

APPLAUSE

Volume 14, Number 1

October 2012



Letter From the Editor



Well, here we are again. The first nine weeks of the school year are already flying by and it feels like we were just watching *The Music Man* and saying our good-byes to Mr. Reinhart. Alas, the air surrounding the School of the Arts has cleared of post-summer greetings, and winds of change are sweeping in. The new school year brings with it a new principal and vice principal, along with a handful of new teachers and students dispersed throughout each major and grade level. Now that everyone's had a chance to get to know each other, it seems we're settling into a nice groove, and those winds of change are starting to feel like more of a nice breeze.

In the following pages, readers will find in-depth interviews with our new faculty members and administrators, along with a look into the myriad of adventures the SOA community had over the summer, including Mr. Donnelon's trip to the land of "cheese-eating surrender monkeys", along with and the rest of the student body's exciting journeys. We also offer a preview of the already busy fall sports schedule and the ultimate list of ridiculous community service excuses. As a new feature this year, each issue will focus on an art major. This month's is strings, and in turn, we caught up with a former violinist who just got back from playing at the Democratic National Convention and check on the progress of the class of 2013's senior thesis.

As we look forward to two musicals, Art Smart, and a jam-packed arts schedule, there is a lot of excitement on the forecast. As the *Applause's* new editor, it is my hope that we can keep you informed and excited about the bevy of events happening around the campus and community. Keep it real SOA; *Applause* will be back at ya with another issue right around Art Smart.

Until then,

WILL DODGE

Upcoming Events

October 13: Jump, Jive, and Wail - 7:30
@ Visitors Center Bus Shed

October 15-16: HS Theatre Showcase
4PM @ Black Box

October 18-20: *Les Miserables* - 7 PM

October 22-24: MS Theatre Improv
4 PM @ Black Box

October 29-31: Art Smart



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Applause

the official student publication of
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Service of the Month: National Honors Society

by Emily Thomas

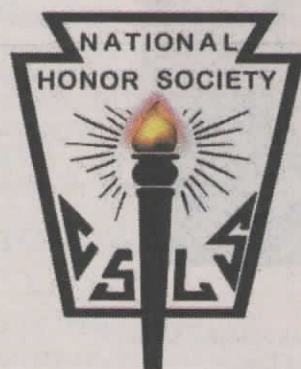
National Honor Society was founded on the principles of character, scholarship, leadership, and service. Sophomores and juniors with a GPA of 4.3 and higher are invited to apply to NHS to be members in the junior and senior years. This year, service has been organized into certain "service pods." In other words, students can choose either the Red Cross Blood Drive, Liberty Hill, Tutoring/Breakfast Sales, or the Miscellaneous (Habitat for Humanity, Ronald McDonald, etc) service pods.

For the past year or so, Mr. Lindgren has been championing volunteers for the Liberty Hill Literacy Program. Liberty Hill Elementary is a Title I school for at risk students. Many of the students who attend this school do not have a supportive home environment in which parents read to their children, or even teach them their alphabet. Every Monday through Thursday, at risk students are brought to the Felix Pinckney Community Center in the afternoon to receive help with reading. Not only can NHS members come, but everyone is invited to volunteer. (If you ask Mr. Lindgren about Liberty Hill, he'd be happy to give you more information.)

As for the other service organizations, there will be a blood drive soon and anyone over the age of 16 can donate blood. Tutoring is open to both middle and high school students on Monday and Thursday afternoons.

The National Honor Society would also like to welcome the incoming juniors and congratulate the following on being elected officers:

Secretary – Miles Counts
 Historian – Jessica Martin
 Treasurer – Ashley Prentice
 VP of Tutoring – Christiana Keinath
 VP of Service – Liann Bova
 Co-Presidents – Nicholas Bentz & Emily Thomas



Freshmen Awarded for their Community Service

by Emily Thomas

The Jefferson Service Club awards students monthly for their volunteerism and community service.

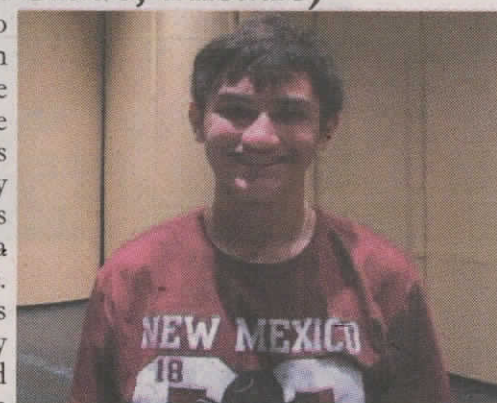
Carly Edwards (9th Grade, Vocal)

This summer, Carly Edwards went on her second mission trip to Ghana. Carly "went to a small village, Okurase about an hour outside of the capital, Accra. While we were there we did a Village Health Outreach through Project Okurase." Project Okurase was co-founded by Carly's grandmother. The Village Health Outreach was created to oversee all the medical needs in the village. While Carly was there, she "helped start a nutrition program, taught some of the kids about dental hygiene, registered people with medical needs for the outreach, and even helped with wound care." It was a very successful trip because the outreach helped over 1,100 people. Carly reflects, "the most memorable part of the trip was when we brought this one little boy [Daniel Tei] tennis shoes and he jumped around as soon as he put them on shouting, 'BOOTS, BOOTS, BOOTS!' with this huge smile on his face. It was actually quite shocking considering the children knew very little English and spoke Twi." Carly plans on joining the Jefferson Service Club this year to spread the word of her service activities.



Ted Anastopoulos (9th Grade, Theatre)

Ted Anastopoulos recently started an organization called College Bound Kids. The organization donates college t-shirts to fifth grade students at Mary Ford Elementary School. Attached to the shirts are a "diploma" which includes a short description of the college. Ted explains that he also "gives interactive presentations to Mary Ford students about college and how they can pursue it." He hopes that "by starting this non-profit... children in lower income families can have an idea of what college is like and it's benefits so that they can achieve a college education." Ted started working on College Bound Kids over the summer. So far, it's been a great success and The Children's Museum of the Lowcountry has agreed to help donate t-shirts.



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MEET YOUR 2012-2013 SOA APPLAUSE STAFF



Alex Berlinsky

Senior Theatre Major

Favorite independent mockumentary film featuring MC Hammer: Finishing the Game: The Search for the New Bruce Lee

Favorite Hail Mary pass to end a football game: Kirk Cousins at the end of the 2011 Michigan State v. Wisconsin game. Flutie is overrated

If you were in the Wu Tang Clan, what would your name be: Tranquil Guardian



Shelby Oltmann

Senior Band Major

Favorite Swedish Underground Band: Yngwie Malmsteen

Pet peeve: Odd numbers

Favorite word: Kerfuffle

Favorite toddler in a tiara: Alana Thompson, aka Honey Boo Boo



Cameron Lloyd

Senior Vocal Major

Least favorite throwback NFL jersey: Green Bay Packers

Had nose broken: 3 times

Favorite SyFy original movie: Pumpkinhead: Ashes to Ashes



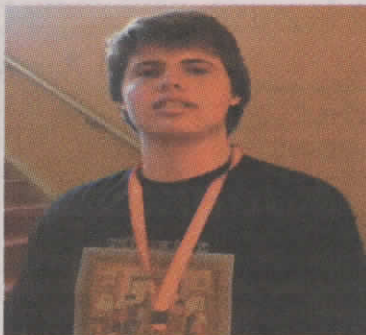
Danie Johnson

Senior Vocal Major

Favorite Yogurt Mountain yogurt flavor: Espresso

Favorite constellation: Canis Major

Number of aunts with an alpaca farm: 1
Once won a cat toy as a prize for making the best cat collage at summer camp.



Will Dodge

Senior Creative Writer

Favorite Dawson's Creek episode: Season 2, Episode 21; "Ch...Ch...Changes"

Least Favorite shade of violet: Plum

Favorite member of Dipset: 'Purple Haze' era Cam'Ron



Emily Thomas

Senior Creative Writer

Favorite flavor ice cream: Chocolate

Righty or lefty: Righty

Current addiction: Adventure Time

Something you never leave home without: My iPhone! It is my lifeline.



Madeleine Vath

Junior Vocal Major

Favorite Cheese: Muenster

Favorite Bird: Penguin

Favorite Shape: Hexagon

Favorite Meat: Bacon



Jakob Lazarro

Freshman Piano Major

Favorite book: If I told you my favorite books, we would be here until January.

Favorite animals: Llamas, Penguins, Eagles, and Turtles.

Lived in Sydney, Australia for 2 1/2 years when I was 10-13 years old.



