

PASC Hosts 5th Annual Youth Climate Summit

SARAH SUN & SOPHIA FANG

Following the celebration of Earth Week on campus, the Phillips Academy Sustainability Coalition (PASC) hosted its fifth annual Youth Climate Summit this past Sunday. The event featured workshops and a keynote by Boston-based documentary filmmaker and wildlife photographer Anna Miller, followed by a walk in the Cochran Bird Sanctuary and a discussion about the future of PASC's initiatives.

This year's summit centered on biodiversity and its preservation. Matt Robinson '27, Co-Coordinator of PASC alongside Lisa de Boer '26 and an organizer of the summit, elaborated on its objectives.

"Although biodiversity and climate change are often perceived as different issues, they are really one in the same [and] very interconnected, and thinking of them as the same things is a benefit to both. I hope that more Andover students, when they're thinking about sustainability, [they are also] thinking about both the warming climate and the species it affects," said Robinson.

De Boer spoke about the process of inviting Miller to be the summit's keynote speaker.

"Matt actually saw her documentary... a few years ago and so he was the one that reached out to her initially and was like 'Hey, do you want to come to this event?'" She was really nice and enthusiastic about it, and she said yes to coming. We were very glad, because in past years we would maybe reach out to 4 [or] even 5 speakers before one would say yes... With climate messaging, people always hear all these negative stories and become desensitized to participating. It's really nice that she had that positive hopeful message in there as well as a little bit of humor," said de Boer.

During the keynote, Miller discussed the filming process for her documentary, "The Snowy Owls of Logan Airport," which won the 2025 Audience Choice Award at the American Conservation Film Festival. Sylvia Su '29, an attendee, expressed appreciation for Miller's insights.

"She talked a lot about her general experience filming... which I thought was really cool because as someone who also is interested in nature photography and videography, it's just very interesting to get a professional opinion on how this process works and how the trials and tribulations happen. Not only people who had the specific interests of photography or just specifically snowy owls, I feel like it applied to a greater audience and a greater moral," said Su.

Miller also shared her photography, which documents a range of animals and habitats across Massachusetts. Nina Capaldi '27, a member of PASC, resonated with Miller's point on the importance of finding and preserving biodiversity within local surroundings.

"She emphasized the fact that nature is in our backyards, so we don't need to go to the Serengeti or we don't need to travel to a different continent to find these amazing animals and to understand the impacts of climate change on nature. We can go outside, we can see fireflies in our backyard, we can take pictures of wild geese and ducks in our ponds, and we can directly see the impacts of pollution and warming climate on these animals. It's really important to understand that our backyards are as diverse as the world is around us, and it's really important to keep these habitats healthy," said Capaldi.

Nathan Ramani '27, another attendee and a member of the PASC, encouraged students to attend climate-related programming to broaden their understanding of sustainability.

"You get to zoom out and really think about your impact on the world. That was a moving aspect of the climate summit and general climate activism for me... Sustainability is especially important because our entire planet is at stake here, and we want to make sure that people have the opportunity to learn more about it, learn what they can do. PASC has the resources, so [the summit] is really a great opportunity to just dive and learn more about [them]," said Ramani.

David O'Neill Shares Environmental Wisdom

WINSTON WU & NICCOLO LEE-SUK

"Woodpecker!" "Bluebird!" shouted students, attempting to guess the bird species projected on the Cochran Chapel screen. Thus opened David O'Neill's Earth Day presentation at All-School Meeting (ASM) last Friday. O'Neill, president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society (Mass Audubon), shared anecdotes regarding his environmental work in his talk.

In his talk, O'Neill emphasized the universal importance of environmental stewardship, regardless of profession.

"Protecting nature is work that I find incredibly meaningful. No matter which career you go into and what you do, being a steward of nature, participating in its protection is important. I encourage you to do everything you can to

Continued on A5, Column 4



CINDY ZHOU/THEPHILLIPIAN

David O'Neill accompanied his presentation with audio segments and photographs of Mass Audubon's work.

Commentary, A2

"On Franny Choi"

Franny Choi's poetry reading provided hope for students aspiring in the humanities by showing the power of slow digestion of daily experiences.

Eighth Page, A8

ALLergy Season

Yes, Andover students are not exactly physical specimens. Pollen is taking them out.

"Kindness in Bloom" Project Plants Flowers in Mission to Revitalize Campus



CINDY ZHOU/THEPHILLIPIAN

L Young '27 helped plant flowers as a part of the "Kindness in Bloom" project, an initiative to transform campus into a more uplifting, vibrant, and welcoming place organized by David Siahaan '27 and Colette Ruiz '27.

2026 Isham Fellow in Poetry Franny Choi Delivers Community Reading

JUDY LIU & JUNIPER KLOCK

The Department of English and Andover administrators selected poet Franny Choi as the 2026 Isham Fellow in Poetry. Hailing from Minneapolis and having attended Brown University, Choi has authored four books including "Soft Science," a recipient of the Elgin Award for Science Fiction Poetry. Preceding their tenure, Choi held a poetry reading for the Andover community in Kemper Auditorium sponsored by the Isham Fund and Donald Sutherland Fund.

The Isham Fellow in Poetry position is awarded annually to an established poet chosen by a group of English Department instructors and Andover administrators. Leon Calleja, Instructor and Chair in English, elaborated on the decision process behind Choi's candidacy and pointed to the timely relevance of Choi's work.

"The Isham fund and the Donald Sutherland fund make it possible for us to invite a prominent poet each year to give a reading, a lecture in a master class, and spend some time with the faculty in the English Department. We've had an amazing array of incredible poets

over the past few decades since the program's inception. Franny's [work] has been taught in the department at times. There is a lot of excitement about "Soft Science" because of how it plays with and reflects on artificial intelligence (AI). It's always been in our minds that at some point we would invite her, and so this was the year," said Calleja.

Calleja also explained stand-out aspects of Choi's literary works that enabled audiences to meaningfully engage. Calleja continued, "She's someone whose poetry reads very well to our audience, which is our students. Her poetry deals with big issues and reflects on the

world in ways that are really lively and interesting. So, that was another reason why we decided on her, and we were lucky enough that she was available. Usually the discussion of who gets chosen is one that happens among the department, the chair, the assistant chair, and others as well. We'll have some input from the faculty, and then the visiting writer residents will also have some input as well."

Kate McQuade, Instructor in English, helped organize the poetry reading event. McQuade described

Continued on A5, Column 1



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THEPHILLIPIAN

Students had the opportunity to ask Franny Choi questions after her poetry reading.

History Instructor Joshua Donovan Holds Talk Examining Framing of Middle East Conflict

DINA NAMJOO & TEDDY STEINERT

Joshua Donovan, Instructor in History and Social Science, delivered a talk last Thursday tracing the historical roots of the current conflict in the Middle East. The talk covered the proxy wars involving Iran and Lebanon, as well as the roles of Israel and Gulf-region nations. Drawing on his background as a scholar of Middle Eastern history, Donovan framed the presentation around the human stories beyond the strategic and economic metrics often dominating the headlines.

Given the topic's pertinence, Donovan emphasized the importance of students understanding the contemporary affairs

in the Middle East.

"Part of being in this community means having an awareness of what happens beyond the borders of the United States.

And of course, the war in the Middle East is especially important. Setting aside the international student component for a second, it's important for people who are American citizens, and who, in a few years, will be able to vote in American elections, to have an awareness of what the United States government does overseas. What the U.S. does has enormous reverberations, often in a very negative way, for people around the world. And so part of being a good global citizen of the United States is being aware of those things," said Donovan.

Gabriele De Carlo '26 chose to attend after fol-

lowing developments in the Middle East through the news. He had previously attended a similar history panel on campus and said the talk provided context he had not found elsewhere.

"I very much appreciated Dr. Donovan's focus on humanity through the world, rather than looking at oil prices or displacement or warfare in general, which is what you tend to get a lot of on the news. I remember he talked about the bombing, the two Tomahawk missiles that hit the school in Iran, and he showed a picture of one of the students who had gone to school in the morning. That was a stark example.

Continued on A5, Column 1

Sports, B1

Softball Continues to Dominate

Softball (12-0) defeated Austin Prep 14-2 and Exeter 18-0 to remain undefeated.

Arts, B9

Harmony Under Pressure

A lively Earth Day festival showcased student musicians overcoming last minute challenges to deliver spirited performances.

SUBSCRIBE/ADVERTISE

Email us with requests: phillipian@phillipian.net

Subscribe online at: phillipian.net/subscribe.

The Phillipian

The oldest preparatory newspaper in the United States. Founded 1857.

Vol. CXLIX
Phillips Academy

Angela Y. Guo
Editor in Chief

Arts
Wendi Wei
Daniel Zhang

Illustration
Gemma Park
Nathan Wu

Stella Y. Seong
Executive Editor

Commentary & Multilingual
Grace Kim
Melody Oh
Ava Shu

Layout
Mayari Burt
Jess Jeon
Charlotte Tang

Kelvin Y. Ma
Executive Digital Editor

Copy
Isabela Doust
Alexis Lee
Jenna Liang
Mira Phan

News
Felix Bret
Saketh Lingisetty
Kristen Ma
Niki Tavakoli

Camille H. Davis
Managing Editor

Digital
Jay Jung
Barrett Kim
Dean Yang

Photo
Audrey Baeten-Ruffo
Emmanuel Okeke
Cindy Zhou

Ethan R. Ly
Managing Editor

Eighth Page
Grace Chen
Thiago Jollon
Gentry Thatcher

Sports
Mathew Liu
Emily Ney
David Siahaan
Haoyu Zhang

Kai T. Wang
Chief Financial Officer

Graphic Design
Athena Gutierrez-Ewing
Aglaia Hong

Video
Aishwarya Ananthakrishnan
Tiger Jing
Hannah Song

Advertising
Maggie Shu

Business
Kachi Ikekpeazu

— Staff Positions —

Arts
Daniel Liu
Charlize Sow

Business
Natalie Giancola
Arden Muldoon

Commentary
Jeannie Kang
Ian M. Kim

Eighth Page
Konnor Fortini

Illustration
Carina Paik

News
Niccolo Lee-Suk
Adelyne Liu

Photo
Andrew Pizzi
Nishi Amin

Sports
Alex Godsey
Eva Jackson

Editorial

Khanenemy

Despite its formal introduction in the Spring term, few students seem to have touched Khanmigo. The AI teaching assistant is designed to help students understand concepts through guided questions rather than an immediate answer. Yet while 76.0 percent of respondents in *The Phillipian's* 2026 State of the Academy (SOTA) survey cited using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to explain concepts, there hasn't been much talk about Khanmigo.

In the News article "Khanmigo To Be Deployed in Classes in Spring Term," dated February 13, 2026, Associate Director of Technology for Educational Initiatives Erin McCloskey said that Head of School Raynard Kington was interested in, through Khanmigo, "acknowledging that some students here can take advantage of private tutors and some can't." Private tutoring has long created an uneven playing field in academia; students with private tutors could get personalized explanations on their schedule, while students without relied on limited classroom instruction. When Large Language Models (LLMs) became accessible to the public, this largely changed. Anyone could get answers fast; the education gap created by private tutoring has slimmed.

At the same time, this new accessibility risks students prompting quick answers while not actually learning the content. Khan Academy's Khanmigo seeks to resolve this tension by both leveling the education gap and encouraging real learning.

However, if Andover is serious about addressing educational inequity, more direct and complementary interventions are also within reach. Strengthening the peer tutoring program by recruiting qualified students and setting clear expectations for commitment would expand access to human support. Similarly, increasing staffing at

the Academic Skills Center could make office hours more accessible for all students. These efforts would support AI-based solutions.

Within AI, though, our current approach to solutions risks framing the technology too narrowly. Andover's Programming in Python (CSC401) course provides a good example of how students can be educated on AI use cases. In the class, AI use is encouraged in targeted ways. For example, students are encouraged to paste their code errors into LLMs and ask for explanations when stuck. Helping students understand how and in what situations AI can accelerate their learning is what will truly reduce educational inequity.

It's true that subjects like English and History that prioritize interpretation and argumentation are more vulnerable to misuse of AI. However, by simply telling students to engage with AI, we risk villainizing AI and thus thwarting its meaningful productivity and accessibility benefits. Recent models can build explanations, adjust to different levels of understanding, and respond flexibly to questions in ways that were unthinkable just a decade ago. With 88.3 percent of respondents using AI for at least one educational or academic purpose, as indicated in the 2026 SOTA, AI is already reshaping how students learn. By combining tools like Khanmigo with stronger human support systems and clearer guidance on conscientious AI use, Andover can rise to meet the challenge of the age of AI.

This Editorial represents the opinions of *The Phillipian*, vol. CXLIX.

The Roma Problem Isn't What You Think

ISABELLA MAZZI



COURTESY OF ISABELLA MAZZI

"If you let go of my hand, Gypsies will steal you and cut your eyeballs out." This line has scared centuries of Eastern European children into obedience. Both my grandmothers, the Serbian and the Italian one, said it to me at amusement parks, malls, and, for some reason, IKEA.

I have long been curious about the Roma. Exterminated by the Nazis for being gypsies, the Roma are Europe's largest minority and its perpetual foreigners. Centuries ago, this community found a home in a Europe that presents itself as liberal and cosmopolitan, but continues to view and to treat the Roma with carefully disguised contempt and, for the most part, open condescension.

I couldn't understand how they could be so universally stigmatized. Roma possess no social, political, or economic advantages over European majority nations. And yet, the Roma are resented everywhere. It made me determined to comprehend how they could possibly be seen as threatening to Europeans who supposedly feel secure in their identities and historical privileges.

I thought I'd start in Serbia, learn more about the Roma there, and then, hopefully, over the years, compare how the Roma fare in their struggle for acceptance and integration in other European nations. What works, and what doesn't? How does one fight prejudice and build inclusiveness? Is a better world even possible? Why are some prejudices so resistant to

change, especially in old, established nations? I thought Serbia would be a good place to start, because in recent history, Serbians themselves have experienced pariah status among nations. Does that create solidarity with other less fortunate groups, or does it harden hearts?

I became an intern at the Roma Education Fund (REF) in Belgrade, a Soros-funded Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). I was ready for hatred towards the Roma, but not for what I found in Belgrade. Everyone I met was instantly sympathetic to how I presented my case. My project was warmly received, and the Roma Education Fund greeted me with open arms. All seemed good: more and more Roma kids were enrolling in schools, medical care was available, and municipal institutions were hiring Roma people to liaise with the community... While the numbers could be better, they all pointed in the right, upward direction.

But when I questioned people's opinions about the Roma, I found that I ran into a wall. Ordinary, kind, friendly people in Belgrade will assure you that they harbor no prejudices against the Roma. On the contrary! They went to school with them! Everyone tells you they had Roma classroom friends who experienced no prejudice or humiliation at the hands of their teachers or peers. They were happy! We treated them as equals! They were not discriminated against!

But if you probed just a little, if you even gently poked, you would soon find out none of your liberal Belgraders had ever had their Roma friends over at home. None of them ever visited any Roma homes. Yes, there is benevolence on the surface, but it's a patronizing benevolence that does not recognize its own implicit prejudices. Even more disturbingly, when you hear about efforts to improve Roma lives, you easily detect resentment of a group that supposedly "enjoys" and exploits its "victim status".

Over the next two years, I continued talking to Roma peo-



ple, and for the most part, I only ever heard stories of discrimination. I then sought out interviews with successful Roma, and found out they were not

The Roma haven't been sufficiently loud and clear in defining their own history. This is partially due to a lack of power and resources, but also because they have been slow to insist on their own "self-definition."

too keen to share their stories. I couldn't fathom why.

The successful opera singer seems torn between her different identities. She can't make up her mind: did she succeed because she was brilliant, or because she was given preferential treatment so that both the government and the Roma NGOs could claim a success story?

The successful entrepreneur beat the odds because his family members sacrificed to help. He is immensely proud of his business acumen but very reluctant to ascribe any of his success to anyone outside his own family. He makes no exception for Roma politicians.

The successful community

organizer, on the other hand, touts each individual success as a fruit of collective endeavor. But he also criticizes the successful members of the Roma community for being reluctant to openly serve as Roma role models in the wider community.

I came out of the interviews wondering if the Roma problem could be one of self-definition. I realized their culture was diasporic and fluid, and that preserving their culture and passing on a narrative had always been a challenge since there wasn't one linear thread.

Early Roma narratives have been both lost and erased. A deep-seated connection to music has persisted throughout history, and Roma music has been celebrated. But not all Roma appreciate the fact that Roma music has been stereotyped and artificially homogenized for marketing purposes. Many Roma feel that through their music, they've been denigrated in the process.

So it's not just a story about selfish and affluent Europeans denying their Roma co-nationals and casting them as perpetual outsiders.

It is easy enough for people to say, "The Roma have a complicated and nuanced history." In reality, Roma history is twofold: partially erased and partially culturally hybrid and intertwined with the communities they encounter (The Permanence of Anti-Roma Racism,

SHIJUN LI / THE PHILLIPIAN
Margareta Matache).

But the Roma haven't been sufficiently loud and clear in defining their own history. This is partially due to a lack of power and resources, but also because they have been slow to insist on their own "self-definition" (*The Permanence of Anti-Roma Racism*, Margareta Matache).

Changing material conditions — education, living conditions, human rights — matters, but so does changing the story. Exclusion will persist as long as the dominant narrative casts the Roma as outsiders requiring special assistance, but also as long as the Roma do not streamline their identities and their demands across the old continent.

After all, everyone wants to be accepted as they are and included just as they are. Why would the Roma accept any less? They have been Europeans for centuries. It is their continent, too.

And no European grandmothers, Italian or Serbian, are entitled to frighten little children with gypsy lore. The real crime lies in not telling European children the truth about the crimes the old continent committed against the gypsies.

Isabella Mazzi is a Senior from London, United Kingdom. Contact the author at imazzi26@andover.edu.

The Phillipian welcomes all letters to the Editor. We try to print all letters, but because of space limitations, we enforce a 500-word limit. We reserve the right to edit all submitted letters. Letters must be responses to articles already published by *The Phillipian*. We will not publish any anonymous letters. Please submit letters by the Monday of each week to phillipian@phillipian.net or to our newsroom in the basement of Morse Hall.

To subscribe, email subscribe@phillipian.net, or write to *The Phillipian*, 180 Main Street, Andover, Ma, 01810.

