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Above, Leverett Wilson '23 performs in a Grasshopper rehearsal. See Arts for more Grasshopper content.

Changes in Grasshopper Ticketing Spark Confusion in Andover Community

JADEN CHYU & JACKIE LI

One day before its official debut, the coordinators of Grasshopper revealed a major announcement: tickets for the annual Family Weekend performance had fully sold out, and the only opportunity for students to obtain seats for the annual Family Weekend performance would be through waiting in a line for around 20-30 minutes before each showing.

Historically, Grasshopper's ticketing system has al-

ways been easily accessible; just last year, the organizers used a link to give students the opportunity to book tickets weeks in advance for both themselves and their families. Yet according to Bradford Seymour, Chair of Theatre and Dance Department, this convenient structure also presented a larger issue—an increase in amounts of no-shows amongst the student audience members.

“Through the [previous] system, the department learned that students were taking advantage of the system and reserving the maximum number of tickets, even

if they didn't need that many. Roughly a third of the tickets reserved were not used at all and another third were forwarded to another person. The department felt that this was an abuse of the system,” wrote Seymour in an email to *The Phillipian*.

To combat the problem of unsatisfactory turnouts, this year's Theatre and Dance Department decided to work alongside the facilitators of Family Weekend—the Office of Alumni Engagement—and

Continued on B8, Column 1

Two Sykes Wellness Center Counseling Staff Members to Depart, Students Say

STAFF REPORT

Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center posted a job listing on Andover's website seeking a counselor “for the remainder of the academic year, beginning immediately” on October 4. Multiple student sources confirmed that two Sykes counselors plan to depart by the end of this term. When asked if members of the Sykes Counseling team are planning to depart, members of campus administration, as well as multiple employees of Sykes, declined to comment on matters of staffing.

Last year, Sykes employed six full-time counselors as well as two student interns, including a one-year full-time counselor hired to account for an anticipated increase in student need for counseling. While the school intends to staff five full-time counselors as well as a postdoctoral fellow this year, one full time counselor position has been empty since the start of the school year.

According to Dr. Amy Patel, Dean of Health and Wellness, filling the currently empty staff position could take months. If two staff counseling team members leave, Sykes will be left with three counselors.

There is currently a waitlist for Andover students to see

Sykes counselors, according to Patel. In addition, as previously reported, Sykes has shifted to a biweekly model for student counseling and away from weekly sessions for almost all students, depending on student need.

Patel said that a shift to bi-weekly counseling was part of a broader change in the school's approach to mental health care. She noted other resources that students can take advantage of outside of weekly counseling sessions.

“The goal is actually that we can supplement the one-on-one counseling with opportunities for the student to participate in any of these other types of mental health services or mental health programs, which could include going to a workshop, for example. One-on-one counseling, every week, for four years, would mean we need dozens of counselors, right, that's the reality. And no school is going to have that. We're not a therapeutic boarding school. So that's not what we're going to be able to provide. But we do have a lot of [other] mental health programs,” said Patel.

Besides workshops, the other programs Patel listed were the rotating Consultation Liaison (CL) counselor and referrals to off-campus

Continued on A6, Column 3



MIA XIAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

LGBTQIA+ Conference Fosters Interscholastic Network For Local GSAs

JAC GORDON & ISHAAN PADMAWAR

Andover students, accompanied by Coreen Martin, Instructor in English, and Casey Smith, Instructor in Art, attended an LGBTQIA+ conference held at Governor's on Sunday. Hosted by Governor's students Tianyi Shen '23 and Maggie Zhou '25, the conference invited members of Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) and similar groups from nearby private schools to engage in bonding activities, workshops, and seminars.

Shen and Zhou emphasized the importance of creating connections between schools and giving voice to

the students who work to foster LGBTQIA+ awareness at their schools. They believed the conference was a successful event that opened up more possibilities for various GSA-adjacent groups.

“The conference was really important because I feel like whenever we see an awareness event, we often see adult figures, or senior leadership, or administrative figures up on stage talking about awareness but we rarely see student leaders connecting with each other and talking about what they did, because in reality, they did so much stuff in their schools to make change happen. And I feel like the conference was definitely a great cause for our school to see how [affinity groups] were

operating in other schools,” said Shen.

Attendee and GSA board member Cristina Donovan '24 agreed with Shen and Zhou that the conference allowed schools to network and created a space for celebrating LGBTQIA+ identity. Donovan expressed their hopes that Andover could host a similar conference in the future.

“I think [the conference] promoted the interscholastic celebration of queerness. In my experience at Andover, we don't have a lot of interaction between the other schools at the conference, so it was

Continued on A7, Column 1

Pie for Puerto Rico: Andover Students Organize Fundraiser After Hurricane Fiona

LUCAS BERNADETE & BAILEY XU

Hurricane Fiona, a Category 4 hurricane, devastated a still-recovering Puerto Rico earlier this month. In the wake of the natural disaster, Bianca Morales '24 and Daniel Romero '24 decided to organize a fundraiser to provide essential supplies for Puerto Ricans.

Every Thursday, until November 10, organizers and volunteers will be selling raffle

tickets for two dollars apiece outside Paresky Commons, with the incentive of a chance to pie either a Blue Key Head or one of the Student Body Co-Presidents. The proceeds from this part of the fundraiser, named “Pie for Puerto Rico,” will be donated to Light and Hope for Puerto Rico, an organization created to lead disaster-relief missions.

The fundraiser was initially started two weeks ago, when student organizers took student donations in return for candy, an effort named

“Relief 4 PR.” Profits were donated to Brigada Solidaria del Oeste, a grassroots mutual aid organization devoted to disaster relief and community development projects in Puerto Rico.

“Light and Hope for Puerto Rico [is] an organization run by an Andover alum, Salvador Gómez-Colón [’21]. He was

Continued on A7, Column 1

Trabajadores de Commons En la Comunidad de Andover

STAFF REPORT

(Full article in English online)

Servir café y limpiar las mesas son sólo algunos de los trabajos que los trabajadores de la cocina y el comedor de Paresky Commons realizan cada día para proporcionar comida para la comunidad de Andover. Empleados por Aramark, muchos de ellos viajan diariamente desde Lawrence a su trabajo en la Academia. A lo largo de los años de asociación de Aramark con Andover, muchos de los empleados han establecido relaciones con varios estudiantes y con sus propios compañeros de trabajo.

Muchos de los trabajadores de Commons se llevan bien con la comunidad de Andover. La trabajadora de Commons Zulema Jiménez sirve café durante el desayuno y el almuerzo. Según Jiménez, muchos de los estudiantes son muy amistosos.

“[Los estudiantes] son muy educados, muy amigables. Hay buenas relaciones [entre los es-

tudiantes y los trabajadores...] Nos tratamos como una familia [en Andover] porque la mayor parte del tiempo la pasamos aquí”, dijo Jiménez.

Karina Reynoso, una trabajadora de Susie's, compartió que la comunidad de Andover la trata a ella y a otros empleados de Aramark con cariño a pesar de su nivel de conexión cultural compartida con ellos.

“No hay una barrera cultural porque ustedes [los estudiantes] hablan mucho con nosotros, nos hacen preguntas, y a veces los estudiantes también son de donde nosotros somos. [Tenemos muy buenas relaciones. [No hay un muro [entre los estudiantes y los trabajadores del Commons], pero seguimos respetándonos porque somos adultos y ustedes son estudiantes, obviamente”, dijo Reynoso.

A pesar de la perspectiva de Reynoso, algunos estudiantes consideran que existe una barrera

Continued on A5, Column 1



COURTESY OF VALENCIA ZHANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Andover hosted the Math Open at Andover (MOAA) on October 9. 90 middle school students in-person and 500 online competed.

Commentary, A2

The Counseling Crisis

Julia Carmona '24 argues that the new shift to biweekly counseling at the Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center is not effective enough.

Eighth Page, A8

Welcome Recent Divorcees

Meet the hot parents of the Eighth Page.

Sports, B1

Big Bl to Chicago Cubs

After 13 successful seasons at Andover, Baseball Head Coach Kevin Graber is headed to the Chicago Cubs.

Arts, B6

Grasshopper

Behind the Scenes at Grasshopper: Find out what preparing for Grasshopper was like for the performers.

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Editorial

The Blues are Back in Town

Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center will be shifting to a biweekly counseling model, according to the September 30, 2022 issue of The Phillipian. Amid continued calls for more robust mental health resources at Andover and increasing nationwide demand for mental healthcare, campus has reacted critically, and understandably so, to this news.

Indeed, in recent years, Andover has drawn criticism from students who claim that Sykes’ counseling services are short-staffed or otherwise inaccessible. Currently operating with four full-time counselors (with a planned capacity of five) for a campus of almost 1,200, Sykes is shifting to a biweekly counseling schedule in part because it is unable to offer weekly, one-on-one counseling for all students who express need—an effort that would require dozens of counselors, according to Dr Amy Patel, Dean of Health and Wellness and Chief Medical Officer at Sykes Wellness Center.

Instead, Patel, along with Raj Mundra, Dean of Studies, have indicated that Sykes will attempt to supplement lessened counseling services with offerings such as workshops and off-campus counseling. However, with an already extensive waitlist for counseling, many students have expressed frustration at Sykes’ decision to shift to a biweekly model over expanding one-on-one services and hiring additional staff.

This frustration has led many students to wonder: why has an increased demand for mental health resources prompted Andover to revise preexisting support systems that are time-tested and effective? The overwhelming sentiment among students indicates that shortcomings in Andover’s mental health resources lie primarily in problems in accessibility and consistency. A shift to a biweekly schedule, no matter how robust workshop or non-counseling offerings become, will not address the issues central to student mental wellness on campus. Instead of proposing to reinvent how mental support has been traditionally administered, Sykes should seek to support pre-existing programs that have already proven to help students.

In a News article published this issue, both Patel and Mundra reportedly explained that the shift in Sykes’ offerings does not mean that students will not be able to access mental health care at Andover, but rather, that mental

health programming will be broadened beyond the scope of one-on-one counseling. While we are hopeful this change will lead to increased mental health offerings at Andover—a resource that is deeply needed—it cannot serve as a replacement for robust, integrated support systems at Andover.

Adolescent mental health has seen a downward trend over the past few years, both prior to and as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. At Andover, this trend is reflected in our history as well. Current seniors, for instance, will remember discussions over reduced Personal Time in the 2019-2020, their freshman years. Seniors, and some Uppers, may remember Sykes’ Oasis and sleep rooms, installed in 2019, that allowed students to miss one class per term catch up on sleep during the day—these same students, then, may also remember these resources quietly but surely disappearing in the past two years, as pre-pandemic supports have been either infeasible, or simply, forgotten.

We at *The Phillipian* believe that mental health is central to student wellness at Andover. We are not only able to endure, but thrive, under high-pressure, rigorous environments when our mental health is taken seriously and supported. While we strongly believe that Andover should not only return to a weekly counseling system, but also hire additional counselors to better support student health, we also recognize at the same time that this may not be realistic for our school at the moment, for a variety of reasons. To this end, we suggest re-implementing personal time and Sykes sleep rooms as an intermediate solution. As much as we hope that Sykes will take steps to ensure that weekly, on-campus one-on-one counseling is available to all students, we believe that readopting institutionally-integrated solutions to mental health will constitute a significant first step towards this goal. After all, we’ve done it before—we can do it again.

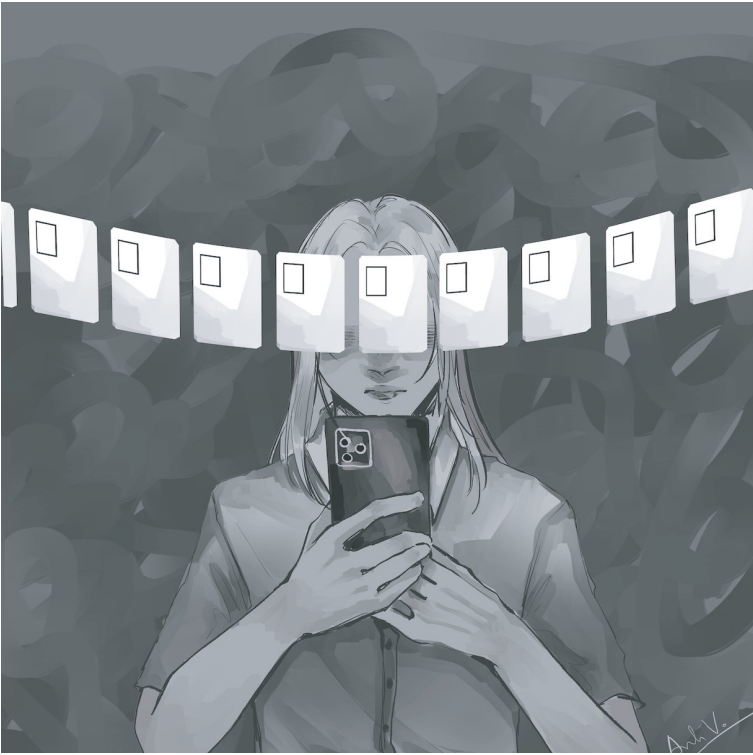
This editorial represents the views of The Phillipian, Vol. CXLV.

How BeReal Perpetuates Fantasy



I cannot think of a single person who does not have some form of social media. Whether this be Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, VSCO, Discord, what have you, everyone is connected through an online platform to their peers. Ten years ago, curating pictures and profiles was a new concept, but now, being “real” and authentic is the new trend. For the older generation, being authentic was inevitable, but for us, the curation of our online personas is more important than authenticity. BeReal creates an environment for constant authenticity and a desire to share everything, at the expense of our individuality.

Constantly having to consider, reevaluate, and criticize our online presence is exhausting, hence why BeReal has become virally popular. It presents a break from the norm: authenticity in its “purest” form. You have to post at the same time as everyone else, no matter what you are doing. You don’t have time to curate your



activity, you just have to take a picture when, and where the app demands you to.

BeReal is understandably appealing. On the outside, it seems to be positive, a platform in which people share their everyday moments, instead of highlights. You never can guess when BeReal might go off. The element of surprise creates authenticity. If you post late, you are not actually “being real,” and everyone else knows that you posted late. It perpetuates a culture of constant authenticity, or should, in theory. We have to share our moments with our friends, it’s instinct.

BeReal utilizes society’s greatest weapon: peer pressure. It cul-

tivates a culture of “group think” and constant reality. Instead of representing the truest moments of someone’s day as it attempts to do, it causes a need for constant perfection. People begin to curate their reality as opposed to their online presence. Instead of being able to take respite from social media and let your guard down, BeReal immerses you in an all-encompassing environment of perfection and curation. The best BeReal is the one that is taken while doing something cool, while also looking effortless. It creates a facade of fantasy, hard to distinguish, but easy to get lost in.

BeReal represents our collective need to share everything with

our peers. It is subconscious, and something that tech innovators have latched onto. There is an app for everything. There’s Pinterest for aesthetic inspiration, TikTok for mindless entertainment, Snapchat for social connection, and Instagram as a highlight reel. And now, there’s BeReal, for sharing the most intimate moments of your day with your peers. The thought is there, the intention is good. However, the manifestation of BeReal is just an addition to our greater social dependency. We crave interaction and validation from our peers, but such interactions are born out of fantasy. External validation is the emotional manifestation of social dependency. We need others to feel good about ourselves.

The best BeReal is the one that is taken while doing something cool, while also looking effortless.

Some will say that representing online intimacy and reality is something that we as a society and a generation need. They will argue that it is the most “honest” form of social media. But that statement in and of itself, “honest social media,” is an oxymoron. I mean, truly, how can social media be honest? It doesn’t make sense to me. How can a system, that is set up as a highlight reel, truly be honest?

The short answer is, it can’t. No matter what your methodology is for your online personality, it is curated to fit your vision. You want to make Instagram casual again? That means you only post candid photos from casual settings. Are you trying to achieve a certain aesthetic? That manifests itself in certain filters, backgrounds, and poses. It is impossible to achieve true honesty online because you are only your truest self when no one is watching. In the same way, BeReal isn’t actually honest. You can choose what to post, if you post at all. You may not seem like you are posing, but in fact, you are trying to achieve a certain aesthetic.

BeReal is a prime example of how good intentions—to make social media more honest—can differ from impact (perpetuating a society dependent on constant sharing). Social media in and of itself is a curation of life’s highlights. It would be impossible to truly and honestly document every moment of every day. So to have a company that presents itself as the bearer of honesty and truth in the form of social media just does not make sense. It can’t. I guess the question is, who are you when you’re by yourself? Is that when you are actually being real?

Langan Garrett is an Upper from San Francisco, Calif. Contact the author at lgarrett24@andover.edu.

