

APPLAUSE

School of the Arts

5109-B W. ENTERPRISE STREET
NORTH CHARLESTON, SC 29405

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Graduating Class of 2012

Editor's Note



Two years. Two years of ink on my fingers, of bothering and pestering just about every student at SOA (Sorry, guys!), and above all else, stress that I had never known before. It brought sheer satisfaction and honestly, a few bathroom tears.

Beginning as co-captain with the lovely **Hailey Bowers**, then steaming my own ship this year, *Applause* has taught me more than any other class, because it was more than just a class. Besides its title as "journalism," *Applause* for me was editing, computer programming, psychology, advertising, public speaking, photography, and creative writing and creative thinking. It taught me how to calm down and how to make deadlines, how to communicate and how to hide away from the rest of the world. And I thank every one of you who helped me learn these lessons.

I will leave *Applause* with tools that will follow me through Emory University's creative writing and journalism courses and into the cutthroat world of reality. All I can hope for is that Dr. Cusatis's perfectionist attitude and drive will follow me everywhere I go.

This 64 page, full-color graduation issue commemorates and celebrates all of the achievements of my fellow 2012 classmates. I congratulate each and every one of you on your present and future endeavors. Inside, throughout the paper, are senior essays, and on pages 5-12, senior surveys. There are news articles covering MS and HS prom, senior superlatives, and the staff's most favorite couples. Additionally, parents and the community also congratulate you throughout the paper as well. Also, don't forget to read-up on our graduation speaker, SOA's own Charlton Singleton, before the ceremony begins!

Again, congratulations. I'm personally excited, but so nervous. I'm really going to miss you guys.

Savannah Miller

Upcoming Events

SUMMER

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Applause

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Editorial

In this issue, we all get to look back. Look back on times good, bad, and slightly awkward, whether we like it or not. In these pages, we'll learn about the students, both new and familiar to the school, students with imaginations taller and wider than that mountain you couldn't quite remember the name of in Mr. Clark's geography class, and minds whose academic and artistic potential stretches farther than even the most flexible dancer's tibialis anterior. Students that are so diverse in every imaginable way, the only place they can be safely contained together is at an arts school.

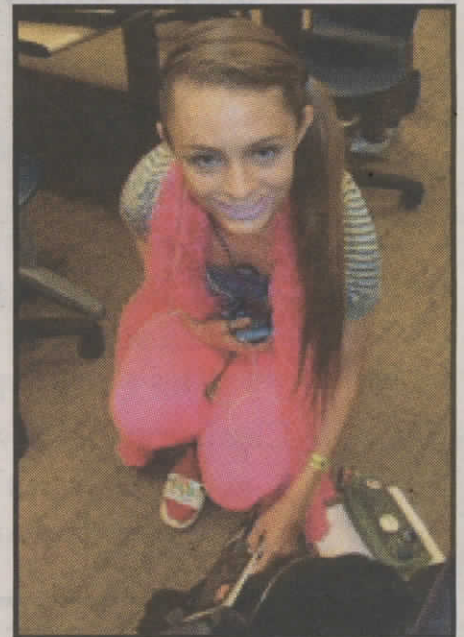
Anyways, back to looking back. *Applause* has always been here to look back on SOA functions, stories in the school, and bring new perspectives on movies, music, restaurants, and the important issues going on in the world, told through the eyes of our writers. It was going to be a challenge, looking back on the entire year at SOA, focusing on the academics and every major, and bringing every senior their due glimpse into the past with room to express their last thoughts and feelings about the school in the graduation issue. So in case you haven't noticed, *Applause* has made some changes. What once was a measly 12 color pages in a 48 page paper has now become a... wait for it... full color, 64 page paper! The liberties we acquired with this freedom were almost too much to handle for a newspaper staff, having to force ourselves to resist writing the paper in rainbow font and not completely fill it with the pictures that Miki spends all class drawing on Microsoft Paint.

So inside you'll find the faces of some of the most seasoned SOA students, with words far more colorful than the pictures, even without the use of rainbow font. On behalf of the *Applause*, we would like to thank you for another great year and for your continued support. Who knows, at this rate, we could be seeing scratch and sniff in the years to come.





SENIOR SPIRIT WEEK



Charlton Singleton takes the stage at SOA Graduation

By Savannah Miller



As the Post and Courier correctly praised: "I truly believe that if one were to look at **Singleton's** DNA under a microscope, one would see actual musical notes connecting the strands together" (2008). Charlton Singleton, long-time jazz musician and once a band director here at SOA, shines in Charleston's very own jazz community.

Born and raised in Charleston, Singleton has been making music since high school and learning since he was a child. He began taking piano lessons when he was three years old, which lasted until he was sixteen. He also joined the school orchestra

for violin in elementary school, and decided to try the trumpet in the school band at his middle school. He attended South Carolina State University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance.

Mr. Singleton notes that one of his fondest memories of teaching at SOA were "when I would witness a student have that moment of completely understanding something. It usually came in the moments of them succeeding at a song or some sort of technique that they were trying to master. As a teacher, there is no greater feeling than seeing your student understanding or getting what you are teaching them." Band students appreciated his mastery and skill of music and his genial disposition. SOA alum **Calvin Baxter** stated: "If

it wasn't for him, I seriously wouldn't have been able to attend SOA. He taught me piano, how to read music... EVERYTHING. He's also the reason why I'm a Prince fanatic." Senior **Hailey Bowers** remarked that he was influential because of "His unfailing belief in us as well as his ability to get his message across to a bunch of middle schoolers and make them understand the gravity of a situation."

Mr. Singleton is also appreciated by Charleston's growing artistic community. When asked about the status of the arts in Charleston, Singleton noted that "Charleston has ALWAYS been a strong artistic community. Whether it is music, poetry, dance, visual art, or theater, there is a major following of it in Charleston with many outlets to choose from."

Mr. Singleton already has an album released and is constantly seen at various regional music venues, such as the Charleston Place, the Memminger Auditorium, and has conducted for the Charleston Jazz Orchestra. "Music is a number of different things to people," Mr. Singleton states. "Mostly, it is a way of communication and a means of expression. I would say that it is beneficial because of the power that it has, alongside the fact that music truly IS universal."

Finally, when asked what advice Mr. Singleton would give his senior year self, he decided: "I would advise myself to take advice! Consider all that has been told, taught, or presented to me. It is just more information to process in order to prepare you for any sort of advancement in your life."

SOA works the runway

By Catherine Santos

On May 4th, 2012, the Costume students showed off their garments in a fashion show. The show was split up into five different sections: Music Man, Costume 1, Costume 2, Costume 3, and Senior Thesis, which were each broken up by a musical intermission. *The Music Man* section featured the garments that the Costume class made for SOA's production of *The Music Man*. The actors and actresses walked out in character, wearing the garments that were made for them.

All the other garments that were featured in the show were made in a two month period.

The Costume 1 section featured garments made by the Costume 1 class. **Dewitt Floyd** reconstructed a skirt to make it fuller. The Costume 2 section featured garments made by the Costume 2 class. **Alexander Hoffman** made a pair of pants that he modeled. The Costume 3 section featured **Katie Bailey**. Katie Bailey made dresses inspired by 50s fashion. She se-

lected a remix of "A Little Less Conversation" by Elvis. Katie made fascinators for each of her models. For her senior thesis, **Eileen Swartz** made fantasy shoes. One pair of shoes was constructed out of foam and was a foot tall.

Many people came from off campus to watch the fashion show. Overall, the fashion show was quite successful.



What quote do you want to be remembered by?

Alessandra Acierno: "A man who carries a cat by the tail learns something he can learn no other way." -Mark Twain

Wade Alexander: "You are what you resolve to be" -Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson

Allie Augustine: "I ain't no hollahback girl." -Gwen Stefani

Hailey Bowers: "We are all in the gutter but some of us are looking at the stars." -Oscar Wilde

Nicole Brondsema: "peace, love, unity, respect"

Jillian Campbell: "Rebel children, I urge you; fight the turgid slick of conformity with which they seek to smother your glory." - Russell Brand

Lily Cannon: "Be bold and courageous. When you look back on your life, you'll regret the things you didn't do more than the ones you did." -H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Katie Erin Clancy: "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on." -Robert Frost

Chelsey Conyers: "Be the change

you want to see in the world."

Renée Cooper: "When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down "happy." They told me I didn't understand the assignment and I told them they didn't understand life." -John Lennon

Tanner Cooper: "Loose and colorful"

Pheobe Crouse: "Keep true to the dreams of thy youth" - Herman Melville

Kelly Daniels: "Go Team Earth!" -Mr. Lindgren

Sean Dix: "Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore." -Andre Gide

Taylor DuPree: "If you get a chance, take it. If it changes your life, let it." -Harvey MacKay

Jacob Elsey: "Write in recollection and amazement for yourself." -Jack Kerouac

Alex Enter: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that 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

Savannah Evans: "A word to the wise ain't necessary - it's the stupid ones that need the advice." -Bill Cosby

Anja Evenson: "Tupac Back"

Joshua Fairchild: "You can't learn in school what the world is going to do next year." -Henry Ford

DeWitt Floyd: "No comment."

Ryan Gilmore: "All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better."

Kwintae Grampus: "Y'all get on my nerves."

Angelica Halvarsson: "Always look on the bright side of life." -Monty Python

Farrell Harris: "It could always be worse."

Jon Hart: Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Emily Hart: "For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone." -Audrey Hepburn

Chris Haycook: "A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that "individuality" is the

key to success." -Robert Orben

Rhiannon Heck: "I never had height but boy I got heart" -Lil Wayne

Althea Holenko: "They can shoot me dead, but the moral high ground is mine!" -Doctor Who

Samantha Hord: "I don't like change, but I don't mind improvements." -Samantha Hord

Alex James: "To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan but also believe." -Anatole France

Isis Jenkins: "You can't give an ADD kid options but the good ADD people of the world might be offended" -Mr. Lindgren

Tanner Johnson: "We make war that we may live in peace." -Aristotle



Laura Johnston: "You are too concerned about what was and what will be. There is a saying: yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift. That is why it is called the 'present.'"

Ian Jones: "I didn't take my meds today!!"

Allie Larkin: "Long you live and high you'll fly and smiles you'll give and tears you'll cry and all you touch and all you see is all your life will ever be." -Pink Floyd

Matt Lehman: "We create metaphors to compensate for what we have lost." -Sherman Alexie

Gabby Lewis: "Cause of Injury: Lack of Adhesive Ducks" -Sheldon Cooper

Ellen MaGaba: "Isn't it funny how day by day nothing changes but when you look back everything is different..." -C.S. Lewis, Prince Caspian

Hayley Malone: "You are more beautiful than Cinderella! You smell like pine needles, and have a face like sunshine."

Sabrina McIntyre: "When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say 'I used everything you gave me.'" -Erma Bombeck

Savannah Miller: "Live deliberately" -H.D. Thoreau

Victoria Milligan: "It's not what you know, it's who you know."

Camille Mitchell: "When it comes down to it, I let them think what they want. If they care enough to bother with what I do, then I'm already better than them anyways." -Marilyn Monroe

Mary Claire Moser: "It always seems impossible until it is done."

Zakariya Musallam: "Humiliation is the key to success."

Caitlin Newton: "It doesn't matter where you are, you are nowhere compared to where you can go." -Bob Proctor

Kedrick Paisley: "Be who you wanna be, not what others wanna see." -Anonymous

Shekinah Patterson: "Write the vision; make it plain on the tablets, so he may run who reads it. Though it tarries wait for it, it will surely come." Habakkuk 2:2-3

Lorenzo Perez: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." -Mark Twain

Avery Perltz: "There is a good reason they call these ceremonies "commencement exercises." Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning." -Orrin Hatch

Jonathan Pizarro: "Take advantage of every opportunity you have."

Samantha Rames: "I am so busy doing nothing... that the idea of doing anything - which as you know, always leads to something - cuts into the nothing and then forces me to have to drop everything." -Jerry Seinfeld

Morgan Rowland: "Sometimes you can't see yourself clearly until you see yourself through the eyes of others." -Ellen DeGeneres

Lucy Rummel: "Be an opener of doors for such as come after thee." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Catherine Santos: "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one." -Spock

Haley Sirisky: Any kind of lyrics from a Red Hot Chili Peppers song.

Anna Solomon: "Never let the fear of striking out, keep you from playing the game." -A Cinderella Story

Miki Sugimoto: "Be

ware the advice of successful people; they do not seek company." -Scott Adams

Eileen Szawast: "The artist makes art, but art also makes the artist."

Junying Tang: "Be not afraid of going slowly, be afraid only of standing still."

Stephanie Thompson: "If you can't handle me at my worst, you don't deserve me at my best..." -Marilyn Monroe

Emily Trent: "Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow." -Mark Twain

Peter Webb: "You have to be someone" -Bob Marley.. bro, I don't know no quotes!

Andrew White: "To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all." -Oscar Wilde

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

Alessandra Acierno: The most important thing I have learned is how car insurance work (from Brehms class).

Wade Alexander: The most important thing I have learned during the 7 years I have been here is that it is important to pursue and create what interests you, because if you don't, you will be unhappy with the end product of your endeavor.

Allie Augustine: How to appear busy in journalism.

Hailey Bowers: I have learned how to deal with the unexpected and how to accept everyone no matter what.

Nicole Brondsema: To be carefree.

Jillian Campbell: Be sure to allot a decent amount of time to procrastinate; don't get caught at the end with no time to finish a 15 minute masterpiece!

Lily Cannon: That everyone is different and you really have to learn to have an open mind and not judge people.

Katie Erin Clancy: SOA has taught me to accept everyone for who they are and to always choose your battles. I learned that almost everything can be expressed through art, and that friendships are some of the most important things you will ever have in life. I figured out how to actually pass a class taught by Ms. Bronk, how to successfully write an 8-page paper the night before it was due (and to never do that again), and to avoid the history teachers at all costs!

Chelsey Conyers: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to always be yourself and if someone thinks that you are weird, then take it as a compliment and keep on doing what you're doing.

Renée Cooper: Appreciation: for what I have, who I am, and where I am at. I considered leaving SOA for highschool, but after walking out on my last day of middle school, I knew this was a mistake. Where else would I fit in? This school has grown in demand, and I have been allowed an opportunity of a lifetime.

Tanner Cooper: Priorities, the A-C-E-G chart, and my love for **Emily Hart**.

Pheobe Crouse: The key to being a good person is having an open mind.

Kelly Daniels: I have learned to be myself

regardless of others. That's the biggest thing. I've also learned to better appreciate my talents.

Sean Dix: That nothing great can be had without hard work

Taylor DuPree: At SOA, the most important thing I have learned is to accept people for who they are. There are different types of people in this world who can help you grow and learn so you can become a better person.

Jacob Elsey: Individuality and the incorporation of creativity into everything is crucial in one's education.

Alex Enter: Since SOA's student body is so diverse, being able to tolerate different lifestyles, beliefs, and ideas taught me a lot about myself and the importance of staying open minded.

Savannah Evans: How to accept people and be sincere.

Anja Evenson: To realize that by putting just a little hard work in ones talent can lead to exploding branches of passion, new ideas, and opportunities that you never thought would be happening years earlier.

Joshua Fairchild: Senior Thesis=Glorified Study Hall. Do your homework then.

DeWitt Floyd: Who I am and what I have accomplished

Ryan Gilmore: Don't ever give up on something you really want.

Kwintae Grampus: Never trust a French horn player.

Angelica Halvarsson: I've learned that you can always fit in no matter how crazy you are and that art matters.

Farrell Harris: Other people's opinions really have nothing to do with your individual life; what really matters is what you think of yourself.

Jon Hart: The most important thing I've learned is that one must learn to balance their time.

Emily Hart: What I've really come to learn through my years at SOA is that one of the greatest things to be a part of is an adopted family. I've found a second family with the other senior dancers here. Also, I've been part of a tight-knit and caring community. The lesson I've learned through both of those experiences is that if you have the chance to be part of a team or type of community, do it! By being a part of something, you will learn so much from others, learn more about yourself, and it will be impossible for you not to grow or improve as an individual.

Chris Haycook: Calculus

Rhiannon Heck: I learned to never give up on what I want regardless of what others say.

Althea Holenko: How to manage my time and take advantage of any free time.

Samantha Hord: There will always be someone more talented than you. Perfection is just an illusion.

Alex James: Compassion.

Isis Jenkins: Be open & waste time.

Tanner Johnson: Early is on time, on time is late

Laura Johnston: How to appreciate what I have.

Ian Jones: It's a very small world. Friendship is better than anything imaginable.

Allie Larkin: School of the Arts taught me not only to appreciate diversity, but through it, how to create unity.

Matt Lehman: That the structure of daily arts classes provide unparalleled freedom of the mind

Gabby Lewis: How to swing dance...kind of.

Ellen MaGaha: How to manage my time.

Hayley Malone: SOA has taught me that difficult things are worth doing and difficult people are worth getting along with. Also, if you don't know what you're doing, fake it. Confidence can take you places, even if it's fake. So fake it till you make it!

Sabrina McIntyre: One very important thing I have learned at SOA is how to break boundaries and do the impossible. I have come to love the feeling of exceeding your own expectations and constantly striving to achieve way beyond my goals.

Savannah Miller: The most important thing I've learned is the value of a teacher as more than an instructor, but their role as a mentor, advisor, and friend.

Victoria Milligan: Don't procrastinate.

Camille Mitchell: Apply your best effort. Don't slack off.

Mary Claire Moser: You don't have to be "normal" to fit in and have friends.

Zakariya Musallam: Homework matters.

Caitlin Newton: At SOA, the most important thing I have learned is everyone has something special about them. Appreciate each person for who they are and try to get along no matter what.

Kedrick Paisley: Honestly, the most important thing I've learned here at SOA is to be yourself. I spent a lot of time here trying to impress others so that I could fit in or so that people would like me, but it was too much work. Eventually I started not caring what others thought. If I can't be accepted for who I am, then I don't want to be accepted at all. Just stay true to yourself and I promise everything will fall into place.

Shekinah Patterson: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is to always stay true to myself no matter what; it's alright to be a little crazy!!

Lorenzo Perez: One important thing I learned

from SOA would be doing everything to the best of your ability pays off in the long run. I believe that's why I'm graduating, to tell you the truth.

Avery Perlitz: The most important thing that I have learned at SOA would be that life is full of opportunities, you just have to go out and find them.

Jonathan Pizarro: There is no place like SOA.

Samantha Rames: The most important thing SOA has taught me is to be confident in myself and in my art. All that I have learned in creative writing has changed me as a person.

Morgan Rowland: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is how to form a family in a group of strangers because I feel like I'm leaving a family behind at SOA.

Lucy Rummel: I've learned to fully appreciate not just my major of visual arts, but also all art forms.

Catherine Santos: Life is a wonderful, beautiful thing, and there is always going to be that one person that hates theirs so much that they want to ruin yours. No matter what anyone says you have to keep riding your rainbow unicorn through the meadow that is life.

Haley Sirisky: To always accept people no matter how weird or crazy they may seem, because they could turn out to be your best friend.

Anna Solomon: "Do what you love and give it your all."- Ms. Slowinski told me this and it has carried me far.

Miki Sugimoto: SOA has taught me that everyone can surprise you - people have hidden talents and personalities, and you might miss them if you pass judgement too quickly.

Eileen Szwasz: Self-confidence.

Junying Tang: English.

Stephanie Thompson: Always, Always, ALWAYS do your homework. It will save your butt.

Emily Trent: Ironically, time management and the entire point we're here: how to expand knowledge in the arts.

Peter Webb: The most important thing I've learned at SOA is how to easily adapt to a new environment.



What will you miss most about SOA?

Alessandra Acierno: I will miss all those new colored pencils and paints and paintbrushes that we got every four or five years

Wade Alexander: I will miss the people the most. It's hard to split off into separate ways, especially having shared a majority of my life with some of these people. Some are going into the military, some staying home, and others are filtering across the country to small and large universities alike.

Graduation will be a bittersweet occasion.

Allie Augustine: Lectrac, dodwil, sugmik, elsjac, savmil, and Dactah Casaaaatis.

Hailey Bowers: I will miss the quirkiness of the school and all the people.

Jillian Campbell: The teachers here are amazing! I will really miss their "come in and let me help you with life" attitudes, it has meant so much to me these past four years.

Lily Cannon: Definitely the talent that everyone has.

Katie Erin Clancy: I will miss the fact that I always felt welcome. If I was not getting along with someone at SOA, it was pretty much guaranteed that we would break down and be friends again by the next day; even that never really happened. No problem was too big to handle when you had SOA to back you up!

Chelsey Conyers: One thing that I'll miss the most is the amazing atmosphere and everyone's positive, non-judgmental attitude towards the strange things we all do.

Renée Cooper: I will not particularly miss this SOA, as I will be looking back and reminiscing about the campus around the corner, where I began attending school seven years ago. I will miss sitting down, smack in the middle of campus to enjoy a lunch, in a large circle of friends. I will miss having more trailers than classrooms, and the freedom of expression; where every day could be "pajama day" or "wacky-tacky day," if we so pleased. I will miss the unexpected events everyday, and the learning to be gained from every individual that makes up this most productive school.

Tanner Cooper: Mr. Kerr.

Pheobe Crouse: Having teachers that I know actually care about me.

Kelly Daniels: Everything! All of my friends and teachers. Most of all, the old and true SOA across the street.

Sean Dix: The free expression and care free atmosphere we had at SOA

Taylor DuPree: At SOA, I will miss all the people I have become so close to this year through my experience with the *Music Man*, the teachers who pushed me and inspired me, and of course, my SOA dance family.

Jacob Elsey: The people that make this school

what it is, both the teachers and the students.

Alex Enter: The vocal/strings competition trips in middle school, all of the friends I've made in the past years that are going to different colleges, coaching powder-puff and giving substitutes a hard time.

Savannah Evans: The old SOA building. SOA was built on that land and I loved every moment there.

Anja Evenson: At the same time as being tired of everyone, I'm going to miss the people and the friendly environment, several teachers, and being able to have the experience to play piano every day.

Joshua Fairchild: Theatre Majors.

DeWitt Floyd: Ms. Hutchinson and being in her resource class.

Ryan Gilmore: The teachers and playing in the symphony.

Kwyntae Grampus: Basil Kerr.

Angelica Halvarsson: I am going to miss being surrounded by all the creative people.

Farrell Harris: My friends in Creative Writing and the free group therapy that Creative Writing provides.

Jon Hart: I will miss the environment, SOME teachers, and my friends.

Emily Hart: I will absolutely miss the other senior dancers the most! Together, we have an incredibly unique group dynamic. I've learned so much from each and every one of them, and I'll never forget the memories that we've made together. I've been a part of several groups in my lifetime, but the senior dancers are the first group that I can genuinely call by second family.

Chris Haycook: I will miss being around piano majors; they have become my second family.

Rhiannon Heck: I'll miss the artistic feel of the old school.

Althea Holenko: The visual arts room, the visual arts teachers, and all the actual and honorary visual artists.

Samantha Hord: I will miss the A/B schedule, the paintings on the walls, harmonizing with my vocal friends, seeing Mr. Reinhart, and all of my history teachers.

Alex James: The passion of the teachers and the endless possibilities.

Isis Jenkins: The people or should I say family & how we feed, at times literally, off of the energy that's bouncing around either it be positive or almost negative or a force that cases so many of us to break or smash body parts in the same period of time.

Tanner Johnson: Going to miss seeing all my friends nearly every day.

Laura Johnston: My friends.

Ian Jones: The SOA Jazz Band and everybody I've met and ever known....especially I'll miss the door holding.

Allie Larkin: I'll miss being constantly surrounded by people who appreciate the arts.

Matt Lehman: The respect for free thinking

Gabby Lewis: The teachers.

Ellen MaGaba: It sounds unoriginal, but what I'll miss the most is my friends.

Hayley Malone: I will miss those moments when I see people doing what they love, watching their passion and talent. It's then that I can't believe I'm surrounded by so much creativity and talent on a daily basis.

Sabrina McIntyre: I will miss the people and the opportunities SOA gives.

Savannah Miller: I'll miss walking to creative writing to the beat of the percussion class, laughing at the sixth graders who didn't realize how slick the mud was in the ditch by Mrs. Newell's trailer, and Lake SOA and all of those who dared to jump in it, the murals by the high school hallway that I'd trace with my fingers, and absolutely, wholeheartedly, the ice cream vending machines.

Victoria Milligan: How close everyone is to each other...for the most part.

Camille Mitchell: I'll miss my theatre class. We've been together since 6th grade and we're really like a family.

Mary Claire Moser: Knowing everyone and everything.

Zakariya Musallam: The teachers.

Caitlin Newton: I will miss the family that we have within SOA. No matter how different we all are, at SOA, people find a way to become friends with such a variety of people, which is an opportunity I believe I would not have been granted anywhere else.

Kedrick Paisley: I will definitely miss the

freedom and creativity that went on at this school. I will miss the nonjudgmental zone held here as well. This school is so care free and I know I would not get that privilege at any other school. One thing I must say that I will miss is the wardrobe that people wear. Only at SOA will you find the most interesting attire. And lastly, I will miss the people. Everyone is so friendly and supportive of one another and I hope that continues at this school for my future visits.

Shekinab Patterson: I will truly miss the close-knit family environment here; I love how we are just one big happy family! I will truly miss all of my teachers, especially Mrs. Touihri! But most importantly I will miss my friends & fellow classmates.

Lorenzo Perez: The friendly, creative, and accepting environment is what I will miss about SOA.

Avery Perlitz: I will miss the kind, friendly, and warm atmosphere of SOA and I will miss my SOA dance family.

Jonathan Pizarro: Convocation and Lake SOA.

Samantha Rames: The saddest part about graduating is that I may never see most of my class after the summer. It will be weird being separated from the people I grew up with.

Morgan Rowland: The thing I will miss the most about SOA is all the inspiring teachers and students here.

Lucy Rummler: The open-minded atmosphere.

Catherine Santos: The fabulous Zachary Sharpe.

Haley Sirisky: Khaleil Burden making me crack up every single day.

Anna Solomon: The cool, warm environment the people give me is what I'll miss about SOA.

Miki Sugimoto: I'll miss the sense of community and camaraderie that we have here at SOA. Although we might not always get along, it feels like a family, especially in the arts.

Eileen Szwast: The friendly, welcoming, accepting atmosphere.

Junying Tang: Piano class!

Stephanie Thompson: The people and the atmosphere.

Emily Trent: Gosh, I'll miss the kids in my piano class. I may have only been here 2 years, but they've been super amazing. I love you guys!

Peter Webb: I really miss the arts building at the old campus, the building's ambiance really gave the students a good vibe, even on a bad day.

Andrew White: I will miss the close-knit community of SOA and the teachers who care about their students so much.



Any advice for underclassmen?

Alessandra Acierno: Start applying to college in the summer!

Wade Alexander: Don't skate. And what I mean by this is that don't just do the bare minimum for your school work. I skated my entire school career, doing just enough to make sure I pulled off a low B, but I'm afraid now. I'm afraid that when I go off to college I won't be prepared for "real" work because I have never pushed myself to be better than what I am now. So push yourself so you won't be afraid like I am.

Allie Augustine: Take journalism and never use an unbroken twenty in the cafeteria.

Hailey Bowers: Do your homework. It may seem stupid and trivial, but it can be the difference between failing and passing.

Jillian Campbell: Don't cheat! (The crows are watching...)

Lily Cannon: Take as many Honors and AP classes you can, do volunteer work, and be in as many clubs as possible!

Katie Erin Clancy: Be weird, act crazy, and have fun. Oh, and study too. High school goes by so fast, so take it slow and enjoy the ride (not to sound cliché or anything).

Chelsey Conyers: Always do your work and strive for perfection in everything that you do because good habits will help you for the rest of your life. So start now young ones!

Renée Cooper: Take Brehm's class. Do not let anyone tell you "It is too difficult; you will mess up your GPA." If you would like to learn, and I mean much beyond the span of government and economics, this class is more than an option: it is an opportunity.

Tanner Cooper: Take any class of Dr. T's. He's a great teacher.

Pheobe Crouse: Challenge yourself by working hard. Being lazy is boring.

