

Volume 1 Issue 1

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October 1999

Mrs. Yatsco chosen as CCSD "Teacher of the Year" finalist

Earlier this school year Mrs. Cathy Yatsco, ninth grade English teacher, was elected 1999 School of the Arts "Teacher of the Year." Soon after, SOA learned that Charleston County School District had chosen her as one of the top ten teachers in the entire county. More recently, CCSD announced its top five finalists for "Teacher of the Year." Among this exclusive list of great teachers is included our own Mrs. Cathy Yatsco. The five finalists will be honored at a Program and Reception on October 21, 1999 from 6 PM until 8 PM at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The Teacher of the Year and State Nominee to represent CCSD will be announced at that time.

Mrs. Yatsco has had a colorful teaching career which has taken her to Alaska, Wyoming, New Mexico, Liberia, West Africa and Louisiana before she settled in South Carolina. While in Santa Fe, she taught at a Native American school, and in Africa she taught English as a second language. According to her, "I don't think I've ever had a bad teaching assignment. Everything has been fun, exciting, and rewarding."

Mrs. Yatsco received her BA from the University of Maryland and an MA in multicultural studies from the University of New Mexico. "I always wanted to be a teacher," she says, "I used to line my dolls up in chairs and I'd read to them." She says she was attracted to SOA because of the reputation it obtained as it began. She just knew this would be a "happy place," she adds.

Mrs. Yatsco has been married for 36 years. Her husband Jim is a retired pharmacist. She has three children, who are "beginning to build grandchildren themselves."

Mrs. Yatsco, who is writing her second novel, a work about Native Americans, says she looks forward to continuing to grow as a teacher. "Teaching isn't about books," she says. "It's about people and their relationships with each other."

Congratulations, Mrs. Yatsco. The students and staff at the School of the Arts are certainly proud of your achievements.

A Word from our Principal

Dear Parents.

We have had an excellent beginning of this school year with only a few minor concerns to work out. As we wait for the hiring process to be completed to bring on a new asstistant principal, we are most grateful to have Mr. Roy Davis, retired principal of Burns Elementary, working with us. His knowledge and experience are proven assets to us everyday. I am very grateful to him for his willingness to help us out during this interim period.

Our students have settled into their schedules, and I look forward to the year with this excellent faculty.

I also look forward to hearing from you and working with you and our students for a most successful year ... the beginning of a new millennium.

> Sincerely, Rose Maree Myers, Principal



CHOOL OF THE ART

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CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE		
Sun.	10:	OCTOBER 1999 HS Choral Booster Meeting Rm 212, 7:30 PM
Mon Fri.	11-15:	Art Smart Open House Week (excluding Tue.) Volunteers needed.
Tue.	12:	PSAT testing
Thu.	14	Art Smart performance, 7 PM
Tue.	19	PTSA Meeting, 7 PM
Thu Fri.	21-22:	8th Grade performance, Enterprise Stage 2, 7:00 PM
Sat.	23:	Student Council Talent Show, Black Box Theater, 7-9 PM,
Mon.	25:	End of first grading period.
Tue.	26:	Picture makeup day
Wed.	27:	All Creative Writing Majors, field trip, "Poets & Painters," Gibbes Museum, 8:30-1:30 Pep Rally, SOA Cafeteria, 1 PM
Thu	28:	Wind Ensemble concert, Physicians Auditorium, 7:30 PM Piano Majors Recital North Charleston United Methodist Church, Davis Hall, 7:30 PM
Fri.	29	School Day (Floyd Make-up)

"Small Works" Silent Auction to benefit Dance Scholarship Fund Sunday

SOA dance teacher Mrs. Cecilia Slowinski celebrates the opening of her new restaurant, the Quantum Cafe, by sponsoring a silent auction of Charleston art. The auction will be held at 28 Ann Street, on Sunday, October 10th from 1:30 until 4:00 PM. All proceeds will benefit SOA's Summer Dance Scholarship Fund. Attending artists will include John Doyle, West Frazier, Terry Bastian, Marie Nichols, Tami Cardnella, Casimer Kowalski and William Buggel.

