



## 255th Commencement Speaker John Kerry Talks to *The Governor*

**ALEX DiBLASI '19** – At this year's 255th Commencement Exercises, Secretary John Kerry inspired the graduates and audience alike with his optimistic vision for the future. From his military days to his time in public office, his decades of service to this country is unparalleled. Before graduation, I had the honor to sit with Secretary Kerry and discuss topics such as overcoming adversity, civic engagement, and globalism.

*The Governor: Whether it is in the classroom, the sports fields, or college acceptances, a big hurdle for students is overcoming adversity. As you have held many positions in your illustrious lifetime, what was your most challenging moment and how did you overcome it?*

Kerry: "I honestly can't pick one moment. It's just impossible to pick one moment. But, I've often said that a lot of what I learned in high school really prepared me for dealing with adversity. I mean, you learn adversity; you fail an exam or you don't do as well as you wanted. Or you get knocked out on a playing field playing lacrosse or whatever it is, you lose a big game you care about. You learn how to take the knocks of life. You lose a friend at school. Whatever it is, I found that prepared me for a lot of different things. A lot of it is just character and school builds character. I clearly had moments of adversity when I fought in the war in Vietnam. I had moments of adversity in politics when I was being attacked with a group with what was the original fake news – lies about my life. I lost a race running for President of the United States. That's not fun. But, you learn that you always have to pick yourself up and go on. I've watch people get diverted by adversity and just lose their lives. I basically decided a long time ago I'm never going to let that happen. You pick yourself up, you dust yourself off, and off you go! There've been plenty of moments when things didn't turn out the way I wanted them to and that's just life."

*You said: "Teach and serve and heal and give back – that is what makes life worthwhile." In an era where an unprecedented number of college graduates are flocking to Wall Street for jobs, how would you sway young adults towards the non-profit sector?*

"Well, if somebody is hell-bent to go live a life that's just all about making money, you're probably not going to be able to dissuade them. But, they learn very quickly that it's a pretty hollow, empty way to exist. I've met an awful lot of people who started out on Wall Street, and within a few years they're off doing something where they're earning a minuscule amount of money, but they're involved with people and they're making a difference in their community. They love it and their life is fulfilled.

I hope I get a chance to talk with graduates about the kinds of choices that we face and the kinds of problems we are looking at and what happens if we don't get involved in the world around us. Rather than, just deciding I'm going to take care of myself. I'm going to have five houses, an airplane, a lot of fast cars. Off I go and that's life. It's pretty hard to dissuade somebody if that's where they're going, but it's the emptiest life in the world. It will not help us survive and deal with the problems that we face.

I'm not saying you shouldn't do it, as long as you do it mindful and are engaged. But unfortunately, I have just met too many people who never get turned on to being involved in the public sector, public community."

*Through all your years in public service, you have always had the world community in mind. Do you think your time at St. Paul's shaped your position on a global society and if so, how?*

"Well, I'm convinced it influenced to some degree, obviously I was already living abroad. My father was in the Foreign Service and my mother was born abroad, in Paris. The stories of World War II impacted me significantly as a young person, and I was always very conscious of conflict, of global clashes, tension, disruption and of war. But,



also my parents instilled in me just a sense of giving back, or responsibility to the community around you. So, I grew up with that, and St. Paul's added to it and grew it to a large measure, but that's not where it began. It really began my parents, in our family and family ethic."

*What do you think the most challenging issues facing young Americans will be in the next decade, and how should they prepare for them?*

"I think this sounds foreboding and maybe a little grandiose, but it's called survival. I mean, climate change can alter life on this planet in ways that none of us can imagine. It can create conflicts. It can create huge shifts in food production. There's just a huge level of challenges. 51% of the oxygen we breathe comes from the oceans. The oceans are increasingly threatened, by pollution, by overfishing and by acidification, and we don't even understand the full implications of the acidification component.