All contents of *The Phillipian* copyright © 2026, The Trustees of Phillips Academy, Inc. Reproduction of any material herein without the expressed written consent of The Trustees of Phillips Academy, Inc. and the Editorial Board of *The Phillipian* is strictly prohibited.

CORRECTIONS:
In the News article "Adding The Atlantic: Inside the News Diet of Andover Students," Tessa Hite, Instruction and Electronic Resource Librarian, was incorrectly identified as the Library Director of the Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL). The quotes "Students here... a wide range of learners" and "Previously, we had... direct access" should have been attributed to Camille Torres Hoven, Director of the OWHL.
In the Arts article "How the Abbot Academy Fund Has Supported the Arts," the name Cristina Rubio was misspelled in reference to the former Abbot teacher, Abbot Academy Fund (AAF) Board President, and the Cristina Rubio Dance Suite. Cristina Rubio '81, P'12, '17, current president of the AAF, is the daughter of former dance instructor Cristina Rubio, whom the Dance Suite is named after.
In the News article "Students Discuss Perceived Social Divides," Christian Robinson does not identify as mixed-race and drew on friends' experiences in discussing the challenges mixed-race students face in finding a sense of belonging.
The Phillipian regrets these errors.

Is Self-Motivation Real?

LARA KIM



COURTESY OF LARA KIM

I try to call my parents every day after school, whenever I have free time, or when I'm walking somewhere across campus. Our conversations usually entail how both of our days went, the latest interesting tea we've overheard, and, of course, a bit of clever complaining about how jam-packed my schedule is at Andover. That always earns me a satisfying "You're doing great" or "Wow, you're so amazing!" When I tell them I went to practice extra for sports, I'm complimented and told what a hard-working and motivated individual I am. It feels like my work is being validated or seen; boosted by their support, I even strive to maintain a better schedule so I can have more time to practice. But as much joy as their encouragement brings me, I can't help but have my doubts. Self-motivation is the internal drive to pursue goals, maintain a growth mindset, and keep pushing on your own accord. But can I really call it my own motivation if it's other outside factors that are truly driving me? I think there are two parts of "motiva-

tion" — the discipline one harbors to keep working toward their goals day after day, and the pressure that makes those goals feel necessary to achieve.

At Andover, students spend hours every day studying, completing homework, participating in extracurriculars, and more. When individuals turn in extra credit or spend extra time each day studying for assessments, we call it motivation. But aside from people who genuinely enjoy reviewing textbook material, it's unlikely that one would put in that extra effort to earn stellar grades without the pressure to get into good colleges. And like many others, I fall prey to this toxic mindset. I spend most of my time after classes training for my sport,

The actual reasons behind every goal that we set and the pressures that afflict us don't change the value of our hard work.

squash. And though I love it more than anything else, I would much rather spend my time napping, watching movies, or lazing in bed than drilling extra at the courts. Yet I still make the trek from my dorm to Snyder Center every day just to toil away at the ball. And the true reasons I show up? I can't risk disappointing my coaches or missing out on a shot at getting recruited to play in college. For the younger generation, every-



HARRY ZHOU / THE PHILLIPIAN

thing we do always seems to tie back to college or a career. So is it really appropriate to call the work that everyone and I put into our goals "motivation"? It seems that what truly drives our hard work stems from the fear of not living up to society's expectations.

Despite my rather pessimistic view on what self-motivation really is, I still wish to acknowledge the sheer determination, commitment, and discipline it takes to work toward your goals. While it may be external factors driving the extra pushes you make, the actual work comes solely from you. There are evidently so many more fun, easy things to do than study, work, attend club lectures, or push your body to its limits for your

sport. And yet we still do those things. We make that choice to set down our video games or phones and pick up the pencil. Or to set our alarm clocks just that extra hour earlier. The actual reasons behind every goal that we set and the pressures that afflict us don't change the value of our hard work. Those who study because they love it and those who study because they fear the consequences deserve the same amount of acknowledgment and respect.

So when I call my parents and bask in their praise for all my exhausting feats of the day, or wail to them about how frustrating something is and my worries about the future, I always end up thinking about what drives everyone's decisions. At

times, I start to feel guilty about parading as some self-motivated individual, when it's really fear and pressure that drive my discipline. For those of you who feel the same way, every time you doubt yourself or someone compliments you for your hard work, remember it's not the reason behind your motives that defines you, but the choice you make to keep following through.

Lara Kim is a Junior from Berwyn, Pa. Contact the author at lkim29@andover.edu.

Our Diversity and Equity Fallacy

IAN M. KIM



N. AMIN / THE PHILLIPIAN

An essential element of the definition of a fallacy is that the information presented is not false; rather, it is intentionally misleading and presented in a way to be interpreted as such. To play a game of fallacy is to be knowledgeable about the truth and intentionally mask it in such a way that both increases public image and diverts responsibility. Andover plays this game of deception, and does it dangerously well. Right as you open "andover.edu," notable buzzwords appear. The home page itself highlights Andover's "intentionally diverse community," "18 years of need blind admissions," and students from "53 countries" and "41 states/territories." In no way is any of this information wrong, but it is misleading. This article will contextualize the reality between and beneath these numbers and bring into reality the fallacy of diversity and equity here at Andover. Throughout this article, specific geographical locations and specific institutions will be referenced. The aim is to uncover systemic and societal patterns that affect Andover's student body and is not intended to target or marginalize any individual. The limits of Andover's diversity and equity are only revealed through a clearer reading of truths already presented, and with the courage

to question their framing.

The first statistic Andover flaunts is its ability to draw from an extremely geographically diverse applicant pool and thus curate a geographically diverse student body. While a student body from 53 countries and 41 states and territories may sound impressive, finer data tells a different story. The 2025 State of the Academy (SOTA), conducted by *The Phillipian*, received 865 responses, representing 74.2 percent of the student body. Of respondents, 58.8 percent identified as being from the Northeast, 8.3 percent from the Southeast, and 10.1 percent from the West. The student body is especially underrepresented in the U.S. Midwest, accounting for only 3.9 percent of 2025 SOTA respondents. Thus, the question arises: are there no students of comparable caliber in these geographic areas, or is it a lack of effort by the institution to find them and provide them with an opportunity at a place like Andover? While it is important to note that perceptions of preparatory boarding schools can differ in these rural areas, and that students from more rural areas may receive fewer resources for academic success due to educational disparities, it is also important to recognize institutional shortcomings in recruiting and attracting students from these geographic locations. Presenting a diverse student body with statistics such as "41 states/territories" is intentionally misleading and omits that Andover draws the majority of its student body from established hubs of wealth and opportunity; in evaluating the 2025-2026 Andover Directory, a clear concentration of the student body comes from these locations, notably New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles. For the betterment of living up to its values, Andover should acknowledge its shortcomings and disparities in its student body's geographical representation, and pursue more rigor-

ously a strategy to truly recruit "youth from every quarter."

The pattern continues in wealth and the ability to afford quality education before Andover. It is not a coincidence that many students come to Andover from the Northeast, because there are simply better educational opportunities, specifically private schools, that operate under specific frameworks of matriculating their graduates to elite boarding schools such as Andover. Though prevalent in most major hubs of wealth, this unequal representation is evident among students from New York City and junior boarding schools in New England. First, New York City offers elite private middle school and high school education that consistently "feeds" students into Andover. These institutions include, notably, Brearley, Dalton, Buckley, Chapin, and Trinity. Brearley boasts an endowment-to-student ratio of around \$207k per student, and Dalton at around around \$222k per student. The educational accessibility and opportunities provided, in turn, better prepare them for Andover and cause a chain reaction in which Andover continuously draws from these schools. Perhaps a more substantial subset of "feeder schools" is New England junior boarding schools, such as Fessenden, Cardigan



FELISHA LI / THE PHILLIPIAN

Mountain, and Fay. All three of these institutions boast \$70-90k in yearly tuition, and the results show. Over the past five years, Fay has matriculated 34 students to Andover, Fessenden matriculated ten, and Cardigan Mountain matriculated nine. While there is no question that students from these institutions were qualified for enrollment at Andover, this does not change the fact that Andover consistently skews its data to appear more inclusive and racially and socioeconomically diverse than the actual makeup of its student body.

Further, the SOTA provides additional data that seemingly contradicts Andover's values. A part of the school's commitment to intentional diversity is its socioeconomic diversity in tandem with its geographical diversity. While fewer than 0.5 percent of Americans earn more than \$1 million a year, 17.7 percent of Andover students report a net family income of \$1 million or more. In fact, the Andover student body has more students in the top 10 percent of the US income distribution than the entire bottom half, with 58 percent of the student body having a net family income of more than \$250,000 yearly. Though need-blind admissions are necessary and noble, misleadingly presenting data to put more weight on the economi-

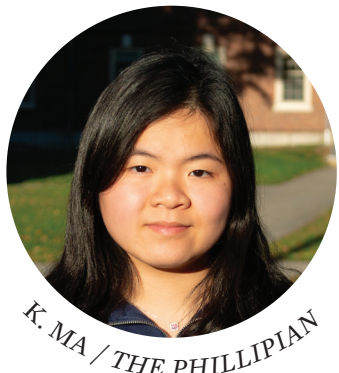
cally disadvantaged rather than the economically advantaged misaligns with Andover's values of honesty and integrity.

Given factors such as geographical location, access to quality education, and net family income, the data Andover portrays, though true, is intentionally misleading. This article is not a critique of Andover's constant effort to achieve an intentionally diverse community but rather an effort to align, analyze, and bring into conversation the real, unfiltered truth about the socioeconomic and geographical makeup of the student body. To continue to improve and draw from various parts of the country and the globe, Andover must first be honest in its self-assessment and recognize its shortcomings in drawing talent from specific cold spots, both in geographical location and socioeconomic class. We, as a community, must recognize our diversity-and-equity fallacy and urge those in positions of authority to make conscious changes to build a student body that truly reflects and advertises the morals and institutional values Andover thrives upon.

Ian M. Kim is a Lower from McLean, Va. Contact the author at imkim28@andover.edu.

Our Beauty of Poetry in a Market of Efficiency

JEANNIE KANG



K. MA / THE PHILLIPIAN

Korean-American poet, nationally acclaimed, queer. You don't see these labels intersect too often. Living as an Asian in a country still split on race means there are hurdles and barriers to overcome. Living as an Asian in a literary world means often facing rejection from your own people, being called "pointless" and "broke." When I stumbled upon a poster promoting Franny Choi's poetry reading, the familiar Korean last name and an unorthodox portrait drew me in. It seemed like a rare and special occasion to see Korean representation in the literary world, yet frankly, I didn't expect much other than an entertaining Friday evening activity. Yet what I heard that night completely revolutionized my world of Korean identity, humanities, and advocacy that I've familiarized myself with for so long. With increasing focus on hyperefficiency, humanities tend to be less sought out, but Choi's readings helped people realize the beauty of collectively embracing the slower moments.

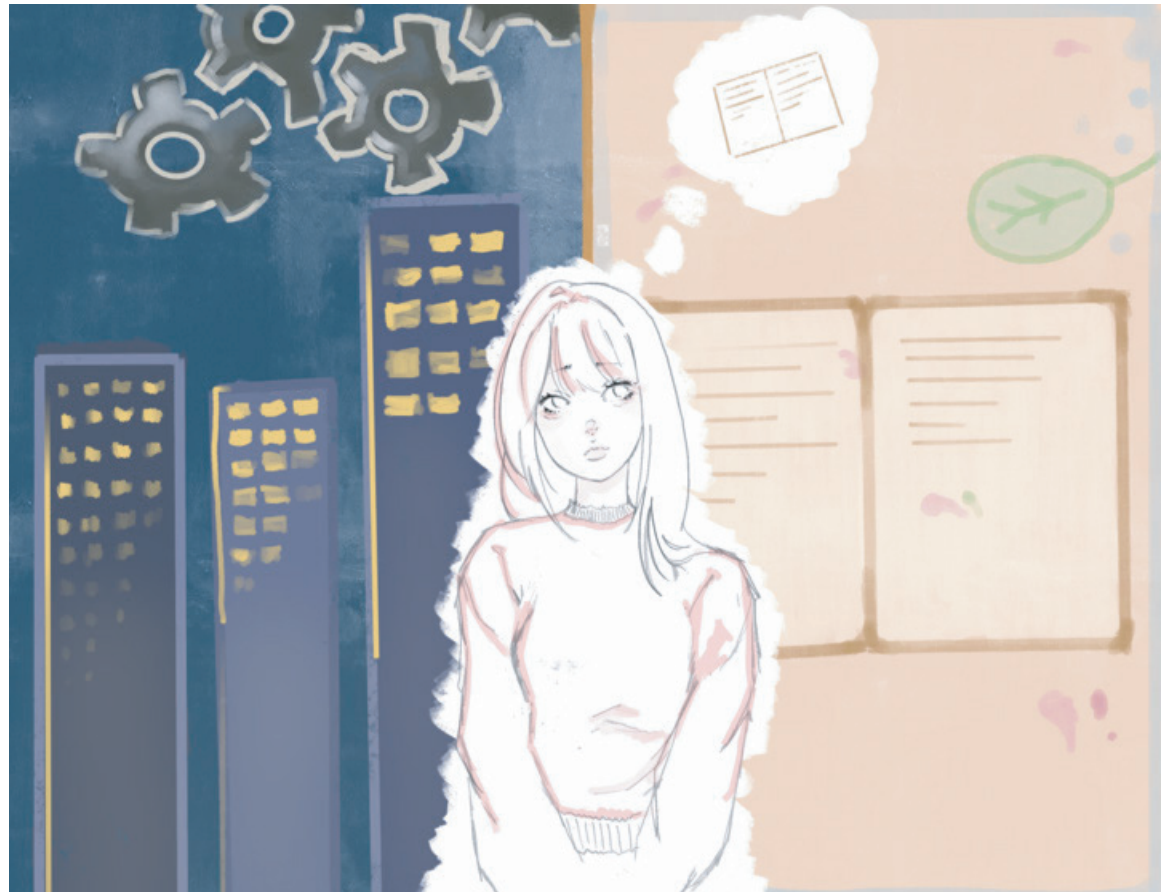
After the reading, I asked Choi what role the humanities, specifically poetry, can play in a world where machine-like efficiency is considered the top product. With the introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the market, humanity has shifted to prioritize pumping out the next revolutionary startup, with slower disciplines like the humanities losing interest from the public. In answer-

ing this question, Choi focused on the necessity of slower, zoomed-out moments in our lives. She answered that, akin to movie scenes in which the protagonist zooms out of the scene, thoughtful and slow moments are needed in our lives. As an aspiring philosophy student, Choi gave me hope that people will eventually seek for slow moments, as we have over the centuries of existence. Amidst the hypercompetitive, on-the-go lifestyle that taints the modern generations, poems, novels, and philosophical texts can provide a necessary pause that helps us reset and consider the purpose behind our hectic lives. This is exactly what Choi's readings offered to me that night. I gazed upon my life and had space to ponder who I am and what I am here for. When all the focus is on beating the next number in line, Choi and all the writers like her remind us of the beauty of slowness.

Furthermore, despite her impressive accolades, such as being named the Poet Laureate of Northampton, Massachusetts, Choi didn't present herself as a greater mind. She didn't speak like a poet trapped in an ivory tower, looking down upon a herd of intellectual peasants. Sitting in the front row, I initially expected a long lecture with tints of intellectual superiority, the "I-know-more-about-the-world-so-listen" type of read-

Choi's poems further presented the possibility of the humanities to unite people of all identities by presenting the bigger picture.

ing. However, Choi immediately eased the atmosphere with her friendly and approachable presence. She chose to be vulnerable with the anguish she felt about the world when she wrote the poems, putting all



CAMILLA CHEN / THE PHILLIPIAN

the students on the same plane of intellect and maturity. Choi's poems were born out of a piercing distress with the status quo and touched many readers who have felt the same way in the past. This accessibility of the emotions contained in her poems gave me hope for the future of the humanities—that words can have an impact on people and tell a culturally significant story.

Choi's poems further presented the possibility of the humanities to unite people of all identities by presenting the bigger picture. Notably, Choi's poems don't merely represent the Asian American experience, but also touch on broader problems that our world faces, including police brutality, racial discrimination, and sexism. After the reading, one student asked Choi how she gained interest in a broad scheme of issues, including African Americans. She answered that, belonging in a literary community, she always found the Asian and African American solidarity important, a belief that melted into her poems by representing people of

all identities. This answer shifted my perspective on represen-

Seeing a successful Asian American figure in the humanities made me realize that the life I intend to pursue can be deeply meaningful and impactful.

tation. As an international Korean, I have been overly fixated on belonging in Asian American and Pacific Islander spaces, speaking up for Korean culture. While catching up with the latest trends and social cues, it is easy for people to trap themselves in identity-based bubble that prevent cross-cultural experiences. Choi asks us to take a step back, to realize that the world exists beyond our lives, and to appreciate the diversity of the people all around. In this way, she presents the unique

ability of the humanities to intentionally embrace the beauty of the whole.

There are a couple of moments in your life that challenge your world of experiences. And Franny Choi's reading was that moment for me. Seeing a successful Asian American figure in the humanities made me realize that the life I intend to pursue can be deeply meaningful and impactful. That I don't need to adhere to the machinery-style life to adhere to the modern standard of success, that emotions often sing louder than numbers. That I can still grasp onto the glimmer of hope that the world can become a better place. Or, as Franny Choi puts it, "given that the future is unknown, that we can't predict it, then there's work to do. If it could go either way, then the things that we do actually matter. That is where hope comes from."

Jeannie Kang is a Lower from Seoul, South Korea. Contact the author at jkang28@andover.edu.

Is Memory Slipping Away From All of Us?

SHILOH SHARMA



A. SHU / THE PHILLIPIAN

On March 10, one of my friends wished me a happy birthday. This would've been great! That is, if March 10 was my birthday. But my birthday is on March 12. When I asked him why, he swore up and down that my birthday was, indeed, on March 10. Of course, we then went into a light argument about when my birthday was,

It's truly remarkable to think that the hectic lifestyles people have adopted nowadays have given us little benefit, given the treacherous consequences.

and I obviously ended up being right. However, this experience brought a small thought to mind: Why would someone who had remembered my birthday perfectly for a good few years just happen to misremember it this year? Why has my memory gotten worse, as well as the memories of the people around me?

It feels like everyone is forgetting everything nowadays.

