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The Everlasting Impact of a Selfless Man: Kevin Huber

By Matthew Chirumbolo

Salisbury Baseball Coach Kevin Huber was more than your average high school coach—he was everyone’s friend. Whether you called him Coach, Mr. Huber, or Kevin, at some point during your time on the Hilltop, he impacted you. Sometimes it was through a dry-humored one-liner, or maybe it was just looking out for your greater good. No matter what, Coach Huber was always on your side.

While he made a school-wide impact, he was felt most within the Salisbury Baseball program. One person who stood alongside him through the countless early morning workouts, long bus rides, and hectic Florida trips is Mr. James Simboli. Mr. Simboli described the biggest impact that Coach Huber had on him as a coach, saying, “his focus was more on the specific individual and their growth.”

Coach Simboli reminisced about his time as a coach pre-Huberisms, which are some of his great philosophies. Coach Simboli described himself as “so wrapped up

in the statistical piece of it,” and Huber came in saying, “Yeah, that’s important, but that’s not going to be a focus of ours.” It completely changed his perspective not only on coaching but on teaching as well.

“He always knew how to kind of keep you on edge to let you know he was serious, but also give the little jabs,” Mr. Simboli said. These jabs were the famous one-liners that we all know Mr. Huber would say. “I’ve tried to take that into the classroom, like, hey, there’s stuff we’ve got to get done; we’ve got to be serious. But it’s okay—we can joke around and still have a good time,” Mr. Simboli added.

Many others have taken on the wisdom of Coach Huber. One in particular is Mr. Dylan Sanchez ’18. When Mr. Sanchez first arrived at Salisbury in the fall of 2014, he was just another freshman trying to find his place in high school baseball, with little guidance during his first two seasons.

Everything shifted his junior year when Coach Huber took over the program. Coach Huber emphasized not just physical development, but a deeper understanding of the game by studying the small details of it, recognizing one’s strengths and weaknesses, and approaching baseball with intention.

In just one season, that mentorship transformed him into a more confident player, setting the tone for a successful senior year. “I knew how to be a good person, be a good teammate, and he really supported me through that, not just on the baseball field,” Mr. Sanchez said.

The Return of the Sarum Book Club

By Paul Shyposh

The Sarum Book Club is back this year, and it feels more focused and alive than ever. It’s not just about reading books—it’s about diving into literature, philosophy, and having conversations that mean something.

Jaewon Yoon ‘26 is behind the revival. The club left a real mark on him when he first joined, and now he wants to pass that on. “The Sarum Book Club has been a thing in the past couple years,” Yoon said. “Sophomore year, I think it was Nam Do who ran the book club, and we read Dostoevsky’s *Notes from Underground*. That was a really fun experience for me.”

Now, heading into his final year at Salisbury, Yoon brought the club back, hoping it’ll get more students reading and thinking on a deeper level. He remembers those late talks about “morality and what each human owes to his society.” Those conversations pushed him to look at Salisbury and the world a bit differently.

“By reading, you can experience other people’s lives as well as understand their philosophical viewpoints,” he said. “It can make you a better communicator and improve your grasp of human motivations.”

The way the club picks books is simple. Everyone gets a say; members throw out suggestions, and then the club votes. This year, they kicked things off with Kurt Vonne-



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'Strike Me Down:' How EDC Has Evolved

By Evan Clark

Among the many classrooms on the Hilltop, there is one that stands out not for its size or subject, but for the culture it creates. In a school community focused on rules and routines, Mr. Robert “Bobby” Nichols’ Exemplary Dress Code Compliance (EDC) system turns what students wear into a reflection of identity, values, and pride.

“EDC stands for everything that’s great at Salisbury School. It’s the pinnacle of success in Cell 304,” Mr. Nichols explained. The four categories of EDC are God, Country, Sarum, and “math is a contact sport.” If you wear any piece of clothing or equipment (lapel pins, ties, blazers, protective sports gear) that fits into any of these categories, you are rewarded with a certain number of points through the point system that Mr. Nichols himself has curated.

