

APPLAUSE

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS 5109 W. ENTERPRISE ST. NORTH CHARLESTON, SC



Graduating Class of 2010

Editor's Note



I am, as usual, writing this letter at the very last possible minute. My desk is covered in papers, pencils, magic markers, and useless camera cords, and for the seventeenth issue in a row it is Applause send-out day-crunch-time. For the last two years this position has filled me a lot of emotions ranging from the absolute pride of watching the paper be sent out to having to go cry in the bathroom. Despite the insanity, this paper has brought on my life every month, as I look around at my cluttered desk I have to admit that I will be quite sad to go. This school and my job as editor have become a huge part of me and it is with excitement for my future in New York City and with reluctance to leave my computer for the final time, that I hope you enjoy the issue.

Principals' Letters



Every time I think about the seniors leaving SOA I think about the book by Dr. Suess, "Oh the Places You Will Go". I feel very confident you have been well prepared for the future. You have all of the tools and we wish you every success. How excited all of you must be, getting ready to start a new chapter in your life. I know without a doubt you are on the cusp of one of the best times in your life. Go and enjoy every minute of your next chapter. Please e-mail from time to time and let us know of your successes. You certainly will be missed. Best wishes for a wonderful future and good luck!



To the class of 2010...Congratulations. Your pride in this school is unwavering and you have accomplished so much in transforming this campus into our new home. I greatly appreciate the conversations with you about your experiences at SOA over the years and the impact that this school has had on your development. Every one of your shows, acts, readings or performances stands as a beacon that illuminates the power of the arts. Your passion & talents are inspiring.

I wish you only the best in your endeavors, wherever they take you. Meet your challenges head on and use your voice to share the power of our story. Each of you represents the spark that we all carry inside to challenge traditional views and embrace opportunity in new ways. Show the world that through the arts, we can and will create a better place for everyone. With great hope for your happiness and continued success,
-James Reinhart



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Valedictorian Lauren DiNicola, poet, track star, scholar, to attend Harvard

By Wes Snell



SOA Senior Class President and Valedictorian Lauren DiNicola

Lauren DiNicola, the valedictorian of SOA's 2010 graduating class and a record-setting State Champion runner for Wando, will be attending Harvard University in the fall. Her numerous academic and artistic honors include being recognized for highest average in eighteen classes, winning a National Scholastic General Writing Portfolio award, and winning SC State Poetry Out Loud title. I recently sat down with Lauren to better understand how this engine runs.

You've had quite a year. What's your approach to balancing school, sports, your art, and your social life?

I always take one thing at a time and try not to feel overwhelmed. I really love running, and I also love academics and writing. I go from school to practice, and then I work on homework until it is finished. Plus, I have really great friends. They are very supportive, and they try to talk me into going out all the time.

How do you prioritize your writing, your academics, family, friends, and sports?

Everything is my top priority. That is both my key to success and my fatal flaw, I guess. I



Lauren volunteered at the SC Aquarium on Sundays

am not willing to let anything slide. There are some weeks when I have to make running more of a priority because big meets require sleep. And then there are weeks when I have big tests, and I will sacrifice sleep to study. Regardless, on Friday nights, the only thing I want to do is sit with my family and watch *Friends*.

What has motivated you to succeed? Is that motivation internal or external, like your parents?

I think that when I was younger, my motivation was external. I loved when my parents and teachers were proud of me. I still enjoy praise, but I think I am driven more by internal forces now. I hold very high standards for myself. I like to be challenged, and I get angry with myself when I do not rise to the occasions that are presented to me. I don't like when people tell me, "You can't do everything."

I have spent my life trying to prove that I can and that anyone can if he/she works hard enough.

How do you feel about your accomplishments?

I am very thankful that hard work does pay off.

What do you do to relieve stress?

Run! Sports are a huge commitment, but I loved the fact that I had to go to practice everyday. I had to take a two-hour break to exercise. This year, I also watched a whole lot of *Friends*. I have never before been sucked into a television show so intensely, but I found that each twenty-two minute episode was the perfect length for a study break, and I now own all ten seasons.

How did you decide between Stanford and Harvard?

Both schools are so wonderful. The decision was really tearing me apart, to the point that I would tell my mom I was going to California in the morning and then change my mind by dinnertime. But I think I always truly wanted to go to Harvard. I love Boston. (I am a born-and-raised Red Sox fan.) I have family members that live nearby. I love the city. I love the campus. Plus, Harvard offered me more financial aid, and that was a significant factor.

Do you have any advice for rising seniors?

Sometimes it is easy to justify laziness. Don't. Also, don't count yourself out. When I was a Junior, **Ms. Henry** made me an official Minister of Fun. So, to uphold my post, I also pass on this advice (our creed): "If it's not fun, don't do it. If you must do it, make it fun." (And for the record, schoolwork falls into the "you must do it" category).

Who do you consider an inspiration or role model?

I don't have a specific role model. I think that anyone who has found a way to love life and learn constantly is a huge inspiration.

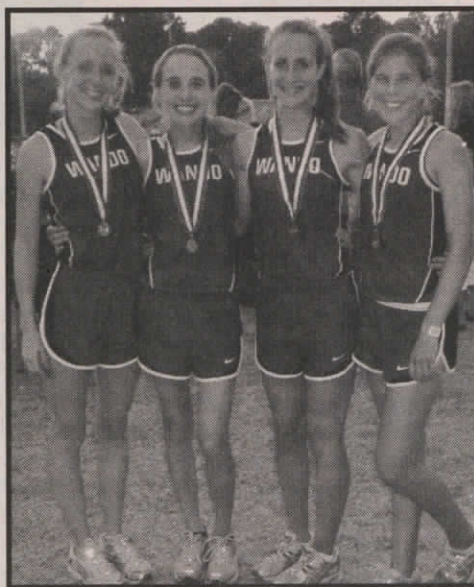
Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Who knows! I am entering Harvard with an undeclared major, and I am not sure which path I will choose.

Which majors have you considered at Harvard?

Harvard has a secondary concentration called Mind, Brain, and Behavior that sounds really interesting, but if I want to choose this, I have to pick a correlating primary concentration, such as Psychology. I am also very interested in English and Education. (I have no concrete plans.)

What do you feel is the crowning achievement of your high school career and why?



Lauren with members of her 3200 meter relay team

Getting into Harvard. I never thought I would, and everything I have done, and everything I have won is reflected in my acceptance. *You've been at SOA since the sixth grade. How do you feel it has left its mark on you?*

SOA has a unique spirit that sort of wiggles its way inside you and makes you feel at home. I have learned so much about writing, about people, about diversity, and about life in general. Learning at SOA happens both in classrooms and in the great discussions between curious students and passionate teachers, and that is a beautiful aspect of SOA's learning environment.

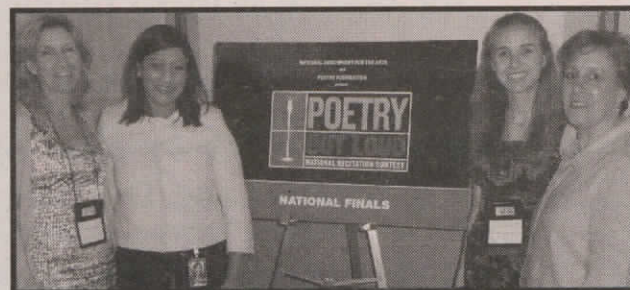
I think that I would not have felt comfortable at any other school, and I am very thankful that School of the Arts provided me with such a wonderful atmosphere in which I could grow as a student and as a person.

How has your major influenced other aspects of your life?

Creative Writing has made me observant, organized, imaginative, and meticulous. These qualities are reflected in nearly every aspect of my life.

The same question as above, but for athletics. What ideals or ways of thinking have they taught you?

Running is very disciplined. You have to eat well and sleep well and keep yourself healthy. Also, many people don't recognize the team aspect of cross-country and track. It is fun to excel as an individual, but every point you earn goes toward your team's overall score. Running has taught me great group skills. Plus, when I began running during track season freshman year, I was nowhere near the front of the pack, but I pushed myself and stuck with the sport, and I have improved immensely. In this way, running has also helped cement the value



This year, Lauren competed in the national POL finals

of hard work in my mind.

What's your favorite book? Favorite author? Artist? Musician?

My favorite book is *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton. My favorite author... hard to say. I admire the writing of many authors for different reasons. Libba Bray wrote my all-time favorite series. Joseph Conrad's writing makes me want to cry because it is so beautiful. I love Emily Dickinson and Eavan Boland.

My favorite artist is Degas. I am not a dancer by any stretch of the imagination, but his paintings of dancers are so elegant and perfect. They blow my mind.

My favorite musician is Regina Spektor. I can almost hear you scoffing, but I love her. My favorite band, though, is The Killers. Katie Drennan and I have seen them in concert twice at the House of Blues in Myrtle Beach. Two of the best nights of my life.

What are your plans for the summer?

This summer I am lifeguarding at Daniel Island Club, and I am only taking a few short trips. In early June, I am going to New York for the National Scholastic ceremony at Carnegie Hall, and in late June, I am going to Orlando with the Drennans to go to HARRY POTTER WORLD!

How did you prepare to become a state champion?

Like I said earlier, I was not a fast runner when I first came to the sport. My team definitely helped me improve. All of the girls are so sweet and accepting. But my coach definitely deserves most of the credit for my running success. Her training schedules and individualized strengthening methods are invaluable. She is extremely passionate about the sport and our team, and she dedicates countless hours to developing our workouts. She was also the first to recognize that I had iron deficiency anemia junior year, and keeping my iron levels in check has been really important for my health.

This season, I worked hard at every practice, tried to sleep well and eat healthy foods, and worked on developing a confident attitude. I was so nervous before my 3200m (two-mile) race at the State Championship meet on May 15 that I cried. But I had prepared my legs for the running and my mind for the heat, and I crossed the finish line in first place.

Our cross-country team won the State Championship last season for the first time since 1976. Winning as a team was definitely more exciting, but being an individual state champion in my favorite event was really incredible."

Applause

the official student publication of
Charleston County School of the Arts
Founded in 1995 by Rose Maree Myers

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One of these things is not like the other

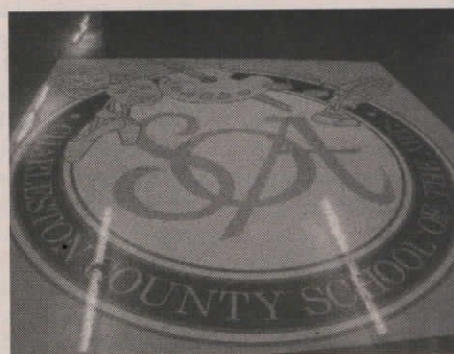
By K. Chaney Long

The last few months have brought a great deal of change to School of the Arts. In my opinion, a lot of this change has been for the good. Though I was incredibly reluctant about leaving the campus that my class and I inhabited for almost seven years, I have grown to appreciate our new facilities. Lately though, I have been noticing some peculiar changes. Most people can agree with the saying "change is good," but I would like to bring up another saying, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Recently, there have been some inconsistencies throughout the school. The first glaring inconsistency is our logo, or perhaps I should say logos. For most of my years at SOA, the school logo was a picture of Einstein (Yes folks, that is Einstein and not an old lady) surrounded by symbols of the eight art majors. Recently this symbol has gone through a few transformations. In the main entrance to the high school building, we have a beautiful mural of that same circle adorned with all of the majors, but, on the inside of the circle, there is no face. There's just "SOA" in very elegant print.



(Above) The original sign from the old campus. (Below) The new mural in the high school wing



For a while I thought that maybe we had finally put old Indian Woman Einstein out to rest, but, as I type this, I am looking at the program for graduation and I am staring at the familiarly mournful eyes of Einstein.

To even further my confusion, I recently received my graduation announcements. The fronts of them have that same arts circle, but on the inside there are just the letters "SA". They're in that same elegant print that's in the mural, but perhaps the O had just gone to chill with Einstein while students send out their announcements.

The second, and perhaps more incredible, inconsistency that I have recently noticed is the name of our new theater. In January, the CCSD Board voted to name the theater the Rose Maree Myers Theater for the Performing Arts, and when people filed into the new building for the dedication ceremony in April, that is what the sign read. Now, when I look up at the theater, I see, written in bronze and extended in the air, "The Rose Maree

Myers Theatre for the Performing Arts." Notice the spelling of theatre. I just find it strange, especially because at SOA, the theatre department here is spelt with an RE because *theatre* denotes the art form. *Theater* denotes a building. I also find it very strange, because everything else is still spelt theater.

You would think that we would want to have all of the words and titles spelt correctly on the buildings of our new multi-million dollar campus, but hey, you would think that after a school has been established for fifteen years that there

would be an official logo. I do not pride myself on being particularly excel-

lent at catching spelling errors. I could fill a book with the spelling errors that I myself have made in *Applause*, but it seems like sometimes spelling is really important. Like spelling things that are going to be on top of buildings, that seems like one of the important spelling things. But really, who am I to question? I'm only the very confused editor of the school newspaper that has no idea how to refer to the new theater, or should I write *theatre*?

Another discrepancy involves the school mascot. Over the years there has been much debate over whether or not Indian Einstein or Pegasus is our mascot. For the record, the school mascot is Pegasus and the school colors are red and gold. For the life of me I can't fig-

ure out why the middle school building has been painted blue. The last time I checked the middle school was still part of SOA, but I'm getting sidetracked. I am aware that Pegasus is not the most intimidating school mascot known to man. If we had a football team, it would certainly be

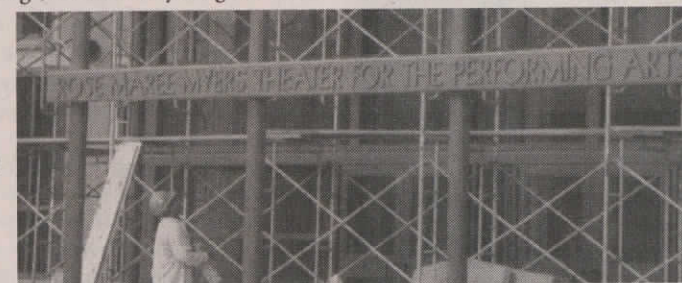
comical to see a Pegasus mascot running at one of the Wando Warriors. It is not the manliest mascot,

but SOA is not the manliest school. It never has been. Raging testosterone is not what we have

going for us. We have a lot of other really spectac-

ular things like a unique arts infused education, incredibly high test scores, and we also have that whole being one of the best schools in the state thing going for us. I'm not sure why there are those who can't get past the dark cloud of a flying horse to notice that.

I know that it seems easy to "fix" some of the quirks that our school has acquired over the years. It's easy to sand down the rough edges and polish out the strange scratches, but, to me, those edges and scratches are a part of the school's identity. As I graduate, I hope that SOA still clings to some of the oddities that are a part of our very core, and I really hope that we don't obliterate our own identity just for the sake of keeping up appearances.



(Above) The first sign on the theater.



(Below) The current sign.

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What quote do you want to be remembered by?

"For the friendship of two, the patience of one is required."

-**Charlene Aiken**

"Life is not about finding yourself; it's about creating yourself."

-**Kerri Bergeron**

"Throughout life people will make you mad, disrespect you, and treat you bad. Let God deal with the things they do, cause hate in your heart will consume you too." -Will Smith

-**Ethan Broadwater**

"I invite anyone reading this to make up a suitable answer based on our interactions."

-**Stephen Burrows**

"Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first." -Mark Twain

-**Cat Bowler**

"Don't do anything by half. If you love someone, love them with all your soul. When you go to work, work as hard as you possibly can. When you hate someone, hate them until it hurts." -Henry Rollins

-**Jacki Brown**

"Live each day at your own pace."

-**Kiona Brown**

"The best things in life are not seen that's why we close our eyes when we cry, kiss, and dream."

-**Kiante Chapman**

"Where words leave off, music begins" -Heinrich Heine.

-**Carley Congdon**

"We grow neither better nor worse as we get old, but more like ourselves."

-**Madeleine Cooper**

"So we just hold on fast, acknowledge the past as lessons exquisitely crafted, painstakingly drafted to carve ourselves instruments that play the music of life..." -Vienna Teng

-**Heather Corson**

"We are all a little weird and life's a little weird, and when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall in mutual weirdness and call it love."

-**Deborah Crocker**

If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there." -Lewis Carroll

-**Samantha Dahabi**

"Life goes on."

-**Faith Davis**

"When in doubt, make a fool of yourself.

There is a microscopically thin line between being brilliantly creative and acting like the most gigantic idiot on earth. So what the hell, leap." -Cynthia Heimel

-**Addison Dent**

"Wrinkles only go where the smiles have

been." -Jimmy Buffett.

-**Lauren DiNicola**

"Don't smother your kids."

-**Katie Drennan**

"Don't go through life letting people put you down, just read the words I found for you and know you have a life and a plan. Pretty little girl don't let me down you will turn this world around."

-**Tyler Droze**

"Believe that life is worth living and your belief will help create the fact." -William James

-**Tyler DuBose**

"Inexperience erases fear, you don't know what is or isn't possible, therefore everything is possible" -Twyla Tharp.

-**Alexandria Gibbs**

"To thy own self be true." -that Polonius guy

-**Leila Gorstein**

"And when we fall, we will fall together. No one will catch us so we'll catch ourselves. And where we roam, we will roam forever. No one will understand what we meant." -Streetlight Manifesto

-**Briel Govan**

"All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players." -Shakespeare

-**ShaRonda Grimball**

"Making million of friends is not a miracle. The miracle is to make a friend who will stand by you when millions are against you..."

-**Jake Grissom**

"You too big for that...what are you...seven?"

-**Brittany Hamm**

"People want to find a 'meaning' in everything and everyone. That's the disease of our age, an age that is anything but practical but believes itself to be more practical than any other age." -Pablo Picasso

-**Kiara Harper**

"For want of a nail the shoe was lost. For want of a shoe the horse was lost. For want of a horse the rider was lost. For want of a rider the battle was lost. For want of a battle the kingdom was lost. And all for the want of a horseshoe nail."

-**Kyle Heck**

"You only got one life to live, so live that one life to the fullest."

-**Kyana Jenkins**

"Carry laughter with you wherever you go."

-**Hugh Sidey**

-**Jessica James**

"An intellectual says a simple thing in a hard way. An artist says a hard thing in a simple way." -Charles Bukowski

-**Austin Jarvis**

"Smile every chance you get"

-**Audrey Johnson**

"Real singers don't cough! Coughing is disrespectful and ruins music!" -Simon Carrington

-**Elissa Keathley**

"Drama lies in extreme exaggeration of the feelings, an exaggeration that dislocates flat everyday reality." -Eugene Ionesco

-**Ericka King**

"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."

-**K. Chaney Long**

"Those who do not want to imitate anything produce nothing." -Salvador Dali

-**Chris Maher**

"The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but those who look on and do nothing." -Albert Einstein

-**Jordan McDermott**

"Yea boy that's right, Mountain Dew"

-**Miles Merritt**

"Ride with Me" -Pachino Dino

-**Jacob Metivier**

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

-**Britini Mitchell**

"I think happiness is what makes you pretty. Period. Happy people are beautiful. They become like a mirror and they reflect that happiness." -Drew Barrymore

-**Megan Murphy**

"Victime de la mode tel est son nom de coeur?" -M.C. Solaar

-**David Nicholson**

"No one plans to take the path that brings them lower." -Alice in Chains

-**Brittany Perry**

"As I get older, I just prefer to knit." -Tracey Ullman

-**Duncan Pfaehler**

"He not busy being born is busy dying." -Bob Dylan

-**Maddi Phillips**

"Love the art in yourself, not yourself in the art" -Stanislavsky

-**Daniel Prentice**

"Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you're right." -Henry Ford.

-**Melissa Rauton**

"The only possible ethic is to do what one wants to do." -William S. Burroughs

-**Collins Rice**

"I don't know who invented high heels, but all women owe him a lot." -Marilyn Monroe

-**Celeste Riddle**

"Why?" and more importantly, "Why Not?" Always question the status quo and never be afraid to try something different.

-**Graeme Rock**

"I got my toes in the water, [butt] in the sand. Not a worry in the world, a cold [drink] in my hand. Life is good today. Life is good today." -Zac Brown Band.

-**Brittany Ropp**

"Hoes before bros." -Mandy Holcomb

-**Heather Rowland**

"A joke is a very serious thing." -Winston Churchill

-**David Sass**

"Sticking feathers up your butt does not make you a chicken."

-**Chris Sim**

"When it comes down to it, I let them think what they want because if they bother enough to care about what I do, then I'm already better than them." Marilyn Monroe

-**Francis Smalls**

"When your life flashes before your eyes, make sure you've got plenty to watch."

-**Brianna Smart**

"Since you can't afford my reality I will be more than happy to sell you the dream."

-**Jessica Smith**

"Do you feel like you've accomplished something?" -Reporter "Well, I did." -Clarence Gideon

-**Wes Snell**

"I want out of the labels. I don't want my whole life crammed into a single word. A story. I want to find something else, unknowable, some place to be that's not on the map. A real adventure. A sphinx. A mystery. A blank. Unknown. Undefined." -Chuck Palahniuk

-**Jessika Stocker**

"Don't be testing my gangsta."

-**Darrel Thomas**

"Perception is reality."

-**Chris Ulmer**

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved."

-Helen Keller

-**Raven Washington**

"If you don't know what you want, you end up with a lot you don't."

-Chuck Palahniuk

-**Brittany Wetzel**

"If you enter this world knowing you are loved and you leave this world knowing the same, then everything that happens in between can be dealt with."

-**Starr Woodall**

"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing." -George Bernard Shaw

-**Seth Zimmerman**

What is the most important thing you've learned at SOA?

"I learned to express my talents in every way possible, without letting what others think, say or do interrupt my dreams."

-Charlene Aiken

"The most important thing I have learned at SOA would be to expect the unexpected. Expect girls' hair to be shorter than the boys, and expect tutu's to be worn on any given day!"

- Kerri Bergeron

"To cherish self-reliance."

-Cat Bowler

"How to be focused on one thing at a time."

- Ethan Broadwater

"I've learned that you should always do things for yourself. Don't let anyone influence you, if you decide you want to do something, don't let anyone else's opinion or judgment change what you want to do. In the end the people that love you will still be by your side."

- Jacki Brown

"Don't procrastinate."

-Kiona Brown

"That one is not worthy of love and honesty until one is loving and honest, both with others and with oneself."

-Stephen Burrows

"I'll do it tomorrow' may not be the best decision."

-Kiante Chapman

"The most important thing I learned at SOA is to be myself and accept others. SOA is unlike other schools because we are so accepting of each other, no matter how different they are. I really love that about SOA."

- Madeline Cooper

"Just be yourself. SOA taught me that you'll find people just like you, who love and accept you for who you are and what you do, and that you will find them no matter where you are if you look hard enough."

-Heather Corson

"The most important thing I've learned at SOA is probably how to work well with others. In band, we learn that it is more important for an ensemble to play as a unified group than for individual players to shine, and that has really taught me that I need to focus not only on my own needs, but the needs of others."

-Carley Congdon

"Be yourself and don't worry about pleasing other people, otherwise you'll never be truly happy. Besides, it's more fun to just be your weird, wacky self!"

-Deborah Crocker

"I've learned to take advantage of the opportunities around you. I've learned not to take anything for granted and I've learned to express myself in ways other than words. I have grown not only as an artist, but as a person during my years at SOA."

-Samantha Dahabi

"It's ok to be different."

- Faith Davis

"Enjoy the art within yourself, not yourself in art."

-Addison Dent

"Diversity and creativity are essential."

-Lauren DiNicola

"Where to get the purp!"

-Katie Drennan

"The most important thing I have learned at SOA is how important it is to respect and support other art majors. Not just in school but anywhere you go it is crucial that you support and respect other artists because they are most likely the people who will support you when no one else will."

-Tyler Droze

"I believe the most important thing I've learned at SOA is how to get ready for college and learn how to deal with stress. SOA is more like a college than a high school and I believe that this will greatly help me at Clemson and it will help me manage my time better and keep up with my work."

-Tyler DuBose

"I learned not to let anyone define you. At SOA you can be whoever you want to be with no repercussions."

-Leila Gorstein

"At SOA, I've learned to truly appreciate all forms of art and that everyone is unique in his/her own way."

- Briel Govan

"To always remain true to thyself"

- ShaRonda Grimball

"The music, my music, it's the biggest part of my life and it's an awesome way to express yourself!"

-Jake Grissom

"Everything; maturing, finding my destiny, and how to get through school the best way I could."

-Brittany Hamm

"The most important thing I have learned at SOA is that being around people having the same passion gives you inspiration."

- Kiara Harper

"The most important thing I learned from SOA is to not be shy, because if you are you will miss many opportunities that you wish you could've taken place in."

-Kyle Heck

"The most important thing I have learned is to go for what you want and not to give up."

-Jessica James

"The power of procrastination."

-Austin Jarvis

"Don't procrastinate. When an assignment is given to you don't wait 3 days before it's due to start working on it."

-Kyana Jenkins

"People will come and go throughout your lifetime but best friends are there through it all!"

-Marlification and Alexandria

-Audrey Johnson

"That if I don't hurray, hurray and journey to my seat so that we can get down to the nitty gritty then I will perform like warmed over poop and sound raunchy. However, if I approach this routine in a mature manner, and spin the pitch, have rebound, articulate the vowel, and enunciate the k in come, then we'll have a bravo situation. Touché."

-Elissa Keathley

"The most important thing that I learned at SOA is that you are never done showing anyone how much your major means to you."

-Ericka King

"Those who care don't matter, and those who matter don't care."

-K. Chaney Long

"The most important thing I've learned at SOA is that to progress, you have to try and put effort into what you do. If not, there will be no improvement."

-Chris Maher

"Any 'life lesson' from Mr. Brehm, Dr. Cusatis, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Reese, or Mr. Donnellon."

-Jordan McDermott

"Life goes on."

-Jacob Metivier

"I've learned that it is okay to express yourself in positive ways; and that being afraid to change is ok when you are trying to become greater than you already are."

-Britini Mitchell

"Man's penultimate goal is to do hard things."

-David Nicholson

"The most important thing I've learned at SOA is not to follow the crowd."

-Brittany Perry

"Everything in life is free, but the investment creates the worth."

-Duncan Pfahler

"Do the work, chief."

-Maddi Phillips

"When I first came here, I hated the old campus. But as time went on I really started to like the trailers and old buildings. The school building doesn't really matter. The old school was a mess but we were still one of the best around."

-Daniel Prentice

"The arts enhance the world around us."

-Melissa Rauton

"The beauty of a semicolon."

-Collins Rice

"I have learned that individuality is the most important thing a person can possess. Here at SOA we are taught not only arts and academics but also that individuality is the defining qual-

ity of a person."

-Celeste Riddle

"Nobody is normal. Those that want to be normal are the weird ones."

-Graeme Rock

"I've learned to step outside of my comfort zone when it comes to befriending people. My best friends this year are people I would never have imagined I'd be friends with, but they're the greatest friends that I could ask for."

-Brittany Ropp

"I've learned to be comfortable in my own skin."

-Heather Rowland

"How to get away with stuff."

-David Sass

"You don't need to have a style yet; just work on developing the right approach."

-Chris Sim

"The most important thing I have learned at SOA is to be open minded, and that art is a strong way of communication."

-Francis Smalls

"During my years at SOA I've learned to be more accepting of others and appreciate the large diversity of opinions and beliefs that others have."

-Brianna Smart

"How to not blink at strange outfits and persons."

-Wes Snell

"I've learned how to take a joke first and foremost. The teachers have (well most of them) have great senses of humors and those that don't, well I take what they say as a joke anyway."

-Jessika Stocker

"The most important thing I learned at SOA is how to connect with people I wouldn't have connected with in the past."

-Darrel Thomas

"I've learned to take my time and not always act on impulse."

-Chris Ulmer

"That we are who we are and we say what we feel so DARE to be different!"

-Jessica Smith

"Costume Design"

-Raven Washington

"It's easy to procrastinate, so you have to be demanding of yourself in order to get things done."

-Brittany Wetzell

"To be more accepting of people that I am not use to."

-Starr Woodall

"Be yourself and never let other people sway you from how you act, dress, or think."

-Seth Zimmerman

What will you miss about SOA?

"The intimate setting, we're a close knit family and in times of need we're always there for each other."

- **Charlene Aiken**

"I will miss the freedom and people at SOA. In the past three years, I have met some people that I will call my friends until the end of time!"

- **Kerri Bergeron**

"The old, musty, beautiful campus."

- **Cat Bowler**

"I will miss all of the people! They are awesome and I am going to miss them when I leave for college."

- **Ethan Broadwater**

"I'll miss everyone I've known for the past 7 years I've been here. Being at SOA since 6th grade means I've had a chance to watch everyone change and grow, and I will miss being able to see everyone grow even more."

- **Jacki Brown**

"I will definitely miss the people. They're a diverse bunch. There are the people that like you, the people that secretly hate you and along those lines are the people that you've become friends with! Once you have them the bad days seem to get worse, but those friends are there to make it better!"

- **Kiona Brown**

"The unique group of people, peers and teachers, who have made me who I am today, whose imprint will be on me forever."

- **Stephen Burrows**

"The close-knit relationships."

- **Kiante Chapman**

"I will miss the spontaneity of SOA; the random classes held outside, fluffer-nutters in Economics, and gumball fights with Mr. Hyde in Mrs. Bronk's class."

- **Madeline Cooper**

"I will definitely miss all of my classmates and teachers. I'll also miss hearing music anytime I'm in the hallways or bathrooms."

- **Carley Congdon**

"I will miss my senior class and some of my teachers."

- **Heather Corson**

"I'll miss my friends, mostly, since a lot of them will be going to colleges far, far away, and we won't get to sit around at lunch and be silly as usual. I'm also going to miss the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors I've befriended, since it'll be longer before they get to experience college with me!"

- **Deborah Crocker**

"I will miss the creative atmosphere and I will miss the people. SOA is not a place replicated anywhere else in the world."

- **Samantha Dahabi**

"The artistic styles and the random conversations."

- **Faith Davis**

"The feeling of the epiphany that hit me in seventh grade. It was in the murals of the halls and Black Box Theater where I realized that, I am an artist. I am an actor, and I am going to be a

good one. I will miss that moment, but I honor its weight every time I open a play, highlight the lines of a script and step on stage, or practice in a tree house."

- **Addison Dent**

"The passionate students and teachers, Creative Writing, eating lunch in Donnellon's room, and the homey feeling."

- **Lauren DiNicola**

"Creative Writing."

- **Katie Drennan**

"The thing I will miss most about SOA are the people and how accepting and amazing we are. I have had so much fun in this place because of the outrageous people I get to go to class with everyday."