I'm not simply talking about forgetting what to put on your tests, but forgetting clubs, events, even class schedules, or misremembering, as my friend did with my birthday. It brings me more questions than answers, but I feel it to be true. Our memories are completely leaving us. I wanted to find answers, so I searched.

I'm sure a good number of Andover students are stressed, or at least have a lot to think about with all of their classes. There are many things that clutter our minds, to say the least. Additionally, a good amount of the students here scroll (mindlessly) on their phones. Sometimes I find myself guilty of doomscrolling too. We're all human. Worst of all, many of us have poor sleep schedules. All three of these are actually key factors to memory loss. While this was fairly unsurprising to me, digging slightly deeper enlightened me about memory. As people get older, it isn't age or reduced mental capacity that makes their memories worse; rather, there is so much already stored in the brain, storing more makes you forget other things. Using this logic, I can imagine that doomscrolling and actually absorbing the "brainrot" reduces your capacity to remember anything important. Getting to your period four class on time is probably more valuable than "Triple T."

The point of this is what you'll likely consider another lame reminder to take care of your health, and to sleep more, eat better, scroll less, but it is pretty serious. Something that would typically happen to a seventy-five-year-old is happening to people 60 years earlier. It's truly remarkable to think that



CARINA PAIK / THE PHILLIPIAN

the hectic lifestyles people have adopted nowadays have given us little benefit, given the treacherous consequences. Memory may not seem important now, but most people don't even remember what they were doing a year ago on a broad scale. Seriously, how do you even forget the fact that you were in the chorus at your old school? Do you even remember why you stopped singing? Things like that are really funny in the moment, but are far more concerning below the surface.

But why would anyone willingly do this? Everyone is so vigorously informed on the downsides of scrolling and not sleeping. Really, I think people

just find that they'll survive anyway. People need to get their work done, but want to have fun too, which is understandable, yet many give up the time in which they should be resting. It also seems to be related to pressure. Every day, I know that many people may feel pressured to hang out with their friends just to feel valued by the group, or because they don't want to be alone. It really is a big struggle to keep up with your own health these days, and I think a lot of people don't realize that they genuinely need to do this if they want to maintain their memory or improve their overall well-being.

So, I would end this article

with something along the lines of, "Remember, your memory is important, and you should try to take care of yourself because of that!" or something. But, honestly, considering the whole point of the article, I don't think you will.

Shiloh Sharma is a Junior from Edison, N.J. Contact the author at ssharma29@andover.edu.

Many Student Attendees First Encountered Choi's Work in English Classes

Continued from A1, Column 5

the preparation process and logistics of arranging the event.

"The English Department started preparing for this visit almost a year ago. We reviewed and discussed a number of potential poets, ultimately zeroing in on Franny Choi as our first choice for the upcoming school year. We worked with their agent to set up the day and make sure they were okay with things like recording video for the simulcast. We worked with English teachers to plan lessons and make excerpted work available for students. And we tried to get the word out on campus in various ways, with posters and advertisements. This is always a special event for the English Department," wrote McQuade in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Senior Tasnia Begum '26 took the course Asian American Literature and Film during the Winter Term and attended the poetry reading. Inspired to participate after encountering Franny Choi's work in class, Begum offered positive feedback on the audience experience and noted Choi's crowd work with students.

"The atmosphere was really great, and she was good with crowd work. You could sit in silence if you wanted to or you could clap if you wanted to, and it didn't have to be awkward. I'm grateful

to everyone who asked a question and that we could get through all the questions hearing her insight on questions that are super important to us and our backgrounds and our futures meant a lot... Something that I took away was that she mentioned that there's someone out there in the world that looks just like me, except we are not the same. We don't share the same privileges, and things like that," said Begum.

Cora Rogers '27 enjoyed reading a Franny Choi poem in her English class, and was similarly encouraged by her teacher to attend the reading. Rogers found an overarching theme of hope across many of Franny Choi's works, and shared her favorite poem from the reading, "The World Keeps Ending, and the World Goes On," a poetry collection by Choi.

"I thought that the apocalypse poem was really cool. I thought the idea of describing 'apocalypses' that happened in the past was insinuating hope. Even if we feel like we're in an apocalypse now, you can look back at everything we've moved through and how we have gotten over it. So, we'll get through everything eventually. Franny Choi is exactly the type of poet we need right now in this era because she is really pushing for this idea that there is so much hope for change and we can get through anything. Looking back at where we were before today, really calls for action and in-

spires a lot of hope," said Rogers.

Aviad Awa '28 noted that live literary performances offer unique benefits to audience members. In particular, Awa noticed how the oral delivery of a poem reveals the performer's personal perception of its meaning.

"It makes a lot of things make sense. When you're hearing the author read the poem live, you can see their interpretation of their poem, especially with word choice and stress. You can see what words the author chose to stress and their cadence and rhythm, elements you wouldn't get from reading the poem straight up yourself. [The event] was a valuable experience to see the perspective of a young author, whose viewpoint many students may not be familiar with. Andover allows the mixing of perspectives. Having access to a different perspective is a great tool or resource to further one's own understanding of their surroundings," said Awa.

Students Hope for Further Engagement with Sustainability

Continued from A1, Column 2

be a part of the work that's necessary to protect nature and all of its species in the future," said O'Neill.

One story O'Neill recounted was about piping plovers, a bird species that was nearly driven to extinction. Mass Audubon worked to protect them, and the piping plovers have since begun to recover. Silvia Su '29, a climate advocate herself, said the story resonated with her.

"His story about piping plovers makes me really feel in awe of the natural world and its ability to balance after being deprived. It also just makes me appreciate how other people work hard to achieve the same goals as me. Even though sometimes the environment is not the number one issue that's in the headlines, there are always going to be people who are working to ensure sustainability," said Su.

Despite the enthusiasm, some students questioned whether Earth Week spirit translates into everyday action. Frank Hu '26 pointed to a paradox at the heart of campus life.

"Students at Andover probably generate more waste than the average person. Andover students in general, while they can be more conscious of topics such as environmental sustainability, the vast majority of us are pretty fortunate to have so many resources at our fingertips. That often means more consumption," said Hu.

Karen Kennedy, Assistant Director of Athletics, was present at the ASM with her advisory. She commented on the importance of conversations regarding sustainability.

"I don't think it's just important in the Andover curriculum, because it goes well beyond Andover... It's a global thing. It's an important thing for all the residents of the planet, not just Andover... If we're going to change the culture [here], it comes from you guys [students]," said Kennedy.

Phillips Academy Sustainability Coalition (PASC) Co-ordinators Matt Robinson '27 and Lisa de Boer '26 introduced O'Neill. Robinson believed that O'Neill's connection to the New England region strengthened the impact of his talk.

"He's a good person for the school to invite because he is the director of a major local organization. The really

key word here is local. A lot of times, our speakers come from far away and they don't know the communities around and how our students can get involved. The fact that he was from around here was really important as to why he made a good Earth Day speaker," said Robinson.

Bruce Ru '28, who attended the lunch with O'Neill after ASM and is involved in PASC, shared his hopes that the entire school community would improve its sustainability habits.

"The big tension a lot of people are thinking about is if we adopt a more sustainable lifestyle, maybe our quality of life would decrease. To a point, that may be true. But there are many ways, like the most cliché things like turning off the tap when you brush your teeth. We're taking steps towards the right direction. People care, but should care more," said Ru.

Su echoed this sentiment, pointing to a gap between awareness and engagement with sustainability efforts across the student body.

"It feels like it's more of everyone who's in the PASC is really into sustainability and everyone else is just kind of 'eh' about it. It just feels like there's not a general community involvement... I feel like people here definitely care. It's just not such a central issue to how our school is built or something that the school is super focused on. It's definitely something that everyone is aware of, but it feels like it could be in the spotlight a bit more," said Su.

She continued, "I feel like having more programs or presentations on just reminding people what can be and can't be recycled, just showing the general student population how composting works and what happens after you put your plate in the little conveyor belt in [Paresky Commons], just having those little reminders to be more aware of your environmental impact is also very important... Widening the array of speakers that are touching on environmental issues would be really cool."

Donovan and Students Emphasize Staying Informed with Reliable News Sources

Continued from A1, Column 5

[Dr. Donovan] showed us some infographics about casualties and where they were. And so it was very interesting to see how casualties had spiked in Iran and Lebanon comparatively to Western-affiliated countries," said De Carlo.

Anna Tsvetkov '26, whose family is from Israel, attended with a friend from Donovan's class the previous term. Having closely followed the news, she said she came less to learn new information than to observe how the material would be framed.

"[Dr. Donovan] did a good job of being informative without getting into too much politics because it's a heated political topic. The talk [gave] people a foundational understand-

ing of the region and the current conflict. I already have personal relations to the area and I already knew a lot about the current news. I was intrigued to see how he'd frame it. What most baffled me was, he put up Trump's tweets, and they were so absurd, and it was shocking to see to some extent," said Tsvetkov.

Tsvetkov also discussed the importance of critically evaluating information on social media.

She continued, "It's important to be informed on [the Middle East] to some extent. Things you see on social media may be true, or maybe aren't true, or [are] twisted in some way. Because it's something that's so often discussed, and also that people make a lot of opinions on, it's important to be well-versed in the topic."

Donovan also addressed challenges that

scholars of the region are facing, describing what he called growing threats to academic freedom in the United States for those who study and teach about the Middle East. Donovan said that Andover has been a place where he feels supported in facilitating these conversations.

"We have to navigate threats and concerns about censorship regarding our work in teaching. So I've been really fortunate to be here at Andover, where there seems to be a desire to have courses and talks and programming about the Middle East. It's really important to have these kinds of conversations, and they can be difficult to have, but there's a way to do it that centers human beings and tries to bridge divides and promote dialogue," said Donovan.

Uppers Gain College Knowledge From Spring College Fair

SIMRAN SHAH & HELEN XIONG

Over a hundred tables featuring piles of brochures, infographics, and posters from colleges around the world filled Snyder Center on Monday. The Spring College Fair gave Andover students and local high schoolers a chance to ask personal questions to admission officers and explore schools in-depth.

For many students, including those who are not attending Andover, this event was a valuable opportunity to explore schools they were not previously familiar with. Tiffany Zhao '27 noted that attending the fair helped her learn about new schools.

"[I attended this event] to get to know more schools that are not on my radar right now," said Zhao. "A lot of the information that is given, you can find online, but the most useful part for me is some schools I didn't

know had things that I'm interested in. My college counselor recommended them, or I was walking around, and then they caught my eye, so [the fair is] a good way of exploring new schools."

Besides aiding students in their admissions process, the fair was also a valuable opportunity for representatives of colleges to meet and talk to potential applicants. Rhianna Billings, a representative from the St. Mary's College of Maryland, shared that her institution viewed the College Fair as a way to expand outreach to students outside of their home state.

"We're trying to build up our reputation in the New England area right now, because we're in Maryland, and there's not as many people coming over to our college from here. [The college fair] helps with networking, not just for the students, but also for us. We can network with you guys and representatives from different colleges,"

said Billings.

The College Counseling Office encouraged current Uppers to attend the college fair. Many Uppers viewed this event as a valuable part of their college search process, including Murewa Biyi-Olaoye '27. She talked about the support she received from her college counselor, which helped her decide which tables she should prioritize.

"As an Upper, it's that time of year. My college counselor has been super supportive, sending us emails and giving us advice, to prepare us for coming here. Almost everyone brought a list of colleges their college counselors have looked through. They highlighted, 'you should go to this one first,' 'this one tracks demonstrated interest,' stuff like that," said Biyi-Olaoye.

Hillary Dickman, a representative from Colorado College, mentioned the importance of talking to a representative, even if you've never heard of the school they

represent.

"One of the things I love is that the counselors know their students really well and encourage them to visit the schools that are going to be good fits for them... Sometimes, people who haven't heard of us will walk by if their counselors haven't told them to visit us. I wish that more students would not just go to schools that they've heard of before, but would stop and ask questions. Each of these schools here has a different personality, and you can't know which one is going to be a good fit for you until you chat with somebody about this school," said Dickman.

Biyi-Olaoye similarly mentioned that she found the college fair useful for getting a feel for schools she won't have the opportunity to visit in-person.

"Obviously not everyone's able to get a chance to go tour a school, and some people have more limited resources than others. So bringing some of the colleges here to-

ward us is very valuable, because we're getting a one-on-one experience. Obviously, we don't get the full picture of what each school is like, but being able to speak with a representative where, with some other schools, you might not be able to do that, it's very valuable," said Biyi-Olaoye.

The College Fair also attracted students from schools other than Andover. Seneca Ayares, a student from Concord Academy, described her experience attending the fair while looking for liberal arts schools to apply to.

"I wanted to learn more about colleges in the area, specifically liberal arts schools. I've been talking to a couple of colleges and I've learned some new things, specifically about what you can do after college, like internships," said Ayares.

10 Questions with John Rogers

REPORTING BY JOHN KIM & OLIVIA TEMPLE

John Rogers currently serves as Chair and Instructor in Physics and Instructor in Chemistry. In his 36-year career at Andover, he previously served as Dean of Studies (2006-2013) and Head of Natural Sciences (1997-2004). In his free time, Rogers enjoys sailing, running, and traveling.

What led you to Andover?

I came here in 1990. I was a graduate student at the time. I thought I was going to study theories about how life started on Earth, but I quickly discovered that I was not cut out for laboratory work. I found that most of the time I spent in the lab, I was staring out the window, looking at kids playing soccer, wishing I were playing soccer with them instead. But I also quickly discovered that I loved teaching because I was teaching undergraduates. So I looked for teaching jobs and landed here, and never really looked back.

What was the progression of your course or your career at Andover?

I started as a physics and chemistry teacher, and I also ended up starting an environmental science program here because we just didn't have one, and I was really interested in it. And then, very early in my career, I got to co-chair a study for the [Natural Sciences Department] on our facilities' needs. Before the Trustees would build us a new [science building], they wanted to know what our program would look like, [so] we got to envision the future of the science program. After that, I was the first Head of the [Natural Sciences Department]. We used to just have the three Department Chairs, but at that point, part of our vision was to bring things together. Then I went on sabbatical for a year and bought a sailboat. Learned a lot about marine science then, you know, and sailed a lot. [I] went, fixed up the boat, and sailed it down to the Caribbean, and my fiancée at the time came with me for a lot of that and then [we] got married when I was on sabbatical. And then, I came back here and became Dean of Studies for seven years. And then I went back full-time into teaching. At some point, I took another sabbatical, which was way more tame because I had young kids... and then I have been teaching since and became [Chair in Physics] a few years ago. But along the way, also, [I did] a lot of summer work, which was really fun. I did the marine science program in the summer session called "Oceans." We lived on board a schooner with six kids at a time, doing little marine biology experiments, which was fun. And then I also did this thing called the International Academic Partnership. I went to India, Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania, and ran teacher workshops in the summers with partner schools that we had in those places, which was super fun for physics teachers. That was also really interesting, to see people



COURTESY OF JOHN ROGERS

who came from such different cultures and had such different life experiences for me, but we were all brought together by our interest in teaching young people about science. So yeah, I've got to do so many different things over the course of 36 years.

Why did you recommend "The Rigor of Angels: Borges, Heisenberg, Kant, and the Ultimate Nature of Reality" for Andover Summer Reading?

One of the most interesting things about physics, in particular, is its intersection with philosophy and religious studies. [It's good] if you're curious about sort of the big questions about the meaning of existence, the origins of the universe, why we're here, those kinds of questions. You can approach them from lots of different perspectives. You can approach that from a purely spiritual point of view, you can try to approach it from a purely scientific point of view. You can ask questions that are maybe better answered through other human endeavors, like literature. You can tell origin stories, create literature around origin stories. So there are lots of

different ways to think about big questions, and I'm really interested in how those overlap. That book gets at those questions in really profound ways.

What brought you into STEM and physics?

Just curiosity. I was always really interested in sort of how things worked and wondered about [them]. My mom was a science teacher; she was a biology teacher, and I was always asking her about how things worked. I was curious about things. So at a pretty young age, I knew I was interested in science. It was pretty clear that I kept coming back to more science than the humanities.

How did you end up teaching both chemistry and physics?

I studied a ton of physics [as an] undergraduate. It was a close call whether I was going to major in physics. I think I was one course short of a physics major in college. And then in graduate school, I really was studying, not really physics or chemistry or biology. It was like a mix of everything because I was

interested in questions about the origins of life. And then when I got hired here, it was actually because they needed a physics teacher. So that's how I started out. I love science in general. I definitely gravitate more towards [chemistry] and physics... at some point, it just got a lot to be doing both, so I just sort of happened to be doing more physics at the time. And then we needed a [Chair in Physics], so I ended up over here. But I taught a lot of chemistry here, too, over the years. Some years I've been here, I've only taught chemistry. In some years, I've taught both. It just sort of worked out that way because of the needs of the [Natural Sciences Department] at particular junctures.

What did you do at the Sea Education Association, and how is that different from physics?

The Sea Education Association is out of Woods Hole, Massachusetts. It was at the time run in partnership with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, and they had a program in the summer for teachers who wanted to learn how to teach marine science. And so part of it,

about three weeks of it, was in Woods Hole. We flew to Nova Scotia and then sailed on a research vessel from Nova Scotia back to Woods Hole, and learned how to do all parts of both the sailing aspects of it and the marine science, running the lab that was on the boat.

What is one memory you will never forget? Why?

I would have to say the birth of my children. Both of them, each of those moments, I'm going to cry thinking about it, because there's nothing like seeing somebody come into the world. It's really special. They are 14 and 17. So one of them's here, and the other will be here next year.

You visit South Bristol, Maine, every summer. Why is this spot special to you?

When I was a kid, we moved to Maine for about five years. I lived about 20 miles away from South Bristol and had a lot of family [around]. All of my mom and her siblings grew up on Long Island, but they ended up migrating to Maine when they were adults. So I still have a ton of family up there. But I'm also just sort of attached to the coast of Maine. I find it really beautiful and peaceful, and a really great way to relax in the summer.

Do you have or plan on traveling anywhere else besides South Bristol?

I love traveling. I did a lot of it when I was younger, before I had kids. We haven't done a ton of traveling as a family. We love to travel, but we tend to travel mostly around New England in the summer. We go to Vermont, we go to Maine, we go to Cape Cod, we do little things. It tends to be our summer routine. We go down to Brooklyn to see other relatives, too.

What sports have you coached or played?