While many are familiar with the system, few know the reason he chose these specific categories. “God, Country, Sarum is really about understanding that there are things that are bigger than ourselves. We have a responsibility to God to live life the right way, and we have a responsibility to our country, to our community, to support each other,” Mr. Nichols said.

Historically, EDC had been a way to incentivize students to buy into the class culture, with the possibility that EDC could enhance one’s class participation grade. However, after helpful thought partnership from trusted mentors about how he could make EDC even better, Mr. Nichols has completely revamped the system. “I had some close friends encourage me to think about how I could make EDC even better. We made some changes to it at the end of last trimester that some guys thought were betraying the spirit of EDC, but I think it made it stronger,” he said.

“I’ve used the analogy of Obi-Wan when he gets cut down by Darth Vader in that saber duel at the end of Star Wars,” Mr. Nichols said. “Obi-Wan tells him before he’s cut down, ‘Strike me down, Darth,

and I’ll be stronger than you ever could have imagined.’ And that’s what happened to EDC. It’s taken on a new life.”

EDC no longer has any effect on students’ grades, and now students are more intrinsically motivated rather than trying to use it to improve their grades. It also has a team aspect to it now, where his classes are competing against one another. There are multiple different awards that students can win based off EDC.

Mr. Nichols explained, “There’s the EDC Cup, which is awarded every trimester to the class that achieves the highest average EDC. We’ve got the Hart Trophy Plaque, which is going to be awarded to the individual greatest EDC performer in every class, every trimester, and that’s going to be documented on the wall in perpetuity.” He went on to add, “We’ve got the Creech Cup. [Caden] Creech is making a ceramic cup in art class. Who knows what he’s going to decide to give that to? There’s talk about Cooper Long making the Cooper Long Cup in woodworking.”

Walter Savage ‘26 has Mr. Nichols in Probability and Statistics E Block. What many may not know is that he achieved EDC greatness during the first trimester. He set a record for the most EDC earned in one day as well as in one trimester with his famed lapel strategy.

Savage had 115 Christmas pins and 115 American flag pins, which he then added to Salisbury alumni Duke Gentzler ‘24 and Finn Boyd ‘25’s Christmas jacket they left in Cell 304, for a total of 240 points. Because of this, Mr. Nichols created the “Savage Rule,” which banned the use of more than one pin from the same category.

With regard to the rework of EDC, Savage stated, “I feel like I’m a lot closer with the class. Everyone’s gotten a little closer because you have to contribute together, and it’s a class-wide thing now.” He added, “I really think the new model was a pretty genius plan, and I want to applaud Mr. Nichols’ decision-making and thank him for how he’s brought our class together.”

As was mentioned previously, classes are now competing against one another for the EDC Cup. The two classes most likely to win are AP Statistics (B Block), nicknamed the “Fantastic Fourteen,” and Probability and Statistics (E Block), nicknamed “Goon Squad E.”

Chris Cobb ‘26, a member of the Fantastic Fourteen, is not only a dedicated statistics student but also a dedicated EDC all-star. You may have seen him around campus in his stunningly patriotic America blazer. “I think that having EDC brings not only a school culture that should be widely spread and celebrated, but it’s also a competitive game that brings our Sarum brothers together,” Cobb said.

He went on to add, “I think that if teachers made more games, incentives, and competitions like that, rather than focusing solely on what they’re teaching... I think that would make a more healthy class environment all around.”

Cobb brings a sentiment that many

students would agree with. EDC is not just about competition, but it brings a sense of school pride and togetherness, allowing classmates to bond. As he put it, “Walking into stats is probably my favorite part of the day.”

At the end of the day, EDC is more than just blazers, pins, or trophies on the wall; it’s about creating a space where kids want to come and be a part of something greater than themselves. When Cobb says his favorite part of the day is walking into stats, he’s not just talking about numbers. He’s talking about the culture of brotherhood, competition, and Sarum. In Cell 304, that culture is what counts.



