

Parnell Named Faculty Speaker

STAFF REPORT

The V Form has voted History Teacher Jennifer Parnell to be their Faculty Speaker, an honored role given annually to a teacher who has deeply influenced and touched students with their kindness and spirit.

While she teaches U.S. History Survey, Honors Government, and the electives American Presidency and Capstone: A.I. Applications and Ethics, she also coaches cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field, and advises *The Lawrenceville Historical Review*. "In these roles, I have had incredible opportunities for meaningful discussions with students about the most basic questions of our history; who we are, how we describe our past, how we choose to govern ourselves, and how we progress as a society. I'm always inspired by the students I encounter," she commented. She views Lawrenceville as an environment of pure "energy, intelligence, kindness, and humor." "I also love the many communities we share: academics, athletics, and residential life," she added.

When V Form Level Director Etienne Bilodeau told Parnell of her selection, she was "extremely surprised and very grateful" and said, "It is such an honor to be chosen."

Parnell will deliver a speech to the Class of 2024 in May, and she hopes to "provide a moment of connection and community." To her, the speech is a chance to celebrate the V Form. "I started at Lawrenceville when these students were III Formers, so I'd like to think we have grown together as a community of learners. I think the faculty speech provides an occasion to look to the past with gratitude and to the future with hope and anticipation," she concluded.



Emily Pan '24 Named Valedictorian

STAFF REPORT

Emily Pan '24 has been selected as the Valedictorian of the Class of 2024. Each year, a committee of faculty members chooses the Valedictorian from a select group of V Form students who excel both academically and participate actively in Lawrenceville.

When informed about her selection by V Form Level Director Etienne Bilodeau, Pan just "stared at [Bilodeau] for a long time, in complete surprise," wondering "if this was a joke and if someone was going to pull out a camera."

Throughout her time at Lawrenceville, Pan has shown her commitment to the community by serving most notably as the Graphics Editor for *The Law-*

rence's 143rd Board, captain of the rocketry club, senior vice president of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA), a Lunch and Dialogue organizer, and a 2023 Hutchins Social Justice Scholar. When reflecting on her leadership, Pan said, "[she] began showing up to clubs like Rocketry and GSA out of plain curiosity. But [she] connected with the people and developed a genuine passion." She is also grateful for the fact that "a lot of [her] positions require interacting with the underclassmen and people [she] would have never otherwise met," thus allowing her to appreciate the community that much more.

On Commencement, Pan will deliver an address to the whole school. She is both

excited and anxious, as "this is a once and a lifetime opportunity" and recognizes the honor of being selected for this role. "Even though [Commencement] is less than two months away, it has been constantly on [her] mind," she said. In her speech, Pan hopes to focus on gratitude, something she has been recently reflecting on. "There were so many things I was able to do because of the resources and opportunities I was given here and because of the people I met. And I want to thank the community, who helped me grow, helped guide me along the way, and pointed me in the directions I wouldn't have otherwise chosen."

Pan encourages under-

formers to seek Lawrenceville's "hidden resources," and says that "if you have a passion, this school probably has resources for that passion, or at least someone you can talk to who can help you find the right resources." This was how Pan learned to sew, an activity she sought out for fun but finds extremely rewarding. "I knew there was a costume shop, and so I just asked the theater department if I could work in there from time to time," she explained.

When asked to give any last advice to her student peers, she concluded, "Don't waste your time dwelling on trivial things. Four years isn't a very long time. Spend it well, and most importantly, have fun!"



Photo of V Formers Claire Jiang, Emily Pan, and Gordon Gruber

Nicole Halucka '26/THE LAWRENCE

Claire Jiang '24 and Gordon Gruber '24 Named Aurelian Speakers

STAFF REPORT

The Lawrenceville Class of 2024 has chosen Claire Jiang '24 and Gordon Gruber '24 to be its Aurelian Speakers. Annually, the V Form elects the Aurelian Speaker, students who best demonstrate "sterling character, high scholarship, and forceful leadership" as well as being held in high regard by their fellow Lawrentians.

In approaching her time at Lawrenceville, Jiang's "guiding principle is finding great pockets of community and people to be around. When you are working towards a greater goal with other people, the process itself just becomes so rewarding." Throughout her time at Lawrenceville, Jiang has held a number of roles on campus, notably as Editor-in-Chief on the 143rd Board of *The Lawrence* and the 129th Board of *The Lit*, a Merrill Scholar, the eponymous lead in the 2023 fall

musical *Amélie*, and a Prefect in the McClellan House.

When reflecting on her time at Lawrenceville, Jiang said, "community is the big word. It's over-used, but still so true... I am so grateful for how Lawrenceville reminds us how we can center powerful chances and discussions around community."

Gruber, a four-year member of the Boys' Varsity Crew Team and a member of the Cleve House, said that his main goal over his time at Lawrenceville has been "to be a leader wherever [he goes]."

Reflecting upon leaving the School, he said, "I am going to miss the House system. My days in Cleve are something I'll never forget," noting fond memories of "going downstairs and hanging out with friends in the library, starting a Cleve poker league, and playing pool with [his] housemates." Gruber looked to "carry the House's traditions,

making sure people show up will be a heartfelt moment. to feed and have a good time. I Jiang maintained Gruber's sentiment, expressing that although she may not be able to speak for everyone's personal Lawrenceville experiences, she hopes to "vocalize the importance of being together before [the Class] leaves the school fully. Whether someone has spent one, two, three, or all four years at Lawrenceville, every single person is going to feel sentimental, hopeful, and some nostalgia." She concluded, "We won't be together in the same space "started during the pandemic in the way that we have; it's then throughout the time, the to change and grow, but that small grade has arisen... It's a can also be a good thing." very tight community but still Gruber and Jiang will reflect on "the changing group Class of 2024 on May 27, of the grade and how we came in the evening before Com-

ment. here no one knew each other... it will be a nice wrap up. I think it



THE LAWRENCE

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CORRECTIONS

Readers who notice errors should contact igaskin25@lawrenceville.org.

DOG OF THE WEEK

Lucy

Charles Potter '25



Editorial

Student Council? Go Figure(head)!

The final two presidential candidates emerged from the dark of the stage into the white, fluorescent lights and hastened quickly to their chairs. Hailing from Chicago and sporting tight-lipped smiles, both candidates spoke with remarkable strength and eloquence, advocating to the student body their vivid visions and daring dreams. Followed by a final few hoots and cheers, the candidates left the stage, and the 2024 Lawrenceville Presidential Campaigns came to an end, leaving prospective voters with a short Google form to choose "the future of Lawrenceville."

If casting one of the over 800 votes to determine the future of our school feels like a heavy burden to shoulder, we bring wonderful news: While your vote may matter when selecting a Student Council President, the President has very little bearing on the future of Lawrenceville. While candidates each year promise substantial changes to the School, Lawrentians should reconsider how influential Lawrenceville's presidents can be.

In the election's preliminary round, 16 candidates spoke to the IV Form. Consecutive speeches soon blurred into an alphabet soup of gratitudes, pleasantries, and slogans, as Chapel pews creaked under restless students. Admittedly, a memorable speech or convincing argument is hard to pack into two minutes, so it was only natural for candidates to buff up their speeches with unique initiatives in hopes of winning over the crowd: one candidate promised discounts at Starbucks, another vowed to implement driver's education, and multiple promised more days off. These claims stood out within the whirlwind of words, acting as a tether for voters to grasp and to remember. To a presidential candidate, being remembered strongly enough to scrape past the initial

round maybe more relevant than the moral implications of making false promises.

Not all lofty goals are ingenuine: some claims are fashioned to lure in votes, while other promises are made in a good-faith attempt to better the School. Yet regardless of the intentions behind claims, their shared grandeur inflates Lawrentians' conceptions of a School President's authority, misleading voters into thinking the School President can independently implement a discount with an outside organization, enact a 'silent major', introduce a whole new course, or adjust the school schedule. Through the echo chamber of presidential speeches, the School President's role and authorities have been hyperbolically misconstrued into those of a powerful figure with executive force.

