The Phillipian

are theo and charles the new will and tianyi?

VOL. CXLVII, No. 18 | Veritas Super Omnia | SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

Shortened Add/Drop Period Brings Frenzy of Course Requests

STAFF REPORT

Students submitted almost 600 Add/Drop slips to the Dean of Studies office during this year's Add/Drop period, which lasted three days rather than the usual five. The Scheduling Office has also undergone a staffing change, with Dr. Mika Latva-Kokko, Instructor in Physics, acting as the new Director of the Scheduling Office. Julie Powers, Catherine Tousignant, Cindy Stuart, Caroline Oden, and John Wilson also comprise the team responsible for delegating the Add/Drop process.

During this year's Add/Drop period, several Seniors reported an increased number of Uppers in traditionally Senior-only electives, however, the Scheduling Office did not provide any data to support this. Alex Giarnese '25, who was unsuccessful in getting Physics 440 (Astronomy), a high-demand Physics elective, spoke about the importance of seniority in choosing classes.

"As far as Uppers being in electives goes, I'm glad that there are students being able to take the classes that they want to take, but I do think that seniority as a Senior is very, very important, because we have waited so long to take these classes. It's really disheartening to hear me and my friends who are not in the classes we want to take being replaced by Uppers who will have this chance for three terms next year," said Giarnese.

Other Seniors in high-demand electives such Art 600 and Math 440 (Financial Literacy) mentioned a higher number of Uppers as well. Matteo Horvat '25 was not initially assigned Art 600, but managed to secure a spot in the class during the Add/Drop period.

"[In 2023] the class was entirely Seniors, except for one student. And then this year I didn't have it on my schedule, which was pretty surprising. [Art 600] was also what I had marked in my request as my emphasis, the thing I wanted most out of anything... I've taken an art class every single year of all five years in high school. I was really, really excited to be in this higher level class, and not getting that at first is super disappointing, and it definitely sucks," said Horvat.

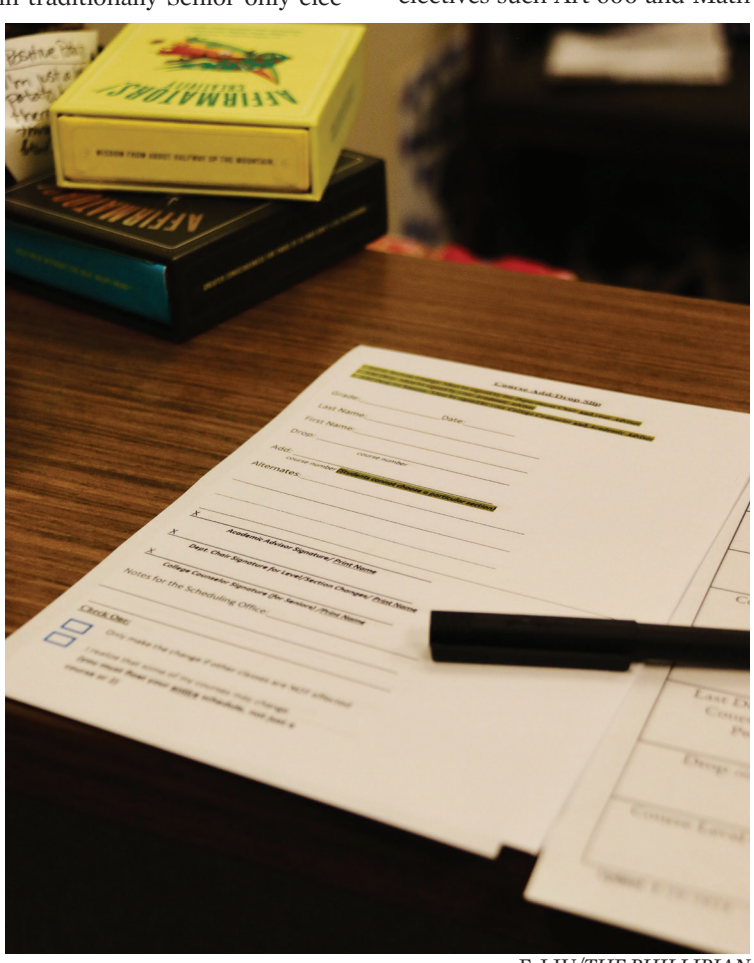
[See A5 for an in-depth breakdown of how the scheduling system operates]

The current software for the scheduling system is over 10 years old. Latva-Kokko addressed the system's flaws, mentioning how it could result in certain students being placed in high-demand classes before others even if they hadn't marked it as a priority.

"The software, when it schedules students, doesn't always put you in your first choice class. For example, say your friend asked for Economics as their first choice and you ask for Economics as your second choice. If you happen to be higher in the random list of students that get scheduled, you might get into [History 501] if at your time there's still room. But when [your friend] comes later on...there isn't room. That's one of those things that I feel like I don't know if I fully agree with how the software runs that process. I might do it differently myself," said Latva-Kokko.

Reflecting upon the various changes to this year's process, Giarnese talked about increased transparency between students and scheduling officers. He expressed the difficulty of properly

Continued on A5, Column 4



E. LIU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

During Add/Drop period, Add/Drop slips can be seen in the hands of most students.

First All-School Meeting Kicks-off 2024-2025 School Year

COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Blue Key Heads lead the class of 2025 in a chant, along with the 25 hand sign.

NIKI TAVAKOLI

Cheers erupted from Andover's Class of 2025, accompanying student and faculty speeches to welcome the Andover community back to school during the first All-School Meeting (ASM) of the 2024-25 school year. The first ASM, held on September 13, commenced the new format of bi-weekly All-School Meetings.

Throughout speeches, references made to the number "25" were received by shouts, raised fists, and the Senior Class sign XXV on the hands of members of the Class of '25. For Patrick Xu '27, the emphatic start to the ASM set a lively atmosphere that lasted throughout.

"[The ASM] was very vibrant and the energy was definitely there. It's a great showing for the new students that we have spirit at Andover... I think with the flag procession, the organ, and Drumline, everyone was really hyped for the entire ASM. That strong beginning I think is what carried a lot of people through the rest of the speeches," said Xu.

In their first address since being elected, 2024-2025 Student Body Co-Presidents Nate Liang '25 and Saraya Angbazo '25 offered advice to each class in their opening speech. Samantha Gong '28 noted the relatability of Liang and Angbazo's talk, specifically appreciating how their status as students helped her feel more comfortable with starting at Andover.

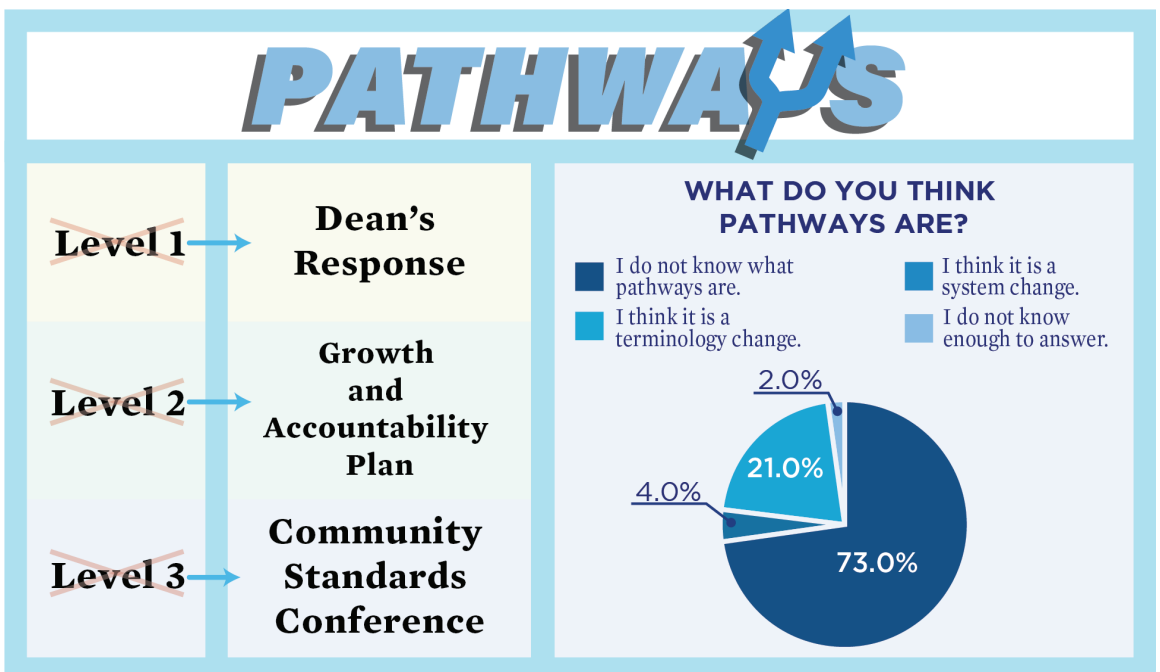
"Being a Junior here, at such a prestigious school, is really nerve-wracking. I think Nate and Saraya giving such a light-hearted speech on advice itself made it feel more chill. I feel like [the fact that] it's not a teacher giving the speech made the advice a bit more useful. They lived through it, so we can live through it," said Gong.

Tasha Bohorad '26 appreciated the knowledge shared with the community, acknowledging how each speaker played a crucial role in each year's first ASM.

"Nate and Saraya were great speakers. They always bring the energy and...they were very con-

Continued on A5, Column 4

Students Unclear What "Pathways" Is: An Explanation from the Dean's Office



J. XIAO/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

WILLIAM GE & CATHY MA

The terminology of "Levels" will no longer be used in Andover's responses to student violations of community standards. Instead, the term "Pathway" will be used when describing existing responses such as Dean's Responses, Growth and Accountability Plans (GAPs), and Community Standards Conferences. According to Susan Esty, Dean of Students and Residential Life, no changes to the actual system have been made.

Esty spoke to the reasoning behind changing the system's language away from levels, citing student misinterpretations of Levels being markers of equivalence. Cheating on an exam and possession of alcohol, for example, were both categorized as "Level 2" offenses. Esty emphasized, however, how GAPs — the response associated with "Level 2" — for either scenario would greatly differ.

"I'm not sure that the Level signals what we really were trying to decide: in looking at how we know you, and what your history has been with us, what you need. That's the crux of what we're doing... We decided to get rid of the Leveling because it was a red herring," said Esty.

Esty continued, "There should be no question about whether or not [the response would be] a Growth and Accountability Plan. It's the fact that we called it Level 2 that made people question the Level. And really, it doesn't matter what you call it. We could call it a kitchen sink. The point is not the Level, the point is that they're getting totally different Growth and Accountability Plans," said Esty.

Michael Williamson '25, a Community Standards Representative for West Quad North, noted how the language of Pathways resolved issues from the old language of levels. He mentioned how the new term allowed for a more personalized response to student conduct, offering better support to students.

"The changes in terminology are better... With the old [terminologies], students were assigned a level number that didn't always match what they actually did, which led to comparisons between students and confusion. Removing the level system and replacing it with Pathways allows for a more case-by-case

Continued on A5, Column 1

An Update to Falls Hall

ANDREW CAI & SAKETH LINGISETTY

Featuring a 250-seat performance hall, a spacious recording studio, and 18 practice rooms, the new Falls Hall Music Center is scheduled to open this winter. It will succeed Graves Hall as the primary venue for rehearsals and performances, while also serving as a hub for students who wish to pursue music both on stage and in the classroom.

Abbey Siegfried, Chair of the Music Department, detailed the features of the new building. She highlighted several components of Falls Hall that she hopes will improve students' ability to create and share music.

"There will be two computer labs, fully outfitted to not just do Sibelius but also to do producing and notation, composition, etc... There's going to be so much more space. There will be 18 practice rooms, three different performance halls, three classrooms that will all also have pianos and be able to be used for chamber music and small groups, the recording studio, [and] the labs," said Siegfried.

Siegfried mentioned her hopes with regard to Falls Hall's ability to create community transcending musical experience. She emphasized the goal of having a space that can encourage all students to feel comfortable in the building.

"The biggest hope I have is that it's a space where everyone feels welcome. There will be inviting spaces with couches and places to hang out in addition to [the] spaces to make music. I hope that anyone, no matter if they've played an instrument for ten years or they're picking up an instrument for the first time

Continued on A5, Column 1

A. LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

The new Falls Hall Music Center's construction nears completion, set to open this Winter.

Commentary, A2
The Impact of Social Media
Ava Shu '27 reflects upon Dean Esty's speech on how social media curtails our in-person relationships and offers her counterargument.

Eighth Page, A8
The Fight to Become the Real President of the U.S.
Finally... Some politicians you can trust.

Sports, B1
GVS Soccer Faces Middlesex in Frantic Game
Girls Soccer make a comeback against Middlesex after a controversial penalty call that ended in a 1-2 loss to Rivers.

Arts, B6
Fall Festival
Students destressed at Fall Festival this past weekend with large trampolines, carnival food, and cariacature artwork.

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Editorial

A Meme-ingful Election

Beginning this week, *The Phillipian* will run a weekly politics spread that features Andover opinions on politics, spotlighting student thoughts on policies, debates, and more as the election nears.

Why? To get a sense of what Andover students are thinking, yes, but also because the political landscape has been changing. Not just in the candidates who now facehead the different campaigns, but also in the way these campaigns are fundamentally run. It is time for us to change how we think about them. It is time to prioritize authentic, open, interpersonal dialogue within the community.

On September 10, 67.5 million people tuned in to watch the Kamala Harris vs. Donald Trump presidential debate, hosted by "ABC News." Across campus, several dorms broadcast the debate in their common room. For other students, images and headlines from the debate dominated their news feeds for days afterwards. Whether or not you've watched the full debate, some moments have been christened into our memories and, perhaps more notably, the memory of the internet and social media.

With the ubiquity of Instagram Reels and TikTok videos, it has been increasingly common for people to "educate" themselves through social media. According to the 2024 State of the Academy, 77.6 percent of Andover students use social media as a way of getting their news. However, this year's election specifically has seen memeification of its debates, campaigns, and candidates reach all-time highs, with countless clips and edited audio recordings going viral online. Social media is a platform that, more than ever before, has become a channel for political content, oftentimes taking the form of an internet joke. From content creators to the presidential candidates themselves, many are capitalizing on such memes to promote their political views, or to simply shame the opposing candidate. But adapting to the growing Gen Z voter market through memeification, particularly on short-form media, comes with its nuances.

On one hand, these viral memes grant politicians digital presence and valuable channels of communication with younger generations, serving as effective gateways into broader political involvement and awareness. Doomscrolling on our phones, we are bound to come across a remix of "they're eating the cats" or an update on the election with the signature neon green of "brat" in the background. For instance, those who may not have known Kamala Harris' stance on immigration or abortion may know her by her viral "coconut tree" quote. Viral memes grant politicians digital presence and valuable channels of communication with younger generations, serving as effective gateways into broader political involvement and awareness.

On the other hand, memes are easily weaponized. Memes spotlighted the popular perception of President Joe Biden being "too old" to run for president, while little mention was made of his actual accomplishments and failures. Much of the "dialogue" that occurs between politicians online and between users with opposing beliefs devolves into vitriol: attacking the personality of candidates rather than their policies, with actual discussion over urgent political issues taking a backseat. At the same time, memes have become an unserious escape to avoid tackling serious ideas — their intrinsic comedic connotation diverts our gaze from the questions we cannot answer, allowing us to shy from cold hard truths, oftentimes those that matter but feel uncomfortable to face head-on. Behind memes, we can end up hiding our belief, what we think, who we are, and run away from discussing real issues and policies.

