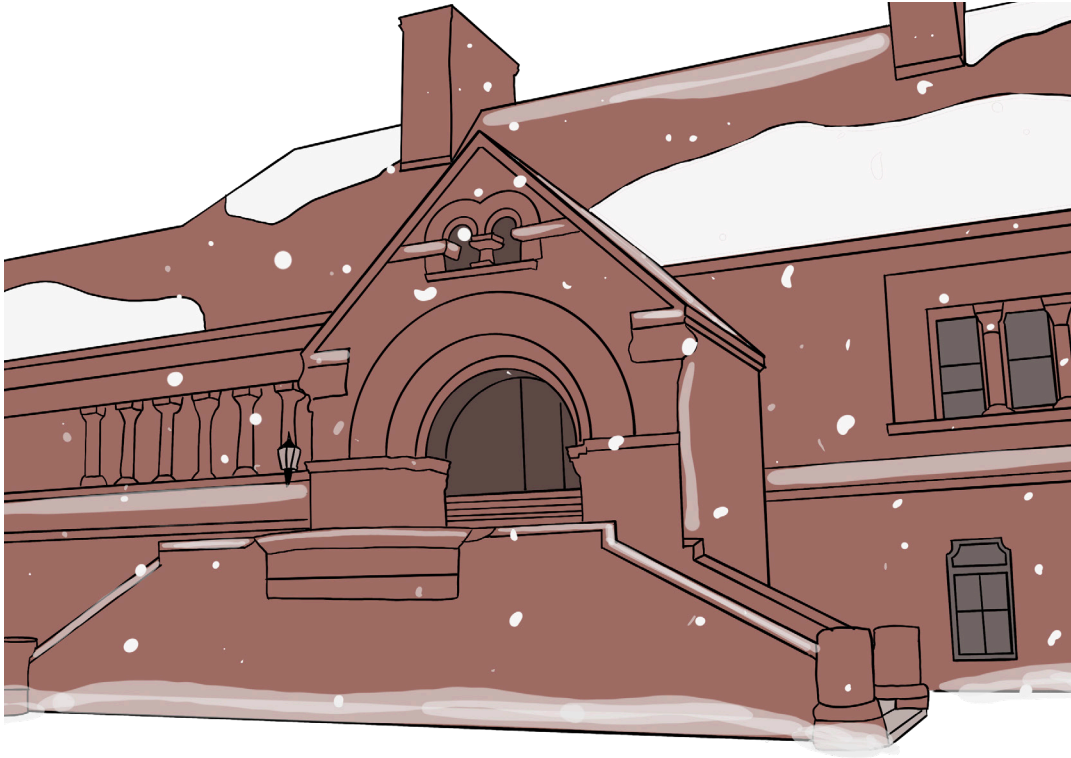


A Reflection on Winter Gathering



SHLOKA CHODHARI '26

Winter Gathering is the most awaited long weekend during the Winter Term and is when parents come to campus to meet their students' advisors, as well as attend sessions hosted by Lawrenceville students and faculty. Winter Gathering is a time for the community to bond, parents to meet, and students to have a relaxing long weekend. The most significant aspect of Winter Gathering is for advisors to connect with parents and discuss students' needs and expectations that they have set for the nearing Spring Term ahead. That's what we all need sometimes to catch up on our sleep!

After interviewing some students and a teacher, I received the inside scoop on what teachers and students think about Winter Gathering, what they would change in the future, and what they enjoyed this long weekend. Sahas Chodhari '24 mentioned that Winter Gathering was a time to get away, relax, and most importantly, catch up on sleep. Winter Gathering was also an incredible time for him to enjoy himself with his close friends and reflect on the preceding couple of weeks. Chodhari mentioned that

those few days involved more listening than talking; enjoying his free time was an ideal way for him to understand aspects of himself he needed to work on both academically and mentally. He understood what he needed to work on for the next few weeks after having a conversation with his advisors, especially considering that winter finals week is coming up shortly. Reflecting was a keyword for Chodhari, as was the ability to understand himself better and change some of the bad habits that he had become accustomed to in the past few months.