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CORRECTIONS:
In the Arts article “Fiery” Dancer Kelly Yang ’24 Incorporates Expressive Detail in Dance Style,” Myranda Lu’s name was misspelled. “Haitian” was misquoted as “Asian” in the CaMEd Scholars spread.
The Phillipian deeply regrets these errors.



JAMES XIAO / THE PHILLIPIAN

Dorothy Swanson Blaker '24

SOTA data shows that most people think their fellow Andover students are unhappy, but the majority, when asked about themselves, say they ARE happy here. We see the reality of other students being stressed, depressed, and anxious. And yet, we push ourselves past our own struggles with these things in order to “take advantage” of what the school offers us. We continue to prioritize classes and extracurriculars over our mental health, and so our superficial success in those fields becomes our personal measure of “happiness” here. At the same time, the mental toll it takes is obvious when we see it in other people, so we see them as the unhappy ones.

Editor's Note: Dorothy Swanson Blaker is an Associate Copy Editor for The Phillipian.

Leilani Glace '25

If one is not directly struggling with mental health then they don't care about it. They know that people are struggling, but it's become so integrated into our way of life as Andover students that people no longer seek help, and they no longer question the quality of help that is offered at Andover.

The Counseling Crisis

JULIA CARMONA



COURTESY OF PANET

As every person on the Andover campus knows well, Andover students are under a constant amount of stress. We are lucky enough to have free counseling offered through the wellness center—outside options are usually quite expensive, and therefore only available to a part of the population. The fact that Andover offers free counseling at all is a privilege, but it should not stop us from holding the school accountable. As you may have heard, the Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center is switching to a bi-weekly model for counseling. This should have everyone at Andover wondering how much our school truly cares about mental health.

Andrew McRitchie, a counselor at Sykes, said in an article from last week's issue of *The Phillipian* that a “significant rise in demand for mental health services, particularly from adolescents” is not proof that mental health is getting worse. But as the same article cited, “persistent feelings of

sadness and hopelessness among United States of America high schoolers increased from 26.1 percent to 36.7 percent between 2009 and 2019, even before the Covid-19 pandemic.”

Demand at Andover is increasing—but was also higher before Covid-19. According to the State of

In my three years at Andover, I have had three counselors—none of whom will be employed at the school by the end of this term.

the Academy (SOTA) from 2022, 36.3 percent of the student body have seen a Sykes counselor. According to the SOTA from 2021, only 30.6 percent of students had seen a counselor, but this was during the pandemic—a time when many students were off campus. However, in the SOTA from 2020, 2019, 2018, and 2017 these numbers were 42.2 percent, 42.4 percent, 44 percent, and 41 percent, respectively. While the number of people utilizing counseling is increasing since Covid-19 changed the world, Sykes has been handling much greater demand before the pandemic. We are quickly returning to normal, but an ever-lengthening waitlist shows that Sykes can't seem to handle what they have in the past. This inability to keep up with rising numbers in patients proves that Andover needs to provide more mental health re-

sources. Students produce their best work when they are mentally well, and that is much easier to achieve when there are people there to support you.

Besides, resources at Sykes should not be disappearing, regardless of how many people need them. I began counseling in the spring term of my Freshman year, but, as much as I wanted to, did not continue because I did not connect with my counselor. I started counseling again in my winter term of Lower year, and had a counselor who I loved. She supported me throughout the school year. But when I returned to campus for my Upper year, I learned that she no longer worked here. Still, I decided that involving myself in counseling would be beneficial to my well-being. Once again, I formed an incredible connection to my counselor and looked forward to counseling each week. Then I was informed that our meetings would have to shift to biweekly. A couple weeks later, she told me that she would be leaving the school. In my three years at Andover, I have had three counselors—none of whom will be employed at the school by the end of this term. We have heard that Andover is dedicated to doing its best for its students, and helping out wherever it can. But with an unreliable counseling system, much of that feels like a false promise.

Students are often reminded of the importance of support systems, especially trusted adults. That's a counselor's job. But forming connections with

counselors requires consistency, which is difficult to achieve with counselors when many stay for a year or less. I know people who have given up on therapy because of this unreliability. One term you might manage to find an incredible counselor, just to find out they will be leaving the school. Having to constantly rebuild a relationship with a counselor is tiring, and takes time that many students simply do not want to waste.

Ultimately, the squeeze for spaces in counseling can be blamed on a long history of Andover not paying enough attention to their student's mental health. Although there are fantastic opportunities for support systems

Being able to ask for counseling is a powerful decision that no person should have to wait for.

on campus, it is crucial to remember that Andover runs as a business. Almost everyone on campus has made jokes about the “billion dollar endowment,” and all the flaws the school has regardless of its money. With this endowment, the administration could create a better environment for counselors so they stay in their positions—but they choose not to. Instead, the administration has tried to propose other (notably less expensive) mental health resources, such as the Peer Listeners program. However, Peer

Listeners are trained to refer high-level concerns to counselors in special cases, which still gives counselors a vital role on campus.

Clearly, mental health at Andover is suffering. On top of all the stressors Andover students usually have, we are recovering from (and still affected by) a global pandemic. Coming to this school, we are supposed to learn how to be independent. An important part of this is knowing how and when to ask for help. Having a support system does not make you less capable, but shows that you are able to reach out and utilize your resources. Being able to ask for counseling is a powerful decision that no person should have to wait for. We have seen the amount of change that students can bring to this campus, and the only way adults can know what change we want is if we fight for it. While there are limits to what the student body can accomplish, we should not be discouraged from fighting for what we believe is important. And what could be more important than our wellbeing?

Julia Carmona is an Upper from Bronx, N.Y. Contact the author at jcarmona24@andover.edu.

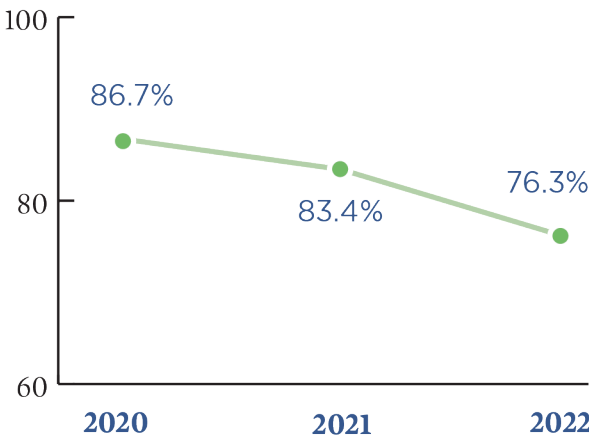
WELLNESS AT PA

WELLNESS

The following questions about mental health from the 2020, 2021 and 2022 State of the Academy wellness section were analyzed for this study. A chi-squared test for homogeneity with a significance level of 0.05 was conducted on these questions to determine if the distribution of answers to these questions differed significantly over those years. For example, for the question “Generally speaking, do you consider yourself happy at Andover?,” a contingency table was constructed with the responses (yes/no) as columns and the year (2020/2021/2022) as rows. In all eight questions, the Andover Statistics Group identified significant differences in the distribution of answers over the years.

HAPPINESS

Percentage of students who perceive themselves as happy at Andover.



Year	Percentage
2020	86.7%
2021	83.4%
2022	76.3%

16.2%

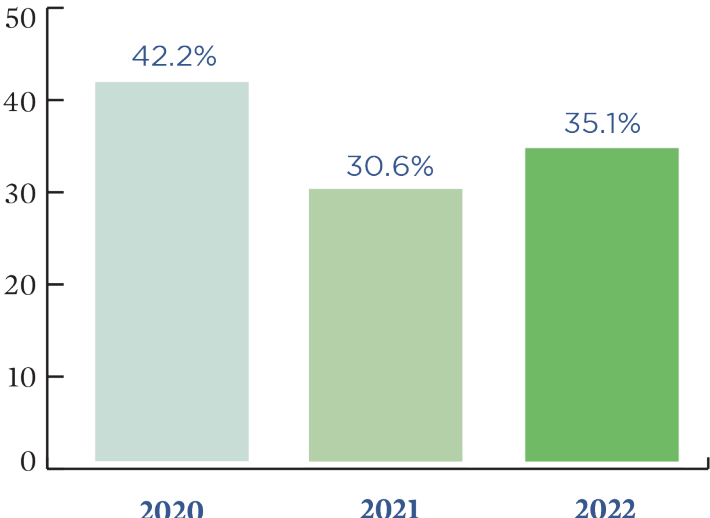
decrease in students who generally perceive Andover students as happy from 2021.

28.6%

decrease in students who generally perceive Andover students as happy from 2020.

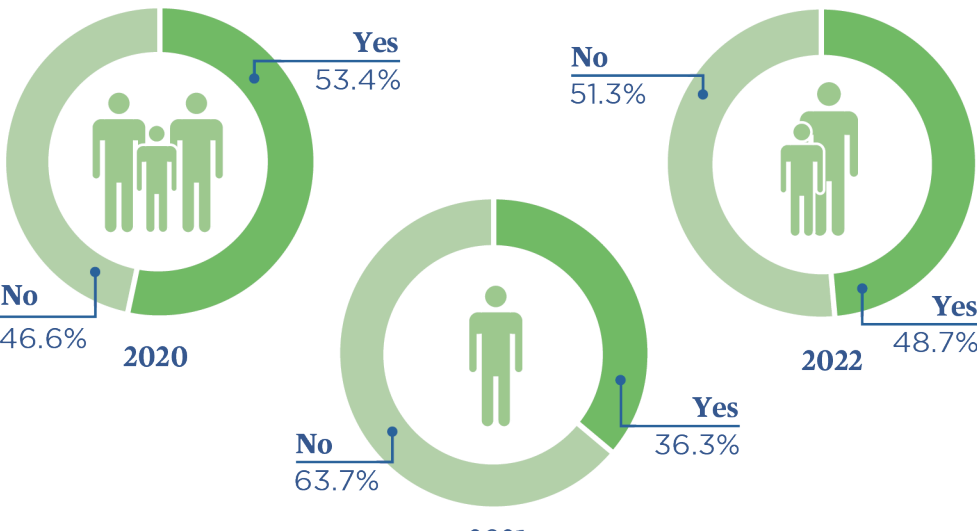
SYKES COUNSELING

Percentage of students who have been to the Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center to see a counselor.



Year	Percentage
2020	42.2%
2021	30.6%
2022	35.1%

Do you have an adequate mental and/or emotional support system on campus?



Year	Yes (%)	No (%)
2020	53.4%	46.6%
2021	36.3%	63.7%
2022	48.7%	51.3%

CAROLINE SHEN / THE PHILLIPIAN

ON ASM

KAREN WANG / THE PHILLIPIAN

Accept the Consequences

LEILANI GLACE



I would like to preface this article by saying that I am perpetually prepared to call out, or rather call in Andover for anything that I think needs to be changed, no matter how trivial it may seem. I feel it is my responsibility as a student. But today I write to address something different. Today, I write to address the absurd amount of negligence and disrespect that many Andover students—including myself—have shown during All-School Meetings (ASM). Whether it be staff patrolling the aisles or collecting our BlueCards when we use the restroom, it has been the accumulation of our lax behavior during these gatherings that have provoked—no, required—such a response. We should not and cannot be irritated at anyone besides ourselves.

In order to limit the amount of sleeping, screen-scrolling, and chattering present during ASMs, Phillips Academy has taken it upon itself to send various faculty members to patrol the aisles,

watching for the glint of a phone screen or listening for the faint whisper of a teenage voice. Yes, it does sound extreme—but can we blame them? Let me set the scene for you: You have just been invited to speak at Phillips Academy, and you are holding your breath in anticipation for the moment you step out in front of the new generation, ready to share your knowledge and experiences. But once you stand on stage and take in reality, not only do you see eyes closed and heads bobbing up and down, you realize that the students are more interested in the lunch menu or a text from a friend they see every day than a speech that you have have worked hard to prepare and only get to present once. I imagine that would be pretty difficult, and frankly, frustrating. No one deserves that. And yes, a lot of times these guest speakers have experience. They're used to speaking to teenagers, which means that they're used to dealing with the disrespect—but that doesn't make it feel any better.

And that definitely doesn't mean we should continue to do it.

It's hard to blame Andover for creating a harsh

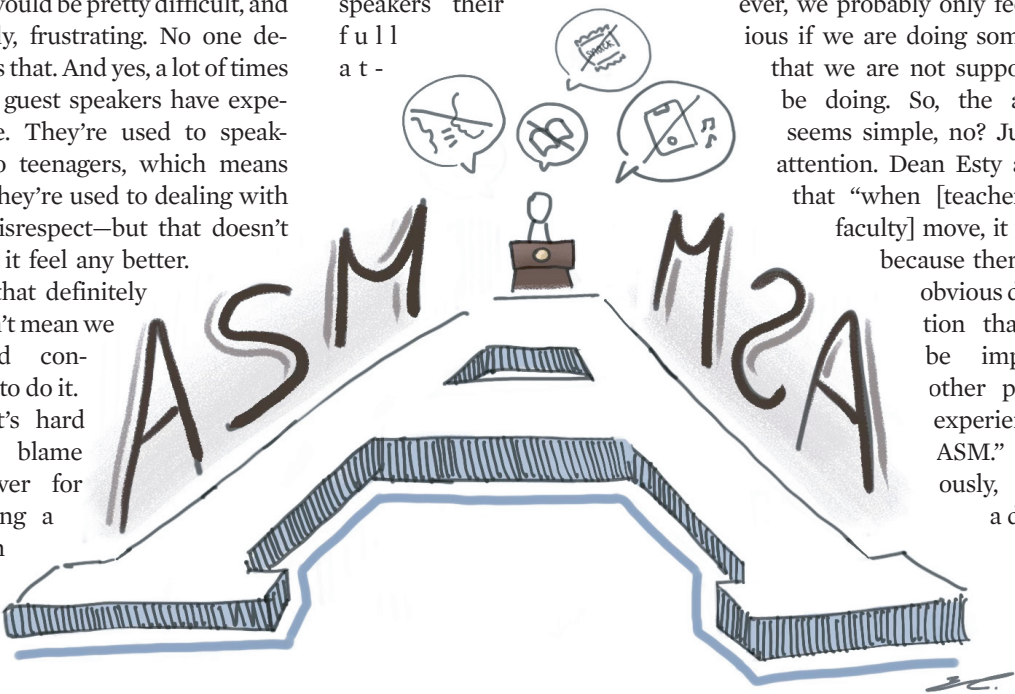
relationship between teachers and students through aisle patrols and BlueCard confiscations when most of us don't even attempt to conduct ourselves properly in such an environment. Let me ask you: When you enter a classroom, is it your first instinct to blatantly dismiss the lesson? Do you normally talk over your teacher or tell yourself that the class is the best opportunity to scroll through social media? I doubt it. But then again, a large portion of your grade depends on you pleasing your teachers, and when surrounded by only about 14 other students, your phone and the sound of your voice are hard to hide. "[Staff] have always asked that everyone give our guests and internal speakers their full attention, as we would in any classroom," Susan Esty, Dean of Students and Residential Life, writes in the latest Friday memo. ASM is just like any other class setting, where participants shouldn't be repeatedly asked to listen and to engage. Though there might not be a grade involved, though there are hundreds of students shielding your actions from view, those practices are still implied and therefore should be followed.

Furthermore, we, as students, are quick to comment on the prison-like environment that Andover is creating and the tension that is being generated between teacher and student. We complain that we are more focused on the teachers walking the aisles than the actual speaker. However, we probably only feel anxious if we are doing something that we are not supposed to be doing. So, the answer seems simple, no? Just pay attention. Dean Esty affirms that "when [teachers and faculty] move, it will be because there is an obvious distraction that may be impacting other people's experience of ASM." Previously, I will admit,

adults have been walking the halls without a reason to, simply looking for students to make a mistake, to pick up a phone, to breathe incorrectly. However, Dr. Esty's email addresses this fact, and is making it a point to have adults move only when there is an "obvious distraction."

The Deans acknowledge that adults could have enacted and enforced this new policy in a better way. There could have been more communication. There could have been more warnings. This is true. But now we know what to expect, and what happens next is on us. We must do better moving forward. We must put away our phones upon arriving in ASM. We must shut our textbooks and cease any side conversations. We must give the speaker our full attention in order to recognize the effort that went into presenting for us.

We cannot blame the faculty and staff for taking such drastic measures when we ourselves do not demonstrate growth and consideration towards the ASM speakers, who simply want to provide us with knowledge that will better us at the end of the day. "Our expectations for ASM have not changed," notes Dean Esty. We have simply gone too long believing that it is acceptable to ignore these standards.



