

Lorant Fellow Margot Furman '25 Works with Candle of Grace to Help Displaced Ukrainian Children



Margot Furman '25 presented the culmination of her work in Ireland with Ukrainian Children as a Lorant Fellow at All-School Meeting.

PHILIP JEONG & EVELYN MARSHALL

Granted the Lorant fellowship for “most earnest endeavor,” Margot Furman '25 took the stage during last Friday’s All-School Meeting (ASM) to share her experiences as a volunteer supporting Ukrainian refugees. She spoke about her work with displaced children, the challenges they face, and the sense of purpose she found in creating a safe, welcoming space for them during a time of upheaval.

Furman’s fellowship took her to Ireland, where she volunteered with Candle of Grace, an organization supporting Ukrainian women and children fleeing the ongoing conflict. Mainly involving programs for young children who had lost their homes, Furman focused on helping

them find stability in this difficult transition. She emphasized the importance of making a difference within one’s own community.

“My biggest takeaway from the Lorant [Fellowship], even though I did go abroad, is that you can make an impact wherever you land. The idea of thinking globally but acting locally. There is always something you can do in your local community that can help so many other people. In Ireland, Lily and the organization Candle of Grace acted for people in their local community and created such a great community there. But, of course, their impact was spread all across the world and still is,” said Furman.

During her speech, Furman shared that this experience transformed her understanding of what ‘home’ could mean, a theme that was central to her speech.

“I learned that home is cre-

ated through the compassion and connections that we find and share along the way. It’s where family and love thrive, even in the most challenging of times. Helping these children feel warmth, love, and compassion gave me an echo of the sunshiny feeling they remembered from Ukraine,” said Furman in her ASM presentation.

Furman recalled teaching the children songs on the ukulele. At the end of their three weeks together, they performed a song entitled “Obijmy,” which translates from Ukrainian to “Hug Me.” Jonathan Oh '27 shared how this music performance exemplified his vision of compassion and feeling at home in Andover.

Continued on A5, Column 1

Recap: Fall Trustee Weekend 2024

LOUISA CARTER

Occurring simultaneously with Andover/Exeter (A/E) weekend, the Board of Trustees gathered from November 8 to November 9 for the 2024 Fall Trustee weekend. The weekend’s agenda focused specifically on student wellness and the Trustees were also joined by the Andover Development Board (ADB), a group of alumni who stay closely connected to the school.

Amy Falls '89, P '19, '21, President of the Board of Trustees, outlined the Trustees’ principal objectives over the weekend. She also described how student well-being, teaching and faculty, and financial sustainability are all evaluated to continue pursuing excellence for Andover.

Falls said, “Primary goals this Fall term were to review some of the larger long-term planning exercises that are happening on campus, maybe known as road-mapping exercises. It has been a comprehensive effort led by [Head of School] Dr. [Raynard] Kington to look at, broadly, how we sustain excellence. It has a lot to do with a particular focus on teaching and the faculty on student well-being and then on financial sustainability. Those are the three big buckets.”

As well as discussing and meeting amongst themselves, the Trustees and the ADB also met with multiple student groups on Saturday to discuss mental health on campus. According to Julia LaMarche '25, Co-Head of Students in Medicine, students from health-related groups had one-on-one conversations with Trustees about student well-being.

“The [Trustees met with the] Student Wellness Collaborative, which is made up of

the leaders of all the health clubs on campus: Students in Medicine, Self Care Bears, Yes+, Active Minds, along with the [Empathy, Balance, and Inclusion] Uppers and Seniors,” said LaMarche.

LaMarche continued, “This whole meeting was designed to talk about health at Andover. So each of the students was assigned a table in [Parsky] Commons with about ten or 12 board members, and they asked us questions about health, questions about our experience at Andover, and stuff like that.”

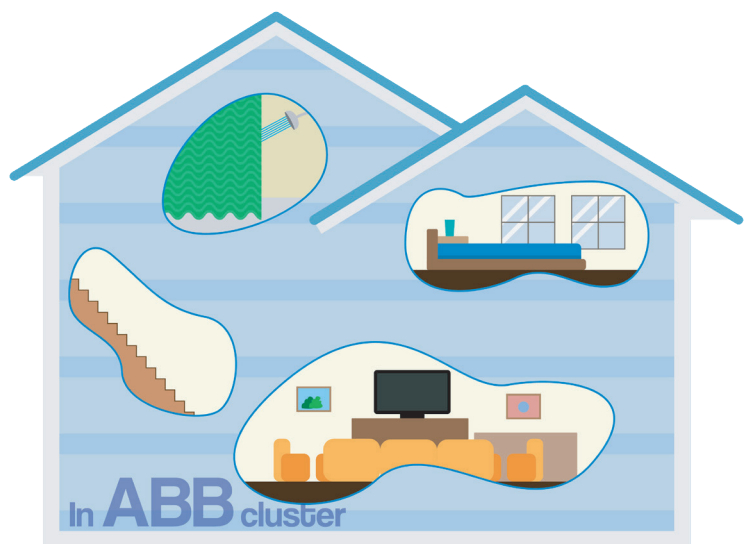
According to LaMarche, the Trustees were specifically curious about the Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center counseling resources, the cell phone task force, and nutrition. The conversations allowed students and board members to connect. However, LaMarche said she does not yet know of any changes that will be implemented as a result of this dialogue.

Additionally, the Trustees met with Nick Zufelt, Instructor in Computer Science, and multiple students to discuss the future of the computer science curriculum. Pragnu Seth '25 noted that the meeting focused on artificial intelligence (AI) usage in the classroom.

“For the computer science event, Dr. Zufelt invited students with varying levels of computer science experience at the school. For example, I was a new Upper but some of the students have been here since [Junior] year and the only computer science class they took was in the fall of their Freshman year. I think that really showcases the breadth of the experience that the student body has,” said

Continued on A5, Column 3

Architects Meet With Students in Prospective Dorm Building Project



J. XIAO/THE PHILLIPIAN

IAN S. KIM & NIKI TAVAKOLI

Perkins & Will architects started the process of designing new dorms during a meeting with Cluster Council representatives on Friday, November 1. The project includes the construction of a quad located behind Graves Hall, capable of housing 120 to 160 students in three to four dorms.

Instead of expanding Andover’s student body, the new quad would enable students to transition out of the smaller Abbot dorms, which could then be repurposed as faculty housing. The motive behind this change is to reduce the strain on faculty by consolidating housing, as each dorm is required to have at least one resident faculty member. Alberto Agudo Dieguez PG'25 elaborated on the architects’ objectives.

“The plan that they have is expanding the Abbot cam-

pus to take away the smaller dorms, the ones that are five, four people, and merge those dorms. Those [new] dorms wouldn’t be more capacity for the school, they would just be larger dorms which require less faculty to be run... the smaller dorms are much more heavy for faculty to run. Because you need more people, more faculty per student ratio,” said Agudo Dieguez.

Though architects have already begun gathering ideas, the project is still in an early stage. Tracy Sweet, Chief Communications Officer, described the many factors going into determining the feasibility of the dorms’ construction.

“It’s critical to note that the project itself has not gotten the green light from the Board of Trustees. Everything is preliminary and based on draft plans that could change. Part of the planning includes

Continued on A5, Column 4

Andover Honors Congressman Seth W. Moulton '97 and Captain Hunter Washburn '00 at 15th Annual Veterans Day Program



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

The Veterans Day Program this year consisted of a conversation with U.S. Congressman Seth W. Moulton '97, a keynote address delivered by Captain Hunter D. Washburn '00, and a dinner.

STAFF REPORT

Andover students, faculty, and alumni gathered for the 15th Annual Veteran’s Day Program, hosted by the Office of Alumni Engagement and the Andover and the Military (AATM) committee on November 7. The evening was split into two parts and sought to highlight Andover’s legacy of public service.

The first part of the program was a conversation with the U.S. Congressman Seth W. Moulton '97, Marine Corps Veteran and Representative for Massachusetts’s 6th Regional District. During the conversation, Moulton detailed his journey to becoming a Marine Corps Officer and eventually a House Representative. Jaewon Choi '28’s grandfather was a veteran in the Korean and Vietnam War.

With his personal connection, Choi his general takeaways from the conversation.

“This is a very important time, at least for the democracy inside the United States, and I feel that this opportunity is a very distinct opportunity because Andover shares an array of great alumni that have served for its country, both in the military and for public service. [I learned] more about how this sense of non sibi extends beyond just our time here. I learned that we have so many great alumni who have sacrificed a lot for this country and their own respective countries, serving the military and for public service,” said Choi.

Katja Latva-Kokko '26 expressed her appreciation for the chance to exchange questions with Moulton in person. As a day student living in Andover, Latva-Kokko highlighted her unique connections

with Congressman Moulton and spoke on the importance of having such conversations in especially polarizing times.

“Hearing Seth Moulton talk about his policies and also about the state of democracy was really eye-opening and also kind of soothing to some of our worried Democratic students... The most meaningful part [of the conversation] for me was having the opportunity to ask basically anything our representative and to get an open and honest answer, even if it wasn’t something that I necessarily agreed with like one of his policies. But it felt good to know that I have a personal connection to the people that are representing us,” said Latva-Kokko.

Continued on A5, Column 1

Commentary, A2

On Competition Clubs

Philip Meng '26, Ishaan Padmawar '26, and Suvir Virmani '25 cover how Andover has dealt with recent competition clubs, specifically DECA.

Eighth Page, A10

LOTW: Charles Vest

“Walk, walk, fashion baby.”

Sports, B1

PAFH Goes for Gold

This week Girls Field Hockey ended their regular season with a win against Exeter and then beating Milton in their first playoff game.

Arts, B6

Alum Band Concert

Read about The Rippers, featuring Sam August '10, and their interactive performance this past Saturday in Susie’s.

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Editorial

The Flash of a Camera

Pep Rally at Andover is a moment of exhilaration and anticipation. As we gather behind the teams representing us, dress ourselves in blue and white, and cheer with all our hearts, there is an electricity in the air that is hard to describe. While the unexpected flash of a camera can sometimes feel like a pull out of the moment, the filming of an Andover Admissions video at Pep Rally revealed something more: a common desire among students to share these experiences beyond the school community. Despite the sudden presence of the cameras and an unexpected intermission to cheer for a social media post, there is still a part of us that finds value in expressing school spirit and our genuine excitement during these times of school-wide unity.

Whether it be the new Andover Admissions Instagram reel posted after each school event or the slew of videos posted on the Phillips Academy YouTube channel, Andover's official social media presence serves as a channel to the outside world. In many ways, social media is the most efficient and accessible method through which Andover can offer others a glimpse into its offerings and opportunities. Like any other school of its caliber and prestige, Andover takes care to cultivate. Although students might see this outward-facing content as “fake” or “staged,” the purpose of these videos is not to create a false image of Andover, but rather to capture the spirit that can draw those from outside the community in. It can be hard to encapsulate the vivid emotions that we feel during intimate conversations with our roommate in our dorms, the excitement when we score well on a math test, or the anticipation we feel as we work up the courage to ask our crush to the Abbot dance. These experiences are personal and private, anyway. But because the genuine joy and energy that enlivens the campus in times of celebration or competition are much easier to be captured in a video or described in a post, these moments are often the ones that make an appearance on social media in order to give people unfamiliar with Andover a snippet of what true Andover life is like.

Although the process of filming or posing for social media content can feel superficial at times, at its core, the footage and photos on Andover's social media pages are rooted in authenticity. At Pep Rally, we did not attend with the knowledge that an Admissions video would be filmed. However, even with the spontaneous videoing and directions on how to cheer for the camera, our excitement wasn't manufactured purely for the cameraman —

it was organic, stemming in our pride for Andover. Similarly, pictures of students on the lawn, in class, or on the field may seem, and often can be, posed, but nevertheless they embody an essence of Andover that exists beyond the scope of the image, video, or social media post.

Furthermore, it's important for us to remember that most viewers of Andover's social media pages are people who are not direct members of our community, including prospective students. These people are looking to get a sense of what Andover is really like beyond the statistics and numbers that can be found online. They don't want to watch a student or administrator sitting in front of a camera, reading a generic script that describes their love for Andover's community and people, but rather to see the community and people in a candid way for themselves. They want to understand what makes Andover's community so special, and an event like the Pep Rally embodies just that. Even though these instances seem like a regular part of our lives here, these colorful glimpses of school spirit and enthusiasm can make all the difference for students on the verge of applying.

As students, once we've settled into the environment at Andover and the dazzle of novelty wears into the familiar, it's inevitable that we will come to know all the facets of Andover, good and bad. Stress, heavy workloads, late nights and all-nighters are realities of student life here in Andover. But so are the blue and white 'A's we paint on our faces for Andover/Exeter (A/E), so are the close friendships we form through screaming our lungs out in the bleachers together, so are the pride and reverence gleaming on our faces when our teams win a game. Yes, these scenes are often showcased on social media, but that doesn't make their emotional significance any less genuine. Despite the fact that they may feel manufactured, they are made possible only because of our intrinsic enthusiasm. In fact, these moments can serve as crucial touchstones, the experiences we look back on when the days are tough and the burdens heavy. They're heartwarming reminders of why we came to Andover and why we choose to stay here through the highs and lows: for the energy before A/E, for the people that make Andover a second home, for our shared love of this place and all that it has become for us.

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Fighting to Own the Positivities

MELODY OH



S. VIRMANI / THE PHILLIPIAN

My fight for positivity began last year, when I realized that the frequency of my complaints surpassed the number of cheerful remarks I spoke. As with any other teenager, I shared with my friends how tired I was from homework, my frustration for a project that hadn't been going well, or my occasional longings for school breaks. I needed to establish that I wasn't the only one who was feeling tired and hearing assurances from my friends strengthened a sense of connection and validation. However, a guilt festered in the corner of my mind. By revealing my negativities to my friends, I worried that I was contaminating our relationship, tainting and weighing down my friends with my complaints. While feeling a natural desire to vent out my worries, I hypocritically didn't want to be the person who brought other people's moods down in a conversation. After all, I wanted to be likable and capable of supporting my friends with a healthy, constructive mind.

I reflected on my days, trying to figure out if I was actually living such a pathetic life, only to

find out that I had as many, and maybe more, moments of happiness and satisfaction as disappointments or fatigue. When the weather was gloomy, Paresky Commons decided to serve my comfort food. When my English essay didn't turn out great, I had an exceptionally enjoyable class in Latin, smoothly translating a piece of passage that I would have struggled with a few weeks ago. So, instead of beginning my conversation with “Oh, the weather is drowning my energy,” I could've said, “The menu from Commons looks great today.” When asked how my day was, I could've talked about both my English essay and my Latin class.

Of course, it's important to acknowledge the negative emotions so that they don't pile up into an uncontrollable burden in your heart. My problem was that I decided to own even less of the positives than the negatives in my life. Being at Andover suddenly introduced me to a greater workload and pressure to be better, which made me develop a habit of relieving stress by complaining and indulging

myself in self-pity. I witnessed other students doing the same — I often comforted a burdened friend more than rejoicing with them for their happiness. However, the more I thought about my concerns, my mind began cherry-picking the negatives and glossing over the fact that I was pretty happy. Why not celebrate being happy? Why should I bring myself down with ineffectual cynicism? Considering the energy it

takes to dwell on pointless emotions, it seemed more reasonable to save the energy for making actual progress.