Coming to Andover is a commitment to a series of phrases. Phrases like "Youth from Every Quarter," "non sibi," and "Knowledge and Goodness." And though these phrases oftentimes thrown around and embedded in jokes and memes, at their core, they are what define the Andover community. This is a community where we subscribe to these ideas because they help guide us and our roles in the broader world. These are the phrases we should take with us when we enter the world of politics. And so we have a duty. We have a duty to not only stay informed, but to become global citizens who engage beneath the surface level, who are civically engaged, who speak on behalf of those who do not have a voice. That may seem like a herculean task, but don't fret: it starts with a political spread, a news report, a commentary piece, small steps that altogether amount to a world of difference.

This editorial represents the opinions of The Phillipian, *vol. CXLVII.*

Commercializing the Stars

J. CARMONA / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

"To confine our attention to terrestrial matters would be to limit the human spirit" - Stephen Hawkings.

Space has long been regarded as the birthplace of dreams and innovations, a reason for mankind to try and break free from its terrestrial chains. Recently, it has come back into the spotlight due to a new prospect: the development of asteroid mining. While at first, this idea may seem like another instance of capitalistic greed tainting the pursuit of knowledge, asteroid mining has the potential to help our environment and mitigate public health risks.

One of the biggest advantages of pursuing asteroid mining is its ability preserve Earth's natural resources. Currently, the main method used to gain raw materials is mining. Among the many forms of mining is artisanal small-scale mining operations (ASM), an informal method of extracting minerals with little to no adequate policies, frameworks, and training for those executing it. Thus, due to the lack of regulations in this sector of the industry, the damages that ASM causes are impossible to control, especially the environmental devastation, such as deforestation and chemical pollution. Asteroid mining will be able to combat this by shifting the mining industry's focus from Earth's mineral deposits to the resources available in outer space. Due to the inability of these ASM communities to gain access to the means needed to mine in space, once asteroid mining becomes the mainstream method, then there would be no need for ASM, hence mitigating pollution.

Additionally, asteroid mining will be able to become a reliable source of clean energy. To meet the demands of clean energy, companies need to manufacture new tools to collect said energy such as solar panels. However, this construction required more resources than its fossil-fueled counterparts which drove mine production to increase and with it, the damage done to the environment. This relationship dampened the positive effects of transitioning to clean energy. However, asteroid mining, which provides us with the necessary materials, does not have the same consequences on the environment, allowing for clean energy to become a viable method of mitigating climate change.

Another advantage of asteroid mining is that it will reduce the amount of dangers workers are exposed to. ASM is considered one of the most dangerous occupations in the world. Due to the extreme working conditions, and the close proximity of their living quarters to pollution, miners are more vulnerable to disease, injury, and death. While mining in space is also not without its risks, due to it being sponsored by credible institutions, asteroid mining is a safer alternative to ASM.

MARIKA SAITO / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

Another aspect of mining, that is universal in all types of mining, that hurts the well-being of people is the water contamination that it causes. As mining sites require the exposure of underground deposits, the area is deforested before the work begins. However, without any vegetation, the soil is destabilized, making it more prone to erosion. This loose land then falls into nearby rivers and water sources which contaminates the water. This causes a critical loss in clean water sources and degrades the water quality as the concentrations of metal and minerals increase in the drinking water. The most serious type of water contamination is acid mine drainage, in which water reacts with the sulfur in rocks and becomes highly acidic and toxic. It poses a serious threat to anyone who comes into contact with it. Asteroid mining combats this, once again, by shifting the stage to outer-space. Since space mining is able to be accomplished in asteroids, which harbor no other component than minerals, it is able to extract all the materials needed without causing any additional harm to any living being.

While at first, this idea may seem like another instance of capitalistic greed tainting the pursuit of knowledge, asteroid mining has the potential to help our environment and mitigate public health risks.

Another advantage of asteroid mining is that it will reduce the amount of dangers workers are exposed to.

Asteroid mining, which seemed to be science fiction just a mere few years ago, has become a plausible alternative to traditional mining. While it is, of course, not without its downsides, asteroid mining is showing great promise as a solution to environmental and public health crises, some of the most pressing issues that mankind is facing right now, and is an industry worth pursuing.

Grace Kim is a Lower from Seoul, South Korea. Contact the author at gkim27@andover.edu.

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Corrections:

The News article "Rain Showers Bring Andover Together at Cluster Olympics" was written by William Ge, Christian Estrada, and Dylan Siegel.

In the News article "Lowers Placed in Upper and Senior Dorms, Reverts to Old Housing System," Troy Turick was mispelled.

C. WANG / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

TASHA BOHORAD '26

A lot of spectators were let down by the lack of policy, especially the lack of policy that affected them. There was no discernable policy proclamation on Trump's side. He continuously defended himself against and attacked Harris. For people unhappy with Trump but historically conservative, Kamala did not play to Republican conservative values, which may have turned people off. She promoted benefits for new homeowners and people having children, but I don't think the working class and older people saw what they wanted from her. She played to the image of moving forward, appealing to younger generations. Trump somewhat countered the discontentment of the older generations with policy by playing to people's emotions. He pushed for more border security, a perceived weak point in Harris' vice-presidential career. Many working-class people are concerned for their job security, which Trump promised would increase if the borders were tightened.

SOFIA LIN '26

American politics has grown more and more disconnected from reality in recent years. One of the reasons I believe this is happening is because bipartisan politics is becoming increasingly polarized along party lines, which leads parties to swing towards extremes. What's more, the Senate, House of Representatives, and White House are often in direct conflict with each other, which have essentially been holding progress hostage as they attack each other in order to advance their own agendas. Concessions are seemingly a thing of the past; politics has been, for the last few decades, about power rather than serving the people.

Furthermore, while people have gained the ability to become more informed about politics, with far greater coverage and access that available before, their ability to do things about it almost appears to be dwindling — the public is viewing more and more decisions as inevitable and throw away their votes, when we rely on them now more than ever.

MEARA WANG '26

The debate solidified most democrats faith in Harris to handle Trump and high pressure situations well. I'm not sure how effective it was at helping swing voters decide, especially people who are focused primarily on policy; then again, I'm not sure what the main motivator for swing states is. Specifically, I was let down by the candidates' lacking responses to climate change. Personally, I was very entertained by Trump's performance in the debate, but like Pete Buttigieg has put it, it forces the media to place attention on the latest wild claim instead of the record and agenda of their campaign.

How Harris Wins (Hint: It's Abortion)

SHLOAK SHAH

A. TSAO / THE PHILLIPIAN

In 2022, Democrats did the impossible. In a midterm election year when Democrats were expected by pollsters and pundits to lose dozens of seats in the House of Representatives and up to a handful in the U.S. Senate, the party lost only nine seats in the House and actually expanded its Senate majority. But the party's unexpectedly strong streak didn't end there; Democrats made net gains on the state level in 2022 and 2023, and 2024's special elections have held similar success for Democrats. At the heart of these recent overperformances lies the electoral strength, widespread underestimation, and strong Democratic messengers on reproductive rights — and if Democrats can mobilize electoral support for abortion and fertility treatments as successfully as they have since the overturning of Roe (we'll get to that), they have an enormous opportunity to make history once again this November.

Since the Supreme Court's 2022 Dobbs decision overturned the half-century of precedent enshrined by its previous ruling in Roe v. Wade, reproductive rights have been the defining issue in American politics — and one where Democrats are particularly strong. Many voters consider abortion to be the most important factor in determining their vote. CNN's exit polling of the 2022 midterms found that abortion was the strongest motivating factor for 27 percent of voters (over three quarters of whom supported Democrats) — nearly as many as those who chose inflation, and far more than for immigration or crime. Per Gallup, around 10 percent of voters have historically identified as "single-issue" pro-life Republicans, with pro-choice Democrats representing about half that figure. However, this trend has reversed as reproductive rights have come to the political forefront in recent years, with pro-life Republicans holding steady while pro-choice Democrats rose to a record 17 percent of voters in 2022 — and 23 percent of voters in 2024. The party has successfully capitalized on this popular sentiment, mentioning the issue in 27 percent of their 2022 ads — a figure up from 2 percent in 2018, and a dramatic contrast to the Republicans' 5 percent. Pro-choice causes have won every time they've been on the ballot — even in red states like Kentucky, Kansas, and Ohio. Reproductive rights have been a decisive winning issue for Democrats in 2022 and 2023, and they're set to mean the same in 2024.

> **Reproductive rights have also been underestimated alongside the Democrats they helped propel to victory.**

Reproductive rights have also been underestimated alongside the Democrats they helped propel to victory. Let's look into the 2022 governor elections in swing-state Michigan — polling conducted by the reputable Emerson College predicted that abortion would be the most important issue to 23 percent of voters, but exit polling found that it was the primary motivator to 45 percent of voters. This unexpected strength resulted in what was expected to be a close race turned out more like a landslide by swing-state standards. It's no coincidence that an abortion referendum successfully ran alongside Governor Gretchen Whitmer — 73 percent of women voters described the aforementioned referendum as "very" or "somewhat" important to their decision to vote. Nationally, the respected New York Times/Siena polling showed abortion as the most important issue for a mere 4 percent of voters — and again, exit polls demonstrated that the number was closer to 27 percent. The same pollster currently expects that 15 percent of 2024 voters will be motivated primarily by abortion — if the 2022 trend holds, that figure could skyrocket once again. Abortion-related ballot initiatives in Kansas, Kentucky, and Montana helped propel Democratic candidates to victory in states that Republican candidates have historically won by double-digit percentage margins. Republicans' underestimation of the motivating power of reproductive rights has allowed Democrats to dictate popular discourse around abortion and fertility treatments, while Republican candidates were encouraged to ignore it. In 2024, abortion referendums in competitive states like Arizona, Nevada, and Florida (plus others in redder and bluer states alike) will help boost Vice President Harris and local Democrats in those states. Reproductive rights have been underestimated across the nation, putting abortion, fertility treatments, and the Democratic Party in a strong position coming into November.

SOPHIE STAII / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

It's also important to consider Vice President Harris' and Governor Walz's strengths as messengers on reproductive rights. Women candidates have been the nation's strongest abortion advocates, especially ever since reproductive rights stopped being guaranteed. Vice President Harris's status as a relatively younger woman — and one who has taken internet culture by storm — makes her even more effective at drawing in support from younger women — a large group that tends to support Democrats overall, but is less consistent in voting than older voters. Polling has reflected this, with Harris leading Trump by strong margins on who voters trust to better handle abortion. In the recent ABC presidential debate, Harris' most powerful moments were her passionate anecdotes and straightforward rhetoric around on abortion. On the other hand, Governor Walz can — and frequently does — point to his own experiences with infertility and how meaningful fertility treatments are to families across America. This makes for a strong contrast with Republicans, who blocked a bill to protect IVF access nationwide — twice.

With under 50 days to go until the 2024 elections, the outcome of the presidential race remains uncertain. However, the electoral strength of reproductive rights as an issue, Republicans' underestimation of their motivating power to voters, and the Democratic candidates' particular strength on reproductive freedom suggest that — if able to capitalize on abortion rights and IVF access as successfully as they have since the day Roe fell, Democrats are in for a very impressive election.

Shlaok Shah is a Upper from San Francsisco, Calif. Contact the author at sshah26@andover.edu.

Into the Mirage of Social Networking

AVA SHU

K. MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

If you accidentally make eye contact with me on the paths, you'll know what I mean when I say my awkward, forced smile makes me look constipated. I'm not good with greetings. I either over-do or under-do the amount of energy I put into a conversation. I don't understand all the unspoken rules to communication, with all its intricacies and nuances.

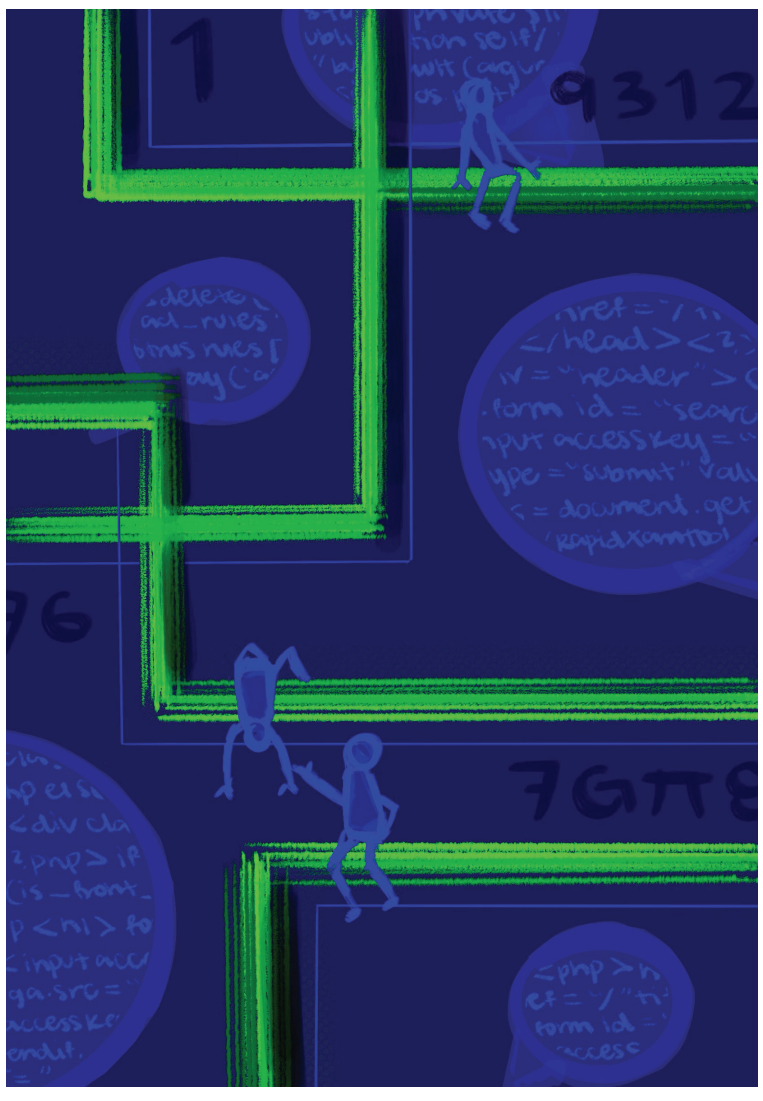
I feel awkward in social situations. Before coming to Andover, I spent three years with virtually no interaction with the world outside my home. It started when the pandemic hit, and a year after, I transferred to a school with a community built brick-by-brick on a virtual platform. I found a home there: friends I adored, memories I treasured, and a sense of belonging.

So when I sat in the first All-Scool Meeting of the year, being told about the artificiality of social media and online networking, I felt an unsettling pressure weighing in my chest. It was meant to be an encouraging message, advising us to live in reality and enjoy the physicality of social relationships, but I was irked and frustrated. It felt dismissive of the personal relationships that I've built through the same virtual spaces that were being condemned. At the same time, I found myself agreeing with some of the criticism too. Even so, I had a gnawing feeling that what we understood of it wasn't the whole truth.

