

**By Students. For Students.**

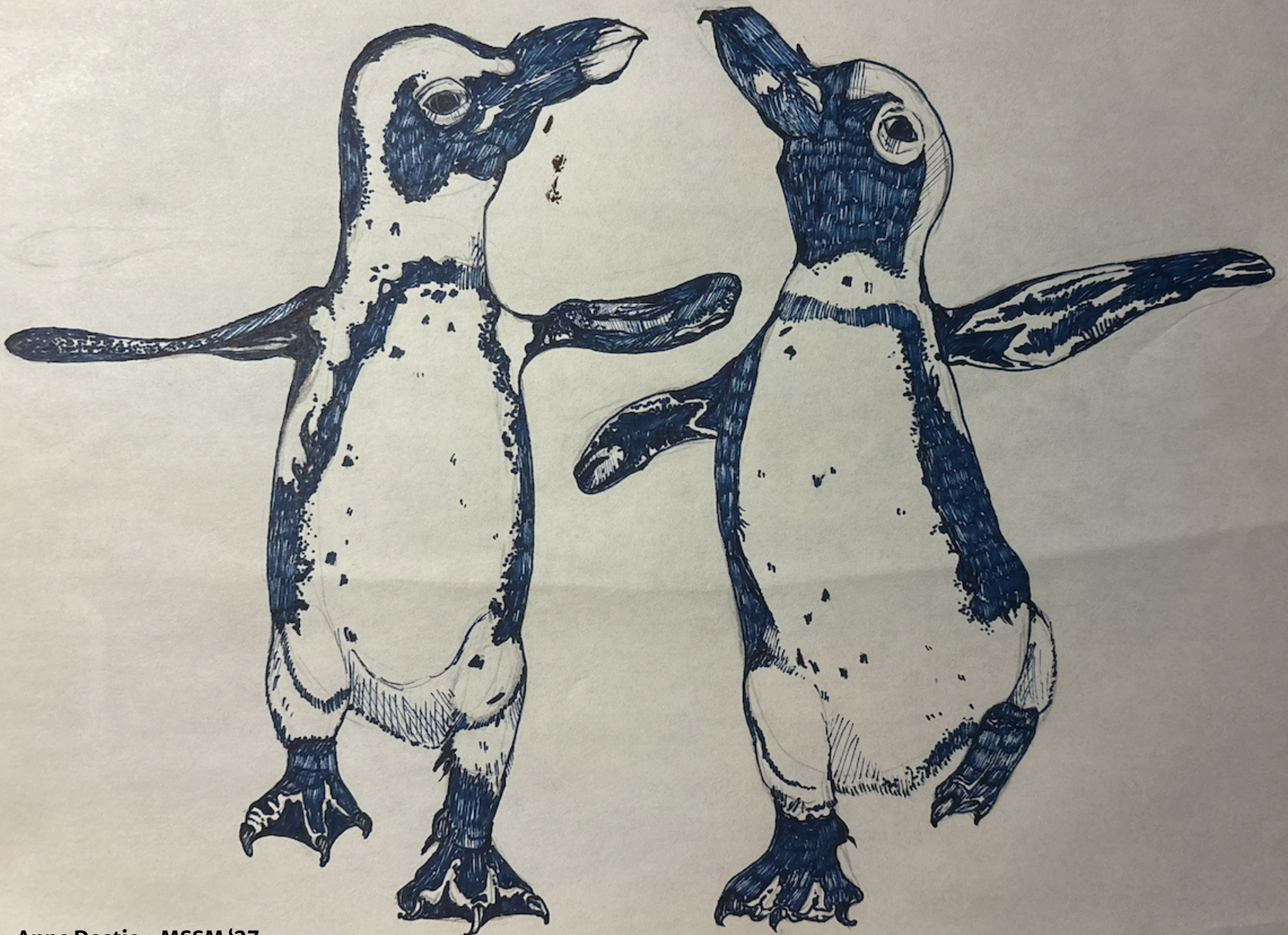
**Community Bulletin**

J-Term Stories and  
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# THE AURORA



Anne Dostie - MSSM '27

# The Student Report

The Monday before February break was the much-anticipated J-Term exhibition. There was a wide range of projects on display: internships, fascinating research projects, exciting trips, and valuable on-campus enrichment. As the week progressed, the various illnesses going around became worse. By the end of the week, a significant number of students were sent home early on break as a result of their illness. While a season of illness is typical after J-Term, sending students home earlier is usually a rare occurrence.