Taylor Dahl

Sophomore Creative Writer

Least favorite odd fruit: Guanabana

Hottest Star Wars character:

Pre-lava Anakin

Name of car: Dolores

Pet Peeve: Lucas Eaton

SOA welcomes new principal, Ms. Shannon Cook

by Danie Johnson

Applause sat down with SOA's new principal to learn about her Midwestern upbringing and the things she hopes to bring to SOA

Danie Johnson: Where did you grow up?

Principal Cook: Mostly the Midwest; Illinois, and Kentucky.

DJ: Where did you enjoy living the most out of those places?

SC: I liked southern Illinois because we had real seasons. There was a distinct fall and there was a distinct winter, and we could ice skate in the winter and in the summer it was miserably hot and humid.

DJ: Tell me a bit about your family life

SC: I have two girls. I have one at Clemson and one at Carolina and they are very, very different. One does wedding gigs and the other is a piano player. She's at Clemson studying engineering. In fact, she's starting a class where she will learn how to play the bells in the bell tower, which I think is very cool.

DJ: Who inspired you when you were a child?

SC: My mother was a piano teacher and when I was about three or four, I would try to play what her students were playing in her lessons. She said I was practicing thirty or forty minutes a day just messing around, and my mom said, "if you're going to play so much, I'm going to give you something to practice." We moved around very frequently; about every two years and because my mom was my teacher, I never had to start over with a new teacher. My father was a pastor and we would move to different churches, but the great thing was that there was never a break in my piano lessons.

DJ: What are you looking to change or enhance about SOA?

SC: I'm looking to support the teachers here so that they can then give that same support to the students. I want to make it a better place to teach and work on the physical level. I also want us to look at some big, audacious goals that would involve all of us coming together and help a struggling school in another part of the world and show support to them. I think it would be so cool if we worked to hone our art skills so we are better equipped to help serve the global community. That's one of the other things I would like to see happen.

DJ: What jobs did you have before taking up the position of principal at SOA?

SC: I was an assistant principal for five years, and prior to that, a teacher for 13 years. I've also taught private piano lessons, and play for weddings, special services, and accompany performing groups.

DJ: What was your first job?

SC: In high school I worked in a Chinese restaurant during the school year and at a camp for handicapped children and adults in the summer. I learned the basics of sign language during my weeks with hearing impaired campers.

DJ: What degrees have you earned?

SC: Bachelor of Science in Education with a Minor in Music, Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and Certification in Educational Administration.

DJ: What other ways are you personally connected to the arts?

SC: Long ago (in high school) I played in the band, orchestra, and a madrigal recorders group. I sang with the All-State choir and was in the school's show choir. My senior year I was the drum major of the marching band and took part in the school musical. I began playing the piano before kindergarten and took lessons for about 13 years. I still play keyboards and can play a little flute when I'm needed. My daughters are both musicians, and I like playing duets and trios with them. I've written a couple of grants that let me wordsmith a path to arts funding, and pretend I'm a dancer when I attend Zumba classes. I enjoy projects that incorporate the arts. I have led summer musical camps and coordinated special events like weddings and social functions. My dissertation focuses on leadership in arts integration. I believe in the power of the arts to make learning more enjoyable and impacting, and I try to incorporate the arts into many of the meetings with teachers and parents.



DJ: What do you think about the SOA and the Academic Magnet sharing a campus?

SC: Financially it's very wise. Gyms, cafeterias, and auditoriums are very costly to build. Being able to share those spaces saves a great deal of money in not only the construction, but management and maintenance of those spaces.

DJ: When will we be able to call you "doctor"?

SC: I'm a half a chapter away from completing my dissertation and earning my Ph.D in Educational Leadership and Policies. I hope and plan to graduate this December. Doc Cook seems a little awkward to pronounce. (Someone suggested "Her Eminence"... has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?)

Getting to Know SOA's new assistant principal, Ms. Gretchen Looney

by Madeleine Vath

Applause spoke with the new assistant principal to learn about her life before SOA

Madeleine Vath: Where did you grow up?

Ms. Gretchen Looney: I grew up on the eastern shore of Maryland in two small towns, Oxford and St. Michaels. After graduating from my Big Wheel, I travelled by boat or roller skates. For most of my life, my family operated a ferryboat where I worked as a deckhand and, eventually, became a seventh-generation ferryboat captain.

MV: What was your high school mascot? What do you think about being a Pegasus now?

GL: I attended a small public high school on the eastern shore of Maryland. Our school's name was St. Michaels High School, and our mascot was the Saints. Our female programs were dubbed the "Lady Saints." Saints is a bit vague and potentially lofty; I'm glad to have a more tangible mascot.

MV: Where did you go to college and what did you study?

GL: My undergraduate work was done at the University of Delaware; I

majored in literary studies and minored in Spanish. I entered education after earning a Master of Art degree in teaching secondary English from the Citadel, received National Board for Professional Teaching certification, and returned to the Citadel to earn certification as a secondary schools principal.



MV: Who or what inspired you to join the education force?

GL: I don't have a great inspirational story as to why I am an educator. My parents often commented on my natural teaching abilities, and my most positive life experiences involve work-

ing with children, so I think education was an ideal pathway for me.

MV: What previous experience do you bring to SOA?

GL: My professional experiences in education have been varied. I have taught all levels and grades of high school English, have supported elementary, middle, and high school teachers as a teacher coach, lead teacher, and literacy instructional coordinator in many of our schools. Most recently, I served as a Charleston County School District administrator-English language arts curriculum specialist (K-12).

MV: Do you have any prior association with the arts?

GL: My prior association with the arts is that of a fascinated patron. Of course, my shower solos are quite impressive, and my mom still proudly displays some of my art in the back of a seldom-used closet!

MV: What are your goals for SOA?

GL: My first goals are to meet our

faculty and to learn the current successes and areas for growth of the school. Then my goals will shift to support the sustainability of the successes and to challenge our thinking to achieve in the areas for growth.

MV: If you could be anything other than our assistant principal, what would you be?

GL: Of course, it's difficult to imagine being anything other than your assistant principal, but I do sometimes envision myself as an author who writes from the idyllic backdrop of a farm-turned-bed-and-breakfast with a fish pond and, probably, a dog.

MV: No offense, but has anyone ever kidded you about your surname? If so, what were some of the most creative jokes?

GL: With a name that has been associated with the cycles of the moon to mental unbalance, I have, of course, been kidded about my name. I look forward to hearing the most creative jokes about my name during this school year.

MEET SOA'S NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

by Taylor Dahl and Danie Johnson

Dr. Christopher Selby
High School Strings

The new high school strings teacher, Dr. Christopher Selby, earned his Music Education degree from Hartt School of Music in Connecticut as well as his Masters of Music and Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting at University of South Carolina. Before coming to SOA, Dr. Selby served as the Orchestra Coordinator in Richland School District in Columbia, and he also directed the Spring Valley High School orchestra for several years. Under his direction, the Chamber Orchestra won 1st place in the 2012 National Orchestra Festival.

"I have loved music for as long as I can remember," Dr. Selby says. He also enjoys the Charleston beaches, as well as "any restaurant that serves food," particularly Italian, steak, sushi and other seafood. Despite his classical music background, Dr. Selby also enjoys bluegrass music, especially Nickle Creek.

Dr. Selby spent his summer "packing, moving, and unpacking," so he is ready for the new school year. His goal is to make the SOA orchestra the best in the country. "Give me a few years, but we are going to get there."

**Jump
Jive
and Wail!**

When: October 13, 7:30

**Where: Visitor's Center
Bus Shed
Meeting St.**

**How Much? \$20 in advance
\$25 at the door**

Ms. Perry Werbit
Guidance

Taylor Dahl: What colleges did you attend and what degrees did you earn?

Ms. Perry Werbit: The College of Charleston, Bachelor of Arts in Corporate Communication as well as the Citadel Graduate College, Master of Education, Secondary School Counseling.

TD: Where are you originally from and what led you here?

PW: I am originally from Ridgefield, Connecticut. I decided to come to Charleston for college so I could get out of the cold for four years. Now, I cannot seem to get away! It's an amazing city.

TD: Do you have any hobbies or other interests?

PW: I love art. I like to consider myself an artist. Although, compared to these students I don't know if I can. I enjoy playing tennis. I absolutely LOVE to cook. I have two beautiful standard poodles that take up a lot of my time at home.

TD: Any favorite restaurants?

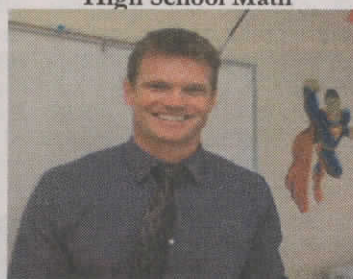
PW: I am a foodie so this is tough. Wild Olive is my favorite restaurant around. Love Basil. D'alessandros Pizza is absolutely amazing, plus so many more.

TD: What attracted you to counseling?