AP Calc BC and APUSH Challenge Salisbury’s Top Students

By Jaden Wei

If someone walks to the quiet corner on the west side of the Wachtmeister-Bates Building, they’ll find Math Department Chair Mr. Scot Beattie’s classroom. The classroom’s intense energy is balanced by a calligraphy scroll on the wall that reads Hi Nà Bi Chun, or “The ocean accepts all rivers.” It is a fitting motto for a course widely considered one of Salisbury’s most grueling: AP Calculus BC. To survive the class, students must adopt the ocean’s vastness, learning to welcome a relentless flow of difficult theorems and rigorous problem sets without becoming overwhelmed.

“The barrier to entry is pretty high,” Mr. Beattie said about the course. He isn’t just referring to the prerequisite grades, but to the mental requirements. He said the secret isn’t being a genius; it’s having a “willingness to fail.” Just like the ocean in the scroll, students have to be open to absorbing massive, frustrating concepts.

Talking to Alan Gao ‘27 reveals what it takes to get by in Mr. Beattie’s room. Gao mentioned that diligence is the only way to keep one’s head above water. “If you fall behind, it piles up fast,” Gao said, thinking back to the nights spent catching up on Taylor series, a complex chapter involving the representation of functions as infinite sums.

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Gao has realized that the class is a constant grind, and staying on track means making math a daily priority, no matter how much other homework he has. “There are no curves or corrections in BC,” Gao said.

Mr. Beattie’s advice to “take the class because you actually like math, not just for a transcript boost” might sound like a typical teacher line. But it’s a reality check. Gao agreed, saying that if you’re only there for the grade, the workload becomes a total nightmare.

Leaving the math wing and heading to the third floor in Centennial, the “final boss” of the Humanities Department awaits: Mr. Steve Parmelee’s AP U.S. History (APUSH) class. Mr. Parmelee, who has been teaching for 31 years, doesn’t sugarcoat how hard it is. He says the course is a massive grind because it forces students to handle “content recognition and retention” while also having the “insight” to actually explain why history matters.

The real killer is the sheer volume of work. Students have to “read, process,



and reflect” on a mountain of material just to keep up. Mr. Parmelee knows the pressure is high, so he actually starts the year with “user-friendly” assignments to help students build confidence before the real hits start coming. But even then, the different types of assessments can be overwhelming.

To put the difficulty in perspective, even the top students at Salisbury struggle in the course. Alan Yan ’26, a two-time First Scholar, remembered receiving a 50% on a quiz during the first two weeks of his junior year. “It scared me so much that I dropped the class immediately,” Yan said. If a First Scholar is receiving failing grades and withdrawing from the course, the academic rigor of the class becomes undeniable.

As Mr. Parmelee puts it, a lot of students “work hard, but they don’t work smart.” In APUSH, if your study style doesn’t “click,” all that hard work won’t save your grade.

Sarum Book Club (cont. from page 1)

gut’s *Slaughterhouse-Five*. “All genres are welcome,” Yoon said. “Really, all books are open.”

For Dr. James King, Director of the Phinny Library and the School’s Lead Archivist, seeing the Sarum Book Club come back isn’t just a nice throwback—it says something bigger: students want to slow down and enjoy reading again. “This year in particular, there’s been such an interest in reading for pleasure,” Dr. King said. That’s what really brought the club back to life.

He remembers how the old club was nearly entirely student-run, and they didn’t pick easy books. “They went for the hard material,” Dr. King said. But what stuck with him most was how invested everyone was. Meetings felt relaxed and totally focused on the students.

Now, the club has both students and faculty, but Dr. King says the vibe hasn’t really changed where it matters. “A good book club meeting is less of a discussion and more of a conversation,” he said. People take chances, throw out ideas they haven’t fully figured out, and nobody worries about trying to sound impressive.

Dr. King sees the club as part of something bigger happening on campus. Students are craving that chance to tune out and get lost in a book. “Too many screens, too many distractions,” he said. “Students want to get lost in a good story.”

Some students show up to meetings for the debates or because they’re into philosophy, but Brayden Belski ’27 had something else in mind. Reading never comes easy for him, and that’s exactly why he signed up.

“I’ve been trying to get better at reading,” Belski said. “It’s something I struggle with.” Instead of dodging the problem, he dove right in. The club gives him a reason to actually finish a book.

“It’s been interesting and fun,” he said. “I want a better vocabulary. What better way than joining the book club?” He thinks a lot of other students, especially athletes, could use the same approach. “A lot of athletes overlook books,” he pointed out.

