

# re:invent

April 10, 2022

**featuring...**

Mr. Chris Chambers

Mr. Craig Kramer

Hon. Katherine Forrest (fmr.)

Dr. Larry Thomsen

Hon. Leeland Cole-Chu

Dr. Mary Branch

**Road to TEDx  
Meet the team**

**First  
TEDx at  
Choate**





*“An innovator  
is one who  
does not know  
it cannot be  
done.”*

— **R.A. Mashelkar** —

from the TED talk  
“Breakthrough designs for  
ultra-low-cost products”



# a new start.

letter from the director



A wild idea was born in the shower, in the summer of 2021. *What if there was a TEDx event at Choate?* The image of speakers sharing their “ideas worth spreading” fascinated me. From bullet points on the iPhone Notes App to pages after pages of Google Docs, the ambitious goal became closer to reality every day. In some ways, the process of creating “re:INVENT” was in itself a reinvention — we had a third of the time that a TEDx event typically takes to plan. Through un-

defeatable persistence, the Committee has proved how far a whimsical idea could take us. It is with pride and honor that we present to the community the culmination of months of hard work.

*Lights, camera, action.*

This is our moment.

*Yoyo Zhang*

Founder & Project Director





Graphic by Isa Turri '23

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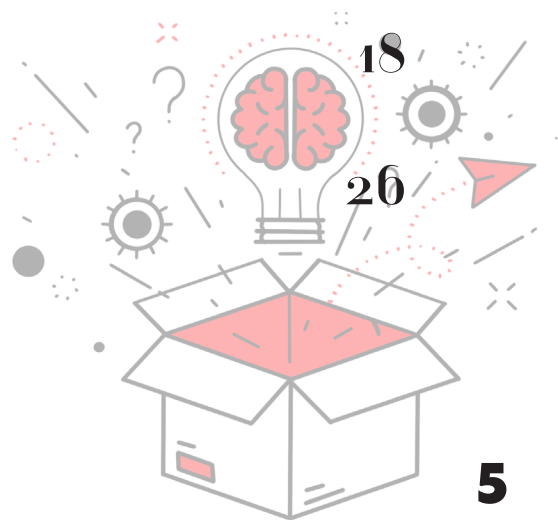
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“**RE:INVENT**” symbolizes a new start and the unlimited possibilities lying ahead. “re:INVENT” defines the *zeitgeist* of the 21st century, yet also holds importance in all stages of life because change is life’s only constant. As learners and adventurers, we perpetually “re:INVENT” our views, our careers, and ourselves.



# ur theme.



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# event des





# scription

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Taking place on April 10 in the Ann & George Colony Hall, TEDxYouth@ChoateRosemaryHall is the first ever TEDx event held at Choate.

After four months of planning, the Student Committee hereby presents six alumni speakers to the community to share lessons, experiences, and ideas regarding “re:INVENT.”

