

Martin Named Faculty Speaker

STAFF REPORT

English Teacher Nick Martin was chosen by the current Vth Form students to address the Class of 2023 on May 27 as this year's honorary faculty speaker.

Martin first started at Lawrenceville as an English fellow, soon becoming a full-time faculty member. From his experience teaching here, a piece of advice he wants to give future classes is to "center yourself." "Whether that be extending outward to connect, collaborate, and take care of each other or turning inward to reflect and preserve yourself, always prioritize your head and heart as you navigate the rigorous and complex world here," he explained.

When Martin first received the news, he felt "stunned, overjoyed, and, above all, grateful." Ironically, he almost missed the announcement in Abbott. "The role of faculty speaker, to me, signifies a faculty voice and perspective that can both acknowledge and illuminate the wonderful work this class has already accomplished, while imagining, if only a fraction, what is next to come," he elaborated.

In his speech, Martin's goal is to "recognize and applaud the amazing feats accomplished by the Class of 2023 at present while looking ahead to the future, imagining and underlining how much this class has to offer the world outside the walls of Lawrenceville," as well as "convey a message of hope."

Dasariraju '23 Named Valedictorian



Dasariraju will address the V Form before their graduation on May 28.

STAFF REPORT

Satvik Dasariraju '23 has been selected as the Valedictorian of the Class of 2023. Each year, Heads and Assistant Heads of Houses choose the Valedictorian from a group of V Formers who excel both academically and participate actively in Lawrenceville's community.

As a tri-varsity athlete, the Vice President of the Math Club, and a Prefect in the Raymond House, Dasariraju has accumulated numerous lessons over his past four years. Dasariraju recalled "his first run on Lawrenceville's campus," describing it as "unimaginable that running would come to be a defining part" of himself. "I'm immensely

grateful for how running always humbles me, knocking me down and putting me out of breath every time... Looking back, it's this daily struggle that's instilled in me a commitment to taking on challenges that seem far beyond me," Dasariraju elaborated. Additionally, being a member of distance running teams has shown him the importance of using "care and discipline to plan and work hard over time." Reflecting on his experience in Math Club, Dasariraju noted how it seemed "so magical" that different students were able to work together, "unafraid of unknown unknowns and questions that might not have answers." His activities at Lawrenceville have shaped him into who he is today.

For Dasariraju, serving as a Raymond House Prefect is one of the experiences he will "hold closest to [his] heart." Whether it be "barn burner ping pong matches" or "riveting chess games," he always found the role to be fun and fulfilling. "It's changed the way I see myself and the power of the small things, like common room conversations or dining table discussions," he said.

This year, V Form Level Director Etienne Bilodeau was responsible for directing the valedictorian selection process. Upon hearing the news, Dasariraju felt a "rush and swirl of gratitude" along with a feeling of nervousness at having received such an opportunity. "Shaking Mr. Bilodeau's hand, I really couldn't tell if I was just imagining it all," he reflected. While it is still a long ways until Commencement, Dasariraju has already begun thinking about his speech, trying "to understand the ways in which [he'll] reflect and look beyond [him]self to deliver the valediction." He continued, saying that he "knows it's [his] job to tie together our time here with truth and meaning. It'll be little about [him] and a lot about us, [as a class]. The first words are tentatively something along the lines of "Good Morning," but without a doubt, it's very fitting that [his] last two words will be "thank you." Dasariraju knows it will be a "great challenge to honor even a fraction" of the brilliant achievements and incredible feats of his class. "I'll try to give a send off to these four unexpected, unreal years and all that they've come to represent for us," he concluded.

Jack Patel '23 & Jaelyn Bennett '23 Named Aurelian Speakers

STAFF REPORT

Jack Patel '23 and Jaelyn Bennett '23 have been chosen as this year's Aurelian Speakers by the V Form. The Aurelian Speaker is a class-voted student who best demonstrates sterling character, high scholarship, and forceful leadership as well as being held in high regard by their fellow Lawrentians. Patel and Bennett will address their classmates before commencement on May 28.

Throughout his time at Lawrenceville, Patel has held a number of roles on campus, most notably as a Hutchins Science Scholar, Raymond House Prefect, and Captain of the Varsity Swimming and Diving team. "I have always committed myself to the goal of improving the well-being and Lawrenceville experience of those around me... these pursuits have also been filled with invaluable learning experiences and life-long friendships," he said.

When he received the news, he felt an "overwhelming sense of excitement" in addition to gratitude towards the Class of 2023 for giving him this opportunity. While Patel hasn't decided specifically what he wants to write his speech on, he received a few words of advice from Director of Student Life Ian August. "He recommended that I let my experience



Jaelyn Bennett and Jack Patel

this spring guide me in shaping my speech and I plan to do just that," Patel elaborated.

Reflecting on his time at Lawrenceville, Patel said, "when you wake up in the morning, be sure to look at the world through a service lens. No matter how busy you might believe yourself to be, there is always time to start a project with the intention of bringing about positive change in the lives of others." Whether this be helping a friend or taking the time to "pause and ask a



Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

housemate or a teacher how they are doing," he urges students to always approach life at Lawrenceville with a service mindset.

Bennett was also involved in a number of activities on campus, including Student Council Diversity Representative, a bi-varsity Indoor Track and Lacrosse Athlete, and co-head of LTA. "Fostering bonds in our community is the unifier between my extracurriculars, and I've found that my exposure to various facets of campus

life through these roles has allowed me to understand the school—and our class in particular—very well," she said.

Upon receiving the news, Bennett felt "incredibly honored" to know that such a "dynamic and multi-talented group of people" had selected her to address them. "Having experienced these past four years alongside my classmates, I can only hope that my short address carries the same character and uniqueness our class has repeatedly demonstrated," she continued.

In her speech, Bennett wants to emphasize the ability of her class to "meet both victory and adversity with poise and mentality." She is confident that, though they will all go their separate ways next year, her class will "take [their] resilience with [them] while leaving room for the joy [they] encounter everywhere."

On her experience being part of the Class of 2023, Bennett said, "This class is the most capable and resilient group I've ever been a part of, and that capacity to take various challenges in stride while celebrating our victories is an essential life skill." She feels that, as a group, they have modeled the "power of togetherness" through the "difficulties [they've] encountered in [their] time here." "I hope future classes understand that fostering a supportive, interdependent community is one of the greatest strengths imaginable."

"Off Season" Athletes Meet Freedom

Lily Lanzetta '26 gives an inside scoop on how varsity athletes spend their time off season and stay in shape.



The Rise of AI & Chat GPT

Andrew Park '25 discusses the possible threat to the media industry posed by artificial intelligence.



Controversy & Success

Shailen Zimmerman '25 tells the tumultuous story of Ja Morant and his 2022/23 Memphis Grizzlies



Editorial

Learning to Love Lawrenceville

In last Thursday's first presidential forum, ten IV Formers aspiring to lead our student body faced a gargantuan question: "How would you define our campus culture? How might you work to improve it?"

In response, each presidential candidate detailed their plans to tear apart the current Lawrenceville and, in its wake, create the Lawrenceville utopia we all desire. Common trends in every answer included increasing mental health awareness on campus, fixing the existing lack of balance between academic and social life, and revitalizing our dwindling school spirit.

Still, the shortcomings of Lawrenceville are well dissected outside of school-wide forums. For the past few years, Lawrenceville's flaws have become the favorite topic of student discussions in dining halls, common rooms, and courtyards alike. Of course, these discussions make valid and fair criticisms of the School—as students who spend nearly every waking hour on campus for nine months, one cannot not notice Lawrenceville's shortcomings. Yet at the same time, a reason must exist for why we students choose

to live our lives in New Jersey, a place where the weather fluctuates between 30 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit in the span of two days. Yes, we must admit: our lives at Lawrenceville do not always appear to be as glamorous as the admissions brochures and hype squads may portray it. Still, we should remember to celebrate the school from time to time.

