

## Introducing the 2023-24 Penn Fellows



The 2023-24 Penn Fellows

Nicole Halucka '26 / THE LAWRENCE

### SYDNEY WANG '25 & JENNY ZHAO '25

This August, Lawrenceville welcomed four new Fellows from the University of Pennsylvania Independent School Teaching Residency Fellowship Program: History Department Fellow Ansley Keane, Science Department Fellow Brianna Thompson '18, Mathematics Department Fellow Kennedy Dirkes, and English Department Fellow Sarah Jane O'Connor.

Keane graduated from Mount Holyoke College, where she pursued a degree in History with a minor in Education and served as the Vice President of her class. This term, Keane is teaching the III Form history class—Forces that Shaped the Modern World—while advising *The*

*Lawrence* alongside English teacher Elizabeth Buckles.

She first discovered her passion in the humanities and social science through her high school English classes. However, like most high schoolers, she still “wasn’t totally sure what exactly [she] wanted to study.” Her freshman year at college, Keane took an “amazing” history class where she felt like she was “putting together the pieces of a puzzle.” Coupled with her love for teaching, she enrolled in a teacher licensure program and later interned at the Northfield Mount Hermon Summer Session, where she learned about Fellowship programs like Lawrenceville’s.

Though she has only been at Lawrenceville for a few weeks, Keane feels that she has already managed to become part of a warm and welcoming commu-

nity. In addition to the “larger cohort size and good support network” that the School offers, “everyone just seems genuinely interested in talking to [me] and seeing how [I have been] doing,” she elaborated.

Former Lawrenceville School President Brianna Thompson '18 has returned to campus, this time not as a student but as a Fellow in the Science Department, a duty member in the McClellan House, and a Girls' JV Soccer coach. She noted that many aspects of the School are different compared to when she was a student. For one, the School is “prioritizing students’ mental health and wellbeing more than it has in the past.” There have also been a number of “physical changes,” such as the replacement of the Jane W. Irwin Dining Center

with the Tsai Dining Hall. The biggest transition, however, has been that of transitioning from student to colleague with many of her former teachers. “It’s easier to have relationships with teachers [whom I have never taken a course from] now that they are in my department or on my duty team,” Thompson said, “This experience has been really rewarding.”

Thompson decided that she wanted to teach Environmental Science while studying at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she majored in Public Policy and Environmental Studies. Her passion for teaching only grew stronger when she reflected on the “positive experience” she had as a student at Lawrenceville. “I just think that [this Fellowship program] would be a really powerful way to work with young people, and that’s what brought me back to teaching here,” Thompson said. She is excited to “start the school year with optimism,” rejoining the School where she enjoyed a “rich campus life.”

After pursuing her undergraduate degree in mathematics, Kennedy Dirkes was certain she wanted to teach math. “I really liked this idea that math is a puzzle. You get all these little pieces and you somehow fit them all together to find the answer,” Dirkes explained. To her, math has always been “exciting.” While she understands that not all students will grow to share a similar passion for mathematics, her hope is for students to “walk away from [her] class realizing what they learned was cool.”

Through the Fellowship program, Dirkes has been able to gain hands-on experience

with teaching while earning her Master’s degree, studying different methods of teaching while implementing them in her classes. Additionally, she enjoys being able to observe students with “so many different capacities” through teaching at Lawrenceville. For example, seeing a student from the perspective of a volleyball coach is different from that of an academic teacher. “I get to see a whole student body instead of just under an academic setting... and that’s one thing I really love about Lawrenceville,” Dirkes said.

English Teaching Fellow Sarah Jane O'Connor graduated from Williams College with a degree in American Studies and Public Health. Her inclination towards the humanities stemmed from her interdisciplinary education in high school, as she “never felt as though there was only one subject that [she] was interested in.” After taking a variety of classes, O'Connor knew that English—which lies at the intersection of writing and teaching—was going to be her “main pursuit.” She “really enjoys being in a... discussion-based seminar-style classroom” and appreciates the importance placed on “connecting with people... face to face” within the Lawrenceville community. Through the Fellowship program, O'Connor aims to “help her students feel supported and appreciated” while improving her own skills in “leading students and giving effective feedback.”

Overall, Lawrenceville’s long-standing partnership with the University of Pennsylvania has brought a diverse set of educators to campus.

## Please Support Morocco!

Last Friday, a devastating earthquake of magnitude 6.8 hit the countryside near Marrakesh, Morocco. Thousands of people were killed or injured, with rural towns near the city left completely demolished. According to Moroccan authorities, this was one of the “deadliest quakes in the country in decades.” The Lawrence extends its sympathies to all those who may have been affected by the recent tragedy in Morocco. Please take a minute and donate to Morocco earthquake relief by scanning the QR code below; your contribution will be greatly appreciated.



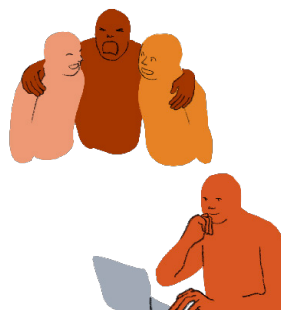
### Burning Man 2023

Sonia Ivancic '25 investigates Burning Man 2023, and the mud, art, and trash that lie at the center of this year’s festival.



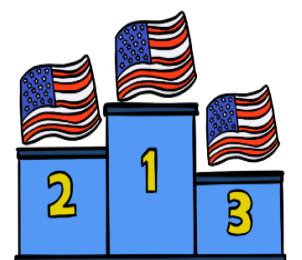
### Meet the Prefects

A brief introduction to a few of this year’s 2023-24 Circle, Crescent, and Lower prefects.



### “World Champions Of What?”

Micah Kim explores the question of whether or not American teams should be crowned world champions of their American-dominated sports.



## Editorial

## Re-examining Lawrenceville Student Activism

On a Tuesday in March, year 1229, students from the University of Paris entered a tavern in the quarter of Saint Marcel. After some rowdy drinking, a fight broke out over an unpaid bill. Beat up and angry, the students returned the next day, armed with clubs, to destroy the establishment. The university gave Paris' city guards the permission to restrain the rioters, a decision that proved fatal.