CLARIS SHIN / THE PHILLIPIAN

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Karis Sarkisian '24

I think that it is important to have some way to control people who are being rude, since apparently we are incapable of doing it ourselves. There are a lot of people, myself included, that get really distracted by others laughing, chatting, and typing things on their laptops during these talks. I think if you can't be responsible enough to take an hour out of your day to learn something new, you can't be a functioning Andover student because this is what school is all about. Some people may see the teachers in the aisles as ineffective or annoying, but I have seen many times people who blatantly ignore the request to put their phones away and do it as an act of defiance, which is rude and honestly just embarrassing for them.

Annabel Curry '25

Sometimes you are simply checking the time or just writing down a link that they mention during a speech to check it out at a later time, and our phones are being taken away for that. It is not a warning system, it is simply a one time, take and go, which is very unhelpful and seems punitive rather than meant to help students or tell them to be better. Additionally, not only do they take away your phone, but your BlueCard as well, so it is very inconvenient for when you have to go to different classes afterwards, but can only pick it up at 3:00 p.m.

Consider the Radical: Decriminalization

WILLIAM BUEHLER



President Biden recently passed a bill pardoning all those who were convicted of possessing minor quantities of marijuana, signaling a possible new era of a national approach towards the drug epidemic that plagues this nation. Such change is necessary. When we think about the opioid epidemic, and the War on Drugs in general, we have to admit that the strategy we've tried to employ for the last 50 years—that of applying military force, political pressure, and criminal convictions to discourage drug use and production—has been an abject failure. With experimental results in decriminalization now yielding astonishing success, countries the world across should reconsider how to deal with issues of drug consumption.

As long as there is a demand for drugs, there will always be a supply for them, no matter how many trillions we invest, nor how many lives we take in anti-drug operations. This logic of tallying the number of kingpins killed, cartels dismantled or fractured, drug op-

erations disrupted and destroyed, and the amount of arrests simply is not working. Continually, new cartels pop up, new drug routes appear, and even the most major victories against drug traffickers and producers are temporary.

When the Mexican government captured Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán in 2016 for the third time—he was able to escape the first two due to corruption and lack of proper security—it was undoubtedly a major blow to the Sinaloa Cartel. The effects, however, were so short-term that the Sinaloa Cartel is still able to exert its influence to this day, even though its founder and former leader is gone. Its moment of weakness has really led to little

change in the drug trade as a whole. Perhaps its only real, tangible effect was that it allowed for the quick growth of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), one which is far more brutal than the Sinaloa Cartel. The CJNG is accused of cannibalizing people, they're known to have brought down military helicopters with rocket propelled grenades, to have thrown grenades at a US consulate, and have committed mass murders against civilians, to name a few offenses. Ultimately, even what was believed to be a major victory against drug traffickers in the form of catching "El Chapo" has done little except enable the rise of another, far more militarized and competent, cartel.

To be clear, I'm not saying we shouldn't convict drug lords and I'm certainly not saying we should let them roam free or that we should encourage their actions. Drug traffickers and producers should still be subject to arrest and prosecution. However, the case of "El Chapo" is a part of a larger trend: a trend which indicates that we are not winning, and that we cannot win, through force.

If our main goal in the War on Drugs is the health of our people, which is best ensured through the minimization of illicit drug consumption, decriminalization of all substances might be the best way to achieve as much, having proven more effective in lowering uses of drug usage overall in nations which have employed it. Our current system is so harsh as to utilize imprisonment for mere possession of a substance; however, this often makes little to no difference in encouraging a person to kick a drug habit. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, one in four people who go to jail for substance possession will be rearrested within a year of their release. Clearly, jail time is not the solution. In stark contrast, nations that have adopted decriminalization have been overwhelmingly successful in lowering deaths from overdoses and lowering drug use resulting in prisons being far emptier than they would otherwise be. Portugal, for instance, had its annual number of drug overdose deaths fall by 80 percent over a 16 year period following decriminalization. Their new national rate of overdose deaths, at 5.2 per million, is nearly a fourth of the overall European average. Drug use, despite

Reform, not punishment, should be the purpose of the government when it comes to drug offenses.

decriminalization, is reportedly below the European average. The proportion of Portuguese prisoners charged with drug-related crimes fell from 40 percent of the total prior to decriminalization to 15.6 percent due to the lack of inmates convicted of possession. This is obviously an effective system of dealing with a drug epidemic that would prioritize treatment rather than punishment. It's a system that's been shown to actually work, not some Nixon-era relic which continually proves to be a failure.

Reform, not punishment, should be the purpose of the government when it comes to drug offenses. It's completely unreasonable to expect that the demand for illegal drugs will ever cease completely, but we can work towards ensuring that those who generate the demand might be able to cease contributing to it if they have the proper tools to overcome their issues with usage. It may seem counterintuitive at first, but the data shows an indisputable truth: decriminalization as a system of treatment is more effective than incarceration.

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KIRA STEPANOVA / THE PHILLIPIAN

HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

REPORTING BY CATHY MA & WILL GE

Natural Disaster: Many Homeowners Left Without a Means to Repair Flooded Homes After Hurricane Ian

On September 28, Hurricane Ian struck the Florida coast near Fort Myers and Cape Coral. A category four hurricane, Ian quickly ravaged the Florida Peninsula with winds above 100 mph and torrential rain, cutting off residents’ power, destroying homes, and damaging water treatment plants. According to “The New York Times,” a combined 84 people have died in hurricane-related incidents. In the aftermath, many residents are left with flooded homes, with no clear way to proceed. Many homes in Florida with extensive water damage are not covered by flood insurance, with only 2-4% of residences covered in the Seminole, Orange, and Polk counties, reported “CNN.” Although disaster aid will provide reimbursement for damage costs, many homeowners will only be able to repair a small portion of their possessions with the amount given.

U.S. Politics: Entire Uvalde Police Force Suspended Amidst Aftermath of School Shooting

The entire Uvalde police force was suspended on October 7 due to continued criticism over the force’s shortcomings during and since the elementary school massacre on May 24 that killed 19 students and two teachers. According to “The New York Times,” the faults of the police’s response to the May shooting extended beyond the previous chair of the department, Pete Arredondo, who was fired last August. Many officers hesitated to approach the actively shooting gunman, going against standard protocol and delaying confrontation with the shooter for over an hour. Lieutenant Miguel Hernandez, Arredondo’s replacement, and Ken Mueller, director of student services at the UCISD (Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District), have been placed on administrative leave, with Mueller electing to retire, reported “ABC News” and

“CNN.” Uvalde school district Superintendent Hal Harrell also announced his retirement. According to “ABC News,” amid the suspension, the district has requested Texas Department of Public Safety troopers to be stationed on campuses. Relatives of the victims, who have been holding around-the-clock vigils outside the school district headquarters, commended the suspension, celebrating a “bittersweet win.”

World Politics: First Counter-Revolution Led by Women In Iran Rages On

Protests took Iran by storm following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini on September 16, three days after her arrest by the morality police for allegedly wearing her hijab too loosely. While Iranian authorities claim that Amini died of heart failure, her family accused the government of covering up her murder, stating Amini was perfectly healthy. According to the “Times Magazine,” protests have spread to over 80 Iranian cities and overseas, as “The New Yorker” also reported sympathy rallies have taken place in London, Los Angeles, Sydney, and Tokyo. Entering the fourth week of unrest, protesters continue to demand justice for Amini, government accountability, and personal and political freedom, said the “Times Magazine.” In another report by “Times Magazine” and “Yahoo,” Iranian women and youth have taken to cutting their hair, burning hijabs, and chanting phrases like “Death to the dictator!” in public and on social media platforms. The rebellions have led to more than 41 deaths reported by Iran’s state-run broadcasting service, reported the “Times Magazine.” Those analyzing the movement say that the protests are not likely to die down soon.

War/Conflict: Partial Collapse of Sole Bridge between Russia and Crimea Disrupts Russian Supply Lines

The outer two lanes of the only bridge between Crimea

and Russia fell in an explosion on October 8, killing three and dealing a hit to Russia’s supply lines to the peninsula. The Ukrainian government expressed approval towards the partial collapse but did not explicitly take credit for the affair. According to “The New York Times,” the attack is a blow to Russian war supporters’ pride. The explosion is emblematic of an unorganized Russian military: despite the strategic importance of the bridge, Russian soldiers could not protect it. With two lanes of the bridge out of commission, Russia’s ability to wage war in southern Ukraine has been seriously impeded, as the Russian Military’s ability to transport fuel, equipment, and ammunition to conflicted Ukrainian provinces is now severely limited, reported “The New York Times.”

Health: Largest Outbreaks of Avian Flu Over the Past Year Plagues the U.S. and the U.K.

All poultry will be kept indoors starting October 12 in Norfolk, Suffolk, and some regions of Essex of the U.K. as a cautionary measure to prevent the spread of avian flu. Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is most likely carried by migrating birds, spread through contaminated body fluid and feces, or direct contact, reported “The Guardian.” Similarly, highly lethal avian flu was detected in Arkansas chickens, said the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Friday, October 7th. “Reuters” reported that more than 47 million birds had been culled to restrain the nation’s worst outbreak since 2015. Detrimental declines in poultry and other wildlife populations are likely to persist if countries do not take immediate action, as disease spillover has increased along with intensive farming, “The Guardian” reported. In another article published by “The Guardian,” the situation is only projected to worsen as wild birds wintering in Europe start their migration, increasing risks of future outbreaks.

Students Connect With Commons Staff

Continued from A1, Column 4

cultural. Ben Pérez ‘23, un estudiante latino, observó que existe una posible barrera lingüística entre los estudiantes que no se sienten cómodos hablando español y los trabajadores de Commons, que hablan predominantemente español: “Creo que [existe una barrera cultural] un poco, especialmente entre [...] los estudiantes que no hablan español. Si [alguien] habla español, ayuda mucho la comunicación con los trabajadores de Commons”, dijo Pérez. “En mi caso personal, siempre hablo con ellos porque la mayoría son de Lawrence, y yo soy de Boston, y voy mucho a Lawrence para cortarme el pelo o para comer, cosas así. Pero me imagino que sí, puedo ver cómo podría haber una diferencia entre un estudiante de Greenwich, CT y alguien de [Lawrence, por ejemplo]. Puede ser muy diferente”.

Ozochi Onunaku ‘25, también ha descubierto que existe una especie de barrera cultural. Lo atribuye principalmente al idioma, que, según él, puede derivar en pequeños actos de desconsideración.

“Como hablamos dos idiomas diferentes, algunos estudiantes no saben realmente cómo comunicarse con [los trabajadores del Commons], los estudiantes no son considerados con ellos, debido a la barrera cultural. Así que, si derramamos una bebida o algo así, no lo limpian los estudiantes, en vez, piensan: ‘estos trabajadores de Commons lo pueden hacer, están limpiando, puedo relajarme, algo así. La barrera del idioma puede dar lugar a malentendidos culturales que se suman a una brecha de entendimiento entre los dos grupos de personas”, dijo Onunaku.

Sin embargo, muchos estudiantes encuentran familiaridad en los antecedentes culturales del personal de Commons. Justin Parker ‘24 compartió que su expe-

riencia como una persona de color en la escuela, viendo una parte de la comunidad Andover con demografía similar a ellos.

“Me encantan los trabajadores de Commons, son muy agradables y es como una forma de verme reflejado como [persona de color] en una [Institución predominantemente blanca]. Ya sabes, es como si a veces necesitara ver caras conocidas y son realmente agradables, especialmente una vez que llegas a conocerlas... Pero es agradable, ver a personas que se parecen a ti en un lugar donde no hay muchas personas que se parezcan a ti, valida mi propia identidad de alguna manera”, dijo Parker.

Kamila García ‘25, una estudiante dominicana en Andover, tuvo una experiencia similar a Parker. García mencionó que regularmente habla con los trabajadores de Commons, a menudo sobre su ciudad natal compartida, Lawrence, Massachusetts.

“Hablo con ellos en español todo el tiempo, especialmente con los trabajadores del Den. Saben que hablo español y tengo pequeñas conversaciones con ellos y cosas así. Incluso he hablado con ellos de las peluquerías de Lawrence. Entonces pienso que hay un sentido de comunidad.”

Independientemente de la experiencia de una persona con el español o su capacidad para conectar, culturalmente con los trabajadores de Commons, Pérez añadió que hay pequeñas cosas que cada estudiante puede hacer para ser educado. Por ejemplo, sugirió que saludar y ser amable con los trabajadores es importante para construir relaciones con ellos como miembros de la comunidad de Andover.

“Creo que es importante decir siempre ‘hola’, ‘saludos’ y ‘gracias’. Es importante reconocer el trabajo que hacen [los trabajadores de Commons]...Mostrar que vemos que son personas, no como robots que sólo hacen la comida”, dijo Pérez.

LUCAS BENARDETE & PRISHA SHIVANI

To promote Latine culture and provide a safe space for the Latine community, Alianza Latina, the student-run Latine affinity group, hosted a faculty-student mixer on Saturday, October 8. A wide variety of attendees were present, including Dianne Domenec-Burgos, Chief of Staff and Assistant Head of School for Strategic Planning, and Camille Torres Hoven, Director of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL).

The event invited many Latine-identifying students and faculty with diverse backgrounds. Juliana Reyes ‘24, a board member of Alianza Latina spoke on the goals that the board had when planning the mixer.

“The goal of the mixer is for Latine faculty and identifying students to have a chance to see the community at Andover. Sometimes it can seem that Andover doesn’t have much representation, and these mixers are for students to see that they can be supported by faculty, and see how many of your peers identify with you,” said Reyes.

Faculty members like Domenec-Burgos conveyed how important it was for her to represent Latine students and foster a sense of belonging for every student in the Andover community.

“I want people to see me as a role model, and make sure that they have representation. I am part of the administration so I feel like for them to be able to see that people like them are in charge of the

school is empowering. For me, that’s a good thing. I want to make sure that every student, no matter what their background is, feels heard, accepted and valued. I feel like being a Latina woman helps,” said Domenec-Burgos.

Attendees were greeted with Latine music, dishes like rice and beans, and fun games like bingo. Latine students, faculty, and administrators had the opportunity to share their unique cultural experiences, and learn more about different aspects of Latine culture. Leanny Lara Garcia ‘24 expressed how the activities provided a great opportunity to talk to more Latine faculty. To her, the mixer felt like a safe space to connect and enjoy Latine food.

“I thought it was a great opportunity to connect with some of the faculty, because I can’t really recognize the [Latine] faculty walking around campus. It was nice to meet them and know who they are, but also make connections with the other students. There was food, which was great because I miss having food that is part of my culture outside of commons,” said Lara Garcia.

Not only did attendees have a space to talk freely and enjoy Latine food, they also partook in a variety of symbolic activities. Reyes shared a specific activity Alianza Latina has done during their meetings.

“We have this yarn activity where everyone shares what their Latine affinity means to them, and we go around passing the yarn while still holding the string. At the end we can see how despite coming from different cultures and having different experiences, we are connected in some way shape

or form,” Reyes said.

The impact that Alianza Latina leaves on the Andover community, with organized mixers and events, has affected all students and faculty in unique ways. Anthony Diaz ‘25 commented on how Alianza Latina is significant to all students on campus, Latine-identifying or not.

“I feel like this event is important to the Andover community because it shows some Latine culture to people who may not identify as [Latine]. It’s like they notice us, like ‘Hey we exist, let us share something that we have.’ For example music and dance, which is something that people relate to whether you are [Latine] or from a different culture, race, or ethnicity,” Diaz said.

Domenec-Burgos also expressed her perspective on being a Latina faculty member, and the way she can work to prevent students in Andover who identify as Latine from feeling alone. She believes that events like the student-faculty mixer are crucial in letting students know that they belong.

“As a Latina who came to Andover 12 years ago, sometimes you feel like you don’t fit in, and I think Alianza helps students see faculty members that are like them, and know that they are not alone. This helps them talk to us, because we’ve been there and done that. It’s good to be able to reassure students that look like me that they do belong and that everything is going to be ok. The mixers and events help this cause,” said Domenec-Burgos.

Francis Su’s “Mathematics on Human Flourishing”: How Math Builds Virtues and Makes Us Human

TIANYI GU & MYCA BISHOP

Hosted by the Math Department, Francis Su, Benediktsson-Karwa Professor of Mathematics at Harvey Mudd College, gave his presentation titled “Mathematics on Human Flourishing” on October 7. Su discussed his thoughts on the usefulness of mathematics and how, when used properly, it can be beneficial for everyone.

Su began his presentation by displaying an 1886 painting, “Hope,” by George Frederic Watts, which depicted a lone, blindfolded woman overshadowed by a single star, sitting on a globe and straining to play a lyre that had a single string remaining.

“Why do I open with this art? Well, it’s because we see it, and we seek to engage with it because we are all human beings and we have basic human desires. It’s

beautiful and we desire beauty. It’s relevant to our current moment, and we desire meaning. It’s captivating. We desire to explore it. It causes us to wonder, to ask questions, to seek its truth, and to be willing to be patient for a single lone star to show itself. Why don’t we approach mathematics the same way that we approach art?” said Su.