The event will include a reception with food compliments of The Quantum Cafe, which serves old fashioned shiskabob in a space age atmosphere. "It's a new concept for the new millennium," says Mrs. Slowinski. You are welcome to come and give the food a try for no charge.

If you have any questions regarding the auction or the Quantum Cafe, please call Cecilia Slowinski at 577-4169.

Eight SOA artists recognized

Eighth grader Aubrey Shakespear recently won the National Mont Blanc logo contest and was given a free four day trip to New York City. Six other visual artists had their work chosen for the Charleston Arts Gallery Show. They are sixth graders Joshua Floyd and Allen Babcock; eighth graders Alec Cobb and Lee Ann Haselden; and ninth graders Alex Liollo and Sara Reuben. Junior Rachell Corbett attended the Governor's School at Furman University where her sculpture was chosen for their traveling show in Washington, DC.

*** Note: There will be school on Wednesday, November 23, another Hurricane Floyd make-up day.

From the Editor's Desk

The 1999-2000 school year marks the beginning of three new SOA publications. Artifacts, our new newsletter, will be mailed to parents at least every other month. Our school newspaper will be distributed to the student body on the alternate months. For the most up to date information regarding the School of the Arts, log onto www.ccsoa.com, which will include daily to weekly updates. The web site will be on line within the next week or so. All three media are being published by the SOA journalism class. As the school year progresses, you will be able to enjoy more and more elaborate publications with perhaps greater frequency. Thank-you for your support.

Sincerely, Chandler Jenrette, Editor

Art Smart scheduled for this month

It's time again for our annual collaboration of guidance and all of our fine arts areas. This year's theme is accepting people for their differences, which has a tentative title of "A Beat of a Different Drum." The program usually consists of a show involving each art area, and the visual arts department holds a contest for designing a logo, which is put on a t-shirt and sold throughout the school. Fifth graders from all over Charleston County are invited to see the show and tour the school. This year the program will run from October 11-14 during school hours. Friends and family are invited on October 14 at 7 pm.

Jazz Band to "Jump Jive an' Wail"

Parents, high school students and the SOA Band are invited to join the SOA Jazz Band on Friday, November 5 at the Maritime Center for a swinging time. Tickets are \$15 per couple and \$8 per single. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. For more information call 881-9518.

Middle School Math students to compete

There is something new in the Middle School Math Department - a class for competition preparation. Plans are being made to participate in several competitions this year, including the American Mathematics Contest, Quest, and MATHCOUNTS.

Students do not have to be in the competition class to try out for a competition team. Practice materials will be available for students in grades six through eight. Interested students should see Mrs. Bunch or their math teacher.

Student Council staying busy

The Student Council is off to an early start helping out the Charleston community. Members volunteered to help the IOP Exchange Club with the 10-K Connector Run on October 2. The Student Council representatives are **Angela Shaw**, president; **Carol Jordan**, vice-president; **Russel Patterson**, secretary; and **Sohayla Roudsari**, treasurer. Each high school homeroom has a representative in the Student Council.

The Student Council has planned several other events for 1999-2000. A talent show is planned for October 28 in the Black Box Theater, from 7 - 9 PM with a reception. Ms. Tisdale, the Student Council faculty advisor, asks that all students interested in participating in the talent show submit their name, category of talent, and whether they will perform individually or as a group, to their homeroom representative by Friday, October 11. Auditions will be held in the cafeteria after school on Monday, October 12 from 3:30 until 5:00 PM.

The council has also planned a Christmas Cotillion for sometime before Christmas break. The date and location have yet to be announced. In addition, members will be manning a child abuse awareness booth on October 29, at the S.C. Fair from 6 - 12 PM as part of Midnight Madness. The Student Council will be involved in many other community service projects throughout the school year.

Juniors prepare for History Day

National History Day 2000 has already begun for 11th grade Honors and AP students. This year's History Day theme is "Turning Points in History - People, Ideas, Events." The participating students will dedicate the first semester to research and the second semester to production of their projects. Students will compete on the regional level in the spring, and then hopefully onto state level and finally the national level in Washington, D.C. Ms. Tisdale, the 11th grade U.S. History teacher, says that "parents and teachers can be a great resource for our students. We would appreciate your support in this academic endeavor."

