

APPLAUSE

Volume 12 Issue 1

School of the Arts

October 1, 2010



October School Calendar

Fri. 1 - Congressional Medal of Honor Ceremony, 9-11 AM, Rose Maree Myers Theater
 Mon. 4- MS Theater Show, 4:00 PM, Black Box
 Mon. 11- 10th & 11th Grade Theater Show, 4:00 PM, Black Box
 Tues. 12- MS Fall Vocal Concert, 5:30 PM, Bonds Wilson Cafeteria
 Wed. 13- Dance Sr. Thesis, 6:30 PM, Rose Maree Myers Theater
 Thurs. 14 - HS Vocal Concert, 6:30 PM, Rose Maree Myers Theater
 Sat. 16 - Jump, Jive, & Wail, 7:30-11:00 PM, Visitor Center Bus Shed
 Tues. 19- Jr. Rings meeting, 2:30 PM, Rose Maree Myers Theater
 Tues.-Thurs. 19-21- Art Smart, Rose Maree Myers Theater
 Tues. 26- Report cards issued
 Wed. 27- Early release day, 1:10 PM; parent-teacher conferences
 Thurs. 28- Piano Ensemble Recital, 6:30 PM, Rose Maree Myers Theater

In Loving Memory



Ms. Cecilia Slowinski, SOA Dance Instructor,
1995-2010

P A T R O N S

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Jump, Jive, & Wail

Saturday, October 16th
7:30-11 PM

Charleston Visitor Center Bus Shed

\$20 per person in advance
 \$25 per person at the door
 See Band majors for tickets

SOA's Unofficial Homecoming

Cover art by
Gabrielle Wolfe

Applause welcomes nine new staff members

Photos by Bailey Gaskin

The 2010-2011 Applause staff includes nine new members and returning members Shaless Robinson and Zach Donaldson.

Here is a look at the staff.



Name: Cory Stegelin
Major: Creative Writer
Grade: 10th
Favorite band: stellastarr*
Favorite genre of writing: poetry



Name: Allie Augustine
Major: Vocal
Grade: 11th
Hobbies: Competitive horseback riding, the beach, and friends
Favorite Color: Blue



Name: Catherine Santos
Major: Visual Arts
Grade: 11th
Favorite Food: Plain lomein
Favorite Game: Dynasty Warriors 6



Name: Bailey Gaskin
Major: Theatre
Grade: 12th
Hobbies: Acting, Singing, Photography
Favorite Color: Yellow
Favorite Author: Sylvia Plath



Name: Chaisson Marie
Major: Theatre
Grade: 12th
Color: Seafoam Green
Movie: Shutter Island
Pet Peeve: hypocrites
In My Spare Time: collaging



Name: Gordon Hay
Major: Theatre
Grade: 12th
Interests: Surfing
Favorite Food: Pizza
Fun Fact: I like thunderstorms and long walks on the beach



Name: Elizabeth Collins
Major: Creative Writing
Grade: 10th
Aspiration: Cosmetology
Favorite Band: Right now... Tenth Avenue North
Favorite Game: Zelda: Ocarina of Time on Nintendo64.



Name: Hailey Bowers
Major: Band
Grade: 11th
Favorite Movie: Beyond Borders
Favorite Color: Purple



Name: Savannah Miller
Major: Creative Writing
Grade: 11th
Favorite Movie: Elf
Favorite Places I've Visited: France, Costa Rica, and Germany



Name: Shaless Robinson
Major: Creative Writing
Grade: 11th
Favorite Color: Purple
Favorite Food: Doritos



Name: Zach Donaldson
Major: Vocal
Grade: 11th
Favorite video game: Modern Warfare II
Favorite food: Pizz

Ms. Passerello's students celebrate summer reading

By Shaless Robinson

Mrs. Passerello's annual Summer Reading Celebrations became tradition after one of her students asked her if he could dress up like a character from a book he had read over the summer instead of writing a paper on it. Ready to try a different approach to education, as Mrs. Passerello always is, she agreed to let the student perform for the class. Her students and she enjoyed the performance so much that she decided all of the students would dress up as a character from a novel and perform for the class. This project developed into an artistic performance when she moved from Goose Creek High School to the School of the Arts. Mrs. Passerello says the purpose of her yearly summer reading celebrations is "To make the books come alive to the students."



Left to right: Sammy Derrick, Ian Jones, Andrew White, William Decker as Confederate soldiers

The four books that were required for the junior class to read and annotate this year were *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison, *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin, *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams, and *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara. All of the books focus on the pioneer spirit that characterizes our country. The students were to find a the character that they could relate to in some way and to dress in clothes that the character would wear. Upon entering, Mrs. Passerello told

each of her students to encompass character for the entire class period.

During the celebration students sung in the voice of Williams' Blanche, read poetry in the voice of the misunderstood Stanley

Kowalski, and played music while in the various roles found in the books. Camille Mitchell did a powerful monologue in the voice of the *Invisible Man* about his role in society and the problems he faced in the white world. Ian Jones and Sammy Derrick played the music used in the confederate march in *The Killer Angels*.

Christopher Haycock played piano while Julian Campbell accompanied him. At the end of the song he revealed his inner Stanley Kowalski by shouting "Stella!" at the top of his lungs.

A lot of students went outside of their majors for this project. Joseph Dubay (Robert Lebrun) wrote and performed a song with vocalist Liz McMichael (Edna Sinclair). Ashley Phoenix, in the voice

of Blanche Dubois, wrote a poem, choreographed a dance, and sung and played guitar to a heart shattering song.

Marisa Henthorn, a creative writer, decided to write a poem titled "Them Colored Lights," describing the relationship of Stella and Stanley Kowalski from *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Her poem states, "You always say you miss, those brightly colored lights. / But I was unaware that they were ever gone. / Your prowling nature draws me, your claws won't let me go. / I never try to free myself..."

The Summer Reading Celebration illustrated the beauty of American freedom, and integrated literature with the other arts in a most enjoyable way.



Claire Ahlin dancing to music played by Rhianon Heck

Editor's Note



Welcome back friends, new and old alike! I would like to extend a warm welcome to the administration, staff, and students of Academic Magnet High School. Our new *Applause* staff, consisting of two veterans and nine new members, have done a great job compiling our first issue. Also, I would

like to thank our advertisers and patrons for their generosity and support.

Welcome to Medal of Honor recipient Drew Dennis Dix and all those who are participating in the prestigious Medal of Honor ceremony.