For one, we all came to Lawrenceville understanding the School's academic rigor and competitiveness, filled with students who strive for the best. Whether achieving the title of top varsity athlete, smartest student in class, or president of the most clubs, Lawrentians will strive to accomplish anything and everything they can. This prevailing sense of overachievement should come at no surprise, given that the School actively seeks and gathers the greatest young minds.

Yet while we strive to achieve as much as possible—and Lawrenceville's unparalleled resources make it easy for us to pursue our academic, athletic, and extracurricular interests—it's our student culture that truly makes the School a great place to explore. Regardless of any convictions we hold about

ourselves coming into the School, our interests are subject to change as we discover new things about ourselves in our four years here. The most nurturing school environments are those that encourage you to explore new interests, which may sprout into your strongest passions and instill the courage to delve into any other passion headfirst. As Lawrentians, we find ourselves amongst a supportive net of teachers, duty teams, and peers who encourage us to pursue any activity, regardless of prior experience. Across the board, Lawrenceville's unique academic opportunities allow students to pursue emerging interests.

Although we tend to give most of our attention to the activities and academic fields we already excel at, an honest reflection of what high school should look like for most people should lead us to look for the schools that will support us as we, and our interests, evolve. Put simply, Lawrenceville stands out by fostering the best environment for the most important aspect of a high schooler's life: growth and development.

Yet what we may find as a surprise is the unbreakable community of people who sur-

round us. Simply put, the best part of Lawrenceville is its people. Think about who you text when you're seeking a Tsai dinner companion. Whose door you knock on when you need to chat with someone. Who saves you a seat in the McGraw Reading Room the night before a daunting math test. These are your closest friends; you choose to bask in their company. Think late night study sessions, Sunday morning room cleaning sprees, running in the rain to the delivery shack. The faces that populate our everyday Lawrenceville lives are what make our memories worth remembering, and stand out amidst the everyday drudgery of boarding school.

Despite our mundane routine of classes, clubs, and sports looping on end, the little interactions we have—whether a smile and a wave in the hallway or a brief conversation after class—never fail to brighten our days. As a community, we bond over our shared, uniquely-Lawrentian quirks. There's our disdain for The Hill School and our love for Deb and Fatima at the Bath House. There's our collective sigh of exasperation when we're looking for a library pod during finals

week, and the multitude of hotspots that pop up after 12:00 AM on a school night. Yes, the stress of constant competition and the ominous cloud of college admissions may loom over us, but our friendships still thrive because of our collective Lawrenceville experiences. Lawrenceville is so much more than a place—it is a collection of the people and the memories that make our lives as students worthwhile.

It is difficult to encapsulate an entire school of 800 individuals into a couple of words—how could you possibly cram every late night phone call, every group study session, and every common-room gossip circle under a single umbrella? Perhaps, the IV Form presidential candidates were asked to perform an impossible task. We can easily point out what Lawrenceville gets wrong, from the most minute complaints to striking, school-wide issues. But, with a little bit of reflection, it also isn't that difficult to appreciate everything Lawrenceville gets right.

This editorial represents the majority view of The Lawrence, Vol. CXLIII

Written, Directed, and Produced by ChatGPT

How the Rise of Generative AI Will Change the Media Industry Forever

ANDREW PARK '25

With the arrival of ChatGPT, several ethical and social concerns regarding generative AI—artificial intelligence that creates its own work—have surfaced. Rather than simply analyzing data or generating numbers, generative AI possesses the ability to create drawings, partake in unscripted discussions with humans, and even author convincing articles using given keywords or prompts. Generative AI is a potentially helpful tool for human use, however, and along with its practical utility, such powerful technology can also give rise to potential risks and negative consequences. One industry that expresses such concerns is the media industry.

Why might the media worry about the creation of new technology? The answer is found in the nature of the media. Media has always served as a means of communication and spreading information. Newspapers, magazines, and books serve the purpose of distributing and communicating information to the public. The popularization of the internet and social media has given rise to a form of media that combines information with creativity, known as creative media. Creative media focuses on telling stories in a way that resonates with people in a creative fashion, rendering it safe from AI replacement; supposedly, only humans are able to come up with new and

innovative ideas. However, the emergence of generative AI proves that even a computer program has the potential to be creative.

Thus, generative AI poses a threat to creative mediums as humans no longer have a leg up. This AI takeover is not limited to simple content creation such as writing or drawing, but also includes more complex mediums such as internet streaming. AI-powered media creators have already managed to disguise themselves among human media creators. Recently, a popular Twitch channel featured an AI video creator named Neuro Sama, whose behavior was nearly indistinguishable from that of other human video creators—she played games, interacted with viewers, and expressed her opinions on relevant topics.

The sophistication and the creative growth of the generative AI industry pose a threat to many people in the media industry. If the quality of AI content and human content becomes indistinguishable, who would choose a human to do the job when an AI could produce comparable content with even

less effort?

Beginning in the 2000s, many media companies started to use generative AI as an effective management device. As AI has a nearly limitless in-



Gloria Yu '26 / THE LAWRENCE

formation capacity, these machines are better workers in terms of information management than their human counterparts. After its initial use, generative AIs are now used to generate various suggestion algorithms

on Youtube, Instagram, and other forms of social media. Social media platforms such as Snapchat have created a chatbot based on a generative AI to entertain their users. Others such as Meta and YouTube are also working on creating a generative AI tailored to users' entertainment. Many other forms of media are predicted to be replaced by generative AIs to a significant amount. Studies predict that by 2025, 30 percent of outbound marketing messages from large organizations will be synthetically generated, up from less than 2 percent in 2022, and by 2030, a major blockbuster film is predicted to be released with 90 percent of its content generated by AI.

Aside from AI's capabilities to take human jobs in the media industry, new voice and photo-generating technology have the potential to spread misinformation on an unprecedented level. Say a political candidate wants to tarnish his opponent's reputation through social media by spreading a rumor about his rival having an affair. Now, new AI image technology can create a hyper-realistic image of said candidate on a date with another partner. If someone wants to defame Korean president Yoon Seok-young by making

a fake voicemail of him saying an unpatriotic quote such as, "I hate Korea," new AI voice technology can easily fabricate such with a few keywords. If in bad hands, the AI-generated falsities could spread easily to the public and social media, then to the news. In the future, fabricated images and quotes could easily slip through the cracks of fact-checking and infiltrate our mainstream news media.

There are of course ways to channel generative AI for good. AI companies are working towards preventing generative AIs from giving wrong and unethical information. For example, OpenAI has created a system in which unethical prompts are automatically filtered so that chat GPT cannot answer questions related to the fabrication of information, war, genocide, and more. Additionally, new employment positions such as the generative AI researcher and ChatGPT prompt engineer have been created to find the optimal keywords and prompts to optimize the performance of generative AIs.

As AI becomes ever-present in our lives, we must change the way we think about modern media. More than ever, the burden is on us to weed out fact from fiction on social media platforms, as AI has the potential to fabricate so much information. The age of AI has the potential to become an era of great progress and connection, and it is our responsibility as humans to make sure that this happens.



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Revisiting Revisit Day: *Transparency as the Key to Discovery on Discovery Day*

IMANI GASKIN '25

“Wanna walk with me to hype squad tomorrow?” someone asks me. I shoot off a response as homework, upcoming assignments, and personal hang-ups swirl in my mind. It isn't until I arrive at the Kirby Arts Center, filled with my peers, that I realize I have made it to the other side. I realized how much my perspective of Lawrenceville had evolved from being cheered on to the KAC to doing the cheering.