So, we are playing Russian roulette with the ecosystem and with our lives. Add to that, North Korea, nuclear weapons, AIDS, Ebola, trends boundary diseases that can move around the world, extrem-

ism, and cyber warfare as other challenges that we face. There's big agenda in front of people which they need to begin to deal with. Now, I'm confident we can solve those problems. The benefit of a good education, the benefit of getting folks on the right track, is that it gives you the sense of responsibility and the discipline to be able to begin to solve some of those problems. We're solving a lot of problems, even as we're sitting here citing some big problems. I feel confident about the future because I think human ingenuity and the fundamental creative urges of all human beings is to develop their independence, have their freedom, be safe and secure, and be able to take care of their families. We have organized ourselves pretty effectively around those things here in the United States. We have strong institutions notwithstanding the problems of Congress and other things today. I have faith in those institutions, and I think ultimately we will work through a lot of these difficulties."

*"To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity."*  
– Douglas Adams

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### The Student Council introduces Instagram account

On September 21, Academy President Vinay Metlapalli reveals the Student Council's official Instagram account during the Friday all-school meeting. The account aims to keep students informed and prevent the misuse of all-school emails.



@thegovstudent

## New Study Hall Open Door Policy Causes Stir

TIANYU FANG '20

IN SEPTEMBER, boarding students at the Academy were welcomed by a new dormitory policy as they returned to campus: students must keep their room doors open during study hall hours. This new policy, first proposed by the Academy's dorm heads and members of the dean's team, immediately sparked debate on campus.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure the efficient use of time during study hall hours, Jed Wartman, the Academy's Dean of Students, tells *The Governor*. "There were students who were using their study hall time not for academic work, but playing video games or socializing," Wartman explains. "As we began to address that problem, one of the first layers of that conversation was to understand what students do during these hours, and that led to the decision of starting the year with the dorm doors open."

Colin Bourque '21, who recently moved into Ingham, believes that there are alternative solutions.

"For instance, sophomores with high honors [that is, a GPA of 3.65 or higher] are allowed to study in the library during study hall hours without special permissions," says Colin. Typically, only junior and senior boarding students are allowed to leave their dormitories for the library during study hall in the second semester, but the Academy has made an exception for sophomores with good academic stand-

ing. Similar rules, Colin argues, would avoid creating inconvenience for students who already have expected study habits.

While the intention of the decision is to create a study hall environment that is more conducive to studying for everybody, Wartman believes that the administration still needs to assess the effectiveness of the policy as it is being implemented.

"There is an initial discomfort for everything new. Give it a little bit of time to see how it works. I have heard from students who are upset about this policy, and I welcome these conversations. We didn't come out saying that this is a temporary policy, but we will probably have to make some changes," adds Mr. Wartman.

Rather than a blanket policy, the Academy should perhaps look for more flexible solutions. For instance, dorm parents are allowed to enter student rooms regardless if the door is open or closed; if a dorm parent walks into a room during study hall hours and finds the student not meeting academic expectations, the student's privilege of closing the door can be taken away after a number of offenses. Rather than distrusting all students by default, how about turning the table around?



## Guess That Faculty Member!

How well do you know the faculty members at Governor's? So, to kickoff a new year, let's see how well you remember teachers from a few of their answers. Try your best to figure out who's who.

### FACULTY MEMBER A

If you could have a nickname what would it be?

The River City Rude.

Name one thing you would change about Govs?

More fist-bumping.

If you could be a student on campus who would you be?

Anybody who treats people with kindness and respect.

If you could take a class at Govs what would you take?

Neuroscience and German.

What's your favorite city in the world?

Edinburgh.

What's the most embarrassing thing you've done in front of students?

Insulted a company - later found out the daughter of the owner of the company was in the class.

## Opinion Open Door Policy: A Change for the Worse

ARIF ABD AZIZ '19,  
ALEXANDER DING '20



NEW YEAR, new rules. This isn't an editorial about the song but a commentary about the *amazing* rules that administrators have decided to enact. If you haven't had a brief rundown of the new rules, Mr. Lefebvre has sent an email to the whole school with the new student handbook attached; it's a great read if you're having trouble sleeping. Basically, the dress code has been updated, and there are now a million ways to put a student on censure.

Did you think the new weight room rules last year were atrocious? Well, it pales in comparison to the drastic dorm changes made this year. If you happened to have the privilege to visit a dorm during the night, you would find the dorm in complete silence – except for that one kid playing Fortnite – with all the doors wide open. The good news is that it won't last long and has finally united the Governor's community. On Wednesday night, 206 students – mostly upperclassmen – studied in the library. I'm no mathematician, but that sounds like another Govs record – get the banners out. The upperclassmen have created the largest sit-in this campus has ever seen, and it had to do with a bunch of open doors.