PW: I had an unbelievable school counselor when I was in high school. He was always super helpful and supportive. I would love to be that person for young people.

TD: Do you have any long term goals as an educator?

PW: There are more certifications I would like to have. Maybe one day I will decide to go for my PhD., but I haven't given that any serious thought. I honestly just want to do the best I can and really help students. I was so appreciative of the help and support I received as a student, and I would like to give that to current and future students.

Mr. Chad Williams
High School Math

Taylor Dahl: What colleges did you attend and what degrees did you earn?

Mr. Chad Williams: For undergrad I attended the College of New Jersey and earned my bachelors degree with a dual major in Elementary Education and Mathematics. I then attained my Masters of Arts with a focus on Athletic Administration from Southeast Missouri State University.

TD: What other types of jobs have you had?

CW: I have been a roofer, a house framer, a gas station attendant, camp counselor, coach, and worked at Barnes & Noble.

TD: Any favorite movies? Actors? Books? Authors? Musicians? Albums?

CW: Favorite Movie - Shawshank Redemption, Actor - Sean Penn, Actress - Anne Hathaway, Musician - Depends on my mood but throughout college I loved Lincoln Park. Their album Meteora, I still think is amazing.

TD: What attracted you to SOA?

CW: I think the uniqueness of this school attracts any teacher. Who wouldn't want to work in an environment where every student plays a greater role in contributing to the school beyond the everyday academics? I believe that if more schools like this were offered that all students would get a greater and more memorable educational experience.

TD: If you were a student here, what would your major be?

CW: I would definitely be an art major. I did an awesome piece when I was in 7th grade and we had nothing like SOA where I grew up. I would have loved to keep drawing.

Mr. Sean Hunt
Middle School English

Taylor Dahl: Have you taught at any other schools, and if so, where?

Mr. Sean Hunt: I have taught 7th and 8th grade English and Reading for the past three years at two different schools: Western Greenbrier and Eastern Greenbrier Middle School. These schools are located in Lewisburg, WV, which is roughly 7 1/2 hours away. Popular attractions nearby are The Greenbrier and Snowshoe Ski Resort.

TD: Where are you originally from and what led you here?

SH: I am originally from Columbus, Ohio and lived there for the first 18 years of my life, before going to college. I moved here in June of 2012, because my wife graduated from medical school and is now completing her Psychiatry residency at MUSC.

TD: Do you have any hobbies or other interests?

SH: My hobbies include soccer, fly-fishing, hiking, camping, going to the gym, golfing, kayaking, watching college football, hanging out with my wife, friends, and my chocolate lab, Porter.

TD: What attracted you to the subject you teach?

MH: I have always enjoyed reading and writing, and I was always the "go-to" guy in college if any one of my buddies needed their papers edited or revised, (or written...just kidding...well, kinda) so I guess it stuck!

TD: Do you have any long term goals as an educator?

SH: The only long term goal I have as an educator, would be that I hope I can send off every student that I teach a better reader and writer than when they first entered my room, and I hope to successfully teach them how to actually enjoy the subject of reading and writing.

Ms. Robin Greig
High School Science

Ms. Robin Greig, the new high school science teacher is the product of many places, having moved from San Antonio, TX, to Galveston, TX, all the way to Miami, FL, landing in Columbia, SC, and finally here in Charleston. Ms. Greig attended Texas A & M University, earning a Bachelor of Science. She then studied at USC for her MA in teaching.

Ms. Greig taught at West Ashley High School, Trident Academy, and Lower Richland High School, before coming to SOA., but she hasn't been a teacher all of her life. She has worked as a dolphin trainer, a fishery biologist, and a fish hatchery technician. She has also written a children's book, *Leo the Lion Fish*, which follows a young boy struggling to give up his lion fish because he is moving. She hopes to publish it soon.

Over the summer Ms. Grieg hung out at the pool with her kids and took a trip to New York. But now that school is back in session, she says that her goal is always to "work on becoming a better teacher and to make a difference... and start up a Crime Scene/Forensics Class at SOA."

When she's not teaching, Ms. Grieg might be found collecting fossils or scuba diving. Or, she may be found watching her favorite movie *Slumdog Millionaire* even though it doesn't have her favorite actor, Johnny Depp. Or she just might be at the beach or at one of her two favorite restaurants, Husk and Magnolia.

Ms. Olivia Isgett-Rubin
High School English Student Teacher



Danie Johnson: What grade do you want to teach and why?

Ms. Isgett-Rubin: I really want to teach 9th grade; I like that the course is a survey course and that I may have the opportunity to expose students to many genres of literature. I also want to help students in becoming better readers and writers as early as possible to lay a foundation for their future classes.

DJ: What are some of your major interests?

OIR: My family. I am married with two children, and they are my inspiration in every decision that I make. I love to act. I never felt as though I was at home until I stepped on a stage for the first time. I also enjoy doing photography. For the past seven years I have been a professional photographer in the Charleston area. My main focus is actor headshots, but I also LOVE taking family photos.

Ms. Desiree Sampson
Dance



The new dance teacher, Ms. Desiree Sampson, a native of Columbia, SC, attended Columbia College, earning a Bachelors of Arts in Dance Education. This being her first year teaching, she looks forward to seeing her students progress and “know that I am responsible for that progression.” She also states that the progress of her students “makes her role as a teacher very gratifying.”

Ms. Sampson spent her summer relaxing at home with her nine-year-old daughter, Mali, and her dog, Jack. Her favorite thing about Charleston is going to the beach and eating the wonderful food, especially at Oak Steakhouse. When not at school or with her daughter, she loves to read, draw, make jewelry, coupon, and play video games.

Ms. Sampson has always loved dance, stating, “I enjoy being able to express myself through movement.”

Ms. Eyamba Williams
High School Guidance



Ms. Williams, isn't your average guidance counselor. How many female counselors are avid fishermen...or should I say, fisherwomen? “I have always loved fishing because it's relaxing,” she says. “Something about the calmness of the water soothes me.” Not only does she fish, but Ms. Williams has been hunting for six years. “I fish now more than I hunt. My husband has been back and forth to Kuwait for two years and it's been hard to get a good hunting partner, but fishing I can do alone, so I have done more fishing in the past two years.”

Ms. Williams, a Charlestonian, has earned a B.A., M. Ed., and an Ed. S. She's worked in Colleton County as well as multiple schools throughout Charleston County. She says that she enjoys doing just about anything in Charleston that involves spending time with her family.

Ms. Williams loves “the melting pot of diversity in the arts” at SOA. She also loves “being able to make a difference and be an integral part of decisions for students.” Her long term goal, she says, is “to retire with a peace of mind that I have changed the lives of students positively.”

Ms. Elle Rich
High School English Student Teacher



Danie Johnson: What are your top 5 interests?

Ms. Elle Rich: Top 6 (I couldn't limit myself to 5) - traveling/yoga/meditation/spirituality, delicious and healthy food, books, nature/animals, and people.

DJ: What influenced you to go into education?

ER: I used to not want to be a teacher. In fact, when I was little, I remember all of the other little girls saying, “I wanna be a teacher when I grow up!” I didn't want to be a teacher because all of the other little girls did. I wanted to be different. I wanted to be an archeologist or a secret agent. But, as I grew up, my passion for reading and writing grew as well. When I got to my senior year of high school, I had a totally awesome teacher for AP Literature. I didn't realize it then, but that teacher inspired me into becoming a teacher too. I hope that one day I can influence my students as positively as that teacher influenced me.

SOA's Fresh Faces

by Shelby Oltmann and Danie Johnson

Get to know some of the high school's new students

Chloe Hogan
9th grade

Chloe attended Daniel Island Middle before attending SOA. She is a visual arts major and also likes to play the piano. She says she really likes SOA.



Sara Russell
10th grade

Sara went to Wando High but said it was too big for her liking. She is a strings major and plays the cello. Sara also enjoys playing the bass guitar in a jazz band. Sarah says she likes SOA's small size and the close relationship she has with her teachers



Sheena Stover
11th Grade

Sheena was homeschooled her whole life, so SOA was a big transition. She is in strings for violin, but Sheena also plays some piano. She says she was surprised by how nice and friendly everyone is at SOA.



Dane Anderson
12th grade

Dane was homeschooled before coming to SOA and said “homeschooling was awful.” He says SOA is better than a regular high school. He likes being a vocal major which he says is “chilly chill.” Dane likes to make music and skateboard.



S U M M E R



Olivia Lodge, Senior Theatre Major
 “I spent the month of June in New York City at a theater program. I had the chance to meet incredible people and participate in amazing classes. It was the best experience of my life.”



Julia Goller Freshman Creative Writer
 “Vacation is a time for a family to spend quality time. But, what if you had a totally different family that you never knew existed? That’s what happened to me this summer when I traveled to Ohio. I met my mother’s side of the family for the first time in ten years, and it was incredible!”



