



## Exeter Partners With Haven, EPD in MOUs

By MADISON KANG  
and KILIN TANG  
Staff Writers

In the aftermath of highly publicized historical and current sexual assault allegations, the Academy has formalized memoranda of understanding (MOU) with the Exeter Police Department (EPD) and HAVEN, a seacoast-based crisis center affiliated with the New Hampshire Coalition of Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV).

The updated memorandum established between the EPD and PEA on September 15 supersedes and replaces their previous agreement established on September 3, 2009. The new MOU stipulates that any and all suspected acts of sexual assault, regardless of legal classification or timing, shall be reported to New Hampshire's Division for Children, Youth and Families and/or the EPD. Furthermore, PEA will not undertake any investigation on reported incidents until cleared by an authoritative representative of the EPD.

The new MOU signals not only an enhanced partnership between Phillips Exeter and Exeter police, but collaboration with Rockingham County Attorney Patricia Conway.

According to stand-in General Counsel David Vicinanza from Nixon Peabody law firm, who will take the place of attorney Holly Barcroft during her maternity leave, the most concerning flaw in the 2009 MOU was that it did not require the reporting of

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Senior Jaynee Anaya, Math Instructor Gwyneth Coogan and Upper Elizabeth Williams discuss race on ALD. Nami Oyebode/The Exonian

## Academy Life Day Spurs Discussion of Racism

By EMMANUEL TRAN  
and SHIVANI TRIPATHI  
Staff Writers

Exeter's busy fall academic calendar came to a halt as dorms gathered for activities instead of attending classes this past Monday for Academy Life Day. But this year was different. In lieu of traditional activities such as going to the beach, students and faculty members viewed the Afro-Latino Exonian Society video made by Ori Evans. The ALES produced the film after combing through anonymous submissions which detailed encounters with racism on and off campus. The principal's office worked with the Office of

Multicultural Student Affairs to generate a program for this day. Besides watching the ALES video, students attended two required discussion sessions in which they talked about racism on campus and steps the community can take to make Exeter a more inclusive place.

The day began at 9 A.M. with students and faculty gathering in the assembly hall. Principal McFarlane thanked everyone for attending and highlighted how Exeter wasn't alone in the "effort to make a more just and more inclusive, happier place." She emphasized how inclusion and equity for all results in excellence and how we cannot make Exeter the place we want it to

be, nor can Exeter exhibit the values of the deed of gift "unless every Exonian is able to fully participate."

She acknowledged that even though everyone may have a literal seat at a Harkness table, not everyone's voices are equally heard or valued in other aspects of school life. "Equity asks the next question: Each of us may be seated at the table, but does each of us have what we need to take advantage of that seat?" McFarlane asked. Dean of Students Melissa Mischke reiterated McFarlane's message, saying, "We need to treat each other with decency and respect."

ACADEMY LIFE DAY A2

## Alumni, Parents Convene for Exeter Leadership Weekend

By JOHN BECKERLE  
and ZAC FENG  
Staff Writers

Alumni and members of the Academy's Parents Committee returned to campus last weekend for the annual Exeter Leadership Weekend (ELW). The weekend attracted alumni from a wide variety of classes, including those from the classes of 1942 and 2017.

Class Officers, Regional Association Leadership members, Admission Representatives, General Alumni Association (GAA) Directors and Parents Committee members arrived on campus to "advance the Academy's strategic goals." President of the Trustees Tony Downer, along with other alumni, arrived on campus this weekend to attend meetings for Strategic Planning. According

to Downer, they also came to engage with parents and other alumni and "to build further the connection between the Exeter community on campus and the Exeter community beyond campus."

Following Dan Brown '82's assembly, which kicked off the weekend on Friday morning, alumni were given an opportunity to visit classes around campus while the Parents Committee held a meeting. During the afternoon, the visitors were updated about the Academy's recent progress. This program included a panel about the Academy's "ongoing commitment to student well-being," a tour of the Lamont Health and Wellness Center and a tour of unfinished renovations on the South Side of Campus.

On Friday night, the class of 2018 and alumni met for their first Senior Alumni Dinner of the year. The GAA

awarded Monica Shelton Reusch '77; P'08 and Marty Cannon '77 with the 2017 General Alumni Association President's Award.

Dan Lasley '78; P'05, '10 thinks the dinner is important for both alumni and students. "That Friday night dinner with the senior class is outstanding, and it's one of the main reasons we come back," he said.

Charlie Nunez '57, praised the students and staff, saying, "The kids are just terrific, everybody, teachers, staff, Exeter's a great place to be." Nunez expressed his gratitude for what Exeter has contributed to his life, saying, "I went here for three years and always felt that the school gave me a leg up."

Early Saturday morning, Downer, Principal Lisa MacFarlane '66 (Hon.), P'09, '13 and Chief Financial Officer

David Hanson addressed alumni and parents about the current state of the Academy.

Hanson gave a brief overview of the Academy's finances. This year will be the school's first year with a budget over 100M. Exeter will draw 56.0M of the 102.7M budget from the endowment. Hanson noted that PEA's tuition is the lowest of its peer schools at 550,880 with fees included.

Hanson also mentioned that the school has spent about 7M over the past two years due to crisis costs mostly dealing with sexual misconduct cases on campus. He projected that the school will spend slightly over 10M from FY16-FY18 for these cases.

In the same meeting, Downer updated "the Assembly attendees on our thoughts and actions on the sexual

EXETER LEADERSHIP WEEKEND A2

## Dan Brown Explores Faith, Science in Assembly Speech

By CELINE JEUN  
and SDAN LEE  
Staff Writers

Bestselling author Dan Brown '82 shared his insight on the interplay between science and religion at assembly on Friday.

Emeritus Math Instructor and Dan Brown's father Richard Brown delivered opening remarks, recounting several humorous anecdotes from his son's childhood and the way they had shaped his character and writing. "Growing up on the Exeter campus as a young boy and then as a student, Dan was exposed to all kinds of religions, cultures and different socioeconomic classes," he said. "I'd like to think that this worldly and diverse environment sparked Dan's fascination with international settings and also helped to inspire the progressive and open-minded ideologies that fuel his novels."

The ideas that Dan Brown shared in his speech were very upsetting to

many community members, however, particularly to those who practice a religion. Far from expressing "progressive and open-minded ideologies," several students in Catholic Exonians found Brown's presentation to be "contrived," "uncomfortable" and "antagonizing."

Brown began his speech by describing his experience growing up in a household where his parents harbored different religious convictions. "Living in a house with a God-fearing mother and a math-crazed father was something of a schizophrenic childhood. I lived a very paradoxical kind of life—a world between science and religion," he said.

The author subsequently voiced his claim that "the two players of science and religion are as different from one another as they could possibly be." He recounted various historical events and examples of science contradicting religion or vice versa to support his argument. "We no longer turn to God for answers to why the tides flow or why plagues spread. Science has answered



Dan Brown '82 and his father, Richard Brown on stage. Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

those questions. We now turn to God for answers to a handful of questions that science has never been able to answer: where do we come from, why are we here, and what happens when we die? And in asking these questions, we realize that like our ancient ancestors, we still worship the gods of the gaps," he stated. "We still call upon God and religion to fill the gaps in our understanding of the human experience. At the same time, those gaps have shrunk dramatically over time. Nowadays, with the big

exception of existential questions which still remain very much in the realm of religion, science rather than religion is the lens through which we increasingly see our world."

Of the many visiting alumni who were in attendance, Davis Robinson '57 commended Brown for his thorough and thoughtful approach to a complex topic. "The assembly was just outstanding. He's a genius in the amount of research that he does. He asks all the

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## New MOU to Guide PEA's Response to Sexual Assault

Continued from MEMORANDUM, A1

misdeemeanor level of sexual assault; the law only references felony-level sex crimes. Under New Hampshire's Safe Schools Act, schools are not legally required to report misdemeanor-level sexual assault to police; the law only references felony-level sex crimes. However, the Safe Schools Act directly contradicts the state's Child Protection Act, which mandates the reporting of suspected instances of child abuse and neglect.

"There were gaps in the MOU as it existed," Vicinanza said. "The idea was to enhance the existing MOU and make it better, so that it went beyond the mere requirements of the law. We wanted to take a leadership role, not only among schools, but perhaps with the legislature, which may want to address the gaps in existing law as well."

The past year's media backlash against the Academy's handling of campus sexual assault prompted a memorandum with Haven to better support sexual assault victims, beyond legal matters. "The memorandum with EPD previously did not have a lot to say about victim support or training to understand victims and survivors better, so we expanded the new MOU and the Haven MOU to be focused on best practices in preventing abuse and in supporting survivors," Vicinanza explained.

By the memorandum's terms, HAVEN agrees to make 24-hour crisis hotline services available to PEA students and employees, provide confidential crisis information, counseling, information and referral and accompaniment to medical and legal services as requested by students and employees.

For their part, the Academy agrees to provide training to PEA staff about HAVEN resources that are available to student and employee victims for sexual assault and reporting procedures for victims who wish to access HAVEN services.

Director of Student Well-being Christina Palmer expressed her satisfaction with both MOUs. "First and foremost our immediate response to victims is to provide support and now we offer the support of a Haven advocate, who is experienced in working with survivors of sexual assault,"

she said. "The MOU has allowed me to develop and strengthen relationships with the police, so when there are questions/concerns we can have an easy back and forth without misunderstanding."

Last year, Principal Lisa MacFarlane retained the University of New Hampshire's Prevention Innovations Research Center (PIRC), a nationally recognized research institution and innovator for which MacFarlane formerly served as its provost. PIRC developed strategies customized specifically for PEA, for improving education, prevention services and survivor support in the areas of sexual relationships, sexual abuse and relationship violence. Now the research and expertise of PIRC has helped develop a stronger support system for Exeter's sexual assault survivors.

"PIRC researched the student body, along with current and historical policies and practices and now we have implemented their research and are putting it into practice," Vicinanza said. "We wanted to create a model for other schools to borrow from and we set the bar high -- a standard to make effective training and well-informed support for survivors, from both on-campus and off-campus sources, the basic norm."

As Vicinanza hoped, St. Paul's School (SPS) in Concord, NH has already taken note of Exeter's enterprise. Both SPS and PEA made national headlines in recent years for their handling of sexual misconduct allegations against students and former teachers. According to the Concord-based daily newspaper The Concord Monitor, St. Paul's School and Concord police have established protocol for reporting campus sexual assaults, similar to the MOU between the Academy and the EPD.

Amanda Grady Sexton, director of public affairs for NHCADSV, commended the Academy for its comprehensive approach for prevention and response to campus-based sexual violence.

"PEA has left no stone unturned in their effort to keep their students safe and has deferred to the appropriate experts to ensure students and faculty have every resource at their disposal," Sexton wrote in a public statement. "We are proud to see an institution in NH prioritize student safety and work with vigilance and intention to prevent future violence and abuse."

## Alumni Return to Campus for Strategic Planning, Reunion

Continued from ELW, A1

misconduct front." This costly issue has spurred current leadership to shape the future to better deal with this issue, and ELW provided the Trustees a good opportunity to better define the Strategic Plan for the coming years. "We—the on campus and Trustee leadership together—have endeavored to address the episodes of sexual misconduct with the goals of bringing support and closure to the victims, to learning the lessons from our shortcomings, and putting in place the resources—the people, the policies, the programs, the training and the messaging," Downer said in his speech Saturday. He also added that there would be no place for sexual misconduct, saying, "Exeter is a safe community, a responsive community and a supportive community and that there is unambiguous clarity that there is no room in our Exeter for sexual misconduct."

The trustees also discussed their strategic plan for the coming years with alumni and parents. In the coming year, the administration intends to have "an

abundance of conversations" with both the students and teachers, both on and off campus in order "to infuse the [strategic] plan with a broad set of perspectives." Downer said that the Strategic Plan is "the definition of Exeter's values, priorities, programs, offerings and its basis for being relevant and compelling as a secondary school in the decades ahead."

The trustees' strategic plan continues the progress made from last year's extensive work. The plan mainly centers around three core ideals around which Exeter life is structured: My Exeter, Exeter as a Citizen and Living Harkness. "We want to advance on defining what initiatives will be in the second and third horizons, which ones will call for donor support, and how and when a campaign could come together to seek that donor support," Downer said. The plan is to "author an answer to the question 'Why Exeter?'" so that they will be able to "attract extraordinary students and exceptional educators by providing an unmatched secondary school experience."

## Andover Student Killed by Train

By Erica Hogan  
Managing Editor

A student at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts was hit and killed by a train on Tuesday night, according to Carrie Kimball Monahan, spokeswoman for the Essex District Attorney's Office. According to the Eagle Tribune, investigators are calling the death an accident and do not suspect foul play.

The student was a member of the senior class, and a resident of the town of Andover.

Students at Phillips Academy were notified on Wednesday morning in an all school assembly, and classes were made optional that day for PA students.

## Students, Faculty Unpack ALES Film, Campus Racism

Continued from ACADEMY LIFE DAY, A1

Sami Atif, Dean of Multicultural Affairs, detailed the history of Academy Life Day and addressed the controversy surrounding the changes made this year. "The first Residential Life Day took place on Monday, October 2, 1995. However, the day was renamed Academy Life Day in 1998 after it was determined that students and faculty should be able to articulate what is being learned in residential life. We are naming the behaviors that we will not permit, we are moving forward with a collective mission," Atif elaborated. "It may not feel traditional enough, it may not feel conducive for bonding, it may not seem like a rest from academic grind. So I ask this: how strong are our bonds if in this room people feel like their voices are not welcome?"

Once Atif had finished speaking, he stepped aside and the film began to play. The first vignette was about a student of color feeling overlooked by his teacher and classmates. The second was about how a boy switched out his dorm after another student made him feel unsafe by saying the n-word even after being told why he shouldn't. The third one was about a girl of color being cyberbullied after accepting an invitation to Evening Prayer. The fourth one was about a student having racial slurs hurled at them while crossing the road.

Afterwards, students returned to their dorms and divided into groups. The discussions were based off of seven questions provided to faculty related to being an active bystander, intent versus impact and effective methods to highlight and address racial inequity both on campus and outside the Exeter bubble.

In general, students found the discussions to be meaningful and informative. "I thought that the first discussion section was very meaningful because in my dorm we have people of very different political beliefs," lower Isadora Rivera said. "We discussed the first question, about how race plays a part in being an Exonian and we talked about how race adds a layer of complexity. We also talked about the freedom of speech on campus and what that means for people. Overall, I think it was very impactful."