As part of their research project, the 11th grade will be taking field trips to the Charleston Museum and S.C. Archives Room on October 7th and 8th to research their History Day projects. The juniors will also be taking a historical walking tour of Charleston in November, which will include the story of architecture, local history, and graveyards. Ms. Tisdale, who will be taking her U.S. History students on these field trips, says that "students will be seeking visual evidence to tell the story of Charleston.

Pep Club prepares for '99-'00

The President of this year's Pep Club is tenth grader Alison Orvin. Carol Jordan is Vice President, and Suzanne Justice is the Secretary/Treasurer. The Pep Club, which raises school spirit and assists the cheerleaders, will be having fund raisers throughout the year, including bake sales and spirit chains.

Community Council taking shape

This year's School Community Council has been chosen. The Council will begin its meetings as soon as the student representatives are elected. Voting was taking place at press time. Nominees include Tracy Cantwell, Elaine Hume, Scott Adams, Taylor Silver, Kristen Granet, and Tammy Butler.

Current council members are Rose Maree Myers, principal; Jim Fisher, past chairperson; David Bowers, PTSA president (99-00); Myrna Caldwell, faculty (2yr term); Beth Webb Hart, faculty (2yr term); Basil Kerr, faculty (1yr); Peter Smythe, faculty (1yr); Toni Young, parent; Dee Dee Squires, parent; and Buddy Haselden, parent.

Mrs. Byars' grandmother to be featured on A&E special this month

Mrs. Valerie Byars, tenth grade history teacher, is the granddaughter of 1940's movie star Linda Darnell, whose biography will be featured on A&E, October 27.

The program, Linda Darnell: Hollywood's Fallen Angel, will air 8 PM eastern time. Darnell starred in over 40 motion pictures. Some of her more famous films include A Letter to Three Wives, The Mask of Zorro (with Tyrone Powers), Forever Amber, and Blood and Sand.

For more information log onto www.biography.com

School of the Arts adds even more talent to staff for 1999-2000

Ms. Dot Harvey

Our new keyboarding and video production teacher, Ms. Dot Harvey, has 26 years teaching experience. Ms. Harvey, who earned her bachelor's degree in education from Radford University taught in the multimedia lab at Birney Middle School for five years. Prior to that she taught reading and math. She was born in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia and enjoys researching her ancestors. She offers this advice to students: "Live today in such a way as to make good memories for tomorrow."

Ms. Diane Hamilton

Ms. Diane Hamilton, honored as South Carolina's 1997 "High School Social Studies Teacher of the Year," now teaches ninth grade CP Global Studies I and Honors Global Studies I. She taught world history, AP European history, and was the Social Studies Department Chair at James Island High School. She was also named "Teacher of the Year" at James Island High as well as Charleston County "Teacher of the Year." Ms. Hamilton recieved her BA at South Carolina State College and her MAT at the Citadel. She also studied at Cornell University, Princeton University, the College of Charleston, and Virginia Polytech. Born in Charleston, Ms. Hamilton enjoys to travel and read. She encourages her students to "take charge of your learning" because "the well prepared will achieve success."

Ms. Catherine Emory

Ms. Catherine Emory, a new addition to SOA's French department, currently teaches Honors French II, Honors and CP French III and Honors French IV. Ms. Emory graduated from The College of Charleston where she received a bachelor's degree in French. She also earned a certificate of language proficiency from the Universitè d'Angers in Angers, France. Before joining the SOA staff, Ms. Emory worked in the Charleston County Library. Last year she completed her student teaching here at SOA. She also enjoys history, literature, singing, playing the cello, and visiting France.

Ms. Sari Pentecost

Ms. Sari Pentecost, who conducts our Middle School Orchestra and teaches exploratory strings, is a graduate of Loyola University College of Music in New Orleans. In her free time she enjoys riding a Harley,

listening to jazz, and singing the blues.

Ms. Pentecost advises students to "Practice on your own time!" A genuine Rennaisance woman, her talents also include gator wrestling, hula dancing and twirling flaming batons.