Little by little, I tried to scout for the simple things that I could appreciate daily. Every morning, I looked up at the sky to see if I could comment on the sunny weather. When the weather didn't cooperate, I traced back to parts in my classes, sports, or orchestra rehearsals that I had en-

joyed subconsciously. When there weren't special moments to take note of in my day, I perused the Weekender to find any events I could look forward to.

Gradually, I found myself transforming. As months passed, it felt easier to find the positives in my days, and my appreciation became more specific than a general comment about the weather. I recognized that I enjoyed de-stressing by chatting with a friend from home or how I felt reinvigorated being an active member at my clubs. Although my initial strive to be positive stemmed from a desire to be likable to others, I realized that the real fruit of being positive lies in my relationship with myself. To be positive, I had to trust, recognize, and own the presence of the positives in my life. It granted me the muscles to exercise authority over determining whether my days were desirable and meaningful. I came to trust my resilience, always looking forward even at times of failure, because I appreciate my supportive friends, my family members, the education I'm receiving, and my life. Being positive equipped me with a core that supports me no matter how hard I fall. And all it took was a simple but proactive shift in focus on what I chose to cherish in my days.

NATHAN WU / THE PHILLIPIAN

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CORRECTIONS:

In the Sports Andover/Exeter spread, it should have been the 147th Fall Andover/Exeter. In the News spread “A Preview of the 2024-25 CaMD Scholars” Olivia Isacson's name was misspelled. The Phillipian regrets these errors.

The Privilege of Impersonal Politics

KEREN SONG

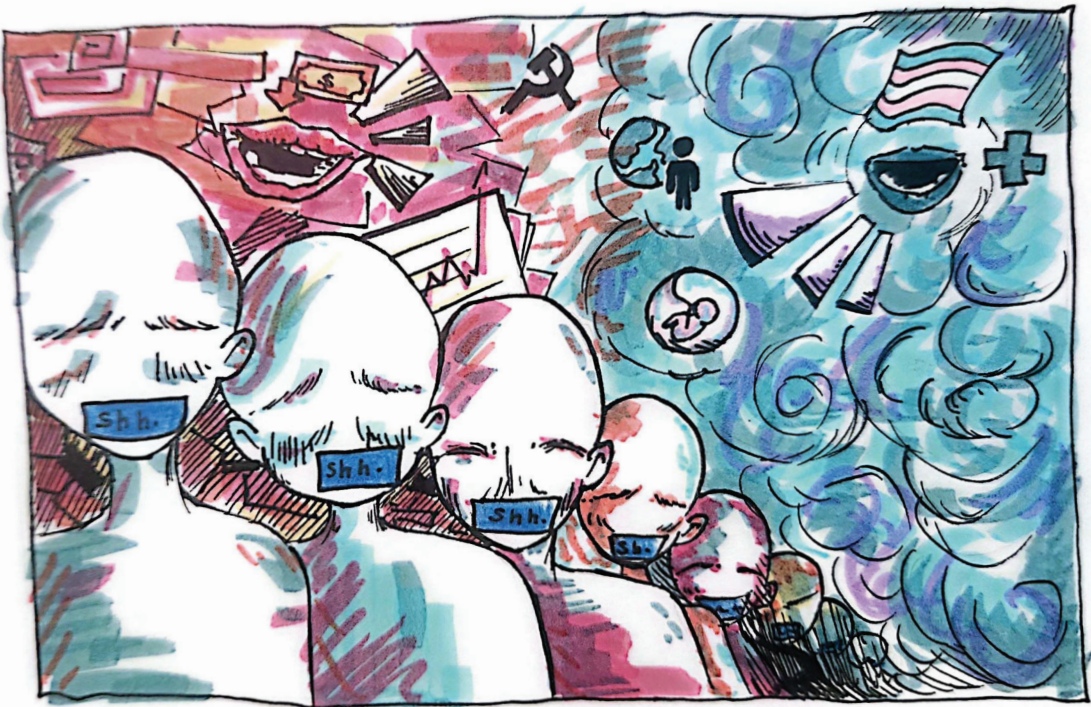


On October 28, an old man sitting on a bench tossed “those f**s” at me as ashes dangled off his cigarette. My cheeks grew hot with a familiar shame. On October 31, wearing a backpack with pride flag straps, I bumped into a teenager, in Downtown Andover, and he spat out, “f*****.” The word cut through the autumn air like a scalpel. On November 1, less than a week before the presidential election, the All-School Meeting (ASM) speaker emphasized, “You are not your politics.” I sat in the pews, light-headed and heavy-hearted. On November 5, nearing midnight, my friend in North Carolina called me, her hands smothering her face, sobbing, “I don’t know what I’ll do. They don’t want transgender people here, but I don’t know where I’ll go.” The following day, my All-Gender dorm wore mourning black on a pajama psych day. On November 7, in response to my Instagram story about relationships and how political beliefs now hold a direct relationship with identities, some texted “Grow up.” or “Looking at people differently because of politics is immature.” On November 8, at 2:00 a.m., I discovered a loved one of mine supported Donald Trump, information to which I replied with outrage and received the response, “It’s

nothing personal. It’s just politics.”

The school is endorsing the popular argument that identity should be removed from political discussions through ASMs and the lack of direct addresses regarding the recent election results. The emphasis on neutrality in the new Civil Discourse Policy, focused on the reputation of the school, neglects to sufficiently recognize the impact of the election and how the suppression of political discussions can influence the student psyche. Taking such a perspective is unhealthy and oppressive to the groups of people whose rights were at stake in this election. Being able to consider politics from an “impersonal” stance is a privilege that not everyone can afford.

The school’s first mistake was the timing of the “You are not your politics” ASM by Jane Coaston, more so than the message itself. In the late 1960s, the second wave of the feminist movement challenged the idea of traditional political categorization. As a result of the movement, people finally accepted moral and trivial experiences of women’s daily lives, such as domestic life, childcare, abortion, and division of household labor, as results of oppressive political systems. Their rallying slogan — “the personal is political” — defied the idea that the problems of women were contained to those individuals, but rather issues that society had to wrangle against with policies. This concept of oppression standing relevant beyond the group that is strictly oppressed seems to have faded into history in our community. Andover students have had to form their own groups, often in commiseration, to find spaces to discuss their fears about how their identities are targeted by the platforms presented in this election. Just as students were encouraged by



MIA WALKER / THE PHILLIPIAN

the school, larger discussions on how the elections may affect the rights of minority groups died down on campus or were limited to specific niches during a time in which students needed an outlet for healthy discourse to feel validated and supported. The people who are part of groups that will be affected the most by a change in the executive branch were framed to be unnecessarily argumentative or partial when they expressed opinions, justified with personal experiences and reasonable fears, about the election. The school may not have intended Coaston’s ASM to have such an impact, but in choosing a message like hers during a time like this, they implicitly allowed the removal of what may have been the last line of general support on campus for the students who were affected by this election the most. It is not my place to suggest what would have been the “correct” response; all I can offer is that the school’s response was nowhere near the best they could have done for me and my peers.

The school’s silence was poi-

son to the student body. The lack of responses to the growing tension leading up to the election led to rampant hate speech on campus against many groups, especially the queer population. Although I acknowledge that this example is an oversimplification of the issue at hand, it allows me to abuse the shock factor of a notorious word: I was the target of the f-slur last year at Andover, on campus and downtown, zero times. However, in the two weeks preceding the election, my pink backpack, with pride flag straps, an old thing I had owned and worn for years, got me the f-slur treatment six times on campus. Six times more than the entirety of last year. My peers at Andover have told me how sexualizing jokes, homophobic comments, and blatant transphobia have been thrust their way as the suspense grew in the student body leading up to the election. Yet, the school did nothing. I am by no means accusing the school of turning a complacent blind eye to these issues, but rather, I am arguing that their inaction in addressing the election’s

impacts on individuals allowed for these sentiments to fester on campus. The school sent out a list of spaces for meditation and calming activities after the election to cope with the results and the crash of anticipation, but escapism is a privilege that only the unaffected can take advantage of.

The school cannot give us radio silence for fear of controversy. We are teenagers going through a tumultuous time in our country’s history, confused and terrified by the polarization. Trembling at the potential loss of bodily autonomy and rights we took for granted, we were left in the dark to navigate a time of fear-mongering and hatred. One of the few clear messages received from the school was that we should remove our identities from politics. But do tell, how could I? It’s a privilege I never had.

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Prevailing over the Imposter in All of Us: Redefining Success and Self-Worth

MANALEE CHOWDHURY



As Andover students, we often find ourselves in a constant chase towards perfection, whether it’s taking difficult 5xx or 6xx courses, acing exams, excelling in sports, or leading extracurriculars — all while maintaining a vibrant social life. However, in our efforts to achieve our ambitions, many of us silently suffer from a pervasive “illness” here at Andover: Imposter syndrome. This widespread feeling of self-doubt and insufficiency is not just an individual struggle, but rather a collective issue that needs to be tackled directly.

Imposter syndrome manifests when one feels undeserving of their accomplishments, crediting success to luck or privilege instead of hard work. This trend has become especially common in teenagers who feel an overwhelming pressure to perform in all aspects of their lives. As Andover students, the moment that we receive our acceptance to this prestigious institution, we are immediately told that all our hard work during the application process paid off, that we are one of the special, even extraordinary, as an Andover student. Then we arrive at Andover, and what we were told is true: everyone who comes here is unique and talented, but the feeling of self-doubt slowly creeps in, tainting our high school experience. One bad test grade, one lost match, one

rigorous or confusing class is enough to trigger the onset of Imposter syndrome. Suddenly, we’re constantly questioning our worth, and our fear of being exposed as a fraud, of not being one of those special Andover students, becomes even more exacerbated. Eventually, we end up viewing progress as a step closer to our downfall (an honestly hyperbolic and exaggerated thought to think of at such an early stage in our lives). Furthermore, the looming idea of college applications and acceptances plagues our minds and with increasingly competitive college admissions and augmented use of social media, it’s no wonder that many of us see ourselves as shortcomings compared to the idealized versions of reality we are constantly being forced to face.

To escape these false realities, we should destigmatize the use of mental health resources and instead, encourage students to access and employ these resources to the fullest. Students often feel dissuaded from mental wellness resources because of the social stigma surrounding it. Many cultures value self-sufficiency and perseverance leading to a societal expectation that people should be able to manage their emotions or psychological well-being without outside assistance. Moreover, there is this fear of judgment where people worry about being perceived as weak, unstable, or incapable. Especially with Imposter syndrome, many believe that they are inherently flawed and that their struggles are self-caused. These beliefs can prevent them from reaching out for support as they feel ashamed or unworthy. However, seeking help should never be denounced but actually seen as a sign of courage and a decision made through healthy introspection. It’s essential to normalize community conversations around mental health topics

like Imposter syndrome and the dangers of developing inferiority complexes. Especially at a renowned institution like Andover where we’re constantly surrounded by talented and driven people, we need to recognize our own strengths and aim to cultivate an environment where healthy competition and growth is emphasized in every student’s mindset.

The Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center is the perfect place on campus for students to receive the support they need to help overcome their internal imposter. As Sykes says in their mission statement, they are “committed to practicing culturally-responsive care, providing a safe space for students to enhance their wellness, and guiding students in the development of proactive tools to be lifelong health advocates for themselves and those around them.” Their Psychological Services aims to serve the individual mental health needs of students while strengthening the psychological health and wellness of the Andover community. Students can meet counselors through scheduling an appointment by phone, email or simply walking in. There is always an on-call counselor for emergency counseling services, and furthermore, the occurrence and extent of routine counseling are solely based on the needs of the student. To build a healthier student body, we should lobby for and promote the usage of the resources at Sykes and work to destigmatize these negative preconceptions about mental health counseling.

Moreover, we need to redefine the meaning of success in our life outlook. Instead of striving for perfection, we should all celebrate progress in every form, no matter how small it is. When I first came to Andover, I was immediately challenged by the rigor of the physics course I’m taking; however, after consistently do-



SACI VEGSO / THE PHILLIPIAN

ing practice problems everyday for homework or classwork, it became easier gradually. I didn’t have to look back at my page full of equations because I had already memorized them after doing the problems so often. It was a step of progress that I didn’t even feel at first, but it helped me grow my love for physics even more. This experience taught me that every hurdle we overcome matters, regardless of how small it is. By setting smaller, more realistic goals as stepping stones towards our larger aspirations and taking the time to recognize our efforts, we can effectively combat the feelings of inadequacy that plague us. Success doesn’t happen overnight; it is found through diligence and resilience, making it all the more important to have self-confidence in order to tackle the obstacles and challenges that lie ahead of us.

Imposter syndrome reflects the pressures and struggles we all grapple with in today’s

world. Andover is an environment meant to test us at every turn, often outside of our control, but the choice to embrace these challenges and view them as a step closer to success rather than our downfall is completely ours to make. By confronting Imposter syndrome head-on together, we can dismantle the social stigma surrounding mental health issues and work together to form a supportive and understanding school community. Uplifting each other, celebrating achievements of all sizes, and acknowledging our worth are all instrumental to prevail over the “imposter” in all of us that attempts to destroy our sense of self-esteem. We are more than just grades or awards — we are all competent and tenacious individuals, deserving of success and happiness.

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The Academy Has Failed DECA

PHILIP MENG, ISHAAN
PADMAWAR, & SUVIR
VIRMANI

Last spring, Andover Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) club members dedicated sleepless nights and countless hours to qualify for the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) — the final round of the renowned business competition. The DECA competition consists of three rounds: Regionals, States, and Internationals. We progressed through regionals with financial backing from the school through an Abbot Grant. However, we faced a series of hurdles in the Massachusetts state round. The school informed us that attending States was only a possibility, not a guarantee, and when we asked the administration for confirmation to compete, they directed us to the Learning in the World (LITW) Office. They claimed that our request to compete in Boston over a week-end during Spring Break would be treated similarly to traveling internationally for weeks over break.

In our subsequent meeting with the LITW Office, the administration said that there wasn't time to process the request and that our faculty chaperones were unfit to supervise due to weak ties to DECA; a chaperone would need experience with the club. While the DECA team suggested an economics teacher, the school objected. Given the short turnaround time from regionals to states, we were left in a frenzied state. In three days, we rushed to prepare all the necessary materials for the progression. We returned to the LITW Office, who informed us they would discuss the proposal with the larger administrative committee. A week later, the committee announced that our proposal was rejected.

Having already paid the down payments for the hotel, DECA membership, and plane tickets, we proceeded to compete independently under the school's name. Considering the fees paid and the lack of clear communication with the administration, we felt forced to act in this gray area, without explicit permission from the school.

During States, Andover students thrived, with seven members qualifying for ICDC. However, shortly after, the administration also rejected

our request to compete in the international competition. After we had dedicated hundreds of hours to this prestigious event, our own school was preventing us from advancing in the competition. While schools nationwide were supporting their DECA teams financially, even offering preparatory classes for the competition, Andover stood in our way. This term, the school indefinitely terminated DECA as a club.