- **Tyler Droze**

"I will definitely miss all of the teachers and how small the school is, it's nice when you get to know everybody and everyone is friendly and loving towards one another. This does not happen at other schools and this makes us unique, along with people practicing in the halls and artwork hung everywhere, our school is definitely one to remember."

- **Tyler DuBose**

"The thing that I will miss the most is definitely the girls of my major and Ms. Slowinski. We all practically grew up together and they are like my sisters and Ms. Slowinski has been there from the very beginning and she has taught me so much over the years and I cannot thank her enough. I will also miss all of my other friends who may not be in my major because they made classes bearable. I also will miss all of the random things we do that if we did at other schools people would see them as weird, like having church during lunch in the cafeteria or the whole cafeteria singing happy birthday to someone."

- **Alexandria Gibbs**

"I will definitely miss the SOA atmosphere, and the small community that we have. I have the same sense of belonging at SOA as I do with my own family."

- **Leila Gorstein**

"I already do and will continue to miss the old SOA campus with its artistic walls and vibe, the amazingly creative and talented people I've grown up with these past 6 years, and of course our amazing P.E class freshman year."

- **Briel Govan**

"The care free spirit that roams these halls and the lack of judgmental glares."

- **ShaRonda Grimball**

"The things I will miss the most are the teachers and the memories of the old and new school."

- **Jacob Grissom**

"My dance class and Mrs. Slowinski, we've been through a lot together as the 2010 senior dance class."

- **Brittany Hamm**

"I will miss the friends that I have made within the 2 years I have been here, because I have never

met people that are so down to earth. Also I will miss being able to work on art in the VA studio."

- **Kiara Harper**

"I will definitely miss the people at SOA the most. We are so much different from other high schools. Everyone has fun and no one cares what others think. Also the really relaxed atmosphere."

- **Kyle Heck**

"I will miss the freedom that we have at this school and the respect that we get from the teachers. I will miss all of the people that I have been with for so long."

- **Jessica James**

"Optional attendance."

- **Austin Jarvis**

"The friendly relationship I had with many of my teachers."

- **Kyana Jenkins**

"I'm going to miss my amazing friends (The Tank Triplets) and lunch outside with Aaron, Tyler and Kevin."

- **Audrey Johnson**

"Everything and everyone... except you."

- **Elissa Keathley**

"I will miss my dedicated and brilliant theatre teachers."

- **Ericka King**

"It took me a while to really feel that I belong at SOA, but once I did I really fell in love with being here. I'll miss being here every morning."

- **K. Chaney Long**

"The atmosphere at SOA is one in a million. The creativity surrounding us will be hard to replace."

- **Chris Maher**

"My ghetto school and the teachers."

- **Jacob Metivier**

"I will miss the fact that there was so much diversity, as well as all my friends."

- **Britini Mitchell**

"The vocal rehearsals...ha!"

- **David Nicholson**

"What I will miss most about SOA is the teachers and the atmosphere."

- **Brittany Perry**

"I missed it ever since we moved out! The old campus!"

- **Duncan Pfahler**

"Being constantly submerged in art and surrounded by artists."

- **Maddi Phillips**

"As I do already, I will miss the old campus."

- **Daniel Prentice**

"My friends and the teachers."

- **Melissa Rauton**

"The atmosphere, that amazing security that exists on campus that allows people to feel free to be who they are and inspires no need to follow a trend."

- **Collins Rice**

"I will miss SOA's atmosphere because it isn't every day where someone can be riding a scooter down a school hallway and no one give it a second look."

- **Celeste Riddle**

"Friends, teachers, the eccentric ones, and the spirit of SOA."

- **Graeme Rock**

"I'll miss the laid back environment. Also, we've grown up together and have bonded in a way that wouldn't have happened at a huge high school."

- **Brittany Ropp**

"I will miss the close knit family atmosphere we have at SOA. We are all one big family."

- **Heather Rowland**

"You. I'm really gonna miss you. I'm gonna cry myself to sleep every night over you."

- **David Sass**

"The alluring aroma of the paper mill."

- **Chris Sim**

"I will miss artistic and expressive people. I will miss the close relationships between all the students, and the fact that I can be anyone I wanted to be!"

- **Francis Smalls**

"I will miss the laidback and friendly atmosphere of SOA the most. I loved being able to go outside during lunch with all my friends, and to walk down the hallways hearing people singing and playing their instruments."

- **Brianna Smart**

"I will miss those days where someone decides to look like a fool in school and come with a cape on as if they were the world's greatest superhero or maybe another decides that just for the day he wants to wear a skirt and/or makeup to test out the effects of being the opposite sex."

- **Jessica Smith**

"Communitas!"

- **Wes Snell**

"I'll miss the teachers and the environment, at least at the old school. It was always a bonding experience swimming through the puddles to get to your next class and seeing all of the art work covering the walls, the new school kind of lost that."

- **Jessika Stocker**

"I will miss the administrative lockdowns. It's the only time I got good sleep!"

- **Darrel Thomas**

"All the good people, but most of all, my fellow visual artists."

- **Chris Ulmer**

"Being around my best friends since we were little kids."

- **Raven Washington**

"The singing and playing of instruments in the hallway, or better yet the bathroom."

- **Brittany Wetzel**

"I will NOT miss all the fire drills!"

- **Starr Woodall**

"All the amazing people and teachers."

- **Seth Zimmerman**

Any advice for underclassmen?

"Remember to take notes in Mr. Brehm's Class and keep your Daily Reflections up, you'll regret it if you don't."

-Charlene Aiken

"Life is too short for drama! NO ONE CARES! Just live your life day by day because it goes by too fast!"

- Kerri Bergeron

"Don't be afraid to poop in the bathrooms. Wes wasn't."

-Cat Bowler

"Just do the work; high school really is not that bad. It is easy so just don't give up."

- Ethan Broadwater

"Try your best, no regrets ever came out of trying your personal absolute best. It will only make your life easier. Oh and respect can get you a long way."

- Jacki Brown

"Forget everything you've heard! Some of the meanest teachers are the nicer ones and the nicer ones give out too much homework. You're in charge of yourself in high school, so make mistakes, there's room for them, regret them the next day and learn from them."

-Kiona Brown

"It's just high school. Be bold; over-step your limits. You won't even remember what your peers thought of you once you leave high school."

-Stephen Burrows

"Watch out for Brehm! Just kidding, just do the work and keep up with your AP readings."

-Kiante Chapman

"If it's free pancake day at IHOP, and you really want a stack of 3 free pancakes, don't skip school to get them. You will get caught, and the people who wait until after school to get their pancakes (like I did!) will laugh at you."

-Carley Congdon

"Don't take anything for granted. Work hard and it will pay off."

-Madeline Cooper

"Words of advice: seriously, you catch senioritis in August, it's unavoidable; try to stay on top of all your work and just keep your GPA high so you won't lose your college acceptance."

-Heather Corson

"Bring LOTS of food. And I mean LOTS. Fill your lunch box with anything that'll make you hyper. You MUST stay awake in Mr. Brehm's class. It's a matter of life and death!"

-Deborah Crocker

"Plan to be surprised."

-Samantha Dahabi

"Make friends with some underclassmen

because when you become a senior wand walk across that stage at graduation you'll have twice as many people screaming for you."

-Faith Davis

"When you realize your focus, do not question it. Do not think logistically and hesitate, accept it and move with it. Once you move, you will become a force of nature and you will move."

-Addison Dent

"Do your homework. Read. And when all else fails, watch *Friends*."

-Lauren DiNicola

"Never look them in the eye."

-Katie Drennan

"My advice is to respect the upperclassmen and to not sleep in class."

-Tyler Droze

"Yes, keep your grades up and get ready for the SAT! The SAT is what will help you get into the colleges that you want to go to, practice and get ready for those and you'll be less worried about what colleges you will get accepted to."

-Tyler Dubose

"My advice for underclassmen is that even though your senior year may be stressful at times don't give up because in the end it will all be worth it. Being a senior is a great experience and there will be fun times, but makes sure to do your work even though you may not feel like it and just keep looking toward graduation and how badly you want to walk across that stage to get your diploma."

-Alexandria Gibbs

"My advice would be to appreciate each moment you have here. Time flies by and you want to remember this time in 20, 50, 100 years from now."

-Leila Gorstein

"My advice to the underclassmen is don't slack off in your major. You'll regret it when senior thesis is right around the corner. Also, take the harder classes now so you have the most relaxed senior year possible."

-Briel Govan

"Don't take yourself too serious. ALL GRADES DO COUNT AND THEY WILL CATCH UP WITH YOU SENIOR YEAR ON YOUR GPA!"

-ShaRonda Grimball

"Do your homework, do well on tests and just chill. It's high school, have a good time"

-Jake Grissom

"When things get tough, tough them out. Nothing is impossible so never settle for less and always do your best."

-Brittany Hamm

"Don't take your years at SOA for granted because this school is an amazing if you are passionate about any art. Just by going to this school you have an advantage at colleges."

-Kiara Harper

"Enjoy the younger years because senior year is a definite reality check."

-Kyle Heck

"My advice to the underclassmen would be to cherish all the times that you have here. Time really does fly by and you will be graduating so much sooner than you think. Don't take anything for granted, enjoy everything you have, and remember your best times with the people that mean the most to you."

-Jessica James

"Never be late for Brehm."

-Austin Jarvis

"Make friends with the administrators. That way you won't get into a whole lot of trouble."

-Kyana Jenkins

"Treat the seniors right because you will want that respect when you are a senior."

-Audrey Johnson

"Don't take physics, do take teacher cadet, don't sleep through economics, and keep your end of the year calendar open because the vocal concert will change 112893701927 times."

-Elissa Keathley

"For the underclassmen I would say don't rush through your 3 or 4 years that you have left of high school because before you know it the life that truly matters begins before you even know it."

-Ericka King

"Seize every opportunity when it comes your way, and never regret anything."

-K. Chaney Long

"Keep it interesting."

-Chris Maher

"Get your stuff done, or you're screwed."

-Miles Merritt

"Live life a quarter mile at a time."

-Jacob Metivier

"Please do not steal peoples man...because if you can't fight then a lot of pain can be avoided."

-Britini Mitchell

"Honestly, just do it yourself."

-David Nicholson

"Win a game."

-Brittany Perry

"Take all honors and AP classes. It doesn't matter whether you fail, you'll learn something undoubtedly."

-Duncan Pfahler

"Try everything at least once, always keep an open mind, learn everything you can, and

walk barefoot through fields."

-Maddi Phillips

"Don't do Mr. Lindgren's Project Care at a church. For some reason it doesn't count."

-Daniel Prentice

"Do the best you can at everything you do."

-Melissa Rauton

"Apply early decision, just do it. Your life will be infinitely easier."

-Collins Rice

"My advice for the underclassmen is read absolutely everything Cusatis and Brehm give you. They know exactly what they are doing so just trust them and read it."

-Celeste Riddle

"Procrastination is your worst enemy: consider hiring a personal slave-driver to force you to finish all of your work early."

-Graeme Rock

"Keep your friends close. Keep your enemies closer. You won't see more than half of these people ever again!"

-Brittany Ropp

"Don't let senioritis get the best of you during senior year and enjoy everything high school has to offer."

-Heather Rowland

"Eat yer greens!"

-Chris Sim

"Do all of your homework."

-Francis Smalls

"Enjoy your time at SOA before you have to enter the 'real world'."

-Brianna Smart

"Mr. Brehm's class isn't as hard as others make it seem. Just become a "Smitty" or a "Woody" and everything shall be fine."

-Jessica Smith

"Go to school. Seriously. Go."

-Wes Snell

"Do the work."

-Jessika Stocker

"The advice for underclassmen: Leave the Upperclassmen alone!"

-Darrel Thomas

"Always speak your mind when necessary."

-Chris Ulmer

"Enjoy your time in high school."

-Raven Washington

"Don't be late for Mr. Brehm's class!"

-Brittany Wetzel

"DO NOT SKIP SCHOOL FOR NATIONAL PANCAKE DAY...OR YOU WILL SUFFER THE WRATH OF CROMARTIE!"

-Starr Woodall

"Don't be afraid to act kooky! Be yourself and have fun; there's no other school like ours so make the best of your time here."

What are your plans for after graduation?

"Before going off, I want to spend some time with my friends and savor every moment. I plan to go to college for 4 years at Francis Marion University to get my BSN."

-Charlie Aiken

"This summer, I will continue working and volunteering at MUSC Children's Hospital. I will be attending College of Charleston in the fall! (Go Cougars)"

- Kerri Bergeron

"Road trip to Harry Potter World among other various trips this summer, and then it's off to the University of South Carolina Honors in the fall."

-Cat Bowler

"Going to Clemson, majoring in Chemical Engineering."

- Ethan Broadwater

"I'm moving to Chapel Hill, NC to attend the Aveda Institute. After I finish that I'm going to go back to College and get a business degree and hopefully open my own salon."

-Jacki Brown

"After graduation I'm going to get a lot of sleep, then head over to Francis Marion University!"

-Kiona Brown

"I plan to attend Oberlin Conservatory and immerse myself in opera. I also want to learn Spanish and Farsi, build my compositional portfolio, and attend Baha'I pilgrimage to Haifa, Israel."

-Stephen Burrows

"PARTY! Then back to the same ole same. College here I come!"

-Kiante Chapman

"After graduation, I plan on hanging out with my friends, catching some rays, and going to the Performing Arts Institute for three weeks at Wyoming Seminary in Pennsylvania."

-Madeline Cooper

"I'm going to Coastal Carolina University to double major in Biology and Marine Science in hopes of becoming a researcher of marine invertebrates."

-Carley Congdon

"I'll be participating in two theatre productions, celebrating my 18th birthday, visiting London, packing up and then moving to my dorm room at Westminster Choir College in New Jersey."

-Heather Corson

"I'm going to Spartanburg Methodist for a year, and then switching to Wofford to hopefully cultivate a writing career."

-Deborah Crocker

"In the fall I will be attending the College of Charleston as an arts management Major and a dance minor."

-Samantha Dahabi

"I'm moving to Columbia to live with my brother. Taking classes online and working on performance."

-Faith Davis

"I will begin study in an undergraduate program where I will major in theater and minor in history or literature. On completion of my Undergraduate education I will chase the advanced acting pro-

grams at Harvard School of Drama or Yale School of Drama. I have no doubt that I will be attending one or the other by 2017."

-Addison Dent

"I will be attending Harvard next fall. I am entering college with an undeclared major, and I am very excited!"

-Lauren DiNicola

"I plan on swimming with Great Whites."

-Katie Drennan

"My plan is to start my college life and strive to become an excellent music teacher."

-Tyler Droze

"After graduation I plan on working during the summer at the Clemson Research Center on 17, then heading off to Clemson University for the fall."

-Tyler DuBose

"After graduation I plan to enjoy my summer before going off to college."

-Alexandria Gibbs

"After I graduate I am heading off to Indiana University to be a theatre major. It's going to be a huge change for me, but hopefully the individuality I gained here at SOA will help me out a bit."

-Leila Gorstein

"I will be at the Art Institute for Photography and plan to travel often and live my life to the fullest."

-Briel Govan

I will be attending Winthrop University in the fall and I plan to major in history and social studies and minor in secondary education."

-ShaRonda Grimball

"I will be attending Trident Tech for a year or two finishing my core classes and then I will be transferring to USC Columbia or C of C to study management of land and business."

-Jake Grissom

"The United States Marine Corps."

-Brittany Hamm

"My plans are to attend College of Charleston and major in fine art. I want to discover who I am as an artist, and to learn from people around me."

-Kiara Harper

"After graduation I am going to travel everywhere, and then when I get back I'm going to College of Charleston."

-Kyle Heck

"I will be attending University of South Carolina after graduation."

-Jessica James

"Party! And spend some time with the family and friends."

-Kyana Jenkins

"To get my Bachelor of Architecture degree from Rice University, spend a few years living at Arcosanti in Arizona, become a bike messenger in New York, herd sheep in Ireland, hike the Appalachian Trail, kayak to every island in Acadia National Park, backpack in South Africa, and move to Black Mountain, NC, where I will retire and grow bonsai trees for the remainder of my life."

-Austin Jarvis

"Work all summer then Presbyterian College."

-Audrey Johnson

"I will be attending Clown College in the fall... then I will join the Ringling Bros. Where I will have a steamy affair with the ring leader in order to promote my status from clown to bearded lady, or I will be attending Anderson University in the fall for Music Education and will be studying voice and piano."

-Elissa Keathley

"I plan to go to Columbia Art College in Chicago and study theatre as my major, if theatre works out I plan on moving to wherever it takes me."

-Ericka King

"Marymount Manhattan in NYC!"

-K. Chaney Long

"College, then hopefully Peace Corps."

-Chris Maher

"Going to college, and then becoming a NASCAR driver."

-Miles Merritt

"I plan to attend Coastal Carolina University and stay out of JAIL."

-Jacob Metivier

"Well, going to Marymount University, but before that PARTYING IT UP!"

-Britini Mitchell

"I'd like to live on the commune 'Cat Stevens', but let's be real..."

-David Nicholson

"My plans after graduation are to attend USC Aiken and major in Sociology."

-Brittany Perry

"Get my undergrad, learn to fly a plane, get my B.A.S.E number, fly in a Red Bull Air Race, jump off the Burj in Dubai, learn to live with the land, have a hell of a life!"

-Duncan Pfaezler

"I'll be attending Clemson University in the fall for Environmental & Natural Resources with a concentration in Natural Resource Management. After that, I'm going to travel to the peak of Machu Picchu to paint pictures of fruit and get in touch with my inner-sheep-herder."

-Maddi Phillips

"After graduation, I will be attending C of C for a year or two depending on course selections, and then going to USC or Clemson for Computer Engineering."

-Daniel Prentice

"I'm going to Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's Summer Intensive for 5 weeks. In the fall, I will be attending Point Park University in Pittsburgh, PA, double majoring in dance and economics/finance."

-Melissa Rauton

"To do exactly what makes me happy and nothing else."

-Collins Rice

"Well, I'll be hungry so hopefully some Thai food."

-Celeste Riddle

"I hope to study physics at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, one of the best colleges

for undergraduates in the nation, and then go to MIT for my masters, and eventually research String Theory and the workings of the Universe."

-Graeme Rock

"After graduation, I plan on going to the beach as much as possible and unfortunately, working... a lot. I'm going to start TTC and later transfer (most likely to C of C) once I figure out what I want to major in."

-Brittany Ropp

"I'm going to enjoy the time off from school by hanging out with friends and going to the beach during the summer and then go to University of South Carolina in the fall for school."

-Heather Rowland

"I don't know. Sleep for a week."

-David Sass

"Skydiving or becoming the next Iron Chef."

-Chris Sim

"After graduation, I will be going to Francis Marion University."

-Francis Smalls

"After graduation I plan on going to the College of Charleston."

-Brianna Smart

"After graduation I plan to go to dinner where I will accept all my lovely gifts from all those who love me oh so dearly then I shall enjoy my summer before I go off to the University of South Carolina in Columbia where I shall major in Nursing."

-Jessica Smith

"Immediately after graduating, I'll be in New York City for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Then I'm backpacking in Europe with my best friend Yaar until early August. The next couple of weeks will be my goodbye to Charleston, and then I leave for Portland, OR on August 20th."

-Wes Snell

"Explore, dance, take pictures, create, laugh, and love."

-Jessika Stocker

"My plans after graduation is to go to Coastal Carolina University and major in Theater and Drama Arts and minor in Education."

-Darrel Thomas

"School in Florida."

-Chris Ulmer

"Go to college at Gallaudet (An all deaf college.)"

-Raven Washington

"University of Texas at San Antonio; pre-med."

-Brittany Wetzel

"My plan after graduation is to perform at my last dance recital, go to a national competition, go to L.A for a week and attend Columbia College in the fall as a Dance Major."

-Starr Woodall

"This summer I am going to Israel for eleven days for my sister's Bat Mitzvah. As for college, I am going to the University of South Carolina and will be studying music composition."

-Seth Zimmerman

What was your most memorable moment at SOA??

"When Francis Smalls and Craig Maxwell busted out the Single Ladies in the middle of Winter Formal."

-Charlene Aiken

"My most memorable day at SOA would have to be my first day. I had heard a lot of stories about the school, but the experience was so much different."

- Kerri Bergeron

"Sticking my foot in my mouth in Mr. Percy's class... We've just been raped by the long arm of the SOA administration."

-Cat Bowler

"Probably senior thesis because it gives everyone a chance to show off what they have learned while here at SOA. Everyone always does so great during the months that there are senior thesis performances."

- Ethan Broadwater

"I don't think I've had one particular memorable moment, but more like a boat load of them. I will always cherish the memories I have made here, and I won't ever be able to forget all the people."

- Jacki Brown

"I don't really have a memorable moment that stands out because I've had great times with many people at SOA!"

-Kiona Brown

"Singing my first solo in the 8th grade--it was in an arrangement of the song "Zippidee Doo Da"--and everyone in the vocal class breaking into thunderous applause."

-Stephen Burrows

"Meeting all of my lifelong friends. LOVE YOU GUYS!"

-Kiante Chapman

"I don't think it's appropriate for the Applause, but I'd definitely have to say the murex situation with Seth in Mr. Clark's class in ninth grade."

- Madeline Cooper

"Playing Caccia and Chorale in band was definitely memorable and very emotional."

-Carley Congdon

"The New York trip that the vocal class took in 2008, my sophomore year; that was, without a doubt, the best school trip I have ever taken."

-Heather Corson

"There's been plenty, but one of my favorites was when we were in Dr. Price's class working with Bunsen burners. We accidentally turned the wrong knob, causing a huge jet of flame to come out of the gas pipe. It was scary then, but I laugh about it now."

-Deborah Crocker

"I remember one day in Ms. Lawson's class when a student left the room to go to the restroom my class thought it would be funny to play a joke on that student by leaving the classroom, turning the lights off, locking the door and hiding"

-Samantha Dahabi

"Constantly being mooned by a classmate in history class...math class...science class...all day."

-Faith Davis

"In middle school a student, who remains anonymous, made one of the biggest political statements I have ever witnessed. They demonstrated tenacity and courage and cunning far beyond their years. That courage has far transcended the walls of a middle school bathroom so many years ago, where a challenge to the progression of our nation's perspective on social and political values was poignantly amassed."

-Addison Dent

"When the entire senior class came together to help

transport and sort the toys for the Toys for Tots drive this year. Having a class that can come together as well as we do is very rare and very special."

-Lauren DiNicola

"When Seth screamed 'DIVIDE!' in Mrs. Bunch's Algebra class after falling asleep."

-Katie Drennan

"I cannot pick just one moment because there are too many but the ones that stand out the most are thesis, prom and all of the moments that make up vocal."

-Tyler Droze

"My most memorable moment at SOA was when we had to travel outside about four times in the same day for fire alarms at the new school, and also all the trips I've been on with the SOA Jazz Band and the Wind Ensemble."

-Tyler DuBose

"My most memorable moment at SOA was in eighth grade. We had a performance and it was a pedestrian like dance which we dancers just call the walking dance." It was near the end of the dance when we all run in a spiral formation, and I fell, but I got up as fast as I could and kept going. It was one of the most embarrassing moments in my life and at the end I was really devastated. After being so devastated, most of the parents and guests of my peers just thought it that it was supposed to happen and that it was just a part of the dance. I was so relieved and I don't think any of us would forget that moment."

-Alexandria Gibbs

"Senior year, Raven Washington was falling asleep and Mr. Percy almost blew his horn."

-ShaRonda Grimball

"It's hard to just pick one out. One of my favorite moments at SOA was in 9th grade when I got my first detention. Mr. Murray made me come to his room after school, but his way of disciplining me was giving me a bunch of compounds quizzes and telling me stories about his time living in Japan. It was the best detention ever."

-Leila Gorstein

"There are so many memorable moments at SOA, but what I will never forget is my P.E class and our dressing-room games, hiding behind cars and of course our horrifically difficult "exam" (pool party.) Also, I'll never forget Lake SOA with the swimming, paddling, and duck ponds."

-Briel Govan

"I have a few. My most memorable moment was being in the band room so many days, studying and learning music. Music is honestly the universal language. All you have to do is play."

-Jake Grissom

"Friday April 30th, 2010; Receiving my cap and gown to graduate on June 4th. Never thought it would come so fast. But its here, and I am so ready! USMC Here I Come!"

-Brittany Hamm

"My most memorable moment at SOA is being recognized for what I love."

-Kiara Harper

"My most memorable moments at SOA are defiantly PE freshman year and all of senior year."

-Kyle Heck

"My most memorable moment was when our World Geography class hid from Mr. Clark thinking that he would take it as a joke. He didn't."

-Jessica James

"Playing Frisbee with a clock on the last day of school

9th grade year and not realizing the irony until the next day."

-Austin Jarvis

"Billy Joel and Elton John Jazz Concert in 9th grade."

-Kyana Jenkins

"When the strings class went to play "Happy Birthday" to Maclain and AJ the Fitz way."

-Audrey Johnson

"PE freshman year with Briel, Brianna, Kyle, and sugarcubes and Lyric Choir '09."

-Elissa Keathley

"My most memorable moment at SOA was at orientation before my first year at SOA even started. I remember exactly how refreshing it was to be around these people that omitted this artistic vibe that I knew I had been missing all my life until that very moment."

-Ericka King

"When Mr. Donnellon so kindly predicted my future for me."

-K. Chaney Long

"My most memorable moment at SOA would probably when I and an unnamed graduate were in an unnamed empty classroom playing Frisbee (maybe we were supposed to be in an unnamed teacher's class too). The Frisbee whizzed by the glass window of the door, and made loud crash noise as it hit the stack of easels. This commotion just happened to grab the attention of the administrator walking by; Mr. Davis. He opened the door and picked up the Frisbee. Before he even got a word out we both immediately started flattering."

"Mr. Davis! How are you? How's the family doing?" my friend asked

"Mr. Davis, I love that tie. Is it new? Have you seen my panting? What's your opinion on this piece of art of here?" I hammered him with questions.

Mr. Davis still had the Frisbee in his hand as he politely answered all our questions. He knew we what we were up to in there. After-gracing us with conversation for 15 minutes we asked if we could have the Frisbee back. He said no. We knew we were getting off easy regardless so we didn't ask any further about the Frisbee. He told us to "go to class" and he left the room. We watched him walk towards the door. Before he opened the door he put the Frisbee on the closest tables and walked out without another word."

-Chris Maher

"Definitely the IHOP incident."

-Jacob Metivier

"My most memorable moment was hiding under cars from the PE class, because I didn't want to go to school..."

-Britini Mitchell

"I'll always remember on the first day of school seeing Blake's haircut while walking to class and wondering "When did they start letting mushrooms go to school?"

-David Nicholson

"My most memorable moment at SOA was when I was on a band trip and Angel Pope's weave was floating in the pool."

-Brittany Perry

"Doing a cannonball into the lake on one of those really rainy days at the old campus."

-Duncan Pfaehler

"Introducing and meeting the love of my life, Colum McCann. And of course Clay Dustin's epic Journey Through the Ceiling."

-Maddi Phillips

"Reading children's books in Mr. McDivitt's class in 10th grade."

-Daniel Prentice

"There were way too many to name one."

-Melissa Rauton

"My most memorable moment at SOA is every "church" song we sang in vocal. They are slightly obscene but my goodness they sure are fun."

-Celeste Riddle

"Playing with the wind ensemble during an important concert, we came to the final chord of the grand finale and after the note cut off, there was a perfect resonance in the room, and the only thing I could think was, 'wow.'"

-Graeme Rock

"My most memorable moment at SOA was my junior year when I was crowned Prom Princess."

-Brittany Ropp

"My most memorable moment would have to be the day the seniors came over to tour the new school from the old school. I feel like we all came together as a class for the first time."

-Heather Rowland

"I refuse to pick just one."

-David Sass

"When someone desecrated on the bathroom floor in seventh grade."

-Chris Sim

"Everyday at SOA since ninth grade has been a memorable moment!"

-Francis Smalls

"My most memorable moment at SOA would be my freshman PE class. I had so many fun times and met many of my close friends there."

-Brianna Smart

"I will NEVER forget the day Mr. Lindgren was trying to demonstrate normal force and he stood on top of the podium when it broke and he busted his butt! Whoa! That was hilarious!"

-Jessica Smith

"The Suppressed Desire Talent Show."

-Wes Snell

"Chasing Chinchillas in 7th grade or sarcastic conversations with Brehm and Donnellon."

-Jessika Stocker

"My most memorable moment at SOA is me being Snoop Dogg at McDonald's."

-Darrel Thomas

"Getting a two day vacation for eating at I-Hop. It was a good two days."

-Chris Ulmer

"I'm involved in the Jefferson Service Club and I gave a speech at City Hall. Our club won the gold banner."

-Raven Washington

"One of the many days at the old campus when it rained and flooded; meanwhile, you're cursing the fact that you are having to wade through the water and fight through the mass of people all trying to fit on the sidewalk, yet when you finally get to where you're going all you can do is laugh because everybody else around you is drenched and muddy as well...and it's ok because it's SOA."

-Brittany Wetzel

"I'll always remember the hilarious conversations we had at lunch."

-Seth Zimmerman

Brittany Hamm

Brittany Nicole Hamm,
Congratulations! I am so proud of you and the decision you have made to further your career. I wish you much success. I love you.

Your mom,
Maxine

Collins Rice

Congratulations, Collins!
Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails.

Explore. Dream. Discover.
-Mark Twain

Pack your bags. Life is waiting. We love you!
Mom, Kitty, and Steve



Brittany Diane Ropp

**LOVING... SASSY... TALENTED... SILLY...
OUTSPOKEN... SMART... Beautiful... GENUINE...
INFECTIOUS SMILE... DAUGHTER... SISTER...
GRANDDAUGHTER... COUSIN... FRIEND... AND...
WONDERFUL!!**

We are so proud of you and love you very much...
CONGRATULATIONS - Love, Your WHOLE Family

David Sass

With apologies and credit to John Stone for "Gaudeamus Igitur [therefore let us rejoice]: A Valediction" and Ted Hughes for "The Thought-Fox":

For this is the day you will spit the pacifier from your mouth

"For this is the day you know too little against the day when you will know too much..."

For you will look smart and feel ignorant... and ... you will not know which day it is for you"

But, "what matters finally is how the human spirit is spent

For this is the day of joy...

For this is the beginning." (Stone)

"The page is printed." (Hughes)

With love and congratulations,

Mom
Wayne
Douglas
Lucy
Aaron
Max and
Lena

Brittany Perry

Congratulations on your achievement. We are extremely proud of you. Your smile and zest for life is infectious. You are a determined, disciplined, and delightful young lady. You are a joy to our family. May God Bless you as you continue to pursue your goals. May you obtain all that is predestined for you as you continue on this pathway called life. Always be yourself.

You are perfect just as you are.