Henry Cain, Senior Strings Major
 “At the beginning of June, I traveled to Berlin and Barcelona with fellow SOA student Will Dodge. We watched the Euro Cup and ate some sweet food.”



**Mr. Donnellon
 History Teacher**
 “I ate bunny rabbit
 in Paris, France.”



Ty Tanner, Senior Band Major
 “This summer I went to Hooker Falls in North Carolina, where I stood under this waterfall. It was an amazing experience”

HIGHLIGHTS

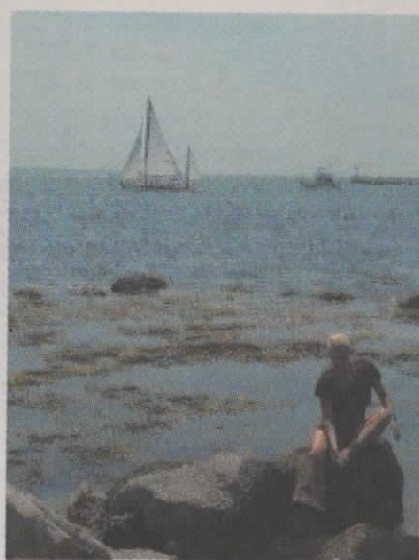


Amanda Kasman, Junior Visual Artist
 "I went to Barcelona, Seville, Cordoba, and Madrid with my parents."



**Halie Stevenson,
 Sophomore Visual Artist**

"I climbed to the top of Saba, which is the highest point in the Dutch Kingdom, and was expecting some great view when I got to the top! Unfortunately, it was so high, I was in the clouds and I couldn't see a thing."



**Danie Johnson,
 Senior Vocal Major**
 "The beach in Connecticut was awesome because the water was clear and I could see seaweed."



Gavin Smith, Senior Band Major
 "Going to Europe over the summer was an experience of a lifetime. Climbing the Eiffel tower will be something I will never forget."



Sam Molony, Senior Dance Major
 "This summer, I went to a camp called 'Christian Leadership Institute' (CLI) for my 4th time. I met so many awesome Catholics there and it was amazing to be able to meet new friends from around the state and grow deeper in my faith."

Editorial: Perspective

by Madeleine Vath

Think. In what ways have you been inconvenienced today? Perhaps someone cut you off when you were driving to school, or maybe someone hit you with his backpack when they were hurrying to class. How did you react? Did you think, 'oh, how nice of them' or did you silently wish they would crash or trip? You may not have even realized you were silently cursing them, so no harm done right?

Wrong. You don't know their circumstances. You probably don't even know who they are. In the car that cut you off, the passenger may have been having a seizure and the driver was in a much bigger hurry to get to the hospital than you were to get to school. The kid that hit you with his backpack may not have been rushing to class, but to the nurse's office to get his Epi pen because his throat was swelling up and he couldn't breathe.

True, these extreme circumstances are unlikely, but they do help put into perspective the fact that the world is not all about you. We are closest to our own emotions, so naturally they are the ones we consider first, but we must break out of our own perspective and view certain situations as if we were that frantic driver or sick student. Each and every one of us needs to see our student body as individuals, each with his or her own circumstances and feelings.

It is so easy, especially for upperclassmen, to view our needs as superior to the rest of the school and use this mindset as justification to plow through other students because we need to get wherever we need to go first and nobody else matters. But really we are just fooling ourselves. A sixth-grader's priorities are just as important as a senior's. We are all essential to the artistic make-up of this school, so why can't we start acting like it? Remember that each one of us is vital to the composition of our major, and that each one of us contributes a unique gift. So take a look around you and recognize the individuals instead of seeing a mass of mindless art freaks shuffling aimlessly from class to class.



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SOA's Summer Trip to Europe

By Emily Thomas

This past summer a group of about twenty foreign language students went on a trip to London, Paris, and Madrid. As it was my first time out of the country, preparations were a little hectic - especially getting my passport. However, when June 12th rolled around, I was ready for takeoff. Our group flew from Charleston to Newark, NJ, and from there to London. We flew overnight, so as soon as we got off the plane, our tour guide was ready to get things rolling. London was chilly, but the skies were clear, despite the city's rainy reputation. That day, we took a tour of Piccadilly Circus and had a traditional fish and chips dinner. We went on a Jack the Ripper Walking-tour that evening and saw the barber shop that inspired Sweeney Todd. By that night, we were all ready to crash from not getting any sleep the night before.

The next day was an optional excursion to Oxford and Stratford, Shakespeare's hometown. For those who chose not to go on the excursion, there was as free day. My group decided to visit Westminster Abbey, which was one of my favorite places. The gothic architecture was second to none. Everything was real marble and gold. In Westminster Abbey, we saw the tombs of Mary, Queen of Scots, past rulers, Winston Churchill, Charles Dickens, Charles Darwin, and many more. We also went shopping in Camden, the edgier part of town. (I found an excellent Ringo Starr necklace there.) That night we saw Wicked at London's West End Theatre. Simply put, the show was amazing! We also saw Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, Abbey Road, St. Paul's Cathedral and other notable places in London.

Arriving in Paris by train, we took a boat ride along the Seine and climbed the Eiffel Tower. There were about a billion stairs to climb and once we got to the first tier, you could see the entire city. The Eiffel Tower was much taller than I expected and the first tier was as high as I dared to go, though some people went all the way to the top. Once it got dark outside, the tower's lights would flash for five minutes every hour on the hour to create a sparkling effect. From the park nearby, we watched the tower sparkle at midnight and it finally hit me: I was in Paris.

The next day, there was a trip to Versailles, and those who decided not to go had a free day. Mme Bednarczyk took a group of us to the catacombs. The catacombs are underground tunnels dating back to the French Revolution. After the revolution, the cemeteries were overflowing, so many of the bodies were brought down to the catacombs. The tunnel we went in was filled with many millions of bones. In some places, you could even see where there had been streets that were eventually built on top of and buried underground. The tunnels were a bit creepy, so I was glad to resurface even though we were about a mile away from the entrance.

After taking French for a few years, one of the best parts of my trip was being able to actually speak this language that I had been practicing for so long. The French people took a lot more kindly to Americans that attempted to speak in French. We visited Montmartre, the highest point in Paris, that evening. African men lined the steps, hawking their wares to the tourists - one was even putting on a show by climbing the lampposts. At the top of the hill was the enormous Sacré-Coeur Basilica, built in the Romano-Byzantine style. Behind the basilica was a quaint village that even had a small vineyard. While we were in Paris, we also went to visit Notre Dame, Musée du Louvre, and the Fragonard Perfume Factory.

To get to Madrid, we took an overnight train. The sleeping compartments were a squeeze for two people, let alone four girls. After awhile, we started getting cabin fever and the claustrophobic compartment became known as "The Box of Doom." We passed through the picturesque French countryside, plenty of windmills, and the plains of Spain. Our journey was finally catching up to us and we took advantage of the fourteen hour trip to get some sleep.

(continued on Page 14)



SIXTH GRADE GADGETS: NOW AND THEN

BY EMILY THOMAS

NOW: IPHONE

IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE HAS ONE, AND MIDDLE SCHOOLER MAYA GARDNER THINKS IPHONE 5 IS GONNA BE THE BEST ONE YET



THEN: GAMEBOY

EMILY SPENDING SO MANY DAYS WERE SPENT SWERVING THROUGH MARIO KART AND GETTING SPOOKY IN CASTLEVANIA RATHER THAN TEXTING 24/7



A Sixth Grader's First Day

by Guest Writer Arden Dodge

I woke up on a Wednesday morning with my stomach in knots. "This is it." I thought. "This is really happening." When I got to the bus stop, my stomach had turned to Jell-o. "At least I have my brother to help me," I thought, each of my attempts at soothing the first-day jitters failing miserably. Once I had gotten on the bus, I felt like I could have been comfortable anywhere but here. I thought of all of the negative things that could happen. I had all these questions in my head.

Once we got to school, I started to panic! I didn't know if I was ready for this. When I saw the middle school building all the way at the end of the breeze way I started to stagger along with the other kids, not aware that everybody in my grade didn't know what they were doing either and didn't know anyone and didn't know where they were supposed to be. I walked into Mr. Smyth's class as a dozen half asleep kids looked up from their combination locks. I managed to get through social studies before it was Major time. I walked along with the other kids into the Creative Writing section of the building. When I walked in, there were already many kids at their seats. I found a seat next to one of my friends and started to listen to Mrs. Miles introduce herself. "This isn't so bad" I thought. Creative writing was pretty much Heaven to me since I have a passion for writing! Once I got to know the teacher, it was time to switch back to my locker and get my supplies and binder for ELA. When I got into ELA after being stepped on and trampled by other sixth graders trying to get books out of their lockers, I thought "Yep, being on

the bottom locker sure is a down side, but I can make it work!" When we got through half of ELA, it was time for lunch.

