



The Exonian

First Class Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Mailed from 03833
Permit Number 78

"The Oldest Preparatory School Newspaper in America"

Vol. CXXXIX, Number 17

Thursday, September 7, 2017

Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire



Dunbar Hall Proctors Dara Okeremi, Olivia Lei and Jolina Dimen ready to help new students move in. *By Gavin Hickey/The Exonian*

Election Results Voided, StuCo Board Expanded

By BELLA ALVAREZ and DON ASSAMONGKOL
Staff Writers

After discovering evidence of election fraud and ballot tampering during the Student Council elections this past spring, Academy administrators and Student Council co-advisers Carol Cahalane and Laura Marshall determined that the fraudulent election results would be void.

The Exonian previously reported, based on the original results, that senior Jackson Parrell had been elected president, Senior Tim Han vice president and upper Elizabeth Yang secretary. Since a fair re-vote could not be held, given that last year's seniors had already graduated, all candidates who advanced past the primary stage of the elections were made part of the 2017-18 Executive Board. Currently serving as co-presidents are seniors Menat Bahnasy and Jackson Parrell, with seniors Tim Han, Will Soltas and Michael Bamah as co-vice presidents and uppers Tara Weil, Elizabeth Yang and Michaela Phan as co-secretaries.

In a July 8 email sent to the student body, Cahalane stressed that the decision was made with the fact in mind that "it was important to find an expedient solution to this problem so that the Student Council leadership [could] continue its summer work to address students' needs and interests."

Parrell said that the decision to expand the board had been a collaborative effort. "We had proposed the idea at the end of last year but, of course, the final call was out of the hands of all candidates," he said. "Nonetheless, I am sure that our willingness to work together made the decision a lot easier for our advisers and the administration."

Director of Communications Robin Giampa said in a statement that the faculty learned of potential tampering with election results on May 27 when Parrell brought forward rumors he had heard of ballot tampering. In following with [STUCO, A2](#)

PEA Welcomes New Students on Move-In Day

By MADISON KANG and ASHLEY LIN
Staff Writers

Across campus, new and returning students bustle along the newly paved paths, some waving hello to their friends and teachers and others waving a hasty farewell to their parents before disappearing through the doors of their new homes.

For the first time in Exeter's history, a handful of returning students moved into two newly established all-gender houses, Williams and Kirtland House.

Senior Cameron Speck, a Williams House resident, looks forward to living in a dorm that is gender inclusive.

"I thought it would be cool to be a part of something new at this school, and experience something different," he said. "I'll also be there to keep up the same atmosphere in Will House, and I'm excited to see what happens."

According to Speck, a new visitations policy will be tested in the all-

gendered dorms for the next two weeks. This policy entails full open door visitations for all visitors from 10:45am to 8pm on school nights, and half-closed door visitations on weekends until fifteen minutes before check-in. No check-in with faculty is required when visitors are in the dorm.

"If it ends up working in our dorm, it will spread across all dorms," he said.

The all-gendered dorms have also transformed their bathrooms to include a changing room with each shower. This setup will avoid any discomfort among the dorm residents when using the restroom.

In all residences, dorm proctors helped new students move into their rooms and push carts of luggage across quads. Despite overcast skies and rainfall, seniors maintained their enthusiasm and conviviality in welcoming the new students.

Senior Jo de La Bruyere, a proctor in Langdell Hall, waited on the North Side quad, eager to meet her new dorm-mates. She is looking forward

to having a friendly relationship with new students in her dorm. "I think a good proctor can really make or break the Exeter experience from the very beginning," she said.

Bancroft Hall proctor senior Vivienne Kraus, donning a rain-soaked t-shirt, said although she wished that the weather had been more pleasant, she thought that "the mood was still upbeat and everyone seemed to be excited to be moving into their new homes."

"I love meeting new people and watching the environment of the dorm adjust to having a whole new class of people come in after the seniors' graduation," upper and Dunbar resident Caroline Matule said.

Dorm communities are not the only support system in place for the new students' adjustment process.

Prep Connor Chen, a new member of the boys' cross country team, mentioned that during preseason, his team played a vital role in his inclusion on campus. He described bonding with [MOVE-IN, A2](#)

Campus Sees Renovations Over Summer

By JOHN BECKERLE and ROSE HOROWITZ
Staff Writers

From constructing a modernized field-house to relocating crosswalks, Exeter's Department of Facilities Management used the summer to make significant progress toward the completion of renovations in preparation for the 2017-18 school year.

The Department has revitalized the south of campus with work on the new David and Stacy Goel Center for Theater and Dance, work on the new Field House and an updated entry into Love Gym after removing the iconic ramp entrance. The south campus redevelopment is expected to continue throughout the upcoming school year and summer. The Center for Theater and Dance is scheduled to be ready for use in April of 2018, and the new Field House and parking garage will be completed in late January of 2018. Along with these larger undertakings, the facilities team upgraded the lighting in the Lamont Gallery and made minor changes in Williams and Kirtland Houses to prepare them as all-gender dormitories.

In addition to the eagerly-anticipated revitalized theater and field house, Exonians will encounter a safer campus



Construction sites surround the new entrance to Love Gym. *By Gavin Hickey/The Exonian*

upon their arrival. The Facilities team focused on student, faculty and staff well-being by moving crosswalks. Director of Facilities Management Mark Leighton said, "Students will also notice that the Front Street crosswalks were relocated, which significantly improves pedestrian safety." The new crosswalks will divert students from the Bissell House driveway and the entrance to Easy Street. In addition, the Department installed new and more prominent crosswalk warning lights that will automatically turn on when a pedestrian walks through bollards on either side of the street.

The Facilities team has tried to minimize the effects of the summer construction and lead Exonians toward the renovated infrastructure. Leighton said, "A major focus of our project teams is to

make sure access to Love Gym, athletic fields, and Campus Safety is safe and visible." The department has accomplished this by utilizing both temporary and permanent walkways and signage to guide Exonians away from construction sites and to buildings both old and new.

One of these new buildings, the David and Stacy Goel Center for Theater and Dance, will replace Fisher Theater as Exeter's performing arts hub. The center will measure 63,000 square feet and will be better suited for theatrical productions than Fisher Theater, which was originally constructed to be the school's student center, according to senior Nick Song. Because Fisher Theater was built to be a student center, it has limitations in its role as a theater. According to Song, the building's acoustics are of poor qual-

[RENOVATIONS, A2](#)

Exeter Addresses ALES' Requests

By JOHN BECKERLE and PAUL JAMES
Staff Writers

On the last school day of the 2017 Spring Term, Exeter's Afro-Latinx Exonian Society (ALES) staged a sit-in in Principal Lisa MacFarlane's office demanding that the administration do more to address issues of race at the Exeter. The sit-in followed the online distribution of a video produced by ALES in which students described their experiences with racism on campus. The video was shown at a faculty meeting on the final day of classes, prompting a last-minute, all-school assembly, in which Principal MacFarlane addressed the school but did not refer to or show the video itself.

The sit-in was organized almost immediately after by a group of students who felt that the administration's response was inadequate, given the gravity of the issues raised in the film but not addressed in the assembly.

Sami Atif, Interim Dean of Multicultural Student Affairs and adviser to ALES, said the assembly was held because, "In general, faculty were mostly shocked and appalled; there was a measure of disbelief in the vulgar and blatant displays of racist behavior [shown in the video]. I suspect that a vocal majority were so moved by the film that they felt burdened to address its contents prior to all students departing."

Many students felt that when it came to addressing issues of race, the assembly was too little and too late. ALES Vice President and senior Charlotte Polk said, "The fact that Principal MacFarlane heard these narratives in February and waited to even publicly acknowledge them, if you can even call [that assembly] an acknowledgement, was unacceptable to us. Since she failed to address the issues in assembly, she

[ALES, A2](#)

INSIDE

NEWS

Orientation for new and returning students has an altered schedule that puts emphasis on class camaraderie. [A3](#).

James Lin '18, takes home a top-ten finish and gold medal while representing the U.S. team at the IMO in Brazil. [A3](#).

OPINIONS

Lower Alan Wu reflects on the importance of reading good books. [A5](#).

Mark Blekherman examines modern day slavery in Qatar. [A5](#).

LIFE

Read about Exonians' summer trips. [B1-B3](#).

SPORTS

Read about this year's extended preseason training. [B6](#).

WEB



Visit our website for exclusives. www.thexonian.com



Follow our Instagram. www.instagram.com/thexonian



Like us on Facebook. www.facebook.com/thexonian

Campus Buildings, Crosswalks Renovated for New Year

Continued from **RENOVATIONS, A1**

ity, and the wings on the stage are blocked by beams that require students to crawl to get across.

Despite the theater's shortcomings, Song has fond memories of working in the building. "Everyone who works there, myself included, loves the place," Song said. He added, "For me and a great number of other theater people, Fisher's been a home away from home. It's a home for anyone and everyone." Upper Anna Clark, like Song, felt that the Fisher Theater had become an important part of her Exeter experience. She said, "A part of me will miss Fisher because of the role it's played so far in my time at Exeter; but I think my excitement for the new theater will overwhelm my nostalgia for Fisher."

Along with the Theater Department, the winter track and field and wrestling

teams are also looking forward to a new facility. The old Field House, The Thompson Cage, had a dirt floor that could make the air dusty as the teams practiced in the facility. Senior Chi-Chi Ikepeazu said, "There came a point where one could see the red dust particles in the sunlight; breathing in the dust after a hard workout or sneezing into a tissue and seeing the dust was not a comforting feeling." In addition, the running surface was inconsistent, according to Coach Brandon Newbould, and the team has been unable to host home meets for the past five seasons.

The Cage was demolished in spring of 2016, and construction on the new Field House began immediately after. This left many winter teams without a facility for the 2016-17 school year. One of these teams, the winter track and field team, has had to devote practice time to traveling to the University of New Hampshire (UNH)

to be able to conduct full-length practice races, and team members have had to practice outdoors and in the fitness center.

However, athletes and coaches alike think that once the construction for the new Field House is finished, it will be worth the time without a facility. The new Field House will feature a wrestling room and an indoor track. Newbould said, "The kids I work with have big goals and want to get the work in, so they can focus on that now instead of compromising their safety trying to get in hard training sessions in the snow."

Ikepeazu is looking forward to using the new Field House because it will afford the entire track and field team the opportunity to practice in one space. "For example, as a thrower, I won't have to worry about hitting a stray distance runner with a 4 kg metal ball," she said. Ikepeazu added that she expects team

members to have increased enthusiasm when the whole group trains together. She said, "I've always found that when I can see my teammates training hard, no matter what event they do, it pushes me to do the same."

Coach Hilary Coder expressed similar hopes for the building's impact. "The building will allow us to become a team again, through sharing successes and challenges in person, in real time, as a unit," she said. Coder added that having an updated facility will help attract strong athletes to Exeter. "This facility will allow us to provide a level of programming that we have never been able to offer before," she said. Coder anticipates that the effect of this building will reach beyond the Exonians who practice and compete in it. Coder said, "This building will likely impact nearly every student and adult on campus."

Bahnasy, Parell Named Co-Presidents Following Election Fraud

Continued from **STU.CO, A1**

standard procedures. Giampa said that she could not comment on "specific disciplinary actions involving our students," especially since most happen to be minors. "We can confirm, however, that neither Jackson nor Menat was involved in, nor had any knowledge of, the fraudulent balloting when it occurred; we have no evidence that the tampering was racially or gender motivated," she added.

In a June 8 *Seacoast Online* article that reported on the election, Bahnasy commented on the possible motives behind the tampering. "It's so hard for me to say it was about race and gender, but it's so hard for me to say it wasn't. With a lot of external influences like the bigger U.S. election and the atmosphere when it comes to race and gender due to this new presidential administration, it doesn't really surprise me that it might play a role in something like this." In that same article, Parell did not speculate about the motives behind the tampering, but did say that he was "disappointed and frustrated with what happened," and also called for "a new and fair selection process."

While deciding what this new se-

lection process would look like, Cahalane and Marshall considered an online re-vote. However, they did not feel as though there would be a fair way to accomplish this. "We were not confident that we could reach all voters during the summer months, we could not guarantee an unbiased and/or non-pressured voting environment, and we did not have a means to provide a system that provided confidentiality and anonymity," they said.

Cahalane and Marshall described their decision to have co-positions as being guided by the "spirit" of the Student Council Constitution. As the situation had no precedent, they had to weigh their options and ultimately chose one that, to them, felt fair to all those involved. "We determined that it would be best, for this one year, to invite all of the candidates who were selected by student body through the primary election process on April 18 to be members of the Executive Board," they explained.

Yang said that she received multiple messages that detailed the "job descriptions" of each post. "There were some emails about how things would be run with eight people, and everyone said that the presidents would still have the same

jobs and the same [would be true] for everyone else," she said. "The roles for each position will now be split among the respective candidates." Yang articulated her worries during the phone call with Cahalane and Marshall about the number of candidates holding each position. "I voiced the concern that maybe there would be too many ideas on the table to focus on a certain course of action—too many cooks in the kitchen, so to speak," she said. "However, I think it was the best solution given all that happened and I think there's a lot of potential on the new board."

Han, describing the situation as "tragic and messy," felt as though some actions by members of the administration were too harsh. "It is an incredibly disappointing situation overall for all involved," he said. "Although the tampering was obviously wrong on many levels, I am not sure that all of the individuals involved deserved the extreme punishments they received."

Bahnasy felt that more positions will improve Student Council. "I think more minds and perspectives put together is going to make things really productive," she said. "They've also found that, for

example, traditionally underrepresented groups are more encouraged to run [when there are more positions] which I think is awesome."

Bahnasy also said she disliked the idea of a revote. "Everybody that was running put a lot of work in their campaign throughout the spring term. I felt that starting the year on that note [with a revote] might be a little chaotic," she said. "It's important to have the seniors of 2017 vote since they've been here longer and know what needs to happen in order to make Exeter a greater place, which couldn't happen since they already left."

Parell looks forward to working on the new board, despite the challenge of meeting every member's goals. "Yes, we have many different campaign promises, and yes, there will be challenges to overcome. But I believe the variety of opinions that comes with an expanded Exec Board will make StuCo more effective and more far-reaching than it has ever been before," he said. "At Exeter, we believe that the best ideas are forged at a table of twelve—and though the Exec Board may not be there quite yet, I think that together we can help StuCo become the force of positive change that it is meant to be."

Palmer Joins Administration

By SHIVANI TRIPATHI and SAMANTHA WEIL
Staff Writers

Christina Palmer will replace Tina Sciochetti and Jane Stapleton as Exeter's Director of Student Well-being, a position created last year following a series of sexual misconduct revelations in the Exeter community. According to the school, she will be responsible for developing a vision "to support and sustain a culture of care and concern for the student well-being in the community." One of her many roles is to "enhance training and education" of students and faculty on "the prevention of sexual discrimination, sexual harassment and sexual violence."

The appointment was the culmination of a nationwide search that the administration carried out with the goal of hiring someone to carry on the work done by Tina Sciochetti and Jane Stapleton during the 2016-17 school year. Sciochetti and Stapleton worked closely to spread awareness surrounding sexual assault prevention last year, while also helping to handle the legal side of sexual misconduct at Exeter. Principal Lisa MacFarlane said

that Stapleton and Sciochetti's tenures "allowed us to design the position based on what we learned with them." Guidance counselor Christopher Thurber added that "Ms. Palmer's position replaces the dual role that was temporarily played by Ms. Stapleton and Ms. Sciochetti."

Palmer will bring a breadth of experience in pivotal domains to the job. Her past work has dealt with "social and emotional learning, restorative justice, cultural competency, gender identity, mental health, civil rights compliance and risk management." "I have spent over 20 years in education in student supportive services, always ensuring student's well-being," Palmer said. Her most recent job was as the director of guidance and clinical services in the Brookline public school district in Massachusetts which consists of nine different schools. During time in that position, Palmer attended to the needs of 7,700 students.

According to MacFarlane, Palmer's work at the academy will serve three main goals. The first is to start putting into place prevention programming that focuses on the ideas of healthy relationships and clear communication.

PALMER, A6

New Students Move into Dorms

Continued from **MOVE-IN, A1**

his teammates during and after practice.

"Each runner is very fast but also kind. We push each other," he said. "When we weren't hitting the trails, we'd play games on the quad, watch movies, and eat meals together at D-Hall."

