

**CHOATE'S SENIOR SPOT BENCH** Choate's Senior Spot Bench has won an international award for Best in Show for Commercial/Industrial solid surface fabrication. Alumni Anil Khachane '96 and Mai Wu '87 of Studio ABK architects in New Haven volunteered their talents to help create the design.

Located by the John Joseph Activities Center, its centerpiece is an undulating bench made of Corian inlaid with the names of every member of the Class of 2008 throughout its 120-ft. length. It is covered with a glow-in-the-dark acrylic surface known as Lumistone to create an intriguing sight in the evenings. The patio features other seating and umbrellas, as well as an outdoor sound system.

**YEAR END CELEBRATION** On June 13 the Choate community gathered to celebrate the retirement of Helen C. Knudsen, after 20 years in the mathematics department. Other faculty and staff reaching their 25-year milestones: Glenn E. Hartsoe, Jr. (history department); Michael J. Klimaszewski (Grounds Manager, Facilities); Gail M. Morse (Mellon Library) Frances P. O'Donoghue (Third Form Girls Dean; science); Ann L. Williams (Development) and John C. Yocum (Electrician, Facilities). Headmaster Shanahan's citations may be read at [www.choate.edu](http://www.choate.edu)

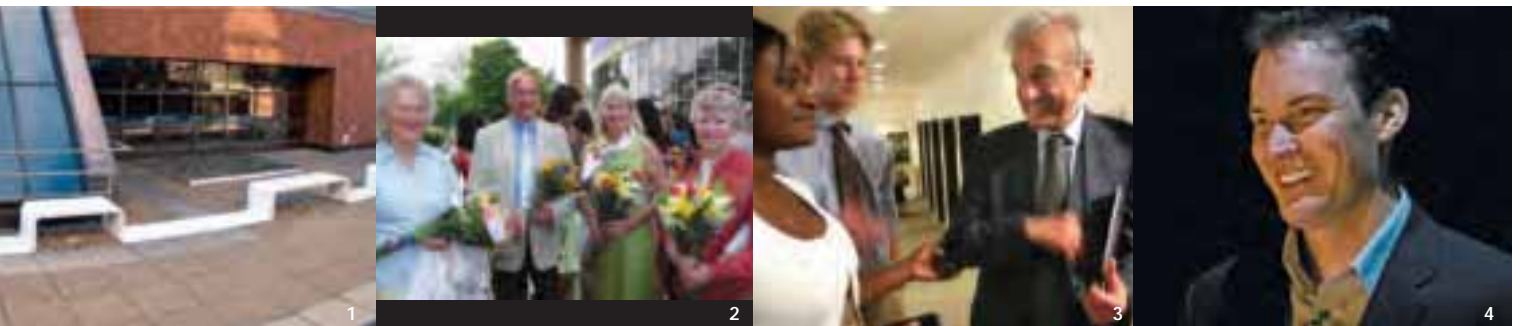
**GARDEN PARTY CELEBRATED** The week before Graduation, Garden Party is held. A Rosemary Hall tradition that dates back nearly a century, upper form girls exchange flowers with their faculty guests and gather for refreshments. A formal program follows and includes the history of Garden Party, a cappella performances, and the passing of leadership from 6th form to 5th form girls, as the Rosemary Scarf (athleticism and sportsmanship), Rosemary Whistle (leadership), and Rosemary Banner (school spirit) are presented to three new recipients. Toward the end of the program, 5th form girls leave and 6th form boys arrive in time to view a slide show honoring the graduating class. The evening concludes with a special dinner for faculty and the entire sixth form. Faculty and students delighted in having Rosemarians in attendance this year, and plans are underway to encourage more Rosemarians to join the fun in 2010.

**NOBEL LAUREATE ELIE WIESEL VISITS CHOATE** Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel spoke at an all-school special program at the Paul Mellon Arts Center on April 28. Wiesel's topic was "Confronting Fanaticism: Building Moral Unity in a Diverse Society." "Hatred," Wiesel told a fully packed auditorium, "is like an infectious disease. It goes from cell to cell. Whoever hates one group, hates other groups. Whoever hates one minority, hates all minorities." He continued to ask the rhetorical questions: What can be done about it? What can students, eager to acquire knowledge, do about hatred or "indifference" in the world?

In conjunction with his remarks, Kati Marton P '00 was the 2009 Thalheimer Educator-in-Residence and guest speaker in history classes. Ms. Marton has successfully combined a career as a reporter and writer with human rights advocacy. Her latest book is entitled, *The Great Escape: Nine Jews Who Fleed Hitler and Changed the World*. The Special Program was made possible by the Thalheimer Educator-in-Residence Fund.

**HARVARD'S SHAWN ACHOR SPEAKS AT SPECIAL PROGRAM** Shawn Achor, winner of more than a dozen distinguished teaching awards at Harvard, visited campus on April 14 as the Charles Krause '51 Fellow in Rhetoric. His talk was titled "Becoming a Positive Outlier: The Science of Human Potential."

Achor is Head Teaching Fellow for the most popular course at Harvard, "Positive Psychology," taken by more than 1,000 students per semester. As a freshman adviser and proctor at Harvard, Achor plays an integral role in life on the Cambridge campus. Part of his interest in positive psychology stems from a troubling fact: studies have shown that many of Harvard's undergraduates suffer from depression at some point in their college careers.



1 Choate's Senior Spot Bench won Best in Show for Commercial/Industrial solid surface fabrication.

2 Diane Monson '54, faculty member Ralph Valentine '62 (who also taught at Rosemary Hall in Greenwich), Ann Mason Sears '65, and Judy Donald '66 enjoyed Garden Party on June 2.

3 Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel autographs copies of his book *Night*.

4 Charles Krause '51 Fellow in Rhetoric, Shawn Achor, spoke to students at a Special Program in April.