Kelly Daniels: Read, annotate, recycle.

Sean Dix: Be an expert prioritizer, because some things are just not as important as others.

Taylor DuPree: Do your work for EVERY teacher and always be yourself.

Jacob Elsey: Take advantage of all of the opportunities that will only arise at a school like SOA.

Alex Enter: Don't be arrogant of your ability in your art major. Be humble or people will never want to be around you. Also, be sure

to avoid getting senioritis your freshmen year.

Savannah Evans: Mr. Brehm's classes are so easy. There is no need to study.

Anja Evenson: Do not be afraid to go all out with your major. There's nothing to lose, and you may end up pursuing your talent as a career. You might not know now, but it happened to me, and I'm glad I stuck with it. I look at my major way differently now and in a more serious and positive way than I did in middle school and even the beginning of high school.

Joshua Fairchild: Do your Mr. Brehm readings when they're assigned.

DeWitt Floyd: Shut up, stay out of upper classmen's way, don't be annoying.

Ryan Gilmore: Don't bring things to school that you have been told not to bring.

Kwyntae Grampus: Stop getting on people's nerves.

Angelica Halvarsson: Be yourself and don't stress out. High school should be fun.

Farrell Harris: Underclassmen, please read: DO NOT GET SICK. I repeat, DO NOT LET YOURSELF GET SICK. I mean it. Please, take care of yourself, stay healthy, and make sure you do your work. You have the rest of your life to waste time, but only four years of high school, so do your work!

Jon Hart: Underclassmen, don't be about the drama. Just be friendly and get your work done. Yes, have fun, but then remember that you need to learn and be successful.

Emily Hart: Find BALANCE in your life. Know your priorities and stick to them, because you never know when you'll lose someone or something. Making time to serve and care for others is what really matters, because people are more important than any class or homework assignment or sport or whatever else you might do.

Chris Haycook: Get to know your teachers as soon as possible.

Rhiannon Heck: Do your best while you're here and don't slack off.

Althea Holenko: Take AP English as soon as you can.

Samantha Hord: Grow up or shut up, and, above all, be organized!

Alex James: High school is about having fun, but also becoming an adult. Be yourself and don't allow the world to change who you are.

Isis Jenkins: Teachers are our friends, sometimes the pinnacle of our hit list, but friends nonetheless. They might give too much or no homework, but you are a teacher yourself, and you will be the only one with you for the rest of your hopefully sane life,

so do the homework you assign yourself.

Tanner Johnson: Enlist in the Army. It's awesome! Don't go into the Navy; it's for chumps.

Laura Johnston: Enjoy high school.

Ian Jones: My advice: take your majors seriously.

Allie Larkin: I recommend all to carry a copy of *The Pocket Dictionary of American Slang* with them at all times. So when someone asks you to "press the flesh," you know they are simply asking for a handshake.

Matt Lehman: Go visit the old campus.

Gabby Lewis: Don't look an upperclassman in the eyes.

Ellen MaGaha: Be nice to teachers. They control your grades.

Hayley Malone: Work hard. Don't take the easy way out; don't just do the bare minimum. It's easy, but it is not rewarding or beneficial. If you don't understand something, ask for help. If you still don't understand it, do your

best and don't ask for any more of yourself.

Sabrina McIntyre: Never let someone else stand in your way. Always try and never give up, no matter how impossible the circumstances may seem.

Savannah Miller: Never waste a minute and never settle for less. Your time is limited, and with "a little bit of gumption and a wee bit of know-how," you can tackle anything—extracurriculars, AP's, sports, thesis—to make sure that college application is perfect.

Victoria Milligan: Word travels fast at SOA...don't do anything that you don't want the whole school to know about.

Camille Mitchell: YOLO...but be smart about it and Stay awake in Brehm!

Mary Claire Moser: STUDY!!!!

Zakariya Musallam: Do your homework and good luck.

Caitlin Newton: Listen to your teachers. Even when they get on your nerves, for the most part they are trying to make you a better person. They have so much wisdom to share with you, so just take the time to listen to them.

Kedrick Paisley: Underclassmen listen up! The one thing that you must do is your work. Yeah, I know that's a given, but ALL of your work. Don't miss any assignment because every little thing counts. Also, be nice to the upperclassmen because when you become one, you're going to want the same respect. Take advantage of every opportunity given to you. You only go through school once and it goes by really quick and you don't want to regret it. Lastly, enjoy every moment of school. Not just the education, but the social and other times as well. That is one thing I wish I did. I was



to busy rushing through school rather than enjoying it and now graduation is here and there's no turning back. Good luck to you guys!

Shekinah Patterson: To all of the underclassmen: STAY ON TOP OF YOUR WORK & DON'T PLAY AROUND! Work now & play later! It's alright to have a little fun here & there, but just remember school is a serious matter!

Lorenzo Perez: Do not slack off and to cherish every day, even the bad days, because they will definitely go by super quick.

Avery Perlit: Do not let senioritis get in the way of your work. Stay focused and go out with a bang.

Jonathan Pizarro: Do not procrastinate, especially in Bronk's class.

Samantha Rames: Eat your peas.

Morgan Rowland: Cherish your time here because it goes quick but also to plan for your future.

Lucy Rummeler: You can be successful no matter how young you are. Get involved and try out different extracurricular activities to find something that you love doing.

Catherine Santos: Take the plunge. My favorite pieces of artwork were completed by making mistakes, day dreaming or doing something stupid.

Haley Sirisky: "You can do anything if you put your imaginary to it" —Keyon Singleton (7th grade)

Anna Solomon: Do NOT goof off. You need to focus all the time or else colleges won't accept you. It WILL pay off.

Miki Sugimoto: Take AP classes! Also, always find out who's teaching a class before you take it - that can make all the difference.

Eileen Szwast: Respect your teachers and they will respect you.

Junying Tang: Study hard.

Emily Trent: Don't slack off in Dr. Price's class. Or Donnellon's. Actually, don't slack off in any class. It's way too much trouble to catch back up.

Peter Webb: Save your absences for the end of your senior year, so you can temporarily try to cure senioritis by taking a few days off in 4th quarter :D.

Andrew White: Underclassmen will slowly learn to disobey parents and the Government-instituted education system, and hopefully find some happiness on their path of living.



What are your plans after graduation?

Alessandra Acierno: I plan to go to Maryland Institute College of Art! WooHoo! (And then I will be able to decorate my home with sidewalk chalk, as **Mr. Donnellon** puts it)

Wade Alexander: After we walk across that stage, I will be Tigertown bound. I am scheduled to attend Clemson University in the fall of 2012, majoring in the field of Horticulture. I plan to start up and own a small vineyard on my family's plantation in upstate South Carolina after college.

Allie Augustine: I will be attending USC until I find a man to marry of a suitable level of wealth.

Lily Cannon: Rooming with my best friend **Hannah Nelson** at the bridge program for USC!

Katie Erin Clancy: I am planning to attend Clemson University as a Pre-Business major with a focus in marketing. After going to SOA, I had to choose the more creative side of business!

Chelsey Conyers: My plans are to go to school and eventually become a news anchor.

Renée Cooper: After I graduate, I plan on heading up to the University of South Carolina. There, I will be studying broadcast journalism, in hopes of reporting in my not too distant future!

Tanner Cooper: I'll probably drive home and have dinner with my family

Pheobe Crouse: I'm going to the Big Apple to study film!

Kelly Daniels: I will be attending the College of Charleston in the Fall and starting my conquest to save the world.

Sean Dix: I will be working towards an engineering degree at Clemson University

Taylor DuPree: I will be attending the University of South Carolina in the fall where I will major in broadcast journalism and minor in dance. I also hope to be on their dance team.

Jacob Elsey: Attending the University of South Carolina and traveling, traveling, traveling.

Alex Enter: After I graduate I will make the last few months I have in Charleston something to remember. When those months are over I will be moving to Clem-

son for College as a sports management major. I plan on marrying Taylor Swift.

Savannah Evans: Attend the University of South Carolina and study nursing.

Anja Evenson: I will be attending Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) for Sound Design.

Joshua Fairchild: Clemson University as an Engineering Major.

DeWitt Floyd: Go to college.

Ryan Gilmore: To start taking business courses in college and working with Gilmore's Termite and Pest Control.

Angelica Halvarsson: I'm taking a sabbatical, travelling, and getting a job, and after that I will go to college abroad.

Farrell Harris: I plan on getting my Bachelors Degree at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado, and then I plan on going back to Ireland, or maybe moving to England, to get my Masters.

Emily Hart: My plans right now are to attend the University of North Carolina School of the Arts where I intend to earn a B.F.A in Dance with a concentration in Contemporary Dance.

Chris Haycook: I plan to study biomedical engineering and pursue a career in biomaterials research.

Rhiannon Heck: I will be persuing my degree in food science at Clemson University.

Althea Holenko: My plans for after graduation will still be shaping and changing after graduation. I'm going with the flow.

Samantha Hord: I plan to study French, choral music, or education, and one day, become an adult.

Alex James: College, job, grad school, job (none of which will happen as planned).

Isis Jenkins: Chill a little, do some freelance photo journaling, then become the editor of photography at *Chicago Sun Times* or some obscure publication.

Tanner Johnson: After graduation, I'm going to an advance college study program at the Citadel and working till I start my knob year.

Laura Johnston: I want to go to college and major in business and even-

tually be an event coordinator.

Ian Jones: College (if the world doesn't end)

Allie Larkin: I plan on pursuing my doctorate in Chemistry and going into research.

Matt Lehman: To worry less about "plans" and more about what I love to do

Gabby Lewis: Go to college to become a pharmacist!

Ellen McGaba: I'm headed to USC to major in English and minor in Piano.

Hayley Malone: I will be going to Anderson University with my twin sister in the fall. I will be pursuing music and ministry by majoring in Worship Leadership.

Sabrina McIntyre: My plans are to attend Roanoke College in Salem, VA and major in voice performance with a minor in music education. After college I will be traveling and performing with the Young Americans.

Savannah Miller: After graduation, I will be attending Emory University and will hopefully double major in Creative Writing and Journalism. I have this far-fetched idea that I'll become a world-renowned reporter from Nice or Cannes or Paris, fluent in several European languages. Back-up plan: marry a doctor so I can still write.

Victoria Milligan: I plan on going to USC for college and cheering on the Gamecocks from the student section at football games.

Camille Mitchell: I will be attending USC in Columbia as a Nursing Major

Mary Claire Moser: To attend the University of South Carolina Beaufort in Education, and transfer to either Clemson University or the University of South Carolina Columbia.

Zakariya Musallam: Gradutate college.

Caitlin Newton: After graduation, I will be attending Presbyterian College in the fall as a Physics major with a minor in secondary education so that I can teach high school.

Kedrick Paisley: After graduation, I am attending South Carolina State University where I will major in communications. I plan on pursuing dance in the future as well and making a career out it after graduating from college.

Shekinah Patterson: After graduation I plan on enjoying my summer with my family & friends. In July I will be going to NEW ORLEANS BABY! After all of the fun & games are over, I will be packing up & heading to WINTHROP UNIVERSITY! At Winthrop I will pursue a B.S in Early Childhood Education.

Avery Perlit: After graduation I plan on relaxing and enjoying my senior year. I will be

attending Eckerd College for fall semester and then transferring to the University of Tampa.

Jonathan Pizarro: Major in Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Carolina Honors College.

Samantha Rames: World domination, obviously. If **Lorenzo** doesn't kill me first. Or the shock from someone sneezing loudly doesn't give me a heart attack.

Morgan Rowland: I'm not sure about my plans for after college. I have the typical ones that every girl has like getting married, starting a family, and having a career. But I also know that I want to travel and go everywhere in the world.

Lucy Rummel: I plan to enjoy the summer, travel, get a job, relax, etc. As of now, I haven't decided which college I'll be enrolling at, but my major will be biochemistry.

Catherine Santos: I am going to get into my bed, wrap myself in my blankie so I look like a burrito, then I am going to take a long deserved nap.

Haley Strisky: To study nursing at The University of South Carolina and to live a successful and happy life

Anna Solomon: My plans after graduation are to go to Trident and then transfer to College of Charleston for a dance education degree.

Miki Sugimoto: I plan to attend the College of Charleston. Afterwards I plan to get an MBA and work in finance/economics.

Eileen Szwest: Go to the College of Charleston and major in studio art

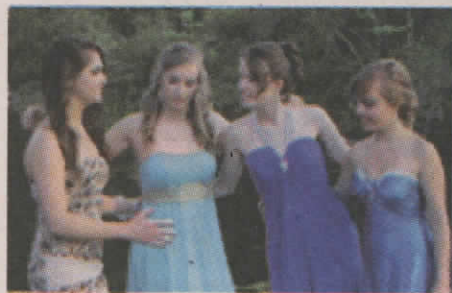
Junying Tang: College, majoring in music!

Emily Trent: Well, this summer I'm doing a lot of travelling to see family and friends. And once school reels me back in, I'm off to College of Charleston to get a business degree (with a concentration in entrepreneurship!)

Afterwards, I'm on my way to the equissage (equine massage therapy) industry, hopefully.

Peter Webb: I am taking classes at tech next year, and then am hopefully going to College of Charleston to major in Political Science.

Andrew White: I plan to attend Clemson University as a Biology Major and attend Physician's Assistant School after that for 2 years.



What was your most memorable moment at SOA?

Alessandra Acierno: The most fun I had at SOA was when we painted the walls of the old arts campus on our last day!

Wade Alexander: To narrow down my entire SOA career's memories to just one would be like fitting a Watermelon into a garden hose. I could mention bobbing for apples, or building a catapult, maybe Egypt day, or building cardboard box time machines, possibly playing aqua-toss, or Spirit Week were the best of times, but the truth is every memory is what I treasure most.

Nicole Bronsema: My final performance with my senior dance class

Lily Cannon: Some of my most memorable moments at SOA have definitely been the convocations.

Katie Erin Clancy: Too many to count, but I'll name a few: practically swimming in lake SOA at the old campus, hiding from **Mr. Clark** in Global Studies freshman year, having my friends bring me brownies and balloons for every birthday, beginning every dance class in a circle with a thought-provoking question from our old teacher **Ms. Lucas**, **Ms. Slowinski** telling us to lay down a create dances to the rain in our heads, the never-ending stressful rants in yearbook, dance trips to Converse College, Virginia, and Philadelphia, every performance with my Class of 2012 dance majors (the Toy Shop piece!!), and pretty much every day at SOA.

Chelsey Conyers: The most memorable moment for me at SOA is when **Ms. Lucas** stopped class one day and went across the hall (this was at the old school) and asked some of the percussionists to play while we danced.

Renée Cooper: I can remember sitting in the field during lunch, one fine day, when out of nowhere, a transformer blew up in front of us.

Tanner Cooper: **Robert Daniel Moring** winning prom king. I just about had a heart attack.

Pheobe Crouse: Towards the end of my eighth grade year at SOA I started working on a sentimental slideshow to show on the last day of school. When that day came around, a huge group of students gathered in **Mrs. Hammett's** room to watch my hyped-up montage. Unfortunately we couldn't find a USB to connect my MacBook to the projector, so I stood on a wobbly, blue chair with my laptop held above my head for the whole 15 minutes of the slideshow. I got to watch everyone's teary eyes and huge smiles, as they watched creation.

Kelly Daniels: **Mr. Brehm** asked me for a high four.

Sean Dix: Trekking through the mud at the old campus

Taylor DuPree: There are so many memorable moments at SOA to choose from. I would have to say the closeness of my dance family will be the most memorable. They are 16 of my best friends who I will carry in my heart forever.

Jacob Elsey: I cannot differ any one memory from another, so I'd say every moment where I realized how lucky I was to be at such a unique school.

Alex Enter: The 8th grade trip to Washington. By far the best school sponsored trip I had ever been on. The bus rides, touring national monuments, chaos in the hotel, and the amusement park made for a great time.

Savannah Evans: Singing in the bathroom with **Ms. Slenk**.

Anja Evenson: There is not one moment I can say was the best, but going to Washington DC with my class in 8th grade and taking annual over-night trips with my major throughout middle school and the beginning of high school were probably the best times I've had with my fellow SOA-ians.

Joshua Fairchild: Falling into the ditch at the old campus after a heavy rain and being washed downstream.

DeWitt Floyd: Swimming in lake SOA

Angelica Halvarsson: Going to the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition with Visual Arts and then getting left behind by the bus. After that we roamed King Street and played with all the cute puppies!

Farrell Harris: I don't have a most memorable moment from my time at SOA.

Jon Hart: My most memorable moment at SOA is lunch. Yes, I said lunch (lol). This was a time to fellowship, eat, and have fun. I'm going to miss visiting the 2 tables with my juniors and underclassmen.

Emily Hart: There are too many to count that I can't narrow it down to one!

Chris Haycook: My most memorable moment at SOA was the piano NYC trip this year.

Rhiannon Heck: My favorite memory is singing our orchestra music in class.

Althea Holenko: Playing Visual Arts baseball the last week we were at the old campus in the senior parking lot. It consisted of a giant cardboard paper roll as a bat, paper as bases, and a duct tape ball.

Samantha Hord: I will always remember my 3rd day of 6th grade on the old campus, when I got caught between classes in a terrible thunderstorm. I was drenched to the bone trying to find the sidewalk path to **Ms.**

Newell's trailer, sans rain boots or a sense of direction. It was a miserable bus ride home.

Alex James: Seeing a guy paddle a kayak across lake SOA when I was in 6th grade. After 7 years it is still my most memorable moment at SOA.

Isis Jenkins: Anything that happened in Piano or with piano majors; realizing **Chris** might be an old black woman reincarnated, **Anja** and I trying to tip the waiter with coins that fell in to **Desie's** half eaten sundae, watching **Jordan's** reactions to **Mr. Clarke's** jokes, **Renée** cutting me off and talking over me while me and **Davis** hide her things, hiding from **Jillian** who I accidentally spilled raw egg on and her trying to choke me from behind, **Davis** lifting his shirt up and making "the Davis Face", calling **Ellen Emily** and **Emily Ellen**, **LaJoyce...** is all I can say, literally being tackled to the ground on countless occasions and everyone just watching while I'm beaten up by **Sarah** (no help at all), me telling **Juyun** to switch the piano part of my brain for hers, and **Ms. Benson** offering to hold the window open for **Dylan Walsh** to toss out me even though its only a 2.5 foot drop it's the thought that counted and all because I supposedly talk too much.

Tanner Johnson: Leaving.

Laura Johnston: Lunches.

Ian Jones: My most memorable moment at SOA: December 18th, 2009. 'Twas the last day at the Old SOA campus. It was raining hard and I was dressed up in full military gear. I went swimming in "Laké SOA" and had a great time. I didn't want to leave when it was all over, but I had no choice. I honestly think that when it rained that day, it was SOA's tears of joy and SOA's tears of sorrow. Even today I miss the REAL SOA and I'll miss it even more now that I'm graduating. Thank you all very much.

Allie Larkin: I'll never forget playing a campus wide hide and seek game at the old campus after school one day.

Matt Lehman: The time my toenail cut open **Ivy's** forehead during an ArtSmart performance

Gabby Lewis: This year's spirit week.

Ellen McGaha: August 18, 2010. The first day of junior year, my first day at SOA, and my first day of school, ever. After being homeschooled from kindergarten through 10th grade, my perception of public school came mostly from parents who graduated in the 80's and Disney movies (turns out *High School Musical* is not an accurate representation of public school... who knew?).

I felt like a kindergartener tossed into high school. I knew nothing. Absolutely nothing. I couldn't figure out where to park. My schedule had me eating lunch and attending French class at the same time. I didn't use my locker because it took me longer than five minutes to open the lock. I didn't know what "homeroom" was and my memorization of the pledge was almost nonexistent. I was terrified, but now, I'm so thankful I came.

Hayley Malone: I will always remember the process of getting ready for *the Music Man*. I developed so many friendships and learned a lot about myself. It was definitely a life changing experience and I'm so grateful that SOA gave me that opportunity.

Sabrina McIntyre: My most memorable moment at SOA would have to be singing the national anthem for the Medal of Honor Ceremony my junior year.

Savannah Miller: The last day on SOA's old campus when all of the lockers outside **Mr. P's** room were painted and marked and **Katie Ridgway** never stopped dancing—those shoes never did dry.

Victoria Milligan: The senior zombie apocalypse...and storming the Academic Magnet campus.

Camille Mitchell: Backstage at *Music Man* was one of the best times I've ever had at SOA.

Mary Claire Moser: Junior Ring Ceremony.

Zakariya Musallam: Making it for the first time to region band.

Caitlin Newton: Over the past 7 years there have been so many memorable moments at SOA. I cannot pick just one as being the "best," but I know all of the laughter and joy within dance is what I will always take with me.

Kedrick Paisley: My most memorable moment at SOA is when **Mrs. Slowinski** told me that I was going to be someone special. Although we had our ups and downs, that moment showed that she really did care about me and that meant a lot to me.

Shekinah Patterson: My most memorable moment at SOA would have to be at lunch when **JP** would randomly hop on the piano and the whole cafeteria would immediately turn into a church. **JP & Geoffrey** are like a "church on wheels!"

Avery Perlitz: My most memorable moment at SOA would be whenever I'm with my dance class just sitting around laughing, talking, and just dancing.

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page 12

Senior Essay Topics

1. Reflect on the value of an SOA education.
2. If you were entering SOA as a sixth grader, what would you do differently over the next seven years?
3. Which teacher or class has had the strongest impact on you and why?
4. What do you want to be doing in 2021, and how do you intend to make it happen?
5. Reflect on any aspect of your years at SOA.

What was your most memorable moment at SOA?

Jonathan Pizarro: Running across the field in the rain to get to **Ms. Newell's** trailer at the old campus.

Samantha Rames: The last day on the old campus is something I will never forget. Some of the best moments that day: scrawling our names on the walls of the soon to be demolished buildings, running through Lake SOA in the pouring rain, and hosting a dance party in the Creative Writing room.

Morgan Rowland: Honestly I don't have a most memorable moment here because there have been so many great ones and I can't choose between them so every moment here has been memorable.

Lucy Rummeler: In eighth grade, **Ms. Castle's** class read *The Pigman* and we were assigned to videotape our own version of the book. **Angelica, Sam, Yasmin, Abby,** and I dressed up as the characters and it took us a whole day to complete the filming because someone would always start laughing in the middle of a scene.

Catherine Santos: Freshmen year, in **Mr. Percy's** class, I got my head stuck in a desk. **Geoffrey Brown** (being the gentleman he is) sent me flying across the room when he shoved my head out. Mr. Percy tried to contain his laughter but ended up turning bright red and tearing up. It was hilarious.

Haley Sirisky: Having lunch, theatre, and recess in 8th grade with **Phoebe, Sully** and **Cierah.** We called ourselves "Drama Times Four" and we always had the best

times together. I will never forget that.

Anna Solomon: I think the most memorable thing about SOA is the people you have met and spent wonderful times with them. They make your life; it became an impact in your life.

Miki Sugimoto: The small things are the best memories: kayaking in Lake SOA, lightning striking the school multiple times, the random and extensive lockdowns, etc.

Eileen Szwest: Prom 2011.

Junying Tang: Piano class trip.

Emily Trent: Considering this is only my second year, I feel like I've missed out on more "memorable experiences." If you want honesty though, I can easily say that both years have each, in their entirety, been totally memorable. This is an experience that I never would have gotten at a traditional, if not low grade, high school in Virginia.

Peter Webb: I think the most memorable moment at SOA would be the week before winter break of 10th grade when all we did was help our teachers pack to move to the new campus, and we walked over as a school to check it out.

Andrew White: My most memorable moments at SOA are from the old campus, which is now an elementary school; except for the arts building which has been completely demolished. I remember a good principal by the name of **Mrs. Myers** who ran the school better than anyone to date.

Caitlin Newton



I believe that the education offered at SOA is something that is unmatched at another school. The ability to re-define art, while at the same time mixing challenging academics into the equation, is a phenomenal experience. Every teacher has provided me with a helpful outlook on life and how to grow as a person. At SOA, the relationship that is built between students and teachers is something not often seen in a high school setting. I feel that the teachers genuinely care about our entire senior class. Having that support has created an environment that enthralls my desire to learn. At SOA, it is not just about learning the standards; it is about moving past that and helping us learn to be better human beings. David Allio once stated, "Education is no substitute for pure raw talent. However, it is a good foundation on which talent may build." The artistic side of SOA is an advantage almost no one else can say they had throughout school. Over the past seven years, I have been taught by five amazing dance teachers. It began with **Ms. Slowinski**, who took the time out of her day to share her passion for dance with me. Her sharing and fervor for the art of dance, and her enthusiasm for living life, taught me the urgency to live every single day to its fullest potential. Along the road, the dance teachers have been a strong point in my education. I believe that having the release of emotions through a specific art that many of us love is what makes SOA stand out from other places. Although a lot of us will not be continuing in our art in the future, looking back, I know I wouldn't change the opportunity to share the love of dance with everyone around me. I am so thankful for the teachers and friends that I have had along the way and all of the new doors that SOA has helped me to open for my future.

Lily Cannon



2022 is looking like a blast. I will have so much swag by then. I will have my degree from the University of South Carolina and will be living a successful life with my rich NFL husband. If not a football player, I guess I could settle for a golf player, perhaps. Of course, we'll be living in Charleston, either on The Battery, or the Old Village, with our five amazing children. I have enjoyed my time at SOA and I plan on keeping up with the long lasting relationships I have created during my time here. Now that I am a senior and am looking back, I realize all the great times I had while spending seven long years here. I will remember these moments forever. Although 2022 is ten years away, I still plan on being tight with all my homies, like **Anna, Mary Claire, Jacob** and of course **Ms. Pajic.** In 2022, I will host the high school reunion on my enormous yacht, and we can recollect old, awesome times. It feels weird moving on to a new stage in my life, and although I am going to miss SOA and everyone here, I am ready for the change. And that is why I give this advice to all younger SOA students, "Have fun, work hard, and always stay fly."

**SOA named #2 school in South Carolina
by U.S. News & World Report**

Katie Erin Clancy



I came to SOA in 9th grade and was coming, awkwardly of course, from a middle school class of 16 people. Though small, SOA seemed huge to me having previously gone to the same school for 10 years. I walked into my first class, which luckily was my major. They were jumping all over me asking me questions and telling me so many things! I literally thought they were crazy, and little did I know, I had met my SOA family. As cheesy as that sounds, that was the truth. **Ms. Slowinski** showed me to the barre and we began to dance.

Now, 4 years later, I have realized that these people are ones I will never forget. Sometimes we literally start laughing and screaming for no reason, and sometimes we cry and have to help each other back to the dance floor. I have grown so much as a dancer and learned that choreographing is stressful, but so rewarding!

Some of my favorite memories: gushing about Twilight to anyone who would listen because I, too, was addicted to that stupid romance book; realizing that I was not the only high school kid that still watched Disney Channel; tripping over a rock and falling flat on my face during my first week as a freshman (okay, not great, but I laugh now!), the bus ride home from a dance trip where I talked to Ms. Slowinski about "the future" for at least an hour or so; **Ms. Bronk's** insane Yearbook rants (and us always barely getting it done); dancing outside; learning what the "circle-question-time-thing" meant (dancers should know this!); and pretty much everything I cannot remember because I am being forced to think of it all off the top of my head!

SOA is amazing, even when it's not. Future classes: work hard, don't slack, and enjoy it while you can. I cannot wait to hit the road to Clemson, but SOA will always be on my mind. Class of 2012, I love you all!

Ryan Gilmore



One of the most unique things about learning at SOA is that you have some of the best teachers to help you learn. Not only do they provide many resources to help you learn, but they provide individual help so that you can get things step by step. If I were to start back in the 6th grade at SOA, I would do many things differently such as studying more for those tests that caused me to struggle in classes, and make sure I did all of my homework because it is what can keep you passing in classes. One particular teacher that had the most impact on me at SOA would be **Ms. Hutchinson**. She has helped me since the 8th grade to keep my grades up and make sure I was doing what needed to be done. If I ever needed help on any subject, she always knew how to handle the situations well and would teach me, step by step how to complete tasks. When the year 2022 comes around, I hope to be running my Dad's current business Gilmore's Termite and Pest Control INC. As soon as I graduate from high school I will be majoring in Business at Trident Technical College so that I will be able to take over the business in 2016 or 2017. Since I have been at SOA for 7 years now, I can say that it has been a great experience and I would not go to any other school if I could go back. SOA is most definitely the best school to be at in all of South Carolina if you are looking to get a great education and gain more appreciation for the arts.