Our previous Winter Gatherings were interrupted by the presence of Covid-19, so after this dilemma, what was it like having a one-on-one conversation with parents? For a teacher's perspective, I talked to Math Teacher Hollister Olson; she mentioned what she enjoyed, but also some of what she wants to change about Winter Gatherings. Olson said that she enjoys getting to check in with and further connect with the parents of her students. She also added that a few extra days of downtime for her to recharge for the month ahead

Aileen Ryu '25/*THE LAWRENCE* was lovely. Moreover, Olson loved coming back to duty on Tuesday night and seeing all the girls in the Dawes House embracing each other, even after a few short days. Regarding what she would like to change, she believed it would be beneficial to have "some big community gathering event upon the return from the weekend" to get everyone excited to be back on campus and motivated for the rest of the Winter Term. Last but not least, she added, "Winter Gathering's current iteration this year is special because it allows us to balance important conversations with a little time off."

All in all, Winter Gathering is an extraordinary time for parents to connect with their advisors. Students can improve not only from their teachers but also from their advisors and parents. This is truly a time of reflection, a time to talk about letting go of bad habits and inviting good habits as the Winter Term ends. Good luck to all for the last few weeks of the Winter Term. We have almost reached Spring Break!

Faculty Profile: Katherine O'Malley

SOPHIE CHENG '25
NEWS ASSOCIATE
CHARLES POTTER '25

20 years ago, Lawrenceville welcomed Katherine O'Malley H'07 onto its campus, and she has made an impact on hundreds of students since. O'Malley teaches II Form English, multiple V Form English electives, IV Form Advanced Poetry, and serves as the head coach of the Girls' Varsity Volleyball team and the Crescent Level Director. When not teaching or coaching, she enjoys cooking and traveling. In fact, O'Malley has been to over 100 countries! When asked her favorite country, O'Malley said that she would choose "Italy for food, South Africa for adventure, and New Zealand for beauty."

O'Malley said she "did not like high school and was not a good student." She attended St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, where she earned a degree, then earned a master's degree in comparative literature at Columbia University. After graduating from Columbia, O'Malley was "ill-equipped to do much of anything to earn a living," so she "took a job advertised as 'teaching girls in residence'"—one which actually turned out to be teaching women in a prison. There, she discovered that she "liked working with kids." However, she wanted to have the chance to teach students who shared her love of literature, so she looked at boarding schools instead.

Before coming to Lawrenceville, O'Malley worked at the Cate School in southern California. She said she left the school in 2004 because she was "the only single member of the faculty" and "hadn't had a date in years."

At Lawrenceville, O'Malley has found that her favorite class to teach is her V Form Shakespeare elective in the Fall Term, even though she also loves teaching II Formers. In "Shakespeare's Comedies: Masks We Wear," she generally ends "up with a really

bright and motivated group of seniors." Specifically, *The Merchant of Venice* is the play she enjoys teaching the most, noting that the language is beautiful, as well as the pertinent and thought-provoking question of whether "Shylock is written as a tragic hero or a comic villain."

The teaching job itself gives O'Malley the opportunity to spend her days with "people who are always looking for enjoyment and humor in their work, exercise, and play." She described her love for laughing when teaching students, and how active both coaching and teaching can be. On the contrary, she pointed out that her least favorite part of the job are weekends, as they are full of grading essays and writing comments—unfortunately cutting into her reading and travel time.

Ironically, O'Malley never played volleyball before becoming the assistant head volleyball coach at Cate, as she went to a high school that did not highly value physical fitness, and the only extramural sport at her college was croquet. Additionally, in college, she only ever competed against a neighboring school, the United States Naval Academy, once each year. Upon her arrival at Cate, however, she was asked to assist the head volleyball coach. O'Malley detailed the head coach as "a woman who was 6'3" and who spent the last three years playing professional volleyball in Europe." After being taught by the head coach, O'Malley was able to take over coaching the program at Cate.

Through her work, O'Malley has demonstrated an ability to engage with her students due to her expressive and jubilant personality. Her many anecdotes from her fascinating life continue to grow as she explores the world one more country at a time and invests in her students' futures.



Katherine O'Malley H'07

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

Big Red Robotics

William Wang '24 details the revival of Lawrenceville's robotics team, as well as its monumental ascent to the New Jersey State Championships.



Black History Month Spotlight: FROBeats

Harini Venkatesh '25 writes about FROBeats, the Afrobeats dance crew on campus, in honor of Black History Month.



Swimming State Championships!

Ella Fessler '25 recaps last week's NJISAA Prep A Championship meets and looks ahead to Easterns next week.