I agree that much of social media is for performance. We curate our carousel of Instagram photos that capture us at our best angle, our best moments. We pretend that our life is more put-together than it actually is by simply not showing the messy parts. But the same thing occurs in reality too — do we not play a similar facade around people we are unfamiliar with, deny access to our vulnerable, ugly parts in order to protect our image? I would even argue that most of things we do are for performance; it just depends on how much authenticity we inject into it.

> There's something vulnerable about meeting in-person that always provides a new layer of connection that you can have with someone, to ground us in a reality and see each other as a tangible manifestation of their online persona.

Face-to-face interactions can be suffocating because of this. When I came to Andover, I didn't expect the whiplash I got from its overwhelmingly active social life. The environment was the direct opposite of what I was used to. I was immersed in its community 24/7, with no way to shut it off. Sure, being forced to see these people every day can be seen as an incentive to solve personal conflicts, but it also puts pressure on us to be agreeable, to maintain good relationships with people we aren't close too, and too much of that pressure leads us down the same downward spiral that social media does: faking a persona to be liked.



GEMMA PARK / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

Online and in-person networking are not as different as we think they are. There will always be people who are more open about themselves than others. Some may feel more comfortable with one method of networking than another. Both mediums are valid in their own right and provide different advantages and disadvantages, with their own nuances. Internet lingo has also been adapted to indicate tone and intention, by using extra letters at the end of words, punctuation, caps lock, and emojis. The main difference is the lack of physical connection in a virtual relationship.

Online friendships do not diminish the value of in-person interactions; if anything, it makes us treasure them even more. My friends and I can't touch, feel, or share our love for each other in physical ways regularly, but one thing that stays constant is the excitement that builds months before our meet-ups. We make the most of our time together, using quality to make up for quantity. There's something vulnerable about meeting in-person that always provides a new layer of connection that you can have with someone, to ground us in a reality and see each other as a tangible manifestation of their online persona.

> Social networking is an open gate to new relationships and a method of maintaining them: technology also allows us to connect with people from all over the world, something that is important to acknowledge at a school that prides itself in diversity.

The discussion around technology and media does not end here: we now live in the midst of phone bans and other attempts to disconnect us from a virtual society. It is easy to get lost in it and forget its purposes and advantages. We can view technology as a new way to connect with people rather than a hindrance to building authentic, physical relationships, all the while understanding its potential harms. Social networking is an open gate to new relationships and a method of maintaining them: technology also allows us to connect with people from all over the world, something that is important to acknowledge at a school that prides itself in diversity. Now that we've advanced so far into a technological age, let us move on from the nostalgic, internet-free life and move forward with kindness and morality.

Ava Shu is a Lower from Oradell N.J. Contact the author at ashu@andover.edu.

Misconceptions of Art

RANIA ALI-SVEDSATER

A. TSAO / THE PHILLIPIAN

Across eons, art has decorated humanity, inspiring extensive reformation, and rebellion across the globe. Art enlightens people to new perspectives of existence, frequently evoking passion and pain. It is a celebratory feat, demanding immense personal engagement and artistic skill. Additionally, art epitomizes passion, in the sense that it represents human dedication. Yet, art is not merely a representation of beauty; it also represents injustice and human tribulation over time. Art reflects the viewer's interpretations and does not abide by a singular definition, thus placing it at the forefront of misconception.

Classical art has had many different eras, but its central messages have remained the same over time. Primarily, art represents beauty, idealism, and passion. In this sense, art is believed to be a testament to our complex human spirit, explored through dramatic mythological scenes, or simple still-life portraits. When people are asked about art, most often the first image that comes to their mind is a simple depiction of beauty. In truth, art is more than the delicate portraits advertised on the surface. Art is also a laborious craft, depicting darkness and negativity in equal measure, which are crucial elements of human existence.

An illustration of art's intensity is evident within Caravaggio's work, an Italian painter renowned for his dramatic portrayals of different human scenes. His paintings range from depictions of historical events to religious disputes, which all implement chiaroscuro shades, meaning that the illuminated subjects are shrouded in darkness. The life and death of Caravaggio has been recognized as an extraordinary feat that was bound to have had great influence on his work, with his turbulent temper inducing his death at merely 38 years old. Initially, his artworks shocked the world and were interpreted as gruesome and distasteful. Resorting his artwork to such meager definitions caused misconceptions of the powerful messages he meant to evoke through his paintings. However, over time, his intense style was also considered beautiful. Caravaggio rejected standard interpretations of human emotion and instead created new perspectives of beauty.

> Art is a reinvention of beauty, and a solace from the universal restraint and misconceptions that we have imposed upon ourselves since the beginning of our existence.

Another great misconception is that all variations of art are unrelated. In truth, every style of art, no matter how different, serves the same purpose. In contrast to Caravaggio's dramatic scenes, Monet's renowned peaceful water lilies collection also acts as more than a mere depiction of beauty, but also of fragility, fear, and desire. His colorful depiction of the water lilies symbolizes larger concepts in the real world and are used as tools for the artist to convey a message. The viewer interprets this as they wish, but the interpretation lives on in their mind.

Contemporary art has a similar purpose, instead using a combination of simplicity and modernity to create powerful mediums. Frank Stella, an Andover alum, and famous contemporary artist, uses colorful abstraction to illuminate geometric shapes in his paintings. One may interpret his work as a reference to emptiness and the psychological void, whilst another may see it as an illustration of peace through simplicity. Frank Stella himself may interpret it in total contrast to the different interpretations of the viewers. Nevertheless, his artwork has fulfilled its purpose, as it has generated new interpretations and considerations for the viewer to live with, which are independent of any prior misconceptions resting in their mind. Additionally, it has also enabled others to interpret beauty differently. It has used a visual medium to inspire the visceral perspectives of another human being, leaving a lasting impact on their perception of life.

> In this sense, art is believed to be a testament to our complex human spirit, explored through dramatic mythological scenes, or simple still-life portraits.

ANGELA GUO / *THE PHILLIPIAN*

The true purpose of art is to help the viewer redefine their perceptions and concepts similar to beauty. Just like literature, film or dance, art is meant to provoke you, and to challenge your perspective on life. It is intended to evoke new emotions and truths, which may be equally uncomfortable and inspiring. Art is a reinvention of beauty, and a solace from the universal restraint and misconceptions that we have imposed upon ourselves since the beginning of our existence. Art allows us to access the raw truths buried deep within our minds, often fearsome, and sometimes beautiful.

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Students Reflect on Graves Hall, Look Toward Falls Hall

Continued from A1, Column 5

here, would feel [that] the space is theirs. I want everyone to feel home there," said Siegfried.

With the addition of three performance halls, most rehearsals and concerts will be held in Falls Hall. Bryan Bu '26, member of the Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, expressed the benefits that he believes will come with this new update.

"My hope for the new music building [is] a new performance area. Currently, the only real place to perform anything is in the [Cochran] Chapel, and that's a huge area. It'd be cool if the new music building had a secondary performance hall that's smaller than the Chapel... especially if the acoustics are good enough to handle having all the music ensembles in the same place without interfering with each other," said Bu.

Despite the many eagerly anticipated additions that Falls Hall will bring, Ava Shu '27 acknowledged the sentiments that she and her peers would experience as they left a building with so many memories.

"I definitely feel like Graves holds some sentimental value, especially for older students who have practiced in that building and rehearsed with peers... Graves still feels like a part of us and transitioning into a new building may feel a bit awkward at first, but I also think that students will enjoy it a lot more [because it's] more functional and new," said Shu.

Carina Paik '28, a new Junior, expressed the inspiration that Graves has already brought her through its unique architecture. She appreciated being exposed to her peers' music just by staying in her own practice room, a feature that will be removed with the newly enforced soundproof walls of Falls Hall.

"I like the fact that [Graves] is not soundproof because personally, it's very inspiring... especially when I hear a lot of the other violin players. Sometimes I'll just take a walk around Graves to hear how everyone else is doing. It's not particularly for comparison," said Paik.

Helios Hong '25, Co-President of the Phillips Academy Chamber Society and member of the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra at the New England Conservatory offered students advice similar to the wishes of Siegfried. He emphasized the power of being present.

"[To] the people who are playing music, don't just go into the building, [and] lock yourself in a practice room. Being at Andover and being part of the music department, it's nice to just sit in the lounge; people will start naturally talking to you, and you will develop a lot of relationships. Don't just spend time practicing there, spend time actually being there," said Hong.

Seniors Reflect on Last First ASM

Continued from A1, Column 5

fident. [Susan] Esty, [Dean of Students and Residential Life], and [Head of School] Dr. [Raynard] Kington gave concise, relatable speeches. It wasn't things we'd heard before, people could really listen and concentrate on it. The international speech that they do every year is really interesting," said Bohorad.

For Jaylen Daley '25, the moment was filled with energy and pride. Daley, one of the ten Blue Key Heads for the 2024-2025 school year, elaborated on how his duties as a Blue Key Head intersected with the personal components he brought to the moment.

"It's one of the moments of being a Blue Key Head that you know [is] ultimately really fun intrinsically. It was rewarding to be around my class and hype it up the way that I did. I was happy to be creative with what I brought as my prop[s] because I did bring my Jamaican and Dominican flag... I brought the pride that I wanted to bring. I didn't think about it as an obligation to be there with so much energy, it was just super prideful," said Daley.

Even for returning student Nisa Khairunnisa '25, the excitement of the first ASM still came as a shock a year later. Khairunnisa spoke of her experience as a previous new international Upper, noting how her experience at the first ASM had been a pleasant surprise.

"I remember...looking at all these people chanting. All of this hyping culture... was mind blowing. When the '24s came in and they just started chanting '24' they looked like they were having so much fun. I feel like when we came back for the ASM that just shocked me because I completely forgot about that part... I was caught off guard because of just how little I've been thinking about it," said Khairunnisa.

Now, as a Senior, Khairunnisa saw this year's ASM in a new light — as a moment to reflect upon her time at Andover. Adding onto the advice given throughout the speeches, she offered her own goals for Senior year.

"It felt special and...it felt like there's a deadline. I need to do everything now, I need to try on everything. Andover is the first place that I found the people that I really connect with. I've never had anyone talk about my interests so deeply before. People want to listen to what I say. If you're somebody who appreciates passion, you're always going to find somebody who is passionate about something. There's always going to be a place for you in Andover," said Khairunnisa.

Dean of Students Explains Reasons for New Response System

Continued from A1, Column 3

approach, supporting students more effectively," said Williamson.

Williamson continued, "Now, with Pathways, the language is more focused on individualized responses. The three responses, Dean's Response, GAP, and the Community Standards Conference, are tailored to the specific situation."

Out of 100 students *The Phillipian* anonymously surveyed, 73 had not heard of Pathways. Anny Wang '26 pointed out how the change might reduce the intimidating reputation of conduct response but mentioned how many students did not understand what was actually changed.

"Getting rid of the Level makes it more flexible in terms of putting students in the center of it instead of assigning them into boxes of levels. But at the same time it also takes away the hindering factors for some people to commit these things. Sometimes when you say that 'This person has a Level Three,' it sounds really severe and it hinders people from doing it because it sounds so bad. Without [Levels], it takes away that kind of scariness of the disciplinary system, which might be a bad thing sometimes, but it could be a good thing. It also depends on what [Pathways] actually is, what it actually becomes right now, because we are not sure what the new system is," said Wang.

Andover's conduct response system underwent a major overhaul in 2021 following a proposal made by the Student Conduct Task Force in the Spring, which replaced the old Disciplinary Committee (D.C.) process with the Levels system and GAPs.

Since then, the addition of GAP2 in January 2023 and this latest shift in nomenclature from "Levels" to "Pathways" have both been part of the Deans team's continued effort to shift the system from one of punishment to one of restorative justice. In an email to the student body from January 5, 2023, Head of School Raynard Kington emphasized this student-centered approach.

"Your wellbeing and growth are paramount. With this as our highest priority, we will continue to look for ways to improve the support we provide. We recognize that we are at the beginning of our shift to a system that will require additional resources to be successful. In the coming months and years, as we learn from experience, we will grow our prevention efforts, assessment systems, and support resources," wrote Kington in an email to the student body.

Proposals by Sophia Lee '21, Miles Lincoln '21, and Bianca Rodriguez Pagano '21, as well as efforts of 2021-2022 Student Body Co-President Mary Muromcew '22 have all contributed to the current state of the response system. Esty emphasized the founding ideals of their work, highlighting how Andover's goal would always be to nurture and support students.

"We, for years, have been moving toward a response system that is more responsive, that is more supportive... really, the system is intended for people in the room to ask questions, to help uncover what it is that the student needs, as well as have the student identify for themselves, 'this is what I need actually, I realize I'm not at my best when [this]' And if they can get to answering that question, filling in that blank, we can help them," said Esty.

Esty continued, "Where Mary was, and where Sophia was, and all this, it was around cultures of dignity. We're all human. We're not separating the good apples and the bad apples. This is an institution of learning, and so the idea is to educate, and so to use a system that is focused on sorting people out, it just doesn't make any sense in a school setting, especially a selective school setting where you all have so many different talents... Why would we be looking for why you can't be here? Why don't we figure out how to help you be here?"

Providing Insight Into Add/Drop

Continued from A1, Column 3

conveying one's circumstances in just a few sentences.

"Extending the Add/Drop period and allowing for more conversations between students and whoever handles the scheduling, because it's really hard to get meetings with them, and really hard to explain yourself on the Add/Drop forms, which don't give you the opportunities to tell the office why these classes are so important for you to take. A big improvement would either be adding that or just improving opportunities for students to meet with the [Dean of Studies] and explain why they want to be taking these classes," said Giarnese.

Despite the difficulties of scheduling, Horvat pointed out how he was able to scour the Course of Studies during his search for a replacement for ART 600. He emphasized Andover's wealth of unique courses and encouraged students to explore them.

"I actually got put into an English class when I didn't get [ART 600] called 'The Artist and The Dictator,' which seemed awesome and the teacher seemed really great. It was just a moment where I realized, 'Oh, I didn't get the thing I wanted, but I've now actually ended up somewhere really cool by accident.' If you are really, really careful at looking at the course of studies and keeping an open mind, you will find something just as cool that you might not even realize you were interested in. So definitely stay grounded...there's so many cool things here. We shouldn't forget that," said Horvat.

A computerized system assigns initial course requests, with older class years receiving algorithmic priority: All seniors are put in a randomized list, and assigned classes one-by-one. For example, a Senior in position #200 would not have any classes assigned until seniors #1-199 had already been assigned full schedules. Additionally, the system makes no distinction between historically high-demand courses and low-demand courses when resolving scheduling conflicts that arise when a student requests two classes that occur during the same period. Unless an explicit note to the scheduling officer is included, the computer will resolve such conflicts on a random basis.

For Add/Drop requests, there is no difference between submitting a slip in the morning or in the afternoon, as long as the slip is submitted on the same day. All paper data is transferred to an Excel spreadsheet at the end of each day, which is then randomized. Priority is given in the following order: Seniors from Monday, then Tuesday, then Wednesday, Uppers from Monday, etc.

Verbal Assault Incidents on Main Street Raise Concerns

STAFF REPORT

Students reported multiple instances of verbal assault from vehicles that drove through Main Street two weeks prior. As detailed in a school-wide email sent to the Andover Community on September 13, the perpetrators yelled racial slurs and, in one case, threw food at the victims. Fortunately, no students were struck. Campus Safety is currently working with the Andover Police Department to investigate these incidents.