Throughout the competition season last year, we attempted to work alongside the administration to be able to compete at the international level, but it seemed they were against us every step of the way. Rather than focusing our efforts on preparing for the competition itself, we were forced to spend many hours dealing with administrative duties with the school. For example, to register to compete, we, as student DECA leaders, had to fill out forms and coordinate communication with the Massachusetts DECA Organization under the supervision of our club advisor. However, it seemed unfair and unrealistic to expect our club advisor, who had to juggle classes, coaching, and dorm life, to fulfill these additional, high-commitment obligations.

As the “Number Two Best Private High School in America” according to Niche, one would expect Andover to encourage and support participation in national and international level competitions. This school year, more competition clubs have been barred from competing, such as Phillips Academy Speech and Debate (PASD). PASD was even barred from events that were fully on-campus, such as the Georgetown Fall Invitational, an online tournament entirely funded by the club and cooperative with the school schedule. Andover Rocketry Club was also prohibited from representing Andover at off-campus competitions such as the American Rocketry Challenge.

Andover Admissions' website parades the Academy's “expansive worldview and legacy of academic excellence,” but in reality, the school restricts passionate students who show initiative. Perhaps the Andover website should acknowledge that students are only allowed to pursue their passions as long as they exist inside Andover's bubble. Andover's reputation is only as good as its student body and alumni. When students aren't supported in pursuing



MIA WALKER / THE PHILLIPIAN

external endeavors that build outside connections and showcase their talents to a broader community, Andover becomes insular, with its students unprepared to interact meaningfully with the rest of the world.

The club system at Andover is critically flawed. Students here face more challenges with participation in external competitions than multiple local schools do. Upon founding a club approved by the Office of Student Activities, students are expected to run their clubs with the support of a faculty advisor. No straightforward guidelines or policies are detailed. In an email regarding club funding from the Student Activities Office on October 2, 2023, students were only informed of regulations such as no solicitations of outside donations or involvement in community engagement or volunteering. As a result, club leaders are unaware of existing preventative policies and administrative barriers. Critically, regulations surrounding off-campus competitions were not mentioned at all in the email.

There are a few clubs at Andover that have financial independence, and currently, there are few pathways to achieving this. Some clubs, such as the Philomathean Society, have endowments that allow them to fund their own activities. Other competition clubs, such as Mock Trial, cost less. While Model UN has registration costs, the school is able to cover them. However, the vast majority of clubs have no way of attaining such funds to support them.

This leads many clubs to apply for an Abbot Grant. However, providing funding for items such as travel and competition fees is difficult when dates are uncertain. Another possible path is receiving funding from academic departments, but most already have a standard list of clubs that they support and are typically unable or unwilling to take on more. With limited other options to obtain financial independence, competition clubs are placed at a disadvantage.

The Academy must rise to the standards to which it holds itself and its students. An equitable policy that removes bias between clubs is imperative, and a solution should consider input from every member of the Andover community. We are willing to work with the administration on this effort. Andover's website claims to foster students' “abilities to question beliefs, systems, and the way things are done” and “press [students] to envision the world they seek to create.” Hence, we present our concerns here in hopes of a more prosperous future for our clubs.

Philip Meng is an Upper from Hong Kong. Ishaan Padmawar is an Upper from North Andover, MA. Suvir Virmani is a Senior from Andover, MA. Contact the authors at pmeng26@andover.edu, ipadmawar26@andover.edu, and svirmani25@andover.edu

Editor's Note: Suvir Virmani is a Finance Manager for The Phillipian, Philip Meng is a Business Manager for The Phillipian, and Ishaan Padmawar is a Photo Associate Editor for The Phillipian.



WRITE FOR
COMMENTARY

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Attendees of Veterans Day Programming Reflect on Speeches

Continued from A1, Column 5

The conversation with Moulton was followed by a keynote address delivered by Captain Hunter D. Washburn '00. After attending Andover, Washburn attended the Naval Academy before pursuing a career in the Navy as a captain. In an interview with *The Phillipian*, Washburn commented on how Andover equipped him for his career in the military.

“Andover definitely prepared me very well at the Naval Academy. I talked to some of my classmates here that went to other colleges or universities. [There] is the same sense that Andover gave them a lot of skills and tools that helped them be successful at school,” said Washburn.

Reflecting on his decision to enter military service, Washburn recounted his early curiosity toward life on the water. Washburn reiterated how leadership positions at Andover, such as Proctor and sports team Captain, prepared him for military service. He highlighted that his leadership roles at Andover prepared him for attending the Naval Academy, and then onto his career in the U.S. Military.

“I always wanted to have a career on the water in some form. I also wanted to have the opportunity to lead people... Andover provides an environment where you can take meaningful risks. You've got to work hard, you've got to be disciplined... whether it is on the athletic field [or] in the classroom, there are plenty

of leadership opportunities, whether formal leadership positions like Cluster President and Student Council, to team Captain and you live in a dorm and you're a Proctor or a Prefect,” said Washburn.

Washburn continued, “A lot of that small leadership that you see on a team applies to my work in the navy, whether as a division officer, where I'll be responsible of a division within a small group of sailors, to department head, where you're responsible for multiple divisions, to eventually a captain where you're responsible for the whole ship.”

As a Civil Air Patrol cadet, Lucas Bernadete '26 attended Andover's Veterans Day events in the past and was asked by the Office of Alumni Engagement to prepare an introduction. Bernadete, who is considering a military career, mentioned how Washburn's journey stirred him, given that Washburn is an Andover alumnus.

“It was really motivating about how his experience at Andover prepared him to go on into his future career in the Navy. As someone who's interested in a military career myself, it was very motivating to see someone as an Andover graduate go on to have such a distinguished career in the Armed Services... He grew up in the Andover community, and he attended Andover, and he ended up rowing for the Naval Academy. I'm a rower too, so I really liked that,” said Bernadete.

Choi also expressed how Washburn's application of the non sibi spirit in his life was inspiring, noting his appre-

ciation for the sacrifices that veterans all around the world make for their countries.

“It was very interesting to see how the Andover community, the alumni, the former instructors who taught here, and the relatives of Andover students, how all of them have made marvelous commitments to their country... [Washburn's] speech made a lot of sense about how his time at Andover really helped him nurture this non sibi spirit and continue that for the wider community in his days in the military,” said Choi.

Santiago Morgan, Instructor in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, expressed his excitement of teaching in a community with strong connections to the military. Having attended the Veterans Day Program last year as well, Morgan reflected on the perspectives given by the alumni veterans, acknowledging the need to feature them at more events in Andover.

“I invited some students that showed up, and yesterday I was telling one of them [that] I'm so jealous of the community [they] belong to. I'm so jealous that [they] arrived at this place with so many interesting people that come to the school, and the military that comes to the school with super interesting lives of service... I strongly encourage more students to attend, and I wish it was a bigger deal. I wish more of these veterans would get invited to more events, not only [for] Veterans Day but [also] All-School Meetings or other things,” said Morgan.

Students Discuss What They Hope to See in New Dorms

Continued from A1, Column 2

projecting costs and sources of funds. Philanthropic support will be essential, and colleagues in the Office of Academy Resources are working to gauge donor interest,” wrote Sweet in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Involving students as well as faculty, this project is a part of a wider exploratory approach aiming to gather feedback from different parts of the Andover community. Susan Esty, Dean of Students and Residential Life, shared her thoughts on the planning process.

“I hope it generates lots of good input for dreaming about you know what the future at Andover might look at... I was really excited that right from the start anything that we looked at for the future of Phillips Academy involved the voices of students, faculty, lots of different constituent groups. I like that method, it takes more time, it's messier, right? You will get more different opinions the more people you ask but I think that's a healthy and inclusive process,” said Esty.

With an emphasis on communal spaces, the discussion gathered students' thoughts on shared bathrooms and rooms. Genie Han '27 described her impression of the upcoming buildings.

“The new dorms, from what I can tell, are going to be extremely well-catered towards the needs of students in the sense that we're going to develop them based on student feedback. We're going

to develop brand-new dorms that have better bathrooms, nicer facilities, places on campus that students would want to live in. This could look like single bedrooms or bathrooms that aren't necessarily communal,” said Han.

Mentioning features such as a beach volleyball court and a fire pit, the architects encouraged students to openly share their ideas and visions. Philip Molina '28 offered his thoughts on the possible implementation of quiet study spaces in the newly built dorms.

“They know that there are very little study rooms in the library, so they want to build some in the dorms for people who have a group project or want to just go to the common room but not [be bothered] by the noise. That would be a great addition, creating small cubicles for people to study in,” said Molina.

Expected to not be finished before ten years, the project aims to interview teachers and students during at least a year. Audrey Baeten-Ruffo '28 provided further details on the timeline and steps involved.

“Right now, they are doing about a year's worth of work of just outreaching and gathering ideas from the community. I asked if the dorms are going to be built by the time when any of us are still here, and they said probably not. The building is going to take probably over a year, after the designing, going through all the processes with the Board of Trustees and getting approvals for all the designs,” said Baeten-Ruffo.

Lorant Fellow Shares Lessons Learnt in Ireland

Continued from A1, Column 3

“My friends and the community I have at Andover really embody Margot's idea of home. Compassion is emphasized here and connection is what holds the entire school together in my experience. For example, there are so many people that I get to meet and the relationships I curate with them are truly unique to a place like Andover,” said Oh.

In her speech, Furman spoke about the responsibility of making a difference, even at a young age. As a friend to Furman, Ginny Marshall '25 shared how powerful it was to hear the impact of Furman's fellowship.

“[The] ASM was really emotional for me. [When] one of my best friends, Margot Furman, did her Lorant Fellowship presentation, I was moved to tears. I know a lot

of other people were too. It was really powerful and really meaningful to see her up there and Ms. [Stephanie] Curci put it best, we have restored faith in humanity after that presentation,” said Marshall.

Although Furman has left Ireland, she talked about the impact working with Candle of Grace had on her. Furman still keeps in touch with the organization and plans on continuing her work in the future.

“Every moment I've spent with the kids is something I'll never forget, and they're still such an important part of my life. I still talk to them all the time and I plan on going back to Candle of Grace next summer. They are such a big part [of my life], and I just know that they're always going to be such a big part of my life, and that's just really special,” said Furman.

Trustee Weekend: Evaluating the Endowment and Connecting with Students

Continued from A1, Column 5

Seth.

Seth continued, “A recurring theme was the idea that technology is changing Andover. In the computer science meeting, they were all asking ‘How are we using AI?’ [and] ‘How is AI being used in the classroom?’”

In addition to hearing student voices, the Trustees discussed the Andover endowment. According to the Annual Report of Phillips Academy, Andover's Fiscal Year report, the endowment is just over 1.4 billion dollars as of June 30, up almost 300 million dollars from June 2020. Falls explained how the Trustees approach managing the endowment.

“An analogy that I like to use is the endowment is like a lake, and you want the lake

to be there for future generations. We don't want to deplete the water in the lake, and inflation is like evaporation. Inflation reduces the purchasing power of the endowment, which is like evaporating the water. There's new giving into the endowment, but that tends to be about half a percent to one percent a year. Then we take out about five percent. Market returns are like rainfall, you have to picture a dam at the bottom where we're taking out five percent, and there's a little stream at the top that's putting in about one percent. The rest of it is the rain that comes from the markets. And that unfortunately is very sporadic. So we have monsoon years and dry years,” said Falls.

With only two Trustee weekends every school year, students rarely have the opportunity to connect with the board. Seth concluded that

Trustees weekend is invaluable to students to connect with the Trustees and other Andover alums, and noted that more networking opportunities for students would only benefit students further.

Seth said, “My biggest takeaway was that it was great to speak to trustees and Andover alums. It's something that we should be doing more of. Especially because one great thing about Andover is the network that comes with going here and being able to speak with alumni not just on Trustee weekend and not just on A/E weekend but being able to form bigger connections. That's something that's really important, especially as we graduate [from] Andover. It's important to try to stay more connected to alums.”

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1	2	3	4	
5				6
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

- 1 Bossa ____
- 5 Poems written by
Homer or Dante
- 7 Transition
- 8 Clichéd
- 9 Type of tax

DOWN

- 1 Bird homes
- 2 Sung drama
- 3 Often candlelit prayer
event
- 4 Type of angle
- 6 Witnesses

1	2	3		
4			5	6
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

- 1 It could be "mint" or
"bubble" flavored
- 4 Spellbound
- 7 Last, as an exam
- 8 Works or labors
- 9 Very simple video
game

DOWN

- 1 They go under a tree
- 2 Group that might strike
- 3 Latest craze
- 5 Way to get to first
without hitting
- 6 "What ____ is new?"

	1	2	3	4
5				
6				
7				
8				

ACROSS

- 1 Finding ____ (movie
about a clownfish)
- 5 Twenty-____ die
- 6 "One thing ____ —
another..."
- 7 More slippery, as a
winter road
- 8 Colleagues

DOWN

- 1 Nephew's sister
- 2 Guitarist Van Halen
- 3 Metric alternative to a
yard
- 4 Smells
- 5 ____-n-slide

	1	2	3	4
5				
6				
7				
8				

ACROSS

- 1 Hotel amenities
- 5 Vehicle for Paul Revere
- 6 "Great minds think
____"
- 7 Assigned an identifying
word to
- 8 See 8A or a card game
term

DOWN

- 1 ____ flare or ____
power
- 2 ____ donna
- 3 Crooked
- 4 Pre-tournament ranking
- 5 With 8A, illustrate
without technology or a
card game term

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
	9			

ACROSS

- 1 Items to check off
- 6 "It is far better to be
____ than to be in bad
company"
- 7 Kimchi-eating nation
- 8 AMD competitor
- 9 Lasses

DOWN

- 1 Spicy, red, rolled
tortilla chip
- 2 Go ____ for the ride
- 3 Kinda
- 4 Prepare to be knighted
- 5 Shark prey mammals



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10 Questions With Meghan Clarke

REPORTING BY FELIX BRET & KAI OBATA

Meghan Clarke is an Instructor in Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science and a House Counselor in Bertha Bailey House. After living and teaching in the United Kingdom (U.K.) for 11 years, Clarke came to Andover in 2022. As a Tang Institute Fellow, Clarke is a member of the ethi{CS} project. Aside from math and computer science, Clarke also enjoys yoga and gymnastics.

How did you discover your interest in math and computer science?

When I was in high school, I thought I wanted to be an architect, but I realized that wasn't for me. I moved away from that but I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. In my Senior year, they canceled AP Chemistry. I needed another AP and... I hopped into AP Computer Science and fell in love with that. When I got to college, I was taking as many classes as I could, but I couldn't take a lot of the electives. The ones I could take were the math and computer science electives like mathematical modeling. So I took those classes early on, and I just kept on taking more and more math classes. In my Junior year, one of my teachers pulled me aside and told me to declare a double major in math and computer science, which had never occurred to me [as] something you could major in. When I graduated from college, I was a software developer for a year, but I realized working in a cubicle all day was not for me. I also really missed having time off. I later got... offered [a position] teaching math and computer science at a day school outside of Washington D.C., so I did that and fell in love with teaching.

What drew you to Andover?

After [my partner] retired from the [British] military we went back to the area. In the U.K., I was a teacher at a boarding school. I fell in love with the sense of community. Living on campus had a lot of the same benefits of being in the military, and we loved the idea of going back to a community where [people] are living together and get[ting] to know each other. At the day schools I've been at, it's difficult as your colleagues and students live far apart, so it was really hard to get together. I was looking at boarding schools in the area, and Andover jumped to the top of my list.