THE LAWRENCE

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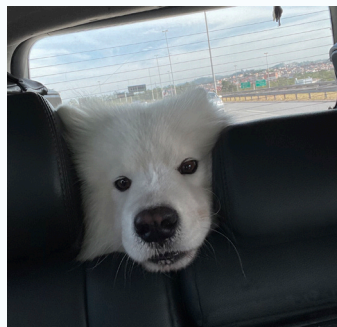
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CORRECTIONS

Readers who notice errors should contact the Managing Editor at kpark23@lawrenceville.org.

Dog of the Week (Sal!) Henrique Coelho '25



Editorial Bye-Bye, Basu

Thursday, October 20, 2022. Illuminated by the red emergency lights of the hallway, the editors of CXLII wrangle with the editorial of the week, racing to submit a draft of the paper before midnight. Autri, away managing backstage operations for the school play, notified us of his inability to attend office hours—yet, even in his absence, his presence filled the office, ensuring the publication had a leader.

We send Autri a text, explaining the dismal state of the editorial and asking for his advice. He calls back moments later. “Share the editorial with me,” he commands, the commotion of the backstage crew echoing over the phone. “I’ll see what I can do.”

When one joins *The Lawrence*, they do so conscious of the time commitment—“an extra class and a half,” as Autri noted during the CXLIII Managing Editor interviews. Yet, when Autri transitioned from Copy Editor of CXLII to Editor-in-Chief of CXLII, he made a Faustian gamble with the spirits of the office; just as Faust obtains years of power in return for eternal servitude under Mephistopheles, Autri gained the experience and knowledge of Editors-in-Chief past at the expense of what remained of his little time. Under his bargain, *The Lawrence* became more than an extra few classes; it became a lunch-time retreat, an afternoon commitment, and a late-night crusade. After years with Mephistopheles’ power, Faust grows corrupt and falls beyond salvation. But after two years with *The Lawrence*, Autri has transformed from a mere editor to a divine vessel for the spirits of the past.

Autri’s cursed erudition, however, represents a double-edged sword, bearing blessings for CXLII. With his experience and knowledge, Autri brings the benefits of contingency and forethought to every situation CXLII faces. George Santayana, a Spanish-American philosopher active throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, noted in his 1905 *The Life of Reason*: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned

to repeat it.” Autri, as though taking this aphorism to heart, makes each decision as Editor-in-Chief conscious of the experiences of his predecessors.

Any member on CXLII, against their will, possesses the ability to recall the names of past Editors-in-Chief and Managing Editors thanks to Autri’s incessant recollection of their tenures. Every conversation that arises features a mention of Linda Li’s ’19 many leadership roles, Panos Vandriss’ ’17 (alleged) notoriety, or the recent upper management dynamic of Josh Cigoianu ’22 and Carina Li ’22.

Autri’s line of predecessors, the ones whose experience upon which he calls, dates back to *The Lawrence’s* founding 142 years; a legacy filled with excellence and driven by competition. After all, *The Lawrence*, with its 142 years of history, holds the title of the second-oldest weekly high school publication (following *The Exonian’s* transition to bi-weekly) after *The Phillipian*, Phillips Academy’s student-run newspaper. Aside from falling short in age, we excel in our fair share of categories; for one, we publish on the same cycle with a 71 percent smaller board (after all, who needs 58 editors when you could have 17?). We can attribute CXLII’s superiority to *The Phillipian’s* CXLVI, in part, to Autri’s mission: “My entire job,” he revealed less than one month into his tenure, “is to make us as good as *The Phillipian*.”

And within the depths of the Bunn Library Autri lurks, amalgamating his passion, knowledge, and the vast archives of *The Lawrence* to uphold 142 years of excellence; a postmodern Saint Lawrence. A conduit for the history of the publication, Autri harnesses the lessons—and sins—of the past to lead CXLII. They say a good leader should possess the ability to assume the role of their workers[citation needed], though Autri has proven this quality unnecessary. From his couch in the office, he leads with great prowess, cutting through the Gordian Knot of publication struggles like Alexander

the Great. When a section editor seeks final Upper Management edits, Autri tackles articles with the aptitude of an esteemed Editor-in-Chief; when issues arise during the publication cycle, he flexes his managerial genius. Yet, when technology malfunctions, Autri finds himself outwitted like the Nexus-6 hunted by Deckard; when a section editor requires InDesign assistance, he finds himself unable to contribute, forced to watch as another page devolves into disarray. Nevertheless, despite his inability to emulate other members of the Board, he has proven himself a grand leader, spitting in the face of whoever composed that aforementioned definition of leadership.