As for me, I am stepping into the large editor-in-chief stilettos left by none other than Chaney Long. Luckily, I have a wonderful and talented staff and I am under the watchful, but nervous, eyes of Dr. Cusatis. I hope that you enjoy our first issue, and, on behalf of the staff, I look forward to bringing you an exciting paper that reflects the excellence of our school each month.

Sincerely,

Letters to the Editor? E-mail your thoughts to hailey@soa-applause.com

Editorial

Why we love sharing a campus with Academic Magnet

- Have you seen those people drive? They make us look like the geniuses!
- Our lunch is now just one big love fest!
- They have the clout to get a left turn arrow on Montague... or did someone just hear how they drive?
- Sharing the campus dispels the myth that SOA is really an all girls school.
- Now there is always a computer nerd near.
- Our friends that defected in the 8th grade are back!
- As we exit the building, our school day shortened by 20 minutes this year, we thank and wave graciously to the Magnet kids who are still working diligently at their desks.
- The real challenge will be to convince the theater majors to share the spotlight with Magnet.

All joking and rivalries aside, we welcome Academic Magnet High School to the Bonds Wilson Campus!

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Applause

the official student publication of

Charleston County School of the Arts

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Fifteen SOA students swimming for West Ashley Highschool

By Gordon Hay

A great number of School Of The Arts students are playing fall sports for their home schools. Fifteen of them swim for West Ashley alone: sophomores, Corey Harmon, Cullen Baldwin, Tori Sandeno, and Ty Tanner; freshmen, Ben Rindge; 8th graders, Ben Sewell, Gabe French, Grayson Enter, Gunder Sandeno, Ryan Laban, Cassidy Rindge, Gabby Dizon, Emilie Laplante; and 7th Grader Anna Baldwin. The WAHS Swim team is coached by Brad Blake, the son of SOA 6th Grade History teacher, Ms. Blake.

In addition to their arts and academics, these students have to endure rigorous swim training every day. Their typical practice consists of interval training of 50 and 100 meter laps. Also, the team works on swimming against the clock. As Anna Baldwin explains, "we will do some stroke work/drills, breath holders, turns, starts and then we do a warm up, like an easy 100."

Being on a sports team and being in an art major at School of the Arts requires a sufficient amount of extra work

outside of school. Ben Sewell told us he balances his art, sport and school by, "trying to finish all of my stuff to do for



SOA swimmers compete

my school and art before I go to practice, and then I focus on swimming."

The swimmers have strong hopes for their team and themselves this season, and they hope to qualify for the state title

in at least a few events. As sophomore Cullen Baldwin explains, "at the beginning of the season Coach Blake had us make team goals, and the boys' team decided we want to get at least third in region and have all three relays make state." Swimmers also set personal goals for themselves, such as shaving off time on some of their different strokes, making it to state in one or more of their events, or in the case of Grayson Enter, "to go fast."

Many of the swimmers, such as Gabby Dizon, Ryan Laban, Ben Sewell, Cassidy Rindge, Cullen Baldwin and Anna Baldwin, also hope to swim in college. Some, such as Gabby, who intends to go into sports medicine, hope to earn scholarships for swimming.

It looks like it will be a promising year for SOA students swimming for West Ashley High School. With hard work and dedication, SOA swimmers are hopeful that they will help carry their home school toward a medal-winning season.

Students cheer for home schools



This Fall Season there are a significant number of School of the Arts students cheerleading for Wando and West Ashley: seniors Jessica Baldwin, Caroline Britt, Jordan Hall, Caroline Tanner; junior cheerleaders, Mary Claire Moser and Logan Williams; sophomore Sarah Brown; and freshman Claire Winkles. With great SOA spirit, our cheerleaders are sure to take their home school teams to victory! Go S-O-A!

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Congressional Medal of Honor Ceremony to be held in RMM Theater

By Shaless Robinson

SOA will have the honor of being one of thirteen schools in our district hosting the Congressional Medal of Honor Award Ceremony which will take place on October 1 in the Rose Maree Myers Theater from 9 to 11AM. The Medal of Honor, which was created in 1862, is the highest award that can be given to a Veteran of the Armed Services in the United States. It is awarded to those who displayed immense bravery and risked their lives while in the line of duty. Usually the President of the United States presents the award to the recipient. Family members of SOA students who served in the military are invited to the ceremony; 75 to 100 current or former servicemen. Students will be able to view a live broadcast of the ceremony in their classrooms.



S. Sgt. Drew D. Dix

Academic Magnet stu-

dents will share the theater with us. According to SOA history teacher Mr. Donnellon, "The students will come here; it will be joint SOA and Academic Magnet. Their student council representatives and ours." All thirteen of the schools hosting the ceremony will have speakers. Our speaker is Staff Sergeant Drew D. Dix, a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was presented the award in 1969 when he, a few American firefighters, and a couple of Vietnamese soldiers went on a mission, risking their own lives to save endangered citizens trapped in city buildings. In two days he rescued approximately twenty people. This was all going on during heavy attacks. Currently there are only eighty-eight living citizens who have been honored with the award. The men and women that have re-

ceived this award are referred to as the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

At the beginning of the procession middle school students will stand in front of the theater and greet the Medal of Honor recipient as he walks in. When he enters the room all attendees are required stand as a sign of respect.

During the event we will showcase our talent. A freshman creative writer will read a poem, three vocalists will sing the national anthem, and the band will play multiple pieces. This year the Medal of Honor will be given to a Veteran of the war in Afghanistan. This will be the first time in thirty years, that the award has been given to a living soldier. It is a blessing to be able to honor not only this Veteran, but the history of all Veterans that have fought for our wonderful land. Mr. Donnellon, who has helped organize the event, says, "this is a tremendous opportunity for our school and our students."

NHS Tutoring

Mondays and Thursdays

3:10-4:15

Mrs. Drennan's Room



The Jefferson Award

By Shaless Robinson

The Jefferson Service Club gives monthly awards to students that prove to go above and beyond in community service. This month's winners are seniors, Yasmin Alverz-Garcia and Colleen Brennan. Congratulations to both winners!

