt that it took an incorrect approach. "I think that the new policy, rather than levelling the playing field by making things equally better for everyone, is levelling it through making things equally worse," she said. "I also believe it's going to create divisions among students, both inside the dorm and out of it."

Due to these divisions, the policy may

result in the vilification of Exeter's queer community, Beck said. "I'm worried about the misunderstanding that this new policy was, in any way, supported or wanted by the queer community on campus, which I think would make life at Exeter more difficult for myself and other LGBTQ+ people here," she continued.

Senior Justin Li, a member of the LGBTQ+ community, echoed Beck's sentiments and advocated for a different V's policy, which would allow any student to visit another after mid-morning and until 8 p.m. This policy, Li said, would be accompanied by improved sexual education "especially concerning protection and consent."

Another facet of the policy banning sleepovers for students other than dormitory affiliates may not be as inclusive as

Rachel Won/*The Exonian*

intended, lower Kiese Nanor said. "I'm the only black lower in my dorm and I find it mentally draining to constantly be surrounded by people who don't have the same experiences with race that I do," she said. "When I had sleepovers with black friends, I felt at home. We could talk about race, hair, cultural identity, and I didn't feel like I had to explain myself."

Concerning the prohibition of intra-dorm relationships, lower Lekha Masoudi criticized the policy's directive that "no activity in any dormitory space should feel exclusive." Masoudi felt that the explanation lacks transparency, saying, "I don't see how [intra-dorm relationships] would foster a culture of exclusion when it's not as if everyone in the dorm will be dating each other. I think that they need to be more straightforward about the intention behind this."

Day students also share differing opinions about the policy. For some, daily life on campus will change substantially. "I know a lot of other day students as well who use their friends' rooms to store stuff during the day, to take a nap or to change, all of which generally occur while the boarder isn't there," Beck said.

Similarly, senior and day student Emily Kelleher noted that her day student peers are upset about the change. "For example, I have a friend on the softball team that uses other's dorm to change every day after practice," she said. "She wouldn't be able to do that anymore."

Several students have taken action in response to the new policy. Among them are uppers Avery Napier and Katie Reid, who sent an anonymous survey to students asking about their reactions. "This policy applies to one student as much as any other. I just thought that no one was taking action yet and I needed to take a step in order for the administration to know what we think," Napier said.

Student Council, which worked extensively on the V's policy in the past, has not yet decided where they will go with the new policy. "The work of Council is governed by the feedback of the students," StuCo President Ayush Noori said, "so we will undoubtedly listen to those who are interested in pursuing the V's Policy and continue that discussion."

To that end, Student Council has charted the history of the visitations policy to discuss in their next meeting. The Executive Board has documented the electronic record of Council and Dean's Council minutes, emails and Exonian archives since 2013, according to an email sent out by the board.

Despite student concerns, English Instructor and Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA) advisor Alex Myers concluded that as an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, he imagines an Academy where rules, policies, standards and expectations work for all students. Under the new policy, Myers believes that this vision of the school is maintained; "nobody's presence is sexualized or de-sexualized, made hyper-visible or rendered invisible."

Exeter Reacts to Local Racism

Continued from [EPD, 1](#)

Exeter resident Eric Beane felt that the problem was being overstated. "Lived here for a long time... May have been a couple issues, but this is not a problem in the town of Exeter," he wrote. "We should not act like it is happening all the time."

Such comments sparked disagreement. "Sorry to let you know that you are wrong—it happens all the time, not just to [Exeter] students," another resident Letty Bedard replied to Beane. "It's a problem here and shouldn't be ignored."

Parent Lynne Ganley highlighted varying levels of awareness in the town. "Just because it didn't happen to you or anyone you know doesn't mean it isn't happening," she commented. "My daughter went to PEA. It is indeed happening."

Regardless of their stance on whether such cases were frequent, many members of the community suggested ways to prevent future incidents. "Meaningful dialogues or just educating [about] the importance of coexistence might be worth a shot," Exeter resident Marshal Stephen wrote. "We can definitely debunk [a] lot of myths that fuel this hatred."

Exonians hope for a better system of reporting hate crimes. "Maybe we [can] create somewhere, either online or in an office, that students can visit easily and anonymously to report any such occurrence," senior Emily Gaw said. With access to data, Gaw believes the EPD would be able to better understand and address the scale of such incidents.

Rawson affirmed the importance of maintaining a good working relationship with the EPD. "We share any concerns that come to our attention with them and ask that they share any concerns with us, so that we know we are being good citizens," he said.

The EPD hopes to foster a safer, more tolerant community by hosting bystander training with the Granite State Organizing Project and taking part in student orientation forums so that Exonians can become better acquainted with the police department as a student resource. "In Exeter, we have a vibrant and very supportive community... [I] will continue to build and flourish our trust with them," Poulin wrote.

Campus Safety: (603)-777-4444

EPD: (603)-772-1212

Writing Center Closes Down

Continued from [WRITING CENTER, 1](#)

neither of which is within any department's control," he said.

English Instructor Christina Breen elaborated that the Center "possibly lacked institutional support," which she specified as "providing proper software for signing up, proper time, space and number of volunteers and tutors from multiple departments, not just English."

Many instructors were disheartened by the Center's discontinuation, having firmly believed in its benefits as a student resource. "I have been involved in writing centers since graduate school, and I really believe that writing is best taught one-on-one, in a space free from the pressure of grading, with time to focus on the individual needs of the writer and the piece," English Instructor and Writing Center coordinator Alex Myers said.

Upper Nahla Owens similarly noted the advantages of receiving comments from an additional instructor prior to submitting an assignment. "Having a fresh set of eyes was great, and the fact that actual instructors were providing feedback was even better," she said.

The Writing Center proved especially helpful for students like upper Rachael Kim, who was less confident in her writing as a new lower and international student last year. "Since I am not a native English speaker, my grammar was imperfect and getting a final check on my work from the Writing Center before the submission was a crucial step for me," she said.

With daunting upper-year papers such as the notorious 333 swiftly approaching, Kim feels that "the school is throwing [her] another huge task by eliminating the Writing Center."

The senior class is another demographic that may be especially affected by the Center's closure. According to English Instructor Duncan Holcomb, the Center read 100 college essays last October alone. "English teacher[s] may not have much time to help with college work, and Admissions folks say they can look at only one draft," Holcomb said, noting that the Center has offered much-needed support to seniors burdened both by college applications and meditations.

For senior Asha Alla, a student who

has used the center throughout her years at Exeter, the closure of the center on the cusp of her Senior year was "disappointing." Alla was planning to attend the center to polish her common app essay and other supplementals with professionals that gave "direct advice about what teachers were expecting from [her] and how to improve."

While some view peer tutoring as an alternative to the Writing Center, upper and Head Peer Tutor Sophie Liu believes the two programs served different purposes. "Students primarily go to peer tutoring for STEM help," Liu said. "The Writing Center actually paired students with English and history faculty who have so much experience in their respective fields... Us peer tutors are still very much in the learning process and probably go to these teachers for help as well. I wouldn't say you can replace one with the other."