One case of verbal assault occurred on September 6. The following day, three similar instances were reported. According to Mark Leonard, Director of Campus Safety, those three incidents may have been committed by the same group of people. Leonard acknowledged that these occurrences are not uncommon or contained to Andover; the Andover police have investigated incidents in the town of Andover or off-campus as well.

"Historically, it's something that happened typically throughout the school year, in Summer Session as well as regular session. [From] speaking to the police, it not only happens to our school, it happens downtown, on Main Street, to students not affiliated with PA: vehicles driving by and yelling things at them... It's certainly not unique to PA or unique to [the town of] Andover," said Leonard.

Many students have reported similar experiences of verbal harassment from passing vehicles on campus. At the beginning of the school year, Addison Deng '26 was yelled at by an approaching car while walking to downtown Andover. Deng expressed her uneasiness toward the aggression exhibited by passing drivers.

"We thought [the car] was going to swerve and hit us, but it didn't. We managed to get its license plate and submitted it to Campus Safety, but we don't know what happened after that. It was scary... I'd say [the perpetrators] are building aggression and our inactiveness towards their aggression is also giving them permission to increase aggression," said Deng.

Like Deng, Azzaam Abdur-Rahman '27 has experienced verbal assault from passing vehicles. Abdur-Rahman pointed out the mental toll these incidents could cause and emphasized what those impacts could look like on boarding students, as they live on campus.

"One time I had [someone] drive past me downtown and call me a racial slur. I was just walking downtown, and as I'm a day student, I didn't call Campus Safety or tell anyone on campus. Thinking about it now, alerting Campus Safety to what's happening downtown could protect the safety of other students... Given that most students are boarding here, it could really affect their mental state knowing that they're not safe downtown," said Abdur-Rahman.

Although no particular demographic commits every incident, Leonard observed that, when identified by the Andover Police, those involved tended to be teenagers or young adults. In order to discuss these incidents, Susan Esty, Dean of Students and Residential Life, shared plans to meet with schools in the area such as Andover High and Merrimack College.

"We definitely try to be in good relationship with the town of Andover and I think we are. I don't feel like this is a town of Andover issue, I think it's some individuals' issue, which is why we need help from the town to address it," said Esty.

Esty continued, "We will connect with Andover High and the local high schools of North Andover and maybe North Reading. We don't want to presume that their students are responsible, because the description we had was 25 or younger. That could change as the police continue to investigate... Our plan is to connect with the local high schools and [with] Merrimack [College] too. We all share a pretty small geographic area."

When asked about what the school can do to respond to these events, Chloe Ru '27 mentioned a dorm meeting her House Counselors organized. Ru suggested holding an informational session in order to equip students with practical skills and increase their confidence in handling potential threats.

"Our dorm had a meeting about [the incident], and my House Counselors talked to us about ways to take precautions, like sticking to places with people and always having your phone on you. She also gave tips on what to do if there are cars or people following you... Campus Safety is doing a pretty good job responding, but maybe the school could have a meeting on how to protect yourself better just in case something like this happens," said Ru.

Leonard urged students who have undergone harassment or uncomfortable situations to contact trusted adults on campus as soon as possible. He emphasized that students should prioritize their personal safety first and foremost, then report to Campus Safety to limit future occurrences.

"It's helpful when we have as much information as you can provide, such as a vehicle description or a license plate. We don't want anyone, however, to put themselves in harm's way to do that, if there's a fear of retaliation... It's really important that we get the information right away so that we can follow up with Andover police if necessary to figure out who's responsible," said Leonard.

10 Questions With Hananie Albert

REPORTING BY CATHY MA

Hananie Albert is an instructor in the English Department, teaching English 300 and an elective in African American Literature. She also serves as a complement in Alumni House and acts as a faculty advisor for CaMD and MLK scholars. Albert is one of six children, having immigrated to the United States of America from Haiti at the young age of four. A firm believer in transgressive and non-hierarchical, Albert has taught at international schools in Honduras, Poland, France, and China, and conducted research at Brown and Cornell University before coming to Andover.

A. LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

How did you teach yourself English?

I used the public library in suburban Florida. I immigrated to Florida at a very young age, and English was actually my third language, but my parents had a really firm belief in the value of education, so they almost threw me into libraries over the summer and said, "Here it is. Here's America for you on a platter. Learn what you can and report back to us." It was really a self-taught process of using books as a script for my identity, trying things out, reading something in a book, coming to class, regurgitating it, and seeing if it worked or if it didn't work, and how I would have to edit or address myself or put myself into what I was reading.

How was your experience triple-majoring in anthropology, English, and French at the University of Florida?

There were ways in which the English language opened up so many doors, and then disciplinary training opened up different portals for me. I had literature, which taught me social codes and semantic scripts. I wanted to learn about more culture, so I added anthropology to learn about human culture, archeological anthropology, and biological anthropology, and the different ways that we've come to know and understand the concept of humans. Then, I wanted to do it in a different language, so I added French as a major. I wanted to do it with an awareness of what it meant to be a person of color in the United States, [so] I added a minor in African American Studies. I had this voracious curiosity, and English was this platform for me, finding out that I could dissect the world, but dissect it at so many different angles. University just offered me the opportunity to do that and do it thoroughly, so I did.

How were you involved in the BlackListed Magazine?

BlackListed Magazine was about taking taboo thought and making it more orthodox. It was about taking unanswerable questions and trying to answer them. I think what we found in the process of working with BlackListed Magazine is that the value of the questions we were asking was never in the answer themselves, but in the process of asking in the journey and in the iteration of asking. So, as it is now, anybody in one of my classes will tell you, "Ms. Albert asks a lot of questions and she expects us to ask a lot of questions," And it comes from asking the unanswerable, asking blacklisted ideas and blacklisted concepts, and seeing how we can use language to bring them into the light.

You expertly combine research, memoir, and fiction in your work. How do you blend the genres and is there one form that you prefer?

I'm always looking for ways to affirm my humanity and the humanity of those around me, and sometimes that takes the form of a 20 page theoretical research essay. Sometimes it's a long-form epic poem. Sometimes it's a memoir written in French. I don't ever want to limit the ways in which I express my humanity, and I think that's why I jump between genres a lot, I like to teach between genres, because I don't like the arbitrary limitation to be placed on me in that way.

One of your photographs is featured in "The New York Times." Could you tell us more about your involvement in photography?

I was always looking for different modalities to affirm and explore my humanity. When words left me at a limit, when there was something that I couldn't express in words, I found that the still image was really reflective. So I was a photographer for a little while. I actually taught photography when I was working in Haiti... I was teaching English, but I was also teaching visual storytelling as well. A lot of the same principles that guide the study of semantics and literature guide the study of visual storytelling. It was a really great time for me as an artist, and it helped me evolve as a thinker. It helped me evolve as somebody who sees the world in really dynamic ways. I was able to work with Nicholas Kristof... He came to interview some of the university students that I was teaching, and I was able to take a picture and have it published in "The New York Times." But I think in the end, it just reaffirms the value of exploring. I never thought when I picked up a camera when I was a senior in college that one day I would have a byline in "The New York Times." It was just something that I was doing as, again, a way to affirm my own humanity, to explore the world, to find a parallel for words in a way that was meaningful... I think that's what my life is. It's me pursuing asking questions deeply and pursuing them passionately.

What drew you to the Andover community?

When I interviewed at Andover, it was at the end of ten years of working abroad, and I went into an English classroom, and there was a student from Kenya, there was a student from Nigeria, and there was an American student from the Middle East, and they were there sitting discussing Jamaica Kincaid's "Girl." And I said, "You know what? Maybe this is a place that I can be useful, and maybe this is a place where I can see myself." It was this intentional, robust diversity and it wasn't just the fact that it was Kenya and Nigeria and the Middle East represented. It was the diversity in their thoughts, the diversity in their worldviews, the diversity in the ways they articulated themselves. That was all in one classroom, in one contained span of time, I felt like the entirety of my experiences for ten years had been collapsed into one moment, and it just fit into what Andover was and what Andover could mean for me.

What has been your favorite experience at Andover?

I have a lot. At the top of my mind, it's being a complement in Alumni Hall, because not only are the students relentlessly quirky and fiercely intelligent, they're always asking questions and answering them in this nurturing and comforting space. I had one student, she wrote me a thank you card last year, and she said, "Thank you Ms. Albert for always listening earnestly," and I love that... I listen not just so that I can hear students, but so that students can hear themselves through me, so that I can hold up a mirror to their thoughts, to their feelings, to their desires, and help them understand themselves in more complex and nuanced ways. The ability to do that outside of the classroom, in the dorm setting, in the gender inclusive, non-gender conforming space has been really wonderful.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love to listen to French pop and hip-hop music. I love listening to American podcasts, and I love watching C-dramas in my free time. I'm also big on meditative walking. This summer, I was walking five miles a day through the [Cochran Bird] Sanctuary and across Andover, and it's a really great way to air out my ideas and be one with my thoughts.

What is one piece of advice you would give?

Cultivate cosmopolitanism... well, first of all, recognize that normal is a construct and recognize that you can always break out of it and come back into it. That was two pieces of advice, recognize that normal is a construct, and that gives you both the power to build it and the power to deconstruct it, and there are ways that you can do it that can help you cultivate yourself as a cosmopolitan individual that belongs to a global community.

What is your favorite book?

There's a book that I've read once every year since I turned 21, and that would be Zora Neale Hurston's "Their Eyes Were Watching God." Not only is it a literary feat in terms of Hurston's poetic mastery, not only is it an anthropological feat in terms of how she documented African American dialect, I think it reminds me each time of the transformative and radical power of self love, because there's a scene where at the end... Janie is sitting in a big house, and she's taking out all her memories, and she's stringing them around her neck as if they were jewelry. It's just about the radical importance of happiness, or more precisely, it shows you that happiness is a result of all of the ways you think about yourself. Happiness is ultimately a form of self-acceptance. In that moment, past, present, and future had collapsed, and Janie was accepting herself, and she was just happy. We could all use a reminder of the importance of joy, but the importance of claiming it for ourselves through self-acceptance.

Orientation Successfully Launches New School Year Despite Organizational Hiccups

JEANNE KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET & ANNIE ZHAO

Following the first wave of registration on August 30, Andover kicked off the new school year with two orientation programs. However, both the New International Student Orientation (NISO) program held by World Partners and New Student Orientation led by Blue Keys a few days later underwent significant changes compared to previous years.

One of the key alterations made to Orientation this year was the introduction of smaller Blue Key groups. Although this new organization allowed students to spend more time with the peers in their group, leading to deeper and more meaningful connections, Serafina Shin-von Nordenflycht '25, Blue Key Head, pointed out challenges that emerged during the scheduling process.

"Orientation itself was a little bit rushed. A few people got left alone because we were not informed of many of the changes made. A lot of what the Blue Keys did beforehand was administrative work of sorting groups the day beforehand and trying to make sure everyone had two Seniors that they were working with, and that every Senior had a group of kids. I think a few people got lost because of miscommunications between the administration and the Blue Key Heads," said Shin-von Nordenflycht.

The second orientation program, NISO, also saw a substantial shift this year as participation became optional for some participants. According to Keita Narusawa '26, World Partner and board member of the International Club, this change created a dynamic atmosphere, marking a significant improvement.

"NISO was made optional this year to a very small number of students. Namely those who are dual citizens, those who are U.S. passport holders or those who have lived in the U.S. recently, so only really those who have spent a long time in the United States or are familiar with it. Everyone else was not given an option. This impacted the program by giving a much more energetic feel. Everyone there really wanted to be there," said Narusawa.

For Alberto Agudo Dieguez '25, a new Post-Graduate, both NISO and the regular orientation provided a vital support system in his early days at Andover. As a new international student, Agudo Dieguez appreciated the opportunity to bond with peers who shared similar experiences and challenges, as well as the enthusiasm of World Partners and Blue Keys.

"I got to know a group of international students with whom I could share my adaptation. Especially during the first week, we were all having similar difficulties, so having a group of international students was really nice. Then I did get to know people from the states... I think [New Student Orientation] blended in well with the international student orientation," said Agudo Dieguez.

Reflecting on the overall liveliness and animated nature of NISO, Narusawa recounted how the energy present during the event brought everyone together. He highlighted a particular memory that vividly encapsulated the Andover spirit.

"My favorite memory from NISO was playing Mafia with a bunch of new students and I remember a day student named Darren Xu ['25] came over to my Mafia game and just started leading it. That really showed me what kind of community Andover was, a community where students could just drop by and have fun," said Narusawa.

HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY ADEN HWANG

Politics: Republican Candidate Donald Trump Refuses to Face Democratic Nominee Kamala Harris in a Second Debate

Two days after a face-off in which he was widely criticized for delivering a poor performance, Former President Donald Trump declared on Thursday that he would not participate in a second debate against Vice President Kamala Harris. According to the "New York Times," although the Harris Campaign was calling for another presidential debate, Trump maintained that his victory made it unnecessary to engage in a second face-off. Later that day, Trump commented in a post on "Truth Social" that Harris and President Joe Biden had "destroyed our country, with millions of criminals and mentally deranged people pouring into the USA." He then reiterated his stance on key issues, suggesting that his previous performance had sufficiently addressed them. Harris's campaign criticized Trump's refusal, arguing that another debate would provide voters with more clarity on each candidate's policies and qualifications.

Natural Disaster: Wildfires Devastate Southern California

Three major wildfires are currently raging across Southern California. As of September 14, "Cal Fire" reports that the Bridge Fire has scorched 53,738 acres with five percent containment; the Line Fire has burned 38,417 acres, with 29 percent containment; and the Airport Fire has affected 23,519 acres, with 19 percent containment. Following the incidents, tens of thousands of residents have been evacuated, with many homes destroyed. According to the "Los Angeles Times," the upcoming cooler temperatures should be aiding firefighting efforts, as the region's extreme heat has been a primary cause of the fires' expansion. While it has been established that the Line Fire was deliberately ignited, the causes of the other two fires remain under investigation.

Space: SpaceX's Polaris Dawn Crew Returns After Historic Commercial Spacewalk

SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission returned to Earth on September 15 after a five-day mission, marking the first-ever commercial spacewalk. The spacecraft went up to an altitude of 1,400 km, the highest altitude reached by any aircraft since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972. Jared Isaacman, leader and founder of the civilian crew, hopes to inspire future generations. In an interview with the "New York Post," Isaacman said that he "wasn't alive when humans walked on the moon [and he] would certainly like [his] kids to see humans walking on the moon and Mars, venturing out and exploring our solar system." The mission was one of the first steps of space tourism, an industry predicted to rise up to 5.2 billion dollars in the next decade according to the scientific magazine Astronomy.

Academic Policy: Colleges Change Protest Rules to Combat Rising Tension

A total of 3,200 college students were arrested this spring during a wave of pro-Palestinian protests according to "NBC News." In response to these ongoing tensions, many universities are revising their regulation on campus riots. While Rutgers University requires students to obtain a permit before protesting, some schools have adopted stricter measures; for instance, Indiana University now enforces an 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. restriction ban on "expressive activity." Critics, including The American Association of University Professors, argue these changes stifle free speech. Indeed, they assert that "our colleges should encourage, not suppress, open and vigorous dialogue, even on deeply held beliefs."