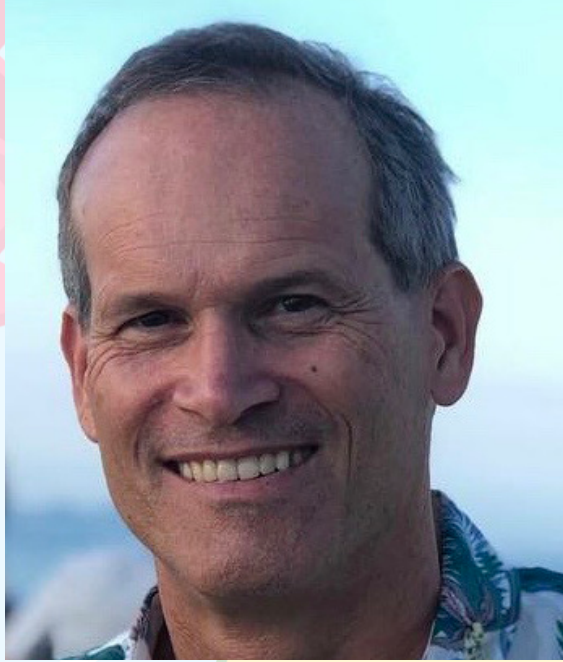
# CHRIS CHAMBERS

Class of 2013



## ***Great stories are a key to successful innovation***

Chris Chambers is an accomplished Go-To-Market professional. He graduated from D'Amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University in 2017 and has since made a career in solving complex problems for people and businesses globally. Hailing from a Jamaican household in Newark, New Jersey, he attributes much of his success to his family who taught him the art of storytelling at a young age — a skill that helped him reach new heights in his education including acceptance into New Jersey Seeds, The Rectory School, and Choate Rosemary Hall. At Choate, he realized this talent and began to push its limits beyond education. He landed his first sales job cold-calling prospects for home renovations, which taught him that the few people who care about what one has to say will only stay for a captivating story. This lesson stuck with him for years as he continues to motivate actions that will shape a better future.



Class of 1979

CRAIG KRAMER

### ***The Mental Health Moment***

Craig Kramer is Mental Health Ambassador and Chair in Neuroscience External Affairs at Janssen R&D, a Johnson & Johnson company. Craig leads a team that seeks to raise mental health awareness, reduce stigma, promote research, improve access, and ensure better patient outcomes. Craig is a graduate of Princeton University's School of Public & International Affairs, University of Michigan School of Law, and Harvard Business School's General Management Program. He serves the American Brain Coalition, citiesRISE, DMAX Foundation, International Alliance of Mental Health Research Funders, International Schools Services, Mental Health Center of Denver, National (US) Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, One Mind at Work, Project HEAL, Trinity Counseling Services, United Nations Health Innovation Exchange Investor Coalition, United for Global Mental Health, and US National Response to COVID-19.

Class of 1982



***Is Justice Real When Reality Is Not?  
Dispensing justice in virtual environments***

Katherine B. Forrest is a partner in Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP's Litigation Department. She most recently served as a U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York and was the former Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Over the course of her career, Ms. Forrest has been regarded as a leader in legal issues relating to technology, including artificial intelligence, the digital environment and big data. Ms. Forrest is a frequent lecturer and published author in the areas of antitrust, intellectual property, and investigations. Ms. Forrest received a B.A. with honors from Wesleyan University and a J.D. from NYU School of Law, where she is an Adjunct Professor of Law. Ms. Forrest joined Cravath in 1990 and was elected a partner in 1997. She rejoined Cravath in 2018.





***Interstellar innovations:  
Missions beyond a lifetime***

Dr. D. Laurence Thomsen (Larry) joined the Advanced Materials and Processing Branch at NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC) in 2000 as a Research Materials Engineer, after a National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Naval Research Laboratory from 1999-2000. He received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Connecticut in 1999. Larry has been awarded 9 patents, 3 licenses, NASA Government Invention of the Year Honorable Mention “Methods of Making Z-Shielding” and authored/co-authored multiple papers and presentations. He is a U.S. Army War College graduate and has deployed on two contingency operations: Noble Eagle (2003-4) and Enduring Freedom (2011-12).



### *On living Selfishly*

Leeland Cole-Chu lives in Salem, Connecticut. He is a graduate of The Choate School, Harvard College, and the University of San Francisco School of Law. He practiced law in San Francisco from 1979 to 1983 and in Connecticut from 1983 to 2012, when he became a Judge of the Connecticut Superior Court. He is semi-retired, with the office of Judge Trial Referee. He writes occasionally on matters of personal and civic responsibility, and spirituality, in a blog entitled “A Friend’s Thoughts,” and on Twitter, @afriendsthought.



Class of 2003

MARY BRANCH

### ***How to hold on to your brand against adversity?***

Mary Branch is a cardiologist from Youngstown, Ohio. In her career, she strives to improve heart disease prevention in cancer patients and improve healthcare equity for Black Americans, motivated by her legacy of being a fourth-generation African American physician. Dr. Branch received her B.A. from Smith College and M.D from Case Western University, School of Medicine. She has also conducted research at Massachusetts General Hospital, part of the Harvard system, completed her residency training at the University of North Carolina, and is on track to receive a Masters of Science at Wake Forest College in June 2022. In the future, Dr. Branch will complete additional training in cardio-oncology at the University of Pennsylvania and become the Director of Cardio-Oncology at Cone Health in North Carolina.