Upper Elizabeth Yang echoed Rivera's sentiments. "The discussions I had were actually very impactful," she said. "The students were engaged and interested, and the faculty members that were moderating the discussion really set the tone

well." Upper Sophie Faliero said that she "believes that these conversations were a necessary action" and she "looks forward to seeing the result." Faliero also highlighted the difference between speakers talking about racism and students actually having a conversation. "We have had a lot of people come talk at us about how we should act or ways to change the situation going forwards," she said. "But I think that being part of a conversation helped drill the ideas in our heads a little better."

However, the conversations would occasionally go off topic. "During the discussions, there were a lot of new lowers and preps," lower Genesis Baez said. "So they didn't really know what the stories were on. I guess their way of relating to racism was to bring up sexism." Baez attributes students bringing up sexism because it was something they could relate to and understand. However, she feels like shifting topics wasn't "very accurate because we experience sexism as well, but we experience it on a higher level as colored women."

Expressing an opinion was also difficult for some students. "A lot of people were afraid to express their opinion because they felt that they might offend someone without intending to, due to the touchy manner of the subject," prep Max

Oulundsen said.

After lunch, students reconvened in advisee groups to discuss three scenarios. In the first scenario, a prep claims to other students in her/his dorm that racial injustice is a black and white thing, so it doesn't really involve her/him. Students were asked to reference the thirteen culturally competent communication skills to decide the best way to educate the prep. The second situation entailed a video being posted online of a white male student saying that he didn't have time to watch an assembly about police brutality against minorities. In the final scenario, some students discover a book making sexist and racist remarks about individuals in the prep class.

Even when the day had ended, the decision to discuss racism on Academy life day was still met mixed reviews. Some students supported the change. "I think it is appropriate that we discuss this on Academy Life Day because it pertains to residential life," senior John Woodward said. Senior Kyle Jamatz agreed, saying that Academy Life Day was "an appropriate time" to "flush out the problems on campus."

Some students felt like the discussion of racism deserved its own day of classes off. "I understand how Academy Life Day

was the reasonable day to do this, but I do think that it would have been better to have these discussions another day," Yang said. "Especially because a lot of people came in with a sour taste in their mouths, because they didn't get the dorm bonding they expected of this day." Yang also emphasized how the discussions were important to the community and they were "critical enough" to set aside a different day.

Baez noticed as well how students weren't as receptive to conversation because dorm activities were cancelled. "I know a lot of kids who blamed ALES and people of color for having their Academy Life Day taken away," she said. "I just feel like there could have been another day for this topic that wouldn't have disrupted anyone else's schedule."

"It felt like the school was saying: 'We care about racism enough to have this conversation, but we don't care about it enough to have a separate off day for it,'" senior Jacqui Byrne said. "We could have missed Wednesday classes. This way, people wouldn't have felt like something was being taken away from them." To Byrne, it felt like "a neglect for conversation" because it seemed like the administration put the day together to "look good" instead of truly caring about these issues on campus.

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## Brown's Assembly Met with Criticism from Religious Groups

Continued from DAN BROWN, A1

theological questions of life," Robinson said. Upper Adrian Venzon agreed, commenting, "[Brown] and his father were wonderful and engaging as speakers."

Lower Saskia Braden felt that the younger Brown had effectively addressed multiple viewpoints in his speech. "His experiences coming from a family where one side was very religious and the other was not as much gave him an interesting perspective," she said. "A lot of people have very black-and-white viewpoints on this issue. He addressed it in a way that was accessible to many. Even a number of students I was talking to who are very religiously devout said they appreciated his way of speaking and efforts to target everyone in the audience so they could see things from another perspective."

Many Exonians disagreed, however. One such community member was upper Elliot Diaz. "The topic of the assembly was very interesting, but I thought it was better suited for a Harkness discussion than an assembly topic," he commented. "There are so many valuable perspectives when talking about religion. As someone who sees the intersection of religion and science differently than Dan Brown, it was frustrating not being able to provide a different perspective."

Several students in Catholic Exonians approached Reverend Heidi Heath after the assembly to express their distress. "I interpreted his argument to be that all the questions you have about religion can be answered by science and that science proves religion wrong. It didn't just target the Catholic faith—it targeted all religions and anyone who practices religion," lower Maggie Smyth said.

Senior Anna Clark expressed similar sentiments. "The delivery of his argument was what frustrated me," she commented. "At this school, we don't try to impose our ideas on others. We try to foster discussion. Yes, that includes stating your opinion, but what I found problematic was that he went up there and shamed people who might have disagreed with him, discounting all religions as just a way to fill in gaps."

Many students stated that while they were in support of exchanging views on the relationship between science and religion, they did not believe a required appointment such as assembly was the best platform in which to do so. "Religion is such a touchy subject," senior Tricia Moriarty explained. "It was a bold move to talk about religion so strongly in a room of not only students but also faculty and alumni. It was a very strong decision on his part and it wasn't necessarily the right

one." Heath sent out an email to all students in Catholic Exonians on Sunday, acknowledging the upset that the assembly had caused and expressing her support for any students who felt uncomfortable during the speech. She declined to comment for this article.

Many faculty members, especially those in the science department who were aware of the controversy around the assembly, did not share these views, however. "As a Christian and a scientist myself, I was not bothered at all to hear Mr. Brown's assembly talk. As I understood it, it was an open-minded and question-provoking personal view, which is what freedom to think and speak is all about. If one studies history enough, one will see how Mr. Brown's words were neither unreasoned nor unreasonable," Science Instructor Tatiana Waterman said. "Reasoned dialogue is what PEA students are known for, and it is the essence and base of a free society."

Science Instructor Townley Chisholm further elaborated on the importance of sharing potentially controversial ideas, saying, "The assembly was funny and thought-provoking, as Mr. Brown intended it to be. I value free speech and freedom of thought very highly. People who didn't like his comments and conclusions are free to write and argue against them. I hope they will, but I see

no controversy at all here. Education is not a danger; it's an opportunity."

Science Instructor Sean Campbell said that while he disagreed with Brown's arguments, "[Brown] is a human with opinions, and we invite all sorts of people with all sorts of opinions onto the assembly hall stage."

Robinson found the assembly to be a valuable educational opportunity. "To me, the fact that people are upset doesn't mean that the assembly was a mistake or wrong or inappropriate," he said. "We're in an institution in which we are hopefully debating big ideas. If we only listen to things that aren't offensive, we're going to miss a lot of ideas. I want us to get better at being more inclusive, but I would also like us to have thick skins when it comes to hearing different opinions."

The speech culminated in Brown's contemplation of the future of religion and science and the collective impact of the two fields on our society. "If we look at this historical trend of science eating away at the claims of religion, we have to wonder if the same process of demystification and deregulation will continue into the future, extending itself into the final few existential questions. Will science and religion ever learn to get along?" he asked. "As our technologies race forward, will our philosophies keep pace?"

## Students, Faculty Question Need for Multitude of Clubs

By GRACE CARROLL,  
PAUL JAMES  
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Staff Writers

While club involvement is an important part of extracurricular life at Exeter, some faculty and students have raised questions about the downsides of pressure on students to get involved.

The sheer number of student organizations with tables set up at Club Night and ESSO Interest Night also calls into question the need for so many clubs on campus. A rapid rise in the creation of new clubs often leads to existing clubs becoming dormant or inactive, as well as competition between clubs with similar interests. Another common criticism of Exeter's club culture is that students only sign up for clubs in order to boost their college applications.

The number of active clubs at Exeter is currently slightly over 150, excluding ESSO clubs. Joanne Lembo, the Director of Student Activities, noted that the number of clubs fluctuates depending on the year.

"Club culture ebbs and flows, some years we have more and some years less. There was a bit of a new club boom, however, that will be offset by clubs that are no longer active," she said.

Senior Julia Goydan, one of the Model United Nations (MUN) leaders, believed that the size and diversity of Exeter's clubs accommodated a wide range of student interests. "I think that this influx of clubs helps everyone locate a group that shares their same interests, and allows students to find new passions

as well," she said.

Upper Isadora Kron, cohead of multiple clubs including The Feminist Union, agreed, saying, "There are a lot of clubs that give you an opportunity that you might not be able to have outside of Exeter. So it's an overall positive thing." Goydan also believes that the number of new clubs doesn't diminish the reputation of established club leaders. "I think there is something really unique about each club that being a club leader of any club is special, and shows a student's dedicated interest in a certain niche," she said.

Upper Aaraahish Paul, cohead of Subcontinent Society, believes that the club culture will likely self-regulate. "While an influx of new clubs can be chaotic and convoluted, student interest will determine the sustainability of these clubs in the long run," he commented. Goydan also recognized the problem of inactive clubs but proposed a solution. "Perhaps if the application to start a club were more rigorous, there would be a higher number of active organizations on campus," she said.

Upper Gracie Goodwin, who recently became cohead of ESSO Classroom Helpers, felt that the application process to become co-head should more accurately reflect the responsibility of the position. "It's definitely not easy to be a club head, but it's pretty easy to become one," she said. Goodwin also noted that her application process was especially streamlined, as she was one of three active club members at the end of last year.

The current application process for new clubs is relatively simple: any student with a

faculty advisor can apply through an online form, provided they are not seniors. If their club status is granted, these groups can then apply for funding from the school. "I think it's a good thing that students are able to start their own clubs," Paul said. "Not only does this ability lead to students taking an initiative, but it also allows for a diverse group of clubs that accurately reflect the interests of our Exeter community."

However, club coordinators do regulate new club proposals that appear similar to existing ones. Elizabeth Reyes, Director of Service Learning and ESSO coordinator, mentioned a recent example in which a student proposed a new club that would support Project Linus, a non-profit that collects knitted blankets to children in need. Noticing the similarities between this proposal and the already existing ESSO knitting club, Reyes connected the student with the club head, who are now working together on the project.

The number of ESSO clubs has steadily decreased over the past five years. ESSO participation peaked the 2011 and 2013 school years, with 99 ESSO opportunities presented in the sign-up sheet and 85 ongoing clubs in 2010-11. Student participation peaked in the 2013-14 school year with 739 members of ESSO clubs, now down to 639 in the 2016-17 school year. According to numbers from the ESSO office, student involvement consistently wanes throughout the year, being highest in the fall and lowest in the spring.

The declining number of ESSO clubs is result of the efforts of ESSO coordinators. Reyes believes decreasing the overall number

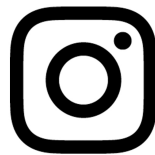
will increase student investment and lead to less conflict between clubs. "More is not always better," she said. "We want less competition and more collaboration."

Inactive clubs often disappear on their own over time. "If club participation decreases over the course of the year, by spring term, we won't bother recruiting new club heads," Reyes said. "It just signifies that there was no longer a need for this club."

Much of the criticism directed at Exeter's club culture stems from the underlying incentives that drive some students to join clubs. Especially at Exeter, students face immense pressure to get into good colleges, and having a well-rounded extracurricular resumé can seem like an advantage. "Some people think that to be model Exonians they have to overwork themselves for clubs," Raymond Alvarez-Adorno, cohead of ITXC and Young Brothers Society (YBS), said. "You can do a few clubs and be fine if you work hard. People will see if you are dedicated to what you do." Kron, on the other hand, said, "I don't think that the leadership positions are because of college applications. These people are taking them because they're really passionate about what they're doing."

Lembo agreed that while each student may have their own incentive for getting involved, the majority of students really are passionate about what they do. "Students begin clubs for all different reasons," she said. "While there are a small minority that may do it for colleges, the majority are involved because they love connecting with others with similar interests."

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WORLD  
COMPASS

Mark Blekherman  
Senior Columnist

"Sometimes it is necessary to be lonely in order to prove that you are right," Putin said, defending his position on Syria at a 2014 G8 summit. A few months later, the Russian dictator was expelled from the group after invading Crimea. Today, Putin is more isolated than ever—his disdain of international law has estranged him from his closest allies, including China. While the world's leaders gathered at the UN headquarters, Putin attended a series of military drills, collectively known as Zapad. The Zapad 2017 maneuvers started on Thursday, Sep. 14 and included more than one hundred thousand Russian and Belarusian troops, making it the biggest military exercise since the Cold War. Peace is not on Moscow's agenda.

Russia's neighbors, namely the Baltic states, have reason to fear that the joint operation is a rehearsal for future military occupations. Putin used similar drills in preparation for Russia's unannounced attack on Georgia in 2008, as well as its sub-

jugation of Crimea in 2014. More recently, the Russian military has been enhancing its capabilities in the province Kaliningrad Oblast, an enclave with Lithuania to the North and Poland to the South. It has deployed nuclear-capable missiles and spread propaganda alleging the discrimination of ethnic Russians in the Baltics. In Nov. 2014, a Russian submarine surfaced in the Stockholm Archipelago, and many air accidents between Russian military planes and commercial aircraft have been reported since. Although Moscow insists that the tactics are purely defensive and

**Putin's misinformation campaign is undoubtedly the most alarming sign of Russia's geopolitical ambitions.**

calls out NATO for "Russophobia," the leaders of Poland and Lithuania have called them out as acts of aggression, especially after Russian planes flew close to their borders.

Putin's misinformation campaign is undoubtedly the most alarming sign of Russia's geopolitical ambitions. His war of words has sown divisions in the Baltics by propagating a vision of grandiose Russian imperialism to Soviet compatriots. In

2010, Estonia updated its defense strategy to include "psychological defense," defined as "the development, preservation and protection of common values associated with social cohesion and the sense of security." Under this program, ethnic Russians living in Estonia will have more access to Russian television; the goal is to include Russians into Estonian society without erasing their heritage. All Baltic states should allocate a greater portion of their defense spending to a skilled cybersecurity threat that could preclude Russian interference in democratic elections and news channels.

So far, the Baltic states have not contributed their fair share to NATO, let alone equipped their armies with equipment compatible with that of NATO's joint forces. Militarily speaking, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are among the weakest members of NATO and rely primarily on the Treaty's Article 5, which declares an attack against one's ally as an attack against all. Poland recently invested \$7.6 billion into Patriot air-defense missiles. The Baltics must follow in Poland's tracks and invest more heavily in their armies, raising their defense spending up to two percent of their annual GDP.

Not enough has been done to solidify collective security between the former

non-Russian members of the Warsaw Pact. A stronger alliance between the Baltic, Poland and Scandinavian states would relay to Russia the countries' willingness and capacity to resist Russian encroachment. Joint training exercises and joint acquisition of weapons will allow Baltic states to magnify their military power.

