



## Lville Tops \$1.6 Million in Donations to LTEF

**SAMEER MEGHANI '24  
& RICHARD ZHOU '22**  
NEWS ASSOCIATE

On October 7, Head of School Steve Murray H'55 '65 P'16 presented a \$75,000 donation to the Lawrence Township Education Foundation (LTEF), which funds programs that support students and schools in the local area. As one of the major community partners of LTEF, the School has donated annually to LTEF since 1995, bringing its total donation amount to over \$1.6 million.

The LTEF provides grants to Lawrence township teachers who wish to initiate projects outside their schools' budget while "fostering educational excellence, creativity, and achievement," according to their website. Using money fundraised from community members, corporations, and local businesses, LTEF currently gives around \$200,000 annually to approximately 70 programs in all seven of the Lawrence Township Public Schools. These programs serve to create a substantial and lasting impact on students in the public school system by exposing them to innovative and creative ways of learning. Karen Faiman, the Executive Director of LTEF, emphasized how important Lawrenceville's contribution was this year, noting that the LTEF has had to face the problems of the pandemic on top of shrinking school budgets over the past few years.

"We rely heavily on The Lawrenceville's School's contribution because the money goes directly to fund these grants for the teachers, and especially this year, fundraising efforts are going to be a lot harder," she said. "It was very important that the School donated this year, as we don't know where our funding [will] come from other than the support of our corporate and our school partners."

When asked about the donation to LTEF, Murray mentioned

the significance of aiding the local community. "We want to be a good neighbor and a good partner and we believe in education broadly. The town is stronger when there are good public schools and good private schools [that] are working together and collaborating," he said.

While the pandemic has altered LTEF's usual routine, the organization has been working hard to continue supporting local schools. Last spring, the LTEF purchased \$26,000 worth of Chromebooks for students to aid their virtual learning. While all students have been completely online this fall, Lawrence Township plans to begin hybrid learning in November. For this re-opening, Murray hopes that the School's donation will be used to bring more resources to the local public schools. Faiman thinks that the money may be used to "provide grants for technology that will help teachers improve hybrid learning." Currently, the LTEF is looking through all their grant requests to see what they will be able to fund this year.

Before the pandemic, Murray and Faiman had both talked about wanting to expand the relationship between the School and LTEF. Rather than just donating, Murray had planned to bring LTEF more of Lawrenceville's resources such as college counseling and the Gruss Center for Art and Design (GCAD) to collaborate with the teachers and counselors from local public schools.

While Covid-19 has halted these plans, Murray remains optimistic for the future. "It is certainly something that we would be open to getting back to," he said. Through continued conversations, the School and LTEF plan to strengthen their relationship and create more opportunities for collaboration starting as early as next year.



Murray presented a cheque to LTEF. Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

## New Diversity Coordinators Launch Impact Program



New Diversity Coordinators Nuri Friedlander, Beth Foulk, and Kelly Wise.

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

**EMMA KIM '23  
& HELEN LIU '22**  
NEWS ASSOCIATE

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) recently selected three new diversity coordinators: Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach Kelly Wise, Associate Director of College Counseling Beth Foulk, and Religion & Philosophy Teacher Nuri Friedlander. According to Director of Multicultural Affairs Sam Washington '81, these coordinators will be the "primary point people for student programs," working closely with the Student Council, the Diversity Council (DivCo), and the Dean of Students Office in order to "initiate growth and development around initiatives [of] social justice." The OMA recently implemented VILLEage groups and partnered with the National Network of Schools in Partnership (NNSP) and Close Up Foundation to introduce the Impact program to students, which connects 25 Lawrentians with other global peers to build leadership skills.

All three of the new diversity coordinators have extensive experience that prepared them for their new roles. Friedlander, in addition to his Ph.D. in the study of religion with a focus of Islamic studies from Harvard University, developed a course that focused on the spiritual care and counseling in Muslim communities" at Harvard Divinity School and is the current advisor to the Muslim Student Organization and the Philosophy Society at Lawrenceville. He is joined by Foulk, who was previously a Senior Assistant Director of Admissions and Diversity Recruitment at Lehigh University, where she led outreach programs that

aimed to foster a more inclusive learning environment for Hispanic and first-generation students. Finally, Wise has been a member of the Lawrenceville community for 10 years and has been working to instill a mindset of diversity, equity, and inclusion among the young Lawrentians in Personal Development Seminars.

Washington believes that while Lawrenceville's diverse community is one of its greatest assets, action must be taken to truly appreciate this characteristic. "My job is to make sure that we're taking advantage of this amazing resource called diversity, and that all the students who attended Lawrenceville, whether they are here for one year or four years, will leave with a better sense...of themselves and others," he said.

He breaks his diversity plan down into three core questions that will be reinforced in this year's VILLEage Groups: "Who am I?; What can I do to have a positive impact at Lawrenceville?; and What can I do to have a positive impact on the world in which I live?"

"The first question [seeks to understand] self-perspective. 'Who are you?' Gain a better sense of who you are in the bigger picture of a diverse global society. Number two is 'Who are they?' What about these other people? Then, number three is 'Who are we?' What does that make us?," Washington explained.

For Dean of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement Rick Holifield, he has two main goals. His first objective is "to make sure that the campus is a climate that is just, fair, and equitable for all." Specifically, Holifield hopes to look closely at policies, procedures, and practices within Lawrenceville, such as the admissions process, day-to-day classroom environments, and college counseling, to "look for inclusion across

the board so that every student feels welcome, safe, and treated fairly."

On a larger scale, Holifield hopes that students can develop interactive skills to allow them "to truly live in a pluralistic and ever-changing world...It's not good enough to be the smartest person in the classroom. Students need to think about how they manage and have interpersonal skills with other people through empathy, deep listening, and cultural dexterity."

In addition to Holifield's work and as part of OMA's plans, Wise recently spearheaded the beginning stages of the Impact program at Lawrenceville. The program meets every Wednesday until December 16 from 6:30-8:00 PM. During this time, students will focus on developing strategies for advocacy and activism as well as work on identifying and solving issues in their community. At the end of the program, Lawrentians will present their action plan to a guest panel over Zoom.

Participants in the program chose to base their projects on one of the five broad categories: energy and environment, economic inequality, gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights, education, and civic participation. Based on their choices, students were then put into groups to further discuss the causes and symptoms of their topics, finally picking two root issues to focus on.

Reflecting on the first session, Anushka Chintamaneni '23 said, "It was nice to talk about issues that everyone was clearly so passionate about. Although being thrown into a group with complete strangers was weird at first, the discussion kept us all together and engaged...I felt safe and listened to when describing my own experiences and thoughts. I had a lot of fun and learned a lot from just one session, and I can't wait to see what's coming!"

### Canceling "Cancel Culture"

An analysis of cancel culture at Lawrenceville that looks into how it prevents our learning and growth as well as how we should grow from it.



### Behind the Scenes with LSDC

From virtual rehearsals to an eventual showcase performance, learn about how LSDC members have been adapting to Covid-19.



### Boys Varsity Soccer Plays Intrasquad Scrimmage

Recounting the live broadcast event of a fierce battle between black and white jerseys on a gloomy Friday afternoon.





## THE LAWRENCE

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### CORRECTIONS

Readers who notice errors should contact the Managing Editor at emorais21@lawrenceville.org.

### Photo of the Week: Quincy Leung '22



## Editorial

### Unpacking the "College Conversation" Taboo

Every fall, V Formers face looming college application deadlines while having schedules that are chock full of challenging 500 level courses. In the sprint towards early application deadlines, the mere topic of applying to college has become a taboo subject for many students. There seems to be an atmosphere of secrecy surrounding college-related questions and many of us completely steer clear of the topic. While every one of us certainly has a right to our own privacy and we do not need to full-fledgedly share our application plans with others, perhaps the hysteria over dodging this subject has gone too far.

The underlying reasons as to why we avoid the discomfort of these college talks demonstrates how we, as Lawrentians, may have misplaced

*In making comparisons between each other the focal point of why we avoid the conversations, we reinforce the mercenary mindset behind becoming involved with various campus activities and roles.*

certain values within our community. While what college we get into is certainly very important, and the significance of this process in our

lives should not be downplayed, our fear of these conversations highlights two issues: our community's excessive preoccupation with peer-to-peer comparisons and our view of college as the finish-line rather than a checkpoint within our lives.

Most Lawrentians shy away from the mentioning of college applications because it creates stress. However, this stress also comes from a misconception that many of us have about the process. Too often do we see college as the determinant of our hard work over our past three and a half years at Lawrenceville. If we get into our dream schools, then we feel as if our hard work was worthwhile, but if we do not, then we risk believing that we did not do enough to qualify us for an acceptance letter. It goes without saying that placing this much importance and emphasis on only one aspect of our Lawrenceville experience causes us to excessively worry about it. We are essentially hanging by a thread, and we treat college applications as if they're relics on a shrine. Attending a college should not be seen as our ultimate goal, but rather a stepping stone towards our broader life objectives; these applications should not have the ability to make or break us.