Lunch was definitely one of the hardest parts of the first day!

Where am I going to sit? Who am I going to sit with? I braced my lunch box and began searching for a friend to sit with or someone I might have known. When I sat next to a friendly girl named Liv, I found that it wasn't just me who was having a hard time, everyone was! After kids were finished eating their Peanut-Butter 'n Jelly sandwiches and hiding the embarrassing first day notes from their moms, it was time to take the walk that was recess for that day.

Recess was a reminder that I was still a kid, and just a little more of an adolescent. I talked to Liv and her other friend and got back to ELA quickly. Once ELA was finished, I strolled back to my locker and opened the unlocked cubby and ex-changed binders for what was next: Math. When Math was over, it was time to go home. I walked along the breeze way with the rest of the puny sixth graders and huge high schoolers.

When I got on the bus, I realized something. I was so focused on the negative things that could happen in the beginning of the day that I was too oblivious to the fact that so many positive things had happened. Once I got on the bus, I remembered that morning and being so afraid of what middle school could be like. As the bus pulled away from the school, I knew sixth grade was nothing to be afraid of.



Senior Making a Dent in American Soccer

by Will Dodge

Eli Dent's soccer skills have landed him a full scholarship from USC and accolades on a national level.

Will Dodge: What got you started playing soccer?

Eli Dent: My brother started playing and when I was four I would go to his practice and kick around while he played. He inspired me to play.

WD: Tell me a bit about your summer and your travels with the SC Battery's youth squad.

ED: This summer I traveled to Dallas, Texas to watch my team compete

to play in the Final eight in Los Angeles. Unfortunately, I was injured and unable to see out the final stage of our season but following this I had the unique opportunity of coaching as a senior Charleston Battery Academy player in Philadelphia and then playing roof top soccer in the middle of New York City under the Empire State Building.

Teacher's Nephew Blazing Trails in Portland Middle School Girls Volleyball: Ready to Ace

by Alex Berlinsky

SOA is not exactly famous for its professional athletes. We are usually much more successful in the field of professional artists. This is why it is so atypical for SOA to be connected in any way to any sort of pro sport, yet we have that connection in Damian Lillard.

Peggy Lewis is one of the teachers in our hearing impaired program, and her nephew, Damian Lillard, was drafted as the 6th overall pick in the 2012 NBA Draft by the Portland Trail Blazers. The trail that he has been blazing, however, has been years in the making.

After high school, Lillard was not regarded as anything special. He was given 2 stars out of 5 by a major scouting company and got only a few offers to play at the college level. He eventually settled with Weber State where he went on to prove the critics wrong by winning the Conference Player of the Year Award in 2010 and 2012. This past year, Lillard was a finalist for the Bob Cousy award to the best collegiate point guard.

Lillard, however, was still under the radar of most big time prospects. His performance in the NBA Summer League this year has helped to dispel



the uncertainty about his game. Not only did he score 27.3 points per game, but he also averaged 5.3 assists on his way to becoming the Summer League's Co-MVP. As the season starts we look forward to seeing Lillard sharing the court with LaMarcus Aldridge and his other Portland teammates.

The quickening to fame has been strange for Lillard. After signing his multi-million dollar contract with the team, Lillard purchased a brand new Porsche. SOA is hoping that his career will accelerate alongside it.

WD: What made you commit to USC? What other schools did you consider?

ED: USC just felt like the right place, The coaches have been recruiting me since i was in 8th grade and know me very well as a player. I also grew up playing with a lot of the players that are there now. It is a big soccer program that consistently has one of the top 3 toughest schedules in the country. I wanted to go to a school that would challenge me to get better. It was a decision where you just knew when it was right and, after my last meeting with the coaches, I just knew. I was offered by a few schools, but I was mainly recruited by Furman, Wake Forest, UCLA, Cornell and Northwestern.

WD: You've been touted by ESPN as the 69th best prospect in the country and named to the U.S. Soccer Development Academy's Southern Conference U-18 team of the year. What do these accolades mean to you, and how do you keep them from getting to your head on the field?

ED: I have been very fortunate to have success on the field and be recognized for it. I had a very successful year last season and could not have asked for a better team to share it with. Soccer is a team sport and any individual success I experienced is a tribute to the great players I had around me. In my experience, it isn't always that the best players get the most recognition, so in that respect, I think it is important to look at any ranking and take it as motivation, knowing that there is always someone else better.

WD: How do you balance your work at SOA with your sports schedule?

ED: This year has so far been very comfortable in relation to my school work load and training. Usually on nights that we travel to Columbia for training I do my homework and studying in the car ride up and then nights we dont travel I try to take full advantage!

WD: Where do you see yourself after college? Both soccer-wise and in your other ambitions?

ED: I aspire to pursue soccer professionally. I hope that through USC I can work hard enough to achieve that goal and one day play in europe. As for my other ambitions professionally I have no idea yet!

Middle School Girls Volleyball: Ready to Ace

by Cameron Lloyd

With a plethora of Fall and Winter sports coming up, Applause decided to take a look at a sport SOA can take pride in. There are three volleyball teams in middle school; a 6th, 7th, and 8th grade team. We spoke with 7th grader and volleyball starlet Caroline Parker.

Cameron Lloyd: What are your personal goals for this volleyball season?

Caroline Parker: I would like get better at my overhand serves, and my digs.

CL: How many years have you played volleyball?

CP: This is my first year playing.

CL: Do you see yourself continuing to play volleyball into your high school career?

CP: Well, it depends on how my first season goes. If it goes well and I enjoy it, then I will want to get better and keep competing as I get older.

CL: What do you enjoy about volleyball the most?

CP: I enjoy the fast paced action and, most of all, I enjoy playing with my best friends.

CL: Who inspired you to start playing volleyball, since this is your first year?

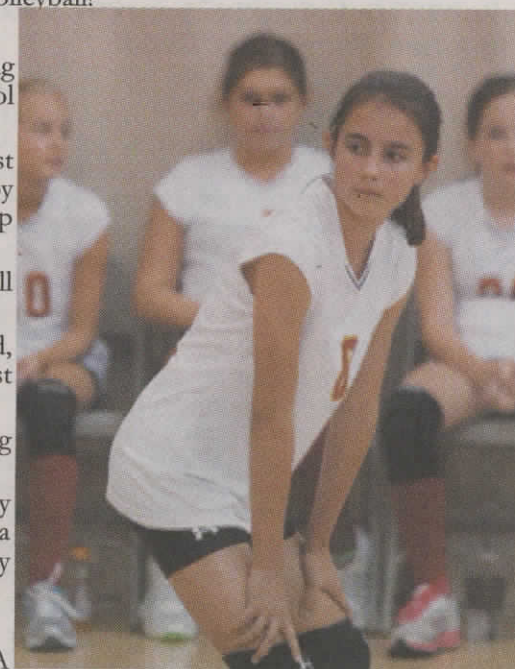
CP: No one did. I just wanted to try something new, because I have played a lot of other sports. Also, my friends really wanted me to play on the team.

CL: What other sports do you play?

CP: I play basketball for the 7th grade SOA girl's team.

CL: What is the main goal this season for the team?

CP: We want to win out and compete in the tournament at the end of the season.



SOA Students Shine for Their Home Schools

by Alex Berlinsky

SOA students excel in all areas, including sports, despite the fact that our athletes do not play for the red and gold of our school, but instead play for their various home schools across Charleston County.

Whether it is Wando, West Ashley, James Island, or any other school, our students will be found spiking, kicking, and running for the Warriors, Wildcats, and Trojans. Clayton Rosenbaum, a junior theater

major and kicker for Wando's varsity football team, is looking forward to a tough season on the gridiron. One of his personal goals for the season is for his Warriors to become "regional champs, and hopefully win the state championship." An ambitious goal indeed for an ambitious student and athlete.

Ty Tanner, a senior band major and 3rd year captain of the West Ashley swim team, will be hoping to backstroke his way

to victory this year. He knows the importance of a good education, and commends SOA for teaching him the ability to manage his time correctly. Tanner calls this a "great skill that SOA has helped [him] build." He is representing our school well during this year and plans to have a "solid winning season."

To those of you considering playing this year for your home school, Rosenbaum has some intelligent words of encouragement. When he first began his Wando athletic career he was nervous about being the kid that no one knew, but after a while, he started to build strong friendships. There are a lot of things that SOA can offer, but the feeling that comes from playing a sport is unparalleled. As Rosenbaum said, he felt "like a part of the team" and no feeling can match that.