Natalie Pang '19, a Head Peer Tutor last year, confirmed that her expectation of a continued relationship between peer tutoring and the Writing Center had factored into her choices for the 2019–20 peer tutoring board. "Had I known that the Writing Center would be closing, perhaps I would have selected one more humanities tutor to serve the students who would have used the Writing Center," Pang said.

The Writing Center's absence will be keenly felt this year by many students who were frequent visitors. "I was able to dramatically change the way I write as well as broaden my understanding of the writing process," lower Otto Do said, attesting to the Center's success during its pilot run.

Breen hopes this will not be the last students see of the program and advocated for the future renewal of "a proper writing center, staffed and supported, with a designated space."

In the meantime, Religion Instructor Hannah Hofheinz trusts the Academy will develop a comparable academic resource for students in lieu of the Center. "The work the Writing Center did with students at all levels was very important," Hofheinz said. "I hope that the school will find alternate ways to offer support for students as they are learning to write across disciplines."

Don't Take Exeter for Granted

Emilio Vicentini Abelmann '21
Columnist

There is a common misconception in the way that students view their time at the Academy. We attend an institution where amenities are abundant—comfortable living spaces, unlimited food covered by room and board, a game-room, world-class exercise facilities, the largest secondary-school library, weekend activities, a highly sophisticated theater, a 25-yard competition pool, an art gallery, 672 acres of forestland, 3D printers, incredible instruments and practice spaces, you get the idea. Admissions materials highlight campus comforts in the style of a cruise-ship brochure and thus in their decision to attend Exeter and subsequently in their time as students, many perceive themselves as consumers—not only of an education, but of an experience as well. The ‘consumer’ mindset unsurprisingly causes many students to feel ‘in control’ of their thousand-dollar purchase. Yet not all students pay to attend Exeter.

Roughly 45% of students receive financial

Students feel entitled to behave (or misbehave) as they wish, regularly without a comprehensive understanding of their effects on others and the greater community.

aid. All students, however, share one thing in common: their acceptance. The common delusion among students is that simply because they were accepted, they have a right to shape their experience. So regardless of whether they receive financial aid, the majority of students consistently expect things to go their way. That is why trouble arises. Students feel entitled to behave (or misbehave) as they wish, regularly without a comprehensive understanding of their effects on others and the greater community.

Take assemblies for example. The Academy brings Nobel Prize winners, Olympians, presidential candidates, award-winning authors, successful entrepreneurs and dozens of other fascinating people to campus each year. “It is a privilege that we are able to attend such

With small changes to our behavior and constant awareness, we can diminish the student culture of mischief that plagues our community and hinders campus productivity.

high-quality speeches,” one student told me. However, numerous students “don’t believe in assemblies” or have “better things to do” during the same time. Thus, students frequently find ways to talk with their friends, sleep, play games on their phones or throw in an AirPods and sit back and hum a tune. The disruptive misbehavior at assemblies is blatantly evident

Do we need authority present to behave well?

and visitors of the academy can surely sense a student atmosphere that lacks respect. When the attendance program was piloted, student behavior improved because faculty monitored students from all angles. Do we need authority present to behave well? I don’t want this to be the case but unfortunately, this is our reality. The assembly hall isn’t the only place where a student culture of insolence exists.

Students from last year may remember when members of our community stole campus signs. How about stealing from Grill? In discussing Grill shopliftings with dorm members, I wondered if the same students would feel comfortable stealing from a different vendor: CVS, Walgreens, 7-Eleven, etc. Hopefully not, right? If Grill is in fact the exception, then the students’ view of the Academy is faulty; their acceptance to the Academy should not

give justification for theft. If the same students would shoplift from any corporation, then there is a larger issue at play. Rather, it seems that stealing from the Academy is what made it ‘okay’ in the first place.

Students seem to feel disconnected from the school and believe that their acts against the Academy’s policies and ethos have no effects on their own Exeter experience. In truth, disrespecting it has numerous consequences. Poor assembly behavior resulted in others not being able to pay attention. Stealing signs cost the Academy hundreds in repairs and purchases, let alone time. Stealing from Grill ultimately ended the sale of specific items and

Students seem to feel disconnected from the school and believe that their acts against the Academy’s policies and ethos have no effects on their own Exeter experience.

weakened trust on campus so as you wonder why the administration lacks trust in the student body, look to your previous actions for an answer.

While these were greater incidents on campus, I’m certain there are smaller instances of mischief that frequently occur within dorms, in the locker-rooms, or even in class. But hopefully, that’s in the past. So let’s look to the future.

To the new students and as a reminder to returners:

Coming to Exeter is a privilege. Treat it as one. Exeter is a family and as my mother has always said, you never disrespect family.

Required assembly attendance is here to stay. Pay courteous attention and maybe something will come from it. Our speakers are fascinating.

Give thanks frequently. There are numerous people rooting for you; be sure to thank

them for their support.

Be grateful for everything the Academy offers and cherish your time here.

Remember to be kind, and encourage others to be.

Respect authority, but know how to politely stand up for yourself and disagree.

Don’t act like a consumer who is entitled. You applied to Exeter, not a different version of Exeter centered around you.

Stick to honesty; lying is harder anyhow.

Treat mistakes as opportunities for improvement. Learn from them.

Dorm spaces are home. Handle them with care and please pick up after yourself.

Don’t steal. Not from your dorm-mates, not from the Academy, and not from anywhere else. It is simply immoral.

Think carefully before you act. Put yourself in the position of others.

Behave well regardless of faculty presence and work to continuously be worthy of your acceptance. Don’t assume worthiness.

And one last one: stop complaining about the weather.

As yet another year is beginning, I can’t help but look back on the friendships and memories I have made on campus. Exeter truly is a special space and I hope all members of our community will treat it as one. With small changes to our behavior and constant awareness, we can diminish the student culture of mischief that plagues our community and hinders campus productivity. We can create an atmosphere of trust and generosity that yields polite young adults. And we can ultimately transform the Academy into a welcoming home of educational richness that effectively works to unify knowledge and goodness.

Take a Stance on Sex

Emmanuel Tran '21
Columnist

Sex is, by all accounts, everywhere at Exeter. School surveys show that 50 percent of Exonians have had sex in the past—a number high above the national average. Right now, the E-Book is ambiguous on the question of whether students can have sex. Nowhere does it say it is banned; however, it makes it clear that visitations are not for the purpose of sex, enforcing a silent ban, if you will. That makes it hard for a student to have sex on campus while following the E-Book.

At the same time, the school offers condoms, a tacit acceptance that sex does occur. While this ambiguous position on sex may have some positive attributes, it means that a wide number of issues relating to student safety and the moral orientation of our school will be potentially unresolved. I understand why the issue of sex is such a prickly one for the school. There are many factors to consider which make it hard to come up with a policy that works for a diverse community like Exeter. Nonetheless, a happy medium is still possible.

When discussing the issue of sex at school, one concern should naturally take precedence:

student safety. In view of recent controversies around sexual assault at prep schools, including here at Phillips Exeter, this question deserves deep reflection. I worry that students who violate the visitations policy to have sex might feel uncomfortable in their environment and want to leave, yet not be able to for fear of disciplinary action. While this new policy is only a small step toward ensuring a safe campus for everyone, it would for sure be a step in the

When discussing the issue of sex at school, one concern should naturally take precedence: student safety.

right direction. Whatever the school’s position on sex, it must work to ensure that even illicit sex does not negatively affect the experiences of students.