Most importantly, the Baltics must further decrease their dependence on Russia's economy, specifically their reliance on Russian oil. Many Russian pipelines pass through the Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine on their way to Europe. The Druzhba (Friendship) pipeline carries oil to Poland and Ukraine, two countries with strained relations with Russia. The Nord Stream is an offshore pipeline that passes close to the economic zones of Sweden and Finland. A single flick of the switch could devastate the Baltic economies, as was the case on January 1, 2006, when Russia cut off all gas passing through Ukraine.

During his visit to Estonia in 2014, Obama pledged that "the defense of Tallinn and Riga and Vilnius is just as important as the defense of Berlin and Paris and London." The question of the Baltics is more than just a regional issue—it is a question of NATO's capacity and credibility in repelling Russia's territorial encroachment.

## The NFL's Responsible Influence on American Culture

Shaun Bhandarkar '19

Guest Contributor

This past summer was riddled with racially charged slander and heart-breaking mishaps. From the unfortunate incident at the Charlottesville white supremacist rally to the unwarranted threat of ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) bill, the lives of so many Americans have been irreparably marred. Even in the greatest places of unification, discord and division has become prevalent.

Recently, Trump has taken to Twitter to once again disparage NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick's decision to kneel during the national anthem. This past season, many NFL teams and individual players, inspired by Kaepernick's message, have similarly resolved to kneel during the national anthem. Trump fired back to these happenings by saying that the players are ungrateful while they receive "the privilege of millions of dol-

lars in the NFL" and included an audacious message to team owners to fire such players. Despite social media backlash, Donald Trump concurrently singled out star NBA player Stephen Curry by saying that due to Curry's hesitance, his invitation to the White House with his team has been revoked. With so much criticism from the highest office in the land, some players and bystanders alike are questioning if protesting in sports is warranted and if it is really "disrespectful to the flag and to the country."

First of all, the notion of kneeling during the national anthem is being alarmingly misconstrued. As Kaepernick has himself repeatedly mentioned, the objective is not to disrespect the "flag and country." None of these NFL players sitting during the national anthem are ungrateful; they come out and play every Sunday because they love what they do. It goes without saying that they're grateful for the opportunities that they've been given and, yes, the opportunity to occasionally strike it rich. They're not insulting the flag or espousing some type of

hateful ideology against the country; they're simply peacefully voicing their opinion on a country that has seen too many unjust and hurtful occurrences as of late. In a way, sports players are actually respecting the America that America can be and should be. The problem that such players see is that the common image of America is a safe haven of a melting pot for cultural acceptance is just so irrecognizable these days. If we're thinking in terms of purely semantics, that image resembles the end game that Donald Trump so vociferously promised the country during his campaign with his "Make America Great Again" slogan.

In fact, famous sports players are using their stardom the way that they should, but are not required to. They could just rely in the money, as Trump so aptly puts it, but they're using their celebrity status to make a difference off the field as well. If anything, we should be grateful to the people who simultaneously hold so much influence over the populous and have so much potential to give out beneficial messages that need to be heard

in every corner of the country. The idea of firing these peacefully protesting Americans with important messages is unfathomable. If President Trump could use his stardom and celebrity status to further his platform via tweets during the campaign, sports players should undoubtedly have the right to use their image in society to voice their opinions on pressing issues in the world.

Besides being justified under the self-explanatory constitutional grounds, star players in the NFL and the NBA are also justified in their actions as they are making a significant difference in society by standing up for what they believe in. Sports are supposed to be activities that encourage people from all walks of life to join in and enjoy together. When Kaepernick first sat down during the national anthem, he set what we can now see to be a major precedent. A major precedent for justifiably and peacefully showing to the nation that there's so much to be done and that the current cultural climate in the nation isn't as perfect as we would all like it to be.

## Do Not Trust Suu Kyi: The Rohingya Refugee Crisis

Mai Hoang '19

Columnist

You have fought for 15 years of your life. You have left the people you loved, the comforting warmth of the place you called home; voluntarily, you fasted and lived in confinement, wrote letters, gave speeches, stood in front of the line at gunpoint lending voice to the multitudes' scream until your throat hurt and your body crumbled. Your loved ones died. They closed off the gate; you had nothing left to lose.

This is the story of the opposition leader. The opposition leader gains power by being in a position of powerlessness. By nature of their stance, they embody change, a shift away from the status quo; thus, their rhetoric is centered on difference. The more they put themselves at risk and get portrayed by the media as doing this, whether consciously or unconsciously, the more voice they have. The causes they champion for are put into the limelight. Without a firm domestic pedestal on which to broadcast their agenda, the opposition leader traditionally gets much of their support base from an international audience. They cast a benevolent figure fighting for justice and human rights which resonates

with freedom fighters, millennials, social media users and the everyman.

When Aung San Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), took over the government in Myanmar two years ago, the world was in a festive mood. Though she could not become a prime minister herself due to constitutional constraints, Daw Suu Kyi legitimately gained the power to hand-pick Myanmar's leader, a person who would lead the country forward, leaving behind days of authoritarian military rule to become a full-fledged democracy. Aung San Suu Kyi had won her 15-year struggle against her country's dictatorship, and was now free to exert her power to do good in the country. Or so the story went. In retrospect though, it was almost unfortunate for the leader, and by and large, for the Myanmar, that her party triumphed in the 2015 election. Now 72, Aung San Suu Kyi is no longer the humanist opposition leader fighting against the government; she is the government. After two years spent consolidating her hard-won power, the senior state councillor has too much to lose. What some have failed to realize is that the nefarious, all-encompassing government, the "bad guy" in this narrative, did not simply disappear; they made concessions with Suu Kyi's NLD,

which admittedly, was a progressive step. However, when viewed from another angle it can also be said that the NLD and Suu Kyi herself made concessions to be in the government, and thus regressed from their pure humanitarian ideals. Part of the mainstream political force now, Suu Kyi chooses her battles carefully. She knows her support base—traditional Burmese working people, mostly Buddhist, content to reap the fruits of economic developments, a free market and generally upheld freedom of expression. True, the Nobel Laureate has recently been criticized by the United Nations, Desmond Tutu, Malala Yousafzai and a host of other international figures over inaction in the face of the Rohingya refugee crisis, but what does that matter to her? In the capital Yangon, her popularity is still soaring; Suu Kyi doesn't need the support from international human rights champions, now that her focus has shifted from fighting to policy making and strategizing.

It is hard to reconcile the two phases of this leader's career and the images that she broadcasts, but this shift is not as unexpected and confounding as what many has made it out to be. It is too much to expect a young government, still in its nascent stages of figuring out the nitty gritty of what democracy

means, to form radical policies regarding an oppressed minority group. What advocates for the Rohingyas should realize is that game-changing moves can never come from the mainstream government, too bogged down, as it is, by bureaucracy and concerns of pleasing the majority. By joining the government Suu Kyi has passed on the baton of opposition leader, freedom fighter and activist for other individuals to take up. This person, like their predecessor, must possess the unique combination of being relatable to the minority group, this time Muslim Rohingyas living in the Western Myanmar Rakhine State, as well as having enough charisma and confidence to rally the international community. In recent history, human rights movements that succeed are ones led not by factors of the government, but by international bloggers, but by peaceful activists cleverly playing the role of the powerless and using political tools at their disposal. Currently, there are some candidates, among them the 27-year-old, ex-political prisoner Wai Wai Nu, who leads multiple non-governmental organizations in Yangon to raise awareness about the crisis. Unfortunately for the Rohingyas though, no coalition has yet formed with enough unity and strength to become a political entity whose voice is heard.

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Letter to the Editor:

## Assembly Should Be a Place to Learn, Discuss and Disagree

Frances Johnson  
Instructor in Science

To the Editor:

Using the communication skills we've all been practicing, I shall speak in 'I' statements, and from my perspective. Over the last few days I have found myself in several conversations where I have been surprised to learn that some people felt a religious person like myself probably felt uncomfortable in Friday's assembly. Gosh, I really enjoyed Dan's talk! Of course, I've known Dan Brown for years. And in all honesty, I disagreed with a lot of what Dan said in the second half of his talk—I cheerfully composed all kinds of rebuttals in my head while he was talking. But my disagreement was just that—cheerful! Lots of people think science and religion are incompatible and are ready and willing to explain to me why they think so. And (no surprise for someone who

is a scientist and a practicing Catholic) I don't think science and religion are incompatible, and I am ready and willing to take these people on in lively intellectual debate.

Of course, it's important to distinguish personal attacks or name-calling from intellectual disagreement. There are times I have been told, "Oh you must be stupid to be Catholic and

**I, a God-believing scientist, need to be willing to listen to and engage with people who hold science and religion incompatible.**

believe those things." That's not what I heard on Friday. I heard from someone who perhaps discusses his beliefs with vigor, but is someone who also respects other point of views.

The central question for me is not really about Friday's assembly but the

broader question of what speakers we bring to assembly, and the bigger question of hearing ideas I disagree with. We need to be able to hear from people with opposing views. I, a God-believing scientist, need to be willing to listen to and engage with people who hold science and religion incompatible. People with those opinions will think my ideas are illogical—that's what disagreement looks like. But I need to be able to hear people who disagree with me. Liberals need to listen to conservatives and vice versa, and trade globalists to trade protectionists, and so on. I am someone who eats meat; I should listen to a talk by someone who believes we should all be vegetarian. If it makes me uncomfortable, well, that might be the 'uncomfortable' feeling of growth: maybe my idea is actually wrong. Exposing me to these ideas isn't the institution failing—and needing to be better: that's the institution doing its job well. I hope I continue to be challenged in assembly.

Fran Johnson

## The Vacuum of World Leadership



OUTSIDE THE EXETER BUBBLE  
Paul James  
Columnist

By now, it's safe to say that America's reputation is ruined. This is largely the fault of President Trump, who seems to relish inciting global conflict. Even the detractors who gave him a chance must realize that he has worn out his welcome in the Oval Office. His latest affront to world peace, security and humanity in general came at the recent United Nations General Assembly, where he warned that, "We will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea." Trump's response to a precarious international issue, then, was to suggest the annihilation of 25 million people and their irrational dictator. Then there's the issue of the ensuing nuclear war.

Regardless of Trump's actions over the next three years, his response to the Paris Climate Accord, the Iran Nuclear Deal, NATO and now the North Korean crisis has hobbled the United States' role as an international power. His rhetoric built around sovereignty and dedication to making national selfishness America's favorite pastime doesn't help the country's position either. Turmoil in other leading nations has caused, in the words of David Milliband, president of the International Rescue Committee, "a vacuum of leadership—moral and political—when it comes to the world's trouble spots, from Syria to Yemen to Myanmar and beyond."

What happens when the United



States doesn't fill that vacuum? Will we cede international leadership to China, to Germany, to Russia? Perhaps the U.S. taking a backseat in the business of leading the free world isn't a lamentable loss for the time being. But someone needs to step up and assume the role.

Russia has clear aspirations for widespread power, but may well make one of the worst protectors of freedom imaginable. Since the invasion of Ukraine and annexation of Crimea, Russia has taken the liberty to meddle in European and American affairs, without many repercussions. The international community would gain an unreliable ally at best and hostile, unrestrained czarism at worst.

China seems a likely successor to the lead role on the world stage. Its robust economy and new dedication to clean energy provide a hopeful vision for the future. Since Trump's withdrawal from the Trans Pacific Partnership also gives China increased control over the region. Combined with its growing influence over the developing world in Af-

rica and Latin America, China is well on its way to becoming the most dominant economy. Without financial or political pressure from other nations, China would be free to worsen labor laws, continue human rights abuses and roll back its environmental standards. I, for one, like liberty too much to have Xi Jinping and his Communist Party determining the future of international policy.

That leaves Germany, which seemed a valid choice until recently. Exit polls indicate the Bundestag will sacrifice 12.6 percent of its seats to the right wing Alternative for Germany party. The party rallied around the oft-used battle cry of closing borders and shutting out migrants. So we have to look elsewhere for an international moral authority. Germany's plight isn't helped by the slow dissolution of the European Union, with many countries seeing a resurgence of far right and anti-EU rhetoric in elections. France dodged a bullet with Macron's election, but he is now faced with healing a split country before he can lead France back into the foreign fray.

Whichever country is left standing after the dust settles around the globalization vs. isolation conflict will set the tone for the 21st Century. Their influence will range from trade and military power to the upkeep or ridding of human rights and international alliances. They will be tasked with uniting other superpowers in dealing with refugees, genocides, food and poverty crises and nuclear proliferation. Or each country will turn inwards and leave the disconnected world to deal with its own problems. It's up to us to pick the right leader for this dawning age.

## The Sun Belt's Hot Housing Market

Sarah Ryu '19  
Guest Contributor

The Sun Belt covers the southern continental United States, stretching from Florida in the Southeast to California in the Southwest. As this region lies along roughly the same longitude, the Sun Belt enjoys mild climates and relatively warm winters. Historically, the Sun Belt has enjoyed steady economic growth in addition its sunny weather. Following the growth of the oil and defense industries during the Cold War in the 1950s, the Sun Belt currently boasts robust economic growth that is concentrated in the tech and service sectors. In addition, many tourist and vacation destinations are located in the Sun Belt, including Miami and Las Vegas. It's no surprise, then, that Americans have been flocking to these areas. The 2015 U.S. Census reports that cities within the Sun Belt such as Houston, Atlanta and Phoenix are home to some of the fastest growing populations.

Following the economic slowdown following the 2008 mortgage crisis, such growth and development in this part of the United States should be cause for celebration. However, the population shift in these hotspots have created a housing boom. High demand has outpaced supply in some of these areas, causing drastic rises in housing prices. Even though many of these cities are not sprawling metropolises such as those found on the heavily urbanized East Coast, the concentration of businesses in certain areas has led to people congregating there to secure stable employment.

What is more unsettling is the fact that housing prices serve as underlying indicators of inflation in a certain area and can drive up the entire cost of living, squeezing out those who can no longer afford to live there. In the Midwest, such as Indiana where median home prices are around \$150,000, gas prices have hovered around \$2.30 per gallon. In California, median home prices were \$393,000 while gas was \$3.10 per gallon. When housing prices rise due to a rise in population, the basket of consumer goods rises together in response to the increased demand. When people live in an area, they are not simply staying home after work; they are driving around, eating food, buying new clothing and going to the movies.

Places outside of the Sun Belt with more affordable housing such as Buffalo, New York, or Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, offer attractive alternatives to competitive housing markets. A dose of common sense would dictate that university graduates, newbies and anybody else looking for a place to put roots down should choose these areas instead. They might make less money living in these areas, but they would enjoy a higher quality of living without the stress of high housing prices. Unfortunately, the job market and the housing market are not in perfect synchronization in the United States. In places like Buffalo and Pittsburgh, where housing is affordable, prospective home buyers may find that employment opportunities are non-existent. No matter how affordable housing may be, people will not move to a place if they expect their income to be zero. Faced with the option of unemployment versus high housing prices, Americans have chosen to continue flocking to these Sun Belt hotspots.