In response to the use of force, students at the University of Paris went on strike. Classes were shut down and many students withdrew, placing an economic strain on the university and the entire city of Paris. After two years of negotiation with papal authorities, the University of Paris no longer needed to abide by local laws and the strike finally ended.

Nearly 500 years later, the relationship between schools and their students, especially in Great Britain and the U.S., had become defined by the Latin phrase *In Loco Parentis*, meaning "in the place

of the parent." In America, colleges promoted their parental roles by extending the reach of their responsibilities beyond academics, including restricting freedom of speech and prohibiting organizations from demonstrating on campus. When the Alabama State College expelled black students for a civil rights protest, the case was brought to the Supreme Court, and the practice of *In Loco Parentis* was struck down in the 1961 Dixon vs. Alabama case.

In fact, the 1960s marked a remarkable period of student activism. Much of the Civil Rights movement was spearheaded by college students—take the 1961 picketing of "white-only" restaurants spearheaded by Southern University undergraduates, and the subsequent march in downtown Baton Rouge protesting the students' arrests. In 1968, graduate students at the University of California Berkeley coined the term "Asian American" in founding the Asian American Political Alliance (AAPA), which would

later go on to hold the longest student strike in U.S. history with the Third World Liberation Front. Their strike resulted in the first College of Ethnic Studies in the U.S. at the San Francisco State University.

Clearly, student activism has a long history and powerful impact. From die-ins protesting police violence, to the Never Again movement started by the 2018 Parkland Shooting survivors, student activism also holds the incredible ability to garner nationwide support and change.

Lawrenceville, however, has never seen a walkout, a peaceful protest, or a demonstration. In a place of immense privilege, many fear radical activism at the risk of losing that privilege. Though the School is a bubble mostly free from the outside world, it still proves to be a microcosm of off-campus issues. For example, the house runs on Friday, September 1 and its incidents of "students joining the struggle over possession

of the flag, [resulting] in a number of Crescent students being knocked to the ground" (as quoted from the Dean of Students update) demonstrated the need for communication and safety. In the Crescent Meeting on Monday, September 11, numerous students voiced their concerns on the discrepancy of regulations between the Circle and Crescent, as well as the inherent Lawrenceville culture that could provoke the behavior on display during the house runs.

The meetings held by the Dean of Students showed the commitment the School has to starting dialogues with the student body. Yet even when a meeting is not specifically called, students should be willing to express their frustrations. On the other hand, making change as young students in a place where *In Loco parentis* still plays a large role can be incredibly difficult. According to Julie Reuben, a professor of the history of American education at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, "Whereas col-

lege students are often considered adults, teenagers are often dismissed as acting out when they challenge adult authority within their administration." Thus, "High school activism takes place best when it's focused on the outside community, not the school itself," Reuben says.

In last week's Editorial, the Board wrote that "We the students are now sowers of the future, and it's up to us to grow campus culture according to our desires, expectations, and standards." We should be unafraid to stand up for what we think is right and true. As history and the present show, many coalitions and grassroots movements—such as the Civil Rights Movement, Future Coalition, the School Strike for Climate—were spearheaded by young people. If we want Lawrenceville to be a school driven by student-led change, then protests, walkouts, and true expression of concern should become commonplace.

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

## For an Affirming Affirmative Action

## How An Attempt at Increasing Diversity Ironically Decreases It

ALEX MO '25

A while ago, I read an article called "Affirmative Action is Over. Should Applicants Still Mention Their Race?" A line in the article illustrated the situation plainly. An Ecuadorian student named Francesco, who was aspiring to be an engineer, said, "I guess I'm kind of at a disadvantage because I kind of lost that (affirmative action)." Francesco's worries are valid. In the past, states that have lost Affirmative Action have seen their proportion of black and Hispanic college enrollment drop significantly. For instance, California's elimination of Affirmative Action in 1996 resulted in a 12 percent decline in the admission rates of all ethnic minorities.

Economic inequality is the main driver of grade school educational disparities. According to one Harvard study, the average black and Hispanic child is 1.3 times less likely to have access to electronic devices than white children due to a difference in socioeconomic status. The study further elaborates that this issue was significant during the Covid-19 pandemic, where no access to electronics meant no access to education.

Yet in America, economic inequalities correlate with race. The Educational Trust

Institute explains that, nationally, districts primarily consisting of people of color receive 16 percent less funding on average than predominantly white districts. With less funding, these students simply cannot compete against those coming from wealthier schools. Another report by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) found that a ten percent school spending cut reduced graduation rates by 2.6 to 6.2 percent. Affirmative Action is necessary to provide more educational opportunities for colored students and thus more cultural capital, which can mitigate racial economic disparities in America.

However, one consequence of Affirmative Action is rarely discussed: Asian stereotypes. It makes sense to balance race proportions in admissions, but the achievements Asian students are expected to reach are simply incomparable to Asian Americans of a lower economic status. While elite colleges have tried to balance their Asian population with the rest of the student body, college admission offices have formed negative stereotypes of the typical Asian student. The top 20 to 30 percent of the Asian American population is seen as the "typical" Asian student. This stereotype is

detrimental to Asians of lower economic status who have significantly less access to educational resources and leads to discrimination in the college admissions process.

Asian stereotypes have risen above the level of merely trying to balance the population of different races within admissions. For instance, according to *The Washington Post*, in the Fair Admissions Lawsuit against Harvard College, Harvard testified to creating personal scores that quantified each applicant's academic and communal fit. Asians seemed to have the lowest general score out of all ethnic groups because of their academically excelling stereotype. To be accepted into Harvard, the average Asian student must also have an SAT score 140 points higher than the average white student and 450 points higher than the average black student. This enrollment discrimination has even gotten a name: the "Asian Tax."

People talk about economic inequality between white and black communities, but *The Washington Post* explains that Asians in America are just as economically divided, with the wealthiest 10 percent earning ten times more than the poorest 10 percent. This inequality

extends to education. Indeed, The Brookings Institute divides the Asians who receive undergraduate education into five socioeconomic quintiles ranked from lowest wealth to highest wealth. Among the Asians enrolled in college, only 14 percent come from the first quintile (the lowest income quintile) and another 14 percent from the second. Compared to 27 percent of enrolled black students coming from the first quintile, low-income Asian students are much less likely to be admitted than their wealthier counterparts. Poorer Asian people, without access to educational resources, cannot stand up to the challenge that the "overachieving Asian stereotype" is presenting.