WRITE FOR NEWZZZZZZ TODAY!!

email crutkoske26, pshivani26, bxu126, and jkosciuskomorizet26

All Things Good

Instagram: @allthingsgood

Theo and David

Our opponents say that there is tension between us. Guess what? There is! Got something to say?

Immigration

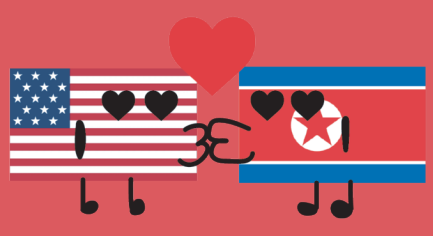
- Plan to add public barbeque stations at Petcos across Ohio. If they're gonna eat 'em, we might as well cook 'em.
- We plan to completely close the Canadian border. Hockey is not important enough to keep letting Communists into this fine country.
- We plan the largest mass deportation operation in US history. All those syrup-loving ice commies gotta be sent back to their igloos (I will, however, pardon my Canadian running mate David.)

Gun Laws

- LICENSES FOR EVERYONE! You shouldn't need a license to exercise your rights. Every purchase of Fireball bottles will come with a complimentary shotgun. Take a shot!

Economics

- EBT will likely be replaced by V-Bucks.
- To my dearest Kimmy J, I will continue my party's proud tradition of sending seductive love letters to you.



- Vestycare? More like Zestycare!

Overseas Policy

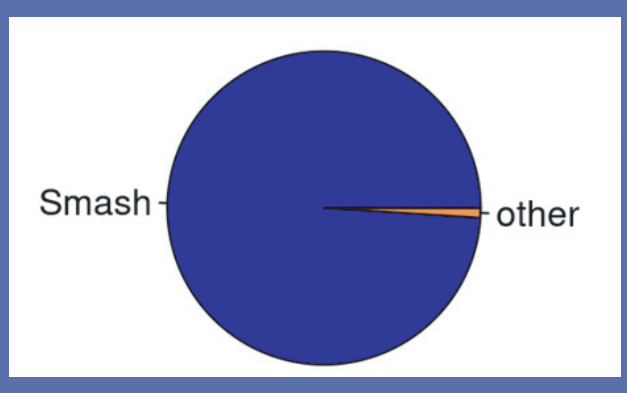
My opponent is a barbarian! This was taken five minutes into our first debate:

Charles and Piper

My opponent is a liar and he can not be trusted!

Internal Policy

- We asked 100,000 Americans their thoughts on our campaign. Here are the results:



- Border control policy: As part of our pledge to decriminalize drugs, we have decided to open the Canadian-American border. That new maple boof hits, y'all.
- It's not fair that women are forced to pay for birth control. We will combat this inequality by providing men with free Hustler's University subscriptions.
- We stand for women's suffrage!
- Increased support for dementia patients support increased patients support dementia for patients support dementia increased fo-

Economic

- To reduce inflation, we will contribute $10,000,000,000 to foreign wars.
- I want the best for this country, so I have undergone rigorous economic training. Here is a video of me from my latest microeconomics class:

- We plan to model America's future on our nation's treasure, San Francisco, by lacing school lunches with trace amounts of fentanyl.
- As part of my revolutionary healthcare plan, Vestycare, I will personally administer free colonoscopies to the American people.

Overseas Policy

- To ensure peace between us and China, I've invited Xi to join me at the White House for a Vesticle Party™ .
- My handicap is a six. Theo's is a stutter.

The Phillipian
SPORTS

hey you ;)

Volume CXLVII | Number 18

September 20, 2024

Girls Soccer Perseveres Through Loss at Rivers to Beat Middlesex In Home-Opener

MADDY LEHMANN

SATURDAY 9/14	
Andover	1
Rivers	2

WEDNESDAY 9/18	
Andover	3
Middlesex	1

Girls Soccer persisted through adversity this week, bouncing back from a tough loss against Rivers on Saturday to later beating Middlesex on Wednesday. At Rivers the game was tight; Andover gave away a penalty after a call that became the tiebreaker. On Wednesday, Andover won in its home opener against Middlesex.

Jackie Dill ’27 explained the circumstances around the penalty call, which caused Andover to lose the game. Dill commented that the tension was high and the referee was indecisive in their call.

Dill said, “The ball was in the box, and one of our midfielders was defending a forward from the other team... The ref[eree] said that she had hands on her back, and called a penalty kick, which caused us to lose the game. But the call was kind of like a toss-up, and the ref[eree] wasn’t sure about it.”

After the game, Emily Decker ’26 emphasized the team’s determination to bounce back after its loss. Before playing Middlesex, the team’s captains, Hayden Fischer ’25, Ava Davey ’25, and Emily Mara ’25, led the team with enthusiasm and energy.

“With the Rivers game being so close and having the last minute call, there was a lot of energy throughout the team going into the game against Middlesex and that really helped us to score first because we were motivated.”

After the Middlesex game, Decker applauded Ashley Dimnaku ’28, who started and played the 90-minutes as a Junior.

Decker said, “Ashley Dimnaku, the new Freshman, did a really good job throughout the whole game of keeping us high energy and getting forward in the midfield.”

After the season openers, Murathime Daisley ’26 reflected on the team’s strengths and weaknesses. The team did well in getting touches in the opposing field’s box, especially in the final third of the game. However, Daisley noted that the team will continue working on passing to covering more of the horizontal field.

Daisley said, “We could work on seeing the whole field. I feel like we play one side for the majority of the game, and it just gets really easy to lock down. [We need to work on this] especially because we have a really good ability to swing the ball and we have good people who can cross the ball very well.”

However, Daisley acknowledges the talent of each player on the team and looks forward to building team chemistry by using those individual strengths.

L.RUSTUM/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Ashley Dimnaku ’28 vies with the Middlesex opponent to control the ball.

“But I think that piecing it together now, like piecing all of our strengths together is kind of the [important] part because we have so many different strengths, but I feel it’s just going to take a little bit of time for us to understand how we can play with each other.”

Girls Soccer plays Loomis Chaffee away on Saturday.

Boys Water Polo Fights With Connection and Aggression

ETHAN LY

SATURDAY 9/14	
Andover	7
Hopkins	17

SATURDAY 9/14	
Andover	10
Loomis	12

WEDNESDAY 9/18	
Andover	5
Exeter	18

On Saturday, Boys Water Polo (0-3) played two back-to-back games against Hopkins and Loomis Chaffee (Loomis). The team played another match on Wednesday, falling short to Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter).

Jeffery Lim ’27 highlighted the team’s ability to coordinate with each other in its game against Loomis, allowing it to gain an early lead. Lim praised his Co-Captains, Jason Kokones ’25 and Zach Godsey ’25, for their encouragement, which helped their teammates continue to fight throughout the entire game.

“We connected really well, that connection gave us a lead against Loomis at the start of the game and everybody did their part. I want to give credit to both of our Captains for hyping us up and getting us fired up and helping us fight until the end,” said Lim.

Godsey highlighted Daniel Seong ’25’s ability to quickly bounce back from an injury and play center, one of Water Polo’s most physically demanding positions. Furthermore, Godsey noted Austin Stern ’27’s confidence and skill during the match, evident in his aggressive goal-shooting.

“Daniel Seong was really impressive. He was gone from practice for the prior two or three days due to injury, but he stepped up in the game and played center position, which is one of the more physical and hard positions. He did a really good job. Also, Austin Stern [’27] had some great shots too, he’s got a lot of confidence and he can really rip it,” said Godsey.

Lim acknowledged that during the matches the team faced a size disadvantage. Lim observed that many of the newer players on the team were smaller in comparison to the size of the Seniors on the opposing teams, making it hard to play defense.

“Some weaknesses on Saturday were that some of the players who are newer to the game were undersized compared to the Seniors we were going against. That made it kind of troubling for us to find the right matchup,” Lim said.

M.MACKINNON/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Zach Godsey ’25 readies to pass the ball to a teammate.

In Wednesday’s game against Exeter, the Co-Captains continued to demonstrate their leadership in pushing the support and helping newer players. Andrew Cai ’27 shared the impact of their strong morale throughout the game, as they consistently checked in and provided motivational pep talks.

“As a team, we all performed very well and I appreciate the Captains because they kept us in check and guided us to do our best. They upped our morale, [and] they helped us up when we made a little mistake. They also gave us pep talks during halftime,” said Cai.

Despite the team’s loss, Godsey was proud of his team’s ability to adapt and improve as the game progressed. Specifically, as the team focused on intentionally supporting each other, it was able to raise its level of play.

“Throughout the game, we got better about coming back, helping defense, and our spatial awareness. We did well being aware of what we were doing in the pool and being able to help when our teammates got beat and that improved throughout the game, which was good,” said Godsey.

Looking forward, Godsey shared that the team strives to work on offensive movement and developing a dynamic offense. This will give the team stronger scoring opportunities as it implements these changes into play.

“Offensive movement is a big thing we need to work on and being able to have a dynamic offense and having multiple scoring options rather than having a one-dimensional playstyle. We’re definitely working on that, and I would like to work on that more,” said Godsey.

The team will face Westminster and Deerfield this Saturday.

BOYS WATERPOLO

		3 Ⓒ ZACH GODSEY ’25 HONOLULU, HI	**5** Ⓒ JASON KOKONES ’25 BROOKLINE, MA	
13 LINCOLN TOMLINSON ’27 WINTER SPRINGS, FL	**17** DAVID PORTO ’26 VINHEDO, BR	**1A** SEAN NIU ’25 NEWPORT BEACH, CA	**7** NATHAN EGBUNA ’26 EL PASO, TX	**2** DANIEL SEONG ’25 WYCKOFF, MJ
4 ANDREW CAI ’27 FORT WASHINGTON, PA	**6** JEFFERY LIM ’27 SEOUL, KR	**18** JOSHUA CHANG ’27 DAVENPORT, FL	**16** BRANDON XU ’26 SIMPSONVILLE, SC	**9** RYAN LOH ’28 HONOLULU, HI
15 BEN ZHOU ’25 LARKSPUR, CA	**10** ETHAN ZHU ’26 DHAHRAN, SA	**11** AUSTIN STERN ’27 ANDOVER, MA	**14** OLIVER STABACH ’26 GLASTONBURY, CT	**12** SEAN CHOI ’27 SEOUL, KR

MANAGERS: ADZ MORALES ’25 NOKOMIS, FL; ZIXUAN RU ’27 BEIJING, CN; HANNAH SONG ’27 SEOUL, KR; ARIANA ZHAO ’25 NORTH READING, MA

GIRLSVOLLEYBALL

Co-Captain Saraya Angbazo '25 Leads With Bubbly Energy and Aggressive Hitting Style

AARON HUANG

Co-Captain and Student Body Co-President Saraya Angbazo '25 began her volleyball journey during seventh grade. After watching various volleyball games with her friends at her local high school, she loved the energetic nature of the game and became inspired to pursue the sport.

According to Angbazo, her favorite aspect of volleyball stems from the excitement and chemistry she experiences with her teammates on the court. Angbazo continues to emphasize how her love for volleyball does not arise from the satisfaction of hitting lines or hitting cool passes, rather from the excellent team chemistry.

Angbazo said, "It's just when everyone on the court is in sync and everyone just has the same goal of winning, and having fun, and staying positive. Everyone's on that same page. That's when you can really feel it. It's not physical, but you can just feel the excitement and the fun and the joy that everyone is sharing. When that comes alive, that is when you know we're playing high-level volleyball."

A.TSAO/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

As a Co-Captain, Angbazo highlights her responsibility to be mindful of individual perspectives.

Angbazo said, "Being able to really feel what other people are feeling and act as if you actually know what it feels like to be in their shoes, I think that's really important when you're trying to lead an entire team, or an entire school. So that is something that's universal across the board."

Selene Xu '27 recognized Angbazo's encouraging nature and charisma while maintaining a strong feedback loop. Xu noted how Angbazo promotes positive team culture by being inclusive and kind to everyone on the team.

"Especially last year, I was her pepper partner and I think she was really encouraging and she would always ask for feedback and give feedback, which I really like. Also I think she just motivates the team a lot and encourages everyone and she's always so hyped for practice and games and always ready to go," said Xu.

Commenting on her strong relationship with Co-Captain Sophie Holten '25, Angbazo believes that the pair complement each other's energies. Having been friends and teammates for the past three years, Angbazo emphasizes how she plans to exemplify communication and strong relationships within the team.

"In volleyball, having lots of energy and talking to the court is super important. So, we just wanted to express this love and this close friendship that I truly cherish that this team, the PAVB team, has given me. We want to share that with everyone else and all the new people," said Angbazo.

On the court, Angbazo is a persistent player, noted Gracie Aziabor '26. Aziabor emphasizes Angbazo's aggressive playing style on the court.

Aziabor said, "She just kind of adapts to it and finds another way to get the ball down on their side of the court, so I really admire that. She's very unfazed by what the other team has, and she just continuously plays very aggressively."

Angbazo hopes to play volleyball in college at whatever capacity and is enthusiastic about her returning to cheer on PAVB in the upcoming season.

"I definitely will be taking my love of volleyball to college. I'll be playing with friends that I meet or joining clubs. But volleyball at PA will always hold a super special spot in my heart. So I'm really excited. After I graduate, after I return my jersey for the last time, I'm super excited to come back for games throughout next fall and to support my teammates," said Angbazo.

Editor's Note: Gracie Aziabor is an Associate Layout Editor for The Phillipian.

Sophie Holten '25 Co-leads Girls Volleyball With Unmatched Energy

ETHAN LY

Co-Captain Sophie Holten '25 leads Girls Volleyball with high energy on and off the court. Although she only began taking volleyball seriously in her first year of high school, she has quickly established herself as one of the team's top players and a dedicated, supportive leader. Taking inspiration from her previous Co-Captains, she models the importance of having an uplifting mindset as much as possible.

Influenced by her friends, Holten began her volleyball journey in seventh grade. In ninth grade, she started competing more seriously on her previous high school's Junior Varsity team, and also gained experience playing on a travel team. Upon arriving at Andover as a new Lower and making Girls Varisty Volleyball, Holten has since continued with the sport.

"I had actually never even heard of [volleyball] until seventh grade; my friends were doing it, so I was like, 'Oh I'll do it too.' And of course, that's when the only thing everyone knew to do was serve. So when I actually started playing wasn't until ninth grade, and I was not at Andover at that point, so I played JV for my old school and played on a travel team for the rest of the year. And then I came here and I made Varsity. [And] I've been playing with [Andover Girls Volleyball] ever since," said Holten.

According to Sophia Fang '28, Holten approaches both practice and competition with focused intensity. During practice, she encourages her teammates to perform to their best ability. In games, Holten tries to create a positive team environment where her teammates feel comfortable shaking off mistakes and trying again.

"Every time we're at practice, she's really energetic and happy and she's always encouraging other teammates to do their best... Whenever she sees her teammates that might be down because they made a little mistake, she's always cheering them up and giving them advice. And also, I'd say off the court, she's very supportive because she's trying to include everyone and making sure everyone's okay after the game and they're all getting their meals in and their sleep in. I think she really cares about everyone who's on the team," said Fang.

