The Circle Voice

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PRIZE DAY

HATS OFF TO THE FORM OF 2019

By EVAN CHEIGH '22

The Form of 2017 throw their boater hats after graduating. A . RICHINS for Groton School

Prize Day is a final farewell to our Sixth Formers: a momentous occasion filled with bittersweet tears as boater hats go off and our seniors graduate, commencing a new chapter in their lives. It has always been a distinguished honor to be named a commencement speaker; this year, that honor is bestowed upon Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein and Edward Cho '19.

Mr. Zeid, father of Ra'ad Zeid '19, was a Jordanian diplomat who served in a number of positions for both Jordan and the United Nations. He was Jordan's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN from 1996 to 2000 and then its Permanent Representative from 2000 to 2007. Subsequently, Mr. Zeid was appointed as the Ambassador of Jordan to the United States, serving for three years. After returning to his UN post as Jordan's Permanent Representative from 2010 to 2014, Mr. Zeid was appointed by former Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Following his stint as High Commissioner, Mr. Zeid has since taken a hiatus from diplomacy and is now a Distinguished Global Leader In-Residence at the University of Pennsylvania, where he facilitates research

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Groton Teams Take on New England

By TYLER WEISBERG '22

This spring, three Groton School teams competed in championships. All these teams worked hard throughout the season in hopes of winning a championship.

Groton's boys varsity tennis team (BVT) had a wonderful season this year despite two heartbreaking losses competing for the Independent School League (ISL) and New England titles. The team had a strong lineup, including freshmen Jared Gura and Ben Jones '22, who won tough matches at the New England semi-finals against Phillips Andover Academy.

Although the team's number two player and current co-captain, Andrew Yang '19, succumbed to a knee injury during his Quarter-Final match at the New England championships, the boys successfully defeated Andover, the reigning Class A champions whom they had lost to the previous year. In the finals, however, Brunswick School's stellar performance resulted in a 4-1 defeat for BVT.

While Groton's tennis team may have been defeated this year, the team is ready to bounce back from their loss. Matt Kandel '20, the current number one player on the team and next year's co-captain, said, "Although the season ended with some disappointment, BVT is a team of brothers that stick together no matter what, this year and for all the years to come."

Like their male counterparts, Groton's girls varsity tennis team also had a successful season, finishing with a 9-4 record. At the New England championships, the girls made the top eight teams but could not advance to the second round, losing to Andover, the eventual champion. Captain Marianne Lu '19 said, "I thought we played really well, especially doubles. The team took [the loss] really well and… we were proud of the way we played."

Groton's girls varsity crew team also had a very strong season. Their second, third, and fourth boats went undefeated for the entire month of April, and the first boat did very well competing in tight races all season long. The team was enthusiastic for the New England Interscholastic Rowing Association Championships (NEIRAs) and has worked

Girls fourth boat after winning bronze at NEIRAs. Courtesy of L. CASPERSEN '22

extremely hard all season just for this race. The team's mindset going into NEIRAs was to put up their best fight for the final races of the season. Their hard work paid off, as three of the four boats made grand finals and the team placed fourth overall. The Girls' fourth boat won a medal, finishing third out of twelve. Meanwhile, girls second and first boats both finished fourth out of eighteen. The seniors have been very valuable and put a lot of work into finishing off their final season. "We really dug in this season and had great attitudes in any boat, on any day, at any time," said Mikayla Murrin '21. After a successful spring season, the team is excited to row again next spring.

Groton's Boys Varsity Crew team had a season of ups and downs but still had an overall successful season. The team had lots of lineup changes throughout the season but were still hoping to reach the finals of NEIRAs this year. At the championship, three of the four boats made grand finals, while first boat qualified for petite finals. The fourth boat finished fifth overall, while third finished sixth and second finished fourth. As a team, Groton Boys Crew placed fifth, thanks to the strong showing by boats two,

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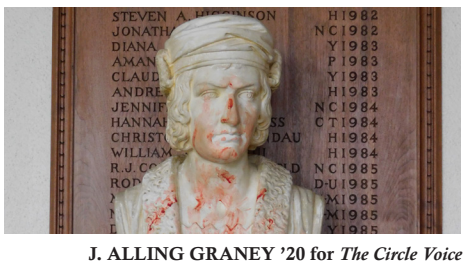

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Justice for Lower Schoolers?

By LEAH POTHEL '21

As the name suggests, Prize Day encompasses the Grotonian tradition of distributing awards to exceptional students. On Prize Day last year, 49 awards were presented: 44 to upper schoolers, but just five to lower schoolers. Furthermore, nearly half of the upper school awards were given to seniors. Though on first glance this system may seem skewed, there are many justifications for this disparity in the number of prizes available to upper and lower school students.

For instance, the purpose of Prize Day is to honor the graduating class and recognize the work they have done for the School as well as their personal accomplishments. Awarding them prizes is a concrete way to commemorate all that they have contributed to the Circle. Additionally, the large number of potential prizes serves as a way to thank them for their special positions and the maturity they have displayed. Zoe Park '21 commented that "seniors have earned these extra prizes because they have been here longer and done more."

Furthermore, because these seniors have assumed leadership positions and have usually spent more time at Groton than lower forms, Prize Day is an opportunity to recognize their immense body of work and the change they have ignited on campus. The increased amount of prizes available is just in keeping with the fact that the roles the seniors assume throughout different organizations, clubs, and dorms are often more influential than those which any other students do. However, with this argument, there are those who believe that the disparity in the number of prizes devoted to upper schoolers on Prize Day diminishes the work of lower schoolers. Being a third former last year though, I can confirm that the increased amount of prize awarded to upper schoolers never perturbed us nor did we perceive it to diminish our work or imply a lesser degree of importance of our character.