**If price trends in home prices continue upwards, more and more people may find themselves in dire straits...**

As a whole, home ownership has continued to rise in the United States, rising from 55 percent in the 1950s to 65 percent in 2010. However, renters have actually increased in areas such as Los Angeles and Houston, where more than half of the residents rented their homes. Renting may seem logical in areas with high housing prices, as many residents are unable to afford the expensive mortgages required to finance the purchase of a home. However, a home has traditionally been an asset that appreciates in value over time, while rent is a monthly expense that provides no financial returns. For many baby boomers who were able to purchase their homes cheaply in the 1960s and 70s, their homes have become investment vehicles that will help finance their eventual retirement. For the younger generations who currently struggle to even make rent every month, this type of planning for the future is out of reach.

If price trends in home prices continue upwards, more and more people may find themselves in dire straits, either from taking out mortgages on homes they cannot afford or from paying a greater and greater portion of their paycheck towards rent. Either way, the housing market may collapse once again under the weight of soaring prices if consumers are unable to keep pace. Having narrowly escaped total meltdown during the 2008 financial crisis, the United States may not be able to solve the next market collapse by pumping trillions of dollars into the economy.

## Let Them Eat Cake

Clara Geraghty '21  
Guest Contributor

When the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case of Masterpiece Cakeshop vs. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, it sparked a controversy across the United States. Jack Phillips, the baker at the confectioner's shop, refused a gay couple when they requested he bake them a cake for their wedding. According to Mr. Phillips, when the couple approached him, he had "turned down, probably, at that time, that may have been the fifth or sixth same-sex wedding cake." And in each case he insists that the couples were all very understated and simply went to another shop. Yet, when Mr. David Mullins and Charlie Craig were refused, he didn't experience the resignation he had received previously. Instead, this couple immediately filed discrimination charges, and triumphed in a civil rights commission and in the courts. However, Mr. Phillips believes that his first amendment rights—freedom of religion and freedom of expression—liberate him from Colorado's discrimination laws.

This begs the question of whether First Amendment rights automatically override state laws. The short answer is



Courtesy of Google

yes. However, this should not always be the case. In the Constitution, it does not state whether freedom of religion means that one can act malignantly because of it. This case pits against each other two statements that do not necessarily even cover the same topics.

Much has changed since the Constitution was drafted. Its authors were undoubtedly not considering discrimination against same sex couples when writing about freedom of religion. There is no argument that this is a shaky subject. The law in Colorado states that it is illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation in a place of public accommodation. But in Mr. Phillips' opinion, his choice to refuse the couple was based on his religious beliefs, so he should be protected by his First Amendment rights.

Mr. Mullins believes that "businesses should not be allowed to violate the law and discriminate against us because of who we are and who we

love." The key word is businesses. The foggy connection between a business and the views of its owner causes some confusion in itself. By refusing wedding cakes to homosexual couples, Mr. Phillips isn't just making a statement about his personal religious views. Masterpiece Cakeshop is expressing a negative view about same-sex marriage. And in the eyes of the state of Colorado, Masterpiece Cakeshop is a public accommodation and therefore it cannot discriminate. In addition, the First Amendment does not touch on religious views of a public accommodation.

By owning a shop in a Colorado, where he is knowingly under the state's jurisdiction and there are anti-discrimination laws in place, Mr. Phillips is breaking the law. This case will undoubtedly create a terrific uproar no matter what the decision, as it makes a clear statement about what the courts believe the meaning of the First Amendment is.

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## Pointless Innovation in the Tech Industry

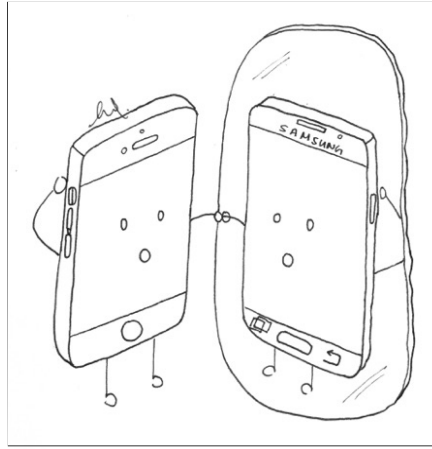
Isa Mitsubayashi '21  
Guest Contributor

The mobile phone industry has been one of the wealthiest industries for years now, especially since the focus has shifted from analog mobile phones to smartphones. Numerous companies have rapidly released new models, and eager consumers have gobbled them up. But because of this, it is fair to say that technology has lost its creativity. Customers are so desperate for new phones that creators have started getting lazy. Now they do not need or have the time to sit down and think of new, inventive phones that could be created. Currently, all they show us are irrelevant tweaks to the features introduced previously. If you decided not to buy a new model for a while, you might have realized that new phones do not amaze you like they did five years ago. Why is that and how can we resolve it?

At every attempt in manufacturing a new smartphone, companies aim for the same things: better camera quality, a thinner body and higher resolution. But has it gotten to the point where it does not matter anymore? Is a new phone worth slightly better pictures? The introduction of the iPhone 8 and the iPhone X has the whole world amazed with their new features—mainly facial recognition, wireless charging and a full-surface screen. But before you reach for your wallet, take a minute and think about it. Are a few additions to your perfectly working iPhone 7 or 6 worth a few hundred dollars?

The industry is fooling us. It makes additions to old features that may sound fascinating but are just not significant. Most importantly, it exaggerates when introducing those features. Take the facial recognition system, for instance. It is pretty amazing that your phone can now recognize your face, but is it innovative enough to warrant so much hype? Fingerprint identification is already quite useful, and there is not much of a difference between unlocking your phone with your finger and unlocking your phone by looking at it. Another example is wireless charging. Many companies have introduced their own wireless charging pad which charges your phone just by placing it on the pad. Pretty cool, but think about it. How long does it take to take the plug and stick it in your phone to charge it? Only a matter of seconds. Wireless charging is just unnecessary. Companies are revealing to us all these useless gimmicks while holding back useful factors, like the headphone jack for iPhones. Why did it take Apple so long to make the iPhone waterproof while Samsung released their first waterproof phone back in 2013? Possibly because they were saving that for later when they run out of tricks up their sleeve.

The originality between different companies has also been decreasing. Compare Apple and Samsung, two rival companies which have just released their latest smartphone models. Not only is their basic hardware design similar, but their software is, too. They both just presented their face recognition system. Of



course, they both have a health application, a payment application, a virtual assistant, their own internet browser, a calculator...the list goes on and on to prove how similar the two phones are. That is not to say that they are both exactly the same. The Apple iPhone is admired for its simplicity, while Samsung Galaxy is praised for its impressive screen resolution and faster charging.

Creators in the smartphone indus-

try have a responsibility to attract consumers, and we are giving them a great advantage by being ignorant. They are earning billions from us. As consumers, what we can do is to be smart. Don't be fooled. Think before you invest your money into something that might not be worth it. This will force them to put their minds together and be creative, and hopefully there will be more originality in smartphones in the future.

## Discussing Racism on Academy Life Day

Bianca Beck '19  
Columnist

This year on Academy Life Day, students spent the day discussing racism in Exeter, rather than participating in dorm bonding activities, w/o denying that addressing racism is important, because it is important to make sure all students are as comfortable as they can possibly be on campus. We, as a school, need to talk about this issue in order to better understand it and address it, especially now. More than ever, we need to combat racism on campus with open and honest discussions. However, having these discussions on Academy Life Day, a day in which dorm mates get to interact with each other on a deeper level than a passing hello, isn't a good idea.

The change in activity on Academy Life Day is in response by the administration to the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society (ALES) video that came out at the end of last term. In the video, students

recounted stories of their experiences with racism in town and at school and how it made them feel unsafe in their own living spaces. The video affected the faculty so much that they called an impromptu assembly on the last day

**Rather than simply watching a video and discussing it, students should be given the tools to first understand that this is a real issue, and that we all can do something to make racism something of this institution's past.**

of school, where Principal MacFarlane gave a speech to the student body. Since then, the administration, with the input of ALES and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, has been hard at work in making changes to make campus a more safe place for everyone.

As great of an idea as it is to spend a day on discussing and combatting racism, people are resentful. Students look forward to Academy Life Day so that they can finally figure out the names of the preps in their dorm, play games and hang out with friends, which is something we don't have much time to do here at PEA. It's a scheduled break for students. It's great! Therefore, rather than taking away Academy Life Day, the administration should use another day to have us talk about racism in depth and leave Academy Life Day strictly as a dorm bonding day. Every year, the school takes a day off to talk about climate change and about Martin Luther King Jr. and the progress he's made. So why can't we spend another day talking about racism on campus, its effects and how to prevent it?

Watching the video may have been an eye-opener for people who have never experienced racial discrimination before, but I think it would be a lot more impactful if we had student speakers who would be comfortable recounting their stories of experiencing racism. Listening to students tell their stories and show how much it has impacted their

experience at school would give a face to the stories in the ALES video and make it more real. It wouldn't be just a dispassionate voiceover complemented by clips of campus. Students would realize that the people being affected are fellow classmates, friends and dorm mates. After the student speaker, the administration should bring in speakers who specialize in the prevention of racism to explain what students can do to help.

Rather than simply watching a video and discussing it, students should be given the tools to first understand that this is a real issue and that we all can do something to make racism something of this institution's past. Students should feel safe on campus and protected by the school. But taking away the dorm-bonding aspect of Academy Life Day will undermine this issue. Instead, people will focus on how their day of fun was taken away rather than putting all their energy into listening and discussing the issue at hand. And if we want to make a difference, then a day must be dedicated to showing students that a difference can be made.

## Racial Inequality in the Justice System

Johanna Martinez and Alla Lakshmi '20  
Guest Contributors

Nearly a month ago in the town of Claremont, New Hampshire, a biracial eight-year-old boy fell victim to a terrible crime that left him with serious rope burns around his neck. Recently, this horrendous crime has caught the attention of social media. Three white teenage boys encouraged the young man to put a rope around his neck while standing on top of a picnic table. The three teenagers then proceeded to push the boy off the table, leaving him hanging. This crime was categorized as a lynching. Sound familiar? Perhaps, it's because lynching was the white man's way of resolving anger toward freed black slaves in the 1890s. This undeniable act of hate should not occur in 2017, a time when we claim that racism is no longer a prevalent conflict.

**This undeniable act of hate should not occur in 2017, a time when we claim that racism is no longer a prevalent conflict.**

Although no adults were present at the time, the boy's sister claimed to have witnessed this heinous hate crime. Her mother soon brought this horrific event to the light on Facebook. Ms. Merlin, the boy's mother, wrote on Facebook, "It truly saddens me that even in a city so small, racism exists." This story is spreading like wildfire on social media as people join Ms. Merlin in fight-



Courtesy of Google

ing for justice for her son. The police have not released any other information regarding this case, because all persons involved are under the age of 14 and are protected by confidentiality laws. However, the family has publicly criticized the local police department for not taking more aggressive action in this case. Instead, they are too busy protecting the three white teenage boys who were the instigators of this event. Police Chief Mark T. Chase commented that, "Mistakes [the three teenagers] make as a young child should not have to follow them for the rest of their life." This statement received huge backlash from many considering the terrible situation these three teenagers put this boy through.

It's no surprise that the justice system is clearly biased and more lenient when trying white criminals. According to research by Diversity Inc., black

minors are prosecuted as adults 66.5 percent of the time. While, their white counterparts are only tried 10.9 percent of the time. Not only is this a sign of the inequality black children face, but the

**When two children commit similar crimes but get drastically different punishment because of the color of their skin, there is no other way to get around the fact that racism is a powerful factor.**

largest flaw in our justice system. When two children commit similar crimes but get drastically different punishment because of the color of their skin, there is no other way to get around the fact that racism is a powerful factor. In the case of the 14-year-old white children who

found that lynching a biracial eight-year-old was acceptable and "funny," we see that there was no justice being served. Instead, the perpetrators of this crime were protected by the officers and were not tried as adults. Yes, they did lynch an innocent eight-year-old and caused not only severe emotional damage but physical pain and rope burns. However, their white privilege once again came in handy in evading justice despite their clearly hate-fueled crime.

Now, if the scenario was reversed, a black minor would have been tried and sentenced as an adult instead of a child. The cops' actions and protection of criminals were justified in the sake of not having this "mistake" follow the white children for the rest of their lives. Firstly, this was not a mistake but an intentional hate crime. Secondly, what about the black minors who are constantly prosecuted as adults? What about their childhood mistakes following them for the rest of their lives? This double standard is not only seen in the prosecution of children. It is also evident in the murdering of black men by white cops and the protection the justice system has given cops like Jason Stockley. Instead of having two separate, unjust ways of prosecuting children, the justice system should either try all children as adults or not prosecute any as adults. It is not fair to have different treatment and protection of certain children simply because of discrimination. The race of a child should not determine if he or she is tried as an adult or how much time he or she gets. To have black minors being nearly seven times as likely to be prosecuted as an adult and having their lives ruined in comparison to a white minor is unacceptable.

## “Queer Kids” Exhibit Inspires Faculty to Share Coming Out Stories

By MAI HOANG  
and MORGAN LEE  
Staff Writers

Twenty-seven photographs now hang on the walls of Lamont Gallery, each documenting a young person of unique characteristics who identifies as part of the LGBTQ community. The featured subjects, between twelve and twenty-one years old, are as different as they are similar; there are photos of individuals from New York and Florida to Brussels, Belgium. They come from different races and ethnicities; some dress themselves in torn jeans and heavy makeup, while others stare at viewers in self-made clothing that defy boundaries.

The exhibition, titled “Queer Kids,” will run until Oct. 21. The successful premiere, which attracted approximately 175 viewers, included a gallery talk with the photographer, Michael Sharkey. The Lamont Gallery has multiple events planned in connection with the display. According to Laura O’Neal, Lamont Gallery’s Curator, there will be an Open Mic night in celebration of the National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11. The event will bring prose, poetry, dialogues and dual performances to the exhibition space. Last week, the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) also had their kick-off meeting there and several instructors, including Christine Knapp, John Caldwell and Alex Myers of the English Department, Photography Instructor Joseph Lambert and Health Instructor Elizabeth Hurley have taken their students to see the exhibition.