According to an article in *The New Yorker*, Asian students must distinguish themselves from the overachieving stereotype in order to be "competitive." The article's author, Jeannie Suk, discusses how when she was admitted to college, an admissions officer told her that she had "moving qualities of heart and originality that Asian applicants generally lacked." This quote reveals that Asian applicants are grouped together and subject to stereotypes in the admissions process. While Asians are expected to have high academic achievements, they must also stand

out in other respects so as to be allowed through this narrow door to a college education. In response, some Asian applicants resort to concealing their Asian identity during application to escape the bias against Asians and Asian Americans. Students have to face a penalty just for being Asian. vague This is not a matter of Affirmative Action and race-based admission. vague This is discrimination.

Affirmative Action is necessary, but it should change. It is a current source of immense inequality for Asian students because it generates negative stereotypes that escalate into discrimination. Asian students must achieve higher GPA and SAT score requirements and must stand out in other exceptional ways. But this overperforming stereotype fails to address the rights of lower-income Asian families who cannot afford to pay for aids like tutoring fees. Inequality is a tipping scale. It shifts constantly, and we must always put weight on the opposite end to bring the scale closer to balance. Affirmative Action should come back, but colleges must eliminate their prevailing perceptions of Asian applicants.



THE LAWRENCE  
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## Corrections

Readers who notice errors should contact the Executive Editor [lpark24@lawrenceville.org](mailto:lpark24@lawrenceville.org)

*The Lawrence* would like to correct the previous week's Editorial, "Today's Culture, Tomorrow's Tradition." While the Editorial stated that SPLASH started in 2018, the event dates back to 2003.

# New Exhibition at the Hutchins Gallery by Artist ShinYoung An

DOROTHY LEE '26

This past Thursday, September 14, the Hutchins Gallery hosted a reception for artist ShinYoung An, whose paintings have been showcased at the Hutchins Gallery since the start of the school year. In addition to An's work, the Gallery also regularly presents the work of students, faculty, alumni, and other local artists. The gallery's permanent collection includes pieces by Albrecht Durer, Francisco Goya, Pablo Picasso, and Salvador Dali, as well as those by contemporary artists like designer and sculptor Maya Lin, textile artist Sheila Hicks, and photographer Harold Edgerton.

"The exhibitions and programs of the Hutchins Galleries are intended to inspire and challenge the school community while offering a resource for teaching in all disciplines," Gallery Curator Melina Guarino explained. The Visual Arts, Humanities, History, and Language Departments all integrate works from the Gallery into their classes as a way for students to practice their observational and criti-



Photo of New Exhibition by Artist ShinYoung An

Sofia Bonilla '24//THE LAWRENCE

cal thinking skills. "Students are [also] welcome to use the space during open hours as inspiration," Guarino added.

Every six weeks, the Hutchins Gallery presents a new collection of artwork of a different artist. For the first exhibition of the school year, Guarino reached out to local oil painter ShinYoung An. She had learned of An's

works last year during a visit to the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton. Guarino described feeling "intrigued" by An's works and the messages behind them: "I thought it would be interesting and relevant to bring [An's works] to the Lawrenceville community," she said.

Guarino noticed the "hyper-realistic" nature of An's oil paintings, saying, "the

hands, feet and objects she overpaints on the newspaper clipping backgrounds nearly jump off the canvas." Through her paintings, An aims to bring attention to current issues while making a call to action for societal change. According to An's information page on the Saatchi Art website, her newspaper backdrops depict "the disturbing realities [she] encounters." She

paints figures that seem to be performing "mundane tasks" from afar, but "reveal themselves more upon closer inspection, urging viewers to delve deeper [into the art] and become [more] aware."

"I transform frustration into impact," An explained on her website. In addition to the societal critiques reflected in her artwork, she also incorporates real-life "inspirational stories" into her paintings. In doing so, her goal is to "preserve these stories" and "enlighten future generations."

Preparations for the exhibition required "several months of planning in advance, and about seven to eleven days to install on-site," according to Guarino. The process included scheduling dates for delivery, installation, gallery opening details, and corresponding events. An exhibition layout was also thoughtfully devised before the artworks were displayed throughout the gallery. Finally, Guarino and her team announced the new exhibition to the rest of the Lawrenceville community. Next time you pass by the Hutchins Gallery,

## Club Leadership Training in Heely Room

CELINE FONG '25 &  
ANGEL XIN '26

Director of Student Life Ian August held two mandatory club leadership training sessions in the Heely Room of Woods Memorial Hall last Friday, September 8. These sessions were piloted this year to inform students on the School's expectations for club leaders, including managing club funds, holding club meetings at least three times a term, and accessing school social media platforms. Club leaders were also instructed on the importance of keeping their faculty advisors updated with club information as well as pitching their clubs at club night, which took place this past Thursday, September 14. Although the second training session was conducted virtually due to weather concerns,



Photo of Club Leaders

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

it remained an informative experience for club leaders.

For Christian Chan '26, the training session gave him more insight into what being a club leader means. "It's a huge responsibility," he said. Chan thought that the meeting was very "infor-

mative" and taught him the importance of "being active" in maintaining a successful club at Lawrenceville.

Jenny Zhao '25 echoed Chan's sentiments; however, she also noted some ways to improve the training sessions. "The guidelines were loose,"

she said, as she had hoped for "specific examples" during the session. For instance, while discussing the distribution of club funds, Zhao would have liked for August to provide ideas on "maximizing the effectiveness" of club spendings, a question she has not had answered yet.

Similarly, Joey Vermut '25, president of the True Crime Club, shared that the session's information was "not anything really new to her", as she was a returning student. Still, the session was helpful as she learned that "there were people [she] could go to for support," such as in starting a social media platform for the club to get more publicity. Vermut would prefer if the session were "held over Zoom next time," as she feels it is "something that could be done remotely for convenience".

As new and returning clubs make their way back on campus, club life at Lawrenceville is in full bloom. The introduction of club training sessions gave students the opportunity to learn more about how their clubs can be more impactful, involved, and active on campus.