Our soon-to-be 22 issues comprise Autri’s magnum opus, an anthology of the year’s experiences and a catalog of CXLII’s triumphs and tribulations. Every Editorial Board boasts its fair share of struggles and mishaps—ours included. From missing articles to unpublishable editorials to feisty writers, CXLII—guided by our beloved Editor-in-Chief—has overcome adversity, brought both by circumstance and our own hand, time and time again. And while our times in the office come to an end, the memories of our experience—held within our minds and immortalized by our published issues—serve as a shrine to CXLII, including the leader who stood behind us.

The typical *Lawrence* editorial concludes with a list of concrete solutions; an atypical one, as we observed in the issue of February 4, serves as a springboard for conversation. For the tribute to our beloved leader, however, we turn to the wisdom of the past, as he has done countless times.

The words of Michael Zhao ’17, Editor-in-Chief of CXXXVI, rest framed upon the office wall: “Nothing about journalism is ever original or creative.” And to that, I say: Autri makes for a damn bad journalist.

-NT

ARTS

Black History Month Spotlight: FROBeats

HARINI VENKATESH '25
ARTS ASSOCIATE

Black History Month is a period of recognition and celebration of the substantial impact made by African Americans in shaping our society. This annual occurrence provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of Black individuals in various aspects of history and to appreciate the undeniable impact they have made on our collective legacy. In the realm of art, Black artists have faced persistent challenges, including underrepresentation and marginalization, especially regarding subjectivity and inequity. To address these issues and celebrate the talents of the remarkable Black student artists on campus, the Arts Section of *The Lawrence* wanted to spotlight a student-run dance ensemble known as FRObeats.

Led by Jessica Peters ’24, FRObeats is dedicated to performing Afro-Fusion music and dance, or Afrobeats. Afrobeats is an umbrella genre of music that fuses West African, Nigerian, Ghanaian, and American soul-funk styles. Afrobeats dancing wields this range of music

to generate choreography that is not widely represented in American culture. According to Michelle Egu ’23, a member of FRObeats, “the dance ensemble introduces a unique and transformative dance style using hip-hop-inspired dances and various cultural and Afro dance moves.” Since the goal of FRObeats is to highlight and honor the rich cultural diversity within Africa through dynamic performances aimed at cultural expression, FRObeats welcomes all students to learn about and appreciate this vibrant genre of dance by making the ensemble available for all people to audition.

The group enables its dancers to showcase through storytelling their heritage and emotions, offering a platform for cultural exchange and increasing appreciation for Afro-Fusion music and dance. Rehanna Yabuku ’25, a two-year member of the team, describes her experience with FRObeats as “incredibly welcoming,” especially as a first-time dancer and newcomer to Lawrenceville. She emphasizes the significance of dance



FRObeats performing at the Winter Dance Series

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

to her culture and sees FRObeats as a way to embrace it, citing the group’s community and openness as providing opportunities for cultural immersion through dance.

Overall, the annual celebration of

Black History Month provides an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of Black individuals and to appreciate creatives who tell stories of lived experiences and inspire cultural interchange. Through its dynamic per-

formances, FRObeats helps shape the cultural landscape and create a welcoming environment for all students to learn about and appreciate the vibrant genre of Afro-Fusion music and dance.

Sentimental Reflections on a Mound of Dirt

SIMRAN RATH '26

Every day, hordes of Lawrentians embark on the two-way trek across the mud-ridden swamp between the Bunn Library and the Kirby Math and Science Center (KMSC). Why? Whether their stampede features rushing to Noyes or fulfilling their intent to finally defeat the KMSC automated doors, they are all witness to the crumbling remnants of our past: the Jane W. Irwin Dining Center.

It is not just the sulphuric fumes from the construction site that bring tears to our eyes, but also the immense cloud of sorrow that looms over the fenced-off piles of...actually, I don't quite know. What I do know is that Jane is crying somewhere.

The destruction of Irwin led to the annihilation of opportunities for its once imminent transcendence. Irwin's future was quite literally crushed before our very eyes. Irwin will never make the Lawrence Township top five on Yelp. Irwin will never rank alongside Michelin Star restaurants. Soon enough, even all Lawrence articles about Irwin's fate will become irrelevant. By the time future classes of Lawrentians attend our prized establishment, Irwin will exist only as an afterthought. An afterthought!