The second and more complicated issue is whether the school should morally condone students having sex. With such a large student body, the school’s position will undoubtedly go against the views of some parents, which perhaps is the reason for their ambiguity. I understand, therefore, that sex on campus

is a topic which the school may not want to address.

However, if the Academy wants to be neutral on the issue, they should be such consistently. Our visitations policy effectively prevents most sexual activity, and recent policy changes have expanded that silent ban. This ban is not healthy for the community, given how important the Visitations policy is to every Exonian. Therefore, the Visitations policy needs to be considered independently from the question of whether sex is allowed.

It’s time for the school to adopt a clear and honest position on students having sex and develop policies around visitations that clearly and consistently support that position.

It’s time for the school to adopt a clear and honest position on students having sex and develop policies around visitations that clearly and consistently support that position. If having sex is something that the school does not oppose, they should institute a visitations policy that allows it. If they are against it, they

should come out and say it and define the regulations against it.

Beyond the concerns of any specific policy, what does the school’s silence say about its role in our lives? The school’s primary function is to educate us and to help us develop as fully formed human beings. That is the dream of prep schools like Exeter. We are supposed to be more than a place where kids study for a diploma; we seek to help children mature into fully self-aware adults, or at least approach that ideal. What does it say for the school to abstain from commenting on an issue which is so key to the lives of many young people in our community? Would the founders of Exeter and our successive principals have remained silent while trying to find a compromise? Does the school leave any other complex question unanswered? The answer is no: sex is the only one.

I understand that it might be appealing or easy to leave this question in a gray area. I know that addressing it would be a vast undertaking that involves consultation with the student body, the parent community and many other groups involved with the Academy. However, I also think that refusing to have a clear position on sex on campus will lead to more and more problems in the future.

Join the Exonian!

Writers' meetings every Sunday from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Forum!

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Esse Est Essentia

Stephen McNulty '21

Columnist

I'd actually like to begin the year by probing a somewhat unexpected topic—medieval philosophy of God—and how it relates to our experiences here. Even if you don't believe in God at all, bear with me; I'm trying to make a broader point here—entirely unrelated to God. The prevailing philosophy of the High Middle Ages termed itself “scholasticism,” and I think you can imagine what it entailed. Imagine monasteries bursting with debates about “quiddities,” “efficient causes,” “accidentals of the Blessed Sacrament,” etc. Most philosophical inquiries center around milking every possible truth out of the Bible and Aristotlean thought as possible. If you want a taste, open to any page of the *Summa Theologica*, wherein Thomas Aquinas explained the entire Catholic faith from the ground up.

One of his chief inquiries concerned the nature of God. What of this omnipotent, omnipresent and omnibenevolent God made him certain of his belief? How could he begin to fathom it? But lo, Thomas tried and tried, poured over every treatise, scoured Jerome's Bible manuscripts and all his labor came to one conclusion—*esse essentia*. God's essence is his existence.

And herein lies the irony—you probably still don't know what on Earth

he is saying. Nor did I, when I first saw it. But the heart of his message is best conveyed in Exodus. Moses asks how he should describe God to the Israelites. The response? “I am that I am.” And thus we reach Aquinas' conclusion. God simply is; he is being itself. Nothing more complex than that; unaffected by time, physicality, evil, death, space, anything. Simply the fullness of being itself.

Why then, Aquinas asks, do we identify all of these qualities with God? If God simply is, as he has now decided through the most complex line of reasoning imaginable, how can we describe him as all-good, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present? And the reality here was even more startling: we use all of those terms because we really cannot grasp pure being, or simplicity itself. So, really, we are asked to imagine a prism. God is simply the white light

If God simply is, as he has now decided through the most complex line of reasoning imaginable, how can we describe him as all-good, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present?

shining through, but on the other end, we see many colours—perhaps termed love, presence, power, goodness, knowledge, etc.

And what a shocking realisation that

must have been for the greatest minds of the Middle Ages—all of his attempts to analyze God's components or break down his actions failed, because God was just too simple for humans to understand. The fullness of being itself, and with it, the fullness of perfection, had no complexity to it at all. But therein, Aquinas saw something tremendously beautiful, so beautiful that he devoted the rest of his life to writing about it.

So, why exactly have I spent half of this article talking to you about medieval philosophy? Well, simply put, it was the only way I could surmise to explain what is really a quite simple point—humans, Exonians in particular, tend to overcomplicate things. Like, a whole lot. Like, so much that they would spend half an article writing about the philosophy of God to say why we need to see the beauty in the simple.

And frankly, I see it all over the place on campus. I think we are in some ways trained to over-complicate and to find the mathematically shortest path through which Alex the Geologist can cross the desert, perhaps at the expense of him stopping to enjoy the desert flora and fauna. It is probably also reflected in the way we approach our entire lives at Exeter, telling ourselves that if we just do this one more extracurricular, spend this one more hour studying for the SATs, write the perfect essay, train six months for interviews and plaster smiles on our faces, we will get into our dream college and be happy for life.

The reality is much simpler, and it's staring us right in the face, just like Aquinas' God was staring right at him through every theory Thomas could devise. And all you have to do to find it is stop and appreciate the Exeter River on a walk. Spend some time in the evenings watching the sun set over the Academy Building, maybe from the comfort of the library. Talk with friends about something while heading down for Stillwell's in the evening. The point

Enough with the labels, and enough with the constant need to do.

being—stop overcomplicating life. Enough with the labels, and enough with the constant need to do. More than a musician, artist, or writer, you simply are. It would be a shame if you forgot that while surrounded by these majestic views and spending time with these frankly majestic people here at Exeter.

So, new students. Soon, you will be visiting club night booths, cramming at 3 a.m. tests you are absolutely unprepared for and trying to stack your college applications from your first day of prep year. And who could blame you, frankly? That's what Exeter is, or so you will be told. But through it all, perhaps pause for a moment to tell yourself—more than anything, I simply am.

Examining Western Coverage of the Hong Kong Protests

Felix Yeung '21

Columnist

In months past, Western coverage on the protests in Hong Kong has consisted of biased reports that distort reality and validate the hyperbolic fears of China espoused by radical protesters.

This distortion begins with the lack of adequate historical context for the current protests. News reports highlight the fact that Hong Kongers have raised the Union Jack at protests as proof of their reminiscence for England, neglecting the inconvenient truth that some of these youths did not even live through colonialism. Hong Kongers had even fewer rights under colonial rule. Since the early years of British Hong Kong, leaders were appointed, from the Governor to the members of the Legislative Council. Towards the end of the colonial dependency, LegCo members were directly elected, as they continue to be. As further evidence, consider the fact that when demonstrations for independence arose in the sixties, dozens of protesters were killed in a single day, whereas today's protests have not resulted in any bloodshed. Now, there is some semblance of democracy, rather than imperialist rule by those thousands of miles away.

Simultaneously, the media unquestioningly parrots statistics peddled by protest organizers. Reuters, the only major organization to independently tabulate the number of protesters at the rally on July 1, found the number to be half that claimed by the protest ringleaders. This experiment also found that the Hong Kong Police Department, which

released its own estimates, was far closer to the mark than the protesters'. Still, the media has repeatedly printed protester estimates over independently reported ones, including the bloated claim that two million people participated in the rally on June 12.