Good luck and Love Always,
Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa and Big Bro

Deborah Crocker

"I can do all things through "CHRIST," who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:13



Deborah Mariyah,

We know the road has often been long and sometimes hard, but this important achievement on your journey to reaching your ultimate goal has been worth it. Never allow yourself to waver or compromise, but always walk by faith, keep your eyes on the prize that "JESUS CHRIST" has set for you.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

We love you,
Mom and Dad

Charlene Aiken

Congratulations Charlene! Our beautiful, sweet and gifted miracle. We thank God for you everyday. Your wisdom and abilities. We are very proud of you and your accomplishments. Thank you for being a true child of God that leads by example. I pray that you have a blessed future!

Love Mom, Dad, Charles and Shone

Chris Maher

Dear Chris,

Congratulations on your graduation!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We are so proud of u and wish u the best that life has to offer. I hope u get the scholarship.

Love, Mom, Dad, Kat and Cade

Chris Sim

You've become the person we had always hoped, and now, you'll start your path to becoming the man you envision. We love you so much! Mom and Dad

Francis Smalls

Francis,

We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments. You are an extraordinary young man, and God has many blessings in store for you!

Love
Aunties & Dad.



To our Goddaughter Allie;
As you begin this next chapter of your life, you will experience wonderful new adventures. Continue to set your own course, follow your heart, and more importantly, remember that you are destined for greatness!

We are proud of you.
Love Auntie Von, Uncle Johnny and Christina

Alexandria Gibbs



Alexandria, my dearest granddaughter:
Congratulations on your High School graduation!

I am very proud of you. Follow your dreams.
God Bless You.
Love, Grammy



To our darling daughter Alexandria:
We cannot believe how quickly the years have gone by. We smile as we think of our little girl taking her first unsure steps and speaking her first words. Today we beam with pride as we see the beautiful young woman you have become. As you embark on the next phase of your life, we send you fortified with our love and unwavering support.
Happy Graduation!
Love Momma and Daddy

Brittany Wetzel



American screenwriter, poet and civil rights activist Dorothy Parker once said, "The best way to keep children home is to make the home atmosphere pleasant—and let the air out of the tires." We've tried both. It didn't work. Guess it's time to wish you a safe, successful, happy and smooth transition into college.

We love you. P.S. We have no idea where your car keys are. Really.

--Mom, Dad, Bryson

Grandchildren are the best reward for having children . . . from baking cookies to breakfast times. . . from the baby seat to the driver's seat. So much has changed, but you have always been so beautiful and intelligent. Papa was always proud of you.

I know that you have much to offer the world. Love you. Miss you.

--Grandmama

May the road rise to meet you, May the wind always be at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields and, until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand. --Irish Blessing. Love you more!

--Aunt Annie & Uncle Marv

Like the French region that bears your name you have beauty, intelligence, independence, and a unique blend of cultures, families, customs, and beliefs, to share with the world. Embrace things that make you different; use them to bring people together instead of apart. Remember that it's not miles that separate us from the ones we love. Family and home are in your heart. God Bless you and keep you.

--Aunt Amy, Uncle Greg, Brandon, Nick, Alex

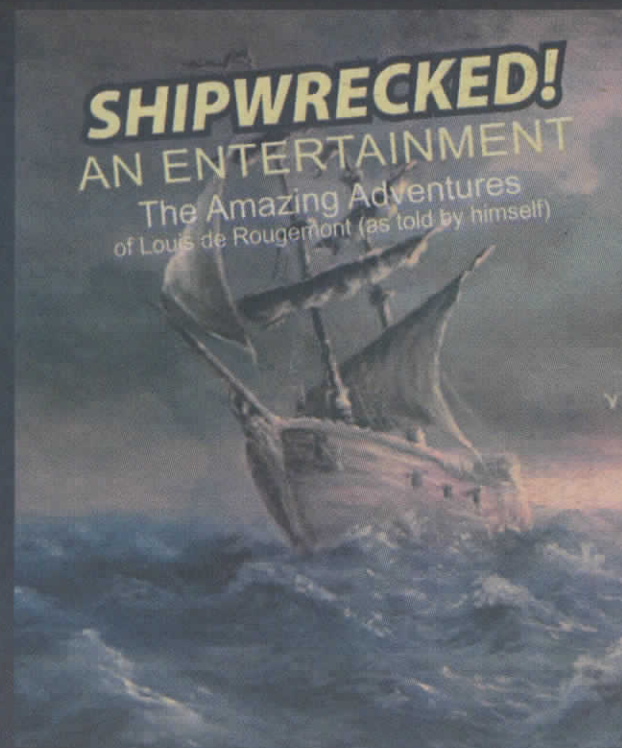
Piccolo at THE VILLAGE



SOUVENIR

A Fantasy on the life of Florence Foster Jenkins

Playing: May 28 - 8pm, May 30 - 8pm,
May 31 - 2pm, June 6 - 6pm,
June 8 - 7pm, June 12 - 5pm,
June 13 - 5pm



SHIPWRECKED!

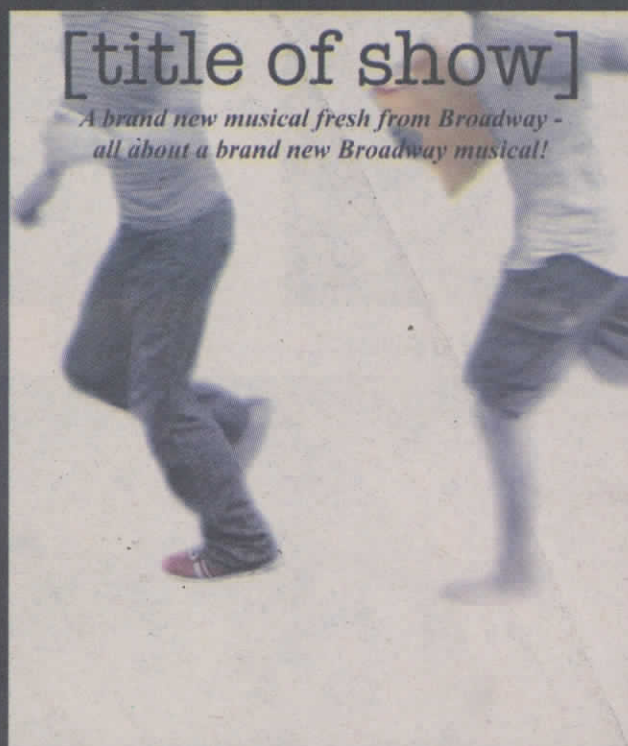
AN ENTERTAINMENT

The Amazing Adventures
of Louis de Rougemont (as told by himself)

Playing: May 29 - 5pm, May 30 - 5pm,
June 2 - 7pm, June 5 - 2pm,
June 6 - 3pm, June 11 - 6pm,
June 12 - 2pm

The Village Playhouse
730 Coleman Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, SC

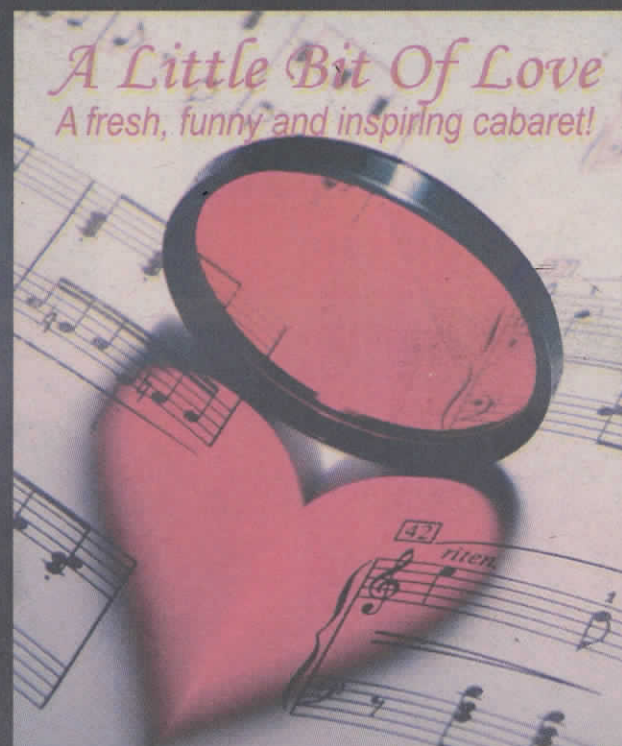
For information
843-856-1579



[title of show]

*A brand new musical fresh from Broadway -
all about a brand new Broadway musical!*

Playing: May 29 - 8pm, May 31 - 8pm,
June 3 - 7pm, June 4 - 8pm,
June 5 - 8pm, June 9 - 8pm,
June 10 - 8pm, June 11 - 9pm,
June 12 - 8pm, June 13 - 2pm

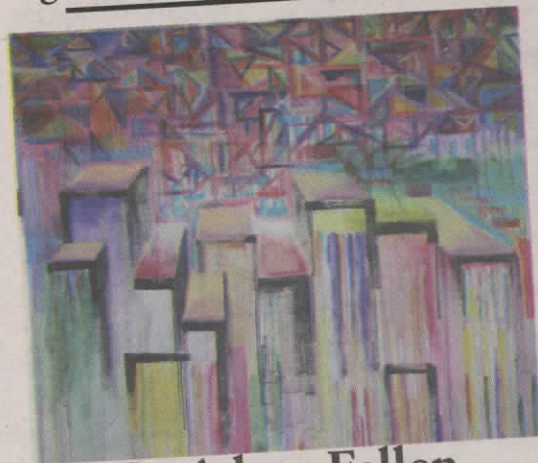


A Little Bit Of Love

A fresh, funny and inspiring cabaret!

Playing: May 29 - 2pm, May 30 - 2pm,
May 31 - 5pm, June 1 - 7pm.

Piccolo Spoleto
Ticket Hotline
(843) 724-7295
www.piccolospoleto.com



By Adam Fallen



By Chris Sim



By Christian Hannon



By Chris Sim



By Hans Turner



By Jesse Earle



By Chris Ulmer



By Maddie Moore

The Jefferson Award

By Cat Bowler

The last Jefferson Awards of the 2009-2010 school year are proudly presented to Kelly Daniels, Zach Liollo, Ian Jones, and Claire Bailey.

Kelly Daniels takes karate and enjoys volunteering at a two-week karate camp during the

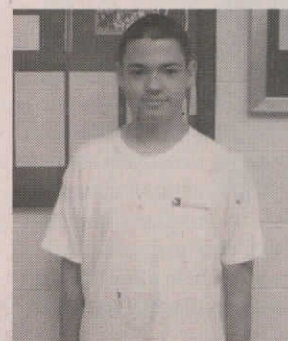


summer because it allows her to make others passionate about her favorite hobby. In addition, she volunteers to teach year-round classes. Teaching is very rewarding to Kelly; it is satisfying for her to be able to teach others a hobby

which she has dedicated so much of her time to. Kelly takes part in beach sweeps and most of Mr. Smyth's volunteer opportunities. She cares deeply for the environment, but the main source of motivation behind Kelly's volunteer efforts is the feeling she gets from "seeing others enjoy themselves" as a result of her hard work and planning.

Zach Liollo is one of the multi-talented

SOA students who takes part in both his major at SOA and extracurricular activities at his home

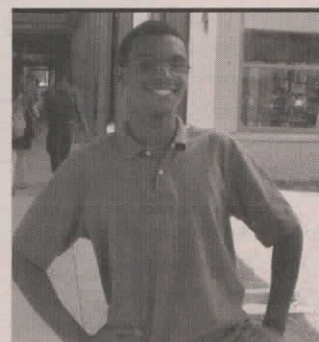


school, West Ashley High School. Zach is a cadet in the NJROTC at West Ashley, a program which is very active within the community. The members of the NJROTC are responsible for cleaning up litter

left-in the West Ashley stands after each major sporting event, have participated in two community parades downtown, and handed out meals to the needy all over Charleston. Zach also volunteers at Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum on a regular basis, giving tours and providing information to visitors who travel from across the US to see the exhibits. At SOA, he is a member of the Jefferson Service Club where he helps at beach sweeps and events such as the Invisible Children return visit to Charleston. Although "getting

involved at two schools was a bit of a hassle, in the end it was worth it." Zach's experiences give more meaning to the phrase 'community service' being able to help at his home school and SOA.

Community service does not always involve the blatantly obvious volunteering at homeless shelters or participating in beach sweeps. In fact, sometimes the smallest of gestures have the most appreciated and lasting impact on others. Ian Jones has been proof that anyone can become



involved in community service since he first began holding the doors for student traffic during his freshman year at SOA. At the beginning and end of each school day, Ian arrives early to hold the door open for his peers. Ian's services as SOA door-holder started out of obligation at the old campus. He held the door for one student, which quickly became two, three,

and eventually most of the SOA bus riders. Ian has gained a lot of friends that he didn't even know at the time during his first year just by holding the door. Ian is a founding member of the Jefferson Service Club.

Claire

Bailey participates in most of her volunteer efforts through her church. Her youth group has taken mission trips to Guatemala and Uganda. Claire extends her artistic talent by playing violin at her church every Sunday. The SOA Jefferson Service and Tri-M Clubs have enabled Claire to take part in many events and fundraisers, like Breakfast for Santa and the Walk for Water. Community service makes Claire feel better about herself as a person and she enjoys helping others. Congratulations to each recipient of the Jefferson Awards for the month of May. The legacy of the Jefferson Awards has a bright future at SOA which will be carried on next year.



Duncan Pfaehler wins drama prestigious award

By Deborah Crocker

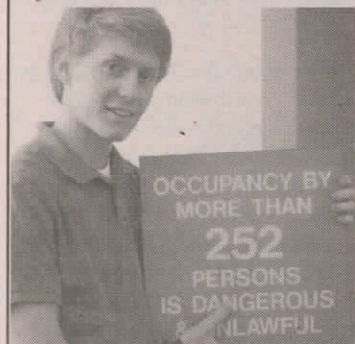


Photo: D. Crocker

On May 3rd, 2010, senior theater major Duncan Pfaehler found that he had won the state competition for dramatic script. The competition was part of the Archibald Rutledge Scholarship program, which offered twelfth grade students who attend South Carolina public schools an opportunity to compete for an approximately \$2,500 scholarship. The program is an arts competition, and it accepts entries including creative writing, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts.

Duncan's short piece, titled "Porchings," was performed during Senior Thesis week and is about a father/son relationship. Theatre Department teacher Megan Link says proudly, "It couldn't have happened to a better student."

Students impress in *Hello Dolly* with the FJP

By Deborah Crocker

The Broadway musical *Hello Dolly* by David Merrick was recently performed by the Fort Johnson Players. Among the talented cast were seniors Carley Congdon, Shaffer Ripley, and Graeme Rock.

Carley starred as Dolly Gallagher, widowed matchmaker seeking a wife for a well known half-a-millionaire Horace Vandergelder. Graeme played the fun-loving Cornelius Hackl, one of Horace's clerks who decides that he and his partner Barnaby need to get out and spend a wild day in New York. Finally, the flamboyant Ernestia Money was played by Shaffer Ripley.

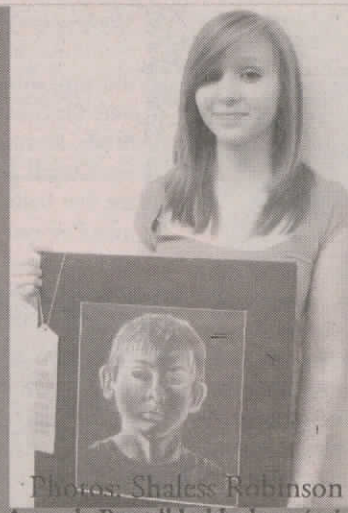
The play ran for four days. The entire cast did an incredible job, and it was an enjoyable experience for both the kids and their parents. These seniors will leave a positive impression on Fort Johnson's theater program.



Provided



Amanda Kasman displays her first-place winning painting, which was recognized during the North Charleston Arts Festival.



Photos: Shaless Robinson
Amanda Russell holds the painting that won her Honorable Mention in the North Charleston Arts Festival.



1-800-585-8019

Jessica Smith

Dance



Senior Senior Senior!!!! It is so much work being a senior in high school, the fees, the responsibility, and oh goodness the senioritis, which becomes the "BEST" part. LOL! But from all

that it's worth being a senior. It's quite fun and exciting. You get the privileges and the title alone is simply worth it. I will miss a lot about my school, School of the Arts, and there are things that I won't really miss as much, but I can actually say that in this entire journey of my SOA schooling I have learned, seen, and accomplished so much. I wouldn't trade my years at SOA for anything. Even though there were days that I wanted to leave SOA, I came through it...we came through it! The most important thing that I have actually learned at

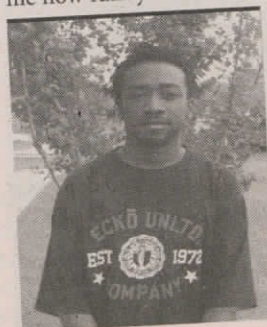
Charlene Aiken

Vocal



The two teachers that impacted me the most this year were Dr. Cusatis & Mr. Brehm. Dr. Cusatis was the first Italian man I've ever met to have a "ghetto" side. I will miss his

many jokes and nicknames. He encouraged me to read more and now I love to read, and trust me, I used to hate reading. Mr. Brehm is an amazing teacher. I'll admit I was nervous about his class at first, but I ended up loving his class. The challenges his class brought were definitely needed to prepare me for college. So I thank you for your rigorous teaching. Miss Slenk and Mr. Rogers, you made us sound like angels, even though we are far from that. Thanks for sharing what you've learned and experienced in the past with us. It amazes me how funny the teachers are here and I



will truly miss you all. But of course, I would not make it without my three main amigos: Francis Smalls, Brittnay Mitchell and Brittany Ropp. They are hilarious, encouraging and intelligent people who I love and hope to never lose touch with. To Whitney Graham and Kayla Washington, my favorite juniors, I love you girls. You both are the baddest altos in this piece and you know this! I will miss you two and hope you succeed in everything you do. I promise I will come to your graduation next year! Logan Williams, Allie Augustine, Khaliel Burden, JP Hart, and Geoffrey Brown you guys brought smiles to my face every day in Vocal. You all are some wonderful children! My high school experience here at SOA was amazing though I wouldn't do it again, but if I had to, I would love to be surrounded by the same people. As for my future plans, I plan on attending Francis Marion University where I will be majoring in Nursing. After achieving Bachelors in Nursing, I plan on working in a local hospital's Nursery.

Christen Ulmer

Visual Arts

Everything is falling into place. Like I always said before, perception is reality. Things always play out the way you see it, the way you believe it. I see myself living the dream in 2020. Having the career I've always wanted. The way I plan on doing that is staying dedicated, staying close to God, and sticking to the game plan. And basically not losing sight of the goal.

Kiara Harper

Visual Arts



Thank you SOA. You know when you get to that point in your life where you feel the urge to pinch yourself to see if you're dreaming. Everything is new to the point where you have a different state of mind. Since I arrived in Charleston,

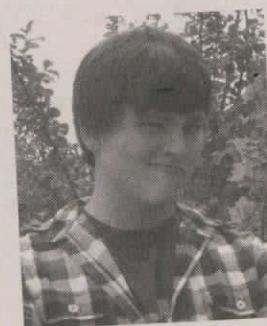
SC on July 4th in 2008, I have experienced this feeling. I have grown up more in a year and six months then I have in my entire life, and this is only the beginning.

I came from a small village in Michigan, surrounded by stretches of farmland. Everyone knew each other; family was always there, as well as all my friends. Unfortunately there was nothing offered in the arts at Breckenridge and no one seemed to care. I wasn't interested in sports or being part of the FFA (Future Farmers of America...Lol). Creating art was one thing that set me apart from everything around me. When I was creating something, everything that was wrong didn't matter anymore because my art was what I wanted it to be. But I still longed to relate to people who had the same passion.

My father accepted a job offer in

Jacob Fanning

Vocal



On the Washington DC trip of my eighth grade, I decided to venture outside the norms of our age bracket and procure a night job. My old friend Johnny "The Twos" Tammerson

managed to get me a seat as the head jerk at the DuPont Soda Jerk. Apart from a few carbed up boys having to get put off the tap for the night, the evening was uneventful until round about midnight. A young skinny chap who went by the alias "Skinny Pants Malone" had decided to settle himself in the favorite soda-bar stool of the infamous Michigan J. Now, I tried to warn the lad that Michigan had a mean left hook, but his ears musta been poppin with our famous grape soda on the rocks, for he disregarded my admonition; he musta been fried to the hat to not remember ol' Michigan, the big six that he is. As I was serving him his seventh grape for the night and thinking about cutting him off, Michigan walked in with his rump lookin rather lonely without his plush stool, and his dogs needed an ole rest. Ole Skinny Pants didn't even seem to notice as Michigan J. traipsed up beside him and

Charleston, SC, so we ended up moving in the summer of 2008. I left everything I had known for 17 years of my life. I kept in my mind that another door opens when one closes. The door opened when I was accepted at tryouts for SOA. I can honestly say it was one of the happiest moments of my life, but scariest knowing that I had no idea what it's like to have everything new and different. I have met people that have impacted my life more in almost two years that people I had known in Michigan my entire life. I'm not ready to stop learning and improving as an artist. This school has been an inspiration and motivation in itself and has impacted my life because if it wasn't for this school, I would be doing something that wasn't what I love. If I could have anything it would have been to be at SOA since 6th grade. Just to have that advantage of learning about art more than I know now.

After graduation, I would love to attend College of Charleston and major in fine art. I would also like to study art history because it is important to know how art has changed and progressed up to modern day art. I strongly believe that a well-rounded education is crucial to my success. This is my opportunity to build a foundation for my life as an artist. I am grateful for SOA and it has been my push to focus all my attention and energy pursuing a lifelong career as an artist.

began to glare down at him like a hog might glare down at a pretentious swine. Skinny Pants just gave Michigan the stinkeye, to which Michigan J. had never been too partial for ever since he received it in a barfight in Havana from Hattie Carroll, who proclaimed on the spot that it would be his undoing. Michigan J. was hard-boiled, and wasn't gonna take any snuff from no hotshot what thought he was the cat's meow. Before Skinny Pants could count to what have you, Michigan J. was on him and the whole clipjoint was bouncing off the walls. Skinny Pants, who put on airs that he was plenty rugged, was now lookin to dangle on outta the joint, but Michigan J. was gonna have none of it, and he pulled him back and knocked him with a mean left hook. Ol' Skinny Pants was so jerry-curl'd he couldn't even get up, but Michigan had had his just desserts and left the old crumb to his gripin. Just as Michigan sat down with a thirsty edge in his voice, a brass came round the corner lookin mighty jimmied, and as he saw the flimflam goin on in the Soda Jerk, he seemed to turn our way till he saw Michigan J. sittin at the stool. He wasn't too keen on comin in after he got that hearsay, and he soon dangled outta there as well. I decided it was my time to go, secin as I had just experienced such a nasty left hook, so I gave Coalhouse Walker a dil-ya-ble, askin him to pick up my shift. I left that soda jerk thinkin less of the world.

Brittany Ropp

Vocal



There are so many things that I could reflect on about my years at SOA. I've gone to SOA since 6th grade as a vocal major. SOA has been extremely laid back for the most part of my time here. The addition of new principals and a new school has certainly tightened the reins on our school. At the beginning of high school, I begged my mom countless times to let me transfer to James Island Charter. For many reasons, I resented her decision to make me stay, but now I understand. I've always wanted to have the normal high school life; homecoming, pep rallies, swimming, football games, cheerleading, etc, but I've missed out on them. Don't get me wrong, I'm happy that I attended SOA, but for different reasons. Since our graduating class is so small, we've grown to be a family. All of us are a bit strange, but it's accepted because of the school we attend. It will be a difficult transition to leave this close-knit high school and attend a large college.

All of the people at SOA have had an impact on me in some way, but the strongest impacts have been from my best friends, select teachers and my family. I have to thank Charlene Aiken, Khaleil Burden, Taylor Buck and Kayla Washington for helping me get through this year. Y'all are amazing friends and I couldn't ask for anything more. Thanks to my parents and siblings for putting up with me, loving me and all my

goofiness. Y'all are more than family; y'all are my best friends and I love you very much. Mrs. Mitchum and Mrs. Rogers have been moms away from home for me. They were both there for me when I needed them and very easy to talk to. This year, I've had Dr. Cusatis every morning! He's strange just like the rest of us and is a really fun teacher to have every morning. Miss Slenk has been my vocal teacher since freshman year. This past year I've applied myself more to my major and realized what a great teacher she is. She really pushes us to be the best singers that we can be. She's really stern when it comes to getting our work done, but she makes singing fun and enjoyable. And last, Mr. Brehm. I was very nervous about his class because of what I've heard from past seniors. But once I started his class, I realized there was nothing to be nervous about. His class has been difficult, yes, but it has been worth it. He's extremely smart and I have learned a great deal from his class and from him.

As for where I'll be in 10 years?I have no clue. I hope to be successful in whatever I plan to do. Hopefully, I'll have someone that I'm settled down with, but no one that I've met so far is up to par. Also, I hope to be living on a lot of land with a quaint house. In replacement of kids, I'll have a lot of animals.

All in all, this school has molded me into the person that I am today and I wouldn't change it now for anything. Every situation and experience at this school has taught me lessons that I'll take with me throughout my life. Thank you, SOA.

Faith Davis

Strings

I believe an SOA education has great value. Not only consisting of high standard classes, but also teaching you good morals. SOA teaches you how to interact with different people in a classroom setting. Most students from SOA graduate with more than enough necessary credits which gives you more opportunities in the future. I have to say I am proud to say I received an SOA education.



Christian Hannon

Visual Arts



My experience at SOA was more than I ever expected it to be. Growing up, I was doing art before I could really think, so it turned out to be something that naturally stuck. Through elementary school I was pointed as the different, odd, imaginative, or the classic line "he's just artistic" kid. Soon after attending School of the Arts I realized that across the county kids along the same line were brought together to learn, interact, and grow together building upon their passion of artistic nature. For most part, they were never any clichés it was group of young open mind individual going to some school, working off of each other ideas, and

bringing motivation to each other. The old foundation of our original school never put a damper on our education, or our moods, but cultivated us to come together and create an atmosphere to always look farther it most positive direction no matter what. I look at my senior class and not only do I see students about to graduate, but adults with a good head on their shoulders and visions of dreams already in progress. No matter the facility, the idea and vision of Rose Marie Myers created the best foundation for education, our creativity, and our minds to grow. I could never thank enough of my friends, my fellow students, my teachers, and all the people that made our dream reality. The sudden burst of acknowledgement, accomplishments, and innovation of class shows me more than ever that we have the ability to create something better for the world.

Graeme Rock

Band



During my time at School of the Arts, only about four classes honestly scared me. I don't mean scared as if the teacher looked like he/she had the means to make me "disappear" during the night, wore clown makeup, or had a peculiar way of cackling while distributing a test (although one of the "four" did); I mean that I felt a strong urge to study for those classes for fear that if I did not, I might not pass my next test. Granted this is not as bad as clown makeup, but the classes that scared me the most also seemed to teach me the most, and Mr. Murray's Physical Science class in ninth grade taught me a lot. As my new classmates chatted, the classroom door silently opened and closed behind an unusually quiet man. With an air of formality, he glided unnoticed to the front of the room and stopped there waiting for us to stop talking. He had grey-white hair, a face full of wisdom lines, and a look of displeasure at our ill-mannered gossip. When everything was silent for at least 10 seconds, he slowly introduced himself, "Good afternoon, my name is Mr. Murray." He commenced his reign for the year by finding how much the class knew about atoms: what subatomic particles went where. After most of the class gave up trying to answer, I confidently (and rather snobbishly because I was proud of myself) listed all the components of the atom: protons (+), neutrons (o), and electrons (-). Then Mr. Murray asked me how many electrons are in the valence of a Helium atom. To this I had no

response, so I re-humbled myself and listened. He explained some atomic fundamentals, passed out worksheets, and for the rest of the period, the class worked together to find the number of protons, the mass, and the electron configuration of 20 different elements in the Periodic Table. After the first day, I hated him. He was cold and merciless. Of course, first impressions are always [somewhat] deceiving. For the rest of the year, Mr. Murray continuously surprised me with information I had never heard before. His methods were practical, even if sometimes harsh. He kept to a strict grading procedure of "if you capitalize it wrong, it's all wrong," encouraging students pay attention to their mistakes and not make them again. Instead of simply answering a question, he would bring students to the board to work it out themselves. He used perfect analogies like comparing Fluoride to a total chick-magnet and gold to a super-nerd. He never used videos, never was absent, had a sense of humor drier than trying to swallow six saltines, and typed his own worksheets, all in the same style (even using them the day before Winter Break). He also stated that because true chemistry and physics are too complex, anything he taught us would be a lie and that he would eventually replace each one in the future with another lie that's closer to the truth. With much hard work, I survived Mr. Murray's frightful, yet methodical ways and earned the knowledge of molecular structure, the understanding of the physics of motion, and an "A" for the year: the most satisfying "A" I have ever earned. Mr. Murray retired two years afterwards, so I could not have him again as a Physics teacher during my senior year, but I will never forget the lies he taught me.

Hans Turner

Visual Arts



If I was entering SOA as a sixth grader, I would only do a few things differently. I would focus on the things that my teachers taught me and I would apply myself more in my art classes. At my old school, I didn't seriously start art until eighth grade. I took a few afterschool classes in middle school but I didn't have the advanced teaching that the School of the Arts provides. I think that if I was taught the fundamentals at a younger age, I would be even better than I am now and that would have helped me take my career to the next level.

Michael Rokusek

Vocal



If there is one thing I have learned at SOA it's never take everything too seriously. I mean geez it's an arts school for crying out loud!!! Don't get me wrong you should take your classes seriously, but to an extent. Nobody that is looking to attend this school should be focused on just learning to be book smart. Oh another thing don't be closed minded on people. Just cause they don't act like you or not in all the same classes as you don't shut them off from your little world. Again that's why it's an arts school. Everyone is not just like you. All of my closest friends at this school are nothing like me, and I think it is that way because we are so different. Another thing, don't be afraid to try new things.

Britini Mitchell

Piano



"Sometimes it's the smallest decisions that can change your life forever."

If someone would have told me when I was a 13 year old freshman, that I was going to be broken, built back up, and tested for four years,

I would have backed out right then. But unfortunately I was not warned. I'm glad I wasn't because then I would not have had the chances or opportunities I've had to shine and grow as a young woman. Coming to SOA has been a major stepping stone in the right direction for me. Gradually, I learned that maturity is something not possessed by many; few have it and utilize it. I also learned that starting over is not the easiest thing to do but if I could I would change the way I used my time and the choices I made in the process. When I reminisced over my life at SOA, I realize that a lot of my decisions were acted upon hastily. It takes a lot to look back and say to yourself that there needed or needs to be a change. For some it comes too late, but I am glad it happened

Alexandria Gibbs

Dance



In the year 2020, there are a lot of things that I would like to accomplish. Ten years is awhile from now, but like all of my years at SOA, they are sure to fly by.