Holten draws inspiration from former Girls Volleyball Co-Captain and Blue Key Head Dagny Bingham '23, who carried a passionate and empathetic nature. This season, Holten hopes to match that spirit on the volleyball court and in her classes.

"I've wanted to be Captain all my years here at PA but I feel like the first person who inspired me was probably the Captain when I was here my first year as a new Lower; her name was Dagny Bingham and she was also a Blue Key Head. I felt so inspired by her all the time; she was loud, energetic, the same sort of positive mindset... Even during fall and not during fall, in any sport I play or any class that I'm in, keeping that positive energy and trying to be happy most of the time, just smiling in general," Holten said.

Manager Kai Szanton '26 observed a noticeable shift in energy between last season and this fall, crediting Holten's leadership as a key factor in the change. He emphasized the importance of maintaining high energy in volleyball, noting that, while the sport is largely physical, the mental aspects often play a decisive role in determining the outcome.

"I would say that energy would contribute to better performance because if you ask most volleyball players, while

A.TSAO/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

volleyball is a physically demanding sport, when it comes to winning or losing a game, it's almost always psychological. I know an issue we had on the team last year was that the bench and the team on the court weren't loud. It was always really quiet, always sullen. And, I think this year, with a lot of players being more invested in the team and willing to get loud and bring that energy, it's going to provide a better psychological state for the team even when we're not doing well in games. [Sophie] gets loud, energy-loud, not yelling-loud," said Szanton.

Holten looks forward to playing her final season of volleyball at Andover.

Girls Varsity Volleyball Coach Clyfe Beckwith Leads With Energy And Wisdom

ALEX DIMNAKU

Girls Volleyball Head Coach Clyfe Beckwith brings a contagious energy that drives his team. His leadership goes beyond positivity; he actively fosters team cohesion and emphasizes a collaborative mindset. Having a team-first, individual-second mentality, Beckwith stresses the importance of caring about the team as a whole to every individual on the team.

Beckwith's passion for volleyball ignited in high school, where he first took to the court in 1979. His early experiences with the sport laid the foundation for a lifelong dedication, shaping both his playing and coaching career.

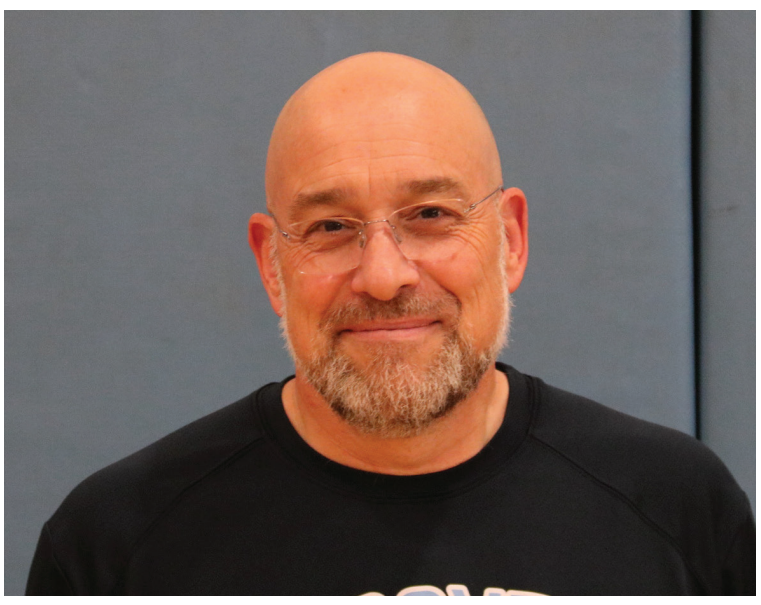
Beckwith said, "I started playing in high school in 1979 at The American International School of Zürich in Switzerland. Our high school was affiliated with a local club named Tornado."

He reflected on his coaching journey at Andover which began with coaching a variety of sports before ultimately becoming the Head Coach of Girls Volleyball. His experience with multiple teams allowed him to develop a versatile coaching style, fostering leadership across different sports.

"Coaching, in general, was what I expected when I first arrived at Phillips Academy back in 1992. At that time, I was assigned Boys Soccer JV2 (Assistant), Alpine Skiing (Head), and Instructional Volleyball. I moved around a bit, and when the then-coach of Varsity Volleyball left the school in 1998, the Athletic Director, Coach Mo, asked me to coach Varsity Volleyball — the beginning of my career with Girls Volleyball in the fall and Boys Volleyball in the spring." said Beckwith.

Gracie Aziabor '26 talked about how Beckwith doesn't only bring energy to the team but also gives wisdom through corrections and helping people out by giving them tips. She added that Beckwith always knows what to say in any situation.

"He is definitely someone who brings a lot of energy and wisdom to the team. He's been coaching the team for a really long time, and you can definitely tell in the corrections that he gives. He pretty much always knows what to say, which is really helpful. If you have a question, you can just ask him, and he'll answer it for you. He is also really energetic. He's always doing his best to hype the team up and get us excited, whether it's for practice or games," said Aziabor.



A.TSAO/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Kaliah Fortune '26 talked about how Beckwith values community and chemistry within the team. She added the example of the many external activities that build and increase chemistry, such as Friday dinners at his house.

"Cooperation, community — Coach has us over for dinner every Friday as a team, and he cooks for us. He has two days out of the week specifically for us to work on team chemistry and cooperation so that we play better because we're more bonded. He's very focused on us uplifting each other, and as I said, it's a team sport, not an individual one, so he's big on making sure that we click together and have strong team chemistry." said Fortune.

Fortune also mentioned that Beckwith's experience helps him give good pointers to the hitters and blockers on the team such as explosiveness and timing. In addition, she also noted that his tips are usually very encouraging but constructive.

"I'm a setter, but I've heard him give very specific advice to hitters and blockers, for example, when they're working on hitting. He talks a lot about energy, explosiveness, jumping as high as you can, and pushing yourself further than you think you can... He explains how to go up and angle your hands to make the block come down off your hands... He's very encouraging and gives specific tips when you ask for them," said Fortune.

Finally, Beckwith mentioned how his goals include not only competing in a competitive and fun environment but also the team coming away with good habits they can carry for the rest of their lives. He hopes the team learns how important having fun, being kind to each other, and building a life-long family is.

"My goals are to provide a safe, fun, competitive environment. Volleyball is a great team sport and acquires good life-long habits. I hope the team takes away how important having fun, being kind to each other, building a life-long family, competing at our highest level, and the value of good sportspersonship," said Beckwith.

Editor's Note: Gracie Aziabor is an Associate Layout Editor for The Phillipian.

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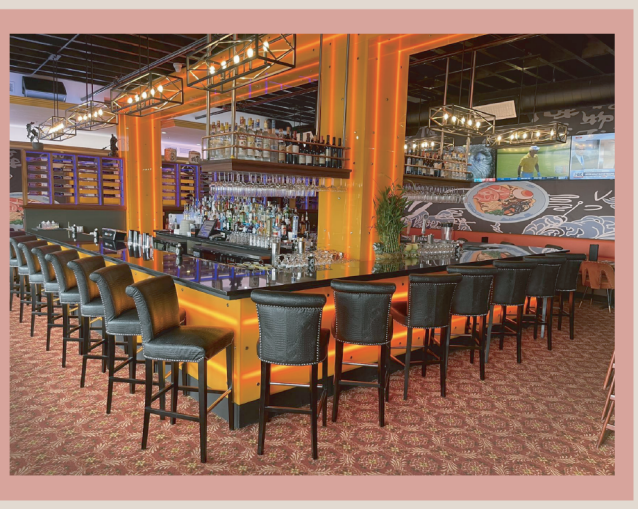

KARAOKE

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11:30-12:30AM THURS-SAT
12PM-9:30PM SUN

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BOSTON MAKI

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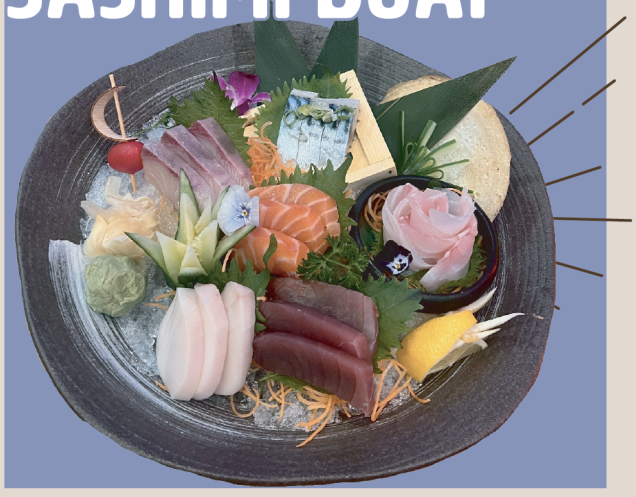

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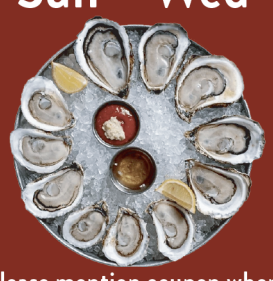

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Sun ~ Wed

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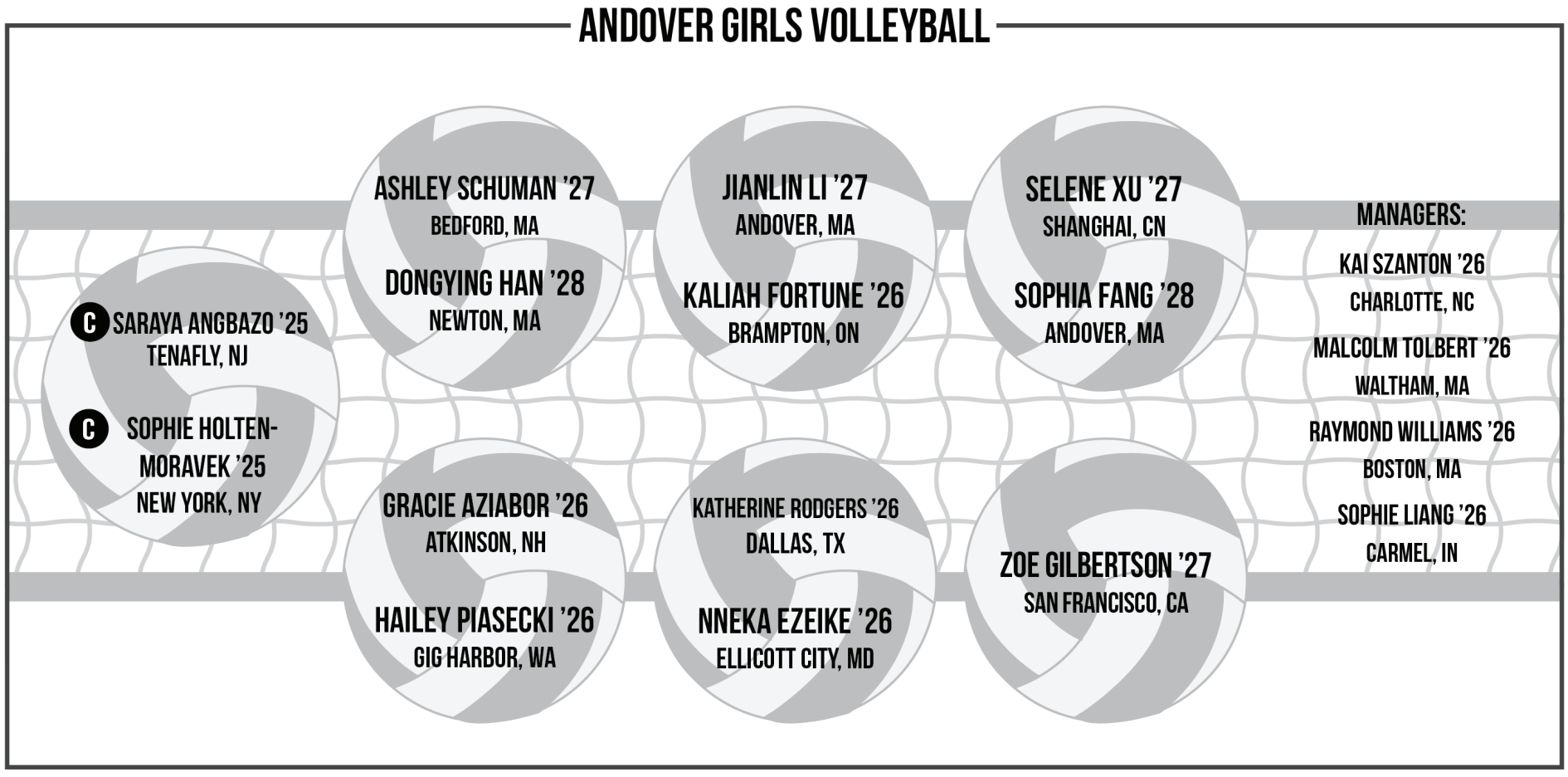


Girls Volleyball Tackles Doubleheader Against Taft and Hotchkiss

SOLOMAN MARSHALL

SATURDAY 9/14	
Andover	0
Hotchkiss	3

SATURDAY 9/14	
Andover	3
Taft	0

Andover Girls Volleyball (2-1) tackled its first big challenge of the season on Saturday, playing a doubleheader. The team faced off against the Taft and the Hotchkiss.

According to Nneka Ezeike '26, the first game against Taft started slowly. By the end of the first set, the team became adamant about speeding up the tempo while also focusing on playing a high level of volleyball, forcing the opposing team to make costly mistakes.

"Our plan was to play up at the net and increase the pace of the game. Since the game started off slow in the beginning, we focused on cleaning up our mistakes from early on including making sure that we get our serves over the net, forcing them to make errors and not us," said Ezeike.

Sophia Fang '28 commended the performance of Kate Rodgers '26 on Saturday, particularly towards the end of the second match. Fang highlighted her relentless effort and admirable hustle.

Fang said, "Throughout all the games, [Rodgers] was really trying her best. Although I could tell she was getting a little tired, her defense and offense remained really solid. She powered through exhaustion and always went for the ball, trying to get touches on everything. Even though we came short on the second game, her effort and energy was really good."

Volleyball ended up swiftly taking care of business against Taft, beating the team in three sets. The game against Hotchkiss, however, proved to be a difficult undertaking as Gracie Aziabor '26 described the doubleheader, specifically the Hotchkiss game, as a challenge and learning experience.

"Since one game was at 2:30 [p.m.] and the other was at 4:30 [p.m.], we only got about 20 minutes of rest between games, but I think overall, it was a very strong day. We took a lot away from the experience and found areas where we could improve, such as communication. Volleyball is obviously one of those sports where communication is extremely important to figure out how you will play the ball when it comes over on your side of the net. Staying disciplined with communication, especially in a difficult game, can be very hard, but even the best teams must continue to work on it," said Aziabor.

Although the weekend had its highs and lows, there were exciting moments leading up to the game and many highlights from game day itself. Fang highlighted the night before the game when the team went to the coaches house for a pasta night; a team tradition.

Fang said, "Luckily, there were leftovers from the night, and between the first and second games we were able to eat leftover pasta, sandwiches, and drink chocolate milk to help us recover. There is a team tradition where we go to Coach Clyfe [Beckwith]'s house, and he makes massive amounts of pasta for the team. So it was fortunate that we were able to have some good food in between games."