Another factor that causes us to steer clear of college talk may also be peer-to-peer competition. For example, if a student who does the debate club, writes for publications, and participates in theater hears about another Lawrentian who does the same activities on top of Varsity sports and is applying to

the same college, unquestionably, the first student will feel stressed. At Lawrenceville, it is almost second-nature for us to compare our-

*Attending a college should not be seen as our ultimate goal, but rather a stepping stone towards our broader life objectives; these applications should not have the ability to make or break us.*

selves with our peers, and we avoid discussions about college applications because knowing about potential competition is worse than not knowing at all. In making these comparisons the focal point of why we avoid the conversations, we reinforce the mercenary mindset behind becoming involved with various campus activities and roles. Rather than completing such activities for our own interest, we end up focusing on one upmanship because we feel as if a lengthier résumé indicates success. While activities do matter to our applications, perhaps Lawrentians are taking extracurriculars to an extreme, causing us to unnecessarily stress about work for the mere sake of rising on top of competition.

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

## Cancelling Cancel Culture

### How Cancel Culture Divides Lawrenceville's Community and Conversations

ANDREW BOANOH '23

"Cancelling" someone has become increasingly popular among Millennials and Gen Z over the last couple of months. We not only "cancel" people as a joke, publicly scrutinizing them for having unpopular sports opinions or liking unusual foods, but also "cancel" groups on a larger scale, such as criticizing social institutions and public corporations. Goya, an American Hispanic-owned food company, for example, was cancelled and boycotted against when CEO Robert Unanue expressed his public support for President Donald Trump. At the root of this trend, though, it is imperative to understand that the modern generation sees cancel culture as a regulation technique—a means of calling out the offensive and obscene in order for others to become more socially aware of the harms that their actions could cause. While cancel culture does exist at Lawrenceville, rather than preventing offensive behaviors, it does little more than incite division, making people afraid to voice their opinions.

When cancel culture is taken to an extreme, people who genuinely regret their actions are shunned without regard for their sincerity. When

asked if cancel culture has permeated Lawrenceville culture, one Lawrentian claimed that it "is definitely prevalent." He or she went on to describe how one can be completely ostracized by a community because of one offensive act he or she commits. By turning against our community members so quickly, we make the mistake of discouraging others to see beyond their perspective, because they will only dwell upon the discomforting and harsh criticism they received. We, as Lawrentians, pride ourselves in our bond as a community, but we cannot maintain these relationships if some of us are constantly wary of being publicly shamed by our peers.

Although Harkness supposedly strives to foster a communal atmosphere in which everyone can speak his or her mind, cancel culture has made some afraid to voice their opinions for fear of retribution. The value of a Harkness education lies in our engagement in respectful and constructive conversations that expand our understanding of topics. However, cancel culture has led many of us to sup-

press unfavorable ideas around the table, particularly ones that concern sensitive topics such as race and culture. For example, if a student were to express a viewpoint about slavery in America that misconstrues its history as a long-standing social institution, more often than not, Lawrentians nowadays would criticize the individual and label him or her as insensitive rather than respectfully point out his or her misconceptions about the topic. At our predominantly liberal

school, republican students are often cancelled, largely because they're not seen as progressive enough. Publicly shunning viewpoints without engaging in conversation with our peers only ignores the purpose of our education.

Not only does cancel culture divide our community, but it also fails in its core purpose. In many cases, people affected by harmful actions or words who "bring up negative experiences" are "largely ignored," and those who perpetuate ideas that can cause harm rarely face serious repercussions. In these cases, the efficacy of cancel culture must be called

into question. If the goal of cancel culture is to change people's opinions, then it fails in that goal because rather than pushing us to continue meaningful conversations, cancel culture ends conversations and leaves each party only less willing to engage in conversation in the future. All told, it creates unnecessary division where it aims to foster unity.

Cancel culture's influence on our classes, conversations, and social lives cannot be ignored. We, as Lawrentians, must continue our non-tolerance of racism, bigotry, sexism, and collective offensiveness, but we must do so in a way that does not divide our community. Without a culture of cancellation and ostracization on campus, we can uphold a standard of respect in conversation for all Lawrentians. 'Cancelling' cancel culture is the way to create a welcoming constructive community for all.



Susan Lee '23 / THE LAWRENCE

# We Need to Confront Realities

## *Church and State: Inseparable Entities*

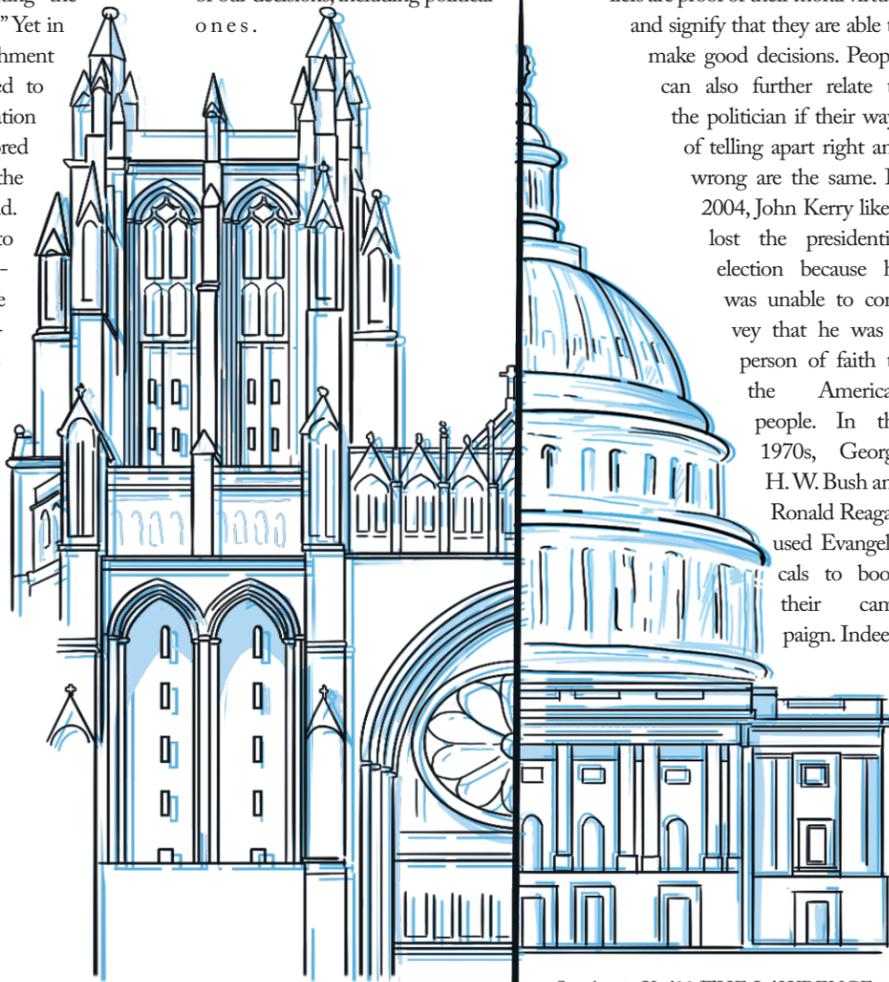
**NECESSARY CONNECTION**  
**CALLUM SHARMA '23**  
 OPINIONS ASSOCIATE

With Amy Coney Barrett's nomination has come a flurry of questions regarding the future of *Roe v. Wade* and abortion rights in the United States. Those who believe that abortion should be banned nearly always do so because of their religious beliefs. In the fight to preserve abortion rights, many have raised the argument that these religious narratives should not influence our laws—we need a separation of church and state. In reality, however, these two topics (religion and politics) cannot be kept from one another. Religion has always been integrated into American politics, as it largely defines morality and colors decision-making throughout the United States. America is predominantly a religious country: 65 percent of voting adults identify with one of the Christian sects, and still more identify with other religions. Our faith is deeply personal and often serves as a part of our moral compass—a way of distinguishing what is right and wrong. Consequently, people support laws that uphold their morals or belief system. This much has been true throughout history and is unlikely to change now. Thus, while we may want to separate church and state, it is simply impossible to do so.

Advocates for the separation of church and state often cite the First Amendment to support their argu-

ment. Indeed, the Establishment Clause sanctioned in 1791 explicitly states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Yet in reality, the Establishment Clause was included to prohibit the creation of state-sponsored churches like the Church of England. It was never meant to erase religion's influence on political life or decisions altogether. The framers who wrote this constitution were deeply religious men—for example, George Washington was an Episcopal who was incredibly active in the religious community and John Adams was even described as a 'church going animal.' In the 1700s, religion was deeply embedded in society, and people nearly always turned to religion as a moral guide for all aspects of life. Thus, it is unlikely that the framers were advocating for a complete separation of church and state in this clause. Religion was a key

part of American society and decision-making back then, and the same is true for today. In reality, religion still defines many of our decisions, including political ones.