The media have also dismissed the notion that protesters are being paid off as fabrications created by the Communist Party. I know that this is untrue. While I do not believe a large number of protesters are bought, I personally know people who have received monetary compensation for attending the protests. It is irresponsible for the Western media to ignore this fact.

The Hong Kong and Chinese governments have also been beleaguered

The media unquestioningly parrots statistics peddled by protest organizers.

by a series of double standards. While investigations of Chinese intervention air frequently, the United States' influence in Hong Kong has been almost entirely ignored. This comes despite the fact that the National Endowment for Democracy, a soft power organization funded by the U.S. Congress, has funded anti-Chinese groups and maintained close relations with their leaders. These groups include Demosisto, led by Joshua Wong.

Furthermore, individuals with deep connections to the U.S. government continue to operate in Hong Kong without criticism from the Western media. Billionaire and Interpol fugitive Guo Wengui, who formed the Rule of Law

Fund with former Trump aide Steve Bannon, was recorded promising current agitator Leung Chung-hang protection and financial support from the U.S. By the same token, Apple Daily founder Jimmy Lai, who recently met with Mike Pence and John Bolton, uses his paper as

While investigations of Chinese intervention air frequently, the United States' influence in Hong Kong has been almost entirely ignored.

a propaganda tool, publishing blatantly false accusations regarding the Hong Kong Police Force and government. Instead of equating these actions with the Chinese-run fake news campaign, CNN called Mr. Lai “the only Hong Kong multi-millionaire standing up to China.”

The allegations of police brutality by the Hong Kong Police Force are equally the result of a double standard. Incidents in which the Hong Kong Police have used force have been measured by and in response to illegal activity. Protesters have prominently employed improvised explosive devices, firebombs and even industrial chemicals against police and pro-government civilians, causing numerous injuries among local security forces. Members of the police were denied access to medication for chronic illnesses when protesters barricaded several police stations, but this event received no coverage by the Western media. Furthermore, vandalism by protesters led to millions in damage to the Legisla-

tive Council building, but later reports claimed it was just “currently closed for repairs.” Had these events occurred in the West, the police response would be equally severe, but the media seems too stubborn to admit that this is the case.

The media has also tended towards humanizing victims of police misdeeds, all the while placing a much lesser emphasis on those targeted by the opposition. A woman whose eye was hit by a police weapon—but didn't go blind—became the subject of headlines, while two

I am more disturbed by the fact that the media has insisted upon a hero-villain narrative that is unhealthy for Hong Kong's future and diminishes any hope of reconciliation.

innocent mainland Chinese who passed out while being tied up by protesters at the airport were barely mentioned in reports. The simple fact is that protester violence has as much of a human cost as that of the police.

While I largely agree with the basic demands of the protesters, I am disturbed by the methods that some have chosen to take. I am more disturbed by the fact that the media has insisted upon a hero-villain narrative that is unhealthy for Hong Kong's future and diminishes any hope of reconciliation. If the media would like a more holistic picture of the Hong Kong protests, they needn't look far—should they look beyond the surface, they will find a story that is not as clean-cut as the one they are telling.

Give the Visitations Policy a Chance

Dennis Kostakoglu Aydin '21

Columnist

Something that came to the attention of many students this past summer was the new Visitations Policy. Previously, the policy on student visitations prohibited boys from going to girls' rooms except during visitation hours (7 p.m. to check-in time) and vice versa. The rule also states that students are allowed to visit same-gender dorms at any time before check-in. However, this rule marginalized non-binary students by excluding where and when they could get V's, if at all.

New Hampshire state law requires inclusive rules and forced the administration to draft a new, gender neutral policy. This new policy states that students of different dorms are allowed to visit each others' rooms only during visitation hours, irrespective of gender of student or dorm. At face value, this appears to be a win for Exeter's LGBTQ community and a step toward equality. However, this change frustrates binary students as they are no longer permitted to visit their same-gendered friends'

rooms at any time during the day. Thus, binary students' freedoms appear to be somewhat restricted by the new policy.

The main question that the administration faces when drafting a new V's policy is ‘do we allow a culture of inequality, which would go against our community's morals, or do we bolster equality by ensuring that everyone has the same amount of freedom—that is to say, very little?’ I believe that the answer to this question has two parts. The new V's policy 1) should remain because

Furthermore, the policy is not actually that bad since it really only deals with visitations in students' rooms, as opposed to common spaces.

it furthers equality for non-binary students. Furthermore, the policy is 2) not actually that bad since it really only deals with visitations in students' rooms, as opposed to common spaces.

Let's start with the first point. As I said, binary students are frustrated because they feel that they now have less

freedom, and on paper, the rule does appear to limit our boundaries. However, we also need to look at the other side of the coin. We all deserve to be treated the way we want to be, and that's why Exeter doesn't discriminate against any race or class of people. We don't prevent African-American students or female students from attending, nor do we discriminate on the basis of the student's religion. It should be the same way with gender identity. We shouldn't, deliberately or otherwise, prevent others from expressing their identity.

If your freedom denies others the right to equality, then that freedom is

If your freedom denies others the right to equality, then that freedom is dangerous.

dangerous. As a result, I think the new V's policy should stay, at least because it's the morally right thing to do. However, I do understand why people are mad. Change doesn't come easily, and people hang out in their friends' dorms a lot. It's understandable why students

would be mad if you throw a wrench into an integral part of student life at

It isn't wise to give in to mob mentality regarding the new policy. We shouldn't let anger cloud our judgement.

Exeter.

Backlash to the new policy has spread, especially on social media, where I've seen people posting complaints about the new policy. I think that this anger is unwarranted, because the policy still states you can hang out in any dorm's common room, regardless of whether the dorm historically corresponds to your own gender (or lack thereof). If you can still meet with your friends in the common room, there remains a relative amount of retained freedom because most of the stuff people do in their rooms (study, hang out) can also be done in a common room.

It isn't wise to give in to mob mentality regarding the new policy. We shouldn't let anger cloud our judgement.



ExonianHumor



How to be the Best Proctor

By RYAN XIE
Best Proctor there never was

How to be a good proctor during the first week:

1. Tell all of the new kids to wear their lanyards
2. Work on your AP Bio homework in your room while the uppers help the new kids move in
3. Give all of them 7's. All of them.
4. Give a PG 7's
5. Tell preps to take their 3 non-US history credits during prep fall for pass fail
6. Advertise the humor page to every person you meet
7. Teach new kids how to raise their hand in class
8. Encourage new kids to take re-take their lion card photo until it's absolutely perfect. They don't want it to look like Suan's
9. ESSO interest night is on Friday Sept 13
10. Tell all of the Lamoster preps to request a dorm change