After spending 11 years in the U.K., what is the main difference you've noticed between the English and American educational systems?

The U.K. is really centralized around exams. I did not give out grades, what I did give out were predicted grades. I also gave a score on effort and progress... On the flip side, I had no control [over] the content I taught and when to teach it. Exam boards would decide what exams you did and what you had to learn [and] your college acceptances are conditional based on those exams. It was hard as a teacher. I didn't have a lot of control, because students were not always interested in learning something that was outside the test. The U.K. is very grade



E. LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

and exam-focused but, if you score in the highest [percentile] you know you're the best of the best. But if you're someone who didn't test very well in standardized tests, that's a really hard system to be in.

How different was the coding scene back in the day and how did you learn about it?

I coded for the first time when I was around five years old. I didn't know that's what I was doing. For Christmas that year, we got an Amiga 2000 computer. There was no operating system, so you had to put in a floppy disk. A game came with it that would teach you how you could load this particular disk and had some example code. I got my name to jump around the screen, and it was the coolest thing. I forgot about it for a while since, for a long time coding, wasn't available easily and we didn't do it in school... The accessibility of resources is wildly different now.

What has your role been in the ethi{CS} project?

[The] ethi{CS} project is the idea of weaving ethical-based thinking

into our computer science curriculum, into our classroom activities [and] projects. [It] felt very authentic. I was lucky enough that they had space for a Tang Fellow in that program last spring, where I worked with Dr. Kiran Bhardwaj, [Instructor in Philosophy and Religious Studies], to do a little bit more thinking about how we can weave it into our [Computer Science 401] Python class. I worked with her to come up with ways that we could weave those elements into our projects and some of our collaborative activities in class. That's what we did for our fellowship. It was lovely, having someone to bounce ideas off of and the time and space to think through that.

You're involved with track and field at Andover, and you also used to coach gymnastics. Could you expand on that?

Track and field is something I do here, and that speaks more to my computer skills than it does to my track knowledge. I had no affiliation at all with track until I came here. [Only that] I've been running computer lines from a young age. I always loved gymnastics,

especially in 1996, when the U.S. women's team won the gold medal. I decided to try it. I was never really good at gymnastics, I was five foot seven [inches tall] and 13 when I started. The coaches just looked at me and said, 'No, this isn't going to happen for you.' But I loved it so much that I ended up coaching more than I did it. It refreshed me in a way that made me really excited when getting back in the classroom.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I have two daughters who are eight and ten years old. I love spending time with them and following whatever new thing they are obsessed with. Most recently, they had me learning how to play Roblox, which was really fun. My oldest daughter loves to play piano, and so I like to play with her. Getting outside, playing board games with them, whatever is going to keep us fun. We love Boston sports, so we watch the teams in the area. We also love traveling back to England to visit our family and friends there and bringing as many of our British cultural traditions back as we can. Also, I

love yoga, so I am trying to do as much yoga as I can. I also love reading.

What's your favorite book?

My mind immediately goes to "Harry Potter." I just fell in love with it and went deep when it came out, and reread them several times. It's really funny looking back now, at the connection when I moved to England and [taught at a] boarding school and looked around and was like, 'Oh my gosh, J.K. Rowling didn't just make this up... all these things actually exist.' We actually wore robes as faculty to chapel every week at that boarding school.

What's one of your favorite memories at Andover?

They're all tied to the sense of community that I feel here. It's been watching my own children feel a part of the community here, and see the change in such a short time. From originally feeling a little intimidated [about] saying "Hi" to students in [Paresky] Commons and sitting with their friends from school, [to] feeling really integrated into this whole community. What makes this place really special is the relationship and community that you have in and outside of the classroom.

What's one piece of advice you would give to students?

One of the things I learned in England was there were some benefits to students specializing so early, but if I had specialized super early, I never would've gotten a chance to do computer science and discover [what] I truly love and wanted to do. Being open to new experiences, trying new things, meeting new people, it's never too late. The same can be said for me trying gymnastics. I loved it so much, and it led to coaching and a summer job that I did for years and absolutely adored. Never closing the door on something, if you're really passionate, continue to follow it, even if it's not going to pan out, even if you're not going to be the best. Also, it's never too late to start. If there's something that sounds interesting, give it a try. You never know where it's going to lead.

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HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

COLLECTED BY IAN KIM & SOPHIA TOLOKH

Government: New Zealandic Government Issues Apology to Those Abused in State Care

The New Zealand government and Prime Minister Christopher Luxon offered a national apology to thousands of victims and their families who experienced physical and sexual abuse during church and state care. According to “USNews,” from 1950 to 2019, reports suggest that 200,000 children and adults (a third of the total population in care) were suspected of horrific tortures like rape, sterilization, and electric shocking. A majority of the victims were Maori, New Zealand’s Indigenous people as well as those with mental and physical disabilities. The New Zealandic government has taken action on 28 main issues from the report and will have a full plan starting early in 2025, with a national remembrance day beginning next year on November 12.

Climate: Park Employee Died Fighting Wildfire in New Jersey and New York, Air Quality Warnings Issued in Both States

An employee of New York’s (NY) parks tragically died in a wildfire that occurred as the result of a severe dry spell this fall. Daniel Vasquez was an 18-year-old working as a Parks and Recreation aide for the New York State Parks Department. The WDSU states that this wildfire was called the Jennings Creek wildfire and spread 3.9 square miles to the border of NY and New Jersey (NJ), specifically in Passaic County’s West Milford and Orange County, NY. “The Columbian” recorded that air quality warnings have been sent out for both New York City and northeastern NJ, urging people to avoid demanding physical activity out-

side and especially to stay indoors if they have asthma or a heart condition. Wildfires across New England have broken out this fall in forests such as the Lynn Woods Reservation ten miles north of Boston, F. Gilbert Hills State Forest in Foxborough, MA, and Burlington County, NJ.

Medicine: Senior Citizens in More Financial Pressure after “Medicare B” Prices Outpace Inflation and Social Security

The standard monthly payment of Medicare B Premium will rise by six percent to 185 dollars for senior citizens living in the United States starting in 2025, says “USA Today.” Medicare Part A covers inpatient care in hospitals and facilities while Medicare Part B is responsible for visits to doctors, outpatient care, and services such as vaccines and medical equipment like wheelchairs, explains “CBS News.” Medicare Part B premium outpaced the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and the monthly inflation that rose to 2.3 percent in October. A few main reasons for the large increase in cost were projected price increases as well as assumed utilization increases based on historical pattern reports “CMS.Gov.” With Part B premium growing faster than Social Security COLAs, it will take larger percentages of the monthly Social Security checks, according to “USA Today.”

Technology: Apple Announces Plans to Stop Production of Vision Pro

Apple announced its release of “Vision Pros” to the press on January 8, 2024, describing the arrival as “a start to spatial computing.” This was one of Apple’s more refreshing developments,

incorporating intuitive gestures and the natural surroundings to break the border between technology and real life. Now, plans to shut down the production of this 3,499 dollars device have gone underway, though “CNET” reports that the company already has enough parts to continue production until later next year. The price cap for this model of the Vision is a reason behind its unpopularity. By the end of 2025, Apple hopes to release a new version with a reasonable price so it can meet demand from customers, according to “The Information.” The new device is set to be compatible with the iPhone with ideas to incorporate widely used products into a new one.

Politics: Republicans Hold Edge over House Majority as GOP Gets Closer to Completing the “Trifecta”

With the recent victory of President-Elect Donald Trump, the Grand Old Party (GOP) seems to be outperforming the Democrats in all aspects of the political system. Ballotpedia defines a trifecta as a state in which one political party holds control of the presidency, the Senate, and the House. With the GOP having an edge to reach a trifecta, President Trump would have flexibility in carrying out his intended goals without the objection of the Democrats. With the president’s first term providing the Supreme Court with three additional conservative justices, the court of the land remains in a 6-3 conservative favor. Over in the legislative branch, the Senate race was a Republican victory, with a 53-47 upset. As of the evening of November 14, Republicans hold a 218-209 House majority over Democrats according to “NBC,” with five races yet to be called.

Blue Runs Deep: Alumni Panelists Share Food and Beverage Industry Insights

JEANNIE KANG & KRISSY ZHU

In conjunction with the Alumni of Office Engagement, a group of Student Alumni Representatives (STARs) hosted a Blue Runs Deep panel discussion with Andover alumni who are pursuing careers in the food and beverage industry. Taking place virtually on November 12, the event featured Rob Bohorad ’90 P’26, Rebecca Ferrer ’94, Poorvi Patodia ’94 P’26, and Deidra Willis ’09, each leaders and pioneers in their respective roles in the industry.

Anthony Diaz ’25, a STAR, was involved in selecting the questions for each of the panelists. Diaz explained the process behind the personalized selection of questions, noting how the stories of the alumni helped to positively inspire students who attended the event.

“I was mostly helping out with the questions, building off of the ideas from Andover’s connection to their industry, specifically with food and beverage. So tailoring these questions to their personality and their time at Andover, how much that really impacted them, we wanted a

clear focus on that as well... This is really good insight [for] people going into any specific industry. It’s not even something that’s for people particularly interested in that field. [It’s about] the applications of their skills manifesting into their actual careers. I think that’s a really great opportunity for Andover kids to go and listen and hear [alum] stories about their time at Andover. It influences how they approach the real world and their careers,” said Diaz.

Ferrer is currently responsible for leading global working groups focused processes that help support PepsiCo’s food safety and quality programs and standards. Throughout the talk, Ferrer emphasized how the Andover experience set a foundation for her personal growth and career.

“I’d like to say that in my career things look linear. I liked food, so I became a product developer. I like to make food, so I went into quality assurance. It’s not as linear as that. What really carried me through my career up until now, and helped carry me a lot has to do with Andover. Being more than the Ivy League education, it was Andover that gave me that resilience to know that no matter what obstacle I had in

front of me, somehow, I’m going to dig it out. I’m going to dig out that courage to lead,” said Ferrer.

Ferrer’s connection to Andover is one aspect of the discussions that Naomi Mashburn, Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement, tries to highlight throughout Blue Runs Deep Events. She explained how a love for Andover can connect alumni and students throughout the events that occur once a term.

“We hope panelists provide inspiration to current students imagining their own career paths after graduation... We hope to offer students an opportunity to learn from leaders in various industries who all share the same love of Andover. The panels also offer our alumni a chance to learn from their classmates across differing decades, geographies, and backgrounds... We host one Blue Runs Deep panel per term across different industries, as voted on by the STARs. The winter Blue Runs Deep panel will be on ‘government, policy and diplomacy,’ and the spring panel will be on ‘scientific research and pharmaceuticals,” wrote Mashburn in an email to *The Phillipian*.

The CEO of Biena Snacks, Patodia, was another one of this fall’s Blue Runs Deep panelists.

Patodia described her personal motivation behind establishing a company that aims to provide healthy and financially accessible snacks for customers.

“I was pregnant and was trying to eat healthier. All of these snacks are marketed as being healthy because they are organic. I realized that nutritionally, they were not any better for me... I had this question: why is it that when it comes to snacking, why can’t we have snacks that have real protein, real fiber, and a lot of nutrition? At that moment, I thought of a snack I ate growing up, which was roasted chickpeas... My eyes just opened up at the opportunity,” said Patodia.

The discussion enabled panelists to share their biggest takeaways from their time in the industry. Willis, who spent the first seven years of her career involved in technical roles in manufacturing factories for Progresso Soup, Fruit by the Foot, and Yoplait Yogurt, mentioned how the inclusion of a special flavor in Fruit by the Foot led her to feel belonging.

“I’m Jamaican and so Soursop is pretty common in the Caribbean. I remember talking to my developer and she was trying to decide if it was citrusy enough... and we eventually did put that in

the product. I don’t know if it’s still out now because I haven’t worked there for a while, but just being able to relate and feel like a piece of me and my culture was obviously important to this big company that I worked for. That they were going to use a flavor that most Americans would not know about, was really cool. It made me feel like I belong here and I can be myself at all times” said Willis.

Alex Giarnese ’25, another STAR, highlighted the personal connection he felt while listening to the panel. He noted how the event can inspire and remind students of how Andover can set the foundation for them to pursue their dreams.

“I was pleasantly surprised at the amount of Andover that was woven into this event and the amount that the alumni talked about their experiences, struggles, and triumphs during their time at Andover and how that led to their success in their industry... As an Andover student, it was really compelling and heartfelt to hear people who hopefully will be me one day talking about how Andover started their drive for success and their drive to do what they love,” said Giarnese.

Brace Fellow Elliot Weir ’26 Uncovers Legacy of Two-Spirit People

KRISTEN MA & ETHAN XU

In the first Brace Student Fellow Presentation of the year, Elliot Weir ’26 delivered his presentation, entitled “Two-Spirit People in Native American Communities: Pre-contact, Colonization, and Decolonization” in Abbot Hall on November 11.

In his presentation, Weir honed in on the lives of two-spirit people — a marginalized subset of Native Americans that do not conform to binary, Eurocentric standards of gender — through different time periods and phases of colonization, detailing a story of resilience behind the curtain of convention. As a member of the Chickasaw tribe, Weir conveyed the motivation behind his project, hoping to uncover the unknown history of gender identity and the two-spirit community.

“I have some family members in the two-spirit community... Not many people know about the people I’m going to talk about. Their places in the community are significant, and in the past, [their numbers] have dwindled. Just keeping in mind the unfortunate history that is theirs is important as well... Our thoughts about [gender identity] and our society are vastly different than they were for the Native American societies before colonization. Even thinking about that is mind-boggling, and gender identity was just so different,” said Weir.

As someone who already had some knowledge of

two-spirit people, Patricia Har, Brace Center Director, described why Weir’s topic stood out to her. She mentioned the importance of having a wide variety of topics studied in the Brace Program and specified that Weir’s specific topic and personal connection made his presentation compelling.

“[Elliot’s subject] was really a terrific topic that seemed personally relevant to him. Having a real connection to a topic tends to make for really strong work... His research proposal was solid, we hadn’t had a paper on two-spirit identity, especially in connection with North American, Indigenous populations in any recent years that I can recall. It was a topic that met a lot of our hopes for what kind of a program we’d be able to offer this year,” said Har.

Weir elaborated on some of the main challenges he faced while researching his topic, mainly acquiring primary sources. Weir used sources from older journals, explorers, anthropologists, drawings, as well as interviews with living two-spirit people.

“One of the challenges is the lack of sources on [subjects] like this because prior to colonization, there weren’t any concrete historical records. Much of these records were dictated by European explorers, so [they] could be biased. One way I got around that was using the first records that explorers kept when they first came here. You can kind of get a sense of what life was like before they came because they hadn’t affected things here [yet],” said

Weir.

Allison Lee ’28, an attendee at Weir’s presentation, noted the most intriguing aspects of Weir’s topic, especially the loss of history and knowledge of two-spirit people to colonization. Lee expanded on preconceived notions that “two-spirit” was a role or tradition.

“Something that was really interesting was that there is so much that we do not know about how two-spirit people used to exist in native culture. I’ve heard of them before, but I always just assumed that there was much more of an established role that people

were stepping into, or an established tradition. It is very interesting and sad as well to see how much historical evidence we’ve lost as a result of destructive colonization,” said Lee.