What really grabs him is the mix of perspectives. This year, the club’s tackling a book about war, and every discussion brings out something new. Some people have families in the military; some don’t. It changes the conversation. “If you don’t know much, you can learn from someone who’s lived closer to it,” Belski said.

“You end up knowing more about the people around you, the book itself, and even society,” he said. The club gives everyone a chance to slow down. “It’s good to just open a book and relax,” he said. “It’s important to grow it as a hobby.”

Not sure about joining? Belski gets it. “It doesn’t hurt to try,” he said. “Come once or twice. It’s a pretty cool experience.”

In the end, the club feels like a piece of the school itself. “We all embody this culture of Sarum,” Yoon said. “We want to expand the horizons of Sarum.”

Coach Huber (cont. from page 1)

Mr. Huber’s impact extended far beyond the diamond. As both coach and class dean, he held his players accountable in the classroom and in daily life. He pushed them to avoid distractions, make responsible choices, and uphold strong character. Though often direct and demanding, Mr. Huber’s approach came with lots of love. “Everything he did was because he cared about us,” Mr. Sanchez said.

Now getting to coach alongside his former mentor, he sees that influence firsthand. Mr. Huber’s honesty, competitiveness, and commitment to relationships with his players continue to shape the way he leads his own players today.

From the moment Lincoln Taylor joined the program as a 13-year-old freshman, Coach Huber’s approach was clear: no player would be overlooked. Whether it was a starter or a junior varsity call-up, Coach Hu-



ber invested the same time and energy in everyone. “He treated everyone like a Division I recruit,” Taylor said. “It didn’t matter if you were the best player on the team or someone still developing. He made time for you.”

“He kind of took me under his wing,” Taylor said. “He never let anyone struggle alone.” Coach Huber’s commitment often showed up in small but meaningful ways. He stayed after practice for extra hitting sessions, broke down the simplest fielding details, and made sure players felt included. During Taylor’s freshman year, Coach Huber even gave him an infield glove when he didn’t have one.

But Mr. Huber’s impact went far beyond mechanics and game strategy. His emphasis on accountability became a foundation for the program. “He always said if you want to be a winning team, you have to be accountable,” Taylor said. “That’s what he built here.” Through consistency, investment, and belief in every player, Mr. Huber created a culture that will outlast any single season.





How Recent Snowstorms Have Changed Campus Life

By Owen Hellman

Over the past few weeks, winter storms have covered Salisbury's campus in snow and changed what daily life looks like on the Hilltop. But instead of only causing disruptions, the snow has created moments of fun and energy across campus.

Students have played football in the Quad, community members have spent more time outside, and faculty families have taken advantage of the hills for sledding. These small moments have brought a positive shift to campus during a long winter stretch. What could have felt like a long and exhausting season has instead felt active and memorable.

For many students, the snow has become an opportunity to connect and enjoy something out of the ordinary. Senior Ben Van Wormer '26 said the storms turned the Quad into a place where people wanted to gather. "I loved the snow because it brought everyone together," Van Wormer said. "We were all out there playing tackle football in the snow, and it was just fun to see so many people outside. We rarely ever get snow like this, so it was nice to experience something different."

Van Wormer said he noticed students stopping on their way to class to watch or join the games, which changed how the Quad was used throughout the day. "You'd be walking and see people on the sidelines, or someone would jump in for a few plays and then head off," he said. "It felt like the Quad became more of a hangout spot."

He added that the snow also slowed the pace of campus life. "Normally everyone's rushing somewhere," Van Wormer said. "But with the snow, people slowed down a little and talked more. It made the day more fun." He said that even after practices or long days of classes, students still wanted to be outside. "It just gave everyone something to look forward to," he said.

Another student who enjoyed the snowy weather is Henry Brislin '26. "I love skiing, and seeing all this snow real-

ly makes me happy because it means good skiing conditions are up and coming in the mountains," Brislin said. For him, the storms are not just about what is happening on campus, but also about what they represent for the rest of the season. "When you see this much snow, you just think about being on the mountain," he added.