Aziabor says one of the team's goals this week and this season is to get comfortable in difficult situations. She highlighted how the team managed to find some success even while playing tired against Hotchkiss.

"We aspire to be pushing teams out of their comfort zone. When we played against Hotchkiss, we were obviously challenged, but it showed us certain plays we can implement into our arsenal and ways to start running faster offensive plays. Speeding up the pace was difficult as we were fatigued, but was successful when we could manage," said Aziabor.

COURTESY OF THE ACADEMY

Kate Rodgers '26 prepares to serve the ball.

After the two games, the team is preparing for an away game against Loomis Chaffee on Saturday.

Editor's Note: Gracie Aziabor is an Associate Layout Editor for The Phillipian.

Boys Soccer Takes First Loss of Season In Grueling Match Against Belmont Hill

JACOB JONES

SATURDAY 9/14	
Andover	0
Belmont Hill	1

WEDNESDAY 9/18	
Andover	0
Taft	0

On Saturday, Boys Soccer (0-1-1) fell short in its season home opener against Belmont Hill School. Although Andover changed its formation at halftime to apply more offensive pressure, Belmont Hill scored the match's only goal. On Wednesday, the team traveled to Milton and walked away with a scoreless game.

Co-Captain Sebastian Mejia-Rivera '25 debuted his Senior season and a second year playing for Andover on Saturday. Mejia-Rivera noted how Andover opted to view the loss and also commended Belmont Hill's goal-scorer.

Mejia-Rivera said, "Props to the striker [from Belmont Hill], he just ran very fast and put it past our goalie. Unfortunately, we weren't able to score one past them, but we know what we did wrong, and what we could have done better. We learned a lot from this game and we've already started discussing tactics for our next game this Wednesday, which is against a very strong team."

The team dynamic has shifted since graduating a significant number of Seniors last year, and many new and young players are getting onto the field. Jonathan Bu '26 commended Kai Myles '27 for his performance.

"Kai Myles...was on Varsity as a [Junior] last year, so he's a tough '27. He's going to be very good with the ball. He scored a lot last season so he's going to be a big part of our offense since he's a striker. Our firepower is going to be quite crucial with him," said Bu.

Marc Nelson '25 reflected on his performance this past Saturday and noted his hopes of taking initiative in leading the team.

Nelson said, "I made some opportunities, missed a couple, but I'm definitely one of the people on the team that has to lock in order for our team to be the best we can be... The team has a lot more chemistry this year compared to our last year. It feels like everyone meshes together much better and we are working really hard to make up for all the Seniors we lost."

With drastic changes in the starting lineup since last year, the team is focused on team building. Mejia-Rivera reflected upon the loss and brought up his excitement looking forward to the future of the team.

Mejia-Rivera said, "On paper, the truth is that we had a stronger team last year due to having a core roster that had been together since their freshman year. This year we have a bunch of new guys, we still have a big roster, we just have to teach the new guys the expectations of an Andover Varsity soccer team and the pressure that comes with it. We feel optimistic that the team will keep learning throughout the season and we will eventually be successful this year."

According to Nelson, some players are already stepping up to the plate to make big plays when the team needs it. He highlighted Louis-Thomas Vincent '25 as one teammate who he thinks will be a breakout player this year.

"I've been trying to tell people for the last two years that he is absolutely class. He didn't really get minutes last year, although I thought he deserved it, he's getting them this year, and my goodness he's putting in work with those minutes... He's a rock, you cannot push him off the ball, the ball is on a string when it's at his feet, and he's so smart because he knows exactly what you're going to do before it happens. There's literally no way to get by him," said Nelson.

Bu commented on Wednesday's game that left both teams scoreless. He reflected on Andover's first two games and compared that to how the team will attack its next matchup against Loomis Chaffee.

"We played more of a conservative style against Belmont Hill... If we come out with that same firepower and capitalize on those chances that we had against Milton, we should be successful against Loomis Chaffee."

Andover Boys Soccer will play away against Loomis on Friday night.

Field Hockey Dominates to Start Off Their Season Positively

MADDIE SHIN

SATURDAY 9/14	
Andover	10
Thayer	1
WEDNESDAY 9/18	
Andover	7
Lawrence Academy	0

The undefeated Field Hockey team dominated Thayer to start off its season on Saturday. It continued on Wednesday, with another win against Lawrence Academy (Lawrence). Both games resulted in at least a seven-point win.

Sienna Glass '27 mentioned how the team battled nerves by staying supportive of one another. She commented on the team's growth since preseason, mentioning the positive team chemistry that allowed them to work well together.

"Everyone was a little bit nervous, but we were very supportive of each other and managed well as a team, and everybody got to play. Everyone [has] gained a little bit more confidence since preseason, which I thought was good. Our team is able to work well together after scrimmaging with and against each other," said Glass.

With a diverse range of goal scorers, and specifically, players including Maren Boyle '26 and Molly Boyle '25, Quiana Bell '26 commended the team's offense and its ability to drive the ball up the field and score effectively against Thayer.

Bell said, "We had nine different goals scored by nine different people, the stat was crazy. It was a very diverse group that was controlling the offense. Obviously, we had Maren and Molly being our forwards, they did a great job pitching the ball up."

Similarly, Josie Sarno '26 highlighted the team's aggressive offense. From the start, the team was able to maintain possession in Thayer's half of the field.

Sarno said, "The strength of the team was our aggressiveness from the start of the game, we were able to keep the ball in their half of the field for the majority of the game. We played really well offensively for our game against Thayer."

As the team started to shift its focus towards its game against Lawrence, Bell noted the importance of forcing the other teams to have turnovers. The team plans to work on pushing the momentum and recovering on defense.

"We've also been focusing over the last couple of days with our press and causing the other teams to have those little turnovers. We're just really going to want to focus on pushing our momentum, making sure we're all getting back on defense and protecting our feet from the ball," said Bell

Bell also stressed the influence communication has had so far. She highlighted how communication helped the team on the field and how it hopes to continue to improve that skill.

"The team has worked a lot on our communication and passing and it's paid off. We had a lot of good passing sequences against Lawrence. It helps strengthen us on the field and help us improve our game on another level when we get our communication aspect to the highest level," said Bell.

Even with its earlier success this season, Field Hockey remains determined to continue to improve all aspects of its play. Glass stated that the team will focus on enhancing its ball stopping, ability to use the entire field and its simple plays.

Glass said, "In the weeks following the games against Thayer and Lawrence Academy, our team will be working on stopping balls as well as aerials and getting our top hands low so we can stop those balls easier. We'll also be working on utilizing both sides of the field. We do this by transferring the ball... Also we'll be working on making simple passes and simple plays."

Field Hockey will compete against Loomis Chaffee on Saturday.

L.CARTER/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Quiana Bell' 26 runs past the Lawrence Academy opponent lunges for the ball.

Football Gallery

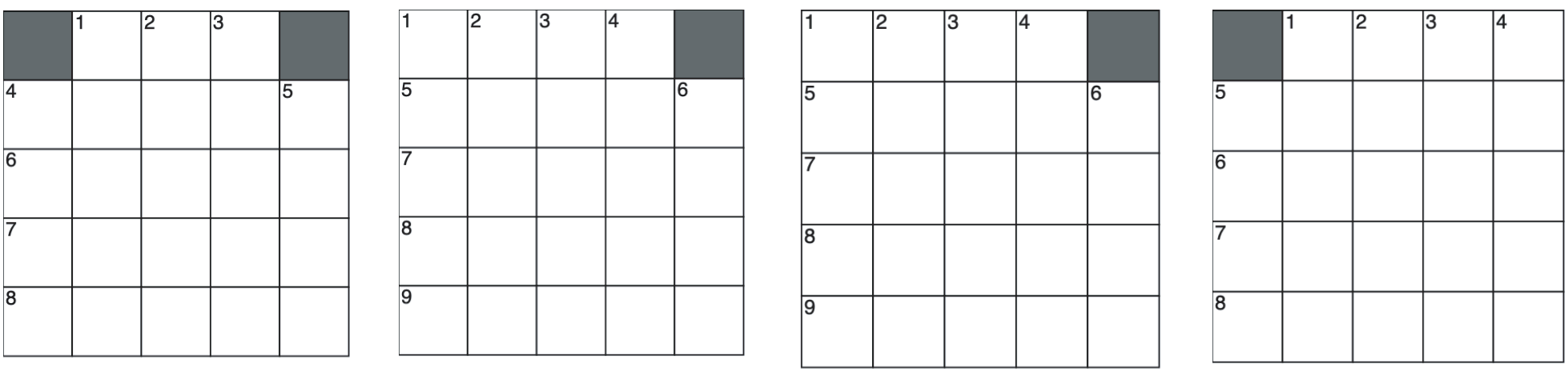
PHOTOS BY MICHAEL STOUT

Nathaniel Cook '25, wide receiver for Football, catches a ball mid-air.

Denzil Pierre '25 is the running back for Football.

Crossword Corner

BY MAX LANGHORST



ACROSS

1 "I beg", in a text
4 Puzzle part
6 Halo owners
7 Reeked
8 You can change them in your sneakers

DOWN

1 Brown bean
2 Within the bounds of the law
3 Section of a movie
4 Alternative to a run, in football
5 Deer-like state animal of Utah

ACROSS

1 They can be cross country or downhill
5 Wood chips alternative
7 Snow structure
8 Toys for future architects
9 Street corn

DOWN

1 Happy expression
2 Jewish potato casserole
3 "Any volunteers?" reply
4 "Move over!"
6 Fireman's tool

ACROSS

1 Nation that fell in 1989
5 God's enemy
7 Lament for the dead
8 Jobs for an actor
9 Capture, as a deer

DOWN

1 Account owners
2 Haircut spot
3 Commemorative inscribed stone
4 Big party
6 Abbreviation for a wall street bro

ACROSS

1 Backtalk or lip
5 Caveman diet
6 Mathematician with a constant named after him
7 Do well on a test
8 Alternative to buys

DOWN

1 Hollandaise or Big Mac, ex.
2 Barry ___, speedster
3 You have to ___ __ to believe it
4 Separates into categories
5 Awkwardly shaped green fruit

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Dance Groups Hold Tryouts in Preparation for Grasshopper

ELIZA FRANCIS

Three established dance clubs — jazz group, Blue Strut (Strut), hip hop group, Hypnotiq (Hypno), and Afro-Caribbean group, Fusion — held tryouts for their respective Grasshopper pieces this past weekend. Scheduled for October 25 to 26 during Family Weekend, Grasshopper is an annual student-directed showcase celebrating dance, music, and other artistic talents. This year's theme, "The Elements," pushes choreographers to pull from the natural world — earth, fire, water, and air — as inspiration.

Hypno was the first of three clubs to hold tryouts on September 13 at 7:00 p.m. Samaira Hammond '25, Co-Head of Hypno, spoke on how their Grasshopper piece aligns with the theme.

"We auditioned to the song 'Knife Talk' by Drake. It's a really fun, upbeat song that gets you in the groove. Our element we are doing is the water and rain element. However, Hypno is doing a subsection of it: thunder and lightning. The emphasis we have within our pieces and in hip hop in general is very aggressive and grounded like thunder," said Hammond.

Strut, which held their tryouts for Grasshopper on September 14, similarly chose water to be their element and inspiration for Grasshopper choreography. Using songs like "Hot N Cold" by Katy Perry and "Umbrella" by Rihanna, Strut embraced the thematic restraints while honoring the club's high energy, jazz-inspired choreography. While both groups selected the same element, Strut's distinct approaches indicate how Andover's dance scene is a reflection of the community at large: diverse and celebratory of all student-body interests. Nina Torrens '26, three-year member of Strut, shared her experience with this year's tryouts.

"They were super fun; the energy was great and the Blue Key Heads also came so it was a super welcoming and hyped up environment. The choreography was so much fun," said Torrens.

The inviting, fun energy of Strut tryouts, as explained by Torrens, serves as a through line for club dance at Andover. In tradition, all dance tryouts are open to any students regardless of skill level and/or experience. Ultimately, groups are meant to provide opportunities for students to perform and choreograph pieces they can take pride in. This year especially, Strut, Hypno, and Fusion alike committed to ensuring inclusivity while maintaining performance quality.

"Hypno is a club and it is open for everyone; it's very inclusive and we just want serious dancers. We had multiple dancers rolling in with a total sign up of 45 dancers. It was a lot but really exciting and fun," said Hammond.

The final group to tryout this past weekend was Fusion. While the three clubs, along with non-tryout based dance clubs like Footnotes, JVNE, Asian Performing Arts Club, and Photon, all produce different genres and energies, they are united in the communities they help foster. The wide variety of Andover dance groups ensures that everyone has an opportunity to share their passion for dance, as described by Torrens.

A.TSAO/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Asian Performing Arts Club performed at Grasshopper 2023.

"Strut feels like a little family, so I love that environment. Especially the rehearsals leading up to big performances tend to be super fun because we're always trying potential new tricks to add in and it's always a great time," said Torrens.

Dance clubs at Andover carry unique legacies, being both rooted in tradition and a part of the ever evolving student-body narrative. With the help of faculty advisors, each club is organized and run solely by student dancers, serving as an avenue for self-expression through the passion of movement. When asked about the legacy Hypno specifically wanted to leave, Hammond shared her personal insight.

"For Hypno, I want to see a diverse group of dancers through all grade levels. I think that's something we really need to push for within the dance department in general but especially with hip hop. Hip hop is less seen on campus, and I want to see everyone who's interested in hip hop showing out and showing their personality... Using Hypno as an outlook and space for dancers of all ages is really important. Having a support system is what I want Hypnotiq to be this year and going forward."

Dance club Grasshopper tryouts are a crucial step in moving forward. After selecting performance groups, each respective club will soon audition for a spot in Grasshopper, displaying their love of dance and community to a wider audience of students and parents alike. Whether one is a trained dancer or excited beginner, club dance at Andover invites everyone to participate.

Blake Herndon '25 Lives By "Look Good, Feel Good," With Personal and Confident Style

JENNA LIANG

Taking inspiration from the early 2000s, Blake Herndon '25 paired her signature gold hoops with an assortment of gold bracelets. Herndon reflected on how both her style and mindset have evolved over the years and grown more independent and individualized.

"As I got older, I've tried less to be like what other people are dressing around me, and I choose stuff that I like for myself... I would describe [my style] as elevated streetwear," said Herndon.

For the most part, Herndon follows a routine to style her outfits. Often planning looks in advance, she focuses on avoiding repetition and experimenting with her looks, especially regarding color and accessories.

"I choose my outfit the night before, and I usually try to wear a different color every day, so I try not to wear the same color two days in a row to keep it interesting. I [also] like to choose my jewelry the night before... [However], I do have lazy days where I won't try as hard and those days are usually when I pick my outfit the morning of, and I don't give myself time to think about my outfit," said Herndon.

When selecting her clothes for the day, Herndon often considers the relationship between elements of her outfit and her confidence and attitude, and subsequently her daily successes. By choosing outfits that make her feel empowered, she aims to enhance her self-esteem and maintain a positive mindset for the day.

"I really think that feeling confident in myself helps me do better. If I look good, I feel better. So, I know I'm going to do better... For example, if I have a test or a big assessment, I dress nicer for that day because I really do believe in 'look good, feel good,'" said Herndon.