# road to TEDx

## 1. Initial Preparation

On November 30, 2021, applications for the inaugural TEDxChoate Committee were sent to the Choate community. Months prior, Project Director Yoyo Zhang '24 and Assistant Director Annika Lee '23 worked behind the scenes to sow the seeds for this pivotal event. The newly selected Committee met for the first time on January 8, 2022 to become acquainted and establish a theme for the event — “re:INVENT”. From there, the group continued to meet regularly and work diligently on bringing this vision to life in collaboration with six, later determined speakers.

## 2. Getting Things Together

From the second meeting onward, the three departments started to settle into their various roles and responsibilities. The Content team under the Creative Design department began to work on writing weekly progress blogs and member profiles for the publication. The Visual team worked on finding inspiration to create future merchandise and badge designs. The Technology department began sketching and building the website for the event as well as creating plans for the event and the trailer for promotion. In the Outreach department, members of the Communications team drafted a press release for the school and acceptance and rejection letters for the soon to be chosen speakers, a process they would assist in. Throughout the early stages of the process, the Business team selected merch companies to partner with for the event, taking into consideration factors such as price and quantity.

## 3. Speaker Selection Process

During the first week of the preparation process, applicants apply to become a TEDxChoate speaker. All members review the applications in addition to a few volunteer reviewers. To gauge interest, a Google Form was sent school wide to gauge interest. Thanks to a good amount of participation, the committee determined the community's interest in the speaker selection process. After more careful deliberation, the committee selected Dr. Mary Branch '03, Mr. Chris Chambers '13, Mr. Forrest (fmr.) '82, Mr. Craig Kramer '79, and Dr. I.

## 4. BTS Advancement

As the term drew to a close, Yoyo and Annika held a de-stress event in lieu of a normal meeting where Committee members could create TEDx art. Once spring break started, work began for the Committee once more. Each department had deadlines to meet in the two week period. The Creative Design department worked on the publication, progress blogs, merch designs, and website art. The Technology department worked on website building, creating a trailer for the event, and making a schedule for the big day. The Outreach department continued to collaborate with the Creative Design department to review speaker speeches and finalize merch. During break, many individuals within the Committee formed teams to work with the speakers to edit and review their speeches and create visuals for their presentation. As a whole, spring break was a very busy yet productive time for the TEDxChoate Committee.

## 5. Final Preparations

As spring break came to an end, the Committee worked together to conclude many aspects to ensure a smooth event. Each department has their own task to complete: Creative Design worked on finalizing speaker speeches and creating the publication, Technology published the website, and Outreach produced merchandise.

ESS

An application was sent out to all alumni to members of the Communications team helped peers within the Committee. After this initial surge the community's curiosity in the potential from students, the Committee was able to select speakers which was very helpful in the final stages of the event. The committee decided upon its final six speakers: Hon. Leeland Cole-Chu '67, Hon. Katherine Thomsen '87.

**Welcome  
to TEDx!**

by Semi Obayomi '23



# Meet the Team

## Founder & Project Director

Yoyo Zhang '24

Hailing from Shanghai, China, Yoyo is a proactive member of the Choate community. She is the Features section editor of *The Choate News*, the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the *GirlTech Magazine*, and a flute player in the Symphony Orchestra. She is a part of the Science Research Program (SRP) with an interest in computational neuroscience. When free, she enjoys movies, chats with friends, and slow walks. Her favorite TED Talk is “Why tech needs the humanities” by Eric Berridge, which helped solidify her interest in pursuing both STEM and Liberal Arts.



## Assistant Director

Annika Lee '23



Annika is a 5th former from Hong Kong. At Choate, she is the president of the Student Committee of Programming and Engagement (SCOPE), the Photography Editor of the *GirlTech Magazine*, and a member of the Girls JV Basketball team. Annika has a passion for engineering and graphics design and hopes to pursue a career in STEM and business. You can always find Annika eating a bowl of edamame, sleeping with her Boba pillow, or hanging out with her friends in the Dining Hall. Annika's favorite TED Talks are “The orchestra in my mouth” presented by Tom Thum and “How great leaders inspire action” by Simon Sinek.