Colleen Brennan

Colleen Brennan is a senior at the School of the Arts and started volunteering when she was in middle school. What really led her to volunteer regularly was Mr. Lindgren's Project Care. "I'd never really been pushed to volunteer until then and even though it was a requirement, it became a habit," she says. At first she participated in beach sweeps to get hours for Project Care, but then Colleen's mother inspired her to get involved in helping the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society project that she was participating in. Soon, hours weren't her motivation, helping others were. Since then, Colleen has participated in and led several projects benefiting LLS. Last winter, Colleen has independently led a coat drive. She made flyers and urged her friends and family to give all of their old coats, hats, gloves and



Colleen Brennan

sweaters. It was a small project but it was successful and helped out the community. Other projects Colleen has participated in usually focus on LLS. She has held carwashes and sold Frisbees. One such event was held at Blackbaud Stadium where they allow any charity to sell their frisbees for \$1 and whoever throws it the closest to the goal wins. What makes Colleen feel the need to volunteer? She says that she feels "selfish for not volunteering. I wasn't wracked with guilt, but it occasionally crossed my mind that my time could be better spent when I found myself sitting at home on a Saturday." Colleen believes that volunteering helps, not only others but oneself. "It feels really good to set aside all of your problems, and help others solve theirs. It's mutually beneficial."

Yasmin Alverz-Garcia

Yasmin Alverz-Garcia has been active in community service since she was nine years old. Her mother took her to sing with the Christ Our King Children's Choir for elderly people in a series of retirement homes. "The fact that it was music related affected my future community service events," she says. This one act of community service led to her playing her violin for other retirement homes and even her church. Yasmin believes "it's really important to use a talent you enjoy to help other less fortunate individuals enjoy life a little more." When Yasmin was in the ninth grade, she was still committed to community service. She started to get involved with every service opportunity she could find. She says "When I realized how much fun community service is, I be-



Yasmin Alverz-Garcia

came a lot more interested in participating more often." She has participated in Family Circle Ball Crew, The Green & Lean 5k, Sunshine Festival, benefit races, beach sweeps, Habitat for Humanity, and Mozart in the South Festival. One of her favorite volunteer outings was the Kid's Fair. "The PBS coordinator had the volunteers [Sam Rames and Lucy Rumler] dress up as SmartCat and Peep." A lesson that Yasmin has learned and one that everyone should try to apprehend is "that once people start to take part in selfless acts they begin to care about each other more and more. People that take part in service for the community find a purpose—they begin to acknowledge others and feel wanted." The joy of helping others is one that we can all share.

AP English Literature students interview former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins

Editor's Note: America's most popular poet and one of the most critically acclaimed, Billy Collins, spoke to Dr. Cusatis's AP Literature class on September 15 as part of their nine-week study of poetry. The interview with the former U.S. Poet Laureate is the first of a series of discussions with major contemporary poets that AP students will undertake. Last year's students interviewed six poets including three other former U.S. Poets Laureate: Robert Pinsky, Ted Kooser, and Donald Hall. Here are few excerpts from Mr. Collins' recent interview:

On over-analyzing poetry:

"I know my poems are taught and your teachers teach them, and I'm thankful for that. I don't know what there is to say about them really. Archibald MacLeish said "the poem should not mean but be." In other words let's not analyze, but let's just see. But I think the way I look at poetry is a poem should not mean but move. I think that my poems would be easy to overanalyze. You can't analyze all poets or books with the same amount of intensi-

ty. If you push on a Robert Frost poem, things will be revealed. If you push on a poem of another poet, there may not be enough resistance. I think you get to know how much to press on something, without destroying it. It's a little like your friends; some friends you can have a deeper conversation with than other friends, and that's fine. It's the same with getting to know poets."

On poetry as a reminder to seize the day:

"Time and poetry are very connected and poetry tends to be a reminder that time is running out and we shouldn't just walk around presuming that we are immortal in some degree. You want to carpe your diems cause you don't have that many diems left."

On the state of modern culture:

"As far as our times, I think everything's getting worse. You'll think it's pretty old fashioned when I say things like this, but I think the amount of time we spend in front of screens, whatever that screen hap-

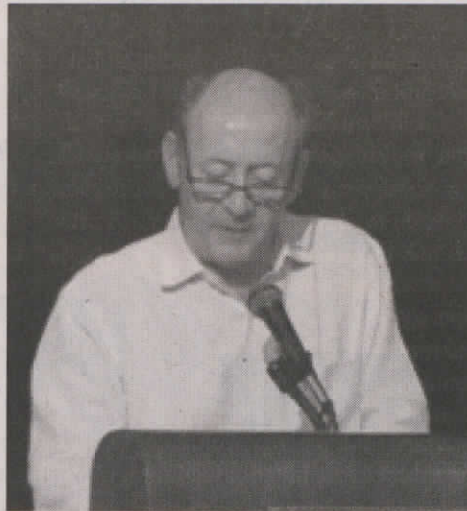


Photo by Dr. Cusatis

pens to be, will potentially ruin us. I'm really kind of anti-Facebook. "In your face" book, I just think it's an amazing waste of time."

On early intellectual and aesthetic influences

"Freud was very important. Reading his book *Civilization and Its Discontents* really gave me a way of looking at things. When I was in college existential philosophy was very important, reading Jean Paul Sartre and Albert Camus and others. As you grow up you lose direct contact with these early influences that you've read, and at some point you just find you've assimilated them so they're part of your thinking or part of your perceptual apparatus with which you see the world."

On finding one's poetic voice:

"You form your voice through reading and through borrowing tonal effects or stylistic mannerisms from other poets."

On the superiority of poetry to prose:

"I think, ultimately, poetry allows you the most creative freedom. It really touches on emotions in ways that can be quite dramatic, tense ways, more than the looser forms, like the novel. I like to say, poetry is a bird, and prose is a potato."

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Christina Crossley, 12th grade

-Christina Crossley traveled to Snoqualmie Falls in Washington State where the low temperatures (around 80 degrees F) were a nice relief from the scalding summer temperatures in Charleston.

**Gabrielle Wolfe, 12th grade**

Gabrielle Wolfe went to Disney World with her family and boyfriend. Here she's pictured holding a Mickey Mouse ice cream

**Julia Woodward, 10th grade**

Julia Woodward visited the state of Washington to hike and admire the beauty of the mountains

**Chaisson Dangerfield, 11th grade**

The blistering hot weather in Florida added to Chaisson's experience in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. This photo shows her with the Hogwarts Express conductor and her in front of the infamous Hogwarts Express.

**What did you do over the summer?
By Savannah****Alex James, 11th grade**

Alex James and his gang in Charleston Stage's production of *Bugsy Malone*.

**Liz Kitchens**

Liz and Ellen Kitchens took a trip to the Midwest to go cover

Emily Thomas, 10th grade

Emily Thomas received a Scholastic award in New York City in June. She's pictured reading at Bryant Park.



Joyce Waggoner, 12th grade

Joyce Waggoner learned how to fly a plane. Just call her Pilot Joyce.