"What brings me solace is that Irwin lives on in our hearts," Sophie Bilanin '26 reflected, "It's sad to watch such a historic part of our community get torn to shreds." For Bilanin, the short month she spent in Irwin had a great impact on her overall Lawrenceville experience. "I made my first friends in Irwin. I got to know all of the kids in my grade in that building," she noted.

Caroline Park '23 shared similar sentiments,

calling Irwin "an integral part of Lawrenceville school culture." However, Irwin carries a deeper meaning for Park, as her mother, a member of the Class of 1988, dined in Irwin as well. "My mom and her friends used to throw mini boxes of cereal onto the light fixtures in the morning so they could eat them at dinner when the cereal bar was closed," Park described. "There's definitely a lot of mixed feelings surrounding all of this." Cereal storing would have been a great tradition to continue, except now the Tsai Commons' light fixtures are 300 feet in the air, and the cereal comes out of lemon-water dispensers. "I really miss the traditions we followed through the pod systems. We used to decorate the pods for House banquets and things like that. We'd bring in banners and close the doors," Park added. "What pod are you sitting in? That was always the question that we'd text to our friends." Even with Tsai's obnoxious amount of tables—most of which are armed with a "this table is closed" sign—none of them promote House bonding. Instead, the Tsai tables promote themselves. Jane will sob even harder if she finds out that any of you actually scanned the QR codes on the table and submitted feedback about your dining experience.

Maybe the legacy of Irwin does not matter to you. Fine. Maybe your interests lie in architectural aesthetics. Faded bricks are coming back with a vengeance in the construction world—exposed brick is all the rage in New York City lofts—and, for that matter, Lawrenceville's own GCAD—you know. What a shame that these very bricks are now dilapidated and buried under lumps of wet

dirt. Not only was Irwin's exterior a diamond in the rough, but the interior was just as underrated. So what if it needed a little TLC? The meaningfulness of that building alone was enough to lure hundreds of students into its loving arms day after day. Every oatmeal stain on the Irwin carpet carries a memory, each glass of chocolate milk (and pass-o-guava, if that's your thing) brought a moment of joy to our dear student body, and the chorus of "oh yeah there's no one sitting here" welcomed us all into this shared space. Just because Irwin doesn't look as pretty as Tsai during campus tours does not mean it is of any lesser significance. In saying this, one must not neglect the value that Tsai brings to

the table (get it?). With its gleaming wok bar and pretentious amount of utensil locations, Tsai has been branded as a significant upgrade. However, these aspects are purely material, and they neglect the sentimental value that Irwin provided to us all. We must acknowledge Tsai for what it will always be: a (not too bad) replacement. While it is sad to see Irwin torn to shreds, there is no denying that we have moved on to a new chapter of Lawrenceville's dining history. Once the "larger wok bar" propaganda nonsense is shoved aside, Tsai will provide beautiful opportunities for us to treasure, and for prospective students to adore in the future.



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

The Revival of Robotics

WILL WANG '24

FEATURES ASSOCIATE

It's 3:26 AM in the morning. Today is February 12. Today is the day the team finds out if we qualify for states. I can't sleep. Not even a year ago, we barely had three members, and the thought of making it to states was a million miles away. What the robotics team at Lawrenceville went through to get to today took dedicated people, a lot of time, and full commitment.

The School's robotics team competes in a competition called First Tech Challenge (FTC). Every September, the organizers of FTC release a game with a set of challenges, and teams compete to build a robot that satisfies these challenges. Each year, the game has similar requirements, which include picking up items such as cubes, cones, and balls.

Robotics was a dead club last year. Management of the robotics team was misguided, and the team hadn't officially competed since the 2018-2019 season; even then, the club was unable to retain IV and V Form members who competed as II and III Formers. Despite the number of students who signed up during club nights, day by day, students trickled away. By December, there were four people: the two captains, Ethan Camin '22 and Anushka Chintamaneni '23, Suvas Aggarwal '25, and me.