Catherine Santos

My entire life seems to be one giant videogame, and here I am on the eve of battle getting ready to slay the final high dragon, which is the final obstacle to reaching the climax of my life and where I want to be. I feel like I am on the Bridge of Death when asked "Where will you be in 2022?" Obviously I do not want to be like Sir Robin the brave and get blown up. However, I do not have the ability to tell you exactly what I am going to be doing on the exact given date. All I can tell you is what I intend to work for.

In 2022, I hopefully will have crossed a good chunk of things off my bucket list. I want to see the world, and experience all different cultures. I want to be married (or in a domestic partnership) with the person of my dreams. Hopefully, I will have bought a fabulous geodesic dome house, and have a nest established. I want to FINALLY meet Leonard Nimoy and FINALLY finish a Dungeons and Dragons campaign. I want to have two cuddly kitties or two cuddly sugar gliders at my side. I want to have published several graphic novels. I want to have worked on Batman, Justice League, X-Men, Powergirl, Catwoman, or Harley Quinn. I understand that I am way off the beaten path, but to be honest, while others were on a path, I was somewhere in the woods

waving my arms around like a lunatic. There is a long hard road ahead of me but I couldn't be happier.

To achieve all of these goals I am going to SCAD, and studying in their Sequential Arts program. I intend to bust my butt, harrass and possibly stalk my favorite artists until I get where I want to go. If my plans fall through then I'll change my name and become a hermit, and go back to my hovel. No matter where I go, or what I do, I want to be happy. I don't care if I live in a favela in Sao Paulo or run a hot dog stand in New Jersey- I want to be happy.



Mary Claire Moser



In 2022 I hope to have a steady career, a husband, and to be starting a family. I will have a degree from either the University of South Carolina or Clemson University. I would like to be a Kindergarten, first, or second grade teacher, hopefully still in the Charleston area. I plan on marrying rich, so my future husband will most likely be an athlete, doctor, or lawyer. I plan on traveling a lot as well.

Samantha Hord



After seven years at SOA, I have finally figured out what makes me different from other kids at other schools: I am not just a student – I am a performer. Onstage and off, I am watched, and my actions define who I am and what I love. Like most seniors walking towards their diploma, I am proud of my accomplishments so far. But I also know I am a product of my environment. Singing is what keeps me sane for 90 minutes per day; like backwards breathing, it has absolutely no purpose except self-expression, and that is why I love it. It is also a terrific offset to my academics; when faced with the beautiful oblivion of a Whitacre piece, a bombed quiz grade doesn't seem so bad. But most amazingly, I've discovered that art makes me like people more. Passion brings out the best in us, and when I see it rampant in a dance or in a song, on a page or on canvas, even my least favorite people become marvelous for a minute. Maybe that's why art is called a universal language – everyone can appreciate some form of it. And whether or not I pursue French in college, I know that music will always speak to me.



Logan Williams



The one teacher that has had the strongest impact on me during my years at SOA would be **Mr. Orvin**. During freshman year he was the teacher I went to not only for help with schoolwork, but advice about anything. He always seemed to understand anything I was going through. I didn't have him as a teacher sophomore year but he would still stop me in the hallway, or I would go to see him just to catch up. He became not only a teacher, but also a friend. Junior year, I got to be in his last current events class and he proved, once again, why he was my favorite teacher. He made learning fun. He didn't just take the standards and drill them into your head, he told stories and let the class interact with whatever topic was discussed. It's so much easier to learn when you can tell the teacher loves what they are doing, and they love and respect the children that they're teaching. Senior year has been very chaotic and stressful for both of us, but when the time came around he was more than happy to write me a letter of recommendation. His kind words reminded me what I was missing out on my last year at SOA. Even though this year we haven't been able to talk as much as we used to, I still know that he is the reason why I wanted to become a teacher. I don't want my students to hate school, or my class, I want them to be excited to come; like I was always excited for his class. Mr. Orvin has pointed me in the direction that I want the rest of my life to go, and he's the reason why I want to teach.

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JP Hart



Wow, I cannot believe that I'm writing my senior essay. These years have been extremely long. Starting from the first day of school in 6th grade to now, it's been an interesting journey. At first, it felt like it was taking forever to become a senior and graduate. Well, I guess now, that's no longer true. Being at SOA changed my life completely. Not only did it help me in the arts and academics, it also changed me as a human being. I found out who my true friends are. You know who you are so I won't mention any names. I enjoyed learning and doing what I loved at the same time. Work was not easy, and I don't think it was supposed to have been. I remember taking Chemistry in 11th grade. Everyone said how hard it was and complained. I would just like to say, I appreciate Doctor! She was, and still is, one of the nicest chemistry teachers I have ever met. When my 11th grade year was over, I truly felt as if I were a chemist.

I would like to thank all of my family and friends for the encouragement. First and foremost, I would like to thank God. I would be remised if I didn't give all praises and honor to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I could not have made it this far without Him. Now it's time to go in the real world. I am so excited by what my future may hold. I will never forget the Charleston County School of the Arts. To the class of 2012, I hope and pray that we will all stay in touch with each other. We've truly made it! That deserves a praise break!

Allie Larkin



Attending an arts school for the past seven years led me to believe I would pursue a career that was right brain oriented. I had always enjoyed my major, theater, and up until my junior year of high school, when people asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, my immediate answer was "an actress." This wasn't some child hood fantasy; I had been studying the art form intensely for years and fully comprehended the struggle it would entail. I was dead set on pursuing my passion, even if it meant bussing tables until I had my big break, that is, until I found an ever greater passion.

My junior year, I was enrolled in **Dr. Price's** honors chemistry class. A class I had been nervous about, due to upperclassmen's disconcerting tales. Yet once the year started, I found the challenging course to be enthralling. Suddenly when people asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, I hesitated. There had been a switch from right to left brain. I started questioning my love for theater and replacing it with a greater love, chemistry. Granted, I had always been analytical in nature, but I had never thought of it in a career sense. As the year went on and my knowledge of chemistry grew, I no longer hesitated when people asked about my future plans, for I knew I wanted to be a chemist.

I attribute this unexpected career shift to Dr. Price. For if it wasn't for her teaching, I might have never discovered my passion for chemistry. I send a million thanks her way, for she changed my life. I plan on majoring in Chemistry in the fall and then pursuing my doctorate. I know for certain now, thanks to Dr. Price, that I want to be a part of a field that creates solutions to problems, in hopes to make a difference in the world.



Alex Enter



Like many of my classmates of the Class of 2012, I began my SOA career in sixth grade. I can remember the bus ride for my first day of school. The bus was taking a route around the right side of the old SOA campus. Abandoned houses garrisoned the lots of land on all sides of the school. As I looked at the faces of some of my friends joining me at SOA from elementary school, I knew we were all nervous. I can honestly recall wondering if the school was safe.

The beginning of middle school was contradistinctive to any experience I had ever had. I can still remember how confused I was to see boys dressing like girls and having class in trailers. Fortunately, many students were easy to get along with and making friends was easy. My tolerance for things that appeared strange to me improved, thus making my group of friends very diverse. Having a diverse group of friends made school much more favorable in the aspect that every day was spontaneous.

Being a vocal major in middle school meant going on a competition trip along with an amusement park every year. These are where some of my fondest memories lie. These trips gave students the opportunity to hang out outside of school and get to know each other a lot better. The long but crazy bus rides, hotel rooms, and competing against other schools was a blast and everyone had fun. The last day of eighth grade was very bittersweet. When middle school was over, part of the Class of 2012 was taken away. They seemed almost irreplaceable and it really upset a lot of people. However with the entrance to high school came the admission for many students to join our class. Many of these students became my friends and make my outlook on SOA what it is today. In 10th grade the campus was moved into a much larger and advanced building. The old campus had a personality that I will never forget. It seemed as though every wall in each building was covered in the artwork of the student body. The holes in ceilings, cracks in walls, and trailers that we had hated became characteristics I have to come to miss. When asked what I like about SOA by friends from other schools, I used to respond with "Nothing, it sucks to be honest." Now that I reflect on all these past years, things seem so different. I will never forget the friends and lessons I've gotten from my time at SOA.

Eileen Szwast



When I was little, I used to think that when I grew up, all my dreams would come true and all my problems would be solved. Now I've learned that it's actually quite the contrary. It's tricky balancing homework with sleep, family with school, and extracurricular activities with errands. On top of that is the pressure to be perfect which leaves almost no room for relaxing. Luckily, I have a designated hour and a half of art at the School of the Arts each day as my outlet.

Last year and the year before, the loads of homework that weighed me down, made me feel like my childhood was being denied me. I forgot how to relax. Thus, I remedied my stress with the concentration I chose in the fast-paced AP art course I took last year. I had to have 24 total pieces of the best artwork I've ever done by the end of the school year. 12 were in a concentration and 12 in a breadth. My concentration was "childhood smiles," to remind myself that I did have a childhood and that it is possible to relax. Through my artwork, I conveyed the need for people to escape the stressful life, simplify, and be a kid again. My goal was to capture those carefree moments and transport the viewer to their own happy childhood moments. I drew a lot of pictures of my sister and cousins goofing off. I also used mediums that children often use, like Crayola crayons. I chose that concentration to remind myself that I did have a childhood and I could still have a life. Several of the pieces from my concentration won awards at Scholastics. 2 individual pieces and my portfolio won gold key, 1 individual piece won silver key, and several others received honorable mention.

This year at the School of the Arts, I'm doing a sculpture portfolio. My concentration is shoes and whether or not people form the shoes to fit the feet or the feet to fit the shoes. Since I'm creating more abstract designs, it's harder to come up with an idea for a pair of shoes. Thus, I usually pick an object or idea to base my design off of instead of just coming up with a design purely out of my imagination. To create the shoes, I use materials that are normally not used for shoes, like plastic bottles and apple sauce cups, duct tape and wire, acorns, and paper.

A language without words, art is my outlet, my pride and joy, my imaginations, and maybe one day my income. But most of all, it is my way of showing the world who I am without talking. Most of the inspiration for my art comes from the things I love, like family, friends, religion, and nature. Their story and mine lives in my artwork because of all the amazing skills I learned as a student of the art teachers at the School of the Arts.

Nicole Brondsema



The teacher who had the biggest impact on me at SOA was **Mrs. Slowinski**. She was my first teacher ever and made my first year at SOA so much easier. I started attending this school my freshman year so I had a lot to get adjusted to, unlike everybody else. I didn't like my new surroundings but Mrs. Slowinski made it easy to get used to. In her class, I not only learned dance, but valuable life lessons. One of the most important lessons I learned in her class was the value of family and that is also what I will miss most about this school; my dance family.

Kris Bennett



After taking classes from over 20 teachers at SOA the teacher that made a strong impact on me would definitely be **Mrs. Kristen Osborne Lucas**. Although she's no longer a teacher at SOA the foundation she gave us is something that I will never forget and I will always refer back to it. She let us know that it was okay if you didn't have the perfect body or if you weren't the perfect dancer. She also let us know that we should embrace what we have and to use in to our advantage. Mrs. Lucas also, she chose Lorenzo and I to travel with her to Ashville North Carolina for a two day performance at the BeBe Theater. It made me feel awesome. At that time, I was in the 8th grade so to be chosen out of all grade levels was an amazing feeling. She was out of college so we were her first class that she ever taught; we were her guinea pig class. But being able to fast forward 5 years later to see where we are now- I know she's extremely proud. In our current dance class our teachers refer to Mrs. Lucas as the girlfriend we don't speak about, but that's impossible because she was an amazing person that not only taught me about dance but life as well. I still have a note that she gave me on the last day of school she said *"To the sweetest, most alive young lady I know! Your enthusiasm and zest for life is always so refreshing. Never let go of that love for living! You have such a positive effect on everything and everyone around you including me! Stay in touch and keep dancing!! Always- Mrs. Lucas."* I still have it taped to my mirror and I read it everyday, it's an amazing feeling to know that a teacher cares this much about a student and it's a relationship that will always remain near and dear to my heart!



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Brian Giles



The value of an SOA education is extraordinarily unique; for the simple fact that we, as SOA students, attend a school like no other in our district. It's needless to say that we blend rigorous academics and excellence with immense proficiency in the arts. If I could control the hands of time and become a 6th grader, I'd definitely start applying for scholarships and colleges by December. Believe me when I say, "Procrastination at SOA is frivolous and will forever be."

I do not know how to cure that sickness, nor do I care to, because if I did, that would kill the essence of SOA. I would say that Band, my major, has had a profound impact on my life. It taught me that when discipline and dedication is important to achieving goals. Music itself is rewarding and my life changes with every performance.

In 2022, it's a blur. But it's almost like I'm sitting in a room filled with screens and each screen has a different Brian and a different career path. One is an orthodontist, another is in the Air Force Reserve, another has his doctorates in percussion studies and another is teaching Music Education and theory at a school. Basically: I'm uncertain, but I have so many doors open.

Over the years at SOA, I've learned that friends are potential enemies and old enemies can be your best friends. Music can bring even the most opposite of opposites together, studying is kind of important, and never, under ANY circumstances, call **Mr. Kerr** by his first name until you are a senior unless given the "O.K." prior. Also, balance is vital. Some of us have jobs and that's fine, but the hard part is balancing life along with school and a job. It can be extremely stressful for us because of the school we go to. Arts are highly important and is what makes out school unique in every way. SOA has taught me to never forget who you are and where you come from when you step out those doors and into the real world. That is all. Peace, love and Class of 2012.

Sabrina McIntyre



SOA has truly given me the opportunity to be myself and not be ashamed of it. Being able to do what I love for a big portion of my day every day for 7 years is a blessing. And the academic side of school has helped me learn and excel and get into the college I choose, not one that is a last resort. If I were to enter SOA as a 6th grader again, I would definitely reconsider my study habits. I didn't really learn how to study effectively until junior year and regardless of my great GPA now, I feel that it could have been even higher, had I made time to study from the start. One teacher that has greatly impacted me is my vocal teacher turned friend, **Ms. Slenk**.

She has left SOA to pursue her masters degree, and I am so proud of her, but I do miss her. She taught me excellent technique for singing and music theory. Also, she is the inspiration behind my goal to be a music teacher for primary level students and/or a high school choral director. She is also the reason I love what I do everyday because she was the prime example of excellence and organization in the vocal department. I will forever be in her debt. I intend to be a professional soprano solo artist and start work as a choral director. I am attending Roanoke College next fall and this school will truly give me a well rounded education and opportunities to help me pursue this goal. My final reflection of SOA over the past 7 years is the people I have met through the programs offered in vocal and school clubs. I am so blessed to have met so many great people and I will miss it.

Shekinah Patterson



Wow! I truly can't believe this journey is coming to an end! These 7 years have been filled with many ups and downs, but I truly give all thanks to God for bringing me this far! I remember when I entered SOA in the 6th grade I was nervous, but anxious. Being at SOA has taught me to stay true to myself no matter what the circumstances are and that, no matter how tough the journey is, you can make it!

I am truly thankful for the time I've been at SOA because it has molded me into the person that I am today. As I reflect on my years at SOA, I remember how I would stay up all night memorizing Shakespeare or studying for **Mr. Younts'** dreadful theater history quizzes. I think about how studying for **Dr. Price's** test was impossible and how chemistry would be the death of all of us. Then, my mind starts to go back to the times where we would be in class and **JP** and **Geoffrey** would randomly break out in song. But, most importantly, I will never forget **Mrs. Touihri's** sarcasm! Through the good and the bad times, SOA is a place that I will absolutely never forget; I will remember SOA when I am old and gray :).

The one thing I will truly miss about SOA is the "family like" environment. Through the years I have truly bonded with some of the most incredible people and I am truly thankful for the wonderful moments we've shared together.

To my close friends: **Camille**- I remember when I thought you were a bully at first and now we're the best of friends! **Sabrina**, **JP** & **Geoffrey**- You guys are like my "adopted siblings" & I am glad to call you my best friends! I will miss laughing with you every single day! **Kris**, **Lolo** & **Ked**- There's never a dull moment with you guys around and I just want to say thank you for that. Continue to dance & don't forget about me when you become famous! **Jordan** & **Isis**- I will never forget you guys, each of you are special in your own way! **Haley** & **Phoebe** (my "white best friends") - You welcomed me with open arms since day one and I am glad to say we have an unbreakable bond!

To the entire senior class- WE MADE IT!!! I wish all of you nothing but success in the future! Remember each life lesson that was taught to you at SOA and you will be destined for greatness! Good luck!

SOA you've been great to me, but, unfortunately, it's time for me to leave. In the words of Nicki Minaj, "I came to win, to fight, to conquer and to thrive" and I did just that. Now that my mission is completed, I can leave SOA knowing that I left on good terms!



Andrew White



By the year 2022, I plan to be a Physician's Assistant after 4 years at Clemson University as a Biology Major, and 2 years after that at a PA School such as MUSC. Pursuing this career will not be easy by any means, but it calls to me, so I intend to work hard to make this happen. Only students with the best grades will be accepted into the PA Schools, so keeping my grades high at Clemson is a must.

Avery Perlitz



SOA has been the greatest experience and the most memorable journey of my life. The education that I have received at SOA has been like no other school because here, the teachers really care about their students. The academic teachers understand the arts and try to incorporate our majors as much as possible, which makes projects super fun. The education received in my major has been so amazing and has made me grow not just as a dancer, but as a person as well.

If I were a sixth grader again just entering SOA, I do not think I would change anything except I would try to enjoy it more. These past four years of high school have gone by so fast; it feels like it has been only a blink of an eye. Walking in as a freshman, I remember thinking, "Oh my gosh, I still have three more years of high school." Back then, it seemed like graduation was so far away, but now it is almost here.

I would definitely say that my dance classes and my dance teachers have had the biggest impact on me. In a way, I feel like they are my second mothers because they have watched us grow as dancers and as individuals. My dance class is what I am going to miss the most because we are a family. We have grown up together, and we have gone through some good and bad times. We all support each other, trust each other, and know that we all have each other's backs no matter what.



In 2022, I plan on being a successful physical therapist. I plan on working hard in college and getting good grades. Then I will go to physical therapy school where I will work even harder. I will push myself to make my dreams become a reality.

Jacob Hallex



To me there can be no better feeling that being on stage and performing. The high that I receive from a full house is what I live for. The anticipation, the hopes, the dreams, all build up to a unique, once in a lifetime spectacle for all those viewing. This performance will only happen once. There's no "do-overs" in theatre, so make it worth it. The lights are blinding, and this is what I've worked towards for 7 years. Are my lines memorized? Is the set in place? How does my costume look? What will my neighbors think? What will my parents think? What will my brothers think? Should I cut the joke where I make fun of my girlfriend? The answer to all of these is in the moment. Who cares, it doesn't matter, and nothing matters. For these 12 minutes I am the center of the universe. The gags go well, the audience laughs, they cry... Ok nobody cries, either way they love me. They eat me up. I am their God. The piece is over. I bow. The deed is done lights out for me at SOA. No longer am I guaranteed a role, I won't have the guarantee of my play making it to the stage. The Playfest Best Playwright Award I would imagine is easier to win than a Pulitzer. Afterwards, I have a flower in my hand, handed down to a boy about to become a man through this same process. I say my words, a tear drops from his face. It's my tear. I look out to the audience and suddenly the room is larger. I'm walking across the stage. I haven't rehearsed for this, yet it feels so right, as if I've been prepared for this my whole life. Everyone is so proud of me. I shake **Mr. Reinhart's** hand; it feels good.

+

Madalyn Powers



In 2022 I hope that I will have settled down and married, and maybe have started a family. My dream ever since I was little was to do hair in some business, like my dad. So this year I'm going to cosmetology school and practicing hair and makeup. By 2022, I hope that my career is steady and that I can travel to bigger cities and intern. My goal is to do hair for runway shows, movies, TV shows, etc. I want to be able to say that I have traveled to most of the places that I have always dreamt of going, Australia most of all. I want to be proud of myself for the accomplishments I have made in the past and ones that I will be making then. I would also like to continue my major, even if it is just painting on the side or for fun. I intend on doing all of this by hard work and determination, and in the fall I will be attending Paul Mitchell Hair School. I believe that anything is possible as long as you believe and set your mind to it. In 10 years, I want to be able to look at



myself and know that I have done the best that I can to get to the point that I'm at. In 2022, I would also like to be running some type of community help or service for lower income families. I love helping people out and reaching out to those in need. It makes me happy to see a simple smile on someone else's face. Of course much more will be going on in 2022, but these are

just a few ideas/goals I have for myself by then.



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Kelly Daniels



What I want to be doing in 2022 is making a difference. I want to live my life in a way that impacts multiple causes. I want to continue playing music to impact my happiness and everyone who can enjoy listening. I will have at least a bachelor's degree in Biology with a minor in Environmental Science. This can help me affect the environment in any positive way that I can. I want to be married and have a home in Charleston. I want to have a lot of rescued animals and to continue my vegetarianism and maybe even transcend into veganism. I want to become a yoga instructor and have my own studio to impact on those around me. I want my best friend to be a paleoclimatologist and to be featured on the National Geographic channel. He or she can come visit me at my green home either Downtown, Folly Beach, or which ever house I am residing. Overall, my life in 2022 is going to be wonderful. I am going to be very successful on my quest to save the world. I will have many best friends with odd fields of study, and I will have a few wonderful green homes. While all this would be great, my only real expectation is to be incredibly happy and leave my mark on the world by covering my tracks.

Hailey Bowers

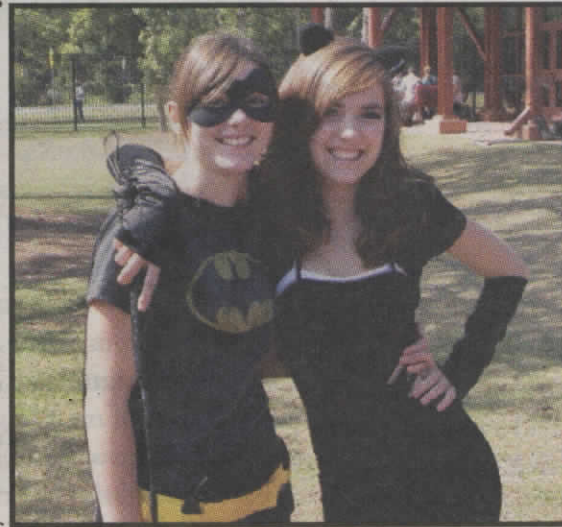


The best part of SOA, to me, is the fact that we are a family. We may be a bit dysfunctional, but we are a family no less. We fight and argue on a daily basis and I'm sure it will be that way up until we get our diplomas, but we always seem to make up in the end. Everyone respects each other and embraces what makes each of us unique. The majority of the class has been at SOA since 6th grade and it is because of this and our small class size that we know each other better than most high school students would know their fellow classmates. I can honestly say that I could look at anyone in my class and tell you their name and major. That is a good feeling when you think about how large and impersonal most other schools are. I am going to miss everyone that I have spent the last seven years learning and growing with. Our tight knit little SOA community is what has made it difficult to go to school here at times, but it has also been the best part of my time at SOA.



Jillian Campbell

In my four years at SOA I've learned one very important thing – don't drink the water! In the water of the SOA water fountains, there is a strange taint: a taint so potent, that once even a few drops take the plunge down one's throat, the infection begins to breed. It is the infection of artistry. It is the infection of talent. It is the infection that creates an unrelenting drive toward success. For the class of 2012, it is already too late: the infection has already permeated through the students, teachers, and graduates of SOA: this is an epidemic! Underclassmen, consider yourselves warned – invest in a Nalgene (see Mr. Lindgren for more info), and import your beverages from safer sources.



Do not let yourselves be caught with such a desperate thirst that you choose to imbibe the disease. Your symptoms will be severe, and their onset will be swift. Most manifestations of the illness will appear in the form pestering artistic genius, perhaps the ghost of a unfortunate soul whose works you long to emulate. If you feel yourself lying restless in your nights fighting the urge to rise and rehearse for hours on end, if you find yourself among the living on a Saturday around 8am wrestling with the spirits of your artistry as your brushstrokes fly into elaborate designs, if your daydreams have begun to fill themselves with the soundtrack of your unfinished Magnus Opus, it is too late for you my friend. Your mind has succumbed to the infection, and many baneful symptoms are on your horizon.

Heed my warning, young readers, for you may yet be able to save yourselves – this is no laughing matter. This disease is not like the gentle Cholera, which mercifully ends its victims within a mere 24 hours of suffering, nor is it as controlled as Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy, whose casualties only register in the 100's, not even the dreaded E. coli virus, which bleeds out the gut and shuts down the kidneys, can rival what we here at SOA have been dealing with for years. Some have it worse than others, and the manifestations of symptoms (which include artistic brilliance, fatigue, academic prowess, a redness of the eyes, and, in rare cases, an odd rash,) will differ from person to person, but the unavoidable fact of the matter is that we have all been infected with this aquatic bacterium that lurks within the pipes at the School of the Arts.

If it is too late for you, if your fate is to be the same as the class of 2012, it is best for you to cope with our tragic illness in the years that lie ahead. Do not attempt to battle the illness, all efforts are futile. Bend to its demands – make this easy on yourself. Keep your shoulders straight, hold your head high, and in the name of all things holy, DO NOT eat the cafeteria food (that's an illness that you could not survive long enough to start an essay on...), and remember, with great power talent, comes great responsibility. Welcome your talent, and welcome the teachers who strive to aid you in developing it. Truth is, this is the just the beginning of the class of 2012 – do not disappoint us, the crows are watching! (...and they can text....)

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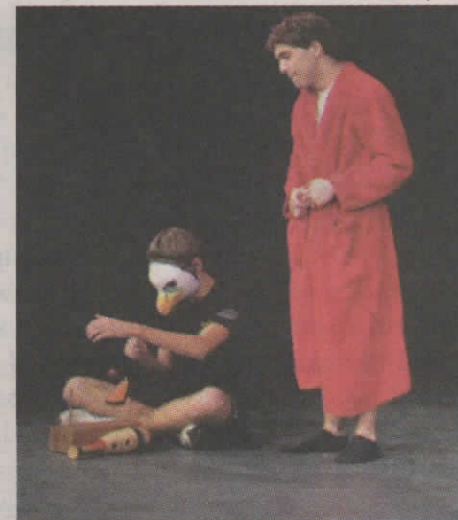
By coming to the School of the Arts, I made a decision to not be a part of a "normal" high school. I gave up having sports, going to pep rallies, and everything that high schoolers define as normal. But I would never change my decision. SOA has offered me not only challenging courses but also an incredible high school experience. The best part about SOA is that it isn't a normal high school. We may not have the normal sports such as football, basketball, and soccer, but we have ultimate Frisbee and Rugby, which are way more manly and intense anyways. Even our school mascot isn't normal. While West Ashley has the Wildcat and Wando are Warriors, we decided to go the mythological way with having a Pegasus represent our school. We also don't have the typical cliques. Instead of being divided up by "the cheerleaders" or "the jocks," we tend to hang out with people from our major, but that doesn't limit us from having friends from others as well. For the most part, everyone is friends with every one. SOA is the only school that I know of where you can come dressed in a Gumby costume and instead of everyone calling you a loser, every one ends up wanting to take a picture with you. The teachers at SOA are incredible, especially the history department and **Dr. Cusatis** of course. I don't know of any school besides SOA where during an AP English class, students can take a tally of how many "narcissistic and snarky" comments the teacher (Dr. Cusatis) makes during one class and not get in trouble. Not to mention having a teacher like **Brehm** who seems to have had every job on the planet! SOA is like a family, with teachers being a part of that experience. You don't have that at a "normal" high school and that is the best part of SOA.