Stephanie Xu '23/THE LAWRENCE

According to a Pew Research Center survey, 53 percent of Americans said that they are more likely

to vote for a president that believes in God. This 'faith card' is essential to winning the White House. Many voters feel that a politician's religious beliefs are proof of their moral virtues and signify that they are able to make good decisions. People can also further relate to the politician if their ways of telling apart right and wrong are the same. In 2004, John Kerry likely lost the presidential election because he was unable to convey that he was a person of faith to the American people. In the 1970s, George H. W. Bush and Ronald Reagan used Evangelicals to boost their campaign. Indeed,

renowned historian Bruce Schulman has said that this religious factor shapes "the entire presidential election pro-

cess." In 2016, the Republican Party, spearheaded by Donald Trump, played the "faith card" in an attempt to deflect attacks on his character and morality—they made sure to include Mike Huckabee (an ordained Southern Baptist minister), Ted Cruz (the son of a minister), and Ben Carson (the son of a minister) in the Trump campaign in order to do so. Thus, throughout history and in the present, religion has often defined who is elected to a position of power.

Consequently, those we elect to power, whether they be the president or a member of Congress, are the ones who enact our laws or appoint Supreme Court Justices who determine the validity of our laws. The United States is not a full democracy; rather, it is a democratic republic. As citizens, we elect people who represent our interests to make legislative decisions for us. Thus, if we elect a person whose religious beliefs oppose abortion, we cannot expect them to support legislation that legalizes abortion. By allowing religion to determine our voting patterns, we allow it to determine our legislation.

It is simply impossible to separate religion from politics. Religion has been included in our political system since the beginning, and it still determines many of our political decisions. This does not only apply to Christianity—though it is the predominant religion in the United States, every faith has the power to influence politics. Ultimately, try as we might to separate church and state from each other, they will remain intertwined.

## *Best for All Agreement: Time to Act on Our Promises*

**SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES**  
**UMA ZIMMERMAN '23**

From the way we attend classes to the way we socialize with each other, Covid-19 has completely changed our Lawrenceville experience. While the School has made a clear effort to create a semblance of normalcy amidst this pandemic, our student body has been poorly following the Best for All (BFA) agreement that allowed us to return to campus in the first place. Many of us either downplay Covid-19's effect on our health or are unaware of how easily the virus can spread. Consequently, we fail to follow the school-imposed guidelines. Yet students are not the only ones to blame. So far, the administration has not only failed to hold students accountable for their misbehavior but also unsuccessfully conveyed the whole set of rules students need to follow clearly. While all Lawrentians know the basic principles—wear your POM and mask and socially distance—we either forget about or do not know about other regulations aside from the primary ones; thus, the administration needs to be more diligent about reminding us. If we want to avoid returning to online schooling in the terms ahead, not only do Lawrentians need to understand that the virus is not another age-old joke and abide by BFA standards,

but our faculty members also need to better help us achieve this goal. As a community, we do not yet realize how easily the virus could spread and hence trivialize the importance of following school regulations. Although many of us have become more cautious of following social distancing rules, many people are still leaving their POM tracers in their dorms and forgetting to fill out the Covid-19 symptom checker on Sentinel. These are fairly easy protocols—we shouldn't be having trouble following them. Yet we are utterly failing to follow the most important rule: staying six-feet-apart. As we re-enter the "Lawrenceville bubble," many of us have felt as though Covid-19 cannot reach our campus as if we're invincible. We're not. In the event of an outbreak, social distancing allows us to slow the spread of the virus as the school scrambles to contain it. Any contact (3-6 feet) with another person could expose them to the virus; thus, without social distancing, the virus could spread across campus before we're even aware of it. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Covid-19 can be spread even by people who do not display symptoms. Though we do test regularly, it takes roughly three days for the tests to come back. In that time, an asymptomatic student may move about campus, closely interacting with other students and endangering them without realizing it.

But aside from the potential that Covid-19 may become widespread with our current social distancing behavior, many of us simply do not understand the health impacts that the virus could have on our lives, and we downplay its significance. Most of us currently only see Covid-19 as another flu: we get it, we get it, we lie sick in bed for a week, and return to our daily lives. However, what makes Covid-19 dangerous is not its short-term effects, but its long-term ones. Covid-19 is not just another flu; it's health impacts are more severe. The virus may result in permanent lung damage, strokes, seizures, and cognitive decline or mental fogging in patients months after contracting the illness. Even if a patient is asymptomatic, he or she may

still have lung abnormalities in the later stages of his or her life. But the reason as to why we see doctors and health officials worrying about this virus is also because Covid-19 is new, and we do not have enough scientific knowledge about the virus to ensure that our current protective measures are truly keeping us safe in the long run. The best means for any of us to stay safe and not regret our decisions down the line is to avoid contracting the illness and to help our peers do the same. Student failings aren't the only thing keeping us from following the BFA agreement. There is also a lack of clarity on the administration's part on which rules exist and don't exist. Of course,

we all know about social distancing, wearing masks and POMs, and doing our Covid-19 symptom checker, but many students are having a hard time understanding other rules, such as whether or not we are allowed to eat on porches and in other houses' yards or attend feeds. The problem with all of these minor regulations is that we have not been reminded of them on a frequent enough basis to remember them. A potential solution could include sending an all-school email each week to list any modifications to the BFA rules, or announcing them at School Meeting. After all, if we have a fully defined set of rules that we are frequently reminded of, then there will be fewer misconceptions about what we can and cannot do. Moreover, the administration has also failed to clarify the consequences of breaching the most basic regulations. For example, if students have been sent home or forced to self-quarantine due to Covid-19 related infractions, then anonymous announcements must be made so that we are not lulled into a sense of false security and that we understand the severity of breaching these regulations. It is important to understand that having a safe and successful school year is possible despite the pandemic. If students follow the rules diligently and the administration is more forthcoming with information, we can best protect each other and remain at Lawrenceville for the entirety of the term.



## Catching up with StuCo: VP of Academics John Weaver '21

AUTRI BASU '23  
NEWS ASSOCIATE

Over the past few months, Vice President of Academics John Weaver '21 has been working alongside Dean of Academics David Laws P'21'23 to help plan out the new academic calendar and adjust the workload. As students become accustomed to a hybrid Fall Term, Weaver hopes to continue to implement his goals for the school year.

Explaining the new schedule, Weaver said, "It was a challenge for a lot of people to stay on top of their work in the spring...so [we wanted] to have a little bit of a shortened workload with less class time but slightly more homework." This modified schedule, designed to ease stress, allows students to spend the same time doing work in a given week while giving them longer blocks of free time and more time between classes.

One of Weaver's main goals for this year is to increase the resources available to students so that they can "thrive academically." He has also introduced a weekly academic newsletter, which includes tips and tricks to help students succeed in the classroom, inspirational quotes, messages for motivation, and a word of the week.

Weaver is also planning on introducing an optional Saturday evening study hall, where he envisions "students all coming together on a Saturday evening to get some work done in the Heely Room, the Ambrecht Room, or another public space. This would allow students to collaborate on their work." While he has been unable to implement these plans thus far due to social distancing requirements, he hopes to work with the administration to create either in-person socially-distanced study spaces or organize Zoom

study sessions in the near future.

Another focus of Weaver's platform is to increase student morale by highlighting Lawrentians' achievements and increasing participation during school meetings. This year, he changed the format of the Intellectual of the Month award: "Now, it's not just something that I decide or StuCo decides...the award is decided after a student nominates another student, which I hope will increase academic discussion between students."

In addition, he has been designing different brain games that can be played online so that students can bond during school meetings. Weaver wants to create activities that "require intense academic knowledge so that students can showcase what they can do while also winning House points in the process." Once school meetings return to an in-person format, he also intends on adding activities where people interact with those who sit beside them, meeting new people in the process. With these modifications to school meetings, Weaver wants to help "spread positivity among the School community, especially in a year as difficult as this [one]."

Currently, he has been focusing on speaking with the faculty about introducing periodic no homework days throughout the term so that students can have a break from the stressful pace of life at Lawrenceville. In addition, he and the rest of Student Council have been emphasizing the importance of respect and dignity in the classroom to provide all students with a healthy and safe learning environment.

Reflecting on the upcoming year, Weaver said, "Despite the setbacks that have been caused by Covid-19, I'm hopeful and excited for my plans in the future, and I will do my best to support the School community."

## Dasariraju '23 Published in Bioengineering Journal

CONAN CHEN '24  
& IAN LEE '24

This summer, Satvik Dasariraju '23 published his science research project in the latest issue of the journal *Bioengineering*. Through the iResearch Institute, a summer research program geared towards high school students pursuing scientific research projects, Dasariraju received mentorship from a Stanford student and the head director of iResearch to create a method of diagnosing leukemia using machine learning algorithms.

On his interest in science, Dasariraju said, "I've always been really interested in science. Ever since I was four I have been reading a lot of books about science. This summer, when I did the program at iResearch Institute, I really enjoyed learning about biomedical engineering and its importance while being able to implement computational skills and engineering techniques to solve medical problems."