Prep Graham Guité appreciated the Main Street proctors' involvement and hospitality on move-in day. "They were super nice and ready to help with advice or an extra pair of hands," he said. "It's awesome that the dorm is such a friendly community from day one."

As for the coming school year, Guité looks forward to joining clubs and teams and "meeting all [his] classmates and learning about their diverse perspectives and backgrounds."

Guité's older brother, upper Jean Paul, said his favorite part of coming back to Exeter was reconnecting with his friends after months of separation. Compared to his arrival as a new lower last year, he thought his transition this year was "smoother" because "more friends makes it easier to go out and say hello."

For day students, the excitement of arriving on campus for the new school year is not so much adjusting to a new residence, but rather the homecoming of old and new friends alike.

Senior day student Ellie Locke said she was happy to see the quads full of busy students. "During the summer, it's kind of sad and eerie to see these buildings emptied," she said. "It's good to see everyone back."

Upper day student Ari Iacobucci agreed. "I love seeing new faces and helping them around," she said. "I remember being a confused younger student. I hope that I can be someone to rely on, not just today but for the next two years as an upperclassman."

As students hastened into their new homes, parents made a bittersweet departure. Sylvester West, father of prep Serena West, expressed his excitement for his daughter.

"I'm going to miss her, but after seeing all of her passionate and dedicated peers today, I am confident that this is a wonderful place with lots of opportunity for her to grow over next four years," he said.

Student Body to View ALES Video, Conduct Discussions on Race

Continued from **ALES, A1**

has been in contact with the board about changes she plans to make."

MacFarlane acknowledged that the assembly was not a powerful enough affirmation of the administration's dedication to making change. "Many faculty were, I think, stricken by what they saw in the video, and several spoke passionately about the need to do something in that moment—hence the assembly," she said. "I appreciate ALES's clear and thoughtful feedback, and they were right: that was a mistake. The better thing to do would have been to work purposefully and steadily to change the conditions that led to the stories the students experienced."

Assistant Principal Karen Lassey expressed a similar view. "In hindsight, the most supportive and appropriate action will be to continue to listen to the voices and experiences of our students and respond every day with actions that honor them."

Over the summer, the administration has taken steps to make Exeter more inclusive and equitable. For example, the Racial Literacy Task Force—which has focused on

community, equity and diversity since its creation spring term last year—hired a consultant, Rob-Scott Greene, who, according to Dean of Faculty and head of the task force, Ellen Wolff, was brought on "to work with us on sustained strategic diversity planning." "He has been here for three full days [during the week of Aug. 27], providing an intensive week of mandatory cultural competency training for faculty, administrators and staff," Wolff said. "This training will be ongoing and will include the trustees at their October meeting."

Wolff believes that training in cultural competency should be important to all Exonians—students, staff, administrators and faculty alike. "Cultural competency skills are essential because they allow diverse communities to move from diversity to inclusion, equity and excellence," she said. "Without cultural competency skills we cannot realize the promise of our distinctive pedagogy and our deed of gift."

Additionally, the administration dedicated Club Room B in the Phelps Academy Center to ALES and increased Atif's budget for the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. The administration will also relaunch

its search for a Director of Community, Equity and Diversity, and the ALES video will be shown to the entire community this fall, with discussions among students and faculty to follow.

Atif is appreciative of the progress that has been made so far in meeting ALES's requests. However, he also sees his new role as a member of the principal's staff as an avenue through which he can guide the administration toward further action. "There has been some traction institutionally, but we are in the beginning stages," Atif said.

Lassey sees the cultural competency training as a first step in the administration's larger effort to shoulder the Academy's responsibility to all of its students. "I am excited to put our best efforts and intentional focus into following through on our commitments to all of our students, and especially to those who feel marginalized and experience the impact of oppression," she said.

In her email chain to the ALES Board, MacFarlane emphasized the school's commitment to ALES. "It is our intention to bring the same commitment and energy to issues of diversity, equity and inclusion

this year as we did to issues of sexual misconduct last year. We will be moving from words to action." MacFarlane wrote in a message to the ALES Board during the summer.

A strategic planning document—which has been carefully crafted by faculty members in the last year to centralize the school's focus for the coming years—includes many passages that reaffirm this dedication. At its core, the school values "a diverse, equitable and inclusive community accessible to and supportive of qualified students of all backgrounds" and hopes that "the Exeter experience will nurture globally competent individuals who understand their own culture and identity."

This work is crucial to MacFarlane, and she has expressed hope that the Exeter community as a whole will be a part of the ongoing process. "I cannot be the person I want to be without taking on, with all who want to help, the challenge of ensuring that everyone who comes to Exeter is able to thrive, to feel respected for the fullness of who they are," she said. "No Exonian can truly excel without every Exonian's full inclusion in our school."

James Lin '18 Brings Home Gold at IMO

By JACKY CHO and JARED ZHANG
Staff Writers

The 58th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from July 12-23. The finest young mathematicians from across the globe came together to solve challenging mathematical problems throughout the competition. Senior James Lin, a first time competitor, excelled during this competition, earning an individual sixth place medal and a fourth place team finish as a member of the United States team.

The IMO is an annual mathematics competition for high school students around the world. This year, over 615 contestants from 111 different countries participated.

Lin's competitive math career began in third grade when he participated in the elementary math competition called MOEMS; he received perfect scores. He went on to compete in MathCounts, the nation's premier middle school math competition. In his first attendance, Lin placed 36th at the local level. This taste of competing piqued his interest in math competitions. With newfound passion and vigor, Lin went on to place seventh in the state, and fifth in the country.

The first step toward attending the IMO was taking, along with thousands of other participants, the American Mathematics Competition (AMC) tests. Last school year, Lin achieved a perfect individual and team score at the AMC12, becoming one of only three Exonians to do so that year. He then went on to compete at the USA Math Olympiad (USAMO) which, according to Lin, included more proofs rather than multiple choice or short answer forms. The senior placed within the top twelve scores at the USAMO before being selected to represent the United States at the IMO.

Prior to the competition, Lin had the opportunity to attend a summer program called the Math Olympiad Program (MOP), where he attended classes on a variety of mathematical topics and took practice tests to prepare for the competition. At the summer program, Lin met the members of his team, who were from all over the country, and they spent all of June training together.

Lin admitted that even with his years of experience, the night before the competition was nerve-racking. "I started to get really stressed...I started to feverishly work on some of the problems, despite the strong recommendations from Brian and my teammates not to do so. I really had trouble sleeping that night," Lin said. The next day, his nervousness reappeared when he confronted the third problem on the test, which Lin found particularly difficult. "I didn't get very far with the third and final problem of the day," he said. However, despite his worries, it turned out that the questions given to the students on the first day were challenging for all contestants. Lin recalled that "very few people even solved two problems," and only seven people made any progress on the third question, making it "the hardest problem in the history of the IMO, by far."

Lin's thorough preparation paid off, and he took home his first gold medal from the IMO this summer. "It was a great moment to be able to hold up the American flag for the whole world to see, as I received my gold medal. I had spent years working for this, and winning a gold medal on an international stage was a dream come true for me," Lin said. "I truly felt blessed." Lin said that the experience was "definitely a roller coaster of emotions" for him, and that even though it was a huge honor to represent his country, the "magnitude of it all didn't really hit" until he was already in Rio de Janeiro. Lin went on to thank his teammates, expressing his gratitude for the comfort he received from close friends.

Lin also gave a lot of credit to his mentors at Exeter. Lin said that Math Instructor and former IMO coach Zuming Feng, who he has known since sixth grade when he participated in his IDEA Math program, has been instrumental in his development. Lin also mentioned former IMO gold medalist and MOP instructor Ivan Borsenco, who worked intimately with the Exeter Math Club as another influential mentor.

When Lin first enrolled in Exeter, he was amazed by the number of talented students who excelled at competitions like the AMCs. Lin expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to work with other outstanding math students throughout his time at Exeter. He named Yannick Yao '17 and Alex Sun '17 as two students who he has bonded with through a shared passion for math. "We've really grown together and pushed each to become better, from winning USAJMO together (Junior version of USAMO), to making MOP together three years in a row, to winning USAMO together two years in a row," Lin said.

Overall, Lin found the competition to be a "great experience" for him. What Lin feels that he has truly gained from his time preparing and participating in math competitions is "the ability to problem solve at an elite level, know what it's like to work at something for years and achieve something special, along with making hundreds of friends who I'm likely to meet in the future over and over again."



James Lin '18 represents the U.S. at the International Mathematical Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro.

Orientation Schedule Changed for New School Year

By GRACE CARROLL
and ROSE HOROWITZ
Staff Writers

In a departure from the traditional back-to-back days of classes, students will kick off this year with a new orientation schedule that includes shortened Friday classes, Saturday off and an all-class event on Sunday.

The new schedule focuses on class-wide bonding over commencing coursework. On Friday, every format will meet in 25-minute blocks. On Saturday, each class is required to attend a one-hour meeting to prepare for Sunday's grade-wide activities, such as seniors doing beach clean-up and a fair for lowers.

In the previous years, students would attend half of their classes on Friday and the remainder on Saturday. Each format would be the standard length, 50 minutes, and students would likely receive homework in each subject that they would complete over the weekend.

Senior Louisa Bartkovich found that her first days at Exeter with the old schedule were taxing because of the academic workload she had to balance with pre-season practices and social engagements.

"I found it challenging to adjust back to life at Exeter because having only been given the schedule the day before classes start, I am running around the whole day, and I feel very rushed and stressed out," said Bartkovich.

Senior Meg Bolan, who started Exeter as a new learner, also felt that the focus on academics in her first days at Exeter furthered her apprehension of starting a new school and bonding with students.

"Starting off in full days of classes did little to boost any confidence or bash any nervous butterflies and gave me an excuse not to venture out socially," she said.

In addition, some students felt that the prior schedule's 50-minute formats were an inefficient use of time.

Lower Caroline Fleming felt that the new schedule accounts for the fact that even 50-minute periods are often not fully utilized on the first day of a new term and gives students more time to adjust and relax.

"I think it's much better because the first few classes are usually just name games and introductions so the shorter

periods will cover that," she said. "You get to meet everyone and get settled but still have a relaxing weekend with your friends."

Although many students seemed positive about the new schedule and its potential to help ease the transition to Exeter for new and returning Exonians alike, some expressed reservations due to teachers having less class time and the schedule's rigor. Upper Yaseen Ahmed felt that shorter formats would result in rushed introductions for both students and teachers.

"It may be more difficult for teachers to introduce their classes to the course material and for students to make connections with their classmates," she said.

Lower Natalia Rivera felt that having all academic classes in a short period of time could be overwhelming.

"I'm glad to have Saturday free, but at the same time, cramming all the classes into one day is a lot," she said.

The modified schedule also includes class-wide trips or events that will take place on the first Sunday of the school year. Preps and seniors will be leaving campus from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with ninth-graders heading to a ropes course in Durham, NH and twelfth-graders leaving campus for Rye Harbor State Park. Lowers will attend a fair on the Academy Lawn at 1 p.m., and uppers will head to the Assembly Hall at 11 a.m. to hear author Ed Geryt lead a discussion on his book "Opening the Door to Student Leadership."

Liz Reyes, who will be leading the senior class trip, said the trip will combine community service and a social outing, as students get to experience the Atlantic coast while working with the oceanic conservation group Blue Ocean Society.

"The Academy has had a long standing relationship with the Blue Ocean Society, and ESSO organizes a group of students to do monthly beach cleanups," she said, noting that the Blue Ocean Society is responsible for the removal of 170,000 pounds of trash from local beaches. "We wanted a low stress outdoor activity that would accommodate all our seniors and postgraduates. We wanted it to be an open and informal gathering to give students the opportunity to meet new classmates and say hello to friends."

Reyes also mentioned that the trip

would give seniors and postgraduates an opportunity to explore the New England coastline.

"All seniors should make it to the Atlantic Ocean on the New Hampshire coast before they graduate," she said. "This is their chance to reconnect, help give back to the community in which they've studied and lived, get to know a few new students and have fun."

Although this mandatory class meeting will give seniors time to bond, some returning students felt that the new schedule should allow more free time, especially during the rush of move in week.

Bolan listed the challenges students face at the start of a new school year. "Traveling is exhausting. Moving in is exhausting. Trying out or having two practices a day is exhausting," she said. Bolan added that having a free Sunday, as the old schedule offered, would be beneficial. "Simply one day to reboot, recollect and settle would be well-received," she said.

Along with these minor misgivings about the new orientation schedule, students expressed hope that the updated itinerary would help both new and returning students to become acclimated to Exeter and to bond with their classmates. Bolan felt that a day of class bonding and fun activities would be a better would do a lot to lessen social anxieties of new students.

"These fun and new activities, though they may not be everyone's cup of tea, celebrate the beginning of a new year," she said. "They give new students a chance to see all these other new faces that will be in their classes on their teams and in their clubs and an opportunity to establish some form of familiarity in such an unfamiliar environment."

Reyes believes these all-class activities are vital to reconnecting students with their Exeter community before the academic year is in full swing.

"Exeter is an amazing place filled with students with all different interests and skill sets. Once academics begin everyone becomes so busy trying to get it all done," she said. "I feel that this change will give students a chance to be reminded of the friends that they have made and give them the opportunity to look forward to the new friends they will share an experience with this year."



Domino's®

**Special: Pick 2
for \$5.99 each,
plus tax and delivery.**

Choose from the following:

- medium 2 topping pizza, •sandwich,
- wings, •cheesy bread,
- salads and •marble cookie brownie.

**Order Domino's online at www.dominos.com
for delivery or carryout, and earn
FREE pizza or call 778-7800.**

Any delivery charge is not a tip to your driver.
Please tip your driver for **Awesomeness.**

Calling on India and Pakistan—Trump's Dubious Afghan Policies

Mai Hoang '19
Columnist

When it comes to foreign policy related to Afghanistan, America is faced with a dilemma; should it send in more troops, and risk domestic opposition due to a perceived waste in resources, or should it maintain the current (relatively low) number of troops and eventually withdraw them altogether, despite the prolonged regional presence of the Taliban? After the President's speech on August 21st, it seems like the new administration is going to pursue the former option, in spite of it being contradictory to Trump-the-candidate's campaign remarks. Though he was careful not to mention the exact number of new troops that would be sent and their role in the conflict, military officials have stated that 4,000 is the approximate number of increase.

Though Trump's recent speech does mark a turn from his previous opinion, it does little in outlining concrete strategies different from those already pursued by former administrations. True, Obama did promise to effect an eventual withdrawal of American military presence from Afghanistan. But after the Taliban's resurgence in 2015, however, the former president revised the plan so that by the time he stepped down from office, more

than 8000 troops were still present in Afghanistan. This was in line with America's goal of ensuring that terrorism, a threat to the country's security ever since 9/11, would one day be rooted out. Since Afghanistan has never seen the formation of a strong democratic government after the death of monarchy in 1973, military aid from foreign superpowers has always been needed to both train Afghan forces and supplement their efforts in the fight against terrorist groups. The U.S., to increase its presence in the geopolitical region and counter that of Russia and China, has vested interest in ensuring that Afghanistan remains an ally. Any fractures in U.S.-Afghanistan relations would lead to grave consequences not only in terms of security but the former country's political and economic leverage as well.

Indeed, to fully comprehend the situation in Afghanistan and gestate an appropriate response, it is crucial for Washington to look at it in the context of both alliances and hostilities in South Asia. Demonstrating his grasp of regional politics, President Trump subtly pitched Afghanistan's neighboring states, India and Pakistan, against each other in his call for collaboration in the fight against terrorism. It can almost be said that the one novel feature of the president's speech is his emphasis on India's role as a regional power and America's ally in trade, alongside his faulting of Pakistan

for its alleged support of terrorist groups, including the Taliban. He did not hesitate to bring up the fact that despite receiving aid worth billions of dollars, Pakistan not only did not fulfill its promise of helping the U.S. fight terrorism but provided a safe haven for "terrorist organizations, the Taliban, and other groups that pose a threat to the region and beyond."

Whether this twist in Washington's message would actually bring in positive change remains to be seen. It is likely, however, that mentioning these two archenemies in the same breath would cause more harm than good. For one thing, an increase in India's role in the conflict means that Pakistan would have even more reason to formally or informally endorse insurgent groups within Afghanistan. This nation's worst fear is that Afghanistan shall align with India, so that both states bordering it to the north and south become security threats.