### Emily Son '23

Hometown: South Korea

Hobbies: art, traveling, eating, cooking

Activities: Yearbook, Art Club, photography, GirlTech Magazine

Favorite TED talk: "Grit: the power of passion and perseverance" by Angela Lee Duckworth



### Chloe Jacobs '23

Hometown: Santa Monica, CA

Hobbies: theater, tennis, writing for publications

Activities: arts, writing, movie analysis



### Nicholas Ng '23

Hometown: Hong Kong

Hobby: tennis

Activities: Chinese Club, Symphony Orchestra

Favorite TED talk: "The Unspoken Reality Behind the Harvard Gates" by Alex Chang



### Semi Obayomi '23

Hometown: Milford, CT

Hobbies: writing, listening to music, cooking Nigerian food

Activities: Peer Educator, track, dancing

Favorite TED talk: "Sawubona, we see you" by Roche Mambolo from TEDx Mafikeng



### Eva Li '24

Hometown: Hong Kong

Hobbies: rowing, hiking

Interests: environmental issues

Activities: The Choate News, SciTECH magazine



## Sunny Vo '24

Hometown: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Hobbies: art, reading, watching

Activities: Quiz Bowl, Ethics Bowl, Linguistics Club

Favorite TED talk: "The danger of a single story" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Visual



## Isa Turri '23

Hometown: Beijing, China

Activities: Symphony Orchestra (violin), The Lit

Online



## Isabel Maida '23

Hometown: New York City, NY

Hobbies: traveling, cooking, spending time with her two dogs

Activities: Girls Who Code, computer science, Peer Educator, softball, political science

Favorite TED talk: "My Immigrant Story" by Tan Le



## Zoe Plunkett '24

Hometown: Milwaukee, WI

Hobbies: reading, writing

Activities: robotics, coding

Favorite TED talk: "Inside the Mind of a Master Procrastinator" by Tim Urban





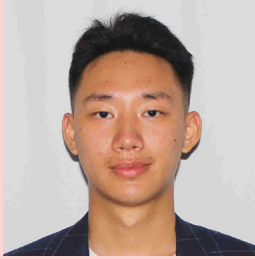
## Peyton Li '25

Hometown: New York City, NY

Activities: Quiz Bowl, Math Team, Wind Ensemble

Interest: STEM

Favorite TED talk: "Top hacker shows us how it's done"  
by Pablos Holman



## Kewei Wang '23

Hometown: Zhuhai, China

Hobbies: running, filming, reading

Interests: filmmaking, music, history



## Carson Ling '24

Hometown: Dalian, China

Activities: Choate Programming Union (CPU), Advanced Robotics Concentration (ARC)

Interests: computer science, robotics, photography



## Yuki Zhang '24

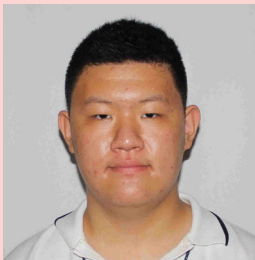
Hometown: Nanjing, China

Hobbies: minecraft

Activities: basketball, orchestra, Science Research Program (SRP)

Interests: STEM, math

Favorite TED talk: "This is what happens when you reply



## Eric Yang '25

Hometown: Canada

Hobbies: making short skirts, singing while playing the piano, designing with computer softwares

Activities: choir

## Anya Mobarak '23

Hometown: Hamden, CT

Hobbies: travel, music

Activities: Mixed Heritage Association, tennis,

Whims Acapella

Favorite TED talk: "The Danger of a Single Story" by Chimamanda Adiche



Manager

## Wendy Huo '23

Hometown: Beijing, China

Hobbies: martial arts, piano

Interests: sociology, psychology, history

Favorite TED talk: "Inside the Mind of a Master Procrastinator" by Tim Urban



Communication

## Isabella Wu '24

Hometown: Long Island, NY

Hobby: visual arts

Activities: Symphony Orchestra, Quiz Bowl, writing for publications

Interests: science, math

Favorite TED talk: "How Your Brain Invents Your "Self"" by Anil Seth



Business

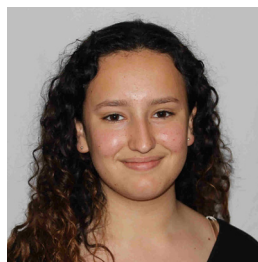
## Jimena Acosta '23

Hometown: Mexico City, Mexico

Activities: Gold Key tour guide, basketball, Student Advocating for Gender Equality (SAGE)