I do a little recreational running group in the afternoons. I've done Ultimate Frisbee, recreational stuff like that. But the only two real sports I've coached are Soccer and [Track & Field]. I love teaching, and I think the core of the job for me has always been the classroom teaching... [However,] I like doing lots of different things. This is kind of a perfect job for people who like doing a lot of different things because you get to do a lot of different things every day.

GongCha Andover

2 Elm Street Andover, MA
gongchaandover@gmail.com
978-245-8401
Check out Felix pick drink



MY VIBE,
MY GONG CHA



HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

REPORTING BY RIAANA BAJAJ & ELIZABETH SAKA

War: Myanmar Civil War Continues Into 2026

The Myanmar Civil War is currently one of the longest ongoing civil wars in the world. The civil war began when the military staged a coup and took over the democratically elected government, National League for Democracy (NLD). The war which began on May 5, 2021, will soon reach its sixth-year anniversary. The resistance-led National Unity Government (NUG), the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), and four ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) have come together to establish the Steering Council for the Emergence of a Federal Democratic Union (SCEF), as reported by “Burma News International.”

Global Affairs: Race for Next United Nations Secretary-General Commences

As United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres prepares to step down at the end of 2026,

the race to succeed him is gaining momentum. The four leading candidates are Michelle Bachelet of Chile, Rafael Grossi of Argentina, Rebeca Grynspan of Costa Rica, and Macky Sall of Senegal. As reported by “UN News,” candidates presented their visions and emphasized ideas surrounding peace, development, and human rights in recent interactive dialogues hosted by the UN. According to “The National News,” the candidates have each outlined differing priorities, ranging from UN structure reform to women’s rights. Many leaders have called for the appointment of the UN’s first female Secretary-General, arguing that gender representation would add to the institution’s legitimacy and reflect evolving priorities in leadership and governance, as noted by Foreign Policy.

Technology & Art: AI Art Museum, DATALAND, Set to Open in June 2026

Turkish artist Refik Anadol’s DATALAND, the world’s first museum dedi-

cated entirely to art generated by artificial intelligence, is set to open in downtown Los Angeles, California, in June 2026, blending technology and contemporary art. According to the “Los Angeles Times,” the museum has been in development for over two years and will feature immersive installations that translate complicated data into visual experiences. Located in the Frank Gehry-designed LA complex, the museum will include multiple galleries designed to showcase evolving AI-generated works. As reported by AV Interactive, the project emphasizes sustainability, with plans to use carbon-free, renewable energy to reduce the carbon footprint associated with AI.

Health: Moderna Launches Bird Flu Vaccine Trial

Moderna has launched a large-scale clinical trial for a bird flu vaccine using mRNA technology as part of increasing efforts to prepare for a potential future pandemic. According to “The

Washington Post,” this trial will include 4,000 adults across the United Kingdom and the United States, with early participants already receiving doses. This trial follows earlier evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine, which also used mRNA, was effective and safe. However, progress faced challenges after recent funding cuts to vaccine programs, as reported by “The Washington Post.” “The Telegraph” reports that the United Kingdom is prioritizing adults over the age of 65 and those most at risk, including people who work closely with poultry, for the trial. Medical experts say that while bird flu does not currently spread easily between humans, the risk of mutation continues to drive vaccine development efforts.

Sports: 130th Boston Marathon Unites Runners in Midst of Controversy

The 130th Boston Marathon was held on April 20, 2026 with more than 30,000 entrants from nearly 130 countries and all 50 states.

Early in the marathon, “Boston Herald” reports that a man dressed in attire similar to Nazis was seen stomping on an Israeli flag and making the Nazi salute. Samantha Joseph, a regional director for The Anti-Defamation League of New England published a statement about the spectator stating, “This vile display of antisemitism has no place at the marathon or anywhere in our communities.” Runners reported the man to police and race organizers, but no response was taken. Despite this event, many acts of kindness occurred at the marathon. “Fox News” reports that 21-year-old Ajay Haridasse’s legs gave out from exhaustion meters away from crossing the Boston Marathon finish line. Struggling to even stand up, fellow runners Aaron Beggs and Robson Oliveira came to Haridasse’s side and helped him walk to the finish line, showcasing how running can bring individuals together.

A Glimpse Into Student Housing at Andover

SOPHIA TOLOKH & NICCOLO LEE-SUK

As the academic year comes to an end, housing has become a major topic of discussion among students. Stack applications occurred in February, and Prefects for underclassmen dorms were announced on April 17. In-dorm room lotteries began during dorm meetings this past Monday.

The housing lottery is an annual process in which Lower moving into non-stack upperclassmen dorms are assigned a random number between one and 10,000, with lower numbers receiving higher priority. Students then rank their preferred dorms and are placed accordingly, according to Aya Murata, Assistant Dean of Students and Residential Life.

Not all students receive their top-choice dorm. Andrew Rodrigues ’27 and his roommate were placed into

their second-choice dorm, Stimson House. Rodrigues discussed how navigating the process with a roommate helped ease their uncertainty, and the general fairness of the system.

“I have a roommate, [Javier Gomez-Amuedo ’27]. We picked the dorms that had three-room doubles. So that was [Stuart House] or Stimson. We wanted to come to Pine Knoll, so we put those two dorms [first and second]. Then, we got around 4000 in the lottery. So we didn’t know if we were on the border for Stuart, because we put Stuart first originally, and then we ended up getting Stimson, which was great because all our friends ended up in Stimson,” said Rodrigues.

Rodrigues continued, “[The lottery]’s pretty fair. Especially with roommates, it’s the lowest number [of the pair] that [counts]. Having a roommate or applying with a roommate is really important, because with the housing lottery, you don’t really know if

you’re going to be in a dorm with your friends.”

Upper Prefects are assigned housing through a separate process with priority placement, according to David Porto ’26. A former Rockwell House Prefect and current Bishop House Proctor, Porto said that community was a central consideration for his dorm selections.

“The difference is mostly based on the community. People don’t exactly complain about the infrastructure of dorms, but more so about the people that are in them and how they’re kept. All dorms inherently have good infrastructure and are built nicely, but a major factor in my decision was, ‘Who am I going to live with?’ It’s one of the main reasons why I chose Bishop besides its location.”

Dolly Nguyen ’27 has lived in Bancroft House for one year and intends to serve as Proctor there for the 2026-2027 school year. Echoing Porto’s sentiment, Nguyen emphasized how dorm loca-

tion and environment impact student life.

“Let’s say you live in a dorm in Flagstaff. You somewhat are really connected with school life because you’re on campus but at the same time you might not be, because other events such as Quad Night during the fall might be somewhat far from your dorm and therefore you wouldn’t have that sort of motivation to go. That could really impact the rest of your career here because you might miss out on opportunities to make new friends,” said Nguyen.

While some students have moved between several Clusters, others remain in the same one throughout their time at Andover. Murathime Daisley ’26, a Proctor in Stevens House, said that her connection to the Pine Knoll Cluster influenced her to stay.

“I love staying here just because of the environment that there is in the Knoll. [For dorm preferences] that’s also a pull for people. Comfortability, and the relationships that

you already build in the area that you live in,” said Daisley.

Daisley continued, “I really enjoyed being a prefect in [Nathan] Hale [House]... and my friends and I have lived in the Knoll all four of our years. So I definitely wanted to stay in the Knoll, and because I liked Prefecting so much, I thought it would be cool to Proctor,” said Daisley.

Starting next year, Maxie Wu ’28 will serve as Prefect in Pease House with her roommate, Claire Bancroft ’28. Wu reflected on her experience in Paul Revere House and how it inspired her to take on a leadership role.

“[Claire and I] had super supportive Prefects... and that’s really inspired us to step into that role as upperclassmen next year. We’re also really excited to switch from Paul [Revere House] to a smaller community like Pease. We’re excited also because it’s a bit less centered on campus. We have more space. We’re excited to connect with our tight-knit group,” said Wu.

Earth Festival Brings Sustainability and Performance to Paresky Commons

IAN S. KIM & JEREMIAH NUNEZ

Students walking into Paresky Commons were greeted by the Phillips Academy Sustainability Coalition (PASC)’s Earth Festival, featuring science posters, interactive games, and musical acts from various groups across campus.

Sylvia Su ’29 created a booth to educate attendees about the environmental impacts of rodenticides. She explained that her project aimed to promote safer pest control methods and raise awareness of ongoing environmental legislative action.

“My booth is around anticoagulant rodenticides, which is this thing that causes rats to have internal bleeding and to not be able to have their blood clot, which can cause them to die over a long period of time [as] they slowly become weaker and weaker. During this time, a lot of predators

will choose to prey on them because they are weaker. So hawks and owls will eat them, and then the poison goes into their body, and then they die as a result of it. There’s a bill that the [All-School Meeting (ASM)] speaker [David O’Neill, president of Massachusetts Audubon Society] mentioned that is currently going through. I think it’s going through the House right now, and we’re trying to get that passed so that in Massachusetts, there’s a ban on this poison that can kill predators and even pets. Dogs and cats have died as a result of this poison,” said Su.

PASC Co-Coordinator Lisa de Boer ’26 said the event, originally planned for outdoors, was moved inside due to cold weather, which affected its atmosphere and accessibility.

“It made it harder to involve the entire campus. When the event is outside, especially near [Susie’s], everyone passes by, hears the music, and naturally joins. Indoors, it is

more contained, so fewer people participate. It also limited the number of performances, especially dance acts, partly because [Andover Dance Festival] was on the same day,” said de Boer.

Despite these challenges, PASC aimed to bring together different groups across campus. Matt Robinson ’27, PASC Co-Coordinator, said this year’s festival focused on student performances.

“We focused on having more performers compared to last year. We also collaborated with the Wings Initiative to run a thrift event at the same time, which helped create a more complete experience... The goal is to engage people in a fun way without making it feel overly academic. Climate change can feel overwhelming, so we want to show that sustainable choices can still be enjoyable,” said Robinson.

Marty Wong ’28 reflected on his experience as a performer, noting that the festival helped foster engagement with climate-related issues

through creating a sense of community.

“For me, the impact [performances] have is on awareness. It’s allowing people to engage more closely with the issue. While the performances may not have much to do necessarily with the effort, it allows us to gather as a group of people, as an Academy, to explore these ideas, and also through the little games and info booths that they’ve set up outside, learn a bit more about climate efforts,” said Wong.

Having enjoyed previous years’ Earth Fests, Nathan Ramani ’27 joined the PASC Council, helping set up performances at this year’s festival. Ramani described performing “Earth Song” by Michael Jackson with several others.

“It’s really important that everyone cares about the song and understands the significance of it. Singing at Earth Fest, ‘Earth Song’ is a great song to choose, which is why we went out of our way to [perform it],” said Ramani.

“The last section of the song, the last two measures, everyone is singing one note to build a chord. That part of the song was really my favorite because it was the conclusion to which everything we built up was leading there.”

De Boer said that PASC hoped the event would inspire students to think more deeply about sustainability and appreciate the world and climate beyond Andover.

“The PASC does a lot of serious work, and Earth Fest is a chance to relax and enjoy while still thinking about the environment... Personally, I am from Beijing, where air pollution is a big issue. Every day here, I notice the clean air and feel grateful. Earth Fest is a reminder for students to appreciate that,” said de Boer.

Write for Newzzz:

email:

fbret27@andover.edu
slingisetty27@andover.edu
kyma27@andover.edu
ntavakoli27@andover.edu



Phelonious Gru

New 2026-2027 Course Offerings!!!

Konnor Fortini

The Dean of Studies is proud to announce the Course of Study for the 2026-2027 academic year. We added some bodacious new courses below, aimed at reflecting Andover's commitment to rigor and "the great end and real business of living." Good Luck!

Learning to See

ART100

(T1)
ART225's newest prerequisite for those who can't draw. The signature unit is "Coloring Inside the Lines," where we bring a guest Kindergarten teacher to speak to students about ensuring "those little pencils don't go penetrating those big lines."

Why?

ENG600

(T1)
This course was made for Seniors who want to be different and do a 600-level English course. Colleges will be so impressed, we promise. Key topics include: The Birth of Ray K, Samuel Morse, and Co-Prez Varsity jackets.

Remembering Your Past

HSS400

(T3)
Remember that one thing you did in freshman year in the library basement, when you thought no one was looking? Well, funny enough, we actually captured that on camera. Take this class if you want us to delete the files. If you don't... well, let's just say they will come back into your life.

Applied Statistics: Finding Out What Your GPA Really Means

MTH531

(T2, T3)
A rigorous mathematical investigation into the number that controls your entire self-worth. Learn how to create a 95% confidence interval of your grade in a given class to do minimal work to get a 6... actually, probably a 5, tbh.

The Sounds of Andover

MUS660

(T2)
"I lowkey got two hours of sleep last night." "Bruh, I have a chem test tomorrow." "I'm getting slimed in this class." These are all things you have heard at Andover. It is music to our teachers' ears. Learn why every Andover student passive-aggressively degrades each other's accomplishments in this cutthroat mob LARPing as a community.

The Metric System

SCIO50

(T1, T2, T3) THREE-TERM COMMITMENT
Too many people got 5s and 4s in BIO500 and 100, warranting the creation of this course.

Senior Spring Midterm Comments

Claire Bancroft

[SATIRE: Teachers can't be bothered to do midterm comments during the Spring.]

Course & Instructor	Midterm Grade
ATH-SENIOR HACKY SACK	+
PHD200 - PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Midterm F -
THD501 - COSTUME-MAKING FOR LIBERALS	Midterm P -
CSC400 - INTRODUCTION TO CHATGPT	Midterm P -
ENG000 - ANALYSIS ON THE UNWRITTEN (MID-30TH-CENTURY)	Midterm LP -
HSS404 - A STUDY OF FEMALE EMPOWERMENT FROM CHARLIE KIRK'S PERSPECTIVE	Midterm F -

Midterm: You are a Senior repeating this course for the third time. Let's just say... that diploma's looking out of reach lil bro. It isn't that damn hard to float. You have worn a life jacket for the last three tests. Might I suggest not going to all five Cluster Munches every Wednesday? Please come to Conference to discuss alternate routes to complete your diploma requirements. Skydiving?

Midterm: Wow, your passion and enthusiasm in this class are truly inspiring. You've outpaced the whole class by sewing more keffiyehs than anyone, and correctly answered the midterm by refusing to use a sewing machine, branding it a "patriarchal tool of capitalist oppression." The way that you silently protest sewing from the potential harm of stabbing your fingers has made me consider changing parts of the curriculum! I sense a bright future for you at Liberty University.

Midterm: As I review all of your submitted assignments, I'm glad to see a consistent pattern of AI use. (Bonus points: Your Point Person came up to me to discuss your academic integrity towards this course! It's awesome that you are applying these skills to other classes' assignments as well!) My only concern is that 90% of your Chat history is about dating advice for senior citizens.

Midterm: Your points in class are well-spoken, as well as progressive for the conversation. However, when I ask you to use your analyses to do an unwritten (word count: 0), please stick to the word count. I cannot accept a three-page paper. Your next task is to ____.

Midterm: This is supposed to be a class supporting feminist theory. You cannot keep claiming that the ghost of Charlie Kirk is forcing you to interject into the class discussions by saying stuff like "If I see a Black pilot, I'm going to be like, boy, I hope he's qualified." Also, is the real Charlie Kirk doing your homework? You haven't submitted an assignment all term.

Overheard at the College Fair

"I've already raised \$200,000 through my start-up, with the help of Claude Code. So let me ask: Why do I need you?"

"Your school almost looks as fine as you... Can I have your number?"

"Why do you still work there after [insert scandal]?"

"Is there a way for me to prove my dedication so that you guys get me off the waitlist?"

"If my daddy donates a building, can I get in? Wait, is this included in Upper Review?"

"So what's your favorite part about the college?"

"Ok, fine. COUNTING gang violence." (-UVU Rep)

"Oh wow, what moisturizer do you use?"

"No question, I'm just here for the StriveScan."

"Let me cut you in line bro, we ALL know you're not getting in..."

Pollenpalooza

Takunda Basvi

I haul myself up the hill to Bulfinch, digging in my pockets to find my BlueCard as I approach the door. When I look up, a mist of fine pollen blinds me... the mob of Performative Males in Fem Lit forming behind me starts to get angry. They take out their pitchforks and start to hurl insults.

Walking down the basement hall, my nose is running, snot is dripping, my eyes are red, and it has begun. When I walk into class, someone shouts at me, "This guy stinks!" I'm late to class at this point, so I end up sitting in the deep, dark corner of the room.

As soon as I sit down, Phase Two begins: The cough. As we start our English discussion, I try to hold it back, but then I start to choke. Out of options, I begin to beatbox the chorus of "All Girls are the Same" by Juice WRLD. The other women in my class are instantly attracted to me. Whilst doing this, I request some Kleenex, and the teacher uses her powerpoint stick to hand them to me. After using two sheets of Kleenex, thinner than my chances of getting a 6 in this class (classic glass ceiling example btw), they ran out, so I resorted to using my worksheets to wipe my snot and tears.

As time passed, the room started to heat up. The guy to my left started taking a few strides to the window, and my neck jerked back. I looked over and, in slow motion, uttered "nooooooo...", but it was already done. The window opened, and the enemy flew in. I started to cough, and my eyes were redder than the most fried of Knollers.

In a High School Musical fashion, I lifted myself onto my desk and yelled, "FREEDOM." I danced the night away and used the bookshelf as my oyster. I felt like I was the only one in the room as I serenaded OPP, mowing outside the window. Soon enough, my teacher called on Sykes for backup to deal with my "issue." As they restrained me, I told them my symptoms, and they asked me if I had a history of having imaginary friends or if I had ever heard voices in my head. Then, I knew where I was headed.

Overheard on the Paths

"ABGs are just Andover Baby Girls."

"WE are taking 'Fun and Games' Senior Spring."

"I'm just gonna vote for the hottest Class Rep and call it a day."

"Damn, guess I'm not voting."

"What do birds have to do with anything?"

Week's Top Headlines

- *Fuess Fire Alarm Goes Off Again; Culprit Remains Hidden*
- *Midterm Grades Put Seniors into Anaphylactic Shock*
- *James Comey Indicted for Joke, Dean Esty Taking Notes*



The Phillipian SPORTS

nr, plip

Volume CXLIX | Number 11

May 1, 2026

Softball Remains Undefeated, Sweeps Austin Prep and Exeter

SARAH WANG

SATURDAY 4/25	
Andover	10
Austin Prep	0
SATURDAY 4/25	
Andover	14
Austin Prep	2
WEDNESDAY 4/29	
Andover	18
Exeter	0

Softball (12-0) extended its undefeated streak with a doubleheader sweep of Austin Preparatory School (Austin Prep) last Saturday and a dominant win over Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) on Wednesday. Across its three games, Softball outscored its opponents 42-2 and hit eight home runs, including five against Exeter alone.