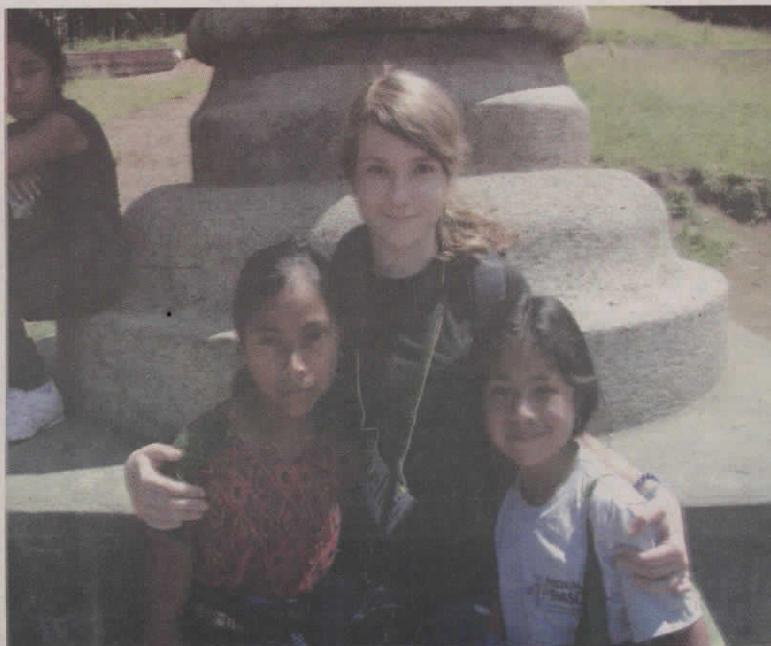


er summer break?

h Miller

Savannah Miller, 11th Grade

Shelby Studebaker, 10th grade



Shelby Studebaker visited Guatemala this summer with her church.



Savannah and Marin Miller went to France for the month of June, discovering escargot, the Moulin Rouge, and that mopeds will not stop for pedestrians.

1th grade



ad trip with their father to the
oy-action-shooting.

Where were they then: Dr. Price

By Chaisson Dangerfield

Dr. Veronica Price has been the high school Chemistry Teacher here at SOA since 1999. Staff member Chaisson Dangerfield spoke with her about her life before her career at Charleston County School of the Arts.

Chaisson: What high school did you attend?

Dr. Price: I attended high school in western PA where I grew up and where my mother and two brothers still live. The high school is Southmoreland High School, Alverton, PA.

Chaisson: What was your first job?

Dr. Price: My first job at age 16 was a waitress at a Howard Johnson's Restaurant on the PA Turnpike! It was very difficult!

Chaisson: When did you have the first inkling that you wanted to pursue Chemistry?

Dr. Price: Surprisingly, I was *not* very interested in chemistry in high school, but I loved my advanced biology class.

Chaisson: What goals do you have for your students?

Dr. Price: Because I know how important chemistry is, I want to help SOA students learn that chemistry is fun, interesting, and directly related to their lives and environment! Further, I want to help students experience the excitement of discovery!

Chaisson: What colleges did you attend and what was your major?

Dr. Price: I attended Otterbein College in Westerville, OH, just outside of Columbus.

I started and ended as biology a major but took some detours through art and psychology. Since I wanted to focus on cell and molecular biology, I needed a lot of chemistry courses to get to biochemistry, hence a double major in chemistry.

Chaisson: What did you do after college to further your studies and research?

After college I went to graduate school at Ohio State University, majoring in developmental biology, an interdisciplinary program focusing on regulatory mechanisms of how organisms change and grow during development from embryo to adult—sort of biochemistry in motion! After a year at Ohio State, I needed to stop to work for a year to get more focused. I think only a lucky few people know what they want to do for a career and never waiver from that goal. During my year off of education I worked for a clinical testing laboratory in Columbus, OH, which made me realize I didn't want to do that for the rest of my life.

Next, I went back to grad school at Medical University of SC (MUSC) in biochemistry. After four years, I received a PhD in Biochemistry, after which I continued at MUSC

as a post doctoral fellow in pharmacology (a great application of biochemistry!). In pharmacology I was truly a research scientist investigating the molecular mechanisms of cell death. The premise: if we can understand how a substance kills a cell, we can develop an antidote to block that molecular step. Many times that step is blocking a receptor or an enzyme. I studied Acetaminophen (Tylenol) induced liver cell death. I worked with Dr. David Jollow (from Australia) who helped discover that acetaminophen kills liver cells by being metabolized to a toxic reactive metabolite which binds to SH groups of proteins and destroys the proteins needed for life. I studied acetaminophen induced liver cell death in diabetics and under several different nutritional states, including acute and chronic alcohol. My claim to fame: diabetics are less susceptible (than nondiabetics) to acetaminophen-induced liver cell death because their glucuronic acid pathway making UDPGA (the essential co-substrate for nontoxic glucuronidation) is enhanced! I was an Assistant Professor and wrote NIH grants and taught pharmacology to medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy and physical and occupational therapists. I trav-

eled both nationally (three to four times per year) and internationally (including Australia) presenting my research findings.

Chaisson: Did you or do you have any heroes or role models?

Dr. Price: My role models were Dr. Billy Baggett, my PhD mentor, and Dr. David Jollow, my senior research associate. As a graduate student I met Dr. Rosalyn Yalow, a Nobel Prize laureate for the discovery of an immunological method to measure hormone levels. My mentor's mentor, Dr. Doisy, was also a Nobel Prize laureate for the discovery of Vitamin K. In the science world, I am his granddaughter.

Chaisson: Why did you decide to come to SOA?

Dr. Price: I came to SOA because I wanted to teach chemistry to highly motivated students with few discipline problems.

Chaisson: Any additional information you'd like people to know about you?

Dr. Price: My passion is traveling and seeing the world. I especially like to travel to Europe and western US. My favorite cities are Paris and Venice. I still want to see Glacier National Park, Yosemite, Alaska and Greece! I would be happy to take students to Europe next summer for a tour of Spain, France, Italy or Greece. I have two students already, four more students are needed for a commitment, so see me if you are interested. The destinations are yet to be determined.



Dr. Price

Where are they now: Steven Moskos

By Bailey Gaskin

After his graduation in 2009, Steven Moskos, a beloved theater major and Fighting Gnome at SOA, began his journey as a man at the ever-so-far away College of Charleston campus. However, Steven's love for the arts did not diminish when he left SOA. Steven adopted a theater major with a dance minor. Steven performed throughout the community in productions such as *Don Juan* (playing none other than Don Juan himself), Robert Ivy Ballet, and a cutting edge showing of *Devil Boys from Beyond* in the Piccolo Spoleto Festival.