Mr. Robert Johnson

Mr. Robert Johnson, whose students call him "Dr. J," is the new seventh grade language arts teacher. Mr. Johnson studied at Winthrop University and the College of Charleston, earning a degree in elementary and middle school English education.

Mr. Johnson enjoys Italian films and pop art. He spent his summer vacation in Madison, Wisconsin where he enjoyed an Olivia Newton-John concert. His favorite artistic works of 1999 are *The Passion of Alice*, a novel by Stephanie Grant, the song "Cold Day in July" by Dixie Chicks, and the film *Cruel Intentions*.

Dr. Myungsook Song Stoudenmire

Dr. Myungsook Song Stoudenmire, the School of the Arts new piano teacher is a native of Seoul, Korea. Dr. Stoudenmire attended Sungshin Women's University in Seoul where she earned her BM and MM in piano performance and was awarded one of the University's highest ranking scholarships. She continued her education in the United States, she earning another MM degree from Columbia College and a DMA from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Stoudenmire completed one year of residency at the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati and was awarded a full scholarship for her doctoral studies. She has performed in many prestigious locations since her debut at National Small Hall in Seoul including the Brevard Music Center and the College Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati. In South Carolina she has appeared at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival as a solo artist and as the guest artist of Fiori da Musica. Most recently, she appeared as a soloist with the University of South Carolina Chamber Orchestra and in solo recitals at Francis Marion University and Columbia College.

Ms. Gail Newton

The new high school guidance counselor, Ms. Gail Newton, earned a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from Winthrop College. In addition,

she graduated from the Citadel with an MEd in counselor education. She also attended the College of Charleston and San Diego State University, taught in middle schools for 17 years, was a guidance counselor at Morningside Middle School, guidance director at the Charleston County Discipline School, and was interim principal at the Charleston County Discipline School. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, her interests include running, kick boxing, arts and crafts, cooking, and off-shore big game fishing, for which she has almost earned her captain's license. Ms. Newton offers this piece of advice, which she attributes to Norman Vincent Peale: "If you put off everything until you're sure of it, you'll never get anything done."

Mr. Vic Varner

The new high school vocal instructor, Mr. Vic Varner, will be directing the chorus and teaching Music Theory I. Mr. Varner earned a bachelor's degree in music education at Charleston Southern University. Soon after that he earned his master's degree in music education from Winthrop University. He later attended Capitol University in Columbus, Ohio and received his Kodaly Certificate. Mr. Varner taught for four years at R.B. Stall High School and at Northwestern High School for 14 years. Born in Salisbury, Maryland, Mr. Varner's interests include walking, reading, watching films, and boating. "I'm happy to be living on the coast again," says Mr. Varner, "and working at SOA."

Mrs. Rosamond Lawson

Mrs. Rosamond Lawson, the new eighth grade social studies teacher, had been substitute teaching for five years in Charleston. She previously worked as a mediator and a trainer. "After choosing teaching as my second career, I feel lucky to be in such a wonderful and creative school as SOA," she says. Mrs. Lawson enjoys gardening, decorative painting, watercolor painting, and reading. When asked for a few words of wisdom, she stated,"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance."

Mr. George Younts

Our new middle school theatre and high school technical theatre teacher is **Mr. George Younts**. Mr. Younts, who is from Chicago, has taught at the Middle School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida, as well as at universities and prisons.

A graduate of Illinois Weslyan University, he also attended DePaul. Mr. Younts has held various job titles including security guard, actor, waiter, landscaper, singer, camp counselor, furniture delivey man, and convenience store clerk. Among Mr. Younts interests are the outdoors, innovative theatre, and magic tricks. He certainly lives up to his theory that life is "beautiful, and all too short, so make the most of it."

Mr. John Cusatis

Mr. Cusatis teaches English enrichment, honors English II, journalism, and language arts skills for sixth graders. He taught six years at Cedar Crest High School, Lebanon, PA and four years at St. John's High School, Johns Island, before beginning full-time doctoral studies at USC in Columbia. He is currently working on his dissertation regarding the poet James Dickey. In June Mr. Cusatis completed the Mayors Midnight Sun Marathon in Anchorage, Alaska, and raised \$9,000 for leukemia patients.