One can glean a more accurate perception of a president's power by analyzing the student handbook. While not explicitly defining the School President's role, the handbook describes Student Council's duties to "[oversee] social activities, social service initiatives, and the peer tutoring program" and to "[serve] as a liaison between students and the faculty." Therefore, the formerly stated role of School President is to serve as a leader to the Student Council, and the President's authority only functionally extends over that Council. As a liaison, any non-council related initiatives must be discussed with and approved by faculty.

Unlike its clubs and publications, Lawrenceville, the educational institution, is not student-led. The School relies on the many adults—Faculty, Deans, the Head of School, Board Members—behind the scenes, explicitly hired to make Lawrenceville a "better" school. Presidential hopefuls, without insight into the more administrative facets of the school, have the luxury of proclaiming unchecked

their boundless dreams to the student body. Only when officially inaugurated will Student Council members finally be conquered by the enemy of dreams: the reality of logistics. Meetings, email chains, and cancellation of decisions are only some of the roadblocks the President must navigate. Time is not on their side.

Even with elevated status, the School President is, at the end of the day, merely a student representative of the student body: they are not compensated for their role, and are held to the same academic and behavioral expectations as any other Lawrentian. Their role must fit on top of their many other commitments, an almost-impossible task if we expect the moon from Student Council.

One should not expect unprecedented change at Lawrenceville led by a VFormer who has to meet academic, athletic, and extracurricular requirements—all in a single year. The presidential tenure, limited to a little less than a year, prevents the President from garnering the necessary administrative support for initiatives before they graduate.

If even the President, with a burning passion for change, has neither the time, energy, nor authority to enact their platform, what should be the criteria of a Lawrenceville President? Perhaps Lawrentians should refrain from applying our critical lenses to presidential elections and instead, return to the elementary, base mode of popularity-based voting. As the President acts as a representative of the student body, responsible to communicate with the powers-that-be, Lawrentians should elect someone who can represent the best of Lawrenceville, in eloquence, heart, and virtues alike.

This Editorial Represents the Majority Opinion of The Lawrence CXLIV.

Let Migrants Work

CHRISTIAN CHAN '26

Over spring break, I returned home to Chicago. One of the first things I noticed was that sections of the airport had been closed and converted into migrant shelters. Outside of an ice cream shop, I saw a single mother with two young boys. When I was driving, I noticed a man pacing back and forth on the shoulder of the Dan Ryan expressway. Chicago's migrants aren't threatening or obnoxious; rather, they shrink away, weary after their long journey here. These timid refugees offered a stark contrast to the City of Big Shoulders and its vibrant neighborhoods.

America is a nation built by immigrants. We have welcomed immigrants ever since our founding, yet our attitudes towards immigration have soured. One important reason Americans take anti-immigration stances is because we view migrants as burdens on our social safety net. Except, at the same time, we don't allow migrants to provide for themselves in any meaningful way. As a country, we fail migrants at every turn. First, we greet them with the herculean task of securing immigration appointments to enter the country legally, a task that proves impossible for most. Upon entering the country, migrants must then apply for asylum, a process rife with delays. After completing the asylum application, immigration courts will leave migrants in limbo as they wait years for their court dates. Due to weak outreach and poor communication, most migrants don't even realize that there is a process for legal work authorization. However, migrants only become eligible after 180 days following their asylum application. Applying for legal work authorization with an I-765 form also requires a \$410

administration fee: ironically enough, many migrants can't afford to work. We tell migrants to "pull yourselves up by your bootstraps" without giving them the right or legal incentive to even try.

Instead of helping these new arrivals integrate into their communities and contribute to their new homes, certain states have decided to ship migrants across the country to more liberal "sanctuary cities," rendering them 'someone else's' problem. This is how migrants find themselves homeless on the streets of America's largest cities: broke, alone, and scared, forever waiting for their day in court. Of course, we need sweeping immigration reforms to broaden the path to legal status: our courts need to be better funded and staffed, and migrants need better protections. There seems to be this idea that migrants will stop coming if we shut down this country. That won't work. They will keep coming, undeterred. We also legally and morally can't stop migrants from entering the country. Helping out migrants is the right thing to do, and as members of the UN's 1967 Protocol, we have a legal duty to both take in migrants and protect asylum-seekers and legal asylees from "refoulement," or forced return to a territory in which they may face serious threats. The Trump-era policy of forcing asylum-seekers to wait for court dates in Mexico was actually in violation of international law, as the U.S. cannot deport, and has a duty to shelter asylum-seekers and prospective applicants until a court has invalidated or rejected their application. So, we have migrants, and more are coming. With no comprehensive immigration reform in sight, the simplest, most important thing we can do is allow America's ever-growing migrant populations to work.

We must also realize

immigration policy is population policy. Right now, U.S. fertility rates are the lowest they've ever been: the U.S. birth rate is 1.7 births per woman, well below the "replacement rate" of 2.1 needed to maintain a population's size. Over time, America's population will shrink. We can attribute this decline in births to a variety of causes: millennials don't feel as comfortable starting families, housing is more expensive now, and college debt weighs heavily on most Americans—long-term problems with no imminent solutions. Programs such as social security are funded by payroll taxes of working-age adults, creating a pool of money that these same adults can draw from upon their retirement. Social security and comparable programs are essentially a ponzi-like scheme in which each generation pays to provide benefits for older generations. If America's population decline continues, public safety nets such as social security and Medicare will collapse within decades. Paradoxically, despite the conventional argument that migrants burden our public goods, we must expand our tax base and grow our population to continue offering these services. To compound this, economic growth will slow as the U.S. adjusts to a smaller labor force and consumer base.

Fortunately, we have an entire Wyoming's worth of migrants literally dying to get into our country: our population implosion would be much more troubling without the huddled masses. While we need to solve the problems lowering birth rates, our migrants can help us alleviate population loss and contribute to the economy. Currently, the United States has enough job openings to employ the entire city of New York, as unfilled positions sit at almost nine million.

Sweeping immigration reform is crucial, but nowhere in sight. In the meantime, we must grant migrants work authorizations.



Christian Chan '26/THE LAWRENCE

The shuttle terminal at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, converted to a migrant shelter amid a wave of arrivals from Texas.

Available jobs still soar above their pre-pandemic highs. According to the Wall Street Journal, one in five jobs at small businesses are available, with job openings increasing 20% in workplaces of less than 10 employees. There is so much work to be done in the U.S. You have work. I have work. America cannot afford inaction or impotence. Migrants are here, they're at our borders and in our streets. Why do we let migrants continue to suffer on the street without work?

Imagine a Guatemalan migrant, speaking little English, arriving in Texas after a year-long odyssey through Mexico. They turn themselves in at some bordertown after crossing the Rio Grande illegally and apply for asylum. Governor Greg Abbott offers them a bus to Chicago; they take it. Upon arriving in Chicago, they're offered shelter and apply for jobs. For the years that they await their court date, they work at a local job—a job that keeps

them off the street, gives them stable income, fulfills a small business' employment needs, and allows them to better the local community and contribute to a broader national economy. Eventually, they get their day in court, where the judge notes that they've been a productive and successful member of society despite hardships and they're granted a legal path to citizenship.

This description should be the story of every migrant who sets foot in our great country. Immigrants provide solutions to our greatest problems; they can help correct our declining birth rates and fill a surplus of job openings. Every American has potential. Our policies need to help them unlock this potential. Each immigrant has something incredibly valuable to offer our nation. We could change millions of lives just by changing our policy. We need immigrants. They need us. The American Dream is thriving, if we choose to let it live.

JOURNALISM IS NOT A CRIME

ELLEN JORDAN '26

The front page of a newspaper is supposed to be jam-packed with critical information, summarizing the most important events in a typically chaotic day. So imagine the surprise the 555,000 readers of the *Wall Street Journal*, the most circulated newspaper in the U.S., felt when presented with a largely blank front page on the paper's Friday, March 29 issue.

"HIS STORY SHOULD BE HERE," the headline read in large, bold letters, accompanied on the left by an illustration of Evan Gershkovich, a *Wall Street Journal* reporter.