Of course I want what everyone else wants; to be successful. I want to be at least half way to my full

potential by that time and have a good job that will prepare me to move on to bigger and better things, so I can become even more successful than I am at that point in time. This means too, of course, graduate with my bachelor's degree in psychology (or whatever I may decide to switch to if it doesn't work out) and having a decent job to start things up until I can move on to my next degree. I know it's going to take a lot of schooling, but in the end, it will all be worth it. I want my parents to be even more proud of me than the day I walk the stage for my high school graduation. High school graduation is a huge milestone in life, and I can't wait to reach the next one.

It's hard to picture that in ten years, I'll be twenty-eight, which is extremely close to

early on in my life so that I had the chance to change. I would look around every day and wonder why I could not see myself the way other people did. I later found out the reason was my insecurities. I let so many people affect me in negative ways that brought me down until it reached the point where I did not even recognize myself. It took a lot for me to stand up in the mirror and really look at myself and realize that I needed to live life and not just go through the motion of living. I still wish that most of the things I have done or that have been done to me did not happen, but I am beginning to understand that someone higher than me has a purpose for my life. When I finally began to open my eyes and explore my life, I found that my true friends were in front of my eyes the whole time and then I began not to feel so alone. I began to look at the world in a new perspective, and I began to understand that the world wasn't so black and white. There are gray areas and it is okay to be stuck for awhile as long as you make it through with dignity. Even though I have made mistakes I realize that those mistakes that I went through helped me grow into the young woman that I am today and I would not change that for the world.

thirty, but I guess I'll just have to live with it! I don't expect all of my dreams to be accomplished in that amount of time, but I at least want to be heading in the right direction. I will be busy striving to be the best that I can be and continue to learn whatever I need to in order to reach my long-term goal. I'm not expecting to be making tons of money by that time, at least enough for me to be comfortable, but if I get to where I want sooner than I expect to, it wouldn't bother me at all to make a lot of money while I'm young. I would also like to be starting a family by that time, but only time will tell when it comes to that type of thing and I can be patient with that.

I intent to make all of these things happen just by pushing through and reminding myself of the end result. I will remain focused and study hard so I can reach my goals. When things get tough, I will be able to calm myself down and know that I will be able to work through things and get them done. I will also do my best to remain organized and not to procrastinate as much as I tend to do now. By 2020, I just want to feel that I have accomplished something and just content with the person I am growing to become, and I intend to keep going until I can get to where I know I can be.

Jake Grissom

Band



If I had the privilege to enter SOA all over again, there would be a lot of things that were changed and happened differently. I've been asking myself this question for awhile and I'm sure a lot of people would love to know what I have to say.

First things first, I would have definitely taken school a little more seriously. I would have been a little more on time every day, taken a little better notes and studied a little harder; in general, I would have just tried a little harder. That's what it's all about...trying. As long as you can say you tried and gave it your best, what more can anyone ask for? That's a rhetorical question by the way because the answer is they can't. I still remember my fist day of 6th grade, walking up to Ms. Enright's trailer with Chris Thul standing out front, most likely wondering the same thing I was, "Omg, what are my

parents doing to me? They're leaving us to spend a day in the ghetto!" The second thing I would have done was stay with the right group of people. It's so easy to be misled in this world, you have to stand up for yourself and lead, not follow like I did the first few years of my school career. I also would have taken the SAT a lot earlier than I did, that way I had much more time to worry about it with a handful more times to try.

Last, but most important, is just do it, because school isn't that hard until you procrastinate and drag it out. Trust me, my school career would have been a lot smoother if I'd have just sat down, closed my mouth and done the work. School is never fun, but if you take a deep breath and just relax and do the work, then it'll all be ok. The school year goes by much faster when you're having fun and always will. SOA really is a great school and I'm glad to have the privilege to walk around here for seven long years. But no one will be happier than me to walk across that stage graduation night and get the SOA diploma. That's what we've all been working so hard for, and it finally seems we've earned it.

Ericka King

Theatre



All my life I have wanted to hear someone shouting to me, "Scene!" As a little girl, it amazed me of what it would be like on a stage. The adrenaline pumping through the body, the very thought passes through your mind

that you will forget all your lines, that you will freeze right up when you get on the stage, and at that very moment, when you actually step out in front of the audience, your best work begins to come to life. I noticed that you become one with the audience, like they are your last breathe of air and that is only the beginning of it.

I love the stage; it is where I found where I truly belong. I realized that when you need it, the stage is there ready for your hard work, sweat, and tears. It is hard to explain the admiration that I have for the stage to people who aren't really into performing, but the way I describe it to them is, "Take the place where you feel most comfortable, safe, and inspired. It is that place that becomes your niche." The stage is somewhere that I have built myself and my personal-

ity around. It puts my identity right on top of it and shows it off to the people who want to see it.

Ever since I came to School of the Arts I just knew that the stage is where I want my second home to be. It created comfort and stability knowing that when my life gets too unbearable or I feel like giving up, I can go running to the only place that I know where passion becomes a natural feeling. Hopefully, this is the kind of place where the fantasies in my head are brought to life; where characters in the books and plays that have broadened my mind in so many ways come off the page and become my reality on stage.

Now that I am older than that little girl of my memories, I know what I want out of life. Finally, I am at a place that I chose acting as my major in college. I know that along the way there will be criticism of my hard work and that if I let it, it can have the power to make me cry or make me doubt myself. But the quote that has helped me and will keep helping me throughout this journey is Elbert Hubbard's, "To escape criticism - do nothing, say nothing, be nothing." I know that to be able to escape the hard work, tears and times of doubt I will have to leave the only place that has my life and soul rooted right inside of it.

ShaRonda Grimball

Theatre



SOA is filled with teachers who believe whole heartedly in connecting their text book lessons to real life events and issues. We have always been encouraged to think outside of the box, that the text book is not the bible so it is our job to question it. If I had the opportunity to do these past four years again I would take my easier classes and my electives more seriously. I would make more of an effort to become a part of more clubs and after school activities. The SOA teachers that have changed my life are definitely Mr. Donnellon, Mr.

Brehm, and Dr. Price. Mr. Donnellon spikes an interest in American history. He never sugar coated anything; he told us the truth that every past American history teacher tried to sweep under the carpet. Taking the lessons from Donnellon and then heading straight to Mr. Brehm's class really peaked my interest in social studies. Mr. Brehm taught "economics for dummies" and he showed us how it has, how it is, and how it will affect our lives. Dr. Price showed me how a real college class runs. She showed no mercy. She was by far my most challenging class at SOA. In ten years, I plan to have been teaching a social studies class (History, economics, psychology) for four years. I want to own a home with or without a husband but hopefully with a husband and possibly a child.

Lauren DiNicola

Creative Writing



There are thirteen of us, an unlucky number according to superstition, but perfect in our eyes. We come from different backgrounds and families. We meet in mold-infested, cement-block rooms, or on trains, or in the mountains. And we write. For over six years, I have loved creative writing. This course, above every other aspect of my high school career, has shaped my mind, my heart, and my sense of self.

On my first day of school in the sixth grade, as I walked through hallways adorned with paintings of dancers, replicas of Van Gogh, and Renior quotes, I knew that the School of the Arts was where I belonged. However, when I entered the creative writing room, my stomach fluttering with nervous energy as I took my seat, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I did not know that the tables at which I sat would become a place of purgatory, where my work would be accepted or rejected, deemed Pulitzer-worthy or recycle bin-worthy by my classmates and Mrs. Miles. I did not know that the posters and newspaper clippings heralding successful writers that adorned the room's walls would become both inspirational stories and torturous teases. I did not know that the soft clicking of computer keys would become a comforting sound when my mind buzzed with ideas and, when my brain went blank, the most annoying noise I had ever heard. And I did not know that, despite hundreds

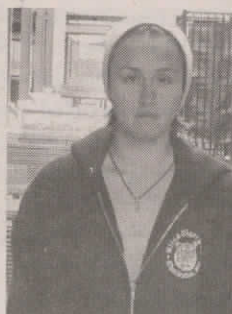
of bouts of writer's block and more than one tearful trip to the girl's bathroom after a harsh critique from Bufo, I would become a writer.

During our time at SOA, our class honed our talents with the sharp edges of Mrs. Miles' and Ms. Henry's instruction. We struggled with sixty-page screenplays, toiled with the arrangements of sestinas and sonnets, whipped through flash fiction snapshots of tragic characters, and delved into memoirs exploring our flaws. The words "Rethink; rewrite, and revise," which we hated at first, transformed into the mantras that we repeated to each other. Editing my own work turned out to be even more fun than writing it, and the creative writing room became the haven into which I crawled gratefully each morning, where my peers shared my passion for the written word and "Mama Bufo" stood, unwavering in her support. Differences melted away within our class, and we found our artistic counterparts in one another.

I have discovered that writing marries the two people who dwell within my soul: the observant, hyper-attentive young girl who notices and remembers tiny details about everything, and the aloof, day-dreamy teen who disregards her surroundings and prefers imagination to the real world. I will always cherish the one hundred minutes I was granted daily to develop my talent. With the steadfast support of my classmates and my enduring passion for words, Creative Writing has been more than just a class. Rather, it has been a retreat into the recesses of my imagination, a test of my creativity and skill, and a home for which I will always be grateful.

Sonja Engert

Piano



The main teacher here at SOA who has an impact on me is Joe Clarke, my piano teacher. From day one in 7th grade when I started taking his class, he always had respect for me. We joked around, argued, I opened up to him, and even cried to him. He basically knows the most about me at this school and all he has done is try to be there for me. Mr. Clarke is the first person at SOA that I will go and release any tension that I have. There is so much trust there to the point that I don't think it will ever be broken. The last thing he

said to me that really touched my heart was, "Sonja, I really want you to graduate. I have never been to any graduation at School of the Arts, but I know I will come to yours just to watch you walk across that stage." When I fall he picks me up and I am so happy to have a person like him at school. There's something about Joe Clarke that I will never forget and that is his integrity and also his beautiful jazz piano playing. Oh and that really awesome voice of his. He really inspires me to make it big playing piano all over Charleston, but I don't have the guts to do that, so all I can do is keep in touch with him and remember that soft touch on the piano when he plays. I Love You! Mr. Clarke, and thank you for being the number one best.

Megan Murphy

Vocal



Where has the time gone? It seems like only yesterday when I was walking into a rundown building that would become my home for the next seven years. Now I'm sitting here in Dr. Cusatis' class trying to write my senior essay for the graduation issue of the Applause (last minute of course). Out of all the papers I've written at SOA, this one essay may be the one I've had the most difficulty with. What will I say to make people remember me? What can I say to make me appear somewhat intelligent? These questions have been running through my mind since freshman year and now I have to sit down and face them. But, after sitting here for almost an hour and using the backspace key more than any other, I have realized I can't make anyone think something of me when they already have their own opinions. People will remember me as the girl who laughed way too much, who had a staring problem, whose face was always turning red, or something else that I can't possibly think of. All I can do is look back on the experiences

I've had (good and bad), the friends I've made, and the things I've learned.

I cannot express the importance of letting the little things go and just enjoy what you have because, believe me, time flies. I've always heard the expression but never believed it until now. It's always weird for me to look back on my years at SOA. Middle school seems to be a blur when, at the time, it seemed like there was nothing else. While I've made friends and lost friends, I wouldn't change anything because, from each person, I have taken something from them and molded it into who I am. It's funny thinking about all the drama and fights that went on a few years ago and not being able to remember almost any of them. It goes to show how you remember the good times over the bad and how you shouldn't let the little things get you down. I can't say that I'm going to miss this school too much. What I will miss? The people, the teachers, and that crappy campus we all came to know and love. I think that we all have realized that no school building can make a school great, only the people within it. The people make the school- not vice versa. As for me? I'll be right down the road at College of Charleston enjoying the next chapter of my life as a cougar.

Brandon Ellis

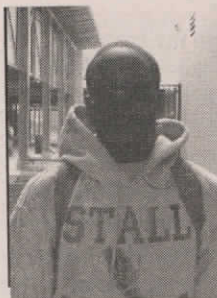
Visual Arts



If I had to start SOA over again, there are a few things I would do differently. I wouldn't spill milk on my crotch in seventh grade. I wouldn't test the sharpness of an exacto knife. I wouldn't bring balloons into Mr. Moore's class because he pops them. I wouldn't put my Game Boy on the bus floor. I wouldn't leave my wallet out. I wouldn't eat cafeteria food because it probably shortens your life span. The end. Kthanksbye.

Tyrell Jemison

Creative Writing



Dorothy Cromartie has had a strong impact on me and my tenure at SOA. Of course, like all new administrators, she, as well as the SOA student body, has had a rough first few months. We tried our way around her personality as Ms. Cromartie searched for the best way to relate to us. Coming from West Ashley High School, our new assistant principal was prone to be the stickler about every rule ranging from hats to "tail feathers". But as the months progressed and Ms. Cromartie adopted the SOA way, I think she realized that we are a whole new breed of student. One day she told me, "At SOA, you guys are so polite to one another. Even to the kids you don't get along with; y'all still find a way to respect one

another. But overall, you know how to make new people seem welcome. This school is like one big family." This is what I admire the most about her. Ms. Cromartie found her spot in our family, and I believe this place is called mother. Often times, when she isn't busy, our mother-like principal leaves her door open to students who have concerns or just want to chat with her. But she never fails to reprimand me when I need it. Ms. Cromartie keeps us in line, but she knows how to have fun. My most favorable quality in Ms. Cromartie is the love she has for her job. Besides the joys she gets from making us remove our hats, I believe she finds pleasure in seeing her students succeed. My most memorable moment at SOA will always be any moment that I have spent with my assistant principal. Dorothy Cromartie always finds a way to do her job. She never gives up on us. Ms. Cromartie taught me to what I love "because I can!"

Carlye Byrd

Dance



SOA is a wonderful school to be enrolled in. I personally tell everyone who even gets the chance to audition to go for it! This school opens many doors for you now and in the future. Whatever you do, learn to take advantage of the opportunities that are given to you. SOA is truly one of a kind, we never realize how much freedom and fun school really is until you spend one day at this place. You don't see kids at other schools walking around in leotards, tights and costumes, and not even think twice about it. You don't see their artistic vision on the wall without kids getting in trouble. These are the things I will miss, the crazy people, and the smiling faces. It's always something different at SOA.

Christopher Nguyen

Visual Arts



By the time 2020 comes around I want to be actively selling my art in a gallery. I want to be able to fully support myself on my art and will do whatever it may take to make this happen. I'll have to know who I need to know; Take risks and push myself to the brink to acquire what is needed to meet this goal. I will have to well establish my name as an artist as well as maintain my studies in the arts of, the past and present. The path to 2020 may be a difficult one but, I can clearly see the barriers that stand before me and I will continue to train myself till the day I must face them.

Demetrius Doctor

Band



The most influential person in my life at SOA has been Mr. Charlton Singleton. Mr. Singleton has taught me an immense amount about music and even more about being a male. His integrity is unmatched and his skill is amazing. Being in Mr. Singleton's band at SOA has created a lifelong band that has and will cause great things for the both of us, and I am extremely thankful and grateful to know this amazing musician.

Duncan Pfaehler

Theatre



It's funny to tell people where I am going to college and what I am majoring in after I tell them that I have been studying Theatre at School of the Arts since sixth grade. They almost immediately assume that I will go to college to be an actor, and hearing the words "Clemson University" and "Agricultural Education" certainly throws some of them. Even since the tenth grade I have realized the importance of agriculture IN my life, the community, and the world. Hopefully by 2020 I will be successfully sustaining myself through agricultural means and using as little non-renewable resources such as oil while educating the next generation on the importance of sustainability and the need to return to a renewable energy society. But life can take all sorts of unexpected turns right? I think I'll make some of my own!

First stop: Clemson University! Clemson will be my home for the next four years as I learn about the importance and the various aspects of agriculture to society. After graduating from Clemson in 2014 I think I'll travel some. Particularly to parts of Africa and Asia that could benefit from the knowledge I will possess about agriculture. During this same time I would also like to begin skydiving and hopefully after I obtain enough experience in that department I can begin B.A.S.E. jumping and get my B.A.S.E number. I've always been interested in learning how to fly a plane as well. So I might join the Air Force and become a pilot for a few years. After that I hope to buy my own prop plane and maybe exercise my aerobatic skills in the Red Bull Air Races.

It will be a busy ten years but I think by around 2020 I'll have enough money to buy some land and begin farming and experimenting with sustainable living. This is just a prediction of the ten years to come, and as I said before it could take any number of unexpected turns.

Starr Woodall

Dance



It has finally come to an end, but not just the end, a new beginning. I remember the first day of school in sixth grade. I was so scared, being in a new place, seeing new faces and worrying about if I would make friends or not. Everything was so new to me, having to go to a homeroom, switch classes and go to a major. I was so used to having the same people in my class all day and also having the same teacher teach me all subjects. I only knew one person out of the whole school, Katie Badgett, and we had been friends ever since kindergarten. The first day of dance, we didn't dance. Lol Mrs. Slowinski was out of town for the first couple of days. So we had to watch movies until we could dance. Here is where I met one of my best friends, Brittany Hamm. We were cool for about two weeks, but then somehow I ended up hating her for some strange reason. Lol that year, there were a lot of break ups and make ups and I also had my first kiss...haha. Then comes seventh grade, I guess it was ok for the most part. I ended up being friends with Brittany again lol, we lost some people in our dance class, and gained two new dancers who are my best friends today, Jessica Smith

and Vika Balyasnikova. Jessica and I actually weren't that close until we came back from our trip to Barrier Island, which was not that fun. Vika just became one of my best friends this year! Lol I think that eighth grade was the best year out of my middle school years. I gained another best friend who was actually here since sixth, but we grew closer, Towanda Green. We went on the DC trip, which was a lot of fun, because I had never been there before and I roomed with Allison, Kianté and Brittany. Ninth grade! Not even going to go there! BYE! Tenth grade, hmmm...it was ok, except for the hardest English class I've ever had in my life. Oh! And did I mention that Mrs. Slowinski hated me this year...lol but I still love her for that. Eleventh grade was a breeze to me. Mrs. Slowinski started to like me again which was a plus and all of my classes seemed to be easy. Prom was the big thing this year. (SIGH)...senior year. It came so fast I feel like I still need another grade to go to! By this time our dance class of almost 30 in sixth grade has narrowed down to about...hmmm...11: Me, Alex, Jessica, Vika, Bria, Sam, Cece, Melissa, Christina, Carlye and Michelle. With only 5 of us being here since sixth grade. Going to college will be a repeat of the first day of sixth grade, new place, new faces and a WHOLE lot to worry about. Even though I was so ready to graduate, I think it could slow down just a little bit.

Austin Jur Theatre



I was sitting in the Dupont Circle Soda Jerk; a night of hard work always leaves me thirsty for a tall one. I had found myself sipping on Grape Juice, just my style; not too hard, never to soft. I was watchin, in particular a young strapper who I'd never seen before. The usual Jerk, a fella I come to name simply, REXY, was dispensing the drinks. A rough rider, I could call him, rough enough to break up a fight or two I'd seen. Still, I don't think he was near rough enough to handle what was comin. Around midnight I would say, a dark figure entered,

I immediately recognized him as one of the regulars Michigan Jay. Nobody in his right mind ever talks down to Michigan, but I guess this young kid I was talkin about had a little too much juice for his own good. He was sittin in Jays favorite seat, this meant trouble. The young lad, feeling defiant, young kids is like that, told Michigan to find another seat and before I could blink again Jay knocked him right in the jaw with a mean left hook. That was a night. That boy ended up landin half way over to the dust plains of Oklahoma. Then this softy police boy I seen around town before, I call him Slim-Tommy, entered the room pushing people around. I watched as Michigan sat at his seat and ordered his drink. What an 8th grade field trip.

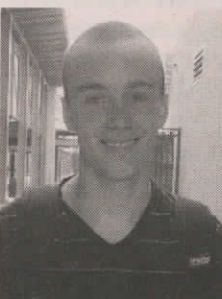
Schuyler Seaborn Vocal



It was a mild night, the eighth grade field trip had been going fairly well, but still I felt a sort-of hole within. Along the overused streets of D.C., my destination was a fairly obscure one, kept in good condition but hard to find in the many arbitrary turns in Dupont circle. The Dupont Circle Soda Jerk, my haven of sorts. I entered roundabout midnight, with a taste for a grape soda on the rocks. I pulled up a stool and asked the head jerk, a rather portly fellow, for one. He asked my name, I mumbled it. I don't think he heard. More of a dive than anything, the Jerk is a place for many a kind, especially the toughs. I didn't realize

it, but one of the biggest toughs of them all, Michigan J., was a frequenter of the Jerk; and I had taken his favorite stool. He entered, in a grand sort of fashion, reserved for only the regales of the streets. The Jerk fell silent, but I was too carbed to notice. Michigan tapped me on the shoulder, in a passive-aggressive way, asking for his stool in a more forwardly aggressive way. I told him to find a new seat. Big mistake. In a quick flourish, he back his left arm and let fly one of the meanest left hooks I had ever had the displeasure of feeling. It knocked me back to oblivion, and before I knew it, I was down on the floor slowly losing consciousness. The police report was non-existent, even after my hospital visit. I guess some yellow peabody had taken the night shift that night. I guess it goes to show, don't mess around with Michigan J., lest you desire to feel his mean left hook.

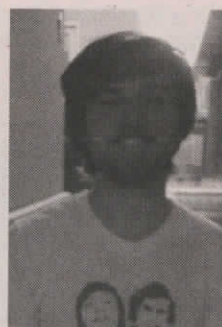
Addison Dent Theatre



In the year 2020 I will have just earned an M.F.A in Acting and will be working on landing a role (if not in possession of one already) in which to further my professional career. My M.F.A. will come from either Yale School of Drama, Harvard school of Drama, or the American Reparatory Theater (A.R.T.). To make this possible I will have to work excessively hard in everything I do, and that is an understatement. The professional sphere of acting is extremely competi-

tive to say the least. My goal is to limit the competition by rising above my competition. I will need to graduate with high honors in my Theater Studies major at Brevard College. I will have to gain a lot of experience in acting so that I can stretch my ability to where it needs to be so that I can land that Spot for my M.F.A. And to supplement my acting experience I will have to gain as much knowledge as I am able to about everything. It sounds outlandish but, "The actor is the vessel through which we witness the most extraordinary things of which humans are capable." Robert Brustein was the author of this quote and also the founder and former Dean of Yale School of Drama and A.R.T.

Blake Crawford Vocal



On the eve of my first day of middle school, I was terrified. During the summer before sixth grade I had been watching quite a bit of Disney channel. In every single sitcom it appeared my favorite characters were bullied.

It seemed that bullying happened so much that Disney channel was required to inform people everywhere through their sitcoms of the "bully pandemic". School of the Arts put the bully cliché to rest for me. Instead of finding a group of students pestering someone or knocking their books down, you're more likely to wander into a group hug. If I could go back, I would tell myself to calm down and not to worry until I had a reason to worry. If I worried less, I could have left more room for positive thinking. Knowledge thrives in the presence of a positive mind. Let it be known that positivity is the key to surviving middle school and high school!

School of the Arts taught me to appreciate two of the most valuable components

in my life today, education and music. While I may have liked learning and listening to music during my elementary years, I never actually thought about the two. I simply wanted to get the grades and did not think, "What exactly am I doing?" It was around tenth grade that I had a breakthrough. I thought to myself, "I can actually use this!" and "How far can I expand upon which I already know?" While I do enjoy receiving good grades, the feeling of a developing mind is even greater. My affection for music has flourished during the past seven years. In vocal, at times, one may sing a composition well over fifty times. At that point, it becomes difficult not to think about the music. Vocal has allowed me to be a part of something that I take absolute delight in. An education combined with the arts is utterly beneficial to all maturing minds.

As I grow into a "sophisticated" socially adapting gentleman, I will always think fondly of School of the Arts. The creativity that billows through the halls is impossible to miss, and I am proud to be among those that have graduated and will graduate. No matter what the age, I will remember the place that left me with the foundations and ideals needed to be a well-rounded individual.

Emma Ostapeck Band



I began attending the School of the Arts in eighth grade and have enjoyed my experience here more every year. I went to a private school in middle school and felt restricted and was not able to participate in a

very strong band program. Some of my older friends talked to me about SOA and showed their enthusiasm for the school. By April, I was very excited to audition and could not wait for the adventures that lay ahead. SOA, in contrast with my strict middle school, is much freer and its students are able to express themselves and not feel judged. I remember walking through the halls during my first couple of days and seeing students with multiple piercing and strange hairstyles. My immediate assumption was that these students were treated like outcasts and thought of as weird. Then I realized that these eccentric students were not treated differently at all. They were not shunned or mocked like at my old school. It was then that I realized I was in a special place. I have had some very unique experiences while at SOA. Whether it is getting sick

because of the mold, leaping over ditches filled with water, or smelling that funky smell in the arts building, everyday has been filled with new surprises. I don't think that any other school could be as interesting and as enjoyable to attend as this one. Most of my teachers have really prepared me for what lies ahead in the future. Aside from learning how to properly write a thesis, solve derivatives, and getting my mind blown away in government, I feel like I have learned something much more important from all of my teachers. I have learned how I would like to conduct myself as an adult, how to manage my money, and how to avoid missing out on the important parts of life. I realize that I don't know everything about my teachers or everything they would like to teach me, but I think I have learned enough to be able to succeed in the future.

The last topic I would like to discuss is my major. At SOA, I have had the opportunity to study with some of the best musicians in Charleston. I have played challenging music and have been able to work with other musicians my age that share the same passion as me. I am so excited to continue my joy of making music at Converse as a Music Therapy Major. I would not be near the musician or person I am today had I not gone to SOA.

Jessika Stocker

Theatre



2020, 10 years from now, it seems like a long time but it's really not and honestly I have no idea how to answer this question. I can explain what I want to be doing in 10 years which will just have to do

for the moment. My main goal is happiness. Whether that comes from doing photography, improv or living deep in the woods. I'm going to take the next 10 years and figure out what makes me happy and do that. It's all about

trial and error for the next decade. I'm going to Chicago for the next year at least, hopefully the next four. If I don't die from frost bite or hypothermia I may stay in Chicago or maybe I'll go to Europe and live there for a few years. All I know is I want my camera to be in my hand, a few dollars in my pocket and a friend by my side and I'm set. I'm ready for an adventure and hopefully in the next 10 years, that'll happen. Unless the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse show up or Glenn Beck becomes president (in which case the world would implode) I'll be dancing, laughing, taking pictures and creating for the next 10 years and probably the rest of my life.

Brittany Greene

Theatre



Wow, my years here at SOA have been insane. I've met a lot of wild people and had tons of fun, and reflecting on those past years is almost surreal to me. I remember when I was in my last month of

fifth grade at Ashley River Elementary school and I got my acceptance letter for School of the Arts. I was outside with my school bags on my back. I slung them on the ground and shouted the most high pitched shout I'd ever made and started doing cartwheels and handstands and running to all the neighbors I'd met and banging on their front doors, telling them the good news: I was going to be a Theatre major at School of the Arts.

It's crazy because that image of a child cartwheeling all over the yard definitely

describes my past years at this school. There have been a few classes that have been amazing but I mostly will remember the wild and crazy students and teachers at school of the arts. When I was in elementary school I was really quiet and timid, well in school anyway. But once I was able to hang around people that were crazy like I was and who weren't afraid of being themselves, no matter how not normal that was, it helped me to come out of that shell that my family had molded around me. And I'm glad.

Much of that also goes to the theatre department where their job is to bring you out of the shell of shyness and allow you to have fun and look silly. I promise, it's really fun to do and you feel awesome afterwards.

Some of the people here have been really sweet and compassionate. I've learned a lot about life from the teachers and the other students. Be awesome and full of love.

Daniel Prentice

Theatre



in this field. When I'm 28 years old, I hope to have a nice house of my own and be able to live within my means and enjoy myself. Jobs in Computer Engineering also can require some travel, so I would like to be able to see some parts of the world outside of the U.S. while working. I don't want to be rich and famous in 2020 or rich and famous at all for that matter. I just want to be a well accomplished person with a good job, and one day, whenever the time is right, have a family of my own.

In the next ten years, I hope to finish college and receive a degree in Computer Engineering. With this degree, I would like to work as a Computer Engineer for a company such as SPAWAR, Blackbaud,

or even Apple. Those are just examples, and I would definitely consider any reasonable job

Christina Slaton

Dance



As an underclassman, I'd always look for the most unique and interesting senior essay. I was so excited and couldn't wait to write my own. I wanted mine to be one that people would actually read. Now that it's finally time to do so, I hope I can live up to my own expectations.

Reflecting back on my four interesting years at School of the Arts makes me smile. From the day I walked in to that dirty, colorful building, I knew this was my home. I've shared so many experiences with so many great people and I'm glad I could spend my high school years surrounded by so much talent and passion. Although there are many things, there are a few happenings I will never forget. The Flower Power Lunch Half an Hour, my Yellow Brick Road debut in "The Wiz", the day Bria Hamm wiped out doing

a grand battement on Dance Day, and of course, the transition in to the new jail...oh, I mean school.

I will miss the jokes, the laughs, the general bohemian environment, the performances, the freedom, the teachers, and the people. Well, most of them, anyway.

Now, as I move on to the next stage of my life, I will carry all the memories I've soaked in and look back on them from time to time.

To all the underclassmen, I know high-school is a mess, but just enjoy the free education for a while. To Mel, my bestfriend and partner in crime. You've been there through it all. You're without a doubt the funniest, most intelligent person I know. I love you. Knock 'em dead in Pittsburgh.

To Ry, my flying monkey. You just can't be put in to words. I love you so much and I'll ALWAYS be your girl.

I'm so excited for the rest of my life!
SEN10RS!!!!!!!

Marlee Williams

Band



Unlike the majority of SOA students, I did not come here in middle school, but during my freshman year. Luckily, I had some friends that were already students here to help make the transition to high school less awkward. I met two of my best friends that year and had two teachers that played a major role in my high school career.

My sophomore year went by without any major events, except being scared to death by a certain English teacher. I met someone else that has become one of my very good friends who I thoroughly enjoyed discussing Hail Falling on Oak Trees (Snow Falling on Cedars) with. In general, my friendships grew stronger and I began to feel more comfortable with my classmates.