# Mud, Art, and Trash at Burning Man 2023

SONIA IVANCIC '25

On the night of the June 1986 Summer Solstice, an eight-foot-tall wooden statue of a man burned on San Francisco's Baker Beach. Two artists, Larry Harvey and Jerry James, had built and set fire to the statue to celebrate the Solstice and the impermanence of life, while a crowd of 20 hovered around watching curiously.

In the following four years, this tradition was repeated with both a larger effigy and crowd, till the police barred the event from occurring in 1990. Thus, the festival was permanently moved to a dried lake bed, also called a playa, in Nevada's rural Black Rock Desert. Since then, the festival has taken place annually, with different themes each year, spanning the week leading up to Labor Day. Attendees (called 'Burners') have grown from 35 people in 1986 to 78,850 in 2019—the largest crowd yet. Each year, a temporary city of concentric circles surrounding the effigy is set up in Nevada, with attendees creating streets, stages, and communities with tents and camper vans. As members of a counter-culture movement, Burners at Burning Man do not use money, but trade for anything they want—there are no vendors at the event either. There are 10 principles that are foundational to Burning Man, the most important being



Burning Man 2023

Courtesy of *The Burning Man Journal*

self-expression and leaving no trace on "the playa." As such, the whole festival is taken down each year.

In addition to the Burning Man statue, attendants frequently create large-scale and interactive art pieces scattered around the desert, and other forms of self-expression, such as dancing, are common as well.

While the festival may seem

like a benign gathering of artists to celebrate creativity, it has also received a lot of criticism. Mainly, due to the usage of fuel and flame to burn art pieces, large carbon footprints from attendees arriving by car, and heavy plastic usage, the festival has a multitude of adverse environmental effect. Although they claim to leave no trace, Burners

discard mounds of trash on the playa each year. In fact, this year, climate protesters blocked the single road into Black Rock City to protest the event's lack of sustainability. Secondly, billionaires, many of them from Silicon Valley, have recently had a strong presence at the festival, and have created their own lavish, expensive camps while getting flown in on private jets, an action that directly counters the principle of self-reliance on which Burning Man was founded. This has

created a rift between the affluent groups and some more traditional Burners in the last couple of years.

This year's Burning Man has been far from ordinary. What started with a chaotic beginning due to the environmental protest ended with 70,000 people stranded due to weather. Last week, rains drenched

the region, and the water mixed with the playa's silt to create large swaths of swamp-like mud. Vehicle tires could not move through this sludge, leaving most Burners stranded in the camp with no way out. Attendees were instructed to conserve food and water last weekend as water and mud accumulated in the playa, a geographical feature with poor drainage. Walking was almost impossible, and people took to tying plastic bags around their legs as shoes and tires merely sank into the ground. The highlight of the event, the Burning, was postponed. When the driving ban was finally lifted, people in cars, vans, and on foot left in droves as the festival ended on Monday, September 4.

Nevertheless, many people remained at the camp, demonstrating Burning Man's core values of self-reliance and creativity. The art and festivities did not stop, and people could be seen singing, practicing yoga, or even creating mud sculptures. The incidents brought much of the Burning Man community together as they socialized and shared resources to get through the week. Yet many fled as soon as they could, leaving behind mountains of trash and overflowing portable toilets for others to clean up. Burning Man 2023 presented us with a stark duality of Burners: a group of people neglecting the values on which the festival is based, and others finding community and creativity through the grueling, muddy week.

## Release Radar (*The Lawrence's Version*)



Drake in Concert

Rihanna Scott '25/THE LAWRENCE

SHLOKA CHODHARI '26

To me, music has always been more than just a fun beat; songs with deep meanings truly impact my life. I'm sure I can speak for all when I say that we hear music on the radio while going to school, and we all use it to help us relax and feel happy! However, there is more to music; listening to music enables me to process my thoughts and emotions. It is much easier knowing that someone else in the world is going through what you are; you don't feel the sense of having to deal with it alone. With that being said, here is some new music to look out for.

This week, 19-year-old pop sensation Olivia Rodrigo dropped a new album called *GUTS*. Rodrigo's first album, *Sour*, is a vulnerable breakup album, whereas in *GUTS*, Rodrigo is able to overcome the negativity and hardships of the past. One of the songs Rodrigo's fans have been obsessed with is "Lacy." This song has been all over social media as fans try to figure out what this song might be about. Some speculate it is about fellow artist Gracie Abrams, or maybe "Lacy" is a drug, and the addiction Rodrigo describes in the song is a physical sensation.

Another artist with an album fans have been anxiously awaiting is Drake with hits like "God's Plan" and "One Dance," Drake has

made a name for himself in the rap industry. Recently, on his "It's All a Blur Tour," Drake announced that his highly anticipated new album, *For All the Dogs*, will be released on September 22. Drake claims we will see him return to his old style of music, which produced global hits. Hopefully, all of us fans' expectations will be met with this release!

Not only is Drake dropping an album, but so are rap artists Lil Tecca and pop singer Doja Cat, making for an exciting year of new music. At the end of the day, more streams and views will be the defining factor of the most successful album. All of these artists are historically very popular, making the market more competitive.

Every single genre and song conveys something different to each listener. Not everyone likes one artist or one style, which is why the topic of music is so vast. I hope everyone can find something new to jam out to this fall!



*Sour* Album Cover Courtesy of Flickr

## An Ode to the Arts



Students Engaging in Art Events

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

## Sun, Sand, and Songs: Beach Concerts in LBI

### JOELLE VERMUT '25

Located in New Jersey, Long Beach Island, or LBI, is an 18-mile-long island filled with different townships. Known as the perfect beach getaway, over 100,000 people visit LBI during the summer months. The island offers many activities to keep tourists and residents entertained.

Each week, a variety of cover bands perform a concert on the beach, offering a wide range of music genres that cater to all tastes. Even if the band is playing music that doesn't fit your taste, the atmosphere alone makes shows worth while. People drive in from all over the island, sail in and dock at the bay, or walk with chairs from their houses to come to enjoy the concerts. Occasionally, my family will sail in and enjoy the music from the water, surrounded by 50 other boats. Some people have meals while others meet up with friends. On other days, bringing chairs and setting up camp on the beaches under the starry skies makes it feel like you are in paradise.