It is in Pakistan's interest, therefore, that Afghanistan remains an unstable country. Already, Pakistani response to the new administration's speech has made it clear that they are not pleased with the U.S.'s current position. "Our message has always been that you can't trust the Americans. Now Mr. Trump is proving that," said one leader of Pakistan's Islamist Party. On the other hand, although it is America's ally, India has little to gain from putting in more effort to fight the Taliban. Already the nation has provided

economic assistance to the government Kabul, sending over money and military equipments like Mi-25 helicopters. If history is any judge, this is the most that she would be willing to do, given the instability of her own armed forces. Getting into America's "good books" is simply not a strong enough incentive.

Further pursuing the strategy of calling for higher involvement from India as well as Pakistan is therefore likely to prove faulty, due to its potential to alienate Pakistan without guaranteeing any increase in India's assistance. A crucial thing to understand about Pakistan is that it is flirting with the U.S. as well as Russia, receiving aid from one while conducting joint naval exercises with the other. Disregarding its paranoia over India and the U.S. might lose Pakistan as an ally forever.

Of course, there are some who opine that given its record of harboring thirteen of sixty U.S.-designated global terrorist groups, this country should be declared a terror state anyway, and subsequently shunned by the Western block. Yet it follows that the U.S. should also be prepared to engage militarily in counter-terrorism operations in Pakistan, including ones that take place far from the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. This would mean that its attention be partially diverted from the main conflict in Afghanistan. In the context of trying to end the country's fifteen-year war, such a scenario does not bode well.

Venezuela: On the Brink of Devastation



OUTSIDE
THE EXETER
BUBBLE

Paul James
Columnist

Over three months of protests in opposition to the Venezuelan president, Nicolás Maduro, coupled with U.S. economic sanctions, crippled the bolivar, only increasing food, medicine and gas shortages. A study by Venezuelan universities found that 75 percent of the population has lost an average of 19 pounds due to the lack of food. 120 people died in the months of violent protests, with more likely to suffer a similar fate at the hands of medicine and vaccine shortages. Some families can't even afford the propane to cook their own food, resorting to open fires or other temporary solutions. The cost of food rose 17 percent in July, while the bolivar fell by half to the dollar at the end of the month, reducing the minimum wage to an equivalent of just \$5.

One of the largest contributing factors

has been the failure of Petróleos de Venezuela, the state oil company and parent company of Citgo. Petróleos reported a massive drop in revenue last year, and the trend seems to have continued. The company now relies mostly on foreign contractors to pump and refine its oil, generating heavy costs for a cash-strapped company and country. The government has responded by paying largely in bolivars and printing more whenever necessary. The 13 percent increase in the country's monetary base in one week sent the bolivar's value plunging and created an endless cycle of debt, the heaviest toll being taken on Venezuelan citizens.

The oil problems will likely only increase as Maduro's politics continue to be condemned by many foreign leaders. The U.S. buys almost of Venezuela's oil but has prohibited the trading of Petróleos stocks and bonds, as well as any new ones issued by the Venezuelan government. Sanctions also targeted highly-placed officials close to Maduro, and U.S. banks are no longer allowed to do business with the government or attached companies. President Trump, responding in his characteristic manner, called Maduro, "a bad leader who

dreams of becoming a dictator."

This time, he's not far off. The protests were sparked by Maduro's plan to give himself new powers and rewrite the country's constitution in his government's favor. On July 30, he voted to install a body of loyalists, the Constituent Assembly, to rewrite the constitution and govern the country for the next two years. The president's power is almost limitless as he

If Maduro continues on his course towards a one-party dictatorship, the protests will likely persist, causing more destruction

attacks members of the opposition and takes away the rights of his citizens. An official White House statement used the word dictatorship, saying, "The Maduro dictatorship continues to deprive the Venezuelan people of food and medicine, imprison the democratically-elected opposition and violently suppress freedom of speech."

Venezuelans tried to speak out against

the new measures in a referendum held by the main opposition parties, in which millions of citizens opposed the president's actions. The government declared the referendum illegal and gave the people a different vote. Citizens go to the polls to vote on the new Constituent Assembly, without the option of rejecting it. Instead, they are allowed to vote for its members, choosing from a list of what *The New York Times* describes as "stalwarts of Mr. Maduro's political movement."

If Maduro continues on his course towards a one-party dictatorship, the protests will likely persist, causing more destruction, claiming more lives and further weakening the country. Volatility in the country's politics and economy won't do their currency any favors, leaving most citizens impoverished, starving and sick. Other countries will continue to condemn Maduro's actions, perhaps strengthening the current sanctions or adding new ones, worsening the plight of the Venezuelan people. In the next two years, the country once envied by its neighbors will continue to degrade unless Maduro and his Constituent Assembly rapidly right their sinking ship.

Approaching Harvey

Andrea So '19
Guest Contributor

Described as a "1000-year flood," Hurricane Harvey recently devastated the Texas coast, 27 trillion gallons of rain fell over Texas and Louisiana, creating floods at historic levels. This Category 4 hurricane caused dangerous explosions at a chemical plant, and FEMA alone is housing over 32,000 displaced people in its shelters. The death toll is at 46, with that number expected to increase, and the estimated loss is a staggering \$75 billion. These numbers are chilling. As people gradually leave hurricane evacuation shelters, they may find that they have lost everything in this unprecedented natural disaster. At this time, we should be figuring out what the best ways are to most effectively aid victims of Hurricane Harvey.

We should not rush to politicize

the natural disaster. The mudslinging has already begun, with people on both sides of the political spectrum criticizing the opposite side or using the disaster to further their own stance. The spotlight also seems invariably to fall on the president's response, whether it was right or wrong, how much money a senator donated, how they should or shouldn't have donated that amount of money. With such an intense focus on politics, we forget who and what we're arguing for. There is a time and a place for political criticism, but there should not be any partisanship in immediate disaster relief. Let us focus on telling the stories of the people affected by the hurricane and finding legitimate ways to help them. These are real people with real lives, not just nameless faces on television screens. Political division will only delay aid for victims.

In an age when terrorist attacks, natural disasters and awful events in general seem to appear in the news daily,

we shouldn't let the familiarity of tragedy numb us from feeling for the victims. A decade after Hurricane Katrina, areas in Louisiana continue to suffer from Katrina-related repercussions such as sinkholes, damaged roads and other infrastructure problems. The consequences of natural disasters as strong as Harvey and Katrina are immense and will take a long time, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars, to repair. We should be approaching relief as a long-term project instead of just donating money and then forgetting about it.

It may be a better idea to donate to trusted local charities rather than bigger ones like the Red Cross, which has been plagued by one scandal after another. After the devastating earthquake in Haiti, approximately \$500 billion were donated to the Red Cross. However, only six permanent homes were built in Haiti with the money, and \$124 million went towards the Red Cross' internal spending. When asked about how

money for Hurricane Sandy was spent, a spokesperson claimed it was a "trade secret." A Red Cross executive also could not respond when asked if a large chunk of the donations went to administrative costs instead of relief. Charities such as the Salvation Army have faced similar accusations. In order to ensure that money is going directly to where it needs to be, we should do our research on the charities that we're giving to. According to houstonpublicmedia.org, reliable charities that are helping victims of Harvey include the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund created by Houston's mayor and the Houston Food Bank.

As we move on with our lives, we need to remember who we're leaving behind. The lives of people will continue to be affected by this event for months and years to come. Let us learn from our past mistakes with aid so that we can be more prepared for the unavoidable and better help the victims. We cannot let this be yet another forgotten disaster.

The Exonian

EMILY PELLICCIA
Editor-in-Chief

ERICA HOGAN
Managing Editor

CLAIRE JUTABHA
Managing Editor

PEDRO REPSOLD DE SANSON
Business Chairman

STUART RUCKER
Chief Digital Editor

Director of Writing
Willia Canfield

New Editors

Jamie Cassidy
Harry Saunders
Sophia Zu

Opinions Editors

Anne Reach
Eleanor Mallett
Jack Stewart

Life Editors

Alice Little
Athena Stenor
Joy Zhang

Photography Editors

Julia Goydan
Gavin Hickey

Sports Editors

Jack Baker
Taylor Walshe

Humor Editors

Cedric Blaise
Emily Green
Billy O'Handley

Directors of Photography

Diana Davidson
Chiara Perotti Correa

Photography Editors

Julia Goydan
Gavin Hickey

Art Editor

Celeste Wu

Senior Reporters

Tim Han

Senior Columnist

Mark Bleckherman

Faculty Advisers

Ellee Dean
Erica Lazure
Alex Myers

Head Copy Editors

Tommy Kim
Jaime Romero

Advertising

Camilla Pelliccia

Subscriptions

Stuart Rucker

Communications

Justin Psaris

Circulation

Weldon Chan

Accounting

Will Soltas

Business Advisor

Allison Battles

The Web Board staff members are listed on [The Exonian's website: www.the-exonian.com](http://www.the-exonian.com).

To subscribe to or advertise on *The Exonian*, contact Pedro Repsold de Sanson at exonianbb@gmail.com or call 603-777-4308. A subscription to the paper costs \$75 off campus and \$125 overseas.

The Exonian welcomes Letters to the Editor sent to the care of exonianletters@gmail.com.

The Exonian reserves the right to print Letters to the Editor in a timely fashion and to edit them for content and clarity.

The Fake Gulf Paradise



WORLD
COMPASS
Mark Blekherman
Senior Columnist

Gulf states transformed their quaint fishing villages into sprawling cosmopolitan metropolises, havens for oil magnates and the nouveau-riche. Foreign investment from energy companies has reinvigorated domestic businesses, with Qatar now ranking first in the world for GDP per capita.

Progress within these Gulf states has come with a heavy price tag, one that Western leaders are reluctant to acknowledge. Falling oil prices have forced Emirati businessmen to abandon un lucrative oil firms and invest in labor-intensive markets. Hoping to take advantage of the demand for cheap labor, low-income individuals have fled from Southeast Asia to the Persian Gulf in search of jobs in the region's many infrastructure projects. Many see the Gulf as a land of opportunity, fraught with booming construction and tourism sectors. Human Rights Watch reported that foreigners account for at least 88.5 percent of UAE residents. The wealthier indigenous Arabs are unwilling to take "blue-collar" jobs and welcome low-skilled immigrants as a way to keep up with the rapidly expanding economy.

These labor migrants are by no means citizens; they are disposable workers, confined to their own "inferior" social caste. Despite making up the majority of the labor force, the foreign

population receives almost no government services and remains isolated from the indigenous Arabs. Under the Kafala system, a migrant's legal status is bound to the employer (kafeel). To enter a country in the Persian Gulf, a worker must obtain explicit written permission in the form of a contract from the kafeel. During the contract period, the migrant laborer cannot leave the country or apply for another job. To ensure complete obedience, the kafeel confiscates the worker's passport and travel documents, making it impossible for migrants to leave the country if they experience abuse in the workplace. A 2012 study by Amnesty International found that 90 percent of workers still did not possess their identification documents, even after a 2009 reform banning the seizure of passports.

Despite recent improvements in labor laws, accountability between the kafeel and government authorities is weak and sometimes non-existent. Kafaeels use the threat of dismissal and deportation to coerce their employees into accepting meager wages and longer hours. Unlike Arab nationals, migrants cannot form trade or labor unions to express their grievances vis-à-vis their employers. If migrant workers choose to report abuse or question their employment contract, the kafaeels respond by lowering wages, deporting the employees, or bribing government officials in their own favor. The kafaeels, rather than government immigration officials, have the right to ban employees from reentering the country.

Governments in the Gulf have turned a blind eye to this modern form of slavery. For them these migrants are nothing more than temporary populations that supply manpower to local corporations. The exploitation of migrant workers has not gone unnoticed by international organizations. FIFA faced enormous backlash from mem-

ber countries after it approved Doha, Qatar as the host city for World Cup 2022. Amnesty International, for example, opposed Qatar's bid amidst fears that construction workers would be underpaid and over-worked.

At the end of the day, it is pointless—and inappropriate—for the United States to pressure Gulf states into changing their immigration laws. The burden rests in the hands of the sending countries, mostly the governments of Southeast Asia and India, to improve their bilateral labor agreements with the Gulf states. Pope Francis explained that "the problem starts in the countries from which migrants are from." Migrants are mesmerized by the false promises of selfish recruitment agencies, which exaggerate prospective incomes and working conditions but downplay the recruitment fees; workers at the Louvre Abu Dhabi spent a year paying off recruitment fees at high interest rates despite promises for immediate compensation. Sending countries must serve as a check to the power of recruitment agencies, blacklisting and banning those that have repeatedly reneged on their contracts.

In an effort to soothe other countries' concerns, Qatar's Emir has clarified labor standards and expressed his willingness to extend healthcare coverage to workers in dangerous jobs. The reality, however, is that only a complete abolishment of the sponsorship system can bring an end to the Gulf's human trafficking problem. Government-issued employment visas, rather than arbitrary contracts with kafaeels, should define an immigrant's legal status in the country. Federal statute, rather than a businessman's personal convenience, should determine who should get deported. Without strict labor standards and equal access to justice, the Gulf's glittering glamor will remain just that—a polished veneer hiding an uglier reality.

The True Value of Exeter

Rachel Won '20
Guest Contributor

With a \$49,800 tuition for boarding students, the cost of Exeter should not be taken lightly. Even when tuition isn't taken into account, many parents argue that Exeter reduces your chances of getting into an Ivy League school, teens shouldn't be sent off to live alone because they lack self-control and boarding school students will grow up snobbish with a false sense of entitlement. So why go through all the trouble of sending your kid to Exeter when the experience doesn't compensate for what you give up? The answer lies in realizing that a childhood education is not one-size-fits-all and that while boarding school may not be the best match for one student, it could be incredibly rewarding for another.

When Exeter students describe why they chose to attend Exeter, one word that is constantly present is "opportunity." The opportunity to meet diverse people from all around the world, the opportunity to learn under distinguished faculty in a concentrated Harkness setting and the opportunity to participate in the myriad of student clubs that Exeter offers are all reasons to attend, and I think that this opportunity is worth the gamble of sending one's child to Exeter.

One of the most prevalent concerns is tuition. However, with Exeter's generosity in financial aid, tuition is easily the most solvable problem. Households earning under \$75,000 per year attend Exeter for free. For these families, financial aid covers nearly all fees, including but not limited to books, supplies, mandatory fees and a stipend toward the purchase of a computer. When need for financial aid is demonstrated, Exeter always accommodates.

Tuition aside, parents worry about their child's experience at Exeter. Personally, I've grown up in an Asian family that values high academic performance. My mother was exuberant when I was accepted to Exeter. But my father was against the idea of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on an education that, from his point of view, wouldn't even be very helpful to me anyway.

When Exeter students describe why they chose to attend Exeter, one word that is constantly present is "opportunity."

He doubted that I would be able to succeed when given so much freedom. But my mother thought that this gradual liberation was a necessary step to prepare me for the real world. Exeter strikes a balance between independence and restriction. Even without parental guidance, students at Exeter still study diligently because the competitive climate encourages students to do so. Exeter isn't a school devoid of authority figures, so students are still influenced by the rules and guidelines that restrict them, such as check-in times, visitation policies and so on.

My dad also claimed that even if I worked hard and got good grades, it would still be a lot harder for me to get into an Ivy or equally prestigious college. Because colleges don't want to accept a large number of people from the same school, I would be in a much more competitive pool of applicants at Exeter than if I were to apply from, say, my local high school. And this is definitely a valid argument. If I had continued at my local high school back in New York, I am fairly certain that I would be getting straight As and consistently be at the top of my class. I am, however, also fairly certain that I wouldn't be learning as much as I am learning here at Exeter. I made the choice to apply to Exeter because I felt that the sacrifice of good grades for a better education was a prudent choice. If I had somehow made it into a prestigious college from my local high school, I would have been much less prepared without the intellectual stimulation I have received at Exeter.

Lastly, there is a stigma surrounding boarding schools—and especially top boarding schools like Exeter—that they are for the elite and upper class. This is an antiquated stereotype. Exeter is extremely diverse, welcomes people from all racial, socioeconomic and religious backgrounds and does not shy away from political discussion. Certainly our administration isn't perfect; however, I think it is a great privilege that we as students have a voice and that our administration addresses our concerns when brought up. The open community within Exeter and the respectful discourse among its members is one of its greatest assets, and condemning the school for being elitist only displays ignorance.