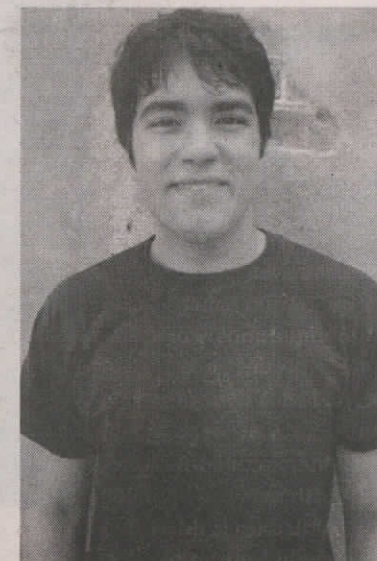
Passing his kudos along to SOA, Moskos claimed that going to school here prepared him immensely for college. From Ms. Bronk's intense lesson on MLA to the stressful and relentless tutorials on auditioning from Mr. Younts and Ms. Link, SOA

gave him a leg up on all the other people who did not "know jack." However, there were still many surprises that awaited him in the college world. SOA's cultural and personal diversity made Steven believe that people had really different and cool types. Steven was interested to find that some people really were not cool, some even "loved science for real" and used the word "bro" a lot, which really "threw [him] off."

Currently about to start a new school year at the College of Charleston, Steven said it is his job to prove that what he's doing is worth something, quoting Colum McCann's *Dancer*, "Perfection is the duty." Having recently performed in the Charleston Stage Company's production of *Hairspray* as Fender, Steven is still going strong as an actor. During the course of the school year, he

plans to do *The Drowsy Chaperone* in January, costuming for College of Charleston's production of *Tin Type* and, if time allows, working on the Center Stage's (C of C's Student Run theater group) production of *No Exit*.

As for advice for those intending to pursue their major after SOA, Steven says, "Don't think just because you're at SOA that you have a right to anything." He says to know what you are getting into and if you love something, go for it wholeheartedly. Do not go into a program thinking, "I love theater, and I'm serious about it, but I want to check the Frisbee schedule before auditioning. It takes a lot of courage not to waste time," says Steven, "and if you want to be the best, don't do it."



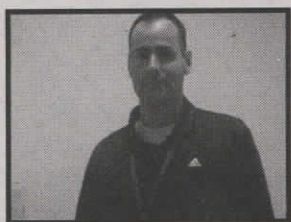
2009 graduate, Steven Moskos

SOA welcomes new teachers: Part One

By Bailey Gaskin

Mr. Brian Blasy

Mr. Blasy, the new middle school PE teacher/ high school health teacher, grew up and attended college in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is a big sports fan and enjoys golf, fishing, athletics, and coaching. After attending Temple University in Philly where he received his B.S in Kinesiology, Mr. Blasy taught middle and high school P.E in the Philadelphia School District for 8 years.

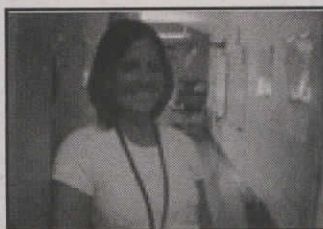


Mr. Blasy, middle school P.E.

Mr. Blasy decided to teach at SOA so that he could teach in a school with "an outstanding faculty, great students and wonderful facilities," a big change from his teaching experience in Philadelphia. Mr. Blasy said his time here has been great. Interesting trivia: Mr. Blasy likes Radiohead, the movie *Braveheart*, and is married with two small children.

Ms. Carmen Ellis

Carmen Ellis, a new math/pre-algebra teacher at SOA, grew up in Jackson, Michigan and lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan for four years. She attended both Siena Heights University and Baker College where she received a Bachelor's in business administration and a post-baccalaureate in education with a concentration in mathematics. She is



Ms. Ellis, middle school math

in her first year of teaching, and she is excited "about the arts programs and hopes to integrate them into [her] classroom." Ms. Ellis is no stranger to the art scene; participating in 4 years of art in high school and being a member of the drama club. Her favorite band is Kings of Leon (whoot whoot!) and she just moved to Charleston a few weeks ago.

Ms. Meredith Shaver

Meredith Shaver, a new dance teacher at SOA, grew up Kernersville, NC and later Greensboro, NC. She attended the University of NC at Greensboro and received a Bachelor of Arts in dance education. After many jobs and internships at the University, Ms. Shaver taught at both dance studios and

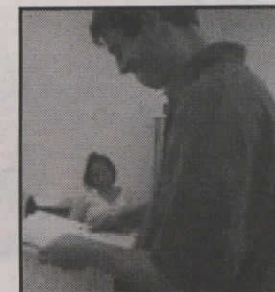


Ms. Shaver, dance

summer camps. She decided to teach at SOA because "the philosophy of the school is unlike anywhere else, and the students and staff have been amazing." Besides teaching and dance, Ms. Shaver enjoys outside activities such as kayaking and hiking. She also loves football, cooking, Julia Roberts, and traveling. She says that she feels "very much at home and welcome at SOA!" Also, she just recently purchased an apartment by the water, for those curious people out there.

Mr. Patrick Ratigan

Patrick Ratigan, a new algebra and SAT prep teacher, grew up in Lilburn, Georgia. He attended Truett McConnell College where he received an Associates Degree in General Studies and Piedmont College where he received a BS in mathematics and computer information system and an MAT in



Mr. Ratigan, high school math

Secondary Education with a concentration in Mathematics. Mr. Ratigan is "excited to see the students perform" now that he is at SOA. He studied in theatre and dance classes and was also part of his high school's drumline! For those of you wondering, Mr. Ratigan is both an Eagle Scout and a high school soccer coach.