Last Friday marked the one-year anniversary of Gershkovich's detainment by Russian authorities while working in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg, and the events following his unlawful detention are nothing short of a tragedy. 365 days later, Gershkovich remains behind Russian bars. While Russian authorities claimed he was arrested for espionage, they have yet to provide a scrap of evidence supporting this allegation.

Rather, to these Russian officials, Gershkovich's crime was journalism itself.

Back in January 2022, Gershkovich, an American journalist born to Soviet immigrants, joined the *Journal*—approximately one month prior to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. According to his colleagues, Gershkovich was thrilled by the prospect of covering Russia for the *Journal*, and threw himself into researching both the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation. Upon finding a career within the *Journal's* outlet in Moscow, Gershkovich's reporting took him across what was formerly the Soviet Union; while stationed on the Ukraine-Belarus border, he was the first American reporter to witness the wounded Russian soldiers being evacuated from the conflict in Ukraine.

Gershkovich's reporting exemplifies the true importance the media continues to hold—especially in authoritarian countries such as Russia, where propaganda and state media remain the only source of domestic news. Only through independent, unbiased journalists like Gershkovich do people receive accurate reporting. Now that misinformation spreads without precedent, impartial members of the press remain an even more essential outlet to the truth for those living outside of falsehoods and regimes. However, because of his commitment to unbiased reporting, Gershkovich soon drew the attention of Russian authorities.

On one assignment, multiple Russian security officials trailed Gershkovich, tracking his movements by camera and pressuring sources not to speak with him. Further, while in the western region of Pskov, Gershkovich was followed and filmed by unidentified men. However, this was just the prelude to the nightmare in which Gershkovich would soon find himself.

On March 29, 2023, Gershkov-

ich would have been preparing for a trip to Berlin with several of his closest colleagues; the "Airbnb" had been booked, travel plans and itineraries set. But the trip would never happen.

Late in the evening, while at a restaurant in Yekaterinburg, a city known for being both an industrial and freight transportation hub, Gershkovich was detained by Russian authorities; they alleged that Gershkovich, "acting on the instructions of the American side, collected information constituting a state secret about the activities of one of the enterprises of the Russian military-industrial complex." Which activity and which enterprise they were referring to, however, remain a mystery to everyone else, including Gershkovich himself.

Gershkovich is the first U.S. journalist to be detained by Russia on allegations of espionage since the Cold War; just under two weeks later, the U.S. State Department designated Gershkovich as having been wrongfully detained and launched a campaign to pressure Russia into freeing him to no avail. Since being imprisoned, Gershkovich's lawyers appealed their client's imprisonment time and time again, yet despite the evidence (or rather, lack thereof) that Russian authorities failed to bring forth justifying his detainment, Gershkovich remains behind bars. Further, Russia recently extended his detention sentence for a fifth time, and as of the most current ruling, the earliest Gershkovich will go to trial is June 30, and he currently faces up to 20 years in prison.

However, as unfortunate as it is, Gershkovich's story is not the main story—instead, it defines the broader tension between Russia's desire to control information and the West's tradition of the free press.

The even uglier truth behind Gershkovich's detainment is that cases of journalists being unlawfully imprisoned are accelerating across the globe; Gershkovich is just one recent example of the risks journalists take to report the truth. According to the Paris-based advocacy group Reporters Without Borders, there are currently 520 journalists imprisoned worldwide, with the most (111) trapped in China. Crimes against members of the press have certainly not been limited to unlawful imprisonment or even threats of imprisonment, which have even forced many prominent journalists into exile. On too many occasions, journalists made the headlines not for their own groundbreaking work but for their deaths in the line of duty.

One of the first examples to come to mind is former *Journal* reporter and South Asia Bureau Chief, Daniel Pearl: In 2002, Pearl, while based in Mumbai India, was en route to an interview in Pakistan when he was kidnapped by a group of terrorists with links to Al-Qaeda. Pearl's captors held him for a week before beheading him and broad-

Aileen Ryu '25/THE LAWRENCE

casting his execution. Even more disturbing was the punishment—or lack of it—the killers received: in 2021, Pakistan's highest court freed the man accused of killing Pearl. Similarly, Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi was brutally murdered by a team of Saudi agents inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. Khashoggi had been a contributor to *The Washington Post*, where he criticized the Saudi Arabian government, and it is believed that the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman, personally ordered Khashoggi's demise.

These stories only highlight the injustices and risks that members of the press continue to face. It is imperative to journalists' safety that we increase their protection, especially if they work in countries known to be unwelcoming to the media. The press plays the most vital of roles in such countries, as journalists remain the world's only channel to the truth.

Even when not evading authoritarian governments, journalists continue to face dangers in the line of reporting. Covering the world's violent conflicts is just one example: "according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 95 journalists have died in Gaza, with deaths from this conflict alone comprising an estimated 75% of journalists killed last year.

Returning to Gershkovich, the U.S. government must do everything in its power to bring him home. In the words of the *Journal* Moscow Bureau's Chief Ann Simon, "Evan Gershkovich is not a spy. He is a talented, resourceful, dedicated professional journalist."

Indeed, the world must do more to protect the rights of journalists.

We must act on behalf of journalists such as Gershkovich, who remain behind bars for their dedication to reporting the truth, and for media martyrs such as Pearl and Khashoggi, who have suffered the ultimate consequence for their commitment to their careers.

We must act on behalf of the colleagues of such journalists, who are surely reminded by every reporting trip abroad that they, too, could be imprisoned, threatened, or killed just for doing their jobs.

Above all, we must improve the rights of journalists to take a stand against the discrimination members of the media continue to face for their dedication to reporting the truth. The world needs journalists, but an unrequited transaction can not stand—journalists need the world's support.

To conclude with this article's headline, echoed by Kristen Welker's ending words on the March 31 airing of NBC's flagship weekly news program *Meet the Press*, concerning Gershkovich: "Journalism is not a crime" and must never be allowed to become one.

Letter to the Editor

A response to "Don't Blame ByteDance: Why Congress Should Rethink Banning TikTok" published on April 14, 2023



L a s t

month, the House of Representatives passed the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act, forcing Chinese corporation ByteDance to either sell TikTok to a U.S.-approved company or have it be taken off app stores in the United States. This motion, however, is nothing new. In his article "Don't Blame ByteDance," Michael Meng '26 addressed Congress' 2023 efforts to ban the wildly popular social media platform on government devices. Although nearly a year has passed since that incident, many of Meng's assertions remain valid. The concerns that fuel the bill—data privacy violations and disinformation—are not unique to TikTok, and banning TikTok would not effectively solve the problem.

Many legislators worry about TikTok's ability to shape the beliefs of and mobilize its U.S. users. Indeed, as the bill made its way through the House of Representatives and now the Senate, TikTok sent push notifications to its users urging them to voice to their representatives their objections. Government offices across the country were flooded with calls from loyal TikTok users, demonstrating the platform's potent influence over American citizens. TikTok's affiliation with China also subjects the company to Chinese laws and requirements, making it powerless to resist or decline if the Chinese government demanded ByteDance turn over the data of U.S. users.

The bill aims to protect data privacy and prevent China from accessing user data. However, it fails to address the root of the problem, placing unnecessary emphasis on China rather than on the inherent ills of social media. Even if the bill is put into action and TikTok is either sold or banned, all online platforms—hardly just TikTok—still access and gather user data. Lawmakers

should

t u r n

their focus to

creating and en-

forcing regulations

on the collection and exchange of data. Forcing ByteDance alone to give up ownership of TikTok serves less as an attempt to ensure user data privacy than an unfounded attempt to politicize and attack the platform's affiliations.

The content that TikTok's algorithm feeds its users also raised concerns among politicians. Lawmakers claim that China could harness the algorithm to promote communist ideas, influence U.S. politics, and brainwash users with extreme viewpoints. However, the bill does not solve the fundamental problem—algorithms are designed to reinforce people's viewpoints, creating an "echo-chamber" effect. A change in ownership cannot effectively solve the influence of misinformation on users. Congress would find more success by changing social media itself—restructuring how algorithms suggest content or raising the minimum age to create social media accounts, for example.