Over break, one of our vex teams, 4393A, won a triple crown at the John Bapst meet. A triple crown means the team won tournament champion, robot skills champion, and excellence award. This was also MSSM's first ever triple crown in school history.



Dhruv Jain - MSSM '26

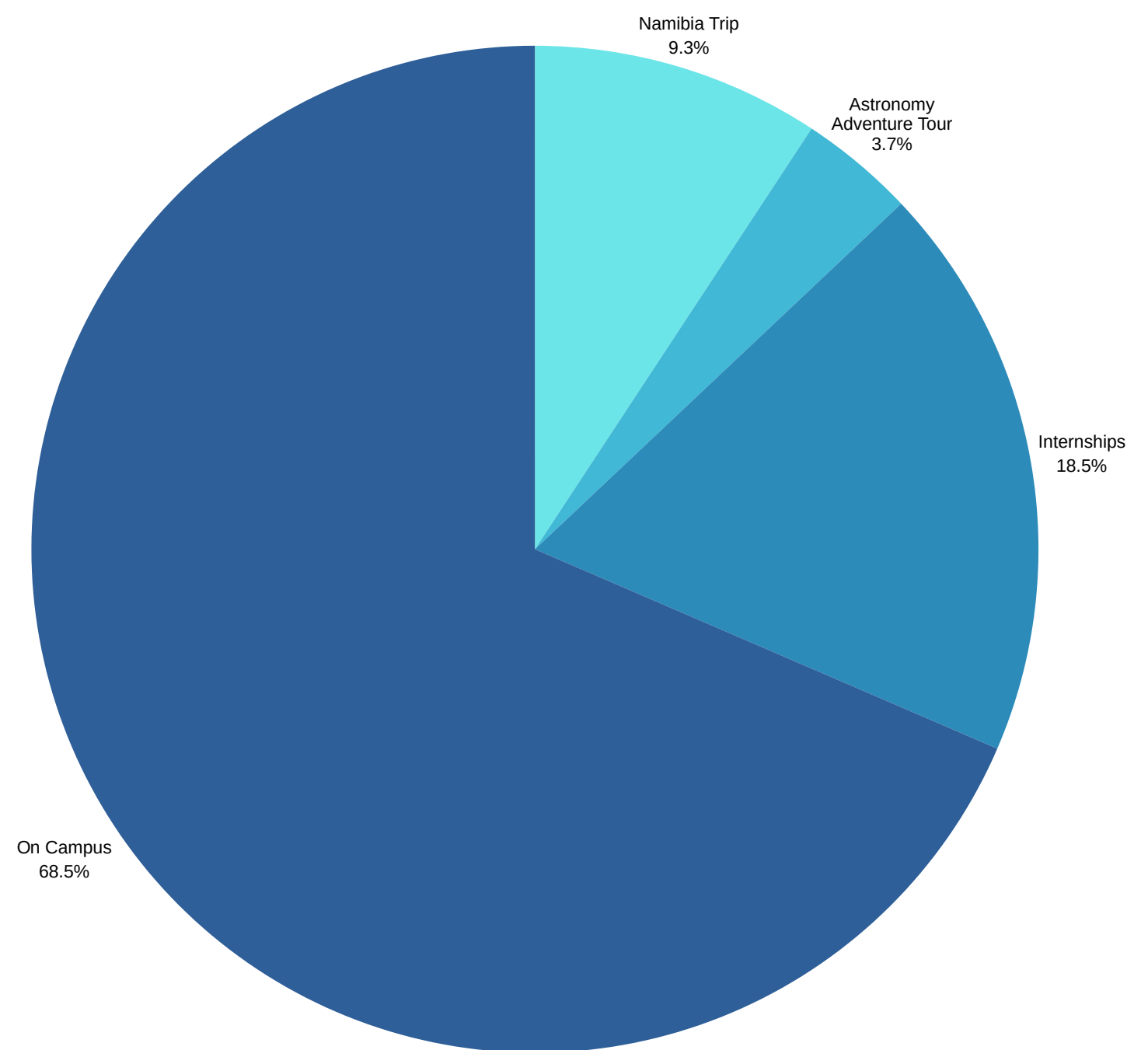
“After getting the triple crown at John Bapst, we realized that we are ready to try and win the State tournament in South Portland this upcoming Saturday. It'll be an amazing and competitive day, and hopefully we win a World's Qualifying award. I'm very happy with how the team has developed over the season, and the dedication the team brings to meets.”