Sean Dix



It is not everyday you meet someone that will change your life. And it is not everyday that you meet someone who is deeply passionate about something. Though it seems to me that when you meet one, you always meet the other. Passion is a commitment, an art, a monument to self-discipline, a light that burns bright in the heart of every great person who has ever had the audacity to pursue it. Passion is not why I came to SOA, but passion is what I found: passionate teachers, passionate students, passionate people. They come together to create something that is greater than the sum of its part, more magnificent yet more recondite. No one can understand what this place is about until they take a walk through its painted walls, see the bodies move, close their eyes to hear the music, listen to the wisdom hanging in the air. I have not found myself in this place but I have grown in it, shaped by the ones who care, molded by those who are truly passionate and will forever remain imbued in my heart.

Dedicated to: **Veronica Price, John Cusatis, Basil Kerr, Ken Foberg**



Anna Soloman



I have had a lot of teachers here for the last seven years that have changed my life both academically and personally.

In seventh grade, **Ms. Owensby** taught me a way to love math. **Mr. Clark** helped me emotionally during my sophomore year, and I'm grateful that **Ms. Crawford** taught me a way to actually remember the Spanish language through songs and expressions during my sophomore, junior, and senior years. **Ms. Slowinski** made a significant impact on me as she inspired me to continue dancing for the rest of my life. **Ms. Shaver** impacted me by teaching me another way to love dance and the same thing goes for both **Ms. Pitman** and **Ms. Cline**.

But I think the teacher who has the strongest impact on me is **Mr. Pezzeca**. I heard of Mr. P my freshman year while he was yelling at his class to "settle down, students" (he claps twice in dramatic way). I had a lot of friends say that his class was a lot of fun and that it was a joy to be in his presence. Sadly, I did not have him sophomore year for biology because I had **Ms. Colquitt** but I was excited when I got him for Marine Science. His bubbly, fun attitude and likeable personality has always tickled me. And it still does. He's extremely funny and knows how to make me laugh when I'm not having a good day; even if he doesn't know that I'm feeling bad. The way he teaches his classes is interesting, entertaining, memorable, and educational. He makes up silly things like new words or a new way we should say a word to make sure that we remember whatever it is that we are learning for our "short-term memory," like the sea whips, and "Rachel Carson, the dear!" He respects my beliefs, religion, and ideass. One example is that, in class, he will say, "Praise Jesus!" then, "Oh, and Moses, too!" And he'll have a little giggle at the end of that.

Another thing about Mr. P is that he loves that we are creative and he lets our creative side out through the projects and homework he assigns; so that he can see what we can do with our knowledge of the science-related topic that he has been teaching us, and he encourages us to apply our creative minds to it. I think that's awesome.

Teachers at SOA should do more of that because that's what got us here in the first place ... being creative. I like how he uses that creativity to his advantage for his class. Mr. P's sparkling self is something I will always remember and it has left a huge impression on me.

Thank you, Mr. Pezzeca! I love you!

Katie Ridgway



There is nothing like high school to prove just how temporary the teen life is. How the "pretty girl" crown is passed from one to another, how the class clown goes from hilarious to despicable, and how one event can change the course of life...for just one week, before the patterns of the jungle go back to average, leaving only a few truly scarred.

We speak of our high school years as a time that sculpted our personalities, made us into our true identities. All I can say is, if this is where I realize my true ability, then I might as well throw in the cards and leave the table, because who I am now is not who I want to be. My present self is under construction, where Samuel L. Jackson's up front scrubbing away bits of my character, cursing over being left with the "brain detail."

My high school years, as several of you readers can identify with, have been a long strand of dark, cynical, and stressful days leading to weekends where I would either misbehave or lay, comatose in front of a television, ice cream in hand, watching hour after hour of sitcoms while my mother and stepdad argued with concern, one wall away, over what mental illness I had.

Well, the girl's been down and out a while. And she's gained a few pounds. I'd say she's caught the depression. Isn't that when they gain the weight? My stepdad would say.

My sweet mom had her own theory. *She was practically starved last week, Tom. She barely slept, always moving, always doing something. She's on a seesaw, it's bipolar disorder, Lord help us.*

How about a momentary craziness called adolescence?

At my after-school lifeguarding job a robust man came up to my stand and laughed at how serious my gaze was.

"You look like your jaw's been stretched to the floor."

"I'm in high school. I'm tired." I replied.

The man was shocked. "What's wrong with you? Man, if I could only be in your shoes, high school was the prime time of my dang existence!"

I could have been offended but I glanced at the BBQ sauce stain on his half unbuttoned work-shirt and felt sorry. I knew he looked in the mirror every day and parted his thinning hair the same way he did in his senior yearbook picture. I knew he still lived on a classic high-carb football diet, and I knew he would try jumping a fence in the future to impress someone and fall right on his rear. He was stuck in the past.

Yes, it is funny how temporary high school is.

If I wanted to be self-righteous, I would write a book of advice for the youngsters out there, but then the adventure and triumphant realizations for you all would be tarnished, and that is a huge insult. All I can give to you is the promise that everything is temporary. Temporary acne, temporary "fat-days." The loneliness, the bitterness of things out of your control...as long as you hold on and pass your classes, you'll trudge out of this, maybe with an odd sense of humor. Nope, can't promise a "hit-the-ground-running" conclusion. I don't work that way. I've accepted the fact that high-school was not a perfect fit for me.

I can only thank the teachers, the ones who spoke my language

and understood what I understand about the importance of not letting my "American Education" determine whether or not I will "succeed." They made more of a dent in my life than any prom or party ever did.

And for the gossip queens out there: passing judgment is a skill you have polished quite well, but being empathetic in the long run might bring you more peace with yourself. Good luck, and Godspeed.

Hayley Malone



Ever since I came as a freshman, SOA has taught me many non-academic lessons. Even today I still am faced with challenges in which I learn valuable things about myself as well as others. I will always remember my first few weeks at SOA. It was the first time in my life that school was scary. I never had problems making friends before, but this was different. All my classmates had known each other since 6th grade, and my twin sister and I came in knowing no one but each other. When she decided to leave SOA after about 3 weeks, I began spending my lunch time in the library and kept to myself for the most part. As hard as it was to stay in an unfamiliar place with unfamiliar people, I knew I had to stay. I knew SOA was where I belonged, even if it didn't feel that way at the time. I learned that year that I'm not al-

ways going to be comfortable, and my situations won't always be ideal, but sticking it out makes you stronger.

When health issues sophomore year took me away from school for a few months, SOA was there. The support I got from students and teachers meant so much to me and I am so grateful to be in a place where the teachers care about their students on a personal level. Students and teachers went above and beyond to show their support. That year I learned that it's okay to accept help when you need it.

The following year I was healthy again, but junior year brought serious academic challenges. The two classes I had particular difficulty in were U.S. History and Chemistry. Both classes overwhelmed me because, until then, I had always done well in school without having to

study too much. Both of these classes taught me how to study. Other than all the formulas and elements I learned about (and definitely still remember) in Chemistry, I learned that sometimes all you can give is your best. It turned out, after all the hours I spent with a tutor, and the tears I shed while studying (literally) that my best was a C. U.S. History was a different story. It was hard, but I knew I could do it. I was getting C's and B's, but I wanted A's. Partly due to **Mr. Donnellon's** merciless teasing, and partly because of my of perfectionist qualities, I studied harder than I ever had. I got my A on the final, and I learned that hard work pays off, and effort makes a big difference.

Senior year is when all those lessons came into play all at once. There were situations I wanted to give up on, times when I needed help but didn't want to ask for it, and classes I thought I just couldn't get a handle on, nor did I want to try. But I didn't give up, I asked for help, and I put forth the effort I needed to. I have SOA to thank for that. I can't promise I'll remember stoichiometry, thermodynamics, The Battle of Cowpens, or the Kansas-Nebraska Act, but I can promise that I'll do my best to apply what I've learned during my 4 years at SOA for the rest of my life.



Gabby Lewis



This is it! All those wishful future plans, like actually attending college or deciding on a career, are becoming frighteningly tangible. Since I have finally gotten past the mental-block of applying and deciding on colleges, I am now seriously considering the future as if it is actually going to happen! In ten years, I hope to be owning my own pharmacy or discovering new medicine as a research pharmacist. Realistically, that kind of success won't happen that soon, and, probably, healthcare will be completely different from what it is now. Hopefully, I'll at least have a doctorate in pharmacy with a steady job as a hospital, retail, or maybe even a nuclear pharmacist. I would earn a doctorate after four additional years in a college of pharmacy. Many pre-pharmacy students meet their requirements for applying to a college of pharmacy in two years. However, I plan to complete four years and earn a Bachelor's in science before going into pharmacy school.

As for my physical location in 2022, it's both scary and exciting to think that I might be in a very different place. I have my eyes set on Europe, but I really want to travel everywhere and/or live in a different country before I get too old. Of course, I will settle down sometime in the future, but that is far beyond 2022.

Most importantly, I want to stay balanced when it comes to the arts and academics, so I plan to continue playing the cello. I realized my desire to never stop developing both sides of my "self" when I began school at SOA in the middle of my sophomore year. I am very fortunate to have discovered this school when we moved here. Without SOA, I honestly have no clue what kind of student, person, or musician I would be. I am very grateful for SOA, and I firmly believe that this school has given me the best preparation for my future.

Lorenzo Perez



One teacher I can say had a strong impact on me would be Anna Bronk. For three years now I've had **Ms. Bronk** for not only two English classes, but also for year-book. There are numerous life lessons I've learned from her, and one of them would be to not procrastinate and that doing my work actually does pay off. I know Ms. Bronk has assigned a lot of busy work, and project after project, but to tell you the truth, after taking her class the only feeling I have when thinking about college is the feeling of confidence. The reason why is because of the fact that not many people can say that they can read five books at a time, while doing two projects and countless TYPED homework assignments, AT THE SAME TIME?! Like I thought...not many. It may sound like I actually enjoyed all of the work, and the truth of the matter is, I didn't. Working all of those long nights, and typing all of those assignments, I figured is only a taste of what's to come, especially since I'm double majoring. I can see it all now, and to tell you the truth, I'm not afraid. Ms. Bronk is possibly the only teacher I can say who has formed me into this hard working, dedicated, and determined person, whose work ethic, I must admit, is pretty good. I'm so grateful for everything she's done for me, both in school and out, and I will miss her like crazy.

Lucy Rummler



I remember the last day at the old campus when I sat on the bus and looked out at the rain that filled up lake SOA and the canals and dips in the cracked pavement. I felt as if we as a school were leaving something behind, but I found that at the new school the spirit of SOA was still there. What I loved most about SOA -- the talent found in students, the teachers, and the open-minded atmosphere -- was all still there.

I have been lucky enough to be among extremely talented classmates for seven years. It's easy to forget that the person I'm working with in class or passing in the hallway is a gifted musician/ dancer/ singer/ actor/ writer/ artist. I'm always amazed when I go to my classmates' performances, whether it's a small project at convocations or a senior thesis. Our teachers also make the SOA experience unique. I'll always remember **Ms. Rickson's** chants of SOHCAHTOA, **Mr. Orvin's** nicknames, **Mr. Reese's** unfulfilled promise of doing nothing but eat cake after the AP exam, **Mr. Pezzeca's** exclamations of "naughty kitty meow-meow", **Mr. Donnellon's** catchphrases spoken from the cavern by his door (ex: "from time to time the tree of liberty must be watered with the blood of patriots and tyrants"), **Dr. Price's** valentines, and **Dr. Cusatis's** stories of his childhood. Many colleges boast in their brochures about the "individualized attention" that their students receive, but I can say that I've benefitted from dedicated and passionate teachers throughout high school. Finally, there is an open-minded atmosphere at SOA that causes the SOA experience to be both nurturing and exciting. I felt encouraged to develop my own artistic and learning styles and challenged to pursue what I loved whole-heartedly.

When we came to the new campus we were still a community of artists bound by our love of what could be evoked from sounds, pictures, movements, and words. As I graduate and go, according to our senior motto, "anyway the wind blows," I'll remember the students, teachers, and the eccentricities at SOA that made high school exciting.

Farrell Harris



In 2022, I'll be twenty-nine, and I can only hope that I'll be well out of the country by then, back in Ireland (or England, or France). I will be teaching English literature and French at an all girls boarding school, or I'll be teaching at a primary school in some little town. I'll have a pet cat, and my skin will have cleared up, and maybe I'll teach piano lessons in the afternoons. It'll be a nice, quiet life, and I'll finally be a healthy and contributing member of society. I hope all my classmates' plans work out, and that at least a handful of them remember me, and remember me fondly. Good luck everybody, and good bye.



Jonathon Pizarro



In 2022, I hope to have accomplished obtaining a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Carolina Honors College. Also, I hope to work towards a Master's degree after college. After this, I want to be working for Boeing to help design safer and more efficient airplanes. I hope to work at the Boeing plant here in Charleston to stay close to home just like my brothers did. SOA has helped me to understand how to manage my time between school work, playing my cello, and being active in my community. When I get to college, even though I am not majoring or minoring in music, I will understand how to manage my free time around my academics. However, I still plan to keep my arts major as part of my life after high school. At USC, I hope to play the cello for the USC Campus Orchestra so that I will not be wasting all of the skills that I gained while I was in high school. I will never forget my time, my teachers, and my classmates at SOA.

Alex James



The better question is: "what haven't I learned from SOA?" The last seven years of my life have been a whirlwind full of exciting and life changing events. If I had not gone to SOA, I would be a much different person. This school has taught me that no matter how different all of us are, we share a love of art that is what brought us all to SOA. This shared passion gives me hope that somehow, somewhere, and someday the world can share a passion for living peacefully together. SOA is such a great school and I believe that students who graduate from here are a step ahead in life.

Tanner Johnson



Over the last seven years I have had some amazing experiences at this school. From jumping in puddles and swimming in Lake SOA at the old campus, to being forced to wear the dog tags (I.D. badges). The time I have spent here has been once in a lifetime; unless **Bronk** fails me, and I'll get to experience next year! The biggest part of my time in school has been friends. Friends are the reason why going through high school has been bearable. My favorite aspect of SOA is the friends that I have made here. I will remember all of my friends I have here. Friendship is a huge part of my life and I'm glad that I got to spend my high school years with y'all. Friendship is magic. Hang onto your friends and make sure you have all the fun you can.



Rhiannon Heck



My favorite teacher at SOA is **Mrs. Touihri**. The reason is because her classes were always a lot of fun and she really helped everyone to understand the material that she was teaching. She is one of those teachers who will take time to explain things further until everyone's got it. I've had classes with her each year from 8th-11th grade and every year she was always my favorite teacher. Mrs. Touihri is the type of teacher who gets to know her students personally and can joke around with all of them. I think that is something that all teachers should do. They should get to know all of their students on a personal level. I've always liked that she was the teacher who I could talk to about any issues that I had, and she would always listen and help me figure it out. Also, Mrs. Touihri's classes were awesome! She would always have different activities for us to do to make the class more interesting. Some of my favorite memories from her classes were the French food days and the pi day celebrations. Each class I had with her, I enjoyed and understood the whole class. I think that Mrs. Touihri is one of the best teachers at SOA and that is why she is also my favorite teacher!

Anna Mathias



I came to SOA in 6th grade, walked in on the first day of school, dressed from head to toe in my brand new Limited Too outfit, and quickly realized this wasn't a typical school. During my first week, I saw a girl wearing a flamingo costume (no, it was not even close to Halloween) and a guy who told me I was awesome because we were wearing the exact same "babydoll tshirt" with sequined whales on it. Needless to say, that reinforced the fact that SOA was far from ordinary.

As the months and years went by I grew to love everything about School of the Arts. I realized that I wouldn't want to be at any other school, despite the fact that the mascot for our non-existent sports teams is a mythical horse with wings and "Attention teachers, please sign out of SASI" has been heard more times than our Alma Mater. SOA has been such an amazing middle and high school experience. I love going to a school where everyone is different, but we all have a common passion for our art. Art brings the eccentric students of SOA together. At any other school it is advised from the very beginning not to be "weird." SOA is the opposite. That "weirdness" that other schools try to stay away from is what makes our school such a tightknit family. I think the best part of SOA is that we can be ourselves, no matter how artsy and quirky we may be.

Althea Holenko



The obvious difference in attending SOA as opposed to any other school in Charleston County is your major. Other schools have typical stereotypes: jocks, nerds, cheerleaders, skaters, freaks, and geeks. We have art major stereotypes: loud theater majors, stoner visual artists (a common misconception seeing as our valedictorian is a visual artist), “dumb dancers” (I’m quoting a teacher, I think we all know who), I don’t know his/her major: lump them in with Vocal or Band, intelligent (the major for people who are smart who can write poetry) and annexed creative writers, the nemesis of the visual artists because in BOTH schools they are RIGHT NEXT TO US and only play ONE SONG: strings. Other schools have school pride and we have major pride. Oh and I almost forgot the piano majors, easily forgettable (that’s their stereotype). And I’d like to cover my own butt by saying that all these statements have been made by other people in the past, their words, not mine.

Being a visual artist and, more importantly, spending all my time in the various visual arts (VA) rooms, has been the most memorable part of my 6 years at SOA. We visual artists have travelled from the falling apart middle school VA room in the old school with the blue cabinet that led to Narnia, to the high school room in the old building, where we first met **Mamma Cimballa** and found our class pet (Kitty the giant rat in the ceiling that was having mice babies), to the state of the art high school room in the new building that still awes me to this day. In the VA room the first day of seventh grade, I met the people I’d be sharing my time with all throughout middle and high school, both actual and honorary visual artists.

My most memorable time spent in VA was the week before we left the old school when we created VA Baseball. The black team (**Allie Acierino**, **Devin Dukes**, and I wearing black shirts) vs. the blue team (**Morgan Nuss**, **Zamir**, **Will Horry**, and **Lindsey Knox** wearing blue shirts) hit the cardboard bases with a giant paper roll bat and a duct tape ball. All the art supplies was packed away for the move, the weather was perfect (a warm almost Christmas in Charleston), and the VA room conveniently had a side door leading to the senior parking lot. We eventually got most VA students out to the parking lot to take part in one-way or another. We didn’t follow real rules, there were battle cries, Pokémon noises, and “that’s what she said” jokes in the atmosphere. We didn’t keep score and a homerun was equivalent to hitting the farthest window with the ball, what I think was part of the dance studio. For that whole week, during 4th block, we hit our squished diamond-square lot and made fools of ourselves. I like to think it brought us all closer together in some mystic way. Even though VA baseball has never been played at the new school it was the beginning of hard-core competitive gaming in visual arts. War, toss the rat, Desert Island, BS, and spoons (injuries have occurred during this game) have been the glue holding my visual arts group together since that founding day of VA baseball.



Davis Carmichael

I feel like this essay should convey some essence of truth about life that I have learned in my time at School of the Arts. But I only stumble upon truth every once in a while when my mind is in one of its rare states of clarity, and I now I can’t remember what I have found. So, I’m just going to say little things that I have found to be true. Remember your values. Be nice to people. Life is and is not that complicated. Don’t get involved in other people’s problems. People are who they are; there is no point in trying to change them. Push yourself harder. Just be chill. LOL JK. I have no idea what’s going on in life. Anyone who pretends they know what’s going is faking.

Kwyntae Grampus



Seven years at one school is an experience to say the least. While spending some of the most important years of your life with the same people, you grow to get tired of them sometimes, but you also grow to love them more. You learn to take the bad things about them because the good things outweigh the bad significantly. A lot of people know me mostly by my running around saying “I hate everyone,” but the truth is, I love these people, and while I don’t like everything about it, I love this school. The people here have helped me learn how to find and better myself, not only the people in the senior class, but also my friends in the class of twenty-thirteen. The students helped me to become more of a patient person. I learned that everything can’t always go my way (except in band because my way is usually the best way, not even going to lie), and I learned that even though things may seem bad here, just think of the way it would be at some other school. Our problems are not that bad. There are also a few teachers that I just can’t help but love, such as **Mrs. Touihri**, **Mr. Singleton**, **Ms. Rogers**, **Mr. Brehm**, **Mrs. Owensby**, **Ms. Bronk**, and especially **Mr. Donnellon** and **Mr. Kerr**. Mr. Donnellon and Mr. Kerr are my absolute favorites. They have been my life gurus for as long as I’ve known them, and I can’t think of any people better to help me through this hard-knock life I’m living (wow, that was a joke, obviously). Then again, while Mr. Donnellon is fine, Mr. Kerr would not have been able to live without me. I mean, let’s face it, **Hailey** and I kept him on track this year. All-in-all, Mr. Kerr is my favorite. I’m going to need to get a pocket Kerr to carry to college with me, or I don’t know what I’m going to do.

While I’m not the type to be sappy and things, as everyone knows, there is no way that I can write this senior essay and not be emotional. I’ve spent these last seven years of my life in this little school with, contrary to popular belief, what I think are the best people, and I’m leaving them. Some of these little friendships will drift off, but there are friends that I’ve made here that I will stay with forever. This school is full of people I will never forget, and I’ve done amazing things at this school that will be with me forever, and that people at other schools would only dream to have done. This school has allowed me to be able to follow my dreams of becoming a professional musician, and hopefully everyone will be seeing me in papers, on the internet, and on TV as the number one best bass clarinetist ever.

Angelica Halversson



SOA has left me with a ton of funny and weird memories. The thing that I remember the most from the sixth grade is when our teacher was gone in Visual Arts and a substitute never came. For one and a half hours we wreaked havoc in the art room and pummeled each other with hornets and erasers. I guess coming to school and discovering that you have the whole class free to do whatever crazy stuff you want without supervision is the thing that 11 year olds dream about. Looking back to the seventh grade, the only thing that comes to my mind is **Mrs. Lovelace** and her animals, and how they all died. Meditating was fun too. Honestly, that's pretty much all that I remember from that year. The eighth grade field trip to Washington was one of the highlights of middle school. At the hotel we kept bothering the group on the other floor to make contact with us and we had to listen to the same Beatles song from Yasmin's iPod the entire evening. The next day we chased some people on Segways and I got lost in the Holocaust Museum. I don't have a favorite memory from ninth grade really, or at least there isn't one that sticks out. I just think about how we had lunch out on the field even in the winter, "driving the bus" in history, making the odyssey skits and watching movies while **Mrs. Drennan** was standing by with her box. The Visual Arts- Creative Writer field trip to people-watch downtown was awesome too and I wish we had gotten to do it again. My favorite part from tenth grade was going to the Wildlife Expo. **Lucy** and I got left behind by the bus so we stuck around on King Street and played with puppies and walked around. That was the day it snowed too. When I was a junior, I loved working on the AP Art Portfolio because I had a lot of inspiration and I developed a lot as an artist. That's the first year I did quizbowl too, which was so much fun. The banquet at end of the year was totally awesome. Senior year has been crazy. The field trip to New York was worth the last minute planning and attending all the theses has been amazing. I love seeing everything that the people at this school can do. I'm going to miss everyone, but I'm so ready for the next part of my life.

Chris Haycook



In 2022 I plan to be pursuing a career in biomedical engineering at MUSC in the research department. Biomedical Engineering is the application of engineering principles and design concepts to medicine and biology. Specifically, I would like to develop new medical devices such as prosthetic apparatuses. In the Fall, I will start my undergrad education at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. The reason I chose USC is because their biomedical engineering program is very closely associated with the chemical and mechanical engineering departments. While there, I will not only earn a degree in biomedical engineering, but I also plan to have an emphasis in chemical engineering as well. That way, I will have a more versatile range of skills and a better resume for future employers. Although there is a large growth expectancy in the field of biomedical engineering over the next couple of years, it is still a young job field with not as many actual positions. In addition, an emphasis in chemical engineering will aid me in developing the materials needed to create new medical devices. If all goes well, I hope to be on the forefront for the development new medical devices.

Taylor Dupree



Every single day I try to at least learn, grow, or become a better person than I was the day before. You would think that this would be an impossible goal for most people, but when you go to a school such as SOA, it merely is anything but impractical. For the past seven years I have had people enter my life that have changed me to become the person I am today. My teachers and peers each have taught me something about myself that I will treasure forever. Leaving a place that you have considered "home" is hard especially when you have had teachers who you considered parents and who pushed you through the complications of the teenage years. **Ms. Bronk**, thank you for pushing me this year to become a better student and person. You have shown me that putting people before yourself is extremely rewarding in the end. You inspire me every day through your passion for teaching and even through the hard times of the hard headed yearbook class, I love you... TO THE MOON! **Mr. Brehm**, well it is time for your FAVORITE student to leave. I know it is heart breaking but just know that I looked forward to your class more than anyone else's. You taught me so much not just about economics and government, but about life through your stories and lectures every B day. You have inspired me through your way of teaching and the passion you have for your students. Your class has definitely prepared me for college, you are the best. Finally, **Ms. Slowinski**, my role model. Thank you for sharing your passion of dance with me and pushing me to become a better dancer and person all together. Your love for the dance department was truly remarkable and will remain there forever. You will always remain in my heart and will be with me in spirit tonight and everywhere I go after. I miss you. To my SOA dance family, you are the sixteen best friends I have ever had. I have never been so close to a group of people and I will cherish that forever. We made it through the stress of thesis together and came out laughing and smiling as always. You are the passion behind every piece I have made in the past 7 years and I love you each more than words could ever describe. I surely just want to thank God for blessing me with such amazing family and friends. If it was not for them I would not be here. My Just Dancers will surely be missed and it will definitely not be the same without them. Thank you to the class of 2012 for being such a huge part of my life. I honestly could have never seen myself spending seven years with any other group anywhere. School of the Arts, you have simply been amazing. The diversity and loving atmosphere will be carried with me everywhere.

Emily Trent



2022 better be a good year. Hopefully, I'll have a steady job and be certified to be an equine massage therapist. I can't be too sure about marriage, but I'm hoping to be. Kids really aren't my thing, so I don't think I'll be saying, "Oh, I hope I'll have a kid by then." No, kids are dumb. If things go the way I want, then I'll be running my own facility, and not being scared to death financially. But, in all honesty, when will things actually go as planned? I'll probably end up living in Iowa as a single woman giving piano lessons.

Dewitt Floyd



The one teacher and class that has had the most impact on my life would be **Ms. Hutchinson** and being in her resource class. I have been in her resource class since it was her first day teaching at School of the Arts; I was in the eighth grade, so I have been with Ms. Hutchinson in her resource class for five years now. I have learned so much from her as my teacher. I can always come to her about any problem I may have in school or any subject. She has helped me in all of my classes whether it is studying for a test, explaining things to me that I don't understand, or talking to a teacher that I am too scared to talk to because I need extra help on something. Ms. Hutchinson has not only helped me with school, but she has taught me lessons that I will use for the rest of my life. I have raised my academic scores in all subjects, I now read at the average level and not below average like I use to be when I first was in Ms. Hutchinson's class. But Ms. Hutchinson is not only my teacher; she is my friend and a part of my family. I tell her things, that I don't even tell my parents. Whenever my life seems to be falling apart, or when I get stressed I always go to Ms. Hutchinson because she can help me overcome any obstacle. Ms. Hutchinson has changed my life in the most amazing ways and I am so thankful and appreciative for all she has done for me. I don't know who I would be if I had not met her five years ago, and I probably would not of made it this far in my life without her help. Because being in Ms. Hutchinson's class is like a therapy session, she always makes me feel better. As my days left in high school are running out, no matter how badly I wanted them to end, I am always going to miss being in Ms. Hutchinson's resource class. And when I leave for college in the fall I know it's going to be hard not being in her class, but I look forward to my future days at college where Ms. Hutchinson and I will still have class and we will talk but it will be via Skype.



Alessandra Acierno



The best part of SOA is the attitude the students have about themselves and toward one another. Everyone is light-hearted and confident in what they do and who they are. In many high schools and middle schools, students become socially compartmentalized. They become stuck in roles which only highlight a fraction of their persona, or none of it at all. But at SOA, the students do not fall subject to this social anomaly. They define themselves by their own standards, passions, and interests.

In 2022 I hope to be teaching art at a university in South America or Europe while practicing art on the side. My favorite memory at SOA was our last day on the old campus when we all ran around the arts building which was to be torn down painting on the walls. All of the best days of SOA took place on that campus. It was dirty and looked thrown together but it exemplified the wonderfully dysfunctional and expressive nature of SOA.