Finally, there's the question of what ByteDance and China's reaction will be if this bill becomes a reality. TikTok has already fought back vigorously, evidenced by its call to users to voice their positions against the bill. ByteDance is similarly unwilling to give up such a lucrative platform and, either way, China will likely not allow ByteDance to surrender the app. As a result, it is probable that TikTok will be removed from U.S. app stores, affecting millions of users who rely on and profit from the app, and marking an escalation in tensions between the U.S. and China. While concerns about data privacy and featured content are valid, we must ask ourselves: Is a Tiktok ban truly the most effective, efficient way of addressing our concerns?

TIFFANY SUN '26

Student Spotlight: Jack Rice '24 Receives Scholar-Leader-Athlete Award

ETHAN ZHU '26

On March 10, Jack Rice '24 received the George Wah Scholar-Leader-Athlete award from the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, Delaware Valley Chapter. The award is given annually to a high school football scholar-athlete who displays outstanding academic accomplishment, school leadership, and football performance. Rice received the award's highest degree of recognition, the Jack Stephan \$5,000 Scholarship. Congratulations to Rice!

Following the Lawrenceville football team's nomination, Rice submitted his academic transcripts and a resume listing his athletic and extracurricular accomplishments. "I put in any awards, jobs, and clubs I had, so it wasn't just football that they considered," he explained. Aside from being a member of the Boys Varsity Lacrosse team, Rice serves as Lawrenceville's Varsity Football Captain, coaches several local youth teams, and works as a camp counselor in the summer.

Reflecting on his football career, Rice described receiving the award as a full circle moment. "It was really special to represent Lawrenceville and



Photo of Jack Rice

WillLeverett_CC BY 2.0 DEED

win an award similar to one I had won before I started my high school football career and do the same as I leave," he continued. Rice further explained that at the age of 14, he received the Delaware Valley "Little Scholar" award, which honors younger students of similar qualities and talent.

Winning this award during his V Form year, Rice takes pride in his athletic journey. Rice began his high school football career on West Windsor North's Varsity team, but he later reclassified at Lawrenceville as a III Former after the Covid-19 lockdown. Rice then became an integral part of Lawrenceville's Varsity Football team as he played from his III to V Form years. "This year, I was named Captain, and I feel we really turned the team around from one that didn't win a lot of games—we're winning a lot more now, so I'm proud of that," Rice articulated.

Rice was accepted into

Swarthmore College, where he will continue his athletic career on the men's Division 3 lacrosse team. "I was recruited for my athletic talents, so that'll be a large part of my college experience. I still want to study math and economics, though, and I've learned at Lawrenceville that [I] can juggle both," he noted.

As Rice graduates Lawrenceville in May, he hopes his appreciation will reach the people who have aided him in his athletic career so far. "I'm really thankful for all my teammates and coaches at Lawrenceville who helped me along the way, and I couldn't have done it without them," Rice asserted, "A lot of this award goes to show how good people my coaches and teammates are—even more than me." Just as Rice will miss Lawrenceville, Lawrenceville will miss him. Best of luck to Rice in his future endeavors!

Capstone Speaker Visits Lawrenceville to Discuss U.S. Foreign Policy

ELLEN JORDAN '26

"The world matters... Yet few Americans pay close attention to it or understand the many connections, some favorable, some anything but, between what goes on in the world and what happens in their country— and few understand the linkages between U.S. foreign policy and what takes place in the world."

This statement, written by American diplomat and former president of the Council on Foreign Relations Richard Haas in his 2020 book, *The World: A Brief Introduction*, was what Dr. John Gans used to begin his March 25 lecture in the Heely Room. Gans, the first 2024 Capstone speaker, previously worked at the Pentagon as the chief speechwriter for Secretary of Defense Ash Carter. He is also the author of *White House Warriors: How the National Security Council Transformed the American Way of War*. "I'm hoping what [this seminar] does is help you think a little differently about American foreign policy," Gans began, before asking if the audience

agreed with Haas' statement which he previously quoted. After watching hands raised in agreement, Gans responded that he disagreed with Haas' words, arguing that U.S. citizens are far more informed about global affairs than they are given credit for, providing the example of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The idea that our [American] politics have stopped at the water's edge has always been wrong," Gans explained.

Next, Gans presented four commonly accepted foreign policy archetypes for Americans: Hamiltonians, Wilsonians, Jeffersonians, and Jacksonians. He began with Hamiltonians, who viewed international relations as an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the government and the global economy. Alternatively, Wilsonians believe the U.S. has a moral obligation to use foreign policy to spread democratic values throughout the world, including through war if necessary. By contrast, Jeffersonians are isolationists who prefer sanctions as a foreign policy tool to war. Finally, Jacksonians are hyper-nationalists who do not seek war but believe any conflict must end with the enemy's unconditional surrender.

Gans then argued that while Hamiltonians and Wilsonians dominated American politics in the 20th century, recent years have seen the rise of more Jacksonian and Jeffersonian politicians. He concluded his lecture by emphasizing the importance of voting and encouraging attendees to remain engaged in the field of foreign policy. "Your view of what American foreign policy represents is just as important as anyone else's," Gans said before opening the floor to questions.

Catarina Correa '26 wished students were better prepared for the Q&A session, which included topics such as media coverage of the Russia-Ukraine war and the U.S.' relationship with Russia, explaining "We were put on the spot after having been given a lot of information."

Nonetheless Correa considered the seminar both fulfilling and informative, stating "It's really interesting to bring in professionals in history to educate us on topics like U.S. foreign policy, because experiences like these allow us students to expand our worldviews and not only stick to what we think, but also understand perspectives different from our own."

Outside the Bubble

Baltimore Bridge Collapses: Cargo Ship Collision Leads to Catastrophe

ISABELLE LEE '27

On March 26, 1:28 AM, the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland collapsed after the cargo ship *Dali* struck its pillar. After departing from the Port of Baltimore, the *Dali* lost power, preventing its crew from steering the 985-foot long ship away from the bridge. According to *The New York Times*, during the 1980s, engineers warned that the bridge would collapse if directly hit by a container ship. After the crew sent out a mayday signal, transportation officers halted traffic on both sides

of the bridge to prevent catastrophe. Unfortunately, the impact of the collision immediately caused the central span of the bridge to plummet into the waters, along with the eight workers who were fixing potholes on the bridge. Two workers were rescued, while the other six are presumed dead. *The New York Times* describes the incident as "the deadliest bridge collapse in the United States in more than a decade" and predicts that it will have a lasting impact on the workers and industries that rely on the Port of Baltimore.

The Return of Standardized Testing

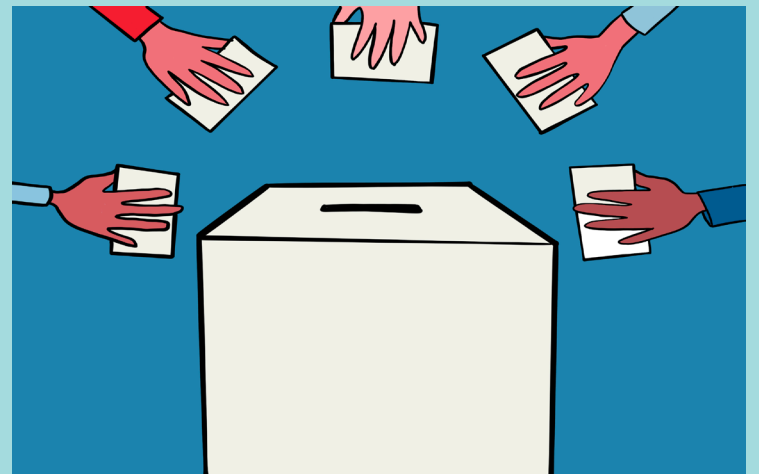
MIA KINCADE '25

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic forced many schools to go test-optional, allowing students to make a choice on whether to submit their standardized test scores. Following the pandemic, schools remained test-optional with the belief that the policy would allow students from all different backgrounds and abilities to stand out in the admissions process. Recent studies, however, have found that scores on standardized tests are predictive of a student's success at academically rigorous institutions. Additionally, test-optional policies lead to solely students with scores within very



Lola Afari-Martinson '26/*THE LAWRENCE* high ranges to submit their results, heightening colleges' average scores and their expectations. Schools like Yale, Dartmouth, and UT Austin have introduced their termination to the test-optional policy for applicants of the Class of 2025, and other schools will likely follow their lead.