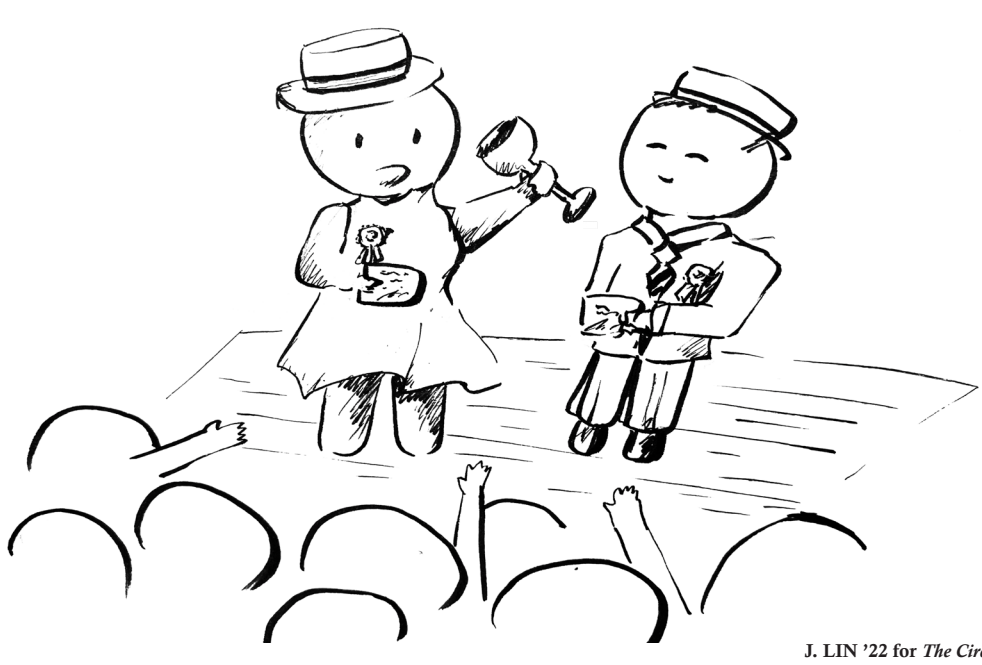
> "49 awards were presented: 44 to upper schoolers, but just five to lower schoolers."

Moreover, Groton's upper school is much larger than their lower school. Currently, the upper school has 278 students, over two and a half times the size of lower school, which has only 103. While this size difference is one thing which accounts for the disparity in the number of prizes, the maintenance of tradition is another. As the school was founded in 1884, its walls are steeped with traditions, one of them being that all seniors are given prefect positions. This leadership position is traditional and along with it, comes the idea that these prefects should and have always been rewarded for their work, especially on Prize Day, their day of recognition.

At Groton, there is often a fair amount of discussion among the students and faculty regarding the hierarchy of forms. While mostly subtle and student-enforced, some of the manifestations of hierarchy can be seen daily with ideas such as 6-5-4. However, one could argue that there are some more formalized manifestations of hierarchy which can be seen in school-sanctioned events such as Prize Day. However, even though there are more prizes available to the sixth formers, as with the idea of hierarchy, everyone will eventually reap the benefits. According to Claire Holding '21, "The lower schoolers will get their turn."

> "The lower schoolers will get their turn."

In the end, not only does a greater number of prizes for the upper schoolers and especially seniors allow the community to honor them and the years of work which they have put into the betterment of our community, the idea that students reap the rewards of their hard work as they mature places an emphasis on those who are more experienced and have spent more time contributing to the community.



J. LIN '22 for *The Circle Voice*

A Huge Bust: A Regressive Act

By BROOKS ANDERSON '20

There is not much more cowardly than an anonymous act of vandalism which accomplishes nothing productive. I refer to the recent defacing of the bust of Christopher Columbus, which had previously been displayed in the Schoolroom. Red paint was sloppily strewn over Columbus' face, presumably to mimic blood, and left for the student body to discover. No credit was taken for the act.

To whomever the culprit was, I would like to extend congratulations for a job well done. If your goal was to shoot your own movement in the foot, excellent work. If you meant to give your opponents easy ammunition with which to attack your arguments, what a success. For what did the vandalism really accomplish? What material, meaningful results did it have? The answer is the same as the number of female busts in the Schoolroom.

Of course, the Columbus incident is only an instance of a broader trend of politics which is, sadly, becoming commonplace. Regressive tactics are the new norm, both in ideas and in speech. People focus on destroying anything remotely offensive rather than instead making a positive addition. Here is a generic example: a building that has only stairs is non-wheelchair-accessible. Any rational person would quickly see that the best solution to the problem is to build a ramp. However, someone who thinks regressively would instead call for a ban on stairs, arguing that they are offensive and discriminatory to disabled people.

> "What material, meaningful results did it have? The answer is the same as the number of female busts in the Schoolroom."

In the same vein, there are two camps on the issue of the bust. One believes that we should add more busts of women, people of color, and other minority groups who have made significant contributions to the global society. The opposing, regressive camp believes that we should take away some of the busts in the Schoolroom and replace them with people from the groups just mentioned. There is a subtle but important difference. The latter is a reductive position while the former is a productive position. One subtracts, the other adds.

> "One subtracts. The other adds."

The vandalism perpetrated just a few weeks ago was reductive as well, although more targeted than the broader reductive position. The vandal defiled Columbus specifically, likely due to his genocidal past. However, even with such motivation, the vandalism still accomplished nothing: the conversation about the presence of the bust in the Schoolroom has not advanced, the busts have not been removed (except Columbus temporarily, for cleaning), and the great injustices of the world remain uncorrected. In fact, if anything, the red paint hurts both camps and helps the traditionalists. Now, whenever someone brings up how threatened they feel when they walk into the Schoolroom, their feelings will be forever associated with a cowardly act of vandalism.

A. WEI '21 for *The Circle Voice*

The people with valid concerns about how diversity interacts with tradition will be lumped in with the same sort who throw paint on decades-old works of art. Just as peaceful demonstrations are all too often ruined by rogue violent elements, so has the feminist-bust movement been negatively impacted by some anonymous actor.

Thus, I reiterate: whoever you are, congratulations. In fact, I'm sure that there are many people at this school who would thank you for helping their cause by hindering your own. Hopefully, you have learned from this incident by studying the reaction of the school that regression and reduction are very rarely viable routes of political speech. Maybe next time you're angry with something, you will, as kindergarteners are taught, use your words.

> "Maybe next time you're angry with something, you will, as kindergarteners are taught, use your words."