One particular Friday night was truly unforgettable. As the sun was

setting and the ocean went dark under the stars, small bonfires cast a warm light in the dark night, providing warmth and the perfect place to make s'mores. Although I knew almost no one else on the beach, as soon as the music started to play, I felt so connected to everyone around me. Everyone left the beach with more friends and a better sense of community. Little did we know that they were sharing the island with none other than Taylor Swift, Lana Del Rey, and many more A-List celebrities, who were in LBI to attend a wedding! As the night went on, everyone was standing in front of the stage, dancing, and singing along to well-known beats.

The best part of these concerts is that they are free, providing a fantastic opportunity for locals and tourists alike to enjoy music without having to pay a hefty cost.

If you find yourself on Long Beach Island during the summer months, don't miss the chance to experience the island's concerts. Whether you're dancing by a bonfire, swaying on a boat, or relaxing in your beach chair in a park, the sounds of LBI will surely leave you with memories that last a lifetime. And who knows, you might even run into Taylor Swift along the way.



Beach Concert

Sophie Yang '26/ *THE LAWRENCE*

# Meet the 2023-24 Prefects

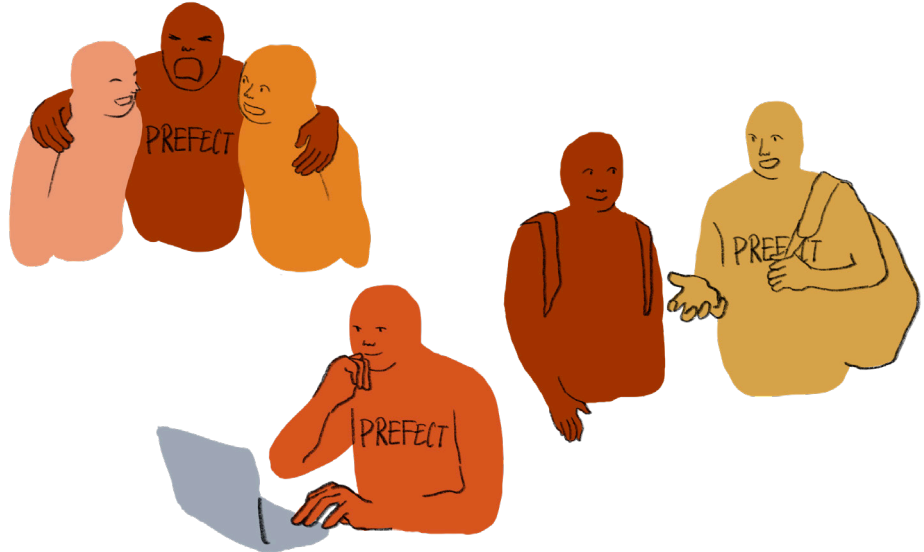
STEPHAINE SCHLOSS '26

“Prefects,” or V Formers selected to serve as Upperclassmen leaders in II, III, and IV Form housing, are the campus’ most compassionate and enthusiastic residents. Instead of living with their V Form peers in senior housing, they choose to return to their respective Circle or Crescent Houses or head back to the Raymond or Dawes House. Prefect-ing is a unique facet of boarding school, particularly in relation to Lawrenceville’s House System. Our community is built upon relationships and camaraderie, and the House System and its prefects essentially to facilitate those missions. After undergoing a rigorous week of prefect training, prefects are prepared to deal with a variety of social and academic situations, enabling them to balance a delicate line between an upperclassmen, a friend, and a mentor. Lawrenceville’s unique House system provides II, III, and IV Form students with the opportunity to befriend and learn from Lawrentians with more years of experience.

## Jillian Retzler '24

### The McClellan House

Jillian Retzler '24 is a prefect in the McClellan House. Taking on the role of managing football, diving, track and field, and leading the CPR Training Club, Retzler wanted to be a prefect to spend more time in the house and make a bigger impact in her House community. As a new IV Former, Jillian vividly recounts the rewarding and memorable process of her integration into the House, which she wants to emulate for her new House members. She envisions a house culture where everyone can “talk as normal people, not just acquaintances” making the House “feel like home.” Well-equipped to handle a variety of obstacles, Ritzler is eagerly anticipating the Winter Term that can often feel dreary and long-lasting. As a prefect, Retzler has learned that she does not always have an answer to the girls’ questions. She hopes her vulnerability with her housemates will develop a house culture that will grow trust and unity. Jillian’s fun fact is she has four dogs and a cat who are Lawrentians in spirit!



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

## Sameer Menghani '24

### The Raymond House

Sameer Menghani '24 currently serves as a prefect in Boys' Lower. He leads a busy schedule as a Hutchins Science Scholar, Co-Head Actor of the Periwig Club, and leader of the Religious Life Council, Hindu Student Organization, the Larries (acapella group,) and the Big Data & AI Research Club. Menghani is invested in building a stronger Lawrenceville community and frequently referenced how his prefect training centered around conversation of building a better future for the school. He is excited to lead the II Formers through the complex challenges they have and will face on campus. Menghani does acknowledge the challenge of balancing life outside and inside the House, highlighting that “prefecting is not a one-person job,” and that “teamwork is absolutely the most important skill.” Ironically, in the II Form, Menghani said he'd never want to be a lower prefect—clearly that idea did not age accordingly!

## Maryam Mian '24

### The Kirby House

In addition to her role as a prefect in Kirby House, Maryam Mian '24 also spends her time as the Co-Captain of the Girls' Varsity Squash Team, an avid cross country runner, and a leader of the Religious Life Council and the Muslim Student Organization. Mian eagerly awaits this year in the Crescent. While she looks forward to befriend-ing the new members of the House, she is conscious about her position as a role model to the younger students. Along with her fellow prefects, Mian aims to give gentle reminders to “do the right thing.” Mian believes that patience is key to being respected by her prefectees. A fun fact is Maryam has three brothers ages five to twenty-two.