Putin Wins Sixth Term, Extending Grip Over Russia Until 2030



ELLEN JORDAN '26

Aileen Ryu '25/*THE LAWRENCE*

Bundled in a heavy overcoat, Vladimir Putin stepped onto a stage in Moscow to deliver a victory speech, surrounded by both his inner circle and cheering crowds waving Russian flags. On March 18, Putin extended his grip over Russia until 2030, winning the country's presidential election by a landslide margin of 87%, an even higher percentage than his four previous elections. Indeed, the election itself was merely a formality for Putin, as his only concrete opponent and key dissident for the war in Ukraine, Boris Nadezhdin, was banned from running. Some

Russian citizens attempted to protest the election by forming long poll lines, even though Putin's decisive victory was to be predicted. According to *The New York Times*, more than 5 million of the votes came from Russian-occupied regions of Ukraine, where Ukrainians were allegedly instructed to cast their ballots under the watch of armed Russian soldiers. Putin will likely use his staged landslide victory to increase public morale and crush the opposition movement that lingers after the death of key Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

Flowers, Fermatas, and Friendship; the Spring Orchestra Concert is Here!

MELINA KYRIAKOPOULOS '27

Spring is slowly peeking through the cloudy gloom, and Lawrentians have the Spring Orchestra Concert to look forward to in order to kick off this season of growth and fun times. This Friday, April 5, from 7 to 8 PM, a production that has been in the works since January will showcase the hard work of students in the Philharmonic and Collegium Orchestras. Our musicians have been spending their free time pouring effort into the concert's pieces, centering the music's overall theme around the musicians. Whether you are attending for a friend, the orchestral pieces, or simply for a homework break, students will be able to witness the careful skill, wonderful music, and sense of camaraderie shared between this special group of performers.

The Spring Orchestra Concert will be conducted by gifted musician Nico Olarte-Hayes, a cellist and the Director of Lawrenceville's orchestras. Olarte-Hayes, who studied—and currently works—at Julliard, began by explaining that “these pieces are...really substantial, great pieces.” Olarte-Hayes then went on to share that, “[he] thinks they are perfectly suited to each member of the ensemble.” Not only will the music featured be artistically composed, but listeners may trust that they

will be hearing each section perform at a wonderful level. The musicians will be performing works composed by the likes of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Gabriel Fauré, as well as film scores from John Williams, who brought films such as Harry Potter, Star Wars, and Jurassic Park to life. So, attendees should keep an ear out for a few familiar tunes. Olarte-Hayes hopes that “people who [come] to the concert will be able to turn to the person they came with and

worried about “not fitting in”, but her fears soon faded away after discovering that “everyone was really nice.” Lee also mentioned that the upperformers were “supportive...and like model[s] to follow,” admiring both their craft and helpful demeanor.

Olarte-Hayes has similar comments, stating that the members of the orchestra are “bright, fast learners” who “quickly understand what [he asks] for” when he gives suggestions, “something which can't be said for every youth orchestra.” Olarte-Hayes elaborates, saying “it is important that the musicians at Lawrenceville continue to grow as musicians...over the four years that they are at Lawrenceville.” Ending with his most impactful comment, Olarte-Hayes emphasized his “hope that students walk away, both from the audience and from the orchestra, feeling that

orchestra at Lawrenceville is an important part of Lawrenceville culture...because it is!”

The spring can be such a whirlwind of exciting growth and activities, making it important for students to take some time off to connect with peers in a new way. So, this Friday night, April 5, save an hour of your schedule to appreciate and experience the tremendous musicianship and chemistry of your fellow Lawrentians in Philharmonic and Collegium while letting the tunes whirl through.



Orchestra Rehearsal Arya Vishwakarma '25/THE LAWRENCE

say, ‘hey! I know that melody!’”

Skillful music is not the only creation stirring in the orchestras' practice spaces, as the students have truly fostered a “sense of camaraderie.” “Whenever you make something together...you are gaining a strong connection” was Olarte-Hayes' observation, noting how the bonds between students are seen as they “linger in the commons room to chat.”

Violinist Isabelle Lee '27 also feels the connection. As the only II Form violinist in Collegium, she was originally

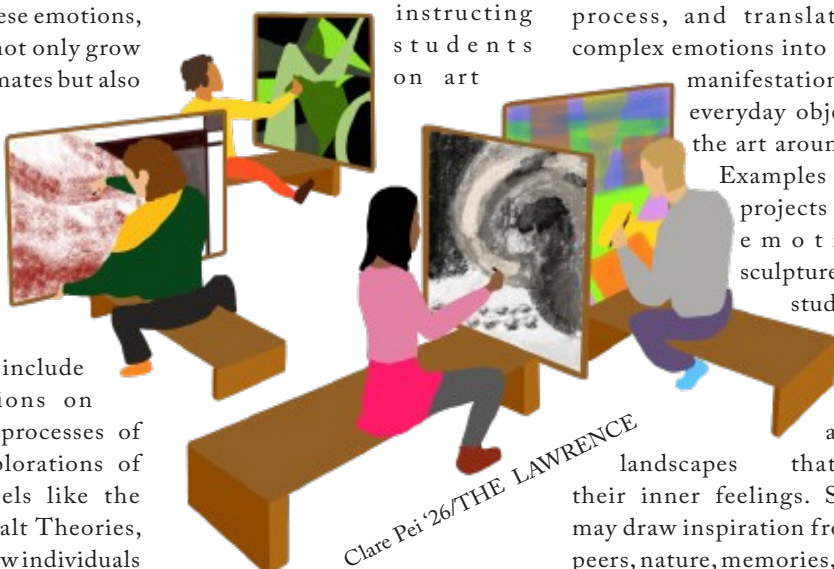
Design Your Dream Arts Class: Exploring Emotions through Abstract Art

SHLOKA CHODHARI '26

Understanding and expressing emotions are significant aspects of collaboration and personal growth. My dream arts class at Lawrenceville would focus on understanding and processing emotions through art. By exploring these emotions, individuals would not only grow closer to their classmates but also develop a deeper understanding of themselves.

This class would be structured as a term-long course divided into three main phases. The first phase would include lectures, discussions on the psychological processes of emotions, and explorations of theories and models like the Expressive or Gestalt Theories, which emphasize how individuals perceive visual elements. The course would also include visits to various renowned art galleries for students to analyze how emotions are portrayed in different artworks. In the

evenings, students would attend lectures, presented by guest psychologists or art therapists, to gain insights into the emotional aspects of art. The second phase of the course would include instructing students on art



Clare Pei '26/THE LAWRENCE

materials like found and natural objects. Finally, the third phase includes emotion-focused projects, focusing on translating specific emotions into abstract and original art. These projects would allow students to explore, process, and translate their complex emotions into physical manifestations using everyday objects and the art around them. Examples of these projects include emotional sculptures, where students can sculpt abstract landscapes that reflect their inner feelings. Students may draw inspiration from their peers, nature, memories, dreams, or music. These assignments would not only be therapeutic for many students but also help them reflect on and document their emotional journey throughout the creative process.

Friday Review: *Modern Love*

ANGEL XIN '26

Meandering through the streets of Midtown Manhattan, I saw people of all cultures, backgrounds, and ages. The majority of these people traveled alone, but once in a while, I saw couples and families scattered throughout the city. The sea of people walking by inspired me to rewatch a television series called *Modern Love*, a show that explores a wide range of expressions of love. This Amazon Prime series, based on a *New York Times* column that shares stories submitted by people from various walks of life, features a different love story and distinct obstacles its protagonists face every episode.