Dr. Veronica Price

Dr. Veronica Price is the new chemistry and CP physical science teacher. Dr. Price has also taught college level chemistry and biology at the Medical University, the College of Charleston, Charleston Southern University, and the Citadel. She has worked in Biomedical Research at MUSC, studying toxicology. Dr Price, who was born in Mt. Pleasant, PA., enjoys the beach, and also likes traveling, tennis, skiing, and gardening.

Dr. Price advises students that "education is one thing that no one can ever take away from you, and it can raise you up to your expectations."

Mr. Garrett Vincent-Pezzeca

Mr. Garrett-Vincent Pezzeca teaches college prep and honors biology, and college prep physical science. He comes to SOA after teaching at Middleton High School and at private schools in New Jersey. As is the case with so many of his colleagues, Mr. Pezzeca brings an eclectic academic background into the classroom, having earned a BS in French literature at the University of Montreal, a BS in entomology from Rutgers and an MEd in biology from the Citadel. He has also studied in New Brunswick, Paris, and Bermuda. A native of Philadelphia, he enjoys photography, stamp collecting, literature, water sports, gardening, and pets.

Seventh graders picked for Duke program

Approximately 45% of the School of the Arts seventh graders qualified to participate in the Duke University Academic Talent Identification Program. To qualify, a student had to score above the 95th percentile on the previous testing of the MAT-7 in Math, Reading, or Complete Battery. These students will be able to take the SAT or ACT College Board tests and possibly qualify as State or National Level winners. Congratulations and good luck!

Qualifying to participate were Denise Abbate, Lauren Adderley, Jeanne Albinger, Melissa Ann and, William Axson, Jason Basile, Melissa Brownstein, Timothy Cantwell, Julia Ceva, Amanda Derhodo, Racheal Diloreti, Branden Dunleavy, Sean Emmel, Hanxu Fan, Joshua Fernandes, Kaylei Fort, Lindsay Funderburk, Shannon Gaetke, Rachel Goldstein, Maggie Harrelson, Jacob Hennessy, James Heston, Fredrick Hiers, Katherine Hildebrandt, Darrel Hodo, Mitchell Huff, Ashton Jacques, Shawn Jordan, Joshua Jourdain, Aaron Joyner, Quenby Keisler, Taryn Kimel, Darryl King, Kristi Kirk, Briana May, Sarah McMasters, Jessica Munday, Shane Oberoi, Anthony Olasov, Evelyn Paloma, Ashley Riley, Randal Scarborough, Gavin Shelton, Morgan Simon, Thomas Tanner, Milton Thomas, Leslie Tumbleston, Cameron Ulmer, Diego Villena, Adrian Westendorf, Edward Yabut, and Kristen Young.

Eighth graders excell

Approximately half of our eighth graders qualified to participate in the S.C. Junior Scholars Competition. The purpose of this program is to identify eighth graders possessing a high level of verbal and/or math skills. Students qualify for this program by scoring at or above the 92nd percentile on the reading or math ssections of the 7th grade MAT-7. Students who qualified as seventh graders for the Duke University Identification Program automatically qualify to participate in the Junior Scholars Program.