Check out Part Two in the next issue of Applause

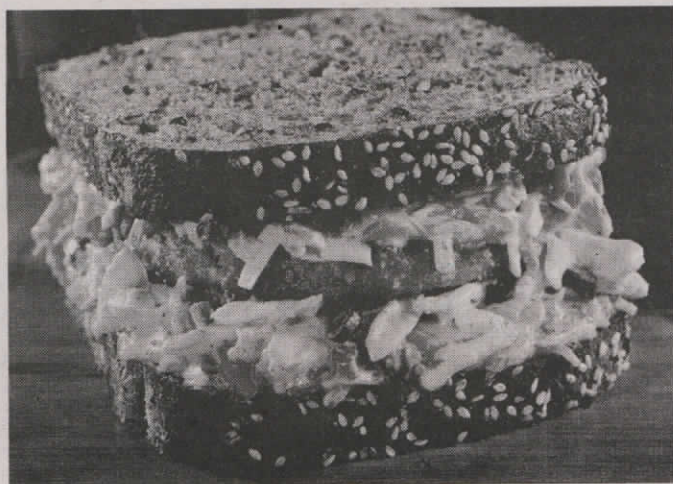
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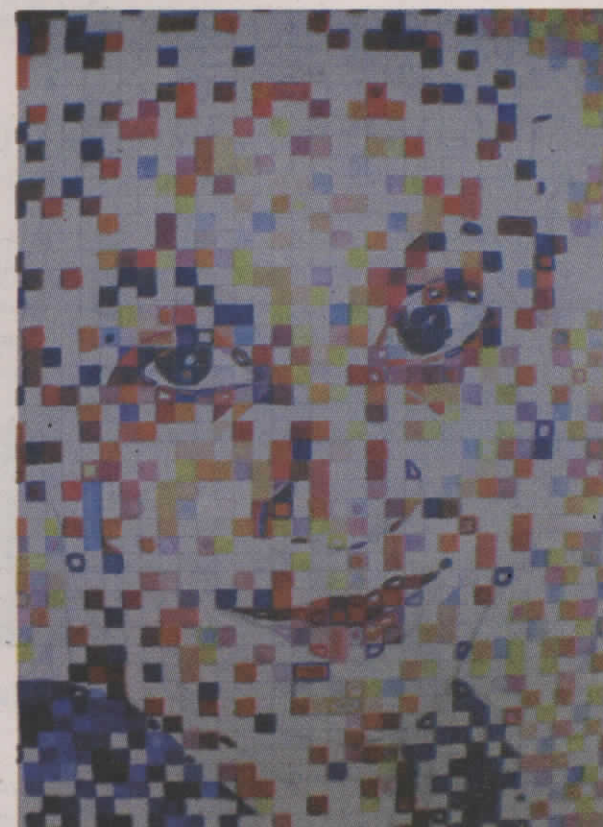
Allie Acierno, 11th grade



Aleigha Blakely, 12th grade



Allie Acierno, 11th grade



Lucy Rummler, 11th grade

Doll Beside a Suffering Child
Wendrah McCoy

In the almost never
Always blue blue sky, never
Doll-slumped, child-lies,
Blue-painted wall,
She (quietly) whispers her song
With its long brown matted
Straggly-kinked coarse hair.
Door-slams, drop-doll.



In the never always almost
Always dark dark twilight, your
Frail fear-hungering
Filthy-joy caustic-pride
Loving-child sleeps soundly
With disdain-almost-(you leave) our
daughter,
In the almost always never
Always home
Alone

Fork in the Road
Rebecca Witcher

At the road between love and nonsense
I will drop to my knees
Grip the trodden sand
Where so many decisions have been made
Grain wedged in my nails
And pray that they are different
That one is not a simple side trip
To the other



Would You Be Proud?
Joyce Waggoner

For those quick instants,
Your smile showed me
That I was your pretend son.
You slapped the back of my head
Exclaimed that I had caught the largest bluegill
You ever saw.

Your fingers slip into its gills,
As my excitement sways with the pole.

There are more in the pond Joyce,
He can go.
Just don't move.

I never meant to catch you,
Never meant to show up when you had other plans.
I never meant to hook you.

The fish flips over in the pond,
As your thick fingers slowly loosen
The hook from your lobe.
I am content.
I have you
Daddy.

But I wonder if I were on the end of your line,
Would I be your prize?



Maybe I'd Call Her Lilly
Aubry Moore

I think I'd like to have a little
girl,
A little girl named Lila or Lillian
Who would like to ride piggy back,
And eat peanut-butter with a spoon.

I think I'd like for her to be born on a leap year
So that the years that I'd have her
Would ooze by,
Without the notice of her bones growing.

I think I'd like to have a little girl
Who could play piano like I can't,
And count kitten paws in pine tree pollen without sneezing,
And show me how many years old she really was
By holding up her fingers

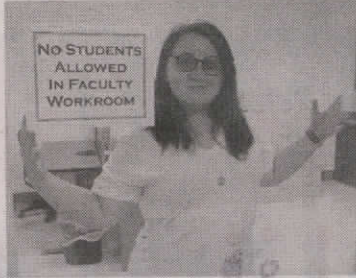


Sass Attack: Following in the footsteps of David Sass

By Bailey Gaskin

I guess you could say that, like my predecessor, I am waiting until the last moment to write this column. With Dr. Cusatis barking in my ear about deadlines and my brain running on empty for ideas, I have decided to throw together, in the recurring fashion of this article, some thoughts that I am currently thinking. For starters, writing this column is both an exciting and daunting honor. The large black cloud of David Sass' legend is currently looming over and constantly keeping me on my toes, umbrella in hand, in case of rain. I have read and reread almost every Sass Attack and I can only hope that, although I am a theatre major and not a creative writer, I will create and sustain an article that people enjoy reading (as I enjoyed reading the original Sass Attack.) So without further ado...

The topic on the tip of everyone's tongue is the recent convergence of SOA with, the ever so wise, Academic Magnet. Now, if you happen to have had



the pleasure of riding bus 418 in middle school, you remember seeing that token Magnet boy reading the dictionary in seat R9. WELL, TIMES HAVE CHANGED PEOPLE! These ladies and gentle fellows play FOOTBALL and socialize in the parking lot, fly kites and hold secret meetings in the beds of their Ford F150s. And all I have to say to them is GO HOME! SCHOOL IS OVER! YOU ARE FREE! SOA children seem to have embraced this concept, going from 0 to Mount Pleasant in 10 minutes and literally running to the buses (middle schoolers...you know who you are.) And yet, the Magnet kids chill in their exclusive senior lounge and kick soccer balls back and forth in their grassy courtyard. My advice for the population of SOA is...don't stare. They WILL stare back, and consider you all the stranger for it. Walk to the buses with pride. Don't get distracted by the bright green football jerseys and the hottie whose hair seems to know exactly where it wants to go. Don't get discouraged when you see a

Magnie (as I call them) in your bus seat or when you discover one of them using the last computer in the library. Let us coexist, shall we, and be done with it. Ya gotta admit, the new blood on campus is rather refreshing (vampire puns NOT intended).