The singular episode that prompted the most tears for me was “When the Doorman Is Your Main Man,” a story about a doorman named Guzman who helps the protagonist, Maggie, through the hardest time of her pregnancy. Unlike other episodes that focus on conventional ways of understanding love—such as romantic love between partners—Guzman's fatherly affection for a long-time resident in the compound where he serves as a doorman, seems pretty bizarre. Somehow, the love portrayed in this episode is simultaneously easy and insanely hard to understand: even when understanding that love is an extremely random occurrence, it was still hard for me to justify Guzman's love for Maggie based on their limited interactions. As viewers, we were not able to witness how their relationship evolved and grew through their lens, and I simply couldn't fathom why Guzman decided to step into Maggie's life in a father-like role. I have never been an optimist to the extent of believing in pure altruism. To me, it feels almost absurd to be loved unconditionally by those other than my parents. Nevertheless, this episode demonstrates the magic and

comfort of unconventional love most perfectly.

Another episode I loved is “Take Me As I Am, Whoever I Am,” in which the protagonist, played by Anne Hathaway, suffers from Bipolar disorder. In the episode, she struggles to find love as she passes through phases of extreme euphoria and depression. I loved this episode because of another element of love that it depicts flawlessly, as shown by the protagonist as she eventually loses her love interest: the fragility of relationships. In this specific episode, the man whom the protagonist is infatuated with never got to know that she loved him, nor did she get to explain to him that she wasn't able to make their dates because she was diagnosed with her severe disorder. And that is real life—love is never a smooth sailing ship (at least not that I know of). Although the unpredictability of love is beautiful, love also arrives upon those who aren't prepared, and that doesn't lead to the happiest endings. In reality, no one can get into someone else's head and hear their thoughts, leading to inevitable regrets. At the end of the day, most episodes that concern passionate love end in regret.

After immersing myself in an eight-hour journey of trying to understand love, I still have not grasped the multitude and possibilities that love encompasses. After all, love is love, and the show *Modern Love* showed me that the format of love does not influence its strength. Love can be fierce, but it can also be gentle; love can be vulnerable, but it can also be powerful; love can be young, but it can also be old. After all, love is love, so there are no rules to what love can or cannot be. And most importantly, we all deserve to be loved.



Flyer for Modern Love

Courtesy of WNYC

There are countless ways to face emotions, and each individual has their own way of handling their feelings. Being able to translate these feelings into beautiful art is an amazing experience for viewers and artists alike. All in all, the class “Exploring and Processing Emotions through Abstract Art” would offer a unique opportunity to merge artistry with identity. By engaging in reflective and creative practices, participants

would not only produce beautiful artwork but also deepen their empathy and awareness of the emotions of others and themselves. As such, this class seeks to foster a supportive, tight-knit environment, which would allow students to further their abstract art skills while focusing on their own mental health.

Senior Profile: Sonia Singhal '24

MIRA PONNAMBALAM '26

As Spring Term commences, Lawrenceville begins to bid farewell to its V Form class. Each V Former has contributed something special to Lawrenceville during their time at the school. Dedicated student and participant in the performing arts, Sonia Singhal '24 is one of these incredible V Formers.

An avid science lover, Singhal hopes to study Biomedical Engineering in the future. Her interest in the subject stemmed from a summer spent on cancer research at the University of Pennsylvania. "Seeing technology harnessed to save lives and being constantly improved made me want to continue it as a career; it's really rewarding," noted Singhal. Singhal's interests and talents extend far beyond science.

Her favorite class at Lawrenceville was the English course, "Science Fiction: Imagined Futures" taught by Nicholas Martin H'23. "The class just meshed really well together. The course was also great. I love Mr. Martin's teaching style. The way it was structured, through both movie watching and short story reading, was great," Singhal stated. For their final exam, students had to both write an analytical essay and produce a creative piece. Singhal, who has a strong artistic side, felt that this final was right up her alley.

One of Singhal's primary artistic interests is dance—specifically Irish dance. "When I was six years old, I watched *Riverdance*, and I thought, 'I really want to do this.' I got into [Irish dancing] because I enjoyed it. Over time, with my passion, I became good at it," Singhal explained. She improved her Irish dancing so much that in her III Form year,

she won a national competition. Singhal has even danced with the very show that first inspired her to begin Irish dancing, *Riverdance*. Not only is Singhal a national champion, but she is also the current Captain of Nachale, Lawrenceville's Indian dance group.

At first, Nachale was just an activity Singhal did for fun. Nachale rehearsals, which were very casual, strongly contrasted the competitive Irish dance classes she was used to. "What made me want to be Captain was the people, seeing how much it meant to everyone and how much fun the dancers were having," Singhal stated, "I wanted to continue to be the person who creates that joy...it feels really good to have that effect on people who love dancing as much as I do." In addition to captaining Nachale, Singhal is a co-president of the Periwig Council. After arriving at Lawrenceville, she fell in love with participating behind the scenes as tech crew. Singhal explained, "I would say my favorite part is seeing how hard work has paid off in the audience's reactions to our performances. Especially for Nachale, it's really rewarding to get on stage, do this dance that I've put together and am really nervous about, and see how everyone just lights up. For Periwig, seeing all the components...come together to make a show that the community loves—just that happiness and joy—I would say is the best part."

Many of Singhal's favorite memories come from the performing arts. She distinctly remembers hiding under a bed to wave around tentacles in the 2021 school production of *The Addams Family*. "At one point, one of the actors walked by me and accidentally kicked me in the leg. I just remem-



Sonia Singhal '24

Nicole Halucka '26/THE LAWRENCE

ber sitting there, thinking 'don't laugh, don't laugh, don't laugh,'" she commented. Over her time at Lawrenceville, Singhal has accumulated many precious memories, and each one has a special place in her heart. Singhal advises underformers cherish their time at Lawrenceville. She also suggests "do[ing] things you love," as it has created many memories for her.

Singhal has left her mark on the Lawrenceville community through the many Periwig and dance productions she has made possible and the people she has connected with. Singhal commented, "I never thought that I would have so many people tell me they look up to me. It's a feeling that I've had for so many other people for so long. It's such an honor to be able to impact people that I care about the same way others have impacted me." Singhal has made a lasting impact, and the Lawrenceville community will not be quite the same without her.

Write for *The Lawrence!*

II Formers to PGs,
all are welcome!

Email jzhao25@lawrenceville.org
and csutter25@lawrenceville.org
to learn more and sign up to write
for the Features section.

Learning from the Legacy: Younger Siblings at Lawrenceville

CELESTINE SUTTER '27

"Always go to consultation. Take advantage of the Bowl. Join clubs early. And please, don't be annoying in Harkness." These are just a fraction of the "hot tips" older siblings at Lawrenceville are so keen to share. The topic of legacy students remains widely discussed in a school where the maintenance of tradition is a large focus, but what comes with being a younger sibling at a school filled with high-achieving individuals, some of whom are your own kin? How does being a legacy student affect one's thought process and success at Lawrenceville?

First and foremost, a more obvious advantage rings true in all aspects of a Lawrentian's life: advice. While older siblings must utilize a trial-and-error system when they navigate through a new environment, younger siblings get the luxury of learning from experience, and not just their experience. As Blair Bartlett '27 puts it, "by watching [her sister Brooke Bartlett '26] thrive, [she has] learned how to manage [her] time, join clubs, branch out, and work at [her] sports." Siblings can set an example of a

model Lawrentian or accidentally demonstrate what not to do—or something that others must do without. Sam Vachris '27 has also been able to learn from his brother Charlie Vachris '24, whom one "can see at the [Bunn Library] or at home, sitting in his room, closing the door, and just getting his work done, [which is] something [Sam tries] to replicate." The shared attitude among younger siblings describes "watching and learning" as the best way to master the balance demanded from Lawrentians.

However, younger siblings don't always follow in their older siblings' footsteps. The ability to think independently and get to know oneself are some of the defining qualities of a true Lawrentian, regardless of the sage wisdom offered by older siblings. Although Gabriel Vermut '27 pursues many of the extracurriculars that his sisters, Jordyn Vermut '22 and Joelle Vermut '25 have, he remarks that he is "interested in them too," but sometimes he "[tries] to be different." Being compared to an older family member motivates a legacy



Charlie Vachris '24, Sam Vachris '27, Sonia Shum '27, Cindy Shum '24

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

student to make Lawrenceville special to them. Bartlett feels more neutral: "Having such different interests [from my sister], it's easy to find my own path while also admiring [her's]." Stepping out of the trail blazed by older siblings remains a motivator, yet it is not a priority for everyone.

