



# The Exonian

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Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire



Uppers Jacob Hunter and Emmaline Scales rehearse a scene for the upcoming production.

Julia Goydan/*The Exonian*

## PEA Mainstage, "West Side Story" Cut for Next Fall

By ISABELLA AHMAD  
and BLANE ZHU  
Staff Writers

The Theater and Dance Department made a collective decision not to produce "West Side Story" (1957) as the debut show of the David E. Goel and Stacey L. Goel Center for Theater and Dance, which was the original musical performed at the Fisher Theater upon its opening in 1972. During the original showing of the play at Exeter, white students used makeup to darken their skin while portraying the Puerto Rican characters. Due to concerns about logistics and the potentially culturally insensitive nature of performing "West Side Story," the show was not pursued.

Fisher Theater opened its gates for the first time on Oct. 21, 1972, and the introductory performance in the state-of-the-art facility was none other than the iconic "West Side Story." Now, almost 50 years later, Exonians and faculty alike eagerly anticipate the new Center for Theater and Dance, set to open in the fall of 2018. Until a few weeks ago, PEA was planning to pay homage to the Fisher Theater debut and perform "West Side Story" as the first show in this new space.

"West Side Story," a modern interpretation of William Shakespeare's famous play, "Romeo and Juliet," follows the forbidden love between two young adults from rival street gangs of different ethnic groups: one white, the other Puerto Rican.

Chair of the Department of Theater and Dance Robert Richards emphasized the significance of the show. "'West Side Story' is huge in the history of musicals. There were exciting reasons to take it on," he said, referring to the many special acting, singing and dancing opportunities the show lent.

More importantly, Richards thought the show would allow three different performing art forms—music, dance and theater—to come together in the new Theater and Dance building. "It would allow for such great collaboration. That was certainly central to our thinking," he said.

However, concerns over gender and racial diversity presented a major obstacle to the performance. Lower and Mainstage participant Paula

**MAINSTAGE, 2**

## Instructors Remain Uncompensated for 999s

By MAI HOANG,  
CHARLIE PRESTON  
and ANGELE YANG  
Staff Writers

999 courses provide Exonians with an opportunity to further challenge themselves beyond the offered academic curriculum, often delving into obscure, difficult topics they're unable to explore elsewhere. While teachers enjoy working with students passionate about these subjects, they are not compensated for the extra workload in designing and teaching the course.

Dean of Studies and Academic Affairs Brooks Moriarty affirmed that departments approve 999 courses independently from the deans, and teachers are not compensated for teaching a 999 course in addition to their four-class workload. Moriarty said, "It's clear to teachers that this work is 'above workload' if taken on as a 'fifth class.'" He added that, rarely, some teachers are permitted to run a 999 as a fourth class, but do not receive compensation above their traditional salary. Ultimately, individual departments make these decisions, and there is no school-wide policy.

A student can propose an idea for a 999

to a teacher they believe would be interested in leading the course. Unlike senior projects, 999s are not individual courses, and the amount of student input in designing a course varies from class to class. "Sometimes, the students have done the bulk of the work in creating the syllabus and finding the materials. Other times, the students might have an idea and the teacher does a little more work," Computer Science Instructor Sean Campbell said.

According to Mathematics Instructor Jeffrey Ibbotson, 999s were created so as not to limit students and provide them with an opportunity to go beyond the offered curricula with teachers who are knowledgeable about certain topics. "999s are best when they are given to talented students who want to learn something not currently offered in a class," Ibbotson said.

Despite 999s covering difficult subject matter, the class still functions very much like a regular course. According to upper Tony Ye, the proposer of Einstein's Relativity course that is currently running, "This communal journey has been very rewarding. Although the textbook we use is very advanced, our class is still discussion-based, which I like a lot."

Physics Instructor James DiCarlo, who leads the 999 Ye proposed, believes that 999s are a learning experience for teachers as well as students. "I've been impressed with everyone's mathematical stamina. The problems are not easy, but there's beautiful insight to be gained," he said. "I've spent more time in the past four weeks wondering about what things are like near a black hole than I have in the previous 48 years of my life."

999s are seen across the board by students as transformative classes that allow them to put their knowledge and creativity to good use. Senior Harry Saunders acknowledged that even though this may mean extra work for the teacher and students in designing the course and understanding the difficult material, the shared love for learning makes 999s appealing. "As a class, we don't feel reluctant to admit when we are lost, [because] getting lost is what it is all about," he said. "I know that for some teachers—while this number may be shrinking—working with passionate students in advanced topics is a labor of love."

However, despite the amount of extra time needed to teach these courses in addition to regular ones, teachers are not compensated for their work. "I was essentially

**CLASSES, 2**

## Community Reflects on Thank-a-Donor Day

By SUAN LEE  
and ANDREA SO  
Staff Writers

The Department of Institutional Advancement and the Student Alumni Relations (STARS) Council hosted its seventh annual Thank-A-Donor Day on Tuesday, Feb. 13. The morning began with an assembly delivered by alumnus Peter Georgescu '57, who shared personal stories from his childhood and voiced immense gratitude for his years at the Academy. Exonians were invited to reflect on their own Exeter experiences throughout the day and expressed their appreciation for Academy donors by writing and recording personal messages of gratitude to donors.

The first Thank-A-Donor Day was organized in 2011 by the Giving Thanks Club, a student organization that educated Exeter on the impact of donor support and allowed community members to express their gratitude. The club has since been replaced by STARS Council, a committee of upperclassmen who act as liaisons between students and alumni.

As of December last year, the Academy has received more than \$5 million worth of donations. "The Exeter Fund provides immediate, vital, flexible-use resources that enable the Academy to sustain the hallmarks of an Exeter education including small class sizes, a superb faculty and facilities and programs that allow students to achieve at their highest level," Director of the Exeter Fund Lynn Taylor said.

Assembly speaker Georgescu is one of



Upper Matt Kang mans a giving thanks table at Wetherell dining hall.

Reina Matsumoto/*The Exonian*

many generations of Exonians whose lives have been exceptionally altered by their time at the Academy. Georgescu enrolled at Exeter as a new lower a few months after he moved to the United States from socialist Romania, where he had been separated from his family after the Second World War. "I've been aided by so many people who reached out to help me. I've become the man I am because of the experiences I've endured and the institutions that have given me the values to help me along the way. My endless gratitude reaches out to

this very special place—Exeter," he said.

Many enjoyed the sincerity of Georgescu's address and remarked that his vivid, personal accounts had encouraged them to consider how Exeter fit into their own lives. "Assembly today was inspiring and emotional. Mr. Georgescu's gratitude for his personal history, his journey to Exeter and the role the kindness of Principal Saltonstall played in his life made me reflect on how fortunate we all are to be here," Director of Institutional Advance-

**DONOR, 2**

## CCO Parent Info Weekend Hosts Exeter Families

By RACHEL WON  
Staff Writer

This weekend, more than 400 parents and guardians travelled to campus to attend upper college weekend. Exeter's College Counseling Office (CCO) invited the parents of the Class of 2019 to a full weekend of programming aimed to educate parents on national college trends and Exeter's college process. Among other activities, parents attended a presentation on financial aid, participated in a mock admissions exercise and met with their child's college counselor.

The highlight of the weekend was the keynote address, delivered on Friday night. According to Director of College Counselling Elizabeth Dolan, "The keynote speaker is selected based on what is happening in college admissions or what is needed developmentally for a particular class." This year's address was led by Eric Hoover, who has been covering admissions issues since 2001. His work has appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, among several other notable publications.

For Stephen Theberge, father of upper Claire Theberge, the biggest takeaway from the weekend was the depth of resources the CCO has to offer. "Their experience [will] really guide our child's decision about where she wants to go. She's going to have an informed picture based on their discussions with her over where she should apply," he said. "The best place for her may be different than her current view of where she should go." Theberge noted that the CCO would be helpful in determining which colleges would be fairly selective, which places had a high chance of admission and which universities would be considered "safety schools."

Melissa Theberge, Claire's mother, agreed that this weekend provided valuable insights into the college application process, citing the College

**COLLEGE, 2**

### INSIDE

#### BUSINESS

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#### CORRECTION

On Feb. 8, 2018, *The Exonian* reported the number of fatigues for the 2017 calendar year. It should have said academic year. *The Exonian* apologizes for the mistake.

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# Special Interest Courses Declined, Logistical Challenges

*Continued from CLASSES, 1*

writing a mini-course, and that takes a lot of time and energy to develop curricula, especially when it's not compensated," Mathematics Instructor Aviva Halani said. "It was hard enough for me to do it for a 790, which was running as a full course with a dozen students. To put in that time and energy to write a course and write good problems, all of that, without any compensation—that's a lot to ask."

Teachers have proposed compensation in the form of monetary reimbursement or an alleviation of extracurriculars in exchange for leading a 999 course. However, only a few departments are able to afford this. "Teachers sometimes do get paid for teaching 999s but only get paid in departments where they have the [full time equivalents, which are teachers with available time within their work-hour limits] to allow a teacher to teach a small class," Ibbotson said.

According to Halani, this budgeting issue is not the only detriment to running 999s. "It's also somewhat of a workload issue," she

explained. Similarly, DiCarlo's busy schedule prevents him from engaging in a 999 course. "I've taught 999s in the past, and I agreed to do it on the basis that we could get enough students to take the class, around 8 [students], so that it could count as part of my workload," DiCarlo said. "As much as I love wrestling with advanced physics ideas, I wouldn't do it if I had to do it on top of my regular course load."