For many Lawrentians, Discovery Days are the first times we visit campus after our acceptance into Lawrenceville. Students can immerse themselves in Lawrenceville's classes and community without the stress of an impending interview or proper conduct. On Discovery Day, I met my future roommate, chatted with girls who would become my best friends, and sat in on teachers with whom I would build strong relationships during my first year. However, my lived experiences at Lawrenceville differ greatly from what I presumed it would be from my Discovery Day experience.

On Discovery Days, Lawrenceville strives to put its best foot forward in order to encourage kids to “say L-Yeah to Lawrenceville.” Understandably, the admissions department promotes certain aspects of the School more than others in order to appeal to students. On my Discovery Day, the program overwhelmingly focused on emphasizing the positives our school offers.

From the All Arts lunch in Abbott to chatting with prefects in the Stanley House, Lawrenceville appeared to illustrate itself as the best in every area. Although our school boasts a diversely talented student body, the premise that one school can excel in everything is simply impossible. Like every other

admitted students with preparing them for their first year. For example, a panel discussion with open discourse about topics such as academic expectations, time commitments, and universal stressors would allow prospective students to see the more difficult side of Lawrenceville. By openly

a fundamental form of trust before sending their children away.

Naturally, firsthand descriptions of rigor and stress at Lawrenceville can dissuade students from enrolling. However, these difficulties will lead to development. Lawrenceville is already renowned for its rigorous education

that fosters capable and well-rounded students.

Although the stress, exhaustion, and busyness tacitly included in the Lawrenceville tuition seem like they would repel prospective students, visitors on Discovery Day would benefit from hearing candid student experiences. Through all the pressure of Lawrenceville this

year, I have also experienced countless joyous moments from overcoming my challenges, mastering difficult subject matter, and spending time in our community. We should try to deliver this more nuanced perspective of Lawrenceville on Discovery Day. A more transparent student panel discussion, that includes student anecdotes of

Lawrenceville's House system, sports teams, and academic workload, would provide visiting students with a deeper understanding of what they can experience if they choose Lawrenceville.

Discovery Days provide a positive, general understanding of life at Lawrenceville with tours. However, this program has the potential to provide prospective students with an even deeper and authentic understanding of our school. A knowledge that gives families the requisite information to make the best choice for the student. A choice which would result in Lawrenceville receiving students who made the decision to say “L Yeah” based on a more complete understanding of what is to come. Making strides towards increased transparency on Discovery Day will allow Lawrenceville to welcome future classes of students more excited, informed, and prepared for the true Lawrenceville experience.

Seeing things from another's perspective is only possible once you look up from your screen, though. It's my hope that we become more responsible users of technology by remembering the disconnect between discourse on the internet and discussion in real life. Fortunately, in this case, what's good for us is also good for democracy: by choosing productive conversation between diverse opinions over a homogenous board of agreement, we can continue to expand our own body of knowledge and form connections with those around us, using the best in each to seek the best for all.



Sonia Singhal '24 / THE LAWRENCE

school, Lawrenceville possesses its own unique shortcomings. Families and students making their big decision need more transparency surrounding these faults in order to choose the best school for their goals.

Additions to this year's Discovery Day program focused on providing prospective students with a better understanding of what to expect at Lawrenceville would help balance attract-

acknowledging the difficult aspects of school life, Lawrenceville will display its dedication to honesty, a quality that families of prospective students, who have to make a big decision, will appreciate. The unknown is a great source of fear, so being transparent about challenges that students may face will provide security for visiting families. Transparency from Lawrenceville can create trust in the School, and all families must build

Devenir Lawrentienne

ARYA VISHWAKARMA '25

Over the past week, Lawrenceville hosted three Discovery Days, inviting 700 freshly admitted students and their families to experience an authentic slice of campus life. Incoming cars were engulfed by cheering throngs wielding pom-poms and cowbells, parents were treated to college counseling presentations in the Heely Room, and potential students were welcomed to the Harkness table. On one of these days, I, thrilled to participate in the festivities as a seasoned Lawrentian, decided to maximize my participation in class. I spoke as frequently as possible, jabbed at lines in the readings with prowess and dexterity, and repeatedly made eye contact with the visiting student “buddies” assigned to my classmates. I wanted so badly to assume an image of effortless talent like those I had met on my own tour a year ago. On the way to lunch, my friend nudged me.

Leadership positions bejewel resumés, gilded with research experiences and internships, even if many of them are plastic gems from inactive clubs.

“Arya, is everything alright? I feel like you've been interrupting people

in class, and it was kind of annoying.”

My flush of guilt washed away any lingering enthusiasm from the morning's discussion. I was embarrassed that I had failed at the most basic tenet of Harkness—collaboration—on the very day I had reminded myself to adhere to it. What convinced me that wearing blind confidence like sunglasses indoors was a good idea, when hindsight so clearly rendered it just as obviously tacky?

We are all too familiar with the answers. To become a true Lawrentian or Devenir Lawrentienne is to become magically busy. For us, having an impossibly packed schedule is not a concern but a status symbol. Leadership positions bejewel resumés, gilded with research experiences and internships, even if many of them are plastic gems from inactive clubs. Often, a rejection from a prestigious summer program stings not because we lost the chance to attend but because it tears a gap in a clear string of accomplishments we have preemptively planned out. I'm sure many

Lawrentians pour themselves into their passions because they can't imagine loving anything else, but too much of the time, I find myself striving for titles rather than experiences.

The problem with “overachieving” is that we measure intrinsic human worth using yardsticks made of titles, college hoodies, and three-letter acronyms. Overachieving replaces the

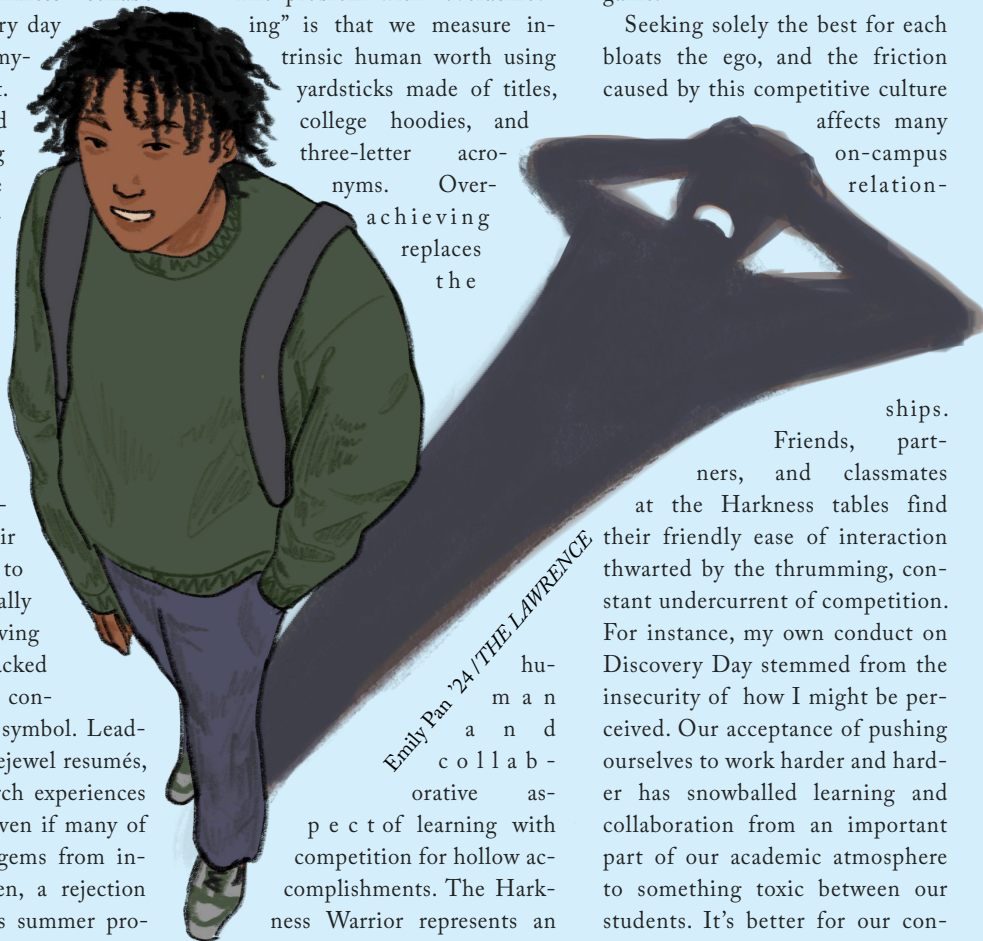
ships. Friends, partners, and classmates at the Harkness tables find their friendly ease of interaction thwarted by the thrumming, constant undercurrent of competition. For instance, my own conduct on Discovery Day stemmed from the insecurity of how I might be perceived. Our acceptance of pushing ourselves to work harder and harder has snowballed learning and collaboration from an important part of our academic atmosphere to something toxic between our students. It's better for our connections and self-esteem to actively resist this mindset. Instead of seeing the leadership position, we must recognize the work and skill that lies behind the title. Man-