## Noah George '24

### The Dickinson House

Noah George '24, more casually known as “No-Jo”, is a prefect in the Dickinson House. As Captain of the Boys' Varsity Squash Team, a Ropes Course Instructor, and a retired soccer and golf player, George is an active member of the Lawrenceville community. George visions the Dickinson House as a larger connected community, not a group of scattered cliques. As a prefect, he facilitates a more cohesive House environment by being present and taking initiative to support his underformers. To George, ensuring his prefectees are well-cared for and on the right path is an important component of his job. George strives to “be a big brother figure to support [his] boys.” A fun fact about “No-Jo” is that he was hospitalized after running into a glass wall he thought was open, but clearly wasn't, showing that even the wisest Lawrentains have their fair share of blunders moments. He was eight, by the way.

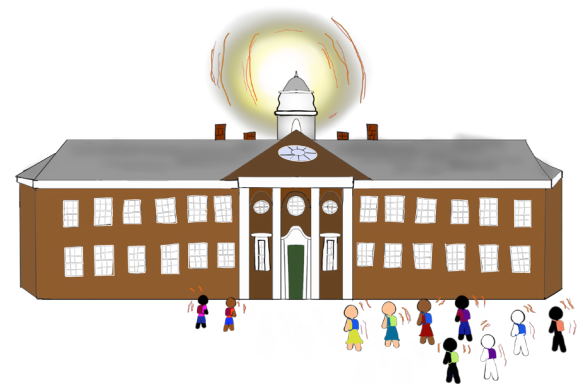
# “Heat waves been fakin’ [Lville] out”

CLEMETINE SUTTER '25

When excessive heat warnings demand a 5:30 AM wakeup for 6:30 AM practice, you know the day entails sweat and exhaustion like no other. As Elijah Miller '25 puts it, “the blistering heat was a bit of a vibe killer.” During the past week, heat waves have taken control of Lawrentians’ lives, affecting practice schedules, sartorial choices, and the general mood on campus. Indoors and outdoors alike, students were desperate to find ways to cool off. Dressing light and wearing your hair up helps keep sweating to a minimum. However, according to Naiya Bharvad '25, these heat-coping mechanisms were admittedly a struggle, as she

is a “big sweater wearer.” Even in buildings, layers had to go, “particularly in English class,” said Bharvad, whose classroom could not use air conditioning due to its large size. Amidst the sweltering heat, Loucks became an epicenter of student activity, particularly for the Fall Club Crew team. Instead of hosting their usual practices on Mercer Lake, the team crammed into Loucks to erg (“row”) every day last week. According to Maggie Hammond '25, practice in the gym was “a lot.” With team lifts and other canceled practices, “there were just so many people. So even though you were inside, the heat was still affecting you. It was still so hot.” While the Club Crew team didn’t get to feel the rush

of the boat on the water, the rowers “definitely got faster as a team because [they] put in hard erg work early in the season” and have “lots of nice rowing days to look forward to in the future.” While the days were certainly long and very hot, the New Jersey heat waves proved surprisingly not-all bad. Heat and struggle aside, Miller personally “thought it was great.” Since House Football was canceled every day, “the heat gave [him] an extended break after school,” allowing him to take the time for “a little time for a nap or a study break which is particularly nice to have before musical rehearsals.” Bharvad agreed, adding that canceled house practices made for a “nice way to ease into Lawrenceville.” Some sports, on the other hand,



Najja King '25 / THE LAWRENCE

did have outdoor practices. Because of NJSIAA heat policy guidelines, however, practice times were either moved to 6:30 AM or 6:00 PM, which was met with mixed feelings. Some prefer to spend the ungodly hours of the morning sleeping while others prefer to wake up early for practice and enjoy the

rest of their evening free. For Sarah Rodrigues '25, waking up at 5:15 AM was “tough but not terrible.” Losing some sleep but getting some time back, overall, “wasn’t the worst thing in the world.” As it turns out, Lawrentians can find always the good in painstakingly agonizing New Jersey heat.

# Club Night Galore!

MIA MASSERIO '25

With the highly-anticipated Club Night having taken place on Thursday, September 14, clubs and organizations were busy recruiting new members. New and returning club leaders prepared for the event in hopes to interest students in joining their respective organizations. Students at Lawrenceville came together to share their interests, partaking in various activities offered by any of the wide variety of clubs, ranging from community service to culture and religion, and from arts and athletics to politics. Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) President Cassie Dillard '24 and Junior Vice President Riley McKibben '25 looked forward to club night and the upcoming school year. Dillard said the council prepared for Club Night by “gathering and making a poster,” with McKibben aiming to “find as many allies as possible.” In addition to meetings and other initiatives, new and returning members of the club can expect the “annual pride week [to be filled with] pride events,” from the pride flag raising to the “New Hope Lambertville Pride March.” The GSA and other affinity groups on campus serve as safe

spaces to find support for people who share different aspects of culture and identity, aiming to provide inclusivity for all.

V Formers Charisma Asamoah, Jessica Peters, and Lauren Williams are the Co-Editors-in-Chief and Co-Presidents of the Harlem Renaissance club, one of the many publications on campus. According to Peters, the club’s mission is “to showcase and uplift Black student voices through artistic endeavors, including: music, dance, performance and visual art, fashion, and literature.” The club is looking for writers and editors for their upcoming blog, along with other members to serve as “media managers, photographers, artists, and event planners for [their] fall workshops.” The club also plans to host meetings with alumni, invited guests, and Lawrenceville faculty. In addition to finding them at Club Night you can also find them at the Publication Fair following Club Night on September 18th!

Clubs at Lawrenceville provide many opportunities to get involved with performing arts, such as Lawrenceville’s leading theater club, Periwig, which has been around for over 100 years. Sonia Singhal '24, Periwig’s Co-President and



The Lawrence at Club Night 2023

Courtesy of William Wang '24

Co-Head of Tech, encourages students to get involved in theater. Periwig works hard to put on performances for the school like Winterfest and the Fall Musical—which they have already begun preparing for. She hints for

students to “stay tuned for a School Meeting preview!” Joining Periwig has allowed Singhal and many others “to meet people who will become some of your closest friends at Lawrenceville.” Getting involved in clubs and

activities on campus is a great way to meet new people with whom you otherwise may not cross paths with. Regardless of your interests and experiences, there is a club for everyone at Lawrenceville and you can even start your own!

## Faculty Profile: Rachel Nichols

MIRA PONNAMBALAM '26

Each year, the Lawrenceville community evolves and changes through the addition of incoming faculty and departure of others. One of this year’s new faculty members is English teacher Rachael Nichols.