Campbell maintained that in some cases, teachers are given credit for 999s. "I think there's been some departments that are changing that policy a little, if staffing allows it, [where] teachers in some cases can get credit," he explained. "There have been situations where teachers are effectively compensated for it"

Campbell acknowledged that there are "discrepancies" with regards to policies on 999s, and the cases in which teachers receive compensation are rare. "There's not enough teachers to teach all those classes plus all the 999s, so the 999s become extra for the teacher," he said. "But as a result, it creates a lot of extra

work for teachers, [and] they're not being compensated."

However, if students are able to find more than seven peers to create a class that their teacher would be compensated for, this could pose another problem. According to Chair of the History Department William Jordan, a spring term 999 course with History Instructor Kent McConnell was denied this past week because many students taking it chose to drop out from other classes. "My staffing is all set up and then students start dropping classes because of 999s, then I have teachers with one section instead of two," Jordan said. "Additionally, if 12 kids want to take a 999 and a teacher requests to have it count as a normal class, then I have to reduce their workload. Sometimes scheduling does not permit this."

Jordan reasoned that 999 courses can be denied because of significant overlap between their content and that of previously established courses. He emphasized, however, that this does not happen often. Much of the reason behind 999 proposals being denied is failure to

adequately plan ahead for them. "That's what happened this past term [with the students who wanted to take a 999 with McConnell]. It was after midterm, close to the add-drop period," Jordan said. In contrast, Jordan mentioned a 999 run by Economics Instructor Giorgio Secondi that examined economics beyond the usual curriculum. "He told me a year ahead, and that was great," he said. "The problem is only when they wait until the last minute."

Jordan maintained that in the past year only one 999 history proposal was denied at the department head level because of scheduling conflicts. Despite this fact, some students alleged that the number of 999 courses approved is on the decline. "There is a lot of concern among my peers that ending the 999 program is evidence of Deans and Department Heads restricting academic freedom," Saunders said. "But as long as Exeter has extraordinarily dedicated teachers and extraordinarily curious students, 999s will live on in some form."

# Upper College Weekend Draws Parents to PEA Campus

*Continued from WEEKEND, 1*

the college application process, citing the College Admissions Deans' Panel Discussion as especially helpful. "[We] had a panel with 15 or so Admissions Directors from 15 different schools. It was enlightening—it was something we would not have access to in any other setting other than being a parent of a kid at Exeter," Theberge said. "There is no magic to the process, but it was helpful to hear from them and how they look at a whole child—it's not just about grades, not just about numbers. Those matter, but they aren't everything."

Anii Garidipuri, mother of upper Pavan Garidipuri, thought that the summer program fair was invaluable. "We learned that [students] can go abroad to volunteer or to explore and to learn new things. They can go to Italy, France and many other countries.

We didn't know there were so many opportunities," Garidipuri said.

While the weekend's programs were oriented towards introducing parents to the college counseling process, students also learned about the college admissions process. Upper Dylan Yin thought that an important part of the weekend was to establish the role of the CCO as a medium for effective student-parent communication. "Sometimes students have difficulty talking to parents directly, and you need a source that has more experience and information to be the middleman," Yin said. "Having another person there like the college counselors who are willing to comfort the parents and also make sure that both the students and the parents' priorities are on a similar front is pretty important."

Upper Katie Yang had a different ex-

perience, but similarly appreciated the program. "My parents didn't really share a lot of what they learned with me, but they seemed to have openly discussed what they [were] thinking with other parents too," she said. "Before they had their own notions and rumors, but after discussing face-to-face with other parents they seem to have a broader idea of what other parents think, what other kids think and what the college counseling board at Exeter thinks in general."

Upper Lulu Ezekwenna's mother had already attended Upper College Weekend last year with Ezekwenna's older brother, senior Oge Ezekwenna. But more than anything, this weekend was a chance for Ezekwenna to learn more specifically about the respective roles that both students and parents play. "It helped me realize how my mom [and I have very separate roles], but at the same time we

both have a big part to play in the college process," Ezekwenna said.

However, one sentiment that most students shared was their joy in being able to see their parents again. During the weekend, Yang had dinner with her and her friends' parents, which provided a brief respite from the monotony of the Exeter campus. Ezekwenna was able to see her mother for the first time since Winter Break.

Yin, an international student from Shanghai, thought that seeing parents was just one positive aspect of the weekend, especially since it's often very hard for him to find a time to meet up with them. "Getting to talk to them, feeling like we both have an equal part in discussion and getting to a part where we're finally semi-prepared for the next step of our lives is pretty exciting," Yin said.

# Trustee Peter Georgescu '57 Delivers Reflective Assembly

*Continued from DONOR, 1*

ment Morgan Dudley commented.

As an international student, upper Numi Oyeboode admired the global outreach of the Academy experience. "Without the donors giving money to allow the school year to continue past when tuition ends, I probably wouldn't have been able to come to Exeter," she said.

Others expressed gratitude for opportunities extending beyond the Exeter campus. Senior Ori Evans explained that the Academy's vast alumni network has helped

him tremendously in pursuing his passion for film. Through Exeter's connections, he was able to meet Philip Anselman, a French-American director who has made music videos for famous artists including Beyoncé and Taylor Swift, as well as Greg Daniels, creator of popular television shows such as "Parks and Recreation" and "The Office." He elaborated on Anselman's willingness to offer suggestions and guidance, which has allowed him to further his passion and talent for filmmaking. "It was really great just to meet two people who are literally at

the top of the game right now," Evans said. "Everytime I make a new video, I send it to Anselman, and he gets right back to me."

Evans emphasized the importance of connecting with alumni and donors. "The benefit of connecting with alums is significant. It should be a very active part of the school—to connect with the people who graduate from here, because they go off to do amazing things," he commented.

Some students, such as senior Harry Di-Tullio, look forward to becoming Academy donors in the future. "I've been interested

in getting involved in the whole process of being an active alumnus after I graduate myself, so I just wanted to get a better sense of what goes on after you graduate and the things that alumni are actually doing," he said.

Dudley remarked on the circularity of the tradition. "Someday, you will remember this day, and you will make a gift to Exeter," she said. "And someday, a student like you will stop and take the time to write a note to let you know how much they appreciate your generosity."

# Whitewashing and Gender Concerns Stop Mainstage Play

*Continued from MAINSTAGE, 1*

formance. Lower and Mainstage participant Paula Perez-Glassner said that female Exonians would not get as much out of the show. "There are only two female roles in the whole show," she said, explaining that Exeter's Theater Department has a majority of female actors. "The proportions were off...it was frustrating for a lot of people."

When "West Side Story" first premiered on Broadway and was then brought to the big screen in 1961, many white actors used brown paint and makeup to appear Latinx. In Exeter's 1972 "West Side Story," faculty members and directors B. Rodney Marriott and Richard P. Hall used these racially insensitive methods in their own production. "Laurie Diehl's superb dark skin is certainly not among her own assets but is rather a quality attributable to an outstanding makeup crew," David Olson '73 originally wrote in a 1972 edition of *The Exonian*.

Upper Kate Denny, also a participant in several mainstages and a member of DRAMAT, mentioned that the show would be difficult to do without "whitewashing" the roles. "I would feel uncomfortable and unfit for a role if it was originally supposed to be Latina, and I would feel pretty disrespectful by whitewashing it and trying to fulfill it," she said. Perez-Glassner concurred, stating, "In terms of casting, it could be a problem casting someone who was more talented but not the correct ethnicity."

Lower Jack Liu feels as though in part, the cancellation has to do with the Theater and Dance Department trying to "play it safe." "The news of the cancellation came to us not too long after this year's MLK Day debacle, so personally, my thoughts turned to how the department could be worried about the political ramifications of the show," Liu said. "I guess I can't help but feel that there's the tiniest bit of copping out for the trustees,

benefactors and community, since it comes at the cost of this legendary musical." However, Liu ultimately agreed with Denny, believing that the issues surrounding cultural insensitivity did need to be taken into account, no matter who it was for. "As an Asian kid from the suburbs, I can't say I'm qualified to live the world of "West Side Story," he said.

Despite his affinity for the musical, Richards prioritized the well-being of the community and his fellow faculty. "Whether it's tragedy or comedy, musical or farce, [I want] something that builds the community," Richards said. As the opening performance in the new building, he hopes another play will be able to celebrate this occasion and to find "gratitude and humility" in the Exeter community.

Logistics issues also challenged the launch of the performance. "I think moving into the new building itself, moving all of our stuff out of Fisher Theater and into the

new center, on top of all the other things we already do and at the same time, getting to know the new building and just getting familiar with the new spaces...It's going to take time," Richards said.

Even though "West Side Story" will not be the opening play for next fall's Mainstage production, Richards is still looking forward to whatever performances are to come. "I have a tremendous sense of optimism, stepping into this new place. There will be such an energy and a sense of play," Richards said. "Theater is a way to bring us all together as a better community, a more connected community."

Upper Gillian Allou hoped that the new building would bring a fresh attitude to Exeter. "I hope that in the future the theater can have the cast and resources necessary to put on a show that will stretch Exeter's boundaries and foster discussion," she said. "It seems that time is just not now."