Although we had a robot, we had neither the manpower nor the time to complete all the tasks associated with entering a competition. Despite the team's lack of interest, we still met on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Throughout the year, I asked myself, "Why am I devoting all this time to something that no one had respected nor cared for?" By the Spring Term, Aggarwal and I knew that we needed some form of aid in the next season if we wanted to compete. For that year's competition, we decided to replicate a robot we saw on YouTube. Looking back, this strategy seems almost laughable. But coming into the robotics room three days a week, sometimes until 9:00 PM, showed me that progress was possible. Aggarwal and I would even come in during consultation to work on our robot. Yet, as we progressed, the easier it was to recognize a simple fact: robotics is not something people can show up to when they feel like it. It is a commitment, and although many may like the idea of robotics on paper, few students can dedicate four to five hours a week beyond their academic and athletic commitments. This fact isn't just evident for robotics, but for nearly all clubs on campus. For a school that advertises "hundreds of clubs," very few of them have the proper faculty leaders, funding, student leadership, or time to run a club at all, let alone effectively.

The Dean of Academics, however, had a vested economic interest in developing a competitive robotics team. This interest allowed the robotics team to become

a co-curricular, serving as a substitute for weekly athletic requirements. I won't act as if the revival of the robotics team this year was solely guided by its students. Without administrative guidance, the team would not have achieved the success it has this year. But I don't want to minimize the efforts of the students on the robotics team either. The School invested in the hopes of a small group of highly dedicated students to commit, and commit they did. Despite our modest aspirations at the beginning of the season, we are now one of the top teams in the state ranked by average points scored. We came into states having competed in 10 qualification matches, in which we went 9-1. We went undefeated during our first meet in December. In our second tournament in January, we went 4-1 in our placement matches. We progressed to the semi-finals, and despite our respectable scores of over 130 points in both semi-final matches, we were ultimately eliminated by spectacular performances from the eventual champions of that tournament.

I was not confident entering the league tournament (which allowed us to qualify for states), as the path to qualify was limited. Only 6 of the 22 teams in the event were able to qualify for the state championship. We had a pre-event ranking which, coupled with five qualification matches, would determine our overall ranking. As alliance captains, the top four teams also automatically qualified for the semi-finals. Alliance captains form an alliance, which combines their teams with another of their choosing. To qualify, we had to be on the winning alliance or win the Inspire Award—an award dedicated to a group that best embodies the spirit of the challenge, including outreach and a competitive robot. The Inspire Award, among other awards, would be determined by a presentation each team gives to a panel of judges to discuss their season, consisting of an Engineering Portfolio, which is a detailed "resume" of the team's progress in that season.

We had no outreach. Our path was to win or go home.

On February 12, 8:00 AM, the team traveled to Hightstown High School for the competition. The setup process entering the tournament was straightforward, as we passed through the necessary safety inspections before the qualification matches. The first obstacle of the day was the presentation to the judge panel. With only a brief script, we had to prepare a five-minute presentation to the panel of judges. We only practiced twice. Pacing up and down the hallway with relatively low hopes, we successfully delivered the presentation in the proper time frame and answered all questions. The real challenge, however, was still in front of us.

We entered the tournament ranked 8 out of the 22 teams. Despite our higher win-to-loss ratio and our higher average points scored, the rankings took into

account the games we played, putting us at a disadvantage. We had only played 10 games, compared to many other teams, who had played nearly 30. Yet as the qualification matches came and went, we slowly crawled up the standings, eventually ranking as high as third place. We went 4-0 until the last match, when we were paired against a solid alliance that was able to score consistently. Unfortunately, they handed us our first loss. Coupled with a tie-breaking system that did not favor us, we entered the playoff bracket as the fifth-ranked team—one place out of the guaranteed spots in the playoff bracket. Additionally, since only 20 out of the 22 teams showed up, the alliances no longer consisted of three teams, but two. This change only further narrowed our window for qualification.

As the fifth-ranked team, we had to petition other teams to select us. Traditionally high-ranked teams would select among each other, but uniquely, the first-ranked team, Hornet Silver of Holmdel High School, selected us. Since the second and the third alliance captains chose each other, this bumped alliance captain number four down the ranked list, making our first semi-final games relatively easy, with our alliance scoring twice as much as our opponents. But this easier semi-final match came at the expense of an incredibly strong opponent in the final. Our opponents were the Radiators from The Hun School of Princeton and The Short Circuits from Hightstown. Both teams reliably parked and scored during the autonomous period of the match, where there is no driver input. Compared to our alliance, whose robots lacked consistency, we were almost sure of a loss in the finals. With an initial defeat by only four points, we edged out a victory in the next match when one of our opponent's robots lost connection for 20 seconds. In the final match, despite the tense back and forth between both alliances, our last-minute

scoring allowed us to win the series 157-142. With this victory, we qualified for states and won the tournament.