Nichols joined Lawrenceville “wanting [it] to be a place where [her] home life and work life would be one life,” and she is “excited to see what that would mean for [her] as a teacher, coach, advisor, and human being.”

Nichols joined the Lawrenceville community after teaching at the Episcopal Academy in Pennsylvania. Although she grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, she currently calls Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, home. At Lawrenceville, Nichols works as a member of the duty team in the Dawes House and has her own advising group. She also teaches English to III, IV, and V Formers. “It’s great because I have contact with every form,” she commented.

As an English teacher, Nichols especially enjoys teaching William Shakespeare’s Macbeth: “I love acting it out in class and I love close reading the language. Over the many years I have taught it, every class has seen new things in [the text]. It is also a text that comes to me in my own moments of delight and despair and whispers advice to me.” However, her favorite book is Robert Louis Stevenson’s Treasure Island. “The idea of leaving home to find treasure always held a lot of appeal to me, maybe because I was not an adventurous or risk-taking child,” said Nichols. Having learned much about Lawrenceville in her short time at the school, she is eager to immerse herself in traditions such as Lessons and Carols. She enjoys going to the Gingered Peach, her drink of choice being a latte, and nighttime walks. She also enjoys spending time with her pets. “I have been a lifelong cat person. I have a sweet, but not very smart orange cat named Theo. Very recently, a miniature German schnauzer puppy named

Otto came into my life. You may see me walking him near [the] Cleve [House]. He is sweet, smart, and stubborn,” stated Nichols. Her favorite food at [the] Tsai [Dining Hall] is the mozzarella balls in the salad bar.

Despite having discovered many of the things Lawrenceville has to offer, Nichols is still adapting to the School. “I am still at the very beginning of knowing and understanding Lawrenceville! It’s like I don’t even know what I don’t know.” Being new can be difficult, for teachers and students alike. Lawrenceville comes with its own unique set of challenges and excitements. Nichols admits that “change is hard for [her], and being new is nerve-wracking at times.”

Despite the challenges associated with adjusting to life at Lawrenceville, Nichols has found countless others who are willing to support her transition. “Everyone has been incredibly warm and welcoming. My colleagues have gone out of their way to help me...and the students have made me feel



Rachel Nichols

Courtesy of Rachel Nichols

at home. I am so grateful for everyone’s hospitality, kindness, and generosity,” said Nichols. It’s of the utmost importance for

the Lawrenceville community to continue being inviting to new members of the community as they work on adjusting.

## “World Champions Of What?”

### Do American League Champions Deserve The “World Champion” Moniker?

MICAH KIM '26

In the vast domain of sports, accolades and titles hold high value. Winning a championship is the ultimate goal for both teams and individual athletes. However, a debate was sparked by six-time track and field world champion sprinter Noah Lyles, when he claimed, “what hurts [him] the most is [that he has] to watch the NBA finals and [the NBA champions] claim to have World champion on their heads.” Although this statement enraged many athletes and sports fans across the country, it proposed an interesting question: Should American league champions have the right to claim the title of world champion?

In many different cases, we have seen examples of the best athletes from all over the world coming to the U.S. to compete in American leagues. For example, the National Football League (NFL) boasts quite a large number of international players, among them being London-born Osi Umenyiora and Efe Obada of Nigeria, winners of the NFL's

Defensive Player of the Month and Week awards respectively. Foreign superstars have also dominated the National Basketball Association as well. The “Greek Freak” Giannis Antetokounmpo has won an NBA Defensive Player Of The Year, the Best Male Athlete at the Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly (ESPY) awards, and even the coveted NBA Most Valuable Player Award. Serbian Center Nikola Jokić is another foreign superstar, who, in addition to having won the NBA Most Valuable Player Award in back-to-back years, has also won titles such as the ESPY award for Best NBA Player, an NBA Championship, and the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player. In fact, the past five league MVPs have been foreign players, and generally, there are more players foreign in the NBA than ever before. The fact that these leagues represent the absolute pinnacle of their sport, with peak athletes from all different nationalities coming all the way to America to play in them, it is clear that these leagues are the best in the world. Because of this, we

can see why these winning teams of such competitive leagues deserve the title of world champion.

The recent globalization of American sports leagues contributes to the claim that the champions of these leagues should be given the title of world champions. In recent years American sports have garnered some of the largest followings across the world. Super Bowl viewership extends far beyond the U.S. borders, and the NBA has fans in many foreign countries such as China, Mexico, and Argentina, with China especially being an extremely large economic market for the NBA. The global appeal that these leagues have to their fans only serves to show that their champions should be considered world champions. In addition the NBA, NFL, and MLB (Major League Baseball) often host games in various foreign locations such as London, Mexico City, Japan, Mexico, and Australia. These international ventures display American sports on a global scale, reinforcing the claim that American champions are world-class.

With such wide global viewership and popularity, this would encourage an even bigger influx of foreign players, contributing in turn to an even more representative and competitive league than now.

In addition to foreign athletes competing in American leagues, Americans have long been dominant in international competitions. The Olympics, for instance, is a competition where America continues to dominate, especially in the realm of basketball. Though not unbeatable, the U.S. Basketball Men's National Team has historically been the most successful team in international competition, achieving medals in every single tournament they have entered, with 16 of those 19 medals being golds. While it is true that in the most recent FIBA (International Basketball Association) World Cup tournament, the USA was knocked out by Germany, the Americans still hold the record with five victories in the tournament's history, higher than any other country. We have also seen foreign leagues serve as a

stepping stone on a star player's path to the NBA. Before joining the NBA, Slovenian point guard Luka Dončić dominated in the EuroLeague. At just 19 years old, Luka led Real Madrid to the 2018 EuroLeague title, as well as becoming the youngest player to ever win the EuroLeague MVP and EuroLeague Final Four MVP. This dominance we see from American League athletes in foreign competitions only serves to show the whole new level of competitiveness that the U.S. brings to the table in terms of their athletics.

In their respective events, Americans remain in the top tier. In domains such as the NFL, NBA, and MLB, the high level of competition within these leagues, various efforts towards globalization, in addition to superiority of these athletes in international competition, contribute to the validity of labeling American sports league victors as “world champions”, and as long as these federations continue to attract such large amounts of global attention, this claim remains rational.