Much of the hesitation to attend boarding school arises from misunderstanding and misinformation. Having a mother who is delighted and a father who is dismayed about my attending Exeter, I've had to reflect a lot over the past year. And I would say that the Exeter experience is worth it. I'd rather be challenged than comfortable, independent than supervised, cultured than confined. So while the independence and academic rigor at Exeter may not suit everyone, it was certainly great for me. I believe that the same will be true for many others.

Want to have your voice heard?

Submit a piece to the Opinions

section of *The Exonian*!

Contact exonian@gmail.com

Send Letters to the Editor to the same address.

The Importance of Reading Good Books

Alan Wu '19
Guest Contributor

I must confess that I read far less than I actually should. Not far less than an awfully shocking confession to make, especially since it has become an unfortunately well known fact that teenagers are reading less and less for pleasure. It is a conclusion that anyone can derive from personal experience without the assistance of the various dry research studies that have been conducted on the matter. Just look at shopping malls and classrooms. You'd be hard pressed to find ten or more kids investing themselves in a piece of serious literature.

It is very likely that teenagers, mediated by an array of screens, are consuming more words than any generation ever has in the past. But these words are often delivered in scraps and tiny fragments, whether in the form of clickbait headlines, article excerpts, text messages or any of the billion notifications from every app on our phones. Yes, it is true that millions of kids have burrowed into the *Harry Potter* or *Lord of the Rings* books. But then what happens when they hit adolescence? The books start to get larger and denser, and, as a result, too daunting. Of course, these same teenagers are also extremely busy, caught up in a whirlwind of school work, relationships, personal ambitions and other channels of entertainment, from music, television and films to social media. It's as if there is virtually no time to anchor oneself within the pages of a great novel. Except there is, if you actually try. With this predicament in mind, I made it a goal for myself to read at least four to five books over the summer.

Surprisingly, I managed to read eight complete books, far surpassing my original goal. I read a wide variety of different texts, all of which piqued my interests in different ways. The post-modernist poetry of T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land" served as a huge inspiration and guide to writing my own poetry. Noam Chomsky's *Manufacturing Consent* provided profound insight into the subtle propaganda of American mainstream media while the complex, mathematical prose of Thomas Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow* thoroughly confused my poor 16-year-old brain. These are all wonderful and important books that deserve to be discussed in depth. However, one book caught my attention more than

any other: Albert Camus' magnum opus, *The Stranger*. I know, it's a bit of a cliché for a teenager to stumble upon *The Stranger*, or any Camus work for that matter, and have their worldview shattered in drastic ways. But clichés exist because they hold certain inalienable truths, and I'd be damned if *The Stranger* isn't a brilliant and profound novel.

The stranger of the novel is Meursault, a young, indifferent French Algerian man who leads a feckless, doomed and uncaring existence. Beginning with the death of Meursault's mother and ending with his sentencing for the murder of an Arab man, the novel navigates the world entirely through Meursault's detached perspective. He seems to care very little about his mother and doesn't even bother to inquire the details of her death. The day after a passionless funeral, he carries on with his life. He goes swimming, starts a meaningless affair and strolls off to see a comedy film. He interacts with two of his neighbors. One is abusive to their pet dog, the other is abusive towards his romantic partners. But none of this seems to phase Meursault, who remains chillingly objective in his assessment of these events.

A week later, he murders a man. When questioned by the judge about his motives, he can't come up with anything. Meursault doesn't do this to avoid punishment. He legitimately didn't have a clear motivation. Nothing mattered to him until the very end, and even then it was him eagerly awaiting his execution. The themes and outlook of *The Stranger* are highly indicative of the philosophy of the absurd, which Camus played an instrumental role in developing. Having only heard bits and pieces of absurdism in the past, reading *The Stranger* was my formal introduction. I was equally appalled and in agreement with Meursault's detached approach to life. In many ways, I thought Meursault had gotten it all figured out. It was as if he had completely seen through the absurdity and pointlessness of living and had relegated himself to the role of the observer, beyond the desires and concerns of our three-dimensional world. I found this to be appealing. After all, I believed my suffering to be a direct result of caring and feeling too much. If I could just become detached like Meursault, nothing in life could bother me anymore. However, I came to the conclusion that such an endeavor is also meaningless, for I am still human and emotional detachment

is virtually impossible. And what *The Stranger* ultimately accomplished for me was the realization that the emotional anguish that I treated like a curse eventually turned out to be a blessing. Whenever I write, the depth and intensity of what I feel becomes a gift, a rich source of human experience. As a result, my writing has become more meaningful and my emotional state more stable.

I don't think Camus intended to frame Meursault as some sort of ideal human being. In fact, I believe quite the opposite. Yes, adhering to absurdism does involve the keen understanding of how absurdly pointless and futile our existence is. But the conclusion that one should derive from this perspective should not be one of extreme resignation and indolence. Actually, it should be one of exaltation, a perfect sense of exuberance that life's limited and absurd offerings are reasons to consider it valuable. As much as Camus wrote about a stranger, I also found an unexpected friend, someone who elevated my worldview which continues to inform my approach to life, even if it is in disagreement.

That all being said, should students be forced to read over the summer, especially considering how life-changing a great novel can be? I say no. You can't force teenagers to do anything, really. We'll just bark back with even stronger refusal. Developing a taste and desire for literature has to come naturally to the individual. However, what a teacher may do is provide a channel where kids may develop a sense of literature's overall importance to becoming a three-dimensional being. Great teachers are as important to a student's emotional and moral life as any other spiritual guide is. They should not be sheepish in their conviction in the power of great literature. Creating an interest in reading is as much the teacher's job as it is the student's. High school teachers should try to understand where their students live emotionally by engaging in their naïve existential questions, their adolescent fascination with the darker aspects of the human mind and their fear of becoming a responsible, functioning adult. Great books and writers have confronted these problems for centuries. If the teacher can forge a connection between these two things, so that reading is as much a cathartic experience as it is entertainment, then I believe students will dig into a few hours during the summer to have their lives changed just as I have.

PEA Business Club Competes In FBLA National Tournament

By MAI HOANG and
SHIVANI TRIPATHI
Staff Writers

The Exeter Business Club (EBC) excelled at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) nationals, which took place in Anaheim, California around the end of this past June. Seniors Tim Han and Katie Lee both placed 8th in Public Speaking 2 and Health Care Administration, respectively, while uppers Elizabeth Yang and Katie Yang were finalists in Business Ethics.

In March, members of the club participated in the FBLA state competition, in which a record number of 25 Exonians qualified for the national competition. Out of these 25 Exonians, 15 members traveled to California this summer and found great success.

Lee commented on the consistent record Exeter has had at Nationals. "For the past three years we had two students place in the top 10 nationally. However, this past summer, Exeter performed particularly well, because we had a total of four kids reach the final round in their respective competitions," she said.

The FBLA is a student organization which prepares students for a career in business by organizing workshops as well as competitions such as those attended by EBC. Through participating, Exonians had the chance to challenge themselves in a workforce-simulated competitive environment.

This national competition lasted four days with a variety of programs ranging from business law to computer programming. Some of these events, such as Health Care Administration, consisted of written tests which required students to memorize facts and theories, while others involved improvised speeches. This broad range of activities included both team events and categories that measured individual skills.

Han explained that his event, Public Speaking, was enjoyable because he could incorporate different stories and examples in his speech, since the event was really more of a "free-format." "The public speaking event is just one speaker, one room, the type of speech is different, it could be motivational or informational," he said. Han added that because the event was free-form, it allowed

"individuals to open up." He was also able to practice public speaking skills honed through his experience with Exeter's Debate club and Model United Nations.

The diverse nature of the competition's categories meant that everyone had a different way of getting ready for it. "Public speaking, performance, presentation and objective tests—preparation varies from category to category," said Han. Uppers Elizabeth Yang and Katie Yang, for example, prepared a business ethics presentation together about the ethics of social media screening on job applicants.

Elizabeth Yang noted that there wasn't much preparation needed before nationals, since they only had to make slight adjustments to what they had presented in March. Similarly, Han said that the New Hampshire State competition was a fairly good indicator of success at nationals.

While competing in the competition was itself a noteworthy experience, members who traveled to nationals found that the whole convention was filled with so many more memorable memories. "The best part of the competition wasn't actually the competing itself—the convention had so many workshops, speakers and people from all over the country to meet," Elizabeth Yang said. She recalled that a favorite workshop called "Networking in Action" in which a Klynveld Peat Marwick Goetdler (KPMG) recruiting manager spoke about how to build relationships with other people in order to expand the opportunities for one's career. For Han, it was the experience of networking and seeing students from Exeter as well as other schools in New Hampshire do well that made the event so special.

When Exeter students weren't competing, during their down time, they bonded at pizza restaurants and also visited Disneyland, which was in the vicinity of their hotel in Anaheim. Members explained that the location of the competition also made the experience a lot better, along with the beautiful weather. "FBLA was set in Hilton Anaheim this year and I found that very appealing," upper Weddon Chan said. "The hotel itself was very big, and the layout of the venue allowed competitors to run smoothly and some to be spectated."

New Director of Student Well-Being Christina Palmer Chosen

Continued from PALMER, A2

"This includes building intervention skills for bystanders, ensuring that everyone understands consent and that everyone has support and understanding about healthy relationships in all areas of our lives together," MacFarlane said.

Palmer plans to do just this. "I believe the best way to start is by listening and having conversations with students, student groups and faculty," she said. "It is important to ensure that there is a clear, concise message in the school community about our commitment to understanding and supporting healthy relationships, understanding consent and sexual violence and wanting students to feel and be safe and comfortable."

Palmer's second objective, which deals more specifically with legal issues, is to "assess and manage policies and procedures for reporting, investigation protocol and programs related to student safety and well-being," MacFarlane elaborated on this, saying Palmer has already established "good working relationships" with the Exeter Police Department and HAVEN. "She will work with our General Counsel to make sure we meet our legal reporting obligations to the police and the Department of Children Youth and Families," she added. Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Jeanne Stern added that Palmer will be working with the school attorney, Holly Barcroft, in this aspect of her job, in the event sexual misconduct situations arise on campus.

The third is for Palmer to be the main point of contact for "students, faculty or staff reporting a complaint involving sexual misconduct," all the way through the process of reporting to the proper authority, an "impartial administrative investigation" and more.

MacFarlane is thrilled that Palmer will be joining the Exeter community. "Her approach to student well-being is holistic, thoughtful and student-centered, combining the most current research with best practices in her field," she said. "In a national search, Ms. Palmer's experience, skill and judgment stood out," MacFarlane continued. Stapleton

described Palmer as "very qualified to fulfill the job responsibilities" and feels confident in Palmer's ability to "build upon a strong foundation of response and prevention." President of Trustees Tony Downer echoed Stapleton's sentiment, also expressing his excitement about Palmer in her new role. "Her approach to student well-being is holistic, thoughtful and student-centered, combining the most current research with best practices in her field. There is no doubt that each of us, myself included, will benefit from her enthusiasm and wisdom."

As it is early in her role, Palmer is listening and learning and will "continue what has already begun." Right now, Palmer employs what she describes as a "multi-tiered approach," one similar to the goal described by Thurber. Tier one is to educate, something that the Academy has already started to work on, through concrete steps such as campus wide training on consent and healthy relationships. Tier two is the process that will support the victim and the community if an incident takes place. Finally, Tier three is the support for student and alumni victims. Palmer emphasized the importance of each tier being "supportive, clear, consistent and collaborative."

Although she wasn't looking for a new job when the Academy contacted her, Palmer felt compelled to apply for the position after becoming familiar with the school and learning why the position was created. "[The application process] was about four months. I approached the process as if I was interviewing the school to see if the position, the place and people were the right fit for me at this time in my career [and] life," she said. "Each interview was informative, sincere and left me wanting more!"

Now that the work of finding Palmer is done, Stern's wish for Palmer is to focus on problems both in the present and the future. "My hope is that the position will be visionary and forward thinking," Stern said. "Although she will be handling current situations that arise, she will also work to create an environment at school that is healthy in all ways."

COLLEGE PREP · COMMUNITY SERVICE · LEADERSHIP · IVY LEAGUE CAMPUS LIFE



THANKSGIVING BREAK AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

For Grades 9-12 · November 19 - 27, 2017*

*Accommodations can be made for those with breaks that take place before/after these dates.

Our Ivy Leader Thanksgiving Week at Dartmouth program takes place for nine days in Hanover, N.H. Students stay at the Hanover Inn, a luxury boutique hotel overlooking the scenic Dartmouth College green. In this program, students have the opportunity to prepare for the SAT, work on college applications, develop leadership skills, and serve the community—all in a beautiful Ivy League college campus setting.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK INCLUDE

- Grade-specific SAT preparation sessions with a pre- and post-program practice test
- College admissions workshops focused on application strategies and essay writing
- Lectures taught by Dartmouth professors
- Community service
- Fine lodging
- A full traditional Thanksgiving meal



PROGRAM COST: \$3,495

- All lodging expenses
- All meals
- All lectures, seminars, and workshops
- SAT study guides and supplementary handouts
- Transportation in and around Hanover, N.H.
- Laundry

LEARN MORE AND APPLY ONLINE AT IVYLEADER.COM



ExonianHumor



How to Tell the Difference between a Real Nazi and a Misunderstood Charlottesville Protester

By **BILLY O'HANDLEY**
Fashion is Her Passion

After the act of domestic terrorism in Virginia this past August, President Trump said in his official statement that "Not all of those people were neo-Nazis, believe me." But how do you tell the difference between an actual Nazi and one of those misunderstood Average Joes that just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time? Here at the Humor page, we have put together a handy ten step guide for distinguishing the difference between a evil neo-Nazi and your friendly, neighborhood white supremacist.

1. Neo-Nazis chant "blood and soil." Your friendly neighborhood white supremacist chants "blood and soil" too, but his heart's just not really into it.
2. He puts more emphasis on the "heritage" when he says, "Heritage, not hate."
3. Nazis use the Nazi salute, but your friendly neighborhood white supremacist just wants to make sure he's not walking into a wall that floats in the air slightly above his head.
4. When he chants, "Jews will not replace us," he's speaking more in the theoretical sense than in the concrete.
5. His swastika tattoo is more of an "ironic statement."
6. The reason he shaved his head was for cancer. He hasn't really picked a side in the whole "Cancer vs. People" battle, but he knew he wanted to shave his head.
7. He chants "white lives matter" but he sometimes switches it up and goes with "all lives matter."
8. He just likes tiki torches.
9. When he shouts, "No son of mine will marry a black woman," there were so many words that he thought about using, but didn't.
10. When he professes his love of Nazi Germany of old, it's just because he's just a generally loving guy.

New School Year Begins, Prep Parents as Smug as Ever

By **EMILY GREEN**
Cool Proctor

With the new school year comes the arrival of beautiful fall leaves, buzzing excitement about seeing friends, and, of course, the brief overrunning of campus by smug, upper-middle-class parents of preps. We at the Exonian went around to talk to some of these favorite customers of Vineyard Vines.

"After all, first comes Exeter, then comes Harvard, right?" one Ray-Ban bespectacled father with salmon trousers and a clean haircut told the *Exonian* staff while simultaneously raising his flute of Rosé.

"Yes! I can't wait for my Muffy to be the school president and the star of the model UN, debate and mock trial teams!" one mother in a vintage Lilly Pulitzer dress replied while reaching into her Longchamp bag to get out her Brooks Brothers keychain.

"It's so thrilling to see all these brilliant kids here, just talking and expressing themselves!" one parent of a boys' lacrosse recruit commented.

It's comforting to know that while the years may change, one thing never will: the ripeness of the dreams of prep parents.

Do you like fake news?
Submit to the Humor Page.
Email exonianhumor@gmail.com.

Exeter Single-Handedly Ends Global Warming by Forcing Senior Class to Clean Up Beach

By **BILLY O'HANDLEY**
Only the Facts

The Exeter community has hit upon a surefire cure-all for global warming: making every Senior spend their first Sunday back at school cleaning up a beach. This decision to forgo a free Sunday this weekend was made by Dean Mischke, who, after deep self-reflection, decided that the first week back was "not hectic enough." "I mean, what else are seniors going to do on their first weekend back? See their friends? Do homework?"