Aurelia Zhang ’27 shared how Weir’s presentation succeeded in giving people a different way to think about gender constructs. Zhang brought up the benefit of educating others about two-spirit people, both within and beyond the LGBTQIA+ community.

“Information [about the two-spirit people] will help [LGBTQIA+] people to go on knowing that [defying gen-

der roles] is something that has been done in history. They don’t have to build everything from the ground up by themselves. For people who might not identify with the [LGBTQIA+] community, it’s still very helpful because gender roles themselves are imposing restrictions on how people live and how they understand themselves. It’s important to recognize that. This is just a helpful new paradigm for people to learn new practices that are also for everyone,” said Zhang.



K. MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

As the first Brace Fellow presenter this year, Elliot Weir ’26 spoke on the lives of two-spirit people in Abbot Hall.

Phashionistas



“VIVACIOUS” “EROME” “SASSY” “TEMPTATIOUS”

THESE ARE ALL WORDS CHARLES VEST ’25 USED TO DESCRIBE HIS STYLE. IN THIS PIECE, HE IS ARTFULLY AND MAJESTICALLY MESHING Y2K WITH SOUTH ASIAN STREETWEAR. IT IS QUITE EVIDENT THAT VEST IS A MASTER OF HIS CRAFT. THE TRUE INSPIRATION BEHIND HIS UNIQUE STYLE CANNOT BE PINNED DOWN TO ONE SPECIFIC SOURCE, HOWEVER, AND IS LIKELY A CULMINATION OF HIS CHILDHOOD GROWING UP IN THE “BURBS” OF BOSTON, HIS RUN-IN WITH CHINESE AUTHORITIES, AS WELL AS HIS TIME IN JUVENILE DETENTION.

“GROWING UP, THE BIRDS IN SCHOOL RECOGNIZED ME AS A DOM AND FLOCKED TO ME, IT’S ALMOST AS IF THEY COULD SMELL THE TESTOSTERONE EXUDING FROM MY NAVAL GLANDS. I REALIZED THAT THESE GIRLS NOT ONLY WORSHIPED ME, THEY ADMIRED ME, AND SO I DECIDED TO BECOME THE PINNACLE OF CONFIDENCE TO SET THEIR BARS HIGH.”

TO GAIN A BETTER INSIGHT INTO VEST, WE ASKED HIM SOME QUESTIONS:



K. Ma/The Phillipian

SO WHAT INSPIRED YOUR OUTFIT?

“I WEAR WHAT I WANT, I THINK THAT’S MOST IMPORTANT.”

WHAT’S YOUR PROCESS FOR PICKING OUT OUTFITS?

“WELL, FIRST I WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AND PISS EXCELLENCE. I BELIEVE IN TAKING CARE OF MYSELF, AND A BALANCED DIET AND A RIGOROUS EXERCISE ROUTINE, SO I USUALLY NEED A FEW MINUTES TO RECOVER FROM BEING TAKEN ABACK BY THE HANDSOME FACE IN THE MIRROR. I GAZE AT MYSELF UNTIL INSPIRATION HITS ME, AND THEN ‘PRESTO,’ I’M FITTED UP AND READY TO MAKE THE WORLD MY DOG.”

HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR UNIQUE EXPERIENCES HAVE SHAPED THE WAY YOU PRESENT YOURSELF?

“I THINK THAT AS I’VE GONE THROUGH MY LIFE, I’VE REALIZED WHAT’S REALLY IMPORTANT. IT BECAME CLEAR THAT I NEEDED TO EMBRACE THE PERSON THAT PEOPLE WANT TO SEE: THE CHARISMA, THE ABS, THE BULGE, THE FULL PACKAGE, YOU KNOW? PEOPLE HAVE THIS IMAGE OF ME, AND IF I DON’T DELIVER ON IT, THAT’S WHERE WE RUN INTO PROBLEMS.”



WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU HOPE TO DELIVER?

“I WANT TO INSPIRE THE YOUTH TO TALK LIKE ME, WALK LIKE ME, BE LIKE ME... CHA-CHING!”

WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING IN THE FUTURE TO PURSUE THIS PASSION FOR FASHION?

“THEY SAY THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA... WELL A LIL’ DEVIL LIKE ME WEARS NADA. THAT IS ALL.”

WE TRIED TO ASK MR. VEST MORE QUESTIONS, YET MUCH TO OUR DISMAY, HE CAUGHT SIGHT OF HIS REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR AND BECAME TOO DISTRACTED TO CONTINUE.





Finals Study Strats



GENTRY THATCHER

- Putting my homework notes on an audio file with subway surfers playing on screen
- Hitting my physics teacher with a hammer and replacing my grade (inelastic collision)
- Cheating on my ethics assignment
- Putting my history teacher on the 2073 APUSH exam curriculum if I don’t get 100 percent
- Get a 5 (Execution Date: First day of Thanksgiving Break)
- Creating fake tinder account and blackmailing my teacher (Yeah, check your own Academic Integrity now English teacher)
- Becoming the Third Neuralink Patient *Bzzzzzzz*
- Adder-
- Educating myself on the exhilarating and downright fascinating adventures of the great Royal Highness “Von” of the “O”, allowing me to live up to the fullest of my teachers expectations.
- Practice problems: Find the probability that I pass math class given that I made a bomb threat in class. A: 72 percent
- Train yourself like a Dog: 1 Zyn for every question you get right
- Break knees for a Sykes extension (100 percent success rate)
- Pomodoro technique: 5 minutes feeding prompts into ChatGPT, 25 minutes Instagram Reels (It’s called balance)

Week’s Top Headlines

- *With Winter Coming BVS Passes Down Sassy Crown to BVH*
- *Students Confused if They Now “Gotta Get Down” on Monday Due to the Friday Scheduling*
- *Students Plan to Avenge Dean by Attacking John Krasinski for Robbing His Title*
- *PASC Encourages Students to Appreciate the Heat While It Lasts, Referencing Mandatory Upcoming Green Cup Challenge*
- *Football Loses. Again.*
- *Yes+ to Put Fruit Roll Up Tattoos on Dental Dams*
- *Freshmen Sent to North Pole Early This Year to Help Santa*

“Don’t you think it’s weird how much we yell that we like it raw?”

“You guys should make a 9th page, the *erotica* section.”

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

“Bro ISTG she’s on 6 probation.”
- Student who hasn’t submitted a single assignment

“Call him Voldemort the way he’s a master of the dark arts.”

“These kids stink...”



The Phillippian SPORTS

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gl w finals!!

November 15, 2024

Exeter Extends Winning Streak in Historic A/E Rivalry as Andover Football’s Season Comes To A Close

JACOB JONES

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Andover	21
Exeter	42

In the final Andover Football (1-7) game of the season, a sea of red rushed the field as the clock hit zero. To close off the season, Andover Football faced the number one ranked team in the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council, Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter), ultimately losing 42-21 at home.

Exeter started the game off strong, which brought the visitors to a significant lead by halftime. Carter Aime ’25 described the intense environment of the rivalry game and reflected upon how the team responded to the game’s result.

Aime said, “It was a fun environment to play in, having all the fans there, a lot of friends in the crowd. It was really fun to be playing in that game. It was electric out there... We had a lot of mixed emotions, some guys were happy, some guys were sad because it was a pretty bad loss. Some people were sad that the season was over because we put in a lot of work in, but others treated the loss as more a relief because our team has taken a bit of a beating with a lot of injuries and a lot of other challenges.”

Playing in his first Andover/Exeter (A/E), Matthew Saleh ’26 further commented on the game atmosphere. Saleh spoke of the game as one that was



M.STOUT/THE PHILLIPIAN

Denzil N. Pierre PG’25 avoids a tackle, driving the ball forward.

more hype, competitive, most importantly, memorable than any other.

“Even though our coaches told us about the crazy environment and helped us prepare for it, it was definitely still something I never experienced before. There was a lot of hype around it before the weekend and our coaches were telling us all about it. All the players who were there last year were de-

scribing to us how it was gonna be like, and it was really a lot of fun to be part of the 147-year history. So, that was definitely a moment that I will cherish forever,” said Saleh.

Jayden Franklin PG’25 recapped the team’s effort this season along with some of the specific preparations that went into A/E, and reflected on how the team performed.

“I’m a big film guy, so I

watched a lot of films of our opponents. I studied their weaknesses and I knew how to exploit them. I was mentally and physically prepared for Exeter. I kept asking [Coach] Ernie Adams questions and he told me during practice how to play well against specific teams. I used that knowledge towards different teams. I feel like the team could have played better but if we’re gon-

na talk about me I always feel like there’s room for improvement. I’m also empathetic for all of my teammates who were hurt and they didn’t get to play throughout the season. I’m thankful that I was able to play throughout the whole season and I wish them a speedy recovery,” said Franklin.

Andover was able to cut the lead significantly in the second half. Saleh summarized what the team energy was like coming out of the locker room at the end of halftime as the team prepared to attempt a comeback.

Saleh said, “[We] all agreed we had a bit of a rough first half. Then we came together in the locker rooms and coming out of the locker room, getting ready for the second half, we came together. Not just [as] a team but as a family and we played hard the second half. For some, it was their last high school game ever, so we played for them. We played for all the Seniors and we worked as a team.”

Aime reflected on his final season playing football at Andover. He described the team culture inspired by Andover Football and how the team has been a transforming and valuable experience.

“It was a pretty surreal moment. I never thought my high school football career would come to an end. I had a lot of fun with my teammates and my coaches throughout playing football here. I learned a lot of valuable lessons. I will cherish it for the rest of my life and I’m grateful to have had this experience.”

Andover Baseball Head Coach, Kevin Graber, Inducted into the New York State Baseball Hall of Fame

ETHAN LY

On Sunday, Boys Baseball Head Coach Kevin Graber (KG) was inducted into the New York State Baseball Hall of Fame.

Graber has led Andover Baseball to five Central New England Prep Final Championships and to the Central New England Prep Final Four 12 consecutive times. He also holds multiple coaching honors and has mentored over 70 collegiate baseball athletes, some of which were Gatorade Massachusetts Players of the Year. Before Andover, Graber played professional baseball as well. This year, he returned to the school after two years, during which he was a coach and a coordinator in the Chicago Cubs organization. While with the Cubs, he directed baserunning and base-stealing strategies and took on key responsibilities in Major League Spring Training.

Graber’s career as a base-

ball player was difficult: as a senior in college, he was diagnosed with lymphoma and had to undergo six months of chemotherapy and three months of radiation. Despite the health complications, Graber worked tirelessly and made sacrifices to fulfill his aspirations.

“It wasn’t a lot of fun and I had to rebound after and through all that stuff to find my way into professional baseball as a player back in the 1990s... I could have said, ‘Oh, well, the professional level isn’t for me.’ But I didn’t. I thought it was important enough to keep going and dedicate a good chunk of my life to grinding and making sacrifices to make that happen. I’m proud of the fact that it wasn’t easy. One of my many mantras is that nothing worthwhile is easy, and that was certainly the case with my path in baseball,” said Graber.

Penn State commit Robert Brown ’25, a player on the Andover Boys Baseball team, was present at the Hall of

Fame induction. He congratulated Graber, crediting this honor to Graber’s relentless dedication to the game of baseball. Brown also cited the attendance of baseball legends Don Mattingly and Buck Showalter.

“He was among some of the baseball greats in that room: Don Mattingly and Buck Showalter... To be among that company and in a room like that was truly incredible. It’s a testament to all the hard work and dedication that he’s put in throughout his career. He’s jumped through so many hoops and taken so many risks. He’s talked about how a lot of people credit his success to luck and he rebutted that by saying it’s not luck. Some of the things that he’s risked, some of the things that he’s done... It’s a testament to his dedication and his love for the sport that really came together that night,” said Brown.

Reflecting on the induction, Graber emphasized the significance of being honored alongside baseball legends, whom he watched growing up. An inductee alongside Graber was 18-time Major League Baseball (MLB) all-star catcher Yogi Berra, a player who had won ten World Series titles — the most of any other MLB player.

Graber said, “It’s a big deal. I used to feel like a baseball player who coached, but now I’ve been coaching for more years than I’ve played the game. Now I feel like a coach who used to be a player and an honor like this makes me hit pause and think back to my playing days in a way that I don’t often anymore. When you compound that with the list of other players who are honored, which includes some of my idols growing up and players I watched on television with my dad, it’s real-



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Kevin Graber gave a speech to address his induction.

ly humbling... To be included in a group like that makes it pretty special.”

Brown described Graber’s circle of supporters who attended the ceremony, which included his former and current players, family, and childhood friends.

“As for the spectators, [Coach Graber] had a massive crowd. He filled four or five tables full of people... It was full of different people from all different walks of his life. That’s the same for the other inductees: you could tell how much these people meant to their community and the people around them by who showed up for them,” said Brown.

Even with the notability of coaching professional baseball, Graber missed being involved within the Andover community. His return is not

only to baseball at Andover but to the many roles and people on campus.

Graber said, “I missed a lot about Andover. It’s not so much the baseball stuff; what I really missed was advising, being in the dorm, being in the classroom, teaching EBI [Empathy, Balance, Inclusion], and chaperoning everything under the sun just because I love being around the students and playing a role in their lives. One of the things I took away from professional baseball was how much I enjoy that part of being around people and being around families and kids. I just missed that quite a bit so it’s good to be back.”

Graber will serve as Andover Boys Baseball’s Head Coach in the spring.



Kevin Graber received many accolades to complement his distinction.

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GIRLSCROSSCOUNTRY

Building Stronger Runners and Stronger Bonds: Coach Keri Lambert’s Journey of Empowering Girls Cross Country

AARON HUANG

Head Coach Keri Lambert first started cross country in eighth grade, joining 99 other middle schoolers on the team, including her older brothers. Lambert went on to have an excellent competitive history at Amherst College, running twelve seasons and earning seven All-Americans. She later attended Yale Graduate School, serving as a graduate assistant coach for Yale’s Women’s Cross Country and Track & Field.

Lambert’s passion for coaching girls cross country stems from empowering young female student-athletes to become confident in their capabilities. Furthermore, Lambert loves to form new relationships with hard-working people and continue to connect with them throughout the season with spontaneous conversations.

“My love for the sport and my strong belief that it can empower students, especially girls, to feel comfortable, strong, and capable in their bodies. Cross country also tends to attract super hard-working, thoughtful, and often quirky people, who I enjoy working with. My favorite way to connect with athletes is through conversations on easy trail runs, when we jump from topic to topic to topic, often totally unrelated to running,” said Lambert.

Adding onto Lambert’s point, Ela Budzinski ’28 vividly recalls



LPADMAWAR/THE PHILLIPIAN

one of the conversations noting how the friendly and welcoming nature of the conversation made Budzinski, a new Junior, feel more integrated into the team.

“There was one time where we were on a long run and we [Coach and I] ran together. We had a really nice conversation. It didn’t feel like I was talking to my coach. It just felt like I was talking to my friend. We really connected on running because she was a runner herself. It had a strong impact on me and I felt so welcome on the team,” said Ela Budzinski.

Lambert argues that cross

country is about more than just who finishes with the fastest time. She sees it as a sport that emphasizes four core values — selflessness, integrity, inclusion, and joy — all deeply connected through teamwork and sportsmanship.