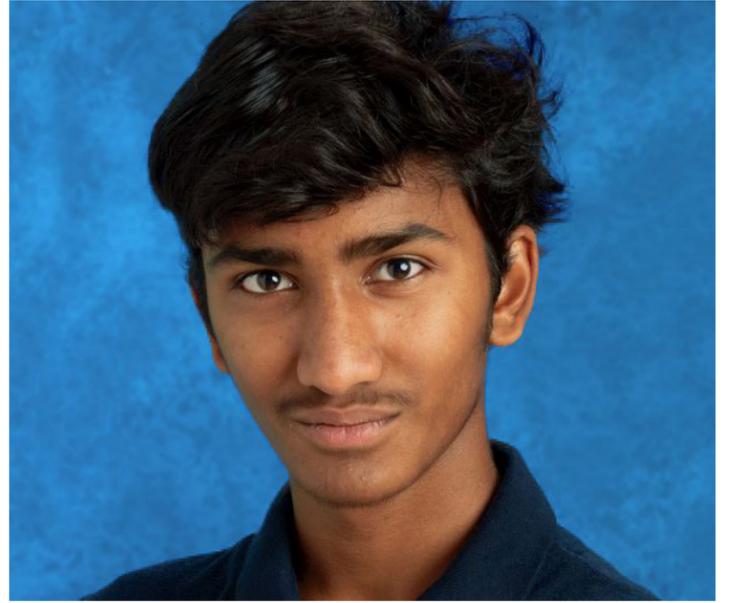
Writing for the journal also gave Dasariraju experience and insight into scientific writing and the process of scientific inquiry. "Writing a scientific research paper is very different from writing papers in English...but the biggest thing I took away is that if you're passionate, focused, and really driven, then there's nothing that will stop you," Dasariraju said.

For his research process, Dasariraju's first step involved processing thousands of images of white blood cells from Internet databases to identify which important parts to isolate. Secondly, he extracted 16 different leukocyte features, creating multiple algorithms

to aid the process. Through his research, he identified two novel color features of white blood cells. After the features were identified and extracted, Dasariraju trained a machine-learning algorithm in Python to classify and detect immature blood cells that are typically found in leukemia. This machine learning classifier achieved 92.99 percent accuracy in detecting immature leukocytes, and

sify it...An automatic approach to classifying blood cells is much more efficient." The current length of leukemia diagnosis is around two to three weeks, which requires a series of imaging and blood tests that are processed by a physician. When considering the severity of leukemia, saving time in a diagnosis could become the difference between life and death.

Looking forward, Dasariraju



Satvik Dasariraju '23.

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

93.45 percent accuracy is classifying them, higher accuracies than current detection methods.

The implications of his projects are far-reaching. Explaining his program, Dasariraju said, "[The algorithm] can be used as a support tool for doctors to efficiently, accurately, and quickly diagnose leukemia. The current method for diagnosing leukemia is very time consuming and prone to a lot of error because the clinician needs to look at each blood cell and clas-

hopes to publish more papers in high school and college while continuing his involvement in the bioengineering and computer science fields. On his accomplishment, he said, "Don't let your age limit you. Just because you don't have a Ph.D. doesn't mean you can't do research. Be driven and be motivated in your goals. No matter what age you are, you can always contribute to science and gain a better understanding of the world to help other people."

## Final Presidential Debate with the Young Democrats Club!

CLAIRE JIANG '24  
NEWS ASSOCIATE  
& TIFFANY YEUNG '22

This past Thursday, October 22, the Young Democrats Club hosted a screening of the final presidential debate from 9:00 to 10:30 PM. The socially distant event took place on a big screen outside of the Bathhouse, as members of the Lawrenceville community observed presidential candidates Joe Biden and Donald Trump discuss topics including Covid-19, American families, race in America, climate change, national security, and leadership.

The debate was held in Nashville, Tennessee's Belmont University, with NBC News' Kristen Welker moderating between Trump and Biden. The event, which is the second and final presidential debate, was held in person with proper social distancing and safety protocols enforced, and the participants' microphones were physically muted during certain portions of the debate to implement more structure, an improvement from the last debate.

After last year's success with screenings of the primary debates, President of the Young Democrats



Young Democrats Club hosted a screening of the debate outside the Bathhouse.

Chelsea Wang '21/THE LAWRENCE

Club Chelsea Wang '21 expressed, "[I] wanted to replicate that experience as much as possible...I think that being online or on a Zoom call watching the debate is just not the same." According to Wang, this screening helped serve the Young Democrats' goal of "[promoting] po-

litical participation."

"I think this is the perfect way to do it since I think that someone should be encouraging people to watch the debate," she said.

Vice President of the Young Democrats Club Jessica Fernandez '22 added, "We really wanted to educate

and empower everyone to advocate... for others to vote because voting is one of the most important powers that we all have. We also wanted to encourage others to continue learning about the political system in this country by watching the debate...It's important for us, even in high school,

to utilize not only the resources that Lawrenceville provides us but the resources that we all have within our communities and our homes."

Despite Young Dem's left-leaning stance on political issues, Wang encouraged students from all sides of the political spectrum to attend the event and stay informed. She wanted students "to develop their own thoughts when listening to the two candidates" as they think "about the issues and flaws they find in [each] candidate."

According to Wang, "At Lawrenceville, it's important to stay informed no matter what your beliefs are as an essential part of our education. We're not just here to learn information but also here to think. I hope everyone who came to the debate thinks about it a little more."

Following the event, Fernandez reflected, "I loved being able to watch the debates with other students. There were a lot of changes in the planning process [due to] the fact that we are still in the middle of a pandemic, so it was a little nerve-wracking to think about all the things that we can't do this year. However, it was really exciting for us to be able to hold this socially distanced event as a club."

# Election Interviews: Young Democrats & Young Republicans

*Sara Xu '22 sits down with Jessica Fernandez '22 of Young Democrats & Nico Torres '22 of Young Republicans to discuss the 2020 presidential election.*

SARA XU '22  
FEATURES ASSOCIATE

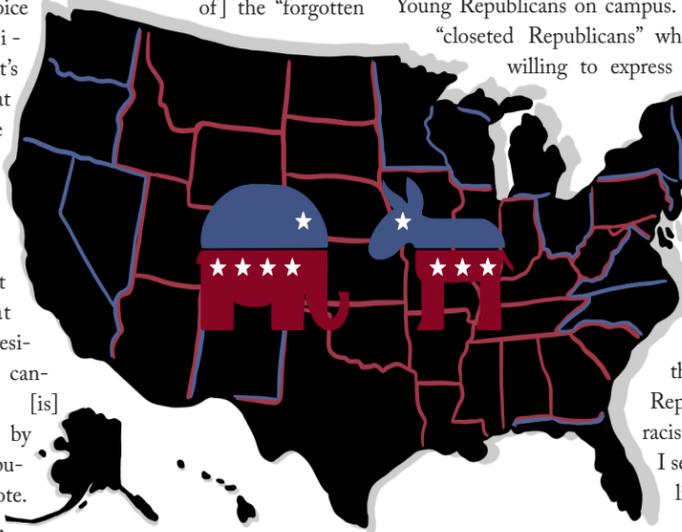
**Sara Xu '22: Who do you support in this presidential election and why?** Jessica Fernandez '22: I support the Biden-Harris Campaign. For me, it's less about identifying with and agreeing with Biden's policies and more about necessity. We've seen what Trump has done for the past four years in office and even before that. It's a sad reality that our choice comes down to Trump or Biden, but if I were able to vote, my only option would be Biden. Nico Torres '22: I consider myself, at the moment, a Republican without a party. My ideologies are conservative, and while I am not an avid supporter of President Donald Trump, I would vote for him. The presidency should be a universally respected office; however, [Trump's] politicizing of mask-wearing and [failure to condemn] white supremacy do not resonate well with me. Nevertheless, the presidential office in general has power regarding fiscal matters, foreign policy, and nominations for positions. I would vote for President Trump because having a Republican president at the helm of the executive branch is an aid towards affirming conservative values. **SX: Which issues do you feel are particularly polarizing and/or mean the most to you?** JF: Immigration and police brutality would definitely be some of the top issues that are dividing our country. Regarding immigration, young children [are] being separated from their parents, which is inhumane and disturbing. I'm thinking about all these families who come to the U.S. and find themselves in cages as if they're animals. When

it comes to police brutality, rioting, in my view, is justified. For far too long, African-Americans and members of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) community have faced a reality that many of us have [had] the privilege to overlook and ignore. We need to focus on why [these riots happen], and this "why" should lead to more legislation being passed to address these issues. NT: The issue that matters the most to me is securing the electoral college [so we do not silence the voice of] the "forgotten