I cannot say I have one favorite teacher at SOA. I have never had a bad History or Literature teacher and have learned more random and surprisingly memorable facts from Mr. Pezzeca's class than any other. I would have to say the most amusing class, though, has been **Mr. Donnellon** because he always retorted to every argument with the phrase, "Do you hate freedom?"

I have learned so much from SOA that I cannot sum it up in one paragraph. Thanks to **Mrs. Nichols**, **Mr. Moore**, and **Ms. Cimballa**, I have become much better artistically. The teachers have all helped me develop intellectually. Overall, SOA has been a wonderful experience and I am going to miss it with all my heart.

Savannah Evans



I've been at the School of the Arts since seventh grade and although it was challenging at times, I've loved being a part of it. My first few days at SOA had me second guessing my choice to attend the school. Luckily I made friends with the other new kids and bonded with my teachers who cared about me on a more personal level than I had experienced. My vocal teacher in 7th grade was **Ms. Slenk**. It was also her first year and she was about as nervous, if not more, than I was. My class fought with her constantly that year and denied her authority but through her determination, she whipped us into shape. Ms. Slenk taught me the next year as well but in high school, I began having class with her on B days and **Mr. Rogers** on A days. In tenth grade I became closer to her because I was in a small choir of girls. The class was so small we became like a family; we cried together, laughed together, and helped each other out with our problems. Ms. Slenk was always involved with us and helping us both musically and personally. She was the teacher I had the most respect for and could simply have a conversation with. In 11th grade she announced she was going back to school to get her masters in what became a very emotional class. Our last concert with her brought us all to tears but was a good way to say goodbye. This year has been tough without her and the vocal majors and I often talk about her; reminiscing on the good times we had like singing in the bathrooms and playing MadGab. She was a great teacher and remains a great person and friend. FREE SLENK!

Madalyn Powers

Twelve years of school have come and gone
and soon you will begin a life of your own
our prayer for you is that God leads the way
so pray to Him daily, He won't let you stray

May He bless you and guide you in all that you do
through good times and bad He will be there for you
The love in our hearts for you are so strong
it's there forever right where it belongs

It's time for you now to prosper and grow
but before you start, we want you to know
our memories of you are cute dresses and curls
we'll always see you as our sweet baby girl.

-we are so very proud of you Maddie Boo!
much love, Mommy, Daddy, Olivia & Morgan

Brian Giles

Dear Brian,

May the journey on your new path in life be filled
with determination for success, motivation for
growth, and courage to conquer all obstacles.

Love & Blessings,
Granny and Auntie Tarsha!

Miki Sugimoto

May God bless and keep you always
May your wishes all come true
May you always do for others
And let others do for you
May you build a ladder to the stars
And climb on every rung
May you stay forever young
Congratulations and best wishes.

Love,
Mom

Angelica Halversson

Sweet Angelica,
We are so extremely proud of you and your fan-
tastic accomplishments at SOA!
Continue being who you are and
believe in yourself!

We love you,
Mom, Dad, Alex and Adam

Mary Claire Moser

Take Pride In
How Far You've Come
Have Faith In
How Far You Can Go
We love you!
Mom, Dad, Sarah,
Grandma, and Papa

JP Hart

Congratulations J.P!
We are so proud of you.
Great things are in store for you.
To God be the glory!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Jonisha

Christopher Haycock

Congratulations, Christopher,
on another milestone:
We hope you enjoy your college
experience and are successful in
all your endeavors.
Love,
Mom and Dad

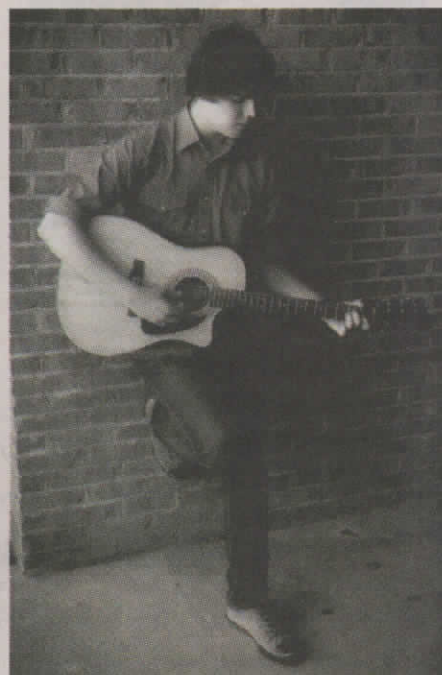
Renee Cooper

Renee Cooper is ready to conquer the world!
"Get up, stand up: Don't give up the fight."

Love,
The Stambys

Sean Dix

To our talented, bright, and
compassionate son, we are so very
proud of you and your accom-
plishments. Congratulations and
good luck at Clemson.

Joseph Dubay

We thank God for you, confident of
this: He who began a good work in
you will carry it on to completion.

Nicole Brondsema

I can't express how
proud we are of
you. Reach for the
stars Ma!
We love you!
Mom, Dad, Nina,
Becca & Josefina.





You have made me so proud these past 4 years! You never cease to show passion in whatever you do. I know you will exceed above and beyond everyone's expectations! I can't wait to see where your path leads you!

Get excited!!

Love, Lindsay

Allie Larkin



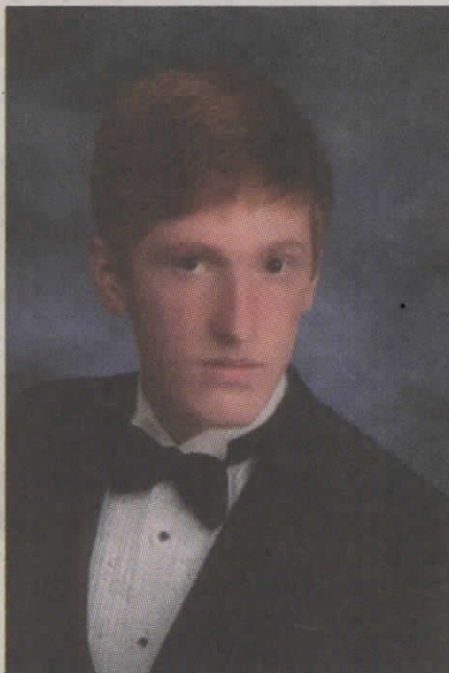
"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."

-Henry David Thoreau



We are so proud of you and excited to see what your future holds. We wish you much happiness and success throughout life's journey. Your determination will definitely get you far. Remember we are always here for you with our love and support. Love, Mom and Dad

Paul Ross



Paul,

It feels like moments ago that we first held you. You are a very determined individual. When you set your sights on a destination, you hold fast to your convictions. Thank you so much for making our lives simple and fun. We wish we could do it all again; this time much slower.

Love, Dad, Mom, and your Family



"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle" -Einstein

Morgan Nuss

Morgan,
 May your reach always exceed your grasp.
 May all your dreams come true.
 May you always know that you are loved.
 With love,
 Mom, Dad and Michael

Samantha Hord

Dear Samantha,
 Congratulations! We are so proud of
 you! We love you!
 Love,
 Mom, Dad, Ronnie and Wally

Ashley Phoenix

We are so proud of the
 beautiful young lady that you
 have become.
 Love, Mom and Dad

Devin Dukes

Devin, CONGRATULATIONS!
 Your amazing journey through life
 has just begun. Remember to always
 eat your veggies, always be kind to
 yourself and others, always work
 like a champion,
 and always, always reach for the stars!
 May the force be with you.
 Love Forever and Ever,
 Mom and Dad

**Weston DeWolff**

We are blessed to have you for a
 son and brother.
 We are proud of you!
 Love,
 Mom, Dad, Adam and Jack

Allie Augustine

We are so proud of you Allie in all
 that you do. Congratulations to
 our wonderful girl!
 Love,
 Mom, Alan, Katie and Sarah

Cheers and Congratulations to the Class of 2012!
You've completed a huge step in the adventure of life.

Now endeavor forward!
Live and Love to the fullest!

All our Love and Wishes!
Shanon, Benji and Ryan McAlister
Toss a cap in the air for Mel!

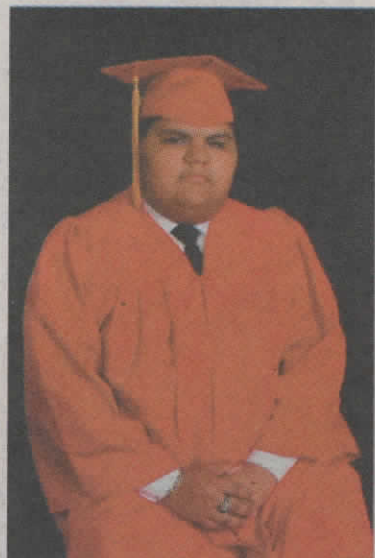


Melinda Ashley Carter
Class of 2012

“Music is a world within itself,
with a language we all understand.”

- Stevie Wonder

Zamir Garcia



Zamy,

Congratulations! We are so proud of you. Keep putting Jehovah first and he will continue to bless you.

Love,

Mom, Dad, Aileen, Noe

Victoria Milligan



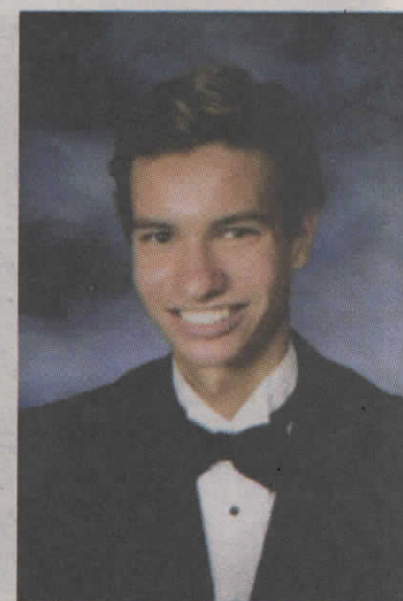
Victoria,

We are so proud of the smart, beautiful, strong young lady you have become. You have accomplished your goals at SOA and we know that you will work just as hard to achieve success at USC.

Love always,

Mom and Dad

Andrew White



The journey you started at Ashley River has ended with graduation today. We are SO proud of you!

Best of luck at Clemson!

Love,

Mom & Dad

Anna Solomon



Congratulations, Anna!

We are so proud of you!

Love you always,

Mom and Dad, Addie, Waw

Waw & Papa, and Maw Maw

Jonathon Pizarro



Congratulations!

We love you very much. We are so proud of your accomplishments. We wish you continued success as you face new challenges in college. We will always be here for you.

Love,

Mom, Dad, John, Jason, Salina, Brayden, Jaelynn

Anja Evenson



Grattis Anja!

We are so proud of you,

Mamma & Pappa

Matthew Lehman



Congratulations,
Matthew Joseph Lehman!
We are so proud of you and
Love You Very Much!
Your Family

Chelsey Conyers



Congratulations, I am so proud of you.
You have worked hard to get to this moment –
GRADUATION!
My little dancer has grown into a wonderful young lady.
All my love forever,
Mom

Emily Trent



Congratulations and best
wishes to our shining star
Emily Trent.
Love,
Mom and Dad.

Ryan Gilmore



Ryan,
We are so proud of you
and wish you the best at TTC
and in all you do!
Love, Mom , Dad & Family

Rachael Messick



Congratulations Rachael! We love you !
Mom, Dad, Zachary, Lindsey,
Brownie, Lucy and Abbi!"

Farrell Harris



Congratulations, Farrell!!
We love watching you figure it
all out!
You're one in a million!
All our love,
Mom, Dad, Marian, Karen,
Lynne, Eddie & Tenzin

Tanner Johnson

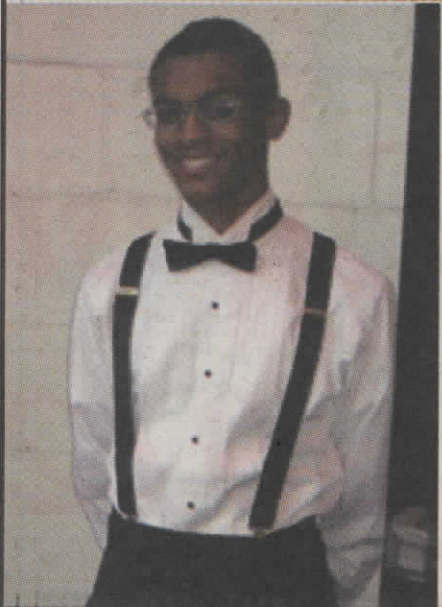
Congratulations Tanner!
SOA Class of 2012
Citadel Class of 2016
 In his heart
 a man plans his course,
 but the Lord
 determines his steps.
 Proverbs 16:9
 Love,
 Mom, Dad and Danie

Avery Perlitz

Avery,
 "Mazel Tov!"
 We are so very proud of you!
 Remember to always dance!
 We love you!
 Mom, Dad,
 Sarah and Bradley

Devin Hartley

Whatever you do
 Wherever you roam
 We will think of you at
 home
 Devin get out there
 Utilize your smarts
 You are in so many hearts...

Ian Jones

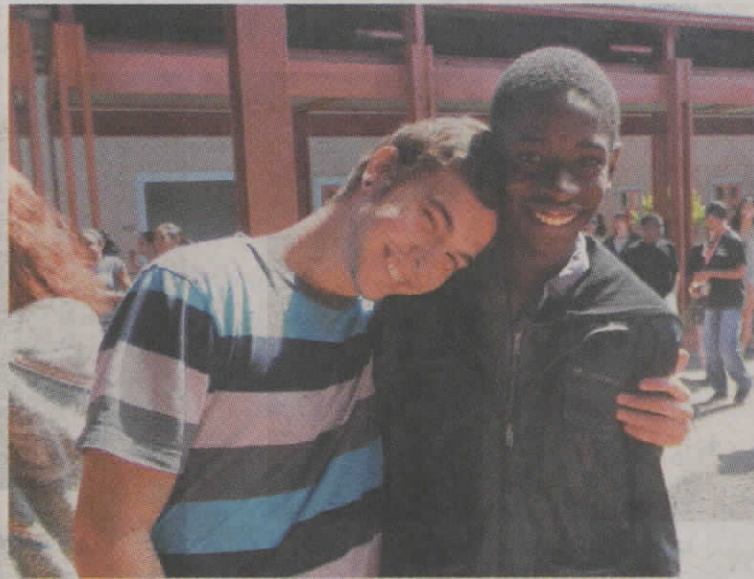
Ian,
 All the doors you've held
 For others to go
 through,
 Now it's the time
 For doors to open for
 you!
 -Mom, Dad and Avery

Peter Webb

Congratulations, Peter!
 You've been looking for-
 ward to this day for so
 long and graduation day
 is finally here!
 We are proud of you and
 hope that all your wishes
 and dreams come true.
 Love, Mom, Dad, Amie,
 and Krissy



Andrew White and Jillian Campbell



Harrison Carr and Khari Lucas



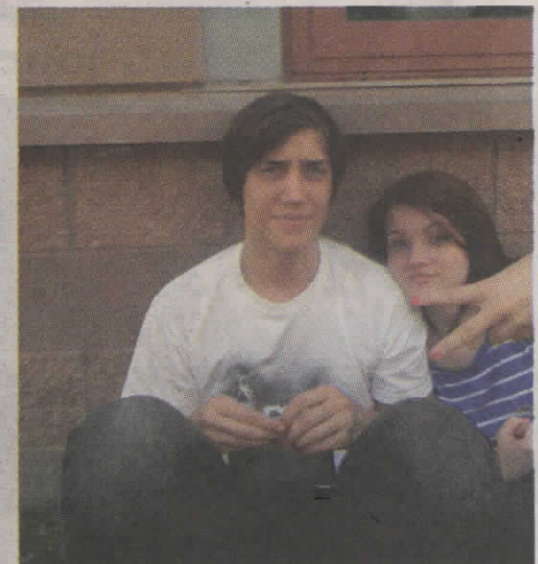
Jonathon Pizarro and Ashley Prentice



Weston De Wolff and Allie Augustine



Elizabeth Kitchens and Wade Alexander



Michael David Wilson and Callie Mathias



Laila Tesenair and James Decker

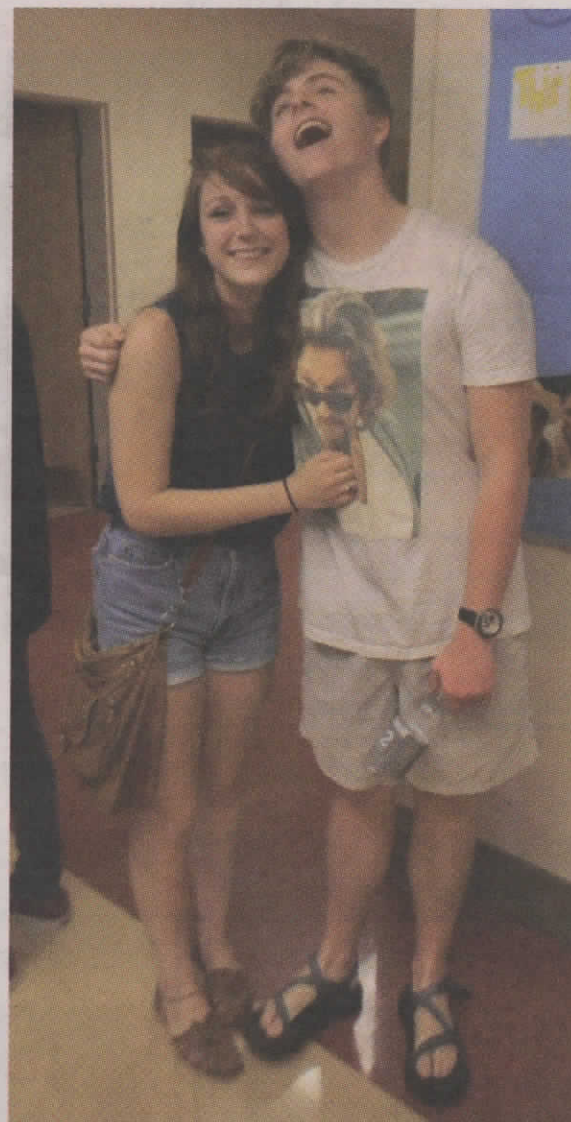
SOA's Cutest Couples, 2012



Ms. Rogers and Jacob Elsey



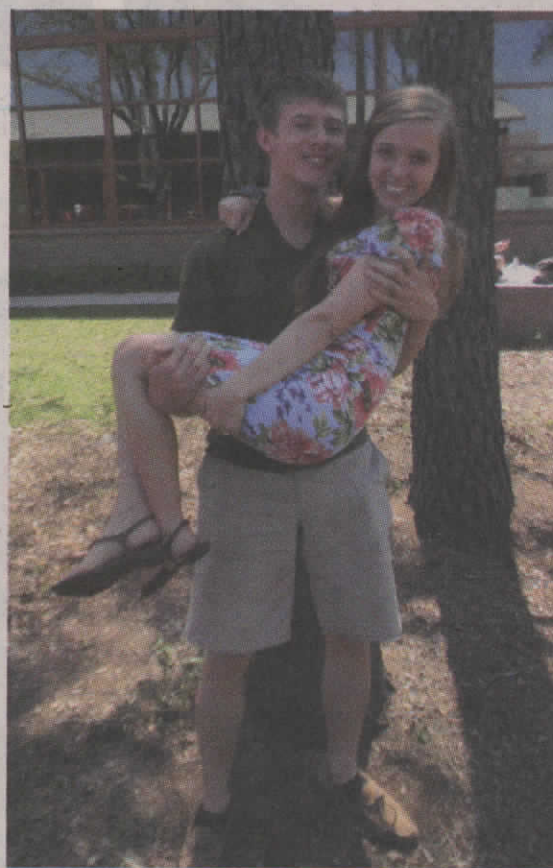
Ren Fish and Miki Sugimoto



Lucy Davenny and Max Hudson



Tanner Cooper and Tiffany Martin



Sean Dix and Kelly Daniels



David Doboszanski and Cynthia Schlenker

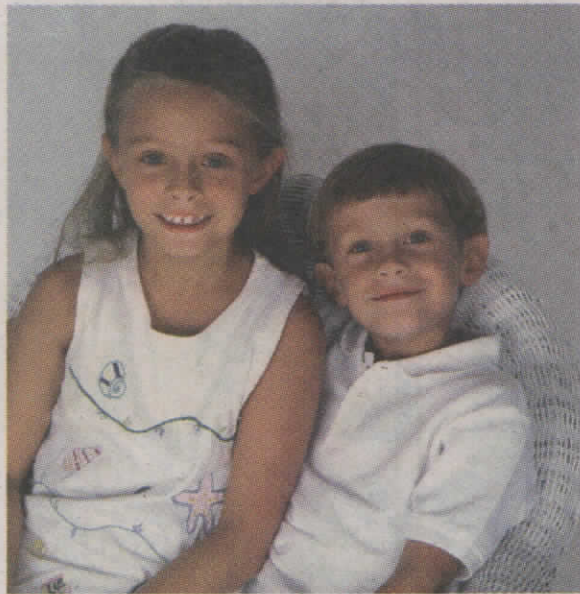


Mr. Reinbart and Allie Augustine



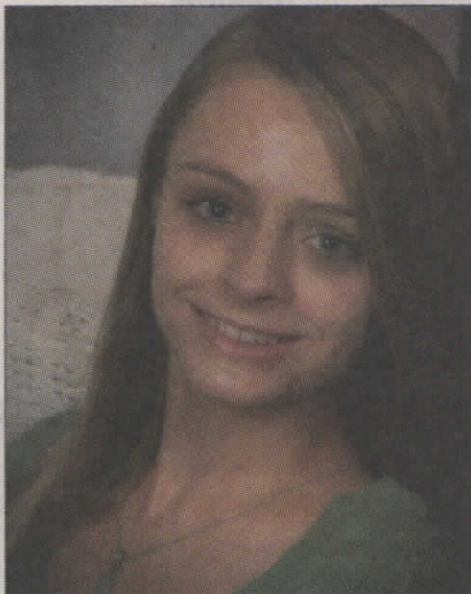
Jacob Hallex and Althea Holenko

Sam Rames



Congratulation, Sam!
Have fun in Asheville. Home and SOA won't
be the same without you.

Love,
Jess



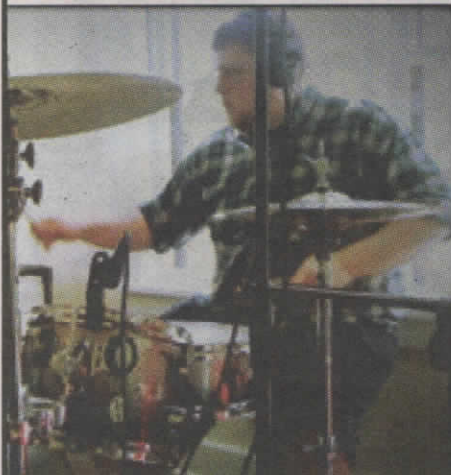
Bon voyage, Sam.
Your entire family is very proud of your
accomplishments and we are looking
forward to seeing you blossom at UNC-
Asheville.

Enjoy your journey.



Those eyes observed and hinted that there was much
behind them. Your words came, and surprised,
incisive beyond their years.

Robert Moring



We are so proud of you,
Robert.
Good luck at USCB
and remember to always
march to your own
drum beat.

Savannah Evans



Having you was a gift
Raising you a privilege
Watching you grow a delight
Seeing you spread your wings...
our dream!
We love you!
Mom, Dad, Taylor and Emily
You have done "well!"

Kris Bennett



"See with your heart
not with your eyes for
beauty lies everywhere.
The mind reasons, the
heart knows."

Love,
Mommy

Abby Allardice



We are very proud of you and the wonderful
daughter that you have become. We have
always admired your wonderful sense of
dress, even to this day! The school of the
Arts has made you even better and ready
to take on the world as your next chapter
starts. "I hope your dreams, take you...to the
corners of your smiles, to the highest of your
hopes, to the windows of your opportunitie
and to the most special places your heart has
ever known." --Anonymous

Love,
Mom, Dad, Brady and Annie

Hayley Malone



Hayley,
You have been a blessing in our lives. You have worked hard and we are very proud of you.
We love you!
Mom, Dad, Hannah, & Noah

Emily Hart

Emily Ester Hart
"Emily" meaning "industrious, hard-working"
"Ester" meaning "star"
Who'd have known that you would be so true to your name?
Love,
Mom, Dad, Jonathan, and Lanie



Hadley Preganz



So proud of you, Hadley.
You are so loved.

Shekinah Patterson



Congratulations to our "little graduate,"
Shekinah Patterson!
May God Bless You!
Love,
Viola, Anna, Bettye & Pam Legare

To our "shining star" Shekinah:
You are such a blessing from above & we thank God for such a beautiful gift.
Congratulations on your graduation & continue to make us proud.
We love you & continue to "beat against all odds."
Love,
Mom, Dad & Whitney



Congratulations
Creative Writing
Family of 2012

SOA's Mr. Johnson, among top Bridge Run finishers

By Will Dodge

Applause writer Will Dodge recently asked SOA's new health teacher Brian Johnson about his affinity for running and his outstanding success.

Will Dodge: What other notable races have you participated in and in what places did you finish?

Brian Johnson: I have run the Boston, Detroit, and Chicago marathons along with some very large Rock & Roll Series Marathons and ½ Marathons in San Antonio, Nashville, and Savannah. I have placed in the top 1% of those races with top 15 finishes in Detroit, San Antonio, and Savannah. I have won the Kiawah Island Marathon twice in 1999 and 2010.

WD: Where does this rank among other highlights from your running career?

BJ: It ranks up just behind winning the Kiawah Marathons that I have won.

WD: Have you done the Bridge Run in the past? How did you do then?

BJ: I have run the Bridge Run 9 times. This is the second time that I have won the Mar-

cus Newberry Award for the top local (previous was 2009). I have placed in the top 20 before and have run few faster times when the conditions were better (cooler, tailwind).

WD: How long have you been running and what got you started?

BJ: I first ran a race in the 5th grade and won a pumpkin!

My interest grew from there and I ran track in middle school. That carried over to me to running cross country and track in high school and college. I had some great coaches along the way and have met some amazing people through running, including my wife who is also a very good runner.

WD: Has coaching at College of Charleston

helped you progress in your own running?

BJ: I have coached college track and cross country for 14 years at various colleges. It has been both good and bad for my personal running. I don't often run "hard" workouts with my runners because I like to watch them run and give feedback. Because

of this, I often have to try to squeeze in time to run around my teaching responsibilities, practices, recruiting, and family life. However, the runners that I coach always inspire me and I learn things through them to apply to my own training.

WD: What kind of

training did you do leading up to the race?

BJ: I run year round and average around



Rummler Trots to State and Local Glory

By Will Dodge

Other than her slight resemblance to famed Olympic distance runner Joan Benoit, one might have trouble pinning Lucy Rummler as a runner. But when she crosses the finish line, leaving a trail of dust and tearful losing challengers behind her, there's no question that she is one of the most dominant track athletes in the state. After four seasons of barely missing the podium at the state meet, Lucy and her Wando teammates ran to a second place finish at the state championships, giving Wando their first top-two finish since the 1970's. This was the icing on the cake of a number of accomplishments for Lucy and her team throughout the season, including Lucy breaking Wando's school mile record.

Held at Lower Richland High outside of Columbia, Wando came in to the year's final showdown with a solid chance against the likes of local rivals West Ashley and upstate foes Spartanburg. In the 4x800 relay, where four people each race two laps around the track, Wando progressed to the final race, where Lucy's coached told her she would be the fourth leg and anchor of the team, running the final two laps. Going into

60 miles a week with some weeks higher and many weeks lower depending on time, races, and weather factors. This winter I ran a marathon in December and then carried my fitness over to my training for the Bridge Run. I usually do lots of easy running throughout the week with 1-2 pretty hard days of fast workouts. My fast workouts consist of intervals on the track, long sustained efforts just below race pace, or hills. I usually run one long run a week that can range from 10-16 miles:

WD: How did it feel finishing only a few minutes behind the unbeatable Kenyans? What time would you like to have next year (if you plan on running again)?