My junior year was much more eventful. Towards the beginning of the year, my car was involved in its first accident while it was parked in the SOA parking lot. That year was also made up largely by the preparation and performance of *The Wiz*. I had so

much fun being in the pit and will not forget it, especially the complete silence that fell over the pit one night when a certain scene seemed to greatly deviate from the norm. That year also included the most amazing French class ever and I'm sure none of us will ever forget our good friend, Monsieur Chatouille.

Finally senior year arrived, which started off with a bang. As I was pulling out of the parking lot on the first day, my car was in its second accident, and the same person from my previous accident backed into me while I was stopped in line. This year started off really slow, but quickly gathered speed until it was just a blur of college and scholarship applications and nail biting. Mixed along with it was my field experience for teacher cadet, with the world's most amazing 7th graders, prom, and senior thesis. As the year has wound down, I have realized that I am truly lucky that I have been able to attend SOA because of the opportunities it has given me, from the classes to the performances. I have also realized how much I am going to miss the people here, the students and the teachers. As my final remark I would like to say thank you to everyone who has played a part in my education.

Cecelia McTighe

Dance



My high school experience has been far more interesting than many people can claim theirs has been. Going to an art school has given me a lot of opportunities and exposed me to many things that I would have otherwise never encountered. I have been to symphonies and operas other performances that have made me much more aware of all different types of cultures that many people my age do not even know exist. Also, my high school has always encouraged and supported artistic expression. More often than not, when I walk through the campus, I see classmates practicing instruments, monologues or dances. These aspects of my high school experience helped me to flourish as a person and to really find out about myself; much more than if I had gone to a normal high school. One thing about my school that people might find to be a downside is that we have no sports. To me, though, this lack of sports is a major benefit. Everyone

at my school is there for their art, and sports would only be a distraction. Some people might think we lack school spirit without sports, but to me, we have more school spirit than most. All of the students are connected by their love for an art, so we all understand how much each performance means for someone. This understanding is why we support our fellow classmates by attending their performances or art showings, and it also helps us truly appreciate every single one of them. Up until the second semester of this year, my school operated out of a mismatched, out of date campus. When it rained, people could be seen canoeing through the flooded areas of our school or avoiding the notoriously moldy areas that flared up because of the extra moisture. Although these types of things did occasionally make school very inconvenient, they gave my school a character that we all loved, despite how much we complained about it. High school has been a time of adjustment, and although sometimes I was more willing than others, looking back on everything thing I have experienced, every moment has helped me grow in one way or another, and I would not change a single minute of it.

Carley Congdon
Band

Being a member of the SOA family has been a truly rewarding experience. Since freshman year, I have grown from a shy 13-year-old with no friends into a somewhat outgoing 17-year-old with friendships that will probably last forever. I have been very lucky to be a part of a school that not only allows students to thrive academically but allows students to express themselves through their art area. Probably the most rewarding aspect of my time at SOA has been being a member of the band. I have so many skills (like listening) that I would not have attained at any other school. I will truly miss my SOA family when I go to college. Before I finish, though, I would like to thank the teachers who have had the greatest influence on me.

Mr. Kerr- First of all, you are an amazing band director. If I had ended up in some other school's band, I probably would have hated it, but you have always encouraged me and helped me when I needed it. I really want to thank you for trusting me to keep the jazz band organized. I know it's a little frustrating how hectic my methods seem, but you

never question my abilities. Finally, I want to thank you so much for giving me the chance to sing with the jazz band. You've given me so many opportunities to gain stage presence and to improve my singing style, and I really appreciate that. I'll miss you! Mrs. Colquitt- I don't think I've ever told you this, but you pretty much caused me to want to become a marine biologist. Your enthusiasm for Biology really sparked my interest in the subject, and I'm very glad that you opened my eyes to what is now one of my main passions. Thank you for always answering my questions because I tend to have a lot of them. And even more importantly, thank you for being such an approachable, helpful teacher. I feel very privileged to have had you as my teacher for 3 out of the 4 years that I have attended SOA.

Mr. Clark- In addition to being an enthusiastic teacher, you have been a great friend and mentor to me. You always look out for Marlee, Shaffer, and me. I really appreciate the fact that you treat me like an adult and that you trust me. Thank you for imparting wisdom to my friends and me, and thank you for all of your sarcasm. Finally I'd like to thank the rest of my teachers! You have all been so supportive and helpful, and I will miss all of you.

Cat Bowler

Piano



Although I have yet to settle on my "dream job," I like to envision myself in a career that enables me to pursue my deeply engrained passion for animals.

I harbored an inherent soft spot for animals as a child that only strengthened (or softened, I guess) with age. I am the girl who turns around to dodge oncoming traffic and rescue turtles crossing the highway, who saves the spiders that most would crush, who only eats half of her hotdog at dinner so that she can slip the remainder to the neighborhood dog. I am the girl who slept on the wood floor beside my cat so that she wouldn't be alone when she could no longer manage the trek to my room.

In an ideal world, I will have either completed vet school and be a practicing veterinarian or founded an animal shelter by 2020. Animals love us unconditionally, and

ask for so little in return. As overdramatic as the truth may sound, healing those in pain would satisfy my life. Unfortunately, I fear that the ever-present possibility of losing a patient would slowly break my heart. The passion displayed by the girl above is dual-sided, and has no "off" switch. I am also the girl who rarely cries and yet sheds salt for the dead stray cat in her backyard, who loses sleep worrying after watching stray animal infomercials, who slips into silent depression after the loss of her beloved pet. If I can harden myself against the harsh underbelly of a veterinarian's duties, then after completing my core courses at USC Honors, I will consider a veterinary education.

Plan B entails establishing an organization similar to Pet Helper's that provides a home for abandoned and stray animals. My shelter will be no-kill, and those animals that are admitted but not adopted can look forward to long, happy lives in the shelter. I've always looked up to those who help animals, and I'm eager for the chance to contribute to such an admirable cause.

Melissa Payne
Strings

What I will miss at SOA, is of course the old campus. I feel privilege that I was able to spend twelve and a half years at the old campus. I remember when I first toured the school; I was afraid and was not sure how much I would like SOA. But attending SOA, at the old campus was the best. Having a big field to walk across, walking through the halls with senior hand prints on them, knowing one day your hand will be on a wall, and when changing classes you knew you had to go outside. Of course SOA's old campus had its flaws: hardly any sidewalks, so you dreaded when it rained, the North Charleston smell trapped in the school, the smell of mildew in some classrooms, and of course most classes were in trailers. But for some reason SOA students forgot and ignored SOA's old campus flaws. We adapted and loved the school. In January of 2010, SOA staff and students moved to the new campus. I also feel privileged that I got to attend the new school and be part of the first graduating class to graduate from the new campus. I love how now we are more comfortable and have better spaces/ rooms for our art majors, and for our academic rooms. I think I won't miss walking

up and down the stairs, but I will miss all the windows in the classrooms and the new orchestra rooms. I have many memories from the old and new schools that I will look back on and still laugh at.

What I have learned at SOA is not to stereotype. All the students at SOA are talented and come from all sorts of backgrounds, and I love that. Here at SOA, I've been accepted for being me, and accepted others to become a friend or an associate. I will miss all my friends at SOA, and all my peers in my classes. I will miss a lot of the teachers I had while attending SOA, like Dr. Cusatis, and Mr. Pezzeca, where I knew I would always laugh in his class or hear him sing his heart out to the class. I will miss Mrs. Rickson, who I knew would help me if I needed extra help; Mr. Brehm who always made me think, Mr. Orvin, a teacher who taught the class by just talking to you, Mr. Percy, who taught me statistics and heard of the sport rugby, Mrs. Mullen's who I was an office monitor for and gave me snacks when I was with her. I will miss Mrs. Fitz who made playing the violin in the symphony orchestra enjoyable.

I know that I will come back to SOA to visit after I graduate, and if I do stay and live in Charleston I would like for my children to attend SOA their middle and high school years like I did.

Best All Around



Francis Smalls and Melissa Payne

Best Dressed



James Vickers and K. Chaney Long

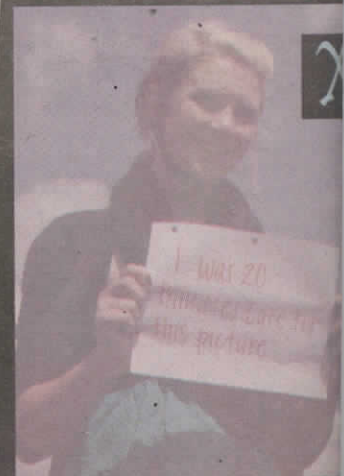
Class Clown



Tyler Droze and Addison Dent

Senior S

Pho
Jessica



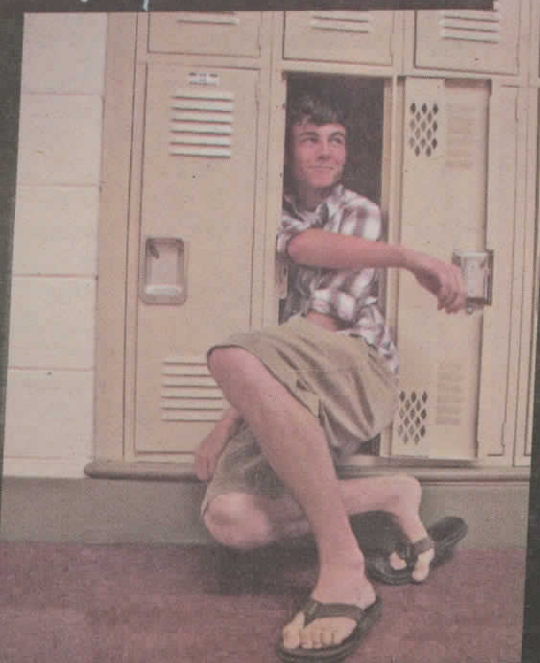
Jackie Brown and W

Most Likely to Visit
Mrs. Cromartie



Vika Balyasnikova and Jake Grissom

Most Likely to be
Mistaken for a Freshman



Kyle Heck and Heather Corson (not pictured)

Most Likely to Hit a
Parked Car



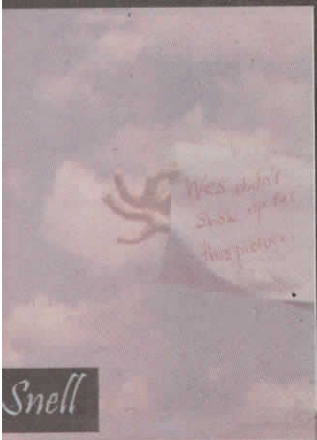
Jesse Earle and Elissa Keathley

B

Superlatives

os by
Stocker

ost Tardies



Snell

st Smile



Brittney Mitchell and Chris Sim

Biggest Flirt



Tyrell Jemison and ShaRonda Grimball

Most Dramatic



Ericka King and Demetrius Washington

Most Likely to be Famous



Jessika Stocker and Jonathan Heyward

Most Likely to Succeed



David Nicholson and Lauren DiNicola

Most Likely to Take Over the World



Brittany Greene and David Sass (not pictured)

The Rose Maree Myers Theater for the Performing Arts Dedicated

Speakers and performers come together to celebrate the legacy of SOA's founder and first principal



National Book Award winner Colum McCann talks about the value of an arts education



Dr. Cusatis and his students perform "April Days" in Ms. Myers' honor



Senior Jonathon Heyward conducts the high school orchestra



Ms. Myers speaks to the crowd of more than 400



2007 grad Daniel Davis performs



Mayor Keith Summey offers his tribute



Charleton Singleton performs "Sophisticated Lady"

Where are they now? Daniel Anthony uses SOA experience to excel at USC

By Wes Snell

Daniel Anthony is the valedictorian of the SOA Class of 2009 and now attends the University of South Carolina Honors College. I recently caught up with Daniel to see how he is faring his first year away from home.

Tell us about your experience as a freshman at the USC Honors College.

I think I have been very fortunate to be at USC Honors College. We have an unbelievable amount of opportunities and scholarships available to us and as well as the University at large, and as the majority of my classes have been Honors sections, our discussions are almost always insightful and interesting. Already, I have faced serious academic challenges in my Calculus II class, my fine arts elective and my English class this past semester, where I've had to work exceptionally hard to complete my assignments. Also, I've been active in different student organizations including Honors Council, Global Business Council, WUSC Radio, Newman Club and South Carolina Student Legislature.

However, my freshman year has not all been about academics or extracurriculars. The most memorable part of my freshman year has been, of course, college football. I only missed two home games last season, and you can guarantee I was present for Clemson's loss to Carolina at Williams-Brice Stadium last November. Overall, I'm very proud to be an alumnus of SOA as well as a USC Gamecock.

How has SOA prepared you for college?

Both my AP courses, my major, my electives and my liberal arts curriculum helped prepare me for college by not only teaching me skills in reading, writing, and calculation, but also in reasoning, analysis and evaluation. The latter three are the most important, as are the skills I learned when

coordinating and working collectively with others. In my first semester, with a group, I had to create a business and evaluate its logistics including costs, projected revenue and location, all of which I had to discuss in a PowerPoint presentation and a supplemental essay. This reminded me of projects I have done in the past at SOA, where each person used their own particular talents to develop the project further. Above all, I feel the Honors College as well as SOA heavily emphasize the importance of creativity and innovativeness, both in academics and in the arts.

Do you have any advice for the rising college freshman on how to be successful? What about rising high school seniors?

Because I always procrastinate for any given assignment, I will not suggest anything concerning time management. However, I will say that, in college, you will be studying for more than a few hours for one particular exam if you seek to be successful. In fact, for my Calculus II Exam in my first semester, I'm pretty sure I studied for close to ten hours over two nights, and I've had friends tell me they've studied for over 12 hours for one Chemistry exam. I think taking your work seriously and studying hard as well as prioritizing study over going out and football games. I've heard of people who have failed out for having not studied long enough or attending parties more than they were studying, so I wouldn't recommend either.

What unexpected challenges have you faced since enrolling in college?

During most of the semester, I found



that the amount of schoolwork was high, but not unbearable... until the end of the semester. If you are given a project or essay well before it is due, I suggest you work on it at least a week before its due date. Professors often couple term papers, essays and exams together at the end of the semester to

make sure they have enough grades to evaluate your performance in their class, and they almost always make the last three weeks of a semester the busiest for all students. However, I did not find the adjustment from life at home to college life to be difficult, though the two are very different. You are given many new freedoms as well as responsibilities, and you become accountable to more people, even your friends and other students you will work with. Also, I advise you that exercise and a healthy

diet should be close to, if not equivalent to, your daily regimen of studying and working hard. As college can be more stressful than high school, you can become more prone to being stressed-out as well as gaining weight from not taking care of yourself.

What is your favorite memory of SOA?

My favorite memory of SOA was at our senior picnic at Palmetto Islands County Park, coincidentally where I've worked each summer for the past three years. I felt as though my Class of 2009 was very close-knit, both to ourselves and other classes, and that picnic truly represented the pride and amiability we shared as a Class. We sat around on the field in a huge circle and then each of us made speeches about what we appreciated most at SOA. We also played Frisbee and football, and I think everyone was having a good time.

What kind of music have you been exposed to recently? Which good books? Concerts?

I've been more exposed to classical music of the 20th century due to an Honors College fine arts elective I took this past semester including music by Steve Reich and Philip Glass as well as Olivier Messiaen, Arnold Schoenberg and Karlheinz Stockhausen. Also, I have been exploring a wide variety of modern music particularly under experimental, neo-psychedelic or alternative genres by artists such as Flying Lotus, Beirut and Jaga Jazzist. I've found the best book I've read this year was *The Rest Is Noise* by Alex Ross, which highlights the most influential and transforming composers of the past century. This past semester, I attended a Girl Talk concert sponsored by the University as well as classical music concerts involving percussion works by Edgar Varèse and the combined arts play "A Soldier's Tale" by Igor Stravinsky. S'Gucci!

Can you talk briefly about your break with the Republican Party?

As it is no secret that I am an outspoken conservative, I have found that aligning myself with one party can be dangerous, though Republicans do share most of my views. During college, I have found that some of my political views have changed or have become better developed, as my ideas have been frequently challenged by both classroom debates and friendly discussions. I have disagreed with numerous actions undertaken by the Republican Party such as defending the legitimacy of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the promotion of a moderate "maverick" senator for President, and the general lack of support from different far-right, conservative, center-right and moderate factions voting for Republicans.

Where were they then? Mr. Hammes shares his passion for writing

By Hailey Dixon

Before Mr. Hammes came to Charleston County School of the Arts he worked as a senior writer for the Lillian Vernon, a catalog with a circulation of a 150 million, and he was freelance copywriter as well. Here at School of the Arts he teaches fiction and scriptwriting for middle and high school creative writers. He also teaches eleventh grade Place and Gender class. Next year Mr. Hammes is taking over the Senior Thesis for creative writing. Mr. Hammes has a true passion for writing and I had the honor of interviewing him on his unique past that helped build his passion; this is what he had to say:

Being from Charleston, what high school did you go to?

I was born in Mount Pleasant, where I attended James B. Edwards and First Baptist of Mount Pleasant before I moved to Orlando when I was eight. We did come back to Charleston two or three times a year, but I spent the majority of my formative years (including high school) in Florida. Though, to be fair, my heart has always been in Charleston: Somewhere out on the water.

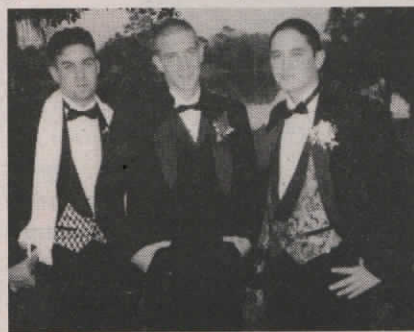
Like David Sedaris, did you encounter certain prob-

lems that helped you develop your writing?

Of course I have. All artists come by their craft honestly, having faced the same trials as everyone else. I'm just fortunate enough to have a medium that allows me to use all my experiences – good and bad – as material for my writing.

How has being raised a Christian affected you as a person?

The church has had quite a profound impact on my life. Perhaps the single most important thing



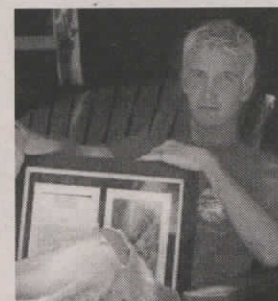
I learned in church was that the world doesn't revolve around me (far from it). I learned to be thankful for all I've been given by making the most of it. I learned the value in giving others the benefit of the doubt because, Lord knows, I myself need a little grace from time to time. I struggle with my faith; I mean, of course I struggle. But faith, to me, is like breathing; it's hard to do sometimes, but it's the only thing that keeps me going. Faith is the reason I get up in the morning, the reason I work

so hard and the reason I try to do right by others.

My faith reminds me to put one foot in front of the other, and do so with conviction. It helps me believe in tomorrows, in attainable horizons, in second chances, which might explain why faith has become a recurring theme in most of my writing, particularly a faith in crisis.

At what age did you start writing?

Well, it's my firm belief that writers are born writers, and they merely perfect their craft over their lifetime. Looking back, I can see I had all the telltale signs of a writer-in-making, long before I put pen to paper. It started with my love of books and language. I used to make up stories that my brothers and I would act out. The first time I actually sat down and wrote something was in fifth grade. I wrote a poem entitled "Prayer" and read it in front of the school. Another poem about the trials of Galileo and Copernicus, gazing deep into the heavens, followed.



What got you interested in teaching writing?

The answer is two-fold, really. For one, I believe a good education is the silver bullet in stopping poverty, crime and ignorance. I teach because I genuinely want to give all my students a cause, a purpose, a reason to live life to the fullest. I teach writing because I love writing and the change it affects on the world. I believe it's essential that professional writers do their part to pass along that gift to the next generation.

I've heard you were mischievous as a young man, could you describe in detail some things you have done?

Seeing as I love working at SOA and would like to keep my job, I can't give you the more sinister details of my younger crazier days. Suffice it to say, I did form a group of pranksters, bent on mischief. We dubbed ourselves the "Eleven Biscuits," and... yada, yada, yada... final exams were rescheduled, the stunt lot at Universal Studios was never the same, and still to this day, more than a few people in Franklin County, Georgia wake up in a cold sweat, after barely surviving the night water balloons rained down from the sky. Disclaimer: To the students who read this, know that this is, in no way, meant to be an endorsement of such terribly immature behavior. To my bosses, I will clear out my desk and be off school property by the end of the day.

SOA High School Bands: The Year in Review

The SOA Bands had another successful year in spite of the challenge and confusion of the "Big Move". The annual Band Camp, held at SOA before school begins in August, got things off to a fast start. The band camp emphasized more individual effort through small chamber ensembles and solo work. The camp also served to organize the latest edition of the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Symphonic Band and the SOA Jazz Ensemble. Once school began, the Jazz Ensemble got quickly to work, learning and polishing over 40 songs in preparation for Jump, Jive and Wail. JJW, as it is known by students, was another big success, with over 1,000 people attending the annual event at the Charleston Visitors Center. All band members pitched in with logistics, lighting, sound, waiting tables and a myriad of other jobs to make this another successful evening of music and dancing.

With Jump Jive and Wail over, the band turned its attention to the concert stage, where the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band and Symphonic Band polished up another gem of a concert. The "Thankful Concert", presented in November at Burke HS, was the last public performance that would be given by the bands in a venue away from the school, for which the band members and Mr. Kerr were very thankful.

December and January were a busy time of transition, as band members packed up thousands of pieces of music, dozens of instruments, trophies, plaques, posters and memorabilia, and then moved into the new school. While

the rehearsal rooms were beautiful, the acoustics are still being fixed even at this late date. When the adjustments are made, the band rehearsal rooms will truly be state of the art.

Even with the move, the band members earned many honors from December through February,

with the auditions for county, region and All-State Bands. Over 80% of the band was selected to one or more of these honor ensembles, one of the highest percentages in the state. The Jazz Ensemble held a second dance event in February, this time for adults only, called "A Swingin'

Good Time" at the Blackbaud Building on Daniel Island.



Photo: Provided

March was the time for the State Concert Festival, and the SOA Bands again achieved "Superior" ratings, the highest a band can earn. The Wind Ensemble performed in class VI, the highest level of music, and the Concert Band rose to their highest level of performance, earn-

ing Superior in Class V. All the bands benefited from a dedicated group of adjunct instructors, who worked with the students in small group and semi-private instruction.

April provided more emphasis on small group and solo work, with Senior Thesis performances looming and Solo and Ensemble Festival coming at the end of the month. The SOA Percussion Ensemble gave its debut performance at the dedication of the Rose Maree Myers Theater. It was also a time of anticipation, as the band will be giving a premiere performance of a work commissioned for the SOA Bands and composed by Dr. Cedric Adderley, a nationally recognized composer of music for band and orchestra.

May is Senior Thesis time, with each senior completing a thesis in either performance or music education. The seniors can either perform an advanced work considered a standard for their instrument, or they could create an original composition and perform it. Education students would "student teach" at a local school and help the music or band director with their program. The year will culminate with the premiere of the band work at the Grand Opening of SOA on May 14.

While it's been a busy, even crazy, year, it was still a time of musical joy and achievement. While we will miss the amazing class of 2010, we know the future is bright and even greater things are to come for the BANDS OF SOA!

Vocal: The Year in Review

This year high school and middle school vocal got the opportunity to experience many different activities in their major. Middle school started off the year with a bang, starting off the year with confident voices in their Concert October 13th. In November, selected high school students were taken to Columbia, SC to audition for South Carolina All State Choir. All high school students were given the chance to audition for The Charleston All County Choir, each student recording and submitting a tape to join other students in Charleston County on February 1st. To celebrate the holidays, high school vocal raised their voices in the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul, giving a stunning performance to kick off the holiday season. Seniors, who have worked continuously on 5 pieces for thesis gave their first performance on January 28, they concluded their work on May 12, giving the second and final display of the hard work they have put into their pieces. February 26 was a day of preparation and enthusiasm when the high



Senior thesis students were in five performances from January until May

school took a day trip to Columbia for a choral festival and competition, Honors and Chorale choirs performed a selection of music for a panel of judges and for an audience of choirs from around South Carolina. Both Choirs received superior rating for their performances. Those selected to perform in the All State choir left for the three day trip to Rock Hill on March 18. Those who did not attend were welcomed to participate in Mark Wood's "Electrify Your Strings" program for the orchestra; singing backup and lead vocals for songs such as "Can't Always Get What You Want" and "Born to Be Wild". Middle school had an adventure to Atlanta and April 22 for a vocal competition. Both high school and middle school wanted to end the year with a punch and spent a large amount of time preparing for the middle school concert on May 18th and high school on June 1st.

Theatre: In Review

By Ms. Megan Link



Photo: George Younts

The eighth graders in their production of *The General Inspector*

Middle school is a new beginning for some and the end of an era for others. This year's 6th graders were constantly on the go. They tackled, writing their own monologues, creating silent films, learning words for adjudications and writing Shakespeare their own way. The 7th graders worked hard on their workshop show "The Brothers Grimme Spectacularthon" and

then performing Shakespeare sonnets, pantomimes and stage combat. While acting in plays and reciting monologues are a great way to learn and improve your acting, the 7th graders practiced cold readings, which help them get prepared for the numerous auditions in the future. Almost ready for high school, the 8th graders worked diligently on *The General Inspector* while also tackling Shakespeare, stage combat and improv. On top of this the whole depart-

ment had a late move to contend with. Though we were displaced and riding the bus back and forth from the old campus we still were excited to get on the new campus.

High School did not allow for all of this travelling to mess with their practicum shows; *Fools, Nicholas*

Nickleby, The Diviners, and Much Ado About Nothing. All showcased their acting and

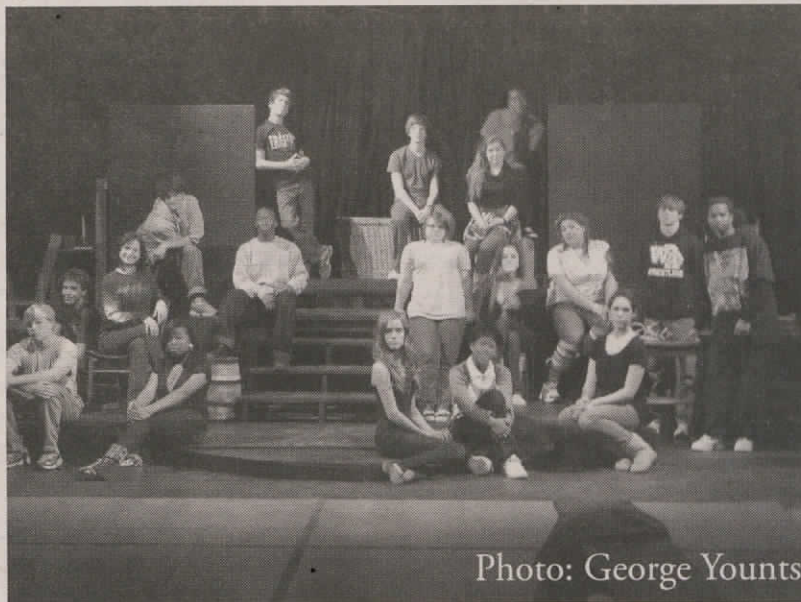


Photo: George Younts

The high school students in *Nicholas Nickleby*

movement skills. Playfest was brilliant as well 18 original ten minute plays were written and produced and varied from humorous to painfully serious. Though the move put up some obstacles the Seniors handled them with grace and power. They presented their Group scenes and solo scenes allowing for all of their talent and creativity to be showcased. It was a whirlwind of a year for theatre but one we will NEVER forget. Congrats to our Graduates!

The dance department in review

October

The Senior Thesis Dancers performed in the SOA Black Box the first of four performances. The dances were based on the Social Studies Standards and ranged in theme from Civil Rights Movement to Holocaust. 22 Junior and Sophomore Dance Majors attended the SC Dance Festival in Spartan-

into dance programs for numerous colleges and universities.

April

Senior Thesis 3 started off the month of many performances. The students studied a local artist's work and were mentored through the creative process. Their choreography was beautifully rich and diverse,



Photo: Provided

The senior thesis dance majors had four performances this year

burg. While there, they took master classes, attended numerous performances, and participated in dance related workshops. December

The Senior Thesis Dancers performed in the SOA Black Box the second of four performances. The dances were based on the choreography of contemporary masters. The students learned the movement and manipulated it to suite their own style of dance.

Junior Composition Dancers took to the stage with Masterpieces of Dance. The students choreographed works related to famous works of visual arts. Picasso, Miro, Kandinsky, and Pollack were just a few that provided inspiration to the dancers. Ashlyn Spitz, 8th grade dance major, won a 1st place award for her choreography submitted for the Reflections contest.

March

9 junior dance majors attended the National High School Dance Festival in Miami. The students had a fulfilling and inspiring time taking classes and attending performances. Students also gained insight

Junior Composition performed their 2nd concert of student works. Students studied a contemporary master choreographer and shared the work and life of him/her through dance and the recitation of text. The students select choreographers came to life on the stage at the performance.

The annual Spring Dance Performance

was spectacular. The dances were diverse and covered a full range of emotion and thematic content. The juniors and 6th graders joined together on a piece, after shock; there is hope, a response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti. The 10th graders performed 3 pieces that ranged from interpretive movement to high paced and doll-like steps. A guest choreographer set a piece on the 9th grade dancers that was moving and expressive.

May 6

The Senior Thesis Final Dance Performance and Reception will be held at the RM-MTPA starting at 7PM. The dancers will be performing their final pieces. Their choreography is collaboration with another dance major. Afterwards a reception will be held in the lobby, hosted by the Junior Dance Majors.

May 18

The First Annual Dance Department Awards Banquet will be held at 6:00 in the SOA cafeteria. Dance awards will be given out and will end with a final meeting of the Dance Booster Club.

Strings: A Year in Review

By Jonathon Heyward

From September to May, the Chamber and Symphony Orchestras have given their all for some great performances, making this year in the Strings department both eventful and exciting.

The year began on a high note in the first week of September, when many members of the orchestra's cello section had privilege of participating in a workshop given by the South Carolina Cello Choir. Hosted by Dr. Natalia Khoma at the College of Charleston, the event provided a great opportunity for bonding and learning with fellow cellists from across the state as well as the chance to work with clinician Suren Bagratuni of Michigan State University.

The following week, Jonathon Heyward was asked to serve as Music Director for the first annual Mozart in the South Music Festival's Youth Orchestra, which included many SOA students. Along with Orchestra Managers Emma Ostapeck and Maddie Cooper, Jonathon organized rehearsal times and venues before their big concert at Marion Square. The event, which was the finale to the

festival's September 12th children's "Little Mozart Circus," received a great review with hopes for another concert next season.