Vocal Majors Preparing for *Les Miserables*

by Danie Johnson

Do you hear the people sing?! Or rather, do you hear the vocal majors sing? Well, you're bound to sooner or later because the high school vocal department will be performing *Les Miserables* in an operetta style performance on October 18, 19, and 20. SOA teachers and students will get to see the show for free! The performance will run for approximately 2 hours which will include an intermission for those wiggle worms on deck. Mr. Rogers, high school vocal director says, "We are well on our way and the leads have already learned the majority or their pieces. We now need to work on staging." Vocal students find themselves busy after school 2 days a week preparing for the performance.

Based on the 1862 novel by Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables* has been a Broadway musical production since 1985, and remains



one of the most popular musicals to this day. The story follows the lives of the poor citizens of France during an uprising and revolution during the late 1800s. It offers a wide variety of captivating characters, all tangled into each other's lives. Senior Maxwell Hudson, who plays the role of the nasty Thernadier, says, "The most challenging part of playing Thernadier is being such a slimy character."

All high school vocal majors will be in full costume and in full character. Now all they need is a full house! If you find yourself with nothing to do on October 18-20, come out to the RMMT.

Strings Senior Thesis Gets Going

By Danie Johnson

You won't catch the class of 2013 strings majors procrastinating! The students started preparing for their senior thesis performance last year. Students are required to write a seven page paper and perform a standard concerto



or a movement of a standard concerto. The performance takes place on May 1 and 2 at the Rose Maree Myers Theater at 6:30 pm. "Students have been sharing parts of their pieces in class," reports Dr. Selby.

Just around the corner I ran into Henry Cain consumed in his senior thesis piece. Henry practices for senior thesis about

6 hours a week and is challenging himself with a tricky Spanish duet to be performed with Jordan Elum. According to Henry, "It is a very challenging and virtuous piece because of its use of spiccato, left hand plucking, and harmonics. The hardest part is keeping perfectly in sync on 32 note runs". Ay Carumba! On another note, Sarah Cockcroft will be performing the 1st movement of the Bruch Violin Concerto in G Minor. The concert will contain many dynamic pieces that you don't want to miss out on!



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Paint The Town Red and Gold

compiled by Alex Berlinsky

A list of art-related events around Charleston coming up in the next month.

September 29 to October 9, 2012 **MOJA Arts Festival**

A Celebration of African-American and Caribbean Arts. Nearly half of MOJA's events are admission-free and the remainder are offered at very modest ticket prices, ranging from \$5 - \$20. MOJA's wide range of events include visual arts, classical music, dance, gospel concert, jazz concert, poetry, R&B concert, storytelling, theatre, children's activities, traditional crafts, ethnic food, and much, much more

October 5 5-8pm **French Quarter Art Walk**

Stroll the cobbled streets and gas lit alley ways to discover the works of well over 500 artists representing a diverse variety of styles and mediums from traditional to contemporary. All galleries of the French Quarter will be open with artists on hand and refreshments.

"Jump, Jive, and Wail" set for October 13

by Shelby Oltmann

Attention SOA! Our unofficial homecoming is right around the corner! Jump, Jive, and Wail is creeping up and the hype is spreading fast. On October 13, 2012, get ready to show off those awesome dance moves, swingin' outfits, and wonderful music provided by SOA's very own award-winning Jazz Band. Jump, Jive, and Wail isn't just a dance; it's a high energy show that anyone from age 8 to 88 can enjoy.

Also known as SOA's perennial event of the fall, Jump, Jive and Wail doubles as the SOA band program's largest and most important fundraiser. It enables the program to bring in adjunct faculty to assist in the musical education of its students, pays for instruments and equipment, and funds the band's activities for the year. It enables the band to keep going when the district cuts back. Educationally, the event supplies the SOA Jazz Ensemble with the experience of working a full-fledged live show. But most importantly, Jump, Jive, and Wail is not just a school event. It reaches out into the community and gives everyone the opportunity to enjoy this largely unique experience.

Every year, Jump, Jive, and Wail attracts approximately 750 to 1,000 people from around the region. "And it's fun!" says Basil Kerr, the SOA High School Band director. "The ladies figure out what they're going to wear, the guys figure out who they're going to ask, and actually work up the nerve to ask them. They all figure out where they're going to eat, you know, it's just like prom, but more casual." You don't have to spend a million bucks—just buy your ticket, come on in, and have a great time.

Jump, Jive, and Wail will be held at the Visitor's Center Bus Shed in Downtown Charleston. Tickets are \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door. Tickets can be purchased from any SOA High School Band student until October 11th. We don't have football, SOA, but we do have homecoming and it's called Jump, Jive, and Wail!



October 7 12-6pm **Latin American Festival**

Celebrate the sights and sounds of the Latin world. Live Salsa and Merengue music will fill the air while you sample authentic food and crafts and plenty of activities for families to enjoy. Tickets are only \$10

October 12 10pm **Charleston Comedy Festival Stand Up Competition Preliminary Rounds**

The preliminary round of the festival will be featuring 14 stand ups performing five minute sets each. The audience will vote with ballots for their top four favorites and they will move on to the next round. Tickets are only \$5 each for the entire show.

October 13 9-4:30 **The Blackwater Ukulele Festival**

Head on up to Cyprus Gardens for the annual Ukulele festival! With workshops, open mics, and concerts, this is sure to be fun for ukulele players and enthusiasts of all levels.

SOA's Summer Trip to Europe

by Emily Thomas (cont. from page 10)

Upon arriving in Madrid, we visited a monument to Miguel de Cervantes and Don Quixote. We also visited the royal palace, Palacio Real de Madrid, which was built in the mid 18th century. The royal family no longer lives in the palace, so we were able to tour it. The palace was filled with hundreds of rooms, decorated in the lush Rococo style. It even had a chapel with a reliquary. It was decorated with art by famous artists such as Velazquez, Caravaggio, and Goya, and it housed Stradivarius instruments. I had never seen so much history and culture in one place. We also saw many famous pieces of art such as Bosch's Garden of Earthly Delights, Raphael's sketches, and Fra Angelico's Annunciation.

The following day, we took a short trip to Toledo, one of the original kingdoms of Spain. In Toledo, we went to a sword making factory that handmade many of the swords used in *The Lord of the Rings*. We also visited Catedral Primada Santa María de Toledo, a cathedral built during the 13th century in the High Gothic style. Later on, artists added simply breathtaking pockets of sculpture and painting in the Rococo style. On our last night in Spain, we went to a flamenco show. In a small restaurant, flamenco dancers gyrated to the traditional music and mimicked the bullfights. The dancers were simply entrancing and I was glad to have been able to see such an iconic part of Spanish culture.

Though there were language barriers, times when we got on the wrong metro, and strange foods, the trip was simply unforgettable. I became closer to my classmates and was able to witness a part of the world I had never seen. In the words of Mme Bednarczyk, "c'etait magnifique!"



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POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Each month, Applause will pin two students with opposing opinions to express their side of things in a battle for supreme radness. Who will win? That's for you to decide. This month, SOA's favorite news anchors Alex Berlinsky and Will Waters will duel it out.

TOPIC: OBAMA'S FOREIGN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

WILL'S POINT

President Obama has had a mixed bag of failures and victories in the Middle East. As for the victories, President Obama has overseen the killing of Osama Bin Laden and worked with the U.N. to provide a no fly zone for the Libyan uprising. These actions have greatly increased world security and insured continued democracy in perhaps the most undemocratic part of the world.

The same administration has ignored citizens of Iran and Syria begging for help. When Iranians stood up by millions and begged President Obama for freedom from oppressive rulers chanting in English, the President did nothing. The world watched in horror as the Iranian Revolutionary Guard charged into peaceful protests beating men, women and children with batons and chains. The world watched again as the Iranian military arrested thousands and shot into crowds killing many. These protests, turned massacre, could have been a revolution that would have rid Iran of a brutal dictatorship that terrorizes the Middle East and threatens the world. Syria, a country that used to engage in peaceful protests has, in the last eighteen months digressed to an unfair fight for freedom. The Syrian regime has the full backing of allies in Iran, Russia, and Hezbollah, while the citizenship receive no support from the U.S. or her allies. Al- Assad is murdering men, women and children by the thousands. Extremist groups gain ground and add fuel to the already raging fire of chaos and human mistreatment:

These are just two circumstances of Obama's failed policy in the Middle East. The United States needs to stare down oppressors and enemies; we need to replace injustices of despots with institutions of democracy and freedom. My opposition will argue that the U.S. doesn't have the time or money to police the world. I argue if the United States doesn't, who will? This election will decide if the U.S. will cower behind thoughts of isolationism and seclusion or if it ensures the basic God given rights to people in oppression. Senator John Mc Cain said that, "President Obama has abandoned the course for human freedom, when suffering citizens of the world beg for freedom from their jailers, tyrants and torturers the leader of the free world must stand up." A great man once said that, "justice too long delayed is justice denied."