:(

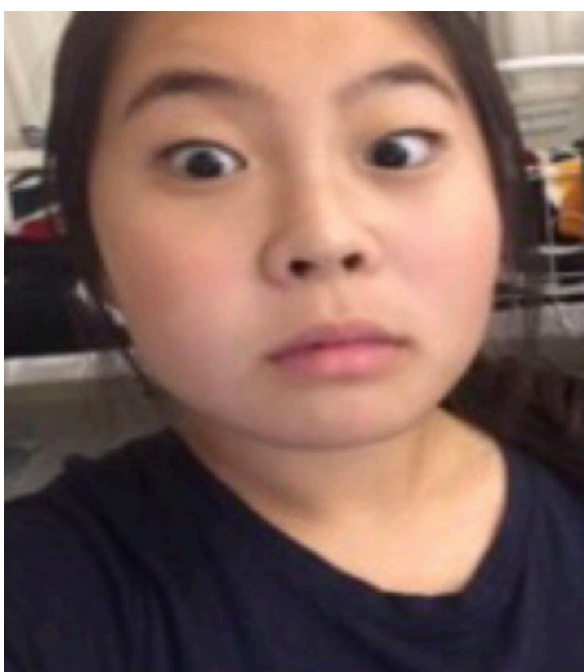
By JASPER YU
Dissatisfied

New Exonians when they hear about the new V's policy:



TFW When You Move In

By BENJAMIN GORMAN
Someone who definitely moved in



If you overhear any funny quotes, tell one of the Humor Editors. We definitely need to fill more of our page with blank space.

Also, submit in general because you'll probably get

published:

exonianhumor@gmail.com

Tips for New Exonians

By STEPHEN MCNULTY
Professional Exonian

1. Your eight word problems can wait. Read the Humor section instead. Cherish its joyous, serendipitous, overused jokes. Let its desperate advertisement memes fill you from head to toe--they carried a certain geologist through the desert; they can carry you too.

2. While you're at it, your alarm probably won't be loud enough in the morning. You should play around for a few (read: 50) minutes--you wouldn't want to miss your first period bio class, would you?

3. While finding the perfect tune to wake you up in the morning (my roommate suggests "falling bomb" and "emergency siren"), plot your ultimate path to The Exonian's Executive Board: write for Humor, increase readership levels 500%, coup news (hey--it's happened before!), and there ya' go.

4. Build an Excel sheet (you're too good to use Google Sheets). On it, place the name of the twenty clubs you will become head of by the end of prep year--MUN, debate, three a cappella groups, *The Exonian*, Mock Trial, Dramat, Democratic Club, Republican Club, Communist Club, etc, etc. Get the contacts of the club leaders and email them your plans. I'm sure they'll be receptive.

5. Wait-- you're forgetting about classes! They've told you that learning how to Harkness is important. But you don't even know whether you're a Harkness warrior or a Harkness wallflower! There's probably a Buzzfeed quiz for that ... somewhere. Not seeing it?

Keep on scrolling...it's gotta be there.

6. Still nothing...? Oooh, what's that now? What type of potato are you? That's a good question. Exeter is all about learning, so you should find out.

7. Boy, that's a lot of hard work, and now you're hungry. Apparently, Elm is serving sweet potato fries (Weth has baked potato, but it doesn't match your personality!). You should take the ten minute walk from Ewald to Elm, appreciating the views along your way.

8. Wait, wait wait! You have an email! Check it, check it! Oooh, "Club News and Notes." Alex the Geologist can wait--there are 17 clubs here that you could be head of.

9. Start vigorously drafting your reply: "Dear Ms. Lembo, Please put me on every email list ASAP. I need to start building connections now. Thanks, [insert name here.]" Entitle the email "IMPORTANT, URGENT MATTER: PLEASE READ!!!" The all-caps is necessary.

10. Halfway through writing it, realise that you don't have a fancy profile picture. You won't seem professional, so it's best you find one before sending that email. Scour the internet for a good profile picture--a single sweet potato fry seems like a good option.

11. Complain about your lack of sleep and how you just don't have enough time!

Heartbreaking: Emotionless Student Doesn't Miss His Mommy

By BENJAMIN GORMAN
Avid Mommy Lover

Unfortunately, the most dreaded seven days of every students' year, the first week of school, is finally here. Old students are returning to a campus with new hair styles, new clothes, and everything else involved with a "new year new me" mentality. Revolutionizing their Exeter experience, they're visiting the same three restaurants they'll eat at exclusively for the next nine months, meeting up with friends they haven't seen all summer, and already complaining about something the administration's done. New students are also moving in, introducing themselves to everyone they meet and having to come up with an adjective that starts with the same letter as their name for every orientation, dorm activity and first day of class.

Either way, whether you're already considering dropping out or you're excited for classes because this school hasn't broken you yet, it's pretty fair to say that every student here misses their mommy. Going far away isn't necessarily easy but Exeter students not only handle but also bond over how much they miss their mommies. A mommy's love is something special, something so treasured and quintessential to the natural human experience that, if it wasn't so commonplace, would be sought out by world leaders, military generals, and the UN. That is, unless you're a heartless monster returning lower Arthur McQueen.

After moving back to campus from New York City, McQueen didn't hug his mommy goodbye, instead favoring friends and socializing as he drove back home, alone. When asked about why he hates his mommy, McQueen replied, "What? I don't hate my mom. I guess I just forgot to say goodbye." Ignoring McDemon's lack of appreciation for the natural generosity and genuine love that all mommies give their children without asking for anything in return, the conversation continued toward whether or not McQueen would even care if his mommy died, to which he replied, "Seriously, guys. I don't understand where you're getting all of this. I love my mom just like any other regular person."

Later in the week, McQueen was seen ignoring a weekend check-in from Mommy and only texting his mommy three times in four days, a record low for all Exonians ever. Tired of trying to squeeze out the truth about how much the sadist McQueen loathes his mommy, we reached out to Mommy, herself, for a quote. Mommy McQueen states, "Hi! You've reached the McQueen residence! We couldn't make it to the phone right now, but we'll call you back when we get the chance." Heartbreaking. Personally, I'm disgusted and terrified at the complete disrespect of his mommy and cannot believe such a brutal fiend has been accepted to this school.

Exeter discussing plans for satellite campuses

By NICK SCHWARTZ
Future Franchisee

Over the summer, *The Exonian* recieved leaked documents titled "PEA National Expansion Plans" and "Franchisee Candidates." On Wednesday afternoon, an anonymous dean accompanied by several of the Academy's fleet of lawyers clarified that, in her words, Exeter is "getting franchises, baby!"

A lawyer elaborated to *The Exonian* that PEA, in an

effort to soften its harsh New Hampshire brand, cut admissions officer travel costs, and become more omnipresent to lure more alumni donations, will be forming smaller, satellite campuses. There are four "PEA Franchises" planned to begin class in the Fall of 2021, all located in the US: Phillips Exton Academy in Exton, PA, "Because we should be getting more kids from Pennsylva-

nia, and we wanted to do it in another town that started with EX,"; Phillips Sweet Tea Academy in Biloxi, MS, "We've lost touch with our Southern Alums,"; Phillips Midwest Academy in Kenosha, WI "The wood to make the Harkness tables is cheaper there,"; and finally PEA West in Santa Fe, NM "to fulfill Exeter's own Manifest Destiny and spread some of that Non Sibi."

Quotes of the Week

"Get me out of here"
-New Exonians

"Let's get funny!"
-Jasper Yu, '20

"Get me out of here"
-Old Exonians



ExeterLife



Students explore classical archaeology in Orvieto, biology in Yellowstone National Park and physics in Tokyo.