For five years now, the Tri-M Music Honor Society has been a successful music based organization at SOA, and this year's Induction Ceremony began the society's year with a bang. President Jonathan Heyward, Vice President Maddie Cooper, Treasurer Melissa Payne, Secretary Alex Nickell, and Historian Emily Horres inducted thirty-five new members for this year's term. The Induction Ceremony was held in the black box with various performances from the inductees. The night ended well, with the distribution of diplomas and small reception afterward. A year would not be complete without fundraising, and the Orchestra Booster

Club's annual Oyster Roast, held November 4th on Bowens Island, lived up to the success of years past. Along with the great food and a beautiful setting on the water, the event offered guests live entertainment by SOA musicians. This year, the orchestra rose almost \$800 and hopes to raise even more next year.

Low country Region Orchestra was held in Summerville this year on November 20th. Middle and high school students auditioned weeks prior to the event and there was an overwhelming rate of success from the SOA groups!

On November 24th, the SOA Orchestra presented their "Thankful Concert," at West Ashley High School. The event, which featured the Chamber and Symphony Orchestra's performance of works from Mendelssohn and Grieg, ensured all in attendance a memorable musical experience.

Junior, Michelle Hillenius was honored this year as the SOA High School Symphony Orchestra's Principle Violist. Last year, Michelle was selected from hun-



The strings students promoting their oyster roast on News 4

dreds of violinists for one of the few chairs in the prestigious National High School Honors Orchestra. Sponsored by Ms. Fitzgerald, she went to Santa Clara, CA on February 18th -21st, where she joined the orchestra in playing major works such as Mahler's 1st Symphony.

All-State Orchestra was yet another success for the school. Out of the numerous students who were accepted, Jordan Elum received the concertmaster chair of the 9/10 Orchestra and Alex Nickell the Principle Violist chair of the 11/12 Orchestra for the performance held the weekend of February 26th at Furman University. World renown rock star violinist, Mark Wood hosted his "Mark Wood Experience" here at the School of the Arts in which many of our students participated. Because the event was the opportunity for a wonderful once in a lifetime experience, all string musicians in Charleston County were invited to participate. The program went from March 15th-18th and concluded with a concert that truly rocked the house!

The Rose Maree Myers Theatre dedication on April 16th gave yet another

opportunity for the SOA Symphony Orchestra to show incredible talent as well as to show their appreciation for a wonderful administrator. The orchestra was featured as the final show of the dedication ceremony and kicked it off with Tchaikovsky's Marche Slav, lead by Student Conductor Jonathon Heyward. This year, 12 seniors were featured in two different shows for the final Senior Thesis program. On May 10th and 12th there were two different programs with both the Chamber and Symphony Orchestras. On the 10th we featured Audrey-Johnson, Maddie Cooper, Marlee Williams, Jamie Rardin and Jonathan Heyward as soloist under Ms. Fitzgerald's direction. Then on the 12th, Airel Smith, Jessica James, Geraldine Garcia, Julia Willson and Faith Davis were the featured soloist under Jonathan Heyward. The concert was a memorable one for all seniors.

After the booming Myer's Theatre Dedication, the orchestra was asked to play again for the State of the Schools Address that was held here in the new theatre. Faith Davis was featured along with the Symphony Orchestra playing Lalo's Symphonie Espagnol. The city of Charleston Mayor, Joe Riley, condoled the orchestra saying, "What great talent at such a great school!"

Under the direction of Ms. Sarah Fitzgerald, we made it through yet another successful year with many more to come!



Photo: Provided

2010 Retrospective: Creative Writing, In Review

By Rene Bufo Miles

What a year! The first half was driven by plans for moving into the new SOA facility. Senior Thesis posters went into hiding, covered in bubble wrap. The nook was inhabited by dozens of boxes. Students said goodbye to a place that served as home. But despite the bustle and boxes, the chaos and commotion, some things went on as usual. Students in grades 6 through 12 participated in the Barnes and Noble Literary Reading. The public got a taste of writing produced by the Creative Writers, and the Post and Courier featured the event in the Lowcountry section of the paper. The Mt. Pleasant store held a packed audience, and supporters purchased books that benefited the department.

Lake Logan Center again welcomed the 11th and 12th graders for the Senior Thesis Retreat. Not only were the fall leaves a welcome respite from the heat of Charleston, but the autumn flora served as the perfect backdrop for

invoking the muse that would inform the works published later in the year. The campfire blaze against the black mountain sky and the hi-jinks of the Suppressed Desire Talent show served to bond students and forge new friendships.

And then it was time to turn up the heat and pound out entries for the Scholastic Writing Awards. Students submitted their best works; the time and energy invested paid off with 67 Regional and 10 National winners. Lauren DiNicola and Wesley Snell won Silver Portfolio awards. DeAnna Kerley and Emily Thomas both won Gold Medals for Short Story. Rebecca Forman was awarded a Gold Medal in Personal Essay/Memoir. Gold Medals in Poetry were awarded to Alex Peebles, Mary Claire McCarthy, Olivia Carbonero, and Emily Fairchild, and Courtney Carrick won a Silver Medal Poetry. These students will be headed to Carnegie Hall on June 9 for the Scholastic Art

and Writing Award ceremony. NYC look out for SOA!

The Spring Semester seemed to jet by, and before the azaleas could start blooming, it was time for readings, readings and more readings. Middle school students gathered in the newly dedicated Rose Maree Myers Theater for the Performing Arts for a joint event, while high school 10th and 11th grade Creative Writers populated the new Monday Night Blues venue, East Bay Meeting House. The 9th graders gave a Friday night reading in the light and airy SOA Media Center. And finally, with their book covers suspended in the air above them, the seniors treated a packed audience to excerpts from their Senior Thesis works on the new SOA stage.

And so, another year of literary riches ends.

Delivery

Dedicated to the 2010 Creative Writers
by Rene Bufo Miles

The river was dry in summer,
but the dust held glistening shards of shale.

I kicked my feet in the dry riverbed,
Slivers of rock caught in the wind,
shimmered like thoughts not yet formed.

These were your dreams.

And in the spring
rainwater flowed down the mountain,
caught and guided in paths carved by time.

It trickled to the dust,
built speed,
soaked the powdery sand
and gathered in pools.
These pools were your words.

With fall
wind blew small pebbles off the mountain.

They tumbled and ran,
rejoiced in rolling freedom.
Larger stones jostled free.
They too dove toward the river,
ripe with laughter
which rippled in pleasure.
These stones were your stories.

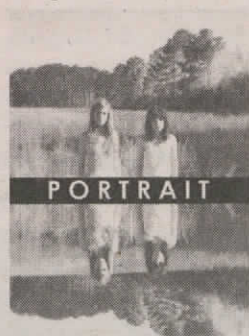
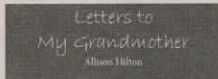
And in the winter
the whitest snow
blanketed the mountain.
The river turned glass.
Beneath its surface,
the water polished the rocks
as they tumbled in the unseen current,
became smooth, shone like gems.
These stones were who you became.

Like stones you have settled
at the bottom of my heart.
Heavy like a womb,
it is ripe to rip open.
The river of my blood flows in your words
and not even time will sever this bond.
Despite the sting of birth,
now is the time for letting go.

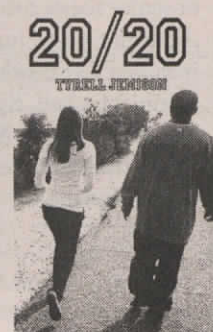
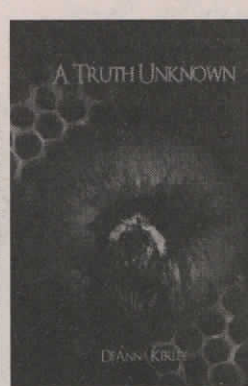
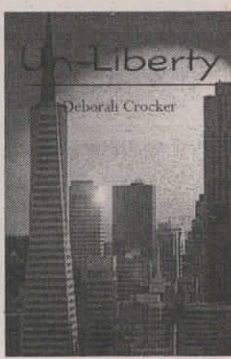
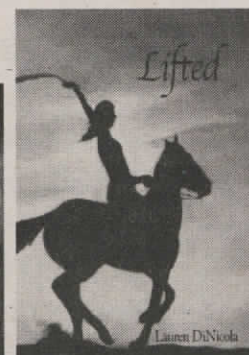
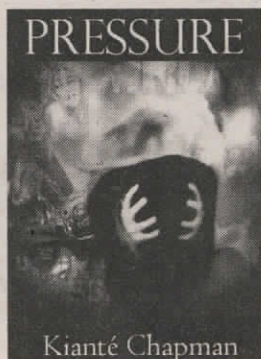
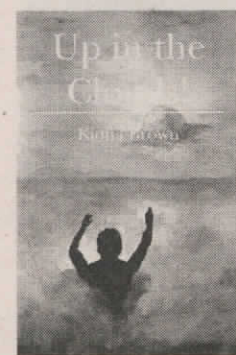
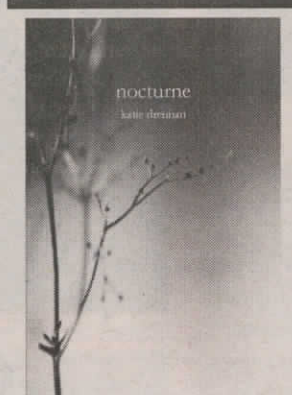
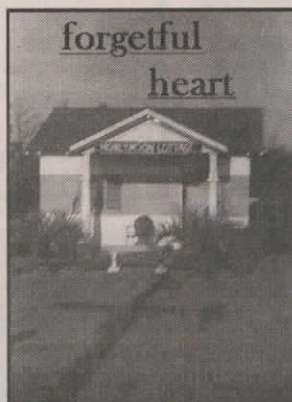
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MIHOK



Caroline Rogers



Piano: In Review

The piano department has been busy this year. All students in grades 6-12 participated in the fall classical recital in the Black Box at the old campus. This was followed by the Jazz Café at Red Orchids Restaurant in December. Several students participated in the District Auditions at Charleston Southern University in March. Based on their outstanding ratings at these auditions, the following students were eligible for the State Auditions: Katie Rose

Solo & Ensemble Festival, the following 21 students were selected to perform on the Honors Recital at the South Carolina Music Educators Convention next February: Mark Ablonczy, Andrew Bruce, Chris Camp, Callie Carmichael, Hannah Gourdie, Max Hutton, Maddox Johnston, Megan Michalski, Sam Short, Whitney Su, Jun Ying Tang, Mary Sullivan Beckley, Jordan Brunson, Jillian Campbell, Anja Evenson, Briel Govan, Kyana Jenkins,



Franyo, Megan Michalski, Whitney Su, Jamisen Collier, Callie Carmichael, Hannah Gourdie, and Sophia Yin. Whitney Su came in 2nd place in the state in her division at the State Auditions at USC.

In April, both the middle and high school piano majors performed on the spring recitals which were held in the new Rose Maree Myers Theater for the Performing Arts. We also took 46 piano majors to the Solo & Ensemble Festival at Lander University. Students were critiqued by piano professors from nearby colleges and given a rating based on their performances. We received 13 "Excellent" ratings and 36 "Superior" ratings. Eight of those superior ratings were "Superior +" ratings and one was a "Superior++" rating. This was earned by a 10th grader, Jun Ying Tang. Also, based on their performances at the

Heather Lee, Nate Schlosser, Tyler Sim, and Dylan Walsh.

In May, the piano students played in many venues around the campus for our big Grand Opening. Students performed jazz pieces in the cafeteria, the media center, the high school lounge, the middle school lounge and the piano studios. Several students also performed classical literature. The year was completed with three nights of senior thesis concerts performed by six of the senior piano majors. These performers included Cat Bowler, Seth Zimmerman, Britini Mitchell, Kyana Jenkins, AJ Dales, and Briel Govan. What an awesome way to conclude another wonderful year in the world of piano.

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SOA Salutatorian and Eagle Scout David Nicholson will attend Furman University

By Wes Snell

David Nicholson is the salutatorian of SOA's 2010 graduating class. He is a hard-working Eagle Scout with more AP courses under his belt than any other student at SOA. An all-state Choir member three years running, David will take his multifaceted talent to Furman this fall, but before he goes he shared with us this interview.

Why did you choose Furman?

Believe it or not, I didn't choose a school because I know what I'm going to do to make a living but because I don't know what I'm going to do. Of course I know my general interests, but I need more experience before I can make a career decision. Furman, I found out, is a liberal arts school with good undergraduate research opportunities, which is exactly what I need, so it seemed to make sense.

How has SOA left its mark on you?

I realized something last year about who I would have been without SOA, and I appreciate the school much more for it. I believe, knowing who I am and my pragmatic nature, that if I had gone to any other school, then I wouldn't have any art in my life right now. I would have simply taken all the math/science courses I could have and left art behind, and that's a strange thought for me now, because I can't imagine my life without my music. To me, SOA will always be the place that I

learned the value of art.

Do you plan on pursuing your vocal talent at Furman next year? Why or why not?

No. OK, I'll explain further. I'm going to sing at Furman, but I'm not interested in making my voice the source of my livelihood. For some reason that thought has always made me feel weird. I know that there are many of my

friends that plan on making their major at SOA their life, and I wish them well, but it just isn't my cup of tea.

How has Vocal influenced you?

I've already mentioned how SOA has had a positive impact on me, so I'll mention a negative one now instead: I cannot listen to Pop voices anymore. From my own experience, I know how much time and energy goes into singing properly, and when I hear all of the auto-tuning and falsetto that for some reason has become popular, I curse the invention of the microphone. Basically, I'm doomed to listen to instrumental music now.

How long have you been in the Boy Scouts? How

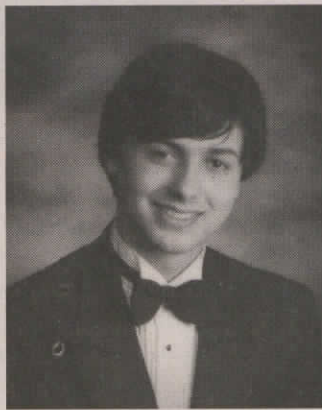
has that experience impacted you?

I've been in the Boy Scouts longer than I can remember, sort of. Before becoming a Boy Scout, there is also a pre-Boy Scout program for elementary school aged kids called Cub Scouts. Cute, right? Well, it was in the Cub Scouts that I met two friends that have become some of the best friends I have, and the Boy Scouts facilitated that relationship. You see, when my friends and I left elementary school, we all went to different middle schools, but we still interacted through the Boy Scouts.

How long have you been playing piano? Do you take a different approach to playing choral rather than vocal instruments?

I've been playing for about three years, and to say that I have an approach playing piano is to say that I play it with some sort of logic, which I most definitely do

not. If there is a song I want to play, I just try to play it (with sometimes terrible results). As for comparing the two instruments, they are entirely different fields of play. While it's true that I could sing by myself and that I can play piano with other people, I find that singing is a much more cooperative art that playing



piano. Vocal has more than its fair share of drama, and that's because we can't perform without each other; we have to be in constant communication with each other, which causes tension.

Who do you consider an inspiration or role model?

This is a little cliché, and I hope she never reads this, but I'd have to say my sister. She inspires me in all different areas of life, and watching her a few years ahead of me doing what she does makes me realize my own potential.

How do you balance your major, your academics, your extracurriculars, and your social life?

Ha! Trust me, I'm still trying to figure that one out.

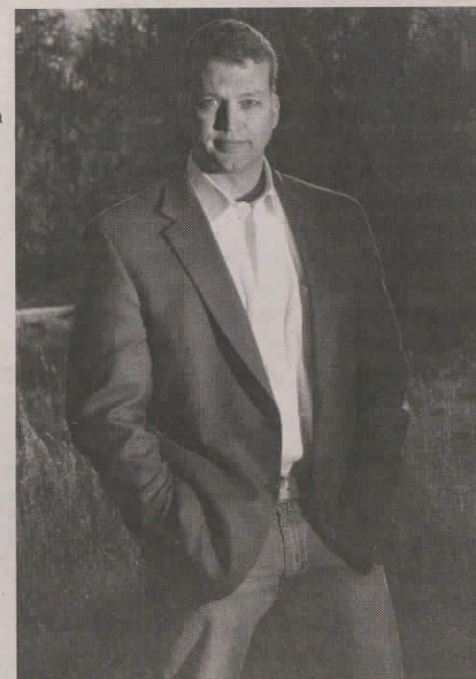
What are your plans for the summer?

I realize that this summer is the final summer that I will have with a lot of my friends, so I want a significant portion to be spent in relationship with them. Sure, I'll see them during breaks and other summers, but we will all be going our separate ways by then, so I want these last few months to be a time to slowly say goodbye to one another by appreciating each others experience. Hopefully, my peers in the class of '10 will be doing more than making money during this period of final farewells.

Novelist Jon Hart to speak at graduation

By David Sass

Novelist John Hart was born in Durham, North Carolina in 1965, the son of a surgeon and French teacher. He attended Davidson College in North Carolina, where he studied French literature. Over the years, he was worked as a banker, stockbroker, attorney, apprentice helicopter mechanic and London bartender. He has published three New York Times bestsellers, *The King of Lies*, *Down River*, and *The Last Child*. He lives in his native North Carolina, where he



writes full-time. Creative Writing teacher Sean Scapellato, who arranged for Hart's appearance at our graduation, met him five years ago while Hart was still a stockbroker for Merrill Lynch. Mr. Scapellato says, "John Hart has lived his life in reverse," pointing out that where the students at SOA have begun their lives in their respective arts and will use their art as a foundation upon which to build, Mr. Hart did not discover his passion for writing until later in life, leaping from being an attorney to becoming a writer.

Symptoms such as addiction, depression, anxiety and feelings of emptiness or inadequacy are messages from your soul. Analysis and psychotherapy can help you understand these messages and resolve the underlying problems. This is the goal of my clinical practice.

Sharon E. Martin, FNP, CNS, PhD eq.
Diplomate, C.G. Jung Institute, Zurich

843.425.5389

216 Scott Street

Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, only dreams; who looks inside, also awakens.

— C. G. Jung

Wes Snell

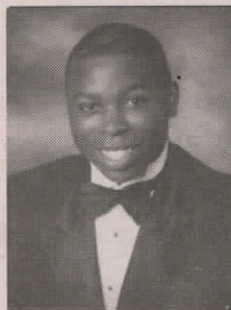
Creative Writing



Ten years. 25 May 2020. To think of what has happened to me in the past ten years, the way gyres constricted and horizons broadened, the losses I've suffered and gains I've gotten, and then to project that against the colossal blank canvas of the next ten years, nevermind gathering up and sorting through the past ten, and don't even mention the eight before that or the cracks they've left in my consciousness, both likely somehow the reason my head makes me write and get satisfaction from what are sometimes merely tricks of language, amateur pirouettes of sound and syntax, sometimes trite and utterly

Demetrius Washington

Vocal



OMG. I can't believe how fast the time flew by. I mean it was like yesterday that I auditioned. Voice all crackly and infused with gospel and R&B Inspiration. With Mr. Eakes smiling like "I think I have something here" I asked him so when will I know I'm in (notice the confidence, not "If" but "When")? Just my luck, I made it in. I have made many friendships here. Some have remained while others have been broken by high school gossip.

(Lesson 1: Prepare your self for gossip. It's what we as Teenagers do for fun. Of course we don't like it when it happens to us but some how we all find ourselves stirring something up. When you face it be mature about it especially if your defending yourself out of honesty.)

It was such a pleasure to find your self look at your classmates and say " Man has she grown up", or my God "He is getting so tall" wondering to your self "When will I".

To best of friends and Teachers held in the walls of SOA (old or new Campus), thank you so much for tolerating me I know I can be a bit much but It's only...Usually out of love. Francis thank you for being their for me all of these years I really don't know how I could've made it without you. Britini Teisha Charlens..Yes I know how to say your name, thank you also. OMG I'm Crying. OMg I didnt mean to Type that, or this. Starr Bria Jessica I love you all even though Bria is a little

inadequate for capturing or explaining things I've seen, sometimes vain flourishes, sometimes simply wrong, and sometimes, sometimes it's okay. I don't know which this is. I rarely know which is which. I really don't know what to expect because the place that I'm going is not near or similar to here - Portland, Oregon, ignoring humidity. Who knows. I could become a dedicated, punctual, organized model of a serious scholar. I could get addicted to drugs - I've seen it happen to people better than me. I could cut all my hair or grow a beard or become a professional mountain climber or stay there, 3,000 miles away from anyone I know and the people I've known all my life. I could go to jail. I've never seen such an emptiness on my canvas before, and I wonder if I have enough color to fill the space.

Diva especially at highschool fashion shows. Jessie and Tyler thank you for everything you've done for me and even carting me around during my carless days. (Lesson 2: Underclassmen Please allow Upper-classment most specifcally Seniors enjoy their Privelges. This is really commmon in the Freshman and Sophmore class of 2010. As you will see we dont have many and you would really want to enjoy them as you have earned them.) As For advice to Underslssmen and Up and Coming Seniors, Please dont Slack off in your work theirs a common misconception that "colleges only look at your jr. year" well... Wrong! They look at every class you have taken even from Freshman year. So do your best. Challenge your self take some Tech classes to boost that GPA. Those of you that need it need to get on it.

(Lesson 3: Dont cut up in class trying to be cute because while your sitting there playing, other are getting their work done and smiling in your face and playing right along with you difference is their done with their work and on to EC. This is for someone with the initials K.B.- Lesson 3.1 learn to walk away from situations. In all seriousness, speaking from personal standpoint, close your mouth open your ears you learn alot about people those that like you for you and those that like your entertainment.)

Through out the many times of Chaos and vocal Catastrophies (Howard Brown put Mikey Rocusak's sneaker in the ceiling with super glue) we have had sme memorable moments at SOA and Boy will I miss them. In closing, please enjoy your 4 years of Highschool, Because when its time to cross that stage during the commencement ceremony, your done. Lights out. Good bye SOA hello World, Class of 2010 are you ready? I am.

Tyler Dubose

Band



School of the Arts has really been a great experience for me. I have learned a lot and every class I've had has helped me learn more and each teacher has been special to me. School of the Arts is definitely a different type of school and it has helped me grow. I believe it has helped me prepare for college more than other high schools have for their students. Ms. Myers should be thanked for coming up with such a unique school and making it work, the new building we are in is amazing and a lot nicer than the rundown buildings at the old campus. I will never forget the old campus and it was a lot of fun, but I'm glad we got to be the first senior class to graduate out of the new

school. This school feels like a new beginning for SOA but it's coming to end so quickly for all us. Sometimes it's sad to think about leaving the SOA family and going off to college, but every good thing must come to an end to start something new and even better. I have gone to an arts school all my life and School of the Arts has helped me get over my fear of performing and beginning more creative and an out of the box thinker. SOA has stood out among the critics and has gained a lot of recognition for being a five star school and excelling in the academics, from being at this school for seven years I can understand why we were awarded with five stars. I feel that my education has been excellent and that I have become better at my major, band, and that our band program is one of the best. I will never forget this school and the SOA education is more valuable than anything I could imagine, I know I was very lucky to be here.



8th Grade Prom

8th grade students gather Downtown to take pictures before their dance on May 8th, held in the school cafeteria.



Junior Senior Prom

Prom Queen, Maddie Cooper, Prom King, Francis Smalls, Prom Princess, Taylar Buck, and Prom Prince Gunthar Schultz were crowned at the Junior-Senior Prom on April 30th at Boone Hall Plantation.

Alek Mihok

Aleksandar Walker Mihok is an outstanding young man with a Passion for, and a talent in music, poetry, and creative writing. We believe now that he will write his own story that only he can write. But fear not he uses his super powers not for evil but for the good of man and creature kind.
Love, Aunt patty and Alex

Graduation is only a concept. In real life every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that, you'll make a difference. There is no need to reach high for the stars. They are already within you - just reach deep into yourself and make it happen !

We are extremely proud of you.
Your family from Switzerland
Natasha, Suzanne and Boban

Robert Aleksandar Walker Mihok- Today is your-day.

You're off to great places! You're off and away!
As vast as your vision can show, As high as your highest dreams grow, As far as your passion can reach-

These are the places you'll go.
With Great Love,
Peter, Angela, and Audrianna
Walker-Mueller

**Addison Dent**

"Keep it real" ---BANKSY

"I think therefore I am"
(As you think, so shall you become.)

Bruce Lee

"All the world is a stage"

We love you Addison
Eli, Mama, Papa





Aubrey Crawford

Aubrey, we are so proud of you - of your academic success, your athletic and musical talents, and most of all your sweet, kind spirit.

Lots of love,
your family.



Audrey Johnson

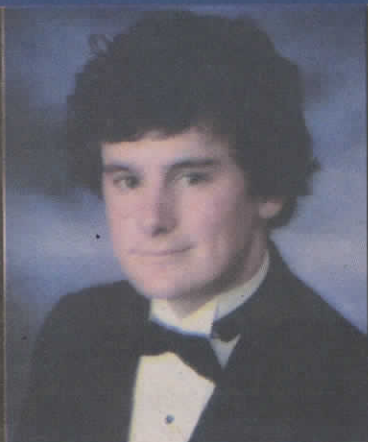
Audrey, we hope that all you have learned leads you to a future filled with success and happiness.

Congratulations and best wishes
Mom & Dad



Austin Jur

Our Rainbow: An Ode to Austin Jur
When we first saw your beautiful eyes
They were bright and colorful and full of surprise
Throughout our life you've brought us joy
You'll always be our baby boy
As you go through life we hope you find
Contentment that brings a peace of mind
Stay vibrant and colorful like you always are
Be true to yourself and you'll go far.
WE LOVE YOU!!!!!!!!!!!! MOM & DAD



Jordan McDermott

Oh the places you'll go!
We love you.

-Mom, Dad, Chris, Melanie & Logan



Mandy Holcomb

We are so proud of you! We love you very much and are blessed to have you as our daughter

Love, Mom & Dad.



Cat Bowler

Catherine, We love you dearly and are so proud of all that you have accomplished in school, piano and soccer. You are a wonderful daughter and person—know that we are always here for you as you have been for us and others.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Bryant and Cassie
Cat



Julia Wilson

Julia, we love you very much. We're proud of you and are excited for all that the future holds for you.

Love,
Mom, Dad and Rachel



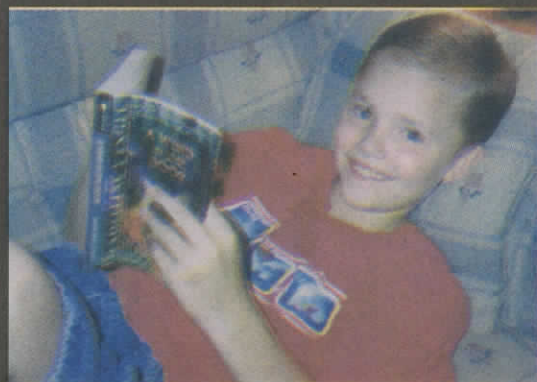
Lauren DiNicola



Congratulations Lauren on 7 fantastic years at SOA!

You make us proud!

We love you -- Mom, Dad, Chrissy, Cathie & Ida



Wes Snell

Dear Wesley,

You have been a joy from the moment you joined our family and we fell in love with you eighteen years ago. We are all so very proud of you and stand behind you in full support for the great journey ahead. To quote one of your favorite authors: Your education really IS the job of a lifetime.

And it commences: now.

We wish you way more than luck,
Mom, Melissa, Rick, Christina, Jake,
Michael, Gavin, Luke and Sophia

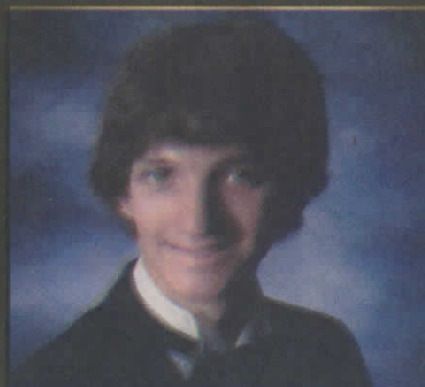


Elissa Keathley

We are so proud of you, Elissa! You have stayed focused on school and your music and you will make an amazing teacher. We will miss you terribly next year.

We love you,
Mom, Seth, and Taylor

Ethan Broadwater



Ethan,

As you walk out into your future, we have no regrets with the man you have become. You are invested in the things you want for your life, you have compassion for those around you, and you stand up for your beliefs!

We Love You!

Geraldine Alvarez Garcia



"You formed my heart for liberty, for justice, for the big, for the beautiful."

Simón Bolívar



Nicholas Leatherwood

We are so proud of you! You fill our hearts with pride and joy.

Always remember that if you have self-will, you will have success in accomplishing your goals and dreams.

We love you!

Dad, Mom, and Ethan

Victoria Balyasnikova

No one else in all the world can live the life you live, or give what you can give... so on your graduation day, be proud of all you are—you are a very special girl, and you are destined to go far!

Love you.



Jamie Rardin

Congratulations Jamie! We are very proud of you. You are a remarkable young lady and wonderful daughter.

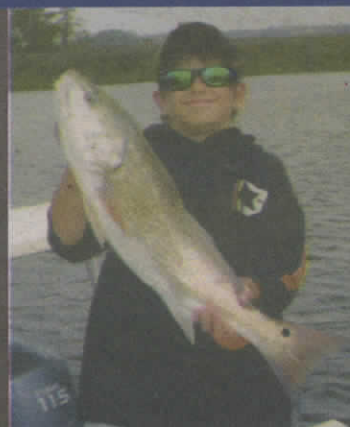
We love you,
Dad and Mom



Ericka King

Graduation Day 2010! Eighteen years have passed by and you have grown into a beautiful and talented young woman who will embark on the greatest adventure of her life. Congratulations on graduating from

SOA and being accepted into Columbia College for the Arts. We all love you and can't wait to see what life has in store for you,
Ericka Elizabeth King.



Miles Merritt

Congratulations, Miles! With pride and joy, we look back on what you have accomplished and forward to your future achievements, success, and happiness.

Love,
Mom and Dad.

Maddie Cooper

Madeleine,
We are all so proud of you! It seems like you just started Ashley River and here you are graduating School of the Arts and heading off to Carolina!

A friend is one who knows your hearts song and sings it back to you when your heart's forgotten it!