Brislin also said the snow has made everyday routines more enjoyable. "Walking in between classes and throwing snowballs at each other is so fun," he said. "It really wakes you up and makes you take in the fun moments at Salisbury." He added that those small interactions are what make winter feel less long and exhausting. "It kind of changes the mood around campus," Brislin said.

The impact of the snowfall has extended beyond the Quad and into Salisbury athletics, especially for the ski team. Mr. Joshua Weinstein '11, a former student and current Head Varsity Ski Coach, said this winter has stood out compared to recent years. "This is certainly a winter unlike any I can recall in recent years," Weinstein said. "It has made for a very different feel on the mountain." He explained that the team has benefited from consistent snow coverage. "We're never in a deficit of snow," Mr. Weinstein said. "We're not in a position where we don't have enough snow to train."

Unlike many typical East Coast winters, the team has not had to constantly battle



icy conditions. "We're not finding ourselves being gritty East Coast skiers who are battling ice and snow freezing overnight," he said. "We've had really excellent skiing conditions. It's been really fun to be out on the mountain."

Mr. Weinstein described the season as a major positive for the program. "All in all, I would say that it's been a huge win for the ski team," he said. Looking back on his own time as a student, he said he remembers enjoying snow on campus with friends, including hiking up the hill behind the dining hall to ski down. However, "I don't recall any winter being as consistent as this winter has been," Mr. Weinstein said. "This has been an amazing winter."

During a season that can often feel long and tiring, these shared experiences have helped lift spirits across campus. Rather than only seeing the storms as obstacles, the Salisbury community has found ways to enjoy them and turn winter into something worth celebrating.

'Bury Eats: Community Members Share Their Top Food Spots

By Harun Koentjoro

Here on the Hilltop, many new faculty and students might think dining hall food is their lone option for food in the area. This is not true, however; in fact, there are several excellent places to grab a bite to eat, all within a short driving distance.

Mr. Yukun Luo, a faculty member for 17 years at Salisbury, shared some of his favorites. One of his go-to spots is the Oakhurst Diner, located in Millerton. According to Mr. Luo, the diner offers many traditional American foods, such as hamburgers and fries, but also serves Asian food like pho and bánh mì sandwiches. He described it as "a great place to hang out" and said the food is "worth a try."

If you want something lighter, Mr. Luo mentioned a café in downtown Canaan, across from the Industrial Kitchen restaurant. The café, called ILSE Coffee, makes some of the freshest coffee in the area. Mr. Luo explained that they "import their own beans and then roast them on site," and that customers can see the roasting machines inside, which is why he described it as "really good coffee."

Another well-respected faculty member, Mr. Rhonan Mokriski '90, is seen by many as an expert when it comes to restaurants and cafés within the Salisbury area. One of Mr. Mokriski's favorite café spots is Salisbury Provisions, located in the White Hart. He describes it as "kind of a WeWork space," adding that "the coffee's great, the baristas are awesome, and their sandwiches are really good."

Going further away from campus, Mr. Mokriski also mentioned Cafe Adam in Great Barrington as one of his personal favorites, calling it his "favorite, favorite place." While discussing more affordable options, he brought up Blackberry Riv-



er Bistro, saying that the food is “always good” and “reasonably priced,” making it a solid option for a budget-friendly meal.

Four-year student Jaewon Yoon '26 shared his thoughts on some of the best food options in the area. He mentioned that Mizza's and Neo's serve good pizza, and according to Yoon, “they're the most reliable pizza delivery services near us.” Alongside serving a variety of pizzas, Neo's also serves a selection of paninis, burgers, wraps, steaks, and pastas. Mizza's also has a diverse menu—offering much more than just pizza.

Just down Route 44, Yoon suggested Sweet William's for pastries and sweets. According to him, it is one of the better café options nearby, and “it is pretty moderate in its pricing.”



Provisions Cafe in Salisbury, CT

Another student, Finlay MacDermott '26, has explored restaurants around the Hilltop for the past four years. A notable restaurant that he enjoyed eating at is Roma's Pizzeria. Located in Canaan, MacDermott said, “They have the best New York slice of all the pizza spots around here.”