Artist of the Issue: Julien Lee Heberling

By CLAIRE LEE '20

Julien performing. E. TURNER '20 for *The Circle Voice*

Born in London, one of the most musical cities in the world, Julien Lee Heberling '19, the Groton Chamber Orchestra concertmaster of the past two years, embarked on his career to become a violin virtuoso at the young age of 5.

"Honestly, I only started playing because my parents forced me to," admits Julien. "And I sounded terrible – my musical abilities were limited to cacophonous, scratchy sounds. But when I was ten years old, I met my teacher Adonis Alvanis and that was when I truly learned how to feel the pleasure of playing the violin, and eventually the music itself." Their teacher-student bond remains strong over the years, no matter where Julien is in the world. Despite the fact that Julien moved to Abu Dhabi in middle school, he continued to be under maestro Alvanis' musicianship through weekly Skype lessons. Even at Groton, Julien looks forward to his FaceTime lessons saying that the lessons "makes everything feel better after a long day."

A fun fact is that through his violin teacher, Julien is a fifth generation student of Joseph Joachim, a legendary Hungarian violinist. "The connection goes like this," he elaborates. "Joachim taught the Ukrainian violinist Issay Barmas who taught the elder Alvanis. Alvanis taught his son, who is my teacher today." Perhaps this is where Julien gets his precise fingering and bowing techniques.

Even before gaining wide recognition as the principal player at Groton, Julien was already a music prodigy. From age eight, he was a part of the Youth Music Centre in London and was also, not surprisingly, the first chair in the junior orchestra. Furthermore, he ended up playing twice for the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain and tackled musically and technically challenging pieces such as Wagner's "Overture to The Flying Dutchman," Debussy's "Trois Nocturnes," or Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

When he came to Groton, his list of musical achievements only grew longer. So far, he has given both a junior and a senior recital. "I was quite nervous about my junior recital," recalls Julien. For his junior recital, he challenged himself by performing the first four movements of Bach's "Partita No. 2 BWV 1004", a piece dubbed "an ode to the violin" as Bach's partitas are all non-accompanied and highlight the core sounds of the violin itself. Starting and ending with powerful pieces, Julien embellished his senior recital with Bruch's "Violin Concerto No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 26," Kreisler's "Praeludium and Allegro in the Style of Paganini," and his favourite composer, Beethoven's "Romance No. 2 in F Major, Op. 50."

"Beethoven is a figure who revolutionized the entire structure of music," says Julien in his reverence for Beethoven. "In his music, you really hear his struggle. I can envision him crouched in the corner of a room, trying to grasp at the flow of music in his head despite the fact that he is losing his ability to hear. His compositions are grounded, earthly, and human, which makes his music relatable to a wide audience. One of my favorite pieces of his is 'Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Op. 68' also known as the Pastoral Symphony. Whenever I hear this piece, I can really see the fields, the countryside. I can even hear the birds through the woodwinds. Beethoven paints this imagery with his music in such a masterful way that no one else was able to."

As his Groton career comes to a close, Julien muses at his happiest memories, most of which are music-related. He smiles, thinking about the first violin section he's worked with multiple times, ardently debating about bowing during sectionals, and laughs remembering the times he rehearsed and performed with his quartet. "But all good things must come to an end," says Julien, and it is time for him to also look ahead.

He has already spoken with Barbara Schubert, the Music Director of the University Symphony Orchestra at the University of Chicago, who wrote to him saying that she looks forward to having him invovled in the Music Performance Program. "I'm so lucky to be headed to Chicago, a serious musical city renowned for not only their classical programs but also jazz music. They also arguably have one of the best symphony orchestras in the United States," Julien said.

Even beyond university, Julien knows he'll "always be some sort of a music nerd. I already subscribe to the Berlin Philharmonic to listen to their old archives. Can anyone get nerdier than that?" He says that music is something that completes him just as much as literature that teaches us life lessons or science that informs us of the ways of the world. Julien is a passionate musician, and we are sad to lose the violin virtuoso, but also excited to see where he goes in the future.

Athlete of the Issue: Finn Lynch

By CHRISTINA OELHAFEN '21

Success in crew comes down to mere seconds determined by how fervently a rower can push himself mentally and physically. Rower Finn Lynch '19 has learned to do just that, leading boys varsity crew to many victories on the water. He has been a crucial member of the team for the past three years and was named captain for his final season.

When Finn first arrived at Groton, his second and third form springs did not consist of crew practices on the water, but JV lacrosse practices on the grass. Finn didn't join the crew team until his fourth form year. His rowing career began the summer after third form when he went to the Henley Royal Regatta and watched the Groton team compete. Finn became interested in rowing "because it is a sport unlike any other." He says that crew is different to other sports because it is on the water and takes extreme focus. In addition, Finn comes from a big rowing family. His mom, Tiffany Doggett, rowed at Cornell University and coaches crew at Groton while his sister, Verity '17, currently rows at Dartmouth College. After much consideration, Finn made the transition to crew, making the varsity team his first year. It was also in his first year of rowing that his boat placed third at New England Interscholastic Rowing Association (NEIRA) Championships. Finn says that winning the bronze was one of his favorite memories from his three years of rowing.

This season, the boys crew team as a whole has had a winning 6-4 record. Finn said, "The season was a little disappointing. We've been a middle-of-the-pack team hoping to have been a part of the top three teams." Despite not being at the top of the league, Groton's first boat still pulled out a win over St. Mark's, sweeping the Lions in a 4-0 win. Overall, Finn says that the NEIRAs didn't go as well as he had hoped, but the overall, the boys teams ended up finishing fifth in New England. He added cheerfully, "Still, we had a fun day of racing!"

This 2019 season, Finn has been the captain of the boys varsity crew team and rows on first boat. "He's an awesome captain. He gets along with everyone and is a great role model for the younger kids on the team," Co-captain Johnny Stankard '19 said. As captain, Finn leads by example for those on his boat and those on boats below him. With leadership comes responsibility, and Finn has handled it admirably. He has led the team with drive and confidence, steering them though wins and losses. Finn reminisces, "Being captain this year was a really fun experience, and I was honored to be a role model for the younger kids on the team. We had a lot of new kids in lower forms who started rowing this year and it was very rewarding working with them."