# Vale '18 Named Regeneron Science Talent Search Finalist

By RACHEL WON  
and JACOB FEIGENBERG  
Staff Writers

Regeneron Science Talent Search named senior Vinjai Vale a finalist this January. The Science Talent Search, with several Nobel Prize-winning alumni, is considered one of America's most prestigious math and science competition for high school seniors.

Over 1,000 students compete each year. Students are chosen based on a personal research project of their choice. In early January, the search named 300 applicants as Scholars, then reduced the pool to 40 finalists, including Vale. These finalists are invited to the final round of judging in Washington, D.C., where they will compete for a total of \$1.8 million in awards; there, they will have the chance to display their work to the public and meet with other notable scientists.

Vale focused his research on artificial intelligence, specializing in computer vision and how programs process images. He worked to improve the capacity of current methods so that computers can analyze complex scenes closer to human accuracy.

"The current state of the art paradigm for doing this kind of computer vision is using something called a neural network," Vale said. "They're really good at [classification], but they often struggle to represent the spatial composition of these objects, which comes naturally to people." To tackle this problem, Vale borrowed insights from psychology and neuroscience and applied these techniques to computer science.

This problem represents a long history of interest in computer science for Vale. He met his mentor at MIT PRIMES, a high school research program for math and computer science. The two began working on a project similar to what Vale eventually ended up researching for the Talent Search. However, he faced setbacks. "I spent a few weeks to just take a step back and think about where what I was doing was going wrong and reading some papers," Vale said. "That's how I formulated this new problem, and that's what I worked on from August to now."

Vale described his process of research as "going into uncharted waters." In the fall, he woke up at 5:30 a.m. to work for two hours every day before his morning commute to Exeter. "You have to be up to date with the latest research, so you have to be

reading papers very often," Vale explained.

Computer Science Instructor Sean Campbell praised Vale for his passion and dedication. "I met with him roughly twice a week last spring term, but this was more often him showing me how his work was progressing and evolving," he said. "Vinjai has a strong work ethic combined with the ability to find novel approaches to problems."

A big part of Vale's project was simply thinking—something easier said than done. Vale would break down his main research problem into smaller sub-problems so he could attack it from different angles. "[It's] a very immersive process. There would always be some problem that I was thinking about in the back of my head," he said. "I think that's how you make progress, just thinking about it a lot and trying different things because most of them don't work."

Biology Instructor Townley Chisholm commended Vale's research. "Exeter has a long history of astonishingly gifted science and math students; Vinjai is one of the very best," he said. "Vinjai is remarkably good both at doing terrifically creative, interesting research on his own and at working with other people to accomplish common goals such as running the Exeter Puzzle Hunt so that PEA student teams can have

fun together. He is always thinking and a lot of that thinking is about other people."

"He's such a hardworking student," upper Jenny Yang, who has worked with him in the Computer Science Club, said. "He helps younger students with difficult algorithms and pursues his own research outside of school and the club. He has been a great role model for the past few years, and I have learned a lot from him. Not only in terms of science knowledge, but also from his time management and efficiency."

Campbell applauded Vale's achievements, saying, "Apart from the direct opportunities afforded by his selection as a Regeneron finalist, [this experience] also sets him apart from most students his age. He is working on graduate-level research as a teenager under the direction of an expert in the field."

The process, though arduous, confirmed Vale's passion for research and computer programming. "Doing research is like a rollercoaster. You have lows that last a really long time and you just feel like you're going nowhere. But then something clicks and you come up with an idea and it opens up a whole new field of questions," he said. "And that's something I want to continue doing probably for the rest of my life."





Senior Isaac Browne plays the violin.

Inumidun Oyebo/Exonian

## THINKFAST INTERACTIVE GAME SHOW

By VIRGINIA LITTLE and  
YUNSEO CHOI  
Staff Writers

Grainger Auditorium hosted Saturday night's ThinkFast Interactive Game Show, an live trivia game with a variety of questions and prizes for audience contestants. Trivia ranged from pop culture to scientific topics, asking students to identify a recently released music video or the outermost layer of the sun. The wide-ranging subject matter and fast pace of the game, which has been a hit on college campuses nationwide, drew a crowd of Exonians eager to challenge themselves.

ThinkFast, the self-proclaimed "most awarded interactive program ever," was created in 1995, and its owner, TjohnE College Entertainment Company, tours five productions of ThinkFast year-round. It has visited several major universities and community colleges from coast to coast, including NYU, Harvard, MIT, Princeton, Colgate, Columbia and many others. TjohnE credits the program's high popularity to the concept of wirelessly connecting an online virtual audience to the game with those attending the actual event acting as the contestants, either in teams or as individuals.

In recent years, the ThinkFast tour

group has performed its show at over 600 colleges per year, rotating topics to reflect current pop culture. The show's operation remains wireless, with the audience's attention drawn to the large video screens located on either side of the main stage. Various sound effects, videos and questions are shown to the audience on the large screens. ThinkFast also provides an "age relevant" host for each of its programs, meaning that the hosts are selected to match the age of their target audiences in order to allow more favorable audience identification and to guide participants more easily through the show.

Assistant Director of Student Activities Kelly McGahie helped organize the ThinkFast event on campus, having learned about it through other independent schools. As for the timing of this year's ThinkFast event, McGahie explained that many students were absent from campus this weekend, requiring more programming from the Academy for the students who remained.

"It was college admissions weekend, so the majority of the uppers were busy Friday night," she explained. Though many of the college admissions events were completed by Saturday, "on the night of the event, a lot of uppers will be out of the town with their parents, so it's almost like losing a whole

class." In contrast to the Abbot Casino and ALES dance over the past two weekends, where both events were student organized and run either through dorms or clubs, there were fewer students this past weekend available to organize or host a student event. "I wanted to find an event that I could run myself that would hopefully appeal to the remaining students on campus," McGahie explained.

Unlike the other events where faculty are often involved in the set-up and clean-up process both before and after the event, ThinkFast handles all of the logistics from start to finish. "I hire them, they come in and they do it all," McGahie said.

Exeter has hosted ThinkFast for the past three years and will continue to do so in the future if the Student Activities Office receives positive feedback from the students this year. The Student Activities Office made strong efforts to publicize the event, with e-mails, an item in the school's online calendar and posters around campus. The students who attended last year enjoyed it, and last year's winner was eager to return to defend his title.

Prep Noah Lee learned about the event through the weekend activities email letter and attended with a large group of friends. Lee enjoyed answering the questions col-

laboratively with fellow students, and he was further motivated to attend after participating in quiz shows through the recently released quiz show app "HQ Trivia" as well as his participation in the Exeter Quiz Bowl Club. "I really liked the cash prize," noted Lee, "and that was probably the main incentive for me to go. The \$200 first prize could get you 400 grill cookies!"

Lower Helena Chen also attended the event after noticing it in the weekend programs email. "My friends and I were bored, so we decided to go check it out and see if it was fun," Chen said. Simply answering the questions was Chen's favorite part of the program. Similar to Lee, Chen had also been using the app "HQ" and has had previous interest in quiz shows.

This year's ThinkFast winner was defending champion senior Nick Song. Unlike prior years in which larger teams of students shared the winning prize of \$200 dollars, Song, the co-head of Exeter's Quiz Bowl Club, was the sole victor. He attributes the majority of his success to being "fast on the buzzer" to give an answer. Despite his repeat win, Song remained humble. "I honestly couldn't have cared less about the money," he said. "It was a lot of fun hanging with my friends in the audience and doing trivia."

## CONCERTO COMPETITION

By CANDY TANTICHIRASAKUL and  
BLANE ZHU  
Staff Writers

Spotlights blazed, eighty pairs of eyes focused on the piano at the center of the Bowld stage. Upper Adar Tulloch adjusted his posture, placed his hands on the keys and allowed the music to guide his way.

On Sunday, Feb. 11, Exeter hosted its annual Concerto Competition, which gave nine advanced instrumentalists the chance to play in front of a panel of three judges and compete for the opportunity to play with the Symphony Orchestra in the spring term. "The opportunity to play a concerto with the Symphony Orchestra is a rare opportunity indeed. You won't get more than a couple times in your life, if you're lucky," said Peter Schultz, Chair of the Music Department.

The three judges had no affiliation with Exeter, for objective judgment of each student's performance. Recruited by Schultz, the judges represented a variety of professional musical backgrounds and instruments, including string instruments, wind instruments and the piano.

This is not the first time Exeter has hosted such a competition. According to Schultz, the competition from his early days at Exeter was quite different from now. "We used to have multiple winners—too many for the orchestra to accommodate comfortably," he said. Inspired by other concerto competitions that he knew of, Schultz completely remodeled the program to provide more structure and increase the element of competition. Schultz has helped the competition evolve to what it is now, where only one winner can receive the amazing opportunity to play with the Symphony Orchestra.

Over the last few months, the competitors have been putting in their best effort to prepare for the contest. Some instrumentalists caught news of the competition before winter term began and dedicated a large amount of time from their busy schedule to prepare for the performance. "I've known about this competition [since] the beginning of fall term [and] I've started practicing my piece since the

beginning of summer," lower Nathan Sun said.

Some musicians had an even longer preparation process. Tulloch mentioned how he has been preparing his piano piece for almost a full year. Looking ahead to the competition, Tulloch expressed his excitement for the performances and hoped that the competition will spread awareness of musical talent within the community. "I think of it more as a performance instead of an actual competition because I don't think we should play to be judged. We should play to just play for other people to [let them] hear the goodness of our music," Tulloch said.