As e-cigarettes have become more accessible today, teenagers have given in to addiction.

Among all vaping paraphernalia, JUUL – thanks to the cool design, appealing flavor, and convenient size – has stood out among teenagers. Faculty members on campus have observed this emergent issue and attempted several methods to save students from its influence: dorm searches, drug tests, and the open door policy.

The open door policy is meant to help dorm parents monitor students and ensure their wellbeing during late hours. That is fine – knowing that our school wants us to succeed in our studies. But what's the point of having an open door when nobody is walking around to check what you're doing? Students have been guilty of closing their doors during the night, but most have never been caught. We are not criticizing dorm parents; the administrative office just hasn't done enough to enforce these rules. Furthermore, the rule can't deter students from doing illicit things because of its predictability; everybody would know when a teacher would be roaming around the hallways. Students can choose to do them at different times.

Simply put, the policy seems ineffective. So, here's a compromise. We propose that students on an honor roll can have the privilege to keep their doors closed during study hall hours – for the sake of privacy, quiet, and better studying. Or, if that's not your style, here's a win-win scenario.

Students get to keep their doors closed during the night, and dorm parents don't have to bother roaming around the halls, silencing a bunch of rowdy sophomores. Even better, the administrative office won't have to go through the tedious process of enforcing rules – not that that's anything new for them.

### FACULTY MEMBER B

If you could be a student on campus?

Tianyu Fang or Billy Marella.

Name one thing you could change about Govs?

No dining hall dishes in dorms.

If you could take a class at Govs what would you take?

AP Computer Science Principles.

What's your favorite city in the world?

Bangkok, Thailand.

Favorite dining hall day or dish?

Haddock – boiled.

(Answers on page 4.)

# Meet New Dean of Multicultural Education Eddie Carson



**ALEK DAVIS '19**

THIS SCHOOL year, the dean's team welcomes a new member: Mr. Eddie Carson. We enlisted Alek Davis to talk to him about his background and his plans for the Academy.

Before joining the Governor's community, Mr. Carson worked at the Brooks School and edited for the Christian Century Magazine. Now that he is at Govs, he plans to engage with the core clubs that address issues of diversity and inclusion. Furthermore, he aims to collaborate with students and faculty advisors to secure and institutionalize these clubs as mediums for enhancing the school's diversity.

Mr. Carson also intends to modify the curriculum to bridge the gaps between diversity, inclusion, and academic rigor — ideas that are often excluded from class discussions. He believes that this will foster positive interactions between students, fac-

ulty, and staff while advancing policies that are in the best interest of Govs. Mr. Carson also aspires to connect alumni of color to the current population of students in a way that will create future networking and leadership opportunities.

Mr. Carson believes that there is a clear commitment at Govs aimed at the work of diversity and inclusion that is missing from other institutions. That commitment began with the head of the school and has trickled its way down to all aspects of the community.

His office is on the second floor of Phillips, and there's enough space for all students whether he's there or not. He welcomes the traffic.

*(Edited by Billy Marella.)*

Contribute to The Governor:  
[newsaper@govsacademy.org](mailto:newsaper@govsacademy.org)

## Word Search

V Q N C I Y U E H F H Z F R O L C F L L T C V I K Y F N C U  
 T B H K E B N K Q U U O L V C O D I L O S O C S E P D X J V  
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GOVERNORS  
 EAMES  
 INGHAM  
 FROST  
 SWAGA  
 GRIFFIN  
 PESCOSOLIDO  
 LEFEBVRE  
 MILESTONE  
 WARTMAN  
 MANSION  
 HOUSE  
 QUIMBY