Enjoy one of their last fleeting moments in their rapidly moving youth? I say, let's clean up the beach!"

Jack Baker, a tall person who has been made single after recent developments, had some comments on the matter. "I thought that putting a class wide activity when there's also a student listener retreat the next Sunday would be a bad idea. But after cleaning a beach, I have found an inner peace that cannot be stifled by the fact that I haven't started my homework/college applications. I feel at one with the universe, and I know that global warming is just a thing of the past."

Move aside the, EPA! Stand back, each of the 15 clubs dedicated to environmental protection on this campus! The senior class is here to save the day. And miss the first Sunday of football. Which, let me make clear, is the real reason for this article.

U.S. Government Sends Letter to Exonian Student Council Telling them to Stop Being Dysfunctional

By **BILLY O'HANDLEY**
Taking Stats and Discrete Next Year

After eight people were named to a StuCo board that only had three open spots, the House of Representatives and the Senate put out a joint statement that said that Exeter was giving politics a bad name. "I mean, what on earth are you doing?" the statement read. "We have an almost 0% approval rating, and you're managing to do your job worse than we

are? We literally can't do anything right, but even we managed to fill 100 spots with 100 people, and not with 376."

Presidents Packson Jarell and Benat Men(not even going to try) responded to this by saying "No screw you Jackson! You put out the last press release, and it's my turn now! That's how sharing works!"

To back this statement up, the Vice President, the esteemed Michael WillSolitas Han said "This comment's mine! I'm going to be away in spring term anyway, so let me talk! You two will have it all to yourself in the spring!" I would quote the Secretaries, but as they are in the grade below me, I don't know any of their names.

Trump: "Cancer Vs. People" Battle Has "Bad Folks On Both Sides"

By **BILLY O'HANDLEY**
Senior Political Correspondent

Yesterday, after mass media pressure to condemn the disease cancer, Donald Trump called the media to a press conference to discuss the surprisingly complicated issue. "Cancer is less of a black and white issue than people realize. I think

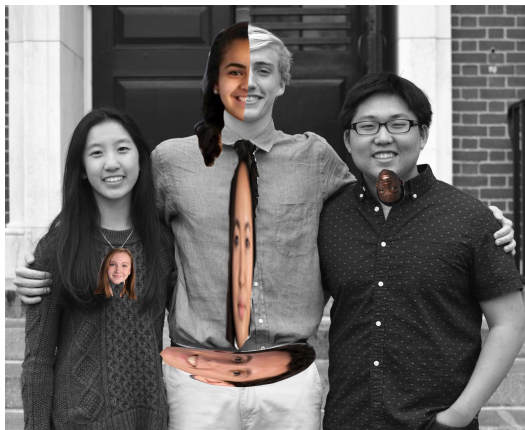
that there are bad folks on both sides; I don't think that you can say that cancer is entirely at fault. I'd like to see definite proof that cancer is harmful before jumping to conclusions."

He proceeded to attack the coun-

ter protesters in the cancer situation: the doctors. "Cancer is just living its happy life, but these AntiHarm protesters like the so called 'doctors' cut it out of people's bodies. They're actively inciting violence on the innocent cancer."

The New (And Improved) StuCo Board!

By **CEDRIC BLAISE**
Harry's Idea



Quote(s) of the Week

"I saw the THICCest bumblebee today."
-Emily Green, '18

"Thin but curvaceous is just a fancy way of saying slim thicc."
-Billy O'Handley, '18

We need friends. Add us on social media. @billyfromcilley, @green_beans or @senorblaise on Snapchat. @ced_blaise and @egreen2000 on Insta. DM us a funny joke or zesty meme. Or just DM us :)

The Gruesome Reality of Qatar

Shivani Tripathi '19
Guest Contributor

When people think of Qatar, the first things that may come to mind are the futuristic skyscrapers, exquisite architecture and elaborate, man-made structures of the gulf nation. Profits from oil, which makes up 85% of export earnings, have enabled the gulf country's wealth to exponentially increase. As a result, Qatar has become a popular tourist destination and a host to world class sights. It has even been selected to host the 2022 FIFA world cup, which will cost 220 billion dollars. After all, can you expect anything less from the world's richest country? To find the answer, one must look deeper than the extravagant image Qatar portrays internationally to the shattering reality of modern slavery. While Qatar's accomplishments are worthy of marveling at, the legal abuse of the hundreds of thousands of migrant workers who enabled all of the above to take place is not.

Qatar is ranked 5th globally for modern day slavery. Number one is North Korea, a dictatorship. Uzbekistan, Cambodia, and India, which are all significantly poorer countries, rank second to fourth respectively. Qatar makes the top five mainly due to the archaic "Kafala system" which has been in place for years until small changes were made in late 2016. Migrant workers account for 90% of Qatar's population of 2.5 million. Up until December of 2016, their lives were completely in the hands of the top ten percent of the population. The Kafala system legally binds a migrant worker to their employer, known as a sponsor. Without the sponsor's permission, the worker cannot legally exit the country and they cannot seek other employment without their sponsor's permission. Furthermore, many sponsors would acquire



Courtesy of Google

their workers' passports and legal documents upon their arrival. While this is illegal, confronting their employers could result in reduction of payment, false accusations and threat of deportation for expat workers. Most migrant workers are poor and uneducated which makes them easy for Qataris to exploit and manipulate.

The International Trades Union Con-

One woman was forced to work seven days a week although she hadn't been paid for months. When she finally escaped, she was arrested by the police and thrown into a deportation center.

ederation has estimated that 1000 migrant workers perish a year while building the soccer stadium for the 2022 FIFA world cup. Workers interviewed for Amnesty's report claimed that they were forced to pay large fees to recruiting agencies only to be held in in-sanitary conditions unfit for human inhabita-

tion, to have their passports confiscated and to have their wages withheld. "Johr" (not his real name), from Ghana, has been subjected to this abuse. "For almost two months now my company has refused to pay our salaries," he said in an interview for BBC. "Our company is killing us because they don't want to give us the little reward we deserve." He revealed that he was forced to work in searing heat, temperatures reaching 50 degrees celsius. However, everyone was too scared to report the company due to the looming threat of deportation. For Johr, an orphan who couldn't finish his secondary school education, the motivation to continue working came from the desperate need for money.

According to Amnesty International, the plight of domestic workers is also shameful. Out of the 52 women Amnesty interviewed, most were forced to give up their passports, work 100 hour weeks and have their freedom of movement restricted. One woman was forced to work seven days a week although she hadn't been paid for months. When she finally escaped, she was arrested by the police and thrown into a deportation center. The worst cases were reported physical and sexual abuse. According to *The Guardian*, activists claim that rape victims

who seek help in the kingdom are in danger of being convicted for "illicit reasons," and their wealthy employers often get away with their crimes.

Qatar has been reluctant to have their human rights abuses leaked. In early 2015, a BBC team was arrested when attempting to document the working conditions of Nepalese migrants building the 2022 FIFA world cup stadium. The reporters were detained and the matter was treated as a breach of national security. However, once the numerous allegations of modern slavery couldn't be ignored anymore, the UN gave Qatar one year to improve its labor conditions in May 2016. Qatar caved into the international pressure and implemented reforms to the Kafala Law in December of 2016. Changes include fining employers who confiscate passports without consent, having indefinite contracts last for a minimum of 5 years before workers can search for new jobs and having definite contracts last for a maximum of 5 years. If an employer doesn't allow a worker to return home, the worker can file an appeal to a committee. Qatar says that the new laws provide workers with greater flexibility; however, Deputy Director for Global Issues at Amnesty James Lynch says that the new laws remove the word 'sponsor', but leave the same system intact as workers still don't have complete freedom of choice. Amnesty has also said that the new law on the confiscation of passports can be abused if workers can request to do so in writing due to the employers' disproportionate level of influence and control over their employees.

"If you want to know what a man's like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals," J.K. Rowling once said. As the wealthiest nation in the world, Qatar has no excuse for the abuse of thousands. If anything, what the rest of the world can take from this is that money isn't a substitute for either morals ethics or compassion.

A Look Back at our President's Wild Summer

Bianca Beck '19
Columnist

This summer, we all got front row seats in watching one debacle unfold after another as the Trump administration stumbled through domestic and international affairs. The list of controversial events is so staggeringly long that one would have to write a novel to cover all of them. Below are a few noteworthy mentions.

Most recently, President Trump pardoned former sheriff of Maricopa County in Arizona, Joe Arpaio. Arpaio has been entangled in legal issues for over the past decade as a result of his blatant racism and his complete disregard for civil rights. Arpaio had Latino prisoners marched away from all the other prisoners to a separate area with electric fencing. He has faced two lawsuits regarding wrongful deaths of prisoners. He shackled women in labor to the beds in prison. The man Trump pardoned is regarded by many as perhaps the worst sheriff in America.

Arpaio was convicted because a federal judge ordered that he and those who worked below him had violated the constitutional rights of Latinos in 2013. As a result, an independent monitor was ordered to oversee the sheriff's office. Then, in 2014, the same judge referred Arpaio for prosecution for criminal contempt because, according to the judge, his order had been mocked and defied. Arpaio then lost his sheriff's seat on November 8 and

was convicted in July. He was expected to appeal but then was pardoned by Trump.

Democrats, both the Arizona Republican senators and even Speaker of the House Paul Ryan condemned the pardon and went so far as to say that the President undermined the rule of law by pardoning Arpaio. To add a cherry on top, Trump himself claimed he intentionally pardoned Arpaio while Hurricane Harvey was devastating Texas because he thought the ratings would be "far higher." Yes, he really said that.

Another controversy followed the President's remarks on the protests in Charlottesville. On August 12, the "Unite the Right" protests led by white supremacists and neo-Nazis clashed with peaceful counter-protests, turned violent and erupted into shoving, racial taunting and brawling. The protests were held as a result of the city's decision to remove a statue of the confederate Robert E. Lee. The

Kelly adds a new element of stability within the White House, which at this point is a very much needed ingredient.

night took a deadly turn when a car smashed into a crowd, killing a woman and injuring 19 others.

In response, Trump said, "we condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry, and violence on

Practically all the cards were thrown up into the air on election night, and ever since Trump's inauguration, everyone seems to be holding their breath, waiting for what happens next.

many sides." Nope. There was hate on just one side. The counter-protests weren't the ones chanting "Jews will not replace us." As a matter of fact, the counter protests were peaceful. Trump later went on to say that there was "blame on both sides," and that there were "some very fine people on both sides." Apparently, neo-Nazis and white supremacists are now good people... who knew? After his remarks, former KKK leader Daniel Duke tweeted thanks to the president, for his "honesty & courage to tell the truth about #Charlottesville & condemn the leftist terrorists." I think it's safe to say that when Daniel Duke is praising anyone at all there's something very wrong going on.

The list of grievances over the summer continues, including Trump tweeting a ban on transgender people in the military before he even told his own staff, threatening North

Korea with nukes, shaming one of his first supporters, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, for doing the right thing, encouraging cops to rough up suspects and begrudgingly signing Russian sanctions after their interference in the 2016 presidential election. But what do all these events say about our future?

What we can say for sure is that our country's future is very unstable. Practically all the cards were thrown up into the air on election night, and ever since Trump's inauguration, everyone seems to be holding their breath, waiting for what happens next. At this point, I think our only hope is the new White House Chief of Staff, John Kelly. Trump respects Kelly a lot, especially for managing immigration policy as Secretary of Homeland Security. Trump tweeted, "John has also done a spectacular job at Homeland Security," and went on to call Kelly a "great American" and a "true star of my Administration."

Kelly adds a new element of stability within the White House, which at this point is a very much needed ingredient. "The kind of discipline that [John Kelly] is going to bring is important," Senator Richard Blumenthal, Democrat of Connecticut, said. "I hope that we're at a turning point now." He has support from both Democrats and Republicans. Hopefully, as Kelly settles into his job as Chief of Staff after replacing Reince Priebus, he can take the bull by the horns—which in this case, is Trump's temper—and somewhat calm him down and talk a little sense into him. And if that doesn't work, then perhaps he could push him in the right direction.

The Ethicality of Stem Cell Research

Shaan Bhandarkar '19
Guest Contributor

Stem cell research has been around for a long time, since 1998. Contemporaneous with the overall movement towards incorporating stem cells into treatments of modern disorders was a major debate regarding the ethics behind stem cells. At the time, to ensure the most accurate stem cell research studies, HES (human embryonic stem cells) cells were solely extracted directly from a human embryo to contribute to such therapeutic trials. Consequently, this extraction has been claimed to be an ethical violation due to the necessary destruction of a human embryo to do so. President Bush even developed a stem cell policy to limit stem cell research to the study of only 70 cell lines, viewed unfavorably by researchers as an attempt to stymie the advance of the field as a whole. President Obama overturned this policy and increased the number of storable cell lines in 2009. This back and forth modifications of the stem cell policy has legislators in a major quandary. However, stem cell researcher Shinya Yamanaka, the recipient of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine, discovered a way to create other types of stem cells called

induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs). Due to this innovation, can we definitively say that the stem cell debate is now unnecessary?

The problem which the Bush administration faced in creating such a policy was clearly on how to create a policy amenable to both stem cell researchers as well as the general moral principles that should govern any scientific study. At the same time, the controversial question of whose rights were being violated due to human embryo destruction was a major impasse. Does an embryo have the claim to any rights? The administration dodged this question by restricting the cell lines permitted to be studied to those that arose from "extras" at fertility clinics. This may have acquiesced to the bioethicists on the matter, but the stem cell researchers refused to tolerate this move until the 2009 revision by President Obama. Despite the murky ethics around their use, stem cells are unequivocally remarkable cells with multiple uses. Stem cell transplants have been instrumental in the treatment of a myriad of diseases from Parkinson's disease to diabetes. The only aspect of stem cell treatments that detracted from these marvelous applications was the acquisition of the necessary stem cells. However, another type of stem cell, called multipotent stem cells, were easily harnessed via the umbilical cord and the bone marrow before the development of iPSCs. These en-

tail a less wide of a range as pluripotent stem cells found in the embryo can account for, but they have been shown to theoretically almost as well. In fact, mesenchymal stem cells, a type of multipotent stem cell, is actually the main stem cell being used to treat a variety of cancers due to its tumor tropic properties. Embryonic stem cells might still be up for debate, but the recent use of other types of stem cells shows the relative futility in harping over a slight upgrade over multipotent stem cells.

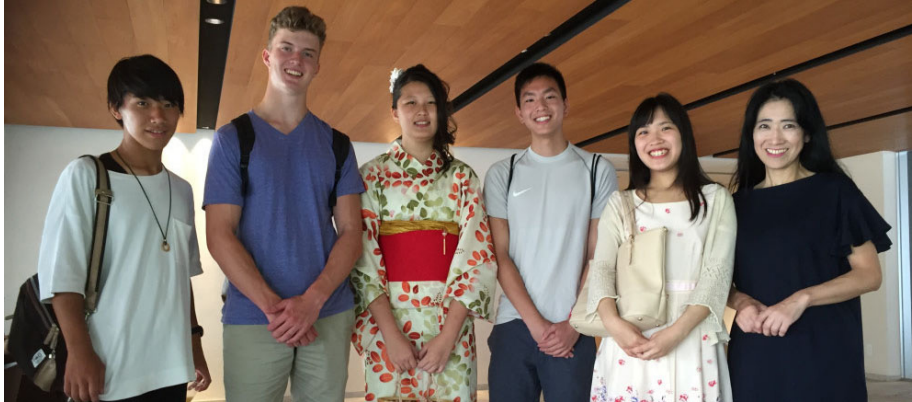
Another point of contention that is misconstrued by bioethicists is the actual efficacy of iPSCs. The discovery of the Yamanaka factors capable of inducing reprogramming any adult cell into a pluripotent stem cell was undeniably laudable. However, the iPSC method of reprogramming has not been made fool proof and there's still a good chance that the reprogramming of an adult cell into a pluripotent stem cell does fail. Even if the researchers would be able to find the correct therapeutic use of their treatment carried by iPSCs, clinical trials for even a successful drug would take, on average, 15 years. The average American employee is employed (across potentially multiple jobs) for around 40-45 years and the entire process would take almost 40% of the time at the very least. However, the time iPSCs take to be reprogrammed is definitely worth it compared to the major backlash human embryonic stem cells. On

top of the ethical baggage, human embryonic stem cells are not as readily available as iPSCs even with the immoral destruction of human embryos. iPSCs can be reprogrammed from almost any adult cell and that versatility is capable of developing life-saving therapies at a much faster rate than we ever could with the use of hES cells.

iPSCs could also change the game in a variety of other controversial subjects of recent biological breakthroughs. The applications of CRISPR/Cas9 can be tested most accurately and safely in these cells. The resulting functional cells can be subsequently transplanted instead of the publicly horrifying conception of germ-line genomic editing. The only cited repercussion behind the prospective use of iPSCs to modify gene expression is the possibility of insertional mutagenesis, the chance that the corrective transcription factors integrate themselves into a more "delicate" part of the genome such as the cancer-linked oncogenes or tumor-suppressor genes, but the vaulted specificity of the CRISPR/Cas9 system generously accounts for that. Despite the amount of effort still needed for refining the process of creating induced pluripotent stem cells, the overall stem cell debate has definitely subsided as a result of the introduction of iPSCs and the effective use of iPSCs in new therapeutics should be able to open new doors in a brighter future for therapeutics.