Despite Su’s current efforts to promote the subject, he struggled to understand its importance when he was a student. After a particular conversation with his professor, however, Su was forced to reflect on his own mathematical journey.

“I had one professor who said that I didn’t have what it takes to be a successful mathematician. That unkind remark forced me to consider, why should I even do math? That’s the question I want all of us to consider tonight. Why is it that we do mathematics? When will I ever use this stuff? If you ask me, I would say this: because mathematics in its best

forms should help people flourish. Mathematics is for human flourishing,” said Su.

Su then went on to emphasize the difference between skills and virtues. He described skills as things one spends a lot of time doing in math, such as memorizing facts or formulas, whereas virtues are characteristics that are honed by the act of practicing mathematics, such as persistence in problem solving and creativity.

“Virtues make your life richer. These are the things that you’ll carry with you the rest of your life, no matter what profession you go into, and no matter where your life takes you. This is what I mean by flourishing. So doing mathematics cultivates virtues that help people flourish, and the movement toward virtue happens. Math builds in us abilities to interpret, to quantify, to define. It’s to strategize, to generalize, to visualize,” said Su.

Several students who attended the presentation felt that Su

brought up topics that are extremely important regarding mathematics and its applications to life. Eric Wang ‘25, a competitive mathematician, elaborated on his takeaways from the lecture.

“I think he summarizes an annoyance of mine, which is that math is viewed in terms of actual conceptual themes rather than what else you can take out of it. Almost like the way I would say sometimes in sports [what is] often emphasized, [is] how much or how fast can you run? But then oftentimes there are many other things you can gain from sports, such as teamwork or perseverance, and I think a lot of that can also be gained from math,” said Wang.

Katerina Kokkotos ‘25 commented on how listening to Su changed her perspective on mathematics. She believes that Su’s talk will help her take away more from her math class at Andover.

“After his presentation, I

thought about my own class and what I can take from it. Not just doing problems to finish it but how to think deeper and apply it to the world. I think I’ll probably be thinking about math in a different way, like a deeper understanding of what I’m doing. Not just to learn it but also [to] apply to my own life,” said Kokkotos.

Reiterating the necessity to view mathematics as something more than simply using numbers and formulas, Su concluded his presentation with one final challenge.

“If we can see math as being multidimensional, tied into what it means for us to be human beings, because you can’t separate the true practice of mathematics from what it means to be them. We all have basic human desires and math can meet these desires. So this is the challenge I’m going to leave all of you with: to believe that you, and everybody in your life, can flourish in mathematics. Believe in everybody,” said Su.

Scenes from Senior Cruise



JCU/THE PHILLIPIAN



COURTESY OF ELYSE GONCALVES/THE PHILLIPIAN



J.XU/THE PHILLIPIAN



J.XU/THE PHILLIPIAN



C.MURPHY/THE PHILLIPIAN



C.WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Sykes to Refer Students to Mental Health Services Outside of Campus Counseling

Continued from A1, Column 4

counseling. She further explained that students who need weekly counseling—including those on the waitlist and those currently seeing a departing counselor—may have to seek off-campus counseling. “We will always be working with students who have counseling needs to make sure they have a plan that meets their needs, but that plan may not be weekly counseling on campus. It’s not likely to be weekly counseling on campus... If the need is one-on-one counseling, it will be met, but it might not be met by a counselor at the Wellness Center. The need is, ‘I need a one-on-one counselor.’ The need is not ‘I need a one-on-one counselor at the Wellness Center.’ That’s actually not been a need that we even necessarily stated we would fulfill, that’s there’s [one-on-one on-campus] counseling available for everybody,” said Patel.

Student Nor DeHoog ’24 said she felt as though Andover is not doing enough to support student mental health amidst a worsening adolescent mental health crisis. DeHoog said they did not feel Sykes provided adequate counseling services. DeHoog said, “In my person-

al experience, I was receiving weekly counseling throughout my Lower year, but they asked me to stop coming every week because they needed to prioritize people like emergent cases during exam week and during midterms, because they didn’t have enough staffing to support an ongoing patient.”

DeHoog ultimately ended up turning to off-campus counseling. However, she noted that this is not an option for many students.

“I realize that financially [off-campus counseling] is not available to every student and I don’t think that counseling recognizes that enough, because they always say ‘oh, we can always connect you with somebody outside of campus,’ but for very, very many people, that is not a realistic option... I think that there are very tangible steps that Andover could take to increase the support of the counseling office, and that is hiring more counselors. They don’t need to reinvent the wheel. They simply need more counselors,” said DeHoog.

During a recent consultation with a departing Sykes counselor this term, Dorothy Swanson Blaker ’24 was told to consider seeking outside counseling. However, she said outside counseling was not a viable option for her, and she

was unsure how or whether she will be able to access counseling and other mental health services this year.

“I want [Sykes] to have more transparency with us about everything: how many counselors they have, what’s available, why they’re doing certain things... I wish that the school could invest more time into changing the mindset from prioritizing only academics... and into proportionally increasing their mental health support and their prioritization of mental health alongside the national increase in poor mental health in students,” said Swanson Blaker.

According to Patel, the school does not currently have any plans to hire more counselors beyond maintaining staffing for the six current counseling positions.

Editor’s Note: Dorothy Swanson Blaker ’24 is an Associate Copy Editor for The Phillipian.

To contact the Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center...

Call: 978-749-4455
Or visit in person



M.MACKINNON/THE PHILLIPIAN

Currently, according to Dr. Amy Patel, Dean of Health and Wellness, students requesting weekly counseling are currently on a waiting list.

ASM: Learning In The World Offers Experiential Global Citizenship to Andover Students

ADDISON DENG & MELINDA WU

“Ciao a tutti!” marked the start of last Friday’s All School Meeting (ASM) — a greeting from Brayden Massaro ’23. Currently in Mitreo, Italy, Massaro sent a video describing his experience so far as an exchange student in Andover’s Learning In The World (LITW) program. This Friday, Spanish Instructor and LITW Director Mark Cutler, Sakina Cotton ’24, Suhaila Cotton ’24, Isabell Luo ’25, and Massaro presented at ASM on their experience with the LITW programs. Founded in 2014, the program engages students outside the classroom through international and domestic trips.

“Learning In The World strives to prepare younger people for engaged global citizenship through intercultural place-based and world-facing experiential learning opportunities. Our offerings immerse students in their learning anywhere in the world, abroad, in the U.S., nearby, on campus, and virtually, and challenge them to see themselves, humanity, and the natural environment from diverse perspectives. Thus, our students cultivate a deeper sense of empathy for others and acquire knowledge and skills to help them take action towards a more sustainable, just, and equitable world,” said Cutler.

Although many students do not go abroad during their Senior Year, Massaro felt he could not pass up the opportunity. Despite not knowing Italian prior to his arrival, Massaro highlighted the open-mindedness that he developed over the course of the program.

“My reason for taking this leap was difficult as most Seniors do not participate in a year-long program abroad, but in the end I still decided to. I couldn’t think of any possibilities that really outweigh the benefits. I knew that there were tons of risks, but I also knew that everything I got

out of this would far outweigh anything that I could miss [at Andover],” said Massaro.

Cutler continued, describing the importance of stepping out of one’s comfort zone and approaching new experiences with an open mind.

“I think that it’s important to approach any of these experiences with an open mind and curiosity and a desire to understand. We have to let go of prejudices in order to really make those changes in the way we see the world. It’s not only their perspectives on others but also their perspectives on themselves. Especially in our culture and in our little bubble, we tend to think of ourselves as individuals. It’s important to see how everybody lives in an interconnected world and that our personal experiences can be different from others but there are ways that our experiences overlap,” said Cutler.

Following Massaro, Luo presented about her trip in Spain this past summer through her LITW program. Not only does Luo appreciate her growth of a more global perspective, but she also expressed gratitude for meeting life-long friends through her program.

“I think I did improve my Spanish and I did do all that stuff, but I think it’s the people and the connections that you make that help you gain a new perspective and be more open as a person. I think that’s the biggest benefit. I think I’ve become more open to different perspectives that I don’t necessarily agree with, and I’m more open to trying to understand where they’re coming from. Even if it’s not just Spanish culture, if a person with a different background than me came up to me, I would be open to listening and understanding them,” said Luo.

The student presentations inspired audience member Ayush Gupta ’26 to further look into LITW programs. Specifically, Gupta found Massaro’s informative video to be particularly exciting, as

it provided a transparent and current look into life as an exchange student.

“I think the experience where we got to see a person in the actual program talking to us was my favorite moment. I got to understand how it actually works, understand some challenges, some struggles, and something that Braydon had interest in the program. It was a really good experience. It brought me perspective on the opportunities, and I’m definitely going to look out in The Hive for a LITW application,” said Gupta.

While both Massaro and Luo shared stories of their travels outside the country, Sakina and Suhaila Cotton presented on their Civil Rights Trip from this past summer, featuring their time in southern states within the United States of America.

“Our trip was the “Journey of American Freedom and Social Justice: The Civil Rights Trip.” The Civil Rights Trip was a ten day road trip through Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Trips like these, carefully curated by teacher, can be very influential. It was fun, empowering, and enlightening. There are so many stories out there, and they [teachers] always find a way to connect things to how you see your own life,” said Sakina.

Petra Mrazova ’23 expressed similar sentiments to Gupta, appreciating the opportunities that LITW programs provide for Andover students. As a Senior, Mrazova emphasized the value of the summer trips as opposed to exchange programs during the school year.

“I really liked the student contributions. It was really interesting and it pulled me in. It makes me sad that I cannot join it as a Senior. If I did, I think I would do the summer programs. It’s shorter and you get the experience you could get in the full year, exploring a new environment, new people, and new culture. It’s really exciting,” said Mrazova.

Students Use Candy and Raffle to Incentivise Support for Puerto Rico

Continued from A1, Column 1

[a Student Body Co-President at Andover]. When Hurricane Maria hit during his freshman year at Andover, he started this entire organization [targeting disaster relief in Puerto Rico]. We thought it would be great to donate to him because he is connected to Andover,” said Morales.

Five years ago, when Hurricane Maria occurred, Romero was part of a fundraising program at his old school. Using his past experience, Romero was inspired to begin fundraising work at Andover in the wake of Hurricane Fiona.

“When Hurricane Maria hit, I actually did something like this in my old middle school. My middle school was a Catholic school, so we were required to wear uniforms. [To] raise

money for these food banks, we did this thing where [if] you donated a dollar minimum, you could [dress casually]. We raised around 1,300 dollars in total,” said Romero.

Since its recent launch, the fundraiser has seen considerable success. The profits from selling raffle tickets added up to 1,000 dollars in a single day, amounting to a total of 2,300 dollars from both the raffle and donation days combined.

“I think [this fundraiser has] been pretty successful. I don’t mean to pat myself on the back, but in the second phase within a single day, we raised 1,000 dollars. So far, we’ve raised 2,300 dollars in total, which is great, especially considering we’ve technically only been out there for three days. [Raising] 1,000 dollars [by] selling two dollar raffle tickets. That’s a lot of people,” said Morales.

In addition to the organizers, many students have volunteered and committed their time and effort to participate in the fundraiser. Ethan Principal ’24, a volunteer for Pie for Puerto Rico, decided to help the cause out of sympathy for the struggle many Puerto Ricans are facing.

“Bianca and I have been friends since freshman year and I saw how passionate they were about helping Puerto Rico. [For] me, this hit kind of close to home because I’m also Caribbean, so I understand how these natural disasters can really impact people in the Caribbean and how it really negatively affects them,” said Principal.

Sui Yu ’23, a current Student Body Co-President, felt as though the fundraiser could have been more widely recognized with faculty help.

Despite her apprehensions, Yu commended Morales and Romero’s hard work through the efforts that they were able to take alone regarding outreach.

“I think it may have had more outreach if it involved faculty, because I think faculty are more universal figures on campus, so maybe there would have been greater participation. I think maybe freshmen would be hesitant to pie some Seniors, because they don’t really know them. But regardless, it’s a great fundraiser and I think they’re doing a great job getting the word out there, especially with their presentation at [All-School Meeting], posting on social media, and the music outside [Paresky],” said Yu.

Morales voiced her appreciation for those who have donated thus far, as well as for

those who have volunteered their time.

“I just want to say a big thank you. We could not have done this without our volunteers. So many people just decided to volunteer out of the kindness of their hearts. They helped us, using their lunch period [when] they could have been doing work or relaxing to sell tickets and be out there with us. I just wanted to say that we could not have made this happen without our volunteers,” said Morales.

Editor’s Note: Daniel Romero ’24 is a Business Staff member and Bianca Morales ’24 is an Associate News Editor for The Phillipian.

Andover-Hosted Conference Brings Opportunity for More Interscholastic GSA Events

Continued from A1, Column 1

pretty cool to get together just for the reason of celebrating queerness and talking about trans identity, the joy that surrounds that. I think our GSA would reach out and do this again at Andover. They did it first and now we know that we could. I know a lot of the really sweet people there would love to do this again,” said Donovan.

According to Max Berkenblit ’24, an attendee and GSA board member, the conference broadened his perspective and inspired him to apply ideas sparked by the conference at Andover. He emphasized that

the wide array of schools and participants in attendance helped him brainstorm GSA initiatives at Andover, such as flying LGBTQIA+ pride flags around campus.

“I think it definitely promoted allyship between schools and different groups, because we’re all doing a lot of the same work just in different places... having events like this allows leaders of different groups to develop their own thoughts. The queer community at Andover is certainly not small by any means but it can start to feel like an echo chamber, so getting different perspectives from different schools and hearing what it’s like at those schools is really helpful to broaden our perspectives and

our horizons,” said Berkenblit.

Jorge Briones Sausa ’25, GSA board member and attendee, pointed to the keynote speech on creating a safe space for identity exploration as one of the most enjoyable aspects of the conference. Having connected with a number of schools at the conference, Briones Sausa expressed hope that this network would foster long-term collaboration between schools in the future.

“There’s a whole email list with all of us on it and so I hope that in the future we can work together more.... There are different types of these communities around Massachusetts and around the area. Getting to hear about how everyone’s experience differs

from school to school really shows how much these schools are different. We’re all doing things right and we all have stuff that we need to improve on. These conferences really help us get a deeper knowledge of what’s happening all across these schools because we need to help each other to create a stronger community,” said Briones Sausa.

Shen and Zhou commented that the conference was a memorable and successful event. They are excited to see that the event empowered students by allowing them to share their ideas and experiences to a larger community.

“The conference went really well because honestly, although this is our first time

hosting something like this and I’ve never hosted a conference before, I was really scared and nervous. But I think we were really engaged in the workshops and we had a super exciting conversation with the speaker. It was really cool getting to know different people from different schools and talking about it. For example, we had this conversation about different schools and how they promoted things like [all-gender] dorms and how different schools had different policies for it. Students and school leaders connecting is really important and is something that doesn’t happen very often,” said Zhou.



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THE EIGHTH PAGE

MEET THE 8TH PAGE PARENTS TO UNDERSTAND WHY WE ENDED UP HERE

Teacher Understands Why Student Left Home After Meeting Parents

I was pleased to meet your parents this weekend, Jimmy. You mentioned that their “eccentricities” influenced your decision to apply to the Academy, and I completely understand now.

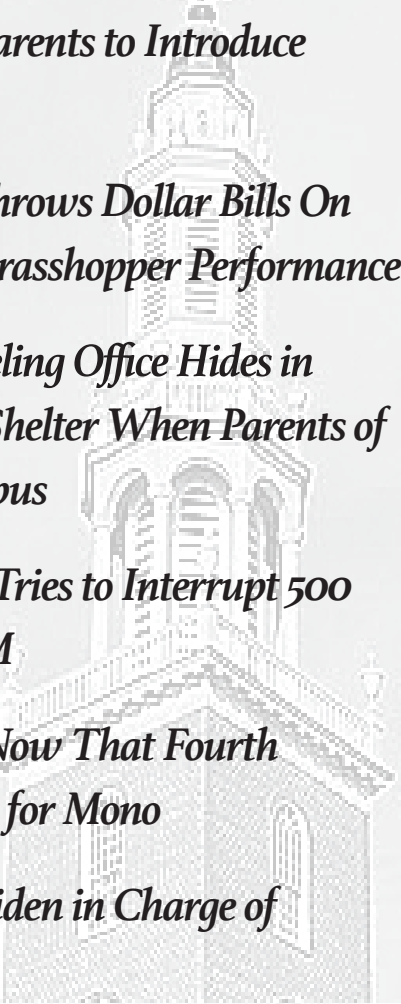
Firstly, your mother seemed to think everything was for sale. Initially, I was charmed when she asked for the price of my kindergartener’s finger-painting; I thought she was making a joke. I quickly realized, however, that this was not the case. “No, my desk is not for sale,” I had to remind her several times. Your mother was unfazed and even more persistent. She even made an offer to buy our classroom, noting what she called “excellent natural light,” “a perfect spot for a mudroom,” and “insane potential for profit.” In our little corner of Bulfinch’s basement, I was dumbfounded. Of course, we made a deal on the room. It’s not often there’s a six-figure check with my name on it. So, I have decided that your mother is very misled on the concept of Family Weekend or following one of those hustler Instagram pages.