## GOVERNOR'S #SCOREBOARD

September 21-22, 2018

TEAM	OPPONENT	SCORE
Cross Country- Boys Varsity	Groton Academy	L 47-15
	Roxbury Latin	L 50-15
	St. Mark's	L 50-15
Cross Country- Boys JV	Groton Academy	L 41-18
	Roxbury Latin	L 50-15
	St. Mark's	L 50-15
Cross Country- Girls Varsity	Groton Academy	L 40-17
	St. Mark's	L 33-23
Football- Varsity	Brooks School	W 42-15
Field Hockey- Varsity	Thayer Academy	W 3-0
Field Hockey- JV	Thayer Academy	L 0-1
Soccer- Boys Varsity	Thayer Academy	T 0-0
Soccer- Boys JV	Thayer Academy	W 1-0
Soccer- Girls Varsity	Thayer Academy	L 0-4
Soccer- Girls JV	Thayer Academy	L 0-5
Volleyball- Varsity	Thayer Academy	W 3-1
Volleyball- JV	Thayer Academy	W 2-1

## GOVERNOR'S #SCOREBOARD

September 20, 2018

TEAM	OPPONENT	SCORE
Field Hockey- Varsity	Tabor Academy	W 2 - 1
Field Hockey- JV	Tabor Academy	L 0-4
Soccer- Boys Varsity	Tabor Academy	T 1-1
Soccer- Boys JV	Tabor Academy	W 2-1
Soccer- Girls Varsity	Tabor Academy	L 0-4
Soccer- Girls JV	Tabor Academy	L 1-6
Volleyball- Varsity	Tabor Academy	W 3-0
Volleyball- JV	Tabor Academy	L 0-3

# Chill(in)terview Editors of The Governor

**ARIF ABD AZIZ '19**

SINCE ROSE Robinson is away at the Mountain School, I decided to hold my own edition of "Chill(in)terviews." It's a new year, and I wanted to introduce the new editors to the school and showcase some of their thought provoking thoughts. I discovered most of these questions on a dating website—not that that matters anyway. So essentially, this will help me figure out which editor I would date. Chill(in)terviews... Here we go.

**EDITOR BILLY MARELLA**



*What is something people learn about you when it's too late?*  
Phhhh... (Ms. Kass: that he's funny.) They have given me their phone. (I gave my phone to Billy to record his answers.) Sure, let me get back to that one... (After fifteen minutes...)

*If you could trade 1 year of your life for a free tuition at Govs, how many years of your life would you trade?*  
(Ms. Kass: I don't like that question; you should ask his parents)—can I trade more than 4? (Arif: Yes) I would say probably zero (Arif: Why?) because I can make back the money but can't make back the years.... You know what I'm saying—is that profound enough, Arif? You have a little thing in your hair.

*Name a current leader you would wish to be? (Prime Minister, President, Queen etc.)*

I would probably say, Arif Abd Aziz of the Squirrel Watching Club. He runs a well-oiled machine, and I really respect and admire the work he does. (Arif: Any real leaders in the world? People who run countries not clubs, you know?) Let me look something up real quick (pulls out a laptop); I gave you an answer (laughs). If I could be any world leader, I would select Angela Merkel because I think that she has faced many pressing issues that have the fate of the entire European Union at stake and has a lot of power in that collective union. There's a lot to be done and she has a really interesting and engaging job.

I don't think you should publish

that—(Arif: It's Chill(in) Interviews, you have crappy answers and good answers)—wait could I change my answer?

I want to be the Prince of Saudi Arabia; I think he's cool, but I don't really want to make any assumptions... I can expand on that later.

*Invisibility or the power to fly? Why?*

(Pause) What would you choose, Arif? (Arif: I would choose invisibility) I'm going to choose the power to fly. (Arif: Why?) I think that would be a useful ability (Arif: Why?) I don't know I'm not really passionate about this. I feel like being invisible would be pretty useless (Ms. Kass: Well, I don't think so. I would be invisible because I'm afraid of heights). I feel like flying, going on top of buildings, and being able to fly will help with photography a lot. That will be the best aspect for me—wait wait wait—let me change my answer.

I want to be invisible, because often times when you're searching around the city for subjects of interest, it's very....(Ms. Kass: can you spell Angela Merkel?) (Arif: No).... important to act as a fly on the wall. So, I don't want to disturb the scene or any subjects. I think it will enhance my photography.

*If you could write a book, what would the title of the book be?*  
Glycobiology 101: The Basics—(Arif: what's the book about?)—basics of Glycobiology.