In a tight community like Lawrenceville, an interesting side effect of having siblings is that complete strangers will have a solidified idea of who you are without prior introduction. Some enjoy this occurrence more than others. Vermut revealed his stance, saying he "sometimes [doesn't] like being known for

[his] sisters." Younger siblings often feel as though they are associated with the qualities and interests of their family members, but this does not stop them from seeking out what they enjoy. As Vermut puts it, younger siblings are "doing [their] own thing."

In every aspect of life at Lawrenceville, siblings show that students apply themselves fully. Out of everyone spoken to, the most potent influence older siblings have on their younger is on their perspective. Legacy Lawrentians arrive on campus, prepared to be inspired by the talents of their classmates and energized by the vitality

of the environment, in classes, athletics, the arts, and even the Tsai Commons. Vachris reflected on the importance of "branching out:" he learned from his brother to "sit with someone new each dinner and be friendly to everyone you meet."

Every student is distinct, vibrant, and wonderfully ambitious, so younger siblings, equally as unique as all other students, find individuality in their own Lawrenceville career as well. While it is difficult to speak for all legacy students, nearly all of them see their position as positive—but with the price tag of having something to prove.

Hearing from Harkness Travel Trips

EMILY MENG '26

Italy: STEM and Design

During the days leading up to spring break, Annabelle Yao '26 could not wait for her Harkness Trip to Italy. This trip was centered around STEM and design and lasted for 10 days. Since Yao is passionate about cars, especially those in Formula One—the world's most prestigious motor racing competition—she had her eyes set on this trip, as it would involve visiting many vehicle factories. Some highlights from her trip were visiting the Ferrari factory and the Ducati factory. She received an inside tour of both, which Yao found especially “fascinating,” as she was able to see the assembly lines, testing process, and the Formula One training centers. In the Ducati motorcycle factory, she took an engine creation class.

Yao also learned about features of engines, such as horsepower, torque, and intake manifold, as well as how V6, V8, and V12 engines work. Students then visited Verona, an Italian city featuring many Roman ruins, and saw an amphitheater, which was “ginormous” and had a place for beast and gladiator fighting. Although most of the amphitheater had collapsed, Yao thought the gate that was still standing was “cool.” The food was also very “memorable,” especially the pizza, which “was nothing like American pizza”; it had a thin and chewy crust, with really “flavorful” cheese and chunks of salami and mushrooms on top.

Yao enjoyed bonding with other people on the trip through meals and exploring the city together. Since students often split into small groups, Yao was able to bond with people she normally wouldn't have talked to. Yao is “excited” to apply this new knowledge to engineering classes at Lawrenceville. After participating in this trip, she feels that she has “a very solid foundation” in engineering.



Italy STEM and Design Group Photo

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

Greece: Math, Mechanics, and Music in the Ancient World

On March 1, Elizabeth Asiedu '26 excitedly boarded a plane to start a 13-day trip to Greece. This expedition focused on math, mechanics, and music and was longer than many of the other spring Harkness Travel Trips. Asiedu especially enjoyed the language and music aspect of the trip. Having always wanted to visit Greece, Asiedu knew this trip would be very “fun [and] relaxing.” Her favorite part of the trip was spending one night at a farm located in Crete, an island in Greece. There that she learned Cretan dancing and how to cook Cretan foods. Cretan culture is often known for its unique character and rich history, while Crete itself is popular for its blend of many cultures, dynamic geography, delicious cuisine, and warm hospitality.

Asiedu visited an ancient theater that used a stone to act as an amplifier for the actors and singers on stage. She found it “very interesting” to see how an ancient civilization with no microphones was still able to “flourish in the entertainment industry.” Asiedu enjoyed this experience, as it was very different from what she sees in theaters today. She also visited the Acropolis, a historical landmark in Athens. Although students were not able to go inside, Asiedu appreciated the remnants of history that surrounded her such as the Temple of Poseidon and Temple of Athena. While visiting the Acropolis Museum, the group saw sculptures of ancient Greek gods.

During this trip, Asiedu learned how “cultures can connect” and how “history has a huge influence on our daily lives.” She plans on applying these lessons to history courses at Lawrenceville as she reviews medieval times and revolutions to see how these aspects of history impact lives today. Asiedu also felt that she strengthened friendships while meeting a new group of people. She found that experiences such as cooking and dancing together, having downtime, and playing cards allowed the group to bond.



Greece Harkness Trip Group Photo

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

Italy: The Living History of Rome

During spring break, Dorothy Lee '26 embarked on a trip to Rome, eager to explore a place she had always longed to visit. During this trip, she learned about ancient Roman history and Latin, which aligned with her love for classical history. One highlight was visiting a buffalo farm, where she learned about the cheesemaking process and was served fresh mozzarella and ricotta cheese. Lee enjoyed a “really nice” lunch that consisted of yogurt and cappuccinos made from buffalo milk. In addition, Lee enjoyed visiting Ostia, an archaeological dig site. She preferred Ostia over Pompeii, another archaeological site, as she felt that Pompeii had “a lot of tourists and restoration,” which made it feel less like a historical site. On the other hand, Ostia had fewer tourists and restoration; instead, it showcased a variety of “beautiful” mosaics covering the ground. Another highlight from the trip was the gelato, which Lee thought was so good that she couldn't bring herself to eat ice cream again.

Something Lee found “really cool” was that Rome was built on top of ruins that span as far back as the time of Romulus and Remus, twin brothers in Roman mythology. As a result, sightings of modern buildings directly next to archaeological ruins, such as a classical temple, were a common sight. This trip rekindled her love and interest in history, which faded during her middle and high school career. She concludes that this trip was “historic and cultural,” and an “enlightening” experience. This “collaborative” trip has taught her to be aware of the role she plays in communities, helped “build endurance,” and increased her spatial awareness, as she was constantly reminded not to fall behind the group or lose focus. She also enjoyed applying archaeological skills to identify objects she observed. Lee hopes to bring these skills to her work at Lawrenceville going forward.

Your Guide to Effective Time Management

ISABELLE LEE '27

Under the intense pressure of extracurricular activities at Lawrenceville, it is undoubtedly every Lawrentian's worst nightmare to return to their House at night with no homework completed for the next day. When listening to upperformers speak about their experiences at Lawrenceville, the words “time management” dominate the spotlight. To both new and returning Lawrentians, these two words may seem daunting and overwhelming. However, mastering the art of time management can be a shortcut to reaching your goals efficiently. This step-by-step guide on the best strategies for efficient time management aims to help you find a balance between work and rest.

1. Before diving into a planner, make a list. Go through all the work you have to finish, both academic and non-academic. List urgent and important work at the top of the list

while putting less crucial work at the bottom. For those who want a detailed and organized plan, you will end up with a solid base to start from.

2. Next, fill out a planner, which can be done on paper, or electronically. It is wise to have a written agenda you can refer to throughout your day instead of relying solely on your memory. Using the checklist you previously created, start filling out the planner. With a clear list of activities, it will be much easier for you to organize materials without leaving out important work. This method will also help you adjust to new schedules more quickly. When plans change, don't panic! Instead, refer back to your planner and look for empty time slots and identify any assignments you can afford to adjust.

3. Despite these efforts, there are moments when the world seems to be against you. Even when you cannot accommodate everything in your busy schedule, don't be too harsh on yourself; wipe those tears

away and pull yourself back up.

4. Make sure to communicate with your teacher or advisor—Lawrenceville has several strict policies for workloads, and teachers are willing to adjust assignments if necessary; remember, during stressful situations, you are not alone on the Lawrenceville campus.

5. Last but not most importantly, never forget the importance of rest. Think of your body as a car filled with fuel. If you push yourself too much and race down the roads, your fuel will quickly run out, forcing you to come to a halt in the middle of nowhere. Be sure to make stops at those gas stations and give yourself a break whenever you can.