American." Let's say that the electoral college ceases to exist and that the presidential candidate [is] chosen by the popular vote. Then, each party's candidates would only focus on densely populated areas. If you focus only on [rallying] one portion of the population, then what about [voters] in suburban or rural areas? That said, I would also like to see reform concerning rogue electors. **SX: How has Young Democrats or Young Republicans influenced you and your interest in politics?**

JF: I've always had a strong interest in politics. This past summer, I interned for my district congressman in California and educated his constituents on how to vote. Understanding the nuances of voting has helped frame my goals as Vice President of Young Democrats. Through this club, I've come to realize how important it is to spread information, especially about voting, and to stay up to date with political matters. NT: I believe that it's very important to have Young Republicans on campus. I know so many "closeted Republicans" who aren't willing to express their opinions because of what people automatically associate with the idea of Republicanism, especially those who deem Republicans to be racists or bad people. I see Young Republicans as a safe haven for me to express my beliefs, knowing that other people in the club share similar values. I hope others view the club in that light as well and will be more willing to openly express their views—that's my goal. **SX: How can the Lawrenceville community best stay knowledgeable about the election?** JF: One way would definitely be to come out to our

screening of the final presidential debate. Another way is to follow Beyond the Ballot, an organization created by [Grayson Miller '21 and Devin Carr '21], and connect with [its] social media platform and website. [Beyond the Ballot has] insightful and bipartisan information that is helpful for people who strongly identify with one party and for those who aren't sure what party their values align with. NT: Social media is an important tool, but we can also stay informed by using resources from our peers, such as articles written in *The First Amendment* or *The Lawrence*. Obviously not all of us can vote, but those [who] can should register. **SX: What are some common misconceptions people have about Democrats and Republicans?** JF: I definitely think that [people believe] all Democrats are young, idealistic liberals with strong views on controversial topics like [abortion]. This is simply not the case, and I would say [that] for both parties, a lot of people are centrist rather than completely left-wing or right-wing. Take for example Joe Biden, a moderate Democrat, versus AOC (Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez), a more liberal Democrat. NT: A lot of misconceptions about Republicans stem from President Trump. I see statements like "If you vote for President Trump, you're a racist" on infographics posted on Instagram stories all the time, which pushes forward the idea that Republicans [are] bad people. Being a conservative and voting for a Republican does not [mean that I], or other Republicans on campus, have immoral values. Hopefully, once Donald Trump's presidential career is over, there can be a Republican figure that will represent the party well and garner respect, especially in the liberal parts of the U.S.



Stephanie Xu '23/THE LAWRENCE

## Class of 2020 Profiles: Deven Kinney '20 & Makayla Boxley '20



Deven Kinney '20. Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

CAROLINE STEIB '22  
FEATURES ASSOCIATE  
Deven Kinney '20

Deven Kinney '20 did not expect his daily morning routine at Yale to consist of waking up, getting dressed, and sitting down at his desk to open up Zoom. Regardless of the fact that his freshman year is unusual on multiple accounts, Kinney said that "there is just so much to love about Yale." He particularly adores the collaborative, laid-back campus culture as well as hearing about the incredible stories that brought his peers to Yale. Thus far, Kinney has noticed that his teachers and a schedule play less of a role in structuring his academic pursuits than they did at Lawrenceville. For example, instead of having to read a designated number of pages per night in his English class at Yale, Kinney simply knows the final objective of his assignment—to finish a novel by the end of the week—and can take individual liberties in determining how he wishes to accomplish the task. Kinney has also had to adjust to new class sizes, such as his economics lecture, which he said is upwards of 400 students, while still advocating

for his learning when needed. While he aims to keep an open mind, he plans to pursue one or two majors at Yale and is currently deciding between economics, history, or global affairs. Kinney naturally dived right into Yale's campus life and currently holds multiple roles in different clubs. He joined the Model United Nations team at Yale, noting that it is more competitive and active compared to the team at Lawrenceville. He also sings for the Yale Glee Club, tutors with Bridges ESL, and is the Secretary of the First Year Class Council. As a leader in his class, Kinney has, nevertheless, met his fair share of challenges this past couple of months; for example, he has had to plan multiple social events that still unite his peers in a virtual setting. While he has enjoyed his time at Yale so far, Kinney misses his Lawrenceville career from time to time, particularly the intimacy of the community: "I took [it] for granted that I would see my teachers walking their dogs, or my coach eating dinner in Irwin." Kinney also commented that Lawrenceville's social media platforms provoke a lot of nostalgia for him. He follows all of the accounts and cannot help but reminisce about his time in the Periwig Club after seeing posts about Clue: On Stage, this year's production of the fall play. He also misses Club Stan, Spring Dance Concert, Hill Weekend, and sporting events at Lawrenceville, but there's one thing he certainly does not miss: Saturday classes. Reflecting on his last year at Lawrenceville, specifically the college admissions process, Kinney offers some beneficial advice to current V Formers. "The college process is really stressful—we have all been there—and as cheesy as it sounds, you will end up where you belong. It might not work out the way you thought it would, it will be challenging, and it will be stressful, so trust the process and lean on relationships that you have built for years at Lawrenceville." He particularly advises those who stress easily to not let the process get to their heads and instead to present their true authentic selves to the schools that they are applying to.



Makayla Boxley '20. Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

Makayla Boxley '20

Ultimately, Boxley views law school enthusiastically as a possibility for her graduate degree. Boxley's Lawrenceville education, particularly two of her classes, played an instrumental role in shaping her interest in the law. She praised History Teacher Lawrence Filippone's Honors U.S. History class, in which he focused his students' learning on the long-term significances of historical decisions, allowing her to focus on "analyzing what can be fixed in the future." Secondly, she found her favorite senior elective—African American Literature with English Teacher Wilburn Williams H'02 '06—to be particularly moving, as the texts "shaped [her] own experience as a black person in America." Her experience in this course served as the primary impetus for her consideration of law as a potential career. Pursuing her passion for broadcasting and reporting, which she did for four years with L10, Boxley claims her "most exciting" pastime at Amherst yet is the Radio News Show. She interviews guests, offers advice per request, and even performs music for her audience. What's even more special is that the show shares the station with New England Public Media, meaning that Boxley isn't merely participating in a school-only channel but one that is publicly accessible. After participating in the Northwestern Medill School of Journalism Summer Program prior to her V Form year, Boxley realized that while she's deeply passionate about journalism and media, she felt she could have a more meaningful impact in the world through another career, such as law. While Boxley sometimes misses the activities and packed schedule of her Lawrenceville life, she can confirm that Amherst has treated her well in regard to providing "more time to breathe and the possibility of taking a nap" every once in a while. With that said, Boxley also finds comfort in the multiple similarities that Amherst and Lawrenceville share—including, but not limited to, the window frames of her dorm room, which are shockingly similar to those of Dawes House, the community feeling of a smaller student body, and Mammoth Day, Amherst's rendition of Head of School Day.

# Dance Continues on Campus: LSDC Preview

YEE XIN CHER '22

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed many unprecedented challenges for Lawrenceville, especially for those involved in the performing arts, as many student-artists needed to adapt to new social distancing protocols to keep their programs alive. Last year, the Lawrenceville School Dance Collective (LSDC) had its inaugural season, with its eight dancers and two apprentices performing two showcases for the Lawrenceville community and one in the Bristol Myers Squibb office building. This year's program features five dancers—Yee Xin Cher '22, Evelyn Dugan '21, Corinne Johnson '23, Elizabeth Pierre-Louis '22, Isabel Sung '22—as well as two apprentices: Calvin Chen '21 and Aoife Kilfeather '24. The program is, again, led by Director of Dance and Director of LSDC Derrick Wilder, Dance Teacher Kristin Devine-Jones '10, and Dance Teacher Erica Mero.

This term, the Collective has been primarily preparing for its showcase at the end of the month, which will be held on October 30 at 7:00 PM in the Kirby Arts Center (KAC) with guest performances by other dance groups. The dancers began virtual rehearsals through Zoom during the second week of online classes and faced many challenges, such as a lack of space in their rooms and unstable WiFi connection. In addition,

the dancers noted that Zoom's mirror-imaging often caused confusion, and its slight audio lag made it difficult to ensure that everyone was understanding counts in the same way. To accommodate the time needed to clear any confusion that might ensue when in-person rehearsals began, the dancers' rehearsal schedules this term primarily consisted of goals that needed to be completed by the end of each week. As a first-year member of the Collective, Johnson mentioned how, despite the challenges, her virtual rehearsal experience was beneficial because the dancers did not "dive into" the choreography "head first," which made for a "smooth transition" into the Collective. Wilder also noted that, with the hours of virtual rehearsals, "The hunger and desire for the dancers to perform sparked a renewed purpose and energy [within] the company."

As the School transitioned into hybrid learning, in-person rehearsals gradually began and are currently held in both the dance studios and the tent behind the KAC. Each dancer participates in three dances and practices with peers three times a week in two-hour sessions. The apprentices follow a similar schedule but each only dance in one piece. Although LSDC members were initially worried about the transition from online to in-person rehearsals, Wilder commented, "Dancers [always need to be] ready to adapt on a

moment's notice...It is their nature and the core of who we really are!"