Spanning a period of ten years, the project captures the experiences of school-age students whom Sharkey connected with via GLESEN, a national alliance for LGBTQ kids in American public high schools. Inspired by the transgender community in New York, where he is based, Sharkey is committed to finding kids from diverse backgrounds, photographing them and asking questions such as “Where do you see yourself ten years from now?” His photos strived to emphasize the humanity of his subjects, and how they were typical students. On the subject of the LGBTQ movement in the US, the photographer commented, “I think the thing that gave this movement its power, the same thing that gives any civil rights movement its power, is that once people realize what’s happening, their consciousness is raised. There’s a lot of joy and empowerment in the raising of consciousness.”

Michael Sharkey’s photographs are not the only objects displayed on the exhibition walls, however. Upon being contacted by O’Neal, many adult members of the Academy decided to reflect on the LGBTQ movement at Exeter. English instructor Mercy Carbonell wrote a poem about the formation of GSA, and read it out loud to art viewers during the premiere.

For Carbonell, who identifies as a queer individual herself, seeing students examining photographs and essays at the exhibition was a heartwarming experience. “Because of the name, ‘Queer Kids,’ they knew it was in some way their territory,” she said. Carbonell candidly shared about the difficulties she has faced in being a gay faculty at Exeter. “If you look at the whole fac-

ulty, the number of faculty members who are out is extremely low,” she said. “While it has not historically been easy, the straight community has made efforts to be more inclusive towards LGBTQ people.”

Gary Einhaus, Associate Director of College Counselling, wrote an essay titled “Let’s Go Defense!” centered on the negative experiences LGBTQ people have been going through during the past decades, despite the cultural shift. Einhaus was excited about the opportunity to contribute to the exhibition “because of the subject matter and the arresting artistry of the photographs.” The counselor came out as gay during a meditation for National Coming Day in 1998. “There are more ‘out’ faculty here on campus than when I first arrived 20 years ago,” he said. “I was the only out male faculty member living in a dorm.”

Meanwhile, Library Associate Eileen Cusick wrote her personal narrative because she wanted students to feel that they could seek her out if they needed someone to talk to who was not a faculty member. “I feel things can be difficult for kids at this age, hopefully they have someone to be there and support them,” she said. Cusick and her partner have been living at Exeter with their two adopted children for sixteen years. “One of the reasons I chose to work at Exeter was the fact that they were open to gays at that time; when my partner and I were in other work places, we experienced difficulties with medical insurance policies, among other things,” she said. “When I took a job at the Academy they recognized us as a family.”

Yet even for these adult members, the decision to come out is not always easy. “It’s a scary thing to do not for myself, but for my children who have a difficult time sometimes to be comfortable in their skin as having two moms,” Cusick said. “I always feel protective and don’t want to embarrass them.” Similarly, Carbonell reflected on how she felt self-conscious as a queer faculty taking students to see the exhibition and teaching materials written by queer authors. “I was afraid of handling a situation where my students dismissed [the topic], as I was too personally connected to it,” she said. “The fact that I have been teaching here for nearly twenty-five years and I still have these feelings says a lot. That’s not something you would know by just looking at me. I suspect I am seen as a seemingly confident person.”

According to Cusick, however, the culture at Exeter has generally been welcoming for LGBTQ members. “The Academy has been ahead of most organizations and work groups,” she said. “It became clear during my first day of work that people would accept me and my family no matter what.” Cusick went on to tell about the time when she was planning an event on campus with some colleagues, and one of them remarked, “You will be bringing your partner, I hope?” Similar instances throughout the years had made her feel even more comfortable. “With families that don’t fit the typical mom and dad situation, the Academy has always been open,” said Cusick. Echoing these thoughts, Campus Minister, Rev. Heidi Heath, also a board member for GSA, commented on how current Exonians choose to express their gender,



Senior examines “Queer Kids” exhibit on display in Lamont Gallery. Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

“As someone who grew up in a time when there wasn’t LGBTQ+ visibility in this way, it’s incredible to see these bold, beautiful students living life with authenticity.” Reverend Heath came to Phillips Exeter three years ago, when her spouse, Reverend Emily, became Minister of the local Congregational Church.

Alex Myers, an instructor of English who identifies as transgender, reflected on his own experience as a teenager at Exeter and stated that “when I was a student here, there were lots of small moments and a few big ones, of activism on campus.” While he acknowledged the great encouragement from the community, he also felt as if “sometimes the support isn’t really active, but more of a passive—go ahead, do what you want to, I won’t stand in your way.” Similarly, Carbonell said, “Our campus is not particularly strong in terms of activism; we talk a lot about things, but seldom do we actually mobilize and take action.”

When faculty members were asked about if they had seen changes on campus as it relates to queer visibility, the answer was a resounding and enthusiastic “yes.” Myers commented on this shift, saying, “Back in the day, when the call for civil rights for ‘homosexuals’ began, queer was very much not part of the scene. But, gradually, the movement expanded and included those who were ‘deviants’ and happy being so.” Knapp expanded on that thought: “I came here in 2007[...] we were not having the same conversations about gender, gender identity and gender expression.” Only around that time did the word “queer” begin to become more widely recognized as a way to express one’s gender. Now, it is an integral part, the Q in the LGBTQ. “Absolutely, the conversation has changed,” said Knapp.

Walking through Lamont Gallery, one wonders about the role this exhibition plays in the much larger picture of national LGBTQ issues. Since this is a project addressing the lives of queer youth specifically, educators such as Cusick turn to the events unfolding in the world today for a deeper understanding of the environment which they are growing up in. “What’s happening now in our country politically is a real step backwards,” she said. “It’s given license to people with very conservative views to say hurtful things and get away with it in some environments.” Einhaus, too, expressed the importance of focusing on national news to determine actions

that activists need to take. Regarding the protests in Charlottesville, he commented, “While agreeing fully with news commentators’ condemnations of the protesters’ racist rhetoric and editorials about our society’s implicit racist structure, I was struck how news coverage focused exclusively on the overt racism of the protesters’ stance, with little mention of these protesters’ hatred of other socially marginalized groups, such as non-Christians, immigrants, and the LGBTQ community. I felt that it was critical to examine the intersectionality between racism and homophobia.”

While there has been progress at Exeter, as in other places in America, further actions need to be taken before the community can be described as fully gender-inclusive. “I don’t think we are intersectional as I’d like to see us be,” said Carbonell. “For instance, most faculty who came out are white. I’m curious to know whether students of color who are not straight feel welcomed here, it’s certainly hard for them to find adult role models.” Meanwhile, Einhaus commented on how the Academy, in general, tends to only touch upon “issues of diversity that are above the iceberg’s waterline.” He said, “We still have a way to go in addressing [...] implicit heterosexism in everything from curriculum to employee benefits.” Caldwell, on the other hand, commended the school on its recent installment of all-gender dorms, which he saw as “a powerful step in raising awareness around issues of gender and sexuality.”

Many agree that having exhibitions like “Queer Kids” put up in a public space on campus is a step in the right direction. “Every time something like this happens it makes it more normal, even if people don’t go they might see a poster or hear people talking about it,” said Cusick. Knapp took all of her prep English sessions to see the exhibition, after assigning them an article about the queer identity from PFLAG, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. “Bringing the ninth graders to the art gallery underscored all of those values that we try to assert would be important for community life,” she said. “Some kids may come from communities where this wasn’t talked about, so there might be conversations in the dorm or classroom that are new to them and make them feel uncomfortable.” However, like many others, she feels that the discomfort is a necessary step in the learning process.

## Phillips Exeter Begins Process of Renewing Accreditation

By MADISON KANG  
and SLOANE VALEN  
Staff Writers

As the Academy heads into its 237th year of operation, the administration will reexamine the school’s mission and practices through a re-accreditation process supervised by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Founded in 1885, the NEASC is an independent nonprofit research organization that connects more than 2,000 public and independent schools across New England.

Accreditation confirms that an institution meets or exceeds NEASC standards and criteria of quality. An accredited school is one which has the necessary resources to achieve its stated purposes through appropriate educational programs, is substantially doing so, and gives reasonable evidence that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future.

When a school chooses to partake in NEASC’s accreditation process, it undergoes a ten-year cycle of comprehensive self-evaluation spanning 12-18 months, then strategic planning to enact change or uphold standards established by the NEASC. Other secondary schools and colleges will “peer review” the school’s progress before a commission of approxi-

mately 15 educators visits campus in the spring of 2019 for a final analysis.

These educators certify schools based on NEASC standards in curriculum, enrollment, student experience, health and safety, infrastructure and residential programming.

Mathematics Department Chair Eric Bergofsky has headed Exeter’s accreditation process for the last ten years, beginning his stint in 2007. Bergofsky said that while pursuing accreditation for the school is a voluntary procedure, a stamp of approval from NEASC ratifies the Academy’s prestige. In addition, he believes that the accreditation process urges the Academy to consider any flaws in administration and conceptualize advancements.

“While PEA has a reputation for excellence and a long history of distinction, we can always get better. It is a positive process, and Exeter can benefit from going through it,” Bergofsky said. “This process forces each school to take a hard and long look at what they are doing as compared to their mission statement. With the help of an outside committee of observers, goals are established for the next ten years.”

Ten years ago, the Academy focused on improving residential life and diversifying the Exeter community. Bergofsky

feels that although the school still grapples with issues of diversity and inclusion, it has come a long way since 2007.

“There is still progress to be made before every student feels safe and included on campus, but we have become a much more diverse community in both the student body and faculty over the past few years,” he said.

This year, Bergofsky will bequeath his role to Physics Instructor Scott Saltman, who will represent the Academy during NEASC deliberation beginning this October.

Saltman emphasized that although faculty will plan and draft all amendments for the accreditation process, other perspectives from the Exeter community will be acknowledged in their resolutions. During strategic planning sessions, the faculty references past and ongoing research conducted on students, alumni and parents to reach more informed, representative conclusions.

“This [re-accreditation] is a process that involves the whole school,” Saltman said. “So we [faculty] are collecting data from surveys, and also using data that we’ve collected over the past several years as part of strategic planning, because that really informs what we’re doing as a school.”

Saltman also said that even though

the Academy seeks NEASC reaccreditation once every decade, the school continually works to better the Exeter experience. For example, in the last school year, the Academy focused on creating a space that better accommodates the theater and dance programs.

According to Saltman, it is too early in the accreditation process for him to foretell any upcoming institutional amendments. “We have a lot of planning going on, we’re looking at the timing of the process, laying out what sorts of committees will meet, and when, in order to accomplish that,” he said.

However, the faculty recently outlined an abridged version of Exeter’s mission statement, which will be a blueprint for any changes in the coming year—a half of reflection and reform. The mission statement expresses Exeter’s dedication to uniting knowledge and goodness.

“As long as they [the faculty] keep their commitment to our school’s mission of knowledge and goodness, I think our school can only improve through this accreditation process,” said upper Lizzie Madamidola. “I’m excited to see what changes come to fruition by the time those NEASC members visit during our senior spring. It will be nice to see our school’s progress and what it holds for future Exonians.”



# ExonianNews



Lackey (front, 2nd from left), Okeremi (back, 4th from left), Potter (not pictured) and Faliero (back, 3rd from right) competed in the US Rowing Youth Regional Challenge Regatta.

Courtesy of Sophie Faliero

## Four Exonians Row on National Stage in Florida

By MAKINROLA ORAFIDIYA  
and ALAN XIE  
Staff Writers

Senior Dara Okeremi and uppers Sophie Faliero, Maddy Potter and Ashleigh Lackey competed in the US Rowing Youth Regional Challenge Regatta in Sarasota, Florida last Saturday, September 23.

The US Rowing Youth Regional Challenge was put together by the World Rowing Championships and the US Rowing U-19 National team. Exeter crew coach Sally Morris explained what the race entails, saying, "This year, the US Rowing Organization was excited that [the World Rowing Championship] was in the US. We are trying to build up our junior rowers so they might make the national team one day," which is why this race is exclusively held for high schoolers. "It's twenty-four people from each region—so that's two quads and two eights—and then they compete against each other and see which region is superior," Potter said. Faliero further explained, "There are six regions and they

are taking two boats from every region to go race. So, Ashleigh, Dara, Maddy, and I were lucky enough to make it."

Faliero explained the process for selection to participate in the regatta. "The application was just based on your times and you could have submitted a video for technique so it's really just how well you row," she said. Lackey, however, visited Saratoga, NY for a practice with potential members of the girls' rowing team. "It seemed as though they were having trouble balancing one side [of the boat] and they have to take into account which side [a girl] rows for," she said. Potter also attended the practice in Saratoga, NY and thought that it helped her, "get [her]self back into the quad mindset," for the upcoming race.

Morris was excited that her athletes would be able to have such a unique experience. "I think it was a wonderful opportunity for them to grow by seeing the Olympic national team people in person," said Morris. "Just to see how fit you need to be to make the national team and to see them practicing and rowing." Morris also strongly believed in the athletes'

potential to reach this level of rowing. "I hope they will see the beautiful rowing and maybe be inspired to keep going," said Morris. "Some of the people who are going have the right body shape to keep rowing later on." Most importantly, Morris was proud of her athletes representing the "New England athletic experience," and bringing back "a lot more energy and ideas to share with the team."

At the race, the Exeter girls were placed into separate boats, and rowed with other girls in New England. Both boats with Exeter girls placed third, and afterwards, they got to see Olympic level rowers race against each other. Lackey and Faliero were both astounded by the level of skill shown in the rowers. "I just had to watch it over and over again because it looked like they were rowing in slow motion but they were going so far with each stroke so perfectly, it was insane," said Faliero after recording a part of the race. Lackey agreed, and when describing the technique, her eyes lit up.

The girls highlighted meeting other exceptional athletes as one of the high points of their trip. "I definitely loved

meeting girls from other crew teams, because I've only rowed for Exeter," Lackey said. "I haven't really met that many people outside of Exeter's crew team." Faliero recalled the first time they met the girls on the bus from the airport to the race. "Ashleigh and I were sitting in the back and all the girls in front of us had been rowing their whole lives and knew people in common, and we were just sitting there," said Faliero. "Once I actually met the girls, everyone was actually super nice and so accepting of everyone, it made me feel a lot more comfortable."

The two girls fondly remembered a moment in the opening ceremony where they were sitting next to the Belarus national coach and the Hong Kong men's lightweight double. "The Belarus coach was filming the opening ceremony to commemorate what was happening, and there was a band playing," said the girls, all the while laughing. "We would sing with the songs and sometimes he would turn around and film us singing. Stuff like that made this awesome and unbelievable."