Another notable restaurant he mentioned was the Black Rabbit in Lakeville. “I went there for breakfast with my family,” MacDermott said. “I had the French toast—it was really good.” They also serve classic American and pub-style food such as burgers, sandwiches, fish & chips, and salads.

The suggestions of restaurants and cafés listed by our Salisbury students and long-term faculty show that even though we live in the “middle of nowhere,” there are actually plenty of places to eat and hang out.



The Backbone of Salisbury Athletics

By Luke Norman

Behind every Salisbury win is a team that rarely shows up in the box score: athletic trainers Mr. Jason Pennella and Mr. Grady Congleton. For many student-athletes, they are a constant presence, supporting both physical recovery and the overall culture that defines Salisbury.

Phil Tangredi '26, an Army lacrosse commit, has spent significant time rehabbing injuries and describes the trainers as essential to his daily routine. “They play a major role in my life here,” he said. “I'm in the training room every single day. They're always there, and they really care about the athletes and the students.”

That care becomes especially evident during long rehabilitation processes. Reflecting on his knee recovery, Tangredi noted that the trainers not only guided his treatment but continually adjusted their plans to help him return stronger.

Much of their work goes unnoticed. Mr. Pennella and Mr. Congleton often spend long hours preparing for practices and games, setting up fields, rinks, and courts, and ensuring athletes are able to compete to the best of their ability. “They do a lot more than people realize,” Tangredi emphasized. “They're always working behind the scenes.”

While many people associate athletic trainers with visible injuries, their work at Salisbury extends far beyond the moments when athletes get hurt. According to Mr. Pennella, the core of the role is proactive rather than reactive. “Beyond just treating injuries, it's ensuring that the safety of each student is at the highest level,” he explained. Much of that effort happens before practices even begin—checking fields and courts, emphasizing proper warm-ups, and helping athletes prepare physically so injuries never occur in the first place.

Mr. Pennella and Mr. Congleton's involvement is deeply woven into the daily rhythm of Salisbury athletics.

Long before teams arrive in the afternoon, they are already at work. “A lot of stuff happens here before 2:20,” he said.

Recovery, he emphasized, is not just physical. “It's about 50–50,” he said of the mental and physical balance. “If you're exhausted mentally, you're not going to perform as well.” That mental fatigue often shows up physically, reinforcing the importance of rest, communication, and moderation.

Perhaps most unnoticed is the constant communication with coaches to make small adjustments to keep athletes healthy. “We're not just there when something goes wrong,” Mr. Pennella said.

Athletic Director Mr. Tim Sinclair '91 believes the trainers are central to the success of every season. “Clearly, it plays a huge role,” Mr. Sinclair said. “The success of the teams and the program is based on how healthy and how good your athletes are.”

Mr. Sinclair emphasized that much of the work goes unseen. “Your best jobs are when you're not seen,” he said, noting that trainers arrive hours before games and leave long after they end. Their willingness to “make the hard call” and prioritize long-term health over short-term team success defines their significance within the Salisbury community.



More Than a Game: Rec Hoops Takes Over Winter

By Zach Uysal

Amid Salisbury's long winters emerges the warmth of Rec Hoops on the Hilltop. With top athletes showcasing their abilities and skills on the court, the gym is filled with energy, competition, and pride.

Navy baseball commit Brooks Franklin '26 spends his winter playing rec basketball, utilizing the sport as a place where top athletes can compete and get better. He enjoys the competition of rec hoops, mentioning how facing top athletes from football, baseball, and other sports is "a lot of fun."

On the physical side, rec hoops has sharpened his conditioning: "Constantly moving has improved my fitness and performance," Franklin described, noticing the difference during long runs, conditioning sessions, and fitness tests, all required for the Naval Academy. Franklin also highlighted the importance of coaching and the bond that rec hoops creates.

"Seeing Mr. Ruskin watch and see us play to our full potential is something I admire," he said. He added the importance of teamwork in the game, emphasizing the importance of spreading the ball around the court. "A great team is when everyone's getting a chance to shoot," he said.