On Saturday, Softball's offense powered past Austin Prep with home runs from Co-Captain Rihana Gomez '26, Audrey Gotha '28, and Victoria MacKenzie '28. Morgan McDonough '29 allowed only three hits and one run over five innings. McDonough described the team's strategy that led to its victory against Austin Prep.

"It was just a lot of offense, and the pitcher was on the slower side, so we just focused on staying patient and making sure that we hit the ball well. Everybody managed to just be



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Victoria Mackenzie '28, who scored a home run on Saturday, swings against Austin Prep.

patient in both games," said McDonough.

Elaborating on the doubleheader, Ashley Schuman '27 highlighted the team's ability to adjust between games and emphasized its collective contribution. Schuman also pointed to McDonough's strong performance.

"We had a doubleheader, so we faced the same pitcher twice. But from the first game to the second game, we made some really good adjustments. Everybody was contributing to the team, and everybody was getting their bat on the ball. We had Morgan McDonough pitch, and she pitched fantastically in our second game. She only gave

up two runs, and they were at the very end of the game. She's only a [Junior], too, so it's just really great to see her maturity on the mound and being able to handle having a couple of runners on base, because that's definitely hard as a pitcher," said Schuman.

Against Exeter on Wednesday, Gomez, Gotha, and Gaby Potter '27 all hit home runs against Exeter, while Schuman threw a shutout. The team's performance showcased consistency both offensively and defensively. McDonough, who went 3-for-3 with 4 runs batted in (RBI), reflected on her growth as a hitter and credited her teammates for helping her

rebuild her confidence.

"I was struggling a little bit at the beginning of the season, hitting-wise. I was striking out a lot, and I felt like I had a lot to prove as a freshman. But I think everybody on the team helped me realize it's okay, and everybody has rough patches. They really helped me get through it. How close we are as a group really makes things so much easier. The chemistry on the field and how we interact and cheer for each other make it so much better during games," said McDonough.

Rather than relying on a complicated strategy, Schuman discussed how Softball has focused on maintaining pressure

throughout all innings and emphasizing consistency in practices and games.

"We keep trying, and we just keep pushing. As the game goes on, we just want to keep putting runs up on the board and keep putting zeros when we're on defense. I think that's mostly strategy, and it's been winning this year," said Schuman.

Softball will face Austin Prep on Friday, Worcester Academy (Worcester) on Saturday, and Mount Saint Charles Academy next Wednesday.

Girls Tennis Breezes by Exeter, BB&N, and NMH to Stay Undefeated

EVA JACKSON

SATURDAY 4/25	
Andover	6
Exeter	3
MONDAY 4/27	
Andover	8
BB&N	1
WEDNESDAY 4/29	
Andover	9
NMH	0

Girls Tennis (8-0) defeated Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter), BB&N, and Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) this past week, maintaining its undefeated record and earning its fifth sweep of the season with a 9-0 win over NMH.

Facing rival Exeter, the team brought strong energy into its matches. Angelina Zhang '27 compared the matchup to other tough competitors and noted the obstacles the team overcame.

"Everyone was hyping themselves up and hyping everyone else up, too. It's one of the tougher matches that we're going to have, compared to Groton. Groton was a really tough one, and then we had a really

chill couple of matches in between, and this is going to be our next hardest one. According to the rest of the team, Exeter got better compared to last year. Also, we were missing people because of college visits, so our lineup got reconfigured," said Zhang.

With support from the 2026-2027 Blue Key Heads, Zhang described the environment of the matches as positive, competitive, and respectful.

"The environment was pretty good. We had the Blue Key Heads coming over. There [were] also the Varsity B matches going on. Neither team was cheering against the other team, which was pretty good. When a point was won, the player would be happy, but otherwise everyone [was] supportive and also being mindful," said Zhang.

Despite remaining undefeated, the team continues to focus on growth. Michelle Oh '29 commented on the importance of learning even in victory.

"Our wins give us more experience on how to win and also what to take from the points that we do lose or the matches that we do lose. That's really important because even though we have been on a winning streak since the start of the season, those things that we need to work on in each individual match help us and push us to keep working harder," said Oh.

Looking to replicate last year's undefeated season and NEPSAC championship, Lara Madan '27 discussed how the team continues to focus on consistency in its drills and strategies.

"We were continuing off the same drills, the doubles points,



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Doubles partners Mira Phan '27 and Nitya Madduri '28 converse after a point.

and really focusing and honing it on doubles this year as well, which has helped us so far. People during practices, not overdoing it, but still getting serves in and doing all the basics. For all of us, once we all have the basics down, that's when we start cruising, and that's when we perform our best. We've been really honing in on those things during practice," said Madan.

Those refinements and details showed in Girls Tennis's sweep of NMH. Mercan Draman '26 highlighted how players applied strategies from practice.

"In doubles, we were working on what to do when two players are back, instead of one being at the volley. The players that Mira [Phan '27] and Nitya [Madduri '28] were playing happened to do that. So,



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Kendra Tomala '26, paired with Co-Captain Evelyn Kung '26, prepares for a doubles point.

Mira was very up at the net and demonstrating all the tactics we had talked about this week," said Draman.

Girls Tennis will face Deerfield on Saturday and Milton next Wednesday.

TRACK&FIELD

Robert Budzinski '26: Leading with a Lasting Love for Running

JOHN LEW

For Outdoor Track & Field Co-Captain Robert Budzinski '26, running has not only been about times and splits, but also about building friendships and finding a source of comfort after a long day. As a Co-Captain, Budzinski brings experience, a love for the sport, and a steady presence to his teammates, guiding novice and experienced runners alike through their events.

Budzinski's connection to running started long before his time at Andover. Reflecting on his journey, Budzinski found that the relationships he formed through the sport have always been central to his love for running.

"Running's great for a multitude of reasons, but the team is what keeps me going back every day. I started running in third grade because my friend Elliot Weir '26 joined the team. Even though it's an individual sport in most ways, doing hard things together always brings



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

us closer," said Budzinski.

Budzinski brings to the team a wealth of knowledge of the sport, regarding optimal race and training strategies, having competed since third grade and regularly analyzing professional runners.

"I know a lot about the

sport because I've done it for 10 years and have been invested for much of that time. It's my love for the sport and understanding it deeply. I watch professional meets beyond just the Olympics and follow the sport closely. I know most cross country courses

and track strategies well," said Budzinski.

According to Kalis McCoy '29, Budzinski is known for leading in a way that feels approachable and genuine. McCoy observed that part of what makes him an effective leader is his ability to offer advice while still connecting with teammates as a friend.

"Robert is a very down-to-earth guy. If he wants to tell you something or if you're doing something wrong, or he wants to advise you, he'll just walk up to you and say, 'Hey man, you're doing good, but I feel like you could do this better.' At the same time, he is very good at breaking down tension. He cracks jokes during practice, which helps take your mind off hard workouts," said McCoy.

For teammate Alessandro Reverdito '29, Budzinski's leadership is defined by the way he creates a sense of purpose around the team's shared experiences, helping younger runners push themselves through difficult races.

"Robert is definitely one of

the most inspirational people I know. His presence always stands out, and everyone can tell he's meant to lead the team. One moment that stood out to me was the day before a meet, during a team tradition where we passed around a stick so everyone could talk. He spoke about his experiences with the team and the upcoming race, and that really stuck with me and helped push me through the race," said Reverdito.

Budzinski, seeking a team environment, hopes to row collegiately at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he plans to attend college this fall.

"I plan to walk on to the rowing team at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I'm planning to go to school. I have that opportunity because of the fitness and discipline I've gained from running. I'm hoping for a similar team environment. Whether I run in college, do club running, or just run for fun, I'm never going to stop running," said Budzinski.

Kishan Clarke '26 Sets the Standard on the Track

WESLEY PHAM

Outdoor Track & Field Co-Captain Kishan Clarke '26 has emerged as a reliable presence on the team and as a leader with a wealth of knowledge in sprinting. In Indoor Track & Field, he posted a time of 6.67 seconds in the 55-Meter Dash, a personal record and the team's fastest in the 2025-2026 season. Last season in Outdoor Track & Field, Clarke finished the 100-Meter Dash in 11.25 seconds, a personal best and fastest time among Andover athletes.

As a Co-Captain, Clarke shared that he aims to lead by example, a style he learned from previous Co-Captains Emerson Kington '24 and Russell Robinson '25, to help his teammates push through their training sessions.

"I would say that track is a difficult sport in terms of mentality. It can be hard to go to practice each day knowing that it's going to take a lot of physical toll to complete a workout. I look to the Captains before

me and try to emulate what they [did], which was to lead by example," said Clarke.

Clarke continued, "I remember when before I was a Captain, I looked at the Captains and every time there was a hard workout, either Emerson or Russell, who were previous Captains two years before me, would go to the workout head on, and they would never complain. So I try to emulate that lead-by-example attitude to show that you can get through this, and if you continue to work hard at track, you'll see progress."

Tiger Wang '29 characterized Clarke as friendly, an attribute that encourages athletes to approach him.

"Every day during practice, he is just so nice and welcoming. And he is someone who is really approachable. I feel comfortable going up to him, asking him a question about what the sprinters are doing or about life in general," said Wang.

Wang, who trains for distance events, also described Clarke, a sprinter, as a role



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

model and praised the Co-Captain's work ethic.

Wang said, "Kishan is a phenomenal sprinter who is really focused on what he's doing, and as a freshman, I look up to him with his mentality and how he strives to be faster and how he's so dedicated to the sport. So, [Clarke] is, in a way, a

role model to me, even though we don't do the same events."

James Curley '29 also pointed to Clarke's leadership and energy during practices.

"Whenever we do hard workouts on the track, he would always be cheering for us. When we go by the sprinters, he's just full of positive en-

ergy and he gives us more fuel to do what we need to do to get money in the bank. At the same time, he's just a really chill and nice person in general," said Curley.

Clarke detailed the lessons he learned reflecting on his captainship for Indoor Track & Field.

"I learned from being a Captain last term the importance of a Captain's influence, meaning everything that a Captain does, a Captain has a lot of power to change the culture of the team. And I've learned to use my role for the betterment of the team," said Clarke. "I found that if I started to complain about workouts, other people would do the same and think that that's a reasonable thing to do. But if, like I said before, I take that headstrong attitude and I try to emulate what it means to be a good track athlete, that attitude will trickle down throughout the team. And I've learned to use that to my best advantage to help the team."

Leading with Encouragement and Connection: Gracie Aziabor '26

LUCY VINNAKOTA

Gracie Aziabor '26 leads Outdoor Track & Field through a genuine passion for building bonds between her teammates. She competes in the Shot Put, in which her personal best is 36'5.5"; Discus, where her farthest throw stands at 75'11"; and Long Jump, in which her furthest jump is 16'1.25".

Aziabor was first introduced to track & field in middle school, but did not discover her true passion until Andover. Having competed in gymnastics for so long, she desired to try something different her Junior year, eventually choosing Indoor Track & Field as her winter sport.

"In middle school, it was a small thing that I did after school to diversify my athletics experience, because I had done gymnastics for a really long time. When I came to Andover, I figured I would try it out in my first year, when I came in ninth grade. It was my first year not having done gymnastics, so I wanted to find a new sport to spend a lot of my time doing, and that's how I decided to start doing



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

track as my first time ever considering doing it for indoor [track]. I had never even known that indoor track was really a thing, and then I stuck with it, because the team vibe was great," said Aziabor.

Aziabor shared that her leadership is influenced by the Seniors on the team, who showed her how to lead a large team, when she first began her journey at Andover.

"The upperclassmen and

the Seniors who were leaders on the team before me [influenced my leadership]. When I was a younger athlete on the team, I really looked up to them, and it was really a big deal to see how they interacted with the team and how they led a group of people that was so large over 100 people, and how they really leaned on each other and worked together. So that has inspired me a lot, and the collaboration aspect of it

is really important to me," said Aziabor.

Aziabor explained her passion for meeting new people on the team, which in turn contributes to stronger bonds among her teammates.

"I love socializing at practice, and I have met a lot of friends through it. My main goal during my time as Captain is to just meet as many of my teammates as possible and really bond with them in that way, because that helps with the leadership. When the whole team feels like one big family, it is a lot easier to rally everyone together and get people to support our teammates," said Aziabor.

Going into both practices and meets, Aziabor explained how she motivates her teammates by reminding them that they are competing as a team and not just as individuals, reminding her team that they are not just doing this for themselves, but for others as well.

"When I try to motivate people, a lot of the time it isn't competition based. Track is a very competitive sport, obviously, and also, it can be very individual, but I try to remind people about why they are

doing it. Remembering that they are a part of this team, it's something larger than themselves, but also they are coming to practice every day to work hard and get better. What they should really focus on is not necessarily always how they match up to the people that they are competing against, but also how they are improving on their intent," said Aziabor.

Eden Dunleavy '29 provided further detail into how Aziabor's encouragement affects the team.

"I always see her around the track, cheering people on, and she is there throughout the entire meet, and that is really cool. It is especially good for team building, and how she is always really great with lowerclassmen and is really inspiring," said Dunleavy.

Salali SaltPaw '29 described what Aziabor has taught the team this season.

"[Aziabor has taught the team] to stay motivated and to really take advantage of the team you have, because it really helps a lot to have people cheering you on and always pushing you to be better, because it's not easy a lot of the time," said SaltPaw.

Amelia Alvazzi '26 Spreads Joy and Resilience in Outdoor Track & Field

EVA JACKSON

Girls Outdoor Track & Field Co-Captain Amelia Alvazzi '26 has been running since elementary school. Coming to Andover as a new Upper, she competed in events like Mile Race, in which her personal record is 4:51.55, and the 2-Mile Race, where her fastest time stands at 10:25.07—a 19th place finish at New Balance Nationals Indoor 2026.

Alvazzi shared the difference in running at Andover, where the typically individual nature of track turns into a community-oriented environment.

“I appreciate that at Andover, there’s a community associated with a sport that’s often so individual, and it’s a lot more motivating and accessible to achieve your goals when you have a group of people who are training at the same time every day, are also competing together, and give pep talks. There’s a lot more morale involved,” said Alvazzi.

One of Alvazzi’s goals is to bring joy into running and



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

to practice every day. She reflected on her intentions as a Co-Captain.

“One of the things that I’d like to achieve as a Captain is to help people enjoy practice, come to practice, and enjoy every day. A huge part of results-oriented sports like track is your performance. For example, in sprints, the duration might be super short, but

your time at a meet might define how you see yourself as a sprinter. What’s really important is loving the process and the journey because, in doing so, enjoying the everyday, taking things a little lighter, you’ll believe in your training and you’ll reap the rewards when it comes to the meet days,” said Alvazzi.

Adanna Obi '29 described

how Alvazzi interacts and supports the team.

“For the distance team, she’s really positive because they have really hard workouts, and people sometimes, if you have a bad workout, you’re not coming into the best mindset, or you don’t even really want to come to practice after having a long day, she’s just a really positive figure and makes sure that people feel really good. Even though it might be a hard day or something for her, she’s just very non sibi and focuses on making it so that other people feel good, even if she’s not feeling great herself,” said Obi.

Competing and training with distance runners, Alvazzi noted that her favorite part of running is meeting different types of people across event groups.

“I love talking to people from all different disciplines. Track is a bunch of different disciplines happening at once. So I’m talking to people who do throws and sprints, even though I do distance. I just love that everyone comes from different athletic backgrounds and has their own goals. The nature of it is just quite di-

verse. There’s always someone who’s super friendly and encouraging. I love being the head of service, a friendly face people know they can always turn to,” said Alvazzi.

Allysa Katana '28 shared how Alvazzi inspired her not only through her support but also through her work ethic and achievements.

“I did Cross Country, Indoor Track [& Field], and Outdoor Track [& Field] with Amelia, and one word I used to describe her leadership is inspirational,” said Katana.

Katana continued, “Even though she encouraged me and congratulated me after I finished all my races, what inspired me the most about her was her ability to redefine limits, and seeing herself push harder and strive for bigger goals and personal bests inspired me to keep running. And she also made me realize that even if I failed or I didn’t reach what I wanted, I’d always have a supportive community to fall back on.”

Looking ahead, Alvazzi is committed to run at the Division I level at Columbia University.

Boys Ultimate Faces Lexington, Shows Growth Despite Loss

OLIVIA WANG

WEDNESDAY 4/29

Andover	1
Lexington	15

Boys Ultimate (8–4) played Lexington High School (Lexington), ranked sixth in the nation for ultimate according to the Ultiworld 2026 High School Power Rankings, in a tough game on Wednesday, falling short at the end but giving it its all. Even though the matchup ended in a loss for Andover, the game was a chance for the team to face a long-time competitor and showcase its improvement and resilience.

Despite the team’s loss, Cristian Ramirez '29 explained that the team had effective communication, and praised Captain Cyrus Law '27 and Nate Goldberg '27 for their encouragement and sense of team spirit.

“Ultimate’s a very team oriented sport. You play not only for yourself. We play for everyone else on the team. Everything

that you do has an impact or affects everyone else on the field. I think we did a good job of communicating. I think we all did a good job of having a solid plan [and] lifting each other up. There are times that some people were down and I saw our team captain Cyrus [and] Nate Goldberg lifting people up, being very positive, [and] telling everyone it’s okay,” said Ramirez.

Law reflected on the team’s performance and shared insight into the team’s mindset leading up to the game.

“When we did have the disc, we mostly stayed calm and composed, even though we were going against a tough opponent. We went into it with a good mindset, like, ‘we’re here to do our best, we’re probably going to lose despite that, we’re still going to give it everything we got,’” said Law.

Ramirez outlined the team’s training leading up to the game, emphasizing that the main focus during practices was the mental aspect of the game and staying strong as a team.

“We’re coming into it [knowing] that Lexington would be a very difficult opponent. They’re number six in the country right now for ultimate, and we have a long history with them of losing.



KAYLA LYONS/THE PHILLIPIAN

Dean Yang '27 prepares to throw the disc against Lexington.