Finn rowing in first boat. Courtesy of F. Lynch

In addition to rowing crew, Finn enjoys playing basketball, lacrosse and soccer, skiing, and running. His athleticism shows in not only crew, but in a variety of other sports. These sports have helped him stay in physical shape for the spring crew season. Above all, Finn said that "these sports have helped me gain an athlete's mentality." It is this athlete's mentality that has contributed to the big wins his boats have taken over the past few years. Crew is the collective effort from each individual in the boat, and Finn has more than upheld his part of the deal.

Going forward, Finn will be heading off to row at Cornell University, following in the footsteps of his mother. As he begins his rowing career at a new school, we wish him the best of luck. Even though Finn will be departing the circle and rowing for Cornell University next year, his leadership, compassion, and drive will remain an example for future Groton captains for years to come.

Congratulations to the Form of 2019

Continued from the Front Page

on pressing global issues and advises members of the Penn community on international relations.

A testament to his character, Mr. Zeid did not cease his human rights activism after leaving the High Commissioner post. In a recently published Op-Ed video for the New York Times (NYT), he discussed human rights violations, ranging from the Rohingya refugee crisis to the separation of immigrant children from their parents at the US border. Mr. Zeid blames these increasingly ubiquitous human rights crises on the ignorance of political figures, whose political agendas and greed blind their morality. For example, at the 27th session of the Human Rights Council, he said, "Most of our leaders are morally weak, shortsighted, and mediocre... I fear they are no longer willing or able to defend the human rights of all people." In addition to penning the occasional opinions article, Mr. Zeid currently teaches diplomacy at Penn.

Mr. Zeid originally connected with the Groton community through his son, Ra'ad. He gave a chapel talk in the spring of 2014 and has always been a positive figure on the Circle. As Pat Ryan '19 says, "My first impression of Ra'ad's dad was that he was extremely humble. He had a self-deprecating sense of humor and did not brag once about his career or his achievements. I'm glad I got to meet him through Ra'ad and, most of all, I'm really looking forward to his talk." Ra'ad added that his father and Headmaster Temba Maqubela have a mutual appreciation of human rights, saying, "Mr. Maqubela, having lived through apartheid South Africa, really values my father's work as the human rights chief at such an important organization like the UN."

In keeping with his criticism of leaders for their inaction, Mr. Zeid has decided to dedicate his Prize Day talk to discussing moral courage, according to Ra'ad. He believes that as leaders of the next generation, Grotonians should not hesitate to wield their given privilege for the benefit of others, tackling the human rights crisis head-on. As he stated in the NYT video, Mr. Zeid challenges students "to know and defend [their] rights," but more importantly to strive relentlessly to "defend others' rights as well." Mr. Zeid's commencement speech will embody much of the school motto: *cui servire est regnare* (to serve is to rule).

The student-elected speaker will be Edward "Ed" Cho. Varsity lacrosse forward, Buddhist Sangha Prefect, and class clown are only a few of the titles peers attribute to Ed. Ed's defining characteristic, however, is his eccentric sense of humor, according to formmate Rajit Khanna. Rajit expects to see both stand-up comedy and one-liners in Ed's speech. When asked about it, Ed gave his trademark high-pitched laugh. After a couple pauses, he remarked, "Yeah, I'll definitely have some one-liners which will be sprinkled throughout. You can also expect to hear some hilarious anecdotes."

All jokes aside, Ed said that his talk will be centered around the idea of Groton as a sum of its people, and not just a school. He also wants to emphasize how thankful he is for the many individuals who enriched his Groton experience: "I couldn't have done anything without the support of everyone around me," Ed says, "so I really want to show my gratitude in my speech." He added, "I'm a little nervous but also really excited to give this talk. It's a huge honor."

Prize Day is the ultimate culmination of all the Sixth Formers' hard work, failures, successes, tears, laughs, losses, and victories at Groton. If there is anything that the seniors take away from the Circle, we hope that it is Mr. Zeid's message of moral courage and integrity and Ed's of community and gratitude. So, Form of 2019, be brave and lend a helping hand to whoever needs it. Defend others' rights as if they were your own. Above all, remember: *cui servire est regnare*. To serve is to rule.

Dining Hall Renovations to Start this Summer

By ADDISON HYDE '21

The upstairs floor of the Dining Hall. G. THORS '20 for *The Circle Voice*

In Mr. Maqubela's opening chapel talk of Spring Term, he announced the new Dining Hall renovation. One of the primary goals of the renovation is to increase the capacity of the Dining Hall, create more room for the Dining Hall staff, and decrease traffic in the serving area, all while repurposing the existing building.

The current Dining Hall seats only 356 people, according to Associate Head of School Andy Anderson. The current student body, according to the Groton website, is 382 so—including faculty, staff, and family members—the demand far exceeds the current capacity.

Although the Board of Trustees initially considered tearing down the building entirely, this approach was quickly dismissed in part because of the sentimental attachment many community members feel toward the Dining Hall. Additionally, the cost of a brand new building would be about 45 million dollars and would not be consistent with the school's commitment to repurposing older buildings, according to Mr. Andy Anderson. In addition, the Dining Hall does not need to fit the whole school community of students, facility, staff, and family members as larger events such as Prize Day and the school's birthday can be held in the Athletic Center, so trustees agreed that a completely new building was unnecessary.

Ultimately, Chief Financial Officer Arthur Diaz says, the renovations will cost about 5.5 to 6.5 million dollars from "Replacement Reserve"—a reserve of funds that are used and replaced every year to improve facilities on campus.

The current plans keep the footprint of the building the same and bring the total capacity to 400. The spiral staircase will be removed, the kitchen moved downstairs, the walls around the current fire stairs torn down, and the fire stairs widened. With the walls around the fire stairs broken down, the large windows will be exposed, letting in more natural light. However, widening the staircases will impinge on the senior section; rather than the six tables right now, two of which are pushed together into a long table, there will be five tables, three of which will be pushed together into a long table. Mr. Anderson says that this change is necessary in order to make space for the new stairs and ensure they are safe.