As my first and, possibly most important, Sass Attack draws to a close; I have to say one thing. First impressions can be tough, and I pride myself on being real from the start. So, however stubby my nails are now after this, I still swell with pride thinking of carrying on this tradition in my own way. David Sass, if you are reading this...I hope you like it. And students, look forward to a long long long long long long year of my ramblings about the things that you wish you could ramble about. Until next month, keep this next to your bed in case you start going through withdrawals for my opinion. The days at SOA, although shorter, are still chock full of opportunities to see, witness, and write about the things most important to you guys. AND TO DO IT HONESTLY. So, live everyday interestingly so I have more stuff to rant about. That is all.

Taco Boy an authentically Mexican meal

By Bailey Gaskin & Chaison Dangerfield

∞ Enlightenment (excellent!) ☯ Zen (Average) ☮ Chi (not the best)

Location: Downtown, Charleston
Cuisine: Authentic Mexican Grill
Grade: A

Zen Consensus:

Upon entering Taco Boy on 217 Huger St. in Downtown, Charleston, we began our food adventure. All of the elements of authentic Mexico lined the tables, walls, and ceiling of the grill. The atmosphere of the restaurant overall was rather refreshing. The unique three pronged fans that spin round on the ceiling provide a cool atmosphere for customers, like us. Taco Boy creates a feeling appropriate for any age range during daylight hours. We say this because, upon being led to a two seated table, Bailey caught sight of a sign hanging from the ceiling that read, "Whoa! Too many drinks? See hostess for a lift home." This seems to imply a heavy night life for the 21 or older crowd, not appropriate for children, we may all agree.

When given the menu, we contemplated our hunger satisfaction choices. We decided to order the appetizer trio. The trio involved a roasted jalapeno tomato salsa, chile queso and guacamole. It was phenomenal and only \$6.95. For our main meal, we chose two tacos, one for each of us, but we thought it would make sense to split each



one, just to get a more well rounded view of the Taco Boy menu (although we chose 2 out of 12 tacos). Each was \$3.95. The grilled chicken taco was a gardeny, citrus marinated chicken breast, and the other, the portobello mushroom taco, was more of an earthy, darker, garlic-cumin marinated mushroom,

refried black bean, poblano rajas, queso, and cilantro combination.

Together, the pair of tacos made a tasty little lunch that left just enough room for dessert. We prescribed the only one offered on the menu. Solo, their infamous, extremely delicious traditional three milk soaked sponge cake with brandy whipped cream was presented to the table by the name of Tres Leches. The sweet dessert originated in Central America.

Overall, our experience at Taco Boy was above that of an average restaurant like, say, Golden Corral. Even the bathrooms were oh so satisfactory. They were decorated and clean to a sparkle! We would recommend Taco Boy for any occasion from a family outing to a place to meeting with friends, to chilling or even talking and reviewing some studies (if you go midday and it's not so crowded), to a lovely date. Everything about it is inviting and there is no way you would get bored with all there is to look at (and digest!).

National Honor Society: induction ceremony

By Savannah Miller

The voices of Rachel Anthony, Caroline Britt, Kitty Rice, and Kelsey Swatzyna filled the Academic Magnet High School lecture hall as twenty two juniors and seniors were inducted into the School of the Arts chapter of the



Inductees swearing their oath to the society

National Honor Society. The students were selected based on four criteria that exemplify NHS: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. The ceremony included a few words from Ms. Drennan and Mr. Lindgren, advisors of SOA's chapter, Mr. Reinhart, and four speeches explaining each tenant by the chapter's officers. Louisa Ballou, president of SOA's chapter of NHS, discussed leadership, noting: "The price of leadership is sacrifice, a willingness to yield one's personal interests to the interest of others." This year, NHS plans to demonstrate Louisa's words by improving their commitment to after-school-tutoring and other projects.

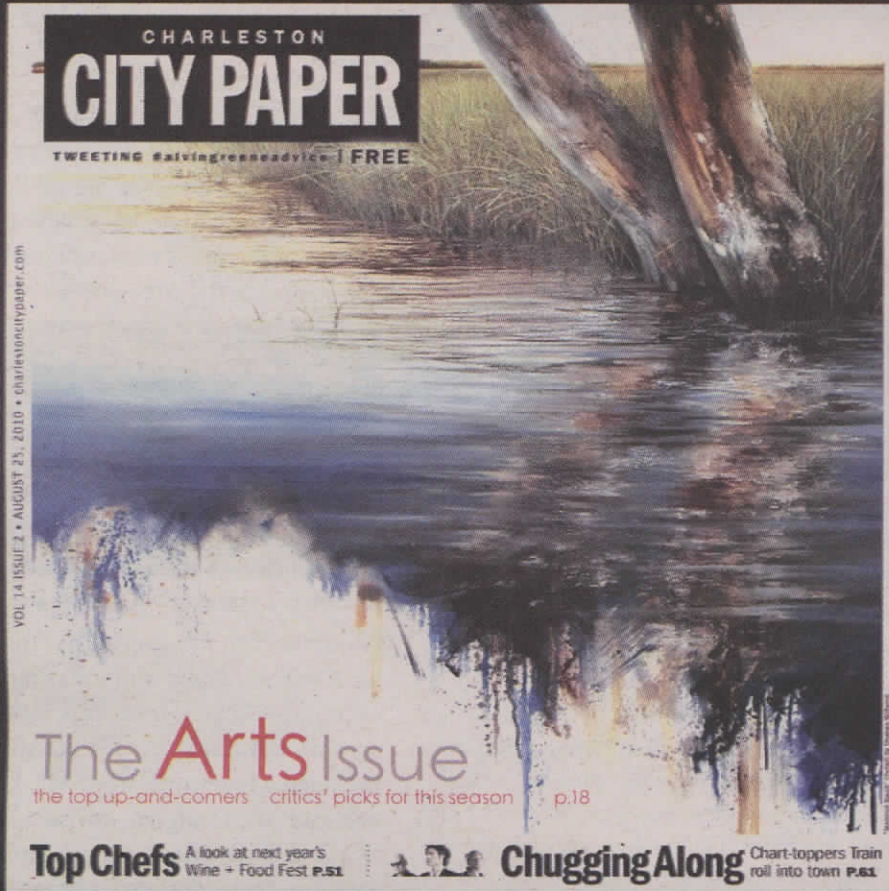
The world's hardest video game boss

By Catherine Santos

I had the misfortune of finding a game known as Mushihimesama Futari. At first, I was thrilled because it is notorious for having the world's hardest final boss and when it comes to manic shooters I am a seasoned veteran. I can weave through the intricate designs without a problem.