“Cross Country is often believed to be an individual sport for stoic people who look a particular way. PAXC [Phillips Academy Cross Country] challenges that stereotype in every sense by emphasizing that we are strongest when we work together, find joy in hard work, and welcome people from all athlet-

ic backgrounds, including those who have never done a sport before. Integrity is a value that we try to impart in a wide variety of ways, from talking about the importance of sportsmanship, emphasizing wellness and the need to respect our bodies and selves, and really trying hard to practice how we perform,” said Lambert.

Anya Budzinski ’26 reflected on how Lambert creates a bond amongst Girls Cross Country. Lambert’s emphasis on community can be shown when she encourages team exercises before and after practices and matches.

“She really encourages us to work together in workouts and in races, and also warming up together and cooling down together after workouts, using each other to help each other get better. I think that really builds a tight community in which everyone is working together to improve and everyone is supporting each other because she encourages us to do everything in practice together and at meets. That really builds the community and no one is left running by themselves,” said Anya Budzinski.

Under Lambert’s inclusive spirit, integrating within the team proved to be easy for new students such as Ela Budzinski. Understanding how Ela Budzinski and other Juniors do not have much previous experience running cross country, Lambert has continuously cared for their health throughout the season.

“She was a big reason why it was so good for me because me

and a few other [Juniors who] don’t have as much running experience as people that have been at the school for a couple of years, so she’s definitely been looking out for us... She’s making sure that we’re not running too far or have too much mileage or overdoing it, so she’s really caring. I appreciated how she’s looked out for us,” said Ela Budzinski.

Although Lambert’s assistant position at Yale prohibited her from being able to impact the team in a significant way, being a head coach at Andover in 2020 allowed Lambert to become more intimate with the team’s needs by designing workouts and checking in on athletes.

“Some things were totally different and others very much the same. At Yale, I was a grad[uate] assistant, so I didn’t design workouts or shape the team’s experience in big ways. But from the head coach there, I learned the importance of frequently checking in with athletes, tailoring workouts to individuals’ needs, and generally meeting athletes where they’re at on any given day, all of which was pretty different from my own competitive experience as an athlete. I learned that sometimes less is more, and that’s a lesson I feel like I’m constantly trying to impart on Andover athletes,” said Lambert.

Lambert will continue as the Head Coach of Girls Indoor Track & Field in the winter.

Girls Cross Country Captain Emma Hagstrom ’25 Gives Her All No Matter the Challenge

ETHAN LY

Captain Emma Hagstrom ’25 has stepped up as a leader for the Girls Cross Country team, even as she navigates a challenging injury this season. Despite her limited ability to compete, Hagstrom has shown remarkable dedication, supporting her teammates in every way she can. From motivating runners at practice to providing valuable race-day guidance, her influence goes beyond the physical aspects of the sport.

Inspired by her mother’s background in running, Hagstrom first explored cross country in middle school. She reflected on the demanding mental and physical challenges of the sport, which have been deeply rewarding due to the strong bonds she’s been able to build with her teammates.

“I first started running cross country and track in middle school and it was because my mom did it. And she really liked it, so I wanted to do it too. My favorite aspect of cross country would probably be the mental toughness that it builds and also people that I’ve met. It takes a really tough person to be able to stick with cross country especially because you’re trying to run your hardest over three miles, which is already really hard. It’s the challenge that draws in some

of the most dedicated and supportive people that I’ve ever met and I’ve met some of my best friends on the cross country team,” said Hagstrom.

Tasha Bohorad ’26 described Hagstrom as quiet and humble, yet extremely hard-working. She has a get-it-done mindset, giving her all to each practice without making a big deal out of the challenge.

Bohorad said, “She works very silently; she’s very humble about her work ethic. She just will say, ‘Okay, we have a workout today,’ and then she’ll do the work and she knows that she’ll do it to the best of her ability. She doesn’t make it the whole thing, she just does the work, and I really admire that.”

Hagstrom leads by example, consistently acting as a role model for her teammates. Even after a foot injury earlier in the season, she remains committed to mentoring her team, helping them see the value in every part of the sport, including the activities that may seem trivial at first glance, like stretching.

“I try to lead by example, which is honestly kind of challenging this season because I broke my foot early on in the season... I try to just lead by example and do all the little things so that they see that and they wanna do it. So, for example, I do things like core after practice or doing my foot rehab or just stretching after practice. I want them to see me do it and also want to do it too. This real-



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ly helps them understand that we do the things that we do to get better, not just to waste our time,” said Hagstrom.

Anya Budzinski ’26 praised Hagstrom’s work ethic, noting how she sets the standard for the rest of the team. She elaborated on her appreciation for the positive energy Hagstrom spreads and noted how the team is motivated by her dedication and work ethic.

“She works so hard and is one of the hardest-working people that I know. She really sets the tone for the team in a lot of ways. In workouts, she

goes out and gives everything she has every day. She’s always encouraging everyone and [pushing] herself in practice really hard every day. [That set] the challenge for the team when I was new and that motivated me to do the same,” said Budzinski.

Upon arriving at Andover, Hagstrom recalls being shy, with her former Captains encouraging her to push beyond her comfort zone. Now, as Captain this season, she strives to embody the same inspiring presence her past leaders displayed.

Hagstrom said, “I wanted to become Captain after some of my Captains in my lower-classmen years really helped me open up. I was really shy when I was a lowerclassman and it was really hard for me to talk to people. The Captains on the team at that point in time [were] Natasha [Mur-omcew ’22] and Ashley [Song ’23], and they really helped me step outside my comfort zone and make new friends. They made me into the person I am today; I wanted to be able to do the same thing to other lower-classmen on the team or just new people on the team who struggle to get to know people.”

Looking forward to the end of the season, Hagstrom hopes the team will continue their efforts, with numerous PRs throughout the season serving as a testament to their hard work. Additionally, as a Senior this year, Hagstrom plans to finish strong and pursue cross country and track into college.

Hagstrom said, “Right now, I’m planning to run cross country and track in college; We’ll see where I end up. As for the rest of the season, I really wanna continue what we have been doing this season. Everyone has been working really hard and getting PRs. I want to continue that hard work, especially as we go into our final races.”

Girls Cross Country Claims Victory at Interschols, With Five Runners Receiving All-New England Honors

VIVIEN VALCKX & AUDREY BAETEN-RUFFO

Girls Cross Country was announced as the New England Preparatory School Track Association (Interschols) Division I Champions this past Saturday. After a heartbreaking one point defeat during the championship race last season, the team came back stronger, scoring a total of 62 points. Amelia Alvazzi ’26 placed second in the race with a time of 18:35 and Anya Budzinski ’26 came in tenth with a time of 19:44. Co-Captain Emma Hagstrom ’25, Zoe von Eckartsberg ’26, Tara Menon ’26, Anya Budzinski, and Alvazzi all placed in the top 20, receiving All-New England honors.

Hagstrom recalls the anticipation and excitement, before and after the results were declared.

“We heard second place, and they announced it really slowly.

We were squeezing each other’s hands, and it was Loomis. We were like, ‘We won this!’ Then, they said the winners were Phillips Academy Andover. We all started screaming. We freaked out, and I went to go grab the plaque, because I’m the captain, and then we got some gold medals for the team. We were so happy,” said Hagstrom.

According to Ela Budzinski ’28, the air of the meet was electric, especially with it being the last one of the season.

“The atmosphere was really exciting. I know a lot of people have been looking forward to it. It was surreal that it was here. There were a lot of teams there, and the energy was really high. Everyone was really excited for the last meet of the season,” said Ela Budzinski.

The team struggled with injuries throughout the season, with the entire Varsity roster racing for the first time together only very recently. Hagstrom noted the emphasis captains

and coaches placed on staying healthy leading up to the Interschols race.

Hagstrom said, “We’ve been focusing a lot on really good, high-quality warm-ups. I always tell the girls when we do the warm-ups, I’m not trying to waste your time. We do this so we can prevent injuries, if possible, and we do all the little things to make sure that we’re staying healthy and we’re at the lowest risk of getting hurt.”

The hilly nature of the course played to Andover’s strengths but still required a well-thought-out strategy from captains and coaches, who toured the course earlier in the week to strategize. Alvazzi added that her training gave her a strong finish, propelling her to second place.

“It was a pretty hilly course, and everyone was saying it was a slow course, I wasn’t expecting much, and I was aiming to place in the top five, but then, Andover works hills so much that in the end, I was able to

kick and place second, and I was able to PR, which was really great,” said Alvazzi.

During the season, Girls Cross Country created a supportive team environment. Ela Budzinski mentioned how athletes pushed one another to grow and improve, helping build bonds between the runners and ultimately aiding in the win.

Ela Budzinski said, “[The team] was so welcoming for the whole season. Working together and training together. Through all the hard workouts, we lifted each other up, and we were prepared. The course was really hilly, but we worked on hills the whole season. We just lifted each other and picked each other up when we were down.”

With both mental and physical strength being so vital to success in the sport, Girls Cross Country intentionally incorporates mental training and team bonding alongside physical workouts. Hagstrom shared

how the team focuses on the key values of collaboration and encouragement.

“Cross Country is a sport that is a little bit closer than other sports, just because our sport is so mentally tough, everyone who does it is mentally strong, and you form such good bonds with them. We do team warm up together. We all meet in front of Sam[uel] Phil[lips Hall] every single week. It’s super fun. All the Seniors come down. It’s in front of Sam Phil, when we all do our cheer, do strides, and do a team huddle. I would say our teamwork honestly has gotten us to where we have been this season. If we weren’t a unit and didn’t work as a team, we would not have been able to do this. It really took everyone on the team, everyone buying into this, everyone working hard together, and everyone doing the little things to make sure that we could get this done,” said Hagstrom.

Boys Cross Country Finishes Second in Their Final Race of the Season

EMMA HONG

SATURDAY 11/9	
Andover	75
Hotchkiss	69

On Saturday, Boys Cross Country placed second in the varsity race at New England Preparatory School Track Association (Interschols). Despite the difficult Hotchkiss course — which featured an infamously steep slope after the second mile dubbed the “Cardiac Hill,” followed by a slow uphill section ironically called cardiac arrest — the team pushed through, concluding their season on a high note.

Henry Zimmerman ’27 highlighted Co-Captain Tam Gavenas ’25 as the standout of the meet, noting that Gavenas shattered the previous record by over 50

seconds, finishing with a time of 15:01. He also highlighted how the junior varsity (JV) team adjusted their strategy by learning from varsity’s races, starting at a slower pace to conserve energy, then steadily accelerating as the race progressed.

“Tam Gavenas ’25 ran an exceptional race, going out strong and staying on pace despite the punishing hills in the second half on his way to a commanding course record. Strategically, after hearing from the Varsity boys that they went out too fast in the first 2.5K and subsequently fell back on the hilly second half, the JV team took this into account. We stayed controlled, and in contact with the leaders in the first half, and then passed them on the hills near the end of the race,” said Zimmerman.

Head Coach Patrick Rielly praised Gavenas’s performance and extended his commendation to the other top performers on both the Varsity and JV teams. He noted that the team’s effort in the final stages of the season has been truly impressive.

“The race of the day on the boys’ side was Tam Gavenas’s brilliant front-running en route to breaking the previous course record by more than 50 seconds. Arashi Hunter [PG]’25, who finished fifth overall, also ran faster than the previous course record, which shows how strong this field of runners was. Luke Williamson ’25 ran the race of his life to secure all-New England honors, and [Co-Captain] Luke Francis ’25 secured a big win in the JV race with a commanding performance and tactical final surge.”

Zimmerman expanded on his earlier point, explaining that Andover prepared for the meet by studying the course layout in advance and strategizing to counter Phillips Exeter Academy’s (Exeter) strengths.

“We focused on understanding the layout of the course. We knew that the Exeter runners were going to go out fast as they always do, and we figured out which specific places on the course were ideal for passing other runners decisively. Right after Cardiac Hill, in the section called Cardiac Arrest,

we were able to move up and pass a good amount of runners just as we’d planned to earlier,” Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman highlighted Andover’s strengths in hill conditioning and patience. He also reflected on how memorable Interschols was, with the sunny weather, strong competition, and enthusiastic crowds creating a positive experience for the runners.

“We’re very strong on the hills so this was a course well-suited to our team, but we’re also very patient. Patience is useful but can be a weakness when valued too highly. It was a thrill to watch two course records be broken and to participate in such an outstanding event with talented athletes from all over New England. The sunny and bright weather brought out the joy of competition. The crowds were really enthusiastic, and they made every race more fun to watch and run,” said Zimmerman.

Rielly built on Zimmerman’s point by emphasizing the benefits of Interschols, noting how it offers the runners a chance to compete

against the best in the Northeast. It provided a true test of their abilities and showcased the strength of their performance.

“Interschols is a great event that brings together all of New England prep school XC, and we knew going into the meet that it would be a very competitive field. The day itself was brisk and blustery: the ideal New England cross-country environment. The top five boys all ran faster than the previous course record, so it was a fast day on Hotchkiss’s hilly home course,” said Rielly.

Looking ahead, Rielly outlined his vision for the team’s future. He believes the experience gained by the returning runners this year will drive and sustain a competitive squad and program as they move into next season.

Rielly said, “Looking forward, BXC [Boys Cross Country] brings back nine runners from this year’s Interschols squad, and we’re looking to continue to develop the program to keep it competitive at the top of Interschols.”

Continuing Dominance: Girls Field Hockey Remains Undefeated against Exeter and Milton

EMILY NEY & ASHLEY SUH

SATURDAY 11/9	
Andover	6
Exeter	0

WEDNESDAY 11/13	
Andover	2
Milton	0

On Saturday, the number one ranked Girls Field Hockey team competed in its annual Andover/Exeter (A/E) game, claiming a victory of 6-0 and adding a 16th win to its undefeated season. This streak continued when, on Wednesday, the team competed in its first playoff game, facing number eight seed Milton Academy, whom the team beat 5-0 earlier in the season, securing its spot in the semi-finals with a 2-0 win.

Regarding the team’s game against Phillips Exeter Academy, Kimberley Duplessis ’27 highlighted the skills of Co-Captain Molly Boyle ’25. She recalled her strong performance, character-

ized by many goals.

“I’d say Molly Boyle [stood out], because she scored three goals, or four, or something like that. She definitely got a hat trick. She was on fire the entire game and was amazing. She just killed it,” said Duplessis.

Additionally, Vanessa Hall ’28 commended Senior Meg Stineman ’25. Hall noted that Stineman also scored an impressive goal, coming up with possession from the defensive area to the offensive area.

Hall said, “[Her goal] was our third goal. Our midfielder Meg carried the ball up almost the whole field and just had a really good shot from the top of the circle that went in. It was a really good shot and just a good play overall.”

After the quarterfinal game against Milton on Wednesday, Quiana Bell ’26 noted that Milton brought out some tactics that forced the team to adjust its play and algorithm. Nonetheless, she praised the whole team for a strong, collaborative effort.

Bell said, “[Wednesday] was just a big, honest team effort. We didn’t score a goal until the third quarter and I don’t think it was any specific person because it literally took the entire team to get the ball from the defense all the way up to the offense to get that tip in by Molly Driscoll [PG] ’25].