agement leadership positions are opportunities to learn and create; Lawrenceville allows us to explore our passions, meet new people, and most of all learn; we need to move away from resume building and restore trust in these basic values.

Intense boarding school environments can forge a strong moral character. But at such a vulnerable age, stress can also instill lasting insecurities formed in moments of

While attempting to attach our self-worth to something deeper than the statistics we chase, it seems necessary to establish a personality outside of them

struggle. In order to embrace Lawrenceville's benefits as much as possible, we must prioritize being kind to ourselves during the learning process. While attempting to attach our self-worth to something deeper than the statistics we chase, it seems necessary to establish a personality outside of them—to find ideas and practices and people that we love not because they prove our accomplishment but because they make us feel good. I'm confident our community holds enough shared passions to finally let us seek the best for all.



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

Discovery Day: Say L-Yeah to Lville!

SYDNEY WANG '25
ANGEL XIN '26

One early morning of March 29, members of the Lawrenceville community gathered in front of the Kirby Arts Center (KAC) to form the official Hype Squad, welcoming prospective new students to the campus. This marked the commencement of the School's annual "Discovery Days"—hosted respectively on March 29, April 1, and April 3 this year—whereby the Lawrenceville community embraces students from all over the world.

Director of Admission Communications Christine Ding was responsible for organizing the Discovery Days this year. She has been organizing these events since after the pandemic. Discovery Days were formerly known as "Revisit Days" prior to Covid-19. The name change was due to the variety of online opportunities—which were unavailable in the past—that allowed prospective students to experience being a part of Lawrenceville without visiting in-person. After all, the purpose of Discovery Days was to "see [the School's] community in action." Ding continued to explain that "unlike campus tours where visitors see Lawrenceville from the lens of being on the outside, Discovery Days serve as an opportunity for incoming students to experience campus from the perspective of a Lawrentian."

From as early as 8:30 AM, visitors were welcomed by a student showcase of music and dance performances at the KAC. Afterwards, each visiting student was paired up with a host, whom the Office of Admissions had designated a few days before. The hosts brought their students, often referred to as "shadows", to two classes in the morning whilst parents were invited to attend consultation sessions that provided information

about college counseling, academics, and student life. When the hosts dropped off their respective buddies after classes, parents and prospective students headed over to the Abbott Dining Room for lunch. After lunch, students were given the opportunity to meet with coaches, athletes, and club leaders.

"Being able to meet [incoming students] beforehand, first of all, makes the [prospective students] more comfortable with the school. They can have someone to contact with right off the bat [if they choose to enroll]," explained Robert Lee '26. He was a host on both March 29 and April 1. His favorite part of Discovery Days was being able to get to know his "shadows" and learn more about their thoughts on courses. After his conversations with the visiting students, Lee remarked that there seems to be "great potential to the incoming class." He is excited to see these students take advantage of Lawrenceville's unique resources to continue pursuing their passions.

Likewise, upon receiving an invitation to be a host from the Office of Admissions, Eric Xu '26 felt ecstatic to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience: helping prospective students learn more about Lawrenceville. "Being on campus feels different from just looking at Lawrenceville's website," said Xu. Although Xu had never toured new students prior to this, he noted that he felt very "excited to take on the role of an ambassador."

Ding's goal with the Discovery Days was for potential students to see the opportunities and resources available on campus. "I think the people [here] are incredible, [and] our students are really able to pursue their passions...I'm really hopeful that families were able to come here and engage with our people to see what life would be like for them if they were a part of our community," she concluded.



Hype Squad

Sienna Kulynych '26 THE LAWRENCE

Sean Dory And His 60 Day Bike Adventure

SOPHIE CHENG '25

This Thursday, the Religious Life Council (RLC) presented Mr. Dory's "What Matters to Me and Why" in the Bunn Library's McGraw Reading Room. Interview Mr. Dory and a few attendees to find out more about their experience at the event.

On this past Thursday, March 30, the Religious Life Council (RLC) hosted science teacher Sean Dory's "What Matters to Me and Why" in the Bunn Library. All students were welcome to attend this Exploration and listen to Dory's presentation.

Dory teaches Honors Environmental Science and Introduction to Biological and Environmental Sciences. In his presentation, he elaborated more on some of his out-of-school interests and experiences. Specifically, Dory spoke about a sixty day cross-country bike ride he took this past summer with his close friend Sam. "This was a life-changing experience for both of us—we faced challenges that we never could have predicted and were introduced to new perspectives from town-to-town," Dory said. During the trip, he "learned to drop prejudices and to open up to the stories of individuals [they] ran into along the way." Most importantly, Dory and his friend "walked away with a much more real understanding of the complexities of this country."

In a broader sense, the purpose of "What Matters to Me and Why" lies in what the attendees, predominantly made up of students, learn from the speaker. From Dory's perspective, his goal was for listeners to "walk away understanding that joy is not something that should be compromised as you go through life, but something that you need to seek." The overarching theme of his talk was for Lawrenceville students to explore what actually made them feel "whole and happy as they graduate and begin to experience life outside of

the Lawrenceville bubble".

Sathvik Samant '26 attended the talk to learn more about Dory outside of class. "I learned that Mr. Dory is not only a biker, but a resilient [and] adventurous individual and a great storyteller," he said. Though Samant initially be-

the opportunity to learn more about what their teachers are like outside of the classroom. This event helped her gain a better understanding of how "students and faculty members can bond over something separate from academics."

Liza Strong '24, one of the



Sean Dory

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

lied the event would revolve around Dory's "core values," he was pleased to hear more about his "amazing story and journey [and] the lessons he learned along the way."

Charles Potter '25 also thought the event would mainly be about Dory's experience teaching science, but was "pleasantly surprised" to learn about his biking trip. "It was really interesting to hear how, even though it was a treacherous journey, Mr. Dory still found it enjoyable," he elaborated.

Jamie Leas '25 noted that it was "wonderful to see this side of [Dory]." She appreciates how "What Matters to Me and Why" events give students

six RLC leaders, described her experience as being "super interesting and inspiring." "I learned about Mr. Dory's resilience and determination throughout his cross-country bike ride. His stories about the kindness of humanity were very inspiring," she said. As a frequent contributor to the RLC events, she has learned "so much about faculty members" through these events.