Congratulations!
With all of our love,
Dad, Mom, Brittiany, & Wheeler



Amber Murphy

Band



Ten years from now I would love to be doing underwater videography (film/photography). One day I was watching a show during Shark Week on the Discovery Channel, and I was thinking about how large the black eye of a Great White is. How its muscles rippled because it was alert in the deep sea, and how very mishapen its jagged yellow teeth were. And then it dawned on me—someone was filming that! A person, flesh like you and me, swimming, no more than five feet away from one of the deadliest creatures alive. He's practically close enough to hear the beat of its heart, and the stopping of his own! I began to imagine him swimming there—gritting his teeth until the noise hurt his head, holding onto his camera with the strength of ten men and maybe even closing his eyes if the great beast even twitched or drew a little closer than expected (that's what I'd be doing anyway!) The cameraman must have been high on adrenaline, capturing the brute strength and force of one

of God's great creatures: completely oblivious to five o'clock traffic, an unappreciative boss and late night work at the office. No, this man had nothing on his mind except the 2 ton beast swimming before him. And I watched. Sitting on my safe couch, admiring from a whole other world, I watched. It was that moment I realized that's what I wanted to do. Nature has always fascinated me, as well as film, so why not put the two together? Now don't get me wrong, I don't have a death wish, and sharks aren't the only thing I'd like to film. I would like to film all of nature: above and below the sea. Filming for National Geographic is my ultimate dream. How do I intend on tending to that feat? Good question. Right now I've got some resources, a dream and a long ways to go. But I know what I want to do. I want to film a giant squid tending to its young, I want to be there as a whale shouts an eardrum shattering battle cry and springs itself out of the water to flip, leaving everyone who witnessed its magnificent folly in jaw dropping awe while it swims away, oblivious to the mind blowing experience it has left its audience. I want to film the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea, I want it all! And if that doesn't work out, I guess I could always do movies!

Kerri Bergeron

Band



I have only been at SOA for three years, but in those years I have met some very memorable people and had some of the most memorable times. I'll never forget our old campus and the lakes and mold smells that inhabited it. I'll never forget my first day and how scared I was when I first met Monsieur Pezzeca! I will also never forget the valuable lessons I have learned from, "the wise guy," Mr. Brehm.

I came to SOA to expand in my art major, but I am leaving with a different aspect on life. I have learned to be myself and not care what anybody else thinks of me. I would encourage any and everybody who has an artistic talent to try the ropes here at SOA. I think the students here not only learn valuable things in their art major, but also in their academic classes as well. I learned about the "adorable little bibly's" in Mr. Pezzeca's

biology class. I've also learned that Smart Boards are hard things to work, huh Mrs. Bunch?! Apparently dressing up like Darth Vader will help you understand all of those equations that have to do with forces, wow Mr. Lindgren. And most importantly, when you get pulled over you should tell the police officer that you have your copy of the 5th Amendment in your glove box! Thank you Mr. Brehm

SOA is a school with free expression and fun! Seeing a person in a leotard is not unordinary, either is looking at a sunset or fish tank during the moment of silence on the morning announcements. I will never forget my high school experience here, and I will take everything I have learned with me! I hope SOA will stay open for many years to come so I can one day walk in not only as alumni, but as a parent to a current SOA student! Thank you SOA and all of the teachers and students I have run across in the past three years! You all will be greatly missed and appreciated!

Aubrey Crawford

Band



My mom has been a high school teacher in Charleston's Public Schools for over twenty years, so it was natural that growing up I had aspirations of becoming a teacher too. These aspirations began to change however, when I started going on mission trips with my youth group from church. I found so much joy and fulfillment on these mission trips that I began to realize that the field of missionary nursing would be a better fit. My dad grew up in Trinidad and my mom spent most of her childhood in Chile where her parents were missionaries. Because they have experienced first-hand living in a Third World country, my parents have always

stressed the importance of learning about other cultures as well as accepting and helping those in need. They have encouraged me and worked with me on several community projects. When I shadowed an uncle recently for twelve hours in the emergency room at a local hospital, I experienced first-hand what those in trauma go through. This experience was truly rewarding. It helped me see what a difference a nurse can make in traumatic situations. I am now considering the combination of a medical career and serving others. Consequently, I would like to be a part of the crew on one of the Mercy ships. After I graduate from college, I would love to travel a lot and I am currently very interested in going to Africa. I would love to go there and help the less-fortunate through various services. These are just a few of my plans for after college, but we will see what the future holds!

Briel Govan

Piano



"Photography holds no limitations. Holding a camera is to hold beauty in your hands and in a second of that flash, you have captured life; still and beautiful as it was in that very second. The photo now holds words to an image. When you can read a photograph, you have created art." These words, written by Kathleen Tompkins, give a glimpse of what I plan on doing in the year of 2020. I have several high goals that I would like to achieve. By 2010, I hope to be traveling often, and taking pictures along the way. I'd like to be a photojournalist for a magazine or city paper,

working in the runway business, and doing studio photography. Living close to a big fashion city and travelling abroad to London, Paris, ect. For work would be a dream come true. (Like I said, high goals.) Starting with the Art Institute and taking one step at a time, I think I will be able to achieve all of these things. Everyone always asks me if I will continue with piano after graduating. I'm not going to completely give up on the piano. It will still be a big part of my life in 2020 and many years after. Both teaching and performing as a side job wouldn't be a bad idea for anyone at SOA. If not, at least for fun during spare time. As much as we might complain about our major, we have spent half of our school years studying it and it would be a sad thing to forget about.

DeAnna Kerley

Creative Writing



At the end of your senior year in high school, there comes a moment of panic, a moment matched with a shuddering breath and dizzied vision, a moment where you desperately search for comfort in some familiar memory. Maybe an image of your twelve-year-old self emerges: blue-eyed and timid, pacing through middle school hallways. Maybe you see your classmates gathered inside the high school band room for convocation. But at the end of my senior year, as I send out graduation

announcements and cross off "laundry basket" and "ink cartridges" on my college checklist, I revert to the image of the creative writing room for comfort. Even now, I can see it in my mind: dust-covered book shelves framing the "nook," two rows of computers, Mrs. Miles' desk at the front of the room. This is the room where I cried, where I first found the beginnings of my voice, where I spent six months writing my first novella. This is the room where I was saved. Through this wooden door, my classmates and I grew into a mosaic family bonded with the staccato sound of typewriting. Inside of these four walls, my classmates and I sought out the truth and found it with our pens. This is the room where I became a writer, and this is the room I will remember for the rest of my life.

Deborah Crocker

Creative Writing



For me, it took several months and one fun-filled week of senior silliness to realize that I've come a long way in three years. Sophomore year was scary and stressful – I'd been homeschooled since the second grade, and public school really wasn't something I was looking forward to. I'm glad I finally was able to stop being so nervous and learn to talk to people, though. There's several people I've befriended now that I can't imagine not knowing, in grades the same as mine or below. Admittedly, I wasn't used to all the deadlines and new rules, but it's something you easily

get used to. SOA helped me to cultivate my writing hobby, and learn different things that get authors like L. A. Meyer and Rachel Roberts spaces on the shelves at Barnes and Noble.

At SOA, we're able to do things that other public schools aren't allowed to even think about. I'm pretty sure other schools would not allow someone to randomly walk around in a Teletubbies costume. That is what I like about this school; it's weird in a fun way, and everybody is aware of it. Even the newcomers will eventually become swept up in the cheery strangeness of this art school. I'm kind of sad to be leaving it for good, but no one said anything about Unexpectedly Expected Surprise Visits, right? I had a lot of fun here, and I wish everyone the best for their futures.

Amber Wells

Theatre



This school has made a huge difference in my life, as well as in the lives of other students. It gives students the chance to take a new and profound interest in their art majors, and it also gives them the opportunity to grow as great individuals, as well as great people. Had it not been for me attending this school, I have no idea where I would be, and I really thank Mrs. Myers for the opportunity to attend this school.

I auditioned for this school in the year of 2006, and I knew then that this would be a great opportunity for me, and that I would benefit from this school greatly in the future. This has proven to be very true. During my time at the School of the Arts, I have learned things that I know I will carry

with me throughout my life. Not only has this school helped me to excel in my arts, and academics, but it has also instilled in me great leadership qualities, and wonderful people skills.

As I reflect on all of the obstacles that Mrs. Myers went through to get this school to the point where it is today, it makes me admire her even more. I cannot even begin to imagine all of the chaos, and let downs that she must have endured to accomplish her goal. Her strength and courage always pushes me to want to go to greater heights. To not let the opinions of others influence and impact my choices and decisions, are one of the things that your bravery, consistency, courage have taught me.

If it wasn't for the creation of this school, I believe that I would have been on the path to failure, and I thank Mrs. Myers every day for not giving up on her hopes of having the School of the Arts become a success.

Brittany Perry

Band



In 2020, I intend to be married to a rock star. I will be living the life without worrying about finances. I will travel around the world with him when he goes on tour. I will make this happen by finding an up and coming band and going to most of their concerts/gigs and make sure they see me. Then, I will show up to their practices and make small talk about getting them gigs. When they start trusting me, I will single one of them out and make it happen. We will have about three kids and live in a five story house with five maids (one for each floor). We will have seven limos for seven days of the week. We will never drive the same car or wear the same clothes twice. The little ones will not get whatever they want because I do not want them to be spoiled. My family will be very prosperous and blessed.

Angel Pope

Band



In 2020 I endeavor a more laid back, glamorous life style. I intend on becoming famous for my music, that's why I came to this school. Playing a good melody, singing and a little bit of dancing is a major talent of mine. But my main focus is on my singing, from what I've heard from a lyrical stand point. Someone told me that my rap game is stupid and that my lyrics are crucial. Meaning if I we're to spit something for you right now, you won't believe that it came from me directly. After performing at many parties and shows, I just want my group and I to take it to the next level and

shows these cats that we're nothing to play with. Right now my group is teamed up with Hoodstars street team and we're just trying to make the most out of life. By producing lots of parties and performing where ever we can. I hope to follow this strategic direction and to soon have my dream of having paparazzi all over me while I'm walking down the red carpet looking as sexy as can be in my elegant dress. Even though my family may not be filthy rich, I hope that once I become a celebrity things will change for the best. I see myself to be the center of attention and a role model for many young people to look up to. Therefore I am willing to learn all the aspects and face the many challenges that maybe lying ahead, which I am eager to experience and ready to try my best.

Jake Metivier

Strings



In 2020 I intend to be in some country somewhere learning the history of its people. I plan on attending Coastal Carolina University in the fall where I will be majoring in History. I plan on getting a masters in teaching history one day. But for now I am going to get bachelors in history from there I will hopefully travel the world learning the histories of many different countries. I plan to start in South America where I will study the ancient civilizations of the Mayans and Incas. From there I shall travel to Spain and study there and

all through Europe. I will work my way down to the Vatican City where I plan to study the Vatican History for a couple of years. I will just travel and study the cultures and histories of the people of the world. Maybe live in China for a while and study the history of the many different dynasties or perhaps live amongst the great monks and learn how they live. Then travel to Australia and study the Aborigine tribe. Then I plan to make my way back to the US and live in New Orleans and learn the history of the people there and just travel US and learn our history. Hopefully by the end of my travels I will end up teaching some high school/college history class about what I have learned in my studies across the world.

David Nicholson

Vocal



Of all my experiences at SOA, one event in particular is a fairly good representation of my time at this school. It happened during the eighth grade Washington D.C. trip; some of my friends and I went out one night to find some night jobs. As I passed by the local police station, I heard some cops complaining about working the night shift in the slums. I saw it as my opportunity; I volunteered my services, and they asked no questions. Instead, they gave me directions to a local drinking house, the Dupont Circle Soda Jerk. It was a real flea-infested place, and I knew the night wouldn't end without trouble. The cops suggested I pack some heat, but I didn't know what that meant, so I just nodded and started walking. Round about midnight, I arrived in time to see a confrontation between

the local brawler Michigan J, and some random peabody off the streets. Now, Michigan J. is a man of few words with a short temper, and it was advisable to keep a low profile when he was around, but the peabody sitting at the bar simply wouldn't move out of the way. He must have been an out-of-towner; the fool just didn't know his place. Suddenly, the beauty of a well-aimed left-hook flashed, and the nobody slouched into oblivion. Some of the patrons looked at me expectantly, and I felt a pull in my stomach; the pull of duty. I knew that this was my moment, that I was the voice of justice in a chaotic world. That feeling, however, was dwarfed by my other gut intuition of survival: I didn't want to be any closer to that magnificent left hook than absolutely necessary. So, what did I do? I turned about face and strolled out, suppressing my feelings of compassion for the Peabody's poor, mangled body. I may have been a coward that night, but I could care less. Besides, getting involved would have meant a lot of paperwork.

Elissa Keathley

Vocal



I didn't want to write this essay because I don't know which topic to choose and my lack of motivation towards the end of the year keeps me from wanting to write something as easy as this, but Dr. Cusatis is making it a grade so I guess I have to. I also didn't want to write it because I know that it will probably be the hardest thing I write all year and nowhere close to easy. I can write about any topic you give me but when it comes to writing about me or things in my life it normally comes out awful. As for picking my topic... I'll let you figure out the values of an SOA education for yourself, I wouldn't change anything I've done over the last seven years, every teacher has made a strong impact on me whether it was good or bad, and I can't think past today so I'm not even going to attempt my future in 2020. Since I've vetoed every other topic, I guess this essay falls under the option, "Reflect on any aspect of your years at SOA."

I've been here since sixth grade and every year at SOA has been an awesome experience. Sixth grade I made new friends that have been there for me the past 7 years and the fact that I was getting to enjoy my biggest passion, vocal,

everyday for the next 7 years was very exciting. Seventh and eighth grade I got to continue enjoying the benefits of SOA. High-school at SOA has been some of my greatest years however. I got to enjoy being a goofy and awkward freshman, especially in PE and Mr. Orvin's class. Tenth grade I had the privilege of being defeated Mr. Reese's AP World class, but every drawback I faced during that year was easily made up for with a great trip to NYC to sing at Carnegie Hall. Out of all my years at SOA, my junior year was probably my favorite. With an amazing and really fun AP Music Theory Class, Lyric Choir, and the opportunity to be in *The Wiz* the excitement was endless. I have multiple memories of every year at this school that I will never forget. I've enjoyed the perks that have come with being a senior but the stress of college applications and making huge choices that the rest of my life depends on, has definitely made this year a tad more stressful than the others. It's exciting to think that (excuse my cliché) a new chapter of my life is starting, but it's also really sad to think that I'm leaving a place that has been such a huge part of my life. SOA has given me the experience I need to pursue what I want in my life, and it has allowed me to make some amazing friends. I'm definitely ready to attend Anderson University in the fall and pursue my passion of music as well as teaching, and I hope that I have learned everything I need to be successful for the rest of my life.

A.J. Dales

Piano



SOA has been nothing but a helpful experience to me from eighth grade until now. I never enjoyed going to large schools because I could not focus and live up to my full potential. But in seventh grade I started hearing about SOA and how it's a small school and that there is a lot of one-on-one time with the teachers because of the selectiveness of the school I knew I wanted to go there. I applied for both piano and visual arts and was accepted into piano my main choice. I was so happy that I was going

to be in a great school that brings out potential in every single student. My first year was great because everyone got along with each other and there were no groups that hated one another. I was also nervous about that year because I had just moved to SC three years ago and I still felt like the new kid but things got better. Through my high school year I never had one teacher that I hated. And each one would push you in their own way so that you can not only better yourself but also excel without being overwhelmed with homework and other things. My most nervous time though at SOA was my first piano recital because I had never played before a lot of people until that day. But I made it through my nervousness and fear and I was able to play and begin strengthening my self-esteem.

Jordan McDermott

Vocal



By 2020 I will have graduated from the College of Charleston with a master's degree in business/advertising or maybe finished pursuing a doctorate in English/philosophy. I will either be taking

over a graphic's firm or owning one already, if I go for business. Or if I get the doctorate in English, I might be lucky enough to mentor under Dr. Cusatis...but who am I kidding that will never happen. Hopefully I will be married and maybe have a kid (or at least have one on the way). Yeah, I can't really think of what else to say.

Sean Papa

Vocal



In 2020, with the help of Fuguh, I will have created an unstoppable force to destroy the entire world. After liberating Jordan McDermott from his materialistic rut in life, Fuguh and Mughu will arm ourselves and rampage across the nation, gripping the attention of the media and national figures. Sad Panda and I will also run the tunnels beneath Clemson, transporting goods, and food

to fuel our coup d'etat. Beginning from the rural areas, the zombie uprising will be quelled by the band LimoZene with their powerful awesome Zeening, and will no longer be a threat. Once I have graduated from Clemson, I will be a powerful figure in the Quantum Physics world; hopefully I will have my Doctorate and be able to beat my adversaries over the head with it. I will maybe be a teacher and be able to shape the malleable minds of the nation's youth directing them towards my own beliefs. Or not, just facts. Either way, it'd be fun. And that's the big one, have fun in life, laugh more than you talk, particularly at bad jokes, they're the ones that count.

Katie Drennan

Creative Writing



When I was eight, I wanted to train dolphins at Sea World. Now at eighteen, I want to study Blue Whales. At twenty-eight, I hope I'm not an accountant. Completing my 'life goals' is a daunting task. The world could end in 2012 and this would all seem like it was for nothing. But if we survive and the world doesn't cave in, I'll have the comfort things: a house, a car, a job. But under the surface, I hope I'll have had the chance to backpack through Europe, visit the grasslands in Africa, and swim with Great Whites in Adelaide. I want to jump out of a plane and go base jumping, hike a

fraction of Mt. Everest, lay down in three states simultaneously. I hope by 2020, I'll have ridden the largest roller coaster in the world and that I'll have lived on a boat and studied Blue Whales. It's strange that they're the largest mammals on Earth, yet scientists still know so little about them. If I'm being a realist, I understand that these feats will be difficult to accomplish. They all involve money and time and some of them might have to wait until I'm older or even retired. However, the assurance that they can all be completed has not diminished. I trust that over time and rising maturity levels, I won't lose sight of what I've wanted all along.

I simply hope that by the time I'm 28, I'm not stuck. I don't want to be in a job I feel no passion for, in a place I have no ties to, or living a life where I stop and think "what happened?"

Christian Williams

Theatre



My seven years at SOA were amazing. Of course there were times when I didn't particularly like a class or had to watch friends leave over the years, but overall I enjoyed every moment. The only time I didn't have fun was when I did or didn't do something. If I had the opportunity to go back and relive those seven years, I probably wouldn't procrastinate as much, be a little nicer, and be more involved in school activities.

Procrastination just about killed me! I remember stressing over the simplest projects and papers because I waited until the last minute to do them. I might have enjoyed more classes if I hadn't spent most of the time fighting to get things in on time. This year was a lot better though, thanks to those teachers who refused to take things late.

When I say be a little nicer, it wasn't because I was the meanest thing walking the cam-

pus, but because it takes me forever to get to know someone. I'm the kind of person who will stand on the outside looking in until I know it's safe. I treat people the same way. It keeps me from meeting a lot more people. When meeting someone new, I will have to feel them out to make sure they're someone I want to be associated with. Sadly, this gets replaced with I'm being mean or stuck up until they get to know me. There are numerous times when my friends tell me that when they first met me they thought I was going to be mean, and I have to explain myself. Over the years though, I have made many great friends that I will never forget.

At SOA you have so many great opportunities. Some opportunities I wish I had taken advantage of. There were a lot of clubs that I could have been a part of. I was in some clubs in my early high school years, but I later let them go because I was just "too busy", whatever that meant. Even though I did miss out in being a part of these other communities I still got the SOA experience. Looking back on my seven years, there isn't much that I would regret because I was me all the way through.

Chris Sim

Visual Arts



Assuming 2012 isn't the last year of human existence, 2020 will mark a fantastic point in my life. At the decrepit age of 28, I will probably have acquired property in Rome, Spain, Egypt, and various Pacific islands. This land will be useless however, since 89% of the air in Earth's atmosphere will be too toxic to breathe. My real fortune will lie in the quadrillions of dollars I make buying and selling moon real estate to wealthy flakes. This is how I will pay for the high-tech pressurized pod in which I live roughly two miles underwater somewhere off the coast of Greenland. I will have a dog. Trained sharks will guard my pod from the skilled assassins who are constantly trying to steal my fortune.

Of course, when I'm not selling moon homes, I will continue my art underwater, aqua art, occasionally traveling to the surface to teach a class on figure studies at the USC art department, which sits right on the new South Carolina coast due to global warming. Having lost my left arm in a terrible hovercraft accident, I will be happy to have invested early on in advanced robotics. Why? Cyborg arms. That same year, I will move to Baltimore to take over the family restaurant, Yummy Chow, which my dad will have opened in 2014. Yummy Chow: hunger's hut of happiness. My new wave binary bluegrass band will blow the tops off the charts, our new single, "Asbestos Longjohns," hitting number one in the U.S., Britain, New Australia (now the size of Rhode Island), and South Korea. Since most of this is very unlikely at best, all I'm really hoping for in 2020 is a beard.

Maddi Phillips

Vocal



With today's education system, it is rare to stumble upon a school that educates you not only about math, history, and science, but about growing up and the lessons necessary for life. Looking back to my awkward 6th grade-self, I realize now just how little I knew then. From my first year at School of the Arts to the day I graduate, this school has never stopped teaching me. In 6th grade, I learned how a group of kids from across the county could come together and do amazing things all for the sake of art. I learned that being the "weird, artsy kid" in elementary school meant being the normal kid here, and I learned how to speak my mind. In 7th grade, my English teacher taught me that no matter how nice you are, some people just won't cut you a break. Through my science class, I learned that a class project could have a positive environmental impact. I learned about the loss of a loved one and the huge effects it has on everyone involved. In 8th grade, I learned how to take chances and break rules for a greater good. I learned how relationships and deep, true friendships bring more happiness than anything else possibly could.

In high school, I continued to learn about myself and grow. In 9th grade, I

learned about being the little fish in the carnivorous pond. I learned about responsibility and hard work. I learned about heartbreak and betrayal and the strength inside me. In 10th grade I learned that every choice has a consequence. I met my best friend, DeAnna Kerley, and learned about stepping outside of my comfort zone. In 11th grade, Lyric Choir taught me that family isn't always those you're related to. I learned about the trials and tribulations that come with lasting friendships. I learned that people change, sometimes for the better, sometimes not. I learned that lying in Marion Square barefoot on a sunny day is the best feeling in the world. My senior year has taught me more than any year in the past. I learned never to look at the clock. I learned that when teachers tell you to do work, it's not for them, it's for you. I learned that if you persevere, you can personally have an impact on the community. I learned about love and about putting someone before yourself, even if it isn't in your best interest. Most importantly, I learned to value the time I have because before you know it, it's gone.

I couldn't ask for a better education than the one I have been privileged with. First, I thank each and every one of my teachers, especially Mr. Clark, Mrs. Touihri, and Dr. Cusatis. I thank every friend I've made and lost along the way. I thank my family for supporting me. I thank everyone I've ever met and everyone who has helped shaped me.

Collins Rice

Creative Writing



High school has meant many things to me, but on reflection, it is curiously the embarrassing events that burn brightest in my memory of the past four years. For every year of my high school career, there is at least one traumatic humiliation which marks it. And, since graduation is an end of sorts, I give you my biggest public humiliations, year by year, my greatest hits so to speak.

The physical scars are still there, although not nearly as bold as the emotional ones, to remind me of the time in ninth grade when I tripped over my own feet while WALKING on the sidewalk between the Berry and Block buildings on the old campus. Such a fall would give me no reason to cringe when I think back, had it happened while I was alone or in the company of my friends, but alas it had to occur right before a change of classes on a day when I was wearing a skirt. People might not have noticed if "Big Joe" Wiggins hadn't alerted them with the loudest and most surprisingly high pitched laugh I have ever heard in my life.

Some people would learn from the clumsiness of youth, but I am not one of

those people. For me, it only got worse as the years went on. In tenth grade, while trying to buy a bottle of water from the vending machines at the height of lunchtime traffic, I dropped my last quarter between me and an Aquafina on the ground. No big deal right? It's only a big deal if you are bold/ stupid enough to wear loose shorts without a belt and rely only on the hem of your shirt to keep your pants up. As I bent down to pick up the stray change, I inadvertently flashed at least fifty people my day of the week underwear.

Eleventh grade is foggy for me, but I'm sure if you think about it you can remember something.

Our parents' and grandparents' generations remember where they were when the first man walked on the moon or when the Berlin Wall fell. I ask you to remember where you were when you heard I locked my keys in my car in the school parking lot while it was still running. It shouldn't be too hard, since it was only two weeks ago.

I feel safe in saying every SOA senior wants to leave something behind for future SOA students. My gift to you all is a simple one: whenever something happens that causes you shame or embarrassment, take heart and remember something worse happened to me. I give you full permission to use any of these stories to divert any unwanted attention.

Kimberly Palomo

Visual Arts



During the time I spent at SOA, I have had a different experience than the one I would have at a "real high school." Coming to this school as a sixth grader, I was open to the creative elements of our school. I remember seeing the walls filled with paint, hearing the band play, and the loud piano majors next door. As I transitioned from middle school to high school, I was challenged to do my best academically, but I was also taught to challenge myself.

Entering high school, I was glad to know that I would be able to walk to different parts of the campus, rather than just

staying in the same hallway. In Visual Arts, I was able to wander through my mind to create the pieces of artwork in which I wanted to express myself, along the guidelines of my teachers. These four years of art have made me want to try new mediums and to try to make art that are more intricate, or not usually my style. I feel that I have grown as an artist during my time at SOA.

As a senior, and almost getting out of SOA, and moving on to college life, I have enjoyed the past years. Senior year taught me to prepare myself, and make decisions that I feel are necessary for myself. The ending of my years at SOA is coming, but the last couple of months have been amazing and I don't want it to end, but I know that this is just the beginning!

Kiona Brown

Creative Writing



My years at School of the Arts have had their ups and downs and through all of that I can proudly say that I learned so much each year. I was intimidated when I came to SOA because I didn't know what to expect. I moved on to meet new people, new teachers and develop new skills which I plan to use in life. Honestly I felt that at a school with so much diversity I still didn't fit in. I didn't know why, but today I realized that I thought I wasn't ready to try something new. Overtime I got used to things and finally began to accept them! I'm pretty glad that I stuck it out with the people I continue to see each day. They are some of the most sweet, caring, talkative, aggressive and intelligent people that I have met! I can't believe that we're about to graduate and part ways. It really didn't hit yet that we're all leaving, but as we each step across that stage I bet it will. I guess I'm happy to know that most of you will still have a Facebook out there so we'll stay in touch, or I hope so! I wish only the best for everybody and that we may never change! Thanks everyone for making each day at this school eventful, exciting and fun! To all the teachers throughout all the years thank you for filling my mind with knowledge that I have yet to expand on! Thank you for reiterating the same information over and over and

over again until I got it right! These teachers have seen me grow over the years and I will never forget any of them! To my Creative Writing family what can I say... I mean we bonded together. We wrote a novel together! It was tough and we all crashed and burned at some point. At least with each other's help we slacked through it and got back on track! I can't wait to read everyone's novel and see what those paragraphs or stanzas turned into! Good luck to everyone in the years ahead! Ms. Miles every year has been a new journey with you and they've all been worth it! School of the Arts has changed me as an individual. I've seen heard, and done it all or more like I've seen it all, done it all and stayed quiet through the whole thing. Whatever the case this rise from a tiny seventh grader to a powerful twelfth grader was long and difficult! I got through it and I'm not the only one. I've had to endure feedback, coming up with ideas for stories, plays, poetry, senior thesis, the grade I made on a certain chemistry test, procrastinating on a few projects, exams and senioritis! All in all it's time to stop worrying about those things in the past! It's time for me to leave a shadowed presence behind and move on to bigger obstacles! I can't say that I'm excited, but my time's up! There's no more reason to wait I need to go out in the world and be somebody! With that in mind I stand at my final race so get ready, get set because here I come and I'll see everyone at the finish line Class of 2010!!!

Samantha Dahabi

Dance



You never realize the value or importance of something until it is too late. As my senior year comes to an end, I begin to wonder what this home called School of the Arts has meant to me. I have come to realize that my schooling is unlike any other in the world. Not only have I been exposed to various forms of art, but I have also been supported and loved by School of

The cost of annual academic fees over seven years: approximately \$245.00. The cost of annual major fees over seven years: approximately \$500.00. The value of a School of the Arts education: priceless.

the Arts' incredible faculty and wonderfully talented students. The environment that Schools of the Arts provides is almost more important than the art curriculum itself. The atmosphere sets students up for excellence, but most importantly School of the Arts is a place for students to grow as artists and as individuals. My high school educational experience has opened me to diversity and creativity. At School of the Arts you have the world at your finger tips. There are infinite opportunities lurking in these halls you just have to take advantage of them. But above all, our school has a unique ability to welcome and accept all types of people and personalities and that is what makes this place so special.

Allison Hilton

Creative Writing



For the past six years, I have been blessed to attend a school in which we are not just a group of students drifting through the hallways from class to class. Instead I have come to a school where all the teachers know our names as do school officials and every member of our class. We have known each other for years. We have watched each other grow and continue to develop our talents. Very few students are granted the opportunity to find a family within their classmates. Here at SOA we are given that opportunity.

I have found a second family in my Creative Writing classmates. Together we have written and read the words that most find hard to say. While we may not have come together outside of the school room due to racial, financial, even geographical differences, we have entered the room and blossomed together. Our teachers have given not only writing instructions but also life lessons to us.

In my friends I have met some of the greatest people the world has to offer. Unlike some friendships that dwindle throughout the years, ours has become stronger. Here at SOA I have found people who understand the seriousness of creativity and the passion I hold for my art. There is no way I would have made it through these past six years without them.

Kiante Chapman

Creative Writing



The only things that I could ever see myself doing in the future all do not require a boss. I just do not know if I can live the rest of my life taking orders from someone other than myself. In order for me to get to that point in life, I guess I will have to get over the fact that I will not always have the pleasure of being the superior, but only for a while. In the year 2020, I see myself writing for some famous magazine in hope of one day becoming the editor. My college degree in Journalism should prove to be helpful during this process. This position as magazine editor will eventually lead to ownership of my own publication.

Kianté has listened to everything since 8th grade. Keke has provided the laughter needed through all the hard times. Tyrell has been there to give his opinion whether asked for or not. James has always known when there's a problem before I had a chance to tell him. Thank all of you for being there for the good times and the bad.

There have been quite a few influential administrators throughout the years. In 10th grade I knew Mr. Reese was going to be a great teacher after his first encounter with my mother. I'm sure everyone in 3A remembers that. Without his guidance I probably would not have opted to take AP US, which is a class I could not do without. Mr. Donnellon has always given great advice and I cannot thank you enough for all the lessons last year. Ms. Marks, Ms. McDonald, and Ms. Brooks have been such a great help with all my college endeavors. Mrs. Cromartie and Mrs. Mahone have been the best this year, and I think Mrs. Miles is more proud of me than I am. Thank you for encouraging me.

During my time at SOA, I have found a family. We all have our place here and love each other. We may not have all the same things as a regular high school, but in lieu of that we have less drama, more friends, and a better all around environment. SOA provides opportunities that any other school would not. Here I have learned lessons and made memories that I will take with me for a lifetime.