Upon the return from break, students were met with the news of Mr. and Ms. Brin's departure. We are sad to see them go, but we understand the administration is already in the process of finding replacements. Dr. Rim has also been notably absent this past week. All of his classes have been transferred to other faculty for an indefinite amount of time. While students understand the importance of privacy, the changes have naturally left many students hoping for more clarity in the days ahead.

# Community Bulletin

This J-Term saw students participating in a wide range of programs. A group went to Namibia with Ms. Jeskey, volunteering at the N/a'an ku se wildlife sanctuary. Mr. Berz brought a group of students to various astronomy locations around the state and beyond to learn more about the night sky. Internships were widely varied, encompassing international cultural study, civil engineering, primary care medicine, and firsthand governmental experience. Teachers led on-campus J-terms, Mr. Katsman with the ever popular blacksmithing, Mr. Guner teaching students to cook Turkish food, and many more. All of these groups, off-campus and on, presented their work on J-Term Exhibition Day. It seems that everyone had a good time and enjoyed sharing their experiences.

● Namibia Trip ● Astronomy Adventure Tour ● Internships ● On Campus



“ During J-term, I traveled to Namibia with a school group to volunteer at N/a'an ku se, a wildlife sanctuary. It was a truly amazing experience, as we were able to see a number of animals in the wild, including rhinos, elephants, wild dogs, and giraffes. We also learned a lot about identifying the animals and helped with projects at the sanctuary, such as cleaning the watering holes, creating enrichment activities for the animals, and feeding them. It was an experience that I will never forget, and I highly recommend for anyone interested. ”

- Alice Ziegler '26 (Namibia Volunteering Trip)

“ In the materials engineering J-term with Dr. Hinkley, we did a lot of experiments and labs, because as the name “playing with stuff” suggests, we got to play with everything from melting a bunch of sulfur, to stained glass butterflies. We covered the properties and real world uses of ceramics, metals, polymers, and composites. We got to take a trip to a stained glass studio, where we applied what we had learned about microfracturing in glass and metallic bonding in soldering. The structure of the class was built around learning how the science behind each material affected how it could be used, and what it actually felt like. ”

- Amelia Reid '28 (On-Campus Material Engineering)

“During my internship in New York City, I worked at the Rockefeller Investments Office under Paula Volent. I conducted high volume research into a billion dollar company, and developed deliverables for my team. Through financial analysis, and leadership vetting, I drafted a 20 page memo outlining an investment suggestion for the office. My final suggestion was a \$1,000,000 investment into the company. My suggestion was accepted and the investment was carried through shortly after.”

- Finn Dedek '26 (The Operations of Endowment Investment Internship)

“My Astronomy Adventure J-Term with Mr. Berz was an experience like no other. I spent two weeks immersed in astronomy, learning mythological background, and diving into the universes many secrets. Along the way I got a chance to meet various experts in the field, MSSM alum, and students and faculty from Phillips Andover academy during our trip to their campus. I learned to stay curious, ask questions, and always look up.”