Courtesy of Pepper Pieroni, Erin McCann and Lenny Chen

AlumniSpotlight

Erika Tsuchiya-Bergere '98

By ANNE BRANDES and HANSI ZHU
Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

Since her first visit to the Lamont Gallery during her time at Exeter, Erika Tsuchiya-Bergere '98 has followed an interdisciplinary creative path. Now, Tsuchiya-Bergere sheds light on the criminal justice system through *Hidden Lives Illuminated*, a photography and video project.

For the past three years, Tsuchiya-Bergere has worked at Eastern State Penitentiary as a Lead Teaching Artist, teaching classes in storytelling, screenwriting, narration and animation. "Engaging with local communities and addressing social justice is a vital part of my work," she said, describing her productions, largely centered around themes of race, gender equality and criminal justice, as "socially-driven."

The project will culminate on Sept. 12 with a showing of 20 original short films created by currently incarcerated artists. The films seek to humanize the United States' correctional system by highlighting the perspectives of individuals affected by the system.

Documentaries like *Hidden Lives Illuminated* allow the general audience to better understand the world around them, Tsuchiya-Bergere explained. "I have always been inspired by observing how parts of society work together and function. Documentaries allow me to

share those insights with others, both near and far," she said.

Tsuchiya-Bergere drew from her experience in both filmmaking and teaching to assist each member of her classes, according to Project Coordinator and Community Engagement Officer Robyn Buseman. "The end product, the student films, are a testament to her abilities," Buseman said. "She gave the students space to make their own movies while providing the guidance needed."

Tsuchiya-Bergere's interdisciplinary skills and dedication to her work have certainly not gone unnoticed. William Wallace, her co-teacher on the set of *Hidden Lives*, describes her as "one of the hardest working people [he has] ever had the opportunity to collaborate with."

Tsuchiya-Bergere's relentless work ethic helped her fit right in with the Eastern State Penitentiary community, according to Wallace. "I think working with an incarcerated population of motivated adults gave her a unique opportunity to work with people here who were, at times, as driven as she was," he said.

Buseman found that Tsuchiya-Bergere's character is unique in other ways that subtly aided the project as

well. "Her calm demeanor, her wonderful thoughtfulness with the students and her adaptability to conditions that were not the usual classroom," she said. "Erika is a great listener and did all the research and work required of such a complex project."

Much of Tsuchiya-Bergere's work at the Eastern State Penitentiary is rooted in her Exeter experience. "Because of the influence of friends, I engaged in creative arts all through my Exeter career," Tsuchiya-Bergere said. "I began to write and began to love music; a lot of those passions started with good friends while we were just spending time in the dorm or painting a mural in Grill."

Even years after graduating, Tsuchiya-Bergere credits her ability to communicate with others to the Academy. "Exeter was a very intense place, which forced me to be more assertive with what I wanted to achieve," she said. "That tendency helped me reach out to people later when I needed to, an ability which has served me well throughout my career thus far."

After graduating from Exeter, Tsuchiya-Bergere made a decision that would shape the rest of her life. Instead of staying in the country and attending the Pratt Institute, she moved to

London and spent 11 years of her life earning her B.A. in Social Anthropology and an M.A. in Photography from the SOAS University of London. She continued living abroad afterward and studied fine art in Paris.

Tsuchiya-Bergere's overseas residence cemented her interest in understanding different cultures. She furthered that interest by becoming fluent in three languages—English, Japanese and French. Language, she explained, "is the best way to understand a new group of people," a talent Tsuchiya-Bergere brought into her later works.

Music is another way Tsuchiya-Bergere immerses herself in other cultures. She describes herself as a member of a "vibrant international community of audio-visual artists" and has worked on albums, opened for night clubs across the world and collaborated with prominent artists in the Detroit electronic music scene.

Each of her pursuits—documentaries, language, music, even location—are all part of Tsuchiya-Bergere's way of understanding the world. "Stepping into others' spaces through each of these different art forms allow me insight into other's lives and gives me the ability to help them tell their stories," she said.

TIPS FOR HARKNESS SUCCESS

By MAEGAN PAUL
Staff Writer

Hello, and welcome to Exeter! My name is Maegan and I'm a three-year upper living in Dunbar. I understand how intimidating Harkness can be in your first few weeks. For most new students, Harkness is a completely new style of learning. But don't worry—the most important aspect of Harkness is everyone's willingness to collaborate, and you're always invited to put forth new ideas or make mistakes. Here are a few tips to keep in mind for classes.

1) Remember that teachers are here to help. Reach out if you find yourself struggling to hop into the discussion or if you are ever uncertain about how Harkness even works. Teachers are always available, even outside of class times.

2) Harkness is not a "one size fits all" way of learning! I was nervous about Harkness my prep year, particularly in my math and science classes, because the method seemed more suited for the humanities. However, I soon realized that Harkness is wired to meet the needs of all subjects. In English, you can use

discussions to evaluate something's meaning, while in math, you can use them to derive formulas and simplify work.

3) Note that there are no students inherently well or ill-suited for Harkness—the method completely relies on the different personalities of its participants. It's quite difficult to be a perfect student your first term, so don't worry if it takes you some time to find your style.

4) My most important advice is to remain confident without dominating the discussion or disregarding your classmates. Try not to speak after every other person, as that is a classic sign of the dreaded "Harkness Warrior." It may be tempting to say as much as possible to improve your participation grade, but it's much more valuable to invite multiple perspectives and help frame a deeper, more coherent discussion.

5) Again, take your time and be patient with the learning process. Harkness is new, but you'll see that it can become second nature for you in just a few, short months.

QUOTEBOX: First Day Musings

By FELIX YEUNG
Staff Writer

"The amount of manual labour I've had to do as a proctor is honestly jarring. I'm so tired of carrying things. Now, move-in day as made me want to move out."
Chaitanya Vankireddy '20

"It's so far, so good. We're halfway through Registration Day. Everyone is happy to be back—happy it's not raining yet. It seems that the new registration process is running smoothly."
Lee Rollick, Office of the Dean of Students

"I'm going to Capital Thai for lunch. The drunken noodles there are some of the best noodles in Exeter. I'm very glad I'm back."
Adam Tuchler '21

"The Music Building isn't a Music Building unless there are musicians inside it. We're alive again."
Kristofer Johnson, Chair of the Department of Music

"Getting along with people became really easy once I got on campus. You know those moments when you feel excluded from others—that wasn't the case today..."
Tony Cai '23

"I started off by photographing registration. There were quite a few people there... I got a lot of great selfie moments, a lot of hugging, a lot of feats of agility and hanging things on walls, people cramming as much as they can into elevators. It's been a lot of fun."
Cheryl Senter, Department of Communications

"This place is familiar, but it has an inkling of novelty."
Michelle Park '22

"It's a big campus, but it feels like home. I'm excited about meeting new people, but I'm also stressed about homework. I hope I do well!"
Sebastian Reibel '23

EXETER WELCOMES NEW FACULTY

PT. I

By EMILY KANG AND MARY TIMMONS
Staff Writers

INSTRUCTOR IN MATHEMATICS

JAVIER ALVAREZ



On the day Math Instructor Javier Alvarez moved into the Academy, he “locked the moving van’s keys in said van a mile away from campus.” Luckily for him, the rest of his transition to Exeter is going much more smoothly.