ALEX'S COUNTERPOINT

Let's start with the obvious and undisputed victory of Obama's Foreign Policy in the Middle East: we got Bin Laden. In perhaps one of the greatest outcomes in special operations history, the United States killed public enemy number one, and slowed down the private militant groups which he orchestrated. Other issues with his policies can be debated at length, and parts of the Bin Laden mission can even be discussed, but the undeniable truth remains that Osama Bin Laden was alive when Obama entered office, and is dead now. Let the "U-S-A" chants commence!

Libya was another big story this year and I think that President Obama handled their affair appropriately. Obama was a crucial sponsor of United Nations Security Council Resolution #1973, which, as we all know, created a Libyan no-fly zone and stated that the UN would use all means necessary to protect civilians. By backing and enforcing the no-fly zone, Obama sent a clear message that citizens of the world have rights, and no government can take them away.

President Obama has often been criticized for his Iranian policy, yet I find his handling of Iran to be proper. There has been a long history of burnt bridges between America. Pause your reading here and go ask your history teacher about the '53 coup, the frozen Iranian assets after their revolution, and our Iraqi support in the Iran-Iraq War. Back yet? I hope that you aren't a junior; Mr. Donnellon will talk about this for days. Anyway, after a history of such animosity, we need to treat each and every situation with care, hoping that over time we can reopen negotiation with them and the United States and Iran will once again be on speaking terms. By negotiating with Iran on fair terms in a situation where there is mutual respect, Obama is taking one of the first steps in rebuilding the countless bridges that the United States has burned.

Where Are They Now: Daniel Davis

by Alex Berlinsky

Alex spoke to the class of 2007 Strings Major about his recent performances at the Democratic National Convention and his third studio album, 'Epic Sounds'

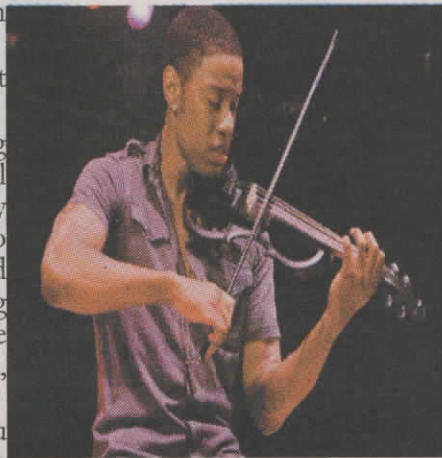
Alex Berlinsky: Daniel, where are you living now?

Daniel Davis: I still live in downtown Charleston.

AB: What have you been doing since you left SOA?

DD: Traveling and performing, doing everything from President Obama's first presidential campaign rallies to NBA halftime games, and my own personal shows. I am truly blessed to do what I do. I'm currently working on my third album titled 'Epic Sounds.' I will be delivering it to radio next month, over the past year I've traveled to good ol' Columbia SC, to New York, to L.A.; I'm making my rounds!

AB: Sounds like a whole lot! And I hear that you played at the Democratic National Convention this past year. What was that like?



DD: It was great, and it felt good to support American Politics. I met a lot of people who help run this country. I was honored to perform at four events during 2012 DNC week in Charlotte, NC.

AB: What is your favorite memory from SOA?

DD: There are way too many great ones to count, taking music tech with my Ms. Fitz, meeting my friend Joe Wiggins who showed me the ropes of SOA, dating someone and having the whole school know because it was such a small place; or even sitting in Dr. Cusatus' class and learning so much.

AB: What did SOA teach you that has helped you succeed in the real world?

DD: Diversity! I look at people who are different than me in such a unique way, being a student at SOA people were broken down by talent at the end of the day, which allowed me to befriend individuals that in ordinary life I would never interact with. Now when I meet people day to day I see deeper than a person's, class, race, and background.

Student Artwork

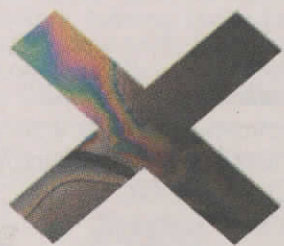
Sophie Greene, 12th Grade Theatre Major Colin Marshall, 12th Grade Visual Artist



Album Review: The xx – *Coexist* by Emily Thomas

The xx, a London based musical group, released their self-titled album, *xx*, in 2009. The indie-pop trio held true to their signature style of haunting music for their sophomore album, *Coexist*. In contrast to the first album, *Coexist* is filled with underlying club beats that blend with the rest of the music to create a smooth sound. The four on the floor foundations

are most noticeable in the song “Fiction.” If the first album was based upon the starting of a relationship, then the second one is about its demise.



Stylistically, *Coexist* is more minimalist than their debut, using space as a technique throughout. Oliver Sim and Romy Madley-Croft’s whispered vocals add to the tastefully simplistic nature of the band. Both albums are the perfect soundtrack to those melancholy quiet moments of youth. Despite the album being hushed overall, there are some surprising elements, such as the steel drums in “Reunion.”

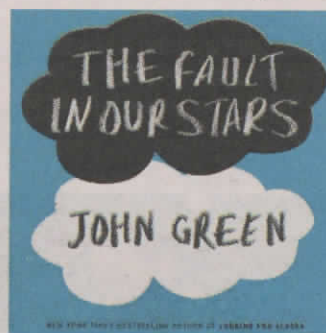
Some people may have had expectations for a completely new concept and others may have wanted a continuation of the first album, but *Coexist* is overall a happy medium between the two. As someone who fell in love with *xx*, I’m happy with how *Coexist* turned out. I would highly recommend either of these albums, though I suggest listening to the albums in their entirety. Happy listening!

Book Review: *The Fault in our Stars* by Madeleine Vath

I’m sure most of you have at least heard of this book. If you have not, don’t tell Emily Fairchild; she will hunt you down. The first thing anyone ever says about this book is that it’s a book about cancer. This, of course, typically sounds very boring to teenagers and can be a complete turn off. So I’m here to tell you this: *The*

Fault in Our Stars is not a book about cancer. This book is about finding love in odd circumstances despite cancer, and letting that love help you take full advantage of whatever length of time you have here on this planet.

That being said, I should also tell you that *The Fault in Our Stars* is not solely about love. Or at least, not in a way that only appeals to women. After all, the book was written by a guy. This book is about being alive. Be alive, even if you are wallowing in self-pity. Be alive, even if you are minutes from death. Don’t let a little cancer slow you down! Live your life! Be thankful for the time you are given. Seeing as these are basically the words I live by, I give this book a 9.5 out of 10; 0.5 off for language (middle-schoolers beware). Aside from this small detail, this is easily the best book I read all summer. It even had that poem we read in Ms. Bronk’s class last year: “The Red Wheelbarrow” by William Carlos Williams. It doesn’t get much better than that.



This Week in History by Madeleine Vath

MON 10/8	TUE 10/9	WED 10/10	THU 10/11	FRI 10/12	SAT 10/13	SUN 10/14
1793: John Hancock dies 1895: Juan Peron (President of Argentina) is born 1970: Matt Damon is born 1985: Bruno Mars is born	1582: Because of the Gregorian calendar, this day does not exist in this year in Italy, Poland, Portugal, and Spain 1604: Supernova 1604, the most recent supernova to be seen, occurs 1888: The Washington Monument opens to the public World Post Day	1969: Brett Favre is born 1971: The London Bridge reopens in Lake Havasu City, Arizona World Day Against Death Penalty World Mental Health Day	1968: NASA launches <i>Apollo 7</i> , the first successful manned Apollo mission 1975: <i>Saturday Night Live</i> debuts 1976: Emily Deschanel is born National Coming Out Day	1773: America's first insane asylum is opened 1892: The Pledge of Allegiance is first recited in public schools 1979: <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> is published Freethought Day	1582: This day also does not exist in this year in Italy, Poland, Portugal, and Spain 1925: Margaret Thatcher is born 1974: Ed Sullivan dies International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction	1890: President Dwight D. Eisenhower is born 1912: Former President Theodore Roosevelt delivers a speech despite the fresh wound of a bullet in his chest 1926: <i>Winnie-the-Pooh</i> is first published World Standards Day

Applause's Top Ten Ridiculous Excuses for Community Service

The SOA diploma requires students to complete 20 hours of community service. Students are required to submit a description of their community service endeavors to be approved by selected teachers. Not all of them get accepted, for multiple reasons, including ridiculousness. Community Service: "Donated service or activity that is performed by someone or a group of people for the benefit of the public or its institutions." The names of the students who submitted the following community service activities have been withheld for their own good. These are our Top Ten most ridiculous community service activities. You need to know what not to do.