## Alumni, Seniors Discuss Life after Exeter at Dinner

By RAMYANEE MUKHERJEE  
and SARAH RYU  
Staff Writers

Alumni volunteers, including class officers, admissions volunteers and regional volunteers, joined the Class of 2018 for the annual Senior Alumni Dinner last Friday. The dinner began at 6:30 pm and lasted over two hours, kicking off the start of the seniors' final year before graduation.

In addition to recognizing the accomplishments of Exeter's beloved alumni, the dinner provided seniors an opportunity to interact with the alumni volunteers, and learn how they too could contribute to Exeter beyond graduation. In turn, the alumni volunteers saw firsthand how their efforts have helped shape and mold the experiences of students at Exeter. The night was an affirmation of the values of service, generosity, and dedication that the Exeter community has come to symbolize.

Senior Class President Taylor Walsh started the dinner off with a speech emphasizing the importance of class unity. He reminded seniors that they should continue to make a positive impact at Exeter after graduation. Afterwards, Walsh remarked that he enjoyed the enthusiasm between past and present Exonians throughout the night. "I had lots of fun presenting and chatting with alumni," he said. "I look forward to organizing and helping at more of these events in the future."

Ann Lockwood, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, thought the dinner was the result of productive collaboration between all those involved. "We would not be able to put on Exeter Leadership Weekend without the tremendous support of the community and we thank all of our partners across campus who make it possible," she said. Life at Exeter was a frequent topic

of conversation across all tables. Seniors relished the opportunity to hear Exeter stories from a different time while alumni relived their glory days. Senior Megi Topalli noticed how much the traditions at Exeter had persisted through the generations. "I thought it was really awesome that we met these people much older than us, whose Exeter experience was different from ours but also very similar," she said. "They talked in Exeter lingo, saying 'When I was an upper,' and, 'When I got a dicky.'" These traditions helped to connect Exonians of all backgrounds during the dinner, and built bridges between students and alumni, many of whom were meeting for the very first time.

Over the course of the evening, Marty Cannon and Monica Shelton Reusch, both from the class of 1977, were awarded the President's Award. To mark their 40th year as Exeter alumni, Cannon and Reusch created a fundraising campaign titled "Match 77" during the Exeter Fund's spring campaign. The award was given in recognition of their service as volunteers and their dedication to Phillips Exeter Academy by the President of the General Alumni Association.

Sang Hong '86 felt kindred bonds between himself and current Exonians as he talked with current seniors during the dinner. Hong tried to emphasize to the students how Exeter had prepared him for the future in the real world and how to make the most of an Exeter education. "We 'learned how to learn' at Exeter," he said. "Exeter taught us how to step up to challenges and persevere through hardships to achieve our goals. Much of the heart of the Exeter experience—the close bonds forged among students and with faculty, and the striving for excellence in the classroom and on the playing field—has remained steadfast and relevant."



Senior Tricia Moriarty and Dave Bohn '57 discuss Exeter.

Paula Coraspe/The Exonian

The dinner was especially significant for the Hong family, as Sang and his son Andrew, a current senior, got to share the evening together. The intellectual value of an Exeter education revealed itself again this night to the younger Hong. "Expecting casual table talk, I was blown away by the maturity of the dialogue between my teenage friends, my parents and an alumnus we had never met before," he said. "As we connected over the similarities and differences of our Exeter experiences and discussed life after graduating from high school, I couldn't help but notice 'Harkness in action.'"

For alumni Tom Bright '70 and George Tetler '70, this kind of bonding between Exonians across different generations was nothing new, as they had previously witnessed it as class officers last year. The camaraderie they have enjoyed with seniors over the years has kept them coming back. "It's a great event to have the kids here since that wasn't always the case so long ago. We

always look forward to having dinners with the students and it wouldn't be September without coming back here," they said.

The generations of Exonians present spanned several decades, with alumni from as far back as the Class of 1942 present. Senior Class Vice-President Winslow MacDonald hoped that one day he could return to share his experiences with future students, and to continue to keep in touch with his classmates. "It was great to see how connected they remained with their classmates decades later," he said. "I know that the class of 2018 will be equally dedicated, and I hope that we make significant efforts to give back to Exeter in the years to come."

The Senior Alumni Dinner not only served delicious food, but also food for thought for those who will soon graduate from the academy. "It was a good opportunity to gain some perspective on school, our life, and our future," senior Anna Clark said.





# ExeterLife



Senior Isaac Browne's electric engine-powered car basks in the sun on Front Street.

Courtesy of Isaac Browne

## Celebrating the Start of School with Back in Black

By ALAN XIE and  
BELLA ALVAREZ  
Staff Writers

Last Saturday night, rainbow-hued lights flickered above the crowd and loud music blasted out of the speakers in Grainger Auditorium as students enjoyed the first dance of the school year. Hosted by Dunbar Hall, the dance, called Back in Black, gives students the opportunity to wear glow-sticks provided by the dorm and enjoy Oreos, chocolate-covered strawberries, lemonade and other snacks.

Dunbar residents said that they enjoyed preparing for the dance just as much as they enjoyed the event itself. Senior Tricia Moriarty, Dunbar resident and proctor, set up Back in Black with 25 dormmates. They strung black crêpe party streamers in the foyer of the science building, organized the food and drinks and checked to make sure the music system was in place. "Set up is always fun," Moriarty said. "Many hands made light work, and eventually got us back into the dorm sooner to get dressed and ready together."

The dance also featured international DJ Jasmine Solano, who has DJ'd for MTV, Sony, Apple, MoMA and

DKNY and has toured with pop artist Wiz Khalifa. Solano has previously hosted Back in Black, and students were excited for her return.

"I think that we are very fortunate to have her here at Exeter because she is an up-and-coming DJ in the celebrity world," Moriarty said. "She recently DJ'd major events like the X Games and has spreads in People magazine."

Senior Mila DeGuere, also a proctor in Dunbar Hall, thought that Solano was a good DJ for the event. "I liked the DJ!" she said. "Though she cut off a few songs in the middle, I think she did a good job of bringing the crowd up and down with songs that were able to match the mood."

Despite Solano's acclaim, some students felt that the music didn't totally match the mood of the dance. "I really liked the environment but I wasn't a fan of the music this year," said upper Stearns Weil. Senior Molly O'Day agreed. "I didn't like the music the DJ played as much this year. It wasn't always the right song for the vibe of the room," O'Day said. Many students complained that the transitions between songs were often too early or too abrupt, which some felt ruined the flow of the dancing.

One difference between this year's Back in Black dance compared to pre-

vious years' dances was the number of people in attendance. "I thought it was a fun atmosphere although there seemed to be a lot more people than in years past," said O'Day. This may have been because in previous years sports teams would be off campus on the day of the dance. "Compared to years past, I saw a lot of faces from a variety of grades, which was awesome," said Moriarty. "Last year, a few teams were off campus for a portion of the dance, so we missed a good chunk of people. That wasn't the case this year."

This year, Exonians really let loose, and many students noticed the intensity of the dance. "[The students] were shocked by the intensity of dance, and as a returning student, I felt an obvious energy shift," said upper Katie Yang. Moriarty agreed, attributing it to the increase in people at the dance. "The general atmosphere was very positive—it was probably the most people I've seen at Back in Black in my time at Exeter, and everyone seemed to be really enjoying themselves."

However, others found the energy invasive and pushy. "I didn't like the pushing in the middle," said senior Jordan Hillyard. "I didn't think that happened in years past." O'Day also noticed an increase in jostling at the dance, saying, "there seemed to be a lot more peo-

ple than in years past, which led to a lot of shoving and less room for dancing."

Before the dance, many posters could be seen around the school encouraging a message of consent before dancing or "grinding" with someone. Some students believed that not enough of that message made its way onto the dance floor. "I did notice that there was less asking about if someone could dance with another in comparison to last year," upper Elizabeth Yang said. Her sister Katie Yang agreed, saying, "I was surprised with the lack of conversation leading up to the event in comparison to last year." Moriarty talked about the decision made by the proctor team. "We decided that it was OK for there to be consensual grinding at our dance," said Moriarty. "I believe that chaperones respected and supported this decision."

As the dance began, the Dunbar residents could be heard all around campus as they made their way to Grainger Auditorium. Being the first dance of the school year really helps set the tone for our dorm and increase dorm bonding," said Elizabeth Yang. "It is a good opportunity for the new girls to be excited about living in Dunbar and to enjoy how great their family and support group on campus is."

## Weekly Horoscopes

By LAUREN LEATHAM and  
ALEXANDRA VAN DIJKUM  
Columnists

**Aries:** This is the week to speak your mind, Aries. With Mars exiting your third house of communications, it may have been hard for you to talk about ideas that are important to you. Let your hidden gift of gab run wild this week! You will notice that people are interested in your opinions of things.

**Taurus:** Let go a little bit this week, Taurus. The moon is in your sign for the first time in a while and sends waves of relaxation your way. This is not the week to lose sleep stressing over a test or spend five hours cleaning your room. Take a nap instead.

**Gemini:** Uranus is in your fifth house of achievement this week, Gemini, and it is a great time to start making plans for the rest of the term. Whether it is how to succeed in a certain class or how to kick butt in your extracurriculars, creating a detailed plan with what you want to do and how you're going to do it will be extremely helpful in the long run. Fall term won't know what hit it.

**Cancer:** The positioning of the planets in your sign this month gives you a strong tie to nature, Cancer. Take advantage of this strange occurrence and embrace all things in fall. From doing homework outside, to writing about the trees, to exploring New Hampshire fall, do it all!

**Leo:** Love is in the air, Leo! With Venus in your sign this week, you might notice some romantic interests popping up in your life. You never know where you will meet this person, so get out there!

**Virgo:** Keep your mind on the books this week, Virgo. With the mercury retrograde in your sign, it will be harder to focus on tasks at hand and easier to space out. Do not do that; instead, spend extra time on your material, making sure you understand it. Your grades will reflect the extra time you put in.

**Libra:** The sun is in your sign, Libra. This means you should look forward to a fun week full of all sorts of excitement! You'll meet someone new that you will automatically click with. You'll have a busy schedule this week, but it will feel easy, so enjoy this good week, Libra!

**Scorpio:** Buckle up for a tough week, Scorpio. You will come out of this week a different person, but it will all be for the better. Reevaluate the way you organize your time so that you can get into a better rhythm of work and social life. Also take some time to think about what you are interested in and what you want to do with your time at Exeter.

**Sagittarius:** Get outside and smell the roses, Sagittarius. You've been holed up in your room with tunnel vision on your work, which can be good at times, but don't forget the world going on around you. Go out for lunch with friends, or sit out on the lawn. You'll have a better time this week if you spend time outside with others.

**Capricorn:** You have experienced some tough times recently, but now is your time to bounce back. Listen to some music and let loose! Just relax this week because there will come a day where it will feel like there is no time for relaxation. Take advantage while you can!

**Aquarius:** Find your balance, Aquarius. You've been busy lately, so it's high time you add a decent amount of fun into your life. But don't overdo it, Aquarius. While you want to be having fun you also have to stay focused on work so that you continue to succeed in your classes.

**Pisces:** Do one thing that gets you out of your comfort zone this week, Pisces. It's important to always be growing and to do that sometimes you have to try something that scares you a little. Think of something that you've always wanted to do, but held back in doing, then do it!

## Isaac Browne and the Electric Engine

By PAUL JAMES  
Staff Writer

If you walk down Spring Street any given morning, chances are you'll see a blue Jeep parked near the bookstore. A cable dangles from the front grill, running through the grass and plugging into an outdoor wall socket. This is how senior Isaac Browne charges the batteries that power the electric motor he built that brings him to and from school every morning.

Browne told the story of his creation: "My grandmother had an old Jeep, and we decided to make it nice again, so we converted it to an electric Jeep," Browne, with the help of his father, gathered all the necessary parts to make his 1989 Jeep Wrangler run partly on electrical power. Day by day, they assembled the motor, transmission, batteries, wires and motor-controller in a rented garage space. "We installed it by first removing all of the internal combustion engine components—this is called 'de-ICEing,'" Mike Browne, Isaac's father, said. "Then we welded the new motor mounts and fit an adapter plate and coupler to join the motor to the original transmission."

After removing the original gas-guzzling engine, Browne replaced it with two battery boxes and the control board. "Getting everything wired up took a long time, so I think that was the toughest part," he said. The motor's electricity comes from LiFePO4 batteries that total 144 Volts and 100 Ampere hours, which is equivalent to a 100 Horsepower gasoline engine. "I took AP physics, so I

knew a bit about circuits, which helped. We had some plans for how everything would run together," Browne said. Apart from that, however, the father-and-son duo had no prior experience with electrical engineering or electric motors.

"It was a project for my dad and me, and we went to the garage whenever we could, mainly over vacations," Browne said. The project took almost two years to complete, with the Jeep finally finished this past spring. Before he could use it as a practical vehicle, however, Browne made some modifications like adding a rain shield to protect the motor in an effort to make the Jeep roadworthy. Since then, the car has been inspected and given the green light.

Now that he uses it to get to the Academy every day, Browne charges the batteries during classes and when he returns home. The batteries have a range of 40 miles, although, one round trip to and from school is never more than 20 miles. Even without a fast charger, Browne said, "You never really run out of fuel because you can just charge it anywhere. You just plug it into a regular wall socket, and the time during the school day or overnight is enough time to charge the batteries."

Browne is still looking to make some improvements, however. "Our speedometer still works, but the RPM [repeats per minute] meter doesn't, because you need to have something that measures how fast the motor is turning and that would be a bit of a pain. It's a project for another time." For now, the converted electric Jeep provides a cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternative to the cars many other day students drive for their daily commute.

## ArtistSpotlight

## Glamorous Grace

By CHRISTINA XIAO and  
SAMANTHA WEIL

## Staff Writers

Whether she's putting spinach on top of someone's head for a project or painting vibrant Thiebaud-inspired cupcakes onto cardstock for her dorm-mates, senior Grace Huang has always had a passion for creating memorable art. For Huang, art is synonymous with freedom; the time she spends creating are the moments when she has the ability to do whatever she wants. "Art is a really peaceful space for me... where I can just express [my thoughts] in my own way onto a canvas, onto a sheet of paper in any way or form," she said.

Huang's passion for art is nothing new. As a matter of fact, she's been honing her skills for almost her entire life. "I've been doing art for about thirteen or fourteen-ish years, so it's been a while!" she elaborated. "People are always surprised when I say to them that I've been painting for over a decade! They're like, how old are you?" Prep Caroline Huang, corroborated her sister's words, exclaiming, "Grace has been drawing and painting since she was little, maybe five or six years old, so it's been a very long journey for her."

