

Senior Spot Construction Finished

News

By Katie Kilkenny '10

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Mr. Yanelli and Mr. Ford stand by as Lauren Provini '08, Ben Pascall '08, and Max Mullen '08 cut the ribbon on the senior spot. PHOTO/Mike Tsai '10

On Saturday, November 8th, the Class of 2008 Senior Spot was finally unveiled in a ribbon-cutting ceremony, despite a later-than-anticipated delivery of the project's central bench. "There was a delay in the manufacture of the inlay of the benches, in procuring the lumistone—the glow in the dark material," Director of Development Operations and Interim Annual Fund Director William Knapp said.

The Spot is comprised of a 114-foot ribbon-shaped bench, 40 chairs, 10 tables, 10 umbrellas, and a 500-watt, iPod-compatible outdoor sound system. Composed of corion and inlaid with lumistone, the bench is the most striking component of the senior class gift; the glow-in-the-dark bench is inscribed with the names of the donors to the project, with the Class of '08 names on the bottom half.

The delay with the manufacture of the lumistone bench provoked anxiety that it would not be finished in time. Senior Spot Committee member Lauren Provini '08 said, "When I came back to Choate three weeks ago and saw that there was nothing on the SAC patio, I got a little nervous, but the Development Office assured me that it would be done by November 8th, and it was." Provini did mention, however, that some components, such as the umbrellas, haven't yet arrived.

The Committee originally envisioned the Spot to be unveiled in the spring of 2008, but when fundraising took longer than planned, they set a goal to have it finished before Deerfield Day. Knapp said, "We've met our original goal from back in the spring to have it finished by Deerfield Day, but I would rather have had it finished three weeks before, instead of a day before."

The Committee's responsibilities with the project ended once they collected the funding. Provini explained, "[The Committee] was actually done after the fundraising, because we had the plan all set out. There wasn't much else for us to work on after that—the Development Office has been doing everything this

Knapp is very appreciative and impressed by the Committee's efforts with its design: "This was their concept... they sat with the architects, choosing the materials and really [bringing] this whole project together. So really this was all in motion; all that was left was for the school to get the materials and put them together."

Numerous members of the Class of '08 returned to the Choate campus to view the fruit of their efforts. Provini said, "So many people came from all over the place. Ben Pascale ['08] came from North Carolina, and Max Mullen ['08] flew in from California. Because we haven't seen each other in so long, it's exciting and really special to see each other."

College students weren't the only members of the Choate community impressed with the Senior Spot. Adrian Lui '10 said, "I love reading all the names on the bench. I have some friends who are current Choate students whose names are on there because they gave some money last year."

Michael Tsai '10 wishes the design could have been a little different, but likes it all the same: "Because its look is so modern, I think they should have had running water underneath the rocks under the bench to give it a Chinese flavor. But it still looks really nice, and it's going to be a nice place for people to sit and hang out."

A large crowd, including both current students and alumni, gathered to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Lauren Provini '08, Ben Pascale '08, Mr. John Ford, and Mr. Jim Yanelli spoke to the group. After the ceremony, Provini commented, "It was so much more interesting to see [the project] in person at the ceremony; it's hard to visualize that [ribbon-shaped] structure on paper."

Other students were equally enthusiastic about the Senior Spot. While reading the names on the bench, Erin Ellis '10 said, "I'm surprised at how well the project worked out—I'm so excited to use it." Despite the aesthetically pleasing design of the bench, the inlaid names of the students were the real attraction. While students took a moment to read the names of former classmates, the project was brought full circle: the first song to be played on the new sound system was the Choate School Song.