Now, with a wider range of options, here are some methods other students on campus use to manage their time:

Ethan Zhu '26 keeps a running list of assignments for each of his classes along with their due dates. He uses it as a checklist and deletes the assignment once he is finished

Emily Pan '24/*THE LAWRENCE*

with it. Later on, he assigns time slots to the same checklist format.

Ethan Lee '27 uses Google Calendar to map his days ahead. He doesn't forget to schedule breaks as well to prevent wasting time during study hall.

Melina Kyriakopoulos '27 focuses on the breaks that can lead to procrastination. She tries to stay

away from distractions during her rest times to keep track of time, rather than falling into the trap of endless scrolling on her phone. As Kyriakopoulos puts it, using your breaks wisely will increase the speed and quality of your work.

Senior Reflections on their Final Interscholastic Seasons Hayla Dora '24 & Anna O'Keefe '24: For the Love of Away Days

ARYANA IYER '27

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School Flickr

The beginning of Spring Term marks the final time our beloved Vth formers will grace the Big Red fields and courts for their respective sports. For many, years of hard work, diligence, and determination have led to this point -especially for committed and four-year varsity athletes. Some seniors are working very hard to go out with a bang and cement their Lawrenceville legacies by taking on bigger leadership roles as captains and other positions experienced veterans might take on. Others are focusing less on the grind and more on the emotions that come with playing in their final season. Regardless, Spring Term serves as a bittersweet moment for many seniors, as it will be their last time playing alongside their longtime Big Red teammates and coaches. Each spring sports team is loaded with senior talent and there is still much to look forward to as they try to end the year on a high note, so let's take a look at how seniors are feeling about their final seasons.

One common feeling among seniors is gratitude. Everyone is grateful for the opportunities given to them by the coaches as well as the lessons they have learned through their experiences with the team. With their final seasons kicking off, spring athletes are



Co-Captains Anna O'Keefe '24 (Left) and Hayla Dora '24 (right) in their final Varsity Basketball season.

looking forward to winning seasons. Hayla Dora and the Girls' Varsity Lacrosse team started the season with a spring break trip in Naples, Florida where the team bonded and started to gel together. This year, the team has many goals, their biggest being "the triple crown": winning all three of their tournaments.

Looking back on the past four years, all seniors agree on one thing: they feel lucky to have created some of their fondest life memories while on Big Red sports teams, forming bonds that will last beyond the fields. Many bonds were forged, and memories were made at away games and long bus rides. Reflecting on her experience, Anna O'Keefe '24 has "built great friendships on the basketball team over the past four years and [is] forever grateful for all of the fun times ' spent with [her] team".

Despite this spring being their final athletic and academic term, the grind does not end this spring for committed athletes. O'Keefe is preparing for her college basketball season by enjoying March Madness and "staying active" through track and field, where she is an experienced javelin thrower, while Dora also looks forward to an exciting season with Harvard University's Women's Lacrosse team.

Anabel Guerreiro '24: Softball & Self Confidence

ANGEL XIN '26

Anabel Guerreiro '24, Co-Captain of the Lawrenceville Varsity Softball, believes the team is defined by its "positive energy and inclusivity." The team grew significantly compared to last year, thanks to this year's team being comprised of mostly new players. The increased turnout allows for separate Varsity and Junior Varsity squads, as opposed to last year's singular team. Moreover, the team, which consists of students from a variety of athletic backgrounds, is benefiting hugely from the diversity of skill sets each individual brings to the table.

Guerreiro first started playing softball at Lawrenceville. She began in 2021, when the School "was still in the thick of Covid-19." Guerreiro was excited for a unique opportunity to be outdoors more often, as Spring Term brought the reintroduction of interscholastic sports." Guerreiro "immediately hopped onto

softball," despite diving into the sport with no prior knowledge of the sport. "Coach Shiel H'78 P'97 '08 '10 really helped me in the process." Guerreiro elaborated on Shiel's level of expertise by adding that "he would still reference games from 10 years ago as if it was yesterday to help devise our game strategy". Similarly, Coach Jessica Magnuson and Coach Rebekah Crane also "provide excellent, poignant feedback," with Guerreiro referring to them as "gifts for the team." Indeed, "the only thing I would change about the program would be the weather," Guerreiro admitted, explaining that the inconsistent weather, especially the rain in April, has frequently "messed up the game schedules," causing "too many instances of postponing." "The only game we had so far this year was postponed half-way through," Guerreiro listed as an example.







Guerreiro especially adores the "tight-knit"

team culture, cultivated through the team's preseason. "Softball is a game about being loud, vocal, [and] communicative on the fields," she described, "and the preseason effectively set us up to be comfortable with shouting to our teammates in the game." In fact, "we learn so much more than throwing and hitting," Guerreiro proclaimed. For example, the coaches' words on positive self-talk during last year's preseason left a resounding impact on Guerreiro. "Instead of telling myself to not strike out," she clarified "I started telling myself that I was going to absolutely crush the ball, and it really helped." Outside of preseason, previous Adam Sandler-themed psyches and other team bonding events, such as faculty-versus-student games at the end of the season, have also contributed to the personality of the team. Off the field, Guerreiro has applied her newfound confidence and risk-taking skills to the classroom as well

as the stage, stating that "softball helped with my stage fright."

This year, by taking on the challenge of leading the team, Guerreiro was able to "give back the program." As she learned and continued to master the sport, she hoped to someday "spread the kindness that [she] received" when she was still a beginner in softball. Guerreiro is hopeful that the captains succeeding her will also "take on the torch" and give the team an even stronger presence at the School. Through softball, Guerreiro learned the meaning of "commitment...how to trust [her] instincts," and "the ability to make quick decisions." "Putting myself in this new situation where I had little control over many things definitely changed me as an individual." Though she "never identified [herself] as an athlete," Guerreiro still called the School's softball program her "favorite surprise."

First 144th Board Picks

	Aki Li '25 Editor In Chief	Imani Gaskin '25 Executive Editor	Charles Potter '25 News Editor	Arya Vishwakarma '25 Opinions Editor	Jenny Zhao '25 Features Editor	Sonia Ivancic '25 Arts Editor
						
What's the title of your first article?	<i>Wildlife On Campus: Eyes of the Wild Comes to Lawrenceville</i>	<i>Sitting With Strangers: How and Why Lawrentians Must Take Diversity Into Their Own Hands</i>	<i>Lessons and Carols of Holiday Cheer</i>	<i>Crossing The (Border) Line: DeSantis' Abuse Of Power</i>	<i>Self and Spirit: Explorations at Lawrenceville!!</i>	<i>The Shipetaukin Creek: Lawrenceville's Campus's Ripple Effect</i>
Summarize in 15 words or less	<i>Wildlife X Sustainability Council event</i>	<i>make sure your lunch table doesn't look like clones of each other</i>	<i>Interviewed Mr. Palmer + the Lawrentians about Lessons and Carols with Sydney</i>	<i>insecure new sophomore has her life changed by Iris Wu and the Republican Party</i>	<i>explorations at lawrenceville...</i>	<i>dirty water next to a parking lot</i>
What was the funniest/worst line?	<i>"Ally-Bino is, in fact, an albino wallaby, with Snow White fur and red eyes."</i>	<i>"So next time you stand in Tsai Commons scanning the room, maybe take the chance to sit with strangers and see what happens, the possibilities of what you may learn are endless. (looking back this is a very funny thought)"</i>	<i>It warms all of our hearts on a cold night</i>	<i>"By giving them a taste of their own medicine, as it were..."</i>	<i>"go read it yourself"</i>	<i>"One student noted that there probably are very few, if any, organisms in the [Lawrenceville] creek, but I would think they would not survive very long."</i>
Would you have published it as an editor?	<i>Yes! Great article on campus events</i>	<i>probably</i>	<i>Definitely</i>	<i>[REDACTED], absolutely [REDACTED]!</i>	<i>of course</i>	<i>perhaps but it took up too much space</i>
anything else that's funny?	<i>spring has sprung! Spend time with special ones outside</i>	<i>nah</i>	<i>Sydney carried</i>	<i>it was a pro-con with garrett and i was SO stressed that someone was opping with me in the public press</i>	<i>I'll think of something soon</i>	<i>strawberry soup</i>