Lower Penny Brant agreed with Tulloch. "Being able to take something that I've been preparing for so long and finally being able to show it to others—I think that's really the part I enjoy the most," she said.

After months of hard work, the musicians were finally able to showcase their talent to the community. Because of the extraordinary level of skill shown, for the first time ever, the judges were unable to make a unanimous decision and awarded both uppers, pianist Adar Tulloch and marimba player Ji Yoon Ahn, the esteemed opportunity to play with the Symphony Orchestra. Ahn and Tulloch were officially named the winners of the 2018 Phillips Exeter Concerto Competition. With his graceful playing of "Violin Concerto No. 3 in B minor, Op. 61" on the violin, lower Dacha Thurber was awarded an honorable mention.

Schultz distinguished the difference being a winner and walking away with the prize. He noted how each performance required "tremendous preparation, courage and musicianship" and, for that, the performers had already earned his respect. Reflecting on the competition, Schultz congratulated all of the participants. "[They've] learned so much about themselves and about music and their instruments in the process," he said. "They're basically like electrons in an atom. They've jumped their playing to a higher musical level as well."

## TV Review: *A Series of Unfortunate Events*

By NIKITA THUMMALA  
Staff Writer

With the upcoming release of the show's second season, "A Series of Unfortunate Events" is stirring up more trouble and fun. The show follows the lives of the three Baudelaire orphans and their crazy guardian. The Netflix original is based off of the best-selling series by Daniel Handler, who wrote under the pseudonym Lemony Snicket. Violet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire lead an easy life until they receive news of the deaths of their parents. They are put in the care of a distant relative, Count Olaf, who plans to kill them to obtain their massive fortune. Olaf, a struggling actor, uses them as slaves until his plan is exposed by the smart and cunning Baudelaire. The children are then sent from relative to relative, running away from Count Olaf and his band of actors. A symbol featuring an insignia of an eye follows them at every place they go to, and the Baudelaire try to uncover the connection between the symbol and their family.

Count Olaf is the main antagonist of the show and is often seen as preposterous by the three orphans. With a unibrow, dirty clothes and a wheezy voice, he is described as unappealing. He has a tattoo of the eye symbol on his left ankle, showing his connection to the secret society that the Baudelaire want to understand. Violet is the oldest of the three children and their leader. She helps save her siblings from unfortunate situations constructed by Count Olaf, using her ability to invent various machines with the few materials on hand. Klaus is the second oldest child and the only son in the family. His strength is in research and he is called the "bookworm" of the family. Sunny is the youngest, an infant at the beginning of the series. She cannot speak but has shown advanced skills in problem solving and comprehension. The older siblings often give her objects to help with

their inventions, as she is able to sharpen or dull the items with her sharp teeth. Arthur Poe is the banker in charge of connecting the Baudelaire with a good family. His constant coughing and inability to find a place for the Baudelaire makes his appearance in the show more comedic than anything else.

The series takes a more whimsical approach than other shows by putting a playful spin on otherwise dark storylines. The characters in the show, specifically Count Olaf, engage with the audience. For example, the theme song features the lyrics "Look away, look away," and "This show will wreck your evening, your whole life and your day." With lyrics and other lines like these, the series constantly begs the question, "Why are you watching this show?"

The story also humors watchers, joking about the obvious or showing how oblivious the characters are to the Baudelaire's plight—Count Olaf always tells the audience how beautiful and kind he is, when clearly he is quite ugly and treacherous. Arthur Poe also persistently dismisses the children's warnings about Count Olaf even though he learns their accusations were correct in every episode. The show also introduces a new guardian, new setting and a new plot each episode, captivating the audience and keeping them on the edge of their seats.

Fans of the book series have reported that the Netflix adaptation is quite similar to the novels, and they were impressed by how the actors portrayed the characters. The show is mysterious and dark but comedic at the same time. Parents have concern for young watchers due to the grim references, but teenagers and other adults alike love the ominous vibe that flows with natural humor embedded into the plot. Though the show might not be suitable for younger children, I would definitely recommend to all who



## Faculty Spotlight

## JIM DICARLO

By ISABELLA AHMAD and  
ANGELINA ZHANG  
Staff Writers

A lover of the outdoors, pennywhistle extraordinaire and brilliant STEM thinker, James DiCarlo will celebrate his 25th year of teaching physics at Exeter this coming fall. DiCarlo plays weekly at a session for Irish music in Amesbury, Massachusetts, as well as monthly at a local contradance on Elm Street with fellow Physics Instructor Brad Robinson. He runs the Outdoor Challenge club sport in the fall and has advised the Puzzle, Physics and Contradance Clubs on campus. Additionally, DiCarlo is deeply involved with the Mountain School of Milton Academy in Vermont and has spent two years there teaching both mathematics and physics.

DiCarlo grew up in Massachusetts, and attended Lawrence Academy in Groton, MA, where he played piano in the school's stage band. It was there that DiCarlo also became acquainted with hiking and developed a love of the outdoors. "I can't say I fit in [at Lawrence Academy] very well—it's a big hockey and football school," he said. "I was good at academics, but that didn't seem to count for much."

After high school, DiCarlo attended Dartmouth University, thinking he would pursue electrical engineering. In order to qualify for the electrical engineering major, Dartmouth required that students had taken courses in physical sciences. During his second prerequisite class, DiCarlo had already been converted. "I got completely hooked on the mathematical elegance in physics," DiCarlo said about his electricity and magnetism class. "I never really understood calculus until I learned to use it to solve physics problems."

Later in college, DiCarlo would pique his interests in Dartmouth's physics labs. He experimented with a variety of projects, including using x-ray machines to measure the spacing between atoms in a salt crystal, watching a metallic sample



Helena Chen/ The Exonian

become superconducting as he dunked it in liquid helium or firing gamma rays at a piece of aluminum and watching how their frequency changed depending on what angle they came out at.

Teaching at Exeter was DiCarlo's first job in the educational field. He began in the fall of 1993, taking the place of a physics teacher who was on sabbatical. The following year, he filled in for a different teacher until a long-term position opened up for him.

Throughout his time at Exeter, DiCarlo has lived in Peabody, Cilley, Webster and Wentworth Halls. Currently, he resides in a faculty house on campus with his two children, both of whom attend the Academy. He is now affiliated with Moulton House.

DiCarlo appreciates his time at Exeter. "I couldn't be in a better spot than here at Exeter," he said. "The students here are crazy smart, they do their homework mostly, they have moments of brilliant insight, they're genuinely curious about how the world works." DiCarlo's taught Newton's laws of motion and the basics of electricity in introductory physics courses but has also

delved into more complicated concepts, like Maxwell's equations, relativity and quantum mechanics. Furthermore, DiCarlo has worked with seniors on their senior projects on a broad selection of topics, including building an NMR machine, a theremin, a sea kayak, a wooden canoe and a device that used sound waves to create visible light, or sonoluminescence. "I worked with a girl last year to try to understand the physics that went into building the first atomic bombs," DiCarlo said. This year he is teaching a Physics 999 course about relativity theories. "At how many other high schools in the country would 13 students sign up to take a field course in black holes?" DiCarlo posed.

During his time at the Mountain School, DiCarlo taught students more than just math and physics. Each semester, the Mountain School has 45 high school juniors from across the country work and live on an organic farm. DiCarlo was a dorm parent and an advisor, helping students cut their own firewood. He also taught knitting and cross country skiing. "It's an incredible school," DiCarlo said. But the Mountain School isn't the only way DiCarlo engages in his love for hiking and nature. In the

summertime, DiCarlo and his wife manage a camp owned by the Appalachian Mountain Club in the White Mountains. "When I'm not painting buildings, unclogging toilets or doing the bookkeeping, I get out hiking in the mountains nearby. There are 48 4,000 foot mountains in New Hampshire. I've only got four more left!" he said.

Here at the Academy, students appreciate the way DiCarlo relates physics to concepts in the real world. "Mr. DiCarlo is very interested in teaching the connection between theoretical physics and real life," lower Penny Brant said. "It's an amazing moment to see how physics, something at first seeming like irrelevant numbers on a paper, actually demonstrate how the world functions." Lower Deniz Akman agreed, saying that "this allows visual learners to understand certain problems better rather than reading out a problem and solving with an explanation by words."

Students admire his talent and passion for the subject. Coming into class each day, upper Eugene Hu described DiCarlo as always sporting "a very cheerful disposition." Brant shares this sentiment, saying, "Dicarlo always greets the class with a bright smile and make sure everyone is comfortable with raising their questions. He really values every student's questions or input in helping us to better understand the subject."

DiCarlo is always willing to talk more in-depth about physics in class and explore topics his students are curious about. "He often takes the time to explain how a formula was discovered or share an anecdote about Newton," upper Emma Dixon said. "He's willing to go off on tangents about subjects that are very loosely connected to what we're supposed to be going over in class if someone is curious about them."

DiCarlo has left a lasting impact on the students in his physics classes and at the Mountain School. "I am always excited to go to physics class because I know that he will do everything to improve my success," said Akman.

## ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

By ANDREA SO  
Staff Writer

The annual All-State Music Festival will be held in April at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord, New Hampshire. Sponsored by the New Hampshire Music Educators Association (NHMEA), the All-State Music Festival is a three-day event culminating in performances by young musicians from all across the state. This year's 250 participants, ultimately chosen out of a pool of over 2,000 applicants, were selected through a rigorous audition process that took place last December. At the All-State Music Festival, the chosen musicians will practice under the guidance of nationally-renowned conductors and music educators, culminating in a final, professional manner.

This year, four Exonians were selected to participate in the festival. One of them is lower Sophia Cho, who has been playing the cello from a young age. Having been inspired by cellist Yo Yo Ma and the song "The Swan" by Camille Saint-Saens, Cho took up cello lessons at an early age and discovered her passion for the instrument. "I love all the emotions I can convey through the cello by means of its wide range of sounds," she said.

At Exeter, Cho is an active member of both the Chamber and Symphony Orchestras. She has participated in orchestras since the age of eight, and her experience with orchestra performances at the Manhattan School of Music Precollege influenced her decision to participate in the All-State Music Festival. "I really like playing in an orchestra because it's always interesting to see and hear the different instrumental parts click together," Cho said. "I also love the energy that comes from playing with a large group of fellow musicians."

Lower Emy Li will also be participating in the All-State Music Festival. Like Cho, she has been playing the violin

from a young age, with her interest in the instrument gradually growing over time. "I really just love the sound of the violin," Li said. "I started playing it in 5th grade and wasn't sure if I'd like it or not, but I ended up really enjoying it."

Participating last year in the All-State Band as a clarinet player, Li was inspired to apply again. "Playing in an orchestra is amazing because all the different instrument parts come together to form something special that just can't be made with a single instrument," Li said. "In a big group, everyone has to work together to create that wholesome sound." Li is an accomplished musician, having competed in district competitions and regional music festivals in her home state of Indiana. Currently, she is a part of the UNH Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Lowers Thomas Matheos and Nathan Sun were also selected for the All-State Music Festival this year. A dedicated flute player, Matheos has participated in All-Southern California festivals and won awards in various music competitions. Matheos appreciates the beauty of orchestral music, saying, "Orchestra pieces sound awesome." For him, music is a way to elude the complications of life for a moment and concentrate on something else. "Playing is a freeing and relaxing escape from reality," he said.

Lower Meili Gupta participated in the New Hampshire All-State Festival last year and expressed appreciation for the experience. "I'm always looking for new experiences that will develop my musical learning," she said. Gupta also emphasized the teachings that this year's students will ultimately gain from their participation, saying, "It's fun to learn music in three to five days, and because everyone there is so talented, it's a fantastic opportunity to also learn from other people."

## ESSO LIP SYNC BATTLE

By ANGELE YANG and ANNA FAHEY  
Staff Writers

On Friday night, students celebrating the end of a stressful week packed into Agora for the Exeter Student Service Organization (ESSO) Lip Sync Battle. As everyone gathered in front of the stage, snacking on pizza, senior Winslow MacDonald and upper Emily Cloonan took to the stage as hosts to kick off a night full of music, laughter and friends.

The Exeter Refugee Project and Amnesty International co-hosted the event to raise money for Rohingya refugees, an ethnic minority currently being subjected to oppression and violence in their home country, Myanmar. By the end of the night, the clubs had raised \$188 to add to the \$272 they had previously raised at bake sales supporting the cause.

The Exeter Refugee Project worked closely with seniors Pedro Sanson and Molly Canfield, co-heads of Amnesty International, upper Emily Cloonan, a member of Amnesty International, and Elizabeth Reyes, the ESSO coordinator and adviser to both clubs, to organize these fundraisers. "Our fundraiser was sending money to BRAC, which is an organization in Bangladesh that helps provide medical care, shelter, food and clothing to the Rohingya refugees that do get to flee to Bangladesh," senior and co-head of the Exeter Refugee Project Menat Bahnsay said.

After watching a video of the Groton School's lip sync battle, Sanson brought up the idea of hosting one as a fundraiser. The clubs decided against an entry fee, but instead sold pizza and asked for donations, as their goal was to educate students about their cause. Earlier this term, the clubs had hosted a bake sale at two hockey games to gather donations. "We decided to put together a fun event that would attract a large number of students, and, at the same time, enable us to have an outlet to raise awareness and fund-

raise," Sanson explained.

However, lower Nick Schwarz expressed that the purpose of the fundraiser should have been more clear, as he wasn't sure what the lip sync battle's proceeds were going towards. "I only saw the word 'refugees,' so I don't know why they are refugees. I don't know where the money is going to go to help them," Schwarz said. "But if people need help, it's a great thing that the school's trying to help them."

Upper Eugene Hu, who performed twice with "A Friend Like Me" from the movie "Aladdin" and "I'm Back to Rise" by Mick Gordon voiced that the Lip Sync Battle was a good choice for a fundraiser, as it allowed any member of the community to enjoy and participate in the event. "At the end of the day, it's for a good cause, and everybody has fun. It's a win on both levels," he said.

Upper Heidi Lichtl deeply enjoyed the concept of the Lip Sync Battle, saying that "we had an amazing time dancing to 'Wannabe' by the Spice Girls. We mainly goofed around on stage, but it was also so much fun to dance and watch all the other groups do their songs. Plus, it was all for a great cause!" Bahnsay agreed with Lichtl, expressing her satisfaction with the success of the fundraiser. "We thought it would just be really fun because we had a lot of groups from different areas of campus come to join us and perform," she said.

Bahnsay also mentioned how it was exciting to see performances that were planned out as well as those that were more spontaneous. "I think people just wanted something to do on a Friday night, and it was just great to see them go up there and pretend to sing and dance and have fun on stage," she said.

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## Letter from the Board

### 140th Editorial Board

Dear readers of *The Exonian*,  
The 140th Board wishes to explain to you why the paper is eight pages this week. You will notice that we have had to cut one page from the news section, one

page from the opinions and life sections, two pages from the sports section and the humor section entirely. Certain features we feel that readers have come to expect will not be in the paper.

The faculty advisers have told us that for the foreseeable future we will not be allowed to publish more than eight pages

of the paper. We have attempted to make the case to the advisers that we feel we need more than eight pages to adequately cover the news and life at Exeter. They have told us this reduction in the size of the paper is for our well-being, and we appreciate their concern.

Some features may be found on the

web in coming weeks, so make sure to check [www.theexonian.com](http://www.theexonian.com). We hope to be back to our standard 12-14 page paper as soon as possible, and will keep you posted. Thank you for bearing with us.

Sincerely,  
The 140th Board

## Abolish Student Council

### Jack Zhang '20

Guest Contributor

Our student council was created to give the interest of the student body a meaningful voice in administrative decisions. The Student Council should stand for the combined voices of the individuals within the student body. It should not offer an alternative to that voice by presenting an impotent, faceless image of our student body. Therefore, the Student Council needs the support and pressures of independent student

**The Student Council should stand for the combined voices of the individuals within the student body; it should not offer an alternative to that voice by presenting a impotent, faceless image of our student body.**

organizations and movements to be successful. If Student Council dissociates itself from the individuals within the student body, this disunity will inhibit student-driven change regardless of the dedication or virtue of those within the council.

We have allowed our student council to become involved with their imagined importance, declaring false consciousness on “matters of consequence.”



Courtesy of Google

We have freely surrendered the what little influence has been granted to us by the administration. The administration and faculty undoubtedly have opened themselves to suggestion and change and we must take this opportunity.

Before addressing matters such as a new visitations' policy or freedom of speech, which will require massive student input and support beyond the power of the existing Student Council, we must support independent groups with acute goals. We must provide aid to groups like the Divest Exeter movement, EASA and ALES, which all further their agendas separately from Student Council. Regardless of personal political alignment, it is the imperative

for the student body to support these student movements. Student Council must fuel these smaller groups first, set precedent for advancement, and only then push for further change in more difficult matters.

However, a reform of the current Student Council, no matter how broad, cannot achieve our goals. Student Council at its core today is nothing more than a method for the administration to entrap true progress and radicalism within a box of bureaucracy and false gravity. The very nature of Student Council as an ineffective advisory body is laid plain by the student attitude of resignation and ridicule towards any sort of progress. Student Council can-

not be reformed into a meaningfully student-driven organization without effectively abolishing Student Council and replacing it with a new body void of stigma.

The students who attend Student Council constitute its small power, and not the other way around. The proof of this is simply that students would maintain their existing influence in the absence of Student Council, but Student Council would not have any power without students. Power does not reside within institutions or councils, but within the individuals who comprise them.

The abolishment of Student Council and its replacement with a truly student-led organization would work wonders. A newfound dedication to and support of all student movements would advance their causes with far more substance than what could previously have been imagined. If the Divest Exeter movement has already begun a dialogue with the Head of the Trustees with their small band of support, imagine the potential when their pressure is magnified a dozenfold! The same can be said for any student movement today.

Then the question remains: what is to be done? As a start, the first and simplest form of action against the status quo is simply inaction. Refuse to participate in or vote for a candidate in the Student Council elections! This is the simplest form of resistance. To do otherwise is to lick the boots of a system built to stifle student voice and muffle true progress.