ExeterLife



Seniors Liam Ludington, Kristy Chang and Gregory Zhu pose with Japanese students.

Courtesy of Gregory Zhu

Exonians Work at Japanese Physics Labs

By ROSE HOROWITZ and GRACE CARROLL
Staff Writers

Along with achieving greater insight into particle physics, senior Gregory Zhu learned that Japanese subways are far cleaner and quieter than their American counterparts on his three-week trip to work in Japan's Riken Lab. The Riken Lab is one of Japan's national laboratories, and its Nishina Center allows Exonians to spend two weeks listening to lectures led by renowned researchers and conducting experiments with the lab's particle accelerator.

Led by Physics Instructor Alison Hobbie and Chemistry Instructor Albert Leger, seniors Liam Ludington, Kristy Chang and Zhu traveled to Tokyo, Japan for the summer internship. Zhu heard about the opportunity through an email sent to students by Eimer Page, Director of Exeter's Global Initiatives. He was motivated to apply for the internship by the promise of visiting Japan, and found himself well-suited to the internship having recently finished the Advanced Placement Physics course at Exeter. He said on the in-

ternship, "I thought it would be a really great opportunity to test out some of my knowledge with real research."

Zhu was awarded this opportunity to conduct research in the second week of the trip, after a preliminary week of lectures. The speakers covered a wide array of topics, speaking on how particle accelerators function and how scientists should present their experimental findings. Zhu said that the lecturers gave students an overview of nuclear physics, and hypothesized that their goal was to make students enthusiastic about science.

One lecturer who piqued Zhu's interest taught his listeners how to present the results of their research. "He talked about how you have to know your audience, whether they're experts or just general people," Zhu said. He plans to use this newfound knowledge both when he returns to Exeter and after finishing school, as he hopes to have a career in the sciences.

These lectures posed a unique challenge for Zhu, as he did not speak Japanese—the language the lectures were conducted in—and struggled to understand the speakers. However, Zhu was still able to benefit from the trip, particularly in the lab, when researchers would

not speak Japanese. "The language of science there is English," he said.

Zhu spent the second week of the trip in the lab, where he conducted experiments with a proton beam to turn graphite into nitrogen in order to measure the probability that a reaction occurs. He found this component of the trip challenging, because he was limited to one week to complete the experiment, and he was not given a significant amount of direction on how to conduct the research and analyze the data he found.

Despite these difficulties, Zhu impressed his instructors with his final presentation on the experiment. Hobbie said, "He gave a fabulous presentation, interesting, engaging and professional." She added that other adults were struck by Zhu's presentation. "There were a number of adults present for the presentations, and a number of them shared with me how impressed they were with his portion of the talk," Hobbie said.

Zhu found his time outside of the lab more difficult than his work inside. He encountered challenges understanding Japanese in his day-to-day life, particularly when ordering food. In the weekend between the first and sec-

ond weeks of the internship, Zhu stayed with a host family that spoke solely Japanese. Ludington, Chang and Zhu all stayed with different families. According to Zhu, the three were immersed in Japanese culture for three days.

This homestay rewarded Zhu with discoveries about Japanese customs. "The food is definitely a lot different; but, also, everyone in Japan is really polite, really aware of their surroundings—the subway is always super clean and quiet," Zhu said.

The visiting seniors learned about Japanese culture by meeting up with Exeter alumni who lived in Japan, from a member of the class of 2009 to a member of the class of 1954. Zhu noted a significant number of alumni living in Tokyo, and during the first week of the internship, the seniors and instructors had dinner every night with alumni who wanted to talk to the visiting Exonians. Hobbie credited these meals as being her favorite moments of the trip, and said about the alumni, "Their perspectives on life and work in Japan were fascinating," Zhu said, "We got to learn a lot about their lives, and they got to learn about the program. It was a lot of fun meeting these people who were connected through Exeter."

SUMMER ARCHEOLOGY TRIP



Courtesy of Virginia Little

By MAI HOANG and JOHN BECKERLE
Staff Writers

Over summer break, many members of the class of 2020 found themselves exploring all across the globe. The Summer Archaeology Program, one of the few global initiatives Exeter organized for rising lowers, provided them with the opportunity to explore Roman history in France. In total, eleven Exonians participated in the program, under the guidance of Instructor of Classical Languages Megan Campbell and Paul Langford. They spent three weeks exploring the cities of Arles, Orange and Lyon.

Lower Virginia Little said that she loved having a chance to connect the language she studied, Latin, with artifacts from Gallo-Roman culture. "I spent most of my time in a place called Glux-en-Glennie, doing archaeology at a nearby ancient Gaulish town called Bibracte," she said. The team excavated the basement of an ancient domus, or house, and found items ranging from ancient roof tiles and bits of amphora to animal teeth. Lower Grace Ferguson, another lower on the trip, said that she learned a lot about archaeology through examining tegula and ancient metalwork.

Students also quickly realized how archaeology requires good teamwork and cooperation. According to lower Nosa Lawani, two teams were formed during the excavation period, named Bucket Squad and Pit Crew. The former's responsibilities included the "tossing and dumping buckets up a human assembly line," while the latter's included cleaning the venue after other

students were done. "To see the pit empty, the floor smooth and the walls clean at the end of excavation was the first time I have ever really felt proud over manual labour," Lawani said.

Before settling down at the excavation site in the small town of Glux-en-Glennie, the group also enjoyed visiting significant historical sites. Ferguson said that her favorite destination in France was the series of amphitheatres, of which the Theatre of Orange was her favorite. "Theatre of Orange's high maintenance level kept up for up to four centuries," she said.

Aside from learning about Roman culture, Exonians also had the chance to experience life in France. For some, the experience of international travel was familiar, but for Little and Ferguson, the Archaeology program this summer was their first time flying outside the United States. "I wasn't really sure what to expect," Grace said, "but it was better than anything I could've imagined." She enjoyed making friends from other countries who shared different cultures.

Meanwhile, Lawani was impressed by the French commitment to exquisite culinary delights, especially pastries. "Croissants were awesome no matter where we went," he recalled.

Little, too, was impressed by French culture. "I learned so much while traveling—not only about school-related topics, but about France in general," she said. "I loved the break from the schoolwork," she continued, "but I'm excited to return to Exeter and bring what I learned on my summer journey back to school."

Trendwatch

Welcome back people,

Sherry and Michael here, your local fashion experts. Entering the new school year, we have the inside scoop on how to stunt and slay in and out of the classroom. But first we'll start with a recap of a few top fashion moments of the summer:

In June, we heard that Sir Tommy Hilfger will be taking his "Tommy Now" tour to London this fall. In another collaboration with supermodel Gigi Hadid, the "Tommy Now" show is set to feature the latest looks from Tommy X Gigi and both men's and women's looks from the Hilfger Collection. Hilfger shared, "My vision for 'Tommy Now' was to create a global platform that could bring our shoes to audiences around the globe like a rock-and-roll world tour." What does this mean? It means glam-rock is about to get ultra chic. So be on the lookout for new trends soon!

The long-awaited New York Fashion Week is also kicking off this Thursday, September 7. This week-long event takes place every February and September, showing international fashion collections to buyers, the press and the general public. This year, however, the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) announced, on August 29, that they've joined forces with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to stand up against racism and hate. "We want to be on the front line, not the sidelines, to boldly fight to protect our precious rights and freedoms, which has taken on a renewed urgency after the heart-wrenching events of Charlottesville," CFDA President and CEO Steven Kolb said in a statement. "Our goal is to actively support concrete work that will move our country meaningfully forward. The ACLU is doing that critical work." Fashion here to end hate, we're all for it.

Now, the moment you preps (and everyone else, including faculty) have been waiting for...

10 WAYS TO SLAY THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

1. Find YOUR style. Some are up for the ties and pastel colors; others are down for the black leather jackets and oversized sweatshirts. Either works. Own yours.
2. Ditch the sweats. ALWAYS try to be your best self. Several studies have proven that, when you try, you almost always succeed. Try to look good, and you will.
3. Less is more.
4. Accessorize!
5. Red is in season, especially red knit sweaters, so try to throw in a red here and there.
6. Wear denim.
7. Wear camo.
8. Wear stripes.
9. Wear vests.
10. Be you! Because everyone else is taken.

Look good, slay and own your outfits this fall term!

Your Trendwatchers,
Sherry and Michael



Julia Goydan/The Exonian

SeniorSpotlight

Ori Evans

By BELLA ALVAREZ and
SAMATHA WEIL
Staff Writers

Unlike most students, three-year senior Ori Evans decided to apply to Exeter because of Steve Jobs. Evans, a successful filmmaker, didn't believe he would ever go to a school other than the high school he was attending until he discovered his admiration for the Apple CEO. "I really wanted to be Steve Jobs, and do what Steve Jobs did. So I started thinking, 'Okay, the high school I'm going to isn't going to get me into the college that I need to get into to do what I want,'" Evans said. "So I looked up, 'What's the best high school in America?' and then I saw boarding school was the best education you can get."

Evans proceeded to apply to the Exeter Summer School, got in and attend the program, where he was thrilled to be surrounded by like-minded students. Evans felt the need to continue this experience, and decided to apply to Exeter during his freshman year. Despite his surprise at his admission to the Academy, Evans fully embraced Exeter's capacity to steer one down an unexpected path. "Coming to Exeter is the best decision I've ever made; it really is. It changed me a lot, and when I got to Exeter I realized that I didn't want to be Steve Jobs in the occupational sense. I wanted to be a filmmaker," he said. His original desire to become a billionaire CEO has fully morphed into an unwavering enthusiasm for filmmaking, something Evans is known for on and off campus.

For Evans, movie making began as a way to mesh his many passions. In the art of acting and filmmaking, he saw the opportunity to adopt all of the personas that interested him. "When it came to films, I wanted to be an actor as well... I also wanted to be a politician because I already had the ability to lead people and get them to listen to me," Evans elaborated. "I wanted to be so many things, [and] I just hit me one day. I came up with the thought that, 'hmm, maybe if I want to be all these things, I can be these things in my movies. I can turn myself into these characters.'"

In order to truly become great at filmmaking, Evans had to dedicate himself completely to learning the craft. He focused on drawing from his own life experiences to create an authentic experience. "You can't tell a story that you don't know," Evans explained. "If you've never been in love, you can't write a love story, and if you've never been shot, you can't write a story about being shot!"

Evans was amazed to see the impact that



Courtesy to Ori Evans

his creations—and art in general—had on people. However, he expressed disappointment in the lack of artistic expression seen at PEA. "Art isn't a big thing at Exeter, sadly, and art isn't a big thing in many places," Evans said. "It's the ultimate thing you can do, because you're creating something." Evans views art as a way to cultivate a meaningful legacy: "You have to leave something here. We're all born knowing we're going to die, so what are you going to do with the time you have?"

Philosophical questions like these play an important role in Evans' work, in addition to topics such as racism and other forms of discrimination. As the creator of the Afro-Latinx Exonian Society (ALES) film of last spring—the video that accompanied the petition ALES made to Principal Lisa MacFarlane to address racial discrimination around campus—Evans was shocked in the process to learn the stories shared in the video. "I was like, 'What the hell? Why do people have to go through this?'" Evans continued, saying, "I guess I'm lucky to have the ability to really connect with everyone, no matter what their race is, and to see from their perspective. And to have the ability to empathize, and to look at things from other people's perspective."

English instructor William Perdomo, Evans' teacher and chaperone on the Spring Break trip to Cuba, identified Evans' love of creating as a precursor to success in the classroom. "I think Ori's pursuit of beauty as

a philosophical endeavor is an inspiring and worthy engagement," Perdomo said. "His pursuit often lends itself to creativity in the classroom, an eclectic approach to imagery and a mode of inquiry that's productive."

Lower Fiona Madrid, a friend of Evans and an actress in one of his films, described Ori as one of her personal inspirations. She said, "I aspire to be as sure of myself as he is. He balances his schoolwork and directing/filming perfectly, and he's still in love with his work. How one can be more than just an Exeter student? Only he knows."

Senior Cameron Najafi, Evans' dorm mate and fellow film producer, characterized Evans' spirit and enthusiasm for films as infectious. "Ori really inspires me," Najafi said. "I see him working late into the night on his films, printing and taping his favorite movie stills to his wall, geeking out about new equipment—he lives and breathes film, and it's great to be by that energy."

Evans and Najafi worked on "Mourning Dove," a film that was entered in Phillips Academy Andover's film festival and was nominated for several awards. The film follows a teenage girl through the early hours of the morning. Lower Beer Dentzer, the actress in "Mourning Dove," admires Evans' talent and passion in the hardest of filming situations. "He is attentive to detail, has masterful command of the camera and an incredible eye for storytelling. Ori is always fun to be with even when shooting in the rain, on an impossible deadline, mid-week,

before the sun is up," she said.

Evans' filmmaking role model is director Christopher Nolan. "Really in all his films, he always twists them—you have 'The Prestige,' 'Memento,' 'The Dark Knight Trilogy,' 'Inception,' 'Dunkirk,'" Evans said. "I'm not even into war movies! But because ['Dunkirk'] had Christopher Nolan's name, I went to go watch it. It was easily one of the best films I've ever seen."

However, Evans' main source of inspiration is activist Malcolm X. "He keeps that fight in me," Evans explained. Evans went on to describe how Malcolm X's philosophy forces him to remain self-aware: "I've gotta remember every day that, when I wake up—as privileged as I am to live the way I live—I am a black man and I have to go about the world in that way, regardless of how creative I am and what I do, whatever I make at the end of the day doesn't matter. Irrationality is my pet peeve—and racism is very irrational."

Another form of discrimination that has captivated Evans' attention is that associated with gender identity and sexual orientation. The research he did last year with the Center for Study of Boys and Girls' Lives (CSBGL) originally sparked Evans' interest in the topics of gender identity. When he returns in the winter, Evans will be living in the newly-created all-gender dorm. "That's going to be a hoot," he said. "It's going to be a really good experience to have—understanding how different people live, and being immersed in that community."

Biology Instructor Michele Chapman, Evans' advisor, praised his role in his former dorm, Knight House. Describing Evans' enthusiasm to interact with his dorm mates, she said, "Ori connected well with other students in the dorm. He incorporated the boys into his films as actors and co-creators." In general, Chapman felt as though her advisee's impact on campus was widespread. "Everyone seems to know him, either from his work with ALES, assemblies he has spoken in, his involvement in sports and as a tour guide and, of course, his films," Chapman said. "We'll miss him around here in the fall while he's away in Japan, but I suspect that this winter we'll see him back out on campus, making an impact."

Despite his many accolades and achievements, Evans remains a humble friend to many, including senior Nick Song. "After all the over-achieving and film festival screenings are over, Ori's still the chill dude willing to kick back and listen to KDot with you," Song said. "It's hard to articulate how lucky we are to have him on campus."

HOROSCOPE

By LAUREN LEATHAM and
ALEXANDRA VAN DIJKUM
Columnists

Aries: Take a deep breath, Aries. With all the excitement of going back to school, things might be a little overwhelming, especially with the planets' retrograde in your sign. Feelings will be amplified, but don't fret! Make sure to take time to process all that's happening. You will be more ready to tackle the year!