With over 20 years of experience teaching at day and boarding schools, as well as experience with Exeter’s campus through coaching, Mr. Alvarez just might have the right background to acclimate to Exeter’s culture, as “the learning curve is not as steep.”

Alvarez noted that it was the “quality and caliber of both the faculty and students” that drew him to Exeter during his visit. He also is excited to participate in traditions such as E/A weekend.

INSTRUCTOR IN MODERN LANGUAGES

DIEGO ARDURA-FARAJ



History Instructor Diego Ardura-Faraj has a famous connection in the soccer world: as a young soccer player in Spain, he competed alongside current Manchester United player Juan Mata. Luckily for PEA, he will be sharing his well-honed skills with the girls’ varsity soccer team this season and “cannot wait to beat Andover in the rivalry!”

When he’s not trying out new tricks on the soccer field, Ardura-Faraj is experimenting with ways to engage students in the classroom. In fact, it was his interest in learning that led him to a career in education. “For me, becoming a teacher was the best way to continue learning, while having people around me that share the same passion,” he said.

Ardura-Faraj is also dedicated to “bring[ing] students to the outside world beyond [the] boarding school bubble.” He looks forward to creating strong bonds with his students and leading outside social service projects involving the Latinx community.

INSTRUCTOR IN MODERN LANGUAGES

TRACY CREWS



When she’s not exploring Academy trails with her dog Willow or putting radio collars on trapped timber wolves in Wisconsin, incoming Modern Languages Instructor Tracy Crews will be sharing her bountiful enthusiasm for languages with her students at Exeter. Crews was inspired to become a teacher by her own ninth grade French instructor and has since followed in their footsteps, spending 14 years at both Milton Academy and Timberlane Regional High School before finding a home at PEA.

Crews has spent her first days on campus slowly acquainting herself with Exeter lexicon and recently learned the meaning of a “dickie,” something she hopes she will never have to hand out. She is eager to meet students, and would be glad to share the full story of how she found her way to Exeter with anyone who may be curious. “Stop by sometime and I’ll tell you all about it,” she said. “It’s an exciting tale!”

INSTRUCTOR IN HISTORY

TAKASHI MICHAEL MATSUMARU



“The messiness of history” is what new History Instructor Takashi Michael Matsumaru loves most about his subject. In his time at the Academy, Matsumaru hopes to introduce his students to “the warts and wonders of the world.”

Matsumaru attributed his arrival at Exeter to a surprising experience. “After a delightful interview with [Dean of Faculty] Ellen Wolff in Philadelphia, I met Bernard Hopkins, a hall-of-fame boxer and one of my all-time favorites,” Matsumaru said. “It capped off a surreal weekend that paved the way for me being here.”

In addition to mentoring the JV girls’ soccer team as an assistant coach and occasionally indulging in some soft-serve at Elm after dinner, Matsumaru can’t wait to return to the classroom. He leaves us with a favorite saying by historian Lonnie Bunch: “Let us use history to inspire us to push a country forward to help us believe that all things are possible and to demand a country lives up to its stated ideals.”

INSTRUCTOR IN MODERN LANGUAGES

PILAR PÉREZ SERRANO



“The classroom is one of the few places where you can at least make an attempt to practice democracy today, as well as learn about its strengths and weaknesses,” new Modern Languages Instructor Pilar Pérez Serrano said.

In addition to her firm commitment to the Academy’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion mission and desire to create a safe, democratic classroom environment, Pérez Serrano brings 20 years of experience teaching Spanish and contemporary Spanish theater at Gordon College. She looks forward to enriching the lives of Exonians through language, culture and literature and sharing her appreciation for the humanities. “I firmly believe [the humanities] can build bridges for dialogue and true communication between great divides,” she said.

INSTRUCTOR IN SCIENCE

KATHRYN POWERS



When Kathryn “Katie” Powers saw a Honda Ruckus parked outside the Phelps Science Center, she sent a picture to her family and captioned it “life goals,” only to find out moments later that the Ruckus belonged to her teaching mentor and fellow Science Instructor Betsy Stevens. Similarly merry introductions and happy surprises, like her discovery that the Academy Library is the world’s largest for secondary schools, have shaped Powers’ first days on campus and augmented her excitement about beginning at PEA.

Powers, who previously taught physics and biology at Lawrence Academy, describes her teaching career as a “self-fulfilling prophecy”; her high school superlative at Cushing Academy, her alma mater, was “Most Likely to Teach at Cushing Academy.” In addition to her scientific expertise, Powers brings unique life experiences—she once led a reforestation project in Puerto Rico—and athletic passion to Exeter, having previously coached varsity soccer, lacrosse and JV basketball and completed three marathons.

Powers looks forward to “being in awe of [her] students and colleagues” every day.

INSTRUCTOR IN HISTORY

KIRSTEN RUSSELL



History Instructor Kirsten Russell, or “Doc R,” brings to Exeter her own bit of history with Exeter. A New Hampshire native, Russell was born at Exeter Hospital and spent her childhood on a sheep farm. Walking around Main Street has brought back fond memories of her childhood and the Exeter landscape.

This fall, Russell returns to Exeter after an extensive international career. She held a job in economic development that led her to live in Pakistan and China, where she became fluent in Mandarin Chinese. As her children grew older, Russell became interested in the process of “high school-aged people learn[ing] and identify[ing] as learners and intellectuals” and went through a mid-career transition, deciding to teach history.

Even though she considers herself “a bit of a nerd,” Russell enjoys several outdoor activities including hiking, swimming, rowing and skiing. “I am learning my way around the boat house and Squamscott River,” she said.

INSTRUCTOR IN MATHEMATICS

JULIE VAN WRIGHT



Julie Van Wright spent her first moments on campus with a swollen red bulge under her eye, having been woefully afflicted with a clogged tear duct just before her move. Fortunately, this has not dampened her spirits about joining the Exeter community as a new math instructor and diving coach, posts she previously served at the Kent Denver School in Colorado.

Van Wright was first drawn to the Academy because of its challenging, thought-provoking math curriculum and is excited to learn from her students by observing their creative ideas and problem-solving methods.

She is also eager to coach and expand the Exeter diving program, a sport she remarked is “fun, but often overlooked.” Despite being a self-described “terrible swimmer”—she only recently learned how to swim freestyle—Van Wright brings ample experience to the diving team, having coached and competed with the Williams College team and participated in several independent swimming triathlons.

She looks forward to engaging with her students “in the classroom, on the playing field, in performances and in the dorms.”

INSTRUCTOR IN MODERN LANGUAGES

NING ZHOU



Since he was little, Ning Zhou dreamed of becoming a teacher. This fall, he will bring that passion to his Chinese classroom, where he can’t wait to immerse students in the Chinese language and culture through Harkness. “It is a rewarding career!” he said.

Zhou brings to Exeter extensive experience as the former chair of the World Language Department at the Cardozo Education Campus in Washington, D.C. He attended George Washington University, also in D.C., and has enjoyed meeting fellow alumni and sharing fond memories of professors in his first weeks at Exeter.