We can’t do anything, days before, to physically prepare. A lot of our preparation was mental, like getting the team together, talking about our spirit, talking about our motivation, our ded-

ication, and our intensity. Even though they’re going to score against us, [we] bring our everything and play the best we can,” said Ramirez.

Paxton Auguste '28 pointed

out that this game was especially significant because Lexington is a top contender, which gave the players motivation going into the rest of the season to play other challenging opponents.

“This is definitely the best team we will be playing all season. Knowing that we can hold our ground against a team like this and [that] we can score against them, we know that no matter how good a team is, we can match up to them at some point,” said Auguste.

Law noted that it was important for the team to stay confident but vigilant, and retain a growth mindset in playing against other teams.

“[The] biggest lesson I’ll take away is there really are levels to this. This season we’ve been doing a lot better than previous seasons, but I think this has been a good experience to show that we shouldn’t get complacent, because there are teams that are a lot better out there, even if we have a pretty good record so far,” said Law.

Boys Ultimate will play at the Southern Maine Invitational this Sunday.

Girls/Non-Binary Ultimate Shows Growth in Loss to Lexington

LUCY VINNAKOTA

Girls/Non-Binary Ultimate had a tough loss against Lexington High School (Lexington) on Tuesday. Despite the loss, the team showed noticeable improvement, competing hard throughout the game.

Jeannie Kang '28 described how the team practiced leading up to the matchup.

“We have been working on different game strategies for the past few weeks. We learned four or five new defense and offense strategies depending on the other side’s approach, and we also learned about this team a lot more, but we mostly focused on how we would respond to zone defenses or in-person defenses so that we’re not confused,” said Kang.

Players entered the game with a relaxed and positive mindset, as Ming-Yi Tang '29 reflected.

“We were mostly relaxed. We wanted to have fun. Honestly, there wasn’t too much pressure that our coach put on us. It was mostly a fun experience,” said Tang.

Despite not taking home the win, Emma Tan '29 pointed to improvements in coordi-



KAREENA KAPOOR/THE PHILLIPIAN

Samantha Gong '28 looks down the field to pass the disc to a teammate.

nation on the field.

“It was one of our better games because people were more coordinated with their throws, and the chemistry between all the players was better because we were making more completions. We did this thing when they ran zone defense on us when Jane [Hlavaty '28] and [Co-Captain] Iris [Liu '26] were handling, they did a really good job swinging back and forth to each other to keep possession of the disc,” said Tan.

Kang discussed the chal-

lenges posed by Lexington’s strategy and how the team adapted as the game progressed.

“They ran a vertical stack and we have not really been preparing defense against vertical stack, so that was kind of confusing, but we eventually figured it out. We learned as we went and it eventually ended up really well,” said Kang.

Tang highlighted standout players and team leadership during the game.

“Angela [Wang '29] did a really good job, also Tiffanie



KAREENA KAPOOR/THE PHILLIPIAN

Jane Hlavaty '28 receives a pass from Samantha Gong '28.

[An '29], because at one point she was handling and she did really well. Our [Co-Captains], Niki [Tavakoli '27] and Selene [Xu '27], were cheering us on a lot and sometimes they didn’t have as many breaks. Our coach put them on a lot, but they still did really well, and they had really good endurance,” said Tang.

Looking ahead, Kang emphasized using this loss as an opportunity for growth.

“It’s a new opportunity since this was especially a harder team, and for us to

grow and get better, especially with the tournament this weekend and a scrimmage on Thursday,” said Kang.

Girls/Non-Binary Ultimate will compete at the Southern Main Invitational jamboree on Sunday, and will face Somerville Ultimate next Thursday.

Editor’s Note: Jeannie Kang is a Commentary Staff Writer for The Phillipian.

Rising Through Rivalry: Boys Volleyball Builds Momentum Through NMH Win and Exeter Battle

JOHN LEW

SATURDAY 4/25	
Andover	3
NMH	0
WEDNESDAY 4/29	
Andover	3
Exeter	1

Boys Volleyball (6-0) swept Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) on Saturday and bested Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) on Wednesday in a competitive rivalry matchup.

Against NMH, Boys Volleyball took control early with aggressive serving and steady execution, staying ahead throughout the match with strong transitions and consistent play. Will Oh '26 described the team's mindset.

"It was more about keeping the energy high, and after a couple good swings and good serving in the first set, I

think the momentum was really on our side... We had already beaten [NMH] 3-0 [last season]. It really felt like we were just going to have fun. The competitive aspect of it was almost a side benefit in that sense, because we had so much confidence in ourselves," said Oh '26.

In its matchup against Exeter, Boys Volleyball faced longer rallies and closer set scores. Justin Puno '26 discussed the match's atmosphere.

"It was always going to be a more hostile environment, and everyone had extra incentive to buy in and win. We played Exeter earlier this season already, at Exeter, and we swept them in three. So, to some degree, we were feeling pretty confident coming into the game," said Puno.

Co-Captain Ajay Mistry '26 noted how the energy shifted as more supporters arrived, and highlighted the team's mindset after dropping the first set.

"Historically, we've played [Exeter] in the championship many times, and every year



Kai Szanton '26 deflects back a spike from an Exeter athlete.

AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

beating Exeter in the championship game is the ultimate goal. I'd definitely say the energy shifted once the JV [Boys Volleyball] game ended, and a lot of those guys came over to watch us play and cheer us on. They did a great job supporting us and helping us get

momentum to come back after starting down," said Mistry.

Mistry continued, "We always try to have a goldfish mentality, where if something bad happens, we try to forget it within ten seconds, like the memory of a goldfish. So when we went down and lost the

first set, that was definitely the mentality we all had. We just forget about it and focus on what's in front of us and what we can control."

Ren Oh '28 described the last set as particularly strong, marked by a decisive run that helped close out the match. Oh '28 also highlighted Michael Huang '26's passing and shot placement.

"I think the overall goal of volleyball is about getting the ball over to the other team's net, right, and [Michael] was playing really smart. He had awesome passing, and we know from a lot of experience that a good first pass is really what starts the offense, allowing the setter to have a lot of options. His passing was really great and he had some really, really nice shots down the line, which is something we don't do often. That was really impressive and I think that's the kind of what sealed away the game, those last two sets," said Oh '28.

Boys Volleyball will face Choate on Saturday.

Golf Builds Momentum with Historical Andover Invitational Finish and Dominant Win Against Exeter

BENJAMIN KAZLOUSKI

This Saturday, Golf's (11-1-2) top five players competed in the Andover Invitational at Newport Country Club, Rhode Island. Powered by a tournament-best round of 69 — three under par — Sebastian Montemayor '27 led Andover to a second-place finish, ending in a tight playoff loss to Deerfield, marking Andover's best finish in recent history. On Wednesday, the team sustained its momentum in facing Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter), winning seven matches and tying one.

Newport Country Club, the host of the first U.S. Open and one of the five founding courses of the United States Golf Association, added extra excitement to the Andover Invitational, especially following a weather-related cancellation last year. Ian M. Kim '28 described the course's history and its challenges.

"We played at the Newport Country Club in Rhode Island, and it's one of the charter members for [the United States Golf Association], one of the first five founding courses. So it's a very special course. It was founded in 1893, so it's a very historic course



COURTESY OF BRIAN FAULK

Rocco Fawcett '28, Zorah Williams PG'26, Sebastian Montemayor '27, Ian M. Kim '28, Evan DeMayo '26, and Eddy Zhang '28 (left to right) pose for a photo at the Andover Invitational.

and has one of the best clubhouses in golf. The course is a links course, which is a treeless course, and it's right by the ocean. So when it's windy, it's a very tough, but fun course. It's not every day you get to play such a special course like that," said Kim.

The standout of the tournament was Sebastian Montemayor '27, who shot a dom-

inant 69 to lead Andover's second-place finish. Montemayor's round included two eagles and several clutch putts, which matched him with Deerfield's Tucker Gongaware '26 and Kingswood Oxford's Austin Perkins '26 at the top of the leaderboard before winning a back-nine playoff. Rocco Fawcett '28 remarked on Montemayor's exceptional

showing and its importance to the team score.

"Sebastian was making some extremely clutch putts. He had two eagles, which is nuts. The greens weren't in super pristine condition, since it's still early season, so making putts like that was so impressive. The two guys that he beat were also really solid. Tucker Gongaware from Deerfield also shot 69, and Austin Perkins from [Kingswood Oxford] shot 69 as well. He beat them on the back, and they did a back-nine playoff, and he won. It was a really impressive performance, and so crucial to our team doing so well," said Fawcett.

After Andover and Deerfield finished tied through their top four scores, the tournament came down to the fifth-player tiebreaker. Eddy Zhang '28 represented Andover in the playoff position and delivered a strong round of 80, but gave Deerfield the title by one stroke. Despite the narrow loss, Andover's second-place finish marked a major improvement from its fourth-place result at the 2024 Andover Invitational. Fawcett reflected on the close finish.

"We brought five players, and you take the four best scores, and then the fifth is the playoff. We ended up losing by one, which, all things consid-

ered, is pretty solid. Obviously, it stung when it happened, and you're disappointed in the moment, but overall, it's a great finish for the program. We were tied with Deerfield through our first four players, so it went to our fifth guy, Eddy Zhang. He's a really strong golfer. He went out and shot 80, which is exactly what he needed to do, but Deerfield happened to shoot 79, and we lost by one," said Fawcett.

Against Exeter on Wednesday, Andover carried its momentum into a dominant 7.5-0.5 win, with seven players winning their matches and one tying. Zihan Zhao '28, who extended his undefeated 7-0 personal record with this game, recalled his final game-sealing birdie to take the match.

"My best hole of the day was probably my seventeenth hole. That was my hole for the win. It was a par three. I was two up with two to go. I ended up flushing a six iron to around five feet, and then made the left-to-right, sloping downhill putt. It was a birdie for the win," said Zhao.

Golf will face Dexter Southfield on Friday, Deerfield on Saturday, and St. Paul's next Wednesday.

Cycling Completes Third Race with Success and Strategy

JOHN LEW

On Wednesday, Cycling traveled to New Hampshire's NASCAR Motor Speedway for a race against five other schools: Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter), Proctor Academy (Proctor), Holderness, Portsmouth High School, and Exeter High School. Matt Robinson '27 placed third in the Boys A division, Henry Wall '27 finished third in the Boys B division, Sonya Caro Del Castillo '26 placed third in the Girls A division, and Arden Quan '29 placed third in the Girls B division. Andover now sits in second place in the New England Region Cycling League (NERCL) team standings.

Quan highlighted Wall's third place finish in the Boys

B division and described the factors that contributed to his placement.

"Henry had a good race. He got third in his division, and he kept up with the main pack for the entire race. He came in a third place finish by not only being the first person to attack and starting the race, but also being that person to attack at the very end and push the pace leading to a third place victory," said Quan.

Co-Captain David Porto '26 shared the strategy that the team went into its races with. It aimed to keep pace with the rest of the pack instead of attacking at first and losing energy afterwards. He also shared how he personally raced today, after gaining motivation from Robinson, his Co-Captain.

"Most of the game plan was making sure we kept up

with the pack. A lot of strong riders and our previous race experience had been that some riders are going to be really strong and go out front and attack. And just trying to maintain in that pack of riders was important. At first, I was cut off-guard, since the race slowed down significantly and we were just chatting with each other. Then, my Co-Captain [Matt] Robinson started attacking, and I was thinking, 'we're starting to go on the race.' By the end of the race, I felt like I had given all I had to give," said Porto.

Having raced on this track last week and on various other occasions, the team has grown more familiar with it and the format. Robinson shared how knowing the configuration of the racetrack helped the team plan its game strategy.

"We knew it was going to

be a long hill to the finish line, so our plan was to try to stick with the pack and break away from the pack on the hill, on a course with a long downhill and then a long uphill," said Robinson.

Both Quan and Porto highlighted Frank Hu '26 and Robinson for not only their impressive performances, but their strategy in and dedication to the race.

"Frank and Matt Robinson stepped up. Matt came in a third place finish by attacking at the very end and pushing the pace. Frank, who had a phenomenal performance, used the downhill to his advantage to come back from that last place finish and ended up pretty well," said Porto.

With one race left in the season, the team looked back and reflected on their past races for areas of improve-

ment. Porto shared how having better tactics and strategy in close situations, such as when a racer is head-to-head with another racer, can drastically change the race.

"I think [areas of improvement] are probably going to be in some of our tactics. A lot of our riders ended up in situations where it was them against someone else, or them with someone else. Learning how to work together during those situations as well as having the endurance to catch up to the pack when you're just by yourself are the biggest things that we have to work on," said Porto.

Cycling will return to the NASCAR Motor Speedway on Wednesday, May 13 for its final circuit race.

LOCAL EXPERTISE. GLOBAL REACH.

An Unmatched Experience

Gibson

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Coming Soon

North Andover

Beautifully preserved and thoughtfully updated 5,500 sq. ft. antique colonial featuring a three-story barn with heat, A/C, full bath, a gunite pool, and two garages. Price available upon request.

Coming Soon Listings

Presented by Henry Gourdeau

Headed to Cambridge?

Gibson Sotheby's International Realty Featured Listings



Andover | 3 Unit Multi-Family with up to 5 Income Streams
Spacious 2,500 Sq. Ft. Main Unit | Offered for \$1,895,000



1800 Massachusetts Avenue, Unit 23, Cambridge
Offered for \$488,000 | Listed by Lauren Holleran Team



Andover | Renovated Colonial on a Cul-De-Sac
4 Beds | 2F 1H Baths | 1.7 Acres | Offered for \$1,495,000



2130 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge
Offered for \$1,098,000 | Listed by Max Dublin



North Andover | The Library District
4 Beds | 2F Baths | Offered for \$795,000



57 Museum Street, Cambridge
Offered for \$3,400,000 | Listed by Lauren Holleran Team



Wherever your journey takes you, I can help.

Henry Gourdeau '89

Global Real Estate Advisor

Henry.Gourdeau@GibsonSIR.com

617.955.0443

68 Main Street #5, Andover, MA 01810



Scan to view more available properties.

© 2026 Sotheby's International Realty. All Rights Reserved. Sotheby's International Realty® is a registered trademark and used with permission. Each Sotheby's International Realty office is independently owned and operated, except those operated by Sotheby's International Realty, Inc. Equal Housing Opportunity. All services/products are provided by independently owned and operated franchisees and are not provided by Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC. Listing information is deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Dimensions are approximate and unverified. Buyers should consult a qualified professional to confirm measurements.

Girls Water Polo Splits Doubleheader, Falls to Greenwich and Defeats Williston

JULIEN REQUA

SATURDAY 4/25	
Andover	7
Greenwich	17
SATURDAY 4/25	
Andover	11
Williston	4

Following four straight wins on the road, Girls Water Polo (5-1) hosted its first home games of the season this Saturday and faced its toughest test yet. In a doubleheader on Saturday, the team suffered its first loss of the season in a 7-17 defeat to Greenwich, but quickly recovered later that day with an 11-4 win over Williston Northampton (Williston).

Against Greenwich, a team filled with experienced players, Girls Water Polo scored 7 goals but allowed 17. Helen McNeely '29 described the team's mentality during the match and highlighted a teammate's strong performance.

"We were not playing our best at the beginning, but our energy and communication improved as the game went on. Even though we were facing a strong and well-rounded team, everyone kept encouraging each other and trying to stay focused. I'd say Camden



Camden Schopler '27 attempts a shot against Greenwich.

Schopler [27] stood out on both offense and defense, scoring the first point of the game, and continued to contribute consistently whenever she had opportunities. Her energy and ability to stay involved on both ends really helped keep us encouraged throughout the game," said McNeely.

Following a short break, Girls Water Polo returned to the pool to face Williston. Despite coming off a physically and mentally challenging match against Greenwich, Andover responded with renewed

focus, controlling the match for an 11-4 win. Schopler reflected on the team's response, noting the shift in mindset following the loss.

"Losing the first game was a bit disheartening, especially because that was our first loss. I think it was also a nice wake-up call, and I think we learned a lot from that game. It was nice to convincingly beat the other team in the second game, and I think that definitely let us end the day on a good note with a mindset for improvement," said Schopler.



Mary Li '29 looks to pass to a teammate.

In Girls Water Polo's first home games of the season, players, specifically Juniors on the team, got to experience the atmosphere of playing in front of a home crowd for the first time. Mary Li '29 highlighted one teammate's impressive performance while also describing the effect of the crowd's energy.

"I'm gonna shout out Sarah Samoluk [26.] She plays center, and she's really hardworking, and she has a lot of spirit, too. Because it's the first home game, this is the first time the crowd has been there. Although

not a lot of people attended, the people who were there had a lot of spirit. A couple of my friends came and cheered for us. I enjoyed it very much," said Li.

Girls Water Polo will face Loomis Chaffee and Choate this Saturday, and will host Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) next Wednesday.

Boys Tennis Finds Positives in Tough Road Losses

BEN KAZLOUSKI

MONDAY 4/27	
Andover	2
Nobles	5
WEDNESDAY 4/29	
Andover	0
Exeter	7

Boys Tennis (2-8) traveled to Noble and Greenough (Nobles) and Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) on Monday and Wednesday, respectively. It lost in both of its matchups.

Sean Liu '28 shared how the team plans to improve upon its doubles play to start each match

strong.

"Doubles play is something we will work on a lot moving forward. Even though doubles is worth only one point collectively, we have talked a lot about how it sets the tone for the entire match. Starting strong with doubles is something we want to do consistently for the rest of the season," said Liu.

George Richardson '27 shouted out first-seeded player and Co-Captain Ben Shin '26 for a competitive singles point against Nobles. Despite being down 1-5 in the second set, Shin brought that set's final score up to 4-6.

"[Shin] lost the first set 6-0, but in the second set, he was down 5-1 and brought it back to 5-3. In tennis, there is a point called deuce, where whoever wins the next point wins the game. If his opponent had won that game, the match would have been over. During that point, Ben

made a really tricky shot. I remember him being really hyped after winning that shot because it was a high-pressure moment, and he was match point down," said Richardson.

Richardson shared how the team does not dwell on losses and finds something to look forward to.

"A lot of our recruits have gotten injured this year, so our team is not at its full potential. But our morale is pretty good. We are all pumped as a team to go out to dinners after away games. Even if we lose, we still have to enjoy something about the season. At this point, we are just looking toward the next day and seeing how we can make the best out of it," said Richardson.