With the kitchen being moved downstairs, the Dining Hall staff will have much more room to prepare meals, which, Mr. Anderson says, is desperately needed. The current kitchen will become a serving area where there will be four lines for food. The salad bar and deli station will also be moved into this repurposed area. The drinks station will be pushed out further into the Dining Hall over part of what used to be the spiral staircase, which is intended to relieve some of the congestion in the serving area. Another major change is that the tables will be pushed together into long rows. There will still be some individual tables along the walls but the seating will only be on three sides of the tables so that they will function more like booths. The portraits along the walls of the Dining Hall will remain the same.

At the Board of Trustees meeting in April, the Trustees approved the renovation; construction will start this summer. This first stage of construction will include a new roof (as the current one has significant water leakage), a new fire alarm system, and new lighting, says Mr. Anderson. The new lighting will be a combination of the chandeliers in the current senior section and ones similar to the fixtures hanging there now. The fire stairs will also be remodeled, so next year there will be three stairs leading up to the Dining Hall, including the spiral stairs. Lastly, the ceiling will be painted.

The second stage will begin during the summer of 2020: the spiral staircase will be filled in, the kitchen and new serving area will be renovated, and the new table configuration adopted. There is also the possibility for a third summer of construction but any changes at that point are not expected to be major.

Mr. Anderson and Assistant Head For External Affairs Megan Harlan convened a student committee in an effort to hear student voices. As Zoe Colloredo-Mansfeld '21, a student on the committee, said, "Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Harlan were very eager to hear the seemingly minor issues that are important to students." At its latest meeting, the committee discussed issues such as the location of the PB&J station, waffle makers, and ice cream machine.

Many members of the community are excited about the renovations but sentimental about the prospect of drastically changing the current Dining Hall. As Cassidy Thibodeau '21 said, "There is just not enough space for everyone…going to meals can be difficult. So I am excited for the Dining Hall renovations, although I love the building the way it is."

The interior of the Dining Hall. Z. MDLUDLU '21 for *The Circle Voice*

Grotonians to Foster Global Connections on Summer GEOs

By KATIE REVENO '20

This summer, dozens of Groton students will travel to Peru, Spain, and Botswana under the Groton Global Education program. While some students will gain the opportunity to improve their Spanish, others will perform with the Groton orchestra in front of a large audience for the first time or even meet a peer they have been communicating with digitally for the past two years. No matter their focus, however, all three trips are connected with the common thread of meaningful interactions with peers from around the world. Faculty leaders of this year's GEOs hope that Groton students will ultimately recognize the ways in which they are similar to the other students they meet, regardless of socioeconomic status or nationality.

The Peru trip, led by Spanish teachers Fanny and Luis Viacava, focuses on complete culture and language immersion. A regular fixture in the GEO program, this trip allows students to participate in a two-week homestay in the "last living Incan city" of Ollantaytambo. In the mornings students will help their host families out with tasks in the field, marketplace, and home and will then engage in activities with the local children during the afternoon. As the students on this trip improve their Spanish language skills, Mr. Das wants students to note that "there's this other juxtaposition of the colonized and the colonizer because, even though our kids are benefiting from Spanish, that's still the language of the colonizers. When the Spanish came to South America, the Inca spoke Quechua."

Just as the Peru trip will help students to improve their Spanish, the trip to Spain will allow many orchestra students to build on their musical skills. Orchestra students will leave Groton directly after finals week on June 7th for a ten-day stay in Spain, where they will perform three times. Mary Ann Lanier, Groton's orchestra director and leader of the Spain GEO, reflected on the trips' differences from students' musical experiences on campus, stating, "It's a little more gratifying because you have a little more time -- this is what the focus is on and you have a bigger audience." In addition, attendees of this trip may be able to participate in exchanges with Spanish student musicians, possibly even in a concert setting.

The third GEO trip, to Botswana and South Africa, is unique in that the Groton students attending have already communicated with the local students via Google Hangout for almost two years, which will make in-person interactions even more exciting and meaningful. In late June, Groton Community Engagement director Robert O'Rourke, Headmaster Temba Maqubela, and English teacher Vuyelwa Maqubela will take 14 rising fifth formers to Garabone, Botswana. There, they will attend the Maru-a-Pula school, work with children at an orphanage, and participate in group excursions alongside Maru-a-Pula students and Imagine scholars from South Africa for five days. While the Maru-a-Pula school is a socioeconomically diverse private school in Botswana that is similar to Groton in many ways, the Imagine scholar program is a program in South Africa that supports dedicated students from local underfunded institutions. Then, the Groton students and Imagine scholars will leave for Cape Town where they will experience local South African culture. Aisling O'Connell '21, who is excited about finally meeting her friend Safreen from the Maru-a-Pula school in

Z. MDLUDLU '21 for *The Circle Voice*

person, said, "The main thing I've learned is that they're very similar to us, like they also talk about Fortnite and Netflix shows that we've also seen." During these online interactions, students have also discussed current issues such as abortion or climate change.

Whether it takes students to Peru, Spain, or Botswana, the Groton GEO program is about education at its core. Within this program, education takes on a dual meaning of both expanding upon topics that cannot be fully taught in the classroom and exposing students to other cultures. Mrs. Maqubela hopes that students will take forward the lesson that people are different, yet "at the same time so similar because they are, at the end of the day, human beings." She then added, "It's about an understanding...of humans that will enable people to be open-minded and more embracing of difference rather than waiting to criticize and judge or separate themselves."

Senior Prefects Prepare for Next Year

By DEREK HU '21

This Spring, Johnny Stankard, Walker Davey, Kochoe "Cho" Nikoi, and Lyndsey Toce '19 are passing the torch to Lwazi Bululu, Grace Mastroianni, Marc Borghi, and Eliza Powers '20, the school's newly elected senior and house prefects.

As the 2019-2020 school year approaches, all four prefects are ready to assume their new responsibilities, such as communicating with the administration on behalf of the student body, running Roll Call, and organizing Surprise Holiday. While the deans, headmaster and other administrators have the final say on most issues, these new senior and house prefects represent the whole student body in many deliberations.