Chair of the Art Department Tara Lewis described Huang's artistic prowess as the result of natural aptitude, years of practice and an unrelenting commitment to each and every piece. Lewis gushed about Huang's dedication to excellence, saying, "She's one of those people that was definitely born with an exceptional gift. I think, but her work ethic is high. She will go to the hardware store, buy plexiglass, get wood, and build a frame. She's not in any way lazy. She's very excited to be around because she raises the bar. I think she sees herself as a work in progress so she's constantly improving, and wants to learn new things all the time."

Indeed, one only has to glance at Huang's diverse portfolio to see the extent to which she has challenged herself as an artist. Huang is comfortable with a large range of mediums, such as oil painting, drawing and photography, to name a few. Huang's roommate and occasional model for some of her work, senior Lauren Maguire, lauded Huang's use of rich colors and creative paintbrush technique. "I like her brushstroke. I like that Grace doesn't cut down on the amount of paint she uses... I like that the colors she uses are bold, and I love the way she mixes them together," Maguire said.

However, Huang's artwork does more than display her brilliant technique. Huang combines her well-developed abilities with strong concepts to create art that not only appears professional, but also delivers a deeper meaning. "That's why I love her work," Lewis explained. "Because it's definitely unique, and conveys a message. Grace taps into important issues, but doesn't sacrifice high standards for skill. You want to bring them together, and she does that. Her ideas are really strong. So content, I guess, sets her apart." Maguire echoed Lewis' sentiments. She said, "It's subtle, but when you look at Grace's artwork, you actually have to look further, instead of just seeing it, and the message being blatant... You actually have to stand there and look for a while, to try to understand what she's trying to get across. I think that's awesome."

Throughout her time at the academy, Huang has been at the forefront of shedding light on pertinent social issues. Lewis remarked on the fact that before the academy even began discussing topics such as sexual assault, Huang had been incorporating allusions to gendered violence in her art. "She made a coat-hanger painting—a coat-hanger pulling up someone's hair. There were references to



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

domestic violence and gender roles," Lewis remembered. Senior Eesha Shah, Huang's friend, roommate and another one of her models, noticed a similar trend, recalling another one of Huang's paintings. "She puts a lot of effort into the concepts, like with the series she did in lower year," Shah said. "She had this idea of beauty standards, but she wanted to portray it in a very unique way, so she painted the portrait of Lauren Maguire."

The portrait, one of Huang's most well-known paintings on campus, is an oil and acrylic painting that depicts a close-up of Maguire's face topped with a wreath of surreal-looking spinach. A print of the stunning painting hangs in the common room of Hoyt Hall, Huang's dorm. Commenting on this piece, Huang said that her goal was "to get people to

look at femininity, feminism and how other people in society perceive women."

Upper Hannah Pak, recently featured in one of Huang's shoots, not only commended Huang's creativity, but also praised Huang's sociable, genuine personality and her inspiring relationship to her pieces. "She's an amazing person. She's an amazing artist, and she just has a way of connecting with people. I was recently in one of her small photo projects and I know that she did so much careful planning around it. She's really dedicated to what she does," Pak said. Lewis' similar concluding remarks about Huang perfectly summarize the qualities that make Huang an exemplary artist: "What I like about Grace is she's very professional and advanced, and she's making art for the right reasons. She's just genuinely passionate."

## BOOK REVIEW: *My (Underground) American Dream*

By JOHANNA MARTINEZ

Staff Writer

In honor of Hispanic Heritage month, I decided to write a review on *My (Underground) American Dream* by Julissa Arce. This book was first published last fall, but it only recently started gaining popularity. It is a memoir about Julissa Arce's childhood, and transition into adulthood as an undocumented immigrant. Considering the lack of Latinx representation in most fields, her story of overcoming incredible hardship to become a Vice President at Goldman Sachs was truly inspiring.

The book begins with the story of Arce's early childhood, in which she was raised by relatives in Mexico while her parents were hard at work in Texas, selling jewelry in trade shows. Later, she was suddenly uprooted, and moved to Texas, where she not only had to adjust to being immersed in American culture, but also to living with her parents, and attending a Catholic school. The book presents the reader with a dichotomy—it's a traditional coming-of-age story, but also a unique insight of Arce's constant fear regarding her legal status. Even as she recalled experiencing typical teenage drama like having a boyfriend, being late to curfew, and going to parties, she also openly discussed her daily struggles as an undocumented immigrant, which she didn't share with anyone for a long time.

As if this was not enough, Julissa also had to deal with familial issues, such as an abusive, alcoholic father, and a mother who suffered a terrible incident while working. This book

opens one's eyes to an all-too-common experience where a young person not only has to worry about school, family life, and legal status, but also faces the pressure to work in order to make ends meet. In college, Arce had to commute each night to sell funnel cakes only to come home to tons of homework after a long shift. Being undocumented meant that she encountered various closed doors when it came to advancing her future. After all, jobs, scholarships, and financial aid were not designed for people like her. Without being able to check the "U.S. Citizen" box on applications, she had to go to great lengths to get a job, even if it put her in a riskier legal situation. Still, Arce persevered, and her hard work and determination enabled her to graduate college, and find a job in a prestigious corporation.

Overall, the book provided a well-rounded look at the life of an undocumented Hispanic woman who, despite all odds, created a successful life for herself. Aside from being riveting, the book is also an intense, powerful story of grit and triumph. Arce had to work harder than most to get to where she is today, and she never forgot her Latinx roots, advocating tirelessly on behalf of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and undocumented families. If there is anything someone should take away from this book, it's this: The word "American" encompasses a wide variety of experiences, and one should always turn a willing ear to marginalized voices.

## SYA IN FRANCE

By PRISCILLA EHRGOOD

Columnist

Hello, again! This week, I wanted to talk about differences I've noticed as a student living in France versus in America. I know that School Year Abroad (SYA) isn't the same as a French high school, and that Exeter is a boarding school, which isn't the case for all schools in America, so I tried to use examples that I thought applied to most high school students in each country while speaking from my own experiences.

### Dinner:

When I'm at Exeter, I like eating dinner at 5 PM. I love early dinner. (However, as my friend likes to remind me, 5 PM is usually a time for an elderly crowd.) In France, dinner is much later and much more important in a daily routine. I now eat dinner with my host family at 8 or 8:30 PM, and it always lasts for over an hour. Part of this comes, I think, from the fact that the French still loosely hold onto courses (so my family has the main dish, salad, cheese and dessert), but it's also seen as an extremely important time to see and interact with members of your family. Mealtimes are social in America, but I've found that in France, they're a much more important daily event. Also, dinner ends the day here. After dinner, my host family clears the table, watches a bit of TV, and goes to bed. I'll usually watch a bit of TV with them and do any leftover homework, but anything I do after dinner feels like tying up loose ends. As I said before, 5 PM is my preferred dinner time, so I thought late din-

ners would be one of the most challenging adjustments I've noticed here. Yet, I've found that a good meal and interesting conversation with people you care about has been a really great way to end the day.

### Clubs

Club are important parts of any American high school. Most schools offer many extracurricular opportunities either run by faculty or run by students with faculty advisors. When preparing for France, I knew that SYA had some clubs like Model United Nations (MUN) and a literary magazine, but I didn't know what to expect beyond that. During the first week, SYA handed out a magazine with lists of cooking classes, art classes, music lessons and sports options. We have the option of joining one or two. I was surprised that the school expected us to find and do extracurriculars in the city, but I knew that the SYA France school was pretty small (only 60 students). Although I miss the American clubs, I've enjoyed my weekly art class, and I like doing something outside of campus with people I don't know.

Those were the two things that have stood out to me the most so far (three weeks in!). Again, if you have any questions about SYA that you'd like to be answered in this column, just email me at my Exeter email, pehrgood@exeter.edu. I hope you enjoyed learning a little more about France!




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FacultySpotlight

# Kristofer Johnson

By JACKY CHO  
and JASMINE LEE  
Staff Writers



Paula Perez-Glassner/The Exonian

If you ever hear whistling on your way to the music building, you're most likely running into the Director of Chorus and Instructor of Music, Kristofer Johnson. Not only is he an amazing vocalist—Johnson is also an extremely dedicated conductor and adviser to the many student groups he is involved in, such as all a capella groups, the culinary association and a boys' dorm, Gould House.

Before he came to Exeter, Johnson grew up in Philadelphia, entranced with music even as a child. After his college years at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Johnson taught mostly at independent schools like Concord Academy and served as an adjunct at Vanderbilt.

Johnson is now having what he describes as the most fun he has ever had in all his teaching career "so far." He attributes his positive experience at Exeter to the students, who are "hungry for all of the intellectual material about music making, but also have this incredible need for... the community of the choirs." According to Johnson, this sense of both community and freedom from their mundane routine of classes is why choir is "such a treat for students, because they are eager to be singing in a way that's really pure." He mentioned that Exonians often reminded him of his own high school memory, so he has "a lot of love and empathy for the Exeter experience."

In his years at Exeter, Johnson has played a pivotal role in the revamping of the choir program. Music Instructor Rohan Smith credited Johnson for "bringing a fresh perspective, with his deep knowledge and superb musicianship" to the music department. Smith described his colleague as "someone who lives his own values in his teaching and through music," by being open to experiences, and to the world. "I find Mr. Johnson to be a person who is very warm and intellectually engaging. I greatly enjoy our conversations about music and life," said Smith.

Senior and concert choir member

Harry Fitzgerald agreed with Smith's description of Johnson, stating that he "loved [Johnson] in concert choir" and thinks he "has an amazing singing voice, is really funny and approachable." Upper Hanna Pak, also a member of concert choir, offered similar praises of Johnson. "He is my favorite music faculty member. He has incredible charisma, and connects really well with all of his students," Pak said. "He sets a very high standard, but he isn't a harsh director. He is a very motivating person, which makes you naturally work hard around him. He is very funny and always says hello to everyone. Seeing him on the path makes my day."

Not only does Smith appreciate Johnson's dedication as a conductor, but also as a "student of music." According to Smith, Johnson is both a true expert in choral singing and a student of musical styles who is fascinated by the history of music as well. Johnson admitted that he takes chamber music groups "as a selfish pleasure... to sing as a player-coach." Johnson described the rehearsals as the chances to discover the best version of himself, and he also mentioned how much he enjoys the opportunity to sing and make music everyday. "That to me is the most pure joy that I have," said Johnson.

When asked what his most memorable experience at Exeter was, Johnson immediately brought up the local and international tours. Regarding the Coachella

trip concert choir went on last spring, Johnson commented that, "not only did we perform in concerts, but we did some service work that is really meaningful." For Johnson, the tours are an opportunity to be with both colleagues and students that take away many of the pressures that they feel on campus. "There are lots of moments of total laughter and connection that you can't have on campus," Johnson said.

During his free time, Johnson loves to play with his three Chinook dogs in the woods, go trail running with his wife, read non-fiction and humour articles, and conduct a choir in Concord alongside which the Exeter concert choir will be performing this March.

Overall, students across campus expressed their appreciation for Johnson's devotion to the choral program and his supportive character. Upper Dylan Yin, the head of PEADS and a member of concert choir, confessed that Johnson's constant smile was what reassured him and made him feel like what he was singing was worth it. "Mr. Johnson will always be there for you, and he is one of those few people who will make you genuinely happy." Senior and concert choir member Emily Green also acclaimed his "extraordinary spirit and kindness," stating that Johnson has "made concert choir one of the best parts of [her] Exeter experience."

# Trendwatch

By MICHAEL BAMAH  
and SHERRY LIM  
Columnists

Hello, Exonians! This week was a wonderful week to bring some summer outfits back. At Exeter, we were glad to see some fashion lovers dressed up in their very best looks. **Maya Kim '18** stunned us with her bold and stylish look. She matched her simple black short sleeve crop top with leopard-print linen A-line pants. She also pulled off a nice pair of black metallic loafers. Her outfit was a 10/10. Black seemed to be a really trendy color this week as **Emily Coombs '18** also looked cute in her black off-the-shoulder floral dress. The white daisies embroidered on her dress really popped against the black. She paired her dress with a pair of black Birkenstock sandals. Her messy updo completed the look as it showed off her elegant pearl earrings. **Ariane Avandi '19** dressed up in a nude polka-dot fit-and-flare dress. The neckline traveled down and evolved into a playful twist, adding some edge to her sweet look. She also wore a cream knitted cardigan, and a pair of brown suede boots, in accordance with her neutral color scheme. **Kathryn McCaughey '18** looked vibrant in a white tanktop and a pair of blue geometric patterned shorts she bought from Ganesh. The white polka-dot ruffles attached to her pants added even more of a summer vibe to her look.

Signing off,  
Sherry and Michael



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

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# Girls' Cross Country Crushes First Races



Claire McGrath strides across the field.

Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

By JOHN BECKERLE  
Staff Writer

Last week, girls' XC traveled to Choate Rosemary Hall for its first race of the season. Coming out of preseason, most of the team was very optimistic about its chances to defend its Interschols' title by the end of the year.

The Choate Invitational gave good reason for this team to have high hopes. Uppers Grace Gray and Ashley Lin finished in the top two spots of the entire race, and the team placed first overall, despite the challenges the course presented that day.

Upper Hanna Pak reaffirmed the ability of this year's runners. "The team did a great job at Choate! It's arguably the hardest

course of the season, and everyone worked really hard in the race to power up the hills and have great finishes," she said.

Senior and co-captain Sara Kopunova expressed pride for the way in which the team competed. "Individually we had some amazing times, especially considering this was the first race of the season," she said. "Additionally, Choate is very hilly, and it was hot that day, so seeing how well we did as a team and as individuals was amazing."

Gray enjoyed every aspect of the race and was happy with the team's performance. "It was so fun to spend the day running, cheering, and overall bonding with the team. It was also great to start our season off on the same course that we'll finish it on at Interschols in a few months,"

she said.

Some members of the team also competed at the Codfish Bowl on Sept. 23 which was a tough race because of the college runners who ran that day.

Lin finished as the fastest PEA runner in 17th place overall while the team collectively finished in 6th place out of 14 teams.

Kopunova added that the runners struggled with the weather conditions. "Generally, the team started off pretty fast and then had problems on the last mile, both because of the heat and humidity and because we had a hard week of training, including three difficult workouts in a row," she said.

"We've had some pretty strong individual races at both the Choate race and at

the Codfish bowl, but I'm excited to keep working together as a team to make sure we all have our best races," Gray said. "I think it's going to be an awesome season if we continue to work together on and off the racecourse."

Pak remains optimistic for the team's season. "We have a chance to really do well this season by training hard and making sure none of us get injured. I'm really looking forward to more great races," she said.