At the closing ceremony, we received our medals and our award for taking part in the winning alliance. We also won the Control Award, which is given to the team with the most advanced software, thanks to our use of OpenCV, distance sensors, and our camera.

Despite being their captain, I have seen my team members far surpass me in many ways. Jack Wade '26 and Andrew Friedman '26 have played critical roles in the engineering components of the team. Suvas Aggarwal '25 (my co-captain) and Arisa Okamura '25 have played equally essential roles in programming our robot. I had very little expectations at the start of this year, but their dedication and hard work is more than commendable, and I am truly appreciative of them. (Of course, I won't forget the scouting and statistical work done by Robert Lee '26, and the work done on the lift by Garrett Heffern '24). As captain, instead of trying to solve all of the team's problems, the most I can do is guide my team along a path that balances academic commitments and a competitive passion for robotics. It took time for me to embrace this new form of leadership. I hope for a sustainable and long-lasting program for future Lawrentians interested in robotics.

I have just arrived back home after the tournament. It's 10:35 PM. A medal sits on my table, and I still can't wrap my head around everything we have achieved. As tomorrow edges closer and closer, I know we will head back into the routine of Lawrenceville. Still, I'd like to lock this moment, this program, and this team in my mind. I know that the next generations of Lawrentians will achieve much more in the robotics program and beyond.



Courtesy of Will Wang '24

Novak Djokovic: The Enigma of Tennis

LOGAN JOHNSON '26

Novak Djokovic has been labeled boring, cheating, classless, resilient, and the greatest of all time throughout his nearly two-decade span of dominance in the tennis world. With his win at the Australian Open this year, Djokovic tied with Rafael Nadal for the record of men's grand slams at 22 wins. Despite all that he has accomplished, however, the love that he believes he expects and deserves has been absent. Although his contemporaries, Federer and Nadal, receive endless praise wherever they go, especially at their favorite tournaments, Wimbledon and Roland Garros respectively, Djokovic is often met with mixed reactions, as some consider him to lack the graciousness and sportsmanship that his rivals are known for. Numerous

examples of controversies on and off the court have plagued his popularity throughout his years on the Association of Tennis Professionals tour.

One of Djokovic's most notable controversies off-court is his stance on the Covid-19 vaccine and the failure of the Adria Tour. His refusal to become vaccinated banned him from his best tournament, the Australian Open in 2022. Despite the ban, however, Djokovic continued to maintain his stance on the vaccine, stating in interviews that he was simply exercising his personal freedom and wasn't against vaccination. This choice drew criticism from the public, who saw his refusal as irresponsible during a pandemic. The Adria Tour, which was organized by Djokovic and other top players, was also a source of controversy. The tournament was criticized for not following

proper health protocols, and several players, including Djokovic, tested positive for Covid-19 throughout its course. His decisions led to widespread criticism and accusations of carelessness in putting the safety of others at risk.

On the court, Djokovic's actions have painted him as a bad sport who cannot control his emotions. Tennis commentator Rennae Stubbs stated that "He has outbursts on court! Smashed the net at the French Open, threw his racquet that almost hit a ball kid in Serbia. I could go on." These incidents have added to the perception that Djokovic is not a gracious player and does not show respect for the traditions and rules of tennis. These actions starkly contrast his rivals, Federer and Nadal, who have been known throughout their careers for excellent sportsmanship and class. During the 2020 U.S.

Open, Djokovic was disqualified from the tournament for hitting a ball at a line girl out of anger. This incident was the final nail in the coffin, tennis legend John McEnroe claimed, who stated that Djokovic would be "the bad guy for the rest of his career."

Djokovic's style of play has also been heavily criticized, being accused of playing unremarkable grinding baseline tennis. Legendary tennis player Pat Cash believes Novak's play style has "taken a lot of the skill out of tennis" calling his strategy "mundane." His total dominance over the sport has also prevented the growth and emergence of future stars in the game. Having practically a stranglehold on most tournaments he participates in, Djokovic has suppressed future stars from gaining popularity and notoriety in the tennis world. Examples include his continued dominance

over younger players, such as Stefanos Tsitsipas, Daniil Medvedev, and Nick Kyrgios in grand slam finals.