*Will you join the squirrel watching club? Yes or No? Why?*

Ummm.. Yes I'm very excited to announce my new position as chief financial officer (Arif: Which is not a position but ok) of the squirrel watching club; the club has incredible intentions, but sometimes the financial restrictions placed on watching squirrels can be exhaustive. I'm excited to take on that responsibility and change the course of squirrel watching on the Governor's Academy campus. (Arif: How much are you willing to contribute to the SWC?)—(Ms. Kass: Do you take smart cards?) Oh, I thought I will be paid for my services as Chief Financial Officer—(Arif: You don't).

**EDITOR TIANYU FANG**

*What is something people learn about you when it's too late?*

That I don't like to be angry... I'm usually not angry because people will find that I'm angry, but I'm not. What happens is that I don't get angry at all, but I find it hard to get angry (Arif: So people are trying to get you angry?). I mean... but I don't show the anger; this is a horrible response. We don't have to record this—(Arif: Too late)

*If you could trade 1 year of your life*

*for a free tuition at Govs, how many years of your life would you trade?*  
Zero. I would not go to Govs (Arif: Wow, you hear that?) I don't think I want to talk about this anymore.



*Name a current leader you would wish to be? (Prime minister, president etc.)*

Justin Trudeau (Ms. Kass: Uhhh, because he gets all the women & the GQ covers? Wasn't he on the cover of something?) He also has a lot of neckties; I like his taste, and great minds think alike. (Pulls up picture on Google) Is that him, look at his hair!

*Invisibility or the power to fly? Why?*

Invisibility because I don't like to make friends, and I don't want people to notice me at all. (Arif: That's pretty blunt)

*If you could write a book, what would the title of the book be?*  
I think I answered that question when I applied to Govs. I still need to change my answer. What kind of book? (Bily: Any book—do like China-US Trade Relations and Its Effect on the Lower-Class of Michigan). I would call it "Three Important Life Lessons That Will Make You A Successful Man" (Arif: Is it specifically for a man?). Don't put "specifically for a man", that will ruin my reputation—(starts actually getting angry).

*Would you join the squirrel watching club? Yes or No? Why?*

(Pauses) Uhhh... No, because I hate going outside and I do not want to see squirrels—that by watching these squirrels we are destroying their individual will. The purpose of their lives is not to be watched by human beings (honestly, I stopped listening to him by then)... blah blah blah. I still propose a cat watching club because there's a higher diversity among cats, and they have more colors; this diversity is absent in the world of squirrels.

**EDITOR ARIF ABD AZIZ**

*What is something people learn about you when it's too late?*

Skip that one... wait... let's get back to that. (Ms. Kass: Didn't you come up with that question?) No, I got it from a dating website...

(15 minutes later)

(Billy: Christian, what did you learn about Arif when it was too late?) (Christian: That he's a bad drummer) (Anuvind-out of nowhere: That he didn't buy a prom ticket.)

That I'm a really nice guy. (Christian: Well that's not something people would find out when it's "too late." And you're not...)

*If you could trade 1 year of your life Govs annual tuition for free, how many years?*

Um... I'm gonna say.. Probably... 12 years of my life... so that both myself and my kids could receive free tuition. (Followed by self-deprecating comments.)



Arif Abd Aziz, circa 2015.

*Name a current leader that you would wish to be?*

I wish I could be... \*thinks\* ... my answer is... alright fine... probably... oh my goodness... uh... probably... I can't name a good president... OH! The prime minister of Malaysia. Billy: What's his name? Arif: Um... search it up. (His name is Mahathir Mohamad.)

*Invisibility or the power to fly?*

I would say invisibility so I could go places I've never been before... (Billy: Oh.)

*If you could write a book, what would its name be? Why?*

The name of my book would be, "I am Arif." (Billy: Why?) Didn't Malala write a book called "I am Malala?" (Ms. Kass: Yes). That did well, so... (Billy: Well, she is also interesting.) Okay, Billy.

*Will you join the Squirrel Watching Club? Yes or no. Why?*

Yes. Because I started it... (Billy: What even is this article?) Well, that's what happens when Rachel Suh doesn't want to submit her article.

(Editor's Note: Arif Abd Aziz was interviewed by Billy Marella.)