## Come Back to Your S\*\*\*hole Countries

### Mai Hoang '20

Columnist

My liberal conscience, which moves me to write poems for Amnesty International about Rohingya refugees, forbids me to make a case for closed borders. My tendency to sympathize with the marginalized, being a female student of color at Exeter, makes it hard for me to disagree with the statement that anyone deserves a chance to pursue happiness, freedom, and a better life.

Nonetheless, it stands that from a utilitarian perspective I do not believe economic migration should be promoted, considering that it brings more harm than good for the world in the long run.

Because of these contradictory

**Nonetheless, it stands that from a utilitarian perspective I do not believe economic migration should be promoted, considering that it brings more harm than good for the world in the long run.**

beliefs, I cannot take a firm stance for or against the tightening of the U.S. government's immigration policies and wholeheartedly justify the arguments to myself. Neither can I offer an opinion on this country's laws, and truly, as an international student who will likely never become a part of the voting

constituency here, there is no reason why I should. That is not what this article is about. This article is not about whether the U.S. should or should not accept more economic immigrants. This article is about a citizen of a “sh\*\*hole country,” addressing the citizens of other “sh\*\*hole countries” who are dreaming, thinking about and starting the process of—or already finishing up—the final documents to emigrate to “more developed” nations. My take on this is simple. Come back to your sh\*\*hole countries.

Your sh\*\*hole country will never be any less of a sh\*\*hole if you run away from it. Your sh\*\*hole country will never be any less of a sh\*\*hole if the ultimate goal for anyone who is educated, has connections, has capital, has physical strength, or has aspirations is to flee to somewhere with better resources and start a comfortable life, a second-rate citizen of the first world.

Despite their portrayal in the Western media, economic migrants are very often not the most destitute citizens of the most poverty-stricken nations. It is true that a greater percentage of immigrants come from the global South; using international migration lingo, one could describe 70 percent of migration trajectories in the world as south-north, for example from Mexico to the US, or south-south, such as from Bangladesh to the UAE. However, in a study of global migration over the last 20 years recently released in *Science*, a team of researchers concluded that “it's countries in transition—still poor, but with some education and mobility—that are the highest migratory contributors.” There is a reason why one does not meet many immigrants from Malawi, Laos

or Mozambique. Though migrants are oftentimes motivated by economic distress, their relative status in society must be one which grants them just enough economic security to finance a long, hazardous trip and the procurement of appropriate documentation. They are the privileged. It is incomprehensible to me how anyone could be comfortable running away with such a privilege, knowing there are so many less fortunate than them left behind.

A contention that has oftentimes

**We do not live in an ideal world. We can never live in an ideal world. But change has to begin somewhere, and doesn't one more person choosing to return not expedite this process?**

been brought up to counter this argument is the fact that migrant workers send back remittances to their home countries, which, in large proportions, might help to not only increase the wealth of their immediate family but also boost the economy at large. Last year, workers from the global South funnelled \$325 billion into their home countries' economy while being employed abroad; for places including Lebanon, Lesotho, Nepal and Tajikistan, remittances make up more than 20 percent of the national GDP. There certainly are mechanisms through which a country can take advantage of this influx of capital, such as diaspora bonds and remittance-backed securities, just to name a few. However, whether these mechanisms are employed

or not is contingent upon the strength and vitality of domestic institutions; as is very often the case in developing countries, corrupt governments fail to recycle the economic boost. Public hospitals and schools thus remain overcrowded and underfunded in the face of an increase in remittances, only now they don't even have enough doctors and teachers to serve the patients. Without adequately trained staff members, the quality of services further deteriorates: the rise in south-north medical tourism and study abroad programs, inherently exclusive privilege-based institutions, is concrete proof of this phenomenon.

In an ideal world, no cancer patient would need to travel abroad for a shot at recovery, and no child would need to be separated from their family for decent schooling. We do not live in an ideal world. We can never live in an ideal world. But change has to begin somewhere, and doesn't one more person choosing to return not expedite this process? Such is the state of the world that I cannot argue against the necessity, the responsibility even, for citizens of the global south to learn from the global north. However, the important part is what they choose to do with that knowledge. The truth stands that no matter what tool they use to fight against discrimination, no matter how hard they try to prove themselves, citizens of sh\*\*hole countries will always feel inadequate when standing alongside a born heir of developed nations. Should they then wrestle for a position in the society of developed countries and whine about inequality? Or come back, so that one day there will be no north-south divide at all?

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# Exonian Love

Happy Valentine's Day Selin! Happy Valentine's Day beautiful ;)

Lizzy, I love you so much.

Hope to be held within your arms during Valentine's.

I wish Christine Baker would go to ED with me. She's mad cute...

-Her Secret Admirer

jcloo-

Hope is gone, is gone, since I've been in Arizona, yeah

I fell in love, in love, since I've been in Arizona

Ooh, when the sun comes through the blinds, I know exactly who to call

Watching the sunset in your eyes but I spend the night alone

Elizabeth Kostina,

You're of stardust, the whistling wind, and the dancing flame. Through your kindness shines the makings of a hero. In your beauty there is moonlight and melody, in your strength there is sunshine and symphony. Hold your heart close for it is of platinum and diamond. Hold your mind up for it is forged in dragonsteel.

May the muses and fireflies visit you often.

-Admirer

To my love, Elizabeth Fier.

I write you this note, each year.

To portray my affection, and hope you listen with your ear.

You're hot.

You're boujee.

You're thique.

Thank you for pleasing my eyes,

My love.

YONIA  
I LOVE  
YOU

abigail,

ur lame

hey ronC  
ur cute ;)

Yung gech,

Thank you for 364 days.

Still my longest Yee boi yet.

<3 <3, -Chim

To the sweet and lovely  
Grace Gray: Your grin is  
what makes my smile stay,  
and yields this fair  
Valentine's Day!

Oh Dear Baron Baez, Love of Mine,  
you do not know who I am, but I have  
fallen for you. Your beauty surpasses  
all, and your physique is that of a strong,  
gorgeous man. My identity, you will  
never know. I am your mystery biddie.

Evan Vogelbaum, please touch  
your elbows together for me.  
Thank you <3

Yo Reina, let's eat bread and get fat.

Happy Valentine's Day, Megi!

-James Fortin

Hello Satan,

I hope you have a great day Liz Mad <3

-Your Worst Nightmare

Lan, my love for you is the  
nuttiest of all!

-Mahdi Hamad

To Morgan & Genes: I love you. And I miss  
you. And I want you to be my potatoes ;)

-Emily Kang

Violet I love you so  
much, please marry me,  
and get illegal V's with  
me ;)

-Katie Sauer

Dear Katie, the love of my life, of course!

Come over at 5 on Saturday ;;;;))))))

-Violet Goldstone

Love, The Exonian





# The Super Bowl: Rise of the Underdogs

Jacob Feigenberg '21

Guest Contributor

Nick Foles, Super Bowl MVP. Never in a million years would that permutation of twenty-one letters have existed in the same phrase. The stars have aligned for this underdog to shine. So many factors led to his historical night on February 4. Earlier in December, after hearing the horrific news of Wentz's ruptured ACL, along with many other Eagles fans across the nation, I was devastated; the superb season was over for the Birds. I often joked with others, "Hah, Nick Foles was destined to take the helm and lead the Eagles to the Super Bowl." Then, one person made history in the face of unbelievable criticism and despair. "If something's going on in your life and you're struggling, embrace it, because you're growing," Foles said after the game, reflecting on his humanity and adversity.

This victory uplifts underdogs everywhere. Jason Kelce's fiery speech called out the misconceptions of every single player on the Eagles roster. Too short, too slow, can't catch, too old, too inexpe-

rienced, can't block, can't cover, can't... play? The Eagles have been overlooked and joked about for too long. Instead of wallowing in their discredit, the Eagles wielded the underdog mentality to their own benefit.

Is it possible to completely shut out the haters, to discredit others' opinions? Probably not, but that did not hold back the injury and doubt-ridden Eagles from taking down the most powerful dynasty in sports. Someone could believe that the moon is made of cheese and they may not be dissuaded because their mind is wired as such to crave evidence that supports their opinion and disregard evidence that disproves it. One cannot simply change another's opinion; this change must be made on one's own terms. If someone believes that the Eagles are the worst team in the NFL, who can hold them back from saying that? Sadly, the forming of opinions no longer follows the fact-based logical thinking of classical debate. These days, only status and appeal can give opinions weight, not data. This issue could explain the ignorance of climate change, but that's a different story. So even if the top analyst for ESPN was to say that the Eagles were go-



Courtesy of Google

ing to lose the Super Bowl, why should anyone credit an opinion that is rooted in fact, not status?

The same dysfunction of today's opinions and logic dividing today's world makes it easier to block out haters. Instead of grieving the modern-day po-

larization, embrace the fact that people's opinions are far outweighed by our own. Discrediting opinion is a powerful tool for achieving unthinkable successes and toppling obstacles formed by self-doubt. After all, Nick Foles is the MVP of Super Bowl LII.

## On Principal MacFarlane's Departure

Senai Robinson '21

Guest Contributor

On September 1, 2015, Lisa MacFarlane became the leader of a community centered around values of knowledge, kindness, acceptance and strength. She also became the leader of a community that had not yet promoted acceptance and was filled with unrelieved tension. Over two years later, Phillips Exeter still has its successes and failures, but MacFarlane announced that her time as principal has come to an end and that an interim principal will soon be chosen. During MacFarlane's tenure as principal, the Academy has evolved and progressed in some aspects, but has not changed in many others.