Taurus: Exciting things are happening. Taurus! For the first time in a while, your sign is retrograde, changing things up. Expect to feel out of your comfort zone as you make new friends and get adjusted to classes. Embrace it, though, because this next week is very formative for the whole year.

Gemini: This is your year! The sun is moving through your sign and sending good vibes your way. Moving in will be an easy transition for you and classes won't seem like too much of a shock. Enjoy coasting into the first week of school!

Cancer: This is the week to set a strong foundation for yourself. Make sure you get organized in the first couple days. Cancer. With Jupiter in your house of success and home, focus on getting your room clean and decorated and start hitting the books early—you will thank yourself later.

Leo: Your return to campus has everybody's eyes on you, Leo. The moon puts the spotlight on you as it moves through your sign. Take this moment to reconnect with old friends and make new ones—but be aware! Everyone is looking to you for advice.

Virgo: With Mars in your sign of reflection this month, you might revisit your past a lot this week. You should end up with a greater sense of clarity by the end of the week, and use your newfound intentions to propel yourself through the year.

Libra: Look forward to a great year, Libra! If you remember to work hard and stay on top of your classes anything is possible. You'll have a lot of work, but don't forget to have some fun too. Be sure to reconnect with all of your friends and be open to meeting new people. You're off to a great start!

Scorpio: Welcome back to campus! Scorpio, this is your year! Don't hesitate, dive right in. Try something new this year; take a risk with an elective you're not sure about or a new club! This is a year of trial and error for you, and it will be a wild ride, so hold on.

Sagittarius: Be ready to tackle the year! Don't be nervous you will go through this year even easier than you expected. Work hard like you always do and take this year by storm. You will meet a lot of new people, so keep an open mind and get excited for a good year.

Capricorn: Take this moment to relax, Capricorn. You'll have a busy year coming up, but your busy schedule is nothing to worry about. This coming year will be a lot of work, but it will also be a lot of fun! Continue to explore your interests and expand your horizons; there is still much to come.

Aquarius: Once you get settled on campus you will be ready to hit the ground running! Embrace your excitement and get involved in everything you can get your hands on. This year will be full of new opportunities, just be sure to take some time for yourself and not get overwhelmed by the fast paced lifestyle.

Pisces: Take some time for yourself at the start of this year, Pisces. If you take some time to focus on yourself you will be ready for schoolwork and friends when the year picks up. Focus on creating a study plan and organizing your space so that you stay stress free for the rest of the year.

LIFE ADVICE

By MAKINROLA ORAFIDIYA
Staff Writer

Hi, everyone! My name is Makinrola (Mak) Orafidiya, and I am a three-year upper. If you are also a returning student, welcome back! If you are a fresh face on campus, welcome to Exeter! As I'm sure anyone can tell you, this school will expose you to some of the hardest and most thrilling challenges and adventures of your life. If you are nervous or scared, you are not alone. I have some tips to help you new Exonians adjust to this amazing school!

How do I make friends at Exeter?

Everyone on campus is usually super busy with classes, extracurriculars and sports, but the secret is that everyone is also really amiable and happy to make more friends. A lot of students form their best friendships with their dorm mates. When you have some free time, try stopping by a dorm mate's room to say hi or hang out. Another common place where Exonians find friends is on their sports teams or in their PE classes. It's always really nice to have two blocks a day where you get to play a beloved sport and see friends that you might not have classes with. Speaking of classes, they are another great opportunity to get to know someone else. It might be nice to chat with someone before class or grab food with them afterwards.

Some of my classes are major challenges for me. Who can I reach out to for help?

One of the best places on campus to seek academic assistance is the peer tutoring center, located on the third floor of the Academy center. The tutors there are Exonians just like you, have taken many of the classes you're taking and are eager to help anyone who comes in for help. I can personally attest to the great help that peer tutoring has provided to many students. If peer tutoring isn't your cup of tea, I recommend that you schedule a meeting with your teacher to discuss the areas in which

you feel confused. Teachers appreciate when struggling students reach out because it shows maturity. Some teachers might even give you food during your meeting, and that's always a plus.

What are some of the best food spots, on and off campus?

In terms of on-campus food, if you prefer homestyle buffet meals, Wetherell Dining Hall may better fit your culinary needs. If you like more casual buffet meals, you might fare better with the food at Elm Street Dining Hall. Grill is always nice place to pick up a quick snack during breaks.

As for off-campus food, I always love to order from Penang or Szechuan, two Chinese restaurants right in town. If you are up for a little more walking, you might like Las Olas, a Mexican eatery with a Chipotle-like set up. I've also enjoyed a meal at Lobster Boat, an American restaurant near Rite Aid on Portsmouth Avenue. Go to Lexie's for your burger fix and Green Bean for soups, salads and sandwiches. St. Anthony's, Me & Ollie's and D Squared Java are all great coffee shops in town to go to do work or just hang out with friends.

I am sort of homesick, but I don't want people to judge me. What do I do?

First things first, it is totally normal to feel homesick at boarding school, and no Exonian will judge you for feeling that way. In every dorm, there are students selected and trained to be student listeners. You can always talk to them, and the conversations are confidential, so anything you tell them is between the two of you. Student listeners genuinely want to make sure you are well-adjusted to Exeter. Also, I'm sure you won't be the only one of your friends who feels homesick, so talking with your peers about something that many of you are probably going through might help you find a home away from home.



Anthony Antosiewicz
Owner
231 Water Street
Exeter NH 03833
tel 603.778.0910
fax 603.778.1870
Eat in or Take Out
Free Delivery

www.GreenRidesUSA.com

Toll Free 877-642-6001
603-642-6001



E-Mail:
travelgreen@GreenRidesUSA.com
Eco Friendly Rides Anywhere

Syed Pursues Environmentalism in Japan

By DON ASSAMONGKOL
Staff Writer

Upper Malobika Syed breathed a sigh of relief as she sat down around her host's Chabudai—a traditional short-legged dinner table common in many parts of Japan. That afternoon, she had harvested carrots and peeled hundreds of garlic roots. With her back aching and her feet sore, you might imagine that the native New Yorker was ready to hit the sack (literally). In reality, she was so thrilled by the prospect of authentic Japanese cuisine that rest was the farthest thing from her mind. She smiled excitedly when the food was laid out before her.

Summer vacation can be a time for self-exploration. For Syed, that meant going on a trip to Japan to gain new experiences, like meditating in a temple under a monk's supervision and delving deeper into her interest in environmentalism. "Going to Japan has been a long-term dream of mine, and

I did so many new things while I was abroad," Syed said.

Syed traveled to Japan through the Student Diplomacy Corps (SDC), a program that provides summer education scholarships for high school students with the hope of building college readiness and deepening understanding of global issues. As the site says, SDC aims to "unleash the potential and creativity of youth."

Syed was certainly able to do that on her trip, which was aptly named "Sushi Dreams and Sustainability—Food for Thought." Her trip started off with an orientation in Tokyo, where she was immediately thrown into modern Japanese culture. Using some previous knowledge of Japanese, she could navigate the city and practice her language skills at sites such as the shops of Harajuku, Ueno Park and the Tsukiji fish market. She also visited attractions such as the Shibuya Crossing, and a maid café, where waitresses dress as maids and act as servants to customers.

Syed went on to live at a temple for

three days to practice meditation, an experience she found a sharp contrast to her time at Exeter. "I didn't have as many responsibilities, and the only thing I had to be on time for was meditation," Syed said. Along with her group, she would meditate at 5:30 in the morning and once again at 7:00 p.m. "The act of meditating was surprisingly difficult. I had to sit still for thirty minutes, and if the monk caught me fidgeting, he'd beat me on the back with a bat. I remember during our last meditation at the temple, the lower part of my body fell asleep; I had to really focus on my breathing to prevent movement. Although it was hard, meditating did instill a sense of patience in me."

Syed also attended lectures on environmentalism at Tokyo University. She explained how the talks showed her the value of plant-based eating. "At the university, we learned about the resources put into the production of food and ultimately concluded that since meat, especially red meat, needs a lot more water to be produced, it is

more sustainable to eat lower on the food chain," Syed said.

Before traveling to Japan, Syed fueled her desire to learn more about environmentalism through articles, but she felt that she learned more through her hands-on experience working at a farm. "I got to see firsthand how my food got on my plate, from picking crops to actually cooking what I grew, which was very rewarding," she said. "The biggest lesson I learned from the trip was to respect not only my food, but also the work that goes into preparing it."

The final part of the trip's itinerary was a homestay at a modern Japanese household. "My family was so accommodating. They offered me food all the time and took me out to local parks and restaurants," Syed recounted. The trip concluded with a flight back to Los Angeles, from where Syed had originally departed four weeks earlier. For Syed, her time in Japan will always be a highlight of her high school experience.

Summer Quote Box

By JARED ZHANG
Staff Writer

"The highlight of my summer would have to be traveling to Geneva, Ohio, with my swim team. Not exactly your average travel destination, but I worked very hard to qualify and had a great time with my team! Go SOLO Aquatics!"

- Liz Williams '19

"Highlight of the summer was scuba diving in the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. Forty feet down, three foot long clam, beautiful coral..."

- Meili Gupta '20:

"I woke up at five to hike for a total of six hours through the pouring rain to see the Tiger's Nest in Bhutan."

- Sam Michaels '19

"The highlight of my summer was going to Europe for the first time. It was awesome to see the different cultures of European countries."

- Andrew Sun '20

"The highlight of my summer was interning at a nonprofit agency where I managed their social media, networking and marketing."

- Alexa Harris '18

"We knocked. The wood answered."

- Harril Saunders '18

"Troy [Marrero] and I went pirating in the Gulf of Mexico with Captain Damien."

- Harrison Murray '19

"I spent most of my summer in Saigon, Vietnam, organizing a debate tournament; I also hung out with my friends and got fat on fabulous Viet street food."

- Mai Hoang '20

"The highlight of my summer was traveling to California to visit my brother, who was working at a hedge fund. It was really nice to see him for a couple weeks before he left for college again."

- Ashleigh Lackey '19

"I surfed; I beached; I gave surf lessons; I longboarded; I was at the beach everyday until I had to go to bed. I just escaped the pressures of Exeter."

- Wyatt Foster '18

"The highlight of my summer was volunteering to train, cuddle and play with all the dogs at my local animal shelter."

- Wynter Sands '20

"I spent time with my family in Shanghai and hiked huangshan."

- Justin Parisi '19:

"I sat in the closet of a law firm and watched *Law And Order* on YouTube."

- Cedric Blaise '18

"This summer, I worked in the Ghanaian parliament. It was a really cool experience working alongside members of parliament and partaking in different research initiatives that tackled education in Ghana."

- Michael Bamah '18

Movie Review: "Wonder Woman"

By NIKITA THUMMALA
Guest Contributor

Can a woman fight with just as much strength as a man? Yes, and more. When "Wonder Woman" kicked off on June 2, 2017, she showed people all over the world that she was capable of defeating the most powerful of foes—the god of war Ares himself. Starring Gal Gadot and Chris Pine, the DC Comics film follows the backstory of Diana, Princess of the Amazons. With the help of a few men, she defies her mother's rules and steps into the massive conflict raging in the outside world. While doing this, she shatters societal stereotypes about women and becomes a role model to many for her part in the war.

Princess Diana (Gal Gadot) lives on a sheltered island with fierce female warriors known as the Amazons, whose destiny is to defeat Ares. After years of training, Diana soon becomes one of the strongest warriors, but is held back due to her mother's caution. One day, an American pilot named Steve Trevor (Chris Pine) crashes onto the island. He tells the Amazons about World War II, which he had been fighting beyond their little island. Convinced that the war is the work of Ares, Diana flees her home with the pilot and sets off to defeat the god of War.

Upon arriving in London, Diana works with Steve to become accustomed to society and blend in. When they talk to the government, everyone in the meeting room is stunned to see a

woman speaking with them. Even with warnings from both Diana and Steve, the government officials choose not to help or aid the plan they had made. However, Steve takes a small group of his friends and together they set out to fight the war and save many lives.

Feminism is a central thread of the movie. Though the film takes place in the early 1900's, it shows that women's struggles for equality then look quite similar to the continued struggle today. "Wonder Woman" seeks to show that we should all be treated as equals, because we are truly equal. Even with nearly one hundred men in that meeting room, Diana ended up being the one with the boldest and best ideas. Everywhere she went, she faced discrimination due to her gender. However, even with these problems, Diana focused on the conflict at hand throughout the movie and never once let her confidence waver. Even during press conferences, Gal Gadot was faced with hatred from many people of her role in the movie due to her looks. In regards to the protests, Gadot replied, "When people argue that Wonder Woman should 'cover up,' I don't quite get it," she says. "They say, 'If she's smart and strong, she can't also be sexy.' That's not fair. Why can't she be all of the above?" Though the critics persisted, Gadot stood by her beliefs and empowered others to do the same. Wonder Woman has become an inspiration to girls and women everywhere, not only in the movie, but in reality as well.

LOOK FOR THE FOOD TRUCK (Downtown Exeter)

We do more than cupcakes!

The Clyde's Cupcakes Food truck is perfect for business, family and community events, such as:


- Retreats
- Retirement parties
- Graduations
- Birthday parties
- Engagement parties
- Weddings
- Spring reunions
- Family parties
- Sports team events
- Fundraisers
- ... And more

Stop by Clyde's Cupcakes to sample our goodies and reserve the Food truck for your next gathering.

www.clydescupcakes.com
twitter.com/clydescupcakes.com
facebook.com/clydescupcakes



104 Epping Rd., Exeter, NH 03833
603-583-4850



The Exonian

Interested in the behind-the-scenes of the paper?
Write for *The Exonian*.

Come to our Writers' Meeting on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Forum!



Las Olas Taqueria

Play Hard, Eat Well

www.lasolastacos.com

Sunday through Tuesday 11AM to 8PM
Wednesday through Saturday 11AM to 9PM

603-418-8901
30 Portsmouth Avenue
Exeter, NH 03833

OUR INGREDIENTS

- Chicken is All Natural
- Beef is 100% USA Organic
- Steak is 100% USA Cut
- Cheddar is from 100% USA Farms
- Chili is from 100% USA Farms

DIRECTIONS

603-418-8901 or visit us at 30A. 303000. Take a right (three weeks) or left (three weeks) off the one. I ride on the bike.

SOCIAL

Follow Us On Our Information on greenways, trails, news, and local events.

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/LasOlasTaqueria
INSTAGRAM: @las_olas_taqueria
WEBSITE: www.lasolastacos.com

The History of Exeter Football and Soccer

Two Powerhouses within their Respective Leagues



Lower Billy Menken passes the ball.

Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

By **BILLY MENKEN**
Contributing Writer

PEA and America love football. The hard hits, fantasy football and Super Bowl parties have made it America's favorite pastime. Exeter played a notable role in developing the sport, when, in 1878, Exeter and Andover faced off in our country's oldest prep school football rivalry. However, for almost a hundred years before tackle football became dominant at Exeter, the popular fall sport was a different type of football, what we today call soccer.

Laurence Crosbie tells the story in his 1924 *The Phillips Exeter Academy, A History*: Chapter XIX, Football: The Game of Games (pages 218 ff).

"Until 1877 only association football [soccer's previous name] was known at Exeter, played with the well-known round ball. In the fall of that year the first oval Rugby footballs appeared. They were bought merely as a curiosity. The modern game had not yet come in. ... That fall, however, there came a challenge from Andover for a match at Rugby, which Exeter was obliged to decline since it had no Rugby team. In the fall of 1878, Exeter accepted a challenge from Andover, and on November 2 journeyed about eighty strong to the school on a hill for the first football game."

Crosbie quotes Alpheus Packard, a student in 1811, on fall football's earliest incarnation at Exeter: "The early games

were pretty loose affairs ... Those who sat on the north of the main aisle of the Latin room opposed those who sat on the south, and every agile and rugged boy was expected to take part. The game was purely a kicking contest; no carrying of the ball was allowed."

In 1832, Edward Daveis' reported: "[Association] Football was our great game, and was keenly exciting to the boys...It was held dishonorable for the players to use their hands, but we could butt with our shoulders...I remember I used to count the black and blue spots inflicted on my shins during the games with great pride."