After countless years of leading Salisbury Varsity Basketball to success and a 2012 New England Championship, Mr. Jeff Ruskin has found a home in rec hoops. He runs the league with the same passion and intent that once fueled his teams in the past.

"When I stepped away, it was time," Mr. Ruskin said. "After the 2015 season, I knew it was time to walk away from varsity basketball. When the school asked me to take over rec hoops, I was very happy to do that."

For Mr. Ruskin, rec hoops is a chance to continue coaching basketball, developing top athletes, and improving players' basketball skills. "Over the course of the season, kids become better shooters, better ball handlers, and understand the game more," he explained. "I love seeing golfers, lacrosse players, and football players improve."

Mr. Ruskin continues to develop his players while emphasizing the importance of fun. "Rec hoops is about enjoyment," Mr. Ruskin said. "If you miss a shot, nobody's sulking. You play, you learn, and you move on."

Mr. Ruskin sees the value of rec hoops through teamwork and shared skills. His favorite memory shows the overall spirit of rec hoops, recalling a playoff game when a quiet, non-athlete hit the game-winning shot. "To see his teammates surround him and celebrate made it worth it," he said.

Rec Hoops on the Hilltop isn't just another winter activity for Charlie Brady '27; it's "the best time." Brady was first introduced to rec hoops through some base-

ball teammates who had mentioned they had a lot of fun playing last winter. He said joining was "absolutely" the right decision. "I'm having a blast," he said. Playing in the league means a lot to Brady, as he says he loves going against "stars" like Devin Maguire '26 and Evan Clark '26.

For Brady, Franklin, Mr. Ruskin, and all participants, Rec Hoops is competitive, energy-filled, and a way to highlight the winter on the Hilltop.



Our New Sarum Brothers

By Liam Gregory

Salisbury welcomed 10 mid-year students after and around Christmas break this year, all of whom bring a unique flavor to the Hilltop. These new students come from different backgrounds and situations that brought them to the School.

Jayden Cromwell '27, a basketball player from the Syracuse area, is a new face worth getting to know. One might recognize Cromwell from his flashy dunks before basketball games, but there is much more than meets the eye.

Cromwell came from Moravian Academy, a basketball academy in North Carolina that was, as he described it, "no classes, just straight basketball practices." The dynamic led to him falling behind academically. Since arriving on the Hilltop, however, Cromwell feels like he has been here since day one.

Cromwell was able to seamlessly adjust to the basketball team and greater community thanks to his teammates and people in the dining hall who made the effort to greet him and help him get acclimated. Separately,

Cromwell would like the Hilltop to know, "I'm not weird or suspicious. I'm just a chill guy."

Another mid-year transfer is Jimmy Li '27 from Arlington, NJ. Li came from Phillips Andover Academy. He spoke on his first impression of the Hilltop, saying, "[There's] a lot less schoolwork." That's not the only change, though: "The biggest difference is the school size ... you can really feel the difference," Li said. Andover enrolls around 1,300 students—1,000 more than Salisbury.

Since arriving on the Hilltop, Li has felt the most welcome in Myers Gym and the fitness center, getting to know some of the boys who work out there. Li also played defensive back for Andover's football team and will suit up for Salisbury next season.

Another mid-year transfer and roommate of Jimmy Li is Simba Nguyen '27 from Vietnam. Nguyen attended Mercyhurst Academy in Pennsylvania prior to Salisbury. Like his roommate, Nguyen has seen a workload decrease at Salisbury, which makes him feel "more stress-free here."

Interestingly, Nguyen spends his summers motorbike racing in Vietnam and, as a four-year lacrosse player, will bring that competitive spirit to one of Salisbury's lacrosse teams this spring.

Director of Strategic Recruitment and Director of Financial Aid Mr. Tom Spinella pointed out that bringing in 10 mid-year guys is a slightly larger-than-normal total. Mr. Spinella believes the large number of mid-year guys Salisbury typically gets is due to an uptick in "people trying to find better homes in the right fit."

Mr. Spinella gives credit to Mr. Weinstein for getting the new boys in the right classes and allowing them to thrive academically. Getting boys from places like Kentucky, Georgia, Chicago, and Korea to assimilate academically in the middle of a school year is a difficult task, but Mr. Weinstein puts them in the right positions to succeed.