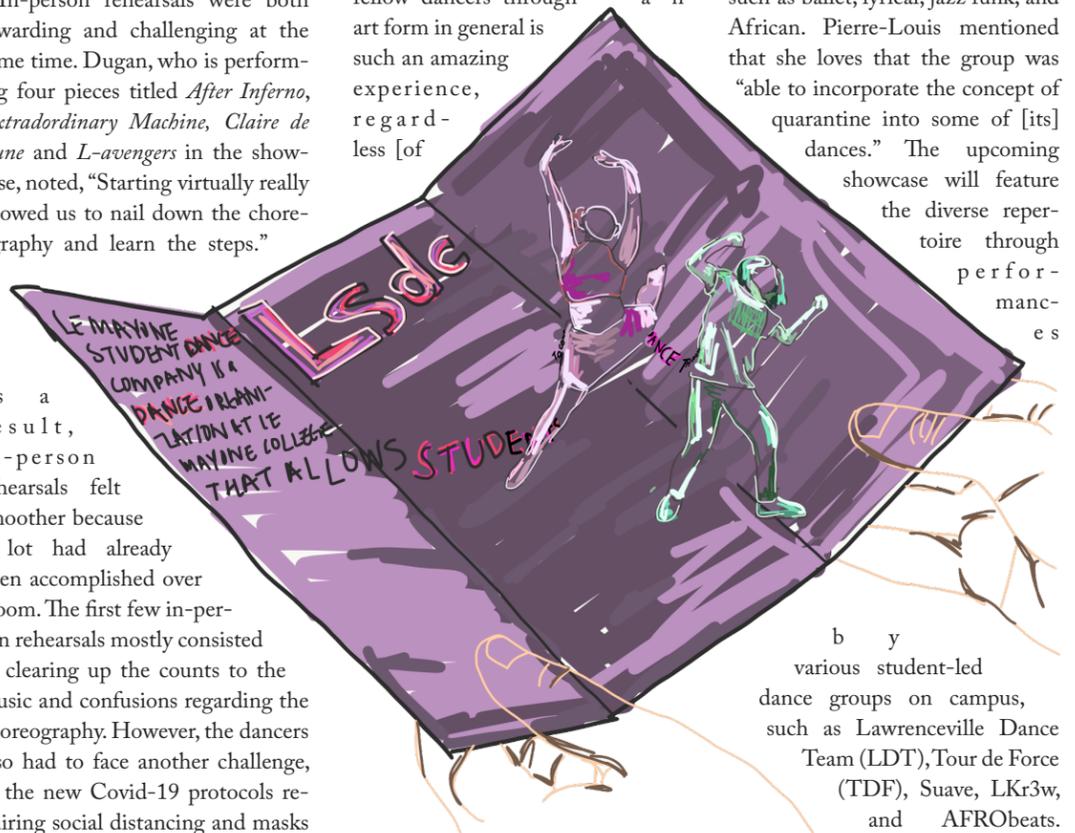
In-person rehearsals were both rewarding and challenging at the same time. Dugan, who is performing four pieces titled *After Inferno*, *Extrordinary Machine*, *Claire de Lune* and *L-avengers* in the showcase, noted, "Starting virtually really allowed us to nail down the choreography and learn the steps."

As a result, in-person rehearsals felt smoother because a lot had already been accomplished over Zoom. The first few in-person rehearsals mostly consisted of clearing up the counts to the music and confusions regarding the choreography. However, the dancers also had to face another challenge, as the new Covid-19 protocols requiring social distancing and masks imposed limits on the choreography. The Collective has had to adopt more creative measures to ensure that dancers maintain six-foot distances throughout group dances and that masks do not hinder performance quality. Regardless, Dugan commented, "It's just great being back together because we can still feel each other's energy even though

we can't hold each other physically."

"Being able to connect with my fellow dancers through an art form in general is such an amazing experience, regardless [of

as well as collaborative pieces incorporating a variety of dance styles such as ballet, lyrical, jazz funk, and African. Pierre-Louis mentioned that she loves that the group was "able to incorporate the concept of quarantine into some of [its] dances." The upcoming showcase will feature the diverse repertoire through performances



Sally Lee '23/THE LAWRENCE

whether it is] through Zoom or in person...to finally be able to dance with human connection is something I'm really grateful for," said Sung.

This term's showcase will feature a mix of student-choreographed and teacher-choreographed repertoires

by various student-led dance groups on campus, such as Lawrenceville Dance Team (LDT), Tour de Force (TDF), Suave, LKr3w, and AFRObeats. The series will be Halloween-themed and titled, "Things that go 'BOO'gie in the Night!"

"I am proud of the showcase that we have put together, but most of all, proud of the commitment and the dedication of the dancers. I know our community will be BOOgieing in [its] seats," said Wilder.

# Fall 2020 Fashion Trends: All About Expression

REDDING WORTH '23

Fashion trends have a more profound purpose than simply curating stylish aesthetics: they take inspiration from the general society's constant shifts and changes. 2020 has been a year of both social activism and health concerns. The social normalcy that we've ever used to has been disrupted, and we see similar themes of anticipation for a brighter future and challenging existing stereotypes, in this fall's fashion trends: Y2k, monochrome, all-things-leather and menswear-inspired styles.

Society has experienced similar times of social upheaval in the past, and in 2020, previous styles that appeared during those troubling times are re-emerging. This year, we are presented with "Y2k," a style that was popular in the early 2000s. It was inspired by a programming bug that was predicted to disrupt computer systems at the turn of a new century. The Y2k bug had generated uncertainty and skepticism among people at the time: some saw it as the end of the world while others thought of it as the beginning of a new era. Respectively, the Y2k style reflected those apprehensive, yet forward-looking emotions through its bright colors and futuristic designs that captured a shiny, technological aesthetic. Although 2020 does not mark the beginning of a new century, it's certainly filled with similar sentiments of uncertainty and even hopes for a fresh start. Consequently, the fashion world has brought back the Y2k style, fea-

turing items such as argyle sweater vests, brightly-colored hair clips, saddlebags, and baby-doll tees. These items hold simple silhouettes that exude bold, ornamental, and slick aesthetics to emphasize a readiness for a technologically-advanced, perhaps utopian future. Sweater vests are best styled over button up shirts and paired with loose trousers or funky pants. Throwing it over a dress creates an easy, chic, and effortless look that will never fail to impress your most fashionable friends. You will also commonly see them over a polo with a pleated tennis skirt. Accessories like saddlebags or hair clips can elevate any outfit by adding a sophisticated edge. Britney Spears, commonly acclaimed as a 2000's style icon, rocked the baby doll tee with low rise bootcut jeans on many red carpets and even while visiting the grocery store. Y2k items are often worn to reflect hopes for a brighter future or reminders of simpler times.

As society continues to challenge gender stereotypes, the line between menswear and womenswear is becoming ever so blurred. Moreover, the menswear-inspired womenswear trend has emerged in the form of blazers. Blazers have always been associated with menswear, as the

structure and fit are often stereotyped as masculine. However, we are beginning to see many female pop icons, such as Rihanna, Gigi Hadid, and Kendall Jenner, make an effort to break this trend by styling their outfits with



Sally Lee '23/THE LAWRENCE

blazers on the red carpet. Existing in many different materials and

silhouettes (leather, wool, belted, or cropped), blazers are extremely versatile and can be dressed both up or down. Their utility makes them applicable to every occasion ranging from working an office job to going out with friends. These jackets can be paired with kitten heels, high boots or maxi dresses for a more fancy look, and with track pants, trousers, graphic tees or jeans for a casual style. Blazers lie at the center of a menswear-inspired-womenswear movement that is slowly breaking down gender stereotypes and developing a more progressive world.

The past year has been anything but normal, and the fashion world is reciprocating this abnormality by stepping outside the box and putting new, spirit-lifting twists on old trends. This fall, the classic black leather jacket has been replaced by diverse selections of colored leather ranging from yellow, butter brown, to a deep red. Fendi, Versace and Salvatore Ferragamo are just a few luxury brands that have showcased colorful, head-to-toe leather outfits this season in their Fall collections. Leather pieces ranging from pants, blazers, dresses to trench coats, are great statement pieces that do not require much effort to style. They can be paired with tiny sunglasses, strappy heels, or funky boots. Colored leather is a great way of adding edge to your outfits and, at the same time, exuding vitality and positivity with color.

Despite the emergence of more color in this year's fall fashion, another trend has been popular amongst those who wish to strive for simplicity and balance: monochrome. The appearance of this style indicates society's current desire of ending 2020 in normality instead of chaos. Minimalistic, understated and undeniably chic, monochromatic outfits layer different hues of the same color to achieve a simple, visually-pleasing balance. Mixing textures, whether that be wool, leather, or denim, makes an outfit feel more three-dimensional despite lack of variation in color. Subdued color choices emphasize neutral colors such as brown or white, but many choose to style yellow, blue, or red outfits to create playful statements. Monochromatic outfits are an easy way of implementing simplicity and balance into one's life without missing sophistication.