BJ: It is always fun to be in races with top level runners like the Kenyans, Ethiopians, and top Americans. It is hard to hold back and run my own race and not go out too fast. I would like to break 32 minutes again. I have run under 32 minutes once when there was a tail wind. I am 36 so my window of opportunity to run personal best times is closing each year!

Ravens Rugby in review

By Miki Sugimoto

The SOA Ravens have finished their season with a record of 1-9. Although it's far from perfect, it doesn't take into account the shortage of substitutes, the injuries, or the small team size. Throughout the year, the Ravens have managed to hold far bigger and more experienced teams to marginal victories despite these adversities.

However, the Ravens do not accomplish what they do without help from other schools. Students from Academic Magnet, Bishop England, and Garret high schools all meet twice a week to practice. Often times when the team is unexpectedly missing players, students from Stall high school will step in and fill the empty spots.

At an arts school, the budget for sports is consumed by supporting the eight majors; this means no football, soccer, or baseball like a traditional school. This has given rugby the chance to be-

come SOA's main sporting event which is arguably as entertaining to watch as football. Leading the team is Coach Stephanie Meyers, who is also a nurse at the Bonds-Wilson campus. Under her leadership, the Ravens were only shut-out once against Chapin, who have been state champions back-to-back.

In the final exposition matches after the season's close, the Ravens showed their incredible improvement. They played several games and managed to win by substantial margins. Chances to play were given to the seniors first, who enjoyed the weekend's success as their farewell to SOA.

All in all, the SOA Ravens have represented the school well, managing to score on older teams who have considerable advantages. We're looking forward to another great year of rugby next year and even bigger improvements from the talented team.



Creative Writing Year in Review

By Rutledge Hammes

Another year, and yet again, our Creative Writing Program earned award after award in some of the nation's most prestigious writing competitions, including a record 150 regional awards at this year's Scholastic Writing Competition (the nation's oldest and most prestigious writing contest for teens), twice as many as last year and more than any other school in the country. Eight of our creative writers won National Scholastic Medals as well and will accept their awards at the world-famous Carnegie Hall in June. That night, the Empire State Building will be lit up in gold, in honor of their achievements. What's more, our creative writers won several Reflections Writing Awards, a National Young Arts Writing Award, four Poetry Society of South Carolina Awards and a Best-in-Grade Award for the top 7th grade poet in the nation.

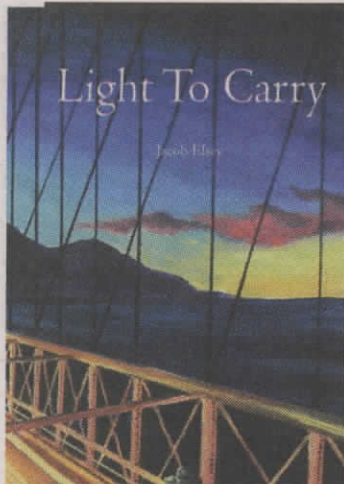
The 6th grade began their year with poetry and nonfiction. They took a ferry to Bull Island and spent the day hiking the island in search of inspiration. Each student wrote a novel-in-verse inspired by Sharon Creech's *Love That Dog* and put on a puppet show with the Visual Artists. In the Spring, students were introduced to fiction and scriptwriting. They wrote two short stories, several vignettes and collaborated with the Dance and Theatre majors to produce a traditional Kabuki play.

The 7th graders focused on fiction and poetry during the first semester. They studied the metered forms, eventually composing either a sonnet, sestina, or villanelle. Just before the holiday break, they composed full-length short stories that adhered to the classic plot structure. 7th grader **Aurelyn Van Kirk** was awarded the "Best in Grade" distinction for her Scholastic poetry submission, which makes her the top poet in the United States for 2011-2012.

The 8th graders studied narrative voice and familial love, and applied it to their fiction. They also wrote a short play and performed it at this year's Art Smart. During the second semester, students studied a variety of poetic forms and conquered the 14 line sonnet. They examined voice, point of view and imagery and ended the semester with a successful literary reading.

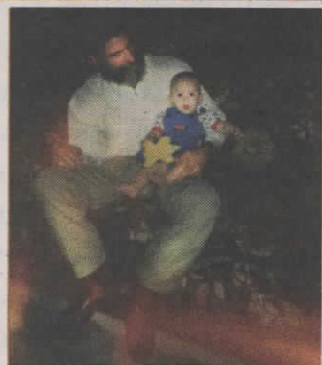
The 9th graders began the year with Poetry Workshop and started each day with a poem from Billy Collins "Poetry 180" website. They learned a new form of poetry every week studying imagery, voice, prose poems, sestinas and surrealism. In Fiction Workshop, they wrote three

short stories and several vignettes for **Mr. Hammes**, and studied a number of advanced fiction techniques like minimalism, folklore, narrative uncertainty and the role of objective correlatives in a story. They also went on a 3-day field trip with the 10th graders to the historic Penn Center on St. Helena's Island, where they studied the history of race relations and the Civil Rights Movement. The 10th graders learned to craft a script for the stage and the screen as well as the rather new genre of slam poetry. They also collaborated with **Mr. Baker's** Broadcast Class in producing several short films. In Nonfiction Workshop, students learned to shape the stories or their own lives into powerful nonfiction essays. They examined their personal flaws and childhood experiences and explored the role of prejudice in their lives. Finally, they learned the art of conducting an interview and shaping another's thoughts into a biographical essay. The 11th graders studied the works of Noble Prize winning authors in *Finding Your Voice*, and they learned to identify their own voice through non-traditional plot structures and current social issues. They also learned about the Senior Thesis process at the Creative Writing Retreat in Lake Logan, North Carolina. In *Place and Gender*, they studied a variety of styles, ranging from the zany, full-on style of David Foster Wallace to the minimalist plot structures of Hemingway. The intensive yearlong Senior Thesis course afforded ten senior creative writers the enviable opportunity to learn the ins-and-outs of the writing profession. They each worked one-on-one with a renowned writer, who helped them write, revise and publish their own original 100-page book, which are now available for purchase on Amazon.com. The year culminated in numerous state, regional and national awards, along with the first ever Bonds Wilson Campus Poetry Slam and a well-attended Senior Thesis Reading, themed Shelf Life. For all their hard work and dedication to their craft and for all their countless awards and recognitions, our Creative Writers truly deserve a standing ovation.



Light To Carry

Jacob Ellis



Namesake

Joseph Dubois



Wander

W. Hoffmann



The Light by Which We See

Marisa Kate Henthorn



To Kiss the Other Bird
Beyond the Glass

Samantha E. Barnes



If Not for No One

Hadley Progan



Before the Tide Turned

Mount Pleasant's Lost Stories

Savannah Connor Miller



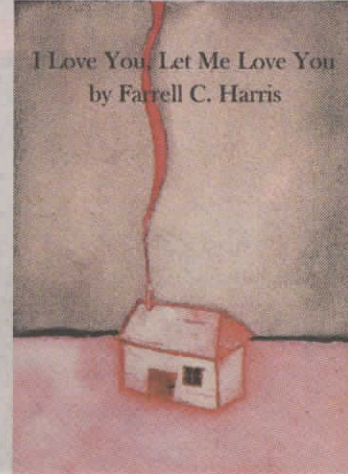
Why We Keep You
Around

Katherine Ridgway



THE STARS AS THEY SEE THEM

ELIZABETH ALLSTON KITCHENS



I Love You, Let Me Love You
by Farrell C. Harris

Theatre Year in Review

By Savannah Miller

During the 2011-2012 school year, the theatre department has gone above and beyond the call of duty to not only perform several performances for SOA's student body, but also to reach out to a wider community that has welcomed SOA's budding actors and actresses with open arms.

The theatre department has produced six plays, including *Love of the Three Oranges*, *Love's Labor Lost*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *15 Reasons Not to be in a Play*, and *Romeo & Juliet*. Each play offered memorable performances and direction from the students. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* showcased the talents of the underclassmen. It forced the students to leave their comfort zones and embrace wacky, wild, and downright dramatic characters, such as Will Waters' impressively rotund rendition of Augustus Gloop and Isabel Jarvis' shrillness as Veruca Salt.

Hamlet was another challenge; this one for the senior class. Mrs. Link admitted before the play that deciding on *Hamlet* was

a risk, but the audience could tell that it was a challenge defeated. Their accurate portrayals of Shakespearean dialogue and on-point emotion illustrated an age-old tale.

Other performances included the theatre department's three showcases at the high school level and the seven at the middle school level. In total, 130 pieces of original theatre were publicly performed through the high school senior thesis group and solo pieces, the junior class-written scenes

for Spring Playfest, Artsmart, the 6th grade Monologue Show, the middle school Physical Theatre

Show, and the three high school showcases. Students from the department also travelled to the annual South Carolina Theatre Conference in Spartanburg, SC,

and 19 students were in attendance at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Chattanooga, TN. There were also three

performances by the Theatre for the Deaf. It may be an overstatement so say these students have been busy.

The Fighting Gnomes, one of several of SOA's unofficial mascots and the theatre department's



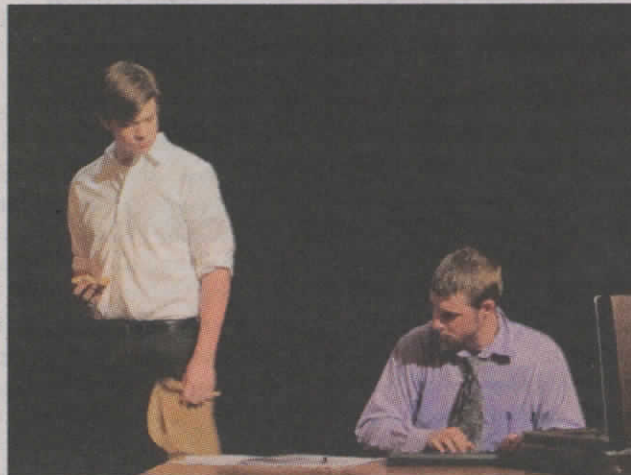
travelling improve group, has been reaching out to the community, displaying SOA's talent. Improv training begins

early and three improve show performances were done at the middle school level. The Gnomes themselves have conducted theatre outreach performances and

weekend workshops at schools in places like Savannah, GA, Lexington, SC, and Chattanooga, TN.

The department is also excited to announce that this spring, the The Fighting Gnomes along with Theatre 99 and the South Carolina Theatre Association coordinated the second annual South Carolina High School Improv Tournament with 55 improvisers from eight South Carolina high schools attending. Also in attendance were fourteen coaches from Theatre 99 that instructed ten inter-school teams on the SOA campus.

This year, the theatre department will be celebrating twelve years of Theatre Senior Thesis Solo Pieces Week, twelve years of the Fighting Gnomes Improv Theatre Troupe, over 900 periods of theatre classes, and over 500 public performances.



Piano Year in Review

By Savannah Miller

Throughout the school year, the piano majors have been tuning up their talents. Field trips, lessons, compositions, community outreaches, and concert after concert has filled up the program's schedule. The instrument requires more than practice, but understanding and appreciation, and **Mr. Clarke** and **Ms. Benson** have provided this outlet for the students.

In February, several high school piano majors took a highly anticipated field trip to New York City. Among the many places they visited were American Museum of Natural History, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and a trip around the Statue of Liberty. Also, students attended concerts at Juilliard and Jazz at Lincoln Center to see Wynton Marsalis' Big Band play a tribute to Stan Kenton. The final evening students had dinner at Swing 46 where they learned how to swing dance while listening to a great band, Swing-a-Delic. Senior **Davis Carmichael** noted that "New York was the best way to close all of our seven years together."

In March, the middle school piano majors went to Savannah, Georgia and attended a concert featuring the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis. They also toured historic Savannah and went on a cruise up the Savannah River in search of dolphin.

The piano students also participated in several concerts this year. In November they prepared themselves for center stage at their solo recitals in November. In December, middle school piano majors played Jazz at Red Orchids, a wonderful Chinese restau-

rant in West Ashley. Owners Tony and Kelly Chu have hosted student jazz performances twice a year for the last four years. The students will have wrapped up for the year after performing ensembles and solos during various concerts on the week of May 15th.

But the most elaborate concert the pianists produced is "Piano Rocks," a three hour concert that oriented rock songs from artists like Billy Joel, Elton John, The Doors, Genesis, and Journey. The students learned faithful renditions, true to the recordings, and were accompanied by various



vocalists, band majors, string majors and professional musicians from the community.

Lastly, the program is proud of their ten seniors that completed and performed their thesis projects over the course of three days during the first week in May. At the beginning of the year, the seniors had a choice between writing four compositions, teaching younger students piano, or performing for thirty minutes. **Isis Jenkins** and **Anja Evenson** wow'ed the audiences with their intricate compositions based on different inspirations and influences. **Renee Cooper's** performance was filled with

entertaining and upbeat music and entertainers, the most memorable being **Ian Jones'** vocal rendition of Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire." Each senior, **Chris Haycook**, **Junying Tang**, **Jordan Brunson**, **Davis Carmichael**, **Isis Jenkins**, **Renee Cooper**, **Ellen McGaha**, **Jillian Campbell**, **Anja Evenson**, and **Emily Trent** worked diligently through the year to reach this point.

During the school year, piano students of every grade reached out to their communities. Many students volunteered their time to play at the Ronald McDonald House each month as well as the Hospice House in Mt. Pleasant.

Twenty-seven students participated in the Achievement Day competition at Charleston Southern University in February. This involved performing two pieces of repertoire, technique requirements, theory test, and sight-reading. Twenty-five students earned an "outstanding" rating and two earned an "excellent" rating. We also had fifteen stu-

dents who were selected to perform on the Honors Recital at the SCMEA Convention based on their superior performance at the Solo & Ensemble Festival the previous April.

In March twenty-one students participated in the District Piano auditions with fifteen of these students earning an "outstanding" rating and then continued to the state auditions in April. One of our 6th grade piano majors, **Jenny Yao**, won first place in her division for the state in solo performance and for concerto performance.



Band Year in Review

By Basil Kerr

The 2011-2012 school year was one of the best ever for the band majors. Beginning with a rebuilt Wind Ensemble 2 and an experienced Wind Ensemble 1, the concert program was off to a strong start at Band Camp. The Jazz Ensemble also started the year in high gear as it prepared for another

Jump, Jive and Wail. The return of **Mr. Foberg** to assist with the SOA Jazz brought a new level of intensity to rehearsals and even more energy to the jazz band's performances.

The fall semester featured the bands' "Exotica" concert, with music from around the world that was based on traditional music from India, China, and the Middle East. The Jazz Ensemble had another smash success at "JUMP, JIVE AND WAIL", with one of the largest crowds in years. The Percussion Ensemble got into the act, performing at the fall chamber music concert. The entire program joined together to present a very successful Holiday Concert.

The spring semester was

full of amazing solo performances as well as ensembles. SOA was well represented in the SC All-State Band, and had the most students

from any school in the state selected for the SC All-State Jazz Band. **James Currence**, a senior horn player, placed third in the SC Music Educators "Master Recital", earning a cash scholarship.

The Band Ensembles had a great spring. The SOA Jazz blew away the competition at the State Jazz Festival at Newberry College, with **Ian Jones** and **Gregg Heyward** giving

powerful solo performances with the group. The Wind Ensemble 1 earned another "Superior" rating at the State Concert Festival; but Wind Ensemble 2 received a disappointing rating of "Excellent".

Percussion ensemble showed off its skill in a concert featuring four senior percussionists, **Tanner Cooper**, **Sammy Derrick**, **Brian Giles**, and **Rob Moring** who performed a showpiece for four drum sets. The Jazz Ensemble gave a roaring good performance

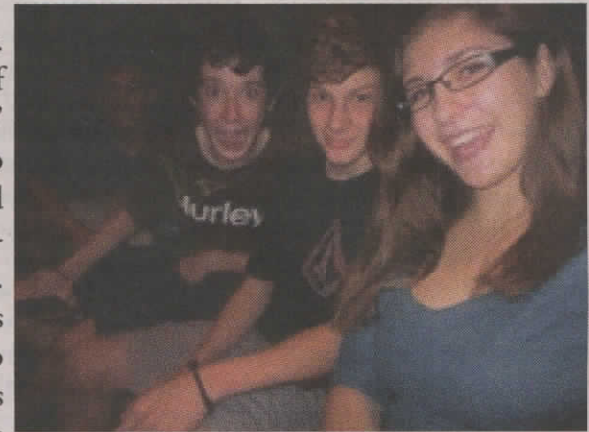
at the same show.

The highlight of the spring was the bands' trip to Chattanooga to participate in the Grand National Adjudicators Invitational Band Festival. SOA competed with bands from across the country to earn top honors and was recognized as one of the

best around. **Mr. Kerr** challenged Wind Ensemble 2 to step up their performance level, changing two of the pieces they had performed at the state festival. The members of that group accepted the challenge. The results were a "Superior" Rating and an average score of 90.7 out

of 100. They placed second in their class, and the horn section received honors recognition from the judges.

Wind Ensemble 1 gave an amazing performance at the Grand Nationals, scoring a 96.2 out of 100, placing second in the highest class. The band also received awards for best brass, best percussion, and recognizing **Ian Jones** and **Chris Andrews** as outstanding soloists. With these performances, the SOA Bands established themselves as one of the finest band programs in the country. Mission accomplished! Well done, SOA bands!



Dance Year in Review

By Jacob Elsey

This year, the SOA Dance Department, led by the fearless Ms. Shaver, Ms. Pitman, and Ms. Cline, was busier than ever, participating in many different special events in and outside of school, while representing the school well in a wide variety of student performances and contests. From the sixth graders' performance on Egypt Day, to the Senior Thesis shows, the dance department is always eager to show what they've got!

Official performances this year included the Spring Departmental Show where dancers of every grade got to take the stage, the 8th Grade Solos performance, two Junior Com-

position shows, and of course, the FOUR senior thesis performances that took place over the year. Dancers also took part in school wide functions such as the Dance Days, Middle School Dance Night, Artsmart, and Egypt Day. Whew! Quite the busy schedule.

This year, the dance department was also fortunate

choreographer also came to SOA, Jonathan Tabbert, to work with the male dancers on contemporary ballet style.

Also, many of the high school students were given the chance to travel all the way up

to Philadelphia for the National High School Dance Festival where they partook in



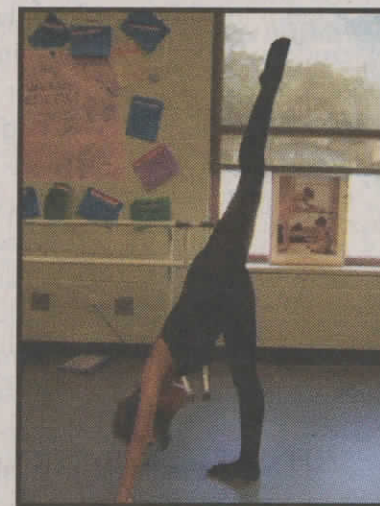
ballet at the Galliard Auditorium.

So as you can see, the dance department had quite the busy schedule, and as usual, still comes out on top, on plie at a time!



enough to have an Artist in Residency: Amanda Diorio of UNC-Greensboro, who helped prepare the Junior Dancers for their Junior Composition. A guest

classes among other students from all around the nation, and were able to catch a world class performance every evening! Dance majors also went to see Jonathan Green's "Off the Wall and Onto the Stage" performance that featured the Columbia City Ballet, while the middle schoolers were lucky enough to get to check out the classic "Nutcracker"



Vocal Year in Review

By Samantha Hord and Sabrina MacIntyre

This year has been one of the most challenging years so far in vocal history. Aside from discipline and personality issues, the students also had to rise to the challenge of welcoming a new vocal teacher for the women's choir. The concert choir first showed off their talent at the first convocation in September with "Wade in da Water," a challenging selection with changing rhythms and super-stacked harmonies. The fall concert was also interesting – the audience barely noticed the lack of finesse, and applauded loudly for their children onstage. The Christmas concert was slightly

better, ending with a grand finale of 6th grade favorites, including "Go Tell It on the Mountain" and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." The day before holiday break, the concert choir toured the Bonds Wilson campus singing carols to middle school, high school, and Aca-



ademic Magnet students alike. January was devoted to the Music Man

preparation for some students and All County Chorus for others. February marked the first senior thesis performance for six senior vocal majors. It was the shortest performance in vocal history! Then came March madness, a marathon of week-end activity: the Young Americans Workshop, All State Choir, and State Choral Festival, back-to-back-

to-back. The Mixed Choir wowed the audience and placed a triumphant 5th. In place of an Orlando competition trip, April was dedicated to preparation for the Cabaret, the largest, most costly and time-consuming performance thus far. Fortunately, the show came together beautifully the day of the performance, thanks to the beautiful costumes. If this year is any indication of the future of the vocal department, next year promises to be very, very eventful.

Visual Arts Year in Review

By Lucy Rummler and Althea Holenko

Visual Artists have expanded their boundaries this year, exploring new mediums and subjects, placing in prestigious contests, traveling to places as far as New York, and gaining large sums of scholarships.

Middle School students, under the guidance of **Mrs. Nichols**, have participated in the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, creating realistic renditions of South Carolina native ducks in several different mediums. **Fred Horton** took first place and **Elsa Cline** took second place in the seventh through ninth grade category of Duck Stamp for the state. Middle School students also took part in the Reflections contest, creating artwork around the theme "Diversity means..." and taking five total awards. Middle and high school students worked on a community sculpture project composed of trash collected at a beach sweep. The first sculpture, designed by Elsa Cline, takes the form of a pelican and is now located at Shem Creek Park. The second sculpture designed by Elsa and constructed by middle school students is a man-ta ray which will be placed in front of the South Carolina Aquarium.

High School students have been busy with a variety of projects in-

cluding **Mr. Moore's** complex Chuck Close style painted portraits and detailed color pencil still lifes that have both been known to threaten the sanity of students. **Ms. Cimballa** has been emphasizing drawing from life with her high school students, doing projects including still lifes, muscular and skeletal studies, and figure studies. 19 AP Studio Art portfolios were completed, with

each student producing 24 pieces of art in the drawing, design, or 3-D category. School of the Arts students traditionally have a high achievement rate in AP studio art with last year's students scoring a 100% pass rate and an average of 4.7 out of 5. The AP portfolio includes 12 digitally submitted pieces of art with a concentrated idea, 12 digitally submitted pieces demonstrating the student's overall skill, and five pieces sent by mail to the College Board.

Visual arts students have placed in many contests locally and across the nation. In the Scholastic art contest there were 44 state winners in high school and one National winner, **Dylan Scheer**. **Devin Dukes** was a Young Arts finalist for his series of cardboard sculptures depicting

pond life, and won a trip to Florida to work with the other finalists and instructors for a week. Middle and high school took 22 awards in the Coastal Carolina Fair, five awards in the SC Reel Art Competition, and numerous awards in the North Charleston Arts Festival. As part of the North Charleston Arts Festival Textile Arts Contest, **Eileen Swaszt** was the only high school student

invited to display her creation, a Cinderella dress and shoes, at the North Charleston City Hall. Eileen was also selected to create a mural for the Charleston International Airport which she will complete with the help of two other visual artists, and **Jackson Knowlton** placed second in the SC Duck Stamp Contest. Six high school students were

named as Spoleto Rising Stars and will present their artwork at the 2012 Spoleto Festival. The Rising Star winners, **Morgan Nuss**, **Abby Allardice**, **Angelica Halvarsson**, Eileen Swaszt; **Althea Holenko**, and **Morgan Watts**, were chosen based on a portfolio and artist statement. In a less traditional art contest, four students painted and decorated Vans shoes and were named semi-finalists in the Vans Custom Culture Design Contest.

Students embarked on exciting field trips that supplied them with inspiration for their own works. Sixth graders went on a joint field

trip with the creative writers to Bull's Island, and eighth graders travelled to Columbia Zoo and The Columbia Museum of Art. Students in Ms. Cimballa's intro to painting class toured the French Huguenot Church downtown and rendered architectural drawings based on their photographs. In a three day trip to New York City, AP students and students from the intro to painting class got a chance to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art.

This year's seniors reaped the benefits of their talent and hard work, winning approximately \$1,784,772 in scholarships. Two of these scholarships came from the First Federal Art Contest. Althea Holenko won the North Charleston Artist Guild Scholarship and Abby Allardice won the Shoakes Scholarship. Many of the visual artist seniors will be pursuing art as their major in college, attending

Cleveland Institute of Art, Maryland Institute College of Art, School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, and Savannah College of art and Design. Other seniors will be attending Ohio State, College of Charleston, Furman University, Trident Technical College, University of South Carolina, and Clemson University.



Sabrina Pierce, 12th grade



Eileen Swaszt, 12th grade



Morgan Nuss, 12th grade



Weston DeWolff, 12th grade



Haley Sirisky

Haley,

Who knew 7 years ago when our shy little 4th grader tried out for Drama troupe at Ashley River that you would be where you are today. Thank you and your fellow theater majors for 7 years of funny and sometimes tearful, but always amazing performances. We will miss this more than you know. It has been such a blessing to us that you attended such a wonderful school as SOA and we thank your teachers for their guidance throughout the years. What a cute, precious girl you were back then and now you have blossomed into a beautiful young lady with her whole life ahead of her. Please keep God first in your life, and the rest will fall into place for you.

We love you and are so proud of you!
Daddy, Mommy, Hanna and your entire family.



James and William Decker

Congratulations
on a job well done!
We are so proud of
you!
Love,
Mom & Dad



Applause's Senior Superlatives

Most Reckless Drivers



Wade Alexander and Anna Mathias



Most Swooned Over

Alex Enter and
Savannah Miller

M
O
S
T
S
W
A
G



Anja Evenson and Brian Giles

Most Likely to be Hit By a Bus



Joseph Sottile and Katie Ridgway

Compiled by Jacob Elsey

**Most Likely to Exclusively Eat Ramen Noodles
for the Next Ten Years**



Alex Hoffman and Catherine Gilmore

**Most Likely to Dance with
Themselves**



Lorenzo Perez and Catherine Gilmore

Hottest Ride

BEST ALL AROUND



Miki Sugimoto and Joseph Dubay



**Logan Church and
Hailey Bowers**

**Most Likely to Name
their Son "Bubba"**



**Chris "Hotrod" Hairston
and Helen Berry**

**Most Likely to be Mistaken
for a Teacher**



**Lindsey
Knox and
Alex James**

Hadley Preganz



For my putting off writing a senior essay, I would like to blame senioritis. I would like to blame my thesis or a **Brehm** test or a ten page poetry paper for making me say, "Oh, I'm too burnt out from all this work; I'm just ready to be done and get out of here." But unfortunately, senioritis is more a slothful mindset than a physical condition. I put off writing a senior essay for so long because: what could I say? I suppose I could write about being caught in the easily flooded field as what seemed like the nephew of Hugo down poured on us on the first day of sixth grade, and how our creative writing teacher was struck by lightning on the same day. Or I could write about the terrors of middle school and how they made me into a better person. Or switching to the new campus halfway through tenth grade and the only thing that has made it feel like home is the insanity of the student body. Or how **Dr. Price** made me realize that I just might love Chemistry. Or the senior thesis reading and how it reminded me just how far we've all come.

This place is special. These people are special. And I couldn't possible write about it because it sounds too cliché to compliment it like this, saying it has changed who I am and the way I view the world. Because of SOA, I know how to have a good time. I know how to fearlessly read my poetry, blow up pumpkins, I know the truth behind Columbus Day, and that one may never have to open a door for him or herself again, so long as Ian Jones lives on. So, thank you SOA, for accepting me as an awkward middle schooler with baby fat that just wouldn't quit, to a tutu-wearing freshman that soon became a raccoon-eyed sophomore, to a homeless looking junior, to who I am today. To who I will become. Thanks for the laughs, the stress, the flamboyant friends, the color, and the love. Until next time. K bye.

Jacob Elsey



Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.

- Henry David Thoreau

We are so proud and excited for you to follow your dreams!