These new members of our community uplift the school by adding diverse new personalities to a school that already has students from 31 different states and 23 different countries. Therefore, these men should be absorbed into our community as Sarum brothers.



WINTER-FEST

The community enjoyed the annual Winter-Fest Celebration on Monday, February 16 while celebrating the Head of School Holiday. Delicious food, ice skating, and ample Sarum-filled time were among the highlights!





The Importance of Young Faculty on The Hilltop

By Jonathan Chiarenza

Every faculty member at Salisbury is important; they all serve different purposes, have different ways of interacting with students, and bring different experiences. But there is one group that serves in a unique light: young faculty.

Some of these individuals have only a few years of teaching under their belts, others are fresh out of college and still finding their footing, and a few have found a home here for a long time.

Current Third Form Dean and third-year faculty member Mr. Kash Shabazz mentions opportunity as one of the main things that draws him in. “Salisbury is a place of immense opportunity... it’s a place where people believe in you, and I got a sense of that when I first got here,” Mr. Shabazz said.

Having a closer generational gap is something Mr. Shabazz credits with helping him and other young faculty members make stronger connections with students. “I always had a cellphone... I had certain access to information, and I learned certain things when I was young that I think you guys can relate to more now,” Mr. Shabazz said. “To have younger people be able to connect

with other young people when everything is changing so rapidly is really powerful.”

Mr. Shabazz remembers how much it meant to him when he was a student interacting with younger teachers. He describes it as an “instant connector.”

Along with being connected to students, young faculty members are assets to veteran faculty as well, Mr. Shabazz feels. “Young faculty are great because we can connect with students, but also teach some of our older counterparts new things,” he said.

Mr. James Mead, a fourth-year Spanish teacher at Salisbury, also sees media as a connector, saying, “I can relate to you guys on a different level, where a lot of the media we consume is the same.” He also adds, “We have a bit more empathy for where you guys are because smartphones are so ubiquitous now.”

It is more than just media, though, that makes these figures so unique in the lives of students. It is the overall dynamic of how interactions are not only formed but also handled.

The relatable, playful energy is something that is easy for students to connect with. Mr. Mead explains it as a “goofy energy,” one that he gets to use to “make a difference in people’s lives and learn new things.”

The differences made and the learning go both ways, where the student sometimes ends up teaching the faculty member.

Mr. Mead recalls moments when lessons are not going the way he envisions them and he gives his students control, asking questions like, “How do you guys want it to go? How can we bridge that gap?” He describes these interactions as “encouraging in a way that’s like, it’s not that this [idea] is bad, but we need to try something else.”

Mr. Skyler Crawford ‘18, a current history teacher and alumnus, reflects on his time as a student and his experiences interacting with young faculty, saying, “I actually had an advisor who was a young guy... he was one of the youngest teachers, and I felt like I could really connect with him.” He also adds that he looked at him as “more than a teacher or advisor; he felt like an older brother.”

Mr. Crawford recalls this experience from his time as a student at Salisbury and uses it to influence the culture of his teaching.

“Being able to be that type of figure for the guys now—that non-overarching, non-bossy teacher, but also to be seen as like a brother with the respect of a teacher—is something I’m happy to experience,” he said.

The fact that he was once in the students’ shoes also allows him to “connect with and understand guys in a more authentic way.”

Along with the influence Mr. Crawford makes on his students, like Mr. Mead and Mr. Shabazz, the ways in which he interacts with his colleagues are another key part of his tenure.

“I feel really respected, especially by the people in my department... they recognize I’m special because I can connect with guys in a unique way,” he said. “They really try to hear me out on my ideas.”

Mr. Crawford adds, “They’ve seen me grow and develop as a young man, and they know when I’m slacking off, but they also know when I’m really pushing and trying to do good work. It all leads back to accountability.”

Young faculty members are what bridge the generations that span Salisbury—the people whom students and faculty alike can look to for guidance. Some bring perspective from their personal experiences at Salisbury, and others bring open, student-driven perspectives used as tools to weld the community together. No matter what, they are crucial and necessary to the Hilltop.



Cupola

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