Fashion is all about experimentation. It's about breaking societal norms and crafting your own identity through clothing. Each trend provides an avenue for one to express themselves and to challenge social limitations and rigidity. Even if these trends seem universal today, they were created by artists who stepped out of their comfort zones, and may have been, at times, opposed by the status quo. So, I encourage you to play with prints, colors and all different types of clothes to create your own trends; let fashion help you write your own narrative, because style is a lot more than just fabric.

# Predictions for The 2020 College Football Season

BRIAN KASTENBERG '22

College football is officially back! After university promises, player opt-outs, and political controversy, somehow, with the Pacific-12 Conference (Pac-12) and Big Ten Conference (Big Ten) finally opting back into play, all of the Power Five conferences are returning to the turf. With these conferences back in action, college football fans will rabidly discuss their favorite question: Who will make the College Football Playoff? Every year, people debate over the accuracy of College Football Playoff (CFP) Selection Committee's decisions, which are based on the supposedly "simple" comparison of one team's schedule difficulty and record to another's. This year, however, the selection will be more challenging, as each Power Five conference will play a different number of games, giving some teams a larger sample size than others for the committee to judge. Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) teams will play 11 games, the South Eastern Conference (SEC) and the Big 12 will play 10, the Big Ten will play nine, and teams in the Pacific-12 (Pac-12) will play seven.

Would an undefeated team in the Pac-12 deserve to make the playoff? In short, probably not. The Pac-12 Conference has become progressively weaker in recent years, and it is the one conference without a singular year-in, year-out powerhouse team to buoy the rest of the conference. The two teams that are by far the best in the division, the University of Oregon Ducks and the University of Southern California Trojans, both lost top talent to graduation, the draft, or, in rare cases, some opted out of the 2020 season due to Covid-19, like Oregon's probable top-five NFL



Courtesy of cbssports.com

Draft pick Penei Sewell. The Pac-12's standard compares poorly to the elite level of competition in the ACC and SEC, the two conferences that combine to account for five of the favorites to make the playoffs. Oregon, while being the top-ranked Pac-12 team, is currently slotted in at number 13 in the Associated Press (AP) Top 25 Poll, which does not necessarily signal serious postseason contention considering only four teams will make it. Per the All-state Playoff Predictor, an undefeated Pac-12 team would still have a mere 44 percent chance of making the playoffs despite the relative ease in reaching 7-0.

Football fans should expect at least one Big Ten team to make the postseason though, given that Big Ten teams are set to play two more games and typically face a higher level of competition. The Big Ten is a top-three conference in football for good reason, with

perennial title contenders like the Ohio State University Buckeyes and Penn State University Nittany Lions. No Big Ten team has an easy schedule, and therefore a 9-1 record in the Big Ten would be far harder to achieve than a 7-0 in the Pac-12. The Buckeyes and Nittany Lions seem ahead of a formidable pack, also including the University of Michigan Wolverines (one should expect another end-of-year ranking of 18-23, as has become status quo under Head Coach Jim Harbaugh), University of Iowa Hawkeyes, and the University of Wisconsin Badgers (I would only start genuinely believing 2020 is the apocalypse if Wisconsin does not have another All-American running back). Long story short, the Big-10 is once again very, very good.

Without further ado, here are my playoff predictions:

## 1. Clemson Tigers

Dabo Swinney builds teams that are ridiculously deep on both sides of the line. Clemson may be the only team in the nation whose third and fourth-stringers see the field in the second half after their starters torch whichever unfortunate opponent lays in their way. Not to mention, Clemson has the likely number one overall pick for the 2021 NFL Draft in Trevor Lawrence, who is playing at an unparalleled level, having thrown 10 touchdowns and over 1,100 passing yards, posting an unreal 183.4 passer rating. His offensive partner in crime, running back Travis Etienne, another future first round pick, is amazingly somehow still a top-25 rusher despite having missed a game.

## 2. Alabama Crimson Tide

Welcome back to the CFP, Alabama. The Tide did not lose as many players as it usually does

to the NFL, except quarterback Tua Tagovailoa and a pair of top receivers, and they absurdly still have one of the best receiver corps in all of college football with Jaylen Waddle and Devonta Smith. Its offensive line has serious depth and they once again have a glut-tony of defensive talent, including linebacker prospect Dylan Moses, to help Nick Saban lead the team back to the promised land.

## 3. Ohio State Buckeyes

The Buckeyes definitely lost talent last year, the most notable being cornerback Jeff Okudah (picked third overall in the 2020 NFL Draft), but they will return with what many consider the top offense in the country, led by 2019 Heisman Memorial Trophy candidate and dual-threat quarterback Justin Fields. While the defense may not meet its usual standard in Columbus, it most likely will not matter with an offense that can blow out almost any opponent.

## 4. Georgia Bulldogs

Picking the fourth and final spot required a difficult decision: whether to pick Georgia or the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. I settled on the Bulldogs, anticipating both teams will only lose to their conference's probable champions (Alabama and Clemson). Alabama already defeated Georgia, but Clemson's potential to convincingly beat the Fighting Irish in both the regular season and the conference championship could rule the Irish out while Georgia keeps it close in a rematch. The level of competition that Georgia has played so far also exceeds that of Notre Dame, crushing the Auburn University Tigers by three touchdowns and then number-14 University of Tennessee Volunteers by 23 points.

# A Day in the Life of a Lawrenceville Athlete

TIFFANY YEUNG '22  
STAFF WRITER

The cacophonous sound of my alarm wakes me up at 6:30 AM every morning. In reality, though, I snooze it and go right back to sleep. Since classes start later this year, my mornings really begin around 7:15 AM despite my aspirations to get up earlier. After quickly catching up on some leftover homework, I hurry downstairs for a big breakfast in preparation of the long day ahead. I normally go for eggs, toast, and fruit, with an occasional pastry from The Gingered Peach.

Once I arrive on campus, I head straight to the field house and drop off my tennis bag in the Girls Varsity Basketball locker room, the new McClellan day student room. I can barely fit my bag of clothes in the medium-sized cubbies and my fold-up chair never seems to be in its spot recently. It's annoying, and I wish the locker room was closer to the tennis courts, but at least I can get some extra steps in. Then, a long day of classes begins, which really just adds

to my anticipation for sports. I won't get into much detail about my classes, but I especially enjoy Honors Stats with Mr. Wilcox, the only full in-person class I have.

Once my last class finishes, I go back to Irwin for meetings. I decide not to return to the Kirby Arts Center nowadays because I never know if I'm yelling at my laptop or talking normally, always an awkward moment. With the extra minutes I have before walking over to the tennis courts, I put a new neon pink grip on my tennis racket. It's refreshing to see a clean grip instead of a grimy,



Stephanie Xu '23/THE LAWRENCE

brown one, and it makes me more excited to play.

Finally, it's time to make the trek. After placing my POM reader in my fanny pack, I hoist my tennis bag onto my shoulder and journey to the tennis courts. As I walk, I am reminded of our bizarre state in which everyone wears a fanny pack, something I never would have done before. My black pack is less exciting than the red ones, but I find it easier to match with my outfits. Having a good outfit helps me feel more comfortable on the court, allowing me to focus more on my game and less on how I look. Upon arrival, I greet Coach Cantlay and everyone else from six feet away and Coach McMenamin takes my temperature before I step on the court.

Practice usually goes something like this: team run, warm up, point play, and we always end with an intense game of Box. The captains lead

the team on a run from Corrente Walk to behind the track, around the Bowl, and, if life were normal, stopping at Admissions to grab some delicious apples. Unfortunately, given the conditions, we skip the apples, and run around the Circle, and back to the courts. When we return, I am desperate for air as my damp mask suffocates me. We grab our rackets, head onto the courts, and start warming up.

Since we can't crowd one court for a drill, we have been doing more doubles and point play. Afterwards, it is finally time to play Box: a fast-paced, exciting game and the way we've ended practice every day I can remember. No matter how much I warm up my overheads, I can never seem to hit those shots in during Box. One tip, you ask? Never hit the ball to Kylan when he's on the "queen's" side because somehow, he always returns the ball and hits a winner. Since there are four new girls on the team this year, I enjoy Box even more because of the chance to play with my new teammates. Louise plays music from her speaker to make the game even

more entertaining, and "Better Not" by Louis the Child reminds me of our undefeated season last fall.

Playing Box with my teammates is truly one of the highlights of my day at Lawrenceville. For a moment, it seems like it's the fall of 2019 or 2018 again, but as I gasp for air through my mask, I quickly remember it's 2020.

Once practice ends, I stay and hit with my twin Sabrina Yeung '22 for a little longer. Sabrina and I hate playing points against each other, but nowadays, I don't have a choice, since there's nobody else to hit with outside of practice. As it starts to get dark, I pack up my racquets, books, and all the extra things I need throughout the day and head to the fieldhouse to get picked up. It's only 6:00 PM, surprisingly early compared to the years past.