1. "Picking up sign-in sheets to give to Mr. Grant"

Since when was being a teacher's pet community service?

2. "Helping/Spending time with my great-grandfather"

Did your great-grandfather know it was community service?

3. "Babysat a handicapped child for fee"

Isn't that the exact opposite of what community service is?

4. "Cared for three neo-natal kittens—bottle fed until adopted"

And the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize is...

5. "Dog sitting for widow"

So, if she wasn't a widow...?

6. "During the Christmas Holiday I helped my grandmother because she is in a wheelchair"

It's only because it was Christmas, isn't it?

7. "I took a pot outside to collect money for charity"

Sounds like an 80's TV show to me.

8. "Fundraising/Helping with garage sale for Nana"

Who is this Nana you speak of? Is "Nana" a non-profit organization? Does it have 501C3 status?

9. "Tutored college students of all levels"

Which college? We need to stay away from that one.

10. "Gave blood to the Red Cross for 10 hours"

One hour to give blood and nine to recover.

What's with the Water Fountains?

By Alex Berlinsky

Editor's Note: Since the time this article was written, the water fountains have been fixed and are working like new again. Shouts out to the custodial crew for keeping things flowin'.

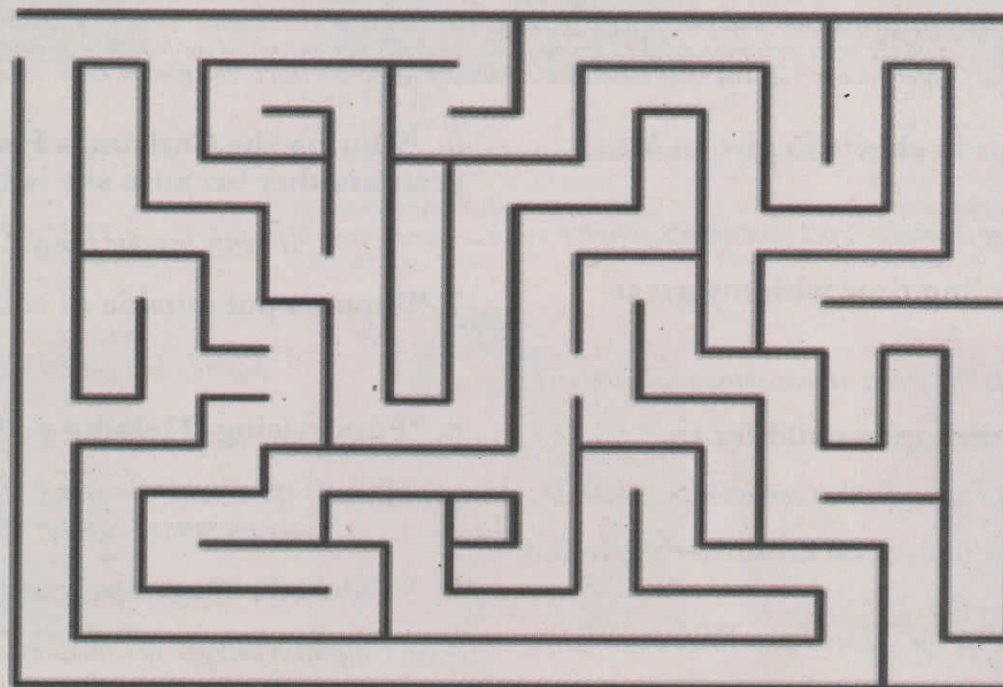
SOA's campus, once brand new and shinny, has gone through an awful lot of wear and tear over these past three years, but our wonderful custodial staff has done their job and fixed it all up. However, there remains one aspect of this school that has gone overlooked: the water fountains. For the last two school years, nearly all of the water fountains in the high school building have been broken, sitting there without enough pressure for the water to reach one's lips. And if there is anything that I've learned, it's that water, or, as our science department calls it, H₂O, is important. And SOA is in a drought my readers; there isn't enough to go around.

I've done the math (some solid C level work may I add) and you will not believe what I have found. There are about 500 high school students at SOA, and two working water fountains. That means, and math teachers, please check me on this, that each water fountain has to quench the thirst of 250 of our fine students. If each of those students only drinks for 3 seconds; 3 measly seconds, it would take twelve and a half minutes to

allow all of our students to drink. TWELVE AND A HALF MINUTES! And that is excluding students who will be filling up water bottles! Our administration only gives us 5 minutes between classes. That means that over half of you, half of you red-blooded, American, SOA students, will be without water between classes. And what's worse, since teachers are cutting down on allowing students to step out during class for a cold swig of some nice, refreshing agua, most of you will go from 8-3:10 with minimal water on a daily basis.

Clean water should not be taken for granted, because SOA is in the midst of its greatest water shortage in its history, and it can only get worse from here. We could soon see ourselves with only one working fountain, and if we do then we are in for it. Academic Magnet has refused to allow our students into their gym during lunch in order for them to supply themselves with water, and desperate times may call for desperate measures. Stockpile your water supply citizens, because there is no telling where this will end!

Help Mr. Williams get to his Cape!



HOROSCOPES



Virgo- If you've ever wanted to tour the world while being held against your will, this is your lucky month.



Libra- Watch out, someone is going to lick you in the near future.



Scorpio- Remember that thing that you kept on putting off? Well, today it will catch up to you. Good luck.



Sagittarius- Someone in a mask will come up and hug you while you're walking down the street. You may want to bathe directly afterwards.



Capricorn- Beware the hole puncher... That is all.



Aquarius- I would keep your belongings close to you for the next week, someone may have the urge to steal from you.



Pisces- Look up. The person staring at you will provide the clue to get to the next level.



Aries- Beware, today, your favorite color will look a little different and odd... be ready for a new one.



Taurus- When feeling alone, just remember, *someone is always watching you.*



Gemini- Remember that funny mole on your arm that changed colors overnight and began to look like Lincoln? You may want to get it checked out.



Cancer- This is a good week to wear a disguise.



Leo- Older relatives will annoy you this month. They have you in their will, so calm down.

THE TRIVIA CHALLENGE

by Jakob Lazzaro

In this issue of Applause, we are proud to introduce an exciting new feature- The Trivia Challenge! Each month two SOA students will be picked to compete against each other. Whoever wins will return next month to compete again! If you want to compete, stop by room 1115 in the High School building during your lunch period to sign up. All winners will receive a \$15 Barnes & Noble gift card in recognition for their achievement. Both middle and high school students are invited to play.

TOPIC

It is that time of year again- back to school time! And to honor the start of school, The Trivia Challenge is all school themed trivia! Now let's get down to the contest.

QUESTIONS!

1. Established in 1635, where was the first public school in America located?
2. Before the invention of rubber erasers, what food was used instead?
3. Graphite is named for the Ancient Greek word graph. What does this word mean in English?
4. Why are all school busses in the United States painted yellow?
5. When was the first school bus introduced?
6. What is the oldest university in the United States?
7. How many words can one pencil write?
8. Who invented the ballpoint pen?
9. What foreign language is most commonly studied in the United States?
10. How many Crayola crayon colors are there?

Person A: Emily Thomas

1. Jamestown?
2. Oh, bread! Like dough!
3. Transferable
4. Because it's the easiest color to see in the morning.
5. I'm sure it was a carriage... lets just say 1900?
6. Harvard!
7. 30,000
8. So-and-so BIC!
9. Spanish
10. 300.



Person B: Tanner Crunell

1. Virginia
2. Biscuits!
3. Write.
4. Safety precautions.
5. Was it a wagon? In the 1830s?
6. William and Mary.
7. 10,000.
- 8..BIC?
9. Spanish!
10. 600.



ANSWERS

1. Boston, Massachusetts
2. Small pieces of bread!
3. To draw/write.

4. For safety reasons because yellow is the easiest color to see in the early morning (It's also required by the Federal Government).

5. In 1827. It was a horse drawn carriage.
6. Harvard.
7. 45,000-50,000.

8. Laszlo Biro.
9. Spanish
10. 133!

TIEBREAKER!

It appears we have a tie. Therefore, both contestants will answer a tie breaker question

THE QUESTION

Name as many of the 8 Ivy League colleges as you can.

THE ANSWERS

Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, and Yale.

Emily's Answer

Harvard, Brown, Stanford, Yale, Cornell, Dartmouth, Rice, and Princeton. (6/8)

Tanner's Answer

Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Brown, Texas A&M, MIT, Columbia, and Washington State. (5/8)

And the winner is...

EMILY THOMAS

By an amazing margin of just one college, Emily won the Tie Breaker Question. Therefore, Emily is the Trivia Challenge's first ever champion! She will return to battle a new contestant in the next month's issue of Applause. Remember, if you want to compete, come to room 1115 in the High School building during your lunch period to sign up. Stay tuned!