Then, when he finally arrived, meeting your father helped flesh things out a little bit. I was excited to meet Jimmy Sr., but, upon greeting him, was struck down immediately. “It’s James,” he said, coldly. “And what do you mean, ‘Jimmy Sr.’? You teach my son, Bob. And, by the way, how could you possibly know Jimmy Jr.?” he asked, suddenly frantic. I soon realized that your father has a second family and must have confused you for Bob, his true first-born son. Naturally, your mother was very upset by this news. So much for Family Weekend! Ha, ha. I’m sorry you had to find out this way. Anyway, good work so far this term. I look forward to seeing what you do next in ENG420WTF: “Lolita and Eroticism.”



WEEK’S TOP HEADLINES

- *Brave Teacher Asks Parents to Introduce Their Pronouns*
- *Dad “Accidentally” Throws Dollar Bills On Stage During Strut Grasshopper Performance*
- *Entire College Counseling Office Hides in Underground Bomb Shelter When Parents of Class of 23 Visit Campus*
- *Audacious Dr. RayK Tries to Interrupt 500 Conversations at ASM*
- *Relationships Saved Now That Fourth Student Tests Positive for Mono*
- *Academy to Put Joe Biden in Charge of Endowment*



Parent Behavior Guidelines:

1. Do not give teachers wads of cash to bump your kid’s grades up. Simple seductive moves can be more efficient and cost-effective.
2. Do not shake hands with Dr. RayK unless you like getting clammy sweat on your hands. If you would like to approach the Head of School, don’t push things, let him come to you first. At most, extend a hand out and see if he comes near. Make sure you leave him an escape route to avoid causing panic.
3. Please stop getting in everyone’s way to take ugly pictures of your children. Facebook would be benefited most if you just deleted your account.
4. The Academy strongly condemns parents who hit on teaching fellows during their 15-minute mini-lesson. They’re cute—we know—but no need to compete with your kid on this one.
5. Don’t answer every question a teacher asks. Even if you need an outlet for your useless English major, there is no need to be a showoff.
6. Please keep your opinions on our rigorous anti-racism curriculum to yourself. You shouldn’t think you are a patriot, and we would like to avoid a rally.
7. Remember that your kid is not special just because they go here. There are 1,200 kids here like yours: Ugly, loud, a little chubby, and full of self-diagnosed mental disorders.

MIDTERM COMMENTS LEAKED:

- P:** I’m still getting a hang of the names and am unable to give specific feedback at this time. That said, either keep up the good work or stop sitting next to people of the same race.
- NYP:** I would fail you, but our school is too soft for that to even be an option.
- P:** You are the best student in French 300! (*remember to copy and paste)
- LP:** Your essays have less passion than my sex life, which is saying something. Do better.
- LP:** I’m disappointed in your many missing assignments. With 24 hours in the day, I’m sure you can squeeze in six hours of Chem 580.
- NYP:** Wearing a sombrero and ordering Taco Bell does not count as class participation. I would tell Jimmy to drop, but it doesn’t get much lower than Spanish 100.
- LP:** It is a pleasure having you in P.E. Hopefully you manage your bowel movements on the rope swing a bit better this time.
- P:** [adjective] job so far, [insert student name]. Let’s [keep this up / continue to improve].

P- pass LP- low pass NYP - not yet pass



This Week's Heart-Throbs: Eighth Page Parents



Stacey Essaid (nicky's mom)

Cool Facts About Me!

- I caused 4 car accidents trying to spot birds
- Is a flawda jit (FREE KODAK)
- Once beat my son in tennis so badly he cried and I told him to stop because he was embarrassing me
- Weirdly into murder mysteries for someone who hasn’t committed murder
- Went to school with the whiter Grayson Allen, Christian Laettner
- Took a photo when I wasn’t allowed to at Los Alamos



“Stop your whining”

Ideal Date Spot:

- Wherever they get the red clay for the French Open
- Airboat in the everglades

Dealbreaker(s):

- Grateful Dead
- If you ask for a separate plate for your lemons

Alfred Lee (evalyn's dad)

Cool Facts About Me!

- Joined a super cool secret society in college.... Christian Student Fellowship
- *Intentionally* hits golf balls into the water
- Visited Russia when it was okay
- Thinks that being in the same law school class as Amy Coney Barrett is a flex
- Likes to believe Dartmouth is a rival to Harvard
- Tells his kids he never hit his roommate’s bong



“Did you see the article I emailed you?”

Ideal Date Spot:

- A hiking trail (#naturalhighs)
- A U2 reunion concert (SO alternative)

Dealbreaker(s):

- Crop tops
- St. Louis Cardinals fan

Matthew Thornton (ned's dad)

Cool Facts About Me!

- Enjoys a good book, does not need suggestions
- Cold and distant
- Disgusted with Brooks Brothers these days
- Believes roundabouts superior to intersections
- Loves a good dress code
- Omits the Oxford comma
- Huge youth soccer fan
- Can cook several dishes



“I have a whole team that needs to sign off on this.”

Ideal Date Spot:

- Central Park Carousel

Dealbreaker(s):

- Wears “dress sneakers”
- Unfamiliar with the novel Lucky Jim

Alison Lord (mary's mom)

Cool Facts About Me!

- Still rowing competitively: proving that crew isn’t just a sport, it’s a lifestyle
- Has roughly a thousand instagram posts of the sky, she needs another muse) (sorry dad)
- Proud user of the doggy seatbelt because buckling up can save lives! (Mom, where’s my seatbelt?)
- Uses her book club as an excuse to get wine drunk on a Thursday night
- More likely to go to a highway hookah lounge than Chuck E. Cheese



“Not only do I dominate the tennis courts, I dominate the workplace!”

Ideal Date Spot:

- Italian restaurant (she spent a summer abroad there, so she feels a deep connection to the Sicilian culture)

Dealbreaker(s):

- Wide wale corduroys (whatever those are)
- Can’t drive stick shift, aka, not a real man



The Phillipian SPORTS

Volume CXLV | Number 20

another training
room success story

October 14, 2022

Andover Baseball Head Coach Kevin Graber is MLB Bound

STAFF REPORT

After 13 seasons as Head Coach of Andover Baseball, Kevin Graber will be joining the Chicago Cubs as a Complex Coordinator.

According to Jared Banner, Vice-President of Player Development at the Chicago Cubs, Graber will be coordinating and coaching the team's rookie players at its training facility in Mesa, Arizona. Previously coached by Graber at Amherst College, Banner believes Graber's vast experiences make him fit for his new position.

"I think the reason he's such a perfect fit is because he's a teacher first...And what that means is he does a great job of connecting with young people, as evidenced by all the work that he's done at Andover. So between that and all his life experiences, I don't know how much you know, Kevin, but he's beaten cancer. He's been an SIP. He's been a college coach. He's been a high school coach, he's been an Associate Dean of Admissions, he's just done so much in his life, outside of his ability on the field, that he feels like a perfect fit to help our guys grow as baseball players and as young men," said Banner.

Current Andover Baseball player Cole Mascott '23, who is committed to Northwestern University through Graber's support, shares similar sentiments to Banner, specifically highlighting Graber's baseball experience. Although disheartened to lose Graber, players credit him for the program's extensive scope and longtime success.

"He's more than deserving. He has one of the greatest baseball minds, probably the best I've been around. He just knows the game so well. He's played since he was just a young kid and he's been around the game his whole life. He has [played] pro ball. He has played Division One baseball. He has played multiple levels of college baseball. He lives the game, he loves the game, and I wish the best for him, and he's going to do great with his new position," said Mascott.



Coach Graber presenting at the 2022 ABCA Convention.

For Graber, the most important aspect of coaching at Andover has not been baseball itself. Rather, he emphasizes the well-being of his players, providing as many resources and opportunities as possible in order for them to succeed as students beyond the sport.

"No one cares how much I know, unless they know how much I care... I take an interest in how they're doing in the classroom, or taking an interest in how they're doing it in the dorms. I tried to have breakfast with a different student every morning. We have a text group for baseball playing kids, and very few of the texts are about baseball... It's a lot of reminders about some of the things that make students successful here at Phillips Academy. It's also constant reminders that it's [time to] break free of your comfort zone," said Graber.

Since 2012, 64 of Graber's players are either playing or have committed to playing at the college level. Mascott expressed gratitude for Graber's assistance throughout his recruiting process and ultimate landing at Northwestern, in addition to Graber seeing Mascott's true potential in the sport.

"I came in my freshman year and super underdeveloped. Not [a] very impressive player, I guess. Then he kind of saw me sophomore year as more of a pitcher... So then he saw me that summer and during my junior year, off-season, he saw me pitching and... he was very impressed with me. Over that process, I got to know him more and more. Especially last year, I got much closer with him. He kind of bought into me as a player. He went out there and threw me in big spots and games. He even went as far as helping me on the recruiting side of things and calling coaches for me. And I owe him everything for that," said Mascott.

Graber has led Andover to 12 consecutive Central New England Preparatory School Baseball League (CNEPSBL) Final Four appearances. During practices, Graber is consistently engaged with the team, oftentimes running drills and hitting alongside his players.



COURTESY OF KELLY GRABER

Coach Graber is commonly referred to by students as 'KG.'

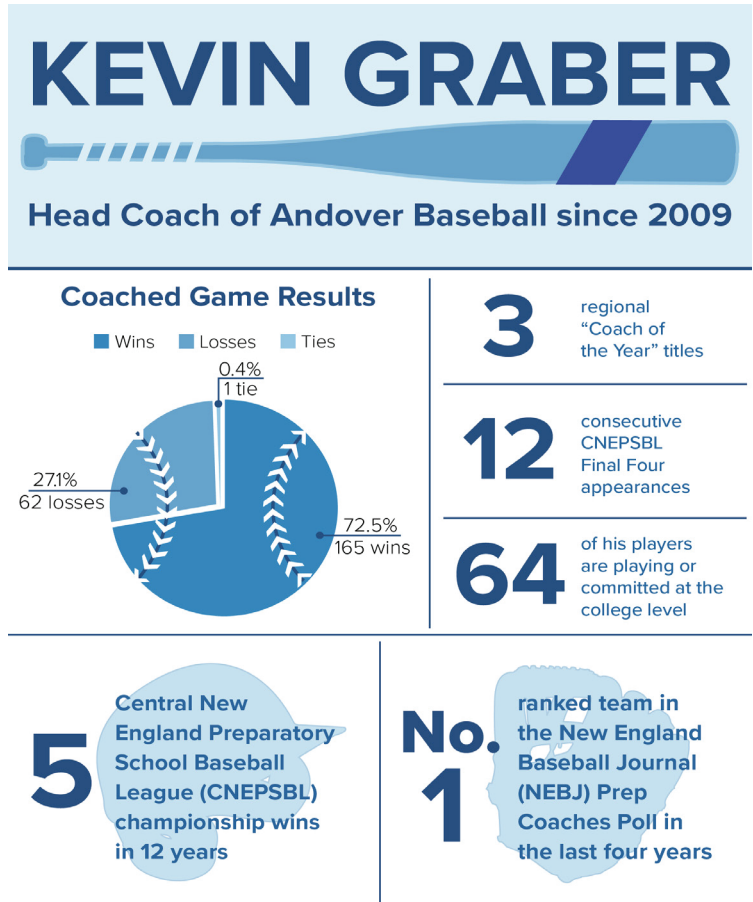
"I especially like turning double plays with the middle infielders and the shortstop and the second baseman. I like getting in hitting groups, sometimes swinging the bat and hitting some baseballs. And I think it's been helpful that I can demonstrate techniques. I can sort of show rather than just tell. And that's been really, really effective. as a teaching tool with our guys," said Graber.

At the 2022 American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) National Convention, Graber presented the fundamental principle of Andover Baseball: "Systematic Chaos." Graber values giving his players creative freedom, while still maintaining order within the team.

"I developed this system that we call 'Systematic Chaos,' because I love creating chaos on the baseball field with pace running. But at the same time, I'm a bit of a control freak. So I systemized how to make that happen for teams and for players. And so one example is in our program, every player has the green light to steal third base when they're on second [base] anytime they want. They don't need to wait for a sign for me. I call it 'Backyard Baseball,' just like if you were playing in your backyard, [as if] I wasn't even there. But three things have to fall into place: timing, distance, and anticipation," said Graber.

Further, Graber values making baseball a consistently high intensity game. One where the players control the rhythm of the game and take authority of the field.

"I like baseball, [but it] can be coached in a way that's really boring. Like one person hitting and 18 people standing around waiting for their chance to hit. You know, I like baseball to have a certain rhythm and pace and vibe to it. I like, 'Go, go, go.' I like, 'Move, move, move.' I like, 'Let's do stuff. Let's have fun. Let's make plays.' I hate the thought of waiting around for a team to string three or four or five base hits in a row together to score a run. I'm like, 'Let's get our base any way we can, and let's do a bunch of paces and let's force the ac-



HEYON CHOI & JAMES XIAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

tion. Let's control the tempo. We control the tempo, not our opponents," continued Graber.

After sharing this principle with over 6000 coaches at the ABCA National Convention, Graber was called to Wrigley Field to present in front of the Cubs' staff. Receiving an unexpected job offer a few weeks later, Graber reflected back on his roles at Andover outside of just being a coach.

"I'll miss the stir fry for sure... I mean, for me, it's all about relationships. You know, every day, I just want to wake up and see who needs help and who can I help, and that's how I'm going to sort of approach my new job. But it is baseball, baseball, baseball. And I think what I'll miss is, again, I'll miss the fact that I get to help kids in a lot of different ways here at Andover. You know, through admissions, in the EBI classroom, and advising in the dorm," said Graber.

Graber looks to the future of the program. Though not up to his discretion, Graber

hopes Andover Baseball's new Head Coach will be involved in the Andover community in other ways than just baseball, similar to Graber prior to his resignation.

"[The new coach is] really in the hands of our Athletic Director Lisa Joel and Human Resources to be quite honest with you. I certainly don't have the authority or the power to hand the baton off to somebody, [but] they're going to make a great decision. I think what I would hope is that it's someone who's entrenched in our community. It's someone who is not just a coach and comes in coaches and then goes home. It's someone who's here, who's someone who provides other responsibilities. Someone who is an advisor and a teacher and someone who supports students in other ways besides just baseball. And I think that's the best way to get to know this place and get to know our students," said Graber.

Girls Volleyball Defeats Choate and Austin Preparatory School, Continues Five-Game Win Streak

ANDRE WU

SATURDAY	
Andover	3
Choate	1

SATURDAY	
Andover	3
Austin Prep	1

Girls Volleyball defeated Choate and Austin Prep, both with the score of 3-1, on Saturday and Wednesday, respectively. Continuing its win streak, the team's record now stands at 9-2.

Jaedyn Ford '24 reflected upon the game against Choate last season, where the team had lost. She noted the resilience and team chemistry that allowed the team to defeat Choate on Saturday.

"[The game against Choate] was one of the most pivotal games in our season. Last year when we played Choate, we lost, and then we went on a multi-game losing streak. This game, we came back in the first set... The fourth set was really close together: point after point we were tied, and then after seventeen points we took it all the way to the end. They were a really really good team, they had some really strong hitters, but it was just about us working together, falling together af-

ter every ball not letting anything drop," said Ford.

According to Ford, Mary Lord '24 put up an impressive performance in the game against Choate, specifically making strong kills and playing well at net.

Ford said, "Our middle, Mary, she was really strong at the net. [Choate's] hits were really low to the net, which meant they were really easy to block. There were a lot of balls that were tight to the net, and Mary would slam it down... We were just really big up there, and I think a big part of that was controlling their net."

Kate Rodgers '26 partly credits the victory to the high energy that kept the players going. She noted that the

bench kept cheering teammates on and helped each other shake off tough moments.

"Our bench's energy was really good, which I think inspired the team to bring up the energy as well. That really helped us to have a positive outlook and really fight hard for the win" said Rodgers.

The success against Choate carried the team into Wednesday. Coach Clyde Beckwith highlighted several players who contributed to this win. However, he also emphasized a few mistakes made in the game.

In an email to *The Phillipian*, Beckwith wrote, "We had notable performances from our starting six. Mary Lord gave us a spark with some

key hits in the middle. Karisa Bockley ['23] gave us a spark also in the middle, with some key blocks and adept defensive plays. And that is on top of the good strong foundation the whole team provides. We allowed Austin Prep many points by dropping out of system saves, hitting free balls into the net, and serving far too many balls out. And we redeemed ourselves by forcing them to make mistakes."