- Elena Wirth '26 (Off-Campus Astronomy Adventure Tour)

“I used my independent project to produce a research paper on Ecclesiology (the Theology of the Church). The crux of my position was the Episcopal office, being the successors to the Apostles for the preservation of doctrine and proper administration of the sacraments, maintained primarily in the Anglican, Roman, and Eastern churches. I emphasized the sacramental nature of the threefold ministry of Bishop, Priest, and Deacon and the importance of a direct line of continuity from the apostles to the Bishops through the laying on of hands. To do this, I looked at Scripture, the Church Fathers, and modern theological texts of various traditions.”

- Hurst Burnett '27 (On-Campus Independent Project)

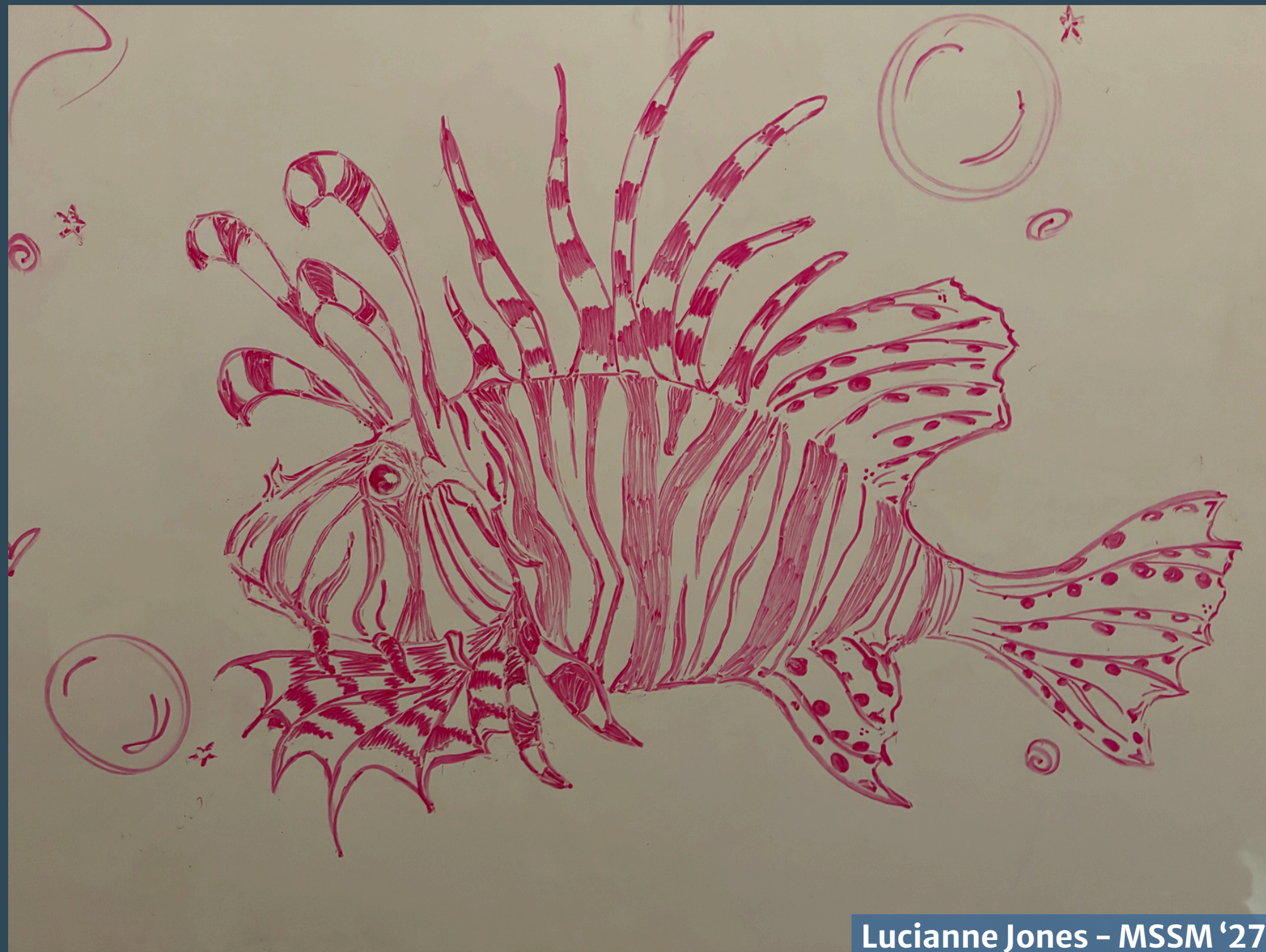
“During J-term, I engaged myself in a winter ecology study, through hands-on field expeditions and research. I traveled through snow-covered landscapes practicing wildlife tracking, learning to identify animal movement patterns, and study trees and different organism adaptations. I conducted a small bird analysis off of my own observations by observing species behavior, adaptations, and population activity in cold conditions. Through data collection and observation, I gained a deeper understanding of how ecosystems function and survive in winter. This experience strengthened both my field research skills and my appreciation for the resilience of nature.”