The team will race again on Sept. 30 at Coe-Brown Black Bear. "The first two meets were just experiments, but I think now we know better who is our speed and so we can stay and run with them during meets. We are looking forward to the other seven meets we have," Kopunova said.

# Volleyball Obliterates BB&N 3-0



Senior and co-captain Charlotte Polk spikes the ball. Diana Davidson/The Exonian

By MADISON KANG  
Staff Writer

Exeter's varsity girls' volleyball team added another win to its season record, which now stands at 3-0, in its first home game against Buckingham Browne & Nichols School (BB&N) last Saturday. The girls won all three sets with scores of 25-12, 25-5 and 25-13.

Upper Tara Weil commended lower Carly Kirschi's plays in the first set. "We always count on Carly to play smart. She has exceptional volleyball IQ and a calming presence on the court," Weil said. "During the first set, she would tip the ball over the block, which would always score us points."

According to upper Jenny Yang, the best part of Saturday's game was the strong serves by Weil and co-captain senior Margaret Kraus during the second set, when Big Red prevailed with five times as many points as their opponent. "Margaret and Tara made some amazing serves during that set," Yang remembered. "They didn't have many serving errors, which probably contributed to our easy win."

Weil credited her performance to the unrelenting support of her teammates. "Everybody was super positive and excited about how well we were doing, which propelled us into even more success as the game went on," she said. "Set to set, I could hear my teammates cheering whenever I went up to serve the ball." Because of Exeter's solid lead ahead

of BB&N, Coach Bruce Shang switched the line-up multiple times throughout the game, so that non-starting players had an opportunity to showcase their skills on the court. Prep Brody Faliero felt that including all of Exeter's players in the game heightened the Big Red fans' enthusiasm up in the bleachers.

"It wasn't a difficult game, so everybody got a chance to play, which was really great for our first home game," Faliero said. "The fans cheered all of their friends on with big posters and Snapchat story features. The energy was real."

As the team advances through the season, players continue training to develop technique, receptiveness and competitive spirit. "Shang is trying to make us more competitive. One thing we did wrong last year was giving in at close scores or ties, and let the opposing team get ahead," Yang said.

She went on to describe an exercise where the girls pair up for fast-paced "short court" games. "It's a fun way to get into a more aggressive spirit and get warmed up."

Getting "warmed up" is just what Big Red volleyball is doing as it faces Choate Rosemary Hall this Saturday on the home court.

"For future games, we're going to be as scrappy and aggressive as possible while building strong habits which leads to consistency," said Kraus. "We're going to continue building trust and confidence in our teammates, because a team who plays for each other is unstoppable."

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# ATHLETE OF THE WEEK: JON CHEN THE MUSCLE MAN

If you have been to the Downer Fitness Center, you have undoubtedly noticed the hundred pound dumbbells sitting in the free weight area. Have you ever wondered who on earth lifts those? Senior Jon Chen is likely to be the only person on campus who does. Essentially a resident of the Fitness Center, much of Chen's life consists of fitness and weightlifting.

Following his physician's advice, Chen first began lifting to become strong enough to compensate for a birth defect. However, the senior soon found lifting to be more rewarding as his passion for the rigorous activity developed. Chen explained that weightlifting became a method of "de-stressing" after he arrived at Exeter. "Having excellent athletic facilities open for so many hours in the day is vital in keeping me in good mental condition," he elaborated.

Chen also witnessed improvements in his physical capabilities since he began lifting. The senior explained the benefits of being in shape. "I don't get tired going up the stairs and my joints don't hurt if I go for a run for example," he said.

Furthermore, as a member of the varsity crew team in the spring, Chen cited lifting as beneficial to not only staying in shape during off seasons, but also advancing his abilities as a rower. Chen explained that the strength he gained from lifting allowed him to be a highly valuable member of the team despite being "one of the shortest and lightest on the team."

In addition to his workout regime, Chen points out that there are other, just as important, lifestyle choices he makes to further his fitness goals and stay in shape. "I eat clean every day except Saturday, and then, I eat whatever I want," he explained. For him, that means no dessert during the week. He might slip in the occasional cheat meal but always balances it out the next day, or it was a premeditated sin, the day before. If avoiding everything sweet is not hard enough in itself, Chen also tries to get in at least eight hours of sleep a night, a feat for an Exonian.



Gavin Hickey/The Exonian

Chen found that his athletic lifestyle has caused a physical evolution from prep year. Lifting changed him as an athlete and a person. Lifting is a choice he hopes to keep making for the rest of his life and the mentality he built along with his size will remain a part of him. "It has helped me build discipline and a stronger mindset toward the rest of my life goals and I will be using those virtues whether or not I continue training as an athlete later on in life."

Another aspect of Chen's personality evident in his weightlifting life is his work ethic and diligence. Close friend and former co-head of fitness club senior Meg Bolan says she has never met anyone with the level of dedication Chen has. "He can

be found in the gym every day, putting in his best effort, no matter how much he slept, how much work he has, or any other stressors. Jon's presence in the Fitness Center, and I'm sure in the boat as well, brings inspiration to the consistency and dedication required to continue to make progress," she said.

Upper Matt Kang really gained insight into the senior's commitment to lifting after Chen shared his lifting plans with Kang over the summer. "His physical performance at the gym is an action-packed two hour lift-fest in which he hits every body part with multiple exercises," Kang said.

The physical gains that Chen has made are more than testament to Kang and Bo-

lan's sentiments. The senior's physique is not one that someone is simply born with or one that was built overnight. "With Jon, it's not about not taking shortcuts and putting in the work," Kang said.

Though Chen's physique and intense workouts may strike one as menacing, he is known for his warm and friendly persona. Kang recalled feeling intimidated by Chen when they first met. However, Kang explained that after Chen smiled and introduced himself, the two soon became close friends. "Jon brings a great atmosphere to the gym and has been there to spot me and motivate me inside and outside of the gym," Kang added. "The only thing bigger than his biceps is his heart."

## Football Opens Season with Big Crowd

### Team Falls Short against Worcester 21-33



Exeter's offensive line waits for the snap.

Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

By **BELLA ALVAREZ**  
Staff Writer

After putting up a valiant effort during the first half of the game, and finishing strong during the second half, Big Red varsity football lost to opponents Worcester Academy by a margin of 12 points. Despite the 21-33 loss, the team remains optimistic and confident in its abilities.

Senior Noah Asch, the team's punter and kicker, was proud of his effort and his teammates' efforts during the entirety of the match. "I think the game went a lot better than most people expected. We never gave up and showed a lot of heart," he explained. "Along with that, we showed a lot of improvements at pretty much every position, especially special teams." Asch cited winning extra points as one

of the highlights for him, as he felt they helped to keep Exeter "in the game, especially with Worcester going 1/5 from the charity strip."

Upper Will Stokes, both a wide receiver and a cornerback for the team, acknowledged the opponent's strengths. "I think we played a very good game against a very talented team," he said. Stokes especially commended the defense, describing them as "outstanding." He also praised the offensive line, saying, "[they] did a very good job of moving the ball and finishing drives." In general, Stokes felt as though his teammates stayed focused throughout the whole match, never letting up energy. "We took advantage of momentum and didn't give up when things weren't going our way," he said.

Upper Chinennum Tassie-Amadi named postgraduate Samson Dube's interception and consequential touchdown as one of the

highlights of the game. "We came out strong, especially on defense making some great stops, and with Samson's pick six, we were first on the board. It was a great morale booster," he said. Tassie-Amadi also highlighted senior Abel Ngala's field goal block and ninety plus yard run. "Our wide receivers—Abel and Charlie, are raw," he said. "Our defense in general was on a roll for so many of their drives."

With its eyes set on future games, the team hopes to learn from its mistakes against Worcester and strive towards a great season. "We definitely need to work on mastering the run plays we chose to use so much," Tassie-Amadi said, commenting on what he wants the team to focus on. "We also need to work on passing so [that] those times we do, we capitalize on those opportunities." Stokes excused some of the team's fumbles as natural,

as this was the opening game of the season. "We did a lot of good things, but sometimes we put ourselves in a tough position by making mistakes," he said. "It was the first game and it's normal to make mistakes early on, so I'm sure we'll figure it out."

The players seemed eager to face Choate Rosemary Hall in an away game coming up on Saturday, Sept. 30. "They're one of the best—if not the best—in the league, and going against them will really let us see where our team stands this year, especially when pitted against a team of their caliber," Tassie-Amadi explained. Stokes echoed these sentiments, saying, "They're a very good team and we have a lot to do to prepare for them. I think it will be a good game and we can prove a lot as a team again them."



# Exonian Sports



## Field Hockey on a Roll, Snags 2 Wins



Upper Jane Collins strikes the ball.

Julia Goydan/The Exonian

By SARAH RYU  
Staff Writer

This week has been an exciting one for girls' varsity field hockey, with Exeter adding two wins to its season record. Coming off a tie with Groton School the previous week and a 3-6 loss to Milton Academy, the team will hopefully gain some positive momentum with these two victories. Varsity field hockey played an adrenaline-pumping game against Middlesex on Wednesday, winning by a slim 3-2 into overtime. The players continued their stride with a 4-3 victory against Cushing Academy the following Friday Sept. 22.

Wednesday's game against Middlesex strained the players' abilities, pushing them to perform beyond their previous limitations. Middlesex, which has always been a formidable opponent, did not let up this game either,

keeping the score evenly matched at 2-2 until overtime. Exeter did not let up either, blocking Middlesex from making any additional goals with a solid defense. Defense has been the key component of Big Red field hockey this season, with the team members working together to create a tight barrier against the opposing team.

With the additional pressure of playing an away game, PEA dug deep and concentrated as much as possible to carefully defend the goal.

The final minutes of the game before overtime gripped the attention of the audience as the tension increased as each team tried to make the final game-winning shot. The sophomores and juniors from Exeter showed grit and perseverance as they held off Middlesex's offense. With a penalty shot from senior Johna Vandergraaf, Exeter sealed its victory and wrapped up another thrilling weekday game. Upper and co-captain Hannah Littlewood called Wednesday's game "a great win because Middlesex is an extremely strong team and very tough to beat."

As the sun set and another week came to a close this Friday night, Exeter field hockey took center stage at Friday Night Lights to ensure another victory, this time over Cushing Academy. Perhaps energized by the close victory over Middlesex, Big Red came off the bench strong, immediately pressuring Cushing. PEA gained a quick 4-1 lead over Cushing, dominating for most of the game.

Senior and co-captain Emma Wellington attributes this strong start to the stickhandling of her teammates. "We really worked well together and focused on passing more than dribbling on our own, so we could move the ball around the other team's players really quickly."

The team's emphasis on passing seems to have paid off this game, as Cushing had difficulty mounting a proper defense against Exeter's

dynamic play-style.

By the final period, however, Cushing seemed to have found its rhythm, catching up to Exeter to bring the game to a close 4-3. Unfortunately for Cushing, Exeter kept up the pressure all the way until the end of the game, denying Cushing the final goal needed to bring the game into overtime. The cheering from the stands as Exeter beat Cushing was the loudest it has been this season, and hopefully Big Red can continue to deliver this much excitement throughout the season.

Girls' varsity field hockey will be taking the weekend off from practice, instead focusing on general conditioning. After a well-rested weekend, Exeter plays against Winsor School this Wednesday in an away game and against Deerfield Academy in another away game this Saturday.

## Water Polo Thrashes WNH & Hopkins

By ROSE HOROWITZ  
Staff Writer

The Exeter boys' varsity water polo team extended its winning streak to five games with a victory over Exeter's rival, Phillips Academy Andover on Wednesday, and two wins against the Williston Northampton (WNH) and Hopkins Schools in its matches on Saturday.

Big Red came away with ten goals to Andover's five, and triumphed with a score of twenty-one goals to four against the Williston Northampton School and nineteen goals to seven against the Hopkins School.

The team won their games despite playing all of them on the road. Senior Will Soltas said, "Both of the pools we played in have shallow ends which dramatically change the pace of the game and style of play." However, Exeter did not let the unfamiliar setting impede its skillful play, and continued its winning streak.

The games were successful for Big Red, but it did encounter challenges in the matches. According to upper James Wang, the team's Head Coach, Don Mills, was away for the Saturday games and the practices leading up to them. The team was instead coached by Teaching Intern Avery Reavill. Despite not having its usual

leadership, Reavill guided the team to victory.

The team was also challenged in its Thursday practice. Soltas said, "Everyone was tired and worn out from the game the day before."

He added that the team used this difficult practice to improve their endurance. "It is these kinds of practices that the team just has to grind through. Without them, our success loses its meaning and our team's unrelenting attitude goes down the drain," Soltas said.

Although Big Red has a strong record, they have taken extra care to remain humble and hardworking in their games, even when the team is ahead by a wide margin. Upper

Troy Marrero identified keeping a modest mindset as the team's biggest challenge of the week. He said that the week's games taught him to "never come into any game too confident. There's always a chance of losing."

Lower Andrew Sun echoed Marrero's analysis, saying, "One of the biggest challenges is to not get ahead of ourselves and lose the bigger picture. It is easy to feel powerful when we beat teams by a lot. But we still have to tell ourselves that we have a lot to improve on."

In particular, Sun attributed this lesson to the game against Andover, a team that varsity has not lost to in four years. He said, "We went in pretty confident as we beat them by quite a margin last year." However, he added that the Andover team challenged Big Red. "They put up a good fight, but at the end we still came up on top," Sun said.

The team credits its captains, seniors Jamie Cassidy, Jackson Parel and Taylor Walsh with helping them to win the games. Marrero said, "Our captains bring fire to every game, and are always there to provide advice and support."

The players are counting on this strong leadership to guide them through the rest of their season.

Sun said, "We definitely have a lot more potential this year, as six out of the seven starters are seniors." Sun added that this talented lineup could help Big Red finish the season with a victorious final game. He said, "Hopefully with this team we can finally win the championships."

In the coming week, the team will play against Choate Rosemary Hall on Saturday. Marrero outlined the team's objectives for the matches. He said the goals are to, "Finish the week and the rest of the season undefeated."



Senior Taylor Walsh loads up for a shot.

Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

### Inside This Week's Sports Section

#### Girls' Cross Country



The girls' XC team has competed at Choate and the Codfish Bowl. Read more about the team on B4.

Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

#### Athlete of the Week



Ever wonder who uses the 100-pound dumbbells in the gym? It's senior Jon Chen. Find out who this machine is on B5.

Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

#### Football



The football team kept things close in its home opener against a strong Worcester squad. More on B5.

Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

#### Girls' Volleyball



Girls' volleyball crushed BBN in this past weekend in straight sets. The team remains undefeated. More on B4.

Numi Oyeboke/The Exonian