Herndon reflected on the fashion influences in her life, acknowledging her sister's role in her journey to discovering her own style. She also noted aesthetics and styles she hopes to explore next, expressing her eagerness to expand her closet and experiment with fashion.

"My inspiration comes from my older sister Kennedy [Herndon '23]. She actually dresses more masculine [than me], and I would say we're kind of opposites, but I love to play my style off of hers. We're so alike in opposite ways... [I'm hoping to explore] '90s streetwear, specifically baggy clothing. I feel right now, I'm more into cropped items, or tighter fitting items, and I think it'd be really cool to give more variety to my closet by adding baggier items," said Herndon.

Maddie Redmond '25, who's known Herndon since Junior Year, applauded her sophistication and originality. Redmond described her favorite outfit formula of Herndon's, and emphasized the importance of shoes and accessories in her wardrobe.

"My favorite outfits of hers are when she does Skims tops or tight-fitting tops with cute, low-rise jeans... The shoes [make them unique], and she loves to accessorize, which I feel can make it more original. She loves jewelry. She has a gold jewelry box just filled with a bunch of jewelry. But also styling her hair in different ways and her glasses as well. She has two pairs she loves to wear that can also set her apart. She's very meticulous with accessories, especially," said Redmond.

With fashion being an important part in her life, Herndon hopes that it will continue to be an outlet for self-expression, and a means to foster confidence. She reflected on how attending Andover has helped her find the style she feels most comfortable in.

"I want fashion to always be a way for me to express my confidence. I want it to stay as a constant for me to be able to express myself. It's important to me because I know that if I don't like my outfit, [or] I don't like my jewelry [or] my hair, I'm not a happy camper... [Coming to Andover changed my style], but not necessarily because it's Andover, but because I've matured, and I've felt more comfortable expressing myself. I feel like I'm more comfortable with myself now to the point where I know what I want to wear," said Herndon.

L.RUSTUM/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Herndon dresses up on days she has assesments to feel more confident.

L.RUSTUM/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Herndon '25 draws inpiration from her sister, Kennedy Herndon '23.

L.RUSTUM/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Coming to Andover helped Herndon feel more comfortable with her style.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

A Path for Every Artist — Exploring Andover's Art Electives

REPORTING BY ZADIE ROBINSON

Andover's Art Department offers a range of electives designed to engage students in both technical and conceptual aspects of visual arts. From traditional mediums like drawing and painting to cutting-edge digital arts, students can find courses that not only help them develop artistic skills but also encourage critical thinking, cultural exploration, and personal expression.

ART 505: ADVANCED DRAWING, PAINTING, AND MIXED MEDIA
RENEE SILVA, INSTRUCTOR IN ART

"In [the class], the second half of the term is an independent project, and that's really great because everyone writes a proposal and basically comes up with a series of work around a topic. And then there's also an element of research to it, which is sort of similar to how professional artists work. So they're getting real-life experience in the field. Then we also publish them into zines, which are small, handmade magazines. So they get to publish their work and distribute them, and everyone is always really excited. It's a unique experience."

ART 302: CLAY AND THE ANCESTRAL POT
CHLOE KASULE-WALLACE '26

"Clay takes a really long time and requires a lot of patience. You can't expect things to work out perfectly on the first try. You have to plan each step carefully. I've learned that you can't rush the project, you have to let certain parts dry before making adjustments. Overall, it's taught me to be more patient as an artist, and that's a skill I'll take with me when working in other mediums... I definitely want to take another ceramics class, even after just a week. There's still so much to learn, and ceramics is such an interesting form of art. We've been learning about artists like Roberto Lugo and Magdalene Odundo, and I find their perspectives on art really inspiring. There's a lot more for me to explore in ceramics, and that's the beauty of it, you can create endless things with clay."

ART 314: ART AND ACTIVISM
KWADJO ADJEPONG '27

"I took [the class] last spring; it was so fun and interesting. In it, we learned about how art ties into activism and the diverse ways art can be interpreted. I hadn't taken anything like it before, but because of our lesson on guerilla gardening, I've been inspired to start a garden with my family over the summer and replace the produce we buy at the grocery store."

ART 309: VIDEO I
ASHIQ KIBRIA '26

"Overall I enjoy the class. The teacher, Mrs. [Junko] Pink[owski], explains to us how to use Adobe Premiere Pro. Currently, the project we are doing is a Matchcut video, in which we cut together different clips and create transitions which work well."

ART 310: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY I: APPRECIATING LIGHT, COLOR, AND TIME
EVIE LAGRANDEUR '26

"We have regular readings and reflections about the history, technology, and philosophy of photography. For this class, I hope to get comfortable using features on the camera other than program and automatic. I know logistically what the features are and when to use them, but I realized today while taking photos that I have no experience using this knowledge in practice. I've never taken a course like this before, so I joined this one since I'm a two-year Upper and need to take art classes still. All the art electives looked fun, but I chose Digital Photography specifically because I've never done anything like it before. I don't even use one of those little digital cameras everyone seems to have... The teachers are very kind and understanding, so it's not anything you can't handle. I've heard it gets better though as the term goes on, so I'm excited to get that momentum going and start putting what I've learned into practice."

Annual Fall Festival Brings Flagstaff Courtyard to Life

The annual Fall Festival transformed Flagstaff Courtyard into a bustling social scene this past Saturday evening. Featuring a giant trampoline, a mechanical bull, an obstacle course, caricature drawings, and a corn maze, Andover students were able to enjoy the last warm days of summer before fall settled in. Both new and returning students alike gathered as one community, meeting new friends, munching on fragrant popcorn, and waiting in line for wispy cotton candy. After the first week of classes, students enjoyed the opportunity to unwind with their friends with fun and music. Tori Dahl '26 commented on how the fair allowed her to destress and revel in the lively campus culture.

"[The Fall Festival] makes [the weekend] more lighthearted and helps distract from schoolwork and lets kids have fun. I liked it because there was a lot of energy, there were a lot of people, the music was loud, there were lights, and then there were just people in the middle playing volleyball together," said Dahl.

The festival offered a wide array of activities and exceeded many attendees' initial expectations based on its advertisement in The Weekender.

"I went to the festival because I saw it on The Weekender and then a lot of my friends were there so I was like, 'Oh I might as well swing by,' and I ended up staying because it was super fun,'" said Dahl.

The event also opened up space for community building and exhibiting school spirit. The dynamic activities around the courtyard encouraged students to engage in simple fun, with energetic music and inflatables uplifting people's moods. Maddy Lehman '27 appreciated how the festival helped detach students from their phones and instead cultivate interpersonal relationships through real-world interactions.

"The event was very well done. I liked the music, it was really good. I also thought it was nice to get everyone together in one place with fun activities that were offered. I liked that it was a very community-engaging activity. I feel like [Andover] did a good job of bringing fun and interesting things into the weekend. I think it contributes well [to our school culture] because it's forcing us to get off our phones and interact with each other and giving us a platform to do that," said Lehman.

In addition to allowing pre-existing friend groups to spend time together, the festival also provided a chance for students to form new connections. With all students brought together to the heart of campus in the Flagstaff Courtyard, the festival's central location made the event a hub for community building outside of a classroom environment. Tara Menon '26 relished the opportunity to both see old friends and make new ones.

"The most memorable part was probably... just seeing a bunch of my friends and [getting to] meet a lot of new people in my grade. I think the event is bringing everyone together to one spot and it makes it easier to meet new people because it's really centered," said Menon.

This interweaving of groups, new and established, on-campus benefited Andover's overall campus aura by starting off the year with a genuine event for face-to-face interaction and conversation. Similar to Menon, Lehman remarked that although old friendships motivated her to attend the festival, she also ended up fostering new connections.

"I chose to go because my friends were going. I met a couple new people and I just got to know people that I already met better," said Lehman.

Each attendee had their own favorite activity at the festival, ranging from walking the corn maze or riding the mechanical bull, to jumping on the giant trampoline. In addition to these larger attractions, there were also artists creating custom name artwork and caricatures. For Dahl, the caricatures were the most memorable part of her night; the ink and paper drawing of her with her friends provided a physical memento for her to remember the night.

"My most memorable part was probably getting a picture of me and my friends drawn since I still have it so it's definitely a memory that I can look back on," said Dahl.

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Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

A Guide to the Andover Music Department

HLUMA MANGCU

One of the perks of attending a school like Andover is not only the diversity within class offerings and extracurricular activities but also the depth in which they are explored. There are options for virtually any kind of student, which allows people to branch out of their comfort zones. This especially applies to Andover's Music Department, which offers 19 academic classes and electives, along with nine ensembles, and eight private lesson options. With the new music building, Falls Hall, opening this year, the Music Department has a lot to look forward to for this school year. Because there is so much variety, it may be difficult to navigate the department; however, this article will help guide you through it.

According to graduation requirements, new Juniors and Lowers are required to take Music 225, or Music 235. Music 225 allows new students a basic introduction class to music and composition, with special projects including film scoring and creating background music. Music 235 is designed for students with slightly more experience reading music and playing an instrument and dives deeper into theoretical concepts. Sophie Liang '26, who took Music 235 in her Junior year, gave some insight into how the class helped her learn more about the Music Department, which was a relatively new field for her.

"I hadn't taken music theory before, so it was really interesting to learn about something new. I think for introductory music classes, it's good that new students are required to take it. If they haven't gotten a lot of experience with music, it's a very good intro to the music department. Also in my [Junior] year, the Music Department held a column where they introduced us to the different ensembles and bands which was very helpful," said Liang.

E.LIU/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Goose and Moose, a campus jazz band, perform often at campus events.

A.LEE/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Fidelio, Andover's chamber choir, performed at the 2023 Fall chorus concert.

Along with these introductory classes, the Music Department offers electives that dive into specific styles of music, music technology, history, performance, and more advanced musical theory for the AP Music Theory exam. In Winter Term, Music 480, a Songwriting Workshop is offered for students who wish to create original compositions. Culminating with the "Sunset Coffee House" where students can perform their original songs, the class allows students to create songs that mirror the popular music they listen to daily. Ray Williams '26, who took Music 225 in Junior year, was inspired to take Music 480 to hone in his musical knowledge and apply it to songwriting.

"I wanted to take [the class] because it seemed like a nice opportunity to get to know people better in the music department and find people who had a similar passion to me... It was a nice opportunity to get to learn music a bit better and start developing what I feel is an appreciation for music. In our generation, everyone listens to music but not a lot of people get to understand music the way Andover allows you to," said Williams.

Besides the classes offered, Andover has plenty of opportunities for students to perform, whether it be in large ensembles such as the Phillips Academy Symphony Orchestra, or smaller chamber groups and bands. Paige Zhu '27, a cellist, participated in both the Chamber Music and Orchestra program at Andover and noted how the two helped her find a community in Andover music.

"I've been playing cello for about eight years now, and I've mostly played solo stuff before coming here. The community in Andover music from the vibes in Graves [Hall] to the Orchestra rehearsals is really strong. The chamber music program was also really fun because I got to work with other student musicians and form more connections while learning some valuable musicianship skills," said Zhu.

Makerspace: A Nest of Creativity

ADEN HWANG

Among the resources and spaces available on campus, there's only one where you can physically create anything you could possibly think of: "the Nest." Whether you use the space for its advanced machines or as a hangout area, The Nest has become a hub for those interested in stretching the limits of their imagination to tinker and create.

Opened in 2015, The Nest was renovated during the 2019 Oliver Wendell Holmes Library renovation, doubling in size and opening up more opportunities for the student body. Clubs such as Robotics and Rocketry, as well as classes such as [Computer Science 561, Machine Learning], regularly use the space for their meetings, utilizing the vast tools that the space offers.

Many students come to The Nest to take advantage of its wide selection of materials and tools to fuel their imagination. It also offers a collaborative space for students to work and meet together as a group. Nick Zufelt, Instructor in Computer Science, provided insight into the different uses for The Nest and why it is such an important resource for the student body.

"The [Nest] offers lots of materials for cool projects. For example, we're just doing a random thing here in the dorm, making a chart of who has what dorm duties to keep things organized, and it came up, 'Oh, we need poster board, let's go to [The Nest].' So to a lot of students, I think that it's a good space to spread out and work on... some big project that you couldn't... do in [The Garver Room] or really anywhere else in the library. It does have lots of big fancy machinery when you need it, but I think that's sort of flashier than [what] most students need most of the time. I think really simple things like paper, scissors, glue, almost sounds like the kindergarten stuff, but it's interesting that high school [students]... [haven't] moved beyond the needs of those things... You still have projects that need those fundamental tools, and the Makerspace is a place that allows that," said Zufelt.

I.PADMAWAR/*THE PHILLIPIAN*

Winston-Hughes Wall '25 works on a rocket in The Nest.

Patrick Xu '27 emphasized the versatility in the selection of tools and materials that The Nest provides for students. Xu discussed how the machinery in The Nest is helpful for students looking to use resources that are not common in most campus buildings. This way, The Nest serves as a go-to spot for students who require access to technology that cannot be found anywhere else.

"There's a laser cutter, a 3D printer, and one thing that's really important is the color printer. It's one of only two color printers on campus, alongside the one in the [Polk Lilliard Center,] so it's a really useful resource if you need that. They also offer a lot of different materials. For example, they have so many different types of wood, which is kind of cool to me," said Xu.

Many students come to The Nest to work on projects for classes, clubs, and personal affairs. Alfonso Gonzalez-Cano '27 described how he used the space in order to fabricate a design for his business associated with Launchpad. He discussed The Nest's central role in helping bring his imagination and idea to life.

"I've been using The [Nest] for three terms now... I first got interested in it because I had to prototype a phone case for Launchpad, which is a business incubator on campus. I came to the makerspace and they have 3D [printers], laser printers, and they even have tailoring stuff there. They also had staff there that are able to help with anything, and all this helped me make the perfect prototype," said Gonzalez-Cano.

However, not everyone uses The Nest to its full potential. While there are classes and clubs that take place in the space, many students have yet to become familiar with the area, or are scared to enter and use the resources available. Helios Hong '25 expressed his wish for more activities to be hosted in The Nest, and noted ways that The Nest could become a more approachable space for all students in the future.

"Right now, not enough students utilize the resources of The [Nest]. I think they could do a better promotion for The [Nest] and we should let people know that the faculty in there are really helpful. The student leaders there are also really helpful and are willing to answer a lot of questions. I think that way, we can make The [Nest] a more popular spot on campus. Maybe bringing in more machines and gadgets or holding more regular club meetings, and even weekend arts and crafts activities could draw in a lot of new students," said Hong.

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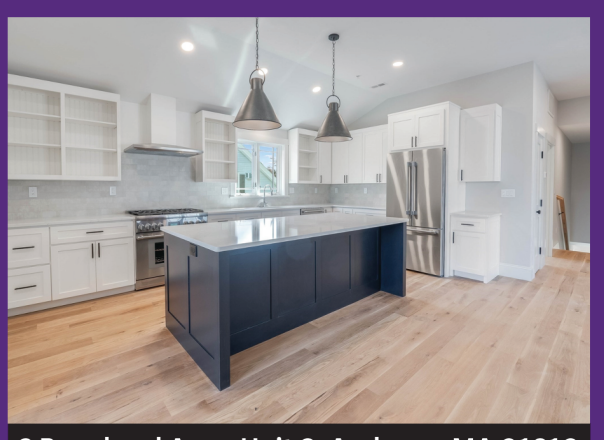

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