With students from all forms attending the event, Dory was able to share his story with many members of the Lawrenceville community. In the future, the RLC aims to host more "What Matters to Me and Why" events to give different teachers on campus the

Talk with Artist Alia Bensliman

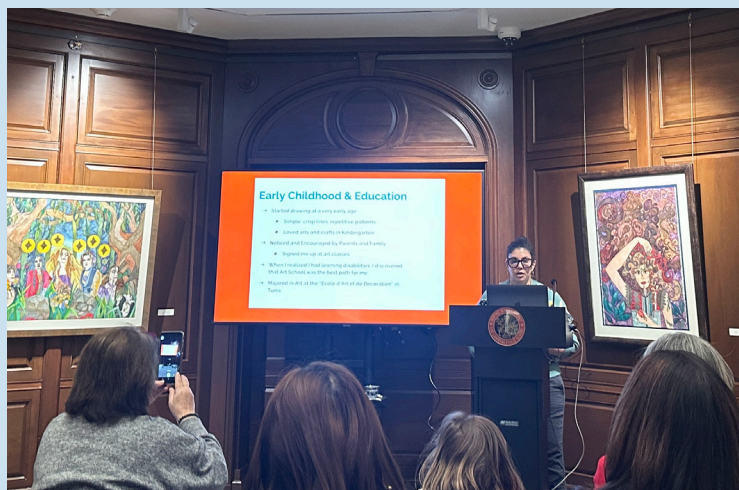
LOUIS PARK '26

Last Friday, the Hutchins Galleries held an "Artist Talk" session featuring Alia Bensliman in the Hutchins Rotunda, which was open to all students and faculty. Bensliman's work has been displayed in the Hutchins Gallery since February 10 alongside pieces from Vincent Bush, another featured artist. Presenting roughly 40 pieces, the Hutchins Galleries hosted two exhibitions—Alia Bensliman's From North Africa to North America: Journey of a Story Teller, and Vincent Bush's Hope from Within.

Bensliman began with the story behind her exhibition; her exhibition focused on her journey as an artist from her home country of Tunisia to the United States. Drawing inspiration from her upbringing, Bensliman's art incorporates a "fusion of East and West with a penchant for North African and Berber art." Through her art, Bensliman wanted to express "the beauty and diversity" she witnessed in the United States while sharing her own cultural background with

her audience. On the first floor of the Hutchins Gallery, Bensliman uses her pieces to explore her North African heritage, whereas the second floor is inspired by a more contemporary Western style.

Bensliman described her artwork as "a diary of everyday life." Having struggled with dyslexia as a child, Bensliman found school challenging until she transferred to an art school, where she thrived in a safer and more familiar environment. To Bensliman, art is a medium for her to "communicate her thoughts and feelings." She considers herself a "full-time visual artist, line work artist, and figurative artist," adopting styles from Sejnane pottery, which include line work, repetitive patterns, and Berber symbols that originate from Tunisia. Through her contemporary art, Bensliman explores the challenges she has faced, the experiences she has had throughout her life, and expresses her sentiments on a number of taboo socio-political issues like religion, relationships, health, environmental problems, and human rights. Her works also de-



Alia Bensliman speaking

Helena Chen '24/THE LAWRENCE

pict how these different issues have influenced Bensliman throughout her life. Overall, she feels "lucky," as her Tunisian culture and the encouragement from her grandparents helped her become the artist and person that she is today. Bensliman felt "honored and happy" to have had the opportunity to talk about her work and experiences at Lawrenceville. She was also "very happy to see some

familiar faces and a full house."

Visual Arts Department Chair Chloe Kalna expressed her appreciation of "how intentional, meaningful, and narrative each element is in Alia Bensliman's art." Enamored by the color palettes, intricate lines, patterns, and expressive figures that work together to tell a story through art, Kalna enjoyed the "opportunity to learn more about how

[Bensliman's] experiences informed her artistic style and the symbolism within specific pieces." Kalna was especially interested in how Bensliman created her own materials like watercolors using ashes, "[infusing] additional meaning into the materials that physically transported a memory and environment onto the paper."

Willem Anton '26 noted that he "loved the geometric nature of her background" and the "humanizing way that she portrayed the subjects of her artwork."

Having enjoyed her experience at Lawrenceville, Bensliman wishes to continue discussing her work at academic institutions as she "loves interacting and sharing knowledge with students and faculty members." "Explore what you want to do despite any outside comments. Never give up and don't let anyone minimize your work," said Bensliman in a message to Lawrenceville students. Bensliman's exhibition ends on April 8, so there is still time for any interested students to view her pieces in the Hutchins Gallery.

On Repeat: Sweet Songs for Spring

Louis Park '26

“Dandelions” by Ruth B

Named after the dandelion flower, Ruth B’s hit single from her 2017 album *Safe Heaven* represents new beginnings and growth. The song consists of pretty lyrics that soothe the listener, and a serene melody that evokes the illusion of falling into a dream. With her unforgettable vocals, Ruth B perfectly captures the sense of excitement one feels when welcoming the spring weather. It is a pure and cute song that conveys the feeling of freedom and wishes of unrequited love.

“Don’t Worry Be Happy” by Bobby McFerrin

“Don’t Worry Be Happy” features a cheerful melody with lyrics encouraging listeners to let go of their worries, enjoy the present moment and, as alluded in the title, be happy. The rhythmic chorus and Bobby McFerrin’s humming liven up the song, but it is his monologue throughout that feels as if he’s talking to the listeners directly. With a positive message and bright feelings, this song is perfect for listening to during spring, the season of new beginnings. It will surely put a smile on your face!

“Happy” by Pharrell Williams

There is probably no better song to enjoy in the warm spring weather than Pharrell Williams’ hit song “Happy.” This song’s bright, catchy melody and upbeat energetic chorus will make anyone spring to their feet. The lyrics convey happiness and positivity and harmonize well with Pharrell Williams’ singing. When you clap and dance along to the lyrics, it is easy to feel “like a room without a roof.”

“Good Days” by SZA

“Good Days” makes listeners feel fulfilled. It starts with a swaying intro melody, reminiscent of a dream that goes hand-in-hand with her voice to create a lulling atmosphere. The song strengthens the heart with positive lyrics, suggesting that good days depend on one’s outlook and positivity. On the song’s cover, “Good Days” is written on the forehead of a child, who yearns to overcome difficult situations and move forward, fitting perfectly with the song’s themes leisure and direction.

Hopefully, a fresh array of songs will help all Lawrentians to get into the spirit of the season of new beginnings!



“Dandelions” Album Cover
Courtesy of Genius Lyrics



“Don’t Worry Be Happy” Album Cover
Courtesy of Genius Lyrics



“Happy” Album Cover
Courtesy of Wikipedia



“Good Days” Album Cover
Courtesy of Wikipedia

And the Oscar Goes To...

SONIA LACKEY '25

On Sunday, March 12, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) presented the 95th Academy Awards, commonly called the Oscars. AMPAS nominates films and actors annually for awards across 24 categories, including Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Original Screenplay, and more. Excluding Best Picture, each category receives five nominees before the reveal on the night of the Oscars, where directors, actors, actresses, and other members of the films dress in their most fashion-forward outfits to walk the red carpet—or the peach carpet, as of this year’s awards ceremony.

Presented by Jimmy Kimmel, comedian and host of “Jimmy Kimmel Live,” the 2023 Academy Awards were swept by the dramatic comedy film *Everything, Everywhere, All at Once*, directed by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert. The film is centered around an Asian-American immigrant, Evelyn Quan Wang (Michelle Yeoh), her husband, Waymond (Ke Huy Quan), and her daughter, Joy (Stephanie Hsu). As Evelyn attempts to do her taxes, she finds herself sucked into a multiversal conflict that can only be resolved through motherly love. Before the Academy Awards, *Everything, Everywhere, All at Once* had already

surpassed other famous feature films in terms of the current most decorated film. At this year’s Oscars, of the eleven nominations received, the film won in seven categories: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress (won by Yeoh), Best Supporting Actor (won by Quan), Best Supporting Actress (won by Jamie Lee Curtis), Best Original Screenplay, and Best Editing. As of 2023, Yeoh became the first Asian woman to win the Best Actress award, making her the second person of color to win this accolade (following Halle Berry’s Oscar in this category in 2002). The narrative and dialogue are heart-wrenching and beautiful, and anyone with the time should certainly watch this film. Personally, my favorite part is the emotion with which every actor, regardless of the absurdity of the situation, delivers their lines. For example, Waymond will say to Evelyn, as they stand in the rain, dressed ready for the Oscars, “Even though you have broken my heart yet again, I wanted to say, in another life, I would have really liked just doing laundry and taxes with you.” Yet, only a few scenes later, Joy will be singing, “sucked into a bagel,” at her mother as she describes an everything bagel that could cause the end of the



Aileen Ryu '25 / THE LAWRENCE

universe. The juxtaposition between absurdity and emotional devastation creates an experience unlike any other.