In MacFarlane's time here, she has spearheaded multiple positive changes to our campus. Snow days virtually never existed before her time here. With the work of Principal MacFarlane as well as many others, the Thompson Field House, or the Palace, was made,

fulfilling many athletes' needs as well as expanding the amount of enriching and appreciable experiences Exonians can have. In addition to the field house, MacFarlane approved and rapidly implemented the majority of the student body's desire for spaces welcome to all genders. The creation of all-gender dorms and bathrooms have promoted inclusion and equity. Creating places all people can feel safe and comfortable and bringing awareness to challenges that the gender queer and LGBTQ+ community endure is a step in bettering Exeter and our overall society. However, during her time here, inclusion for everyone is something that was not — and up to this day, has not been — completely implemented.

Before MacFarlane's time at Exeter, the student body addressed the preceding principal, Principal Hassan, with the issues minorities are facing on campus. A list of requests to improve the inclusion and diversity on this campus was presented to Hassan, and its assertion and power caused his agreement to follow. Although promised however, no plan

or implementation of these demands were followed through on, and before he could be held accountable, his position was handed over to the principal we all recognize today. Despite being new to the tenure, McFarlane was still very informed regarding these demands and did not follow up with any action. After multiple instances of reminders, ALES and the student body grew impatient and restless, leading to last year's events including a sit-in and the re-declaration of the prior demands. Once again, however, the desires of some of the student body has not been implemented or even vaguely attempted to be implemented. Necessary change, the change needed to develop and strengthen this community, has yet to be instituted.

Although the responsibility of promoting inclusion fell upon MacFarlane after the prior Principal's incapability to do so, it was still her responsibility to preserve the agreement made years ago. MacFarlane does not seem to have put in a comprehensive effort in creating a community the entire student body feels welcomed and comfortable

within. However, we should not belittle her character based on these assertions. From personal experiences and hearing the experiences of others, she is kind, empathetic, genuinely cares for Exeter's future and Exeter as a whole. She has done a multitude of many other things that have bettered our community, and those advancements should not be disregarded.

Nonetheless, in all truth, the school has not become fully refined and has not ameliorated the repercussion of our campus' issues as thoroughly as possible. It's quite possible that the school never will achieve that. However, we can't stop trying to foster a better community filled with respect, kindness, and empathy. To do so, the first thing we need to do is to collectively ensure that our incoming principal is aware of the needs and desires of this community, so that the work for mending our community can be done more promptly. However, even if not accomplished in our time, Exeter should become a place that accepts and embraces minorities as well as their diverse cultures and experiences.

## Marginalization of Tibetans By China

Andrea So '20

Columnist

Last week, the Mercedes-Benz Instagram account posted a picture of one of its cars. Set against the beautiful backdrop of a shoreline, the picture featured the E-Class Coupe model. Above the car read a quote from the Dalai Lama. "Look at situations from all angles, and you will become more open," it read.

While most viewers saw it as yet another inspiring, harmless quote, the Chinese government did not react in the same way. The German automobile producer quickly posted an apology on its page of the Chinese social media platform, Weibo, saying, "We will immediately take practical actions to deepen our

understanding of Chinese culture and values." Mercedes-Benz's parent company Daimler also wrote to the Chinese Ambassador to Germany in order to apologize for quoting the Dalai Lama.

This displays only the surface of the Chinese government's relentless political attacks. The government's threats are directed toward everyone and anyone, ranging from celebrities tweeting just a single sentence expressing support for the Dalai Lama to the clothing brand Zara for simply listing Taiwan and Tibet as countries on its website. This shows the Chinese government's insecurity when it comes to their own platform, as they feel an urgent need to suppress other peaceful ideas in order to further their own. The government even hides certain messages from the entirety of its population, through banning

people, websites and information from the country, just so that the Communist Party's ideologies can reign supreme.

China's forced inclusion of Tibet as a part of the country should not be referred to with the term "Chinese culture and values." When I think of Chinese culture, I think of things that my ancestors have passed down to me for generations—certain clothing items, morals, food, music and other things that make me proud to be Chinese. Make no mistake; forcing an apology is not a Chinese value. Silencing dissenting voices is not a Chinese value. The Communist Party's agenda of daily political propaganda and lack of basic rights is not a Chinese value. What we're talking about here is political calculation. This is the oppression of a minority that has struggled so long for the right to preserve their own iden-

tity and pass on their way of life. This is China trying to suppress the unique cultures, traditions and values of the Tibetan minority. Let's call it what it is.

With China's rapidly growing economic influence, it will undoubtedly surpass America as the foremost global superpower. This German company has shown that money talks; as long as they can make a profit from selling products in China, they will bend to the Chinese government's will. Despite all of the despicable human rights abuses committed by the government, from mobilizing tanks to fend off their own people to leaving incarcerated "political prisoners" to rot and die in jail, companies will stay complicit in the face of oppression. The issue of human rights is a hard battle to fight, but it is too important for us to ignore.

## Reflecting On The Nunes Memo

Bizzie Lynch '21

Guest Contributor

In order to fully comprehend the Nunes memo, you need to understand the claims and the context.

Politicians on all sides of the political spectrum can agree that the FBI investigators applied for a warrant to wiretap Carter Page, a former Trump advisor. A FISA judge approved this and the FBI investigated Carter Page.

What comes next is a string of unproven conspiracy theories. Republicans claim that the majority of the evidence which prompted the want for a warrant was information from the Steele dossier, funded by the DNC and the Clinton campaign. Thus, they are trying to make the argument that there was no reason to wiretap him. Second, Republicans are claiming that Rod Rosenstein, the deputy attorney general, approved the warrant request. They assert this is important as Rosenstein is attempting to make Trump look bad by using evidence from the DNC and Clinton. By making Rosenstein look as if he had a bias that he was acting on, they can try to get rid of him with a pro-Trump deputy attorney general. Replacing him would make a large impact, as Rosenstein currently oversees the Mueller investigation. Overall, this entire theory

is essentially to make the Russian investigation seem like it is partisan slandering, run by the deep state. The Nunes memo supposedly had proof for these claims.

Devin Nunes, Republican member of the House Intelligence Committee, has a long history of helping Trump. He was previously told to recuse himself from the Russian investigation after spreading more false claims while the media was discussing Obama wiretap theory and proving himself to be too close to the Trump administration. A year later, he was claiming that he had proof that Rosenstein, the Clinton campaign and the DNC worked together to falsify information to indict Carter Page and that it was all written in this mystical memo. As Breitbart news reporters wrote crazy headlines about it, Republicans claimed it proved everything Nunes claimed; everyone wanted to see what Nunes found.

It essentially revealed nothing. The lead up to the memo had a very half-truth style. The whole situation is childish in the way that during your childhood, you might often say something that is basically the truth, just not the part that disproves all of your claims. Like, "I didn't eat three slices of cake in Granny's house." No, you didn't eat three slices of cake in Granny's house. You ate two in the house and one on the porch.

The Republicans similarly attempted to claim that Carter Page was only investi-

gated because of the Steele dossier. Carter Page was actually investigated mostly because he gave two speeches, one in Moscow, claiming that the US wasn't treating Russia properly, but with President Trump, they would. He had also previously held a meeting with a Russian intelligence operative. Yes, the Steele dossier was used as information, like the Republicans claimed. But the main source was George Papadopoulos, a former Trump adviser who pleaded guilty after drunkenly talking about his work with Russia on a night out with an Australian intelligence official.

Releasing the Nunes memo was absolutely foolish. It revealed the lack of evidence behind their claims. It contained proof against them. It exposed FBI methods. It made the Republicans look like imbeciles. In the end, Rosenstein is not only still around, but he now also has the full support of Democrats on the hill.

Even myself, an avid reader of political news, did not understand what was happening with this memo. I knew people were angry, but it was all just so strange and confusing. Before writing this article, I asked around to see what opinions other Exonians had regarding the memo, and even some of the most politically informed students I knew had no idea what was happening. It was only after an hour of research that I had the slightest idea of the controversy behind this memo.

To be quite honest, I am still a bit confused. However, what I have taken the most out of this is the confusion.

If you are a lower middle class conservative, you aren't going to spend your time understanding what is happening with the Nunes memo. You are going to be heading to work, taking care of your family. You are going to quickly read the Breitbart article, "16 Bombshells in the Nunes Memo the Media Does Not Want You To Know About," read the numbered list, look up at your spouse complaining about "the damn Nixonian media," reaffirm your support for Trump and move on.

And if you are a lower-middle class liberal, you aren't going to have the time to understand the ridiculousness of it all. You are going to be confused, see the people on MSNBC ranting about it, tweet a witty reply and move on because you don't really understand what is happening.

In both situations, the Republicans aren't losing anything. The nation is already divided and they just want to retain their supporters. They were fools, they helped their opponents and they exposed proof against them the press. But the Republicans were able to make it all so confusing that, in the end, maybe they lost a few independents, but for the most part they faced no consequences. That is what I find truly astonishing.