We worked really hard throughout the whole game to really just put that ball in the net. During the whole first half, we didn’t really possess the ball that much and we didn’t really have many scoring opportunities, so really having just that goal in the third quarter and everybody working together to get that goal was just important for our team.”

Following this win, Field Hockey looks forward to its semi-final game taking place on Saturday. Ultimately aiming to win the championship game, Bell reflected on the team’s challenges while facing Milton and shared the aspects of play the team plans to improve leading up to its faceoff against number four Greenwich Academy.

“We play [Milton] every single year in the playoffs, but I would say for our game we’re having a bit of trouble with our ball movement. Milton would crowd the ball; they would send four or five girls. We had trouble just keeping possession and making moves around the girls and would go through and they were there to stop us every time. We want to work on moving the ball quicker, like one touch to get up the field, and then having those elimination moves to get around those people. Keeping our composure and keeping our heads up to look forward to that space and not a



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Lucy Parker ’26 runs toward the opponent planning to intercept the ball.

passage where there’s like a whole group of people will help us for future games and against Greenwich,” said Bell.

Field Hockey will compete against Greenwich Academy in its semi-final game at home on Saturday.

Girls Volleyball Falls Short in 3-0 Loss to Exeter

ALISTAIR FRITZ-GRUBER & HAOYU ZHANG

SATURDAY 11/9	
Andover	0
Exeter	3

Girls Volleyball had its annual Andover/Exeter (A/E) match, ending in a 3-0 victory for Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter). The team showed immense heart and determination throughout the game, keeping positive energy through the last few points.

The atmosphere of the game was charged with pressure and intensity. Hailey Piasecki ’26 reflected on the match and acknowledged the weight of the rivalry.

“I had a lot of fun in the game, but with how stressful and how much pressure there is during A/E, we let that get to us a little bit, so we played pretty tense and a little timid. We could have done better, but it was overall still fun,” said Piasecki.

Despite the tense atmosphere, Piasecki noted the pivotal role of Kate Rodgers ’26, whose energy and leadership were a driving force for

the team. Another was Ashley Schuman ’27, whose ability to dig and return difficult shots helped defend against Exeter’s potent offense and build Andover’s own attacks.

Piasecki said, “I would definitely say Kate was a key player. She had such constant energy, and was smiling the whole time no matter what the score was or how well we were doing, and she just brought our energy up so much. I would also say Ashley did [an] amazing back row. Her defense always carries us through these games, and she’s such a consistent player. We can always count on her.”

Selene Xu ’27 also highlighted Schuman’s exceptional defense, which was vital in keeping Exeter’s powerful hitters at bay.

“Ashley did a good job of defense at this game. She’s always [played] consistently throughout the season, but this game too, especially against Exeter’s very strong hitters. No matter how far it was, she was diving all over the place. I just want to applaud her because everything else depends on defense, and she’s been doing really great the whole season, and she’s the foundation of the whole team,” said Xu

Piasecki commended Zoe Gilbertson ’27 for stepping

up when Co-Captain Sophie Holten-Moravek ’25 had to leave the court because of a recurring injury. Piasecki emphasized the grit that each player put into the last few points of the game, fighting until the very end of the season.

“A key moment was when Sophie had to step off, and Zoe stepped up and totally came in with a smile, had amazing energy, and really killed it. Another key moment is just the last couple points. We all came together and really just left it all out there on the court, and put our all into every play because we were recognizing that this could be the end of our season, and we really went all out in those last couple points,” Piasecki said.

Gracie Aziabor ’26 noted the emotions that came with the last game of the season. She shared that, despite the loss, the team managed to keep its energy up.

“It was bittersweet because, not even considering the result, it was the last game of the season, our last time playing with some of our Seniors, or playing with that team or that iteration of the team for a year. It was more sad feelings that the season was ending, but I know it was also a fun time. Even though



K.MA/THE PHILLIPIAN

Hailey Piasecki ’26 spikes the ball.

we did lose the game, the team’s energy was really good throughout,” said Aziabor.

Despite the 3-0 loss, Girls Volleyball showed moments of resilience and teamwork. Xu noted the team’s optimism during the game and its growth this season.

Xu said, “Overall, it definitely could have [been] played better, but the energy level overall is really good, whether it was from our fans

or from the bench, or just on the court in general. Everyone had a positive attitude, and it definitely worked through a lot of hard plays. Even though the result definitely wasn’t the best, I’m really proud of not only this game, but seeing how we’ve grown as a team since the beginning,” said Xu.

Boys Soccer Ties to a Strong Exeter Team, Losing Potential Playoff Spot in the Process

MATTHEW LIU

SATURDAY 11/9		
Andover		1
Exeter		1

Andover Boys Soccer (8-5-3) played its last game of the season at the annual Andover/Exeter (A/E) game. The game, with a final 1-1 score, hindered the team's progression to the post-season. Although the game determined whether Andover would be in the playoffs, Co-Captain Sebastian Mejia-Rivera '25 still views the game as a positive end to the season. The team of 28 consists of 16 seniors, and Mejia-Rivera believes the Seniors have left the team with a strong future. "We're leaving the team in a good place this year. We've got guys who'll do amazing jobs as Captains. I know there'll be some new talent coming in to help the program grow, so I'd say to the team to keep their heads high and make us proud. I definitely think they can make the playoffs next year," said Mejia-Rivera. Luca Masters '25 echoed Mejia-Rivera's thoughts, praising the

team for its dedication and thanking Head Coach Joe Donnelly in particular, a first-year coach, for making the season so memorable. "Personally, I was really sad we didn't make the playoffs because I'm a Senior, and it's my last season playing soccer. But everyone, regardless of being a Senior or not, showed the same passion and energy because everyone wants to win and do well. It was disappointing, but we didn't leave anything behind. We upset some great teams this season, and with Coach Donnelly in his first year, we were expected to struggle, but we proved people wrong," said Masters. Masters also commented on the longstanding rivalry between Andover and Exeter, highlighting the infectious energy A/E brings. "We view this game as something that is separate from the other games in our season. It's not just part of the season; it's separate, and it's different. It has this crazy energy, and being here for four years, this game has always been like no other. There's more energy, and players come out with so much more intensity. It comes from the heart," said Masters. Mejia-Rivera also shared valuable insights on the team's achievements and applauded the team for improving its mindset since the beginning of the season. However, he noted that commu-



M.STOUT/THE PHILLIPIAN

Kai Myles '27 leaves an opponent stunned as he dribbles toward the goal.

nication could have been better, citing it as a factor that led Andover to give up a goal against Exeter. "At the beginning of the season, we had a hard time recovering from goals we conceded, but today, we didn't let that get to us. In fact, we got stronger after they scored and put a lot of pressure on them. Keeping our heads high was a definite strength. As for weaknesses, I'd say communica-

tion. Their goal came from a lucky ball into the box, and our backline didn't communicate well, so one of their players ran through and got a header on it without any challenge," said Mejia-Rivera. Ethan Brown '27 also shared his insight into the team's performance on the field. Brown attributed the team's consistency to its combined efforts but suggested they could have capitalized on more chances.

"We had the goal scorer, Kai [Myles '27], and Elijah [Robinson '25], [Co-Captain] Spencer [Madge '25], and Louis [Vincent-Thomas '25] in the midfield also played really well. The entire team played all around pretty well. We didn't give up after the goal was scored. We continued to put pressure and stick to our game plan. We just should have converted the chances that we got. We just didn't put away the chances we needed to put away," said Brown. Masters also reflected on the impact the spectators had on the team's performance, expressing frustration even though the team had anticipated the intensity of the crowd. He credited his teammates for supporting him and helping him maintain a strong mindset throughout the match. "We talked with our captains and coaches about not letting the fans get to our heads. However, I remember making one bad pass, and someone shouted, '17, you suck!' I tried to ignore it, but it's hard when they're right there on the sideline. I expected it, but it was still a bit surprising. It took me about five minutes to settle into the game, and then I realized I was here with my team. We were an army, supporting each other, and fighting for the same thing," said Masters.

Chemistry Beyond Family: Girls Soccer Shuts Out Exeter But Loses in Playoffs

AARON HUANG

SATURDAY 11/9		
Andover		3
Exeter		0

WEDNESDAY 11/13		
Andover		0
Choate		1

In the 146th Andover/Exeter games, Girls Soccer (12-3-3) defeated Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter) 3-0 on a chilly Saturday to clinch the sixth seed in the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Girls Soccer Class A tournament. They faced third seed Choate for the second time this season in the quarterfinals on Wednesday, ultimately losing 1-0. According to Sarah Powers '26, the team went into its game against Exeter with a positive attitude. Although having already secured a spot in the playoffs, the team put its maximum effort into heading into the postseason as strongly as possible. Powers said, "[The game] went



M.STOUT/THE PHILLIPIAN

Hayden Fischer '25 works around the opponent with agility.

pretty well. We were very hyped and excited for Exeter, and it was really exciting. We were really hopeful to win because we were looking forward to playoffs already. We were already guaranteed a playoff spot, but we just wanted to make sure to play hard and work together and communicate on the field so we could heighten the energy on the team and translate our skills into playoffs." Andover had already played its regular season matchup against Choate on October 5, with the game ending in an unfortunate

2-3 loss. Going into the playoffs and once again playing Choate, Murathime Daisley '26 noted the team's confidence and momentum compared to its mentality before the team's first meeting with Choate. Daisley said, "We are coming in mentally stronger because we are on a nine or ten consecutive game winning streak. When we [last] played Choate, the game before was a tough game, [so] our confidence was lower. But our confidence is much higher now. We also had a few injuries [back then]... but we are mostly all

healthy now." On Wednesday, Andover looked to rise to the occasion against the Choate team it had lost to earlier in the year. Wylie Roossien '26 illustrated the crucial minutes in the match, such as when Andover saved a penalty only to concede a few minutes later. "About halfway into the second half, a Choate player was awarded a penalty kick in the box. With the momentum still on our side at that point in the game, this penalty kick had the chance to drastically impact the last 20 minutes. Jackie Dill [27], our goalkeeper, was calm and collected and showed extraordinary maturity to be able to step up in that moment and come up with an incredible save under such an intense situation. In the last few weeks, Jackie must have seen hundreds of [penalty kicks] and each day performed very well, preparing her perfectly for that moment. Unfortunately, about five minutes later, another Choate player received a free kick, this time outside the box. With traffic being heavy in the eighteen-yard box, Jackie's vision was very limited and although she got a hand to the shot, the shot was slotted hard to the far post and just barely got past her," said Roossien. Despite the loss, according to Daisley, Girls Soccer still had a meaningful season filled with great moments and players stepping up to contribute.

Daisley said, "It has been an incredible season. It has been historic and the best season we have had since 2013, statistically speaking. One of the best squads our coach claims to have coached. I think it's due to our chemistry. Most of our team is predominantly Seniors, but Seniors who have, the majority of them, gone through the JV program. We've all spent a lot of time with each other, and we do a lot of team bonding. We do team dinners, go to each other's houses, and spend those weeks together in Maine for the pre-season. Our chemistry was so good, which made our season so strong." According to Roossien, all seasons will come to an end, but what doesn't is the strong bonds and connections that the team has created throughout the past few months. "Proud doesn't even begin to do it justice. I have had the privilege of playing on amazing teams in the past, and I have never experienced anything like this. The genuine love and support felt on this team is unreal and something I will cherish forever. We are heartbroken to be losing a phenomenal group of soccer players in our graduating class but even more so an amazing group of girls. We are so proud of each and every one of them for all they have accomplished and grateful for everything they've brought to this program. We cannot wait to see all the amazing things that are in store for them," said Roossien.



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Arts & Leisure

The Phillippian

Andover/Exeter Brings Big Blue Spirit

MAGGIE SHU AND ALEXANDRA LIN

The iconic rivalry that is Andover/Exeter (A/E) brought out hundreds of students this past weekend to compete and celebrate. From face paint, to Gunga masks, to blue accessories, see how students showed off their Big Blue spirit.

ANDREW PIZZI '27

“I’m wearing a blue wig, half of my face is blue, I’ve got a blue ‘A’ and white cross. I’ve got my A/E shirt, and I’ve got four necklaces. And sunglasses... [My message is] ‘GO BIG BLUE’... I found everything that’s blue in my room, and I just put it on.”



CHLOE ABOU-EZZI '27

“The hoodie is my cousin’s. It’s a 2024 graduate hoodie. I think it was her class merch. The sunglasses and necklaces, I got from [Susie’s], and the face paint was also from [Susie’s]... Marcela [Hernandez '25], one of the Blue Key Heads, painted it for me... I made [a sign] for Jackie [Dill '27]. She’s the goalie of Girls Soccer.”

DARIELYS ALMONTE '25

“I tried to be as blue as possible, so I wore my blue track hoodie and my blue Varsity jacket with my blue Air Jordans... A key point of my outfit was my hair because I temporarily dyed my whole head blue. Not only that, it was curly, so I was walking around with blue, voluminous curls which definitely stood out... It’s OK to be different and stand out, especially at a time during A/E and spirit week. We’re trying to show how much we care for this school... You’ll never be at a school like Andover again. Be crazy and have fun!”



SERAFINA SHIN-VON NORDENFLYCHT '25

“I’m a Blue Key Head, so I was wearing as much spirit as possible... I always wear a fanny pack. It is the most useful part of my outfit because whenever you’re carrying a speaker or cough drops, it’s nice to have a little bag. I was wearing a blue cape as part of my spirit... and then my two most iconic pieces of clothing: I have a sparkly cowboy hat, which has stars all over it, and then I have these amazing ’70s sparkly go-go boots... When I slip those shoes on, I slip into my role as a spirit leader.”

Academy Chamber Society Hosts Last Concert in Graves Hall

DANIEL LIU & ADEN HWANG

Heads flipping back, bows passionately swinging, and vibrant sounds filling the air signaled the fall chamber music recital held in the Timken Room on November 9. Musical groups ranging from string quartets to wind trios walked onto the stage to showcase the work they have prepared throughout the term. This concert marked the final Chamber recital at Graves Hall, as the department prepares to move to Falls Music Center in 2025.

The chamber groups, formed at the start of school, have consistently rehearsed together throughout the Fall term. In the practices leading up to the performance, musicians were able to meet new friends while practicing their musical abilities. Playing in a Beethoven clarinet quartet, Vedant Bajaj '28 reflected on his time with the chamber society, noting how, as a new student, the program offered an opportunity to get to know the music community.

“Chamber music is a very cool opportunity because it lets you bond with other people, and it improves music skills that you would otherwise not learn. I’m really glad to have been able to play alongside my group and especially listen to what others prepared this term,” said Bajaj.

This year, the Academy Chamber Society was led by Co-Heads Helios Hong '25 and Sophie Tung '25. Working with faculty on the program-

ming and organization behind the program, Hong discussed the efforts over the past term. Hong also performed in the concert as a part of two chamber groups, noting the growth of the group throughout the term.

“I am one of the co-heads with Sophie. Basically, you have the option of coaching a group for every term. We also work with Mrs. [Holly] Barnes, [Instructor in Music and Director of Performance,] to pick a repertoire, to put groups together, and also work together on the program and the scheduling of the concert. This term, I was part of two chamber groups. The point of chamber is to play music with smaller groups of people and to learn about each other’s instrument and each other’s sound, and I definitely did that in both of my chamber groups,” said Hong.