Although no other film saw as much success across the Academy Awards, notable winners include the 2022 remake of *All Quiet on the Western Front* and *The Whale*. *All Quiet on the Western Front* follows the novel published by Erich Maria Remarque in 1929, set in the German Front during World War I. The protagonist, a German soldier named Paul Bäumer (Felix Kammerer), enlists in the German Army, ready to fight for his country, but not quite ready to fight to survive. Told in parallel with the armistice negotiations between Germany and the Allies, the story follows Bäumer until the war’s end. *All Quiet on the Western Front* won accolades for Best International Feature Film, Best Original Score, Best Production Design, and Best Cinematography. Unlike this tragic tale of war, *The Whale* is placed in a more modern setting. The film follows reclusive English teacher Charlie (Brendon Fraser), whose morbid obesity leads to his declining health as he attempts to

reconnect with his daughter. Themes such as the dangers of isolating from those we love, and the constant struggle for redemption play across the silver screen, and the acting is amazing. The film won the Best Makeup and Hairstyling category for its transformation of Fraser into the character of Charlie, using hundreds of pounds of prosthetics and digital sculpting. His body suit was sculpted over 3D-printed positives and injected with silicone in order to create highly realistic human features. These prosthetics looked and acted like human flesh, creating the visual for Fraser’s character and allowing him to display a full range of emotions. It was this stellar performance that won Fraser the prestigious Best Actor Award.

Congratulations to the many Oscar winners! Although I cannot detail every film’s amazing qualities, I will say that each deserves to be watched, and if you are ever bored and have the time, going through the list of Academy Award winners and nominees may be worth your while. From absurdist comedies to heart-wrenching tragedies, the Oscars represent the pinnacle of this past year’s films, and I already cannot wait to start catching up on all of the great movies that came out last year!

Smoothie Wishes and Sushi Dreams: Meet the Experts that Can Make it Happen

ASPREY WALTERS '24
SOPHIE BILANIN '26

Have you ever wondered how the folks of Sustainable Fare that manage the dining halls serve three meals with such variety each day? How do they ensure the food is appropriately steaming hot or chilled? Where do they source their ingredients? General Manager Robert Freeman and Executive Chef Charles Wooding manage a team of over 50 staff members with one goal: to feed all 1,500 Lawrenceville students and faculty three times a day, and staff once daily. Wooding starts his day at 8:00 AM and leaves at 7:30 PM when the dining hall closes for the

evening. The menu, partially inspired by Wooding's family traditions, is planned a month in advance on a four-week cycle with local, seasonal ingredients incorporated when possible. The staff utilizes "batch cooking," a method where items are cooked at the moment they are needed to maximize efficiency and limit food waste. "This keeps fresh food on the line at all times," says Wooding. He also tastes the dishes before they are served "to make sure the flavors are correct," and confirm that all students get the valuable nutrients they need from each meal.

The dining staff manages a yearly budget for the meals, and adjusts it based on student dining preferences. Each week

the dining hall uses 60 lbs. of butter, 450 lbs. of pasta, 125 gallons of milk, 160 slices of bread, 18 flats of strawberries, and 140 dozen eggs. Freeman stresses that the staff tries to "source as many local products as possible" in accordance with Lawrenceville's sustainability initiatives. Excess food is often donated to local pantries such as Share My Meals, Trenton Food Bank, or is composted.

Aside from cooking, Wooding and Freeman have enjoyed getting to know the student body and their dining preferences. Wooding actively solicits feedback; if he ever sees a student walk away with a less-than-full plate, he wants to know what went wrong, and how to create

dishes that are more appetizing for the student. Additionally, Freeman and Wooding are eager to continuously improve Lawrenceville's dining experience. In an ongoing initiative, the team collaborates with the Sustainability Council to implement wok bar stations, panini presses, a number of initiatives, including dairy alternatives, "healthy" preparation methods, and vegan/vegetarian/gluten-free stations, in response to community feedback. During Dinner in the Dark, the annual Valentine's Day collaboration with Sustainability Council where the lights in the dining halls are dimmed to set a festive vibe and reduce energy usage,

students were surprised by a root beer keg with vanilla ice cream, a chocolate fountain, and a unique "cup-of-dirt" dessert concoction of chocolate mousse, gummy worms, and crushed Oreos. These fun enhancements to the dining experience are just a taste of what is to come.

Freeman, Wooding, and the entire dining staff look forward to indulging students with their culinary expertise and giving them a chance to make their own creations. The next time you walk into Tsai Commons, you may be delighted to see a pizza oven for your custom pie! Keep sharing your ideas and comments: the culinary team aims to please and our taste buds are hungry for a scrumptious adventure.

Every Week Lawrenceville Goes Through:

- 60 lbs of butter
- 450 lbs of pasta
- 125 gallons of milk
- 160 slices of bread
- 18 flats of strawberries
- 140 dozen egg



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

The Most Popular ...

- Most Popular Entree: Chicken Shawarma
- Most Popular Ice Cream Flavor: Carmel Pretzel
- Most Popular Dessert: Chocolate Cake
- Most Popular Cereal: Lucky Charms



Robert Freeman and Charles Wooding

Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

Inside Report: The New Facilities on Campus

LUKE PURICELLI '25

As Spring Break has passed quicker than anyone expected, schoolwork, athletics, and extracurriculars have taken over Lawrentians' lives once again. Luckily, Lawrenceville has unveiled a fresh "solution" to this impending stress: new outdoor volleyball and basketball courts (The Big Red Park.)

Ever since Lawrenceville added these new courts behind the Al Rashid Health and Wellness Center, it is very clear that students occupy these courts whenever they have the free time. West Mecklenburg '25, a member of the Junior Varsity Lacrosse Team, uses "the courts whenever he can, especially on Saturday nights and Sundays, and even on Wednesdays after lacrosse practice." The courts are constantly crowded, so even if someone goes alone, they will likely find a game to be a part of. As Laney

McDowell '23 explained, "I love the new facilities because I can go there by myself, and instantly find someone to play with."

Not only are the basketball courts a hit, but the recent introduction of the beach volleyball courts are just as popular. Sawyer English '25 has enjoyed playing "beach volleyball with [his] friends when [he has] free time," as volleyball is a new sport he enjoys. Since the four basketball hoops and volleyball courts are often occupied, Lawrentians commonly play four square or build sandcastles beside the volleyball courts. Yet this is not the end of the expansions to new outdoor activities. The school plans to expand its facilities by adding pickleball courts, which are currently under construction.

Since the new facilities have only been open since the beginning of spring term, some students have determined which activities they enjoy the



Students playing basketball at the courts

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

most through trial and error. Reece DiCicco '24 tested both the basketball and volleyball courts and concluded that he enjoyed beach volleyball the most, arguing that "it's more fun to play considering the nice weather." Yet for most students, the choice between basketball and beach volleyball remains under debate.

While many believe their

busy schedules leave no room to enjoy the facilities, the court's open hours allow any Lawrentian, regardless of their schedule, to find a time to come out and play.