Best of luck to the eighth graders who will be taking the PSAT test Oct. 12th. We hope to see your names on the SOA "Academic Wall of Fame." Students qualify to be a S.C. Junior Scholar by scoring over 50 on either the math, verbal, or writing section of the PSAT. The results will be given to our school in the spring. Students taking the PSAT are as follows: Lindsay Alexader, Rebecca Annand, Mary Antley, Laura Benson, Richard Bickerstaff, Brian Black, Elizabeth Bowers, Britteny Burlingham, Nanci Cope, Danielle Cardonella, Philip Chevrier, Courtnay Clark, Erin Comar, Bryson Cook, Candice Cooper, Talia Corley, Jessica Corsaro, Matthew Crotts, Stephanie Darden, Alex Derhodo, Brian Dobson, Mitchell Downs, Mark Edling, Elizabeth Edwards, Bevin English, Jason Epstein, Jessica Fink, Rachel Fleury, Lauren Floyd, Bonnie Fralix, Christian Grant, Katie Gumps, Emily Harkins, Leeann Haseldon, Hannah Herman, Lindsay Jackson, Christopher James, Vincent Johnson, Amanda Jones, Franklin Katschke, Erik Ling, Marc Lynes, Maggie McAnnar, Jennifer Mock, Meredith Neville, Eric Newman, Robyn Olejniczak, Warren Pace, Whtiney Perdue, Ben Pooser, Luke Reed, Audra Rhodes, Heath Richardson, Lauren Ritter, Jessie Rumph, Eva Sclippa, Dorsey Seignious, Audrey Shakespear, Haley Shaw, Stacey Sherman, Amanda Thompson, and Josh Vaughan, Liah Wallace, and John Yang.

Advertise with SOA!

The School of the Arts invites local businesses to show their support by purchasing advertising space in our new school newspaper, which will be published every other month beginning in late October. In addition to receiving an ad in the newspaper, advertisers will also be classified in our ad index in each issue of this newsletter (as seen below), and they will be included on a sponsors page on the SOA web site. (A link to your web site is also available). Students, faculty, staff and parents will be encouraged to support these businesses. The price per ad and per 5 issues is as follows. Note that a purchase of four ads allows the advertiser the fifth ad free.

1/16 page (business card) \$20 per issue, 5 for \$80 1/8 page (approx. 4 1/2" x 3 1/2") \$35 per issue, 5 for \$140 1/4 page (approx. 4 1/2" x 7") \$55 per issue, 5 for \$220 1/2 page (approx. 9" x 7") \$85 per issue, 5 for \$340 1 page (approx. 9" x 14") \$125 per issue, 5 for \$500

Please contact **Mr. John Cusatis** at the School of the Arts with your advertising information:

Phone: 529-4990 Fax: 529-4991

E-mail: jcusatis@cusatis.com

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Come join us for Family Math & Science Night.

You are invited to be a part of the second annual Family Math/Family Science Night at School of the Arts. This program is being continued to better help you understand the math and science your child is learning and to help you to be able to work with them at home. If you decide to enter this program you and your child will have the opportunity to complete a variety of low risk hands on math activities that are a part of the S.C. Math Frameworks. There is no cost to participate in this program. Space is limited to *one* parent per child so you can develop a personal interaction with your child; therefore, we ask that you do not bring small children. Pizza and soda will be served as part of our evening There are fifteen (15) slots available for each session. You are encouraged to sign up for two sessions so as to benefit as much as possible from the experience. Each session will begin at 6:00 PM. Dinner will be served from 6-6:30 p.m. The evening should end at 8 PM. There will be additional offerings in the spring if the fall dates do not fit your schedule. Registration is on a first come first serve basis, so please return the enclosed form to the main office of the school as soon a possible. You will recieve a phone call or letter in the mail confirming your session choice.

Sincerely, Lisa R. Tilton

FAMILY MATH & SCIENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

FALL 1999 Name _____ Grade _____ Child's Name _____ Homeroom ____ Mailing Address _____ Phone Number _____ Choose just one session or choose two sessions (select an A and B) Thursday, October 14, 1999 SESSION 1A Thursday, October 21, 1999 SESSION 1A SESSION 2B Thursday, November 4, 1999 Thursday, December 2, 1999 SESSION 2B PLEASE RETURN TO SOA OFFICE BY OCTOBER 11, 1999 FAMILY MATH & SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION SPRING 2000 Name _____ Child's Name _____ Homeroom ____ Mailing Address _____ Phone Number

Sessions for the high school will be offered in January and February. If you are interested in attending or would like additional information, fill out and send in the above form. Decisions will be made as to how many sessions will be offered, and when, based on the response to this ad. Look in future issues for updates and additional information.

PLEASE RETURN TO SOA OFFICE BY OCTOBER 30, 1999.

School of the Arts 1600 Saranac Street North Charleston, SC 29405 NON-PROFIT US POSTAGE PAID CHARLESTON SC PERMIT 10

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