With congratulations and love,
Mom, Dad, and Abigail

"To be nobody but yourself in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight; and never stop fighting" - E. E. Cummings

Savannah Miller



I was blessed with straight teeth and adequate vision in middle school. Height, weight average, hair, clothes, less than average. I came to SOA shaking with nervousness, not excitement, and I'll never forget when Allie Larkin approached me at recess on the third day, looked me up and down, and said, "I thought you were repeating fifth grade. You didn't move up with the Sunday school class." No, Allie Larkin, we just switched churches, but I'm sure in reality, I just shrugged and said I passed fifth grade.

To me, middle school was rough. I was quiet, unsure, and so insecure it was visible. It was displayed in my writing. In middle school, I was terrified of opinion, especially my classmates', so I wrote the blandest of topics with little up's and down's of conflict. One was about a twelve year old girl who wanted to buy a guitar during the Depression, and everything else was about a teenage girl with a military father.

But something changed. It was my non-fiction class sophomore year with Mrs. Miles. Specifically, it was an assignment of hers where she required us to expose one flaw. All of the creative writers learned each other's faults, fears, and insecurities. But more importantly, I learned that at SOA, we all have our faults. Together, we accept and encourage what makes us different.

In high school, I was able to accomplish a senior thesis, edit the newspaper for two years in a row, and got the opportunity to meet teachers that not only advised us on their subjects, but also on the lessons of reality.

Thank you, SOA.

Hailey Bowers



YEAH! You did it! You have worked so hard and grown so much. The time just flew by. We are very proud of you. We will miss you as you head to college in Atlanta. The good news is Delilah is excited about going with you! Go Petrels!
Love you Mom and Dad

Anna Mathias



Anna, we are so proud of the wonderful, talented young woman you have become!

We love you so much!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, and
Callie



I'm sure that everyone would agree that at SOA our education is a little out of the ordinary. So what happens when you put several bright, talented, and

beyond the call of duty, challenging themselves, and everyone else around them. When we make a mistake—which is bound to happen—we don't let that stop us. We keep going, setting new limits for ourselves.

genuinely caring individuals together? Not only do you get a superb faculty, staff, and student body, but something much bigger happens...you get a tight-knit community that inspires, lifts up, and motivates the greater community surrounding it.

To me, yes, I've learned a lot in both my academic and arts classes about the world around me, but when it all boils down to it, the human element to the school is what I've come to value the most.

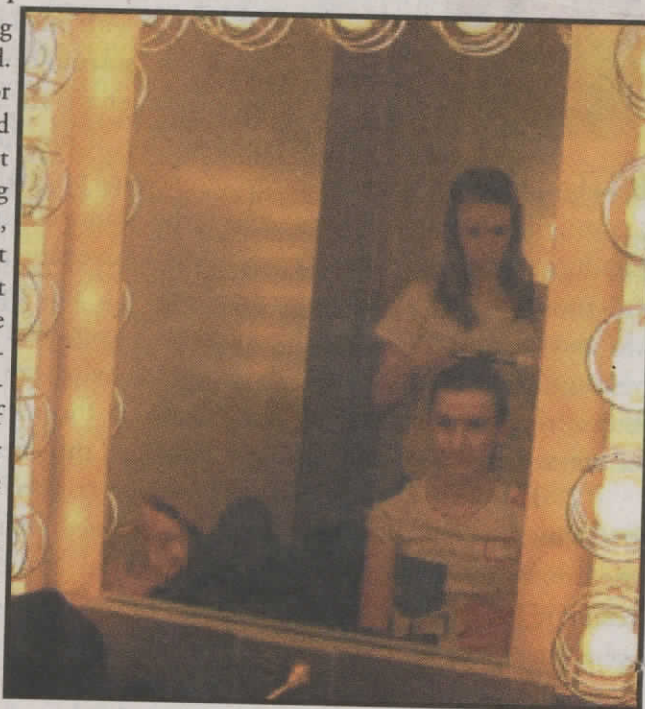
SOA's not perfect. Nor does it pretend to be. What it is, though, is an embodiment of what each individual should seek to be. It's a body of people who try to bring their personal best to the table, and as a result, make others happy, make themselves happy, and offer a positive contribution to the world. Each day, I see teachers, staff, and students going far above and

I want to thank all of those at SOA that have given me even more personal drive, either by their own accomplishments and ambitions or by offering me opportunities and encouragement. I especially want to thank Mrs. Lucas, Ms. Bronk, Mr. Scapellato, Mr. Clark, Mr. Donnellon, Mr. Brehm, Mrs. Touihri, Mrs. Cline, Ms. Pitman, Ms. Shaver, Mr. Reese, Mrs. Drennan, Mrs. Link, and the several other teachers for being educators that not only have given me great experiences and have blessed me, but who are also people that I truly admire and respect. I look up to you all not only as instructors, but also as individuals. A big thank you goes out to all the other faculty and staff (especially to Mr. Barnwell, Mrs. Summey, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Reinhart, Mrs. Amick, the sweet librarians and countless other employees) for putting up with me and making this school an even happier place. Finally, thank you to my peers

for literally making my mouth drop at times from how in awe of you I am when I see you fulfilling your calling in your art field.

Thank you all for breaking my pre-conceived notion that a school is just an institution for learning academics or art. Instead, I can leave SOA with great satisfaction, knowing that this school has taught me more about human interaction and the nourishment and enrichment of the soul than I could ever have imagined! I only hope that I've done the same.

"P.S. My biggest thank you goes to God, my family, and my friends for being my "sure foundation" and for making my SOA experience possible."



Memoir of a Prom-Goer

By Jacob Elsey

The warm sunny afternoon was quickly quilted by the barely-legal tint of the Hummer limo windows as I stepped inside onto the vibrant red carpeted floor. The now seemingly-spaceless interior was jammed with elegantly dressed high schoolers taking self pics underneath the dim lights that

strung around the edge of the windows. This vehicle could have no other destination than the one and only SOA Prom, which, trust me, is one of the most unique experiences to be had in a person's young life. Definitely mine. By the time

my group rolled up to the Sand Dunes Club on Sullivan's Island, we were greeted kindly by Ms. Passarello and Ms. Crawford, who stated that the party had just begun. Excited



to join in, my date and I quickly made our way to the stage where the DJ was dropping beats hot like sauce. The DJ played a very diverse list of artists ranging from Journey to Nicki Minaj to Skrillex, all of which seemed to please the SOA crowd. Another thing that could only please, was the food. There were

finger sandwiches galore, a tropical rainforest's worth of fresh fruit, and enough sweet tea to keep even the most parched southerner happy.

However, it was the climactic crowning of the prom prince, princess, king, and queen that truly made that

night memorable. In the junior class, it was Keith Howard and Anne Marie Maghaki-an who assumed the royal court, and none other than prom dates Robert Moring and

Isis Jenkins who took the role of queen and king. I was lucky enough to sit down with the prom king and ask him a few questions on how it felt to be king of everything that really matters in life: a high school prom. When asked about how he thought the whole crowning experience went, King Moring humbly replied, "cool." Curious to know more, I asked him to carefully describe how he feels to have a golden crown to cap his red-bearded head, the King pondered the question a while and then, with wisdom in his voice, replied, "cool." Wise words indeed.

Perhaps the 2012 SOA Prom can be summed up in that one word, cool. Cool people dancing to cool music at a cool venue in a cool city, all thanks to our cool school. Hopefully next year will be just as cool!



Miki Sugimoto



The best memories at SOA are the ones from your art major. As a Strings major, each year represents another trip out of state on an unreliable bus with 50 or so of your closest friends and enemies. The drama surrounding seating within the orchestra and room assignments is always exciting (if you're not involved). Despite all this, throughout the years these trips have bonded us more than any experience at a normal high school could have.

The Strings majors enjoy the connections that Fitzgerald, our conductor, has at Appalachian State University and it is tradition that we travel there in the winter to enjoy a side-by-side with the orchestra and a day of skiing. Although the experience with the orchestra and visiting the recording studio were great, what we really remember about those trips were setting up guitar hero on the TV in the lobby and some of us seeing snow for the first time at the local Courtyard Marriott.

This year we forfeited that favorite trip for a chance to compete in the National Orchestra Festival, it was worth missing the ski slopes and the snow for the title of best high school Symphony Orchestra in the country. Of course it was great to be praised by acclaimed judges, but we were surprised by the "formal awards dinner" that turned into a tightly-packed dance with the SOA kids onstage with the local DJ "Q-Tip".

These memories are ones I'm not likely to forget, and through all the years in the orchestra at SOA, I've learned a few things that I couldn't have anywhere else. First, if something goes wrong during a performance, that it's a safe bet to blame the violas. Second, that the strings section of a symphony contains some of the most proud, argumentative, and judgmental people in the world, and those people will be some of your best friends for life.

Logan Church



In the seven years I've spent at SOA, I have found that the best thing about the school is the people. Over the years, I have been able to develop a close relationship with a lot of them and they have made it worth it.

10 years from now I can see myself still serving active duty in the US Navy!

My favorite memories of the school revolve around my performances as a theatre major. Being up on stage is an awesome experience that made the years enjoyable.

At SOA my favorite teacher hands down would have to be Mr. Orvin. As a freshman in his Global Studies class, he managed to make history fun and interesting to a group of apathetic teenagers--me being one of them. I had him again as a junior in his current events class, where he became more of a friend than a teacher. Mr. Orvin has taught me to be open to new ways of thinking and has showed me how far a positive attitude can take you.

If I have learned anything from SOA it would be don't take everything so harshly, these are supposed to be the best years of your life, so enjoy them!

Ian Jones



I'm not good at writing essays, but I'll give it a try, eh? My favorite memories of SOA will never be forgotten. When I started holding the doors, I did it because there were a lot of kids from the bus loop going through a set of doors. So why not hold one? I came from a small Catholic school and when first coming to SOA my freshman year, it was a huge change in just about everything. I didn't know I was going to make so many friends from just holding a door! And the years from then on have been the best ones I could imagine at an arts school; it was just non-stop fun for me. The Old SOA Campus was amazing to me because of its highly artistic environment. And lunch time was always the best; the first time I played with students I didn't know, I didn't say much until spoken to. I was known as "That Kid" or something like that. I was glad that I could be my crazy ADHD self and not feel self conscious about it.

The "WIZ Campaign," as I'd like to call it, was a fun opportunity to witness all of the SOA majors in action. Sophomore year got a little crazier as we were leaving the old SOA Campus. My coming to school "in uniform" and swimming "Lake SOA" for the last time was the best part of my SOA life. I didn't want to leave, but I didn't have a choice. The reason why I wear military gear is because I like attention without having to say anything; an art form if you over-think it. I couldn't do it a lot in the past, but at SOA I could do it every day if I wanted and freak people out (like what happened during Christmas break, 2011).

The years went by so quickly--we all grew up so fast!! I didn't think I'd be leaving so soon. I will miss the SOA Jazz Band, Basil Kerr, and especially Ken Foberg who invented dirt and the last time he was out of a job was during The Reconstruction Era. I don't know who's gonna miss who more: me, and the school or the school me with my door-holding.

Mr. Orvin called me the "Finest student at SOA" last year during the Junior Ring Ceremony. I don't know about all that, but I know that I like helping others when needed. I'd like to leave SOA with the memory of me suiting up and randomly playing bugle calls raising "ADHD awareness" every day. HA!! Next year it's gonna be different without you guys. I'll be around so I'll visit when I can--I'm already looking forward to the next Jump Jive & Wail. How to end this..... I'd like to thank all of the administration who knew and were able to put up with me and my antics. Thanks to all the friends I've made and will keep in touch with. Thank you, Charleston County School of the Arts. And to all of those who I've held the doors for: "You're welcome!"



Ellen McGaha



Instead of admitting that I'm indecisive, I'm going to consider my inability choose a favorite teacher as a compliment to SOA. I've had so many great teachers who have gone out of their way to help me, but I'd have to say my top three are **Mr. Donnellon, Mrs. Touihri, and Mrs. Benson.**

Donnellon was my first block teacher on the first day of school and I learned quickly not to believe everything he said (ok, maybe not so quickly, but I learned....eventually). Donnellon convinced me I could handle the AP test, even though I told him almost daily I thought I would fail. Of course, he was right and now I blame him for encouraging me to sign up for three AP classes senior year, making this month insane.

Mrs. Touihri helped me understand math for the first time since middle school. It's a miracle I don't hate math right now. Mrs. Touihri is exceptionally patient and if I wasn't graduating in a few weeks, I'd be heartbroken that she's leaving, but I guess I'm technically leaving first.

Piano majors all agree on one thing: Mrs. Benson is amazing. She loves her students like her children and we feel honored to be considered a part of her SOA family. She listened to me when I needed to talk, helped me with difficult situations, and encouraged me to work diligently at the things I love.

I've only been at this school for two years, but I've loved it and I wish I wasn't leaving such great friends and teachers.

Sam Rames

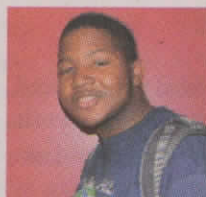


As my last year at SOA comes to a close, I can't help remembering all the wonderful people I have met along the way. From the day I shadowed, people were friendly and welcoming, and I had friends within my first day of school in eighth grade, something that would never happen at the private school I came from. At SOA, I no longer felt the need to wear ugly Lilly Pulitzer pants and American Eagle shirts so I would not be a target, but now I can stand out with my talents.

Though my major is not without our fair share of drama, trying out for Creative Writing is a decision I will never regret. I easily found my niche with those people. Being a socially awkward middle schooler was acceptable as conversations about llamas and silly internet memes. Days passed when we could wander the campus on mornings our hippie teacher didn't show up and we could spend Fridays eating Katies' cupcakes and reading Dr. Seuss. While most of those people moved on to different high schools, more came to fill their place. After experiencing the revealing peer reviews of our personal nonfiction stories and playing many rounds of "Never Have I Ever" at the Lake Logan Creative Writing Retreat, we probably know more about each other than we would ever want to, and we are all the closer for it. The strange bond we have made over the years is something I will always hold dear. I will never forget you guys.

*Applause congratulates
the Class of 2012!*

Geoffrey Brown



In 2022 I want to be a pilot for a major airline. I intend to make it happen by studying at Tennessee State University majoring in Aeronautical & Industrial Technology with a concentration in Aviation Flight Training. I will earn my commercial pilot license, and I hope to start as a Co-pilot to gain enough hours to get my Airline Transport Pilot license, so I can later become a Captain.

Also, I want to be living and working out of Charlotte, NC which is one of the primary hubs for US Airways. I hope to own a condo in the city and to enjoy life, and I would also like to find some way to give back to the community. My idea of giving back to the community is to help out with a Boy Scout Troop because I am an Eagle Scout and it's a great program to learn leaders and values or possibly create an Aviation school that will allow kids in the community to learn about aeronautics.

Haley Sirisky



In all of my years at School of the Arts I have gone through numerous teachers. Teachers that were hard, strict, easy and then the teachers that really cared. The ones that would stick out to anybody are the teachers that truly cared and loved for you. These are the kind of teachers that have made the biggest impact on me. That have made me feel stronger and gave me hope each day.

It all started with the infamous **Mr. Orvin.** As you go into your freshman year at School of the Arts everyone hears about this guy. He's crazy and funny, but he's not like other teachers. You're going to learn a lot in a different way. Mr. Orvin's class was different because he wouldn't teach out of a text book or give us work sheets. He would make history fun and really interesting to the point where you are so engaged in his teaching you don't want the class to be over. To this day, I see Mr. Orvin in the hallway and he still remembers the nickname he gave me, "Reptile Woman." Not too long ago I told him how his class was very special to me, he replied back saying he just wants to show that he was a teacher who cared about not only how the kids learned but he wanted to know and watch them grow as an individual. That right there is a teacher who changed my perspective on how to love and treat others.

Another class that impacted me was **Mrs. Passarello's** class. The first day we were introduced in our class Mrs. Pass said "I want all of you to know, I love you and you can tell me anything. Oh and you can call me Momma." Mrs. Pass also made learning fun and engaging, and always reminded us how wonderful, talented and loved we were. She would always have us doing busy projects. Not about things we didn't care about, but things such as a "college project" where we researched on our first choice of college and then presented them to freshman and under-classmen. She always cared and wanted to help others as much as possible. I have witnessed this, a child she teaches now could not afford much; clothes, food, and rent. Mrs. Pass did all that she could to help him and he was so grateful for someone like her. Mrs. Pass' class taught me how to love someone for who they are. To always give a helping hand and to reach out and try and help others.

There are many great teachers at SOA, every single one of them has a heart and cares for their students. I will never forget a single one of them and all they have taught me. If it wasn't for any of them I wouldn't be where I was today, graduating!

Beach House: Blooming Right Before Us

By Will Dodge

Let's get something straight: Beach House are a band, not a real estate entity. It's two recording members are Alex Scally and Victoria Legrand, Alex playing guitar and Victoria singing and playing keys. With their fourth album, *Bloom*, released on May 15 on Sub Pop, they've confirmed (as if they needed to after 2010's gorgeous *Teen Dream*) their legacy as one of the more reliable bands to come out of the late Aughts' art-poppy musical surge. On May 7, the band brought their bright brand of pop to the Music Farm stage. And they brought it beautifully.

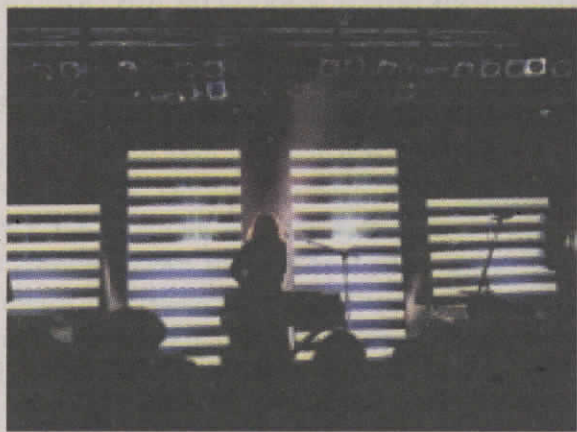
With the addition of a live drummer, the three-piece band was on the first leg of a world tour in support of their new long-player, debuting its songs before the record's release for a sold-out

Music Farm crowd. Opener Zomes, a black clothed and ambiguous member of experimental-rock vets Lungfish, opened the show with a meandering set of synth tones and minimalist beats. He seemed to only have one or two synth sounds in his arsenal, with tracks looping around one another until they haphazardly ended. Without vocals or any eye contact from on stage, the Zomes-to-crowd connection was lost. The Farm's polite southern crowd gave a heavy round of applause as he walked off stage, even though their chatter throughout the set was frenzied. After a long forty minutes, fans were antsy for the headliner. Beach House's stage set-up included a set of slatted wooden boxes with white-painted fans inside, which, to my dismay, would not blow onto the eventually heat-stroke prone crowd. A chant started, finally drawing the band out, and it didn't take long to realize the magnitude

of what was about to be experienced.

Opening with a calm, synth-affected version of "Troublemaker" from the new album, the crowd was into it, and so was the band, guitarist Alex jumping out of his trademark seat during the chorus' huge hook. After *Teen Dream* standout "Norway", twinkling light display and all, the band members looked at each other coolly, as if they were ready to pull a huge trick out from underneath their sleeves "This is a nice surprise. Thank you for being with us," exclaimed Victoria, before hurdling into "Walk in the Park's" moseying beat, the crowd and myself on code red euphoria after just four songs. The Music Farm was incredibly hot, temperatures rising to hellish levels, heightened further by the piquant atmosphere of new tracks

"The Hours" and "Myth". The majority of their set came from *Teen Dream* and *Bloom*, with only encore opener "Turtle Island" from 2008's *Devotion*. This was well planned by Beach House, as the lovelorn anthems of the former mixed well with the jubilant, introspective exhortations from *Bloom* (even if it would've been nice to hear "Gila" or "Heart of Chambers"). Closing the encore with slow burners "10 Mile Stereo" and "Irene", the crowd begged for more, but it was to no avail. I witnessed no less than ten people shed a tear and smile throughout the show, and the bands songs echoed in my own mind for the week following. As I drove home and exclusively played their songs the whole way and for the two weeks after, I couldn't help but feel I had witnessed something profound and transcendent. Here's to hoping Beach House will be back again when the season turns.



Heyrocco growing strong

By Will Dodge

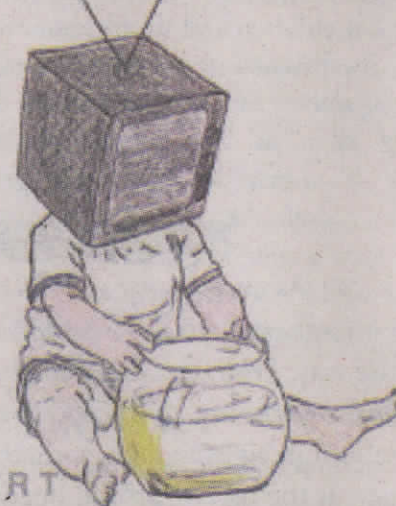
Southern indie rock is a charming little genre that encompasses everyone from heart-on-their-sleeve crooners to bearded, Rickenbacker wielding rockers; acoustic guitar wielding folk revivalists and hypnagogic bedroom producers sit side by side on the South's newly outward leaning musical spectrum. Many have tried (and more often than not failed) to blend these genres into a sort of grits and guitar picks mish-mash of influences. That said, few have been as successful as local stompers Heyrocco are with their debut long-player, *Comfort*.

Following a string of EPs and a slew of live shows over the course

of the past year and a half (including opening slots for Mutemath and Miniature Tigers), Heyrocco made plans to record a proper full-length. In February, the band began a Kickstarter campaign in which they were able to raise \$4000 in 25 days, reaching their goal with less than 24 hours left. The money has paid off. Taking cues from indie stalwarts The Antlers and . The first half of the album drags slightly, but is saved by the angelic "Young", meandering vocal take and guitar merging into a seamless, ambient workout. "Alaska 1957" is a slow burner taken straight from Kings of Leon's playbook, circa *Because of the Times*. And that's not a knock on Heyrocco; the chilly guitars and fidg-

ety percussion fit the songs title well. The closing guitar freakout makes me think they should try making a few tunes on the acid rockier side of things. The album's two shortest cuts, "Sad for the Kids" and "Careless," aim for the sonic experimentation Deerhunter did so well on *Cryptograms*, but slightly miss the mark, their ambling ruckus feeling more like forced vignettes than the evolved pieces the boys were seemingly aiming for.

HEYROCCO



The album's final two songs, "Summer Dance" and "Winter Dance," close the album on a high note. When vocalist Nate Merli croons, "there's a part of me that believes we'll be apart again soon"

over a gorgeously melancholic mélange of acoustic guitar and xylophone on "Summer Dance," you can't help but feel for him. The synthesized strings, chiming Youth Lagoon influenced piano chords and reverberating vocals of the latter track offer many directions that the trio could take as their journey moves on. A recent tour took them up to New York City, with headlining shows in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Their plans include more touring and another EP before the end of the year. With such a prolific workrate and the tenacious hunger that is all but seen in their live show, Heyrocco is shooting for the stars, and *Comfort* has enough spring in its step to propel them there.

Camille Mitchell



In the last four years, SOA has groomed me into someone who believes that success comes with hard work and determination. I've learned that I can literally do, have, change, achieve, or accomplish anything that I want if I stay focused and keep my eyes on the prize. These years have not been easy. My first major academic struggle was in 10th grade with **Mr. Reese**. He expected so much of me

and it took me until half way through my Junior year to realize that he was only preparing me for what was to come. As you move forward and progress, things get harder. I've definitely realized this after making it through Reese, **Donnellon**, and **Brehm**. They have made me look towards hard work instead of turning away and being reluctant. Theatre has also been a big part of my growing. **Mr. Younts** and **Mrs. Link** have taught me things about myself that I will forever thank them for. My reaudition in 10th grade gave me the wake-up call I needed. They showed me the proper way to conduct myself in learning/ work environments. The friendships I've gained and lost over the past four years have made SOA a unique experience. Each of them helped me to discover who I am as a person; likes, dislikes, and talents. I honestly feel like the experience you get at SOA is unlike any other high school. I can't help, but be appreciative that I got a chance to be a part of this school. I am even more proud to be a part of the SOA class of 2012!

Good luck to everyone in their future endeavors.

Josh Fairchild



Through the seven years at School of the Arts, the class that has had the strongest impact on me is Theatre. Not so much the class itself, but the people in the class. At SOA, the people in your major become the ones you bond to. The ones you see year after year and will genuinely miss when you graduate. There's the classmates who have been here since 6th grade and others that join in high school,

but regardless of how long you've known each other, everyone in the major somehow becomes integrated into a large, dysfunctional family. And no matter how much you want to bite your classmates' head off, yell at them, and give up on Senior Thesis, everything somehow turns out at least half-way decent in the end and everyone makes up and moves on.

In one month we'll be moving on, but this time for good. There won't be any more hissing and fighting, hugs and making fun of Mrs. Link when she's got her back turned, and I'll be sad to see it all go since it also means the breaking up of this group of friends. While we don't always realize it in the moment, seven years is a lot of time together, and we're going to miss each other when it is all said and done. Everyone goes their separate ways, but there will always be that crazy group of major kids to look back when we're in college and realize how easy high school actually was.

Hannah Nelson



My most memorable moment at SOA would have to be between two instances. One being during my very first week at SOA. **Alicia, Kedrick**, and I thought it would be a good idea to slide down the handrail of the stairs during dismissal one day. We were all three on the handrail and Alicia's book bag knocked me off and I flipped off the handrail, followed by me sliding down the remaining stairs with my book bag still on my back. It was so funny and being the "new girl" did not help much. Everyone saw me flip down the stairs and then I was known as the "girl who fell down the stairs." What a great start, right? All Alicia, Kedrick, and I could do was lay there and laugh for fifteen minutes.

My other most memorable instance would also be during Alicia and my first month or so at this school when Alicia and I had fart spray in **Bronk's** class. We thought it would be somewhat funny to spray it ONE time behind Kedrick's head. Well that ONE spray took over the whole room and everyone was freaking out screaming about the smell. Alicia and I did not want anyone to know that it was us who sprayed the fart spray. Mrs. Bronk started running around the room freaking out looking for Febreze. She couldn't find any and the next thing we knew she was throwing up in the trash can. Alicia and I were SO scared that we were going to get in trouble. We ran to the bathroom and called my Mom freaking out about how we were going to get in trouble. All she did was laugh. So we walked back into Bronk's room and acted like we had no clue who had done it and we joined in with everybody else saying "Who did that?!" We felt SO bad for making Bronk throw up. Finally, just so we wouldn't get in trouble I took the blame for it but nobody knew it was really just fart SPRAY. Then the next week Bronk came up to Alicia and me and just started laughing hysterically and asked us if it was fart spray. We couldn't do anything but laugh. We never got in trouble obviously, and now it's just a big joke between everyone from her 2011 Broadcast Journalism class. Good times. It's been fun spending my life with all you BUSCUITTTT HEADS and as we always say....Lehgo.



Stephanie Thompson



Through the trials and tribulations of being an SOA student, very soon, I believe about 12 actual school days, I shall be graduating with the rest of the Seniors and headed on into life. Thanks to this school, I have had a balanced education. Music has always been an inspiration and thanks to all of my teachers, I have been able to integrate my passion into every subject and therefore enjoy school a bit more than I would have if I was in a normal high school. My success has been exponential since entering this school and it was only thanks to the teachers who helped me along the way. If it wasn't for **Mrs. Touihri** (three years of her), I would have never been able to make it through any of my math courses (most band kids can really only count to 4). And thanks to **Dr. Cusatis** this year, I have made tremendous leaps and bounds with my writing, writing my first A paper in all of my high school career. Because of **Mr. Lindgren** and **Mr. Pezzeca**, science has been made entertaining and, although challenging, I have come out of each class feeling as if I've learned something new. And Mr. Brehm, with his millions of life experiences, has taught me good financial techniques, like "If you spend \$10,000 in one weekend, pay it back on Monday. If you can't do that, don't spend \$10,000" If it wasn't for these teachers and the many more that teach all of us in this school, it wouldn't be the same SOA I have come to know, love, and will be leaving very, very soon.