The courts are usually the most occupied on Sundays, so on weekends, students will have no trouble finding people to play streetball or a friendly game of beach volleyball. The new facilities allow students to connect through sport,

develop friendships, and pass the time with one another, adding an opportunity to relax and decompress during their busy lives. While academics, athletics, and extracurriculars can often overwhelm students, from one fellow Lawrentian to another, I strongly urge that you try out these new facilities, as I can assure that you'll have a wonderful time.

“Off-season” Athletes and Their New-Found Freedom

As Winter Term athletics came to a close, another set of sports ramped up. Yet the new term has left many of Lawrenceville’s talented fall and winter athletes without the routine of daily practice. Many of their days are now filled with aimless walks around Tsai Commons, awaiting the return of a Shake Shack meal and leaving many wondering how these athletes spend the postseason. How do they stay in shape, how do they keep team connections, and most importantly, how are they ensuring the win for next year’s Hill Day?

LILY LANZETTA ’26

Emma Walling ’26 Girls’ Ice Hockey

Emma Walling ’26, a ferocious hockey player, claims the off-season to be more important than her winter practices. Ice time is hard to come by during the Winter Term with the rink being shared by both the Boys’ and Girls’ Varsity and Junior Varsity Teams. With their aggressive prowling for space on the ice, boys often create “anxiety for many of the players so [they] don’t perform as well,” creating difficulty for some to capitalize on their already limited ice time. Walling and other players have found more consistent time on the ice by joining out-of-school club teams. Walling finds that club teams “allow [athletes] to play in game situations year-round instead of just in the prep season.” Although practicing on the same team as someone from the Hill School is never easy, Walling explains that “it’s working through that adversity that makes us better.” To Walling preparation for the next season never starts because the season never really ends.

Bridget Holden ’26 Girls’ Soccer

Bridget Holden ’26 always wants “a minute to [herself] where [she] can juggle or play with the ball.” Most can emphasize with the high expectations Lawrenceville places on its students, but what does that mean when interscholastic sports start interfering with your priorities? Holden explains that this normalized schedule of “going to school, playing sports for two hours, then doing homework for another two hours,” makes it easy for students to “get stuck” in a sport they may not want to play. While Holden has “been playing on a club team for seven years, this is the first year that [she’s] had to quit her club because [she] just does not have the time to balance everything.” Holden is not alone in “having to drop things that would improve performance...to compensate for the other expectations that Lawrenceville has.” Holden believes “a big part of being happy at Lawrenceville is having an outlet where you can have fun and be active.” Having to skip out on one’s main sport and knowing they are falling behind “makes some kids unhappy,” Holden reasoned. This being said, the expectations set for students off the field often interfere with the ability to focus on their main sport.

Rhianna Scott ’25 Track and Indoor Track

To Rhianna Scott ’25, a member of the Lawrenceville Varsity Track Team, despite the toll the year-long season takes on her body, “[the sport] doesn’t feel like it’s a burden in terms of [her] free time.” At Nike Nationals, Scott competed in multiple events. She learned that “prioritizing health and recovery is key to getting better.” Scott has also found that recovery is a key part of bonding with teammates, saying the team “looks forward to [ice baths] every single week, whether it’s at the trainer or in the tub at the hotel room.” For Scott, ice baths are a year-long experience as some form of Varsity Track appears in all three prep seasons. In Scott’s opinion, playing “a year-round sport is an advantage since there are constantly opportunities for improving and tracking progress.” Still, like many others, Scott practices with a club team during the summer and also works on lifting in the gym to ensure she stays in shape. Over the years, she has learned that “it’s impossible to attend everything.” In Scott’s experience, she has learned to love track and the year-long challenge it provides her.



Emily Pan ’24 / THE LAWRENCE

Patrick Brady ’23 Boys’ Wrestling

Wrestling star Patrick Brady ’23 steamrolled the competition for his past four years at Lawrenceville, and he will continue to do so at New York University. Brady placed a heavy emphasis on practice and receiving coaching, on and off campus, which has made him a better athlete. Along with “five to six practices each week and lifting,” Brady puts a lot of focus on his mental preparation. “You can have all the technique in the world, but if you don’t have the confidence you’ll lose to guys who do have that confidence,” he said. Brady explained how coaches inside and outside of Lawrenceville impact what his off-season looks like. “Outside coaches who [he’s] had personal relationships with for a long time help [him] during the preseason” and during Winter Term, he feels as though “the relationships you can get with coaches at Lawrenceville are really unique.” Like others, Brady experiences the roadblocks standing in the way of his daily training and chooses to practice outside of the prep season, explaining that “if you do want to get that time and training you have to make it happen.” This job of finding the time and space “puts ownership on the athlete.”

Cameron Gabrielson ’24 Girls’ Soccer

Cameron Gabrielson ’24 has never “really” had an offseason. Gabrielson is no stranger to the pressure of sports; soccer is a high-intensity sport and as the goalie, her position is a critical part of the team. Although the prep season ends as Winter Break approaches, she remains “in-season for club.” Gabrielson’s club team “competes at a high level where every girl is committed, so [they] all share that same mindset” of putting [their] all into every practice and game. The commitment cultivates an environment where “if they’re not there to compete, it’s not going to be beneficial to them or the people around them.” With her recent commitment to Georgetown University, Gabrielson hopes to maintain her intense practice regime in preparation for college. Although club teams are an amazing opportunity, problems begin to arise when her club team’s schedules start to interfere with her school team. Her club practices are a 45-minute drive away, yet she’s “lucky enough for one of [her] teammates to be able to drive [her].” The restrictions against boarders’ driving create a situation that many boarding athletes don’t have a solution for. Still, Gabrielson, a boarder, manages to prioritize soccer first, as she is off campus from “three to nine at least three days a week,” despite the challenge posed by her nightly homework.

Kyle Ozgun ’24 Boys’ Ice Hockey

While Kyle Ozgun ’24 is known to many as the goalie for the Boys’ Varsity Ice Hockey Team, Ozgun spends the Spring Term as a member of the Boys’ Junior Varsity Lacrosse Team. Ozgun believes that Lawrenceville does “a good job of giving athletes an opportunity to do sports,” whether through low-commitment House Sports, open courts, or the gym with numerous athletic equipment. Lawrenceville has open ice times from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM every day, giving players opportunities to practice that other do not don’t have. Ozgun emphasized that outdoor sports have the chance to “go outside and throw around a ball at any hour of the day” whereas indoor teams don’t usually have those same chances. To Ozgun, team sports struggle with “getting everyone together for a full scrimmage” during the offseason. Despite these challenges, students “can still focus on skills that will better themselves.” Even so, he feels the stress and pressure many athletes share. For Ozgun, “It’s a little tough because lacrosse practices are at the same time as open ice so it gets difficult.”

Controversy & Success

The Story Ja Morant & Memphis Grizzlies

SHAILEEN ZIMMERMAN '25

In recent weeks, the Memphis Grizzlies have been in the public spotlight for a myriad of reasons. Most notably, star point guard Ja Morant has been the subject of immense controversy. Known for his high-flying and aggressive play style, Morant has spent the past four seasons making a name for himself as one of the best guards in the NBA. However, in recent weeks, the Grizzlies star has started to make a name for himself off the court as well but for all the wrong reasons. On March 4, Morant displayed a handgun on Instagram Live while in Colorado for a game against the Denver Nuggets, to which Adam Silver, the NBA commissioner, responded immediately by suspending Morant for eight consecutive games, showing little mercy in his punishment. This scandal deeply impacted not just the NBA, but sparked discourse across the country about the role of athletes as role models in society. The situation was particularly messy due to the fact that Morant's reckless actions could negatively influence his vast fan base.

Therefore, setting precedent through a fair punishment was, rightfully so, the league's greatest priority. After his lengthy suspension, however, Morant made his highly anticipated return on March 22, coming off the bench in a home game against the Houston Rockets. The fans met Ja with an extravagant standing ovation as he checked into the game, where he put up 17 points (PTS), four rebounds (REB), and five assists (AST) in his 24 minutes of play-time.