Lwazi and Grace are the rising Senior Prefects. Being a senior prefect requires a lot of diligence and effort, but Lwazi and Grace are up to the task. "Even though I am a bit nervous for this task at hand, I don't think this position is just me leading from the front. I think this job is for my entire form, and trying to set a positive example for the entire school," said Lwazi. He reminisced that he always looked up to past senior prefects, especially Jack Fitzpatrick '16, Langa Chinyoka '17, and Michael "Mike" Aduboffour '17. Lwazi added, "[Jack] was always funny and had a great personality" while Langa and Mike were "outspoken" and "used their position well and to great effect." Particularly inspired by their spirit and leadership during Roll Call, Lwazi hopes to follow their footsteps. Grace emphasized that she wants to be fun and cheerful, "especially to the younger students."

The rising senior prefects. O. DILLON '21 for *The Circle Voice*

Being a Senior Prefect is a challenging role, especially when it comes to managing the Disciplinary Committee (DC). Since Grace has already been a form officer and served on the DC, she believes that this will not be too challenging a task. Alongside her, Lwazi hopes to be a fair judge. "I'm willing to listen to different opinions and even to people who might say things I don't entirely agree with," he said.

Marc Borghi and Eliza Powers are the rising House Prefects. House Prefects share many of the same roles as Senior Prefects, with the exception of serving on the DC. "I know that it's a huge commitment to organize surprise holiday and be at Roll Call, but I'm up for it," said Marc. For Eliza, being a house prefect has been a longtime dream, as it is an opportunity to serve her peers and community; she said, "I'm truly humbled to receive this position, and I hope to make great contributions to the community."

When asked about their ambitions and what they hope to contribute for the upcoming school year, the prefects eagerly shared their ideas. Eliza hopes entrench activism on campus, especially by supporting Diversity and Inclusion, Groton Feminists, and Gender Sexuality Alliance. She added, " I also hope one day students can campaign to be Senior and House prefects." Grace plans to focus on school spirit, such as announcing surprise holiday in a newer and never-done-before way. She also wants "to bring back pep rallies from the Delaney Tantillo era." Delaney Tantillo '17 was a Spirit Head who inspired students to show up to pep rallies before St. Mark's Day.

Grace also hopes to make more people show up to Roll Call, and believes that reducing the time between when people arrive in the school room after chapel and when Roll Call actually starts would help make more people show up. Lwazi added that the falling attendance rate of Roll Call is largely due to the mentality of the student body. "Roll Call is an opportunity to build up the student community," he said. "Students question themselves, 'What do I personally get out of Roll Call?' But we have to change that entire mindset. It's not about what you get out of it but about what the school community gets out of it when the entire school is present." Lwazi would like to see the Schoolroom become the center of student life again. The senior and house prefects also want to bring the Big Groton Cheer back, a chant that celebrates the birthday of students during Roll Call.

Our Senior and House prefects must make sure that the student body's opinions are effectively delivered to the administration. Nonetheless, their enthusiasm and confidence will surely bring positive changes to the upcoming 2019-2020 school year.

Student-Produced Music on Campus

By ISABEL CAI '21

This year, Ai Bendr asked you to "Stay with Me" to watch B. Magic perform his "Magic Show" while GloMonCho created a "Symphony" on the Circle. Students have produced their own music at Groton using the resources available. GloMonCho, a student music group featuring Gloria Hui, Montanna Riggs, and Kochoe Nikoi '19, began making music in their Fifth Form Spring. Chioma Ilozor '20 and Bobby Meehan '19 are both self-producing artists on campus, and they have released music on Spotify and Apple Music under the stage names Ai Bendr and B. Magic respectively.

GloMonCho '19

"We really dived headfirst into music production without knowing much about it at all," Gloria laughed when asked about how GloMonCho first started.

In Winter Term last year, Gloria, Montanna, and Cho decided to organize a music production faculty-sponsored activity (FSA). They have been performing together since Third Form and thought it would be interesting to record an album of their songs. At first, they were not familiar with the software and did not realize how long of a process creating a well-mixed album would be. After learning the basics behind music production technology, they used Groton's equipment and studio to record their music. Then, with the help of Soul Sauce director Kenji Kikuchi, they navigated the post-production stage (mixing and editing) and came out with polished audio files ready to be mastered and released. Eventually, GloMonCho produced six covers, one original, and one mash-up in their album, *OffWhite.*

Their most recently released piece, "Symphony," is a cover of the song of the same name by Clean Bandit. "Given all of our backgrounds in orchestras and classical music, we were thinking how cool it would be to turn the pop song into an actual symphony," GloMonCho explained when asked about their song choice. They added brass, woodwind, percussion, and string instruments into their arrangement, synthesizing symphonic instruments and computer-generated synths to create a fresh, new sound.

Bobby Meehan '19

Bobby became interested in music at a very young age; he enjoyed playing the piano and singing as well as listening to music, especially rap and hip hop. "I was so invested in listening to music when I was at Groton that I tried my hand at making music," he said. What's more, he said that "The studio is really high-quality, the music department is full of people who want to help, and we really have no limit to what kind of music we can make."

Bobby often writes an entire song in one sitting in order to keep the song as the one individual idea that he had at that particular moment. He writes the music first before adding the lyrics, because he would like the words to fit with the sound rather than determining the rhythm of the music based on the words.

Bobby worked with Gloria, who helped him to mix and master his soundtracks, to produce his most recent project: "Magic Show." The songs in this album have a great variety of beats, but most of them are upbeat with major chords.

Chioma working in the music studo. O. DILLON '21 for *The Circle Voice*

Chioma Ilozor '20

Chioma began writing her own songs during Spring Term last year. She has been spending several hours per week this year to produce music. "I've always wanted to be a singer, so I suppose in a way by producing my own songs I was making that dream sort of come true," she said.

Whenever Chioma has an idea about an interesting tune or phrase that inspires her, she writes it down so she can get back to it. Then, she sits down in the practice rooms for about an hour to develop a song from the tune or phrase. Once she has written the music, she will go to the music technology lab to produce it. "Producing is probably the toughest part. I never know exactly instruments I want to use for each song, so I experiment with various different instruments, sometimes recording sounds I make myself," Chioma said. It takes her anywhere from two days to two months to finish a project depending on its length and complexity.