The Chamber Music program offers an opportunity to perform in a small group as opposed to the many larger ensembles on campus. Maggie Fulop '26, whose string quartet performed an arrangement of Handel-Halvorsen Passacaglia along with the first and third movements of a Hermann Suite, pointed to chamber music as one of her favorite contexts to play the violin.

“Getting together for rehearsals, especially for the Passacaglia, was tricky. Luckily we all did chamber music as a sport so that was built-in rehearsal time... Getting to play with my friends is super fun. I also personally like the sound of chamber music so it’s always been one of my



With The Falls Hall Music Center set to open soon, Graves Hall will be retired.

S.TUNG/THE PHILLIPIAN

favorite ways to play violin,” said Fulop.

The chamber recital is a highly anticipated event held at the end of each term, drawing in friends and family to celebrate the dedication and talent of the student performers. Musician Cyrus Law '27 expressed excitement about listening to what his friends had worked on throughout the term.

“A lot of my friends, including my roommate, were performing. So I was excited to see what they have been working on this term. But I’m also involved in the music program, so it’s just really nice to see my peers perform

occasionally. I also know some of them were doing chamber as a sport, so it was pretty cool to see what they could prepare with their extra dedication,” said Law.

As Chamber Society’s final recital in Graves, musicians entered with a sentimentality as they performed in Timken for the last time. For Hong, Graves was a staple part of his musical career at Andover, housing memories of his part work and performances. However, he also highlighted the opportunities that Falls will open up for more students to get involved with the Chamber Society.

“This is the last chamber

recital in Graves Hall. All of my solo and chamber recitals have been in Graves, so this is definitely very bittersweet for me. My group played pretty well and I’m very honored to be the Co-Head of Chamber Society in this last iteration of the chamber. I’m really looking forward to the endless opportunities and resources that [we] will have in Falls to improve the chamber experience and also to offer more chamber opportunities to more musicians and more instruments,” said Hong.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Isael Ruiz '25 on Thrifted Finds, Friend Influences, and Reclaiming Personal Style

SIENNA RODRIGUEZ AND CHARLIZE SOW

With a bandana tucked into his pocket and a blue baseball cap over his head, Isael Ruiz '25 styles blue jeans with a white tank and striped shirt, tying in various other accessories. Ruiz's evolving personal style is a reflection of what is currently trending in the fashion space on social media. Meshing a mix of streetwear, '90s, and Y2K aesthetics, he draws from images he sees online and brings them together through his individual style. In addition to digital inspira-



L. RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN

Ruiz draws inspiration from his friends and social media.

tion, Ruiz also takes elements of fashion he sees in the physical world around him. As his style has evolved over time, he has found that his friends also have a significant influence on what he wears.

"I would describe my style as fun and versatile... I get my inspiration from my friends and social media. My friends are gorgeous, and their style is just as immaculate, so I try and vibe with the group," said Ruiz.

Leveraging these sources of inspiration, Ruiz makes an effort to curate a unique closet by sourcing clothes from a variety of places. He sees

thrifting as a source of liberation because he is confined by the tastes of mainstream brands. Furthermore, shopping second-hand allows him to properly embody '90s and early 2000s fashion by finding pieces authentic to that time period.

"My style has developed as I've gotten older. I strictly thrift, so with the freedom I've gained, I've been able to explore more shops. For example, in the summer, I went to Boston a few times and went to thrifting events hosted by Select Markets. I got so many signature pieces of clothing, far better than the Savers I typically shop at," said Ruiz.

One of Ruiz's close friends, Kamila Garcia '25, also closely affiliates his style with a few distinct pieces. She sees these particular clothing items as intrinsic to his personal style, which has developed accordingly as he has become better at sourcing clothes. Moreover, because of the care he puts into this selection process, his external style is a manifestation of his internal self.

"He adopts many elements from different kinds of '90s fashion. My favorite outfit of his is the bandana under the cap with a jersey and baggy jeans. It just feels very him, and it's fun. He also can't go without his Levi's leather jacket with the hood on it," said Garcia.

Garcia continued, "[His style] has totally evolved since Freshman year. It's become more playful and intentional."

Because Ruiz meticulously selects his clothing items, he has a solid rotation of pieces he can build an outfit around. How he pairs these pieces is centered around that day's events and his personal mood. In addition, the specific way he pairs his clothing is central to diversifying his outfits.

"Honestly, I run through similar outfits each week and choose my clothes based on the day I'll have. For example, if it's a day where I have less classes and might leave campus early, I'll wear sweatpants



L. RUSTUM/THE PHILLIPIAN

Ruiz hopes to normalize repeating outfits in an effort to be more sustainable.

and a sweater, but on busier days like Friday, I will dress up more. Something I should do more often is look at the weather though... To keep my style creative throughout the week, I try to mix and match different pieces of clothing from the normal outfits I go through. I tend to switch up my shirts and sweaters or how I layer them," said Ruiz.

While Ruiz tries to find variety in his outfits, he is a firm supporter of outfit repeating. In a society overrun with overconsumption, online shopping, and microtrends, it can be difficult to create a style that feels truly individual. His shift towards truly amortizing his clothing is a welcomed

break from this pervasive messaging in the media. To keep things fresh while sticking to reliable outfits, he often plays around with his accessories.

"Repeating clothing items and outfits should be more normalized. I have a washer and dryer for a reason. I hate feeling like I can't wear something because I already wore it, even if I love the outfit. For the most part, I wear the same pieces of clothing throughout each week, but sometimes I might accessorize more than I typically do, like wearing a hat or necklaces," said Ruiz.

From Cheers to Choreography: Inside Andover's 2024 Fall Pep Rally

ANNA TSVETKOV & NINA TORRENS

This Friday, Andover students crowded the stands of the Borden Memorial Gym's basketball court for the Fall 2024 Pep Rally. An Andover tradition, the pep rally was held the Friday night before Andover/Exeter (A/E) to boost school spirit. It featured performances by clubs, including hip-hop dance group, Hypnotiq (Hypno), Afro-Caribbean dance group, Fusion, Jazz dance group, Blue Strut (Strut), K-pop dance group, JVNE, Drumline, Varsity sports teams. Students were also led in a series of chants, both new and old, by the Blue Key Heads.

As the campus spirit leaders, each Friday, the ten Seniors adorn themselves in Big Blue pride to prepare for the weekend's athletic games, and on game day, they lead spectators in chants. One of their larger tasks includes running the A/E pep rally. Jaylen Daley '25, Blue Key Head, talks about the Blue Key Heads' organization efforts for the event and the close bond that he feels between himself and his fellow Blue Key Heads.

"As a Blue Key Head who is unaffiliated with interscholastic sports, the task of organizing the Pep Rally was less daunting for me. We opted for sharing the duties we could commit to, big and small. But the whole process, including organizing and doing the Pep Rally felt like a bonding activity between me and the Blue Key Heads. The time we spent brainstorming a theme and re-

hearsing our own dances was fun overall. I felt surrounded by people who were looking out for each other nonstop, and they're all great to be around. The Blue Key Heads themselves are incentive to work through organizing events, so my favorite part was being with them," said Daley.

In previous years, Daley performed at the Pep Rally as a part of the hip-hop dance team Hypno. Daley compares the feeling of dancing in one act to being upfront and guiding the audience throughout the entire pep rally. He discusses how he was able to feel comfortable in the space despite the daunting experience of standing before the entire school.

"Being a Blue Key Head at the Pep Rally is a greatly different experience, being in front of everyone the whole time, compared to being a dancer spending time with other spectators in the stands. The Borden basketball/volleyball court feels much smaller once you've run a couple laps around it; the voices are more muted when the stands erupt for their class years, and it's disillusioning, like your first week at a dream job," said Daley.

Kaliah Fortune '26 is a member of both Girls Volleyball and Fusion. She discussed the goals of both groups as they prepared to perform in the pep rally. While Fusion aimed to hype up the audience and incorporate their cultural elements, Volleyball choreographed an act to reflect their team spirit and maintain their organization as volleyball players.

"I performed with both Fusion and the Girls Volleyball team. For Fusion, our goal is al-



H.ZHONG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Fusion, a campus favorite, performed a dance medley at the pep rally.

ways just to be as hype as possible. We bring in lots of cultural elements and dance moves, and then we put it all together in a dance that's hype and fun and energizes everyone for the next day, A/E. Then, for volleyball, Flat Line, which is the song that we lip-synch to, has been our team song. We always sing it on the buses and at practices, so we thought that we definitely should incorporate that into our piece. And then, for the Usher song, we wanted to have a contrasting song, one that was more hype, upbeat, and exciting. Because the choreography was simple, it could

go with the beat, and we could be as organized as possible as volleyball players," said Fortune.

In addition to sports teams, the wide variety of dance performances is central to an Andover pep rally. Izzy Park '26 performed with JVNE. She loved the performance experience because she got to meet many new dancers through the rehearsal process. However, she was challenged by the short time frame available to choreograph and clean the dance.

"I performed with JVNE, and we chose iconic K-pop

songs that sound hype and energetic. My favorite part was getting to know the lower classmen because I got to know a lot of new students, especially when rehearsing. I was especially happy to see how so many newer dancers visibly gained confidence through the process. We were a bit short on time for rehearsals because everyone here has multiple commitments, so it was a bit challenging to try and put everything together within a few practices," said Park.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian

Muddy Sculptures: “Trash Into Art” Event Teaches Students the Art of Upcycling

TAYLA STEMPSON & DANIEL ZHANG

This Sunday, students waited at the steps of Addison Gallery of American Art before heading down to Rabbit Pond for a spirited and lively trash clean-up. The event saw participants transform debris into creative expressions, blending environmental stewardship with artistic vision.

The event saw participants transform debris into creative expressions, blending environmental stewardship with artistic vision. Carter Chen '28 shared his experience of the event.

“It’s a very active activity being outside in the environment. You’re also contributing to improve the natural environment. Moreover, it’s always a good thing to [help

the environment] every once in a while... I also like the idea that we didn’t know what we would make our sculptures out of until the very end, since we are making it out of trash we collect. It was kind of like a mystery activity for me,” said Chen.

This past Sunday, the Direct Climate Action Initiative (DCAI) and the Addison Club hosted the “Trash Into Art” event at Rabbit Pond. Gaining inspiration from Angela Parker, Educator for Academy Engagement, the clubs aimed to teach students the craft of upcycling. Annina Capaldi '27 described the planning process.

“Originally, it was Ms. Parker who reached out to [the] Direct Climate Action Initiative, which I co-lead with Gemma [Park '27]. [Ms. Parker] had this idea that we could collaborate with the Addison Club for a really cool

project of turning trash into art. We met around the start of October, and we started talking about ways we could get trash. We proposed the idea that we could go to Rabbit Pond or just around campus. We eventually narrowed [the location] down to Rabbit Pond to pick up trash and then like turn [the trash] into art in a certain style, which I thought was really cool,” said Capaldi.

Despite the muddy conditions near the water, the students who attended were dedicated to the task. Many participants were shocked by the volume and variety of garbage they found. Alex Lin '28 spoke about the process of collecting the litter and the challenges that came with it.

“We started picking up trash that’s around the pond, and I felt like the more we looked, the more trash was there. It was quite hard to get

some of the trash that was stuck in the thorny bushes, and it was also quite challenging to get the trash that was in the mud like the plastic bottles and cans. A water bottle was even there deep in the mud and somebody slipped and sacrificed their shoes for it,” said Lin.

Unfortunately, due to the messiness of the collected trash and the time constraints to clean the items, the final art creation could not utilize the collected trash items. However, the group improvised, creating the project using the Addison’s resources.

“We didn’t actually end up using the trash we picked up from Rabbit Pond because it’s really wet and gross, especially with the chair we pulled up. So we decided that we would use the objects thrown out by students that were a little cleaner, which we got from the Addison, because they

have a place to dump [dorm student trash]. There was a lot of random stuff there, like tennis rackets, there’s some type of machine they took apart and there were all these odds and ends,” said Capaldi.

Looking ahead, students can expect more events like this, as DCAI plans to organize additional activities during the Winter term. Park appreciated the unique event, and hopes to host similar workshops in the future.

“This was one of our first events of the year, but it has stood out from previous DCAI events. We typically do trash cleanups, and in this event, I love the concept of taking that trash and repurposing it into something more personal and valuable,” said Park.

Sam August '10 and “The Rippers” Rock Susie’s With An Interactive Performance

HLUMA MANGCU & ANYA CASEY

On November 19, Susie’s hosted “The Rippers,” a country-rock band featuring Sam August '10. The performance was largely interactive, creating a positive and fun atmosphere that helped students de-stress from a busy week.

“We just like to feel the crowd, no set list, look around the room and make sure that people get engaged, and try to get everybody involved, because there’s lots of different people, so we want everybody to feel like they are part of it,” said August.

After performing for four years, “The Rippers” have formed a tight bond. Despite not performing for a year before this weekend, they had no doubt they would pull it off. According to member Rob

Pagnano, the band trusted that their united presence, with an enthusiastic audience, would compensate for their lack of rehearsal time.

“We just wanted to feel the energy of each other, and of the audience. We winged a few things today, but we’ve been playing together so long that we can do that and it ought to go well. We went in with no set list, and focused our attention on making sure everybody was engaged in one way or another. Even though there are so many people in the crowd, we want everybody to feel like they are a part of the experience,” said Pagnano.

To ensure maximum engagement from the student body, “The Rippers” performed beloved classics so the crowd could sing a long. More importantly, they invited audience members up on stage, singing anything of their request. For

August, this was the highlight of the night, as it also allowed him to transcend barriers between himself and the younger generations.

“Getting the kids up onstage and singing is hilarious. It’s a lot if you never know what you’re gonna get, and that element of just winging things make it a lot more fun,” August said. “I am a lot older than the students, so for us to actually be able to connect with young people is a very cool thing. In a way, it’s like we’re all just hanging out together, that barrier sort of disappear,” said August.

Fans of country and rock genres were particularly enthused by this performance. Kaliah Fortune '26 shared that the concert allowed her and her friends to embrace their love for country, channeling passion through their voice.

“We’ve been listening to a lot of country lately as it’s been getting colder, so getting to see

a live performance like this was amazing... It was so much fun to sing along to all the classics, and the best part was being able to get up on stage and be a part of the music... My favorite song they performed is definitely ‘Before He Cheats’ because it felt like everyone in the audience knew it word for word,” said Fortune.

Many students shared a similar sentiment, appreciating “The Rippers” ability to bring authentic rock and country music to campus. For Phia Cutler '26, their personalities shined through in their performance, making it all the more memorable.

“Their energy is probably what stuck out to me the most... A lot of the time, when artists or groups come to perform, students aren’t really drawn to them because they don’t bring the right attitude. With The Rippers, though, they really embodied the spirit

of people who just love music and love to perform for others,” said Cutler.

As the night drew to a close, August reflected on how special it was to be back at Andover, performing in front of the next generation of students. For him, Saturday night wasn’t just another show — it was a celebration of where his musical journey had begun, and how far he had come since then.

“I really have nothing but great things to say about this place. I figured out that I wanted to do music when I was here. So I started a band with a few of my buddies in the dorm, and we competed in Battle of the Bands. Some of my first times playing were on this very stage, so I feel like I’m right back where I started, which feels so surreal,” said August.

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