Phoebe Crouse



The class that has had a strong impact on me is the class that I have spent an hour and a half with, everyday, for the past seven school years. Getting to watch the transformation of **Haley Sirisky**, **Cierah Sargent**, **Logan Church**, **Camille Mitchell**, **Wade Alexander**, **Allie Larkin**, **Josh Fairchild**, **Jacob Hallex**, **Tanner Johnson**, **Meghan Murphy**, **Shekinah Patterson** and **Michael David Wilson**, has been one of the most interesting, rewarding, and fruitful experiences I've had yet. Under the instruction of **Mrs. Link** and **Mr. Younts**, I have learned the importance of support, respect, and the skill, needed to neatly stack tables and chairs.

Reflecting back on sixth grade this class consisted of resolute 11 year olds determined to make it onto the Disney Channel and some were indifferent to acting, enjoying the bliss of an awkward middle schooler. I was the young actress aspiring to land a spot on a sitcom and sport the latest of Limited Too's fashions while rolling my eyes in hopes to prompt a laughtrack. I was not an artist because I had yet to willingly take a risk and I was not a theatre major because I knew nothing of what it really means to be part of an ensemble; a group of people working together.

But seven years later I am graduating with the Theatre Ensemble of 2012, each of our minds instilled with Younts's voice thundering "ARE YOU BEING SUPPORTIVE?" We have worked together to each become artists with style. Style, meaning ones representation of creativity, style that was developed by taking risks under the security of this theatre family, coming from the soul of artistic integrity.

Theatre Ensemble of 2012, no matter how quirky we are, there is a perfect place for each of us in this world, and the moral lessons that we have learned from the horrifying scolding by Mr. Younts and Mrs. Link, will be another advantage we have over all the young adults making their way into life. Along with the fact that we have grown up endorsed in an environment of color and diversity. We will always be an ensemble, especially in the those moments when I see your faces as I witness something that only you would think is funny. Thanks for teaching me what I could never find in a textbook! Love you all.



Wade Alexander



SOA has been my school for 7 years, and the people here is what makes it special. I have been with some since elementary school, and others I have had the honor of getting to know while going here. All I try to say sounds halfhearted and feeble when writing this essay; I mean, what am I supposed to say? It seems to be almost an insult to try and condense my entire SOA experience into one essay. Am I supposed to talk about playing football during middle school lunch? Or the Theater Olympics freshman year? Maybe I should talk about crowd surfing at SETC? Scratch that. I will talk about **Mrs. Tourihri** and **Mr. Orvin**. No, I will talk about Prom 2K12--that's probably too predictable so I figure I better just sum it all up by saying thank you. Thank you to all who pushed me, to all who shared laughs with me, to all those who were my friend, and to my family who came to all those performances. I'd be lying if I said these last few years have been perfect, but I will say they have been pretty dang good. To those like **Dr. Cusatis** and **Mr. Reese**, I realize I am not the hardest working student, but thank you for forcing me to do better work. It's because of the culmination of all the opportunities I've been provided with that I'm going to Clemson University in the fall, where I can start my studies in Horticulture. I will use the skills I learned here to lead the rest of my life as I continue through college and eventually operate my own organic farm.

We are all leaving something behind; friends, family, safety, and sacrificing the life we now hold on to in some way to move forward. As I walk down the hallways and listen to all my peers talk about their college and life plans, I don't know if they realize that they will be leaving this reality forever and venturing into the real world, a world where no one is there to look out for you, a world where nothing is free. I hear statements like, "I can't wait to get away," or, "Oh my god! I'm gonna be so glad when I get out the house."

One day I hope they realize the truth. I hope they realize that this is it for childhood, the last hurrah, if you'll excuse the cliché. It's kind of bittersweet really, like the birth of one thing and the death of another. Don't let it slip by too fast.

Alexander Hoffman



Though several teachers, and frankly the experience as a whole, here at SOA have had some sort of effect on me, there is one who I can honestly say, without the slightest shadow of doubt has changed my life. It simply would not be right to pass up this opportunity, and deny him the credit he deserves, because if it were not for **Mr. Hammes**, I wouldn't

even have had the blessing of being a part of the SOA creative writing program at all. And here, if he is even reading this, is where he gets tremendously embarrassed, maybe some rosy blushing cheeks, or a single tear trickling down the bridge of his nose. Not because he's touched by the sentimental value of an article in the *Applause*, but because he is ashamed to have such a horribly written essay dedicated to him, and furthermore, have a student from his program write so poorly. But, regardless, thank you, Mr. Hammes, for seeing something no one else did, and for believing in me. Your support has gotten me through more than you know. I will always reminisce about sitting around the table, listening to a poem, or a short story or two, and I will never forget walking into your office and screaming about something, or someone or another, and your words alone gave me the reassurance I needed. So here's to you (holds up an invisible glass), the one who could always pick me back up when I was down. The one who is consistently selfless, and puts himself aside, and is proud when I say to him "Holy crap, I wrote a book" ...and the one who made it possible for me to say it. So, this is my thank you, I suppose. Thank you for getting fed up with making up slogans to sell people junk they don't need, and coming to a place where ten messed up, deranged, belong-in-a-loony-bin kids, need You. And to keep this from ending too sappy, I'm going to get "Hammes" in a heart with an arrow through it tattooed on my butt.

Tyrel Brewster



I remember when I first attended Charleston County School of the Arts. The school is the best. I learned different technology like computers, I-pads, and took Media Tech. I love technology. My teachers always help me learn and improve quickly.

My teachers that impacted me the most were **Mr. Walters**, **Mrs. Amick** and **Mrs. Duffy**. They helped me improve my English, reading, and math. I enjoyed working with them. They advised me about college. They want to help me more. I want to be successful in life. I love them so much. I am grateful to them, because they are the best teachers in the world.

In 2022, I will move to Raleigh, North Carolina for a second job as head chef. I will have my own family, a husband, and two children. I think my life will go in the right way. I love my family. I hope my family has peace, work hard and be successful. I will send my children to a public school.

This school is the best. This school helped me improve my education. I have had many great experiences in school: field trips, theater, dance, technology, socializing with deaf students from North Charleston Elementary School, and joining the Theatre of the Deaf. I had the most wonderful experiences of my life at this school.

Morgan Rowland



This is such a hard question to answer because I love so many of the teachers here all for different reasons. The teachers in general are fun and you can tell how much they care about you here. I would have to say though that out of all the great teachers here one of my favorites is definitely **Mr. Kerr**. He's been there for me for all of my high school years and I wouldn't be who I am today without his help. There's just something about Mr. Kerr that I really love. He's a great band director and I know he cares about every single student in the band and he even calls us his children. I have so much respect for him because of this. I know without a doubt if I ever need help from him he's going to do whatever he can do to help me and I will always do the same for him. If he asks me to do something I'm going to do it even if I think it's dumb because I respect him and know that he's probably right. He's made being a musician something that I love instead of something that I do to stay in the school. My high school career here would be so drastically different without him and I thank him for the way he has impacted and made my time here so enjoyable. I'm going to miss having someone to go to next year if I just need to laugh or hear a great story or if I just want to learn something that is going to affect me in my life. I'm truly going to miss Mr. Kerr and all the other great teachers at SOA.

Zackariya Mussalman



Ten years from now in 2022, yes that entire phrase just proves that I could do math, I would like to already have been finished with medical school, starting more of the long studying I have and getting closer to my dream career as a psychiatrist. Where I am now is a great start to this, staying in school and sticking to this goal that I have had since seventh grade.

I intend starting this all after my high school graduation then going off to a four year college, and after those four years go to the local recruiting center and sign up to become a military psychiatrist then after that start my medical school. My goal is to stay in school majoring in psychology, minoring in American Sign Language to get better at helping people. I will go through as much school as I need to, I honestly can say I like school. I want to understand the human and get to the root of it and help people get their lives straight. My college life will make this happen for me, and I will make it through. As Yoda once said "There is do and do not, there is no try." Even if I do not in the end choose to become a psychiatrist I wish to have a jump start in any career choice I make through an education because without an education one may not get too far and I say may not because a handful of people have become billionaires without an education. Who knows one might become rich, but they should still try to get their education.

Even if this entire plan does not work out, and ten years from now I am not where I want to be. In the end I am still going to keep trying my best at getting to my goal for the future. I just want to help people out, and try to get a good job in the end live a happy life. Ten years from now is a long way from here, it is hard to know where someone will end up, but that does not really matter. Everything in life is already written just as this essay each word comes right after the other and you keep reading till you get to the end, or skim through it and pretend to read it, or just not read it at all, there will always be an end even if you choose not to read. Live your life and go for your goals, it starts now and ends later.

We Love Lucy!



Congratulations to you!
Love,
Dad, Mom & Noah

Jordan Brunson



Jordan Natalia Brunson,
Oh, the places you will go!
We love you Baby Jo!
Congratulations,
Daddy, Mommy, Christopher,
Taylor, Liam and Marcus-dog!

Kwyntae Grampus



Kwyntae,
We are so proud of you.
Stay focused and you will accomplish your goals. Remember to keep GOD first.
Love,
Mom, Dad, Stevie, Adrianne

Caitlin Newton



Congratulations Caitlin!
We are so very proud of you!
May God bless you and watch over you as you step into your future at Presbyterian College.
Love,
Mom and Dad

Jacob Hallex



Congratulations Jacob on a job well done!
We love you!

Greggory Heyword



Greggory, we are so proud of the young man you've become! You have something amazing in you and Mom is looking down proudly!
Congratulations on your triumphs and successes and remember that you can do anything you set your mind to.
We love you & believe in you,
Jenn, Grandma, Aunt Faye & Mona

Alex Enter

This is my precious son, through all the years
and all the tears, we are so proud of you.
You've done well, the future has a lot to offer.

Be wise, be happy and be true.

The time for you to become a man is here.

Where did my little boy go?

We've given you the roots to grow.

You're now given the wings to soar.

Go now, follow your dreams.

Do great things.

We Love YOU!

Mom, Dad & Grayson

Hannah Nelson

Hannah,

Look at you then and look at you now. We've watched
you grow into a beautiful, intelligent, strong young lady.
The one thing we admire most about you is your unwill-
ingness to be a follower. Stay the leader you are now, and
continue to dance to the beat of your own drum.

Although we are sad to see you go away to college, we
know this is a whole new chapter in your life. Remember,
we are always behind you in whatever you do.

We love you the most babe,

Mom and Dad

- Comprehensive Eye Health Exams by
Dr. Paul Bohac
- Contact Lens Specialist
- Professional Optical Services
- Specializing in No-Line Bifocals
- Full Selection Of Eyewear &
Sunglasses In All Price Ranges
- Fill/Duplicate Your Rx
- Most Insurance Accepted

**Angel Oak Eye Center**

2875 Maybank Highway • Johns Island

Phone: 843.559.5333

E-Mail: DrBohac@AngelOakEyeCenter.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 9-6 • Sat by Appointment

Where are they now: Sytske Hillenius

By Allie Augustine

Allie Augustine: What college did you attend, and what advice can you give to SOA seniors who are about to start college?

Sytske Hillenius: I went to the College of Charleston where I double majored in Arts Management and Music with a concentration in composition. My advice to you is to make the most out of your time in college. Find ways to involve yourself in the community both on and off campus wherever you attend school. If there is an idea you have that you want to pursue, now is a great time to try to figure out how to make it happen.

AA: How have you continued to peruse your major after graduating from SOA?
SH: I was a strings major at SOA. Since graduating from SOA in 2008 I have continued taking lessons, performing with orchestras and other ensembles, teaching, and playing fun gigs including a few with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Entropy Ensemble, and more recently with some singer-songwriters around town. I also formed a folk music and contra dance band called Shady Groove after studying abroad in

Australia with a few of my friends including fellow SOA graduate Logan Wells.

AA: What would you say, so far, is the highlight of your career with Shady Groove?

SH: I set up a week-long tour in Florida this March that was a lot of fun and we also just recorded and released our first album titled "That Shady Groove" available on CDBaby.com, iTunes, and Amazon.com

(although if you really want to support musicians, it is always nice if you buy a hard copy).

AA: What can you tell us about the Fulbright scholarship that you received? What will you be studying while in Australia?

SH: I will be working towards a masters degree in Ethnomusicology at the University of Melbourne. My research will be with the folk dance community in Tasmania, the island south of the mainland, looking at what their music is influenced by both historically and presently. I imagine I will be tracing some of their musical roots back to Ireland where many prisoners were taken from.



Kedrick Paisley



We are so proud of you Kedrick "Our Dancing Man" Much love and success in the future! Always put God first and Reach for your Dreams.

Love,

Mom, Dad and SaVannah



Congrats Kedro!

I'm not with you physically while serving our country in Kuwait. I love you. I'm very proud of you, and I'm with you in spirit.

Your Dad

Where were they then: Mr. Reinhart

By Allie Augustine

Allie Augustine: Where did you grow up and what childhood activities did you enjoy?

James Reinhart: I grew up in Detroit, Michigan. I was a huge sports fan and loved to draw. As an only child, I would regularly be out of the house playing baseball and football with friends in the community or at the local Boy's Club. As long as I remember, when at home, I focused on drawing every day.

AA: Are there any teachers who had a strong impact on you?

JR: Throughout all of my years in school there have always been teachers who have greatly impacted my thoughts and perspective. The greatest impact came from my baseball coaches when I was seven years old.

AA: Growing up in a single parent household, I was amazed to find that people, who really did not even know me, would care enough to teach me baseball, drive kids home after practice if their parents were busy and just cared about people being happy with themselves. That was really when teaching may have become my passion.

AA: Did you have any nick names going up?

JR: "Rein-stone". This came from the Glen Campbell song, The Rhinestone Cowboy. Also, there were four boys, all the same general age, named Jim. We each lived a few houses from each other and we all needed nick-names. I took on the "Jimmy" of the James related nick-names.

AA: What sports were you involved in and did you partake in any arts?

JR: I actually participated in sports year round at school and in the community. Football, basketball, Hockey, track and baseball. In college I picked up tennis and snow skiing too. I regularly entered my personal artwork in contests. One time, somewhere around age 8 or 9, I won an Easter drawing contest at a store and the prize was \$250.00

in toys. That was a jackpot back then. I also wanted to be an actor. I thought that if I was in the movies, I could live forever!

AA: What was your first car, and where did you go on your first date?

JR: Chevy Nova. I took my first date to a party after my football game. Most dates consisted of attending music concerts in Detroit. Ted Nugent, Rush, Alice Cooper and Aerosmith were some of the first date shows.

AA: What music, books or mov-

ies were you interested in?

JR: I never saw the band KISS but they and Elton John were my first albums. My first novel enjoyed was called "Alive". The story was based on a sports team that crashed in the Andes Mountains and had to resort to cannibalism to stay alive. The movie Jaws had a big impact on me. I also loved all Jerry Lewis movies and admired his ability to make people laugh.

AA: Were you in a fraternity in college?

JR: No fraternities. We had a house in college after 2 years in a dorm. Eight of us took up residence. I loved the life-long friendships we built from that time. We are all still very close.

AA: What colleges did you attend, and were you always interested in the field of education?

JR: Michigan State University Spartans and the South Carolina Gamecocks are my schools. I worked as a designer in California for two years following graduation. I was always interested in education but graduated with my art degree first and later returned to MSU for my teaching degree.

AA: Where was your first teaching position and what do you recall most about it?

JR: After serving as a long-term art department sub in the school of my student teacher assignment, my first job was teaching art in a K-5 elementary school in Michigan. I also served as the basketball and tennis coach at the high school.

AA: If you weren't a principal, what job would you like to be doing now?

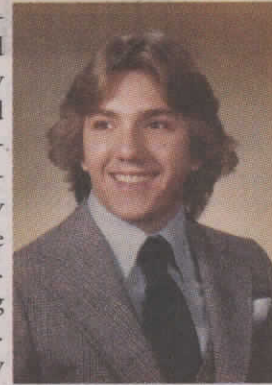
JR: I will always want to be helping people to grow, to learn and to take advantage of opportunities that expand their passions. I will always be teaching in one way or another.

AA: What things have you not yet crossed off of your bucket list?

JR: I want to enjoy watching my sons graduating from school and getting married.

AA: Are there any other fun facts that students may like to know about you?

JR: I had the opportunity to act in a couple episodes of Star Trek -The Next Generation and few movies shot here locally. I spent a week with Julia Roberts filming "Something to Talk About." I had a great time. The biggest fun fact is that I cherish each day watching each of you grow and learn. You are all so talented and more than that, you are great people! Thank you.



Applause speaks with SOA's Valedictorian: Lucy Rummler

By Allie Augustine

Allie Augustine: How have you managed to balance school, sports, your art and your social life?

Lucy Rummler: As long as I organize everything I need to do and take it all one step at a time, it usually gets done. Just know your limits and know when to step away from working and have fun. Doing all of these activities balances me; I'd rather be well rounded

than concentrated in one area.

AA: What motivates you to succeed to such an extensive degree in everything you do?

LR: I guess I have some degree of pride for whatever I do, so whether it's a workout, a race, a project, or a painting, I can't stand knowing I could have done better. YOLO!

AA: Do you ever get stressed? If so, how do you relax?

LR: When I'm stressed, running or hiking is very refreshing. I get to go to practice and run after bending over a desk doing schoolwork or artwork all day, and when I get home, I find that I am happier, more relaxed, and more focused. Also, one person I can always complain to is **Sam Rames**. We're the only two seniors on our bus and we know we can rant to each other on the morning or afternoon bus rides when things are especially hectic.

AA: What advice do you have for underclassmen?

LR: Try out different sports, clubs, community service, etc. Find something you love, or a few activities, and stay dedicated to them. SOA has a lot of opportunities for getting involved in something in your art major as well as great community service opportunities

such as the Liberty Hill Literacy Program. If you love doing something then you won't be doing

it simply because you need service hours or something to put on your college application.

AA: Who do you consider to be an inspiration or role model?

LR: I'm inspired by my brother, **Noah**, and my friend, **Georgia Compton**. Noah is a lot different than me because he

really doesn't worry about school work and he'd rather play video games than play sports, but he's always so supportive of me in everything I do and he's very Christ-centered. Georgia, who is on my track team, amazes me because she tries to become friends with every single person she meets, whether it's the janitor, a girl from the rival team, or some guy she sees running alone. She holds three records at Wando and was Wando's Miss Junior, but she is incredibly humble.

AA: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

LR: I don't really know. I will be attending Clemson University and I will be majoring in chemistry. I was conflicted when choosing a major, because there have been many different classes at SOA that really interested me. As of now, I think I want to be a scientific researcher because I mentored in a lab at MUSC this past summer and I was intrigued by the projects the researchers were working on.

AA: You are often compared to 2010 valedictorian and Wando track star Lauren DiNicola. What is your opinion on this comparison?

LR: It's definitely an honor to be compared to Lauren. Lauren started driv-

ing me to practice at Wando when I was in ninth grade and she was in eleventh, and one day when I was stressed out about school and told her that I was a bit of a grade freak, I found out that we had more in common than just being Wando runners. I admire Lauren's dedication, talent, friendly personality, and her goal of improving American educational systems. She is sort of a legend here at SOA because seemingly everyone still remembers her, but I remember her more as a friend and mentor. I miss those rides to practice with her when she tell me about her day and keep me laughing.

AA: Besides running, what are some of your interests outside of SOA?

LR: I love going downtown with friends because there is always something going on. You could go downtown every weekend with almost no money and still find something new to do. I also enjoy hiking and camping with my family.

AA: Aside from the visual arts, what other artists, such as musicians, writers and actors, have meant a lot to you?

LR: Some of my favorite books include *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Devil in the White City*, *Catcher in the Rye*, *Atonement*, and the Harry Potter series. One author who I've loved since I was young is Roald Dahl, who wrote *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. I also found many connections with Campbell McGrath's poetry after studying him in Dr. Cusatis's class. My dad plays every genre of music imaginable during all hours of the day, so music has always been a big part of my life. I especially like The Beatles, Vampire Weekend, Adele, Florence and the Machine, Louis Armstrong, and Wilco.

AA: In what ways will you continue to pursue your art?

LR: I have never considered myself to be one of the better artists in my class, but I love making art and being among such creative people. I want to take a couple of art classes in college, but mostly I see myself painting as a hobby and appreciating all art forms around me.

AA: In what ways has SOA shaped you as a student and a person?

LR: I've been at SOA since 6th grade, and at SOA, I have become completely comfortable with being myself. In 6th grade when I was a theatre major, I found it difficult to be expressive on stage like my classmates, but I still felt welcome in the theatre family. They were tolerant of my shy personality and I never felt pressured to become loud and outgoing to fit in.

Students who go the extra mile in their school work, art major or extracurricular activities are not despised, and they are not in the minority. With my classmates constantly seeking to achieve goals, I felt inspired to reach my own. Being among students who are awarded with such things as All-State Band, Strings, and chorus status and National Scholastic art and writing awards has made me more ambitious. The teachers at SOA, who love their subjects and welcome discussion, have helped me to find my voice and ask a lot of questions. They have helped me discover that learning constantly is one of the best things you can do. Finally, I learned from being a part of a diverse community to welcome differing viewpoints and personalities.

SOA's Applause also congratulates Samantha Hord, the salutatorian.



AP Literature interviews to be published as part of major reference book

By Will Dodge

Three school years ago, then theatre major **Addison Dent** was doing research on poet Billy Collins for **Dr. Cusatis'** AP Literature class when he realized there wasn't a whole lot of research on the former poet laureate. "I was discouraging kids from researching living poets, because there was so little information on them," says Dr. Cusatis. But then came a revelation: why not interview the poets themselves, and get the information directly from the source? So that's what they did the next semester, and have done for the three years following. And now, these interviews will be shared with the rest of the reading world in Dic-

tionary of Literary Biography, considered by many to be the best literary reference series ever published.

In March, Dr. Cusatis was contracted by Gale Publishers to edit the two-volume reference book titled *Contemporary American Poets*. Encompassed in the work will be fifty poets, with a four thousand-word essay preceding each interview. By press time, SOA student interviews accounted for twenty-five of the fifty included interviews. Poets that will be featured include two Pulitzer Prize winners as well as five US Poets Laureate: Phillip Levine, Ted Kooser Billy Collins, Robert Pinsky, and Donald Hall.

Current and former AP Lit students involved in the interviews will be acknowledged in the work, and for most, it will be their first published work. Their work will sit right next to that of scholars from a multitude of prestigious universities. Current AP Lit student **Jacob Elsey** thinks the book "will give the readers a better understanding of where the poets drew their inspiration, as well as a good look into their own voice, not just through poetry."

Conducting the interviews was enlightening for the students, and **Lucy Rummler** said "each time a poet gave me a response to my interview question, I was ner-

vous about saying something silly or irrelevant, but I found that they welcomed any input I had." According to senior **Hailey Bowers**, editing the transcripts remains the most important step in the interviewing process, with the editing of "an hour interview taking upwards of 4 hours. The phone would cut out, words would be missing; accents were too heavy to understand. But in the end, I think they've turned out almost perfect."

The anthology is currently set for release in Spring of 2013. Future students will be able to access these interviews through SC Discus.

Middle schoolers surprise at MS Talent Show

By guest writer, Adam Riesburg

Being at SOA, there are very talented people. It isn't called School of the Arts for nothing! Being the Master of Ceremonies for the middle talent show; I was very excited to see what kind of talent SOA had in store for me to see! I am so glad that Ms. Priester and Mr. Smyth picked me to host the Middle School Talent show. All twenty-six of the acts absolutely blew me away!

In the opening act; sixth grader Brianna Samonte danced like I had never seen before! Dancing to the "Swagger Jagger," I was amazed at her talent. I really wish I could be as talented as she is at dancing. Another act that really caught my eye was eighth grader Woods Brower, playing his harmonica. The song started out like an aver-

age harmonist would play but after the first two measures, he sounded like a professional. It was very quick paced and I had never really heard anybody play the harmonica before the show, so I was surprised at how good he was. I didn't even know the harmonica was an instrument that people actually played! I would always expect the guitar, the drums, the trumpet, and maybe a saxophone, but never a harmonica. Sixth grader Lucy Wallace also had a jaw dropping performance. She sang a song called "Summertime," I had no idea such a voice could come from a girl as young as her. She was amazing and one of the best acts of the night. When I get older; I expect people to pay to come and hear her sing. Another act that I found very interest-

ing was eighth grader, Haley Mae Campbell's song that she wrote herself. The song was about eighth grade and everything that eighth graders go through. The last act of the night was by eighth graders Patrick Burns and Liam Maheu. They sang an older song called "Slide" by the Goo Goo Dolls. Bringing back rock; they played the song to perfection. This is one of my favorite type of performances to hear: kids like me copying celebrities and practicing their songs to perfection.

I would like to give a special thanks to sixth grader Malichi Jones: our sound man. With his help; the talent show was a great success. Good job to everybody who participated. All of the acts were fantastic and I enjoyed every moment I was there.



[Update Info](#)[Activity Log](#)

- In operation since 1995
- 8 Art Majors
- Located in Charleston County
- 1,050 students

[About](#)

Friends 2012



Photos 1337



Maps 6981

**School of the Arts**

1 hour ago near North Charleston

School of the Arts is attending the School of the Arts Class of 2012 Graduation at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center



School of the Arts added 525 photos to the album SENIO12 THESES
2 weeks ago near North Charleston

**School of the Arts**

3 months ago near North Charleston

"Ever meet a fella by the name of Hill?"
Great performance by the cast of the Music Man!



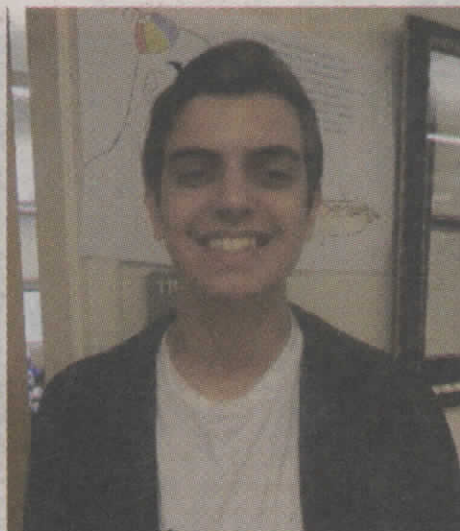


"**Hayley Malone** because she has made vocal fun for me this year, but I love them all."

Alex Grant, 11th grade Vocal



"**Emily Hart** because she is a very good dancer and she is friendly and nice." Anna Chamness, 9th grade Dance



"**Jacob Elsey** because he's a creative writer who inspired me to follow my own writing." Austin Worth, 11th grade Creative Writing



"My brother **Kedrick Paisley** because he's a really good dancer." SaVannah Paisley, 9th grade Dance



"**Tanner Cooper** because he can be in P.E. with freshmen and still pull it off."

Rachel Burnett, 10th grade Visual Arts

What senior has inspired you the most?

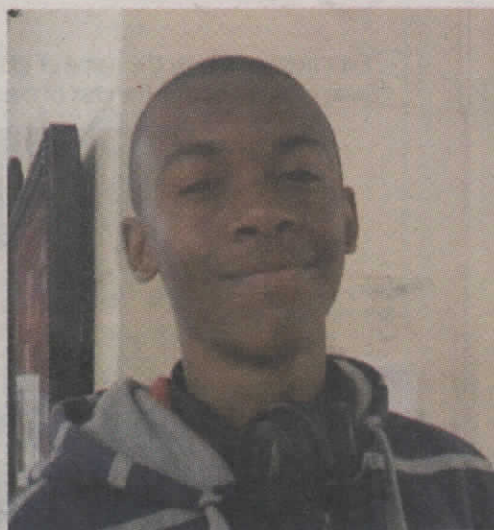
By Jacob Elsey and Anna Mathias



"**Sabrina McIntyre** because of her talent and because she's a great person." Mrs. Touihri



"**Anna Mathias and Allie Larkin** because they're both awesome and they're both really cool." Will Bridgham, 8th grade Theatre



"**Anja Evenson** because she is very cool and calm to and she can handle anything." Dallas Grant, 9th grade Piano



"**Mary Claire Moser** because she is a great sister and she is nice to everyone." Sarah Moser, 10th grade Theatre



"**Emily Hart and Liz Kitchens** because they are both cool and nice." David Doboszanski, 10th grade Creative Writing