Chioma's most recently released project consisted of two pieces: one single and an EP (extended play, a musical recording that contains more tracks than a single but unqualified as an album). She created the EP, *SOS*, as an extension of her personal feelings, going through her own struggles. The three most meaningful songs on the EP to her are "Close to you," "Be in peace," and "Wish You Were Here." The first two were written because of heartache, and the last one is a contemporary piano piece that she wrote and recorded the day after she learned that her grandmother had died. On the other hand, her single "Blue Skies" was based off the song "These B*tches be Crazy" by Della Valle, because the motif resonated with Chioma. "Writing music was the way that I released and let out all the pressure that was building inside of me," she said.

While GloMonCho will be attending college in three different states after this summer, "we'll definitely come together again one day and play more music together," they asserted. Bobby will also continue music production after he graduates, as he said, "music is a passion of mine and I'll continue to devote time and money to make more of it." Meanwhile, Chioma will be releasing songs that she has created for her FSA this Spring soon.

FSA Showcase and Student Recitals

By ALLISON JIANG '22

At the end of spring term, Grotonian artists and musicians are offered an opportunity to display a culmination of their work throughout the year. Through faculty-sponsored activities (FSAs) and Groton's music program, students have worked on their artistic passions, producing a diverse array of recitals and performances.

Besides student recitals for Grotonians taking private music lessons, seniors are offered an opportunity to organize and perform their own recitals. The performers often work alone or in pairs, and seniors are in charge of managing their concert and selecting their pieces. Their repertoire may be inspired by the mastery of their instrument(s), the ensembles they have played in throughout their Groton career or the various musical genres that they are passionate about. This year, several seniors gave recitals: Lily Cratsley, Gloria Hui, Lilias Kim, Andrew Lei, Brian Xiao, Julien Lee Heberling, Eliza Lord, Cho Nikoi, Montanna Riggs, Sara Glawe, Shirley Li, and Charlotte Pontifell.

For example, Gloria's recital was the culmination of her musical experiences at Groton. She performed a combination of classical solo pieces on the viola and the piano. Along with these pieces, she also incorporated chamber music and group performances into her recital with GloMonCho and her string quartet. With her hefty program, Gloria says: "There was insufficient preparation because there never seems like there's enough time, but I do my best. I feel excited but nervous at the same time."

On the other hand, Julien's recital was mostly focused on his classical violin experience at Groton. "The senior recital was an amazing way for me to complete my time at Groton," says Julien. "Especially in the music department, I have grown so much musically over the past four years, and the senior recital is a culmination of my work in music here at Groton." He performed a selection of solo violin selections, ranging from Beethoven to Kreisler with the pianist Jenny Tang.

Another opportunity that allows the artists of Groton to display their work is through spring FSA showcases, where students participating in the FSA program present the final outcome in the live showcase performance on May 22nd or display their work in the forum.

Janice Zhai '21 pursued a dance FSA, where she worked on a series of five dance concept videos tackling depression, anxiety, addiction, prejudice, identity, and body image. In the FSA showcase, Janice choreographed a piece to Mary Lambert's "Body Love" that was inspired by the Alabama abortion bill and its public reception. The bill, she said, "really inspired me to not only think about how beauty genuinely stems from other people's judgments and perceptions, but also how it is truly about… loving who you are." In the final performance, Janice was joined by a group of female students, she said, to "incorporate the voices of many young women in the face of the law hushing so many powerful voices."

Isabel Cai '21 worked on an art FSA, designing three interactive installations. Isabel said that her work is "inspired by artists Marina Abramovic and Mary Corey March" and how they make "the audience a part of the work, allowing them to be the artists." Isabel explored themes of emotion, identity, and dreams. One of her projects, "Dream Blanket," plays with the idea of "weaving a dream," which she said invites "the audience to contemplate and seek solace." The "blanket" is created by lines of string tied to two adjacent poles, forming a web-like structure. The audience is encouraged to draw pictures of their dreams on paper and weave the drawings into the web. Isabel said, "I hope my project has introduced a more conceptual, less conventional form of art to the circle, [...] letting people understand how art can be very approachable, and that they are all born artists themselves."

With the school year coming to a close, seniors have given their emotional last recitals, and talented Grotonian artists have showcased their final artistic projects. These final performances have allowed students to display their artistic journeys, with the support of the Groton community.

Sixth Formers Advance to College Athletics

By SOPHIA WU '21

The graduating class of 2019 has twelve athletes committed to play sports in college. These dedicated players discovered their athletic passions in a myriad of different ways, from childhood scrimmages to club team championships. Now, they will continue their athletic careers at colleges that reflect what they value most in their sports.

Three seniors, Clement Banwell, Finn Lynch, and Johnny Stankard '19, will be rowing in college. Clement will attend George Washington University next fall. His love for this sport can be traced to his first year on the team and his participation in the Henley Royal Regatta, a three-week Groton trip ending in the internationally renowned regatta. "Getting on the podium my first year of rowing set the stage for my future," Clement said, explaining that his first medal was fundamental to his passion for crew. Finn will be rowing at Cornell University this fall, a decision he made because of Cornell's size, location, and its academic and athletic rigor. Johnny Stankard will be rowing for Columbia University, because of his love for New York City and the close bond he formed with his future teammates. Johnny's favorite experience so far was rowing in the grand finals at the Canadian Henley Royal Regatta in St. Catherines this past summer.

Ice hockey commits Drew Burke and Bridget Cornell '19 will be attending Colby College and Wesleyan University, respectively. Drew will be playing as a forward next fall, and his most rewarding experience thus far in his hockey career was the Groton boys varsity hockey team's 14-game winning streak this winter. For Bridget, who will be playing left defense, the highlight of her hockey career demonstrates the aggression and passion of competitive hockey. Twelve-year-old Bridget succeeded in stealing the puck from the opposing team at the end of one of her games, accidentally cutting off the hair of an opposing player with her skates. Several years later, Bridget can still clearly remember the hilarious incident because she does not think that "there's ever been another moment in my life where someone has been so rageful towards [her]."