During Morant's suspension, the Grizzlies won six games and lost three (a win percentage of 66). Compare this to the seven games they have played since his return, in which they have gone 5-2 (a win percentage of 71), proving that they can still perform well in the absence of their star player, even if their overall performance is better with him in their rotation. Averaging an incredible 27 PTS, 8 AST, and 6 REB this year, the highest scoring average on the team and the tenth-highest in the league, Morant has contributed immensely to the Grizzlies' success. In Ja's absence, however, two up-and-coming players got a chance to shine in a new way that would not be

possible with Morant on the court: Desmond Bane and Dillon Brooks. During the Grizzlies' "Morant-less" stretch, Bane averaged nearly 22 points per game with nearly 50 percent shooting from the field, both very impressive statistical metrics for an NBA player; Bane coupled his offensive successes by contributing effectively on defense as well. The power forward from Texas Christian University (TCU) has been showing immense improvement on all metrics, cementing himself as a force to be reckoned with on both sides of the court over the past five seasons. Additionally, shooting guard Dillon Brooks has been integral to the Grizzlies' recent success, although he has gained more popularity as a result of his trash-talking of modern NBA greats. During an early February match-up with the Cleveland Cavaliers, Brooks reportedly punched the Cavaliers' starting shooting guard Donovan Mitchell in a heated altercation, leading to a suspension. More recently, Brooks has continued his long-lasting beef with Golden State Warriors power forward Draymond Green, as well as starting a new

rivalry with shooting guard Klay Thompson. With his plethora of rivals and altercations, Brooks has become yet another controversial figure for the Grizzlies.

This year, Memphis has managed to retain the number two seed in the West, whilst also being the fourth-best team in the entire league, an impressive feat for such a young, albeit talented, squad. In the past, Memphis has struggled to perform at the highest level, only managing a winning record six times in the last ten years. Nonetheless, with the rapid development of Morant as a talent, as well as the addition of other critical players such as Steven Adams and Jaren Jackson Jr., the Grizzlies are the closest they have ever been to winning the finals. Last season, Memphis finished with an impressive 56-26 record but fell to the Warriors in the Western Conference semifinals after a rough six-game series. But with the team getting better at a rapid pace, and with Morant continuing to lead the charge, Memphis has a chance of seeing greater play-off success in this year's postseason. But best believe, the Grizzlies will win the finals in the next five years. Mark my words...

Notable News

16-15

Girls' Varsity Lacrosse were defeated in a down-to-the-wire nailbiter on Saturday

Derryhl Duncan

Recently Won the Trenton B/G HS Indoor Track & Field Coach of the Year Award

Sofia Swindell

Winner of Trenton's Girl's Varsity Track & Field Athlete Of The Year Award

Taksh Gupta

Won both the 1 & 2 mile on Wednesday against Hill

The Scoreboard

SATURDAY

BV Lax vs. Haverford: 11-7 W
GV Lax Vs Ridgewood: 16-15 L
GJV Lax Vs. Ridgewood: 17-0 L

SUNDAY

BV Tennis @ Kingswood Oxford
Tournament: Placed

MONDAY

Boys JV Tennis @ Hun: 6-0 W

TUESDAY

GV Golf V. Cherokee Highschool: 191-226 W
BJV Baseball V. Germantown: 5-4 W
BV Baseball @ Germantown: 5-0 W
GV Lax @ Agnes Irwin: 6-17 L
GJV Lax @ Agnes Irwin: 1-19 L

WEDNESDAY

BJV Lax @ Christian Brothers: 15-0 W
BV Tennis V Blair: 6-1 W
BJV Tennis @ Blair: 6-1 W
BV Lax V. Hun: 24-6 W
GV Softball V. Blair: 1-12 L
BV Baseball V Blair: 5-3
B/G Track & Field V Hill: W

America's Favorite Pasttime Is Back!

What To Look For Going Into The Next MLB Season

NIKHIL DHRUV '26

The sun is shining overhead, the flowers are blooming, the once bare trees are slowly starting to blossom, and fans are anxiously awaiting the first pitch of the 2023 Major League Baseball (MLB) season. Before I cover what to expect this upcoming season, let's take a step back and discuss the big events that occurred this past off-season. Steve Cohen, the owner of the New York Mets, has sparked a ton of joy in Queens by spending his money quite lavishly on the newest Mets picks. Cohen has put together the highest-paid roster in the MLB by signing Justin Verlander and Kodai Senga, as well as extending Brandon Nimmo to a multi-year contract.

While the Mets were busy crafting a star-studded roster, their National League East (NL East) rival, the Philadelphia Phillies, were quite busy themselves. Coming off the back of an incredible postseason

performance, the Phillies bolstered their already strong roster by recruiting Trea Turner, arguably the best shortstop in the MLB. Along with his smooth sliding skills, Turner has proven to be an absolute force at the plate, posting a .298 batting average in the 2022 season.

Moving on to the West Coast, the San Diego Padres (Pads), last season's National League Championship Series (NLCS) runner-ups, continue to look intimidating. The Pads have signed Xander Bogaerts, one of the best hitters in the league, to a \$280 million/11-year deal.

Amongst all these large-scale additions, one notable player is departing the Mets: Jacob Degrom. Degrom is a two-time national league Cy Young Award winner and has a 2.5 career earned run average, making him one of the best pitchers to ever step foot on the mound.

While players were being traded during the off-season, the MLB was

busy coming up with new rules. One of the major reasons why the popularity of baseball is decreasing is because of long, drawn-out games, with 31 percent of fans calling games "boring/uninteresting," and another 21 percent calling them "too long," according to Harry Enten from CNN. The MLB took these issues into account and implemented a pitch clock that reduced game times by around 30 minutes. Another major rule change includes the banning of shifts, a formation where more players are on one side of the field than the other. Normally, teams use this tactic when they face a batter who tends to hit the ball more to one side. The implementation of the pitch clock along with the ban on shifts will hopefully increase the popularity of this dying sport.

Although there is much more to be uncovered about the off-season, let's look at predictions for this upcoming season. The NL East will continue to

be the toughest division in the league, as it consists of three of the top seven teams: the Mets, Braves, and Phillies. Aaron Judge of the New York Yankees will continue to prove that he is one of the best players in baseball by leading the league in home runs yet again. The Chicago White Sox, led by Dylan Cease and Tim Anderson, will be underdogs for this upcoming season, and I predict that they will quickly show the world why they are one of the best teams. Despite their major offseason deals, the Pads won't be in playoff contention for very long, due to their numerous injury-prone players. The Chicago Cubs, with their new addition of Dansby Swanson, will be major playoff contenders. Last but not least, the Mets will lead the league in wins. With an action-packed offseason filled with trades, rule changes, and many returning star players, this MLB season is one you won't want to miss.

Discovery Day Picks

	Krish Mehta '24	Lola Martinson '26	Ray Taft '25	Imani Gaskin '25	Alex Salgado '26	Will O'Reilly '25 Co-Opinions Editor
Were you on the hype squad waking people up or were you woken up by the hype squad?	Dead Asleep	the latter of course	woken up	definitely didn't need my alarm those days	I woke up extra early to be a bpart of the hype squad just so I coiuld torment those who didn't	woken up.
If coach poe swung by on his admissions golf cart and asked you what you remembered about your Discovery Day what would you say?	Rain, wet, and root beer floats	Ms. Wilcox	Realizing the person I was assigned to looked very similar to his older brother who goes here	so many awkward conversations	I would talk about the silence in between classes	I remember Reid Farrington changing my life forever. Shout out Reid.
How many times did you cut through the grass with your kid?	none, it was too muddy	Never	He tried to cut through, but I yelled at him and told him to respect the campus or leave	too many	Almost never; I wanted to give my kid the full experience of our lovely indirect paths.	A plethora