Co-Captain Jeff Shen '26 shouted out Richardson for his enthusiasm against Exeter, along with his consistency on the court. "He was being really consis-

tent on the court and making sure his opponent was not able to get into a rhythm. That was really well done by him, and we are excited to see how he progresses in future matches," said Shen.

Shen continued, "Another part of his performance today was how loud he was during the shots. He was always bringing energy onto the court. That is really important, especially when we are at an away game like Exeter. The environment can be quite hostile, so being loud, cheering each other up, and being enthusiastic are great ways to maintain team morale. He helped out a lot in that way."

Shen shared how he and his fellow Co-Captain brought intensity to their doubles match, spreading excitement across multiple courts.

"In my doubles match with my Co-Captain Ben, there was a point where courts two and

three were falling behind in the early moments of the match. At one point, Ben and I played a great point with a lot of volleys in succession, and we ended up winning it. We were really loud afterward, and that was a really good moment because we set the tone for the rest of the team," said Shen.

Shen continued, "We made sure to pump our fists, and even though we could not come out with the doubles point, I think it was a great moment because the entire team cheered. That energy went from court one down to court three, and I think it gave everyone a little boost."

Boys Tennis will host Roxbury Latin today at 3:45 p.m. and Groton on Monday.

Baseball Endures Four Games, Finishes Strong Against Brooks

ALEX GODSEY

FRIDAY 4/24	
Andover	0
Winchendon	8
SATURDAY 4/25	
Andover	1
Stony Brook	6
SATURDAY 4/25	
Andover	1
Stony Brook	2
MONDAY 4/27	
Andover	12
Brooks	8

Baseball (7-8) played four grueling games in four days, falling to Winchendon on Friday, losing twice against Stony Brook on Saturday, and claiming a win against Brooks on Monday.

Against Winchendon, Baseball delivered seven hits in 28 at bats, with no walks and nothing more than a single. The team struggled to find offense in the 0-8 loss. On the defensive end, the mound struggled to find strikeouts, with only three compared to Winchendon's eight. Andover gave up seven walks and 11 hits to ultimately allow eight runs. Owen Callahan '26 attributed the loss to an unfocused mindset entering the game, noting that the team never really settled into the right headspace.

"Our biggest problem was [that] we had beaten Winchendon in a doubleheader earlier in the season, and we underestimated them. We underestimated their talent and how they wanted to get back at us and get revenge for that game. So our mindset going into that game was a little bit poor. We weren't completely ready to play, and a little bit of it was also that it was a long bus ride

to get there. That's no excuse, but all those things mixed together combined for a pretty rough loss that day, and not our true form as a team" said Callahan.

The following day, Andover played a Saturday doubleheader against Stony Brook, a highly anticipated test as Baseball looked to prove itself ahead of the playoffs. In the first game, Andover suffered a 1-6 loss. Finding its rhythm in the second game, the team put together a stronger performance but fell 1-2. Garrett Falahee '27 led the team across the two games with two doubles and both of Andover's runs.

Andover also posted a perfect fielding performance in the second game. Kaden McNeice '28 commented on the team's shift in mindset between games, and their overall performance in the second.

"Game one obviously didn't go our way. It was a tough [1-6] loss, but that's the beauty of being able to play a doubleheader. No matter how the first game goes, you know you have a second one coming. So it was great for us, coming off a loss, to be able to have an opportunity to bounce

back, and that's a very talented team in Stony Brook, probably the best team we're going to play all year. Everyone really just needed to stay in the right headspace, and if we executed and made plays in the field, we knew that we were going to be able to stay in the game. We made the plays in the field, we executed a very fundamentally sound game, but we just weren't able to string together enough hits to keep us in a position where we could win the game," said McNeice.

Coming off a hard three-game stretch, Baseball was looking to bounce back against Brooks on Monday. Matt Shampine PG'26 reflected on the team's approach to stay with the fundamentals, and play a loose and smart game.

"We tend to press a lot and try to do too much with our bats. And in the field, [we] try to make too big of a play when in reality, you just put together little plays, and it does the same job as one big play. As our coach says, you don't need to hit a five-run home run. Just get on base. And we did that well on Monday. Just go out there, have fun, [and] don't be too tight," said Shampine.

Andover concluded the week with a 12-8 win against Brooks. Starring young players, Thomas Perri '29 and Alex Iihara '28 had their first ever pitching starts, with Michael Doherty '27 coming in to end the game. Callahan described the team's performance.

"Monday was a great game against Brooks. I'd like to give two shoutouts. We had two younger guys throw for us. We had a freshman, Thomas Perry, and a sophomore, Alex Iihara. They did awesome. That was great for them to get out there on the mound. Also, our offense played great that game. A couple guys had some really nice hits, like Garrett Falahee, he had a nice hit, and then also Matt Ulicny [PG'26] as well. We were down at one point, but we bounced back pretty soon after, and we didn't let off the gas at all, and we ended up walking away with a pretty good win," said Callahan.

Baseball will face Groton on Friday, Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) on Saturday, and Cushing on Wednesday.

Boys Lacrosse Falls to Deerfield and New Hampton

NICHOLAS JUNG

SATURDAY 4/25	
Andover	5
Deerfield	13
WEDNESDAY 4/29	
Andover	3
New Hampton	6

Boys Lacrosse (6-4) fell to Deerfield last Saturday and New Hampton this Wednesday, extending its losing streak to four games. Despite a robust defense, the team has struggled offensively to generate consistent opportunities to make goals.

Coming off losses to Choate and Holderness the previous week, Boys Lacrosse faced strong competition from Deerfield. Attacker Brayden Ko '28 commented on the team's adaptability amid injuries and successes in defensive efforts during the game.

"We obviously knew that Deerfield was a good opponent, a tough one. They had a lot of talent on their team,

[and] they have lots of depth in their team. They were well coached. It was going to be especially hard because we had a lot of injuries on our team. We were missing two starting defensemen, so we made a lot of adjustments, like running the defense with the personnel that we had and the preparation that at the time that we had. We did a decent job of keeping the score down as much as possible," said Ko.

Ko continued, "Our goalie Michael Attubato '28 had a lot of good saves. It was definitely in the double digits, but he had a lot of saves that kept us in the game and kept the score where it was. I shout out the entire defense."

On Wednesday, Boys Lacrosse hosted New Hampton. Despite a strong start, with the defense allowing only six goals, the offense came up short, scoring only three goals. Attacker Luke Honos '28 reflected on the game's early momentum.

"It was tied at the first quarter. We used new defense that worked well, and our goalie Michael made a lot of good saves. He kept us in the game, and our offense was struggling to score. But overall, we played hard," said Honos.

Midfielder Ben Kazlouski



KAYLA LYONS/THE PHILLIPIAN

Attacker Luke Honos '28 cradles the ball near New Hampton's goal in hopes to score.

'28 identified declining confidence and fundamentals as challenges Boys Lacrosse has recently faced, and outlined the team's focus areas for improvement heading into the final stretch of the season.

"Our biggest challenge was definitely just our confidence levels, a little bit, especially on the offensive side. Maybe we're tired. It's the middle

of the week, or maybe Head of School Day had something to do with it, but we weren't connecting on our passes, and we were trying to force them in the middle to try and get a quick shot off. But it just didn't work, because the guy in the middle was always covered. [New Hampton was] a really talented team, too. You can't take away any of their cred-

it, but we were in our heads offensively. It was a super winnable game, but we were playing down to them a little bit instead of them playing up to beat us. We need to work on some of our transition stick work," said Kazlouski.

He continued, "We need to get back into our mojo. Our offenses, we started off really strong at the beginning of the season, but the fundamentals that we were building on our offense on started collapsing. Offensively, we need to keep our spacing and dodge quicker. We're taking too long to try and set it up. We need to just go, go, go. Offensively and defensively, we had trouble clearing because we were dropping passes. On the defensive side, we've made huge improvements compared to the prior games, especially with our new defensive scheme that we've been running. We could have made it so they only scored four, if we just paid a little more attention to our man while they were while they're moving around. We got caught watching the ball a little bit."

Boys Lacrosse will face Loomis Chaffee (Loomis) on Saturday and St. Paul's next Wednesday.

Girls Lacrosse Secures Dominant Back-to-Back Wins to Stay Undefeated

TIGER WANG

FRIDAY 4/24	
Andover	10
Dexter	5
WEDNESDAY 4/29	
Andover	23
Dana Hall	10

Girls Lacrosse (11-0) defeated Dexter Southfield (Southfield) last Friday and Dana Hall on Wednesday.

Despite being seeded below

Southfield in the New England Lacrosse Journal's preseason ranking, Andover responded with a dominant victory. Considering this ranking, Autumn Christian '27 described the mentality the team embodied entering the game.

"Going into the game, the New England Lacrosse Journal preseason rankings had us below Southfield, which was interesting considering we beat them twice last year, once in the regular season and again in the Prep Cup. Given our early schedule against teams like [Governor's] and Noble and Greenough [(Nobles)], we felt we were in a great headspace. We knew that if we controlled what we could control, we'd be able to

win, and we did exactly that," said Christian.

Christian also highlighted the positive and supporting team environment from the bench that fueled the team's energy during the game. She pointed out Elizabeth Wodarski '27 as a key contributor to the team's vitality.

"The bench players are always so hype, and a lot of energy comes from them. Even in warm-ups, they make a huge difference. I have to shout out one of our Blue Key Heads, [Elizabeth], who always leads us in cheers and keeps the energy up. I think a big part of our success is just how much the girls get hyped, and that energy really transfers onto the field," said Christian.

The team's cohesion and chemistry were on full display in the match against Dana Hall. According to Christian, the team's collaboration and technical efficiency were standouts of their performance.

"A big part of that game was how well we connected. We've been working on getting a lot of touches, and we did a great job of finding different goal scorers and racking up assists. In fact, 17 of our 23 goals were assisted. In a 23-10 win, having over three-fourths of our scoring come off a pass is a huge achievement and shows how well we're playing together," said Christian.

As the team progresses into the second half of their sea-

son, Christian acknowledges the increasingly difficult games the team will soon face.

"We still have some pretty good competition left with games like Loomis [Chaffee (Loomis)] and the Prep Cup ahead. It can be hard for some to keep the intensity going mid-season, but if we can maintain our passing, our movement, and play at 100 percent all of the time, we'll be able to win these games and keep our momentum going," said Christian.

Girls Lacrosse will face Austin Preparatory School (Austin Prep) at home on Saturday.

Boys Crew Sweeps Hanover High in Cruising Victory

ATHREYA YEGNESWARAN

Boys Crew faced Hanover High School at home this past Saturday, sweeping all boats in a dominant performance.

Cyrus Emami '28 described the week's preparation ahead of the meet, noting that the team emphasized controlled, sustainable effort heading into race day. Rather than pushing at full intensity, the squad drilled at a measured pace to build a reliable rhythm before competition.

"The biggest focus was working at base race pace and keeping the pressure at a lower rate. We just wanted to make sure that we were consistent," said Emami.

Chris Lee '27 noted the high atmosphere despite the away race. He mentioned support from many different areas, like families, friends, and teammates, carrying the team through the race.

"It was exciting at some points, and at others, you just knew what was gonna happen. Families were there. Kids were there. The team-

mates were there, cheering on, and generally had a very positive attitude toward the entire ordeal," said Lee.

Beyond individual performances, Emami attributed the team's collective improvement to the environment rowers have built together.

"Our team environment and how everybody's elevating each other is making the team much better, much faster," said Emami.

Lee, now in his second year with the program, echoed that sentiment, observing

that while the talent level has remained strong, what sets this year's group apart is the camaraderie that has formed across the roster.

"Everybody's just happy to be there. The boats connect more with each other. It's an enjoyable experience where 50 or so people can come together and cheer each other on equally," said Lee.

Looking ahead, Lee noted that the team's focus remains on incremental improvement as the season builds towards its culminating races. He made it clear that consistency

in training, rather than any single breakthrough, would define the team's trajectory.

"Each week we spend is just a week spent preparing for the NEIRA Championships. Slowly fixing our technique, getting faster on the erg. Just showing up every day and putting down your best work while supporting each other," said Lee.

Boys Crew will race away at St. Paul's this Saturday.

Girls Crew Delivers Dominant Showing Against Hingham

AVIAD AWA

Girls Crew delivered a commanding performance against Hingham on Saturday, securing multiple first-place finishes with strong performances across the board.

Carsen Leach '27 reflected on the team's preparation, noting that despite missing a day of practice, it still effectively solidified its race-day lineup.

"We did have Monday off,

but I felt like that didn't really affect our rowing throughout the week. I remember our lineups were kind of changing. Coach [Kelly Evans] was switching them around throughout the week to test different seats. We ended up getting a feel for the new seats we weren't in before, which helped us learn new things and settle into skills we used during the race against Hingham," said Leach.

Leach highlighted coxswain Hanna Lisauskas '28,

whose strong callouts helped guide the boat to a first-place finish.

"It was the first time I've ever had her as a coxswain for one of my races, and she was very composed and collected. I really appreciated her calls. We had given her a whole plan the night before, the day before, and the morning of the race about the calls we wanted her to make, and she really stuck to it. She also added her own style, so it was very successful in that sense," said

Leach.

Coxswain Vivien Valckx '28 discussed the significance of the win as Girls Crew approaches the final stretch of the season, looking toward the New England Interscholastic Rowing Association (NEIRA) Championships.

"This win means a lot for the team because we've been racing a lot of really strong schools, and this is no exception. Hingham is a program that has been in the NEIRA league for a long time, and

they're very strong. This is a really good checkpoint and marker for us because we only have two more races before New England. It shows where we are and helps us prepare to perform well going forward, especially with another week without a Monday practice. It's a big motivator for everyone across all our boats," said Valckx.

Girls Crew will face St. Paul's on Saturday.

EXCEPTIONAL NEW TOWNHOMES



OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 1-3



OR, SCAN QR FOR A TOUR!

Welcome to Clubview Estates adjacent to Andover Country Club. Elegant New Townhomes with Exceptional Interior & Exterior Design Features in a Beautiful Tranquil Setting in Historic Andover - Far from the Crowds, but Close to the Best of New England.

Homes Priced from: 1.5M
Inquire about Club Membership Opportunities



CLUBVIEW ESTATES

at Andover Country Club

Spacious 2+ Bedroom 2.5 - 3.5 Baths with up to 3885 Sq. Ft. - 3 Level - 5 Stop Elevator Option - First Floor Primary Suite - Gourmet Kitchen - 2 Fireplaces - Living/Dining Room Great Room - Loft/Office - Deck and Patio 2 Car Garage - and Lower Level Walk-Out

Call Maura: (978) 809-5019
Visit: www.homesatandovercountryclub.com

BUILT & DEVELOPED BY: AWARD-WINNING YVON CORMIER CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

56 CENTRAL STREET, ANDOVER | *Steps from Phillips Academy & Downtown*



KARA ROSS
781.864.3929
KARA.ROSS@NEMOVES.COM



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Write for Sports!



dsiahaan27@andover.edu
mliu27@andover.edu
eney27@andover.edu
hzhang27@andover.edu





ARTS & LEISURE

The Phillipian, VOL. CXLIX



LOTW: Elisa Lee's '26 Styles Balances Familiarity and Bold Statements

DYLAN KANG

An off-the-shoulder striped top sits at the waist, its billowy sleeves moving as Elisa Lee '26 walks across campus. Paired with dark jeans and a belt, Lee's outfit emphasizes an effortless and intentional feel. Her style is built on familiarity rather than keeping up with trends.

Lee's wardrobe does not come from shopping trips or brand loyalty, but from a single, consistent source. Her style reflects both sustainability and a sense of personal history.

"I have a set place where all my clothes come from, and that is my mom's closet. I've been stealing clothes from her since freshman year onward. I've been leaning more into thrifting in general and looking for things while window shopping rather than having a set idea of what I

would want to buy," said Lee.

Lee's influence shapes the core of her style. Rather than shifting through trends, she always traces back to something personal. This grounding gives her outfits a sense of continuity.

"I would say my style is my mom's in college. I think [one] would imagine very 'Friends'-style clothing. My mom took heavy inspiration from Jennifer Aniston and Monica Geller, and it's very 90s," said Lee.

Instead of building outfits from basics, Lee focuses on pieces that stand out visually. Her approach prioritizes boldness and individuality over simplicity.

"Rather than going for basics, I tend to look for statement pieces. Statement pieces are a lot more fun to shop for, and I think basics are quite basic, so why not go all out rather than trying to keep it nonchalant," said Lee.

Lee's friend, Alyssa Schoonmaker '26, sees her style

as cohesive while still standing apart from others on campus.

"Elisa's style is very Bohemian. I know she takes a lot of clothes from her mom's closet, and she describes it as her own personalized thrift store. Her style is very flowy. Her clothes are very patterned, all of them, and she uses a lot of stripes in her style every day," said Schoonmaker.

Specific details in Lee's outfits contribute to this unique style. From textures to silhouettes, her clothing draws attention. These details emphasize her preference for non-traditional elements.

"Her style is very non-traditional. She uses a lot of quarter sleeves. Her tops are usually studded with jewels or sparkly things or tie-dye that really catches your eye," said Schoonmaker.

Lee's current style marks a clear shift from her previous 'tomboyish' dress. Earlier, her outfits leaned more toward comfort and simplicity than self-expression.

"I used to wear things that I thought were very tomboyish and cool. I used to wear Adam Sandler fits a lot, basketball shorts, and oversized T-shirts," said Lee.

Accessories play a consistent role in tying Lee's outfits together. Her use of jewelry adds both visual detail and continuity across different looks. These pieces unify her outfits and contribute to her overall aesthetic.

"I always wear rings. I like to have at least three rings all the time because I think they're cool and dandy. I always wear a necklace, usually on the chunkier side," said Lee.

Lee has particular memories associated with her pieces. These details add another layer to how her style is constructed.

"Every piece I have is associated with very precious memories. My necklace was from a gala for conservation, and I have another one that I got with my friends in Portugal. Every piece of jewelry is associated with something very precious," said Lee.



JEREMIAH NUÑEZ/THE PHILLIPIAN



JEREMIAH NUÑEZ/THE PHILLIPIAN

Lee '26 showcases her rings and necklace.



JEREMIAH NUÑEZ/THE PHILLIPIAN

Dancers Bring Energy and Vibrancy to Andover Dance Festival

RAMSEY SARKISIAN

The Pan Athletic Center (Pan)'s Christina A. Rubio Studio was packed this Friday and Saturday night for the Spring Andover Dance Festival (ADF). From ballet to hip-hop, dancers shined with energy and passion for an enthusiastic full house both showtimes.