Andover Girls Volleyball will play St. Paul's at home on Saturday.

GIRLSSOCCER

Following Loss to Choate, Girls Soccer Breaks Losing Streak with Win Over Brooks

EVIE WOOD		
SATURDAY		
Andover		4
Choate		6
WEDNESDAY		
Andover		2
Brooks		1

Co-Captain Lulu Rourke '23 scored the game-winning goal against Brooks this Wednesday, securing a 2-1 win. The win followed a 4-6 loss against Choate last Saturday, making Andover's record 3-1-5.

According to Lola Aguirre '26, Choate held on to an early lead, powered by three goals scored in the first half. Aguirre acknowledged the difficulty of coming back from an extremely tough start.

"Well, in the first ten minutes or so, we were down by three...we worked back up to a score of 4-6...but in the first ten minutes, we were losing by three so that was a tough place to come back from,"

said Aguirre.

Leading up to its games against Choate and Brooks, the team focused on refining various facets of its game, both in the back and front ends. According to Co-Captain Kelly Bu '23, the team's practice translated effectively on the field.

"This week in practice, we focused a lot about our offensive shape. So, really thinking about where players are when they don't have the ball, and how we can move the ball around, rather than just sort of free-floating, and just being really intentional with the way that we play soccer moving forward, and attacking, especially. And then also, communication, defensive shape, all of those things. I think our offensive shape looked so much better today, and that's why we were able to generate those offensive chances as well," said Bu.

In its game against Brooks, the team drew from bursts of energy all across the field. Bu highlighted key players that stood out during the match.

Bu said, "Our first goal was scored by Sarah Powers ['26] - she's a freshman, and she just had this tenacity to her when she came on the field

where she was relentless, fearless, and really came after the ball, and after the goal, and we needed that spark of energy. I think we could shout out A.J., our goalie, she had some really big saves today that really helped us gain confidence moving forward. Lulu Rourke, she is one of our Senior captains, as well, and she just is always, every game, always everywhere on the field, she's always getting the ball back, winning the ball back, tackling, so ferocious, and so fierce, and it's really really amazing to watch."

Lauren Herlihy '25 further emphasized Powers' strong performance on the field, allowing for Andover to come out on top.

"I feel like the game went really well, I mean we pulled out a win and I think that was our main goal going into the game. Sarah Powers went for it, and she scored right in the first half and that was awesome. It was a great way to start the game," said Herlihy.

Moving forward, Bu hopes the team can continue polishing offensive and defensive aspects of their play as the season continues. The effective offense showcased on Wednesday needs to continue



C.BARBIE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Lola Aguirre '26 challenges Pingree's offense.

in future games, according to Bu.

"I think we really need to work on continuing our offensive shape, working on our defensive shape, really learning how to win the ball back, and turn that into more of an offensive attack. I think that we could work a bit on our transitions in that sense. From defense to offense, and offense to defense. I think that'll really help us tight-

en up things that we need to work on, and areas where... people can pick us apart. So I think, looking forward to St. Pauls, we really are just going to reflect on the way we played today, and then think about ways we can improve," said Bu.

Andover Girls Soccer will face St. Paul's at home on Friday under the lights.

BOYSWATERPOLO

Boys Water Polo Sharpens Counterattacks, Falls Short to Choate

MEG STINEMAN		
SATURDAY		
Andover		10
Choate		14

Despite its 14-10 loss against Choate this Saturday, Andover Boys Water Polo left the pool proud of the game they had played. Its record now stands at 3-6.

With the knowledge that Choate was a fierce team, the team was determined to play its best game. Co-Captain Trey Wolfe '23 highlighted the motivated and optimistic mindset that the team carried going into and out of the challenging matchup.

"We were expecting a good, tough game. And I think as a team, that's our favorite kind of game. Everybody loves winning, but playing a good team, where you can really push yourself and get creative, those are always the best games and I think we really rose to the occasion. So even though we didn't come out winning, it was definitely closer than it should have been. I think, sure, it definitely felt that way. And we walked away feeling like winners," said Wolfe.

Against Choate, Nick Donaldson '23 noticed a dramatic improvement in the team's non-verbal communication. From the beginning of the season, bonds have strengthened between teammates, not only creating a positive atmosphere outside the



R.NASSERZADEH/THE PHILLIPIAN

Boys Waterpolo is led by Co-Captains Marek Deveau '23, Marcel Montemayor Fontes '23, and Trey Wolfe '23.

pool, but also, enhancing the level of play during games.

"I was talking about how we were disconnected at the beginning of the year in terms of our chemistry in the pool. Something we were excelling at a lot in that Choate game was reading each other without the use of words, so passes were made that I feel like we've improved on a lot in this point of the season that we weren't making in the beginning of the season. We were taking shots for each other at the specific time that we should, which normally we wouldn't have in the past. We were driving a lot, which we hadn't been in the past. I feel like we have improved a lot

with our communication without the use of words," said Donaldson.

Although communication has improved, Wolfe believes the team still needs to work on establishing a strong, consistent defensive foundation. In preparation for upcoming games, the team will rely on film to identify weaknesses in its defense that have allowed for the opposing team to dominate early into the games.

Wolfe said, "I think one of one of our biggest issues at the start of the game was first getting kind of burned on defense.... We're going to watch the game film on Wednesday just so players can

see it because when you're in the pool playing field it's really hard to see everything that's happening. I get a bit of a different view from the goal, but we'll be able to look at the film and just see where we're lacking on defense. And once we figure that out, we're gonna be pretty unstoppable."

Going into the game, the team was focused on its counterattacks. Rather than clearing the ball, the team wanted to formulate smooth transitions from its defensive to its offensive possession, according to Ryan Chandor '23.

"We were on defense and really just pushing out as fast as

we can getting set up. Getting our offense working, moving the ball around as fast as you can, keeping the ball dry. And then in practice, as well as working on counter attacks, we've focused a lot on spacing in five-on-six. So whenever there's a man down, there's a certain way to set up in water polo for man down just like in hockey. And really, again, just working on keeping the ball drive," said Chandor.

Now halfway through their season, the team has adapted well to their new Head Coach, Howie Kalter. According to Chandor, Kalter is always eager to share his extensive knowledge of the sport, and Kalter takes his contributions one step farther by being an example in the pool.

"I think that the knowledge that Coach Kalter has, because he was a professional water polo player, the things that he adds in practice really helps out a lot. And then as well as that, he does get in the water a lot which is super helpful. Actually showing us how to do certain moves, how to really work the ball around all that type of stuff. He's a great coach, like I said, super knowledgeable. I feel like he's really, really bringing in knowledge about the sport that we didn't have before," said Chandor.

Andover Boys Water Polo will host a double-header against Loomis Chaffee and Brunswick on Saturday and face Suffield Academy away on Wednesday.

FIELDHOCKEY

Field Hockey Scores Eight Goals in Two Games Against Choate and Milton

HENRY HE		
SATURDAY		
Andover		4
Choate		0
WEDNES-		
Andover		4
Milton		1

As Maren Boyle '26 receives the ball on the outer side of the shooting circle, she lines up her shot and drills a fast ball into the back of the net, causing the entire team to swarm the field. The goal led Andover Field Hockey to a 4-0 win at Choate, which was followed by a 4-1 win at Milton, bringing the team to a 7-1 record.

Co-Captain Keira Harder '23 emphasized the importance of the quantity of goals in both games. This season, Field Hockey has had scoring struggles, so the abundance of goals was crucial in securing each victory.

"Before our Choate game, we were struggling to rack



M.DOUCETTE/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Kiera Harder '23 makes a pass.

up goals. I don't think we've scored more than three goals all season so breaking that three goal cap was super instrumental and a big turning point in our season," said Harder.

Goalie Ellie Parker '25 highlighted the captains' chemistry. Both Harder and Shea Freda '24 are instrumental role models on the field, as well as key communicators.

"Shea, she plays center back and is our captain, is just super

steady on the field and knows what to do and when it needs to be done. Our other captain, Keira Harder, she plays sweeper, she's very communicative on the field and always knows how to help people out," said Parker.

With 14 graduating Seniors last year, the young team has welcomed challenges and has eased into the turnover, according to Lucy Parker '26. Additionally, the dynamic between the returner players and

new ones have flourished positively.

"It's a special year because it's not often when you have six freshmen and a lot of new players. So, it's kind of a different dynamic than before but not in a worse way at all because the people, especially the Seniors, are really open to letting us feel like we're welcome to the team. The upperclassmen all try to help the freshmen to get a voice because as a freshman on varsity it can seem a little scary, but they do a really good job making sure everyone feels valued," said Parker.

With that support, Harder has seen a lot of improvements from the younger players thus far. And some key players from last year have stepped up to lead the team. In particular, in the game against Choate, Neily Ware '25 stepped up defensively.

"Defensively, Neily Ware, who's a Lower, played out of her mind. She really came into her own against Choate. I thought she was playing phenomenally, stepping up to balls, communicating what she saw... Ellie Parker, she's our goalie, is constantly communicating on the field. She always tells me where to be and what

to do, and I try to pass on her information to the midfield and the forwards. Lucy Parker and Lilly McInerney are two freshmen who have incredible speed and make good cuts for the balls. Sarah Lackley is another freshman on defense who I thought played an awesome game. Overall, I think everyone really stepped into their own space which was awesome," said Harder.

Harder also noted the important roles of the coaches, who not only communicate areas of growth and guide the team, but simultaneously give voice to the younger players to contribute to team talks.

Harder said, "Our coaches and players have a lot of conversations on what we see on the field, what we need to work on, and we encourage Underclassmen to lead and participate in those conversations. Especially being such an Underclassmen heavy team, it's really important that everyone has a voice. So far so good, and I can't wait to see where this team goes."

Andover will face off against St. Paul's at home on Saturday.

BOYSCROSSCOUNTRY

Boys Cross Country Defeats Choate with Strategic Race Plan

ANGIE LUCIA

On Saturday, Andover Boys Cross Country headed to Choate to race its first dual meet of the season. The race resulted in a 16-43 win for the team, putting its dual meet record at 1-0.

In preparation for the race, the team utilized a 3-D printed model of Choate's course, created by teammate Lundeen Cahilly '24. According to Coach Keri Lambert, the model allowed the team to scope out the course and develop key race strategies.

"As usual, we ran an easy pre-meet run on Friday afternoon. After that, we looked at a 3-D model of the race map to get a sense of the elevation changes, loops, and more. One of the boys' team members, Lundeen

Cahilly, made the model at the Makerspace. It's so cool! And it's really useful as a coaching tool. I definitely hope he makes more for the other courses we'll visit this year," wrote Coach Lambert.

According to Vance Fabrizio '24, the team planned to start the race conservatively, then gradually built up speed towards the end. This race plan allowed the team to adapt to the elevation gain of the course.

"They had a big hill around mile two and the race plan was to go out easier in the first mile and then in the second mile really attack the hill. Then in the third mile, because the last mile was almost all downhill, the third mile, we went very fast. So stay conservative to start with and then build up the pace until the end," said Fabrizio.

Max Boesch-Powers '24 high-

lighted the pack running strategy that the team utilized throughout this race, which contributed to its success. In addition to the Varsity win, the team took all top seven individual spots in the JV race, sweeping Choate with a 15-50 win.

"I ran with [Vance] and stuck with him because we were going for the same time. I saw other people on the team doing that too, and it helps people push each other. We also did well overall...We just did well with times. It was a new course for everyone with a really tough hill in it, and people did a good job. They were saying they wanted to start walking, but they pushed through it," said Boesch-Powers.

According to Fabrizio, dual meets require more individual focus and motivation, in great part due to the smaller scale of

the race. However, a benefit of having less runners in a race is the ability to run from one place to the next in the shortest possible line, leading to faster times overall.

"I think dual meet obviously [has] less runners so it requires more mental focus because there's not as many people cheering you on as an invitation-al. You can really run the shortest course because you don't have to run around other people, like the other runners," said Fabrizio.

According to Boesch-Powers, the team is working on maintaining its focus during practice so that it is familiar with the amount of focus needed when transitioning to the race environment. With such a young team, the team is still continuing to build strong, encouraging relationships, especially during

hard races like this one.

"We are working on staying focused and when we are doing workouts, we want to do them well. When we are in races we want to stay focused and realize that we are in a race setting, and we are trying to give everything we have to that race and leave everything out on that course. We also want to build team relationships because we have a pretty young team, and we want to make sure that we can all work together and encourage each other and have a good team for years to come," said Boesch-Powers.

Andover Boys Cross Country will host Austin Preparatory School and St. Paul's this Saturday for Family Weekend.



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AAF GRANT
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SESSIONS

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Paresky Commons (upper left)

Thursday, October 6
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Paresky Commons (upper left)



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BOYSSOCCER

Co-Captain Zane Matraji '24 Values Friendship and Close Relationships with Teammates

ELISE MINOR

With Andover Boys Soccer holding an undefeated record so far this season, its captains must uphold values of persistence, focus, and drive. Although Co-Captain Zane Matraji '24 strives to consis-



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

tently maintain these values, he also prioritizes being an encouraging friend to everyone on the team.

For Matraji, friendship is one of the most important aspects of being a leader. He respects and maintains close relationships with all his teammates, who in return, push him to be a more effec-

tive leader.

"I think I try to lead by example because everyone on the team is my friend, and I don't want to boss them around and be a mean guy to them. So I feel like the best way for them to do what I do is to set a good example and show them the good and the bad things. And of course, they can help me out, and I can help them out so it's a symbiotic relationship," said Matraji.

Peter Elliott '24 values his relationship with Matraji. Although Matraji's outgoing personality allows him to connect well with all his teammates, Elliott is particularly inspired by his ability to switch to absolute concentration once on the field.

"Off the pitch, my relationship with Zane is super friendly, and he's just an incredible guy, super fun to hang out with. And on the pitch he kind of flips the switch, and while he's super supportive and super nice, he's totally locked in and gets in this zone where on the pitch he's not thinking about anything else but soccer. He's

not one to get distracted, and I think he does an incredible job of keeping us all focused and paying attention to the task at hand rather than straying onto something else," said Elliott.

As an Upper, Matraji's attributes still inspire the oldest players on the team. Tegan Doll PG '23 shares a similar sentiment to Elliot, acknowledging Matraji's personable qualities, but is also inspired by his exemplary technical skills that separate him from his competitors.

"He always tells the team what to do. For example, when we start the warmup he's the person who is leading us. His soccer skills are unique. He's very good in the attack and his technical abilities are stronger than most of the abilities of the players of the team. Zane is a very good friend. On and off the pitch, it's always fun to hang out with him, and he's a really good soccer player," says Doll.

Matraji believes that the reason for his strong leadership is due to his love for the game. Being at his best every time he steps on the field

draws out aspects of the sport that keep him coming back for more.

"My favorite aspect of the sport is the adrenaline and the joy playing the sport that I love. That's what keeps me coming back. No matter how tired or worn out I am. I know that the next day, I want to play as if it's the first time I ever played the sport in my life," said Matraji.

Initially needing to take considerable control of the team, Matraji has gradually become more relaxed in his role, in great part due to the team's increasing efficiency during practice.

"Well I think from the start of the year to where we are in the season, there's definitely been a lot of growth in terms of just getting to practice on time, and I can tell that there's a change in the dynamic within the team. And people really want to get started and get going as fast as they can really without me having to push them as much as I did in the beginning of the year," said Matraji.

Co-Captain Gio Pagliuca '23 Views Andover Boys Soccer as His Family

ANDRE WU

Andover Boys Soccer Co-Captain Gio Pagliuca '23 creates a sense of family with his teammates by leading by example and supporting others when they are down. Though he started playing soccer because of his family, his teammates are what have made him continue playing. Pagliuca learned from his former captain's demonstrations of teamwork and collaboration early on in his Andover Boys Soccer career, which has helped him towards his role as captain today.

"I looked at the upperclassmen, and especially the captains of my team, as role models. I try to model my own captaincy off of how they led. For me that looks like including everyone and making sure everyone's enjoying being together, whether it's on the field or off the field. For me, the best way to bring that sense of camaraderie is by including everyone in whatever activity it is, making sure everyone's engaged," said Pagliuca.

Pagliuca continued, "On the field and in practice sessions, it's easier to bring that sense of camaraderie because you're all working towards

an obvious goal, but I think it can be a little more difficult off the field, and I think the best way off the field to build that sense of team spirit is by being really intentional about creating and maintaining positive relationships, so constantly reaching out to the guys, making sure they're alright, having fun with the guys and just enjoying each other's presence."