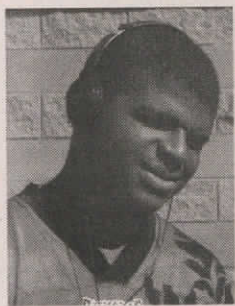
This will be the final step in my career.

My stint at SOA as one of the yearbook editors has instilled in me a desire to boss people around and get what I want. No, seriously, being one of the editors has shown me the ins and outs of business relations and the editing process. It has given me a first hand look at how publications are and should be created. Because of this experience, I can no longer read someone's work without pointing out all of the flaws. I really don't know what other line of work is appropriate for my passion besides editorials.

By doing some of what is expected and some of what is not, I will own my own magazine company and will be able to do everything it is that I want in my life by that one triumph.

Darrel Thomas

Theatre



What you can get out of an SOA education is experience mainly because of your major and the things you can learn in it from 6-8th grade. Your major teaches you history and it allows you to experience it as you get older and you will understand things better than you thought you knew very well. As for the academic classes they may seem like a class you would take at any other high school but they way those classes are taught here are completely different. Just about every lesson gives you a chance to challenge yourself such as when you understand a word it makes you want to learn what that word is and use that word on a daily basis and expand your vocabulary. If I was entering SOA as a sixth grader, I would be willing to accept anyone that is trying to connect with me want to help me throughout the next seven years and eager to learn whatever I could up until my senior year. The teacher I would say that had a strong impact on me would have to be either Mr. Younts, Ms. Link or Mr. Orvin because Mr.

Younts and Ms. Link have both been there during my theater journey and put in ideas for me so I could put it in any show that I participated in. Mr. Orvin since freshman year has never ceased to amaze me every time I came by and visit his class it just kept bringing back memories. In the year 2020 I will be twenty-eight years old and a successful actor acting in action, drama and animated movies and hopefully they all will make me rich so I can support my wife and two kids in our three story house in a city that hasn't come to mind yet. Although it's impossible to stay away from a paparazzi, I'm not one to want my personal information in the papers or on the news or the internet but it's always one lucky person that can get the information and expose your business. But I'm glad I made it this far and I will succeed throughout college hopefully at Coastal Carolina University or Francis Marion University. I want to acknowledge those who are about to graduate who I know are going to make class of 2011 look good but not better than 2010 Michael Lowman, Nikki Croker, Jovon Roberts, Desiree Ashe-Bradford, and Calvin Baxter. The years at SOA have been fun. I enjoyed every other moment of it.

Maddie Cooper

Band



One of my favorite quotes is by Walt Disney: Dream in color. I came across this quote in the eighth grade and I fell in love with it. As cliché as it is, it is so important, especially for us as artists, to dream big. Going to SOA for middle school and high school, I came across so many opportunities that I wouldn't have had at other schools. My great teachers and classmates allowed me to branch out and become who I want to be. Also, my great arts teachers pushed me to work hard and to strive to be the best I can be at my art. Overall, SOA let me "dream in color," and that is something that I'll always be thankful for throughout my life, and I will try to spread that to others.

Jonathon Heyward

Strings



The year of 2020, I hope to have received a Bachelors in Music with Cello Performance, Masters in Music in Orchestral Conducting, and a Doctorate in Music with emphases in Orchestral Instruments. My huge overall dream is to become a Music Director of a major symphony orchestra and give back to the community. My dream is to really bring music to schools for kids to experience and be able to enjoy music and different instruments. As the musician I am today, I think it is so very important to expose children to music because they will be the ones to carry on the legacy. On top of that, I want to make orchestra concerts a fun and enjoying experience for both the musicians on stage and audience below. I hope to make the concert setting more welcoming and homey. In general, giving back with music is not only a dream but a deep passion.

Melissa Rauton

Dance

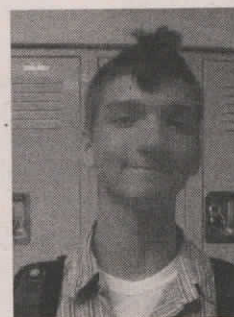


Mikhail Baryshnikov, one of the great dancers of the 20th century, said, "I do not try to dance better than anyone else. I only try to dance better than myself." These words apply not only to the dance world, but to life in general. They have had a profound impact on how I measure myself and my ability. Through these words, I have learned to compare my former self to the person I am becoming and not to those around me, resulting in an improved attitude, work ethic, and self image. By attending SOA and being immersed in an artistic as well as academic environment, I have learned this major life lesson that I will carry through the future.

It is difficult to walk into a dance class or audition of any type and not compare yourself with others. However, focusing on the strengths or perceived strengths of others proves very distracting, encourages feelings of inadequacy, diminishes one's ability to do their best, and is often very misleading. After all, we have no control over the work ethic and talent of others, but we possess absolute control over our own abilities and how we go about achieving our goals. Therefore, through

Ethan Broadwater

Band



Ten years from now, after I have graduated from both high school and college, I see myself surfing the world on a board of success. As of right now, my plan is to go to Clemson University and graduate with a degree in Chemical Engineering. I am looking to receive my PhD in Chemical Engineering. After all this setup, I can finally start the rest of my life. One major thing I want to do around my senior year in college is find a nice girl to date and possibly marry.

I will be 28 years old in 2020, which will be close to the end of my prime condition. By this time, I plan on having a beautiful, smart wife and maybe a little child or two running around. I would like to be living in Chapin, SC or Lake Murray. It is always beautiful there and the lake makes it a nice setting

hard work, dedication, and desired progress, improvement is automatically realized over a gradual period of time.

Baryshnikov's wise words are easily applied beyond the world of dance and the arts. From quite a young age, we find ourselves comparing test scores or graded papers with fellow students in school. As adults, productivity, position, and power are compared in the workplace. Assessment of one's own scores or productivity from past to present brings about growth on an individual basis, provided the objective is to always do better than before. This, in turn, has a positive affect on attitude, self-worth, and confidence. Improvements to singular parts are bound to benefit the whole, be it a school, family, or business.

Competition is a fact of life that is all around us. It is how we view competition that makes the difference. I prefer to follow Baryshnikov's words by bettering myself as a student, dancer, and person day by day. What a profound, positive impact on the world around us if we all choose to be and do a little better than the day before. Our time at Charleston County School of the Arts has taught each one of us to believe in ourselves and bring our best every day. As improved individuals, we are ready and capable of improving the world around us.

to raise children and have fun. Well, hopefully by that time I will have a firm enough job to own a house that will please my family. I think the proudest moment in a man's life is when he becomes a father, so I think that it will be exciting to start a family.

Right after I graduate college, I would like to take a tour of the world. I have not had much experience with traveling in my life and I think a trip to Europe or China would be a great experience to have before I got too tied up with the work experience. Life is supposed to be fun, so why not enjoy it? I am hoping that my job will be exciting and fun so that it does not get boring too easily. I like working out in the field where the environment changes; a desk job or office job would be the worst choice I could make if I want to have fun.

So in 2020, I picture having a great family, a great house, and a town to live in, and a fantastic job that will be exciting to be at every day.

Stephen Burrows

Vocal



My experience at SOA has infinitely enlarged my heart and my mind. I have been surrounded by wonderful, good-hearted peers and wonderful, dedicated teachers. Of all the teachers I have had, a few stick out in my mind as

having been especially influential and inspirational. The SOA High School Social Studies department has nurtured me more than any other department. While other departments have left me underprepared in their respective fields--thank God music majors need no math courses--the Social Studies Department has not only prepared me but has gone beyond its standard requirements. When I entered high school, I was deeply introspective, deeply confused, deeply shy, and deeply unhappy. All this began to change from the first day of Heath Orvin's class. I had never had an opportunity to discuss things that were on my mind openly with anyone. I had never had my knowledge valued by any of my peers. Most importantly, I had never been able to go up in front of a group comfortably and give an engaging, humorous presentation. The ability to make people laugh was life-changing, healing for me. I owe every bit of that to Mr. Orvin. Barrett Reese's class continued the transformation, but in a different way. Mr. Orvin's class activated my mind; Mr. Reese's class made it start doing push-ups. I had never actually studied for anything before AP World History. I learned to concretely express my thoughts--to RTFQ and ATFQ--and to develop the discipline needed to achieve academic success, a lesson I continue to learn today. Whenever I am well-prepared

Britney Wetzel

Visual Arts



Some people claim that their years in high school weren't great or anything special, but I can say that my years at School of the Arts have been years that I will always remember. When I think about the type of environ-

ment I'd want to have to spend my years in school, I can't think of anywhere else but SOA and the old SOA campus. Yes, the rain was annoying and the condition of the buildings wasn't great, but who would claim to rather be at a school other than SOA? There were those

perfect days that you would walk outside between classes, or sit at the lunch on the field, and the sun was shining and the sight of all the trees surrounding the campus was refreshing. One would think that walking down the hall would be an ordinary, quiet walk, but not in the Fine Arts building where students fill the halls, either playing instruments, singing, or rehearsing. If I had to reflect on any aspect of my years at SOA, it'd be seeing my peers and underclassmen in the hallways before, during, and after school just enjoying being at school, and knowing that I was among some of the most talented, creative, inspiring, and amazing individuals that I've had the privilege of getting to know.

for anything at all in my future academic career, it is a testament to Mr. Reese's ability as a teacher. What Orvin and Reese gave me allowed my junior year history class with Michael Donnellon to be the most fun class I have ever had the pleasure of attending. My whole thought-process changed in Mr. Donnellon's class, as did my worldview. Those who know him will feel no resentment when I say that Michael Donnellon is the best teacher at SOA, and certainly one of the best people I know. His class made me fall in love with history. My final year at SOA was crowned by attending the Economics and Government class of Alan Brehm. Every opportunity I have had to discuss anything on any topic with Mr. Brehm still lingers in my mind as enjoyable and enlightening. Anyone who has spoken with him will second this. Like the other teachers in his department, his knowledge and skill at teaching is combined with a genuine respect for his students. A sense of accomplishment in Alan Brehm's class means more, in my own opinion, than in any other course in which I have been enrolled. The aforementioned genuine care and respect for their students is really what distinguishes every one of these four men. It is what allows them to teach more effectively and meaningfully than any other teacher at SOA. I cannot express my gratitude for what they have done for me. I will miss them extremely. In a somewhat divergent conclusion, I would be remiss not to mention Ms. Touihri, the only real French teacher I ever consider myself having, and a truly wonderful human being. My junior year class with her lingers as one of the most enjoyable and memorable of my life. She deserves equal recognition with the Social Studies teachers. I hope each one of you gets an opportunity to read this, and that I will continue to know all of you long after graduation.

Leila Gorstein

Theatre



When I first moved to South Carolina from New York, I was considered a freak. All of the third graders picked on me for saying "you guys" instead of "y'all." They thought it was weird how I

quoted PG-13 movies, and wondered why I liked to speak in funny accents. It wasn't until I went to SOA, that I truly felt happy where I was. People liked that I wasn't from here, and thought it was cool to make-up monologues and scenes on the spot.

SOA is great because you're not categorized by how well you fit in or how "normal" you are. I used to think it was an insult to be called weird, but then I realized that being weird just makes me unique, and

that's a good thing. SOA surrounds you with a bunch of weirdos and it's amazing! This school doesn't have cliques...or at least not the usual kind of cliques. Instead we have the constantly talking about theatre- theatre kids, the always trying to meet their next deadline creative writers. We've got the spirited and FAVORED bands kids (you guys know you always get to go on the best trips). Because everyone has his or her own art, we are able to bond and relate over our different interests.

I'm not saying that SOA is better than any other school in the area, but oh wait...I am. I definitely would not be the same Leila if I went to any other school. What other school would encourage me to write a piece that calls for girls to be half naked...not one that I know of. From my experience here, I feel that the freedom to be creative allows you be who you truly are, and after going to SOA, I will never forget who I am.

Seth Zimmerman

Piano



By 2020 I want to be in California working on movie scores for feature-length films. I would also like to collaborate with composers that are already established in the field. To get to this position I will get my four-year undergraduate degree in music composition at the University of South Carolina. I will then pursue graduate work in film, scoring at the University of Southern California. I feel that learning in the city where the market lies will help me get my bearings when I am released into the real, working world. My greatest

composing wish is to work on the music for an animated Disney movie with the legendary composer, Alan Menken. To get it into your head how awesome this guy is, just listen to a few of the movies he's done music for: *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and many many more. Me, being a Disney kind of guy, would be in heaven if I had the chance to work with this musical genius. I would also love to work with Michael Giacchino (he's done the music to lots of Pixar movies like *Up*, *Ratatouille*, and the *Incredibles*) because he seems like a cool guy. Honestly, I'm probably going to end up working for Disney because of my extensive knowledge of Disney tunes and unparalleled jazz hands.

Heather Rowland

Band



As senior year is coming to an end, I have realized how valuable my SOA education has been and how I would never be able to survive at another school. SOA is like no other school, in my opinion. You wouldn't be able to find all of our great teachers and staff, the unique students, and all of the amazing talent that goes on at any other school. If

I attended another school, I would be missing out on so many of the opportunities that SOA has offered me throughout the years. I would have never gotten to experience a senior parade, *The Wiz*, senior thesis performances, and being so involved with my major. Another thing that you would not find at any other high school is the close knit family atmosphere we have here at SOA. My SOA family is the one thing that I am going to miss terribly as I go to college. Yes, college will be fun, but it will never be the same as my SOA that I have attended since 6th grade and have become so attached to.

Austin Jarvis

Visual Arts



At the end of senior year, deep in the trough of senioritis with only three weeks until graduation, the last thing any of us wants to do is write an essay. We're all looking forward to senior skip day, the end of exams, summer, no obligations. We've all got summer plans. For some of us it's to work day and night to make butt-loads of money to spend during college, either on tuition or Ramen. Others of us have different plans to go on elaborate vacations and cross country road trips that will probably end in Christopher McCandless-esque disasters in

which we'll starve to death or get kidnapped by Norwegian sex trafficking pedophiles while we backpack across Europe. In all honesty, few of us will make it past the age of twenty. If it's not the Mayan 2012 apocalypse that gets us, it'll be our South Carolinian driving habits that will land us in the emergency room after we try to merge across four lanes of traffic to make an exit. Or who knows, maybe bird flu will make a comeback. The future's a scary place that makes no promises to anyone. As we trudge on into the great and terrible unknown, all we can do is try to stay close to one another. Remember who your friends are (I'm talking about real life friends, Facebook isn't real life) because they are the ones who will hold you together in the worst of times. But anyways, college? Holy shucks. Next year's gonna be awesome.

Celeste Riddle

Vocal



My years here at SOA have made me the person I am. I am proud to graduate from this school and I will miss all of my memories that flood my mind when I walk through the halls. These memories shaped my learning experience and I would not give them up for anything. Vocal seems to be the root of all such memories though. Perhaps it is because that is where everything unimaginable happens. When in middle school, we flipped almost everything in the room upside down and in high school we came up with slightly "remixed"

gospel songs. These experiences taught me that humor is a major part of anyone's life and it would be valued and not cast off. Individuality is also something that I have learned to appreciate here at the school of the arts. Orvin contributed to this realization a great deal because he preaches that a person has a uniqueness to them that cannot be stripped away. I guess that is why he lets everyone choose what to do for their end of the year project. I can't say thank you enough to all the teachers here for giving me reason to try harder and participate in more complex activities to better myself. An SOA Education is like no other and I am proud to be a student from this school and say that I have learned to live and not just read, write, and do math.

Jessica James

Vocal



2020 seems like a lifetime away. I have learned very quickly that the time will go by very fast. I have many ideas of what I would like to be doing later in my life, but who knows what will really happen. I will be attending the University of South Carolina in the fall and plan on majoring in nursing. This is something that I have always had a passion for and I hope to go far with. If I decide that nursing isn't for me, I can almost positively say that I will be doing something in the medical field. I'm not sure what kind of nurse I want to be right now because it would take a lot of learning to figure out what is best for me. I think I would really enjoy the rush of working in the emergency room, but I might find interest in

something else instead.

Something might come along before 2020 that will place me somewhere else besides Charleston, so I'm not going to settle for a certain place. I would love to see what the future holds and where it takes me. I plan to travel a lot before I get to the age where it is too hard. I think traveling is a great way to experience the other cultures around the world and the way that they live. It opens the mind and allows one to appreciate the things that they have. It also might open doors to career opportunities in other places and make one realize that they are fit for a different place.

I am very anxious to see where I will be in the next ten years. I hope to achieve the things that I have planned. I am excited to move on to the next step in my life, and do everything I can to push for what makes me happy.

Brittany Hamm

Dance

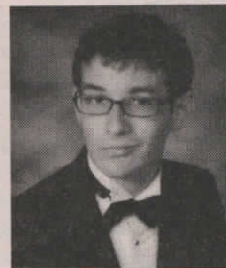


Wow...it's that time; I can write my senior essay. These past seven years have been like climbing a rocky mountain but I was able to get to the other side. I've learned a lot here at SOA. I've made friendships, lost friendships, and kept friendships. I'll never forget my two best friends, Starr Woodall and Jessica Smith. I think Starr and I have been through just about everything together, ups and downs, thick and thin, you name it. Jessica has helped me get through life, especially these last 3 years. If it has to deal with relationships, what "ifs," Brehm tests, you name it, she's there! I LOVE both of them for being there for me. Now that I've said that, on May 6, 2010, I completed my final senior thesis. I came to realize that completing senior thesis is the reason why we stay at SOA. It teaches you and shows others how you have grown and developed the tools and technology to work towards and achieve greatness in your

major. It's funny that when I look back to first attending SOA in 6th grade, dance was my first class and there were about 30 dancers. Now, there are 11 senior dancers and only 6 were there since 6th grade. You want to talk about good times, bad times, stressed times, etc? Then talk about us. I love my fellow dance sisters and especially Mrs. Slowinski because she has taught us all that we can do anything that we put our mind to. I love you Mrs. Slowinski! I have learned a LOT in Mr. Brehm's Economic and Government class. To me, it seems that he knows more about the senior class than anyone else. He is there when needed. He is also one of the few that pushes me towards my dream of becoming a United States Marine. Now, about that, I leave for boot camp on June 6th and will arrive on Parris Island on June 7th, and NO, I am not scared. Ten years from now, I plan to be half way done with approaching my retirement from the Marine Corps. I wish everyone well and hope to keep touch with all my friends over the years. To the class of 2010: I LOVE YOU ALL AND GOOD LUCK OUT THERE!

David Sass

Creative Writing



My freshman year, I had Mr. Clark as my Global Studies teacher. Throughout the year, I was always reading a book in class, and nary a word would leave my lips from the moment I entered the room to the moment I left. When it was absolutely necessary for me to speak, my vocabulary consisted of nothing more than guttural grunts, usually with a corresponding nod, shake or shrug, depending on the response. Mr. Clark remarked that I was akin to a caveman or Neanderthal in my feral and undomesticated speech, and when he began to display his habit of giving his students nicknames, mine couldn't have been more appropriate. He christened me "Lorg the Caveman,"

a moniker which stuck fast and which I openly embraced. In his class, I would live up to my new name, savagely grunting, growling and roaring when I was disturbed from my book or when I just felt like letting loose. Mind you, I did all my work and was a pretty good student despite paying attention for less than a quarter hour per class on average. At the end of the year, I hadn't really changed all too much. However, at the start of my senior year, when I had Mr. Clark again for Geography, I was rather different; I talked. A lot. I still had my face buried in a book or in a makeshift pillow, but somewhere along the way, I learned how to MULTI-TASK! I talked and participated in the class whilst reading and half-sleeping. But one thing hadn't changed... I was still Lorg the Caveman, and I made sure that everyone knew it... LORG NEED NO EDUMACATION! LORG SMASH!

Adam Fallen

Visual Arts



My time at SOA has taught me a great deal about myself and how pivotal it is to experience a community as special as this one for a greater life. The aspect of a well rounded SOA society is inspirational and competitive. This gives me the incentive to work hard, take my steps carefully, keep the idea that there is no end to getting better, and practice, practice, practice. One teacher that confirmed the importance of these aspects and pushed me to a whole new level of realization of oneself is Mr. Brehm. He showed me that there is an unlimited amount of access to learning and that traveling the world is an important part of life that can teach one more than any university or college. He exemplified the importance of being well-rounded in

the arts, politics, and culture. His class prepared me for a lifelong journey in my study habits and how learning isn't memorizing some words on paper, but how it should be applied to real life. The ability to retain what one believes as unnecessary is unimportant and shouldn't interfere with the life one wants to live. Mistakes and failure are an important part of life and are only the milestones of success. The path of life is my choice that can be changed at any moment. One must be on their toes at all times, ready to adapt to the challenges brought forth by the decisions made in life. His teaching is so down to earth and always causes one to question what they base their ideals on. My self concept really matured during my senior year, and I believe that part of the culprit in catalyzing my growing up period is Mr. Brehm.

Kyana Jenkins

Band



I actually had to sit and think about which moment I wanted to talk about because there are so many special aspects that have happened in my life during my seven years at SOA. I think that one of my top favorite moments would be the 8th grade

field trip to Washington, DC. That field trip was the best way to end my middle school days at SOA and get ready for high school life.

The bus ride to Washington, DC was super-duper long, especially for a person who had to go to the restroom for like the last hour and refused to use the bus. Although the ride to DC was long and hot I had fun laughing and hanging out with my friends. If we weren't laughing, then we were sleeping and we didn't sleep much, especially not with Ty and Gabe on the bus.

James Vickers

Band



Well, my time has come for me to graduate. I wish I was at the top of the class but I'm fine with being in the middle. Anyways, throughout the years I've seen basically all things that are suppose to make me more of a mature person. I have seen the heartbreakers, failure, ac-

complishments, hatred, and friends who have turn their backs on each other. On my own two feet I do have to say I have been a participant of all these events unfortunately.

During my middle school year, I came here as a pudgy, little boy from Angel Oak Elementary. I really didn't want to go here because I loved all my friends dearly and knew I wouldn't be as close to them being at a totally different school. I abruptly changed my mind when I set my eyes on this girl named Gilda. I swear she was the most gorgeous girl ever! So we became friends and we both had basically the same friends. Everyone waited for us to go out. All the boys attempted to get with her but her only answer was "NO means, NO means, NO!" Then my friends pushed me towards her and her answer was yes. WOW! What a day. But because I was so into her my straight A's became a B or two. My mom hated that. So I knew something had to change. The 7th grade year was a little hard and more complicated, filled with-out my girl because she had left to be in Florida, people leaving because of failing classes, and some more trouble makers. It was the great year of forming the best cliq at SOA with some dudes no one would ever forget: Tyrell, Demetrius, Lyndon, Justin, Darrel, and Rashad. We were always making trouble but made being in class humorous. At SOA, I learned how to surround myself with

people I knew I could trust. If there was no trust, than there was no type of friendship. I knew at any other schools, the only true path for someone was to be their own and defend for themselves. At SOA, we all were for 1 and 1 for all but without the musketeers.

On the Washington, DC trip, I met up with two of my best friends, Allison Hilton and Kianté Chapman. Till this day, I still remember what I first said to Allison on that trip, it was really funny, and what I said kind of actually broke the ice for the beginning of our friendship. Another reason that I will always remember this trip is because I spent it with two of my other best friends, Chelsea Middlebrook and Tori Bachan. This trip will always be memorable to me because that was really the last time all three of us attended the same school because now we are all separate from one another. Spending time in Washington, DC with those two girls made that experience the best ever. I had so much fun shopping, sightseeing, and visiting all those historical places in DC with them, and I thought that was pretty cool. One memory that I will always have with two of my best friends will be the 8th grade field trip and I am so happy it happened to be an SOA experience as well.

Coming into my 9th grade year was more of a shocker than anything! I was surrounded with different experiences and aspects on life than ever. I never really noticed how short 3 years would be. My friends were becoming fewer, education was getting harder, and teachers more boring... Well the things they taught. I made it my opportunity and choice to succeed at all things in my face based on my mother and family's help.

Sometimes I was drained waking up after a good, long night of studying, but I was woken up by the great moldy smell of the Berry Building. I miss the narrow hallways, no lockers, and filled with different sprays in the air from the entire aerosol the teachers would scatter. Now in 12th grade I am at a pretty bland but gorgeous building. I do wish we would have just finished it at the old school. Knowing that so much of your memories of 6 years would be demolished in a matter of seconds just hurt me ridiculously. But as long as I have my associates Allie, Starr, Jessica, Rell, Boo, Chris, and Hans those memories will be reminded on a regular bases. I have to give all my thanks to Mr. Moore for being a great mentor and teacher towards me. He also pushed me to accomplish the things I thought was impossible. I also have to say thanks to Mrs. Passarello who was like another mother to me and wrote my recommendations for college. I have to thank Mr. Brehm for being more of a realist thinker and putting me on my feet in the real world. And I cannot forget the administrators as my places to chill when bored in class. Thanks to the Class of 2010!!! Will Definitely be Missed!!!!

Julia Wilson

Strings



As I look back at the years I have spent at SOA there is always going to be one thing that I will remember: you can be yourself regardless of anything. School of the Arts, especially the class of 2010, has been more of a second family to me rather than just a body of teenagers and stuck up teachers. I will never forget the people I have met here. I have never met such a positive, creative, talented group of people. I will definitely not find another group of people anywhere else in my near future. The atmosphere at SOA has made me the person who I am today. It has made me more focused on who I really am than

just someone trying to fit in.

Looking back at all the memories and aspects at SOA there are always the obvious ones I won't forget: the dreaded rainy days at the old campus, the trailer classrooms, art all over the walls, the smell, and also watching Francis bust out Lady Ga Ga songs in the middle of class. These are things I could never find anywhere else. Although it is very sad leaving SOA, it makes me happy to have made these memories so I can carry them with me for the rest of my life. School of the Arts has taught me so much and I am so glad to have had the opportunity to attend this school. I know everyone says that high school is only a small part of your life, but attending a school like this one makes it seem so much bigger. I will never forget School of the Arts and the class of 2010.

Shaffer Ripley

Theatre



Growing up, I've always enjoyed reading and writing. I remember when I was little that I had a bunch of blank books that I would write in. I loved creating characters and telling their stories. As I got older, I continued to enjoy doing this.

When I got into high school, I became exposed to all different genres of writing. From Old English, to British literature, to more modern work. I thought it was really interesting to hear different kinds of stories from different people's points of view, coming from different backgrounds.

When Mrs. Passarello first came to SOA my junior year, I'm not sure if she knew what to expect from our student body. After all, we were allowed to paint on the walls, eat outside, and music was constantly heard everywhere. However, she came in with a sense of optimism that she was going to teach us as much

as she could about English. I have lots of fond memories from her class. From reading plays out loud, to dressing up like characters from novels, to just sitting around talking about school and life. In my class, she always seemed interested in what was going on in our lives: both in and out of school. She put herself out there to talk to us and let us open up to her.

There are many things I will take away from Mrs. Passarello's English class. First off, my writing got a lot better that year. Whenever we were preparing papers/projects, she would be willing to read whatever I had and offer any advice. Also, her easy-going but hard-working attitude made for a fun class. I know for many students, junior year can be very stressful. She would make sure that we were getting something out of what she taught. For me, I could tell that she really cared about our class and the subject of English itself. As I go to the College of Charleston in the fall, I know that I will take many things from her class as I grow older and gain more knowledge. I can't thank her enough for everything she has taught me and done for me.

Jacqueline Brown

Visual Arts



My experience at SOA is one that I will always remember. It is unbelievable to me that our class is graduating and everyone is moving on to different things. Being at SOA since 6th grade has made a huge impact on my life, and it's amazing to see how much we've all grown and changed. I think that an SOA education is something that I defiantly

wouldn't change looking back. SOA gives you a chance to learn and master your major over the course of 7 years, a chance a person would rarely get otherwise. It also is a good environment for a high school, especially since most of the class has been attending since 6th grade. It's going to be an awesome feeling being able to graduate with all the people that have watched you grow up and change, and it's defiantly going to a weird feeling that we won't be coming back come August. I love SOA, and I'm very proud of the Class of 2010!

What senior inspired you the most?



"Samantha Dahabi because I've known her for a long time and she's always been a good influence on me."
Emma Senf, 6th Dance



"Daniel Prentice because he has been in theatre before, so he helps us out."
Emma Coen, 7th Theatre



"Vika Balyasnikova because she's really nice and loving and a good role model."
Brittanie Reeves, 7th, Vocal



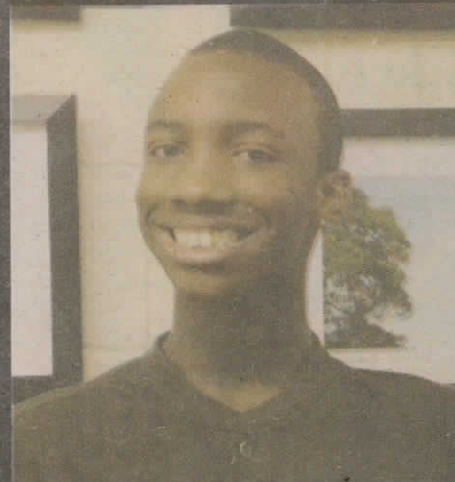
"Austin Jur because he gives me rides to school and I talk to him the most."
Timothy Shaw, 8th Theatre



"Graeme Rock because he's been a great friend and his musical talents have increased mine."
Amber Myers, 8th, Strings



"Addison Dent because I have watched his performances and grasped a lot of inspiration."
Eli Dent, 9th, Theatre



"Brittany Ropp because she's nice to me and will do anything for me. She's my best friend."
Khaleili Burden, 9th, Vocal



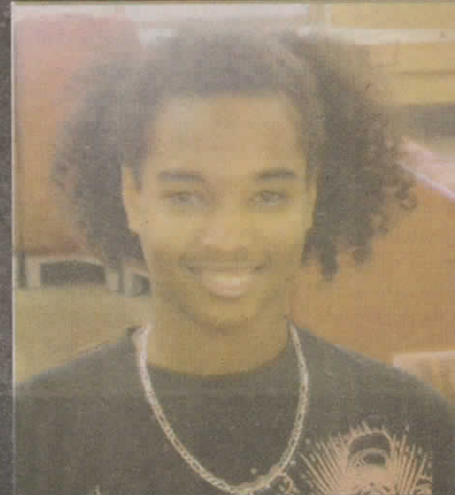
"Carlye Byrd because she has shown me how to work hard and strive to be a better person."
Taylor DuPree, 10th, Dance



"Demetrius Doctor because he's a good person, really talented and humble."
Tanner Cooper, 10th, Band



"Starr Woodall because we dance at the same studio and watching her dance inspires me to become a better dancer."
Kedrick Pasley, 10th, Dance



"Darrel Thomas because he still manages to get his work done and has a great time doing it."
Michael Lowman, 11th, Theatre



"Jessika Stocker because she's so multi-talented and is dedicated to everything she does."
Rachel Anthony, 11th, Vocal