Crosbie suggests that the Town of Exeter's founders brought association foot-

ball to Exeter from Cambridge University in England in the seventeenth century.

"Perhaps Exeter has inherited a fondness for football that goes back to the early days of John Wheelwright, the founder of our town [in 1639]. He and Oliver Cromwell [a famous British military commander] were college mates at Sidney College, Cambridge, England. Of him Cromwell remarked 'that he was more afraid of meeting Wheelwright at football than he had been since of meeting an army in the field, for he was infallibly sure of being tripped up by him.'"

For most of the first century after PEA's birth in 1781, association football was our preferred fall sport. Today we are lucky to play both forms of football.

Moxie Primed for Exciting Season

By **SARAH RYU**
Staff Writer

Coming off of last year's record of 7 wins, 11 losses and 1 tie, the girls' varsity field hockey team prepares for this season with high expectations. The team hopes to improve its record again and finish this season strong. The momentum gained from last season's end-of-year success has ignited a new spark in this year's team members and signals a strong start to the upcoming season.

The team captains will be uppers Hannah Littlewood and Catherine Griffin and seniors Emma Wellington and Johana Vandergraaf. Although five seniors graduated from last year's team, the returning players are optimistic and confident that they can build a strong team. The introduction of fresh players to this year's line-up is sure to add vigor and excitement to future games.

Littlewood named fitness as a main focus for their team, especially during preseason. "We have a lot of different tests, like the timed mile and 300 yard shuttles and doing well on those is important. We are also trying to build and strengthen team chemistry in order for us to connect passes on the field," she said.

With mostly sophomores and juniors on the team, Griffin agreed that she hopes to develop her relatively young team as a unit. "As a team, we have a lot of energy, and I think that we have a lot of potential to win most of our games," she said. Future games will surely test the endurance and teamwork of the players, especially during the second half when fatigue can set in.

The girls also hope to strengthen their offense and become more consistent. Littlewood noted that last year, players would start off games really strong but eventually lose their momentum. "I think that by scoring more goals and keeping our play strong throughout the game we can achieve more consistency and win more games," she said.

The girls' hard work combined with talent point to another successful season this fall. Some of the team's core strengths this time around include speed and athleticism, as even first-time players ended up picking up the sport quickly thanks to their previous experiences with other sports. Their success on the field, once again, suggest an optimistic record for this season.

After competing against skilled teams from various schools, Exeter looks forward to winning E/A at the end of the season. Though last year's E/A was a very tight game against Andover, with Exeter only losing by a margin of two points, the team is confident and determined to beat them this year. Having thoroughly analyzed the team's weak points from the previous season, the coaches and captains are confident that they can show dynamic and fast-paced games to excite fans.

The girls will play in a jamboree during the first weekend they get back to school. The team will then have two home games in a row, against Groton School and Milton Academy, which the team lost to by a point and won against by a point, respectively, during last year's season. Looking forward to many home games this season, Big Red field hockey hopes to make stunning records this season.



Lower Ally DeCoste winds up for a pass.

Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES

138 Portsmouth Avenue Exeter, NH

Double Marriott Rewards Points!

Bring in this ad to receive Double Marriott Rewards Points on your next visit!

Only 1.3 miles to Phillips Exeter Academy! Free breakfast, free Internet, indoor heated pool, fitness center, Executive Suites available.

From NH Route 101, Exit 11, Follow Route 108 South 1/2 mile. Hotel is on the right.

Must book reservations via hotel website or central reservations only. Not applicable to third party websites.

Reservations: (603) 772-7411 / (866) 580-6282
Visit Us Online: www.marriott.com/psmex

Essex Aviation Group

Uncompromised Representation
Unparalleled Experience

Who is advocating for your private aviation needs?

- Aircraft Ownership
- Third Party Management
- Fractional Ownership
- Charter
- Card / Membership Programs

That is all we do at Essex and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can advocate for you.

Call Lee Rohde at 603-766-1390 or e-mail lrhde@essexaviation.com
www.essexaviation.com

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: MARGARET KRAUS & CHARLOTTE POLK

By BELLA ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

Seniors Charlotte Polk and Margaret Kraus, co-captains of the girls' volleyball team, want to focus on a cohesive leadership this season; their drive to succeed goes beyond the scoreboard. "Together, we want to win, but beyond that, we want to create an environment where everyone is competitive but also supportive of each other," Kraus and Polk said. "We want to build on what past captains have made the team into."

Kraus looks to be a supportive captain for her teammates. "I want to be a positive influence on everyone on the team and pick people up when they need it," she said. "In tough situations, I want to be able to re-center and re-focus the team because I think that's what captains are there for." Polk, admiring past captains of the team, hopes to channel their same strategies and energy. "I want to emulate all of what I thought the best qualities of past captains were," Polk said. She named last season's captains, Kat Dumoulin '17 and Rachel Luo '17, as sources of inspiration.

Polk especially admired Dumoulin's positive spirit and energetic attitude. "Kat was really fired up," she said. "[She] was a good lesson on how to be intense without being harsh." Polk found Luo to be a calmer presence, but equally influential. "Rachel Luo '17 was quieter on the court, but led by example and always worked really hard," Polk explained. "She was like our team mom, which I definitely seek to emulate." Two seasons ago, team captain Brooke Dewitler '15 provided another inspirational figure for Polk. "Brooke was really good at teaching without being condescending," Polk said. "She was really good but didn't make anyone feel less than."

When asked to reflect on lessons learned from the past season, both Polk and Kraus emphasized the need to strive for excellence from the first game forward. "Last season we had some rough games, and it took us a while to get our fire back as a team, but once we did we did pretty well," Kraus said. Polk echoed Kraus' statement, adding that during this season, the captains would like to be successful from day one.



Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

"We want to come out of the gate strong this year, and I think we learned from last season that we're best when we're relaxed, scrappy and fired up," Polk said.

As for focus points during preseason, Kraus and Polk hope to "keep it simple" and prepare for the upcoming, challenging games. "We're looking to stay in it for the long haul mentally and stay scrappy the whole season," Kraus and Polk said.

Kraus named the everyday practices and rematches with old rivals as what she is most excited for during the season. "We're also looking forward to watching everyone grow," Polk added.

Upper Lizzy MacBride commended Polk and Kraus for their leadership. "They bring so much energy to the team. I find myself smiling on and off the court all the

time with them," she said. "They hype me up even after I mess up and it helps me get back on my feet for the next play." Describing both captains as "optimistic," MacBride detailed their ability to look on the bright side of things and put a positive spin on any outcome. "It makes it easy for me to feel confident in my abilities as a volleyball player when I am with them," she said. "They correct you, hype you up and are also both shoulders to cry on. I feel very comfortable with any situation and their help."

At prep camp, MacBride felt "eager" to get back into the season due to Kraus and Polk's encouragement. "With their positive attitudes, they helped me become more confident while playing, because I don't play year round, so having gone 9 months without playing volleyball, I was kind of

intimidated, but they made me feel at home on the court," she explained. "It was nice because coming into the preseason we already had past team time together, making it easier to jump into the season."

Upper Sophie Faliero echoed these compliments. "My captains are utterly selfless, incredibly kind and extremely positive," she said. She named Kraus as a hardworking team-player who is consistently looking to improve "while constantly cheering the rest of the team on to do the same." Faliero described Charlotte as both a great volleyball player and an influential role-model. Her experience at prep camp was similar to MacBride's. "Margaret and Charlotte really brought this new group of girls together to be the best we can be together," Faliero said.

Girls' Soccer Ready to Bounce Back *Strong Team Dynamic Leaves Squad Hopeful*



Lower Abby Smith tries to find an opening.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

By JARED ZHANG
Staff Writer

After graduating ten seniors last year, the girls' varsity soccer team, affectionately nicknamed "Soxie," will look to open their 2017 season with fresh talent and vigor. The team hopes to improve last season's record of 4-9-5.

The returning members of the team, led by co-captains and seniors Anna Reaman and Lauren Arkell, want to embrace this year's newcomers. With nearly half of last year's team graduated, Soxie will be welcoming many new players. Arkell stressed the importance of being a supportive captain and teammate. "I'm most excited to watch someone score their first varsity goal at Exeter and to see everyone improve as the seasons goes on," she said. "Most importantly, Anna and I want to keep the morale up for the team and

make sure everyone has a great season on and off the field."

Reaman echoed Arkell's sentiments. "As captains, we are hoping to make the soccer team one big group of friends," she said. "With everyone getting along and being great friends the chemistry and teamwork on the field will come naturally."

Looking back on last season, lower Denesha Rolle pointed out that the previous year's team was very close and had "good energy." Despite their close friendships and obvious talent, members of the team felt they could've performed better in games. Reaman explained that the team could've secured more wins if they worked together as one unit. "We have a lot of individual talent but the challenge is putting all of our talent together as one cohesive team," Reaman said.

In addition, in many of their close

games, Soxie found themselves finishing on the wrong side. Rolle explained that these narrow losses were due to their "quality of play." "We had some tough games due to our difficulty finishing and putting the ball in the back of the net," she concluded. Upper Ogechi Nwankwoala added that it is important for Soxie to take more initiative during games. She stated that the team can improve by "having a scoring mentality" and controlling the pace of every game.

In these past weeks, Big Red began preparing for the season with prep camp and preseason. This provided an advantageous opportunity for the team to not only refresh soccer techniques but also for teammates to get to know each other. Reaman expressed how beneficial these sessions were for the entire team. "It will be great to head into the season already familiar and friendly with all

my teammates and also a possessing a strong technical base" she said.

As a result of their frustrating last season, the team is anxious to have a rematch against some of their rival teams. Rolle expressed her excitement in playing St. Paul's after a tough loss last year in a game she described as "a grind." Nwankwoala is looking forward to play against Andover after a narrow loss last season. Reaman agreed with Nwankwoala, describing the team's mutual feelings toward the highly anticipated game. "Everyone is fired up and ready to beat [Andover]," she exclaimed.

Throughout the term, Soxie will play a total of twenty games culminating with the home field match-up against Andover on E/Aday. The team's first games will be on Saturday in a jamboree at Berwick Academy. Exeter will face Berwick, Tilton and Holderness in three shortened games.



Exonian Sports



PRESEASON EXTENDED FOR ALL TEAMS



The boys' varsity football team walks onto the field.

Gravin Hickey/The Exonian

By DON ASSAMONGKOL & JOHN BECKERLE
Staff Writers

The fall preseason is the prime time for athletic teams to prepare for the season ahead. Traditionally a program lasting only a few days, this year's preseason has expanded so most teams have the opportunity to return earlier to campus and even spend a weekend at Exeter before the term kicks off.

In the past, Football has been the only sport for which athletes come back at a significantly earlier—usually a full week before everyone else. This is because they need to measure every athlete's size to be able to properly and safely equip them for the demanding season ahead. However, Director of Athletics Shane LaPointe recognized the need to change this. "We've implemented an expansion since every sport would love more time with their team," she said. Most fall teams arrived on campus last Friday,

and field hockey returned on Sunday. "It's really been a combination effort between the Dean's Office and Athletics to make this possible."

The athletes stayed in separate dorms according to their sport, with football moving into Cilley Hall and girls' volleyball staying in Amen Hall. Wentworth Hall hosted boys' soccer and water polo while girls' soccer and field hockey were in Webster. Moulton House held boys' cross-country, and McConnell Hall was home for girls' cross-country.

LaPointe pointed to benefits of having athletes arrive earlier than before. "This gives them the weekend to really focus on their sports and bond with each other; I heard that the soccer team had a hilarious improv session the other night," she said. LaPointe also cited the physical benefits to the gradual acclimation to physical work. "Before they would be juggling Preseason and proctor orientation and new student orientations, whereas now we have a time dedicated to sports, and a time dedicated to welcoming new students."

Some students have certainly felt this shift. Upper Jenny Yang, a setter for the girls' varsity volleyball team, has really appreciated the extra opportunity to bond with her teammates. "We've done a scavenger hunt and games like blindfolded dodgeball to bond, which is something we have time for because of the early preseason and I really enjoyed them," she said. "Training twice a day is a lot of work, especially this early since people are just getting back from their summers, but the sooner we can get in shape for the season, the better. I'm really looking forward to it and know we have a lot of potential."

The Athletic Department also hosted Jason Kuhn of Stonewall Solutions, who is a former Division I baseball player and Navy SEAL. LaPointe felt that Kuhn could improve each team's level of play. "He's going to make an impression and motivate the kids," she said. Kuhn spoke to all teams on campus Sunday night for about two hours about his experiences as a soldier and similarities between the mentality of

SEALs and that of a successful athlete and team.

Kuhn also took soccer, cross-country and volleyball to compete in a series of team-building exercises meant to simulate some of the training that SEALs must go through to graduate.

New senior Pedro Haegler appreciated the rigorous routines that come with a longer preseason, saying "I haven't been training for the three months but I still think it compares to the training I had back home in Brazil." "I think the preseason here is actually more physically demanding than the program in Brazil but it's great because you're already a step ahead if you're already starting with that."

Haegler looks forward to working with the team from his first interactions with them during pre-season, especially as a new student. "This is the most welcoming team I've been part of. Even though I don't know everybody and have been only to two practice sessions, they seem very welcoming and helpful. When I feel tired, they help me pull through."

Boys' XC to Defend Title

By CHIM TASIE-AMADI
Staff Writer

For Exeter's favorite lanky, long-legged, rowdy, close-knit, bordering on cult-like boys' cross country team, the 2017-2018 season began as soon as they claimed the NEPSIA D1 title at Interschols.

Its past season was an exceptional one, with Exeter beating the majority of teams by a large

margin. The team ended the last two weeks of its season with E/A, clinching a close victory over Andover, followed by Interschols, where it once again proved it is one of New England's fastest. However, the back-to-back victories did not get to their heads. The boys continued to face each race afterwards with the same fervor and determination.

After their seven-man varsity team, comprised entirely of seniors, won Interschols, it served as a send-off for the graduating class; it

was a climax to the season. But, many realized that they would be losing an enormous amount of talent. Upper Charlie Neuhaus commented on last year's senior class, saying, "The leadership of our senior class was really powerful for me. They really brought the team together, introduced the new people to the team's traditions, and were good examples for aspiring younger athletes." Despite their loss, the boys are more than ready to step up to the challenge. "We are definitely going to prove ourselves after losing all of our

varsity runners," upper and co-captain John Martel said.

In preparation for the season, the coaches divide the runners into two groups for the summer, assigning them workouts, lifts and mileage to complete each day. Rest is also included, of course. But perhaps the most beneficial part of their summer preparation is the online log that each member of the team is required to keep. "The logs help everyone stay in touch and give us an easy way to motivate each other. In the logs, we not only record our training, but also our emotional and physical status," Martel explained. For the older runners, logs from previous years aid them in tracking their improvement.

Without a doubt, improvement is necessary. Much of their competition lost few to none of their varsity members whereas Exeter is racing with kids who have had little to no varsity experience. But, a good number of the team members, invested themselves in distance winter and spring track in order to prepare. A notable figure who will be a top varsity runner is lower Will Coogan, for whom captain Martel has high hopes. Incoming preps Connor Chen and Varun Oberai are also expected to add some depth to the team.

As for competition, Neuhaus put it simply, saying, "The biggest threats this year are Loomis [Chaffee] and Andover. They performed very well last year and aren't losing many of their top runners." Especially looking towards Interschols, the pressure to meet up to the team's results is very high. However, Upper Joseph Walewski expressed his belief in the team's ability to win. "The expectation is we run our fastest, and with such a deep and established program the result is usually winning the championships."

This year, boys' cross country is being led by upper John Martel and senior Grayson Derosi. In the past week, the boys spent their time at Waterville Valley practicing.



Lower Jimmy Allen hauls down a straight.

Chiara Perotti Correa/The Exonian

Inside This Week's Sports Section

Girls' Soccer



The girls' soccer team has the potential for a phenomenal 2017 season. Find out more on B5.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian

Athletes of the Week



Seniors Margaret Kraus and Charlotte Polk captain girls' volleyball this season. Read more about their leadership on B5.

Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

Field Hockey



The field hockey team is back on campus and ready to play. Find out more about the team on B4.

Reina Matsumoto/The Exonian

Football/Soccer History



Lower Billy Menken examines the progression of the Exeter football and soccer teams. Read more on B4.

Diana Davidson/The Exonian