Interests: science, math, economics

Favorite TED talk: "Sleepy Teens: a Health Epidemic" by Wendy Troxel





## Leyee Dai '24

Hometown: Shanghai, China

Activities: Debate Team, Model United Nations, Wind Ensemble, Concert Orchestra, Student Committee of Programming and Engagement (SCOPE)

Interests: political science and international relations



## Emma Ding '24

Hometown: Shanghai, China

Activities: Band, Yearbook, basketball

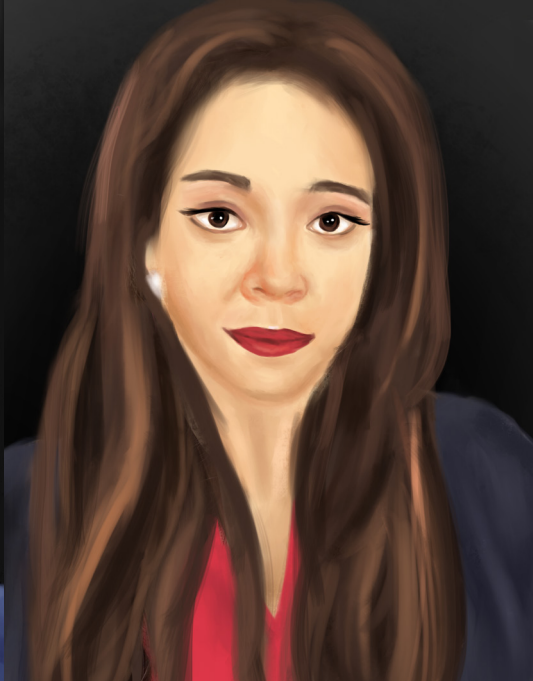
Favorite TED talk: "Inside the Mind of a Master Procrastinator" by Tim Urban

*“Vision begins with the eyes, but it truly takes place in the brain.”*

— Fei-Fei Li —

*from the TED talk “How We’re Teaching Computers to Understand Pictures”*





The process of bringing this event together was filled with many trial-and-errors and learning experiences.

Although certain moments were stressful, the bright memories outshine the challenges. Together, hand in hand, the Committee has overcome countless obstacles and worked through sleepless nights.

We are proud to present the culmination of months of hard work to the Choate community and beyond.

**Thank you for joining us for this journey.**

# special thanks

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## *Committee Advisers*

Ms. Colleen Kazar  
Mr. Sam Christenfeld

## *Director of Alumni Relations*

Ms. Andrea Solomon

## *Lights & Sounds*

Mr. Paul Bozzi

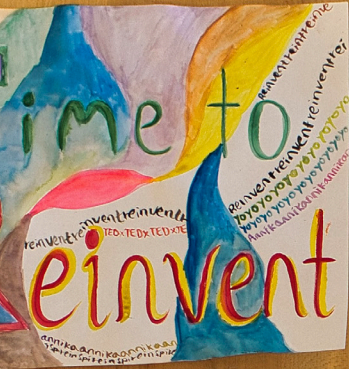
## *Student Volunteers*

Noah McBride '23  
Maya Rose Chiravuri '23  
Favour Olagunju '25

## *Student Performers*

Gigi Chen '24  
Lauren Kee '24





# Presented to you by...

## *Executives*

Emily Son '23

Semi Obayomi '23

Yoyo Zhang '24

## *Contributors*

Chloe Jacobs '23

Isa Turri '23

Sunny Vo '24

## *Cover Design*

Emily Son '23

## *Photography*

Eric Yang '25

visit our event page



**TED<sup>x</sup> Youth**  
@ChoateRosemaryHall

x = independently organized TED event