I didn't know I could miss studying, but I really miss working in a Bunn Library pod with my friends until 10:00 PM. After I get home and gulp down my dinner, I get started on my homework, and after several hours, I fall into bed; before I know it, it's 6:30 AM, my alarm is going off,

## Heat Culture: Proving the Doubters Wrong

JACOB LEE '22  
SPORTS ASSOCIATE

Last Sunday, the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Miami Heat 106-93 to win the National Basketball Association (NBA) Finals in six games. Although LeBron James' fourth championship headlined the news, one might argue that the Heat's journey to the Finals as a five seed was a more impressive feat.

With James departing the Miami Heat after its NBA Finals loss in 2014, General Manager Pat Riley and Head Coach Erik Spoelstra were faced with the daunting task of rebuilding a team after losing the league's best player. While the team endured a few years of mediocrity, smart drafting, astute free-agent signings, and an emphasis on team culture propelled it to the Finals just six years after its last appearance.

The Heat lacked James's presence but invested time into building its identity, the "Heat Culture," which, as NBA legend Gary Payton puts it, is about "being in the best [shape] of your life" and "crawling to the finish line if you have to." Not every player

fits into the culture. A prime example is shot-blocking big man Hassan Whiteside, who, despite being an elite defender, lacked work ethic and was traded to the Portland Trailblazers. After missing out on star players such as Kevin Durant and Gordon Hayward in consecutive free agencies, Miami managed to land Jimmy Butler. At first, many doubted Miami's choice, as Butler did not have major playoff success with the first four teams of his career, but Butler fit perfectly within Heat Culture. Finally finding a team ready to match his intensity, he was able to blossom into the leader that the Heat desperately needed. What Butler lacks in three-point shooting or volume scoring, he makes up for with his leave it all on the court mentality. He energizes his teammates, is relentless on both ends of the court, and hustles for loose balls. Combine his work ethic with his natural talent and you have a player genuinely capable of leading a Finals team.

As for the rest of the roster, the Heat found a few hidden gems that developed into key players. One of those unlikely contributors is Duncan



Butler defends James in the NBA Finals.

Courtesy of USA Today

Robinson, who played his first year of college basketball at Williams College, a Division III basketball team. While he eventually transferred to the University of Michigan, his collegiate career was not appealing enough to be drafted in 2018. Rookie Kendrick Nunn also went undrafted a year later, but Miami gave both Robinson and Nunn opportunities to display their strengths. Despite it only being his second year in the league, Robinson has become one of the best three-point

shooters in the league, while Nunn was named to the All-Rookie First Team. More importantly, they fit perfectly into the Heat's system. Robinson offers floor spacing and solid rebounding for the Heat as a 6'7" guard; furthermore, a quick release coupled with his height allows him to get his shot off in tight spaces. Nunn, on the other hand, provides much-needed playmaking off the bench, and despite being a rookie, he takes great care of the ball with fewer than two turnovers a game.

Other new acquisitions for the Heat are draft picks from the last two years: Tyler Herro and Bam Adebayo. Although both players were selected at the end of the lottery, Herro and Adebayo are now arguably the best players from each of their classes. Many fans questioned the team's decision to draft Herro and Adebayo at first, as Herro lacked athleticism while Adebayo had a limited skill set coming into the league, but Miami looked to the future. Now, the team's gamble is paying off. Herro averaged 13.5 points per game in his rookie season and was named to the All-Rookie Second Team, while Adebayo earned his first All-Star appearance.

Even though it lost this year's championship to the Los Angeles Lakers, the Heat has shown that it is more than capable of returning to the Finals. The organization's underdog mentality story, from undrafted players to doubted stars, has indicated that with the right vision and perseverance, it is possible to earn a spot in the NBA Finals. With its strong culture and its host of prospective young stars, the future looks bright for Miami.

## Boys Varsity Soccer Plays Intrasquad Scrimmage

KYLE PARK '23  
SPORTS ASSOCIATE

On a wet, freezing, not-so-soccer-friendly Friday afternoon, the Boys Varsity Soccer team split into two teams (black jerseys versus white jerseys) and battled in an intrasquad scrimmage. Usually, on Parents Weekend, the soccer team features a game against a rival, yet due to Covid-19 restrictions, those plans were pushed aside. Though fans off-campus were unable to attend (note: Lawrentians on-campus were allowed to show up, but few did, including the one and only Mathematics Teacher Ian Mook and a few faculty members), the athletic department still broadcasted the matchup for parents and off-campus members of the Lawrenceville School.

As the whistle signaled kick-off, the white team started the game with ball possession, but the black team collectively pressured the white team, displaying solid teamwork, composure, and great promise for the scrimmage's remainder. Throughout the match, the game-changing difference was in the black team's ability to turn the white team's errors into their advantage through counter-attacks and smart possession



The match kicks off, black jerseys versus white.

Courtesy of the Lawrenceville School

in the build-up. The white team attempted to retaliate through passing combinations and quick movements around the right-hand and left-hand wings, albeit with less success than the black team.

Only eight minutes into the game, Manoc Joa-Griffith '22 scored the first goal, played in with a beautiful through-ball from Kevin Chiang '23. Perhaps goalkeeper white team goalkeeper Luke McDonough '22 could have stepped up to take the ball out of bounds, but all credit goes to the black team.

A third of the way through the game, the rain stopped, but the goals only continued. Spencer Lee '21, a third-year Varsity member, whipped the ball in from a corner kick, which landed in the middle of the box.

Sacha Hood '24 was in the right place at the right time and tapped the ball in through McDonough's legs, increasing the black team's lead to two. For the rest of the first half, the black team maintained the majority of possession and stifled any white counterattacks.

As the whistle blew to signal the second half's start, the black team continued their thirst for goals while the white team prepared to bounce back and level the scoreboard. Ten minutes in, Matthew Kutam '22 blocked an attempted pass from Harrison Berger '22 into the feet of Hood, who once again positioned himself conveniently. Without hesitation, Hood slid the ball back to Kutam, who netted the third goal for the black team.

The going got worse for the white team minutes later when a long ball down the left-hand lane from Gage Urbach '22 found the feet of Joa-Griffith. Though Ryan Mitsch '23 initially dispossessed Joa-Griffith, a weak clearance from Mitsch saw Joa-Griffith regain control, chipping the ball over goalkeeper Liam Flynn '23 (goalkeepers switched teams during half-time). By this point, Joa-Griffith's performance was Man of the Match worthy.

With 15 minutes remaining, the white team finally seized the opportunity to score, following a controversial decision from the referee, Dean of Students Blake Eldridge '96 H'12, who gave a penalty to the black team. The word on the street is that the referee might have called a handball on Gabe Gaw '21, but looking back at the game footage, I don't see where the ball made contact with Gaw's hand. Either referee Eldridge needs to pay a quick visit to a nearby optometrist, or he was secretly on the white team's side the whole time—probably the latter. Nonetheless, Marcos Malacena '21 confidently stepped up for the penalty and fired the ball into the bottom right corner, making the score 4-1 black team.

However, off the following kickoff, Nate Rygh '21 from the black team swirled a ball down the right-hand side to Chiang, but while Flynn denied Chiang's initial shot on target, Alex Yoon '21 followed the rebound and put the game to bed by netting the black team's fifth. Despite facing a large deficit, the white team fought on, and with 12 minutes remaining, a beautifully threaded through ball from Berger to the feet of Rayce Welborne '24 allowed Welborne to score the white team's second goal with a first-touch finish—sensational work from the newcomer. After 80 minutes of intense play, the scoreboard displayed 6-2 to the black team.

Overall, despite the unpleasant weather conditions, the scrimmage afforded the squad a competitive environment and a chance to get a feel for one another in preparation for the 2020-21 season. Most importantly, a huge shoutout to Coaches Eldridge, Sean Dory, and George Negroponte for refereeing the game, Equipment Manager Brain Millen H'14 for organizing the uniforms, and Dean of Athletics Tripp Welborne H'58 P'21'23 and Associate Director of Athletics Nicole Stock for setting up the stream!

## 140 Board Picks

	Izzy Lee Editor-in-Chief	Jack Hallinan Co-Sports Editor	Angel Zhang Arts Editor	Josh Cigoianu Copy Editor	Lucia Wetherill Co-Opinions Editor	Ankita Suri Photo Editor	Carina Li Copy Editor
Why is fall the best season?	Consistent 80-degree weather in Shanghai	Modeling for pumpkin drawings	trench coats!	Campus looks really nice	sweaters.	The trees are orange!!!!	crunchy leaves
Approximate hours spent on Zoom this term	It takes up the majority of my sleep time	$\pi$	no clue	Wouldn't want to think about it	the limit does not exist	Idk man	enough
Are fanny packs in?	I don't leave the house	They weren't in before?	the red ones aren't	You're talking to an enthusiast	not when worn unironically	Most definitely	always