According to Jonathan Bu '26, one of the things that Pagliuca does best is maintain a cool head during games, which leads to control and positivity on the field. Bu says that Pagliuca always encourages team members to get back up even when they make a mistake.

"Whenever someone makes a mistake or makes a bad pass, he always comforts them. We try not to put others down because that's the worst thing you can do in that kind of situation, to yell or put someone down on the team, and you just want to encourage them so they can make a better play the next time," said Bu.

According to Ryan Lam '24, not only does Pagliuca provide tranquility on the field, but he is also a captain that players can look towards for support off the field. Lam recounted a personal experience in which Pagliuca cheered him on even

after a difficult day.

"I remember one time I was feeling really down. I think that time, I got a bad math grade back on a test—this was last spring... but because he's a day student, he took me and maybe three other teammates; we just went, and we drove to his house between [All-School Meeting] and period seven, and his parents treated us to a meal, and I really did feel better," said Lam.

According to Pagliuca, soccer has helped him understand the significance of team chemistry and working together. Throughout his four years on the team he has learned that the only way to grow and be strong as a team is by working together.

Pagliuca said, "I'd say soccer's helped me a lot, just by being able to understand the team dynamic the sport allows. In soccer you can't win, score goals, or meet your expectations if you don't go at things as a team. If it's not a collective effort, you won't achieve your goals and that's a big thing I've learned through soccer.... If there's not a sense of unity and camaraderie amongst a group of people, there's not going to be any success."

While Pagliuca is unsure of what his future in soccer will look like, he is certain that



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

he will continue playing. Encouraged by the connections he made in soccer at Andover, playing on a team is the perfect way to enter a new environment.

"To some capacity I'd love to play soccer in college, I'm not sure if that would be at the varsity level, or maybe the club or recreational level, but I'll definitely plan on continuing to be a part of a soccer team in college, just because of that camaraderie, really the

relationships that soccer has given me. I definitely want to keep making those relationships into college and I think soccer is a great vehicle to perform these easy relationships with like-minded people," said Pagliuca.

Editor's Note: Ryan Lam '24 is a Subscriptions Manager for The Phillipian.

Co-Captain Ellis Denby '24 Inspires Boys Soccer with His Sociability and Offensive Production

MADDIE REDMOND

Co-Captain Ellis Denby '24's love for soccer was first sparked at five years old, when he and his older brothers play in the yard and on the field. Ever since, he has continued to excel at the sport. According to Denby, his favorite aspect of the game is the freedom of playing and the opportunities to connect with others.

"I would say [my favorite aspect is] probably just when you're on the field and sort of everything else doesn't really matter and you can just be yourself and you don't have to worry about anything. But also, you get to just spend time with your friends and it's a really good way to bond with other people and connect with people from all over," said Denby.

According to Denby, he strives to achieve an effective balance between being both a supportive friend and constructive leader on the team.

"I would say that I like to lead by example and sort of my conduct on the field and off the field. I like to think that I work really hard to set

an example for the younger players on the team. And also, off the field, just being a friendly guy, being a nice guy, and sort of being the example that you should be inclusive to everyone and treat people with respect. Be friendly and on the field, holding people accountable while still being a nice guy and getting the best out of everyone,"

Both a challenger on the field and a team player, Denby has found a way to balance encouraging his team while consistently helping them grow, according to Co-Captain Zane Matraji '24.

"Ellis, as a captain, leads by example. I think that he has this mentality that I've never really seen before. And he's able to push others in a very positive way while also demanding a lot from us," said Matraji.

Denby enjoys all aspects of the game, from conversing with teammates to producing on offense. According to Denby, he strives to create a close-knit team environment with his sociable personality.

"I like involving everyone else. I like scoring a lot but I also love assisting and getting other people involved. So I think as a player, I'm some-

one that takes the game in the middle of the field and gets people involved and makes things happen on the attack while also trying to defend the best that I can. And then as a person I think I'm a friendly guy, a lot of my friends, my best friend, are the kids on my team so it's sort of just trying to create a good bond the past couple years. But then also there's not a single player on the team that I'm not friendly or friends with or I can't have a conversation with, so I think it just shows who I am as a person. I like to talk to people, I like to be friendly and get to know people. I would describe myself as a social person,"

Oliver Buckhoff '24 highlighted Denby's attributes as a soccer player and a person. Having played soccer with Denby since childhood, Buckhoff noted Denby's example-based leadership style.

"I appreciate Ellis's leadership both on and off the pitch and I think on the pitch he leads by example. He's always doing the right thing, he has the right ideas, and he's encouraging us to do the right things as well. And off the pitch he's just a genuinely nice guy. He's just a pleasure



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

to be around, he creates a cohesive team chemistry," said Buckhoff

Younger players, such as Paul Gichana '25, have expressed admiration for Denby as well. Gichana explained that he looks up to Denby as a primary scorer.

Gichana said, "He scores a lot of goals for us and gets

a lot of great assists for our team. When he scores, it's just a really good moment for the team, especially for myself because it encourages me to help the team as well."

ANDOVER BOYS SOCCER

ELLIS E. DENBY'24 (C)
SALEM, MA

10

GIOVANNI L. PAGLIUCA'23(C)
NORTH READING, MA

17

ZANE W. MATRAJI'24(C)
NORTH ANDOVER, MA

7

JACK E. ALEXANDER'25
CATSKILL, NY

15

ALEXANDER COMAN'24
DORVAL, QC CAN

2

MICHAEL L. HLAVATY'23
BASKING RIDGE, NJ

14

ALVIN Y. LIU'24
BURLINGTON, MA

25

ELIJAH J. ROBINSON'25
MIDDLETON, CT

11

NICHOLAS S. ANASTOS'23
NORWELL, MA

13

TEGAN F. DOLL'23
OBERTRUM, AT

21

GARRETT S. HOLMAN'24
HAMBURG, NJ

4

SPENCER MADGE'25
WELLESLEY, MA

16

SPENCER C. SALHANICK'24
ANDOVER, MA

5

JONATHAN BU'26
ELLCOTT CITY, MD

18

PETER J. ELLIOTT'24
ANDOVER, MA

12

RAFIQ KASUMOV'25
MONACO, MC

14

TRISTAN P. MARNOTO'24
NORTH ANDOVER, MA

8

ALEX TORRENS'24
ANDOVER, MA

6

OLIVER E. BUCKHOFF'24
SALEM, MA

9

PAUL M. GICHANA'25
NORTH ANDOVER, MA

19

RYAN N. LAM'24
ATHERTON, CA

13

MARC A. NELSON'25
JACKSON, NJ

23

MANAGERS

FALLON A. O'CONNOR'23
ANDOVER, MA

CAROLINE C. MCGIRT'23
CHARLOTTE, NC

MATTHEW C. LEONARD'24
ANDOVER, MA

ANJOLAOLUWA ODUKOYA'24
SOMERSET, NJ

RYANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

SPECIALFEAUTURE

Outdoor Pursuits Takes Trip to Fryeburg, Maine for Scenic Canoeing on Saco River

ANGIE LUCIA

Members of Outdoor Pursuits (OP) paddled 12 miles down the Saco River, enjoying the wildlife and New England fall foliage. The group camped at Swan's Falls Campground in Fryeburg, Maine over the weekend of October 1 for their expedition.

After the end of classes on Friday afternoon, the group made the trip up North. Stewart Kristiansen '23, a Student Outdoor Leader Opportunity (SOLO) leader, recalled the preparations needed for the overnight stay.

"We drove up to Maine. We grabbed some firewood on the way up. We got there when it was getting dark, so we all set up camp as it was getting dark, put up the tents and stuff, and then we made dinner. We made quesadillas that night. We hung out around the fire, which was really fun. We got to talk with everybody. We did some stargazing by the river, which was really nice. Then it got super cold, and we all went to bed," said Kristiansen.

The next day, the group canoeed down the Saco River while taking the occasional break on the shallow river banks. Faculty Leader Christine Marshall highlighted the variety of wildlife that could be seen from the boat.

Marshall said, "We paddled downstream for a stretch of almost 12 miles. We stopped just a few times [on] these large sand bars [that are] in the middle of the Saco river because it's a large river. We stopped a few times for snacks and water and once for lunch. It was pretty cool. We

Members of Outdoor Pursuits canoeing on the Saco River.

COURTESY OF CHRISTINE MARSHALL

saw a lot of fish, turtles, and a blue heron, which is a kind of giant bird that likes the water."

Every term, the OP paddling group takes two day trips and one overnight trip. Prior to the Saco River trip was a day trip to the Concord River in Concord, Mass.. However, in addition to the extensive weekend trips, the group tries to paddle in local rivers two to three times during the week, according to Kristiansen.

"For canoeing we usually do a short paddle on a river close by or some sort of short hike around campus. Something to get people engaged with the outdoors, but we're kind of crunched for time on [Tuesdays] just because of how scheduling works. On Wednesdays, since people get out a little bit earlier, we'll meet again for four or five hours, and

then we can really get a little bit farther away. Sometimes we go into Harold Parker [State Forest], that's probably one of my favorites. We'll paddle on some of the ponds out there. It's really fun. It gets students a lot farther away from campus and they get to get a little bit deeper into the outdoors, which is always great," said Kristiansen.

According to Sonia Appen '24, members of OP particularly enjoy the program in the fall, in great part due to the scenery. As a boarding student from a big city, Appen appreciates the frequent opportunity to experience the fall foliage and weather on a boat, away from bustling city and campus life.

"I feel like New England fall is the best season for being outside. Everything looks so beauti-

ful, and the weather is nice and cool. I would say that would be my favorite season to do Outdoor Pursuits. It's nice to be able to go out and do that. It feels very different to when I'm at home," said Appen.

On top of all the fun trips, OP encourages learning and conversation about leadership, inclusivity, and sustainability. Kristiansen shared the importance of respecting the outdoors.

"More dispersed throughout the whole term is discussing sustainability, and also how to make the outdoors more inclusive. You're being in the outdoors as much as you are learning about being in the outdoors and learning about how to keep the outdoors preserved," said Kristiansen.

The faculty leaders strive to

teach members of the program how to prepare for unpredictable conditions, especially leading up to overnight trips. Marshall enjoys assisting students in developing skills that can be used in life beyond hiking and paddling.

"From my perspective, what I notice them getting out of it is learning how to plan for a trip when you're not really certain what the weather will bring. I mean let's face it, New England has weather that will change by the hour, and sometimes in ways that are difficult to predict, so what I see the kids getting out of it is the ability to plan to do something outdoors and to be prepared for unexpected little squalls of rain or an unexpected cold front.... I like seeing the kids develop the skill of being able to plan and execute a trip where they stay comfortable and have a lot of fun, and have really good food," said Marshall.

According to Marshall, OP trips are also an opportunity for members to connect through different aspects of their identity outside of being an Andover student. Thus, she encourages clear separation from campus life and life in the great outdoors.

"Sometimes we really try to leave our [Andover] identities behind so that we can just share time as humans in the world. That can be a challenge because [Andover] is our common denominator, it's a thing we all share. Leaving that behind is sometimes a little difficult, but we really try so that it feels like a true break from campus life when we're away," said Marshall.

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Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

Grasshopper 2022 Overcomes Difficulties to Blast Into Family Weekend With Retro Performances

STAFF REPORT

Clad in black-and-white suits, Andover's all-male Aca-pella Group, Yorkies, fill the Tang Theatre with their reso-nant harmonization of Frank-ie Valli's pop track "Can't Take My Eyes Off You." The sultry '60s atmosphere is soon taken a decade back as Footnotes, a tap-dancing group, step and sway onstage for an uplifting cover to Gene Kelly's 1952 "Singin' in the Rain."

Encompassing the perfor-mance's 2022 theme of "Blast from the Past," this moment, according to Yorkies member Jack Swales '24, particu-larly highlighted a culmination of the two groups' hard work and experimental collabora-tive efforts.

"It's a lot of fun, just [to] come together as Yorkies, we're having a lot of fun there, and then watching them per-form too was really cool...it's nice to see everything come together in the end and see our progress that we made," said Swales.

From improvised comedy sketches about ancient Chi-na's Tang Dynasty to Bon Jo-vi-esque electrifying rock so-los from the '80s, many of this



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

From left to right, EV Heck '25, Aviva Cai '24, and Solar Lu '24 of JVNE performing BTS's "Blood Sweat & Tears."

year's Grasshoppers acts paid homage to the culture and en-tertainment of decades past. As the annual decision-mak-ers, the Muses—consisting of five theatre and four dance producers—worked to devel-op a broad and creative theme for the performance starting as early as June.

"Over the summer we be-

gan brainstorming the theme, how we wanted the show to look like...Once the school year began, we had week-ly producer meetings where we would work with faculty to decide, because we want to showcase all the different talents across campus," said dance producer Vanessa Fan '23.

However, producers and performers alike faced chal-lenges in the preparation process for this year's Grass-hopper. Many groups found it difficult to schedule meet-ing times where all members could attend; others, includ-ing dance group JVNE, made last minute changes to their choreography. Nina Torrens

'26, a member of Blue Strut and Azure, commented in particular on the restrictive time limits and its influence on her two performance groups' plans.

"It was definitely very rushed because we only had a month and a half to do it. It got really stressful at some points because we weren't sure we would finish or have it performance ready by the time we needed to have it ready. But I think it all turned out pretty well," said Torrens.

Despite numerous chal-lenges, the Grasshopper per-formers and producers hope for a series of successful shows over the Parents Week-end. Many performers com-mented on how having their parents in attendance makes Grasshopper particularly spe-cial.

"I'm really just excited for my parents to see everything and they came to a Grass-hopper last year and they saw Yorkies and they were like, why aren't you in that? And I was like, 'okay, I guess I'm gonna go join that now.' I think they're really excited for that...they're definite-ly going to enjoy it, they al-ways love stuff like this," said Swales.



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Azure performing "Super Trouper" by ABBA.



A.CHINN/THE PHILLIPIAN

From left to right, Dylan Oh '23 and Jason Zhang '23 singing Kaleidoscope, an original song by their band, Indigo.

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Michelle Chen '24

Releases First Single "Coffee Shop"

MOLLY MACKINNON & WILLA KOZIOL

A love song about a peer, Mi-chelle Chen '24 compares the exhilarating feeling of crushing on someone to the jitters experi-enced after a cup of coffee in her newly released single, "Coffee Shop." Chen was inspired by late nights spent thinking about her close friend, with whom she vis-ited a Harvard Square coffee shop.

"I workshopped it over the summer to be about people I've liked in general and linking the feeling to what it feels like after you drink coffee. I make a lot of subtle references to inside jokes that we have... I say something about 'caramel-colored eyes' and she has hazel eyes," said Chen.

Chen produced her song on LogicProX, recorded at Cyber-sound Studio in Boston, and re-leased the song on Spotify on September 30. April Arabian '24, a friend of Chen's, appreciates listening to Chen's music because she is a newer artist who high-lights emotions familiar to high-school students in her lyrics.

"I am not a songwriter my-self, but [I] definitely [enjoyed] branching out into seeing some other artists who are not as main-stream, listening to her song and really enjoying how raw and real it felt, in comparison to a lot of other songs that do not have that emotion behind them. It inspired me to branch out and try different music than what I usually listen to," said Arabian.

Throughout the writing pro-cess, Chen experienced both ex-citement and frustration as she struggled to compose her vulner-able feelings into words. After her song was recently released, listen-ing to her single now often elicits self-criticism.

"I'm very perfectionistic so

even now when I listen to it I can hear the parts that could have been better. That's a struggle be-cause I always want it to be better. But it's already out, there's noth-ing I can do about it and it's never going to be perfect enough for me," said Chen.

Her opinion of her progress on "Coffee Shop" fluctuated, as stated by Arabian. It took time, and Chen describes the production process as similar to creating a sculpture, hoping to capture the original idea in the final masterpiece.

"It took me a while because when I write a song I have a vision of what I want it to sound like. It's like making a sculpture; you have an idea of what you want it to look like but you have to take away all of the extra material," said Chen.

Chen has felt a deep connec-tion to music since childhood, and after releasing her first single, she feels more confident in the future of her songwriting, despite some of the initial doubts regarding "Coffee Shop."

"I've written a lot of songs, but I've kind of kept them to myself, either because I think they're cheesy or I don't have the ener-gy and time to record them. I'm happy with the general reaction to this song. It makes me feel op-timistic about releasing an EP (ex-tended play) or more songs in the future because I have a lot of those in store," said Chen.



K.WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

The Phillipian *Playlist: K-Pop Edition*

REPORTING BY PIPER LASATER
& MELINDA WU

As an international phenomenon, K-Pop—short for Korean Pop—has reached unprecedented levels of success in mainstream popular culture; these days, you can find catchy Korean idol hits anywhere, from local American radio stations to an average Andover student’s playlist. From Twice to BOL4, The Phillipian’s music collection for this week is dedicated to those vibrant and irresistible K-Pop songs that make everyone’s day.