Once a lead singer in his church choir, Zhou is excited to participate in many facets of campus life, including adjusting to his residence in Abbot Hall and supporting campus events. Most of all, he looks forward to meeting his students. “It is my honor to work at Exeter,” he said.



Exonian Sports



BIG RED FOOTBALL IS BACK



The Exeter Football team preps for a big season.

Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

By CHARLOTTE LISA
Staff Writer

A comeback for Big Red Football is long overdue. The first group of students to return to campus, the team was hard at work on and off the field last week. They tackled significant challenges during preseason, from three practices a day under torrential downpours to new coaching staff and a slew of new recruits. Nevertheless, the team exhibited relentless effort and has no intention of slowing down.

Senior Gannon McCorckle put it simply when describing the team's work so far. "This preseason has been electric," he said. "From day one we have had huge leaps on the field as well as a great time bonding as teammates off the field."

Lower Curtis Shimer sensed a surge in energy, saying, "I've noticed a mood shift this preseason. Last year, people couldn't wait for

the practices to end and prayed for cancellations. This year everyone's excited to get on the field and go to work."

Despite the tiring demands of practice, players were quick to point out the highlights of preseason. One player, new senior George Harrington, was a common thread among several of the players' most memorable moments. "The best moment of preseason had to have been the group dance we had in the locker room after our practice was cancelled," Shimer described. "George started break dancing and the whole team went crazy."

McCorckle credited Harrington as well, saying, "My favorite preseason moment has been one guy, George Harrington. This kid is [going to] run the school."

Of course, preseason was not all fun and games, and the team faced a few obstacles. "We had a full pads practice in the rain, which was pretty tough," Brown said.

A couple of players suffered small injuries. Upper Owen Fox emphasized that during daily practices, "the whole team really came together and worked hard to make it through the week."

And yet, these moments were undoubtedly valuable, as they revealed the team's strengths and possible weaknesses. "Our greatest strength is not only our talent, but our depth of talent. We have so many guys that can be successful in so many different spots—it's very exciting. But a negative that comes along with this newfound talent is that we have to get used to how everyone plays," McCorckle said, nonetheless sharing his confidence that the adjustment will not take long.

The team is optimistic in their outlook for the season. "With Coach Glennon back and a strong contingent of seniors and PGs, I think we're going to do very well," Brown said. In the past, the team has faced serious adversity,

and while many people on campus are hopeful about this season, there are still those who doubt the possibility of the team's success.

In response, Shimer said, "As a team we are focused, motivated and support each other regardless of age or skill. Everyone on the team recognizes the clear potential our team has, and can't wait to prove doubters wrong."

McCorckle expressed similar confidence, and emphasized the need for support from the rest of campus to ensure the team's success. "The school can look forward to a lot of wins. We have two big games; Taft [on Sept. 14], then Worcester [on Sept. 13] under the lights. We really hope the school can make an effort to support us—we promise we won't disappoint."

He concluded, "Just know this team is different. We are starting a new chapter in this program's history and we are ready to leave our mark."

SWIM STAR QUALIFIES FOR OLYMPIC TRIALS

By COOPER WALSH
Staff Writer

Senior Andrew Benson steps onto the starting block and claps his hands. The Junior Nationals crowd at the Stanford Avery Aquatic Center goes quiet, awaiting the start of the men's 100-meter freestyle. The buzzer sounds, and Benson flies off the block. His white and black SOLO Aquatics cap blasts ahead of the field into the halfway turn and doesn't falter for a moment on the way home. He is the first to touch lane one in a time of 50.40 seconds, winning the heat and punching his ticket to the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Omaha, Nebraska this June.

A senior and co-captain of Big Red Varsity Swimming, Benson started his swimming career at the age of nine when his mother, a swimming coach for the Exeter swim team, persuaded him to swim for a season. It was a perfect match, and the young swimmer began training year-round. This past summer, Benson's many years of intense training paid off, as he is now moving on to compete against many of America's most distinguished swimmers, such as Nathan Adrian and Caleb Dressel, in hopes of claiming a spot on the 2020 U.S. Olympic Swim Team.

"Making Olympic trials is a culmination of all of the hard work of not only myself but also my coaches, teammates, teachers, parents and friends," Benson said. "Without the support of everyone along the path, without every little interaction, I would most certainly not be in the position I am today."

Benson's training partner on SOLO Aquatics, senior Charlie Venci, spoke highly of the athlete. "Andrew is a motivation machine both in and out of the water. I am so grateful to have a teammate with a work ethic as contagious as his. He has truly earned this opportunity and I cannot wait to see how well he does in Omaha," he said.



Photo Courtesy of Andrew Benson

Coaches Meghan Feran and Harrison Hollingsworth of SOLO Aquatics shared similar sentiments. "We are very proud of Andrew and seeing him achieve the goals he set," they said in a joint statement. "He spent the year working through some challenges, but continued to push himself and work incredibly hard to achieve what he set out to do a long time ago."

PEA's boys varsity swim coach Don Mills described Benson in three words. The first—"enthusiastic." Recognized by his teammates and coach alike as the team's "hype man," Benson can always be found carrying around his large speaker and playing music to rile up the team. "Benson will be the loudest person

on deck no matter if it's a practice, a varsity meet, or he's watching a JV meet," upper Aren Mizuno said.

Mills' second word—"dedicated." "Everyone else can help push you, help you train and be your supporters, but it also has to come from your self-motivation and willingness to succeed," Benson said, attributing his triumphs despite rough patches to his own self-motivation.

The third and final word—"humble." Mizuno said, "Without seeing Benson swim, it's impossible to know that he's as good as he is." Benson can slice through the water like a hot knife through butter, but his teammates agree that he doesn't act like that sets him apart from the rest of the team.

Occasionally during practice, swimmers hold a "throw down," or a one-on-one race. During these races, Benson is often found slamming kickboards together, trying to get the competing swimmers to achieve their best. Lower Georgie Venci added, "Anytime a teammate needs a pair of goggles or a swimsuit, Benson is the first to check his bag and try to help."

Benson earned the name "toothless" after getting one of his teeth knocked out during a water polo game lower year, but upper Adam Tuchler elaborated that the name holds greater significance. "In the movie How to Train your Dragon, the really fast dragon

is called toothless, and that's like Benson," Tuchler said.

Benson doesn't let his intense swimming routines get to his head, and he always has room for a little sprinkle of humor and immaturity. "[Benson] has had the same duck hoodie-towel since he was nine years old, and one time over this summer he lost his pull buoy and used a Tropicana jug as a replacement," C. Venci recalled.

Mills contributed a memory of his own, from the time Benson was at Eastern Championships competing for Big Red. "Five minutes prior to breaking the school record for the medley relay, Benson and C. Venci were in the shallow end of the warm-up area bouncing up and down, seeing who could get the highest out of the water, all while they were making the opposing teams swim around them during their warm up," Mills said.

In summary, Benson got it done this summer. He qualified for the Olympic Trials in his signature event and had fun in the process. Later this school year, he will be putting the pedal to the metal in hopes of putting on a show in Omaha and earning a trip to Tokyo for the 2020 Olympic Games.

Feran and Hollingsworth are optimistic about the future for Benson. "As we start this new season, we are very excited to see what the future holds and are confident he will be doing big things," they said.



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