Djokovic's dominance over the past decade has been unrivaled in the history of the sport, and he has cemented his place in tennis history as one of the greatest players of all time. His behavior on and off the court, however, has left a blemish on his reputation and has led some to question whether his success has come at the expense of the growth and future generation of tennis. With Federer retiring and Nadal nearing the end of his career, the sport needs new blood to continue its growth in the next generation. Djokovic's dominance has prevented other players from achieving success and gaining recognition, and his controversial actions have overshadowed his on-court achievements many times.

Team Spotlight: Girls' & Boys' Swim & Dive

ELLA FESSLER '25

Last week, Lawrenceville's Varsity and Junior Varsity Swimming teams hosted the annual New Jersey Independent Schools Athletic Association Prep A Division Swimming Championship. Over the course of two days, the boys competed on Tuesday, February 7, and the girls on Wednesday, February 8. New Jersey schools such as the Pingry School, the Hun School of Princeton, and the Peddie School participated in this meet. The boys' team excitedly came out on top to reclaim their first-place title, displaying their hard work, continuous dedication, and devotion to swimming. The girls, up against extremely tough competition, placed fourth overall.

The boys and girls swim together in the new Tsai Field House pool for two hours, six days a week. By thoroughly building an athletic environment with countless supportive coaches, the boys and girls respectively form a tight-knit team. Campbell

Abbott '25 speaks very highly of the bonds she has made over the past two years. When asked about her relationship with her teammates, she said, "Everyone

coaches for her second-place finish in the girl's 100-yard backstroke. As a IV Form team captain, she is a leader along with V Formers Max Blecher,

the opportunity to bleach their hair to get psyched for their upcoming events. Girls made supportive t-shirts with puns of boys team members' names,

a specific time to be eligible to compete. Many swimmers made the time standards at states. David Laws P'23, one of three swim coaches (along with Stephanie Harrison and Noelle Niu) said, "Easterns gives our best swimmers a chance to swim against some of the best high school swimmers in the country." Easterns lasts for a total of three days and two nights. Leaving on Thursday, February 16, qualified swimmers will make their way to the Franklin and Marshall College pool to have a team dinner and a warm-up to prepare for the morning's events. With morning competitions held as early as 6:30 AM, swimmers will demonstrate their progress and capabilities in the pool. Although the States meet had competition, Easterns hosts more than double the number of teams—therefore, it is considered to be the hardest meet of the season. Congratulations to the Big Red Girls and Boys Varsity and Junior Varsity Swim teams; good luck at Easterns!



The team poses for a post-practice picture.

Courtesy of @villeswimdive

cheers each other on in meets. No matter how close you are, we are all part of one team and want the best for each other. Though swimming is an individual sport, the relationships between teammates are irreplaceable." Ava Jahn '24 gives credit to her

Maddy Laws, Jack Patel, Alex Xia, and Adeline Zhou. The last home meet of the swim season was held at the New Jersey state level, so team members went all out while preparing. To raise team spirit and prepare for the big meet, boys and girls had

and vice-versa.

With one more week left in the season, many swimmers are currently preparing for their last championship meet: Easterns. Easterns, unlike states, is a qualifying meet, where swimmers must be below

Autri Picks

	Noah Trupin Co-Web Editor	Yewon Chang Co-Opinions Editor	Grant Shueh Associate Editor	Cindy Shum Photo Editor	Adi Jung Co-Features Editor	Emma Kim Co-Features Editor	Kelly Lu Arts Editor
Autri's favorite pastime	the lawrence	no pastime. grind all day every day	Updating his Panos shrine	Yelling at the Periwig kids	being unempathetic	going to hooters	telling me to send my topic emails out on time
What should Autri stop doing	too many things to list here	wearing open-toe shoes	revealing his succulent toes	Yelling at the Periwig kids	citing old issues from 80 years ago	letting his dawgs out	telling me to send my topic emails out on time
How Autri finds meaning in life	bathing in archival material	parasocial relationships with old EICs	Geometry Dash	Yelling at the Periwig kids	making awkward smeeeting announcemnts	leading rci groups	telling me to send my topic emails out on time
Where can you find Autri	dawgs out on the office couch	with Kennediens	in Kennedy for some reason	Yelling at the Periwig kids	doing extra work for his classes	under a musty blanket in our basement office	telling me to send my topic emails out on time