However downloading this game was a huge mistake. Just imagine the look on my face when my screen filled up with pink and purple bullets that were nearly impossible to dodge. You still have to find a way to dodge all of the evil that is Larsa trying to be Rambo. I only beat her because the game allowed you to continue from where you last died.

Please, do not play this game if you have heart condition or a life.



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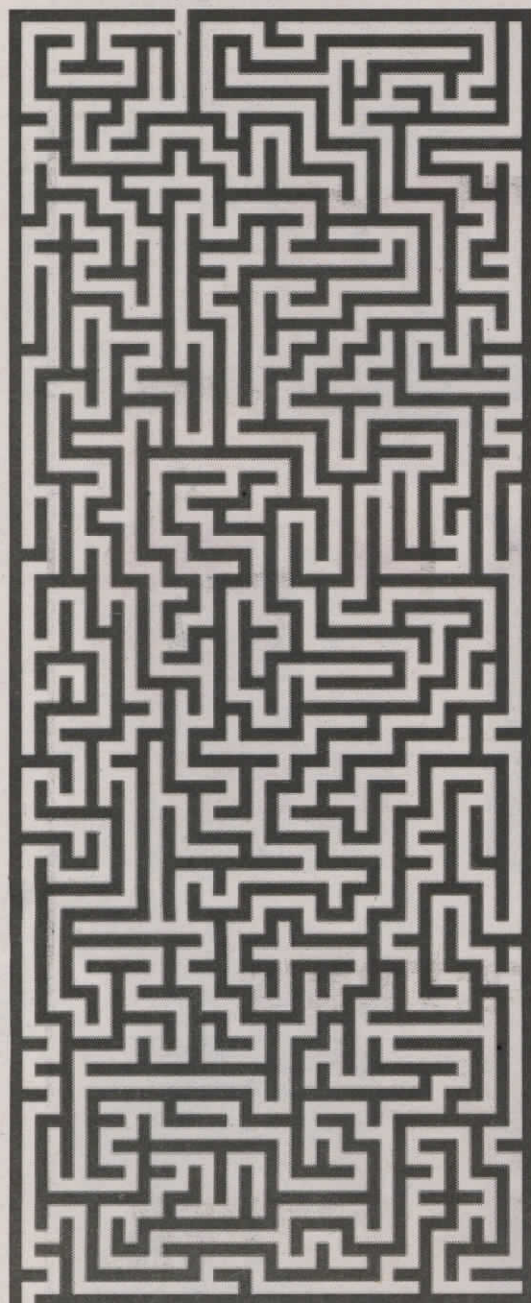
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4	2		6	9	8			
	3	8				9	7	
	9			3				
	8		9		2		5	
				5			6	
	7	2				6	1	
			7	8	6		9	2
3		9			5	7		8

Horoscopes!

Virgo: This is an intervention: lay off the expo markers.

Libra: Abandon your childhood dreams while you can, you will never grow up to be catdog.

Scorpio: At midnight on November 5th, the clowns will be coming for you.

Sagittarius: Frosty the Snowman can only be summoned through the kindness of your heart.

Capricorn: Oh no! Bandits have attacked your Farmville town! Save the cows before it's too late!

Aquarius: Those tiny pebbles in your driveway are actually baby kidney stones.

Pisces: In the year 2012 there will be an extreme shortage of cabbage; the stars recommend you grow a small vegetable garden.

Aries: You might want to get that tumor taken care of early on, before the government catches wind of it and wants to harvest it for medical experiments.

Taurus: Do you remember those childhood stories about watermelon seeds? Well bad news for you, they were true.

Gemini: Don't use your snow blower on the roof; the result may summon extraterrestrials....

Cancer: A slug stampede is coming to town! Quick! Grab your salt!

Leo: Facebook is down! Homework might get done for once!

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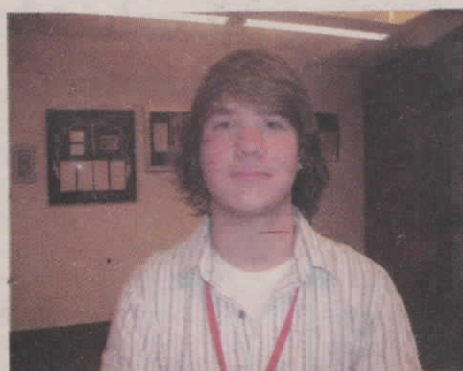
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"I guess my only complaint is the buses. It is so packed." -Julia Woodward, 10th Vocal



"Well it's nice to be able to see my old friends, but they need to sort it out with the busses." -Aaron Charpia, 10th Band



"Having two of the best schools in SC coming together has got to be a good thing." -Mr. Johnsen



"It's our campus. Leave... just kidding" -Anna Mathias, 11th Strings



"I think it is great, and in the future we may be able to collaborate on things that will enhance our learning." - Ms. Crawford

How do you feel about Academic Magnet High School joining us on campus?

Compiled by Allie Augustine and Grace Collins



"I hate the traffic." -Jamie Amick, 12th Vocal



"I'm actually really excited. I think that they have a lot of good-looking people and I'm ready to play the field." - Zachary Sharpe, 11th Band



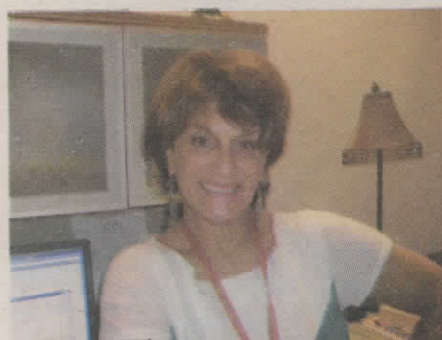
"Well, honestly I don't like it that much. They are like two completely different areas of interest and having them join just messes things up." -Abby Rumph, 9th Visual Arts



"I like it because I know a lot of people in Magnet, and I get to see them all the time." -Alex Rovner, 8th Piano



"I think it's pretty cool I just wish we got to see them more often" - Marleesa Ladson, 11th Band



"Welcome! Bring it on!" - Ms. Miller



"Oh, I love them. I love Academic Magnet. Their the coolest" -Tyler Wozniak, 12th Theater



"I didn't like the idea at first, but I kind of want to go there in the 9th grade because of the cheerleaders and the football team." -Taylor Sibbald, 8th Band



"...It's cool but it would be better if I could play on their soccer team." -William Palomo-Siliezar, 12th Visual Arts