Ashley
Park ’24

“To My Youth” **BOL4**

“My favorite song is ‘To My Youth’ by BOL4. They’re a duet group, but I think she is a soloist now... because I’m a person that really thinks about the lyrics... I found ‘To My Youth’ as a really good representative [of] myself as a teenager because the song talks about the life of a youth or a teenager, as the title says... the emotions and feelings from how she sings, that really resonates with me.”

Angela
Zhao ’26

“Pink Venom” **BLACKPINK**

“‘Pink Venom’ by Blackpink... I think at the start, [the] traditional Korean [instrument], it sounds like a very different type of instrument. It’s not like the usual pop instruments. It’s very different from their old songs in that way... I think [the song is] emphasizing their girl power... [I listen to it] when I walk with my friends to dance, it’s a very high-beat and catchy [song].”

Elise
Zhang ’26

“Typa Girl” **BLACKPINK**

“‘Typa Girl’ by Blackpink... It feels really empowering, and I like the tempo and the beat of it... I like [Blackpink’s] stage presence in their performances... [especially] their dancing and choreography... [I listen to it] when I’m just walking around campus, and there is no one around me... and when I’m studying.”



M.CHEN/ THE PHILLIPIAN

Jisoo, Jennie, Rosé, and Lisa are the members of Blackpink.

Aleena
Kibria ’23

“Alcohol-Free” **TWICE**

“‘Alcohol-Free’ by Twice... they are a girl group...they debuted a long time ago...they are just icons... [The song is] a fun summer song... about being carefree...[and] being drunk in love... and I really like the dance performance that goes with it... [I like listening to it] at all times of the day. I can listen to it while I’m doing homework and [when I’m] outside in the quad with a speaker. It fits all events.”

Robert
Shin ’23

“Feel Special” **TWICE**

“‘Feel Special’ by Twice... if I were to recommend a song for someone to get them into K-pop, it would be this song... this is just—on its own—a really good song, and I love Twice... I think [when] working out, [listening to] K-pop is very underrated... [when I listen to this song,] I feel special.”

Kelly
Bu ’23

“Telepathy” **BTS**

“‘Telepathy’ by BTS... Yoongi, [a member of BTS], wrote it in 30 minutes, and that’s super impressive. It’s a love story to [BTS’ Fanbase], Army, which is so fun... [I listen to the song] literally all the time. Every day...I’m always playing BTS in the shower.”

Cristopher
Ramnath ’23

“Bad Boy” **Red Velvet**

“‘Bad Boy’ by Red Velvet... The vibes are just immaculate, the vocals are so great, the music video, [and] the fits are just the best... [I listen to it] honestly, whenever. All the time. When I just want to vibe, I play it... I’d say [my favorite part is] the chorus... Just ‘wow’. That’s all I can say.”



M.CHEN/ THE PHILLIPIAN

The seven members of BTS are Jin, Suga, J-Hope, RM, Jimin, V, and Jungkook.

Celebrating Indigenous People’s Day: First Hopi Glassblower Ramson Lomatewama Comes to Andover

JORGE BRIONES SAUSA &
SERAFINA SHIN-VON
NORDENFLYCHT

Balancing artistic innovation with traditional Hopi taboos that restricted men from working in pottery, Ramson Lomatewama of the Hopi tribe found his “calling in life” in glassblowing. Lomatewama reflected on the pivotal experience that inspired his lifelong passion for glass—a visit to the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York.

“One [glassblower] would gather the glass from the furnace on the pipe and then take it to the gaffer who would then blow into it and start shaping it and it was just a mesmerizing experience... I went home, I read books on glassblowing, everything I could get my hands on. The history, the technology behind it, just everything. I just started eating it all up, reading, reading, reading, and finally I had chances on my other travels to go to glassblowing studios and watch people working,” said Lomatewama.

On Monday night, Lomatewama gave a presentation on his artistic journey in the Robert S. Peabody Institute for Archaeology. Audience member Eleanor Tong ’24 expressed admiration for Lomatewama’s “pure love” of art—specifically how he balanced his artistic pursuits

with caring for his family, studying sociology, and his passion for education.

“I was really fascinated about his journey towards art and how he sort of had so many things going on at once, like I know sociology, practicing and going to school for sociology, raising his family and finding his passion in art, I loved how he was like I finally found my calling even though I already have so many other things going on... he wasn’t super put off or bothered when somebody told him he wasn’t good at it, I really appreciated kind of his pure love for art,” said Tong.

While his family supported his glassblowing endeavors, Lomatewama initially faced prejudice and skepticism from the general public. In his presentation, Lomatewama emphasized that every day should be Indigenous People’s Day, not just one day out of 365, and that the fight for Native American justice and cultural reclamation is a continuous and yearlong endeavor.

“People did not see Native American artists as glassblowers. It just falls out of the realm of some people’s reality. When I first started going to art markets I’d be sitting in my booth with all of my art work in front of me and some people would question if this was Indian art. Well, it is now. It’s always been with us,” said Lomatewama.

According to Lomatewama, the Hopi culture does not have a written language, so they pass down stories and knowledge through art. As such, all forms of art—from glassblowing to basketry—is especially symbolic to them, embodying various facets of Hopi history, values, and belief systems. Lomatewama discussed how his art symbolizes children.

“This is the general Hopi idea, whatever we create in terms of our art, that’s our children, so I am creating children through this art form. As a parent I recognize I can’t hang on to my kids forever... so my artwork, they are like my children, I can’t hang on to them. As a parent, I’d be doing my children a disservice if I tried to hang on to them so I have to be willing to let them go out into the world so that they can help to heal other people,” said Lomatewama.

Another integral quality Lomatewama focuses on in his art is color. For example, being an agricultural society in which corn is a staple crop, the color green represents life in Hopi culture. In addition, blue symbolizes moisture and is thought to come from the west. Reds and oranges from the south represent heat and warmth, and the eastern white symbolizes purity or snow. Lomatewama discussed the nuanced importance of magenta as well.



L.BERNADETE/ THE PHILLIPIAN

Mesmerized when he first saw glass art in his late forties, Ramson Lomatewama felt his calling to become a glassblower.

“We have this magenta color, and you only see that for a very, very brief time before sunrise along the horizon. For us that symbolizes a new beginning, a new birth, so the point of that being that you have another chance to become a better person than you were a day before... So when I do my artwork I’m not throwing colors randomly together. I give a lot of forethought to what [I am] trying to communicate here, and that’s what the colors mean to me,” said Lomatewama.

Looking forward, a few of Lomatewama’s current projects include glasswork inspired by the Mimbres people and a collection of glass cairns. He asserted that the overarching theme connect-

ing his artwork across mediums is life, as he feels that’s what bonds people together. He believes that the purpose of art is to help both others and artists themselves heal. In his words of a mentor’s message that stuck with him, “if you want to live a beautiful life, surround yourself with beautiful things.”

“I’ve always been interested in things [art] even as a really young kid and in that sense we’re all artists. We’re all born with that gift, the way we grow. The only thing you need to do is you need to give yourself permission to bring that out. Because you already have it. We all already have it,” said Lomatewama.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

Look of the Week: Going Soft Grunge with Nadia Choophungart '24

JORGES BRIONES SAUSA & SOPHIE TUNG

With elegant accessories and lace-lined pieces, Nadia Choophungart '24 accents her a simple coquette aesthetic with soft grunge. This week's outfit of choice—sleek black blazer, fitting crop top, cozy ankle warmers—delicately balances 'chique' and 'alternative', completed with a glistening waist chain and her signature pink heart-shaped bag.

"One of my go-tos that I can do a lot of variations with is this tank top or something similar....I'm really into wearing leg-warmers these days and really big shoes because I am not very tall. This [heart bag] is definitely my favorite article. It's from Kate Spade. It's the love of my life," said Choophungart.

To ensure a diversity of outfits, Choophungart makes sure not to repeat similar articles of clothing too often. She prefers her style to be unrestricted—after wearing skirts for a few days, she will switch into pants that are more masculine in comparison. Choophungart's friend EV Heck '25 highlights the flexible, experimental quality pieces as the reason for her distinctiveness in fashion.

"[Nadia's style] is actually really unique. And I look up to it in a way, because she always comes out with really

great pieces. And she uses pieces but in a different way, if that makes any sense. She'll bring out the same piece from last week, but it will look completely different because she mixes [her clothing] up," said Heck.

When crafting outfits, Choophungart often places emphasis on her shoes or an especially striking accessory, such as her heart bag. Sometimes, she also focuses on creating a cohesive look with careful jewelry choices. Heck noted how the inclusion of such unique staple pieces contributed to the evolution of

Choophungart's style.

"I feel like when I first met Nadia she had [fewer] original pieces of clothing. It wasn't as unique before. And then she started mixing things up and putting different things here and there. And I think now, today, she looks incredibly hot and sexy," said Heck.



COURTESY OF NADIA CHOOPHUNGART

Choophungart refers to her heart-shaped bag as the "love of [her] life."

For style inspiration, Choophungart scrolls through Pinterest, an image sharing platform that tailors its feed to every user's unique taste. In addition, many of her friends have introduced certain fashion trends to Choophungart as

COURTESY OF NADIA CHOOPHUNGART

Choophungart begins her outfit by deciding if she wants it to look more feminine or masculine that day.

well as inspired her to develop a liking for thrifting.

Choophungart discussed unique pieces she acquired from thrifting in downtown Andover.

"I haven't been off campus for a while now. But I actually got really nice things from the Andover Thrift Store. Like this necklace and this [waist chain]. And I got very nice oversized jackets with cute patches on it," said Choophungart.

Looking forward, although Choophungart has not decided if

she wants to pursue a career in fashion, she is certain she will continue developing her own aesthetic. Choophungart emphasized how finding a style that she likes boosts her confidence.

"I think style for me is a way that I can make myself more confident in terms of my appearance. It's something that I have control over. So I try to improve it over the years....

Fashion is important to me because it's something that really helps with my self-esteem. I think if I feel good in an outfit, I care less about what other people think. It's more like dressing for myself," said



Choophungart.

COURTESY OF NADIA CHOOPHUNGART

The ankle-warmers are another one of Choophungart's favorite accessories.

2022 Senior Concerto Competition Winners Impress Judges With Musicality and Creative Musical Interpretation

WENDI YING & EVELYN KUNG

The annual Senior Concerto Competition provides Seniors at Andover with an opportunity to showcase their talent through a performance with the Phillips Academy Symphony or Chamber Orchestra. Vocalist Lauren Mahoney '23 and violinists Derrick Seo '23 and Kei Obata '23 were recently announced as this year's winners. Rebecca Plummer, one of the faculty judges of the competition, explained the level of musicianship exemplified by these performers.



J.CARMONA/ THE PHILLIPIAN
Lauren Mahoney '23 is the only vocalist to win the Senior Concerto in recent years.

"The winners are just exceptional musicians, they worked really, really hard at their craft, they just prepared and practiced so much and they just played and sang beautifully that day.... Their musicianship, their technique, the fact that even though I knew all the pieces that were played from the performers that won, they just brought some freshness, and some really creative ideas to their phrasing and their performances," said Plummer.

Abbey Siegfried, Chair of the Music Department and coordinator of the Senior Concerto Competition, also expressed her



C.MURPHY/ THE PHILLIPIAN
With many audition experiences, Kei Obata '23 focused on his music when preparing for the competition.

thoughts on each of the winners and her anticipation of celebrating them through the course of this year.

"Kei Obata's intonation and lyricism in the Mozart concerto were absolutely stunning. Lauren Mahoney's stage presence, vocal range, and over-arching musicality from first moment to last of the Handel Arias totally impressed the judges. Derrick Seo's emotive and deep musical interpretation of the Sibelius violin concerto almost brought one judge to tears," wrote Siegfried in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Obata explained that though he was performing for a competition, his mindset to inspire his audience rather than impress them with technique was an important factor of his achievement. He further added that through his audition, he hoped to convey the joyful and carefree nature of Mozart in "Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major."

"I was really focused on making the music come alive, and less with technique... I just had a lot of fun with it.... It's an opportunity to inspire them because my first concert I ever went to I had a really bad day going into that concert,

but after seeing the performer play beautiful chords and beautiful notes, my day just suddenly changed into a different kind of mindset. So I just want the audience to enjoy the performance and have fun with it," said Obata.

Seo performed the first movement of "Violin Concerto in D Minor" by Jean Sibelius. He expressed that his choice of the piece was heavily due to his personal connection to Sibelius as a performer. Though Seo encountered several injuries during his preparation process and difficulties of learning a challenging piece, he described these setbacks as a part of a musician's journey.

"For me, the concerto is an embodiment of Sibelius and his journey.... You can clearly hear the sadness, anger, and madness in the concerto. It's known to have some of the most specific detailed markings a composer can write in their music. And for that, I grew an immense respect for Sibelius, so I chose this piece for the competition," said Seo.

Mahoney, the only vocalist winner in recent years, explained how she hoped to channel the anger in Handel's "Svegliatevi nel core" to her audience. Despite her



COURTESY OF DERRICK SEO
Despite a hectic preparation process, Derrick Seo '23 developed new ways of interpreting music over summer.

challenges of singing the piece in Italian, she hoped that her voice still conveyed her emotions and her personal interpretation of the piece.

"Well the song is very dark, I'm playing this character who just witnessed his father dead, and he's seeking vengeance on this killer, so I hope the audience can channel that anger with me and feel what I'm feeling as I'm performing.... I really hope the audience will take away the power and beauty of a voice over an orchestra," said Mahoney.

Students Asked to Wait for Grasshopper Tickets Before Performances

Continued from A1, Column 1

consisted of sending out key details about Grasshopper only to Andover's family bulletin.

In the collaborative written response by Seymour, Rachel Anderson, Administrative Assistant in the Theatre and Dance Department, Meaghan Blanchard, Administrative Assistant in the Office of Alumni Engagement (OAE), and Mary Corcoran, Assistant Director in OAE, the organizers explained that they hoped to find a balance between fair and productive ticketing by giving reservation responsibilities to parents.

"For a very long time, there has been feedback from parents that they have had trouble securing tickets. They consistently expressed interest in having the ability to obtain the tickets directly...With the vast number of no shows [in previous years], this year's ticketing

was open directly to the families. The hope was to create an equitable opportunity for all parents to access tickets at the same time," wrote the two departments in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Yet increasing the equity of ticketing also resulted in uneasy access for families of student performers. With the absence of the typical early access ticketing options, seats were 'sold out' before performers could secure them for visiting family members. As new students, Asian Performing Arts Club (APAC) dancer Riya Patel '26 in particular commented on how she and her friends struggled to adjust to the sudden release of information and lack of ticketing accommodation for their families.

"I realized that we had to get tickets, [but] I didn't really think about it that much until my parents said that there weren't any tickets available... We were [eventually] able to

get tickets, but I know there's many people who didn't, like my friends who didn't get tickets for their families. There weren't any more slots available...she's also performing and her family wants to see her," said Patel.

In light of these circumstances, the Alumni Engagement and Administration Offices responded promptly in providing seatings for the families of student performers, which helped resolve Patel's situation. However, other concerns surrounding the situation also involve the change in atmosphere of the show. As Hypnotiq and Footnotes dancer Alex Giarnese '25 noted, performing in front of a largely unfamiliar crowd of parents might be "a little disheartening" for many of the livelier, more dynamic acts.

"Last year, there was more energy and more hype in the audience as it was dominated by students. As a performer,

it was way more fun to be on stage and have all of my peers and student friends be able to cheer me on and yell, scream, have fun, and interact with me. This year, I feel like it's going to be a big shift, because a lot more parents are going to be there. No parents are going to be screaming, yelling, and cheering as much as students would be, but definitely last year, I think, [there] was a lot more energy," said Giarnese.

Yet there are still opportunities for students who have yet to claim tickets to watch the show. As stated in The Weekender update by the Theatre and Dance Department, students can line up to claim any available balcony seats that had been blocked off specifically for this purpose. However Jaeho Lee '24, expressed concerns over the lack of seating options for regular students compared to last year's sign up system.

Lee said, "In the past [regular students] were able to

rush for tickets, but this year we didn't even have a chance. Instead, we will have to stand in a queue the day of the performance, and I think that will turn many people off of attending Grasshopper."

While any ticketing crises seem to have been placated for the time being, some performers believe that there are still greater problems within Grasshopper's ticketing and overall management. Photon and JVNE performer Darla Moody '24 commented not only on issues of transparency, but also on the complex consideration of who and what the coordinators of Grasshopper should aim to prioritize.

"I also think the larger issue is also unresolved. We need to decide: Who is Grasshopper for, and how can we plan Grasshopper in a way that is the most fair to everyone, or [angers] the least people?" said Moody.