# Exonian Sports



## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: GAUTAM RAMESH & STUART RUCKER

By EMILY KANG  
Staff Writer

Behind the squash court's glass wall, two teams line up on opposite sides of the court. Coaches and captains stand near the back wall. The co-captains, seniors Gautam Ramesh and Stuart Rucker, call out their team's players from the bottom of the ladder to the top, and each of the pairs of opponents shake hands. After both teams are introduced, Big Red's boys' squash team huddles on the left side for a cheer. The players pack into a tight circle and let out a loud chant, their voices echoing through the facility. They disperse across the courts and wish each other luck. In the first court, the second seeds of both teams spin a racket to decide who serves first. One player throws the small rubber ball into the air and slams it against the wall, commencing the match.

Ramesh and Rucker began playing squash at Exeter during their prep year. They first became friends during prep fall, as they were both members of the junior varsity boys' soccer team and enjoyed computing formulas in their rigorous 31X math class. Since then, the two have grown closer through their passion for squash.

Ramesh learned to play squash from his father when he was about 10 or 11 years old. "I started playing in fifth or sixth Grade," he said. "My dad played squash, so he taught me how to play."

Rucker was inspired to play by his older sister, who was a captain for the Exeter girls' varsity squash team in 2012. "When she started

playing [squash], I thought I might come to Exeter, so I started playing a little bit," Rucker said.

Joining the squash team as preps, Ramesh and Rucker cited their previous captain, Darius Kahan '17, as a role model during their careers. "Darius was a tremendous player who really influenced me with his strong work ethic and the amount he practiced in the offseason," said Ramesh. Kahan was consistently in the top three seeds of the squash ladder during his four years on the team. Rucker agreed with Ramesh, adding that playing against Ramesh has also helped him improve his skills. "Just having to play against Gautam a lot has pushed me to get better," he said.

As captains, Ramesh and Rucker take on the responsibility of setting an example of skilled play and kind conduct for the younger team-members. Ramesh's top priority is to mentor the other players. "I consider my biggest responsibility to be actively coaching the other team members to make sure that their swing is right and their tactics are on point during their matches in between games," he said. "I really like to lead from in front rather than from behind."

In addition to coaching, Rucker teaches proper etiquette on the court. "I think squash is a gentleman's sport, so another aspect of being captain is showing people [how] to have good manners off and on the squash court," he said. Rucker also hopes he is an inspiration to the younger players, as older team-members inspired him when he was a prep. "As someone who has improved a lot since prep year, I think that I show the newer members of the team that they can get a lot better if they try," he said.



Angelina Zhang/The Exonian

Rucker and Ramesh have helped develop a friendly atmosphere. "I definitely think that we're one of the closest teams on campus," Ramesh said. "Our team culture is really nice. We're all really good friends, we eat dinner together and we have good conversations on the bus rides." Rucker added that the friendly yet ambitious atmosphere allows him to enjoy the sport even more. "We all like to joke around a lot, but there's also a good mix of competition and fun," said Rucker.

Upper Sam Michaels believes that Rucker and Ramesh have played a large role in the team's dynamic. "Stuart and Gautam make a perfect match. They've been friends since prep year, and their continued relationship helps foster a welcoming community for all the squash players, especially preps," Michaels said.

Lower Nathan James agreed, adding that the captains have an almost familial relationship. "They have grown so close together that

they are akin to brothers," James said. Prep Alex Ranganathan also praised Ramesh's captain abilities. "Not only does Gautam follow his word, he does it quickly and to the fullest of his abilities," Ranganathan said.

Both captains look forward to continuing their squash careers in college. Rucker will play on MIT's team under acclaimed coach Thierry Lincou. "I plan to play at MIT. The coach, Thierry Lincou, former world number one, was impressed by my squash [abilities]," Rucker said. Ramesh added, "He was so impressed by Stuart's squash [capabilities] that he thought he was a 5.1 rating when he was actually a 4.5," referring to the squash rating system, which ranks players on a six-point scale. Ramesh hopes to continue the sport as well. "I definitely hope to play in college as walk-on if I can, and I'll try. I think the team environment has been really great for me at Exeter, and I'd love to play on a team in college," he said.

## Girls' Hockey Defeats Defending NE Champions



Lower Jenna Brooks dangles past defender.

Gracie Goodwin/The Exonian

By CHARLIE VENCI  
Contributing Writer

In a stunning upset, the girls' varsity hockey team defeated the defending league champion, New Hampton School, this past Saturday. Exeter scored in the closing seconds of the third period to secure a win. The New Hampton Huskies came to Exeter having beaten two teams that bested Big Red in the past month.

New Hampton realized they did not have the upper hand when the score remained tied after 55 minutes of play, but by that point it was too late. With just under a minute to go before sudden death overtime, upper Chiara Christie gained control of the puck and unleashed a clapper from the blue line. The skilled shot was met with a few seconds of silence as the opposing goalie fumbled with the puck before it slid across the line to give Exeter three goals to New Hampton's two. Lower Keaghan Tierney and Jill Cloonan also scored to help secure the victory for Big Red.

This game was one of the greatest underdog victories for the girls' hockey team in a long time. "Everyone was super pumped because on paper, New Hampton is a better team, and they were expected to win," lower Robin Potter said. Tierney also shared her thrill with the outcome of the battle, highlighting the team's overall effort. "Everyone was just on it yesterday and did their job. It was so 'dope,'" she said.

Cloonan emphasized the importance of the team's mentality going into the game. "We always play better against the top teams. If we

can carry this determination for the rest of the season, I am sure we are going to win some great games," she said. "I was so proud of everyone for playing their best. [Upper Kathryn] Kester had an awesome game, and we are lucky to have such a strong defender like her."

After facing a tough loss at home against Vermont Academy the night before, girls' varsity hockey went to bed early to rest up for the game against New Hampton. With nothing to lose, Big Red threw itself at its opponent, powering shot after shot into the net. In the end, it all paid off.

Senior co-captain Kaleigh Conte expects this triumph to keep the team determined for the remainder of its games. She said, "It's awesome coming off of a big upset win. I definitely feel like the momentum is on our side for the rest of the season."

In the coming week, Big Red has back-to-back matches on Friday and Saturday against Dexter Southfield School and Northfield Mount Hermon School, respectively. Both teams have powered through their fixtures and had successful seasons. But will it be enough to derail the Exeter freight train and all its momentum after the win against New Hampton?

With only three games remaining before the final matchup with Andover, this win couldn't come at a better time. In the next three weeks of the season, Conte explained that the team will not be changing anything major. Conte said the team will "keep doing the little things, working hard on and off the ice and taking care of ourselves."

## Boys' Swimming Liquidates Loomis

By WYNTER SANDS  
Contributing Writer

This past weekend, the boys' varsity swim team travelled to Windsor, Connecticut to face the Loomis Chaffee School. On a roll of five straight wins, Big Red was eager to snatch another victory. Exeter handily defeated Loomis with a score of 97-87, and only dropped three events out of 11. The team's triumph boosted its season record to seven wins and only one loss.

The boys grinded straight through the week to prepare for the meet. They felt confident in their ability to take Loomis' team without any rest. Senior and co-captain Taylor Walshe commented about the team's workouts heading into the meet, saying the boys "swam the challenge set on Thursday." The team only swims a challenge set once or twice a year, as it is exceptionally rigorous. Big Red was in high spirits preparing for the meet all week, regardless of the difficulty of its practices.

Although Exeter had unwavering confidence for this meet, two out of the team's three captains were absent, as well as a handful of other swimmers. However, the team-members that attended the meet didn't let this adversity stop them from crushing Loomis. Lower Andrew Benson said, "The absence of the captains affected our spirits but not our swims."

Throughout the meet there were many impressive events that displayed Exeter's skill. Benson and upper Jared Zhang both

had outstanding swims, each breaking a New England record, in addition to Loomis' pool record. Benson charged through the 100 meter butterfly with a time of 55.86 seconds, topping the field by a full six seconds and clearing the old New England record by nearly a second. Zhang shredded his competition in the 100 meter backstroke and finished the swim in 57.8 seconds. He brought the New England record below 58 seconds for the first time.

Another highlight swim from the weekend was senior Jamie Cassidy's win in the 100 meter breaststroke. Lower Charlie Venci explained that Cassidy faced off against Loomis' water polo captain. "He unloaded everything on that race in a showdown between two water polo captains." Cassidy swam a strategic race, running down Loomis' breaststroke swimmer by a fraction of a second after toying with him for the first 75 meters. Cassidy was also a huge contributor to the 200 medley relay team that fell a mere 0.2 seconds short of the New England record.

In his senior year, Cassidy has exploded onto the scene, becoming one of the best not only on the team but also in the league at his event. "We are talking about a kid who thought he was going to be the swim team manager this year. Now he's running the show... He went from a non-competing varsity swimmer to the sixth best breaststroker in New England," Walshe said. "What a hero."

For Cassidy, Walshe and the other se-

niors on the team, this past Saturday marked the last away meet in their Exeter swimming career. Venci expressed his appreciation of the seniors for the leadership and spirit they consistently bring to the team. "I just want to say that they have done a great job this season and they were really big influences of mine these past two years," Venci said.

In the coming weeks, the team will be training for its highly anticipated meet against Andover taking place one week from this Saturday. Lower Carsten Bressel commented on how the players will prepare for the meet. He said, "Coach [Don] Mills will put us in a tough yardage grind before we hopefully have a few days [to] taper." Walshe expressed his eagerness to face top-ranked Andover. He said, "They are seeded ahead of us but the underdog is the hungry dog, and we are coming for the throne."



Upper Jared Zhang takes a quick breath.

Rachel Luo/The Exonian

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