## Recap Of UFC 293

ELI LACEY '25

After a long hiatus, the Ultimate Fighting Club (UFC) finally returned to Sydney, Australia for the 293rd Pay Per View UFC event, also known as UFC 293. This event, like almost every UFC PPV (Pay-Per-View), was full of highly entertaining and unpredictable fights all throughout the night. All in all, it was a good night for Australia as the majority of the main card winners were from the host country. The Australian fans brought amazing energy that certainly inspired the fighters. This UFC event featured many memorable moments to unpack, while also providing material for a technical breakdown of the UFC's most recent event.

It is important to start off this breakdown by highlighting the amazing broadcasting performance by Laura Sanko, who became the first woman ever in the commentator's booth for a UFC Pay-Per-View in 2021. As we all know, the era of Joe Rogan as a UFC commentator is slowly and sadly coming to an end, and Laura Sanko will certainly pick up where he left off. As a MMA practitioner herself, Sanko gave amazing technical analysis as well as some pretty funny moments all throughout the night.

### Manel Kape vs. Felipe Dos Santos

In the Featherweight division, the fight was my favorite fight on the card by far. Dos Santos was able to hold his own in his UFC debut despite having very short notice beforehand. Although Kape ultimately came out on top with the victory, most eyes are more focused on Dos Santos and his future in the UFC. Dos Santos is a member of the very famous ‘Chute Boxe’ gym in Brazil as well as being a training partner and close friend of the great Charles ‘Du Bronx’ Oliveira. With such high-caliber training partners, Dos Santos showed glimmers of Oliveira's style in this three round fight. Even when dropped, Dos Santos held bottom guard just like Oliveria used to, inviting Kape into a dangerous guard. One interesting thing about this fight was how creative both fighters were as strikers, specifically Dos Santos. Spinning elbows, spinning kicks, and a very frequent front kick were all parts of Dos Santos's repertoire. In true Featherweight fashion, both fighters were extremely quick, technical, and could change direction on the dime. Dos Santos' loss can be chalked up to two things: The first being inexperience, and the second being the blatant difference in power. Dos Santos had a really

high hit volume all throughout the fight, making contact as much as he pleased; however, whenever Kape touched Dos Santos, it was almost always an extremely powerful blow. This, along with the fact that Kape is an extremely good striker with a ton of experience in the cage, is probably a good reason for Dos Santos's loss. However, at the age of only 22, one can expect Dos Santos to become a top 10 contender in the upcoming years.

### Tyson Pedro vs. Anton Turkalj

This was my first time watching either of these two fighters, and Tyson Pedro's striking ability was a huge stand out of this fight. Pedro is an up-and-comer in the UFC and is slowly rising the ranks to become a contender. At Light Heavyweight, Pedro seems pretty quick for his size and was able to get the job done via TKO in round one. It was a textbook combination in striking that sealed the deal for Pedro. Using his jab followed by his cross, Pedro was able to stun Turkalj in the first round, to which Turkalj quickly recovered. Pedro stayed very composed and never tried to rush the finish. After 30 seconds, Pedro timed a left hook followed by a cross to end Turkalj's night. You can't go wrong with a well-timed 1-2 followed by a 3-2. It was a great fight for Pedro.

### Tai Tuivasa vs. Alexander Volkov


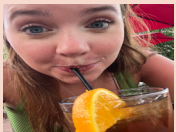





Many fans originally thought that Tuivasa would win this fight. However, they were proved wrong. Volkov was able to seal the deal in round two with an Ezekiel choke. If you are wondering what that is, you are not alone. This submission had only been done successfully twice in the UFC before Saturday, and due to the fact that this specific choke is relatively simple to do and very popular at many Jiu-Jitsu gyms across the world, including mine, you can expect to see this move being performed more often in the higher weight divisions. Nice job Volkov.

### Israel Adesanya vs. Sean Strickland

Coming into this fight I had a very good feeling about Sean Strickland. After seeing his fight against Abus Magomedov, I realized just how effective Strickland's style was. Strickland fights in a very awkward manner, but it is this awkward striking that throws many of his opponents off guard. Although I believed that Strickland would win, it was a generally unpopular opinion. Israel “Izzy” Adesanya has fought the best of the best over and over and over again and has proven himself to be one of the best Middleweights ever. But in this fight, there was something off with Adesanya.

Strickland fights vertically, he never leans forward and his head never really comes off of the centerline. With that being said, Strickland put on a defensive masterclass against Adesanya, consistently blocking Adesanya's strikes with his arms instead of relying on his nonexistent head movement. Sean was not only great defensively, but his offense was also very hard to deal with for Adesanya. There was a big moment in the fight where Strickland dropped Adesanya with the classic 1-2. Sean immediately pounced on Izzy, raining down heavy ground hits. Much to my surprise, the fight was not stopped and Adesanya was saved by the bell. Sean continued to dominate on the feet for the next four rounds, doing enough to complete a crazy upset and crown himself as the Middleweight Champion of the world. No one could have expected Sean to complete such an upset against one of the greatest strikers the UFC has ever seen, but that is yet another reason why I love Mixed Martial Arts, no matter how much someone is projected to win, you just never know. Congratulations to Sean Strickland, and all of the other victorious fighters who helped to deliver another exciting weekend of UFC. Here's to more of this in the future.

## Apple Board Picks

Name Role	Nichole Jin NEWS Editor 2/2	Sofia Carlisi Arts Editor	Bryan Boanoh Sports Editor	Clair Jiang Editor In Chief	Arisa Okamura Web Editor	Sabrina Ottaway Copy Editor 2/2	Will O' Reilly In Absentia
Photo:							
favorite style of apple	Green? is that a style?	Fried apples from Cracker Barrel	Apple Sauce	Apple-ause	Raw	usb-c	Apple Pie
a ___ a day keeps the doctor away	Belligerent yelp	Diet coke	A bigger scarier doctor	An affirmation: Always look on the bright cider life.	10h of sleep	an apple will keep anyone away if you through it hard enough	Apple
If you were a type of apple which would you be	Red apple, slightly bruised, a little bit wilted	McIntosh	Green	Jazz	MacBook (Retina, 12-inch, 2017). My spirit animal.	ice spice munchkin	Pine