- Olivia Whittaker '28 (Maine Winter Ecology Internship)

# The Gallery



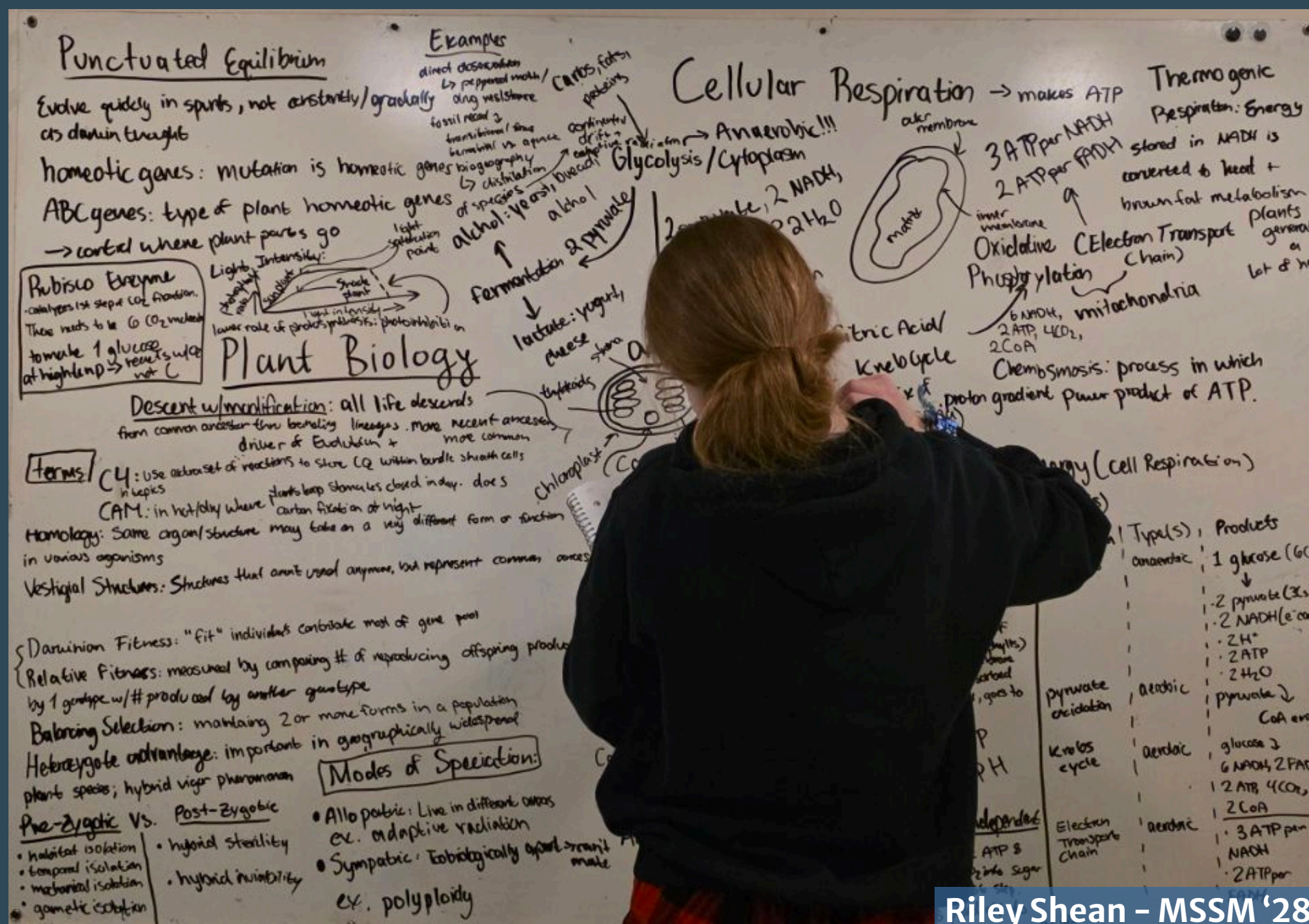
Ava Perkins - MSSM '29



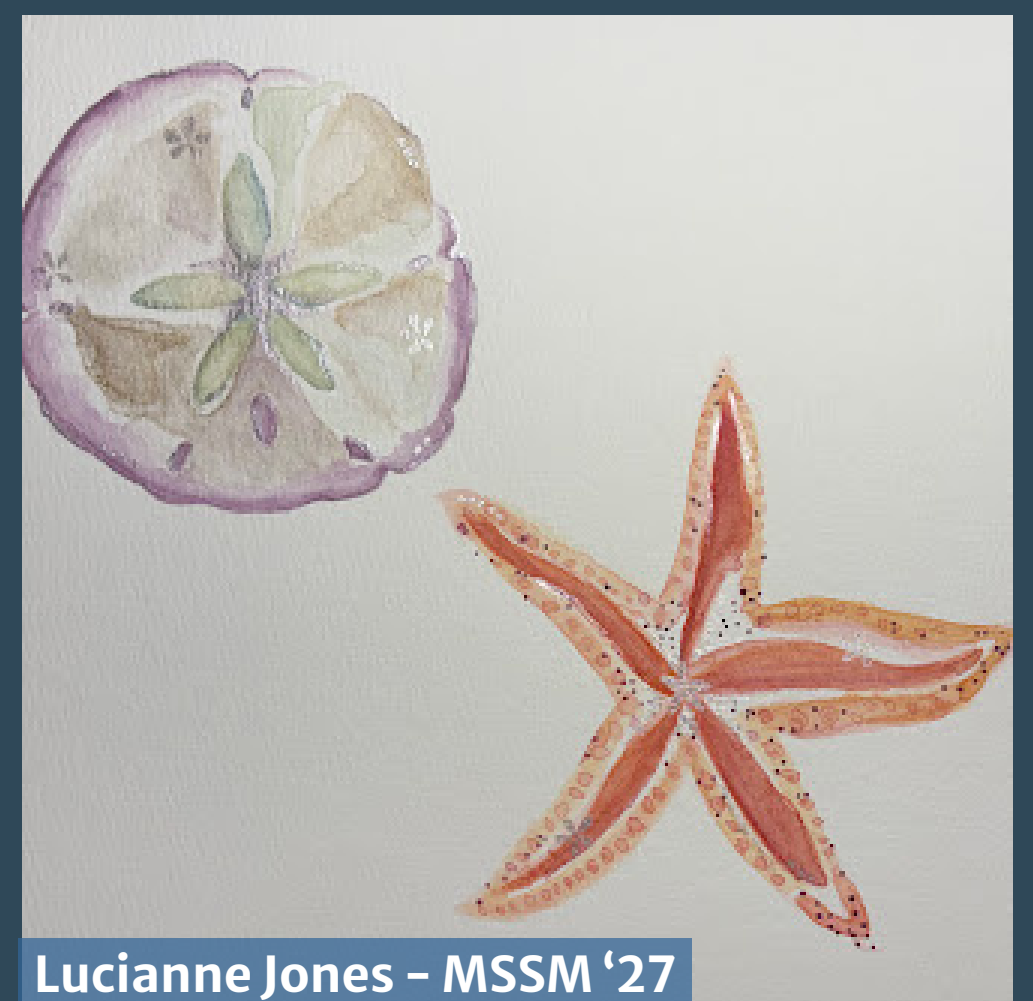
Lucianne Jones - MSSM '27



Yilin Zhang - MSSM '28



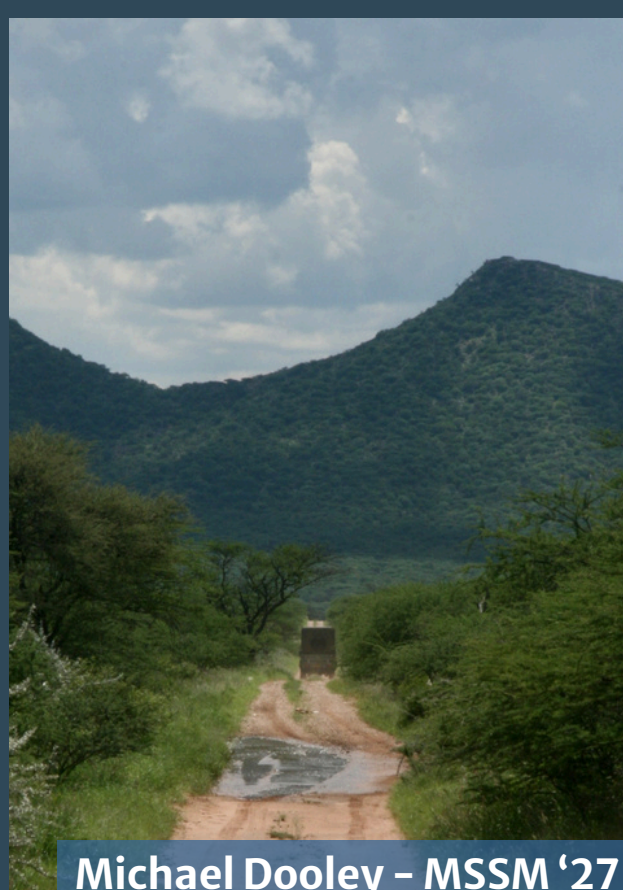
Riley Shean - MSSM '28



Lucianne Jones - MSSM '27



Science Fiction Boat J-Term



Michael Dooley - MSSM '27



Isobel Oliver - MSSM '27

# Unbiased Sports Reporting

By: Samuel Pike - MSSM '27

What a great past few weeks it's been for sports, and it's gonna continue to get better over the next few weeks as well. In the past 2 weeks, spring training started, and we had the NBA All-Star Game and Winter Olympics, and then all coming within a month or two, the World Baseball Classic, MLB Opening Day, and the NHL and NBA playoffs.



I want to specifically talk about the Gold Medal game in the Winter Olympics for Men's Hockey, and how pure cinema that game was. The defense was through the roof the full game, and Hellebuyck looked nearly unstoppable. Jack Hughes' overtime winning goal followed by the full team gathering on the ice with the Gaudreau family easily the best moment of the Olympics. This also marked the first time the men and women hockey teams both won the Gold Medal.

For some highlights, the Red Sox are currently 5-3 in the Grapefruit League and 6-3 in training. Their biggest highlight of training right now is Jarren Duran, who is batting .583 with 3 home runs in his past 2 games. Connelly Early has been looking like he's really improved his velocity from last season too, and will continue to fight for a rotation spot.

For MSSM Sports, we'll be having the intramural futsal league starting on March 5th. There will be games in the dorm gym every Sunday and Thursday at 8:15 p.m. and stats will be published here. In other dorm sports news, Roshan, Saketh and Abhi lost to Kyle, Jack, and Greyson in basketball with a final score of 21-19. Yikes...