The show opened with a fiery collaboration between a Fanfare Festival Orchestra chamber group and Sophia Zhan '28, who performed Johannes Brahms's "Hungarian Dance No. 5." Accompanied by Zhan's energetic ballet piece, which she choreographed herself, the show started off briskly and dynamically. Zhan spoke about her experience preparing for the show.

"For [the] Hungarian Dance we actually started preparing... during spring break. The musicians rehearsed every week coming back from school and I created the choreography. I watched a lot of Hungarian dance and character dance videos. I also spent a lot of time at home figuring things out. Then, we rehearsed two times together in John Barry Hall to do it with the music. When we came together it was really seamless... and the musicians were amazing," said Zhan.

Zhan also performed a sequel to Winter ADF's "Pas de Canard" with Breanna Ren '29, Jia-Yi Zhi '29, and Sophia Zhang '29 in the third act of the performance. In the Winter, they performed a parody of the Dance of the Cygnets from Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake," and decided to do a parody of the Dance of the Big Swans this term, this time incorporating more relatable elements to engage the audience.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO/THE PHILLIPIAN

Adelyne Liu '28 performs as part of Blue Strut during the Andover Dance Festival.

"Honestly, last Winter ADF, our dance wasn't super exciting for people, because maybe they didn't really understand that Swan Lake reference. So, this year, we were inspired by the movie 'Leap' and the battle scene. We thought that it would be cute to include and... [it] would be more relatable to the audience. We are really glad that that worked out because a lot of people came up to us after the show and said, 'I know this movie'... It's always really fun because the mistakes actually get woven into the choreography," said Zhan.

The performance was split up into three sections, and the first section also included performances from Footnotes, The Mortnettes, and performers like Adelyne Liu '28 and Isabella Huang '28. Audience member Annie Master-

son '27 spoke about which acts she enjoyed, and specifically mentioned Liu and Huang's piece.

"I loved the Zara Larsson [piece]. I loved that one because of the high energy and the vibe. The outfits were really good, and they both did such an incredible job... I preferred the dance styles I saw at ADF, and I felt like they connected with the audience more through the energy in the choreography," said Masterson.

The second act of the performance included clubs like the Martial Arts Club, Photon, SLAM, and the Asian Performing Arts Club (APAC). A Co-Head of APAC, Kaya Hurteau '27, spoke about her experience performing and the connection she felt with the other members of APAC.

"I only joined the board

and where the whole group had improved. It was also just really fun because, for Grasshopper and Winter ADF, the group was still coming together. I feel like we all know each other really well now, so when we perform together, it's not just a casual performance. You can feel more of a connection with the other performers," said Hurteau.

For many clubs, Spring ADF is one of the Seniors' last chances to perform. Hurteau spoke about how the atmosphere of Spring ADF differed from other performances because of its placement at the end of the year.

"Especially because it's the last big dance performance of the year for the clubs... a lot of the Seniors were really giving it their all. Usually in the spring people really want to put everything in it because it's the last thing that you get to do for dance in the year. Also, we want to give a nice send off to our Seniors. People have more positive vibes in the spring. This was definitely one of my favorite APAC performances," said Hurteau.

View a full gallery of every act of this year's Andover Dance Festival.



Dancers Bring Energy and Vibrancy to Andover Dance Festival



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO / THE PHILLIPIAN

SLAM continues their tradition of performing annually.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO / THE PHILLIPIAN

Soleil Williams '27 poses at the end of Fusion's performance.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO / THE PHILLIPIAN

Chloe Nichols '27 (center) and Shannon Chisholm '29 (right) demonstrated their skills for the Andover Martial Arts Club.



AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO / THE PHILLIPIAN

Isabella Huang '28 and Adelyne Liu '28 perform as a duet.

Earth Festival Ignites Music, Community, and Climate Celebration

OLIVIA TEMPLE

In honor of Earth Day, the Phillips Academy Sustainability Coalition (PASC) held a festival full of music and talent on Friday to celebrate. Held indoors this year in Lower Right of Paresky Commons, several music performances, from solo piano riffs to bands, were featured.

Performer Nathan Ramani '27 described that the festival had last-minute obstacles to overcome. Just thirty minutes before performing, Fidelio and Chorus lost a conductor and asked Bruce Ru '28 to conduct their piece. Prior to their performance, the two vocal groups did not practice the piece together.

"Even if we just did it once all together before going up, we would have been super

comfortable and everyone would just be able to focus on making music, not making music at the exact right tempo, etc. But more than that, it's really important that everyone cares about the song, understands the significance of it... Given our circumstances, we did really well. What this performance demonstrated, that some of our other ones haven't, is we are all capable of singing things, learning a new piece in a short amount of time, and we're able to adapt quickly to new situations and work on a very short timeline and still make great music and have fun together," said Ramani.

Regardless of the pressure and unexpected changes in plans, Ru recognized the work done by the chorus groups.

"Fidelio did very well today. They put together that song fairly last minute. They

are very committed to all sorts of events on campus. There's a chorus concert every event, but they make their way to many, many events, throughout the year. I respect that. They are great musicians, but they also make an impact on campus and I really respect that they're doing that here today as well," said Ru.

After the performance, Ramani described the sense of community within Fidelio despite the last minute challenges.

"[Fidelio and Chorus are] definitely some of the most welcoming communities on campus. Every time you step into that room, it feels like everyone there is just trying to have a good time and have fun. In a lot of popular media, music can be often displayed as a very stressful experience, and no doubt it can be a stressful experience depending on the

circumstances. But in both Fidelio and Chorus, what we really try to do is make singing about the joy instead of just the stress. Dr. [Abbey] Siegfried, our conductor, plays a really big part in making us all feel welcomed and valued in that experience, in that community," said Ramani.

Performing for the first time, the Ampersands played "Go Away" by Weezer. Band member Reina Hisada '28 explained the sense of community built throughout the preparation process.

"[My favorite] moments during practice are when we have a silly mishap. There was one point on our Thursday practice where five different things were happening at once as people were either taking a break and doing something else, or just doing something silly on the piano. Those moments are really fun

to just be friends instead of super formal, we have to do this. It's that kind of energetic vibes," said Hisada.

Playing for the band Goose and Moose, drummer Cameron Butler '28 performed "Sunday Morning" by Maroon 5.

"It was fun. The energy was there. Vibes were good. People seemed to have a good time. The band was having a good time. So all around, good performance. Zach [Yuan '27] took a really awesome solo on alto saxophone. He usually doesn't solo on this song, but we said at the last minute to give him a solo, and it was a really fun, really good solo. Playing music is always a collaboration for us. We're constantly reacting to each other, feeding off of each other's energies. So just anything we play is always collaborative by nature," said Butler.

Art and Activism: Equal Earth's Anthology of Environmental Art

JIA-YI ZHI

Equal Earth, an environmental storytelling group founded and led by Linda de Boer '27, hosted an exhibition showcasing student artists in collaboration with the Andover Youth Climate Summit this past Sunday, featuring keynote speaker and documentarian Anna Miller. Set outside Kemper Auditorium and the Underwood Room, where the Summit took place, the Earth Month Exhibit featured poetry, prose, pottery, prints, photography, sculptures, and mixed media.

De Boer contributed a sculpture titled "Ocean": a female figure wearing a deep blue, structured dress shaped like a splash of water and adorned with pearls. She explained the decision to pair the exhibit with the Youth Climate Summit.

"We were thinking of putting [the exhibit] at the end of April anyway, and then we noticed that the summit was this weekend. Having another

environmental artist being the focus of the summit was a really good coincidence... The theme was environmental narratives, and that can be anything from a critique about climate change, like an essay to a food recipe about a sustainable meal to a sculpture or art piece representing the ocean. It's just any kind of way in which the artist engages with nature or climate issues," said de Boer.

Phillips Academy Sustainability Coalition (PASC) board member Anastasie Sycheva '29, who submitted a set of linocut prints titled "Let Yourself Grow," detailed the process of sourcing artwork and the challenges the club encountered.

"We've been hosting meetings throughout the year talking about this collection of artwork that is going to be, starting on April 26, displayed in the Kemper Gallery near the Underwood Room... We talked about books like 'The Parable of the Sower' by Octavia Butler and how that is very deeply rooted in climate

storytelling. We also talked about lighter topics like Claude Monet's paintings, which capture the essence of nature... We reached out to a few different schools and their environmental clubs, their writing clubs, their art clubs, [and more.] Unfortunately, that was actually a challenge. We reached out to so many schools, and none of them really responded. In the end, our exhibition only consisted of Andover students' work," said Sycheva.

Breanna Ren '29 submitted a visual art piece entitled "Synthetic Impressionism," consisting of two renderings of Van Gogh's "Sunflowers," one in watercolor and one in marker, side by side and covered by psychedelically colored pipe cleaner flowers. She discussed her personal connection to the exhibition and her intended message.

"I was asked by one of the board members to create a piece that related to environmental sustainability... [Synthetic Impressionism] deals with the fact that Van

Gogh preserved the beauty of the sunflowers through the art of painting, while, in the modern day, we achieve the preservation of these flowers through plastic. It's the clash of two forever, one being remembrance through history, the other being that they will never leave the earth, as it's plastic... Something I want audiences to take away from this is that we can express our opinions through mediums that aren't necessarily writing or speech, like visual arts, dance, photography," said Ren.

Sophia Zhan '28, who attended the exhibition over the long weekend, offered her interpretation of Ren's work.

"I thought [Synthetic Impressionism] was a very cross-cultural and also anachronistic combination of two art styles. I really like how sunflowers are something that I usually see as being very happy. I thought it was a very creative idea to put both 3D expression, in the form of pipe cleaners, which is something more modern, with Van

Gogh's Impressionist style, and the style was mimicked very well. You can clearly see that they're trying to compare the two," said Zhan.

De Boer emphasized the exhibit's broader purpose to the student body.

"I really hope people will think about how connected we are with the environment because oftentimes we like to isolate ourselves and say that climate change and addressing climate issues [are] not related to humans or that it's far off in the future... But climate change has huge impacts on humans in the form of ruining our homes, forcing us to move, and threatening our health.

And so I really hope that by seeing the art that students have made relating to climate change and nature, people can realize how closely connected we are to nature and really think about how climate change has such big effects on us as humans," said de Boer.

The Super Mario Galaxy Movie: A Fun Ride that Falls Short on Screen

CHARLIZE SOW

After the release of “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” the second-highest-grossing film of 2023, expectations for a follow-up were high. “The Super Mario Galaxy Movie,” however, has drawn a mixed critical response; after watching it, it is clear why there are mixed reactions. For longtime Nintendo fans, the film is a delightful tribute, packed with Easter eggs, callbacks, and familiar characters that live up to the grandeur of the franchise. By the standards of cinematic storytelling, though, it fell short.

Based on the 2007 Wii game, the film follows Mario and his brother Luigi as they travel across a series of planets in pursuit of stolen power stars. Along the way, they encounter characters like Rosalina and her companions—the Lumas—while fighting against Bowser and his son, Bowser Jr.

Visually, the film is at its strongest when Mario and Luigi land on a new planet or step into a new environment. The animators did a great job



NATHAN WU/THE PHILLIPIAN

translating the game’s vibrant worlds into the movie, and

each new planet felt like a distinct environment, keeping

As for the voice cast, the producers did an exceptional

job. Chris Pratt (Mario) and Charlie Day (Luigi) brought a familiar warmth to their characters, while Jack Black fully delivered as Bowser, where his sense of comedy became a strong asset to the movie. The film also made room for surprise appearances from across Nintendo’s broader catalog. Seeing characters like Yoshi, a green dinosaur companion associated with Mario, created moments of genuine fun. However, these fun surprises also reveal one of the film’s underlying issues: the film often relies on the audience’s affection towards the characters and the franchise to carry the plot that, on its own merits, lacks substance.

Overall, for Mario fans, “The Super Mario Galaxy Movie” delivered exactly what it promised: a vibrant return to a beloved universe. For viewers approaching it as a film first, the experience is less satisfying, with hurried storytelling and plot points that never quite land. Both reactions are valid. The film is genuinely fun, but by the measures of great cinema, it is disappointingly less than what it could have been.

A Celebration of Tradition and Culture: South Asian Society’s Mock Indian Wedding

HAYLEY FAN & ELIZABETH QIN

Lively music, bright colors, and an abundance of cultural activities and learning transformed Underwood and the Elson Courtyard into a lively mock Indian wedding. Organized by the South Asian Society (SAS) and funded by an Abbot Grant, this event offered attendees an engaging way to experience South Asian culture.

Mock weddings are often held to demonstrate cultural traditions and bring communities together. Anish Kumar ’28, the groom in the wedding, shared SAS’s inspiration behind this event.

“Last year, the ASA (African Student Association) hosted a mock African wedding, and SAS took inspiration off of that. We’re trying to show different wedding cultures. We’ve seen African,

now we’re showing Indian. Today, Rachel [Levitzky ’28] and I are getting mock-married,” said Kumar.

The event featured multiple performances and activities, including henna and traditional dance performances. SAS provided many cultural dishes, including Gulab Jaman, a sweet dessert, and Shahi Paneer, a creamy, aromatic North Indian curry. Although SAS strived to create an authentic South Asian wedding, Kaya Mangani ’27 described how the event deviated from tradition, yet still was an enjoyable experience for all attendees.

“We deviated from a traditional Indian wedding in the sense that, first off, for a typical Indian Hindu wedding, [there are] multiple days and multiple ceremonies culminating in the actual wedding ceremony, which tends to be a lot of prayer and religious practices. So, in order to make it more inclusive and not re-

ally focus on the religious aspect... we decided to focus more on the dance and henna aspect of it. The bride and all of the bride’s side of the family come together to get their henna done, and there’s also the Sangeet night, which tends to be the day before the wedding, where all of the families perform. There’s a lot of fun dancing, a lot of fun music,” said Mangani.

The event was made possible by the Abbot Academy Grants. With the money given to SAS for the event, the board was able to hire performers, music, and catering for the wedding. At the same time, managing the budget and coordinating all of the guests and services became one of the greatest challenges when putting this event together. As a board member, Nishi Amin ’28 gave a behind-the-scenes look at the preparations for the mock wedding.

“The most challenging part of this wedding has definitely

been all of the planning. The main part of it was contacting all these different people who needed to come and help make this mock wedding possible. For example, the henna artist and getting a Bhangra group from MIT. We had to contact multiple people to find the cheapest, most affordable options because we are funding this through the Abbot Grant. And so we really wanted to make sure that we’re getting a proper use out of all our money. So we definitely needed to do a lot of emailing and texting back and forth with a bunch of people, and that took a lot of effort and energy,” said Amin.

For Mangani, the mock wedding was a way to share South Asian culture with the broader community in an accessible, engaging, and educational way. Beyond sharing traditions, the event reflected SAS’s broader mission to create a community where both South Asian and non-South

Asian people can connect with this culture.

“South Asian Society is a non-affinity club. So we’re trying to get everybody aware of what South Asian culture actually is, because even though we’re not as largely represented on campus. There are still a pretty significant number of students who identify as South Asian, and even those who don’t are still interested in the culture and what we do. So making it accessible to everyone is something we really try to do in this event. Making it free for entry, making it non-affinity, and then really advertising it as more of a fun [way to] learn about the culture. Connecting back to our mission of making it for everybody, making it fun for everybody, and just making it an overall educational experience about South Asian culture,” said Mangani.

WRITE FOR ARTS!

email:

wwei27@andover.edu

xzhang28@andover.edu



Lillian Montalto

SIGNATURE PROPERTIES INTERNATIONAL

Leading
REAL ESTATE COMPANIES
IN THE WORLD



LP LUXURY
PORTFOLIO
INTERNATIONAL



43 OXBOW CIRCLE, NORTH ANDOVER, MA

COMING SOON

4 2 F 1 H

- STUNNING COLONIAL WITH BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED YARD, BRIGHT EAT-IN KITCHEN, AND SPACIOUS LIVING ROOM
- LOCATED AT THE END OF A CUL-DE-SAC
- MOMENTS FROM RT-114 AND RT-28!

"Let me find you the perfect home while your children attend **Phillips Academy!**"
Proudly serving the **Andovers** for over **40 years!**

2 POWDER MILL SQUARE, U2B
ANDOVER, MA 01810



OPEN HOUSE
THURS 4/30 + FRI 5/1
3:30-5PM

\$769,900

3 2 F 1 H 2,425

SPACIOUS TOWNHOME WITH PRICE IMPROVEMENT

- SOARING CATHEDRAL CEILINGS AND OVERSIZED DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOWS
- 2-CAR TANDEM GARAGE
- IN-UNIT LAUNDRY
- MINUTES TO DOWNTOWN ANDOVER, SHOPS, DINING, AND THE TRAIN
- 1.5 MILES FROM PHILLIPS ACADEMY

15 GENEVA ROAD
ANDOVER, MA 01810



OPEN HOUSE
SUN 5/3 • 1-3PM

\$2,399,000

5 3 F 1 H 5,187

NEW PRICE ON THIS STUNNING WATERFRONT HOME!

- STUNNING COLONIAL PERCHED ON PENINSULA WITH BREATHTAKING VIEWS OF HAGGETTS POND
- 2-CAR GARAGE AND AMPLE PARKING
- RECENTLY UPDATED, EAT-IN CHEF'S KITCHEN
- FINISHED LOWER LEVEL OFFERS SPACIOUS FLEX AREA

2 PUNCHARD AVE, U3
ANDOVER, MA 01810



\$10,500/mo

3 3 F 1,913

SHORT OR LONG TERM PENTHOUSE RENTAL IN DOWNTOWN ANDOVER

- 2 BLOCKS FROM PHILLIPS ACADEMY
- LIVE RIGHT IN THE CENTER OF TOWN!
- PRIVATE ELEVATOR AND 2 BALCONIES
- CLOSE TO EVERYTHING YOU COULD POSSIBLY NEED IN DOWNTOWN ANDOVER!

BUYERS



SCAN TO FIND YOUR DREAM HOME!

Lillian.AndoverHomes.com

Call Listing Agent,
Lillian Montalto today!

978.662.9700



SCAN TO VIEW YOUR HOME'S VALUE!

Lillian.AndoverHomes.com/Seller

SELLERS

32 Park Street, Andover, MA • 978.475.1400 • WeGetHomesSold.com • We're Local, We're Global!