Joining Bridget at Wesleyan will be Steve Perchuk '19, who will play soccer there next fall as a left back. In addition to his interest in the school's size and overall strong academic and athletic programs, Steve is especially excited for the acclaimed business program. His proudest title thus far in soccer is his status as a "prolific U8 (eight and under) town soccer god."

Freddie Tobeason '19 will be heading to Washington and Lee University in Virginia to play as a field hockey forward. Her preference for a small college and her aversion to the long New England winter catalyzed her decision. Her favorite game in her Groton career was the field hockey game this fall against St. Marks. Although the game concluded in a loss for Groton in overtime, she said, "the team's energy and spirit were the highest [she had] ever seen on a Groton team."

Committed Athletes from the Form of 2019

Courtesy of C. TEMERSON

Pat Ryan '19 will be attending the United States Naval Academy as a lacrosse goalie next year. His fervor for the school stems from "the deep seeded tradition, the brotherhood, the way of life that military academies offer." The first time he arrived on the Yard his fifth form year, he reveled in the "midshipmen walking with such grace, strength, and honor" and wished so strongly to be a part of the community that he told his mother, "This is where I want to go to college." Bennett Smith '19 will also be at a military academy next year after committing to Army for baseball. He will be playing as a middle infielder. His most memorable experience in this sport has been "beating St. Marks on Arthur Jelin's walk-off steal of home" his freshmen year.

Lyndsey Toce '19 will be attending Connecticut College next fall as a shooting guard on the basketball team. The team's energy and commitment, which the coach also embodied, secured Lyndsey's decision to join. Her favorite memory is winning the NEPSAC Class B championship this past winter and the incredible sportsmanship and camaraderie of her teammates and friends. Another member of the basketball team, center Meghan Carney, will be attending St. Michael's College next fall. Meghan's preference for Vermont, doubled with the spirit of the team and coach helped her to make this choice. She said, "When I walked on campus for the first time I knew I would fit in." Like Lyndsey, Meghan's highlight from Groton basketball was the team atmosphere and winning the NEPSAC Class B championship.

Jake Kissell '19 will be playing offensive tackle for the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute football team next fall. His sense of belonging with the team and the rigorous engineering program of the school helped his decision to commit. The highlights of his football career have been beating Brooks, St. George's and St. Mark's as a senior this past fall.

Groton's athletic program will be losing these talented athletes next year, but, for the coaches and teammates who have supported and been supported by these amazing scholar-athletes, it is a proud and fulfilling goodbye.

Groton Prevails Over St. Mark's

By AMELIA LEE '22

On May 25th, many seniors participated in their last St. Mark's Day. School spirit was especially high as the seniors looked to end their Groton sports careers on a high note, and the sports teams were all determined to win. After the spring St. Mark's Games, the results for the year long competition for the 2018-2019 Burnett-Peabody Bowl were in, and Groton emerged victorious with a record of 23-22-1.

The St. Mark's games in the fall were evenly-matched and exciting. Although boys cross country did not manage a win, girls cross country beat St. Mark's 25-34. Varsity football had a decisive 28-0 win over St. Marks, while boys varsity soccer claimed a 2-0 victory in a competitive match. Jiacheng Kang '22 remembers how, after the final whistle, "everyone rushed onto the field, and afterwards in the locker room the energy was electric. [They] started dancing to [their] favorite songs, and it was just a great time." Boys and girls junior varsity (JV) soccer ended their season with wins as well, sharing much of the same spirit that boys varsity did. Field hockey also had an exciting match, although the final score was 0-1.

The winter featured many exciting contests against St. Mark's as well. Boys varsity hockey had multiple encounters with St. Mark's, coming out on top for two of their four games. Although the girls hockey teams lost to St. Mark's impressive teams, boys JV won twice, 3-2 and 3-1. Groton won all varsity and JV squash games against St. Mark's, with both boys teams sweeping the board 7-0. While boys varsity basketball had a tough loss of 30-44 to end the season, girls varsity basketball won 42-28. Calie Messina '22 said, "Even though we had a better record at the end of the season, the crowd and our coaches constantly reminded us that we can't look past any team, and the anticipation of St. Mark's Day amplified our nerves going into the game. However, we still came out in the end with the result we wanted." Girls varsity basketball also won the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Class B championships this year, beating Lawrence academy in a riveting 57-54 game.

This spring, the two schools also competed in crew, baseball, and tennis. Crew had its St. Mark's races earlier in the spring season. Both boys and girls varsity crew had clean sweeps, starting off the spring with a bang. Fourth boat rower Phoebe Lynch '22 said her race was very close and a "sick sprint" in the home stretch secured the win. Varsity baseball swept St. Mark's 7-0, with Josh Nam '20 pitching a complete game shutout, leading the team to victory. Although girls varsity tennis lost in a close game to St. Mark's, the boys won in it back with a 7-0 sweep. Jared Gura '22 commented that "winning against St. Marks was a great way to end the season." He also noted that "everybody feel like [they] ended on a high note" because all the seniors won their matches. Boys' JV tennis sealed their undefeated season with a 10-2 victory as well. Boys JV lacrosse beat St. Mark's 8-5, but the other lacrosse teams did not manage a win.

The Groton–St. Mark's rivalry has been going on for 132 years. St. Mark's Day is very special to everyone at Groton, and will hold a place in the seniors' hearts when they leave the Circle. Gloria Hui '19 shared the significance of this last St. Mark's day: "St. Mark's day was important because it was the last chance to prove to ourselves what we've been working towards all season, and our whole time at Groton." We hope that this healthy competition shared between the two schools will continue to encourage spirit and sportsmanship.

H. WISE '21 for *The Circle Voice*

Spring Championships

Continued from the Front Page

three, and four. "The results weren't exactly what we were striving for, but everyone worked extremely hard and left it out on the water," Captain Finn Lynch said.

After many of the teams performed well this spring, the graduating seniors will be missed. On the bright side, since many upcoming young athletes are continuing to improve and are joining us on the circle next fall, the future of these three teams looks promising.

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